

An old Irish daffodil cultivar re-discovered

Terence Reeves-Smyth

Castlewellan has long been famous for its woody plants, but until detailed research into its historic gardens was undertaken last year, its association with a once widely distributed, but apparently long lost trumpet all-yellow daffodil cultivar, *Narcissus* 'Countess of Annesley', had been largely forgotten.¹ Once information about its former existence became known, Alwyn Sinnamon of the Forest Service, with some encouragement from the recently formed Castlewellan Arboretum Advisory Board, embarked on a mission this spring to re-discover the long lost cultivar.² To the delight of all, he met with success, finding this distinctive long cupped division one daffodil in an overgrown area of the 'Autumn Wood' adjacent to the castle.

Attention to this variety was first drawn by the Earl Annesley's famous gardener, Thomas Ryan (1851-1910), who contributed a short note to *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, on April 6th 1889. He submitted to the editor, William Robinson, 'a few blooms of a new daffodil' which originated in Castlewellan and described it as 'more vigorous and hardy than any other daffodil I am acquainted with', noting that 'it has been in flower since the first week in January'. Ryan also stated that the flowers he had sent to Robinson were from 'open air plants, large masses being very beautiful just now; some of the clumps have from forty to fifty flowers open at one time'. The flowers he said 'last ten days after being cut, and it should prove a capital variety to grow for market'.³



Fig. 1 Castlewellan Castle from across the lake around 1870. The pleasure grounds seen here lying below the castle were formerly attached to the Regency house that once stood here. This garden was reported to be the main location of the original Castlewellan Daffodil discovery by Thomas Ryan in the 1880s and was also the area of its re-discovery in 2016. Now very overgrown, these former gardens are currently known as 'The Autumn Wood'.

Burbidge on the name & origin of *Narcissus* 'Countess of Annesley'

On the very same day that Thomas Ryan published his note on the Castlewellan Daffodil (April 6th 1889), the celebrated curator of the Trinity College Botanic Gardens, Dublin, Frederick William Burbidge read a paper to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in London on the subject of 'The Narcissus'. As author of the seminal work *The Narcissus: Its History and Culture* (1875), Burbidge was the acknowledged authority on daffodils at this time.⁴ His RHS paper not only made specific reference to the 'Castlewellan Daffodil', which he included on a list of the 'best of all narcissi', but he also used the term 'Countess of Annesley' for the first time:

'We always thought we could tell at a glance *N. princeps* from *N. spurius* or *N. major*, but the beautiful Castlewellan Daffodil, now to be known as "Countess of Annesley," is a connecting link between them'.⁵

Later that month Burbidge again referred specifically to *Narcissus* 'Countess of Annesley' as 'a strong growing and distinct variety'.⁶ Three years later he still held the variety in high esteem, writing that:

'of all the so-called Irish Daffodils I should certainly select *Narcissus* Countess of Annesley as the one variety for garden culture and profitable market work. It is not so fine as those gems of the bicolor section, John Horsfield, Empress, or Grandee, but it is without a doubt one of the very finest, healthiest and freest of all the yellow Daffodils known to us to-day'.⁷

On April 9th 1889 the variety had been submitted to the Narcissus Committee of the RHS for 'registration', but notwithstanding Burbidge's earlier recommendations, a decision was 'deferred for further trial'. Evidently the committee took its time, for its registration as a 'distinct and useful variety' did not actually take place until April 12th, 1892.⁸

Burbidge may well have been responsible for registering the variety. He was certainly a regular visitor to Castlewellan and was one of those correspondents who was in the habit of incorrectly referring to the owner as 'The Earl of Annesley'.⁹ The name Annesley in this case is not a place name but a family name, and should in fact be written 'Earl Annesley' and his wife as 'Countess Annesley'.¹⁰ The misnamed daffodil may have later caused or inspired George Dickson I of the Newtownards firm of Messrs. Alex. Dickson & Sons to also register one of his new hybrid tea roses under the name of 'Countess of Annesley'.¹¹

Burbidge was particularly interested in the origin of plants, this being a time when Darwinian ideas of evolution were still something of a novelty. He considered that the newly discovered *Narcissus* 'Countess of Annesley' to have a history that was 'obscure, that is to its origin' and observed that a handful of other yellow Irish trumpet daffodils, including 'Ard Righ' and 'Rip van Winkle', that had made an appearance around this time, also had unknown origins. Writing in 1890 about these varieties he proposed that:

'these so-called Irish Daffodils, or their progenitors, were introduced many years ago as garden flowers, just as they were introduced to England. The only difference seems to be that they have thriven better in Ireland, and in many cases have seeded spontaneously, and so reproduced themselves with some little variety. At any rate the fact stares us in the face that from Irish gardens a dozen or more varieties have been introduced to England within the last ten years or so that have so far not been discovered either wild or cultivated elsewhere'.¹²

