

W B Conyngham, which Cooper had bought.<sup>8</sup> Austin Cooper's need to travel around Ireland visiting military establishments and collecting revenue for the government, provided him with the opportunity to record and draw places that interested him en route. Harbison, highlights Cooper's drawing of Cloghleaigh Castle in Co Cork (Fig 6), where the artist has included the armed escort accompanying him in his professional duties.<sup>9</sup>

According to Harbison, 'the significance of Cooper's collection lies less in its artistic quality than in its importance as a document of the times: the great period in Ireland's history that saw Grattan's parliament flourish, and Gandon adorn Georgian Dublin with masterpieces. Cooper has, in fact, faithfully recorded Ireland's architectural heritage creating, a unique and irreplaceable memoir.' He did much to 'preserve a heritage that was already disappearing, even in his own time, although many of the buildings he records, survive, often in ruins today.'

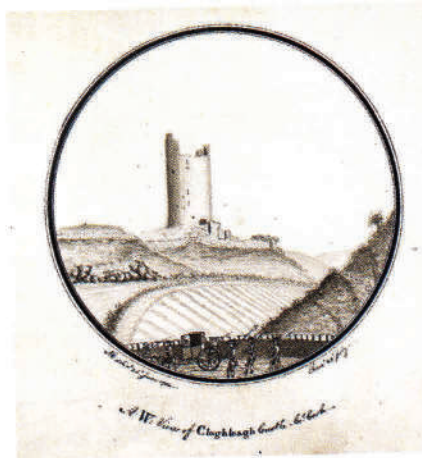
Always prosperous, he owned a good deal of land in Dublin and Donegal and lived at No 4 Merrion Square with his wife and eight children. While working in the Treasury he was also a State Lottery Agent. Luck followed him and on one of his own tickets, he won £20,000. With such a fortunate windfall

he could purchase Gandon's Abbeville, Kilsealy, Co Dublin later to be home to Charles J Haughey. When he retired from the Treasury in 1806 he still continued to manage large estates including those of Lord Leitrim and Lord Conyngham. He died in 1830 and is buried at Kinsealy. He

never fully recovered from complications as a result of a leg injury received a year earlier in a carriage accident when driving from Abbeville to Dublin.

Clearly both Coopers, Austin in Dublin and Samuel in Co Tipperary, were successful land agents. Samuel's clients included the Milton, Damer, Erasmus Smith Schools estates and the Maude (Hawarden) estate at Dundrum. The Maude family, when in residence in Co Tipperary often entertained and the Coopers, whose estate was almost adjacent to Dundrum, were included in their social circle.

From 1857-1859 the Maude family with their ten children moved to Dundrum from London. Lady Clementina Hawarden experimented with wet plate collodion photography and in 1857 was taking stereoscopic landscape photographs around the Dundrum estate.<sup>10</sup> When they returned to their home in South Kensington she made large format portrait photographs of her daughters. Her enigmatic photographs recording the life and interests of an upper-class



### LADY CLEMENTINA HAWARDEN EXPERIMENTED WITH WET PLATE COLLODION PHOTOGRAPHY AND IN 1857 WAS TAKING STEREOSCOPIC LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHS AROUND THE DUNDRUM ESTATE

