

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

Collection List No. 23

Bruen of Oakpark Papers

(MSS 29,771-29,785; 32,483)

(Accession No. 2869)

A list of part of the estate and family papers of the Bruen family of Oakpark,
county Carlow, 1789-1921.

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INTRODUCTION

The Bruen family of Oakpark, county Carlow are descended from James Bruen who came to Ireland with Cromwell and settled in county Roscommon. His descendant Henry Bruen purchased property in counties Carlow and Wexford from the Beauchamp, Grogan and Whaley families at the end of the eighteenth century and settled in Oakpark. The Bruen estates in counties Carlow, Wexford and Kildare amounted to over 23,500 acres valued at almost £17,500 in *The Great Landowners of Great Britain and Ireland* (1883, reprinted 1971).

This collection of papers was acquired by the Library in November 1970 from Mrs M. Boyce. The Library has also received a number of other accessions of Bruen papers, some of which are listed in *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation*, vol. 1, ed. Richard J. Hayes (1965), p. 370 and *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation-First Supplement 1965-1975*, vol. 1, ed. Richard J. Hayes (1979), p. 86. A part of the collection was listed by Sir John Ainsworth in 'National Library Reports on Private Collections', number 20.

I. ESTATE PAPERS

I.i. Rentals

I.i.a. Carlow and Kildare Estates

MS 29,771/
1-89

/1	May 1792
/2	November 1792
/3	May 1793
/4	November 1793
/5	1773-1794
/6	1795
/7	1808
/8	1810
/9	1814
/10	1815
/11	November 1825
/12	November 1826
/13	November 1827
/14	November 1828
/15	1829
/16	May 1830
/17	November 1830
/18	November 1831
/19	May 1832
/20	November 1832
/21	May 1833
/22	November 1833
/23	May 1834
/24	November 1834
/25	May 1835
/26	November 1835
/27	May 1838
/28	November 1838
/29	May 1839
/30	May 1839 (supplemental)
/31	May 1839 (supplemental)
/32	November 1839
/33	November 1839 (supplemental)
/34	May 1840
/35	November 1840
/36	November 1840 (supplemental)
/37	May 1841

/38 November 1841
/39 November 1841 (supplemental)
/40 May 1842
/41 May 1842 (supplemental)
/42 November 1842
/43 May 1843
/44 May 1843 (supplemental)
/45 November 1843
/46 November 1843 (supplemental)
/47 May 1844
/48 May 1844 (supplemental)
/49 November 1845
/50 November 1845 (supplemental)
/51 November 1846
/52 May 1847
/53 November 1847
/54 November 1848
/55 November 1849
/56 November 1849 (supplemental)
/57 May 1850
/58 November 1850
/59 May 1851
/60 November 1851
/61 May 1852
/62 November 1852
/63 May 1853
/64 November 1853
/65 May 1854
/66 November 1854
/67 May 1855
/68 November 1855
/69 May 1856
/70 May 1859
/71 May 1860
/72 November 1860
/73 May 1866
/74 November 1866
/75 November 1867
/76 November 1869
/77 November 1871
/78 November 1872
/79 November 1873
/80 November 1876
/81 November 1883
/82 November 1885
/83 November 1887

/84	November 1888
/85	November 1889
/86	November 1890
/87	November 1891
/88	November 1892
/89	November 1893

I.i.b. Coolbawn Estate, county Wexford

MS 29,772/
1-19

/1	1873
/2	1875
/3	1876
/4	1878
/5	1880
/6	1881
/7	1882
/8	1883
/9	1884
/10	1886
/11	1887
/12	1888
/13	1889
/14	1890
/15	1891
/16	1892
/17	1893
/18	1894
/19	1895

I.ii. Estate Correspondence

MS 29,774/
1-36

/1	1810-1820
/2	1820-1830
/3	1830-1840
/4	1840-1850
/5	1850-1860
/6	1860-1870
/7	1872
/8	1873
/9	1874

/10	1875
/11	1876
/12	1877
/13	1878
/14	1880
/15	1881
/16	1882
/17	1883
/18	1884
/19	1887
/20	1890-1891
/21	1894
/22	1896
/23	1897
/24	1898
/25	1899
/26	1900
/27	1901
/28	1902
/29	1903
/30	1904
/31	1906
/32	1907
/33	1908
/34	1909
/35	1910
/36	1911

