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# **INTRODUCTION**

# **DARTREY PAPERS**

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# Dartrey Papers (D3053)

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## Summary

The Dartrey Papers in D3053 comprise c.3,300 documents (including volumes), c.1,500 of which are mainly Irish Land Commission sale papers occupying 16 boxes and not individually numbered (D3053/8/17/1-16). Approximately two-thirds of the archive was deposited, and listed, in 1979; the rest was deposited in 1996 and fully integrated in the existing arrangement. In addition, approximately half of a much earlier deposit, D526/2, comprises a further 82 volumes, leases and title deeds, relating mainly to the Dartrey estate in Co. Armagh. The two parts of the archive held by PRONI cannot be merged, among other reasons because they were deposited via two different firms of solicitors.

Apart from one isolated document of 1639, the papers cover the period 1654-1952. They document the estates of the Dawson family of Dawson Grove, alias Dartrey, Co. Monaghan, Lords Dartrey and Cremorne and Earls of Dartrey, in Cos Monaghan, Armagh, Louth, Waterford, Tipperary and Fermanagh (in order of importance). The Co. Monaghan estate was very much the most important, with a rental of c.£5,000 a year in 1785, c.£6,000 a year in 1800 and c.£15,000 a year in the late 1850s. Additionally, one rental (D526/2D/2) of 1829 includes lands in Cos Cavan and Tyrone as well.



## Family history

The ramifications of the Dawson family are best explained by means of the 'select genealogy' which follows; it is select in the sense that it is confined to member of the family who feature among the papers or are necessary to an understanding of the papers. The evidence of the papers would probably make it possible to construct a genealogy which would include the complicated cadet branches (Dawsons of Dromany, Dromore, Tannagh, etc) stemming from the main branch in the late 17th century. No attempt has been made to do this.



*Richard Dawson*

Peter McKenna in *A History of Rockcorry St Mary's [G.F.C.]* (N.P., 1991), gives the following account of Dawson family history. '... The family of the Earls of Dartrey came originally from Yorkshire and removed to Ireland during the reign of Elizabeth I ... . The first mentioned was Thomas Dawson of Armagh, father of John Dawson, who had two sons, Walter and Richard. ...' In effect, the founder of the Dartrey branch of the family was Richard Dawson, a Cromwellian cornet of horse, who assembled the nucleus of the family's Co. Monaghan estate in the 1650s and 1660s.

'... According to the Book of Survey and Distribution, which deals with the change in landownership which took place in Ireland between 1640 and 1660, Richard Dawson obtained possession of 31 townlands, of which 25 were in what is now the parish of Ematris, one in Currin and five in Aughnamullen. In the year 1667, in the reign of Charles II ..., [he obtained a patent (D3053/5/4) confirming to him his estate in Co. Monaghan] amounting to over 4,000 [Irish] acres. ... The estate in Ematris amounted to 2,000 acres, and [the] townlands mentioned are Attiduff, Derrykinard, Cortubber, Cremoye, Tattygar, Aghadrumkeen, Dromore, Enagh, Dyan, Crosslea, Lisbrannan, Drumcaul, Drumanny, Drumgarkin, Drumgole, Kilcrow, Carson, Monage, Cornawall, Annaghybane, Drundrennan and Lislynchahan. ... This Dawson estate was enlarged to 17,415 [statute] acres by the mid-1800s ..., [and a family seat was established at] Dawson Grove, in Kilcrow, where Richard Dawson settled on the banks of that chain of lakes which separate the counties of Cavan and Monaghan.



## Alderman Richard Dawson

The only child of this Richard Dawson of Dawson Grove, a daughter named Frances, married a Walter Dawson [of Armagh], her cousin [who died in 1718] ..., and had a son ..., Richard ..., Alderman of the city of Dublin and MP for ... [St Canice, Co. Kilkenny, 1727-1761, and Monaghan borough, 1761-1766]. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Vesey, D.D., Archbishop of Tuam. ...' Alderman Richard Dawson was the second founder of the family estate, in Co. Monaghan and elsewhere. The Monaghan estate had been in a state of gradual and piecemeal expansion since the 1660s, and was to continue to expand until at least 1842; but the major era of expansion came under Alderman Richard Dawson. It was also he who acquired, in the 1750s, a joint interest in part of the Grandison estate, near Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, and an estate in the barony of Ardee, Co. Louth; and although the family had held property in Armagh City back to Walter Dawson's time, it seems to have been Alderman Richard Dawson who, by 1762, had acquired extensive property in and around Armagh City and at Blackwatertown, Co. Armagh, mainly or exclusively under leases from the Archbishop of Armagh.

