

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

**Collection List No. 173**

**Prior-Wandesforde Papers (Additional)**

**(SEE ALSO COLLECTION LISTS No. 52 & 101)**

**(MSS 48,342-48,354)**

**A small collection of estate and colliery papers of the Prior-Wandesforde family of  
Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, 1804-1969.**

*Compiled by Owen McGee, 2010*

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## **Introduction**

### **The family**

The Wandesforde family originally came from Yorkshire. The first member of the family to reside in Ireland was Christopher Wandesforde, who was appointed to a senior position in the government of Ireland during the 1630s. During that decade he acquired an estate in Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny where the family generally resided until the mid-to-late twentieth century.

From the late seventeenth until the late eighteenth century the head of the family had the title of Baron Wandesforde and Viscount Castlecomer, but the title became extinct following the death of Sir John Wandesforde, the 5<sup>th</sup> Viscount, in 1784, as he had no surviving male heirs. His daughter Anne then inherited the estate, married John Butler of the Ormond family and her third son, Charles Harward Butler-Clarke-Southwell Wandesforde (1780-1860) inherited the estates and continued the Wandesforde name.

During the early to mid-nineteenth century C.H.B.C.S. Wandesforde took a fairly active part in running the family estates but it was managed on his behalf mostly by agents. His daughter Sarah, who inherited the estate, married the Rev. John Prior (son of the Vice Provost of Trinity College Dublin) and after her death in 1894 the property was acquired by her grandson, Richard Henry Prior-Wandesforde. He developed the family's colliery into a modern business.

### **The estates**

The Prior Wandesforde family's estate included properties in the counties Kilkenny, Limerick and Clare as well as Cork city. Material relating to English estates owned by the family can be found in the North Yorkshire County Record Office.

The family's main estate (20,000 acres) was at Castlecomer, an area in the barony of Fassadinin, Co. Kilkenny, originally known as Brenan and later as Idough. In 1876 this estate consisted of 22,232 acres with a valuation of £11,745. The estate was sold to its tenants under the terms of the Wyndham Land Act of 1903.

### **The colliery**

The family's colliery business operated more or less continuously from the 1630s until the late 1960s under different names. The mines were managed mostly by contracted staff, although the family retained a close watch on their activities. During the nineteenth century the Castlecomer mines were closely associated with the Mining Company of Ireland. Upon the sale of the Castlecomer estate in 1903, Captain Richard Henry Prior-Wandesforde retained the mineral rights to the land and founded Castlecomer Collieries Limited. This colliery proved successful until the 1960s when escalating costs of power and the increasing use of oil and electricity resulted in its closure in January 1969.

### **The papers: provenance and physical characteristics**

The Prior-Wandesforde papers were surveyed by Sir John Ainsworth on behalf of the Irish Manuscript Commission during the early 1950s. Part of the collection was purchased by the National Library of Ireland in 1964, with other material (held by the Castlecomer Demesne Company Limited) being donated to the library at a later date.

The main body of the Prior Wandesforde papers is listed in **Collection List No. 52**. Material relating to the Prior family is listed in **Collection List No. 101**.

The material in this collection list, **Collection List No. 173**, in common with that in **Collection List No. 52**, includes administrative documentation from both the Castlecomer estate and colliery from the 1840s until the 1960s. Contained in 11 boxes, most of the material is in good condition, although certain sections of the collection have been deemed as not fit for consultation due to extensive corrosive damage.

### **Arrangement**

The collection has been arranged simply into two main sections, covering the colliery and estate respectively.

### **Assessment**

The Castlecomer plateau is one of the few locations in Ireland with a strong mining history and the coal it produced was widely recognized as among the finest in the United Kingdom and also Europe.

The collection contains a good deal of business papers and correspondence relating to the mines, particularly from the early-twentieth century. It also provides a valuable record of the living and working conditions of the miners themselves, owing to the sizeable amount of surviving, tenancy agreement and accident claim forms relating to the manual labour staff. There are also some records of labour disputes dating from the 1950s.

The estate records from the nineteenth century are in a much poorer material condition, some being unfit for public consultation. They include, however, a significant amount of pre-famine and post-famine petitions for material assistance from tenants, thereby providing a valuable insight into material circumstances at the time. Many of these petitions also bear annotations from the estate managers, which provide an inkling of whether or not tenants' grievances were met. Some of these tenants were also labourers at the mines.

There are little or no personal papers in this collection, the correspondence having being generated almost exclusively from the work of those agents who managed the estate or colliery on behalf of the Wandesforde family. These include Richard Eaton (an agent for managing the estate from 1815-47), Richard Cooke (an agent for managing the estate from 1848-80) and Joseph Dobbs (an agent for managing the colliery from 1874-1905). There is essentially no political correspondence in the collection, although one of Eaton's letters relates to an election fund from 1827, while there are also two communications with the Provisional Government of the Irish Free State dating from 1922.

