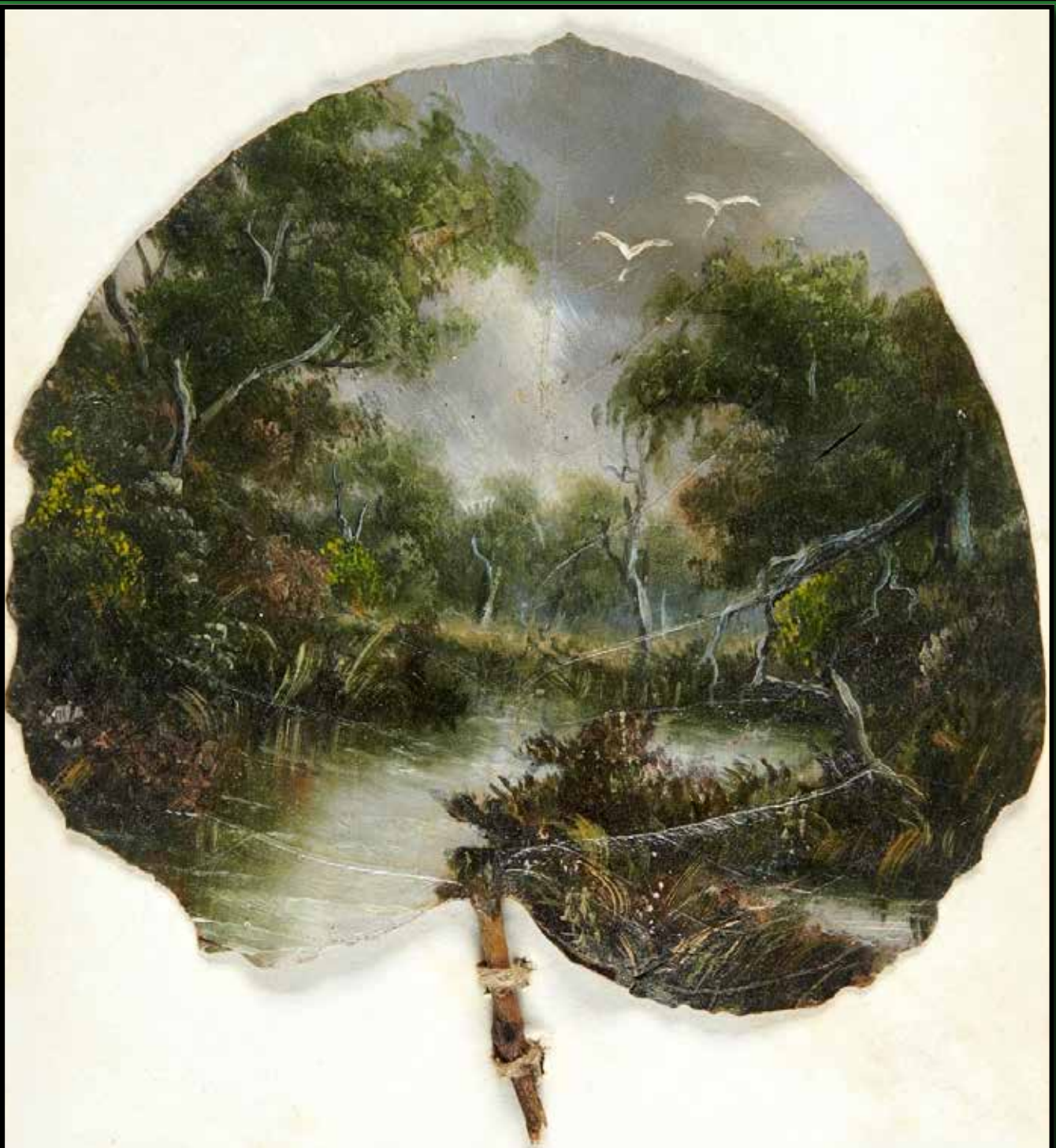


# Eustace Families Post

Eustace Families Association

Tucson, Arizona

April 2026



*Alfred William Eustace (1820-1907)  
Australian Landscape; inscribed 1903 on Eucalyptus leaf.*

# Eustace Families Association

The Eustace Families Association was formed in London, England during 1975. For the past 50 years the Eustace Families Association has:

\* Preserved for posterity the considerable knowledge now held in the histories of families originating in Flanders and the British Isles who bear the name "Eustace" or spelling variants thereof and of their descendants throughout the world.

\* Encouraged and assisted namesakes to research the story of their immediate and extended families and to disseminate the knowledge gained to those interested.

\* Developed and extended friendship and understanding between namesakes and welcomed visitors from overseas.

The Eustace Families Association was formed during 1975 in the United Kingdom by the late Donald W. Eustace of Chiswick (London), and other family members. Following the death of Donald Eustace in 1993, the Eustace Families Association took a brief hiatus. In 1995, David Eustace of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England and Ronald Eustice of Savage, Minnesota, USA began to correspond via e-mail and the Eustace Families Association was resurrected. Eustace Families Musters (Reunions) have been held in 1979 (Pyrton), 1981 (Bledlow), 1983 (Watlington), 1985 (Lambeth) and 1999 (Watlington). The Great Eustace Gathering was held at Ballymore Eustace, Ireland in 2009.

The Eustice family of Waseca County, Minnesota has had well-attended family gatherings on numerous occasions. In 2011 Eustice families of New Jersey held a gathering with over 100 in attendance.

Beginning in 2006, the Eustace Families Association began gathering Y-chromosome DNA data on male namesakes of various origins. More than 165 namesakes have submitted DNA samples. DNA profiles of 16 to 67 markers have been compared. Contact Ronald Eustice to participate in the program.

Membership applications may be obtained through contact with any member of the volunteer committee listed in the column to the right.

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**The Cover:** *Australian Landscape; inscribed 1903 on Eucalyptus leaf by Alfred William Eustace 1827-1907).*

Painter, taxidermist, musician and shepherd, Alfred William Eustace began his working life as gamekeeper for the Earl of Craven at Ashdown Park, Berkshire, United Kingdom much like his father. Known as the "Bush Artist of Black Dog Creek," Alfred William Eustace kept brushes and artist paint in his knapsack as he herded his flock of sheep in remote parts near Chiltern, Victoria, Australia. He was a man of many talents; he taught music, played the cornet, violin and guitar and supplied the music for early dances. He wrote poetry and practiced taxidermy as well as painting. Always traveling with oils or watercolors in a backpack, it was while working as shepherd that, lacking canvas or board, he decided to use leaves – what he called his 'Bush Canvas'. These paintings on gum-leaves made his name as an artist, were described as 'little gems of loveliness' and received positive comments from Queen Victoria. However, Alfred was most insistent in clarifying that his Bush Canvas were not gum leaves but were from sapling red box trees. Some examples of his larger paintings can be seen in the Athenaeum Museum as well as at the National Library of Australia and the National Gallery of Victoria. AW. Eustace was also a highly skilled taxidermist. Collections of birds and animals that he prepared can be seen in Australia's Beechworth Museum.

# From The Editor's Desk



*Ronald & Margaret Eustice*

As 2026 arrives, let's reflect on the many blessings that we have. While there is much strife and suffering in the world, we must be thankful that we live in democracies that allow us freedom of expression, educational opportunities and freedom to worship.

Personally, we are thankful for the many friendships that we have made as a result of our common interest in family history. Shortly after our marriage in 1975, we began to research our families' history. One of the first contacts we made was with Donald W. Eustace in Chiswick (London), United Kingdom. For the next 20 years or so, we collaborated on publication of the Eustace Families Post (EFP). When Donald passed away in the early 1990s, the project lay dormant for a time until David J. Eustace of Cheltenham, UK connected with us.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

## PAGE

Alfred W Eustace: Bush Artist of Black Dog Creek.....	4-14
Scenes from Ft Eustis. Virginia and Eustis, Nebraska .....	15-22
Who was Williamson Tomlin Eustace? .....	23-24
Muster commemorate 90th birthday of Philip Eustace.....	25-26
Maurice Eustace: Lord Chancellor of Ireland.....	27-32
Three Maurice Eustaces of the XVII Century.....	33
Eustace Families of Castlemore, County Carlow, Ireland.....	34-42
Membership Application.....	43
Useless Eustace .....	44

In 1974, Donald W. Eustace, Chiswick (London), England published "The Eustaces of the Chiltern Hundreds" which together with "The Eustis Families In The United States" by Warner Eustis (1968) and "Genealogy of The Eustis Family" by Professor Henry Lawrence Eustis (1877) extensively documented Eustace and Eustis families of Oxfordshire, England.

During his research, Donald was surprised to learn that roughly half of our namesakes in Great Britain are not English, but Irish. We have learned that namesakes in Cornwall are probably from one family and that they do not share the same ancestral roots with English or Irish namesakes. As a result of research by Dawna Eustice Lund, much is known about the families of Cornwall. Our research has traced most Irish namesakes back to their counties and through DNA linked them to their origins.

***Send us News! We are in need of announcements and articles for the Eustace Families Post. This issue features photos and information from Paul Eustace, Harrowgate, UK. THANK YOU!!!***

With David's help, the Eustace Families Association and the EFP were resurrected. We are grateful to the subscribers who have stayed with us as well as the many who have joined us through the years. Your interest and support keeps us going and we thank you. We are hoping to expand our membership and encourage you to spread the word to the extended families. We take pride and satisfaction in saying that we are one of very few family newsletters that has continued for half a century. Thank you!

We are always pleased to have contact with anything or anyone connected with the families. In February, we were very pleased to have the visit of long-time EFA member, Steve Eustis of San Angelo, Texas who was in Tucson on business. Recent phone calls and emails with Jeff Eustis of Seattle were especially welcome. We are always happy to chat by email [reustice@gmail.com](mailto:reustice@gmail.com) or phone at (612) 202-1016.

*Ronald & Margaret Eustice*

## ALFRED WILLIAM EUSTACE: *Bush Artist of Black Dog Creek*



Painter, taxidermist, musician and shepherd, Alfred William Eustace began his working life as gamekeeper for the Earl of Craven at Ashdown Park, Berkshire, United Kingdom much like his father. In 1847 Alfred married Sarah Anne Collins; they had two sons and four daughters. After arriving at Melbourne, Australia in the *Ballangeich* on 20 August 1851, Eustace was employed by his brother-in-law's brother, Jason Withers, as a shepherd on the El Dorado and Ullina squatting runs at Black Dog Creek near Chiltern, Victoria. There he always carried a small box of oils or watercolours in his swag so that from his camp he could experiment with color and techniques in his painting. Said to have been self-taught, he must have had some previous art training as his endeavours to capture the spirit and moods of the Australian bush were in a most competent European academic style.

Both watercolors and oils are known. His oil painting of the 1856 Woolshed gold rush is one of only two known pictures of this significant field (Burke Memorial Museum). He also recorded the arrival of the first Murray River steamboat to reach Albury. These paintings, together with others of important goldmines and town views he executed, are of great value to the history of North-East Victoria.

Canvas and board not being readily available, Eustace turned to using the large eucalyptus leaves that grew in the district up to 15 cm wide by 10 cm long. In a later letter to the editor of the *Argus*, he wrote that he first substituted flat leaves for canvas when tending sheep in the Ovens district during the goldrush of 1851-52. A report in the Sydney press in 1863 described several of his works in this medium: *They are painted on the leaves of a description of eucalyptus, unknown in this part of Australia, but which we are told is common in many parts of the south-western interior. The leaves are nearly circular and are a little more than three inches [7.6 cm] in diameter. The scenes depicted on them are all descriptive of Australian bush life, and are apparently in watercolor, highly varnished ... The leaves before being painted have evidently been carefully dried and flattened, so that the surface is as smooth and even as card board. With the exception that the colors, from the brightness of the varnish, are somewhat "loud", the effect produced is of the very highest order.*

In adopting the Australian bush as his central theme and in using gum leaves Eustace earned himself the title 'Bush Artist', although during the 1850s and 1860s he worked as a house decorator and signwriter at Albury, NSW. He taught music, played the cornet, violin and guitar and supplied the music for early Albury dances. He wrote poetry and practiced taxidermy as well as painting. Most of his best works are signed and they often contain two or more birds on the wing against the sky. He also painted oils on board, canvas and card. In 1969 Christie's (South Kensington) offered for sale a set of four landscapes by Eustace painted on metal.

