

Leinster Leader

Saturday, 1st September 1934

SIR H GREER DEAD

GREAT WORK FOR HORSE BREEDING

A FAMOUS STUD

The death was announced on last Saturday at Curragh Grange, Co. Kildare, of Sir Henry Greer, who for a number of years was director of the National Stud. He resigned his directorship in January last owing to ill health. He was 79 years of age. The famous stud was gift to nation in November, 1915, by Lord Wavetree (then Colonel Hall Walker) and the collection of 40 mares, representing the best blood in the world, which had taken Lord Wavetree 15 years to get together, were at the time of the transfer, valued at £100,000 by Henry (then Capt.) Greer, who was at that Senior Steward the Jockey Club.

Sir Henry Greer had been manager of the Stud till this year and it was to his skill, experience and business acumen that its consistent success has been mainly due.

Among many good horses he had in the stud have been Panther (winner of the Two Thousand Guineas), Eaglehawk, Royal Lancer (winner of the St. Leger), Blandford (winner of the Liverpool Cup) Poisoned Arrow (winner of the Duke of York Handicap and Liverpool Cup). Diligence, and Bhuidhanoach, one of the best was Challenger, who was bought by Lord Dewar. This colt won his only two races as a two year old, but on the death of his owner was sold to America. (Challenger's nomination for the 1930 Derby was voided by Lord Dewar's death, otherwise would undoubtedly have been one of the favourites for that event).

Sir Henry Greer was son of the late H. H. Greer, of The Grange, Boy, County Tyrone, and was born in February 1855. He went through Wellington and Sandhurst and served with distinction many parts the world for 17 years in the Highland Light Infantry, and although retired some years ago served his country again when the Boer War commenced.



Sir Henry Greer

He began his racing career 1887, and year later started to lay the foundations of his own breeding establishment at Tully, which sold to the Agha Khan 1923, and continued to run till his death.

The greatest bargain ever made was the purchase of the famous sire, Gallinule, for 1,000 guineas from Mr. Abingdon Baird, and it was the mating of this horse with Tragedy, the first mare who ever won a race for Captain Greer, that produced Wildfowler who won the St. Leger for him in 1898. Gallinule was not what can be described as a fashionable stallion

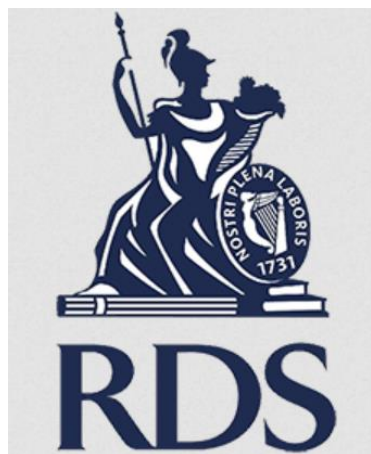


when started in Ireland, and the fee was ridiculously small in view of the wonderful stock he got afterwards, which included the peerless Pretty Polly, and other makers of turf history. Gallinule died in January 1912, at the age of 28.

Sir Henry Greer, in addition to having occupied the position as steward of the Jockey Club, was a steward of the Irish Turf Club. The horses he owned, or part owned were trained by the late master of Beckhampton (Sam Darling), and scored many notable successes apart from Wildfowler. Slieve Galleon won the Two Thousand Guineas in 1907 but had vailed later. Probably the biggest glow the Captain and Beckhnmpton sustained was when Kilcock was beaten Victor Wild in the Jubilee Handicap of 1896.

1923 Sir Henry became General Manager of the Agha Khan's Sheshoon Stud in Ireland and acted in that establishment in an advisory capacity.

Blandford who was bred at the National Stud, the sire of three Derby winners—Windsor Lad, Blenheim, and Trigo. Sir Henry Greer was member of the Turf Club, the governing body of horse racing in Ireland, and a Senator of the Irish Free State.



He was on excellent golfer, being President and several times Captain the Curragh Golf Club. He, naturally enough, was the friend of ex-servicemen and was President of the Newbridge Branch of the British Legion, He was also valued member the Royal Dublin Society. Incidentally, he at one time possessed one of the most valuable and successful herds pure-bred Aberdeen- Angus cattle in the country and gained notable successes in the show rings at Ballsbridge and in Scotland and England.