Alderman Richard Dawson was also, and presumably derived his capital from being, the sole or senior partner in Dawson's Bank, Dublin, which failed in 1765 (as a deed of composition with its creditors reveals [D3053/14/1]). Under the terms of this deed, the debts of the bank became a lien on Alderman Richard Dawson's estates in Cos Armagh and Waterford - presumably because they were part of his acquired or personal estate, and were not under settlement. However, the debts seem to have been paid off without sales of land. Certainly, they did not prevent the Alderman's son and successor, Thomas Dawson of Dawson Grove, from building a handsome mansion there in the early 1770s, from acquiring or building Cremorne House, Chelsea, and employing the garden designer, Nathaniel Richmond, to lay out its grounds, and from generally living in a style of marked magnificence. (Cremorne House was sold in 1827, and its grounds, 'Cremorne Gardens', became a public park and recreation area which feature in Trollope, and were closed down, presumably for building development, in 1877.)



*Thomas Dawson,  
Viscount Cremorne*



## Thomas Dawson, Viscount Cremorne



*Lady Anne Dawson, first wife of Thomas Dawson*

Thomas Dawson was born in 1725 and succeeded his father in 1766. Between 1749 and 1768 he was MP for Co. Monaghan. On 28 May 1770 he was created Baron Dartrey of Dawson Grove, on 19 June 1785, Viscount Cremorne, and on 20 November 1797 he was created Baron Cremorne of Castle Dawson with a special remainder, since his three sons had died young (two of them in the same year, 1787), to his nephew, Richard Dawson. He married firstly, on 15 August 1754, Anne, youngest daughter of Thomas Fermor, 1st Earl of Pomfret. She died on 1 March 1769 and was buried at Kilcrow, the parish church of Ematrix, built within the Dawson Grove demesne by Alderman Richard Dawson in 1729.

### ***The Dawson mausoleum***

She is commemorated, as Peter McKenna writes, by a monument in a mausoleum '... situated on a wooded island in a lake in the ... demesne ... . It is a square building [designed by James Wyatt], with a single window in the roof, known as The Temple. ... The monument is placed in an alcove in a wall and consists of an altar of white marble, with grey background, approached by two steps and surmounted by a carved classic urn of white marble. Resting on a cloud beside the urn is a life-size figure of an angel, pointing with one hand on high and the other to [a] life-size figure of Mr Dawson, who stands before the altar looking towards her, with an arm uplifted in a supplicating attitude. ... The monument ... was carved by Joseph Wilton (1722-1803) ... . At present [though restored by the Irish Georgian Society in 1961] it stands neglected ... . The roof [of the mausoleum] has fallen in, and [the monument] has suffered much from weathering and vandalism. ... During the 1798 rebellion in Ireland, ... [Lord Cremorne] had his wife's remains and those of the children removed from ... [Kilcrow] and deposited, with those of the children of his second marriage, in Buckinghamshire (probably at Stoke Park, the seat of his relation by marriage, Sir Thomas Penn). ...'



## The second Lady Cremorne

In spite of his elaborate grief, Lord Cremorne remarried shortly afterwards, on 8 May 1770. His second wife was Philadelphia Hannah Freame, grand-daughter of William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania. Penn's second marriage in 1695/1696 was to Hannah Callowhill, and their second daughter, Margaret, married Thomas Freame; Philadelphia was their daughter, and was born in that city. She died on 14 April 1826 in Stanhope Street, Mayfair. Her portrait by the youthful Thomas Lawrence (a companion to that of her husband, also by Lawrence) was painted in 1788-1789 when the artist was only twenty, and was one of his first major exhibits at the Royal Academy. Lady Cremorne was a lady-in-waiting to Queen Charlotte, and through this connection came an invitation to Lawrence to paint the Queen later in 1789; this portrait, now in the National Gallery, was exhibited at the Academy the following year. The portrait of Lady Cremorne, now in the Tate Gallery, was also exhibited at the Academy, and attracted the remark from the *St James's Chronicle* (2-5 May): 'A good resemblance ... The background is well conceived and finely painted. The figure wants ease and grace'. Lord Cremorne died on 1 March 1813 at Stanhope Street, when the barony of Dartrey and viscounty of Cremorne became extinct.



Philadelphia



## Dashing Dick Dawson

Lord Cremorne's heir was his nephew, Richard Dawson (1762-1807), MP for Co. Monaghan, 1797-1807. Described by a contemporary as the 'prince of country gentlemen', Richard Dawson steadfastly opposed the Union in the Irish House of Commons. The story is told that, when news first reached London about the division in the Irish Parliament on the first motion in connection with the Union in late January 1799, Lord and Lady Cremorne were playing cards with George III and Queen Charlotte, and Lord Cremorne, on seeing his nephew's name among those who voted against the Union, fainted away. County magnates like Lord Cremorne were always reluctant to put their electoral interests at risk by espousing unpopular causes. The fact that Richard Dawson, who was both financially and politically dependent on his uncle, continued to oppose the Union suggests that Lord Cremorne, having established his bona fides by fainting in the sight of his sovereign, decided to leave his nephew and Co. Monaghan alone.

