

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

Collection List No. 6

Blake of Ballyglunin Park Papers

(MSS 26,979-27,015)

(Accession No. 2471)

Collection of miscellaneous papers relating to the Blake estate at Ballyglunin,
county Galway, 1840-1920.

Compiled by Catherine Fahy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
I. Legal and financial correspondence 1859-1915	4
II. Accounts, 1848-1920.....	5
III. Records of Labourers and Servants 1861—90	6
IV. Miscellaneous items relating to the Blake of Ballyglunin Park estates 1840-c.1890	6
V. Miscellaneous, c.1850-c.1920	7

INTRODUCTION

The Family

The Blake family of Ballyglunin Park, Athenry, county Galway is descended from Richard Caddell who was granted lands in county Galway and changed his name to Nigger or Blake. The Ballyglunin Blakes are another branch of the Blakes of Renvyle. This branch of the family have played important roles in the administration of county Galway. Martin Blake, High Sheriff of Galway was granted the great estate of Ballyglunin by Charles II in 1689. His descendant Martin Joseph Blake succeeded to the estate in 1802 after the death of his father, Walter Blake. Martin Joseph Blake served as M.P. for Galway in 1832, 1835, 1841, 1847 and 1852. His nephew Walter Martin Blake succeeded him after his death in 1861.

The Estates

The Blake family held an estate of almost 10,500 acres in county Galway, which was valued in 1883 at nearly £4,000 according to *The Great Landowners of Great Britain and Ireland* (1883, reprinted 1971).

The Papers

This small collection was acquired by the Library from Tadgh McGlinchy in 1965. It comprises of mainly estate papers including correspondence and accounts. Other correspondence relates to the family's financial affairs. There is also a section dealing with servants' records.

Bibliographical References

The Library has received a number of accessions of Blake papers, some of which are listed in *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation*, vol. 1, ed. Richard J. Hayes (1965), pp. 237-243, and *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation-First Supplement 1965-1975*, vol. 1, ed. Richard J. Hayes (1979), pp. 55-56. A part of the collection was listed by Sir John Ainsworth in 'National Library Reports on Private Collections', number 496.

I. Legal and financial correspondence 1859-1915

- Ms. 26,979 Letters to Mrs. A.M. Blake from the Atlantic Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company concerning shares, 9 items.
1859-60
- Ms. 26,780 Miscellaneous notes and memoranda [by Walter Martin Blake?] concerning tenants, leases and livestock, 19 items.
c .1861-91
- Ms. 26,981 Letters to Walter Martin Blake, mainly from his tenants, concerning rents, c.56 items.
(1-3) June-December 1861
- Ms. 26, 982 Ejectment notices, summonses, bankruptcy notices served on tenants of Walter Martin Blake of Ballyglunin Park.
1862-88
(1) 1862-68, 12 items
(2) 1869-74, 6 items
(3) 1876, with list of tenants against whom ejectment proceedings are to be taken, 7 items
(4) 1877, 12 items.
(5) 1878, 10 items.
(6) 1879, 34 items.
(7) 1880-88, 15 items.
- Ms. 26,983 Letters to Walter Martin Blake, including solicitations for his support from candidates for the Secretaryship to the Galway Grand Jury, 61 items.
(1-3) 1862
- Ms. 26,984 Letter to Walter Martin Blake from Galway County Inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary respecting improvements to Police Barracks, with accompanying literature and plans as issued by the Constabulary Office, Dublin Castle.
1867
- Ms. 26,985 Letters to Walter Martin Blake mainly concerning rents, 7 items.
1876-77
- Ms. 26,986 Correspondence concerning Barnaboy Farm, county Galway, 10 items.
1879-83
- Ms. 26,987 Letters to Walter Martin Blake mainly concerning financial matters and rents, 15 items.
1880-86

- Ms. 26,988 Letters and other documents concerning a rent dispute between Denis M. Kelly, tea merchant, Galway and Walter Martin Blake, 36 items.
1880
- Ms. 26,989 Correspondence concerning the ejection of Abbey Fairs, with their tolls and customs, c. 100 items
1882-88
- Ms. 26,990 Letters to Martin Joseph Blake from Rothschild & Son concerning stocks and shares, 14 items.
1893-1900
- Ms. 26,991 Letters to Martin Joseph Blake mainly from Rothschild & Son concerning stocks and shares, 14 items
1902-07
- Ms. 26,992 Letters to John J. Blake mainly from his solicitor, 7 items.
1914-15

