



Public Record Office  
of Northern Ireland

# **INTRODUCTION**

# **SHIRLEY PAPERS**

December 2007

# Shirley Papers (D3531)

## Table of Contents

Summary .....	3
Family and estate history .....	4
The Queen's commission to Walter Devereux, 1st Earl of Essex .....	5
The 2nd and 3rd Earls of Essex, 1576-1646.....	6
Complicated co-heirship .....	7
The Viscount Weymouth Grammar School, Carrickmacross .....	8
Further co-heirship.....	9
Lough Fea.....	10
A visit to Lough Fea in 1870 .....	11
E.P. Shirley, the alarming antiquarian.....	12
The townlands in the Essex/Shirley, Bath, etc, estate .....	13
A series of high-profile agents .....	20
The iniquitous Sandy Mitchell .....	21
W.S. Trench.....	22
The archive .....	24
A – 'Antiquarian Compilations' of E.P. Shirley.....	26
The 1798 Rebellion .....	28
E.J. Shirley, Steele and the Act of Union.....	28
Running the estate .....	31
B – 'Farney Bubble Books' 1-5, 1842-1929.....	35
The election of 1865.....	36
Farney Tenants' Defence Association.....	38
Depression and rent abatement .....	39
Shirley Estate: Notice of Abatement of Rent .....	40
The Land League .....	41
Political sea-change .....	42
C – Correspondence and letter-books, 1799-1944 .....	44
D – Title deeds.....	46
E – Election, political and patronage papers.....	47

F – Formal patents of appointment, warrants, etc.....	48
G – Genealogical and historical papers .....	49
H – Household, building and demense account books .....	50
I – Irish Land Commission .....	51
J – Journals/diaries .....	52
K – Kiln account books .....	53
L – Legal papers .....	54
M – Miscellaneous volumes .....	55
O – Ordnance Survey material for Co. Londonderry.....	56
P – Petitions from tenants.....	57
R – Rentals .....	58
S – Surveys, maps, plans and valuations .....	59
T – Tenancy agreements and leases.....	62
V – Vouchers .....	63
W – Wills, settlements, etc.....	64

## Summary

The Shirley papers comprise c.20,000 volumes and documents relating to the estate and local political affairs of the Shirley family of Lough Fea, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan (and Ettington Park, Stratford-upon Avon, Warwickshire).

What PRONI holds is essentially an estate archive, documenting the history and management of the Shirley estate, with an area of some 40 square miles, in the western half of the barony of Farney, Co. Monaghan, in the period 1576-1960. Other papers derive from the historical, antiquarian and genealogical pursuits of Evelyn Philip Shirley (1812-1882). Scholars are fortunate in having in published form the results of E.P. Shirley's researches in his books, *Some Account of the Territory and Dominion of Farney in the Province and Earldom of Ulster*, 1845 and *The History of the County of Monaghan*, 1877-1878, a copy of the latter is available in the PRONI library.

The great concentration of the Shirley archive is in the century between 1830 and 1930. This makes it of great interest, not least because the geographical concentration of the estate makes it an ideal focus for a socio-economic case study. This is especially true in relation to the part of the 19th century for which the records are particularly detailed. They yield much information on a period when Monaghan was the cockpit of much that was going on in Ireland in terms of the inter-related questions of land and politics.



## **Family and estate history**

The Shirley estate, with the adjoining Bath estate, were two of the largest in the county. According to The Landowners of Ireland, 1878, the biggest landowner in Co. Monaghan in 1876 was Evelyn Philip Shirley, who owned 26,386 acres, with a valuation of £20,744, all in the barony of Farney. The Shirleys were semi-absentees although E.P. Shirley visited his estates twice a year. The next biggest was the Marquess of Bath Longleat, Wiltshire, with 22,762 acres in Farney, an absentee who seldom if ever visited his estates. The estate's origin was in the grant in 1575 by Elizabeth I to the common ancestor of the Shirleys and the Baths, Walter Devereux, 1st Earl of Essex, in consequence of his commission from her.

Farney, or Fearn-mhuighe in Gaelic, means the plain of the alder trees. Farney was also known as Donaghmoyne, after the castle established by the Normans. Before the arrival of Essex, the Gaelic lords were the MacMahons and their allies the MacKennas. As Professor P.J. Duffy comments: 'The Shirley and the Bath estates of Farney preserve the 16th century geography of that barony intact. The late 16th century Essex grant was divided in the 1690s between two heiresses. The Brownlow estate represents a Ballybetagh in Farney which appears to have been leased in perpetuity in the very early stages of the Essex property. ...' A description of PRONI's holdings in relation to the Bath and Brownlow estates will be found on the website under 'Bath'.



## The Queen's commission to Walter Devereux, 1st Earl of Essex

Essex's commission (D3531/F/1) is a virtual Who's Who? of Elizabethan Ireland. It is described as follows by E.P. Shirley:

'18 Dec. 16 Eliz [1573] Letters patent to Walter [Devereux], Earl of Essex, of the office of Captain-General of the Queen's Irish subjects and of her forces in Ulster.

Commission to Adam [Loftus], Archbishop of Dublin, Keeper of the Great Seal; Thomas [Butler], Earl of Ormond & Ossorie, Lord Treasurer; Thomas [Lancaster], Archbishop of Armagh; Walter [Devereux], Earl of Essex; Gerald [FitzGerald], Earl of Kildare; Hugh [Brady], Bishop of Meath; Robert [Rich], Lord Riche; Edward Fitton, Kt., Vice-treasurer and Treasurer at war; Nicholas Bagnoll, Kt., Marshal; John Plunkett, Kt., Chief Justice of the Court of Chief Place; Robert Dillon, Kt., Chief justice of the Court of Common Bench; Peter Carewe, Kt.; Luke Dillon, Esq., Chief Baron of the Exchequer; Nicholas White, Esq., Master of the Rolls; Francis Agarde, Esq., of the Privy Council; John Challoner, Esq., of the Privy Council; John Garvie, Dean of Christ Church, Dublin, of the Privy Council; Edward Fitzgerald, Esq.; William Morgan, Esq., Marshal of the army in Clandeboyne; Richard Finglasse, Esq., serjeant at law; Edward Fitzsymon, Esq., Attorney General; John Bathe, Esq., Chief Solicitor; William Norris, Henry Norris, Ralph Bowchier, George Carrilton, Nicholas Malbey, Thomas Wilford, and William Piers, Esq.: to enquire into felonies, robberies, and trespasses; to admit (in the Lord Deputy's absence) persons to the Queen's peace; to determine all controversies; to array troops, and generally to carry on the administration of Ulster; and to treat, parley with, and when necessary to punish rebels there.'



*Walter Devereux,  
1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Essex*

The death of Walter Devereux 1st Earl of Essex, the founder of the estate, was the end of his ambitious plans for its development. As E.P. Shirley wrote, his death '... was fatal to the prosperity of Farney; we hear no more of the proposed buildings there, or of the walled town at Donaghmoyne: all improvements were at an end; the soldiers necessary for the defence of the new granted territory were withdrawn about two months after the Earl's death, notwithstanding his request to the Queen, and the country for four or five years remained almost totally waste.'



## The 2nd and 3rd Earls of Essex, 1576-1646

As Robert Devereux, the 2nd Earl, was a minor aged ten on his inheritance, his estates were put in the hands of trustees. He grew up to become Elizabeth's favourite and in 1599 she made him Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He failed his sovereign, and his fall from favour and subsequent execution, in 1600, attainted of treason, led to the forfeiture of his estates to the Crown.

We now find the Gaels coming back into their own. In 1594, Ever MacColla MacMahon had illegally broken into and taken over the whole barony of Farney. Following the attainder of Essex, he applied to the Crown to have this act legitimised. King James I, on ascending the throne in 1603, immediately revoked the attainder on the Essex family. MacMahon was allowed to lease the land from its official owner, Essex, until 1620. Moreover, the settlement and regrant of 1606 left the county of Monaghan largely in Gaelic hands. The estate continued in the Essex family until 1646, when the 3rd Earl died intestate and without issue.



*Robert Devereux,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Essex*

## Complicated co-heirship

At this stage the estate underwent the first of several partitions. It passed in two halves to Essex's co-heirs, the Marquess of Hertford and Sir Robert Shirley. Sir Robert himself died in 1656, imprisoned in the Tower of London for supporting the Royalist cause in the English Civil War. His son and heir was Sir Seymour Shirley, on whose death in 1667 the estate and the rest of the family inheritance passed in turn to his second and only surviving son, Sir Robert Shirley. Sir Robert entered the House of Lords in 1677, as Baron Ferrers of Chartley, and in 1711 was further promoted as Earl Ferrers and Viscount Tamworth. This last title related to the family seat of Ettington in Warwickshire.

At this juncture the Shirley records become, in the words of E.P. Shirley, '... so scanty that with the exception of the notices of the descent of the property and its division in 1692, I have discovered little worthy of preservation'. The division of 1692 came out of an agreement between the heirs of the two daughters of Robert, 2nd Earl of Essex. Earl Ferrers, the grandson of Lady Dorothy inherited her share, and Thomas Thynne, 1st Viscount Weymouth succeeded to the inheritance of Lady Frances Devereux, the Earl's elder daughter, later Marchioness of Hertford and Duchess of Somerset. This division was uneven, and in Lord Weymouth's favour. Lord Weymouth, however, behaved generously in order to rectify this injustice to Ferrers. E.P. Shirley informs us that '... he executed in the years 1695, 1690 and 1706 deeds of bargain and sale by which he ceded to Lord Ferrers a considerable portion of his original share, and thus equalised in value the eastern and western moieties of the barony'. (D3531/A/1 and D3531/D/4).



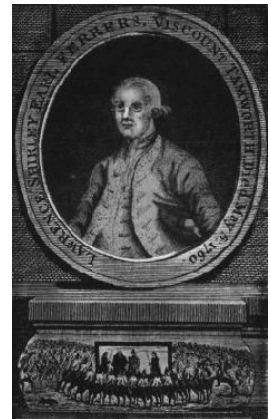
## **The Viscount Weymouth Grammar School, Carrickmacross**

The same Viscount Weymouth was responsible for setting up a free school, in his moiety of the town of Carrickmacross. The Viscount Weymouth Grammar School was to establish a fine reputation, staying in existence until 1956. Under its original deed of trust of 1711 (D3531/A/4 p. 22), Lord Weymouth conveys to '... Thomas Dawson of Armagh, Esq.; Marmaduke Coghill of Dublin, LLD.; Francis Lucas of Dublin, Esq.; Robert Cope of Laggall [Loughgall], Co. Armagh, Esq.; Samuel Dopping of Dublin, Esq.; Francis Dobbs of Carrickmacross, Esq.; and Bryan Osborne alias Norbury of Thomastown, Co. Louth, Esq.; ... the school and schoolmaster's house lately built in Carrickmacross; and assigns, for the schoolmaster's support, a rent charge of £70 out of the lands lately occupied by Richard Fitch, Gent. Annexed are statutes (in 18 sections) for the government of the school. The master is to be a University graduate, "well skilled in Humanity, Grammar Learning and Practical Mathematicks who shall ... conform to the ... Church of Ireland. Children from the barony of Farney are to be taught gratis; others to pay the fees paid in the free schools of Dublin and Drogheda."



## Further co-heirship

The 1st Viscount Weymouth died in 1714, without surviving male issue, and bequeathed his estates to Thomas, 2nd Viscount, and ancestor of the Marquesses of Bath. Robert, Earl Ferrers died in 1717, his estate, by agreement, devolving in equal parts to his four sons: Robert, George, Sewallis and John Shirley. Of these, only George survived and, as the others had died without issue, the whole estate passed to him. He was the grandfather of the Shirley brothers Horatio Henry and Evelyn Philip, the 19th-century owners of the western moiety of Farney. The Shirleys were absentees, spending most of their time at Ettington in Warwickshire. In c.1750, they built a house near Carrickmacross for their occasional visits. It was not until 1826 that Robert's grandson, Evelyn John Shirley, laid the foundations of a mansion worthy of the family and estate near the banks of Lough Fea.



*Lawrence, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl  
Ferrers*



## Lough Fea

According to Mark Bence-Jones, in 'Burke's Guide to Irish Country Houses' (London, 1976), Lough Fea is 'A very large and unusual Tudor-Gothic house by Thomas Rickman, the English architect and architectural writer who invented the terms "Early English", "decorated" and "perpendicular" to describe the different periods of Gothic architecture. ... Unlike most houses of its period and style, Lough Fea has no battlements and few gables, but a solid parapet which conceals much of the roof. There are also hardly any projecting bows or oriels, but rather small, mullioned windows under hood mouldings; so that the elevations, of pinkish-grey ashlar, have a solid effect. There are several slender, square turrets with sprocketed, pyramidal roofs; also a polygonal lantern and a small tower and polygonal turret at the end of one wing; but no major tower; so that the house seems low and wide-spreading. The entrance front, facing the lough ..., is flanked on one side by the chapel and on the other by a great hall, which together form a three-sided court. The interior is of great complexity, with many corridors and ante-rooms. There is a hall divided by a stone arcade, its walls hung with an early 19th-century wallpaper. There is a large and handsome library ... [containing] the famous library of E.P. Shirley ..., son of the builder of the house. The chapel is on the scale of a sizeable church, with two pulpits and a gallery. The clou of the house is, however, the great hall: vast and baronial, with a lofty hammer-beam roof, a minstrels' gallery and an arcade at first-floor level. It was added after the rest of the house was completed. According to the story, Mr Shirley and Lord Rossmore vied with one another as to which of them could build the bigger room. Lord Rossmore enlarged his drawing room at Rossmore Park five times, but in the end Mr Shirley won the contest by building his great hall. The garden front of the house faces along a vista to an immense Celtic cross ... . The demesne is noted for its magnificent woodlands.'



