

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

**Collection List No. 125**

**Considine Papers**

**[MS 22,465, 43,072-43,086 & MS Map 16 H 32 (4)]**

(Accessions 1325, 3762 & 3830)

Family and estate papers of the Considine family of Derk, county Limerick, including the professional papers of Sir Heffernan Considine (1846-1912), Resident Magistrate in counties Kerry and Kilkenny, and Deputy Inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **The collection**

The collection relates to the Considine family of Derk, Pallas Green, county Limerick. This family of Roman Catholic landowners held estates in county Limerick (950 acres valued at £1,211 in 1876) and county Tipperary (1,124 acres valued at £1,362). The collection contains a small number of family papers and estate records, consisting of rentals, valuations, accounts and leases.

The greater part of the collection consists of the personal and professional papers of Sir Heffernan James Considine (1846-1912), who served for many years as a Resident Magistrate in counties Kerry and Kilkenny before being appointed Deputy-Inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary in 1900.

### **The papers**

The collection consist of papers donated to the National Library of Ireland by Miss Christine Considine in May 1980 (Accession 3762) and papers drawn from the large collection of legal papers deposited with the National Library by Reeves & Co., solicitors (Accession 3830). These deposits are complimented by photostat of a manuscript map of the Considine estate acquired in April 1953 (Accession 1325) and a small collection of photocopied letters acquired from Miss Christine Considine some years later (**MS 22,465**).

The bulk of the papers cover the period from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with the earliest document dating from c.1764 and the latest from 1947. The collection is contained in seven boxes. The papers are generally in good condition.

### **Arrangement**

The collection has been arranged into three categories – I - Family papers, II - Estate records, and III - Constabulary records, the categories being divided into sub-sections wherever appropriate and then listed in chronological order.

### **Assessment**

The Considine collection is a small collection of estate papers with a much larger collection of personal and professional papers of Sir Heffernan James Considine. The majority of these consist of reports, memoranda and notes relating to his duties as a resident magistrate. These documents include important communications with administrators in Dublin Castle concerning policing policy and the control of the rural population. There are also a large number of ‘outrage’ reports compiled by members of the Royal Irish Constabulary, along with other papers regarding agrarian crime and popular protest in county Kerry (1880-87). There are also reports of more regular policing duties, such as the control of canine rabies, in county Kilkenny (1887-95). The papers relating to county Kerry are of particular interest as

they contain detailed information relating to often violent agrarian disturbances and republican activity in the Castleisland district. This was one of the most volatile areas of Ireland in the period of the Land War and the years immediately following its cessation in 1882.

## I. FAMILY PAPERS

- MS 22,465** Photocopied letters (largely dated c.1780-1800), mainly to William Heffernan, of Derk, county Limerick, but including some letters to members of his family and connections. Subjects includes political matters, such as the Volunteers, the imprisonment of Oliver Bond, and the Union. Correspondents include John Fitzgibbon, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Clare and Robert Tilson Deane, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Muskerry, with accounts etc.; 20 items c.1764-1824
- MS 43,072** Miscellaneous papers including programmes for testimonial dinners for Heffernan Considine (1881, 1911), telegram concerning the Belfast riots (14 Jul 1886), estate agent's promotional literature for sale of Derk House (27 Sep 1947); 6 items  
1881-1947

## II. ESTATE PAPERS

### II.i. Rentals

- MS 43,073 /1** 'H. Considine's Tenant Book', containing records of payment of rent; 1 volume, hardbound  
1830-45
- MS 43,073 /2** Tenant book containing records of payment of rent; 1 volume, hardbound  
1839-40
- MS 43,073 /3** Tenant book containing records of payment of rent; 1 volume, hardbound  
1841-1845
- MS 43,074 /1** Rental for the Limerick estate, including the townlands of Emly, Clashalisse and Barna; 1 volume, softbound  
1858-61
- MS 43,074 /2** Estate rentals providing tenants' names, denominations, arrears, half years' rents, total of rent due, poor rate, income tax, and observations; 13 items  
1901-7

## **II.ii. Valuations**

- MS 43, 075 /1** ‘Register of Irish Landowners of Property valued at £100 and upwards’ (forms of Irish Landowners’ Convention, county Limerick, pp.7-29), providing names, addresses, extent of landholdings, and valuations; 23 items  
[undated]
- MS 43,075 /2** ‘No. 12. General Valuation of Ireland. Union of Tipperary, Electoral Division of Emly’; 1 item  
[undated]
- MS 43,075 /3** ‘Union of Tipperary. Abstract of the Valuation of the several townlands comprised in the Electoral Division of Emly’; 1 volume, unbound  
[undated]

