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of Northern Ireland

# **INTRODUCTION**

# **GREER, LOWRY AND ALEXANDER PAPERS**

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# Greer, Lowry and Alexander Papers (D645 and D1035)

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## Summary

The Greer, Lowry and Alexander papers are spread over a wide range of archives, as the above array of reference numbers would suggest. The various deposits overlap and complement each other and thus a unifying introduction to them all will provide some explanation of the contents of each. If it were possible to put them together at this late stage, the result would be a massive archive covering in varying detail the various branches of the families. The most straightforward way to introduce each of the archives is to go through them in numerical order



## **Family history**

The archives primarily relate to three prominent County Tyrone families, the Greers, Lowrys and Alexanders. They are: the Greers of Rhone Hill, The Grange and Tullylagan, County Tyrone, and Seapark, County Antrim; the Lowrys of Pomeroy and Rockdale, County Tyrone; and the Alexanders of Termon, and Carrickmore, County Tyrone and Enagh, County Londonderry. Detailed descents can be found in *Burke's Irish Family Records* and so it is unnecessary to reproduce them here. The families are inter-related several times over and many of these relationships will become clear within the descriptions for each of the relevant collections. Many other connected families are represented in the various archives but these will also be covered within each particular section.



## **D645 – Greer papers**

This archive comprises 223 documents, mainly title deeds, leases, testamentary papers and miscellaneous estate papers, relating to the Greer family estates in County Tyrone but also to property scattered throughout Ireland, dating from 1690 to 1845.



## **D1035 and D1059 – Lowry papers**

This is a County Tyrone solicitor's archive comprising c.1000 documents. These consist in the main of title deeds, leases and accounts relating to the Lowry estate at Rockdale, County Tyrone, 1639-c.1900. ***This material is unlisted and therefore unavailable.***



## **Greer papers - correspondence of a merchant family**

D1044 – Greer papers [Also available on microfilm, ref. MIC531]

This archive comprises c.1000 documents mainly correspondence of the Greer family of Dungannon, County Tyrone. The letters were chiefly written to three Thomas Greers during the years 1717 to 1891. Thomas Greer I was born in the late 17th century and married Elizabeth Bell of Trumery, County Antrim, in 1716 [D1044/2-7]. Thomas Greer II, born in 1724, was a son of John Greer and his wife, Mary (nee Hanks). He married Sarah, daughter of the above mentioned first Thomas Greer in 1746, and he died in 1803 [D1044/8-838]. Thomas Greer III, his son, overlaps this period, the first letter to him being D1044/605B. After 1803 the letters are solely to Thomas Greer III.



## Linen trade

The letters to and from the second Thomas Greer form the bulk of the collection. Greer was chiefly concerned with the linen business but was also involved in the trade of general goods. The linen trade was carried on with England and later America; in one year his entire output of linen was sent to the American market. The correspondence reveals that he bought a boat in 1769 [D1044/206-207].

Flax seed was imported from America and was first mentioned about 1757, but the first letter from America does not appear until 1764. There is also a letter from Antigua in the same year. Thomas Greer sent his Bills to either London or Dublin to be exchanged and John Ford acted for him in Dublin, buying goods such as butter, tallow and personal items as well as dealing with linen and the Bills. All through the letters the Greer family appear to have been connected in business with the Wakefields of London. The partnerships changed from time to time: the first was Wakefield, Willet & Pratt, and the next, mentioned in 1770, was Wakefield, Pratt & Miers and later the name was Wakefield and Bell.



## **Trade with America**

Trade with America was carried on with Samuel and John Morton of Philadelphia. By the end of 1770 there was a glut of linen in Philadelphia and sales were slow. During this same period there was also a lot of ill feeling about the tax which was levied by the British Government on certain goods imported into America. Linen sent straight from Ireland to America was not liable for this duty, but the bounty was later lost, and could only be collected on goods dealt with through English ports.

A letter of 1774 from Pennsylvania [D1044/400] mentions that the port of Boston is blocked and that '...there is talk of cutting off all trade with Europe'. After this, trade ceased for some time. In 1783 a letter from Philadelphia [D1044/680] tells of losses during '...the troubled times here...' and speaks of re-opening trade with Ireland.