## I. The Castlecomer Colliery

### I.i. Title deeds to the mines (1819-1869)

- MS 48,342/1 1819**  
An assignment between George John Tuchet (Lord Audley) of Heleigh Castle (1<sup>st</sup> part), John King Irwin of Dublin (2<sup>nd</sup> part) and Henry Farange of Dublin (3<sup>rd</sup> part), whereby Audley granted onto Irwin proceeds from various estates in Co. Cork in return for a nominal fee. 16 Feb. 1819. 1p.
- MS 48,342/2 1821**  
Release from T.R. Patrick of Edinburgh, Arthur Cossins of the Isle of Wight and John Cossins of Dorset to Lord Audley of Cork of their portion of [property to the value of] £2,000 from estates in Ireland and England. 16 Feb. 1821. 3pp.
- MS 48,342/3 1823-1828**  
Letters between Edward Cooke and Richard Purdy, secretary of the Mining Company of Ireland, regarding the latter's lease of property to the company (Mar.-Oct. 1828) with one miscellaneous letter from 1823 regarding a personal dispute involving a Mr. Doherty [?]. *4 items*
- MS 48,342/4 1824**  
An assignment of annuities from various properties in Cork from Lord Audley to Richard Haughton, Paul Lill Patrick and James Martin Pike (trustees of the Mining Company of Ireland). 6 Sep. 1824. 4pp.
- MS 48,342/5 1825**  
Assignment between Julia Gage, widow (1<sup>st</sup> part), John Fitzgibbon, sergeant, (2<sup>nd</sup> part), Lord Audley (3<sup>rd</sup> part), Richard Purdy (4<sup>th</sup> part) and Jeremiah Houghton, Paul L. Patrick and James M. Pike (5<sup>th</sup> part) whereby Gage and Fitzgibbon granted all their rights regarding Cork properties (established by a previous property agreement with Purdy) onto the fifth party for a sum of £1,755 19s.10d. 23 May 1825. 4pp.
- MS 48,342/6 1825-1834**  
A perpetual lease of mining lands in Co. Kildare from Richard P. O'Shee to Richard Purdy at a variable rate (9 May 1825) with a letter of O'Shee (2 Feb. 1834) expressing his willingness to reduce his share of the proceeds from this Kildare mining property to one-twentieth. *2 items*
- MS 48,342/7 1827**  
Fee farm lease from Fergus Langley of Lickfin, Co. Tipperary, to Sir Aubrey De Vere Hunt of Currah, Co. Limerick, for farm lands in the region of Lickfin, Co. Limerick for one year at a nominal fee (8 January

1827). Also one empty envelope. 2 *items*

**MS 48,342/8 1830-1835**

A copy of an answer of Richard Purdy (secretary to the Mining Company of Ireland) in response to a bill of plaintiff in the case of Greene vs. Lord Audley & ors. (12 Jan. 1835, 60pp.). Also, the advice and opinion of the Right Hon. Francis Blackburne in a case (partly concerning Lord Audley) taken on behalf of Thomas Walker (13 Sep. 1830, 32pp). 2 *items*

**MS 48,343/1 1832**

Assignment from Richard Purdy (1<sup>st</sup> part), P.L. Patrick and James M. Pike (2<sup>nd</sup> part), Lord Audley (3<sup>rd</sup> part) and William Wilkinson, merchant of Broad Street, London (4<sup>th</sup> part), whereby Wilkinson was granted right to whatever mineral resources may be found in certain land in the barony of East and West Carbery, Co. Cork 23 Aug. 1832. 3pp.

**MS 48,343/2 1832**

Lease from Fergus Langley to Richard Purdy of Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin, of lands in Lickfin, Co. Tipperary, for forty one years at a rent of £2 per acre of such land as Purdy may decide to mine for coal. 20 Oct. 1834. 1p.

**MS 48,343/3 1835**

Lease from William Jackman to William Lapp and G.F.Carleton of Dublin of land in the barony of Scarawalsh, Co. Wexford, with all rights to its mineral resources, for the term of ninety-nine years at a yearly rate of one-eighth of the produce, with an additional advance payment to be made of £2,275. 23 May 1835. 1p.

**MS 48,343/4 1835**

A lease of a coalfield called 'the Curragh' in Co. Tipperary from Henry Langley of Coalbrook, Co. Tipperary, to Richard Purdy of Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin for 31 years at a yearly rate of one-tenth of the produce of the said pits, with an additional advance payment to be made of £300. 7 Nov. 1835. 1p.

**MS 48,343/5 1835**

A copy of a memorandum of an agreement between John Petherick (agent of the Mining Company of Ireland) and David Shanahan of Kilmoylan, Co. Waterford, whereby the latter grants the company the right to extend a watercourse to the Knockmahon mines in return for a payment of £50. 9 Nov. 1835. 1p.

**MS 48,343/6 1836**

Lease from Fergus Langley of Lickfin, Co. Tipperary, to Richard Purdy of the coalfield of Knockgrange, Co. Tipperary for forty-one years at a

yearly rate of one-thirteenth of the produce of the said pits. 16 Nov. 1836.  
1p.

**MS 48,343/7 1839**

An award of arbitrators to John Howlin of Ballyhiland, Co. Wexford of £73 10s in settlement of his dispute with Richard Purdy, secretary of the Mining Company of Ireland, over a compensation claim. 30 Jan. 1839.  
2pp.

**MS 48,343/8 1840**

Three copies of a memorial of an indented deed of assignment between Robert Alexander Wallace of North Great Georges St., Dublin (1<sup>st</sup> part) and David Roche Blood, Isaac English and James Perry (2<sup>nd</sup> part) whereby the second party were appointed trustees of the Mining Company of Ireland in place of Jeremiah Haughton, Paul Lee Patrick and James Martin Pike. 23 Nov. 1840. *3 items*

**MS 48,343/9 1840**

Lease from Owen Byrne to Charles Nowlan of premises at Seven Churches, Co. Wicklow for 31 years at a yearly rent of £26. 12 Sep. 1840. 1p.

**MS48,343/10 1842**

Lease from Phaniel Cooke of Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny, to William Going of Ballyphilip, Co. Tipperary, of the lower colliery lands of Ballynastich, Co. Tipperary for twenty-one years at a yearly rate of one-eighth of the produce of the same lands. 9 Aug. 1842. 4pp.

**MS48,343/11 1845**

Assignment of lease and mines of Ballynastich, Co. Tipperary, from Ambrose Going to Richard Purdy for £1,500. 28 Mar. 1845. 2pp.

