Villiers-Stuart Papers

T 3131

DETAILED CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A/1/1-63</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/14/1, 2, 21</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/15/1, 3, 4, 7, 10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/16/4 &amp; 7</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/17/1-2</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/18/1-3</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/32/2-5, 14, 15, 17</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/37/1, 4, 8</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/43/2</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/1/35, 38, 40, 42, 43</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/4/5, 6, 14, 29</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/5/3, 10-16, 31, 35</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/7/34, 36-38</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/10/1-38</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/3/9</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/5/1-3, 5, 7-9, 12-15, 18, 20-21, 26, 29-33</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/7/23, 27-29, 39</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/8/2, 12, 43</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/10/13, 16</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/11/2-3, 5, 10-12, 21, 24, 26</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/14/2-8, 10-16, 19</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/16/1</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/20/8</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D/5/1-16</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D/6/1-17</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D/7/1-2</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/1/3</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/2/2, 10</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/3/2, 12</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/6/1, 5, 7, 10, 11</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F/4/14, 24, 85, 88, 89</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
G/1/3, 8, 14-16 124
G/2 127
G/9/1-2, 4, 8-9, 18-20, 22-23, 25, 27-30, 33-34, 129
G/9/36, 40, 47, 49, 60, 77, 94, 101, 104, 120, 136
G/9/148, 157, 163-164, 166, 172 138
H/8/1-4 141
H/10/1-72 149
I/1/1-8 152
I/2/1-5 169
Fitzgerald, Villiers, Mason and Aland Estate Papers
1215-1708

Fitzgerald Estate Papers

A/1/1-63  1215-1598

Miscellaneous Fitzgerald (of the Decies and of Dromana) estate and legal papers of the 13\textsuperscript{th}, 15\textsuperscript{th} and 16\textsuperscript{th} centuries.

A/1/1/A-B  1 Feb. 1215

PROI certified copy of a “Writ to the Archbishop of Dublin respecting a fine for the wardship of the heir of Thomas Fitz-Maurice”; with 1864 mss translation.

A/1/2/A-B  3 July 1215

PROI certified copy of a “Grant to Thomas FitzAnthony and his heirs of the custody of the counties of Waterford and Desmond, the city of Cork and the castles of Waterford and Dungarvan”; with 1864 mss translation.

A/1/3/A-B  1216

PROI certified of a “Fine of £400 paid by Thomas FitzAnthony for the wardship of the land and heir of Thomas FitzMaurice”; with 1864 mss translation.

A/1/4/A-B  13 Nov. 1222

PROI certified copy of a “Writ touching a grant to the Archbishop of Dublin of the custody of the counties of Waterford and Desmond and the copy of Cork”; with 1864 mss translation.

A/1/5/A-B  13 May 1227

PROI certified copy of a “Writ to Richard de Burgh touching the safe custody of the forest of Decies”; with 1864 mss translation.

A/1/6/A-B  25 Mar. 1229

PROI certified copy of a “Grant to John D’Evreux and his heirs of divers lands in Decies”; with 1864 mss translation.
A/1/7/A-B 20 July 1229

PROI certified copy of a “Writ to Richard de Burgh to seize into the King’s hands the lands of which Thomas FitzAnthony was seized at the time of his death”; with 1864 mss translation.

A/1/8 7 Nov. 1260

Non-contemporary copy of the royal grant of the Decies to John FitzThomas.

A/1/9/A-C 1281

PROI certified copy of inquisitions post mortem on John FitzThomas; with 1864 mss translation.

A/1/10/A-B 6 Feb. 1292

PROI certified copy of a “Grant to Thomas FitzMaurice, Margaret his wife and the heirs of said Thomas, of the lands of Decies and Desmond, with the custody of the castle of Dungarvan”; with 1864 mss translation.

A/1/11/A-B 13 June 1400

Writ concerning Andrew Power of Poltoill, Co. Waterford, son and heir of Martin Power of Poltoill; with modern mss transcription.

A/1/12 12 Mar. 1428

Deed of gift, Filicia Boys, formerly wife of Nicholas Cullan, to Nicholas Cullan Junior, burgess of Youghal, of the castle called Miles Castle, Garryduff and a mill in [Tneriswood], Co. Cork.

A/1/13 Monday next before Feast of Michael the Archangel, 1450

Lease for six years, from Margaret Jak and John Cullan, of Youghal to John Russell, alias Frenchman, of Milys Castle and lands at a rent of 4/- p.a.

A/1/14/A-B 14 Aug. 1482

Attornment concerning the estates in Counties Waterford and Limerick of Maurice FitzThomas of the Geraldines; with modern mss precis.
A/1/15 [c.1510]

Letter from John [Hale] to “Most Shell [   ]”
“I hertely have me commendye onto youe and I thanke youe for my good chear. I praye youe thynke noe unkyndnesse that I cum nott to London accordyng to my promysse for I have diverse letts, wone is that I can gett no monye to bare my chargys. Another is the payne that I have in wone of my hypes howebe it that shalle nott have lett me thowgh I had byn too dayes in comyng, but wheare monye lacketh ther wantythe a freynde, for if I had that I wolde nott be in case as I am. Notwithstandinge I praye youe take the paynes to go to [   ?   ] [gate] with this my quittance and resayve my pencyon which youe knowe is xx [s] And gyffe hym a grote to drynke and I will paye youe agayne at your comynge whome as God knowyth who ever keape youe att Kensworth the this Passyon Sunday by yo[ur] assured to his lytell power.”

A/1/16/A-G 1529


A/1/17 20 Jan. 1544

see also A/1/19

Bond from Richard FitzThomas of Monastrought Co. Waterford, gent., to Maurice FitzRobert of Ballyvallekken (apparently connected with the death of Edmond FitzDavye Power).

A/1/18/A-B 27 June 1545

Notarial instrument (in English) regarding the Buannacht of the Decies; with modern mss transcription.

A/1/19/A-B 10 Aug. 1547

Award by the mayor and two citizens of Waterford for the death of Edmond FitzDavye Power; with modern mss transcription.

A/1/20/A-B 2 May 1553

Inspeximus (with modern mss transcription) of an indenture of 20 March [1401] “... inter Walterum filium Nicholai Le Poer ex una parte et Johannem filium Henrici filii Ade Le Poer et Johannem filium Willelmi Poer de stripe Ade Poer de Porlcoyll ex altera parte...”
A/1/21/A-B 27 Nov. 1558

“Orders taken by the Lord Deputie and Counsell at Waterford the XXXVI11th of November 1558 for the Reformation of the country called the dyeces in the Countye of Wateford under the Rule of Mauryce FitzGerald”; with modern mss transcription.

A/1/22 23 Aug. 1559

Bond from John FitzMorys of Knockmean [Co. Waterford] to Sir Maurice Gerald of Dromany.

A/1/23/A-B 7 Nov. 1561

“Exemplification by John Wise, mayor of Waterford, James Walshe and Paul Lambard, bailiffs, at the request of the nobleman, Sir Maurice Gerald of the Geraldines, Lord of Dromany, of the following Charters...” concerning the grant of the manor of Keppagh by Maurice, Earl of Desmond to John FitzGerald FitzCount in 1496; with modern mss transcription.

A/1/24/A-B 2 Apr. 1563

Deed by which Richard Power gives and grants his manor of Ballidenossye (now Clough) to Maurice FitzGerald, Lord of Dromanne; with modern mss transcription.

A/1/25/A-B 10 May 1563

Agreement between Thomas Roche of Collegan, Co. Waterford, and Sir Maurice FitzGerald, over the lands of Collegan, etc; with modern mss transcription.

A/1/26 [10 May 1563]

Release from Roche to FitzGerald concerning Collegan.

A/1/27 16 Oct. 1563

Further agreement between FitzGerald and Roche.

A/1/28 20 Oct. 1564

Release from Roche to FitzGerald.
A/1/29 20 Oct. 1564 - 18 Jan. [1565]

Writ of livery and sheriff’s certificate of execution following the action between Maurice FitzGerald of Dromane and John Wise concerning 6 messuages, 10 tofts, 10 gardens, 200 acres of land, 10 acres of meadows and 80 acres of pasture in Youghal, Co. Cork.

A/1/30/A-B 20 Jan. [1564/1565]

Quit claim from Thomas Roche of Collegan, Co. Waterford, to Maurice FitzGerald of Dromanne, of his rights in 6 messuages, 10 tofts, 10 gardens, 200 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow and 40 acres of pasture in Youghal, Co. Cork; with modern mss precise.

A/1/31 [2] Nov. 1564

Royal letters patent granting a pardon to Sir Maurice FitzGerald of Dromane, James FitzGerald of Dromane, Gerald FitzGerald of Ballyhoyne, John FitzMaurice FitzJohn of Knockmean, John Nugent FitzGerald, and others.

A/1/32 18 June 1565

Non-contemporary copy of “The Lord Viscount Decies [ ] deed of entail.”

A/1/33 12 Jan. [1566/1567]

Royal letters patent granting pardon to James FitzGerald, alias James FitzJohn FitzGerot of Tynaskairty, Co. Waterford, William Power FitzThomas of Rosemyre, Maurice FitzJames FitzGerald of Ballyogurtie and others.

A/1/34/A-C 18 June 1567

Exemplification of a deed of 11 Henry V11 concerning Sir Maurice FitzGerald and the lands of Cappagh, Co. Waterford; both the earlier deed and the exemplification were authenticated by the civil authorities of Youghal, Co. Cork; with non-contemporary and modern mss transcriptions.
A/1/35 1567

Contemporary copies of Chancery bill and replication in the case of Thomas Mac Richard alias McThomas, plaintiff, against Sir Morris FitzGerald concerning the town of Ilanhobor (or Illanhobbing), Ballygowne and Ballybegs alias Castlianshannagh, [Co. Waterford]. He refers to a commission given to Richarde Lukins and Edmond Power, as a result of which he was put in possession of the lands for a term of four years; but complains that since then Sir Morris FitzGerald has “expulsed yor suppliants tents wth fire and Armes”. FitzGerald, in his answer, alleges that the lands claimed by Mac Richard cannot be part of Ilanhobor.

A/1/36 2 May 1567

Bond from James FitzJohn Fitzgeralde of Drommane to Maurice FitzJames Fitzgerald.

A/1/37/A-C 23 Sep. 1568

Original and counterpart of a memorandum of award made by Donagh Macraghe (Archdeacon of Lismore), and Sir John Wise (Chancellor of the Cathedral Church of Waterford), mediators appointed to adjudicate in a dispute between Edmund Power, “of the [Samnegarry]”, Co. Cork, and Maurice FitzGerald of Dromanny, Co. Waterford, concerning a messuage or tenement, 4½ plough lands, a watermill worth ½ mark of rent in Rynogonay, alias Ringogoonaugh, Co. Waterford; with modern mss transcription.

A/1/38/A-C 27 - 31 Jan. 1569

Royal letters patents creating Sir Maurice FitzGerald Baron of Drommana and Viscount of Decies; with modern mss notes.

A/1/39 2 Mar. 1568-1569

Contemporary copy of a commission from the Lord Deputy and Council to Thomas Cusake and Francis Agarde, to take depositions in the case of Thomas FitzRichard, alias McThomas, plaintiff, against Morne [Morris] FitzGerald, Viscount Decies, defendant, concerning the following lands: three plow lands “in Ballybegge, Ballygowne and Ballykendry... the Church of Athenmayne...[and] Ballykeroke”; also the town of Grayheersey and [Raly]nure, [Co.Waterford].
A/1/40 10 May 1573

Royal letters patent granting pardon to John FitzDorbie MacConoghy O’Haighyeran, yeoman of Le Grange, Robert Power FitzEdmond, yeoman of Dromany, and others, including many from Dromany.

A/1/41 20 Nov. 1573

Royal letters patent granting pardon to William McMorish MacDoyne of Ballybrack, Thomas FitzJames FitzGerald of Dromany, Thomas FitzRichard FitzGerald of Ballibege Kernaghe, John Richard FitzGerald of Ballynamoltynagh Kernagahe, and others.

A/1/42/A-B 25 May 1575

Non-contemporary copy and translation of an inquisition post mortem on Sir Gerald FitzJohn FitzGerald.

A/1/43/A-B 25 May 1575

Deed whereby Sir James FitzGerald of Dromanny for a certain sum of money paid by Thomas Wadding of Waterford, [mortgages] to Wadding the towns, etc, of Fahagh, Garranmillen, etc., Co. Waterford, for ever; with modern mss transcription.

A/1/44/A-B 22 Jan. 1575-1576

Deed whereby Richard FitzThomas of the Geraldines, alias MacThomas, of Pallice, Co. Limerick, gent. for a certain sum of money paid by Thomas Wadding of Waterford, grants to said Thomas the towns, etc, of Fahagh, Garranmillen, etc., Co. Waterford, for ever; with modern mss transcription.

A/1/45 12 May 1576

Royal letters patent granting pardon to James FitzGerald of Dromanny, Gerald FitzGerald of Ballioguart, Thomas FitzJames of Dromanny, Geroth FitzMaurice alias Boghulldoble of Dromanny and others.