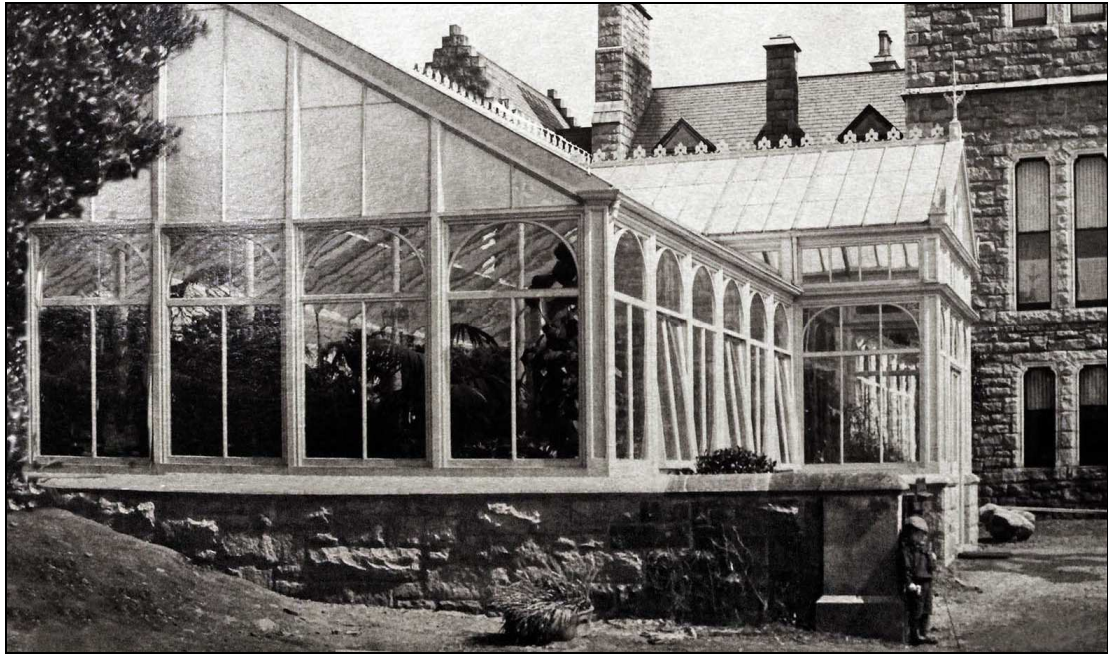


Fig. 2. Large conservatory adjacent to Castlewella Castle known as the 'Winter Garden'. The child standing at the building corner gives an idea of the building's size, which was built in 1888-9. Burbidge reported it contained a wide range of plants forming 'a blaze of colour' with 'daffodils in hundreds', among which were large numbers of N. 'Countess of Annesley'. It was demolished in the 1920s

In the case of *Narcissus* 'Countess of Annesley' Burbidge in 1892 noted that 'there were thousands upon thousands of its bulbs naturalised in the park or domain [sic] at Castlewella', adding that 'so far as is known, I do not believe it has been found elsewhere'.¹³ A few years later he was more specific as to exactly where the daffodil was found, for having remarked that the site of the old Regency house at Castlewella was 'still marked out by dwarf hedges', went on to say that:

'It was in the park lying in front of this old residential site [the Regency house] that the noble daffodil, now known as the Countess of Annesley, was found a few years ago naturalised by the thousand, and it is from the park mainly that the bulbs of this variety have been distributed. How, when, why, or whence it came to Castlewella is one of the many plant mysteries that lie enshrouded in a hazy past'.¹⁴

But Burbidge had probably already answered this question when he had argued a few years earlier (see above) that 'these so-called Irish Daffodils, or their progenitors, were introduced many years ago as garden flowers'. Indeed, the location of the find so close to the site of the early house was probably not a coincidence. On the other hand, the park at Castlewella does seem to have been well endowed with daffodils at this period; on April 30th 1892 for example, it was reported that about 5,000 daffodils were sent by the Earl Annesley:

'from the park at Castlewella to the North Dublin Flower Mission at St. George's Hall, Temple Street, for distribution among the hospitals of the north side of the city [of Dublin]. This week a still larger quantity have been received from the same source'.¹⁵

It may be added that by N. 'Countess of Annesley', considered then one of the earliest blooming trumpet daffodils, was also being grown indoors at Castlewella in the winter months. A visitor in December 1896 noted that 6,000 were being 'forced beside a large number of other varieties' in one of the walled garden glasshouses;¹⁶ more were growing in the large conservatory beside the house (see above).¹⁷

Sale and Distribution

By the time that Thomas Ryan was drawing public attention to the Castlewellan daffodil in April 1889, there can be little doubt that it had already been distributed to various nurseries across the United Kingdom. This may have started as early as 1886 to have allowed sufficient stock to be accumulated for sale purposes. Certainly, by spring 1890 the variety was being exhibited and sold widely; in February 1890 for example, N. 'Countess of Annesley' was reported to be among the enormous number of narcissi blooms on the Scilly Islands that were being dispatched to the London market.¹⁸ In the 1890 RHS April daffodil show held in the Society Gardens, Chiswick, it was included among the varieties being shown by Messrs. James Veitch & Son, Royal Exotic Nurseries, Chelsea,¹⁹ and was being described as among the best available Trumpet Daffodils (Ajax group):