## **II.iii. Accounts**

- MS 43,076 /1** Estate account book, with enclosed legal papers; 1 item  
1822-32
- MS 43,076 /2** Invoices for county cess and poor rate (on the lands of Derk and Treanmanagh) for the Barony of Coonagh and the Tipperary Union; 3 items  
1893-8

## **II.iv. Leases**

- MS 43,077 /1** Leases between Heffernan Considine and sundry other for sundry lands; 4 items  
1819-1828
- MS 43,077 /2** Lease of part of the lands of Maidstown called Poulatuda for three lives from George G. Gubbins and Joseph Gubbins to Patrick Cull; 2 copies  
4 June 1822

## **II.v. General papers**

- MS 43,078 /1** Legal papers concerning ejectments; 2 items  
1831-2

- MS 43,078 /2** Papers relating to the estates of Heffernan Considine, including lists of leaseholders and tenants providing holders' names, sizes of holdings, valuation, rent, and poor rate. Also includes a list of plots on the estate acquired by the Tipperary Board of Guardians under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts 1883-6; 6 items  
1854-1906
- MS 43,078 /3** Copy of petition from tenants on the Erasmus Smith School's property regarding legal proceedings instituted for the recovery of possession of the residence of the local medical officer; 2pp  
[undated]
- MS 43,078 /4** 'Notice as to proposed Compulsory Acquisition of Lands' under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts 1883-96; 2 items  
Aug. 1901
- MS 43,078 /5** Pamphlet entitled *Extracts from the Bye-laws of the Dublin Cemeteries Committee...* (O'Brien & Ards, Dublin, 1901); 18pp  
1901

## II.vi. Maps

- 16 H 32 (4)** A map of the Derk demesne [county Limerick] made for Hiffernan Considine Esq. [...], by John Dawson. Negative Photostat. 1 item  
1811

## III. CONSTABULARY RECORDS

### III.i. Resident Magistrate's papers

The papers in this section relate to the duties of Sir Heffernan Considine as Resident Magistrate for the counties of Kerry and Kilkenny. Most of the documents consist of Considine's own reports, memoranda and notes concerning crime, policing and the preservation of public order along with correspondence with Constabulary officers, landowners and government officials and include several of the Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers (CSO RP 1886/12148, 1886/14430 and 1882/24853).

- MS 43,079 /1** Reports and memoranda, including notes on Fenian suspects in Causeway and Tralee, a return of outrages in petty sessions district of Ballyduff, Causeway, county Kerry, for the period 31 Jan. to 14 Feb., with returns of travelling expenses; 10 items  
Nov. 1880 & Jan.-Jun. 1882
- MS 43,079 /2** Reports and memoranda concerning arms licensing and a Labour League branch at Boherboy, with instructions for compiling resident

- magistrates fortnightly reports issued by Captain T.O. Plunkett (Special Resident Magistrate for the South Western Division); 9 items July 1882
- MS 43,079 /3**  
Reports and memoranda concerning arms licensing, the shooting and wounding of James Kearney, and cattle maiming, with instructions to resident magistrates and instructions for police patrolling issued by Captain T.O. Plunkett; 12 items Aug. 1882
- MS 43,079 /4**  
Reports and memoranda concerning the activities of the Ladies Land League branch at Lixnaw and the provision of protection for farm caretakers, with a return of police protection posts; 11 items Sep. 1882
- MS 43,079 /5**  
Reports and memoranda concerning police patrols and protection posts, information from an informant on the activities of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in Tralee, with reports and statements relating to the murder of Thomas Browne (3 October 1882); 12 items Oct. 1882
- MS 43,079 /6**  
Reports and memoranda concerning arms licensing, the intimidation of farm caretakers, police protection posts, and an Irish National League meeting at Ballyduff, with witnesses deposition regarding the murder of Thomas Browne and the case of the Queen V. John Dunleavy; 16 items Nov. 1882
- MS 43,079 /7**  
Police reports on agricultural conditions in the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of County Kerry; 19 items Nov. 1882
- MS 43,079 /8**  
Correspondence between Heffernan Considine, Captain T.O. Plunkett, Alexander Morphy (Crown Solicitor for Kerry), and others concerning various criminal cases including the murder of Arthur Herbert JP, with case notes and a memorandum on the examination of defence witnesses; 28 items Nov. 1882-Apr. 1883
- MS 43,080 /1**  
Reports and memoranda concerning an alleged assault, arrests made under section 11 of the Prevention of Crime Act, the intimidation of farm caretakers, and police protection posts; 7 items Dec. 1882
- MS 43,080 /2**  
Reports and memoranda concerning arrests made under section 11 of the Prevention of Crime Act, compensation for victims of crime, the horse races at Beheenagh, the intimidation of farm caretakers, and police protection posts, with a report on the execution of Poff and Barrett for the murder of Timothy Brown; 14 items