A/1/46 15 May 1578

Lease from Sir James FitzGerald of Dromanny to Edmund Christopher of [?].
A/1/47  6 Oct. 1581

Bond from Sir James FitzGerald of Dromanye to Thomas Cantwell of Cantwellscastle, Co. Waterford.

A/1/48/A-B  26 Jan. 1583

Non-contemporary copy and translation of an inquisition post mortem on Sir James FitzGerald.

A/1/49/A-B  4 July 1583

Deed by which Maurice FitzEdmond, son and heir of Edmond, son of William mcmorice backaght[e] mcShane, gives and grants to Gerald fitz James of Dromanie, lord of Deacie, all his lands, etc, in Ballymackmearigie, Ballynatra, etc, Co. Waterford, and Killnatworaghe, Co. Cork; with modern mss precis.

A/1/50  4 Nov. 1584

Non-contemporary copy of an inquisition held in Cork City of the possessions of the Earl of Desmond.

A/1/51  28 Feb. 1586-1587

Non-contemporary copy of the enrolment of Queen Elizabeth’s letters patent to Sir Walter Raleigh.

A/1/52  1 Aug. 1588

Deed of sale from Garrott FitzJames FitzGerald of Dromane to James Sherlock FitzJames, of the lands of Stradeballybegg, etc. Co. Waterford.

A/1/53  16 June 1589

Lease from Gerot, alias Gerald, FitzJames of the Geraldines, of Dromana, to James Devereux of Waterford, merchant, and others, of the lands Rynnerrow, Castlemyles, Russellstown, Killeagh, etc. Co. Waterford.

A/1/54  [16 June 1589]

[Related deposition]
A/1/55 29 June 1591

Release from John [Basseyles] of Ballymagallbeg, Co. Waterford, to Gerald FitzGerald of Dromane, of the lands of Knoxkanepoire, Co. Waterford.

A/1/56 11 Dec. 1591

Lease of 59 years, from the death of Countess Dowager of Desmond, from Gerrott FitzJames Gerald of Dromany to Gerrott FitzThomas Gerald of Youghal, of a house, cellars and lands in Youghal for a rent of 10/- p.a.

A/1/57/A-B 16 Oct. 1592

Exemplification of a fine by John FitzGerald of Ballyhowny, of the lands of Ballyhowny, Rahin, Tenescart, Drommane, etc, Co. Waterford; with modern mss precis.

A/1/58/A-B 15 Sep. 1593

Exemplification of a lease from Gerrott FitzJames of Dromany, Co. Waterford, Esq, to Thomas FitzJames of Ballylannagane, also in Co. Waterford, of “the head of a myll, the way and concorse of water expedient in the Garrane”, Co. Waterford.

A/1/59/A-B 28 Feb. 1594-1595

Exemplification of a lease from Gerrott FitzJames Gerald of Dromany to William FitzThomas Connery of Coolbagha, Co. Waterford, of the town and lands of Coolbagha, etc.

A/1/60/A-B Feb. 1595-1596

Lease from Gerrott FitzJames Gerald of Dromany and others to Edmond FitzJohn Barry of Ballynagall, Co. Cork, gent, of the manor and dwelling house called Grange, within the hundred of Deacyes, Co. Waterford; with modern mss precis.

A/1/61 [16 Mar. 1597-1598]

Mortgage from Gerrott FitzJames Gerald of Dromany, mortgagor, to James Bluett, burgess of Youghal and Kathryne Gogh, his wife, mortgagees, on “Collegans lands within Youghal”; rent £3 p.a. with provision for redemption on payment of £30 and 18 cowhides.
A/1/62 9 June 1598

Lease from Gerrott FitzJames of Dromann and his feoffees in trust, to Perceval Pratt of Legane, Co. Kilkenny, of Ballyduffe, Co. Waterford.

A/1/63 10 June 1598

Lease from Gerrott FitzJames of Dromann and his feoffees in trust, to Perceval Pratt of Legane, Co. Kilkenny, of Ballyduffemore, Co. Waterford.
Inquisitions and related papers (all originals or contemporary copies) concerning disputes over the title to and the boundaries of parts of the Fitzgerald of Dromana estate, particularly disputes with various branches of the Osborne and Power families, some of them arising out of leases in A/7 and A/11. The section includes:

A/14/1  25 July 1666

Undertaking by the [3rd] Earl of Cork to lease to Richard Power of Monikirky, Co. Waterford, a quarter of a plowland in Monikirky in return for the surrender of the lands; the lease to run for 99 years at an annual profit rent of £3.

A/14/2  7 Sep. 1666

Constat of decree issued by the Commissioners for Executing the Acts of Settlement and Explanation in favour of John Lord Power “by his guardian Arthur Earl of Anglesey”, respecting Monerdorgie, Ballyknocke, Corduffe etc, Barony of Upper Third, and Ballymacled, Barony of Gaultiere, Co. Waterford.
A/14/21 4 Aug. 1688

Letter from J.A. [White], Cappoquin, to Edward Fitzgerald Villiers, Dromana, concerning a dispute over Fahagh, Garranmillon, etc. “I have in pursuance of your honours orders made what enquiries I possibly could touching Fahagh, Garranmillon, etc, and what I find follows, whereof your honour had an [account] already; viz. That John O’Morrisy and Thomas McMorish Hagherin can prove the taking away of two garrans by the sergeants of Dromana from Fahagh in your grandfathers time for rent, which garrans never came back, but were detained for rent. And that garran Millon did suit and service for the Manor of Cumoragh, Jeoffry Power says he will prove, but no Fahagh, for he never knew or heard that Fahagh did suit to that court. But I find that Lieut. Gee (being concerned for the adventurers in Cromwell’s time), and Fahagh at that time doing suit, did persuade Coll. Buiker to order the contrary, which was easy for either of them to do then, being both of them of power sufficient in those days to do greater matters. I [can] not upon any account of enquiry find that Fahagh was formerly [    ] of the O’Byrnes of Cumoragh, much less that it ever was reputed part of the Barony of Cumoragh so called. But I find that [Ranameidium] and [Ballynasenshoge] did belong to them, and that John [Muor] FitzgGerald did release a mortgage on them to Pierre Power of Monerlary, by which he became possessed of the said parsells. I perseave also that Mr Mason and his agents are and have been tampering with those I spoke to, for they are now very shy, and are often at Waterford so that they must be suddenly secured, if so thought good by your honour. What I have further to say your honour shall know Monday next at the Clubb...”
Original and copy papers concerning the marriage of Catherine Fitzgerald, only daughter and heiress of the late John Fitzgerald of Dromana, to the Hon. Edward Villiers, [elder son of the 4th Viscount Grandison], the resettlement of the Fitzgerald estates in consequence, the winding up of the [1st] Earl of Tyrone’s guardianship of Katherine Fitzgerald, etc. The section includes:

A/15/1 14 Apr. 1674

Contemporary copy of an assignment by Richard, [1st] Earl of Tyrone, as guardian of Mrs Katherine FitzGerald, to Edward Gough and Thomas Gough, of a rent charge of £28 per annum payable by Garreth Gough of Inchiqueale, Co. Waterford, on the lands of Lackandara, in settlement of a debt incurred by John FitzGerald, late of Dromana, Co. Waterford, to the heirs and executors of Patrick Gough of Kilmanehin.


Two letters (one on the dorse of the other): the first from Katherine FitzGerald, Whitehall, to her uncle [Richard Franklin], the other from Richard Franklin to his father. Katherine refers to "your safe arrival at Youghal and your good success with my tenants...", and asks for £200 immediately. "... Lord of Ossory through the King has taken steps for the stopping of any proceeding by Sir Theophilus Jones, and the King has agreed that a patent should be granted unto me of my estate... whatever I pleased, ...I thought fit to let you know that the Earl of Londonderry is become my humble servant (i.e. suitor), whose estate is said to be worth £4,500 per annum, wherefore Lister desires you to enquire of his estate ... Tyrone is just as he was when you left here...". Richard Franklin writes advising his father against sending “letters of concern” through Mr Muleys and against trusting “Mr Uniacks, for... I found a note in his keyhole wherein I read that the Earl of Tyrone desired to speak with him ... Col Legg[e] ... told me that it was the Earl of Tyrone did put Sir Theophilus Joanes upon that business of Comeragh ...” He refers also to his schooling and his father’s safe arrival in Ireland.

19th century transcripts of the foregoing.

A/15/7  Dec. 1676

Bill of costs and certificate of enrolment respecting the enrolment in Ireland of a judgement of the English Chancery “for vacating the Earl of Tyrone’s patent.”

A/15/10  Morrow of Holy Trinity, 1677

19th century copy translation of a fine levied by Richard Harrison, plaintiff, and Edward Villiers and Katherine, his wife, deforciants, concerning the Manor of Drummannagh and Grange, Co. Waterford.
Original and copy papers, in continuation of the foregoing, concerning Lord Tyrone’s claims on the Dromana estate and those of Mrs Katherine Fitzgerald Villiers’s aunts, Mrs Richard Franklin and Mrs Thomas Walsh, and the more serious and extensive claims of her step-mother, Ellen, who successively married, as her second and third husbands, the [7th] Earl of Clanricarde and Colonel Thomas Burke; the claims of the aunts were in cash, but Lady Clanricarde claimed (successfully) one-third of the actual estate in right of dower (in consequence of which, this part of the estate, which included the lands of Comeragh, became known as the dower estate); together with an undated document concerning Richard Frankland’s [sic] (unsuccessful) claim to lands (having no connection with the Fitzgerald estate) in the barony of Glenarm, Co. Antrim. The section includes:

A/16/4 19 Feb. [1678/1679]

Contemporary copy of an injunction prohibiting Richard, Earl of Tyrone, from disturbing Edward Villiers and his wife, Katherine, in the peaceful possession of Dromana-mor, Dromana-begg, Ballingowne, Killmoriatagh, Aglish, Carriheeeme etc., Co. Waterford.

A/16/7 8 Mar. 1678

Case for counsel and counsel’s (Fr. Pemberton) opinion, respecting Katherine Villiers’s rights in the Fitzgerald estate. The case begins: “Sir John FitzGerald seised of an estate in fee 40 Jacobi levied a fine of all his estate to Ulick Bourke & 50 Ja. He made a feofment... to him dureing life & after to his son John the younger ... John oge...onlie sonn to the said Sir John (being tenant in taile to him & heires male of his boddie....”

The opinion ends: “... Upon the whole I thinke Letitia [Mrs. Richard Franklin] hath a Right to these manors & lands...”
Leases from Edward Fitzgerald Villiers and Katherine, his wife, of houses and gardens in Youghal, Co. Cork, and the lands of Caherneleagy, Ballyeolane, Ballylean, Ballyshonkine, Adergawall, Ballyhanemore, Scartnedriny, Ballycurranes, etc, Co. Waterford. The section includes:

A/17/1 30 Mar. 1680

Lease for 21 years from Edward FitzGerald, alias Villiers and his wife Katherine to Richard Welch, labourer of Youghal, of a dwelling house, back side and garden in Youghal; rent 26/- p.a.

A/17/2 15 Apr. 1680

Lease for 21 years from Edward FitzGerald, alias Villiers and Katherine his wife, to Alexander Roth and Katherine O’Follow [also spelt Follers] of Carineleagy, widow, of the town and lands of Caherneleagy, Co. Waterford; rent £10 p.a.
Admiralty Court decree and bonds concerning Edward Fitzgerald Villiers and Katherine his wife.

A/18/1 1 Mar. [1681/1682]
Decree of the Vice-Admiralty Court held at Kinsale for the counties of Cork and Waterford, by which Edward FitzGerald Villiers and Katherine, his wife, are awarded possession of 300 dealboards found within the manor of Dromanna.

A/18/2 5 Apr. 1683
Conditional bond from John Jep[hone]son, Mallow, Co. Cork, to Edward FitzGerald alias Villiers, Dromana, Co. Waterford, acknowledging a debt of £200, void if Jephson meets the conditions of a bond from Jephson and Edward FitzGerald alias Villiers to Edward Laundy, merchant of Youghal.

A/18/3 5 Apr. 1683
Conditional bond from John Jep[hone]son to Edward FitzGerald, alias Villiers, in the penal sum of £30.
Fitzgerald, Villiers, Mason and Aland Estate Papers
1215-1708

Mason Estate Papers

A/32/1-19  1615-1705

Title deeds and other papers relating to the part of the Mason estate near Waterford City—the lands of Ballinakill, Cullen, Manvahogie, Rathmelan, etc—purchased by the Masons from the Dobbyn family; Rathmelan was purchased in 1686 [not directly from the Dobbyns but, by coincidence, from Jonathan Aland, whose daughter and heiress later married John Mason; because this is a matter of coincidence, and Rathmelan was not part of the Mason inheritance through marriage into the Aland family, the material regarding it has not been placed in the Aland section]; Ballinakill was part of the Dobbyn patrimonial estate, while Cullen and Manvahogie came to William Dobbyn through the Bryner family in the early 18th century, all three being purchased by John Mason in the early 1730s beyond the terminal date of this section. The section includes:

A/32/2  7 Feb. [1639/1640]

Schedule of lands, and Order of Composition agreed between the Commissioners for Remedy of Defective Titles, and Sir Peter Aylward, respecting the issue of a new patent for the lands of Tullaghcowleneer, Clonee, Ballecoyne alias Ballequin, barony of Decies, and Corrballibegg, ¼ Corballimore, Barony of Gaultiere, Co. Waterford.

