

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

**Collection List No. 120**

**PAPERS OF THE FAMILY OF SMYTHE OF  
BARBAVILLA**

**(MSS 41,563–41,603)**

(Accession No. PC 434-450)

The family and estate papers of the Smythe family of Barbavilla, Collinstown, Co. Westmeath 1621 - 1930. The papers relate to members of the Smythe family and the estates in Westmeath, Louth, Meath, Cavan, Roscommon, Limerick, Dublin city and Drogheda.

*Compiled by A.P.W. Malcomson 2006*

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## CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

MS 41,563	Title deeds: Co. Westmeath
MS 41,564	Title deeds: Dublin city and county
MS 41,565	Title deeds: Cos. Roscommon and Tyrone
MS 41,566	Title deeds: Cos. Louth and Meath, and Drogheda
MS 41,567	Deeds and case papers: Meade Ogle estate (Cos. Louth and Meath, and Drogheda)
MS 41,568	Marriage settlements
MS 41,569	Wills and testamentary papers
MS 41,570	Leases: Co. Westmeath
MS 41,571	Leases: elsewhere than Westmeath
MS 41,572	Rentals, accounts, etc
MS 41,573	Formal documents and Westmeath local government
MS 41,574	Maps and architectural papers
MS 41,575	Papers and correspondence of Bishop William Smyth
MS 41,576	Papers and correspondence of Robert Nelson
MS 41,577–9	Letters to Mrs Jane Bonnell from the Conynghams
MS 41,580	Letters to Mrs Bonnell from other correspondents
MS 41,581	Papers and correspondence about the Ingoldsbys
MS 41,582–3	Correspondence of William Smyth of Barbavilla with other Smyths
MS 41,584–8	Correspondence of William Smyth with his other major correspondents
MS 41,589	Correspondence of William Smyth, alphabetically arranged
MS 41,590	Correspondence of William Smyth, chronologically arranged
MS 41,591–4	Correspondence of Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla with other Smyths
MS 41,595–7	Correspondence of Ralph Smyth with his other major correspondents
MS 41,598	Correspondence of Ralph Smyth with others, alphabetically arranged
MS 41,599	Miscellaneous correspondence of Ralph Smyth, chronologically arranged
MS 41,600–02	Correspondence of the later Smyths/Smythes
MS 41,603	Recipés and miscellaneous

## INTRODUCTION

The papers of the Smythe family of Barbavilla, Collinstown, Co. Westmeath, are a large family and estate archive, 1621–c.1930, deriving from the Smyth/Smythe (the extra ‘e’ was added c.1810) and related families and to estates in Cos. Westmeath, Louth, Meath, Cavan, Roscommon, Limerick, etc, and to the city of Dublin and the town of Drogheda. The archive was deposited in NLI by the late Henry Ingoldsby Lyster Smythe in 1955. TCD also holds a much smaller deposit of Smythe Papers, made in 2003 by his late niece, Mrs Valerie Bunn of Upper Basildon, Reading. It bears reference TCD MS 11,198, and has been listed in detail and indexed.

The single best source of information about Smythe family history is Stephen R. Penny, *Smythe of Barbavilla: the History of an Anglo-Irish Family compiled by various Members of the Family* (privately printed, 1974). Only 200 copies were printed, so this book is now extremely rare. I am grateful to Mr R.C. Guinness of Lodge Park, Straffan, Co. Kildare, whose father was a first cousin of H.I.L Smythe, for access to the Lodge Park copy of it. Another useful source is Elizabeth Batt, *The Moncks and Charleville House* (Dublin, 1979). William Barlow Smythe of Barbavilla (1809–86) married Lady Emily Monck, daughter of the Earl of Rathdowne of Charleville House, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, in 1837 and became a widower later in the same year, when she died in childbirth. *The Moncks and Charleville House* gives a good idea of the extreme evangelicism of life at Charleville and Barbavilla for much of the 19th century.

The Smyth family came to Ireland c.1630 and settled in Cos. Down and Antrim. The founder of the Barbavilla line (and others) was the Rt Rev. William Smyth (1638–99), who was successively dean of Dromore, bishop of Killala (1681–2), bishop of Raphoe (1682–93) and bishop of Kilmore (1693–9). His episcopal papers are a major source for the study of the Restoration Church of Ireland, and particularly revealing on the subject of his battles with the Presbyterians of Co. Cavan in the 1690s. His papers as bishop of Kilmore also include material about the administration of the see estate back to 1621.

Bishop William Smyth married in 1672 Mary, daughter of Sir John Povey, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in Ireland, by whom he had three sons and four daughters. In 1670, the Bishop, who purchased land in a variety of locations, bought the Ranaghan (later Barbavilla) estate at Collinstown and near Lough Lene, Co. Westmeath, which he subsequently gave to his third son, William Smyth, the founder of the Barbavilla line. The extremely complicated network of ‘cousins’ which dominates William Smyth of Barbavilla’s correspondence derives, obviously, from the different branches of the Smyth family, and also from his mother’s family, the Poveys, and the connections formed by his four sisters, the eldest of whom married another Smyth cousin, Edward Smyth, Bishop of Down and Connor, and the others into the Burgh, Clarke and Echlin families.

Of William Smyth’s brothers, the eldest, Ralph Smyth (1676–1755), moved to London c.1707, and for that reason is known in the family as ‘Ralph Smyth of Gray’s Inn’ to distinguish him from the other Ralph Smyths who abound. Like William Smyth, he had been endowed by their father with lands in Co. Westmeath (Parcellstown, Slanemore, etc), which William Smyth managed for him during the long years of his absence. In archival terms, Ralph Smyth of Gray’s Inn is of crucial importance because he was executor to a distant

relation called Jane Bonnell, the widow of James Bonnell, Accountant-General of Ireland, and – much more important – one of the two sisters of the formidable Katherine Conolly, wife/widow of William Conolly of Castletown, Co. Kildare, Speaker of the House of Commons from 1715 to his death in 1729. The three sisters were daughters of General Sir Albert Conyngham, so their correspondence – which came into the Smythe of Barbavilla archive through the already-mentioned executorship – is highly informative about the Conyngham as well as Conolly family. Mrs Bonnell's correspondence runs from c.1700 to her death in 1745.

Included among Mrs Bonnell's papers, as a kind of stray-within-a-stray, are some letters and papers, 1676–1715, of her friend, Robert Nelson (1656–1715), Levant merchant, non-juror and theological writer.

The second Smyth brother, the Rev. James Smyth (1683–1759), went on the Grand Tour c.1710–12, was then beneficed in the diocese of Connor by his cousin and brother-in-law, Bishop Edward Smyth, and then held the archdeaconry of Meath, 1732–59. Archdeacon Smyth's letters to his brother, William, which are intimate, long and detailed, are full of information about the workings of the Church of Ireland and of political and other gossip. Archdeacon Smyth's son, Ralph, and William Smyth's son, Ralph, each inherited half of the Westmeath and other property of their uncle, Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn (one of the besetting difficulties of the Smythe of Barbavilla archive is the number of Ralphs therein). Archdeacon Smyth's son was known as Ralph Smyth of Fieldtown, and was father of yet another Ralph Smyth, this one the founder of the Smyth family of Gaybrook, Co. Westmeath. William Smyth's son, Ralph, succeeded him at Barbavilla in 1769.

William Smyth (1692–1769), the youngest of the three brothers, married in 1713 Barbara, daughter of Sir George Ingoldsby. She long pre-deceased him, dying in 1738. For the first part of their married life they lived at Stoneybatter, in north Dublin. In c.1729 they started to build a house on the Westmeath estate which William Smyth had received from his father, and when the house was finished it was called Barbavilla after Barbara Smyth. In 1734 the Smyths ceased to live at Stoneybatter. Barbara Smyth was an aunt of Henry Ingoldsby of Ballybricken, Co. Limerick, and Carton, Co. Kildare, and because of this connection, William Smyth became one of the guardians of Henry Ingoldsby's two daughters and co-heiresses, Catherine and Frances, when Ingoldsby died young in 1731. The younger daughter, Frances, was the victim of the now famous Ingoldsby abduction in 1743, and because of this and the general significance of the Ingoldsbys in their own right, all the papers in the archive relating to them, which run from 1715 to 1787, have been brought together under the one MS number (41,581).

The rest of William Smyth's correspondence is also of much greater significance than might be expected of a substantial country gentleman who was not even a member of parliament. His wide-ranging 'cousinhood' wrote to him on an equally wide variety of subjects – predictably, about Westmeath estate business, local government and elections (including elections for the borough of Athlone), and less predictably, about architecture and building. One of William Smyth's brothers-in-law was Thomas Burgh of Oldtown, Naas, Co. Kildare (d.1730), Surveyor and Engineer General of Ireland, and William Smyth himself was well versed in the practicalities of architecture and building. So, his correspondence is rich in allusions to the building of Barbavilla and of other houses, schools, palaces and public buildings as well. It is also informative about the building, layout and letting of Dublin townhouses.

William Smyth was succeeded in 1769 by his only son and heir, Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla (1717–90). There is considerable overlap between the correspondence of the two, since William Smyth lived to an advanced age and was in failing health for the last years of his life. In general, however, Ralph Smyth's correspondence is less varied and unpredictable in content than that of his father. He inherited from William Smyth a fairly fruitless lawsuit over the Ingoldsby inheritance, but otherwise his correspondence is mostly about Co. Westmeath and personal affairs. There are also some references to the development of Ralph Smyth's property in Abbey Street, Dublin.

Ralph Smyth married yet another cousin, Frances Clarke, by whom he had two sons and a daughter. The second son, another Ralph (known in the family as Ralph Smyth of Drogheda) entered the army, and is the 'Cornet Smyth' who is frequently mentioned as a source of trial to his father. The elder son, William Smyth of Barbavilla (1761–1812) features little in the archive except as the husband of Catherine Meade Ogle, whom he married in 1783 and who was the eventual heiress of her father, William Meade Ogle of Drogheda (d.1811). Catherine Meade Ogle/Smyth had one sister, Elizabeth (who died unmarried in 1849) and two brothers, Henry and the Rev. William Meade Ogle. Henry Meade Ogle was MP for Drogheda (as his father had been in the last thirty years of the 18th century), 1812–22, and died without issue in 1823. The Rev. William Meade Ogle died, also without issue, a year after his father and namesake, in 1812. Catherine Meade Ogle/Smyth survived both her brothers, dying in 1826, and presumably her children fell heir to her sister, Elizabeth's, share of the Meade Ogle inheritance in 1849. The part of the inheritance which was in land had been brought together by marriage and purchase over the previous century or so. It was concentrated on the adjoining counties of Louth and Meath and the intermediate town of Drogheda. Part of the property came from a Drogheda family called Barlow, whose heiress, Mary Barlow (1731–90), had married William Meade Ogle senior in 1758. Although a considerable quantity of title deeds and leases relating to the Meade Ogle estate forms part of the Smythe of Barbavilla archive, the estate itself passed to a junior branch of the Smythe of Barbavilla family in the 1830s.

William Smyth of Barbavilla was succeeded by his eldest son, Ralph Smythe of Barbavilla (1786–1815). The main achievement of this short-lived head of the family was to marry, in 1808, Eliza, daughter and heiress of Matthew Lyster of New Park, Athlone, Co. Roscommon. There is however very little documentation of the New Park estate in the Smythe of Barbavilla archive. Because Ralph Smythe of Barbavilla died only three years after his father and when his own son was still a boy of six, Ralph Smythe's younger brother, Henry Meade Smythe, ran the Barbavilla estate during the minority, which lasted until 1830.

William Barlow Smythe of Barbavilla (1809–86), the minor, came of age in the latter year. His wife, Lady Emily, died in the year of their marriage, 1837, and their only child, another Emily, in 1842. William Barlow Smythe's correspondence and other papers contain a good deal of information about Westmeath politics and local government and about agrarian unrest, culminating in the murder of his sister-in-law, Maria Smythe, in the Barbavilla demesne in April 1882. The assassination appears to have been connected with the Land League agitation and to have been a pre-emptive strike against an impending eviction of one of William Barlow Smythe's tenants; and Mrs Smythe appears to have been shot in mistake for Smythe himself. However, the fact that the victim was a woman, and on her return from Sunday morning service, gave wide publicity to the outrage. A further reason for the publicity and for the involvement of people in high places in the ensuing murder

investigation, was that her son, William Lyster Smythe, was at this time assistant private secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, Earl Spencer. There are 234 letters about the murder in the Smythe of Barbavilla archive, and further letters and papers on the same subject in TCD MS 11,198/8/41–68.

At his death in 1886, William Barlow Smythe of Barbavilla was succeeded by his younger brother, Henry Matthew Smythe (1819–93), the husband of the murdered Maria Smythe. Effectively, however, the Smythe of Barbavilla archive in NLI ends at 1883, so papers of later date are almost exclusively to be found in TCD, particularly in MS 11,198/10–12.

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Between 1955 and 2006, much work was done on the Smythe of Barbavilla archive in NLI. At the time of its deposit, the late Sir John Ainsworth carried out a good deal of arranging, enveloping and describing of the correspondence, and made NLI Report on Private Collections, no. 377, on the papers. His work has proved to be a solid foundation on which to build. Since then, the papers have been made available to scholars on request, and more recently a rough finding list has been produced, taking as its unit each numbered packing case in which the papers were then stored. Under these difficult circumstances, three scholars have produced copious notes and extracts, all of which have been freely placed at my disposal: Professor D.W. Hayton, Professor Anne Laurence and Dr Edward McParland. I am most grateful to them all for the vital contribution they have respectively made to this list. I myself, in addition to arranging or re-arranging the archive, summarily listing it and allocating MS numbers to its component parts, have made many extracts of my own. The result is not altogether seamless, nor is it desirable that it should be, since this is essentially a collaborative effort. Within NLI, during the past five months, I received support and help from the Keeper of Manuscripts, Mr Gerry Lyne, and boundless practical assistance from Mr Tom Desmond. I am also grateful to Ms Frances Clark of the Department of Manuscripts, TCD, for sending me an advance copy of her list of the TCD Smythe of Barbavilla papers.

APW Malcomson

October 2006



## I TITLE DEEDS: COUNTY WESTMEATH

MS 41,563/1–11  
1621–1860

Box of title deeds, fines, recoveries and case papers, all relating to the title to the Smyth estate of Barbavilla (Collinstown) and to Smyth property elsewhere in Co. Westmeath. William Smyth, Dean of Dromore (the future Bishop of Kilmore) purchased the Ranaghan (later Barbavilla) estate in 1670 from the 4th Viscount Fitzwilliam of Merrion and others for £1,100. It had formerly belonged to the Luttrell family, who had forfeited it for their part in the civil wars of the 1640s and one of whom, Thomas Luttrell, was Fitzwilliam's nephew. Bishop Smyth subsequently settled it on or willed it to this third son, William (1692–1769), the future William Smyth of Barbavilla. It also included Lough Lene, which is described in a grant of 1684 from Charles II present in the box as extending to 889 acres. Also present in the box are: a conveyance from Fitzgerald and others to Dillon and others (in trust for Luttrell) of 'Renegha', 1621, a conveyance from Luttrell to Barlow of 'Ranaghstown' and 'Collaghstown', 1671, a conveyance from Barlow to Nugent of Knocknecatragh, 1677, a brief from the plaintiff in Hanly v Smyth, and a case relating to Ranaghan, 1728.

MS 41,563/1  
1621: 1639–40

Early title deeds and associated papers relating to the future Smyth estate in Co. Westmeath.

MS 41,563/2  
1663: 1665: 1671

Constat, lease of Ranaghan from Thomas Luttrell of Ranaghan to Barlow (1671), etc. [See also TCD, MS 11,198/1/1.]

MS 41,563/3  
1673–6

Deeds relating to a debt of [?£400] owed by William Smyth, Dean of Dromore, to Thomas, [4th] Viscount Fitzwilliam, and secured by statute staple. [TCD, MS 11,198/1/2–4]

MS 41,563/4  
1693: 1733

Inquisitions, lists of jurors, depositions, etc, relating to Slanemore, Co. Westmeath, [the estate of Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn, London, eldest son of the Dean/Bishop and eldest brother of William Smyth of Barbavilla.

MS 41,563/5  
1712–13: 1729: 1760: c.1775: N.D.

Case papers relating to the title to Collinstown, alias Calliaghstown, alias Ranaghan, to an island in Lough Lene, and to Toar, all in Co. Westmeath.

MS 41,563/6  
1748

Deeds of recovery, etc, of the Westmeath estate, executed in advance of the marriage settlement of Ralph Smyth, son and heir of William Smyth of Barbavilla.

MS 41, 563/7  
1764–73

Letters, case papers and other papers about a dispute between the Smyths of Barbavilla and their cousins and neighbours, the Smyths of Drumcree [see also MS 41,594/5], over Drumcree bog.

MS 41,563/8  
1774

Deed of recovery and deed declaring the uses of the recovery, both in connection with the marriage of Barbara Smyth, daughter of Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla, and John Cooke of Cookesborough, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

MS 41,563/9  
1805

Copy of a recovery of the Westmeath estate.

MS 41,563/10  
1832: 1835

Deeds of recovery and to make a tenant to the praecipe.

MS 41,563/11  
1833: 1860

Title composition papers, 1833, and abstract of title, 1860.

## II TITLE DEEDS: DUBLIN CITY AND COUNTY

MS 41,564/1–5  
1621–1781

Box of title papers to estates and premises in Dublin City and County, including a conveyance from Reynell and Jervis to Smyth of premises in Abbey Street, Capel Street and Strand Street, Dublin, 1679 [part of which, the Abbey Street property, Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla (1717–90) developed in the 1770s]. The Co. Dublin properties include Clontarf, 1629 and 1680, Bishop William Smyth's estate of Powerstown, 1669 and 1693–8, and Lusk, 1720.

MS 41,564/1  
1629: 1680

Deeds relating to Clontarf, Co. Dublin (and comprising with that estate the lands of Donamore, Co. Meath).

MS 41,564/2  
1669: 1693–8

Deeds relating to Bishop William Smyth's estate of Powerstown, Co. Dublin.

MS 41,564/3  
1681–1781

Deeds relating to various properties in Dublin City.

MS 41,564/4  
1682: 1684: 1780

Dublin City leases (most of them title deeds to the Smyths and their connections).

MS 41,564/5  
1720

Deeds relating to Lusk, etc, Co. Dublin.

### **III TITLE DEEDS: COS. ROSCOMMON AND TYRONE**

MS 41,565/1–2

1733: 1812–36

Box of title deeds and case papers relating to estates in Cos. Roscommon (the estate of Capt. Matthew Lyster of New Park, Athlone, whose heiress married Ralph Smyth in 1808) and Tyrone (the manor of Cecil), 1824 and 1836.

MS 41,565/1

1733: 1812: 1826: 1830

Deeds and leases relating to the Co. Roscommon estate of the Lyster family of New Park, Athlone.

MS 41,565/2

1824: 1836

Case paper and another paper relating to estates in Co. Tyrone [and possibly deriving from the Litton family, one of whom, Mary Henrietta Litton, married William Lyster Smythe of Barbavilla in 1885]; the case paper (1824) relates to the Manor of Cecil, Co. Tyrone, which the Rev. Francis Gervais purchased for £85,000 in 1811, and involves the [2nd] Marquess of Abercorn.

#### IV TITLE DEEDS: COS. LOUTH AND MEATH, AND DROGHEDA

MS 41,566/1–9

1662–1763: 1898

Box of title deeds to the Barlow, later Meade Ogle, later Smythe estates of Clintonstown and Mullincross, Co. Louth, Cregg and Possextown, Co. Meath, and in the county of the town of Drogheda. [William Meade Ogle (1731–1811) married in 1758 Mary Barlow of Drogheda (1731–90), who appears to have been the heiress to these properties.]

MS 41,566/1

1662: 1676: 1694

Deeds relating to Possextown, Co. Meath.

MS 41,566/2

1663: 1740

Deeds relating to Clintonstown, Co. Louth.

MS 41,566/3

1668: 1703: 1715: 1722 (4): 1733–4

Deeds relating to Mullincross, parish of Kilsaran, barony of Ardee, Co. Louth.

MS 41,566/5

1735 (2): 1736 (3)

Deeds relating to Mullincross.

MS 41,566/5

1740: 1745–6

Deeds relating to Mullincross.

MS 41,566/6

1748

Two deeds each comprising both Mullincross and Clintonstown.

MS 41,566/7

1763

Two deeds each comprising both Mullincross and Clintonstown.

MS 41,566/8

1726 (2): 1728

Deeds of mortgage of premises in Drogheda.

MS 41,566/9

1898

Assignment of a lease of Cregg, Co. Meath.

## V MEADE OGLE ESTATE

MS 41,567

1809–53

Box of deeds and case papers relating to the partition and settlement of the estates, in Drogheda and in Cos. Louth and Meath, of William Meade Ogle (d.1811), [which passed (1823?) to the surviving issue male of William Smyth of Barbavilla (d.1810) and his wife, Catherine, who was William Meade Ogle's daughter and eventual heiress (the Smyths' daughters were provided for by cash additions to their portions). Eventually, the third son, Henry Meade Smythe (1787–1862), bought out his nephew, William Barlow Smythe of Barbavilla (1809–89), and his two remaining brothers, William Meade Smythe (1785–1866) and John Smythe (1791–1850). For this reason, none of these title deeds to Barlow and Meade Ogle property ought strictly speaking to have remained in the Smythe of Barbavilla archive.]

## VI MARRIAGE SETTLEMENTS

MS 41,568/1

1713–48

Box of settlements made on the marriages of the Smyth and allied families, with some related documents (e.g. releases for portions paid to daughters). Included are the marriage settlement of William Smyth and Barbara Ingoldsby, 1713 [from the latter of whom the name 'Barbavilla' derived], and of Ralph Smyth and Frances Clarke, 1748.

MS 41,568/2

1774–87

Box of marriage settlements. Included are those of Barbara Smyth and John Cooke of Cookesborough, Co. Westmeath, 1774, William Smyth and Catherine Meade Ogle, 1783, and Frances Smyth and Sir Hugh Crofton, 2nd Bt, of Mohill, Co. Longford, 1787.

MS 41,568/3

1801–85

Box of marriage settlements. Included are those of Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla and Elizabeth Lyster, 1808, William Meade Smyth and Lady Isabella Howard, 1815, Catherine Elizabeth Smythe and John Hamilton of The Grove, Co. Meath, 1819, Altha Maria Smythe and the Rev. Thomas Rice Fosbery, 1826, William Barlow Smythe of Barbavilla and Lady Emily Monck, 1837, etc.

## VII WILLS AND TESTAMENTARY PAPERS

MS 41,569/1–27

1673–1883

Box of wills and testamentary papers, as follows:

MS 41,569/1

1673

Will of Thomas Luttrell of Ramoghan [*sic* – Ranaghan], Co. Westmeath.

MS 41,569/2

1702

Copy of the will of Christopher Codrington of Doddington Hall, Gloucestershire, Chief Governor of the Leeward Isles.

MS 41,569/3

1712: 1731: 1747: 1757

Wills and testamentary papers of the Ingoldsby family: the will (1712) of Lt-General Richard Ingoldsby, to which probate was not granted until 1757; and a draft and copy of the will of his son, Henry Ingoldsby of Carton (1731), together with a related renunciation, 1747.

MS 41,569/4

30 May 1718.

Copy of the will of Mrs Jane Bulkeley [as summarised by Anne Laurence]. Wants private burial. Leaves Daughter Tynte £100 for mourning; £10 each to Brother George Wallis and 4 children; £10 each to Mrs Bonnell, Brother Curtis, and Cousin Thomas Curtis executors. £10 to Brother Temple Whitfield and Cousin Alice Moore; £30 to Cousin Jane Curtis for her use for John Curtis if he attains the age of 15, otherwise to which of her children she pleases; £50 to Cousin Sarah Wallis. £15 for Matthew Davis formerly servant; annuity of £8 for servant Mary Round; annuity of £6 p.a. for 7 years to Hannah Atkins to be paid out of house in Back Lane Dublin, then house to go to Nephew Samuel Wallis. £10 each for Cousin William Wankford and wife. Cousin Abel Ram received bond conditional for the payment of £100 and made me by the late Andrew Ram, his uncle and all that remains due to me of the debt of the late Sir Abel Ram to my late husband in consideration of a discharge he made sister Symes. Executors Mrs Bonnell, Brother Curtis and Cousin Thomas Curtis. Various annuities for nephews. Cousin Thomas Curtis to collect rents and arrange affairs. Witnessed by Felicia and Henry Whitfield and their servant Elizabeth Brough. Note the terms of a codicil, 6 August 1718: Gives Jane Bonnell the silver coffee pot 'she gave me'; Mrs Bonnell and Cousin Jane Curtis to dispose of her wearing clothes.

MS 41,569/5

[pre 1738]

Draft or copy of the will of Williams Conyngham of Slane, Co. Meath.

MS 41,569/6

1721

Copy of the will of Alderman William Norman of Drogheda.



## WILLS AND TESTAMENTARY PAPERS

MS 41,569/7

1721

Receipt for jewelry and valuables to Ralph Smyth [of Gray's Inn] as one of the executors of the late [Edward Smyth], Bishop of Down and Connor.

MS 41,569/8

1739

Copy of the will of Sir Redmond Everard, Bt, of Fethard, Co. Tipperary.

MS 41,569/9

1724

Extracts from the will of Andrew Wilson of Piersfield [Multyfarnham?], Co. Westmeath, with a paper of queries about it.

MS 41,569/10

1734: 1788

Paper in the handwriting of Mrs Jane Bonnell about the disposition of her wearing apparel (1734), and receipt for a legacy from her to the trustees of Bonnell's charity (1788).

MS 41,569/11

1736: 1772: 1775: 1788

Copy of the probate (1736) of the will of Henry [Newport], Earl of Bradford, together with later legal case papers arising out of the part of it which relates to Thomas Newport, a lunatic. [According to *The Complete Peerage*, Henry Newport, 3rd Earl of Bradford (d.1734), left £10,000 to Mrs Ann Smyth of Hammersmith (d.1742) and considerable landed property to her son, John Harrison, otherwise Newport, who died a lunatic on 29 April 1783 in his 63rd year. This Mrs Ann Smyth, *née* Lanier, was the estranged wife of Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn, and 'eloped' from him in 1711 (the year John Newport was born). Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla and his cousin, Ralph Smyth of Fieldtown, contended that John Newport was not the son of Lord Bradford, but the son of their uncle, Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn, and therefore that they, as his heirs-at-law, were entitled to John Newport's estate. TCD, MS 11,198/5/2 contains letters and case papers, 1773–88, on the same subject.]

MS 41,569/12

1749: 1756

Copies of the will (1749) of Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn, with queries about it, (N.D.), and the probate (1756).

[For the will of William Smyth of Barbavilla (d.1769), 27 Aug. 1760, see TCD, MS 11,198/4/4.]

MS 41,569/13

1760

Probate of the will (1753) of James Barlow of Drogheda.

## WILLS AND TESTAMENTARY PAPERS

MS 41,569/14

1782

Copy of the probate (1782) of the will (1782) of Sir John Parnell [1st Bt] of the city of Dublin.

MS 41,569/15

1783: 1787: 1789: 1796

Copy of the will (1783) of Lewis Montfort of Glackstown, Co. Westmeath, together with subsequent case papers.

MS 41,569/16

1793: 1797–8

Probate (1798) of the will (1793) of Mrs Althemia Barlow of Drogheda, widow, together with a receipt (1797) for a legacy.

MS 41,569/17

1794

Grant of administration to the goods of James Barlow of Drogheda.

MS 41,569/18

1806–14

Probate (1810) of the will and codicils (1806–9) of William Smyth of Barbavilla, and executorship accounts of his son, Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla (1810–14).

MS 41,569/19

1811

Copy of the will of Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla.

MS 41,569/20

1811: 1830

Copy of the will (1811) of the Rev. William Meade Ogle, together with 2 subsequent (1830) papers of queries about it.

MS 41,569/21

1813

Original, signed will of Miss Patience Barlow of Drogheda.

MS 41,569/22

1813

Original, signed will of Miss Elizabeth Barlow, formerly of Drogheda and now of Shrewsbury.

MS 41,569/23

1817

Original, signed will of Mrs Catherine Smyth, *née* Meade Ogle.

## WILLS AND TESTAMENTARY PAPERS

MS 41,569/24

1833

Original, signed will of John Maguire of Cumberstown, Co. Westmeath.

MS 41,569/25

1839

Statement [in the handwriting of William Barlow Smythe] of difficulties which have arisen in his position as executor to the will of the late Mr S[myth] of G[lananea?].

MS 41,569/26

1847

Observations on the provisions of the will of the late Archdeacon Trench as they relate to the liability of his legatees to make contributions to the 'Lanesborough recognizance'.

MS 41,569/27

1883

Grant of administration to the goods of the late Mrs Maria Smythe [murdered at Barbavilla on 2 April 1882].

[N.B. The Ainsworth report mentions the presence in the archive of the will (1784) of George Quin of Quinsborough, Co. Clare, but this document has either been misplaced or is no longer present.]

## VIII LEASES: COUNTY WESTMEATH

MS 41,570/1–8

1671–1966

Two boxes of leases of the Smyth estate in Co. Westmeath: principally Collinstown and Kilbally.

MS 41,570/1

1671: 1714: 1722: 1747: 1753

Leases of Collinstown.

MS 41,570/2

1789: 1791: 1803

Leases of Collinstown.

MS 41,570/3

1813: 1831: 1837: 1855: 1860

Leases of Collinstown.

MS 41,570/4

1713: 1716: 1751

Leases of Kilbally.

MS 41,570/5

1754: 1813: 1866

Leases of Robinstown.

MS 41,570/6

1813–14

Agreements for sale of timber from the Barbavilla demesne.

MS 41,570/7

1835

Draft leases of Ballybeg.

MS 41,570/8

1803–c.1830

Box of case papers arising out of two leases of parts of the lands of Barbavilla/Collinstown which were litigated over for many years. The lessees were Richard Talbot and John Hill Foster.

## IX LEASES: ELSEWHERE THAN WESTMEATH

MS 41,571/1–12

1680–1858: 1893

Box of leases of lands and premises elsewhere than Co. Westmeath: the county of the town of Drogheda (Norman, Barlow, and Meade Ogle estate), Clintonstown, Co. Louth (Barlow and Meade Ogle estate), Julianstown, Co. Meath (Meade Ogle), Castlewellan, Co. Down (mysterious), Middlesex (mysterious), etc. [There are among William Smyth of Barbavilla's (1692–1769) miscellaneous correspondence (MS 41,590/5) letters from one Arthur Magenis, who describes himself (as do many) as Smyth's 'cousin'; so, perhaps this Magennis connection explains the presence of the Castlewellan leases.]

MS 41,571/1

1680: 1681

Leases of Castlewellan, Co. Down.

MS 41,571/2

1689

Middlesex lease.

MS 41,571/3

1722: 1728: 1738: 1777: 1788 (2): 1791

Drogheda leases.

MS 41,571/4

1801–2: 1837: 1840: 1844: 1848

Drogheda leases.

MS 41,571/5

1756: 1810: 1842

Clintonstown leases.

MS 41,571/6

1776: 1781

Cregg and Possextown leases.

MS 41,571/7

1779: 1812

Julianstown leases.

MS 41,571/8

1783: 1787: 1805

Leases of Donnecarney, Benjerstown and Parsonstown (which, like Julianstown, were part of the Meade Ogle estate in Co. Meath).

**LEASES: ELSEWHERE THAN WESTMEATH**

MS 41,571/9

1789: 1791 (2)

Leases of Painstown, barony of Duleek, Co. Meath (also Meade Ogle estate).

MS 41,571/10

1847 (4)

Ejectments (Meade Ogle, now Smythe, estate in Co. Louth).

MS 41,571/11

1858

Julianstown lease.

MS 41,571/12

1893

Possextown – letter relating to a case over improvements.

## X ESTATE RENTALS, ACCOUNTS AND ADMINISTRATION

MS 41,572/1–17

1674–86: 1706–1911

Two boxes of rentals and accounts, including a couple of inventories. The earliest document [which is missing] is a cash book, 1674–86, of the Rev. William Smyth, Bishop of Killala and then (from 1681) of Raphoe. Present are a run of accounts of William Smyth (the Bishop's third son and the future [c.1730] builder of Barbavilla), a minor, with Darby Clarke [see MS 41,585], 1706–12, a run of agency accounts of Ralph Smyth [of Gray's Inn, William Smyth's eldest brother] with Darby Clarke, 1707–24, a Barbavilla farm ledger, 1896, Barbavilla account books, 1901–4, 1909–10 and 1910–11, etc. The material is arranged as follows:

MS 41,572/1

1674–86

Cash book of Bishop William Smyth [missing].

MS 41,572/2

1706–24

Minority accounts of William Smyth [later of Barbavilla] and agency accounts of Ralph Smyth [of Gray's Inn], both with Darby Clarke, together with some survey and rental information about Slanemore and other parts of Ralph Smyth's Co. Westmeath estate.

MS 41,572/3

1720–25

Rentals and accounts for the estate of Edward Smyth, son and heir of the late Edward Smyth, Bishop of Down and Connor, in Cos. Dublin, Kildare, Wexford, etc.

MS 41,572/4

1730–43: 1768

Fairly scrappy accounts and receipts of William Smyth of Barbavilla.

MS 41,572/5

1740: N.D.: 1836–7

Small notebook recording fruit and vegetables planted by William Smyth of Barbavilla (1730), account of seeds distributed to tenants [of the Barbavilla estate] (1836–7), etc.

MS 41,572/6

N.D.: 1776

Two papers about the calculation of the probable duration of lives [see also under MS 41,599/13].

MS 41,572/7

1803–9

Receipts for interest to William Smyth of Barbavilla from John Hiffernan.

## ESTATE RENTALS, ACCOUNTS AND ADMINISTRATION

MS 41,572/8  
1816–38

Account book of Henry Meade Ogle [(d.1823), brother of Catherine, Mrs William Smyth of Barbavilla], recording all manner of transactions but particularly receipts of interest on bank stock, loans (e.g. £6,000 to the Dowager Countess of Kingston), etc. [N.B. Someone else must have continued the accounts from 1823 onwards.]

MS 41,572/9  
1824–31

Accounts relating to the New Park estate, Athlone, Co. Roscommon, brought into the Smythe family through marriage to the Lyster heiress in 1808.

MS 41,572/10  
1830–43

Miscellaneous accounts, receipts, etc, relating to the Barbavilla estate.

MS 41,572/11  
1844: 1845

Two small personal or household account books.

MS 41,572/12  
1852

Small tithe applotment book for the Barbavilla estate.

MS 41,572/13  
1869–81

Miscellaneous accounts and receipts for the Barbavilla estate.

MS 41,572/14  
1896

Thick Barbavilla farm ledger.

MS 41,572/15  
1901: 1904

Two Barbavilla account books.

MS 41,572/16  
1909: 1910

Two Barbavilla account books.

MS 41,572/17  
1910–11

Barbavilla account book.



## XI FORMAL DOCUMENTS AND WESTMEATH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MS 41,573/1–25

1714–1881

Box of formal documents, mostly to do with Co. Westmeath, and of other papers relating to politics, local government, law and order, the militia, the local vestry, turnpike trusts, etc. Included are letters patent authorising William Smyth of Barbavilla (1692–1769) to hold fairs and markets at Collinstown, 1749, and 19th-century formal documents about the creation of the perpetual curacy of Collinstown and its endowment by William Barlow Smythe (1809–89), who also subscribed heavily to the building of a church at Collinstown, 1838, 1852 and 1871–2.

MS 41,573/1

1714

Printed new rules regulating the corporation of Dublin.

MS 41,573/2

1718

Order from Lord Chief Justice William Whitshed for the apprehension of those who robbed William Smyth's house [Stoneybatter, Co. Dublin].

MS 41,573/3

1737: 1766

Papers re disputes over William Smyth [now of Barbavilla]'s pews in Kilcumny and Castlepollard churches, Co. Westmeath.

MS 41,573/4

1741

William Smyth's ticket of admission to the freedom of Longford borough.

MS 41,573/5

1741

Share certificate of Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn in the Mullingar turnpike road.

MS 41,573/6

c.1743

Depositions re an assault on William Smyth near Barbavilla.

MS 41,573/7

N.D.: 1744

Queries addressed to William Smyth about the activities of a possibly unregistered priest, and letter to him on the same subject.

## FORMAL DOCUMENTS AND WESTMEATH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MS 41,573/8

1745: 1756–7

Papers about arraying the Westmeath Militia.

MS 41,573/9

1749

King's Letter and patent granting William Smyth the right to hold fairs at Collinstown.

MS 41,573/10

c.1750–59

Petition, etc, from William Smyth to the Linnen Board for money to establish a linen school and linen manufactory at Collinstown, together with letters to him and to his son, Ralph, on the same subject. The folder includes:

[1750–52]

'Memorandum that Mr Smyth's petition to the Linnen Board should set forth ...'

That the lands of Collinstown, W'meath, have been settled by protestant inhabitants for whom petitioner, William Smyth, has built a number of stone houses.

Children now idle

Trustees invited to establish spinning school for which Smyth is prepared to build the school house and schoolmistress's house.

[1750–52]

Statement of the requirements for setting up a linen business

- house for bleacher on bleach yard
- large cabin for foreman, '+ a warping Room'
- large store room for yarn
- neat stone cabin for clerk with convenient store room to receive linen from weavers and office to pay workmen
- 200 acres of good land, moderate rent, lease for 3 lives renewable for ever
- spinning school and flax shop (advantage 'to the town in having flax Redy Dressed & fitt for spinning')
- £50 for carriage of looms and weavers and their families.

MS 41,573/11

1766–74

Papers about setting up Farra Charter School. [See also MS 41,589/18 and MS 41,598/27–8.]

MS 41,573/12

1784

Printed copy of the act setting up a separate Irish Post Office.

MS 41,573/13

1792–3

JP's commission for William Smyth of Barbavilla (1761–1812), and appointment by him, as sheriff of Co. Westmeath in 1793, of an under-sheriff.

## FORMAL DOCUMENTS AND WESTMEATH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MS 41,573/14

1805–14

Appointments of Ralph Smyth (of Drogheda) [second son of Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla (1717–90)], as auditor and register of the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, 1805–6, JP's commission for him, 1811, and certificate of his tree-planting, 1814.

MS 41,573/15

1816

Drogheda freeman's ticket (admission by birth) of Henry Smyth, son of the late William Smyth of Barbavilla.

MS 41,573/16

1827

Three case papers in a Co. Westmeath election petition which turned on the validity or otherwise of Lord Castlemaine's registration of freeholders.

MS 41,573/17

1830–35

JP's commissions for William Barlow Smythe of Barbavilla (1809–86) – Cos. Meath and Roscommon as well as Westmeath. [See also TCD, MS 11,198/8/5–6 and 10–11.]

MS 41,573/18

c.1830–39

Orders signed by the Lord Lieutenant (the 1st Marquess of Anglesey), resolutions of the Westmeath magistrates, and other papers about law and order, Orangemen, sectarian violence, parliamentary reform, etc. [TCD, MS 11,198/8/14]

MS 41,573/19

1838

Patent granting to William Barlow Smythe of Barbavilla the right to hold fairs and markets at Collinstown.

MS 41,573/20

c.1839

Paper about a Poor Law for Ireland.

MS 41,573/21

1839

Case papers in prosecutions for cutting trees at Barbavilla.

MS 41,573/22

1839: 1852

Deeds relating to Collinstown chapel of ease.

**FORMAL DOCUMENTS AND WESTMEATH LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

MS 41,573/23

1852–81

Later papers of a similar nature to those in MS 41,573/18.

MS 41,573/24

1871

William Barlow Smythe's passport.

MS 41,573/25

1871–2

Letters and papers about the post-Disestablishment endowment of Collinstown church.

## XII MAPS AND ARCHITECTURAL PAPERS

MS 41,574/1–18

1684–c.1890

Box of maps, surveys, valuations, plans and papers about architecture and building, supposedly including – but not present – a document described by Stephen Penny as ‘A faint sketch ... which shows the sculptured Norman door [of Kilmore Cathedral, Co. Cavan] and the little [bishop’s] house, long since replaced by a more modern residence on another site’. The material is arranged as follows:

MS 41,574/1

1684

List of subscribers, with their original signatures and the sums they respectively subscribed, to the cost of building a new steeple on the church at Raphoe, of which diocese William Smyth was at this stage bishop.

MS 41,574/2

[c.1680s?]

Mysterious, battered, vellum-bound, folio volume, endorsed ‘9 mapps’, but containing a long series of names and numbers arranged in columns; the handwriting is difficult, and the purpose of the volume unclear.

MS 41,574/3–8

1713–1890

Six folders of maps and surveys of the Barbavilla estate and demesne, together with other (mainly adjoining) lands in Co. Westmeath. The earliest document is a survey of the estate by Gabriel Stoakes [*sic*], 1713.

MS 41,574/9

1727

Survey of Clintonstown and Mullincross, barony of Ardee, the estate of Richard Tisdall, by Thomas Erwin.

MS 41,574/10

[c.1760]

Series of plans, one of which is and the others of which seem to be, for William Smyth of Drumcree’s kitchen garden at Drumcree, barony of Delvin, Co. Westmeath.

MS 41,574/11

1766: N.D.

Numerous estimates, specifications, plans, etc for building a bleachmill and flaxmill at Collinstown with financial assistance from the Linen Board. [See also TCD, MS 11,198/4/5.]

MS 41,574/12

1772

Survey of Black Hall, Killossery, etc, Co. Dublin, the estate of James Barlow and others, by Bernard Scalé.

## MAPS AND ARCHITECTURAL PAPERS

MS 41,574/13

1770s

Two architectural drawings for the houses being built in Abbey Street, Dublin, by Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla.

MS 41,574/14

1782

Map of a house and garden in Fair Street, Drogheda, the estate of W. Meade Ogle, by P. Long.

MS 41,574/15

1809

Survey of Windetown, Co. Westmeath, part of the estate of Henry Monck, by Peter Le Neve.

MS 41,574/16

1830

Specification for alterations to the house at Barbavilla by the architect, John Hargrave [of Cork], together with a very tattered contract with the builder. [For other papers about building work at Barbavilla, or possibly relating to Barbavilla, see TCD, MS 11,198/9/3, 11,198/8/18, 11,198/8/23 and 11,198/8/72.]

MS 41,574/17

1828–c.1890

Miscellaneous plans and estimates for other buildings on the Barbavilla estate, including a public house in Collinstown, an ice house in the demesne, sundry farmhouses, stewards' houses, furniture, curtain pelmets, etc.

MS 41,574/18

c.1840

Rough tracings of maps of parts of Greece, marking sites of archaeological or historic interest.

### XIII BISHOP WILLIAM SMYTH

MS 41,575/1–20  
1634–98

Letters and papers of the Rev. William Smyth [father of William Smyth of Barbavilla] (1638–99), who was successively dean of Dromore, bishop of Killala (1681–2), bishop of Raphoe (1682–93) and bishop of Kilmore (1693–9).

MS 41,575/1

1634: 1639: 1673: 1691–2

Papers about the see estate of Kilmore [which William Smyth enjoyed as bishop of Kilmore, 1693–9], including a lease of Tunregan, Co. Cavan, from the then bishop to Lord Lambart, 1639, a draft petition to Lord Chancellor Sir Charles Porter, c.1692, other case papers, etc.

MS 41,575/2–7

1661–96

Six folders of accounts and miscellaneous papers of Dean/Bishop Smyth. Included [MS 41,575/6] is a half year's rental of the Kilmore see estate, N.D., amounting to £398. 12s. 8d.; tenants include Oliver Lambart Esq., Colonel Gwyllym, Capt. Tho. Smyth, Capt. Townley, Redmond McCorren, James Reilly et al.

Also included [MS 41,575/6] is a visitation book for the diocese of Raphoe, 1692.

'No dean

- |                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| Raphoe rectory | – | awaiting dean, no schoolmaster but parish clerk                        |
| Stranorlar     | – | awaiting dean, has curate, parish clerk who is also schoolmaster       |
| Leck           | – | awaiting dean, no curate, only parish clerk                            |
| Kilgarvan      | – | awaiting dean, no curate, etc  |
| Taughboyne     | – | Andrew Hamilton (archdeacon) has parish clerk who is also schoolmaster |
| Raymoghie      | – | no rector, curate or parish clerk                                      |
| Killomard      | – | has rector, D. Pearson, and parish clerk James Nesbitt                 |
| Drumholin      | – | Edward Whiteway rector, has vicar and parish clerk                     |
| Kilbarran      | – | Thomas L Folliot rector, has vicar, and parish clerk                   |
| Inver          | – | Nath. Cooper rector – no one else                                      |
| Killaghree     | – | John Smyth rector – no one else  |
| Conwall        | – | no rector or curate but a parish clerk who is also schoolmaster        |
| Aghminshon     | – | B. Span rector but no one else   |
| Clandehorcah   | – | Span rector with parish clerk and schoolmaster                         |
| Tullabighey    | – | Span rector and parish clerk himself                                   |
| Raymanterdenny | – | Span rector with no one else   |
| Gartown        | – | Span rector with no one else   |
| Clandevadock   | – | no rector or curate but a parish clerk who is also schoolmaster        |
| Tullyfernagh   | – | a curate and a parish clerk  |
| Aghuish        | – | John Sinclair rector but no one else                                   |
| Kilmacrenan    | – | John Leslie rector but no one else                                     |
| Meyvagh        | – | John Leslie rector with a curate but no one else                       |
| Killybegs      | – | James Stewart rector with a curate but no one else                     |

## BISHOP WILLIAM SMYTH

Kilcar	–	Jeremiah Dunbar rector with no one else
Inniskeel	–	John Farquhar rector with no one else
Glencolumkille	–	John Farquhar rector with no one else
Templecrone	–	William Muskett rector with no one else
Killeagh	–	Patrick White rector with a parish clerk.’

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MS 41,575/8  
1673–89  
Correspondence of Dean/Bishop Smyth.

MS 41,575/9  
1690–91  
Correspondence of Bishop Smyth.

MS 41,575/10  
1692  
Correspondence of Bishop Smyth.

MS 41,575/11  
Jan.–July 1693  
Correspondence of Bishop Smyth.

MS 41,575/12  
Aug.–Dec. 1693  
Correspondence of Bishop Smyth. The folder includes:

26 Aug. 1693. [Oliver?] Lambart, [Jamestown?], to Bishop Smyth, Dublin.  
‘On your Lordship’s encouragement I sent to view your Lordship’s revenues in Cavan and find not only them, but all the county in an ill condition ... and am also informed that the grazing [–?] will be the least of all inhabited, stock being scarce ...’

14 Oct. 1693. John Ker [‘Dean Carr’], Granard, to Bishop Smyth.  
Knows of no clergy resident in Leitrim (though others near at hand are clearly resident) and has therefore a problem in summoning them to visitation. In meantime has sent out a monition to all clergy to observe order for residence. Has ‘with much ado’ procured ‘an Oxford scholar’ to be his curate at Granard, and serves himself at Ardagh. Includes a slip of paper signed by Ker claiming he has been resident in diocese for past 31 years and giving details of expenditure on curates, etc.

MS 41,575/13  
Jan.–Mar. 1694  
Correspondence of Bishop Smyth. The folder includes:



## BISHOP WILLIAM SMYTH

3 Jan. 1693/4. Robert Lloyd, Letterkenny, to Bishop Smyth, Dublin.

Re his difficulties in supplying a curate 'for my parish under your jurisdiction'. Parish is so poor it is hard to find a salary sufficient enough.

1 Feb. 1693/4. Bishop Moreton, Covent Garden, to Bishop Smyth, Dublin.

Encloses proposal concerning Smyth's predecessor (Sheridan?) – if Smyth agrees it will oblige Bishop Compton of London, Sheridan's uncle. Compton also enquires as to whether Smyth has any livings void in his diocese 'to give some encouragement to the Scotch clergy who have been turned out in Scotland for their learning and their good principles. This he would fain have done, and let every one of us take some, and I will do my part towards it as soon as I am able ...'.

MS 41,575/14

Mar.–May 1694

Correspondence of Bishop Smyth. The folder includes:

27 Mar. 1694. Bishop Smyth to [William] Hansard.

'I am concerned that you do not give me a particular account of your proceedings against the non-residents, and those that do not keep curates that have faculties, and in particular how you have proceeded against the Dean; I pray do it by next post.' Mr Lowry is to be admonished to residence.