R.G. Thorne (ed.), *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons, 1790-1820* (5 vols., London, 1986), iii, pp. 579-580, makes the following comments on Dawson. He was educated, 1775-1780, at TCD and Magdalen College, Oxford, and married in 1784 Catherine, daughter of Colonel Arthur Graham of Hockley, Co. Armagh, by whom he had a son and four daughters. He was sheriff of Co. Monaghan in 1792-1793, and '... was associated with the family bank in Dublin. [Although] he [had] opposed the Union, ... on 9 June 1800 [he] gave a lead to several other county members who had done so in declaring in debate that he disapproved of secession and, as the Union had been passed, would not only subject himself to it but would "exert himself to induce his constituents to reconcile themselves to its provisions". Dawson was one of the ablest county members returned to Westminster in 1801. The Castle were uncertain as to his intentions, and he proved independent. ... When the Viceroy lamented to his half-brother, Charles Yorke, that the Minister had not consulted such a man as Dawson ..., he was informed in reply that Dawson was "not at all to be depended on and was completely DRUNK at the time he made his speech [on the Irish Martial Law Bill on 10 June 1801]. I never saw such an exhibition in the House of Commons before." ...

On 16 March 1803 he paid tribute to the Irish militia for their services in 1798. ... He was a critic of the Irish taxes on windows and linen export ...' in March and June 1804 respectively, and opposed the latter as a Trustee of the Linen Board and because his constituents had called upon him so to do. 'Although in September and December 1804, Dawson was listed [as] a supporter of Pitt's ministry, which had reckoned from the start that he would vote with them "if Lord Cremorne makes it a point", he had drifted, in their eyes, into "doubtful opposition" by the following summer. ... Dawson was evidently well-disposed towards the Grenville ministry [of February 1806-March 1807], who reciprocated and added him to the Finance Committee, but noted that he wanted promotion in the peerage for his uncle, Cremorne, and further provision in the Church for his brother. ... The Portland ministry expected him to act with [the] opposition ..., but [he] died in Dublin 3 September [1807] before his attitude became ... clearer. The Viceroy was perhaps too blunt in a subsequent allegation that

Dawson was "always against us". Be that as it may, Dawson was remembered in

Monaghan in 1813 [by a correspondent of Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard of Clones] as "the most active in promoting improvements, the most useful and the most popular man this country [sic] ever knew".'

Dawson pre-deceased his uncle, dying in 1807. He, and his popularity as MP for Co. Monaghan, are commemorated by what Peter McKenna describes as '... a [58-foot-high Corinthian] limestone column, surmounted by an urn [and situated on the Monaghan- Cootehill road and within the former Dawson Grove demesne]. The arms of the Dawson family appear on two sides of the square plinth at its base and the following inscription on the other two: "This column was erected by the free and independent electors of the county of Monaghan to perpetuate the memory of Richard Dawson Esq., who was unanimously returned by them to five successive parliaments. He died their faithful representative on 3 September 1807, aged 44 years." ...' (Unless remedial action is swiftly taken, this monument, which was designed by James Wyatt, is going to go the way of Joseph Wilton's monument to Lady Anne Dawson.)



## **Richard Thomas Dawson, 2nd Baron Cremorne**

As a result of Richard Dawson's premature death, it was his son, Richard Thomas Dawson (1788-1827), MP for Co. Monaghan, 1812-1813, who succeeded Lord Cremorne in 1813, though he did not succeed to his great-uncle's viscounty but only to the barony of Cremorne created with a special remainder in 1797. He, too, died young, aged 38, in 1827, leaving two sons. The younger, Colonel the Hon. Thomas Vesey Dawson (1819-1854) was killed at the battle of Inkerman in 1854. He is commemorated by yet another Dawson monument, this one a granite pillar erected nearly opposite the County Courthouse in Monaghan in 1858.



## **Richard Dawson, 1st Earl of Dartrey**

The elder son, Richard Dawson, 3rd Lord Cremorne (1817-1897), succeeded at the age of ten and was under the tutelage of guardians and/or the Court of Chancery until 1838. He was created a peer of the United Kingdom as Baron Dartrey in 1847, was a Lord-in-Waiting, 1857-1858 and 1859-1866, and was created Earl of Dartrey, also in the peerage of the United Kingdom, in 1866. In politics he was a Whig/Liberal, until he broke with Gladstone over the first Home Rule Bill in 1886 and became a Liberal-Unionist. He was Lieutenant of Co. Monaghan from 1871 until his death in 1897. In 1841, he married Augusta, second daughter of Edward Stanley of Cross Hall, Lancashire, and grand-daughter of the 8th Earl of Lauderdale. She died in 1887.



## **The purchase of Fairfield, Rockcorry**

The 1st Earl of Dartrey greatly beautified and enlarged the Dawson Grove demesne. The enlargement was the result of his purchase from his neighbour, Thomas Charles Steuart Corry of Rockcorry, of 'Fairfield', a property adjoining the existing demesne and increasing it to over 1,000 acres. The combination of properties formed, according to an unattributed contemporary source quoted by Peter McKenna, '... a beautiful chain of undulation, interspersed with lakes and islands and adorned with plantations and ornamental grounds of great extent and beauty. ...'



