

Sources in Local History
New Series Volume 36

THE DIARY OF
SIR GEORGE H. SCOTT DOUGLAS,
34TH REGIMENT OF FOOT,
1845-1846

Transcribed by
Ian Abernethy

with an introduction by
Ian Abernethy and Kenneth Veitch



THE EUROPEAN
ETHNOLOGICAL
RESEARCH CENTRE

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Sources in Local History
General editor: Kenneth Veitch

CONTENTS

Preface	ii
Editing	iv
Family Tree	v
Portrait Gallery	vi
Timeline	viii
Facsimiles	x
Maps	xix
Introduction	xxiii
Diary	1
Appendices	64
Further Reading	68

PREFACE

In the mid 1980s, I began looking for material for a local history project on the small Borders village of Heiton. I found the records of both the heritors and the kirk session to be very useful and discovered that the village and surrounding land was divided between three landowners. One was the Kerr (latterly, Scott-Kerr) of Sunlaws and Chatto family – Sunlaws being the local laird's house. I was fortunate to find that while some land documents were in the archives of the duke of Roxburghe, at Floors Castle, Scott-Kerr papers and photograph albums were still held by members of the family, who graciously granted me free access to them. The second landlord was the Merchant Company of Edinburgh, which had owned the progressive farm of Ladyrig, and I was permitted to occupy their boardroom while I searched through their ledgers and correspondence. The third landowner was more problematical. The Douglas of Springwood Park family had owned Heiton East Mains farm as well as Heiton Mill and several cottages in the village, but the line was now extinct. The last baronet to reside at Springwood Park was Sir George Brisbane Douglas, poet and author, who died without issue in 1935. The estate and title were inherited by a nephew, who became Sir James Louis Fitzroy Scott Douglas. Sir James had no interest in the estate, and the contents of the house were auctioned off in 1947 to fund his rather extravagant lifestyle. The house, which was now in poor structural condition (a grand piano having fallen through a floor!), was demolished a few years later: the estate was sold off and became a caravan park and the showground for the Border Union Show. There were stories of estate and family papers blowing around the grounds and my search began to appear hopeless. I made contact with a surviving distant relative of the Douglas family, who kindly gave me a notebook which had belonged to Sir George Brisbane Douglas but had no idea whether or not any other material had survived. A while later, I happened to read an article in the *Proceedings of the Berwickshire Naturalists Club* which mentioned Springwood Park and I quickly realised that it had been written using material which I had not seen. I did not know the author, William Ryle Elliot, and so contacted a past president of the club, Lady Brigid McEwen, who was able to give me an address in Aberdeen. It seems that Mr Elliot's father had been friendly with Sir George Brisbane Douglas and had rescued a large box of papers: he had been storing them but was anxious that they should be preserved, and they were mine for the taking. I drove up to Aberdeen to find a genial host and a large trunk full of letters, wills, a large family tree, passports, notebooks and leather-bound journals. There was material from Sir George Brisbane Douglas, his father Sir

George Henry Scott Douglas, and other members of the family, and I happily conveyed them back to the Borders.

The many letters were mostly cross-written and very difficult to decipher. The notebooks and pamphlets of Sir George Brisbane Douglas were an exciting find, but the outstanding discovery were the journals of his father, written while he was an officer in the 34th Regiment of Foot. They began in 1845 when he was stationed in Ireland as a young ensign, continued when his regiment was posted to Corfu and then Barbados, and ended when he resigned his commission in 1851. I began transcribing these journals, which covered seven years in all and stretched to 120,000 words. It is the transcript of the first volume, which records Sir George's life from January 1845 to March 1846, that is presented here.

Ian Abernethy
February 2025

EDITING

The original spelling has been retained. It is recognisably modern and of a high standard throughout the diary. The very small number of misspelled words have been followed by [*sic*] so that they are not mistaken for transcribal or typographical errors.

Sir George was not always consistent in his punctuation, but the meaning of his sentences is rarely in doubt. In the few places where it is, commas have either been added or removed.

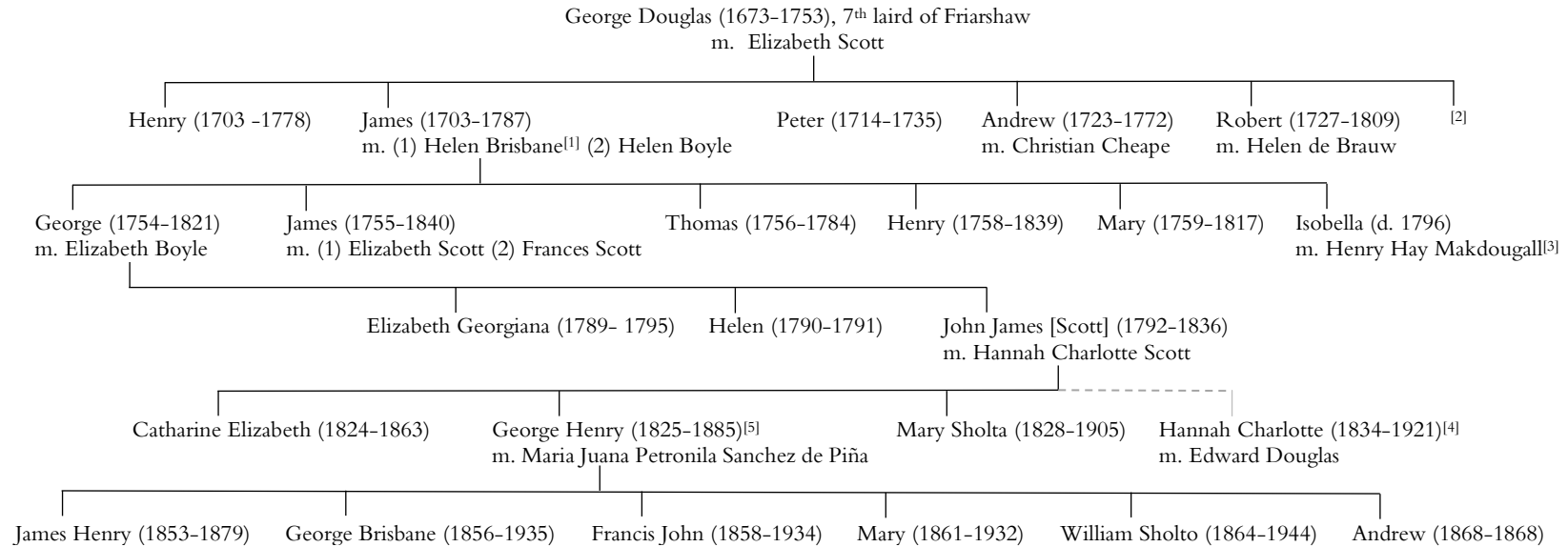
The amount of capitalisation has been reduced. Where necessary for sense, missing words are supplied in []. Words that have been transcribed with a degree of uncertainty are presented as [?word].

Sir George wrote the month, a page number and his location at the top of each page of his diary (see Facsimile 5). None of these have been reproduced due to a difference in the pagination between the original and the transcript. Confirmation of where Sir George was at any given time can now be found in the timeline provided on pages viii-ix. The month has been added to the heading for each entry. In these entry headings, the day of the week is only included for Sundays, unlike in the original where it is given for each day.

The diary contains a large number of place names, not all of which will be familiar to the modern reader. In some instances, the spelling of the name has changed over time; in others, the name has been replaced altogether. On some occasions, Sir George spelled the name phonetically. Where possible, the present-day English form of these names is provided in a footnote so that readers might find his whereabouts on a modern map.

A number of Sir George's fellow officers in the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot are mentioned in the diary. Their full name and rank is provided in a footnote on their first appearance in the text. Readers will also find this information listed in Appendix B.

FAMILY TREE



¹ The aunt of Sir Thomas [Makdougall] Brisbane (1773-1860), colonel of the 34th Regiment of Foot.

² In the interests of space, the other children of George Douglas and Elizabeth Scott have been omitted from the tree.

³ The laird of Makerstoun and father of Anna Maria, who married the aforesaid Sir Thomas Brisbane in 1819. Sir Thomas added Makdougall to his own name after the death of his father-in-law.

⁴ There are doubts concerning the paternity of Hannah Charlotte Scott Douglas.

⁵ Further details about Sir George's father, grandfather and great-grandfather are provided on pages vi-vii.

Table 1. A simplified family tree showing Sir George H. Scott Douglas' descent from the 7th laird of Friarshaw and his connection to the Makdougall Brisbane family of Makerstoun.

PORTRAIT GALLERY

Sir James Douglas (1703–1787), 1st baronet



Portrait 1. Sir James Douglas
(Courtesy of the National Trust)

The second son of George, 7th laird of Friarshaw. He bought the estate of Bridgend, near Kelso, in 1750, changing its name to Springwood Park six years later, after rebuilding the mansion house. He purchased a second estate, Longnewton, in 1765 from his relations at Ancrum. He had a distinguished naval career. He was knighted in 1759 for bearing home the despatch announcing the capture of Quebec, made commander-in-chief of the Royal Navy's Jamaica Station in 1762 after playing a prominent part in the capture of various Caribbean islands, and promoted to admiral in 1778. He was further honoured in June 1786, when he was created a baronet.

Sir George Douglas (1754–1821), 2nd baronet



Portrait 2. Thought to be of
Sir George Douglas.
(From the Douglas Archives [website](#))

The eldest son of Sir James Douglas and Helen Brisbane. He was an officer in the 25th Regiment of Foot from 1771 to 1780 and then transferred to the Foot Guards. He retired from the army in 1788, a year after he had inherited his father's estates and title. He also inherited a plantation in Antigua and owned over two hundred enslaved people. The portrait opposite is thought to be of Sir George. It depicts him with his left hand resting on a document that reads, 'A Plan of old Road Estate the Island of Antigua'. Sir George was the MP for Roxburghshire from 1784 to 1806, through the influence of the duke of Roxburghe.

Sir John James Douglas (1792-1836), 3rd baronet



Portrait 3. Sir John James Douglas
(Courtesy of the National Army Museum)

The eldest son of Sir George Douglas. He joined the 15th Light Dragoons (Hussars) in 1813 and saw active service in the Peninsular War and at Waterloo. He purchased a captaincy in the 22nd Light Dragoons in 1819 but the following year the regiment was disbanded, and he went on half pay. He succeeded to his father's estates and title in 1821, and married Hannah Charlotte, the only daughter and heiress of Henry Scott of Belford (Roxburghshire). When she inherited her father's estate, Sir John added Scott to his surname. He stood for Roxburghshire in the general election of 1826 but was unsuccessful. He was known as an amiable but retired man, who enjoyed poetry and classical studies. He died on 24 January 1836, at Boulogne-sur-Seine, near Paris, aged forty-three.

Sir George H. Scott Douglas (1825-1885),
4th baronet



Portrait 4. Sir George H. Scott Douglas.
(Courtesy of Ian Abernethy)

Biographical details for Sir George can be found in the Introduction. Two portraits of him were listed in an inventory of the contents of Springwood Park House: one by Emil Boratynski; the other by Robert Frain. Their present whereabouts, however, are unknown. An entry in the Springwood Park accounts suggests that he also had his portrait painted by the miniaturist John Faed, although there is no other record of it. The photograph opposite shows him in later life, wearing the uniform of the Roxburghshire Rifle Volunteers. His eldest son, James, was killed in 1879 during the Zulu Wars, which perhaps accounts for him wearing a black armband.

TIMELINE

The following timeline provides a guide to where Sir George H. Scott Douglas was based during the fifteen months covered by the first volume of his diary. Periods of travel are given in grey.

1 January to 10 January	Quartered at Athlone
10 January	Athlone to Roscommon
10 January to 20 February	On detachment at Roscommon
20 February	Roscommon to Athlone
20 February to 14 March	Quartered at Athlone
14 March to 17 March	Athlone to Longnewton via Dublin, Liverpool and Carlisle
17 March to 27 March	On leave in Roxburghshire
27 March to 31 March	Longnewton to Athlone via Greenock and Dublin
31 March to 22 April	Quartered at Athlone
22 April	Athlone to Dublin
22 April to 25 April	On leave in Dublin
25 April	Dublin to Athlone
25 April to 5 June	Quartered at Athlone
5 June to 9 June	Athlone to Cloone via Ballymahon, Longford and Mohill
9 June to 6 August	Encamped at Cloone
6 August to 8 August	Cloone to Athlone via Longford and Ballymahon

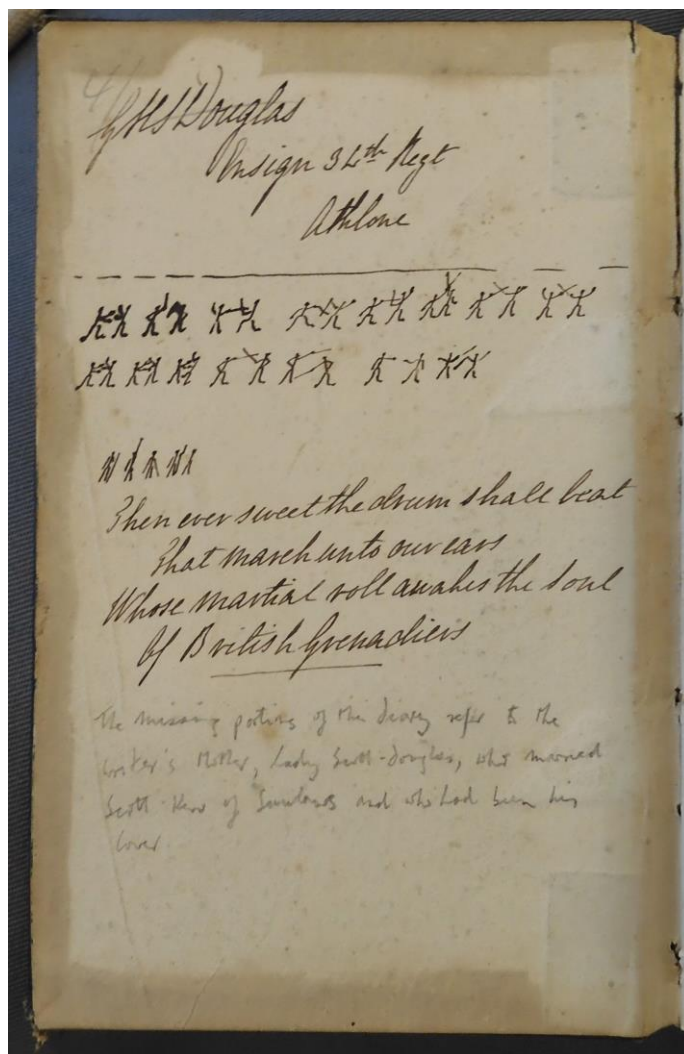
8 August to 20 August	Quartered at Athlone
20 August to 23 August	Athlone to Makerstoun via Dublin, Greenock and Edinburgh
23 August to 10 October	On leave in Roxburghshire
10 October to 15 October	Sunlaws to Fermoy via Edinburgh, Brisbane, Glasgow, Lancaster, Liverpool and Dublin
15 October to 21 October	Quartered at Fermoy
21 October	Fermoy to Cork
21 October to 28 October	Quartered at Cork
28 October	Cork to Cove
28 October	On board the <i>Java</i> at Cove
29 October to 24 November	Cove to Corfu on board the <i>Java</i>
24 November to 25 November	On board the <i>Java</i> at Corfu
25 November to 28 January	On detachment at Vido
28 January to 31 January	Corfu to Malta on board HMS <i>Virago</i>
31 January to 5 February	On leave in Malta
5 February to 8 February	Malta to Corfu on board HMS <i>Sydenham</i>
8 February to 13 March	On detachment at Vido
13 March to 17 March	Vido to Malta on board HMS <i>Volcano</i>
17 March to 27 March	On leave in Malta
27 March to 28 March	On route from Malta to Corfu on board the <i>Vampire</i>

FACSIMILES

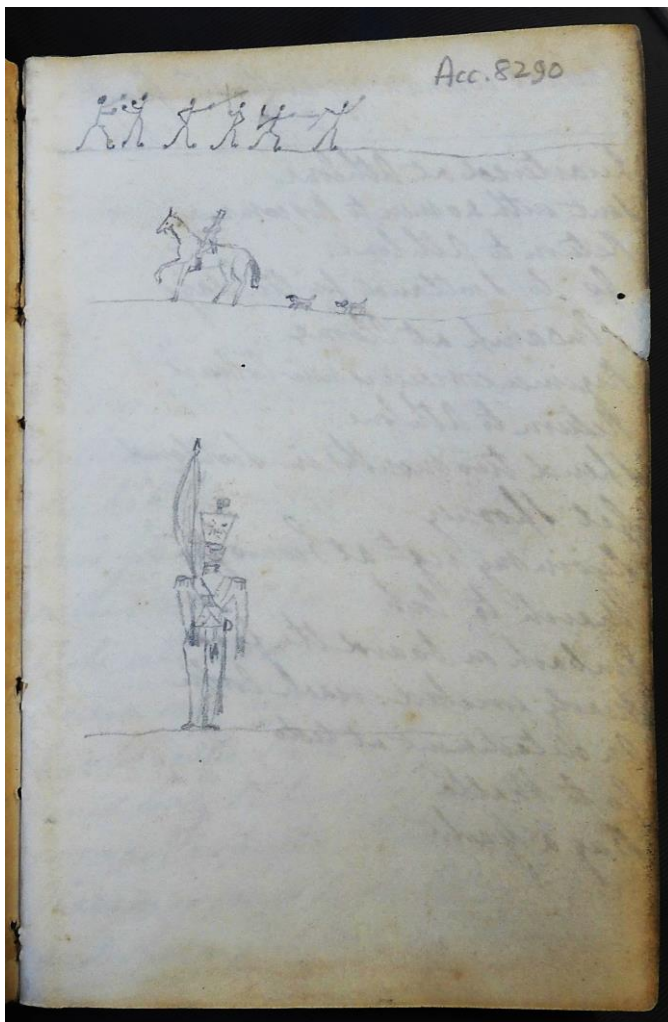
Sir George H. Scott Douglas used an octodecimo-sized (6.5" x 4") book of 190 leaves to record his daily life from 1 January 1845 to 28 March 1846. The leaves are unruled, marbled edged and made from good quality paper. The diary occupies the first 112 leaves of the book, although twenty-one of them have been removed at a later date, apparently because they contained unflattering or compromising references to Sir George's mother. The following sixty-five leaves are blank. Of the remaining leaves, some are blank while others contain occasional notes and lists written by Sir George. The leaves are bound in boards, which are covered on the outside in black leather. The leather covers are slightly worn, particularly at the edges, and the flyleaves are stained where they have been glued to the leather. Otherwise, the diary is in a very good condition.



Facsimile 1. The front cover of the diary.
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)



Facsimile 2. The inside front cover. At the top is Sir George's inscription. Beneath it are three lines of stickmen demonstrating boxing, sword and rifle drills, and beneath them part of the final verse of Thomas Campbell's version of 'The British Grenadiers'. Sir George's son added the note at the bottom about the missing portions of the diary.
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)



Facsimile 3. The flyleaf (recto). Below a further set of stickmen, Sir George has sketched himself riding with his hounds and in his uniform holding the colours.
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

Dublin. Co. Westmeath. Ireland 1
January 1st 1845

I visited the whole of the Batteries,
the Castle and Store guards at 12^{1/2}
oclock in the morning which was fine
but rather frosty. My guard room was
full of Officers of the Queen's Bays, Artillery
Regts and 3rd, during most of the night,
they had been sitting up to see the
New Year in; some were very drunk, and
on the whole we passed a pleasant night.
Pache, who was on detachment at Ros-
common came here & slept in my room.
Quartermaster Sergeant Deacon was
buried today, he had long been ill and
was much respected. I pulled up the
Shannon as far as Luskycove, in my boat
and shot a jack snipe & a Redstart.

