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INTRODUCTION

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Hervey/Bruce Papers (D2798, D1514 and T2960)

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Summary

The Hervey/Bruce papers in PRONI comprise c.1,250 original and copied documents (mainly the former), c.1750-c.1950, relating mainly to Frederick Augustus Hervey, 4th Earl of Bristol (and Bishop of Derry from 1768 to his death in 1803), and to his cousins and successors in his Co. Londonderry estate, the Bruce family, baronets of Downhill, Castlerock, Co. Londonderry.



Family history

The National Trust *Guide* to Ickworth, the Hervey seat at Horringer, near Bury St Edmunds, in West Suffolk gives the following information about family and architectural history:

The Hervey family have owned and been resident at Ickworth since 1467, and '... from early on were pre-eminent in local politics, maintaining a controlling interest in the borough of Bury St Edmunds [However,] John Hervey, created Earl of Bristol in 1714, was the real founder of the family fortunes, marrying two heiresses and becoming a staunch Whig in the early years of the Glorious Revolution. ...

After 1723, Lord Bristol's heir was his eldest son by his second marriage, John, Lord Hervey, the brilliant and mercurial figure whose *Memoirs* of the Court of George II and Queen Caroline have become a classic. Lord Hervey predeceased his father [who died in 1751] and the title then passed in succession to his three eldest sons by Molly Lepel, the Queen's celebrated maid of honour. The 2nd Earl ... followed in his father's footsteps as a prominent Whig politician, serving as Minister at Turin, 1755-1758, Ambassador to Madrid, 1758-1761, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, 1766-1768 and Lord Privy Seal, 1768-1770. His inordinate pride ... probably accounted for the fact that he never attained higher office

On his death in 1775, the 2nd Earl was succeeded for a brief period by his next brother Augustus, Vice-Admiral of the Blue His colourful and racy *Memoirs* (published in 1953) cover the years between 1746 and 1759, and give an entertaining account of his life as a naval captain, of his warlike adventures afloat and his amorous adventures ashore. He was the husband of the notorious Elizabeth Chudleigh, the bigamous Duchess of Kingston ...



The Earl-Bishop of Derry

The 3rd Earl was succeeded in ... [1779] by his next brother, Frederick - the genial and eccentric Earl-Bishop. Frederick Augustus Hervey had entered the Church and, through the influence of his eldest brother, the 2nd Earl, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, had obtained first the Bishopric of Cloyne and subsequently (in 1768 when he was only 38 years old) that of Derry. By clever management he increased the income from this see to £20,000 a year ... [£10,000 would be nearer the mark, and ensured that a portion of the see estate remained in the occupation of the cousin who succeeded to his Irish property.

In his early years in Ireland, the Bishop had worked hard to place on the statute book an oath of allegiance which would separate the loyal and well-affected Irish Catholics from the rest, and allow the former to disavow the more extreme papal doctrines – for example, the doctrine that sovereigns excommunicated by the Pope could be deposed or murdered by their subjects. Because of his extensive first-hand knowledge of the Continent, the Bishop was able to take a European view of the Irish Catholic Question. In 1774 an oath along the lines he had been suggesting since 1767 was incorporated in an act of the Irish parliament. Later, he became even more advanced in his views, supporting Parliamentary Reform and the admission of Catholics to the parliamentary franchise in the period 1783-1784, and narrowly missed being prosecuted for sedition.]

The Bishop's mercurial temperament, however, did not in the end fit him to play a serious political role in Ireland: indeed even his ecclesiastical duties seemed too many to be undertaken in an irresponsibly frivolous manner. On one famous occasion he organised a curates' race along the sands of Downhill, the winners to be rewarded with benefices then vacant in his diocese. His passion for travelling and for collecting works of art also led to more and more prolonged absences from Ireland, and he soon became a well-known figure bowling along the roads of Germany and Italy in his great coach, causing Hotels Bristol to be called after him in towns all over the Continent.