## A visit to Lough Fea in 1870

On 17 September of that year, John Ynyr Burges of Parkanaur, Castlecaulfeild, Co. Tyrone, an inveterate and somewhat uncritical country-house visitor and diarist, paid a visit to Lough Fea and recorded in his diary (PRONI, T1282/3, pp 52-54): '... Arrived there at 6.30 o'clock and was received by its charming hostess. This place is most interesting to me, as I had made an early acquaintance with it [in] 1841 with my ever-beloved wife, who admired its improvements so much. We had seen it twice, the last time with the addition of the Baron's Hill, when it was just finished, but not since ... . The Great Hall is very fine in effect, full as noble as any one of the ancient kind in England or abroad. It is in such perfect keeping, nothing belonging to it poor or trifling. The portraits that invigorate the walls are full-length of the Van Dyck and Lely order, and most of the warriors on horseback. Coats of arms of the Essex, Chesterfield and Shirley, and various others of the early Irish and English, families take their place. [word illegible] the lofty wainscoating and the windows, old furniture of the same ancient bearing, with porcelain and antiques. We breakfasted in this grand apartment, but dined in a smaller one. ...

18th. Went to church [in Carrickmacross]. Much pleased with the Marquess of Bath's improvements. Walked round the lake. 19th. Took a most interesting walk through the old Dublin drive that I too well remember with my dear wife in 1841. The rocks the same, but the thorns immensely grown, and the fern most wild and picturesque. You looked down small valleys of rock and thorn – mazes of both – and deer rushing through them. We walked to the wishing stone ... . We returned home, when I besought [sic] the fascinating library, where I devoured the numerous books on Irish history. Walked just before dinner to the cross that crowns the hill, opposite the ante-room created to the memory of [the] late Evelyn Shirley Esq., father of the present proprietor. ...'



## **E.P. Shirley, the alarming antiquarian**

The most famous of the Shirleys was of course Evelyn Philip, the historian, antiquarian and MP. It is to E.P. Shirley that we look for much of our information, not only about the Shirley family and estate, but also about the county of Monaghan and particularly its nobility and gentry. The richest part of the Shirley archive is that assembled by E.P. Shirley himself, particularly his 'Antiquarian Compilations', 'Farney Bubble Books' and genealogical and historical papers. Among the latter is a notebook (D3531/G/12) containing obituaries of Evelyn Philip, including one which suggests that Disraell, '... showed his knowledge of human nature when he portrayed Shirley in Lothair as Mr Ardeene, "a man of ancient pedigree himself, who knew everyone else's, which was not always pleasant". ...'



## The townlands in the Essex/Shirley, Bath, etc, estate

The following is E.P. Shirley's 1878 schedule of the townlands in not only the Shirley, but the Bath, estate – in fact in the whole 'Barony of Farney, parishes of Donaghmoyne, Magheross, Magheraclone, Killanny (part of), and Inniskeen (part of). [His speculations about the Irish derivation of the townland names have been omitted.

His barony, comprehending five parishes, or parts of parishes, Donaghmoyne, Magheross, Magheraclone, Killanny and Inniskeen, differs in many respects from the other four baronies of the county of Monaghan, having been at least nominally part of the ancient demesne of the crown from the period of the conquest of Ireland, and having been at one time included in the county of Uriel, or Louth. In the grant to Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex, in 1576, it is described as "in the Province and Earldom of Ulster". However, in the year 1585, under the designation of the barony of Donaghmoyne, it is named as the fifth of the baronies of the new created county of Monaghan; though from the fact probably of its having been granted to Essex as an independent territory, it is omitted in the award of the Commissioners. To this day it is held under the original grant of 1576, confirmed by a patent granted by King James I, in 1621 to Robert, the 3rd Earl of Essex, and is still enjoyed by the representatives of this nobleman, with the exception only of the church lands, held under the sees of Armagh and Clogher, certain monastic lands and tithes, and the townland of Coolderry, the property of the Flemings of Slane, before the grant of 1576.

### TOWNLANDS IN DONAGHMOYNE PARISH

The following townlands are the property of the Marquess of Bath. Those marked with an asterisk were in 1692 called 'of the Mountaines of Clankervill'.

Aghadreenan*	Aghateskin	Aghavilla
Agheeshal*	Aghnafarcán*	Annagerrill
Annahai	Anny	Ardkirk
Augrimbeg	Augrimmore	Beagh*
Blittoge	Brackagh*	Brackly*
Cargaglishnanarney	Cashlan*	Cloghoge and Tievadinna
Clonavogy*	Colgagh	Coolcair
Coolskeagh	Corcullioncrew	Corcullionglis
Cordrummans Lower	Cordrummans Middle	Cordrummans Upper
Corlea	Corlech	Corlygorm*

## Shirley Papers

---

Cormoy Lower	Cormoy Upper	Cornacrew*
Cornagall*	Cornahalaw*	Cornanerriff*
Cornanure*	Corragarry*	Corrateean*
Corrateemore	Corravoo*	Corrinarry
Corrinshigagh*	Corrinshigagh Cope	Corrgagan
Crover*	Cullentraghbane*	Cullentraghduff*
Derryilan*	Dian	Drumaconvern
Drumavaddy*	Drumdreeny	Drumganus Lower
Drumganus Upper	Drumgoose*	Drumgristin Lower
Drumgristin Upper	Drumhaman*	Drumharriff*
Drumharriff North*	Drumhillagh	Drumillard*
Drumlandrick	Drumlurg*	Drumlusty
Drummacovoy	Drummanreagh*	Drumny
Dunanny	Dundrockan	Edangilrevy*
Feegavla	Fincarn*	Garranroe or Cornamucklagh*
Garrifly	Gorteens	Kednagullion*
Kednaminsha	Keeneraboy	Killabrick
Kilnacransy	Knockreagh Lower	Knockreagh Upper
Lackafin*	Laragh*	Lisagore*
Lisaquill*	Lisgall	Lisnafinelly*
Lisnagunnion	Lisnamacka*	Lisnamoyle Etra
Lisnamoyle Otra	Longfield Etra	Longfield Oetra
Lurgan Boys	Maghernakill	Millabrick
Momony	Monalia*	Monanagirr

## Shirley Papers

---

Monanny	Monyglen*	Monygorbat*
Moyles	Muff	Mullanvannog
Rahans	Rathmore	Rossdreenagh
Shancobane	Taplagh*	Tattyboy
Toneyellida	Toome*	Tray
Tullanacrunat North	Tullanacrunat South	Tullylougherney
Tullymackilmartin	Tullyvaragh Lower	Tullyvaragh Upper
Tusker		

The following townlands are the property of the Shirley family. Those marked with an asterisk belong to Horatio H. Shirley, the rest to his cousin, E.P. Shirley.

Aghacloghan*	Bocks Lower*	Bocks Upper*
Bocks Middle*	Cashlan West	Cormoy
Cornasleeve	Greevy Oliver	Creevy Swinburn
Crossalare*	Dooraa*	Drumberagh*
Dunaree*	Dunaree Lattin*	Killarue
Lattlanagan	Lisdoonan	

The following townlands are held under the see of Armagh.

Carrickavoley	Carricklane	Coolderry
Coolnagrattan Drumcattan	Drumnanaliv	Drumneil
Kiltybegs	Mucker	Mullaghunshinagh
Oghill	Shancoduff	

The following townlands were formerly held under the see of Clogher.

Donaghmoyne Drumganny Killmurry

**TOWNLANDS IN MAGHEROSS PARISH**

The following townlands are the property E.P. Shirley. Those marked with an asterisk were in 1692 called 'of the Mountaines of Farney'.

Aghalile	Ardragh	Barndonagh
Beagh	Cargagh More	Cargagh Oge
Carrickadooey	Carrickartagh*	Carrickmaclin
Cavanageeragh	Cloughvalley Lower	Cloughvalley Upper
Coolfore	Coraghey*	Corbane*
Corcreeghagh	Corduff*	Corduff-Kelly
Corkashybane*	Corkashy*	Corlea
Cornasassonagh*	Corrinenty	Corrinshigagh
Corvally	Derrylavan	Drumbroagh
Drumgoan	Drumgowna	Drumgurra
Drummond Etra	Dunoge	Faraghy
Fartagorman*	Greaghdrumit	Greaghdrumneesk*
Greaghlane*	Greaghlatacapple	Greaghnaroo
Latinalbany	Legghimore	Lisacullion*
Lisdromturk	Lisirrill	Lisnafeddaly
Lisnaguiveragh	Lossets	Lurgans
Mullaghcroghery	Nasarty	Ouvry
Peast	Raferagh	Rakeeragh
Shanco	Streenty	Tiragarvan
Tirnadrola	Ummarafree	

The following townlands are the property of the Marquess of Bath.

Coolderry	Corcrin	Corcuilloge
Drummond Otra	Lisanisk	Trostan

---

## Shirley Papers

---

The following townlands formed the ancient Termon of Magheross, granted by King James I to George, Bishop of Clogher.

Kilmactrasna    Magheraboy    The Glebe of Derryolam  
Magheross      Mullanarry

The following townlands are the property of E.P. Shirley; Clonmeenán, Creaveadornán and Mullaghgarve belong to H.H. Shirley.

Aghatamy	Aghinillard	Aghlattacru
Alts or Nailt	Ballagnagearn	Ballycartlan
Ballyloughen	Beagh	Clonmeenán
Clonsedy	Clontrain	Comertagh
Corkeeran	Corlea	Cornacarrow
Cornalaragh	Corrybrackan	Cortober
Creaveadornán	Crumlin	Derryleeg
Derrynaglah	Derrynascobe	Descart
Doagh	Doohatty	Drumbo
Drumbrackan	Drumbrone	Drumcargy
Drumcarron	Drumerloughbeg	Drumerloughmore
Drumgoostat	Enagh	Greaghawillin Jackson
Greaghawillin Richey	Greaghlone	Killygally
Knocknecran East	Knocknecran West	Lavagilduff
Leitrim	Leons Garve	Lisatillister
Liscorran	Lisnaclea	Lisnakeeny
Losset	Mason-Lodge	Mullaghgarve
Mullantlavan	Mullantornán	Nurebeg
Nuremore	Rahans	Skalkill
Tonaneeve	Tullylougherny	

Townlands called 'Hadzor's Fee Farm' (property of William Brownlow).

Carrickashedoge	Carricknagoan	Derry
Drumboory	Feahoe	Half-tate
Killark	Leons Beg	Liscarnon
Maghernacloy	Mookeeran	Moylough
Mullaghrafferty	Mullyore	Mullylusty
Toiniska	Tullyallen	

Land formerly held under the Bishop of Clogher called 'The Termon of Magheracluone, 4 Tates'.

Camaghy	Drummond	Stranatona
---------	----------	------------

Land formerly of the Flemings, Barons of Slane.

Coolderry

#### **KILLANNY PARISH [PART OF]**

The following townlands are the property of the Marquess of Bath.

Annacross	Ballingarry	Coolaka
Coolreagh	Coolmoney	Drumever
Drumhaskett	Dunelty	Garlegobban
Kinaley Bane	Kinaley Duff	Lisnakelly
Lisnashannagh	Monalty Bane	Monalty Duff
Mullaghmeen	Nure Beg	Nure More
Radrumskean	Shanmullagh	Shanrah
Stradeen		

The following townlands are the property of the Shirley family. Those marked with an asterisk belong to H.H. Shirley, the rest to E.P. Shirley.

Annahean*	Annamarran*	Clonturk-Mason*
Drumgeeny*	Drumturk*	Leeg*
Mullaghmacateer	Tullyneskeagh East	Tullyneskeagh West

Church land formerly held under the see of Clogher called 'The Termon of Killanny'.

Aghafad

### **INNISKEEN OR INNISHKEEN PARISH [PART OF]**

This one townland is the property of the Marquess of Bath.

Aghaglass

The following 23 townlands are held under the see of Armagh.

Ballakelly	Ballintra	Ballyrush
Candlefort	Carrickykelly	Comraghs
Cornagarvoge	Dromore	Drumass
Drumboat	Drumcah	Drumirril
Drummond	Drumnagrella	Edenamo
Keenoge	Killyboley	Knocknagarnaman
Knockreagh	Magoney	Miskisk Beg
Miskisk More	Seeola	

These townlands are held under the grant to Lord Louth, in right of the Abbey of Louth.