13 Apr. 1694. William Hansard to Bishop Smyth, Dublin.

Reporting his actions (and results) re non-residents. Lowry 'has appeared at three courts and is now resident' – if he fails to maintain residence Hansard will sequester the living and attempt to appoint a curate. Proceeded with an excommunication against 'one Magan, a very insolent fellow' who he expects will petition the government. Hopes government will do nothing 'before I am present' to produce examinations on oath of 'his notorious expressions'. Capt. Galbraith 'wrote to me to desist proceeding against Dissenters and enclosed a letter of Lord Sydney's to Lord Primate which I perused and am of an opinion it has no reference to our proceedings and therefore have taken no notice of his letter. I can assure your lordship if Magan is not made an example there is not a Dissenter in these parts will pay tithe ...'.

26 Apr. 1694. William Hansard, Belturbet, to Bishop Smyth, Dublin.

Recalling the Magan case – not proceeded against as a Dissenter but for contempt. 'He was presented by the subsheriff for ploughing nigh the church on Christmas Day, and when he was desired to go to Church impudently replied he was better employed. He ploughed two or three furrows in land not fit to be broke up, and has not ploughed in that field since. When the [Aparatr] cited him he threatened him severely and protested ... he cared not a fart of his arse for your Lordship or the Church, and never appeared though frequently cited. He has made application to some in Dublin but to no purpose. Mr Russell ... declares he never saw him at church but [once? occasionally?] at a vestry, where he vigorously opposed an applotment in order to repair the church.'

28 Apr. 1694. Richard Weaver, Belturbet, to Bishop Smyth.

Re the same case. Similar evidence given. When Magan continued obstinate 'most of the gentlemen hereabouts declared that unless he was punished for the contempt he offered our church they could not be obliged to take notice of your lordship's jurisdiction, so that it was

## BISHOP WILLIAM SMYTH

for his contempt to church and not for ploughing on sabbath that he was excommunicated. He openly brags this is not the first time he was excommunicated, etc etc – and certainly my lord unless he be punished I am afraid none will take notice of your lordship’s jurisdiction ...’.

MS 41,575/15

June–Dec. 1694

Correspondence of Bishop Smyth. The folder includes:

16 June 1694. Richard Weaver, Cavan, to Bishop Smyth.

Church at Belturbet ‘is in very good repair, being whitened, well glazed, a pulpit and desk, but no seats, and the parishioners very willing to build seats immediately, if the archdeacon would make the pulpit and some rails about the altar, as they say he promised to do ...’. We will have a court next week at Killeshandra; would be useful to send advance notice to clergy, as the apparata ‘must go some hundred miles in dangerous places’. All clergy of this diocese are resident, except the Dean, the Archdeacon, Mr Charleton and Mr Lloyd, all of whom have curates resident but don’t have bishop’s licence. Chatwood and Lowry both also without curates – former has poor vicarage without a protestant parishioner but latter negligent and action being taken against him.

9 Dec. 1694. Cha. Harrison to Bishop Smyth.

Writes on behalf of the protestant families of [Ballinehane?] and Drumloman [Co. Cavan] complaining of failure of Dean Kerr to discharge his duty of preaching.

MS 41,575/16

1695

Correspondence of Bishop Smyth. The folder includes:

18 Nov. 1695. Letter signed by Brockhill Newburgh and 18 other gentlemen, Cavan, to Bishop Smyth:

‘... we have lately very unfortunately fallen into the society of persons of these dangerous depositions [a ‘zeal to promote disunion’]. We have an officer placed among us for collection of the King’s rents, who is a fierce asserter and promoter of the cause, and we are not without strong apprehensions that a gentleman, lately come to reside among us, will be appointed one of the justices of the peace and high sheriff for the year ensuing, of equal temper and inclinations with the collector, and both now upon treatment and proposals with a dissenting minister to settle in this country, and we dread the consequence of these things, for we must acknowledge (my lord) some to be among us, the fewer indeed in number and the meaner sort of inhabitants, though of favourable sentiments enough for our service, yet of easy inclination, and upon such an encouragement as these gentlemen design, may be seduced and persuaded to a separation from our churches ...’. They appeal to Bishop ‘that by a seasonable application, and first representation of our circumstances to the government, safe care might be taken to prevent this mischief ...’.

MS 41,575/17

Jan.–June 1696

Correspondence of Bishop Smyth. The folder includes:

## BISHOP WILLIAM SMYTH

3 June 1696. William Hansard to Smyth.

'I vow my living is so inconsiderable that I am not able to carry on my building nor to use that hospitality and charity that becomes me, for I lie nigh the road and am exposed frequently to travellers etc. But that which is no small trouble to me, my wife is continually afraid of the rapparees and says her life's a very burden to her here, and begs of me to take a small farm about Cavan or Kilmore where she might live with security, which I am inclinable to, if I might have your lordship's leave for other reasons, because I fancy it would be an advantage to the jurisdiction and that I could come constantly on Saturdays to my parish and faithfully discharge my duty ...'

MS 41,575/18

July–Oct. 1696

Correspondence of Bishop Smyth. The folder includes:

17 July 1696. Bishop Tenison of Clogher, near Belturbet, to Smyth.

Refers to the danger that 'Enniskillen (where there is a dissenting minister seducing the people) will be ruined' (as far as the C of I is concerned).

6 Oct. 1696. Letter of Francis White and seven others, Cavan, to Smyth,

Conscious of maladministration of present sheriff ('of whose disaffection with the Church your Lordship was fully convinced'), they hope for a very different kind of sheriff for next year and recommend Walter Pollard or Joseph Pratt. Signatures: [?R.] White, Thos. Ashe, Sam. Townley, Tho. Townley, Robert Clements, Edward Davenport, Henry Gwyllym and Ro. [?Saunders].

MS 41,575/19

1697–8

Correspondence of Bishop Smyth. The folder includes:

20 Mar. 1696/7. Nathaniel Cooper, 'Enver' [Inver?, barony of Boylagh, Co. Donegal], to Smyth.

Bishop of Raphoe claims there is a presbyterian meeting house in Inver (as reason not to move Cooper). 'I confess there is a house wherein they sometimes meet, but there is no settled minister this side of the mountains, and they do not meet above a q[uar]ter.'

13 Apr. 1697. Nathaniel Cooper, Enver, to Smyth.

His difficulties with Bishop of Raphoe re his removal. 'It is not my usefulness either in the jurisdiction or that he thinks me a fit person to stop the progress of the presbyterians, that makes him unwilling to part with me, it is because he is patron of Enver, and knows that I will have little satisfaction here, therefore doubts not but I will be glad to part with it upon indifferent terms, and then he will have an opportunity to provide for some of his expectants, which he fears a faculty would prevent.'

MS 41,575/20

1687–93

Original bundle of letters addressed to the Archbishop of Dublin or his vicar-general, which seem to have been received, in some capacity, by Bishop Smyth. The folder includes:

## BISHOP WILLIAM SMYTH

N.D. [1687–93]

To His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Dublin ... the Humble address of the Grand Jury and others the principal inhabitants of the Manor of Grangegorman.

For some years past they have been deprived of seats which they had purchased in St Paul's parish church

No place for them to worship

Near 300 families in the manor

Without a church, there is a risk of some 'lapsing into the errors of the Church of Rome or associating themselves in Conventicles ... or [of growing] ... dissolute in their lives and conversations by abandoning religion [and] piety and becom[ing] strangers to the Gospell ...

Tithes are impropriate if fallen into lay hands

Three years ago Dean and Chapter of Christ Church contributed £10 to clergyman to baptise and teach children and visit the sick

They pointed out to their landlords 'how much their [i.e. the landlords'] temporal as well as eternal interest would be proffited and advanced' by the building a church.

Lord Palmerston gave £200

Appeal to Archbishop for help, confident of getting 'a share of that bounteous disposition which has so largely contributed towards the raising and finishing twenty eight new churches within this Diocess ... .

By erecting us into a parish ... you will afford us the means of attaining our Eternal Salvation.'

[N.B. It is possible that this address does not belong here but among the papers of the Bishop's third son, William Smyth of Barbavilla, whose then house, Stoneybatter, was in north Dublin and probably in the Manor of Grangegorman. The '28 new churches' might plausibly refer to the work of Archbishop King (d.1729).]

## XIV ROBERT NELSON

MS 41,576/1–3  
1676–1715

Letters and papers of Robert Nelson (1656–1715), FRS, of Blackheath, London, and Great Ormond Street, Westminster, a (fairly inactive?) member of the Levant Company, a religious writer, a non-juror (until 1710) and a man of Jacobite sympathies thereafter. His wife, Theophila (d.1705), a Roman Catholic, was a daughter of the 1st Earl of Berkeley and a connection of the Ingoldsbys. He was a friend of Mrs Jane Bonnell (see MSS 41,577–41,580). He left her this part of his papers, which passed, together with her own, to Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn (1676–1755), her kinsman and executor. [N.B. Some of the attribution of papers to Nelson is speculative.]

MS 41,576/1  
1676–93

Letters to Robert Nelson, including a good typescript biographical note on him. Correspondents include Charles Bernard, Edw. Halley and John Williams, and topics include the Glorious Revolution.

MS 41,576/2  
1703–14

Letters to Robert Nelson, including one each from John Bullock, John Hutton, Samuel Sheppard and Humphrey Wanley, and the originals of 5 short letters from Nelson to Dr Francis Lee, Spitalfields. Also present is a letter from [Robert Harley, 1st Earl of] Oxford acknowledging and commenting on 'Mr Talman's letters'. In addition, the folder includes:

22 June 1713. Immensely long poem presented to Robert Nelson on his birthday by Mr Humphries.

27 Aug. 1714. Letter to Nelson from Lady Elizabeth Hastings, Ormond Street, London. 'The being straitened in time this post doth not appear to me a sufficient excuse for delaying my acknowledgements to the next for the favour of your two last. Great and surprising changes have happened since the former. I think the death of our excellent queen cannot but affect everyone who are not strangers to humanity as well as to religion. I am exceedingly pleased the Flying Post – I mean the author of it – is taken up. When I think of that paper it raises my resentment too high for words to express. The useful reflections you made on the vanity of immoderate fears were very acceptable and very edifying. I have nothing to say on the vanity of hopes being persuaded you have a judgement too clear sighted to give way to hopes further than they were well grounded, but then give me leave to add when hopes and fears in different p[ersons] arises from the same cause that which justifies the one may be urged in defence of the other. I am desirous of seeing everything that comes up in any measure to the dignity of the subject and you will oblige me in ordering Worrell to send them sealed up to Mrs Beake over against Turn Stile in Holborn, at the sign of the Cabinet, the sooner the better. Pray say something obliging to your excellent daughter and her very obliging doctor whose health I should rejoice to hear was confirmed, being to them as well as to yourself a faithful servant, E. Hastings. You say nothing of your reverend and worthy neighbour; pray let him know he has my best wishes and humble respects.'

## ROBERT NELSON

27 Dec. 1714. Samuel Wesley, Epworth, to Nelson referring to the news Wesley has received from Henry Hoare of Nelson's bad state of health; with a note in Mrs Bonnell's handwriting that Nelson was too ill to read the letter.

MS 41,576/3

c.1690–1715

Miscellaneous letters and papers of Robert Nelson, mostly undated, and some assigned to this part of the archive on fairly doubtful grounds. One of the letters is from S.A. Bull [a connection of George Bull, Bishop of St David's, Nelson's tutor at Trinity College, Cambridge?], N.D. The folder also includes the text of an inscription by George Smalridge, Bishop of Bristol, to be placed on Nelson's monument in the cemetery at Lamb's, Conduit Street, London.

[For further Nelson papers, see TCD, MS 11,198/2.]

## XV MRS JANE BONNELL

MSS 41,577–41,580

Letters and papers of Mrs Jane Bonnell (1660s–1745), widow of James Bonnell (1653–99), Accountant-General of Ireland, whom she had married in 1693 and whom she long survived. The material is arranged in two boxes/sequences. The first box (MSS 41,577–9) comprises letters and papers of Mrs Bonnell, 1702–45, from and about her own family, the Conynghams of Mount Charles, Co. Donegal, and Slane, Co. Meath: letters to her from her sisters, Mary Jones of Dollardstown, Co. Meath, and Katherine Conolly of Rodanstown, Co. Meath, and Castletown, Co. Kildare; letters from her sister, Katherine's, husband, William Conolly (Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, 1715–29); letters from various Conynghams and Burtons including a letter from Katherine Conolly to Molly Burton on the latter's marriage in 1720; and letters and case papers about Mrs Bonnell's lawsuit with her nephew, Henry Conyngham of Slane, in the 1740s. The second box/sequence (MS 41,580) comprises Mrs Bonnell's correspondence with other named correspondents, including the 1st Viscount Midleton and his wife, a series of other folders arranged by named correspondent, some folders of miscellaneous correspondence, a folder of letters about one Samuel Palmer's *Life* of her late husband (which she found unsatisfactory), and folders of accounts and receipts and of inventories of her effects, c.1745.

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### XV. i. LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

MS 41,577/1–5

N.D. [c.1727–c.1745]

Five folders of undated letters (except for one in MS 41,577/1 which is dated 1736) to Mrs Jane Bonnell (née Conyngham) from her sister, Mrs Mary Jones, of 'Dollanstown' [Dollardstown, Co. Meath]. The folders include:

13 Jan. [1727?] Mrs Jones, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

'Last night I came from Castletown with the rest of the company, which was not a few ... they were a merry set, most nights danced ... I believe it will surprise you when I tell you little Sandy Nisbitt is to be a Member of Parliament for Newtown Limavady in the room of Mr [Isaac] Manley. Willie Conyngham would fain have had my son stood, but he would not stand without my sister's interest for fear of disobliging her. Sandy is to be a great man, and hopes his being in the House will entitle him to get some good employment, for though his father was at the expense of sending him to the Temple he never read a word of law, for pleasure and politics took up his whole time. He has one qualification which recommends him to Mr and Mrs Conolly, which is telling ill stories of bishops and clergymen. They are sometimes so absurd that it surprises me how they gain belief ...'.

16 Oct. [1733?] Mrs Jones, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

'My sister Conolly is very well. I wish she may continue but fear her crowds of young gay company may do her harm. I am sure it's what I could not hold out with having so constantly as she does. Mr Burton keeps a basset bank at her house, she goes a third with him, he has had it but one night and she and he lost £100, it was but a bad beginning. I am sorry she does

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

it. It's what the Duke [of Dorset, Lord Lieutenant] does not allow at the Castle neither this winter nor when he was last here. He says the King does not allow it at Court and he thinks it would be wrong for him to have it ...'. Lady Anne and Mr Conolly are at Beamore, but will soon be back as it's too dull for them.' [William Conolly, the late Speaker Conolly's nephew and principal heir, married Lady Anne Wentworth, eldest daughter of the 1st Earl of Strafford, in 1733. Beamore was the seat of the Pearsons – see MS 41,580/24.]

23 Dec. [1733 onwards] Mrs Jones, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

'Tomorrow my sister goes to Castletown, where to be sure she will have crowds, for Mr Conolly and Lady [i.e. William and Lady Anne] invited company there as fast as she [Katherine Conolly] does ...'.

28 Feb. [1733/4?] Mrs Jones, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

What her sister has lost by her basset bank 'would have made a rich woman of me. Her share of their losses is £131 ... it affords the town a great deal of chat.' But when the act of parliament 'takes place' there will be an end of basset.

11 May [1734?] Mrs Jones, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

'I am sorry to say it, but my sister's house is is [sic] grown a gaming house, for there is sometimes 40 or 50 pound lost by a night, all to devart [sic] Lady Anne ... . I believe now you are a housekeeper you may want some table cloths, napkins or towels, which I beg you will let me know what you would have that I might help to supply you.'

11 Nov. [ ] Mrs Jones, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell

'Sister Conolly came on Friday. She is very well and the same gay sent [?] of company as formerly. Matty Leslie and the widow Montgomery are the reigning favourites.'

17 May [ ] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell.

'My sister is pretty well, but crowds of the Gores constantly with her ... poor Sandy Nisbit [is] not dead but dying ...'.

1 Dec. [1733 onwards] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell

Sister Conolly 'is very fond not only of Sir St George Gore and my lady but of the whole family, which is a large one'. She has given Sir St George and his sisters diamond rings.

9 Feb. [c.1736] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell.

'The continual crowds Sister Conolly gathers about her makes me not go there very often. She sends to me every day, and so she does to many more, so her favours of that kind are very general.'

5 May [ ] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell.

'I shall be glad if I can go with my sister to Castelltown [sic] but she must lay me lower then she youst to dow [sic], for laying so hey [sic] as I allways did almost killed me; 80 stepes [sic] of stairs is what I can't bear ...'.

16 Sep. [c.1736?] Mrs Jones, Castletown, to Mrs Bonnell.

Re 'the fall of the coin': '... the kingdom is in a great f[l]urry about it, I do not know how it will end. Dean Swift had a great black flag on the top of St Patrick's steeple and wrote in



## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

gold letters “O poor Ireland”, and the bells and clappers done round with black and tolled a most melancholy sound, the mob has burned the effigies of the primate, and I hear they are much enraged at Mr Conolly, and says his uncle would not have served his country so ...’.

25 [?Jan. c.1737] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell, Writtle, near Chelmsford, Essex.  
Various money matters. Went to look at monument [to James Bonnell? in St John’s Church, Dublin?] which hasn’t been taken down and is very well but dirty. ‘When I was at Castletown Sister Conolly got a most scurrilous letter from our goodly nephew [Williams Conyngham?] grossly abusing that good woman.’

24 Apr. [c.1737] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell  
Waiting for directions from Mrs Bonnell ‘to dispose of your money which lies in Mr Henery’s bank [Hugh Henry, whose Dublin banking partnership was dissolved in 1737]. Sure whoever you owe it to would take so much in part and if you pay interest it would have saved you something. I make no doubt but if you would writ to Mr [Robert] French he would pay the interest due at May which would do more than pay the £100 and you might received the over plus’.

9 Aug. [c.1737] Mrs Jones, Dollanstown, to Mrs Bonnell  
My brother’s monument is cleaned and looks very well.

8 Dec. [c.1737?] Mrs Jones, Dublin to Mrs Bonnell.  
Acknowledges her receipt of a bill. Mrs Bonnell was evidently due money in Dublin and was lending money to her nephew [Roger Jones]. Mrs Jones reports that Robin Leslie died 2 days ago.

15 Dec. [c.1737?] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell.  
Sent £60 to Roger for which he sent me his promissory note payable to you. Jenny well but big – this will be her 15th child.

2 Aug. [c.1738?] Mrs Jones, Castletown, to Mrs Bonnell.  
Desires to know how Mrs Bonnell wants money she and son owe to Mrs Bonnell disposed of. He was much obliged for it because of the fall in the markets [her son was a farmer] and didn’t make what he expected from sheep and bullocks. Hopes to do better from cider trade.

11 Sep. [c.1738?] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell.  
Son quite ruined by storms in orchards.

27 Oct. [ ] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell.  
‘I believe this will be a quieter winter with my Sister Conolly than Parliament winters used to be ...’. [N.B. This shows that the terms was in use c.1735–45.]

N.D. [post 2 Dec. 1739] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell  
Reference to the death of Lady Anne’s father, and to Mr Conolly. ‘The Duke and Duchess with twenty more is to go this Christmas to Castletown. When they are all gone then shall know who they are, for I never go when such fine folks goes ...’.

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

N.D. [post 16 Jan. 1740.] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell.

‘Sister Conolly has had a could [*sic*] above this month and has had a sore throte but is now pritty well. She went out on Sunday to see Lady Ross[e]. Her [i.e. Lady Rosse’s] unkell Generall Peairce dyed.’ [This was the uncle and father-in-law of the late Sir Edward Lovett Pearce.]

14 Mar. [1740?] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell.

Refers to the building of the Castletown obelisk/Conolly Folly, a famine-relief measure adopted by Katherine Conolly. Sir Robert King has been ‘deangersly ill’. Mrs Jones’s heart bleeds for his poor mother; Sir Robert is ‘just turned of 16’ [he was b.1724 and succ. to the family baronetcy 1740]. ‘Great is the destress of the poor and 1,000 housekeepers forst [*sic*] to beg ... . My sister duse a great deall of good to the poor, both in town and cuntry. ...’ She ‘is building an obbless [*sic*] to answer a vistow [*sic*] from the bake [*sic*] of Castletown House. It will cost her 300 or 400 pound at least, but I believe more. I really wonder how she can dow so much and live as she duse. ...’

24 May [1740?] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell.

Sister Conolly ‘is building and obbellouss [*sic*] for to end a prospect at Castelltown. ...’

25 July [ ] Mrs Jones, Dollanstown, to Mrs Bonnell

Sister is now furnishing a room, dressing room and closet for Miss Burton [Molly, daughter of Molly senior and therefore Mrs Conolly’s great-niece; Mrs Conolly had brought Molly junior to live with her at Castletown] in Castletown which will cost £200, and making a garden with statues, a grotto and walks cut into the wood costing £200. ‘Pray let me know if you have put in to the lottery for my son and how much money he is to send you.’

14 Oct. [ ] Mrs Jones, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

‘I hope you have written to some of your friends to send me patterns of the newest lustrings [silk cloth].’

14 Mar. [1741?] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell.

Her sister, Mrs Conolly, who still has the Burtons’ daughter, Molly, living with her at Castletown, is spoiling her: ‘no young lady in Ireland is kept so fine, or at so great expense’.

28 May [1742?] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell.

Her sister [Mrs Conolly] ‘had for some days a seever [*sic*] cold which she got by going to a musick meeting to hear the feames [*sic*] Mr Handell, who I belive got at least 10 gineyes [*sic*] of her money.’

12 Jan. [1744?] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell

Good Lord Chief Justice [Thomas Marlay, friend and one of the executors of Speaker Conolly] was with me this morning. He and Mr [Robert] French [Mrs Bonnell’s counsel in her suit with the Conyngams – see MS 41,579/7] gives you their service and bids me assure you of all the service in their power, but can’t pay your money without all the securities you have being given up to them, or your filing a bill against them, which will cost you money; so they desire you to make all the enquiry you can about them and if not to be had file a bill which they will give no delay to only to go through the forms of the court.’

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

24 Jan. [1744?] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell

'I am advised to ask you whether the securities was registered or, if a bond, if judgement was entered and about what time, that search may be made for it. If either of these things was done it would make greatly for you. I got Sister Conolly to have Brother Conolly's closet of papers searched in hopes yours might have been found there.' Discussion of whether she sent them by the unreliable Williams Conyngham or left them with Archbishop King.

1 Feb. [c.1743-5] Mrs Jones, to Mrs Bonnell about the Conyngham lawsuit.

12 Feb. [1744?] Mrs Jones, Dollanstown, to Mrs Bonnell, Writtle, near Chelmsford.

'I had both my dear sister's with the seven packets. Mr Mathews [Edward Mathews, Mrs Bonnell's attorney] was with me. I gave him your instructions. He told me Sir Robert, Sir John and Sir Henry King's wills would be necessary and taking the copies out of the Prerogative [Court] would cost a good deal of money, so I went to Lord Chief Justice. He says he believes he may have those wills, and will look for them when term is over.' [This relates to another lawsuit, this one between Mrs Bonnell and Sir Robert King over money owed to her.]

19 Mar. [1744?] Mrs Jones to Mrs Bonnell.

'I have been several times with Mr Mathews. He tells me he does all in his power to bring your affairs [the lawsuit against Sir Robert King] to a conclusion'; judgement has been entered.

20 Mar. [1744] Mary Jones to Mrs Bonnell

'About a month ago I wrote to you ... that Sir Robert King's debts was a paying off and that your money would be paid. Since that I have spoke to Lord Chief Justice who assures me yours shall be the first debt paid.' She refers to death of Mr [Francis] Burton, [which dates the letter to 1744].

31 Mar. [1744] Mrs Jones, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

Wants Mrs Bonnell's directions on how to dispose of your money in my hands. 'I am much pleased to hear you are likely to put an end to your troublesome law suit.'

12 Aug. [1744?] Mrs Jones, Dollanstown, to Mrs Bonnell.

'Pray when you write next let me know something about the lottery tickets and, if you have got my son's out, let me know the number of it. I hear there is another lottery on foot by the man that has the fine [sesteron], and that everyone whose ticket comes up a blank in the great lottery is to have a prize in his and that tickets are but crowns apiece. If this be true pray put in a crown for Roger and if there be tickets taken out in that lottery besides those who put into the great lottery, I will put in 3 or 4 crowns more. I hope Roger will get something in one or the other.'

18 Nov. [1744?] Mrs Jones, Castletown, to Mrs Bonnell.

'If you want Sir Robert King's money before I go to town I can get it on serving your bill, so let me know'

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

MS 41,578/1

1711–18

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from William Conolly, husband of her sister, Katherine. The folder includes:

22 [?Sep.] 1711. William Conolly to Mrs Bonnell mentioning that he has paid 'Mr [Charles] Campbell the £1,000'. [William Conolly's handwriting is notoriously indecipherable.]

7 Oct. 1711. William Conolly to Mrs Bonnell about treatment being undergone by Williams Conyngham for what is clearly venereal disease.

MS 41,578/2

c.1718–1724

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from William Conolly, mostly about their wayward nephew, Williams Conyngham [whose guardian Conolly had been from 1706 to Conyngham's coming-of-age, c.1719]. Conyngham's debts (of at one stage £4,000) are a principal topic. On the back of one letter of 20 February 1719/20, Mrs Bonnell has noted: 'Bought 200 stock at 276=552; bought 42 pounds some shillings at 276 is near about 122. Mr Serjeant Dickens has had from me £400 in bank notes and 100 in money 24 March 1719/20. This money is beside our first stock.' On 30 September 1720, Conolly writes from Dublin: 'Everybody here takes it that if any charter be granted it will be for stockjobbing', and refers to 'the general decay of trades'.

MS 41,578/3

1716–24

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

8 Sep. 1716. Dublin. 'As to the jewels, I have taken the matter quite out of your hands; for the Doctor tells me he sent the [ ?] and every other direction to [? Sir A.] Cairn[e]s.'

11 June and 25 July 1719: 12 Mar. 1719/20. More about Williams Conyngham's sexually transmitted disease.

2 Feb. 1720/1 'With this you'll receive a copy of Brother Conyngham's settlement and Lady Shelburne's deed about the £5,000 portion, etc, etc.' [This probably relates to the start of Mrs Bonnell's financial dispute with their nephews, Williams (d.1738) and then Henry Conyngham. Brother Conyngham was their father and Lady Shelburne their mother.]

MS 41,578/4

1725–9

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

29 Sep. 1727. She has written 40 canvassing letters on behalf of Francis Burton, currently a candidate for Co. Clare.

MS 41,578/5

1730

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

23 Feb. 1729/30. Dublin. 'I have by him [her brother-in-law, Thomas Pearson] sent 26 guineas for my black chair I wrote to you before about. You should agree with the chair maker to case it and put it in a shop board, which they will do better than any body else can, being used to it. If the money doth not hold out I'll send more, for at present I an scarce, for rents comes [*sic*] slowly in, money being scarcer in Ireland than ever was known, occasioned as I believe by the great scarcity of bread corn for 3 years before the last harvest.'

25 Apr. 1730. 'Pray send me when you meet with a [?guarantee] a black [?chair] ... I have now a coarse black leather one which is all I could get here. They tell me I can have neat steel ones, sangriend or velvet ones made as the leather one I have is made.'

MS 41,578/6

1731-2

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

12 Apr. 1731. Dublin. 'Enclosed is a bill to defray the expenses of the asses milk. I have not [yet] wrote to Mr Gould about it, so do not send to them till after another packet comes in.' Promises that while she lives she will pay Mrs Bonnell an allowance of £100 a year.

25 May 1731. Castletown. Last year she made will in which she left sister £800 but has now made codicil with a bond to Mrs Bonnell for £600 payable after Katherine's death. Codicil arises from her having made a bargain with nephew Conolly. 'I have sold my life [interest in part of the Conolly estate] to him for £1,500 payable at my death without interest.' Bond given to Mrs Bulkeley. 'Mrs B[urton] has been so wise as to begin some fine speech in favour of her graceless brother [Williams Conyngham], which has put me in such a passion and made me so sick I can hardly hold the pen. I called her ungrateful wretch that she should pretent to speak in favour of any person that durst attempt to vilify or blacken the character of her dear uncle.'

26 Aug. 1731. Castletown. Chair has arrived and is thought 'mighty handsome'. Wants to have some of husband's hair set in a ring. 'I think a good transparent diamond over it - 2 ... brilliants in each side with a heart on each side of a death's head, with this motto, we part no more.'

3 Nov. 1731. Dublin. Thinking of ordering a necklace of brilliants or diamonds for 'my girl'. 'I have long promised her it, for her mother [Mrs Burton] ten years ago borrowed my necklace to cut a figure with in the county of Clare and I could never get it from her since.'

10 Mar. 1731/2. Dublin. 'I am in your debt by your account £51: 7s. I have drawn the note on them [Gould & Nesbitt] for £80, so paying what I owe you, £51: 7s, and your own £25 for your quarter due from me the 1st of February, you will have a small sum of mine in your hands which pray make use of to get you[rself] anything that's necessary now in your illness.'

27 Nov. 1732. Dublin. 'I had two letters from my sister. Both came in one day of each other. As to the request of the last I can say nothing of it not hearing by any sure hand that the young man [William Conolly] has any occasion for jewels. I am sure he wants money more than anything else, for he is a great deal in debt, having paid but trifles of the legacies,

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

and has such a giving-away temper that I see no end of such expenses. My brother Pearson and all his friends is very uneasy about it. I am sure it gives me vast trouble, and we all think nothing but a discreet wife can make him alter this expensive way of acting ... . I hope the jackalet [chocolate] may be here by Xmas which will serve my turn. ... When you have paid for the chocolate or anything you have laid out for me, you promised me more needles. I want no coarse ones. The coarsest I want is such as would make linen of 3 or 4 shillings a yard and the rest fine ones – and 2 good pen-knives. The last was not very good. Betty Leslie writes to me she is getting thread for you ... . As I should have said before, send me your account that I may order you some money when I know what you have of mine in your hands, for I have great occasion for money now in London and must draw next post for £150 on Gould & Nisbet [*sic*] for marble I cannot get here for the monument [by the sculptor, Thomas Carter] I am making for my dear Mr Conolly which will cost me above £600; and I have this summer built an aisle to our church that has cost me above £300, for the church was by much to[o] little for the people; and though many people said they would contribute towards rebuilding the old church, I found so many objections and so little money like to come in that I have done all at my own expense; and it's larger and ten times handsomer than the old church. These things and a thousand others makes me poor at present, but let me know if diamonds be now reasonable for as Colonel Montgomery left me £100 to buy a ring, I think I ought to do it soon, but I would have it cheap, and good.'

MS 41,578/7  
1733–4

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

28 Feb. 1732/3. Dublin. Wants Mrs Bonnell to buy her a diamond ring for her little finger for £70 or £80 from Mr Webb, 'your jeweller', who will have to trust her till her Welsh rents come in because has little or no money in Gould & Nesbitt's hands. Wants a handsome fashionable watch with handsome case.

17 Mar. 1733. Dublin. When she heard Mrs Bonnell was ill she wrote to Mr Hoare and Mr Smith and desired Mr Hoare to let her have £20 immediately. 'Mrs Bulkeley told me yesterday she had 10 guineas to send to you for some body that sends so much to you to give to somebody in charity. I know not how it is, but I told her I would get the gentleman to take it with mine to Mr Webb. I have wrote to Mr Webb the 10 guineas is for you.'

12 June 1733. Dublin. Last packet sent Mr Hoare a bill for the £20 he gave you. Doesn't know if Mrs Bonnell has yet received her quarter's allowance sent by Lady Mountjoy.

[N.B. No letters about the negotiations re William Conolly's marriage to Lady Anne Wentworth in April 1733, or recording Katherine Conolly's first impressions of Lady Anne.]

3 Dec. 1734. Dublin. Has sent in a little packet by Colonel Wentworth your quarter's allowance. The odd 25s is for 'jacklet' for your self.

9 Dec. 1734. Lady Anne has been delivered of a premature but healthy son. He is to be called William, 'but not till I had a promise that if it died, I would have another William.' [This baby, and possibly a second William, did in fact die. The Conolly heir, born in 1738, was called Thomas.]

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

27 Dec. 1734. Dublin. Encloses letter for Gould & Nesbitt for £41: 14s: £22: 16s for jacket; 12 guineas for our unfortunate niece [the estranged wife of Williams Conyngham; usually referred to as 'Niece Conyngham']; and a new year's gift to Mrs Bonnell of 6 guineas.

MS 41,578/8

1735

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

24 Apr. 1735. Dublin. 'I am glad the bill came safe to you but in the latter end of May or beginning of June I'll send you the other quarter's allowance, which I hope will answer as well for you, tho' I must say that I unluckily put out some money on a mortgage which has made me very scarce of money till my May rents comes in. It's the first I ever put out that way and shall be the last, and it was but £815 and I was obliged to do it to serve a friend that wanted the money, and so I took their mortgage; and as I have a greater demand on me in London about figures that is making for my monument that I have put up in my new church that I have built, the church and monument has and will cost me above £2,000. The figures could not be done here and they come between 2 and 3 hundred. One I have already paid in London last week ... I have spoke to Ralph Samson to wait on [Mr Savage, clerk to Lord Chief Justice Marlay] and know what's doing. You were very wrong in employing those men [Clark and French].'

11 Oct. 1735. Dublin. Sends a note [for £50 on Gould & Nesbitt]. Take money due to Mr Pearson for damask etc etc and take your own £25 due last August and £5 to help you move to new habitation.

21 Nov. 1735. Dublin. Harry [Conyngham?] is fallen out with me because I refused to lend him £500.

2 Dec. 1735. Dublin. Nephew [Williams] Conyngham, 'the greatest brute', proposes to commence a lawsuit with me for my Welsh estate which my husband left me and says it was his father's and mother's. Has made it up with Harry.

MS 41,578/9

1736

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

27 Mar. 1736. Dublin. 'I long to hear that you have got the last letter of the 19th with a bill of £66:17s:6d which I had from Mr Alderman Curtis. I would have sent it over in cash but rather than have drawn, having very little money in Gould's hands, but I durst trust nobody that was going with it.'

14 May 1736. Dublin. 'I have sent you by one that belongs to the Duke of Dorset's family that goes off as soon as the wind will let him, the purse that the widow Jenny Hamilton sent you last winter. I have put in it 25 guineas, your May quarter, and the odd 25 shillings you must lay out in chocolate for yourself. I also put in some fine thread. My thread woman being dead I am quite out, for now instead of buying a 5lb at a time I buy by ounces. I have directed the purse to Mr Hoare's.' Has received prayer book she asked for for Miss Burton. How much was it? 'I have not now any money in England and I think I have overdrawn

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

Gould & Nisbet 5 or 6 pounds for the figures I have made for your brother and myself that is to be put up in my church in the country [Celbridge, Co. Kildare] where I have erected a handsome monument – and have been obliged to build the church quite new upon that account which altogether, church and monument, has cost me £2,000 at least.’

25 May 1736. Dublin. ‘Poor Jenny Sampson is like to bury all her children. I think so likely a healthy father and mother never had so rotten miserable creatures: fine handsome children till they come to 3 or 4 years old, then they die like so many rotten sheep.’ The Sampsons have buried 6 out of 11.

3 Aug. 1736. Castletown. Nephew Conyngham dead or dying. ‘It’s a sad consideration to think he was neither fit to live or to die, and that one that should have been the head of his family that his death should be the means to preserve a family.’

20 Sep. 1736. Dublin. Has sent 25 guineas. No money in Gould & Nesbitt’s hands nor will there be for 2 months.

2 Oct. 1736. Castletown. ‘Pray which Mr Hoare is mentioned as dead in the prints: is it any of your friends?’

14 Dec. 1736. Wrote 30 November to Gould & Nesbitt to pay you £50.

20 Dec. 1736. Encloses draft to Gould & Nesbitt for 20 guineas to be given to poor Niece Conyngham. ‘As the account stands between you and me pray take 4 guineas and then there will remain of mine in your hands £5.’

Ms 41,578/10

1737

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder contains:

3 May 1737. Dublin. Sent a letter by the last packet with letter to Gould & Nisbet to pay £50 [half-year’s] allowance.

15 Aug. 1737. Dublin. Niece Conyngham has come secretly to Dublin but has met up with husband. ‘They do not sleep together, as I think Colonel Dallaway [*sic* – Robert Dallaway, third husband of the late Lady Shelburne] made him promise he would not [because of Conyngham’s venereal disease]. ... When she landed and came here I gave her a bill of £20. I thought she received it very coolly, said she did not want it.’

1 Nov. 1737. Dublin. Sending 50 guineas by Colonel Cornwallis. Keep 25 guineas for yourself.

5 Nov. 1737. ‘I wrote to my dear sister 3 days ago that I would send you by Colonel Cornwallis 50 guineas but that upon looking for guineas I could not easily get so many. I have in a box, with a little Irish thread, sent you in Portugal gold 14 pieces and a half which makes up the 50 guineas to some small matter.’

20 Dec. 1737. Dublin. Sends some money to help buy mourning for the Queen.



## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

MS 41,578/11

1738

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

24 Mar. 1737/8.1 Dublin. Has received your letter saying you had got the £50.

5 Apr. 1738. Dublin. Promises an extra £20 a year to Mrs Bonnell.

22 Apr. 1738. Mr Conolly and Lady Anne are going again to England. '... A rolling stone never gathers moss, which is too true with them, for all [is] spent and little or no debts paid, which grieves me much. English wives ought to bring large portions, which I never heard was our case, for it's all to come. She is a good woman, I must say, and he the very most indulgent husband in the world.'

26 Oct. 1738. Dublin. Williams Conyngham has died. 'He has been in all this illness and some time before the most penitent creature I ever heard of.'

1 Nov. 1738. Dublin. 'I am still a worker. When I am obliged to wear spectacles I shall turn idler.'

11 Nov. 1738. Dublin. Encloses bill on Nesbitts for £30. I hope Colonel [Henry] Conyngham will give you not trouble about your money [mortgage for £1,500 charged on the Conyngham estate in Co. Donegal, which Henry Conyngham had just inherited from his elder brother, Williams].

MS 41,578/12

1739

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

15 Jan. 1738/9. Dublin. Arrangements following Williams Conyngham's death. Niece Conyngham has taken her late husband's two bastards from the slut of a mother and 'has clothed them for they were quite naked'. Has lodged them with an old decayed gentlewoman to teach them to read and say their prayers.

10 Feb. 1738/9. Dublin. Has sent bill for 50 guineas.

16 May 1739. Dublin. Has sent bill for £30.

26 July 1739. First mention of harsh letters from Henry Conyngham.

8 Aug. 1739. Castletown. Has drawn a bill on Nesbitts for your £30 now due plus £5:10s out of which you should send the little Burtons [great-nieces/nephews] 10s between them; the other £5 for asses milk and to buy coals.

MS 41,578/13

1740

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

7 Feb. 1739/40. Dublin. Sends £50 plus £4 for coals, 21s for 'jacklet' and 10s for young Burtons.

10 May 1740. Dublin. Has sent bill for allowance.

23 June 1740. Hopes dispute between Henry Conyngham and sister-in-law [Williams's widow] is now ended.

4 Aug. 1740, Sends quarter's allowance with extra £5 to buy coals and tea and a crown each for the two Burtons. Worries about Mrs Bonnell's diet. 'I am sure the poor here is very miserable. They have cheated me so often that I grow very uncharitable.'

25 Nov. 1740. Mr Burton [not Francis] and Colonel Daloway [*sic*] have died.

MS 41,578/14

1741

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

12. Jan. 1740/a. Castletown. 'The poor here is in a very bad way'.

2 Feb. 1740/1. Will continue to make allowance £35 until things grow a little cheaper in your part of the world, but send crowns to the two Burton boys. Sir Robert King has died. His agent writes Mrs Bonnell will be the first to be paid.

24 Feb. 1740/1. In my next bill to you I'll send a guinea a week for the expenses of the two Burton boys (who were with Mrs Bonnell) for as many weeks as they were with her.

2 May 1741. Sends bill on Nesbitts for £35 for Mrs Bonnell and £5 for the two boys. Hopes bill Mr Burton sent you will defray all expenses for Willy. '... At presnt I am very poor in London for my tenant [in Wales?] never pays till near Michaelmas.'

14 May 1741. Did you get last bill of £40, sent under a cover of Mr Potter's 2nd May?

26 May 1741. Glad your maid has returned. 'It would have been a sad trouble to you, when you had your young and old gentlemen with you, not to have her at home. I hope Mr Burton was generous to the nurse and your landlady. I am sure he owes a great deal to you.'

6 Aug. 1741. Encloses bill for £40. Prices falling here but I don't know how it is with you. Your next won't be so much.

22 Aug. 1741. Castletown. Cousin Jenny Hamilton has left you £200. She died rich. Her brother Henry [Leslie] and Mrs Bonnell residuary legatees.

28 Nov. 1741. Mr [Edward] Worth's [MS 41,580/27] death. 'He turned the greatest sot I ever heard of. Drunk at least 3 times a day, put to bed and up again. ... It is very strange that the people in England should be so fond of Irish things when here they run after English poplins to a degree of madness.'

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

MS 41,578/15

1742

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

22 June 1742. Sympathises with her re Henry Conyngham's covetous behaviour. Did you get the half guinea for the two boys that was within the seal of one of my letters?

24 June 1742. If nephew had dealt handsomely with Mrs Bonnell, KC would have withdrawn allowance. But if you agree with Mr Richardson's proposal [to settle with nephew on compromise terms] you shall have it as long as I live. Mr Matthews, acting in matter against nephew, is very indolent (several letters about this).

1 Feb. 1742/3. Castletown. Sorry Mrs Bonnell has been obliged to borrow money to support herself.

22 Feb. 1742/3. Thinks Mrs Bonnell's demands too high, but Henry Conyngham's too low.

3 Aug. 1742. 'I am not quite so poor as not to send you your allowance.' Encloses bill for £30.

22 Sep. 1742. 'We have the finest weather I ever saw, and great plenty in the country, and still the beggars swarms, for they have got such a custom of begging they will not work, tho' they can get it.'

10 Nov. 1742. Sending bill for £35 on Nesbitts; some for Burtons, some for asses milk.

MS 41,578/16

1743

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly, including a draft letter of 18 March 1742/3 from Mrs Bonnell to Sister [Conolly?] complaining that Katherine Conolly thinks her guilty of forgery and perjury in the Conyngham dispute.

MS 41,578/17

1744-5

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly. The folder includes:

14 Apr. 1744. About papers for suit. Sister Jones will go to see Lord Chief Justice. Frank Burton dead in debt. Evidently Mrs Bonnell had friend/companion, Mrs Bruce.

7 July 1744. Describing her efforts to emancipate Francis Burton [junior, son of Francis and 'Molly' Burton, Mrs Conolly's niece] from the baneful influence of his grandmother, old Mrs Alice Burton.

27 Nov. 1744. Has sent bill on Nesbitts for £36.

17 Jan. 1744/5. Dublin. Did you ever write to Mr Holt to make some enquiries about your securities? She goes on to complain that Francis Burton junior was not presented at Court

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

when he visited London: 'I think this a strange thing that a Protestant gentleman of family should not have been presented to a Protestant royal family.'

7 Feb. 1744/5. Encloses bill for 34 guineas, including 14s for Willy Burton.

26 Feb. 1744/5. Legal suit with the Kings. Both sisters consulting Lord Chief Justice.

MS 41,578/18

N.D.

Three undated letters or bits of letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Conolly.

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MS 41,579/1

1702: 1711–21

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from other members of the Conyngham family, among them her brother, Brigadier Henry Conyngham (1 letter) and his elder son and successor (as a minor in 1706), the unsatisfactory Williams Conyngham. The folder includes:

4 July 1702. Brigadier Henry Conyngham to Mrs Bonnell proposing that she should invest [most of her capital?, viz. £1,500, in a mortgage on his Co. Donegal estate]. 'I am very well satisfied you should have as much interest for your money as anybody else gets'. Suggests that she'll have an income of £140 p.a. in half yearly payments. In another hand [that of Conyngham's wife, Lady Shelburne?] to 'dear sister': 'I am very sorry to find that time which wears off all other people's sorrows increases yours [at the death of James Bonnell three years previously], and that that extraordinary proportion of sense which conducts you in all your other actions should fail you in this one point (where it is most required) for sure otherwise you would overcome (by it) that food of grief which destroys your health and takes away the only comfort you have left of reading, and conversing with your friends.'

18 Apr. 1718. Adamina Wilhelmina Conyngham [Dutch wife or reputed wife of Williams Conyngham], Utrecht, to Mrs Bonnell ('Dear Aunt'). Sorry to hear Mr Conolly is so angry with husband. Letter from Williams Conyngham of same date, asking Mrs Bonnell to intercede with her uncle.

MS 41,579/2

1722–42

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from the Conynghams, including:

10 Feb. 1721/2. Williams Conyngham, Conyngham Hall [later called Slane Castle, Slane, Co. Meath], to Mrs Bonnell. About the mortgage debt. 'I must own I thought you would be the last person upon earth that would press me in my necessities, and it is impossible that you can want money half so much as I do at present who have been obliged lately to remit so much to England. However I scraped as much money together as paid the bill you drew on me, tho' it put me to some straits, but I beg you will not draw on me for any more, for at present I have not any money but if you will let me have an account of what money is due to you, as soon as ever I am able I will remit it to you.'

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18 Jan. 1725/6. Williams Conyngham, Sandwich, to Mrs Bonnell.  
Sorry for delay in paying, which is due to 'roguery of agents'. Will repay principal and interest of mortgage.

25 Nov. 1726. Williams Conyngham to Mrs Bonnell.  
'I suppose you have heard how the mortgagee has used me in order to make him give him possession of my estate.' Asks her to let the arrears of interest lie until he possesses Slane again. 'This I am in hopes at this juncture ... won't be rejected by Aunt Bonnell, who has too much morality to willingly press any one, too much regard I hope for the memory of my father not to endeavour to serve me.'

26 Sep. 1728. Williams Conyngham, Slane, to Mrs Bonnell.  
Please persuade Mr Murray, who's dying and has expressed himself very much in favour of my brother and me, 'that as I am the elder brother and consequently the head of the family, ... [he should] leave what he intends for to leave our family to me; for my brother is already in better circumstances for a younger brother than I am for an elder brother: he has above £400 a year estate, [and] a cornet's commission besides ready money.'

18 Feb. 1728/9. Constance Conyngham [née Middleton, wife of Williams Conyngham], Slane, to Mrs Bonnell.  
Hope you received money from husband and he'll pay you the rest before May. Delay because he had to build new houses for tenants in Kent. He is also repairing Slane.

10 Mar. 1728/9. Constance Conyngham to Mrs Bonnell.  
Her son's father 'has little power to be of any service to him'.

15 Nov. 1729. C[onstance] Conyngham, London, to Mrs Bonnell.  
Thanks for sending word of uncle's [William Conolly] death, 'and for informing me how his affairs was left. I should have been pleased had it given me an account of your having had a small share of the abundant riches he has left. His goodness in remembering me in his will was a surprise to me, not being what I expected. Indeed, I should have been glad if his generosity had been a little greater for my poor boy, for the interest of a thousand pound will but very barely maintain him, tho' I am sensibly obliged for that, which I would show by all the marks of respect I was capable of.' What mourning proper for herself and child? 'I have proposed to Mr Conyngham [her husband, Williams] to have my thousand pounds paid out in annuity for my use, which if I can get done will prevent his receiving it.'

28 Aug. 1730. Williams Conyngham, New Town Limavady, to Mrs Bonnell.  
Filing a suit against uncle's executors.

26 Nov. 1731. C[onstance] Conyngham, Caswick, to Mrs Bonnell.  
Refers to son Billy and his education being paid for by her brother-in-law, Lord Onslow. 'Pray was you in the lottery? I had one ticket to try my luck but fortune is too much my enemy to give me success, so it proved a blank.'

22 Dec. 1731. Constance Conyngham, Caswick, to Mrs Bonnell.  
'Last post brought the agreeable news of a guardian being appointed and that my Lord Chancellor had give proper powers to my brother Conyngham to take upon him the

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

management of my poor boy's legacy and that Mr Conolly had ordered the payment of the thousand pound and the interest due upon it, which my brother Burton writes the Speaker word will be immediately remitted to him for the child's use. This I know you will be pleased to hear because, if your [great-]nephew does not improve where he is, I shall be enabled to fix him at a better school since I can depend upon the interest being punctually paid.'

Apr. 1742. Henry Conyngham to Mrs Bonnell.

Agrees to waive privilege of Parliament. On what appears to be the wrapper, there are notes by Mrs Bonnell about 'suspicions of her honour'.

