

# THE CLEMENTS ARCHIVE

A. P. W. MALCOMSON



IRISH MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION

2010

*For Bruce Campbell  
who has contributed in innumerable ways  
to the realisation of this project*

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## INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Clements archive is complicated because of the complicated history of the family and the scattered nature of their estates. The family was founded by the Rt Hon. Nathaniel Clements (1705–77), whose descendants established themselves at four principal seats: Killadoon, Celbridge, Co. Kildare; Ashfield, Cootehill, Co. Cavan; Lough Rynn, between Dromod and Mohill, Co. Leitrim; and Manor Vaughan, alias Mulroy House, Carrigart, Co. Donegal. His eldest son and the latter's descendants held the earldom of Leitrim from its creation in 1795 to its extinction in 1952.

Strictly speaking, the papers of the Clements family are not one archive but three or more archives in one. This is because the Clements family of Ashfield and (after 1878) of Killadoon and Lough Rynn, are the representatives of two other families, the Molesworths, Viscounts Molesworth, and the Stewarts of Killymoon, Co. Tyrone, and possessed their papers. The Molesworth family and title are not extinct, but the title went side-ways in 1793, and the family papers up to that date passed, through the female line, into the Clements family. The Stewarts are extinct in the senior male line, and their papers and the wreckage of their estates passed in the same way into the Clements family in the mid-19th century.

The Clements archive proper became split among three of the four Clements seats (and probably a larger number of solicitors' offices), and not necessarily in a logical way – e.g. the papers still at Killadoon relate copiously to Manor Hamilton. Two of the major family estates had no seat attached: the Manor Hamilton (as opposed to the Lough Rynn) estate, Co. Leitrim, and the Rosshill estate, between Cong, Co. Mayo, and Leenane, Co. Galway (where the seat, Rosshill House, Clonbur, was occupied occasionally between 1800 and c.1850, and then was let, sold and allowed to fall into ruin). Consequently, most of the documentation of these two estates has ended up at Killadoon.

It may at this point be useful to provide a short history of the Clements family and to describe briefly each estate and trace its history under Clements family ownership. For detailed accounts of both, see A. P. W. Malcomson, *Nathaniel Clements: Government and the governing Elite in Ireland, 1725–75* (Dublin, 2005), and Malcomson, *Virtues of a Wicked Earl: the Life and Legend of William Sydney Clements, 3rd Earl of Leitrim (1806–78)*, (Dublin, 2008).

### THE FAMILY

Nathaniel Clements (1705–77) was effectively at the head of the Irish Treasury from c.1740 until his death, and became an influential and well-nigh indispensable official and the possessor of c.85,000 statute acres in Cos. Cavan, Donegal and Leitrim. He left two surviving sons. The younger son, Colonel Henry Theophilus Clements (1734–95), fought in the Seven Years' War, followed his father into the Irish Treasury and succeeded to most of his offices there, and

inherited the Ashfield estate in Co. Cavan from his father. H.T. Clements' eldest son, Colonel Henry John Clements of Ashfield (1781–1843), married Louisa, daughter of James Stewart of Killymoon, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, and his wife, the Hon. Elizabeth Molesworth, and had a son, Colonel Henry Theophilus Clements (1820–1904).

Nathaniel Clements' elder son, Robert (1732–1804), succeeded to most of the other estates which Nathaniel had acquired (in Cos. Leitrim and Donegal), and acquired for himself in 1764 the small estate of Killadoon, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, where he built in 1767–71 what became the family's principal seat. He was created 1st Earl of Leitrim in 1795. He had two sons, Nathaniel, 2nd Earl (1768–1854), who married Mary Bermingham, joint heiress with her sister, Lady Charlemont, to the Rosshill estate, Co. Galway, and Colonel Robert Clotworthy Clements, who bought the Newtowngore estate, Co. Leitrim, in 1812, which passed to his elder brother when he himself died unmarried and intestate in 1828.

Robert Bermingham Clements, Lord Clements (1805–39), eldest son of the 2nd Earl, was instrumental in the building of a house for the family at Lough Rynn in the mid 1830s. He died in 1839 and his younger brother, William Sydney (known as Sydney to his family and friends), was left heir to the title. Sydney, the 3rd Earl (1806–78), was a hardworking but very unpopular landlord, who was murdered in Co. Donegal in 1878. Controversially, he cut his nephew and successor as 4th Earl out of his will, and left everything he could to his second cousin, Colonel H.T. Clements of Ashfield (see above). To avoid litigation over the will his nephew and Colonel H.T. Clements came to an agreement, whereby Robert, the 4th Earl, would receive the Donegal estate (and Newtowngore) and Colonel H.T. Clements would retain the rest.

The 4th Earl of Leitrim (1847–92) had a long dispute with Trinity College, Dublin, over the headrents of part of his Donegal estates. Unlike his uncle, he was popular in Co. Donegal and initiated new developments on his estates there, such as the Rossgull steamer service along the coast. He also recognised the tourist potential of the region. In 1891 he brought Tom Morris from St Andrews, Scotland, to design the layout of a golf links at Rosapenna, and began to build a hotel there shortly before his death in 1892. He had married Lady Winifred Coke, fifth daughter of Thomas Coke, 2nd Earl of Leicester, in 1873, and at his early death left a young family.

Charles, the 5th Earl of Leitrim (1879–1952), served in the Boer War and the First World War. He was assistant private secretary to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1917 and a member of the Carlton Club, Pall Mall, London. He visited France, Egypt and the USA at various times. He also devoted much of his time to developing his Donegal estates by introducing modern methods of farming and expanding the Rosapenna Hotel. For much of his life he was based in Co. Donegal but during the political disturbances of the early 1920s he moved to Court Lodge Farm, Teston, Kent, and had a London residence at 60A Cadogan Gardens. He returned to Co. Donegal, however, and spent much of his time there during the 1930s and 1940s. In October 1902 he married Violet Lina, daughter of the late Robert Henderson, a sometime director of the Bank of England. They separated in 1926 and divorced in 1931. He remarried in 1939, his second wife being the Hon. Anne Vanneck, sister of Charles Vanneck, 5th Lord Huntingfield. On his death in 1952, the earldom of Leitrim became extinct.

