

South Down

John Beers, Cloughrum [Cloghrim, Clough], Down Diocesan Wills, 1738

William Beers of Cloughrum [Cloghrim], BNL 1755 re stolen animals

William Beers, Cloughrum [Clough], Co. Down, Down Diocesan Administration Bonds, 1759

Mrs Beers of Cloughrum, BNL – 1759 townland to let (presumably on the death of her husband), 1762, 1763

Mrs Elizabeth Beers, Cloughram, Clogh barony, Kinnalerty. Deceased. BNL 1779 – Sale of farm, household furniture, farm utensils, etc.

James Beers of Rathfriland 1761 (PRONI has a lease for William Swan of Gallaghergreenan, Drumballyrone, witnessed by James Beers); BNL – 1766, 1767 (lease), 1771 (lease re corner shop, Rathfriland)

Phil Beers BNL 1781 Grenadiers – Downe Volunteers, Lord Glerawly Battalion

Charles Beers, Ballyrone, 1796, Dromore Diocesan Administration Bonds

St John Beers, Ballyronan, BNL – 1794, death

Mary Beers, Tollymore, Co.Down, Prerogative Wills, probate 1841, death 22.02.1831.

Ann Beers of Rathfriland, died 1843. However Mrs Ann Biers is listed in several directories spelt as Biers, so she may actually be a Byers! There are Biers families in Kilkeel (1840s), Clough Presbyterian Church (freely mixing Biers and Byers), etc.

William Beers BNL – 1769 meeting of independent electors, 1770 fire abhorrence Ballygroney [Ballyrone]

William Beers of Ballygorian BNL – 1772 (re lease townland Ballyward farms, meadow), 1780 (Lt. Capt. Castlewellan Rangers and Newry Volunteers), 1784 (CO.Down freeholder), 1786, 1789 (shots fired, Break of Day Men reward, Ballely [Ballooly or Ballela?], Co.Down; William Law [see marriage of Ann Beers below], 1791 (high constable for Ballyboly and Kinalarty), 1792 (public meeting, Rathfriland, re Break-of-day-boys and with Rev T. Tighe), 1793, 1795 (cowhouse fire, Ballydrummon, Co.Down), 1797 (auction at Newcastle of brigantine Nymph and auction of salvaged goods - rum, rice, sugar, port, flour, etc.), 1800 (game certificates)

1811 PRONI D1503/4/4

Survey and estimate of the yearly value of farms on Earl Annesley's Leitrim Estate by James Forsythe and letter relating to the said Survey from James Forsythe to William Beers.

1820 PRONI D1932/8/124 (Might this refer to William jun.?)

Conveyance. Andrew Vance and William Beers both of Dublin to John Falls, Aughnacloy. Land in Barony of Dungannon and Dungannon corn mill.

William Beers, Newcastle, Co Down, Prerog Will and grant, 1829. PRONI T/810/54
William Beers, Newcastle, Co Down, Prerogative Wills, Probate 1829.

Ballygorian Beg and Ballygorian More are in the parish of Clonduff (2¾ miles south of Rathfriland) which includes Hilltown where Rev J.A. Beers is listed in Samuel Lewis's *Topographical Directory of Ireland*, 1837, as living in the Hilltown Parsonage

Londonderry Sentinel 4 January 1834 Jane, relict of the late William Beers, Esq., of Ballyward Lodge, county of Down, and only daughter of the late Archdeacon Leslie, of Kinraigie Castle, county of Donegal, died on 27 December 1833, in the 69th year of her age.

William and Jane Beers had at least three daughters:

Elizabeth (Eliza) Beers married Rev Thomas Tighe (1751-1821). BNL 5-8 Dec. 1786 Tighe came from a prosperous Co. Wicklow family and was rector of Drumgooland and Drumballyronee for over 50 years. He lived at Parson's Hill and advertised for a schoolmaster in 1796, appointing a young Patrick Brunty, later Brontë, who became his protégé. Patrick Brontë was the father of the Brontë sisters. Francis Charles Beers helped to fund the parish schoolhouse.

