

Two Letters To

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

From

PETER CHARLES DANIEL COUNT O HEGERTY

John C. Hagerty

à cette occasion de monter, ma bonne volonté, et
d'aller apprendre mon métier. Lorsque je parvrai
à Paris pour aller m'embarquer j'iray vous demander
vos ordres, et votre protection si vous voulez bien me
la promettre. j'ay l'honneur d'être avec les Gentilshommes
les plus respectueux et les plus distingués

Monsieur

Votre très humble
et très obéissant serviteur

8 Requesty
Nancy. le 26 j^u. 1777.

Signature of Captain Peter Charles Daniel O Hegerty

This is from his second request to Benjamin Franklin asking to serve with the American troops. It is interesting to see that he used the ancient and correct Irish form of a symbol of contraction over the O - the noun Ua meaning descendant - and not the vulgarity of an apostrophe which the ignorant seem to prefer.

Two Letters to
Benjamin Franklin
from
PETER CHARLES DANIEL COUNT O HEGERTY
with documents
concerning him and his family
in the National Archives of France.

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I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Leonard W. Labaree of Yale, editor of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, who kindly compared Captain O Hegerty's handwriting from a photocopy in the Marine and Colonial Archives, Paris, with that in his letters to Franklin and found it identical. This identified the author who, like the other men of the family, merely used his last name as a signature.

I am indebted to Mr. Arthur McComb for editorial work, translation and much other assistance and to the Assistant Librarian of the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia.

I wish to thank Mme Jean François Terrien, educated in Ireland and France, who went to work enthusiastically uncovering whatever she could find in French Archives concerning the family. She tirelessly thumbed through volumes for scraps of facts that made this story possible. Her ability to read the almost undecipherable writing was nothing short of miraculous.

I wish to express my indebtedness to her friends and researchers, the Mmes Clemencet, Tornikian and Douiller not only for haunting officials persistently to get permission to look at material but for unearthing hitherto unknown facts that make the O Hegerty story a more lively one.

Also, I wish to include Mrs. Charles Inches, Jr. for rewriting translations into readable English and identifying illegible words that challenged all guesswork.

PREFACE

This is one of a series of biographical sketches of the Jacobite O Hegertys of Donegal mentioned in the O Hegerty - Stuart correspondence (1699 - 1774) now in the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle.

They descend from the last Gaelic Chieftain of this sept, Denis O Hegerty of Clainsullagh, and his wife Catherine Maguire of Clossagh in the County Fermanagh. Their elder son having become a Dominican the leadership passed to Daniel who was a Captain in James II's Guard. After the capitulation at Limerick in 1691 Daniel with his immediate family and many kinsmen came to France.

Completely impoverished as a result of their devotion to the Stuart cause these Irish nobles now depended on charity. The French proved more than hospitable. At the suggestion of the English Queen, Mary of Modena, the Bishop of Bayeux' benevolence was directed toward Captain O Hegerty. With a small pension as a start he lost no time in founding a new family fortune based on shipbuilding and privateering.

After the death of the Stuarts the O Hegertys transferred their allegiance to the Bourbons and remained close to them through the 19th century sharing their vacillating fortune in exiles and restoration.

John C. Hagerty.

The Chevalier Peter Andrew O Hegerty, one of four grandsons of the last Gaelic Chieftain of the Donegal O Hegertys, was survived by an only son, Peter Charles Daniel O Hegerty, who was born on the Isle de Bourbon 3 May 1742 and registered as a Lieutenant, the same day, in Lally's Regiment of Irish Infantry. After his parents sailed for France in 1745 his wet nurse brought him to Paris where, from infancy he was educated to follow an Army career. His youth was devoted to the King's service and at the age of fourteen he was commissioned a Captain. His father had imbued him with the idea of eventually fighting for France in India where one day the encroachment of English power would be stopped.

Peter fell seriously ill at the eve of his regiment's departure for this faraway land and he was forced to convalesce at home. When he had recovered he requested the Ministry to send him to the war in Germany where he could serve as an aide-de-camp until he could rejoin his colors at Pondicherry. He campaigned with the Prince de Soubise's army and fought at Rossbach where the French suffered a humiliating defeat under the leadership of Pompadour's favorite.

Peter, now fifteen, was in the thick of the battle and his father wrote* to Prince Charles on 26 November 1757, "The brave Fitz James Troop was crushed on that unlucky day, the 5th. My son who is about

*O Hegerty - Stuart Correspondence at Windsor Castle (1699-1774).

fifteen and a half years old, charged the enemy ranks along with (Field Marshal) de Nugent, whose aide-de-camp he is, in the Regiment's front line. He saw his horse shot from under him and he was thought to have been killed, or at least wounded or taken prisoner, since he had been seen to fall in the heavy fire of the battle. Thanks be to God, he happily escaped and is recovering rapidly." He continued the letter by suggesting that he would like his son to command his own company and hinted that he would appreciate the Prince to arrange this through the Colonel Duke de Fleury, a mutual friend. Actually he tried to have him transferred from Lally's Regiment to Fitz-James', where he had made such an outstanding name for himself, but found it so difficult that in the end he decided to send him on to India.

In November of 1758 Peter arrived in Lorient ready to join his regiment but managed to postpone his sailing until the last minute while he tried to arrange a transfer to Dillon's Irish Infantry, which it was rumored, was intended to accompany Prince Charles during the forthcoming attack on England. He specified that he would make this change in his orders only under the condition that he would be close to the Prince and attached to him personally. Since the French didn't include the Prince in the plan of attack, Captain Peter could get no definite answer and without further delay sailed for India. He wrote his father saying he was off the coast of Brazil in May and didn't expect to join his colors until June or July.

In India he served brilliantly and Major Malleson described his brave action at the Battle of Wandewash in 1760:

"Meanwhile Coote who by a series of able manoeuvres had obtained a position which enabled him to force an action, no sooner beheld the disposition made by the French than he drew up his men in the order of battle and advanced. He himself led the first line, consisting of his own regiment and a battalion of Sepoys; the two company's regiments came next, Colonel Draper's regiment on the left. As he approached the French, to whose position his own was oblique, the guns from the entrenchment near the tank opened upon him, and Lally, thinking he noticed some confusion in the English left, in consequence of this fire, deemed the moment opportune to charge with his cavalry. He galloped up, therefore, to the right of the line, and placing himself at the head of his horse, gave the order to charge. Not a man, however, stirred. Attributing this to the ill feeling of the commanding officer, Lally displaced him on the spot and ordered the second in command, M. d'Aumont, to follow him. But d'Aumont having likewise refused, Lally placed him under arrest, and addressing himself to the men in a body, ordered them to charge. M. d'Heguerty with the left squadron at once advanced, and Cornet Bonnessay calling out that it would be shameful to abandon their general, the others followed."

The French lost their advantage by the treacherous hesitation and despite the brilliant example of gallant bravery set by Captain Peter O Hegerty they panicked and deserted their general. This battle of Wandewash, one of the world's decisive battles, dealt the blow to French supremacy in India.

In 1758 the sixteen year old veteran of Rossbach was highly honored by the King of Poland, Duke of Lorraine and Bar who made him his Gentleman-in-Waiting and three years later, when a toughened hero of Wandewash, flatteringly recognized him as a noble of ancient lineage.

His genealogy* was accepted and registered in the Chamber of Accounts of Lorraine. This acknowledgement that he was a gentilhomme d'ancienne extraction was of extreme importance at the time since it carried with it "privileges, exemptions, prerogatives, rights, qualities, rank, titles, preeminences and immunities."

After returning to France he was made the first commander of the new Company of Light Infantry which had been initiated in Dillon's Regiment. This experimental innovation was the contribution of M. de Rochambeau, then Colonel in the Regiment of Auvergne, who handpicked the fastest troops for reconnoitering on the line of march.

During his Army career, Captain Peter, like most of the young nobility and his father before him, plunged into debt. While still inexperienced he had been duped into transactions which cost three or four times the initial expense to extricate himself. He complained about his situation when writing to his father. This doting parent who idolized his blameless hero, and undoubtedly recalling his own past difficulties, determined to draw up a will that would protect his legacy from unscrupulous characters seeking to take further advantage.

Unfortunately, the Chevalier Peter Andrew made this will when he still was only too aware of his son's short-comings and drew up a fool-proof document which was intended to protect him from all mercenary

*See Appendix A

bill collectors who might descend at once to claim his fortune. This tied up all his cash leaving the boy stranded after his death.

Since his son was on active duty it was impossible to communicate with him and he never realized that the recalcitrant Captain was completely solvent by then and had paid all his debts. The well meaning document was now an obstruction to the future. At his death in 1763 he stipulated that his son should receive the 20,000 livres that his mother had left him together with real estate but her papers and inventory could not be found.

Peter became heir to his father's entire fortune. Since the former Governor O Hegerty had arrived in Paris in 1745 from the Isle de Bourbon with about 500,000 livres and had taken in almost the same amount between that time and his death he left a considerable amount for the period. Besides this Peter received not only the town and country houses and real estate with their hereditary titles of Seigneur of Villey-le-Sec and Chanteheux, the silver plate, furniture, decorations and carriages but also a few ships, business interests in the Isle de Bourbon and money owed from two contracts - one for 5,830 piasters; the other for 10,000. Again the inventory of this estate had also disappeared. He found to his displeasure that his retired, wounded uncle was his guardian since he was still under age and whatever legal papers existed were in his care.

The young Captain was now impoverished and depended on his army salary to support all this grandeur. Besides this burden he was faced with the unpleasant situation of having to house his uncle and two aunts. The will provided that these relatives were to have the rooms in both houses, where they had lived comfortably before Peter Andrew's death, together with the use of both libraries, the silver, linen, furniture and carriages as long as they lived. The aunts also were to receive an income of 1,200 livres between them, the whole sum going to the survivor.

While the boy was still on duty his uncle and aunts made an inventory of what they didn't want and sold off the good things, including the two libraries. Meanwhile they started to sell off houses and land at Badonviller which had belonged to his grandfather and pocketed the proceeds although Captain Peter should have received one fifth which was his due.

The relatives continued to push Peter around like an adolescent intruder and continually presented him with unsubstantiated bills that were ridiculous. Although the horses and carriages had long since been sold, this fact had never so much as been mentioned in the inventory of the estate, but they continued to present him with bills for the coachman's and postillion's wages, invoices from the saddle maker and other such absurdly, inconsistent debts.

Naturally, Peter's return from the wars was resented because it disturbed a pleasant way of life for his relatives. Ever since Bernard was severely wounded at Fontenoy he had lived as a retired Colonel intermittently at his brother's houses in Paris, Nancy and Villey-le-Sec. Together with his sisters they enjoyed the hospitality of this rich coffee planter and importer. What with Peter Andrew retired as an officer in the Compagnie des Indes and busy as agent of Prince Charles at the Polish Court of Lorraine and with his son campaigning since he was a mere stripling, these three had run the estates and farms assuming complete control. They were not about to relax their hold because of their brother's death.

Despite the unpleasant situation Peter decided to marry and in 1766 he took for his bride Barbe Justine Anthoine, * daughter of the Chevalier Marc Sigisbert Anthoine and of his wife, Catherine Mathieu de Moulon. His father-in-law was President of the Chamber of Accounts of Lorraine and related to most of the minor nobility who served at the Court of King Stanislaus and the previous Duke Leopold in military and legal capacities.

At the wedding the French and Irish cousins were strongly in evidence and despite the bitter family quarrels the uncles and aunts led the list of witnesses. Among these were the Count and Countess Dominick O Hegerty and their son, the Royal Navy Lieutenant Daniel Edward

*Barbe Augustine Anthoine born at Nancy, 27 September 1741.