## **Financial disputes**

Thomas Greer had a bleach green at New Hamborough, near Dungannon, first mentioned in 1775 [D1044/415]. In 1776 this bleach yard belonged to Wakefield, Pratt & Meirs. After the dissolution of this partnership Thomas Greer's offer of £2000 for 'New Hambro' was accepted [D1044/531]. Later in that year [D1044/533] Wakefield & Bell entered into a partnership with him and together they ran it until 1796 when Thomas Greer [D1044/818] proposed buying Wakefield & Co's share of New Hamborough. Shortly after this the Greers and Wakefields had a final disagreement; they had had many minor disputes but in this case [D1044/830 and 831] Edward Wakefield went so far as to '...lay an action on their goods...' and Thomas Greer & Son decided to trade with a different firm called Hayters.

Another business associate of Thomas Greer II was William Nevill. In 1776 he was declared bankrupt, with debts amounting to £15,136 [see D1044/463]. The affair is discussed in a great many of the letters for the year. Jacob Hancock who was a cousin of the Greers, was also a partner in his business and it was feared that his property might be seized to help pay off William Nevill's debts [see D1044/472]. Jacob Hancock claimed that he had no connection with them and finally did get a judgement to that effect. In 1777 an attempt was made to kidnap William Nevill [see D1044/509] by his creditors who did not trust him. They were determined that if they could not have his money, they would have his liberty instead.

In August 1779, James Greer, a cousin of Thomas Greer II, was imprisoned for a debt of £900 [see D1044/556B, 558 and 559A]. Thomas Greer obtained a release for him at the end of the same year [see D1044/571]. From 1793 until the end of his life Thomas Greer II was also involved in a dispute concerning a man called Isaac Lamb [see D1044/1B, 767, 769].

Thomas Greer III was in the linen business with his father and made several trips to England on behalf of Thomas Greer & Son to settle different disputes. In 1794 Thomas Greer wrote to his father suggesting that the partnership should be dissolved [see D1044/733] and yet later in 1796 Thomas Greer proposed to buy a share of 'New Hamboro' [see D1044/818]. He was also concerned in the dispute with Isaac Lamb and made an offer to settle the matter in 1794 [see D1044/777] but it dragged on until after the death of his father.



## **A Quaker family**

The Greer family were Quakers and made religious visits to England and Scotland as well as all over Ireland [see D1044/1A, B and C]. There are a number of religious letters, usually referred to as devotional, as well as a section [D1044/904-942] containing miscellaneous documents concerning religious matters. In the letters and documents the Quakers refer to themselves and other Quakers as 'Friends' and their religious services as 'meetings'.



## **Prominent County Tyrone families**

D1132 – Alexander, Greer and Lowry papers

The archive comprises records from the 18th to the 20th century of the following related families: Lowry of Pomeroy, Rockdale and Doraville, County Tyrone; Alexander of Termon, Carrickmore, County Tyrone, and of Caw, Clooney and Enagh Lodge, County Londonderry, and Londonderry City; Greer of Tullylagan, County Tyrone, and Seapark, County Antrim; Geale Brady of Mount Geale, County Kilkenny, and Clonervy, County Cavan; Cramer Roberts of Sallymount, County Kildare; and the Rev. Charles Cobbe Beresford, Rector of Termonmaguirk, County Tyrone.



