

CULTURAL SERVICES, DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The Donegal County Archives Collection A Guide for Teachers & Students



BG/192/3/8

== GLENTIES UNION. ==

TURF WANTED

The Board of Guardians will, on SATURDAY, 12th JULY, 1919, consider Tenders for the Supply of about

2,500 BOXES BEST DRY TURF

at Three Shillings per Box, delivered at the Workhouse as required.

TENDERS, on Prescribed Forms Only, stating the quantity that can be supplied and naming Two Solvent Sureties, will be received up to 12 o'clock noon.

FORMS OF TENDER can be had from the Clerk, free of Cost. No other Form of Tender accepted.

MICHAEL M'NELIS, CLERK

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1. THE COUNTY ARCHIVES COLLECTION

What are Archives?

Donegal County Council holds one of the most extensive local authority archive collections in the country, including archives of both public and private origin. Archives are 'primary sources', material written or recorded at the time of the event. They include plans, drawings, maps, letters, minutes, agendas and reports of meetings, photographs, registers, financial documentation, diaries, handwritten manuscripts, posters, rentals, oral recordings, and other material.

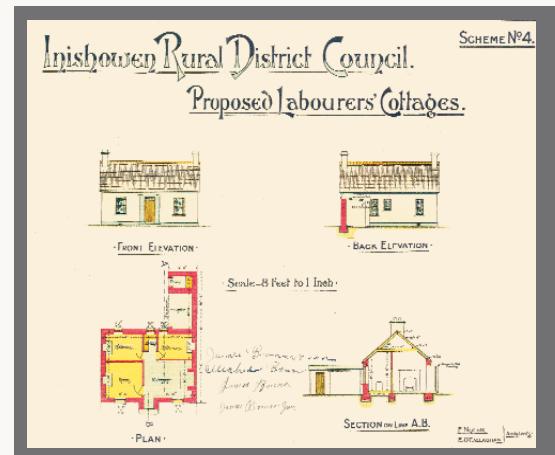
Donegal's Archives

Among the most important records held by the County Archives are the Poor Law Union (workhouse) archives. These include minutes of the meetings of eight Boards of Guardians who ran the workhouses, and admission registers that are scarce elsewhere in the country. The Grand Jury archives, while not complete, date back to the mid-18th century and are of great significance in demonstrating the development of the county over a century and a half. Other now extinct public bodies which are well represented in the County Archives collection include the Rural District Councils and Board of Health & Public

Assistance. The County Council itself, established in 1899, has a vast collection of archival material, from Housing and Roads to Planning and Environment (only some of which have been transferred to the Archives Service).

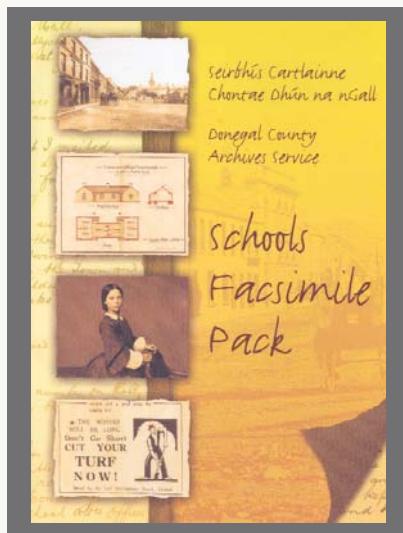
Over 70 primary schools have donated their registers and rollbooks and there are significant records relating to the railways. Privately acquired archives include the papers of the poet, Cathal Ó Searcaigh, estate records, photographs,

oral history interviews, and papers of various well known families, including the Groves of Castle Grove and the Murray Stewarts of south Donegal.



Labourers' Cottages design, Inishowen

2. THE ARCHIVES SERVICE TO EDUCATORS & STUDENTS



Cover of Schools Pack

Because the County Archives Service is located in temporary premises, there is no space to accommodate large groups of students. However, individuals or small groups of up to ten children and teachers are welcome. For primary schools, an education pack based on the new primary school curriculum (2006-), with high quality facsimiles of archives and accompanying worksheets, has been created

and a copy is available for teachers on request.

The objective of the pack is to bring archives out to students where they can be studied in the classroom. The pack is also intended to complement the collection in the Archives, and teachers are very welcome to pay a visit and examine what other material relating to their area might be used in the teaching of the curriculum.

For older pupils, at junior, leaving and transition levels, where they might be expected to have a greater knowledge of primary sources, the archives described in this guide could be a vital tool, for example for Leaving Certificate students' Research study or Documents based study.

Third level students at all levels, engaged in undergraduate dissertations, post-graduate

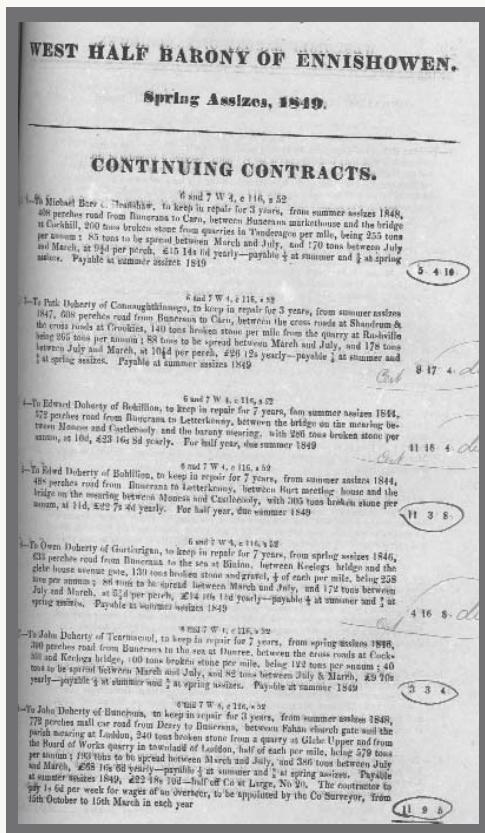
masters or doctoral theses, will find this Guide a useful tool, perhaps assisting them in choosing a thesis topic for their course of study.