As an employer none was more generous and considerate than Sir Henry, his belief being that a happy and contented worker was, necessity, a good worker. His warm-hearted charity was never appealed to in vain and he must have spent a considerable fortune in the doing good works, though he shunned publicity in any such connection. Many "lame dog" will bless the name of Sir Henry Greer whilst those who worked under him will ever remember him with affection. A great Irishman and Christian gentleman has gone to his reward, but his memory will live the hearts those who knew him. May the kindly soil rest lightly on his ashes!

The Funeral.

The funeral, to the New Cemetery, Newbridge, on Monday, was at the special request of the relatives of a private nature but, nevertheless, there was very large attendance of friends and members of the general public anxious to pay their last tribute to the memory of the deceased gentleman.

The Very Rev. H. N. Craig, Dean of Kildare, assisted the Rev. C. P. Fisher, Rector of Newbridge, conducted a short service at Curragh Grange, after which the remains were borne from the house to the hearse by six bearers, representatives of the workers at Curragh Grange, the Sheshoon Stud, the National Stud and the British Legion (Newbridge). The bearers were Messrs. J. Blair, J. Robinson, W. Corbett, T. Burke. W. Almack and J. Parker.



Curragh Grange

On arrival at the cemetery gates the remains were received by a guard of honour drawn from the Newbridge Branch the British Legion, preceded by the clergy (Very Rev. Dean Craig and Rev. C. P. Fisher), the six chosen bearers carried their sad burden to its last resting place where the final prayers were said.

The chief mourners were Lady Greer, O.B.E. (widow); Erica Greer (granddaughter), General Vandeleur, Miss McNeill and Miss Graham, while amongst those present were Mr. Noble Johnson (Director of the National Stud and representative of the British Government), Colonel T. G. Peacock (Director Sheshoon Stud), Captain C. Moore, Rt. Hon. T. K. Laidlaw, Viscount and Viscountess Powerscourt, Sir Harold and Nutting, Major A. French, Major J. J. Tynan, D.S.O.. Major Mitchell, Colonel H. Mansfield. Captain E. Mansfield, Captain T. G. Gordon, Captain P. Caine, Major H. A. Henry, Captain R. Fowler, Mrs. More O'Ferrall, Mr. T. Weldon, Mr. Richard Weller (Sheshoon Stud). Dr. Roantree, Mr. T. H. Griffin. M.R.C.V.S.; Mr. Grennell (National Bank), Messrs. R. H. Faulkner, J. S. McElveen, T. J. McCabe, Chris. Sylvester, T. Spencer. R. Ginn, J. Hayde, J. J. Byrne, J. Mallick, W. Charles, etc., etc.

There were many beautiful floral tributes, the senders being, “ Mary and Erica,” ‘ Bobby and Betty,” H. H. the Aga Khan, Prince Aly Khan. Freda Blain, Colonel T. O. Peacocke, Earl and Countess of Drogheda, Viscount and Viscountess Powerscourt, Mrs. E. Kennedy, Staff of Sheshoon Stud, Staff of Ballymany Stud, British Legion (Newbridge), Staff at Curragh Grange, Miss Graham, Children at Curragh Grange, R. and K. Waller, Mr. and Mrs. Ginn, Mr. and Mrs. Pratt. Mrs. P. Gilpin, Hugh and Eileen Henry, Staff of National Stud. Women’s Section British Legion (Newbridge), M. Murphy. Mrs. Mulock., Lady McCalmont, Sir Wm. Hickey, Garden Staff at Curragh Grange.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. J. J. Byrne. Kilcullen.

IRELAND—THE CURRAGH, CO. KILDARE
ON 125 ACRES
Situated in centre of Kildare Hunt, and well-known racing establishments. 27 miles from Dublin.



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ACCOMMODATION
 Good hall, cloakroom, separate w.c., 3 reception, 6 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, servants' bathroom, usual domestic quarters. *Central heating throughout.* Hardwood flooring with some magnificent mantelpieces.

ANNEXE contains reception room, kitchen, scullery, 6 bedrooms, bathroom and w.c. Outside: detached squash racquet court.