## **Landlords, tenants, soldiers and clergy**

The papers include: rentals of the Lowry estate at Pomeroy, 1818-1943; Lowry of Pomeroy leases, 1744-1859, relating to the townlands of Aghafad, The Bonn, Cavanacaw, Cavanakeeran, Corrycroar, Gortnagarn, Killey, Lurganeden, Munderrydoe, Pomeroy, Tanderagee and Turnabarson, all in the parish of Pomeroy; legal papers of Major R.T.G. and R.W. Lowry, c.1880-c.1920; diaries of Major R.T.G. Lowry, 1884-1909, and letters and papers of his relating to the 1st Dragoon Guards when serving in India in the 1880s and Basutoland in the 1900s; account books for Lowry property at Rockdale and Doraville, County Tyrone, late 19th century; personal and estate correspondence and letter books of Colonel C.M. and Major C.A.M. Alexander, 1890s -1920s; title deeds and leases of the Geale Brady family relating mainly to lands in the baronies of Crannagh, County Kilkenny, and Clonmahon, County Cavan, 1683-c.1850; freedoms of various towns, commissions of the peace and nomination and institution papers of the Rev. Charles Cobbe Beresford, c.1790-1810; 3 designs for the rectory at Termonmaguirk [Termon House] c.1807-12, one of them by Patrick O'Farrell, and a Preacher's Book, 1845-61, and Vestry Book, 1786-1825, for Termonaguirk; 29 volumes of diaries of Mrs Dorinda Greer and her husband, Thomas MacGregor Greer, Sea Park, County Antrim, 1892-1930; and correspondence relating to the sale of Sallymount, County Kildare, property of the Cramer Roberts family, early 20th century.



## **Local politics, security and commerce**

Much of the archive relates to various organizations and institutions in East Tyrone, including: the County Tyrone Land Committee, c.1880s-1890s; the local Unionist party, particularly in the Cookstown area, 1899-1924; the Cookstown and Dungannon branches of the UVF, 1912-1917; the 'B' Specials in the Cookstown area, 1921-1923; the Orange Order in the same area, 19th cent., 1897-1930, c.1965; Pomeroy Co-operative Agricultural and Dairy Society Ltd., 1897-1913; Pomeroy L.O.L., c.1920; etc, etc

There is also some miscellaneous material including: conveyance from Sir William Usher to John Hamilton, of Strabane, County Tyrone, of Brackagh [barony of Upper Strabane, County Tyrone], 1663; account between Frederick & Daniel Geale and the government for sales of wheat and flour, 1798-1799; papers about the pension granted in part-compensation for Union losses to George Grierson, King's Printer for Ireland, 1807-1814; printed sale rental for the late Earl of Blessington's estates in Cos Tyrone and Kilkenny and in Dublin City, 1846; etc, etc.



## **Diaries of James C. J. Lowry**

D2033 – Lowry papers

This archive comprises 40 volumes, the diaries of James C.J. Lowry of Rockdale, County Tyrone, covering the years 1858-1897. James Lowry, who was born in 1835 and died in 1897, was a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for County Tyrone, and High Sheriff in 1874, served in the Royal Artillery and commanded the Donegal Artillery Militia. The diaries are unusually detailed and complete and include, for instance, details of the fighting at Jhansi in April 1858 following the Indian Mutiny. There are also references to the 1885 East Tyrone election with details of the selection of the Unionist candidate, attendance at revision sessions and the poll itself and the reaction to the victory of W.J. Reynolds, the Nationalist candidate.



## Property, architecture, genealogy and family photographs

### D2339 – Greer papers

This is a solicitor's archive comprising c.700 documents. These are in the main the papers of the Greer family of Sea Park, near Carrickfergus, County Antrim, and Tullylagan, County Tyrone, 1732-1926. They include: title deeds and leases relating to property in the Tullylagan area, of the Gervais, Hill, Heather, and Greer families, 1746-1853, and in the Malone area, Belfast, of the Roney and Owden families, Belfast, 1832-1867; rentals of the Greer estate at Tullylagan, 1896-8, in the Edenderry area, King's County, 1870-1875, and at Hodgestown, County Kildare, 1917-1926; rentals of the estate of James C. Lowry at Rockdale, County Tyrone, 1832-1852; survey, with maps, of the Greer estate in King's County, 1865; plans and elevations by Thomas Jackson, relating to Sea Park House, and the proposed erection there of Turkish baths, a conservatory, stable yards, etc, c.1851; genealogical notes relating to the Greer family and the allied families of Carroll, Bell, Pearson, Atkins, and Jackson, c.1600-c.1900; personal accounts, receipts, etc, relating to the Greer family, Tullylagan, and the Owden family, Seapark, 1853-c.1947; testamentary papers relating to the Greer family, 1854-1887; family and financial correspondence of the Greer family c.1860-c.1926; photographs, c.1880, of members of the Greer family, of Bushy Park House, Terenure, County Dublin, the residence of Thomas Greer, 1871-1878, and of Dripsey House, Cork, the residence of Alfred Greer; partnership agreements, conveyances, balance sheets, etc, relating to the firm of J.N. Richardson, Sons & Owden, Ltd, linen manufacturers, Belfast, Lisburn, County Antrim and Lurgan, County Armagh, 1863-1897, together with a memorandum and articles of association of Bessbrook Spinning Co. Ltd, County Armagh, 1878.

