

**Leabharlann Naisiúnta na hÉireann  
National Library of Ireland**

**Collection List No. 111**

**Bandon (Allman's) Distillery Papers**

**(MSS 36,627-36,637)**

(Accession No. 5620)

Papers relating to the Allman family and Bandon Distillery,  
Co Cork, c1808-1940.

*Compiled by Victoria Perry and Nigel Johnston, 2002*

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## Introduction

The distillery at Bandon, Co Cork was established by the Allman family in 1826 after the failure of their cotton manufacturing business at Overton, near Bandon. The business continued for more than 100 years until its closure in the 1930s.

The collection contains 15 folders of papers relating to the distillery and associated brewery dating from the early nineteenth century to the closure of the business. The collection includes correspondence, financial papers, publicity and newspaper material and material relating to staff employed in the distillery. Some of the personal correspondence dates from the period before the distillery was established. There is also some material relating to the closure of the distillery.

The papers were donated by Mr Brendan O Donoghue in 2001 (Accession 5620). Mr O Donoghue's grandfather (Con, 1872-1940) and great grandfather (James, 1845-1915) were successively employed as the general foremen of the distillery. Con O Donoghue was retained by the liquidators of the distillery until 1940 to look after the premises and oversee the disposal of both the plant and remaining stock.

The collection is in good condition, although some of the accounts are fragmented and various documents need to have sellotape removed. Several documents in the collection have been transcribed by Liam O Donnchadha, Mr O Donoghue's father. They are sorted by class of document and arranged in chronological order.

For an account of the genealogy of the Allman and related families, and information about their cotton and distilling enterprises, see *Bear and Forbear*, by Sydney and Mildred Prentice, published privately in Australia in 1984. Allmans Distillery is also referred to in:

*The Whisky Distilleries of the United Kingdom*, Alfred Barnard, London 1887, p415 (reprinted and reissued by David & Charles, 1969)

*1000 Years of Irish Whiskey*, Malachy Magee, Dublin, 1980

*Irish Whiskey*, E. B. McGuire, Dublin, 1973

*A History of Bandon*, Paddy Connolly, 1998

*History of Bandon*, Denis J. O'Donoghue, 1970

*Bandon: Irish Historic Towns Atlas No 3*, Patrick O'Flanagan, RIA 1983

Papers in the *Bandon Historical Journal*, including Liam O Donnchadha's 'Overton Cotton Mills', (No 2, 1985) may also be of interest to anyone researching the Allman family and their enterprises. Publications by Walter McGrath provide information on the separate railway line or 'tramway' which was built by the distillery company to link their premises, using their own steam locomotives, to the main line of the Cork, Bandon & South Coast Railway Company in the 1880s; see, for example, *Some Industrial Railways of Ireland*, 1959.

## I. Correspondence

- MS 36,627 /1 (1-2)** Letter from Lieutenant John Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight to James Allman, Bandon, Co Cork, mainly relating to family news and his travels with the British Army. Also copy transcribed by Liam O Donnchadha.  
30 November 1808, 2 items. [Original torn in several places].
- MS 36,627 /1 (3-4)** Letter from Thomas Clugstone to James C. Allman, Bandon, Co Cork, mainly relating to a debt owed by Clugston to George Wheeler. Also copy transcribed by Liam O Donnchadha.  
5 December 1810, 2 items.
- MS 36,627 /1 (5)** Letter from Thomas Clugstone to James C. Allman, Bandon, Co Cork, referring to his previous letter of 5 December 1810.  
11 January 1811. [Corner torn off].
- MS 36,627 /1 (6)** Letter from Thomas Clugston, London to James C. Allman, relating to a debt owed by Clugston to George Wheeler, which Clugston disputes.  
16 February 1811.
- MS 36,627 /1 (7-9)** Letter from Thomas Clugston to James C. Allman, Bandon, Co Cork, relating to the sale of Clugston's household effects in order to pay his debt to George Wheeler. Also copy by Thomas Clugston, forwarded to Allman 30 July 1812.  
Also copy transcribed by Liam O Donnchadha.  
21 September 1811, 3 items.
- MS 36,627 /1 (10)** Letter from Mary Lane, Dublin to James C. Allman, Bandon, Co Cork (her uncle), containing family and personal news.  
14 November 1821.
- MS 36,627 /1 (11-2)** Letter from Richard Dowden Richard, Cork to James Allman, Bandon, Co Cork, concerning Richard's relationship with Miss Mary Clear. Also copy transcribed by Liam O Donnchadha.  
14 July 1823, 2 items.
- MS 36,627 /1 (13)** Letter from G. S. Kingston to William A. Kingston relating to G. S. Kingston's marriage to a Miss MacDonagh, of which William A. Kingston does not approve.  
14 November 1829.
- MS 36,627 /1 (14)** Letter from James Lane to Richard L. Allman relating to Lane's business.  
2 April 1838.

