



Public Record Office
of Northern Ireland

INTRODUCTION

HARBERTON PAPERS

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Harberton Papers (T2954)

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Summary

The Harberton papers comprise c.175 letters, 1675-1859 and papers of the Pomeroy family, Viscounts Harberton, but principally covering the period 1750-1832.



Family background

They relate to a family which came originally from Devonshire (where Harberton is), settled in Cork City and its vicinity, and then moved to Carbury, Co. Kildare, where they had inherited property through the marriage of in 1747 of Arthur Pomeroy to Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Henry Colley of Castle Carbury. There Arthur Pomeroy built a mansion called Newbery Hall in the 1760s, probably to the design of the Rt Hon. Nathaniel Clements of Killadoon, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. In 1787, Arthur Pomeroy was raised to the peerage as Lord Harberton, and in 1791 he was advanced to the viscountcy of Harberton.

The 6th Viscount Harberton married in 1861 the daughter and co-heiress of William Wallace Legge of Malone House, Belfast, and through this marriage acquired property which has given the name Harberton to several parks in the neighbourhood of the PRONI building. The papers, however, do not document this Northern property and connection.



The papers

Instead, they relate to Cork City, 1675-1732, and Counties Kildare and Meath, 1747-1828, with particular reference to Irish politics in the 1780s and 1790s and to the '98 Rebellion (of which the 4th Viscount Harberton's father-in-law, James Spencer of Rathangan, Co. Kildare, was a prominent victim). The papers of General John Pomeroy, younger brother of the 1st Viscount Harberton, 1769-1790, explain where the money came from for the election of the impecunious Arthur 'Wesley' (the future Duke of Wellington) to the Irish House of Commons in 1790 for the Wesley family's troublesome and expensive borough of Trim, Co. Meath. The General's papers also document his service in North America before and during the American War of Independence, and particularly at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775.

In addition to the foregoing, the material includes: letters and papers of the Rev. Arthur Pomeroy of Deans Court, near Cork, Archdeacon and afterwards Dean of Cork, 1675-1708; letters and papers of Archdeacon John Pomeroy, son of Arthur Pomeroy, Dean of Cork, and of his wife Elizabeth, née Donellan, who remarried after his death Dean Robert Carleton, 1716-1732; letters to Mrs Elizabeth Carleton from her sons, Arthur (afterwards 1st Viscount Harberton) and John (afterwards General) Pomeroy, 1741-c.1744; letters to Arthur Pomeroy, afterwards 1st Viscount Harberton, 1747-1790; and letters to James Spencer of Rathangan, Co. Kildare, the Duke of Leinster's agent and the father-in-law of the Hon. and Rev. John Pomeroy, third son of the 1st Viscount Harberton, mainly from the 2nd Duke of Leinster about Co. Kildare estate and Grand Jury business, 1780-1785 and 1790-1798.

Letters and papers of the next and succeeding generations of the Pomeroy family comprise: letters and papers of the Hon. Henry Pomeroy, eldest son of the 1st Viscount Harberton, whom he succeeded in 1798 as 2nd Viscount, 1785, 1799 and 1823; letters to the Hon. and Rev. John Pomeroy, who succeeded his elder brother, Arthur James, as 4th Viscount Harberton in 1832 and died in the following year, mainly from his father and brothers, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Viscounts, and other members of his family, 1787-1833; mainly family and personal letters to the Hon. James Pomeroy, eldest son of the 4th Viscount, whom he succeeded in 1833 as 5th Viscount, 1819, 1827, 1833-1842 and 1852-1859; and one letter to the 8th Viscount Harberton, 1947, about the occupation of the 1st Viscount's house (Newbery Hall) by rebels in 1798.