D3238 – Greer papers This archive comprises c.60 volumes and c.3000 documents relating to the Greer family of Tullylagan, County Tyrone, 1736-1948. The material includes: correspondence, rentals, and testamentary papers; photographs and genealogical tables of the Greer family, including a Quaker marriage certificate, 1746; and correspondence and papers of the Palmer family of Bingham Castle, County Mayo, 1890-1925. ***The archive is unlisted and therefore unavailable but there is some copied material listed and available under T/2642 [see below].***

D3294 – Greer papers Small anonymous deposit including the Brown linen market book of Thomas Greer of Dungannon, County Tyrone, 1758-1759. [See [T1127](#) below]



## **Landed gentry of County Tyrone**

D4121 – Greer, Lowry and Alexander papers.

This deposit of Alexander, Greer and Lowry family papers, County Tyrone, consist of c.3000 documents. The material is a mixture of personal and estate papers. It includes; leases, accounts, genealogical papers, correspondence, etc, etc. The archive has come together through the various inter-marriages between these three Tyrone families and is quite disparate in its contents.



## **Organisation of the papers**

The archive has been roughly divided along family lines into three major sections, with further sub-divisions within each of the three families. Section A through to D comprises the papers of Alfred Greer of Dripsey House, County Cork, Thomas Greer of Seapark, County Antrim and Grove House, Regent's Park, London, Thomas MacGregor Greer of Seapark, County Antrim and Tullylagan, County Tyrone, and other miscellaneous Greer relatives respectively.

The papers relating to the Lowry family can be found in section E of the archive. This has been broken down into five classes covering the following: Robert Lowry of Pomeroy, County Tyrone, Robert William Lowry of Pomeroy, 1787-1869, Robert William Lowry, of Pomeroy, 1816-1899, Robert Thomas Graves Lowry, of Pomeroy, 1857-1947, and miscellaneous Lowry relatives respectively.

Section F of the archive comprises the papers of the Alexander family of Termon, County Tyrone. This has been further classified into four sections covering Rev. Samuel Alexander, Charles Murray Alexander, Adam Murray Alexander and Henry George Samuel Alexander, and Charles Adam Murray Alexander.



## **A failed merchant**

The papers relating to the Greer family are the most numerous. Section A comprises the papers of Alfred Greer, sixth son of Thomas Greer of Rhone Hill, County Tyrone. The material includes an account book, 1830-1833, and a copy letter book, 1835-1838, describing his efforts to manage a vinegar works in Dublin. The letter book contains many gloomy and depressing letters about his lack of business acumen and financial difficulties. Alfred Greer eventually settled in Cork and married Helena Carroll. Their eldest son, Thomas, was born on 4 April 1837.



## **Genealogical and testamentary papers**

The papers of Thomas Greer constitute section B. The bulk of the material pertains to Thomas Greer's extensive genealogical interests. However, there are also some personal papers. These include various commissions of the peace and assize, and correspondence relating to the purchase of Grove House, Regent's Park, London. The genealogical papers comprise wills, marriage certificates, family history notes, records of births, pedigrees, rough jottings, etc.

