



Public Record Office  
of Northern Ireland

# **INTRODUCTION**

# **WARD PAPERS**

November 2007

# Ward Papers (D2092, D3735, D4216)

## Table of Contents

Summary .....	3
Family history .....	4
Judge Michael Ward .....	5
The building of Castle Ward.....	7
Architectural influences from England and Scotland.....	8
Castle Ward hospitality .....	10
A family and estate divided .....	11
Edward and Robert Ward .....	13
The 3rd and subsequent Viscounts Bangor .....	15
The Wards of Bangor Castle.....	16
The Clanmorris connection .....	17
The archive .....	18
Title deeds, leases, case papers, etc.....	19
Hamilton patents and title deeds.....	20
The break-up of the Hamilton estate.....	21
Later Bangor estate deeds.....	22
The Castle Ward and Killough estates.....	23
Kircubbin, etc, title deeds.....	24
Marriage settlements .....	25

The lunacy of the 2nd Viscount Bangor .....	26
Deeds relating to other families .....	27
Leases .....	28
Wills and testamentary papers.....	29
Maps, plans, and surveys .....	30
Rentals, accounts, etc .....	31
Correspondence, 1680-1831 .....	32
The development of Killough .....	33
The Judge versus the Dean.....	34
Arthur Dobbs.....	35
Local politics in Co. Down and elsewhere.....	36
Miscellaneous topics.....	37
The unfortunate 2nd Viscount.....	38
Problems of layout and physical condition .....	39
Later Castle Ward correspondence .....	40
Estate and business correspondence, letter-books and miscellaneous.....	41
Ward of Bangor Castle correspondence.....	42

## **Summary**

The Ward Papers comprise c.3725 documents and c.85 volumes, 1604-c.1950, relating to the Ward family of Castle Ward, Strangford, Co. Down, who were created Barons Bangor in 1770 and Viscounts Bangor in 1781, and to the Hamilton family of Bangor, Co. Down, whose co-heiress they married in 1709, to the junior branch of the Ward family who succeeded to part of the Hamilton estate and in the 19th and early 20th centuries lived in Bangor Castle, and to estate affairs, social life, politics, etc, mainly in Co. Down.



## Family history

Part of the following account of Ward (and Hamilton) family history is taken from successive (1955 and 1982) National Trust *Guidebooks* to Castle Ward, which has been a National Trust property (the most popular in the Northern Ireland Region of the National Trust) since 1950, from the National Trust's more recent *County Down* by Adrian Tinniswood (1997), and from the printed sources cited at appropriate points in the text. The rest derives from the archive itself or from the Registry of Deeds.

'The Castle Ward estate, originally called Carrick na Sheannagh, has been in the Ward family since the second half of the 16th century, when it was bought [c.1570] from the Earls of Kildare by Bernard Ward, father of Sir Robert Ward, Surveyor-General of Ireland. He came from Capesthorpe in Cheshire.

... [The most important survival from the days of these early Wards is a 17th century tower house] standing in the farmyard of the Castle Ward estate ... . Built in 1610 by Nicholas Ward, who was a government official in Ireland towards the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, it is a three-storied stone building almost 50 feet high and built for defence. The stairs rise by straight flights in the thickness of the walls. The wicker-mat centring on which the vault over the ground floor was constructed is still intact and may be seen in areas where the plaster has peeled off. ...

[The original Bernard Ward's namesake and] great-great grandson, Bernard Ward of Castle Ward [1654-1690], was High Sheriff of Co. Down, and in 1690, in the Grand Jury Room at Downpatrick, he had a furious quarrel with one Jocelyn Hamilton. They went straight outside and fought a duel by the ruins of the old Abbey [of Inch], which, from all accounts, was conducted in the most irregular fashion. The High Sheriff mortally wounded his opponent with a pistol, and he himself was killed "by so brave a thrust" by Hamilton's sword that he was run through almost to the hilt.



## Judge Michael Ward

Michael Ward [1685-1759], his son, succeeded to the estates. ... [He married, in 1709, Anne, daughter and co-heiress of James Hamilton of Bangor (d.1707). Her sister, Margaret, the other co-heiress, married the 6th Viscount Ikerrin in 1713. Each brought their husbands a marriage portion of £4,000 and an undivided moiety of the manors of Bangor and Newcumber, of the tithes, chief rents, etc, belonging to them and of the townlands of Ballycloghan, Carrowmullen, Carrowtegart, Castlehill and the island of Tullychaman, in the baronies of Ards and Castlereagh. The co-heiresses were granddaughters of Elizabeth, 1st Viscountess Mordaunt of Avalon (d.1679). Present in Castle Ward are portraits of Lady Mordaunt and of] six of her nine children. As her diaries reveal, she was a remarkable woman, and John Evelyn, her executor, described as "a blessed creature ... one that loved and feared God exemplarily". ...

[Her granddaughter's husband, Michael Ward], sat for many years [1715-1725] as Member for Co. Down, and in 1725 was appointed a Justice of the Court of the King's Bench in Ireland. He was also a shrewd businessman and an active promoter of the linen trade. He developed the little town of Killough into a flourishing port, built a road from Castle Ward to carry the lead mined on the estate to his ships, and "built a strong kay where ships now lie very safe". ...

[Another of Judge Ward's achievements was the landscaping of the Castle Ward demesne.] Few houses in the British Isles stand in a more beautiful setting than Castle Ward with its wide views over Strangford Lough. Time no less than the damp mild climate has favoured the growth of the giant oaks and beeches ... [and the later, exotic introductions. Much of the 18th century landscaping and] ornamental planting was carried out by Mrs Ward, wife of Judge Ward, between 1710 and 1759. ...' This was '... a formal of landscape to complement the new house ... [the Wards] had built to the north of the farmyard. Evidence of this still survives today, in the shape of a long, rectangular canal [on the axis of Audley's Castle] known as the Temple Water and the pretty little Doric summer-house from which it takes its name. The site of a second canal, which once ran at right-angles to the Temple Water, is now occupied by an avenue of limes. ...' '...The surrounding grounds are being restored to their 18th century character and have been replanted with a variety of deciduous trees. The lake [now] boasts a collection of wildfowl, representative of the various species to be found on Strangford Lough. ... Over the chimneypiece [in the Library at Castle Ward] is a landscape view from the steps of the Temple showing Old Castle Ward [the early 18th century house] and the new house on the skyline in the distance. It was painted by William Ashford and is dated 1785. ...

Judge Ward had one son, Bernard, and two daughters: Sophia, who married [in 1739] Arthur Upton of Castle Upton, Co. Antrim; and Anne, who married in 1745 Sir John Parnell [1st Bt] of Rathleague, Queen's County [who is represented at Castle Ward by a portrait of c.1770 by Batoni].

Judge Ward died in 1759 and the property devolved on his son, Bernard [1719-1781]. He too sat as MP for Co. Down [1745-1770] and in 1759 was appointed Deputy Governor of the county. Eleven years later he was created Baron Bangor in the peerage of Ireland, and was advanced to the dignity of Viscount in 1781, just before his death. He married in 1747 [sic - 1748] Lady Anne Magill, daughter of John, 1st Earl of Darnley, and widow of Robert Magill of Gill Hall, Co. Down, [who brought him a marriage portion of c.£10,000]. ...