'a form with flowers some 4 inches across, with a pear-shaped, elongated, grooved seed-pod, a broad, funnel-shaped, yellow tube, and ovate-oblong segments of a canary yellow, often somewhat twisted. The corona is bold, tubular, expanding into a reflected, lobulated border, the lobes regular, rounded, and often more or less overlapping by one edge'.²⁰

Messrs. Barr & Son, King Street, Covent Garden, also included the N. 'Countess of Annesley' at the same show and were listing it in their sale catalogues from 1889.²¹ Barr also produced it in later shows, for example at the RHS March 1894 exhibition in Westminster;²² it also won awards for Barr (Silver Banksian Medal) from the RHS Floral Committee;²³ subsequently it was seen flowering at Peter Barr's famous

VEITCH'S CHOICE DAFFODILS

	s.	d.			s.	d.
EMPRESS	7	6	per doz.	MAURICE VILMORIN ..	10	6
HORSFIELDII	5	0	"	INCOMP. PRINCESS MARY ..	17	6
COUNTESS OF ANNESLEY ..	5	0	"	" CYNOSURE	1	0
EMPEROR	10	6	"	" SIR WATKIN	9	0
GOLDEN SPUR	3	0	"	" STELLA	0	8
TRUMPET MAJOR	1	0	"	" ORANGE PHENIX	1	9
MAXIMUS	3	0	"	LEEDSII MINNIE HUME	5	0
RUGILOBUS	1	6	"	POETICUS ORNATUS, per 100, 4/-; doz.	0	8
BARRII CONSPICUUS	10	6	"	" PLENUS Dble. White, 100, 3/6; doz.	0	6
DOUBLE DAFFODILS, per 100, 4/6; doz.	0	9	"	Finest Mixed, for Naturalization, per 100	2	6

For other Bulbs see CATALOGUE, forwarded Gratis and Post Free on application.

JAMES VEITCH & SONS,

ROYAL EXOTIC NURSERY, CHELSEA, LONDON, S.W.

Fig. 3. Sales advertisement from *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 16, no. 407 (October 13th 1894), p432

Monday Next.

MESSRS. PROTHEROE AND MORRIS will
SELL by AUCTION, at their Central Sale Rooms,
 67 and 68, Cheapside, E.C., on MONDAY NEXT, September 26,
 at 12 o'Clock.

100 AZALEA INDICA	50 FICUS
100 „ MOLLIS	25 ASPIDISTRAS

100 PALMS, comprising Seafortias, Corypha australis, Latania borbonica, and areca Baueri; 50 DRACÆNAS, including indivisa, conjesta, discolor, rubra, and lineata.

1400 grand Bulbs of LILIUM HARRISII, from 7 to 11 inches, 300 choice Narcissus, including Sir Watkin, ornatus, Ardrigh, maximus, princeps, nobilis, Countess Annesley, Henry Irving; 22 bulbs of AMARYLLIS PROCERA, 4000 PALM SEEDS—Euterpe edulis and œnocarpus baccaba; Rare IRIS, ANEMONES, Hardy CLIMBERS, CLEMATIS, AMPELOPSIS, &c.; Tree and Border CARNATIONS, and about 200 lots of Miscellaneous BULBS and PLANTS.

On view morning of Sale, and Catalogues had.

Fig. 4. Advertisement in *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 12, no. 300 (September 24th, 1892), p358

DAFFODIL BULBS,
 FOR FORCING PURPOSES.

Hartland, of Cork, is now raising his Crop of Ard-Righ and Countess of Annesley, Golden Plover, &c., for the Trade, and shall be glad of immediate Orders. The Bulbs are simply magnificent. Please write for Prices and Samples.

Daffodil Grounds at Ard-Cairn.

WM. BAYLOR HARTLAND, F.R.H.S., Seedsman, Cork.

Fig. 5. Advertisement in *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol 12, no. 288 (July 2nd, 1892), p 3 and repeated in numerous subsequent issues that year

nursery at Long Ditton, with its 'sulphur yellow perianth and richly-coloured trumpet'.²⁴ From Spring 1890 amateur growers were also including it in their displays at both the RHS Chiswick and at local provincial shows, such as the Bath Floral Fete Spring Show.²⁵

By 1892 at Castlewellan itself, the head gardener, Thomas Ryan, was selling bulbs of the new daffodil in the demesne's 'List of Surplus Stock', which also included for sale 'new and rare shrubs, 20 per cent under catalogue price'. The daffodils were advertised as 'splendid large bulbs, to produce two or three flowers each, free by post, at 6s 6d. per dozen'.²⁶

