

Rathfarnham Castle is full of history and funny characters. Meet two of them below and see what they can tell you about the Castle.



Rathfarnham Castle



Hello, my name is Adam Loftus. I built the great castle at Rathfarnham in 1583!

But I was not born in Dublin. Instead, I grew up in Yorkshire in England. After studying in Cambridge University, I came to Ireland in my early twenties. When I first came to Ireland I worked as a chaplain (a type of priest), but I soon got lots of jobs:

- Lord Chancellor of Ireland
- Lord Justice of Ireland
- The Keeper of the Great Seal of Ireland
- Anglican Archbishop of Ireland
- Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral

Phew! I'm just tired listing them all out. I also set up Trinity College in Dublin and I was the first Provost (person in charge) of the college. The college is clearly very proud of me, because they put this painting of me in their room dining room.

But back to my amazing castle. It was the first of its kind in all of Ireland! No one here had ever seen anything like it. I used designs of buildings from Europe. I built this Castle after Queen Elizabeth I gave me 6,000 acres of land (that is lots and lots). I didn't live in Castle on my own – I lived with my wife Jane and our many children.

Can you figure out from this puzzle how many children we had:

$$(5+9-3+7-13) \times 4 = ?$$

children

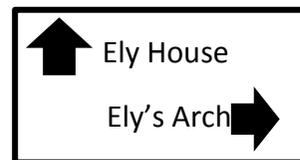
Hello, I am Henry Loftus, the first Earl of Ely, and great-great-great grandson of Adam Loftus (you met him earlier). I updated the old and dark Castle in the 1770s, it was a great improvement. You can call me the Earl of Ely.

To make it easier for people to remember that I am the Earl of Ely, I named the house where I live Ely House and the street Ely Place (it is near Stephen's Green).

I only came out to Rathfarnham Castle when I had one of my many parties. Do you have a separate house just for parties? It was really important that my party house had a beautiful design for my guests to enjoy. For this reason, I got two of the best architects to redesign the rooms – William Chambers and James Stuart (his nickname was 'the Athenian'). I also had a new entranceway built to welcome people into the grounds around the Castle. I named it Ely's Arch, just in case people forgot I was the Earl of Ely.

Do you like my painting? The famous artist Angelica Kauffman painted it to show me in my new Earl robes. I have heard you can now see the painting in the National Gallery.

If you came to the Castle you could see another beautiful painting of just me by Kauffman. Also, you would also see the beautiful rooms that Chambers and Stuart designed for me.



Adam and Henry Loftus have told you lots about themselves and Rathfarnham Castle.

See what you remember by answering these questions.

Q1: Where did Adam Loftus grow up?

Q 2: Which Queen gave him lots and lots of land in Dublin?

Q 3: In what century was the Castle built? How old is the Castle?

Q 4: Name two of the jobs that Adam had?

Q 5: Did Henry Loftus have a connection to Adam Loftus?

Q 6: What was Henry proud of becoming?

Q 7: Name two buildings that Henry told you about?

Q 8: Why did Henry redesign the Castle?

Q 9: What did Henry use the Castle for?

Want to know more about the history of Rathfarnham Castle?

Come on a FREE school tour of the Castle. Bookings: 01 4939462 or rathfarnhamcastle@opw.ie. We would be delighted to hear from you.

If you wanted to learn about other history associated with the Castle, these are some of the things you could look up.

- How did people dress in the sixteenth century?
- What is Queen Elizabeth I famous for?
- The other types of castle found in Ireland.
- What other buildings and houses are the Loftus family associated with in Ireland?
- What other buildings did William Chambers and James Stuart design?
- How come James Stuart was nicknamed 'the Athenian'?
- What did people eat in the eighteenth century?
- Ancient Roman buildings and mythology.