'The edifying Bishop'

Another of the Bishop's consuming interests was in architecture. The first of his houses to be built in Ireland was Downhill, a vast mansion begun in about 1775 on the north coast of Co. Londonderry, not far from the Giant's Causeway. A Cork architect, Michael Shanahan, was responsible for carrying out the building, though possibly to initial designs by Wyatt or Charles Cameron, later to become famous in the service of Catherine the Great. As usual with his houses, the Bishop's practice of taking up and dropping architects with equal rapidity makes it difficult to disentangle the origins of their designs satisfactorily. ...

From early on the Bishop seems to have developed a passion for circular and oval buildings, and he was ... in a position to indulge this curious taste of the full ... [after 1779 and his succession] to the earldom and to a further £20,000 a year. At this time he had just met the young John Soane in Rome, and on their trip to Naples in 1779 Soane is recorded as designing both a "doghouse" for the Earl-Bishop in the form of a rotunda with curving wings, and also an oval dining room for Downhill.

... In the winter of 1781-1782 the Earl-Bishop stayed at Ickworth for the first time since inheriting his ancestral estates. He evidently considered ... schemes for rebuilding, despite what he considered the unsuitability of the flat Suffolk landscape for 'sublime' architecture The reason that nothing immediately came of these plans may have been the Bishop's final separation from his long-suffering wife The Countess thereafter lived a retired and melancholy existence at Ickworth Lodge, while her husband returned with renewed zest to his European travels and to building operations in Ireland.



Ickworth and its Irish prototype

The next house to be built there was Ballyscullion, begun in 1787 on the shores of Lough Beg [near Bellaghy, Co. Londonderry], and of particular interest as being the prototype of Ickworth. The design, probably again given by Shanahan, although this time carried out by a pair of brothers called Francis and Joseph Sandys, was inspired by a circular house the Bishop had seen on an island in Lake Windermere – John Plaw's Belle Isle, built in 1775. The rotunda at Ballyscullion was roofed and furnished, but the Bishop lost interest in it and the house was never completed; it was dismantled in 1813, and only the portico now survives, removed to the facade of a church in Belfast.

In 1792 the Bishop, after an absence of ten years, visited Ickworth again, and it was during this stay (in fact to prove his last) that he determined to embark on the grandiose building scheme which was begun three years later in 1795 and ended abruptly by his death in Italy in 1803. ... As his executant architect the Bishop employed Francis Sandys who had already worked for him at Ballyscullion and whose brother, the Rev. Joseph Sandys, acted as a kind of clerk of the works both there and at Ickworth. ... From the existence of two drawings of elevations close to the final model of the house, and from the evidence of several contemporary accounts, the Bishop's final choice of architect now seems certain to have been an Italian, Mario Asprucci the younger, ... the son of the curator of the Borghese collections [But] the contributions of the Sandys brothers and of the Earl-Bishop himself must not be under-rated. Asprucci certainly never came to England, and his designs were modified in execution in several important respects



Palace or art gallery?

What were the Earl-Bishop's motives in building a palace on so large a scale? The ever increasing size of his income must have been a major inducement; besides the revenues from the bishopric of Derry he enjoyed the rents of some 30,000 acres in England which, from the outbreak of war with France in 1793, yielded steadily rising profits. Dynastic ambition may also have played a certain part. In 1796 just as the foundations of Ickworth were being dug, he was in the middle of negotiations to marry his eldest surviving son to an illegitimate daughter of the King of Prussia A far more compelling reason both for the size of the house and its curious plan, however, was the Earl-Bishop's mania for collecting. ... His chief admiration was for the painters of the later Renaissance; but he must have been almost unique, in his period, in not neglecting the Primitives – "Cimabue, Giotto, Guido da Siena and all the old pedantry of painting that seems to show the progress of art at its resurrection" [as he described them] ...

Sadly, though, Ickworth was never to become the treasure house he had intended, for in 1798 the French ... occupied Rome; the Bishop's collection (worth by his own account £20,000) was confiscated and he himself imprisoned in Milan for nine months. ... [He] did not return to England after his release, to see the progress of his new house. Instead, he leased a house in Florence and continued to travel about Italy. It was on one of these journeys, on the road to Albano, that he died, in 1803, in the outhouse of a peasant who could not admit a heretic prelate into his cottage. ...