Meanwhile, the junior, Ashfield branch of the family is still going strong in the male line (though not as earls of Leitrim, since the earldom and the other family titles were granted to

Robert Clements and his issue male, and the Ashfield Clementses descend from Robert's younger brother). Ashfield and Lough Rynn have been sold, but the Clements family continues to live at Killadoon.

## THE ESTATES

Much of the archive relates to the Clements estates (and the electoral influence derived from some of them) in Cos. Leitrim, Donegal, Galway, Cavan and Kildare. The main family residences were at Killadoon, Ashfield, Lough Rynn (from 1835) and Mulroy House (from 1865). Rosshill House was never a main family residence.

### CO. CAVAN

**Ashfield estate:** This estate was acquired by the Rt Hon. Nathaniel Clements's father in 1714, was almost lost to the family through the improvidence of Nathaniel's eldest brother, Theophilus Clements of nearby Rathkenny, Co. Cavan (1687–1728), and was then acquired by Nathaniel for himself, *c.*1735, as part of the winding-up of Theophilus's disordered affairs. It was initially held on long lease, but Nathaniel Clements bought the fee in 1764. In 1879 it comprised approximately 3,908 statute acres. The house and remaining land were sold by the Clements family in 1952.

### CO. LEITRIM

The Mohill, Glenboy, Manor Hamilton and Bohey estates were all bought by Nathaniel Clements, in 1749, 1754, 1759 and 1777 respectively. The Mohill and Manor Hamilton estates were disentailed in 1854 and the Bohey estate in 1877 [see MS 33,850/1].

**Mohill estate:** This estate was bought in 1749 from Francis Seymour Conway, Lord Conway for £10,000. In 1750 it comprised 6,112 Irish acres. After a house was built on the estate between 1832 and 1835, under the direction of Robert Bermingham Clements, Lord Clements (1805–39), the estate became known as Lough Rynn. The house and remaining land were sold by the Clements family in 1975.

**Bohey estate:** This estate of 220 acres was bought from Charles Coote, Earl of Bellamont, for £2,483 in January 1777. The 1st Earl of Leitrim (1732–1804) settled Bohey on his younger son, Robert Clotworthy Clements. When Robert Clotworthy Clements died in 1828, Bohey was inherited by his elder brother, the 2nd Earl of Leitrim (1768–1854), who left it to his younger son, Charles Skeffington Clements. When C.S. Clements died in 1877 Bohey became part of the 3rd Earl of Leitrim's (1806–78) estates, and was assimilated into the Mohill estate, as it had been 1828–54.

**Manor Hamilton estate:** This estate was bought in 1759 for £21,822 from Sir Ralph Gore, 6th Bt, who was a cousin of Nathaniel Clements by marriage and was to become his future son in law. In 1807 this estate comprised 5,750 Irish acres. Two townlands belonging to it, Aghamore and Clogherbeg, were in Co. Sligo and were sold in 1863.

**Glenboy estate:** This estate was bought by Nathaniel Clements in 1754 for *c.*£7,000. It comprised 6,773 statute acres valued at £1,702 p.a. in 1873. Although situated beside Manor

Hamilton, which Nathaniel Clements left to his eldest son, Robert, 1st Earl of Leitrim, it passed to Nathaniel's third, but second surviving son, Colonel Henry Theophilus Clements (1734–95). H.T. Clements then left it to *his* second son, Colonel John Marcus Clements (1789–1834), whose descendants lived at Glenboy until, probably, the early 20th century.

**Newtowngore estate:** This estate, originally known as the Woodford estate, was bought by Colonel H.T. Clements between 1786 and 1790 under a decree of the Court of Chancery. It comprised 2,500 statute acres. In January 1812 it was sold by his eldest son, Colonel Henry John Clements of Ashfield, Co. Cavan, to his cousin, Robert Clotworthy Clements, for £34,500. (Colonel H.J. Clements retained four townlands, which became known as the Ballinamore estate.) Following the death of R.C. Clements, Newtowngore, like Bohey, was inherited by his elder brother, the 2nd Earl of Leitrim. Unlike Bohey, however, it was entailed by the 2nd Earl on his issue male, and so passed to the 4th Earl of Leitrim (1847–92), after the murder of the 3rd Earl in 1878. It was sold in the 1930s to the Irish Land Commission.

**Cloone estate:** This estate was in the possession of William White at the time of R. Griffith's *General Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland*, 1857. Cloone seems to have been bought by Colonel H.T. Clements (1820–1904) in the late 1880s.

#### CO. DONEGAL

**The manors of Vaughan, Dutton and Cunningham, parishes of Mevagh and Clondavaddog:** This was a fee simple estate bought by Nathaniel Clements from Gustavus Hamilton, 2nd Viscount Boyne, in 1744 at a cost of c. £5,000–£6,000. It also included the northern part of the Fanad Peninsula, and eventually came to comprise 25,618 statute acres. On the Meragh part of the estate the 3rd Earl of Leitrim built Manor Vaughan/Mulroy House in 1865–6.

**The manor of Kilmacrenan:** Nathaniel Clements acquired this estate, formerly held by Lord Boyne from Trinity College, Dublin, in 1749 at a cost of £6,265. The transaction led to litigation with Boyne's next-of-kin, and Nathaniel Clements' title was not confirmed until a judicial decision by the British House of Lords was given in his favour in 1766. The estate comprised 17,404 Irish acres.