**MS48,343/12 1852**

Lease from Sir Henry Winston of Baronscourt, Co. Waterford, Peter Standish Anthony of Seafield, Co. Waterford, and the Crown Insurance Company to Richard Purdy Allen, secretary of the Mining Company of Ireland, of the mineral resources of the townlands in Seafield and Ballyclash in the barony of Uppertthird, Co. Waterford, for 31 years at a yearly rate of a small percentage of the mining proceeds. Includes a map of the district which is drawn upon the first page of the deed. 6 Dec. 1852. 3pp.

**MS48,343/13 1855**

Articles of agreement between William R. De Montmorency of Mount Eland, Co. Kilkenny and Richard Purdy Allen, secretary of the Mining Company of Ireland, whereby De Montmorency granted mining rights on

his property in Coolcashin, Co. Kilkenny to the company in return for one twelfth of the proceeds for a period of forty one years. 25 Apr. 1855. 4pp.

- MS48,343/14 1855**  
Deed of annuity from Robert Heron, secretary to the Mining Company of Ireland, to Richard Alcock Byrne of Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow, of £100 a year for lands of Seven Churches, Co. Wicklow. 29 Oct. 1855. 1p.
- MS48,343/15 1858**  
Lease from Richard Pennefeather Going of Ballynonty House, Co. Tipperary, to Robert Heron, secretary of the Mining Company of Ireland, of all coal mining rights in the townland of Ballynonty, Co. Tipperary for forty-one years at a rate of one-ninth of the proceeds or a minimum of £150 a year. A detailed map is attached to the deed. 31st May 1858. 5pp.
- MS48,343/16 1868**  
Lease from John Pennefeather Hare of Devonshire House, Co. Sussex, to William Harold, secretary of the Mining Company of Ireland, of mines on his [Tipperary] property for 41 years at a yearly rate of one-twelfth of the proceeds of the mining profits. 1 Dec. 1868. 11pp.
- MS48,343/17 1869**  
Bond for the faithful discharge of duty between Nicholas Rowe of Lower Gardiner St., Dublin, and Pierce Rowe of Kilmuckridge, Co. Wexford (1<sup>st</sup> part), and William Harold, secretary of the Mining Company of Ireland, whereby the first party agreed to pay £500 each to Harold. 10 Sep. 1869. 2pp.

### **I.ii. Business accounts for the Castlecomer mines (1818-1897)**

- MS 48,344/1 1818-1841**  
Miscellaneous accounting notes and receipts. Includes some bills listing various labourers' salaries (Jan. 1836). *36 items*
- MS 48,344/2 1828-1829**  
Miscellaneous clerks' tickets, detailing daily coal sales, bound in rolls. Feb.1828-May 1829. *8 items*  
NOT FOR CONSULTATION
- MS 48,344/3 [1845]**  
Miscellaneous accounting notes and scrap-paper. *6 items*
- MS 48,344/4 1845-1850**  
Miscellaneous receipts for payments made, signed by 'K. (Kildare)



Dobbs'. The receipts list simply a name and a figure without detailing a transaction. *70 items*

- MS 48,344/5 1851-1866**  
Miscellaneous clerks' tickets, detailing daily coal sales, bound in fortnightly rolls. 26 Jul. 1851-17 Mar. 1866. *34 items*  
NOT FOR CONSULTATION
- MS 48,345/1 1852-1878**  
Three copies of a 4pp pamphlet by Edward T. Hardiman entitled *Report and analysis of the New Jarrow Coal , Massford Colliery, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny; Mr. Joseph Dobbs, owner; with comparative analysis of best Welsh Anthracite* (Dublin, 1878). Also, some miscellaneous clerks' tickets, detailing daily coal sales. *6 items*
- MS 48,345/2 1866**  
Fortnightly records of bills and disbursements. 17 Mar.-8 Dec. 1866. *16 items*
- MS 48,345/3 1867-1875**  
Miscellaneous clerks' tickets, detailing daily coal sales, bound in fortnightly rolls. 13 Apr. 1867-27 Nov. 1875. *37 items*  
NOT FOR CONSULTATION
- MS 48,345/4 1872**  
Fortnightly records of bills and disbursements. Jul.-Dec. 1872. *28 items*
- MS 48,345/5 1874**  
Several receipts from a L. Llewellyn in London for payments made by C.H.R. Wandesforde, as well as several telegraphs from the same time period. *19 items*
- MS 48,345/6 1876-1884**  
Miscellaneous clerks' tickets, detailing daily coal sales, bound in fortnightly rolls. 16 Sep. 1876-28 Jun. 1884. *39 items*  
NOT FOR CONSULTATION
- MS 48,346/1 1890-1897**  
A copy of a report of the Irish Land Commission (1890), a statement regarding the Leinster Coalfield (1891), a 5pp. report on the liquidation of the Mining Company of Ireland Ltd (17 Mar. 1892), some letters to Joseph Dobbs on company business and some memoranda and a profit and loss account relating to the Slieveardagh Collieries. *17 items*