Miss M. Beers married Rev. J Maffett BNL 2-6 Jan. 1789

Ann Beers married William Law of Banbridge BNL 26-30 July 1793

William and Jane Beers had at least five sons:

Francis Charles Beers (later F.C. Leslie) of Ballyward Lodge (1794-?)
William Beers of Brook Cottage, Newcastle (1798 -1880)
John Beers of Leslie Hill, Co. Donegal (1800-1888)
Philip Groves Beers (?-1842)
James Annesley Beers, Rev. (c.1805-1880)

Francis Charles Beers, eldest son of William and Jane Beers

1794 PRONI D1503/3/5/1

Original deed of trust between Francis Charles Beers [the Annesley agent], and Francis Charles, 1st Earl Annesley, reciting a lease to Beers of part of the townland of Clarchill, parish of Kilmegan, and declaring that Beers holds this lease in trust for Lord Annesley.

The above wording is from the PRONI website, and F.C. Beers did indeed become the Annesley's agent. However, given the date, it seems that this may have been some sort of gift celebrating the birth of F.C. Beers. The townland is that of Clarkill, adjacent to Drumgooland.

Marriage in Dublin (CoI), St Peter's Parish Church, Dublin:

Marriage of Francis Charles Beers of Ballywood [sic] Lodge, Drumgooland and Hannah Theodosia Thompson of Co. Wexford, St. Iberius, on 5 May 1837. William Beers was a witness. (Source: churchrecords.irishgenealogy.ie)

1830 PRONI ARM/5/2/15 also 1832 ARM/5/2/17

Francis Charles Beers, Ballyward Lodge, listed in the Return of the Registered Freeholders of £50, £20 and 40 shillings in the different baronies of the County of Armagh.

1836 PRONI D1503/3/8/32

Declaration of trust between Francis Charles Beers and [the] 3rd Earl Annesley concerning a tenement for building in the townland of Newcastle, parish of Kilcoo, Co. Down.

This next from:

The county families of the United Kingdom; or, Royal manual of the titled and untitled aristocracy of Great Britain and Ireland. Containing a brief notice of the descent, birth, marriage, education, and appointments of each person, his heir apparent or presumptive, as also a record of the offices which he has hitherto held, together with his town address and country residence. London, 1860

LESLIE, Francis Charles, Esq. (of Ballyward).

Eldest son of the late William Beers, Esq., Justice of Peace, Ballyward, Co. Down, by Jane, dau. of the Ven. Charles Leslie, D.D. (Archdeacon of Raphoe), of Kinraigie Castle, Co. Donegal; b. 1796; s. his father in 1829, and his uncle in 1850, when he assumed his name; m. 1837 Theodosia, dau. of Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson. Is a Magistrate for Co. Down (High Sheriff 1856). — Ballyward, near Castlewellan, Co. Down.

Heir, his son John, Lieutenant 5th Fusiliers, b. 1839.

1862 Capt. John Leslie (born 1839), formerly Lieut. 5th Fusiliers, and Capt. Donegal Militia, only son of the late Francis Charles Leslie (formerly Beers) of Ballyward, Co. Down, and Kinraigie, Co. Donegal (who assumed by Royal Licence, 1850, the surname and arms of Leslie in lieu of his patronymic), married Harriet Anne, third daughter of Sir David William Barclay, Bart. Residence, Ballyward Lodge, Castlewellan, Co. Down.

Londonderry Sentinel 8 September 1863

On 3rd September, by special licence, at Ballyward Lodge, County Down, by the Rev. James Beers, A.M., Rector of Donaghoney, uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. Maurice McKay, LL.D., Rector of Drumgooland, William Malo de Rane Barclay, Esq., Lieutenant H.M. 24th Regiment, third son of the Hon Sir David Barclay, of Pierstown, Bart., to Harriet Jane, only daughter of Francis Charles Leslie, Esq., of Ballyward Lodge, County Down and Kinraigie, County Donegal.