Lacklom	Lannat	The Glebe of Innishkeen
---------	--------	----------------------------



## **A series of high-profile agents**

In the history of the Shirley estate, the characters of the successive agents (or most of them) were as strong as those of the Shirleys themselves, and the agents are therefore in effect a component of family history. For instance, the article 'Estate Agents in Farney: Trench and Mitchell' by L. Mearáin in Clogher Record, vol. x, 1979-1981, provides some colourful anecdotal material about two of the most controversial agents. It contains extensive extracts from a contemporary account of 28 January 1869, written by 'A Farney Man' (identified by Mearáin as Father Smollen, parish priest of Donaghmoynne). The following is a synopsis of this.

'Evelyn John Shirley was regarded as a fair landlord who fully admitted tenant-right. ... Unfortunately for his tenantry, they disregarded his admonition to cast their second vote for Colonel Leslie, his running mate in the 1826 Monaghan election. Although Shirley was elected, the tenants also put in his bitter opponent, Westenra. As a result, Shirley never showed the same friendly feelings to his tenantry from that to the day of his death. Shortly after the election, Humphry Evatt, agent of the Shirley estate, died. He was regarded favourably by the tenants and he had good relations with the parish priest of Carrickmacross, Very Rev. President Reilly.'



## The iniquitous Sandy Mitchell

Sandy Mitchell followed as agent of the Shirley property from 1829 until 1843. Smollen opines: 'He was probably the most iniquitous and tyrannical estate agent that the people of Farney had known, just as in the previous century Norman Steele had been the most feared and hated, not as an estate agent however, but as the Captain of the Farney Yeomanry'. Smollen is clear that this is a turning point in the history of the Shirley estate.

'From this period may be dated the wrongs and grievances of Farney. This man seems to have proposed to himself to trample on the rights, liberty, religion and consciences of the Catholics of Farney, and being the agent of an absentee landlord there was no limit to his authority, and many harsh things were done, I am sure without the knowledge of the landlord, but his estrangement of feeling from his tenantry in consequence of the election was manifest at all his interviews.'

Mitchell at once surveyed and valued the whole estate, the bog included, with, as Smollen reports, disastrous consequences for the tenantry.

'As a result the rents were raised fully one-third and in some instances to more, and the bogs which from time immemorial were free to the tenants were now rented at from £4 to £8 per acre', and doled out to the tenants in very small lots of from 25 to 40 perches each, with an obligation of taking out at the office each season a ticket for which they paid a certain tariff. If any poor tenant had the misfortune of displeasing Sandy during the year, he was doomed to sit with his family during the long winter nights at a fireless hearth. ... He [Mitchell] insisted on the Authorised Version of the Bible, without note or comment, being read by Catholic children in those schools, a system of instruction which neither the [Roman Catholic] bishop nor clergy could tolerate. The consequence was that the bishop insisted on the children being withdrawn from the schools, while the agent used all manner of persecution against the parents for obeying their bishop. ...' Smollen reports that those who tried to get round Mitchell's prohibitions were summarily evicted.

Mitchell died suddenly of apoplexy in Monaghan town, while attending the Spring Assizes of 1843 as a member of the Grand Jury. According to our informant, when the news of his death reached Farney, 'bonfires were lit on every hill-top, expressive of the rejoicement of all Farney at having got rid of so unscrupulous a monster'. And for the Shirley tenantry there was now the hope that his successor would secure for them some reduction in the exorbitant rents imposed by Mitchell. Further information on Mitchell's exactions, injustices and proselytising activities, may be found in the evidence given to the Devon Commissioners in Carrickmacross in April 1844.



## W.S. Trench

Mitchell's successor, William Stuart Trench, was the agent alternately of the Shirley and Bath estates in the 1840s and 1850s. He was the instigator of the assisted emigration schemes [see D3531/P]. In 1843, the rent realising commodities of the farmer were sold at very low prices. This made the payment of Shirley's increased rent, coupled with the exorbitant bog rent, almost impossible. Under the circumstances, the tenants petitioned their landlord for a reduction of rent. Eventually Shirley arranged to meet them on Monday, 3 April, 1843, at the rent-office in Carrickmacross. With great expectations raised, the tenants arrived in their thousands. However, Shirley at the last minute decided to stay out of the way, leaving Trench to face the tenants with the bad news that the landlord was not going to meet them and furthermore that no abatement was on offer.



*W.S. Trench addressing tenants on the Shirley estate*



*Tenants storming Shirley House, 1843*

Trench himself further exacerbated matters by announcing that 'he would collect the rents at the point of the bayonet if necessary'. At this, the disappointed tenants rushed towards Trench and carried him off to Lough Fea to get them an interview with Shirley. The landlord in fact was concealed in Shirley House opposite the rent office. On the way to Lough Fea, Trench was considerably manhandled and feared for his life. It was at this stage that Father Keelaghan CC arrived, and by his considerable influence and exertions dispersed the crowd and escorted

Trench safely to Lough Fea.

After two years, Trench left the Shirley estate, going first to Laois and later to Kerry where he became agent for the Lansdowne estate in the Kenmare region. In 1852 he returned to Farney as the agent for the Bath estate, a position he held until his death in 1872. Trench later wrote of the incidents of April 1843 and his other experiences as an agent in *Realities of Irish Life*, published in December 1868. In this he claimed that the tenants were determined to murder him and that it was 'by his look at them' that he escaped. He thus transformed them 'from being wicked and determined foes' into so many respectful and attached friends. According to Smollen, Trench's safe deliverance was due to the timely arrival of Father Keelaghan, 'who remonstrated with the Farney men in very indignant language at their rude treatment of a perfect stranger who was not more than three days in office and who never did them an injury. ... Yet Mr Trench gives him no place in his *Realities* ...'

Presumably Smollen got much of his information from Father Keelaghan whose curate he was in Bundoran in the 1850s. As a foot-note to this episode, Father Smollen, then parish priest of Donaghmoynne, wrote in January 1869 of evictions conducted by Trench on the Bath estate:

'The several large farms there are so many finger-posts announcing that the Destroying Angel passed that way ... the doings on the Bath Estate had an inseparable connection with the trip to Lough Fea. Many of the Bath tenants took a conspicuous part in that transaction. The consequence was that a few years after Mr Trench became agent of the Bath estate a number of tenants disappeared from the rent-roll, ... all of whom had taken part in the Lough Fea transaction. So that then, if ever a bad feeling began to flow, this was the cause of it.'

A short word-picture of W.S. Trench is contained in Clogher Record, vol. xvi, no. 1, 1997, in 'Management Problems on a Large Estate in Mid-19th Century Ireland: William Steuart Trench's report on the Shirley estate in 1843', by P.J. Duffy.



## The archive

This large and unusually complex archive is arranged as follows:

A – Antiquarian compilations (of Evelyn Philip Shirley).

B – 'Farney bubble books' (volumes of printed, local ephemera). [These are present in the form of transcribed extracts by Dr Christopher McGimpsey]: The originals remain in family possession.

C – Correspondence (loose and in damp-press letter books).

D – Title deeds.

E – Election, political and patronage (including Church of Ireland patronage) papers.

F – Formal documents of appointment.

G – Genealogical and historical papers.

H – Household, building and demesne account books.

I – Irish Land Commission sale papers.

J – Journals/diaries.

K – Kiln account books.

L – Legal papers (notices to quit, petty sessions orders, bills of costs, etc.).

M – Miscellaneous volumes.

N – Newspapers.

O – Ordnance Survey parish memoir material for part of Co. Londonderry.

P – Petitions from tenants.

R – Rentals.

S – Surveys, maps, plans and valuations.

T – Tenancy agreements and leases.

V – Vouchers.

W – Wills, settlements, etc.

Very little needs to be said about the arrangement of the archive, which speaks for itself. The principal point to note is that Section A, 'Antiquarian Compilations', consists of material which would have been distributed through the other sections if it had not been placed in albums by E.P. Shirley. A good deal of cross-referencing has been made from these other sections to Section A, but users should bear this general point in mind.



## A – 'Antiquarian Compilations' of E.P. Shirley

These include a series of 137 letters written to members of the Shirley family by their agents. Of these, 11 are earlier than 1760, and 20 later than 1800.

The most interesting are those of the years 1797-1798 from the agent Norman Steele to the absentee, Evelyn John Shirley at Ettington, Warwickshire. Steele was also the agent of the Marquess of Bath and took a prominent role in ensuring the security of both estates during the late 1790s, when there was a threat from the Catholic Defenders and the United Irishmen. His letters show the problems for the authorities caused by Presbyterian as well as Catholic involvement in the latter organisation and the danger of the two uniting. No doubt the letters were designed to portray Steele in the best possible light. This was the purpose of the 'Memorial [addressed to the proprietors of the Shirley estates] recounting the services rendered by Norman Steele in the suppression of disorders, between the years 1789 and 1793' (D3531/A/4, pp 83-84 1794). It gives an account of an engagement which took place two miles from Carrickmacross on the night of 30-31 December 1792, in which 11 insurgents were killed and Steele was 'twice shot thro' the Hat'.

A letter from John Campbell, assistant agent for the Shirley estate, to Evelyn John Shirley, 31 January 1793 indicates the strength of the Defenders: 'I suppose you may have read in the public prints what progress the set of people called Defenders have made in our counties of Louth, Monaghan and Cavan. They have carried their outrages to great extremity, and as they were all Roman Catholics and the Protestants alone were the objects of their fury, there was not a Protestant house in the country [sic] that they had not stripped of its arms and other weapons of defence, and after nightfall it was at the peril of his life for a Protestant to stir out of his dwelling. The few on your estate about the lands of [?Shangus] suffered much from them, and about Magheraclone, where they are all papists, there was scarce an inhabitant not a Defender. At the first, I rather favoured the Roman Catholics, but when I found that their designs were without any limitation. ... I thought it very fit that they should be curbed as speedily as possible ... for, I assure you they began to hint in very strong terms that no cess or tithes should hereafter be paid, and the next that followed would inevitably be the rent. ... The Protestants [and] Presbyterians having united, begin now to retaliate on the Catholics, and indeed have dispersed the greatest part of the Defenders. Some of the people of Magheraclone (not your tenants, but those on the Church lands) have suffered, which probably will keep the remainder quiet.'

On 27 July 1795 Norman Steele writes from Monalty to Evelyn Shirley:

'... We continue perfectly peaceable. At the same time, I think there has been a little of a turbulent spirit roused by some politicians here at the head of the dissenting churches (Presbyterian and popish), who have attempted forming a coalition, most probably against the established one. The flirtation commenced by a principal number of the Roman Catholics of Carrickmacross going in parade to the meeting house of Carrickmaclim on your estate, and inviting the others to return the visit, which has not yet been done; and was it not that I would not encourage the lower order to think lightly of their teacher (Presbyterian), I could by an hint prevail on them

to oblige him to give an explanation of a political sermon which he then preached to both parties, the event of which would be at least a barring-out, perhaps a total exclusion, of him.

Many places northward of this have followed the example. The Presbyterians being here but an handful, and knowing their sentiments, it was unnecessary for me to take any pains with them, but not so with the papists, who are so numerous. I made it my business on three successive Sundays to go to the different places of devotion just as they were beginning to disperse, and with considerable success, was joined by the yeomanry in ridiculing the attempt in a number of shopkeepers again to make of them a political ladder, and it seems the settled determination of a vast majority never again to allow themselves to be cajoled by such intriguers. ... The neighbouring counties of Meath and Cavan continue still disorderly in a most dangerous manner to property, particularly the former. ...'

A hero 'twice shot thro' the hat'

Steele, writing to Evelyn Shirley in 1797, portraying himself as the indispensable guardian of law and order, outlines the type of disturbances that preceded the rising of the following year. Pre-emptive action by Steele and others such as Dacre Hamilton of Cornacassa ensured that the United Irishmen were largely forestalled in the county in 1798.

A printed handbill, 24 March 1797, addressed 'To the Farney Yeomanry Corps' (enclosure by Steele in his letter of 1 July 1797) is the answer by the United Irishmen to a hostile resolution by the Farney Yeomanry and was clearly an attempt to subvert them. There were United Irish sympathisers within both the yeomanry and the militia. 'Gentlemen, Understanding that on your last parade day you entered into resolutions, the purport of which is particularly directed against United Irishmen, I, as a friend to the cause of reform in the government of this kingdom ... am perfectly convinced there is not a man in your company hardy enough to deny the necessity of a reform at the present day ... and to a thinking mind it must evidently appear that a timely and radical reform is the only means to save this country from the horrors of a revolution ...

There are numbers of you will say, perhaps, that you dare not refuse signing these resolutions, as they were proposed by your captain and who is also agent of the Farney estate, that your leases are on the eve of expiring, and that in the case of your refusal, you would be turned out of your houses and lands ... do you not see that before the conclusion of this year another policy must direct those Aristocrats who laugh at the miseries of the people and who wish to encourage this Union among us that they may still rule us with a rod of iron? Do you not see that the great body of the people are engaged in the cause of reform?

Let me address a few words in particular to those Roman Catholics that are in your company. ... You must all in your hearts befriends to the cause United Irishmen are embarked in. Though the whole people will be served by it, the Catholics will be served more particularly. ...'

