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## Deer forests, game shooting and landed estates in the South West of Ireland, 1840 - 1970

Ryan, John M. (Sean)

**Date:** 2001**Copyright:** © 2001, John M. Ryan**Copyright information:** <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>**Related:** <http://library.ucc.ie/record=b1323793>**Full text restriction information:** No embargo required**Citation:** Ryan, J. M. 2001. Deer forests, game shooting and landed estates in the South West of Ireland, 1840 - 1970. PhD Thesis, University College Cork.**Supervisor(s):** [Nicholls, Kenneth W.](#)**Abstract:**

This thesis is concentrated on the historical aspects of the elitist field sports of deer stalking and game shooting, as practiced by four Irish landed ascendancy families in the south west of Ireland. Four great estates were selected for study. Two of these were, by Irish standards, very large: the Kenmare estate of over 136,000 acres in the ownership of the Roman Catholic Earls of Kenmare, and the Herbert estate of over 44,000 acres in the ownership of the Protestant Herbert family. The other two were, in relative terms, small: the Grehan estate of c.7,500 acres in the ownership of the Roman Catholic Grehan family, and the Godfrey estate of c.5,000 acres, in the ownership of the Protestant Barons Godfrey. This mixture of contrasting estate size, owner's religions, nobleman, minor aristocrat and untitled gentry should, it is argued, yield a diversity of the field sports and lifestyles of their owners, and go some way to assess the contributions, good or bad, they have bequeathed to modern Ireland. Equally, it should help in assessing what importance, if any, applied to hunting. In this context, hunting is here used in its broadest meaning, and includes deer stalking and game shooting, as well as hunting with dogs and hounds on foot and horseback. Where a specific type of hunting is involved, it is so described; for example, fox hunting, stag hunting, hare hunting. Similarly, the term game is sometimes used in sporting literature to encompass all species of quarry killed, and can include deer, ground game (hares and rabbits), waterfowl, and various species of game birds. Where it refers to specific species, these are so described; for example grouse, pheasants, woodcock, wild duck, etc. Since two of these estates - the Kenmare and Herbert - each created a deer forest, unique in mid-19th century Ireland, they form the core study estates; the two smaller estates serve as comparative studies. And, equally unique, as these two larger estates held the only remnant population of native Irish red deer, the survival of that herd itself forms a concomitant core area of analysis. The numerary descriptions applied to these animals in popular literature are critically reassessed against prime source historical evidence, as are the so-called deer forest 'clearances'. The core period, 1840 to 1970, is selected as the seminal period, spanning 130 years, from the creation of the deer forests to when a fundamental change in policy and administration was introduced by the state. Comparison is made with similar estates elsewhere, in Britain and especially in Scotland. Their influence on the Irish methods and style of hunting is historically examined.

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legal term, and meant an area subject to special Royal laws designed to protect the valuable resources of timber and game (Vert and Venison) within its boundaries. These laws were strictly and severely imposed by agisters, foresters, verderers (wardens) and rangers, who were all were employed by the Crown. In the 12th and 13th centuries, various Christian monastic orders had established large estates within Sherwood Forest, on land granted to them by the Crown. Among the abbeys founded during this period were Rufford, Thurgarton and Newstead. Established forest communities grew larger, and new ones were created, some often marked by the name 'woodhouse', such as Mansfield Woodhouse. Markets also appeared, as at Mansfield and Market Warsop. "Deer forests, game shooting and landed estates in the South West of Ireland, 1840 - 1970". Cork Open Research Archive: 59. This article about a bridge in Ireland is a stub. You can help Wikipedia by expanding it. v. t. e. Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=This+website+uses+cookies.&oldid=1111111111". By using this website, you consent to the use of cookies in accordance with the UCC Privacy and Cookies Statement. For more information about cookies and how you can disable them, visit our [Privacy and Cookies statement](#). an ancient woodland. This fantastic forest is full of surprises: girls dress as boys, fools offer wise advice and royal courtiers behave like Robin Hood's band of Merry Men. The Arden family had pre-Norman Conquest roots in the area, and many members were staunchly Catholic – with Warwickshire being a Catholic stronghold prior to the Reformation. Moreover, the Arden area had been populated with Shakespeares since the Middle Ages, with branches of the family living in Arden villages such as Temple Balsall, Packwood, Baddesley Clinton and Snitterfield.