#### CO. GALWAY

**Rosshill estate:** The Earls of Leitrim inherited an undivided half of this estate in 1800 through the marriage of Nathaniel, 2nd Earl of Leitrim, and Mary Bermingham, one of the two daughters and co-heiresses of William Bermingham (d.1798). The estate, of 13,595 Irish acres, was put up for sale jointly by their son, the 3rd Earl of Leitrim, and the 2nd Earl of Charlemont (Lord Charlemont being the husband of the other co-heiress) in 1860. The 3rd Earl of Leitrim retained his half-share and bought part of Lord Charlemont's half. The estate (or the core of it) seems originally to have belonged to the Berminghams, but to have been lost to them through forfeiture or fecklessness. By the end of the seventeenth century it was in the possession of Colonel John Browne of Westport, Co. Mayo. He sold all his Co. Galway estates at that time to pay off his debts and his lands in the barony of Ross (where Rosshill is located) were bought jointly by James Naper and Thomas Smith, who leased the property back to the Colonel's son, Peter. (These transactions are documented in the Westport Estate Papers, Collection List 78

in NLI.) The Killadoon Papers in NLI (MS 36,023) show that the head rent became vested in the Dutton (formerly Naper) and Whitney families, while the Browne interest passed to the Berminghams. Peter Browne's sister, Elizabeth, was married to John Bermingham, and it was their great granddaughters who became the Countesses of Leitrim and Charlemont.

#### CO. KILDARE

**Killadoon estate:** A property at Celbridge originally leased to Robert Clements, later 1st Earl of Leitrim, by Thomas Conolly of Castletown, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, in 1764. The Earls of Leitrim continued to lease the estate, which they augmented to *c.*470 acres, until they bought the fee simple of the Conolly part in 1853. At Killadoon, Robert Clements built between 1767 and 1771 the house which has been the principal seat of the Clements family from then to the present day and which is now the home of Charles and Sally Clements.



The descent of these estates is complicated. In 1777, Nathaniel Clements left the Ashfield estate (among other property) to his second son, Colonel H.T. Clements (1734–95), and most of the rest to his elder surviving son, the 1st Earl of Leitrim (1732–1804). A century later, however, Robert's bachelor grandson, the 3rd Earl, who was murdered in 1878, left as much as he could away from his nephew and successor, the 4th Earl (1847–92), and chose as his principal heir his Ashfield second cousin, the next Colonel H.T. Clements (1820–1904). There might have been grounds for contesting the will, and H.T. Clements was sympathetic to the plight of the disinherited 4th Earl. So a compromise arrangement was negotiated, and later was enshrined in two Leitrim Estates Acts of 1879 and 1880 respectively, under which H.T. Clements retained Killadoon, Lough Rynn, Manor Hamilton and Rosshill, but voluntarily ceded the Donegal estate to the 4th Earl. The latter also inherited Newtowngore, but this was because it was entailed on the issue male of the 2nd Earl of Leitrim.

These complications in the descent of the estates explain why material which has as its provenance Killadoon, Lough Rynn or Ashfield does not contain much documentation of the Donegal and Newtowngore estates, and none beyond *c.*1878–80; also why Glenboy drops out of the record so early (*c.*1800). More generally, the number of disparate estates in the one, though changing, ownership helps to explain why records relating to one estate fetched up in a house located on another. By the time the 3rd Earl of Leitrim had built Manor Vaughan on the Donegal estate, he had three country houses and regularly moved between and among them all. By contrast, his predecessors, the 1st and 2nd Earls, seldom left Dublin or Killadoon, so agents for the other estates must have brought their accounts and other papers to Dublin or Killadoon for consultations or audit. Much of the estate material still at Killadoon and relating mainly to Manor Hamilton, was fairly recently deposited in that location by the former Dublin solicitors employed by the late 19th and 20th-century Clementses, Messrs R.H. Beauchamp & Orr, 5 Foster Place, Dublin.

After the partitions of the estates under the Leitrim Estates Acts of 1879–80, the 4th Earl of Leitrim took up residence at Manor Vaughan, Co. Donegal, which was re-named Mulroy House. There are no surviving papers at Mulroy, where the Hon. Hedley Vicars Strutt, nephew

and heir of the 5th and last Earl of Leitrim (1879–1952) now lives. In c.1960 his former Co. Donegal solicitors, Messrs Osborne of Milford, were in possession of rentals going back to the 1840s; these had escaped the destruction of records which took place in 1922, when the Estate Office at Mulroy was destroyed. Their present whereabouts are unclear, and the firm has changed hands and no longer acts for the estate. The Clements papers now located in the National Library and the Manuscripts Department of Trinity College, Dublin, come therefore (with one major exception – see pp xiii–xiv below) from the other three houses – Ashfield, Lough Rynn and Killadoon – and from a London solicitors' office. In addition, a sizeable archive remains in family possession at Killadoon.

### THE HISTORY OF THE ARCHIVE PRIOR TO THE IMC PROJECT OF 1999–2006

The first section of the Clements archive to be lodged in an archival institution is three morocco-bound, quarto volumes of in-letters, 1743–81, mainly addressed to Nathaniel Clements. They were acquired by the Manuscripts Department, TCD, in the 1920s. The accession records kept by TCD at that period are imprecise. However, it is a reasonable conjecture that the three volumes came from the library at Mulroy House, which the 5th Earl of Leitrim sold, possibly in breach of entail, in 1927.

In 1912 Dr D.A. Chart (later to become the first Deputy Keeper of the Records of Northern Ireland) had visited Ashfield under the auspices of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, to calendar the Molesworth section of the papers. His report was published in *HMC Various, vol. viii*. He made a very detailed calendar (sometimes approaching transcription) of the Molesworth Papers, arranging them in strictly chronological order. His only mistake was to omit three small bundles of Molesworth Papers, which were later described in a summary, bundle list made by PRONI at Lough Rynn in 1971.

Ashfield had been given by Colonel H.T. Clements (d.1904) to his second son, Marcus Louis Stewart Clements. Following the latter's death in 1952, it was sold. Mr M.L.S. Clements's widow then went to live at Drumlogan, Ravensdale, Co. Louth, taking with her the papers formerly at Ashfield. These were examined and reported on by Sir John Ainsworth, representing the IMC, in 1952. By 1959 they were at Lough Rynn, where he made an additional report. These two reports are NLI Reports on Private Collections, Nos 356 and 437. The material concerned, apart from the Molesworth Papers and the papers of the Stewarts of Killymoon, comprise ledgers and correspondence of Nathaniel Clements (additional to the three volumes of letters acquired by TCD in the 1920s), and all the papers of his second surviving son, Colonel H.T. Clements of Ashfield, and of Colonel H.T. Clements's successors down to the early 20th century. In the 1950s, or soon afterwards, NLI microfilmed selected parts of the Clements and Stewart correspondence. Ainsworth also sorted parts of the archive, including all the Molesworth Papers reported on by Dr Chart, a fraction of the Stewart Papers and about half the correspondence in the Clements Papers, into NLI folders. He gave a number to each folder, with a brief description of contents and covering dates. The problem with his folder-system, which broadly speaking was made the basis for the arrangement of the Clements of Ashfield Papers when they later (1976) were acquired by TCD, is that it was not the product of a thorough sort and sift of the archive.

