AN ANGLO-IRISH FAMILY IN PORTUGAL

by IDA KINGSBURY (1)

The family tree opposite should make clear the relationships of the Gallweys dealt with in the following article. Those directly concerned are named and their dates given when these are known; others remain anonymous to avoid overcrowding. Michael David Gallwey became the chief representative of the family in Portugal and undoubtedly achieved local fame in Sintra. It is to him that we owe the carefully collected letters and documents now in the archives of the Society. With him at the head, I have endeavoured to trace the Portuguese and American branches of the Gallwey Family to their last members for both these lines are destined to become extinct.

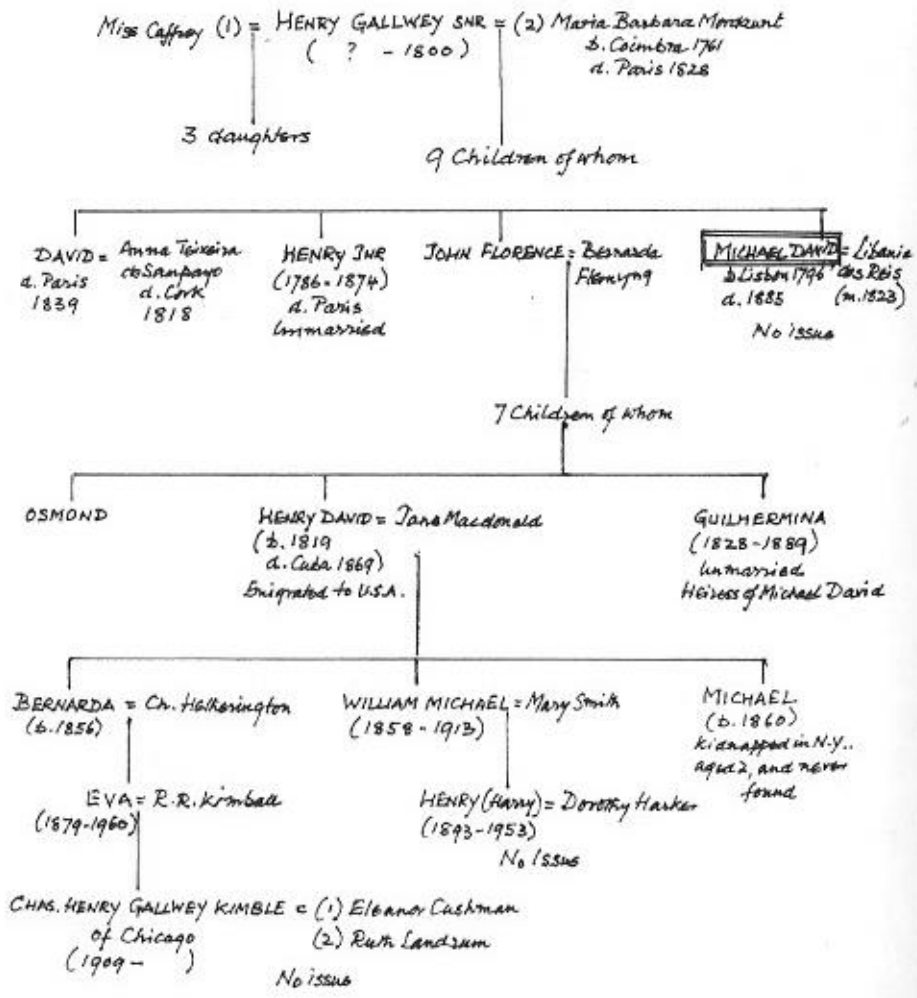
The Gallweys came originally from Co. Cork and provided no less than 39 mayors of that city. They were also connected with the Gallweys of Nantes whose head bore the title of Comte de Gallwey.

Henry Gallwey Senior, founder of the Portuguese branch, is registered as having conformed in 1740, i.e. converted to the Established Church of Ireland (2). In 18th-century Ireland there was great pressure to conform as this opened the road to advancement, but at the same time many people emigrated to Roman Catholic countries to escape persecution or sidestep any disadvantage. Henry Gallwey

(1). Reasons of space have forced me to make cuts in, and minor alterations to, the author's text. For these I beg her indulgence. Ed.