Memorials to the Earl-Bishop

[He is commemorated back home by] the great obelisk in the park [at Ickworth], just visible from the south side of the house, rising above the trees of Lownde Wood. It was erected in 1817 by the people of Derry, and it is a testimony to Lord Bristol's immense popularity within his diocese that the subscribers included both the Roman Catholic bishop and the ... [Presbyterian] moderator amongst their number. ...

Downhill was bequeathed after his death to his cousin, the Rev. Henry [Hervey Aston] Bruce, and was inhabited by the ... Bruce family until 1950, when it was gutted. All that remains intact is the Mussenden Temple (now in the care of the National Trust), built in 1783-1785 by Shanahan on the model of the circular Temple of Vesta at Tivoli, and perched spectacularly on the edge of the cliffs. ...' It was built in honour of Frideswide Bruce, sister of the Rev. Henry, and wife of Daniel Mussenden, and became a memorial to her, because she died before it was completed.



The Rev. Sir Henry Hervey Bruce, 1st Bt (1752-1822)

Miss Jane Eccles in *Downhill: a Scrapbook of People and Place* (London, 1996), comments that '... it is hardly surprising that the Bishop was well disposed towards ... [Bruce] when, as a young man, he entertained hopes of marriage to Letitia Barnard, the grand-daughter of one of Derry's previous bishops. The Barnards had not been greatly impressed by the prospects of young Bruce as a son-in-law ...; but then, in 1786, the Bishop ... settled on him a yearly income of £400 and the incumbency of Tamlaghtfinlagan, Ballykelly. ... Henry Hervey Bruce became the Bishop's steward at Downhill, and managed both the estate and the diocese during that great traveller's long absences on the Continent. They corresponded copiously on all the details of running the Bishop's affairs Bruce was the rector at Tamlaghtfinlagan during all this time, although he was informed in 1791 that he was to inherit Downhill

It seems pretty odd that the Bishop should leave all his Irish property away from his immediate family, but at the same time in keeping with the character of the man - he had fallen out with his wife and eldest son, and also he may have felt that it was a way of honouring Bruce's sister ..., Mrs Mussenden Bruce came into the Bishop's property in 1803 when the latter died. He seems to have preferred to live in Downhill rather than at Ballyscullion, which was to be partly dismantled in 1813 Bruce was created a baronet in 1804, a rare honour for an Irish clergyman. He had three sons and six daughters. One son, James Robertson, succeeded to the title and the property on his father's death, thus becoming the second baronet.



Stripping the see of Derry

Although the background to the Bruce family's succession to Downhill and the surrounding townlands is to some extent conjectural, some informed guesswork is possible.

Because the Earl-Bishop was only 38 when translated in 1768 to the richest bishopric in Ireland, he adopted the unusual policy of 'running his life' against the leases of see lands mainly in the Downhill and Ballyscullion areas. Church of Ireland bishops were empowered to let agricultural land for a maximum of only 21 years, and the normal practice was for the lands to be let low, and for the bishops to re-let them, usually to the same tenants, every one or two years, pocketing a substantial 'renewal fine' every time a new lease was executed. In this way, elderly bishops ensured that they obtained the maximum financial advantage out of their see lands during their often short tenure.

The youthful Earl-Bishop adopted the opposite strategy in respect of the see lands at and around Downhill and Ballyscullion. He allowed the existing 21-year leases to fall in and then re-let the lands to nominees of his own, in trust for himself and his heirs, renewing the leases every one or two years, so that when he died in 1803 they presumably still had 20 or 21 years to run. As the rents reserved to the see in the leases were probably very low (even by the normal standards of a bishop's lease), this left the Earl-Bishop's Irish heir, Sir Henry Bruce, in a strong bargaining position vis á vis the Earl-Bishop's successor as Bishop of Derry. No doubt the latter was happy to renew the leases regularly in order to obtain entry fines and some income out of the lands in question.