Same with more information: 1863 Harriet Jane Leslie, only daughter of the late Francis Charles Leslie, Esq., of Ballyward Lodge, Castlewellan, Co. Down, married William Malo de Rune Barclay (born 1842), educated at Cheltenham College, and at Royal Military College, Sandhurst; formerly Lieut. 24th Foot, son of Sir David William Barclay of Pierston, 10th Baronet, and Elise Josephine de Rune. Harriet died in 1919. She and her husband had three daughters and six sons.

William Beers, second son of William and Jane.

1836 PRONI D1293/2A (and 2B, 1857 copy)

Mortgage for securing £4,500 between William Keown, Mary Keown, William Beers, John Keown and James Hunter for lands at Lisara, Ardmeen, Struell, Commonreagh, Quarterland and Audley's acre, Co. Down.

1839-1850

PRONI has many letters to William Beers, mostly from Rev. J.R. Moore. Check out the PRONI website. These are just a few of the reference numbers:

1839 D1854/6/4 Letter concerning furniture in Newcastle Hotel.

1841 D1854/6/2 Letter concerning the distribution of seaweed from Newcastle shore "I am in receipt of your note this morning relative to the making rules for the collection and distribution of the seaweed. I should be very glad on the part of Lord Annesley's trustees to adopt any course which would do away with the scenes which have often taken place on the Newcastle shore but before your plan could be enforced it would be well for the principal landholders in Newcastle to meet and for any three of the committee to employ for the trustee and under their authority proper persons who could command men and horses to collect the sea weed and not to charge for same more than a remunerating price. The committee must remain as formerly to see a fair division of the seaweed ..."

1842 D1854/6/5 Letter to Mrs William Beers, in reply to her application for the Castlewellan Agency noting the fact of "the trustees of this estate having, I believe, already given the agency away."

1846 D1854/6/3 Letter refusing William Beers's application for the Agency of the Annesley estates in Co. Down.

1849 PRONI D3244/G/1/119

Letter of 12 September 1849 from C.W. Ruthven, Downpatrick, to Maxwell, Granby Hotel, Harrogate, in reply.

"... It is alleged that on the 12th July last you appeared in the petty sessions court here, and acted as a magistrate on the bench, exhibiting a large bunch of orange lillies in your breast, and that after you attended a large meeting of Orangemen on [the] same day; and again, that you attended the dinner given to Mr William Beers, when he made a speech which I daresay you have seen reported, relating to the events of the 12th July at Dolly's Brae, calling it 'a blot'.

And I have been directed to summon witnesses to prove the fact first stated as to the Orange lillies, and also your attendance at the dinner mentioned, and the Commission will be resumed on Tuesday, the 18th at Castlewellan."

1854 PRONI D1293/6

Mortgage for £900 between William Beers, Newcastle, Co. Down, William Keown, Ballydugan House, Co. Down, Harriet Crawley and Alicia Crawley of Bryansford, Co. Down for lands and property in and around Downpatrick, Co. Down.

1855 PRONI D1293/7

Mortgage for £1,000 between William Beers, William Keown and Ann McDowell for lands in Downpatrick, Co. Down.

1863 PRONI D1293/11

Assignment of Mortgage between William Beers, William Keown and Robert Heron for a consideration of £1,000 for lands in Downpatrick, Baronies of Lecale and Castlereagh and Ballindoyle, Co. Wicklow.

1865 William Beers, Esq., Capt., only son of William Beers of Brook Cottage, Newcastle, and of Ballyshiel, Co. Armagh, married Eileen, second daughter of the late Sir George Maclean. Marriage took place at Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Register of Tonbridge School, High Street, Kent, a distinguished boarding school, founded in 1553:

Beers, William b.1836, attended Tonbridge School 1850-3. Son of William Beers. Joined the 26th Foot, 1854. Lieutenant-Colonel retired, 1878.

Lt. Col. William Beers (1836-1919)

Is this next a second marriage for William sen., or jun.?

1867 William Beers, Esq., of Brook Cottage, Co. Down, married Bessie, eldest daughter of Laurence Davidson, W.S., Edinburgh.

