

Castle

Bernard

By Anon

Castle Bernard

In 1788 Francis Bernard, who became the 1st Earl of Bandon demolished much of the old O'Mahony castle on the site, and built an 18th century castellated mansion in front of it and slightly to the east.

The old O'Mahony castle had been renamed Castle Bernard in 1715 by "Judge" Bernard. The new building was not strictly a castle, but rather an elegant castellated residence even though it continued to bear the name of a castle in the fashion of the time.

Francis Bernard was nicknamed Bucksot Bandon. Castle Bernard continued to be the home of the Earl and Countess of Bandon - they built a small house within the castle boundary walls. The Earl died in 1979, and as they had no son the title became extinct. Sally Jennifer who inherited the property still lives on the grounds of the castle today.

I have written about Castle Bernard because my dad worked at the castle for over a year in 2014. Here's an interview with my dad, Cille Bernard.

Me: What jobs would you do on the grounds of Castle Bernard?

Dad: I was involved in ground maintenance. Those jobs included: Up keep of the forests, and any other tree care work.

Me: What you have in the castle and what was it like?

Dad: Yes I was. It was a ruin. A shell of walls which were starting to crumble. There were over forty trees growing inside, even on the walls. The doors were all locked up but I had a key to get through the main barricade which gave me total access.

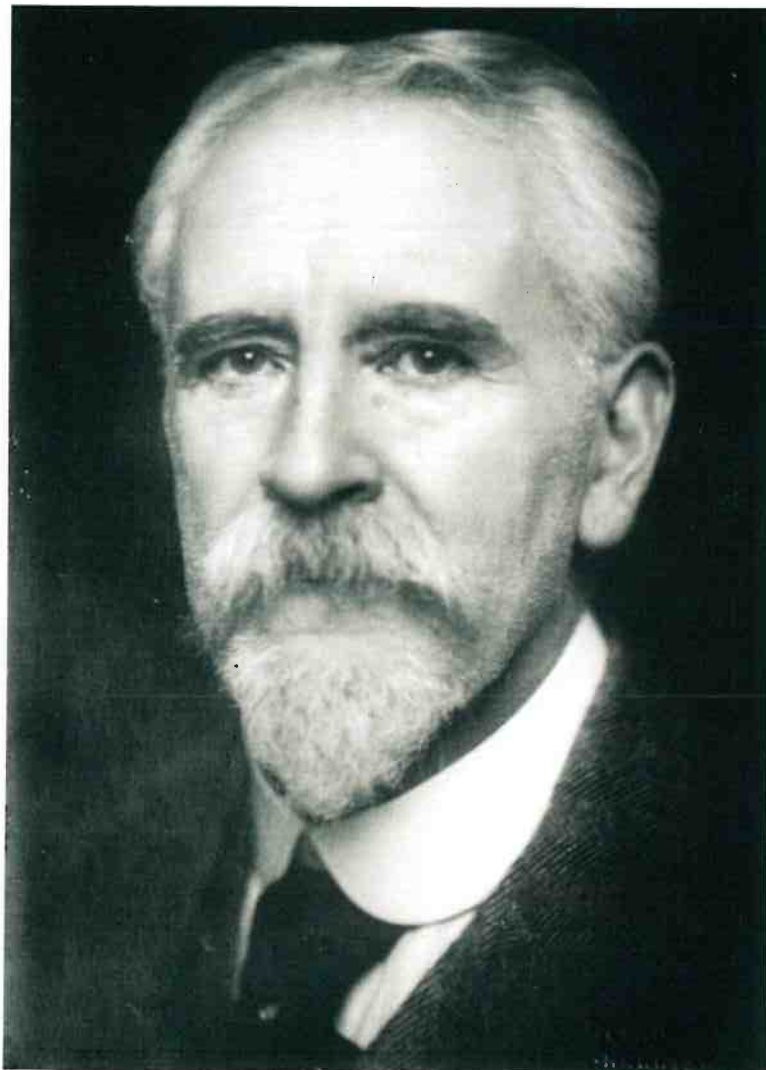
Me: What's happening with the castle now?

Dad: Well, the guy who owns it told me he will devote his efforts and money to make it safe enough for tourists. He would like to make it a tourist attraction.