Chevalier Count O Hegerty and his cousin, the Chevalier Louis O Hegerty, Captain in the Cavalry and son of the Colonel Bernard.

The distinguished clerical relatives appeared. Among these was the Augustinian Abbot General, Augustin Clothworthy MacCormack, Abbot of Bauchoz and former Superior General of the Canons of St Augustine of St Cougal at Bangor in Ireland. Peter's maternal aunt, Madame Perrin de Verdière, Abbess of the Royal Abbey of La Joye at Hennebont was accompanied by her brother Charles de Verdière, Brigadier and Officer in the Dragoons - these relatives of Peter's mother were related to all the nobility of Brittany and had actual documents to authenticate their ancient lineage which, it is said, could be traced to the 14th century.

There were titled officials from Normandy, members of parlement and legal luminaries related to the Anthoine family, who not only produced tax collectors but a batch of Barons, Marquises, Counts and Knights that gave the wedding party a distinguished local appearance.

The High and Mighty Allots of King Stanislaus' Court came with other relatives who were connected by marriage with Peter's mother-in-law. The Chevalier François Anthoine Alliot, the King of Poland's Comptroller General and Farmer General for Lorraine, had been a close friend of the late Chevalier Peter Andrew O Hegerty.

The young Mme O Hegerty brought with her a dowry of 30,000 livres and this was to be used in paying off the mortgage on Villey-le-Sec.

Peter's only contributions were his officer's salary and the estates and farms with their furnishings. Everything else had apparently disappeared under the tender care of his uncle and aunts.

After his marriage they gave him part use of the two households, which they considered a great favor, and this young officer whom everyone had considered so rich couldn't call his home his own, nor get at the money bequeathed him by both parents. Soon his family of three children were coming along and he had to find a way to recover his patrimony. Taxes and debts absorbed what little income there was and money from the Isle de Bourbon dwindled and finally stopped altogether.

There was constant bickering with the aunts and uncle who were secure in the income his father had left them and on which they lived in style. They continued to press old trumped up bills on the estate, saying that he owed the Abbot MacCormack and his cousin Louis considerable sums of money for loans to his father. Of course, no signed notes were forthcoming to prove these accusations and it was apparent that a rich business man like the former Governor of Isle de Bourbon was not indebted to a poor nephew or an impoverished cleric. These aggravations done to postpone a showdown over his inheritance became insupportable. In 1770, when his third child, a daughter, was born the aunts and uncle asked him to pay them board - in his own property - he threw them out.

It was a pretty picture with the three Irish harpies - the old maid Sara, the Widow Fontaine and the wounded Colonel crippled with gout cursing and screaming recriminations at their ruined nephew off whom they had lived for seven years. They gathered up their belongings and stripped the houses of every stick of furnishing from attic to cellar. A series of lawsuits brought by both sides not only washed the dirty family linen in public but carefully exposed it in pamphlet form in 1774 for their friends' edification.

Peter's uncle and aunts may have meant well originally when they deterred the young spendthrift from wasting his inheritance but it appears they were also working in the interest of Bernard's own son, their other nephew, who never had any prospects of great wealth. This became apparent at the latter's wedding in 1771 when in a contract they disinherited Peter leaving what they thought they might have got from Peter Andrew's estate to him.

It is known that Peter had been constantly in debt throughout his army career and his father had to bail him out on several occasions but this didn't justify his relatives taking his money for themselves to preserve it from creditors; Peter was prone to exaggeration and the constant wrangling may have goaded him into inaccurate accusations that must have had serious repercussions at the time. To all such charges the relatives retaliated by saying the estate was absorbed by

heavy debts and Peter was not an heir until these were paid and they feared, as his father had, that once he claimed it bill collectors would seize it, or he would squander it. Whatever happened the enormous fortune seemed to have been dissipated and his guardian refused to reveal any facts.

From his father's death in 1763 until 1771 Peter claimed he never received a cent from his guardian and he determined to find out where the money had gone. In the summer of this year he ran across a collection of papers that he had been told was of no interest. Going through them now very thoroughly he discovered receipts for payments his father made to lawyers in Paris in 1746 for an inventory made at his mother's death. This was the very inventory which his uncle denied had ever existed.

Immediately he wrote to Paris asking for a search to be made and a copy of the missing inventory sent to him. It then became clear that his relatives were collecting their annual income not only from his father's estate but from his mother's which, it turned out, was almost greater than his father's since it was free of debt. Peter now openly accused his uncle of impeding justice by concealing important documents and the wrangling with denials and excuses started anew.

By this time Captain Peter had two sons, pages at court, and was finding it almost hopeless to live in the style of a noble and support his

family. Eight years later he volunteered his services to fight for the newly formed American Republic. He had been a Captain in the Cavalry from 1753 - 1778 and then transferred to Berwick's Regiment retaining his rank until 1784 when he retired.

A year after Benjamin Franklin concluded a treaty with the court of France he wrote asking him for a commission in the Continental Army. *

Nancy in Lorraine
the 7th February 1779

"I have had the honor of telling you, Sir, about twelve days ago, of a plan I had made to offer my services to your countrymen. I begged you at the same time to be kind enough to give me a letter of introduction for your country. Am I indiscreet, Sir, in repeating this request and if you would have the kindness to promise to give it to me at the time of my next trip to Paris, it would determine my going there as soon as possible to have the honor of seeing you there. I have already had the honor of telling you, Sir, that it was with the consent of the Minister and with the belief that it was doing something pleasing to him that I have adopted this course. I have an estate and fortune but an unconquerable hatred of idleness as well and I seek every way to avoid it. I dare hope, Sir, that you will tell me frankly what you think of it and be convinced that no one has the honor of being so, more firmly than I, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant.

O heguerty"

*Letter 88

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Letters to Benjamin Franklin in American Philosophical Society
Library

Evidently Franklin neglected to answer this and Peter Charles wrote him again six months later.*

Nancy

the 28th July 1779

"Is it permissible, Sir, for someone who has not the honor of being known to you to ask your opinion about a plan of which he leaves you the judge? Having enjoyed a Captain's commission for twenty-two years, and being a Chevalier of St Louis with a moderate fortune I still have the ambition and ardent desire of serving in an honorary capacity in the Infantry. I am expecting through the King's favor, the rank of Major or Lieutenant Colonel, but since I expect that the next campaign will not be lively enough to keep me very busy, I should like to show my good will toward your countrymen, now our allies. I dare then to beg you, Sir, to give me a letter of introduction for your country so that I may be put to use there on my arrival and do point out to me the quickest way of getting there. It would not be proper, Sir, to ask your patronage without giving you the names of men, who by their rank and importance, can give you an opinion of my conduct, present, past and future. The Marshal de Brisac, the Marshal de Clermont Tonnère and the Prince de Montbarey, are, I think, sufficient for that purpose and I would abide by their decision. It is only with the permission of the last named and provided my absence would not harm my service in France, that I should claim on this occasion to show my good will and go away to teach my profession. When I pass through Paris on my way to embark I shall ask you for orders and your patronage if you will be so good as to promise it to me.

I have the honor of remaining with the most respectful and distinguished feeling, Sir, your very humble and obedient servant.

O heguerty"

*Letter 80

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Letters to Benjamin Franklin in American Philosophical Society Library

Franklin evidently was swamped with such requests from the restless nobility but could not afford to treat with individuals.

The lawsuits to recover the inheritance dragged on for twelve years and their cost eventually dissipated what little principal remained. Since the war with England had ruined business with the colonies it was no great surprise when money from investments in the Isle de Bourbon ceased coming in altogether. In desperation Captain Peter took his case to the State and found sympathetic friends in the Duke de Fleury and his family. The old Cardinal, of course, had been a staunch supporter of his grandfather.

It was now prohibitive to get an estate settled in time of war, especially when the investments were thousands of miles away on a remote island off Madagascar with indolent and careless trustees paying no attention to detail and letting a once profitable coffee business decay in tropical languor.

He took his case to the Ministry of the Navy where the officials demanded to see his accounts. It was then agreed that the feasible thing to do would be to sell his father's plantations, liquidate the business and the trustees' debts and deposit all the money due him with the King's Bursar in the Isle de Bourbon. With this arrangement he could then draw on this sum through the Navy's Treasurer General in Paris.

In 1780 - and it isn't clear whether this was done with his consent - the fortune was converted into coffee, instead of its value being deposited

locally, and shipped aboard the Le Fargès* for France. It was a frightening risk but a gamble that would have made him a millionaire if he could have brought it off safely. Unfortunately, the ship and its cargo were seized by the British and all Captain Peter's assets vanished.

He was now hopelessly destitute and was forced to petition the King for food expenses for his family. His older son was first page to the Count d'Artois; the younger was destined for the King's service but eventually became attached to the Count's household. His daughter was now ten years old. It was a terrible predicament for his family who had gone so far at Court, especially since they were foreigners. As they stood on the threshold of success and honors they were faced with poverty and disgrace.

On the brink of complete ruin Peter took up residence in Paris where he haunted the ministries pleading his case before sympathetic and friendly officials who were helpless to aid him. He first submitted his plea to the Ministry of the Navy since he felt the restitution of his loss would be in their sphere. They were most helpful and advised him, since he was an Army Officer, to see what the ministry could offer him. The Army felt, that since the fortune was lost aboard a merchant ship he should try the India Company - now ceded

*the final e is accented in the original documents

to the crown - where his father had made such a name for himself. The India Company assured him that it was a problem under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.

His letters addressed from the Hotel de Calais on the rue de Richelieu near the King's Library are heartbreaking requests for an honorable solution to a problem he insisted was not of his doing. He begged for the return of the duty on the cargo - this amounted to 12,000 francs for 50,000 écus of coffee - a tax which ironically enough had been abolished as unfair to colonial enterprise just after he paid it.

He explained his position to the Court, pointing out that he inherited 20,000 livres at birth from his mother and a third of this was spent on educating him for the Royal service. Furthermore he explained he had lost 220,000 livres in the present war and had spent considerable in bringing up his children. He stated that he was forced to live on an income of 1,700 livres and he could no longer exist on this pittance. Now he applied for a pension, enumerating the services of his family to France, and the contributions the O Hegertys made from his grandfather's time to the present.

The letters aroused some feeling for the poor officer, evidently, and the Ministry of the Navy thought that some restitution should be made on the coffee tax which was notoriously prejudicial to the island's

prosperity. The officials, however, did not dare suggest a refund since this might start a precedent for the return of all such taxes prior to the recent abolishment but they turned for help to friends in other departments.

Meanwhile, Peter's brother-in-law, the King's Attorney General in Lorraine, wrote the Court on Mme O Hegerty's behalf, describing in what pitiful circumstances this patriotic family now found themselves, what they had sacrificed for their King, and how they had shown their devotion to France. He suggested that their ancient lineage alone deserved some consideration. Many nobles of consequence now interested themselves in the case. The Duke de Fleury and his daughter, the Carmelite nun; the Marquis de Castries, then Secretary of the Navy, and even Necker brought pressure to bear although they all felt this disaster could not be legally compensated for since it was due to the fortunes of war.

Finally it was agreed that, on the Duke's insistence, the indemnity be taken from the Secret Expenses Fund and several thousand miserly livres were given for the maintenance of this family which had been ruined through the stupidity of the exchequer.

After the unsuccessful attempt to get government compensation for the loss of his fortune Captain O Hegerty retired from the Army after 35 years of service with a pension of 800 livres and remained in Paris.