The cultivar found its way into some of the most prestigious gardens of the country and was among the daffodils growing in the Royal Gardens at Kew in 1894. Here it was reportedly placed in 'the large beds in front of the Palm House' and was described there as being 'far in advance of the chief display, the bright yellow flowers very effective'.²⁷ Another account of this display in Kew Gardens noted admiringly that 'Countess of Annesley' was 'vigorous in growth', and whose 'flowers are well shaped, the trumpet rich yellow, with a perianth of a lighter shade'.²⁸

Undoubtedly the nurseryman most closely associated with the sale and distribution of *Narcissus* 'Countess of Annesley' was William Baylor Hartland II of the famous Cork nursery family.²⁹ Hartland, who could be described as the most prominent Irish nurseryman of his generation, had been encouraged to take an interest in daffodils by Frederick William Burbidge, and subsequently became a passionate devotee of the flower. Having sought out unknown varieties from across the country, searching old gardens and demesnes, he began serious bulb production on his grounds at Temple Hill, Cork in 1878 with the stated ambition of challenging the Scilly islands, and indeed the Dutch, in the production of tulips and daffodils. His considerable success in producing and selling both bulbs and cut flowers led to his moving in 1891 to Ard-Cairn, a ten-acre site overlooking the valley of the River Lee, where he confidently adopted the title 'Haarlem in South Cork'. By this time his nursery had an estimated ten million bulbs in cultivation and was shipping enormous quantities, packed into barrels, all over the world, from New Zealand to Japan, to Germany and America.³⁰

Hartland was one of the first, if not the first nurseryman to acquire the Castlewella Daffodil and indeed seemed to regard it as one of his own. Writing in May 1889 to Maxwell T. Masters, the editor of *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, and sending him 'a large box of blooms early in the season' of the 'famous Castlewella variety', he stated that it was in his opinion:

'one of the noblest Trumpet Daffodils grown - bold in flower, and vigorous in growth, producing bulbs of the size of *N. Empress*, and immense blooms, with a corona expanded after the manner of *maximus*, but wider, and for seed bearing purposes it has no equal. It has a strong perfume, reminding one of *Ratifia*... the Countess of Annesley Daffodil is one of the prettiest and most distinct in the whole of my collection, and it is certainly the most *Cernuus*-like and drooping of them all...The Countess of Annesley carries herself with peculiar mien, and appears in the richest Tuscan or straw-colour, with the same nodding appearance [as the variety *Colleen Bawn*].'³¹

The variety was prominently included in catalogues; in the *Hartland's Famous Irish Daffodils* catalogue for the 1894-95 season he was selling *N. 'Countess of Annesley'* for 5/6d a dozen and 6d a bulb. Subsequently, in his 'Conference Daffodils' catalogues (1897 edition) there was an accompanying line drawing by his niece Miss Gertrude Hartland (see Fig. 7 below).³² The catalogues described it as:

'One of the best Irish daffodils, trumpet rich yellow, well expanded, serrated and flanged, perianth sulphur, imbricated and hooded. Needs good rich well drained pasture loam and a north position, excellent for cutting'.³³

Hartland was aggressive in selling his nursery stock across the globe and the back of his catalogues invariably depicted a map of the world with the slogan: *Quae regio in terris nostri non plena laboris*.³⁴ Among his exports for the 1893-94 season included 30,000 bulbs of the *Narcissus* 'Countess of Annesley'. Through Hartland's exports the variety certainly found its way to far distant lands; in August 1901 for example, a local newspaper in New Zealand, the *Otago Witness*, mentioned that *N. 'Countess of Annesley'* was growing there 'like a weed'.³⁵ He was also shipping it as a cut flower to the English and Scottish markets - the variety being described as among the earlier flowering sorts then being exported.³⁶

With each passing year the variety *N. 'Countess of Annesley'* was being sold by Hartland at a cheaper price. Thus from the season 1896-97 where it was selling for 5/6 a dozen and 6d each, this declines gradually to 2/- a dozen, 3d a bulb and 15/- for 100