I.iii. Maps, Plans, Drawings and Photographs

MS 29,776/
1-9

- | | |
|----|---|
| /1 | Map of Seafield, county Sligo, part of the estate of William Phibbs, surveyed by Thomas McDonagh.
12 November 1793 |
| /2 | Map of part of Seafield, county Sligo, surveyed for Mathew Walsh Jnr by George Hillas (damaged).
March 1800 |
| /3 | Map of Corradoey West, the estate of William Phibbs, county Sligo, surveyed by Michael Meehan (damaged). |
| /4 | Engraving of J. Bruen, published by Richardson (2 copies).
June 1798 |

- /5 *'Ground plan sketch of the stables and farm offices of Oak Park [Carlow], the property of Henry Bruen'*
- /6 Two illustrated cards:
 (i) Subscriber's ticket to the Hot Baths, Temple Street, Dublin
 (ii) Gibbons and Williams, public notaries and stockbrokers, Dame Street, Dublin
- /7 Collection of undated drawings and sketches, mostly still life; 11 items [Mid. 19th cent.]
- /8 Two illustrated Cork billheads – L. McDonnell and Robert Kemp (for Irish manufactured clothes)
 April 1797
- /9 Photographs:
 (i) Fanny Connolly
 (ii) Baby John Connolly, Christmas 1870, Rome
 (iii) Various unidentified and undated photographs
 3 frames portraits
 4 photographs (unframed)
 6 negatives

I.iv. Leases, Tenants' Letters, Setting Arrangements

MS 29,777/
 1-9

- /1 Lease by Henry Bruen [Oakpark] to Peter Johnstown [Nurney] of 85 acres of Nurney for 3 lives at £193.12.3
 20 August 1792
- /2 Two letters from Philip Walters [agent] re. Bruen estate rental, and re. further proposed purchases
 1793
- /3 Proposals by tenants for their rents at Kildreenagh
 22 January 1793
- /4 Agreement between John Henry Colclough and Henry Bruen, re. lease of Ballyteigue and Crossfarnogue
 25 March 1794
- /5 Detailed rental (new setting) of the lands of Oldtown
 1 February 1794

- /6 Lease by Henry Bruen [Oakpark] to Thomas Booth Snr. and Thomas Booth Jnr. of 87 acres of Painestown for £1.4.8 per acre
25 March 1842
- /7 Census of tenants and undertenants, Ballytiglea, 1830
Census of tenants and undertenants, Aughabeg, 1842
Census of tenants and undertenants, Coolacappogue, 1850
- /8 Tenants' letters to Henry Bruen from Thomas Foley [Coolnacappogue]
and Luke Ashmore [Ballinkillen]
- /9 Proposals by prospective tenants for the large farm at Ballyhacket, held
by Jim Nowlan
1886-1888

I.v. Election Material

MS 29,778/
1-8

- /1 Partial list of freeholders on the Bruen estate (with comments)
1830
- /2 *'List of freeholders registered in the year ending 31 December 1830 for
the county of Carlow'* [printed]
1830
- /3 (a) List of tenants who do not have leases, c. 1835
(b) *'List of persons who voted for Colonel Bruen and Mr Kavanagh at
the January election 1835 and who voted against them at the June
election 1835'*
- /4 Pollbook for the January 1835 and June 1835 elections in county Carlow
for the baronies of Idrone east, Idrone West and St. Mullins [Carlow]
- /5 (a) Address by the Roman Catholic tenants of the Earl of Courtown
in Carlow to the Earl re. the election. [Townlands of Barnhasquin,
Ballinvally, Ballybrack, Knockmore, Knockroe, Leskin and
Sliedoardy]
(b) Reply by the Earl of Courtown
1840
- /6 (a) List of arrears due by tenants who voted against Bruen
(b) List of legal proceedings against same
(c) Comments by Bruen on these tenants

1840-1841

- /7 Ballad to Colonel Bruen re. his election in Carlow
[1840 ?]
- /8 Statement of expenses by Henry Bruen M.P., incurred in the county
Carlow election
[1865 ?]