Returning to his old family parish of St Eustache he lived in the Hotel d'Aligre, rue d'Orleans. By 1784 he was legally separated from his wife who remained in Nancy. He eventually settled in Anjou and during the revolution fled to Dublin where his relatives had gone to ride out the Terror. In the Irish capital he married for the second time Rose Wilton, daughter of John and Bridget Wilton, a girl less than half his age. The wedding took place in the Church of the Immaculate Conception on the 15th of April 1794. His wife went to the continent with him and died at Versailles in 1831.

He died at Jena the 6th September 1798 and his death is recorded in the register of the local Lutheran Church, the record stating that Peter Carl Daniel Graf O heguerty was a Chevalier of St Louis and a 1st Lieutenant in Berwick's Regiment.

Peter Charles Daniel Count O Hegerty, Chevalier of St Louis, hereditary Seigneur of Villey-le-Sec and Chanteheux, Gentleman-in-Waiting to the late King of Poland, Duke of Lorraine and Bar, Captain in Lally's and later in Berwick's Irish Infantry, veteran of Rossbach and hero of Wandewash left two sons and a daughter by his first wife.

This girl, Sarah Rose Countess O Hegerty, married her cousin the Chevalier Francis Louis O Hegerty in Liège during the emigration and from this couple descends the present Chieftain of the O Hegertys of Donegal.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX "A"

Selections from Documents
deposited in the
Archives of the Prefecture
of the
Department of MEURTHE - et - MOSELLE

12 January 1761

Extract from the
Registers of the King's Council of State

CONFIRMATION OF NOBILITY
AND DECLARATION OF GENTILITY

for

PETER CHARLES DANIEL O HEGERTY

On the request presented to the King in Council by the Sieur Peter Charles Daniel O Hegerty, Gentleman-in-Waiting at the Court of His Majesty, Captain in Lally's Regiment of Irish Infantry in the service of His Most Christian Majesty and son of the Sieur Peter Andrew O Hegerty, former Governor of the Isle de Bourbon, honorary member of the Academy of Sciences and Letters of Nancy (said request) setting forth that in view of his descent from an ancient noble house of the Kingdom of Ireland, he has recourse to the authority of His Majesty to obtain (for use) within his States letters of recognition of his extraction and nobility. Although born in the Isle de Bourbon, Lorraine has become his country for forty years and more; his father and grandfather established themselves there and acquired fiefs. Previously they had lived in France where his grandfather had emigrated attached to the court of James II in 1691 following the capitulation of Limerick which ended the revolutionary war in Ireland.

The petitioner has all the more reason to expect this favour from His Majesty inasmuch as the origin of his nobility is lost in the mists of time and that he can trace twenty-two noble generations together with their illustrious alliances proven by the most legal and authentic title deeds (as is shown) in fact by his genealogical tree copied from the Archives of the Kingdom of Ireland by the King of Arms and signed by him at Dublin on 26 April 1754, to which is attached the great seal of

the College of Arms of which he is the guardian under Letters Patent of the King of England. This signature in turn is attested by the Duke of Dorset, Viceroy of Ireland who has equally affixed his seal to it.

The same genealogical tree has been copied from the English Archives by the Kings at Arms of that Kingdom and the great seal of the College of Heralds affixed thereto in the presence of Abraham Ogier, Royal Notary at London on the 24 April 1755, whose signature was legalized by the Duc de Mirepoix, the Ambassador at that time of His Most Christian Majesty at the Court of London.

This genealogical tree gives to the petitioner as ancestors in the twenty-second generation Arassus* O Hegerty of Macherabeg, already a noble and Anne, daughter of James O Dogherty, Esquire. This Arassus had a son, James O Hegerty, who married Jeanne, daughter of Daniel Dermond, nobleman. Of this marriage was born Marmaduke, whose wife, Catherine (daughter of John McDonough, a man of quality) gave birth to Patrick, who married Griselle or Grace, daughter of John Manus Quigli, Esquire, and whose son, John had for his wife, Anne of the illustrious house of Doulack Macgullin of Brich. John O Hegerty was the father of Neill who by his marriage with Catherine, daughter of Colonel John Diry, had a son, Edmond. The latter married Eleanor,

* Arassus was a Donegal colloquialism for Andrew

daughter of Captain Roger MacBride. Their son, John, the second of the name married Mary, daughter of Terence O Duvin of Monterlony, Esquire, and was the father of Cornelius, who married to Bridget, daughter of Neill O Dogherty, nobleman, was the father of Mortagh, a captain, who took as his wife Finella, daughter of John O Kelly, Esquire, and whose son Patrick, second of the name married Griselle, daughter of Roger MacCormick, nobleman. Their son James, second of the name was the father of Denis, a Lieutenant in O Neill's regiment. He married Eleanor, daughter of Philip MacDonogh, Esquire, and their son, the third John, married Rose, daughter of John MacGinnis, nobleman.

Their son Maurice married Unitas, daughter of John, called the Red O Neill, nobleman and was the father of Edmond, second of the name, who in turn was the father of Maurice, second of the name, by his wife Jeanne, the daughter of the most noble Denis Walsh. Maurice in turn was the father of Daniel by his wife, Rose, daughter of Neil O Quinn, nobleman. Daniel married Rose, daughter of Terence O Cahan, one of the principal lords of County Derry. Hugh, their son, married Honora, daughter of Nigel the Great O Duven, a nobleman. He was the father of Denis. This Denis, second of the name and his wife, Catherine, daughter of Denis Maguire of Clossagh, nobleman had two sons, Daniel, second of the name, who married Griselle or Grace, the daughter of Nigel O Mulvany of Roote, nobleman, and Patrick who became a Dominican monk.

The petitioner ventures to call to His Majesty's attention that the ancestors of the petitioner all bore the title Generosus, a term which genealogically speaking always signifies a distinguished birth.

Daniel, second of the name, is the petitioner's grandfather. He came to France as was said above, in 1691 in the suite of King James II of England. He had raised in Ireland and armed and supported at his expense a company of one hundred men in the regiment of O Neill, later Talbot and that from the very beginning of the Revolution of 1688; he brought it to France.

His father Denis, great-grandfather of the petitioner, and Father Patrick O Hegerty, a Dominican, his great-uncle also expatriated himself at the same time. Denis died at Dinan in Brittany on the 26 May 1692 as appears from the adjoined duly legalized extract from the Parish register. He is there described as a nobleman, former Lord of Brookhall in the province of Ultonia (Ulster) in the Kingdom of Ireland, widower of the noble lady Catherine Maguire, buried in back of the choir of the Church, in the presence of his son, Daniel, of Charles O Dogherty, Colonel of Infantry, his son-in-law, of Germain MacLaughlin, Captain of Infantry, his grandson by marriage and of Colonel Dominick Browne.

Daniel O Hegerty, second of the name, was successively general aide-de-camp to the Duke of Tyrconnell Viceroy of Ireland and of Count de Lauzun, General of the French Army in the same Kingdom; after long service he gave himself up entirely to the education of his children. He

settled in Lorraine in 1720 and bought the property and seigneurie of La Neuvelotte and La Grange. This same Daniel was recognized as a noble by descent whose house had possessed the property of Brookhall, formerly known as Clunsullagh, for many centuries, together with the rights, privileges and preeminences pertaining to the hereditary nobility. The Dame Griselle or Grace O Mulvany was equally recognized as being descended from the ancient lords of Bally Mulvany in County Antrim. This is shown by an act of supporting evidence of 16 December 1724, the certificates relating thereto being signed and sealed with the arms of the lords Dillon Lieutenant-General of the Armies of the King. Lee also Lieutenant-General and Grand Cross of the Royal and Military Order of St Louis; of O Gara, Regimental Colonel, former Colonel of Dragoons of the Queen of England; of O Donnel, Colonel of an Irish regiment of infantry bearing his name and Brigadier in the armies of the King and of O Rourk, Lord of Couvonges, Morlay, Councillor of State and Chamberlain of His Royal Highness Prince Leopold.

This Daniel, grandfather of the petitioner is named in several essential acts together with the mention of his titles. In the Baptismal Certificate of Denis, one of his sons, dated at St Germain-en-Laye 18 April 1699 this Denis is described as the legitimate son of the marriage of Daniel O Hegerty, Irish nobleman and Grace O Mulvany.

In the birth certificate of Peter, another of his sons and the father of the petitioner, made out at Dinan in Brittany on 31 December 1700, and duly legalized, he is described as the legitimate son of Daniel O Hegerty, Irish nobleman, captain in Talbot's regiment and the Dame Grace O Mulvany. In the birth certificate of Francis Bernard, yet another son, made out in Caen, 12 February 1703, he is described as the son of Messire Daniel O Hegerty, Irish nobleman and of the Dame Grace O Mulvany. In the certificate of Marie Charlotte Cecile Vertu, one of his daughters, born in Caen on the 5 April 1705 where she is described as the daughter of the Sieur Daniel O Hegerty and Grace O Mulvany, (he being a) nobleman of Ireland.

In the death certificate of Peter Patrick O Hegerty, paternal grand-uncle who left Ireland with Daniel his brother, the grandfather of the petitioner and who was buried in the Cathedral of St Malo on 24 October 1703, the same Daniel is described as Esquire, former Captain in O Neill's regiment in the genealogical chart delivered to him at St Germain-en-Laye on 24 February 1703 by James Terry, Athlone King of Arms of King James III of England. This same chart recognizes the ancient noble descent of Daniel O Hegerty and that of the Dame Grace O Mulvany, his wife. It establishes also that Daniel at the time had five children viz. four sons: Patrick, born in Ireland, Dominick, Peter, father of the petitioner, Francis-Bernard and a daughter named Sarah,

also born in Ireland. There has since been born another daughter, whose baptismal certificate has been noticed above.

He is entitled Messire and his son Peter, father of the petitioner, Esquire, in the contract relating to the acquisition of the property and Seigneurie of La Neuvelotte and La Grange from Baron de Bauffremont, notarized in Nancy on 15 May 1720. He is given the titles Messire and Esquire, Seigneur of La Neuvelotte, in the further acquisition he made of a house in Nancy in a contract notarized in that city on the 18th of July of the same year 1720, documents of which mention is made only to show the uninterrupted succession in which the petitioner is described as Esquire ever since the departure from Ireland of his great-grandfather. The petitioner adds to the dossier of his request the original of the letters given by King James III of England, given at Bologna on the 18 October 1728 by which he declares the Sieur Daniel O Hegerty, Irish nobleman living in Nancy to belong to an ancient and noble family of his Kingdom of Ireland.

Daniel died in Lorraine at 92 years of age and his death certificate of 7 August 1745 describes him as an Irish nobleman, former infantry major in Ireland in O'Neill's regiment and in France in that of Talbot, and as the husband of the Dame Grace O Mulvany. The death certificate of the Dame Grace O Mulvany, who died at Nancy on the 28 August 1752, describes her as the widow of Messire Daniel O Hegerty, Irish nobleman, major in the regiment of O'Neill in Ireland and of Talbot in France in the

service of His Most Christian Majesty. After such authentication the fact of Daniel O Hegerty's noble descent cannot, with all respect to His Majesty, be considered in any reasonable doubt.

