



Public Record Office  
of Northern Ireland

# **INTRODUCTION**

# **ALDBOROUGH PAPERS**

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# Aldborough Papers (T3300/13)

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## Summary

The Aldborough Papers comprise c.225 political letters and papers of Edward Stratford, 2nd Earl of Aldborough, 1761-1800, principally relating to his dispute with the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, John FitzGibbon, 1st Earl of Clare. Also includes militia papers relating to his grandfather, Capt. Edward Stratford, and father Col John Statford, [subsequently Lord Baltinglass and Viscount and Earl of Aldborough], both of Belan, Co. Kildare, 1691-1798. There are other Aldborough Papers in the National Library of Ireland, and other non-political letters and papers from the same source in PRONI's Verner Wingfield Papers (D2538).



## **Earliest papers**

The papers of the 2nd Earl's father and grandfather in the present deposit comprise: militia papers of Capt. Edward Stratford of Belan, Co. Kildare, and of his son and successor, Colonel John Stratford, also of Belan, subsequently created Lord Baltinglass and Viscount and Earl of Aldborough, including Edward Stratford's commissions as a deputy lieutenant for Cos Kildare and Wicklow, 1691 and 1709 respectively, lists of the members of John Stratford's troop, 1745, 'A general return of the Rt Hon. James, Earl of Kildare's, regiment of militia dragoons in the county of Kildare' and a 'Book of the militia of said county ...', both April 1746.



## The 2nd Earl of Aldborough

The letters and papers of Edward Stratford, later 2nd Earl of Aldborough, who succeeded his father in 1777, begin with his miscellaneous political, military and patronage letters and papers, mainly with Dublin Castle, and including various lists of Co. Wicklow freeholders, 1761-1762, c.1775, c.1780-1781 and 1788-1798. There follow: letters to Edward Stratford from William and Mary Grace, 1765-1768 and 1776-1777, who write from Dublin, London, Boulogne and Spa, and from [their son?] Richard, about the quarrels within the Stratford family and particularly between Edward Stratford and Lord Baltinglass, the Graces' financial difficulties, failing health, etc, and the investigation carried out in January 1767 into the alleged idiocy of the [2nd] Earl of Ely; letters to Stratford from his Dublin bankers, William Gleadowe & Co., 1768 and N.D., about the financial implications of his quarrel with his father, and the remitting of Mrs Stratford's English rents, together with a rough copy of a letter from Stratford to Lord Baltinglass about 'the unhappy differences that subsist among us' particularly on the question of the terms of Stratford's marriage settlement; one letter to Stratford from his nephew, Morley Saunders of Saunders Grove, Co. Wicklow, 1775, who writes from Caen and describes his travels in Normandy and in France generally; correspondence between Stratford, before and after his succession to the earldom, and his third brother, Capt. the Hon. Benjamin Oneale Stratford, 1775-1795, about family quarrels (including quarrels between the two of them), Baltinglass borough, estate affairs, and local politics and elections; letters to the 2nd Earl of Aldborough from J. Godley, Croasdaile Molony and others, 1777-1780, about the lawsuits within the Stratford family over the will of the 1st Earl of Aldborough, Baltinglass borough, etc; letters or copies of letters to the Dowager Lady Aldborough from her eldest son, the 2nd Earl, 1787 and 1790, about family finances.

The last letters in the 2nd Earl's correspondence are dated 1797-1800 and are from Sir John Henniker, 2nd Bt, of Newtown Hill, Essex, created in 1800 Lord Henniker of Stratford-on-Slaney in the peerage of Ireland, and Henniker's son and successor as 2nd Lord Henniker, John Henniker Major, who were respectively the father and brother of Aldborough's second wife, Anne-Elizabeth. The letters refer to Aldborough's building of Aldborough House, Dublin ('building ... [was] so unhappy to you in its consequences before'), Lady Aldborough's ill-health and age (which latter her father cannot remember, '... but I can affirm she is much under forty'), and her father's elevation to the Irish peerage.



## **Baltinglass Borough**

The papers also include a small volume containing a 1784 copy of the charter of the borough of Baltinglass (1663), extracts from the corporation books, 1716-1777, a copy of the corporation book, 1777-1797, and lists of members of the corporation (in Aldborough's handwriting), 1796 and 1797.



## Libelling the Lord Chancellor

However, most of these Aldborough Papers document the 2nd Earl's celebrated dispute with the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, John FitzGibbon, 1st Earl of Clare, as follows: case papers and correspondence, 1790, between Aldborough and FitzGibbon in connection with the Chancery suit between the executors of the late Sir James Tynte, Bt, of Tynte Park, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow, Aldborough's nephew, and Aldborough; copy of a letter, December 1791, from the Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper to the Clerk of the Peace for Co. Kildare annexing a writ of supersedeas by which a number of named individuals are discontinued as JPs for the county, addressed to one of them, William Higginbotham, Castledermot; correspondence and case papers, 1795-1797, about Aldborough's attempt to purchase an estate in and around Sallygap, Co. Wicklow, sold under a decree of the Court of Chancery, and about the Lord Chancellor, Lord Clare's, alleged discrimination against him and partiality towards a rival purchaser; correspondence between Aldborough and his Dublin lawyers, principally George Powell, with one or two sets of queries and observations, 1797-1798, relating to Lord Chancellor Clare's proceedings against Aldborough in the Irish House of Lords, King's Bench and Common Pleas for libel; Aldborough's miscellaneous correspondence about the proceedings, 1797-1798; House of Lords order papers and King's Bench and Common Pleas case papers in connection with these proceedings, 1797-1798; mainly autograph drafts and notes, 1797-1798, for speeches by Aldborough, principally in the House of Lords, in connection with his dispute with Clare; papers about Aldborough's release from Newgate prison, Dublin, March-May 1798, following an order of the House of Lords that the remainder of his prison sentence be remitted; and 3 anti-Clare squibs, c.1795-1798, including a bawdy (and bad) poem about Lady Clare's extra-marital affairs with Lord Ormonde and others.