PRONI visited Lough Rynn in 1971 and calendared the great majority of the Stewart Papers and summarily listed the rest. The section which was summarily listed lent itself well to such

THE KILLADOON PAPERS  
AT KILLADOON

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## CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

- A Manor Hamilton estate records, 1630 and 1750–1971
- B Mohill/Lough Rynn estate records, 1667, 1731 and 1750–1947
- C Rosshill estate records, 1752–1903
- D Co. Donegal estate records, 1674–1874 and 1983
- E Miscellaneous Cavan, Dublin, Leitrim, Westmeath and Wexford estate records, 1657–1828 and 1905–88
- F Killadoon estate records, 1767–72 and 1805–1975
- G Wills and settlements, c. 1500 and 1605–1970
- H Maps and plans, 1744–1962
- J Family history, genealogy and bibliography, 1605 and 1667–1968
- K Catalogues and inventories, 1776–1975
- L Recipé books, 1709, 1815 and 1827
- M Formal documents, 1767–1945
- N Parliamentary and electoral material, 1646–1835
- P Photographs, c. 1880–c. 1940
- Q Correspondence and related papers, 1700–1945
- R Tradesmen's accounts, 1733–1874 and 1952–7
- S Diaries and journals, 1754–1968

## MANOR HAMILTON ESTATE RECORDS

A/	DATE	DESCRIPTION
A/1-13	1630: 1750-1971	Twelve boxes (plus one outside volume) of patents, leases, maps, plans, correspondence, accounts and other papers relating to the Manor Hamilton estate, Cos Leitrim and Sligo, 1630 and 1750-1925. This estate was granted by Charles I to Sir Frederick Hamilton in 1630 (copies of the patent are present) and later acquired, in February 1759, by the Rt Hon. Nathaniel Clements from his cousin-by-marriage and future son-in-law, Sir Ralph Gore, 6th Bt, whose grandmother had been the co-heiress of the Hamiltons of Manor Hamilton. The plans and related material include (A/9) a contract between Nathaniel, 2nd Earl of Leitrim (1768-1854) and James Creddan, builder, of Enniskillen, 1834, for the building of the market house in Manor Hamilton according to an attached, somewhat tattered, design by William Farrell, architect (which looks as if it were printed, but actually seems to be very finely drawn in pen), a coloured elevation of the market house, a fidelity bond from Creddan and a statement of accounts. The material is arranged as follows:
A/1	1630: 1750-53: 1755: 1758: 1784: c.1825: 1846: 1856-7: 1873-4: 1891: c.1900	Box containing: an envelope of copies of the patent from Charles I to Sir Frederick Hamilton granting him the Manor Hamilton estate in 1630, some of them paper-marked 1821 and relating to a c.1825 and an 1846 dispute over the extent of the manorial jurisdiction conferred by the patent; leases, of parts of the Manor Hamilton estate granted by Sir Ralph Gore up to 1758 (some so rat-chewed as to be virtually useless); two papers about Manor Hamilton church, 1784 and c.1900; and a small bundle of papers about the title to all or part of the Manor Hamilton estate, 1856-7, 1873-4 and 1891.
A/2	1753: 1762: 1791: 1833-48: 1865	Box of leases, deeds, correspondence, etc, relating to Skreeny, part of the Manor Hamilton estate, starting with a lease granted by Gore, 1753, and renewals by Nathaniel Clements, 1762, and by Robert Clements, 1st Lord Leitrim, 1791, to the Cullen family of Skreeny (one of whom, Pat Cullen, was agent for the Clements estate at Manor Hamilton until 1784), together with correspondence and a deed of conveyance all relating to Cairncross [Thomas] Cullen's sale of Skreeny back to the Clements family, in the person of the 2nd Earl of Leitrim, for £1,000 in 1845. The sub-section includes:
	17 June 1845	Conveyance to Simon Armstrong of Hollybrook [ <i>sic</i> - Hollymount, Manor Hamilton], of the house and demesne of Skreeny, apparently in trust for Lord Leitrim (an accompanying

- A/2 *contd.* letter of 2 June to Lord Leitrim states that Lord Leitrim is the purchaser).
- 1865 Draft conveyance from the Landed Estates Court to the 3rd Earl of Leitrim of 23 statute acres in the barony of Rosclogher (Rockwood, part of the lands of Deerpark) for £710. [For the conveyance as executed, see Killadoon Papers, NLI, MS 36,011.]
- A/3 1760–99 Box of Manor Hamilton leases granted by the Rt Hon. Nathaniel Clements and Robert Clements, 1st Earl of Leitrim. The principal component is 3 envelopes of leases (30 in all) granted by Nathaniel Clements for 3 lives or 3 lives renewable forever of tenements and parks in the town of Manor Hamilton between 1760 and 1773. These presumably were the ‘building leases’ he granted to encourage the development of the town. There is also a bundle of leases, 1760–71, from Nathaniel Clements of agricultural holdings and of town property granted for shorter terms, and another bundle of miscellaneous Manor Hamilton leases granted by Robert Clements, 1st Earl of Leitrim, 1780–99.
- A/4 *c.*1773: Floppy-bound lease-book, survey and rentroll of the Manor Hamilton *and Mohill* estates of Nathaniel Clements, with the [1793–5]: information about the leases up-dated to *c.*1791, *c.*1773, together 1798: 1887 with a Manor Hamilton rental [of 1793–5] (£1,194 per annum), two duplicate Manor Hamilton rentals for 1798 (£1,266 per annum), and a rent book for the Manor Hamilton, Mohill, Ballinamore and Killadoon estates, 1887.
- A/5 1801–40 Box of Manor Hamilton leases, including an important volume of ‘lease survey’ of the Manor Hamilton and Woodford estates, 1840.
- The sub-section includes:
- 14 Dec. 1839 The 2nd Earl of Leitrim and Lord Clements to the Poor Law Commissioners: lease of a site for the Manor Hamilton workhouse on the north side of the road to Enniskillen in perpetuity at a rent of £11 p.a.
- 25 Aug. 1840 Surrender of this lease from the Commissioners (John George Shaw Lefevre, George Nicholls and George Cornwall Lewis) because the site proved to be too small.
- A/6 1841–99 Box of Manor Hamilton leases and letting agreements and other papers, including:
- 18 and 19 June Two letters from the 3rd Earl of Leitrim, Manor Hamilton, to his 1857 solicitor, John Faris, showing a clear grasp of the geography of holdings and what sounds like a better grasp of fact and law than Faris. ‘It is useless your writing to tell me what the Tates [James and Robert Tate of Cherrybrook, Manor Hamilton], will do. I