1859 Capt. L. J. Thompson, youngest son of Lt. Col. Thompson, married Miss Jane Leslie Beers, youngest daughter of William Beers, Esq., of Brook Cottage, Newcastle, Co. Down, at Bryansford Church.

Portadown Weekly News, 28 May 1859 Marriage:

May 17, in Bryansford Church, by the Rev. J. A. Beers, Rector of Donaghcloney, Leslie Thompson, Esq., Captain 58th Regt., youngest son of the late Lieut.-Col. Thompson, to Jane Leslie, youngest daughter of William Beers, Esq., Brook Castle [sic], Newcastle, County of Down.

Jane Leslie Beers (1835-1913)

1880 Death of William Beers Esq., 9 October 1880. (Mrs Beers still at Brook Cottage in 1884)

Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin, No.371
Eliza Beers | widow of the late | William Beers
of Newcastle County of Down | "In Christ and in peace" | May 3 1890

John Beers, third son of William and Jane Beers

This next from:

The county families of the United Kingdom; or, Royal manual of the titled and untitled aristocracy of Great Britain and Ireland ... London, 1860

BEERS, John, Esq. (of Leslie Hill).

Third son of the late William Beers, Esq., of Ballyward, Co. Down, by Jane, dau. of the late Ven. Leslie, of Kinraigie Castle, Co. Donegal, Archdeacon of Raphoe, and brother of F. C. Leslie, Esq. (whom see); b. ???? ; m. 1834 Catherine Anne, dau. of William Colquhoun, Esq. Is a Magistrate for Co. Donegal. This family was originally German, but came to Ireland from South Wales and Devon, where they held property. — Leslie Hill, near Manor Conyngham, Co. Donegal; 9 Royal Terrace, Kingstown, Dublin.

Heir, his son John Leslie Beers, b. 1838.

Londonderry Sentinel 28 June 1834

On Tuesday, the 24th inst., in Manorcunningham Church, by the Rev. James Annesley Beers, John Beers, Esq., of Leslie Hill, county Donegal, son of the late William Beers, Esq., of Ballyward, county Down, to Catharine Anna Colhoun, eldest daughter of the late William Colhoun, Esq., of Green Cottage, and niece to the late Commodore Conyngham, U.S.N., formerly of Letterkenny.

John Beers, Esq., J.P. of Leslie Hill, Co. Donegal (1800-1888); buried at Deansgrange, Dublin; his wife Catharine Anna Beers, née Colhoun (1806-1886).

1865 J. Leslie Beers, Jr., Esq., of Leslie Hill, Co. Donegal, married Sarah, daughter of the late Edward Jones Agnew, Esq. of Kilwaughter, Co. Antrim. Wedding conducted by Rev. James Annesley Beers, uncle of the groom.

1871 John Joshua Nunn, Esq., second son of Joshua Nunn, Esq., of St. Margarets, Co. Wexford, married Frances Elizabeth, second daughter of John Beers, Esq., J.P., of Royal Terrace, Kingstown, Dublin and Leslie Hill, Co. Donegal. Married by Rev. James Annesley Beers, uncle of the bride.

Frances Elizabeth Beers, wife of J. Nunn, d. 1907

Londonderry Sentinel 27 August 1842

At the latter end of March, at Port Philip, New South Wales, Australia, [death of] Philip Groves Beers, Esq., Captain of the 80th Regiment and son of the late William Beers, Esq., Ballyward Lodge, County Down.

Londonderry Sentinel 8 October 1842

On 9 May, on her passage to England from Port Philip, New South Wales, Australia, [death of] Mrs. Matilda Beers, after the sudden death of her devoted husband.

James Annesley Beers, fourth son of William and Jane Beers

1838 Rev. James Annesley Beers, youngest son of William Beers, Esq., of Ballyward Lodge, Co. Down, married Alice Elizabeth Banks, second daughter of Capt. John Banks, R.N.

They married on 17 July 1838 at St Mary's Church in Dublin. Alice Banks was born in St Austell, Cornwall. They had a daughter on 17 Oct 1848 at Ballyward Lodge.

