

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

Collection List No. 25

Bessborough Papers

(MSS 29,791-29,805)

Papers of the Ponsonby family, Earls of Bessborough relating to their estates in counties
Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford, Carlow and Leitrim, 1826-1864.

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Introduction

The Ponsonby family originated in Cumberland although Sir John Ponsonby established links with Ireland in the mid-seventeenth century and served as M.P. in the first Irish Parliament after the Restoration. He took as his second wife, Elizabeth Folliott and called his new property of Kilda[ll]ton, county Kilkenny 'Bess-borough' in her honour. Their son William was created Baron Bessborough in 1721 and shortly afterwards Viscount Duncannon, while his son Brabazon was elevated to the earldom of Bessborough in 1739. The Ponsonbys intermarried with some of the greatest landowning and most distinguished families of the realm including the Devonshires and Spencers. Frederick Ponsonby, 3rd Earl of Bessborough married Lady Henrietta Spencer, sister of the great political hostess, Lady Georgiana Cavendish, 5th Duchess of Devonshire. Their son John William Ponsonby, 4th Earl was appointed as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1846 but died in the following year. While the Ponsonbys held some property in Leicester, the main concentration of their estates was in Ireland, in particular counties Kilkenny and Carlow (23,967 and 10,578 acres respectively), and amounted in total to almost 35,500 acres valued at over £22,000 in *The Great Landowners of Great Britain and Ireland* (1883, reprinted 1971).

This collection of papers relating to the estates of the Ponsonby family in counties Kilkenny (Whitechurch, Fiddwon, Kilmoganny and Owing), Tipperary (Carrick-on-Suir), Waterford, Carlow (Myshall, Grangeford and Dunleckney), and Leitrim was acquired by the Library, through the British Records Association, from Farrer & Co., Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, in September 1967 [British Records Association No. 1581]. The Library has received a number of accessions of Bessborough papers, some of which are listed in *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation*, vol. 1, ed. Richard J. Hayes (1965), p. 211, *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation-First Supplement 1965-1975*, vol. 1, ed. Richard J. Hayes (1979), p. 48 and in the Card Catalogue Index in the Manuscripts Reading Room. A part of the collection was listed by Sir John Ainsworth and appears in 'National Library Reports on Private Collections', numbers 197 and 470.

I. Rentals

I.i. Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and Carlow Estates

Ms. 29,791 (1)	1826
Ms. 29,791 (2)	1827 (May 1)
Ms. 29,791 (3)	1827 (Nov 1)
Ms. 29,791 (4)	1828 (Nov 1)
Ms. 29,791 (5)	1829 (Nov 1)
Ms. 29,791 (6)	1830 (Nov 1)
Ms. 29,791 (7)	1831 (Nov 1)
Ms. 29,791 (8)	1832
Ms. 29,791 (9)	1833
Ms. 29,791 (10)	1834
Ms. 29,791 (11)	1835
Ms. 29,791 (12)	1836
Ms. 29,791 (13)	1837
Ms. 29,791 (14)	1838
Ms. 29,791 (15)	1839
Ms. 29,791 (16)	1840
Ms. 29,791 (17)	1842

I.ii. Leitrim

Ms. 29,792 (1)	1828
Ms. 29,792 (2)	1829
Ms. 29,792 (3)	1830

Ms. 29,792 (4)	1831
Ms. 29,792 (5)	1832
Ms. 29,792 (6)	1833
Ms. 29,792 (7)	1834
Ms. 29,792 (8)	1835
Ms. 29,792 (9)	1836
Ms. 29,792 (10)	1837
Ms. 29,792 (11)	1838
Ms. 29,792 (12)	1839
Ms. 29,792 (13)	1840

II. Accounts and vouchers

II.i. Tabulated accounts

MS. 29,793 (1)	1828
MS. 29,793 (2)	1829
MS. 29,793 (3)	1830
MS. 29,793 (4)	1831
MS. 29,793 (5)	1832
MS. 29,793 (6)	1833
MS. 29,793 (7)	1834
MS. 29,793 (8)	1835
MS. 29,793 (9)	1836
MS. 29,793 (10)	1837