A/32/3  8 May 1640

Schedule of lands and Order of Composition, similar to /2, but amended to include Portallige alias Portallagh, parish of Rathmoylan.
A/32/4  26 May 1652

Endorsed: “A returne of the severall proprietors in the southe side of Passage. The enquirrie of the houses and gardens of the inhabitants in Passage beginning at the east sides next to the sea. To which joines the lands of Edward Fitzharress of Ross from the Cannon Rocke to full sea marke it being all olde walls and wast land except a garden that Lieut. Constable holdeth as yet. To it joines the lands of Robert Welsh of Peckardstowne in Middlethird runing as the former lands did being old walls and wast land all except one house and garden which William Nealans heiress holdeth of the said Welsh by leases as appeareth; there being as yet about twentie yeires to runn the said heires being in possession. To it joines the lands of Mr James Bryner of Mullemehoge in Middlethird which runneth as the former did being all old wall, wast and uninhabitted. To it joines the lands of the said Edward FitzHarris of Ross being all wast and old walls except one house wherein John Murphie Liveth, the house is verie much gone to ruine. To it joines the lands of Phillip Roe of Hackets Towne in the Countie of Waterford being all old walls wast and uninhabited. Unto it joines lands. This is not knowne by us wherein dwell a smith, the house is now repairieing by the said smith, he holdeth with the house a garden all the rest of the lands are wast and old walls. Next to it joines the lands of Patricke Madann whereon there is a house and garden Stephen Knowles holdeth by lease; William Prosser liveth in the house and Derby Malone holdeth the garden; all the rest of the lands are old walls and wast. Next to it joines the lands of Robert Welsh of Peckards Towne in Middlethird, upon which lands are three tenants Derby Malone in a house, Dennis Casse in an Irish caben and Marie White in an old Tower; the rest are wast and old walls. Next to it joines the lands of Robert Murphie deceased; he left it to his second sone, Nicholas with the garden; John Murphie the elder brother liveth in it. Next to it joines the lands of Mr James Bryner aforesaid from Cannon Rocke to the street which is all wast; and from the street to the strand is Sir Thomas Sherlockes whereon is a thatched house wherein dwelleth Lawrence Whelsh. Next to it joines the lands of
Andrew Morgan of Waterford which Richard Murphie and Robert Murphie holdeth by lease; the house upon it Francis Agnes liveth in; it is all ruined within by the sicke soldiers formerly; the garden Ensign Day holdeth, the rest is wast.
Next to it joineth the lands of Mr James Bryner aforesaid being all old walls and wast, all of which houses landes hitherto are within the precincks of the liberties of Waterford.

Now we are come to John Aylward Esquir lands and houses in Passage within the County of Waterford at large beginning followeth.

The house and lands of John Aylward Esquire
Which Constante Aylward holdeth of him by lease and liveth in it.
Next to it is the house and lands of John Ayleward Esquire
Which Lawrence Cobb holdeth by lease it being wast as yet.
Next to it is Esquire Aylward house and lands
Which Jeremie Wyse holdeth of him by lease with the garden and liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylward house and lands
Which Thomas Burton holdeth of him by lease and liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylward house and land
Which Henrie Allen holdeth of him by lease and John Johnson liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylward house and land
Which James Foster heires holdeth of him by lease and Peter Hooper liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylward house and land
Which Ann Goughe, widow holdeth of him by lease and Robert Cormicke heires or executors holdeth it of her by lease and Ensigne Daye liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylward house and lands
Which Mr Christian holdeth of him by lease and Lieut. Constable liveth in it.

Next to it is Esquire Aylward house and land
Which Mr Cobb holdeth of him by lease and liveth in it.

Next to it is Esquire Aylward house and land
Which John Henrahane holdeth of him by lease and liveth in it.

Next to it is Esquire Aylward house and land
Which Peter Aylward holdeth of him by lease and Ellen Aylward and Francis Gaggin liveth in it.

Next to it is Esquire Aylwards house
Which Francis Gaggin built and holdeth of him by lease and maketh use of it.

Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which William Cane holdeth of him by lease and liveth in it.

Next to it is Esquire Aylwards house
Which John Jones holdeth of him by lease and John Hooper liveth in it.

Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Teige Flyn holdeth of him by lease and liveth in it.

Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Teige Kennedie holdeth of him by lease and liveth in it.

Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Richard Kellie holdeth of him by lease and liveth in it.

Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Hughe Wogan holdeth of him by lease and liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Robert Wogan holdeth of him by lease and liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Walter Standon holdeth by lease and liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Elizabeth Hooper widow liveth in.
Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Thomas Lundie holdeth of him by lease and liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Michaell Willmot holdeth by lease and liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Morris FitzNicholas holdeth by lease and liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Derby Hannon holdeth by lease and liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Margaret Synnot holdeth by lease and liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Phillip Wyse holdeth by lease and liveth in it.
Next to it is Esquire Aylwards cabin
Which Edmund Haye holdeth by lease and liveth in it.

Besides all this there is a cabin built by a carpenter upon Esquire John Aylwards lands.

According to Mr Tho. [Barders] order directed to us whose names are under written we have examined and put down to the best of our knolege as witnes our hands this 26\textsuperscript{th} Maye 1652.
(Signed) Terence Wyse
Constant Aylward [Mark]
John Murphie [Mark]
Francis Agnes.’

A/32/5 16 June 1664

Certificate from the Surveyor General’s office of an order issued by the Lord Deputy on 2 April 1655 to the effect that James Brinder of Waterford, being converted to Protestantism, was exempted from transplantation and might remain in possession of the lands of Cullen and Manoghogye, Waterford City.

A/32/14 22 July 1693

Original of the will of Francis Bryner of Manvohogy, Co. Waterford.

A/32/15 20 Apr. 1697

Copy of the answer of William Dobbin and others to a bill of John Fitzgerald and others concerning the lands of Kilcoughan.

A/32/17 28 Oct. 1705

Bond from William Dobbyn of Waterford to William Smyth of Waterford, Alderman, for the performance of the conditions of a mortgage of Ballinakill, etc.
Papers about Capt. Henry Aland’s acquisitions of land, along with other members of Colonel Henry Prittie’s regiment of horse, during the Commonwealth period, and about his (successful) efforts to have his title to the lands confirmed under the Restoration settlement, including three statements of October 1664 about his conduct during the preceding regime and about the royalist remarks he made in 1659 at the expense of “that milksop Fleetwood” and “that clown Desborough”. The section includes:

A/37/1  3 May 1652

Lease from the Commissioners of the Revenue to Capt. Henry Aland of a house and a garden plot on the west side of Poll Gate, Dublin, which belonged to Eustace of Confie, who was indicted of treason, and in which Lucy Hibbott sometime dwelt; for seven years, as a rent of 4/-, with a covenant to spend £100 on repairs within a year, under penalty of £200; signed and sealed: Ar[thur] Bagshawe, Isaac Dobson, Robt Willcocks and Dud[ley] Loftus.

A/37/4  [1655]

A verbal description of “Note of the meares betwixt the Barrony of Upper Ossory the Counties of Kilkenny, Tipperary and K[ings] County”. It is certified by W. Barke as a “ture copie of the boundaries presented by the survey” (the Civil Survey).

A/37/8  Oct. 1664

Contemporary copy of petition for the King’s “grace and favour”: “Reasons offered by Henry Aland Esqr in vindication of himselfe as being in noe sorte lesse capable of His Majesty’s grace and favour then any other person whatsoever that hath heretofore served on the Parliamentary Party.”
Statement of Capt. Henry Aland’s accounts, and rental of his estates, both 1672; and a letter to him from Thomas Watts, Dublin, about estate affairs. Aland’s unsuccessful attempt to have names added to the commission of the peace, and political news, 1674. The last item is as follows:

A/43/3 24 Feb. 1673/1674

Watts, Dublin, to Aland, Waterford.

“I have yours of the 10th and 21st instant and acquainted your sonne with your desired [ ]. I have not yet cleared the arrears of rent on Gaultiere before 1668, but hope I may finish it before the next [gale]. I believe I shall save you five pounds but it is [with us] much trouble as I did not expect. I have no hopes to do any good as to that [in the] County of Kilkenny, and therefore shall not attempt anything as to that, that being due since the [haemors] contracts. I did wait on my Lord Chancellor with the [mayor’s certificate] and his Grace gave me this answer, that if the City of Waterford had that privilege was it greater [ ] than Dublin and that if I could produce a Certificate from the Hannaper Office that those used to be in the Commission before the Rebellion it would be some satisfaction to him, otherwise he was unwilling to begin a new President [for precedent]. I went to the Hannaper Office and search[ed there] but could find no Record who were in the Commissions of the Peace at any time, unless it [were after the Restoration of his Majesty for] I find they keep no record of those things. I waited on his Grace again and acquainted him [ ] things before the aforesaid time, but since I found several sovereignes and Portreeves of [several] Corporations put into Commissions [ ] to which his Grace was pleased to answer that my Lord Lieutenant had new [directions] suddenly to give out new Charters, therefore he [ ] to let it alone till then. I then acquainted his Grace that as the Irish were turned out of the Commission and that several that were in it are now dead, there was several vacancies, and that yourself and my brother Rickards had estates in that county beyond most that were in, and therefore desired that you might be added as gentlemen of the county if not
as Aldermen of the City, upon which he ordered me to leave your names with one of his gentlemen, which I did, but what his Grace [will]¹ do in it, I yet know not. Pray do what you can to get an affidavit of the yearly rent of Fornought for I find the Lord [ ]¹ so slender, that [ _____ ]¹ had too much [rent alleged]². I find by an Inquisition taken about the 5th year of King Charles the First that those lands were mortgaged by one Redmond to one Sherlock, and by another Inquisition taken out the same time, upon a Commission to enquire into the tenure of those lands by which Inquisition they are found to be held from the house of Curraghmore by fealty and service, paying 2d. Irish per annum. I cannot find any Inquisition in the name of Redmond, but suppose the aforesaid will do our business well enough. I would faine know what those lands are sett to the [tare]² tenants for. I know you will do as well as you can in it. I shall mind what you write as to Kilhearane and here enclosed send you Archdeacon’s receipt. I did certainly pay the years value of your part of that land. I shall also mind what you write as to Aman. There came a packet in this day but brought little news save what [ ]¹ hands of the [Publique]² to which I refer you. The House of Lords has passed a vote for the taking [needy]² care to prevent the growth of Popery in this kingdom. The House of Commons have appointed Wednesday last to resolve into a grand Committee to consider the grievances of Ireland, so that it is probably in my next you may have a further account. The Committee of Parliament is proceeding on the articles against the Earl of Arlington. There is a rumour that there is a charge against some persons in this kingdom [ _____ ]¹ uncertain, there is great expectation in London of the return of the [ _____ ]¹ of the peace, [ _____ ]¹ is to have more money and that the fishing is bestowed on the Prince of Orange during the time he is [ _____ ]¹ Earle of Shaftesbery made a speech in the House of Lords for a bill of Comprehension that Non Conform[ists]¹ have liberty to preach in Churches, and its thought by some it will go on, it is also said that he moved that no Rom[an]¹ might inherit the Crown, nor any of the Royal family marry with papists, to the [first]² of which they say the Lord Keeper answered [ _____ ]² was against Law, that the greater part of the Bishops present were of his opinion". The remainder of the letter is too damaged.

¹ Manuscript damaged and illegible
² Manuscript damaged, reading uncertain
Mason Family and Financial Papers and Correspondence  
1708:1718-1759

B/1/1-55  1718-1737

Fifty-five letters, chiefly to John Mason (MP), Waterford City, from his father, Sir John Mason of Waterford, his sisters—principally his sister Mary Mason – his brother-in-law, Dean Alexander Alcock, etc, about family finances and ailments, but also giving a lively picture of social life in Waterford City and, to a lesser extent, of political life. The correspondence ends with John Mason’s death in 1737. Also two letters from James Forth, Custom-house, Dublin, to Edward May, Collector of Waterford, 1721 and 1724. The letters include:

B/1/35  12 Dec. 1737

Mary Mason, Waterford, to John Mason, Dublin: about an incipient dispute between Waterford and Cork. “... The mayor had a letter this morning from the mayor of Cork, threatening great matters if he pretends to molest the Cork fishermen. ‘Tis thought to be a very impertinent epistle by some people ... I believe what gave rise to Cork’s interposing was their being at first refused a permit for fish in bulk [to be] sent coastways, but that is all over, and now we are no ways disturbed...” (Presumably the Waterford Corporation was trying to ensure that fish caught in the Waterford region, were barrelled in Waterford, not Cork.)

B/1/38  17 Dec. 1737

Alexander Boyd, Waterford, to his brother-in-law, John Mason (MP), Dublin, about Waterford city politics. “... Old Price is dying. I hope we shall keep out Baccus {sic}. I find the bent of some are {sic} to keep out Baccus and bring in [your son]. I show that project no countenance, though I which it may be so, for Baccus has taken no pains to satisfy any of our friends...”