- MS 36,627 /1 (15)** Letter from James Lane, Cork to Richard L. Allman, Bandon, Co Cork, relating to people involved in the business of Bandon Distillery.  
27 April 1838.
- MS 36,627 /1 (16)** Letter from James Lane, Cork to Richard L. Allman, Bandon, Co Cork, relating to a fire at Bandon Distillery.  
18 January 1839.  
[Illegible at the bottom].
- MS 36,627 /1 (17-8)** Parts of two letters from J. [L.] Forrest, Cork to Richard [Allman] relating to business and personal affairs.  
14 May 1842 (1 undated).  
[Conservation: letters cut up].
- MS 36,627 /1 (19)** Letter from James Lane, Cork to Richard Allman relating to business affairs. Marked 'private'.  
5 February 1846.
- MS 36,627 /1 (20)** Letter from James Lane, Cork to Richard Allman relating to a valuation of the distillery at Brandon.  
2 April 1846.
- MS 36,627 /1 (21)** Letter from J[ames?] Murphy to an unidentified correspondent (probably Richard Allman), relating to the value of the distillery.  
9 October 1846.
- MS 36,627 /1 (22)** Postcard from J. Buchannen to Messrs Allman and Co relating to an order.  
1874.
- MS 36,627 /1 (23)** Letter from Thomas Clugston to his nephew James [?], relating to family news.  
Undated.  
[Very faded down one side].
- MS 36,627 /1 (24)** Blank letters, informing the recipient of the death of Richard Lane Allman.  
30 December 1904, 2 items.
- MS 36,627 /2 (1)** Photocopy of letter from Allman and Co, Distillers to James O Donoghue regarding distillery business, including the employment of new staff.  
5 June 1891.
- MS 36,627 /2 (2)** Letter from J. McDaniel to James O Donoghue, relating to distillery business and finances.  
6 April 1901.

**MS 36,627 /2 (3)** Letter from J. McDaniel to Con O Donoghue, relating to the death of James O Donoghue, Con's father.  
22 November 1915.

## **II. Legal agreements and notes**

**MS 36,628 (1)** Bond for one thousand pounds from William Allman, Bandon, Co Cork to John Calvert, Cork, merchant and George Allman, Bandon, Co Cork, trustees of the marriage settlement of William Allman and Elizabeth Fennell.  
3 October 1810.

**MS 36,628 (2-3)** Bond for two thousand pounds from William Allman, Bandon, Co Cork to William Clear, Cork, merchant, making provision for Elizabeth and Maria Allman, daughters of William Allman, upon his death. Also photocopy.  
18 December 1810, 2 items.

**MS 36,628 (4-5)** Articles of agreement between William Allman and William Clear relating to provisions made for Elizabeth and Maria Allman, daughters of William Allman and his first wife, Ann (née Popham), after his decease. William Clear is acting as a trustee on behalf of Elizabeth and Maria Allman. Also photocopy of the same document.  
18 December 1810, 2 items.

**MS 36,628 (6-7)** Copy of deed of trust between William Allman (the elder) of Bandon, Co Cork, merchant, Francis Allman of Overton, Co Cork, merchant and James Clugston Allman of Bandon, Co Cork, merchant, allowing Francis and James Clugston Allman to raise money out of the property of William Allman. Also copy transcribed by Liam O Donnchadha.  
28 September 1820, 2 items.

**MS 36,628 (8)** Power of attorney from Richard Lane, Abraham Lane and James Lane (executors of Richard Lane, deceased) to James Clugstone Allman to receive the rents of lands let to John Lee (in a case involving John Sweeney).  
11 January 1821.

**MS 36,628 (9-10)** Copy draft of articles of agreement between James Clugston Allman, William Clear, Richard Lane, Maurice Fitzgerald and Daniel Lane and Co, relating to money owed by James Clugston Allman to the others on account of his business at the distillery. They have covenanted not to demand payment of the debts for three years. Also photocopy of same.  
August 1832, 2 items.

- MS 36,628 (11-13)** Notes made by an unidentified hand, relating to leases and mortgages on Bandon Distillery. Reverse is a blank form, 'Distillers Notice to Warehouse'. Also photocopy and transcribed copy by Liam O Donnchadha.  
Undated, 3 items.

