



Public Record Office  
of Northern Ireland

# **INTRODUCTION**

# **BROWNLOW PAPERS**

December 2007

# Brownlow Papers (D1928)

## Table of Contents

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Summary .....                      | 2  |
| Plantation grants.....             | 3  |
| Post-plantation developments.....  | 4  |
| The 1641 Rising.....               | 5  |
| Arthur Chamberlain/Brownlow .....  | 6  |
| The Monaghan estate.....           | 7  |
| The Co. Armagh estate.....         | 8  |
| The Papers .....                   | 12 |
| The Co. Armagh estate .....        | 12 |
| Title deeds and leases .....       | 12 |
| Account books and rentals.....     | 12 |
| Politics and local government..... | 12 |
| Maps, plans, valuations, etc.....  | 13 |
| Miscellaneous .....                | 13 |

## Summary

The Brownlow Papers consist of 520 volumes and c.9,300 numbered documents.



*Brownlow House*

With some exceptions, they can be described as an estate archive, documenting the history and management of the Brownlows' estate. It relates largely to their land in the manors of Brownlowderry and Richmount in the Lurgan area, Co. Armagh, including Lurgan town itself and the adjacent areas of west Down and south-west Antrim, 1619-1960, but also to property in Magheracloone parish, barony of Farney, Co. Monaghan, 1753-94, and in Philipstown parish, barony of Ardee, Co. Louth, 1753.



## Plantation grants

Under the Plantation of Ulster, John Brownlow of Nottingham offered himself as an undertaker of land in O'Neilland, Co. Armagh.<sup>1</sup> (Brownlow stated Nottingham as his place of origin, his family's native city and where his father had served as Mayor; but he himself had actually been living in Epworth, Lincolnshire, and had only returned to Nottingham on his father's death to claim his inheritance.) He was granted the 'middle proportion' of Doughcoron in the barony of O'Neilland by patent from James I, 29 May 1610. Doughcoron contained 1,500 acres and included the townlands of Taberhany, Aghenecloghly, Keilmargie, Tirnurye, Doughcoron, Taunaghvore, Knockneseggan, Lurgyvalyvackon, Balliblagh, Derry, Dromonavahir, Taunaghnoinkellymory, Dromonicolla, Kanagow, Clonrolla, Lisocorran, Lorogine-Itarry, Clan-Igollavorist, Dunhjnagreh, Corakinegeir, Killaghy, Tollidegon, Tollyconnally, and Dromonikeherny. Shankill and half of Aghnecloghie, some 90 acres, were exempted from the grant and reserved as glebe land for the church.

On 13 June 1610 John Brownlow's son, William, was granted by James I, 1,000 acres, the proportion of Ballynemony. This land also lay on the southern shore of Lough Neagh, adjacent to his father's land, and stretched from the upper Bann eastward to Doughcoron. His grant consisted of the townlands of Derryvieasse, Bechonill, Knockrawre, Ballynemony, Tanaghvore, Leggachory, Moynrege, Tollygalla and Teghevan. Kinenereganbeg, containing 60 acres, was exempted from the grant and reserved as glebe land for the church.



---

<sup>1</sup> Hill, G., An Historical Account of the Plantation in Ulster 1608-1620\_(Belfast, 1877) p.260.

## Post-plantation developments

With the death of John Brownlow, his son, William inherited his property. By 1620 we learn that 'He hath made a very fair town, consisting of 42 houses, all of which are inhabited with English families, and the streets all paved clean through; also two water mills, and a third mill, all for corn; and he hath store for arms in his house ... planted and estated on the land ... 57 British families ... 52 lessees and 5 freeholders ... and all these have taken the Oath of Supremacy and are able to make 100 men with arms ... and not one Irish family upon all the land.'<sup>2</sup> In 1622 William was knighted by Sir Henry Cary, Viscount Falkland, lord deputy of Ireland.