The testamentary papers comprise: copy will of Edward Scamler, Bishop of Norwich, 1594; copy will and codicils of James Scamler, of Wolterton, County Norfolk, 1682; copy will of Augustine Atkins, of Cork, 1682; copy letters of administration of Richard Owden, of London, 1697; copy will of Robert Atkins, of Gortard, County Cork, 1724; copy will of John Atkins, of Cork, 1731; copy will of William Brookfield, of Dublin, 1732; copy will of John Greer, of Tullanaghan, County Down, 1741; copy will of Daniel Cowman, of Dublin, 1741; 2 copy wills of Thomas Greer of Bernagh, County Tyrone, 1746; copy will of Peter Cambridge, of Cork, 1747; copy will of Edward Carroll, of Magheramiske, County Antrim, 1770; will of Elizabeth Russell, of Dublin, 1772; copy will of Thomas Scambler, of Southwark, 1782; copy will of Thomas Jackson, of Edenderry, King's County, 1786; copy will of Jeremiah Hanks, of Birr, King's County, 1792; will and probate of Mrs Jane Williams, parish of St Margaret, Westminster, County Middlesex, 1794; copy will of Joseph Inman, of Ballybritain, King's County, 1800; copy will of Thomas Greer, of Rhone Hill, County Tyrone, 1803; copy will of Joshua Carroll, of Cork, 1814; copy will of John Carroll, of Cork, 1819; copy will of Sarah Carroll, of Cork, 1841; copy will of Henry Scambler, of London, 1845; will of John Lyons, of Carrickmore, County Tyrone, 1870; and copy will of John Robert Greer, Monkstown, Dublin, 1873.



## **Sir Edward Carson, Ulster and the Somme**

Thomas Greer married Margaret, only child and heiress of John Owden of Brooklands, Belfast, in 1864. They had one son, Thomas MacGregor Greer, born on 16 April 1869. The papers of Thomas MacGregor Greer can be found in section C of the archive. The material covers virtually all of his career and interests to varying extents. The correspondence of Thomas MacGregor Greer contains one of the most important items in the archive, a letter from Sir Edward Carson dated 12 July 1916, commending Greer for his recruitment efforts. He writes:

'... Our old friends and comrades of the 36th (Ulster) Division have brought undying fame to Ulster and the Empire ... We must take care that the work has not been in vain, by sending men out to fill the place of our fallen heroes, and it would indeed be a lamentable chapter in the history of this great division if, by reason of the sacrifices so willingly made, we were unable to take part in the final triumph and victory which so assuredly awaits us if every man does his duty. I know that many of our friends are naturally anxious for the safety and welfare of their families by the reason of the late deplorable rebellion in Ireland ... the Government is now fully alive to the elementary duty of protecting all those who are loyal in Ireland ... The promise of the exclusion of the six counties, including County Tyrone, from the operation of the Home Rule Act is an additional reason why we should wholeheartedly throw in our lot with all those who place country before party, and have firmly set themselves to see the war through to a successful conclusion ...'.

The MacGregor Greer papers also contains material pertaining to the Ulster Volunteer Force. There are three refugee registers which give details of children being sent away for safekeeping under the auspices of the UVF in 1914. [see section C/5]



## **Inter-marriage, '1798', and the Quakers**

Thomas MacGregor Greer married his second cousin, Dorinda Lowry in 1892. They had two daughters, the eldest, Gladys Sylvia, married Charles Adam Murray Alexander in 1918. This union partly explains how such a mixture of material relating to the different families came to be together.

The papers of miscellaneous Greers which do not fall into any of the above categories have been put together in section D. The material includes a printed bill poster entitled *A Friendly Expostulation to the Inhabitants of the Vicinity of Dungannon* signed by Robert Greer of Rhone Hill and dated 9 March 1798, in which he refers to '... the general depravity which at present so much abounds throughout this distracted land ...'. There is also a printed address by Thomas Greer of Tullylagan, County Tyrone, to the Chairman and Board of Guardians of the Cookstown Union, about discrepancies in their rates and accounts.