### **III. Accounts**

- MS 36,629 /1 (1)** James Clugston Allman's account with William Dowden and Co.  
April-December 1825.
- MS 36,629 /1 (2)** Distillery accounts, 'for corn'.  
1828.  
[Conservation: torn along folds].
- MS 36,629 /1 (3)** Distillery accounts, 'for spirits'.  
1829, 3 sheets.  
[Conservation: torn along folds].
- MS 36,629 /1 (4)** Wages account of Brandon Distillery for the week ending 25 August 1883.  
1883.
- MS 36,629 /1 (5)** List of men employed at the distillery detailing days worked.  
1884.
- MS 36,629 /1 (6)** Workmen's accounts, giving details of days and nature of work done by employees of the distillery.  
16 June - 6 July 1888.
- MS 36,629 /2 (1)** Bound account book of Bandon Distillery  
1827-9.
- MS 36,629 /2 (2)** Receipt from Bandon Distillery to James O Donoghue for twenty-five pounds.  
1913.
- MS 36,629 /2 (3)** Rental account with list of names and money received.  
1914.

### **IV. Blank account and receipt books**

- MS 36,630 /1 (1)** Blank purchase ticket book for oats purchased by Allman and Co.  
Undated.
- MS 36,630 /1 (2)** Blank remittance book of an agent of Allman and Co.  
Undated.

**MS 36,630 /2 (1)** Blank record book of empty casks delivered to Cork, Bandon and South Coast Railway Co by Cork from City of Cork Steam Packet Co for Allman and Co, Bandon.  
Undated.

**MS 36,630 /2 (2)** Blank record book of empty casks to be collected by Messrs Wallis and Sons, carriers, Cork from City of Cork Steam Packet Co Ltd.  
Undated.

#### **V. Papers relating to staff**

**MS 36,631 (1)** Photocopy of a letter of reference, relating to the employment of Justin McCarthy at Bandon Distillery.  
10 January 1905.

**MS 36,631 (2)** Conditions of employment for workers in the Malt House at Bandon Distillery, signed by several members of staff.  
1911/2.

#### **VI. Closure of the Distillery**

**MS 36,632 /1 (1)** Circular from J. Harold Pim, manager of Bandon Distillery, denying that the distillery was to stop making whiskey that season.  
1910-1.

**MS 36,632 /1 (2)** Copy of part of a typescript letter from a representative of Bandon Distillery to the Department of Industry and Commerce, Dublin, relating to the closure of the distillery and the realization of its assets. Incorporating details of the premises, including size, situation and motive power. Annotated at a later date with notes concerning discussion of the distillery in the Dáil.  
c.1929, 2 sheets.

**MS 36,632 /1 (3)** Photocopy of Dáil Debates, vol XXIX, 25 April 1929, with questions relating to the disposal of the distillery.  
1929.

**MS 36,632 /1 (4)** Notes relating to the disposal of the assets of the distillery and their value, in the handwriting of Con O Donoghue. Written on the back of blank 'Empty Cask Advice' forms.  
1838, 6 sheets.

**MS 36,632 /1 (5-8)** Typescript copies of an advertisement that appeared in the *Wine Trade Review* and *Harper's Gazette*, relating to the sale of stock resulting from the closure of the distillery.  
Undated, 4 copies.



- MS 36,632 /1 (9)** Notes relating to the closure of Bandon Distillery, giving details of the last distillation, the sale of stock and the final closure of the warehouse.  
Undated.
- MS 36,632 /1 (10)** Poster advertising the liquidation sale of the machinery, utensils, equipment and office furniture of Bandon Distillery, on 15 and 16 August 1939.
- MS 36,632 /2 (1)** Letter from Charles E. L. Olden, liquidator to Mr Con O Donoghue, relating to grazing rights and the collection of rent from lands owned by Allman and Co Ltd.  
9 January 1940.
- MS 36,632 /2 (2)** Letter from Charles E. L. Olden, liquidator to Mr Con O Donoghue, relating to compensation for the loss of his employment and requesting that he continue to collect rents and oversee the premises until disposed of.  
20 February 1940.
- MS 36,632 /2 (3)** Letter from Charles E. L. Olden, liquidator to Mr Con O Donoghue, thanking him for his services to the distillery.  
26 February 1940.
- MS 36, 632 /3 (1)** Volume, *Smith's New General Atlas*, London, 1826, with autograph signature 'Con Donoghue'.  
[Conservation: pages loose].

## **VII. Printed forms**

- MS 36,633 (1-3)** Blank envelopes, with Allman and Co Distillery, Bandon as return address.  
Undated, 3 items.
- MS 36,633 (4-5)** Bandon Distillery blank receipts.  
19<sup>th</sup> century, 2 items.
- MS 36,633 (6)** Typescript letter, providing notification that Bandon Distillery representative, Mr Charles Davie, intends to make visit.  
20<sup>th</sup> century.
- MS 36,633 (7-16)** Blank order forms for Bandon Distillery.  
20<sup>th</sup> century, 10 items.
- MS 36,633 (17)** Blank shipping form for Bandon Distillery.  
20<sup>th</sup> century.