Facsimile 4. The opening page of the diary.
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

July 93 Camp at Clome
 with the Detachment, beered at Doune
 1na, and heard at Mobile, that an
 orderly dragon had brought word that
 we were soon to be recalled to Head
 Quarters again.
 Saturday 26th On duty.
 Sunday 27th Wet: went to Chapel
 shore to Mobile, Jack Manning very
 drunk, schooled at Lough Finn,
 and dined with Jones Robertson and Distane.
 Monday 28th Showery: On duty
 Tuesday 29th Had a bath, water cold:
 shore to Mobile, as I was starting, Grizette
 the leader kicked, plunged, broke one trace and
 was tripped up by the other, Maggie the wheeler,
 reared, ran back, plunged forward and stood
 upon the frustrate leader, every one jumped
 out of the dog cart but myself, who

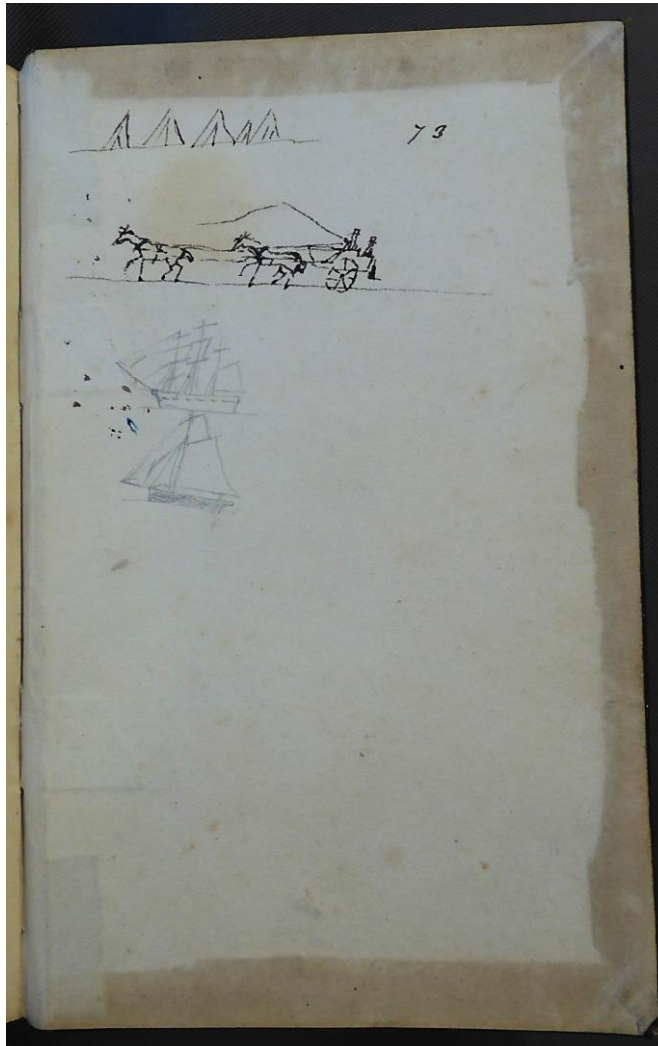
Facsimile 5. At the top of each page, Sir George added the month for the entries, a page number, and where he was based when the events described took place.
 (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

October 165 ~~roughly the year~~
~~Freight ship year~~
We then went to look at our
own quarters, & found that nine
of us subalterns were to be
put in a cabin called the
Ornibus: I got leave to go on
shore to buy a few nails, candles
and other necessaries, & at four
we all dined in the luddy, &
had an excellent dinner, after
which we smoked & walked on
the quarter deck & Poop till we
turned in

Facsimile 6. Page 165 provides a glimpse of the diarist at work. Having realised he had misspelled the location of the day's events, Sir George attempted to erase it before the ink dried. He then correctly rewrote the location below.
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

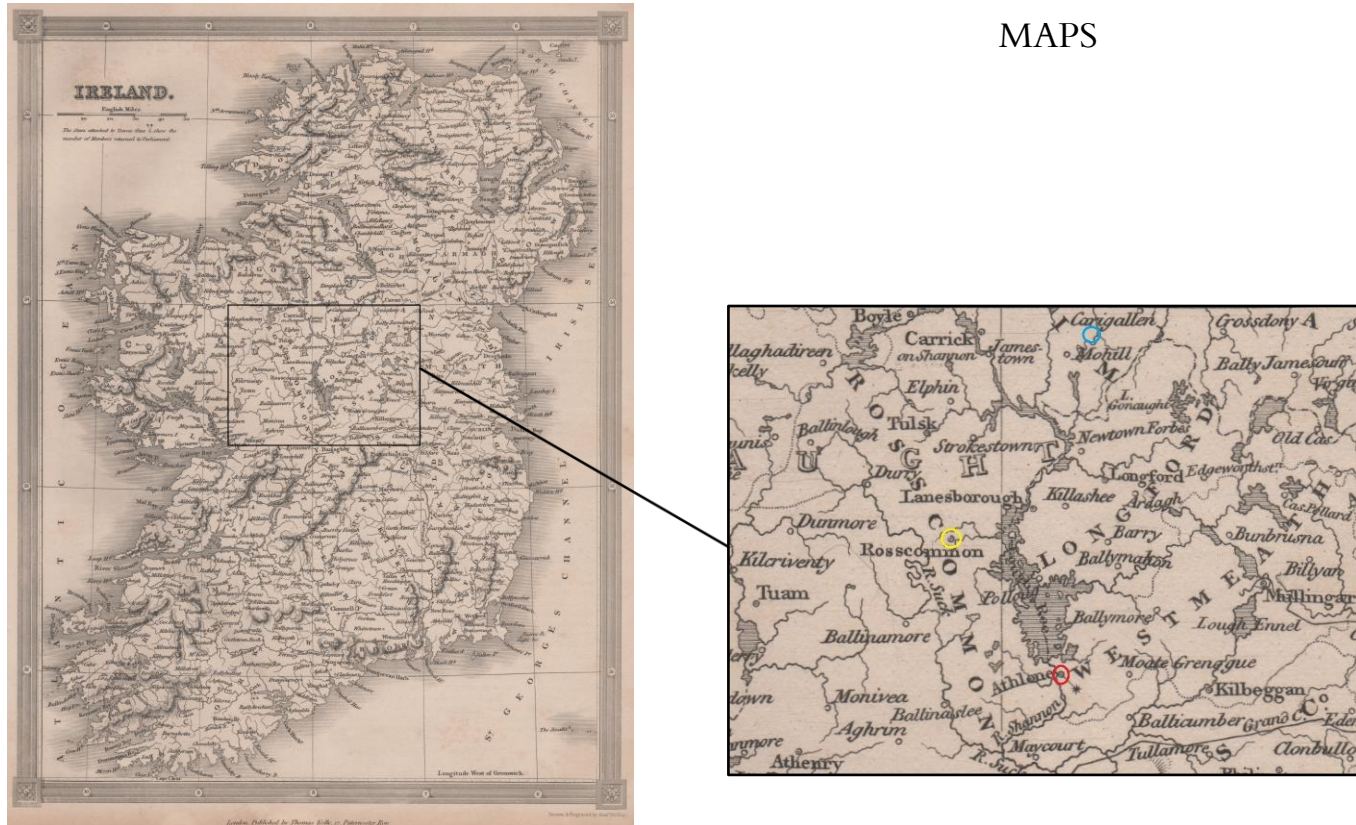
March 22⁸ Cutter Sampson
Saturday 28th - Passed Cape
Passaro, light air: saw a Yankee
Boat
Sunday 29th Light breeze: saw
some porpoises
Monday 30th A very severe gale
obliged us to heave to under
the topsail & storm jib: the sea
was very high & rough, but the
Cutter behaved well:
Tuesday 31st - Calm: heavy sea.
Santa Theresa in sight.

Facsimile 7. The closing page of the diary, which was written when Sir George was returning to Corfu on board his newly purchased yacht.
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

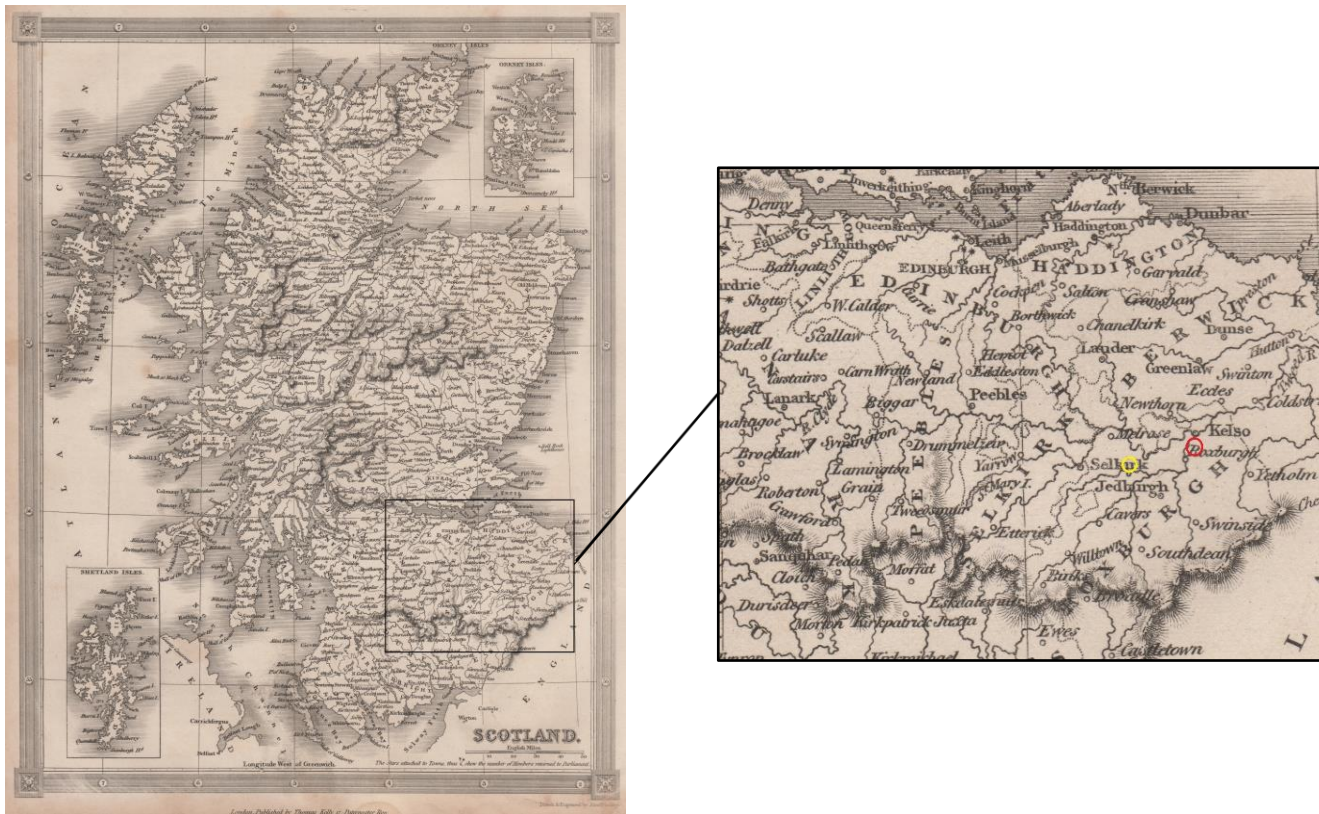


Facsimile 8. The inside back cover. The number refers to page 73 of the diary, where the two scenes depicted here were recorded. The sketch at the top of the page depicts the encampment at Cloone. The one below shows Sir George and Lieutenant Calvert driving tandem to Longford (14 June 1845).
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

MAPS



Map 1. Ireland, from *Barclay's Dictionary* (c.1844). The three places where Sir George was deployed while the 34th Regiment was stationed in the midlands of Ireland have been circled on the boxed detail: Athlone (red), Roscommon (yellow) and Cloone (blue). (Wikimedia Commons)



Map 2. Scotland, from *Barclay's Dictionary* (c.1844). The locations of Sir George's two Scottish residences have been circled on the boxed detail: Springwood Park (red) and Longnewton House (yellow).
(Wikimedia Commons)



Map 3. A detail from the OS six-inch map of County Roscommon, 1837, showing the barracks where the 34th Regiment was stationed in Athlone. On three occasions, Sir George was obliged to find lodgings in the town due to overcrowding in the barracks. He was also quartered for a short time in the castle. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)



Map 4. A detail from an Admiralty chart of Corfu Road, 1864, showing the ruins of the fort on Vido where Sir George was stationed, and the proximity of the island to the city of Corfu. By the time this chart was drafted, the British had demolished their fortifications on Corfu and its neighbouring islands in preparation for transferring the sovereignty of the Ionian Islands to Greece.
 (Wikimedia Commons)

INTRODUCTION

Sir George Henry Scott Douglas was born in Edinburgh on 19 June 1825. He was the eldest child and only son of Sir John James Scott Douglas, 3rd baronet, and his wife Hannah Charlotte Scott. Sir John got into financial difficulties a few years later, and to save money he leased the family's Roxburghshire home, Springwood Park House, and moved abroad. The effect that this had on the young George is clear from his diary entry for 25 December 1846:

Christmas day, a day which I have only spent at home once, since I was three years old: thought it a great shame, that I should have been turned into the world, when a mere baby, and kicked about from one school to another,^[1] seldom or ever going home, ill-clothed & no care taken of me, till I was old enough to look after myself.

Sir George inherited the baronetcy on the death of his father in 1836, although being only ten years old, his estates and affairs were managed by guardians for the next eleven years. In a document of February 1835, his father had nominated five guardians for his children, but three of them subsequently declined the responsibility, averring that the other two – Sir George's mother Lady Hannah and William Scott-Kerr of Sunlaws and Chatto – were better placed to act in this capacity. A year after assuming joint guardianship, Lady Hannah and William Scott-Kerr married.²

In the document of 1835, Sir John had expressed the 'earnest wish' that,

my dear son should be brought up to [a] profession of some kind, as his disposition may seem best adapted to, the Navy, the Army, the Diplomatic, as it is my opinion that every class whatever his station in life may be, it is advantageous in early life to be in some profession.³

His preference was for the navy, 'as so many of our family have attained rank in that service with credit to themselves'. Sir George, however, decided to join the army,⁴ and in November 1843, became an ensign in the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot. He obtained his commission 'by purchase', that is, he bought it from an ensign retiring from the regiment.⁵ The official value of a commission in the British Army varied by branch, according to its social prestige. The cost of an ensign's commission for the infantry at this time was £450,⁶ while for the high-status Life Guards it was £1,260. An officer selling a commission, however, would often ask for an additional sum of money. How much depended on two main factors: firstly, availability – the unofficial cost of commissions rose when there were fewer vacancies, for example during periods



Figure 1. The Regimental Colours of the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot.
 (From the *Historical Record of the Thirty-fourth ...*, London, 1844)

of peace; and secondly, desirability – commissions in some regiments were more sought after than in others. The real cost of a commission varied from regiment to regiment, therefore, even within the infantry. The 34th was not a fashionable regiment, but if the cost of Sir George’s later commissions are a guide, he paid over the official value by a reasonable amount for his ensigncy.⁷

Other costs had to be considered when choosing a regiment. British officers were required to buy their own uniforms, including field service dress, mess dress, and full ceremonial dress.⁸ They also had to pay an entrance subscription for the mess (equivalent to thirty days’ pay) and monthly mess bills thereafter. Ensigns and lieutenants, moreover, had to keep a servant, which included feeding and clothing him, as well as paying him 1/6 a week. An officer’s monthly expenditure, however, varied from regiment to regiment, largely depending on the type of lifestyle he was expected to maintain. Again, the cavalry regiments and the Foot Guards were more expensive than the infantry regiments; and some infantry regiments were more expensive than others. It was a rare ensign who would manage – or be tolerated – to scrape by on his pay of just over £95 a year alone; and to avoid any embarrassment, each regiment unofficially recommended a minimum private income for their officers.

Once he had identified the regiments within his budget, a young man often selected one with which he had a personal connection. For Sir George, this was provided by Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, colonel of the 34th Regiment. Sir Thomas’ aunt was Sir George’s great-grandmother (see Family Tree), and this distant kinship was strengthened by the proximity of Springwood

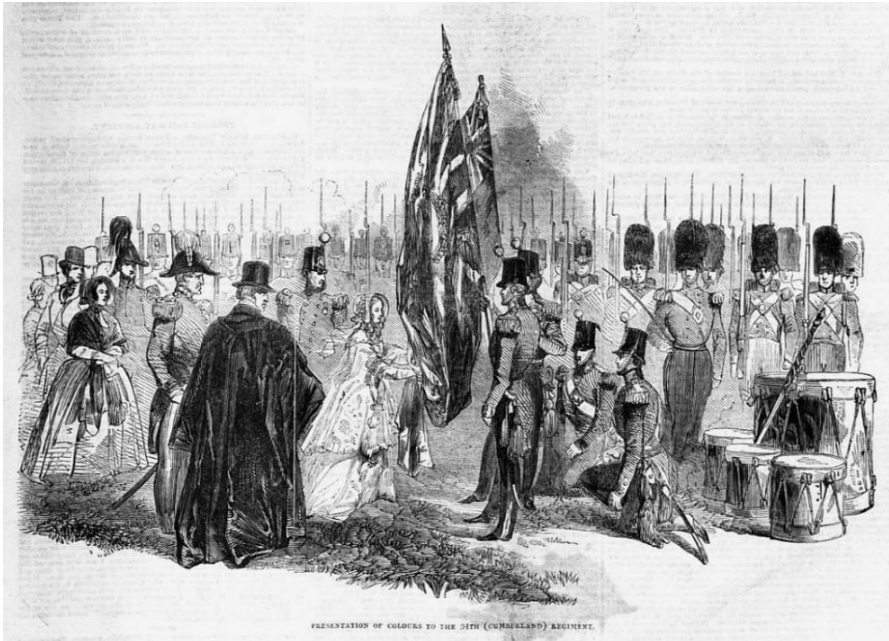


Figure 2. The 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot receives its new colours at Athlone, 19 August 1845. Sir George, who is holding the Regimental Colours, is partially obscured by the ensign holding the Queen's Colours.
 (From the *Pictorial Times*)

Park House and Sir Thomas' Roxburghshire residence, Makerstoun House. Sir George addressed him as 'uncle' and his children as 'cousins', and he was clearly appreciative of the attention Sir Thomas and his wife had paid to his welfare. As colonel of the 34th, Sir Thomas decided who was fit to purchase a commission in the regiment and he is likely to have played an important role in Sir George's choice.⁹ Notably, Sir Thomas' son, who was also one of Sir George's 'best friends',¹⁰ had joined the 34th two years earlier, in August 1841.

The 34th had a proud history dating back to the early eighteenth century, although their finest hour to date was their victory over their French namesakes at the battle of Arroyo dos Molinos in 1811. The name of this battle, and the others they fought in the Peninsular War, adorned the regimental colours (Fig. 1). As the second-most senior ensign, it was Sir George's duty to carry these colours when the 34th received their new colours at Athlone on 19 August 1845. A sketch depicting the ceremony was printed in the *Pictorial Times* (Fig. 2), along with a detailed report of the day. Sir George recorded his own impressions in his diary, noting that he was relieved when the parade came to an end, 'as I was very tired'.

The 34th Regiment was on home service and stationed in Dublin when Sir George joined in November 1843. It had arrived in the city a month earlier and was one of a number of additional regiments that had been deployed to Ireland following a rise in political agitation. The Government was concerned in particular by the growing strength and militancy of the Repeal Association, a mass movement led by Daniel O'Connell that campaigned for the repeal of the union between Ireland and Great Britain. Agrarian agitation was also on the rise, with groups such as the 'Molly Maguires' carrying out attacks on the property and persons of landlords, land agents and others they believed were oppressing tenant farmers and the rural poor more widely.

Consequently, while life for a regiment on home service was usually more relaxed than when it was stationed overseas, this was not the case for regiments posted to certain parts of Ireland at this time. When the 34th was transferred to Athlone, an important garrison town on the border of Connaught and Leinster, it was expected to help quell growing agrarian unrest in the district or at least protect the lives and property of landowners threatened by it. During his time in Ireland, Sir George was twice sent on detachment: first to Roscommon, 'as the natives [there] were riotous and had begun shooting their landlords' (4 January 1845); and then to Cloone (County Leitrim), 'a wretched assemblage of mud huts' (9 June 1845) where the detachment camped for two months to deter further trouble. Such assignments were often dangerous, and Sir George recorded in his diary that one soldier had been murdered while on detachment at Shannon Bridge. He also noted that officers had been advised not to travel without a loaded pistol, and bought a pair in Dublin for this purpose (Fig. 3).

Showing the sort of mettle and sangfroid expected of an officer, Sir George made light of the dangers he faced when travelling the countryside and of the unrest in general. 'I went to see the jail, a fine large building, it was full of people charged with shooting landlords, firing houses, breaking heads and other amusements peculiar to the natives of Connaught' (15 January 1845), he noted when on detachment in Roscommon. This and similar comments in the diary might lead to the conclusion that he was dismissive of the Irish poor and their plight. In a letter he wrote at Roscommon, however, he demonstrated an understanding of the issues behind the unrest and expressed some sympathy for the father who would 'rather be hung or transported, than see his children starving around him' (Appendix A). That Sir George and his fellow officers raised a subscription for the families of the nine 'country people' who drowned after their boat sank in Lough Ree (1 March 1845), further suggests a more considerate outlook than is sometimes imagined for British officers in Ireland.

When not on detachment, Sir George followed a daily routine typical for an ensign on home service. The morning started with parade, sometimes as early as six o'clock. At these parades, Sir George and his fellow subalterns would have been put in command of a sub-division of their company and held responsible



Figure 3. One of a pair of pistols that Sir George purchased in Dublin.
(From an auction catalogue, 2023)

to the captain for its smartness. The Queen's Regulations recommended that subalterns should also occasionally 'take Command of the Parade ... and exercise the Regiment or Battalion' under the superintendence of the commanding officer,¹¹ although there is no mention in the diary of this happening to Sir George. Parade was followed by drill. For new subalterns, this involved sword, marching and other elementary drills, all conducted under the supervision of the adjutant. More experienced subalterns would continue to improve their skills and learn new ones, not least the extensive and various duties of the adjutant, something which Sir George appears to have found tedious. As for the rank and file, they were usually drilled by sergeants, supported by other non-commissioned officers and specialists. Captains and subalterns were encouraged to superintend these drills, at least occasionally, but if the complaints of army reformers are to be credited, they generally did not.¹²

Subalterns also took their turn on regimental and garrison duty, which required them to perform a range of tasks, such as inspecting the men's kit and accommodation to visiting the messes at breakfast, dinner and supper.¹³ They also had to take their turn on guard duty, acting alongside a senior officer, 'from whose example they may be expected to obtain a knowledge of their duty'.¹⁴ The 'subaltern of the day' also filled in for the adjutant when he was on leave; and all subalterns were required to serve on courts-martial. In this way, after two years in service, a junior officer 'shall be capable of Commanding and exercising a Troop or Company in every situation, and shall be perfectly acquainted with its interior Management, Economy, and Discipline'.¹⁵



Figure 4. The military coatee worn by Sir George.¹⁶
(Courtesy of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life)

Most of Sir George's dealings with the rank and file would have been conducted through non-commissioned officers, such as the Serjeant Higgins who was on detachment with him in Cloone. Even so, he would have soon got to know the men in his sub-division, and it is possible that some of them are mentioned by name in the diary.¹⁷ Although complaints were made throughout the nineteenth century about officers being indifferent to, or ignorant of, the needs of their men, there existed a strong paternalistic feeling among many officers for the rank and file. That Sir George belonged to this group can be inferred from a number of incidents recorded in the diary, including one from 10 January 1845: '... at seven o'clock I marched my men off and halted at ten at a small village to let them get breakfast. As the day was wet and they had marched well I gave them each a glass of porter'.

Unless they had been assigned additional duties, officers usually had a good deal of free time. Indeed, one former junior officer in the 13th Light Infantry recalled that subalterns 'had little or no work to do'.¹⁸ They were encouraged to spend their free time in country sports, such as hunting and shooting. The abundant lochs and bogs of the midlands of Ireland provided Sir George with ample opportunity for wildfowling, while his love of the chase was partly satisfied by hiring locals to act as 'quarry' for his bloodhound. He was also a

keen horseman, and while in Ireland he taught himself the dangerous and expensive pastime of tandem riding. He was also interested in horse racing and employed an Irish jockey to race his mare Myrrha in a local steeplechase. If horse riding, hunting and shooting all involved skills that were transferable to the battlefield or campaign, they also improved an officer's physical fitness. Boxing was encouraged in the British Army for this purpose, and Sir George spent some of his free time sparring with the prizefighter Jack Manning. Even more importantly, these activities demonstrated and enhanced personal courage, a trait that was valued above all others in a British officer.

