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Windermere House and grounds are in the townland of Grange in the civil parish of Baldoyle, and barony of Coolock, one of the first baronies ever defined or set out in Ireland. Grange is bordered by these townlands:¹

- Baldoyle to the east
- Balgriffin to the west
- Balgriffin Park to the west
- Kilbarrack Upper to the south
- Maynetown to the east
- Newbrook to the west
- Snugborough to the north
- Stapolin to the east

In this report we have set out examples of historical names associated with Grange and Coolock, together with their origins and relevance. These examples are highlighted and italicised in the text.

REPORT

¹ www.townlands.ie

There are a large number of townlands named Grange - **An Ghráinseach** - in Ireland. A grange in historical terms was an 'outlying farm with tithe barns belonging to a monastery or feudal lord'. We know that the name 'Grange' in Baldoyle parish was given the name as it was church land. It was a desirable piece of property, good agricultural land close to Dublin town, and ownership was disputed by Christ Church Cathedral and the Priory of All Hallows (the present site of Trinity College).

About 1030 Sitric, the viking King of Dublin, founded Christchurch Cathedral, and granted lands including "the land, manor, villeins [workers], cows and corn of Beldoyle'. Sitric was of Danish stock, and was obviously confident that Beldoyle was his to dispose of. The name **Baile Dúbhghaill**- town of the dark stranger – indicates not only a viking settlement, but vikings of Danish origin. The term **Dúbhghaill** was used to denote vikings from the territory corresponding to present-day Denmark, who were dark-haired; whereas Fingall (bright stranger) was used to denote vikings of Swedish origin, who were fair or red-haired.

In 1166 Diarmuid McMurrugh, then King of Leinster, founded All Hallows Priory, (where Trinity College is now sited), outside the walls of the medieval city. He granted Baldoyle to the Priory, along with other coastal lands.² Ownership was now contested between the two religious establishments. It was only resolved in 1184, when Henry II confirmed the later grant to the Priory.

All Hallows Priory developed the farm lands at Grange, and in the late 13th Century built **Grange Abbey** Church in Baldoyle.³

The first documentary reference to Grange Abbey is in 1369, when a Parliament or 'Great Council' was held there, by William de Windsor, then Deputy of Ireland.⁴

De Windsor was appointed as a military governor to Ireland, to stop raids on Dublin city and the Pale (counties of Dublin, Meath, Louth, Kildare) by the Irish border lords. On his appointment, he received a royal grant to pay for the expedition - horses, men, weapons and supplies. De Windsor secretly contracted to marry Alice

² 'Grange Abbey, Baldoyle' by Brian Mac Giolla Phadraig in the *Dublin Historical Record*, Vol. 20, No. 3/4 (Jun. - Sep., 1965), pp. 129-132.

³ <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html>

⁴ Deputy of Ireland 1369-76

Perrers, the King's young Mistress. He supposedly gave Alice his expedition money as a dowry. It's possible that de Windsor may have planned to delay the Irish campaign indefinitely. He lost the power on inaction however, when the earl of Desmond was captured by the Irish and held hostage. De Windsor had no money for a campaign and so called a parliament in Baldoyle and Kilkenny, arranging for the nobles and the prelates (church) to meet separately. He pressured the prelates to grant a subsidy for three years and recorded the grant as '*in perpetuity.*' When the colonists discovered the deception, they were up in arms against the own Deputy. De Windsor was removed and publicly rebuked by King Edward III.⁵ However, needs must, Edward III reappointed de Windsor Irish Deputy and he continued to serve until 1376.

