



Public Record Office
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INTRODUCTION

BLAYNEY/HOPE PAPERS

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Blayney /Hope Papers (D1421, D1406 and D971)

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Summary



Old Castleblayney

The Blayney/Hope papers comprise c.3,000 documents, 1639-1950, relating to the Blayney estate at Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan (part of which was sold to the Upton family, Lords Templetow, of Templepatrick, Co. Antrim, in 1723 and the rest to the Hope family in 1853), elsewhere in Co. Monaghan, and in Carrickfergus and Cullybackey, Co. Antrim. Additional records, from another source, the office of John Corrigan, Solicitor, Castleblayney (D/1406), comprise a rental with accounts of Mrs Anne Hope's estate at Castleblayney, 1878-1879, and cash books of the 8th Duke of Newcastle's estate at Castleblayney, 1931-1943. There are also some Templetown records (D/971, etc) which add a little more information to the Blayney papers proper. By 1876, the former Blayney estate at Castleblayney was owned by Viscount Templetown with 12,846 acres and Mrs Anne Hope of Castleblayney with 11,700 acres.



Family history

It is hard to dissent from the verdict of E.P. Shirley that 'The consequences of the rebellion of 1641 and the revolution of 1688 were hardly less disastrous to the loyal [from E.P. Shirley's perspective] family of Blayney than they were to the native chiefs and others of the Irish who still retained their property ...'.

The following account of the Blayneys has been taken from *The Monaghan Story* by Peadar Livingstone.

'Edward Blayney the governor of Monaghan was granted the thirty-two townlands of Ballynalurgan and in 1611 he obtained the termon of Muckno as well. Blayney built a castle, around which a Planter village soon began to grow up. This was the origin of the present town of Castleblayney. Permission was granted to hold fairs and markets in 1613 and in 1617. Castleblayney remained a village consisting of a few shops and inns and a collection of thatched cabins centred round the present Market Square till the closing quarter of the 18th century.

The Blayney family claimed descent from Cadwallader, king of Cambria. Edward, the first of the Blayneys in Ireland and the founder of the town, became Baron Blayney of Monaghan on 29 July 1621. He died on 11 February 1629 and was succeeded by his son Lord Henry who took his seat in the Irish House of Lords in 1634. His castle was attacked by the Irish rebels under Hugh Mac Patrick Dubh MacMahon on 21 October 1641. Blayney made his escape and was one of the first to inform the authorities in Dublin that a rising had taken place. His wife and children were captured. Lord Henry Blayney was killed at the battle of Benburb in 1646 and his son, Edward, became the 3rd Lord Blayney. Edward sold both the family's estates in Monaghan and Castleblayney to Thomas Vincent, a London merchant, in 1649 and 1653.

In 1653 Richard brother of Edward married Thomas Vincent's daughter and she brought the estates back to the Blayney family as a wedding present. Richard's son Henry Vincent became 5th Lord Blayney in 1680 and he sold off most of the Monaghan estate which, after passing through the Cairnes, Murray, and Cuninghame families, was inherited by the Westenras who became the Lords Rossmore. Henry Vincent fled Castleblayney at the outbreak of the Williamite Wars and was chosen as commander-in-chief of the Protestant forces raised to defend Monaghan and Armagh against King James II. Henry Vincent died in 1689.

His brother William succeeded him as 6th Lord Blayney and he was the first of the family to be buried in Castleblayney. His son and successor Cadwallader sold part of the Castleblayney estate to the Uptons, Lords Templetown, in 1723 and died in 1732. His son Charles Talbot became the 8th Lord Blayney. He was a clergyman and was both Rector of Muckno and Dean of Killaloe. He died in 1761. His brother Cadwallader became the 9th Lord Blayney and he was a distinguished soldier. Cadwallader was succeeded by two of his sons, Cadwallader who became the 10th Lord in 1775 and Andrew Thomas who became the 11th Lord in 1784.