On 1 July 1797 Norman Steele writes from Monalty to [Evelyn Shirley]:

'... I yesterday committed to Armagh jail 15 men and to Monaghan 2, charged with feloniously breaking open Houses & cropping the Heads of some Individuals who had not taken the Oaths of United Irishmen. ... These Prisoners were the Fruits of two Nightly excursions, which we Farney Yeomen underwent with great zeal ... Barring a French landing, all must be well, in case of that event, much the contrary ... I enclose you [not found] some printed resolutions of the Farney Corps, and an answer to them [see the foregoing].

The latter I send as the best description I can give of the Roman Catholic politics of this kingdom ... six Roman Catholics resigned, and ... the secretary (a Presbyterian), was dismissed for avowing himself an United Irishman and wearing a green handkerchief, the badge of sedition ... and to you, Sir, who have so considerable a stake in the kingdom, I pledge myself that a separation from England and a subversion of property here was the decided object of those two dissenting bodies, Presbyterian and papist.'



### ***The 1798 Rebellion***

The year of rebellion opened peacefully enough. On 1 March 1798 Steele writes:

'... We are (to the North of Dublin) as quiet as Mice & (no thanks to Lord Moira) I don't fear any interruption without the personal aid of the French.' In the summer, a different scenario unfolds (8 June 1798): '... this moment I have recd. directions to keep open the Communication with Monaghan in case of being obliged to retreat there ... accts. just arrived state that the Rebels have met a great overthrow at New Ross 3,000 killed & of course many more wounded. ...'

Steele's letter of 20 July 1798 describes the repulse of the insurgents after getting to within 11 miles of Carrickmacross and their pursuit, '... till we reached two Miles beyond the River Boyne at Slane ... I think it my duty to report to you the state of this country at so momentous a period, and I have the satisfaction to add that this neighbourhood and all Ulster continues as quiet as possible. More northward, it is certainly owing to the Orange societies which, though illegal, have saved the country.'



### ***E.J. Shirley, Steele and the Act of Union***

Steele, whose position seemed so secure after the defeat of the rebels and his considerably self-advertised part in that outcome, subsequently lost the confidence of his employer. This was due to his taking an anti-Union stance, in the face of his employer's support for the Union. Steele was a friend of the anti-Union MP for the county, Richard Dawson, for whom Shirley had clearly little regard. The letters exchanged between landlord and agent, particularly Shirley's, are indicative of their deteriorating relations. This was against a

backdrop of the government pulling out all the stops to bring about a legislative Union between the two islands. Generally speaking, the gentry and nobility resident in Co. Monaghan opposed the Union. Absentee families, such as the Shirleys, the Barrett Lennards, Lords Templetown, Bath and Cremorne, were Unionist, the last despite being the uncle and political sponsor of Richard Dawson, MP for Co. Monaghan.

The Orange Order in Armagh and Monaghan passed a resolution castigating the Union as 'a measure pregnant with the most fatal consequences in Ireland'. Evelyn Shirley with considerable hauteur insisted that Steele represent his employer's views rather than his own. He expects that the agent will deliver the signatures of the tenantry to a pro-Union petition.

There is the added dimension of a duel between Steele and Dacre Hamilton (of Cornacassa), arising from their polarised positions over the Union. The letters also point to the rivalry between Steele and another agent, Humphrey Evatt, who eventually supplanted him as Shirley agent. Finally, we are informed of Steele's death in perhaps dubious circumstances. In all this, there is more than an element of hubris.

On 31 March 1799 Steele writes from Monalty to Evelyn Shirley enclosing newspaper cuttings concerning local controversy over an address passed at a county meeting. This had been called by the High-Sheriff, John Hawkshaw, on 28 January to applaud the conduct of the county M.P.s in opposing the Union. The controversy principally lies between, on the one side, Steele who, along with Charles Albert Leslie (of Ballybay), William Mayne (Lord Cremorne's agent), and others, was a prominent signatory of the address, and Humphry Evatt who Steele alleges has been motivated not by zeal for the Union but by a desire to supersede him in the Shirley agency.

On 16 December 1799, Evelyn Shirley writes to Lord Cornwallis, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland:

'I have had the honour of receiving your Excellency's letter, and am highly obliged for the information it contains, though very much mortified at Mr Steele's conduct on a point of so much importance, on which he well knows my sentiments. I have by this post written to Mr Steele in very strong terms, and your Excellency may depend on my using every endeavour in my power to forward the legislative Union as the only means of promoting the peace and happiness of the kingdom.

I take the liberty of mentioning by this opportunity that I have written this day to Mr Kemish [sic – Kemmis], law agent, Kildare Street, Dublin, to beg of him to prepare a bill to lay before the House at the meeting of parliament for leave to let our estate in the county of Monaghan on lives, by which means we can make upwards of 2,000 voters for the county. This will be as many, or more, than [sic] there are at present in the county. If your Excellency thinks proper to grant your assistance, in case of opposition (which may be expected from Mr Dawson, one of the present members), it would add a farther obligation. ...'

The depth of feeling generated by the issue is illustrated in the letter sent by Steele from Holyhead, on 7 August 1799, to Evelyn Shirley, describing his duel with [Dacre] Hamilton as a result of the controversy over the address:

'... Give me leave, Sir, to add that, though this matter originated in political opinion, yet that [sic] it had no connection with it at present, and I may venture further to say that the uniform support which I have ever given to the laws of my country shall be as honestly exerted in support of an Union (once carried into a law) as ever, and I am certain you would despise me were I like some folks to speak contrary to my thoughts.'

On 15 December 1799, Evelyn Shirley wrote to Steele:

'As I understand there are resolutions proposed in the county of Monaghan in favour of a legislative Union, I must desire you, as our agent, to inform the tenantry of our estate without delay that it is our most sincere wish that they would sign these resolutions in favour of a legislative Union, both for their own comfort and happiness, as well as for the welfare of the kingdom at large, it being the only plan that can be adopted to ensure the happiness of the country. I make no doubt but that, before this time, on cool reflection, you have seen your error, and have blamed your own conduct in the part that you took respecting the Union last year.

I am and have been quite at a loss to know how to account for your conduct on that business. Your interest and your own happiness as well as that of your country must have been out of the question. If it is possible it could have been from the love of power and authority, I will venture to assert that that must have failed also. If it could have been that your friendship for Mr [Richard] Dawson was so great as to make you support his principles and give up the happiness of yourself and family as well as your country, I have done. But [I] must conclude with saying, I look upon the man of understanding who opposes a Union, after all that has passed concerning it, as far from being a well-wisher to his country. I have taken at present no other steps to forward this business, but as no time must be lost, I have thoughts of writing to some of the gentlemen of the county as well as to some of our tenantry in a post or two on this subject, but, wishing not to hurt your feelings, I have written to you first that it may come from you before they hear from me, and I beg an immediate answer, to know whether you are inclined to support this cause in a hearty manner. I am rather surprised I have not heard from you before this time, as I wish to hear frequently how things go on. ...'

On 17 February 1800, Humphry Evatt writes from Mountlouis, Monaghan, to Evelyn Shirley: 'As it has within these few days been universally believed in this country [sic] that Mr Steele is to be immediately removed from your agency, I presume once more to trouble you on the subject of my former application.' On 4 June 1802, Humphry Evatt, by now Steele's successor, writes from Carrickmacross to Evelyn Shirley:

'... My advice to you, Sir, is, at once and openly tell Mr Dawson [Steele's surety] to take care of himself, and I think you may safely say there is at least a balance of £5,000 in your favour. Mr Steele has certainly left landed property behind him to the value of a few thousands, and a lien may be had on it. But it is not your business to hunt about for it. You must show Mr Dawson it is his interest to be on the alert, for I fear there is some trifling going forward. From the various reports of the circumstances in which Mr Steele died, it is impossible to collect anything conclusive. The most prevalent report is that he was in advance for your estate upwards of £5,000. The very circulation of such a report points out the necessity of circumspection on your part. ...'

19 June 1802, Evatt writes from Dublin [to Evelyn Shirley].

'... I had a letter yesterday from my friend, Judge Crookshank. At his instance, Lord Sherborne interfered warmly in my favour with Lord Bath. The Marquess told Lord S. he had continued the gentleman who had been partner with the late Mr Steele in his agency [Mr Daniel]. ... If one-quarter of what I hear be true, and I believe it is all so, it is impossible he can hold it one year. At Dorant's Hotel, Jermyn Street, Mr Dawson did live. His greatest apprehension is lest his uncle, Lord Cremorne, should hear that he was Steele's security. This may be an useful hint to you. ...'



### ***Running the estate***

The rest of the run of agents' letters in the 'Antiquarian compilations' concern the letting and running of the estate. Though less dramatic than the later letters of 1793-1802, they are of great interest to the economic historian. The following is an interesting insert of 1778, containing the landlord's notes of instruction for the agent:

- '1. Salary to be 6d in the £ received, and to be made up to £300 Irish a year.
2. Agent to have the use of the house of Carrickmacross, reserving an apartment for the landlord. Repairs to be done at the landlord's expense.
3. Controversies between tenants to be settled, if possible, out of court. 'One of the pettifogging tribe lives in Carrick, his name Hambleton, he married a daughter of a former agent (Prole).'
4. '... Harmony with the Catholick titular Bishop & the Priest in the neighbourhood of Carrick of use in quelling disorder & Riot, by private application to them ...' Openly application must be made to a J.P., 'of which I wish you to be one.'
5. Agent to receive all petitions.
6. To take no bonds or notes for payment.

7. To favour his employer with a letter once a month or 6 weeks.
8. 'To hear complaints but be not too credulous. ...'

The draft of a letter from James Goldfrap, the new Irish agent, Carrickmacross, 21 July 1778, to George Shirley, illustrates what a new agent can turn up about the previous running of an estate, possibly in the process trying to put himself in a better light.

'And first, as to the setting of your estate. This business was carried through in a very absurd way, and in a hurry. A great number of people have not yet got the quantity of land inserted in their leases, and others again have much more. To settle this business between the parties will occasion a great deal of trouble and time, and be the means of delaying the payment of your rent ... [regarding bog-land]. But for want of attention when the estate was let by Mr Taylor, it so turns out in many instances that one family is entitled to the whole turf, and the neighbours are without any. This is a sore grievance, and how to remedy it I know not. ... I have had two-thirds of the tenantry with me upon this disagreeable subject ... . Mr Taylor, when he set the estate, would not grant new leases to many of the former tenants. I suppose he found out better people. But so it is that the old tenants still keep possession ..., and will not suffer the new lessees to enter upon their lands. Of course, no rent is paid by either party. I ought not to receive it from the former, and the latter will not pay until they are put into possession. ...'

A letter from Goldfrap of 11 December 1778 to (his patron?) Lord Macartney discusses why he took employment with Shirley, what were his wages and the income of the estate: 'I take the liberty, my Lord, to acquaint you that the Hon. George Shirley, of the Ferrers family, who has an estate in this county of £8,700 per annum, has been pleased to make me his agent here, with a salary of £350 a year. This employment I the more readily accepted as my finances were insufficient to maintain me in the way I wished to live in London. ...'

The following exchange of letters illustrate the legal aspects of an agent's work and the minor double-dealing sometimes required.

On 21 April 1781, Goldfrap writes from Carrickmacross [to George Shirley]:

'... I have the ... satisfaction to acquaint you that these trials [at the Co. Monaghan assizes] have so established your title to the Farney estate, that any attempt to prove the contrary on any future trial will be fruitless and ineffectual. The wills of your family were not touched upon in the pleadings. James Bashford, a very respectable evidence, and who was paid great attention to by the court, proved from his own knowledge that the estate in question had belonged to the Shirley family for seventy years, that he never had heard of any other persons claiming any interest therein, that Mr Sewallis Shirley, Mr John Shirley and Lady Stuarda Shirley all died without issue and unmarried, and that you were the lawful heir, and upon this honest man's evidence, the several trials were closed. ...'

On 3 May 1781 George Shirley writes from Harley Street [to Goldfrap] joking about Bashford's evidence, which he thinks was very Irish, since Shirley's brother, Sewallis, was in fact married, and since Bashford could not possibly have personal knowledge of Sewallis's death.

On 28 Nov. 1788 Arthur Noble [the new Irish agent, in succession to Goldfrap, who had just died] writes from Dublin to George Shirley Junior, eldest son and successor of his father, reopening the question of the previous unsatisfactory letting of the estate and proposing a radical solution. It displays also the mixture of wariness and contempt with which some agents regarded the tenants.

'... Mr Taylor, who was sent to Ireland by your father to let the estate, was perfectly ignorant of the value of the lands in this country. The tenants, however ignorant they may be in many instances, had cunning sufficient to make their advantage of this circumstance, and he perfected leases to them for 21 years at the yearly rent of £8,652. Was the estate to let at this time, it would let for £12,000 a year. If you recollect, I told you so in England. But most of the tenants have 9 years of their leases to expire from [the] first day of May next, some 12 or 13, and some 19 ... (the tenants in Carrickmacross). You have leases in your possession, and they will best inform you.