The Greers were a prominent Quaker family and there are several items in this archive which reveal their religious heritage. These include Quaker marriage certificates dating from the mid-eighteenth century for Robert Greer and Elizabeth Whitsett, William Greeves and Mary Morton, and Thomas Sinton and Margaret Christy, etc [see section B/2]. However, the most significant deposit of Greer papers which reflect their religious interests and activities is D1044. [see above]



## **Rentals, politics and temperance**

Section E is relatively small and contains papers pertaining to the Lowrys of Pomeroy House, County Tyrone. It is quite fragmented in its contents. The earliest material is a bill of accounts for grates and other household goods and a bill for ornamental chimney pieces dating from 1792. These documents relate to the first Robert Lowry, 1748-1802, at Pomeroy House. There is also a commission from the 2nd Earl Camden, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to Robert Lowry, '...to raise an armed [yeomanry] corps in the County of Tyrone to be called the Pomeroy Infantry...'. His son, Robert William, born in 1787, is covered much more fully by the archive. There is an almost complete run of rentals for the Pomeroy estate from 1833-1867, covering the townlands of Aghafad, Cavanacaw, Cavanakeeran, Gortnagarn, Gortindarragh, Lurganeden, Lime Hill, Pomeroy, and Tanderagee. There are also rentals and accounts for a small estate (Baskin, Ballymore, etc) in County Westmeath.

Robert William Lowry served as High Sheriff of County Tyrone during 1812 and there are several items relating to his term of office. These include a draft of an address by Lowry explaining his change of mind over the granting of concessions to Roman Catholics, dated 1812/13. There is also a copy petition from the 'protestant noblemen, gentlemen, clergy, freeholders, of the County of Tyrone', concerning the same issue and a letter from Robert Peel (then Chief Secretary for Ireland) acknowledging receipt of the petition. Lowry's eldest son was born in 1816 and was also called Robert William. He is represented within the archive by only a small selection of documents. However, noteworthy among these is an interesting range of temperance papers. These include a Band of Hope pledge book and 32 colourfully printed Pomeroy Temperance Society certificates depicting the virtues of temperance.

The final specific section of Lowry papers are those of Robert Thomas Graves Lowry, of Pomeroy House, eldest surviving son of Robert William. These are mainly a mixture of estate and personal correspondence and other estate papers. All the Lowry material probably came into the archive through the marriage of Mary Anna Catherine Lowry, sister of the foregoing R.T.G. Lowry, to Charles Murray Alexander in 1888. Pomeroy House passed to their son, Charles Adam Murray Alexander, after the death of his uncle in 1947.



## **Alexanders and the Famine**

The papers of the Alexander family of Termon, County Tyrone, comprise section F of the archive. The papers of the Rev. Samuel Alexander, rector of Termonaguirk, are rather disparate. They are a largely unconnected mixture of estate papers. However, they do contain a volume entitled 'Book of Monthly Instalments Termon Loan Fund', which gives a list of names, and the amount loaned during the famine years, 1847-1849.

Samuel Alexander married Charlotte Francis, youngest daughter and co-heiress of the Rev. Charles Cobbe Beresford, of Termon, in 1839. The bulk of the Alexander material relates to their son, Charles Murray and, his son, Charles Adam Murray.

The papers of Charles Murray Alexander include: leases, correspondence, account books, etc. There are also rentals and accounts for the estates of his wife in Counties Tyrone and Londonderry. Amongst the miscellaneous papers of Charles Murray Alexander is a large leatherbound volume inscribed to him from his mother, which contains newspaper cuttings dating from 1791 to the 1820s and two pages giving details of births and marriages of Beresford family members. There is also a small notebook in which he records a visit to Londonderry, in 1888, to commemorate the bi-centenary of the closing of the gates.



## WWI and military papers

Charles Murray Alexander married Mary Anna Catherine Lowry on 25 April 1888 and they had one son and three daughters. He died prematurely, on 30 July 1902. The remainder of the Alexander papers are those of his son, Charles Adam Murray. Perhaps the most important section is the letters to his mother and other relatives during his time spent at the front during WWI. There is a complete run of letters in which he describes life in the trenches from the outbreak of the war until 1917 when he was transferred to the home service. The letters record details about supplies, the weather, injuries of local men, etc, and on a more personal level the frustration and strain which he endured. The letters reveal the routine of daily life in the trenches and the often mundane activities of war.

'...Our Brigade fought their way across [River Aisne] and billeted in St Marguerite ...We were shelled many times in the village and one came through the roof of our house but no one was touched ... The men are all overfed in this war. Its wonderful the supply of food ... UVF is come here I believe [sic] ... The wretched companies in trenches are having a very bad time not from the enemy but from the rain and the mud is sticky and two feet deep in places ... The strain out here is beginning to tell on me and I feel that if I continue too long at it I shall make mistakes and do myself no good ...', etc.