The 11th Lord, Andrew Thomas, was perhaps the most famous Blayney of all. He ruled the estate for fifty years from 1784 to 1834. He was one of the most illustrious soldiers ever to come from Co. Monaghan and as commander of the 89th Regiment of Foot, 'Blayney's Bloodhounds' as they were called, he fought with distinction in the Napoleonic Wars. He was taken prisoner when making a raid from Gibraltar into Spain and was kept prisoner for some years by the French government. He wrote a two-volume account of his experiences in the Napoleonic Wars [*Narrative of a Forced Journey through Spain and France as a Prisoner of War in the Years 1810 to 1814, by Major-General Lord Blayney* (London, 1814)]. He was captured by one of the O'Callaghans of Culaville, a colonel in the French army and a prominent United Irishman who escaped after 1798. It is said he insisted on Blayney being held to ransom for some of the United Irishmen who were in British prisons.'



Andrew, 11th Baron Blayney



The 'Stewartstown Affray'

Blayney's mainly Orange yeomanry (who, incidentally, are much more likely to have been called 'Blayney's Bloodhounds' than the 8th Regiment of Foot) were involved in the so-called 'Stewartstown Affray' of 1797, which actually took place at nearby Newmills, Co. Tyrone. At a time of heightened sectarian tension and of fears of United Irish penetration of the militia, Blayney's yeomanry fired on the mainly Catholic Kerry militiamen, killing nine of their number. The Fitzgerald, Knight of Kerry papers (PRONI T3075) provide graphic details!



The Caledon connection

The Blayney/Hope papers are a purely estate archive: for correspondence, not least about the administration of the estate during the enforced absence of the 11th Lord Blayney, reference has to be had to the Caledon Papers in PRONI (D2433). The Caledon estate, in Tyrone, is just a few fields away from that of the Leslies in Glaslough, Co. Monaghan, and the Earls of Caledon themselves owned a few acres in Co Monaghan. Because of the family connection between the 1st and 2nd Earls of Caledon and the 11th Lord Blayney, who was their son-in-law and brother-in-law respectively, the correspondence between Blayney and the two Earls yields a lot of information about his military and political careers, for example, the siege of Alexandria and as a prisoner of war in Napoleonic France. During Blayney's long incarceration, the 2nd Earl of Caledon looked after his financial, domestic, and political affairs, thus being drawn into the Monaghan sphere. This brought political figures such as Dawson and Leslie beating a path to Caledon's door, because during this period he was the representative of Blayney and 'the Blayney interest'.

On his return, Blayney was given a seat in parliament for Caledon's infamous 'rotten borough' of Old Sarum, Wiltshire. Later, he attempted to get Caledon to use his influence with the Government to get him elected an Irish Representative Peer. This yields a very illuminating and often pained correspondence between the two men.



The 11th Lord Blayney as an original thinker

The following letter from Blayney, still a POW in Verdun, dated 10 July 1813, to his brother-in-law, the 2nd Earl of Caledon, is virtually his political credo. This displays not a little of the Social Darwinism that was only to emerge much later in the century.

'I have now to return you my sincere thanks for the part you acted for me in the support of Mr Corry at the late election and the reasons you assigned in your letter perfectly coincide with my sentiments for that support. I perceive an unfortunate question as to religion is revived in force and seems to agitate the public mind. I never should have ventured an opinion on that subject ... had it not become blended with county politics. Therefore it is right that the gentlemen of the county should be in possession of my private sentiments, however they may be deficient from my being so far removed from regular means of information as conveyed either through the channel of English pamphlets or public papers. Both of these are excluded from this country under the penalty of any person in whose possession they are found being condemned for life to the galleys.

When in Ireland, I carefully abstained from conversation on religious subjects for I conceived it far better for bigotry to die a natural death than agitate a question on which so few are competent to decide. As the people seemed advancing in civilization and more attention [was being] paid to education, I was at hopes that they would be adequate to form judgements for themselves and trace back with indignation and surprise to the periods when, on the basis of religion, the people generally became the dupes of the darkest and the most dangerous plots. The freedom of my sentiments on religion are fully recorded in the separate buildings for divine worship ably executed near the town of Castleblayney, where I have contributed both in money and furnishing ground, to the Roman Catholic, the Presbyterian, and the Established Church, so as for each to have a place suited to impress them with good moral principles in their separate avocations ...

