

About the ownership of Summerhill House, where Hamilton met Catherine

Anne van Weerden, 2017

Comments to footnote 15 on p. 57 of the essay, concerning the ownership of Summerhill House after the death of Baron Langford in 1825. The once famous house in county Meath was built in 1731 by Hercules Rowley and Frances Upton, and in 1825 their great-granddaughter Frances Rowley and her husband Clotworthy Taylour, Baron and Baroness Langford, still owned Summerhill House. Yet it is not at all clear who owned the house after the death of the Baron.

The family trees of the Langfords (1) and the Longfords (2) come from the website [The Peerage](#).

The Langfords:

1) Hercules Rowley (.. -1742) married in 1705 Frances Upton (.. - ..).
They had a son,

1.1) Hercules Langford Rowley (ca 1714-1794).

1.1) Hercules Langford Rowley (ca 1714-1794) married in 1732 Elizabeth Ormsby Upton (.. -1791).

They had two daughters,

1.1.1) Jane Rowley (.. - ..),

1.1.2) Catherine Rowley (.. -1816),

and three sons,

1.1.3) Hercules Rowley (1737-1796).

1.1.4) Clotworthy Rowley (.. -1781),

1.1.5) Arthur Rowley (.. - ..),

1.1.2) Catherine Rowley (.. -1816) married 2.5) Edward Michael Pakenham (1743-1792), 2nd Baron Longford.

1.1.4) Clotworthy Rowley (.. -1781) married Elizabeth Crosbie (.. - ..).

They had a daughter,

1.1.4.1) Frances Rowley (ca 1775-1860).

1.1.3) Hercules Rowley (1737-1796) died unmarried. His niece 1.1.4.1) Frances Rowley inherited his estates.

1.1.4.1) Frances Rowley (ca 1775-1860) married in 1794 Clotworthy Taylour (1763-1825). On 26 April 1796 Clotworthy Taylour's name was legally changed

to Clotworthy Rowley. His title, 1st Baron Langford of Summerhill, was created on 31 July 1800 for changing his vote against the Union of Ireland and Great Britain Parliaments the year before to one in favour.

They had two daughters,

1.1.4.1.1) Elizabeth Jane Rowley (.. -1864),

1.1.4.1.2) Harriet Rowley (.. - ..)

and two sons,

1.1.4.1.3) Hercules Langford Rowley, 2nd Baron Langford (1795-1839),

1.1.4.1.4) Richard Thomas Rowley (1812-1887).

The Longfords:

2) Thomas Pakenham, 1st Baron Longford (1713-1766), married in 1739 or 1740 Elizabeth Cuffe (.. -1794), created in 1785 Countess of Longford.

They had three daughters,

2.1) Frances Pakenham (1744-1776),

2.2) Helena Pakenham (1745-1777),

2.3) Mary Pakenham (1749-1775),

and four sons,

2.4) Robert Pakenham (.. -1775),

2.5) Edward Michael Pakenham, 2nd Baron Longford (1743-1792),

2.6) William Pakenham (1756-1769),

2.7) Thomas Pakenham (1757-1836).

2.5) Edward Michael Pakenham, 2nd Baron Longford (1743-1792) married in 1768 1.1.2) Catherine Rowley (.. -1816).

They had five daughters,

2.5.1) Elizabeth Pakenham (.. -1851),

2.5.2) Helen Pakenham (.. -1807),

2.5.3) Caroline Penelope Pakenham (.. -1854),

2.5.4) Catherine Sarah Dorothea Pakenham (1773-1831),

2.5.5) Mary Pakenham (.. - ..),

and five sons,

2.5.6) Thomas Pakenham, 3rd Baron Longford and 2nd Earl of Longford (1774-1835),

2.5.7) Edward Michael Pakenham (1778-1815),

2.5.8) Hercules Robert Pakenham (1781-1850),

2.5.9) William Pakenham (ca 1784-1811),

2.5.10) Henry Pakenham (1787-1863).

2.5.6) Thomas Pakenham (1774-1835), succeeded in 1792 as the 3rd Baron Longford. In 1794 he succeeded as the 2nd Earl of Longford because his father 2.5) Edward had died before his grandmother, 2) Countess Longford. He married in 1817 Lady Georgiana Emma Charlotte Lygon (.. - 1880).

