



Public Record Office
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INTRODUCTION

WARING PAPERS

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Waring Papers (D695)

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Summary

c. 250 documents, 1641-1803, relating to the Waring family of Waringstown and Donaghcloney, Co. Down and to the linen industry in Ireland from c.1680 to the end of the first half of the eighteenth century.



Clanconnell and Donaghcloney

The territory of Clanconnell in Co. Down embraced the parishes of Donaghcloney and Tullylish, and was forfeited by the Magenis family, Lords of Iveagh, following their implication in the 1641 Rebellion. The papers include a sworn deposition by one William Good describing how the Magenis family took and burnt Lurgan, Co. Armagh, only a few miles from Donaghcloney, in 1641: 'Lurgan castle was besieged by Earth og McGlaslie McGinness and his sons... Despite an agreement most of the men in the castle were stripped and killed'. Clanconnell was given to a group of Cromwellian soldiers in lieu of arrears of pay and passed from them to their Captain, John Baret, of the Company of the Lord Deputy Fleetwood's Regiment of Foot.

In 1658 the Donaghcloney portion was purchased by William Waring, then of Derrriaghy, Co. Antrim. These transactions are fully documented in the papers including the sale of military debentures (£102), 22 April 1656, from Barry Farrell, Drummer Christopher Kettlewell, Corporal Thomas (Hicks), private soldiers, to Captain John Baret and the lease for one year, consideration 10/-, of Donaghcloney, Co. Down, from John Baret of the Foot regiment to William Waring, 5 May 1658.



William Waring

William Waring, born in 1619, was the eldest son of John Waring and his wife, Mary. He married, Elizabeth Gardiner of Londonderry in 1656 and had a son and daughter. He had six sons with his second wife, Jane Close. The management of the estate, by the expanding Waring family, is illustrated in c.150 letters and accounts, 1658-c. 1700 and particular emphasis is placed on financial affairs and the continuing claims of the Magenis family.

Concerning the latter, in an undated letter probably written at some time in the early 1680s, Waring wrote bitterly to Fryer Magenis: 'But you will have that (which was) sold me above 24 years ago on which I have built my house and plantations and to make way for these... covetous desires you would have me and my sons attainted that we may not be able to assert our rights.'

There is also a number of letters, 1662-1673, between Waring and Mrs Alice Smith, a widow, of Essex and London, who owned land in Co. Down and to whom Waring acted as agent. Waring also corresponds during this period with Mrs. Smith's sons-in-law, Messrs. Layfield and Ogle, when dealing with the then late Lady Crosby's property in the Parish of Clonduff, Co. Down. Other material consists of c.60 miscellaneous documents, c.1680-c.1750, relating to the Irish linen industry such as accounts of linen imported into, and exported from, Ireland, 1728-1749.

There are also a small number of maps, including a coloured plan of the Glan Bogg lying between the Counties of Down and Armagh surveyed by Francis Nevil, 1703, and a printed map, 1755, of 'the County of Down with a chart of the sea coast done from actual surveys and actual observations.'

