

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

**Collection List No. 142**

**Kirwan of Tuam and Dalgin Papers**

**(MS 42,039 – MS 42,063; MS 44,989)**

(Accession No. 5124)

A collection of estate material of Denis J. Kirwan, a land agent in Tuam, Co. Galway covering the years 1838-1943.

*Compiled by Brigid Cleham*

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## Introduction

### Introduction

The Kirwan's of Tuam, Co Galway, operated a land agency in the town from at least the mid-1840s. James M. Kirwan appears to have been the main agent until the end of the 1850s when Denis Kirwan took over. Denis J. Kirwan was the youngest son of Denis Kirwan of Carnaun, Co Galway. In 1863 he bought the Dalgin estate from Michael Blake Birmingham and in 1866 he married Michael's sister Mary Louisa Birmingham. Denis J. Kirwan died in 1906 aged 73 and was succeeded by his son Denis Birmingham Kirwan who continued to operate the land agency throughout the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Kirwans were land agents to many Co. Galway estates. The main estates documented in these records are

- **Castlehacket** belonging to the Kirwan and later the Bernard family; denominations included Castlehacket Demesne, Beaghbeg, Biggory, Ballintleva, Cahermorris, Hill Village, Cloonbar, Parkaliddane, Carheens, Clude, Caltra, Ferragh, Kilcurriffe, Galway Houses, Drumkella, Lackenroe;
- **Ballinderry** belonging to the Nolan family, including bog gardens at Claremadden, Ardultagh part of Kilquain, bar of Longford, Clarewest, Derrew: Cartron and Ballaghbane [Belclare]: Cappaghmoyle, bar Athenry, Lisdoran: Carrowkeel, Bar of Dunmore, Cloonleenaun, Drumgriffin, Ballinderry, Stonepark, Brockagh, Ballyheragh, Portacarron, Ardvarne, Carras, Ballintubber, etc;
- **Quansbery and Bermingham** estates then in the hands of the various representatives (Rodney, Russell) of the Bermingham family (Earls of Louth), Cahernaheeny, Headford Deer park, Graigechullare, Reagh, Cloonarkin, Tonereivagh, Moneenfoile, Meelick, Buckram, Ballydavid, Mountpellier, Ballynacregg, Nursery Village, Gurrane Village, Cloverpark, River Village, Houses and plots in Athenry, Caherduane, Cregananla, Tholloror, Aughalalive, Lenemarla, Corlacken, Curraghreevagh, Crosswell, Curnamuckla, Carrowmanagh and references to rent charges associated with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners;
- **Ballyglunin** belonging to the Blake family, including townlands in the electoral divisions of Kiltormer, Claretuam, Annaghdown, Hillsbrook, Moyne and in Galway city;
- **Windfield** the property of the Jameson family, including Windfield Upper & Lower, Mulloughmore North and South, East & West, Windfield Demesne;
- **Knocknagur** estate of the Burke family, including the following denominations Kilcreevanty, Knocknagur, Knockdoe and Lehid.

The Kirwan land agency also acted for a number of smaller estates and the Balance Book 1909-1921 refers to the following clients –

- Charles Denis O'Rorke of Bermingham House, Tuam;