MS 41,579/3

1743

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from the Conynghams – principally correspondence (two-way) with Colonel Henry Conyngham, younger brother and successor (in 1738) of Williams Conyngham, about the lawsuit between them over the mortgage for £1,500 held by her on the Conyngham estate in Co. Donegal and the arrears of interest thereupon. The folder includes:

2 Apr. 1743. Mrs Bonnell to 'Dear niece' [Constance Conyngham].

Odd proposal from Colonel Conyngham. 'He accuses my advisers of my unreasonableness, but indeed I have no advisers in the case. My own reason is my director.' She mentions the 'ambassadors that he sent to bully me last summer', and that Lady Shelburne paid me interest until her death.

7 Apr. 1743. Henry Conyngham to Mrs Bonnell.

Declaration that, to end law suit with aunt, he'll pay her principal of £1,500 for which she has a mortgage on his estate in Co. Donegal and half the interest due.

MS 41,579/4

1744

Correspondence of Mrs Bonnell with the Conynghams, principally Colonel Henry Conyngham, about the lawsuit. Included is a draft or copy of a letter of 16 January 1743/4 from Mrs Bonnell to him. She says she is surprised that Mr White, attorney, has no orders from you to come to an amicable decree. 'I confess I cannot comprehend what you propose by these delays. It may indeed prolong the matter, but my life is uncertain as well as yours, and I am sure my executors will have no power to make you the generous abatement that I inclined to do.'

MS 41,579/5

Feb.–Mar. 1745

Correspondence of Mrs Bonnell with the Conynghams, principally Colonel Henry Conyngham, about the lawsuit, including a letter of 12 February 1744/5 from Conyngham, London, to her: 'The villainous treatment I have met with both in my election and petition [for Sandwich?] have given me such a fait [*sic*] of mankind that I am determined to retire from this part of the world when the situation of my affairs will permit.'

## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

MS 41,579/6  
1717–21: 1738

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from tutors and others about the errant ways of Williams Conyngham while on the Grand Tour and thereafter and about his premature death in 1738. The folder includes;

17 Sep. [?1717] Christopher Caldwell [tutor?], Amsterdam (where he was accompanying Williams Conyngham).

WC wants to marry a woman from Utrecht, but needs consent of Mrs Bonnell and Uncle Conolly. 'I have been obliged to draw upon Sir Alexander Cairnes for £160 which I know is more than a quarter's allowance', but it is needed to clear WC's debts.

17 Oct. 1717 [ ], Slane, to Mrs Bonnell at Dr Lupton's, Quality Court, Chancery Lane. 'I am the more apprehensive of your being not well because of your too great reason of being afflicted for that unhappy youth and so far afflicted that a person of your tenderness to so near a relation may be in danger of suffering in your health by it.'

28 Oct. 1738. Roger Jones (nephew), Slane, to Mrs Bonnell.

Death of Williams Conyngham 'of a decay'. He showed 'great concern for his mis-spent time'. Executrix Mrs Conyngham. List of legacies, including £50 to Mrs Bonnell.

MS 41,579/7  
1720–43

Case papers and correspondence of Mrs Bonnell with lawyers and others who are not members of the Conyngham family about her lawsuit with Henry Conyngham. [See also MS 41,580/5, 20 and 25–6.] The folder includes:

11 Oct. 1743. Albert Nesbitt [kinsman and banker], London, to Mrs Bonnell, Writtle.

'I received yesterday your letter dated the 8 inst full of wrath against the only son of your only brother. I also see an amount which was lent to your nephew. The amount was I am sure never received by any of the blood of the Conynghams. I am justified in saying so for many reasons. ... You received interest at 10 and 8 per cent to the year 1724 and thence to this time everyone knows the legal interest is only 5 and the current interest only 3½ per cent per annum. I do not know what security you have, bond or mortgage, nor did I ever hear a creditor could receive more than the penalty of a bond, which is the same sum as the principal debt.'

MS 41,579/8  
1720: 1725: c.1729–30

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from her niece, Mary ('Molly') Conyngham, [who married Francis Burton of Buncraggy, Co. Clare, in 1721], together with Katherine Conolly's now celebrated letter of matrimonial advice to Molly Burton, 12 June 1720. [For the text of it, see Barnard, 'A Tale of three Sisters', pp 287–9.]

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MS 41,579/9

17269

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Francis Burton [who was doubly related to her, being a nephew of her late husband, James Bonnell, as well as the husband of her favourite niece, Molly]. The folder includes:

31 Oct. 1729. Francis Burton, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

An account of the death of his 'poor Uncle' Conolly. Bitter at physicians, whose 'cordials' prolonged Conolly's death agonies four days after they had given him up. Will signed 12 days before his death, though 'digested long before'.

9 Nov. 1729. Francis Burton, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell, London.

'Last Tuesday we paid our last duty in attending my poor uncle to Castletown, the funeral was very handsome and the procession from his house to the end of Arran Quay on foot, and very numerous, both Houses of Parliament assisted, and everybody had a linen scarf of three yards at the rate of 6s. a yard. 'Tis a custom introduced for the good of the kingdom, and which if it continues will create a great consumption of your own manufacture. My poor aunt is going the ready way to destroy herself. She neither eats, drinks nor sleeps, is really fallen away to nothing, nor will she be persuaded to take any one thing that is proper to support her spirits and comfort her.'

19 Nov. 1729. Francis Burton, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell, London.

Thanks her for her letters to his aunt (Mrs Conolly) who is now very much better, though remains 'reserv'd' as to her intentions. Conolly has given 'us' £5,000 in his will, besides what he gave to 'Molly' (Burton's wife) by deed before her daughter was born, which is £5,000 more. A further bequest to 'Harry' (his son) is, however, open to legal challenge. Neither Dr Coghill nor the Attorney-General are yet able to give a positive [i.e. definite] opinion about it. ... I had yesterday a long conference with my brother [Williams Conyngham] about you, and it ended in this: that he owes you nothing, as he imagines it, for your debt was to be paid out of the profits of the estate, which during the minority was more than sufficient to answer all debts charged on it. Besides that amount you can have a demand for no more than half your mortgage from him. You guess the reason. ... I have spoke to my aunt as to Mr Conolly and they have resolved you shall have your legacy clear £200 in London, and there is that sum now in Natt Gould's hands which they design for you. You may be sure I shall take particular care of what comes to my hands for and from you.'

24 Nov. 1729 Francis Burton to Mrs Bonnell.

'I now enclose you a bill signed by three of the executors for your legacy', to be paid through Mr Gould.

9 Dec. 1729. Francis Burton to Mrs Bonnell.

Mrs Bonnell's sister, Mrs Conolly, is improving. 'She begins to see her particular friends, has her own apartment [in Speaker Conolly's house in Capel Street, Dublin] hung in grey and the great stair case and the great apartment above stairs in black where I suppose she must see company in form, which will be a most disagreeable entertainment. The floor of the great bedchamber is covered with black which I suppose will be a matter of great observation to the town being usual only to persons of the first quality.'



## LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS

MS 41,579/10

1730–39

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Francis Burton. The folder includes:

19 Jan. 1729/30. Francis Burton to Mrs Bonnell.

‘The Bishop of Clonfert [Arthur Price] has the King’s Letter to go to Ferns, but everybody is provoked at Lord Carteret, who takes away his commendam from him contrary to his word and honour given that he should keep it. Otherwise, he might have had Elphin. But great men do what they please with conscience and honour, and now the poor Bishop will lose five hundred a year by the affair. Had his patron [Conolly] been alive, this had not happened.’

26 Jan. 1729/30. Francis Burton, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell, London.

‘Yesterday was the last my aunt saw company above stairs, in dismal ceremony, and sufficiently fatigued she has been with it. Several people talk of her having done too much in putting her staircase in mourning, and say it does not belong to her to do what even a duchess could not have pretended to, though she had advised with Lady Carteret about it and Hawkins [Ulster King of Arms] had no objection, provided she would go to the expense, and indeed a great one it has been. Since my Lord Carteret has used Bishop Price in the sad manner he has done, neither his lordship nor my lady have been here, and he goes on in using all the world ill, denying promises made, and acting the hypocrite with all the world. When I came over first, I happened to tell my real sentiments of his lordship to my aunt, for which she was mighty angry with me, but is now so well convinced how very right I was. ... Poor Dr James Coghill was this day ... attacked by a fit of the gout in his stomach and mighty ill he was.’

6 Feb. 1729/30. Francis Burton, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

‘Last Saturday, Nat. Clements was married to Dean Gore’s eldest daughter, who is a very genteel, agreeable young woman. He has a thousand pounds with her, and if the Dean gets a bishopric he gives her five hundred more. ...’

14 Feb. 1729/30. Francis Burton to Mrs Bonnell.

‘Poor Harry Maxwell was buried last night, having been struck with an apoplectic fit, in which he lay miserable from Monday night till Thursday morning. The vacancy by his death in Donegal has been the occasion of some little misunderstanding between Will. Conolly and my aunt, who upon the account of Maxwell’s illness, bethought herself of keeping up her nephew’s interest in the borough against Sir Arthur Gore, and therefore named young Armar as a proper person to put up, and accordingly recommending him to Will. Conolly, she was surprised to find he had made Sir Arthur a compliment upon his being chose a burges of the town, to serve him upon the first occasion should offer, by which he gives up the interest his uncle had always in the borough. Upon this she wrote several letters to the corporation, but am sure, since Will. joins with Sir Arthur, who has really named a most worthy person, Major Folliot, the burgeses will comply with them, and drop all former obligations. We have pretty well calmed her first passion, and I hope there will be no more uneasiness between them. ’Twas an inadvertent promise Will. had made, and when he made it [he] little expected an opportunity would happen so suddenly for Sir Arthur’s claim of it.’

9 Mar. 1729/30. Francis Burton to Mrs Bonnell.

‘The affair of Donegal election is settled. Since Will. Conolly made the compliment, my aunt has desisted; she only meant to keep up his interest in a borough that his uncle always had half of. Major Folliot comes in for it.’

**LETTERS TO MRS JANE BONNELL FROM THE CONYNGHAMS**

24 Nov. 1730. Francis Burton to Mrs Bonnell.

'For God's sake get sister Conyngham [Constance, wife of Williams] to prevail on Lord Onslow to send directions that the Chancellor may be moved to appoint a guardian to Billy' [son of Williams and Constance]. Since nobody will do the boy that service, Burton has offered to do it himself.

**XV.ii OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL**

MS 41,580/1

1739–42

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Katherine Benson, Londonderry and Dublin.

MS 41,580/2

1711: 1723: N.D.

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Alan Brodrick, 1st Viscount Midleton [Lord Chancellor of Ireland, 1714–25; arch-rival of William Conolly; d.1728], writing from his English seat, Peper Harrow (Godalming), from Meriden and Fenny Stratford (Warwickshire) and from Dublin, including one undated letter from his brother, Thomas. The folder includes:

15 Oct. 1711. Alan Brodrick, Fenny Stratford, to Mrs Bonnell, London.

‘Your letter was very new to me, and of that nature that I have not received many of the kind before; but some few I have (though not altogether upon the same topic) yet which have mentioned some of my faults. The few admonitions I have received from my friends show me that my observation is very just, when I compute the number of them to be very small, but I do assure you, though I have received very many and very signal favours from you, yet I firstly value that which your letter contains beyond all other instances of your friendship for me. And the least return I can make to you for it, is to own you have done an act becoming a true Christian and a true friend. But that you may reap in some measure the fruit you expect, I do assure you Madam I have, and endeavour to possess my heart daily with, the greatest awe and veneration in that God, whose name you have observed me to take in vain. I am sensible how provoking, heinous, and unaccountable a sin it is to take God’s name in vain: it hath neither of the usual temptations to wickedness, pleasure or profit: I know how much it lessens a man in the esteem of all virtuous and considering people: I disapprove, nay I detest the practice, so far am I from making a slight thing of it, much more from taking amiss what is so well designed; and I hope what you have said to me will have that influence on me that, by the assistance of God’s grace you will see that I hate the vice, but do not hate to be reformed. I am ashamed of doing amiss, but cannot be so of being told of it in the manner you have done. Let me desire you, if at any time hereafter you observe me faulty in that way, that you give me an immediate hint of it at the time; tho’ I hope I shall prevent it by having a watch over my lips. So much on that subject ...’. Goes on to discuss family matters, and refers to someone as her ‘pupil’.

‘Sunday morning’ [N.D. – 1720s?] Thomas Brodrick to Mrs Bonnell.

Acknowledges hers. Goes on: ‘Surely you are better acquainted with public affairs than to fancy I have the least interest in great men, by whom I suppose you intend Ministers; I am one of those affected animals, who call themselves independent, and this I resolve always to be, wherefore I should be more likely to prejudice any cause with them, than assist it. This is literally true, therefore consider it, and if you will have me give the case, and your letter to Mr Walpole, after having first blotted out your name, I’ll do it when I meet him in the House, for he alone can order what you desire, but upon my word I think the end would be easier attained by some favourite of his, than by [?pill ?garlick] ...’.

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

MS 41,580/3

c.1729–44

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Ann Brodrick [1658–1748], third wife of the 1st Viscount Midleton, Dublin, including a doleful account (3 May 1730) of how Lord Midleton [her stepson, the 2nd Viscount] has taken out a lawsuit against her in England: ‘They are resolved to do everything they can to distress me, for my dear friend is gone and they may do what they will with me now.’

MS 41,580/4

c.1719–1733

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from her cousin, Mrs Jane Bulkeley [widow of John Bulkeley of Old Bawn, Co. Dublin, and a connection of the Worths – see MS 41,580/27], including references to politics, to the misconduct of Williams Conyngham and to Mrs Bonnell’s and Mrs Bulkeley’s money dealings and speculations. The folder includes:

24 Feb. 1718/9. J. Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

‘I went to Mrs Conolly and spoke to her about the money you had laid out for her. She told me she would pay you if she knew what it was. She says she had the bill you sent her in her pocket when she fell sick, and all things that was left in them was lost, but if you will send her the bill she will pay it. I was in hopes to get that money from her to send with my £30 or you should have had it before this. ... I sent to Mr Meguire for this bill and he would have 15 shillings a hundred more than I got this bill for. ... Mr Pearson and his wife [William Conolly’s sister] are gone into the country. They seemed well pleased to go home. He is I think grown a very thoughtful man, and she is a mighty good wife. They like their own retired way of living much better than the hurry they meet with at their Brother Conolly’s.’  
News of Mr Worth’s family and Ms Tynte.

15 July 1719. Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

‘I have dirtied my cloth more since I came into Ireland than I should have done in four years in England, but I must say I am more capable of doing good here than in any other place.’

18 July 1719. J. Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

Has not seen Mr and Mrs Conolly since Parliament sat other than briefly. ‘I know that they are very sower [sore?] at this time, for things does not go ... as he would have them, for they say he expected to have the Test taken off but has been so much opposed by the more considerable Whigs that they of his party has thought fit to drop the bill. The Tories has left the Whigs to battle it with one another, which they have done very affectly [*sic*]. I meet with very few but what are against the bill; Mrs Macartney herself is against it. They have passed a bill for liberty of conscience, which the Presbyterians did as good as say in the House they gave them no thanks for, since they would not take off the Test.’

25 July 1719. Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

‘I see Sister Conolly. She read me your last letter. She says but little, but seems to despise the Lord very much. She pressed me very much to dine with her, that I might see Mr Conolly, but I could not nor I did not care for it. I might [have] been asked some questions that I should not care for answering. I have nothing to do amongst them. They have met with a great deal of vexation this sessions of Parliament. His being for taking off the Test has given them a handle to oppose him in everything he says, or proposes, though it be for the

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

good of the kingdom. There is a great many that has envied his greatness and would fain pull him down if they could. I think he has carried himself with great civility and good manners to all people, and, as I say with some of those that are bitter against him, that his fortune is too great to be crushed by them. Mr Worth is not one of those that are against him.'

[1720] J[ane] B[ulkeley?] to Mrs Bonnell.

The Burton marriage and errands in London. Get somebody to wear a garment a little to save the customs [duty]. Problems with exchange rate.

[1720]. J[ane] Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

Refers to old Mrs Burton [prospective mother-in-law of Mrs Bonnell's niece, 'Molly'] as 'a very sharp woman' who is said to have her son 'a great deal in her power'.

4 Apr. 1721. J[ane] B[ulkeley?] to Mrs Bonnell.

Hears 'your sister' [Conolly] has bought seven 'stuff suits of clothes' to give away 'for the encouragement of the poor weavers. It is now the fashion for everybody to wear stuff, but how long they will hold in that mind I cannot tell. The ladies, you may know, are given to change. 'Tis said that there is fifteen hundred families of the weavers in great want. There has been a collection for them in all churches and meeting houses and mass houses in this town [Dublin], and the players has [sic] acted a play to give them what money was getting at it – there has been a great deal of money got, and hope it will be well laid out. They are very busy crying at this time the Epilogue and Prologue which makes me send it enclosed.'

23 June. 1721. J[ane] B[ulkeley], Rathfarnham, to Mrs Bonnell.

Death of Mrs Kernes [sic – Cairnes?] and losses in the South Sea Bubble. Asked Cousin Curtis to write to you 'to know if there was hopes of getting any of that money we had sent over to you and I have your answer to him before me. I find that 'tis in a very bad way. You did it for the best, and that must make us easy. Your design in doing service is not the less, though it did not succeed. I hope you have not suffered more in your own fortune than you can well spare. I am sure that would be a great trouble to me to hear of. For my part I think people were infatuated at that time. We lay the fault upon others, but I think it was a delusion brought upon us for our sin.' Refers to 'that wretch Charles'.

9 Dec. [1721?] Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell, London.

'I fear you will meet with a great deal of trouble from you own family, as well as I have done. I think I writ you my thoughts in my last letter to you.' Sent last letters by Mr Ram, which unfortunately she cannot do often. 'I wish you could get some friend of a Parliament-man, that your letters may be directed to, as to get Mr Power to frank, is not to be done, for 'tis believe[d] by most that tis Mr Manley [Isaac Manley, Irish Postmaster] that has writ into England to have those letters the cover taking of[f], and people made to pay for them. That family is much altered since you left this kingdom, and is grown very high. He is one of your brother [Conolly's] creatures, and is said to be one of them that is a cat claw, to do things that he has no mind to appear in himself. ... Dr Pratt was buried last night. He died of a fever. Your Brother and Sister Conolly are well, the Duke and Duchess has been all last week with them at Castletown. ... This is the great day about our bank, I believe and hope it will come to nothing. It has made great disturbances here, and I fear it has raised disputes that will not easily be put up, for they are very warm on both sides ...'

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

3 Nov. 1722. Jane Bulkely to Mrs Bonnell.

'I would have answered your of the 13th before this, but that I was willing to go to Dublin where I could look over my papers and I find you are right as to the £200. I cannot tell how I came to make such a mistake. I suppose I had cast it up right, tho' I had charged you £8 when I took over the copy of the account that I sent you. I there find I had charged you but with the £200 without the £8 ... . As to the charity school, I will say no more about it but I wish you could get somebody to subscribe to lessen the charge. I will receive it, if they will please to pay it to me. You know my temper – how uneasy it is to me to ask. ...'

N.D. [c.1722?] J.B. to Mrs Bonnell.

More about the charity school. 'I sent your letter to Abel Ram and I desired to have his answer. As to my Lady Ram, you cannot demand anything from her. She paid to the time she said she would not pay any more, for she was to pay a school of garle [?girls] in her own parish and MrKnight said, if she would pay to that school for an example to others, he would pay to your school which he does, and this Mr Spranger knows. He is I think the man of the greatest charity and goodness that we have in this town. There is none pays to our school but he and Mr Worth; if we keep it I do not find but you and I must pay £4 apiece every new year. Though it is hard with me, I have so many calls upon me, yet I would rather stress myself than let it fall, I think it so good a work. Mrs Merser does give them cloath once a year, so that I cannot expect that she will pay anything to the mistress.'

N.D. [c.1722?] J.B. to Mrs Bonnell

Hasn't delivered letter to Lord Chief Justice yet. 'As for the Coghills, I have no expectations from them, for they are engaged in other schools.'

N.D. [pre-1726] Copy of a letter from Mrs Bonnell to Jane Bulkeley refuting the allegation that she (Mrs Bonnell) had had a mind to marry Dr Lupton.

2 May 1727. Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

'Mr Brodrick died at Cork on Monday last, very much lamented. They say he was a man of the brightest and quickest parts of any man in our kingdom, his lady has the best character in the country where she lives, that ever I heard of anybody. ... I am very uneasy to have your money so long in my hands when I believe you want it.'

16 Mar. 1727/8. Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

'I write to you to let you know what a concern it was to me that money was so long in my hands for fear you should want it. Mr Clarke came to me as soon as he came to town which was the 10: of this month, and I gave him a bill for 50 guineas, which he had got a friend that would order it to be paid you at London. I hope you have received it before this. I will send you some guineas by a private hand as soon as I make up the account.'

9 Apr. 1728. Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

Concerned you haven't mentioned receiving 50 guineas that Mr Clarke sent you. 'Tis become a great fashion with us to do everything that is expensive. I believe there never was more vanity and more poverty in any nation than there is at this time in this kingdom, and things very dear. ... I have not seen my Lady Middleton since Mr Brodrick's death. I have been there but they were gone to take the air. He was in great grief at first, but I am told he has overcome it. He has a great deal in his power to do for that valuable woman [and her] children. I do not know anybody that has so general a great and good character, I know none

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

like her; she has four daughters, she designs to stay with them in the country. Mr Brodrick made a purchase but has died much in debt, he not having a son they say there is a great deal of the estate is in my Lord Middleton's power to give to whom he pleases. My lady has I believe a great power with my lord, which I hope she will make use of for the poor girls, for their fortunes are but small, but I think her great care is for her son, [Trevor] Hill.'

14 Jan. 1728/9. Jane Bulkely to Mrs Bonnell.

'Exchange they say is falling. I have sent you 40 guineas by the Provost. I hope they are with you by the time that this will come to your hands. I was loath to venture to send you more at a time for fear of any accident happening to them, and find people very cautious in taking money with them for fear of being robbed that I would rather send you bills. Mr Mathews was with me one Saturday and told me he had spoke to Mr McGuire and he said, as you were Mr Hoare's friend, he would get a merchant's bill for you which is 1 per cent lower than theirs; but I do not find they are always good.' Mrs Quin offered her some broad gold for the money Jane Bulkeley had of Mrs Bonnell's, 'which she says there is less loss in than in guineas.'

25 Nov. 1729. Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

'... All your friends here are concerned that your legacy was not more considerable out of his [William Conolly's] abundance. I think his will was made in a hurry, but the town says what is to come to your brother's family is worth near fifty thousand pounds, besides what he has left to your sister. She did deserve a great deal from him, and she thinks he has done very generously by her; I think that leaving her that estate in Wales at her own disposal is very kind.' There is likely to be a dispute in the (Conyngham) family about some £5,000 in the estate. Urges her not to press for a copy of will lest sister take it ill. Hasn't yet got Sir Harry King's or Mr Ram's bills.

13 Dec. 1729. Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

'I believe the bill that was sent you for your legacy was £10 more than was left you, and that with the exchange was above 330 which I believe was designed for mourning for you.' Has received Sir Harry King's bill and expects Mr Ram's soon. How will you have the money sent? Exchange is above eleven. 'Your sister' is preparing 'her black apartment [in the late Speaker Conolly's house in Capel Street, Dublin], which is above stairs. I believe it will not be ready for her this ten days. There is to be three rooms hung, one within another, and a bed in the third room ...'.

24 Jan. 1729/30. Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

'I wish I could get your money sent as you desire for I think it not safe to send it by a private hand. Guineas are not plenty. We have little but bankers' notes for what money we receive, for there is so much loss by the weight of money that we are content with their notes.'

23 Mar. 1730/31. Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

Business about a bond with Mrs Quin. Encloses her account of what money she has of Mrs Bonnell's and will send the money at the first opportunity.

14 June 1733. Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

'I now having time I have sent you my accounts that you may look them over and rectify what you see amiss, for my memory is bad. It is 2 years since we accounted. When you are able let me know your thoughts of them'. Nephew Ralph has cut his two eldest sons out of

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

his will, so she has made new will. 'I hope you have received the 10 guineas that I gave your Sister Conolly to send you. I told her it was money that you was to give to a poor man at London for me.'

14 July 1733. Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

Sister Conolly in a bad way. Mrs Bulkeley said to her that Mrs Bonnell needed more support, and that 'when she was gone you had no more relations to depend upon'. 'There is little but troubles in this world. Mr Worth has £1,000 in Burton's bank. Whether he will get any part of it, he cannot tell. I fear there will be many sufferers who cannot spare it so well, but his is a great sum. It has made him uneasy.'

27 Oct. 1733. Jane Bulkeley to Mrs Bonnell.

Mrs Coghill died on 17 October at Marlborough. 'They have been a great while at Bath, and were going to London for advice. She was taken ill on the road ...'.

N.D. James [Worth] Tynte [of Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow] to [Mrs Bulkeley, his mother-in-law].

Various business matters between his wife and Mr Bulkeley. 'Sir Richard Hoare had money of Sir Richard [Bulkeley] upon whose death he stopped the payment and since I am entitled to the money which I hear is £200 I desire, madam, by Mrs Bonnell's means you would inform yourself how I may demand it.' After great difficulties and expense, has brought Mr Bulkeley to agree to a treaty. Has paid him £3,000 down and £100 p.a. for 10 years for Sir R. Bulkeley's estate [which Tynte had inherited in right of his wife]. This may seem a great deal to buy off his claim but can be met from rents. Had found that Bulkeley's demand 'would be supported by all the Church interest in this kingdom, which is an interest I imagined I might have had some favour from, and when I had late instances how great an influence that interest had on some trials, when I secured myself from the many under-plots of some, who have not made my fortune the better for them, I judged most prudent to comply with terms by which I could not possibly lose ...'. Hopes what he has done will meet with her approval, and reports on his wife's recovery from an illness.

6 Nov. 1733. Thomas Curtis, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

Cousin [Jane] Bulkeley seized with violent fit and died. [For her will, see MS 41,569/4.]

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MS 41,580/5

1726–31: 1742: N.D.

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Robert French, Dublin, her legal adviser, particularly in her dealings with the Conynghams. The folder includes:

7 Apr. 1743. Mrs Bonnell to [Robert French?].

'I did not propose lowering my interest to 7 per cent and then abating £1,000.' Proposed to niece Conyngham abating half the interest. 'The Colonel makes great complaints of his debts and says he has paid fifteen thousand pounds of his father's and brother's debts since his brother's death, that there still remains fifteen thousand of his brother's to pay ... . If a man will do such things, I do not wonder he should be in difficulties. But why should I suffer because he has acted an evil part.' Served yesterday with a Chancery summons.



## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

8 Apr. 1743. Mrs Bonnell to [French].

Has just now received letter from the Colonel offering to pay her £1,500 principal and half the interest.

MS 41,580/6

1711–43

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from the Rev. Andrew Hamilton [Rector of Donagheady, 1689–1753, and Archdeacon of Raphoe, 1690–1753, and an Abercorn relation and protégé], Strabane, Mongavelin [near Raphoe], Castle Conyngham [Slane, Co. Meath] and Dublin. The folder includes:

25 Jan. 1710/11. A[ndrew] H[amilton], 'Mount Gevelin', to Mrs Bonnell.

Accepts invitation to be her executor.

29 Mar. 1717/18. A[ndrew] H[amilton], Castle Conyngham, to Mrs Bonnell at Sir Richard Hoare's.

Has been sullen and unaccountably silent for 'many melancholy days and hours these two years past', with 'black sullen humours prevailing'. Has now pretty well recovered former temper. 'Your nephew's [Williams Conyngham] marriage gave me some trouble principally on your account, for I know how nearly you interest yourself in the misfortunes of your friends. If the young woman [Constance Middleton] he has married deserve the character I have heard of her, and your nephew will learn sobriety, frugality and consideration by living 2 or 3 years with her father, perhaps it may in the end be better for him than if he had waited till he could have matched with a great fortune on the square and in the mean time been tainted with those vices that few young gentlemen escape.' Has been settled for 2 years on wife's estate; has been building and is to build a chapel for this part of his parish, which is remote from the church.

16 Oct. 1730. Andrew Hamilton, Liverpool to Mrs Bonnell.

'I saw R[alph] Smyth [of Gray's Inn?] in Dublin who gave me £13: 3s: 2d Irish for you and I have also 8 guineas that cousin Hamilton (Jenny Leslie) sent you by me.'

22 Dec. 1730. A[ndrew] H[amilton], Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

'I have seen R[alph] Sm[yth of Gray's Inn?] who is much afflicted for the death of his Brother Burgh, who went off in a few days sickness.'

7 May. 1737. A[ndrew] H[amilton] to Mrs Bonnell.

'I was long silent because I used your good friend and mine, Mr Hoare, ill as to money matters since I made a shift to clear scores with him.' Overpersuaded to give wife's estate to eldest son, who 'refused to think of business or marrying'. Has been '46 years in my parishes'.

23 Aug. 1743. Andrew Hamilton, Warwick Court, to Mrs Bonnell.

Thanks for hospitality at Writtle. '[I] beg of you to remember what I said, and you partly promised me, that you would not hazard your health by going to church even on sacrament days.' Had an hour's conversation with Mr Thornton about her health. [John Thornton, London apothecary, was a friend of Mrs Bonnell, who was godmother to his son, Bonnell Thornton.]

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

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MS 41,580/7

1722–39

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from her ‘cousin’, Mrs Jane Hamilton (née Leslie), Downpatrick, Newcastle and Mount Panther, Co. Down, and Markethill, Co. Armagh, among other things referring to ‘Lord Limerick’s little house near Newcastle’, and discussing various financial and other commissions being carried out for her by Mrs Bonnell in London. [According to Katherine Conolly (MS 41,578/14), ‘Cousin Jenny Hamilton’ died ‘rich’ in August 1741, leaving Mrs Bonnell £200.] The folder includes:

26 June 1731. Jane Hamilton, [Co. Down], to Mrs Bonnell.

‘I am importuned by a very good woman here, Mrs Ford[e?], to give you some trouble which is to buy as much cloth proper for a communion table and a pulpit cushion, and to have them made up as used, either with fringe or lace. The colour of the cloth she would have either purple or crimson as you please, the money she desires you will call for to one Jonathan Gurney, a Quaker banker.’ She give the communion table cloth and the minister the cushion.

6 May 1734. Jane Hamilton, Newcastle, to Mrs Bonnell.

‘Our bankers I believe will all fail. Mr Annesley’s son-in-law shut up last week, and a great run upon all the banks, and the town in great confusion. We that have not much money has [*sic*] the fewest fears.’

11 Oct. 1736. Jane Hamilton, Markethill, near Newry, to Mrs Bonnell.

‘We have nothing among us but bitter railing at all clergy and religion, [so] that there is very few left that one can converse with, without detestation or danger.’

20 Aug. 1739. Jane Hamilton, Downpatrick, to Mrs Bonnell.

‘Your old friend’s son, Arthur Hill, is here, is much improved by matrimony. He married Nancy Stratford and has a son ...’.

MS 41,580/8

N.D.

Undated letters from Jane Hamilton, including:

6 Nov. [ ]. J. Hamilton to Mrs Bonnell.

‘My master is much yours and bids me tell you he thinks you ought to come here, which would be vastly for your interest in your fortune. Indeed all your friends here are of the same opinion.’

1720–[21?]. [Jane Hamilton?] to ‘My dearest Cousin’.

‘Jinny writ to me that she was borrowing money for her Brother H. to put into a bank newly rising, which if he could put a sum into any way considerable might make his fortune. This has put me upon raising £200 for my dear boy, out of my small stocks. I am to raise the money from Mr Ward. He has writ to Mr John Hamilton, nephew to Brigadier Hans, to pay you £200 if he has not paid out a greater sum he lately remitted to him the South Sea. If all the money be laid out, Mr Ward desires you may draw upon him for the sum mentioned.’

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

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MS 41,580/9  
1705–39

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from the Ven. William Hamilton, Archdeacon of Armagh [1700–29], writing mainly from Caledon, Co. Tyrone. See also MS 41,580/23.

29 Sep. 1705. [Archdeacon] W[illiam] Hamilton, ‘Callidon’, to Mrs Bonnell.  
‘I am looking over the life [of James Bonnell (presumably Hamilton’s own biography of Bonnell, first published in 1703, and running into many editions thereafter)], tho’ in a house full of disorder, carpenters and plasterers being in every room ... . As to what your good friend Mr Hoare advises concerning the dear baby, I am as willing to oblige you as you can desire ... but I must beg of you to consider that in all things relating to ourselves, where our affections are strongly engaged, we are to be extremely distrustful of ourselves ... . Mr Hoare being often with that wonderful creature, hearing the many surprising things she spoke and observing her strange patience and goodness, no doubt has a stronger impression of these things than ’tis possible for any relation to produce in strangers. However I believe something may be said of the child, but it must be in general terms and but short.’

29 Sep. 1705. Hamilton, Caledon, to Mrs Bonnell.  
Concerning his *Life of Bonnell*. Believes Palmer [see MS 41,580/23] will, in the next printing of his pamphlet, acknowledge his error. He may say something in vindication of Cole, but Hamilton believes this will be very circumspect.

28 Jan. 1705/6. Hamilton, Caledon, to Mrs Bonnell.  
‘Have you made any attempt to get Mr Bonnell’s shorthand explained in London. It is very necessary and might give us many things fit to be published.’

29 Apr. 1708. Thomas [Smyth, Bishop of] Limerick to ‘Rev Sir [Hamilton?], approving his design of publishing a new edition of the *Life of Bonnell* as an exemplar of Christian living.

4 Feb. ‘1711’. Hamilton, Caledon, to Mrs Bonnell.  
Recommends Mr Richardson, ‘minister of Belturbet’ and his work, ‘which if duly encouraged [would] very much promote our Holy Religion in this kingdom ... I need say no more in his favour but that he’s a worthy good man, and very well fitted to be employed [in] propagating true religion among the natives of this [k]ingdom, and as his designs are Christian and prais[ew]orthy, so I assure myself you will recommend him [to] such of your friends as may be of use to him in carrying [th]em on. If this gives you some trouble, it will be sweetened [b]y the reflection that you are doing good, which was our [G]reat Master’s work and ought to be the business of his servants.’

15 Mar. [1711?]. Hamilton, Caledon, to Mrs Bonnell, Dublin.  
Re new edition of *Life*. Hopes also to publish a collection of Bonnell’s writings – meditations etc. ‘I wish Mr Richardson’s design may succeed, for it is very useful and praiseworthy, yet I don’t find that people can be brought to think seriously of the condition of the papists of this kingdom, and too many of those whose great business it is to take care of them, and instruct them, do oppose these methods, without which in my judgement they never will be converted, and there are too many who can’t bear any proposals which tend to

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

the increasing their expense in their labours. It is certain that in no part of the kingdom there are sufficient numbers of protestant ministers, and in those parts where the harvest is greatest the labourers are fewest. In the county of Mayo, as I am well assured, there are 60,000 souls capable of instruction besides children, and of these 59,000 are papists, and yet in that whole county, which is the third or fourth in the kingdom for extent, there are not above eleven or twelve protestant ministers and above fifty popish priests. Most of those people can't speak nor do not understand English. I would fain know how these eleven or twelve ministers, some of whom are Frenchmen, others Englishmen born, shall instruct and convert those many thousand souls when ministers and people are barbarians to each other; the case is no better in the counties of Galway, Clare, Leitrim, Kerry and many other parts of the kingdom. In short, we have done nothing hitherto but make laws against the papists, but have taken no care to instruct them, and what is intended by the laws is not effected, the laws being not put in execution, and yet I doubt there is no great likelihood of doing much good any way, there is such a spirit of jealousy, uncharitableness and dissension got among Protestants, so that whatever one party proposes, though never so good, will be sure to be opposed by another party. So that I doubt God will punish our ingratitude for our past deliverances by suffering us to neglect those from whom our dangers, humanly speaking, only can arise. But, were no dangers to be feared from the papists, it is a sad thing that we should suffer so many thousand souls to go on in superstition, ignorance and idolatry, and not endeavour to show them the errors of their ways, and I conceive [it] is only to be done with success by applying to them in a language they understand and love.'

29 May 1717. Hamilton, Boylagh [Co. Donegal], to Mrs Bonnell, London.

Re his 'brother, Dick Cunningham [*sic* – Conyngham]', whose 'trade failed and he had no business, but he got a good place in the Post Office by his brother Conolly's means.'

26 June 1718. Hamilton, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell, London.

'I'm afraid Mich. Sampson is in a dangerous condition as to his health: he has had an ill cough these six months past. He is I think somewhat better but I can't help being under some fears about him. Your old acquaintance Dean Pratt is going to be married to my Lord Abercorn's third daughter, Lady [MS damaged – Philippa Hamilton]. I should like the match better if there were not too great a disparity in their years.' [Dean Benjamin Pratt, former Provost of TCD, d.1721.]

15 Oct. 1720. Hamilton, Caledon, to Mrs Bonnell.

'We feel the effects of the South Sea on our trade which is gone and the ill condition of our markets. There's nothing but distress among my neighbours the M--lls.'

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MS 41,580/10

1709: 1718: 1723

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Lady Elizabeth Hastings (1682–1739), described by Anne Laurence as 'a godly and extremely wealthy noblewoman, [who] lived on her Yorkshire estate [Ledstone] with her four much younger and poorer half-sisters', for all of whom Mrs Bonnell made purchases and investments, and did errands, in London, particularly during the 1720s. [Anne Laurence has recently published, in *Accounting Business and Financial History*, vol. 16, no. 2 (July 2006), pp 245–64, an article entitled 'Women Investors: "That

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Nasty South Sea Affair” and the Rage to Speculate in early Eighteenth-Century England’, and in *Women’s History Review*, vol. 15, no. 4 (September 2006), pp 533–40, ‘Lady Betty Hastings, her Half-Sisters and the South Sea Bubble: Family Fortunes and Strategies’; she also has another article on Mrs Bonnell and the Hastings sisters in the pipeline and scheduled for publication in 2007 in *The Economic History Review*. The first already-published article mentions that Lady Elizabeth’s income amounted to the very large sum of £3,600 p.a.] Letters from one of her half-sisters, Lady Frances (1694–1750), writing from Ledstone, and one from their brother [and Lady Elizabeth’s half-brother, the 9th Earl of] Huntingdon (1696–1746), writing from Bardwell, will be found in MS 41,580/28–39. The present folder includes, in addition to letters from Lady Betty, one letter about her:

24 Aug. 1720. Catherine Jones, Chelsea, to Mrs Bonnell.

‘I now trouble her on the score of the African [the Royal African Company]. I am told this week the third call must be paid or else a forfeiture of the stock and if Lady Betty pays in hers again, she [Mrs Bonnell] will be good to let me know how much will now be require[d] from me to do the same for the share my Lady Betty[’s] great generosity and goodness to me granted me to share in her stock, and I shall bring it to Mrs Bonnell or send it by Mr Lupton to her ...’.

MS 41,580/11

N.D.

Undated letters (c.20) from Lady Elizabeth Hastings.

MS 41,580/12

1705: 1712: 1722–36

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from members of the London banking family of Hoare (of Stourhead, Wiltshire), mainly Henry, Jane and Benjamin Hoare. Anne Laurence has also made a study of the Hoares and of their relations with Mrs Bonnell, based on the Hoare’s Bank customer ledgers as well as the Smythe Papers. Mrs Bonnell opened an account with the bank, which was in Fleet Street, in 1704. She became friendly with the two sons of the founder of the bank, Henry (1677–1725) and Benjamin (1693–1750), and with Henry’s wife, Jane. Jane Hoare left her a legacy in 1742, and she was godmother to one of Benjamin’s children. The Hoares were godly people, which was another bond between Mrs Bonnell and them. [See also TCD, MS 11,198/3/48.]

The folder includes:

2 June 1705. Copy of a letter from Mrs Bonnell, Dublin, to Jane Hoare, at Sir Richard Hoare’s [her father-in-law], Fleet Street, London.

‘The Archbishop’ [William King] had promised to write a *Life* of Bonnell but then reneged, denied his promise and vents his spleen on [Archdeacon] Hamilton. She has evidently quarrelled with the Archbishop over the *Life* of Bonnell, though she hopes still for his advice in dealing with Palmer [see MS 41,580/23]. Reference is made to Cole’s Academy and what was paid for Bonnell there. ‘... I must desire you the first post to let me know what gold is an ounce with you. I have a friend that has a cup and salver to sell and she would fain know whether it be best disposing of it here or with you, and I am in haste to know because I have a sister going over that would carry it.’

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

27 Sep. 1712. Benjamin Hoare to Mrs Bonnell.

Hasn't seen Philip the weaver, so can't report. Wishes her benefit from Bath waters.

21 Oct. 1712. Benjamin Hoare to Mrs Bonnell at Rev. Dr Stratford's, Christ Church, Oxford. Enclosure from Mrs Bulkeley. 'Last Sunday I saw Philip the weaver and find he has kept pretty close to his resolutions of forsaking his company and of being a weekly communicant.' Religious matters.

14 May 1714. [Rachel Pleydell], Dublin, to Jane Hoare [see also her letter of 22 June to Mrs Bonnell in MS 41,580/29].

'I little thought I should ever have a letter from you that I should not be pleased with, but I must own that your of the 5th has given me some uneasiness. Whilst I am in the country I am not so constant in writing to you as I ought, tho' in town I very rarely neglect it. However, as to my not taking notice of your illness or Mr Hoare's, if it be so I do think the post office has wronged me so that I cannot accuse myself of being grown cold in my friendship with you'. Says there's a report of her getting to know the Dean of St Patrick's. May it give rise to another report of her turning heathen? 'I don't care to mention politics to a person whose friendship I value ... I should not touch upon so disagreeable a subject did I not apprehend that part of your accusation [squinted?] at me. I never did say in my life that you were a Jacobite, nor ever did hear anybody say so, but your brother Jones, who as I imagined said it to banter me. I know that a great number of persons have changed their opinions of late, whether for the better or worse I won't say ... . But I will make this plain declaration for myself, and I hope in God I shall keep to it, that I never will knowingly converse or correspond with a Jacobite and that not out of conscience, but out of a principle of self-preservation.'

4 June 1722. Henry Hoare, Bearstead Lodge, to Mrs Bonnell, c/o the bank, Fleet Street 'to be forwarded immediately'.

Thanks for trouble she's taken for 'bringing an issue [end] of the affair between our friend Mr Jennings and myself'. Letter concerns stock dealing by Hoare for Mr Jennings who commissioned Mr Humphries to buy it. Please tell him 'I was neither directly nor indirectly instrumental in setting any price to that stock and the papers I gave him made it appear more in his favour than in mine.' Values friendship with Mr Jennings. Refers to illness of his son[-in-law, Henry] Cornelisen and encloses list of medicines.

24 Aug. 1723. Henry Hoare, Newport, to Mrs Bonnell.

Wife received her letter. Sending her spa water. 'Bid Harry [his elder son, Henry Hoare junior (1705–85)] send to Mr Denning to let him know I never received the box of books, and bid Mr Denning send the folio Common Prayer book to Harry immediately, which I would have put up in a box and sent by the carrier on Tuesday, for we shall want it for the communion table of the Sunday.'

9 July [1725]. J[ane] Hoare to Mrs Bonnell, c/o Henry Hoare's, London.

Sends copy of 'my dear love's charity which I desire you will give to Dr Lupton'. Lists bequests of the late Henry Hoare, ranging from £10 to £2,000 for charity schools or workhouses; bibles and prayer books; Goldsmiths' Company for tradesmen or widows; SPCK; Society for Reformation of Manners; SPG in foreign parts; charity school of St Dunstan in the West; Christs, Barts, Bridewell and Bethlehem Hospitals; wife to distribute to poor as she thinks fit; poor of Stourton; poor of St Dunstan's in the West; poor on the roads;

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vicar or curate of St Dunstons to administer sacrament for ever.] I'm glad you like my daughter Hoare [Anne (d.1727), daughter of Lord and Lady Masham, and wife of Henry Hoare junior]. Mentions 'Daughter Foley'.

28 Feb. 1726/7. Henry Hoare [junior] to [his wife], Mrs Hoare, Bedford Row.  
'I hope my dearest dear enjoys as perfect health.' Duty to Lord and Lady Masham.

15 Apr. 1727. M. Hoare, London, to Mrs Bonnell at Henry Hoare's, Quarley, Hants.

2 May 1728. Henry Hoare [junior] to Mrs Bonnell.  
Concerning suspicions of Mr Skinner being 'so fond of the last cook', drink, etc.

3 Jan. 1729/30. Jane Hoare, Stourhead, to Mrs Bonnell, c/o Henry Hoare, Fleet Street.  
Death of Mr Witham. Business to do with chocolate. Mr and Mrs Bonnell's portraits removed from her chamber, not from disrespect, but to put Mr Hoare and her father's portraits up. Can't recollect whether they were put up before Mr Hoare died. Thanks for digesting powders.

12 Nov. 1730. A. Masham, Langley, to Mrs Bonnell.  
'I was glad to have it from you that Ben Hoare has not made that foolish match.'

May 1730. Jane Hoare, Stourhead, to Mrs Bonnell.  
Will direct in her will her portraits of Mr and Mrs Bonnell be sent to Mrs Bonnell, if alive, or otherwise to Mrs Burton in Ireland.

9 Jan. 1730/31. Jane Hoare, Stourhead, to Mrs Bonnell.  
'When my dear son Hoare [her second son, Richard (1709-54)] came to town last he heard and found that Dickey went very seldom to church, whereupon he laid my commands upon him to go constantly to St Dunstan's church.'

12 Dec. 1734. Benjamin Hoare to Mrs Bonnell.  
Death of Lady Masham. 'I don't hear any resolution that is taken yet about Miss or what my Lord intends to do. ... My lady is to [be] buried in Essex. ... The bill you have drawn shall be paid.' Godson very bright and merry.

31 May 1735. Benjamin Hoare to Mrs Bonnell.  
Received her letter 'with the mortgage deed and will take the first opportunity of sending it to Bristol to Mr Daniel Goizin who is our correspondent there, who will take care to receive the money and I believe will remit it without charge. But you have forgot to let me know what interest there is due on the mortgage, for I suppose that must be paid as well as the principal.' Godson's nose not put out of joint by sister.

24 July 1736. Jane Hoare, Stourhead, to Mrs Bonnell, Writtle, near Chelmsford.  
Thanks for letter. Mrs Yates has been very ill, and is in poor circumstances because she had been unfortunate with tenants of house in Islington.

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

MS 41,580/13

1711–18

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from the Rt Hon. Thomas and Lady Frances Keightley [parents of Catherine O'Brien (MS 41,580/22)]. On 6 July 1712, Keightley [who was a Commissioner of the Irish Revenue] writes to her from Dublin that he needs the Lord Treasurer's leave to come to England, and was directed by him some weeks ago to stay until Sir Henry Bunbury arrived; is ready to leave, but Bunbury has still not come.

MS 41,580/14

1713: 1715: 1720

Three letters to Mrs Bonnell from William King, Archbishop of Dublin (1703–29), as follows:

1 Aug. 1713. King, Kingsweston [the Rt Hon. Edward Southwell's house outside Bristol], to Mrs Bonnell.

'I came here this day and shall return, God willing, to the Bath on Monday, and on Thursday move on towards Ireland. I am surprised at the character you give me of the gentleman. I wish I had known something of it before, that I might have enquired before any motion had been made. What you write is a hearsay and nothing particular, and I am at a loss how to found anything on it. I know how false and malicious reports are, especially general ones, but I thank you for the hint and will make the best use of it I can ...'.

10 May 1715. King, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

'There is an art of complaining forth in which I find you have made some proficiency. Pray, do you much frequent Court, for if you have I am afraid what is observed there may have influenced you, to lay that to my charge of which you only [are] guilty. I writ last to you but never received an answer, at which I assure you I was somewhat concerned. Perhaps I imputed it to a wrong cause, but finding how apt people are to forget their old friends in some circumstances, it was hard for me to avoid being suspicious. But you may rest satisfied, that I never change my principles or friends. If these last leave or forsake me, I bear it with patience and seldom complain, and it has often fallen to my lot to regain same by good offices, when they little expected it. But, Madam, that is not your case. I can never forget the value I had for Mr Bonnell or his wife, I want him every day and now more than ever, and I hope his wife will always have a kindness for a friend that valued and loved him whilst alive, and honour his memory now he is dead.'

19 June 1720. King, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

'I have this day delivered your 2 bonds, one for £1,000 with interest, the other for £500, to Mrs Bulkeley.' Wants to be relieved of them because finds himself 'sinking in my strength and know not how soon it will please God to call for me'. Despairs of ever seeing her here and believes won't make any more journeys to London. Signs himself, 'your old friend'.



