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INTRODUCTION

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Anglesey Papers (D619)

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Summary

The Anglesey Papers comprise an Irish estate archive, mainly relating to Co. Louth, 1611, 1639 and 1660-1858, and the archive of the 1st Marquess of Anglesey as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, 1838-1829 and 1830-1833. The Irish estate archive constitutes D619/1-24, and the Viceregal papers D619/25-43. The entire archive consists of c.12,700 documents (with much duplication as far as the Viceregal papers are concerned) and c.50 volumes (also with much duplication).



The Irish estate



*Henry Paget,
2nd Earl of Uxbridge*

The Anglesey estate in Ireland derived from the lordships of Newry and Mourne in Cos Down and Louth which were granted to Sir Nicholas Bagenal in 1552. It descended to his great-grandson, another Nicholas, who named two cousins, George Needham and Edward Bayly, as his co-heirs. After Nicholas Bagenal's death in 1712, Bayly took over the running of the estates (Needham being then in Jamaica). In 1715 they were divided: the Bagenal property in Wales (Plas Newydd and the estate on Anglesey, etc) the Cooley and Omeath estates, Co. Louth, four townlands in the Newry area of Co. Down and property in the town of Galway, all went to Bayly; while the main part of the Newry estate and the Kilkeel estate, Co. Down (i.e. the lion's share of the Irish property), went to Needham. It is documented in PRONI's Kilmorey archive (the Needhams were created Earls of Kilmorey in 1822), D2638.

Edward Bayly was created a baronet in 1730. He died in 1741, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Nicholas, 2nd Bt. Nicholas's eldest son (Henry) by his wife Caroline Paget, succeeded (in right of his mother) to the Barony of Paget de Beaudesert in 1769, and thereafter took the name Paget instead of Bayly. After his father's death (1783), Henry succeeded to the Paget estates in Staffordshire and elsewhere, and was subsequently created Earl of Uxbridge (1784). He died in 1812 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Henry William, 2nd Earl of Uxbridge, who was created Marquess of Anglesey (1815) in honour of his contribution to the victory of Waterloo.



Degrees of absenteeism

There are some 17th century documents relating to the Bagenal family, mainly title deeds, leases and rentals. The bulk of the Irish estate archive, however, relates to the period 1712-1858, and runs from the time of Edward Bayly's inheritance of the property to its sale by Henry, 2nd Marquess of Anglesey, in 1858. There is a greater degree of remoteness between landlord and tenant in the days of Lord Uxbridge and his son, the 1st Marquess, than in those of Sir Edward and Sir Nicholas Bayly, who appear (especially Sir Edward) to have spent a substantial part of their time in Ireland. Otherwise they resided at Plas Newydd, Anglesey. The additional inheritance of the Paget



1st Marquess of Anglesey

estates probably made it inconvenient for the 1st Earl of Uxbridge to spend much time in Ireland, where his estate was after all small compared to the others in Wales and Staffordshire. His successor, the 1st Marquess, did spend time in Ireland because he was twice Lord Lieutenant, and developed a strong, almost emotional, attachment to the place. Although the Irish estate appears to have been a financial burden of no small degree during the 1840s, he was generous in contributing to educational and agricultural projects connected with it. It was probably no coincidence that the Irish estate was not sold until after his death in 1854.



Galway

The documentation of the Galway estate - in reality a small group of houses in Galway town - is not extensive, and consists of title deeds, 1724-1790, rentals and accounts, 1727-1773, estate and legal papers, 1729-1789, and correspondence, 1739-1790 and 1822. The houses seem to have been in generally bad repair throughout the 18th century, and the last documents in this section, dated 1822, refer to a move by the inhabitants to improve the 'dreadful state of the town'. The early correspondence (1739-1741) is mainly between agents and Sir Edward Bayly. A dispute over some leases is the subject of a series of letters (1789-1790) between the brothers, Robert and Thomas Eyre of Eyreville, Co. Galway, Lord Uxbridge and his lawyers.