- Mrs Mary Strachan, (town of Tuam, Bishops St, Ballygaddy Road, Lissadyra, Dublin Road, Killaloonty);
- Colonel C. H. P. Carter, later General H.P.Carter, (Rinnaknock and Curramore);
- Representatives of H.P.B. Kirwan (Stove);
- Mrs Mary Maude O’Conor Henchy, (Newtownsmyth, Brownsgrrove turf, Killooan, Tuam, Coldwood ,Killeen, Coolratty, Moyveela);
- Dolphin minor (Newtownsmyth, Brownsgrrove, Coolratty, Tuam plots, Killeenamore);
- Robert T. Lattey, (Slieveroe, Coaraspark, Ulrith, Greenfield, Symnagh, Slieveroe, Glenrevagh);
- E. V. Browne and others (Claran);
- Representatives of John Martyn esq. (Ballydotia);
- C. R. Lynch Staunton, (Clydagh, Cargin, Kilbeg, Ballinacregg etc. town of Galway);
- James Darcy (New forest, New Castle, Derinabun, Curcullen, Curraghmore, Killesmuggaun etc);
- Trustees of St. Vincent de Paul society, ( Tuam Tierboy Road, Cloonthoo Road)
- Colonel De Burgh Lynch, (Grange, Annaghdown, Corrondulla);
- Most Rev. Dr Healy & the Attorney General (Islandmore, Fountain Hill, Knocknacarra, Kilmacduagh, Lisphelim, Red Hill, Kilglass etc);
- Miss Isabella Kerin (Grange, Corrondulla, Annaghdown);
- A. D. Nolan, (Carnagur, Coolpark, Monument park);
- Francis J. Monohan (Newtown demesne);
- Miss C. Bodkin, (Annagh Hill and demesne, Galway);
- Mrs J. Rodney and others, (Curnamuckla, Traenboy, Athenry, Gurranemore, Ballinacregg, Ballydavid, Knockbane, etc);
- Representatives of Henry Kirwan [Reps. Henry crossed out and Robert entered] (Ballytrasna, Carnagarry, Meelick, Gardenfield, Carrowpaden, Ashpark);
- Mrs Adelaide Kirwan (Ballytrasna);
- Mrs M. M. Teeling (Ower, Lodge Park);
- Colonel Beddington (Ower Lawn);
- Ward v Ward (Palmyra Crescent, Ballinasloe, Galway, Turrock, Attyrory, artisan dwellings, Galway);
- Lieutenant Colonel D. K. Bernard, (Galy House etc., Castlehacket);
- Bodkin v Browne (Ardskeaghmore, Tonamace);
- Robert Orme (Lisavally);
- Mrs M. E. Bodkin (Grange);
- Representatives and Trustees of Farrell McDonnell (Bushtown, Cultifadda, Boyonagh, Gortaganny, Esker, Loughpark, Cashel, Cluide, Tobernacluig etc)
- Representatives of Raymond D. Nolan (Ballinderry, Stonepark, Brockagh, Ballyheragh, Portacarron, Ardvarne, Carras, Ballintubber, etc)
- Galway Co. Council (Ryehill)

## **The Papers**

The collection is contained in 25 phase boxes and one archival box. They appear to be part of the same collection as that in the Archives Service, James Hardiman Library, NUI Galway, known as LE8 'The Papers of the Kirwan Family of Castlehackett, County Galway'. Much of LE8 does relate to the Castlehackett estate but there are also maps of the French estate at Portacarron which became the property of the Nolan's of Ballinderry, bound maps of the portion of the Bermingham estate belonging to Lady Elizabeth Russell 1832 and a 20<sup>th</sup> century map of the estate of Captain Q. Dick.

The collection has suffered from being kept in a damp place at one time. There is mould between some of the end pages of the volumes. The volume spines are weak and many of the volumes no longer have their covers. There is some evidence of insect infestation.

## **Arrangement**

The collection has been arranged into three sections; Properties; Business accounts and Correspondence; and Maps. The Properties section has been further divided into two sections; Rentals; and Ledgers of Rent Receipts. The section dealing with Business accounts and Correspondence has been sub-divided into five sections; Day Books; Balance Books; Other Account Books; Letter Books; and Diaries.

## **Assessment**

This collection is a small collection of business papers relating to the Land Agency of the Kirwan's of Galway. The Kirwan's Land Agency mainly dealt with estates in Co. Galway, and this is reflected in the content of the collection. The collection mainly consists of Business ledgers, but there is also a small collection of maps for areas in Co. Galway.

## **References**

MOHR, Paul. John Birmingham, Esq. Tuam and Ireland's New Star. Millbrook Nova Press, 2002.

[www.landedestates.ie](http://www.landedestates.ie)

## I. Properties

### I.i. Rentals

- MS 42,039** 1860-1863  
Rental of estate of Walter M Blake, Ballyglunin, 54 town lands and Galway street names given in the index, includes property in the city of Galway, Thomas and Michael Cullinane held large portions of the Blake estates in the electoral divisions of Clare, Tuam and Annaghdown, cover and pages loose; 1 vol., c. 110pp, size 28x46x2cms.
- MS 42,040** 1876-1880  
Rental of estate of Walter M. Blake, pages loose; c. 100pp, 1 vol., size 30x47x3cms.

### I.ii. Ledgers of Rent Receipts

Individual page for each tenant giving denomination, tenant name, acreage, bog acreage. Other details include yearly rent, half year's rent amount and due date, when paid and how much, occasional details of lease and tenure.