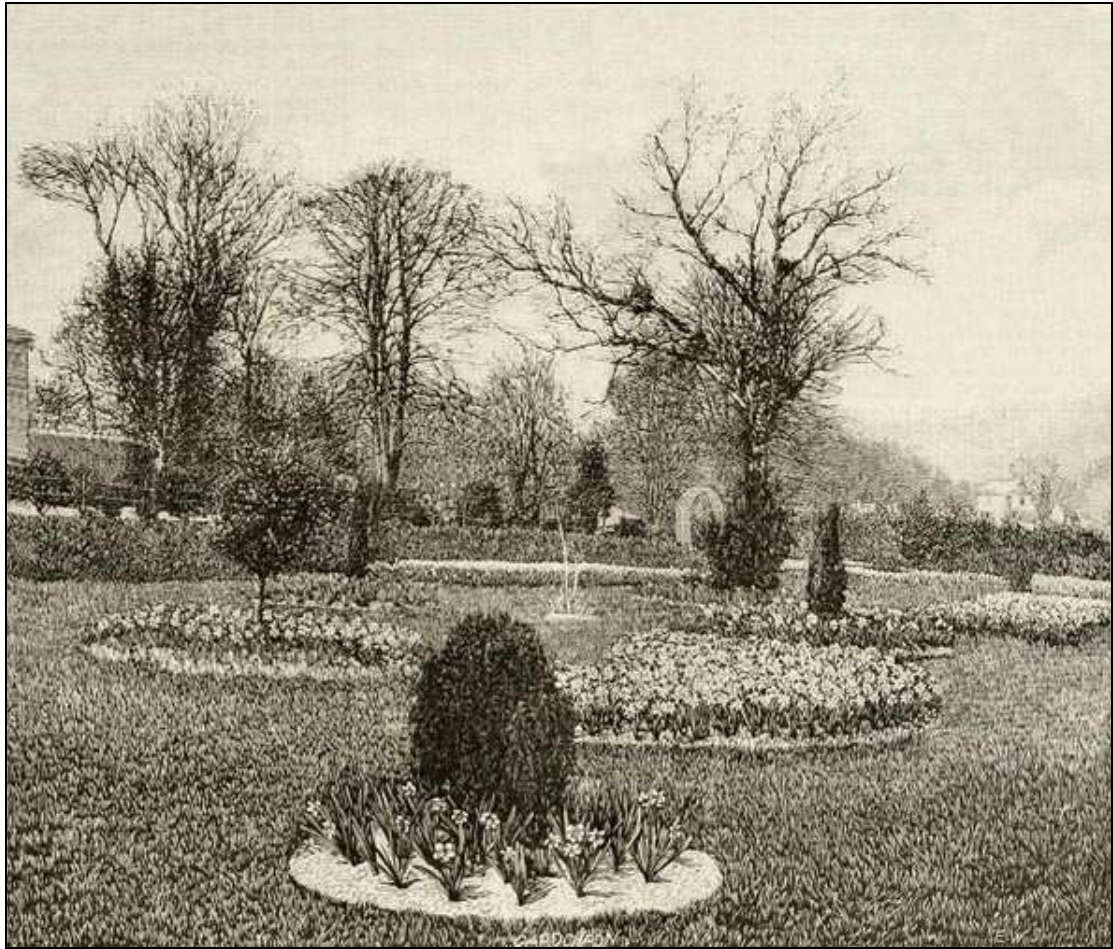


Fig. 6. Beds of daffodils in the lawns at Ard-Cairn, Cork, home of W.B. Hartland in 1893. The varieties here included *N.* 'Countess of Annesley'. Hartland remarked, when publishing this image, that it was 'best to grow them in beds'. At that time however, following Robinsonian ideas of the 'wild garden', the fashion was increasingly to grow daffodils in drifts through the grass rather than in regimented beds.³⁷

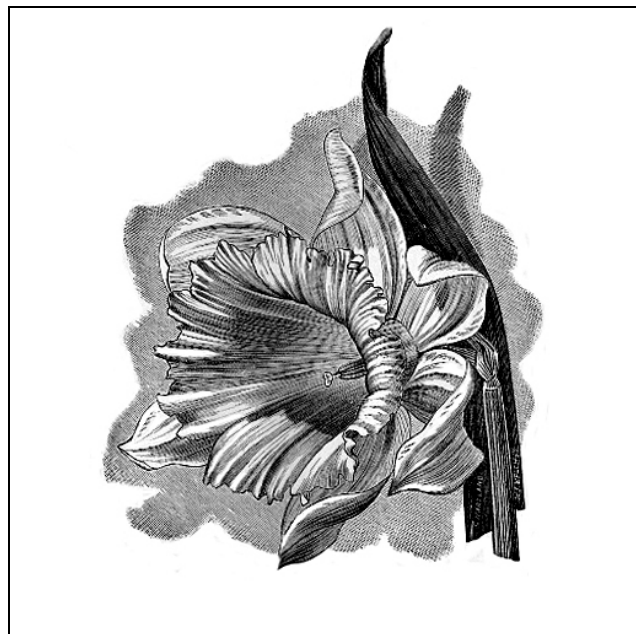


Fig. 7. *Narcissus* 'Countess of Annesley' as drawn by Miss Gertrude Hartland in *Conference Daffodils* (1897 edition).

Hartland's catalogue prices for *Narcissus* 'Countess of Annesley'

1894-95	@ 5/6 dozen, 6d a bulb
1896-97	@ 5/6 dozen, 6d a bulb
1897-98	@ 3/6 dozen, 4d a bulb
1898-99	@ 3/- dozen, 4d a bulb, 22/6 per 100
1899-1900	@ 2/6 dozen, 3d a bulb, 17/6 per 100
1900-01	@ 2/- dozen, 3d a bulb, 15/- per 100
1903-04	@ 1/6 dozen, 2d a bulb

in 1900-01 and by the 1903-04 season selling for only 1/6d a dozen, with 2d for each bulb. It was no longer being sold in the 'Good trumpet varieties' section by 1902 and from 1905-6 rarely appears in any of their bulb catalogues which continued to be produced to 1915.³⁸ W.B. Hartland himself died in 1912.