B/1/40  21 Dec. 1737

Mary Mason, Waterford, to her brother, John Mason, Dublin: about Waterford city politics. “Mr Congreve, Mr Recorder Lee, Mr Bolton and Capt. Alcock came to town last night in good health, the bells ringing for the new Recorder...”
B/1/42 24 Dec. 1737

Mary Mason, Waterford, to John Mason, Dublin about Waterford city politics. “...Billy Alcock, etc, some {sic} from Nymph Hall yesterday. Brother Harry at Passage, and proposes to go a Monday to county of Wexford. But if he does, he must be at home again that day sennight, for that is the day of election, and by what I find, Bob has got more votes than they expected. I am glad you are out of the way, and stay two or three days after, that the talk of it may be quite over, for you know it is not {sic} nine-day wonder. But let it go which way it will, I had rather the talk of it was over before you came down, that you mayn’t meet with any coolness to bob or his family. Time will show hiw it will be. They say, if Head comes, it will be for Bob, because Backus {sic} is not chose, and Tonson can’t appear, because his place is not sold, and this night Arthur Taylour is to give his finely {sic} answer to[my cousin]. If it is to be done, you know it is in good hands. The Captain will on [your] house a Monday [sense]. I believe Shap. Carew is much alarmed at the [Tories], etc. He writes much oftener than he did. They say he is taking advice in England whether Bob could do it...”

B/1/43 26 Dec. 1737

Mary Mason, Waterford, to John Mason, Dublin, about a dispute between the Irish Houses of Commons and Lords. “I received yours this day, and saw one from Mr Loftus to Billy, telling him he can’t leave Dublin this fortnight at soonest, upon account of the dispute between the Lords and Commons; that he is afraid it (word illegible) may be cause of the dissolution of the parliament. I am just come from Mr Congreve’s. He gives you his service, and tel {sic} me he hopes Bob will be [cast], thought if you will believe him and his friends, he has it out of signt. But I depend on that last gentleman more than the braggers...’
Mason Family and Financial Papers and Correspondence
1708:1718-1759

B/4/1-37 1738-1759

Thirty-seven drafts or copies of letters from Aland Mason, eldest son and heir of John Mason, to his uncle, Henry Mason, to various members of the Alcock family, especially Dean Alexander Alcock, and to Lord Grandison. The 3 letters to Lord Grandison relate to the details of the settlement on Mason’s forthcoming marriage to Grandison’s daughter, Lady Elizabeth Villiers, and to his intention of retaining power over the sum of money provided for younger children, so that he should have a property parental authority over them. The letters to Henry Mason and the Alcocks relate to family rows over the provision to be made for Aland Mason’s aunts and for his second cousin, Henry Alcock, eldest son of Dean Alexander Alcock; it appears that Aland Mason had agreed to pay an annuity of £100 a year to Henry Alcock, but withdrew it as a result of various rude remarks which Dean Alexander Alcock made about Mason and Lord Grandison. There is also some correspondence about Mason’s decision not to involve himself in Waterford City politics, and some passing references to Mason’s lawsuit with Sir John Fortescue. Mason died in 1759 – hence the closing date of the correspondence. The letters include:

B/4/5 24 Dec. 1739

Copy of a letter from Aland Mason, Dromana, to his uncle, Henry Mason, endorsed by Aland Mason “Showing him the folly of my persevering in a corporation lawsuit, etc.”

“I was surprised when I arrived here to learn from my Lord Grandison that his Lordship had consented and left you in commission to purchase votes in the corporation, in order to gain by that means a compete majority on our side.

Now, I will tell you my reasons why I am determined not to lay out one farthing in the corporation of Waterford. First, because in the present circumstances I am in, I never shall be one of the representatives of the city of Waterford. Secondly, my health will
not permit me to go on every call or emergency to council. Besides, at present my inclinations nor abilities can’t bear up against the noise and hurry of a disturbed society of man. Besides, I will now whow you that, supposing Mr Christmas and I purchased majority, that I should not reap the least advantage to myself by it. Mr Christmas and I are engaged to stand by one another in corporation and parliamentary affairs, but as soon as cousin Christmas finds I am not a candidate for the city, supposing vacancies or a new parliament, his engagement to me then drops. He was not bound to support anyone that I should recommend in lieu of me to that honour, neither would he, for considering that I shan’t live in the town, it will be impossible for me to have such an interest as to make a member, and very improbable that Mr Christmas would give him his interest towards it.

There is no man that I could desire or would venture to recommend for such an honour but yourself. But considering the present representatives are by the common course of nature more likely to live than you, or at least as likely, and considering the great sums of money I have spent these two years last past, and the money I must throw away in buying votes, which I at present want to purchase with-I say, considering all these things, no man of common reason that has my interest and welfare at heart, can advise me to throw money away in a corporation or town which I believe I shall never see again, without it answering in the most material points to myself, who would in that case be the purchaser. If I should agree to such a scheme, I shall be like a man who purchased an estate, honour or employment, and was sure to lose it by law whenever my adversary disputed it with me.

I have told you my resolutions and given my reasons, and assure you, nothing shall after them. My Lord Grandison knows my reason of what I am steadfast in, and I have the honour to inform you, my Lord thinks with me in my opinion.

If you think my honour so much at stake that I can’t quit Mr Christmas’s interest, I am sure I have left him better supported than I found him, and if I don’t think any [tithes] of friendship should carry me in supporting him at the expense of hurting my health and my purse, he has given me instances of his valuing both with regard to himself.”
B/4/6 16 July 1740

Draft or copy of a letter from Aland Mason, Dromana, to his cousin, Thomas Christmas, Waterford, about a probably Waterford City by-election.

“I received the favour of your letter of 12th inst., wherein you inform me Bob Carew is in a very weak condition, and in case any accident happens to him, you are pleased to offer me all your interest as a candidate to represent that town in parliament. I am much obliged to you for this compliment, but must desire to be excused accepting of the honour...

My Lord’s and my little interest is at your friend’s [Christmas Paul] service, and on all occasions it will always give us great pleasure, when it permits us to show you how much we are…”

B/4/14 22 Nov. 1740

Copy of a letter from Aland Mason, Dromana, to his uncle, Dean Alcock, Waterford, about Youghal politics.

“... I heard yesterday from Mr Davis that there was a duel fought in Youghal the other day, and that the gentlemen of that town are so quarrelsome that they never walk the streets without a case of pistols in their pockets, and that they say the {sic} won’t be bound over. But if the mayor pleases, he most certainly may send them all to jail upon refusal or want of bail, but the truth is, the mayor does not know his business…”

B/4/29 [pre Oct. 1743]  

see also B/9  

Copy of a letter from Aland Mason to Thomas Christmas, Waterford, about Mason’s candidature for Co. Waterford.

“Your favour of the 30th of last month did not reach me till last post, otherwise should have answered it sooner. You say you imagined that I was determined not to trouble myself with a seat in the House of Commons from the time you proposed to me that I should represent the city of Waterford on Mr Cosgreve’s death, which proposal I never remember to have heard of from you or any other person; and as a proof of it, I was in England when that gentleman died, and never had a letter from you till long after, that I wrote to you about my dispute with Mr Archbold.

But if you give this as a reason for not giving me your interest for representing the county, I think it unnecessary, not but I would
have given my friend the trouble of my letters on that occasion, but that I was induced to it by a letter from my uncle Mason, who told me that you had no thoughts of setting up your son, except you was persuaded to it by your friends; and had I thought that the Speaker and Lord Tyrone could have persuaded you to act against your own judgement, I should have had no thoughts of it from the beginning. But as things are, I shall with pleasure give my cousin, Tommy Christmas, my little interest, and would have told him so before now, but that I did not receive his letter till I was leaving London.”
Mason Family and Financial Papers and Correspondence
1708:1718-1759

B/5/1-40  1739-1753

Forty letters to Aland Mason, three from his aunts, Mary, Susanna and S. Mason, and the rest from members of the Alcock family: Mason’s uncle, Dean Alexander Alcock, Alcock’s [sons] Henry, John and Alexander, and another Henry (who appears to own Nymph Hall, Co. Waterford, and who Burke’s Landed Gentry states was Dean Alcock’s nephew, but the Dean states was the Dean’s brother). The letters relate to estate and financial matters, and contain references to disputes between Mason and one of his aunts and between Mason and various Alcocks. There is also discussion of Henry Alcock’s [the Dean’s son] hopes of marrying Miss Jocelyn, the Lord Chancellor’s daughter, references to the same Henry’s literary interests, etc. The Dean’s letters reflect his enthusiasm for Mason’s marriage (in 1739) to Lady Elizabeth Villiers, (which became a brilliant financial, as well as social, success in 1746 when the only surviving daughter of Lady Elizabeth’s late brother, Viscount Villiers, died, leaving Lady Elizabeth heir presumptive to the estates of her father, the 1st Earl Grandison). Disputed parliamentary and municipal elections for Waterford City, where both the Masons and the Alcocks were politically active, is another major theme, and there are references to the proceedings in the House of Commons against Dr. Charles Lucas in 1749. The letters include:

B/5/3  9 July 1739


He begins by discussing his son Henry’s enchantment with Lord Villiers.

“...as corporation disputes is {sic} a thing new to us, so I believe he (Henry) is well enough pleased to get out of the noise of them. Our adversaries are a little up at the Lord Chief Justice Rogerson’s not
allowing a declaration to be filed against Lord Grandison. But as the merits of the cause doesn’t {sic} at all depend on this, so neither has his Lordship absolutely refused it, but only desires to be informed whether any precedents for it can be produced, which I think is no great matter of rejoicing to our antagonists, let the case be how it will. It pleases me better that they seem to have no great hopes of getting the Privy Council to approve of Congreve as mayor, since I’m told that Peter Vashon has publicly declared that, let the cause go there as it will, his brother, the present mayor, will not, nay shall not, swear your uncle, Harry Mason, into that office. I wish matters were brought to this trial, and then we shall see whether their stout hearts will fail them, or whether the case is so desperate with them that they will risk their own fortunes as well as the peace and happiness of the city, rather than not indulge their unreasonable humours…"

10 Oct. 1739

H. Alcock (the Dean’s son), Waterford, to Aland Mason, Dromana about disputed parliamentary and municipal elections for Waterford City.

“...Letters by last post gave an account that Mr Christmas and Mr Paul with their families were safely arrived in Dublin, that the Governor’s petition would come time enough, the meeting of the parliament preventing Councils from being held this week, and that when the mayor’s return of Barker’s election was presented to the Lord Lieutenant, it being said at the same time that there would be a petition against it, the Primate replied, he easily believed there would be one, for there were good grounds for it...”

12 Oct. 1739

John Alcock, [the Dean’s son], Waterford, to Aland Mason, Dromana about disputed parliamentary and municipal elections for Waterford City.

“...Nothing new in corporation affairs since I saw you. I communicated your steady resolution to stand by your good friends to many of them, who are much rejoiced, and deserve all possible returns of kindness for their hearty attachments. A letter from Mr Christmas: he thinks there will be little difficulty in laying aside the last election of Barker. Our petition prays for a time appointed by the Privy Council for our coming to an election, which I hope will be granted, as it is most equitable, and must prevent surprise; and I hear there are precedents of such orders. Our affairs are yet very retrievable, but indeed it requires great diligence and the greatest
steadiness to accomplish our wishes, and I hope we shall fail in neither, and if so we may very reasonably hope for success. Mr Congreve went from home last Sunday. That party are much cast down at our petitioning, and at not being able to prevail on a sufficient number to make up a council. Congreve has taken his seat, and was introduced by Sir Arthur Newcomen and Col. Ponsonby...

I send you (not included) a copy of a letter from my cousin Christmas, because he said he did not write this post to you. But as my Lord Grandison and you concluded not to differ about the proportion of the expense, we shall go on here and endeavour to obtain a friend or two if possible, and I presume you will communicate your resolution to cousin Christmas as soon as possible.

There is not any doubt made but then {sic} Mr Barker’s election would be laid aside, and most of your friends here think that one, if not more, may be brought over; so that we must determine to endeavour it without further loss of time…”

B/5/12 15 Oct. 1739

Dean Alexander Alcock, Waterford, to Aland Mason, Dromana, about disputed parliamentary and municipal elections for Waterford City.

“The enclosed (not included) came by this day’s post, but as it was franked by one of our counsel at the hearing, I imagine it to contain some direction from the agent counsel, so I opened it, with some other letters directed to my brother Harry, who is still at Nymph Hall, and will not be persuaded to come to town, though everyone thinks he ought to be here at this critical juncture. I hope in a fortnight your house will be ready to receive Lady Betty, and then there will be the less need of him, for I depend on her wisdom and goodness to captivate other hearts besides yours, and such as will give strength to our cause.

You know Lord B[urlington] has offered another reference to put an end to the dispute between his friend, Congreve, and Carew. This doesn’t seem that they are so cock-sure of success as some are pleased to give out. But as Bob is to put in his petition on Friday next, so he resolves to leave the determination of that matter to the House of Commons, and sure he acts wisely herein.

You have seen the Duke’s speech to the parliament, which indeed is a good one, and I believe gave great pleasure, that nothing more was expected beside the ordinary supplies. However, the town is
much alarmed at the unexpected arrival of Mr Ned Walpole and his father’s private secretary, who are to stay but three days in Dublin; and what their business is, may in time perhaps be discovered, though they have not yet communicated to me...