### I.iii. Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. (1903-1969)

#### I.iii.1 Business correspondence (1900-1928)

- MS 48,346/2 1901-1913**  
Miscellaneous company papers. Includes receipts sent to Joseph Dobbs, manager, and an extract from a share agreement involving Dobbs. 27 Jul. 1901-14 Nov. 1913. *10 items*
- MS 48,346/3 1903-1905**  
Letters to Joseph Dobbs, acting manager of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd., regarding various business matters. 27 Apr. 1903-18 Nov. 1905. *37 items*
- MS 48,346/4 1905**  
A copy of a letter from R.H.P. Wandesforde to Joseph Dobbs regarding the latter's proposal that the former take over the mines (21 Feb. 1905). A copy of a letter of Joseph Dobbs to William Barbour announcing the termination of his employment as a manager of the collieries and his replacement by a Mr. J.H. Marr (31 Mar. 1905). A copy of a letter of J.H. Marr [to a Mr. Hall] regarding the termination of a contract regarding the management of a colliery at Skehana (26 May 1905). Also, a copy of the *Final Report of the Royal Commission on Coal Supplies, part eight* (London, 1905) and a TS copy of an extract from an unidentified lease. *5 items*
- MS 48,346/5 1905**  
Copies of a memorandum of agreement to take effect on 22 Apr. 1905, whereby Joseph Dobbs relinquished the lease agreement with R.H.P. Wandesforde under which Dobbs had acted as manager of the collieries (8 Mar. 1905). Also, some legal notes relating to the same case. *5 items*
- MS 48,346/6 1908-1917**  
An undated sheet detailing the annual output of Castlecomer Collieries from 1908 to 1917. 1p.
- MS 48,346/7 1914**  
TS copy of an article [by Robert Shane] on Australian coals and mines. 1 Jan. 1914. 15pp.
- MS 48,346/8 1915-1920**  
Miscellaneous business receipts and communications, including a few letters from English colliery firms. 22 Oct. 1915-10 Sep. 1920. *38 items*
- MS 48,346/9 1917-1918**  
Letters from J. Longridge to J.B. Semple, providing updates on progress

at the Vera mines. Also, one undated list of labourers' names including those at the Vera mines. 13 Jul. 1917-19 Aug. 1918. *52 items*

**MS48,346/10 1918**

Four copies, including one rough draft, of an annual report of the workings of the Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. for the year ended 31 Dec. 1918. Also, one general report on the nature and operations of the Castlecomer Collieries business. *5 items*

**MS48,346/11 1918-1919**

Circular letters received from the Petrol Control Committee (Ireland), the War Office and the Institute of Engineers (Cardiff), with one reply to the latter which relates to a Royal Commission of Enquiry regarding miners' wages and work hours. Also, a communication from the 'Roads and Bridges Branch' of the Irish Office (with attachments) requesting to know if company members were responsible for committing damage to particular roads in the Castlecomer area (17 Jul. 1919). *9 items*

**MS48,346/12 1918-1919**

Communications between Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. and H.G. Burgess, director of Cross Channel Transportation and Coal Controller's Department, 19 Westmoreland St., Dublin, on various business matters. Also, copies of a small number of papers that were forwarded to Burgess. 13 Nov. 1918-1 Sep. 1919. *148 items*

**MS48,346/13 1918-1920**

Communications between Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. and the Coal Mines Department of the Board of Trade, London. The material from 1918 is filed in reverse date order and includes some circular letters from the government regarding the questions of army recruitment and demobilisation among miners. 20 Apr 1918-7 Jun. 1920. *128 items*

**MS48,346/14 1919**

TS copies of statements by Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. regarding the status of several of their current or former employees, including ex-soldiers. Jan.-Apr.1919. *16 items*

**MS48,346/15 1919**

Letter from John Whittaker to J.H. Marr regarding the working of the Jarrow colliery at Castlecomer (19 Apr. 1919). Also, two copies of a draft of a letter [by R.H.P. Wandesforde] to T.A. Moles MP regarding the probable negative impact upon Irish collieries a recommendation of the Coal Commission would have if it was enforced ('March' [1919]). Also, a copy of a communication sent to the County Surveyor's Office, Kilkenny about local roads (13 Aug. 1919) and one miscellaneous item. *5 items*

- MS48,346/16 1919-1921**  
Business communications between Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. and Richard Sutcliffe, mining specialist in Wakefield, England. Material is filed in reverse date order. 13 May 1919-12 Jul. 1921. *106 items*
- MS48,346/17 1920**  
Six account statements for the New Coal Yard in Kilkenny, with four statements of business conducted with different firms, dating from 1920, that were meant for auditing. *10 items*
- MS48,346/18 1922**  
A letter from L.T. MacCosgair (W.T. Cosgrave), minister for local government, requesting that Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. act as supplier of coal to public institutions in the south and west of Ireland, with a copy of a reply (10-13 Feb.). Also, a copy of a letter [from R.B. Gahan? R.H. Prior-Wandesforde?] to 'J. Cope' [Alfred Cope], Assistant Under Secretary, about his communications with the Chief of Staff [of the National Army of the Provisional Government of the Irish Free State] regarding state regulation of the sale of explosives (28 Jul. 1922). *3 items*
- MS48,346/19 1922**  
General business correspondence, mostly relating to the supply of coal. Includes letters from customers and some copies of replies. Feb.-Mar. 1922. *69 items*
- MS48,346/20 1923-1928**  
Letters (mostly copies) from J. Whitaker, general manager of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. to Capt. R.H. Prior-Wandesforde, manager director of the same, about company business. Includes some handwritten notes, apparently in Whitaker's hand. 23 Nov. 1923-24 Feb. 1928. *11 items*

### **I.iii.2 General accounts (1920-1963)**

- MS 48,347/1 1920-1923**  
A notebook detailing various company expenses incurred [? by R.B. Gahan], with one miscellaneous telegraph to Gahan inserted between the pages. 29 May 1920-27 Oct. 1923. 92pp.
- MS 48,347/2 1934-1935**  
Notepad-size sheets, bound as one item, detailing expenses incurred during various weeks during 1934-35. 29pp.
- MS 48,347/3 1954**

