



Publication date: 25th April 2013

Price: £30.00

ISBN: 978-1-907970-14-6

Binding: Hardback

Extent: 400 pages

Format: Royal

Illustrations: 16 pages colour

Markets: World

Non-fiction

The story of a family and a history of Ireland weaving memory, myth and legend.

Simon Loftus vividly evokes the colour of forgotten lives, as he pieces together fragments of history and legend spanning 350 years of Ireland's history. A highwayman's blunderbuss, a silver-mounted hoof, a 'recipe for love' scrawled in a tattered account book, a terrifying scandal discovered at the bottom of a deed box, family portraits and improbable stories – all have something to tell.

The background is the colonial conquest of Ireland and the harsh confrontations of religious and national identity but the focus is close at hand, familial. The passions and eccentricities, the daily concerns and relationships of individuals in the Loftus family, over eleven generations, combine to form an enthralling narrative, a memoir of shifting moods and viewpoints.

This beautifully written book is a meditation on the nature of memory, set against the ancient landscape of Ireland, and shaped by experience and time.

Author

Simon Loftus is the acclaimed author of *Anatomy of the Wine Trade*, *A Pike in the Basement* and *Puligny Montrachet: Journal of a Village in Burgundy*, which won the Glenfiddich Award. He has written extensively on wine, food, travel and social history. He lives in Suffolk.

Reviews of previous work by the author

'A heartfelt, witty prescription for a life worth aspiring to and genuinely well-written.' Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall on *A Pike in the Basement*

'A banquet of good stories.' Elizabeth Luard on *A Pike in the Basement*

'Not just one of the best books on wine, it's one of the best books on France.' Michael Palin on *Puligny Montrachet*

'Enthralling . . . Puligny comes alive through Mr Loftus.' *The New York Times* on *Puligny Montrachet*

'Loftus provides a fascinating analysis of the way in which each wine reflects the personality of its maker as clearly as the book its author's.' Hilary Spurling on *Puligny Montrachet*

'Loftus writes with style and grace, and is a superb observer. Everything he touches glitters with style.' *St Louis Post Dispatch* on *A Pike in the Basement*

Sales points

- Beautifully written family memoir blended with history from a prize-winning writer. Available in a luxurious hardback edition.
- Full publicity programme planned, including television, radio and print.
- Will appeal to readers of *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, as well as readers with a particular interest in Irish history.

Available to order from Daunt Books laura@dauntbooks.co.uk, 020 7373 4997