## The building of Castle Ward

Bernard [Ward] had inherited a house ... at Castle Ward referred to "as a large and handsome Improvement of Mr Justice Ward" (Harris, *Ancient and Present State of Co. Down*, Dublin 1744). [This sounds as if it must have been yet another house, intermediate between the early 18th-century Castle Ward and the Castle Ward which exists today.] The architect was perhaps Richard Cassels, who died in 1750 ... . Mrs Delany stayed at the earlier house in 1760 and found it "**altogether** one of the finest places I ever saw". ... [However, Bernard Ward] desired a larger and statelier mansion and began planning Castle Ward. On her visit in 1762 Mrs Delany wrote:

"Mr Ward is building a fine house but the scene about it is so uncommonly fine it is a pity it should not be judiciously laid out. He wants taste and Lady Anne Ward, his wife, is so whimsical that I doubt her judgement. If they do not do too much they can't spoil the place, for it hath every advantage from nature that can be desired."



*Castle Ward, the classical front*

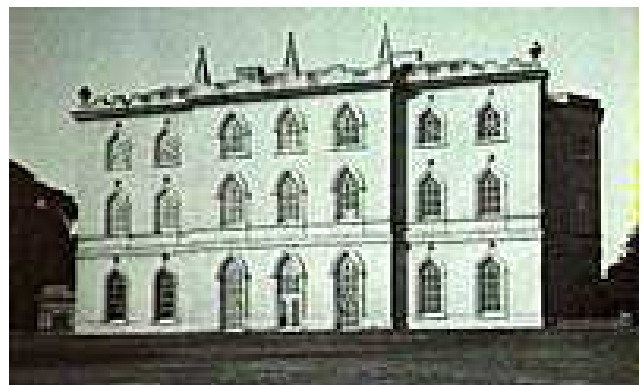
Among the current fashions in architecture was the Gothick and this was the style favoured by the whimsical Lady Anne. Her husband preferred the more conventional Classical idiom. The result was a compromise that cost £40,000 to build, and produced a house possessing the unusual feature of contemporaneous fronts in both the Classical and Gothick styles. A portrait by [Francis] Cotes in the saloon, painted in 1767, indicates Bernard [Ward's] architectural tastes and represents him holding a plan of his side of the house. ...



## Architectural influences from England and Scotland

... The adaptable architect of Castle Ward is unknown. There is a tradition, unconfirmed in the absence of documentary evidence, that (like the stone of which the house is built) he came from Bath or perhaps Bristol. His plan was a rectangle, with semi-octagonal bays at each end. In 1870 the main entrance to the house was contrived through the eastern bay - it had previously been in the centre of the south-west front - and a porch was added, by a Belfast architect, Francis Stirrat. The south-west front, an exercise in the Palladian manner, with rusticated ground floor and a central order under a pediment that bears the Ward arms, expresses a conventional mid-Georgian taste, close to the pattern-book elevations of Abraham Swan, whose *Collections of Designs*, published in 1757, still exists in the library at Castle Ward.

The north-east front with its battlements and pointed windows is of more than usual interest. While the spidery yet decorative forms of Georgian Gothick had long been popular in England, they were slow to cross the Irish Channel. Castle Ward must be one of the first houses in Ireland to exemplify "the modern Gothick", though it has more in common with sturdier Scottish examples of the style, particularly Inveraray Castle in Argyllshire [designed by Roger Morris for the 3rd Duke of Argyll in 1745], which the Wards had visited in July 1754, and which may have been taken as a model. ...



*Castle Ward, the gothick front*

Inveraray Castle in Argyllshire [designed by Roger Morris for the 3rd Duke of Argyll in 1745], which the Wards had visited in July 1754, and which may have been taken as a model. ...

The battle of the styles continued behind the walls. The richly decorated hall, which served as the grand public introduction to Castle Ward, was in Bernard's half of the house and, like his facade, it demonstrates a pleasant but conventional Classical taste. The light, elegant plasterwork of the ceiling, probably the work of Dublin plasterers, tops a Doric screen of scagliola columns, while the walls are panelled and decorated with trophies of arms, musical instruments and agricultural implements (several of which, including a violin, baskets and hats, are the real thing - they were simply dipped in plaster and fixed to the walls). The wall decoration, which is rather cruder than that of the ceiling, almost certainly dates from the early 19th century; it is probably the work of a team of stuccadores from Dundrum who were employed at the house from March 1828 to January 1829. The staircase wall once boasted an elaborate plaster ceiling similar to that in the hall; and, like the classical facade, the overall design of the room appears to have been taken from Swan's *Collection of Designs*. The staircase itself has wrought-iron balusters, a mahogany rail inlaid with satinwood and ebony stringing and carved parcel-gilt newels. ...

The three main rooms on Lady Anne's side of the house - the boudoir, the saloon and the morning room - offer a startling contrast after the cool restraint of the hall and staircase hall. Gothick motifs are everywhere, from the billowing tent-like form of the boudoir ceiling ... to the pointed doorcases, the shutter cases and plaster quatrefoils.

Even the carved wooden over mantel in the saloon has battlements. ... .. A letter sent to Bernard Ward by Lord William Gordon [another Scottish influence on Castle Ward] in May 1764, makes it clear that the fan-vault [in Lady Anne's Gothick boudoir] was based on that of Henry VII's famous Chapel at Westminster Abbey - "I left a Commission in England to send Lady Ann[e] drawings of the Roof of Henry the eighth [sic] Chapel, a Chinese bed, and a Temple, which I hope her La[dyship] has got and I shall not forget the Painted Glass. ..."

... True to the spirit of his time, Bernard Ward found his father's formal vistas rather too stiff and disciplined, and swept many of them away. His preference was for open views, with broad expanses of grass, clumps of trees and a deerpark. ...



## Castle Ward hospitality

In October of 1772 Sir James Caldwell of Castle Caldwell in Co. Fermanagh visited Castle Ward, which he found the "finest place in this kingdom". His account of the house and his reception is as follows:

"Monday, 12th October 1772. A little before dinner I got to Castle Ward. Lord Bangor received me with great cordiality ... . He also asked me to dine and stay all night. This was the greater compliment, as his house was full of company, and not quite finished. ... There was an excellent dinner, stewed trout at the head, chine of beef at the foot, soup in the middle, a little pie at each side and four trifling things at the corners. ... The second course of nine dishes [was] made out much in the same way. The cloth was taken away, and then the fruit - a pineapple, not good; a small plate of peaches, grapes, and figs (but a few), and the rest, pears and apples. No plates or knives given about; we were served in queen ware. ... During dinner two French horns of Lady Clanwilliam's [Lady Bangor's daughter by her previous marriage] played very fairly in the hall next to the parlour which had a good effect. ..."



## A family and estate divided

The separation of Castle Ward into Gothick and Classical was followed by the separation of Bernard and the contentious Anne ...' in c.1766. Indeed, the 1767 portrait of Bernard Ward holding a plan of the Classical front may have been a parting gesture and a gesture of defiance, the more so as it hangs in Lady Anne's Gothick saloon. They had three sons and four daughters, but according to the statement of a member of the family (quoted by John Stevenson, *Two Centuries of Life in Down, 1600-1800* [Belfast, 1920]), 'as time went on they were not by any means a harmonious couple', in marked contrast to the relationship between Bernard Ward's parents, of whom Stevenson remarks: '... There is not, in the great mass of preserved correspondence, a line to indicate that the Judge and his wife were ever other than the best of friends. ...' Lady Anne Ward '... left Castle Ward and went to Bath where she lived till her death in 1798. ...' She also, presumably under the terms of their separation, had a life interest in Bernard Ward's house in Stephen's Green, Dublin. It looks as if the separation was the result of Lady Anne's whimsical and imperious personality, because Bernard Ward remained on close terms with her daughter, Lady Clanwilliam, to whom he left in his will 100 guineas to buy a mourning ring and in consideration 'of her affectionate behaviour to me during our long acquaintance'.