Officers were also expected to set aside time to mix with society, which involved paying calls on local worthies, and attending balls and other occasions. Sir George enjoyed 'an excellent dinner' hosted by the Reverend William Battersby at Carrowroe Park in January 1845 and 'a very fine ball' hosted by Sir Francis Hopkins at Rochfort House in March 1845. He also paid a number of calls at Glynwood House, the residence of John Longworth, and rode on two occasions with the Glynwood hounds. The regiment entertained local society in turn. After the presentation of the regiment's new colours in August 1845, for example, 'a splendid ball and fete were given by the officers to the *elite* of the town and neighbourhood'.¹⁹ Notably, the diary shows that junior officers stationed in Ireland did not restrict their socialising to the landowning set (which in any case was often absent). Sir George dined with Episcopal clergy and enjoyed drinks with local officials, including a doctor in Roscommon whom he described as 'an amusing fellow but a great liar' (15 January 1845).

When Sir George was not dining out or on detachment, he would usually eat his evening meal at the regimental mess. Mess was classed as a 'parade' and attendance was not just expected but enforced if an unmarried officer had no good reason to be absent. Here Sir George met his fellow officers on terms of equality, in a social point of view, but being a subaltern, he would be expected to maintain 'an easy, quiet, and gentlemanlike bearing' and not contradict anything a superior officer might say.²⁰ Official advice such as this was thought necessary partly because subalterns had the reputation for being somewhat fast and prone to boasting. Indeed, a pamphlet published in 1857 by an officer in a Scottish regiment alleged that while 'for the most part, a fine spirited set of young men', subalterns attended little to their profession, indulged in expensive habits and immoral pursuits, and devoted 'a great portion of their time ... to seduction from the paths of virtue ... innocent and uneducated girls'.²¹ Whether or not Sir George conformed to this stereotype is difficult to say from the diary alone, although his complaints about extra drill and the demands of a 'sulky' colonel, his drinking bouts and occasional hangovers, his ragging of a fellow ensign, his comments about the attractiveness or otherwise of local women, and his pranks such as stealing door knockers and throwing heated coppers into a crowd so that anyone picking them up would burn their fingers, suggest that he was not entirely free of its vices.



Figure 5. Springwood Park House, as sketched by Sir George's mother, Lady Hannah Charlotte Scott Douglas.
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

As well as enjoying ample free time when in barracks, officers were granted long periods of leave. This was especially the case for senior officers, but even ensigns spent a good amount of time away from their regiment. Sir George, for example, was on leave for thirteen of the sixty-three weeks covered by the diary. When posted in Ireland, he twice returned to Roxburghshire, although on both occasions he stayed on his estate of Longnewton, as Springwood Park House had been leased to another family. These periods of home leave were spent visiting his family and friends and enjoying country sports. Otter hunting was a favourite pastime of his, and the entries describing hunts on 5 and 8 September 1845 are two of the most dramatic in his diary. This activity seems outrageous to modern sensibilities, as does Sir George's participation in cock fighting while in Ireland, but in this respect, he was 'of his time'.

The 34th Regiment's period of home service came to an end in October 1845, when it embarked at Cork for the United States of the Ionian Islands, a Greek state and amical protectorate of the United Kingdom. The British maintained a force of around 3,000 men across the seven islands of the state, but the great majority of them were based in or around the city of Corfu, the seat of government; and it was here that the 34th disembarked on 25 November after an at times traumatic four-week voyage. The regiment established its headquarters at the city's Citadel, but during the period covered by the diary, Sir George was on detachment at a fort on Vido, a small island around a mile (1.6 km) north of the city.



Figure 6. Joseph Schranz, *Corfu from the Island of Vido* (c.1845).
(Courtesy of Bridgeman Images, ©The Fine Art Society, London)

It was later noted that, ‘To the soldier they [the Ionian Islands] have ever been and are the pleasantest of foreign stations’;²² and it is clear from Sir George’s diary that life in Corfu was more relaxed than it had been on home service in Ireland. His general routine, however, remained more or less the same. Mornings were spent on various duties: parading, drilling, and checking on sentries are all mentioned in the entries for this period. Afternoons were usually free. Opportunities for sporting and leisure activities were different from in Ireland, and no more mention was made in the diary of tandem riding, boxing, horse racing or hunting with hounds. The neighbouring coast of Albania, however, was known as being ‘an excellent field for a sportsman, as he can get such a variety of game’;²³ and Sir George frequently went hunting and shooting both there and on the Corfu mainland. He also took fencing lessons and spent quieter moments reading in the library.²⁴

In the evening, Sir George was still expected either to attend mess or to engage in society. He recorded attending a number of balls at the residence of the Lord High Commissioner, including one held on 1 January 1846 in honour of the anniversary of the institution of the Ionian States. He also went to more than one ‘cavalchina’, a masked or fancy-dress ball of Venetian origin. According to one contemporary commentator, who found society on Corfu ‘chiefly military, and very agreeable’, there was ‘but little intercourse between the garrison and the natives’.²⁵ Sir George, however, would have had the opportunity to mingle with locals when he visited the opera house, something

he did on a number of occasions during the winter season of 1845–1846. Indeed, he appears to have become something of a devotee, dedicating a page at the back of his diary to a list of all the operas he attended in Corfu, Malta, Gibraltar and elsewhere. Despite these distractions, Sir George found the military routine on Corfu monotonous, and in October 1846 he contemplated exchanging into an Indian regiment, where the chances of active service were much higher.

For his social activities, and many of his military and sporting ones, Sir George was obliged to sail from Vido to Corfu; and for convenience, he bought himself a small boat. Although he had sailed on Lough Ree when at Athlone, navigating the Ionian Sea presented a much stiffer challenge, but he soon grew sufficiently adept to take fellow officers on trips to Albania. The various Royal Navy ships that connected Britain's scattered possessions in the Ionian Sea and the Mediterranean provided him with further sailing opportunities. He travelled on HMS *Virago* to Malta in January 1846, an experience he seems to have thoroughly enjoyed. It was on a subsequent visit to the island that he bought the *Vampire*, a cutter of 49 tons, from Captain Archibald Campbell of the 42nd Regiment for £650.²⁶

Sir George clearly saw this as a new chapter in his life, as he brought the first volume of his diary to a close on 28 March 1846, shortly after returning to Corfu with the *Vampire*, even though there were at least sixty-five blank pages remaining in the book. When he opened the next volume, he was back on detachment on Vido, but not for long, as on 25 April he set sail on the *Vampire* for a three-month cruise around the coasts of Greece and Turkey – details of which he vividly recorded.

The 34th Regiment remained in Corfu for another two years. During this time, Sir George purchased the commission of his 'cousin' Thomas Brisbane, who had decided to sell out and retire from the army.²⁷ He paid Brisbane £100 over the regulation cost of £250 to procure the lieutenancy.²⁸ His promotion brought him new responsibilities, including a stint as commandant of the small fort at Paxos. Here he had complete charge of a garrison comprising thirty men, two sergeants, two corporals, two gunners and a bombardier; and duties that ranged from superintending parades and compiling the garrison accounts to reading divine service to the men on Sundays.

When the regiment set off for Gibraltar in March 1848, Sir George was given permission to make his own way there on board the *Vampire*. Despite Gibraltar's reputation for being a rather dull posting, his diary suggests that he enjoyed exploring both the colony and the southern regions of Spain. It was here, moreover, that he met his future wife, Maria Juana Petronila Sanchez de Piña. She made her first appearance in his diary on 5 December 1849, 'went to a ball at the Convent in the evening, danced a good deal, talked a good deal to Miss Sanchez, a Spanish lady, very pretty, took rather a fancy to her'; and the attraction grew over the following months. Sir George also found Gibraltar an



Figure 7. A plate depicting the colours and uniform of officers in the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot in 1844. (From the *Historical Record of the Thirty-fourth ...*, London, 1844)

ideal location for yachting and used his leave to go cruising, on one occasion as far as Scotland. It was while on a visit to Cowes, Isle of Wight, that he bought the schooner *Ariel* for £1,800.²⁹

These cruises were followed by a much more challenging crossing of the Atlantic Ocean when in March 1850 the regiment was redeployed to Barbados.³⁰ Just before the regiment set off, Captain Charles Burrill of the 34th decided to sell his commission and retire from the army. In accordance with army regulations, he offered it first to the regiment's senior lieutenant, who by this time was Sir George. That Sir George accepted the offer is perhaps surprising, not necessarily because the commission cost him the substantial sum of £1,850 (the official cost of £1,100 plus an extra £750 asked for by Burrill);³¹ but because most young aristocrats, especially those with estates to manage, tended to leave the army as junior officers, after 'enjoying for a time a pleasant occupation that made few demands'.³²

Sir George did not enjoy his captaincy for long, however. In his diary for 30 December 1850, he noted,

... found plenty of letters from England ... which confirmed my intention of leaving Her Majesty's Service, the necessity of which I regretted excessively but my private duties & engagements do not allow me to remain so long from my property, & my service of seven years & a half is not long enough to allow me to retire on half pay even for a year or two.³³

He had been combining the responsibilities of an officer with those of a landowner since he came to his majority in 1846, so why he decided to retire from the army now is not clear. Perhaps it had something to do with the death of his mother earlier in the year. Whatever the case, he left the 34th Regiment on 10 February 1851, having been granted leave of absence until his official retirement date of 7 March. After some further travelling, he returned to Gibraltar and on 1 November 1851 married Miss Sanchez.

At Springwood Park, Sir George devoted much of his time to caring for and improving his estates. He pursued drainage projects on his lands in Ancrum, Sprouston, and Springwood Park; conducted research into the management of permanent pasture; and built new cottages and farmhouses for his tenants. As expected of a county gentleman, he was also active in public affairs. He followed in his grandfather's footsteps by being elected MP for Roxburghshire; he was a justice of the peace for the county; and served on a number of boards and committees, including the Kelso School Board and the County Road Board. He also supported a range of local causes and institutions, from the Kelso Museum to the Borders Art Union. Throughout this time, he maintained his interest and involvement in military matters, first in an active capacity as an officer in the Roxburghshire Rifle Volunteers, and then in the honorary role of colonel of the 1st Roxburgh and Selkirk Corps of Rifle Volunteers.

Sir George died on 26 June 1885 at Springwood Park House, aged sixty years. He was interred the following week in the mausoleum his father had built in the grounds of the estate.

Ian Abernethy and
Kenneth Veitch

NOTES

- ¹ The identity of one of these schools is known thanks to a letter in which Henry Douglas expressed the hope that his great-nephew, Sir George, would not be kept much longer at his school in Guernsey (most probably Elizabeth College) but be sent instead to Eton, Harrow or Winchester. See NLS Acc 7448, Henry Douglas to Lady Hannah Charlotte Scott Douglas, 2 January 1834. He was to be disappointed, as Sir George's name is not listed in the registers for any of these schools.
- ² There were rumours that William Scott-Kerr had been Lady Hannah Charlotte's lover before the death of her husband, which caused many difficulties later when the parentage of Sir George's youngest sister, Charlotte, was called into question.
- ³ NLS Acc 7448, Document written by Sir John James Scott Douglas, 11 February 1835.
- ⁴ At one point, he appears to have considered entering Trinity College, Cambridge, and was tutored by the Reverend Henry Parr Hamilton, the Scots-born rector of Wath, Yorkshire, and curate of St Mary the Great, Cambridge, partly for this end.
- ⁵ Purchasing a commission was the only way for a young man to enter the British Army until 1843, when free commissions could be offered to cadets from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Sir George did not attend Sandhurst.
- ⁶ Readers who wish to gain an idea of the current value of the historical monetary amounts quoted in the Introduction should consult the *Measuring Worth* [website](#).
- ⁷ There is a gap of ten years in the accounts of Springwood Park coinciding with Sir George's minority. The whereabouts of the annual profit and loss accounts compiled by Tod & Romanes of Edinburgh during this period are unknown.
- ⁸ That Sir George still owed Messrs William Buckmaster, the army tailor in Dublin, £329 17s 6d when his regiment left Ireland gives an idea of how expensive these uniforms were. See NLS MS 8092, Financial papers of the Douglas family of Springwood Park, 1750-1915, Accounts for 1846.
- ⁹ The official letter from the Horse Guards informing Sir Thomas that Sir George had been appointed to the 34th Regiment is preserved in the National Library of Australia: NLA MS 4036, item 6, Letter to Brisbane from Lord Fitzroy Somerset announcing Sir George Henry Scott Douglas's appointment to an ensigncy by purchase in 34th Foot.
- ¹⁰ Sir George sometimes made uncomplimentary remarks about the younger Thomas Brisbane in his diary, but he noted in a later volume that Thomas had been one of his two best friends.
- ¹¹ *The Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Army, 1844*, London, 1844, 124.
- ¹² Anon. *A Few Remarks about the British Army*, London, 1857, 18.
- ¹³ For these and the other duties junior officers were expected to perform, see Walshe, A. *A Catechism and Hand-Book on Regimental Standing Orders*, London, 1852.
- ¹⁴ *The Queen's Regulations, 1844*, 266.
- ¹⁵ *The Queen's Regulations, 1844*, 125.

- ¹⁶ The photograph of Sir George's coatee (Fig. 4) was kindly supplied by Nick Hazlewood of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life.
- ¹⁷ For example, Private Johnston (16 May 1845) and Private Lomas (15 June 1845).
- ¹⁸ Hallam Parr, H. *Recollections and Correspondence*, London, 1917.
- ¹⁹ *Pictorial Times*, 6 September 1845. Italics in the original.
- ²⁰ Sandys, E W. *The Subaltern Officer and his Duties; or, A Practical Guide to the Junior Officers of the Army*, London, 1863, 9.
- ²¹ Anon., 1857, 20.
- ²² Anon. The Ionian Islands, *The United Service Magazine*, 102 (1863), 564-567, at 564.
- ²³ Extracts from Raby's Note-book. The Mediterranean, Corfu, Albania, *The New Sporting Magazine*, 23 (1852), 437-441, at 440. The author of this piece was on Corfu at the same time as the 34th Regiment and crossed to Albania in a yacht owned by one of its officers.
- ²⁴ Corfu had a 'very respectable library of several thousand volumes' (*Statistics of the Colonies of the British Empire*, London, 1839, 595).
- ²⁵ Anon., 1863, 565.
- ²⁶ NLS MS 8092, Financial papers of the Douglas family of Springwood Park, 1750-1915, Accounts for 1846.
- ²⁷ Sir George's lieutenantcy was officially announced in the *Gazette* on 19 May 1846, although he only found out when he returned from his three-month cruise on the *Vampire* on 10 August.
- ²⁸ NLS MS 8092, Financial papers of the Douglas family of Springwood Park, 1750-1915, Accounts for 1846.
- ²⁹ NLS MS 8092, Financial papers of the Douglas family of Springwood Park, 1750-1915, Accounts for 1849.
- ³⁰ For his voyage to Barbados and his time stationed there, see NLS MS 8105, Journal of Sir George H. Scott Douglas of voyages from Europe to Barbados by way of Morocco and the Canary Islands, and of travels in the West Indies and to Venezuela, 1850-1851.
- ³¹ NLS MS 8092, Financial papers of the Douglas family of Springwood Park, 1750-1915, Accounts for 1850.
- ³² Moyse-Bartlett, H. The British Army in 1850, *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, 52 (1974), 221-237, at 232.
- ³³ NLS MS 8105, Journal of Sir George H. Scott Douglas of voyages from Europe to Barbados by way of Morocco and the Canary Islands, and of travels in the West Indies and to Venezuela, 1850-1851.

THE DIARY OF
SIR GEORGE H. SCOTT DOUGLAS
34TH REGIMENT OF FOOT
1845-1846

Journal commencing on the 1st January 1845^[1]

Quartered at Athlone
Sent with 20 men to Roscommon
Return to Athlone
Go to Scotland for ten days
Encamp at Cloone
Regiment receives new Colours^[2]
Return to Athlone
Spend two months in Scotland
Get spooney^[3]
Rejoin my regiment at Fermoy
March to Cork
Embark on board the Java
Nearly wrecked: reach Corfu
On detachment at Vido
Go to Malta
Buy a yacht

¹ Sir George added this summary of the diary to the front flyleaf (verso) of the book.

² This item has been incorrectly placed: the colours were received by the regiment after Sir George had returned to Athlone.

³ *i.e.* sentimentally or foolishly amorous.

1845

Athlone, Co. Westmeath, Ireland

1 January

I visited the whole of the batteries, the castle and store guards at 12 o'clock in the morning, which was fine but rather frosty. My guard room was full of officers of the Queen's Bays, Artillery, Rifles and 34th, during most of the night, they had been sitting up to see the New Year in; some were very drunk, and on the whole we passed a pleasant night. Packe,^[4] who was on detachment at Roscommon, came here and slept in my room. Quartermaster Sergeant Deaton was buried today, he had long been ill and was much respected. I pulled up the Shannon as far as Lushy Cove in my boat and shot a jack snipe & a kestrel, on my return I took out my rifle & practised with it at the butts for an hour, when I came back, dressed and went to mess.

2 January

Fine morning: Garrison parade at 11, after which we marched out on the Ferbane road for three miles, and on our return had sword drill for an hour. In the afternoon I sailed in my punt to Gilligan's house,^[5] which is at the mouth of Lough Ree, I was obliged to row the whole way back, as the punt being flat bottomed would not tack.

3 January

Dull drizzly: Parade at 10, when Colonel Airey^[6] inspected the men and drilled us for an hour. On Regimental duty, an order came out that all the junior subalterns were to attend adjutant's drill, which we considered a great bore, as the whole day was cut up by it. I made some bullets for my rifle and then took a walk with Parker^[7] along the banks of the canal.

4 January

Fine day, but frosty: for a wonder there was no parade. I was in the court house most of the day as a witness, a man named Quin having brought an action against Harvey,^[8] our Grenadier subaltern, for licking him, after much squabbling amongst the lawyers the case was dismissed. During my service in Ireland I always remarked there is a set of people in every town who were

⁴ Lieutenant Robert C. Packe, 34th Regiment. Sir George also referred to him as 'Pack'.

⁵ Henry Gilligan, farmer, Capnakelly, County Westmeath.

⁶ Lieutenant-colonel Richard Airey, 34th Regiment.

⁷ Ensign Henry T. Parker, 34th Regiment.

⁸ Lieutenant Francis C. Harvey, 34th Regiment.

continually summoning officers in hopes of getting money out of them: wet afternoon, on re-entering the barracks I found an order for one to be ready to march to Roscommon with a party of twenty men to strengthen the detachment there, as the natives were riotous and had begun shooting their landlords.

5 January (Sunday)

Drizzly: marched to church at ten: in the afternoon I took a walk with Parker on the batteries: the Colonel got screwed^[9] at mess.

6 January

Wet morning: I rode to Castle Daly^[10] where the Glynwood hounds met, we found immediately and killed in the Bog of Doon after a splendid run of 50 minutes. My favourite little mare Ginger carried me beautifully over the banks and ditches of Westmeath.

7 January

Fine: Heavy marching order parade,^[11] marched into the country: I wrote to tell Sir Thomas^[12] what a fool his son was making of himself, wanting to marry an Irish attorney's daughter at Moate, Miss Shine certainly was a very pretty girl: Sailed on the Shannon: Played at billiards.

8 January

Wet and windy, I sailed up the Shannon, but landed and walked to the shaky bog of Coosan where I shot 3 couple of snipe. Played at billiards at night.

9 January

Very wet: got leave from parade to pack my kit as my route^[13] had come for Roscommon: spoke to the Colonel about Tom's amour, as though Miss Shine was a nice pretty girl, I did not wish for her as a cousin. After mess I attended a cockfight in Captain Tuthill's^[14] room, I fought my cock against Oxenden's^[15] of the Rifles, but mine was killed.

⁹ *i.e.* drunk.

¹⁰ Castledaly, a manor house and estate in County Westmeath, about 10 miles (16 km) south east of Athlone.

¹¹ *i.e.* the men were equipped for field service with arms, accoutrements, knapsacks, canteens and haversacks.

¹² Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, colonel of the 34th Regiment. His son, also Thomas, was a lieutenant in the 34th. Sir George referred to the latter as 'Brisbane' and 'Tom'.

¹³ When used in a military context, a route is an order directing troops to march from one place to another, indicating the course they are to follow.

¹⁴ Captain Jackson V. Tuthill, 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays).

¹⁵ Second lieutenant Charles V. Oxenden, Rifle Brigade.

10 January

Wet and windy, at seven o'clock I marched my men off and halted at ten at a small village to let them get breakfast. As the day was wet and they had marched well I gave them each a glass of porter: in seven hours I reached Roscommon and found Captain Brown laid up with the gout, Packe dined out and came back very drunk.

11 January

After breakfast I went to look for stables and at last hired a two stalled one from Dr Hely,^[16] who attended the detachment. The barracks were old but comfortable and are capable of holding 100 men: my room was said to be haunted by the ghost of a dragoon who had cut his throat, however he never troubled me. In the afternoon, we rode out to the race course and schooled our horses, Packe got spilt. At 4 we went out with Handley, a kind of gamekeeper we had hired, to the Bog of Lissederne^[17] to watch for the flight, after sitting for an hour up to our knees in water, the thermometer being at 20°, Handly shot a wigion^[18] and we went home again. Brisbane, who had been ordered to Carrick on Shannon, came in on his way, very full of liquor and love.

12 January (Sunday)

Packe and I marched with the detachment to church, our pew was shared by two very pretty girls in blue bonnets, Brisbane was suffering today from the hot coppers^[19] and love, Hely gave him some physic. Duff, the stipendiary magistrate, Heath, inspector of police, and Shield called on us and we had a brew of egg flip:^[20] Old Brown's^[21] gout was very bad & made him surly.

13 January

Foggy: marched into the country after parade, Brisbane was better, but still spooney on Mary Ann.

14 January

Packe went out shooting and killed one snipe: I stayed at home to take care of Tom: I was going to a ball in Gallag,^[22] but in getting the steam up I overshot the mark and got very drunk.