Among his paintings he recorded the first paddle steamer to arrive at Albury in 1855, as well as a painting of the Woolshed gold rush, one of only two known paintings of this gold field. Alfred was a "Renaissance man" long before that term was popularized. Along with being a noted and possibly self-taught artist he was also a taxidermist, musician (playing the cornet, violin and guitar), poet, house-decorator, signwriter, spiritualist and shepherd.

Always traveling with oils or watercolors in a backpack, it was while working as shepherd that, lacking canvas or board, he decided to use leaves – what he called his 'Bush Canvas'. These paintings on gum-leaves made his name as an artist, were described as 'little gems of loveliness' and received positive comments from Queen Victoria. However, Alfred was most insistent in clarifying that his Bush Canvas were not gum leaves but were from sapling red box trees.

In January 1857 the Argus reprinted an extract from the Albury Border Post discussing four paintings by Eustace: Roper's Point , Camping Out , A Group of Australian Trees and The First Glimpse of Albury . In 1863 Eustace held an art union at Field's Horse and Jockey Inn at Albury to dispose of a number of his oil paintings. A large painting of the Reid's Creek Falls near Beechworth, a scene on the Murray River Flats with the river in flood, a landscape on a sheep-run, and a roadside public house with travellers camping nearby were among the prizes. Other large oils on canvas survive, but it was his gum leaves that brought him fame. In 1866 he showed a number of oil paintings on gum leaves at the Melbourne Intercolonial Exhibition. (His oil painting of a Murray River landscape was shown at the same time by the Beechworth bank manager A.K. Shepherd.) His 1892 oil on canvas painting of a colonial bark-roofed bush cottage with family and poultry in front of it was offered at Sotheby's Melbourne on 30 April 2002, lot115 (color ill. est. \$4,000-6,000).

Albert and Caroline le Souëf lent two of Eustace's gum leaves decorated with Australian scenes to the 1869 Melbourne Public Library Exhibition. At both the 1872 Victorian Inter-colonial and the 1873 London International exhibitions George Bancroft showed 'a case containing a stuffed opossum, with bush sketches in oil on gum leaves, painted by Mr Eustace, a shepherd near Albury'. His treatment of sky and clouds brought praise from critics of his day. The Melbourne Age reported in 1876: 'Eustace's celebrated paintings on gum-leaves are again attracting attention ... Mr. Eustace is an elegant artist ... he seems without effort to catch the color and spirit of Australian scenery'. Six of his oil on gumleaf landscapes of the Albury district were sent to the 1886 London Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

Eustace held another art union at Ballarat in 1884 to dispose of nine of his paintings. In 1893 he held a solo exhibition of gumleaf paintings at Stevens's Gallery, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. That year Queen Victoria, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, thanked him for the 'interesting paintings with which Her Majesty has been much pleased'. By 1896 he was receiving orders for gumleaf paintings from nearly all the capitals of Europe, and examples of his work were acknowledged by the Emperor Frederick of Germany and the Tsar of Russia as well as by the Governors of NSW and Victoria. The renowned 'Bush Artist' died on May 29, 1907 and was buried in Chiltern New Cemetery.

Alfred William (A. W.) Eustace was the fifth son of John and Alicia (Dowling) Eustace. John Eustace was a gamekeeper to the Earl of Craven at Ashdown Park in Berkshire, England. Alfred W. Eustace was born 4th February 1820. For a time, Alfred himself was employed as an assistant game keeper by the Earl of Craven at Ashdown Park.

At the age of 27 years on 15th April, 1847, he married Sarah Ann Collins. One of Alfred Eustace's childhood friends in Berkshire was Jason Withers. Withers emigrated to Australia and arrived in Port Phillip in 1840. He quickly acquired assets and by May, 1851, he owned the IDlina and Eldorado Runs on the Black Dog Creek, in all some 55,000 acres of grazing land.

In 1851/52, Eustace with his wife, son Sidney and daughter Kate, sailed to Australia on the Ballangeich. They arrived at the Eldorado Run and camped near where the Beechworth Road crosses the Black Dog Creek in the northeast of Victoria.

Employed by Jason Withers as a shepherd, he always carried a small box of oils in his swag to pass the long hours in the out-back. He began to experiment with hues, ton and techniques and was able to vividly capture the colour and spirit of the Australian bush.

About 1856 he painted a small picture of the world famous Woolshed gold-rush and during the next few years became well known in North-East Victoria. John Sadlier, a police officer stationed at Beechworth in the 1850's noted that Eustace painted: " ... some really exquisite scenes. He was of an easy-going dreamy temperament, a student of nature only, despising the works of men. Unfortunately his drawings were on eucalyptus leaves, the largest and roundest he could find and not on canvas, and no doubt have all perished long ago.

In 1876 the Melbourne "Age" reported: "Eustace's celebrated paintings on gum leaves are again attracting attention . ... Mr. Eustace is an elegant artist ... he seems without effort to catch the colour and spirit of Australian scenery ... "

In 1884, Eustace held an Art Union in Ballarat to dispose of nine paintings, something he had done as early as 1864 at Albury. In 1893 he held an exhibition of gum-leaf paintings at Steven's Gallery, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. By 1896 he was receiving orders from many parts of Europe. At the turn of the century, examples of his work were acknowledged by Queen Victoria, Emperor Frederick of Germany, the Czar of Russia and the governors of New South Wales and Victoria. Some examples of his larger paintings can be seen in the Athenaeum Museum as well as at the National Library of Australia and the National Gallery of Victoria. AW. Eustace was also a highly skilled taxidermist. Collections of birds and animals that he prepared can be seen in Australia's Beechworth Museum.



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*A. W. Eustace Painting c1900.7*



*An impressive collection of paintings by WW Eustace on Eucalyptus gum leaves.*



*Dandenong Creek by Alfred William Eustace ; c1890; Oil on board.*



*Dandenong Creek Flat ,Victoria. c1890; Oil on board.*

## ALFRED WILLIAM EUSTACE: BUSH ARTIST OF BLACK DOG CREEK

Little was known of Alfred Eustace's writing during his lifetime, although some pieces were published in the local, *Federal Standard* newspaper.

Recently The Athenaeum Trust at Chiltern was presented with Alfred Eustace's original hand written book of verse by the Beadle family. It appears that the book was all actually compiled towards the end of his life; with earlier works, some written in England probably copied from older pieces of paper. This selection of approximately one third his known works, concentrates on his family life around Chilterns. Some of the longer written pieces give a close and sentimental view of the English countryside and reflect his interest in religious arguments.

Towards the end his life, Eustace, with some other Chiltern identities, became very interested in spiritualism and held lectures and seances.

A. W. and Sarah Eustace were the parents of six children: Sidney, Kate, Elizabeth, Charles, Emily and Annie; the last four being born in Australia. Annie Eustace, who married Edward Jessup, successfully followed her father in painting gum-leaf landscapes. A picture by Annie Jessup was presented to the Chiltern Atheneum by Sidney Eustace, with his collection of local timbers.

Sarah Eustace died on 6th February 1890 and Alfred W. Eustace passed away on 29th May 1907. Their graves, with that of their daughter Elizabeth, are in the Presbyterian section of the Chiltern New Cemetery.

Elizabeth Eustace, daughter of A. W. and Sarah, was born in Albury on 23 November 1852. At the age of 102 years in 1954, she met Queen Elizabeth II. When Elizabeth died in 1959 at the age of 106, she was considered to be Australia's oldest living person.



*Beechworth Landscape by Alfred William Eustace; c1880*



*Chiltern: A Fascinating small historic town: Chiltern is a country town of some 1400 people which is distinguished by its historic streetscape of well-preserved brick buildings and old-fashioned timber verandas. This antique appearance has drawn filmmakers on several occasions - most notably for the filming of Walt Disney's *Ride a Wild Pony* in 1974. It is located amidst an agricultural landscape 500 metres off the Hume Freeway and 270 km north-east of Melbourne, between Wangarata and Wodonga.*



*Murray River Scene by Alfred William Eustace*

River scenes such as this one of the River Murray dominate amongst Alfred William Eustace's paintings and provide us with a point of comparison as to how the various landscapes have changed since the mid-nineteenth century and the impact of white settlement.

The human figures in this painting are subservient to the landscape, especially the river, and are primarily relegated to the perimeter of the painting providing some sense of Eustace's priorities as an artist. This painting resides in the Jindera Pioneer Museum.



*View to the Mountains*  
A. W. Eustace



*Ducks on a Dam surrounded by heavily wooded countryside, Oil on board, 15 X 19.5cm.  
Painted by Alfred William Eustace*

## THE LEGACY OF BLACK DOG CREEK

By Ken Eustace of Wagga Wagga, NSW, Australia



*On The Black Dog Creek, Chiltern, Victoria by Alfred William Eustace (c1870)*

Black Dog Creek runs through the Mt. Pilot/Deep Creek/Eldorado run area, (Eldorado Park Station) along either side of the Chiltem-Beechworth Rd, flowing west under the Hume Highway towards the Murray River in Northeast Victoria, Australia. The first Europeans in the area were led by Joseph Rawdon who was involved in overlanding cattle to Port Phillip in 1836. Legend says that he shot a rare 'black' dingo and Black-Dog Creek was named in its honour.

The first squatters took up land here in 1839 and a bush inn was established in 1844. Some other buildings developed around the hotel - later transformed into a police outpost and often visited by Robert O'Hara Burke, of the famous Burke and Wills expedition. It was here that Alfred William Eustace settled with his family and friends at a time when several gold rushes were underway in the 1850s. In 1851, Alfred William Eustace, wife Sarah Anne (nee Collins), son Sidney and daughter Kate, arrived at the Eldorado Run and camped near where the Beechworth Road crosses the Black Dog Creek. The next four Eustace children were born in the district: Elizabeth, Charles, Emily and Annie.

The Chiltem Atheneum is a good point of departure with many of Alfred Eustace's gum leaf paintings on display as well as some works by his youngest daughter, Annie (Jessup). In September 2005 a new music bowl beside the shore of Lake Anderson, was dedicated to Alfred William Eustace, is seen on the left as you head for the Beechworth Road.

The Beechworth Road was busy with gold diggers and the goods and passengers arriving on mail coaches and bullock drays, during the Indigo and New Ballarat gold rushes. In the 1850's the Melbourne to Sydney road included Wangaratta and Beechworth before heading to Wodonga and Albury. Coaches ran daily from Beechworth to Melbourne, Yackandandah and Albury. As you drive today from Chiltern towards Beechworth, shortly after leaving the Hume Highway, in a paddock on the right, you will see a small mullock heap (pile of waste rock) made by the Star Gold Mining Co. and its old Star Gold mine. A short distance further on the left is Brady's Hill, at the foot of the Skeleton Range, where the Ashley, Eustace and Withers families has various mines in the area.



*Alfred Eustace [1820-1907] Pioneer bush artist, shepherd (Eldorado Run), poet & taxidermist of Black Dog Creek and Chiltern, Victoria.*

Alfred William Eustace painted landscape scenes on White-box eucalyptus leaves. He displayed his works at exhibitions in Albury (1864) and in Melbourne (1884). A long time friend of Jason, Thomas and William Withers, Alfred and his family came to the Black Dog creek district to shepherd sheep. It was here that he learned to paint.

Elizabeth Eustace [1852-1959] Daughter of AW Eustace, Elizabeth was the first female born in Albury NSW and oldest living Australian before her death at 106 in 1959.

A tale of two Betty's. In 1954 at the age of 102, Elizabeth Eustace was taken to Benalla Railway Station where she was greeted in person by Queen Elizabeth II on her first Royal Tour of Australia.

## THE LEGACY OF BLACK DOG CREEK

These gold-bearing reefs rise to the left, but were not very profitable, so Alfred Eustace made his living as a shepherd and taxidermist, before his fame as a bush artist and poet. Gold was discovered in Beechworth in February 1852, often called the Ovens gold rush and was followed by discoveries at Yackandandah, Nine Mile Creek, Stanley and Wooragee. The three main gold fields areas were Beechworth, Yackandandah and the 'Indigo Gold-field' (Chiltem-Rutherglen). By about November 1852 there were about 8000 miners camped on Beechworth's Spring and Reid's Creek goldfields. Living conditions were hard, with unsanitary conditions and cold and wet winters that increased risk of illness and disease. Amid the success stories, in many ways life on the Beechworth goldfields seems to have been harder and generally less rewarding for the hopeful digger - and his family. Over four million ounces of gold (115 tonnes) were found in the first 14 years after its discovery in 1852. By 1866 the rush was almost over in Beechworth.