- MS 42,041** 1843-1869  
Account of rent receipts for estate of Rev. John Jameson Feb 1843-Oct 1867 and for Castlehacket estate Oct 1843-Aug 1848, Front cover missing, 1 vol., c 280pp, size 23x37x3cms.
- MS 42,042** Aug 1848-Oct 1861  
Accounts of rent receipts for Castlehacket estate received by James M. Kirwan, changes to Denis Kirwan in Sept 1859, cover missing; 1 vol., 274 pp, size 23x37x2cms.
- MS 42,043** 1855-1870  
Account of rent receipts for the Quansbury and Bermingham estates, index of tenants' names, includes some loose items; 1 vol., c. 700 pp, size 25x38x7cms.
- MS 42,044** 1856-1870  
Account of rent receipts for Windfield estate of Rev. John Jameson; vol., 188pp, 25x39x3cms. See MS 42,041 also
- MS 42,045** 1863-1878  
Account of rent receipts for estate of Major J. P. Nolan, Ballinderry, includes returns of conacre oats at Rathmore 1877-1878 and

Portacarron arbitration expenses on a loose sheet 1871-1872, some loose items; 1 vol., 550 pp, size 26x39x5cms.

**MS 42,046**

1870-1887

Account of rent receipts for Quansbury and Bermingham estates, estate of [George Drummond] the 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Perth and others, includes some loose items; 1 vol., 796 pp, size 26x39x9cms.

**MS 42,047**

1876-1908

Account of rent receipts for estate of Major J. P. Nolan, Ballinderry, including Portcarron, Inishmacatreer, Island Cunane, some entries are in the handwriting of Joseph Burke (see MS 42,043) who appears to have started to keep the books in 1881, includes returns of conacre potatoes 1879, letters from tenants, solicitors and other papers regarding compulsory acquisition of lands, extensive notes in remarks column in some instances, references to stock numbers and grazing collops, some loose pages; 1 vol., 490 pp, size 26x39x7cms.

**MS 42,048**

1880-1906

Account of rent receipts for Castlehackett estate, includes some loose items; 1 vol., c. 600pp, size 26x39x5cms.

**MS 42,049**

1887-1906

Account of rent receipts for Quansberry and Bermingham estates, includes loose items, front cover loose; 1 vol., c.800 pp, size 27x40x9cms.

**MS 42,050**

1896-1905

Account of rents receipts for estate of Col. W. R. Nolan, includes some loose items interleaved, index of tenants, also note in front end paper records the death of Col. W. R. Nolan at Zurich on 30 Aug 1905, binding loose; 1 vol., 68pp, size 26x39x4cms.

**MS 42,051**

1906-1912

Account of rent receipts for Sir T. Burke's estate, includes loose items; 1 vol., 124 pp, size 26x39x4cms.

## II. Business accounts & Correspondence

### II.i. Day Books

- MS 42,052** 1877-1894  
Entitled 'Day Book Quansbury and Birmingham estates', gives date, name of tenant, place name, folio in ledger, income & poor rate, cash, total, inscribed at back D.J. Kirwan, Dalgin, Tuam. Page title begins as rent receipts Quansbury and Birmingham Estates, changes to Sir William E. Leeson and others in 1882, Earl and Countess of Perth and others 1885, Col. Brydges Rodney and others in 1887, ends with General Rodney and others. 1 vol., 302 pp, size 26x40x4cms.
- MS 42,053** 1897-1907  
Account book [of Joseph Burke, who appears to be an employee on the estate of Col. J. P. Nolan] containing various accounts including rents received on the Nolan estate, includes copy rental of estate of Col. J. P. Nolan's Connemara property [Russheenacullen, Mynish, Letterdeskent], rent and arrears signed by John Mongan in Dec. 1903, various unpaid accounts, references to stocks and shares, banking, animal stock totals, timber and planting at Ballinderry, family history of the Nolan's, accounts interspersed throughout the volume. Spine Missing, covers and pages loose; 1 vol., c. 350 pp, size 16x33x4cms.
- MS 42,054** 1909-1921  
Account Book of cash received for various estates, some accounts closed before 1921. Gives date denominations, tenants' names, folio no., total cash received and summaries on 1 Nov. each year; 1 vol., 574 pp, size 27x40x6cms.

### II.ii. Balance Books

- MS 42,055** 1908-1934  
2 weekly Balance Books [Cash] ending each Saturday, detailing cheques received, cash in hands and expenses, such as stamps, sausages, cabbage plants, water rates, 1929-1934. Enclosed similar volume without a cover, 1908-1934; 2 vols., sizes 32 x12x1 & 12x32x3cms



- MS 42,056** Aug 1934-Aug 1940  
Balance Book [continuation of MS 42,055] for all agency work involving the different estates, include receipts for interest on land bonds, sale of timber, receipts for each, payments out include money lodged, stamps, cash on hands; 1 vol., c. 400pp, size 15x32x5cms.
- MS 42,057** 1936-1943  
Balance Book for [petty cash] Tuam office, receipts include T. Hartigan for rabbits, timber sold, conacre tillage at Castlehacket, and expenses include postage, Dalgin labour, tobacco, papers etc; 1 vol., 180 pp., size 15x32x2cms.

