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# **INTRODUCTION**

  

# **CASTLE STEWART PAPERS**

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# Castle Stewart Papers (D1618)

## Table of Contents

Summary .....	2
A spelling lesson.....	3
Family history.....	4
The Co. Tyrone estate .....	5
Drum Manor and estate .....	7
Important 17th-century survivals.....	8
Coal, canals and converts.....	9
Peerage claims .....	10
Mainly military .....	11
Title deeds, leases, accounts, etc.....	12
Wills and testamentary papers.....	13
A Coagh curiosity.....	14

## Summary

The Castle Stewart Papers comprise c.6,000 documents and 42 volumes, 1587-c.1960, mainly relating to the Co. Tyrone estates of the Earls Castle Stewart, their genealogy and peerage claims, the building and re-building of their houses and the military services of them and of members of related families.



## A spelling lesson

It may be helpful to deal, at the outset, with the certain problems of orthography which occur in the Castle Stewart Papers. The family name of the Earls Castle Stewart is Stuart. Their other titles are: the barony of Castle Stewart (created 1619); the viscountcy of Castle Stewart (created 1793); and the viscountcy of Stuart (never actually created, but used from 1829 as the courtesy title by which the son and heir was known). It appears to have been the 1st Earl Castle Stewart who adopted for all but one of the family titles the spelling 'Stewart'; and Stuart and Stewart have co-existed confusingly in the family ever since.

The seat of the cadet branch from which the 1st Earl came – Eary, near Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone - is also the subject of some orthographic confusion. Eary was originally spelt Irry or, sometimes, Try, and was re-christened Stuart Hall in the early 18th century (the cadet branch did not move to the 'toy' Scottish-Style Plantation castle of Roughan, now a well-preserved Ancient Monument, which the 1st Lord Castle Stewart had built).

In PRONI's list, these names are spelt Stewart, Stuart and Eary, according to accepted modern usage, regardless of the way in which they are spelt in the original document concerned. In quoted passages, however, the original spelling has been retained.



## Family history

The petition which the 1st Earl Castle Stewart, then Andrew Thomas Stuart, addressed to the Irish House of Lords in 1768, in substantiation of his claim to the barony of Castle Stewart (D1618/14/2), gives a useful summary of family history from 1619 to 1768.

'James I, by his letter [of 1619] to the [Lord] Deputy and Chancellor of Ireland, authorised them to create Andrew Stewart, Lord Stewart, Baron of Castlestewart in the county of Tyrone, to hold the said honour to him and the heirs male of his body. Andrew, the 1st Lord, left issue Andrew, John, and Robert.

No Parliament having sat from the year 1615 to the year 1634, Andrew, the 1st Lord, never voted in Parliament, but constantly enjoyed the title. He was succeeded by Sir Andrew, his eldest son and heir, and many entries in the Journals of the Lords in the year 1634 prove his enjoyment of the dignity, in consequence of letters patent issued agreeable to the letter of King James ... .

This Lord died in or about the year 1639, leaving issue Andrew, Robert and Josias, and was succeeded by Andrew, his eldest son and heir. This Lord married one of the daughters of Sir Arthur Blundell, by whom he had issue one child only, a daughter named Mary, who married Henry Howard, afterwards [5th] Earl of Suffolk, and this lady carried away almost the whole family estate. Andrew, the 3rd Lord, died without issue male [in c.1650], and Robert his brother being dead without issue, he was succeeded in the honour by Josias, his youngest brother. ... Josias died in or about the year 1662, without issue, and was succeeded in the honour by John, his uncle. ...

John, the 5th Lord Castlestewart, died without issue [in 1685], and after his death, the descendants of Lt-Colonel Robert Stewart were the ... [rightful] successors to the barony of Castlestewart, [which remained dormant and unclaimed until 1774]. ... Lt-Colonel [the Hon.] Robert was the brother of John, the 5th Lord, ... and consequently a son of the 1st Lord. Robert Stewart of Irry [d.1686], son and heir to Colonel Robert, married Ann Moore, daughter of William Moore of Garvey in the county of Tyrone. To him succeeded Andrew Stewart [1672-1715], his eldest son and heir, then an infant, and to him Robert Stewart [1700-1742], whose son and heir the petitioner is.'



