

AYLWARD, Peter Charles

Peter Charles AYLWARD was born at Shanklin Castle, near Dublin, Ireland in 1813. He was the second son of Nicholas John Patrick AYLWARD and his wife Elizabeth KEARNEY who had married in 1805¹.

Shanklin Castle is in County Kilkenny in Ireland and a description with pictures is given as an appendix to this chapter.

As yet no evidence has been found to indicate when Peter Charles AYLWARD arrived at the Cape. According to his Will, he took transfer of certain property in **1853**, so he must have arrived before this date. This would still make him in his mid-to-late-thirties but what he did and where he lived before this is not known.

Family background AYLWARD

The family of Aylward, or Eylward, is found in Ireland as an old and respectable family of Anglo-Norman origins. It is on record in Ireland from the time of the 12th century Cambro-Norman invasions onward. Many of the name are found in Co. Kilkenny; note the name of the townland of Aylwardstown in the barony of Ida, Co. Kilkenny. The variant spelling of Elward is found in Carrick-on-Suir on the Kilkenny-Waterford border.

The family names of Toler-Aylward of Shankill Castle, Co. Kilkenny, and of Bloomfield, Co. Roscommon are cited with a Coat of Arms, and descending from Richard Ayleward of Faithlegg, Co. Waterford. This line of the family possessed Glensilliam, which subsequently became known as "Aylewardstown" in Co. Kilkenny (barony of Ida). A Nicholas Aylward is cited in the transplantation records of the 1650's following the Williamite land confiscations in Co. Kilkenny. In the 1659 'census' of County Kilkenny the name is likely represented as Aildwood, a principal Irish name in the barony of Iverke, as well as Aldwood, a principal name in the barony of Ida ; both baronies in the southern portion of the county. A large proportion of Aylwards were still centered in southern Co. Kilkenny at the time of Griffiths Valuation in the mid-nineteenth century.²

Peter Aylward at the Cape

It would appear from his will that Peter Aylward lived at *Eagles Nest* in Constantia and later at Liesbeeck Cottages in Rondebosch. He bequeaths all his properties to his three sisters³

Peter's will⁴ was made 12th November 1857 and stated the following:

Be it hereby made known that on this twelfth day of November one thousand, eight hundred and fifty-seven; before me, Henry Matthew Arderne, of Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, Notary Public, duly admitted and sworn and in presence of subscribing witnesses,

Personally, came and appeared, Peter Charles Aylward formerly of Lower Mount Street City of Dublin, but at present of Eagles' Nest, Constantia, in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, aforesaid, gentleman

And this appearer declared that whereas he has duly made and executed his last will and testament bearing date on or about the twentieth day of May one thousand eight hundred and forty five and thereby gave divided and bequeathed of him, the appearer, lying or being in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, but has in the same will has made no mention of his property situated and being in the said colony of the Cape of Good Hope of which he is desirous of bequeathing and disposing of xx and by this paper

¹ See AYLWARD Family Register for more details of the siblings of Peter Charles AYLWARD,

² from ROOTSWEB.COM

³ See AYLWARD Family Register for more details

⁴ MOOC 7/1/259 Ref 112

writing which he desires may be taken as a second codicil to his last will and testament.

Now therefore the said, Peter Charles Aylward, declared to give, divide and bequeath such property as may be by him possessed at the time of his decease situated and being within the said Colony of the Cape of Good Hope as follows, to wit

Unto Susannah Aylward, Catherine Waller Aylward, Meriel Ann Aylward, sisters of him the appearer he declared to give and bequeath the following landed property

I. certain piece of ground with the building thereon marked No 34, 35 and 38 being parts of the divided estates called Liesbeeck Cottage, situated at Rondebosch measuring 108 square roodt and 101 square feet,

II. certain pieces marked No 42 and 43 situated at Newlands in the Cape Division measuring 12 square rood and 42 square feet and 18 square inches.

III. certain piece of quitrent situated near Constantia Cape Division measuring 24 morgan and 400 square rood

IV. certain piece of land with building thereon, now called Eagles' Nest, being part of the place, "Wittebomen", situated in the Cape Division, measuring 17 morgan 22 square rood,

All the above property more particularly described in the deeds of transfer thereof dated respectively the 27th December 1853; 4th July 1854; 30th August 1854 together with all such sum and amount of money as may be appear to his credit in the books of the Cape of Good Hope Bank to be by them, the said Susannah, Catherine and Meriel Aylward enjoyed as their full and free property absolutely and forever such sums to be paid to them soon as may be after him, the appearers, decease.