### **II.iii. Other Account Books**

- MS 42,058** 1843, 1847-1852  
Ledger giving account of drainage works, land improvement and task work done on the Castlehacket estate, showing cash received by an individual workman and trenching work done by him at named townland. Also account of the number of men, women and boys employed in 1848 under the Board of Works and total amount of payments received by them for their work, a cash payment of £500 having been received under the Land Improvement Act, no cover; 1 vol., 270 pp., size 14x32x2cms.
- MS 42,059** 1846  
Account book recording the sale of seeds and guano to over 130 purchasers mainly landlords and clergy and cash received with reference to folio numbers in the Day Book. John Hopkins account with the Tuam Agricultural Society 1847 in back, no cover, some pages torn out; 1 vol., c 310 pp, size 15x37x2cms.
- MS 42,060** 1847-1848  
Account book recording the sale of seeds to various landlords on the debit side, giving the name of the purchaser and various dates on which he purchased seeds. The credit side records payments received when and by whom, cover loose; 1 vol., c. 200pp, size 16x39x3cms.

#### II.iv. Letter Books

- MS 42,061** Nov 1910- [May/ June] 1918  
Copy outgoing letter book, [much of it illegible] carbon type, with index of recipients of letters and their addresses perfectly legible, cover loose; 1 vol., 802 pages, size 23x28x5cms.
- MS 42,062** July 1924-March 1926  
Copy outgoing letter book, some letters from D. J. Kirwan & Sons and some from Denis B. Kirwan, Dalgin, re. business of land agency. Includes references to estates of Mrs Kathleen Nolan, Capt. Q. Dick, Rt. Hon. C. A. O'Connor and others, St. George and Concannon and others, Nolan of Ballinderry, Bernard, M. J. Lynch, Carter, P. J. Kirwan, Dolphin, Mrs Coles, John J. Blake (Bohermore) etc., index of letter recipients, cover loose; 1 vol., 1000pp, size 22x28x5cms.

#### II.v. Diaries

The following diaries are all kept in the same phase box.

- MS 42,063** 1913  
Hely's Sixpenny Diary, office diary [kept by clerk] recording work done each day, including the filling in of ledgers and rentals, letters sent and received, persons who called, occasional copy letters; 1 vol., c 108 pp, size 21x33x2cms.
- 1933  
Brownes Scribbling Diary, brief notes and names, no copy letters; 1 vol., 105pp, size 21x33x2cms.
- 1940  
Hely's One Shilling Scribbling Diary, farm diary of work done, such as pulling turnips, cutting timber, bringing turf home from bog, saving hay, fencing. Main employees were John Comer, Michael Creaven, T. Higgins, no entries after 13 Dec; 1 vol., 101 pp, size 21x33x2cms.

### III. Maps

- MS 44,989/ 1** 1882  
Map of the estate of the late Thomas H. Burke esq. in the Union of Tuam, mainly in the townland of Kilcreevanty, 69 plots defined. Part of the cover with the label is now detached; 2 items.
- MS 44,989/ 2** [19<sup>th</sup> century]  
1st Edition OS 29 of Kilcreevanty, (showing in yellow outline, estate of Thomas H. Burke) part of the Barony of Dunmore, Co. Galway, surveyed in 1838 by Capt. Stotherd and Lts. Butler and Beatty; 1 item.
- MS 44,989/ 3-8** June 1917  
6 OS maps, part of the [Blake estate], Shantalla/Shantallow, Suheen/Sucheen, Newcastle and Townparks town centre and Galway city centre, the 5 maps marked 'Town of Galway' are to the scale of 1:1056 and comprise the majority of Galway town, the map marked 'Sheet XCIV I' is to the scale of 1:2500 and comprises of the Ragoon area to the west of the town, canvas backed, stamped General Valuation Office 6 June 1917, Certificate No 9424; 6 items.
- MS 44,989/ 9** Not dated  
Part of OS 16 Co. Galway showing estate of Capt. Q. Dick at Dawros, near Milltown, Barony of Dunmore, Co. Galway, torn in the centre, labelled Estate Map No 3; 1 item.
- MS 44,989/ 10** Not dated  
OS map (1:2500), Co. Galway showing part of Killaloonty for sale (8 acres), part of the Strahan estate; 1 item.