II. Accounts, 1848-1920

- Ms. 26,993 Ledger containing abstract of sundry payments, mainly to traders in county Galway for household items, made by Dominick Donelan to and for the account of Martin Joseph Blake, with corresponding receipts, c.200 items.
1848-52
- Ms. 26,994 Sheep and cattle account book.
1850-62
- Ms. 26,995 Four ledgers containing abstracts of payments made by Dominick Donelan, in connection with the running of the estate, to and for the account of Martin Joseph Blake, with corresponding receipts.1851-52
(1) Acc. No.39. With c. 150 receipts, 1851-52
(2) Acc. No.40. With c. 80 receipts, 1852
(3) Acc. No.41. With c. 30 receipts, 1852
(4) Acc. No.42. With c. 30 receipts, 1852
- Ms. 26,996 Receipts for rents, rates, quit rents and Grand Jury Cess paid by Dominick Donelan for Martin M. Blake, c.100 items
1852
- Ms. 26,997 Miscellaneous receipts, 9 items.
1856-89

- Ms. 26,998 Miscellaneous rent accounts, 7 items
1875-85
- Ms. 26,999 Rates receipts, quit rent receipts etc., c.70 items
1919-20
- Ms. 27,000 Receipts for weekly wages on the estate of John J. Blake,
c.30 items.
1920

III. Records of Labourers and Servants 1861—90

- Ms. 27,001 Notebook containing agreements by servants and labourers to work for
Walter Martin Blake upon the death of Martin Joseph Blake, with some
memoranda by the former.
1861-85
- Ms. 27,002 Seven labour books giving details of work carried on at Ballyglunin
Park. 1861-85
- | | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| (1) | November 1861–April 1862 |
| (2) | May-October 1862 |
| (3) | November 1862–April 1863 |
| (4) | May-October 1866 |
| (5) | November 1868-April 1869 |
| (6) | May-October 1879 |
| (7) | November-April 1885 |
- Ms. 27,003 Labourers' agreements, receipts and memoranda, c.22 items
1873-90

IV. Miscellaneous items relating to the Blake of Ballyglunin Park estates 1840-c.1890

- Ms. 27,004 Miscellaneous plans of parts of the Blake estate, 3 items.
undated
- Ms. 27,005 Valuations and notes relating to the property of Martin Joseph Blake in
the town and county of Galway. Marked 'Galway Papers',
15 items.
c.1840-59
- Ms. 27,006 Section and estimate for a proposed cut for a watercourse on the Blake
Ballyglunin estate. By John Canning.
1842

- Ms. 27,007 Map of part of the lands of Cullagh as now held by Mr. Pat Mitchell ...
By [Richard] Burke. Scale 6"= 1 mile.
1860
- Ms. 27,008 Printed advertisement for the letting of grass farms in the town and
county of Galway. Proposals to be addressed to Mr. Thomas Burke or
Walter Martin Blake, 22 copies.
1865
- Ms. 27,009 Two diaries containing notes relating to the cattle and sheep on
the Blake estate. 1866-67
(1) 1866
(2) 1867
- Ms. 27,010 Two memoranda of agreements concerning lands at Laraghmore and
Cloonlusk, county Galway, 2 items
1875, 1877
- Ms. 27,011 Photograph [of Ballyglunin Park House?].
c.1890

V. Miscellaneous, c.1850-c.1920

- Ms. 27,012 Copy petition from the Poor Law Guardians of Galway to Parliament re
poor rates in county Galway.
c.1847
- Ms. 27,013 Poor Law Commissioners: To the Guardians of the Poor of the Tuam
Union: Order adding townlands to and separating others from Union
and altering electoral divisions. With manuscript annotations, 8 p.
1850
- Ms. 27,014 Game certificates 1862: a list of the names and addresses of persons to
whom certificates to kill game have been granted in the Galway
collection. Published by order of the Honourable Commissioners of
Inland Revenue, 4p.
1862
- Ms. 27,015 Typescript statement of particulars of the assets of Mrs. Elisabeth C.
Den-Keatinge, deceased, 1 p
c.1920