This Daniel as noted above had by his wife Griselle or Grace O Mulvany four male children all named in the genealogical tree in correct form viz: Patrick, the eldest born in Ireland who has served the Most Christian King since his childhood, and is a Chevalier of the Royal and Military Order of St Louis, and formerly Brigadier in the armies of the King having been promoted such on 1 January 1748 and now honorary Colonel in the Irish regiment of Berwick. He was in the recent war Lieutenant-Colonel of the Irish Regiment of Lally under a commission of 1 October 1744, that is, at the time of the creation of the Regiment; he was promoted Colonel on the field of Fontenoy on 11 May 1745 by His Most Christian Majesty himself who had the goodness to tell him in front of the Army that he conferred this grade upon him because of his steadfastness. At the battle of Lawfeld he was dangerously wounded and the King always kind and careful to recompense the military who serve with zeal and distinction had the then Minister of War d'Argenson write to him in the following terms: "In the Headquarters Camp of Vieux Tour 27 July 1747. The King wishing, Monsieur, to give you a mark of the satisfaction which he had at seeing the way in which you conducted yourself at the battle of Lawfeld and in view of the wound which you received there: His Majesty has ordered me to let you know

that he has ordered that you should be paid a pension of 1200 livres on the Royal Treasury. I hereby notify you of this fact and am, Sir, etc."

The second son of Daniel is Dominick married in Paris in 1726 to Demoiselle Françoise Corre. Their only son was Daniel Edward, Lieutenant in the Royal Navy and their only daughter Frances Anne, married. The third son (of Daniel) is Peter. The fourth, Francis Bernard, Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry who after having been dangerously wounded at the battle of Fontenoy on 11 May 1745 was made a Chevalier of St Louis on the 30th June of the same year. On the 21 March 1747 the King gave him a commission as Lieutenant-Colonel. Not being able on account of his wounds to actually serve in the army, he was appointed successively to be commandant of the towns of Oudenarde and Ath which posts he occupied until the complete evacuation of the Low Countries. In Ath he had the honour to have under his orders two companies of musketeers and four battalions of infantry and cavalry. On 21 March 1751 he was made Captain of Grenadiers in Dillon's regiment in which he had been a captain ever since 1733. He remained in this post till 3 May 1757 and then the consequences of his wound at Fontenoy not permitting him to continue in the Grenadiers he was obliged to apply for retirement which was granted him with a pension of 1200 livres. The same Francis Bernard O Hegerty has the honour of being one of the Gentlemen-in-Waiting at the Court of His Majesty since His

Majesty's accession to the throne; his Letters Patent date from 5 October 1737.

Peter, father of the petitioner, is former Commandant of His Most Christian Majesty in Isle de Bourbon; he is a member of the Academy of Sciences and Belles-Lettres of Nancy, in accordance with a brevet signed by His Majesty on 1 March 1751; sole Lord and Justice of Villey-le-Sec. He married on 4 September 1738 the Demoiselle Marie-Françoise Verdière, legitimate daughter of the Sieur Charles-François Verdière, Esquire, former officer of Infantry and of the Dame Thérèse Guenelle L'Ollivier du Plessis; his marriage contract of 4 September and the certificate of the celebration of the marriage itself, dated the 15th of the same month and annexed to the petition both attach the same titles to the spouse; the bridegroom is called Messire Pierre-Andre O Hegerty, Esquire, attorney general, attached to the Superior Council and Police magistrate of the Sainte-Suzanne quarter which he commanded. son of the Sieur Daniel O Hegerty former Captain commanding a battalion of infantry in the King's service and of the Dame Grace O Mulvany.

The noble origin of the spouse (i. e. Marie-Françoise Verdière) on both her father's and mother's side is shown by a dossier of eight pieces which the petitioner has the honour to annex hereto; on her maternal side the spouse is related to and connected with the principal nobility of Brittany; this is made evident by the decree of the Commissioners for the reformation of the Breton nobility of January 1688, verified in

Parlement. The petitioner takes the liberty of observing to His Majesty that the Sherifffdom of the town of L'Isle in Flanders gives the titles of nobility and that the paternal ancestors of the mother of the petitioner have been unvaryingly recorded there from father to son from the year 1375 to the present. The petitioner's mother died in Paris on 2 February 1746. The death certificate gives her titles.

Peter acquired by contract made at Nancy on 28 January 1749 a house costing a principal sum of 32,500 livres. The contract describes him as Esquire, former Commandant of His Most Christian Majesty in the Isle de Bourbon; the other acquisitions which he later made of houses, gardens and grounds describe him in the same way.

The baptismal certificate of the petitioner, dated 3 May 1742, duly legalized, describes him as Peter Charles Daniel, son of Messire Peter Andrew O Hegerty, Esquire. Director-General and Commandant in the Isle de Bourbon and the Dame Marie Françoise Verdière, his legitimate spouse. The petitioner following the example of his ancestors and zealous like Daniel, his grandfather, Peter his father, Patrick and Francis Bernard, his paternal uncles and Charles Verdière, Colonel of Dragoons, Chevalier of St Louis, his maternal uncle in the service of His Most Christian Majesty, has been in military service since his earliest youth. Lieutenant on half pay in the Colonel's company of Lally's Regiment from 1 November 1745 and successively active Lieutenant, Captain as second in command and active Captain for five years in the

same regiment. His Majesty deigned two years ago to name him Gentleman-in-Waiting at court, and to sign and cause to be sent to him the corresponding warrant.

At the time of the departure of his regiment for India, he fell dangerously ill of a sickness which did not permit him to embark but as soon as he was convalescent, there not being at the time any ships sailing for India for the rest of the year, asked to be allowed and obtained from the Ministry permission to make the campaign as aide-de-camp. He was present at the unhappy day of Rossbach and he endeavored to perform his duties for the rest of the campaign. He did not hesitate for a moment to embark on the first ship and to expatriate himself and rejoin his colors at Pondicherry and to wage war against the enemy of the state. Hiz zeal is known to the Most Christian King, august son-in-law of His Majesty and it is for these services that he awaits recompense. For all these reasons he has concluded that it might well please His Majesty to recognize him as an hereditary nobleman and consequently to order his genealogy to be registered in the appropriate quarters so that he (the petitioner) and all his legitimate descendants can enjoy all the titles, rights, qualities, preeminences, exemptions, immunities and prerogatives which other hereditary noblemen enjoy throughout the states of His Majesty and that the necessary letters for the execution of the decree shall be sent.

The said petition seen and signed P. O Hegerty and Poincarre, Attorney-at-Law attached to the Council; the annexed documents, viz: a decree rendered by the Commission established by the Most Christian King for the reformation of the nobility of Brittany, dated 13 July 1669; an extract from the Baptismal and Burial Register of the Parish Church of the town of Dinan in Brittany wherein it is stated that Denis O Hegerty, aged 70 years, nobleman former Lord of Brookhall in the Province of Ulster, widower of the noble Dame Catherine Maguire, had died on 25 May 1692, fortified with all the sacraments of the Church and was buried behind the choir of the said Church in the presence of Daniel O Hegerty, Captain in Talbot's Regiment, his legitimate son; of Charles O Dogherty, Colonel of Infantry, his son-in-law; of Germain McLaughlin, Captain of Infantry, his grandson; the said extract certified by the Rector of St Sauveur of Dinan on 28 May 1760 and well and duly legalized by the Sieur François Jourdain of Coutances, Councillor of the King, Lieutenant-General and civilian of the said town of Dinan, etc. A certificate of Baptism taken from the Parish of St Germain-en-Laye from which it appears that on the 18 April 1699, Denis son of Daniel O Hegerty, Irish nobleman and of Grace O Mulvany was baptised, the godfather being Terence Sviny (Sweeney), Irish Colonel and the godmother Mary Maguire, wife of Charles Macmanus, Captain in the King's Forces. Another extract drawn from the baptismal registers of the said Parish of the town of Dinan showing that Peter, legitimate son of Daniel O Hegerty,

Irish nobleman, Captain in Talbot's Regiment and of the Dame Grace O Mulvany, was baptised on 31 December 1700. Another baptismal extract from the Parish of Notre Dame in Caen showing that Francis Bernard, son of Daniel O Hegerty, Irish nobleman and of Grace O Mulvany, his wife, was baptised on 12 February 1703. Another extract from the registers of the Parish of St Malo in Brittany shows that Father Patrick O Hegerty of the Order of Preachers Conventus Contranensis * in the Kingdom of Ireland was buried in the Cathedral Church on 24 October 1703. Another extract from the Baptismal Registers of the said Parish of Notre Dame in Caen showing that Marie-Charlotte-Cecile-Vertu, daughter of the Sieur Daniel O Hegerty and of the said Grace O Mulvany was baptised on 6 April 1705, all the above extracts being duly legalized on 9 March and 6 April 1756, 30 March and 10 June 1760.

An affidavit made 20 February 1703 by James Terry, Esquire, Athlone King of Arms for James III, King of Great Britain, at the request of Daniel O Hegerty, Esquire, former Captain of Charles O Neill in which he attests that he has caused search to be made in the Archival Registers of his office concerning his origin and arms with all due care. He found that the said Daniel O Hegerty of

*Undoubtedly a misspelling of Coulranensis the Latin form of Coleraine, the Dominican monastery in Donegal.

Clainsullagh near Londonderry in Ireland was the son of Denis O Hegerty, the said Denis being son of Hugh O Hegerty, that the said Hugh was the son of Daniel O Hegerty of Clainsullagh, Esquire, chief* of the name and arms that the mother of the said Daniel was Catherine Maguire, daughter of Denis Maguire, Esquire, Lord of Clossagh, and of Rose Maguire, descendant of the very noble, ancient house of Maguire. The said Daniel O Hegerty had married Grace O Mulvany, daughter of Nealle O Mulvany of Bally Mulvany, Esquire, and of Susan Hanley and five children were born of this marriage, viz. four sons: Patrick, Dominick, Peter and Francis Bernard and one daughter named Sarah.

The Contract of Sale of the land and seigneurie of La Neuvelotte made to Daniel O Hegerty the 15 May 1720. A parchment certificate given by the said James Terry, King of Arms and genealogist of His Britannic Majesty attesting that Daniel O Hegerty, Esquire, former Captain in the Regiment of O Neill, who put into his hands a chart of genealogy and arms on parchment, dated 20 February 1703 and signed by him, Terry; and another deed dated 27 July 1720, relating to the purchase of a house at Nancy in the rue St Dizier for

*This declaration by James Terry is proof enough that the present Count Hugues O Hégerty of Périgueux is chief of the Donegal O Hegerty sept. He descends from Captain Peter's daughter who married her cousin, the Chevalier Frank O Hegerty.

the benefit of Peter Andrew O Hegerty. The Letters Patent of James III given in Bologna the 18 October 1728, in the 28th year of his reign, in which he declares that having been shown and it having been certified to him that the Sieur Daniel O Hegerty, Irish nobleman resident in Nancy in Lorraine was descended from an old and noble family of his said Kingdom of Ireland, he was graciously pleased to give him this declaration of nobility to serve him at need, and to sign it.

An extract from a certificate of Baptism taken from the register of the Parish Church of St Eustache in Paris which shows that Edward Daniel, son of Dominick O Hegerty, Esquire, and of the Dame Francoise-Claude Corre his wife, was baptised on 24 January 1729. Several certificates given by the Lieutenants-General of the Most Christian King, brigadiers, regimental colonels and others on the 30 August, 1 September and 4 December 1724, which attest that the Sieur Daniel O Hegerty was the son of Denis, son of Hugh, son of Daniel O Hegerty, lord of Brookhall formerly called Clainsullagh, in the County of Donegal and the province of Ultonia (Ulster) in Ireland and of Catherine Maguire in the County of Tyrone and of Rose Maguire of the noble and ancient family of that name, is a nobleman of extremely ancient lineage, the said O Hegerty family having enjoyed from father to son for several centuries the said property of Brookhall,

as well as the rights, privileges and pre-eminences pertaining also to the other noblemen of the province with whom the said family has contracted many noble and honourable alliances.