After 1536 and the Dissolution of the monasteries, Grange Abbey Church was leased by Thomas Fitzsimons, a scion of the Dublin Merchant family. Thomas was one of those responsible for repairing the church.⁶ Thomas Fitzsimons was probably a close relative of Edward Fitzsimons (d.1593), a judge, he entered the Inner Temple in 1555; he was attorney-general in 1579 and serjeant in 1573 and acted as master of the Rolls in 'room of Sir Nicholas White' in 1578. Elrington Ball gives his place of residence as the 'grange of Baldoyle'.⁷

The Fitzsimons family built a large residence – **Grange Abbey House** - shown on the 1756 Roque Map. They built a small stone 'water-house' controlling the flow of water into a series of fishponds, and providing a water supply to the house. The water-house was further enlarged by a red-brick extension in the mid 18th Century.⁸

By 1630 the church in Grange was said to be in ruins as the State allowed it to deteriorate, to try and discourage practice of the Catholic religion. In the meantime, Catholic masses were held in Thomas Fitzsimons's house and the home of Walter **Plunkett** also of the Grange.⁹

⁵ *Fœdera*, vol. iii. pt. ii. pp. 922, 924, 928, 942,

⁶ '1615. Royal Visitation of Dublin: "Baldoyle, Patricus Behan, Curatus". (p.20)' cited in Grange Abbey, Baldoyle' by Brian Mac Giolla Phadraig in the *Dublin Historical Record*, Vol. 20, No. 3/4 (Jun. - Sep., 1965)

⁷ *The Judges in Ireland, 1221-1921* by Francis Elrington Ball (London, 1926)

⁸ Excavation Report, Grange Abbey Church and House, Baldoyle, Linzi Simpson (Dublin, 1999).

⁹ 'South-East Fingal' by B.. Bowen *Dublin Historical Record* Vol. 18, No. 3 (Jun., 1963), pp. 66-79 (14 pages)

In December of the same year:

*Thomas Fitzsimons of the Grange of Baldoyle, Gentlemen, petitioned unto the assemblie (Dublin Corporation) praying to have a new lease upon the towne and lands of the Grange of Baldoyle, aforesaid, and the tithes thereof, for threescore and one years, to beginne presentlie upon the surrendering of his present lease".*¹⁰

In the Civil Survey dating from 1654-1656 it was recorded for the Parish of Balldoyle that it was owned by 'ye Cittie of Dublin' and that:

*'There is upon ye premises One large stone house Slated Ye Walls of a decayed Chappell & several Thatcht houses and cottages all (except ye Chappell Walls valued by ye Jury at 100 li.'*¹¹

The Fitzsimons family must still have leased the lands of Grange as there is a reference to 'fitzSymons of ye Grange of Balledoyle' also holding lands in the parish of Swords.¹² Fitzsimons of Grange was recorded as an 'Irish papist' and his lands were subsequently forfeited. The lands were granted to Alderman John **Preston** in 1656.

In the early 18th century a deed dated 3 November 1714 referred to a lease from Rt. Hon. Phillip Savage Esq Chancellor of His Majesties Court of the Exchequer and a member of the Privy Council to James **Fottrell** of the Grange of Baldoyle, farmer. James Fottrell was let 'all that part of the Towne and Lands of the Grange of Balldoyle' approximately 122 acres.¹³

We learn from a deed dated 1720 later between Sir Arthur Acheson of Markethill, Co. Armagh, the executor of the will of the aforementioned Philip Savage, and George Acheson of Grange, co. Dublin, that the:

'Lordship of Balldoyle town and Lands of Balldoyle and Grange of Balldoyle.... were demised by the Mayor, Sheriffs, Commons and Citizens of the City of

¹⁰Calendar of Ancient Records of Dublin, III. p244

¹¹ *The Civil Survey A.D. 1654–56 vol. vii county of Dublin*, edited by Robert C. Simington (Dublin, 1945) p.174