A hardback notebook detailing sundry expense accounts from 15 Jan. to 24 Sep. 1954. Also, three miscellaneous accounting notes including a rough draft of a profit and loss account for the first quarter of the year. *4 items*

- MS 48,347/4 1954**  
Weekly returns of coal received and sold at the Kilkenny Depot, with a summary at the end of the year. *52 items*
- MS 48,347/5 1954-1958**  
Account sheets detailing company transactions with various businesses. The accounts are ordered alphabetically from A-S according to the businesses' names. The last fifteen sheets are simply headed 'sundry accounts'. *111 items*
- MS 48,347/6 1955-1956**  
Weekly returns of coal received and sold at the Kilkenny Depot. 31 Dec. 1955-30 Jun. 1956. *27 items*
- MS 48,347/7 1956**  
Weekly returns of coal received and sold at the Kilkenny Depot. 1 Jul.-29 Dec. 1956. *25 items*
- MS 48,347/8 1956**  
Profit and loss account analyses for the Kilkenny depot, with three lists of outstanding accounts. *6 items*
- MS 48,347/9 1957-1958**  
A ledger detailing company receipts from 9 Dec. 1957-19 May 1958. (100pp.) Also, a list of outstanding accounts due on 5 Jan. 1957, a fortnight account of pay to staff from 30 Mar. 1957, and three reports of coal sold and received during Jan. 1957. *6 items*
- MS48,347/10 1957-1960**  
Agent's Vend Accounts, a.k.a. production sheets, for various weeks. Feb. 1957-Sep. 1960. *201 items*
- MS 48,348/1 1958-1959**  
Fortnightly summary cost sheets for the company. 2 Aug. 1958 - 16 Jan. 1959. *14 items*
- MS 48,348/2 1959**  
A report on the company stores, or 'store summary'. 2 Jan. 1959. 77pp.
- MS 48,348/3 1963**  
Weekly reports of the return of coal sold and received, with a profit and

loss account for the Kilkenny depot, for the year 1963. *50 items*

### **I.iii.3 Company stock and production accounts (1937-1966)**

- MS 48,348/4 1937**  
Fortnightly accounts of stock and production during the year 1937. *26 items*
- MS 48,348/5 1940**  
Fortnightly accounts of stock and production from 13 Jan. to 28 Dec. 1940. *26 items*
- MS 48,348/6 1941**  
Fortnightly accounts of stock and production from 25 Jan. 1941 to 4 Oct. 1941. *19 items*
- MS 48,348/7 1941-1942**  
Fortnightly accounts of stock and production from 18 Oct. 1941 to 18 April 1942, with three miscellaneous reports, dated 11 Jan. 1941, 14 Nov., 12 Dec. and 26 Dec. 1942. *18 items*
- MS 48,348/8 1952**  
Stock accounts for the General Stores, Stock Building Stores and the timber stock in the collieries yard. Also, stocks of coal, turf and firewood at the Kilkenny coal yard for various dates during 1952. 44 pp.
- MS 48,348/9 1953**  
34pp. stock summary for the company, dated 26 Dec. Also, a short report from the same date about the stock of roof supports at the colliery yard. *2 items*
- MS48,348/10 1954**  
Stock summary reports for Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. bound as a single item. 50pp.
- MS48,348/11 1956-1957**  
An account of the stock in general stores [for the year ending 31 Dec.1956], completed 5 Jan. 1957 (41pp.) Also, an account of stock at the Mining Office Yard on 1 Oct. 1956 (6pp). *2 items*
- MS48,348/12 1966**  
A report on company stocks during 1966, including a summary sheet. 50 pp.

#### I.iii.4 Staff-pay accounts (1940-1966)

- MS 48,349/1 1940**  
'Leading Bills' for Castlecomer Collieries Ltd., detailing hours worked as well as fortnightly payments made to particular members of staff. 10 Feb.-2 Nov. 1940. *12 items*
- MS 48,349/2 1940-1942**  
Miscellaneous 'Leading Bills' for Castlecomer Collieries Ltd., detailing hours worked as well as fortnightly payments made to particular members of staff. 6Apr.1940-14 Nov.1942. *7 items*
- MS 48,349/3 1941**  
'Leading Bills' for Castlecomer Collieries Ltd., detailing hours worked as well as fortnightly payments made to particular members of staff. 11 Jan.-27 Dec. 1941. *26 items*
- MS 48,349/4 1942**  
'Leading Bills' for Castlecomer Collieries Ltd., detailing hours worked as well as fortnightly payments made to particular members of staff. 10 Jan.-26 Dec. 1942. *12 items*
- MS 48,349/5 1944**  
A six page account of pay to staff of the Deerpark Pit of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. 17 Aug. 1944. 6pp.
- MS 48,349/6 1948-1949**  
Fortnightly reports of the use by staff members of the bus service of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. 19 Jun.1948-12 Mar. 1949. *18 items*
- MS 48,349/7 1948-1954**  
A small notebook listing staff members names and the wages paid to them, with a couple of loose pages. Jul.1948-Mar. 1954. 37pp.
- MS 48,349/8 1954-1960**  
Four small notebooks providing details of weekly salaries of various staff members at different intervals, with three miscellaneous accounts of staff pay from 1956. 3 Apr. 1954-9 Sep. 1960. *7 items*
- MS 48,349/9 1959-1960**  
Accounts of pay to staff members. *33 items*
- MS48,349/10 1962-1965**  
Various lists of staff members, including lists of new and retired staff members. *19 items*

**MS48,349/11 1964-1965**  
Staff-pay accounts for miscellaneous weeks during 1965, primarily from January to July. Includes one larger account, summarizing staff-pay figures during the autumn of 1964. Also, a miscellaneous extract from a profit and loss account. *25 items*