Hillgreen is situated on the left hand side along the Black Dog road, just before the right-hand turn off to Deep Creek road and belonged to the family of William and Annie Ashley (nee Withers). Alfred Eustace and members of the Withers families had grown up in Berkshire, England, prior to coming to Australia, so Annie named Hillgreen after the fond memories that she had of her grandfather's home in Berkshire.

From Hillgreen, the view of Mt. Pilot stretches across the the Eldorado Park Station, where a brick home was built in 1844 by Captain W.F. Baker RN, with iron lace windows for security. This property of 320 acres was bought from the Captain by Jason Withers in 1851 and was freeholded in 1855.

In 30 January 1860, Jason sold 10 acres to his brother William by pre-emptive right, a condition where squatters held the right to buy land at 1 pound per acre from the Crown. In 1869, Alfred Eustace also bought 10 acres of the run from Jason.

On the Deep Creek road is the Mulberry Cottage site to the right on the other side of Deep Creek near some Willow trees. Gold diggers need food and clothing and the gold diggings at Woolshed Falls was a ready market for fresh produce. Her William Withers was a market gardener who supplied the Woolshed diggings with fresh vegetables.

Further along on the left was the Upper Black Dog Creek state school, which served the families in the district, in roll call order: Ashley, Byron, Eustace, Gallowick, Martin, Olholms, Reece, Towers and Travis families. Alfred Withers and his wife Emily (nee Eustace) lived next to the school and raised a large family. The deep creek road continues and later a turn to the right into Martin's Lane crosses Deep Creek, which had deep pools in those days, where locals caught some black fish. In the days before a church was built, the area near the creek had an open air baptistry where early converts were immersed in the waters of the creek, including Alfred's daughter, Elizabeth.

Continue the journey along the Beechworth Road and enter the unique white box eucalyptus forest area as you get closer to the Mt. Pilot turn-off to the left. If you get a chance to stop safely, take a closer look at the white box trees, with the large juvenile leaves that Alfred Eustace used in his gum leaf paintings. Soon you enter the area of Gidley's Gap, where the Gap Inn had a shady past, but is now among the forest with some recent buildings and a dam.

The Gap Inn was burnt down 3 times with some lives lost. Gidley was a suspected cattle rustler and was known to the Ned Kelly gang. Both Thomas Gidley and Ned Kelly spent some time in Beechworth Gaol which was built 1857 to 1860.

Take the left turn along the Old Coach Rd to the Mt. Pilot reserve and climb to the top of this granite hill to see the panoramic view. The summit of Mt Pilot is 548 m above sea-level. The mountain was important to local Aboriginal clans as a spiritual and ceremonial site. Springs in the rocks here were also an essential water source. The view towards Chiltem includes the land that Jason Withers held from the Crown as well as the Ullina run further away and Mt Saddleback, Mt Barambogie and the Skeleton range. It is thought that Captain Baker gave Mt Pilot and 'Little Pilot' their names (pilot of the watch).

The famous Woolshed Falls diggings were a busy place. After Mt. Pilot, the next turn off the Beechworth Road to right is to the falls. Aaron Sherritt was shot here by the Kelly gang. Sherritt was a life-long friend of Joe Byne, another Woolshed lad and Kelly gang member, but had 'fingered' Joe to the police, so Joe shot him.

## THE LEGACY OF BLACK DOG CREEK

*By Ken Eustace of Wagga Wagga, NSW, Australia*



*Coastal View in Australia by A.W. Eustace (1820-1907)*

*National Gallery of Australia*

*(Painted on Eucalyptus leaf)*

The Kelly Gang knew that when news of Aaron Sherritt's murder in 1880 was telegraphed to Melbourne a party of police would be sent to Beechworth, the nearest point to the Sherritt home. This event triggered the Glenrowan Inn siege on 27 June 1880 and the eventual demise of the Kelly Gang. Local Superintendent, John Sadler, who described Eustace's painting in his notes, received 240 pounds 17/3 as his share of the 8000 pound reward offered on the Kelly gang.

On another occasion, the miners led their political candidate, Daniel Cameron, into Beechworth on a horse shod with shoes made of gold. Cameron mounted the horse with the Golden Horseshoes and entered Beechworth with a procession of runners giving out free beer. The landscape around Woolshed Falls was a favourite area to be painted by Alfred Eustace, including those painted on the white box gum leaves.

The road lead to Eldorado where the Cocks Pioneer Dredging Co. recovered many ounces of gold and the dredge ruins still exist sunken in water. Near Reid's creek Edmund Poynter and William Ashley made and lost a fortune! William Withers sent William and Annie to the Woolshed school. It may be here that she met William Ashley (her future husband) who she married at 15 years of age.

In Beechworth, a visit to the Burke Museum (Robert O'Hara Burke) complements the collection of Eustace works found at the Chiltern Atheneum and the Jindera NSW and Yackandandah museums. At the back of the Burke museum is a collection of animals which Alfred Eustace prepared as a taxidermist for the museum. One of the paintings here by Eustace is titled 'The Woolshed Diggings'. The painting shows a scene of the Woolshed Gold Rush, with Alfred Eustace appearing, Hitchcock-like, in his Sunday best clothes in the background, observing the action. This painting, plus one photograph, are the only known record of the diggings .

## FORT EUSTIS, VIRGINIA



*Fort Eustis, located on Mulberry Island in Newport News, Virginia, has evolved from a World War I artillery training camp into a major U.S. Army transportation and aviation hub.*

**Colonial and Early History:** The land that is now Fort Eustis was originally known as Mulberry Island, settled by English colonists shortly after Jamestown in 1607. It was inhabited by Native Americans for thousands of years prior and later became home to colonists, indentured servants, and enslaved Africans. Notable early settlers included Phettiplace Clouse, who received a land grant in 1619, and the area played a role in the survival of Jamestown during the Third Supply mission in 1610. Over centuries, Mulberry Island witnessed events from the Civil War, including Confederate fortifications built largely by enslaved laborers.

**Establishment as Camp Eustis:** In response to World War I, the U.S. Army purchased Mulberry Island on March 7, 1918, for \$538,000 to establish Camp Eustis, a coast artillery replacement center and balloon observation school. Named after Brevet Brigadier General Abraham Eustis, a 19th-century artillery officer, the camp trained approximately 20,000 soldiers in heavy artillery, trench mortars, anti-aircraft operations, and observation balloon techniques. Construction employed over 39,000 workers, and the first troops arrived on June 7, 1918. After World War I, Camp Eustis served as a demobilization post.

**Transition to Fort Eustis and Interwar Period:** In 1923, Camp Eustis became Fort Eustis, a permanent military installation garrisoned by artillery and infantry units. During the Great Depression, the fort temporarily served as a federal prison for bootleggers and a Works Progress Administration facility.

**World War II and Transportation Focus:** Fort Eustis was reactivated in 1940 as a Coast Artillery Replacement Training Center and anti-aircraft training site. In 1943, it hosted the formation of the Caribbean Regiment of the British Army. Post-war, the fort became a transportation hub, consolidating training in rail, marine, amphibious operations, and logistics. The U.S. Army Transportation School moved to Fort Eustis from New Orleans in 1946, establishing the fort as a center for overland, air, and water transport training.



*Ft. Eustis is named after Brevet Brigadier General Abraham Eustis (1786-1843), a prominent U.S. Army officer known for his service in the War of 1812 and the Seminole Wars, and he was the first commander of Fort Monroe in Virginia. Abraham Eustis was born on March 26, 1786, in Petersburg, Virginia. He graduated from Harvard College with a Bachelor's degree in 1804 and obtained a Master's degree from Bowdoin College in 1806. Initially, he practiced law before joining the U.S. Army in 1808.*