Local archives have been under-used by students and researchers at all levels. This Guide is aimed at providing information to schools and colleges, teachers and students, on the rich sources available and accessible at local level, for research and study, particularly for history but also possibly for other subjects such as sociology and geography.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The guide is divided into chapters. Each chapter includes a simple summary of each of the major collections held in the Archives. Each chapter also includes a short note for teachers (and for students) outlining possible uses for study of the collection described.

3. DONEGAL GRAND JURY



Extract from Grand Jury Assize, 1849

Grand Juries had no corporate existence. They were discharged by the Judge of Assize. Landowners made up the Grand Jury itself, selected by the Sheriff of the County. Before the assizes, presentment sessions were called in each of the six baronies of Donegal, where proposals for work to be done were considered and submitted to the Grand Jury for ratification. Services provided and paid for by Grand Jury Cess, a rate payable by occupiers, included making, and repair of roads and bridges and construction of courthouses, levying for support of district hospitals, schools and prisons.

Grand Jury: RECORDS

Spring and Summer and Lent Assizes from 1753 – 1898 (there are gaps in years); Accounts and correspondence, 1816 – 1901; Grand Jury Map, 1801.

TEACHER'S NOTE

Because the Grand Jury is the oldest public body in Donegal some of whose records still survive, it is of interest for this reason alone. While the format of the assizes is quite dull in appearance some of the subject matter could be of interest to children. For instance, the Grand Juries acquired responsibilities for deserted or orphan children and for the upkeep of asylums.

4. WORKHOUSES/BOARDS OF GUARDIANS

Under the Poor Law Act of 1838 the country was divided into poor law unions, each one run by an area Board of Guardians. The principal responsibility of the boards was to supervise the running of the workhouses.

The workhouses in Donegal were in Letterkenny, Ballyshannon, Stranorlar, Dunfanaghy, Carndonagh (run by the Inishowen board), Donegal, Glenties and Milford.

There are over 550 surviving registers and minute books of

the eight Boards of Guardians in Donegal, dating from 1840 to 1923. These records consist mainly of volumes of minutes recording the meetings of each board, admission and discharge registers, indoor and outdoor relief registers, dietary records and some correspondence.

| No. of Cases | NAME | OFFENCE | Date of Offence | Punishment inflicted by Master or other Officer |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 74 | Ricky Basilchess | Using abusive language to the Master, & persisting in doing so. 2/10s being cautioned. | 18th May | 3 hours in the Refractory Ward by the Master. |
| 75 | William Rodden | Going to Milford without leave. | 18th May | 2 hours in Refractory Ward. |
| 76 | Red O'Donnell | Using filthy and abusive language to the Master. | 18th May | 2 hours in Refractory Ward. |
| 77 | Patrick Donnell, Jun. | Going over the wall & leaving the Workhouse premises. | 18th July | Cast in with a rod on the hands by the Schoolmistress. |
| 78 | John Rodgers. | Refused to comply with an order of the Master. | 26 July | 2 hours in Refractory Ward. |

Extract from Milford Workhouse punishment book

TEACHER'S NOTE

The Workhouse records are the most significant collection of historic public records in Donegal and of great historical use and interest to students at all levels. Some minute books give information on emigration programmes for young people. Registers record the admission of families to the workhouse, including births and deaths there, and record illnesses and level of need. Minute books note relief efforts during the Famine, the diet imposed on men, women and children and how it changed and improved over the years; disciplinary problems in the workhouse; and reports from the workhouse school. One 'Punishment book' (for Milford workhouse) survives, detailing the offences committed by adults and children and the punishments meted out. There are also two Records of Deaths which record the deaths of children from illnesses that are unknown today, such as typhus, smallpox and consumption.

For the primary school curriculum, workhouse records fit under a number of strands, including Life in the 19th Century and the Famine. For secondary school students, particularly at Leaving Certificate level, they are an extremely useful source for local studies based projects, and in introducing teenagers to the concept of primary sources.

Poor Law Unions: RECORDS

Ballyshannon workhouse

The records for Ballyshannon Union include: minutes of meetings dating from 1840 – 1922; and abstracts showing the number and classification of paupers relieved in the workhouse, dating from 1844 – 1873. Unfortunately no registers survive from the 19th century.

Donegal workhouse

All 19th century Donegal Union records were destroyed by fire. The records that survive include: 14 minute books from 1914 – 1923; four admission and discharge registers, 1914 – 1921; and a special diet and stimulant register, 1919 – 1920.

Dunfanaghy workhouse

The records for Dunfanaghy Union include: minute books from 1841 – 1922 (12 volumes are missing); a medical officer's report book, 1870 – 1899; and an indoor relief register, 1891 – 1915.

Glenties workhouse

The records for Glenties Union include: minutes of meetings from 1841 – 1922; three admission and discharge registers, 1851 – 1867; 1884 – 1896; and 1913 – 1922; and an indoor relief register, 1899 – 1907.