It was thought by most people that Surveyor Philips would be removed from our quay, but Luke Gardiner (at whose instigation may be guessed) has so powerfully interceded for him at the board, that I hear he is to be continued in his post…"

B/5/13  20 Oct. 1739

Dean Alexander Alcock, Waterford, to Aland Mason, Dromana, about disputed parliamentary and municipal elections for Waterford City.

“…My sons and I received the copies of the letters which have lately passed between you and Mr Christmas, and we could only have wished that, instead of leaving the matter in difference between you to his conscience or honour you had frankly told him that you were ready to join interest with him on his own terms, and let things be put in a regular way to push the adversary, you are content to be at two-thirds of the expense.

It has been industriously given out here by Congreve’s friends that both you and Mr Carew are grown sick of the opposition, and are inclined to drop it. But Monday’s post I presume will let them see the falsity of these reports, when the petition against Barker’s election will be received by the Privy Council, and the other against Congreve by the House of Commons, and days of hearing appointed for both. I take it for granted that my Lord Grandison will not fail to attend the Privy Council when the first is heard, or else I shall not be surprised if even some of our friends begin to suspect that there is too much truth in the report, which was at first raised by our adversaries. They are put to all their shifts, and when the proposal of referring the election of Congreve and Carew to three gentlemen or three lawyers on a side has lately again been rejected, it is now offered to be left to the Lord Chief Justice Rogerson to decide the matter in his private capacity. But this also will not be compiled with by Carew, who will have no other judges in the case besides the House of Commons, and surely he is rightly advised herein.

As for the corporation affair, on which your future quiet in a great measure depends, I cannot think it in so hopeful a way as I wish it was, for while my brother Harry, sequesters himself from the world at Nymph Hall, and my brother, Boyd, at Ross, etc, and you are necessarily absent from the place of action, what can be expected to be regularly done, when every day almost produces new matter
to be considered of; and yet none to consult or advise with, and much less to resolve or conclude upon anything. For my part, I cannot think myself sufficient for these matters, nor will it be fit for me to do many things which perhaps are necessary, without the particular direction of those who are immediately concerned…”

B/5/14 27 Oct. 1739

Dean Alexander Alcock, Waterford, to Aland Mason, Dromana, about disputed parliamentary and municipal elections for Waterford City.
“I have yours of the 24th, wherein you don’t yet seem satisfied that there is any reason for your bearing a greater share of the expense which may happen by the corporation disputes, than what the persons you have joined interest with will also be contented to bear. But let this be as it will, and truly I never apprehended till very lately but things were to be carried on in any other method than that of an equal charge, but when another proposition was made, and I understood that you and most of your friends, both at Dromana and here, had come into it, I was then of opinion that your doing it cheerfully and with a good grace would add much to your character, and endear you to that person whose friendship you so earnestly desired, that you would even do something more than was reasonable to carry on the cause wherein you are jointly concerned; and this was all I meant by what I writ to you formerly on this subject.

I think, indeed, that all these matters should have been adjusted and finally settled long ago. But this is part of our unhappiness that, while we are deliberating and not always well agreed in our sentiments of things, our watchful adversary is always acting uniformly what he thinks proper to carry his point, though sometimes he overshoots himself and gives us no small advantage thereby.

I hope this day’s proceedings in Council will give us a proof thereof, when Barker’s election may be rejected. But how to get an undoubted majority for us in another, is what puzzles us at present, when Christmas and Ussher are at parliament, and Mr Head I fear isn’t in a condition to appear, being in a sort of salivation for the cure of the cancer on his lips. It’s thought the Privy Council will give no order for any future election, but I think the members who are obliged to attend the parliament design to write to the major that, upon reasonable notice, they will attend, and caution him not to act anything by surprise; which if he does, perhaps he may hear of it when Carew’s petition comes to be heard before the House of Commons. Congreve’s friends are much down in the mouth at present, not only as his greatest supporter is said to be leaving him,
but as he cannot get this matter to be left to a reference, having proposed the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice Rogerson, Peter Daly or even that the Speaker himself should decide the cause. But they all absolutely decline it, and leave it to the House of Commons, who are the proper judges; so what comfort is to be expected from these matters?

Besides, I believe there is another thing which doesn’t a little contribute to mortify the gentlemen of the other side, that their staunch friend, Philips, is to be removed from hence, and Young made surveyor in his place, and Mr Swanton to be landwaiter on our quay. Great endeavours have been used with the Commissioners to prevent this remove, and the Rt. Hon. Mr Gardiner thought he had effected it. But the thing is done, and all that could be obtained in Philips’s favour was that he is to be surveyor at Youghal, and the gentleman in that post is to come in Swanton’s place to Passage, who I hope will be agreeable to us all, and especially to my Lord’s chaplain there...

All friends well here, and join in service to you etc. We must gain some votes on a new election, cost what it will…”

B/5/15 31 Dec. 1739

Dean Alexander Alcock, Waterford to Aland Mason, Dromana about Waterford city politics.

“My brother, Harry, showed me your letter (B/4/5), wherein you say that you will not be at any further trouble or expense about corporation matters; and as things have fallen out of late, perhaps you may in some measure be in the right to form such a resolution to yourself, though I think there is no need of publishing it to any but real and approved friends, such as your uncle and some others here may well be supposed to be.

For my part, as I had no selfish views to bias my mind in those matters, I’m very sure that, whatever advice I have at any time given therein, was altogether in support of your honour and interest; and it is some mitigation to the great loss we have all lately sustained by the death of the incomparable Lord Villiers, etc, that your quitting this town can now be attended with no reproach, since every reasonable man must think that you could do no less than let the disconsolate Lord and Lady Grandison have the comfort of yours and Lady Betty’s company, when they are so justly afflicted at the loss of such a son…
As for your giving us all thoughts of ever having any interest in this place: that, give me leave to say, is what above all others ought still to be kept a secret. I’m persuaded you would always think yourself obliged to do what good you can in the world, and especially to the place of your nativity, where you have so many good friends, who are ready to sacrifice everything to your interest. I’m sensible you are fretted at some things which have happened here; but you’ll consider what unaccountable turns such affairs do often take, and indeed, it may so fall out that even they who now oppose you, may hereafter be the forwardest to aid and assist in all your laudable endeavours for the good of the public. But let this be as it will, I think I would make no declarations in the case, but act as reason and prudence directed…”

He gives the date of Lord Villiers’s death as 16 December 1739.

B/5/16 12 Jan. 1739-1740

H. Alcock, Waterford, to Aland Mason, Dromana, about Waterford city politics.

“... You seem to be dropping the Waterford cause, but your later generous charity to the poor of it shows you love the place of your nativity. It is indeed a good town, and you have the hearts of the most deserving in it. By my friendship for you won’t permit me to flatter you that you will not lost a great deal, both of love and esteem, except with your nearest relations, if you submit such a cause to such competitors. Without running the least danger of your health, you may reside at Dromana, where no one can blame my Lord Grandison for detaining you, and easily spread your influence as far as this place. It is likely you won’t enjoy the honour you contend for in your own person, but you have the worthiest relation in the world to give it to, and how many noblemen in England and this kingdom contend for places in the House of Commons which they bestow upon strangers? But you are not looking for a new honour, but preserving an old one – one that was become, as it were, hereditary in your family; and the means you used to obtain it are no other than by saving your family from dishonour and your native city from destruction. And it will appear the more extraordinary that, when so large an accession in prospect is going to be made to your fortune, you should decline a competition with such needy adversaries.

I am persuaded you may concert measures with Mr Christmas in Dublin, whether you are going to keep your pretensions alive at a very moderate expense, and I can’t think but time must teach your enemies more wisdom. But if neither these, nor better, arguments,
occurring to yourself or suggested by your other friends, can compose the tender fears of those to whom I know you are most dear, I submit, for I wish you no honours that are no consistent with yours and their perfect ease and satisfaction…”

B/5/31 29 May 1741


“…Our late Westminster election was a most unprecedented one. The high bailiff closed the books in the fact of above 200 men, who came with music playing before them to vote for Vernon and Edwin. This he was pleased to call riotous. This proceeding so enraged the mob that they broke Lord Sundon’s coach to pieces, and beat himself most severely. ‘Tis thought they would have killed him, had he not taken sanctuary in Covent Garden Church. Sir Charles Wager would not for £10,000 be returned after such a manner. There are about 150 writs taken out against the high bailiff, whom they intend to prosecute with the utmost rigor of the law…”

B/5/35 12 Oct. 1749

H. Alcock, Dublin, to Aland Mason (whom he now calls ‘Dear Sir’, though he formerly called him ‘Dear Aland’) about the Lucas affair.

“I received yours of the 14th, and would most heartily wish you success against your puny antagonist, if I thought you had the least occasion for it. There is no need to send you a copy of the oaths. They are none other than the common oaths of allegiance and supremacy, which you may find in Robins’s abridgement of the statutes.

Yesterday Lucas was called in after my Lord Lieutenant, being addressed for the purpose, had sent the House the dedication to the King and several other papers which Lucas had presented his Excellency as his own. Culprit was asked whether they were his or not. He answered that, indeed, he had presented several papers with those titles, but he could not say whether these were the same, and he hoped my Lord Lieutenant would not turn his accuser. He was then immediately ordered to withdraw, and the House came to these resolutions, nem.con., that Lucas is an enemy to his country, that by the Speaker’s warrant he be sent to Newgate, and that my Lord Lieutenant be addressed to direct the Attorney General to prosecute him.
Lucas is reported to have said yesterday that, if the mob pulled down nine parts of Newgate, he would go into the tenth; but today he has thought proper to abscond, so that I don’t find he is yet taken. Thus ends the reign of the idol of the mob, and one of the greatest incendiaries that has been in any country...”
Mason Family and Financial Papers and Correspondence
1708:1718-1759

B/7/1-38  1740-1758

Thirty-eight letters to Aland Mason and one John Russell at Dromana from miscellaneous correspondents about Mason’s own and Lord Grandison’s estate and financial affairs, including one letter from Lord Grandison and 5 letters from Christopher Musgrave of Trin, near Dromana, Lord Grandison’s agent, about the Grandison estate, Villierstown church, the local price of provisions, etc; 22 of the remaining letters are about Mason’s Queen’s County estate, and many of them are from the agent, William Scott, who writes from Ballycoolid, Abbeyleix. The letters include:

B/7/34  [Dec. 1754]

Badly torn letter from Christopher Musgrave to [Aland Mason] about Villierstown church and linen manufactory.

“My Lord still resolves to have the seats, pulpit and altarpiece, etc, all painted the same oak colour ... we shall begin on settling the earth round the church directly, but it was impossible to get labourers before Xmas. While they are digging out potatoes, most people gave ‘em 6½d or 7d a day, and their breakfast and dinner besides, which made it impracticable to get ‘em, as my Lord had none of his own to command. The others will naturally go where they are best paid...”

He referred to a Henry Shea’s going away with linens (apparently to sell in Dublin): Shea could have taken a sample of marble with him, but instead Musgrave will send a piece “by a Dungarvan boat.”
B/7/36 22 June 1755

Musgrave, Tourin, to [Mason] about the church, etc.

“My Lord has not yet determined whether he will remove the wall at the east end of the church, but says he will if he finds it necessary. They have laid the foundations and the piers, and are settling the walk round the church ...”

I never knew money so difficult to be got in as at present, and fear there is no likelihood of its being more plenty soon...” He refers to general rumours of war.

B/7/37 30 Apr. 1757

Earl Grandison, Dromana, to Aland Mason, Dublin, about the high price of provisions, etc.

He hopes that the weather will be better the following day, so that it “... will not prevent my appearing at church with my weavers...”

Times are so bad that he expects “... to hear soon of disturbances and violence on account of provisions. I dearly wish they had not sent away so much ...” The prices for what remains behind are much higher than the poor people can afford... “There are more than 11,000 g[rea]t barrels of grain and meal corn exported from Dungarvan since the 1st of December last. A good deal more will go. They bring it from the county of Cork now. They have drained us pretty well, and give most extravagant prices, [besides] the great quantity of potatoes...”

B/7/38 5 Nov. 1758

Musgrave, Tourin, to Aland Mason, Dublin, about the Villierstown manufactory, with a reference to Limerick politics.

He refers to one William Moresy’s drawing on Lord Grandison (who is ill in Dublin) for yarn brought by Moresy in Cork for the factory. This was the cheapest parcel ever bought. Moresy “... says it will hold out till next Midsummer, and desires Mr [H.] Farrell may not buy any more. I gave him an account of what the 262 pieces of linen sold for ...’ He has directed that the £2 12s 6d. be divided among the weavers who had the 14 children.

“...I fear Mr Oliver will find a very great opposition [in Co. Limerick] and heavy expense as the Massys are a very numerous and opulent people...”
Mason Family and Financial Papers and Correspondence
1708:1718-1759

B/10/1-38  1708-1735

Letters, deeds, legal case papers, etc, of John Mason concerning title to the lands of Cullen, Manvahogie and Ballinakill, Waterford City, acquired from the Bryner and Dobbyn families. (N.B. An Alderman William Smith of Waterford features in this bundle and also in B/11, but this appears to be a matter of coincidence reflecting two distinct transactions) Not Copied.