*Camp Eustis (1918)*



*Camp Eustis, from a postcard (1920s)*



*Entrance to Camp Eustis, from a postcard (1920s)*

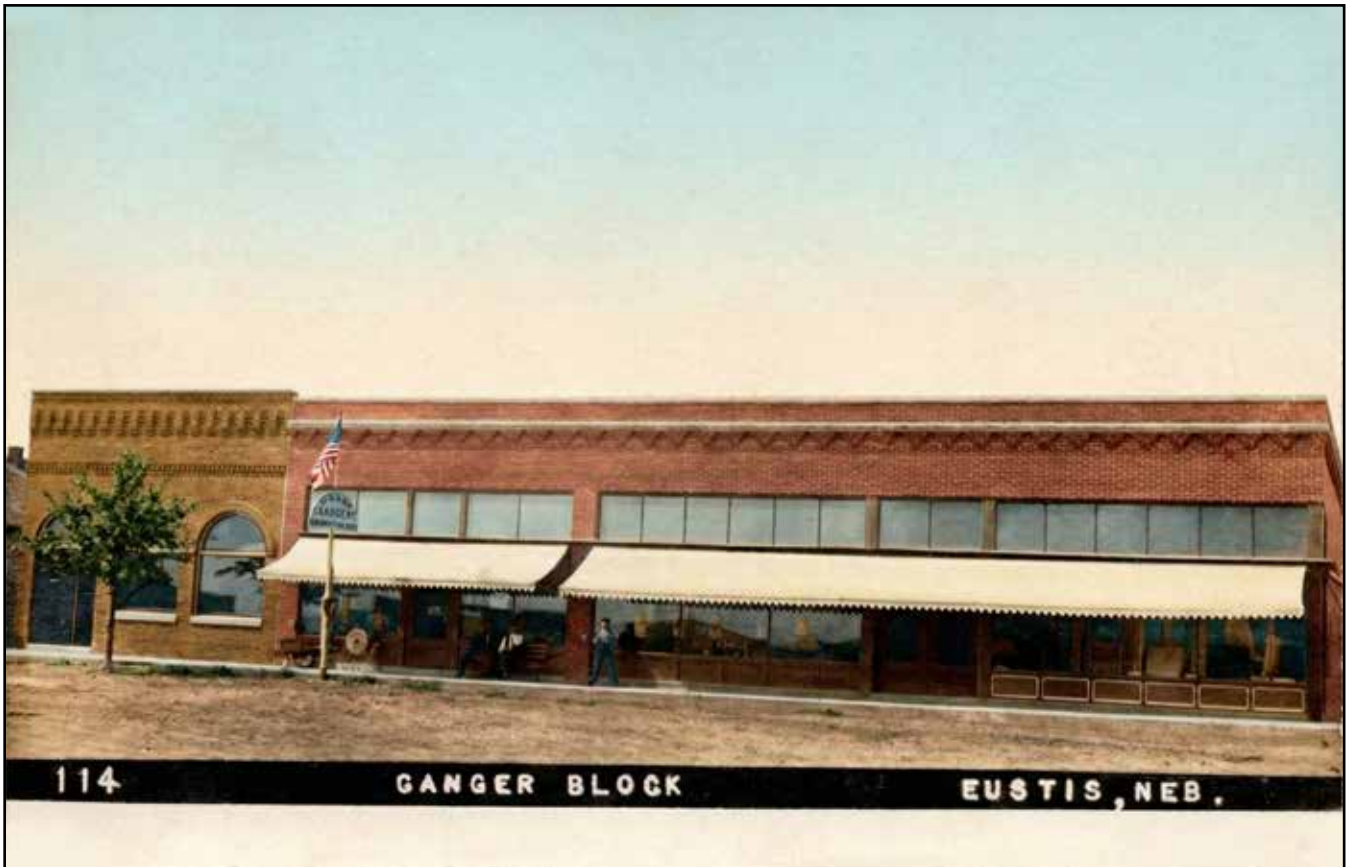


*Chapel, Camp Eustis, from a postcard (1920s)*



*Post Exchange, Camp Eustis, from a postcard (1920s)*

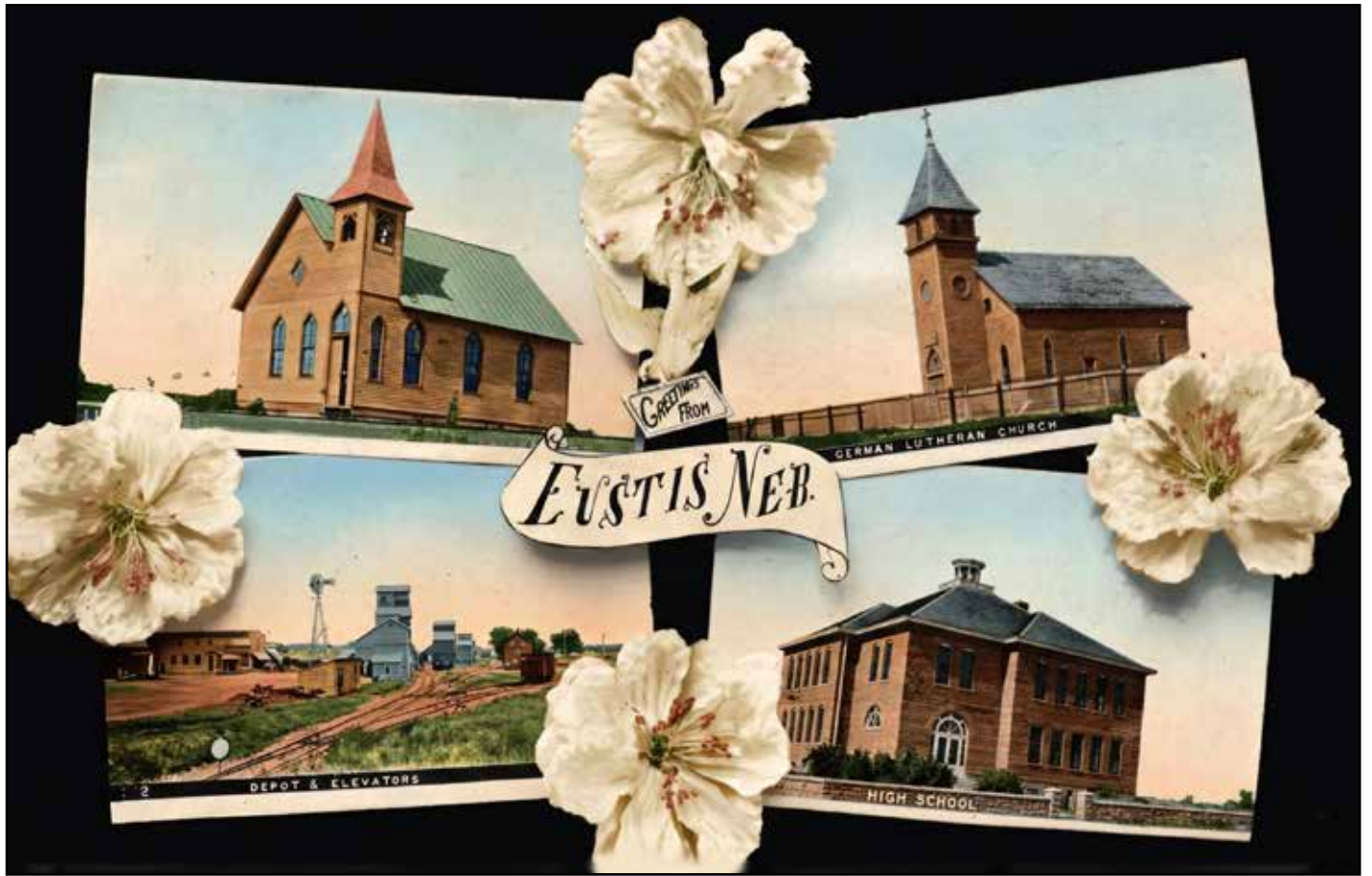
EARLY SCENES FROM EUSTIS, NEBRASKA



*Ganger Block, Eustis, Nebraska, from a postcard (c1910)*



*Taborsky Pharmacy Interior, Eustis, Nebraska, from a postcard (c1910)*



*Eustis, Nebraska Postcard (c1910)*



*Eustis, Nebraska Postcard (c1900s)*

EUSTIS, NEBRASKA



*Eustis, Nebraska (c1900)*



*Token, The Gauger Store, Eustis, Nebraska*



*Token, Eustis Co-op Oil Company, Eustis, Nebraska*



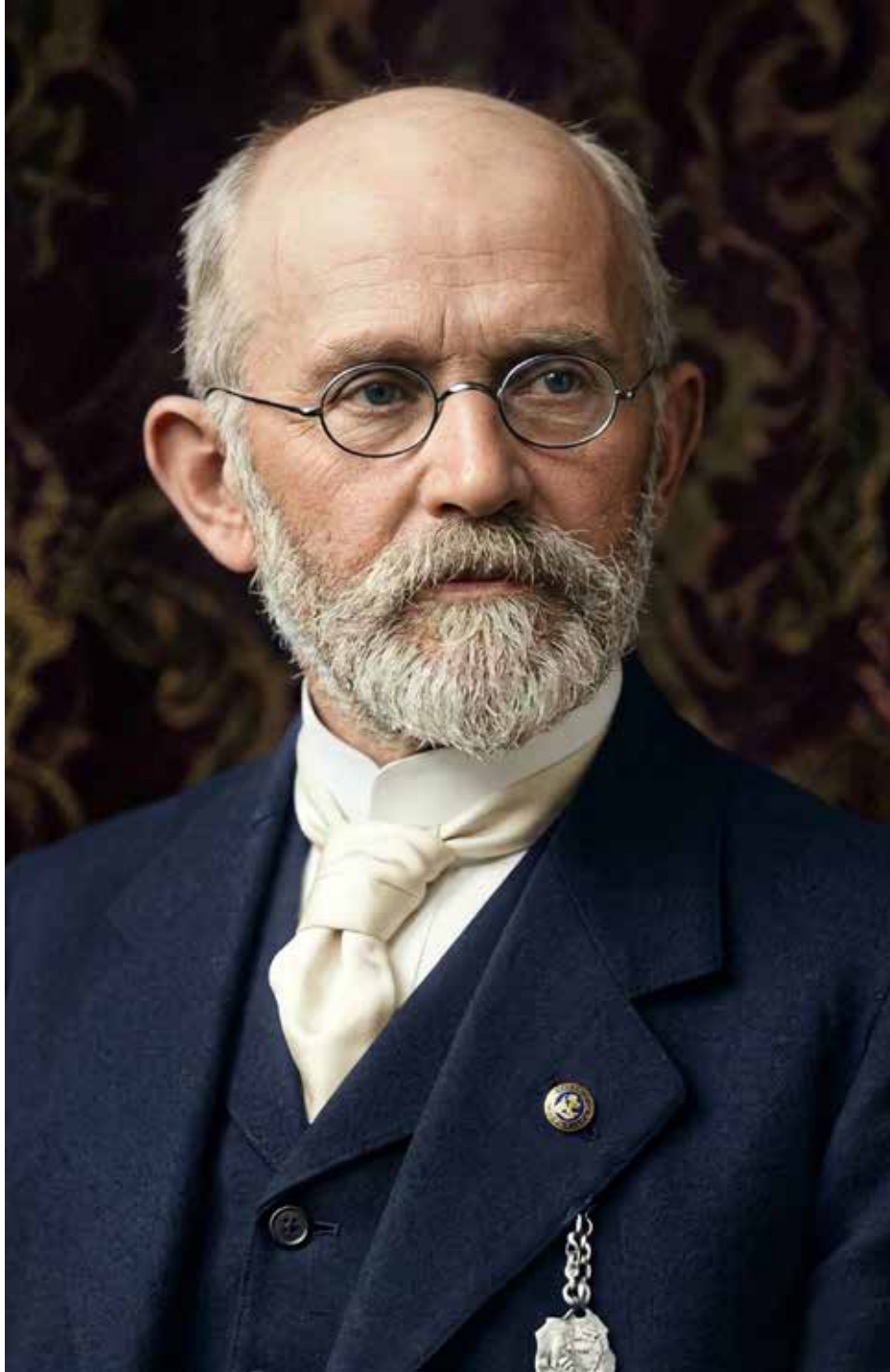
*Scene near Eustis, Nebraska, postcard (1916)*



*Sausagemakers at Eustis, Nebraska, postcard (1916)*  
*Eustis, Nebraska claimed the title "Sausage Capitol of the World" because their wurst was best.*

## CAPTAIN W. T. EUSTACE VETERAN CITIZEN, PASSES AWAY AT 12:30 THURSDAY

*Athens (Texas) Weekly Review (Jan. 13, 1927)*



*Williamson Tomlin (WT) Eustace  
(1845-1927)*

Captain W. T. Eustace beloved citizen of Athens, Texas and known affectionately as “the grand old man” passed away at the family home at 12:30 Thursday January . Death came peacefully to the Old Veteran as he was partaking of some nourishment. His wife who had been his tender and constant companion during his long days of illness was at his side assisting him in taking his nourishment when he suddenly breathed his last.

There was no murmur of pain as the old veteran crossed the last battle line.

Captain Eustace had been in ill health for the past year or more. He had been confined to his room for some months and the last time he ventured out was to participate in the primary election. He had been gradually growing weaker for the past few months and when Dr. J. K. Webster made his customary morning call Wednesday he told Mrs. Eustace then that he could not last longer than from twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

It is doubtful if there has ever been a citizen of Henderson county held in higher esteem than Captain Eustace. Truly he was the friend of every man, woman and child of the county. The old veteran had held many positions of trust in the county. As a lawyer he early entered politics and he retained his interest up until his death. He was a staunch admirer of the late President Wilson and in his younger days he was tower of strength to the Democratic party.

The deceased veteran was a staunch member of the Methodist church and an active member of the board of stewards for many years. Three years ago he was elected an honorary member of the board for life. Captain Eustace was an active Mason, having taken the Master Mason, Royal Arch Chapter and Knights Templar degrees. In early life he joined the Episcopal church but upon coming to Texas and finding no church of that denomination here he affiliated with the Methodist church.

The deceased traced his ancestry back to England. In the early days of Virginia, his grandfather, John Eustace came to this country from London and settled in the village of Kilmarnock, Lancaster county. He married there and reared one son, William Conway Eustace, father of the deceased. Captain Eustace was the youngest of four children.

## EUSTACE, TEXAS NAMED IN HIS HONOR

He was born in Lancaster county, Virginia, August 24th 1845. His father was an extensive planter and slave-holder so that his childhood was surrounded with affluence. Captain Eustace was educated in the Upperville Military Academy. He was an advanced student in that institution when the war began. he at once left school and enlisted in his country's cause in the 47th Virginia regiment. After two years he was transferred to the 1st Richmond Howitzer, where he remained until the surrender at Appomattox. He served through the entire war and was in all the principal engagements of the Army of Northern Virginia. He served under Beauregard, Johnson and Lee.

After the war the negroes were freed and the family fortune swept away, and Captain Eustace as with a thousand others was left on his own resources. He surveyed the field and determined to come west.

He landed in Shreveport, La., May 1865 and remained there two years. He then moved to Tyler where he lived for only a few months, coming thence to Henderson county where he established himself for life. Early in life he became a teacher and taught successfully for eight years. Many of the older citizens now living in Athens received their early instruction under him.

In 1875 he was elected district clerk. In 1880 he was elected county clerk and in 1888 he served as county superintendent after being elected to that office.

In 1890 his sight became enfeebled and he withdrew from public life and entered the practice of law. Later, however, he again accepted office, this time serving the city as assessor and collector and later as city recorder.

In his early law practice he was associated with the late Dr. J. B. Bishop and Judge Joe A. McDonald. Although he retired from politics on his own volition, at the insistence of friends he entered the race for Congress when the late Gordon Russell was elevated to the Federal bench and resigned that position. He was defeated by a very small margin by Judge Lively of Van Zandt county but the captain carried Henderson county solidly with the exception of one lone vote. His friends always contended that this vote against him was simply an error on the part of some citizen.

Captain Eustace was twice married, the first time to Miss Margaret Davis, who died in 1881. His second marriage was to Miss Mattie Mitcham, who survives him. Her devotion to him during his long illness is one of the beautiful examples of a truly happy life. A large number of nephews and nieces survive the captain. Among them Captain Lowe of Virginia.