And the appearer declared to nominate and appoint Percy Vigors, chief clerk at the Colonial Office and Charles Atken Fairbridge, attorney-at-law, both of Cape Town to be the joint executors of this his will Administrator of estate and effects in this colony therefore giving and granting them all such power and authority as in a power of attorney in law especially of assumption, substitution and surrogation.

The appearer lastly declared to ratify and affirm his aforesaid will and codicil declared that those present may be taken and treat as a second codicil thereto

In witness thereof the said, Peter Charles Aylward, hath hereunto etc etc

Witnesses: D C Verwey & Tredgate

signed: P C Aylward

Quod attestor: H M Arderne

It would appear that there were at least two pieces of property; one in Constantia near or around *Eagles Nest* and the other in Rondebosch and possibly two others - one in Newlands and one in Constantia but these could have been sub-section of the larger property.

Historians researching to preserve historical buildings of Constantia Valley, researched *Eagles Nest*.⁵ They state:

Cottage at EAGLES NEST off Constantia Main Road Constantia

Notes: Portion of an original farm Wittebomen. According to the deed in the Deeds Office was owned by:

- 1. Aylward (granted in 1859⁶)*

⁵ Tangible Heritage Resources in the Constantia-Tokai Valley: Towards a conservation management plan for this portion of the Cape Winelands cultural landscape. Fabio Todeschini and Jean Blankenberg

2. Koch (1882-1918)
3. Brunt (-1928)
4. Williams (1928-1960)
5. Maggs (1960-);

An L-shape building was recorded on the 1859 deed. This original farmhouse possibly predates 1834. Unfortunately it burnt down in 1934. The present "Bell House" built incorporating parts of the old house. A number of old cottages still exist on the farm.

A very brief history of the Eagles Nest estate is given on their web page.⁷



Eagles' Nest today

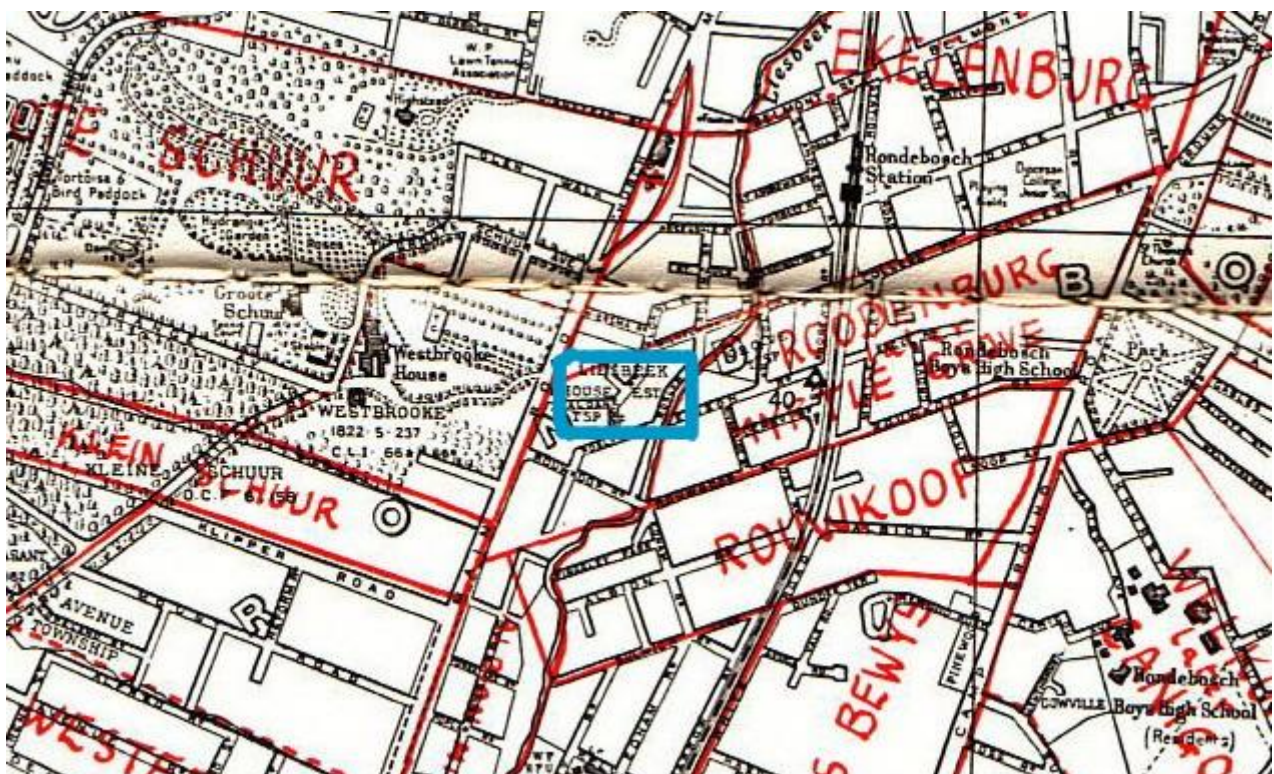
⁶ Peter AYLWARD's will made in 1857 states he owns *Eagle's Nest* but the Deed of Transfer is only 1859

