

John, First Baron de Blacquiere



John Blacquiere was born in London in 1732 and started his career working in merchant's office before joining the army in an Irish regiment. He had a successful career in the army and retired in 1773 to concentrate on his political career. He became a minister in the Irish House of Commons and, after the union between Britain and Ireland, he

became a minister in the British House of Commons.

He was created Baron de Blacquiere of Ardkill, County Londonderry in 1800. He married an Irish heiress and had four sons and three daughters.

However, whilst in the army, John had had an affair with a young actress called Caroline Ambrose, which had produced a son and a daughter, called Henrietta. Although the children were illegitimate, John provided for their futures, paying for his son's education at Oxford and giving Henrietta £12 per year, although he did not publically acknowledge them as his children.

John's political career made him rich, but he did give money back to the people. He gave a lot of money to Dublin, paying for the wide streets, paving and fountains that it has today.