They had one daughter,

2.5.6.1) Georgina Sophia Pakenham (1828-1909),

and seven sons,

2.5.6.2) Edward Michael Pakenham, 4th Baron Longford and 3rd Earl of Longford (1817-1860),

2.5.6.3) William Lygon Pakenham, 5th Baron Longford and 4th Earl of Longford (1819-1887),

2.5.6.4) Thomas Alexander Pakenham (1820-1889),

2.5.6.5) Charles Reginald Pakenham (1821-1857),

2.5.6.6) Henry Robert Pakenham (1822-1856),

2.5.6.7) Frederick Beauchamp Pakenham (1823-1901),

2.5.6.8) Francis John Pakenham (1832-1905).

In September 1825 1.1.4.1) Clotworthy Rowley, 1st Baron Langford, died. Although 1.1.4.1) Frances Rowley, Baroness Langford, who had inherited the estate, was still alive when her husband died, both in 1826 and in 1829 2.5.6) Thomas Pakenham, 3rd Baron Longford and 2nd Earl of Longford (1774-1835) wrote letters while being in Summerhill House;¹ Lord Longford therefore either lived there or he may have taken care of business.

In the years following the death of the Baron in 1825 it has been mentioned twice that Summerhill was owned by Lord Longford. The first time is in 1827 when it is written in *Leigh's New Pocket Road-book of Ireland* that "Summerhill Castle [is] the residence of Lord Longford (Pakenham), the proprietor of this town;" this must have been 2.5.6) Thomas Pakenham, 3rd Baron Longford and 2nd Earl of Longford (1774-1835). Yet in the [third edition](#), printed in 1835, the name has been changed to "Lord Langford", which then must have been 1.1.4.1.3) Hercules Langford Rowley, 2nd Baron Langford (1795-1839).

The second time Lord Longford is mentioned as owning Summerhill is in 1837, when in the *Topographical Dictionary* it can be read, "The principal seats [of Laracor] are Rock Lodge, the residence of T. Disney, Esq.; Freffans, of W. Battersby, Esq.; the glebe-house, of the Rev. Blayney Irwine; Spring Valley, of R. Butler Bryan, Esq.; Braymount, of G. J. Murphy, Esq.; Adamstown, the property of T. Disney, Esq.; and Summerhill, the property of the Earl of Longford. That must have been 2.5.6.2) Edward Michael Pakenham, 3rd Earl of Longford (1817-1860), since only the Longfords had an Earldom and his father had passed away in 1835.

In 1850 [Hamilton wrote](#), "Upon the whole, the house is greatly decayed, yet [the drawing-room] is kept up with neatness and even elegance by a young lady whom I did not see." The state of decay is also mentioned by *The Irish Aestate*, "The house was seriously damaged by fire in the early 19th century and thereafter successive generations of the Rowley owners [...] never seem to have

¹ These letters are kept at the [National Archives](#). The [letters](#) are not available online [accessed 07 November 2019]. The short description of the first letter, written in 1826, reads: "letters from Lord Longford [Thomas Pakenham, 2nd Earl Longford], Summerhill House, [County Meath]".

had sufficient funds to oversee a comprehensive refurbishment. In fact in 1851 the estate was offered for sale.” Combining this with another remark made by [Hamilton in 1855](#), that the mansion had “now fallen into much decay, and passed into other hands,” it may be assumed that the house was sold before 1855, yet who sold it to whom is not known.

In the [first volume of his biography](#), which was published in 1882, Graves claimed that Summerhill House was “then” (1824) and “now” (1882) the [property of Lord Langford](#). Since *The Irish Aestate* also mentions that in 1922, when Summerhill House was burnt down, it was owned by the Rowleys, it is possible that they remained the owners all along, making the data in the 1827 edition of *New Pocket Road-book*, and the 1837 *Topographical Dictionary* erroneous. Another possibility is that the Rowleys again inherited it, or bought it back, before 1882.

Only using free information on the internet, it proved not possible to discover whether in 1824 and 1825, when the Disney family lived in [Summerhill House](#) also the Baron and Baroness lived there, or who owned Summerhill House after the death of Clotworthy Rowley in 1825. It would be interesting though, to also know these details about the “[immense baroque palace](#),” once one of Ireland’s most remarkable houses.