A patent of nobleman of the court accorded by His Majesty the King of Poland, Duke of Lorraine, to the Sieur Francis Bernard O Hegerty the 5 October 1737. The marriage contract of the Sieur Peter Andrew O Hegerty with the Dame Marie-Françoise Verdière dated 4 September 1738; the act of celebration of the said marriage of the 15th of the said month of September, both duly legalized. Conditions of the appointment of the Sieur Peter Andrew O Hegerty to the office of First Counselor of the Isle de Bourbon dated 26 March 1741. Brevet of capitan on half pay in the Forces of the Most Christian King, stationed on the islands of France and Bourbon granted to Charles François Verdière on 31 July in the said year 1741. Copy of the Baptismal Certificate of the petitioner showing that he was born in the Isle de Bourbon and was baptised on 3 May 1742 and that he is the son of Peter Andrew O Hegerty, Commandant in the said island and of the Dame Marie-Françoise Verdière. A certificate dated 30 June 1745 issued by the Sieur de Crecy, Chevalier of the military order of St Louis, Lieutenant for the King in the government of the island in which he declares that he has received in the name of His Most Christian Majesty the Sieur Francis Bernard O Hegerty, Captain in Dillon's

Regiment of Irish Infantry, Chevalier of the said Military Order of St Louis after administering to him the customary oath. A commission of Lieutenant-Colonel in Lally's regiment of Irish Infantry granted to the Sieur Patrick O Hegerty, 1 October 1744, by His Most Christian Majesty. Another commission dated 26 May 1745, granted to the same, of Lieutenant-Colonel holding the rank of Colonel in Lally's regiment.

An extract from the registers of the Parish of Badonviller testifying to the fact that Messire Daniel O Hegerty, Irish nobleman, formerly Major of Infantry in Ireland, regiment of O Neill, and in France of Talbot, husband of the Dame Grace O Mulvany, died suddenly of gout 7 August 1745. He was 90 years old; the said extract was legalized 24 April 1756. An extract from the Register of Deaths of the Parish Church of St Eustache in Paris showing that on 3 February 1746 the Dame Marie-Françoise Verdière, mother of the petitioner, had died aged only 25 years, the said extract being duly legalized. A commission granted 21 March 1747 to the Sieur Francis Bernard O Hegerty according him the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the said regiment of Dillon. A letter written by M. d'Argenson, 21 July 1747, to the Sieur Patrick O Hegerty by which he informs him that the King wishing to give him a token of his satisfaction with the manner in which he had conducted himself at the battle of Lawfeld and in consideration

of his wound, His Majesty had ordered him to say that he granted him a pension of 1200 livres on the Royal Treasury. An order addressed to the said Sieur Francis Bernard O Hegerty dated 22 March 1748 to the effect that he should proceed to Ath and there exercise the office of Commandant of the town during the campaign of this year in the place of the Marquis d'Armentieres the said order signed by the Comte de Saxe.

The contract in the matter of the purchase of a house situated in the Place St Georges in the town of Nancy made by the Sieur Peter Andrew O Hegerty from the Sieur Richer, treasurer of the Hotel de Ville of the said Nancy, 28 January 1749. A brevet of appointment as Royal Censor granted by His Majesty the King of Poland to the Sieur Peter Andrew O Hegerty, 1 March 1751. A brevet of captain of grenadiers in the regiment of Dillon granted to the Sieur Francis Bernard O Hegerty on the 21st of the said month of March. An extract from the registers of the Parish of St Roch in Nancy whereby it is shown that the Dame Grace O Mulvany, widow of the Sieur Daniel O Hegerty, Irish nobleman, etc., died on 28 August 1752, aged 88 years, the said extract made out on 1 April 1756 and signed Vervenus, cure of St Roch and legalized on the 12th by the Lieutenant-General of the Bailiwick of Nancy. A letter of 3 May 1757 addressed to the Sieur Francis Bernard O Hegerty by the Sieur du Paulmy whereby he notifies

him that on the basis of the report that he had rendered the King of his (O Hegerty's) services and of the impossibility of his continuing in view of the wound that he had received at Fontenoy. His Most Christian Majesty had been graciously willing to grant him a pension of 1200 livres.

Two genealogical trees of the O Hegerty family extracted from the Archives of the Kingdom of Ireland by the King of Arms, the one signed at Dublin on 26 April 1754 and provided with the great seal of the College of Heralds and attested by the Viceroy of Ireland and the other, extracted from the Archives of England by the King of Arms signed at London on 24 April 1755, and legalized by the Duc de Mirepoix, then Ambassador of His Most Christian Majesty at the Court of London. The other documents concerning the Verdière's family. The decree in the margin of the petitioner's request of 12 September 1760, referring the matter to the Attorney General of the Chamber of Accounts of Lorraine for his opinion and the latter as given in consequence and after the whole was seen and examined the Sieur du Serre, Common Councillor of State and also member of the Royal Council of the Exchequer and Commissioner deputed to this business, was heard and gave his report after all had been duly considered as follows:

The King in Council has recognized and declared, and recognizes and declares the petitioner to be a descendant in the direct male line of the ancient and noble family of O Hegerty originating in the Kingdom of Ireland. His Majesty in consequence orders that he and his male and female descendants in legitimate marriage shall enjoy the titles, rights, qualities, preeminences, immunities and privileges enjoyed by noblemen of ancient extraction in the domains of His Majesty and which can and should be enjoyed by them. And all necessary letters shall be sent in accordance with the present decree. Done at the said Council held in Luneville, 12 January 1761.

Sgd: Durival

There follows the tenor of the Letters Patent:

Stanislas, by the Grace of God, King of Poland ... Duke of Lorraine and Bar etc to our friends and faithful subjects, the Presidents, Councilors and others comprising our sovereign Court of Lorraine and Bar, presidents, councilors, auditors and those belonging to our Chamber of Accounts of Lorraine and all our other officers, justiciary officials, men and subjects whom it may concern. Greetings. Having on request of our dear and well-loved, the Sieur Peter Charles Daniel O Hegerty one of our Gentlemen-in-Waiting, Captain in the regiment of Lally, Irish Infantry, in the service of our very dear and very much loved son-in-law, the Most Christian King, son of the Sieur Peter Andrew O Hegerty, former Commandant of the Isle of Bourbon, honorary member of the Academy of Sciences and Literature established by us in our good town of Nancy, decreed in our Council of State on the 12th of this month, having been seen and examined in the said Council the authentic papers produced by him proving that he is descended in direct male line from the ancient and noble family of O Hegerty, belonging to the ancient Kingdom of Ireland and further by the advice given by our beloved and faithful Councilor of State, attorney-general in our Chamber of Accounts of Lorraine, the Sieur Thibault to whom the whole had been sent for this

purpose and having taken also the opinion of our said Council, we have recognized and declared and we recognize and declare by these presents the said Peter Charles Daniel O Hegerty to be descended in the direct male line from the noble family of O Hegerty, natives of the Kingdom of Ireland; we have ordered and order in consequence that he and his descendants male and female, born in legitimate marriage shall enjoy the titles, honours, rights, quality, immunities and privileges which are enjoyed and may and should be enjoyed by noble-men of ancient descent in our States and as are more specifically dealt with in the decree above mentioned and which is here attached under the seal of our Chancellory; and we have permitted and permit him by these presents to continue to bear the same arms that he and his ancestors have borne in the same forms and bearings as the other noblemen of our States so that he is at liberty to have them painted and blazoned hereafter and further that his male and female descendants in legitimate marriage, their posterity and line may use these arms should the need occur, plainly, peaceably and in perpetuity, and stop and cause to stop all interference or obstacle thereto. For such is our pleasure. And so in corroboration of this we have signed these presents with our hand and caused them to be countersigned by the hand of one of our Councillors and Secretaries of State, Administration and Finance. Given in our town of Lunéville, the twenty-sixth of January, seventeen hundred and sixty-one. Signed Stanislas, King: and lower countersigned Renault d'Ubexy; registered, Guire and sealed with the Great Seal of His Majesty.

APPENDIX "B"

Dossier of Captain Peter O Hegerty

Archives - Marine et Colonies No. 196 bis

O heguerty (Pierre Charles Daniel)

Captain in Berwick's Regiment, son of the preceding

1778 - 1783

Madame la Comtesse Duhautoy
rue des Petits Augustins

Versailles, 26 April, 1778

I have just forwarded to the Administrators of Isle de France, the note you sent me regarding the Sieur O heguerti. I advise them to have a survey made on the matter he is interested in on the Isle de Bourbon, and then to let me know the information they will get and to work in order to force the Sieur de Lestrac to fulfill the engagements he undertook in July 1776.

Respectfully yours ...

M. de Mauderme did not give back the letter of introduction written by Madame la Comtesse Duhautoy.

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No. 170

Sieur de la Brillaune and Foucault

Versailles, 26 April, 1778

You will see in the enclosed note that the Sieur O heguerty was expecting to receive a shipment of coffee worth 53,000 livres from his trustee in the Isle de Bourbon, Sieur de Lestrac, as a remittance of the money he collected over there on his behalf.

But he received nothing yet, not even news from Sieur de Lestrac, since the letter he wrote to the Sieur Brunel in the Isle de France, in July 1776.

I beg you to make inquiry on this matter and let me know the information you can get, and to undertake whatever possible to force Sieur de Lestrac to meet the obligations he undertook in July 1776.

I am,

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No. 108

Copy of the letter sent by M. the Count de St Maurice et Courcy, Commander in the Isle de Bourbon, to M. the Vicomte de Souillac et Foucault, Governor and Intendant of the Isles de France and Bourbon.

Enclosed
in the
letter from
M. de Souillac
No. 254

At St Denis, Isle de Bourbon, 9 August 1779

Sirs,

We acknowledge receipt of the letter (No. 85) of the 17th of last month with which you honoured us along with the copy of the Minister's dispatch, in which he asks you to inquire about the provisions made by M. de Lestrac, living in this colony, to remit a countervalue of 53,000 écus, in coffee, to the Sieur d' Heguerty, as a refund of the amount he collected on his behalf.

Here is what we heard of the matter:

M. d' Heguerty's trustee says, M. de Lestrac's debt is no longer in his care, since he has passed the accounts to M. O heguerty's new trustee, who was replaced by M. de Brunel. The said new trustee is M. de la Flocherie, Counsellor of the Supreme Council of this Colony; he has just made some definite arrangements with M. de Muguy, the Fargès' Captain, in order to ship to France the coffee that will discharge the debt of Sieur de Lestrac to the Sieur d' Heguerty.

This business cannot be in a better position, and M. de la Flocherie assured us that it would end in such a way as to satisfy M. d' Heguerty.

We are etc

Signed Count de St Maurice and Courcy
For copy

The Viscount de Souillac

Isles de France
et de Bourbon

Viscount de Souillac et
Foucault

No. 254

Answer to Monseigneur's
letter dated 26 April 1778,
No. 170, regarding M. de
Lestrac's contract with
Sieur d' Heguerty

Port Louis, Isle de France
25 October 1779

Monseigneur,

We have received the duplicate of the letter you wrote to
Sieur de la Brillaune et Foucault, on April 26th last year,
No. 170, in regard to 3,000 livres that M. de Lestrac, the
Sieur d' Heguerty's trustee, collected on his behalf and that he
promised to remit to him, in coffee. We are pleased to send
you here enclosed a copy of the answer we got about this matter,
from the Count de St Maurice et Courcy, Commander in the
Isle de Bourbon.

