Lt Col Urban Vigors was an officer in the Madras Army in the last quarter of the 18th century. He was involved in a duel with his superior, Col Kelly, in a place called Arni (about 85 miles west of Madras) which proved fatal to the latter. Overcome by remorse, Col Vigors erected a 65 foot monument to Kelly which still stands, minus the ball right on top.

The duel was the result of a remark by Vigors to his wife referring to Col Kelly, who had just been promoted as the Colonel of the Regiment, as an old woman, a remark that Mrs Vigors unfortunately repeated to Mrs Kelly. The latter then insisted that her husband should demand satisfaction with the resultant duel ending in Col Kelly’s death.

The East India Company seems to have overlooked or turned a blind eye to Col Vigors’s action, although duelling was expressly forbidden by the army high command.

Whilst Kelly was a highly rated officer, he was an Ulsterman with no family pedigree to speak of whereas Vigors came of an Irish Ascendancy background and belonged to a landed family in Co Carlow, Ireland. This could explain some of the background leading up to the duel as also the fact that, whilst a popular officer, the career of Vigors was relatively undistinguished compared to Kelly’s. Also Mrs Kelly was a common law wife, suggesting she could have been Eurasian (or Anglo Indian as used in India). All this may suggest that there could have been room for some rancour between the two men.

Lt Gen Urban Vigors died in London and that there is a handsome monument to his memory in the church.
EDWARD CLIFFE
VIGERS, of Burgage, Co.
Carlow, a Clerk in the
House of Lords, 8th Oct. 1878; i., his father
1936.

LINEAGE.—REV. LOUIS
Vigers, of Holsford, Bredgade,
North Devon, 9th Dec. 1739, was the
first of the family who settled
in Ireland. He married Eliza,
widow of the Rev. George
Bradley, of North Devon, in 1749.

REV. LOUIS VIGERS, was Rector of Ardagh, Co. Limerick, Sept.
1737, and Vicar of Kilworth and Kilteny, Co. Cork, 1739 to 1799,
also Chaplain to Roger, Lord Kerou, 1st Earl of Kerry, during
the Rebellion of 1798. He was about 1744-6, Catherine, dau. of
Rev. Thomas Bowles, sister of Richard Boyle, B.D., Bishop of Fern
and Leighlin, and of Roger Boyle, B.D., Bishop of Clonmore (the
Bowles' Portrait and Bannergate, Corn., B.), and had issue:

1. Ursula, of whom presently.
2. Thomas, of Co. Kilkenny (1703), and of Taghmon, Co. Wexford
(1708). He m. in 2774, Elizabeth Gilbert, widow of Castledermot.
Claude Russell who was a member of the Council of Fort St. George