Carndonagh/Inishowen workhouse

The records for Carndonagh workhouse include: minutes of meetings from 1844 – 1922; an admission and discharge register, 1849 – 1858; three indoor relief registers, 1844 – 1849; 1899 – 1907; 1907 – 1911; and an outdoor relief register, 1908 - 1911.

Letterkenny workhouse

The records for Letterkenny Union include: minutes of meetings from 1841 – 1923; an admission and discharge register, 1864 – 1878; and an outdoor relief register, 1855 – 1899.

Milford workhouse

The records for Milford Union include: minutes of meetings from 1840 – 1923; report of the visiting Committee, 1846 - 1912; two admission and discharge registers, 1855 –1874 and 1882-1897; an outdoor relief register, 1847 – 1899; record of deaths, 1899 – 1917; and a punishment book, 1879 – 1893.

Stranorlar workhouse

The records for Stranorlar Union include: minutes of meetings, 1845 - 1921; a letter book, 1886 – 1921; and Killygordan and Stranorlar dispensary minute books, 1852 – 1899. No registers survive for Stranorlar.

1 & 2 VICTORIA, Cap. 56, Sec. 42.

REGISTRY

OF

PERSONS ADMITTED INTO AND DISCHARGED FROM

THE

Workhouse of the Letterkenny Union,

WITH AN

ALPHABETICAL INDEX.

5. POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

These records consist of the annual reports of the Poor Law Commissioners, 1842 – 1872; and the annual reports of the body that succeeded the Commissioners: the Local Government Board, 1873 - 1904.

The Poor Law Commissioners, and after them, the Local Government Board, were responsible for administering the laws for relief of the poor in Ireland. The reports give statistics for Ireland including returns of persons relieved in unions, statistics regarding the workhouse infirmaries, statistics regarding orphan or deserted children, and admissions to the workhouse during the past year.

TEACHER'S NOTE

These records are of possible interest to secondary school or undergraduate students working on local studies or local history projects involving the history of local government or the workhouses.

58 *Circulars:—Drying Closet for Workhouses—Owners' [APP. A.*

in this method to prepare the charcoal on the locality, and to use it immediately on being prepared.

The turf could be carbonized either in heaps or in cylinders, but I do not deem it necessary at present to enter into any description of those processes, as they may be hereafter supplied should the Commissioners desire information on the subject.

I have, &c.,

ROBT. KANE.

13.—*DRYING-CLOSET FOR WORKHOUSES:—Circular to Poor Law Inspectors, with which Plans were transmitted.*

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin.

SIR,

30th November, 1849.

The Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland have received a report from their Inspector, Mr. Phelan, in which he states that the existing arrangements for drying Clothes, &c., in many Workhouses, is still very defective, being generally a large stove in the drying-room, and he states that much injury is the consequence, the necessary supply of sheets, &c., not being dried.

The Commissioners forward to you herewith a drawing prepared by Mr. Wilkinson, for the erection of a Drying Closet, and they request that you will be so good as to bring the subject under the consideration of the Boards of Guardians of any Unions under your charge, in which the existing arrangements are of the defective character adverted to by Mr. Phelan.

The Commissioners understand that the cost of erecting a Drying Closet according to the enclosed plan, would be about £100 for the smaller houses, and £120 for the larger houses.

Drawings will be supplied from this Office to any Union where it may be determined to erect a Drying Closet.

By Order of the Commissioners,

W. STANLEY, *Secretary.*

To each permanent and temporary Inspector.

14.—*REGISTRY OF OWNERS' STATEMENTS OF CLAIMS TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS OF GUARDIANS, AND APPOINTMENTS OF PROXIES AND THEIR CLAIMS:—Circular of Instructions to Clerks and Returning Officers of Unions.*

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin.

SIR,

1st December, 1849.

The Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Destitute Poor in Ireland, having reason to believe that in some Unions the Books required to be kept (in Forms D 1, 2, and 3, respectively, appended to the Order for regulating the proceedings in elections of Guardians) for the registry of owners' statements of claims to vote, and appointments of proxies and their claims, have not been duly kept up and revised from time to time in manner prescribed, deem it necessary to call attention to the provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Acts, and to the Commissioners' regulations issued in pursuance thereof, in this behalf.

6. RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS

The Rural District Councils were set up under the 1898 Local Government (Ireland) Act. They took over a number of functions from the Boards of Guardians, including local housing, public health, burial boards and sanitary and water services. They liaised with the Congested District Boards. They were abolished in 1925.

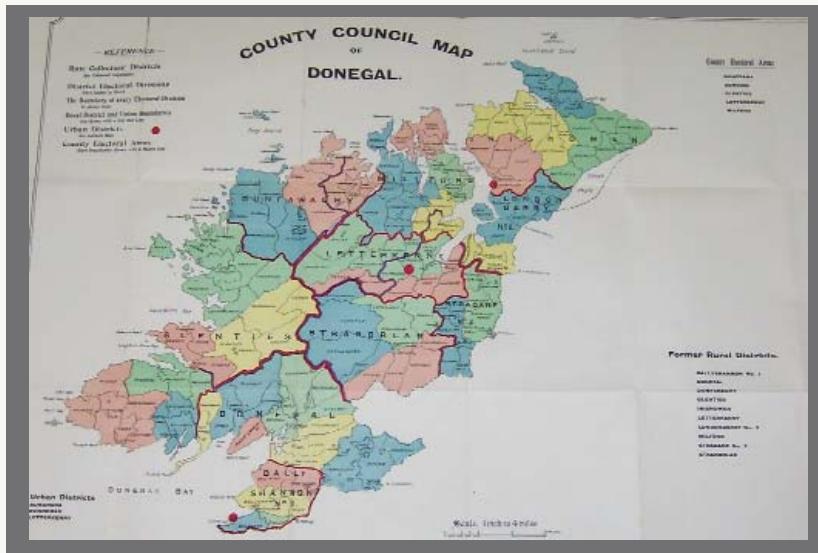
Rural District Councils: RECORDS

Records include minutes of meetings for the following districts:

