

KILCASH AND THE BUTLERS OF ORMOND BY JOHN FLOOD

PREPUBLICATION OFFER €50

The Author

Dr John Flood is a native of Kilcash. He lectures in English literature at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands. He is the author of *The Works of Walter Quin: An Irishman at the Stuart Courts* (Four Courts, 2014) and *Representations of Eve in Antiquity and the English Middle Ages* (Routledge, 2010).

The Book

Hardback, 430 pages, 55 illustrations, many in colour.
Foreword by the archaeologist Conleth Manning, who has family connections with Kilcash.

This book has three dimensions. First, it is the story of Kilcash Castle and its associated buildings. Secondly, it connects the settlement at Kilcash to the Butlers of Ormond, and thirdly it outlines the scale and form of the Butler estate between Slievenamon and Suir and its inhabitants over the centuries. Dr. Flood, through judicious use of local knowledge and archival sources, recreates the majestic splendour of castle, church, eighteenth century mansion, walled gardens and tree-lined avenues.

The book peoples the imaginatively reconstructed buildings with a succession of Butler proprietors, who held the manor of Kilcash from the sixteenth until the twentieth century. It traces the familial alliances of the Kilcash Butlers with influential families throughout the country, including the Bourkes (Galway), Brownes (Kenmare), Esmondés (Clonegal), Everards (Fethard), Hamiltons (Roscrea), Kavanaghs (Borris), Mathews (Thurles) and Purcells (Loughmore).

One of the best-known figures in the long history of Kilcash was Honora Butler, a daughter of the earl of Clanricard and the widow of Viscount Iveagh. As Lady Iveagh, she achieved fame in the lament 'Cill Chaise', familiar to generations of Irish school-goers by its evocative first line, 'Cad a dhéanfaimid feasta gan adhmaid'. The Irish text of 'Cill Chaise' by Prof. Daithí O hÓgáin† and the English translation by Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin (formerly Ireland Professor of Poetry) are reprinted.

It is possible from the wealth of surviving material to recreate many aspects of everyday rural life in the first half of the nineteenth century, including changes in population in Ballypatrick, Kilcash and Killurney. Developments in agriculture and education took place alongside lurid crimes and political drama associated with the Repeal Association and Young Ireland's Rising in nearby Ballingarry. International ties were created by emigration and military service. The book draws to a melancholy end with an account of the Great Famine.

Prepublication Offer from Geography Publications

Due to Covid -19 we will be unable to have a traditional book launch. Because of this we have decided to inform prospective readers of the opportunity to purchase the book for 50 Euro, including post and packaging. Purchasers of the book will have their names included in the *tabula amicorum* -table of friends- at the back of the volume.

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The Publisher Geography Publications

Geography Publications, founded in 1985 by William Nolan, a native of Glengoose 'at the other side of Slievenamon', has published twenty-one books on Tipperary and Kilkenny.