My affectionate regard for the county of Monaghan and for Ireland in general is noticed not by declamation or by idle professions: it is by forming a suitable establishment, planting and improving the face of the county, and introducing a better mode of agriculture in hopes the example would be followed. My inclination is to reside much in the county. It has hitherto been impeded by my professional duties alone. My anxiety for the credit and happiness of the county would however lead me sadly to regret a Roman Catholic candidate being proposed, possibly not endowed with any mental recommendation or his nature being improved by education, his claim alone founded on being Roman Catholic. If such a person was returned he would be the instrument of a licentious mob, a disgrace to Ireland, and if all its members were Roman Catholics and of a similar stamp, their influence in the English House of Commons would not be sufficient to carry the most insignificant question. Such a candidate or such a member might renew animosity and these distinctions of religion which in former times excited France, England and other countries.

... I hear arguments adduced that the Roman Catholics of Ireland, being the most numerous, were the most formidable [and that] weak or timid persons have espoused their cause ... If they were to reason or examine [their] facts they would find that

property, science, and talent predominates and has done and so does everywhere over numbers, and although the majority may be on the side of Roman Catholics as four to one in Ireland it is to be observed that the force of the British Empire is at least 12 Protestants to 4 Roman Catholics with the addition of property, science and talent in their favour. Although England might be slow to act in such a case, she would ultimately be compelled into action, while the unfortunate persons who were misled either by wicked or timid men would in the end be sacrificed, the country brought into disgrace, and retarded in its advancement towards industry, wealth or refinement.

It is to be supposed that a difference of religion from the Established Church causes discontent because they pay two clergy. Supposing that be the case it is like all other fancies and those who choose to indulge should pay for them. But is to be presumed that if they paid not tithe they would have to pay so much the more rent. Let it therefore be understood that my attachment is strongly in favour of my sovereign, the established religion and constitution of my country. And as my situation leads me to know that the decisive measures acted upon by the present administration are the only ones suited to protect the independence, and maintain the dignity of Great Britain in her present arduous struggle, they have my decided support. Neither do I conceive that the Roman Catholics having political rights could be of advantage to them as a body and could only be the means of creating discord and causing confusion. The following therefore are the grounds on which a candidate has a claim to my support.

1. Resident in or [near] the county for which he is proposed as candidate.
2. Sound constitutional principles suited to maintain the dignity ... of the Empire in church and state.'



Lord Blayney in private life

The diary of John Ynyr Burges of Parkanaur, Castlecaulfeild, Co. Tyrone (PRONI, T/1282/1, pp. 19-20) provides a rare glimpse of Blayney Castle and its owner, whom Burges visited in 1825. He writes:

'This beautiful place ... was this year in all its glory. ... Everyone of *that time* has heard of Lord Blayney. He was considered eccentric. I always found him well-informed, fond of his country and [of his] place particularly. He lived in the times when wine was more drunk than now, but it always struck me that his remaining in the dining room so long proceeded from a preference [to] male society rather than to women's. When his party was small and en famille, and when the ladies left the room, his Lordship started off with all his merry men to a little adjoining room, which was called his own glory hole, and there we had such fun, such jolly stories, that it was difficult to leave our seats. ... He always had a good cook and plenty of horses for his guests' service. ... [He] ... was very much put out of sorts by bores, and whenever one arrived, he immediately desired the servant to say he was gone to Belfast. This Belfast was a most picturesque cottage on the banks of the lake, where he repaired to. It is beautifully situated. On this occasion, it was summer and the scene was enchanting. ... As we sat charmed with the scene around, the dash of oars assailed our ears. Says I, "O! Lord Blayney. They have found us out". "No Jack" says he, "All's right". When in a moment appeared the boat with the maitre d'hotel bringing with him every[thing] *useful* to dress a good dinner

I could fill pages instead of this one only with such pleasant days and nights I spent with this dear, good man, who passed off from this world most suddenly. His place was never filled afterwards, and the house and property are now, alas, in other hands. Lady Blayney was [a] most excellent woman and much beloved.'



The real founder of Castleblayney

However, it is as the real founder of the modern Castleblayney that General Andrew Thomas, 11th Lord Blayney is more appropriately remembered. It was he who converted Castleblayney from being a miserable village, where the roads from Armagh and Monaghan to Dublin met, into a respectable market town.