You will see, Monseigneur, that by means of the arrange-
ments taken by Sieur de Lestrac with Sieur de la Flocherie, the
Counsellor at the High Courts of the Isle de Bourbon, who was
replaced by Sieur Brunel, Sieur d' Heguerty's attorney, the
coffee intended to settle de Lestrac's business is to be loaded
aboard the ship Le Fargès, to be carried to France.

We are sure that this matter will be settled to M. d'
Heguerty's satisfaction, according to what M. de la Flocherie
told the Administrators of the Isle de Bourbon.

We are very respectfully yours, Monseigneur,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

Paris, 11 February 1781

I have only, Monsieur, the honor of sending you the enclosed letter that M. Anthoine, Attorney General at the Chamber of Accounts of Lorraine, wrote me, on his sister's behalf and on that of his brother-in-law, M. O heguerty.

Their set-backs are due to facts that you can understand quite well, and better than anyone else you can appreciate to what extent they may deserve the King's favours when they require only enough to live on. If M. Anthoine's services bear any influence, I would willingly, Sir, testify that he holds an important position in Lorraine for the King's interests, and that his talents are distinguished.

With the most sincere devotion, I beg to be, Sir, your most humble and obedient servant.

M. the Marquis de Castries

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Nancy, 1 February 1781

Sir,

I have recourse to your kindness on behalf of a sister of mine that I dearly love and whose virtues till now have been met only by reverses that make her still worthier of concern.

Mademoiselle Anthoine, daughter of the President of the same name, married M. O heguerty, then a minor, Captain in Lally's regiment, and Gentleman of the late King Stanislas. He descended from a famous Irish family whose grandfather¹ was Captain of the unlucky James II's guard, and sacrificed all his property to follow

¹Daniel O Hegerty (1653-1745) Son of the last Gaelic Chieftain of the O Hegertys of Donegal; Captain in the regiment of Colonel Cormac O Neill of Clan Aodh Buidhe (Clan of Yellow Hugh); Captain in the Royal Body Guard of James II; Aide-de-Camp to the Duke of Tyrconnell, Viceroy of Ireland; Aide-de-Camp to the Count de Lauzun, General of the French Army in Ireland; Major in Talbot's regiment; Lieutenant Colonel in Dillon's; Chevalier of St Louis; Seigneur of La Neuvelotte and La Grange in Lorraine.

the King to France, where he settled. He left four sons² and two daughters whose remote origin has been duly acknowledged. The eldest³ died as a Brigadier General of His Majesty; the second one⁴ was wounded in Fontenoy and retired as a Colonel.

André O heguerty,⁵ father-in-law of the above mentioned Mademoiselle Anthoine, due to his abilities deserved to be sent by the Minister to the Island of Bourbon in 1733 as the King's Attorney General, then he became the Governor of the said island where he stayed for twelve years. Thanks to his good care, the cultivation of the land increased and the island's trade thrived. Unfortunately his bad health caused his return to France where he could take back with him but a fraction of his small assets, with which he helped his not so rich family and sustained his son, while serving in the ruinous war of Pondicherry. His son was still quite young when he died.

² His four sons were the Brigadier Patrick; Dominick, Count de Magnières; Peter Andrew, Governor of Isle de Bourbon, and Colonel Francis Bernard. His two daughters were Sarah, a spinster born in Ireland, and Marie Charlotte who married a cavalry officer named Fontaine.

³ Patrick O Hegerty (1687-1771) Born in Ireland. Captain in Fielding's regiment. Lieutenant in Lally's Irish Infantry, Chevalier of St Louis, Lieutenant Colonel in the Duke of Berwick's regiment. Wounded at Fontenoy and Lawfeld. Commended for bravery by Louis XV and created Brigadier. Died a bachelor on active duty at the age of 84.

⁴ Francis Bernard O Hegerty (1703- ?) Born at Caen. Captain in Dillon's regiment. Wounded at Fontenoy. Chevalier of St Louis. Lieutenant Colonel and Commandant of Oudenarde and Ath, Gentleman in Waiting to King Stanislaus.

⁵ Peter Andrew O Hegerty (1700-1763) Born at Dinan. At 15 ran away to join the little army of James III headed for the rising of '15. Returned to the Jesuit School at Caen to study law. As a protégé of Cardinal de Fleury rapidly advanced in his profession. In 1733 embarked on his career in the Compagnie des Indes. Became Governor of Isle de Bourbon. Returned to France because of ill health in 1745. As a retired coffee planter and shipping magnate devoted his wealth and leisure to the Jacobite cause. Chevalier of St Louis, a founder of the Royal Academy at Nancy, author, economist, sole agent for Prince Charles Stuart at the court of King Stanislaus, Seigneur of Villey-le-Sec and Chanteheux near Nancy. He worked assiduously with his brother Dominick, agent of Prince Charles at Versailles, for the restoration of the Stuarts and the overthrow of the House of Hanover.

This remoteness from his business, the carelessness of his executor and trustee, the heavy expenses for the lawsuit he had to sustain in order to have his inheritance restored to him have absorbed the little money that remained to him having been forced to sell the estate that formed most of his patrimony. His only income came from his father's lands in the Isle de Bourbon, but he lost a great deal on their sale. The difficulty he met in retrieving his money because of the war made him apply to the Ministry of the Navy. In consideration of all his father's important services, the Minister of the Navy delivered suitable orders so that all the money should be remitted to and received by the King's cashier who would in turn deliver it to M. O heguerty through the Navy's General-Treasurer, upon receiving notice of the remittance. All the forms were handed to the said treasurer, along with a general power of attorney.

M. O heguerty was just expecting the result of the Minister's favour when he heard that, in March 1780, more than four months after the arrival of the ships bearing M. de Sartine's orders, his funds had been converted into sacks of coffee that were shipped on Le Fargès, for an amount of more than 50,000 écus. Due to the capture of this ship by the English, he is now reduced to the worst situation. He is the father of three children, the eldest⁶ of them is a page of the Count d'Artois, the second⁷ one is intended to serve His Majesty, and a 9-year old daughter.

⁶ Francis Peter Charles Daniel Count O Hegerty (1767-1849) Born at Nancy. Page of the Count d'Artois and later his aide-de-camp. During the revolution emigrated to Dusseldorf where he married. Settled his family in Dublin until 1814. Entered the service of George III in Lord Paget's regiment. At the restoration became Master of the Horse to Charles X. Commander of the Order of St Louis, Chevalier of the Royal Legion of Honor, Knight of Malta, General. He followed his King into exile at Holyrood, Prague and Frohsdorf. Tutor and Equerry to the Count of Chambord (Henry V). Died at his son's castle, Tillysburg, Upper Austria.

⁷ John Peter Anthony Count O Hegerty (1769-1846) Born at Villey-le-Sec near Nancy. Destined as a page for His Majesty's household. Equerry to the Count d'Artois. Followed his master to Russia after the fall of the Bastille. Joined the Tsar's cavalry as a Captain in Prince Meshcherskii's regiment of Imperial Cuirassiers. Returned to France in 1812. Remained a bachelor. Died a Colonel at Pont-à-Mousson.

⁸ Sara Rose Justine Thérèse Countess O Hegerty (1772-1821) Married her cousin Frank Count O Hegerty (1773-1856) Chevalier of St Louis, Captain in the Infantry, in exile at Liège. From this union the present Chieftain of the O Hegertys descends.

Now he finds himself without means to bring them up, following an occurrence that he could not foresee or prevent either, even in spite of all the wisest care he had taken to avoid any loss. His only resource resides in the King's inexhaustible bounty. Now he applies for favours; his wife, - who is my sister - solicits them, too, and she must move your heart, for she is quite worthy of it, due to her misfortunes. They are well known by M. Corter, one of your chief clerks, to whom I beseech you, speak of them.

I have spent 26 faithful years in zealously serving the King and my country, even at the expense of my much weakened health, and may deserve some consideration. If you are kind enough to acknowledge my services, the highest reward I could get would be to help somehow an unfortunate sister, on whose behalf I beseech your protection.

With respect, I am, Sir

Your most humble and obedient servant,

Anthoine

His Majesty's Attorney General

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Received on February 24, 1781

To Monseigneur,
Monseigneur the Marquis de Castries, Minister and Secretary
of State in the Ministry of Marine

The said O heguerti, Captain in Lalli's army, and a gentleman of the late King Stanislas, son of M. Andre Oheguerti, Attorney General and then Governor of the Isle de Bourbon, Grandson of the Captain of the unfortunate James II's guard, and Dame O heguerti his spouse, daughter of a President of the Chamber of Accounts of Lorraine and sister of the Attorney General, require sustenance for themselves and their three children, who are intended to serve His Majesty.

The remainder of their assets have just been captured by the enemy, in spite of the care they had taken to secure them from any accident of war.

As being the Creditors of Sieur de Lestrac, trustee of their father and father-in-law's inheritance in the Isle de Bourbon, they had handed their claims to M. de St Jamet, according to M. de Sartine's orders, who was to remit them the amount, in Paris, upon receiving notice of the remittance.

If the Minister's orders arrived in time, they would surely have been received had they been delivered in duplicate, but they happened to get lost; and the trustee converted into coffee the money that he should have had remitted to the King's cashier. This coffee was shipped on the vessel Le Fargès, which has just been captured and M. O heguerty's hopes to make out of it about 50,000 écus have now vanished.

This unhappy occurrence, his services as well as those of his ancestors and those of his wife's family caused them to solicit help from the Government, since they have nothing left to live on. Although he was kindly listened to by the Minister of Finance, he was sent on to the Minister of the Navy; the latter would invoke his own sentiments in favour of this unfortunate man, even though he would have no reason to count on Justice.

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Paris, 21 March 1781

I beg to send you herewith, my dear Brother, a report that has just been handed to me by Madame O heguerty, Lorraine born and very well regarded by Madame de Rupelmonde and by my daughter, the Carmelite nun.

I wish very much that you may pay attention to the unhappy situation in which she finds herself. I would be most obliged to you. You know the kind and deep devotion I have for you, my dear brother, and have had all my life.

Le Duc de Fleury

Archives - Marine et Colonies 17 Vol 296

REPORT

Pierre Charles Daniel O heguerty, Chevalier of the order of St Louis, honorary Captain in the regiment of Berwick, begs for the King's favour and the protection of the Minister of the Navy. He dares hope that his family's services and his own misfortunes and present situation make him deserve them.

His family originating in Ireland, was very famous there and owned great property. His grandfather followed the unfortunate James II, as the Captain of his guard, and during the Irish War maintained 300⁹ men at his own expense; he was faithful to his legitimate King, participated in his misfortunes and then sacrificed everything, following him to France, where he settled.¹⁰ His children, four sons and two daughters, were His Majesty's subjects, since they were lawfully acknowledged. The sons served the King with honour. The eldest was wounded first in Lawfeld and then in Fontenoy, when the King promoted him, on the very battlefield, as a Brigadier of His armies; he was 84 when he died and still was serving in the Army as Maréchal de Camp.

The second son was wounded in Fontenoy and had to retire because of that, when he had the rank of Colonel.

André O heguerty, the petitioner's father, having earned the confidence of the Minister due to his abilities, was sent to the

⁹ Captain Daniel O Hegerty, his grandfather, modestly claimed that he raised, armed and maintained a troop of a hundred men in the service of James II from the beginning of the revolution in 1688.

¹⁰ He settled at Dinan in Brittany and was joined by his immediate family. Here his father, Denis O Hegerty (1622 - 1692) Generosus, Lord of Clainsullagh - now called Brook Hall - and the last Gaelic Chieftain of this Donegal sept died and was buried in the parish church of St Sauveur. Daniel made a fortune as a ship builder and wholesale merchant privateer. In 1720 he moved his family to Lorraine keeping business property in Paris and Dunkirk. He started Masonic Lodges in these last two cities as cells for the Stuart underground.