Captain Eustace has been honored on many occasions. When the T. & N. O. railway was built through this section due recognition was given the captain by naming the town of Eustace for him. A Virginian by birth the captain inherited the characteristic Chesterfieldian bearing of one from that noble state and it was a joy to meet him and receive that ever welcome handshake.

Honorary pall- bearers consisted of members of the Athens Bar, board of Stewards of the Methodist Church and all city and county officials.

*Handbook of Texas Online - Eustace, TX*



*Pioneer home in Eustace, Texas*



**Captain Williamson Tomlin (WT) Eustace**  
Birth: 24 Aug 1845; Lancaster County, Virginia  
Death: 6 Jan 1927 (aged 81), Athens, Henderson Co, Texas  
Burial: Athens Cemetery



Members of the Eustace Family of Burford (Oxfordshire) United Kingdom recently held a family muster near Retford (Nottinghamshire) to commemorate the 90th birthday of Philip Albert Bernard Eustace who died in January 2013. Four generations of the family enjoyed a convivial lunch and time together reminiscing about family members of bygone days. Back row; Steven Eustace, Paul Forrest, Paul Eustace, Hannah Eustace. Middle row; Tilly Eustace Forrest, Harriet Eustace-Forrest, George Eustace. Front row; Beatrice Eustace-Forrest, Henry Eustace, Joanna Eustace There was much enthusiasm for meeting again next year!



A smaller group took the opportunity to pay their respects to the grave of Philip Eustace's parents at nearby Gamston.



*Audrey Eustace 90th Birthday Celebration, Burford, Oxfordshire*

*Saturday 13th December 2025 saw the Eustace family of Burford, Oxfordshire, England gather to celebrate Audrey Eustace's 90th birthday. About 25 family members and half a dozen friends came together for a convivial lunch to celebrate the occasion. Sadly four family members were unable to be there because of the Influenza outbreak circulating in England at the moment. Audrey Eustace is seated in the centre with elder son Paul on the right and younger son Steven on the left of the picture. Submitted by Paul Eustace, Harrogate, United Kingdom*



*Eustace Muster (1999)*

*Paul Eustace is in the middle of the back row; Ronald Eustace is on the extreme right, Ronald's son Kevin is crouching in front*



*Maurice Eustace (1590-1665)*

*Maurice Eustace was speaker of the Irish House of Commons in 1639 and Lord Chancellor in 1660. Eustace Street in Dublin is named after him.*

## MAURICE EUSTACE (1590-1665)

### LORD CHANCELLOR, POLITICIAN, BARRISTER, JUDGE & COUNTRY GENTLEMAN

Sir Maurice Eustace (c. 1590 – 22 June 1665) was an Irish landowner, politician, barrister and judge of the seventeenth century who spent the last years of his career as Lord Chancellor of Ireland. He was the eldest of the three sons of John FitzWilliam Eustace, Constable of Naas (died 1623). Little is known of his mother, whose name is thought to be Catherine d'Arcy. Of his sisters, one, whose name is variously given as Elizabeth or Elinor, married Edmund Keating and had two sons, Oliver and John Keating, Chief Justice of the Irish Common Pleas, while another, Alice, married Robert Cusack of Rathgar Castle, but was apparently not the mother of his son Adam Cusack. Maurice Eustace of Harristown was the great nephew of Maurice Eustace of Castlemartin, the martyr.

After being a student, graduate of Trinity College in Dublin, he became a fellow of the college in 1625 and its lecturer in Hebrew. In his will, he left a legacy to maintain a Hebrew lecturer at Trinity. He had set his heart on a legal career, and after two years at Trinity College, he resigned from the fellowship and entered Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar, where he soon distinguished himself. Back in Dublin by 1630. He quickly built up a lucrative legal practice; it was said he could "earn forty gold pieces in a morning." His exceptional ability was soon earning him large fees and by 1634, he was Leader of the Irish Bar. That same year he became M.P. Athy and in 1639 was appointed Speaker of the House of Commons, receiving a knighthood. Over the next twenty years, he was given many generous royal grants for services as Speaker and other functions.

He was a clear-headed person and lost no opportunity of advancing his own interests in those disturbed times. He received grants of Harristown and other lands forfeited by his relative James Eustace, Lord Baltinglass. As serjeant-at-law he attracted the notice of Lord Strafford, and in 1639 he was elected Speaker of the Irish House of Commons. His bombastic inauguration speech, given in Flanagan's Chancellors, is singularly illustrative of the times.

In the Journals of the House of Commons under 1647, is found his complaint concerning the stealing of his cattle from Clontarf for the use of the army. In 1645 at his country estate of Harristown, he built a fine house, but only three years later, this burnt before his eyes when captured by Parliamentarian Colonel Hewson.

So long as Dublin remained under Royalist control, Maurice Eustace prospered, despite his frequent complaints about the invasion of his property, the despoiling of his woods and the theft of his cattle.

There was also recorded a bitter private feud between the Eustace and Meredyth families, in which there were undoubtedly faults on both sides. The feud no doubt explains the bitter animosity between Eustace and Sir Robert Meredyth, the Chancellor of the Exchequer of Ireland, which reached its height after the Restoration.

He recovered the old family manor of Palmerstown, which had passed to the Allen family after the Baltinglass branch of the Eustace family suffered forfeiture of their estates. In 1643, being known as a man who had some sympathy for the plight of Irish Roman Catholics, most of whom he thought would lay down their weapons if promised a pardon, he was sent to negotiate with the Irish Confederacy at Kilkenny. He was Escheator of Leinster (which was still a substantive office in 1644. He obtained the reversion to the office of Master of the Rolls in Ireland and acquired land at Athy and Cong (he was dispossessed of his lands at Cong after the Restoration, much to the pleasure of his political opponents).

In 1647, however, the Marquis of Ormonde surrendered Dublin to the Parliamentary forces. Eustace was arrested soon afterwards and sent to Chester Castle where he remained for seven years, only narrowly missing deportation to Jamaica. His confinement cannot have been very strict, as he formed an extra-marital relationship with a lady (whose name is not known) which produced two children. He and his children's mother, who is said to have been a person of a good family, were still on friendly terms in the 1660s.

On his release in 1655, he returned to Dublin. He was re-arrested, and briefly imprisoned on suspicion of corresponding with Charles II, but was quickly released and allowed to resume practice at the Bar. His loyalty to the Stuart dynasty was never in serious doubt, and it is likely that he was kept under some degree of surveillance. At the same time, he enjoyed the goodwill of Henry Cromwell, who spoke of him as an eminent lawyer "to whom I am beholden and owe a kindness." Precisely what service Eustace had performed for Cromwell is unclear.



*Maurice Eustace was imprisoned 7 years at Chester Castle.*

Meanwhile the Eustaces who remained Catholic had fared much worse, many being deprived of lands and possessions. Sir Maurice opposed some of the most unjust results of the Acts of Settlement and Explanation which severely penalized Catholics, many of whom were his relatives.

At the Restoration, Eustace's unquestioned loyalty to the Crown, combined with his legal and political experience, made him on the face of it a man who was ideally suited to high office; in addition, he was personally close to the Duke of Ormonde, who would do anything to help a friend. Accordingly, he was appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland and a Lord Justice of Ireland, exercising the powers of the Lord Lieutenant in his absence, jointly with Charles Coote, 1st Earl of Mountrath and Roger Boyle, 1st Earl of Orrery. He accepted a peerage but later changed his mind, presumably because he had no legitimate son to inherit it.

Ironically the only serious objection to his appointment came from Eustace himself. He was increasingly drawn to country life and had looked forward to his retirement to his beloved country seat Harristown Castle, which he was rebuilding after the damage it had suffered during the Civil War, and which by the time of his death was one of the finest houses in Ireland. Also, he honestly doubted if his age and ill-health fitted him for high office. He wrote pathetically to the Secretary of State:

"I ... am now grown too old to perform any public service. I desire no such post nor any favour except to remain in his Majesty's good opinion. I hope I shall not now be put beyond my strength with any public employment."

A special frigate carried Sir Maurice back to Dublin. In 1661, Charles II granted Sir Maurice the lands of Castlemartin that had been forfeited by his cousin together with half of the barony of Rathdownry. In 1663 he decided to build and endow a church and school at Baltinglass and build a new bridge and market.

As Lord Justice, Eustace was embroiled in the bitter disputes (which led to the passing of the Act of Settlement 1662) between the mainly Roman Catholic Royalists who had been dispossessed in the Cromwellian Settlement of 1652, and the Parliamentary newcomers who had bought their estates. Eustace by birth was a member of the dispossessed class and identified himself entirely with its interests; and though he was himself a Protestant he believed firmly in equal rights for Roman Catholics. This put him at odds with his fellow Lords Justices, Mountrath (until his death at the end of 1661) and Orrery: they were firm supporters of the Cromwellians, whom Eustace regarded as criminals, and in his view, they were both implacably hostile to the Catholics.

In his private correspondence with Ormonde, he denounced his fellow Lords Justices with such venom that Ormonde in reply urged him to show more discretion. He suffered a personal defeat when he failed, despite strenuous efforts, to prevent his old enemy Sir Robert Meredyth from being reappointed Chancellor of the Exchequer, though he came very close to success.

Maurice Eustace did obtain some concessions for the Royalists in the Act of Settlement, but the struggle exhausted him and he was thankful when Ormonde's arrival in Dublin in 1662 allowed him to resign as Lord Justice. Always a shrewd man of business, Eustace was careful to get a private Act of the Irish Parliament passed to confirm his right to his estates, except Cong, which the Court of Claims returned to its original Catholic owners, much to the amusement of his enemies, who gleefully pointed to his constant lectures on the rights of Catholic landowners.

Sir Maurice Eustace continued as Lord Chancellor until failing health obliged him to resign the seals to Archbishop Boyle. He delighted in rural affairs, and his property at Harristown came to be regarded as the most beautiful rural property in Ireland.

The ex-Chancellor died in 1665, leaving his estates in Kildare, Dublin, and Wicklow, besides the Abbey of Cong, to his nephews, Sir John and Sir Maurice Eustace; and also a "great house" (which probably gave its name to Eustace-street) in Dame-street, to Trinity College for the maintenance of a Hebrew lecturer. He was interred in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

In letters of that time, the king proposed to make him Baron Eustace, but having no sons of his marriage, Sir Maurice was endeavoring to arrange inheritance of his title and lands by his illegitimate son, Maurice Eustace of Whitchurch. Unfortunately, Sir Maurice died during the negotiations so that the whole question of a peerage was dropped. His younger nephew, also Sir Maurice, was his principal heir although estates were left to his brother Sir John and their sister's husband. He in turn was called to the Bar, elected M.P. for Knocktopher and made Privy Councillor in 1665.

Eustace's prediction that he would be a failure as Lord Chancellor was by general agreement amply fulfilled: political struggles, physical illness, frequent bouts of depression and family troubles almost incapacitated him in the last years of his life.

*Eustace Street is located in the Temple Bar section of Dublin and runs from Wellington Quay (near Millennium Bridge) to Dame Street, with junctions with Essex Street East and Curved Street. Eustace Street takes its name from Sir Maurice Eustace (c. 1590 – 1665), former Lord Chancellor of Ireland, whose townhouse “Damask” and its gardens once stood on the site.*

He was also discouraged by the failure of his well-meant efforts to ensure religious toleration for Roman Catholics: Ormonde, though he was personally tolerant enough in matters of religion, would give him no support in this, having settled on a policy of simply turning a blind eye to the practice of the Catholic faith in so far as this was possible.

Ormonde refused to let Maurice Eustace permit Catholic barristers to plead in his Court or to be appointed to Commissions for the Peace, and gave him the advice that he should not worry about what he could not change.

In 1663 Eustace appears to have had a nervous breakdown, which left him completely unable to perform his duties for a time. By this time, a number of complaints about Eustace’s unfitness for office had reached the English Lord Chancellor, Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon, who had not been consulted about Eustace’s appointment, since Ormonde had been given full powers to appoint the Irish judges. Clarendon, who had an extremely low opinion of Eustace’s abilities, wrote to Ormonde that he should either do the honourable thing by resigning or be dismissed.