Lord Blayney, died on 8 April 1832 and was succeeded by his son Cadwallader, the 12th and last lord. In 1853 he sold his estate to the wealthy Henry Thomas Hope of Deepdene, Surrey. Lord Blayney settled in London where he died without issue on 13 January 1874.



The 'Hope Diamond'

Henry Thomas Hope was a friend of Disraeli, who began his novel, *Coningsby*, at The Deepdene in 1842, and dedicated it to Hope. Disraeli described The Deepdene as 'a perfect Italian palace, full of balconies adorned with busts'. In many ways, the house was the headquarters of the 'Young England' group in the House of Commons, of which Disraeli and Hope were leading lights. Hope was M.P. for East Looe in Cornwall, 1830-1832, and for Gloucester, 1833-1841 and 1847-1852.



Philip Henry Hope, the rather bizarre purchaser of the Hope diamond

Hope is, however, best-remembered for his ownership of the 'Hope Diamond' which he inherited from his uncle, Philip Henry Hope, in 1839 and which was said to have been made from the Tavernier (called after a traveller in the East, who had bought it in India and sold it to Louis XIV in 1668), the largest blue diamond in the world. The Tavernier was one of the French crown jewels stolen in 1793. The Hope Diamond was supposed to have brought bad luck to the family and it was sold in 1867.



Hope deferred

Henry Thomas Hope improved Blayney Castle and beautified the grounds. He died in 1862 and his widow, Anne, formerly Mme Bichat, succeeded. The eventual heir was his younger grandson – the second son of his daughter, Henrietta Adela Hope. She had married in 1861 Alexander Pelham-Clinton, 6th Duke of Newcastle, and The Deepdene and Castleblayney estates and all the Hope *objets d'art* were settled on the Newcastles' second son, Lord Henry Francis Hope Pelham-Clinton, who on his coming-of-age in 1887 assumed the name of Hope. He was sheriff of Co. Monaghan in 1891, so it is likely that his grandmother, Anne Hope, had died, and he had inherited the Castleblayney estate, by that date. His elder brother, Archibald Pelham Douglas Clinton, became 7th Duke of Newcastle in 1879, but died without issue in 1928, when Lord Henry Francis Hope succeeded as 8th Duke.



Blayney Castle, entrance



Blayney Castle, side view

The Hopes were popular with the Castleblayney people, opening their demesne to the public frequently. Though once rich, Lord Henry Francis Hope mortgaged the estate heavily, and ceased to live there in 1916. Fortunately, the estate records were faithfully preserved by Captain J. Gillespie of Castleblayney, the solicitor who acted as the last agent for the Hope estate.



The Blayney archive

Part of the Blayney archive, for reasons already explained, is among the Caledon papers in PRONI (D/2433). This includes Blayney leases, deeds, reconveyances of mortgages, and marriage settlements etc. The latter are in respect of the marriages of the 9th Lord Blayney in 1766-7 and the 11th Lord, to Mabella Alexander, daughter of the 1st Earl of Caledon, in 1797.

The Blayney/Hope archive proper comprises:

Rentals

There is a run of Hope rentals and accounts (D1421/1/1-61), stretching from 1828 to May 1938, the last recipient being the 8th Duke of Newcastle. D1421/1/62-67 is mainly concerned with rent arrears on the Hope estate, 1874-1901. D1421/1/68, c.1749-1790, contains various Blayney estate papers, including rentals, accounts, bonds, extracts from leases, account/wage books, and the agent's annual statement of account and one year's rent for 1790 of the Blayney estate in Co. Monaghan (£2,343.14. 1.)



Leases

D1421/2/1-6/A-L contains leases (c.1790-1850) for Blayney lands in Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan, Dromgalvan, Tullaskerry, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, etc. Also included are earlier leases for property in Copper Alley, Dublin (1639), Scotch Quarter, Carrickfergus (bargain and sale, 1655), Gortakeaghan (1679), Ardee, Co. Louth (bargain and sale, 1754), Antrim (1721), and a rent roll for £545 p.a. with the names of 49 tenants of Major-General Lord Blayney's estates in Co. Antrim (1817).

Maps, surveys, valuations, etc.