Co. Louth

The Louth estate material begins with title deeds, 1611-1840, including a Bagenal marriage settlement, 1611, the letters patent of Charles I granting all the Irish estates to Arthur Bagenal, 1637 (and a patent of James II confirming this grant), and mortgages and related deeds involving the Bayly family, 1715-1756, etc. Deriving from, and relating to, some of these deeds, are legal case papers and other legal papers, 1716-1841, notably a case paper in Bayly -v- Needham, 1716, concerning an article in the deed of 1715 partitioning the estate, and papers of 1726 in a case brought against both Bayly and Needham, as executors of Nicholas Bagenal and hingeing on 'the custom of North Wales'.



Maps, rentals, accounts, leases, etc

There are maps, surveys and valuations of all or parts of the Anglesey estate in Ireland, 1783-1858, including two sets of surveys made of all the estate in 1783-1784 and 1838, and notes, statements, valuations and accounts, 1840-1858, all in preparation for the sale of the estate in 1858. Rentals, lists of arrears, agents' accounts etc., survive – in one form or another – in an abundance which provides very full information on the entire Bagenal estate, 1688-1714, and on the Bayly/Anglesey part of it, 1715-1753; there is also a complete run, 1810-1855, of rentals for the four townlands in the Newry area of Co. Down, Crobane, Derrylacka, Dysarts and Sheeptown, which formed part of the Anglesey estate but seem to have been let by the Angleseys to the Needhams. Bills and receipts for salaries, annuities, allowances and general estate expenditure survive for 1735-1795 and, in a more formal layout (because submitted for audit to the head agent in London, Thomas Beer), for 1814-1858. The surviving leases are spread over the long period 1660-1846, and there are some tenants' attornments, 1712-1778, many tenants' proposals, 1734-1841, particularly centring on the major re-lettings of the estate in 1735 and 1765, and many tenants' petitions, 1766-1851, generally for financial assistance or rent reductions, but some of them seeking help in disputes with neighbours.



Hospitals, education, church and railway

Other material of a more general and miscellaneous nature has been artificially grouped under the headings 'Hospitals', 1770-1851, 'Education', 1760-1850, 'Church', 1714-1754, and 'Carlingford Railway', 1845. These mainly relate, respectively, to: the Louth Infirmary, a very early (c.1770) foundation; the mid-18th century request of the inhabitants of Omeath for a schoolmaster, and correspondence (1840-1842) about the setting-up of Omeath National School; the living of Kilkeel (1714-1827), the building of Omeath Church (1835-1843) and letters and papers (1806-1853) about subscriptions for religious purposes, tithe composition, etc.; and an abortive scheme for a railway from Newry to Carlingford through the Anglesey estate, 1845. This still leaves some genuinely general and miscellaneous material, 1700-1851, including an 18th century list of the townlands in the manor and liberty of Carlingford, and a dozen reports from, or sets of directions to, the Irish agents, 1759-1846, notably a set of reports to Lord Paget of 1783.



Agents' letters

What is most noteworthy about the Anglesey estate archive are the long runs of agents' correspondence which it contains. For the 18th century this amounts to over 600 letters, 1714-1799, and for the 19th century over 1,000, 1800-1855. Some comment on the dramatis personae of this correspondence may be of use.

John Bayly was the main estate agent from 1721, after Sir Edward Bayly's dismissal of Nicholas Bagenal's agent, Hans Hamilton, who appears to have been something of a crook. No mention is made of another estate agent between 1740 and 1765, and it is difficult to say whether there was any intervening person between John Bayly and John Hutcheon, who first appears in 1765. Nor is it clear whether John Bayly was directly related to the main Bayly family or not. It seems probably that he was: his use of language and the quality of his handwriting show that he was a well-educated man. James Rooney, whose letters run from 1737 to 1756 (and refer to Louth politics as well as estate business), was the Dublin 'man of business', dealing with the Baylys' legal and estate affairs and acting with authority in Sir Nicholas Bayly's absence, when he kept Sir Nicholas well informed of the general political and economic state of affairs in Ireland. In c.1765, John Hutcheon became main estate agent, followed in c.1783 by his son, Robert (whose letters include references to a scheme for a harbour and dry dock at Omeath, 1785-1786). The legal agents during the second half of the 18th century were Thomas Harrison, later J. Garth, and at the turn of the century, John Sanderson. Capt. John Murray, whose letters run from 1716 to 1764, was a nephew of Sir Edward Bayly, while Rev. Edward Bayly, Dean of Ardfert, whose letters run from 1757 to 1784, was Sir Edward's second son. Terence Hanlon and his son, James, were sub-agents for a small part of the estates, c.1732-1790, as was Terence Murphy, most of whose letters refer to the progress of a coal-mining project at Carlingford, 1733-1737.