On 22 June 1629 there was a re-grant to Sir William Brownlow of Doughcoron and Ballynemony, now united as the manor of Brownlowsderry, comprising the townlands, of Derryinver, Derryloste, Derrytrasna, Ardmore, Derryadd, Derrymacash, Derrytagh, Ballynery, Annalost, Kinnegoe, Chanrolla, Turmoyra, Boconnell, Knockramer, Ballynamoney, Aghacommon, Tannaghmore West, Tullygalley, Legaghory, Monbrief, Taghnevan, Aughnacloy, Silverwood, Toberhavny, Tannaghmore South, Balliyblagh, Ballylurgan, Derry, Shankill, Tannaghmore North, Knocknashane, Taughrane, Drumnamoe, Dougher, Clankilvoragh, Lurgantorry, Cornakinnegar, Tullydagan, Killaghy, Tullyronnelly, Drumnykerne and Donagoreagh. While we learn from Pynnar's survey that there were no Irish on Brownlow's land in 1620, Rev. George Hill points out that 'Sir William Brownlow must have soon afterwards yielded to the temptation (which no undertakers could long withstand) of the high rents and ready payments yielded by native tenants, for it was found by inquisition that, in, 1630, he had more than the permitted number of this class on his estate ...'<sup>3</sup> However, T.G.F. Patterson, writing in the *County Louth Archaeological Journal* disagrees, saying '... in actual fact the evidence points the other way.'<sup>4</sup> He believes Sir William Brownlow was influenced by his Irish wife, Eleanor O'Doherty of Innishowen, who wished to help her compatriots and influenced her husband towards a more sympathetic policy in regard to Irish tenants.



---

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p.556-7.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p.271.

<sup>4</sup> Patterson, T.G.F., 'A Survey of the lands of Niselsrath in Co. Louth in 1667' in *County Louth Archaeological Journal*, Vol. X, 4 (1944), p.319.

---

## The 1641 Rising

Brownlow's estate continued to develop but in 1641, as Kieran Clendinning tells us in his history of *The Parish of Shankill*,<sup>5</sup> '... the peace of the area was shattered when the Maginneses of Clanconnel who rallied to the side of the O'Neills in the insurrection and attacked the town of Lurgan in October 1641. Contrary to his [William Brownlow's] claim that the bawn was unarmed the fact is that a supply of guns and ammunition was left in Lurgan, prior to the attack, by Government forces. However, he was unable to resist the attack and under a flag of truce Brownlow was able to conduct favourable terms of surrender which guaranteed safe passage for his English tenants to the English at Lisnagarvey. These terms were not fully honoured for a number of refugees were killed either through individual acts of outrage or revenge.'<sup>6</sup> Lurgan however recovered very quickly once the country was subdued, although a large number of the original English surnames no longer appeared on the Brownlow tenants list.



---

<sup>5</sup> Clendinning, K.M., *The Parish of Shankill* (Lurgan, 1983) p.25.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p.25.

## Arthur Chamberlain/Brownlow

With the restoration of peace, the existing Brownlow estate was not only consolidating and prospering but also being extended, for on the death of Sir William Brownlow in 1660, he was succeeded by his grandson, Arthur Chamberlain, eldest son of Lettice Brownlow who had married Patrick Chamberlain of Niselrath near Ardee, Co. Louth. This marriage and the subsequent succession of her son brought the Chamberlain estate in the parish of Philiptown, barony of Ardee, Co. Louth into the possession of the Brownlows.

Arthur Chamberlain assumed the surname of Brownlow as directed in the will of his grandfather Sir William Brownlow and resided in Brownlowsderry. A succession of in-laws, related to his through some of his mother's four marriages, lived on the Co. Louth lands. For further details, see the *County Louth Archaeological Journal*, Vol. XI, pp 175-85: 'Notes on the Allied Families of Clinton, Aston, O'Doherty and Brownlow' by T.G.F. Patterson. The Co. Louth estate eventually passed out of Brownlow possession in c.1753 when William Brownlow, grandson of Arthur Brownlow, alias Chamberlain, sold it to Alderman Richard Dawson. The property contained 923 Irish acres with tenements in Ardee and Louth towns; no information is given for the purchase price though from a Brownlow rental/account book we know the half-yearly rent in 1753 was £260:12:4¼. For further information about the sale and the estate, see PRONI, D3053/9/3/1-12.<sup>7</sup>

Arthur Brownlow, alias Chamberlain, was a prudent manager and accumulated a considerable amount of money which he invested in other lands, chiefly in County Armagh where he acquired the manor of Richmount and thus became one of the largest property owners in the county.<sup>8</sup> This land, originally known as Aghavellan, was granted by James I to John Heron in 1610. He sold it to John Waldron who received a re-grant for it from Charles I in 1629. John Waldron's grandson, Francis Stonard Waldron, conveyed the lands to Thomas Coke, Robert Burditt and Rowland Cotton in 1705, and in the following year by deeds of lease and release, by way of conveyance, the whole manor to Arthur Brownlow and John Hoop, merchant, for £13,000. Arthur Brownlow later bought out John Hoop, thus securing complete control of the manor.