¹⁶ Dr Joseph Haily, Roscommon.

¹⁷ Perhaps Lissadorn, County Roscommon.

¹⁸ Wigeon (*Anas penelope*).

¹⁹ A hangover, in particular the accompanying dry throat and mouth.

²⁰ A drink in which eggs are stirred up with sugar and hot beer, cider, wine, or spirits.

²¹ Captain Nicholas R. Brown, 34th Regiment.

²² Perhaps Gallag, County Galway.

15 January

After parade Brisbane and I went to see the jail, a fine large building, it was full of people charged with shooting landlords, firing houses, breaking heads and other amusements peculiar to the natives of Connaught. Robert Ord^[23] came over to see his master, he brought my duck gun, the charge for it is 2 oz of powder 8 oz of shot. Hely came & sat with us, he is an amusing fellow but a great liar.

16 January

Frosty: marched out. I went out shooting in a bog towards Ballinasloe, but only killed three snipes, as they had collected into wisps and were so wild that it was almost impossible to get within shot of them, I sent Moran for my punt, which I had left at Lough Funcheon,^[24] near Athlone. Packe went to watch for the flight, but did nothing.

17 January

I intended hunting with Lord De Fraine's Harriers, which met at French Park,^[25] but was prevented by the rain: as we had nothing better to do, we went to Miss Johnston, the confectioner's and eat [*i.e.* ate] buns and drank cherry brandy.

18 January

Fine but cold: Packe and I took a car and drove to Castle Coote^[26] on the river Suck, I shot a hare, two snipes and a duck. Handley, who had my large Forsythe gun,^[27] killed a teal and four magpie divers.^[28] The Suck was flooded & was covered with immense flocks of wild fowl, indeed, I consider that a person might have as good wild fowl shooting there as he could wish for: we lunched with a Mrs Harrison, a hospitable old lady, Brisbane proceeded to Carrick to join his company.

19 January (Sunday)

Snowy: after church we had a brew of egg flip.

²³ An outdoor servant at Makerstoun (also known as Makerston), the Roxburghshire residence and estate of the aforementioned Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane.

²⁴ Lough Funshinagh, County Roscommon.

²⁵ The seat in County Roscommon of Arthur French, 1st Baron de Freyne of Artagh.

²⁶ Castlecoote, County Roscommon. The house and estate of Castlecoote was owned by William McLaughlin.

²⁷ Forsyth & Co. was a firm of gunmakers in London. Founded by Alexander Forsyth, a former Church of Scotland minister, it was known for its sporting guns.

²⁸ Better known now as the tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*).

20 January

Snow & hard frost, with slight thaw in the afternoon. Duff came and talked about the state of the country to old Brown: Pack and I went to the flight.

21 January

Thaw, windy: I went out to the Suck to try my duck gun in the punt, it shot very far, had a slight recoil and pleased me much: I killed three ducks, a teal & five wigeon, I also shot a grouse, Pack who had been shooting in the woods at Dunammon,^[29] went off with the car, so I had to pull the punt ashore, hide it in a bog hole, and carry the gun, no light weight across a bog to reach a public house, where I feasted on poteen & potatoes, while the car came back.

22 January

Damp & drizzly, I rode with Pack & Shield to the Kybar Pass,^[30] where Mr Nolan, a county gentleman, had had his horse shot under him, a few days ago. I dined at Cararow, Battersby's seat,^[31] he gave us an excellent dinner and we danced in the evening.

23 January

Wet & windy: stayed in all day & read & wrote a good deal, I dined with old Day,^[32] the parson, who gave us a good dinner, Pack & I sat up till three in the morning & sent the rector's son in law to bed drunk.

24 January

Frosty, went to Dunammon but as I broke a paddle, I did no good with the stanchion gun.^[33]

25 January

Wet & windy: made some calls: Hely dined with us: wet night.

26 January (Sunday)

Fine: As I was not well I did not go to church, but stayed in barracks with Captain Brown, who was very ill: Fep, my terrier, killed a large cat in the stable.

²⁹ Dunamon, County Galway, a house and estate belonging to George Caulfield.

³⁰ The name popularly given to a road running through a defile near Strokestown, County Roscommon, notorious as a favourite spot for ambushes and other assaults on travellers.

³¹ Carrowroe Park, County Roscommon, the seat of the Reverend William Battersby.

³² The Reverend Edward Day, minister of the Episcopal church in Roscommon.

³³ A large gun that was fixed to a boat or punt and used to shoot ducks and geese.

27 January

Sleet & wind: did not go out as I was seedy.

28 January

Snow & frost, with thaw in the evening & frost again at night. Robert Ord arrived here with Brisbane's horses: I wrote several letters.

29 January

The men were employed in clearing away the snow from the barrack guard: still seedy.

30 January

Snow & hard frost, still seedy, read a good deal.

31 January

Snow very deep: early in the morning we had a regular hurricane, I thought that my window would be blown in: letter from Paris, all well.

1 February

The snow fell so thick that we were obliged to clear the barrack guard again: still unwell.

2 February (Sunday)

Thaw – egg flip as usual.

3 February

Thaw: Lord Crofton^[34] and Mr Battersby called on us: I began browning^[35] the barrel of my gun.

4 February

Thaw & thick fog.

5 February

Fine, snow all gone: Old Brown went out today.

³⁴ The politician and landowner Edward Crofton, 2nd Baron Crofton.

³⁵ Applying an anti-rust treatment to the barrel of a gun, so called because it gave the metal a dull-brown lustre. Instructions on how to brown a gun were given in the Queen's Regulations, along with the following recipe for the browning mixture: '1½ oz. of spirits of wine, 1½ oz. of tincture of steel, ½ oz. of corrosive sublimate, 1½ sweet spirit of nitre, 1 oz. of blue vitriol, ¾ oz. of nitric acid, are to be mixed and dissolved in one quart of soft water' (*The Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Army, 1844*, London, 1844, 97-98).

6 February

Fine: browned my duck gun.

7 February

Frosty: Captain Duff, the stipendiary magistrate, came & sat in the barracks with us, nearly all day, he was very amusing, telling us long stories about his countrymen, and explained the system to us. Still seedy.

8 February

Frost: cut my leg severely.

9 February (Sunday)

Fine: received a letter from Mr Robertson,^[36] informing me of the projected plan of the railroad which it was proposed to run through Springwood.

10 February

An itinerant bookseller came to the barracks with a large stock of books & prints, several of which I bought: wet all day: seedy.

11 February

Fine: letter from Middlemas giving a good account of the game and dogs at Longnewton: Pack drunk.

12 February

Fine: dined at Cararow: good feed, staid [*i.e.* stayed] late.

13 February

Saw a pike which had been caught in the Suck, & which was 36 lbs in weight, it was an ugly brute, all mouth & belly.

14 February

Brisbane came over from Carrick on Shannon, he looked better than I had seen him for a long time, in consequence of his living a quieter life: James Ord^[37] was with him and gave a good account of all at home.

15 February

Brisbane returned to Carrick & Pack went to Lissiderne.

³⁶ James Robertson, farmer, Ladyrig, Roxburghshire, and factor of Springwood Park estate.

³⁷ The gamekeeper at Makerstoun House, and the older brother of the aforementioned Robert Ord.

16 February (Sunday)

Lord Crofton called: wrote to Hamilton, my old tutor.

17 February

Windy: dined at Captain Duff's & got drunk.

18 February

Fine: I sent my servant to Carrick on Shannon with some dogs which I wished James Ord to take home for me: a letter of readiness came to old Brown, to prepare the detachment for a march, so I called on all the people who had shown us civility to bid them goodbye, after which I paid a visit to the ruins of Roscommon Castle, which must have been a place of great strength before it was allowed to fall into decay. As we returned I met a soldier so drunk that I was obliged to send an escort with him to barracks by main force. Packed up my kit.

19 February

Drove to Moate Park^[38] to say adieu to Lord Crofton: we dined with Captain Stuart, as I had packed up my bed, I slept at [?Lyemmetts].

20 February

Drizzly: at ten the detachment marched for Athlone. As Old Brown was still gouty I lent him Ginger, who nearly upset him before he was out of barracks, much to the amusement of the men: I stayed behind to give over the barracks to the relieving company: lunched with Hely, who amused me by making his groom jump his pony over walls, but poor Barney got several falls. After signing the different returns I took a chaise to Athlone, which I reached in time for mess: As part of the regiment was in Galway collecting taxes, or as we called it pig driving, I slept in Agnew's^[39] quarters.

21 February

Very cold, HMO^[40] parade inspected by Colonel Airey, who made us form square and delivered a long lecture to the men on drunkenness. Got my baggage into the Old Castle where I was quartered: the head quarters of the 77th depot marched into Athlone from Waterford.

22 February

Had to give evidence against Sherland, who was tried by a Court Martial for getting drunk at Roscommon: Bain^[41] put me on the Sick List.

³⁸ Mote Park House, County Roscommon, the residence of the aforesaid Edward Crofton.

³⁹ Lieutenant Edward F. Agnew, 34th Regiment.

⁴⁰ Heavy Marching Order.

⁴¹ William Bain M.D., surgeon to the 34th Regiment.

23 February (Sunday)

Fine, but wet at night.

24 February

Fine.

25 February

Wet day, though on the Sick List, as there were so few subalterns in Athlone, I was on a Garrison Court Martial, which sat from ten o'clock till four to try a guard for getting drunk.

26 February

Still on the Court Martial all day.

27 February

On Court Martial all day, tried some of the 77th for being drunk on the line of march.

28 February

Wet & windy. On the Court Martial, which was adjourned. As I could not go out, I practised with my pistols at my door handle.

1 March

Wet morning, but fine in the afternoon: a melancholy accident happened at Coosan, by which nine persons lost their lives: it appears that twelve country people who had been attending the market at Athlone had to cross the Inner Lake, a branch of Loughree, & foolishly attempted to get over in an old boat, which was not only rotten, but had two holes in its bottom, which they attempted to stop with turf, as might be expected, when about halfway over, down went the boat & of its twelve passengers, only three reached the shore, one an old woman was saved by a bag of bran, which she was carrying home: we got up a subscription for their families.

2 March (Sunday)

Fine: On guard, obliged to put a serjeant of the 97th under arrest for being drunk, when on orderly duty: Wet night.

3 March

Was relieved at eleven, but found myself on garrison duty as subaltern of the day, and had to act as adjutant as Bourke^[42] was on leave. Gwilt^[43] came over

⁴² Lieutenant Thomas Bourke, adjutant, 34th Regiment.

⁴³ Captain John Gwilt, 34th Regiment.

from Shannon Bridge, where his company was detached, to report that one of his men Private Walker had been murdered by one of the country people and had been found insensible at twelve o'clock at night in the fosse by the relief. Windy night.

4 March

Garrison parade at 11 and drilled by Sir Guy Campbell^[44] for two hours in the large square: the pig-drivers^[45] re-entered Athlone this afternoon: Hutton's sale^[46] took place in the afternoon: I bought several things, as I liked him very much.

5 March

Frosty: Garrison parade at seven to hear a man sentenced to be flogged for being drunk on line of march, but he was let off in consequence of his previous good conduct: had to attend a Court Martial as evidence against Serjeant Cross 77th Regiment: went to Tuthill's house to help him to dress his game cocks for a fight, which was to take place tomorrow: Sailed up the Shannon in punt & fired six shots out of my stanchion gun by way of practise: played at billiards.

6 March

Frosty & windy: marched into the country for three miles towards Ballymullalon: attended cockfight in Kennedy's^[47] 77th room: went to an oyster supper Wheelers/Boyd^[48] room & got so drunk that I had to sleep on Best's^[49] floor.

7 March

Frosty & windy: drill after parade: on Court of Inquiry: pulled to Lushy Cove 1½ miles in seven minutes, as we returned we were much amazed by a fight between two boatmen in the water, during which one was nearly drowned. Took Curly as my boatman.

8 March

Regimental duty Acting Adjutant & wrote for Colonel Airey all morning: played at billiards.

⁴⁴ Major-general Sir Guy Campbell, military commander of the Athlone district.

⁴⁵ The colloquial name for soldiers who were involved in tax collecting.

⁴⁶ Captain Henry J. Hutton, 34th Regiment. When an officer retired from the army, he often held a sale of his equipment and other military belongings.

⁴⁷ Ensign Francis Kennedy, 77th Regiment.

⁴⁸ Thomas H. Wheeler, assistant surgeon to the 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays). Boyd has not been identified.

⁴⁹ Ensign Mawdistly Best, 34th Regiment.

9 March (Sunday)

Went to chapel with Catholicicks: pulled up to Carberry Island with Agnew but the lake being a Sanguinius humor or very rough, we turned back and had a flare up on egg flip at Gilligans.

10 March

Cold & windy: drill after parade: sailed to Yellow Island: sent in application for Leave of Absence: band after mess: played at billiards.

11 March

Cold & windy: marched out to Gardanafala:^[50] Sitwell^[51] & I pulled to Lough Ree, but were nearly upset at the Eel Wear [*i.e.* Weir]: walked into town with Oxley.^[52]

12 March

Windy: drove Quin's^[53] horse & gig past Ferbane to Birr, the road was bad, but led me through a beautiful country: entered my mare Myrrha, four years old, for the Ormond & Kings County Steeple Chase,^[54] which was to be run in a month, the value of the stakes was £300: got back to the castle the same night, which journey forty Irish miles^[55] so knocked up the horse that it did not leave the stable for a fortnight.

13 March

Marched to Moidrum:^[56] the old Bridge of Athlone was blown up:^[57] in the afternoon, Best & I, having engaged an outside car, set off[f] in it to Mullingar. We stopped to refresh the horse at Ballymore & to drink a brew of egg flip, after which we took to the road again and after a long cold weary drive, reached Mullingar. After a dinner at the inn we proceeded to Rochfort,^[58] the seat of Sir Francis Hopkins, who gave a very fine ball, the rooms were good and were lighted, the girls pretty and the supper excellent. I danced a good deal, but was sorry to see a number of fat old dowagers, who grubbed like the devil.

⁵⁰ Garnafailagh, County Westmeath, about 2.5 miles (4 km) north east of Athlone.

⁵¹ Lieutenant Edward W. Sitwell, 34th Regiment.

⁵² Lieutenant Henry H. Oxley, 34th Regiment.

⁵³ This was perhaps Cornelius Quin, who owned a grocer shop in Market Place, Athlone.

⁵⁴ The race was held at Lismacrory, a natural horse-racing course near Birr.

⁵⁵ An Irish mile was the equivalent of 1.27 statute miles (2.048 km).

⁵⁶ Moydrum, County Westmeath, about 4.3 miles (7 km) east of Athlone.

⁵⁷ The old bridge was blown up by the Royal Engineers. It had been superseded the previous November by a new bridge higher up the Shannon.

⁵⁸ Rochfort House, Mullingar, County Westmeath.

14 March

Ball over at seven o'clock in the morning, had a devilish cold, uncomfortable drive back to the sweet town of Mullingar, where we breakfasted & then returned to Athlone, at Ballymore we passed a car load of 77th upset in a drain, on our way we touched at Auburn & dropped Schreiber,^[59] who was spooney on Miss Hogan,^[60] found my leave granted, packed up & set off on the top of the Galway mail for Dublin, snowy night & most damnably cold.

15 March

Got to Dublin at five o'clock, ground covered with snow: transacted business, engaged Maloney, the steeple man, to ride Myrrha at Lismacrorry. Took railway to Kingston, where I went on board the packet for England: rough night: seasick.

16 March (Sunday)

Reached Liverpool: put up at Halliday's,^[61] breakfast & had a look at the Great Western & Caledonia Steamers: met a friend of Maxwells: set off for railway to Preston, on to Lancaster, where I mounted the top of the Mail to Penrith & Kendal, found Shap Fell uncommonly cold, and after a long drive reached "Bonnie Carlisle".

17 March

After supper, I succeeded in obtaining an inside place in the Edinburgh mail, the country was lovely & seemed to swarm with game, I passed through Eskdale & the woods of Canobie,^[62] and reached Galashiels: at Galashiels I procured a vehicle to take me to Newstead where I saw my friend "Beardie" who accompanied me to Longnewton, where I found all my hounds well: Ground covered with snow: after giving [*word missing*] about food & bedding, I walked down the Ale side with Mr Scott, we found the foil & seal of an otter. Called at Sandystanes,^[63] saw the Rutherfords, who seemed delighted to see me, had a look at Dancer, out of Venus by Fowler of the Hurworth Coy,^[64] who was sent to me by Jack Walton.^[65] At the mill I saw Driver & Venus out of Rakish by Slogan both look promising pups: returned to the cottage, eat a good dinner and went to roost.

⁵⁹ Lieutenant Charles Alfred Schreiber, 34th Regiment.

⁶⁰ Elizabeth Hogan, daughter of Owen Hogan of Auburn, County Westmeath. The couple married later that year.

⁶¹ William Halliday was the proprietor of the Queen's Arms Hotel, Dale Street, Liverpool.

⁶² Now known as Canonbie, a parish and village in Dumfriesshire.

⁶³ A farm in the parish of Ancrum, Roxburghshire.

⁶⁴ A well-known pack of foxhounds from Hurworth, County Durham.

⁶⁵ A farmer at Acklam, County Durham, who rode with the Hurworth Hunt.

18 March

Snow still deep: after breakfast, I drove by St Boswells green to Makerston,^[66] where I was delighted to find my dear cousins all well, & as kind as ever: Sir Thomas had been suffering from rheumatism, Lady Brisbane was well, Isabella looked as pretty as ever, & Henrietta was blooming. Eleanor, I regret is in Edinburgh. Had it not been for the kindness of the Brisbanes, when I was so ill last year, of inflammation [*sic*], I should have been a “Gone Loon”.^[67] Spent the day in talking & walking.

19 March

Snow as before. Rode to Kelso in the afternoon on Victor & called on Springwood Park, the Dennistons^[68] were much surprised to see me. Helen, the Fails and all the other old servants were well & happy.

20 March

Hard frost: drove to Longnewton, went to shoot in the Forest killed ten hares, sixteen rabbits & two woodcocks: met Williamson the Duke of Buccleugh's huntsman,^[69] who spoke to me about making some fox covers, to which I agreed: after lunch I rode to Ancrum, to exercise my hounds & bought a young otter which, I wished to tame, that I might train my young dogs with it: Slept at Longnewton: Old Mary Stevenson acted cook.

21 March

Rapid thaw: sent William Broadwith^[70] to Ancrum for the otter, and had a capital drag with it up the Ale, the young dogs behaved well: the milk punch & port wine arrived from Chichester: had my hound pups brought in from walk: drove to Makerston: all well: wrote letters.

22 March

Rapid thaw: Sir Thomas kindly offered me a mount, a thing I never refuse, & accordingly I met the Duke's Hounds at Kelso Bridge, on a splendid chestnut mare called Rosette: we drew Springwood Park, but it was a blank, then tried Floors where we found, had a slow run to Makerston, up the Tweed & lost the fox: a farmer got knocked of[f] his horse by a [*sic*] attempting to ride a tree down, but was not hurt: drove to Longnewton after dinner.

⁶⁶ The aforementioned Roxburghshire residence of Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane.

⁶⁷ *i.e.* a dead young man.

⁶⁸ Richard Denniston had been leasing Springwood Park house since 1842.

⁶⁹ William Williamson was the huntsman of the Duke of Buccleuch's Hunt.

⁷⁰ William Broadwith is listed as Sir George's gamekeeper in the 1851 Census. In 1845, he would have been around sixteen years old.

23 March (Sunday)

Did not go to church. Exercised my hounds: arranged my books and pictures.

24 March

Fine: up early, drove to Makerston, breakfasted & went to West Gordon, the appointed meet of the Hounds, soon found a fox, which went off towards Stichill where it ran to ground, during the run, I got upset, by jumping into a plantation and being caught by a young tree, slightly shook, but no worse: dined at Makerston and back to Longnewton at night.

25 March

Up early: Kerses^[71] came to see me: ran my greyhound Pivot or Balladsinger, one course against Needle belong[ing] to James Kerse, Pivot killed the hare. Took out the hounds to Longnewton Mill, Slogan opened immediately, Stormer & Rakish also gave tongue & the whole coy dragged down the river side, & all stopped at a bank below the cauld,^[72] Old Pepper, Pepper & Nettle, bolted a large otter out of some tree roots, after a short hunt it was seized by Tom as it vented, Ginger, Bluebell & the other dogs joined in and worried it: Shawn behaved well. Unpacked the wine and put it in cellar.

26 March

Took out the dogs, found two drags, one up towards Linthill, the other downstream to Ancrum: called off the dogs: drove to Makerston, where I dined.

27 March

Up early: rode Madame Louise, one of Sir Thomas Brisbane's, to Kelso then on to Ladyrig, where I had a talk to Mr Robertson,^[73] then back by Maison Dieu to Springwood, where I took leave of the old people & bid the Dennistons adieu. Mr D had got me a bloodhound of Lord Bagot's breed, named Forester, a noble dog thirty inches high. I returned to Makerston, said goodbye to my kind cousins, drove to Longnewton, got on the roof of the Chevy Chase,^[74] which took me to Edinburgh where I arrived after a long wet journey; put up at McQueens,^[75] where I met Thomas Wyberg.

28 March

Set off by railway to Glasgow, where I stopped an hour, as I crossed the bridge over the Clyde, I noticed a large breach made in it by the bowsprit of a ship,

⁷¹ A family named Kerse lived and worked on the Makerstoun estate at this time.

⁷² A weir on a river to divert the water into a mill-lead.

⁷³ The aforementioned factor of Springwood Park.

⁷⁴ A stage coach that ran between Newcastle and Edinburgh.

⁷⁵ Macqueens Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh.

which had broken from its moorings. I went on to Greenock & embarked in the Mercury^[76] for Dublin: Rough night.

29 March

Got here after a rough passage of twenty four hours: put up at the Hibernian:^[77] walked about town: went to theatre.

30 March (Sunday)

Took a drive in the park.

31 March

Set off in the Ballinasloe coach for Athlone, reported myself to Colonel Airey, who looked very sulky.

1 April

Saw Maloney the jockey [*sic*], who had come to ride my mare Myrrha at Birr: I found that poor Byron,^[78] our junior Major had died during my absence. Old Brown, my Captain, who was laid up with the gout, on hearing of the death vacancy, had been instantly cured & set off for London to try & obtain the majority. On Regimental duty: Hely who had come in from detachment, turned me out of my quarters & I was obliged to go into lodgings, which was a bore.