Ballyshannon: 1899 – 1925;
Donegal: 1914 – 1925;
Dunfanaghy: 1899 – 1925;
Glenties: 1899 – 1925;
Inishowen: 1899 – 1925;
Letterkenny: 1899 – 1925;

Londonderry No. 2: 1899 – 1925;
Milford: 1899 – 1925;
Strabane No. 2: 1899 – 1922;
Stranorlar: 1899 – 1925.

Public Housing was a function of the Rural District Councils as well as the Boards of Guardians and the County Council. These records include: colour plans of rural town cottages; inspectors' reports of the living conditions of labourers applying for a cottage; letters from labourers applying for a house and letters from their representatives.



A map of Rural Districts

TEACHER'S NOTE

The Rural District Councils, in particular the housing records, could be utilised by students at all levels from mid primary school to third level, as sources for local social and economic history.

7. DONEGAL BOARD OF HEALTH & PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The Board was formed under the 1925 Act, to take over administration of public health and assistance for the county, and to assume some of the functions of the abolished Rural District Councils. The Board was abolished in 1942 and Donegal County Council took over its functions.

Donegal Board of Health RECORDS

Minutes of Board, 1924 - 1942:

Subjects discussed and decisions of the board include: the boarding out and hiring of children to farmers; the district hospitals; unemployment assistance and assistance to the needy; district nurses' reports; decisions made under Children's Acts; water supply and sewerage schemes; infectious diseases.

The minutes include reports regarding the letting of cottages for labourers.

The monthly report of the County Medical Officer of Health refers to fever hospitals, tuberculosis (TB), school medical inspection, and inspection of schools.

TEACHER'S NOTE

Board of Health records are subject to restricted access due to the sensitivity of the material. Extracts can be made available to researchers for personal, research or statistical reasons. The minutes of the Board include subjects that would be of interest to students at all levels, such as the hiring out of children, provision of a school medical scheme and the supply of free milk and meals to children at school, and the efforts to eradicate now defunct diseases.

8. DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL & OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

County Councils were established under the 1898 Local Government (Ireland) Act. They took over all the administrative functions of the Grand Juries. The first meeting of Donegal County Council took place in 1899.

Donegal County Council RECORDS

County Council and Committee minutes 1899 - 1976; Valuation records; Motor Tax registers, 1903 - 1923, 1951 - 1992; voters' registers, c.1920 - 1980's; local and general elections campaigning material, generally from the 1970's; Planning applications and development plans, 1934 - 1972; Environmental Services: plans and maps; Roads: plans, drawings and maps.

Urban and other authority RECORDS

County Council and Committee minutes

- **Ballyshannon Town Commissioners:** minutes of meetings, 1896 - 1963;
- **Ballyshannon Harbour Board:** minutes of meetings, 1887 - 1962;
- **Letterkenny Urban District Council** (now Town Council), minutes of meetings, 1899 - 1972.

- **Bundoran Urban District Council** (now Town Council), minutes of meetings, c.1899 - 1970;
- **Buncrana Urban District Council** (now Town Council), minutes of meetings, c.1913 - 1993, files relating to Planning, Roads and Housing.

County of Donegal Rural District of Glenties
District of the Valuation of the several Townlands, etc., comprised in the Electoral Division of Andara

| Townland | Part | Total Area of Townland | | | | | | Total Valuation of Property liable to Assessment | | | | | | Total | Description | |
|--------------------|------|------------------------|---|----|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------------|-----|
| | | a | r | p | a | r | p | £ | s | d | £ | s | d | | | |
| Andara | I | 495 | 3 | 28 | 176 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 |
| Town of Andara | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bunalee Lane | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Loan Head | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Carraughtree Gable | IV | 1023 | 3 | 28 | 38 | 12 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 60 | 16 | 0 | 1910 | 1910 | |
| Clonacross | II | 170 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 71 | 10 | 0 | 1910 | 1910 | |
| Clonacross Gable | IK | 382 | 3 | 4 | 27 | 12 | 0 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 23 | 7 | 0 | 1910 | 1910 | |

Extract from Valuation book, Glenties

TEACHER'S NOTE

There is a vast collection of archives from the County Council and Urban Authorities, though many records have not been accessioned by the County Archives yet. Nonetheless there are many sources which would be of use for local study. Older electoral registers record past lives. Valuation books record farms, shops, homes and land and their owners from previous generations. Motor Tax registers give information on vehicles in use since the beginning of registration. The Council's minutes of meetings are a valuable social and political local historical source.

9. COUNTY DONEGAL COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE

The County Committees of Agriculture were established under the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899.

RECORDS

Letters from the Department of Agriculture to Donegal County Committee of Agriculture, 1901 – 1930. Subjects include: training of teachers in embroidery, cookery, laundry work, dressmaking; training in veterinary hygiene; flax shows; cattle and horse breeding schemes; cottage garden and farm prize schemes etc. Documents include inspectors' reports and letters regarding the above schemes and prizes; and correspondence and memoranda from local organisations such as co-operative societies.