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MS 41,580/15

1712–24

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from members of the Leslie family of Castle Leslie, Glaslough, Co. Monaghan, who describe themselves as her ‘cousins’ [see also MS 41,580/7 and 16–19]. The folder includes:

13 Feb. 1720/21. R[obert] L[eslie] to Mrs Bonnell.

‘Dear Cousin, Yesterday I came to town and my sister [Jane Hamilton?] showed me Mr Arthur’s letter to you; and since I find by it that their circumstances are pretty deeply affected by the almost general calamity which the iniquity of stocks has brought on all dealers in money, I am therefore willing to take two-thirds, nearly for the same reason that I could not prevail on myself to sue them for these last six months, tho’ I wanted the money pretty much.’

MS 41,580/16

1716–29

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from another ‘cousin’, who signs himself ‘H. Lowry’ but seems to have been Henry Leslie of the Castle Leslie family [living under an assumed name perhaps because his Jacobitism was sufficiently active to make this prudent?]. Included is a memorandum, dated London, 14 April 1729, between Mrs Bonnell and ‘Cousin Henry Leslie’ to settle accounts; she owes him £100 sterling and agrees to pay £20 in August 1733, £60 soon after, and £20 in May or June 1734; on the back are signed receipts from Henry Leslie.

MS 41,580/17

1730–37

Further letters to Mrs Bonnell from H. Lowry/Leslie.

MS 41,580/18

1739–42

Further letters to Mrs Bonnell from H. Lowry/Leslie.

MS 41,580/19

1743–5: N.D.

Further letters to Mrs Bonnell from H. Lowry/Leslie.

MS 41,580/20

1740–44

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Edward Mathews, Dublin, her attorney, mainly about the Conyngham lawsuit, and including a letter of 21 June 1744 in which Mathews reports that he has obtained a decree for her against her nephew, Colonel Conyngham, having experienced strong opposition from his people (including Nesbitt) despite the agreement made. Nephew Sampson provided 20 guineas and Mathews will call on him for 10 more.

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

MS 41,580/21

1713–15

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Robert Nelson, mainly about devotional and theological matters. The folder includes:

13 Sep. 1713. Robert Nelson to Mrs Bonnell, Cross Keys, London.

Her last letters convince him that his complaints have had a good effect. 'I am very much concerned for the extremity of your suffering'. 'Deare' dined with him, and is thinking of going into parliament. 'Pray return my compliments to the princess'. Sent her a sermon recently and asked her to pass it on to the princess; doesn't think it can have arrived, otherwise Mrs Bonnell would have written.

1713. Robert Nelson to Mrs Bonnell reporting that he has heard Dr Lupton preach and that this gave Nelson 'great satisfaction'. He pays tribute to Lupton's great talents, and mentions cryptically that 'Your princess [has been] enquiring after me'.

28 Sep. 1714. Robert Nelson to Mrs Bonnell 'at Mr Leason's lodging at Bath'.

'By the late changes that have been made, the Tories are convinced that they have been too sanguine in their expectations, and the Whigs have taken care to fix upon them the character of their being enemies to the Hanover Succession. ... It appears to me that the present managers have the merit of able workmen, who choose instruments of a piece, fit and adapted for their purposes. Sir Thomas Hanmer went out of town yesterday morning to avoid that importunity wherewith he is attacked, in order to prevail upon him to accept of a place; and Mr Bromley's not yet resolved to be a Teller, which is offered him in lieu of the Secretary's place ...'. As in his other letters, he addresses her as 'daughter', writes in affectionate terms, and refers to 'the dear doctor [Lupton]'. [By this stage Nelson was a widower, and Mrs Bonnell seems to have been with him during his last illness and at the time of his death.]

MS 41,580/22

c.1705–1710

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Mrs Catherine O'Brien, Dromoland, Corofin and Cratloe, Co. Clare, Cork, Bath, London, etc. The folder includes:

9 Nov. [?1704]. Catherine O'Brien, Bath, to Mrs Bonnell, Crown Court, London.

Thanks for account. Mrs O'Brien seems to have borrowed £200 on 11 January 1701/2, before she was married; lender now dead, and she doesn't want husband to know and wants Mrs Bonnell to burn this letter.

[ ] Nov. 1705. Catherine O'Brien to Mrs Bonnell.

Mrs Freeman will wait on you; beg you will pay her the £50 that remains on the note.

30 June (endorsed 1707). Catherine O'Brien, Dromoland, to Mrs Bonnell.

Only just returned from fitting up 'a little box I have at a place called Corofin, very far west in this country; 'tis a little village belonging to Sir Donat [her husband's father] that our little fortune lies round ...'. At least they are 'independent' there. '... I hear from Dublin by several hands that my Lady Shelburne is to marry the Speaker [Alan Brodrick], which I do confess gives me a great concern; for I know not how to fancy so good a wife can have so short a memory and so soon forget such [loss? – her second husband, General Henry

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

Conyngham (k.1706), Mrs Bonnell's brother] as I know hers to be and that there is a misunderstanding between Mr Conolly and she on the settlement she made; I beg to be satisfied in both these and what your real opinion of her is ...' She is 'sorry you thought I had forgotten our engagement was 6 per cent interest'.

3 Aug. 1708. Catherine O'Brien, 'Corrafin', to Mrs Bonnell.

'I shall hope be able now sometime next week to give you a satisfactory answer and I hope Mr Hoare will continue his kindness so much longer as to give a little longer respite to have both principal and interest paid together, and that it may have as little delay as possible I will endeavour to get the bill right.'

24 June 1710. Catherine O'Brien to Mrs Bonnell.

Refers to 'the weak condition I was in ... and the death of my daughter by convulsions, which the doctors have said she brought into the world with her and was occasioned by the great melancholy and troubles I lay under during all the time of my being with child.'

30 Aug. [c.1710]. Catherine O'Brien, Corofin, to Mrs Bonnell.

'I was desired to get Mr Conolly asked whether he would purchase the patent of a viscount, for there is a certain person that has the promise of such a patent if they can find a person fit for it, and that has an estate to live up to it, and money to pay for the purchase, £1,200 is the sum asked; I desire you will favour me with asking the question and at the same time engage him not to speak of it at all, whether he does or does not accept of it. If he does I am sure 'tis best not to have it known till 'tis done; if he does not it will be of no service to him to speak of it and may be a diskindness to the person that has the patent. As soon as I have your answer I will send you word the person which now I am forbid. I wish I could tell you it were for myself, but I am afraid I have not interest enough with the great both to procure such a thing, though it be what is done daily by some courtier or other. I should beg the favour of your answer as soon as you can, because I am to return it for England and ought to have done it before.'

23 Jan. 1710/11. Catherine O'Brien to Mrs Bonnell.

'I do not think of going to Dublin till towards May, the alterations resolved on I believe not being to be declared till near my Lord Lieutenant's coming over ...'

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MS 41,580/23  
1704-5

Correspondence of Mrs Bonnell about Samuel Palmer's *Life* of her late husband, James Bonnell, Accountant-General of Ireland, her dissatisfaction with it, the gathering of evidence to refute some of its assertions, etc. Included is a copy of a critique from Archdeacon Hamilton (the original is in MS 41,580/9), two letters from Palmer, and the following:

19 Oct. 1704.

Paper about book by James Bonnell, *The Harmony of the Gospels*. The writer suggests that Archdeacon Hamilton alter the preface of the 'Life'. Refers to Mr Dorrington and Dr George Hicks.

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18 Apr. 1705. D. Cumyng, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

Design of publishing a *Life of Bonnell* was not to erect a monument to him but 'to do good to the living ... by making the dead thus speak to them in recommending to their imitation so bright a pattern of religion.' Cites Bonnell's observance of sabbath, support for reformation of manners, firm adherence to Established Church, but 'truly catholic in his charity' towards brother Christians (including especially Dissenters).

21 Apr. 1705. Richard [Tenison, Bishop of] Meath, Ardbraccan [Navan, Co. Meath], to Mrs Bonnell, at Colonel [Thomas] Pearson's house, Thomas Street, Dublin.

'I have read the copy of the paragraph you sent me, which was taken out of a pamphlet written by one Mr Palmer, in which he affirms that your pious and religious husband, Mr Bonnell, was a wild and unhappy lad, very perverse, and averse to instruction and reproof, and was a wild and extravagant youth, with other scurrilous and indecent expressions. All which I have great reason to believe are most notoriously false and scandalous, for he was committed to my care when he was a little boy, by his kinsman Dr Wood, and his pious mother, and continued with me till he was fit for university, in all which time I do most solemnly declare, he was of a most sweet, mild, and docile temper, very piously inclined, and always diligent and studious, never in the least perverse, or averse to instruction, but so willing and desirous to improve himself, and so apt and ingenious in all his exercises, that I can't remember that ever he stood in need of reproof, and had the greatest sense of religion that ever I knew any boy in my life, and received the Holy Sacrament several times with all due care and preparation, and was of such an humble, modest and endearing temper, that he was beloved and esteemed by all who knew him, as some bishops and other dignitaries in the Church and others eminent in the state, who were then his schoolfellows, can at large declare. And how he could on a sudden grow so bad at Mr Cole's academy, is beyond my imagination, and immediately after he left it, be so eminent as he was for piety at Cambridge. I verily believe it one of the boldest and falsest calumnies that has been reported in this age, and pray God to give the author of it repentance, and grace to own his fault, and make all possible reparation to the memory of that holy man.'

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MS 41,580/24

c.1711–1732

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Alderman Thomas Pearson and his [wife or daughter?], Ann, writing from their houses in Dublin (Thomas Street) and in the country (Beamore, near Drogheda, Co. Meath). [Pearson was married to Speaker Conolly's sister, who is supposed to have been called 'Jane', but on the evidence of these letters was called 'Ann'.] Many of the letters are about Conolly – his career, lifestyle at Castletown, illness, death and over-elaborate funeral. They include:

8 Sep. 1711. Ann Pearson, Beamore, to Mrs Bonnell.

Refers to her sister Coghill being with child, and there is a further reference to Dr Coghill (in a letter on the reverse from Thomas Pearson).

8 Jan. 1712/13. Thomas Pearson, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

Has returned from Castletown: Brother and Sister Conolly are well. Today received Clarendon's *History*, and thanks her for her care in helping to get the volumes; now wants a

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

coat for Nancy and a sword with brass hilt, and is expecting some chocolate. 'My brother Coghill is pretty well, but my sister has been confined to her chamber. ...'

16 July 1719. 'T.P.', Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

Wife's miscarriage: 'such violent shedding that they thought she would have died. ... I wrote to you that I sent your money by Mr Topham and you forgot to tell me whether ever you received it.' He discusses the behaviour of her ungrateful nephew [Williams Conyngham], and his unpardonable behaviour to her and his Aunt Conolly. 'As to your telling your nephew what you heard of the lady, I think nobody can blame you, for my part I don't, neither can I believe that you ever attempted to make him a Tory, notwithstanding his insinuations, but I fear he does not always stick to the truth.'

12 Mar. 1719[/20]. Thomas Pearson, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

Speaks of his difficulties in a late 'affair' with his father and family, which has left him seriously in debt. 'As to the money, you may take your time about it. I have told you formerly how matters are with me. Had you drawn upon me now for the money I would have paid it, and if you think you can make any advantage of it by putting it into the South Sea, tell me so immediately, and I will endeavour to remit it to you or pay it to Mrs Bulkeley for your use or else let it remain with me until the next half year becomes due, and then you shall be sure of it ... . The last half year's interest will be paid to Mrs Bulkeley very soon. I believe there are few persons in this kingdom that grant annuities but that it is frequently done in England. If you can place it out well in that manner, you will do well, and since you have no family you should make your own life easy. ...

There is I find a treaty of marriage on foot between Mr Burton and Miss Conyngham. As to the gentleman, I assure you I never heard anything spoke of him to his disadvantage, but the contrary, in my life. ... My brother [Conolly] says his rent roll is £3,000 p.a., out of which his mother has a jointure of £400, besides which he owes some money, which her fortune will very near, if not quite, clear. I have heard my Sister Conolly say that my brother intends to add to her fortune, and if he does, it will more than answer all the debts due by Mr Burton. She is but very young. However, I can't think my sister blameable for desiring to see her married, she being more infirm than I could wish she was. There are few gentlemen in this kingdom whose fortune exceeds £3,000 p.a., and I fear now since the Parliament of England have thought fit to fall on us in this unmercifull manner, everybody's fortune here will sink soon. I am sorry 'tis not in my power to quit the kingdom, and since 'tis the case of others as well as mine, we that are fixed here ought I think to contribute as much as in us lies to assist the King to make him absolute. If ever it can be effected, we may expect better quarter from him than we are like to meet with from a free people. I find they treat us in as harsh terms as if we were actually in rebellion, and since it is their opinion of us, nobody can blame them if by the same power they take our estates from us to pay their debts, and indeed I expect this will soon be our lot, for I believe our parliaments will soon be at an end. Great numbers of the Protestants have of late transported themselves from hence to the West Indies, and I can't imagine the late proceedings in England will put a stop to it. I can foresee nothing but misery coming upon us, and 'tis our misfortune that England does not see they hurt themselves at the same time, for I think I may affirm they can never be gainers by what they are doing; and I am sure they have said that of us that we in no sort deserve, and which must ever put us at enmity with them.

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He reports that Williams Conyngham has parted from his wife and squandered money on a chocolate house venture. 'My wife will be much obliged to you for anything that will ease her cholick which she is often tormented with.'

23 Oct. 1729. Thomas Pearson, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

'I begin this at ten at night, if there is any alteration in the morning you shall know it. The physicians yesterday put blisters on my Brother Conolly's thighs, as the last effort, this day they were dressed, but did not do as expected, though the blisters on his arm run very well. I cannot see any alteration for the better. His flux still continues, he has purged this evening five times in a very little time, and his fever is not abated, which is the reason they give for not stopping his flux. I much fear he cannot hold out very long now. He has his senses, except when he wakes out of his dozing fits, and seems desirous of dying in a very composed manner. ... Friday morning. He has had several clysters given him but he does not keep them, and his purging is as great as ever, so that I cannot see what can be done for his service. He is very weak, and has not rested well.'

30 Oct. 1729. Thomas Pearson, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

'I am now to acquaint you of the death of Mr Conolly. ... He died about one this morning. ... He has left my sister the house in town, all his estate in Kildare, Meath, Westmeath and Roscommon, for life, and the estate in Wales for ever, with his plate, and furniture in both houses during life, and £1,000 legacy. He has left you, as I remember, £200. ... Mr Conolly is to be buried on Tuesday at Castletown, and 'tis intended to bury him with linen scarfs, which I hope will hereafter fix the custom in Ireland.'

25 Nov. 1729. 'T.P.', Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

Advises her to return to Dublin if she wants success in affair with nephew, who declares he owes her nothing, for that the principal is already discharged. 'I am and always shall be of the opinion that unless you appear here yourself you will never recover a farthing.'

13 Dec. 1729. Thomas Pearson to Mrs Bonnell.

'My Brother and Sister Coghill are both in a very bad way. He has been confined I think about four months and has a most miserable time. God knows how long he may hold out. The Archbishop of Cashell is dead, and much lamented, for he was a good man, and a good bishop. The bills of mortality here run very high ...' He mentions that Mrs Bonnell is employing [Robert] French against Williams and Henry Conyngham.

27 Jan. 1729/30. Thomas Pearson, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

Will sent Mrs Bonnell some usquebaugh. Wants her to come over partly for the sake of her recently widowed sister, partly because 'I am fully of opinion that you will never be able to do anything in your Chancery affair while absent. ... My Brother Coghill has laboured under a long indisposition. He is still confined. Sometimes he is pretty well, but on a sudden cut down again.'

16 Mar. 1729[30]. Thomas Pearson, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

His nephew [William] Conolly 'intends putting the management of his affairs into my hands and Dr Trotter's during his absence ...' Pearson has reluctantly become involved in a lawsuit. Mr Jones left everything to his wife, who immediately gave it to her son.

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29 Apr. 1732. Thomas Pearson, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

Employed to deal with deed of mortgage to Mr Dawson who is one of the people concerned in the bank of which Mr Conyngham is a debtor. Discussion with Mr Conolly about marriage since uncle has died. 'Tho' he tells me he now designs it, yet I fear his thoughts are more intent upon rambling ... . As to his wife, wherever he fixes, I must lay this down for a certain principle that Ireland must be his place of residence. For I know no person who lives out of that kingdom who is not undone by it if their entire fortune lies here, as his does. ... Now I mention my daughter, I could heartily wish she was married. Some offers have been made which we could not approve of and tho' I recommend Mr Conolly's living in Ireland, I confess I should be better pleased my daughter was fixed in England, if it was to be accomplished, for as I have no son, I am not over solicitous about my family's continuance here. She has £5,000 left her by my Brother Conolly and £3,000 I shall give her after my death and my wife's. ... You have had an account of Mr Savage's illness who has the conduct of your affair. I see no way for you to recover your money but by a tedious suit.' Make an enquiry about the character of the lady mentioned [as a possible wife for William Conolly].

21 Jan. 1732/3. Thomas Pearson, Beamore, to Mrs Bonnell.

His wife has just died.

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MS 41,580/25

1742–3

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from William Richardson [not the proselytising clergyman of Belturbet mentioned in MS 41,580/9, but a family friend or lawyer called in to mediate in Mrs Bonnell's dispute with the Conynghams]. The letters are about the Conyngham lawsuit.

MS 41,580/26

1735–44

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from [her nephew-by-marriage?] Ralph Sampson, Dublin, many of them about the Conyngham lawsuit.

MS 41,580/27

c.1717–1732

Letters to Mrs Bonnell from Edward Worth (d.1741) and Ann Worth, Rathfarnham Castle, and from William and S[arah?] Worth. The folder includes:

6 Oct. 1720. E[dward] Worth, Rathfarnham, to Mrs Bonnell.

Marriage of Mrs Burton and 'the portion you have given her'. Example to others to extend their kindness to relations of their husband's [Francis Burton seems to have been James Bonnell's nephew]. 'I find by all the accounts the stocks are fallen and several persons are great losers, amongst whom I cannot think but we are a little; for which I would not have you in the least disturbed. Believe me, I am not, being well satisfied my true friend has done the best that was in your power; and the will ought to be taken for the deed, or else friendship ceases; which I hope will never be between us and shall always own I have received so many real instances of friendship that such little accidents shall never cancel 'em; and I don't doubt

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but providence in his own time will make it up to us all.' Refers to son in Rickmansworth and to Aunt Bulkeley.

21 Aug. 1722. A. Worth [sister? of Edward], Rathfarnham, to Mrs Bonnell.  
Conollys building fine house at Castletown. 'Mrs Conolly tells me her bedchamber will be twenty foot high and the hall forty'. Many rich widows in town. Aunt Bulkeley. '[My daughters] are very good and I think very agreeable. I wish I could get some sober young men to think so ... . And is Dr Lupton married?'

19 Dec. 1723. Edward Worth, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell, c/o Henry Hoare's, Fleet Street.  
Refers to Mrs Bonnell being ill-used by nephew about her mortgage on the Conyngham estate. Wife and daughters present service, and to Dr Lupton.

15 May 1725. W[illiam?] W[orth? – son of Edward, whom he predeceased in 1725?], Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.  
'I am sorry you have not found your ticket nor can I recollect the place where you put it, only I remember I gave it with your bond and the nasty lutestring receipts, as you call them. The number is, if I mistake not, 3639.'

19 May 172[?5]. 'W.W.', Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.  
'The report we have long had of the removal of our Chancellor [Alan Brodrick, 1st Viscount Midleton] is at last confirmed, and he is to be succeeded by the Chief Baron [Bernard Hale, who did not succeed]. As many faults as he had, he will have the satisfaction of seeing himself no way eclipsed by his successor.'

1 July 1725. 'W.W.', [Dublin?], to Mrs Bonnell.  
'My Lord Lieutenant has very handsomely provided for the two chaplains he brought over with him. Dr Burscough is promoted to the see of Limerick, and Mr Cotterell to the deanery of Raphoe vacant by the death of Dean French, a carcass for which the spiritual crows have long gasped.'

26 Nov. 1726. A. Worth, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.  
'My Brother [James Worth] Tynte is in a cloudy humour. He has proposed a match for Jenny – Mr Longfield of the county of Cork. But how it will do I can't yet tell. He has a good estate ...'

N.D. A. Worth to Mrs Bonnell.  
'My brother Tynte, the town says, is to marry Miss Brodrick, Lord Midleton[']s daughter. What truth is in it I know not; but he talks of going to England this summer. ... Mr and Mrs Conolly are expected from Beamore tonight, where they have been all Christmas.'

18 June 1728. A. Worth, Rathfarnham, to Mrs Bonnell.  
'Mr Conolly has receive'd a shock by a cold which seized his limbs so that he cannot walk. He sent for Dr Worth who is with him twice a day. Mr Worth went a Saturday to see him and Mrs Conolly told Mrs Worth he was much better than he was. He stood up when Mr Worth came towards him, but could not walk, sat down and reached out his hand and shook him by the hand and said he was much better. We sent yesterday, and they sent us word he had a



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good night but was ill on Sunday. I write so particular because many different reports of him are in Dublin.'

7 Sep. 1728. Edward Worth, Rathfarnham, to Mrs Bonnell.

'Lord Justice Conolly is much better. I suppose you have heard of Lord Midleton's death.' He offers help, and refers to Mrs Bonnell's friendship to him, his father and his son.

29 May 1731. Edward Worth, Rathfarnham, to Mrs Bonnell.

Accepts being named executor of Mrs Bonnell's will. 'You forgot to let me know who Mr Henry Hoare is, and if joined with Mr Benjamin Hoare in the banking trade.'

5 Aug. 1732. Edward Worth, Rathfarnham, to Mrs Bonnell.

Asks Mrs Bonnell to arrange that trunk for his sister Elizabeth Foley be left for collection with Benjamin Hoare. Enclosed is a bill for her to buy a ring in memory of his dear wife, as also presented to Mrs Bulkeley and Dr Worth.

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MS 41,580/28

1702-8

Correspondence of Mrs Bonnell with other correspondents, arranged chronologically, not alphabetically (as with MS 41,580/1-27). The folder includes:

4 Mar. 1703/4. W.M. Honeywood to Mrs Bonnell.

Advising her on her case. 'The sooner you obtain a good and happy disposal of her [Mrs Bonnell's daughter, who died young] the less care will be upon you and, could I think that you would think well of having her in my family, I should be proud of making the most advantageous proposals in my power.'

10 Jan. 1705[/6]. John Spranger, Thomas Street, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

'In the year 1700 her [Mrs Hewetson's] son, John Hewetson, entered his name in the East India Company book in London as a painter and then bound himself to the East India Company as a soldier for five years, and sailed ... to Bombay ... and [in] April 1701/2 he writ from Surat to his friends in Ireland that he was well and in favour with his Excellency in those parts, who had sent for him to paint their pictures. After which little else was heard of him. ...' So Spranger can tell her little or nothing about Hewetson's will.

29 July 1706. Vincent Fletcher, London, to Mrs Bonnell.

About 'that foolish cup and salver'. He finds 'your return still cold and unfriendly'.

'Received December 11th 1705 from Mrs Jane Bonnell the sum of £125: 2s: 6d in full for a gold cup, cover and salver sold for me in London, Vincent Fletcher.' [Anne Laurence notes the following entry in Hoare's Bank Customer Ledger 7, ff. 104v, 105, 31 Dec. 1705: Mrs Bonnell paid out £100 in part for gold cup, received 22 Nov. 1705 £115: 6s: 6d for gold cup and salver.]

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9 Sep. 1708. [The Rev.?] Anthony Cope, Dromiskin [Co. Louth], to Mrs Bonnell, Dublin. Hears of a design carrying on to blacken the name of Sir Robert King, by accusing him of bribing a man to perjure himself, probably in some matter to do with Lord Kingston's estate. Is concerned to defend King's reputation as an exemplar of piety: 'he had as much religion and as great a sense of it as any'. 'Sir Rob. K. was one of those who became religion, and it fitted him so well in all points, that no one could doubt but it was his own clothes he wore ...' Mentions a book written some years ago in answer to a libel against Sir Robert which then did a great deal of good, and opened the eyes of many, by putting the matter in a very fair and clear light. Not enough copies were printed, and Cope hopes that more might now be issued.

MS 41,580/29

1711-18

Chronologically arranged correspondence of Mrs Bonnell, including:

17 Apr. 1711. [Alderman] Robert Curtis, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell (his 'cousin'). 'On Sunday morning last a fire broke out between two and three of the clock at the Council chamber house, it began in one of the clerk rooms at the farthest end, next to Essex Street, but how it happened nobody knows. It destroyed all the upper part of that large building. Very few of the Council books and papers were saved. In the next storey were kept the Muster Master General's and Surveyor-General's office. All the books and rolls belonging to the former were entirely burnt, and but 18 books of the Land Surveyor's in the latter were saved, which will be very mischievous to the kingdom. Captain Pratt got away all his books and papers (and what little money there was in this very poor Treasury), and so did the Pells, and [the] Chamberlains, of whom [Peel ?garlick] is one, lost some papers, but I thank God of no great consequence. Had there been any wind stirring, that side of Essex Street could not have escaped.'

24 Apr. 1712. Samuel Holt, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

Has paid Mrs Forster according to directions and encloses her account which shows him further in her debt. Mrs Bonnell still owes Mrs Forster £50. Hears from Waterford that Bishop was very near marrying a papist. 'If doing it would not give you too great a trouble, I should be glad to hear you have purchased me some tickets in the new lottery.'

22 June 1713. [H.] Vane, Caverswall, to Mrs Bonnell.

Refers to letters from 'my Lady' and Cousin Stanhope. Education of son. Obligated to Dr Lupton, and satisfied with person Dr Stanhope has fixed on for our pastor. Still happy with Lady Betty's company [see MS 41,580/10-11].

22 June 1714. R[achel] Pleydell to Mrs Bonnell [see also her letter of 14 May to Jane Hoare in MS 41,580/12].

Brother Ernle here. 'We have sealed the writing Mr Ward sent me and the warrant of attorney ... . Mr Hoare will help you to the money, whom I will write to as soon as I can to desire the full account of what he has in his hands, for my head is so forgetful that I know little of it. In the meantime, pray give him my service. When to exactly fix the time of seeing Chelsea I am not yet able. I authorised Thornton to tell you and another my reason for it, tho' none else, for I do not love to set the world a-prating when I can help it. I am at a great charge more than enough at Chelsea.'

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

MS 41,580/30

1720–22

Chronologically arranged correspondence of Mrs Bonnell, including:

18 June 1720. J. Ch[hatter?]ton ('cousin') to Mrs Bonnell about the government of the Bahamas and the possibility of the writer's taking part in some venture. Wants to know what the nature of the subscription is.

20 Oct. 1720. [Brigadier] Hans Hamilton to [Mrs Bonnell?].

Received 2 bills from Mrs Buckley [*sic*] drawn by Messrs Latouche & Kane on Mr Eleazer Edwards, merchant, in London, one for £225 payable to you, they having received value thereof from Margaret Viscountess Ikerrin, the other for £100 payable to you for value by them received from Rev. Mr James Hamilton, both dated 8 September last and both protested for non-payment. Will attempt to extract money.

31 Dec. 1722. [The Rev.] Henry Maule [see also MS 41,589/18], Cork, to Mrs Bonnell, at her lodgings in Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane.

'This carries my congratulations [*sic*] etc to good Mrs Bonnell at the near approach of the New Year, and still owns her kind regard to me, with the great man in Capel Street [Speaker Conolly], who has by a late letter assured me I shall not be forgotten. The same he has assured all my friends. I hope Mr Hoare's family are very well where I beg my kind service may be made acceptable. He'll be pleased to hear a noble lord has lately made our hospital a donation to begin the new year. It's my good Lord Kildare whose lady being recovered from the jaws of death, he has I believe taken the opportunity of remembering the present wants of our poor. I believe this charity will be particularly applied to the use of our infirmary, that lay a bleeding by the great charge of the rebuilding and the great increase of poor people. Our charitable chamber of medicines has relieved no fewer than [?288] helpless invalids since Christmas 1719 to *God be the glory* [*sic*], and to whose service Mr Knight of Dublin, one of our early benefactors, has with the assistance of three young gentlemen dedicated £300 [*sic*], for raising a chapel for the use of the aged and young persons in our charitable foundations. Other benefactors have presented [*sic*] to make the building I hope large enough to serve as a chapel of ease, for a number of poor Protestants who cannot get room in our parish church. Providence, I hope, will send us an endowment.'

MS 41,580/31

1723–5

Chronologically arranged correspondence of Mrs Bonnell, including:

4 July 1723. Charles Campbell, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

About money she borrowed from him. Declines request to be executor. Concerned about lottery tickets (numbers supplied). 'I suppose you have other friends that are engaged likewise in the lottery and that you received both prizes and blanks. I found you the best correspondent I had last lottery, and therefore hope you will let me know (if you read the prints of both the prizes and blanks) what luck I have.'

25 Jan. 1723/4. [Sir] Henry King [3rd Bt – see also MS 41,589/17], Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

Mrs Bonnell (or possibly her husband) was a friend of King's father. Brother [Sir John, d.1721] left him with many and large debts (£13,000), payment of which was secured in his

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marriage settlement of 1722. 'Most of the bonds and mortgages which were at 10 per cent I have paid off or got assigned to others for a low interest. I have now an offer of a considerable sum at 6 per cent which I design to take up to pay off debts which pay a greater interest, but cannot think of paying you, if you [?are not pleased] to take what I am offered money for. If you think that too little, and can get any more, I assure you upon my word I shall be very glad. But I hope you will forgive me who still owe above £15,000, though I have laid out half my wife's [Isabella Wingfield] fortune in paying debts.'

15 Sep. 1725. Draft of a letter from Mrs Bonnell to Dr [Francis] Dickens. About 10 guineas lent to his brother Charles who has just died. Charles Dickens wrote her a pressing letter 'which wrought upon my silly temper so much that I immediately writ to him that I would let him have it though I was forced to borrow it being then scarce of money.' Applied first to brother Serjeant Dickens. Wouldn't have written letter 'but I have been a great sufferer by the South Sea and other bubbles which makes 10 guineas more to me than 100 would have been to me heretofore.' Appeals to his generosity.

15 Sep. 1725. Fra[ncis] Dickens to Mrs Bonnell in reply. Unhappy circumstances of brother's death 'have given me, and I believe all the family, a great deal of concern. Some years ago I borrowed £200 for his use, and am at this time a debtor for the money ... . About a month before he died, knowing how much he was straitened in his affairs, out of mere brotherly love and affection I made him a voluntary offer of £100 and was forced to borrow the money, and have been just now paid it with an year's interests. This has so drained me of money as to leave me very unable to discharge any other of his debts at this time: And I have so great an opinion of Mrs Bonnell's good sense as to believe she would not think it agreeable to common prudence and discretion for one in narrow circumstances to subject himself to great difficulties for the indiscretions of another.'

MS 41,580/32

1726-9

Chronologically arranged correspondence of Mrs Bonnell, including:

9 July 1726. James Coghill to Mrs Bonnell.

He asks her to arrange for gilt leather for his house; also oak tables marbled like 'agat, but without many colours'. For gilt leather gives her the name of Samuel Williams, leather gilder in St Paul's Churchyard, London.

16 Aug. 1726. The Rev. [ ] Musgrave, Buckden, to Mrs Bonnell.

Bishop has given the writer the prebend of Lincoln. 'Unless you madam can assist me with ten guineas or so I know not what in the world I shall do.'

8 Apr. 1728. R[ichard] Foley to Mrs Bonnell.

'Madam, when you are charged with ingratitude, when I with reason complain of your behaviour, instead of answering the charge, you advise me not to write in a passion. Till I see your actions and behaviour as kind as you would have me take your advice to be, I shall despise the one and set no value on the other. But in my turn let me give you some advice. Never resent want of respect to you till you deserve it better than of late you have done. Never endeavour to force yourself into a select company who you know intend to be by themselves. What was done on the 29th day was by my orders; and for the future, like others

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who have justly merited my resentment, be well informed I am not at home before you come lest you should meet with a second denial.'

28 Apr. 1728. Draft or copy of a letter from Mrs Bonnell to R[ichard] Foley.  
Has got a gentleman to wait on Foley with 5 guineas on Mrs Errington's account. Hopes dispute will cease. 'I am resolved to follow your advice in coming no more to your house.'

MS 41,580/33  
1730-33

Chronologically arranged correspondence of Mrs Bonnell, including:

20 Feb. 1729/30. Richard Foley [whose quarrel with her must have been patched up] to Mrs Bonnell.

Apparently soliciting her help in getting a loan from Hoare's.

27 Aug. 1730. Ralph Smyth, Dublin, to Mrs Bonnell.

Terrible voyage to Ireland, sick, etc. 'About 5 this morning passed the bar and I bless God got safe to shore a little after 6 at George's Quay, where the custom house officers used me unmercifully in ransacking my things and tore a little of the paper of the *Peep into Bishop Andrewes's Devotions*'.

2 Jan. 1730/31-Apr. 1733. Notebook of Mrs Bonnell's, apparently of letters written. The following are sample extracts:

2 Jan	Lady Masham Cousin Lowry
5	Mrs Hole Lady L Lady Masham
7	Mr Worth Mrs Bulkely Cousin J.H. Sister Conolly Sister Jones Niece Burton Nephew Burton
9	Mrs Lund Mr Cooke Mr W. Smyth
12	Lady Masham
14	Mr Thornton
16	Lady Middleton Sister Conolly
19	Lady L Mrs [?messrs] Hoare
21	Dr Harcourt Lady Masham
23	Mr W. Smyth
26	Sister Conolly

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30 Mrs Bulkeley  
Lady Middleton  
Cousin J.H.  
Sister Jones

Other correspondents include Mrs Yeate, Mrs Hole, occasional letters to Lady Betty Hastings, Mr Pearson, Mrs Hoare, nephew Sampson, Dr Hamilton, Mr Worth, Mrs Jennet, Cousin Bennitt, Mr French, niece Conyngham, Miss Pearson, Mr Foley and Mrs Turner, Mr Smyth, Lady Littleton, Mrs Pleydell, Mrs Ernle, Dr Scott, Mrs Kinna, Mrs Sayer, Mr Tickle, Mrs Draper, Mr Knox, Dr Dawson.

Attached note to pay to Jane Bulkeley £15:15s:4d in full as 4 years' interest of £43 due by you to me, 26 September 1732. [Who is you? No addressee.]

MS 41,580/34  
1734–8

Chronologically arranged correspondence of Mrs Bonnell.

MS 41,580/35  
1740–45

Chronologically arranged correspondence of Mrs Bonnell, including:

8 Dec. 1743. [?R.S.B.] to Mrs Bonnell.

Last night Mr Thornton called with enclosed letter and last bill he sent you, reduced from 36:12s:8d to £6, which I paid him. Has just finishd packing up your watch, with half quarter of a hundred of chocolate, an almanac and a pamphlet on the same subject as the last and 2 towels that came wrapped round the geese last Michaelmas.

MS 41,580/36–39  
N.D.

Four folders of undated correspondence of Mrs Bonnell, including:

28 Nov. [pre-1714]. Dorothy Rawdon to Mrs Bonnell, London.

'Mr Copinger, who carries this letter, has been very active for my sister, my Lady Sands, whose cause has been run down by a Whiggish set of persons because Mr Haltridge is her adversary, who is a grandee of that party of the first magnitude. She has appealed to the House of Lords here who has given her her jointure and arrears, though my Lords Fitzwilliam, Mountjoy, Santry and some others made violent opposition. But Mr Haltridge has carried it to the House of Lords in England, depending upon the strength of his party on that side. I must beg the favour of you to use your interest with Mr Charles Lesly [*sic* – Leslie] to mention it to such of the North British peers as are of his acquaintance, for 'tis a case of extraordinary compassion and has been entirely managed these seven years by strength of party.'

9 Feb. [1718/19?]. A. F[ox – probably a daughter of Sir Stephen Fox (1627–1714) and his second wife, Christian, née Hopes (1677–1719)] to Mrs Bonnell.

Hopes incision will prove lucky; my poor lady is so very weak. Give Mrs Wogan an account of her. Has written by same post to Lady B[etty] H[astings – see MS 41,580/10–11].

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25 Feb. [1718/19?]. A. F[ox] to Mrs Bonnell.

Death of Lady F[ox]: 'the doctors are amazed she lived so long'.

4 Mar. [1718/19]. A.F., Bath, to Mrs Bonnell. Black-edged.

'You have so great a sense of the sorrow I am in.' Concern for the poor child. 'I have not yet writ to poor Lady Betty, [who] will be a true mourner for her [Lady Fox].'

6 Apr. A.F. to Mrs Bonnell.

'Miss is extremely obliged to you.' About letter-writing and children.

[1718/19?]. C. Fox [another daughter?, writing from Bath], to Mrs Bonnell. Black-edged.

Thanks for letter. 'They have given me leave to go to church now and Mr Leason [*sic*] was so kind to leave the key of his pew which is in a private part of St James's church. So I hope I shan't fright off anybody, though I am very ugly still and my eyebrows are shaved off. Mrs Fenn gives her service to you and she hopes her brother or Mrs Wingfield has been to wait on you.'

6 June [1720?]. C. Fox to Mrs Bonnell.

Thanks for all her favours while in town. 'We live mighty agreeably here. My Lady [Betty Hastings] is very kind to me. 'Tis a mighty fine place. Here is a mighty find park very large and there is the finest riding all about the country that I ever saw. I have rid out a great many times. The ladies have none of them rid yet. My mare has gone very well. My Lady is making good alterations in her garden. I believe it will be very pretty when it is done, but I doubt that will be a great while. The garden is very little.' Mrs Wingfield gives her service.

30 July [1720?]. C. Fox to Mrs Bonnell.

'My Lady has it from very good hands that the South Sea will fall very fast. The knotty heads have already sold out and she is so well content with what she has already gained that she is to do so to a £100 stock if you please she will willing to play with [sense?]. She knows you can't transfer till the opening of the books, but hopes you may meet with persons of honour whose word you may take.' Postscript by 'B.H.'. Lady Ann [[Hastings?]] is gone. A touch of the colic has put me upon mortifying with physic, but have spoke my sense by Miss Fox.'

Easter Day [post-1720]. Amie Shepherd, Stapleton, to Mrs Bonnell.

'... the first week in May ... I suppose my sister Yeate intends to be with us ... . She has bought an annuity of Mr Price at a very dear rate, and indeed he is extreme strict upon her. You know the man. But she could not get satisfactory security elsewhere, so was forced to condescend to his terms. He requires all the money to be paid down, which I believe has exceeding straitened her to raise it, and indeed without my knowledge [she has] made use of £500 of mine, which I had asked to be paid in on our Lady Day, which was really intended for you, as I promised. But she writes me word that she shall not want it long, so hope in opposition to any further disappointments I shall be able to let you have some money very soon.'

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

31 July [ ]. Letter from an unnamed correspondent, Durham, to Mrs Bonnell at Mr Leonard's in Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London. The 'trouble about the preachers vexeth me heartily'. Writer's illness. Something about the 'Apology'. All the linen and plate are safe. 'In that letter which was lost I mentioned the plate of Lady Fox ... I shall be glad to have the 12 spoons, the marrow spoon', etc, etc.

N.D. Mrs Bonnell at Mr Leonard's. Scrap of paper. 'I wonder whether the third subscription be turned into stock. If it be, I wish Mr Stephens would transfer mine that I might sell it immediately, now that it [?least] a pretty good price and for another reason not forgetting Ralph's mother.'

N.D. Bridget Dyke to Mrs Bonnell. When she met Mrs Bonnell at Mrs Shepherd's she was so kind and charitable as to offer assistance in obtaining an exhibition for son to Trinity College Cambridge, through the Skinners' Company.

N.D. Some pages of prayers which look as if they are in Mrs Bonnell's hand.

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MS 41,580/40

1714–29

Receipts and accounts to Mrs Bonnell, including:

30 May 1720. Receipt from Thomas Bosville, Covent Garden, for £12: 18s: 2d for [?cloth on behalf of Mr Hobart].

1 Sep. 1720. Bond from John Thornton of Covent Garden 'phamacopo' [apothecary] to Jane Bonnell of the parish of St Andrew's, Holborn, and Rebecca Burton, spinster, for £1,000. Signed by Thornton and witnessed by Thos. Haywood and William Walton.

MS 41,580/41

1730–44

Receipts and accounts to Mrs Bonnell, including a receipt from Richard Parker, 27 February 1734/5, for 10s 6d being Mrs Bonnell's subscription for *Bibliotheca Biblica*.

MS 41,580/42

c.1745

Inventories of the late Mrs Bonnell's plate, linen, household goods, etc, plus an undated letter to Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn about the executorship of her estate. The inventories comprise:

MS 41,580/42

Inventory of Mrs Bonnell's plate (but actually everything else as well with some indication of who the items went to. (List made up from several different version in booklet and a separate set of sheets.)

At Writtle



OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

Mr Smyth	A silver cup, cover and server
Mr Smyth	3 pair candlesticks
Mr Smyth	A pair of snuffers, a stand and extinguisher
Mr Smyth	6 large silver handled knives and forks
Mr Smyth	1 dozen large spoons
Mr Smyth	A large silver sauce pan
Mrs Bruce	A pint coffee pot
Mr Loyd	A half pint coffee pot
Mr Loyd	A quart saucepan
Mr Loyd	2 large spoons old
Mr Loyd	6 teaspoons marked J.B.
	A large coffee pot
Mrs Jones	A pair of large servers or waiters
Mrs Jones	A pair of small servers or waiters
	A silver porriger
	A hand candlestick
Mr Leslie	A large tea kettle and lamp
Mr Leslie	2 silver canisters
Mrs Leslie	A large chocolate pot
Mrs Conolly	A large boiler
	A silver toasting fork
	A soup spoon
	1 pint and 1 half-pint mug
	A small silver lamp
	4 salt spoons and a silver bell
	A quarter of a pint silver saucepans
	A pepper castor
	A solver boat
	6 tea spoons, strainer and tongs
	A toothpick case
	A small silver handled knife and fork
	A pair of buckles and a thimble
	12 dessert knives and 11 forks with ivory handles, and tipped with silver and a case
	A plate chest
	12 ivory handles knives and 10 forks
	16 large table cloths
	8 breakfast cloths
	18 tea napkins
	34 napkins
	7 towels
	10 pairs of sheets and 1 odd sheet
	15 pillowcases
	3 kitchen table cloths
	3 table cloths 2 yards and a ¼ long new
	Diaper, new for about 2 table cloths
	Half pieces and remnants of Irish linen numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 with a coarse wrapper

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

Mrs Bonnell's plate found  
in London

A leather writing box with 2 glasses for ink and sand  
tops silver  
2 silver nutmeg graters  
A silver smelling bottle  
A silver seal of Mr Bonnell's  
A gold ring with a woman's head in a shagreen case  
A small silver box and what is called a baby's smoothing  
iron  
Several pieces of old silver snuff boxes and a large flat  
piece of silver  
A reading glass edged with silver, another without  
A tortoiseshell reading glass ornamented with silver,  
another plain  
2 reading glasses buffless horn 3 pair old spectacles  
2 penknives and 3 pair of scissors

Pictures etc at Writtle

An original picture of Sir Albert Conyngham enamelled  
and set in gold by Sir Peter Lely  
A copy of Sir Albert Conyngham's picture, smaller and  
set in gold, enamelled also  
An original enamelled picture of Mr Bonnell set in gold  
A hand firescreen in water colours and ornamented with  
precious stones  
A picture of Lady Betty Hastings

In London

2 pictures of the late Henry Hoare and his lady  
A small picture of Dr Edward Whetenhall, bishop of  
Kilmore

An account of money  
belonging to Mrs Jane  
Bonnell found at Writtle

£8:18s:6d	Eight guineas and a half
4s:6d	Silver
1s:8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> d	Brass
£7:17s:6d	7 guineas and a half
£5:8s	Three, six and thirty Portugal pieces
£2:14s	2 moidores
£4:6s	Silver
£17:17s	Mrs Lingard's note for 17 guineas
£185:12s:2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	In Messrs Hoare's & company's hands
£640::10d	In Ralph Smyth's hands as per balance of account dated 20 September 1744
	1 broad piece of gold of King James I

## OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

1 piece of gold supposed to be a double Louis D'Ore  
An old piece of gold, clipped, dated 1602  
A gold piece of King Charles I marked X  
A small piece of gold of King Charles I marked V  
A piece of gold of Frederick II about the size of a guinea  
6 small pieces of silver of Louis XV  
2 very small pieces of silver  
2 silver medals one of King James II the other of Queen  
Mary  
4 enamelled mourning rings  
1 plain gold ring  
5 mourning rings  
1 small gold ring inlaid with tortoiseshell  
1 gold ring set with an emerald  
1 gold ring set with a crystal and diamond sparks on  
each side  
A gold repeating watch, the dial plate enamelled, chain,  
hook and key with 2 seals, 1 with Mr Bonnell's arms,  
the other with Queen Anne's head  
2 small pieces of gold used in touching for the evil  
7 small pieces of silver coin  
An old shilling, a silver groat of King Charles II and  
silver 2 pence of King James II  
A small enamelled gold ring  
1 small and 2 larger pieces of silver  
2 knit silk purses, 1 of them ornamented with silver

Also more sheets, quilts, pillows, glasses, cruets, jelly glasses, backgammon table, iron painted snuff boxes, japanned tea boards, looking glass, turkey carpet, japanned tea table, 8 prints with frames and glass, 2 without glass, large blue and white china teapot, small white china teapot, 1 red china teapot, 1 serpentine teapot, 1 saffron teapot, china basins, tea cups, saucers, chocolate cups, coffee cups, plates, stools, boxes, chest of drawers, scuttle, bellows, patty pans, scales, case with 100 books, only a few of which are mentioned by title.

MS 41,580/42

Inventory of Mrs Bonnell's goods: furniture and furnishings worth £14:5s:6d; linen worth £19:7s:7½d; china and glass worth £3:12:4d; full list of books (see below); plate worth £121:8d:9d: gold: total of inventory £1060:5s:7¼d

	Quarto Bible with Common Prayer
	Common Prayer large
	Common Prayer with a case
Nelson	Feasts and Fasts
Lupton	Sermons
Bonnell	Harmony of the Gospels
Bull, Bishop	Sermons (3 vols)
Nelson	Life of Bull
Jenks	Prayers and Preparations for the Sacrament
Scanderett	On Sacrifice

OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL

Cockburn	Companion of Penitents The Complete Catechist
Whetenhall	Views of Christ's Passion The Duty of Frequenting the Christian Sacrifice Kempis English
Barnard	Life of Lady Betty Hastings Bonnell's Life (19 vols) Memoirs of the Reign of Francis II and Charles VII Book of clean paper in parchment A quarto Common Prayer Book Turkey leather and gilt A Common Prayer octavo A Common Prayer octavo A Common Prayer & New Testament
Nelson	Address to Persons of Quality
Nelson	Doctrine of the Trinity Vindicated Common Prayer in English and Irish Whole Duty of Man
Beveridge	Private Thoughts etc (2 vols)
Kettlewell	On the Articles of the Creed
Bishop of Bath and Wells	Exposition on the Catechism Devotional Tracts
Bellarmino	Arts of Dying
Hickes	Devotions
Arnold	True Christianity An Abstract of God's Mercies from Scripture
Drexelions	On Eternity
Monro	On the Pious Institutions of Youth (2 vols)
Hopkins	On Mortification
Archbishop of Glasgow	Sermons
Leslie	Christianity Vindicated
Leslie	Finishing Stroke
Castaneras	Spiritual Combat
Lucas	Practical Christianity
Lucas	Enquiry after Happiness
Prince of Conti	Works
Mapletoft	On Religious Duties
Waple	Sermons
Quesmills	On the New Testament (2 vols)
Macarius	Homilies
Athenagorass	Apologetics
Leslie	Sermons
Spinks	Trust in God
Trebeck	Sermons
Mangy	On the Lord's Prayer History of the Attempts to Convert the Nation of Ireland
Hicks	On Devotions (3 vols)
Worthington	Duty of Self Resignation
Ellesby	Sick Christian's Companion The Duty of Frequenting the Christian Sacrifice

**OTHER LETTERS AND PAPERS OF MRS BONNELL**

Herbert	The Penitent's Office Poems
Hayward	Church Catechism Explained English and Irish
Hickes (or Crickes)	Christ's Prayer on the Cross Faithful Pastor Wisdom from Above New Version of the Psalms
Hammond	The Virtue of Humanity
Kettlewell	Companion for the Penitent
Drexelius	On Eternity Penitential Meditations
Neal	Christian Hero
Preston	Sermon on the Love of Christ Footsteps of Divine Providence at Clouce (Glouce?) near Hall
Paschall	An English and French Grammar Letters (2 vols)

## XVI THE INGOLDSBYS

MS 41,581/1–37

1715–87

Two boxes of correspondence (mainly of William Smyth of Barbavilla), case papers, affidavits, accounts, title deeds, leases, etc, all concerning the Ingoldsby estate in Limerick City and County and particularly the abduction of Frances Ingoldsby by Hugh Fitzjohn Massy in 1743. Major correspondents are Henry Ingoldsby (c.1690–1731) of Ballybricken, Co. Limerick (Frances Ingoldsby's father), John Williams [a servant who had allegedly married Frances Ingoldsby in 1741 (before the abduction)], the Rev. Thomas Henry Royse of Nantenan, Co. Limerick, from whose rectory she was abducted, Judge Arthur Blennerhassett of Riddlestown, Co. Limerick, James Lennox Naper (later Dutton) of Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, who married in 1734 Frances Ingoldsby's elder sister and co-heiress, Catherine (d.1742), Arthur Mervyn of Baldwinstown, Co. Dublin, Francis Geoghegan (Massy's counsel), William Crookshank (Ralph Smyth's [1717–90] legal adviser), etc. [For a full account of the abduction and its aftermath, see Toby Barnard, *The abduction of a Limerick heiress: social and political relations in mid-eighteenth century Ireland* (Maynooth Studies in Local History, Dublin, 1998). William Smyth of Barbavilla became guardian to his wife's great-nieces, Catherine and Frances Ingoldsby, when their father, Henry Ingoldsby, MP for Limerick City, 1713–14 and 1727–31 (Mrs Smyth's nephew), died in 1731. His co-guardians were Judge Blennerhassett and Major G. Sawyer.]