---

<sup>7</sup> PRONI, D1928/A/2/2.

<sup>8</sup> Patterson, 'A Survey of the lands ...' op. cit., p.319.

## The Monaghan estate

He also acquired land in County Monaghan. This was the Coolderry estate, near Carrickmacross, in the parish of Magheracloon and barony of Farney, and it had been part of a grant in 1576 by Elizabeth I to Walter Devereux, 1st Earl of Essex which, later descended to the Shirley family of Lough Fea (see PRONI, D3531.) In c.1618 the 3rd Earl of Essex granted John Hadsor of Keppock, County Monaghan, gentleman, '... the manor of Moymuck and nineteen tates of land, afterwards well known as Hadsor's fee-farm in the parish of Magheraclone in this barony [of Farney], on a fee farm rent of £40 per annum.'<sup>9</sup> We know of some 17 townlands which were part of Hadsor's fee farm grant - Carrickashedoge, Carricknagoan, Derry, Drumboory, Feahoe, Killark, Leons-beg, Liscarnan, Maghernacloy, Mookeran, Moylough, Mullaghrافتerty, Mullyore, Mulllusty, Toiniska, Tullyallen and Tulleallin or Drumbore. The Brownlow family '... were in possession probably by purchase, previous to the year 1692 ...'<sup>10</sup> but the actual date and means of how it passed through to them from Hadsor is as yet still unclear. We do know however that John Hadsor was implicated in the Great Rebellion in 1641 and '... was seized of 19 tates of land which he forfeited as a rebel: at that time Colonel Thomas Sadler received from the usurping powers, a grant of the same in lieu of the arrears of his pay, due to him for service in England, extending to the sum of £513.10.0 the 10 tates of land were subject to a rent charge of £40 per annum.'<sup>11</sup> This perhaps accounts for the change in ownership which left the way open for the Brownlows later to purchase.

Under the terms of the will,<sup>12</sup> 1791, of the Rt Hon. William Brownlow, who died 1794, the land in County Monaghan was left to his second son Charles, with remainder to his other younger children, while his eldest son, William, was to inherit the County Armagh estates; the will further specified that the two properties were not to be united unless the cadet lines became extinct. Accordingly, when Charles Brownlow succeeded his elder brother, William, at Lurgan in 1815, the Co. Monaghan estate passed to the next brother James, and subsequently to the next, the Rev. Francis Brownlow. It remained in the possession of Francis Brownlow's branch of the family until land purchase.



---

<sup>9</sup> Shirley, E.P., *The History of the County of Monaghan* (London, 1877-8) p.261.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p.262.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p.261

<sup>12</sup> PRONI, D1928/T3/5.

## The Co. Armagh estate

Meanwhile through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the Co. Armagh Brownlow estate in the manors of Brownlowderry and Richmount continued to prosper and with it the Brownlows, while Lurgan continued to grow as a town. Charles Brownlow was raised to the peerage as Lord Lurgan in 1839 'for services to the Whig Party'.<sup>13</sup> In 1833 he had engaged W.H. Playfair, the Edinburgh architect, to design what became Brownlow House, alias 'Lurgan Castle'.

By 1883, the Brownlow estate, of 15,276 acres, was worth £20,589 a year. This consisted of the manors of Brownlowderry and Richmount, the component townlands of which are listed in the table below

| TOWNLAND  | PARISH      | BARONY                     | MANOR         |
|---|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Aghacommon  | Seagoe      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Aghavellan  | Drumcree    | ONElland West              | Richmount     |
| Aghnacloy   | Shankill    | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Annagora  | Drumcree    | ONElland West              | Richmount     |
| Annaloiste  | Seagoe      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Ardmore   | Montiaghs   | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Ballyblagh  | Shankill    | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Ballyfodrin   | Drumcree    | ONElland West              | Richmount     |
| Ballymacateer   | Magheralin  | Iveagh Lower<br>Upper Half | Brownlowderry |
| Ballymagowan  | Drumcree    | ONElland West              | Richmount     |
| Ballynamony   | Seagoe      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Ballynarry  | Tartaraghan | ONElland West              | Brownlowderry |
| Breagh  | Drumcree    | ONElland West              | Richmount     |
| Beconnell   | Shankill    | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Cannagola Beg and<br>Cannagola Nore   | Drumcree    | ONElland West              | Richmount     |
| Clankilroragh   | Magheralin  | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Clanrola (there is also a<br>Clanrolla in the parish of<br>Seagoe within the same | Shankill    | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |

<sup>13</sup> 'History of Lurgan' in *Borough of Craigavon Official Guide* (Craigavon, 1984) p.34.

| <b>TOWNLAND</b>   | <b>PARISH</b> | <b>BARONY</b> | <b>MANOR</b>   |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| barony and manor)   |               |               |                |
| Coharra   | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Cornakinnegar   | Shankill      | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Cornamucklagh   | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Cranagill   | Tartaraghan   | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Cushenny  | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Derry   | Shankill      | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Derryadd  | Montiaghs     | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Derrybrughas  | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Derrycaw  | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Derryinver  | Montiaghs     | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Derrylettiff  | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Derryloste  | Montiaghs     | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Derrylisnahavilin   | Magheralin    | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Derrytagh   | Montiaghs     | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Derrytagh North   | Montiaghs     | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Diviny  | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Donagreagh  | Magheralin    | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Dongher   | Shankill      | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Drumalis  | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Drumharriff   | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Drumnamoe   | Shankill      | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Drumlillum  | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Drumnakelly (there is also a Drumnakelly in the parish of Drumnakelly and in the parish of Drumcree in the barony of ONElland West in the manor of Richmount) | Seagoe        | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Drumnevan   | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Drumnykerne   | Shankill      | ONElland East | Brownlowsderry |
| Farra   | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |
| Foymore   | Drumcree      | ONElland West | Richmount      |

| <b>TOWNLAND</b>                      | <b>PARISH</b> | <b>BARONY</b>              | <b>MANOR</b>  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Kingarve                             | Drumcree      | ONElland West              | Richmount     |
| Killyaghy                            | Shankill      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Kinnagolageg or Corcullentragh Beg   | Drumcree      | ONElland West              | Richmount     |
| Killagolamore or Corcullentragh More | Drumcree      | ONEill West                | Richmount     |
| Kinnegoe                             | Seagoe        | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Knocknashane                         | Shankill      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Knockramer                           | Seagoe        | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Legaghory                            | Shankill      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Leganny                              | Drumcree      | ONElland West              | Richmount     |
| Liscorran                            | Shankill      | ONElland West              | Brownlowderry |
| Lurgantarry                          | Shankill      | ONElland West              | Brownlowderry |
| Monbrief                             | Shankill      | ONElland West              | Brownlowderry |
| Roughan                              | Drumcree      | ONElland West              | Richmount     |
| Silverwood                           | Seagoe        | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Tannaghmore                          | Mullaghbrack  | ONElland West              | Richmount     |
| Tannaghmore North                    | Shankill      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Tannaghmore South                    | Shankill      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Tannaghmore South                    | Shankill      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Tannaghmore West                     | Seagoe        | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Taughrane                            | Magheralin    | Iveagh Lower<br>Upper Half | Brownlowderry |
| Timulkenny                           | Drumcree      | ONElland West              | Richmount     |
| Tirsogue                             | Shankill      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Toberhewny                           | Shankill      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Tullydagan                           | Shankill      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Tullygalley                          | Shankill      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Tullyronnelly                        | Shankill      | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Turmayra                             | Seagoe        | ONElland East              | Brownlowderry |
| Unshinagh                            | Drumcree      | ONElland West              | Richmount     |

However, the changing political situation in Ireland, especially in regard to the land question, and the coming of land purchase, meant the end of the great estate. This, coupled with family financial crisis, forced the Brownlow family to sell off most of their remaining estate, including Brownlow House, in 1893. They moved to London, although maintaining until the present day their contact and links with the town and people of Lurgan.



## **The Papers**

### ***The Co. Armagh estate***

Very little need to be said about the arrangement of the archive, which is self-explanatory. As regards its content; apart from occasional references in a very few account books to the Co. Louth and Co. Monaghan estates, c.1753 and 1758-9, and a series of rentals for Co. Monaghan, 1755-94, it is exclusively concerned with the Co. Armagh estate and related interests.