(2). Cork Historical and Archaeological Society quotes MSS by B.M. Egerton – *Converts.*

THE GALLWEYS OF THE PORTUGUESE BRANCH
(with special reference to
Michael David Gallwey of Sintra)



decided on Portugal where he settled and died about 1800. His grave has not been traced, and the British Protestant Cemetery where one would expect to find an Anglo-Irish Protestant has no record of him. His children were baptised as Catholics, so it may be inferred that he reverted to his old faith. The burials of Michael David and his family are well documented in Sintra.

Lisbon Beginnings:

Henry Gallwey Senior is established as the founder of the family in Lisbon. His son Henry appears to have succeeded him in the business of merchant-banking, import and export etc. In 1807 he wrote from Portugal a rather anguished letter, on the eve of the French invasion when he had the great responsibility of having his mother, sister and young brother with him. This letter is fully quoted in an article by Hallam Hipwell who broke the first ground of the Gallwey history in Portugal (3). He gives a very competent account of the family business and its connection with the firm of Richard Power, though records of Catholic firms are few since they did not co-operate with the exclusively Protestant British Factory. This sort of analysis being beyond my competence, I limit myself to dealing with personal, social and topographical concerns.

Henry Senior, as the table shows, married twice. His second wife was Maria Barbara Mordaunt, born in Coimbra, daughter of Osmond Mordaunt formerly of Dartmouth. There were nine children of this marriage including Michael David Gallwey with whom we are principally concerned.

After the Lisbon adventure in 1807, it seems that the family then went to Paris where Maria lived with her son Henry Junior, and where both were to die.

Michael David's European Journey, 1817-18:

Michael David, at the age of 21, undertook a tour in northern Europe about which he left a complete set of letters written to his uncle, David Gallwey, who was living in Paris and who financed his

(3). The Historical Association, Lisbon Branch: Third Annual Report, 1939: pp. 176-191, q.v.

travels. These letters are not particularly lively or vivid but meticulously written, with all accounts appended. Michael was clearly a serious young man, very correctly mannered but without much sense of humour.

Whether the journey was made with a view to establishing future business contacts or was simply educational is not clear. Nothing much in the way of business seems to have been achieved except the recovery of a debt to his brother Henry. He travelled at first with his "cousin Henry" in his own words, but it is difficult to trace the relationship.

Letter 1-10 describe Michael's arrival at Elsinore by sea and his progress through Hamburg and Holland to Berlin.

Berlin delighted him, particularly David's picture of Bonaparte crossing Mount St. Bernard and the room where all his decorations, taken from his carriage at Waterloo, were on display: "No less than thirteen stars. It is however to be remarked that among all that number he could not boast of one from England or Portugal his consistent enemies." He also visited the palace of Sans Souci at Potsdam where he noted that Voltaire's room was "exactly as inhabited by him", remarking that –

> It is not a little singular that the embellishments on the walls are nothing but monkeys and parrots, strong emblems of himself as he possessed all the loquacity of the latter with the malice of the former.

Or was this rather slick saying the opinion of some other *bien pensant?*

The beauties of Dresden (Letter 11) failed to move this sober boy: "It contains little for the entertainment of the stranger with the exception of the field of battle where Bonaparte was defeated." (sic) A curious error since Michael's guide had been an eye-witness of the battle where Napoleon was, of course, victorious.

However the scenery of Bohemia made a great impression; and in Prague he was gratified to meet a famous refugee, Fouché, Napoleon's former chief of police, now in lonely exile.

Michael arrived in Vienna in bitter cold at Carnival time (Letter 13). Here introductions gave him glimpses of high society not normally granted to strangers – or so he told his uncle. One day wandering in

the Imperial Palace, looking for the Gallery of Antiquities, he found himself being shown along by a stranger who proved to be the Emperor Francis I, Napoleon's father-in-law, entirely alone and unattended as was his custom.

After Vienna, Michael sailed down the Rhine to Antwerp and so back to London. Here a strangely uncharacteristic incident occurred which landed him briefly in the Debtor's Gaol. The relevant letters are not at present available, so the circumstances remain mysterious. The debt, however, seems to have been a small one. His brother David's financial troubles were to prove much more serious.