## The Corrys of Rockcorry

As a result of this and other complicated purchases from the Corry family, a small estate archive deriving from the descendants of another Cromwellian cornet of horse is present among the Dartrey Papers (D3053/7). Cornet Walter Corry is recorded in the Book of Survey and Distribution as owning 16 townlands, amounting to 1,321 [Irish] acres, in the parish of Ematrix, an estate which he had considerably enlarged by 1679. He built the town of Newtowncorry, later re-named Rockcorry, and the now vanished Rockcorry Castle. His descendant, Thomas Corry of Fairfield, as Peter McKenna records, '... married Rebecca Steuart of Bailieborough Castle, Co. Cavan. Thomas died in 1785, but his wife lived for a further 20 years, during which time the estate was administered by her brother. ... [Their son], Thomas Charles Steuart Corry ..., was MP for Monaghan from 1807-1818 ... . In 1831 he sold part of his estate for £27,000 and the remainder for £43,500 in 1840 to Lord Dartrey. ... He was twice married; his first wife died in 1821 and two years later he married a servant, by whom he had a large family. ... [Though by this stage both the town and castle of Rockcorry were in a dilapidated state, T.C.S. Corry had begun well:] the market and petty sessions house in the town was erected by ... [him] in the year 1805, and the Methodist meetinghouse under the patronage of the same landlord in 1807. ... In 1833, a statement of [his] title ... to ... the Rockcorry estate showed ownership of the towns and the lands of Corkeeran, Corvoo, Drumilla, Glenhorick, Corriskeerin, Boyagager, Drumlona, Aughafad, Lisnaspeenán, Corraghy, Cortober East, Cortober West, Lossett, Cremoyle, Dromore, Lislynachahan, Dundrennan, Feddan Glen, Aghadrumkeen, [and] Cribby or Newtowncorry with the customs and fairs and markets thereof. ...' Some of these townland names occur in Cornet Richard Dawson's patent of 1667, so clearly the two estates not only marched but had always been somewhat intermixed.



## Dawson Grove becomes the Jacobethan Dartrey House



*Dartrey House*

In addition to enlarging the Dawson Grove demesne, the 1st Earl of Dartrey - with more questionable taste – enlarged the house, in 1846, to the design of William Burn. The transformation of the unspectacular but agreeable Dawson Grove of the early 1770s (D3053/2/39) into the long, monotonous Jacobethan pile of

Dartrey House in the 1840s is described in Mark Bence-Jones's *A Guide to Irish Country Houses* (revised ed., London, 1988). One element in the transformation omitted from this account, but recorded from a contemporary newspaper by Peter McKenna, is a serious fire which occurred on 1 March 1856. The newspaper account mentions that at this stage there '... was a strong wall dividing ... what is termed the old and the new house ...', and that '... The portion of the building entirely destroyed consisted of Lord and Lady Cremorne's private apartments, drawing room, her Ladyship's boudoir ... [and] all the apartments over the eastern point ...'. These sound like apartments on the domestic scale appropriate to the old, Dawson Grove part of the house. It may therefore be that William Burn's house of 1846 was less uniform and monotonous than the house rebuilt after 1856 and recorded in a number of surviving photographs. The rebuilding allegedly cost £30,000.

The size of the new Dartrey House proved too much for the 20th-century financial resources of the family. Most of its contents were sold by auction in 1937 (D3053/8/26), and the entire building was demolished in 1946 by the Hammond Lane Foundry, Dublin, who paid £3,000 for the salvage – a very poor return on the investment in Dartrey House. Now, only the magnificent site overlooking Lough Dromore is visible. The red-brick stable block contemporary with the 1846 house survives, and was renovated by the Irish Georgian Society (presumably at about the same time as the mausoleum). There is also a surviving farmyard, in ruinous condition, which seems to be contemporary with (or even earlier than) the early 1770s house.



## **Vesey Dawson, 2nd Earl of Dartrey**

On the death of the 1st Earl of Dartrey in 1897, he was succeeded by his eldest son, Vesey Dawson, 2nd Earl of Dartrey (1842-1920), of whom an obituary quoted by Peter McKenna records: '... He was formerly in the Coldstream Guards, in which he had the rank of Lt-colonel. He sat in the House of Commons as member for Co. Monaghan from 1865 to 1868. In later years he became a member of the Ulster Unionist Council ..., took a prominent part in the Co. Monaghan Unionist Association and gave a great deal of support to the Ulster Volunteer Movement. ... He was a very large and extensive farmer and a well-known and successful exhibitor and breeder of Shorthorn cattle. During the [First World] War he increased very much the production of his land, even turning his beautiful terraces into a well-managed cottage garden. During the period of the war, he and Lady Dartrey also did much for the soldiers and the Red Cross Society. ...'