Jan. 1883

**MS 43,080 /3**

Reports and memoranda concerning police protection posts and a National League meeting in Tralee, with the statement of Patrick Callanan, a witness to the murder of Arthur Herbert JP, the Lord Lieutenant's order to remit a sentence of imprisonment and notes of a Crimes Act inquiry into the cases of Sub Constable McLean (shot while guarding Edward Boyle) and a robbery for arms at Mr. Counihan's house; 13 items  
Feb. 1883

**MS 43,080 /4**

Reports and memoranda concerning threatening letters, a case of arson and police searches under the Prevention of Crime Act, with a circular to resident magistrates and legal papers concerning the prosecution of Bartholomew Moriarty; 6 items  
March 1883

**MS 43,080 /5**

Reports and memoranda concerning the security of blasting powder in Tralee and on the Fenit Railway, with depositions and notes of witness statements regarding an explosion at Bryan Fitzgerald's house in Tralee; 12 items  
April 1883

**MS 43,080 /6**

Reports and memoranda concerning "apprehended outrages", searches for arms and arms licensing, police protection afforded to Mr. Arthur Blennerhassett of Ballyseedy, a suspected dynamite plot, and an inquiry into the identity of "No. 1" in the Invincible conspiracy; 8 items  
April 1883

**MS 43,080 /7**

Reports and memoranda concerning arms searches, the Parnell Testimonial, a National League meeting at Tralee, inquiries held under the Prevention of Crime Act, the seizure of the *Kerry Sentinel* newspaper, and police patrols, with information on the Herbert murder case; 18 items  
May 1883

**MS 43,081 /1**

Reports and memoranda concerning police protection posts, arms licensing, the conviction of the staff of the *Kerry Sentinel* newspaper, suspects leaving Ireland for the United States of America, the case of the Queen V. Michael Shea (for the homicide of Patrick Kelleher), and a Crimes Act inquiry into the murder of Patrick Cahill; 19 items  
June 1883

**MS 43,081 /2**

Reports and memoranda concerning forcible possession of evicted farms, the death of John O'Donnell, a Crimes Act inquiry into an attack on James Walsh, and the case of the Queen V. Thomas Fleming (for assault with intent to murder); 16 items  
July 1883

- MS 43,081 /3** Reports and memoranda concerning police protection posts, arms licensing, the attack on James Walsh (with map of crime scene), threatening notices posted at Causeway, and the suspected murder of John O'Donnell; 14 items  
Aug. 1883
- MS 43,081 /4** Reports and memoranda concerning an article in the *Kerry Independent*, with witness statements in the case of the Queen V. Thomas Fleming and the Queen V. Persons unknown (for the murder of John O'Donnell); 4 items  
Aug. 1883
- MS 43,081 /5** Reports and memoranda concerning police protection posts, licenses for revolvers, and an evicted farm at Knocknaboul; 8 items  
Sep. 1883
- MS 43,081 /6** Reports and memoranda concerning the arrest of persons out at night, the trial of a case of assault (on Francis Crosbie), with a return of outrages committed in Castleisland between 1 December 1880 and 30 September 1883 and extracts from a speech delivered by Joseph Biggar at the town on 10 October 1880; 16 items  
Oct.-Dec. 1883
- MS 43,081 /7** Reports and memoranda concerning the membership of poor law boards, the posting of anonymous letters, and a proclaimed demonstration at Tralee (6 January 1884), with reports of various cases of intimidation and assault; 17 items  
Jan. 1884-Feb. 1885
- MS 43,081 /8** Reports and memoranda concerning cattle stealing, an attack on the Head Constable's house at Castlegregory, and Dingle National League branch committee, with a letter from the military commander at Tralee, letters from members of the Royal Irish Constabulary regarding the state of the Castleisland, Tralee and Dingle districts, a hand-drawn map recording an outrage, and a memorandum by Heffernan Considine entitled "Suggestions for the more efficient working of the police force in the Tralee and Castleisland districts"; 10 items  
Oct.-Dec. 1885
- MS 43,082 /1** Reports and memoranda concerning moonlighting and assaults on the police, arms licensing, the capacity of tenants to pay rent, and an Irish National League meeting at Dingle, with letters from Thomas Spring Rice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Monteagle on the position of landlords in Ireland and from Ernest Tyacke on matters concerning the magistracy (with draft answers), a draft report by Heffernan Considine on the general condition of his district, and reports on general state of other sub-districts of county Kerry; 26 items