While Hartland may have been selling *N.* 'Countess of Annesley' in decreasing quantities from 1900 onwards, it was also being marketed by other nurseries at that time, for example at Lissadell, Co. Sligo, where Sir Jocelyn Gore Booth included it in all his bulb catalogues from 1905 to the closure of his bulb nursery in 1915. Catalogued as an 'Ajax, large yellow trumpet daffodil', it was described therein as 'sulphur yellow perianth full yellow trumpet well expanded at mouth', selling at 2/- a dozen in 1905 and down to 1/- a dozen in 1915.³⁹



Fig. 8. *Narcissus* 'Countess of Annesley' growing at Castlewella in the Spring of 2016. Photograph courtesy of Alwyn Sinnamon

Re-Discovery

In the Lissadell Daffodil catalogues for 1914 and 1915 the entry for *Narcissus* 'Countess of Annesley' stated that it had a 'poor constitution'. It is possible this may have had much to do with the fact that Lissadell lies in a limestone area, for according to Hartland the cultivar, along with some others, such as 'Ard-Righ' and 'Tenby' did not do well in limestone soils.⁴⁰ Whatever the reasons, there is no record of *N.* 'Countess of Annesley' being sold by any nursery after the Great War. Many important advances were made in yellow trumpets during the 1920s and 1930s and no doubt it was just superseded by newer and better varieties.⁴¹

The cultivar had been all but forgotten until attention was focussed recently onto the history of Castlewellan's famous arboretum and Annesley Garden as part of plans to restore the area. It was presumed that the Castlewellan Daffodil had disappeared into oblivion and extinction, but in Spring of 2016 Alwyn Sinnamon of the Forest Service, found what appears to be the lost cultivar in an overgrown area of the grounds adjacent to the castle, known as the 'Autumn Wood'. Positive verification of old varieties can sometimes be difficult, but this rich yellow long-cupped trumpet daffodil with its expanded sulphur-perianthed flower, appears to closely fit the early catalogue descriptions and also Hartland's 1897 sketch. The cultivar's discovery in what used to be the Lower Pleasure Ground beside the castle, precisely the location of its original discovery in the 1880s, adds further weight to its accurate identification. No doubt, now that attention has again been focussed on this formerly lost daffodil, other examples will be identified elsewhere.⁴²



Fig. 9. *Narcissus* 'Countess of Annesley' growing at Castlewellan in the Spring of 2016. Photograph courtesy of Alwyn Sinnamon

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Alwyn Sinnamon for drawing the author's attention to this discovery and for kindly supplying images. Also thanks to members of the Castlewellan Arboretum Advisory Committee (CAAB), particularly Seamus O'Brien for additional information.