## **Recent family history**

Lord Dartrey married in 1882 and had two daughter. He was succeeded in the earldom by the Hon. Anthony Lucius Dawson, youngest and only surviving son of the 1st Earl. The 3rd Earl died without issue in 1933, when all the family honours became extinct. However, he never came into possession of the remnant of the family estate, which on 4 June 1921 was vested formally – possibly as a result of some inter-familial arrangement - in Lady Edith Anne, elder daughter of the 2nd Earl. She was the last Dawson to live in Dartrey House, and it was she who was forced to take the decision to demolish it in 1946.



## **Strengths and weaknesses of the archive**

There is nothing in the papers to document the family's political activities, their association with the royal family, early patronage of Lawrence, etc, etc. However, these details about changes of title are important, because without an understanding of them - and of the way the Dawsons fell (as a result of failure of heirs male) as well as rose in the peerage - even leases and title deeds become difficult to interpret.

The Dartrey Papers are almost exclusively an estate archive, and much stronger on early (by Cromwellian standards) title-deed and lease material than on later working papers about estate management. By far the fullest run (57 volumes) of rentals and accounts is in D526/2 and relates almost exclusively to the Co. Armagh estate, 1817-1818, 1829, 1834-1838, 1844-1845 and 1850-1907. There is actually more rental and account material for the Co. Waterford, than for the Co. Monaghan, estate (D3053/12). However, although the former was second only to the latter in extent, it was let in much larger units, often in perpetuity. As a result, the documentation of the Waterford estate does not really descend to the level of the occupying tenant. The great strengths of the Co. Monaghan estate archive is the title-deed material of the 1650s and 1660s, which gives an unusually vivid, and visual, impression of the Restoration Settlement in operation (see particularly D3053/5/1-6). There is also a fine verbal survey of the Co. Monaghan estate, c.1802 (D3053/8/12).

The following is a general description of the archive, more-or-less as it is arranged under D3053.



## **Settlements, mortgages, wills, etc**

The first section comprises marriage settlements, wills, and papers bearing on Dawson family finance and general matters of title, 1682-1906, which include: feoffments granted by Richard Dawson 'of Anagh, Co. Monaghan', on the occasion of the marriage of his daughter, Frances, and Walter Dawson of Armagh, 1682; marriage settlements of John Dawson, eldest son of Walter Dawson of Armagh, and Elinor, daughter of James Dawson of Ballynacourty, Co. Tipperary, 1716, of James Dawson and Janet Fa[u]lkner, 1720, of Richard Dawson of Dublin, merchant, and Elizabeth Vesey, daughter of the late Archbishop of Tuam, 1723, of Ralph Dawson of Tamlaghtmore, Co. Tyrone, and Anne, daughter of John Walker of Liskyborough, Co. Armagh, 1734, of Thomas Dawson, later Viscount Cremorne, and Lady Anne Fermor, 1754, and of Richard Dawson, younger brother of Viscount Cremorne, and Anne, daughter of Sir Edward O'Brien, Bt, of Dromoland, Co. Clare, 1758, and papers relating to the marriage settlements of the Hon. Vesey Thomas Dawson and his elder brother, the 3rd Lord Cremorne, later 1st Earl of Dartrey, 1840-1841; wills and probates of members of the Dawson family, 1701-1897; mortgage from Rev. John Maxwell of 'Falkland', Co. Monaghan, to Alderman Richard Dawson of Dublin, on Maxwell's lands of 'Coolemulthilly', etc, Co. Monaghan, 1750; deeds relating to the charge of Colonel Charles Rawdon and Colonel John Dawson Rawdon on the Dawson estate, in consequence of the marriage of Colonel Charles Rawdon to Henrietta, niece of Viscount Cremorne, 1793-1849; rentals, correspondence and other papers relating to the Co. Monaghan property at Glaslough, Co. Monaghan, and elsewhere, of the late Rev. Francis Dawson, 1831-1842; mortgages, declarations of trust, schedules, etc, relating to the London town house in Stanhope Street, and the Irish estates in Cos Monaghan, Louth, Armagh and Waterford, of the 2nd and 3rd Lords Cremorne, 1820-1839; and deeds of settlement and trust relating to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Earls of Dartrey, 1875-1921.



## **Maps and surveys**

The maps and surveys (in addition to the already-mentioned c.1802 survey of the whole Co. Monaghan estate) mainly relate to parts of the Dartrey estates in Co. Monaghan, with some maps and surveys of the Louth, Waterford and Tipperary estates as well, 1710-1936. Many of them are the work of John Bell, but some are by Nathaniel McKinlie, Robert Thomson, Samuel McCammon, James Beatty, Robert Annesley Mayne, D.H. Smith, J.H.M. Wilson, William Higgins and James Purcell. There is a very handsome volume of Louth estate maps by William Frain, dated 1779.