## The Co. Tyrone estate

Andrew Thomas Stuart (1725-1809), the petitioner, established his claim to the barony of Castle Stewart in 1774, but was later, in 1793, unsuccessful in his attempt to establish his claim to an earlier Scottish barony of Ochiltree (created 1543). It was he who became the 1st Earl Castle Stewart, in 1800.

The other major event of his long reign as head of the family was his acquisition, in 1782, of a third manor in Co. Tyrone, the manor of Orritor, alias Orator, alias Auraghter, alias Manor Annesley, which was then valued as being worth, when out of lease, £1,133 a year (D1618/2/48). Orritor was near Stewartstown, and was thus geographically well-situated to round off the existing manors of Castle Stewart and Forward. However, the fourth manor in the Tyrone estate came in by inheritance, not deliberate purchase, and was remote from the other three. This was the manor of Hastings, alias Castlegore, near Castlederg, formerly the property of the Edwards family of Castlegore. Robert Stuart of Stuart Hall had married Margaret Edwards of Castlegore back in 1722; and as a result of failure of heirs male in the Edwards family, Castlegore passed to the Stuarts, but not until the 3rd Earl Castle Stewart's day, in 1820, almost a hundred years after the marriage. The rental of Castlegore was just short of £2,000 a year in 1829 (D1618/5/3).

It passed to Lord Castle Stewart in 1820 because that was the year of the death of the last remaining Edwards, Olivia, Countess of Rosse. She had been born in 1731. Lady Rosse does not figure personally in the archive, though she (along with her second husband, John Bateman of Oak Park, Co. Kerry) is the grantor of many surviving leases of the Castlegore estate. The following description of her, based on 'village narration, which never praises or censures by halves', picked up by John Gamble and published in his *Views of Society and Manners in the North of Ireland ...* (London, 1819), is therefore of some interest as well as entertainment value.

'... We walked up a rugged hill that leads to Castlegore. Though, not many years ago, the seat of grandeur and magnificence, Castlegore is now almost as absolute a picture of desolation as I ever beheld. Yet it is interesting even in decay. Elevated on a high hill, it is seen in every direction, and the antique avenue of old trees has further effect of beauty in this land of mountains and floods. Until lately, it was the residence of Lady Ross[e], a woman who had long outlived her generation, her eyesight, and all her passions except that one which increases with age [avarice]. She lingered in this her ancient castle until the floors cracking under her feet and the ceilings tumbling on her head admonished her to tardy and reluctant flight; for, the trifle it would have taken to have averted this calamity, she could not bear to part with. She would perhaps have been a wonder in any country but she was an especial wonder in this one, where profusion is the defect of the gentry, and parsimony the only fault which the poor do not forgive. ...'

The following is a breakdown of the components of the Tyrone estate of the Earls Castle Stewart and their respective rentals in 1862 (D1618/6/1):

Manor of Castle Stewart (Eary, alias Stuart Hall, estate), Stewartstown, barony of Dungannon	£312
Manor of Forward (Roughan), near Coalisland, barony of Dungannon	£1,060
Manor of Orritor, barony of Dungannon	£2,887
Manor of Hastings (Castlegore estate), Castleberg, barony of Omagh	<u>£3,308</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7,567</b>



## **Drum Manor and estate**

A further, temporary addition to the Tyrone estate was made in 1866, when Viscount Stuart, the future 5th Earl Castle Stewart, married the heiress of the Richardson Brady family of Oaklands, alias Drum Manor, Cookstown. On his death in 1914, however, he was succeeded in the earldom and in the Castle Stewart estates by his cousin, but at Drum Manor by one of his daughters, Lady Muriel Close. Documentation of the latter property will be found in the Close (Richardson of Drum) Papers, PRONI, D2002, which also contain at least one item of probable Castle Stewart provenance (D2002/Z/2A). Correspondingly, the Castle Stewart Papers include some architectural plans for Drum, 1876 (D1618/11/7), and much correspondence about financial relations with Lady Muriel Close and her sister, 1914-1919 (D1618/15/10).