TEACHER'S NOTE

These archives are a good source for the study of social and economic rural history, and could be utilised by older students at secondary and third level.

10. COURT RECORDS: PETTY SESSIONS

Most court records are held by the National Archives.
The County Archives holds a small number of court records.

RECORDS:

- **Ballyshannon and Newtowncunningham Petty Sessions registers**, 1828 – 1856, detailing criminal offences, giving names of offenders, details of offence, e.g., 'waylaying and assault', 'entering his orchard and stealing apples', 'stealing three bricks'; and sentence, e.g., 'fined', 'committed to gaol'.
- **Ballyshannon Petty Sessions Register of Civil Proceedings**, 1828 – 1856, recording offences such as 'non payment of county cess,' 'having a quantity of flax on the public road', 'wilfully driving your mare into his grazing land'; and outcome, e.g., 'dismissed', 'no appearance', 'postponed', 'settled', 'fined'.

TEACHER'S NOTE

Although Donegal County Archives only holds a sample of the much bigger collection of 19th century court records held in the National Archives, the existence of the Ballyshannon and Newtowncunningham Petty Sessions archives in the County Archives gives students an opportunity to explore relatively rare 19th century documents of both local and social historical importance. These records are a great source for a Leaving Cert/ undergraduate study of the criminal and civil justice system as it was run locally.

11. SCHOOLS

Primary School records

The County Archives holds a large number of archives from primary schools.

Records held include:

- School roll books: giving names and number of pupils and class, date of birth of pupil.
- Registers: giving date of entrance of pupil to school, pupil's name in full, pupil's date of birth and residence, occupation of parent/guardian, place where pupil last attended school.
- District Inspector Report books: inspections of schools carried out.

| 6 REGISTER OF INFANTS IN <i>Ramelton</i> NATIONAL SCHOOL. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-----------------------|--|-------|
| Date of Entrance, 184 <i>x</i> . | Pupil's Number. | PUPIL'S NAME. | Age of Pupil last Birth Day. | Religious Denomination. | Residence. | Occupation or Means of Living of Parents. | Annual Examination. | | | | | Page of Register to which Transferred. | |
| | | | | | | | No. of Days Present. | Mark. | No. of Days Absent. | Mark. | No. of Days Examined. | | Mark. |
| Sep. 19 | 395 | McBarron James | 4 | R.C. | Little bridge | Butcher | | | | | | | 87 |
| Oct. 10 | 396 | Noble Christy | 3 | R.C. | " " | Butcher | | | | | | | |
| " " | 397 | McDonnell Chas | 4 | R.C. | Anglo Irish | Farmer | | | | | | | 87 |
| 13 July 7 | 399 | Gallagher William | 4 | R.C. | Bridge St. | Baker | | | | | | | |
| " 21 | 400 | Donohoe James. | 4 | R.C. | Castle St | Cropper | | | | | | | |
| Apr. 25 | 401 | Donohoe Edward | 5 | R.C. | Church St | Labourer | | | | | | | |
| May 23 | 402 | McBarron John | 3 | " | Little bridge | Blacksmith | | | | | | | 82 |
| " 23 | 403 | Donohoe Joseph | 4 | " | Church St. | Swamp | | | | | | | |
| May 29 | 404 | Donohoe John | 6 | " | Rose Lane | Chaoser | | | | | | | 81 |
| Sep. 21 | 405 | Donohoe Peter | 5 | " | Bridge End | Butcher | | | | | | | |
| Oct. 23 | 406 | Donohoe Peter | 4 | " | Castle St. Rose Lane | Labourer | 227 | 2 | | | | | |
| Nov. 6 | 407 | Donohoe Alex. | 5 | " | Bridge End. do | Butcher | | | | | | | |
| Nov. 27 | 409 | Donohoe James | 4 | " | Rose Lane | Butcher | 200 | 0 | | | | | |
| Nov. 14 | 410 | Donohoe Chas | 4 | " | Bridge St. Rose Lane | Labourer | | | | | | | |
| " 21 | 411 | Donohoe Chas | 4 | " | Brown's do | " | | | | | | | |
| June 18 | 412 | Donohoe Jas. | 4 | " | Bridge End. | Butcher | | | | | | | |
| " 28 | 413 | Donohoe Peter | 5 | " | Brown's do | Labourer | | | | | | | |

Register from Ramelton National School

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

(mainly rolls and registers) collected to date: c.1855 – 1990's (dates vary):

- Scoil Mhuire (Creeslough); Kildarrach; Mas-an-Eas; Dunfanaghy; Faugher; Glassan; Glendowan; Stramore; Creevy; Ellestrin; Gortnacart, Ardara; Thorr, Gweedore; Dore, Gweedore, Dunlewy; Scoil Phadraig; Bunbeg; Scoil Naomh Fiachra; Kilmacrenan; Scoil Michael O'Cleirigh (Ballyshannon); Coolmore (Ballyshannon); Scoil Carraig Na hCorna (Ballyshannon); Scoil Bearaic, (Ballyshannon); Castlefinn (2); Donaghmore NS (Lischooley); Scoil Cholmcille (Fintown); Shallogans / An tSealgain (Fintown); Beal-an-Ath-Moir (Fintown); Glenleigham / Gleann-Leitin (Fintown); Ceann Garb (Fintown); Glenmaquin (Lurgybrack); Dumhaigh, (Lettermacaward); Lettermacaward; Croagh