MS 41,581/1

1715–16

Letters to William Smyth of Barbavilla from Mrs Smyth's nephew, Henry Ingoldsby, and the latter's wife, Catherine [daughter of the controversial Tory Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Sir Constantine Phipps], writing from London, Chester and Carton, Co. Kildare [Ingoldsby's house which was sold in 1738 (after his death) to the 19th Earl of Kildare]. The folder includes:

1 Nov. 1715. Henry Ingoldsby [staying at Sir Constantine Phipps's], London, to William Smyth, Dublin.

Unable to write much because 'this being Sir Con's birthday I must [be]g leave to shorten that I may commemorate as much as possible with him. He and the whole family beg yours and my aunt's affections and I assure you we never fail drinking your healths twice a day ...'.

17 Nov. 1715. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth, Dublin.

'... there is just now come in the Bishop of Rochester, which occasions my concluding so abruptly in acquainting you that there is no news you can come at as yet by my means ...'.

6 Dec. 1715. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth, Dublin.

'Sir Constantine and my lady and the rest of the family beg to be remembered to you both and family.'

21 Jan. 1715/16. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth, Dublin.

Regards to 'Tom Burgh and his wife and family; Jack Echlin and his wife ..., Darby [Clarke] and his wife, Dick Nutley and lady; and Will Burgh and lady ...'.

## THE INGOLDSBYS

4 Feb. 1715/16. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth.

‘Sir Constantine and I both beg yours and my cousin Tom Burgh’s assistance in choosing us a couple of good hogsheads of claret ...’. He asks if Will Burgh is ‘out or no’.

10 July 1716. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth.

‘Tell Tom Burgh I shall bring him the best watch in Europe with seconds well adjusted and which D. Quare [?] gives on his word knowing Tom to be a virtuoso.’ He mentions that Sir Constantine Phipps is going on his circuits.

MS 41,581/2

1717–23

Letters to William Smyth of Barbavilla from Mrs Smyth’s nephew, Henry Ingoldsby, and the latter’s wife, Catherine. The folder includes:

30 July 1720. Henry Ingoldsby, ‘Carrtown’, to William Smyth, Abbert near Roscommon.

‘...as to the money, I am very sorry ’tis not in my power to let you have that sum, for I had a letter some time ago from Sir Con[stantine] wherein he says he intends turning of it to my advantage; so I suppose it’s in the South Sea with his own, and out of my reach, yet a good deal of it was in course of payment in that fund; they were lottery orders which are transferred into South Sea stock by Act of Parliament. We have no news here stirring only to acquaint you that there is not one penny of money stirring; and that all trade ceases, and South Sea is falling every day ...’.

9 Aug. 1720. Henry Ingoldsby, Carrtown, to William Smyth, Lackan near Roscommon.

‘... there is such a demand for money that the bankers themselves want it prodigiously, and get vast exchange for money in England. I believe the world’s expectations are almost vanished by way of making fortunes in the funds ...’.

5 Sep. 1723. Henry Ingoldsby, Carrtown, to William Smyth, Dublin.

‘When we came last night here Sir Constantine and my lady and sister Molly were all gone that very morning from their country house to the Bath by the advice of Sir Constantine’s physician Dr Freind who would not let him stay a day longer on any account; his disorder is a violent colic and a great loss of appetite, and they say is mightily wasted and is in a bad way as matters are represented to us, but my brother and Major Sawyer who came to St Albans to meet us say he is a good deal better, which I trust in God he is, and that the Bath may perfect his cure. He got it by the Bishop of Rochester, by fatiguing himself too much.’

14 Sep. 1723. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth.

‘Doctor Freind told me yesterday Sir Con[stantine] had nothing for his life if the Bath waters did not recover him for he has lost his stomach and is wore away to nothing. But God be thanked we had a letter from my sister yesterday that gave us an account that the Bath waters agreed very well with him and have got him a little better appetite for the time. He began on last Monday what I hope will recover him ...’.

## THE INGOLDSBYS

21 Sep. 1723. H. Ingoldsby to William Smyth, referring to 'Mr Wills the agent in Clarendon Street'.

12 Nov. 1723. H. Ingoldsby to William Smyth sending best wishes to 'honest Tom Burgh and family'.

3 Oct. 1723. H. Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth.  
'Poor dear Sir Constantine is returned from the Bath ... in a most melancholy dismal way, in so much that his physicians Dr Freind and Dr Meade have little or no hopes of his life. This disorder is a strong jaundice; he neither eats a morsel nor sleeps a wink; his belly and legs are very much swelled and I am afraid we are like to lose our dear father [in his case father-in-law] and very good friend ...'.

19 Oct. 1723. H. Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth.  
Sir Con[stantine] died 'last Wednesday was a sennight' and buried 'last Tuesday' at White Waltham. Asks William Smyth to buy 12 quarts of usquebaugh from Mrs Roan in Dame Street.

MS 41,581/3

1724

Letters to William Smyth of Barbavilla from Mrs Smyth's nephew, Henry Ingoldsby, and the latter's wife, Catherine. The folder includes:

18 Jan. 1723/4. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth.  
'I have hired a new gardener and send him hence a Tuesday next to Ireland ...; he is well recommended as being a thorough good one. His name is George Lamb. When he comes I beg he may be sent immediately to Carrtown ...'.

22 Jan. 1723/4. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth.  
The gardener, Ingoldsby believes, is 'what we call thorough working gardener'.

8 Feb. 1723/4. Henry Ingoldsby to William Smyth.  
More about the gardener.

19 Mar. 1723/4. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth.  
More about the gardener; refers to his predecessor at Carton, John Dodson. In England 'they are arrived to such a perfection in gardening that a man twenty years ago a gardener scarcely knows anything of the matter. For my part I am amazed at it; they can raise and do what they please at any time of the year here.' P.S. 'I am glad to hear honest Arthur Hassett has succeeded in [*sic*] Recorder ...'.

9 Apr. 1724. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth.  
More about the gardener.

15 Sep. 1724. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth.  
Wants to travel home by the [viceregal] yacht – suggests 'Tom Burgh will be a proper man to assist in his interest with your Lords Justices [Conolly, Midleton and Viscount Shannon] for that purpose ...'.



## THE INGOLDSBYS

10 Oct. 1724. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth, Dublin.

‘Gett Cousin Tom Burgh to make my compliments of thanks to my Lord Carterett for the honour he designed me of letting me have your yatch ...’.

12 Nov. 1724. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth, Dublin.

‘Tell Cousin Tom Burgh that his brother Jack Burgh the rake is now in town, and very well and merry and has kept me hot-headed these three days past, and gives his love to him and his ... . Pray tell him from me that they really are two brothers in everything ...’.

5 Dec. 1724. Henry Ingoldsby, London, to William Smyth, Dublin.

Asks him to buy some tobacco from Russell, a Quaker, ‘who lives at the sign of the scales on the Blind Quay going up to Cork Hill’. More about the gardener.

MS 41,581/4

1725

Letters to William Smyth of Barbavilla from Mrs Smyth’s nephew, Henry Ingoldsby, and the latter’s wife, Catherine.

MS 41,581/5

1726–30

Letters to William Smyth of Barbavilla from Mrs Smyth’s nephew, Henry Ingoldsby, and the latter’s wife, Catherine.

3 May 1730. Henry Ingoldsby, Limerick, to William Smyth, Dublin.

‘... the true reason why you did not hear from me since I came here was, is [*sic*], that I have been taken up by traversing some lands, which I am in treaty to set with intentions of taking fines, in order to raise money; besides, am now, and not before, going to an account with Alderman Higgins [his peccant agent or former agent] ...’.

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MS 41,581/6

c.1726–1727

Letters to William Smyth from Major G. Sawyer, London, who became – with Smyth and Judge Arthur Blennerhassett – trustees and executors of Henry Ingoldsby’s will when the latter died in 1730.

MS 41,581/7

1736–8: 1750–52

Letters to William Smyth from Major G. Sawyer, London. The letters of 1750–52 are about the need to get Sawyer to resign from the executorship because he lives in London and is not on the spot. This is complicating Smyth’s efforts to recover £1,000 [Mrs Smyth’s unpaid marriage portion?] plus interest back to 1730 which Smyth is owed by the estate of his former ward, Frances Ingoldsby, younger daughter and co-heiress of Henry Ingoldsby.

## THE INGOLDSBYS

MS 41,581/8

1731: N.D.

Printed sale catalogues of the late Henry Ingoldsby's china, linen and other household goods, and a 'List of goods delivered to Miss [Frances] Ingoldsby'. [For Ingoldsby wills and testamentary papers, see MS 41,569/3.]

MS 41,581/9

1731–52

Case papers and correspondence of William Smyth about the Ingoldsby estate and the claims upon it, including Smyth's for his £1,000, the legal challenge brought by a Buckinghamshire cousin, Thomas Ingoldsby, against Henry Ingoldsby's entail of the Carton estate on his two daughters and their issue, etc. Also included are 2 letters from John Ebbs [gardener at Carton, who died in 1735 and was succeeded by his son], 1734, and 7 letters, 1734–9, from Francis Walsh, the tenant of Carton.

MS 41,581/10

1731–63

Rentals, and printed sale particulars of parts, of the Ingoldsby estate in Co. Limerick.

MS 41,581/11

1732–4

Correspondence of William Smyth, as guardian of Frances Ingoldsby, with Oliver Crofton, a suitor whom he and she reject.

MS 41,581/12

1733–7

Letters to William Smyth from Counsellor Arthur Blennerhassett of Riddlestown, Co. Limerick [who was later (1743–58) a Judge of the King's Bench], mainly about their ward, the proposals of marriage which have been received and the misconduct of Oliver Crofton. The folder includes:

8 June 1734. Arthur Blennerhassett to William Smyth giving him particulars of the estate of Matthew Deane, son and heir of Sir Matthew Deane, and an aspirant to marry Frances Ingoldsby. Sir Matthew's estate produces £1,981 p.a. 'and is a rising estate'. 'Old Capt. Deane, his [the young man's] uncle's estate in the county of Limerick is £850 ... p.a., near the Miss Ingoldsbys'. The latter estate won't rise because set by long leases ...'. £484 p.a. must go to a younger brother, and the estate is to be charged with £5,000 [for sisters' portions], which means £250 p.a. This leaves £2,147 p.a. 'The young gentleman has an agreeable person, an exceeding good humour, has had a good education and is a man of sense.'

MS 41,581/13

1738–9

Letters to William Smyth from Arthur Blennerhassett of Riddlestown, Co. Limerick. The folder includes:

## THE INGOLDSBYS

26 Dec. 1738. Arthur Blennerhasset to William Smyth about Lord Athenry's proposal of marriage to Frances Ingoldsby.

'... His chief recommendation was the ancient nobility of the family, but not one word of the estate. Our answer to him was that Miss Fanny did not want gentility and that we feared Lord Athenry's fortune ... would not be sufficient to support his dignity and the dignity of the young lady ...'.

9 June 1739. Arthur Blennerhasset, Dublin, to William Smyth about a proposal from Lord Grandison.

'... I believe it will be very agreeable news to tell you Lord Grandison has proposed to match his son with dear Fan and to settle £5,000 a year in possession and reversion, after which he will in a few years have £4,000 a year left to dispose of as he pleases, and he has nobody else to give it to. To say the truth, our girl's conduct is so good I don't wonder at his choice. We expect them up in their courting [?'geers] the latter end of this month, but lest any accident may happen, I believe it will be prudent to have this matter kept secret till things go farther. Fanny is with me and says she won't leave me for anybody but a young man ...'.

26 Dec. 1739. Arthur Blennerhasset, Dublin, to William Smyth about the death of Lord Grandison's son.

'... The death of Lord Villars [*sic* – Villiers] is much the subject of conversation in this town. People lament his death, as he was a very promising young nobleman. His family are much to be pitied, but we bear it in this house with prudence and indifference. ...'

MS 41,581/14

1740–47

Letters to William Smyth from Arthur Blennerhasset with particular reference to the abduction of Frances Ingoldsby by Hugh Fitzjohn Massy from Nantenan rectory, Co. Limerick, the home of an Ingoldsby cousin, the Rev. Thomas Henry Royse. The folder includes:

8 May 1740. Arthur Blennerhasset, Dublin, to William Smyth.

Claims that the previous week there had only been £39 and a few pence in the Treasury, so no order could be given him for the barrack money.

26 Dec. 1741. Arthur Blennerhasset, Dublin, to William Smyth about the Limerick election and legal promotion for Blennerhasset.

'I should make you a thousand apologies for my silence, but in truth, what with the trouble of the Limerick election, the attending term and parliament, and a good deal of anxiety about our friend, Mr Maunsell, I have scarce had one moment to myself since I came to town till now. I am much obliged to you for your kind enquiry about my promotion. I know that everything which contributes to my advantage or credit will give you joy. There are no letters as yet come over to settle the places at the Bar, but they are expected every hour. I am encouraged to think I shall be Prime Serjeant, but I don't mention this matter as a certainty, because nothing is certain till it is done. If it should happen (amongst other advantages), it will give me the pleasure of seeing you sometimes on the circuits. The division on the question concerning Mr Maunsell, though the numbers weren't told but only separated, was thus: for Pery 35, for Maunsell 146, majority 111.'

## THE INGOLDSBYS

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MS 41,581/15  
1733–5

Letters to William Smyth from James Lenox Naper, later Dutton, of Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, husband of Henry Ingoldsby's elder daughter and co-heiress, Catherine, some of them from Catherine. The folder includes:

13 Aug. 1735. James Lenox Naper, London, to William Smyth.

'There is no news here that can entertain you, but people are of opinion we shall have peace, and stocks rise prodigiously. I hear the Duke of Dorset does not intend to go to Ireland until the King returns from Hanover, which is not as yet fixed.'

MS 41,581/16  
1736–7

Letters to William Smyth from James Lenox Naper, later Dutton, of Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, and Naper's wife, Catherine (née Ingoldsby). Because she had suffered a couple of miscarriages, the Napers went to Spa for her health, and the letters of this period are written from the Austrian Netherlands, Lorraine, etc, and include some news of Continental affairs.

MS 41,581/17  
1738–40

Letters to William Smyth from James Lenox Naper, later Dutton, of Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, and Naper's wife, Catherine (née Ingoldsby). The folder includes:

26 Apr. 1738

James Lenox Naper, Bath, to William Smyth. 'You had my secret wishes for Mr Pakenham's success, but truly I expected I should have heard from him on that occasion. I am concerned to find he has lost his election, but I imagin'd he would, as Mr Rochford [*sic*] made his interest, long before Mr Pakenham thought of a vacancy'.

MS 41,581/18  
1744: 1750–51: N.D.

Letters to William Smyth from James Lenox Naper, later Dutton, of Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, written after the abduction and in the midst of all the ensuing litigation and mayhem.

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MS 41,581/19  
1736–48

Letters to William Smyth from the Rev. James Ingram, Limerick and Dublin, mainly about the abduction and the ensuing litigation. The folder includes:

## THE INGOLDSBYS

10 Nov. 1741. James Ingram, Limerick, to William Smyth.

Has married a Mrs White, the daughter of the eldest sister of the Lord Chancellor. Has received 'an obliging letter' from the Chancellor but as yet no more, though is hopeful: 'he [the Chancellor] has last week provided for my wife's brother in the revenue. ... Mr Maunsell had a majority on our election of 25 and it cost him £1,200 but it cost Mr Pery three thousand. After all there is a petition. Mr Maunsell sets up on Mr Hasset's [Arthur Blennerhassett?] interest, the Speaker [Henry Boyle] is neutral, tho' I and others thought him engaged to Mr Maunsell by the words of his letter to him. I write to Mr Hasset tonight and tell him I mention the petition to you, knowing your interest with the French's, Mr Digby, Mr Napper [*sic*], Mr Burgh, etc.'

MS 41,581/20

1738–48

Letters to William Smyth from Frances Ingoldsby, Dublin, Riddlestown and (after her abduction by and marriage to Massy) Bordeaux.

MS 41,581/21

1738–56: 1759–60

Letters to William Smyth (her 'uncle') from Annabella Royse, [wife of?] the Rev. Thomas Royse], Nantenan.

MS 41,581/22

1743

Two letters to Mrs Bonnell telling her about the abduction.

MS 41,581/23

c.1743–1758

Letters to William Smyth from John Williams [a poor relation of the Ingoldsbys whom Henry Ingoldsby had brought up and employed as a servant, and who had 'married' Frances Ingoldsby under dubious circumstances in 1741. Reprehensible though this 'marriage' no doubt was, it was an important weapon in the hands of the guardians since it threw doubt on the validity of the subsequent 'marriage' to Massy (which Frances Ingoldsby/Massy was showing no inclination to disavow)].

MS 41,581/24

c.1759–1782

Letters to William Smyth from John Williams.

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MS 41,581/25

c.1743–1769

Case papers about the abduction, the two marriages, and the legal implications for Frances Ingoldsby/Massy's half of the Ingoldsby inheritance. [William Smyth was involved, not just as guardian, but as a creditor and also as a relation who, along with the Napers and the

## THE INGOLDSBYS

Royses, stood to gain if Frances Ingoldsby died without legitimate issue.] These case papers feature John Williams prominently.

MS 41,581/26

c.1743–1769

Further case papers in the same connection.

MS 41,581/27

1743

Correspondence of William Smyth with other correspondents about the abduction.

MS 41,581/28

1744–50: 1756

Correspondence of William Smyth with other correspondents about the abduction and ensuing litigation, including a letter from the abductor, Hugh Massy, 1756.

MS 41,581/29

1744–c.1750

Case papers and correspondence unrelated to John Williams and his alleged marriage to Frances Ingoldsby/Massy. These principally relate to the accusation that Massy sent his attorney, Francis Geoghegan, to try to bribe William Smyth to drop the case.

MS 41,581/30

c.1770–1776

Copies of recoveries and other deeds of settlement whereby the Ingoldsbys [Hugh Massy had assumed that name] re-settled Frances Ingoldsby/Massy's Co. Limerick estate.

MS 41,581/31

1771–8

Letters to Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla [William Smyth had died in 1769] from the Rev. Thomas Henry Royse about the current stage in the litigation with the Massys.

MS 41,581/32

1771: 1776–8: 1787

Letters to Ralph Smyth from other correspondents, mostly his lawyers, William Crookshank and George Radcliff, about the case. There is a good deal of anxiety about the credence likely to be given to the testimony of John Williams. In 1787, a new issue arises: viz. whether Smyth and Royse will give their consent to Sir Hugh Dillon Massy's proposal that part of the Ingoldsby estate be sold for the payment of debt.

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MS 41,581/33–7

1771–80

Five folders of case papers.

**XVII CORRESPONDENCE OF WILLIAM SMYTH OF BARBAVILLA (1692–1769)  
WITH OTHER SMYTHS**

MSS 41,582–41,583  
1710–69

Box of letters to William Smyth from other Smyths: principally his elder brothers, Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn (1676–1755) and the Rev. James Smyth, Archdeacon of Meath (1683–1759), but also from his wife, Barbara, and son, Ralph, another Ralph Smyth (of Fieldtown, Co. Westmeath, son of Archdeacon James Smyth), Edward Smyth (Bishop of Down and Connor, who was married to William Smyth's sister, Elizabeth), Currell Smyth, Michael Smyth, etc.

MS 41,582/1  
c.1710–1712: N.D.

Correspondence between William Smyth and his elder brother, James, later Archdeacon of Meath, but at this time on the Grand Tour in Italy, Holland, etc. The folder includes:

19 April [1710]. James Smyth, Utrecht, to 'My dearest brother' [William Smyth]. He talks of 'my going forward towards Italy. ... I wait only for a newe letter of credit from my Lord [Edward Smyth, Bishop of Down and Connor, 1699–1720, their brother-in-law]. ... I believe I shall travell with my Lord Longueville or young Lord Thanet, both which we expect here daily. Pray give my service to good Mr Burne ... press him earnestly to let me have this next half years rent.'

14 June 1710. James Smyth, Rome, to William Smyth 'at Captain Burghs in Anglisey Street, Dublin'.

10 Aug. 1710. Copy of a letter from [William Smyth] to his brother [James, in Italy]. 'My dearest brother, I can't tell you how pleasing your last letter was to my Brother Burgh which he will shortly answer and would have done it before this were he not hindered from it by the business of the Arsenall (in the building of which the Parliament have granted £31,000 but when he writes to you he thinks to put you in mind of getting a passport from Italy to France which he fancys will be your shortest way home. ...

Bishop Pooley was lately cast in a lawsuit upon his adversary's proving him not to be bishop of Raphoe which was done by proving that he did not take one of the oaths within the time permitted by the law. Upon this he went over to London to get a new patent for his see and it's generally believed he will succeed in that affair.

The baton was taken out of the hand of the statue on College Green. It's thought to have been done by the presbyterians to lay it as an odium on the Church. Young Grattan, Maddox and Mr Sings [*sic*] sen[ior] are made fellows of the college ...'

William Smyth and another brother [Ralph of Gray's Inn?] are sending James Smyth £100. '... this, together with what Mr Burn[e] can furnish you with before you come home will be enough to serve you. I shall be very glad of it for I would have you obliged to his Lordship [Edward Smyth, Bishop of Down and Connor] for money matters as little as possible because he thinks so much of what he has lent to my Brother Smyth.'

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11 Nov. 1710. James Smyth, Florence, to William Smyth.  
3 score pistoles at Leghorn = £60 Irish.

‘The roote I take from hence will be to Bologna, Modena, Parma, Piacenza, Genova, Turin and from thence to Milan, Mantova, and thro to Brescia to Venice’. Sends ‘most tender service to Anglisey streete’

N.D. [1710]. James Smyth to William Smyth ‘at Capt. Burghs in Anglisey Street, Dublin’. ‘I hope to be returned from Naples to Rome, by the beginning of May next. ... If ever I get home, they shall brake my neck sooner than get me abroad for all the improvement one finds ...’

8 Jan. 1710/11. James Smyth, Venice, to William Smyth.  
Apparently complains at not having heard from Burgh. ‘I offerd my services to all my friends from Rome, and should have been glad to be employd by him. ...’

3 May 1711. Copy of a letter from William Smyth, Dublin, to his brother [James Smyth]. ‘Brother Burgh has removed to Mr Dawson’s house in Fleet Street which he has borrowed till he can build one for himself ... . A squabble ... has lately broken out between our university and college, which happened thus. The late vice-chancellor’s commission expiring somewhat before the usual time of commencement at Shrovetide, the bachelors who should have then taken their degrees could not at that time commence, no new chancellor being instituted; upon which the provost gave ’em leave to wear the graduate gown. The university, imagining this to be an invasion of their privilege, resolved to right themselves the ensuing commencement which was about a fortnight ago, a little before which time the Archbishop of Tuam was appointed vice-chancellor of the college. I think [this] satisfied the university of their authority for what they had done and so it was put up. Only Zeky Hamilton, Ratcliff and some others entered their protest; there was at the time a very loyal address sent to Her Majesty, upon the bringing in of which several withdrew and I am ashamed to tell you it was signed by only one senior fellow, Dr Ellwood by name.’

[ ] June [1711]. Copy of a letter from [William Smyth, Dublin], to ‘My dearest Brother’ [James Smyth]. ‘My Lord Duke [of Ormond] was received with abundance of joy on his arrival here, and affairs run on very smoothly in the parliament. They have made three or four such high-flying addresses that nobody would imagine us ever to have been suppliant slaves to the Lord Wharton. They have laid aside all thoughts of an Arsenal as being too expensive, and think now to build two little redoubts for the security of the stores. They are also considering of rebuilding the Castle to fit it for the reception of our chief governor and pulling down the houses on Cork Hill to enlarge the passage up to it; we are also going to rebuild in proper places a Council Chamber and Treasury, with the other offices which were all consumed by the late fire in Essex Street. We suffer an irretrievable loss from the Down Survey, which was burnt at that time; the copper plates from which they were printed were said to have been taken some years ago by a privateer [‘and carried into France’ – erased]. The Duke has brought the famous Nicolini, the Italian, who is esteemed here as the most celebrated singer that ever was known. The tickets for his music meeting are two crowns apiece.

Dr Coghill was to have been lately married to Mrs Plunket, the Lady Louth’s daughter, who broke off the match after the most passionate expressions of love on both sides that could be



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and the writings by both parties signed and agreed to, nay even the wedding supper was bought and she was about three or four days after married to Cornet Ears [*sic* – Eyre?], a man of not half the Doctor's value either in estate or any other respect whatever. Mrs Cuffe has served young Mr Harman much in the same manner after having entertained him six or seven years but there were not indeed any writings signed on either side.'

15 Nov. 1711. Copy of a letter from William Smyth, London, to 'My Dear brother' [James]. 'I very much fear S<sup>r</sup> A<sup>r</sup> Kairnes [Sir Alexander Cairnes] has been payd that money agen by Mr Burne'. Sends his service to Brother and Sister Burgh [i.e. the Surveyor-General, Thomas Burgh, was not in London at this date?].

29 Dec. 1711. [William Smyth], London, to his brother, [James?]. 'I must beg you would send me ... half a dozen pair of yellow gloves stitched with white, which you may get from my glover who lives in Castle Street next door to the apothecary's at the corner of Fish Shamble Street.'

27 Mar. 1712. James Smyth, London, to William Smyth, at Capt. Burgh's, Anglesey Street, Dublin.

'... we have no news stirring; the *Spectator* is grown very dull, and pamphlets are no more since your departure. The Duke of Ormond is expected to leave us also every moment, so that you see the beau monde and the gens d'esprit depart together.'

MS 41,582/2

1713–16

Letters to William Smyth from the Rev. James Smyth, 'Marlea', Dublin and Ballintoy, Co. Antrim. The folder includes:

23 Oct. 1714. James Smyth, 'Marlea', 'the Bishop's' [i.e. Edward Smyth], to 'Dear Will.' '... We had such rejoyceings on the Coronation day, that you would have thought the whole cuntry on fire, and the people mad.'

13 Nov. 1714. James Smyth, Marlea, to [William Smyth].

'I am very much obliged to you for sending us the news you had from brother Smyth, and I wish his prophecies of the downfall of the ministry may prove true, but I fear a year will be too little time to bring that to pass. I rather imagine my brother to have written with that air on purpose to comfort the drooping spirits of his friends in Ireland. I have recommended Mr Hess very heartily to the Massereene and Antrim family, but I find they have no occasion for him, being already supplied with servants that have lived with them this long time ... I am heartily glad of all the honours Sir Constantine Phipps can receive, for I think next to my dearest friends I wish him the most prosperity of any man breathing, and doubt not in the least but a little time will give him the seals of Great Britain ...'

14 Nov. 1715. James Smyth to [William Smyth].

'I have been of late so hurried with elections for Members of Parliament and Convocation, that I protest I had not any time to recommend my service to any of my friends ... I should have gone up to Convocation, had it pleased God to give us more peaceable times, but since there must be troubles, I thought it more convenient to get Mr Scott chosen in my place, and choose to do my duty here in the country.'

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6 Feb. 1715/16. James Smyth, Ballintoy [Co. Antrim, where he was prebendary of Rasharkin, 1713–15, and of Cairncastle, 1720–31], to [William Smyth].

‘It is a month since I have heard from you, tho I am sure you are indebted a couple of letters to me. I cannot imagine either Mr Manley or the commission I gave you to draw on Uncle Povey for paper, could frighten you, be it what it will ... . I thank God we are all very well here, and as cheerful as the melancholy prospect of the times will let us. The presbyterians have now the power, and the militia of them let us know how serviceable it is when lodged in so good hands. Last week my curate was insulted by a mob of them, who came five miles to do him that service. They broke open his doors, and searched his house, and carried away in triumph an old gun he kept for his defence, that being the only weapon he had. And this was done without either a warrant or constable or appearance of a magistrate.’

15 Mar. 1715/16. James Smyth, Ballintoy, to [William Smyth].

‘The sufferings of the clergy and Church people in our country are very great, and I am obliged upon that account to write every post to the Bishop [Edward Smyth], that he may be furnished with materials to represent our case to the government, but to say truth I expect little or no redress.’

14 Sep. 1716. James Smyth to William Smyth, Dublin.

‘I find by your last letter, that my behaviour is much censured in Dublin, but as this is done by those who would rather injure than protect the gown, so I value their reflections as I do themselves ... . The story is very long, and therefore I shall trouble you with only the most material part of it. When Lord Antrim was in the country I waited on him to his hunting seat of Glenarm to get a small lease for the benefit of my curate. On his return homeward he was met with some gentlemen, and among others by one Boyde his tenant. This fellow had encouraged many false informations against our family, and endeavoured to do us all the mischief he could, but it was not in his nor in the power of anyone else. In short, he and his relations have bred all the disturbances in our country. To be sure, this fellow was not fit company for me, and as I never saw him but at the search of our house, so I was resolved not to take the least notice of him.

But he disappointed me, for after I had parted with my lord this fellow’s road and mine were the same, at first he kept company with my cousin Stewart, and I rid alone about 100 yards from the company. In this time Mr Stewart had taken him severely to task, for his threatening him among the country people, and accusing him of high treason (for which he was taken up) and neither he nor any of his accomplices appearing against him at the assizes. To all this Boyde was very meek and humble, and surely Mr Stewart would have beaten him well, but that he feared to meddle with the King’s evidence. After Boyde had suffered very reproachful language from Mr Stewart, he galloped up to me, and there begun to abuse Mr Stewart heavily, calling him traitor, and assuring me he both believed and could prove him guilty of high treason. I told him, I was sure, that was impossible, but if he could it was his duty to do it, and then demanded why he and his friends did not appear to do this the last assizes, to which he returned no other answer but the same opprobrious language, and often repeated it. I then told him, that if he could prove Mr Stewart guilty of high treason, and did not do it, he was a rascal, and if he intended only to asperse Mr Stewart he was a rascal likewise, and then asked him what brought him into my company, for I never kept such, at this I called for my whip from my servant, and galloped on.

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When I was gone he drew out his pistol at me, but soon returned it upon Cousin Stewart's coming up. Soon after this I returned to the company (to prevent what there was little danger of) a quarrel and because there were no pistols in the company but Boydes, I endeavoured to cajole him out of them. For this purpose I got one from him, and when my back was turned he again cocked the other at me. Mr Stewart, enraged at this usage, alighted from his horse, and made the fellow get off also, but he was glad to mount again upon my coming up, I then confirmed my old title of rascal to him, and argued the baseness of his mind and his actions, upon which he often asked mine and Mr Stewart's pardon, showing us his house and entreating us to go with him there as a token of our forgiveness. The fellow seemed very penitent, but we refused him, and his last words were, I thank God we part in peace and friendship, and kissed Mr Stewart at parting. For my part, I gave him my blessing and advice, which he received thankfully. But the devil I believe has not left him, for he has since raised many stories of it, each of which differing from one another confounds himself, so that no justice of peace would take his information as – MS torn at edge] evidence, that the family of Ballintoy were disaffected people, [and] entertained disaffected persons. This and lying are his utmost malice and surely I value him not.'

8 Nov. 1716. James Smyth, Ballintoy, to William Smyth, Dublin.

'I am truly thankful to you and to all my friends for the concern they expressed for any trouble they were apprehensive might befall me, but I thank God I am not conscious to myself of any guilt, and of consequence I defy the malice of my enemies; the crime they would impute to me is abominable, but they shall never catch me in so gross a fault ... . They dare not accuse me of what I am not guilty [of], because they are sure I would prosecute them for it. This I have solemnly and frequently declared to them. ... Your accounts of my Lord and Lady Donegall were very diverting, you seem to have a just notion of their equipage. It is pretty odd that so noble a family should go to lodgings in the country. I have long expected the pamphlet you mention of the Bishop of Cork, and did imagine his friends had prevailed upon him to suppress it, but since his Lordship has published it, I will beg the favour of you to send one of them down ... together with the opinion of the learned and most impartial upon it.'

10 Dec. 1716. James Smyth, Ballintoy, to William Smyth, Dublin.

Re his sisters' children's illness – 'it is a great happiness that these disorders happen in Dublin, where you have all human assistances for the recovery of the poor babies ... . The weather has been so bad of late, that our Dublin post was lost in Newry mountains, by which I am deprived of some letters from my friends.'

MS 41,582/3

1717–20

Letters from James Smyth, Dublin, Ballintoy, Hollymount, Co. Mayo [where James Smyth's father-in-law, John Vesey, Archbishop of Tuam, had lived and built a small manufacturing town] and 'Berdifield' [Beardiville, near Coleraine], to William Smyth. The folder includes:

2 Aug. 1720. James Smyth, Dublin, to William Smyth, Abbert near Roscommon.

'I formerly gave you an account that we had the prospect of a Charter, and since that I am come to understand the manner and method of obtaining it: first there was half per cent called in for solicitation, and now we have undertaken for England for two and a half per cent, who promise for it, but the articles run, no purchase, no pay, so that it is their interest as well as

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ours, and to be sure we are fallen into proper hands. This two and a half per cent must be ready at a call, and therefore as we have good hopes of success and advantage, I desire you would be ready, for I don't find we shall have 21 days sight given us ... [P.S.] ... I have this moment got a very comfortable letter from my brother [Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn?] about stocks.'

[c.1720]. James Smyth to William Smyth, Abbett.

'I have writ to my brother Smyth about drawing upon you. I do affirm we cannot get money at present for the common necessaries, but I hope we shall soon have enough, for the stocks begin to fall in England, and the people here are as mad to draw their money home again as they were to send it over formerly. The fall of the English stocks my brother calls political, and says they will soon rise again to a prodigious height.'

26 July 1720. James Smyth, Dublin, to William Smyth, Abbett.

'I ... have only time to tell you, you must prepare against an immediate call of some certain managers. 30 pound per thousand is I think what they intend. I know not what you have subscribed, it is now out of my memory, but we are almost assured of a C[harte]r. Keep this entirely to yourself, but prepare for an immediate call, I mean in a week or a fortnight's time.'

3 Sep. 1720. James Smyth, Dublin, to William Smyth, Abbett.

'Our English stocks are mightily fallen, but I had a letter this day from Brother [Ralph] Smyth informing me that he expects they will rise again, but really our Irish people are not of that opinion. Our fire office bank as I am informed sells for 20 per cent in London now; they tell me our payments are to be made there, but that will ruin Ireland.'

N.D. [c.1720?]. James Smyth to William Smyth.

Refers to 'this fall of the English stocks ... . Give our servises to Jack ... tell him I have spoke to Chalke about his money, but Chalke will not acknowledge any warning in that respect, but what comes directly from Jack.'

MS 41,582/4

1723–4

Letters from James Smyth, Beardville and Ballintoy, to William Smyth. The folder includes:

11 Nov. 1723. James Smyth, Beardville, to William Smyth.

Has received letter with pamphlet he mentioned: 'the author of that paper seems to write with an honest view, his reasons are unanswerable, and he has the history of ages past to back his arguments, and I must say that men are as corrupt now at least as they were formerly. I will venture to affirm that the promoters of this bill have all of them Church leases, and the profit rent would make a fine addition to their estates, but when the laity once get fee farms of the bishops' lands, I believe these lands would not be easily [?found] in a few years, and then where will their lordships distrain? Thus Lord Conway pays the see of Down £30 a year, but if his lordship should refuse his rent, the bishop knows not where to distrain. This would be the case if this bill should pass, and then the bishops would be forced to go to law and perhaps lose the rent entirely. Surely these are great hardships upon the Church. I have had great disputes often about this subject, but I never thought a bill would be attempted to that purpose. God's will be done, but surely this will be downright plunder by law.'

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MS 41,582/5  
1725–7

Letters from James Smyth, Beardville, to William Smyth. The folder includes:

11 Dec. 1727. James Smyth, Beardville, to William Smyth, Stoneybatter.

‘I send you enclosed [not found] a letter to Mr Dobbs, who I believe will serve Robin [Robert French, who was involved in an election petition – see MS 41,587/5] upon my account, and I am almost sure of it. This is his first appearance in the House and he is favoured by Mr Conolly. Mr Dobbs is a man of sound judgement and undaunted in his resolutions and very modest. I am sure he will make a bright man in that House in time. He owes me more than this favour, but I shall not mention these things at present. As I have no list of the members, so I cannot tell who more to write to, but be assured Robin shall ever have my best services. I shall be impatient till I hear [of] his success, and I hope you will give me an early account of it. ...’

MS 41,582/6  
1728

Letters from James Smyth, Beardville and ‘Tullihog’ [Tullyhogue, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone?], to William Smyth. The folder includes:

16 Jan. 1727/8. James Smyth, Beardville, to William Smyth about mustering votes for Mr Ingoldsby, and about the value of James Smyth’s living, the prebend of Carncastle, diocese of Connor, which it is proposed he should exchange with Mr Moreton.

27 Feb. 1727/8

‘I am truly concerned for Sister Burgh’s loss, for he was a hopefull youth. I pray God comfort the parents ...’

24 May 1728. Rev. James Smyth, Beardville, to William Smyth.

‘I have too long neglected her [his daughter, Anne’s] education, and it is impossible she can improve in this country except it be in the dialect of Scotland ... . I have been informed of a very good boarding school for young gentlewomen in Drumcondra Lane [Dublin], where she may be happily accommodated and learn to dance. ... I would bestow something more upon her education than I formerly intended, hoping at the same time that a year or thereabout may be sufficient ...’.

28 June 1728. James Smyth to William Smyth.

‘I am truly concerned for poor Tom Burgh, and really think he has had very ill usage.’

23 Aug. 1728. James Smyth to William Smyth.

‘I am truly concerned for those poor people that were in the late storm, but am very glad Brother Burgh is safely landed.’

14 Oct. 1728. James Smyth, Beardville, to William Smyth.

‘... I believe some part of the diocese of Ossory may be within faculty distance of the diocese of Meath, but it is certain that one whole diocese intervenes, and his Lordship [Sir Thomas Vesey, Bishop of Ossory] is much the oldest clergyman in his bishopric. He has often lamented to me that he was removed from a diocese where he had a greater revenue and was

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a very great patron, to another less in value and the parishes in the gift of lay patrons and very few of any worth in his own, except the dignitaries of the church, which are very inconsiderable indeed. His brother, Mus[champ] Vesey, lives at Ennis, a parish of £200 a year, and his Lordship has waited this long time to remove him either into his diocese or to add something to his present income, neither of which can he as yet effect, for which reason he applied to Lord Arran in his behalf, and had great promises from thence, but as he told me, he knew so many people had promises also that his expectations for his brother were very small. In short, I am sure the Bishop will endeavour first to serve Mus[champ] Vesey before any man, and afterwards he would serve me as soon as any man, or else there is no truth in him. His Lordship narrowly missed the see of Derry the last remove, and as he is now in England, perhaps something may fall in his way. But I think our first enquiry ought to be, whether a man who already holds three parishes by faculty can reasonably expect to hold a fourth. ...'

MS 41,582/7

1729

Letters from James Smyth, Beardville and Drumawillin [Coleraine], to William Smyth. The folder includes:

23 Dec. 1729. James Smyth to William Smyth.

'Mr Prior has done great honour to Doct<sup>r</sup> Coghill who employes him, has put a spirit of thinking for the good of the nation into its people, and acquired a great reputation to himself. In short I attribute most of the good bills we have at present upon the anvil to his books. ...'  
[Thomas Prior's *Absentees* was published in 1729.]

MS 41,582/8

1730

Letters from James Smyth, Beardville, Drumawillin and Dublin, to William Smyth. The folder includes:

22 Dec. 1730. James Smyth to William Smyth.

'I have lately heard that poor Brother Burgh is very ill ... I wrote to him a fortnight past about his clerk, Richard Bonner, who is to account with me for 96: 11: 3½.

26 Dec. 1730. James Smyth to William Smyth.

News of [Thomas] Burgh's death has reached James Smyth.

MS 41,582/9

1731

Letters from James Smyth, Beardville and Portlick [near Athlone], to William Smyth.

MS 41,582/10

1732

Letters from James Smyth, Beardville, Dublin, and 'Killigally' [presumably his residence as archdeacon of Meath, to which post he was appointed in 1732], to William Smyth.

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MS 41,582/11

1733

Letters from James Smyth, Killigally and Kilmainham, to William Smyth.

MS 41,582/12

1734–40

Correspondence between William Smyth and James Smyth, Killigally and Kilmainham. The folder includes:

20 Dec. 1738. Copy of a letter from William Smyth, Barbavilla, to ‘My dearest brother’ [James Smyth] discussing the death of William Smyth’s wife and referring to a proposal of marriage for William Smyth’s ward [Frances Ingoldsby].

‘... There have been many offers rejected for want of a sufficiency for, though parents may dispose of their children without suspicion, yet the guardian who does not regard equality of fortune is generally supposed to have sold his ward for his own interest.’

N.D. [Spring 1739]. James Smyth, Dublin, to William Smyth, Barbavilla, about [an election petition against Alexander McAuley’s return for TCD], and other parliamentary business.

‘... Both Mr Hassett and Mr Digby are much in his [McAuley’s] favour ... . I went to the House of Commons and met Robin French, who after perusing your letter, told me he was determined to vote according to the merits of the cause. However, I shall wait on him again to know whether Mr Hull and Mr Ormsby will do so, because that is all that is desired by McAuley. To say truth, there are 50 or 60 that are leagued together to throw him out, right or wrong, and to be sure he will be turned out. Therefore, I shall not trouble you further upon that subject.

As to the shrievalty of the county of Westmeath, Mr Naper declined it to take that of Meath, to which he was prodigiously pressed, as he says, and could not refuse it. I have named Mr Cooke, but know not his christian name or place [of residence]. Depend upon it, your side will be the sheriff. The reasons and methods I must not commit to paper, but be assured my Bishop has brought it about.

There was hot work in the House of Lords today. The occasion this. Lord Belfield desired the Bishop of Meath to waive his privilege in the affair of Rathcondra. The Bishop answered he had a friend or two to consult in the matter, and would give him an answer in two or three days. My Lord, thinking that too long, the Bishop desired only one day. But just before the session of that day was ended, Lord Blithe [*sic* – Bligh] (for I cannot remember his title [Darnley]) moved the House as they were breaking up, that he had something to say to them of great importance concerning the privileges of that House, and so threw out scurrilous reflections on the Bishop of Meath. The Bishop heard of it afterwards, and brought the affair into the House today. I assure my dear brother, had it not been for this usage, the Bishop had determined to waive his privilege this day, but now the debate is put off till Wednesday next. I was by only at part of the debate, and can only tell you that all the temporal Lords seemed to me to join against the spiritual.

As their Lordships have adjourned that debate, I shall do so too for the present, and acquaint you that the election of Waterford came before the House of Commons yesterday, where Lord Bessborough espoused, as ’tis said, one party, and the Speaker the other. It seemed to

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be a trial of skill between those two great men. The Commons sat till 12 at night, and at length the Speaker carried it by [?20] votes, as I have heard. ...’

N.D. [Spring 1739]. James Smyth, Dublin, to William Smyth, Barbavilla.

‘I have been so hurried with other people’s business that I protest I have scarce seen my friends, and had only time to speak to Lord Antrim this day about my own business. I doubt not you have heard many accounts of the college election, and how Mr McAuley lost it. ... The main question on which the election turned was this: whether they (the senior fellows) ever knew that scholarships and natives’ places were ever disposed of by the sole power of the Provost before, to which they answered, no. But one of them answered honestly, and said that the tumults and cabals of the senior fellows obliged the Provost to act in that manner, and that the statutes gave him that power to act so. This question turned out Mr McAuley, who before he left the House, told them in an easy manner that he was glad that in the whole course of the evidence nothing of malpractice had appeared against him, that though he valued a place in that House very highly, yet he despised it if he must gain it at the expense of his character. In short, Agistment turned him out of the House and above 70 youngsters leagued against him.

About two days before the trial of the election in the House, Dr Hughes sent to Tisdall to let him know that he was ruined upon his account, that he has lost his bread by serving him in his election, and he begged Tisdall to withdraw his petition from the House, and he had good hopes to recover his fellowship again by those means. Tisdall at first consented to it, but soon after denied it absolutely. The day after the election was over came a letter from Mr Pelham ordering my Lord Duke to assist McAuley with all his force. The Commons would not examine the Provost, who would certainly have discovered all the cabals and proceedings of the fellows. On the contrary, they gave him the highest encomiums, and never mentioned him but with the greatest respect imaginable.

Lord Pr[ima]te represented to the Duke the grievances of your country [*sic* – Co. Westmeath] about the choosing a certain officer [the sheriff] by the same recommendation always. My Lord said he would take care of that matter for the future. Upon this I wrote to you in a most sanguine manner, but affairs are since changed, and my friend told me he was ill-supported by you gentlemen, and he feared that two L[or]ds would carry it against him. I hunted out Mr N[aper] and Mr P[ollar]d, who went to his Grace with Mr Malone and talked to him on that subject, but named no successor. They got much the same answer, but not so good. My friend gives up that matter entirely at present, and complains for want of support. Lord Belfield has proposed five gentlemen, all of his party, for the shrievalty of your county, and it is thought one of them will be chosen.

Lord Doneraile finished the debate in the House of Lords with a very good speech, by which it was carried that the Bishops had privilege of parliament in case of quare impedit, and the whole House almost answered content. So that affair is ended. The Bishop of Meath has given up his privilege in the suit about Rathcondra, and Lord Belfield did the same. The Privilege Bill in the Commons House is debated word by word almost, and though the majority be not above 8 or 10, yet I hope it will pass. ... [P.S.] The Commons have in their committee passed the bill for taking away their own privileges, but securing their persons. Dill[on] Po[llar]d did not wait on the Duke – only the other two above-mentioned.’



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MS 41,582/13  
1741–7

Letters from James Smyth, Kilmainham and London, to William Smyth. The folder includes:

9 Apr. 1747. James Smyth, Kilmainham, to William Smyth about recruiting children for a charter school.

‘... I am very positive (though I have not the Bishop’s letter by me) that his Lordship desired some children from you, as he did also from my son, Ned, who is not of our diocese. But you must take care to follow his Lordship’s rules exactly, or he will not receive them, particularly you must certify that they are children of popish parents on both sides – I mean by father and mother. Their ages must also be specified, that they are between seven and eleven, not more or less. His other qualification, I forget, but perhaps you may know it, as I read his letter to you once or twice. His Lordship also takes rather girls than boys. He refused me two boys because their mother, a beggar, was a protestant, their father, a papist, dead; and, to be sure, the poor creature must give them up to their popish parents, the very thing they wanted [sense?]. His Lordship does not open his school till the 16th of this month, the day of the battle of Culloden. Therefore, pray write to his Lordship immediately and send him the names of the children with the proper certificates ..., and you will then have his proper answer, who he will take, who he will refuse. ...’

MS 41,582/14  
1748–52

Letters from James Smyth, mainly from Kilmainham, to William Smyth.

