

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

**Collection List No. 168**

**Gormanston Papers (Additional)**

**(SEE ALSO COLLECTION LIST No. 132)**

**(MSS 48278-279, MSL 274)**

**A small collection of Gormanston Estate papers with letters of Jenico Preston (1775-1860), 12<sup>th</sup> Viscount Gormanston, 1698-1900.**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **The family**

The Preston family first arrived in Ireland and settled in Leinster during the fourteenth century. The head of the family was first knighted as Lord Gormanston in 1361. The family was consistently prominent in the Irish parliament and acquired greater property following the early-modern conquest of Gaelic Ireland. It suffered material setbacks during the seventeenth century due to the family's prominent role in the Catholic Confederation and its support for the Stuart dynasty. During the eighteenth century the family intermarried with various English families but remained Catholic. The title of Gormanston was officially restored to the head of the family in 1800. During the early nineteenth century, the 12<sup>th</sup> Viscount Gormanston, Jenico Preston (1775-1860), was an active campaigner for Catholic Emancipation. A more detailed family history can be found in Collection List No.132.

### **The papers**

The Gormanston family papers were purchased by the National Library in 2002 and the material listed in this collection dates from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This supplementary collection to the main body of the Gormanston Papers has been arranged according to two main categories, estate papers and personal letters of the 12<sup>th</sup> Viscount Gormanston. Researchers may wish to consult this material in conjunction with related materials listed in Collection List No. 132. Contained in 2 boxes, this collection spans the history of the Gormanston estate from 1698 to 1900.

## I. Estate Papers

### I.i. Leases and Title Deeds

- MS 48278/1 1698**  
Copy of a lease between Anthony Preston (Lord Gormanston) and Richard Reddy of Dublin at a half-yearly rate of £46 for lands of the Ring and Inch of Balrothery and the land, fields and moors of Gariestown and Balvinstown in the barony of Balrothery, Co. Dublin, as well as land in the same locality that was formerly in the possession of Thomas Tuite. Original lease was dated 9 January 1698. 2pp.
- MS 48278/2 1739**  
Lease made by Jenico Preston (Lord Gormanston) to John Howett for Sadelstown in the Barony of Duleek, County Meath, for a term of twenty one years. Dec. 1739. *1 membrane*
- MS 48278/3 1751**  
Lease from Lord Gormanston to Patrick Magrane of part of a grange called Cookstown (13 acres, 3 roods and 16 perches) in the barony of Duleek, Co. Meath for 30 years at £4 17s 2d per annum. 6 July 1751. *1 membrane*
- MS 48278/4 1752**  
Lease made by Lord Viscount Gormanston to Kenny Ryder & Son for the lands of Lacystown, in the Barony of Upper Duleek, County Meath for thirty years and six months. 6 Apr. 1752. *1 membrane*
- MS 48278/5 1753**  
Two leases from Jenico Preston (Lord Gormanston) to William Cruise, each for land in Nobber, Co. Meath for a period of 31 years. 24 Nov. 1753. *2 items*
- MS 48278/6 1753**  
Counterpart of lease from Lord Gormanston to Robert Balfe of Creg, Co. Meath, of some tenements and land in Nobber, Co. Meath for 31 years at £20 per annum. 15 Dec. 1753. *1 membrane*
- MS 48278/7 1754**  
Lease from Lord Gormanston to Patrick Farrell of part of the lands of Balloy, Co. Meath for 31 years at £85 per annum. 21 January 1754. *1 membrane*
- MS 48278/8 1757**  
Leases from Kenny Ryder to Phillip Tonge, for lands in Shallon, Barony

of Duleek, County Meath, and bog lands at Lacystown, each for twenty one years. 1-21 Apr. 1757. *2 items*

- MS 48278/9 1758**  
Acknowledgement issued by John Fleming, High Sheriff of County Meath to Charles Reilly for payment of £28 for leases on lands previously held by Kenny Ryder and seized by the same sheriff (26 Apr. 1758). Also, indenture made by Kenny Ryder for the transfer of lease to Charles Reilly for lands at Lacystown (17 Jun. 1758). *2 items*
- MS 48278/10 1772**  
Lease from Lord and Lady Gormanston to James McCabe of part of Spiddall, Co. Meath for 31 years at £36 per annum. *1 membrane.*
- MS 48278/11 1773**  
Deed of surrender of title to land in Duleek, Co. Meath and Balrothery, Co. Dublin from Patrick Markes Curtis to Jenico Preston (Lord Gormanston). 10 Feb. 1773. *1 membrane.*
- MS 48278/12 1774**  
Deed of settlement issued by Anthony Preston (Lord Viscount Gormanston) to Miss Harriet Robinson. 21 Oct. 1774. *1 membrane*
- MS 48278/13 1774**  
Deed of trust made by Lord Viscount Gormanston to the Duke of Portland for the purpose of raising younger children's portions. 21 Oct. 1774. *1 membrane*