(Dunkineely); Calhaim (Dunkineely); Dunkineely; Min Beannaid (Burtonport); Acres/Ailt an Corrain (Burtonport); Meenmore (Burtonport); Ardbane (Mountcharles); Glencoagh (Mountcharles); Naomh Peadar (Mountcharles); Muintir Naois (Mountcharles); Lettermore (Inver); Scoil Iosagain (Bunrana); Naomh Colmcille (Bunrana); An Croi Ro-Naofa (Bunrana); Cockhill Boys (Bunrana); Tullydish (Bunrana); Scoil Mhuire (Ramelton); Killycreen (Ramelton); Cruachan (Ramelton); Tank (Ramelton); Castleshanaghan; Droimin NS (Ramelton); Donegal, The Glebe; Cill na mBaird/Killymard (Donegal); Clar Robertson (Donegal); Tulaig Sneachta NS (Donegal); Naomh Mura, Fahan; Fahan Mura lochtar agus Uachtar; Carrowreagh (Fahan); Dooley; Drumoghill; Caiseal

Mhuire (Fanad); Ballymichael (Fanad); Scoil Bhríd (Fanad); Ballymore C. of I. (Creeslough); Newtowncunningham; Doochary; Dungloe; Kincasslagh; Ballyraine (Letterkenny).

POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Lifford Endowed Schools:

this collection includes rollbooks, registers, financial records, correspondence;

St Eunan's College:

Two photographs from 1920's.

TEACHER'S NOTE

School records are of perennial interest to school children, and the more local the school record the greater the interest will be. Registers and rollbooks inform students of today of the vastly different school lives of their grandparents. These archives are an invaluable source for local and social history.

12. RAILWAYS & OTHER TRANSPORT RECORDS

Donegal had a network of trains that spanned most of the county from Carndonagh to Killybegs until the late 1950's. Documents held include:

COUNTY DONEGAL RAILWAYS.

SEE OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTY FIRST.

WE SUPPLY THE MEANS!!
Still Cheaper Fares

ALL THE BEAUTY SPOTS.

Rosstownlough — Miles of Golden Sands, Atlantic Breakers, Surf Bathing, Golfing, Tennis.

Ballyshannon — For Bundoran, Silgo, and Lough Erne.

Mountcharles — Panoramic View Point, Sands, Bathing, Boating, Fishing.

Doorin Road — Glorious Sea Bathing, unsurpassed.

Dunkineely — For St. John's Point, Invigorating, Health-giving, Rejuvenating.

Killybegs — Majestic Cliff and Mountain Views, Fishing, Sailing, Bathing, Golfing.

Glenties — For Narin, Portnoo, Rosbeg, and Ardara—the Gems of Donegal.

ASK AT STATION FOR EXCURSION BOOKLET. BICYCLES CARRIED AT NOMINAL CHARGE.

Travel by Train, it's Cheapest and Safest.

HENRY FORBES, Manager.

Railway Poster from 1928

- Letterkenny and Lough Swilly railway records: accounts, personnel documents (with restricted access); West Donegal Railway Drawings (1880); Finn Valley Railway plans (1860)
- Prints of Great Northern Railway Company (1956 – 60); Prints of Lough Swilly Railway trains (1951 – 59); Prints of Letterkenny and Burtonport Extension Railway (1951 – 59); Prints of trains, stations and lines of Co. Donegal Railways Joint Committee (1951 – 61); bye-laws, accounts, legal documents, timetables, leaflets and tickets, 1880 – 1960; posters and flyers relating to railways, c. 1900 – 1950.

TEACHER'S NOTE

Transport is an issue of crucial importance to the economy of a county as large and as rural as Donegal, and the role of the railways in the county's late 19th and 20th century development is reflected in the records in the railway collection. Motor tax registers and photographs of trains and other vehicles contained in some of the private collections (see below) are an excellent source for tracing the history of public and private transport over the course of a century and more.

13. SMALL COLLECTIONS

- **ISAAC BUTT:** four letters written by the nationalist MP from Glenfin.
- **FISHERIES:** Some posters, notices, bye-laws, fisheries committees, c.1850- 1983.
- **ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS:** Second edition maps of Donegal: c. 200 six inch and one inch maps of various areas within the county, dating from 1840 – 1881.
- **GRIFFITH'S SURVEYS:** handwritten booklets dating from 1833 – 1859; these contain surveyor Richard Griffith's topographical surveys of the parishes and townlands of Donegal. The surveys give details of quantity of land; rate per statute acre; value of land; and numbers of houses valued at over £5.



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WILL BE LONG
Don't Go Short
CUT YOUR
TURF
NOW!



14. PRIVATE RECORDS

Donegal County Archives Service holds and receives donations of archives from private sources.

LITERARY COLLECTIONS/ PAPERS:

Cathal Ó Searcaigh:

Chief among the private papers held is the collection of the renowned Irish speaking poet: correspondence, draft poems and plays, photographs, etc., 1960 – 1990; **Patrick MacGill:**

four letters and one draft poem, one drawing, 1917 – 1935;

William and Hugh Allingham

and **Sarah Lipsetts:**

photographs and diaries; notes relating to the poet and other friends and relations.

ESTATE PAPERS:

• **Horatio Granville Murray Stewart and family:**

including rentals with details of tenants and amounts of rent paid; and maps, Killybegs, Kilcar, Killaghatee, and other areas of South Donegal, 1749 – 1880.

• **Captain Ernest Cochrane and family, Redcastle:**

Inishowen, estate papers: items include maps, letters and a journal, 1865 – c.1950.

• **Edward H. Harvey:**

Ballyliffin, Clonmany; and Inch, Inishowen: estate papers: 2 maps and 1 rental, c. 1900.