⁷ <http://www.eaglesnestwines.com/story-history.htm>



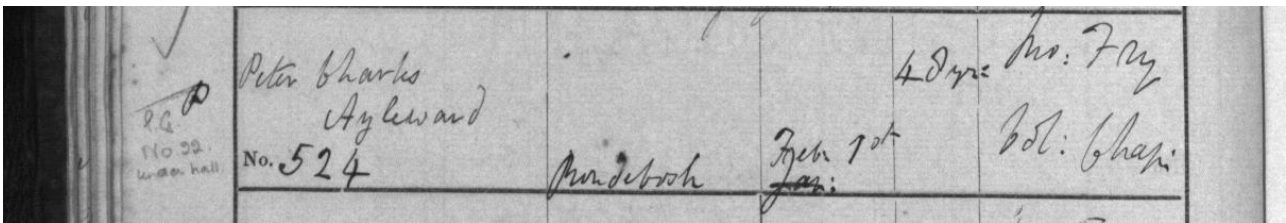
Map showing the position of Eagles' Nest in Constantia

The property in Newlands is most probably nearer Rondebosch. On the map below from a booklet of Rondebosch history published in the 1950s shows the modern roads in black and the boundaries of the estates in red. *Liesbeeck House* is shown in the blue square. The Estate appears to be a rhomboid bordering the Main Road to the West, Wiersma and Wilhemina Roads to the North, following Roslyn Road and then the current Liesbeeck River Trail alongside St Michael's Catholic Church to Rouwkoop Road then closing off the square by going directly up at an angle to the Main Road.



1950s map showing the historical estates in red and the modern roads in black.

Peter Charles Aylward died on 31st January 1861 and was buried at St Paul's Graveyard on 1st February 1861 by the Rev. John Fry, Colonial Chaplain.



Entry from the Burial Register of St Paul's Church, Rondebosch 1861

In the margin of the Burial Register is written in a different hand from the Rev. Fry, "P.G. No. 22 under hall." It would appear that this was written perhaps by Margaret Cairns or A.P. Millard both of whom researched the graveyard during the 20th Century. The schematic map shows that the hall comes close to, but does not cover plot 22. A black slate memorial stone with the following inscription can be found on plot 80:

Here lies the body of Peter Charles Aylward, second son of the late Nicholas Aylward esq., of Shankill Castle, county Kilkenny. Died 31st January 1861 aged 48 years.

The gravestone is on plot 80 which is right the other side of the graveyard and is poor condition. It is of black slate but broken from top to bottom on the left-hand side and the bottom left hand corner is chipped off.



The gravestone of Peter Charles AYLWARD

Presumably the three sisters sold the properties.

As Peter AYLWARD never married, there are no descendents. Appendix 2 has the Family Register.