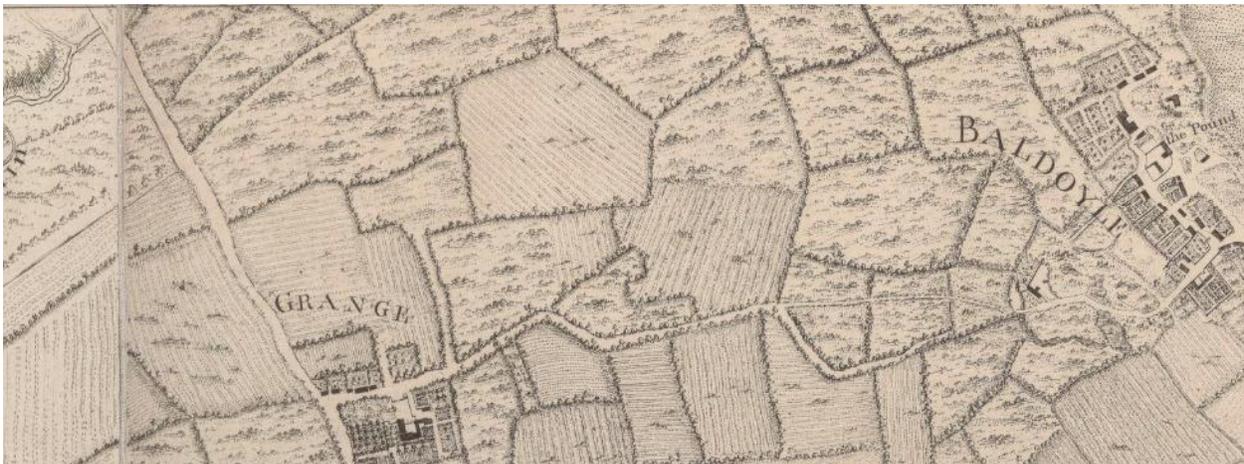
¹² *Ibid.*, p.99

¹³ Registry of Deeds Book 17 Page 452 Memorial Number 9409

Dublin unto John Preston of the said City Alderman in and by their Deed indented of Lease and Demise bearing Date the seventeenth day of October One thousand six hundred Fifty and Six for the term of Ninety and nine years from the Feast Day of St. Michael the Arch Angell'.¹⁴

The lands were leased to George **Acheson** for the remainder of the term of the 99 years.

Part of the lands of Grange can be seen in John Rocque's 'Survey of Dublin' published in 1757.¹⁵



A 1760 Rocque map extends the views of Grange further north of the house marked at Grange.¹⁶

¹⁴ Registry of Deeds Book 30 Page 278 Memorial Number 17818

¹⁵ <https://gallica.bnf.fr/>

¹⁶ <http://www.dublinhistoricmaps.ie/maps/1600-1799/index.html>



A map dating from 1792 shows that the house with the 'Old Church of Grange' on its grounds was then held by John Evans Esquire.¹⁷

Between 1820s and 40s, the Dublin City Directories (Treble Almanack and Pettigrew & Oulton) name the principal residents as Norbury Furnace Esq., J.P. of the Grange of Baldoyle, and the Reverend Arthur Irwin of Grange Cottage.

The lives of the people living on the lands of Grange were centred around the agricultural seasons, festivals of the year and the nearby village of Baldoyle.

By the time of the publication of Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* in 1837 it was noted that the parish of Baldoyle had a population of 1208 inhabitants with 1009 living in the village. Many in the village were employed in the fishing business but for the most part the main occupation was farming. The *Dictionary* noted that the main seats of the parish were **Donaghmede**, **Talavera** and **Grange Lodge**, all three in the townland of Grange.

There was according to Lewis a holy-well in the grounds of Donaghmede (formerly known as **Hannah-down** according to Brownrigg's 1792 map). This well was dedicated to **Saint Donagh**¹⁸ and was located in the neighbouring townland of Kilbarrack Upper; the well was filled and there is now no evidence of it.¹⁹

In the early 1840s the greatest excitement in the area would have been the construction of the Great Northern **Railway** linking Dublin and Drogheda. Plans for the railway were published in the Dublin newspapers in February of 1840. The railway opened in 1844 and skirted along the eastern boundaries of Grange townland.

¹⁷ 'A survey of the House and part of the lands of the Grange of Baldoyle in the Barony of Coolock and County of Dublin, belonging to John Evans Esq. by John Brownrigg 2nd June 1792' held in the Manuscripts Department of the National Library of Ireland.