My proposal to you and the other proprietors of the estate is, that I will become your tenant for the whole estate from [the] first day of May next, and pay you yearly £10,000 English, which is £10,833. 6. 8. Irish, to be paid to your order at any bank you appoint in London, at two stated days in the year. ... I enclose you [not found] a valuation made by a notary public of Dublin, and you'll find I offer £659. 1. 8. a year more than he values it. But I just calculate that I shall be able to pay you the rent I propose, and have £500 a year for my trouble and becoming security for so large a sum yearly. You see I deal candidly with you ... I am certain I could make £500 a year more of that estate than any proprietor that lives in England ever can. ...'

A letter from Norman Steele, Monalty, to Evelyn Shirley, 1 March 1798, is a minor treatise on the criteria for the re-letting of the estate, bringing in the factors of economics, politics and inter-tenant relations:

'... Though malting corn is now extremely low, yet, from the recollection of its prices of late years, and the linen manufacture (which is a principal source of the rents of your estate) having held its usual prices, I think that as much rent would now be had for lands as it would be wise in a landlord to take, possession being the principal object of an Irish tenant, particularly at present, by which, in case of general convulsion, he thinks occupation would be converted into estate. Added to this, the putting off granting a more permanent leases for another year will prolong the fever that on such occasions must exist, particularly in exciting the tenantry to too much culture, lest by a change of the boundary of farms they should leave behind them any advantage to their successor; and many changes in the boundary of small farms and extirpation of tenants will be necessary. ... I am satisfied that much real advantage may be had in now excluding the middlemen and making more permanent leases, as, by letting to those in possession who are anxious to shake off the yoke, you

may at your ease establish (by comparison) for all the adjacent lands such rent as you may think it advisable generally to put on your estate.' ... He points out that the adjoining Bath estate '... of 12,732 acres 1 rood and 9 perches is now let at £10,500 yearly, and must shortly rise to £12,000 yearly'.



## **B – 'Farney Bubble Books' 1-5, 1842-1929**

The five volumes of 'Farney Bubble Books', or scrapbooks, contain printed matter relating to Farney, mainly put together by E.P. Shirley. These remain in family possession, but typed extracts by Dr Christopher McGimpsey are part of the PRONI calendar of D3531.

The vast bulk of the items stuck into the 'Bubble Books' consists of printed handbills and newspaper reports, the latter generally from the 'Northern Standard' and the 'People's Advocate' (published in Monaghan town) or from some of the Dublin papers, the 'Dublin Daily Express', the 'Irish Times', the 'Freeman's Journal', etc. They concern Co. Monaghan affairs in general and the Shirley estate in particular. The items reflect some of E.P. Shirley's interests e.g. the Carrickmacross Gas Company and Poor Law Union, lime kilns, and the leasing of boglands in Farney. There is also a considerable amount of what could loosely be termed 'political' items e.g. Irish National Land League handbills, some of them giving reports of political meetings, and handbills relating to elections in Co. Monaghan. In short, the 'Bubble Books' are an extremely fine collection of primary sources almost all of which are probably to be found nowhere else in Ireland. There are no runs of the Standard or Advocate in Ireland, with the exception of one or two years of the Standard in the Northern Standard Office, Monaghan Town. The handbills, relating to local events in Farney and the Carrickmacross area, must have been printed in numbers of only 100, 200 or 300 and therefore it is very likely that many of these are the last extant copies.

Bubble Books IV and V (D3531/B/4-D3531/B/5) cover, among other things: the 1865 election and allegations of undue pressure on both sides; the Tenants' Defence League and agitation for rent reductions; the Land League in Monaghan; and the 1885 election. The first extract is an announcement that E.P. Shirley is giving up his parliamentary seat in England to have more of an impact on affairs in Monaghan. ... For the rest of his life he attempted, through his agents and in the press, to influence political developments in Co. Monaghan. However, the tide of history was running against the brand of landlord-influenced politics of which he was a linchpin in the county. The fact that we are seeing this process of decline through these extracts, selected by Shirley himself, lends them a certain poignancy.

On 18 April 1865 he issued an address to the electors of the Southern Division of the county of Warwick. He announces that, although he has represented the constituency for the last 12 years, he is not now going to seek re-election to parliament, and adds: 'I have come to this determination solely from private considerations, founded on a deep sense of the responsibilities attached to the possession of a large estate in Ireland, which requires, in my opinion, a more constant residence and supervision than it is in my power to give while I remain in parliament.'



## ***The election of 1865***

This was held under the open ballot system. Secret voting was not to come in until the Ballot Act of 1872. Thus Shirley, like other landlords, expected his tenants as a matter of course to vote for the Conservative candidates, Charles Powell Leslie and Sir George Forster, who had been returned unopposed in the elections of 1857 and 1859. This time a Liberal, Thomas Dawson, stood and had the support of most Catholics, undoubtedly ushered in that direction by the priests of the county. E.P. Shirley rushed to condemn this in a letter to the editor of the Newry Telegraph, 25 July 1865, in which he mentions the 'unholy alliance formed between Presbyterian clergymen and Roman Catholic priests' but states that it has had no effect in Farney. 'To the honour of the Presbyterians of this barony, be it remembered that everyone, without exception, as I am informed, voted for the Conservative candidates, and have thereby gained the lasting respect of their attached landlord.'

In a further letter of 29 July 1865 Shirley claimed that one priest stated that anyone who did not vote for Dawson, the Liberal, 'would be eternally damned in hell'. There follows a considerable number of newspaper cuttings about Shirley's claims of priestly interference in the election. The support for Dawson in Farney was quite overwhelming. Out of 900 electors, 709 plumpers were given to Dawson. The major opponent of Shirley in the press was Charles Kenny of Rocksavage, Inniskeen [a Catholic small landlord], who wrote to a number of newspapers, on 16 August 1865, rebutting all Shirley's claims. Kenny in turn alleged intimidation by Shirley and his agent to force Catholic tenants to vote Conservative. Landlords and their agents expected that tenants would vote as directed, almost as part of their tenancy agreement.

This can be seen in the following letter, sent to each elector on the estate by Richard Mayne, agent for the Hope Estate, Castleblayney, on 11 July 1865.

'Mrs Hope has promised to vote for Sir George Forster and Colonel Leslie, and has directed me to notify such to her tenants, with the request that you will do the same, and come forward like men and support her. I am quite confident no tenant under my charge will go against her wishes. They should recollect it is the only opportunity they have of returning the many kindnesses shown to them on all occasions. Vote for Mrs Hope, and me as her agent. I warn you against believing the many stories so industriously circulated contrary to this letter. I am your true friend, Richard Mayne.'

The charge of intimidation by Shirley and his agent (and cousin), George Morant, was given a further airing in a letter to the Ulster Observer 21 December 1865 headed 'Persecution in Monaghan' and signed 'Vigilans'. It claims:

'... That Shirley, soon after the election, served more than 30 notices to quit on his Farney tenantry. All the men noticed are Catholics. Most of them are improving tenants, all of them are solvent. ... The notices I have mentioned have been served on the tenants most conspicuous for their support of

Mr Dawson. Amongst them are the very Rev. Dean McMahon [PP., Carrickmacross] and Peter Hoey [one of the oldest and most respected residents in the area].'

An undated newspaper report proclaims: 'Mr Shirley has written a letter to a Dublin government journal, in which he denies that the notices to quit served on his tenants, was the result of their voting against his wishes. He said the notices were served if the parties did not comply with certain arrangements made on the estate.' This evoked, on 26 December 1865, an editorial in the 'Freeman's Journal': 'We would impress on Mr Shirley, and those who represent his property in Monaghan, to follow the examples set by other landlords, and leave conscience be. In England it is scarcely a force.' The editor praises Shirley for being gentle and generous in many things, though also very stubborn, especially in matters of politics.

In a letter to the 'Daily Telegraph' on 3 January 1866, George Morant, the Shirley agent, denied that the 30 notices to quit had been served in consequence of people's voting behaviour: rather they were in connection with rearrangement of rent and other purely estate matters. Morant then mentions McMahon and Hoey and admits that they have incurred their landlord's displeasure, but for reasons other than the election. 'The late Monaghan election was a trial of strength between the priests and the landlords, and the former were determined to carry the day. They did so. Whether by fair means or not, this attack on an Irish landlord who has for years done his utmost to improve the conditions of his tenantry will go far to show.'

An undated handbill of 1866 is headed: 'Farney, keep your eyes open. An insidious attempt is being made this day by the lackeys of a certain rent office to put the halter round your necks again!!! Men of historic Farney, you owe no man on earth an apology for your last election vote. Farney gives no apology. Farney forever!' This obviously refers to the following address, dated November 1866 to E.P. Shirley and signed by 1006 Roman Catholic tenants of the Shirley estate:

'Honoured Sir, we, the undersigned Catholic tenants of your estate, come forward to express our disapprobation of the conduct that has been used towards you at and previous to the late election, in this county. We are sorry your name and person have been abused in a gross and false manner, and put before the public undeservedly. We acknowledge that some of us have been in the crowd where those insults were given to you, but we never sanctioned them. On the contrary, we detested them, and we now blush when we think of the scene, and accuse ourselves of ungratitude [sic], for remaining and listening to so good a landlord thus abused. For, previous to these abuses, we always knew you to be an impartial landlord to your tenantry dealing alike with all creeds.

We know you have assisted your tenantry from time to time, with money, slates and timber, to build their houses, and drain their farms; and your ever solicitous agent, George Morant Esq., for the good of the property has carried on main drainage on a large scale for a general improvement of the soil. By your desire thousands of pounds have been expended for that purpose, thereby giving

employment year by year and yearly to a great number of the small landowners on your estate. For these and for many other benefits which we have received, not only from you, Sir, but from your late lamented father, Evelyn John Shirley Esq., we return you our grateful and sincere thanks. We are sorry that the unity and good feeling which has long existed between you and your Catholic tenantry have been interfered with, but we trust that the calumny and gross doings of others will not interfere with the hardworking and industrious people. We are glad to see you amongst us with your amiable and charitable lady and family. May you live long and happy. We have the honour to be, your obedient and faithful servants. ...'

A newspaper editorial, probably from the 'Dundalk Democrat', November 1866, casts doubt on the credibility of the address from the Catholic tenants of the Shirley estate. Its bitter tone also shows the unpopularity of the estate office in some quarters. '... It may have been signed by them; but let us ask who wrote it? Who went round with it from house to house? Was it the bailiffs? And if not, may we ask where it was signed? Was it in that awful place, the rent office, where the farmers must tread lightly on the floor, and speak in whispering accents, lest any discord in sound may grate upon the ears of his honour?'

On 11 December 1866 there was published a letter from Charles Daly to the 'Dundalk Democrat' rebutting the claim that it was the bailiffs who made the Catholics sign the petition. Daly states:

'... They were men who voted at the last election in this county for Captain Dawson, and although they did so, it was not their wishes that their landlord should be abused as he was, or falsely represented, and I know that there were but very few of the tenants on the estate who were not exceedingly sorry for the great abuse their landlord got.'



### ***Farney Tenants' Defence Association***

This body came into existence following Gladstone's first Land Act. This Act legalised the Ulster Custom providing compensation for improvements or eviction, and calling for fair rents (tenant's right). It nonetheless allowed landlords to get their tenants to contract outside the act, as no machinery had yet been set up to determine a fair rent. In Farney, the Bath agent attempted to get all his tenants to contract outside the act. This led to the setting-up of the Farney Tenants' Defence Association which soon spread to the rest of Monaghan. Naturally Shirley kept a close watch on this development both as a landlord and a propagandist.

A handbill, headed 'Protection for the tenant farmer' describes the setting up of a Tenants' Defence Association at the Shirley Arms Hotel, on Thursday, 21 May 1874. There are 54 names appended and Shirley has marked with an 'X' 27 of the names. Presumably these were all tenants on his estate. Shirley was soon involved at the sharp end when a Mr McBride laid claim in court at Castleblayney to £1000 for tenant right and £1200 for permanent and

unexhausted improvements in two farms on Shirley's estate. Isaac Butt, who appeared for McBride, claimed that, '... Although (Mr Shirley) would allow a Protestant tenant to take the place of a Roman Catholic tenant, he would not allow a Roman Catholic tenant to take the place of a Protestant - in fact that he did not wish to increase the number of his Catholic tenantry. 'The main objection which Shirley's agent, Mr Holland, had to the proposed new tenant, Mr Roantree, was that he had 'too much money in his pocket', in other words that he would pay far too much for the tenants right. Tenant right was at that time worth about £34 an acre in the Farney area. A compromise as to the amount of money to be paid in tenant right was finally worked out and the case was settled.'

A tenant-right meeting was held at Carrickmacross, on 4 June 1874, and a large number of members was enrolled into the new Farney Tenants' Defence Association. There were several priests on the platform. One of their number, Rev. E. Bartley, said,

'... If Catholic, Protestant, Presbyterian, unite, even now the power of England would tremble before them. (Cheers). Even the Protestants were beginning to see that, while leaning on the landlords, they were leaning on a broken reed, and were now standing shoulder to shoulder with their Catholic countrymen. If they received a notice to quit, they would receive support from their Catholic neighbours.'