B/10/1  20 Apr. 1708
Letter from Alexander Brynner to [Pierce Dobbyn].

B/10/2  18 Dec. 1714
Copy of the will of Alderman William Smith of Waterford.

B/10/3  30 Apr. 1717
Bond and confession of judgment by William Dobbyn of Ballinakill to William Hayden and the other executors of Alderman Smith, for £612.17.8.

B/10/4/A-B  1718
Two rough drafts of a deed from Hayden and the other executors of Alderman Smith conveying a mortgage of Ballinakill, etc, to St John Brodrick.

B/10/5  22 Oct. 1719
Bond binding William Dobbyn of Ballinakill to the Archbishop of Tuam and Charles Campbell in £3,200.

B/10/6  18 Nov. 1719
Power of attorney from Benjamin Morris to William Hayden, his co-executor of the will of Alderman Smith.
B/10/7 29 Jan. [1721/1722]


B/10/8/A 24 Jan. [1726]


B/10/8/B 19 Aug. 1724

Letter from Lord Midleton to Charles Campbell.

B/10/9 8 Mar. [1725/1726]

Receipt from Isaac Dobson (Clerk for Alexander Bryner, plaintiff) for money paid in pursuance of a decree against W. Dobbyn.

B/10/10 4 Apr. 1726

Certificate of the Prerogative Court concerning the administration of the estate of Alexander Bryner of Ballyconnell, Co. Wicklow, deceased, granted to his nephews, John Whelan and Lodowick Keating.

B/10/11 21 May 1726

Receipt from John Wheland and Lodowick Keating, administrators of Alexander Bryner, to William Dobbyn.

B/10/12 7 June 1726

Counsel’s opinion of Eaton Stannard.

B/10/13 18 June 1726

Letter from William Dobbyn to John Mason.

B/10/14 15 May 1728

Indenture between (1) Alice Power, alias Bryner, widow, and (2) Benjamin Morris of Waterford, alderman.
B/10/15/A-B  c.1729
Accounts and related notes, between William Dobbyn and John Mason.

B/10/16  18 Jan. [1728/1729]
Letter from Dobbyn to Mason.

B/10/17  21 July 1730
Letter from Dobbyn to Mason.

B/10/18-20  10 Aug - 7 Oct. 1730
Counsel’s opinions of Nicholas Nash.

B/10/21  [c.1730]
Memorandum by John Mason regarding the same case.

B/10/22  [c.1730]
List of William Dobbyn’s papers.

B/10/23  6 Nov. 1730
Declaration of trust by Benjamin Morris.

B/10/24  26 Nov. 1730
Abstract of title to the Bryner property, with a further counsel’s opinion of Nicholas Nash.

B/10/25  1730
Draft deed between William Dobbyn and John Mason.

B/10/26  23 June 1731
Affidavit of Alice Power, alias Bryner, widow.

B/10/27  [1731]
List of deeds relating to Cullen and Monvehogie.
B/10/28 31 Oct. 1733
Award of Ambrose Congreve and Richard Weekes between William Dobbyn and Benjamin Rogers.

B/10/29 1733
Rough and incomplete draft of a deed between William Dobbyn and John Mason.

B/10/30 1733
Draft quit claim from John Fitzgerald of London to William Dobbyn of judgement debts.

B/10/31 13 Feb. [1733/1734]
Final draft of the deed between Dobbyn and Mason.

B/10/32 26 Apr. 1734
Affidavit of Mary Porter

B/10/33 11 July 1734
List of judgements entered in the King’s Bench against William Dobbyn, 1696-1732.

B/10/34 29 July 1734
List of judgements entered in the King’s Bench against William Dobbyn, 1696-1732 in the Common Pleas.

B/10/35 22 Jan. [1734/1735]
List of judgements entered in the King’s Bench against William Dobbyn, 1696-1732 in the Exchequer.

B/10/36-38 [nd]
Three fragments.
Estate and Financial Correspondence and Associated Papers of the 1st Earl Grandison, 1708-1766

C/3/1-23  1713-1741

Twenty-three letters to the 1st Earl Grandison and Charles Chambers, from Grandison’s London man of business, Capt. Matthew Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald’s son, Robert and other members of the Fitzgerald family. The letter of 1713, from Capt. Matthew Fitzgerald, relates to Fitzgerald’s prospects in the army, but the rest of the correspondence relates to Lord Grandison’s financial affairs: the valuation of the contents of his London house in Grosvenor Street in 1734; the buying of pictures for him; the raising of a mortgage of £35,000 for his in 1737; and the financial difficulties of Viscount Falkland, who was doubly connected with the Grandison family, through Lord Grandison’s own marriage, and through Falkland’s marriage in 1734 to the widow of Grandison’s elder son, John, Viscount Villiers, who had died in 1732. [Lady Falkland was entitled under her marriage settlement of 1728 to a jointure of £1,500 charged on the Grandison estate and payable in spite of her second marriage.] The concluding items are case papers in a lawsuit which Grandison brought against Matthew Fitzgerald in the English Court of Chancery. The letters include the following:

C/3/9  17 July 1737


He states Grandison’s rental income as £5,300 a year, and itemises outstanding arrears of money owed to dependants and creditors, which total £5,391. Judging from the remittances he has received, he assumes that an arrear of £6,500 has built up [on the rental] over the past three years, and he queries how, in these circumstances, Grandison’s debts can be serviced. These amount to £2,400 a year in the form of annuity, plus £1,935 a year, apparently the interest of two loans of £35,000 and £18,000 respectively. This makes the total annual charge £4,355. He
laments the destructive rates of exchange which he has to pay because he is drawing on Ireland.
Ninety-four letters from Maurice Ronayne to the 1st Earl Grandison. Ronayne was the agent for Grandison’s Irish estate, apparently until the end of 1732, when a dispute broke out between them because Grandison decided Ronayne had been cheating him. The great bulk of the correspondence falls between the years 1726-1731. The letters are long and detailed, and range over all the legal and financial aspects of the running of the estate. They also include important comments on the politics of Co. Waterford and Dungarvan and Youghal, on the contemporary marriage market for Grandison’s children and on the advisability of Grandison’s residing at Dromana if he wants to keep his end up, both politically and as a landowner. There is also a great deal of discussion of the repairs, furniture, household goods, etc, which will be necessary at Dromana when Grandison at last, in the winter of 1703-1701, announces his intention of residing there. Included in the bundle are a mortgage and bond to Ronayne from Elizabeth Fitzgerald of Tinnascart [near Dromana], 1741. The letters include:

C/5/1 17 July 1724

Maurice Ronayne to Lord Grandison about estate and financial business.

“...I hope, whenever your Lordship proposes to settle at Dromana, that you will take a hard lodging at D’Laughtane [Ronayne’s house near Clashmore], till the furniture and other necessaries are fitted there...”
C/5/2 [10 Oct. 1724]

Maurice Ronayne to Lord Grandison about estate and financial business.

“...The election for a knight of the shire is to be next Monday. Some say Mr. B. declines it, though he does not. I am of opinion Mr May will carry it. It was insinuated by Mr B’s friends that your Lordship writ to him that you were sorry that you were pre-engaged, otherwise he should have your interest, but as it was, that you would leave everyone to their liberty. I told such as I heard say this, that it was a mistake, and I showed a great deal of earnestness for Mr M. in that particular, and that to serve your Lordship, for being of that side secures your Lordship the most friends and best interests in the county, and upon it they all declare their good wishes for your Lordship...”

C/5/3 5 Jan. [1724/1725]

Maurice Ronayne, Ballynatray, [Co. Waterford], to Grandison about estate and financial business. He discusses a complicated deal over the payment of a fine for the renewal of a farm leased from Lord Burlington. The mode of payment which Ronayne recommends is “...Mr Harper, their own banker at Cork’s, letter or note giving them power to draw on him for such a sum ... The agents there [at Lisamore] will think themselves secure enough with Mr Harper’s assurance...”

C/5/5 10 Oct. 1725

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about estate and financial business.

“Finding the exchange was low, I sent my nephew, McNamara, to Cork ..., who brought me the enclosed several bills to the amount of three hundred pound at 6¼% exchange. I borrowed £100 of this money for a month, that I may get your Lordship the benefit of the present lowness...”
C/5/7  23 Sep. 1726

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about estate and financial business.

“...I am overjoyed to hear that your Lordship is advised (and that for several good reasons appearing in your Lordship’s case) to apply to parliament for relief against General Steuart’s executors, etc. I can hardly be doubted but that your Lordship has (and with due care taken) may have interest enough to support so just and reasonable an appeal. A good sum expended to gain such a point, would in the main turn to a good account. God direct your Lordship and grant you success...”

C/5/8  30 Dec. 1726

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about estate and financial business.
The exchange remains at 11½%, so he will continue to delay remitting.

C/5/9  7 Apr. 1727

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about estate and financial business.

“...I must allow your Lordship had just reasons to be surprised at what happened at Waterford, but God forbid you should take any such notice of it as to make you quit your resolution of living in this country. Your Lordship’s not living here is all that can prejudice your interest. There are a great many in the country that are true friends to your Lordship, and a great many that were not to be found when the trial was coming on, have since taken some pains to excuse themselves for being out of the way, protesting that they did not expect it would come on that afternoon... I send your Lordship [annexed] the names of the jury that was returned from Dublin. Messrs Christmas and Mason were not then in town, being by some mistakes forgot to be returned in the grand jury...”
C/5/12  
4 July 1727

Maurice Ronayne, Fetters, to Grandison, London, about electioneering.

“...Immediately on receipt of your Lordship’s letters of the 17th, I sent to all such as I thought may be willing to oblige your Lordship, and I had a reasonable answer from them, except Mr Green, who writ me a great deal on the honour and value he had for your Lordship, but that, as he was tenant to Lord B[urlington] for a great rent, that you would not have him fly in his face, that he heard he gave his interest to Mr Wall, who had also, as he says, the Bishop’s interest, and that by way appeared to him, there was no opposing him, etc. This was a fine speech, but not all fact, as time will show. Sir John Osborne called on me lately, and showed me a letter to him from Lord Tyrone, by which I found that Col. May and he had joined interest, and that being so, I believe they stand fair to carry the election with your Lordship’s assistance, which I conceive they will have, by what your Lordship mentions to have writ to Lord Tyrone...”

C/5/13  
20 Aug. 1727

Maurice Ronayne, Fetters, to Grandison, London, advising against electioneering.

“...I find your Lordship has been prevailed on to be concerned in elections. Your Lordship is the better judge of the advantage to be gained by the like proceedings. But in my humble opinion, I should think it would be of more consequence to be at more expense in getting an English title, which would still continue in the family; and as the common report is how your Lordship’s interest at court may make that matter easy, I’ll say no more of it now. I pray God to direct your Lordship...” He refers to having tried a manure called sea oar on part of the meadow last year, with considerable success.
C/5/14  10 Sep. 1727

Maurice Ronayne, Fetters, to Grandison, London, about electioneering.

“...I am very sorry your Lordship should lose any money on account of elections. It’s to be presumed your Lordship acted prudently in not pushing that affair further. All that wish your Lordship and family well must approve of your resolution in marrying Lord Villiers soon. It’s the best security against all accidents, as it is an extraordinary prospect of making your Lordship easy in the settlement of your younger children. God grant your Lordship good success in that and all other your undertakings.

Our writs for a new parliament are soon expected to be out. I have had no letter from Mr May, but had one from Sir John, with a copy of your Lordship’s to him. I spare no pains to promote their interest. Your Lordship’s Youghal friends are truly zealous to exert themselves, but it’s pretty odd that Mr Welsh should be the only deserter. I think he ought to be the last that would quit your Lordship’s interest, but his actions are not to be accounted for... His voting for Sir John and Mr Wall is acting entirely for Lord B[urlington]. He is wrong in saying that Col. Boyle applied to him first, for upon my credit, he did not see him till the 29th of June, at the Youghal election, which was two days after he received my letter. He is led easily by ill advisers. I have been with Capt. Ussher and the rest of the gentlemen on your side last Monday, and I find they make no doubt but that we shall far distance the Burlingtonians...”
C/5/15 1 Oct. 1727

Maurice Ronayne, Fetters, to Grandison, London, about estate business and electioneering.

“...The tenants of Shanecool are not able to hold that farm. If I could get the rent they were to pay from a good tenant, I would willingly know if I may set it. I proposed it to Mr [Salter], but 31 years he thinks to be too short a term, where the improvement requires so much money to be laid out...

...In my last, I gave your Lordship an account that our election for the county was soon to come on, and that Mr Welsh had deserted your Lordship. He was unhappy to discover himself since it was to no purpose, for Mr Wall, after all the interest he could make, with Lord Burlington’s recommendation, found his party too weak, and therefore quitted his pretensions, and Sir John and Mr May were chose without opposition. It’s believed the Burlingtonians will meet with the same fate at Dungarvan, where Mr Uniacke and Mr Dillon set up, with Mathew Hore’s interest and the offer of £500 to the town. I wish they may carry it...”
Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about marriages for Grandison’s children.