### ***Title deeds and leases***

There are 4 volumes containing abstracts of tithe deeds relating to the Co. Armagh estate, 1722-90, 1826 and 1880; 566 title deeds (patents, marriage settlements, mortgages, and miscellaneous agreements), 1610-1932, and c.80 wills and testamentary papers relating to members of the Brownlow family, 1660-1883. There are 12 leasebooks recording leases on the estate, 1710-51 and 1826-91; 4,000 leases and associated documents relating to agreements made between the Brownlow family and their tenants; and 6 volumes and 4 made between the Brownlow family and their tenants; and 6 volumes and 4 associated documents relating to evictions from the estate, 1830-2,269 documents relate to the Irish Land Commission and the buying out of the estate, 1881-1918.



### ***Account books and rentals***

Account book and rental material comprise: some 83 personal and estate account books, 1711-1933; 10 household account books and inventories, 1754-75; and 13 volumes of labourers' wages books, relating to Brownlow House, farm, demesne and garden, 1750-61 and 1854-93; and 273 rentals, rent-rolls and rent day books for the Co. Armagh estate, 1755-94. In the same section there are also 14 mass rentals, 1827-90, 17 tithe rentals for Lurgan, 1852-69, and 4 bundles of letters re tithes in Shankill and Ardmore parishes, Co. Armagh, 1827 and 1850-76.



### ***Politics and local government***

Local politics and local government (the latter particularly in the sphere of education) are amply documented in the archive. There is a poll book for Co. Armagh, 1753, and 100 registers of Co. Armagh freeholders, 1800-50. There are 5 memorial court books for the manors of Brownlowderry and Richmount listing the jury, overseers and "grievances", 1776-1847, and 117 documents

relating to Lurgan Courthouse, Lurgan Workhouse, Lurgan Town Commissioners and the office of high sheriff of Co. Armagh, 1834-81. In the section dealing with educational material there is a register, 1786-95, of Lurgan Free School, established in 1786 for the education of poor children in Shankill parish, which also includes a list of subscribers to the school, 1786-94, accounts for clothing given to children, 1786-94, and a list of poor people in Shankill parish with details of aid provided to prevent street begging, 1810-14, together with a minute book of the school, 1786-1848, with accounts, 1786-1850, and details of the setting up of the school. There are also c.900 documents, including correspondence, attendance returns, etc, relating to national schools on the Brownlow estate in Co. Armagh, including Ardmore, Tullygally, Breagh, Dollingstown, Tanaghmore, Richmount, Aghacommon, Turmoyra and Derrycaw, 1826-90; 143 documents including correspondence, accounts, minutes, etc, 1862-1941, relating to Lurgan Ragged School, later Queen Street National School; and 35 documents relating to the establishment of Lurgan Model School, 1858-77. There are, in a different section, 30 booklets on the 'Orders, Rules and Regulations of Lurgan Yeomanry', and a list of enrolled men for the militia in the parishes of Shankill, Tartaraghan and Seagoe, 1793-5 and 1831.



### ***Maps, plans, valuations, etc.***

Maps, plans, valuations, etc, comprise: 2 volumes of maps of the manor of Brownlowderry, the first surveyed by Patrick Dougan, 1751, the other by Alexander Richmond, 1831; a volume of maps of the manor of Richmount, 1830, and a volume of maps of the manor of Richmount 1830, and a volume of maps of the turf bogs in Richmount, 1841, both surveyed by Alexander Richmond; and c.300 architectural plans and drawings of Brownlow House and of Lurgan School, by W.H. Playfair, 1834-8. There are also 2 bundles of tithe valuations and 13 related volumes for parishes of Moyntaghs, Shankill, Drumcree, Maralin and Seagoe, 1833-60; 9 miscellaneous valuation volumes, c.1756 and 1819-1912; 15 volumes relating to Poor Law Valuation for Union of Lurgan, Banbridge, Clogher and Co. Armagh, 1850-64 and 1889.



### ***Miscellaneous***

Other more miscellaneous material includes 18 bundles of correspondence and 18 letter books involving Lord Lurgan, his agents and solicitors on estate-related business, 1833-1945, and c.60 documents relating to church and parish matters in the parish of Knocknamuckly and Tartaraghan, 1824-5 and 1859-77.

