

Donegal County Archives PH/13

Photograph Album, Lord George, Cassandra and Louisa Knight Hill and families; and Miniature Portrait, Cassandra Knight Hill

- (1) Photograph album of the family and friends of Lord George Hill, landowner in Gweedore, and his family including his first wife, Cassandra Knight and Louisa Knight, his second wife, both daughters of Edward Knight, brother of Jane Austen, and Elizabeth Bridges.
- (2) Miniature portrait of Cassandra Knight, Lady Cassandra Hill. Painted by Hugh Ross. Hugh Ross (1800–1873) was the younger brother of the more famous painter Sir William Charles Ross, and exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1814 to 1845.

George Augusta Hill was born on the 9th of December 1801, the 7th and last child of Arthur Hill, Marquis of Downshire, Hillsborough, Co. Down, and Mary Baroness Sandys. He joined the Army in 1817 and rose to the rank of Major. In 1830 he became aide-de-camp to the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces in Ireland; that year he left the Army and became MP for Carrickfergus. In 1838 he purchased lands in Gweedore and eventually owned up to 23,000 acres in west Donegal. Hill carried out reforms on his estate, building roads, Bunbeg Harbour to encourage fishing, a grain store, a bakery and a hotel to help development of tourism. However, he was a controversial landlord due to his policy of enforcing enclosure of shared 'rundale' lands and his unsympathetic attitude to his tenants during times of great poverty and famine. Hill's controversial book *Facts from Gweedore* (1845) seeks to justify Hill's agricultural reforms in Gweedore. He died on 5 April 1879 and is buried at Conwal Church of Ireland cemetery.¹

Cassandra Jane Knight (16 November 1806 – 14 March 1842) was the daughter of Edward Austen Knight (1767 - 1852) and Elizabeth Bridges (1773 – 1808) and niece of Jane Austen. She is described by her aunt as having 'fine dark eyes and the sweetness of her temperament'.¹ This is evident from the miniature portrait of her. Cassandra Knight married Lord George Hill in Hanover Square, London, on 2 October 1834, and they lived in Gortlee House, Letterkenny. There, Cassandra gave birth to four children, Norah Mary Elizabeth (1835 - 1920), Captain Arthur Blundell George Sandys Hill (1837 - 1923), Augustus Charles Edward Hill (1839 - 1908) and Cassandra Jane Louisa (1842 - 1901). Sadly, she died of puerperal fever just three days after giving birth, on 14

¹ See <https://www.theirishstory.com/2021/01/28/lord-george-hill-the-modernising-irish-landlord-who-married-not-1-but-2-nieces-of-jane-austen/#.Yf0y5-rP1PY>

March 1842. She is buried in the Church of Ireland, Conwal Parish, graveyard in Letterkenny.

Louisa Knight (13 November 1804 – 29 July 1889), older sister of Cassandra and goddaughter of her aunt Jane Austen, moved to Ireland to look after her four nieces and nephews following the death of their mother in 1842. Five years later she married Lord George Hill, on 11 May 1847, a marriage that was allowed but not without controversy, the matter raised in the British House of Commons. They had one son, George Marcus Wandsbeck Hill (1849 - 1911).

Marianne Knight (1801 – 1896), another sister of Louis and Cassandra, later came to join Louisa to live in Donegal. She lived until the age of 95. The album includes a photograph of Marianne with her brother Rev Charles Knight and her nephew George at Chawton Rectory.

Marianne and Louisa are buried side by side in Tully Graveyard near Ballyarr (Ballyare) House (Ramelton.)

Edward Knight (born Edward Austen; 7 October 1767 – 19 November 1852). He was the third eldest brother of Jane Austen. He became Thomas and Catherine Knight's heir, aged 12 and eventually inherited Godmersham Park in Kent, also Chawton and Steventon. He provided his sister Jane with a cottage in Chawton where she lived for the last years of her life (now Jane Austen's House Museum). He was also High Sheriff of Kent in 1801. He married Elizabeth Bridges. They had 11 children including **Fanny** Catherine (Lady Knatchbull) (1793–1882), Edward (1794–1879), George Thomas (1795–1867), Henry (1796–1843), Reverend William (1798–1873), **Elizabeth** (1800–1884), **Marianne** (1801–1896), **Charles** (1803–1867), **Louisa** (1804–1889), second wife of Lord George Hill, **Cassandra Jane** (1806–1842), first wife of Lord George Hill, Brook John (1808–1878). Chawton is included in some of the photos below.

Charles Knight (11 March 1803 – 13 October 1867), nephew of Jane Austen, was the 8th child of Jane Austen's brother Edward Knight. He was born in Godmersham Park in Kent. He was ordained in 1828. He became curate of West Worldham in Hampshire and rector of Chawton from 1837-1867. He did not marry; he died aged 64. He is featured in the album, at Chawton rectory with Marianne and young George.