**MS48,349/12 1965**  
Records regarding transfers among employees from contract to 'datal' [full time] workers. Also, a large (mostly empty) diary, listing various appointments of 'Denis' [?], from 1965. Inserted in the diary are some loose sheets relating to travel expenses [to Oslo]. *16 items*

**MS 48,350/1 1966**  
Some cash and staff-pay accounts for miscellaneous weeks during 1966. *31 items*

### **I.iii.5 Accident insurance claims (1948-1967)**

**MS 48,350/2 1948**  
A register of cases of treatment of minor injuries of staff members. Includes the names of employees and their addresses, nurses, doctors and the nature of their injuries. 20 Nov 1947-5 Mar. 1949. 200pp

**MS 48,350/3 1950**  
Completed 'report of accident or claim to compensation' forms for the Deerpark Colliery during the year. *68 items*

**MS 48,350/4 1951**  
Completed 'report of accident or claim to compensation' forms for the Deerpark Colliery during the year. *79 items*

**MS 48,350/5 1953**  
Accident compensation files relating to various staff members, with one loose sheet listing the names of claimants among staff members. *26 items*

**MS 48,350/6 1953**  
Accident compensation files relating to various staff members. *35 items*

**MS 48,350/7 1953**  
Accident compensation files relating to various staff members. *15 items*

**MS 48,350/8 1953**  
Accident compensation files relating to various staff members. *15 items*

**MS 48,351/1 1954**



Completed 'report of accident or claim to compensation' forms for the Deerpark Colliery during the year. Also, a letter with an attachment from John Lanigan and Nolan (solicitors) to Captain R.B. Gahan (mining office, Castlecomer) regarding one of the cases. *91 items*

- MS 48,351/2 1955**  
Permanent compensation files relating to various staff members. *22 items*
- MS 48,351/3 1955**  
Accident compensation files relating to various staff members, with one loose sheet providing a list of names relating to the cases. *36 items*
- MS 48,351/4 1955**  
Accident compensation files relating to various staff members. *34 items*
- MS 48,351/5 1960-1964**  
Accident Books for Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. in a form prescribed by the minister of industry and commerce in keeping with the Workmen's Compensation Act 1934. Includes a note stating that copies of Fire Insurance Policies are held by the Commercial Union Assurance Company. *16 items*
- MS 48,351/6 1966-1967**  
Reports of accident or claim to compensation. *19 items*

### **I.iii.6 Employer and Trade Union related material (1949-1959)**

- MS 48,351/7 1949**  
Letters (mostly copies) between Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. and The Federated Union of Employers, 15 Kildare St., Dublin. Subjects include the decision of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. to join the union, a strike among colliery workers and the drawing up of a statement for the Labour Court. 30 Apr.-5 Jul. 1949. *31 items*
- MS 48,351/8 1949**  
Letters (mostly copies) between Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. and The Federated Union of Employers, 15 Kildare St., Dublin, with copies of some related letters to the ITGWU and the Labour Court. Subjects include the Labour Court's recommendations. Principal authors are Capt. R.B. Gahan of Castlecomer Collieries and C.R. Cuffe of the Federated Union of Employers. 15 Jul. 1949-31 Dec. 1949. *43 items*
- MS 48,351/9 1950**  
Letters (mostly copies) between Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. and the secretary of The Federated Union of Employers, 15 Kildare St., Dublin,

with copies of some related letters to the ITGWU. Subjects include the progress of the strike and the operations of the Irish Sugar Company. 2 Jan.-1 Feb. 1950. *22 items*

**MS48,351/10 1950**

Proposed rules of The Irish Mining and Quarrying Society with six appendices. Also, a letter regarding the floor plan of the mining office [at Castlecomer] with an attached drawing, and one miscellaneous item. *3 items*

**MS 48,352/1 1951**

Letters (mostly copies) between Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. and the secretary of The Federated Union of Employers, 15 Kildare St., Dublin. Subjects include annual subscriptions and the closing of an agreement with the ITGWU. 5 Jan.-3 Dec. 1951. *20 items*

**MS 48,352/2 1952**

Letters (mostly copies) between Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. and the secretary of The Federated Union of Employers, 15 Kildare St., Dublin. Includes a report from the latter on the implications of budget proposals (8 May) and a statement from the latter on a wage policy agreement with the Congress of Irish Unions and talks with the Irish Trade Union Congress. 7 Feb.-17 Dec. 1952. *33 items*

**MS 48,352/3 1953**

Letters (mostly copies) between Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. and the secretary of The Federated Union of Employers, 15 Kildare St., Dublin. Includes a report from the latter on the government's Workers Compensation (Amendment) Bill 1952. 23 Jan.-29 Apr. 1953. *10 items*

**MS 48,352/4 1954-1956**

Letters (mostly copies) between Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. and the secretary of The Federated Union of Employers, 15 Kildare St., Dublin. Subjects include annual subscriptions to and annual general meetings of the latter body. 1 Jan. 1954-10 Nov. 1956. *18 items*

**MS 48,352/5 1958-1959**

Letters (mostly copies) between Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. and The Federated Union of Employers, 15 Kildare St., Dublin. Includes a copy of Labour Court Recommendation No. 1119 forwarded by the latter, and a miscellaneous letter regarding the move of a Castlecomer employee to the West & South African Mining Services Ltd. 2 Jan. 1958-26 Feb. 1959. *7 items*

### **I.iii.7 Community and charity work (1840-1965)**

**MS 48,352/6 1840-1919**

A copy of a report of a meeting held in Castlecomer for the purposes of founding a charitable organisation with those in attendance including John Wandesforde, Richard Eaton and the Dean of St. Patrick's (undated [c.1840]). Also, TS copies of two letters sent to the Secretary of the Central Emergency Fund (St. Stephens Green, Dublin) and V.R.L. Graham of Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny regarding the establishment of a Church of Ireland diocesan fund (Dec.1919). *3 items*