Family Crisis:

The next bundle of letters dated 1822-24 deal emotionally with the affair which threw the family into disarray. By this time Henry Senior's widow, Maria, was living in Paris with her son Henry Junior whose place in Lisbon had been taken by Michael, not as yet married. Henry Senior's brother David had died in Paris in 1819 also leaving a widow and a confused inheritance (4) to the six living children of his brother by Maria Mordaunt. We know something of what happened from another letter from Henry Junior to the London Firm of Sir Archibald and James Little, businessmen and family friends. The inheritance caused a great upset as we learn from Henry's ten closely written pages. There follows an addendum in even smaller script from Maria for eventual forwarding to Michael in Lisbon. The pros and cons of remaining in Paris or joining Michael in Lisbon are discussed at length. Financial, social and health reasons are minutely analysed, and the final decision is to remain in France on an income of 318 pounds sterling a year although, besides her son, Maria had two sisters in Lisbon and knew Portugal well.

A great point is made of the fact that her financial straits would be less noticeable in Paris than in the smaller and more provincial Lisbon. Michael, too, was young and building up his position and should not have to bear the responsibilities and family cares which might hinder his progress. So things were agreed.

(4). As well as a fortune in money, David Snr. inherited lands on the Kenmare Estate from his mother, Mary McCarthy of Cork.

The cause of the trouble was another son, David, who had thrown the family finances into chaos. It is hard to tell exactly what happened from Henry's somewhat emotional and incoherent letter to the Littles. It seems that David, unasked, took it upon himself to manage the inheritance during Henry's absence. Henry thought that he had been appointed executor or manager, though how this could have slipped sideways is not explained. Whatever the facts, David was guilty of what Henry called "dilapidations", a term seemingly implying incompetence rather than deliberate dishonesty. Their uncle David's widow was generously provided for by young David but, without knowing the terms of the will, the situation is not easy to interpret. However, David's misdeeds, whatever they were, destroyed family peace and harmony and were to lead him into near tragedy.

The Peterborough claims:

In 1826 hopes were raised that Maria Gallwey's maiden name of Mordaunt might entitle her family to succeed to the vacant earldom of Peterborough and Monmouth and the sum of 30,000 pounds sterling; and through the Littles an investigation was set in motion with a view to the affair reaching the House of Lords. The claim was perfectly genuine and was not too far-fetched to make a bid for it. But Gallwey hopes were dashed by a Mr. Martin Windsor of the College of Arms who wrote courteously to the Littles: "I am very sorry to acquaint you that your friends the Mordaunts come off far above the first created Earl of Peterborough and consequently are out of the entail of that title." Even hopes of the baronetcy created in 1611 had little or no chance of success since the baronet then living had 8 hefty sons. So this line of salvation proved too weak to hold.

David's disaster:

Maria Gallwey in her postscript to Henry's letter of 1822 to the Littles mentions that her son David was in lodgings in Paris and in debt. Two years later he was in London, reduced to a state of destitution without money even to buy medicines. David had married Anne, daughter of Antônio Teixeira Sampayo, a rich merchant living in Fulham. David's wife had died in 1818. Letters show that Sampayo had offered him a partnership which he refused for a number of vaguely

expressed reasons. Now, however, in his extremity, and tortured by gout, he turned to Sampayo and his own brothers for help. His letters are heart-rending. A short extract from one to Sampayo in September 1824 shows what straits he had come to: "I am arrived at a most desperate crisis. I must either be released from it or I must have recourse to the most desperate of remedies. It is yet possible to save me had I now command of so small a sum as fifty pounds . . . . ." A proposal had been raised in the family for his departure to Brazil (presumably as a remittance man) but, as he tells Sampayo, he had not the wherewithal to fit himself out or pay his passage: as well tell a drowning man to come to the shore and be saved.

The family seemed strangely unfeeling towards David. We can judge him only by events half described in these one-way letters which are upsetting to our modern sympathies. Poor man! Once Consul for Portugal in Cork, bearing a respected name, now reduced to destitution. What became of him we hardly know, except that he was in Buenos Ayres in 1836 and died in Paris between then and 1839 (5). There were to be others as feckless, others again of such good repute as Michael, Henry and John Florence.