MS 41,582/15–16

N.D. [mostly 1732 onwards]

Two folders of undated letters from James Smyth to William Smyth, including copies of two letters from William Smyth to him. MS 41,582/15 includes:

N.D. James Smyth to William Smyth.

‘I am much astonished at the contents of your letter and the Prime Serjeant’s [Anthony Malone of Baronstown, Co. Westmeath] proposal. It is very odd that a man who never goes into a church should give £100 to build one. To say truth, I know not where Kilbixy, Baronstown or Temple[?oran] lie, but the latter was fixed upon by you and my brother Smyth [of Drumcree?], and that place I shall stand by. I beg by all means that you will oppose Malone’s proposal at the vestry, and that will give me full liberty with the Bishop. If Kilbixy be in the union with Templeoran, I beg you to withstand that proposal with all your might, and I will take care of the Bishop here. I intend to be with him tomorrow about it, and am sure he will do nothing in that matter without consulting me. But if those people get an act of vestry against us, they put the labouring oar upon us. Therefore, though they should gain a majority at the vestry against us, pray do not let any of our friends sign it. But, alas, our friends are all papists and have nothing to do at a vestry for building or repairing churches. ...’

MS 41,582/16 includes:

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N.D. James Smyth, Kilmainham, to William Smyth.

‘... I suppose you will set the cabinet in bronze, which I think will look the most grand. You will observe in the paper two different pillars, so that you may take your choice of them. I confess I think them both heavy and clumsy. But they may be made ad libitum. I really wish you success in perfecting the work, for it will be beautiful and a curiosity together. Pray don’t spare the expense, and your fancy will direct you entirely well. ...’

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MS 41,583/1

1709–17

Correspondence between William Smyth and Edward Smyth, Bishop of Down and Connor [who had married William Smyth’s sister, Elizabeth, in 1696], ‘Marlea’ and Antrim. The folder includes:

25 Oct. 1711. [Copy of a letter from William Smyth] to Bishop Edward Smyth.

‘The Commons this day came to a resolution to return my Lord Duke thanks for having the money bill returned without any alteration by which you may easily conclude how important are the endeavours of the adverse party which begins now to decline apace. ’Tis feared the tithe bill will be thrown out by the Lords so that for a double reason I am obliged to rejoice at the recovery of your health which I hope will permit your lordship to come time enough to save it.’

1 Dec. 1711. [William Smyth], London, to [Bishop Edward Smyth?].

‘Mr Cardonnel has lately married one [?Teal] an apothecary’s widow.’

14 July 1712. Bishop Edward Smyth, Antrim to William Smyth.

‘I think the Dutch have used her Majesty very ill. If they come in at last, it may be some atonement for their fault. They seem to act in concert with that factious party among our souls, who have laboured to obstruct the peace, but I hope all their wicked endeavours will be vain and ineffectual.’

12 Aug. 1717. Bishop Edward Smyth to William Smyth.

‘I see Dublin is in great gaiety by so many great persons lately landed from England.’

28 Aug. 1717. Bishop Edward Smyth, Marlea, to William Smyth.

‘The affairs of my dioceses will not allow me to think at present of going to town. If I must attend the parliament, the only enjoyment I can promise is in the company of you and the rest of my relations.’

MS 41,583/2

c.1711–1714

Copies of letters from William Smyth to his mother. The folder includes:

24 Nov. 1711. William Smyth, London, to ‘Most honoured Madam’.

‘I have not met with Cousin Burgh as yet.’

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3 Jan. 1711/12. William Smyth, London, to ‘Most honoured Madam’.  
Marlborough removed from all offices. It’s thought he will be succeeded in them all by  
Ormond, and that Shrewsbury will be sent to Ireland as lord lieutenant in place of Ormond.

24 Jan. 1711/12. William Smyth, London, to ‘Most honoured Madam’.  
‘Brother Burgh we dayly expect here ...’

MS 41,583/3

[c.1725]: 1741: 1748: 1750–51

Copies of letters from William Smyth to his eldest brother, Ralph Smyth of Gray’s Inn,  
London. [N.B. Most of the correspondence between these two will be found in TCD, MS  
11,198/3/1–50.]

MS 41,583/4–5

c.1730

Two folders of letters to William Smyth from his wife, Barbara, [daughter of Sir George  
Ingoldsby. For another such letter, see TCD, MS 11,198/4/2.]

MS 41,583/6

1751–4

Letters to William Smyth from his son and heir, Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla.

MS 41,583/7

1726–7

Letters to William Smyth from his kinsman, Michael Smyth of Portlick, near Athlone, who  
writes from there and from Bath, Galway, and Castlegar, Co. Galway. The folder includes:

2 Jan. ‘1726[7]’. Michael Smyth, Bath, to William Smyth.  
‘Lord Carteret’s interest is so much on the decline, otherwise he would have gone over again  
lord lieutenant, but the Duke of Newcastle is appointed in his room.’

9 Mar. 1727. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth.

Has spent most of his time in Co. Galway since he left Dublin, because his subsheriff has  
been in town passing his accounts and the county couldn’t be without a sheriff. Even now  
only at home because wife and child had been ill. They are now better and he must return to  
Co. Galway, where he has to be during assizes.

4 July 1727. Michael Smyth, Bath, to William Smyth.

‘... this King is so universally liked, that everybody seems well pleased. Whigs and Tories go  
in great crowds to Court, and are equally well received without any distinction, ’tis thought  
that Sir Tho. Hanmer will be chosen Speaker to the next Parliament, that the House of  
Convocation will have their usual sittings, and that a general Act of Grace will be passed  
without any exception. All foreigners are turned out from St James’, and ordered to be gone.  
... Mr Brodrick and Mr Conolly stand candidates for Speaker to the Irish parliament, and  
Lord Carteret has publicly declared that he will give all his interest to the latter.’

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27 July 1727. Michael Smyth, Bath, to William Smyth.

‘As to my vote in Westmeath, you may assure yourself I shall entirely go along with the head of my family on whose judgement and integrity I shall always rely, but in case young Malone should set up I am satisfied you will advise me to vote for him, because his father is the principal person who has it in his power [to], and has given me repeated assurances that he will, recover the third part of the great Island for me, concerning which a lawsuit is already commenced. I am heartily sorry that I can’t vote in the county of Galway according to your recommendation, for I have been above these two years past engaged to Mr French and Jack Eyres the last of whom is my particular acquaintance and an honest man, but if you are very zealous for Patt. French I shall not influence any interest I have there against him.’

MS 41,583/8

1728–30

Letters to William Smyth from Michael Smyth [and his wife?, Isabella?], Portlick. The folder includes:

15 May 1728. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth, Dublin.

Refers to Mr John Hamilton, goldsmith, on the quay near Essex Bridge.

18 July 1730. ‘M.S.’, Portlick, to WS, Dublin.

‘I don’t know that ever your presence could have been more necessary, for Gusty Handcock had persuaded Mr Robert Rochfort to stand candidate for the borough of Athlone in opposition to me, but upon my assuring him that I would oppose his election in the county, and that you and your interest would join me, he has with great difficulty promised me to decline it and to be neuter, but absolutely refuses to speak to any person whatsoever in my favour, so that I fear some after game may be endeavoured when he has made sure of my friends. Mr Gusty Handcock was pleased to tell me publicly, that he did not know of any interest our family had, and as for me I could command but a single vote, and wondered that I should interfere or compare with their family. Now what I entreat or request from you is that you will not give me up in this affair, but insist that Mr Rochfort may give me his interest in the borough, before you can absolutely determine his favour, as likewise that we are resolved to stand by each other, and as you and cousin James Smyth have now resolved to settle in this county, I am certain that a union even among us will be able [to] shake the most overbearing interest. How Gusty Handcock could be so ignorant to compare families I cannot tell, but the fool I believe happened to blab out what was the private opinion of others from whom our family might have expected a better return.

It is not possible to relate all that passed, but I beg you’ll communicate this particularly to cousin Ralph and cousin James Smyth, etc, lest they should be unawares engaged without showing a regard to their relation. ... I just now hear (though I can’t say with certainty) that Sir Henry Tuite is intended to be set up against me, so you may guess whether Rochfort can influence him or not. Hampson is the only person who stands candidate for the county against Rochfort, so that it can’t be insinuated that he is of a popish breed.’

9 Sep. 1730. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth.

‘The Athlone affair stands much in status quo, only that a great many more have declared in my favour. Will: Handcock continues very furious, and threatens to break the leases of some of his tenants who appear active for my interest. Mr Rochfort was with me last week, and

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says he will observe the exact neutrality which he and I had agreed upon at Mullingar, and desired to know from me whether you would be for him, upon which I told him, that I had spoke to you in his favour but that you both insisted and thought that his interest should be given to me in the borough, which he said he could not comply with, and I told him, that our family were resolved to act one way, and were obliged to Gust: Handcock for reminding us of our former neglect and indolence. There will be no election for a burgess-ship till Will: Handcock is Sovereign, at which time I hear it is intended that more freemen should be made.'

16 Nov. 1730. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth.

'There is yet no talk of proceeding to an election in Athlone, for they are afraid to bring it on. Dr St George now sets up for the burgess-ship, which gives me no small joy, because I am sure his interest is not so considerable as to disengage any person.'

2 Dec. 1730. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth.

'Your conversation with Mr Rochfort was so affectionate in my behalf, that I wish it may be ever in my power to show you the true sense I 'have of your friendship ...'

MS 41, 583/9

1731–2

Letters to William Smyth from Michael Smyth [and his wife?, Isabella?], Portlick. The folder includes:

16 Jan. 1730[31]. M.S., Portlick, to WS.

'The death of that most excellently good man Capt. Burgh is a loss that the whole kingdom either is, or will be, sensible of, but as for me who had the honour of a particular acquaintance with him, I know not how to express my grief, for the more I think of it, the more I am still afflicted. I understand by the public prints that there is to be a contest in that borough [Naas, Co. Kildare], and as there are several freemen whom I believe I can influence, so I should be glad to be informed whether Tom's interest is pushed at, or whether he will stand in need of the active assistance of his friends.' ['Tom' was the son and heir of the deceased Capt. Thomas Burgh of Oldtown, Naas, by Mary Smyth, sister of William Smyth.]

25 Jan. 1730[31]. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth, Dublin.

'Nothing could more astonish me and shock me than that account you give me of Radcliff's ignorance and insolence. I think his behaviour shows the greatest disregard to his deceased wife and to all her relations. For my part I shall reckon his ill usage of you and my good friend Tom Burgh equal as if done to myself. I have wrote to him by this night's post, and if he does not both act and vote for Tom Burgh's interest, I shall lay him under difficulties, that he won't easily get rid of. In short I am ashamed of him. Brother Travers is a freeman, and if occasion be he will upon the least notice go thither for Tom Burgh. Sam Arnold is likewise another, and I believe that I am one too.'

5 Feb. 1730[31]. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth.

'I had last post a letter from Radcliff in answer to mine concerning Capt. Burgh, where he has assured me that he will assist and join both Tom Burgh and his interest with all the strength he can either command or prevail on.'

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7 Oct. 1731. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth.

‘Our election for burgesses [for Athlone] is posted by George St George’s vice-sovereign to be held the 22nd inst, and his brother the Doctor opposes one Potts who is set up by George, so that the St George interest is divided, and the Handcocks oppose George’s recommendation, by which the Grand Alliance which was so strenuously insisted on, is now fallen to pieces and broke, and I hope in my next to give you an account of my carrying my point in that borough.’

20 Oct. 1731. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth.

Election for burgesses at Athlone – candidates: Mr Temple, Dr St George, Mr Potts, and Michael Smyth. The Doctor, finding Michael Smyth’s interest superior, withdrew and assigned his interest to Potts, ‘tho’ a few days before the election the Doctor had in a public advertisement pasted on the market house of Athlone stigmatised the said Potts as a very bad man, and an open disturber of the peace and harmony of the corporation. The Handcocks joined all their interest for Potts, who was always a declared and active enemy to them and is also a professed presbyterian. By these means Potts outpolled me tho’ I had above 200 votes in my favour in opposition to the united interests, with the appearance of all the gentlemen of figure and fortune in the counties of Westmeath and Longford, who did me the honour to attend me with great pomp to the town of Athlone. I have come off with so great credit and esteem, that I make no doubt but my interest will be greatly increased from this introduction, and when a vacancy of a higher nature happens my friends seem resolved to stand by me because I would not give up this trifling point.’

12 Feb. 1731[1/2]. Michael Smyth, Athlone, to William Smyth.

Is encouraged to stand at by-election for Athlone caused by death of Mr Holmes MP. Asks for various favours: (1) a ‘zealous’ letter from Mrs Blythe to George St George for his interest wouldn’t fail and can William Smyth et al intercede? (2) Speak to Mr Digby to interest Thomas D. and Simon D. at Roscommon, and his tenant Sproules (3) to prevail on Dean Marsh to write to his tenants, the Longworths, William Kenny and Jo. Bonny etc. Gust. Hancock sets up against Michael Smyth, so hopes William will make what interest he can. ‘For God’s sake get Digby or some other person to procure Mr John Brown’s interest’. Michael Smyth has written to Brown.

23 Feb. 1731[1/2]. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth.

Thanks for ‘engaging’ Tighe, but isn’t yet certain of Harward’s intent, to whom William Smyth has also written, for he hasn’t yet come to Athlone. Is determined not to give up to Harward, because he (Michael Smyth) started his candidacy before Harward and also because ‘my interest is of such a nature that it can’t be assigned’.

24 Feb. 1731[1/2]. Michael Smyth, Athlone, to William Smyth.

Met Harward and believes he will resign to Michael Smyth but all things not yet adjusted. Hears Tighe doesn’t intend to come down, so hopes William Smyth will press it, ‘for the election will be (as I am informed) on Monday sennight, as also that he may give you a list of the persons he can influence, and likewise send directions to them accordingly’. Wants William Smyth to get someone to speak to Mrs Hodson (daughter of Mrs Ormsby) to write to her brother, Hodson, who lives at ‘St John’s’, to give his vote and interest to Michael Smyth – ‘for tho’ he is already pre-engaged ... her writing peremptorily to him will effectually fix him for me.’

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1 Mar. 1731[2]. Michael Smyth, Athlone, to William Smyth.

Is very optimistic about election but still asks William Smyth to find someone to get Major Hill to write to Mr Roberts, storekeeper at Athlone, to vote for Michael Smyth, and another letter to an inhabitant to same purpose, even though both are pre-engaged for Handcock. 'I must desire you'd use your best endeavours with Robin French that he may apply to Judge Gore and the Newcomens for his [*sic* – their?] tenants' votes in my favour and to assure the Judge that I am not acting against the St Georges' interest here, nor do I mean it, but against Gusty Handcock my antagonist. Nor will George St George interfere, that his inclinations are rather for us, tho' he can't declare himself for fear of a rupture, and that Gusty Handcock was the person who formerly broke articles with St George, and was the cause of the long and expensive contest in the corporation ... Harward does the needful. There is one Simon Perdue a tenant of Sir Henry King's, and a letter from Sir Harry to his agent Mr Molloy near Boyle would gain that vote.' Election will be held next Wednesday.

11 Mar. 1731[2]. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth.

At election 'I was under a necessity (when I thought matters were in the fairest way) to decline the poll, because Mr Harward and I could not agree' – by which means Gust. Handcock was elected unopposed. 'There is now a proposal for a junction of interest with us in the County of Westmeath, which I would not absolutely resolve on, till you and I have a conference.'

2 Jan. 1733. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth, Dublin.

'The names of the commissioners for the turnpike to Athlone appear to me to have been solely put in by the Handcocks and Rochfort, for all their followers and dependants if this side are named, and they have left me out, either out of pique or fear lest I should oppose them in their acting. As the common people here imagine my not being named as a kind of a slur, or discredit, so I must entreat that you'll leave no stone unturned to get your name, the Archdeacon's name and my name inserted in the Act of Parliament when it returns from England, for by a Member's applying to any one of the Clerks of Parliament or to a Privy Counsellor or to your uncle Povey that point will be effected, which I assure you is very material for the support of our joint interests. Therefore by no means omit it.'

5 Jan. 1733[4]. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth.

'I have been informed that the Handcocks have named all their tenants as commissioners for the turnpike of Athlone, in order to make the road according to their own liking'. So asks William Smyth to get following added: James Smyth of Manor, Thomas Fitzgerald, Daniel Longstaff junior, Oliver Fitzgerald, James Elrington, Lt William Meares, Richard Dalton, Nicholas Nugent and Thomas Gullevar.

19 Feb. 1733. Michael Smyth, Portlick, to William Smyth.

'I ... am very glad to hear that the Athlone turnpike is likely to drop, for many reasons may be objected to it in regard to the way which the Act directs it must lead through, but in case it should pass I would willingly know if the names that I sent you are inserted in the Act.'

MS, 41,583/10

c.1733–1740

Letters to William Smyth from Michael Smyth [and his wife?, Isabella?], Portlick.

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MS 41,583/11

1718–43: 1750: 1754: 1760

Letters to William Smyth from and about his ‘cousins’ and neighbours, William Smyth of Drumcree and Thomas of Drumcree, the latter’s son and successor, including a letter of 1736 stating that ‘Cousin Smyth of Drumcree’ has been put in gaol for debts totalling £3,000, and three letters from Francis Geoghegan [attorney – see MS 41,580/29], 1742–3, about Smyth of Drumcree affairs including a proposed marriage between Thomas Smyth and a daughter of Lord Kingston with a fortune of £5,000.

MS 41,583/12

1734–47

Letters to William Smyth from the Ven. Thomas Smyth, Archdeacon of Glendalough, younger brother of William Smyth of Drumcree.

MS 41,583/13

1741–69

Letters to William Smyth from his cousin, Currell Smyth of Almoritia.

MS 41,583/14

1747–57

Letters to William Smyth from his nephew, Ralph Smyth of Fieldtown, Co. Westmeath [eldest son of James Smyth, Archdeacon of Meath].

MS 41,583/15

1743–58

Letters to William Smyth from his nephew, Edward Smyth [second son of Archdeacon James Smyth?], writing from Kilmainham and Lisburn.



**XVIII WILLIAM SMYTH'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIS OTHER MAJOR  
CORRESPONDENTS – BURGHS, CLARKES, CROFTONS, ROBERT FRENCH  
AND THE LEDWIDGES**

MSS 41,584–41,588  
1712–59

Box of letters to William Smyth from members of the Burgh, Clarke, Crofton and Ledwidge families, and from Robert French. [William Smyth's sister, Mary (1681–53) married in 1700 Thomas Burgh of Oldtown, Naas, Co. Kildare, Surveyor-General of Ireland (d.1730). Another sister, Frances (1684–1755) married Darby Clarke (c.1672–1751), and was mother of Michael Clarke, MP (c.1710–74), and Frances, the future wife (1748) of William Smyth's son, Ralph, her first cousin. Robert French was a London and Dublin lawyer who acted for Mrs Bonnell and was a close friend and adviser of Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn and William Smyth. Michael Ledwidge was for thirty years (1730–59) William Smyth's general factotum, and played a major part in the building of Barbavilla. Mary Ledwidge seems to have been Smyth's housekeeper there and/or in Dublin.

MS 41,584/1  
1720: 1726: 1737–44

Letters to William Smyth from his sister, Mrs Mary Burgh, and her husband, Capt. Thomas Burgh of Oldtown, Naas, Co. Kildare (d.1730). The folder includes:

30 Aug. 1720. Thomas Burgh, Dublin, to William Smyth, at Mr Digby's, Lackan.  
'Tell Mr Digby, I have got him in to the Bank for £2,000; I should have found it a difficult matter, but that he is in the good graces of several of the gentlemen who solicit for an establishment.'

9 Aug. 1720. Thomas Burgh, Dublin, to William Smyth, Mr Digby's.  
'I received your letter recommending to me the care of your subscription, that you may not suffer by your not being in the way to answer readily what demands might be made upon you. I told the gentlemen who interest themselves in procuring a charter, that I would answer for your payments at any hour it should be necessary to lay it down. This I did several days before your teller came to my hands ... whatever your informations have been of the prospect of success in the applications that have been made and are making. I dare not venture to assure you that there is any certainty of obtaining what is looked for, though we have letters which give us very great hopes. ... As to Mr Digby's request to be admitted as a subscriber, I can only say, and desire ... you will tell him, that if I can by any endeavours of mine get him to be admitted, I assuredly will. I know I shall find it a difficult matter, if I am singly to appear for him: let application be likewise made to Capt. Stewart, Mr Vesey and Mr Nutley for gaining them. I will address myself to them, but letters from himself would be more effectual for obtaining his end.'

21 Mar. 1737. Mary Burgh to William Smyth.  
'I had a letter yesterday from Tom [her son], who desired me to assure you of his vote and interest for Mr Pakenham, and at the same time to make his compliments to you on the occasion; as it will always be his inclination to support any interest that is agreeable to you in the county where you live.'

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3 July 1744. Mary Burgh to William Smyth.

'My brother Will. Burgh is declining very fast, and without any visible complaint ...'

MS 41,584/2

1745–9: N.D.

Letters to William Smyth from Mary Burgh.

MS 41,584/3

c.1735–1755

Letters to William Smyth from his nephew, Thomas Burgh, Dublin, about Burgh's estate and financial affairs, the marriage of Burgh's sister, Dolly, to his old friend, Counsellor [Anthony] Foster, etc. He writes on 14 Oct. 1754 that he has taken 'a little house for the winter in Nassau Street for £80'.

MS 41,584/4

1738–44

Letters to William Smyth from William Burgh, Dublin, mostly about how Smyth has fared in the Linen Board's distribution of flaxseed.

MS 41,584/5

1733–42

Letters to William Smyth from other Burghs (and Husseys of Donore, Co. Meath) – another Thomas Burgh, Ulysses Burgh, Elizabeth Hussey [née Burgh, daughter of Capt. Thomas, the Surveyor-General] and Ignatius Hussey [Elizabeth's husband]. The folder includes:

8 July 1740 Ulysses Burgh, Dublin, to William Smyth, Barbavilla.

Writing on mother's request to say that Counsellor Hussey has made proposals to her for 'my sister Betty', and that she has accepted them. Regards to 'Cousin Ralph'.

19 Mar. '1742'. Ignatius Hussey, Dublin, to William Smyth, Barbavilla.

'... It is not yet settled who is to be our other judge, and I hear the struggle is between the Prime Serjeant [Anthony Malone] and Mr Whitney, and that the Duke of Cumberland who was some time aboard the fleet and became by that means acquainted with Capt. Whitney, interests himself for his [Capt. Whitney's] brother. If that be so the Prime Serjeant may be disappointed ...'

MS 41, 584/6

c.1744–1768

Letters to William Smyth from other Burghs (and Husseys of Donore, Co. Meath).

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MS 41,585/1

1711–28

Letters to William Smyth from Darby Clarke [husband of Smyth's sister, Frances, and guardian of Smyth during the latter's minority (see MS 41,572/1)], Dublin, including a copy

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of a letter from Smyth to him, 1715, and a short run of letters to Clarke about Smyth's affairs, 1721. The folder includes:

23 Feb. 1711[/12]. D[arby] Clarke to 'My dear brother' [-in-law, William Smyth].  
'I am afraid Capt. Burgh will not o'ertake you at London as he does not go until next week ...'

MS 41,585/2  
1731–2

Letters to William Smyth from Darby Clarke and the latter's son, Michael. The folder includes:

29 Sep. 1731. Darby Clarke, Dublin, to William Smyth about violence at a [municipal?] election at Naas.

'A good number of us got to Naas last night, and about 8 o'clock some of Mr Burgh's party went out of Peirsons's house to welcome some of their brethren from Dublin, and then hussa'ed. Upon this they were warmly plied with above 20 shott from the sessions house and about eight of them wounded with ball and [?swan] shott. What the consequence of this will be, I know not at present. This day we went to an election in the town, and Mr Graydon and his party went to an election at the sessions house, which was strongly guarded with a great number of men well armed with guns, pistols, etc, and as soon as I gave my vote I made the best of my way home. I left poor Tom Burgh with his corporation. I pray God to preserve them and the rest of our friends. ...'

MS 41,585/3  
1733–5

Letters to William Smyth from Darby Clarke and the latter's son, Michael. The folder includes:

25 Nov. 1735. Michael Clarke, Dublin, to William Smyth.

'I have received yours of the 25th inst, and have done all that was in my power to provide you [with] such a lodging as I thought you would require. This time of year has made it very difficult to get one upon such terms as we could reasonably expect, therefore have been obliged to take a whole house for you for three months certain, with the number of beds you desired, at £10 per month for said time, and so in proportion if you stay longer. But I must observe to you that you must bring all servants up with you, as you are to have the whole house to yourself ... . There is a coach house, etc, and stable belonging to the house. The stable will hold four horses. This is the best bargain I could possibly make for you at this time ... . I had forgot to tell you that you must provide your own sheeting and table linen.'

2 Dec. 1735. Michael Clarke, Dublin, to William Smyth, near Mullingar, expressing regret that Smyth does not approve of the arrangements over the house.

'... I found this house in Bolton Street with everything you desired except linen (which I do assure you nobody will furnish for so large a family), therefore could see but one objection to my taking the house, which was your bringing up one servant extraordinary, or hiring one here for the time you intended to stay here. As this could not be avoided, and no other place to be had, I concluded the bargain ... A further inducement I had to take it for so long a time

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was to save you as much as was in my power, for had I engaged only by the week, they would not set it for less than 52s. ...’.

MS 41,585/4  
1736–40

Letters to William Smyth from Darby Clarke and the latter’s son, Michael. The folder includes:

20 July 1736. Michael Clarke, Dublin, to William Smyth.

‘I suppose, when my father and Mr Conolly were at your house, that you heard of what Mr Conolly had done in relation to getting me joined with him to be Examiner of the Excise. I am now to acquaint you the committee were pleased yesterday to sign my commission, so that affair is all over. ...’

MS 41,585/5  
1741–3

Letters to William Smyth from Darby Clarke and the latter’s son, Michael. The folder includes:

2 Feb. 1741. D[arby] Clarke, Dublin, to ‘My dear brother’ [William Smyth] about famine relief measures.

‘I received yours and have done all in my power to get you a patent for a market at Collinstown. I spoke several times to Mr Secretary Potter, who told me why the Lords Justices refused you the market was that the Commissioners of the Revenue were against granting such because it was a prejudice to his Majesty’s Revenue. The late act of parliament obliges all distillers to live in the market towns, and the officers by that act are obliged to visit them once a day, and that if I gave in a memorial it would be referred to the Commissioners. When Mr Conolly comes over, I hope to get it done. I will see our friend Robin [French] tomorrow and consult him. ... All the scavengers in town are to clear Wicklow Mountains of the snow next week. ...’

13 Feb. 1741. Darby Clarke, Dublin, to William Smyth.

Robert French ‘... is of opinion that, if you will write a letter to the Commissioners setting forth that you are desirous to have a market at Collinstown upon your own estate, and the necessity there is for such in that fine country, [and] that you will give your honour no distillers shall ever set up in the said town without the approbation of the Collector or Collectors for the time being, ... such a letter will do. But do not write it for some time. ...’

23 Apr. 1742 [*sic* – 1743]. Darby Clarke, Dublin, to William Smyth.

‘... Nothing new here but the melancholy amour of Lady Belfield and Arthur Rochfort, which is of so shocking a nature that it is not to be paralleled. I very much pity Lords Molesworth and Belfield. ...’

MS 41,585/6  
1744–52

Letters to William Smyth from Darby Clarke and the latter’s son, Michael. Darby Clarke died in April 1751. The subsequent letters from Michael Clarke, [who was man of business

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to the Conolly family], are about Katherine Conolly, her last illness, death and will. The folder includes:

16 May 1749. Darby Clarke, Dublin, to William Smyth, Barbavilla: more about the market at Collinstown (which has still not been established): 'Why may not you apply for markets as well as fairs. Write to Mr [Lewis] Meares [see under MS 41,590/12] to draw up a petition to the Governor for a patent [MS 41,573/9] for both. ...'

1 Dec. 1750. Michael Clarke, Dublin, to William Smyth.  
'... I heartily congratulate you upon the opening of your new market, which you have great reason to expect will turn out extremely well, as there were so many people assembled at so short a warning, and nothing left unsold. ... As to Old Steel (I mean Mrs Conolly) she is as well as she was eighty years ago. ...'

7 Oct. 1752. Michael Clarke, Dublin, to William Smyth.  
'I am glad to find Colonel Conyngham's temper is changed, but I can tell him 'tis too late; for Mrs Conolly made a new will a few days before she died and left him out as executor and joint residuary legatee (both which he was in her former will) for no other reason but for the contest and unnecessary delay he had given in regard to Mrs Bonnell's affairs. She left him the Welsh estate, but loaded it with £4,500 legacies, which she left to his own relations, and directed that it should be sold in twelve months after her decease if those legacies were not paid in that time. This I think must mortify him not a little, and shall be much surprised if he does not make some efforts towards contesting this will, as 'tis his nature to be wrong-headed and troublesome. Mrs Conolly left £5,100 legacies upon her personal fortune, £3,500 of which is to Mr Conolly and his family. The residuary legatees are Lord Chief Justice Marlay and Mr Conolly (the two executors) one-third, Mrs Jones and Miss Conolly one-third, and the remainder to the charity house at Celbridge with £200 legacy to the latter. Mrs Jones's legacy is £700 ...'.

[See also MS 41,598/2.]

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MS 41,586/1

1721–5

Letters to William Smyth from Major Henry Crofton, Port Mahon, Minorca.

MS 41,586/2

1726–8

Letters to William Smyth from and about Henry Crofton, Port Mahon and Turin. The folder includes:

26 Aug. 1728. Major Henry Crofton, Turin, to [William Smyth].

Describes his route home from Turin, plans to go to Geneva, and thence to Basle, and down the Rhine to Cologne there to 'quit the water, and cross into Flanders, from thence into Holland, and so to London'.

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MS 41,586/3

1729–30

Correspondence of William Smyth with and about Henry Crofton, London, Abbeytown and Mohill (Co. Leitrim). The folder includes:

23 Jan. 1728/9. Henry Crofton, London, to William Smyth.

‘I have now before me yours of the 20 and 31 of December, fresh instances of your goodness to your friends. Your opinion of Robin [his brother?], nay indeed what I have from all hands of him, will make me doubly solicitous in using my best endeavours to get him served: but a substantial recommendation is not easily obtained. Nothing is more avoided than a person who has something to ask. I should be glad to know how and in what manner preferments are given by the commissioners [of the revenue], whether carried by majority of voices, or by any certain rule amongst them, whether one commissioner bears more sway than another, and who that may be. Again, I should be glad to know what I might most reasonably ask for my bror. at present considering the post he is in.’

17 Apr. 1729. Henry Crofton, London, to William Smyth.

Has procured via his friend Colonel Mohun a recommendation for his brother Robin to ‘Mr Ford [*sic* – Forth] of the custom house, from one Mr Sorrel of London. Can get others. Asks William Smyth to see Ford and find out ‘what is expected from him’. ‘If you judge a little present will be necessary, let him know (I mean Mr Ford); it will not be wanting.’

5 June 1729. Henry Crofton, London, to William Smyth.

‘I find, by that of the 34th of April, Mr Forth can do no great service. I believe I shall be able to compass, tho’ perhaps not to carry along with me [when he comes to Ireland], the recommendations you advise.’

[June 1729]. Henry Crofton [London] to William Smyth.

‘I have not yet found out who are Mr Harrison’s friends on this side; when I have done that, I design to go to work ...’

18 Aug. 1729. Henry Crofton, Abbeytown, to William Smyth.

Travelled from Dublin: ‘I could call to mind the country in a great many parts as I went along, but the severe effects of the last year appeared everywhere, as a plentiful harvest does now, which gave me great pleasure.’

15 Sep. 1729. Henry Crofton, Abbeytown, to William Smyth.

‘The harvest everywhere is in, and much to the husbandmen’s wishes.’

10 July 1730. Henry Crofton, Mohill, to William Smyth.

Refers to ‘the scarcity of money’.

15 July 1730.

Copy of a letter from [William Smyth] to Pool [*sic* – Pole] Cosby. Major Crofton ‘... has desired me to acquaint you that he is well apprised that the rate of interest in this kingdom must necessarily rise from the scarcity of money, yet notwithstanding in regard that he expects regular and punctual payment for the future, he is willing to give in to your demand and will agree to take after the rate of 6 per cent from and after the 1st of November next, at

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which time the half-year commences, each party obliging himself as formerly to give three months' notice for the payment of the principal. ...'

28 Aug. 1730. Henry Crofton, Lisadoon [near Elphin], to William Smyth.  
'Here I am taking the common diversions of the country. I met with a severe fall after a buck, but I am got well over it and have since ventured on another.'

18 Sep. 1730. Henry Crofton, Lissdurn [*sic*], to William Smyth.  
'We hear Mr Marlay is made Lord Chief Baron. I hope it's true.'

MS 41,586/4  
1731–2

Letters to William Smyth from and about Henry Crofton, Abbeytown, Longford, Mohill, Dublin, Bordeaux and Port Mahon, including letters from Pole Cosby, Stradbally, Co. Laois, about Cosby's debt of £600 to Crofton. The folder also includes:

9 Mar. 1730/1. Henry Crofton, Dublin, to William Smyth.  
'Rob French went to the country this morning. Our meeting day he was called upon to attend your affair ... We were between 40 and 50 and Mr Coates much pleased to find himself at the head of such an assembly, every body seemed pleased with the thing, some jokes and merry stories held us in till ten, and then parted with an inclination to meet again. My Lord Tyrone, and Mr McGuier [*sic* – McGuire?] the banker were chosen stewards, and had the old lists in form delivered over to them. You were particularly inquired after, and all absentees had a brimmer to their health.'

MS 41,586/5  
1733–4

Letters to William Smyth from Henry Crofton, Port Mahon.

MS 41,586/6  
1735–6

Letters to William Smyth from Henry Crofton, Port Mahon, including a copy commission appointing Crofton and his brother, Lieutenant Thomas Crofton, joint secretaries to the Governor of Minorca, January 1736.

MS 41,586/7  
1737–8

Letters to William Smyth from Henry Crofton, Port Mahon.

MS 41,586/8  
1739

Letters to William Smyth from Henry Crofton, London and Mohill.

MS 41,586/9  
1740–42: 1744: 1747

Letters to William Smyth from Henry Crofton, Mohill and London, including one from Port Mahon from Lieutenant Thomas Crofton and others reporting Henry Crofton's death in

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March 1741, and letters from others about Henry Crofton's debts and legacies, 1742, 1744 and 1747.

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MS 41,586/10  
1740–41

Letters to William Smyth from another Henry Crofton who is described elsewhere as 'Henry Crofton of Grange', writing from Mohill, Dublin and Grange (Co. Sligo), and making frequent mention of Major Henry Crofton.

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MS 41,586/11  
1723–8

Letters to William Smyth from Frances Crofton [mother? of Major Henry, Rev. Perkins and 'Robin' Crofton], Abbeytown. [N.B. She does not call him 'cousin' or 'uncle', but she seems to have been née Smyth.]

MS 41,586/12  
1729–36

Letters to William Smyth from Frances Crofton, Abbeytown. The folder includes:

19 June 1732. Frances Crofton, Abbeytown, to Smyth.  
Her son Robin 'is in his collection' and is not expected home for another two weeks.

MS 41,586/13  
1737–9

Letters to William Smyth from Frances Crofton, Abbeytown.

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MS 41,586/14  
1732–9

Letters to William Smyth from Mary Crofton [daughter of Frances?], Abbeytown.

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MS 41,586/15  
1729–42

Letters to William Smyth from John Crofton [a builder or clerk of works, and also a friend or relation], Portlick, Killygally, Roscommon, etc. The folder includes:



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6 Oct. 1731. John Crofton to William Smyth, Stoneybatter [North Dublin].

With proposal – for which he seeks encouragement and financial backing – that he set up a warehouse and contracting business. Having served the greatest part of his time with John Molyneux ‘one of the most noted ironmongers in the kingdom’ – he (Crofton) is qualified ‘to employ any workman in his own particular calling or trade and to have it in his power to furnish himself with any kind of goods or utensils proper for a gentleman’s house ...’. He has already received encouragement from Sir Henry King, Sir Arthur Gore, Col ‘loftis’, ‘Capt. Beeirs’ and Mr ‘Dearing’.

27 Dec. 1732. John Crofton to William Smyth.

‘I do really believe if I improve myself in drawing I should find sufficient business concerning building ...’

8 Sep. 1742. John Crofton to William Smyth.

‘... after this day in Mr Wills’ [?menh’d] I shall weat [wait] on you. My reason of enclosing this is if Mr Ledwi[d]ge has a mind to searv[e] himself, this affair will I believe do. I am satisfied to allow him half my profit besides what he will make of his one [own] work so if you’ll give him a letter of recommendation and set forth in it that you believe we can have it well execute[d] and do [?them] justice I believe the affair will be suddenly ended and that he will bring the same from Mr Pagnum as he is a relation of [?Colonel] Sandfords, I flatter myself with your interest on this head [sense?], if it be worth Mr Ledwi[d]ge’s while he ought to come here to see the valuation I have put on the several plans I now have before me ...’

7 Sep. 1742. Godf[re]y Wills, Ballinlough [Co. Westmeath], to John Crofton, Roscommon [enclosed in the foregoing].

‘Sir, In pursuance of my promise I send you a plan for the sessions house, you’ll find a jayl to it which for want of Indian ink I was forced to colour yellow. In this plan I would have the Market house on the level with the ground and of consequence the jayl will be all under ground, which is of no bad consequence as there is an area round it which will give light enough. You may take a copy of all the plans and send mine back to me, that it may appear to be your own. When you have made your estimate for this plan let me see a copy of it. If it should come much cheaper than Ensor’s, all you can do in my opinion as I told you before [is] to get some good workman to join with you in making a proposal in writing to the committee next Quarter Sessions, that you will undertake such a plan for so much and give your father in law security for your performance at that price which you think it may be done for, but be sure of your computations, and have a certificate from Mr Smith such as I mentioned to you. If you find this plan may be done for even one hundred pounds cheaper and you can make the proposal in the manner I have mentioned to you, I think they will not do well, if they don’t accept of it. Take care of my [?Pann] and return it by the bearer when you have done with it.’

MS 41,586/16

1742–8

Letters to William Smyth from Hugh Crofton [head of the Mohill branch of the Crofton family], Mohill.

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MS 41,586/17

1742–3

Letters to William Smyth from Chidley Crofton, Mohill, Dublin and Grange.

MS 41,586/18

1744

Letters to William Smyth from Chidley Crofton, Grange and Sligo.

MS 41,586/19

1745–9

Letters to William Smyth from Chidley Crofton, Grange, Sligo and Roscommon.

MS 41,586/20

1750–64

Letters to William Smyth from Chidley Crofton, Dublin, 'Prospect' and N.P.

MS 41,586/21

c.1752–1759: N.D.

Letters to William Smyth from Elizabeth Barbara Crofton, later Mrs Matthias Earbery [MS 41,598/4], Mohill, Cork and N.P.

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MS 41,586/22

1725–36

Letters to William Smyth from his 'cousin' the Rev. Perkins Crofton, later (1736) Archdeacon of Aghadoe, Trinity College, Cork, Dublin, etc. The folder includes:

18 Feb. 1724[5?] Frances Crofton to her son Perkins Crofton, TCD.

Perkins' brother [Robin] has not entered on his collection yet, though he has been twice to see about it, there being no orders sent to either the collector or supervisor 'to settle him in that or any other walk'. He told the Bishop of Meath about this who answered him with an assurance that he should be settled in the walk of Ballinrobe. This is still vacant, and the supervisor by letter last night told him no orders had been sent about him, and said 'there must be some failure above but where he knew not'. Tell this to the Dean who will probably advise you to go to the Bishop.

MS 41,586/23

1737–42

Letters to William Smyth from Archdeacon Crofton, Cork and Dublin. The folder includes:

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30 Jan. 1737[?/8?]. Archdeacon Crofton, Cork, to William Smyth.

'I suppose the money is in your hands, and if it be not yet disposed of, there is a gentleman here, one Mr Pigot, a very honest man, tho' *a Member of Parliament*, and good security, who wants about 800 pounds. If you have so much to lay out, and cannot meet with so good a *hand* [*sic*] near you, I believe you may safely dispose of it here ...'

21 May 1740. Archdeacon Crofton, Cork, to William Smyth.

'We are alarmed here with the thoughts of a Spanish invasion but it seems too [?inconsistent] a thing to give credit to ...'

MS 41,586/24

1743–5

Letters to William Smyth from Archdeacon Crofton, Cork.

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MS 41,586/25

1724–35

Letters to William Smyth from other Croftons – Edward, Robert, Theo[philus], William, etc.  
The folder includes:

1 June 1732. Theo. Crofton, 'Baskin', to [William Smyth?].

Intends to take up a bill for £200 with Dr Coghill.

8 Nov. 1732. Theo. Crofton to [William Smyth?].

Dr Coghill has his bond for £200.

MS 41,586/26

1742–4

Letters to William Smyth from other Croftons – Edward, Robert, Theo[philus], William, etc.

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MS 41,587/1

1712

Letters to William Smyth from his 'affectionate and loving friend', Robert French [barrister?, London and Dublin], writing from Waltham Abbey and N.P.

MS 41,587/2

1713

Letters to William Smyth from Robert French, London.

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MS 41,587/3

1714–15

Letters to William Smyth from Robert French, London (including one from the Court of Requests). The folder includes:

13 Feb. 1714 [not 1714/15]. Robert French, Colney Hatch, to [William Smyth].

'The Debate in Lords on Succession in Danger' – moved that Queen be advised to get all the allies to be guarantors of succession. Harcourt put the question as – 'all the protestant allies' – but Whartan protested that it was 'all the allies'. To great surprise of many Lord Anglesey sided with the Whigs in these debates but left them the next day. Argyll moved against Lord Treasurer for giving £3,000 to the poor Highlands of Scotland, which Oxford then explained.

1 July 1714. Robert French, London, to William Smyth.

'Some say my Lord Bolingbroke and my Lord of Oxford are at so great variance that one of them must be out; the reports of the case of the city of Dublin are before the Attorney-General and Queen's Counsel, and they are to make their report before the Queen and Council – is said they will be able to do it some time next week. The aldermen make not the least doubt but that it will be decided in their favour and have some reason to hope their business will be done in a short time.'

5 Aug. 1714. Robert French, London, to William Smyth.

Queen's death, and appointment of regents: 'The affairs of the city of Dublin will now go on according to the desire of the plenipos., for all the regents except two or three are of their side ...'

16 Aug. 1714. Robert French, London, to William Smyth.

'Our aldermen got an order last Saturday to settle the city; you should have had an account of it by that night's post, but that I did not hear of it till the day after.'

31 Aug. 1714. Robert French, London, to William Smyth.

'Dudley Moore was taken up very sharply for speaking against Sir Constantine Phipps, for which he called the gentleman out. They stepped into the entry of Jenny Man's coffee-house. As some of Dudley's acquaintance were going after him a friend of the other gentleman's put his back to the door and drew his sword and said he saw but two go out and that he would not let another go unless they went through him. In short, Dudley got it very fairly seven inches into the breast, spit blood, was visited by Lord Wharton, was given over. There's now a little hope. I wish his recovery for the young gentleman's sake.'

[Autumn? 1714]. Robert French, [London] to William Smyth.

'... As for the state of party with us, I believe it's much the same as with you, except that our countrymen are generally of warmer constitutions than we are here.'

9 July 1715. Robert French, Court of Requests, to William Smyth.

Account of debate on Oxford's impeachment: Jekyll's and Walpole's contributions.

**WILLIAM SMYTH'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIS OTHER MAJOR CORRESPONDENTS –  
BURGHES, CLARKES, CROFTONS, ROBERT FRENCH AND THE LEDWIDGES**

MS 41,587/4

1716–24

Letters to William Smyth from Robert French, London, Sligo and Galway. The folder includes:

7 Feb. 1716[17]. Robert French to [William Smyth].

No news in London, from which he has returned, except the taking off the Triennial Act, 'which is necessary to do, for while it continues our state is so subject to changes that no prince, state, etc, will enter into any league with us. I don't apprehend there will be any difficulty in effecting it, for it can't give offence to any but a few malcontents and to those freeholders who make a trade of their votes, which I must say, and to the shame of our country, are too numerous.'

3 Nov. 1720. Robert French, Frenchpark, [Co. Roscommon], to William Smyth, Dublin. Asks him to give the enclosed to 'Mr Hines the clothier in Castle Street to deliver when he goes to London'.

12 July 1720. Robert French, Abbert, to William Smyth.

'I have not this large time heard how our B[ank] goes on. It's dangerous talking of such a thing [?since] the account I have it's in a good way.'

2 Mar. 1724/5. Robert French, Sligo, to William Smyth, Dublin.

Mentions sending to Gilbert King's in Abbey Street.

MS 41,587/5

1726–7

Letters to William Smyth from Robert French, Dublin, Boyle and Charlestown (Co. Roscommon). The folder includes:

28 July 1727. Robert French, Charlestown, to William Smyth.

'I am now, instead of going circuit, making what interest I can amongst the freemen and burgesses of Jamestown to be one of their representatives in the ensuing parliament, in which I am strongly opposed by one Mr James Louthier [*sic*]. I am informed one of our freemen, John Allen, is a trooper in some of the troops of Naper's Regiment. You, my dear friend, must be so kind as [to] enquire about him and to make what interest you can with Naper, etc, to secure his votes or Cousin Jack King and your friend. ... If you can't secure both his votes, make interest to prevent his getting leave to come down.'

8 Aug. 1727. Robert French, Charlestown, to William Smyth: more about Allen who, it seems, was not a trooper in the regiment French thought.

15 Sep. 1727. Robert French, Charlestown, to William Smyth and Darby Clarke, c/o Darby Clarke, Custom House, Dublin: the same request in regard to a freeman who is a shoemaker in Stoneybatter.

29 Sep. 1727. Robert French, Charlestown, to William Smyth.

'... Mr Allen is now with us, to the great mortification of our adversaries, who are determined to apply to his colonel, Ligonier, to endeavour to take him off from us. ...' Instructions

**WILLIAM SMYTH'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIS OTHER MAJOR CORRESPONDENTS –  
BURGHES, CLARKES, CROFTONS, ROBERT FRENCH AND THE LEDWIDGES**

follow about lobbying senior army officers to prevent Allen from turning his coat. [See also MS 41,590/4.]

MS 41,587/6  
1730–39

Letters to William Smyth from Robert French, Dublin, Boyle and Frenchpark (Co. Roscommon).

MS 41,587/7  
1744–62

Letters to William Smyth from Robert French, Dublin, Longford and Johnstown.

MS 41,587/8  
N.D. [c.1712 onwards]

Undated correspondence between William Smyth and Robert French.

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MS 41,588/1  
1730–32

Letters to William Smyth from the family factotum (who also seems to have been experienced in the supervision of building work), Michael Ledwidge, Kilbally and Barbavilla, much of it about the building of Barbavilla. The folder includes:

18 Sep. 1730. Michael Ledwidge, Kilbally, to [William Smyth].

‘I forgot in my last to you to consult with you what sort of an eave you would have to this house but I remember you were talking some time ago you would have it like unto the eave of the Carpenters Charity house that stands on Oxmantown Green so I would be glad you would let me know your will ...’

4 Nov. 1730. Michael Ledwidge to ‘Esq<sup>r</sup> Smyth’.

10,000 slates have arrived (where?) but slater says he wants 2,000 more ‘and as many more pegs as came’.

26 Mar. 1732. [Michael Ledwidge?], Barbavilla, to William Smyth ‘att Cartown’.

‘Sir, The foundation of your hou[s]e will take a fortnight’s time with eight hands and ten carts for there was but very little of it done when I cam here ... I made bold to employ some of your tenants to draw stones for the arch by reason there was not one of your horses to be spared ... Sir, this place is at a great loss for want of your presents [presence] ...’

6 Dec. 1732. Michael Ledwidge, Barbavilla, to William Smyth.

‘Sir, The house is covered and the windows of the two upper stories is up.’

17 Dec. 1732. Michael Ledwidge, Barbavilla, to William Smyth.

‘Sir, As to the dome I found it troublesome to roof it and as to the inside it cannot make any show as yet by reason I have not formed it to the figure designed but it throws a great deal of light down to the lobby.’

**WILLIAM SMYTH'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIS OTHER MAJOR CORRESPONDENTS –  
BURGHES, CLARKES, CROFTONS, ROBERT FRENCH AND THE LEDWIDGES**

MS 41,588/2

1736–47

Letters to William Smyth from Michael Ledwidge, Dublin. The folder includes:

6 Jan. 1738. Michael Ledwidge to William Smyth.

He has heard the Earl of Kildare has bought Carton 'and he intend[s] to take the roof off[f] and raise it a storey higher and to sash the house and Jack Williams told me he believed it was very much in your power to recommend me to the Earl of Kildare.'