*Bernard Ward,  
1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Bangor*

As well as building Castle Ward, Bernard Ward, 1st Viscount Bangor, considerably increased the Ward estates in Co. Down. This is shown by his will, dated 30 August 1779, and two codicils, dated 11 February 1780 and 7 May 1781 respectively. The will states that he had lately purchased from Henry Thomas, 2nd Earl of Carrick (the grandson of Margaret Hamilton and the 6th Viscount Ikerrin) Lord Carrick's undivided moiety of the Hamilton estate in and around Bangor, thus bringing the whole estate into Lord Bangor's possession. This acquisition is unrecorded in the archive, but the Registry of Deeds (vol. 320, p. 524 memorial no. 219940) records that it was made on 4 May 1779 and that Lord Bangor paid Lord Carrick £12,337 for the estate and a chief rent out of 'Granshaw'. This seems a suspiciously small amount of money, and it might be thought that Lord Bangor had also assumed responsibility for debts charged on the estate. However, a subsequent deed shows that Lord Carrick indemnified Lord Bangor against any liabilities attaching to the Bangor estate by assigning to him, as security, lands belonging to Lord Carrick in the south of Ireland. So £12,357 must have been the full price. The estate, of course, was relatively small, and since the town and seaside resort of Bangor had yet to be developed, it was still largely rural in character. The only thing which Lord Carrick did not sell was his half-interest in Bangor borough; so that, when it was disfranchised under the terms of the Act of Union in 1800, Lord Carrick and the Ward family divided the compensation money of £15,000. In the interim, control of one seat each continued to advance the interests of both families.

Lord Bangor's will and codicils also reveal that he had made other important additions to the estates. Specifically, he had acquired, probably piecemeal, Ballyhosset, Streul, Welchestown and 14 other townlands in the barony of Lecale, all in fee simple, a leasehold interest in six or so townlands in Lecale, including Audleystown and Tobberdoney (which were vital to rounding off the Castle Ward estate) and the strand of Killough (equally so in rounding off the Killough estate), and also fee simple estates in four townlands in the barony of Ards, all in the general area of Bangor.

These acquisitions would very considerably have increased the wealth and influence of future Viscounts Bangor, but for the fact that the 1st Viscount, by his will and codicils of 1779-1781, divided them between his two younger sons, and charged them with nearly £15,000 as an addition to the £8000 already set aside for his four daughters under his marriage settlement of 1748. His eldest son, Nicholas, who succeeded as 2nd Viscount in 1781, was already heir to the Castle Ward estate, the manor of Killough and the original Ward half of the Bangor estate, under a settlement which the 1st Viscount had made on 2 January 1773. By 1779-1781, however, it was already clear that Nicholas was insane, and presumably his father saw no point in leaving anything further to him, the more so as the ultimate heir to the title was going to be one or other of Lord Bangor's younger sons or a son of one of them. Lord Bangor therefore divided his personal estate (ie those lands in fee simple or leasehold which he had himself acquired) between his second son, Edward, and his third son, Robert, leaving the Lecale lands to Edward, who presumably was intended to reside at Castle Ward, and the Ards lands, including the purchased half of the Bangor estate, to Robert. Lord Bangor also provided that, if Edward or Edward's son succeeded to the title and the settled estates, then Robert was to receive nearly all Edward's share of the personal estate, the only exceptions being the three leasehold townlands at Castle Ward and Killough. Having in this way seriously compromised the long-term financial position of his successors in the title, the 1st Viscount died later in 1781.



## Edward and Robert Ward

The new Lord Bangor, who had been born in 1750, did not die until 1827 and remained insane. If his insanity had manifested itself earlier, it might have been possible to obtain a private act of parliament excluding him from the succession; but, once the 1773 settlement had been entered into, it was presumably too late for this. Nor was it clear which of his younger brothers was likely to be the father of the heir, since neither was married in 1781.

It was the third brother, Robert (1754-1831) who married first, in 1782. His wife was Sophia Frances Whaley, daughter of Richard Chapel Whaley of Whaley Abbey, Co. Wicklow, and sister of the notorious 'Buck' Whaley. This was actually the second Ward-Whaley marriage. In 1759, Anne Ward, daughter of the Rev. Bernard Ward and a second cousin of Bernard Ward, 1st Viscount Bangor, had married the elderly Richard Chapel Whaley as his second wife (after nearly marrying the 'Volunteer' Earl of Charlemont). The second brother, Edward (1753-1812), married in 1783 Lady Arabella Crosbie, daughter of the 1st Earl of Glandore of Adfert Abbey, Co. Kerry, by his wife, Lady Theodosia, a sister of Edward Ward's mother, Lady Anne. She died in 1813. Both Edward and Robert Ward had a number of sons. The ultimate successor, to the settled estates and as 3rd Viscount Bangor, was Edward Southwell Ward (1790-1857), eldest son of Edward Ward. But this of course did not come to pass until the mad 2nd Viscount died in 1827.

The one thing which the 1st Viscount had been unable to provide for, because he could not make the legal presumption that his eldest son would remain insane, was who was to receive the income from the settled estates during the 2nd Viscount's lifetime. That, presumably, was a matter for the Court of Chancery, which administered the affairs of lunatics. However, there was plenty of scope, in practice, for disputes between Edward and Robert, to say nothing of their sisters, and there seem to have been such disputes for the rest of the 2nd Viscount's life. For example, in the settlement made on his first marriage, in 1782, Robert is described as 'of Castle Ward', although it might be thought that Edward, as the elder brother, should have been living there. In general, Robert Ward seems to have been better-off financially than the terms of his father's will would lead one to expect. In 1782, Sophia Whaley brought him a marriage portion of £12,000, which was out of all proportion to the £500 a year in widow's jointure with which he was empowered by his father's will to charge the estates left to him during the 2nd Viscount's lifetime. This suggests that, somehow or other, Robert must have been able to make a lien on the settled estates. In 1786, he was in a financial position to spend £36,000 on purchasing the estates of the Bailie family of Inishargy, Kircubbin, which were located in and around Kircubbin and elsewhere in Co. Down. (Surprisingly, in view of the importance of this acquisition, there is no reference to it, as to the acquisition of Lord Carrick's half of Bangor, in the archive. The source of this information is Registry of Deeds, vol. 381, p. 203, memorial no. 251987.) Since his wife's marriage portion would only have gone one-third of the way to making this purchase, this again suggests that he had means at his disposal over and above what had been left him by his father.

Meanwhile, Edward Ward was elected on the family interest, and with the support of other county magnates such as the Earl of Hillsborough and Edward's half-sister, Lady Clanwilliam, as MP for Co. Down, 1783-1790. As the *de facto* head of the family, he must have moved by this time into Castle Ward, where presumably the 2nd Viscount was also living. In 1800, when the Royal Downshire Militia was divided, Robert Ward became the first Colonel of the South Down Regiment. On the strength of the half of the Bangor estate left to him by his father, Robert took up residence in Bangor, and busied himself trying to promote the Bangor-Portpatrick packet service, in opposition to that from Donaghadee. In a will which he made in 1799 he describes himself as 'of Bangor', while in his last will, dated 1828, he describes himself as 'of Bangor Castle'. This must have been a preliminary piece of castle-building, because Bangor Castle as it now exists was not built until 1847-1852. In 1802, a lease of a part of the 2nd Viscount's half of the Bangor estate was granted by Robert Ward and the 2nd Viscount's committee of lunacy (who would have been family members or friends appointed by the Court of Chancery), so it would appear that Robert Ward at this stage was acting as agent for the committee. This would have made good sense, in view of the fact that he was resident on that part of the estate.