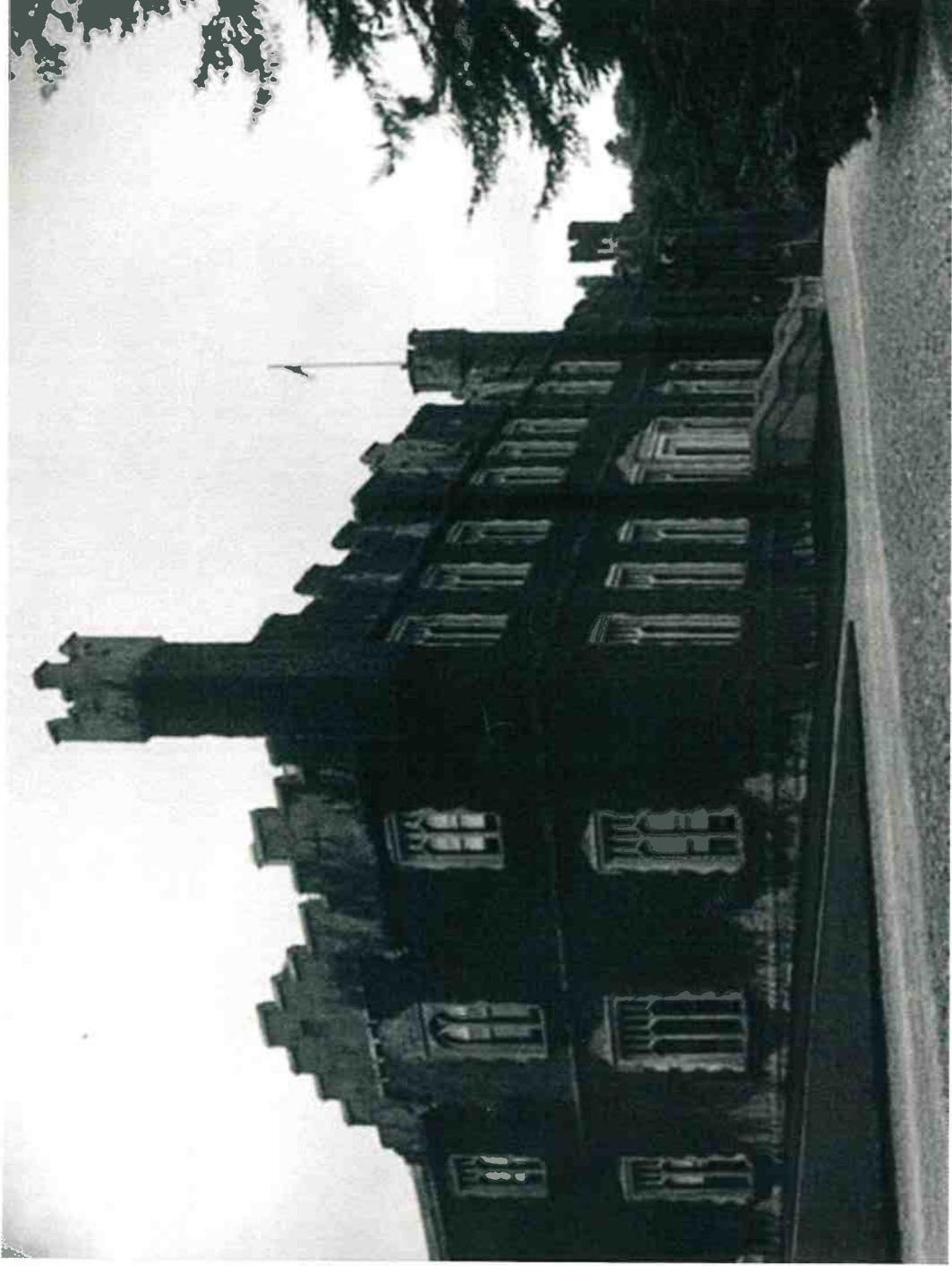
Me: Thank you for your answers.

Dad: Your welcome.

Castle Bernard today



Sir Francis Bernard



Castle Bernard backs then