I.vi. Farm Accounts

MS 29,779/
1-6

- /1 (a) Farm accounts of Ballycarney (Carlow), 1834-1841
(b) Farm accounts of Coolroe, 1843
(c) Farm accounts, Ballycarney, orchard, Lough, Coolroe, 1843
- /2 General stockbreeding and stockrearing accounts, Oakpark. [Includes
pedigrees, prices, weights and breeding profiles]
1855-1896
- /3 Straw Hill farm accounts [prices, yields, etc.]
1856-1877
- /4 General tillage farm accounts, Oakpark estate. [Includes details of
rotations, prices, yields]
1860-1890
- /5 Farm accounts, Coolbawn [county Wexford]
1881-1896
- /6 Farm crops, Oakpark and Straw Hill
1882-1890

I.vii. Stockbreeding and Pedigree Cattle

MS 29,780/
1-11

- /1 Catalogues of shorthorn cattle:
 - (a) Dorrington estate (Athlone), 25 September 1856
 - (b) Fawsley Park (Northamptonshire), (printed), 1856
- /2 Three posters for thoroughbred bulls: Cleaby Lad, Paddy and Monarch at
Mosses, Rutland House

1856-1860

- /3 Correspondence of the Bruen family re. the pedigrees of various bulls
1859-1889
- /4 (a) Printed ballad (Naas): *'Punchestown in 1863'*, 1863
(b) Official programme of Sandown Park Steeplechase, 1881
- /5 Catalogues of purebred Shorthorn cattle/bulls:
(a) Yearling bulls to be sold by Earl Fitzwilliam, 1873
(b) Herd of cattle to be sold by Richard Chaloner, Kingsfort [county Meath], 1878
(c) Bulls to be sold by William Talbot-Crosbie, Ardfert Abbey, county Kerry, 1884
- /6 Advertising cards for various bulls, 1875-1894
- /7 Newspaper cutting re. dispersal of the Island Herd (owned by the Bolton family) in county Wexford
7 May 1881
- /8 (a) Catalogue of the Straffan herd of Shorthorns, 1883
(b) Catalogue of the purebred Shorthorn cattle, Castlebrack, county Laois, 1888
(c) Catalogue of the Shorthorn bulls in the Castlebrack herd, 1889
- /9 Printed notices re. stallions at stud on the Carlow estate, 1889-1896
- /10 (a) Catalogue of Lord Rathdonnwill's herd, 1890
(b) Catalogue of James Moffat's herd (Ballyhyland, county Wexford), 1891
(c) Catalogue of Richard Chaloner's herd (Kingsfort, county Meath), 1891
(d) Catalogue of William Bloomfield's herd (Newpark), c. 1891
- /11 Explanatory memorandum re. Irish Co-Operative Meats, Waterford (Printed leaflet)
19 December 1919

I.viii. Landed Estates' Court and Land Commission Material

MS 29,781/
1-7

- /1 Landed Estates' Court: Sale of Luffertan, Woodpark, Grange, Primrose Grange and Cullamore, county Sligo (printed)

1865

- /2 Landed Estates' Court: sale of Seafield, Doughmore, Larrass,
Buninstone, Strandhill and Rinn, county Sligo (printed)
1877
- /3 Land Commission Papers: Aghabeg and Knockullard
1880-1907
- /4 Land Commission Papers: Ballyloghan and Coolacappoge
1882-1914
- /5 Land Commission Papers: Ballytiglea
1887-1898
- /6 Land Commission Papers: Kilree
1888-1921

II. FAMILY PAPERS

II.i. Accounts

MS 29,733/
1-40

/1	January 1789-October 1790
/2	April-December 1810
/3	December 1810-January 1811
/4	January-June 1811
/5	August 1813-February 1814
/6	February-August 1816
/7	April 1817-February 1818
/8	February-April (1818)
/9	April-June 1818
/10	February-December 1819
/11	December 1819-February 1820
/12	September 1820-February 1821
/13	February-December (1821)
/14	June-December 1829
/15	June-December 1831
/16	January-June 1834
/17	June-December 1834
/18	January-June 1836
/19	June-December 1836
/20	January-June 1837
/21	April-June 1840
/22	October-December 1841
/23	April-June 1842
/24	June-December 1842
/25	July-September 1843
/26	April-June 1844
/27	July-September 1844
/28	October-December 1844
/29	January-April 1845
/30	June-October 1845
/31	November (1845)-January 1846
/32	February-May 1846
/33	June-December 1846
/34	July-December 1847
/35	July-December 1848
/36	November-December 1849
/37	January-June 1849
/38	June-October 1849
/39	January-June 1851

/40

June-December 1851

II.ii. Family Correspondence

MS 29,775/

1-8

- /1 1800-1820; c. 25 letters
- /2 1820-1830; c. 30 letters
- /3 1830-1840; c. 41 letters
- /4 1840-1850; c. 50 letters
- /5 1850-1860; c. 60 letters
- /6 1860-1870; c. 100 letters
- /7 1870-1880; c. 40 letters
- /8 1880-1900; c. 40 letters