D1421/3/1-13, contains various surveys and valuations of the estate or parts thereof, c.1830-1901, made for the Blayneys and Hopes. Maps for the same period include estate maps, O.S maps, and include 4 O.S. maps done of the Hope estate for the I.L.C. in c.1900. There is a drawing, plan and elevation of Temple House before it was altered (watermark J. Whatman 1854). The last items consist of sketches of plans for an hotel on the Hope estate, Castleblayney (or perhaps for turning 'Hope Castle' into an hotel), and a packet of exterior and interior views of Castleblayney courthouse, c.1900.

Irish Land Commission sale papers

D1421/5/1A-B contain files of correspondence concerning sales of demesne lands, etc., in Drumguillew. Tullyskerry, Tattygare, etc., Co. Monaghan, including abstracts of title.



The rest of the Blayney/Hope archive (D1421/6-8) is made up of legal papers (c.1930-1950), a box containing balance sheets, accounts, income tax papers, etc. (c.1920-c.1940), files of correspondence concerning the demesne, fishing, shooting, etc. (c.1926-c.1950), and miscellaneous estate papers to do with wages, rents, leases, receipts, etc., c.1920-1950.



Papers deriving from the Upton family, Viscounts Templetown (D971, etc)

As has been seen, John Upton of Castle Upton, Templepatrick, Co. Antrim, father of the 1st Lord Templetown and grandfather of the 1st Viscount Templetow, bought part of the northern portion of the parish of Muckno on the Blayney estate from Cadwallader, 7th Lord Blayney in 1723. By 1876, this part of the former Blayney estate amounted to 12,845 acres, with a valuation of £8,649. Viscount Templetown took a pro-Union stance in 1800. Quoted in the *PRONI Statutory Report for 1993-94*, is a letter of 7 January 1847 to the 23rd Lord de Ros, from the 2nd Viscount Templetown, describing the tenants on his Co. Monaghan, not his Co. Antrim, estate. It shows him either to have had a very acerbic attitude to that tenantry or a nice sense of irony (De Ros Papers MIC573):

'All my tenants with wonderful unanimity and firmness have decided upon paying no rents. I would willingly subscribe £1,000 as a qualification to yourself, could your wishes be accomplished of the command of 200 gendarmes and a portable guillotine. You could not make a mistake in cutting off the head of any tenant on my Monaghan estate, for I am sorry to say it is become my opinion (in which I trust I am very wrong) that no part of the surface of the earth is infested by a more indisposed, useless, idle, ungrateful, good-for-nothing set of vagabonds as Ireland is. I am sure I don't know what is to be done. They won't work, and those who can, won't pay; and, if my agent with the greatest indulgence proposes to them to pay something, they tell him to go to hell, and that if he persists, they will take his life. And this when, three years ago, my father most generously did for them more than the Government measures provide now, and made them their drains gratis.'

The following is a list of the limited Templetown archive material in PRONI relating to the Blayney estate: c.30 copy family settlements, mortgages, abstracts of title, etc, c.1860-1890, including Aughnadamph, Carrishaslane in the parish of Muckno, Co. Monaghan, Drumgana, etc, in the parish of Ballybay, Co. Monaghan; and Grigg etc. in the parish of Clontibret, Co. Monaghan (D/971/7); a deed relating to Lord Templetown's estates in Cos Antrim and Monaghan in the 19th century (D988); and a grant of annuity from Viscount Templetown to William Brougham, 4 August 1838 (D/585/60).

The first schedule to this deed of annuity provides a rental of the then Templetown estate in Co. Monaghan (not all of which, in all probability, by this stage was of Blayney provenance). The spelling of placenames is given according to current usage:

	£	s.	d.
'Airyroe?	219	0	0
Alsmeed	201	0	0
Annayalla	202	2	0
Aghnadamph	298	6	0
Cabragh	211	3	0
Carrickinare?	224	10	0
Carrickaslane	391	12	0
Carrinrough? (Corrintra?)	325	12	0
Coraghy	100	0	0
Carracloghan	140	5	0
Corrotanty	319	11	0
Corrinshigo	130	2	0
Creaghanroe	150	4	0
Croaghan	303	8	0
Drumacon	323	14	0
Drumacrib	181	18	0
Drumgara	240	0	0
Drollagh	283	0	0
Grig	73	1	6'

