

# Craigavon Personal Papers (D1415)

## Summary

Personal papers of James Craig (1871-1940), 1st Viscount Craigavon, statesman and Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, and of his wife, Lady Craigavon (1880-1953), 1884-1940. Comprising some 300 documents, volumes, photographs and newspaper cuttings, the collection provides an interesting insight into the life and career of the man who was to play a critical and integral role in the evolution of Northern Ireland as a separate political entity. Born at Sydenham, a suburb of Belfast, he was the youngest of six sons of James Craig, J.P., of Craigavon and Tyrella, Co. Down, a successful businessman in Belfast. Educated at a private school in Holywood, Co. Down and afterwards at Merchiston Castle, Edinburgh, the younger Craig became a stockbroker. However, with the start of the Boer War in 1899 he ceased formally to be a member of the Belfast Stock Exchange and took a commission in the 3rd (Militia) Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles. Serving with distinction as a lieutenant with the Imperial Yeomanry, he was captured by the Boers but survived the barren conditions of a concentration camp and returned home with a firm and lasting faith in the British way of life.

[Introduction to the Craigavon Personal Papers](#)