- MS 36,633 (18-19)** Bandon Distillery headed notepaper, with miscellaneous archaeological notes on reverse.  
Undated, 2 items.
- MS 36,633 (20-21)** Blank Bandon Distillery delivery forms with lists of members of Bandon District Council on reverse.  
1911, 2 items.
- MS 36,633 (22-32)** Blank invoices for Bandon Distillery.  
20<sup>th</sup> century, 11 items.

### **VIII. Publicity material**

- MS 36,634 (1-2)** Pamphlet '*Irish Whiskey as Distilled by Allman and Co, Distillers, Bandon.*' Printed by Emmott and Co, New Bridge Street, Manchester, 1887.  
1887, 2 copies.
- MS 36,634 (3)** Picture postcard showing the month of January 1907 from Allman and Co.  
1907.
- MS 36,634 (4)** Pamphlet '*A Famous Irish Whisky from Bandon Town*', detailing the history of Bandon Distillery.  
Undated.  
[Conservation: pages loose].
- MS 36,634 (5)** Pamphlet '*Bandon Distillery, Bandon, Co. Cork*', detailing the history of Bandon Distillery.  
Undated.  
[Conservation: pages loose].
- MS 36,634 (6-9)** Envelope containing unused whiskey bottle labels.  
Undated, 4 items.
- MS 36,634 (10-1)** Photocopies of posters advertising Bandon Distillery.  
Undated, 2 items.
- P & D no:?** Large poster advertising 'Allman & Co Old Irish Whisky Bandon Distillery Cork'.  
Removed to Prints & Drawings/Ephemera.  
Undated.  
[Conservation: poor condition].
- P & D no:?** Large poster advertising 'Allman's Pure Pot Still Irish Whisky'.<sup>□</sup>  
Removed to Prints & Drawings/Ephemera.  
Undated, 2 copies.  
[Conservation: one copy in two pieces].

□ Both spellings, 'whisky' and 'whiskey' are found in pamphlets related to the distillery.

### **IX. Newspaper and journal cuttings**

- MS 36,635 (1)** Article referring to a petty sessions case relating to the analysis of bottles of whiskey. Case involves Mr Keeffe, Mr Downes and Sir Charles Cameron.  
Undated.  
[Torn in half].
- MS 36,635 (2)** Article relating to 'Bandon Distillery and Brewery annual excursion to Skibbereen'.  
Undated.  
[Conservation: glued together].
- MS 36,635 (3)** Newspaper cutting of a picture of Bandon Distillery.  
Undated.
- MS 36,635 (4)** Printed copy of article in the *Railway Supplies Journal*, 20 August 1887, relating to Allman and Co's Irish whiskey.  
Undated.  
[Conservation: sellotape].
- MS 36,635 (5-9)** First four pages of the *Whiskey Trade Review*, 1 October 1890, containing an article relating to 'Allman's Pot Still Whiskey'. Also photocopy of the article.  
1890, 5 sheets.  
[Conservation: sellotape].
- MS 36,635 (10)** Photocopy of obituary in the *Irish Naturalist*, vol 18, p104, of George James Allman.  
1 April 1899.
- MS 36,635 (11)** Cover page from the *Cork Sun*, 31 December 1904, containing local news from Bandon, the obituary of Mr Richard Lane Allman and an advertisement for Allman, Dowden and Co. 1904.

### **X. Company circulars and staff notices**

- MS 36,636 (1-2)** Program for the Allman and Co, Distillers and Allman, Dowden and Co, Brewers annual excursion to Cork. Also a photocopy.  
Undated, 2 items.  
[Conservation: sellotape].
- MS 36,636 (3)** Photocopy of general rules of Bandon Distillery.  
[Text missing from centre].

**P & D no:?** Notice displaying general rules of Bandon Distillery. Also damaged copy.  
Undated, 2 items.  
Removed to Prints & Drawings/Ephemera.  
[Conservation: text torn from the centre].

**P & D no:?** Notice advertising 'Fresh Grains at Bandon Distillery'.  
November 1921.  
Removed to Prints & Drawings/Ephemera.

## **XI. Photographs**

The original photographs have been removed to the National Photographic Archive, Temple Bar, but photocopies are available here for reference. The NPA reference numbers are:\*

**MS 36,637 (1)** Photocopy of mounted photograph of men moving barrels using a ramp at the distillery. James O Donoghue identified.  
Early twentieth century.

**MS 36,637 (2)** Photocopy of mounted photograph of directors and senior staff of the distillery, on the retirement of James O Donoghue and his replacement by his son, Con. All employees identified.  
1912.

\* The Curator (NPA) is on leave until about 24 September, so reference numbers will not be allocated at least until then.