2 April

Agnew took my Guard: after parade I sailed up the lake to Yellow Island with Kennedy and Mostyn of the 77th^[79] but in consequence of the wind falling, we had to pull back.

3 April

Colonel very sulky, had to sit on a Regimental Court Martial, so I could not go in the drag with the Rifles, but I took a gig to Ferbane, where I changed horses & proceeded to Birr, changed again, and reached the course at Lismacrory half an hour before the race began. I rode Ginger over the course & examined the leaps some of which were big, ugly jumps, there were amongst others two stone walls five and a half feet high, a very wide brook & an enormous bank and double ditch: Myrrha, with Malony on her back, in blue body and pink sleeves, ran very well, clearing her fences in real sporting

⁷⁶ A steamship operated by the Dublin, Glasgow and Cork Steam Packet Company.

⁷⁷ The Hibernian Hotel, Dawson Street, Dublin.

⁷⁸ Major Richard W. Byron, 34th Regiment.

⁷⁹ Ensign Francis Kennedy and Ensign Robert Mostyn, 77th Regiment.

style and came in a good second to Brunette, the best steeple chase mare in Ireland, & who had never yet been beat: Saucepan, one of the horses, had a severe fall, and another, Matthew, was killed at a wall. Myrrha ran three miles & took seventeen leaps in eight minutes and forty seconds: I had an opportunity of seeing a favourite trick of the Irish squireens,^[80] Macdonough tried to claim the stakes saying that Malony had not weighed, but the judge luckily had seen that done both before starting and after the race, they evidently hoped by seeing that I was young to do me, but I sold them. I returned to Athlone in the drag with the Rifles, we stopped at Birr to get some cherry brandy, which was handed us by a very pretty girl.

4 April

On duty: Colonel Airy very sulky & ordered us all to attend setting up drill at six, sword drill at eleven, company drill at twelve & marching drill at two, so that our very souls were nearly drilled out. Brown returned today Junior Major of the 34th. Horses and servants came back from Birr.

5 April

Sailed with Agnew Ewe point^[81] and lunched at Yellow Island: the company from Shannon Bridge returned today.

6 April (Sunday)

Church parade: Sailed up the lake with Agnew & Mostyn to Beam Island: Broughton of the Artillery^[82] was there drunk as usual.

7 April

Drill as usual: Rode to Castle Daly & had a short run & a death with Mr Longworth's hounds: lunched at Glynwood,^[83] where I saw the drag. Sent Myrrha to Ballymore, on her way to Mullingar, where she was to run. Very wet.

8 April

Drill: Garrison Subaltern of the day.

⁸⁰ In general terms, minor landowners, although the name was often applied to specific groups (including the landless and idle younger sons of the gentry), usually with negative connotations.

⁸¹ Yew Point, on the western shore of Lough Ree.

⁸² Probably Lieutenant Spencer D. Broughton, Royal Artillery.

⁸³ Glynwood House, County Westmeath, the residence of John Longworth. It lay about 5 miles (8 km) south east of Athlone.

9 April

Set off for Mullingar with Kennedy, the races were very bad & so few good horses to run, that I did not enter Myrrha: one horse was killed, returned to barracks.

10 April

Windy: drill: sailed on the Shannon & was very nearly upset & swamped: walked to Irishtown.

11 April

Drill: called at Glynwood with Agnew: Rifle Depot dined at mess.

12 April

Rode out with Fife^[84] & Best to look at a steeple chase ground: Fife was run away with.

13 April (Sunday)

Wet: on Main Guard.

14 April

The first division of the Rifle Depot marched out on the route for Dublin. Met Mr Longworth's Harriers at Glasson, jumped a few banks & walls but did not have a run, as the scent was bad: rode Maggie.

15 April

Windy – sailed down to Clonown:^[85] 2nd divⁿ R.B.^[86] marched, billiards.

16 April

Drill: on Garrison & Regimental Duty.

17 April

Kelly marched to Roscommon: Randolph^[87] came in with his party from Ballygar.

18 April

Nearly upset while sailing on the lake by being caught in a squall.

⁸⁴ Ensign Douglas M. Fyfe, 34th Regiment.

⁸⁵ Cloonown, County Roscommon.

⁸⁶ Rifle Brigade.

⁸⁷ Ensign Charles W. Randolph, 34th Regiment.

19 April

Fife & Best had a race, which was won by Best's horse.

20 April (Sunday)

Church parade.

21 April

Rode to Mount Temple & Ballykeon.^[88] On duty.

22 April

Set off for Dublin, saw the first swallow of this year. Put up at the Hibernian.

23 April

Drove in a car with Bourke to the Royal Barracks, where we breakfasted at the mess of the 32nd, proceeded to the Phoenix [Park], to see New Colours presented to the Regiment, which was a fine ceremony, when it was finished, we walked to the Zoological Gardens to see some bloodhounds. I dined at the Beggar's Bush Barracks with the Rifle Depot & went to a ball at the Rotunda,^[89] given by the 32nd, I did not dance much.

24 April

Walked about & shopped, looked at the horses at Dycers,^[90] strolled up & down Grafton Street with Packe: after dinner I went to the theatre.

25 April

Wet day: set off by the Galway Mail for Athlone, which I reached at four in the morning after a wet drive.

26 April

Wet: got here at four, General Parade & drill at ten: at night, Fife, Parker, Mostyn & I amused ourselves by pulling off knockers.^[91]

27 April (Sunday)

Wet: Church parade.

⁸⁸ 'Ballykeon' is mentioned a number of times in the diary. It is perhaps an approximation of Ballykeeran, County Westmeath.

⁸⁹ Dycer's Horse Repository, St Stephen's Green, Dublin.

⁹⁰ The Rotunda Assembly Rooms, O'Connell Street, Dublin.

⁹¹ Literally pulling knockers off front doors – an after-dinner amusement that was popular among young men.

28 April

Wet: on Regimental duty; drill as usual: Captain Stewart from Roscommon dined with me.

29 April

Wet: drill: practised with my rifle: played the cornopean.

30 April

Windy & wet: drill: Being junior Sub I was turned out of my room by Lang^[92] & had to go back to lodgings: Fife & I pulled up to Naghten's,^[93] but when we got out of the boat a squall lifted it out of the water and dashed it against the bank & split it: Hervey^[94] joined from the Recruiting Service.

1 May

Wet & windy, took out Forester and ran a man with him for two miles, he behaved well & followed the track beautifully.

2 May

Wet & windy: Long parade & battalion drill: the Colonel put us through the sword exercise: hunted an Irishman with my bloodhound, & caught him after a fine run of three miles: the Bays & 77th dined at mess, I and a few others went to pull Becher^[95] out of bed, but he swore that he would run the first of us through who entered his room, so we smashed the door, took his sword from him, and spanked his backside with a panel of his door, telling him that he must take jokes as well as play them: we were all very drunk, I got a slight cut on the knee in the struggle for his sword.

3 May

Did not get up till late as I had the Hot Coppers, drank plenty of soda water: Major Brown examined us about our companies. Rode with Agnew towards Moate by Moidrum & then schooled across country towards the Dublin road, in taking a leap Maggie & I had a roll, but without damage, we returned by Glynwood but lost our way in a bog, in which we wandered till dark, when we luckily found a path which led off to the road & to Athlone.

4 May (Sunday)

Windy; on Guard.

⁹² Captain Frederick H. Lang, 34th Regiment.

⁹³ Perhaps Edmund Henry Naghten, local landowner and former High Sheriff of Roscommon.

⁹⁴ Lieutenant Charles F. Hervey, 34th Regiment.

⁹⁵ Ensign George R. Becher, 77th Regiment.

5 May

I was not relieved till three as the Regiment was inspected by Sir Guy Campbell in the drill field.

6 May

Wet & windy: Sir Guy Campbell took us to the field and drilled us as Light Infantry, we fired fifteen rounds of blank cartridge: rain and thunder.

7 May

Skirmished outside of the batteries: On duty.

8 May

Inspected by Sir Guy, who after dismissing the men put us through the sword exercise & then saw the rooms & books. I rode to Auburn to see Lang's mare jump fifteen feet of water, which she cleared beautifully: Packe tried it & got spilt, I also had a fall at a bank. General dined at mess: I got screwed.

9 May

Wet: Sir Guy finished his inspection by taking us to the Fielding & seeing us fire thirty rounds of ammunition.

10 May

Ran a Pat with my hound, caught him at four miles.

11 May (Sunday)

No church; wet.

12 May

Had a long run with Forester over difficult ground, but he caught his man.

13 May

On Main Guard.

14 May

Tried to drive tandem,^[96] borrowed a dogcart & harness & put Maggie in the wheel and Ginger as leader, I went about a mile, with a man at the leaders head & came back without accident.

15 May

Drill as usual: took a lesson in boxing from Jack Manning the prizefighter: in the afternoon I took Agnew out in the dogcart but as I had never driven

⁹⁶ A pair of carriage-horses harnessed one before the other.

tandem before & did not know how to hold the reins, it was rather dangerous, however I went for four miles on the Tuam road very well, but unfortunately as I was returning, I went too close to a cart & it being the strongest of the two, Agnew was pitched out, the dogcart upset, I stopped the horses & then examined damages, which were one wheel broke, one shaft ditto & one spring, however as no one was hurt, I did not care, but collected the pieces & went slowly home.

16 May

On duty: boxing lesson. Private Johnston was buried.

17 May

Drove to the Cranogh river:^[97] Brisbane & the Carrick detachment marched in.

18 May (Sunday)

On Guard: the Regiment put on White Trousers.^[98]

19 May

Drove tandem with Harvey to Kilcar, horses went well.

20 May

Drill in the field: hot & dusty: drove tandem to Glynwood, tried Harvey's horse but he kicked too much: Faunt^[99] joined: party at mess.

21 May

Drove Major Trench of the Bays & Major Deedes^[100] to Thomastown, the horses went well & I took some difficult turns and passed the coach: Deedes & I pulled up the Shannon, but as we were passing the Rose, a small cutter with the Miss Campbells on board, Deedes caught a crab, which amused the ladies excessively. Played at billiards.

22 May

Inspection of kits: Harvey & I pulled to Ewe point, from thence to Carberry Island & joined a ball picknick at Horseshoe Bay on Hare Island, we had a pleasant party, but as we returned, the wind began to blow hard, which caused a sea, high & short to rise & as our boat was only a racing wherry & every

⁹⁷ Crannagh River, now known as Cross River, flows into the Shannon just south of Athlone.

⁹⁸ White trousers were worn during the summer by British infantry regiments.

⁹⁹ Ensign Thomas L. Faunt, 34th Regiment.

¹⁰⁰ Major Power Le Poer Trench, 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays), and Major Henry Deedes, 34th Regiment.

wave broke over us, it was far from comfortable: at one place, we nearly got on the Green Reef, indeed I touched the rocks with my oar, but a wave carried us over them, we were both stripped, the boat nearly full of water, I was in a terrible fright & thought that it was all up with us, but thank Heaven, we got home safe. The hill at Coosan was covered with people watching us, & were almost sure that we would never reach the shore, but that the boat would be swamped & we should be drowned: Pearson of the Light Company was drowned whilst bathing in the canal by his head sticking in the mud.

24 May

Boxing lesson: Major Deedes drove Brisbane in his tandem & I took Jordan^[101] in mine to Roscommon, which we reached in two hours & ten minutes, during the drive I made some good shaves & attained the art of catching up my whip: as it was market day the streets of Roscommon were very crowded, Deedes drove over a stall, but I reached the barracks without doing any damage. Spent a pleasant day, and after dinner amused ourselves by heating coppers and throwing them to the crowd: I do not know how we got home as we were all drunk.

25 May (Sunday)

New parson: walked to Creggin^[102] with Forester.

26 May

On duty: Skirmished outside the batteries: boxed with Jack.

27 May

The whole Garrison was reviewed in the field by the General, and as it was the Queen's Birthday, we fired a Feu de Joie:^[103] in the evening I drove Best & Parker in my tandem to Glynwood, where we dined.

28 May

Cold & windy: sword exercise: fished in the Shannon, but caught nothing: took a lesson in boxing.

29 May

Adjutants drill: took a drive on the Tuam road.

¹⁰¹ Ensign Joseph Jordan, 34th Regiment.

¹⁰² There were two Creggans within walking distance of Athlone: a settlement to the south; and a manor house to the south east. They were on opposite sides of the River Shannon.

¹⁰³ A salute fired by musketry on occasions of public rejoicing, so that it should pass from man to man rapidly and steadily down one rank and up the other, giving one long continuous sound.

30 May

Went out fishing with Daly.

31 May

Muster & reading the Articles of War: drove Randolph to Shannon Bridge, lunched with Matthews, Fife & Agnew, who were detached there: Shannon Bridge is strongly fortified, as it is one of the passes into Connaught.

1 June (Sunday)

Church parade.

2 June

Drove Deedes & Parker to Roscommon in my tandem, we lunched at the Barracks & went on in a car to Dunammon, to see the steeple chase: After a long delay three horses started, & went round the course, but as each rider swore that his horse had won, they had another heat, then two walked over the course, then another heat, and at last they divided the stakes. We hoped to see a Faction Fight^[104] but a strong party of police kept order. We dined at the barracks & Parker & I got so drunk that Deedes was obliged to drive us home. The Light Company marched for Mohill.

3 June

Wet & windy: On Guard: a troop of the Bays marched into this town on their way to Gort in Galway.

4 June

Windy: pulled down the Shannon to Clonmacnoise or the Seven Churches: at mess the route came in for my company to march to Longford early next morning: Packed up my kit & paid my bills.

5 June

Wet: my company marched at nine, & passed through the villages of Glasson & Ballykeon, at Auburn we saw the house in which Goldsmith was born,^[105]

¹⁰⁴ A mass brawl between two factions, traditionally representing rival families, parishes or districts, although by this time groups representing particular causes were also involved. A phenomenon peculiar to Ireland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the planned fights often took place at fairs, funerals, race meetings and other organised events, and sometimes involved very large numbers of armed people.

¹⁰⁵ The author Oliver Goldsmith (?1728-1774). He was born at Pallas, near Ballymahon, County Longford. The site visited by Sir George was perhaps the rectory in Lissoy, County Westmeath, where Goldsmith spent his childhood. However, although 'Auburn' was the fictional name Goldsmith gave to the village in his poem 'The Deserted Village' (1770), by Sir George's time, it was also the name of the seat of the aforementioned Owen Hogan.

and after a wet & long march through a flat uninteresting country, which seemed to consist of nothing but bogs & stonewall, we reached the small dirty town of Ballymahon, where we were to halt for the night. After seeing the men in their billets, we went to the inn & eat a hearty lunch, & then walked by the River Inny, which is rather pretty: the beds were not very good, but I slept soundly, nevertheless.

6 June

Wet & windy: marched at eight, the roads were very hard & stony, we halted at Keenagh for breakfast: a few miles further on at Ballymacormick we met Sir Guy Campbell, who ordered the company to remain at Longford till further orders: the country began to look more civilized, trees, hedges & cornfields were not uncommon, as we approached Longford, where we halted for the night: Longford is one of the best Irish country towns I ever saw, the Head Quarters of the Bays were there, and asked us to dine at mess: we were billeted [*sic*] on the inn & found everything clean & comfortable: an order came for us to march with our light baggage to Mohill, tomorrow.

7 June

Fine: marched at nine through a civilized looking country, we halted at Newtown Forbes to breakfast; at Rusky^[106] the Shannon was extremely beautiful, but when we turned off the high road at Drummote,^[107] we came to steep hills & loose stones, which tired the men excessively as we passed several small lakes, and reached the camp at Mohill, where the Light Company was encamped, at four o'clock; we unpacked the baggage cars & pitched our tents in about a quarter of an hour, I managed to procure a scanty dinner, & after it turned in, & passed my first night under canvass, & a wet one it was.

8 June (Sunday)

Wet but fine in the afternoon: we heard that two houses had been broken into & their inmates beaten and robbed by the Molly McGuires, as the ruffians who disturbed the country were called from their leader signing his proclamations by that name:^[108] paraded & marched to church: in the afternoon the Colonel gave me leave to go with Fraser^[109] to Carrick on Shannon, we passed through

¹⁰⁶ Roosky, on the border of County Leitrim and County Roscommon.

¹⁰⁷ Drumod More, County Leitrim.

¹⁰⁸ The Molly Maguires was a secret society that emerged in north-central Ireland in the 1840s. Its main aim was to ensure fair rents for small tenant farmers and to protect them from eviction, although it also addressed wider issues of rural justice. Landlords, land agents, tenants, merchants and anyone else who was seen to be persecuting the rural poor were subject to threats and acts of violence.

¹⁰⁹ Perhaps Robert W. Fraser, assistant surgeon to the 34th Regiment.

a beautiful country, well wooded & interspersed [*sic*] with small lakes, at Drumsna I ordered a supply of provisions & beer to be sent to the camp, I also saw the prettiest girls I had yet met in Ireland, we drove through Jamestown on the Shannon, formerly fortified and reached Carrick, where we put up at the house of a Doctor Sullivan,^[110] who gave us a good feed, and then took us over the jail, which contained a good many Mollies. After a brew of whiskey punch we returned to Mohill, both rather screwed.

9 June

The corncrakes in the adjoined meadows disturbed me a good deal: at about ten an orderly dragoon came with a route for us, we struck our tents & marched to Cloone, a wretched assemblage of mud huts about five miles off, the road was hilly and rather pretty. At Cloone we encamped in a field near the Police Station, I found that Calvert of the Bays^[111] was here with a few dragoons. Major Brown commanded the detachment and was very fidgetty: On duty.

10 June

Paraded three times & were busy arranging & cleaning the camp: I obtained some dry straw for my tent, and thought it a great luxury: in the evening Hervey & I went to a village called Streamstown & shot a good many rooks, a policeman warned me never to go out shooting without a brace of pistols in my pocket, as my gun when empty might be taken from me.

11 June

On duty: superintended the erection of a cookhouse: parades as usual, had to call a check roll^[112] in the middle of the night.

12 June

Very hot; parades as usual: I fished in Lough Cloone but only caught one bream. Reports having come in that disturbances were expected, I was in consequence sent out with a party of twenty men to patrol the country, I set off at eight o'clock at night and marched for some distance through a bleak hilly country, I caused several suspicious looking ruffians to be searched & marched some as prisoners for some way to prevent their giving notice of our approach to any parties who might be out. At the bridge of Carrabeagh on the Ballinamore road I halted & then returned back to camp.

¹¹⁰ John F. Sullivan M.D. was the physician for the county jail, Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim.

¹¹¹ Lieutenant Charles W. Calvert, 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays).

¹¹² A roll-call to ensure that all of the men were present.

13 June

As there was a fair here, no one was allowed to quit the encampment: two men who were coming to the fair were attacked robbed & beaten by a party of ruffians, one had his head cut right open. A house was attacked and a woman robbed during the day: Major Brown returned to Athlone: my servant arrived with my horses which I put in a mud barn.

14 June

Calvert & I drove tandem to Longford, where we lunched & had some sherry cobbler,^[113] we returned by Mohill where we dined with Brisbane, & heard that a man was shot at a village called Ballinamuck.

15 June (Sunday)

Marched to church where the congregation was small consisting of ten besides our detachment, we had a long charity sermon:^[114] I wondered that the parson Mr Hogg^[115] stayed in his parish, as he had been fired at twice & burnt out of his house once. Private Lomas got so drunk that I was obliged to ride to Mohill for a doctor at midnight, I met a number of people who were out for no good, but as I carried pistols I did not care for them, half an hour after I passed Riverstown three people were robbed: on duty.

16 June

Went out shooting, killed a plover, I saw a pike weighing 25 lbs taken out of the lake, Carter,^[116] a cornet of the Bays, came & dined with us & slept in my tent: a man was ejected from his house & beaten by a hundred Molly Maguires, at Gortnamurtagh.

17 June

On duty: walked with Carter to the churchyard, which was covered with skulls, some with the hair on, and one full of brains, on pushing a stick into the graves, we found that the average depth of soil above the coffins was six inches: but as when a person is to be buried, his friends bring their own tools & dig the grave, it is not to be wondered at. Practised with pistols: wet evening Calvert & I made cider cup.

¹¹³ A mixed drink made with sherry, sugar, lemon or orange juice, and crushed ice.

¹¹⁴ A sermon intended to promote and encourage contributions to a particular cause. It usually ended with a collection.

¹¹⁵ Reverend Andrew Hogg, curate of the Episcopal church of Cloone, County Leitrim.

¹¹⁶ Cornet Vavasour Carter, 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays).

18 June

Had a duck hunt: practised with pistols: in consequence of two of the 54th being fired at, an order came out that officers were always to carry pistols when riding or driving. Drove to Mohill with Calvert & dined with Brisbane & Mildmay.^[117]

19 June

On duty: practised with pistols: played at quoits and skittles: altered the form of the camp: Maxwell^[118] went out patrolling.

20 June

Calvert drove to Longford: Hervey & I went to shoot on Lough Cloone, I killed six waterhens^[119] and four bald coots: played at football.

21 June

Fine: up at three, rode to Longford, where I breakfasted & took a car to Ballymahon, then changed cars and on to Athlone, to answer a charge for turning a painter, who was impertinent to me, out of barracks, the case was dismissed, on which the ruffian summonsed me for the Quarter Sessions in October. I dined at mess & then returned to Longford, where I found my tandem, which I drove to Cloone, taking Mohill in my way, after a days work of upwards of eighty miles.

22 June (Sunday)

On duty: marched the men to church: early this morning fifteen houses were broken into & a man nearly killed by the Mollys.

23 June

Hot: Captain Bell the Stipendiary Magistrate Aroagh in the County Cavan was shot, whilst returning from church yesterday, and though numbers of peasantry were near no one apprehended the assassin who escaped.^[120] On duty: cider cup.

24 June

Two men robbed & beaten close to the camp: Colonel Airey came from Mohill to inspect the camp: I drove tandem to Mohill & found that Robertson

¹¹⁷ Captain Henry St J. Mildmay, 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays).

¹¹⁸ Lieutenant James Maxwell, 34th Regiment of Foot.