Michael David Gallwey in Lisbon and Sintra:

Michael Gallwey's business career dates from about 1820 according to the thousands of letters stored in the archives of this Society. Their analysis and interpretation would need a team of researchers qualified to deal with trade and business between Ireland, England and Lisbon at the period. I can only record that Michael made a fortune and rose to local fame. How that fortune was made must remain for other pens.

In 1823 Michael married. It was a beneficial and interesting marriage to Libânia daughter of the last Capitão-mor of Sintra, Máximo

(5). Cork Historical and Archaeological Society. Article, *The Gallweys of Munster.*

José dos Reis, a rich and well known local dignitary (6). He owned a goodly amount of property in Sintra, although apparently of humble origin, but the quinta that most concerns us here is a house and citrus farm known as the Quinta dos Pisões, situated just outside the town of Sintra on the road to Colares. This attractive property came into the hands of Libânia at her father's death and through her to the Gallweys, so a brief historical sketch of it may not be out of place here.

The Sintra properties:

The Pisões from its architecture dates from the 17th century and appears originally to have belonged to the Duke of Aveiro. It was bought by Máximo José dos Reis in 1810. It is first registered in 1873 in the Sintra Conservatória as belonging to Libânia dos Reis Gallwey. At this time it paid annual *foro* (a kind of ground rent) of 2400 reis to the Condessa de Belmonte acting for her young children. These rights of *foro,* now practically non-existent in Portugal, considerably complicate the history of ownership. At the Pisões part of the land was subject to *foro,* part of it free, and it was not until 1923 that the last Gallwey in Portugal, still the *foreiro,* bought in the *foral* in preparation for its sale in 1925.

After he bought it in 1810, Máximo dos Reis made his home at the Pisões. Letters from him, dated 1824, deal with a shipment of citrus fruit, in which the quinta was rich, for Michael Gallwey, and give

(6). *Capitão-mor,* literally captain-in-chief. A title belonging to the Absolutist period: it was not strictly military but bestowed on a prominent citizen responsible for military recruitment in rural areas. Máximo dos Reis was the last holder of the title in Sintra. He was connected with tragic events during D. Miguel's brief reign. His younger son, Domingos, was hanged for plotting against the Miguelists. The story is that the Capitão-mor refused to ransom his son with his own weight in gold, according to the custom of the day, whereupon Domingos laid a curse upon the family that it and the family fortune should become extinct. This duly came about. Máximo's elder son was mentally deranged and drowned himself in a *tanque* in one of his father's properties. The two daughters, Libânia and Cândida both died childless, and the quintas passed into other hands.

instructions about financial help for his mentally deranged son. On Máximo's death in 1849 the Pisões became Gallwey property.