FINE RANGE OF STABLING, including a quadrangle of 54 boxes.
 8 cottages, gate lodge; other outhouses, garages.
The lands of 125 acres are most suitable for the training of horses.

“Built regardless of cost for Sir Henry Greer” by Richard Orpen in 1910, Curragh Grange is a Queen Anne style redbrick, and pebble dashed country home. The house was occupied by Darby Rodgers until 1956 when it became the home of Joe McGrath, and then Sundai International College. Converted back into a private residence in 2005.

HAMILTON AND HAMILTON (ESTATES) LIMITED
17, DAWSON STREET, DUBLIN (Tel. 75438/9).

CURRAGH GRANGE, CURRAGH, CO. KILDARE

SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY. POSSESSION

ON 125 ACRES (S.M.) ON THE EDGE OF THE CURRAGH. SITUATE IN CENTRE OF KILDARE HUNT, 27 MILES FROM DUBLIN

THE RESIDENCE, built in 1910 regardless of cost for Sir Henry Greer, has been exceptionally well maintained.

CENTRAL HEATING THROUGHOUT, and hardwood flooring in all rooms on the some magnificent mantelpieces, Archiseek.com Adam, mahogany doors, etc.



ACCOMMODATION: Fine hall, cloakroom, separate w.c., 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, servant's bathroom, usual domestic quarters. Annexe contains reception room, kitchen, scullery, 6 bedrooms, bathroom and w.c. Outside—detached squash racquet court.

STABLING: There is one of the finest ranges of stabling in Ireland, the main group forming a quadrangle 54 boxes. 8 cottages and fine gate lodge; adequate other outhouses, garages, etc. The lands, which comprise 125 acres (s.m.) or thereabouts, are of excellent quality, and are most suitable for the training of horses, etc.

View only by appointment. HAMILTON & HAMILTON (ESTATES) LIMITED, M.L.A.A., Auctioneers, Estate Agents and Valuers, 17, Dawson Street, Dublin (Tel. 75438/9).
 English Agents: HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1. With branches at Wimbledon Common, Bishop's Stortford and Bournemouth.

Sir Henry Greer married (1886) Olivia Mary, daughter of Maj.-Gen. George de la Poer Beresford. They lived at the Curragh Grange, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Their two sons, Eric Beresford Greer and Francis St Leger Greer, both joined the Irish Guards and were killed on the Western Front in July and February 1917 respectively.

Lieutenant Colonel Eric Beresford Greer M.C.

Eric was born in April 1892 at the Curragh in County Kildare. He went to Eton College and then Sandhurst Military College. He joined the Irish Guards in 1911. He was a fine athlete and was mentioned three times in despatches and was awarded won the Military Cross. While serving with the Irish Guards he rose from lieutenant to lieutenant colonel. In February 1917, his brother Francis was killed, and Eric was married within days. Lieutenant Colonel Eric Beresford Greer was commanding the 2nd Battalion of the Irish Guards when he was killed in action on 31st July 1917. His wife died in 1918 at the age of 22, leaving behind an orphaned baby daughter.



Captain / Lieutenant Greer (kneeling) of the 1st Irish Guards and his machine gun team group prior to leaving for the war in 1914.



Lieutenant Francis St Leger Greer M.C.

Francis gained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the service of the 16th Lancers. By February 1917, he had been attached to the bombing section of the Irish Guards and was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

He led three platoons in the advance under very heavy fire. At one point in the advance, he shot an enemy machine gunner at about 80 yards, silencing the gun and saving many casualties.

Later, he did fine work consolidating the position won. Lieutenant Greer was serving with the 2nd Battalion of the Irish Guards when he died on the 1st of February 1917 aged 23.

We regret to announce the death in action of Lieut. Frank Greer, of the Irish Guards, the second son of Captain and Mrs Greer of Curragh Grange, Co. Kildare. At the beginning of the War Lieut. Greer entered a cavalry regiment, but afterwards joined the Irish Guards, and lately had been attached to the bombing section. He saw a good deal of active service and was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was a splendid type of officer, and his loss will be keenly felt, not alone by his brother officers in the distinguished regiment to which he belonged, but by all in civil life who were acquainted with him.