**MS 48,352/7 1938-1939**

An account of coal distributed as a charity around Christmas time in the Castlecomer area, with seventy five associated docketts. 21 Dec. 1938-28 Jan. 1939. *76 items*

**MS 48,352/8 1960-1965**

Miscellaneous company papers, including calculations on scrap paper. Also, receipts for payments made to the Tullamore GAA during 1964 and an earlier parochial record and statement of sustentation fund and other accounts for the Parish of Castlecomer. *15 items*

### **I.iii.8 Miscellaneous (1850-1969)**

**MS 48,352/9 1850-1918**

Miscellaneous items. Includes a circular letter regarding London butter markets (1850), letters of reference for a prospective employee from England John March (1903) and a letter regarding Michael Flatley, a miner now in the Royal Hospital for the Incurables (1918). *4 items*

**MS48,352/10 1967**

Miscellaneous company papers. Includes some receipts, pieces of scrap paper and a few reports on staff pay. *19 items*

**MS48,352/11 [1968]**

One blank company share certificate. One blank sheet of company headed notepaper. One empty company pay-packet. *3 items*

**MS48,352/12 [1969]**

Company scrap paper, empty insurance and taxation forms and a few miscellaneous receipts. *100 items*

## II. The Castlecomer Estate

### II.i. Estate correspondence (1818-1880)

- MS48,352/13 [1800-50]**  
Two brief, undated notes regarding the history of the Castlecomer Estate. Also, a miscellaneous undated item listing some correspondence by Lady Lismore and an undated note regarding John Beacher and Martin Freeman [tenants]. *5 items*
- MS48,352/14 [1815-47]**  
Undated letters to Richard Eaton, agent (acting manager) for the Castlecomer Estate, generally petitions from tenants for the redress of grievances. Includes one letter in Mylar. These letters are fragile and require careful handling. *19 items*
- MS48,352/15 1818-34**  
Letters to Richard Eaton, agent (acting manager) for the Castlecomer Estate, generally petitions from tenants for the redress of grievances. Also included, a suggestion made by William and Jeremiah Dilon of Castlecomer to Countess Ormonde regarding a property settlement (10 Jan. 1818). These letters are fragile and require careful handling. *7 items*
- MS48,352/16 1819-35**  
A note from Robert Kane (1819) and Thomas Anderson (1820), two letters of petition dating from 1834-35 and an undated fragment of a letter in Mylar. Some of these items are damaged very badly by acidic corrosion. *5 items*  
**NOT FOR CONSULTATION**
- MS48,352/17 1827-40**  
Two letters to Richard Eaton, including one regarding a parliamentary election fund (27 Jan. 1827).  
Also, a page from a rent roll account (1839-40) drawn up for Eaton. Also, a copy of a letter from Eaton to (Kildare) Dobbs regarding the coalmines, a document relating to a task performed by Eaton as a justice of the peace (25 Oct. 1831) and a miscellaneous item. *6 items*
- MS48,352/18 1835-43**  
Letters to Richard Eaton, agent (acting manager) for the Castlecomer Estate, generally petitions from tenants for the redress of grievances. These letters are fragile and require careful handling. 13 Apr. 1835-24 Jul. 1843. *26 items*
- MS48,352/19 [1836-48]**

Undated petitions from tenants to members of the Wandesforde family, principally John Wandesforde, for redress of grievances or charity. Some letters bear a summary response to the grievance, written across the original petition. *30 items*

**MS 48,353/1 [1836-48]**

Undated petitions from tenants to members of the Wandesforde family, principally John Wandesforde, for redress of grievances or charity. Some letters bear a summary response to the grievance, written across the original petition. *21 items*

**MS 48,353/2 [1836-48]**

Undated petitions from tenants to members of the Wandesforde family, principally John Wandesforde, for redress of grievances or charity. Some letters bear a summary response to the grievance, written across the original petition. *22 items*

**MS 48,353/3 [1836-48]**

Undated petitions from tenants to members of the Wandesforde family, principally John Wandesforde, for redress of grievances or charity. Some letters bear a summary response to the grievance, written across the original petition. *31 items*

**MS 48,353/4 1837-75**

Miscellaneous letters [relating to the Castlecomer Estate], including a petition sent to Richard Cooke and some notes signed by Cooke, letter fragments and receipts. *18 items*

**MS 48,353/5 1841**

Petitions from tenants to members of the Wandesforde family, principally John Wandesforde, for charity. Dec. 1841. *47 items*

**MS 48,353/6 1841**

Petitions from tenants to members of the Wandesforde family, principally John Wandesforde, for charity. Dec. 1841. *47 items*

**MS 48,353/7 1841-47**

Petitions from tenants to members of the Wandesforde family, principally John Wandesforde, for redress of grievances or charity. *17 items*

**MS 48,353/8 [1844]**

Undated petitions from tenants to members of the Wandesforde family, principally John Wandesforde, for redress of grievances or charity. These items are damaged very badly by acidic corrosion. *12 items*