¹⁸ There is some doubt as to whether the well should be called St. Donagh. Gary Branigan in *Ancient and Holy Well of Ireland* (Dublin, 2012) writes that the correct translation of the well should have been Church Well or Sunday Well as opposed to St Donagh's Well". The name St. Donagh does appear on the earliest O.S. map.

¹⁹ <https://ihwcbc.omeka.net/items/show/543>

Statistics from Census returns show that Grange had a pre-Famine population of 150 persons in 1851 in 24 houses, rising to 173 persons in 1851 in 28 houses.²⁰ Griffith's Valuation, a nationwide survey of property and land, was assessed in Baldoyle parish in July of 1848.²¹ It appears that the triangular piece of land that corresponds to the site in question, was then occupied by a Francis Connolly.²²

PARISH OF BALDOYLE.

No. on Map.	Letter or No. in Field Book.	Names of Townlands and Occupiers.	Names of Immediate Lessors.	Description of Tenement.	Content of Land.	Net Annual Value of Land.	Net Annual Value of Buildings.	Total Net Annual Value.
					A. B. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
GRANGE.								
1		Michael Howard, Esq.,	Philip Doyne, Esq.,	Land	11 3 8	29 6 0	—	29 6 0
2	α	Francis Connolly,	Michael Howard, Esq.,	House	—	—	—	—
3	α	Michael Howard, Esq.,	Reps. Bishop of Drumore,	Office and land	55 1 28	148 0 0	1 16 0	149 16 0
4	δ	John M'Guire,	Michael Howard, Esq.,	House	—	—	1 12 0	1 12 0
5		Michael Howard, Esq.,	Reps. Bishop of Drumore,	Land	1 2 37	4 3 0	1 16 0	5 19 0
		Garret Rice,	Daniel F. Brady, Esq.,	Land	1 3 10	—	—	4 3 0
		Dublin and Drogheda						

Francis **Connolly** leased from Michael Howard who in turn leased from Philip Doyne, Esq. We believe that this may be the same Frank Connell, a 70 year-old widower, 'of the Grange' who died 13 October 1874.²³ The surname then may have changed again to McConnell, when Patrick McConnell of the Grange, Baldoyle, the son of Francis, a labourer, married Catherine Rodney in 1883.²⁴ The McConnell family leads us into the 20th century and the 1901 Census when Patrick, now a 67 year-old widower and railway labourer, was living in the home with his sister, Margaret. We cannot be sure that this is the same family but it would appear to be.

²⁰ CENSUS OF IRELAND 1881: AREA, POPULATION AND NUMBER OF HOUSES; OCCUPATIONS, RELIGION AND EDUCATION. VOLUME I. PROVINCE OF LEINSTER in Uk Parliamentary Papers