Ormonde was always loyal, perhaps to a fault, to his old friends: Elrington Ball remarks that those whom he had ever loved, he would love to the end. He did not defend Eustace’s conduct as a judge, but pointed to his long record of loyalty to the English Crown and suggested that dismissal would be a poor reward for it. In the event, it proved very difficult to find a suitable replacement as Chancellor and the question of Eustace’s dismissal was still pending when he died. His death did not resolve the problem of finding a suitable replacement, and for the last time it was decided to appoint a senior cleric, Michael Boyle, Archbishop of Armagh, as Lord Chancellor. Ironically Boyle, a non-lawyer, was generally considered to be a better chancellor than Eustace, as his conscientious devotion to duty made up for his lack of legal training.

Sir Maurice Eustace had always been an acute man of business, and despite his professional troubles he continued to prosper financially, recovering most of the Eustace estates forfeited by the Baltinglass branch of the family (some of which he returned to dispossessed Catholic cousins), and amassing a fortune which was reckoned to be between sixty and eighty thousand pounds (making him a multi-millionaire by modern standards). He lived mainly in Dublin, at Skinner’s Row, and later in a magnificent house in Dame Street, with gardens sloping down to the Liffey. In the 1660s he built a house in Chapelizod, known at the King’s House, replacing the earlier Phoenix House. He owned lands in several counties and did much to improve the town of Baltinglass. He regained the family’s Palmerstown estate, and bought lands at Chapelizod, which later became part of Phoenix Park.

**Eustace Street appears twice in the work of James Joyce:**

“Darkness, accompanied by a thick fog, was gaining upon the dusk of February and the lamps in Eustace Street had been lit.”

— *“Counterparts” (Dubliners), a collection of 15 short stories.*

“Watch! Watch! Silk flash rich stockings white. Watch! A heavy tramcar honking its gong slewed between. Lost it. Curse your noisy pugnose. Feels locked out of it. Paradise and the peri. Always happening like that. The very moment. Girl in Eustace street hallway Monday was it settling her garter. Her friend covering the display of *Esprit de corps*. Well, what are you gaping at?”

— *Ulysses*

*The Irish band Delorentos released a single entitled “Eustace Street” in 2007.*



*In the 1660s Maurice Eustace built a house in Chapelizod, known at the King’s House, replacing the earlier Phoenix House.*



*Jaunting car in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, (c. 1905)*

Phoenix Park: How to dispose of his fortune was a problem which greatly pre-occupied Sir Maurice Eustace during his last years. His marriage in 1633 to Cicely (or Charity) Dixon (1606–1678), daughter of Sir Robert Dixon, Lord Mayor of Dublin, was childless. Dame Charity, was a well-known figure in Dublin society until her death in 1678.

During his years in Chester Castle prison he had entered a relationship which produced a son (also called Maurice) and a daughter Mary, both of whom he was anxious to provide for, especially as he was still on friendly terms with their mother, who pressed her son's claim to the inheritance. Ball, who does not name her, suggests that she was a person of some social standing. Eustace had evidently made a promise to her to leave his lands to their son, which conflicted with his public promise to leave them to his nephew Maurice, the son of his brother William by Anne Netterville, daughter of Sir Robert Netterville of County Meath. He consulted the renowned preacher Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down and Connor, on the ethical question as to whether his pledge to his children's mother was binding: Taylor advised that it was not, but Eustace still wavered.

How to balance the claims of his son and his two nephews, Maurice and John (another son of William), became almost an obsession with him, to the point where even his loyal friend Ormonde was forced to rebuke him for neglecting official business in favour of his private concerns.

His last will divided the property between his nephews, a decision which led to ill-feeling and much further litigation which was probably connected with a determined effort by one Captain Anglesey to seize possession of Eustace's town-house.

The younger Sir Maurice ultimately gained possession of both Harristown and the Dublin townhouse on Eustace Street. He sat in the House of Commons for many years but was expelled for non-attendance in 1695. He returned to Ireland from exile, his brother John having died abroad, in 1697, and he, in turn, died in 1703 without surviving male issue. He had married firstly Anne Colville and secondly Clotilda Parsons. His estate was divided between his three surviving daughters, of whom the best-known is the younger Clotilda (1700–1792), "a clever and excellent woman", who married the poet Thomas Tickell, and was the grandmother of the playwright Richard Tickell.

Her half-sister Penelope married firstly Robert Echlin (1674–1706) MP, eldest son of Sir Henry Echlin, and secondly Edward Stratford, while her half-sister Anne (died 1713) married the Irish MP Benjamin Chetwood, by whom she had several children.

A later Sir Maurice Eustace, 1st Baronet, first and last of the Eustace baronets of Castlemartin, belonged to the same branch of the family, being a grandson of one of the Chancellor's uncles: he should not be confused with a third Sir Maurice Eustace who was the Lord Chancellor's nephew, nor with the Lord Chancellor's natural son, who was yet another Maurice.

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*A Portrait of Maurice Eustace, standing three-quarter length in an arcaded courtyard, and wearing a legal gown with full embroidered undercoat attributed to Philip Hussey (1713–1783).*

## THREE SIR MAURICE EUSTACES OF CASTLEMARTIN, CO. KILDARE IN THE 17TH CENTURY

*By Lord Walter FitzGerald*

*Journal of the Kildare Archaeological Society; Pages 484-85; Volume II; (1899-1902).*

*Journal of the Kildare Archaeological Society, Volume XIII, No.7 (1958).*

The existence of as many as three Sir Maurice Eustaces, all of the house of Castlemartin, alive during the 17th Century, is apt to puzzle genealogists, and to cause confusion when writing of them and their wives. The following notes about each of them are given in the order in which they died —

### **Sir Maurice Eustace (1595-1665)**

Maurice Eustace; knight; was Lord Chancellor of Ireland and lived at Harristown, County Kildare, and at his house in Damask (now Eustace) Street, Dublin. He was knighted about the year 1640. Maurice Eustace of Harristown was the great nephew of Maurice of Castlemartin, the martyr. His father was John Eustace, of Harristown (ob. 1623) a younger son of William Eustace, of Castlemartin.

After being student, graduate and fellow of Trinity College in Dublin, he studied law in England at Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar 1625. His exceptional ability was soon earning him large fees and by 1634 he was Leader of the Irish Bar. That same year he became M.P. for Athy and in 1639 was appointed Speaker of the House of Commons, receiving a knighthood. Over the next twenty years, he received many royal grants for services as Speaker and other functions.

In 1645 at his country estate of Harristown, Sir Maurice Eustace built a fine house, but only three years later, this was burned before his eyes when captured by Parliamentarian Colonel Hewson. With other Royalists, Sir Maurice was imprisoned at Chester for seven years, only narrowly missing exile in Jamaica. He was released in 1655 and returned to Dublin only to be re-arrested on a charge of communicating with Charles II. He was set free but under strict supervision.

Meanwhile those of the Eustaces who were Catholic had fared much worse, many being deprived of lands and possessions.

On the restoration of Charles II in 1660, Sir Maurice was rewarded for his loyalty and appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland. A special frigate carried him back to Dublin. In 1661, King Charles granted Sir Maurice the lands of Castlemartin that had been forfeited by his cousin together with half of the barony of Rathdownry. In 1663 he decided to build and endow a church and school at Baltinglass and also to build new bridge and market.

He had already built himself a town house in Dublin on the grounds of which ran from Dame Street to the banks of the Liffey. Part of the site is now Eustace Street.

His wife was Charity, daughter of Sir Robert Dixon, Knight of Dublin, by whom he had no issue. Dame Charity, was a well known figure in Dublin society until her death in 1678.

In letters of that time it is clear that the king proposed to make Maurice Eustace a Baron, but having no sons of his marriage, Sir Maurice was endeavoring to arrange inheritance of his title and lands by his illegitimate son, Maurice Eustace of Whitchurch. (In his will Sir Maurice mentions his illegitimate son, Maurice Eustace, of Portlester, County Meath.) Unfortunately Sir Maurice died during the negotiations so that the whole question of a peerage was dropped.

Sir Maurice Eustace died on the 22nd of June, 1665, and, according to a Funeral Entry, was buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin; but his widow's will contradicts this, as she expressly desires in it to be buried near her husband at

Castlemartin, if she dies in the country (i.e., at Harristown), and near her father in St. Werburgh's Church, if she dies in Dublin; her death took place in June, 1678, when she was aged seventy-two.

His younger nephew, also Sir Maurice (see page 23), was his principal heir although estates were left to his brother Sir John and their sister's husband. He in turn was called to the Bar, elected M.P. for Knocktopher and made Privy Councillor in 1665. Harristown under his hand became a showplace in Kildare. In 1673 his wife Anne died and catastrophe struck when James II became king — every royal grant to Protestant Harristown was reversed. Both Maurice and his brother John had to flee the country. On the accession of William III, Sir Maurice returned but it was not until 1700 that he regained full possession of his estates. Sir John died unmarried and left only debts.

### **Sir Maurice Eustace**

#### **Baronet of Castlemartin (??-1693):**

Sir Maurice Eustace was a first cousin once removed of the Lord Chancellor's. His father was John Eustace (son of Maurice, eldest son of the William Eustace, of Castlemartin, mentioned above) of Castlemartin and his mother was Margaret, daughter of Edmond Keating, of Narraghmore, in the County Kildare.

Sir Maurice was created a Baronet on the 23rd December, 1685. He served as a Captain, first, in the Infantry Regiment of Sir Thomas Newcomen, Baronet, whose 4th daughter, Margaret, he married; afterwards he commanded a troop in Colonel Theodore Russell's Regiment of Horse.

Maurice Eustace became a Catholic; and when the Orange invasion of 1688 led by William of Holland (later known as William of Orange) also called “the Glorious Revolution” broke out, Maurice Eustace took up arms on behalf of King James II.

Maurice commanded one of the infantry regiments in James II’s army, in which there were six officers named Eustace, as well as several in other regiments. The name of Sir Maurice Eustace, or of his regiment, was among the most prominent in the campaigns from 1689 to 1691; being mentioned at the Siege of Derry, at the routing of Hunter’s insurgents in County Down; at the 1st Siege of Limerick; at the guerilla or frontier war in Kildare, and at the defense of Ballymore, Queen’s County and at the battle of Aughrim, in Galway where Sir Maurice was severely wounded.

Following defeat at the 2nd Siege of Limerick, Sir Maurice and many of his regiment fled to France. In France, Maurice became Colonel in the Régiment d’ Athlone, infantry which was appointed to serve in Italy. He held that command until the latter part of 1693, when he apparently died. King James then appointed William Bourque of Turlough, Co. Mayo.

Sir Maurice was one of the 22 attainders and forfeitures in 1690/91 (on this occasion twelve were in County Kildare, eight in County Carlow and two in County Wicklow).

The wife of Sir Maurice Eustace was Margaret, daughter of Brigadier Sir Thomas Newcomen, Knight of Sutton, County Dublin, by whom he had two daughters, Frances and Maria Henrietta, who both died unmarried. Margaret, the widow of Sir Maurice, survived him and died in January, 1738.

### Sir Maurice Eustace (???-1708) Knight, of Harristown:

Sir Maurice Eustace was a second cousin of his namesake, the Baronet, and nephew of the Lord Chancellor. He was the second son of William Eustace, the Lord Chancellor’s younger brother, by his wife Ann, daughter of James Netterville, of Castletown Kilpatrick, in the County Meath.

Sir Maurice was knighted in November, 1662, and was member of Parliament for Knock, County Kilkenny, in 1665 and for Harristown in 1692-5.

He was twice married, first to Ann, daughter of Sir Robert Colville, Knight, of Newtown, County Down. Her death took place on the 26th of August, 1685, and she was buried at Coghlanstown, County Kildare. The second wife was Clotilda, daughter and heir of Michael Parsons, of Tomduff, County Wexford. She died about the year 1752. By his two wives, Sir Maurice had one son, who died young, and seven daughters.

His death occurred on the 13th April, 1708, and it is not at all unlikely that he, too, was buried near his first wife, in the Coghlanstown Churchyard, which lies between Ballymore Eustace and Harristown.