Isle de Bourbon as the Governor.¹¹ He stayed there for ten years. His good management and his zeal caused clearings to be made all over the island; trading settlements and business activity increased and he was more concerned with the King's interest than his own. His bad health forced him to return to France, and he took back with him but a part of his small fortune that was spent for helping his needy family and supporting his son while the latter was in the King's army. When he died, his son was still very young but he served as a Captain in Lally's army throughout the war in Pondicherry.

Due to these expenses, the remoteness from his business, the carelessness of his trustees, the costly lawsuit in which he was involved for twelve years with the object of obtaining his father's inheritance, the remains of his little patrimony were swallowed up. He had to sell land that constituted his sole assets. And after that, his only resource was his father's lands in the Isle de Bourbon. But even there he lost a great deal when he had the money sent back to France. As he was not receiving anything, not even a reply, from his trustee, Sieur de Lestrac, he appealed to the Secretary of the Navy in 1778 who, in consideration of his family's services, ordered his attorney to obtain the accounts from the trustee. Once the accounts were rendered in 1779, the Minister stated that the money would be deposited with the King's treasurer in the Isle de Bourbon, so that the suppliant could get the remittance through the Treasurer General of the Navy upon receiving the receipt of deposit.

Consequently, he sent to the said treasurer all the documents, as well as a general procuration for his Clerk in the Isle de Bourbon. All these facts are authenticated and took place in May 1779.

Hence, the Sieur O heguerty relied on the Minister's power and the good care of the treasurer's clerk in the Isle de Bourbon, when in March 1780, that is, about two years after the Minister had sent his first orders — as shown in his letter dated April 26, 1778 — and four months after the arrival of the ships that carried over the last orders from the Minister along with the suppliant's procuration, he heard that his assets had been converted into coffee purchases, without his agreement, and the coffee had been shipped aboard the Fargès.

¹¹He was sent to the Isle de Bourbon in a legal capacity for the Compagnie des Indes and was the youngest member of the Superior Council. He rose to the rank of Governor twelve years after his arrival.

The capture of this ship ruined his last hope and left him in the most pitiful position. He is father of three, the eldest being a Page of the Count d'Artois, the second one intends to serve His Majesty, and a daughter aged 10. He finds himself without means to bring them up, following upon an event he could not either foresee or prevent, and against which he had taken every possible precaution. His only resource lies now in the King's unfailing beneficence, and he expects everything from his favour. He dares hope that His Majesty will grant him some help to support and bring up his family.

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PENSION

Sieur O heguerty applies anew for a pension, considering his misfortunes and the services he and his family gave (to the Nation).

This officer's misfortunes are due to the loss of his father's inheritance. His late father was the former Commander of the Isle de Bourbon, and his assets were converted into coffee, that was shipped aboard Le Fargès, which was overtaken by the English.

His Family's services are mainly:

- Those of his Father, when he was sent to the Isle de Bourbon in 1735, as the Attorney General later on becoming Commander of the said territory.

- Those of his two uncles: One of them died on active duty as a Brigadier General; the other was wounded in Fontenoy and retired with the grade of Colonel.

All the property of the Irish Sieur O heguerty was brought over to France with King James, whose Captain of the Guard he was.

The present O heguerty himself has been for a long time in the Army. He was an officer of Lally's and fought in India.

When we first reported this officer's request, Monseigneur (Minister of Navy) found his situation most unfortunate and worthy of notice, but considered that his requirements were alien to the Navy's sphere. Indeed his services, as well as his family's, concern the War Department, and particularly his Father's concern the Compagnie des Indes.

Yet, Sieur O heguerty begs for the King's favours, only because he, his wife and four¹² children are left without means of support due to the capture of the Fargès. Therefore he thinks that since his misfortunes resulted from a maritime expedition, they would be better judged by the Navy Department. That is why he asked that his report be shown again to Monseigneur. Besides this, he points out that his Father's inheritance has been converted into goods, only because the bills of exchange from his trustee in the Isle de Bourbon were rejected.

But when the war began, he realized the risk of such an operation and he applied for and obtained the authorization to issue new bills of exchange from M. de Sartine. And finally the said authorization turned out to be useless because the ship that carried it arrived too late.

Sieur O heguerty points out that this business which caused the loss of his property, brought quite a good profit to the Navy treasury, since the shipment of his coffee yielded a duty of 12,000 francs. This last point is all the more favourable to him as the duties on Isle de Bourbon coffee had just been abolished, after they had been long petitioned for, it having been found that this measure was quite necessary for the Colony's prosperity.

If one could find any advantage in this delay, it would be doubtless that a part of Sieur O heguerty's property would have been saved in this way from the accidents of war. But such an occurrence seems to be a real advantage only because it provides the King with means to help an impoverished family, with the duties it paid when it was rich.

Such a help would not seem costly to the King, as it could be granted through two different avenues, either by ordering the full refund of the 12,000 francs, or by granting an allowance equal to the interest on the said amount. That would be but the retroactive effect of the benign considerations that were the origin of the abolition of the duties on coffee from the Isle de Bourbon.

The above reflections which can be estimated only by Monseigneur, are strengthened by all the good reasons presented by M. O heguerty's misfortunes, his position, his services and those of his family to France though it was of foreign origin.

¹²Evidently one died young or this is a clerical error.

O heguerti

Special Request

O heguerti Family

Recommended
by the Duke
de Fleury

Sieur O heguerti was to receive from the Isle de Bourbon a remittance of some assets he had inherited from his father, who had left a part of his wealth in this Colony, after having been the Attorney General and the Commander of the said territory, under the government of the Compagnie des Indes.

He had authorized his trustee to send him this remittance in the form of goods. This operation, although it was undertaken before the war, was sure to endanger M. O heguerti's wealth, but unfortunately, he saw the risk too late, since the trading operation had been executed too promptly.

Therefore, 50,000 écus worth of coffee were shipped on his behalf, aboard the Fargès, and everything was captured along with the ship, by the English.

Sieur O heguerti being deprived by this circumstance of the only resource which supported his family, begs to petition the sustenance he is unable to provide for himself, his wife, and three children.

His misfortune is due to bad management, and also to his trustee's imprudence. His losses did not seem to entitle him to the King's favours, but since this matter concerns a military family, his position and his services might well make him eligible for some help.

M. O heguerti's Irish ancestor came to France with King James, whose Captain of the Guard he was; an uncle of his died as a Brigadier General, another one retired when he was Colonel after he had been wounded in Fontenoy. His father, as previously stated, was the Attorney General in 1735 and then Commander of the Isle de Bourbon where he stayed for twelve years. His wife is the daughter of a president and sister of the Attorney General at the Chamber

of Accounts in Lorraine, on whose behalf M. Necker testifies, in such a way as to inspire some interest towards his sister and brother-in-law.

But one can't help noticing that the whole family's services being given to the War Department, the Law and the Compagnie des Indes, are somewhat irrelevant to the Navy. My Lord is besought to let know his intentions regarding this application.

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PERSONAL REQUESTS

d' O heguerti Family

Monseigneur
is willing to
grant an in-
demnity out of
the secret
expenses fund.
25 July 1781

2 April 1781

The Sieur O heguerti has a rebate due him in the Isle de Bourbon from funds coming from the inheritance bequeathed him by his father. The latter left part of his fortune in this colony where he had been the Attorney General and later the Governor under the jurisdiction of the Compagnie des Indes. He empowered his agent to liquidate his estate and consolidate it in the form of goods and products of this island to be shipped abroad. This measure was taken before the outbreak of war and was of such a nature that it would compromise his fortune, but the risk was recognized too late by the Sieur O heguerty.

In spite of the war the plan was unfortunately carried out. Five thousand écus worth of coffee was shipped on his behalf aboard the Fargès and both the ship and the cargo were seized by the English.

Dispossessed by this misfortune of his only resource, Sieur O heguerti begs Monseigneur for the support he cannot give his wife and three children.

Sieur O heguerti's predicament is only due to his poor planning and the imprudence of his agent. The nature of his loss does not allow him to take advantage of the King's favors, but as it concerns an impoverished military family whose services and position make it eligible for aid some assistance appears available.

Sieur O heguerti's Irish grandfather came to France with King James as Captain in His Guard. One of his uncles died with the rank of Brigadier, another was wounded at Fontenoy and retired with the rank of Colonel. His father, as it has already been said, was Attorney General in 1735 and Governor of the Isle de Bourbon where he lived for twelve years.

His wife is a President's daughter and sister of the Attorney General of the Chamber of Accounts of Lorraine. M. Necker expresses such approval in his favor that assistance must be given to his sister and brother-in-law.

But we must also observe that the services of this family are divided between the War Department, the Magistracy and the Compagnie des Indes and are irrelevant to the Navy.

We beg Monseigneur to reveal his intentions concerning this request.

In a different
hand

I sharply deplore this family's situation and the misfortune of M. and Mme O heguerty but they have no recourse to the Navy.

Sieur O heguerty insists on obtaining a pension in consideration of his services and those rendered by his family and because of the calamities that deprived him of his fortune. He suggests as a new possibility that the duties of about 12,000 livres collected for the coffee shipped by his agent on the Fargès be allowed him as compensation or an equivalent sum be substituted as a pension.

Monseigneur has already decided that the services of Sieur O heguerty and his family were alien to this department. He also thought his losses gave him no right to any indemnities. It only remains to study this new suggestion about the duty paid on the shipment of coffee which was lost — duties which were turned in as a profit to the King's exchequer.

The situation of this officer is really touching and his misfortunes are worthy of interest. It is certain that had it not been for the precipitous action of his agent his fortune would have been preserved. It is also certain that if it had not been for the same hasty behavior, and if the orders of M. de Sarline had arrived on time the King's exchequer in the Isle de Bourbon would have been deprived of 12,000 livres which was the sum charged for the coffee loaded on the ship.

Finally, these duties have recently been abolished as too onerous for private individuals and consequently prejudicial to the colony's prosperity.

The request which the Sieur O heguerty makes today would be, in relation to his case, only a retroactive action to an abolishment judged necessary and every consideration solicits this favor.

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The Duke de Fleury

Versailles, 9 April 1781

I have carefully studied the report you sent me concerning M. O heguerty. I have been deeply impressed by this family's misfortunes. Their position seems very worthy of notice. However, the reasons that might be taken into account for granting them some of the King's favours, are alien to my Department, and it was impossible for me to inform Him (the King) of this case.

I am really sorry and I beg you to forward my regrets to Mme de Rupelmonde, and to your daughter, the Carmelite nun who is also interested in the said family.

Your protégés should apply to M. de Ségur or M. Necker, since the O heguertys' services (that are detailed in M. O heguerty's report) are related to their departments.

I shall write to the Secretary of Finance to inform him of the reasons why I cannot introduce this case to the King.

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M. Necker

Versailles, 9 April 1781

Sir,

I have examined M. and Mme O heguerty's applications, as well as the requests made by M. Anthoine, the latter's brother, Attorney General at the Chamber of Accounts in Lorraine, whose letter you sent me along with the one you honoured me with on last February 11th. I know nothing more pitiful and worthy of interest than this family's position.

However, it seemed to me that I was not entitled to propose to the King the favours He might grant them, since the appreciation of the services that sustain their application is beyond my sphere. The said services are mainly those of his father and of two uncles. Under the regime of the Compagnie des Indes, the father was the Attorney General and later on the Commander of the Isle de Bourbon. The two uncles reached the grades of Brigadier and Colonel in the Army. I do not mention here Sieur Anthoine, Mme O heguerty's brother, whose services seem to be acknowledged by you.