## **Title deeds, leases, etc**

The first group of title deeds, leases, etc, relate to lands in the baronies of Trough and Monaghan, Co. Monaghan, 1636-1844, and include: papers relating to Alderman Richard Dawson's purchase in 1748 of the lands of 'Fegullion', Drumcondra and 'Durnahinch', in the barony of Trough, 1663-1748; papers relating to the Cavan Cope estate, in the barony of Trough, bought in 1740 by Alderman Richard Dawson of Dublin, 1636-1742; title deeds and other papers relating to other Dawson purchases in the barony of Trough, 1640-1771; title deeds and other papers relating to Alderman Richard Dawson's purchase of lands of Tetoppa, in the barony of Monaghan, 1703-1748; conveyance from Robert Leslie of Glaslough to Alderman Richard Dawson of lands in the barony of Trough, 1737; purchase calculations of, and conveyance to, Alderman Richard Dawson of the lands of Ballynahone, Leitrim, Killeef, Tamlat, etc, 1743 and 1751; and expired leases of lands in the baronies of Trough and Monaghan, 1819-1844.



## **Title deeds, etc, to the Willoughby estate**

Next come title deeds, leases, valuations, etc, relating to the Willoughby estate in the barony of Dartrey, Co. Monaghan, and in Co. Fermanagh, 1669-1867. They include: title deeds of the Willoughby/Montgomery family and their connections by marriage, the Coles of Florencecourt, Co. Fermanagh, some of them concerning lands in the barony of Dartrey which were bought by Alderman Richard Dawson, and all of them relating to lands in Co. Fermanagh, including the will of Nicholas Willoughby, 1669; the marriage settlements of Hugh Willoughby and Mary Anne Creighton, 1706, of John Cole and Florence Wray, of John Cole Junior and Elizabeth Willoughby, 1728, of Cromwell Price and Mary Willoughby Montgomery, 1741, and of Alexander Montgomery of Ballyleck, Co. Monaghan, and Catherine Willoughby Montgomery, 1746; papers relating to the letting of 'Carrow' demesne, 1746-1747; papers relating to Hugh Willoughby Montgomery's mortgage to Alderman Richard Dawson of Annaveagh and other lands in the barony of Dartrey, and in Co. Fermanagh, which were subsequently sold to Dawson, 1741 and 1745; conveyances, valuations, bonds, etc, relating to the sale to Alderman Richard Dawson by the husbands of the co-heiresses of the late Hugh Willoughby Montgomery of 'Carrow', of lands in Dartrey and Fermanagh, including a valuation of 'Carrow' demesne, and a survey of the Willoughby estate, 1746-1766; expired leases of most of the Dartrey lands purchased by the Dawsons from Hugh Willoughby Montgomery, 1702-1802; and title deeds and leases of 'Marnaharn' on the Willoughby estate in the barony of Dartrey, 1710-1867.



## **Title deeds, etc, relating to lands in Cornet Richard Dawson's patent of 1667**

A further group of title deeds, leases, legal papers, etc, 1654-1857, relate to the lands in the baronies of Dartrey and Cremorne, Co. Monaghan, specified in Cornet Richard Dawson's patent of 1667. These include: deeds of sale to Cornet Richard Dawson and his fellow-soldiers of debentures for lands in the baronies of Dartrey and Cremorne, 1654-1659; power of attorney to Cornet Richard Dawson from members of Colonel Robert Venables's troop of horse, authorising him to act for them in respect of their claims for payment in land, 1661, with a copy of the claim and a statement of the lands earmarked for Venables's troop, 1662, and further sales of lands to Dawson, 1662-1666; patent confirming to Dawson lands in the baronies of Dartrey and Cremorne, 1667; leases of Drumintin and Cassan, Co. Fermanagh, 1664-1749, of 'Dernamoyle' and Dyan, 1667-1720, of Dromore, which later became part of the Dawson Grove demesne, 1662-1719, of land in the parish of Aghnamullen, 1750, of tenements in the town of Drum, 1668-1844, of Drumgoole, 1668-1844, of Cordressogagh, Co. Cavan, 1668 and 1723, of Drumany, Mucklagh and Knockbane, 1669-1800, of Dromyarkin, Co. Fermanagh, 1676-1723, and of Racreeghan, 1857; legal case papers relating to the lawsuit, Francis Dawson -v- Francis Dawson, one of them the nephew of John Dawson of Dromore and the other his grandson, involving the lands of Dromore, 1764-1776; and papers relating to the Dawson title to Aghateeduff and Doohat, 1668-1773. There are also some title deeds, leases, rentals, etc, relating to lands in the same baronies (Dartrey and Cremorne), 1665-1867, acquired by the Dawson family subsequently, mainly between 1673 and 1750.