A/6 *contd.*

know that they will [do] everything they can to give me trouble, but it will be our business to preserve my rights. I presume that no court in the kingdom will refuse me a reasonable examination of documents and time to search for them. I have not refused to make a [fee farm] grant, nor do I intend so to do unless I find sufficient grounds, but your answers should be such as to show that those documents which are necessary for me to inspect have not yet been found and to state that no unreasonable delay will take place. [Francis] Cunningham [of Manor Hamilton] is an old man and he has not shown me any will, but on the contrary stated he did not know where it was. It is to be remembered that I do not know anything of Tate in this affair, nor has he ever paid me rent.'

A/7-8 1900-55

Two boxes of Manor Hamilton leases, letting agreements, etc, some of them also affecting the Mohill and Ballinamore estates. [For the latter, see also A/4 and 10.]

A/9 1773-c.1900

Box of maps, papers about boundary disputes, plans, vouchers, etc, including the building papers of 1834 relating to the Manor Hamilton market house. Also included are:

19 June 1833

Letter from John Wynne, Hazelwood, to the 2nd Earl of Leitrim, 18 Great Cumberland Place, asking on behalf of his father that Lord Leitrim join with other local landowners to create a new line of road which otherwise will have to follow a roundabout route.

28 Feb 1852

Certificate of drainage and other work completed on Lord Leitrim's Manor Hamilton estate between 19 May 1849 and 16 Oct. 1851, at a cost of £1,103, which presumably had to be repaid to the Board of Works.

A/10 1878-89

Box of 'Cash accounts, George F. Stewart & Sons in account with Colonel H.T. Clements [in respect of the] estates of Lough Rynn, Manor Hamilton, Ballinamore [Co. Leitrim, and] Killadoon'. These have been placed in the Manor Hamilton estate section, but of course apply equally to the other estates as well. They include such things as '... wages due to clerks', e.g. William Rose, £35 per quarter, and Joseph McAdoo, £8 per quarter. Also placed in this box are small, original bundles of vouchers, 1884-8, mainly relating to the Ballinamore estate. This estate is first mentioned in the accounts in 1883 and had a rental of c.£340.

The cash account book for the year ending 1 Oct. 1879 includes the following entries: the cost of building a porch at Eye Park, Newtowngore [was this another of the occasional residences of the 3rd Earl of Leitrim?]; the annual cost of salaries and wages at Lough Rynn (£2,880); rent receipts for the Lough Rynn estate were £3,569, arrears received during the year were £3,806, and income barely exceeded expenditure.

- A/11 *c.*1890–*c.*1937 Box of Manor Hamilton maps (mostly scrappy tracings), correspondence, ILC sale papers, etc.
- A/12 1939–71 Box of accounts with Stewart & Sons relating to Manor Hamilton, Lough Rynn and Killadoon.
- A/13 1939–64 Box of accounts with Stewart & Sons relating to Manor Hamilton, Lough Rynn and Killadoon.



### MOHILL/LOUGH RYNN ESTATE RECORDS

B/	DATE	DESCRIPTION
B/1	1667: 1731: 1750– <i>c.</i> 1775: [ <i>c.</i> 1835]: 1838: <i>c.</i> 1840– <i>c.</i> 1900: 1947	Box of documents relating to the Mohill estate granted by patent dated 20 August, 19 Charles II [1667], to Edward Conway, 3rd Viscount, and 1st Earl of, Conway, and bought in 1749 for £10,000 by the Rt Hon. Nathaniel Clements. Included is a non-contemporary, certified copy of Lord Conway's patent of 1667, a recovery of 1731 suffered by Francis Seymour-Conway, Lord Conway [of a new creation, who later sold it to Clements], a schedule of Crown and Quit Rents payable out of it, <i>c.</i> 1750, leases of parts of it granted by Nathaniel Clements, <i>c.</i> 1750– <i>c.</i> 1775, title deeds to the additional lands of Eskerkillow and Eskeragh, parish and barony of Mohill, purchased by Clements for £660 sterling under an Exchequer decree of February 1752 against Charles and Hubert Reynolds of Eskeragh and confirmed to him by a conveyance of 22 March 1754 from the Reynoldses and others, surveys, maps, rentals, accounts, vouchers, etc, <i>c.</i> 1773 and <i>c.</i> 1835– <i>c.</i> 1900, and a legal case paper of 1947 relating to the excessive endowment by the 3rd Earl of Leitrim of Farnaught Church, Lough Rynn, which he started to build in 1858 and which was opened for public worship in 1871. [N.B. The estate did not start being called the Lough Rynn estate until the house was built there in 1832–5.]  The following is a more detailed description of some of the material:
	1835	Map of Clooncahir, the property of the Rev. A[ugustus] Crofton, by [?F.] Redfern. It comprises 260 statute acres.
	[ <i>c.</i> 1835]: Dec. 1838: [ <i>c.</i> 1890]	Lough Rynn building papers: 'Estimate (£1,469) for building stables and coach-house at Rynn ..., [with] remarks on ditto sent to Mr [William] Murray [see also Killadoon Papers, NLI, MS 36,037/1, etc]; estimate from Charles Jones, 5 Bishop Street, Dublin, 20 Dec. 1838, for painting the interior and exterior of the house (£83), re-directed to Parkanaur, where R.B. Lord Clements