Notes

1. Reeves-Smyth, T. (2015) *Castlewellan Historic Demesne. The Way Forward*. Unpublished report, DOE, Environment Heritage Division. The cultivar however is included on the RHS Daffodils Register and on *Daffseek*, the online daffodils database; it is also listed by E.C. Nelson (2000) *A Heritage of Beauty*, p250, but with limited information.
2. Alwyn Sinnamon is the Foreman Gardener at the Castlewellan Arboretum and Annesley Garden. The Castlewellan Arboretum Advisory Board (CAAB) was formed in May 2015 to advise Outdoors Recreation NI on recommendations being made to Newry, Mourne & Down District Council for a proposed major project to restore and develop the Arboretum and Annesley Garden at Castlewellan. These recommendations were presented in a report dated March 2016.
3. Ryan, T. (1889) 'A new daffodil'. *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 35, no. 907 (April 6th), p305. Robinson must have seen the new variety as he added that it was: 'a large handsome daffodil'. A similar worded note was published a week later by Ryan in *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, 'A new daffodil', vol. 5, no. 120 (April 13th), p469. In the latter note, the editor (Maxwell T. Masters) inserted a comment that he had also received 'specimens of this fine daffodil' from W.B. Hartland in Cork. The daffodil's first catalogue appearance was in Barr's autumn daffodil catalogue of 1889 (see note 21 below).
4. Burbidge, F.W. (1875) *The Narcissus: Its History and Culture with Coloured Plates and Descriptions of all known species and principal varieties*. London, L. Reeve & Co. Burbidge (1847-1905) had been appointed Curator of the Trinity College Botanic Gardens in 1879. The famous daffodil breeder, the Rev. G.H. Engleheart, wrote in 1890 that 'I look on you (Burbidge) as a kind of daffodil headquarters which should be informed of everything in the way of news or progress'. He drew attention to an outstanding form of *Narcissus pseudo-narcissus*, later known as 'The Trinity College Maximus', which was to be widely used in hybridisation.
5. Burbidge, F.W. (1889) 'The Narcissus'. *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, vol. 11, pp70-92; for his specific reference to the 'Countess of Annesley' see p85.
6. Burbidge, F.W. (1889) 'Daffodils in Ireland' *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 35, no. 910 (April 27th), pp391-92.
7. Burbidge, F.W. (1892) 'The Irish daffodils'. *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 41, no.1,082 (March 26th), pp274-5.
8. It was originally submitted with the name 'Lady Annesley', Scrase-Dickins, C.R. (1889) 'Narcissus committee'. *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 35, no. 909 (April 20th), p371; see also *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 5, no. 121 (April 20th, 1889), p504. For its 1892 registration see *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, vol. 15 (1892-93), cxcix.
9. For example, Burbidge, F.W. (1904) 'Recollections of our day: Castlewellan'. *Flora and Sylva*, vol. 2, pp210-215.
10. The variety was named in honour of Mabel Wilhelmina Markham (1858-1891), the first wife of Hugh, the fifth Earl Annesley.
11. George Dickson I (1832-1914). *Rosa* 'Countess of Annesley', registered by Dickson & Sons, Newtownards, in 1905 was early example of a hybrid tea rose, see *The Gardener's Chronicle*, vol. 38, no. 967 (July 8th 1905), p38; vol. 38, no. 968 (July 15th, 1905), p58; vol. 38, no. 990 (December 23rd, 1905), p436; vol. 39, no. 1,001 (March 3rd, 1906), p130; vol. 40, no. 1,019 (July 7th, 1906), p18; vol. 40, no. 1,024 (August 11th, 1906), p106; vol. 42, no. 1,081 (September 14th, 1907), p201; *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol 73, no. 1964, Suppl., p344; vol. 73, no. 1,966 (July 24th, 1909), p344; vol. 73, no. 1,977 (October 9th, 1909), p489. See also *Alex Dickson & Sons. Rose Catalogue for 1905 & 1906*, Newtownards, The Royal Irish Nurseries. Their catalogue describes the rose as 'Rosy salmon, suffused and crayoned old gold, delicately and deliciously perfumed. Blooms are very large, of absolutely perfect form with very large smooth petals of great depth and substance'.
12. Burbidge, F.W. (1890) 'Notes on the history of cultivated narcissi'. *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, vol. 12, pp296-311. Noting that 'Ireland is outside the range of *N. pseudo-narcissus*', the Rev. Wooley-Dod believed that these large Irish yellow trumpet varieties, including 'Countess of Annesley' had an Italian origin, see Wooley-Dod, C. (1890) 'The natural history and cultivation of the trumpet daffodil'. *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, vol. 12, pp326-338.
13. Burbidge, F.W. (1892) 'The Irish daffodils'. *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 41, no.1,082 (March 26th), p274.