### I.ii. Other Legal Documents

- MS 48278/14 1709-10**  
7pp statement by [indecipherable] regarding a dispute involving Lord Gormanston (Anthony Preston) and 'William' [Walter?] Brett (11 Feb. 1709). Also, a list of witness names to be examined in the case of Walter Brett vs. Anthony Preston (15 Mar. 1709), with an attached note with the names of three additional witnesses (25 Mar. 1710), and an additional statement regarding this case. *3 items*
- MS 48278/15 1710**  
Deed whereby Anthony Preston (Lord Gormanston) promises to pay Thomas Dollard (tailor) the sum of £111 6s. 10d. Annotations by Dollard are on the reverse of the document. 4 Dec. 1710. *2pp.*
- MS 48278/16 [c.1720]**  
Copy of a signed letter, issued on behalf of Anthony Lord Gormanston's

estate, refusing to renew leases and threatening to issue ejectment notices to a tenant with lands in Balscadden, County Dublin and Mills at [Lugdoory] and Beltray, County Meath. 2 pp.

- MS 48278/17 1726**  
Bond for the payment of £800 by Viscount Gormanston and Nicholas Preston to John and George Fitzgerald (London merchants). 4 Apr. 1726. 2pp
- MS 48278/18 1732-1794**  
Miscellaneous receipts for payments of rent by cash, livestock or other goods. *7 items*
- MS 48278/19 1733**  
Copy of a marriage agreement made by Matthew Fleming (Kilbride, County Meath) on behalf of his daughter Elinor, with William Halpeny of Gillenstown, County Meath. 15 Mar. 1725.
- MS 48278/20 1743**  
Brief for John Barnewall (defendant) regarding the case of 'Robert Bailie a John Barnewall and others' to be held on 4 July 1743, presented by E. Smyth to Edmund Costello. 4pp.
- MS 48278/21 [c.1750]**  
Marriage settlement between Edward and Margaret Murphy, in Latin. 1p.
- MSL 274 [c.1800]**  
Blank indenture form on vellum for Anthony Lord Viscount Gormanstown for any year in the eighteenth century, and a blank indenture form on vellum for Jerico Lord Viscount Gormanstown for any year in the nineteenth century. Also, one blank 7pp handwritten indenture form dating from 1775.
- MS 48278/22 [1836]**  
Seven copies of the will of Standish O'Grady, [1<sup>st</sup>] Viscount Guillamore [1776-1840].  
Also, briefs in the case of Viscount Guillamore vs. Lady Guillamore and [sons] Waller, Richard, William, John and Thomas O'Grady (defendants), drawn up for a Sergeant Warren, Richard Moore and Right Hon. D.R. Pigott.  
Also, a 30pp judgment of the Hon. Judge Crampton at the Court of Delegates in the case of Viscount Guillamore a Waller O'Grady.  
Also, a copy of a draft answer of the Hon. Waller O'Grady, copies of eleven letters relevant to the case, and instructions drawn up for J.T. Ball and Richard Moore (counsels for the defendants). *26 items*

**MS 48279/1 1878-1879**  
Copy of will (17 Jul. 1878) and codicil (29 Dec. 1879) of Richard Montesquieu Bellew of Dunleer, County Louth, a friend of the Preston family. 13pp.

## **II. Letters to Jenico Preston, 12<sup>th</sup> Viscount Gormanston, (1775-1860)**

**MS 48279/2 1786-1789**  
Letters to Lord Gormanston, including letters from Seymour Chelsea, the Duke of Portland (William Henry Cavendish) and two letters in French. *8 items*

**MS 48279/3 1790-1791**  
Letters to Lord Gormanston from Anthony Cruise and Walter Butler. *2 items*

**MS 48279/4 1795-1796**  
Letters to Lord Gormanston, including a letter from a cousin 'Sidney M. Preston' and [?] Southwell [brother in-law?]. *7 items*  
[1 letter is damaged and requires conservation]

**MS 48279/5 1797**  
Letters to Lord Gormanston from a Reverend Dixon. *3 items*

**MS 48279/6 1798-1802**  
Letters to Lord Gormanston, including a letter from [?] Southwell [brother in-law, Major Arthur Southwell]. *3 items*

