

## **Louisa Isabella Georgina Spadafora**

**London Evening News – 10 June 1898**

### ***OBITUARY***

The Marchesa DELLA ROCELLA, wife of the Marchese della Rocella, has died at 50, Addison Mansions, Kensington, at the age of seventy-two. The deceased lady, *nee* Lady Louisa Isabella Georgiana Fitz-Gibbon, of Mount Shannon, Lisnagry, co. Limerick, was one of the daughters and co-heir of the third and last Earl of Clare, who died in 1864, when the Peerage became extinct. She married, firstly, in 1847, the Hon. Gerald Normanby Fitz-Gibbon, son of the 13<sup>th</sup> Viscount Dillon, and he dying in 1880, secondly, in 1882, General Carmelo Ascenso Spadafora, Marchese Della Rocella, the second son of the Duke of Santa Rosalia, of Palermo.

**Isle of Wight County Press – 11 June 1898**

### **TITLED LADY'S FUNERAL AT CARISBROOKE CEMETERY**

On Wednesday the funeral of the Marchesa della Rocella, formerly well known in the Island as Lady Louisa Dillon, niece of Georgina, Countess of Clare, who built the Convent at Carisbrooke, took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The deceased lady died in London on Saturday last, and the body was brought to the Island in order that it might be laid to rest in the space specially built and reserved for it in the Lady Clare's vault. The body arrived at the Catholic Church, Newport, at midday, where it was met at the church door by the Rev. J. D. Murtough, and laid before the altar rails, covered with a magnificent purple pall, richly embroidered. The coffin was flanked on each side by three massive candlesticks. There was a special request for no flowers, but a floral cross and a wreath were laid by the side of the coffin. The mourners arrived by the 1 p.m. train and immediately drove to the church, the chief mourner being the Hon. Armine Wodehouse, C.B. (nephew of the deceased), who will be remembered as the Liberal candidate for the Island at the last general election. The Rev. Father Murtough then read the first part of the funeral service, and afterwards conducted the body to the hearse, when the cortege started on its way for Carisbrooke Cemetery, where the remainder of the solemn rites were performed by the same rev. gentleman. The coffin of oak, with massive brass furniture, bore on its lid a brass crucifix, the breast-plate bearing the inscription:

“THE MARCHESA DELLA ROCELLA,  
Died June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1898,  
Aged 72 years.  
R.I.P.”

- The body was laid to rest in the reserved space in Lady Clare's vault, the grave at the side of which contains the remains of the late Charles Dillon, son of the Marchesa by the first marriage. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. Garstin and Sons (London), and the vault was opened and prepared by Mr. Cooper (Newport), who more than 30 years ago built it for Lady Clare for the interment of her life-long friend, Miss Charlotte Elliot, whose remains rest in the vault by the side of those of the Countess of Clare.

### **Isle of Wight Observer – 18 June 1898**

DEATH OF A WELL KNOWN LADY. – The death is announced, in her 72<sup>nd</sup> year, of Lady Louisa Isabella Georgiana Marchesa Della Rocella, surviving daughter of the third and last Earl of Clare, a title now extinct. She was the great grand-daughter of John Fitzgibbon, first Earl of Clare, whose exertions helped to bring about the legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland, and her kindness during her residence at Mount Shannon, near Limerick, is still remembered by the tenantry and poor of the district. She was twice married – first to the Hon. Gerald Normanby Fitzgibbon, son of Viscount Dillon, and next to her late husband General Carmelo Ascenso Spadafora, Marchese della Rocella, son of the Duke of Santa Rosalia, The deceased lady, who was for many years a resident of Ryde, was the niece of the Countess of Clare, who built St. Mary's Church here. As Lady Dillon, she figured prominently in Ryde society in the sixties, and was noted for her beauty. The remains of the deceased lady were interred at Carisbrooke Cemetery last week, the chief mourner being the Hon. A. Wodehouse, C.B., (nephew), who will be remembered as the Liberal candidate for the Island at the last General Election. The coffin was laid in the reserved space in Lady Clare's vault, on one side of which is the grave of Miss Charlotte Elliott, who was also so well known in Ryde, and Mr Charles Dillon, son of the deceased Marchesa by her first marriage.

### **Dublin Daily Nation – 20 June 1898**

The death of the Marchesa della Rocella removes one of the remaining links between old Ireland and New Ireland. Lady Louisa Isabella Georgiana Fitzgibbon was the great-granddaughter of the famous Earl of Clare, Lord Chancellor of Ireland at the time of the Union, and one of its chief promoters. She married, en premieres noces, the Hon Gerald Normanby Fitzgerald Dillon, a son of the thirteenth Viscount Dillon, and when her brother was killed in the charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimea, and her father left no heir, she represented the Fitzgibbon family. Mount Shannon, their beautiful place in county Limerick, has long passed out of the family.

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