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INTRODUCTION

ANNAGHMAKERRIG PAPERS

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Arnnaghmakerrig Papers (D3585)

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Summary

The Annaghmakerrig papers contain c.40 volumes and c.1,000 documents, comprising papers of the Moorhead and Power families of Annaghmakerrig, Co. Monaghan, mainly 1804-1930s.

The last and most famous private owner of the house was the distinguished 'man of the theatre', Sir Tyrone Guthrie, whose mother was the heiress of the Powers. Annaghmakerrig is now administered by the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, a company formed in July 1979 to carry into effect the provisions of Sir Tyrone Guthrie's will. These were, as regards the house, that it should be run as a centre or retreat for artists. Among the trustees are the Directors of the Arts Councils (North and South), and Mr Kenneth Jamison, then Director of the Arts Council in the North, approached PRONI with a view to obtaining help with the unsorted and very miscellaneous papers to be found in various parts of the house.



Family history

The Annaghmakerrig property, which had a rental of only some £500 in the late 19th century, was bought in 1802 by Dr John Moorhead a local G.R, of 'strong farming' background. It appears to have passed to his son James Moorhead, and subsequently to John Moorhead, a son of either James Moorhead or Professor John Moorhead. Professor Moorhead seems to have practised medicine in America, where he also acquired property, in Cincinnati. He held a professorship in the Medical College of Ohio.

The John Moorhead who succeeded to Annaghmakerrig, was a J.P. for Co. Monaghan, and had at least two daughters, one of whom, Martha, his eventual heiress, married in 1859 William Power, son of Tyrone Power, the well known Irish actor. This Tyrone Power was a very popular comic actor in Ireland, Britain and America. Unfortunately he perished in the wreck of the *U.S.S. President*, c.1840. Diaries, assiduously kept by the actor, were either lost with him on the ship or elsewhere. Either way, their absence from PRONI or Annaghmakerrig leaves a gap that is irreplaceable both for family and theatre history. But at least Tyrone Power did leave behind him a theatrical tradition which re-emerged after two generations.



General Sir William Power (1819–1916)

For the moment, a military tradition seemed to be establishing itself. William Power entered the army and served in China in 1843 and again in 1857-1858, in the Crimean War in 1856, etc, etc. He rose to be Commissary General in Chief (1864-1870) and Director of Supplies and Transport (1870-1871). He was knighted in 1865, and was appointed Agent-General for New Zealand in 1876. In right of his wife's Co. Monaghan property, he was a J.P. and D.L. for that county. But he seems not to have lived much at Annaghmakerrig. After her death in 1890, he took up residence at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, in a house called Kilmore. In his absence, his estate affairs were looked after by his solicitor and relation, James Whiteside Dane of Killyhevlin, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh.

Sir William and Lady Power had a number of children: John Moorhead Power, the eldest, who was killed in the Great War in 1916; Tyrone Power, who was killed in the Boer War in 1900 (Sir Tyrone Guthrie was obviously called after him); Susan Power, a femme formidable and suffragette, who remained unmarried and kept house for her father in Tunbridge Wells; 'Kitten' and Annie Power; and Nora Power, the mother of Sir Tyrone Guthrie. Through his mother, Guthrie inherited the Annaghmakerrig property, or what Land Purchase had left of it. Under the provisions of his will, it has become a residential centre for artists from all parts of the world.



The archive

The papers fall into three main groups: papers relating to members of the Moorhead family, papers relating to the Power family, and in particular Sir William Power, and papers relating to estate matters, mainly to Annaghmakerrig.

The Moorhead family archive includes: papers, 1804-1859, relating to the medical career of Professor John Moorhead; letters of a mainly personal nature, 1817-1841, to Mrs Susan Humphries, who married either Professor Moorhead or his son John; and letters from Sir William Power to his future wife Martha Moorhead and her mother, c.1850-1872.

The papers pertaining to the Power family relate largely to the career of Sir William during the Crimean War and throughout the Empire, 1819-c.1916. They include: his official papers of appointment, etc., 1858-1865, papers relating to his distinguished military career spent mainly in the Commissariat Department as Commissary-General-in-Chief, 1864-1870; official correspondence and papers relating to his military career in Hong Kong, New Zealand, the Cape of Good Hope, British South Africa, and various parts of the Turkish empire where he was engaged in the establishment of military supply depots during the Crimean War, and to general Commissariat and military affairs, 1841-1876; and letters from Sir William to a War Office official, most of them dating from his period as Commissary General which refer to his military career and relate to the Crimea, Hong Kong and Canada, and to general Commissariat and military affairs, 1854-1871.



Mainly non-military papers of Sir William Power

Political papers and correspondence relate in the main to Sir William's proposed Liberal candidature (which was eventually abandoned) for the Co. Monaghan election of 1880, and to his appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant for the county in 1881. These papers contain references to contemporary issues, particularly Tenant Right and Home Rule, and include correspondence with the 1st Earl of Dartrey and Dr James Donnelly, Roman Catholic Bishop of Clogher, 1865-1881. There are diaries and journals, 1836-1850, 1864-1871 and 1886-1895, of Sir William, of which the first group relates to journeys made by him, either for pleasure or on official military business, to the West Indies, the United States, Gibraltar, Spain and the Indies. One diary includes an account of the condition of Co. Monaghan at the end of the Famine in 1849.