**MS 48279/7 1803-1804, 1815**  
Letters to Lord Gormanston, including two printed letters from Dublin Castle relating to army regulations, and a later note from Gormanston to Colonel Armstrong, late officer of the Meath yeomanry corps (undated [1815]). *9 items*  
[2 letters are damaged and require conservation]

**MS 48279/8 1805-1809**  
Letters to Lord Gormanston from tenants, including John Proctor, Richard Barnewall, Mathew Gerrity and others. *11 items*

**MS 48279/9 1810-1812**  
Letters to Lord Gormanston from his tenants concerning leases and rents. *8 items*

**MS 48279/10 1813-1815**

Letters to Lord Gormanston from his tenants concerning leases and rents.  
*9 items*

**MS 48279/11 1816**

Letters to Lord Gormanston from family friends, including the 'Glanock' [?] family. *6 items*

**MS 48279/12 1817**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, mostly relating to financial matters.  
Includes one letter from 'James Brabazon' [?] and one letter in French. *6 items*

**MS 48279/13 1818-1820, 1822**

Letters to Lord Gormanston from his tenants concerning tenant accounts (some letters include bank statements); *13 items*

**MS 48279/14 1819**

Letter to Lord Gormanston concerning college accounts of his sons Robert and Charles. *1 item*

**MS 48279/15 1819**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, including letters from Charles Plowden and D. Murray. *4 items*

**MS 48279/16 1820**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, including a letter from Stonyhurst College regarding his sons Robert and Charles and a letter regarding army matters. *5 items*  
[1 letter is damaged and requires conservation]

**MS 48279/17 1822**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, including a letter from Stonyhurst College concerning the college account of his sons Robert and Charles. *2 items*

**MS 48279/18 1822**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, including a letter from Stonyhurst College concerning the college account of his sons Charles and Robert, one letter from his mother (Harriot, 11<sup>th</sup> Viscountess), two letters from 'Pauline' [a cousin?] and one letter regarding the management of his estate. 17 Sep.-15 Dec.1822. *6 items*

**MS 48279/19 1823-1824**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, generally relating to the management of his estate. Includes two letters from Sidney M. Preston (cousin) and a letter from 'Pauline' [?]. 2 Jan. 1823-22 Oct. 1824. *10 items*



- MS 48279/20 1825**  
 Letters to Lord Gormanston, including two letters from his mother Harriot (11<sup>th</sup> Viscountess), letters regarding finances and a letter from his sister Harriet Preston. 3 Jan.-14 Jul 1825. *8 items*
- MS 48279/21 1826**  
 Letters to Lord Gormanston, including six letters from his sister Harriet Preston. Also, a letter from his sons, a cousin [Madame de la Baron de Hansch?] and two letters from John Russel concerning finances (include bank statements). 18 Jan.-16 Dec. 1826. *20 items*
- MS 48279/22 1827**  
 Letters to Lord Gormanston, including four letters from his son Edward Preston and from Henry Thomas [solicitor?]. Also, a letter from the Captain Commandant of the Gormanston Corps. Jan.-Dec.1827. *20 items*
- MS 48279/23 1828-1829**  
 Letters to Lord Gormanston, generally concerning finances (including bank statements, two of which are in French). 31 Jul. 1828-21 May 1829. *8 items*
- MS 48279/24 1830**  
 Letters to Lord Gormanston, including letters regarding his estate (two are annotated with copies of Gormanston's replies), three letters in French, a letter from the *Freeman's Journal* and a circular letter from the War Office. 6 Jul.-3 Dec. 1830. *16 items*
- MS 48279/25 1831**  
 Letters to Lord Gormanston, generally regarding the management of his estate. Also, two letters regarding the Gormanston Corps. 5 Jan.-22 Jun. 1831. *13 items*
- MS 48279/26 1831**  
 Letters to Lord Gormanston, relating mostly to business matters. Also included is an invitation to the coronation of Queen Victoria. Jul.-Dec. 1831. *11 items*
- MS 48279/27 1832**  
 Letters to Lord Gormanston, relating to business or estate matters. Includes a letter from the War Office regarding the Yeomanry Corps. 16 Jan.-16 Jul. 1832. *4 items*
- MS 48279/28 1832-33**  
 Letters to Lord Gormanston, including letters relating to business matters (including a couple in French), a circular from Dublin Castle regarding the yeomanry corps, a letter regarding Gormanston's trip to Rome and a

letter from Captain P.F.L. Preston (cousin). 21 Aug. 1832-8 Aug. 1833. *9 items*

**MS 48279/29 1834**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, including a printed circular letter from Dublin Castle regarding the yeomanry corps, a couple of letters of Francis Cruise (land agent) and a letter from a Mr. Caddell [cousin] in Leamington. 17 May-27 Oct. 1834. *9 items*