### ***Depression and rent abatement***

After 1876 agricultural prices fell. The years 1876-1879 were very wet and cold and many crops were destroyed, raising fears of a repeat of the Great Famine. This agricultural depression led to the setting up of the Land League in the west in 1879. It was slow to come to Monaghan because the Catholic clergy kept the Tenants' Defence Association afloat. Protestant tenants were very suspicious of the Land League and its political associations. The main thrust of Monaghan tenants in these years was to get a reduction or abatement of rents, to relieve the widespread distress. However the landed class remained to be convinced.

A newspaper, dated 19 April 1879, carried a report of a meeting at Carrickmacross, the previous Monday, of the 'Movement to reduce rent in Farney.' It was attended by 400 tenantry of the barony for the purpose of petitioning the landlords for a reduction of rent. A resolution was passed proclaiming:

'That the tenantry of the barony of Farney, having experienced the last three unfavourable seasons combined with a continued depression in prices of agricultural produce, feel called on to appeal to the landlords for some commensurate reduction of rents ... that the landlord should give a reduction of 4/- in the pound to help the tenants, and that, if the next harvest was a good one, then they would be prepared to return to the old rent.'

The replies from various landlords are recorded in the 'Bubble Books. 'H.H. Shirley wrote on 23 May 1879, from 14 Lower Berkeley Street, Portman Square to Thomas McE. Gartland Esq., the chairman of the public meeting, as follows

'... Whilst I freely admit that much suffering and distress have issued from the above-mentioned causes, yet on the other hand I maintain that the state of agriculture in Ireland bears a very favourable comparison with that which prevails in other parts of the United Kingdom; certainly, the harvest of last autumn cannot under any aspect of affairs be considered deficient. With regard to the unremunerative nature of the produce of corn, permit me to remind you that the rents on my estate ... has not been raised since 46 years ago, when the prices of wheat were much lower than they are at present. Under these circumstances I cannot think that the time has yet arrived for any abatement of rent, but in the next harvest season, should the crops prove deficient, I shall then be prepared to consider the just claims of my tenantry with a view to such a readjustment of the rent as the circumstances of the case may require.'

His brother, E.P. Shirley, wrote on Ascension Day, 1879, 'the last three seasons have been unfavourable, and this is true; but our district has been less heavily hit than most parts of Ireland and certainly it is better than the position in England. 'Shirley then goes on to blame free trade as one of the major causes of the depression in agriculture. In a printed letter to his agent, John Vernon, on 9 May 1879, the [4th] Marquess of Bath, Longleat, points out that there has always been a rule on his estates that rents are only revised at intervals of 20 years and not oftener. [However] '... If that system is to be broken through in the interest of the tenants in consequence of what is, I hope, only a temporary depression, a more frequent revision of the rents in the interest of the landlord during periods of prosperity cannot be objected to. ...'

Despite this initially negative response, there was eventual action brought on by another poor harvest. On the 25 September 1879 a printed handbill from John Thomas Holland, the Shirley agent, gave notice:



### ***Shirley Estate: Notice of Abatement of Rent***

An allowance to 20% will be made on the year's rent for 1879 on any holding, or a portion of a holding, that has been raised in rent above the valuation of 1834. An allowance of 10% on the year's rent for 1879 on all holdings that have NOT BEEN RAISED IN RENT SINCE THE VALUATION OF 1834. These abatements INCLUDE TOWNPARKS, but NOT HOUSES IN THE TOWN OF CARRICKMACROSS; and all tenants, to obtain them, must pay the half year's rent, due 1st May 1879, on or before the 1st February 1880. In cases where floods have totally destroyed the crops, Mr SHIRLEY HAS DIRECTED that an accurate survey be made, and the WHOLE YEAR'S RENT allowed to the tenants for those portions of their farms'.

The continuation of the depression is heralded in a printed advertisement, dated 16 February 1880 headed 'CARRICKMACROSS RELIEF FUND' and inviting the public to a grand diorama and evening concert in the Market House, Carrickmacross, Monday evening. In an undated newspaper report of a Farney Tenants' Defence Association meeting, it was announced that Mr Brownlow had given a reduction of 25%, Mr Porter a reduction of 10%, Mr Lewis a reduction of 10%, and Lord Bath a reduction of 20%. It was also noted that [Charles] Kenny [of Rocksavage, near Inniskeen] had offered a reduction of 20% but that the League wanted 33% and would not accept less than 25%.

A newspaper report [1881] of a rent meeting in Carrickmacross, reported a resolution carried to the effect;

'That whilst expressing our thankfulness to the Marquess of Bath for his offer of an abatement in the present rental, we most urgently and respectfully ask a uniform reduction of 25%, and an extension of the time for payment for those who are not at present in a position to pay, and we promise that all who are at present able will pay at once, and the rest will use all means to procure the rent as soon as possible'. Similar resolutions that both E.P. and H.H. Shirley reduce their rent by 25%. were proposed.'



### ***The Land League***

The first big meeting of the Land League in the county took place in Scotstown, and was attended by 30,000 people. It soon spread to other districts. Through it, the nationalist people of Monaghan were being drawn into the sphere of Parnellism and eventually of the more overtly political National League. At a meeting of the Land League held in Castleblayney, in January 1881, a resolution was passed, 'that we declare our determination to observe the rules of the Land League, never to take a farm or purchase the produce of a farm from which a tenant has been evicted for any unreasonable cause; and to act unitedly in carrying on the great national struggle by every constitutional means.' By the summer of 1881, the Tenants' Defence Association had been subsumed into the Irish National Land League. A handbill of June 1881 giving the names of all the members of the Irish National Land League in Carrickmacross, shows that it was composed of mostly the same people as the earlier organisation. The total number of members in Magheraclone parish was 584, in Carrickmacross parish 765, and in Donaghmoyne parish 924.

Conservative and landlord interests made efforts to ensure that Protestants did not join the Land League. A newspaper report, dated 3 January, told of a meeting of parishioners called by Rev. P. Galbraith, Church of Ireland clergyman of Carrickmacross. He read a letter which he had sent to local Land Leaguers, objecting to their rules and objectives. This received the approval of all at the meeting. The Shirley collection does not contain reports of the kind of outrages that characterised other parts of the country, in this period of turmoil. In this it reflects the relatively peaceful conduct of the land agitation in Monaghan, which was largely due to the influence of the local Catholic clergy.

Nevertheless there is a note of vituperation in the following report from the Donaghmoynne League branch, in 1884,

'... We hereby give notice to Mr Shirley and his agent, we will not allow them to hunt over our farms, and should they attempt to do so after this notice we will prosecute them according to the law; as long as those extremes persist in evicting the people out of their houses, we will not allow them to trespass on our farms.'



### ***Political sea-change***

The secret ballot, introduced in 1872, was followed by the extension of the franchise to heads of households in 1884. This cleared the way for a Nationalist take-over of the two county seats. Indeed Tim Healy had already taken one seat, in the by-election of 2 June 1883. E.P. Shirley's son, Sewallis, a former MP, decided to stand in the election. The following notices indicate the differences in the position of the Conservative and Nationalist positions. On 6 January 1885, a handbill headed 'Monaghan to the front', announced:

'A great county demonstration under the auspices of the joint committee of the National Registration Society and the National League, will be held in Carrickmacross, the 6th of January 1885. The following gentlemen have been invited and are expected to attend:- C.S. Parnell, MP, M. Davitt, T.D. Sullivan, MP, Thomas Saxon, (sic Sexton) MP, E.D. Grey, MP, T.M. Healy, MP, T. Harrington, MP, W O'Brien, MP, T.E. O'Connor, MP, J. Small, MP. The objects of the meeting are: to promote the cause of legislative independence for Ireland; to effect the urgently necessary improvement in the land laws; to advocate reform of the existing system of local government by Grand jury; to demand such legislation as may be effectual in raising the labouring classes from their present wretched condition to a state in which they shall be assured of a fair degree of profit from the soil; to further expose Castle rule in Ireland, founded on oppression and crime; and to secure a spirit of complete and perfect Union for the return of a thorough Nationalist as a colleague for Mr Healy at the next election. Men of Monaghan, we call upon you by the duty you owe to your country, and to your countrymen of all creeds and classes, to attend this meeting in the just and peaceable might of your numerical strength, and by so doing, prove that you will not rest contented until you have received full measure of your just demands. [Signed] By order of committees, J. Hoey, PP, Chairman; J. Mayne, Secretary.'

On 25 November 1885, an election handbill on behalf of S.E. Shirley proclaimed:

'To the electors of the southern division of the county of Monaghan. Gentlemen, I have accepted the invitation of a large number of electors of all classes to offer myself as a candidate for the division of the country which, as part of Monaghan, did me the honour of electing me on two former occasions. I am, as before, wholly opposed to any scheme which either directly or indirectly would

interfere with the Union of Ireland and Great Britain. I believe that any such plan would prove most disastrous to our country. ... I appeal to all creeds and classes, and to everyone who loves his country and desires her prosperity, to oppose in every way the activity of the Parnellite League. This activity has been already made manifest in our midst. All loyal men are concerned. It is in your hands to show by your votes that you are determined to support freedom and to resist oppression. Your obedient servant, S.E. Shirley, Lough Fea, Carrickmacross.'

The eclipse of Shirley and Conservative political power was nigh. The result of the election for Monaghan South was Sir J. McKenna, Nationalist, 4,735; S.E. Shirley, Conservative, 962.



## **C – Correspondence and letter-books, 1799-1944**

PRONI's holdings in this section of the archive are mainly in the form of microfilms and photocopies until c.1830. [For earlier correspondence, see D3531/A/4-D3531/A/5 and D3531/D/4.] Only a sample of the most interesting letters can be given. A collection of letters, addressed to Evelyn John Shirley from various persons is bound in two volumes numbered III and IV and covering the periods 1821-1826 and 1827-1833. Both volumes begin with a MS table of contents (in the handwriting of Evelyn Philip Shirley). The letters concern family, personal, business and estate affairs, mainly unrelated to Ireland. There is family and personal correspondence, 1839-1939, of Mr and Mrs Evelyn John Shirley, Mr and Mrs Evelyn Philip Shirley, Mr and Mrs Sewallis Evelyn Shirley and Colonel and Mrs Evelyn Charles Shirley.

Irish estate correspondence of the Shirley family, 1807-1872, includes a letter of 1807 from the agent Humphry Evatt [see D3531/A/5] mentioning that there are 2,500 tenants on the estate, and an 1839 draft address from E.J. Shirley to his tenantry discussing his plans for the improvement of the estate and exhorting them to industry, temperance, etc. Miscellaneous letters and papers about Lough Fea and the Farney estate, 1838-1898, are mainly about building and improvements (bog reclamation, repairs to tenants' houses, etc). There is also a letter in which Lord Chief Justice James Whiteside comments on the book 'Realities of Irish Life', published in 1863 by W.S. Trench, the former Shirley agent. A bundle, 1840-1842, endorsed by E.E. Shirley, 'Letters from Mr. W Walker, Monaghan to George Sudden' (Shirley agent?) relates to building at Lough Fea.

Letters and papers of E.J. Shirley and the agent W.S. Trench, 1843-1845, concern: disturbances in the barony of Farney in 1843; Griffith's valuation of the barony; the problem of heavy rent arrears on the Shirley estate, 1844; and (in retrospect ominous) printed literature from Dublin Castle, advising farmers on what measures to take against the potato blight, 1845. The aforementioned disturbances of 1843 happened when tenants on the Shirley estate resisted the paying of tithes and rents. Police, backed by soldiers, were sent to enforce the law. There was considerable difficulty in serving court orders for arrears given the restive nature of the people. Special permission was obtained from Dublin to post such orders publicly, rather than to serve them individually. When it was decided to post the orders on the door of St Peter's chapel, many people gathered around to prevent it. In the ensuing mêlée, police opened fire and one man was killed. This incident became known as the 'Battle of Magheraclone.'

Letters from George Morant, the Shirley agent (and cousin), include a tenants' petition and other papers (going back to 1843) relating to a dispute in 1869 about an alleged discrepancy between rent levels on the Shirley estate and the Government Valuation.

A tenants' address endorsed 'humbug' [by Shirley] and other letters and papers relate to discontent and land agitation on the Shirley estate 1880-1881. Letters and papers, 1887-1889, of S.E. Shirley concern the Land War, boycotting, etc, including memoranda for a reply to a statement by W.E. Gladstone made on 19 November 1888. Letters and papers, 1904-1919, of Mrs S.E. Shirley and the

trustees from the family solicitor in Dublin, Fotrell & Sons, are mainly about the sale of the estate to tenants under the Wyndham Act of 1903. There is a long run of letters, 1902-1944, to John T. Gibbings and his successor as Shirley agent, William Pierce, from miscellaneous correspondents on estate business, including members of the Shirley family. The rest of the correspondence section is in the same vein.