• **Sir Arthur Chichester:**

rental and particulars of Sale of estates held from the Marquis of Donegal, in Moville, Inishowen, 1851.

• **Jane Doherty:**

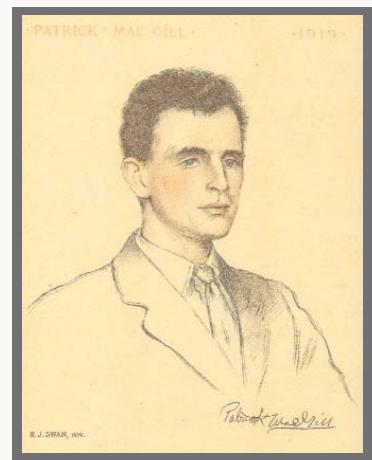
Moville: notice to quit issued by [Richard] and Jane Doherty giving tenants six months notice of eviction, 1866 - 68.

• **John & Abraham Hamilton:**

rentals of the estate in Ballinamore and Fintown, 3 items, 1818 – 1849.

TEACHER'S NOTE

Cathal Ó Searcaigh is on the literary curriculum for Leaving Certificate students and the collection, including the many drafts of his poetry and other works, are the evidence of both the progress of his literary career and of the creative process.



Patrick Mac Gill, 1919

- **Groves of Castle Grove House, Letterkenny:**

included are photograph albums, judicial rent cases; letters; family recipe books from early 19th century; postcards; booklets; farm account books.

- **Montgomerys and**

- **Boytons of Convo House:**

included are farm accounts (1920's), rentals (1890's).

- **Alexander Stewart of Ards:**

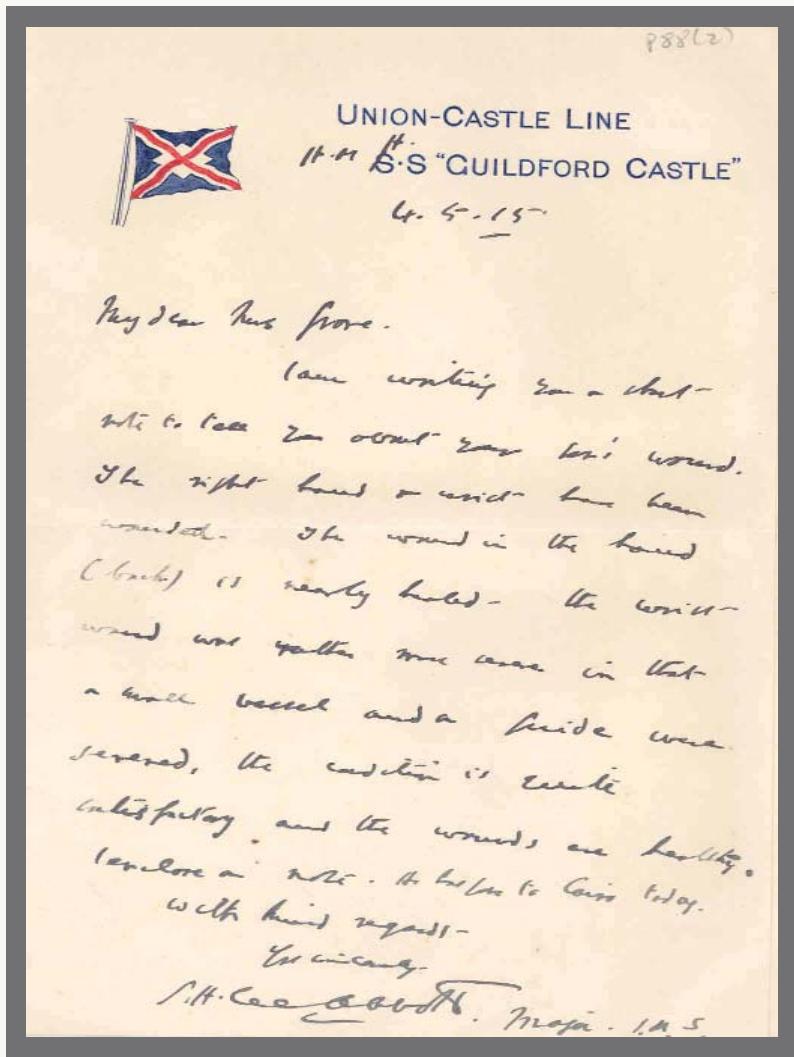
Trustee Account of the will of Alexander Stewart (1873); and Agreement ledger comprising agreements between Stewart and his tenants (1856- 1896); maps of the estate.

- **Captain Humfrey:** rental of estate and expenditure account for repairs and work done to Cavanacor House and estate.

- **Lord Leitrim:** small number of items dating from 1840 - 1870.

- **Charley Estate** rental, Arranmore (copy), 1862 - 1885.

- **Ballymacool House,** photographs and photocopied articles.



Letter from Grove collection

TEACHER'S NOTE

The majority of large estate collections from Donegal are held in the National Library in Dublin and in the Public Record Office in Belfast but the County Archives holds the above small but significant collections relating to landlordism, the Big House, tenants, eviction and farm and estate life.

OTHER PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

- **Father Patrick Gallagher:** documents, notes, essays, correspondence, articles, newspaper cuttings and photographs relating to: the Donegal Historical Society; genealogy; the O'Donnell clan; other families such as the Shiels and Sweeneys of Ballyshannon; the Dolan family of Rathglass, Bundoran; notes on the Montgomery estate in Convoy; a rental of Earl of Leitrim; Finn Valley railway; and many other records; c. 1940 - 1980.
- **Fr James McFadden,** papers relating to a famous nineteenth century Donegal murder case; 1889.

PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS/ BUSINESSES

- **Gweedore and Lough Swilly Hotels:** Visitors Books, 1842 - 1903.
- **Ballybofey & Stranorlar and Templecrone** Co-operative and agricultural Societies: 1917-1945.
- **District Nursing Associations:** Newtowncunningham, Burt & Killea; Fanad, 1931 - 1974.

- **Andrews Linen Mills:** Accounts with Flax Mills in Donegal and elsewhere, 1895 - 1951.
- **Jim Watters Estate Agents:** Milford, auction books from 1930 - 1957.
- **Irish Medical Association:** (Donegal branch): minutes: 1903 - 1977.

TEACHER'S NOTE

All the above are sources of local, social and economic history for Donegal. The District Nursing Associations/Medical Association records include photographs and information on the medical needs of local communities at the time; the Linen Mills and Estate Agents record the day to day work of local businesses, most of which no longer exist. The Gweedore Hotel book includes very detailed accounts of life for the poor in the area, including during the famine years and the reforming efforts of Lord George Hill.

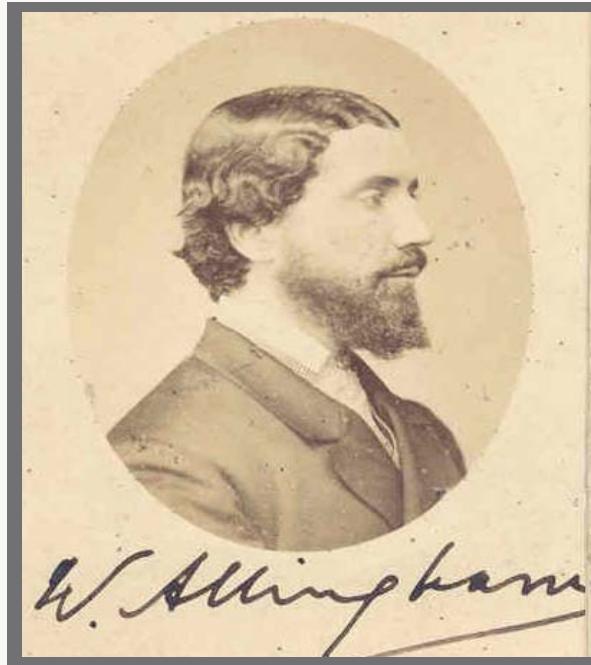


Image from Lipsetts collection

PHOTOGRAPHIC AND ORAL HISTORY

- *Photographs/prints*: include of Tory Island, 1965.
- *Photographs of various towns and areas in Donegal*.
- *Various photographs contained in individual collections*.
- *Photographs of people, places, vehicles, events etc in Ballyshannon and area donated by Joe O'Loughlin and in Culdaff, donated by Sean Beattie*.
- *Oral Interviews* with Donegal people regarding 20th century rural life – farm, fisheries, hiring fairs, migration, leisure, church, education etc. Interviewed by Anne McMenamin.
- *Islands*: Oral History project conducted in 2003 by Mary Phelan. The aim of the project was to gather as much of the Oral History of Donegal's depopulated islands. Interviews were conducted on Gola, Inishcaoire, Owey, Rutland and Inishboffin.



Photograph of Hamiltons of Donegal, c.1900

TEACHER'S NOTE

Oral accounts of the lives –work, home, school, traditions, children etc- of people in rural communities are an immensely important source of local history. These recordings are under-used by students of history at all levels. Photographs of towns in the past can be compared to and contrasted with the towns of today.

15. PAPERS RE: PERIOD OF THE FLIGHT OF THE EARLS

The County Archives has acquired copies and microfilms of papers relating to the period leading up to and including the Flight of the Earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnell from Ireland.

Included are:

Carew Papers: Microfilms of the papers of Sir George Carew (1555-1629) who worked in Ireland in the service of Queen Elizabeth 1 and became President of Munster in 1599. *These papers are the property of Lambeth Palace Library.*

Bacon papers: Microfilms of the papers of Anthony Bacon (1558-1601) who in 1583 entered the service of the Earl of Essex and became his private secretary for foreign affairs. Papers detail the Earl of Essex's life, including in Ireland during this crucial period in Irish history. *These papers are the property of Lambeth Palace Library.*

16. DONEGAL ANNUAL

The Archives holds a copy of the complete set of the Donegal Annual, journal of the County Donegal Historical Society, with articles of local historic interest from around the county. It is available for consultation in the Archives.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Archivist,

Archives Service,
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Three Rivers Centre, Lifford,
County Donegal

Tel: +353 74 9172490

Fax: +353 74 9142290

E-Mail: archivist@donegalcoco.ie
www.donegalcoco.ie

*Access to the Archives is by
appointment only, of at least
two days' notice.*

Donegal County Library and
Donegal County Museum have
extensive collections of local
history material and artefacts
relating to the history and
culture of Donegal.

Donegal County Museum,

High Road, Letterkenny,
tel. +353 74 91 24613

Central Library, Letterkenny,

Oliver Plunkett Road, Letterkenny,
tel. +353 74 91 24950

For other archives relating to Donegal see also:

National Archives,
Bishop Street, Dublin 2;
www.nationalarchives.ie

National Library of Ireland,

Kildare Street, Dublin 2;
www.nli.ie

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland,

66 Balmoral Avenue,
Belfast BT9 6NY;
www.proni.gov.uk

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