## **Important 17th-century survivals**

The plans for Drum Manor are one important component of the Castle Stewart Papers. However, the most important is the mid-to-late-17th century family and financial correspondence (D1618/15/1/1-40), since surviving correspondence of this date is a decided rarity by Irish standards. This material was assembled, numbered and transcribed by a member of the Castle Stewart family, [possibly Emma Georgiana, wife of the 6th Earl Castle Stewart, c.1920?]. The original bundle so created has not been disturbed, and where documents should or should not have been included in it, this is indicated by a cross-reference. These early-20th-century transcripts (D1618/15/2), though not of unfailing accuracy, have been accepted as a bonus and reproduced in a detailed calendar which follows PRONI's list.

The letters refer to: tithes and rents due from Robert Stewart's lands at Roughan, near Coalisland, in 1654 relative to the 1641 values; the construction of mills at Roughan and Templereagh, Co. Tyrone, in 1655; the apprehension of a 1641 rebel in Co. Tyrone in 1655; the leasing of Marshallstown, Co. Antrim, to Timothy Taylor in 1656; the disputed ownership of a horse at Lifford, Co. Donegal, in 1656; the cess money due from Arboe parish in 1657; a series of land and rent disputes, 1657-1662; an agreement over property near Pole Gate and in St Werburgh's parish in Dublin, 1657; the alleged destruction of timber in Arboe parish in 1660; the Countess of Antrim's jointure, 1661; the misdemeanours of Hugh Morvagh O'Neill in 1662; road maintenance in Eary townland, Co. Tyrone, in 1664; a discussion of the marriage of W. Stewart in 1666; the repair of Ballyclog church in 1670; the leasing of the manor of Forward, etc, in 1671; an inventory of the effects of William Moore of Shantavny, Co. Tyrone, in 1680; an agreement of 1682 following the marriage in 1672 between Robert Crawford of Crawfordsburn, Co. Down, and Helen Stewart of Eary, Co. Tyrone; the purchase of wigs in Dublin in 1685; a dispute in 1686 over a settlement on the marriage between Robert Stewart and Katherine Moore of Garvey, Co. Tyrone; a report in 1690 of John Stewart's posting to the garrison at Lochaber in Scotland; a declaration made by Fr Thomas Morris of disbelief in transubstantiation, etc, in 1703; and the difficulty of obtaining commissions in regiments being raised in Ireland in 1715.



## **Coal, canals and converts**

Other highlights of the correspondence section of the Castle Stewart Papers are: the letters and related papers about the Creenagh colliery, Co. Tyrone, 1721 and 1746-1772, including a memorandum 'Relative to Mr [Davis] Duckart's plan of a navigation from Farlough [to Londonderry], 1767' (D1618/15/6); two papers about celebrated murder of Miss Knox of Prehen, Londonderry, by 'Half-Hanged' Macnaghten, 1762 (D1618/15/7); correspondence about the re-settlement of the family estates consequent upon the conversion of Viscount Stewart, later (1854-1857) 3rd Earl Castle Stewart, to Roman Catholicism (under the influence of his friend, Ambrose Phillipps de Lisle of Gracedieu Manor, Leicestershire) in 1835 (D1618/15/8); genealogical notes relating to the Castle Stewart family from the 12th century; various legal and genealogical papers relating to the kinship between the Robison of Chapelizod, Co. Dublin, and Castle Stewart families, c.1760-c.1850; and voluminous letters and papers about Irish and Scottish peerage law and peerage claims, 1768-1794, 1852, 1881 and 1959-1960 (D1618/14).



## **Peerage claims**

These last include petitions to the Lord Lieutenant, statements of case, reports from the Law Officers of the Crown in Ireland, official letters of acknowledgement from Dublin Castle, the Irish Office in London and the office of the Southern Secretary of State, etc, 1768-1774, all in connection with Andrew Thomas Stuart's successful claim to the Irish barony of Castle Stewart, which was recognised by the Irish House of Lords in 1774. Included in the bundle are legal opinions and reports from John FitzGibbon Senior, Robert Hellen, [John Hely-Hutchinson], Philip Tisdall and Marcus Paterson, 1768-1774.