There is also a further separate section of military papers mostly relating to WWI. These include aerial photographs of various trench systems, orders, reports and notes relating to his various duties.

Charles Adam Murray Alexander served in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, as did many of his relatives. He acted as a trustee for the 3rd (Militia) Battalion and amongst his papers are inventories of pictures, property and plate of the battalion and material about the history of the regiment in general. Alexander was also a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force in 1914. The archive contains UVF certificates of proficiency and a letter from Lt. Col. Ambrose Ricardo, a fellow officer in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, about UVF training and mobilisation.

Alexander married Sylvia MacGregor Greer, daughter of the above mentioned Thomas MacGregor Greer on 31 December 1918. There is a considerable run of papers relating to her efforts on behalf of waste and scrap recycling for the Northern Ireland Salvage Committee during WWII. The material consists of posters, correspondence and circulars.

The final section of the archive comprises miscellaneous material which could not be positively attributed to any of the families. This section is relatively small. It includes a survey of the harbour of Dundalk, County Louth, by Edward Corran, dated 1782.



## **Thomas Greer, Quaker merchant**

T/1127 – Greer papers

This is a small deposit comprising miscellaneous papers relating to the Greer family, County Tyrone, 1746-1854. It includes a copy of the brown linen market book of Thomas Greer [see D3294 above]. Appended to the list is a copy of an article by W.H. Crawford entitled *The Market Book of Thomas Greer, A Dungannon Linendraper, 1758-1759* [Ulster Folklife, 1967]. Crawford writes, 'From the collection of Greer letters in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland [D1044, see above] Thomas Greer emerges as an able but headstrong Quaker patriarch whose business prospered but at the expense of his fraternal relations with other Quakers ... The market book is a record of the cloth purchased by Thomas Greer in the markets of Dungannon , Stewartstown, Coagh, Caledon (all in County Tyrone), Moneymore (County Londonderry), and in Armagh, Monaghan, and [in] Cootehill (in County Cavan) ...'.



## **Greer relatives**

### T/1173 – Greer papers

This archive comprises c.100 documents including title deeds, leases, rentals, and testamentary papers of the Sanderson and Greer families relating to lands at Cady, Lisnanane, Killyneedan, Derryraghan and Tullylagan, County Tyrone, 1630-c.1900. There are also genealogical notes, 1675-1830, and correspondence, 1738-1813, relating to the Greer and Jackson families, County Tyrone and Dublin, the letters being concerned with family affairs and the linen trade.



## **New gentry: Frederick Greer**

T/2642 – Greer papers

This archive comprises c.300 documents relating to the Greer family, Rhone Hill, near Dungannon, and Tullylagan, County Tyrone, 1734-1959. There are: genealogical notes from the 14th century; testamentary and legal papers, 1745-1867, including the copy will of Thomas Greer, Bernagh, County Tyrone, 1745; estate papers, c.1800-c.1900, which include a valuation of property in the Dungannon area, c.1825, and a rental of Frederick Greer's estate at Tullylagan, 1873.

However, the main interest lies in the correspondence which forms the bulk of the archive. In the 18th century the Greer family, as has been noted above, established a substantial bleach green at Rhone Hill, known as New Hambro or New Hamborough, and developed it in partnership with a London company, Wakefield and Bell. As the handloom weaving industry declined in the 19th century the family became minor gentry with the purchase of an estate in the Tullylagan area from the Staples family in 1836. Their new role is reflected in the correspondence which deals, *inter alia*, with tenant right in the mid 1820s, the purchase of the Staples estate, and extensions to Tullylagan House by a Belfast builder in 1869.

There are also: 2 letters concerning a proposal to divide County Tyrone into two ridings, 1838; copy correspondence, certificates, etc, relating to the naval career of Frederick Greer, c.1844-c.1900, together with his personal correspondence which illustrates the views of a strict Quaker at the turn of the century who was also pro-Empire and opposed to Irish nationalism.