The second group relates to his personal and official life in a period during most of which he was Commissary-General, and the third group relates to life during his retirement and includes references to the business ventures in which he was involved. There is a notebook, c.1840-1875, kept by Sir William, containing details of the structure of the Commissariat and other supply departments in the armed forces, with press-cuttings, a draft or copy letter on Canadian constitutional development, c.1865, and an examination by Sir William of the Irish Land Question, 1874. There are also papers of Sir William Power's son, John Power, a mining engineer, relating to his involvement in a silver mining scheme near Cordoba, Spain, 1901.



Annaghmakerrig maps, plans and surveys

Maps, plans and surveys include: a volume of maps of the Leysborough later called Annaghmakerrig estate, surveyed by James Reilly, together with a survey of the Leysborough demesne part of the estate of James Moorhead, by John Dolan 1821. There are written surveys of various parts of the Leysborough estate by John Dolan and by John Wright, including parts of Aghalough, 1821 and 1823, part of Mullaghmore 1825, and of part of Faltagh 1821 and 1828. Architect's tracings of c.1900 relate to the house at Annaghmakerrig and out-offices at Mullaghmore.



Other estate and business papers

Other more general estate and business papers include: wills and settlements, concerning the Power family, particularly Lady Power and her children, and the Annaghmakerrig estate, 1859-1873; account books, 1875-1896; letters from Sir William Power, mainly at Tunbridge Wells, (where he lived after his wife's death) to his solicitor and agent, James Whiteside Dane, about Annaghmakerrig estate affairs, 1878-1913; letters to Dane from other members of the Power/Guthrie family, from the bailiff or steward at Annaghmakerrig and from various solicitors, tenants, etc., about Annaghmakerrig estate affairs, 1892-1916; agreements, accounts, etc., mostly relating to land purchase on the Annaghmakerrig estate, 1895-1922; and letters to M. Corrigan, the steward or bailiff at Annaghmakerrig, about estate affairs in the 1930s.

The non-Monaghan estate and business papers of the Power family include: papers relating to their London houses, 1839-1841 and 1881-1891; and papers relating to the winding-up of the United States estate of the late John Moorehead, father-in-law of Sir William Power, c.1871-1891. There are also miscellaneous papers which include an agreement between William Smith and his wife, Mary, of the island of Nevis, and the Hon. William Leslie Hamilton, of the island of St Christopher, relating to the purchase of tenements in London, 1779; the will of Mary Smith of St Christopher, 1785; and a diary of Andre Allen Murray, apparently a member of the minor gentry, which describes his social activities and his participation in various blood-sports in Cos Monaghan, Down, Tyrone and Fermanagh, 1836-1840.



Material at Annaghmakerrig

The following is a list made by PRONI of archive material still at Annaghmakerrig, beginning with family and personal correspondence of Sir William and Lady Power and other members of their family. This includes: letters to Lady Power from Sir William while he was on a trip to the United States in 1872; undated and fairly indecipherable letters from Lady Power to Sir William; letters to Lady Power, with a couple to Sir William, from Susan Moorhead; journal of Elizabeth Foster and letters to her from Lady Power; letters to Dr N. Foster of Cincinnati from Sir William Power; a few personal letters to Lady Power from friends and acquaintances, including two from the redoubtable Augusta Dawson, Countess of Dartrey, of Dartrey, Rockcorry, Co. Monaghan; letters from John Moorhead Power ('Jack') to his parents, from school at Hillside, Godalming, and subsequently at Wellington College, and later about his marriage into what appears to have been the English landed gentry, and about professional or business pursuits in London and New York; letters from Tyrone Power ('Ty', 'Tie', et al.) to his parents from the same schools, almost all of them juvenile; letters from Susan, 'Kitten', Annie and Nora Power to their parents; letters from Sir William Power to his daughter, Susan ('Suzie'), with a few letters from Lady Power to Susan – a fat bundle; letters from brothers and sisters, and others, to Susan Power, and miscellaneous jottings by her; letters of condolence to Sir William Power on Lady Power's death, 1890; and diaries of Lady Power.

Estate and business papers at Annaghmakerrig include: the marriage settlement of [Sir William Power's sister?]; a further run of letters from Sir William Power and other members of the Power family and some outsiders, to J. Whiteside Dane, mainly about Annaghmakerrig; and further miscellaneous Annaghmakerrig estate material consisted of some curiously sewn-up certificates entitling people to employment on road works during the Famine, and runs of agents' accounts and stock accounts for the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Mainly literary Power and Guthrie papers

Plays, stories, poems and ephemera of members of the Power family, including the manuscripts of a story and a play by Sir William Power; Guthrie family papers, consisting of 3 copies of privately printed correspondence of Rev. Dr Thomas Guthrie, a Scottish divine, and grandfather of Sir Tyrone Guthrie, and 1880s and 1890s letters to Dr Guthrie of a fairly 'court and personal' kind, including 2 or 3 from the Duchess of Argyll; folder of papers on the genealogy of the Moorhead, Power, Ouseley and other related families; family photographs, mostly of named Powers and Guthries, and 5 photograph albums of Annaghmakerrig; papers of Sir Tyrone and Lady Guthrie (most of these have been tied up or boxed by Guthrie's official biographer, James Forsyth); tall pile of tied-up scripts, texts of talks, etc, by Guthrie; smaller pile of scripts by other people, presumably submitted for his opinion.; and photographs of the Guthries or of theatrical performances and occasions with which they were connected.