**MS 48279/30 1835**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, including a letter from Lord Melbourne in Downing Street requesting him to vote for Lord Lismore as an Irish peer, with a copy of Gormanston's reply attached. Also, a letter from Lord Dunsany requesting political support, with a copy of Gormanston's reply attached. Also, a letter from Bishop John Cantwell of Mullingar and a letter (with a copy of Gormanston's reply) regarding a plan to build a railway along the Irish coastline. 11 Jun.-28 Dec. 1835. *9 items*

**MS 48279/31 1836**

Letters to Lord Gormanston from London correspondents on various matters. Correspondents are Robert Berkeley (with an attached note from an associate), Michael Clark, D. 'Darsons' [?] and George Samuel 'Collegan' [?]. The latter (18 Jan.) has attached a copy of a letter from 'Gn' [Lord Gormanston]. 18 Jan.-9 May 1836. *6 items*

**MS 48279/32 1836**

Letters to Lord Gormanston from Irish correspondents. Correspondents are Lord Bellingham, Fr. John Halpin (parish priest of Nobber, Co. Meath), Edward Bligh of Kells, Co. Meath, A.C. Palles of Mountjoy Square, Dublin, and P.F.L. Preston (a cousin in Dublin, who expresses his desire to emigrate). The letter of Bligh has attached a copy of a note from 'Gn' [Lord Gormanston]. 6 Jun.-27 Aug. 1836. *5 items*

**MS 48279/33 1837-39**

Two letters to Lord Gormanston in French, namely a letter from D. Jollet (23 Aug. 1837) and a letter from S. 'Guiseppe' [?] (4 Apr. 1839). *2 items*

**MS 48279/34 1838-39**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, generally regarding tenants and minor business transactions. Includes a letter from Thomas O'Connell (secretary of the Royal Western Yacht Club, Tralee, Co. Kerry). 28 April 1838-9 July 1839. *13 items*

**MS 48279/35 1840-41**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, generally regarding tenants and minor business transactions. Includes a letter from a cousin in Belgium (this

letter is torn and is kept in Mylar) and a copy of a later letter (18 Dec. 1841) of Gormanston to the same cousin [Madame de la Baron de Hansch?]. 1 Jan.-27 Nov. 1840, 18 Dec. 1841. *17 items*

**MS 48279/36 1841**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, generally regarding tenants and management of his estate. Includes a letter from Fr. John Halpin, parish priest of Nobber, Co. Meath. 15 March-22 Dec. 1841. *10 items*

**MS 48279/37 1842**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, generally regarding the management of his estate. Includes a letter from A.C. Palles (Dublin) on the Gormanston family lineage and title. 5 July-23 December 1842. *7 items*

**MS 48279/38 1843**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, including a petition from tenants of parts of his estate (Feb.). Also, a letter from the Irish Office regarding the management of Board of Guardians (8 Jun.) and a note from M.E. Corbally (18 Nov.) regarding the dowry he received upon marrying Gormanston's daughter. 1 Feb.-18 Nov. 1843. *12 items*

**MS 48279/39 1844-46**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, including two notes from M.E. Corbally regarding the dowry he received upon marrying Gormanston's daughter and some notes from tenants regarding the management of Gormanston's estate. Also, a letter from Bishop Cantwell in Mullingar (17 Oct. 1845) and a report (Oct. 1846) from a Relief Committee sub-committee for the baronies of east and west Balrothery (Co. Dublin). 10 Feb. 1844-22 Oct. 1846. *17 items*

**MS 48279/40 1847-52**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, including a letter from Dr. Thomas Rookes, president of the College of Prior Park, and two letters from a grandson (J. Preston) attending the same college. Also, a letter from Bishop D. Murray of Dublin. 25 Aug. 1847-13 Apr. 1852. *9 items*

**MS 48279/41 1853-55**

Letters to Lord Gormanston, including a letter from Cardinal Wiseman of London (7 Apr. 1853), letters from relatives in Cornwall (with an attached note from Gormanston) and letters regards a court case held in Dundalk (Jul. 1855). 7 Apr. 1853-2 Nov. 1855. *11 items*

**MS 48279/42 1856-1860, 1900**

Letters to Lord Gormanston on various matters. Includes letters from cousins C.E. De Hansch, R. Caddell and E.S. Preston, and a letter of Gormanston (10 June 1857) sent from Hamburg to a doctor. Also

included, a miscellaneous and incomplete note of unknown authorship regarding the Boer War in South Africa (1899-1902). 3 Jan. 1856-11 Mar. 1860. *15 items*