*Lord Walter FitzGerald acknowledged assistance from Mr. G. D. Burtchaell, of Ulster Office, for much assistance in the above sketches.*

Sources:

*FitzGerald, Lord Walter, Journal of the Kildare Archaeological Society; Pages 484-85; Volume II; (1899-1902).*

*Journal of the Kildare Archaeological Society, Volume XIII, No.7 (1958).*



*Coghlanstown medieval church of St James is located midway between Ballymore Eustace and Harristown. Maurice Eustace died in 1708. He and his wife Clothilde and may be buried there. Photo by Ronald Eustice (2009)*

## EUSTACE OF CASTLEMORE, COUNTY CARLOW

By Jimmy O'Toole in his book titled "Carlow Gentry: What Will The Neighbours Say?" published in 1993.



*Castlemore House was an eight-bay two-storey country house (Built c. 1874.) It was burned c. 1975 and is now in ruins.*

There are poignant moments in local history that go unrecorded, and the significance of which are not always appreciated by the participants. Such an occasion happened at Castlemore, County Carlow early in 1976. Local farmer John Aughney had heard the news that his near neighbour, the elderly Captain Oliver Hardy Eustace-Duckett, would shortly be leaving the old ancestral home for good, moving to live with his youngest daughter in County Kilkenny. He had been living alone since the death of his wife, the former Barbara Hall, in 1965, and an arson attack on his home by burglars the previous August hastened the inevitable decision to move.

John Aughney cycled past the black gates and along the now unused front drive to Castlemore House, no doubt remembering that it was a journey undertaken twice a year by his ancestors as they made their way to the rent room in the yard of the big house. On this occasion, there was no rent due. It was say good-bye to the last member of the Eustace family, ending an association with a property that first came into their possession in 1604 and an association with County Carlow that dated back to the sixteenth century.

Doubtlessly there were good and bad memories, but this was not a time for rancour or bitterness for two men in the twilight years of their lives. Not a happy time for Captain Eustace-Duckett, but certainly brightened by those few precious moments shared with a neighbour who had taken the trouble to wish him well and say good-bye.

Their handshake that January day in 1976 marked the end of an era, symbolized a mellowing of attitudes between the last descendant of the Eustace family, that had been landlords in County Carlow for four hundred years, and the descendant of a family whose forebears had more than once interceded on behalf neighbouring tenants in times of difficulty when rent money was not always available on the twice yearly gale days. And while the landlord-tenant chapter of Irish history had not yet been forgotten, the memories were dimming.

In the lifetime of John Aughney's father, some local tenants had reason to be grateful for the more kindly stance taken on rents by the Eustaces when they acquired the Roscat lands of the Bunburys.

Following the 1870 Land Act, Lord Rathdonnell presented his 12 Roscat tenant farmers with leases under which they would not be allowed any compensation for improvements, and he refused to entertain claims for reduced rents. By 1879, the 350 acres involved were in the ownership of the Eustaces, and in November of that year, rents were reduced by between ten and thirty per cent. The valuation of Peter Murphy's land was £60, and he had his rent reduced from £93.10s to £67.10s. John Aughney's valuation was £22. 15s, and his rent was reduced from £31 to £21.

During their lifetimes, the two men had seen dramatic political, economic and social change. Farming methods had changed beyond recognition, and the very countryside over which the Captain had hunted for more than half a century was becoming less recognizably as bigger and more powerful machines dictated the size and shape of the fields in which they worked.

Now another big house was about to be emptied, and the name of another gentry family about to be ticked off a dwindling list in County Carlow. The captain left during the spring of 1976, just a few weeks after the death of John Aughney.

After Captain Eustace-Duckett moved to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Olive Lambert at Dysertmore, New Ross, the Castlemore farm was inherited by his eldest daughter, Mrs. Kathleen Carville, living at Slane, County Meath, who sold the property to local farmer, Stan Brophy. Before he took possession, the roof had been removed, and what remains now is a ruin. Following the fire, a malicious damages claim for almost half-a-million pounds was lodged, and was eventually settled for £15,000. Captain Eustace died on 20th June, 1985.



*A Fox Hunt at Castlemore (c1910)*

The lineage of the Eustaces, a Catholic Norman family, went back to John FitzEustace, who came to Ireland with Strongbow. and during the reign of King Henry II (1154 - 1170), he was appointed Governor of County Kildare, where the family had extensive estates. The Castlemore branch had estates in the northern half of County Carlow for four centuries spread over thirty townlands. The Castlemore land was leased initially from the Duke of Ormonde and the first Eustace house appears to have been built there about 1680.

They first settled at Kilnock where Edmund Eustace, born 1510, and a relative of the 1st Viscount Baltin-glass, lived. His descendant, Oliver Eustace, lived at Ballynunnery, and later established the Castlemore seat. He was the only member of the family to hold a seat in parliament, having been returned in 1639 with Sir Thomas Butler of Clogrennan. They held their seats until the Cromwellian period of 1649. In 1654. the representation of Carlow was amalgamated with Wexford, Kilkenny and Laois.

Rowland Eustace, 2nd Viscount Baltin-glass, had benefited as a result of King Henry VIII's suppression of Irish monasteries, with grants of land in 1541 from the Baltinglass Abbey estates. The Abbey had 60,000 acres, and from this, the Eustaces got the parishes of Clonmelsh and Grangeford. These lands were forfeited in 1582 as a result of the James Eustace's, (3rd Viscount) backing of the 15th Earl of Desmond's rebellion against Elizabeth I in 1581, in support of the claim by Mary Queen of Scots to the British throne. James' wife, Mary. daughter and co-heiress of John Travers, also lost her lands, previously the property of the Knights Hospitaliers of Killerig. She regained this estate thanks to the efforts of her second husband, Sir Gerald Aylmer, but the property was sold soon after her death in 1610.

James Eustace, 3rd Viscount, was outlawed by an Act of Parliament known as the Statute of Baltinglass in May 1585, but he had already fled to Spain. Not so fortunate were six men involved in organizing his safe passage out of Ireland. Matthew Lambert, a Wexford baker, gave the Viscount and his chaplain, Fr. Robert Rochford, refuge, and five sailors working out of Wexford were also involved in the escape plan. All six

were arrested and found guilty of treason. They were tortured and while still proclaiming their fidelity to the Catholic faith, they were hanged, drawn and quartered in Wexford in July 1581. Lambert, and three of the sailors, Robert Myler, Edward Cheevers and Patrick Cavanagh (the names of the other two were not recorded), were among 17 Irish martyrs who were beatified in Rome on 27th September 1992 by Pope John Paul II. The 3rd Viscount Balting-Jass died in Spain on the 25th November 1585, just six months after he had been outlawed in Ireland.

A century later, Francis Eustace of Castlemore and his son Oliver of Ballynunnery, joined the army of King James against King William. In 1690, they were found "to have been in open rebellion and to have departed after the battle of the Boyne with the Earls of Tyrconnell and Limerick, and with other rebels beyond the Shannon where they continued in war and rebellion." Their Carlow lands, totalling more than 6,000 acres, were forfeited, but as a result of claims at Chichester House in 1703, most of them were regained. It was that year that Queen Anne passed an Act to prevent the "further growth of popery", which made it obligatory on converts from Catholicism to Protestantism to provide proof of conformity.

Loyalty to the Catholic side would appear to have been more costly for the Eustaces than for either the Bagenals or Kavanaghs, both of whom conformed much later. In the late 1700s, the Bagenals had nearly 40,000 acres, and the Kavanaghs over 16,000 acres. In the 1850s, Eustace land at Castlemore was 2,087, and 1,200 acres at Newstown, small by comparison with the extent of their earlier land possessions.

Grateful to have regained part of their estates in 1703, the message was not lost on the Eustaces that the path of loyalty to the Crown, both in religious and military terms, was the one to follow to ensure future prosperity and wealth.

The Eustace branch of the family at Castlmore conformed to the Established Church, and by the end of the 18th century, they were firmly on that side, taking an unquestionably supportive role in the suppression of the 1798 rebellion. Captain Edward “Grinder” Eustace, First Lieutenant Robert Eustace, and Second Captain Hardy Eustace, served in the Carlow and Rathvilly Cavalry.

A number of men from the Tullow area who were being sought for questioning in connection with the insurrection, went to Carlow with sealed letters from “Grinder” Eustace, which they thought would exonerate them. A number of them, including the three Maher brothers of Ardristan, were executed. Serious questions were raised afterwards about the actual contents of the letters the men presented to their interrogators in Carlow. For decades afterwards, it was argued that Eustace, a neighbour of the Mahers, may well have pleaded on their behalf, but the military were already in possession of what they regarded as sufficient evidence to condemn the men to death.

The Hardy name was added to Eustace following the marriage in 1743 of James Eustace of Castlmore and Elizabeth Hardy, only daughter and heir of John Hardy of Kyleballyhue, County Carlow. James died three years after his marriage, leaving two sons, Edward and Hardy, and a daughter Elizabeth, who married James Vigne, a Dublin jeweller. Their daughter Marianne Vigne married the celebrated painter George Chinney, whose portraits of his wife, and her grandmother, Elizabeth Hardy Eustace, are regarded as two of his finest works,

and both hang in the National Gallery of Ireland. Elizabeth was living with her daughter and son-in-law, James Vigne, when she died in 1795.



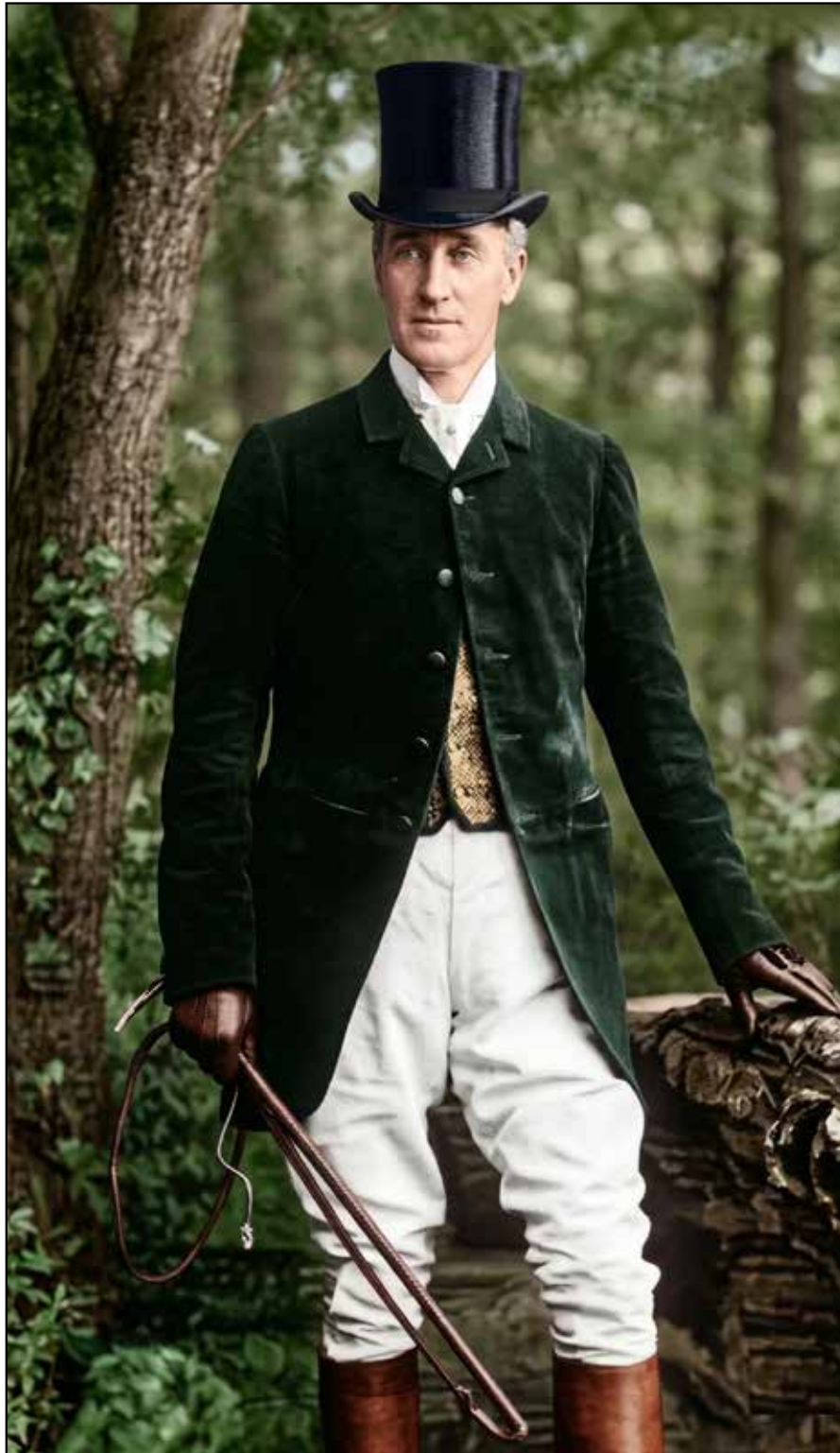
*Newstown*

The Newstown branch of the family was established by Colonel Robert Eustace, son of Edward Eustace of Castlmore, who purchased the property in 1799 from Ephraim Carroll. The present regency house was built in 1824 and a portion of the earlier house was retained as servants quarters. The last member of the family to live there was Edward Arthur Rawlins Eustace, C.I.E., O.B.E., born 1899, who served with the 4th Gurka Rifles between 1918 and 1922, and served in the Indian Civil Service from 1923 to 1947. Edward Arthur, who died in 1970, had inherited following the death of his cousin Maurice James Eustace, a captain in the Royal Air Force, who was killed in action in Singapore in February, 1942.