**NOT FOR CONSULTATION**

- MS 48,353/9 1844**  
Petitions from tenants to members of the Wandesforde family, principally John Wandesforde, for redress of grievances or charity. These items are damaged very badly by acidic corrosion. *22 items*  
**NOT FOR CONSULTATION**
- MS48,353/10 [1848-80]**  
Undated letters to Richard Cooke, agent (acting manager) for the Castlecomer Estate, generally petitions from tenants for the redress of grievances. Some letters bear a summary response to the grievance, written across the original petition. *28 items*
- MS48,353/11 [1848-80]**  
Undated letters to Richard Cooke, agent (acting manager) for the Castlecomer Estate, generally petitions from tenants for the redress of grievances. Some letters bear a summary response to the grievance, written across the original petition. *28 items*
- MS48,353/12 1848-49**  
Letters to Richard Cooke, agent (acting manager) for the Castlecomer Estate, generally petitions from tenants for the redress of grievances. Some letters bear a summary response to the grievance, written across the original petition. 8 Jul. 1848-29 Oct. 1849. *18 items*
- MS48,353/13 [1850]**  
Petitions from female tenants to Mrs. Wandesforde for charity. *26 items*
- MS48,353/14 1850**  
Petitions from tenants to members of the Wandesforde family, principally John Wandesforde, for redress of grievances or charity. Some letters bear a summary response to the grievance, written across the original petition. *33 items*
- MS48,353/15 1850**  
Letters to Richard Cooke, agent (acting manager) for the Castlecomer Estate, generally petitions from tenants for the redress of grievances. Some letters bear a summary response to the grievance, written across the original petition. 4 Apr.-31 Dec. 1850. *28 items*
- MS48,353/16 1851-1860**  
Letters to Richard Cooke, agent (acting manager) for the Castlecomer Estate, generally petitions from tenants for the redress of grievances. Some letters bear a summary response to the grievance, written across the original petition. 2 Jan. 1851-24 Nov. 1860. *27 items*
- MS48,353/17 1858-77**

Rent receipts signed by Richard Cooke, agent (acting manager) for the Castlecomer Estate. *72 items*

**MS48,353/18 1861-68**

Letters to Richard Cooke, agent (acting manager) for the Castlecomer Estate, generally petitions from tenants for the redress of grievances. Some letters bear a summary response to the grievance, written across the original petition. 28 Sep. 1861-26 Sep. 1868. *22 items*

**MS48,353/19 1873-80**

Letters to Richard Cooke, agent (acting manager) for the Castlecomer Estate, generally petitions from tenants for the redress of grievances. Some letters bear a summary response to the grievance, written across the original petition. Jun. 1873-14 Jun. 1880. *23 items*

**MS48,353/20 1874**

A list of tenants on the Castlecomer Estate who hold their farms by lease with two related documents attached. 3pp.

## **II.ii. Tenancy agreements (1903-1948)**

**MS 48,354/1 [1903]**

A list of tenants' names [and rents paid] in various townlands in the vicinity of Castlecomer (32pp.) Also, a miscellaneous item (regarding a tenants' disputed claim to some trees) with a handwritten note attached regarding tenants' right to make improvements to property. *2 items*

**MS 48,354/2 1919-34**

Tenancy agreements for employees of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. in the townland of Moyhora. 22 Sep. 1919-17 Feb. 1934. *40 items*

**MS 48,354/3 1919-35**

Tenancy agreements for employees of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. in the townlands of Castlecomer, Coolbawn and Cruttencrough, with twelve letters from tenants requesting repairs to their residence. 25 Oct. 1919-27 Apr. 1935. *28 items*

**MS 48,354/4 1919-37**

Tenancy agreements for employees of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. in the townland of Aghamuckey. 24 May 1919-8 Dec. 1937. *26 items*

**MS 48,354/5 1919-39**

Tenancy agreements for employees of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. in the townlands of Ballylinen, Finsboro and Kiltown. 21 Apr. 1919-4 Mar. 1939. *22 items*

- MS 48,354/6 1919-48**  
Tenancy agreements for employees of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. in the townland of Moneenroe, with fourteen letters from tenants requesting repairs to their residence. 15 Dec. 1919-25 Jan. 1948. *42 items*
- MS 48,354/7 1920-31**  
Tenancy agreements for employees of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. in the townland of Gurteen, with one letter from tenant Patrick Lawlor requesting repairs to his residence. 14 Aug. 1920-19 Aug. 1931. *16 items*
- MS 48,354/8 1923-36**  
Letters from tenants requesting repairs to their residence with thirty-four reports on repairs completed. 31 Aug. 1923-23 May 1936. *56 items*
- MS 48,354/9 1924-42**  
Tenancy agreements for employees of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. in the townland of Cloneen with eleven letters from tenants requesting repairs to their residence. 16 Apr. 1924-5 Feb. 1942. *18 items*
- MS48,354/10 [1925]**  
Incomplete or blank tenancy agreement forms for employees of Castlecomer Collieries Ltd. *12 items*
- MS48,354/11 1932-42**  
A bound A4 cost book listing the costs of various repairs to tenants' properties, with four loose sheets as inserts. 414pp.

### **III. Miscellaneous family papers (1804-1905)**

- MS48,354/12 1804**  
A note listing the plays performed at Kilkenny during September-October 1804. 1p.
- MS48,354/13 1842**  
A letter from Maria Dobbs to her father [Kildare Dobbs] on personal matters and the expected marriage of Mr. Wandesforde. 11 Jul. 1842. 2pp.
- MS48,354/14 1864-1881**  
A pocket-size notebook containing details of subscriptions paid for the organisation of various local social events, such as the Carlow Archery Ball and the County Carlow Cricket Club Ball. 12 Aug. 1864-22 Aug. 1881. 80pp.



**MS48,354/15 1863, 1905**

A note listing the attendance at the Male School [on the Castlecomer Estate] for the fortnight ending 27 Feb. 1863. Also, a 'boy's indenture' certifying that Richard Holohan, with his father's consent and of his own free will, will be apprenticed to learn the trading of fitting under R.H. Prior-Wandesforde (1905). 2 *items*