Edward Ward died in 1812. At this point, his eldest son, Edward Southwell Ward, the heir presumptive to the viscountcy and the settled estates, was only just of age. Possibly he was absent on the Grand Tour? For whatever reason, Colonel Robert Ward seems to have been able to act much as he pleased. He '... installed his eldest brother [the 2nd Viscount] in a small house in Downpatrick, and proceeded to remove the contents of Castle Ward. ...



## The 3rd and subsequent Viscounts Bangor

Robert Ward's depredations had left the house virtually empty and the estate in a deplorable way. It was to take a long time to restore; for, ten years ... [after the 3rd Viscount's succession in 1827, the Ordnance] Survey of Ireland reported: "This is a large and fine house, situated in the centre of an extensive demesne; the plantations are large, many parts of the estate show taste, but generally speaking, it is totally out of order. However, it is gradually improving under the directions of the present Lord Bangor." ... [The 3rd Viscount's improvements are now principally to be seen in the library at Castle Ward.] The book presses are of carved and figured mahogany and were placed here in 1835 by the 3rd Viscount ..., whose portrait by Saye hangs between the windows. Three of the doors of the bookcases have false fronts, disguised by book spines, one of them being the doorway to the staircase hall. ... [As has been noted, the plasterwork in the original entrance hall also dates from the 3rd Viscount's time, having probably been executed in 1828-1829.] The 3rd Viscount ... died in 1837. Four years later, his widow married Major Andrew Savage-Nugent, who not only supervised the upbringing of a large step-family, but also took the ailing estate in hand.

The title and ... [the Castle Ward, Killough and half of the Bangor estates passed successively to two sons of the 3rd Viscount, Edward Ward, 4th Viscount (1827-1881), who was unmarried, and Henry Ward, 5th Viscount (1828-1911), who married, as his first wife, Mary King of Ballylinn, King's County, a pioneer photographer and etymologist (to whose work a room at Castle Ward is now devoted). The 4th and 5th Viscounts continued with Major Savage-Nugent's] programme of improvement ... . Many of the estate buildings were either rebuilt or refitted around this time, and most have recently been restored by the National Trust to provide a fascinating glimpse into working life on a large Victorian estate. The laundry in the stable yard is fully fitted with an array of Victoria equipment, including a collection of irons and period linens; and down in the farmyard, visitors can see a complex of sawmill, cornmill, and drying kiln, built to cater for the needs of family and tenants. ... Nineteenth-century Wards (and Major Savage-Nugent) added many of the trees that make the walks which criss-cross the estate so pleasant today. They also created the fourteen-hectare walled garden beside the Temple Water. The other major Victorian contribution to the grounds was the sunken parterre beside the present house, with its formal beds. At the turn of the century, when it was known as the Windsor Garden, having been based on a design at Windsor Castle, it contained 61 flower-beds filled with begonias, dwarf geraniums, blue lobelia and yellow pyrethrum. ...

[The 5th Viscount's] son, Maxwell Ward, 6th Viscount Bangor, was born in 1868 and was stationed in Peking during the Boxer Rebellion, bringing back with him from China some artefacts which are still in the house.] ... In the 20th century, Castle Ward's fluctuating fortunes began to ebb once more, and by the end of the Second World War had fallen into something of a decline. ... [The] 6th Viscount ... spent much of his time away, and on his death in 1950, the family decided that they could no longer afford to keep up the estate. Accordingly, ... Castle Ward was accepted by the Government of Northern Ireland in part payment of death duties, and presented by the Government with an endowment to the National Trust.'



## The Wards of Bangor Castle

Colonel the Hon. Robert Ward, younger brother of the 2nd, and uncle of the 3rd, Viscount Bangor, died in 1831, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Michael Edward Ward (1789-1832). He married in 1815 Lady Matilda Stewart, daughter of the 1st Marquess of Londonderry and sister of Viscount Castlereagh (later 2nd Marquess). Madeleine Bingham, wife of the 7th Lord Clanmorris, whose grandfather, the 5th Lord, had married the Bangor Castle heiress in 1878, writes in *Peers and Plebs: Two Families in a Changing World* (London, 1975): '... Edward Ward ... [was] a distinguished diplomat at the time of George IV, presumably through his connections with the Castlereagh family. He served at St Petersburg and Lisbon. He was also present at the ... Congress of Vienna ...'.

His son and successor, Robert Edward Ward (1818-1904), succeeded as a minor. He married a cousin, Harriette Ward, in 1857, and built the now Bangor Castle, to the designs of William Burn. In the words of Lady Clanmorris: '... The Gothic magnificence of the castle did not impress her, for she remarked that "there was not a comfortable room in the house". There was comfort in the fact that, from the windows, the Ward family had an excellent view of the seaside town [half of] which they owned. ... Bangor was finished in 1852 ... . It was vast house, with simulated battlements and a crenulated tower with clock and flagstaff, from which could be flown a triumphal flag when the family were in residence. ... The castle, with its thirty-five bedrooms, huge saloon, entrance halls, with drawing room, library, study, servants' quarters and stables, cost all of £9,000. Over the main staircase, a vast, stained-glass window pictured the ancestry of the Wards stretching back to Edward III. ...'.

A survey and valuation of the estates of the Wards of Bangor Castle in 1869, suggests that there had been considerable subtractions from the estate which Colonel Robert Ward had inherited under the will of his father, the 1st Viscount Bangor, in 1781 (including the additional lands which came to him when his brother's son succeeded as 3rd Viscount in 1827), and from the Bailie estates which Colonel Robert Ward had bought in 1786. Nevertheless, there remained 3,945 Irish, or 6,391 statute, acres (including half the town of Bangor and, probably, the whole town of Kircubbin), valued at £10,830 per annum. The remaining estate was principally in the Bangor and Kircubbin areas, but included a few townlands in the barony of Lecale, between Strangford and Downpatrick, and an isolated townland at Knock, in the parish of Holywood, near Belfast.



## The Clanmorris connection

Lady Clanmorris resumes: '... On 27 June 1878, ... [Matilda Catherine Maude] Ward only daughter and heiress of Robert Edward Ward ..., [married] John George Barry Bingham, 5th Baron Clanmorris, lately [a] lieutenant in 1st Rifle Brigade, [a] close friend of the Duke of Connaught, the regiment's Colonel, and ADC to the Duke of Marlborough, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. ... The Bingham's came from the impoverished west, from Co. Mayo, ... [in contrast to] the more prosperous and more sternly protestant north [where the Wards came from] ... [the bridegroom] was the typical hunting-drinking man of his day ... . He had already dissipated most of his own fortune when he made his fortune at marriage ... . The marriage was not only difficult, but ... proved unexpectedly fruitful. ... Arthur Maurice Robert Bingham [later 6th Lord Clanmorris], the first child ..., was born at Bangor Castle on 22 June 1879 ... [and] named after ... Prince Arthur [Duke of Connaught] and Robert, his Ward grandfather ... . After Maurice, ... no less than nine other children were born ... . [The 5th Lord Clanmorris died in 1916, but his widow, the Ward heiress, did not die until 1941.

Meanwhile, her son, the 6th Lord Clanmorris's] ... debts were piling up, and his private income had remained static since the 1914 war. He was over fifty [in 1930], and his mother, Maude, remained as hale and hearty as ever. The 5th Baroness Clanmorris was still living in her castle, with ten indoor servants and ten outside staff, including her chauffeur, gardeners, and various odd-job men who had clung about the castle battlements for many years. ... She knew that he [the 6th Lord] had raised money on his expectations of her death, not perhaps the most endearing action of an heir. ... She managed to save her fortune from her husband, and she was not disposed to let her [son and] heir dissipate the rest. ...'