¹¹⁹ The common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*).

¹²⁰ George Bell Booth of Drumcarban, magistrate of County Cavan, had been murdered near Crossdoney, County Cavan.

had just returned from Drumlish with four prisoners, Molly Maguires, two were wounded by bayonets: dined with Brisbane & Jones:^[121] very dark night.

25 June

Calvert & I went in our tandems to Carrick on Shannon, at Drumsna, we stopped to drink beer & rest the horses; at Carrick we found a detachment of the regiment, also Parker who had come from Elphin, and Talbot^[122] from Strokestown.

26 June

Drove Hervey in the tandem to Ballinamore to see the 54th, a company of which corps was quartered there. We then paid a visit to Father Tom Maguire,^[123] of sporting renown, he shewed us his greyhounds, Lady Harkaway & Bhuskin, who had beaten the best dogs in England or Scotland, they were finely shaped and seemed formed for speed & elegance: Father Tom gave us some whiskey punch, of which he is a celebrated compounder. On my way back I drove over a duck, the road was rough & hilly. At night I went out with a patrol on the Mohill road, but hearing a shot in the direction of Ballinamuck, I crossed the brook & went through the country towards Belscarra but as the night was as dark as pitch & all seemed quiet, I return to camp. Wet night.

27 June

Very wet & windy all day, the camp regularly flooded & some of the tents blown down: on duty: Randolph & Brisbane drove over here in Tom's tandem. Neptune killed a kid.

28 June

Wet all day: on duty: we changed the position of the camp.

29 June (Sunday)

Wet: marched the Catholics to chapel, which was a large barn, the priest sprinkled his flock with Holy Water out of a bucket, with a whitewash brush: in the afternoon I drove to Mohill & into the camp, a difficult & dangerous performance, I called on Mr Little at the Castle, tasted some strawberries in his garden.

¹²¹ Lieutenant John Jones, 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays).

¹²² Lieutenant William W. Talbot, 34th Regiment.

¹²³ Father Thomas Maguire, Catholic priest of Ballinamore, County Leitrim. A noted preacher and polemicist, he was also known for his sporting interests and skill in breeding greyhounds, pointers and spaniels.

30 June

Showery: paraded for muster; had to attend a District Court Martial at the camp at Mohill. When it was over I drove with Calvert to Rusky, where a number of men were busy deepening the bed of the Shannon, we saw them explode a number of mines: there was a fair at Drummore & it was reported that the police barrack [at] Cashcarrigan^[124] had been attacked. I dined with Tom Brisbane.

1 July

On duty: wet day: finished reading the Newgate Calender,^[125] the only book in camp, Cloone river very much flooded.

2 July

Drove tandem to Mohill, where I found all the tents struck, and the men moved into half billets: Brisbane & Randolph were quartered in a religious school: I drove Maggie in the lead, and a horse I wished to try, as wheeler, they went very well, I took Carter & Fraser with me to Newtown Forbes, where we met Briscoe & Bushman of the Bays:^[126] we drove to the Castle & eat some delicious fruit in the garden, the grounds were very pretty & well wooded, Carter went on with Calvert & Jones to Longford, but Fraser returned with me to Mohill, I very nearly upset the dogcart in making a sharp turn.

3 July

Wet: on duty; moved my horses into Sweeney's barn.

4 July

Drove to Mohill.

5 July

On duty: inspection of kits: sent Peter to Athlone.

6 July (Sunday)

Wet: no church: rode to Mohill, Calvert, Jones & I went to the shore of Lough Rinn,^[127] & schooled our horses over stonewalls for two miles.

¹²⁴ Keshcarrigan, County Leitrim.

¹²⁵ A collection of sensational stories about crime and criminals.

¹²⁶ Captain Hylton Briscoe and Ensign George Bushman, 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays).

¹²⁷ Lough Rynn, County Leitrim.

7 July

On duty: shot sparrows: A woman was stabbed at Gort-chien^[128] and the labourers at work on the Ballinalee road were attacked & driven off, the contractor received a threatening notice.

8 July

Wet: drove to Longford, which was very crowded, as it was the first day of the assizes; we had some lunch & sherry cobblers in Keys room, & then went to Castle Forbes, where we eat fruit: went back to Cloone but dined at Mohill.

9 July

Drove to Mohill, & breakfasted at the Castle, where I left my tandem & proceeded in Brisbane's to Carrick on Shannon, whence we took a car to Boyle, & lunched at the barracks with the Depot of the 88th: after lunch we went to the fair & had some capital fun: I bought a Shillelah:^[129] we returned to ~~Sligo~~ Carrick in the Sligo Mail, and dined there, we stopped for beer at Drumsna, had some egg flip at Mohill, & some capital songs, we were all jolly.

10 July

On duty: fair here.

11 July

Breakfasted at Mohill, & then the three tandems, the Vivid, Calverts; the Quicksilver, mine; and the Wonder, Brisbanes; set off for Carrick, where we lunched and were joined by the Regiment, Major Deedes, turnout, & all went through Rockingham, to Boyle, & called on the 88th Depot; I tried as leader a grey mare, which had never been in harness before: dined at Carrick.

12 July

~~Went to cha~~ On duty: Inspection of kits: sent for the Grey I had tried yesterday called her Grisette. Wet night.

13 July (Sunday)

On duty: marched the Catholics to chapel: Packe & Parker came here Parker fell into the river.

14 July

Drove to Carrick, lunched at the barracks & went to the court house to see the jury challenged & heard the judges charge: four hundred and thirty nine

¹²⁸ Perhaps Gorteen, County Leitrim.

¹²⁹ More commonly shillelagh, a walking stick and cudgel, typically made from blackthorn.

cases of crime had occurred in the district within the last four months: dined at Mohill, pleasant party: good songs.

15 July

On duty: shot corncrakes: bathed in the river, inspected by the Colonel: hired two pipers and gave the men a dance & beer: Wet night: Jones dined with us, I lent him my pistols to go home with.

16 July

Wet: drill: Fraser and Robertson came to see us, I rode back with them on Grisette to Mohill, where I dined: at Mohill I was rather surprised to see Charles Brackenbridge, once Brisbane's gamekeeper at Makerston but who was turned away, I set off for Cloone at twelve, and when near the bridge at Streamstown, a man suddenly sprung up from the road side, and rushed towards my horses head. I instantly presented a pistol at him and asked him what he wanted; on hearing my voice, he stopped and made some excuse about thinking that I had come from Carrick, and I have no doubt that the ruffian mistook me for someone he was lying in wait for.

17 July

Showery: drill: On duty: examined the skulls in the graveyard.

18 July

Hot: drove tandem to Mohill, where I had a brew of cider cup, and went out shooting at Lakefield, a place belonging to a Mr Crofton.¹³⁰ Randolph, who had ridden from Ballinalee, Harvey, Fraser & I had capital sport & shot a good many rabbits; we then walked to the house, & after lunch, were shown the grounds, which were very pretty: I walked with the youngest Miss Crofton, who was a very nice girl to see the ruins of an old castle.

19 July

Breakfasted at Mohill, after which the three tandems set off for Longford, on our way we stopped for cider cup at Rusky & eat strawberries at Castle Forbes, and all entered the barracks by the difficult narrow gate without accident: we dined at the Bays mess, and took the road for the camp again, at Rusky we had some egg flip and songs and got to Cloone at three o'clock.

20 July (Sunday)

On duty: I went to church and heard a long sermon, and then rode to Mohill Castle, where Mr Little had prepared a large brew of egg flip, which was not long in finding its way down our thirsty throats. We proceeded to Lough Rinn

¹³⁰ Lakefield, Mohill, County Leitrim, was the Irish residence of Dr William Crofton.

& schooled^[131] along the shore, Grisette fell with me in jumping a stiffish wall, but I recovered her, without damage: Tom & Jones dined at Cloone.

21 July

On duty: the people began to cut all the meadows around the camp; Crofton came to call on me.

22 July

On duty: we heard a report that the General was coming to inspect us: Calvert & I bathed.

23 July

Rode to Mohill, and after breakfast had several rounds with Jack Manning the boxer. We all drove to old Hyde,^[132] the parson's garden, to eat fruit, and in the afternoon rode to Lough Rinn, Grisette spilt me again, but no harm was done: I met Mostyn^[133] of the 54th at Mohill.

24 July

On duty: ran a man with Forester, who was very savage.

25 July

Up early and drove to Mohill, breakfasted at Littles,^[134] picked up Randolph & on to Carrick on Shannon, where we changed horses and Calvert handled the ribbons & took us through Rockingham to Boyle: the 88th gave us a capital lunch: the fair was not good, horses scarce & bad, returned to Carrick, dined with the detachment, beered at Drumsna, and heard at Mohill that an orderly dragoon had brought word that we were soon to be recalled to head quarters again.

26 July

On duty.

27 July (Sunday)

Wet: went to chapel: drove to Mohill, Jack Manning very drunk, schooled at Lough Rinn, and dined with Jones, Robertson & Brisbane.

28 July

Showery: On duty.

¹³¹ *i.e.* trained their horses.

¹³² Reverend Arthur Hyde, minister of the Episcopal church in Mohill.

¹³³ Captain Thomas Mostyn, 54th Regiment of Foot.

¹³⁴ Thomas Little was the proprietor of a hotel in Main Street, Mohill.

29 July

Had a bathe, water cold: drove to Mohill, as I was starting, Grisette the leader kicked, plunged, broke one trace & was tripped up by the other, Maggie the wheeler reared, ran back, plunged forward and stood upon the prostrate leader, everyone jumped out of the dogcart but myself, who remained on the box, and succeeded in pulling back the wheeler & recovering the leader, who was a little cut, but not much. The dogcart was very nearly upset, and Serjeant Higgins and some of my men had greatcoats ready to catch me in, if I had gone over, I put on a fresh trace and drove on to Mohill, which I reached without further accident: Brisbane, Jones, Calvert & I went to old Hydes garden, and fed upon fruit, as we returned we met a parson, Mr Crofton,^[135] who let us in for a subscription for some school. In the afternoon we heard several cases at the petty sessions, which were amusing. Maxwell marched into the town with a party to escort some Molly Maguires who had been made prisoners by the 54th at Carigallen, while in the act of taking arms, Brisbane escorted them to Carrick on Shannon, where they were put in the Stone Jug.^[136]

30 July

Showery: on duty: did not leave the camp, as General Sir Edward Blakeney^[137] was expected to visit us, a carriage & four was seen approaching, & we all turned out to it, & prepared for a General Salute, but the alarm was false, as the carriage only contained Lord Lawton's governess and daughters, Heathcote^[138] & Mildmay rode over here, the night was very wet.

31 July

Wet & stormy: the General came & inspected the camp, after which we mustered: when the General went away, we drove to Lakefield and called on the Croftons. A large fair was held at Mohill, and in consequence a few outrages were committed. A house was broken into & robbed at Belscarra. Colonel sulky: when I got back to Cloone, I found that I had to take out a patrol & march to Fenagh and Gortchien, to serve a warrant on a man who had stabbed another: but the night was so dark and the road so bad, that I sent the dragoons back and proceeded with my own men, we crossed a river by a single plank, lighted merely by the flashes of lightning, and returned home wet and tired.

¹³⁵ The Reverend Morgan Crofton, curate of the Episcopal church of Mohill.

¹³⁶ *i.e.* jail.

¹³⁷ Sir Edward Blakeney, commander-in-chief, Ireland.

¹³⁸ Captain Eustace Heathcote, 34th Regiment of Foot.

1 August

Wet: on duty: shot Bluebell as she was weak & thin.

2 August

Inspection of kits: river flooded: rode to Mohill with Calvert, and passed a pleasant day & had a jolly night as we were all Subalterns: Wet night.

3 August (Sunday)

Wet: marched to church.

4 August

Showery: rode with Calvert and his dragoons towards Ballinamore. The route came in for us to march on Wednesday for Athlone: Fraser and Brisbane came to shoot flappers^[139] in the lake, Hervey fell into a big ditch and was well drenched, I shot two ducks with a pistol: Maxwell rode to Drumsna: Brisbane dined with us: Colonel visited the camp and was very sulky: wet night.

5 August

On duty: men marched out: packed up my valise & portmanteau. Dined at Mohill, & found the Colonel in a good humour, Calvert returned from Longford and rode back with me.

6 August

Wet: packed the baggage cars, the company marched by the Drumlish rode [*sic*] for Longford, I remained behind to give over the camp to the 32nd, who marched in under Captain Inglis^[140] at two o'clock. I rode Grisette to Mohill, lunched, and went on to Rusky with Brisbane, here I treated the baggage guard to some porter, and after a brew of egg flip ourselves, we proceeded to Longford, whence we dined with the Bays and I got screwed. Abel my servant got drunk and set fire to his bed.

7 August

Showery: marched at 8 and halted at Keenagh for an hour, during the march I made the men sing and got up a small band of buglers, we halted for the night at Ballymahon. After seeing the men at their billets, I eat a good lunch and went to fish in the Inny, I caught a pike, and saw a great deal of fresh otter foil: Brisbane & I bathed: this was the market day in the town, and the numbers of eggs we saw was enormous, they were all packed in hampers, ready to send to Dublin and England: I was billeted on a grocer, and had a bad bed.

¹³⁹ Young wild ducks, partly fledged, and consequently unable to soar in the air or to fly any great distance. In *The Wild-fowler*, London, 1864, 243, H C Folkard stated that 'no wild-fowl shooter, with any pretensions to be a sportsman, will advocate the sport'.

¹⁴⁰ Captain John E. W. Inglis, 32nd Regiment.

8 August

Fine: marched at seven: during the night Ginger kicked Grisette and cut her in two or three places, but not much: we halted at Auburn, and first of all, sounded the Officers Call, and then the bugles play “Miss Myrtle, she’s going to be married”, as Schreiber was engaged to Miss Hogan, and the marriage was to take place in a few days. At Ballykeon we met a troop of the Bays and were played into Athlone by the band of the 32nd Regiment. Here we found the whole Regiment together which it had not been for a year: we paraded at four in the large square. As the barracks were full, I had to take lodgings in the town.

9 August

Rainy & windy: parade at 11. Lent my dogcart & harness to Randolph, whose wheeler began jibbing and nearly broke the wheels against a wall. Sailed up the lake to Lushy Cove, and walked back with Forester.

10 August

Windy: after church parade I rode to Glynwood.

11 August

Punishment parade at six o’clock, to flog two men for getting drunk on the line of march, another parade & drill at ten: I sailed down the Shannon to Clonoon^[141] bog, below Long Island, (where poor Elliot of the 4th dragoons was drowned) and shot two couple of snipe, a common and a Royston crow,^[142] had to pull back five miles and was late for mess.

12 August

Parade & drill: on a Regimental Court Martial: pulled up the Shannon to Round Island. As the mail was full, Brisbane and I have obtained leave of absence set off in a chaise for Dublin, we passed Moate, Kilbeggan and at Innfield^[143] saw a detachment of the 6th on their way to Drumsna, their musquets were on the baggage cars, and they had no sentries.

13 August

Brisbane & I went to the Northumberland baths^[144] to have a bathe, but unfortunately the word Deep was written at one end, and nothing would induce the valiant Tom to enter the water: at two we drove to the quay and met my kind friend Sir Thomas Brisbane, who arrived in the Glasgow packet,

¹⁴¹ Cloonown, County Roscommon.

¹⁴² A hooded crow (*Corvus cornix*).

¹⁴³ A village in County Meath, now known as Enfield.

¹⁴⁴ The Northumberland Baths was located in Beresford Place, Dublin.

I thought him looking better than when I last saw him in Spring. We all put up at Morisson's Hotel in Dawson Street.

14 August

After breakfast I drove with Sir Thomas to call on Sir Edward Blakeney, Major White, Colonel Brown and other Big Wigs.

15 August

Returned to Athlone, at Kilcock a large fair was going on, and on the whole I thought the country was looking better than I had ever seen it before; we passed some fields of corn, which were cut: after putting up the General, I reported myself, and went to mess, where I got screwed slightly.

16 August

No parade: Sir Thomas inspected the Pensioners, going down the ranks and speaking to all who had medals, most of them having fought under him in Spain, America or the West Indies: had a sail on the Shannon; lent Grisette to Major Deedes, left my card on the Artillery.

17 August (Sunday)

Long sermon: drove Agnew and Jordan to Ballykeon, and called on Captain Cox, returned by Moidrum.

18 August

The Regiment was inspected by Sir Thomas Brisbane: rode to Glynwood. Leave of absence came.

19 August

Fine but windy: Parade at eleven, Sir Thomas addressed the Regiment and released the prisoners: packed up my kit: Calvert & Key^[145] of the Bays and Inglis of the 32nd came, I put them up in my lodgings: at two o'clock in the afternoon the Regiment paraded, officers in full dress and the men in heavy marching order, when parade was formed, we wheeled into line, then took double open order: Fife carried the Queen's Colour & I the Regimental, both of which were covered with Laurels, after a General Salute, the Grenadiers brought their right shoulders forward & marched to the centre of the Line, the band playing the "British Grenadiers" after presenting arms, they formed Subdivisions, between which Fife & I took our places, we then marched slowly up the line, Colours flying, to Auld Lang Syne, at the Left Flank, the word Right Turn, Left Wheel was given and we trooped down the Line; at the Right, the Company presented Arms, formed sections, colours between

¹⁴⁵ Charles H. Key, 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays).

the two centre & marched off, the 32nd band playing, the Grenadiers March, at the Orderly Room we left the Old Colours and returned to our places in Line. We formed a hollow Square on the two centre Companies, in the midst was a kind of Altar, made with the big Drum, and the six brass drums, taken from the French at Arroyos dos Molinos,^[146] with the Drum Majors Staff & the new colours crossed, Dr Murray, the Chaplain consecrated them, after which Miss Campbell^[147] who was very pretty, made a speech & presented the Colours to Fife & myself, who received them kneeling: Sir Thomas made a long speech, & then Colonel Airey addressed the regiment, after which, we reformed Line, troop the New Colours, broken into open Column, right in front, marched past in slow & quick time and were dismissed: for which I was not sorry as I was very tired. In the evening we gave a ball in the mess room, I did not dance much, but went to bed screwed at five o'clock.^[148]

20 August

Rather seedy, paid bills, sent off my horses and baggage & went to ~~Athlone~~ Dublin in the Galway Mail.

21 August

Walked about the town in the day, & went to the theatre at night and saw Taglioni,^[149] whose dancing I admired very much.

22 August

Embarked on board the Jupiter steamer for Glasgow, the sea was calm & the wind fair, so that I was not sick: off Ireland's Eye we saw a Grampus.^[150]

23 August

Reached Greenock at 7 o'clock, breakfasted at the Tontine,^[151] went by railroad to Glasgow & Edinburgh, lunched at McQueens in Princes' Street and set off for Kelso on the top of the Kelso coach, the driver was drunk & very nearly upset us as we were descending the Dalkeith hill, so I took the ribbons out of his hands, & tooled the nags for three stages, poor Tom Brisbane was

¹⁴⁶ The battle of Arroyo dos Molinos, 28 October 1811.

¹⁴⁷ The daughter of Major-general Sir Guy Campbell.

¹⁴⁸ The account of Sir Thomas' inspection of the regiment the previous year in *Historical Record of the Thirty-Fourth, or the Cumberland Regiment of Foot*, London, 1844, 93-100, provides further detail on what these visits involved.

¹⁴⁹ The celebrated ballerina Marie Taglioni was performing in *La Sylphide* at the Theatre Royal, Dublin.

¹⁵⁰ While most frequently applied to the orca (*Orcinus orca*) and the Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), the name grampus was also used during this period to describe other cetaceans.

¹⁵¹ Tontine Hotel, Ardgowan Square, Greenock.

very frightened; we arrived at Makerston in the evening, & found my cousins all well, and Isabella as pretty as ever.

24 August (Sunday)

After breakfast I rode Sir Thomas' white mare, Madame Louise, to Sunlaws,^[152] where I saw my sisters and mother & Mr Kerr, they were all well and glad to see me: the Laws were staying in the house, the[y] were fat & vulgar, but seemed good natured people: I walked in the afternoon down the nut walk, by the caves, and up the side of the Tiviot, which I thought beautiful, and had a long talk with my dear sisters, whom I did not think were well treated by my mother, who in my opinion always seemed to prefer two or three small dogs to the affections of her children: Mr Kerr, my guardian, was very kind to me, and treated me in a frank and gentlemanly [*sic*] way, while my mother's manner always gave me an idea of double dealing. I saw the Kennedys, Wemyss & other people.

25 August

Raining: saw Ned,^[153] my new gamekeeper, who showed me a Return of Vermin destroyed by him on the Springwood estate since May, it was as follows: Rabbits - 1453, Weasels - 39, Cats - 29, Hawks - 19, Crows - 20 which I considered a good beginning. In the afternoon I rode Myrrha to Makerston & found all well. As Tom came of age today,^[154] we all drank his health, Sir Thomas gave his tenantry a dinner and a ball at the farm in the evening; we had capital fun & I was carried home drunk.

26 August

Had the Hot Coppers, felt seedy: after breakfast I drove Major Brown in my break, with four horses to Longnewton, I managed very well, as I had never driven four in hand before: I found my otterhounds and terriers all looking well, and the cottage was in capital order. I returned by Maxton and crossed the Tweed in the boat at Makerston house, where I found that my eldest sister Catharine^[155] had, for the first time, been allowed by our mother to visit our cousins and very near neighbours, though invited over & over again by our kind relations. I passed a very happy evening, only regretting that Sholta^[156] was not with us.

¹⁵² Sunlaws House, near Kelso, the residence of William Scott-Kerr.

¹⁵³ Edward Kerr, gamekeeper, Springwood Park estate.

¹⁵⁴ *i.e.* he was twenty-one years old.

¹⁵⁵ Catharine Scott Douglas, who would have been nineteen years old.

¹⁵⁶ The second oldest of Sir George's three sisters, Mary Sholta Scott Douglas.

27 August

Henrietta, Eleanor and Catharine^[157] went in the carriage, while Brown, Tom & I rode, to Melrose, where we stopped & visited the beautiful ruins of Melrose Abbey, the groining and stone ornaments attracted my attention in particular, I also

[Pages 113-118 have been removed from the diary]

below Melrose Abbey, he turned, went downstream to Drygrange & we lost him at Ravenswood: the dogs were steady and hunted well. Rode Grisette to Longnewton, bathed, lunched and drove tandem to Sunlaws, where I dined: all well, pleasant evening.