Norah Mary Elizabeth Ward was the daughter of Lord George Hill and Cassandra Jane Knight. She married Captain Somerset Ward; both feature in the album on several pages, along with their children.

Captain Somerset Ward, son of Viscount Henry and Viscountess Mary Bangor of Castle Ward, Co. Down, is referred to in 1886 by the journalist (Derry Journal) who toured Gweedore as mass evictions took place on the Hill owned lands. *'The agent of the estate, the Hon. Somerset Ward, Downpatrick, arrived at the Gweedore Hotel last night, and accompanied the evicting party'*. <http://donegalgenealogy.com/derryj1.htm>

Captain Arthur Blundell George Sandys Hill, Do (1837 - 1923), heir to Lord George Hill's estates. He married Helen Emily Chenevic Trench on 16 February 1871. He was in the Army and 'fought in the Central India Campaigns with Camel Corps, the Battle of Cawnpore... and the Indian Mutiny'. He was also inspector of Prisons when he lived in Gweedore.

He is mentioned as instigator of the 1886 Gweedore evictions: *'For a long time after the party left, Mary and a small group of sympathising neighbours remained listlessly squatted on the ground at the gable end of the house, which was Widow Gallagher's hitherto, but which is now pronounced by the law to belong to Captain Arthur George Sandys, Blundell-hill.'*

<http://donegalgenealogy.com/derryj1.htm>

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/187531901/arthur-blundell_george_sandys-hill

Helen Emily Chenevic Trench

Helen Trench was the daughter of the Rev. Richard Chenevix Trench and Hon. Frances Mary (Mason) Trench. She married Captain Arthur B. G. S. Hill in 1871. Their children were Arthur FitzGerald Sandys Hill, 6th Baron Sandys; Cicely Mary Isabel Hill; Madeline Edith Hill; Hon. Mary Cassandra Hill; Dorothy Frances Hill and Vice-Admiral Hon. Sir Richard Augustus Sandys Hill and Hon. George Chenevix Hill.

List of photographs in album

Not all the people in the photograph album are listed.

The photographs that are captioned in the album (in pencil mainly by a later hand) are as follows:

- Norah M. E. Ward and her husband Captain Somerset Ward;
- Captain Somerset and Norah M. E. Ward; other man
- Family of six and man with dog;
- Photos of the Ward family;
- Hon. Captain Somerset Ward; Norah Ward with baby and her [mother in law];
- Lady Knatchbull (photo missing)- (Fanny Knight, Austen's oldest niece)
- Lord George Hill, Charles Knight (nephew of Jane Austen), Miss (Marianne) Knight (who lived with Charles until his death at Chawton rectory) and young George Hill.
- Lady Louisa Hill, Edward Knight (Jane Austen's nephew, 1794 - 1879) and young George Hill, aged about 10; year of photo about 1858 - 1860.
- Miss Scott, Rev C. Knight, Mrs. Miller.
- Lady George Hill with Master G. Hill, about 1860
- Rev Charles Knight, Miss Cassandra Hill (Cassandra's daughter, aged about 18 here); Master George Hill.
- Augustus Charles Edward Hill, (son of LGH and Cassandra) aged about 20.
- Small mounted portrait of Mary Hood.
- Family members [?]
- Norah Ward, daughter of Cassandra and LGH, 2 pics of her husband Captain Hon. Somerset Ward, Co. Down; photo of Viscountess Bangor;
- 3 photos of Sandys family members including Rosa and [] as children and a family portrait.
- Reverend W P Griffith, Rev Richard Brunny?, died 1876.
- Sir James Dombrain (1793–1871), comptroller general of the Irish coastguard, was born in Canterbury, Kent, LadyMary (Furley) Dombrain (from Canterbury).
- Unlisted portrait of man
- Cows and farmer small print of painting
- Hugh McGorgudale [?]
- Major Blackall
- Francis Blake?
- Herr Schmidt
- Rev Ian O'Neill, Professor Connellan; Garrow (woman); unknown man
- Drawings: Henry Grattan, statesman and campaigner for legislative independence (1746 – 4 June 1820); Henry Flood (statesman, Member of Grattan's Parliament, 1782), William, Prince of Orange, Duke of Leinster
- Newspaper article re festivities at Hillsborough Castle, Down on the occasion of the Earl of Hillsborough, (Arthur Wills Blundell..), eldest son of the Marquis of Downshire attaining his majority, undated.
- Black and white drawing of the above festivities, January 1866..
- Drawing of the 'Scots Greys leaving Nottingham for the war in the east'.
- 2 photos of Chawton House, with Wedding of Eliza Adela Knight (Jane Austen's great niece) and Captain Edward (Sir Edward Ridley Colborne Bradford 1st Bt)

Bradford, 17 June 1866 (family portrait outside the Elizabethan family manor house, Chawton House, in Alton. The bridegroom, Captain Bradford, (standing right) can be seen with an empty sleeve, having lost his arm in a tiger attack while hunting boar in India.