1872 James M. Murray Beers, Esq., youngest son of the Rev. James Annesley Beers, rector of Drumballyrone, Co. Down, married Mary Cole [Bowen], youngest daughter of Charles Cole Bowen, Esq., late of Co. Cork and Seaborough, Canada West.

1876 Rev. John B. Beers, son of the Rev. James Annesley Beers, married Edith Margaret [Towsey], 2nd daughter of Charles Towsey, Esq., of Ramsgate. Wedding conducted by Rev. Charles Parkhurst Baxter, brother-in-law of the groom.

Ros Davies Co. Down website gives this gravestone inscription –

Kilcoo Church of Ireland graveyard, parish of Kilcoo, townland of Ballyhafry:

Erected to Rev James Annesley [Beers] in family burial place, who died 9 June 1880 aged 75 years; also his wife Alice Elizabeth, who died 7 March 1904 aged 84 years.

North Down

William Beers of Edenderry is mentioned in BNL 1746 (lease of land at Edenderry), 1752 (re Newgrove Co. Down, mansion-house etc.), 1753, 1754 (house and office to let in Earl of Mount Alexander's demesne), 1756 (re trespass and pheasants; also militia, Co. Down)

1756 PRONI has a copy of a will for William Beers of Edenderry, 6 Nov. 1756. LPC/406

1777 William Beers BNL – re lease of Drumbo/Ballylesson lands

James Beers of Edenderry BNL – 1756 (Lt. James Beers, Belfast Regiment Dragoons, commanded Major General Sir John Whiteford), 1757 (ditto), 1760 (ditto and replace Volunteers), 1763 (abhorrence of Knockbreda parishioners to crimes), 1768 (charitable undertaking Loan-ends endowment building [Drumbo]; also re poachers), 1783 (Finaghy robbery; Ballylesson re game shooting and trespass), 1784 (Co. Down freeholder; linen theft), 1785 (Co. Down parliamentary reform meeting), 1788 (with James Hull, wool thefts and pardon), 1789 (men with blackened faces, Drumbo; meeting of Banbridge-Belfast road trustees,), 1790 (Banbridge-Belfast turnpike road repairs), 1797 (armed men conviction), 1798 (more armed men), 1800 (murder inquest)

James Beers, Edenderry, Co Down, Prerog will and grant, 1805. PRONI ref: LPC/407
Probate and Copy Will, 1805. PRONI T/2128/1

James and Charles Beers, Edenderry, Co Down, Wills, 1805. PRONI T/2128

Elizabeth Beers, Drumbo, 1810, Down Diocesan Wills

Elizabeth Beers, Edenderry, Co Down, Down Will and Grant (P), 1810. PRONI ref: LPC/408

Some of the following information has come from an internet source – Paul Robinson, courtesy of GenForum genealogy, at <http://genforum.genealogy.com/beers/messages/1185.html>

Gravestone inscription from Drumbo Church of Ireland graveyard, parish of Drumbo, townland of Ballylesson:

Erected by William Beers of Ballylesson to the memory of his wife Elizabeth Beers who died the 11th of August 1836 aged 51 years [born c.1785]

His son Charles who died the 28th of July 1838 aged 23 years [born c.1815]

Also his son William who died 5th September 1838 aged 26 yrs [born 1812]

Also his son John who died 10th January 1843 aged 33 yrs [born c.1810]

Also the above William Beers who died 30 of Nov 1873 aged 89 years [born c.1784]

Also his wife [No.2?] Jane Beers who died the 6th of April 1874 aged 70 years. [born c.1804]

FamilySearch also has another William Beers of Ballylesson who married Anne (or Anna) Johnson.

It lists their children (perhaps not an exhaustive list!):

Charles	born 25.11.1865
Elizabeth	born 20.06.1867
Samuel	born 06.08.1869
Jane	born 05.10.1871
William	born 09.03.1874 (given as 1876 in some internet sources)
Charlotte	born 08.01.1878
Mary	born 10.01.1880

And the 1901 Census of Ireland also has Beers families still living at Ballylesson and Drumbo.