Since all these services are much more related to the Compagnie des Indes, the Department of Finance, and the Department of War than to mine, to which they are quite alien, I think it is in better accordance with the usual principles to let you and M. de Ségur judge whether their application is of a nature liable to be favorably received.

I beg to etc ...

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Paris, 23 June 1781

Sir,

I would have been honoured to hand you myself the enclosed report and to recall the proofs of consideration you kindly showed when hearing of my misfortunes and also those of a family who can only live on the King's favours. But I was afraid to disturb you again and to waste your precious time during an audience. However, I beseech you to examine this report and I dare hope you will consider the application as capable of receiving favourable welcome. I presume to hope for it from your sense of justice and your benevolence.

Please be assured of my deep gratitude and the feelings with which I beg to remain, Sir,

Your most humble and obedient servant:

Anthoine O heguerty

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STATEMENT

The Sieur Pierre Charles Daniel O heguerty, Chevalier of the Royal Military Order of Saint Louis, former gentleman of His Late Majesty's the King of Poland, Father of two pages of the Count d'Artois, begs to present to the King's attention, and His minister's, a claim that he has already made regarding the 12,000 francs customs duties that were paid in the Isle de Bourbon, even after the remission granted to him by the King, because of the war. The goods for which the said duties were paid have been captured by the Enemy and then, the suppliant lost most of his property. This cargo that was worth more than 50,000 écus had been taken aboard the Fargès, and the

Minister knows that Sieur O heguerty had to beg the King's favour for both (coffee and duties). So he dares hope that His Majesty will be kind enough to grant him the remittance which may be taken from the Colonies Fund or any other one He may wish.

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26 January, 1783

Monseigneur,

Twice I have had the honour to attend your audience, but I had no chance to hand you the report that you will find herewith. I venture to hope, Monseigneur, that you will allow me to use this way.

You already know my problem very well; my means are still the same, and you found them, I venture to say, quite just. It is not a question here of great affairs since I am aware of the present circumstances, but my dreadful situation forces me to appeal to your sense of justice, on the object I have in mind.

I could as well rely on important patronage, since my son has just been honoured by making his first campaign with the Count d'Artois, and he is very happy to see his services being appreciated. But now, towards so kind a Minister as you, Monseigneur, I shall only take into account the rights that you never denied me, even in much more unhappy times. And it would be very sorrowful for me to see that a war which the best of Kings ever brought to an end for the sake of the Nation's highest glory might work out at the same time for the ruin of one of His most zealous subjects.

With the deepest respect, I beg to remain My Lord,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

O heguerty

January 23, 1783

Hotel de Calais, Rue de Richelieu near the King's Library (in Paris)

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Sieur O heguerty insists on obtaining a maintenance allowance, on account of his family's services, his own, and the misfortunes of war that deprived him of his property. He suggests, as a new method, using the 12,000 francs duties that he paid for the shipment of the coffee aboard the ship the Fargès, under the supervision of his trustee and so he begs to have at least this amount either refunded as a compensation, or substituted by an equal pension.

Monseigneur has already stated that Sieur O heguerty's services, as well as his family's, were quite alien to his Department. Monseigneur thought also that the losses he had suffered could not entitle him to any indemnity. I have only to point out that the duties paid on coffee that he lost, were nevertheless collected by the King's treasurer.

This officer's position is really moving and his misfortunes are quite worthy of notice. He feels sure that he would have kept his property if his trustee had not acted so hurriedly. On the other hand, if the King's orders had reached the Isle de Bourbon in time, the King's treasurer would not have collected the 12,000 francs duties on the coffee shipment. Finally, these duties were cancelled a short time ago, since they were too costly for the traders and hence prejudicial to the colony's prosperity.

The application submitted today by Sieur O heguerty would lead but to the retroactive effect of the abolishment of duties which was considered necessary, and everything speaks in his favour.

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Paris, February 1783

Monseigneur,

I was honoured last Saturday to attend your audience but still I could not put my situation clearly before you. It is a bitter one. Monseigneur must have felt how embarrassed I was. I am not usually importunate but at this moment I am forced to be.

When I was born I had an income of 20,000 livres, one third of which has since been spent in the King's service. The present war has cost me 222,000 livres of my patrimony that has been confiscated by the enemy. I have also to face heavy expenses to give my children such an education as to prepare them for His Majesty's service, and I am at present living on 1700 livres income for them and myself.

I did not lose this money as a business man would have but only as I tried to collect the rest of my father's property. Please, Monseigneur, am I not worthier than others to receive His Majesty's favour? I can but again mention the money I remitted to the King's Treasury, paying the duties that he found wrong and has since abolished.

Such is my position, Monseigneur. I dare explain it to you and I think your heart will be interested in it while mine will ever be thankful for whatever you will do in my behalf. It is important for us both in regard to my son's position and to my scanty resources.

I beg to remain, with the deepest respect, Sir,

Your very humble and obedient servant
O heguerty

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2 February 1783

M. O HEGUERTY

M. O heguerty is the son of one of the officers of the Compagnie des Indes who was Commander of the Isle de Bourbon, prior to the retrocession of this Colony to the King. He ordered that the assets inherited from his father be sent back to him, in coffee worth the full amount. This coffee was shipped aboard the Fargès, which was later captured by the English. The coffee yielded 12,000 francs

duty remitted to the King, when it was shipped, a little time before the abolishment of the taxes on this kind of goods. And then Monseigneur granted him the amount of 2,000 francs not as a refund that he might have lawfully claimed, but only as a charity, in consideration of his family's past services, as well as his misfortunes, due to the capture of the Fargès.

It should be mentioned that the 2,000 francs remittance was taken from the "secret expenses" fund, in order to avoid the idea of refunding.

Today, M. O heguerty seems to take into account Monseigneur's decision, which he misinterprets, while pretending to ignore the remittance received by his wife in 1781, and he claims for the full refund of the duties he paid on his coffee.

One can only agree with Monseigneur's decision, regarding this complaint.

Archives - Marine et Colonies 24 Vol 297

15 February 1783

STATEMENT

The Sieur O heguerty, Chevalier of the Royal and Military Order of St Louis, retired after 35 years of service, former Gentleman in Waiting to His Majesty King of Poland, father of two pages in the household of Monseigneur the Count d'Artois, has recourse to the protection of this Prince to obtain the King's favor in the matter of the restitution of 12,000 francs tax levied after the duty had been rescinded because of the war.

The suppliant dares say that besides this sum whose rebate is justly due him, he lost all the merchandise on which he paid the duty. This came to 50,000 écus and was the result of the sale of all he inherited. He dares hope His Majesty will grant him the restitution of this sum which he spent with the intention of transferring his patrimony

from the funds of the colonies. In acknowledgment of the present loan or in case of a life pension of 1200 francs reverting to his son who has the honor of being first page to Monseigneur the Count d'Artois this business belongs to the Navy Department.

He ventures to say that this ministry has not found it unjust in the most troublesome times. It would indeed be painful for the suppliant that a war terminated by the best of Kings for the greatest glory of the nation would bring about the ruin of one of His most zealous subjects.

M. O heguerty
Hotel de Calais
Rue de Richelieu
Near the Royal Library

Versailles, 15 February 1783

Sir,

I received the new report you sent me, by which you request the refund of the duties paid in the Isle de Bourbon on coffee that was shipped on your behalf, aboard the Fargès.

After having rejected the previous application you made in 1781, nevertheless His Majesty has agreed, considering all your misfortunes, to grant you a special indemnity of 3,000 francs.

I am not in a position to grant you the new favour which you ask.

I am, Sir ...

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Colonial. Memorandum concerning the Sieur O herguerty.
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O heguerty, 6 September 1798.

Meurthe-et-Moselle. Genealogies, wills, bills of sale, etc
of the O Hegerty family living in Lorraine.

Navy. C⁷229, E 325. Rank, dates and time in service.

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property on Isle de Bourbon, seizure of the coffee
shipment, letters to the ministries and valuable
genealogical information.

Notary. Lefebvre, Simon, Paris. Power of attorney.
11 May 1784. Separation from wife, 11 December 1784.

Windsor Castle. O Hegerty - Stuart correspondence (1699-1774).

Two letters to Benjamin Franklin in the American Philosophical Society
Library, Philadelphia, signed O heguerty.

Letter 88. Vol. 13 part 1. 7 February 1779.

Letter 80. Vol. 15 part 1. 28 July 1779.

Carrés d'Hozier. Vol. 335. Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. Genealogical
material, miscellaneous information about the O Hegerty
family.

de la Ponce Collection in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin. Much of the
material comes from the above source but a lot is the
result of wide research.

Mémoire sur la Maison des O Heguerty établis en Lorraine. Evidently original notes for the Dictionnaire de la Noblesse - found on a book stall by a German officer in World War I and presented to the von Eltz family. Collection of Count Henri Eltz.

Pedigree prepared for a similar publication. Collection of Count James O Hegerty.

Marriage certificate. Copy of original dated 31 January 1794. Dublin. Peter Daniel O'Hagarty and Rose Wilton. Collection of Count James O Hegerty.

Birth certificate. Copy of original dated 15 May 1769. Dublin. Rose Wilton. Collection of Count James O Hegerty.

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de la CHENAYE DESBOIS et BADIER. Dictionnaire de la Noblesse. Paris 1869.

O HEGUERTY, P. C. D. Mémoire pour M. Pierre-Charles-Daniel O Heguerty, Chevalier, Seigneur de Villey-le-Sec, ancien Capitaine au Régiment de Lally, Gentilhomme de feu le Roi de Pologne, Duc de Lorraine & de Bar; Demandeur en entérinement de Lettres de Requête civile & de rescision, Appellant incidemment; &c.

Contre

M. François-Bernard O Heguerty, Chevalier de l'Ordre Royal & Militaire de S. Louis, ancien Lieutenant-Colonel au Régiment de Dillon, Gentilhomme de feu le Roi de Pologne, Duc de Lorraine & de Bar. Intimé et Défendeur; Dame Cecile-Vertu O Heguerty, Veuve de M. Dominique Fontaine, ancien Major de Dragons, au service du Roi de Dannemarck, & Demoiselle Sara-Rose O Heguerty. Défendresses. Nancy. 1774.

This apparently unique copy is in the Public Library of Nancy. Captain Peter washed the dirty family linen in its 73 pages but also included some valuable information about his father. It seems the other parties wrote a similar booklet in reply but it has vanished.

MALLESON, G. B. History of the French in India. London. 1868.

The d'Heguerty whom Major Malleson described at the Battle of Wandewash could easily be Captain Peter's cousin, the Chevalier Louis François O Hegerty, son of Colonel François Bernard. He entered the service of the Compagnie des Indes, fighting under the Marquis de Bussy, General of the Indian Army in Golconde and the subsequent battles leading to Pondicherry. Due to the disconcerting custom of using last names only it is difficult to distinguish the O Hegertys of this period.

SIEBMACHER, J. Wappenbuch - Oberoesterreichischer Adel. Nurnburg. 1904.

The pedigree in this work implies incorrectly that the last Austrian male of the family, Count Charles John Patrick O Hegerty, who died at Tillysburg in 1882 brought the line to an end and that the French branch is extinct.

There are now about a dozen O Hegertys living in France but only one young male to carry on the line. This is Count Patrick Hugues Raoul O Heguerty born in 1944 and a direct descendant of Captain Peter through his daughter Sarah.