As a result, the Ward estate became the Clanmorris estate (as it is still generally known) in name more than in anything else. The estate papers have survived only because the last Clanmorris agent, the late Capt. H.H.K. Worsley, preserved them. Along with the papers of the Nugent estate at Portaferry, Co. Down, for which he was also agent, they were kept by him in the Portaferry Estate Office, whence they were transferred to PRONI in 1977. The other, smaller and choicer deposit of Clanmorris papers, comprising c.150 patents, title deeds and leases, 1605-1924, was acquired by PRONI in 1998.



## The archive

The following is a description of the contents of the different components of the Ward papers. Where appropriate, and particularly in the period up to 1781, the papers – whether of Castle Ward or Bangor Castle provenance – are described under the same headings. The Castle Ward and Killough estates on the one hand, and the Kircubbin estate, on the other, can be treated as separate entities (by and large). But the Bangor estate was always shared between the two branches of the Ward family, and it is not even clear when the undivided moieties became divided.



## **Title deeds, leases, case papers, etc**

The archive contains c.725 documents of title of this kind, 1604-1914, relating to the original estates of the Ward family of Castle Ward, Viscounts Bangor, at Castle Ward, Killough, etc, barony of Lecale, Co. Down, to the Bangor estate of the Hamilton family of Bangor in the baronies of Ards and Lower Castlereagh, half of it inherited by the Wards through Judge Ward's marriage to Anne Hamilton in 1709 and the other half as a result of Bernard Ward, 1st Viscount Bangor's, purchase of it in 1779, and to the Kircubbin estate (plus detached townlands) purchased by Colonel the Hon. Robert Ward from the Bailie family of Inishargy in 1786.

Two of the earliest title deeds relate to Dublin City and County. They are: a grant in fee simple from James I to John Wakeman of the lands of St Mary's Abbey, Dublin, in Dublin City and County (Portmarnock, etc), 28 February, 1 James I [1604; and a confirmation of the same grant from James I to James Hamilton and Sir James Carroll, assignees of John Wakeman, 23 February, 8 James I [1611].



## Hamilton patents and title deeds

Of particular interest is the 17th-century Hamilton material. James Hamilton (1559-1643) came from Dunlop, Ayrshire, and had acted as an agent for James I in his negotiations to succeed to the English throne. In recognition of this service, James I granted him lands in Ulster and confirmed him in possession of lands, in Co. Down in particular, which he had acquired for himself by more than dubious means. On 4 May 1623, the King created him Viscount Claneboye, and on 7 June 1647 Charles I created his son, another James Hamilton, Earl of Clanbrassill. Both patents, which are very handsomely adorned with initial royal portraits, coats of arms, etc, are present in the archive.

The earliest Co. Down title deeds comprise: the 'renewal' of a pardon from James I to James Hamilton, 10 July, 2 James I [1604]; an 'Exemplification of Sir Thomas Smyth's patent' of The Ards, Claneboye, etc, Co. Down, 11 December, 2 James I [1604]; a patent granting/confirming to Sir Hugh Montgomery, Knight, and James Hamilton Esq., Upper Clandeboye and the Great Ards, 5 November, 3 James I [1605] (printed in full in T.K. Lowry (ed.), *The Hamilton Manuscripts, containing some account of the Settlement of the territories of the Upper Clandeboye, Great Ards and Dufferin in the County Down ...* (Belfast, 1867?), pp. i-x); a contemporary English translation of the charter incorporating Bangor as a borough, certified by James Hamilton, 28 March, 10 James I [1612]; an illuminated patent, with royal portrait, from James I to Sir James Hamilton, of 'Bangor, Holwood and the moietie of the Great Ardes', etc, together with lands in Co. Antrim, 27 November, 10 James I, [1612]; a deed from James, Viscount Claneboye, to his brother, Archibald Hamilton of Ballycott, Co. Down, of Ballykelly, parish of Bangor, 9 May 1626; a deed from James, Viscount Claneboye, to his brother, Patrick Hamilton of Enderwick, [East Lothian], of Ballygramsogh [sic – Gransha?], in the territory of Slewght-Kellies, Upper Clandeboye, Co. Down, 27 May 1628; a deed of quit claim and release of the lands of Bangor, Portavo, etc, Co. Down, from Hugh, Viscount Montgomery and Sir James Montgomery, Kt, to Lord Claneboye, 1636; and a counterpart of a deed from Lord Claneboye, to his nephew, James Hamilton of Newcastle, Co. Down, of Ballerloughan [sic – Ballycloghan], West Holywood [ie Knock], barony of Castlereagh, Co. Down, 13 January 1639.



## **The break-up of the Hamilton estate**

Also present are a series of deeds, 1671-1675 and 1678, by which Lord Claneboye's grandson and successor, Henry Hamilton, 2nd Earl of Clanbrassill, sold or leased in perpetuity substantial parts of the huge Hamilton estate in Co. Down, including Inishargy, Kircubbin, etc, to John Bailie in 1671. Other lands, more or less in order of conveyance, include Drumgiven, Carowmullen and Carowtegart, Ballykilliane, Tullyhubert, Carrowreagh, Groomsport, Carnalea, Conlig, etc. The 2nd Earl of Clanbrassill died in 1676 (allegedly poisoned by his wife, Lady Alice, who had previously induced him to leave all his remaining estates to her). She herself died in 1677, and the last of these deeds of conveyance was executed by her second husband, John Hamilton, 2nd Lord Bargeny, in 1678. By it, Lord Bargeny sold to Sir Hans Hamilton of Hamilton's Bawn, Co. Armagh, and James Hamilton of Newcastle, Co. Down, the manor of Bangor for £2,900.

The Hamilton/Ward/Clanmorris estate in Bangor and elsewhere was this fraction of the once great Hamilton estate which fell to the share of James Hamilton of Bangor (d.1707), one of five cousins of the late and unlamented 2nd Earl of Clanbrassill. The cousins secured their respective shares only after furious litigation with his widow and her representatives, and then between and among themselves, which did not terminate until 1696. It was this James Hamilton's daughter and co-heiress who married Michael Ward in 1709. James Hamilton, however, had left many debts at his death in 1707, and further sales of the estates of his two daughters and co-heiresses were required. These sales are documented by deeds of 1711-1713, 1717-1722, whereby his widow, Sophia Hamilton, and the other trustee appointed by an act of parliament for clearing his debts, conveyed to various people lands and chief rents in the lordship of Bangor, barony of Ards, and in the barony of Castlereagh.



## **Later Bangor estate deeds**

There are also c.ten later title deeds relating to the former Hamilton estate in and around Bangor, and elsewhere in Co. Down, 1740-1815, and some comparatively modern mainly legal, papers about the Bangor estate: arbitration papers in relation to land compulsorily acquired by Bangor Urban District Council for a gasworks, 1905-1906, and sale papers about the pier and other Clanmorris interests in Bangor Harbour, 1919-1922.



## **The Castle Ward and Killough estates**

Title deeds to these estates are not numerous. The earliest is a mortgage of Tobberdoney and other parts of Audleystown, Co. Down, from Robert Audley of Audleystown and others to Bernard Ward of Castle Ward, for £351, 10 November, 17 Charles I [1641]. There is a fine of Killough, Ardglass, etc, 21 Charles II [1679], which perhaps precedes or follows its acquisition by the Wards of Castle Ward, and there are fines and recoveries by Judge Michael Ward of the Castle Ward and Killough estates, 1706 and 1748 (the latter preliminary to the marriage of Bernard Ward, later 1st Viscount Bangor). A patent of 13 August 1767 from the King to Bernard Ward grants him the right to hold fairs and markets at Killough. The other title deeds relate in the main to at most one or two townlands. There is no version of the important deed of settlement of 2 January 1773.