[c.1738]. Michael Ledwidge to William Smyth.

Speaks of workmen who were disappointed at not getting Lord Kildare's work 'for any thing that is material to be done. Mr Cassels put in his own acquaintance.' [Letter incomplete.]

14 Nov. 1747. Michael Ledwidge to William Smyth.

Refers to working at Pakenham Hall.

MS 41,588/3

1752–9

Correspondence between William Smyth and Michael Ledwidge.

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MS 41,588/4

1734–46

Letters to William Smyth from [Mrs] Mary Ledwidge [his housekeeper?: what relation to Michael?], Dublin. The folder includes:

Apr. 1738. Mary Ledwidge, Dublin, to William Smyth.

'I called for the capitals and bases and the carver says that they are not done and if they were done he would not give them to me. He says that th[e]y will be done next week and he does intend to go down with them.'

MS 41,588/5

1751–4

Letters to William Smyth from Mary Ledwidge, Dublin.

**XIX LETTERS TO WILLIAM SMYTH FROM OTHER CORRESPONDENTS,  
ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED**

MS 41,589/1–41

1711–62

Box of letters to William Smyth from other correspondents, alphabetically arranged.

MS 41,589/1

1728–30

Letters to William Smyth, Stoneybatter, from Mrs Bonnell, London.

MS 41,589/2

1733–42

Letters to William Smyth from the Rev. James Brush [Vicar of Drumgath (1736–42)], Dromore, Co. Down, mainly about Brush's efforts to get young Anglicans 'of honest parents and suitable characters' and who have experience of the linen manufacture, to settle on the Barbavilla estate.

MS 41,589/3

1711–13

Correspondence of William Smyth with William Burne [sometime accountant and measurer to Thomas Burgh as Surveyor-General], Dublin. The folder includes:

1 Dec. 1711. William Burne, Dublin, to William Smyth.

'My Lord Duke took shipping yesterday ... he had a mighty attendance down to the water side. He franked a warrant to my Captain [Thomas Burgh?] for £525 for his extraordinary trouble about the building Dublin Barracks, and declared publicly at the Board of Barracks before the general officers, that he would represent to her Matie the hardships he has suffered in losing his company in Lord Orkneys regiment and no provision made for him in lieu of it, but all this under the rose ...'. You have heard that Dr Higgins is come off with credit to the great mortification of the Wh[igs].'

11 Jan. 1711[12]. William Burne, Dublin, to William Smyth, London.

'In your next be pleased to signify if my Lord of Ormond be removed from the government of Ireland. I wish he may continue till my Captain gets there, and does his business with him. ... I have been for some time past at Kilkenny with Capt. Burgh, and Mr "Ulisses" where we drank all your healths very heartily ...' Mr Spike and his spouse give Smyth their humble service. '... I find the Wh[igs] here very down in the mouth [at the news from London].'

26 Jan. 1711/12. William Burne, Dublin, to William Smyth, London.

'The Whigs are very uppish in this town, and say the Queen is under mighty concern, and has prorogued the Parliament, and that their party is like to come in to play. ... There is no hopes of any public works going on here 'till the Surveyor reports from London ... . Capt. Burgh does not leave this town 'till about the 10th of the next month. Mr Spike has been very ill ...'; since Smyth urges it Spike will receive back Harry Cooke to serve the remainder of his time.



LETTERS TO WILLIAM SMYTH FROM OTHER CORRESPONDENTS, ALPHABETICALLY  
ARRANGED

14 Feb. 1711/12. William Burne, Dublin, to William Smyth, London.

‘I am very glad that my Lord Duke continues still in the government of this kingdom. I wish he may do so for many years. My Captain is made a justice of the peace for the county of Dublin, and about 25 honest and worthy gentlemen more. If our good Lord Chancellor continues among us, he will make this an honest good country, for I do assure you the Wh[igs] are much out of heart, and I trust in God they will long continue so. ...’ Burgh is to go away next week, but this is not certain. ‘... There is no manner of work going on as yet about the Castle, but the library is begun at the College. ...’

26 Feb. 1711/12. William Burne, Dublin, to William Smyth.

Burgh is to leave next Thursday. ‘... Dr Robinson is married to Mr Higgins the minister’s sister who was housekeeper to General Ingoldsby. I believe she has not much money, but she has the character of a very good woman. This is kept private yet. ...’

MS 41,589/3A

1743–4: 1753

Letters to William Smyth, including one to his son, Ralph, from Richard Butterfield, Summerhill, Dublin, mainly about renting a house in Dublin for William Smyth in 1753, but with a reference in the same year to ‘Lord Trimblestown’s [*sic*] improvements’ [at the latter’s country seat], and also mentioning the hiring of a gardener for Smyth (1753). The folder includes:

21 Apr. 1753. Richard Butterfield, Dublin, to William Smyth.

‘... I can assure you that, no sooner a foundation of a house is laid, but it is set, unless it be to wait for a greater offer. There is now a small house in Sackville Street, only two rooms of a floor, and he who built it will not set it for less than £60 per annum and £300 fine, besides high taxes. But I have found out a gentleman whose inclinations are to live in the country. He has a very pretty new house in Britain Street between Sackville Street and Marlborough Street, two rooms on a floor and closets, the back parlour salooned, good malt floor, kitchen, back kitchen and cellars, with a good yard, flagged, pump and little house, a deep, pretty garden, a coach house and good loft, a stable for four horses with room, from next May, 26 years to come, no taxes but chimney money, and very near St George’s church, not far from St Mary’s, at £23 per annum and a fine of £140. ...’

12 May 1753. Richard Butterfield, Dublin, to William Smyth about the house, which Mr Smyth of Portlick likes very much and thinks ‘... very cheap considering how the value of houses are [*sic*] at present. He told me your Brother Clarke is for setting his house at a high rent with £600 fine. By this you may think what houses are come to in a very little time in all the parts of the town, and building [going on] in and about all the city as if all the inhabitants of the kingdom were coming to live here. ...’

MS 41,589/4

1730–34

Letters to William Smyth from John Cooley (land-surveyor and measurer) and Pat. Carolan, mainly about the building of and laying out of grounds at Barbavilla, but also referring to other farm and estate business. The folder includes:

LETTERS TO WILLIAM SMYTH FROM OTHER CORRESPONDENTS, ALPHABETICALLY  
ARRANGED

4 Nov. 1730. P. Carolan, Kilbally, to William Smyth.  
'The masons is gon home this day becace of the foule wether.'

MS 41,589/5  
1738–47

Letters to William Smyth from John Cooley, Barbavilla. The folder includes:

8 Feb. 1737/8. John Cooley to William Smyth.  
'... it was always your advice and command never to put any colours on plan or map ...'

12 Aug. 1747. John Cooley to William Smyth.  
'The half of Mullingar was burnt on Wednesday the 29th of July ...'

MS 41,589/6  
1751–6

Letters to William Smyth from John Cooley, Barbavilla. [For the continuation, see MS 41,598/3.]

MS 41,589/7  
1724–9

Letters to William Smyth from James Creagh, Slanemore and Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. Creagh was the tenant of part of the estate of Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn, which William Smyth looked after on his absentee brother's behalf.

MS 41,589/8  
1730–38

Letters to William Smyth from James Creagh.

MS 41,589/9  
1719–41

Letters to William Smyth from John Digby of Landenstown, Co. Kildare, who writes from there and from 'Lacken' [Co. Roscommon?] and London. The folder includes:

6 Apr. 1722. John Digby to William Smyth giving a list of colours he wants as he is painting his house – linseed oil, yellow ochre, white lead, umber, spanish white, varnish, nut oil, turpentine, french 'vardigrass', etc.

21 Apr. 1733. John Digby, London, to William Smyth.  
He met [Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn] 'at Mrs Bonnell's where I was pleased to find them both so well. He directed me to a jeweller to set Miss Ingoldsby's pictures, who was with me this morning but would not undertake to set them for fear of accidents, which he said they were liable to in the setting. But he advised me to employ Zinks [*sic* – Zincke] who drew them to get them set, for then they would be safe, and the difference in expense not very much. Accordingly, I left them with Zinks this morning, who has undertaken to get them done in the neatest and most fashionable manner (for I find everyone employs him in setting his own pictures). The cases that Miss Ingoldsby directed, he advises me by no means to have, for that being apt to warp, the pictures are sometimes prejudiced by it. Therefore I desire you

LETTERS TO WILLIAM SMYTH FROM OTHER CORRESPONDENTS, ALPHABETICALLY  
ARRANGED

would let me know whether she would have me leave the choice of a case to him. I also want further directions from her about her ring. Zinks thinks nothing is damaged but the chrystal, but if the face be hurt, it will cost a guinea to mend, and that [word illegible] no one here can do it as well as the original I have ...'. He goes on to discuss the withdrawal of the Excise Bill and the dismissal of Lord Chesterfield and others. 'I believe I shall not make any very long stay in this town. I am almost tired of it already ... . I know my Lord [Digby] expects me at Coleshill about Whitsunday, and Cousin Digby insists on my going with him to Sherborne to meet my Lord there. Which I shall do, I am not determined ...'.

11 Sep. 1736. John Digby to William Smyth referring to Richard Dunn, Mrs Ingoldsby's gardener at Carton, who has assaulted one Bridget [?Month].

MS 41,589/10  
1743–56

Letters to William Smyth from John Digby, including:

14 Jan. 1744. John Digby to William Smyth giving a description of the Aran Islands. 'In the big island there is a very good quay like that of Limerick, and just above it a barrack in good repair, and another good stone house within the fortification, there are at present 75 houses in the island inhabited, 6 or 7 of which are very good farm-houses with some wainscote in them, and the poorer sort have the character of an honest people.'

27 Mar. 1747. John Digby to William Smyth.

'... I am more sorry than ever for the loss of my liquorish [*sic*] plants, since I have none now to send you; for, as I got a new gardener last winter was twelvemonth, while he [*sic* – I] was in town, he dug it up or buried all I had ... . But the way I got mine was by picking out at my grocer's some of the freshest sticks of liquorish he had with some fibres on them, when his liquorish first came in, and setting them in fresh, rich mole [*sic* – mould] and quite covering them. By this means, of 12 roots I put down, about 2 came up the next year. Some arbutus I shall send you. ...'

MS 41,589/11  
1744–51

Letters from other members of the Digby family – [the Rev.] Benjamin Digby [of Osbertstown, Co. Kildare], Geashill [of which parish he was vicar], Co. Offaly, and Eliza Digby, Dublin (who is lodging at 'Mr Mackalla's, printer, in Henry Street'). The folder includes:

8 June 1751. The Rev. Benjamin Digby, Geashill, to William Smyth.

'I had the favour of your kind letter, which I could not properly acknowledge till I had first examined the state of my schools, to answer your obliging intentions in providing for some of those boys. I find but six or seven of age proper to put out. I sent for their parents, who are so much blinded to their own interest as not to suffer them to go from under their own eyes, each alleging that they had relations of their own in trade who had engaged to take them out in due time. I pity their folly, at the same time can't help it. ...'

**LETTERS TO WILLIAM SMYTH FROM OTHER CORRESPONDENTS, ALPHABETICALLY  
ARRANGED**

MS 41,589/12

1724–32

Letters to William Smyth from Thomas Doolittle (tenant), Ballybeg and Ranaghan [Collinstown], Co. Westmeath.

MS 41,589/13

1729–44

Letters to William Smyth from his brother-in-law, the Rev. Dr John Echlin [(1680–1763) husband of Smyth's sister, Alice (c.1685–1768)], Castletown (Tuam [a living to which Echlin had been presented by Echlin's uncle, Archbishop John Vesey of Tuam]) and Dublin, and from other members of the Echlin family. Dr Echlin seems to be well versed in law, as he offers advice about legal matters, particularly the status of Smyth's claim against the Ingoldsby estate.

MS 41,589/14

c.1747–1759

Letters to William Smyth from the Echlins, particularly Dr and Mrs Echlin's son, J[ohn].

MS 41,589/15

1721–6

Letters to William Smyth from Robert Fitzsimon [tenant of Ralph Smyth's lands of Parcellstown, Co. Westmeath], Parcellstown, Turin (Westmeath) and London. The folder includes:

16 Sep. 1721. Robert Fitzsimons to William Smyth.

Refers to 'the vast quantity of wet weather that we have had for some time past ... most parts of the lowlands of the kingdom are all over flowed with water and a vast quantity of hay for ever lost by the floods ...'

MS 41,589/16

1729–41

Letters to William Smyth from Robert Fitzsimons, including a couple from [his wife?], Priscilla.

MS 41,589/17

1723–5: 1734

Letters to William Smyth from Sir Henry King [see also under MS 41,580/31] proposing unsuccessfully for Smyth's ward, 'dear Betty Smyth' [only daughter of the late Edward Smyth, Bishop of Down and Connor], and setting out King's landed income in Co. Sligo.

MS 41,589/18

1736–48

Letters to William Smyth from Henry Maule, successively Bishop of Dromore and of Meath, Dublin and Ardbraccan, Navan, Co. Meath, about charter schools [see also MS 41,573/11] and the building of churches in Co. Westmeath. The folder includes:

**LETTERS TO WILLIAM SMYTH FROM OTHER CORRESPONDENTS, ALPHABETICALLY  
ARRANGED**

22 Feb. 1736. The Bishop of Dromore to William Smyth.

On charter schools. Glad to hear there's a move for one in Westmeath. The Incorporated Society has as yet no more than £2,500 in its funds, but has been given:

20 acres forever, no rent, for Mr Boyd's charter school near Ballycastle

41 acres forever from Mr Temple, brother of Lord Palmerston near Powerscourt, to the building of which school Mr Acton has given above £60

£50 from Lord Digby towards Geashill where his kinsman Mr Digby gives the land

£50 from Michael Cuffe in Ballinrobe, with 1 acre for ever, and 24 acres at less than half value

1 acre for ever from Cosby of Stradbally, 29 acres at a low rent, £50 p.a., contributions from him and from neighbouring gents and £50 to get going.

MS 41,589/19

1750: 1754–6

Letters to William Smyth from David Murphy, London, who seems to have been concerned in Smyth's business transactions there, and also to have acted for Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn; some of the letters refer to the latter's death in 1755.

MS 41,589/20

1757–61

Correspondence of William Smyth with David Murphy, which also involves Ralph Smyth of Fieldtown.

MS 41,589/21

N.D. [c.1750s–1760s.]

Letters to William Smyth, including one to his son, Ralph of Barbavilla, from a 'cousin' called Elizabeth Nugent, 'Killwatter' (Lanesborough, Co. Westmeath?) and Dublin.

MS 41,589/22

1716–49

Letters to William Smyth from Robert Nugent, Johnstown and Sheanstown, [Co. Westmeath?], about estate and other business.

MS 41,589/23

c.1744–1767

Letters to William Smyth from Christopher Nugent, Glanidan, and Thomas Nugent, Donore, about an arbitration and other Westmeath estate business. [N.B. These two Nugents were found together in the one folder, which may or may not reflect an original arrangement.]

MS 41,589/24

1744–8: 1764: 1769

Letters to William Smyth from [Thomas Nugent, 4th Earl of] Westmeath, his son, Christopher [Lord Delvin, and his nephew, Thomas, 6th Earl of] Westmeath, about Co. Westmeath local government business (particularly Dunganstown bog), together with a copy of a letter of 20 December 1749 from Smyth to 'Dear Sir' expressing interest in a report that Lord Westmeath intends to sell the borough of Fore, Co. Westmeath, and asking to see a rental. The last two or three letters, of 1764 and 1769, are or may be to Ralph Smyth.

**LETTERS TO WILLIAM SMYTH FROM OTHER CORRESPONDENTS, ALPHABETICALLY  
ARRANGED**

MS 41,589/25  
1740–59

Letters to William Smyth from Nicholas Ogle, sub-sheriff of Co. Westmeath, mainly about local law and order. The folder includes:

28 July 1753. Nicholas Ogle to William Smyth.

‘I have been on the look out for a house for you’; suggests one in St Stephen’s Green, or one in Ann Street. On the Ann Street one: ‘there are several houses building in this part of the town most of which are taken by gentlemen and finished to their fancy ... . There are houses of all prices a-building either to be sett or sold, and all that were built last year were sett by M’mas as it is expected they will be this year.’

MS 41,589/26  
1738–43

Letters to William Smyth from Thomas Pakenham [later 1st Lord Longford, of Pakenham Hall, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath], writing from Dublin. The folder includes:

4 Feb. 1738/9. Thomas Pakenham, Dublin, to William Smyth.

‘The conversations of this town are full of the revolution of Philipstown, which Lord Molesworth has made a present of to Lord Bellfield and a new employ is to be erect[ed] in favour of Lord B., viz Constable of the Castle of Philipstown ...’

9 Oct. 1739. Thomas Pakenham, Dublin, to William Smyth.

‘The Duke [of Devonshire] went this day to the House and made a most gracious speech wherein he said he had no orders to ask anything except the usual supply and that his Majesty desired him to assure ‘em that he thought the interest of Ireland and Great Britain inseparable and therefore was pleased to hear of their success in the linen manufactory.’

16 Feb. 1741/2. Thomas Pakenham, Dublin, to William Smyth.

‘The wisdom of Ireland sleeps on for two years longer [i.e. parliament has been prorogued]. Yesterday she dreamed a little and an association [was] signed by most people of figure to encourage our [paper torn] manufactories and as far as is in our power to [encourage?] our wives do the same ... Private letters this day say that the new ministry cannot agree about the division of the [?Bears]. Our Duke is gone in a great hurry, has 14 relays of horses on the road and will be in London he says a Saturday. How changed.

The Navigation Board has order[ed] a survey of the Shannon to be made and intend that for their next work, tho’ my Lord Bessborough told ‘em the Barrow was more convenient for him.

N.B. it was the last day of the session and the Duke to go the next. It is my opinion he has learned by this to swim without blathers.’

MS 41,589/27  
1750–64

Letters to William Smyth from Thomas Pakenham/Lord Longford, including one from his wife, Elizabeth (née Cuffe). Pakenham’s letters are about a plot to attack and rob his house, 1754, the Co. Westmeath general election, 1760, a dispute (in which William Smyth is to be

**LETTERS TO WILLIAM SMYTH FROM OTHER CORRESPONDENTS, ALPHABETICALLY  
ARRANGED**

arbitrator) over a water-course bordering Pakenham's estate at Coolure, N.D., etc. The folder includes:

15 Nov. 1760. Lord Longford to William Smyth.

'... As the gentleman I first thought of has declined, the gentlemen of the other side have offered their friendship to my son as the last expedient, and in truth I never was so perplexed in my life between a sincere desire of preserving peace and harmony and involving myself in a matter liable to such an objection as minority. I must therefore apply to my friends for their approbation of my conduct, and how far I may rely on their support and have permission to make use of their names on this occasion. I intend to lay the whole matter before Mr Malone tomorrow night with an exact account of my whole proceedings. The gentlemen on the other side are willing to show their numbers to any gentleman that is pleased to inspect them, and particularly Mr Malone, and most certainly it appears to me that an honourable capitulation is preferable to a contest attended with so little probability of success. Besides the evils attendant on all divisions in a country [*sic*], some unhappy gentlemen's fortune must be sacrificed on the occasion. A general approbation can only induce me to proceed, and if that fails, I shall heartily content myself with the private esteem of my friends and endeavour [to] show my gratitude. ...'

[1760]. Lord Longford to William Smyth.

'... I am extremely misunderstood in relation to my son. I always wish to have the esteem and approbation of my friends and neighbours, but the election of my son never was or shall be my object, for I never meant to bring him into parliament at this time. I refuse the request of all my friends to set him up for Longford. I don't intend to bring him in for my borough. Yet when I apprehend a country [*sic*] has occasion for his service, I am as ready to stop a gap with him as Curtius was to leap into a gulf. If you remember, I expressly declared when I recommend[ed] peace and a moderate use of power, that my son was a minor and I had no view to him. ...'

MS 41,589/28

N.D.

Undated letters to William Smyth from Lord and Lady Longford.

MS 41,589/29

1720–42

Letters to William Smyth and his mother, Mary [daughter of Sir John Povey, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas (d.1679), who had married Smyth's father in 1672], from members of the Povey family. The folder includes:

22 Feb. 1720. Richard Povey, Bailieborough [Co. Cavan], to William Smyth, Dublin.

'I thank God we hear of no robberies committed in this part of the kingdom nor of any rogues that are abroad. I hear those about Dublin are taken most of them and the days now growing long and their example will deter them if any left of their gang ...'

27 Apr. 1734. Thomas Povey, Dublin, to William Smyth, Barbavilla.

'Last Thursday morning my cousin Thomas Burgh went with my uncle to the Speaker's [Henry Boyle], unknown to me, to get him to deliver a petition to the Secretary, to lay before the Duke of Dorset, to get Ulysses Burgh joined in the patent with my uncle.' Povey has

**LETTERS TO WILLIAM SMYTH FROM OTHER CORRESPONDENTS, ALPHABETICALLY  
ARRANGED**

managed to stop this and explained the real case to Boyle, who said Povey's uncle had claimed it was 'an agreed thing'. This is presented by Povey as an underhand plot against him, in some way. [PS.] 'I am sorry to inform you that none of the list of commissioners is put into the Athlone Turnpike Bill.' [There are further letters on this topic, with thanks to William Smyth for doing what he could to intercede over the patent with 'my uncle'.]

2 Oct. 1742. Thomas Povey, Bristol, to William Smyth.

Povey is now seeking, from Mrs Tonway and Mrs Povey, money due to him 'for my attendance for my late uncle in Parliament'.

MS 41,589/30

1748–62

Letters to William Smyth from the Poveys.

MS 41,589/31

1735–43

Letters to William Smyth from Arthur Price, Bishop of Meath, writing from Dublin, Celbridge and Clogher. The folder includes:

4 Oct. 1736. Price to Smyth.

Intends to have church at Taghmon [Co. Westmeath] slated and asks advice re source and cost of slates.

26 Feb. 1736/7. Price to Smyth.

Re a glebe house. 'The board [of First Fruits] of late seemed not inclined to give any money for building unless the incumbent would engage to add as much of his own as they gave to be laid out in the building ...'.

MS 41,589/32

1724–46

Letters to William Smyth from Herbert Price, Mullingar, about Westmeath estate and legal business.

MS 41,589/33

1746–8

Letters to William Smyth from Christopher Robinson [barrister], Dublin.

MS 41,589/34

1744–69

Letters to William Smyth (the last of them to his son, Ralph) from Dr Robert Robinson, his physician.

MS 41,589/35

1731–6

Letters to William Smyth from Robert Savage, Dublin, apparently about legal and estate business.



**LETTERS TO WILLIAM SMYTH FROM OTHER CORRESPONDENTS, ALPHABETICALLY  
ARRANGED**

MS 41,589/36  
1726–54

Letters to William Smyth from James Stopford [later 1st Earl of Courtown] about the negotiations for him to marry Smyth's ward, Elizabeth, only daughter of Edward Smyth, Bishop of Down and Connor, which he did in 1727, together with two letters from Elizabeth Smyth/Stopford herself. The folder includes the following letter about the marriage:

24 June [1726]. James Stopford to William Smyth.

Giving an account of his debts: owes 'for my brother's and sister's fortunes £5,100 and for some debts of honour of my father's that I was not obliged to pay and some other small debts of mine £2,000, in all £7,100. My whole estate is liable to these and I could reserve a power to sell some of my estate to discharge them; but there is a possibility I hope by good management and without selling to pay them all off in time. My County Kilkenny estate you will see in my rentroll is most contiguous and if Miss Smyth pleases to have her jointure there I would much rather because they have all good bargains and pay well, and if she will name her own terms I am sure I shall readily comply let them be what she will.'

MS 41,589/37  
1713–14

Letters to William Smyth from James Taaffe, Drumcree and Castlepollard.

MS 41,589/38  
1731–49

Letters to William Smyth from John Thomson, Johnstown, [Co. Westmeath], about Ralph Smyth's estate of Parcellstown, Co. Westmeath [of which Thomson was the tenant. For the continuation, see MS 41,598/30.]

MS 41,589/39  
1738–55

Letters to William Smyth from his 'cousins', William and Ann Waller, Allenstown [near Navan], Co. Meath. [For the continuation, see MS 41,598/32.]

MS 41,589/40  
1757–60

Letters to William Smyth from the Wallers.

MS 41,589/41  
1732–48: 1760

Letters to William Smyth from Hans Wood, Hanstown [Co. Westmeath]. The letter of 1760 is from a different Hans Wood [son?], who writes from Rosmead, [Delvin, Co. Westmeath. See also MS 41,598/35.]

**XX CORRESPONDENCE OF WILLIAM SMYTH FROM MISCELLANEOUS  
CORRESPONDENTS, CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED**

MS 41,590/1–29

1710–68

Box of miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth, chronologically arranged.

MS 41,590/1

1710–11

Copies of two out-letters from William Smyth to miscellaneous correspondents.

MS 41,590/2

1714–24

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth. Correspondents include Thomas Nugent of Ballinakill [Co. Laois], George Rochfort of Gaulstown [Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath], and Andrew Wilson [founder of Wilson's Hospital] of Piersfield [Multyfarnham?, Co. Westmeath]. The folder includes:

11 June 1715. E. Stonehouse [female] to William Smyth, London, re the impeachment of the Earl of Oxford.

'I could tell you twenty things more, but they say letters to Ireland are opened and I think if they are you gentlemen are to blame for if my letters were opened and I [were] a man I would have courage enough to kick the rogue of a postman ...'

4 Oct. 1722. [Sir] Thomas [Vesey, Bishop of] Ossory, Abbeyleix, to William Smyth.

'I return you thanks for all favours, particularly the information from our friend of the discourse at my table; I wish I knew the particulars or the author, for I am sure no man was more on his guard this last winter at Kilkenny, on purpose not to give offence, not that I value the informers, or such who show themselves so ready to receive their informations.' In answer to Smyth's query about the advowsons in Lord Arran's gift, lists them: Canich [*sic*], diocese of Waterford (worth £200 p.a.) held by Dean Hinton; Tullough, Co. Carlow, diocese of Leighlin £200 or more; Callan, diocese of Ossory (£400 p.a.) held by Mr Cox; Kells, diocese of Ossory held by Mr Cook (£100) – 'alternate the next turn in the see'; Knockgraffen, diocese of Cashel (£100) held by Mr Bolton. Several have applied for Tullough, and Vesey hears that it is promised; about a year ago Vesey recommended Mr Lewis the schoolmaster, 'it being usual for the schoolmaster to be provided for by the family after some time, and which is necessary at present, the school being almost ruined on account of party'.

MS 41,590/3

1725–6

Letters to William Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents about Westmeath estate business.

## WILLIAM SMYTH'S CHRONOLOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE

MS 41,590/4  
1727–9

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth, including one letter about the 1727 general election for Co. Westmeath and another about the election for [Jamestown, Co. Leitrim]. The folder includes:

18 Sep. 1727. Walter Thomas, Thurles, to William Smyth about the trooper, John Allen, who is a freeman of Jamestown. Allen's lieutenant '... tells me that Allen will and shall vote for French and King or that he shall not leave quarters, but 'tis my opinion that he cannot get over his engagement to Lowther. ...' [See also MS 41,587/5.]

MS 41,590/5  
1730–31

Miscellaneous estate and business correspondence of William Smyth, including a letter from his 'cousin', Arthur Magenis, about the Bishop of Meath's hostility to Magenis in the matter of Magenis' appeal to the British House of Lords. The folder also includes:

20 July 1731. Copy of a letter from William Smyth, Barbavilla, to 'Mr Garat Hogan at Ballygaul': 'Not having ready money sufficient to clear Mr Doran for the slates, I must desire you will pay him £10 18s. 6d. on my account ...'; on the back is a receipt from Patrick Doran.

MS 41,590/6  
1732

Miscellaneous correspondence (2 items) of William Smyth about business matters.

MS 41,590/7  
1733

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth, about estate and local government business, including a letter to him from Fr[anciscus] Hutcheson, Bishop of Down and Connor, and a draft of a letter from him to [Welbore] Ellis, Bishop of Meath about the building of a new palace at Ardraccan, as follows:

30 June 1733. Draft of a letter from William Smyth to Bishop Ellis. He has viewed the 'late house' at Ardraccan on 'commands' of the Bishop, because the Bishop is planning to rebuild. Suggests the site of the new house should not be that of the old one which was 'on ye very summit of ye hill'. Suggests a site a little further down the hill, but recommends that a survey be made before a decision is taken. No timber or slates on site (from old house), but only 'a heap of stones and those, to[o], fit for little else but ye makeing of lime'. No sand in demesne, but some nearby. Enough clay for bricks on the land, but it may contain too much lime, though 'no such thing appeared in ye bricks I saw clamped on ye land'. No fuel for burning bricks and lime, no fuel, so it will have to be done with culm or furze bought nearby. 'I am persuaded you are not unmindfull of laying now in a quantity of boards and timber in Dublin this being ye best season for that market.'

9 Sep. 1733. [Sir] R[ichard] Levinge [2nd Bt] to William Smyth, Barbavilla, thanking him for 'ye Great Civilities I receiv'd at yr delightfull villa, where, in that small enchanted spot ... you all inhabit, I saw such miracles performd ... that I could not but look with an Evil Eye

## WILLIAM SMYTH'S CHRONOLOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE

upon the Great House [High Park, Mullingar, Levinge's seat?] as the Insulting Rival of your charming lodge.'

MS 41,590/8

1734

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about estate and business matters. The folder includes:

30 Apr. 1734. Patrick Doran [stone-cutter], Dublin, to William Smyth, Barbavilla. '... Before Mr Collis should impose it on you by not keeping up to Agreement I will supply your honour at his [Collis's] prices and with more "faluable" [*sic*] marble ... . As for the Peddiments, the[y] are near finished. I want to know whether you design any part of a trophy of war on the the [*sic*] back front where ye Crest of ye Arms is to be Cutt, ye arms being in hands. ...'

6 Oct. 1734. James Wibault, Gibraltar, to [William Smyth] to say that his colleague Mr Clerk is leaving a place of 'arbitrary Goverment [*sic*], hard Duty and short Commons, to [go to a place of] liberty and luxury'. His best wishes to Mrs Smyth and 'hearty service and good wishes to Mr Ralph'.

MS 41,590/9

1735

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth, mostly about his interest in buying the Co. Westmeath estate of Miss Forth.

MS 41,590/10

1736

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth, including a letter from Arthur Magenit about his need to sell land worth £650 p.a. to pay debts.

MS 41,590/11

1737-9

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about estate and business matters.

MS 41,590/12

1740-41

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about estate and Westmeath local government business, including two letters from [the Rev.?] Robert L'Estrange about tithes. The folder also includes:

16 May 1741. Lewis Meares to William Smyth.

'... I never saw any grant for fairs that had more than four contained in it. There is always a rent reserved to the crown upon every such, and it is likely, if more than four fairs should be desired, the crown rent may be the higher, and I believe you will think four fairs and a market sufficient ...'.

## WILLIAM SMYTH'S CHRONOLOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE

MS 41,590/13

1742

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about estate and other business.

MS 41,590/14

1743

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about estate and other business.

MS 41,590/15

1744

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about estate and other business, including a letter from one John Smyth, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan, about his slate quarry, and letters from J. Nichols [M.D.] about Smyth's knee. [For other prescriptions, etc, see MS 41,603/3–6.] The folder also includes:

3 June 1744. Ben. Span, Newtownforbes, to William Smyth, Barbavilla.

'... I have recommended your mason to Lord Granard, who seems to have thoughts of building a new house at Castle Forbes, if he can get it built to his liking. But some alterations he is determined to make. If you could spare your mason, I should be glad [to know] how soon you would send him to Castle Forbes. ...'

MS 41,590/16

1745

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about estate and other business.

MS 41,590/17

1746

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about estate and other business. The folder includes:

6 Apr. 1746. Stafford Lightburne, Trim, to William Smyth thanking him for past favours.

'This part of the world impatiently wait the event of next Monday's meeting of the Commissioners of the Inland Navigation, when the grand debate is to be determined whether the money raised on coaches and chairs be applied to make the River Boyne navigable from Trim to Drogheda, or be applied to some part of the Shannon. ...'

MS 41,590/18

1747–8

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about filling the vacant county treasurership of Westmeath, other patronage matters, the terms of a marriage settlement, the re-capture of a 'rambling gelding', etc..

MS 41,590/19

1749

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about estate and other business.

## WILLIAM SMYTH'S CHRONOLOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE

MS 41,590/20

1750

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about estate and other business.

MS 41,590/21

1751–2

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth mainly about estate and other business, including a letter about the outcome of litigation over Mrs Bonnell's will, and a letter from William Starratt (land-surveyor) about a boundary dispute.

MS 41,590/22

1753–5

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about estate and other business. The folder includes:

8 Sep. 1753. Archibald Stewart, Dublin, to William Smyth about renting a house in Dublin for Smyth.

'... Mr Maxwell's house in the Little Green is set to Mr Nevill Jones. Mr Simpson's house is situate in Upper Stafford Street, next door to Mrs Card's house. It formerly was possessed by Counsellor Morgan, who sold his interest to Mr Simpson, who expects £60 a year or £50 a year and £100 fine. He will leave all fixed grates, marble and stone chimney pieces, locks and a boiler in the kitchen. There is about 46 years of the lease unexpired at £35 a year. So, if you do not agree to the above demand, he will sell his interest thereof for about £300. ... The house is a very complete house, four storey[s] high above the kitchen, and a very good coach house and stables for five horses. The entrance to [it] is in Stable Lane behind the street house. The whole is about 130 feet in depth from front to rear. In the yard there is a little brew house with a fixed copper and square cooler and [a] granary over it for corn. It is in the whole a very pretty concern and would I believe suit your family, having so many apartments in it. If you think it will answer you, I would advise that you may treat with Mr Simpson soon, otherwise I daresay it will not be long unset. ...'

5 Sep. 1753. Copy of a letter from William Smyth, Barbavilla, to [ ? ] about Lord Kildare's memorial and the 'warm debates [expected] next sessions'.

'... There was very little business at our assizes. I may say indeed I never knew less. Our present sheriff is Maurice Tyrrel, a young man, a friend and I apprehend a tenant of Lord Belfield's, and my Lord is extremely intimate with the Primate, which adds greatly to his weight in this county, as by his means the government are ready to oblige my Lord in naming the sheriff ... . There was not one gentleman of this side of the county there but Mr Pakenham, of whom it was lately whispered that my Lord and he were come to terms of a coalition, which I very much doubt, but if so, the Prime Serjeant, Malone, must upon the next struggle stand by himself, and I hope and am persuaded he will carry it, for he truly does honour to the place he represents and is held in high estimation.'

MS 41,590/23

1756–60

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth about illegal tree-cutting and other business.

## WILLIAM SMYTH'S CHRONOLOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE

MS 41,590/24

1761–8

Miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth, some of it about the general election of 1761 for Co. Westmeath. The folder includes:

3 June 1761. Copy of a letter from William Smyth, Barbavilla, to George Rochfort thanking him for news of '... the poll of the two last days ... . By what I see, so extensive is your public spirit to descend even to endure duels. Your generous appearance for the interest of the county, when you conceived it necessary, cannot be sufficiently applauded and, since you have renounced so great a family interest [that of his brother, Lord Belvedere] to abide by that of the public, I flatter myself you will never find yourself a sufferer by the exchange. ...'

[1760 or 1761]. Anthony Malone, Castle Reynell, to [Ralph Smyth] about a forthcoming Co. Westmeath meeting which Malone regrets that William Smyth cannot attend because of ill health. At the bottom is a copy of a reply, from William Smyth but in Ralph Smyth's handwriting, in which he asks Malone to express to the meeting the Smyths' approbation of Malone's conduct and candidature.

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MS 41,590/25–29

N.D.

Five folders of undated miscellaneous correspondence of William Smyth. MS 41,590/25–6 comprise drafts or copies of his out-letters; the rest comprise letters written to him.

## XXI CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH SMYTH WITH OTHER SMYTHS

MSS 41,591–41,594

1751–89

Box of letters to Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla (1717–90) from other Smyths (his father, sons and daughter, Archdeacon James Smyth, Smyths of Fieldtown, Drumcree, Glananea (also near Barbavilla), Allenstown, Archerstown, etc.

MS 41,591/1

1751

Letters to Ralph Smyth from his father, William Smyth. The folder includes:

19 Oct. 1751. William Smyth, White Hart, Dublin, to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla. 'Cousin Mick' [Michael Smyth of Portlick] '... has made very great conveniencies to the house [Michael Smyth's in Jervis Street, Dublin] by removing the coal-hole to the lower end of the yard and building a vault, cellars and a storeroom where that stood, with which communication is now to be had through the closet of the back room, and that closet is now sallooned. He has finished the windows on the stairs and is now putting up a stone doorcase to the front of French rustick, so that they have not had any door to the house this week, nor will it be finished of [*sic*] three or four days to come ...

I went yesterday evening to Judge Hasset's [Arthur Blennerhassett], who was extremely friendly ... . Crookshank ... expected I would pay the expense of the suit, which I have peremptorily denied, and have sent him word that, if I be cast, I will sue him and reimburse myself from the estate [presumably the Ingoldsby estate] ...'.

29 Oct. 1751. William Smyth, Dublin, to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla.

'... The bill for the new bridge was to have been brought into the House yesterday by Mr [Arthur] Hill, but the P[ri]me Serjeant told him, as it was a petition for public money, it would be proper to show it first to the Duke [of Dorset, Lord Lieutenant], so that is now postponed till Thursday, and Mr Stannard carries in at the same time a petition from the city against it. There is likewise a petition against it, if I be rightly informed, to come from the inhabitants of the city, another from the county, and as it is expected it will be carried here, notwithstanding all this, I am told there will be a petition sent to the Privy Council in England against it by Sir James Lowther and by the merchants of both Liverpool and Bristol. But we say here Luke Gardiner will carry it notwithstanding. ....

The Primate preached one hour and ten minutes last Wednesday. He was desired by the House of Lords to print his sermon, and when the Chancellor delivered the message from the House, he added that he beg[ged] leave to remind his Grace that some requests carried in 'em the nature of commands; for the Bishop did not formerly comply with a request of the like nature. His sermon is commended, but when it appears, we shall be able to judge of it. The election at Wexford engages all our attention, but it is said Counsellor Mon[c]k will carry it from Mr Jones, the Surveyor-General, but a day or two at most will end that dispute. I have now dictated and rambled till I believe you [are] as much tired as myself ...'.



## CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH SMYTH WITH OTHER SMYTHS

2 Nov. 1751. William Smyth, Dublin, to Ralph Smyth.

'... When Mr Gardiner sued to the Duke to countenance the bridge, he told him he never would countenance any scheme detrimental to the interest of the city of Dublin; so that attempt is dropped for this sessions at least. ... There was more splendour and finery at the Castle than ever appeared in this kingdom on the Birthday: Miss Gardner [*sic*], Miss Foster and Mark White's daughter the three finest ladies, who outshined most of the rest. ... The parliament have given £5,000 to rebuild a part of the College and as much towards the charter schools, so that both are cut short of their expectations by one-half. ...'

16 Nov. 1751. William Smyth, Dublin, to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla.

'... 'Tis said here the Speaker is to be made Lord Shannon. Be that as it will, it will not take place suddenly. However fair the sunshine be at present, I see storms a-gathering, which I fear will cloud and overcast the next sessions. ...'

19 Nov. 1751. William Smyth, Jervis Street, to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla.

'... It is rumoured that the Speaker is to be created Earl of Shannon and to have £2,000 per annum pension, and that Mr Hill is to be made a peer also.

MS 41,591/2

1752

Letters to Ralph Smyth from his father, William Smyth. The folder includes:

11 Feb. 1752. William Smyth, Dublin, to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla.

'... The House have been all this day about Jones's affairs. Lord George [Sackville] spoke three times in his defence with respect to corruption, but said he must clear himself as well as he could with respect to the other charges. ... Jack Burgh's son of Palmerstown [*sic*] went yesterday to the Park to meet St Leger on a duel, upon a quarrel that happened the last assembly, but the captain of the guard got there timely enough to prevent mischief. ...'

MS 41,591/3

1753–4

Letters to Ralph Smyth from his father, William Smyth. The folder includes:

31 Jan. 1753. William Smyth, Barbavilla, to Ralph Smyth.

'... Lord Kildare's answer must be taken without an oath, but Ingoldsby's and Massy's must not. I think it unreasonable to expect I should stay for Massy's till June, especially considering I have been starving already, and as they have so little to say, desire Crookshank not to spare 'em. Mr Digby shall have the instructions for the mortar very soon, when I am a little better able to draw 'em out. ... A word to Judge French [the former Robert French] will hasten Lord Kildare's answer, but I don't hear one word of Tunnadine's or Judge Hassett's answer ...'.

MS 41,591/4

1757–68

Letters to Ralph Smyth from his father, William Smyth. The folder includes:

## CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH SMYTH WITH OTHER SMYTHS

5 Feb. 1757. William Smyth, Miss Hansard's, Grafton Street [Dublin], to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla.

'... Crookshank ... repeated the desire of taking out a probate, and told me withal the court would oblige me to account for Mr Ingoldsby's assets before they would order me my money, and referred me to Foster and Robinson as [to] their opinion ... . I would rather forbear my suit than undertake to prove the handwriting of so many people – a task to me utterly impossible. ... Two different drafts of militia bills have been rejected in England. ...'

18 Mar. 1766. [William Smyth] to Ralph Smyth.

'... Heads of a bill are now before the House for establishing an infirmary in every county, which will be an annual tax upon each county of about £200 per annum. ...'

MS 41,591/5

N.D.

Undated letters to Ralph from William Smyth.

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MS 41,592/1

Jan.–Mar. 1767

Letters to Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla from his elder son, William.

MS 41,592/2

Apr.–June 1767

Letters to Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla from his elder son, William.

MS 41,592/3

July–Nov. 1767

Letters to Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla from his elder son, William.

MS 41,592/4

Jan.–Apr. 1768

Letters to Ralph from William Smyth, including one from William's sister, Barbara.

MS 41,592/5

May–Nov. 1768

Letters to Ralph from William Smyth.

MS 41,592/6

Jan.–Apr. 1769

Letters to Ralph from William Smyth, Duke Street, Dublin.

MS 41,592/7

June–Oct. 1769

Letters to Ralph from William Smyth, Barbavilla and TCD.

## CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH SMYTH WITH OTHER SMYTHS

MS 41,592/8

1770

Letters to Ralph from William Smyth, Barbavilla.

MS 41,592/9

1771–2

Letters to Ralph from William Smyth, Dublin.

MS 41,592/10

1773–5

Letters to Ralph from William Smyth.

MS 41,592/11

c.1776–1783

Letters to Ralph from William Smyth, including one from William's wife (1783), Catherine, née Meade Ogle.

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MS 41,593/1

1757–60

Letters to Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla from his distant cousin, Ralph Smyth of Glananea, [who was a second son of William Smyth of Drumcree]. The letters of 1760 mainly relate to the building [of Glananea?], but also include:

[c.Mar.? 1760]. Ralph Smyth [of Glananea] to Ralph Smyth.

'... This city and kingdom [are] likely to be more distressed than ever by the failure of Alderman Dawson, who has stopped payment to the surprise of everybody, but this affair you will see more fully in Faulkner. 'Tis said he applied to the Lord Lieutenant to lend him £10,000 out of the Treasury, and offered £180,000 security, which trifle, had he got [it], would have supported him. His answer was, the money was his Majesty's and he would not do it; let the merchants support him. ...'

MS 41,593/2

1761: N.D.

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Ralph of Glananea. The folder includes:

[Apr.–May? 1761]. Ralph Smyth [of Glananea] to Ralph Smyth: '... Jack Nugent lodged his petition this day, but it is generally thought it will not do. ...'

[1761?]. Ralph Smyth [of Glananea] to Ralph Smyth.

'... You will find by the paper a third Rochfort set up for Westmeath. What is to become of this country [*sic* – county]? I had almost said it is no matter. The county of Cavan is not like to have as much trouble as expected, for Lord Lanesborough is given over – at the point of death. Lord Newtown[butler, his son] rode all night to overtake him alive. ...'

## CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH SMYTH WITH OTHER SMYTHS

MS 41,593/3

1762–5

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Ralph of Glananea. The folder includes:

20 June 1762. Ralph Smyth [of Glananea] to Ralph Smyth. Mr Clements expects 23 years' purchase for the lands of Kilpatrick, near Mullingar, which belong to the Tighe family of Mitchelstown.

19 Oct. 1762. Ralph Smyth [of Glananea] to Ralph Smyth about another [Westmeath?] estate for which 23 years' purchase is asked.

24 Nov. 1762. Ralph Smyth [of Glananea] to Ralph Smyth.

'... I hear, but I don't know how true it is, that Tom's [Thomas Smyth of Drumcree] Wicklow estate will be sold, exclusive of the mines, for 22 years' purchase. If this is true (which I will find out), you cannot do so well, I believe, anywhere. The tenants pay their rents as they become due. ...'

30 Nov. 1762. Copy of a letter from Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla, to Ralph Smyth expressing willingness to give 22 years' purchase for this Wicklow estate, if the title is good.

[Post 30 Nov. 1762.] Ralph Smyth [of Glananea] to Ralph Smyth.

'... I find on enquiry my information relative to the Wicklow estate was wrong, and as I know your proposal would not by any means do, I need not mention it. Whaley had partly agreed with Bagenal for his estate, but as he contended for some trifle, the Duke of Bedford sent over and gave £2,000 more. Whaley has lost his purchase ...'.

31 Jan. 1764. Ralph Smyth to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla: 'I am sorry Darcy and you are not likely to agree ... . They keep up to 26 years' purchase, but I have known of several purchases lately at 23 and at most 24 years'. ... He let these lands some time since for £50 a year more than they are now set for, and the tenants threw them up to him. What they say for that is, that a parcel of papists took them over the head of a widow, and that the priest made them throw them up, that she might have them again. ...'

22 Nov. 1765. Ralph Smyth [of Glananea] to Ralph Smyth.

'... The House is at present busied about the supplies, and Sir William Osborne and Mr Flood are the only people that make a figure there. ...'

[Post 14 Dec. 1765.] Copy of a letter from Ralph Smyth [of Barbavilla] to Ralph Smyth.

'... I should ... have told you that I hear Mr [Thomas] Conolly is going to sell all his Westmeath estate, and particularly Taghmon, and am told he will sell them reasonable [*sic*]. ... They are all fine lands, the best titles [and] well secured rents ..., for the rents were fined down when lands were set at 4 and 5 shillings per acre, and perhaps some of these me [*sic* – may] suit you ...'

MS 41,593/4

1766–8

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Ralph of Glananea. The folder includes:

## CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH SMYTH WITH OTHER SMYTHS

17 Jan. 1767. Ralph Smyth of Glananea to Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla.

‘... I think Conolly has treated me ill. He has got a fellow to value the lands I had a mind for and to survey them. His survey is 30 acres more than his own surveyor made them in 1748, and his valuation is £350 a year for that which is only £150 a year now and can’t be more these 12 years, and even for this rise he asks 26 years’ purchase, which comes to £7,500. Say nothing, however, of this to any person whatever. ...’

[Post 14 Mar. 1767.] Copy of a letter from Ralph Smyth [of Barbavilla] to Ralph Smyth of Glananea about a tutor.

‘... I am extremely glad to have heard of Mr Rogers, the person who takes care of Lady Longford’s sons, as he is the very properest man I ever met with for my cousin Will’s purpose, being a very good scholar, bred in a university, and a very mild, sensible, civil, ingenious man ..., and has taken very good care of the learning of the two little boys under him, who are as fond of him as if he were their playfellow. They have made a very great progress for their years, though they are wild and unrestrained by their parents. ... He is I believe turned of thirty. I have often seen him at church, but I am told he is a presbyterian and sometimes preaches at a meeting house near Longford. As for having lived in a nobleman’s family, I did not perceive it to have exalted him. ...’

26 Mar. 1768. Ralph Smyth of Glananea to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla.

‘... If reports are true, we have ruined ourselves in Westmeath by fixing on Mr M[alone]. He is so obnoxious to many people that, had any other person been thought of, we might have succeeded, but here are three L[or]ds and a number of others so much against him that the two brothers [the Rochforts] are sure of coming in again. I never will give up my judgement again to any man or number of men. Lord B[elveder]e has taken in Dean H[andcock] by assuring him the independent interest was a popish faction. ...’