4 September

My hounds met at Sunlaws hunted up the Tiviot, met with a slight drag at Ormiston, then turned up the Kale as far as Graeme's Law, but the hounds were wild and riotous, so I took them back to Sunlaws, I walked with my sisters as far as the lodge, then returned to the house and signed papers till dinner time. Robertson, Brown & Brisbane arrived, we had a nice party, and at two o'clock I set off in my tandem for Makerston, which I reached at half past three, & turned in.

5 September

Rose at six, drove Robertson in my tandem to Old Melrose, where we breakfasted. After feeding we took the dogs down to the Tweed side at Ravenswood, Marjorie & Slogan opened at a cairn, the rest joined in and ran full cry up the river, Guider crossed below the bridge, and was followed by all the hounds up the Leader to Cowdenknowes, where we came to a check, we tried the river as far as Earlston without touching the scent, but as we came downstream by Drygrange, Ringwood and Melody gave tongue, the cry followed to the garden, where we viewed the otter as he cantered down a shallow stream towards the Cauld Pool, we turned him he got into deep water and dived under the dogs, then leaving the water, climbed a steep bank & tried to run to the Tweed but being followed by Marjorie & Topper who seized him, he shook them off & darted into the deep water. The otter then got into a holt, & with difficulty the hounds moved him till he bolted and dived down the Mill Lead, where after a splendid hunt, he was worried by the cry, but not till he had punished several severely, on examining him he proved to be a dog of seven years and a half old and weighed 27 lbs. After getting some whiskey

¹⁵⁷ Probably Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane's daughter Eleanor and his sister-in-law Henrietta Makdougall, along with Sir George's aforementioned sister.

at the Toll we walked to Old Melrose, changed our wet clothes, and had an excellent lunch. Robertson walked to Melrose, so I sent my dogcart for him back to Longnewton. Robertson returned to Makerston but I went to Ancrum,^[158] where I dined, I met the Richardsons, Lady Donkin^[159] and a few others there & spent a pleasant evening.

6 September

After breakfast I looked at Sir William Scott's pictures, had a game at billiards, then took my rifle and shot a buck. After lunch I drove to Longnewton, & went on to Kelso by Maxton, shopped, & changed horses, then on to Makerston, & spent a happy night with my cousins. Elizabeth^[160] had come to Makerston & was very religious.

7 September (Sunday)

Old Brown & I rode to Kelso to attend the chapel, Mr Kell^[161] gave us a very slow sermon, when it was over we called at Springwood & lunched with the Dennistons: Miss Hesketh had grown extremely fat: after lunch we walked to the garden & eat some delicious fruit & then rode home by the Tiviot bridge past Roxburgh castle & forded the Tweed at Rutherford. After dinner Brown, Brisbane & I were slightly screwed.

8 September

The otterhounds met at the Trows^[162] & came on the drag of an otter immediately at the Rocks where I saw some fresh foil: at the barrack burn we viewed an otter which went up the river towards the Clippers, the hounds made a most beautiful break, five & twenty dogs swimming so close to each other that a large blanket would have covered them all, all baying like thunder, the game ran up the Tweed to the Corbie Craig,^[163] closely followed by the dogs & at last ran to earth in an island at Rutherford, the terriers bolted him & the hounds got hold of him but he broke away & swam down to a large rock, where though surrounded by men & hounds, he dived along a black ledge & went downstream, but the dogs were so cold & tired that we drew them off & went home. After lunch I called at Floors, but the Duke was not at home, I also drove to Stichhill, but Sir John Pringle was out, so I went to Kelso & after a little shopping returned to Makerston, left my tandem there &

¹⁵⁸ Ancrum House, the residence of Sir William Scott Bt.

¹⁵⁹ Anna Maria Donkin, the sister of the 2nd earl of Minto.

¹⁶⁰ Perhaps Elizabeth Makdougall, Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane's sister-in-law.

¹⁶¹ The Reverend William Kell, minister of the Episcopal chapel, Kelso.

¹⁶² A farm situated between the Rivers Tweed and Teviot in the parish of Roxburgh.

¹⁶³ The Clippers and the Corbie Craigs are features on the River Tweed. The aforementioned Barrack Burn flowed into the Tweed from the Mackerstoun estate.

rode across Roxburgh moor forded both Tiviot & Tweed & reached Sunlaws in time for dinner, sisters, mother, Mr Kerr were all well, after a pleasant evening I turned in.

9 September

Gloomy day: rode to Makerston to breakfast, & said goodbye to my dear cousins, who set off for Brisbane:^[164] Tom & I then had a bathe in the Tweed, after which I rode to Springwood, where I transacted some business, marked trees, opened out views, killed some rats amongst the cabbages in the garden, eat some fruit & called on Mr Waldie at Henderside,^[165] I also left my card at Rosebank & returned to Makerston. I ordered my tandem & drove Major Brown through Lessudden to Longnewton, where we dined & then took a walk along the

[Pages 127-152 inclusive have been removed from the diary]

with Jack Walton & Beardie: two as good hearted fellows as ever lived, said goodbye to my servants & drove to Makerston, where I spent a pleasant evening with my kind cousins. Today I had poor Neptune, a dog who had been my constant companion for four years, shot, as he had taken to killing sheep.

9 October

Rode to Floors & Springwood, left my PPC card^[166] & took leave of all my old servants, returned to Makerston, said goodbye to my cousins, rode to Longnewton to settle some business I had forgotten, drove to Sunlaws, saw my sisters and mother and turned in.

10 October

Wet day: up early said goodbye to my mother & sisters, drove to Kelso, got on the top of the Tweedside coach & set off for Edinburgh, which I reached at one, called on Messrs Tod & Romanes,^[167] went by railway to Glasgow & Greenock, & drove in a chaise to Brisbane, when I saw my kind relations the Brisbanes, who were all well.

¹⁶⁴ Brisbane House, Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane's residence in the parish of Largs, Ayrshire.

¹⁶⁵ John Waldie was the owner of Hendersyde estate in the parish of Ednam, Roxburghshire.

¹⁶⁶ A card announcing a person's departure from a place, social event, etc. PPC was an abbreviation of *pour prendre congé* (to take one's leave).

¹⁶⁷ His agents, Tod and Romanes, Writers to the Signet, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh.

11 October

Saw Beveridge, took a walk in the garden, took leave of my dear cousins & went to Greenock, whence I proceeded by rail to Glasgow, where I dined & had a look at the theatre, got on the top of the mail & after travelling all night through what seemed to be a fine country I reached merry Carlisle.

12 October (Sunday)

After lunch I set off in a coach for Lancaster, when I got into a train which took me to Liverpool; at Carlisle I saw some fine looking otterhounds, & at Shapfell tasted some good beer.

13 October

Wet: sailed in the mail packet for Dublin, which I disembarked after a rough passage of twelve hours, during which I was as sick as possible. I put up at the Hibernian & after dinner went to the Abbey street theatre.

14 October

Mounted the roof of the Cork Mail, where I found Skurray¹⁶⁸ of the 54th who was on his way to his head quarters at Cork, on the road I passed the beautiful ruins of the Holy Cross & the round tower of Cashel.

15 October

Reached Fermoy after a weary journey of eighteen hours: reported myself to Major Deedes and applied for leave to go overland to Corfu. Fermoy is a nice pretty town, on the banks of the Blackwater & looks one of the cleanest places in Ireland. The barracks are large and roomy. In the afternoon I took a very pretty walk along the banks of the Blackwater with Agnew: after dinner a conjuror came into the mess room to show us some tricks, but he did them so badly that he was kicked out.

16 October

Parade at ten: transferred to Langs company as my own is not for foreign service: Hervey, Parker & I walked down the riverside & examined the ruins of several old castles, the Blackwater is a pretty stream, with rocky & well wooded banks here and there a ruin is seen towering above the trees, Old Brown joined & seemed very down in the mouth.

17 October

HMO Parade & drill: took a walk with Hervey, Faunt & Fife, we all dined at the inn & played at billiards.

¹⁶⁸ Lieutenant John A. Skurray, 54th Regiment.

18 October

No parade: took a long walk up the river with Agnew, we crossed at a ferry & returned through the grounds of Castle Hyde, we met a nice little pack of harriers, belonging to Mr Hyde.^[169]

19 October (Sunday)

Church parade, the parson gave us a good sermon, though it was rather long: pulled out of bed.

20 October

Breakfasted with the 54th Depot: parade at half past four: as this is the last night that the whole Regiment will dine together for many years we had a very large mess to celebrate the occasion.

21 October

Frosty: had command of the baggage guard & marched at four o'clock, halted for an hour at Watergrass Hill to allow the guard to breakfast, then proceeded to the pretty village of Glanmire when I watered the baggage horses then marched through a beautiful country, watered by two rivers the Stone & Bright & reached the barracks at Cork with my long line of cars. The barracks are large but were crowded with draughts of the 54th, 88th, 79th, Rifles & other Regiments, about to embark for foreign stations. Here I met the 3rd Dragoon Guards with whom I had been quartered in Dublin.

22 October

Took a look at the town & went to the theatre.

23 October

Went down town saw a few pretty women: the 3rd Dragoon Guards dined with us.

24 October

Inspected by General Turner:^[170] 54th dined with us.

25 October

The Marines dined at mess. The Java,^[171] which is to take us to Corfu arrived at Cove.

¹⁶⁹ Cornelius Hyde of Castle Hyde, Fermoy, County Cork.

¹⁷⁰ Major-general Charles Turner, military commander of Cork district.

¹⁷¹ Built in 1811, this former merchantman and (notorious) emigrant ship was now chartered to the British Government as a troop ship.

26 October (Sunday)

Church Parade: Oxley, Fraser & I drove down to Cove to see the transport, which is a fine ship of 1175 tons.

27 October

On duty: Commanded the baggage guard & marched down to the quay, where it was put on board a steamer to be taken to Cove, 33 cars were required to carry it, and I had a great deal of trouble with the car drivers. We had parades at 11 and 4, and the regiment was confined to barracks.

28 October

The Regiment marched at four in the morning to the quay, where it embarked on board the Princess steamer, which took it down to the Java, lying at Cove. My company was put in the orlop deck,^[172] so Packe & I passed most of the day there, seeing the arms & knapsacks put away. We then went to look at our own quarters, & found that nine of us Subalterns were to be put in a cabin called the Omnibus:^[173] I got leave to go on shore to buy a few nails, candles and other necessaries, & at four we all dined in the Cuddy,^[174] & had an excellent dinner, after which we smoked & walked on the quarter deck & poop till we turned in.

29 October

Had to keep the morning watch from four o'clock to eight, the night was wet & stormy, my duty on watch consisted in, seeing that a sixth part of the Regiment was on the larboard side of the deck, that all lights were out, & that the sentries were alert. At six I had to superintend the washing of the deck & to see that the hammocks were stowed away in their nettings. We paraded at ten, when I had to remain on the orlop deck to see it scraped. Colonel Airey & the other married officers came on board, but we did not sail as the wind was against us.

30 October

On watch from twelve to four: as it was a dead calm we could not sail today: on watch from eight till twelve.

31 October

Parade as usual: on duty, had to march off the guard, inspect the dinners, see the decks cleaned, superintend the making and serving out of the grog, inspect the orderly men and cooks, go round the teas, see the water drawn &

¹⁷² A platform covering the hold of a ship and forming the lowest deck.

¹⁷³ So called because it could hold a large number of people.

¹⁷⁴ A cabin in a ship abaft and under the round-house, in which the officers take their meals.

hammocks hung, & see that all the lights were out at eight o'clock. Today we weighed anchor and were towed out by a steamer, a corporal had his leg broken by forebitts^[175] slipping, I kept the second dog watch.^[176]

1 November

Fine, could just see Kinsale head, superintended the serving out of the rations at six: soldiers all sick: as the Omnibus was rather crowded, Major Brown gave me a berth in his cabin. Kept the first dog watch.

2 November (Sunday)

Colonel Airey read the service: on watch from twelve to four.

3 November

Breeze freshened & the sea was rough, on watch from eight to twelve: Burril^[177] on the sick list. Entered the Bay of Biscay.

4 November

Very rough, breeze increased passed a brig, which we signalled. The men sang songs after dinner, on watch from twelve to four; still in the Bay of Biscay.

5 November

Rough & windy: on watch from six to eight, still in the Bay of Biscay: the time passed much quicker than I expected, we amused ourselves by eating & drinking, I was much surprised that I was not at all sea sick.

6 November

Wet: the breeze increased to a gale & the sea rose in proportion: kept the first night watch. The captain made us out to be off the Spanish coast.

7 November

Wet: tremendous gale of wind: we were the whole day under close reefed topsails, but towards night we were obliged to lay under a small trysail & close reefed for topsail, we split the main topsail: the captain began to get anxious as we were beating on a lee shore: the sea was mountainous high & it was

¹⁷⁵ A pair of vertical posts used for fastening cables, belaying ropes, etc. They are firmly affixed to the deck, so it would have been the corporal who slipped, not them.

¹⁷⁶ The watch on board a ship from 4 pm to 8 pm was divided into two dogwatches, the first from 4 pm to 6 pm, the second from 6 pm to 8 pm. These shorter watches enabled the turn of the night watch to be changed every twenty-four hours. The Queen's Regulations stipulated that, when a regiment was being transported to a new posting by ship, the watches were to be undertaken by the subalterns, non-commissioned officers, and men.

¹⁷⁷ Lieutenant Charles W. G. Burrill, 34th Regiment.

impossible to stand on deck, the crew was so bad that many of them hid themselves in the galley & under the longboat, but were pulled out by the soldiers, some of whom were capital sailors.

8 November

Kept the first morning watch, on coming on deck [heard] that the Captain had reported to Colonel Airey that nothing but Providence would save the ship, as we were drifting on a lee shore, & if the wind did not change we must go ashore in four hours: rather a pleasant look out: I could see the lights on shore quite well: at two bells, I was ordered to make my watch get up the chain cable & sheet anchor that we might let it go & strike as gently as possible: there were nine hundred and twenty nine souls on board: I felt excessively uncomfortable till seven bells, when the wind changed right round & took us out to sea again, half an hour later & we should have been food for fishes. When between two waves the sea was as high as the mainyard: we got up a spare topsail: passed a brig at noon: about half the fowls died of cold & wet during the night.

9 November (Sunday)

Gale abated, sea went down a good deal: kept the second morning watch: Colonel read prayers.

10 November

Sighted Cape St Vincent which is a high rocky point with a fort on it: immense numbers of gulls & solan geese:¹⁷⁸ country mountainous, & full of ruins of towns supposed to be Moorish; as the wind was fair, we set studding sails & soon left the land: on duty, watch from eight to twelve.

11 November

Second morning watch, passed the Straits of Gibraltar & saw Ape's Hill, but it was too dark to make out anything distinctly. The sunrise this morning was the most magnificent I had ever seen, verifying all I had ever heard of a Mediterranean day break, the colours of the clouds & sky were splendid, first almost black, then purple, after that crimson, now gold & silvery, and lastly a beautiful clear deep blue: As it was fine, I and some other subalterns paid a visit to the main top, but were made spread eagles of by the sailors till we paid our footings. Saw a shark & some dolphins. Men busy cleaning their belts & pouches, which had got into a bad state during the stormy weather. Very hot day.

¹⁷⁸ An alternative name, mainly used in Scotland, for gannets (*Sula bassana*).

12 November

On watch from eight to twelve: stunn sails^[179] and royals set: could see the coast of Spain & Africa from the crosstrees.

13 November

Hot & showery; running along the African coast: HMO parade: first dog watch.

14 November

Saw a steamer: at 3 we were close to the African Coast which was mountainous & covered with a short scrubby shrub, here & there we could see low white flat roofed houses & occasionally a French fort: at four we crossed the Bay of Algiers & passed within half a mile of the town of Algiers which is built in a triangular form on the side of a steep hill having strong fortifications on the summit: second dog watch.

15 November

Men cleaning their accoutrements: on watch from twelve to four: African Coast.

16 November

Watch from eight to twelve: passed the islands of Galite: church parade.

17 November

Watch from four to eight: man flogged for stealing.

18 November

Watch from 12 to 4 when we passed Pantelaria,^[180] saw an American barque, a squall carried away our main top stunn sail boom: passed Malta, Gozo & Sicily.

19 November

Watch from 4 to 8, no land in sight.

20 November

Very fresh gale: watch from 8 to 12, lost our main top gallant sail & fore stunn sail boom. Lightning.

21 November

Nearly calm: sighted Cephalonia watch from 12 to 4.

¹⁷⁹ A studding sail, although the abbreviation is usually written as 'stun'sl'.

¹⁸⁰ Pantelleria, an island in the Strait of Sicily.

22 November

Sighted Santa Maura: watch from 4 to 6.

23 November (Sunday)

Watch from 4 to 8, passed Paxo & Antipaxo,^[181] saw the coast of Albania, nearly taken aback by a tremendous squall: sighted Cape Bianco, which is the southern extremity of Corfu.

24 November

Cast anchor between the island of Vido & the town of Corfu at half past eight in the morning: The town is situated near the end of a neck of land, at the point of which is the Citadel, a strong and extensive fortification; the Citadel is divided from the town by a broad deep ditch & an open space of ground called the Esplanade: the town is ill built, the houses high & the streets narrow; the country is very mountainous & is covered with large forests of olive trees. Immediately after anchoring a number of bumboats came off loaded with oranges, figs, apples, pommegranates [*sic*], dates & other fruits. Warry & I obtained leave to go ashore in the afternoon, so we went to the Citadel & saw some of the 19th: we had a great deal lightning in the evening: I was on watch from eight to twelve.

25 November

Showery: the 97th & Rifle draughts disembarked in the morning & the thirty fourth in the afternoon; I was ordered with my company to Vido, & was quartered in the keep, where I found Longmoore, a doctor of the 19th,^[182] he seems a very nice fellow & was very civil to us. Best & I crossed to Corfu & dined in the town, but as neither of us spoke Greek or Italian we found it difficult to make ourselves understood, however by dint of a little French, we got on: after dinner we went to the opera, but soon fell asleep, when we awoke, we returned to Vido, & slept in Talbot's room. Wet.

26 November

HMO parade at eleven, crossed to Corfu, had a look at the town dined at the Artillery mess: not being able to get a boat to take us to Vido, we looked for an inn but after disturbing a great many houses, found the inn was full, so we turned in to Bourke's room & slept on the floor.

¹⁸¹ Now known as Paxos and Antipaxos, islands in the Ionian Sea.

¹⁸² Thomas Longmore, assistant surgeon to the 19th Regiment.

27 November

Pack & I breakfasted at the 97th mess, then crossed to Vido for parade: as Harvey was on the sick list at Corfu, I was ordered to do his duty: I dined with the 97th & as I had no room, Pennefather of the 19th let me sleep in his.^[183]

28 November

Walked with Kelly to see the market, which was full of all sorts of fish, fruits and vegetables: dined with the 97th & slept in the guard room.

29 November

Went out shooting with Pennefather of the 19th, to a place called Govino about six miles off; the road was pretty, being through vineyards & olive groves, we only killed two woodcocks, but were amply repaid for our drive by the beautiful scenery we saw: dined at Fort Neuf with the Rifles, & met Elliot, Lord Minto's son,^[184] he seems a very nice fellow: I slept in Mercer's^[185] room, of the Artillery.

30 November (Sunday)

On duty: went to chapel with the Catholics: dined with Rodwell,^[186] at Vido & slept in Pack's room.

1 December

Slept in Mercer's room.

2 December

Had to attend guard mounting as Subaltern in waiting for guard: On duty: dined at our mess: then went to a ball at the palace given by Lord Seaton,^[187] but as I knew no one, I did not dance much. Slept in Sitwell's room.

3 December

Garrison Subaltern of the day; on a Regimental Court Martial: a horse is kept by the Subs in garrison, who are allowed to ride their rounds, as the guards are a long way off, old Rounds the horse took me to all my guards, though I had no idea where they were: The Java sailed with the 19th on board for the West Indies: slept in Sitwell's room.

¹⁸³ Ensign William L. Pennefather, 19th Regiment.

¹⁸⁴ Second lieutenant Gilbert Elliott, Rifle Brigade, son of the 2nd earl of Minto.

¹⁸⁵ Second lieutenant Henry Mercer, Royal Artillery.

¹⁸⁶ First lieutenant Edward W. Rodwell, Royal Artillery.

¹⁸⁷ John Colborne, 1st Baron Seaton, Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands.

4 December

Wet: on guard.

5 December

Wet: ordered to Vido, got my kit ready, & slept for the first time since I landed in a room I could call my own.

6 December

Put my rooms in order, the rooms are bombproof & have loopholes instead of windows, underneath are 500 barrels of powder and above is a large cistern of water: watched the Artillery at bomb practice: went to Corfu and bought a boat.

7 December (Sunday)

On duty. Church parade.

8 December

Rough & blowy.

9 December

Sailed to Corfu & dined at mess.

10 December

On duty: shot larks.

11 December

Wet & stormy.

12 December

Went to Corfu.

13 December

On duty: a schooner called the Circassian came in.

14 December (Sunday)

Church parade, snow on top of San Salvatore: crossed to Corfu & took a walk in the country.

15 December

Pack & I went out shooting, to Govino, I killed two couple of woodcocks, & a snipe, & lost myself in the olive woods but after walking for some hours through a country covered with orange, fig, walnut, myrtle trees I came to a road, which took me to Corfu.

16 December

On duty.

17 December

Inspection of kits.

18 December

Sailed to Manduchio,^[188] a village near Corfu.

19 December

On duty, Abel Tather my servant arrived.

20 December

Went on board the Circassian & Anaconda yachts, dined at the palace: very slow dinner.

21 December (Sunday)

Blowy: an Austrian brig of war came in, Jordan & I sailed round it then made a voyage round Vido.

22 December

On duty.

23 December

Wet: wrote letters.

24 December

Went to Corfu: Colonel inspected the detachment. I went into the Church of St Spiridion,^[189] & saw the murals of that saint, who is the patron of Corfu, & is supposed to work miracles: dined at mess: Elliot was there, we had a talk about Roxburghshire.