MS. 29,793 (11)	1838
MS. 29,793 (12)	1839
MS. 29,793 (13)	1841
MS. 29,793 (14)	1843

II.ii. Miscellaneous accounts

Ms. 29,794 (1-2)	1827
Ms. 29,794 (3-4)	1828
Ms. 29,794 (5-7)	1829
Ms. 29,794 (8-10)	1830
Ms. 29,794 (11-17)	1831
Ms. 29,794 (18-19)	1832
Ms. 29,794 (20-24)	1833
Ms. 29,794 (25-28)	1834
Ms. 29,794 (29-31)	1835
Ms. 29,794 (32-33)	1836
Ms. 29,794 (34-35)	1837
Ms. 29,794 (36-37)	1838
Ms. 29,794 (38-39)	1839
Ms. 29,794 (40-41)	1840
Ms. 29,794 (42-43)	1841
Ms. 29,794 (44-47)	1842
Ms. 29,794 (48-49)	1843

II.iii. Tradesmen's accounts

Ms. 29,795 (1)	5 November 1841-31 October 1842
Ms. 29,795 (2)	1 January-18 November 1842 (General improvements)
Ms. 29,795 (3)	1 November 1842-27 April 1843
Ms. 29,795 (4)	1 November 1842-31 October 1843
Ms. 29,795 (5)	15 July-31 October 1843
Ms. 29,795 (6)	1 February-7 October 1843
Ms. 29,795 (7)	28 April-22 October 1843
Ms. 29,795 (8)	18 November 1842-2 November 1843

II.iv. Land Stewards' Accounts

Ms. 29,796 (1)	1830
Ms. 29,796 (2)	1831
Ms. 29,796 (3)	1832
Ms. 29,796 (4)	1833
Ms. 29,796 (5)	1834
Ms. 29,796 (6)	1835
Ms. 29,796 (7)	1836
Ms. 29,796 (8)	1837
Ms. 29,796 (9)	1840
Ms. 29,796 (10)	1827 - 1829 (General improvements)

II.v. Timber sales books

Ms. 29,797 (1)	1831 - 1832
Ms. 29,797 (2)	1836 - 1837

Ms. 29,797 (3) 1838
Ms. 29,797 (4) 1842 – 1843

II.vi. Related accounts

Ms. 29,798 Trustees account book, Bessborough Estate.
1826-1864

Ms. 27,799 Drafts to English Bankers (Coutts and Co.) from the Bessborough
Estate.
(1) 1827 - 1831
(2) 1832 - 1836
(3) 1837 - 1842

Ms. 29,800 Bessborough Establishment and Pension List.

Ms. 29,801 Vouchers from the Leitrim portion of the Bessborough Estate.
1828-1840

Ms. 29,801 Vouchers from the Carlow (Garryhill) Estate.
1833-1840

Ms. 29,802 Accounts from the limestone quarries and osieries.
1828-1840

Ms. 29,803 Kennel Accounts.
1831-1841

Ms. 29,804 Statement of receipts and arrears.
1838-1841

III. Miscellaneous

Ms. 29,805 (1) Spinning and weaving accounts
1828

Ms. 29,805 (2) List of Arrears.
1828

Ms. 29,805 (3) Bills and correspondence, Cole iron founders, Chester.
1828

Ms. 29,805 (4) Correspondence and bills re 1831 election.

- Ms. 29,805 (5) Expenses of a hunting trip to Shillelagh.
1833
- Ms. 29,805 (6) Note re cholera outbreak in Piltown.
1834
- Ms. 29,805 (7) Binder's account (and list of books bound).
1834
- Ms. 29,805 (8) Detailed blacksmith's accounts, Bessborough Estate.
1834
- Ms. 29,805 (9) Bill for mourning clothes for servants for Lady Dunconnor's funeral.
- Ms. 29,805 (10) Valuation of stock on Bessborough farm.
1838
- Ms. 29,805 (11) Earl of Bessborough's passbook with Richard Hogan (Shopkeeper), Carrick-on-Suir.
1842-43
- Ms. 29,805 (12) Bog book, Garryhill Estate (Carlow).
1843
- Ms. 29,805 (13) Shannon navigation, compensation for works, Drumshambo area.
1839-1843
- Ms. 29,805 (14) Illustrated Billheads from Waterford.
1828-1840
- Ms. 29,805 (15) Bills for assisted emigration, to Newfoundland, U.S.A. and Australia, Bessborough Estate.
1828-40
- Ms. 29,805 (16) Detailed bill for building and thatching.
1828-40
- Ms. 29,805 (17) Receipts for subscription to Catholic Chapel building funds.
- Ms. 29,805 (18) Bills re boat building.
1840
- Ms. 29,805 (19) File re litigation with Peter Walsh over fraudulent leases in the Bessborough Estate.