“... I do not forget the affair relating to Sir Mathew Deane. I had given Mr Barnet, that’s married to my daughter, and who is great in that family, proper directions for the management of the affair. I was in country last Shrovetide, and thinking it a good way, I put my daughter on falling casually into the discourse over a pot of tea, and it fell out as I mentioned before to your Lordship. I expect soon to hear now on it. In the meantime, I hope your Lordship will pardon me (it being sincerely designed) for presuming to offer two things to your Lordship. One is humbly to beg to know what fortune you think to give each of your daughters; the other is whether a gentleman of a good family, without a title, of £1,000 yearly estate, would be agreeable for any of them. I do not suppose that such a man should expect a fortune equal with Sir Mathew Deane’s son but proportionable to his estate, and dare venture to say that it were better even to dispose of one so, than to let her wait for a better, when so many accidents attend the [word illegible]. It’s impudence, I own, in me to argue after this manner, but I consider I do it to a prudent, discerning Lord, that knows it’s my affection leads me to commit the fault. Should it happen to be judged [now], I wish the two that are now free to be disposed of, were well married; and England in my poor opinion is not so proper a place to match daughters of moderate fortunes, as it is to get a great deal of money for sons. It may not be pleasing to everybody to see my reasonings on this head, and therefore [I] humbly beg they may be buried with your Lordship, and that even this letter may be burned...”

He discusses an advertisement stating that recourse is to be had to parliament for a private act to settle the Grandison estate. “... I got a good many of the advertisements printed, and last assizes at Cork put up one in the Exchange, one at the Country Court House, and a third in the most public coffee house ...” He also posted copies in Waterford and Dublin.
Maurice Ronayne, post-marked Youghal, to Grandison about estate and financial business. He has paid Grandison’s bill promptly.

“... Your Lordship may brag that no nobleman’s bills in the three kingdoms are more honoured by the merchants than your Lordship’s. ... They have good reason, since they have hitherto been paid to day ... It’s more than any receiver in the kingdom can say, but it’s all owing to your Lordship’s good fortune, and a blessing that attends your honest intentions. Mr Winthrop, when I paid him the last bill, assured me that certain nobleman’s agent had accepted bills in his hands to the amount of £800, which lay at that time about 6 months unpaid...”

Maurice Ronayne, to Grandison about estate and financial business. He mentions that they have been having the worst storms for twenty years.

Maurice Ronayne, Dungarvan, to Grandison about estate and financial business. He refers to the violence of the frost. He is obtaining rye-grass seed; also clover from Mr Percival.

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about estate and financial business. There is no good rate for hay this year, in spite of the fact that the winter was severe. All corn is dear and is advancing in price.

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about estate and financial business.

“... I am very glad your Lordship has hopes of tying up effectually Lord Villiers’s hands and am sorry his disposition is such as to oblige your Lordship to have that particular so very much at heart. Time may open his eyes and make him see his folly...”
C/5/31  7 Mar. [1728/1729]

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about estate and financial business. It is difficult to get the ploughs working, because the cattle are so weak after the severe winter. He refers to a farm being ruined by being leased out in small potato gardens, which means that so many ditches will be made to fence off the separate plots that a great part of the best lands will be destroyed.

C/5/32  6 Apr. 1729

Maurice Ronayne, post-marked Youghal, to Grandison, London, about Youghal.

“... My son, that was with the Director, Mr Ray [who is stated earlier to be a man of the sea - i.e. a Director of the South Sea Company] at Ostend, is at home these ten days past. Being advised by him to settle at Youghal, he comes extremely well recommended, both to merchants in this country and abroad. He has several letters from the Director, and among them one to Mr George Fitzgerald, which I presume to enclose to your Lordship, knowing the great service it may do him to have your Lordship deliver it and second it...” He apologises for taking this liberty.

“... I am sensible how much your Lordship has it a’ heart to establish a merchant at Youghal that may be useful to the country. I doubt not but your Lordship would even on that account promote anyone’s interest that may do your tenants, etc, service. Certainly Youghal for exportation lies as well as any town..., and wants nothing to make it flourish but such as may push on a trade there. It may be very much in Mr Fitzgerald’s way to forward that particular. He may have ships victualled there as cheap as in Cork or Waterford, and get as much French beef from thence as he or his friends may want; and as to the butter, it’s well known to most dealers that what’s exported there carried the crack...”

Ronayne hopes that Grandison will interest Fitzgerald and other merchants in his son’s plan. “...Mr Fitzgerald may provide him more friends here and abroad, and for the better support of his credit...” Ronayne himself will give security for his son, and is thinking of setting up in partnership with him. The project, if backed by the London and Bristol merchants, would be the means of making Youghall “flourish again.”
C/5/33 13 Apr. 1729

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about estate and financial business.

“...It’s pity Sir Edward O’Brien is so extravagant. Had his disposition been otherwise, he would be a fine match for a young lady. I shall make enquiry how the sum your Lordship mentions may be raised, and at what interest...”

C/5/40 6 July 1729

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about Dungarvan.

“...I am not willing to propose any new disputes in your Lordship’s absence, especially in matters that I am sure can be amicably ended. Dungarvan gentry are in wars about the water. If they would secure an interest for your Lordship, at all times to have the recommending of a member of parliament there, and that they make such further satisfaction to the tenants as Mr Keily and I would think reasonable, I do humbly conceive your Lordship may come into it..”

He points out that Grandison should negotiate with the townspeople via Mr Keily, as “...he is a proper person to bring them to terms, for they are all in his books, and consequently very much in his power.”

C/5/42 27 July 1729

see also C/5/49 and F/1

Account furnished by Maurice Ronayne to Grandison of forest trees planted in the Dromana nursery. 43,000 trees have been planted, in rows of crab stock, plum stock, pear stock, etc. There are large quantities of English box, some for hedges, some for edging borders, etc.
C/5/43 5 Aug. 1729

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about Dungarvan.

“...Your Lordship is undoubtedly in the right that there may be some difficulty in having an interest to get a member for Dungarvan, the returning officer being on the other side. For that reason, I shan’t presume to urge it any further, but humbly submit to your Lordship’s better judgement. I believe that there are some both willing and able to make a very strong interest that way for your Lordship, when occasion offers, without any such previous article. At present, the great cry is the water, and as that is a public good and an advantage to a town (surrounded by your Lordship’s estate), your Lordship may perhaps be moved to grant it, on making all your tenants free there – I mean of customs – and paying such damages to the tenants (through who {sic} lands the water is brought) as Mr Keily and I may think reasonable. This I humbly offer to your Lordship’s better consideration...”

C/5/44 8 Aug. 1729

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about estate and financial business.

“It is hard to get bills, as no merchant in Youghal has any money in Dublin”.

C/5/45 22 Aug. 1729

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about Youghal.

“... My son is settled at Youghal, in company with Pat Galway and his son. The corporation thought fit to make them free, and further, that all merchants that would reside in that town should have the same liberty. This would make that place (long upon the decay) flourishing. But Mr [Mervyne] and a few others, that would engross all and prefer their private interest before a public good, oppose it, and pretend to carry aside the rule made, though it was ordered to be printed in the London Gazette and Dublin papers at the corporation charge...” The outcome of this dispute is uncertain. If it goes against his son, Ronayne suggests that the son should act as agent for Grandison, who is already a freeman of Youghal, and import and export as much as he can, for the benefit of the country.
C/5/46  14 Sep. 1729

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about Youghal and Dungarvan.

“...I find your Lordship has a right notion in avoiding disputes with Lord B[urlington] or any other, and that you justly consider the little advantage there may be in returning a member, and therefore [I] will say nothing further on that head, but beg leave to observe to your Lordship that refusing water to Dungarvan has put some gentlemen beyond their reason, and soured them so far that they seem to carry with a high hand anything that may relate to any person honoured with your Lordship’s favour or countenance. I mentioned something in my former letter of the rule made at Youghal in favour of all merchants coming to reside and trade in that town, and the opposition some endeavoured to give it. Last Monday there was a grand debate on that particular, and Mr William Coughlan strenuously argued against it, though it was urged to be entirely Lord B’s interest, since it would much better his estate in and about that town. But all this went for nothing with him. He proceeded with the greatest violence, affirming at several times that he would forever oppose Ronayne. This declaration, so publicly and often repeated, surprised a great many, and showed his malice and little sense, and it was the more remarkable by reason that a year or two ago he was very active in promoting the same liberty for the good of that town, and that he even quarrelled with Mr Lawnds for then opposing it; and now, after all his objections, he has had the mortification to see them all overruled, and the order confirmed. Mr Jones, the present mayor, has honour and spirit, and is not to be led by such base, designing sparks. This affair makes a great noise here. Some take it as a dart thrown at your Lordship through my body, which is the more likely by reason I never had the least dealing with the squire, and consequently he could have no reason in particular to vent so much of his spleen against me...”

He points out that Grandison is very unpopular in Dungarvan at present, because of his unwillingness to allow a water-supply to pass through his lands to the town.

C/5/47  23 Sep. 1729

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about estate and financial business. He reports the results of Youghal races, where nearly all the plate was won by Tipperary men –“... there were plays, balls and other diversions every night”.
C/5/48 3 Oct. 1729

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about estate and financial business.

“...There is report current here that a land tax is intended this sessions of parliament. I can hardly believe it, by reason I do not find that our Irish Lords are coming over, as undoubtedly they would to oppose so fatal a stroke...”

C/5/49 1729

see also C/5/40 & F/2
Statement of the number of trees in the nurseries at Dromana, furnished by Maurice Ronayne to Grandison. In the old nursery, there are 17,200 ash trees, 18,000 beech, 5,930 “sickamore”, 700 elms and 540 horse-chestnuts-making a total of 42,370. In the new nursery, there have been planted this season 47,700 ash trees, 229 lime and 17,600 acorns in rows. The fruit trees total 107,899.

C/5/50 5 Oct. 1729

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about estate business. He refers to bringing in some mountain land, apparently for hops; he will fence it this winter, and try to get some fellows to plough it next summer; with burning, it will bear some rye and potatoes. “...It may be better to give some crops of it free for their encouragement, than that your Lordship should be at the expense of ploughing it...”

He will let Dromanabeg “... to several honest labouring men, who will perhaps better improve the land by their several potato gardens than richer men would, and ... they will give it up upon a year's warning, without any consideration...”

C/5/51 10 Oct. 1729

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about estate business. He refers to the very wet season in the area, which is affecting the corn and hay. Yet things are well in hand at Dromana.
C/5/53  7 Dec. 1729

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about estate business.

“...I have attended at my station 12 days since the 5th of November last, and did not receive about a £1,000. I must blame the weather for it, for the people can’t thrash {sic} or carry their corn to market. It has been continually wet and stormy these two months past. No man living remembers to have seen the like. The winter sowing is in a bad way, scarce a grain being sowed by any as yet. God preserve us from the consequence...”

C/5/56  20 Mar. 1729/1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about the Co. Waterford election.

“I did myself the honour to write to your Lordship the 11th inst [letter not found] from Waterford. I then gave your Lordship an account that Lord Villiers had carried the election, but that Mr Congreve intended to petition. I heard afterwards that he would not, the truth of which will be soon known.

I can’t as yet give your Lordship an exact account of the expense, for the bills brought me were so unreasonable that I dispute paying them, and Sir John (who acted to the last degree for your Lordship’s interest) was so good that he publicly declared that he had the direction of that particular, and that if I paid any bill that was not signed by him, that it should be out of my own pocket. This was of great advantage to me, and gave me the more room to contest the matter.

Lord B[urlington’s] freeholders behaved themselves most barbarously. They were the chief occasion of the vast expense that is charged, of which your Lordship shall know more soon. It’s a shame that those [retained] for his Lordship did not take better care. If they had, it would have saved a great deal. There is no remedy now but to do all that’s possible to reduce the bills. I foresaw a great deal of this, and if it were not for letters Mr Christmas writ to Mr Keily (who acted for me when I was not able to write, or even expected to live), I believe I should have dropped the affair. The copy of one of them letters I now send your Lordship...”

He laments that building work at Dromana is impeded by “…want of labourers, which can’t be even hired”.

Annexed is a copy of a letter from Mr Christmas to Mr Keily, dated Waterford, 5 March [1729/1730].
“I am favoured with yours, and am greatly pleased that Mr Ronayne has so just a notion of the necessity of carrying on Lord Villiers’s election, the dropping of which at this time would in my opinion greatly dishonour both Lord Grandison and his son, and would make all their friends think themselves prodigiously ill-used. I this day received a letter from Lord Tyrone, who is of my opinion, and will be uneasy till Mr Ronayne lets him know he is determined to prosecute this affair.

Sir John Osborne was with me here yesterday, and agrees in opinion with me, so that Mr Ronayne will be greatly justified in his proceedings, since all those gentlemen to whom Lord Grandison has left the affair have advised him to it. I will take care to send to all hereabouts to attend, and will immediately send to Waterford to secure houses and some private beds. I would put Lord Villiers to as little expense as possible, but what is necessary must be done. I am sure Lord Grandison will approve it. Let it lie upon Lord Tyrone, Sir John Osborne and me to set that matter right with his Lordship, if occasion should be, etc...”
C/5/57  27 Mar. 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about the election.