Newstown was subsequently purchased by Paul Byrne, and later by Allard and Ruth Von Rohr, a German couple. Their daughter, Alexandria, sold the property in the late 1980s and returned to live in Germany.

Hardymount was the dower house of the Eustaces. There is a tradition that the original dwelling here was a coaching inn in the 17th Century, when the back road carried traffic between Carlow, Tullow and Bunclody, before the direct route between Leimaneagh Cross and

Tullow was opened. The present regency house was added in the 1820s, and it is said the fine chestnut tree alongside the drive was planted to mark its completion. It was the home of William Edward Grogan after his marriage in January 1888 to Sabina Alexandra Eustace. W. E. Grogan was master of the Carlow Hunt from 1904 to 1920, and he lived at Moyle House from 1904 until his death in 1937. Hardymount was later the home of Mrs. Sheila Reeves-Smyth.



*Hardy Eustace (1827-1895)*

Captain Hardy Eustace of Castlemore and Hardymountt, J.P. was born in 1827, served in the 4th Dragoons and the Carlow Regiment, and was High Sheriff of Carlow in 1862. He married in 1856 to Anne (died 1892), daughter of John Dawson Duckett of Duckett's Grove, Co. Carlow, and died in 1895 having had six children including his heir JOHN JAMES HARDY ROWLAND EUSTACE. The other children were: Joseph William Duckett Francis, b. 1861, d. infancy; Frederick Adolphus Dawson Oliver, Major, 5th Dragoon Guards, b. 1866, dsp 1927; Johanna Fredrica Eugenia Gundreda married 1894 Lieut.-Col. Reginald Jocelyn Heber-Percy; Alexandra Sabina Sarah Anna, married 1828, William Edward Grogan of Slaney Park, Co. Wicklow, and had two sons, Cornelius William, b. 1895, and John Reginald, b. 1899, and two daughters; Grace Isabella Florence Josephine, m. 1906, P D. Scott-Moncrieff.



*John James Eustace (1859-1924)*

*Colonel John James Hardy Rowland Eustace of Castlemore and Hardymount, J.P., the eldest was born in 1859, served in the 8th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps and was High Sheriff of Carlow in 1895. That year he married Gertrude Amelia, daughter of Algernon Charles Heber-Percy of Hodnet Hall, Salop, and Airmyn Hall, Yorkshire. In 1909 he assumed the additional name of Duckett and died in 1924, having had six children including his heir OLIVER EUSTACE DUCKETT. The other children were: Hardy Rowland Algernon, b. 1896 d. infancy; Rowland Hugh born 1902. dsp 1920; Elizabeth Gertrude, b. 1897 d. 1957; Doris Anna, married Mr. Hall-Hall; and Diana, b. 1905.*



Oliver Hardy Eustace Duckett, M.F.H., of Castlemore, the second son of John James Eustace, was born in 1899 and married Barbara, daughter of Major Hall, Royal Welch Fusiliers and his wife Olive, daughter of Sir Standish Roche, Bart., of Aghade, Co. Carlow. He had a son, Hardy, born in 1931, who died young and two daughters, Kathleen and Olive. Olive married in 1957 Major Desmond, only son of Nicholas Henry Lambert of Dysertmore, Co. Wexford, and has two sons, Nicholas Patrick born 1958, and Patrick Henry born 1959.



*Sabrina Eustace*



*William Edward Grogan*

*(Married in January 1888)*



*Hardymount owned by Sabrina Eustace and her husband William Edward Grogan.*

On 11th September 1856, Hardy Eustace of Castlemore (1827 - 1895) married Anne Duckett of Duckett's Grove, and it was their eldest son, John James Hardy Rowland Eustace, who assumed the Duckett name in compliance with the will of his uncle William Duckett, who died in 1908. Under the terms of the will, his wife Maria Georgina Duckett had the right to continue in occupation of Duckett's Grove Mansion until her death; she was to be paid a yearly income of £4,000 - an enormous sum when his will was made in 1904. By 1921, when Duckett's Grove was sold, it appears that Mrs. Duckett had only been paid about £22,000 of the £52,000 due, because in 1941, four years after her death, the executors of her will successfully sued the Eustace-Ducketts for £30,376.00, a sum almost equal to the £32,000 realized for Duckett's Grove in 1921. With the exception of the demesne and some legacies to relatives, Mrs. Duckett was bequeathed the remainder of her husband's estate, valued at £204,000 at the time of his death.

Effectively, while the Eustaces got rental income from Duckett's Grove between 1908 and 1921, they got nothing from the sale of the estate, the proceeds of which were held in Land Commission Land Bonds at 4.5 per cent. This reference to Land Bonds during the 1941 court judgement would suggest that the sale of Duckett's Grove to the Killerig Land Committee with a Bank of Ireland loan was never closed, and that the eventual payment when the committee was bailed out by the Land Commission in 1926 was in Land Bonds - a normal procedure at the time. (See Duckett's Grove.)

Tensions over Duckett's Grove between Mrs. Duckett and James Hardy Eustace emerged in February, 1911 when a High Court injunction was sought to prevent tree felling by Mrs. Duckett, and for compensation for timber removed from the estate. On her part, it was pleaded that the commercial felling of trees had not taken place, but that thinning was carried out on the advice of forestry experts.

The Eustaces were one of the first families to have an estate cricket team in County



*John James Hardy Rowland Eustace, who assumed the Duckett name in compliance with the will of his uncle William Duckett, who died in 1908. While the Eustaces got rental income from Duckett's Grove between 1908 and 1921, they got nothing from the sale of the estate. Duckett's Grove, once owned by the Eustaces also lies in ruins. Photo by Ronald Eustice (2012)*

Carlow, with the workers making up the panel of players, and cricket was still being played at Castlemore until the outbreak of the Second World War. The Eustace team made at least one trip to London where they played on the famous turf at Lords. John Grogan of Slaney Park explained - "One of the players was an extremely good fast bowler, but he always played in his bare feet. The officials at Lords objected to the idea of anyone playing there in his bare feet, but the player - I think he was a blacksmith - insisted that he would wear neither stockings nor shoes. Eventually, he got his way because nothing could be found in the rule book that made the wearing of shoes obligatory.

Who was this blacksmith bowler? The Dwyers were blacksmiths to the Eustaces, but according to John Dwyer, neither his father nor grandfather bowled. Local historian, Paddy Darcy, said the only man in the area it could have been was Jack Morrissey of Rathoe. "Jack once ran a road marathon in his bare feet, so it wouldn't surprise me if he bowled at Lords barefoot", he said.

Castlemore was the last venue in County Carlow for great gentry social occasions in the 1940s and 50s, where the annual hunt ball in particular attracted capacity attendances. Over the years, some of Dublin's top stage bands were booked, and in 1953, Peggy Dell and her band provided the entertainment. The admission price that year was the not inconsiderable sum of £2. But for those who could not afford admission, there was always the free peep-show from the window sills outside. Peter Storey, from nearby Grangeford, recalled "The hunt balls at Castlemore created great excitement, and we would hang about outside listening to the music, and watching the dancing through the windows. Eventually the curtains would be drawn and the show would be over for us."

The bands and the hunt balls are no more, and the singing that echoes through the window opes now is not what Peter Storey went to hear, but comes from the chorus of nesting birds who make their homes in the crumbling plaster-work of another big house in ruins.

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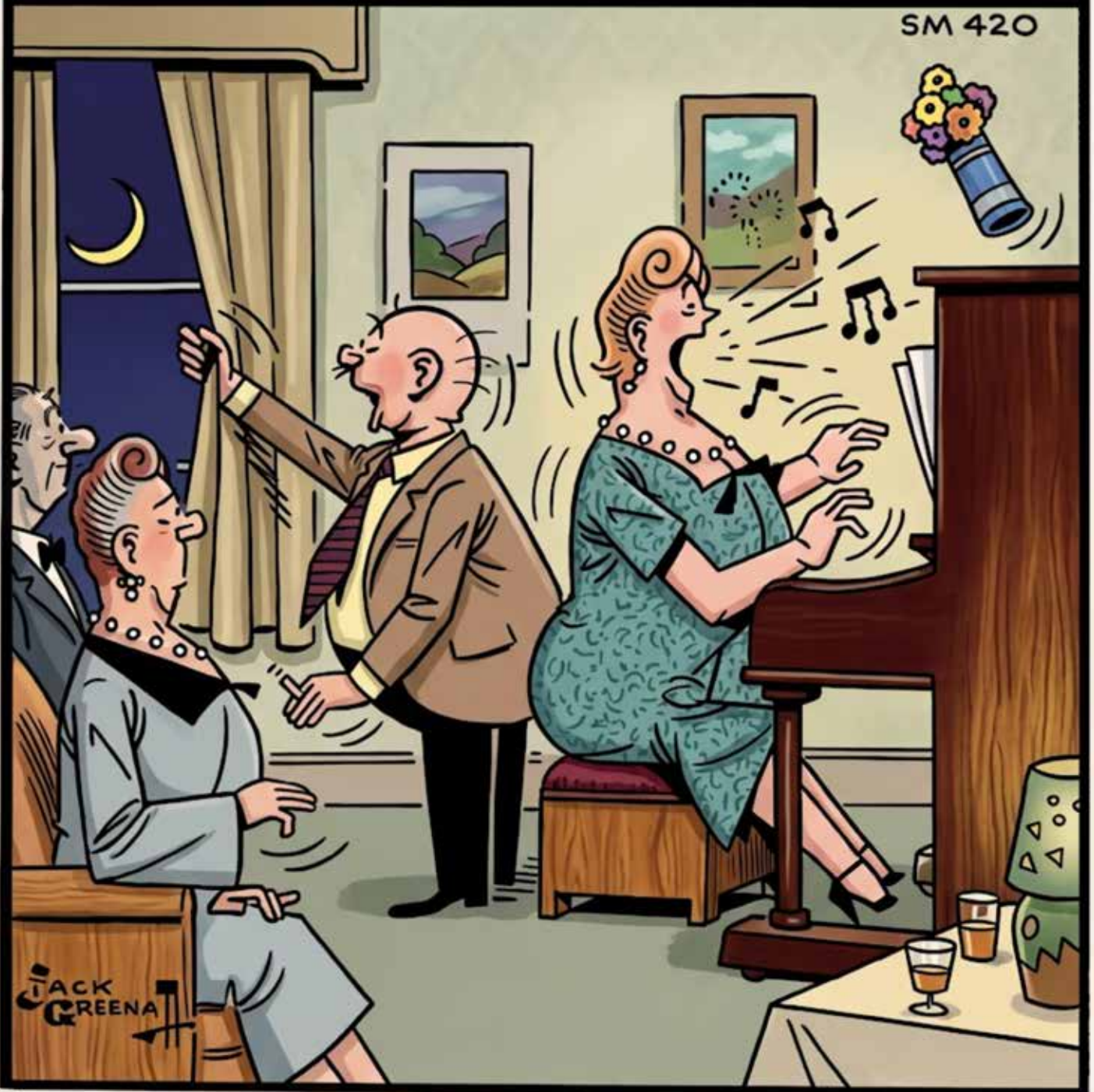
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