## **Kircubbin, etc, title deeds**

These comprise deeds, etc, 1670-1671, 1737, 1746, 1753, 1768-1769, 1773, N.D. and 1841, relating to the lands of the Bailie family of Inishargy, Kircubbin, Co. Down, mainly acquired under a conveyance from Lord Clanbrassill in 1671, and including lands not in the vicinity of Kircubbin. The following is a recital of all the lands concerned, taken from a deed of 24 April 1773: Inishargy, Ballymullan, Balliggan, Granshogh, Kircubbin and Donavely, barony of Ards; Ballycreevy, Cargycroy and Ballydrenan, barony of Castlereagh; and Ballylowan, barony of Kinelarty. By this stage, the late Judge Michael Ward of Castle Ward had already acquired part of the Bailie estate, the lands and tithes of Oughley, in 1719, and he had also acquired, from another vendor, the advowson of the vicarage of St Andrew's, Ballyhalbert [on the other side of the Ards Peninsula from Kircubbin] in 1737. In 1786, Colonel the Hon. Robert Ward acquired all or most of the Bailie estates itemised in the deed of 1773, but, again, there is no version in the archive of this important conveyance. The documents of 1670, which are deeds of lease and release, relate to Donavely. The document of 1768 is a patent granting to James Bailie of Inishargy the right to hold four yearly fairs and a weekly market in Kircubbin.



## Marriage settlements

The 17th and 18th-century settlements comprise: the settlement on the marriage of Charles, son of Sir Robert Ward of Killough, Knight, and Katherine, daughter of Sir John Temple, Solicitor-General for Ireland, 1681; the settlement on the marriage of James Hamilton of Newcastle [later of Bangor], Co. Down, and Lady Sophia Mordaunt, daughter of Henry, Earl of Peterborough, 1687; the settlement on the marriage of Michael Ward and Anne Hamilton, 1709; the settlement on the marriage of Michael Ward's sister, Mary, and Capt. Thomas Stewart, 1711; the settlement of the jointure of Sophia Hamilton, now a widow, the mother of Mrs Michael Ward, 1716; a deed of sale on the part of Sophia, widow of James Hamilton of Bangor (and mother of his co-heiresses), Anne, wife of Michael Ward, Margaret, wife of the 6th Viscount Ikerrin, and the other trustees under an act of parliament for selling land in order to pay the debts of James Hamilton [d.1707], whereby lands to the value of £4,000 are sold to provide Lady Ikerrin's marriage portion of £4000, 1713; the settlement on the marriage of Ward's sister, Anne, and Ezekiel Stewart of Fort Stewart, Co. Donegal, 1717; the settlement on the marriage of John Bailie of Inishargy and Jane, daughter of Matthew Forde of Seaforde, Co. Down, 1720; the settlement on the marriage of Ward's daughter, Sophia, and Arthur Upton, 1739; the settlement on the marriage of his other daughter, Anne, and John Parnell of Rathleague, Queen's County [later Sir John Parnell, 1st Bt], 1745; the settlement on the marriage of William Perceval [of the Perceval family of Templehouse, Co. Sligo] and Elizabeth Ward, 1748; the settlement on the marriage of Bernard Ward of Castle Ward and Lady Anne Magill, 16 November 1748; a subsequent deed for settling Lady Anne's jointure (of £700 pa), also 1748; the settlement on the marriage of the Hon. Robert Ward of Castle Ward and Sophia Frances Whaley (whose marriage portion is £12,000), 1782 (two original deeds); and the settlement on the marriage of the Hon. Edward Ward and Lady Arabella Crosbie, 1783.

The 19th-century marriage settlements comprise: the settlement on the marriage of John Goddard Richards and Miss Anne Catherine Ward, 1821; the settlement on the marriage of Miss Sarah Catherine Ward [daughter of the Hon. Edward Ward and sister of the future 3rd Viscount Bangor], and George Meara, 1825; the settlement on the marriage of [the future 3rd Viscount] and Miss Harriet Maxwell [whose father later succeeded as 6th Lord Farnham], 1826; a draft of the settlement on the intended marriage of Colonel John Richard Ward, son of Colonel the Hon. Robert Ward of Bangor Castle, and Miss Catherine Frances Pensan, 1828; and the settlement on the marriage of Robert Edward Ward of Bangor Castle and his cousin, Miss Harriette Ward, 1857.



## **The lunacy of the 2nd Viscount Bangor**

A number of documents relate to the lunacy of Nicholas, 2nd Viscount Bangor. The first is an order from Richard Rigby, the Master of the Rolls (who is involved because lunatics came under the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery), confirming a report made by a Master in Chancery that £300 per annum should be allowed for the upkeep of Castle Ward, 20 December 1781. There follow a Chancery brief relating to the question of Lord Bangor's lunacy and copies of Chancery interrogatories administered to him, both c.1819.



## **Deeds relating to other families**

Inevitably, some of the deeds relate to the affairs of other families with whom the Wards were connected, principally the Magills of Gill Hall (the family of Lady Anne Ward's first husband). The settlement made on the ill-fated marriage of her daughter, Theodosia, the Magill heiress, to Sir John Meade, later 1st Earl of Clanwilliam, is not present. But there are two preliminary deeds of 27 August 1765 clarifying the title to her estates at Gilford and Rathfriland, Co. Down, and to his estates in Cos Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary. Earlier, there are two deeds of 1755-1756 relating to the executorship of Lady Anne Ward's first husband, Robert Hawkins Magill. Much later, there is an assignment of a judgement, dated 1878, and involving, along with Wards and Maxwells, the celebrated Capt. Charles Cunningham Boycott.



## Leases

In addition to title deeds, there are c.1000 leases and one outsize lease book of parts of the Ward estates at Castle Ward, Killough, Bangor, Kircubbin and elsewhere in Co. Down, from c.1710.

Most of the c.450 Castle Ward and Killough leases are **from** members of the Ward family/Viscounts Bangor. But a number are **to** them, and therefore constitute title deeds. In the main, these latter are leases from successive bishops of Down and Connor of the townland of Raholp, 1754-1835, which was held by the Ward family under that see. There are also two bishop's leases of Lismollin, alias Bishopscourt, 1748 and 1773.

The Bangor, etc, leases are dated 1802 and 1836-1940, and were mainly granted by Robert Edward Ward (d.1904) and his daughter and heiress, Maude, Lady Clanmorris (d.1941). There are also some from successive Viscounts Bangor, relating to that half of the Bangor, etc, estate. The isolated item of 1802 is a lease granted by R.E. Ward's grandfather, Colonel Robert Ward, and the committee of lunacy which managed the affairs of Colonel Ward's eldest brother, the 2nd Viscount Bangor. Also included is a lease book containing particulars of leases, c.1800-1940, arranged alphabetically by tenants.

The leases (and related legal papers) relating to the Kircubbin estate are dated 1831 and 1850-1942, and include Irish Land Commission sale papers. There are also deeds, leases and related papers, 1865 and 1887-1934, relating to Ballycloghan, [Knock], parish of Holywood, 1865, 1887-1914 and 1934, and Leggygowan, parish of Saintfield, 1908 and 1926.