As far as the Earl-Bishop's two houses, Downhill and Ballyscullion, were concerned, it is unlikely that his successor would have dreamt of taking either of them on. The normal practice in the Church of Ireland was for the heirs of a deceased bishop to claim from his successor the cost of any improvements effected or building work carried out during the previous incumbency. But there already was a bishop's palace in Derry, which the Earl-Bishop had improved in the early days of his incumbency, and then let as a barrack. No subsequent Bishop of Derry would have wanted to take on the cost and up-keep of a very large house like Downhill, on one of the most exposed sites in Western Europe; in any case Sir Henry Bruce already held leases under the see of the site of the house and the outlying land. Not even Sir Henry Bruce, however, could afford to keep up Ballyscullion as well, which is why it was abandoned and dismantled so soon after its completion. No doubt this enabled him to do a deal with the then Bishop of Derry whereby Bruce surrendered the Ballyscullion lands in return for renewals, on reasonable terms, of the lands round Downhill.

In the Earl-Bishop's and Sir Henry Bruce's day, specifically in the period 1785-1811, the see lands held by the Earl-Bishop's trustees and bequeathed by him to Bruce seem to have been the following (arranged in alphabetical order):

Ballymagoland	Gortagrane
Ballyscullion	Gortmore
Ballywoodock	Glebe
Bannbrook	Grange Beg
Bellany	Grange More
Bennarees	Killane
Blakes	Larragh
Brocklis	Meachy
Burren Beg	Masteragwee
Burren More	Masterboy
Callhame	Milltown
Carnowry	Mullinhead
Clooney	Oghill
Craig	Omry
Deer Park	Oughtmore
Drumagully	Puttogh
Drumahorgan	Quilley
Drummans	Tircreven
Farranlester	Woodtown

No doubt Sir Henry Bruce and his successors did not retain possession of all these townlands, particularly from the 1830s, when their interest shifted to the Clothworkers' Proportion.



The Clothworkers' Proportion

The Clothworkers were the London Livery Company which had been granted at the Plantation, in return for a forced contribution of nearly £4,000, a large estate running roughly from Coleraine to Londonderry, in the north-west corner of the county. The estate was thus ideally situated, from the geographical point of view, to augment and round off the existing Bruce estate in that locality. The Clothworkers' head tenant, Lesley Alexander, had gone bankrupt post-1829, and at some point in the ensuing decade, and certainly by 1838, Sir Henry Hervey Bruce, the first Sir Henry's grandson, obtained the lease. In 1871 he bought the Clothworkers' Proportion outright, for £120,000 (much of it financed by a mortgage granted by the Clothworkers themselves, the last £30,000 of which Sir Henry had the utmost difficulty in repaying, c.1890).

In 1879, Sir Henry Bruce held 20,801 acres in Co. Londonderry, valued at £11,397 per annum. This estate was presumably a mixture of Clothworkers' and ex-see lands (which, from the 1850s, Sir Henry would have been able to buy outright from the Church Temporalities Commission). Heavy interest charges made Sir Henry much less rich than he appeared on paper, but he must have been the largest resident landowner in the county (because most of its large estates were owned by absentee proprietors, particularly the London Companies), and was Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of Co. Londonderry from 1877 until his death in 1907.

The townlands in the Clothworkers' Proportion were as follows (alphabetically arranged):

Altidrian	Dartress Upper
Altikerragh	Drumaquill
Ardina	Dunalisbeg
Articlave	Dunalismore
Artidillon	Dunboe, glebe of
Ballinteerbeg	Exorna
Ballinteerbymore	Fair Offer Fishery
Ballycairn	Farranlester
Ballyhackett Glass	Formoyle
Ballyhackett Glenahorry	Formullen
Ballyhackett Magilligan	Freehall
Ballyhackett Toberclaw	Glebe
Ballymadikin	Gortycavan
Ballymoney	Kilcranny
Ballystrone	Killyveety
Ballywildrickbeg	Knockmult
Ballywildrickmore	Knocknogher