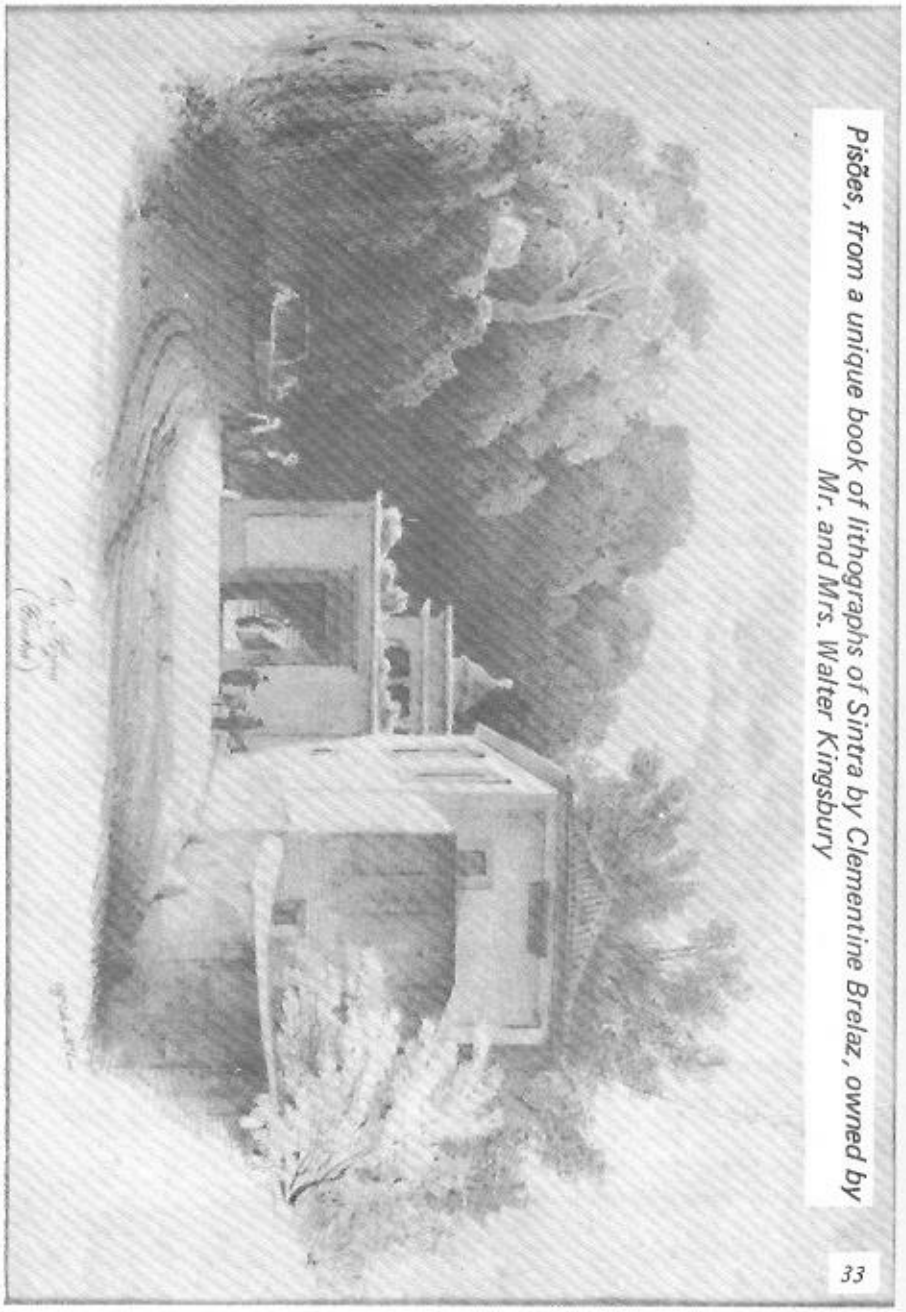
Michael and Libânia being childless adopted and cared for, from the age of six, his niece Guilhermina Gallwey, a daughter of his brother John Florence, the prolific Gallwey who headed the Portuguese and American descendancies with which this paper deals. This Guilhermina inherited Michael's fortune and properties and so became a very wealthy woman.

Michael made careful provision in his will against a possibly rapacious husband; but he emphasises that this is only a precaution since he has known his niece from infancy, implying that she is quite able to take care of herself. However, in the next paragraph he goes on to explain that owing to the "unhappy moral condition of my dear niece" *(o infeliz estado moral)*, he is appointing two guardians who are not only to be paid honorariums but to have at their disposal another house on the property, the Caracota, with all expenses paid. One would like to have an explanation of this curious clause which seems to signify a weakness rather than any lack of probity. In the event, a husband for Guilhermina never materialised, and her fortune was destined to disappear in the hands of legatees.

Moving along the road from the Pisões with the fountain on the right hand side of the road, where a modern coloured ensemble has regrettably displaced the ancient *chafariz* shown in the illustration, we come to further Gallwey properties including the famous Hotel Lawrence, rented to the Lawrence family, where so many English travellers stayed. The Casa dos Arcos and little Museu Ferreira de Castro belonged to the Pisões Quinta which was fairly extensive for a town property, as an encircling stroll around it, through pretty, verdant lanes, still shows; though the quinta has since been divided into several smaller properties. On the other side of the Colares road a large house at No. 13 Rua Consigliere Pedroso belonged to Michael's sister Adriana and came down to the American line. It was sold in 1969 thus breaking the last link of the Gallweys with Sintra. (7)

Moving over to the eastern end of the town, in and around the deep cleft in the hills below the Volta do Douche, we find terrain,

(7). V. Reg. No. 48912-folio 76-a, Bk G45 under No. 45067 folio 186 of the Conservatoria de Sintra.