## Wills and testamentary papers

These include a number of pre-1858 Irish wills, and comprise: the original and a copy of the will of James Hamilton of Bangor, 1701; the grant of administration to Sophia Hamilton, widow, to the goods of Sir Edward Herbert, Knight, 1715; the probate (1717) of the will (1716) of Sophia Hamilton; a copy probate (1781) of the will (1779) and codicils (1780-1781) of Bernard Ward, [1st] Viscount Bangor; the will of [Colonel] the Hon. Robert Ward of Bangor, 1799; the probate (1835) of the will (1828) and codicils (1829-1830) of Colonel the Hon. Robert Ward of Bangor Castle (who apparently died in 1831); the probate (1832) of the will (1832) and codicils (1832) of Michael Edward Ward of Bangor Castle; the will of Robert Edward Ward of Bangor Castle, 1850; a copy of the probate (1850) of the will (1850) of James Brown Bailie of Downpatrick; a copy of the will of Sophia, wife of John Bayley of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, 1854; a copy of the will of Colonel John Richard Ward of Strangford House, 1860; a copy of the probate (1872) of the will (1872) of his widow, Mrs Catharine F. Ward; and the will of Robert Edward Ward, D.L. of Bangor Castle, 1899.



## Maps, plans, and surveys

Apart from maps and surveys which have strayed into the Castle Ward correspondence (q.v.) the Castle Ward and Killough estates are poorly represented. There are, however, some individual townland maps, from 1778 onwards, a map of tenements in Killough, 1829, OS maps relating to Lord Bangor's estates, including an OS map of 1835 marked up to show his estate, 1860, and one MS section drawing relating to drainage on the estate, c.1902-c.1924.

The other maps, plans, and surveys relate to the Ward of Bangor Castle estates, mainly in Bangor and Kircubbin (although one of the Bangor maps also marks Lord Bangor's estate there), 1869-1917. The earliest is an outside volume of 'Maps and government valuation of the estate of Robert E. Ward, DL, 1869', also giving tenants' names.

The townlands and denominations given in the volume for the Bangor and Kircubbin estate are: Balliggan, part of Ballyholme, Ballymacconnell, Ballyvarnet, Bangor bog, Carnalea, part of Corporation, Fish Quarter, Gransha, Horse Island, Inishargy and Kircubbin'. The townlands in the Union of Downpatrick are: Ballymenagh, Bishops court, Dunevly, part of Grangenally, Leggygowan, Lisboy, part of Saul and Tullynaskeagh. The isolated townland in the Union of Belfast is Ballycloghan. The total is 3945 Irish (6391 statute) acres, valued at £10,830.

Then follow: a map and survey, enlarged from the Ordnance Survey, of the townland of Leggygowan, Co. Down, on the estate of Colonel E. Ward, by Thomas Nolan, Downpatrick, 1877; 'Kircubbin estate - reference to map', 1878; a map, enlarged from the OS of the premises of Saul Mills in the townland of Saul, Co. Down, by J.W. Bassett, surveyor, 1888; a copy of a map of the town and corporation of Bangor, detailing the property of Viscount Bangor and R.E. Ward, drawn by John Russell, architect and solicitor, Waring Street, Belfast, and copied from maps of Co. Down made by Dr James Kennedy, c.1725-1770; a map of Ballyholme and part of Bangor, from the OS, 1895; a valuation of Co. Down estate of R.E. Ward, 1896; a map of the village of Kircubbin and part of the townland of Kircubbin, from the OS, 1902; two plans of a proposed addition and of repair work to Kircubbin pier by J.S. Munce, Chartered Engineer, Scottish Provident Buildings, Belfast, 1916; an envelope of maps of Bangor and Ballyholme, mainly from the OS, 1917; and undated maps of Bangor Town Parks and of the town of Bangor.



## **Rentals, accounts, etc**

Apart, again, from material which has found its way into the Castle Ward correspondence, and an account to Bernard Ward dated 1751, almost all the documents and volumes of this kind derive from the Wards of Bangor Castle. There are, however, rentals and accounts for Lord Bangor's property in Dublin City, 1920-1925.

The Ward of Bangor Castle material comprises: outside Bangor Estate Office cash books and cash ledgers, 'Capt. the Hon. Somerset Ward, agent', 1885-1921; an outside account book of Capt. S.J. Lyle of Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, 1900-1943, part of it ante-dating his appointment as the Kircubbin [and later the Bangor?] agent; 4 outside volumes containing rentals of the Bangor estate, 1912-1937, and of the Kircubbin estate, 1912-1942; a small rent book recording the Bangor tenants' liabilities for street building and maintenance, 1913; an envelope of rentals and accounts for the Bangor and Kircubbin estates, 1937-1944; and an envelope of sale particulars for Ballycloghan and of rentals and accounts for the Bangor and Kircubbin estates, 1945-1946.



## **Correspondence, 1680-1831**

The great glory of the Ward Papers are the c.1000 Castle Ward letters, mainly for the century c.1700-c.1800, but with the outside dates of 1680-1831. The correspondence was to a limited extent quarried by John Stevenson in his *Two Centuries of Life in Down, 1600-1800*, and came to PRONI soon after the National Trust acquired Castle Ward. It has been fully calendared by PRONI. Much of it concerns the affairs of Michael Ward, who was often absent from his estates, attending to his duties as a Justice of the Court of King's Bench from 1725 to 1758, and much of it was written to him by a wide range of correspondents: kinsfolk, employees, fellow landlords and tenants. Most of it relates to the Castle Ward demesne and estate and to the Killough estate, rather than to the other estates at Bangor, Co. Down, and at Curryglass near Tallow, Co. Waterford, but itself in Co. Cork. The bulk of the letters cover the period 1720 to 1758 although there are some interesting earlier items.

Estate policy concerning the land and tenants of the Lecale estate does not figure prominently in the correspondence. For this we have to examine the pattern of the leases. The lack of correspondence on this topic suggests that in 1720 the estate was not presenting any serious problems because substantial farmers were taking long leases of the better land. Tradition states that it was about 1710 that Judge Ward began to encourage the spreading of marl on the light lands of the Lecale estate to produce barley for the Dublin market, a very profitable enterprise. This may be the case, since a survey and valuation of the Castle Ward estate made by John Sloane in 1707 mentions 'barley ground' only twice.



## The development of Killough

The correspondence shows, however, that this trade was well organised by the early 1720s when Ward began to develop his port of Killough, ten miles distant from Castle Ward, in opposition to the more convenient ports of Strangford and Ardglass, neither of which belonged to him. Letters from Killough report progress and setbacks in the attempts to establish a fishery and salt production, using rock salt imported from Liverpool, and to maintain a military barracks.

Ward's papers include draft memoranda opposing the 'New Barrack Scheme in Ireland' which may be linked with the pamphlet, *The Secret History and Memoirs of the Barracks of Ireland*, published in 1747. Ward's efforts to have the Customs officers removed from Downpatrick to Killough were, however, successfully resisted by the merchants of Downpatrick. In spite of the engineering problems at its harbour, Killough did manage to maintain a few vessels of its own and was visited by French, Portuguese and Scandinavian ships until the War of the Austrian Succession, (1740-1748) when French privateers in the Irish Sea affected its trade.

Elsewhere in the archive there is a modern typescript biography of Francis Lascelles, resident agent on and manager of the Killough estate, which covers the period 1700-1743 and discusses some of the topics mentioned above, including the setting up of the salt-pans at Killough.



## The Judge versus the Dean

Of particular importance in this archive are the letters, 1746-1751, dealing with the clash between Judge Ward and Patrick Delany, the energetic Dean of Down, over the question of tithes. The Dissenters were keen to challenge the right of the Dean to collect payments for christenings, burials and marriages in the deanery, and Judge Ward with some of his fellow landowners objected to the collection of more than one shilling per year in 'trade money' from each tradesman. Dean Delany's arguments were set out more fully in a pamphlet he published about this time, *An Essay towards Evidencing the Divine Original of Tithes*, and this, taken together with these letters, throws light on the debate about tithes in Ireland around 1750. In the end the Dean seems to have abandoned the lawsuit, at least as far as trade money from the linen weavers was concerned, these latter having had their defence funded by the Linen Board in Dublin (presumably thanks to the influence of Judge Ward).