The 19th-century agents

The pattern of the correspondence changes in the 19th century owing to the fact that most of the business was conducted through the chief agent, Thomas Beer, who referred only important matters to Lord Uxbridge/Anglesey. Beer normally resided at Uxbridge House, London, and supervised all the family's legal and estate affairs. The 'estate' agents on the spot in Ireland were Colonel W. Armstrong (to 1840) and A.W. Rutherford (from 1841). William Lower and Henry Moxton, whose letters run from 1835 to 1855, were the London solicitors, most of whose correspondence refers to the mortgages on the Irish property. Leonard Dobbin was Anglesey's Irish solicitor, c.1838-1854. W.M. Maxton and the Rt Hon. Anthony Blake, who feature briefly, were not agents: the latter was a friend who 'looked after' the Irish estate during the period between Colonel Armstrong's death (August 1840) and Rutherford's appointment in his stead (early 1841).



The Two Anglesey viceroyalties



Lord Holland

The more celebrated 19th century correspondence in the Anglesey papers is of course that deriving from the viceroyalties of the 1st Marquess. He was originally appointed Lord Lieutenant under the short-lived Canning administration of 1827, and was re-appointed by the Tory government which succeeded, under the premiership of his former comrade-in-arms, the Duke of Wellington. His first viceroyalty witnessed the peak of the mass agitation orchestrated by Daniel O'Connell and, under a variety of different names, the Catholic Association. The most important event of the viceroyalty was the Co. Clare by-election of 1828, when O'Connell was triumphantly returned. In this heady atmosphere, Anglesey became a convert to Catholic Emancipation a little sooner than the Duke of Wellington, or rather a little sooner than the Duke of Wellington wished this to be avowed as government policy; and in consequence Anglesey was peremptorily recalled at the beginning of 1829. Until then he had not been a 'party man', in spite of his personal association with the Whig grandee, the 3rd Lord Holland. There therefore was no inconsistency in his accepting re-appointment as Lord Lieutenant under the Whig, 'Reform Bill' administration of the 2nd Earl Grey.

His second viceroyalty, 1830-1833, was preoccupied with the Irish component of the Great Reform Bill/Act, agitation for Repeal of the Union, anti-tithe disturbances, tithe reform, an inter-related reduction in and possible diversion of the financial resources of the Church of Ireland, the introduction into Ireland of lord lieutenancies (called in Ireland, for obvious reasons, lieutenancies) and deputy-lieutenancies of counties, on the British model, the demands for patronage which this reform and other events (such as vacancies in the Irish representative peerage) engendered, etc., etc. Anglesey's advanced views, sharpened by what he regarded as the injustice done him in 1829 and by association with Irishmen of fairly extreme opinions (notably Valentine Lawless, 2nd Lord Cloncurry, who had been in United Irishman in his youth), brought him into frequent collision, not only with many of the 'Ascendancy' politicians and political families in Ireland, but also sometimes with the Whig government, particularly the Home Secretary, the 2nd Viscount Melbourne.



