

**HYDE PARK HOUSE, Ballybaun,
HOME TO THE HUTCHESON FAMILY**

(Written by Emma Laffey)

When I initially started to receive some photos of the Hutcheson family from Carmel Hoade, Carrowferrickeen, for my Skehana & District Down Memory Lane Facebook page it drove my interest in this family. Where would I start to track their ancestors? Via this page, Angela Hutcheson was liking a lot of the photographs so I took the notion to send her a message and low and behold she was the wife of James Hutcheson's great grandson. Not only that, but as it turns out, our families were connected through Angela. My niece's grandmother was a sister of Angela's - a very small world indeed! Following is a brief piece on the history of the house, family and some connecting photographs from our Facebook page.

Hyde Park came up for Auction in 1834 and was described as "a fattening farm of 133 acres, handsomely situated in a picturesque sporting country. The land was well divided by beautiful hedges and fencing with a famous trout river running alongside the house." The house itself was described "as modern with a very commodious stated dwelling with out-houses, offices and a large walled garden with an orchard."



Hyde Park House Ballybane Monivea.

It was around this time that the gentleman farmer, Alexander Hutcheson and his family, moved here. Alexander Hutcheson purchased Hyde Park and when he passed away in 1888 he left, in his will, for lands and money to be transferred to a James Hutcheson. In his will he was described as a gentleman farmer and he left buildings contents and monies to said sum of £412 10s.

During James' time in Hyde Park we see, in both 1901 and 1911 census, who was in the house and what they had as out-buildings. The house was described as being a 1st Class house with stone walls, a slate roof, five front windows and five rooms. The out buildings included a coach house, harness room, two stables, four cow houses, a dairy, two piggeries, three fowls houses, a boiling house, barn, turf house, potato house and two sheds. Two domestic servants, Mary McNair and Bridget Tyrell, and a farmhand, Michael Dolan, are also recorded as residents in 1911. They are generally believed to have been good landlords to the local people and community.



James Hutcheson with his grandson Charles Hutcheson aged 10

James married Mary Hutchison on 4 Decemer 1876 in Greenock Scotland. They had one son George Muir Moody Hutcheson whowas born in Hyde Park on 22 November 1877. James wife died 3 August 1881 from heart failure, in Hyde Park House, leaving behind her very young son.

George Muir Moody Hutcheson married Deborah Taylor from Ballinamore Bridge on 10th July 1901 and had two daughters and two sons. One of the sons Alexander James Dallas Hutcheson was born 18 September 1902 and died young of albugeria (kidney disease) on the 9 March 1907. The other son was Charles George Hutcheson born 11 May 1905 and the two daughters were Jessica Little Mary Hutcheson, born 3 December 1903, and Hilda Alexis Hutcheson born 5 September 1908.



George Muir Moody Hutcheson



Deborah Taylor

An official witness statement documented by a Paddy King, Monivea Old IRA, recalled from memory during The Troubles the IRA were well established in the Skehana and Monivea areas. Around 2pm on a Sunday, four RIC officers accompanied the boycotted farmer Mr Hutcheson on horse and cart. They were ambushed and as fire opened there were calls for the RIC officers to surrender. The driver of the horse turned the cart around and raced back home at galloping speed standing up and whipping the horse as fast as he could. Fire continued for some time and the RIC eventually retreated under safe cover. The arrest warrant was issued for the Captain and Lieutenant of the IRA but they all managed to escape and stay hidden until after the truce.

Georges two daughters are to the right of this photo Jessica and Hilda. They are with their aunt Annie Taylor who is a sister of their mother Deborah and Annie's grandchildren



The Hutcheson and Taylor families were very close and I am lucky enough to have found a photo of them together!



Photo Left: George Hutcheson Herbert Taylor Hilda Alexis Hutcheson & Benjamin "Benny" Taylor taken at Taylors home house



Photo Right: Charles Taylor, Herbert Taylor, Gus Lynch, EllisTaylor & Dick Taylor c 1927 Taylors Mills

George and Deborah's son Charles married an Eileen Kelly from Windfield Lodge Windfield Skehana they were married in Skehana Church in 1946.



Charles with his wife Eileen and two of his children Alex and Debbie c1955



Eileen Hutcheson with her son George

The Hutchesons left Skehana and went to live in Stamullen in Co Meath and remained there until 1980s.



George (Charles and Eileen's son) now lives in Castlebellingham in Co Louth with his wife Angela, children and grandchildren.