14. Burbidge, F.W. (1895) 'Castlewellan, Co. Down'. *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 48, no. 1,246 (October 5th), p257-58.
15. *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 11, no. 279 (April 30th, 1892), p563; a similar report was also published in *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 41, no. 1,067 (April 30th, 1892), p409.
16. Masters, M.T. (1896) 'Castlewellan'. *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 20, no. 520 (December 12th), p721-222.
17. In a note to *The Garden*, Thomas Ryan remarked that 'it may not be generally known that this fine - vigorous-growing daffodil can be had in bloom with little forcing at Christmas', stating that his bulbs were 'potted up in September and removed early in November to one of the plant houses having a night temperature of from 40° to 15°' *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 39, no. 998 (January 3rd), p17. See also 'Daffodils in pots', *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 47, no. 1,212 (February 9th), p106.
18. Tonscm, H. (1890) 'Earliness of vegetation in the Scilly Islands'. *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 7, no. 164 (February 15th), p206.
19. It may be significant to note here that Burbidge had a very close relationship with Peter Veitch, having travelled with him to the Far East in 1877-79.
20. Anon (1890) 'Occasion Royal Horticultural Show, Chiswick in Society Gardens'. *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 7, no. 173 (April 19th), pp493-94. Thomas Ryan also 'sent a fine bunch of his seedling, Countess of Annesley' to this show.
21. It was included in Barr's sale's catalogues for the first time in Autumn 1889, see *Barr's Daffodils* (1889) Supplement to Daffodil Catalogue, p6. At the time Barr was selling it at 7/6d for a dozen and 9d a bulb and described in the catalogue as having 'perianth sulphur-yellow, rich full yellow, large trumpet'. In later Barr catalogues it was stated to be 15ins high and included among the 'self-yellow varieties'. From 1905 onwards their catalogues also described it as being 'suitable for naturalisation in woodland'.
22. Anon (1894) 'Royal Horticultural'. *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 15, no. 327 (March 17th), p343.
23. Anon (1893) 'Floral Committee, 28th March'. *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, vol. 16, 1.
24. Anon (1893) 'Daffodils at Long Ditton'. *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 43, no 1,116 (April 8th), p281; Anon (1894) 'Notes on Daffodils'. *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 45, no. 1,116 (April 14th), p304. Barr still had N. 'Countess of Annesley' at Long Ditton in 1904, see Williamson, D.R. (1904) 'The daffodil'. *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 35, no. 903 (April 16th), p251; see also note 21 above.
25. Anon (1890) 'Bath Floral Fete Spring Show'. *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 7, no. 171 (April 5th), p432; see also vol. 7, no. 173 (April 19th), p490 (Rev. W. Wilks).
26. Sales Notice. *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 12, no. 306 (November 5th, 1892), p547. No examples of these Castlewellan catalogues have survived.
27. Anon (1894) 'Notes on Daffodils. At Kew'. *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 45, no. 1,169 (April 14th), p304;
28. Anon (1894) 'Daffodil Countess of Annesley'. *The Garden Illustrated Weekly*, vol. 45, no. 1,1169 (April 14th), p306.
29. William Baylor Hartland II (1836-1912), son of William Baylor Hartland (1802-1843). He acquired his father's nursery at Bellvue, Co. Cork in 1843, but developed his own at Temple Hill, Cork, from 1878 and later in 1889 moved to Ard-Cairn, near the village of Ballintemple, Cork.
30. Anon (1893) 'The Ard-Cairn bulb farm'. *Irish Daily Independent*, March 27th, 1893. Reprinted in *Hartland's Famous Irish Daffodils* (1894), Autumn 1894-Spring 1895 Catalogue edition. Cork, Purcell & Co, pp38-39.
31. Hartland, W.B. (1889) 'Narcissus committee'. *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 5, no. 122 (April 27th), pp531-32.
32. *Conference Daffodils. Hartland's Jubilee Album. V.R.* (1897). Lavish catalogue filled with drawings by Gertrude Hartland.
33. For example, see entry in *Hartland's Famous Irish Daffodils* (1894), Autumn 1894-Spring 1895 Catalogue. Cork, Purcell & Co, p9.
34. *Quae regio in terris nostri non plena laboris* meaning - 'what place now, and what region, are not free of our labour' from Virgil's *Aeneid*. In Virgil's original poem the word *laboris* better translates as 'suffering', but this was obviously not the meaning that Hartland had intended.
35. Ellis, Rev. J.G.W. (1910) 'Narcissi in New Zealand'. *Otago Witness*, no. 2474 (14th August), p10, see online site: beta.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz
36. *Hartland's Famous Irish Daffodils* (1894), Autumn 1894-Spring 1895, Catalogue p39. With Ard-Righ, it was then considered to be the earliest of all the large Trumpet Daffodils, see Hartland, W.B. (1892) 'How did Trumpet Daffodils come to Ireland' *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 11, no. 279 (April 30th), p556. Hartland would also force his varieties, Hartland, W.B. (1899) 'Daffodil forcing for market'. *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 26 (October 21st, 1899), p307; 'A trial of early daffodils at Ard-Cairn, Cork'. *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 27 (February 17th, 1900), p109.

37. Anon (1893) 'Daffodils in grass' *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 13, no. 324 (March 11th), p295, fig page 296.
38. Hartland, W.B. (1895-95) *Hartland's Famous Irish Daffodils*, p9; W.B. Hartland (1896-97; 1897-98; 1898-99; 1900-10; 1901-02) *Daffodils and Rare Single Tulips*; Hartland, W.B. (1902) *Hartland's Irish Grown Bulbs*, Supplementary List, p5; Hartland, W.B. (1903-04; 1904-05; 1905-06) *Irish Tulips and Rare Daffodils*; W.B. Hartland & Sons (1909-1915) *Daffodils and Cottage Tulips*. Barr's prices are similar, with 'Countess of Annesley' being sold in their daffodil catalogues at 3/6 a dozen and 4d a bulb in 1897; 2/4d a dozen and 3d a bulb from 1900 to 1909 and 1/9d a dozen and 2d a bulb in 1914 and 1915; It ceased to be sold at Barr's after 1915. The cultivar was still being recommended for public parks in the City of Glasgow in 1908, see Whitton, J. (1908) 'Public parks and gardens'. *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 43, no. 1,119 (June 6th), p367.
39. These catalogues include *New and Choice Daffodils* (1905); *New and Rare Narcissi* (1906); *Daffodils Grown at Lissadell* (1906; 1907; 1908); *Lissadell Daffodils* (1909; 1910; 1911; 1912; 1913; 1914; 1915).
- 40 Hartland, W.B. (1903) 'Daffodils at Ard-Cairn, Cork'. *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, vol. 33, no. 853 (May 2nd), p278. The last appearance of the cultivar 'Countess of Annesley' in the Barr daffodil catalogues was also in 1915.
41. For a detailed account of post-war daffodil breeding in Ireland, see Willis, D. ((2012) '*Yellow Fever*' *A Prospect of the History and Culture of Daffodils*, on-line book at dafflibrary.org. Good for Wilson, Richardson and other 20th century Irish breeders, but rather less useful for late 19th century breeders such as Hartland; the variety 'Countess of Annesley' is not mentioned. See also Willis, D. (1980) *The Daffodil in Ireland 1879-1979*. D.Phil. Thesis, New University of Ulster.
42. The author understands that some may survive in Rowallane, co. Down, a garden that formerly had a very close relationship with Castlewellan (Averil Milligan, per comm.).