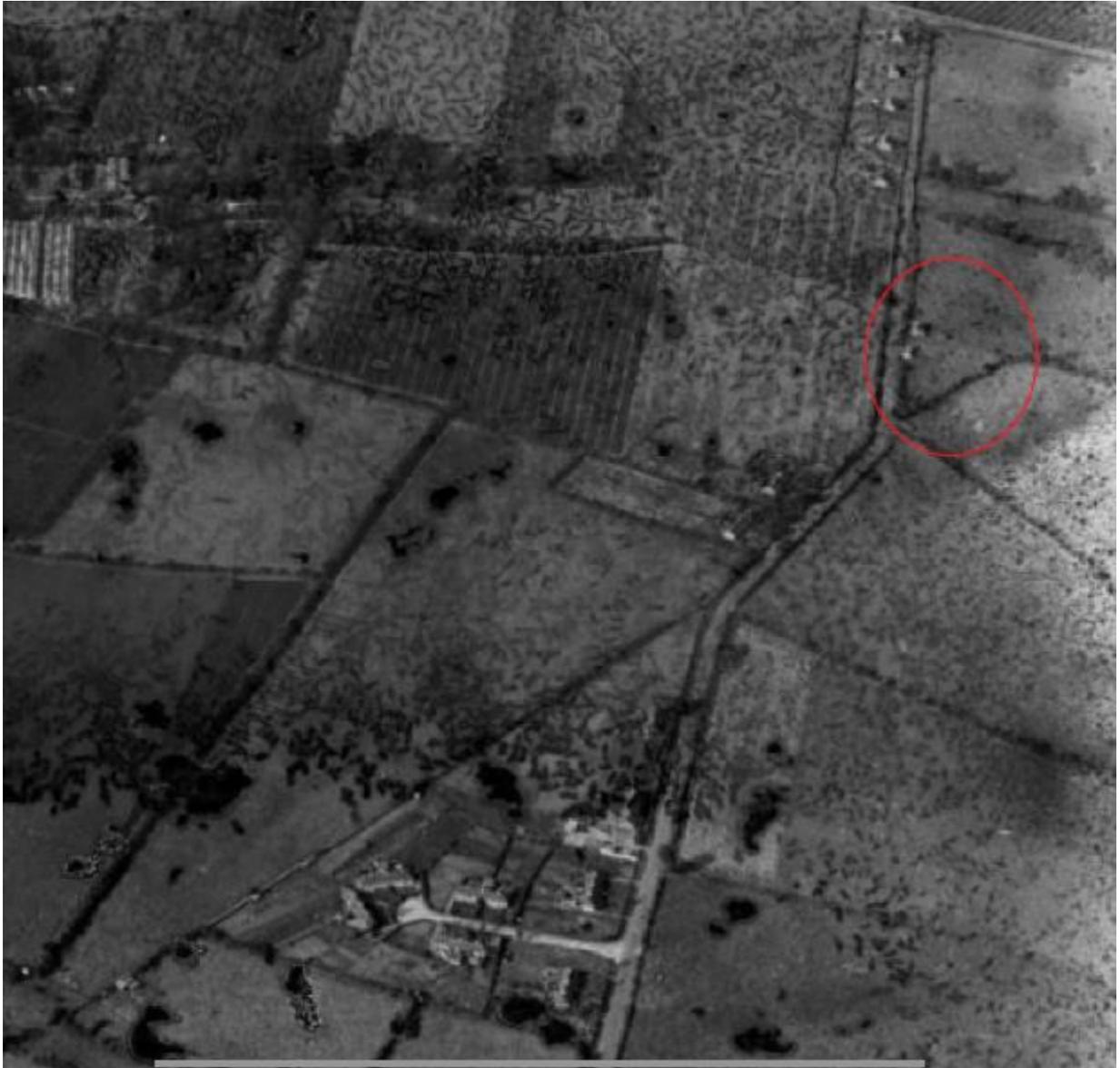
²¹ www.findmypast.ie 'Griffith's Valuation 1847-1864'

²² Further research would be needed to confirm this but at present due to Covid restrictions we are unable to look at the Cancelled Books held in the Valuation office. The Cancelled Books would confirm the occupation details of the Windermere house site.

²³ www.irishgenealogy.ie 'Civil Records' Group Registration ID7496063

²⁴ *Ibid.*, Group Registration ID2230524

The lands surrounding the site were rural and agricultural and were to remain so up until the 2000s. A rare photo from the 1950s shows the site in question, circled in red, surrounded by fields.²⁵



²⁵ <https://britainfromabove.org.uk/> XAW040371 IRELAND (1951). R. & W. Scott Ltd., Balgriffin Park, Dublin, Ireland, 1951. Oblique aerial photograph taken facing North/West.

One section of the site is bordered by the *Hole-in-the-Wall* Road and it is located close to the north by the river *Mayne* sometimes spelt *Maine*.

In 1972 Grange Abbey House was demolished, and the remains used to raise the ground level and fill in the ponds. In one sump of rubble from the house a hoard of forty-one gold sovereigns was found, some in mint condition. The coins dated from 1817 to 1830.²⁶

²⁶ Excavation Report, 1999, Linzi Simpson.