A soldier with a literary bent

In spite of the rationalisation which PRONI has carried out, the Viceregal correspondence remains slightly tricky to use because it appears in so many different and overlapping shapes and forms. For a military man, the 1st Marquess was greatly given to voluminous letter-writing and to bureaucratic duplication: with the result that in-letters are often present, not only in the original but in the form of contemporary copies entered into letter-books; and out-letters can be present in the form of bound contemporary copies and/or bound damp-press copies and/or loose contemporary copies. Augmenting this proliferation are the many modern typescript copies made by or for the present Marquess of Anglesey in the course of his research for his biography, *One-Leg: the Life and Letters of Henry William Paget, 1st Marquess of Anglesey, KG, 1768-1854* (London, 1961), many of them typescript copies of letters which are present in archives other than the Anglesey Papers. In the arrangement of the papers, the letters have been placed in a kind of descending order, starting from the version nearest to the contemporary original. But it is necessary to check every form in which a letter could possibly appear in order to make sure of not missing it. Many letters have been transcribed by PRONI in a calendar available on the shelves of the Public Search Room.



Well-known correspondents

Perhaps the most frank and intimate section of the correspondence is the c.400 letters which passed between Anglesey and Lord Holland, 1827-1839. Correspondence with official colleagues (which for part of the time Holland was too) can be categorised as follows: correspondence, January 1828-February 1829, during the first viceroyalty with 'Ministers', including the Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel, William Huskisson, etc., but also including the Commander of the Forces in Ireland, General Sir John Byng and, as enclosures in the Peel letters, opinions of the British Law Officers; correspondence, September 1827-August 1833, with Anglesey's successive Chief Secretaries (during both viceroyalties), William Lamb (later 2nd Viscount Melbourne), 1827-1828, Lord Francis Leveson Gower (later 1st Earl of Ellesmere), 1829-1829, E.G. Stanley (later 14th Earl of Derby), 1830-1833, Sir John Cam Hobhouse, 2nd Bt (later 1st Lord Broughton), 1833, and E.J. Littleton (later 1st Lord Hatherton), 1833; correspondence, November 1830-1833, with the Home Secretary, Lord Melbourne (formerly the Chief Secretary, William Lamb); and correspondence, November 1830-October 1833, with the Prime Minister, Lord Grey.



Miscellaneous and patronage correspondence

Less readily definable is Anglesey's general, miscellaneous and patronage correspondence while Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. This includes: general correspondence, 1827-1833 (with some letters before and after those dates), with the Duke of Richmond, Lords Cloncurry, Donoughmore, Rossmore, Sligo and Westmeath, Sir Harcourt Lees, Generals Sir John Byng (again) and Sir George Murray, Daniel O'Connell, etc., mainly on fairly important political matters; a series of petitions, January-March 1829, on Catholic Emancipation; miscellaneous memoranda, 1828-1834 and thereafter, by Anglesey, Lord Cloncurry, etc., on the state of Ireland (particularly Co. Clare during the election campaign of 1828), troops, education, constabulary, tithes, the payment of the Roman Catholic clergy, the finances of the Church of Ireland, etc.; correspondence, June 1829 and April-December 1830, about elections in Cos Louth and Down (and deriving as much from the Anglesey estate as from Anglesey's position as Lord Lieutenant); correspondence, December 1827-August 1834, conducted by Dublin Castle Under-Secretaries and Anglesey's private secretaries (Colonel Sir William Gosset, Sir Frederick Stovin, Baron Tuyll, etc.), mainly of a fairly routine nature, but including an original bundle of letters, May-August 1831, to Baron Tuyll about the general election, with particular reference to Dublin City and Cos Donegal and Londonderry; and loose letters making, and bound volumes recording, patronage requests (including two numbered series of letters, amounting to over 3,500, making such requests during the second viceroyalty alone).



Cellar books and others

In addition, there are: a small bundle of Irish Treasury accounts (of uncertain *raison d'être*), 1725-1727, Viceregal household accounts, 1828-1829 and 1830-1835; three cellar books for Dublin Castle and the Viceregal Lodge, Phoenix Park, and a garden account book for the latter, 1828-1833; and sundry formal addresses to Anglesey, with his replies, 1828-1829 and 1830-1833.

