

[See Souvenir of Macartney Museum in Osler Memorial volume.]

~~Jan 1850~~
Torrisdale, Cambridge.

March 2, 1916.

Dear Sir

As Madame du Barré (Marie Jeanne Bécu) was guillotined in Paris, Dec. 7, 1793, and was only in England for a short time in 1792 trying to sell her Jewellery it is obvious that ~~she~~ skeleton and story are not hers.

The Madame Barré whose skeleton I have here was at her death an old woman over 60, a well known Danseuse of very bad character in Dublin. I believe it is true that she left her body to Macartney, but I have no documentary evidence. She called herself a French-woman but I believe was Irish and really by name Barry.

Dr. Warren is confusing two things. A certain doctor in Dublin (Dr. O'Connor) did in his will bequeath his body to Macartney and left him ten pounds to pay expenses of dissection. I have the will.

As Barré died in poverty I think it much more likely that she died destitute and was brought in by the Resurrectionists, but there is no reference that I can remember among Macartney's papers to her. However I shall look again over them.

Alex. Macaléster.

P.S. There is a life of the real Comtesse du Barre, by Douglas, published in 1896, which gives particulars as to her execution and beheadal. My skeleton was not beheaded.