- Mr Hawes Poutry, London
- Marchioness Downshire, and Lady Alice Hill, Lady Molyneux, BrynKinalt (or Bryn Kinalt or Brynkinallt, a mansion belonging to the Trevor family, in Wrexham, Wales) and Lord de Vesci, Abbeyleix, Queen's County (Laois);
- -P [Olden] Connellan; Thomas Conolly Esq (MP, landowner, Donegal), on horse.
- McClintock family, incl Hon O'Neill- six adults;
- Hon Hewitt; Mrs. James Alexander and Lady Molyneux;
- Norah Ward as a child; Somerset Ward as a child; Georgia (?) Ward as a child.
- Lady O'Neill; Lord O'Neill; Hon O'Neill (daughter?)
- Edmund Filmer, Baronet; Mary Georgina Filmer (early proponent of the photographic collage, 1838 – 1903); Rosa Sandys; Sally Sandys;
- Hon Violet Sandys; Lady Sandys; Augustus Hill; John D[e]
- Lady Molyneux (with baby); Lady Sandys; Emily Stanford (young person)
- Hon Norah Ward; Lady (Fanny) Knatchbull (nee Knight); Somerset Ward as child; Hon Norah Ward
- Hon Somerset Ward; Hon Norah Ward; G M W Hill; Hon Florence Cranford, 8 Mar 1870.
- Mrs. Edward (Elizabeth) Knight; Edward Knight esq.; Elizabeth Bradford, nee Knight (daughter of Edward & Elizabeth Knight); Georgina Prettyman, nee Knight.
- William Sandys; Day, Bishop of Cashel- 2 photos together, but loose from album;
- Lord Edwin Hill, MP, Lady [Maria, née Windsor] Hill x 2, plus photo of older woman unlisted; (Edwin was Lord George's brother).
- Thomas Carlyle; Sir James Stewart; William Robertson, Francis Forster.
- Major Nugent (older man); Viscountess Bangor; Walter Nugent (younger man)
- Nina Ward, Downshire, 4th Marquess of Downshire (died 1868); Madeline Taylour (?) ('died January 1876'), Augustus Hill.
- Cicely and Hector (little girl and dog); Lord Garvagh (Londonderry); (Captain George) Arthur Hill.
- Mrs Cowan; Rev William Cowan; Miss Ger(?) McClintock; Miss McClintock
- Nina Marchioness of Downshire with small boy; 5th marquis of Downshire with small child; photo with no caption of lady, possibly Lady Downshire; photo of two children (both these photos were taken by one company, Lambert Weston & Son, Dover & Folkstone).
- JW (or JV or DV) Bardy; Jo [] Cunningham; 'Edward Williams and wife'; William and Mrs. Lawson.
- DV or JV or JW Bardy and Mrs Bardy (Brady??)
- Earl []bell, G. M. W. Hill (in legal attire); and photo of house or church
- Drawing cut from (newspaper) of Hannah More (Hannah More (2 February 1745 – 7 September 1833) was an English religious writer, philanthropist, poet and playwright in the circle of Johnson, Reynolds and David Garrick).

- Drawing cut from newspaper of Earl of Shaftsbury in Exeter Hall, 22 May 1878 with title What Ireland Wants, Speech of the Earl of Shaftesbury.
- Dr Carlyle (Thomas); photo of school boy aged about 8 – 10 -one of Somerset Ward/Norah Hill Ward boys.
- Photo of Norah Hill Ward and Norah, her daughter.
- Photo of same family as above, Somerset Ward and Norah M. E. Hill Ward. One daughter and three sons and parents; (photo Cabinet M Guttenberg, Bristol): Norah (later Lady Dunleath), Somerset (uniform), George (seated) & Crosbie.
- Pasted in notepaper headed Isle O'Valla House, Downpatrick, written is 'What Wellington feared midst the dim of war what fills with dread a British tar, what pleases more than a woman caw, what women care for more than men, what gives more for than a mutual kiss- instantly unravel this. By request.'
- The remainder of the album is empty except at the very back upside down is a handwritten essay in French, headed Le Sommeil de Mechant; also poems in French and one in English.
- Loose newspaper cutting from The Irish Times, 9 August 1900 with an article The Last Parliament of the Century, What it has done for Ireland, position of Irish Parties. From our own Correspondent.'

ⁱ See <https://janeaustenlf.org/pride-and-possibilities-further-articles/2019/7/20/issue-59-lost-and-found-the-ievershill-discovery-and-jane-austens-irish-family> *Karen Ievers and Dr Sophia Hillan*