## **Title deeds, etc, relating to 'Fairfield', etc**

The particularly late purchases of 'Fairfield', Rockcorry, and other lands in the barony of Dartrey in 1830-1832 and 1840-1842, are documented by title deeds, leases, etc, 1667-1906, principally relating to the Rockcorry demesne. They include title deeds by which Thomas Charles Steuart Corry sold 'Fairfield' to the 3rd Lord Cremorne, 1830-1832 and 1840, conveyances of sites for a widows' charity and for Rockcorry Church, 1846 and 1855, and correspondence relating to the building and endowment of the church, 1855 and 1871-1873.



## **Accounts, rentals, Irish Land Commission sale papers, etc**

Accounts, rentals, receipts and miscellaneous papers relating to the Dawson estates in Co. Monaghan, and to Co. Monaghan generally, 1674-1952, include: receipts to Richard Dawson of Annagh as sheriff of Co. Monaghan, 1674-1675 and 1686; a valuation of the barony of Dartrey for purposes of county cess and county presentments, 1700; Thomas Dawson's commission of the peace for Co. Monaghan, 1758; quit rent receipts to the 1st Lord Dartrey for his lands in the baronies of Cremorne, Monaghan and Trough, 1779-1791, and for lands in the barony of Dartrey, 1779, 1781-1783 and 1864; statement of accounts between Lord Dartrey and his agents, Edward and William Mayne, 1801; volume containing a verbal survey and rental of Lord Cremorne's Co. Monaghan estate, 1802; papers relating to the glebe of Ematris parish, 1826-c.1940; Irish Land Commission sale papers, Louth Assizes case papers, accounts and correspondence relating to the Dawson family estates, c.1880-c.1940; rentals and accounts between Captain C.A. Windham and Lady Edith-Anne Windham-Dawson, daughter and heiress of the 2nd Earl of Dartrey, and Messrs Martin & Brett, solicitors, Monaghan, relating to the Dawson family's remaining land in Louth and Monaghan, 1932-1952; and valuations, inventories, catalogues and other papers relating to Dartrey House and demesne, including papers concerning its assessment for rates and demolition in 1946, and other papers which relate to the financial background to these events, c.1931-1945.



## **Louth estate papers**

The Louth estate is represented by title deeds, leases, etc, 1710-1872, mainly of the lands of Russellstown, Rathneestin, Tullyhorn, etc, purchased by Alderman Richard Dawson in 1753. These include: title deeds of Kilcurly in the barony of Dundalk, 1710-1771; title deeds and other papers relating to Arthurstown, etc, part of the estate of the Tenison family of Thomastown, which was mortgaged to Alderman Richard Dawson, 1710-1771; title deeds and other papers, 1710-1780, relating to the lands of Russellstown, Rathneestin, Tullyhorn, Roodstown, Richardstown, etc, sold by William Brownlow of Lurgan to Alderman Richard Dawson in 1753; Primate's leases to, and sub-leases from, the Dawsons/Cremornes of the lands of Corstown, Co. Louth, held under the See of Armagh, 1762-1836; quit rent receipts to Alexander Henry, Viscount Cremorne's Co. Louth agent, relating to lands in the barony of Ardee, 1784-1795; deeds of settlement relating to Tullyhorn which Viscount Cremorne settled on his niece, Henrietta Dawson, and the children of her marriage to Colonel Charles Rawdon, 1793-1818; letters to Colonel John Dawson Rawdon, MP, relating to Tullyhorn and Rathneestin, 1850 and 1853; Chancery bill relating to the cutting of turf on 'Booley', part of the 2nd Lord Cremorne's estate in the barony of Ardee, 1827; and orders of the Church Temporalities Commissioners relating to the tithe rent charge on the 1st Earl of Dartrey's property in the parishes of Dunbin and Stabannon, 1872.



## **Armagh estate papers**

The Armagh estate is documented by title deeds, leases and other papers relating to tenements in Armagh city and to lands in Co. Armagh, chiefly the Blackwatertown estate in the parish of Clonfeacle, held under the See of Armagh, 1714-1872 and 1920. These include: legal opinion relating to the late Walter Dawson of Armagh's lease of the tolls and customs of the markets and fairs of Armagh, which Primate Lindsay declared invalid, 1714; Primate's leases to the Dawsons/Cremornes of lands in the territory of Clonfeacle, Co. Armagh, 1779-1836, and of tenements in Armagh city, 1795-1860; deeds of mortgage on tenements in Armagh city and on lands in Cos Armagh and Louth, held by the 1st Earl of Dartrey under the See of Armagh, 1872 and 1874; and Irish Land Commission and Estate Duty Office rentals of the Armagh estate of the late 2nd Earl of Dartrey, 1920 and 1921.



## **Tipperary estate papers**

A small group of title deeds, etc, 1666-1851, relate to the lands of Abbeville, Lacken, etc, in the barony of Lower Ormond, Co. Tipperary, acquired by the Dawson family c.1850. They include: mortgages, deeds of settlement, Encumbered Estates Court abstract of title, etc, relating to the Abbeville estate and to the Hemsworth family, from whom it was purchased.