25 December

On duty: had a mull after dinner in honour of Christmas day.

26 December

Brown came & drilled us: Rodwell dined with us.

¹⁸⁸ Mantouki, now a suburb of the city of Corfu.

¹⁸⁹ St Spyridon.

27 December

The detachment went to Corfu in boats, & was inspected with the rest of the regiment by Lord Seaton, on the Esplanade.

28 December (Sunday)

Church parade. Rode with Jordan to Potamo^[190] & returned by the racecourse.

29 December

Packe, Sitwell & I went out shooting to Govino, we did not kill anything, but lost ourselves in the woods, & did not get to Corfu till late.

30 December

Crossed to Corfu: Le Cerf, a French brig of war came in: went to Fort Neuf & saw Oxley & Jordan who were quartered there.

31 December

On duty: had a mull & sat up till twelve to see the New Year in.

¹⁹⁰ Potamos, a town adjacent to the city of Corfu.

1846

1 January

A royal salute was fired at six o'clock, and the Ionian standard hoisted at the flag staff of the Citadel of Corfu; another salute was fired at 12 o'clock & I went to Corfu to attend a levee held at the Palace, but was too late as it only lasted about ten minutes, & I stopped to see the *Orestes* salute:^[191] all the vessels in harbour were dressed. Old Brown & I rode in the afternoon to Potamo through the olive groves, & after mess went to a ball at the Palace, given by Lord Seaton in honour of the Anniversary of the Institution of the Ionian States,^[192] it was attended by all the heads of the villages in their native costumes, the Greek ladies were very plain, I did not dance very much.

2 January

Hot coppers: sailed in my boat.

3 January

On duty: wrote letters.

4 January

Wet: church parade: sailed to Corfu: very rough.

5 January

The Vido garrison were taken in boats to Corfu to attend a field day, being Senior Ensign, I had to carry the Queen's Color [*sic*].

6 January

On duty: stormy & wet: The English packet H. M. Steamer Spitfire^[193] ran ashore at Ithaca, in consequence of the carelessness of the officer on Watch: the Jackall went to try & get her off the rocks.

7 January

Wet day.

8 January

Dined at mess & went to a ball at the Commandants, Colonel Conyers^[194] danced a good deal.

¹⁹¹ HMS *Orestes* (1824), a sloop of eighteen guns.

¹⁹² The United States of the Ionian Islands, a Greek state and amical protectorate of the United Kingdom, had been established in 1815.

¹⁹³ A paddle gunvessel launched the previous year. It had been taken to Corfu for repairs after running aground on the north-east end of Ithaca.

¹⁹⁴ Colonel Charles E. Conyers was on the staff of the aforementioned Lord Seaton.

9 January

On duty: Orestes went to Ithaca to help the Spitfire: Mercer RA dined with me.

10 January

Colonel Airey came & drilled us – went to the opera & heard “Chi dura vinci”:^[195] good.

11 January

Fine: Parson came & read prayers to the garrison: Packe & Rodwell in one boat, Fraser & I in another pulled up the bay past the Lazaretto island to a beautiful cove at Govino, landed, walked to an old house probably Venetian, surrounded by orange & olive groves, full of delicious fruit, which we found very refreshing after our pull: we then went to the top of a hill to an old Venetian fort, from which we had a magnificent view of Corfu [and] Albania. As we pulled back we saw an immense number of porpoises, Bourke came & dined at the keep with us.

12 January

Drill at Corfu: dined at mess & went to a ball at the palace in the evening.

13 January

Fine: drill: HMS Spitfire came in from Ithaca & was taken to the Manduchio to have her bottom examined: Boyd dined at mess with me.

14 January

Jordan & I sailed round Vido & to Potamo in my boat.

15 January

On duty.

16 January

Drill at Corfu: dined at mess & went on board the Paul Pry Sitwells boat & sailed to Albania.

17 January

Landed at Pagagna^[196] a nice bay, & after a walk over a strong mountain came to some thick covers, where we shot some woodcocks & hares, we also saw some roe deer but could not get near them, returned to the yacht & sailed for Corfu.

¹⁹⁵ *Chi dura vince*, a comic opera by Luigi Ricci.

¹⁹⁶ Pagania, a bay on the coast of Greece opposite Corfu.

18 January

Church parade: on duty: Packe & Maxwell set off to go to the top of St Salvadore, a high mountain, but came back tired & hungry after losing their way.

19 January

HMS Virago^[197] came in to take the Spitfire to Malta: dined at mess went to a ball at the President of the Senate's, rather good.

20 January

Two parades: dined at mess.

21 January

Sirocco: duty: dined at the Commandants, Colonel Conyers slow, went to opera.

22 January

Drill: Colonel sulky.

23 January

Went to Corfu.

24 January

On duty: Macgrath went mad, had him confined.

25 January

Parson came: stormy.

26 January

Fine: drill: dined at Fort Neuf with Elliot: after dinner we both rode on his horse to the Palace, where there was a ball: Power of the Virago offered me a passage to Malta.

27 January

Wet: got leave of absence: stormy: sent traps on board the Virago: dined at mess.

28 January

Fine: went on board the Virago & sailed for Malta, we passed Cape Bianco, but when nearly out of sight of Paxo, the Spitfire's engines went wrong & we had to go back to Corfu. It was very rough & I was very sick.

¹⁹⁷ A paddle sloop, built in 1842, that was currently serving in the Royal Navy's Mediterranean Station.

29 January

Sailed again, the Viragoes^[198] are all capital fellows & were very civil to me: I slept in a lot.

30 January

Showery: no land in sight: very stormy night; obliged to hie to for the Spitfire.

31 January

Off Syracuse, fine view of the Sicilian coast, immense number of vessels in sight: reached Malta at two: fine harbour, various boats: Harvey & I put up at the Clarendon Hotel & went to the opera.

1 February

Went to see the Vampire, a cutter I have some thoughts of buying; she is a very nice vessel of forty nine tons. Saw two Russian ships, a corvette and a seventy four, the sailors were dressed in a green uniform with yellow braid & looked more like soldiers than sailors: in the afternoon Harvey & I went to look at Fort St Elmo.

2 February

Went to the Virago and then to the Hibernia,^[199] a ship of a hundred and ten guns, saw every part of her: we next went with an old TG^[200] named Brodigan to see the Russian steamer, which had just arrived with the Grand Duke on board, it was very dirty. In the afternoon we went over the museum & then to the armory [*sic*] where we saw an immense quantity of armour, some of it formerly belonging to some of the most celebrated knights of Malta: several coats were richly inlaid with gold. We also saw the tapestry room. After dinner we went to the opera house and saw “His last legs”^[201] performed by the Garrison Amateurs.

3 February

After breakfast me and Iffley a TG hired hacks and rode out to Citta Vecchia where we saw St Paul’s Church and a cave in which he is said to have lived; also some catacombs which I believe are very extensive & where it is said the early Christians lived during their persecution. We remounted & proceeded under the guidance of a [*illegible*] along horid [*sic*] hilly slippery road to a place called “Ben Gemma” where there are some tombs excavated in the face of a precipice, & are supposed to be Moorish, my horse lost a shoe & I had to walk

¹⁹⁸ *i.e.* the crew of HMS *Virago*.

¹⁹⁹ HMS *Hibernia* (1804) was the flagship of the Royal Navy’s Mediterranean Station.

²⁰⁰ ‘Travelling Gentleman’. What might nowadays be called a tourist.

²⁰¹ A farce by William Bayle Bernard, first performed in 1839.

back to Citta Vecchia to get it replaced, I dined at Floriana, at the 88th mess, where I had a capital dinner after which I went to a ball, given by Sir Patrick Stuart,^[202] I danced a good deal, but did not much admire the Maltese ladies.

4 February

The Maltese women wore a black head dress called a faldetta, the carriages are curious. Burns 19th Regiment^[203] & I went down to see the Church of St John, which is very fine. We also saw the Auberge of Castile;^[204] dined at the 88th mess.

5 February

Embarked on board the Sydenham for Corfu: Mapleton^[205] the commander is a capital fellow & tells strange stories.

6 February

Calm.

7 February

In sight of Cephalonia, which we reached at midday, we stopped the mails at then touched at and at night anchored at Patras.

8 February

Faro in sight, arrived at Corfu: reported myself and went to Vido.

9 February

Sailed with Sitwell in the Paul Pry.

10 February

On duty: rain.

11 February

Dined at mess & went to the opera.

12 February

Rode with Major Brown to the Val de Roppa.

²⁰² General Sir Patrick Stuart, governor of Malta.

²⁰³ Ensign Henry M. Burns, 19th Regiment.

²⁰⁴ Auberge de Castille, Valetta, the headquarters of the British Army in Malta and a residence for British officers.

²⁰⁵ Lieutenant David R. B. Mapleton, commander of HMS *Sydenham* (1841), a paddle gunvessel of the Royal Navy's Mediterranean Station.

13 February

Wet.

14 February

Wet.

15 February

Sailed to Corfu & went to a fancy ball, called a cavalchina, at the theatre.

16 February

Dined with Elliot at Fort Neuf & rode his horse to the palace where there was a ball: little screwed.

17 February

March into the country and drilled in the olive groves.

18 February

Rhadamanthus^[206] came in from England.

19 February

On duty: Elliot dined with me, Acheron^[207] came in with the mails: cavalchina.

20 February

Went out with some Greeks to spear fish, killed some mullets.

21 February

Packe & I bathed.

22 February

Duty: church: bathed.

23 February

Bathed.

24 February

Crossed to Corfu, paraded there & marched to Alepu^[208] skirmished amongst the olive groves, piled arms near Nausicaa's fountain,^[209] which is so strong a

²⁰⁶ HMS *Rhadamanthus* (1832), a paddle transport.

²⁰⁷ HMS *Acheron* (1838), a paddle sloop that served mainly as a mail packet.

²⁰⁸ Alepou, a town adjacent to the city of Corfu.

²⁰⁹ The Fountain of Cressida, a stream believed by some scholars to be where Nausicaa and her handmaids encountered Odysseus (*Odyssey*, book six).

spring that it turns a mill twenty yards from its source: got back to the Citadel at six.

25 February

On duty.

26 February

Crossed to Corfu: the whole garrison marched to Alepu & had a sham fight in the woods: went to the opera at night.

27 February

Packe crossed to Corfu & rode to the Garuna pass, where there is a splendid view of the island.

28 February

On duty.

1 March

Church parade: Kelly & I pulled to the bay of Kallikaopolo^[210] to see the Sail of Ulysses, which is merely a high rock with a Greek chapel on the top: saw a man fishing for sea porcupines:^[211] dined at mess and went to the cavalchina afterwards.

2 March

Parade & drill: Hort, Mercer, Jordan & I bathed off Cape Sidero: then took a sail.

3 March

On duty.

4 March

Jordan & I sailed to the Lazaretto and back.

5 March

Drill at Corfu.

6 March

Mrs Wray, Serjeant Wray's wife, jumped out of a barrack window four stories high, when drunk & killed herself; on duty.

²¹⁰ Halikiopoulou, a lagoon south of the city of Corfu.

²¹¹ A sea urchin.

7 March

Wet.

8 March

On duty: Wet: a large waterspout collected between Vido & St Salvador.^[212]

9 March

Went in the drag with Elliot to see a steeplechase at the red bridge; ground very heavy: Beckwith's^[213] horse, Monops, [*word missing*], the Volcano^[214] came in: Ferguson RB^[215] arrived in it.

10 March

Drill.

11 March

Wet: Ferguson dined with me.

12 March

Duty.

13 March

Got leave & sailed in the Volcano at 11 o'clock, rough, got to Samos at night.

14 March

Stopped at Patras for some time, it is a dirty straggling village, with an old castle on a hill above it, I went to a café with Hort a midshipman, smoked a water pipe: all the natives seemed covered with yataghans^[216] & swords: went on board & sailed, touched at Zante.^[217]

15 March

Very rough. Sick.

²¹² Now called Mount Pantokrator, the highest mountain on Corfu.

²¹³ There were three Beckwiths in the Rifle Brigade at this time: Major Henry F. Beckwith, Captain Sidney Beckwith, and Lieutenant John F. Beckwith.

²¹⁴ HMS *Volcano* (1836), a paddle sloop serving in the Royal Navy's Mediterranean Station.

²¹⁵ Second lieutenant Henry D. Ferguson, Rifle Brigade.

²¹⁶ A type of sword, having a handle without a guard and often a double-curved blade.

²¹⁷ Zakynthos, an island in the Ionian Sea.

16 March

Very rough: sighted Mount Atna:^[218] played at shuffles.^[219]

17 March

Reached Malta. The Volcano started immediately to look for the Virago, which had not been heard of since she left Alexandria, some time ago: put up at the Mediterranean hotel: dressed and walked to the harbour to look at the Vampire a yacht I had come down to buy.

18 March

Called on the 88th at Floriana & dined at St Elmo, with the artillery.

19 March

Dined with Walker at Floriana & went to the opera.

20 March

Breakfasted with Campbell^[220] of the 42nd at the Inquisitor's Palace, then called on old Mapleton of the Sydenham which was getting broken up as it was rotten: dined with the 42nd.

21 March

Dined with the 88th.

22 March

Dined with Rollo.

23 March

Dined at the Palace with Sir Patrick Stuart: ball in the evening.

24 March

Dined with the 42nd at Baviere:^[221] went to the opera.

25 March

Sailed in the Vampire, the cutter I bought, to St Paul's Bay with Curtiss & Palmer,^[222] two lieutenants of the *Hibernia*: dined with the 88th.

²¹⁸ Mount Etna, Italy.

²¹⁹ A version of shuffleboard played on a ship's deck rather than on a table.

²²⁰ Lieutenant Farquhar Campbell, 42nd Regiment.

²²¹ The Auberge de Bavière, Valletta, Malta, used by the British Army as an officers' mess.

²²² Lieutenant John J. Palmer and Lieutenant Roger L. Curtis, HMS *Hibernia*.

26 March

Rode to San Guiseppe to see about the yacht's register.

27 March

Sailed in my yacht with Captain Macdonald & Mr Morse two TGs for Corfu, there was a good deal of wind.

28 March

Passed cape Passero, light air: saw a Yankee brig.

[The first volume of Sir George H. Scott Douglas' diary ends here]

APPENDIX A

The following is a transcript of a letter that was found folded between the leaves of the diary. It bears no other date than 1845, although the contents suggest it was written on 20 February. Sir George illustrated it with a number of small sketches, copies of which are reproduced at the end of the transcript.

Roscommon Barracks
Sunday 1845

My dear Henry,

I am quite ashamed of myself for not writing to you sooner, & hope that you will forgive me this time, & I will behave better in the future. Captain Brown sends his best love to you & hopes that you have not quite forgotten him. The gout is nearly well, & I have lent Captain Brown my pony Ginger, that he may ride about on it. [Sketch 1] The devil himself could not hold Ginger & she always kicks with strangers, & Brown cannot ride.

We burn nothing but peat here, or turf as the natives call it. This country consists of beautiful pastures, for miles, & a ploughed field is almost unknown here, & consequently large farmers do not employ more than seven or eight herds on their land, and as the population is exceedingly superabundant, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of it are out of work: therefore a father says that he would rather be hung or transported, than see his children starving around him: upon which he gets up, shoots his landlord, or sets fire to his house, or commits a robbery, & hence the outrages committed here. Ploughed land lets at from £6 to £7 per acre, which these unfortunate devils cannot pay. A place called the Kybar Pass is often the scene of bloodshed. [Sketch 2] At the Assizes I expect to see several people hung, for murder etc, as when Tom & I saw the jail, several men were in for murder. Is not that a pleasant sight? Henry! [Sketch 3]

Is Tom going to have a flare up when he comes of age in August, as if he is, I will try & come over. When is the Kelso Steeple Chase coming out, as Tom talks of running a horse at it, if it is in ~~August~~ ^{September} I would not mind running one of my horses at it. Have you seen my Hounds yet? If not, you should go to Longnewton & see them. [Sketch 4]

I am much obliged to you for sending the letter to Charles, as it was of vast importance & you must accept my best thanks for the Almanac, I wrote the instant I got it, but forgot to send the letter.

With best love to all I remain

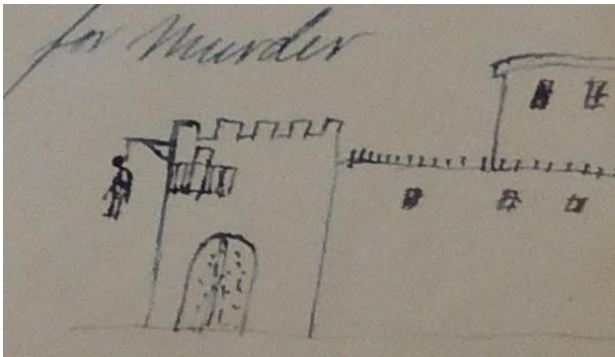
Your very affectionate Cousin
G H S Douglas



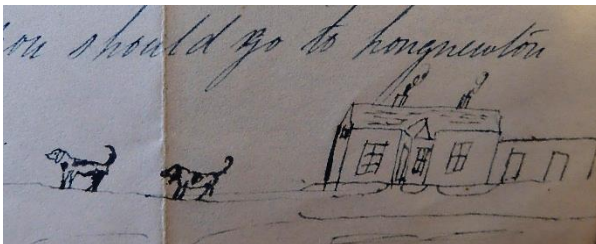
Sketch 1. Captain Brown is thrown by Sir George's pony Ginger.



Sketch 2. A horseman makes his way through the 'Kybar Pass' as two gunmen lie in wait.



Sketch 3. A body hangs from the walls of Roscommon Jail.



Sketch 4. Two of Sir George's hounds stand outside his house at Longnewton.

(All images courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

APPENDIX B

THE 34TH (CUMBERLAND) REGIMENT OF FOOT

The effective strength of the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot when Sir George began his diary on 1 January 1845 was one lieutenant-colonel, two majors, ten captains, twelve lieutenants, eight ensigns, five staff, forty-seven sergeants, fourteen drummers, and 788 rank and file. The following is a list of the officers. The changes that occurred during the course of the year are noted in [].

Colonel

Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane

Lieutenant-colonel

Richard Airey

Majors

Henry Deedes

Richard W. Byron [*died March 1845*]

Captains

Nicholas R. Brown [*promoted to major in March 1845*]

Joseph H. Mathews

Eustace Heathcote [*retired*]

Henry J. Hutton [*retired*]

Richard D. Kelly

Arthur C. Goodenough

Frederick H. Lang

John Simpson

Charles A. Schreiber

Edward P. Airey Talbot

Lieutenants

Charles F. Hervey [*promoted to captain March 1845*]

John Gwilt [*promoted to captain February 1845*]

Alexander C. Robertson [*promoted to captain November 1845*]

Fraser C. Harvey

John T. Still

Robert C. Packe

Thomas A. Makdougall Brisbane

James Maxwell
Henry H. Oxley
William L. Talbot
Edward F. Agnew
Edward W. Sitwell

Ensigns

Charles W. G. Burrill [*promoted to lieutenant February 1845*]
Charles W. Randolph [*promoted to lieutenant March 1845*]
Douglas M. Fyfe [*promoted to lieutenant November 1845*]
Sir George H. Scott Douglas
Mawdistly G. Best
William Warry
John Robinson
Henry T. Parker
[*The following ensigns joined during the course of 1845*
Joseph Jordan
Thomas L. Faunt
William Scott]

Adjutant

Thomas Bourke

Paymaster

Charles B. Roche

Quartermaster

Thomas Williamson

Surgeon

William Bain

Assistant Surgeons

Robert W. Fraser
[Deodatus W. Eaton *joined October 1845*]¹

¹ The list was compiled using *The New Annual Army List for 1845*, London, 1845, and *The New Annual Army List for 1846*, London, 1846.

FURTHER READING

The original diary is held by the National Library of Scotland: Diary of George H. Scott Douglas of Springwood Park, Acc.8290. It is part of a collection of papers relating to the Douglas of Springwood family, which includes two further diaries written while he was serving with the 34th Regiment of Foot.

A brief memoir of Sir George was published in *History of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club*, 11 (1885-86), 234-235. His life and work was also summarised in a wider account of the Springwood of Douglas family in Tancred, G. *The Annals of a Border Club (the Jedforest), and biographical notices of the families connected therewith*, Jedburgh, 1899, 133-136. See also *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage*, ed. B. Burke, London, 1885, 424. Brief biographies of the Springwood Park baronets can be found on the Douglas Archives [website](#).

Richard Cannon's *Historical Record of the Thirty-fourth, or Cumberland Regiment of Foot*, London, 1844, provides a history of Sir George's regiment up to the year before the diary opens. Documents, images and objects that tell the story of the 34th Regiment can be found at Cumbria's Museum of Military Life, located in Carlisle Castle.

For general accounts of life in the British Army during the nineteenth century, see Moyses-Bartlett, H. *The British Army in 1850*, *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, 52 (1974), 221-237; Spiers, E M. *The Army and Society, 1815-1914*, London, 1980; Strachan, H. *Wellington's Legacy: the Reform of the British Army, 1830-1854*, Manchester, 1984; and Harries-Jenkins, G. *The Army in Victorian Society*, London, 2007. For an Irish perspective, see the following two chapters in Bartlett, T and Jeffery, K, eds. *A Military History of Ireland*, Cambridge, 1996: Spiers, E M. *Army organisation in the nineteenth century*, 335-357; and Crossman, V. *The army and law and order in the nineteenth century*, 358-378.

Contemporary descriptions of the two places where Sir George was stationed during the period of the diary can be found in: *A Handbook for Travellers in Ireland*, London, 1844, 259-362; and *Statistics of the Colonies of the British Empire*, London, 1844, 591-600.

SOURCES IN LOCAL HISTORY

GENERAL EDITOR: KENNETH VEITCH

The *Sources in Local History* series was established by the EERC in 1994. Its aim is to provide edited transcriptions of diaries, letters and other personal documents that can be used to study everyday life in Scotland over the past three centuries. Six volumes were published between 1994 and 1997, making available a range of original sources, from the diary of an eighteenth-century Orkney farmer to that of a nineteenth-century Dundee millwright. The series was re-launched in 2015 as a free-to-access digital resource and forms part of the EERC's Regional Ethnology of Scotland Project.

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