Jan.-March 1886

- MS 43,082 /2** Reports and memoranda concerning arms licensing, with notes on the proceedings of an inquest into the suspected murder of Patrick Flahive, and a draft half-yearly report (1 January-30 June 1886) by Heffernan Considine on the condition of his district; 11 items  
April-Sep. 1886
- MS 43,082 /3** Telegrams concerning police matters in counties Kerry and Kilkenny, including rioting in Belfast (14 July 1886); c.50 items  
July 1886-July 1893
- MS 43,082 /4** Reports and memoranda concerning outbreaks of canine rabies in counties Kerry and Kilkenny (with a public notice), and rabies in pigs; 34 items  
Aug. 1886-Aug. 1893
- MS 43,082 /5** Reports and memoranda concerning arms licensing, an Irish National League meeting at Ballyduff (2 January 1887), and horse races at Danesfort; 7 items  
Nov. 1886-Nov. 1891
- MS 43,082 /6** Legal papers regarding petty sessions districts and statute books in Ballyragget, with correspondence concerning the administration of the workhouse in Kilkenny; 16 items  
1888-9
- MS 43,082 /7** Reports and memoranda concerning arms licensing and an anti-eviction meeting held at Pitt Chapel; 7 items  
Jan. 1892-Dec. 1893

### **III.ii. Outrage Reports**

This section contains ‘outrage’ (or incident) reports compiled by members of the Royal Irish Constabulary for the use of their senior officers. These ‘no. 38’ reports largely concern agrarian crimes committed in various police districts of counties Kerry and other police matters, such as the control of canine rabies, in county Kilkenny. The reports contain detailed information about the nature, location, timing, and circumstances of each case.

- MS 43,083 /1** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 14 items  
Aug.-Sep. 1881
- MS 43,083 /2** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 13 items  
Oct. 1881

- MS 43,083 /3** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 29 items  
Nov. 1881
- MS 43,083 /4** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 27 items  
Dec. 1881
- MS 43,083 /5** Outrage reports for the, Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 16 items  
Jan. 1882
- MS 43,083 /6** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 23 items  
Feb. 1882
- MS 43,083 /7** Outrage reports for the Kanturk police district of county Cork; 20 items  
March-Aug. 1882
- MS 43,083 /8** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 26 items  
Mar. 1882
- MS 43,083 /9** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 30 items  
Apr. 1882
- MS 43,083 /10** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 29 items  
May 1882
- MS 43,083 /11** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 30 items  
June 1882
- MS 43,084 /1** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 23 items  
July-Aug. 1882
- MS 43,084 /2** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 15 items  
Sep.-Oct. 1882
- MS 43,084 /3** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 7 items  
Nov. 1882
- MS 43,084 /4** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of

- county Kerry; 18 items  
Dec. 1882
- MS 43,084 /5** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 13 items  
Jan.-Feb. 1883
- MS 43,084 /6** Outrage reports for the Castleisland, Tralee and Dingle police districts of county Kerry; 10 items  
March 1883
- MS 43,084 /7** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 9 items  
April 1883
- MS 43,084 /8** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 12 items  
May 1883
- MS 43,085 /1** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 14 items  
June-July 1883
- MS 43,085 /2** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 10 items  
Aug.-Sep. 1883 & Oct. 1885
- MS 43,085 /3** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 30 items  
Nov.-Dec. 1885
- MS 43,085 /4** Outrage reports for the Castleisland, Tralee and Dingle police districts of county Kerry; 16 items  
Jan. 1886
- MS 43,085 /5** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 16 items  
Feb. 1886
- MS 43,085 /6** Outrage reports for the Castleisland, Tralee and Dingle police districts of county Kerry; 23 items  
March 1886
- MS 43,085 /7** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 29 items  
April 1886
- MS 43,085 /8** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 27 items

May 1886

- MS 43,085 /9** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 28 items  
June-July 1886
- MS 43,085 /10** Outrage reports for the Castleisland and Tralee police districts of county Kerry; 22 items  
Aug.-Sep. 1886
- MS 43,086 /1** Outrage reports, telegrams and letters concerning the Castleisland, Tralee and Dingle police districts of county Kerry; 26 items  
Oct. 1886-March 1887
- MS 43,086 /2** Outrage reports for the Kilkenny, Castlecomer, Callan, Piltown, Thomastown and Johnstown police districts of county Kilkenny; 31 items  
April-Dec. 1887
- MS 43,086 /3** Outrage reports for the Kilkenny, Castlecomer, Callan and Johnstown police districts of county Kilkenny; 30 items  
1888
- MS 43,086 /4** Outrage reports for the Kilkenny, Castlecomer, Callan and Johnstown police districts of county Kilkenny; 40 items  
1889
- MS 43,086 /5** Outrage reports for the Kilkenny, Castlecomer, Callan and Thomastown police districts of county Kilkenny; 21 items  
1890
- MS 43,086 /6** Outrage reports for the Kilkenny, Castlecomer and Piltown police districts of county Kilkenny; 18 items  
1891
- MS 43,086 /7** Outrage reports for the Kilkenny, Castlecomer and Piltown police districts of County Kilkenny; 25 items  
1892-5