Ballywillin	Laurel Hill
Bann	Lennagarrin, alias Sconce
Belgarrow	Liffock
Bogside	Lismurphy
Bogtown	Londonderry
Carneety	Longhill
Castletoodry	Ringrashbeg
Churchland	Ringrashmore
Dartress Fox	Toberclaw
Dartress Lower	Waterside



Downhill in Victorian times

Miss Eccles writes: '... We know very little of the fortunes of the great house other than its escaping serious damage in the "big wind" of January 1839, until the disastrous fire of May 1851, which destroyed a large part of the interior. The Bishop's fine library was completely destroyed and much of the statuary irretrievably damaged, though it was reported that most of the paintings had been rescued. ... The restoration of the house was only undertaken between 1870 and 1874, and was supervised by John Lanyon (who was the designer of several Castlerock buildings, including the railway station ...). Lanyon maintained many of the surviving features, though the small domes to the northern wings went He added a new entrance with portico to the larger of the two bows of the west front. The cellarage underneath the gallery thus became a hall ..., covered up with all the paraphernalia of a late Victorian hunting lodge. ... Lanyon removed the old, small-pane glazing bars in exchange for large plate-glass sash windows



Sir Henry Hervey Bruce, 3rd Bt

Sir Henry Hervey Bruce inherited Downhill and the title in 1836. He had been an officer in the Life Guards [He] took a deep interest in the estate and in the area as a whole. He stood for parliament on several occasions and was returned for Coleraine twice: 1862-1874 and again in 1880-1885. His politics were severely loyalists and admitted of only one party. ... His electioneering activities brought him into head-on conflict with Samuel McCurdy Greer, Minister of Dunboe Presbyterian Church, staunch Liberal and very much the champion of tenants' rights, who was to beat him in the contest for one of Co. Londonderry's two seats in 1857. Other public commitments included ... being the Chairman of Londonderry's first County Council. ... In the development of ... [Castlerock] Sir Henry took a particular interest, requiring, for example, all new buildings there to be of a certain quality and size. He was strongly instrumental in the building and endowment of the Castlerock parish church, Christ Church.

Sir Henry was married in 1842 – significantly, on 12 July – to Marianne Clifton, the only daughter of a wealthy Nottinghamshire family ..., [and] the Bruces eventually inherited the Clifton estates and the fine mansion there, dating originally from the 1600s, which became the family's second home Lady Bruce died in 1891 and was buried in the Bruce mausoleum in old Dunboe churchyard. Sir Henry was deeply affected by her loss [He] died in 1907 aged 87 and was buried in Dunboe

The house finally became too much for the Bruce family, who had lived there since the Bishop's time until 1922, and it was sold in 1946. During the Second World War it was billeted by servicemen and women of the RAF. By that time some of the contents had been dispersed by auction By 1950 the final stage was reached, with the removal of the roof and the sale of the surrounding lands, after which the total dissolution of the building became an inevitable process, one which even acquisitioned by National Trust in 1980 has failed to check. ...'



The first section of the papers

The D2798 section of the Hervey/Bruce papers in PRONI comprises c.550 documents, consisting primarily of papers of the Earl-Bishop, 1754-1913. The residue is made up of the papers of his kinsmen and the inheritors of his Irish property, the Bruce family of Downhill.

These papers were drawn on extensively in the early 1920s by William Childe-Pemberton in what is still the standard life of the Bishop of Derry, *The Earl-Bishop*. At this time the Bruce family and papers were still at Downhill, and Childe-Pemberton was allowed to borrow the papers and work through them at his leisure. However, his interest in the Bruce papers ended, for obvious reasons, with the Earl-Bishop's death in 1803. Also, he did scant justice to the most interesting and important section of the papers, the Bishop's correspondence with his architect and general factotum, Michael Shanahan, which is rich not only in detailed information about the building of the Bishop's great mansions of Downhill and (to a much lesser extent) Ballyscullion, but also in detailed information on the interacting personalities and ideas of these two extraordinary characters.

