

MISS BLACKBURNE

The CORRESPONDENCE SERIES is an investigation into the background of recipients of British pre-stamped postal stationery. The "collection" was purchased in South Africa in 1999 as a job lot, the which took me six months to sort and mount, creating a collection spanning 140 years. I have no idea of the provenance.

The Reference work is British Postal Stationery, A K Huggins.1970. The first date with catalogue number refers to the year when the pre-stamped envelope was first issued; the second, the year when the envelope was actually used.

Philatelic Description of the item of Postal Stationery:

1850-1851 (EP7c) Miss Blackburne, 109 Stephen's Green West, Dublin

Comment:

Richard Hird introduces his work *An Index to the subscribers to Hopkins & Rimbault (First Edition: 1855)* with the following background notes (I quote): The first edition of Edward J. Hopkins's "Comprehensive treatise on the structure and capabilities of the organ, with specifications and suggestive details for instruments of all sizes, intended as a handbook for the organist and the amateur", together with Edward F. Rimbault's "New History of the Organ: [being] memoirs of the most eminent builders of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and other matters of research in connection with the subject", was published in 1855 as *The Organ, its History and Construction*.

In the table that he presents, the following three entries appear:

An Index to the subscribers to Hopkins & Rimbault:

W. Telford. Organbuilder 109 St.Stephen's Green, Dublin
John Blackburn. Oatwood [sic: Outwood] House, Horsforth, nr. Leeds
Edward Blackburne. 34, Merrion Square South, Dublin

William Telford (-1885) was the most famous Irish pipe organ builder of his day, conducting his business, Telford and Telford, from 1830-1866. His workshop was at 109 St Stephen's Green, Dublin. His instruments are to be found in the British Isles and Antipidees. The family business continued until 1950 when it became partly owned by R. E. Meates & Son of Dublin.

The Dublin Directory for 1850 lists the following:

Blackburne, Miss, 109 Stephen's green, South
George, 16 Clarendon street
Peter, 14 Haymarket
Right Hon. Francis, 34 Merrion square, South, and Rathfarnham castle, Rathfarnham

The Right Hon. Francis (1822-1863) and Edward Blackburne (1823-1902) were the sons of Francis Blackburne (1782-1867) Lord Chancellor of Ireland of Rathfarnham Castle, Dublin.

The card is addressed to Mifs Blackburne at William Telford's workshop. The Dublin Directory identifies her as living there in 1850. Hird's *An Index to the subscribers to Hopkins & Rimbault* lists two named Blackburn(e).

Though I speculate that Mifs Blackburne is related to the family of Rathfarnham Castle, Dublin, I have no absolute proof thereof. If she was living at 109 Stephen's green, South, why that was so is equally obscure; but, if she were related to Edward Blackburne it may explain his interest in sponsoring the publication in 1855 of *The Organ, its History and Construction*.

References:

1. Hird, R. An Index to the subscribers to Hopkins & Rimbault (First Edition: 1855) in British Institute of Organ Studies. www.bios.org.uk
2. DublinDirectory1850 www.libraryireland.com/DublinDirectory1850/k.php
3. Francis Blackburne. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Blackburne
4. Pipe Organ Society of Ireland. www.irishpipeorgans.com
5. Rushworth, G D. Historic Organs of New South Wales : The Instruments, Their Makers and Players, 1791-1940. Publ: Hale & Iremonger (Sydney). 1988
6. Family Search. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. <http://www.familysearch.org>
7. FreeBMD Home Page <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>