## **D – Title deeds**

These cover the years 1576-1889. A description of only a selection relating to the granting and subsequent partitions of the estate follows: a slim, large quarto, calf-bound volume containing c. 1820s copies of grants to the Earls of Essex of the barony of Farney, comprising the grant of 9 May 18 Eliz. [1576] to Walter [Devereux], Earl of Essex, of the lordship of Farney, and the grant of 28 May 18 Jas. I [1620] to Robert [Devereux], Earl of Essex, of the lordship of Farney (the text of both has been printed); a small octavo notebook, gilt-tooled on the front board 'Hadzor's fee farm 1618' titled inside 'Copies of certain writings in the possession of the Marquess of Bath relating to the fee farm or Manor of Moymuck in the barony of Farney, copies of the originals kindly lent me by the Marquess of Bath, 1 January 1873. E.P. Shirley' (this refers to the lands that later passed to the Brownlow family), a slim, large quarto, calf-bound volume containing a contemporary copy of articles of agreement, partition deeds, etc, made between William, Marquess of Hertford, and Sir Robert Shirley, concerning the division of the estates of the Earls of Essex (although the Irish estate is mentioned briefly, all the detail concerns the English property); 4 deeds of partition (1692, 1695, 1699, and 1706) between Thomas [Thynne], Viscount Weymouth, and Robert [Shirley], Lord Ferrers, of the barony of Farney; and a letter (1706) from Lord Weymouth to Lord Ferrers, on the same subject. Annexed to the deed of 1692 is a list of the townlands in each half of the barony. Transcripts (incomplete) made by E.P. Shirley, 1840, are printed in Shirley, History of Farney, pp 142-143.



## **E – Election, political and patronage papers**

There is one box of papers (mainly printed matter), 1826-1902, relating to parliamentary, Poor Law and local government elections in Co. Monaghan and to local patronage (including Church of Ireland patronage) matters.

The section includes: a detailed breakdown of the voting behaviour of the Shirley tenantry at the 1826 general election in Co. Monaghan; printed copies of the British and Irish Reform Bills, 1831; a bundle of Co. Monaghan Poor Law election papers, 1846; a number of anti-Emancipationist and electioneering handbills, posters, etc, c.1830 onwards; correspondence of E.P. Shirley about the Rev. Patrick Cummings's neglect of the parish of Magheracloone [in which Lough Fea is situated], 1840-1841; Shirley's correspondence with [the 3rd Lord] Rossmore and others about the appointment of stipendiary and other magistrates for the barony of Farney, 1850; letters and architectural and other papers about churches and schools [see also D3531/C/3/6] in Farney, 1860-1878; Shirley's correspondence with Lord John George Beresford, Archbishop of Armagh, and others about the presentation of Rev. Adderley Campbell to the rectory of Tullycorbet, 1861-1862; Shirley's correspondence about miscellaneous matters of politics and patronage, 1867-1868, including an invitation to him to sit on the governing body of St Columba's School, 1868; correspondence, printed election posters and printed cartoons about South Monaghan elections, 1868-1886; letters to S.E. Shirley about the selection of Rev. Charles Maurice Stack, son of the Bishop of Clogher, as rector of Magheracloone, 1901-1902; and miscellaneous printed matter about local government, local loan societies, etc, in Co. Monaghan, 1814, 1825-1836 and 1901.

Finally there are letters and papers of Evelyn Philip Shirley about the state of the Church of Ireland (with special reference to the effect of Disestablishment), 1877-1878.



## **F – Formal patents of appointment, warrants, etc**

These are dated 1573, 1629, and 1793-1905. The first two items are respectively the 1st Earl of Essex's commission as Captain-General of Elizabeth I's Irish subjects and of her forces in Ulster, 1573, and what appears to be a warrant for the payment of the civil establishment of Ireland, 1629; the 1793, 1866 and 1868 items are appointments to the Co. Monaghan commission of the peace, shrievalty and deputy lieutenancy.



## **G – Genealogical and historical papers**

These relate mainly to Evelyn Philip Shirley (1822-1882), the historian of the family (in all senses of the term).

They include letters and papers relating to a blind Irish harper, Patrick Byrne of Kingscourt, Co. Cavan, whom Shirley took under his wing, as follows: letters, 1822-1850, from various 'society' figures in England, Scotland and Ireland recommend Byrne to others; a certificate attesting Byrne's expertise as a harpist, signed by the leading lights of the Belfast Harp Society, 1822; a letter of recommendation from Edward Bunting, 1840; and a couple of certificates of Byrne's membership of Masonic bodies.

Some letters and papers of E.P. Shirley, 1862-1864, arise from his role as executor to Byrne, whose will describes him as 'of Lower Ettington', and who died at Dundalk, Co. Louth, in 1863.

The section also contains correspondence connected with Shirley's role as historian, including letters to him, 1875-1877, about the history and genealogy of the Anketell/Ancketill family of Co. Monaghan. There are thank-you letters, 1878 and 1880, from people to whom he had presented his two-part History of Monaghan.



## **H – Household, building and demense account books**

There are seven boxes of household, building and demesne account books, 1847-1937.

Their contents include: a slim notebook recording the measurements of the rooms in Lough Fea for purposes of carpeting [1830]; an account book for work done on Shirley House [the agent's house in Carrickmacross], 1830-1836; labourers' and workmen's account books for the house, gardens and demesne at Lough Fea, 1835, 1841-1843 and 1858-1862; farm expenses account book, 1847-1855; 2 game books (recording Sewallis Evelyn Shirley's 'bag' at shoots both at Lough Fea and Ettington), 1858-1865 and 1894-1903; timber sale book, 1859, and timber valuation, 1911.

Later contents include: a schedule of the contents of the muniment room, 1863; a series of account books for household expenses and building repairs, 1865-1873; 3 kennel books, 1868-1879 and 1890-1903, and a stud book, 1893-1898; 3 cash books of members of the Shirley family for household and personal expenditure, 1880-1910; 24 workmen's time books for Lough Fea, 1883-1912; an account book in which [Mrs S.E. Shirley] has recorded payments to 'poor people' at Lough Fea, 1884-1905; 3 Lough Fea steward's account books, 1888-1900; a bundle of inventories of stock, crops, etc, at Lough Fea, 1889-1910; a Lough Fea plate book, 1890, and china inventory, 1902, and four Ettington plate books, 1902-1903; stud book, 1915-1917; valuation of the home farm, 1925; and household account book, 1937.



## **I – Irish Land Commission**

These comprise ten boxes, c.1880-1930, which contain unsorted Irish Land Commission sale papers for the Shirley estate.



## **J – Journals/diaries**

[These volumes are all in the family's possession: PRONI has no photocopy].

The following are the main items in this section:

A 1770 small octavo almanac, or fragment of an almanac, and somewhat larger notebook, containing MS entries in two different hands [the second probably that of George Shirley of Ettington]; a journal of two tours in Ireland, 1792-1793, made by George Hardinge, F.R.S., F.S.A., Chief Justice of Brecon, Glamorgan, and Radnorshire (whereas in the opening letters he refers to all classes of Irish people as 'savages', he later takes a favourable view of some of his hosts and of the scenery); three octavo diaries of E.J. Shirley, 1821-1822 and 1831, containing perfunctory entries; and a run of 24 diaries, 1895-1918, kept by Mrs S.E. Shirley and relating to daily life and routine affairs in Warwickshire, London, Ireland and elsewhere.

There is also a series of Carrickmacross Estate Office journals/diaries, 1909-1924, kept by the Shirley agent, William Pierce, and containing mainly perfunctory entries about estate and other business.



## **K – Kiln account books**

A box contains one small folio and 39 small octavo volumes of accounts, 1851-1873 and 1880-1906, for the Cloughvally and Tyrogarvan lime kilns – labour costs, lime tickets issued to tenants, etc, etc. The ability to produce lime locally was of great importance for agriculture on an estate.



## **L – Legal papers**

There are three boxes of these, 1767-1935, containing papers about legal actions concerning the Shirley estate, mainly ejectment decrees, notices to quit and bills of costs from solicitors in connection with the ejectment of tenants. There is some material on the compulsory acquisition of Shirley property under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts of 1883 and 1885 and some early 20th century counsel's opinions. [For the other 17th and 18th legal papers, see D3531/A/4.]



## **M – Miscellaneous volumes**

These occupy three boxes. Along with various volumes relating to miscellaneous aspects e.g. Carrickmacross market tolls and game rights on the estate, there are account books of the Carrickmacross Savings Bank relating to Shirley tenants. A volume titled 'Shirley estate loan book', 1827-1845, records the names and addresses of tenants, the sums lent to them, and the purposes for which the loans were made. Two folio volumes, 1840-1847, give particulars of cottiers on the Shirley estate. A Manorial Court book records arbitration and other decisions, in disputes between landlord and tenant, and between tenant and tenant. Four volumes of estate improvement books, 1844-1878, detail premiums paid to tenants, etc.



## **O – Ordnance Survey material for Co. Londonderry**

This material, of mysterious provenance, relates to parishes of Co. Londonderry, 1832 and 1834.



## P – Petitions from tenants

These comprise three boxes of mid-19th century petitions to Evelyn John and Evelyn Philip Shirley and their agents from tenants seeking rent abatements, assistance to emigrate, the interposition of the landlord's authority in disputes among tenants or between tenants and neighbouring landholders, general financial assistance, etc.

The aim of the assisted emigration scheme, the brainchild of the agent W.S. Trench, was to reduce the overcrowded estate population. It also reduced the overall rate bill of the estate. The estate office employed passenger agents at ports of embarkation including Liverpool. The estate office collated very useful emigrant lists. At least 1,300 people, in the mid-19th century, were subsidised by the estate to emigrate to England, America, Canada and Australia. The house of the emigrant family was then pulled down, in order to discourage thoughts of returning.

The following is a petition on behalf of Mary Floody, Corrinshigagh, January 1844, who was later helped to go to America:

'[She] ... is in a very deplorable state since last Wednesday lying on a bed of sickness without any person to attend her but her children. The bearer is her eldest son, no food for herself and seven children some of whom are only slowly recovered from a tedious illness. She humbly implores your Honour to have the humanity of looking about otherwise she and children will inevitably be lost ... (a further petition of 11 March 1844 states that she has) ... a large and abandoned family ... husband has exiled himself from the home of his dear family by seeking for employment in a far foreign climate ... is now most anxious to have his large and scattered family restored to him ... . Petitioner is unprotected by the father of a family while the cries of eight craving children daily rings through the wild and destitute cabin that surrounds them.'

A notice on Australian emigration was issued by George Morant, the Shirley agent, on 29 November 1849.

'To be ready and assembled in Carrick the evening previous to the day of departure for Dublin - all to be dressed in suits of new clothing. Boxes to be made for each adult except in the case of two brothers or two sisters when one somewhat larger than the single boxes will suffice. These to be corded. Bonnets strong and cheap for the women. Scotch caps for the men and boys. Shoes, 2 pairs each, except where they may have one reasonably good pair of their own when one will suffice. Two lbs. of soap each. Third class to Dublin from Drogheda. Mr Lane to accompany the emigrants as before and to be provided with the necessary funds. If the emigrants are to pass a night in Dublin, Mr Lane will endeavour to provide for their maintenance at a cheaper rate than the last time. The journey to Drogheda via Ardee by vans or some such conveyance.'

For those interested in this topic, the article in Clogher Record, vol. No. xiii, 1992, 'Assisted Emigration from the Shirley Estate 1843-1854', by P.J. Duffy, is a sine qua non.



## R – Rentals

There are isolated rentals for 1726 and 1771. [For the other pre-1800 rentals, see D3531/A/4.] There is a superbly long and nearly complete run of rentals for the whole period 1800-1940. The following are interesting examples:

The rental for 1771, which is described as 'Rental of Hon. George Shirley's estate', gives denominations, tenants' names, area, terms for which held, and half-yearly rent; besides an alphabetical index of tenants, notes on Irish Acts affecting the relations of landlord and tenant, and general memoranda about the estate.

'... No. 124 Drumbrough Stannous Daniell has 3 Quarters of John McKinlie 2 Acres & pays for them Byrne & Green 2 Acres which they pay no Rent for & James Fitzpatrick 22 Acres which He pays nothing for, on these 22 Acres is Drombroagh Rock which supplies Mr Montgomery's Tenants &c with Lime stone. Note Stannous Daniell said in my hearing that he heard Mr Montgomery say He had engaged in his Leases to get a Road made that his Tenants might Fetch Lime Stone.

John Carolan inform'd Me the grinding of his Malt when He kept the Brewery at the penney Bridge, and a Distillery going, cost him £30. 0s. Od. pr. An. ... his Family consumes two Tons of Oaten Meal; besides Wheaten Bread ... convenient places on Mr Shirley's Estate for Bleach Greens ... Carrick is a general market & Key to supply the North continually with Meal and on Commissions Recd: at Dundalk for Meal, Pork, Butter &c the greatest part is Bought at Carrick & sent to Dundalk. If the Cranes &c were regulated, the markt would be a very great one Yarn Markt improperly conducted. ... Adam Noble lets Lord Waymouth's tolls and customs every alternate year to his Brother in Law Patrick McMahan for 80 Guineas ... & McMahan is said to let them for 130 L. per annum to Silvester Meeghan Mr Shirley's Tenant No. 195 of this Rentall....'



## **S – Surveys, maps, plans and valuations**

There is a large quantity of these, dated 1635, 1655 and c.1720-c.1900. The following are some examples of the vast range of these important documents.