## Arthur Dobbs

There are also more than a dozen letters from the Co. Antrim landlord, Arthur Dobbs, between 1734 and 1748, referring mainly to his attempts to find a North-West passage around North America. These letters were used by Desmond Clarke in his book, *Arthur Dobbs Esquire, 1689-1765* (Chapel Hill, 1957). Dobbs's letters also refer to the possibility of finding coal and lead on the shores of Belfast Lough (where Dobbs's seat, Castle Dobbs, Carrickfergus, was located) in 1725, and to the affairs of one of Dobbs's mercantile concerns, the Ohio Company, in 1750.



## **Local politics in Co. Down and elsewhere**

In a different vein there are a number of letters relating to local politics, particularly the local politics of Co. Down, which Bernard Ward, later 1st Viscount Bangor, represented from 1745 to 1770, and his second son, Edward, from 1783 to 1790. There are a few interesting letters about Bernard Ward's first election at a by-election in 1745, and about the sustained rivalry in Co. Down politics between the two great families of Hill and Stewart in the period 1783-1812. There are also references to the local politics of Bangor borough, where the Wards shared the representation with the descendants of the other Hamilton co-heiress, the Earls of Carrick, and about Tallow borough, near Curryglass. There is surprisingly little material relating to politics at national level, apart from some significant letters about the political crisis of 1753-1756.



## **Miscellaneous topics**

In addition to these well-defined topics, the Castle Ward letters range over the following matters: a lead mining venture at Killough and boring for coal at Ballintoy, Co. Antrim, in 1724, and mining activities in North Down in 1725; the growing of flax at Fort Stewart, Co. Donegal, in 1725; the activities of the Linen Board in the 1720s and 1730s; improvements to Saintfield church and rectory, Co. Down, in 1728 and to Ballyculter church, Co. Down, in 1736 and 1813; the views of Ezekiel Stewart of Fort Stewart on the reasons for emigration from Ulster to North America in 1729; progress on the Newry Canal in 1736 and 1759; the plundering of shipwrecks in Dundrum Bay in 1719; the charter school at Killough in 1740 and the construction of a windmill there in 1742; society gossip about Dublin, London and Bath, 1739-1740, contained in c.60 letters of Letitia Bushe; military preparations in the North of Ireland during the 1745 Rebellion; the state of defencelessness when Thurot took Carrickfergus in 1760; and oblique references to the building of Castle Ward in the early 1760s.



## **The unfortunate 2nd Viscount**

Of particular interest and poignancy is a group of letters concerned with Nicholas Ward's abortive grand tour in 1770-1771. Several months were spent in France and Switzerland in the company of a Swiss tutor, M. Delafare, who found Ward rude and unmanageable. The young man's own letters suggest that he was very lonely and handicapped by his poor French. After insulting Lord Stanhope, the English Ambassador in Geneva, Nicholas Ward was ordered home. Some ten years later he was, as 2nd Viscount Bangor, declared insane and much of the correspondence between 1781 and c.1813 is taken up with involved disputes among the family over control of the estate.



## **Problems of layout and physical condition**

It should be noted these Castle Ward letters were unsatisfactorily stuck by the family into a series of 11 albums, with the result that some extraneous matter (eg John Sloane's survey and valuation of 1707) has found its way into the correspondence, the chronological arrangement is not to be relied upon, and some physical damage has been done to the documents.

In addition, there is a volume of typescript extracts from letters from members of the Hamilton family in the foregoing albums, covering the period 1702-1759.



## **Later Castle Ward correspondence**

This comprises c.235 loose letters, 1831-c.1950, all between and among members of the Ward family, and principally relating to their personal, social, military, etc, activities, but with some reference to estate and business matters.

The correspondence includes: seven letters from William Ward (who was serving in the navy) to his parents and brother, Edward, 4th Viscount Bangor, from America, etc, 1845-1858; c.20 letters from the 5th Viscount Bangor to his parents and his brother, c.1848-1863; two letters from the 4th Viscount Bangor to his mother, from a yacht anchored off Italy, 1852; five letters from Bernard Ward, son of the 3rd Viscount Bangor (who was serving in the army), to his parents and brother from Constantinople, Malta, Corfu, etc, 1854-1857; c.25 letters from Crosbie R.M. Ward, serving with the 73rd Regiment in South Africa (and killed in action, 1858), mainly to his parents, 1854-1858; c.20 letters from Somerset Ward (who was serving in the army), to his parents from India, c.1854-1858; c.60 letters to the 5th Viscount Bangor, c.1883-1904, including several letters of condolence on the death of his son, the Hon. Edward William Henry Ward in Upper Burma in 1887; a letter from Somerset Ward and copies of other letters, together with a deed, all relating to books from the Castle Ward library bequeathed under the will of the 4th Viscount Bangor, 1886; c.30 letters to the 5th Viscountess Bangor, 1887-1907; c.20 letters about the appointment of a Principal of Ballyculter School, 1903; c.130 letters to the 6th Viscount Bangor, c.1911-1950, including several [from his wife?] and several regarding estate affairs just after his father's demise in 1911; and c.20 miscellaneous letters mainly to various Ward family members, c.1813-1950s.



## **Estate and business correspondence, letter-books and miscellaneous**

In addition to the correspondence just described, there are c.75 letter on Castle Ward, Killough and Bangor (Lord Bangor's half) estate affairs and about business matters generally, 1840-1917. There is also a long run of 63 carbon copy out-letter books, 1932-1949, deriving from the 6th Viscount Bangor, and mostly relating to estate and business matters. Also deriving from him is a minute book of the Killough Harbour Development Committee and correspondence with M. Buckley, secretary to the Development Committee, concerning improvements in the harbour, 1926-1929.



## **Ward of Bangor Castle correspondence**

This relates entirely to estate and business affairs.

The Bangor estate correspondence comprises: an envelope of correspondence and related papers about a proposed agreement between R.E. Ward and Bangor Urban District Council for the leases of grounds in Bangor for a public park, 1903-1904; an envelope of correspondence of the Clanmorris agent, Capt. the Hon. Somerset Ward, about the erection of hoardings on building land in Bangor, 1909; and ten files of Bangor estate correspondence, 1924, 1926, 1928-1929, 1932-1936 and 1944.

The Kircubbin material comprises: an envelope of correspondence of James Murland & Co., solicitors, Downpatrick, about the contravention of the Kircubbin Harbour regulation, 1913; an envelope of correspondence of the Kircubbin agent, Capt. S.J. Lyle of Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, about Kircubbin Harbour, 1913-1918 (elsewhere in the archive are printed regulations, issued by the Board of Trade under the Kircubbin Harbour Order, for the running of the harbour, 1917 and 1924); and 8 files and one envelope of Kircubbin estate correspondence, one of them relating to the harbour only, and another including correspondence about Ballycloghan, outside Belfast, 1924, 1926, 1928-1932 and 1936-1937.

Finally, there is one file of correspondence of Lyle's successor as agent, Capt. H.H.K. Worsley, about both the Bangor and Kircubbin estates, 1944-1947, and other files of an overlapping or miscellaneous nature. The latter comprise: a file of correspondence, mainly about the will of Maude, Lady Clanmorris, 1925; a file of correspondence relating to the redemption of head rents payable to the Clanmorris estate in both Bangor and Kircubbin, 1929; two files of correspondence about trusts, settlements, the debts of the 6th Lord Clanmorris, etc, 1932 and 1933; a file of correspondence about income tax, Kircubbin Harbour, trusts, settlements and debts, the Bangor curate's salary, etc, 1954; and two files of correspondence about income tax and trusts, 1935-1936.