The papers consist of: sermons of Frederick Hervey as Rector of Horringer, Suffolk, as chaplain to the King and as Bishop of Derry, 1754-1776; letters and papers of the Bishop about building works, the laying out of the gardens, etc, at Downhill and Ballyscullion, Co. Londonderry, 1769-1791, the principal correspondent being Shanahan; letters and papers of the Bishop about the estate and financial affairs of his diocese, 1765-1803 (including an undated letter of c.1770 mentioning the depredations of one Neal Mellon on the part of the see estate which was near Omagh, Co. Tyrone – presumably this Neal Mellon was the ancestor, or a collateral forebear, of the famous Mellon family of Pittsburg, who leased land at Camphill, near Omagh, now the site of the Ulster-American Folk Park); letters from the Bishop to his cousin, and, as far as his Irish estates were concerned, his chief agent and eventual heir, the Rev. Henry Bruce, Rector of Tamlaghtfinlagan, mostly about estate and financial affairs, 1791-1803; letters and papers of the Bishop about the 1774 oath of allegiance, the Catholic Question generally and other political topics, 1767-1786, including letters from Thomas Secker, Archbishop of Canterbury, the 4th (Jacobite) Viscount Kenmare, Charles O'Connor of Bellanagare, Co. Roscommon, etc; letters to the Bishop from various foreign notabilities, including members of the ruling family of Wurttemberg, 1772-1791; and letters and papers in Italian about the sorting out of his affairs after his death abroad, 1802-1810.



Bruce letters and papers, 1803-1824 and 1851-1913

The other, and smaller, section of papers includes: letters and papers of the Rev. Sir Henry Hervey Aston Bruce (who was created a baronet in 1804) on miscellaneous topics, 1803-1824; and letters and papers, 1851-1913, about Downhill and its rebuilding after a fire in 1851. This Sir Henry Bruce's mother had been a first cousin of the Earl-Bishop, and the Earl-Bishop had been suspiciously fond of his sister, Frideswide Bruce, wife of Daniel Mussenden of Larchfield, Lisburn, Co. Antrim (after whom the Mussenden Temple was named). Because of his partiality for the Bruces, and estrangement from his eldest son and successor in the earldom of Bristol, he left his disposable property, including Downhill and the Irish estate, to Sir Henry Bruce.



The second section of the papers, which Childe-Pemberton did not use

The acquisition of this material means that, for the first time in many years, the family archive is brought together under one roof. Because it was under two roofs in the early part of this century, Childe-Pemberton used only the one section of it, and never discovered the existence of the other, which was then in the Coleraine office of Messrs Babington & Croasdaile, the Bruces' solicitors, and is now in PRONI (D1514).

The D1514 section of the Hervey/Bruce papers comprises c.600 documents of a similar nature, 1763-1950, but with a greater emphasis on Bruce of Downhill papers, post-1803.

The papers of the Earl-Bishop in this deposit consist of: accounts, drafts, numerous receipts and correspondence (including more letters from Shanahan) relating to his building and planting work, mainly at Downhill, 1777-1803, including a reference to 'his Lordship's leopards' (the supporters to the Hervey arms), which were clearly intended for the miscalled 'Lion's Gate' at Downhill; rentals of the see lands at Dunboe, Magilligan, etc, 1780-1795; a MS catalogue of the Earl-Bishop's library, c.1780; correspondence, resolutions, addresses, etc, relating to the 1774 oath of allegiance, the Volunteer movement, Parliamentary Reform, and Catholic relief, 1767-1784; and correspondence about estate and business affairs, the Earl-Bishop's travels in Italy and elsewhere, etc, 1763-1795.



Letters from General Sir Andrew Barnard

Roughly contemporary with these are letters, 1781-1805, from General Sir Andrew Francis Barnard while serving in the West Indies (1795-1796), Holland (1799) and elsewhere, to his aunt, Mrs Robertson, Bannbrook, Coleraine. These are present because Barnard's half-sister-Letitia, was married to Sir Henry Hervey Bruce, 1st Bt. (By an interesting coincidence, their grandfather, William Barnard, had been the Earl-Bishop's predecessor in the see of Derry.) They are distinct from the *Barnard Letters, 1778-1824*, ed. Anthony Powell (London, 1928), which comprise letters written by Sir Andrew Francis Barnard and other members of the family, to his sister, Isabella. Sir Andrew Francis Barnard is also to be distinguished from his cousin and near-namesake, Andrew Barnard, who was Colonial Secretary at The Cape, 1797-1802.