On the inside is a rough copy of Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla’s reply: ‘... If the Lords have confederated to try to rivet shackles on our county, what will that avail when all the gentlemen unite heart and hand to oppose them. But, suppose you had set up Mon[c]k or any other, would that have relieved us, for still Malone would have been set up by the rest of the gentlemen, he having a much superior interest among them to the other or any other. Again, consider the effect on the Lords. One, in order to wreak his vengeance on one man, will try to hurt all his friends and acquaintance in his neighbourhood, and in all probability lose his favourite point in the neighbouring county; and the other is but where he was before, if not worse. As to Handcock, Sir Richard L[evin]g[e] hinted to me at Mullingar why he would not go with M[alone], which is the true cause and not as Lord B. artfully insinuates, viz. that it is a popish party. Besides, you know Monck declared he would only spend £400 or £500, and that would not do; and pray, who was there that would or could spend more? Then, had you not acted [i.e. did you not act] on right principles, for you believed at the time what you did was most expedient to be done, and so did every other gentleman there, even Lord L[ongford], if his resentment would have let him do it. ...’

[Late Mar. 1768.] Ralph Smyth of Glananea to Ralph of Barbavilla.

‘... The last time I dined with you, your father and you were more sanguine for setting up two candidates than even I was, but at the meeting you had changed your opinions (overruled by the opinion of one man, which was Mr M[alone] himself, I believe). I own, I was for two, and if it had been made appear that it was more eligible to set up one, then the one should be set up who had the greatest probability of success. Monck appears to me to be that man ...:’

## CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH SMYTH WITH OTHER SMYTHS

he had Lord Gr[anar]d, Lord L[ongfor]d, the Bishop of Meath and (they say) Dean H[andcoc]k. M[alone?] would have gone with him, whereas these are all piqued at M[alon]e and therefore (to their shame) are against him. For, indeed, on such occasions everything private should be given up; and when I wrote to you, I was truly incensed, being assured by some of our own party that all was lost by our own blunders. However little I am interested in these matters, I am really a true Patriot and was grieved and vexed that our county should fail of throwing off so scandalous a yoke when so glorious an opportunity offered. I am since encouraged to hope better things. Mr M[alon]e has been in the country for a few days and I am told has returned very secure and snug. As to G[eorg]e R[o]ch[for]t, we may be sure of him for one voice. The other he gives to Lord B[elfiel]d. But the sense of the generality of the independents seems to be to give single voices to M[alon]e. ...'

MS 41,593/5  
1769–70

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Ralph of Glananea. The folder includes:

16 Nov. 1769. Ralph of Glananea to Ralph of Barbavilla.

'... The petition against Malone is dropped. ...' He outlines the enormously generous terms which it is rumoured have been offered to Speaker Ponsonby, Lord Shannon and Attorney-General [Tisdall] to induce them to support the Augmentation.

30 Nov. 1769. Ralph of Glananea to Ralph of Barbavilla.

'... You have heard long since that the Augmentation Bill passed. There were 175 to 51. The Duke of Leinster and Lord Loftus's party were all that were against it. The Lord Lieutenant offered the Duke to name anything he could grant, but was answered that he would not accept of anything in his power to give. It is said nothing but being appointed lord deputy will satisfy him. The Lord Lieutenant has informed all those that have places that, if they do not get into parliament, they shall be turned out. This is very hard, as many of them are not worth as much as will purchase a seat. Malone is everything with him, and it's generally believed will name the sheriff [for Co. Westmeath]. However, all Lord Belvedere's friends went with the Court on the late question. The Patriots are very angry and have passed a bill laying a tax upon English beer. ...'

9 Dec. 1769. Ralph of Glananea to Ralph of Barbavilla.

'... Contested elections take up all our time. The Galway election came on a Wednesday and was carried by Mr Trench, though Lord [Dunkellin] has above 200 majority. But it is said my Lord had given Mr D[al]y (the other knight of the shire) £1,900 to give him his interest. However, it is said the freeholders will be allowed to petition in 14 days if they think themselves aggrieved. On Thursday the Atherdee petition came on and was carried in favour of the Ruxtons against Tisdall and Sibthorpe by a majority of 45. It was remarkable that the unsuccessful gentlemen had this number on all their cockades and ribbons. It proved to them an unfortunate number. Yesterday the Cavan petition came on. Pratt, the petitioner, seemed to have it hollow and I believe will turn out Montgomery, but there was so much to do it was adjourned till Monday. ... Your Cousin Hussey [Walter Hussey Burgh] is really the most rising genius we have, and will make a great figure in parliament. ...'

## CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH SMYTH WITH OTHER SMYTHS

21 Dec. 1769. Ralph of Glananea to Ralph Smith, Barbavilla.

‘... Tuesday night put an end to the Cavan contest. There was bribery proved on one side and a riot on the other, which disqualifies both, and they are ordered to a new election. This will be a fine, expensive affair. ...’ All the indications are that the Lord Lieutenant is planning a sudden dissolution.

MS 41,593/6

1771

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Ralph of Glananea.

MS 41,593/7

1772

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Ralph of Glananea.

MS 41,593/8

1773–4

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Ralph of Glananea, some of the later ones about negotiations [for the marriage of Ralph of Barbavilla’s daughter, Barbara, to John Cooke of Cookeborough, Mullingar – see MS 41,568/2 and MS 41,597/1].

MS 41,593/9

1775–82

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Ralph of Glananea. The folder includes:

6 May 1776. Ralph of Glananea to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla.

‘In my last I informed you of the situation of poor Malone and am sorry to say now that he grows worse and there are no hopes of his recovery. The opinion of him is such that many are already canvassing for the county – his nephew, Monck and Reynell and I believe more. The notion men of [*sic* – have] got that nothing is necessary but having a good fortune in a county, has set all these people mad, and this great mistake will absolutely place the present candidate in his seat; for, divisions are all he wishes. I know but one remedy in order to preserve the independency of the county, and it is this. It is very plain they are all jealous of the Smyths’ interest, and at least imagine they have as good a right. They will of course divide and ruin themselves. Now, if a man is proposed who has no interest of his own and whose abilities and integrity are allowed by all parties, let all unite and support that man. You will easily guess I mean Hans Wood, and I think this only scheme for the liberty of Westmeath very practicable. My brother dined here on Sunday and I mentioned it to him. He did not appear to disapprove of it and I threw it out yesterday before others, and indeed I had it in my head to put in an advertisement in the paper somewhat to the purpose, but judged it premature whilst the poor man lives. Do not you think it would be well done in you to sound Mr Wood, and have Lord Longford’s sense of it. I venture to give it under my hand, if more than one set up, we have absolutely done with it. ...’

25 Nov. 1781. Ralph of Glananea to Ralph of Barbavilla.

‘... I cannot longer refrain from telling you a matter relative to my own family ... . My son has lost his heart and has disposed of it to Miss Loftus, daughter of Tom Loftus of Killyon. The young lady has from everybody a most amiable character, has been religiously and prudently brought up, has every *necessary* accomplishment, and (though not a large) has a

## CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH SMYTH WITH OTHER SMYTHS

handsome fortune. I have been to see her and she appears to me every way calculated to make him happy. She is not a beauty, but agreeable, [and] is only 19, a proper age for him. Nothing could be concluded to be sure in a matter of this kind without his mother's approbation. She therefore went there yesterday ... . [She] is just returned and finds no fault but that the young lady has not seen anything of the world, which is true. ...'

16 Oct. 1782. Ralph of Glananea to Ralph of Barbavilla.

'... Could I have found out anything for the advantage or satisfaction of my friends of Barbavilla, I should not have been silent. I have not ceased to make every possible enquiry about civil employments, commissions, etc, etc, for the boys, but hitherto without effect. Seeing a few weeks ago "a genteel military employment to be sold", I went to Sir William Montgomery's and found it to be *no genteel employment* and a monstrous extravagant price asked for a commissary's place (only 9 shillings and sixpence a day). ...' [For a letter which may relate to this hunt for a 'genteel employment', see under MS 41,603/1.]

MS 41,593/10

1783–6

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Ralph of Glananea. Those of 1783 mainly relate to a successful negotiation to purchase for Ralph of Barbavilla's son, James, a commission which Lord Altamont's 'mad' brother is willing to sell below the regulation price, and to 'Pollard's' somewhat half-hearted candidature for Co. Westmeath, in which he is supported by Lord Longford and the Pollard family. There are also letters of 1783–4 about some election committee, almost certainly for Co. Westmeath, the outcome of which seems to Ralph of Glananea to be unpromising.

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MS 41,594/1

1754–6

Three letters to Ralph Smyth from his wife, Frances.

MS 41,594/2

1784

Two letters to Ralph Smyth from [his second son], Ralph Smyth 'of Drogheda'.

MS 41,594/3

1750–63

Letters to Ralph Smyth from his cousin, Ralph Smyth of Fieldtown [elder son and heir of Archdeacon James Smyth and ancestor of the Smyths of Gaybrook, Co. Westmeath], some of them about a lawsuit or threatened lawsuit between them over their shared inheritance from their uncle, Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn, c.1758.

MS 41,594/4

1755–6

Letters to Ralph Smyth from his 'cousin', Thomas Smyth of Drumcree, some of them about Ralph Smyth's application to parliament for money to make a canal to or through Co. Westmeath.



## CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH SMYTH WITH OTHER SMYTHS

MS 41,594/5

1758–77

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Thomas of Drumcree and Thomas's son and successor, William Smyth of Drumcree. [See also MS 41,573/7.]

MS 41,594/6

c.1777–1783

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Thomas of Drumcree, including one from [Thomas's younger brother], Robert.

MS 41,594/7

1756–60

Letters to Ralph Smyth from [his cousin], Edward [second son of Archdeacon James Smyth].

MS 41,594/8

1761–9

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. James Smyth, Allenstown, [Co. Meath?].

MS 41,594/9

1763

Letters to Ralph Smyth from his cousin, Currell Smyth, Almoritia.

MS 41,594/10

1774: N.D.

Letters to Ralph Smyth from his cousin, William Smyth of Archerstown. The folder includes:

'Saturday night' [Nov. 1774?]. William Smyth to Ralph Smyth.

'Since I saw you, I have been to see Mr Wood. So averse is he to any such idea as you mention, that he declares that, were he sure of success, he would stand for no place at his time of life. ... My father has written to me to know whether I would or would not stand for the county, adding that, if I should answer in the negative, he would take measures accordingly. ... I must ... endeavour to persuade him not to engage hastily to any particular person. Mr Wood seems to think that young Malone is the person most likely to make the best push. Many gentlemen have been so kind as to think of me upon this occasion ..., but I have many weighty reasons not to embark in it. ...'

22 Nov. 1774. William Smyth, Dublin, to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla.

He has '... I trust, a well grounded confidence that you would not desert me in an affair in which I, and I only, am personally concerned. The point I aspire to is, I will confess, one of my most favourite objects and an honour which one of our name has I think a right to contend for. At the time I called to see you, I wished to tell you my mind upon an error that many gentlemen who wish well to independency have fallen into upon this juncture. They generally agree that Lord Belvedere has a claim to the returning of one friend. They do not seem to consider that in all probability the present vacancy in Westmeath will not be filled till the general election. If then (upon the grounds just mentioned) they pledge themselves to Mr G. Rochfort, mark the result. Upon the dissolution of the parliament, Lord Belvedere tells

## CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH SMYTH WITH OTHER SMYTHS

them, “Gentlemen, you admit my pretensions to the returning of *one*. I therefore offer you my brother. Mr G. Rochfort has set up on his own ground. Act by him as you think fit.” But they have promised Mr G. Rochfort already and cannot recede. So they are saddled again with a pair of Rochforts. ... I am determined to stand forth, as I am most fully convinced that this is the trap which is laid for us. ...’

29 Nov. 1774. William Smyth to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla.

‘... It is my ambition to unite with my natural connections. Harmony in the different branches of a family renders it happy and respectable in itself and of weight and consequence in the world. .... As to declarations, I know the gentleman you mention can declare fast enough. But what signifies a man without interest in the country [*sic*], either freehold or personal, without ability, and without any weight but what he derives from his lady’s family, which is the only thing that ought to render him suspicious. I see you understand the whole drift of Rochfort’s designs. As for me, you may be assured I shall do what is fair and submit my pretensions to the gentlemen of the country. ...’

MS 41,594/11

c.1785

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and [his second cousin], Ralph Smyth of Gaybrook, partly about a lawsuit which a Dr Low has started against Ralph of Gaybrook.

MS 41,594/12

1751: 1755: 1763–83

Correspondence of Ralph Smyth with other members of the Smyth family.

MS 41,594/13

1781–9

Correspondence of or about Cornet James Smyth of the 5th Dragoons, wayward third son of Ralph Smyth. The folder includes:

[1782–3]. Copy of a letter from Ralph Smyth to ‘Dear Madam’ about the disadvantages of seeking a commission in one of the new fencible regiments. ‘... I find that the officer must raise the men at his own expense, all to [*sic* – but] £3 per man given him by government, and these men cannot be raised, as I am informed, under 10 guineas each, men are so very scarce, occasioned by the late demand for to supply the 20,000. I find also that he must keep his number always complete at his own expense in case of desertion or death ... . The expense of raising the men, with the keeping their number complete, will be nearly equal to the price of a commission in the standing army, which is always permanent and can be sold for what it cost, or else get half pay. But what is laid out on the fencible commission is all lost on being broke. For these reasons, I think it would not be prudent for my sons to lay out so much of their small capital, which will in a few years be totally lost to them ...’.

## XXII CORRESPONDENCE OF RALPH SMYTH WITH HIS OTHER MAJOR CORRESPONDENTS

MS 41,595–41,597  
1769–85

Box of letters to Ralph Smyth from Capt. J.D. Alcock and family, the Rev. Roger Blackall and John and Richard Cooke. [Ralph Smyth's daughter, Barbara, married John Cooke of Cookesborough, Mullingar, in 1774.]

MS 41,595/1  
c.1769–1770

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Capt. John Dor[mer?] Alcock [an army officer whose mother, née Burgh, was Smyth's cousin], Granard and Dawson Street, Dublin.

MS 41,595/2  
1771

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and Alcock, Dawson Street and Charles Fort [Kinsale, Co. Cork].

MS 41,595/3  
1772

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and Alcock, Charles Fort and Dawson Street.

MS 41,595/4  
1773

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and Alcock, Dawson Street.

MS 41,595/5  
1775–9

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and Alcock, Boston (Massachusetts) and Dawson Street.

MS 41,595/6  
1781–2

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and Alcock, Dawson Street and Warrington.

MS 41,595/7  
1783–6

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and Alcock, Whitehaven and Dublin.

MS 41,595/8  
c.1773–1780

Letters to Ralph Smyth from [the Rev. Dr] John Alcock and his wife, Katherine [née Burgh; m.1744; parents of J.D. Alcock] and other members of the Alcock family. Mrs Alcock subscribes herself as of Smyth's cousin.

## RALPH SMYTH'S OTHER MAJOR CORRESPONDENTS

MS 41,595/9

c.1773–1780

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Katherine Alcock, plus one from George Alcock, Dublin.

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MS 41,596/1

1769–70

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Wilson's Hospital [Multyfarnham, Co. Westmeath], and Clough, Co. Down.

MS 41,596/2

1771

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough.

MS 41,596/3

1772

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough.

MS 41,596/4

1773

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough.

MS 41,596/5

1774

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough, and Taghmon, [Co. Westmeath].

MS 41,596/6

1775

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough.

MS 41,596/7

1776

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough.

MS 41,596/8

1777

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough.

MS 41,596/9

1778

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough and N.P.

## RALPH SMYTH'S OTHER MAJOR CORRESPONDENTS

MS 41,596/10

1779

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough.

MS 41,596/11

1780

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough and Tollymore Park.

MS 41,596/12

1781

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough.

MS 41,596/13

Jan.–June 1782

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough.

MS 41,596/14

July–Dec. 1782

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough.

MS 41,596/15

1783

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, Clough, Newry and St Andrew's (Newtownards).

MS 41,596/16

Feb.–Aug. 1784

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, St Andrew's.

MS 41,596/17

Sep.–Nov. 1784

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, St Andrew's.

MS 41,596/18

1785

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, St Andrew's and Dublin.

MS 41,596/19

1786

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, St Andrew's.

MS 41,596/20

1787

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, St Andrew's.

## RALPH SMYTH'S OTHER MAJOR CORRESPONDENTS

MS 41,596/21

1788–9

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall, St Andrew's.

MS 41,596/22

N.D.

Undated correspondence between Smyth and the Rev. Roger Blackall.

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MS 41,597/1

1774–9

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and Richard and John Cooke of Cookesborough. John Cooke, son and heir of Richard, married Smyth's daughter, Barbara, in 1774, and the earliest letters are about the negotiations over the settlement.

MS 41,597/2

1780

Correspondence of Ralph Smyth with the Cookes, mainly with his son-in-law, John, about Lord Belvedere's review of the Moycashel Volunteers, an affray involving the Mullingar Volunteers, a by-election for Co. Kildare at which John Wolfe of Forenaghts [a Burgh connection] is a candidate, a negotiation between Smyth and the Digby family over the proposed marriage of John Digby and Smyth's daughter, etc. '... John Digby is willing to settle a hundred per annum present maintenance for every thousand which he shall receive, and the like for jointure, but must have at least £3,000 now deposited, and will not settle any certain addition on his father's death because it will hinder his showing his generosity to his son. ...'

MS 41,597/3

1781

Correspondence of Ralph Smyth with the Cookes.

MS 41,597/4

1782

Correspondence of Ralph Smyth with the Cookes, among other things about Smyth's Abbey Street, Dublin, property and its development. The folder also includes:

22 June 1782. Copy of a letter from Ralph Smyth to John Cooke.

'... Mr [Walter Hussey] Burgh, from his abilities and integrity, will no doubt make an able and an upright judge, and his country will lose an extraordinary good statesman and a great orator in senate. As for Lord Shannon's loss of Lord Tracton's estate, I do not repine at it, for I think he has more already than he uses for the advantage of his country, as he uniformly throws all his weight into the government scale. I most heartily wish, as you do, that the university corporation was disfranchised. It is my firm belief that there are few things [which] add so much to their dissipation, immorality and idleness, for it throws them into faction and politics, very unfit things for students to disturb ... their minds with, far from the natural love of justice and honesty in young [men], they are always too zealous and warm in

## RALPH SMYTH'S OTHER MAJOR CORRESPONDENTS

their pursuit of justice, and of consequence grow too violent in their opposition for want of the ballast of the more mature age ... . As to Mr Parsons and Mr Browne, I am equally [a] stranger to their merit, but my inclination would rather bias me *ceteris paribus* to one of and in the society. I own, in my present sentiments, I think Mr Flood has been on the right side of the argument against Mr Grattan ... . I cannot say I think Ponsonby an eligible Speaker. Mr Brownlow should have my voice in preference, for many strong reasons. ...'

MS 41,597/5

1783

Correspondence of Ralph Smyth with the Cookes.

MS 41,597/6

1784–5

Correspondence of Ralph Smyth with the Cookes.

**XXIII RALPH SMYTH'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHERS,  
ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED**

MS 41,598/1–35

1750–84

Box of letters to Ralph Smyth from other named correspondents, alphabetically arranged.

MS 41,598/1

1777–8: 1784

Letters to Ralph Smyth from J[ohn] M[iddleton] Berry, tenant of Killeline, Co. Westmeath, and the rent he owes Ralph Smyth. [Documents fragile and torn. See also TCD, MS 11,198/5/4.]

MS 41,598/2

1750–74

Letters to Ralph Smyth from James and Michael Clarke [MS 41,585/6], principally the latter (who writes about the death and will of William Conolly junior, 1754, the Corn Bill and Conolly Estate Bill, 1766, and 'the Castle' market for eligible young ladies, 1774). The rest of the letters are about family news and Smyth lawsuits and estate business. The folder includes:

15 Jan. 1754. Michael Clarke, Dublin, to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla, about the death of William Conolly, '... who to me as well as many others is a most irreparable loss, though I must confess he died (in regard to me) a friend in the same way that he lived, and you'll judge that I have reason to say so when I tell you that he left me £500 a year, as also one of his executors and guardian to his children, with his house and demesne at Mount Vernon during his son's minority, and further directed that a letter should be wrote to the corporation of Ballyshannon to desire that I should be his successor in parliament. These are instances of his firm attachment to me and my interest, yet his life was more valuable to me than all the honours he could have conferred upon me. ...'

4 Jan. 1766. Michael Clarke to Ralph Smyth.

'... I suppose you have heard of the debates that have been in the House of Commons about the Corn Bill, which was altered in England by giving the King and Council there a suspending power, which irritated our Irish Commoners not a little. However, numbers carried it, though a motion was made for rejecting it, and of course was sent to the Lords for their concurrence. Their protest upon that occasion I now enclose to you [not found], which will give you a further light into the whole of that affair. I was not able to attend at the debate, nor was I on any of the divisions in consequence of it. Mr [Thomas] Conolly was in the minority. ... Mr Conolly is getting an act of parliament to enable him to sell some estates for the payment of his sisters' fortunes, his father's and his own debts. I believe Meath, Westmeath and Roscommon will be sold. Is there anything in the former or Westmeath worth your notice?'

29 Jan. 1774. Michael Clarke, Dublin, to Ralph Smyth chiding him for his failure to give his daughters their chance in the '[Dublin] Castle market, where there has been a greater number of the female sex [at] the Queen's Birthday [ball] than has been known for many years. The Castle, you must judge from thence, was extremely brilliant, and why would you not make it



**RALPH SMYTH'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHERS, ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED**

more so by the addition of those who, by their genteel education and behaviour (and the fortune[s] you intend them), add to the number?’

MS 41,598/3

1758–70

Letters to Ralph Smyth from John Cooley, Barbavilla, who seems now to be the full-time steward there, about farm and estate business.

MS 41,598/4

1756–c.1778

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Elizabeth Barbara Crofton, later [c.1760] the wife of Matthias Earbery. [For her foregoing letters, see MS 41,586/21.]

MS 41,598/5

1757–64

Letters to Ralph Smyth from other members of the Crofton family, including Elizabeth’s mother, Susanna.

MS 41,598/6

1773

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Thomas Cruice, Barbavilla [where he seems to have succeeded John Cooley as steward?].

MS 41,598/7

1774

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Thomas Cruice, Barbavilla.

MS 41,598/8

1775–8

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Thomas Cruice, Barbavilla.

MS 41,598/9

1779–80

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Thomas Cruice, Barbavilla.

MS 41,598/10

1781–3

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Thomas Cruice, Barbavilla.

MS 41,598/11

1766–70

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and Matthias Earbery, Merrion Street (Dublin) and Bath, about the money granted by parliament for the building of churches (1766), bog-drainage (1767), etc.

**RALPH SMYTH'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHERS, ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED**

MS 41,598/12

1771–9

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and Matthias Earbery, Merrion Street, Bellevue [Delgany, Co. Wicklow?], and Wicklow town.

MS 41,598/13

1758–77

Letters to Ralph Smyth from his Echlin cousins, principally J[ohn] Echlin, Stephen's Green.

MS 41,598/14

1769–80

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Dr F. Hammer, Dublin, Mullingar, Chester, etc, with some associated correspondence. It appears that Hammer, who had been working in Jamaica, was brought back to Ireland by promises of employment which were not fulfilled.

MS 41,598/15

1776–83

Letters to Ralph Smyth from John Kells, Dublin, about Kells' wish to pay his addresses to Smyth's eldest daughter, and about patronage requests of Kells in regard to residence in TCD, obtaining a living in the Church or a TCD fellowship, etc.

MS 41,598/16

1754–65

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Mary Ledwidge [the housekeeper?], Dublin.

MS 41,598/17

1766–9

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Mary Ledwidge.

MS 41,598/18

1770–78

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Mary Ledwidge.

MS 41,598/19

1772–4

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Henry Levy, Barbavilla. He reports in March 1772 that 'Jack Cooley is sober'; perhaps he succeeded as steward, prior to the appointment of Thomas Cruice, because Cooley did not stay that way.

MS 41,598/20

c.1770–73

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Elizabeth McEvoy about his lodgings in Dublin and minor errands she has run for him. In 1770, she writes: 'as I'm to get a lease for my house in Grafton Street for 47 years at £40 a year with taxes, and as McEvoy is a Roman, it must be taken in trust for me', and she wants Smyth to be the trustee.

**RALPH SMYTH'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHERS, ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED**

MS 41,598/21

1750–52

Letters to Ralph Smyth from the Smyths' man of business in London, David Murphy [MS 41,589/19–20], with numerous references to the failing health of Smyth's uncle [Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn].

MS 41,598/22

1753

Letters to Ralph Smyth from David Murphy, London, partly about Ralph Smyth of Gray's Inn's dispositions in favour of Smyth.

MS 41,598/23

1754–8

Letters to Ralph Smyth from David Murphy, London.

MS 41,598/24

1761–74

Correspondence between Ralph Smyth and David Murphy, London, Dublin, Bath and Killarney. He is in Killarney because he is associated with Lord Kenmare and Counsellor Rice 'in carrying on the linen manufacture ... at least as far as spinning of yarns and making of coarse linens can carry it'. The rest of the correspondence is about Smyth legal and financial business, including some dispute between 'Cousin Ralph [of Fieldtown]' and Lord Bath.

MS 41,598/25

c.1761–9

Letters to Ralph Smyth from John Nugent, Clonlost (Co. Westmeath) and Dublin, about minor matters of business.

MS 41,598/26

1753

Letter to Ralph Smyth from Sa[rah] Povey [a cousin on his mother's side], Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

MS 41,598/27

1761–9

Letters to Ralph Smyth from the Rev. James Sheridan, Wilson's Hospital [Multyfarnham, Co. Westmeath] and Farra Charter School, about dinner arrangements and the affairs of those two institutions. [For the charter school, see also MS 41,573/12 and MS 41,589/18.]

MS 41,598/28

1770–77: N.D.

Letters to Ralph Smyth from the Ref. James Sheridan.

**RALPH SMYTH'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHERS, ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED**

MS 41,598/29

1752–72

Letters to Ralph Smyth from the Rev. Francis Thompson, Killibandrick (Cavan), Belturbet, 'Clonin' [*sic* – Clonyn, Delvin, Co. Westmeath], about the failure of a clergyman to turn up at Drumcree to officiate (1759), about tithe-defaulters at Collinstown (1772), about mortgages, leases and purchases of land, and about a gardener for Barbavilla (1762). The folder includes:

4 March 1761. The Rev. Francis Thompson to Ralph Smyth.

'Mr Smyth of Drumcree has acquainted me with his design to erect a town and establish the linen manufacture at Archerstown. I have sent him ... very proper and effectual instructions for the manufacture. They are the result of several consultations with Mr Newburgh and an other very skilful man. These persons are perfectly acquainted with the linen manufacture in Holland, England and Ireland ...'.

16 Sep. 1761. The Rev. Francis Thompson, Belturbet, to Ralph Smyth.

'Upon my application Mr Saunderson, I found that he had changed his resolution with respect to the sale of part of his estate. He has formed a scheme of vesting £1,000 a year of it in trustees for the payment of his debts, and intends to borrow a large sum on a mortgage to discharge the demands of his importunate creditors. If you would choose to lend your money on a mortgage on his estate, I am sure he will fully satisfy you as to the security, and this would be a good step towards making a purchase, for notwithstanding his present scheme of frugality, I am persuaded he will be obliged to sell. ...' At the bottom is a copy of Ralph Smyth's reply, in which he says that he does 'not choose to deal in mortgages, but if any other purchase should happen to come to your knowledge, you will oblige me in letting me hear from you about it. ... 'Tis with great pleasure I hear in the country you have positively fixed at Clonin, and entreat whilst you are getting up your furniture there this winter, you, Mrs Thompson and your little ones will come here, where you may be at hand to order and settle everything to your satisfaction ...'.

14 Oct. 1761. The Rev. Francis Thompson, Belturbet, to Ralph Smyth gratefully declining his invitation. '... We stayed a night at Bobs Grove on our return home, where I made an agreement with Mr Nugent for Clonin, subject to the determination of Lord Westmeath. His Lordship has since signified his approbation. ... I am to pay £10 a year for the dwelling-house, slated offices and hopyard garden, and 35s. per acre for the horse-pool park, an excellent piece of ground of about 6 acres enclosed with a wall. ... I shall be tolerably well accommodated in turf [words illegible], of which there is a good quantity at Clonin House that my Lord has consented to give me. ... I do not despair of your making a purchase in Castle Saunderson estate, as I find upon enquiry he has no prospect of borrowing the money where he expected it. ...'

3 Mar. 1762. The Rev. Francis Thompson, to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla.

'... When your messenger arrived, I was at Castle Saunderson, where I was told Mr Saunderson had received notice that Malone's Bank would immediately foreclose their mortgage on his estate and proceed to sell it, if their demand, which is now £4,000, was not forthwith paid. ... I went this morning to Mr Saunderson and represented to him the great difficulty of finding a lender or purchaser as the Funds had swallowed up most of the cash of the kingdom, adding that a public sale would be attended with heavy expenses and considerable loss in the rate of purchase. He told me he was fully convinced of the truth of

## RALPH SMYTH'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHERS, ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED

what I had said ... . I am sorry I cannot at present give you a satisfactory account of the manor of Ashfield. All I now know it is that it extends from [within] about four miles of Ballyhaise to a bridge very near Cootehill, that Mr Clements has a determinable lease of it from Mr Ashe, that Mr Clements has set a good deal of it at an high rent, but has not given leases. You may easily know from Mr Ashe if he would sell the fee of it, and what the nature of Mr Clements's lease is. ... I think it is very probable that Mr Saunderson will sell, and upon reasonable terms, as there is but one gentleman in this country who could purchase from him, but he, from domestic reasons, will not lay out his money in that way. If you cannot make an advantageous bargain with Mr Saunderson, I recommend it to you to attend the sales in Dublin, where you cannot fail of getting one, as Malone's Bank will shortly sell several estates now under mortgage to them, and you know there are at this juncture very few purchasers in the kingdom. ...'

MS 41,598/30

1750–68

Letters to Ralph Smyth from John Thomson, Johnstown and Parcellstown [in continuation of MS 41,589/38].

MS 41,598/31

1754: 1765–84.

Letters to Ralph Smyth from W. Thomson, his wife, Elizabeth, and his son, Christian, London. W. Thomson describes himself as Ralph Smyth's uncle, and employed Ralph Smyth to receive his rents from May 1750 to May 1754. W. Thomson writes about 'the Dublin tontine' (1777); Mrs Thomson is in receipt of an annuity of £72 from Smyth. The folder includes:

20 May 1777. W. Thomson, London, to Ralph Smyth about the Irish tontine.

'... I have been with Allen, Marlow & Co., and received from them pretty much the same answer as from Brown & Collison on the other scheme, which was that they never have had a list of the fallen lives of the Dublin tontine, but when they *do* receive such list, it is to come to them from Ireland from the committee or their appointed officer, who are the parties from whom all information relative to the tontine is to obtained, as there are no means on foot *here* to procure any such intelligence as I wanted; that they had heard the day I applied of one life having fallen in the *two-life scheme*, viz. Susannah Barnsley, and this only by *report* and not *officially*, and that it was the first they had yet heard of. Brown & Collison expected a list of the lives that have fallen in the other scheme, in a few months, as already mentioned but these gentlemen could not say when they should receive any such list, and in short did not appear to me to be very solicitous about it, looking on it as a matter that concerned the corporation, not themselves, as doubtless it is. I observe that the printed scheme, signed by the *town clerk*, promises that lists of the *surviving* annuitants in each class, etc, shall be printed and delivered to each annuitant *half-yearly*, and if they have not yet been able to do this satisfactorily, according to their engagement, I am afraid it will be impossible for an individual to fall on any reasonable method to accomplish it. Indeed, the corporation might possibly, on application to parliament, by means of parish registers, the collectors of land and window tax, etc, etc, by obliging the officers, etc, concerned to make a return, come at the knowledge of many of the lives that fall in these kingdoms, but for all others and even many of these at home they must ever be liable to imposition.'

**RALPH SMYTH'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHERS, ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED**

MS 41,598/32

1759–71

Letters to Ralph Smyth from William Waller, Allenstown, Co. Meath [in continuation of MS 41,589/39], about the state of the harvest, lands in Meath which Smyth wants to rent, etc.

MS 41,598/33

1773–81

Letters to Ralph Smyth from William Waller, Allenstown and Rookwood, near Roscommon.

MS 41,598/34

1764–77: N.D.: 1789

Letters to Ralph Smyth from other Wallers, Robert (William's son), Leonora (William's wife?), and Anna (the Wallers' daughter, who subscribes herself as Smyth's niece). The last letters relate to a suit between the Wallers and the Crown over property.

MS 41,598/35

c.1763–1769

Letters to Ralph Smyth from Hans Wood, Rosmead and Abbey Street (Dublin) [in continuation of MS 41,589/41], about legal and local government business.

**XXIV RALPH SMYTH'S MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE,  
CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED**

MS 41,599/1–19

1745–86

Box of letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents, arranged in folders more-or-less chronologically.

MS 41,599/1

1745–56

Miscellaneous correspondence of Ralph Smyth, chronologically arranged, including a draft of a letter from him to 'Dear Sir' 'relative to the schemes for inland navigation between Dublin and the Shannon'.

MS 41,599/2

1761–2

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents, including one Jeremy Digby (10 April 1762) about the debts (totalling £8,276) of 'Mr Edgworth'.

MS 41,599/3

1763–4

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents, some of them about his proposed purchase of Judge D'Arcy's ['Judge' is a christian name] Co. Longford estate.

MS 41,599/4

1765–6

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents about roads and estate business. The folder also includes:

22 Dec. 1766. [The 1st Duke of] Leinster, Carton, to Ralph Smyth thanking him for congratulations on the dukedom and stating that he remembers '... very well the trees which you mention to have been here, but notwithstanding frequent orders (to different gardeners) to propagate from those trees, which are now no more, as I have changed the situation of the garden, the kind is entirely lost either through idleness or conceit. But I think I have got one [gardener] now who will do all in his power to preserve the fine tree which you were so kind as to send and whatever young ones you are so obliging as to send at another time. Your goodness in restoring to me so fine a cherry, and of the name of this place, ... I look upon ... as a very high obligation.'

MS 41,599/5

1767

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents about estate business. The folder also includes:

**RALPH SMYTH'S MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE, CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED**

20 Nov. 1767. The Duke of Leinster, Carton, to Ralph Smyth thanking him for his offer, as a freeholder of the city of Dublin to support Leinster's son, Lord Kildare, in the current by-election.

'... [I] beg that you will be in town as soon as conveniently you can, for the bribery and undue influence that is [*sic*] made use of by Mr Latouche and his friends is not to be paralleled in any election that ever was in Dublin. ... I should not have thought of setting up my son for the city of Dublin if it had not been desired by so great a number of the corporation that I could not refuse it, when called upon by so respectable a body of independent freemen, etc, which I shall always look upon as the greatest honour that ever was conferred upon me, and yet the means made use of by the other side makes it almost an even chance who will be successful. ...'

MS 41,599/6

1768–9

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents about estate business and the malicious cutting of trees at Barbavilla. The folder also includes:

21 June 1768. Anthony Malone, Dublin, to Ralph Smyth about Malone's candidature for Co. Westmeath.

'The writs for the new parliament issued this day, and as our election will probably come on before the middle of next month, I should be much obliged to you if you would be so good [as] to make me a return as soon you conveniently can, of the names of your father's and your friends and tenants who you think will vote with you, so as to enable me to complete my lists in due time before the day of election. I have the pleasure to tell you that things at present wear a very favourable appearance, for, if my friends are not deceived in the returns which they have already made to me, I have not the least doubt but I shall have a great majority of one brother and probably a majority of both. For, if all that have promised me shall attend and vote for me, I think I shall poll near a hundred more than Lord Belfield did on the last election. ...'

MS 41,599/7

1770–72

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents, including: Henry [Maxwell, Bishop of] Meath asking him to subscribe to the newly opened Co. Westmeath Infirmary at Mullingar, 17 March 1770; and John Agnew, Longford, about the abrupt breaking off by the Newcomens of a negotiation for the marriage of Miss Newcomen to Smyth's son ('the settlement Mr Smyth proposed to give to his son was not agreeable to Mrs Newcomen or her friends, to whom Miss Newcomen had left it'), 3 March 1772.

MS 41,599/8

1773

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents about the development of his property in Abbey Street, Dublin, poaching on Lough Lene, etc.

MS 41,599/9

1774–5

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents about estate and county business, including a letter about a duel in which Smyth's son was almost involved, letters about



## RALPH SMYTH'S MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE, CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED

Wilson's Hospital, and correspondence about the next Co. Westmeath election. The folder includes:

14 Dec. 1775. Loftus Smyth, Clontarf, to Ralph Smyth.

'... I am sorry that matters are so situated in the county of Westmeath as that it was prudent for an honest man to promise Malone his interest, for he has been and ever will be a prostitute to the Court. But, as things are now circumstanced, I cannot blame you for it. The rejecting the foreign troops was a Court measure, and as the Secretary found that it was likely to go against them, he sent over a party of his people to the other side, who turned the scale as he would have it. England saves the expense of them and our parliament have declared that we can be safe with half the 12,000 men, which may be of very ill consequence hereafter. ...'

On the back is a copy of Ralph Smyth's reply: '... Poor Westmeath, after which you enquire, is in a very wretched state, I believe no county in the kingdom worse, justice being so shamefully and partially administered that all the lower class of people ... within these last 30 years are become wild, uncivilised, untractable and ferocious; for, should any of the gentlemen here attempt to bring them to justice for their malversations, they immediately fly to some gentleman in the Belvedere interest, and there they are sure to meet with refuge, countenance, aid and protection at the assizes ...; and therefore we can never attempt to bring any to justice on this side the country, unless it be for the most atrocious crimes ... . Our particular misfortune is that we have not a man of weight and interest enough to counter-balance who will attend on our grand juries to see that justice is fairly and impartially administered ... . I am myself constantly left off when I attend, and my tenants that live on the other side of the county are put on. As to members to serve in parliament, those gentlemen amongst us that are capable of and fit to serve in that important station, are not men whose fortunes or ambition will permit them to offer themselves to represent us, and the independent gentlemen have not spirit enough to call forth such and to elect them without expense. So that we really have nobody but Malone to choose, C[h]apman being as much set up against the voice of the independents as of the brothers. There is to be an election on Tuesday, when William Smyth of Drumcree, I believe, and Capt. Handcock will set up, the latter under Court influence by his composition, and not a foot of land in the county, as I am informed. We are undoubtedly a rope of sand and must share the fate of a house divided against itself.'

MS 41,599/10

1776

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents, particularly Richard Malone about the county election, and also from others about Wilson's Hospital. The folder includes:

30 Apr. 1776. Richard Malone, Dublin, to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla, asking him, on behalf of Malone's uncle [Anthony] for a list of the Smyth freeholders. On the back is a copy of Ralph Smyth's reply, dated 4 May, in which he sends the desired list and expresses the hope that he may contradict reports that Anthony Malone is far from well.

4 May 1776. Richard Malone, Dublin, to Ralph Smyth: should the worst happen, Richard Malone will stand in place of his uncle.

**RALPH SMYTH'S MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE, CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED**

9 May 1776. [The Rev.] Jo. Wright, French Street, [Dublin], to Ralph Smyth explaining that he is Dublin for the College election. '... I am sure to get a hearty curse for espousing the Provost's son so that, though I be convinced of the propriety of the part I have taken in this affair, I am beginning to be ashamed of what I cannot cease to approve. I need not tell you of the death of Mr Malone, nor of the blow the independent interest of your county has sustained thereby ... . I wish we could as easily remedy as foresee the evil, but this can only be effected by the strictest union among the gentlemen, who now are perversely seeking every man his own promotion, whereby all hopes of success are cut off and an easy victory offered to an exulting enemy.'

11 May 1776. Printed election address from Richard Malone, Dublin, offering himself as a candidate at the election 'fixed for the 20th instant'. He pledges himself 'to support the freedom and independence of our county, which my late uncle struggled so long and, permit me to say, disinterestedly to maintain against every open as well as covert attack'.

20 May 1776. Richard Malone, Mullingar, to Ralph Smyth, Barbavilla, urging him to '... send in your freeholders tomorrow as early as possible, as we were much distressed today for want of numbers'.

MS 41,599/11

1777

Three items of correspondence of Ralph Smyth, one of them a copy of a letter from him about a riot at Collinstown fair.

MS 41,599/12

1778

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents, one of them about Wilson's Hospital.

MS 41,599/13

1779–81

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents, including resolutions of the local gentry leading to the formation of the Moycashel Volunteers, letters from the Rev. Francis Hall, Killyleagh [Co. Down], denying that he has made compromising remarks about his relationship with Smyth's daughter, a letter from John Wolfe of Forenaghts, Naas, soliciting support in a forthcoming by-elections for Co. Kildare [see also MS 41,597/2], 10 September 1780, etc. The folder also includes:

15 July 1780. George Crookshank, Dublin, to Ralph Smyth informing him, in response to his enquiry, that '... there is no certain rate of purchase going with respect to annuities. Everyone endeavours to make the best bargain he can. The only way to judge of these matters is to see how many years a man of 55 is likely to live. If you suppose him to live 15 years, the purchase of an annuity during his life would be worth 9 years and a half's purchase, and computing it at that rate, the life must live 15 years before the purchaser would get back his own money. The late Lord Carysfort sold several annuities during his own life for 6 years' purchase, and in the present case I think the man ought to get at least 100 pounds a year for every £900 he pays down. ...' [See also MS 41,572/6.]

**RALPH SMYTH'S MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE, CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED**

MS 41,599/14  
1782–3

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents about personal and business matters, including an application from William Handcock for support in the forthcoming election for Co. Westmeath, 25 March 1783.

MS 41,599/15  
1784–5

Letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents about business matters, including a letter of J. O'Reilly, Ballinlough, about the forthcoming Co. Dublin election (for which Smyth says that neither the Cookes nor he have a vote), 16 November 1785, and a letter from the Rev. Dr D.A. Beaufort about the 'accurate map of the diocese of Meath' which he is making, 20 December 1785.

MS 41,599/16  
1786

Two letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents.

MS 41,599/17  
N.D.

Undated letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents.

MS 41,599/18  
N.D.

Undated letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents.

MS 41,599/19  
N.D.

Undated letters to Ralph Smyth from miscellaneous correspondents.

## XXV CORRESPONDENCE OF THE LATER SMYTHS/SMYTHES

MSS 41,600–41,602  
1782–1882

Box of letters and papers of William Smyth of Barbavilla (1761–1812), comprising a folder of miscellaneous documents, 1782 and 1797–1809; of Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla (1786–1815), his son and short-lived successor, comprising a folder of letters from J. de Foligny, 1806–14; and of William Barlow Smythe of Barbavilla (1809–86), Ralph Smyth's son and successor, comprising many folders of letters and papers. These last include 4 folders about the appointment of a Collinstown curate, 1845–6, a letter about the Achill mission, 1868, and numerous letters about the murder of Smythe's sister-in-law, Mrs H.M. Smythe, at Barbavilla in 1882.

MS 41,600  
1782: 1797–1809

Miscellaneous letters and papers of William Smyth of Barbavilla.

MS 41,601  
1806

Letters to Ralph Smyth of Barbavilla from J. de Foligny.

MS 41,602/1–24  
1828–83

Letters to William Barlow Smythe of Barbavilla, chronologically arranged.

MS 41,602/1  
1828–31

Letters to W.B. Smythe, chronologically arranged.

MS 41,602/2  
1831–3

Letters to W.B. Smythe, chronologically arranged. [See also MS 41,573/18.]

MS 41,602/3  
1833–4

Letters to W.B. Smythe, chronologically arranged. [See also MS 41,573/18.]

MS 41,602/4  
1835

Letters to W.B. Smythe, chronologically arranged. [See also MS 41,573/18.]

MS 41,602/5  
1836–7

Letters to W.B. Smythe, chronologically arranged. [See also MS 41,573/18.]

MS 41,602/6  
1837–8

Letters to W.B. Smythe, chronologically arranged. [See also MS 41,573/18.]

MS 41,602/7  
1833–4

Letters to W.B. Smythe, chronologically arranged. [See also MS 41,573/18–20.]

MS 41,602/8  
1839–41

Letters to W.B. Smythe, chronologically arranged.

MS 41,602/9  
1843–5

Letters to W.B. Smythe, chronologically arranged.

MS 41,602/10  
1845–6

Letters to W.B. Smythe, mainly from applicants, about the appointment of curate at Collinstown; writers B–E.

MS 41,602/11  
1845–6

Letters to W.B. Smythe, mainly from applicants, about the appointment of curate at Collinstown; writers E.–L

MS 41,602/12  
1845–6

Letters to W.B. Smythe, mainly from applicants, about the appointment of curate at Collinstown; writers M–S.

MS 41,602/13  
1845–6

Letters to W.B. Smythe, mainly from applicants, about the appointment of curate at Collinstown; writers S–W.

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MS 41,602/14  
1846–7

General correspondence of W.B. Smythe, chronologically arranged.

MS 41,602/15  
1848–52

General correspondence of W.B. Smythe, chronologically arranged. [See also MS 41,573/22.]

MS 41,602/16

1852–80

General correspondence of W.B. Smythe, chronologically arranged. [See also MS, 41,573/22.]

MS 41,602/17–21

1882

Five folders containing a total of 234 letters to W.B. Smythe about the murder of his sister-in-law, Mrs H.M. Smythe, at Barbavilla.

MS 41,602/22

1883

Three miscellaneous letters to W.B. Smythe.

MS 41,602/23–4

N.D.

Two folders of undated letters to W.B. Smythe.

## XXVI RECIPÉS AND MISCELLANEOUS

MS 41,603/1–12

c.1690–c.1930

Box containing 2 recipé books and 4 folders of recipés, c.1690–1750, together with the following miscellaneous documents: folder of genealogical material; 2 schedules of deeds; folder of miscellaneous letters and papers, c.1680–1782, not obviously attributable to any particular part of the archive; fat folder of commonplace books, devotional material, and printed matter, c.1820–80; and 3 folders of covers and fragments of 18th century letters, c.1750–1830.

MS 41,603/1

c.1680–1782

Miscellaneous letters and papers, including verse and ephemera and a letter of 1782 about the profits of a collectorship of excise and ‘venality’ generally. This letter of 1782 is as follows:

21 Nov. 1782. John Massey, Tullamore, to ‘My dear George’ about the proposed sale of Massey’s office to Mr Smyth.

‘... I shall be very well pleased to sell, and Mr Smyth has really hit upon the cause of any objection to my disposing of it – that of not having had as yet an opportunity of making an interest with the Lord Lieutenant. His being able to accomplish the matter will be a very agreeable circumstance, and as in all cases of this sort secrecy is necessary, so I will venture to be honest with you in telling you the real value annually, when the purchase demanded may appear more adequate, and I conceive it the cheapest purchase in Ireland. A troop of dragoons will cost you £3,500 and it is but £210 a year. My employ is between £400 and £500 a year, and I have brought the discount business to such a perfection that it is most certainly £300 a year more at least, upon the most safe grounds [and] not touching a bit of paper but as good as Latouche’s. You know there is no other office for discount known through the country, and I think it so increasing as will make it as much more very shortly. I have a credit at a bank, by which the Collection can never be distressed, and I will get the gentleman who purchases from me the same credit and put him in my situation. There is a particular advantage arising monthly which, when you were here, was inconsiderable, and that is the vast increase of duty paid from the distillers, which not being able monthly to sell their whiskey for money to advantage, they all draw on their factors and their excise is paid by bills discounted, which is a safe business. The bills not being paid, their stills, etc, are responsible. So that, upon the most moderate computation, the employ is about £800 a year, and in a short time I think will increase to £1,200, as I have really with much pains for some years past established it as a banking office. If I had not a variety of other business, I would not part [with] it for anything like what I shall now expect, which is 3,000 guineas, and to a young, prudent man, is worth double the money, and much beyond a troop of dragoons. ...’

MS 41,603/2/1–2  
c.1690  
Two recipe books.

MS 41,603/3–6  
c.1690–1750  
Four folders of recipes and prescriptions. [See also MS 41,590/15.]

MS 41,603/7  
c.1730: c.1900–30  
Genealogical material.

MS 41,603/8  
c.1750: c.1880  
Two schedules of Smyth deeds.

MS 41,603/9  
c.1820–1880  
Commonplace books and devotional material.

MS 41,603/10–12  
c.1750–c.1830  
Three folders of covers and fragments of 18th-century letters.