Pisões, from a unique book of lithographs of Sintra by Clementine Brelaz, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kingsbury

quintas and houses which belonged to Michael Gallwey. An 1850 plan of the district marks the wooded slopes and gardens with his name. The illustration shows a charming old house, once his, known successively as Quinta Grande and, since 1932, Quinta de S. Miguel. This came to the Gallweys through the Capitão-mor and was later left to Guilhermina's heir, William Michael Gallwey, who sold it in 1897. In the register we find documents showing that this William had mortgaged the quinta in 1891 together with a round dozen other properties to pay a pension claimed by his uncle Osmond and due to him by the will of his sister Guilhermina. This transaction tells its own story of the mismanagement and improvidence involved (8).

Michael Gallwey's properties, within and without the town boundaries of Sintra, led to the saying that he could ride to Mafra without leaving his own lands; broad acres indeed, many of which came from peasant proprietors who had borrowed money from the Gallwey bank in Lisbon which foreclosed on the security.

It is impossible not to compare Michael Gallwey with his contemporary and compatriot in Sintra, Francis Cook of Monserrate. The two men must have been about Sintra at the same time although there is no record of their meeting. Both were rich and prominent foreigners ever increasing their estates. Cook was more flamboyant, wealthier perhaps, but he never became integrated into the life of Portugal as did Gallwey: this through his Portuguese marriage and the fact that he made his life in Portugal, whereas Cook, though a household word, was only a brief summer visitor.

It is a curious similarity that these two families disappeared from Portugal at about the same time, after World War II, with the sale of Monserrate and all its properties and the death of the last Gallwey in 1953 and the ruin of the family inheritance.

The American line:

This brings us finally to the American branch of the family, now represented by Charles Henry Gallwey Kimball of Chicago, first cousin

(8). The Quinta de S. Miguel is charmingly situated, pink washed, hard by a public fountain through which the Rio do Porto flows into the Quinta. This belongs to Maria da Graça Machado Macedo who has given such valuable help with local topography and history.

once removed to the last Gallwey, Henry Edward, known to everyone as Harry.

Michael Gallwey's brother John Florence had seven children of whom Guilhermina, Michael's heiress, has already been mentioned at length. Her brother, Henry David Gallwey (b.1819), was the father of the American line. He was sent by his father, then living in Tenerife, to Paris with his brother Osmund to pursue their education. He met and married a Scottish girl, Jane Macdonald, a Presbyterian by religion. This angered the family so much that Henry was cut off with the proverbial shilling and emigrated to the United States. He was killed in Cuba in 1869 during the fight for independence.

Henry and Jane had at least three children of whom Bernarda and her brother William were sent as orphans to be brought up by overstrict relatives in Canada. Bernarda ran away and found a job, while William suffered a crippling accident in a threshing machine. This did not help him in future life and he became a ne'er do well. Brother and sister went to Chicago, Illinois, where this branch has lived ever since.

Bernarda married Charles Hetherington, and their daughter Eva has left us a vivid memoir of her visits to Sintra and the Pisões where her uncle William was living (V. Family-tree).

One day in Chicago a solicitor appeared at William's door to inform him that he had inherited properties and a large fortune in Portugal. He was Guilhermina's heir, the only stipulation being that he must become a Catholic which he lost no time in doing! He left America almost immediately to claim his inheritance, but had no background for such an event and was quite unqualified to manage the Portuguese fortune. He returned to Chicago and married Mary Smith, a Catholic, and, after their only child Harry was born they went back to the Pisões to live. All were now American citizens. Sadly, William became an alcoholic and was to die in an institution in St. Louis in 1913.