## **Waterford estate papers**

There are also title deeds, rentals, etc, 1687-1924, relating to the much more substantial manors of Templemichael [and Mountain Castle?] near Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, which were purchased by Alderman Richard Dawson from John, Earl Grandison in 1750. They include: leases, renewals, fee farm grants, etc, from the Grandison and Cremorne families, 1720-1924; accounts, rentals, writs, Chancery decrees, bills of costs, etc, 1751-1776, relating to the co-ownership of the Dawson and Holmes families of the property, which was partitioned in 1801; accounts between Viscount Cremorne and his Co. Waterford agent, Robert Mayne, and papers relating to the appointment of Mayne's successor, 1799-1804 and 1811; deeds, rentals and other papers relating to a mortgage of the Co. Waterford estate granted by the trustees of the 3rd Lord Cremorne, 1829-1842; deeds and papers relating to the conveyance by the 6th Duke of Devonshire to Lord Cremorne of the impropriate tithe rent charge on Cremorne's estate in the parishes of Kilgobnet, Colligan, Fews and Dungarvan, 1840-1841; and conveyances by the Church Temporalities Commissioners to Lord Cremorne, now 1st Earl of Dartrey, of the tithe rent charge on his estate in the parishes of Kilgobnet and Rossmire, 1872.



## **Miscellaneous deeds**

Finally, there are a few miscellaneous title deeds, etc, to lands and property in Cos Cavan, Longford and Meath, and in Chelsea, 1639-1868.



## Dawson's Bank

Papers of 1760 relate to Dawson's Bank, and to the measures taken by Richard and Thomas Dawson to provide security for the losses to its clients after its failure in that year. They include: deeds of trust, etc, making the debts of Dawson's Bank a charge on the Dawson estates in Cos Waterford and Armagh, 1760 and 1765; and papers of Richard and Thomas Dawson, possibly as executors or bankers of Daniel Cunningham, apparently of Messrs Cunningham & Beatty, wine merchants, 1768-1769 and 1778.



*Thomas, Viscount  
Cremorne in later life*



## **Indentures of return**

The archive also includes the indenture of the return for the borough of Armagh, in 1847, of Colonel, later General, John Dawson Rawdon, son of Colonel Charles Rawdon and Henrietta Frances Dawson, and second husband of the 2nd Lord Cremorne's widow.



## The site of Armagh Roman Catholic Cathedral

This summary omits one document which merits special mention and relates to the Co. Armagh estate, most of which (as has been seen) was held under the Church of Ireland Primate. It is a cancelled lease of 1840 (shortly afterwards replaced by a lease which **was** executed) from the 3rd Lord Cremorne/1st Earl of Dartrey to the Rt Rev. William Crolly, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, of a part of the townland of Knockadrain called Desart as a site for the intended Catholic cathedral. The duration of the lease is 21 years and the rent is £700 a year. As with many Catholic churches erected post-1829, Armagh cathedral was built on an elevated site with the clear intention of dominating its Church of Ireland opposite number. Leases of non-urban property granted by the Church of Ireland ran for a maximum of 21 years, so the duration of the lease granted by Lord Cremorne implies strongly that the head landlord of the site was the Church of Ireland Archbishop. If this was the case, it is an amusing irony that the rival cathedral was built on the Church of Ireland Primate's land. This episode, though it relates to the Armagh estate, had its Co. Monaghan parallels. According to Peter McKenna, Lord Cremorne's first act after his coming-of-age in 1838 had been to grant a perpetuity lease of a site near Monaghan town for the building of a Roman Catholic seminary (apparently at a time when other Protestant landowners had been approached in vain with the same request), and he also gave a site and some money for the building of a local Catholic church at Monage, near Dawson Grove. Needless to say, these actions may have been motivated by political calculation quite as much as by religious tolerance.



## Arrangement of the archive

There appears to have been an original arrangement of the 17th-century material, vestiges of which can still be seen in the nearly contemporary numbers on most of the documents of this period. However, this arrangement was wrecked by the 3rd Lord Cremorne/1st Earl of Dartrey in the middle of the 19th century. Lord Cremorne rearranged the material, endorsing most of the documents with identifications which vary in utility: some of them display crucial local knowledge, some of them say no more than 'Can't read', and some are plain wrong. For good or ill, Lord Cremorne's work is irreversible, in that it has made it impossible to re-create the original arrangement. His rearrangement has been adhered to or departed from, as commonsense dictated. In cases of doubt, documents have been left as he left them.

The numerous place names – mainly townland names - have been spelt in the list as they appear in the original. Where a name was spelt in different ways in the same section of the papers, some rationalising has been done. The 1802 survey (D3053/8/12) arranges the townlands in the Co. Monaghan estate in approximate alphabetical order, barony by barony, and spells them in a manner which is easily recognisable in the *Topographical Index*: this arrangement is reproduced in the list, and readers should refer to it if in doubt.

