

Foster/Massereene Papers (D207, D562, D1739 and D4084)

Summary



John Foster

The Foster/Massereene papers comprise over 26,000 documents and volumes, 1590-1935, deriving from the Foster family of Collon, Co. Louth, Viscounts Ferrard, and the Clotworthy and Skeffington families, Viscounts Massereene, of Antrim Castle, Co. Antrim, and relating to their estates, mainly in Cos Antrim and Louth, and to the lives and political careers of individual family members, most notably John Foster (1740-1828), last Speaker of the Irish House of Commons.

The two families came together through a marriage of 1810 between the Foster heir and the Massereene heiress. Their estates and titles merged in the person of the 10th Viscount Massereene and 3rd Viscount Ferrard in 1843. 'Massereene' is the barony (or, rather, Upper and Lower Massereene are the two half baronies) in Co. Antrim where Antrim Castle and the bulk of the Massereene estate lay; and 'Ferrard' is the barony in Co. Louth where Collon and the bulk of the Foster estate were situated.

[Introduction to the Foster/Massereene Papers](#)