II.iii. Religious and Ecclesiastical Material

MS 29,782/

1-10

- /1 Preacher's book, Painestown parish (Carlow)
1833-1839
- /2 (a) Attendance book, Painestown Sunday School, 1856
(b) Confirmation classes, Painestown Church, 1858
- /3 Annual reports, Church of Ireland diocese of Leighlin
1883-1910
- /4 Correspondence of Henry Bruen re. the Leighlin Church of Ireland
Diocesan Synod
1890-1893
- /5 Various printed documents issued by the Representative Church Body
1893-1909
- /6 Correspondence of Henry Bruen re. the Leighlin Diocesan Synod
1893-1896
- /7 Annual reports of the Church of Ireland Union of Carlow and Painestown
1893; 1897; 1903
- /8 Correspondence of Henry Bruen re. the Leighlin Diocesan Synod
1898-1910

- /9 List of subscribers to the Christian Brothers' Training College, Marino
c. 1900
- /10 Report of the Special Glebes Committee of the Representative Church
Body
1910-1911

II.iv. Miscellaneous accounts

MS 29,783/
1-6

- /1 Cancelled cheques, Bruen family
1849-1855
- /2 Cancelled cheques, Bruen family
1851
- /3 Paris account book of the Bruen family
1866-1867
- /4 Miscellaneous legal costs, Bruen family
1854
- /5 Miscellaneous legal costs, Bruen family
1865-1875
- /6 Miscellaneous legal costs, Bruen family
1875-1891

II.v. Architectural Material

MS 29,784/
1-4

- /1 (a) *'Detailed estimate of work executed in additions and alterations
at Oak Park House for Henry Bruen'*. McCurdy and Mitchell,
Architects
1879
(b) Second measure of same
1879
- /2 Note re. architectural alterations to Oakpark House since 1830
1879
- /3 Correspondence between the Office of Public Works and the Bruen

family re. the improvements at Kilmore Quay
1886-1892

/4 Correspondence re. the widening at College Street (Carlow) and
compensation from the town commissioners
1895-1896

II.vi. Miscellaneous

MS 29,785/
1-15

/1 Commission of the Peace for Henry Bruen in county Kildare
18 June 1793

/2 Certificate of registration (and detailed listing) of the trees planted by
John Kehoe of Orchard
8 January 1810

/3 Recipe book of C.J. Connolly (1821), continued by Mrs Bruen of
Oakpark. (Provides list of cures for illnesses)
1821; 1854

/4 *'Memoranda of the latter days of our beloved pupil Henry Bruen
Longfield'*
1833

/5 Letters and associated documents re. the evictions of Lorenzo and
Joseph Stone, Coolroe, county Carlow
1838-1841

/6 *'Reminiscence dated from 1799 on the occasion of the first glimpse of our
village spire'*. (Printed, signed *'To Henry Bruen'*)
1843

/7 £100 sureties for Michael Kooney (Carlow), chandler, to act as a
pawnbroker, from John Brennan (Carlow), sadler, and Daniel Crotty,
shopkeeper
1845

/8 Emigrant's letter from John Bradley (of Plantagenet, Prescot county,
formerly of Fenagh, county Carlow, to Colonel Henry Bruen, describing
his life in America and internal family disputes
3 June 1852

/9 Auction catalogue for the sale of the property of Monsieur Cornu, of

Paris, at Phillips
1859

- /10 (a) List of [Henry Bruen's ?] books (Germany)
(b) List of pictures, prints and photographs
(c) List of furniture bought at Freiburg
1863
- /11 Recipes and cures, Bruen family. (Includes a cure for cancer)
1869-1882
- /12 Two passports for Henry Bruen and family
1872-1875
- /13 Correspondence from T.J. MacCredy and Sons, Solicitors, re. redemption
of fee farm grants of Ballybrommell and Graigalug (Garrett estate)
1891-1894
- /14 List of furniture from Coolbawn
c. 1880 ?
- /15 Handbook for field service (printed volume)
c. 1900 ?

II.vii. Bound Volumes

MS 32,483/
1-2

- /1 Account of Robert French, executor of Henry Bruen (2 copies)
1796-1826
- /2 Agent's notebook, diary and memoranda, Bruen estate
1880-1900