Coleraine elections

The later Bruce papers include a copy petition, a draft brief, copy minutes of an election committee of the House of Commons and correspondence, c.1830-1874, all deriving from Sir Henry Hervey Bruce, 3rd Bt (1820-1907), relating to Coleraine elections – the disputed election of Sir John Beresford for the borough in 1831, the candidature of Bruce in 1842-1843, etc, etc. Bruce contested Coleraine unsuccessfully in 1843 and again in 1846, and later represented it from 1862 to 1874 and from 1880 to 1885 (when it was disfranchised).



The Bruce estates

However, most of the Bruce papers, and some of the Earl-Bishop's papers, comprise title deeds, rentals, legal papers, maps and correspondence, 1785-1950, relating to the family's estates in Co. Londonderry (not only Dunboe, Magilligan, etc, and Downhill itself, held under the see of Derry, but the Clothworkers' Proportion, near Coleraine, which Sir Henry Hervey Bruce, 3rd Bt, leased from c.1838 and bought outright in 1871).



Hervey papers still in Suffolk

The remaining Hervey/Bruce papers in PRONI are photocopies (T/2960) of originals in the Bury St Edmunds Branch of the Suffolk Record Office. They cover one letter-book and c.75 letters, as follows: typescript copies of correspondence between the Hon. Augustus Hervey, afterwards 3rd Earl of Bristol, the Prime Minister, George Grenville, and Hervey's brother, the 2nd Earl of Bristol, 1763-1767, relating among other things to Hervey's and Bristol's appointment and resignation as Chief Secretary and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland respectively; letter-book containing abstracts of routine official correspondence during their term of office, July 1766-August 1767; correspondence of the Earl-Bishop with Mr Strange of Geneva, Messrs Perregaux (his bankers), Archdeacon Newburgh Burroughs (his short-lived Irish agent), John Symonds (the clerk of works at Ickworth), Emma Lady Hamilton, M. D'Anville, and others, about geology, mineralogy, the Catholic Question, architecture, estate and financial affairs, etc, 1770s-1802; letters to the Bishop from his eldest son, afterwards 5th Earl and 1st Marquess of Bristol, about politics, the Union, the French Revolutionary Wars, etc, c.1796-c.1802; and notes on and copies of letters (the originals of which are in D1514/9 and D2798) in the handwriting of the Earl-Bishop's biographer, William Childe-Pemberton, c.1910-1920.

These further letters and papers of the Earl-Bishop require no further comment: the viceregal papers derive from the short-lived and fairly nominal lord lieutenancy of the 2nd Earl of Bristol. Though specifically instructed to reside in Ireland, he never actually arrived, nor did the Irish parliament meet during his ten-month term of office. Great things were expected of the Bristol viceroyalty, including - in addition to the novelty of full-time residence on the part of the Lord Lieutenant - a 'broad-bottomed' administration in which the celebrated 'Patriot' leaders, the 1st Earl of Charlemont and Henry Flood, would have participated. Broadly speaking, the Irish administration was to have mirrored the British in this respect. However, Lord Chatham's ill state of health debilitated the Irish administration as well as the British government from which it derived and of which Chatham was the head. A further complication in the case of the former was the rupture between Bristol and his brother and Chief Secretary, Augustus Hervey, which is the only significant event documented in Bristol's viceregal papers. The only event of the viceroyalty which was significant in the longer-term is not mentioned at all: this was the opportunity it afforded Bristol to place his third brother, Frederick, on the Irish episcopal bench as Bishop of Cloyne.

PRONI's calendar of these viceregal papers is published in *Eighteenth-Century Irish Official Papers in Great Britain, Private Collections*, volume two (Belfast, 1990).