Appendix 1 Shanklin Castle

Shanklin Castle is a detached five-bay two-storey Gothic-style house with dormer attic, c.1825, incorporating fabric of earlier house from 1713, comprising single-bay two-storey recessed bay having single-bay single-storey flat-roofed advanced glazed porch to ground floor, single-bay two-storey advanced flanking bays incorporating fabric of medieval tower house, c.1600, to left, single-bay two-storey recessed end bay to left, and single-bay two-storey crow stepped-gabled recessed lower end bay to right. It was renovated, 1856. Hipped slate roofs mostly behind parapets (pyramidal to 'tower house' bay) with clay and rolled lead ridge tiles, rendered chimney stacks, and cast-iron rainwater goods on rendered eaves. Flat roof to porch not visible behind parapet. Unpainted rendered walls with slight batter to 'tower house' bay, rendered dressings including battlemented full-height corner piers having slit-style blind apertures, some cross blind apertures, frieze to 'tower house' bay between stringcourses, battlemented parapets (some on corbel tables) with cut-stone coping, and some crow stepped-gabled parapets having cut-stone coping. Square-headed window openings (most in tripartite arrangement) with cut-stone sills, hood mouldings over, one-over-one (ground floor) and four-over-four (first floor) timber sash windows having some timber casement windows throughout. Pointed-arch openings to porch in tripartite arrangement with glazed timber panelled double doors having overlights, fixed-pane sidelights, and cut-limestone intermediary piers supporting stringcourse with battlemented parapet over. Set back from road in own grounds with landscaped grounds to site.



Shanklin Castle, County Kilkenny, Ireland, home of the AYLWARD Family

Appraisal

An impressive large-scale house built to designs prepared by William Robertson (1770-1850) for the Aylward family forming a picturesque landmark of Romantic quality in the landscape. The complex form and massing of the composition attests to the evolution of the site over a number of centuries with the present house incorporating the fabric of an early eighteenth-century range together with a medieval tower house, thereby representing the continuation of a long-standing presence on site. Meanwhile the traces of renovation works carried out under the direction of William Deane Butler (c.1794-1857) together with accounts of a conservatory (post-1859; dismantled, post-1902) attributable to Richard Turner (1798-1881) indicate the continued development of the house well into the latter half of the nineteenth century. A riot of advanced and recessed bays, battlements, crow-stepped gables, and so on are carefully

orchestrated to disguise the earlier disparate ranges in a cohesive architectural skin while supplementary fine details further embellish the architectural design value of the composition. Having been well maintained the house presents an early aspect with most of the historic fabric surviving in place both to the exterior and to the interior where it is believed that an original decorative scheme of artistic significance survives largely intact.



Another view of Shanklin Castle.

Appendix 2:

THE AYLWARD FAMILY REGISTER⁸

Generation One

1. **Peter AYLWARD.** He married Elizabeth BUTLER.

Children:

2. i. Nicholas AYLWARD.

Generation Two

2. **Nicholas AYLWARD,** d. 1786. He married Catherine KEATING, married 5 Aug 1719.

Children:

3. i. Nicholas AYLWARD.
ii. Ann AYLWARD, d. 1802.

She married John VIGORS

The peerage.com says that they had issue.

Peter Charles AYLWARD appointed a Percy VIGORS "chief clerk at the colonial Office" as his executor

- iii. Peter AYLWARD, d. 1801.

Generation Three

3. **Nicholas AYLWARD,** d. 1772. He married Mary KEARNEY, married 1756.

Children:

4. i. Peter AYLWARD.
ii. Nicholas AYLWARD.
iii. Katherine AYLWARD.

Generation Four

4. **Peter AYLWARD,** d. 1792. He married Anne KEARNEY.

Children:

5. i. Nicholas John Patrick AYLWARD b. 1787.

Generation Five

5. **Nicholas John Patrick AYLWARD,** b. 1787, d. 1832. He married Elizabeth KEARNEY, married 1805.

Children:

- i. Nicholas AYLWARD.
ii. **Peter Charles AYLWARD, b. 1813, d. 1861 in Rondebosch, Cape Colony.**
6. iii. Mary AYLWARD.
iv. Elizabeth AYLWARD. She married Henry Clopton KEOGH.
v. Susanna AYLWARD. *[left property in Peter's will]*
vi. Catherine Waller AYLWARD. *[left property in Peter's will]*
vii. Merial AYLWARD. She married Robert YOUNG, married 1849. *[left property in Peter's will]*
viii. James Kearney AYLWARD-KEARNEY, b. 1811.

James Kearney Aylward-Kearney was baptised with the name of James Kearney Aylward. He held the office of High Sheriff in 1837. He held the office of Deputy Lieutenant (D.L.). He held the office of Justice of the Peace (J.P.). His name was legally changed to James Kearney Aylward-Kearney when he assumed the additional surname of Kearney by Royal Licence in 1876 upon succeeding to a moiety of the estates of his cousin James Charles Kearney, of Blanchville, County Kilkenny. He lived at Shankill Castle, Paulstown, County Kilkenny, Ireland.

