

Representative Church Body Library, Dublin

MS 1104/

Papers of the Hon. Rt Revd Charles Dalrymple Lindsay (1760-1846) Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and Bishop of Kildare, 1804-46; also his son, the Venerable Charles Lindsay (1790-1855), Archdeacon of Kildare, 1818-55; and finally of his second wife, Catherine Eliza Coussmaker (died 1837).

The provenance of this collection is unusual. It was gifted to the Library by Dr John Knightly, who in the course of his PhD research on the Godfrey family of Kilcolman Abbey, Milltown, Co. Kerry, had been gifted it by the late Dermot Edwards of Bushfield, Lismore. Mr Edwards was the grandson of Sir John Ernest Godfrey, 6th Bart. The Godfreys were a Church of Ireland family with many other family connections including the Gore family (mentioned in item 8/ below), to whom Bishop Lindsay would become related by marriage. It is possible these stray items became interleaved in family papers at various times although there is no obvious connection with either family. The 14 documents were gathered together in a dedicated folder.

Since most Irish bishops do not seem to have left much in the way of archives, collections such as this are useful in providing some detail of their lives and works. It is likely that there is much similar material still in private custody but uncovering it is usually a matter of chance. The items here are random and important documents, a few of which reflect Lindsay's oversight of Christ Church Cathedral as Dean, including his intended improvements of same following his appointment in 1804, and the diary of his second wife, Catherine Coussmaker which recounts her journey and arrival in Dublin c. 1801 briefly alluding to the swearing in of Philip Yorke, 3rd Earl of Hardwicke, as the new Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, following the Act of Union.

Lindsay had been vicar of Sutterton in Lincoln until his appointment in Ireland, briefly as bishop of Killaloe and Kilfenora, 1803-04, and then as Dean of Dublin and Bishop of Kildare in 1804. His first wife Elizabeth (the mother of his eldest son Charles) had died in 1797, after which he remarried in 1798 and they appear to have set off to Ireland to pursue his career from that time. He later appointed Charles as Archdeacon of Kildare in 1818, a post in which he continued until his death in 1855, which may explain some of the later documentation which post-dates Bishop Lindsay's death in 1846, although the last four items in the collection post-date the Archdeacon's life, and add to its randomness as a whole. By his second wife, Lindsay had two sons, the first of whom George Hayward Lindsay married Lady Mary Catharine Gore, sister of the earl of Arran, in 1828, explaining the Gore family link.

From Dr John Knightly, Dublin, 2020

1. Handwritten copy of the statutes as communicated to the His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of Ireland, to be printed, 1756 [presumably in the bishop's custody as a reference]
1756
2. Diary of Catherine Eliza Coussmaker, second wife of Bishop Lindsay, which commences with the words 'On Monday the 11th of May 1801 we left Sutterton'. Mostly recounting her journey through England, but describing the landing at Dublin, and interactions between 'Mr Lindsay' and the new Lord Lieutenant, Lord Hardwicke. Unfortunately the diary peters out after these brief references. [Dr Knightly has provided a typescript transcription of the document]
1801
3. Document entitled 'Anonymous hints about Christ Church' being comments about the efforts of Dr Lindsay, Lord Bishop of Kildare, 'to greatly improve and beautify the cathedral of Christ Church'.
Undated [presumably after 1804]
4. Response of the J. Cassidy Jnr to the request of the Revd Williams (Kildare) to provide 'the number of scholars in my school' being a list of male and female names attending said Mr Cassidy's school.
Dated 'Kildare February 11th 1808'
5. Return of the unendowed schools in the parish of Kildare giving details of where stationed, masters names, instruction, religious denomination of scholars, numbers and other observations.
15 February 1808
6. Cover letter possibly linked with item 5/ above from of John Williamson, 'Cottage' to the Rt Honble and Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Kildare, Glasnevin House', referring to 'the schools in Tully'.
17 February 1808
7. Document entitled 'Queries to be addressed by the several Archbishops of Ireland to the Bishops in their respective provinces' being the a series of questions in eight parts, possibly received by Lindsay, but his response not present
Undated, but likely 1810
8. Rental deed including detailed valuable, for 'a parcel of land at Glasnevin County Dublin', the property of the Hon. William John Gore, between the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Dublin, and the said William John Gore. A detailed colour map of the property showing outlying lands is annexed to the deed, as surveyed by John Longfield, 1807.
29 September 1833
9. Summary document outlining the values or composition of tithes for the parish of Old Connell [Kildare] in the hand of John Symes, Commissioner and signed by him.
28 October 1833
10. Tithe return for the parish of Dunmurghill, diocese and county of Kildare, signed by John Connor, Commissioner, Naas
November 1833
11. Letter from Dr D[avid?] F. Brady, Hon. Sec., County Dublin Liberal Club, 14 North Frederick Street, Rutland Square, Dublin, to 'CHL' presumably Charles Henry Lindsey, Glasnevin, concerning objections to those remaining on the electoral register, with draft reply signed 'CHL' which reveals his political affiliation.
29 September 1855 & 6 October 1855

12. Circular letter from Messrs Grogan and Vance, Conservative Candidates in the City of Dublin election, Committee Rooms, 79 Dame Street, concerning name appearing on the list of voters
16 March 1857
13. Final Notice to Tenants in the sale of the Blesinton Estate, of the lands known as Clonliffe East and West, and Daneswell, between Glasnevin and Drumcondra, county Dublin, at the Landed Estates' Court, Ireland, including colour map of the lands concerned, with detailed schedule.
[Presumably lands formerly of interest to either Bishop Lindsay, or the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin]
13 September 1872
14. Printed copy of a petition of the Revd Robert Fitzgerald Meredith to HM the Queen, relative to the barony of Herbert, in Chirbury, England, may be revived in his favour. This family connected to Maurice Fitzgerald, Knight of Kerry, which may explain its provenance, but it is unrelated to the documents above
1892