A 1634-1645 survey (made for Robert, Earl of Essex) of the western moiety of the barony of Farney, contains 42 plates, each including from two to six townlands, on which are depicted roads, woods, bogs, lakes, and hills; the Carrickmacross plate shows the castle, church, sessions house, mill, two fairly large houses, and 30 cottages. The plates (which are on a scale of 5p. to 1") are crudely but vividly coloured. This is a copy, dated 1872, the original then being in the possession of the Marquess of Bath.

Next comes a survey of the estates late of Robert [Devereux], Earl of Essex; then divided between Frances [Seymour] Marchioness of Hertford, and Sir Robert Shirley, Bt. Arranged under townlands, each of which is subdivided into parcels, from 2 to 148 acres in extent, arranged according to the quality of the land. A typical entry follows:

'... Mullaghloust

A parcell of Shrub next Mullaghlouste Moymucke 0071 00

A parcell of lowe pasture next Annaghmore 0102 00

A parcell of arable next Killharke 0242 00

A parcell of Shrubb above the lowe pasture 0040 00

A parcell of lowe meddowe 0160 00

A parcell of Moss within the Land 0040 00

A parcell of Bogge pasture with two little Loughs within it 0101 00

A parcell of Arable on the topp of the hill 0060 00

A parcell of arable next Mullaghlouste Moymucke 0030 00

A parcell of Shrubb wood above the Lagan water 0200 00

An other parcell of arable by the River 0120 00

An island of meddowe in the River 0030 00

A parcell of lowe pasture, fitt for meddowe by the River 0060 00

A parcell of lowe boggy pasture next Annagh Ena overflowd in winter 0182 00

[TOTAL] 1442 00

---

Arable in all 0450 00

Pasture in all 055 00

Meddowe in all 0220 00

Profittable ground in all 1221 00

Moss bogge or waste ground 0222 00'

For the period 1790-1793, there are 5 maps of the baronies of Cremorne, Dartrey, Farney, Monaghan, and Trough; in colour, with names of principal landowners; scale, 1" to a mile. These are printed maps, by William McCrea, with hand-colouring. There is also a 1790-1793 map of the whole of Co. Monaghan; in colour, with names of principal landowners, scale, approximately 1" to a mile.

Other more miscellaneous material includes: a map of the Shirley estate in the barony of Farney, 1833; a bundle of papers relating to tithe composition, 1833-1873; a series of 129 maps of townlands on the Shirley estate, 1843-1858; 19 volumes of agricultural visitation books by A. Nelson, George Morant and Evelyn Philip Shirley, 1851-1863; a run of 6 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey maps and portions of maps of Sheets 27, 28, 30, 31, 33 and 34 of Co. Monaghan, many annotated to show the valuation of townlands on the Shirley estate [1858?]; a c.1877 register of the revaluation of the Shirley estate; and printed forms prepared for submission to the Land Commission Court by tenants on the Shirley estate and relating to the fixing of fair rents on the townland of Fartagorman, Co. Monaghan.

In 1843 observations on the Shirley estate were made by W.S. Trench, with comments by Richard Griffith and Charles C. Gibson, and a valuation of the Shirley estate by W.G. Smith. The following extract, written by Trench, the agent, is an interesting insight into how he regarded the tenantry and his ideas on the responsibilities of the landlord:

'I look upon a decent habitation as one of the first steps towards civilisation, and yet on this property there are many tenants' houses where there are neither windows, bedsteads, tables nor chairs, and hundreds destitute of one or more of these comforts, I might rather call them necessaries. How can they then have any idea of the value of comfort and decency? It is true they are accustomed to no better, but still they feel their misery; and being destitute, without any prospect of alleviation, and without knowing how to remedy it, they are servile and fawning whilst under restraint, and wild and reckless and savage whenever that restraint be from whatever cause removed. A decent habitation cannot be had without windows; diet will not appear detestable unless there be good light in the house to point it out. Windows should I think be given to all proper well-conducted tenants, on condition that other improvements be made, one improvement will suggest another, cleanliness and decency within, even of a moderate character, will induce it to be extended further, and you will seldom see a man who has his house and homestead decent who will leave his Land in weeds and neglect. Good advice on these points will never do. The tenant must have some proof that his Landlord really wishes him to live in comfort, really wishes for his advancement, and the only plain common-sense proof that the

Landlord really wishes for these things is, that he should be willing to sacrifice something to obtain them. (W. Steuart Trench, 1843)'



## **T – Tenancy agreements and leases**

These include irregular runs of leases starting from 1738 to 1845, then from 1849-1960.

There appear to be no leases of earlier date in the Shirley archive. However, abstracts of 18 leases, 1592-1706, were included by E.P. Shirley in his 'History of Farney'. Some of the following examples have already been touched on in Section A, 'Antiquarian Compilations'.

In July-August 1777 there is a long run of 89 21-year leases from the major re-letting of the estate, which took place at that time [and the botched nature of which is described in D3531/A/5, pp 31 and 66]. The leases have been arranged according to the Carrickmacross Estate Office's numbered sequence, in which there are many gaps.

On 1 February 1799 there is a run of 24 leases deriving from the next major re-letting of the estate [to which the survey and valuation of 1798-1799 (D3531/S/8-D3531/S/9) were preparatory, and to which the agent's letter at D3531/A/5. P. 96, refers]. The leases are in no particular Estate Office order, and all bear the same date. Most of the leases are granted to lessees 'in common', so that each is signed or 'marked' by up to a dozen tenants.

On 1 February 1799 there are 16 more of the same, with townland names and dates of subsequent lettings, in 1819 or 1824, endorsed on the back of each lease. The leases have been arranged alphabetically by townland.

Dated 1849-1960 is a box of miscellaneous, relatively modern leases, tenancy agreements, grazing agreements, etc.



## V – Vouchers

These amount to no less than 23 boxes containing original bundles of vouchers, 1830-1952, many of them including rental accounts, labourers' accounts, etc. In addition, box 22, 1893-1897 and 1906-1910, contains papers concerning employers' liability insurance payments.



## **W – Wills, settlements, etc**

A half-full box of wills, settlements and related accounts, 1829-1842 and 1882-1904, is arranged as follows: original bundle of 'Miscellaneous papers during the agency of Mr Alexander Mitchell - wills, etc', 1829-1842 [these wills all appear to have been made by tenants on the Shirley estate]; will, with subsequent codicil, of E.P. Shirley [pre-1882] and 1882; papers about the financial affairs of the Macdonald family of St Martins, Perthshire [the family of Mrs Sewallis Evelyn Shirley], 1891, 1893 and 1897; will of S.E. Shirley, 1896; and papers about the financial affairs of S.E. Shirley just after his death in 1904. [A bundle of earlier wills, 1509-1778, remains in family possession.]

It should be noted that much more work needs to be done on what is in family possession and also on the Irish material which has found its way into the Warwickshire Record Office (where it has been fully listed) along with the archive from Ettington Park.

The Warwickshire Record Office material.

The following is a rough list of the principal components:

Box 2/1 Farney rentals, 1777, 1800, 1802 and N.D. (3 vols).

Box 2/2 Farney rentals, 1735-1822 (1 bundle).

Box 2/2 Fragment of deed concerning land at Farney, N.D.

Box 2/2 Deed concerning land in East Omagh, Co. Tyrone, 1858.

Box 3/1 Description of the town of Carrickmacross and neighbourhood, 1814.

Box 3/1 Copy of the marriage settlement of Neil Malcolm and Louisa Shirley, 1843.

Box 3/1 Schedule of deed concerning estates in Ireland, including Farney, c.1798.

Box 6 Bundle of documents, 1785-1851, concerning that part of the Irish estates belonging to Charles Shirley in 1851.

Box 7/1 Bundle of miscellaneous papers concerning the Farney estate, 1706-1829.

Box 7/1 11 Farney estate deeds, 1785-1850.

Box 7/1 Copy of the registry of the foregoing, 1850.

Box 7/1 Bundle of deeds, not necessary for title, concerning estates in Co. Monaghan, 1731-1810.

Box 7/2 Papers concerning the insurance of Lough Fea House and Shirley House [Carrickmacross], 1836-1880.

Box 7/2 Bundle of abstracts of title to various parts of the estates in Co. Monaghan previously belonging to Robert, 6th Earl Ferrers, 1841-1850.

Box 7/2 Farney deeds, 1717-1866 (1 bundle and 3 loose).

Box 7/3 Schedule and bundle of deeds in connection with a mortgage for £25,000 secured on the Farney estate, 1850.

Box 7/3 Ditto concerning an additional charge of £10,000, 1850-1866.

Box 7/3 Bundle of copy deeds concerning Farney, 1620-1800.

Box 12/2 Two bundles of deeds and papers concerning the partition of the Farney estate in 1851, 1846-1850.

Box 12/3 Bundles of deeds concerning various estates in Co. Monaghan, 1810-1850.

Box 13/2 Bundle of correspondence partly concerning the appointment of Evelyn John Shirley as sheriff of Co. Monaghan, 1835.

Box 16/1 Copy of the part of the valuation of all Ireland concerning the Farney estate, 1840.

Box 16/1 Printed valuation of the Farney estate, 1840.

Box 16/1 Bundle of receipts and vouchers concerning various Irish estates, 1835.

Box 16/1 Accounts concerning the estates at Lough Fea, 1842-1854.

Box 16/1 Ditto at Farney [sic], 1810-1850.

Box 16/2 Irish Society Papers: 10 volumes of journals of Protestant mission schools, 1837-1839.

Box 16/2 Bundle of leaflets, papers and correspondence concerning the management of the Beresford Trust for building and restoring Protestant churches, 1874-1881.

Box 17/1-2 Miscellaneous 19th-century bills concerning all the Shirley properties, in Warwickshire, Ireland and London.

Box 17/1-2 Deed concerning Farney, 1859.

Box 17/1-2 Two bundles of solicitors' correspondence concerning Farney, 1850-1865.

Box 18/2 Deeds, with schedule, in connection with the trust established in 1835 before the marriage of James Hewitt, 4th Viscount Lifford, of which Evelyn Philip Shirley was a trustee, 1858.

Box 18/2 Papers concerning the partition of the Farney estate, 1845-1851.

Box 18/4/21 Deed relating to property in Dublin and to Richard Daly of Dublin and Charles, Viscount Dillon, 1797.

Box 18/4/22 Certificate of doctorate of theology from T.C.D. to William, Bishop of Killala, 1784.

Box 18/5 Bundle of deeds concerning estates in Co. Monaghan, 1825-1855.

Box 18/5 Schedule of deeds deposited with Messrs Coutts & Co. concerning the barony of Farney, 1850.

Box 18/5 Bundle of papers concerning Evelyn John Shirley's title to estates in Ireland, 1836-1851.

Box 18/5 Two bundles of correspondence concerning mortgage of estates in Co. Monaghan, 1859-1890.

Box 18/5 Fire insurance policy for Lough Fea House, 1888.

Box 18/5 List of various rent valuations, apparently for the Irish estates, N.D.

Item 113 Volume of Farney accounts, 1837-1843.

Item 114 Box of Farney accounts and rentals, 1860-1879.

Item 115 Box of agents' letters concerning Farney, 1859-1880.

Item 120/7 Coloured view of house and grounds at Doohaty, Co. Monaghan N.D.

Item 120/8 Elevations and sections of the proposed bookcases for the library at Lough Fea, signed 'George Thomson', N.D.

Item 123/1 Map of the west part of the barony of Farney, the joint estate of the Hon. Robert Shirley, George Shirley, Sewallis Shirley and John Shirley Esqs., '... surveyed, valued and set in the year of our Lord 1734, and divided into four equal shares or lots and mapped in the year of our Lord 1735 by ... John Mackay ...'. Parchment, part coloured, 68" x 70". Inset: a plan of the west side of Carrickmacross, delineated from a scale of 100 ft to the inch, with a key giving tenants' names [Lord Weymouth's side of the town is left blank]. Total area: 18,234 acres, plantation measure; 29,941 acres, English statute measure.

Item 123/2 Map of the west moiety of the barony of Farney, surveyed in 1789-1790 by J. & H. Clarke. Includes an elaborate schedule, giving field or place names in Irish and English, and areas in Irish and English measure. Parchment, 36" c 29". Inset: a prospect of the town of Carrickmacross, drawn in pencil.

Item 217 Collection of 19th century prints of the hall at Lough Fea.

Item 222 Large box of Irish estate papers, containing:

Five bundles of leases of parts of Farney, for terms of 21 years, 1770 and 1777.

Three small boxes of loose leases, 1799.

Bundle of loose leases, 1792-1825.

Bundle of loose leases, 1729-1829.

Blank form for a lease, N.D.

Letters of attorney and bonds, relating to the agency for the Irish estates (1 bundle and 4 loose papers), 1769-1833.

Bundle of draft deeds relating to Farney, 1854-1859.

Bundle of draft leases of the gypsum mines on the estate, 1825-1844.

Bundle of statements concerning the costs of the partition of the Farney estate, 1846-1851.

Bundle of correspondence relating to the gypsum mines at Farney, 1857-1858.

Anonymous note book, 1778.