He married Isabella FORBES.

Generation Six

6. **Mary AYLWARD.** She married Peter TOLER, married 1835, d. 1880.

Children:

- i. Merial Elizabeth TOLER, d. 1912. She married Robert DEVENISH, married 1869.
7. ii. Hector James Charles TOLER-AYLWARD b. 1839.

Generation Seven

7. **Hector James Charles TOLER-AYLWARD,** b. 1839, d. 1918.

Hector James Charles Toler-Aylward was born on 13 June 1839. He was the son of Reverend Peter Toler and Mary Aylward. He married Emily Mary Eliza Butler, daughter of James Butler, in April 1894.1 He died on 28 July 1918 at age 79.

⁸ obtained from "the peerage" Web page.

Hector James Charles Toler-Aylward was baptised with the name of Hector James Charles Toler. His name was legally changed to Hector James Charles Toler-Aylward when he assumed the additional surname and arms of Aylward by Royal Licence on 30 May 1884 on his succeeding his uncle, James Kearney Aylward-Kearney. He held the office of High Sheriff in 1886. He held the office of Deputy Lieutenant (D.L.). He held the office of Justice of the Peace (J.P.) of County Kilkenny. He lived at Bloomfield, County Roscommon, Ireland. He lived at Shankill Castle, Paulstown, County Kilkenny, Ireland.

He married Emily Mary Eliza BUTLER, married 1894.

Children:

8. i. Hector James Charles TOLER-AYLWARD b. 1895.
9. ii. Victor George TOLER-AYLWARD b. 1897.

Generation Eight

8. **Hector James Charles TOLER-AYLWARD**, b. 1895, d. 1974.

TOLER-AYLWARD OF SHANKILL CASTLE

HECTOR JAMES TOLER-AYLWARD, of Shankill Castle, Co Kilkenny; born 9 March, 1895; educated Trinity Hall, Cambridge; married 6 June, 1929, Zinna Ethel, younger daughter of E H. Knox, of Greenwood Park, ...

He married Zinna Ethel KNOX, married 1929.

Children:

- i. Zina Mary TOLER-AYLWARD, b. 1932.
 - ii. Nicola Elizabeth TOLER-AYLWARD, b. 1936.
 - iii. Ada Jillian TOLER-AYLWARD, b. 1938.
9. **Victor George TOLER-AYLWARD**, b. 1897.

Lt.-Col. Victor George Toler-Aylward was born on 11 October 1897. He was the son of Hector James Charles Toler-Aylward and Emily Mary Eliza Butler. He married Barbara Eleanor Margaret Abel Smith, daughter of Major Edwin Philip Abel Smith, on 25 October 1933.

Lt.-Col. Victor George Toler-Aylward was educated at Radley College, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, England. He fought in the First World War. He was educated at Royal Military College, Sandhurst, Berkshire, England. He fought in the Second World War, when he was mentioned in despatches. He gained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the service of the 2nd Dragoon Guards (The Queen's Bays).

He was the Secretary for The Grafton Hunt between 1945 and 1954.¹ He lived at The Grange, Moreton Pinkney, Northamptonshire, England.

He married Barbara Eleanor Margaret Abel SMITH, married 1933.

Children:

10. i. Ann Emily TOLER-AYLWARD b. 1934.
- ii. Sarah Pamela TOLER-AYLWARD, b. 1948.

Generation Nine

10. **Ann Emily TOLER-AYLWARD**, b. 1934. She married Ian Forster FISHER, married 1961.

Children:

11. i. Amelia Anne FISHER b. 1963.
- ii. Flora Celia Elsie FISHER, b. 1965. She married David COCHRANE, b. 1985.
12. iii. Iona Victoria FISHER b. 1966.
- iv. Lucinda Sarah FISHER, b. 1968.

Generation Ten

11. **Amelia Anne FISHER**, b. 1963. She married Christopher G. NICHOLSON, married 1983.

Children:

- i. Hugh Henry NICHOLSON, b. 1987.
 - ii. Helen Selina NICHOLSON, b. 1996.
12. **Iona Victoria FISHER**, b. 1966. She married Geoffrey C. LUDLOW, married 1985.

Children:

- i. Victoria Margaret Danielle LUDLOW, b. 1995.