- B/1 contd.** then was; and two small, amateur sketches of Lough Rynn as it was c.1890 before it was massively extended to the design of Sir Thomas Drew.
- 1846 Printed *Report to the Commissioners appointed under the ... [Drainage] Acts on the Drainage and Improvement of the Lands in the ... Rinn and Blackwater Districts in the Counties of Leitrim and Longford ...*, by Thomas Mulvany, C.E. 'The total quantity of land proposed to be relieved from injury ... is about 4,097 acres', of which the 2nd Earl of Leitrim owns 474 (Rynn, Clooncumber, Clooncareen, Errew, part of Gortletteragh, Garvagh, Clooncoe, part of Breanross North, Breanross South, Drumgilra, Trean and Drumlaggagh). The total cost is to be £18,388. So, the cost to Lord Leitrim was presumably of the order of £2,000.
- 30 May 1867 Conveyance to the 3rd Earl of Leitrim by the Landed Estates Court of the interest of Henry Nisbett of Derrycarne in Cloonboniagh South, comprising 471 acres in the parish of Mohill, for £3,305.
- B/2** 1883: Box containing original bundles of Lough Rynn vouchers.  
1885–8 [For other Mohill/Lough Rynn material, see A/4, 7, 8 and 10–13 and Q/3/2, and for a magnificent, rolled, coloured survey of the Mohill estate by William Wogan, 1750, see H/2.]



### ROSSHILL ESTATE RECORDS

- | <b>C/</b>    | <b>DATE</b>   | <b>DESCRIPTION</b>   |
|--------------|---|--|
| <b>C/1–2</b> | 1752: [c.1775]:<br>1777–85:<br>1803–16: 1829:<br>1833–40:<br>1847–50:<br>1853: 1857:<br>1862–84:<br>1901–03 | Two boxes of account books, legal case papers, rentals, leases, deeds, maps (1850), a survey (1855), correspondence, etc, relating to the Rosshill estate, Cos Galway and Mayo, to which Mary Bermingham, who married the 2nd Earl of Leitrim in 1800, was co-heiress. The other co-heiress was her sister, the Countess of Charlemont, who with her husband, the 2nd Earl of Charlemont, sold her share in 1860. The 3rd Earl of Leitrim not only held on to his half of the estate but augmented it by buying a part of the Charlemont half. The Maam hotel, from which he famously excluded the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Carlisle, in 1863, was located on the estate. Colonel and Mrs Henry Theophilus Clements, who inherited it in 1878, made a tour of inspection in 1880, of which Mrs Clements has left a memorable journal which is present in C/2. Two years later, and less happily, the estate was the scene of the famous Maumtrasna murders. It was sold to the Congested Districts Board in 1916.<br>The material is arranged as follows: |

- C/1 1777–85: Two large account books for the Rosshill estate, as  
1832–40 follows:  
1777–85 Rent account book kept for William Bermingham [possibly by William Hamilton?]. Some pages are missing at the beginning of the volume. It lists 112 tenants, and there are 2 pages for each of these tenants and other additional pages. There is an account of stock numbers and of the sales of stock, 1777–9, at the back of the book on pp.140–5.
- 1833–40 Rent account book with pages numbered 522–776. A few are missing from the beginning of the book. This account book was kept by James Fair, and some pages are entitled ‘The Right Hons. Earls of Leitrim and Charlemont in account current with James Fair’. James Fair signed the accounts until December 1837 in a rather scrawly hand, [and about that time was succeeded as agent by his son and namesake, James Fair Junior?]. The book gives details of rent, expenses, etc.
- C/2 1752: The remainder of the papers, as already described.  
[c.1775]  
1803–16: 1829:  
1847–50: 1853:  
1857: 1862–84:  
1901–03
- 7 Aug. 1752 Parchment fine in the King’s Court of Ireland, George II to the sheriff of Galway, regarding Peter Bermingham of Killgivreor, Co. Galway, who owed William Steel and Ann Steel ‘otherwise Bermingham, otherwise Chambers, his wife’, £153.16s.11d.
- [c.1775] Plan and elevation of a [new?] house [at Rosshill] ‘For William Bermingham Esq. ... by Thomas Johnston’.
- 1803 Mrs Bermingham’s account current for the half year rent May 1803 with James Fair (4 pp.).
- 1804 Account current for the half year’s rent of Rosshill estate for May 1804. This includes references to James Fair’s salary for receiving the rent, £17.1s.3d. The total half year’s rental was £1,114.10s. The house and demesne were unlet. The latter contained 133 acres. (2 pp.).
- 1808 Printed copy of an *Act for vesting the real, freehold and chattel estates and lands of William Bermingham late of Rosshill in trustees.*
- [1810s?] Lists of costs: Nathaniel, 2nd Earl of Leitrim to Richard Liversay, gent. and attorney, in the matters of ‘William Bermingham to William Irwin’ and ‘Baron Sherborne to Earls of Leitrim and Charlemont’, involving a Miss McNamara. They include a reference to the renewal of a lease of Rosshill and other lands from Lord Sherborne.
- 1811 Accounts for May rent 1811, including a reference to James Fair’s salary for receiving the May rent, £22.15s. (2 pp.).