## **Mainly military**

The letters and papers with a mainly military bearing include papers relating to the court martial of Colonel Charles Robison (whose daughter, Jemima, married the 2nd Earl Castle Stewart in 1806) for allegedly quitting his duties as commander of the garrison of St John, New Brunswick, in 1800, and a diary kept by Robison, whilst serving in the Royal Artillery in India, in which he describes a visit to the Cape of Good Hope in 1815, a call at Mauritius on the return journey to India, and his part in the Nepal campaign in 1816. There are also letters to him, 1816-1821, about the financial interests he had established in Mauritius while stationed there, mainly written to him after his departure from the island, and including a letter from a brother-officer writing from Palembang, Sumatra, and giving news of the deposed Sultan and of other Sumatran affairs.

Other significant correspondence, 1827-1894, derives from Colonel Lothian Sheffield Dickson (maternal grandfather of Emma Georgiana, Countess Castle Stewart). He was ADC to Sir Lionel Smith in India, 1825-1826, and colonel of a regiment he raised to fight in Spain in 1835-1837 in support of the Queen Regent and against the Carlists. In 1842 he was appointed Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate at Swellendam, Cape of Good Hope, remaining there until 1846. There are letters and papers about these activities, and also about Dickson's resignation/dismissal from the Life Guards in 1850 and the Tower Hamlets Militia in 1858. He made several attempts to enter Parliament as a Conservative, then as a Liberal, in 1852, 1859 and 1868. He died in 1894.

There are also some First World War letters from serving members of the Castle Stewart family, notably from Viscount Stewart, who was killed in action in France in 1915, and his younger brother, Arthur, who survived to succeed as 7th Earl Castle Stewart in 1921.



## **Title deeds, leases, accounts, etc**

Estate, legal and financial papers include: a group of letters patent granting estates in Co. Kildare to the Lyle family of Rathbride, Co. Kildare, 1587-1666; title deeds to the manor of Hastings, Castlegore, Co. Tyrone, to the manor of Forward, near Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, and to the manor of Castle Stewart, near Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone, 1641-1820; title deeds to Manor Annesley at Orritor, Co. Tyrone, 1737-1783; Castle Stewart family settlements and mortgages, etc, 1811-1852, with legal briefs from the mid-18th century; a quantity of expired leases for the various Castle Stewart estates, 1679 and 1699-c.1930, with rental accounts, 1862 and 1907-1920; domestic accounts for Stuart Hall, near Stewartstown, 1818-1931; legal and financial papers, 1854-1920, with Irish Land Commission papers; and a volume of bog maps for the Orritor estate in 1858.



## **Wills and testamentary papers**

Pre-1858 wills are a strongpoint of the archive. They include wills and testamentary papers relating to Hugh and Thomas Edwards of London and Castlegore respectively, 1663 and 1721; Mrs Anne Stewart, widow of Capt. Robert Stewart of Eary, 1687 and 1693; members of the Dalway family of Bellahill, Carrickfergus (Robert Dalway, 1699, and Henry Dalway, 1720), with a number of related papers, 1698-1720; William Akie of Feagh, parish of Arboe, Co. Tyrone, 1732; Acheson Moore of Summerhill, Co. Dublin, 1770; the 1st Earl Castle Stewart, 1809; members of the Robison family of Chapelizod, 1817-1824; and James McClelland of Anaverna, Ravensdale, Co. Louth, one of the barons of the Court of Exchequer in Ireland, 1831.



## **A Coagh curiosity**

One considerable curiosity is a certificate granting the freedom of the town of Coagh, Co. Tyrone (which had no corporation and, it might have been thought, no authority to confer freedom) to Andrew Thomas Stewart, later 1st Earl Castle Stewart, 1748.

Please note that there is a microfilm copy of D1618/16/3 available under MIC476.