Eva Kimball's visits to Sintra:

Eva Kimball, William Michael's niece, described her various visits to Portugal in a memoir for her American friends. She came to Sintra in 1889 and again in 1907, 1929 and lastly in 1953, the year her cousin Harry Gallwey died. She loved "Portugal of the Porcelain Sky", as

she quotes from a book. Writing in 1929 she describes it truly as "a land overlooked by the average traveller – the traveller's loss and the country's gain", for in those days all seemed beauty and peace:

> Living under such a beautiful sky has its effect upon the Portuguese people – the prevailing character is that of sobriety and kindliness. There is a uniform courtesy and good nature and just as a day blessed with a clear blue sky urges us to linger along the way – the almost perpetual blue sky of Portugal may be responsible for Amanhã as a national weakness. However, all of Portugal has not been my experience, just one God given spot in it – Cintra. In 1889 Cintra to a ten year old girl meant a lovely garden (Pisões), sailing boats on large irrigation tanks, riding on a jog trot burro, the gift of an adoring uncle.
>
> . . . . . I soon learned to recognise many family names, Palmela – Monteiro – Soares – Pombal, and attached to these the Irish name of Gallwey seemed strange but there they were and these were our friends . . . . . they rather resented our being so foreign but if you are familiar with the Portuguese, you know that they adore children and I proved the wedge for my generation. That was all forty years ago.

In 1903 Eva set sail again for Sintra, this time with her aunt Mary Smith, William's wife, and their young son Harry. She was the only American girl in Lisbon or Sintra so the Legation claimed her almost officially and gave her the gayest of times with balls, dinner parties and parties with the American and British Fleets in the Tagus. The Royal Standard was flying over the Pena Palace and over the Palácio da Vila for the Queen Mother Maria Pia. The monarchy was simple and informal, and Eva was presented to the King and Queen by the American Minister up at the Pena Palace where they sat on the terrace for an hour quite at their ease.

When Eva landed in Lisbon in 1929, this time with her son Charles and other young friends, she found things had chang .. The automobile had taken the peace from the hills but it was still "Cintra in all her green complete" An even greater change was that the Pisões had been sold in 1925 by Harry Gallwey, so the visitors stayed at the

Hotel Netto (itself in 1983 becoming a matter of history). Eva with foresight advised her American friends to visit Portugal soon, "for it is a changing world." Her last words pay charming tribute to the Sintra of her youth:

> Charles Francis Adams in his biography said: "The average human life contains no more than 14 perfect days in its entire course." If that is true and you have had your 12 or 13 days, there is no more heavenly spot to spend the 14th. I am hoping to set sail again some day. In the meantime when my thoughts turn towards Cintra – they voice abiding affection for all that has gone before and all that is to come. Such is the benediction of Cintra.

Eva Kimball returned there once more in 1953. She died in 1960, survived by her only son Charles who is still living in Chicago. He has been twice married without issue. Harry married Dorothy Parker and died in 1953, also without children. Thus the Gallweys in Portugal became extinct.

As an epitaph to Michael Gallwey's story I quote the inscriptions on the family graves in the old demolished cemetery in Sintra which have been preserved and recently come to light. They read in translation:

> This tomb is consecrated to the memory of Máximo José dos Reis last Capitão-mor of Cintra. Born 15 January 1769, died 2 May 1849, and was erected by his grateful daughters. And here lies Libânia dos Reis Gallwey beside her beloved father Máximo José dos Reis, born 2 October 1801, died 15 April 1877, married 28 January 1823 to Michael David Gallwey, son of Henry Gallwey and Maria Barbara Mordaunt, who was born in Lisbon 8 January 1796 and died 26 October 1885 and who lies here beside his dear wife and father-in-law.
>
> P.N.A.M.
>
> R.I.P.
>
> Guilhermina Gallwey his grateful and loving niece had this stone engraved.

Below

The mortal remains of Guilhermina Gallwey who died on 12 May 1889, aged 61 years, rest here beside her dear uncle and aunt.

(Acknowledgements: With thanks to Col. Hubert Gallwey of Faithlegg, Co. Waterford, and Mr. Charles Henry Gallwey Kimball of Chicago both of whom provided family papers and valuable information; also to Maria da Graça Machado Macedo who unstintingly gave of her time and expertise with Portuguese legal documents and local lore. All must be considered co-contributors, but the author asks indulgence for any possible errors or inaccuracies in this light-weight account of the Portugal branch of the Gallweys. The subject is wide-ranging, the documentation enormous and too complex to record in a short study.)

As the Report was going to press, we learned with great sorrow of the death of Mrs. Kingsbury.