- C/2 1812 Accounts for May rent 1812 (4 pp.).
- contd.* 1816 Accounts for rent signed by James Fair, 19 January 1816, and showing that one year's rent was £3,089.1s.1d. (4 pp.).
- 1829 Bill of costs from Mills & Echlin, 12 Gloucester Street, Dublin, relating to a case in Chancery, Easter term 1829, Thomas Ormsby Esq., Earl of Leitrim and others plaintiffs, William Ruttledge and others, defendants. [See also the will, codicil and probate, 1825–31, of Mary, Mrs William Bermingham, *née* Ruttledge, in G/2.]
- Dec. 1847–  
Mar. 1850  
1847–50 Copy correspondence about the failure of the Rosshill agent (in succession to James Fair Junior), Alexander C. Lambert, to obtain proper supervision for the way in which Lord Leitrim's £3,000 Land Improvement loan was expended on the estate.
- 29 Dec. 1847 Lambert, Cranmore, to Lord Leitrim.  
He can provide temporary accommodation if there are delays in the receipt of grants from the Board of Works. 'As to the superintendence, ... to get trustworthy overseers in this country is most difficult. On the other hand, importing strangers at (at least) double cost might be worse. There is a competent overseer in view who lives at Castlebar ...'. With two assistants, 'he would be sufficient under a competent superintendent. The 10 per cent allowed by [the] Board of Works would about cover this and no more. As to a superintendent, I know of no one suited in this country but Mr [Thomas] Elwood. He is carrying on Lord Oranmore's most satisfactorily. His terms: 2 per cent on the expenditure. ... In this country everything depends on the lower class and labourers having one over them whom they know scheming won't go down with. That is their besetting sin ... . In their respects they are better-minded than any other peasantry in the west or south. Of course, myself will keep a sharp look-out on all that's doing ... . [John Faris has drawn attention to this pledge in a marginal note.] The £3,000 [is] to cover two years' expenditure.' The land is too flooded for work to start immediately.
- 10 Feb. 1849: Anthony Kyne [head bailiff? on Lord Leitrim's estate], Rusheen, to A.C. Lambert defending himself against accusations made by James Fair in a letter to Lord Leitrim. 'I believe that you are well aware what character he [James Fair] is. ... [He] does not speak to me since I made him hand out the money at Clonbur that he held from the poor for six months. You were chairman that day yourself and dismissed him for the fraud he had committed. ... The fact is, James Fair, A. Hamilton, Canny, etc, wants [*sic*] to upset everything here in order that they might go on with their former way of robbery, and until they are removed [from what?], things cannot get on well.' He refers to Lady Elizabeth Clements' recent visit.
- 24 May 1849 Patrick Grace, overseer of works, Ardaun, Cong, to A.C. Lambert, annotated by Faris as showing 'that Lambert did purpose the

*C/2 contd.*

inspection of the works, although he now denies it.’

‘... You will see from the plans I forward that it took no little time to prepare them and lay down the works correctly.

The outlets for the principal channels are the Lakes Mask and Corrib, and from those, secondary drains launch off where required through the several valleys which were to be unwatered. Much has been done also throughout this property in the way of fencing, clearing and rendering for the future the land so operated on available for the purposes of tillage, and which heretofore could only partially be so used in patches here and there.’

He refers to the frequency of sheep-stealing in mountain districts like the Derries. This was much less prevalent last winter.

‘Works have some time since been opened in Boocaun, Shanadullaun, Tonlegee, Finny and Dooletter and are progressing favourably. About 300 men are on [them] and earn from 8d. to 10d. per day. The spring work is drawing to a close and we may expect a great pressure for employment after [the] 1st of next month. The people have a large space of potato tillage, etc, and in many places where the land has been thorough drained, I have seen most luxuriant crops growing or the land is in a forward state for turnip culture.

Generally, there has been little or no work done by day labour. I avoid it whenever I can and agree with the men by the perch or task, according to circumstance.

Over 8,000 perches of main drains have been made and 1,600 wall fence[s], [and] minor drains innumerable.

In conclusion, I beg respectfully to direct your attention to the circumstance that, all this time, I had to visit a certain district of this widely spread property every day to measure, lot and price the works, fill pay sheets, and ... check and accommodate the several works with the Board’s specification and estimate.’

7 Mar. 1850 Lambert, Castlebar Assizes, to Lord Leitrim.

Faris notes in the margin that a paragraph in this letter shows that Lambert has left everything to Elwood and Grace.

20 Mar. 1850 Lambert, Cong Abbey, to Lord Leitrim.

Faris makes the same observation about a paragraph in this letter. Lambert reports that a certificate has been received from ‘the Board as the works having been properly executed’.

On another matter: he advises that there is ‘no use in opposing his [James Fair’s] coming out as an insolvent. It would be but throwing away money.’

1853 Book box embossed and entitled ‘Earls of Leitrim and Charlemont’ containing 9 OS maps of 1852 which show the townlands belonging to the Rosshill estate. The date ‘1853’ is written in manuscript in the corner of the maps.

The ‘Rosshill’ map shows only one house at Rosshill which is called ‘Rosshill Lodge’, but is a sizeable house. Fairhill [James Fair,

*C/2 contd.*

- 1857 the former agent's, house] is nearby, as is Petersborough.  
Volume entitled 'Valuation of the estate of the Rt Hon. the Earls of Leitrim and Charlemont situated in [the] counties of Galway and Mayo, 1857'. This gives townland and occupier names, acreage and valuation, and includes an observations column. It covers 42 townlands and various islands. There is a valuation of timber on the estate at the back of the volume which gives the townland name, type and number of trees and valuation (124 pp.).
- 15 Feb. 1862 Articles of agreement, the Earl of Leitrim with Peter Malley and Michael King, relating to Killnemilkon [*sic* – Kilmilkin] Chapel, parish of Ross, Co. Galway. They are to hold it as yearly tenants at a rent of 10s. p.a. The chapel is to be used for public worship, but burials are not to take place in it or in its appurtenances.
- 1865 Sale rental of the estate of the assignees of James Knox Gildea on the petition of Anthony Knox Gildea, relating to the townlands of Drishane, Bohaun, Mountrasna [*sic*], Glenbeg East and West, Port Royal estate, Coolought, Ballintaffy, Cuilmore and Caher in the counties of Galway and Mayo. Mountrasna contains 1,643 statute acres at a nett rental of £38 p.a. and is let in rundale. The Glenbegs contain 757 at a nett rental of £36. Both are owned in fee simple.
- 8 June 1865 Landed Estates Court conveyance of Maumtrasna and Glenbeg East and West, part of the estate of the assignees of James Knox Gildea, to the Earl of Leitrim for £2,620, subject to the right of the tenants of Maumtrasna and Glenbeg East to cut turf, for their own use only, on the 1,373 acres of common or mountain of Maumtrasna for the duration of their tenancies.
- 1880 Correspondence (4 letters) between Colonel H.T. Clements and the Rev. Walter Conway, PP, Clonbur.
- 1880[–1882] Gertrude , Mrs H.T. Clements's, journal, begun 12 May 1880 in which she recounts her visits to Maam, Rosshill and Ashford. A description of the individual circumstances of some tenants is given in the back of the volume, which includes some pen and ink sketches. [For a partial transcription, see below.]
- 23 Aug. 1882 Letter from Thomas Churchill, bailiff on the Rosshill estate, to Colonel H.T. Clements relating to the murder of John Joyce and his family [the Maumtrasna murders].
- 2 Nov. 1883 Lease of the national school, Finny, Co. Galway.
- 30 May 1884 Counterpart lease of Kilmilkin School.
- 14 Mar. 1895 Counterpart lease of Caragarew [*sic* – Carrowgarriff] School, Co. Galway.
- 1899–1903 Costs (3 items) between the representatives of Colonel H.T. Clements and St George C.W. Robinson, solicitor, relating to fair-rent hearings.  
[This list of the contents of C/1–2 has been kindly contributed by Mrs Brigid Clesham.]  
The following are some extracts from Mrs Clements' journal:

*C/2 contd.*

May 14th  
[1880]

'... The [Maam] Hotel is remarkably small, consisting of one sitting-room with a bow window and two bedrooms opening into it, and one other bedroom the Mellett family give up when it [is] necessary. We were quite unexpected, as Henry did not wish for a great demonstration, but poor Mrs Mellett was very much put out at having no notice, as she had so little in the house ... .

... The poor people are gradually finding out [about] our arrival. We walked this morning and saw the post office and courthouse – rather a good stone building. ... Old Armstrong, the bailiff, came out and walked with us, but as he is continually guarded by two stalwart policemen, I found taking a walk as if one was a felon was decidedly unpleasant, so I fell out and escaped into a field to sketch. After luncheon we went out driving on a car under Mr Mellett's driving. The tenants had made an arch of ivy with little white and red flags, and were gathered round it waving branches of green, and set up a great shout as we came up, very much to the discomfiture of the little mare whose evident objections to it cut short the cheering. After a great deal of hand-shaking, smiling and waving and getting down off the car to admire, we drove on to the Days [the Church of Ireland clergyman and his wife] at Castlekerke. ...

May 15th.

... Spent the entire morning bargaining with women about flannel and buying socks. ... Peter Conroy ... and a great many others, young and old, ... only spoke Irish, and [I] required Mrs Mellett as an interpreter. It is difficult to describe how picturesque the women's dress is in Galway. They wear petticoats of every shade of crimson, pink, madder, brown and white. This is often tucked up and fastened back, showing another petticoat of a different colour. A white petticoat or a grey shawl is thrown over the head, and the little girls often wear clean, lilac cotton jackets and white pinafores. Hats and bonnets are never thought of. The men have capital suits of homespun tweed and frieze, and all are much more comfortably clothed than the people in the north of Ireland, who buy second-hand clothes in [?slob] shops, and dress their wives and daughters in imitation finery.

After luncheon we were to drive out in the opposite direction from yesterday and started about 2 o'clock. We stopped by the roadside and walked up what was like the dry bed of a torrent to see the Cassidys, who are excessively poor. The cabin in which they lived had no window. One half was devoted to a cow and calf, who slept warm and comfortable on grass cut for them. The other half belonged to the family ... . The place where they slept was a recess in the wall, and on the coals a cake of "relief" oatmeal was boiling. We then went on and stopped at the Peter O'Malleys, where several people were assembled, probably to meet us. Old O'Malley came out, an old man who had lived for years on this estate, and it originally had belonged to the O'Malleys whose family have never

*C/2 contd.*

died out. He owns a very large farm and has a comfortable house. One of the sons talked to me outside and made all sorts of excuses for the foolish row the poor people made last winter, which he declared all arose from "misapprehension" and that they were very much ashamed of it all afterwards, and that they had been told Henry was going to turn all the hillside out of their cabins in the middle of the winter, instead of simply asking them to pay their rent when convenient!

After many amenities we went on to Kilmilkin Chapel and stopped to call on Michael King, who is a rich farmer. He is a very handsome, tall man, with a pleasant, gentle manner. ... We then drove on to a bridge at the end of the estate, two miles from Leenane. ... On the way back we met Peter King, Michael King's brother, also a very rich farmer and making some thousands ... . It is remarkable in this poor country, where the houses are so small and inconvenient and so many of the people have not enough to eat, and where the grazing is on such shallow, rocky soil, that the people – with very few exceptions – should be so much better clothed than in other parts of Ireland where they are better off. ... On our return from Kilmilkin, as we approached the hotel, we beheld a crowd and two youths bearing between them a sort of banner of scarlet with white letters adorned with green leaves and "caed mile failte". This was carried in front of us as Mellett walked the horse for several hundred yards and the crowd followed. It was finally planted against the bridge opposite the windows of the little hotel, for us to contemplate. All the evening men hang about the bridge and women sit under the wall knitting. Our appearance at the door is always a signal for one or another to come up with a letter, and the number we have been given altogether is past counting, all either begging for help or for some alteration in their farms and land, which from the changes of time are perfectly impossible to make.

May 16.  
Whit Sunday.

We started for church on the car at a quarter before eleven with Mr Robinson [George J. Robinson of Letterdyffe House, Roundstone, Co. Galway, the agent], driven by Mellett. All along the road were gathered little knots of people waving their hats and shaking hands as we passed. We had three green arches to pass under, one near the hotel, one at the Glanlusk crossroads and one halfway, and another banner, pink this time, with the usual welcome in white letters. The little girls ran after the car with tasteful bouquets of mayflowers, primroses and wild violets, till I had an armful. The great regret was not having known we were coming and a grand welcome not having been provided, but the spontaneous gathering, smiling faces, hearty hand-shakings and kindly expressions of simple welcome from the poor were much more valuable than a set affair would have been. ...