“...I writ to your Lordship in my illness that I had sent letters to drop the election, but soon afterwards received letters from Lord Tyrone, Sir John Osborne and Mr Christmas, which put me under a necessity to change my note. The copy of that from the latter I now send your Lordship, as I did that of another letter of his in a former letter. I can assure your Lordship that the consternation I was in on the occasion added to my disorder, for (sincerely speaking) it gave me the greatest concern and uneasiness to pursue an affair of so little consequence (at least it was so in my opinion) at so great an expense, as I foresaw it would be to your Lordship, when the money may be better applied by supplying your Lordship for answering other demands. It’s a great deal of money lost, but as it was attended with success, that may make it the more agreeable. I suppose Lord Tyrone has informed your Lordship that no more elections will be heard this sessions. That prevents Mr Congreve’s giving any further trouble by petition...”

Annexed is a copy of “Mr Christmas’s first letter to Mr Keily”, which is not dated.

“I have just now received yours, and am greatly astonished to find Lord Villiers’s agents have it in their heads to drop his election, when so many gentlemen have taken so great pains to serve him. I think I may venture to say their pains and trouble will have the desired success, for notwithstanding all the bragging of the opposite side, my Lord Villiers will have a considerable majority. You mention a great discredit if my Lord Villiers should be defeated. I must tell you, it would be much more to his discredit if he should decline an affair of this sort, when so many gentlemen appear for him; and as for the expense, ‘tis a most scandalous thing to think of it, and [I] am sure Lord Grandison would never consider it in the least. I can assure you that Mr Congreve does not expect to gain a majority, and if he thinks the minority of Lord Villiers will be of any service to him, he will be mistaken; for the parliament will be up before his petition can be heard, and I have wrote yesterday to Lord Grandison to this effect. I don’t doubt that Sir John Osborne will give the same advice that I do, which is by all means to stand a poll, and if so, I hope Mr Ronayne will take care to have houses secured in Waterford, and all other things proper in due time. I desire the favour of you to let me have timely notice of what you will conclude upon, and once more repeated it, that it will be a shameful and scandalous think if Lord Villiers should now decline...”
C/5/58  9 Apr. 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about the election.

“...I had the honour of your Lordship’s of the 27th past, and do believe your Lordship would be well satisfied, had I continued my resolution to drop the election. God knows, it was very much my inclination to do it, but it was impossible, at least after your Lordship writ to the Bishop and Mr Christmas. I sent your Lordship copies of the letters to Mr Keily, and now send the copy of a letter sent him on the occasion, which will appear to be worded in the best manner possible to excuse my not going on with the election. All made no impression.

I can’t but own, it would be the loss of your Lordship’s interest forever in the county, had the freeholders quitted to Mr Congreve, when so many gentlemen engaged with the greatest zeal in your Lordship’s cause. What private view they might have had in it, to satisfy their own resentment, I know not.

The expenses are not yet settled. I send your Lordship a short account, as the unjust innkeepers’ claim at Waterford, and of what it may amount to, as I offered them. I must still beg leave to observe to your Lordship that Lord Burlington’s freeholders occasioned entirely this confusion. They lay but one night at Dungarvan, where they were only to be treated at a moderate expense as travellers. Their behaviour there was barbarous to the last degree, and I think that Mr Crotty ought to recommend to the agents here carefully to inspect into the matter, for it was impossible for them to consume all that they are charged with there, unless they cast the liquor into the streets. I am informed their charge there is above £100, and upon strict enquiry I find there were but 70 horses, which makes the number, including servants, to be but as many men. Sure, had they been fully extravagant, six shillings a man would have been sufficient for one night. What that would amount to may easily be computed. The abuse has been so great that I hope Mr Crotty will prevail on Lord B. to lay his commands on his agents her to enquire strictly into the matter, and to transmit to his Lordship a true list of the persons by name that were there, and the particular charge of each house, mentioning in particular the names of the several persons that had what they bring in account. I think this is what may be reasonably expected. For my part, I think the imposition so great that, without special directions, I shan’t intermeddle in it...”

Annexed is a copy of Mr Keily’s letter to Mr Christmas, dated 2 March [1729/1730]
“Mr Maurice Ronayne, who is my Lord Grandison’s agent, is so very unwell and sick for some time past, that he desired me to acquaint you that his ill state of health hindered his being more active in the affair of Lord Villiers’s election, and though he spoke to several and wrote to many freeholders requesting their votes and interest for his Lordship, yet by the account and advice he received, he is afraid of being defeated, in case it be disputed, which in all appearance it will [be] very vigorously, and therefore is at a stand and unwilling to run the risk of so great a chance wherein, if his Lordship should be foiled, he apprehends the discredit would be intolerable, besides a vast expense that will attend it either way; and Mr Ronayne is the more cautious because he had no sufficient authority or discretion to go on with the election, if it be disputed, my Lord Grandison having taken it for granted that, having obtained Lord Burlington, Lord Tyrone, Lady Doneraile, Sir John Osborne, yours and Mr Mason’s interest, and several other friends, he had no reason to imagine that anyone would take upon him to oppose to great a power, which Mr Ronayne believes was his Lordship’s reason to think of setting up Lord Villiers, and that he would not think of it if he thought otherwise. So that, for those reasons, Mr Ronayne thinks, as the case stands, it to be more advisable for him to drop it than undertake to proceed further.

Mr Lord having in his last letter observed to Mr Ronayne that he wrote to you and the Bishop, he begs the favour – I mean Mr Ronayne does – that you will be so kind as to let him have your advice and opinion of this affair. He wrote to Sir John Osborne to this purpose, and expects to receive Lord Tyrone’s answer to a letter on the same foot every post. My Lord Grandison observes in his letter that he is as much concerned for the assurance taken to oppose all the best of the county, as for the disappointment his son may meet with, which he thinks they will all resent and not without reason…”

Below are Ronayne’s calculations of the expenses. The bills presented for treating in Waterford amount to £445, and Ronayne calculates that this ought to be £361, plus £28 for entertainment on the way, plus entertainment at Dungarvan, Tallow, etc.
C/5/59  19 June 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about the election. He points out that the expense is the more surprising, when it is remembered that only 109 freeholders turned up to poll, of whom only 150 voted. Even if Congreve’s supporters had been included, the expenses could not have amounted to the sum stated in the innkeepers’ accounts. Ronayne points out that he had reliable men posted in the various pubs with instructions to prevent excesses, but that Lord Burlington’s and Lady Doneraile’s freeholders got completely out of control, and so gave the innkeepers their opportunity for fraud. Nevertheless, to stop the mouths of the innkeepers, Ronayne recommends that they be paid two-thirds of their accounts. He refers to Grandison’s special manure, which has been tried but shows no sign of improving the land. It is hardly worth taking out a patent, as nobody in this country [Waterford or Ireland] would lay out eight barrels to an acre.

C/5/60  7 July 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, lamenting that the innkeepers still hold out for three-quarters, which Ronayne refuses to pay, unless he receives specific directions from Grandison to that effect.

C/5/61  9 Aug. 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, rejoicing at Grandison’s decision to settle at Dromana, and discussing in great detail the repairs necessary to make the house fit for the Grandisons’ accommodation. He discusses the stocking of the cellar. “...Your Lordship’s best way will be to get Mr George Fitzgerald to write to a proper person to France, that is to Bordeaux, to secure so much (as you think fit) of that choice wine, and I will address to him for it, and will (if the market encourages it) send butter for it. There is no merchant there of my acquaintance that I would depend upon to send it...”

C/5/62  11 Aug. 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about necessary repairs to Dromana. There are several further letters on the same subject.
C/5/63 14 Aug. 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about necessary repairs to Dromana. He doubts how soon he will be able to make payment, “...considering the lowness of the price of goods and the payment I must make for that cursed election...”

C/5/65 30 Aug. 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about necessary purchases for Dromana, with a reference to the Penal Laws.

“...The best fairs being past, I fear I must send to Connacht to buy the bundle cloth...”

He points out that, because he is a catholic, people have misinformed Grandison that Ronayne and his son have contravened the penal law providing for gavelkind; Ronayne dismisses this accusation as ludicrous, “... my little concern being at present out of the power of that act...

I do propose... to send a sloop for coal, believing it will come best and cheapest that way. I humbly desire to know what quantity may be wanting, and the sort that your Lordship like {sic} best. Philip Murphy is building a sloop at Dromanabeg. He tells me she will carry 30 or 35 ton. I have a notion that such a vessel may be of use to your Lordship to bring wares, etc, and if it was agreeable, I would get my son half concerned, and he act for your Lordship. One of that size would be a large enough to go to Cadiz, France and Holland...”

C/5/66 8 Sep. 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about necessary purchases for Dromana. He asks when Grandison will be arriving at Dromana. He is buying linen “bundle cloth” from Connaught and Limerick for household purposes. He is starting work on the furniture.
C/5/67  27 Sep. 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about necessary purchases for Dromana.

“...I bought the bundle cloth, though the fairs were past, and cheaper than it could be had at any of them. A man brought me most of it to the house. As to linen sheets, had I known what pure linen would please my Lady..., I would get my son to send for them to Holland...”

C/5/69  25 Oct. 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about estate business. From the accounts he furnishes, it appears that Grandison’s labourers were being paid at the rate of 6d. a day. He mentions that he has bought 100 wethers in Co. Tipperary, after much difficulty, as they are extremely dear - £7 a score. Otherwise, there is demand for nothing, and he wonders how even those tenants with good bargains can possibly pay their rents. He furnishes an account of what was made of the lands in hand at Dromana. “...By fattening, £94 16s.10d., by grazing £13 17s.0d., by hay, £45 13s.6d.: [total] £154 7s.4d. ..” If let, the land would have yielded an income of only £73 10s.0d.

C/5/70  1 Nov. 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about necessary improvements to Dromana. He refers to designs for a new cow building, which is to be the length of the new stables, and which he suggests should be built against them. He reports that 3 tons of hops have been gathered into the hop-yard this year, the weather not being favourable. Rye-grass, clover etc, are being used, apparently on the demesne farm.

C/5/71  20 Nov. 1730

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about estate business. “...It’s impossible to tell your Lordship the difficulty to get in the rents...” This used to be the best season, but he had not got in £280 in [nine] days, when formerly he would have got in £700 or £800. “...I can’t imagine what the tenants will do if the markets continue thus...”
Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about estate and financial matters, repairs to Dromana and the expense of the election of the previous year. He has employed a painter from Wateford at 2s.0d. a day. He notes Grandison’s instructions that the park is to be ploughed.

“...It’s too great an undertaking in one year. No less than 4 ploughs of good bullocks will do to manage it. Horses won’t do, and much less the duty ploughs. Upon my credit, the latter are not worth giving them grass, and feeding the men that attend them...

... I have got Dungarvan [bills] for the election, which I shall send your Lordship either to Bristol or London by the first convenience. Mr Eeeles, that receives at Lismore for Lord Burlington, writ me an extraordinary letter the other day about some expenses at Lismore, etc, and says that he was misrepresented to your Lordship; and as he has reason to think by me I shall send your Lordship the letter to be shown Mr Crotty. I never made mention of anyone’s name, but I did, as in duty bound, give your Lordship an account of the barbarity of the voters from that side, which he says now was not his business to prevent...”

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison, London, about estate and financial matters, repairs to Dromana and the expense of the election of the previous year. He recommends Mr Stephen Winthrop, an honest merchant of Cork of his correspondence. One of his vessels, which trades to Bristol, etc. will go to Minehead in ballast, and would take Grandison, his servants and horses across for 50 guineas Irish.

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about estate and financial matters. He defends himself against Grandison’s charge that he had bought oats too expensively (at 2s.6d. per barrel) on the grounds that he feared the price would rise still further;

“The great farmers won’t sell. A poor man, for his necessity, has sold an odd barrel for less, but that is no rule...”

Ronayne has borrowed £300 on his own bond to remit to Grandison the money he needs for his journey to Ireland.
C/5/76 18 Apr. 1731

Maurice Ronayne to Grandison about estate and financial matters. He got a bill in Cork for £500 at 30 days’ sight from William Winthrop senior, and could not get a shorter one, because Winthrop “...could not draw, for want of getting other bills to make remittals for England, which could not be had that day...”

However Winthrop “... will find a way to have the bill answered sooner than the time mentioned...” Winthrop has gone to London.
Estate and Financial Correspondence and Associated Papers of the 1st Earl Grandison, 1708-1766

C/7/1-40  1713-1953

Forty letters to the 1st Earl Grandison from miscellaneous correspondents about estate and financial affairs. The bundle includes 5 letters from Samuel Pike, a Quaker merchant in Cork, who appears to have been supplying Lord Grandison with wine and lead and advising him on employing a plumber, and 3 letters from J. Daltera, a Bristol merchant. The rest of the correspondence relates to legal business connected with the Grandison estates – almost exclusively the Irish estate, although there are 2 letters about some imbroglio concerning Lord Grandison’s English relations, the Pitts. The correspondents include a London lawyer, Denham Hamond, Andrew Crotty (Lord Burlington’s Agent), Sir John Osborne, a Co. Waterford baronet who was having a boundary dispute with Grandison over the lands of Killannon, etc., John Keily, a substantial tenant on the Grandison estate, etc. The letters include:

C/7/23  20 Oct. 1738

John Keily to Grandison, [Dromana], about Grandison’s offer to grant him reversions on leases of about a dozen farms which expire between four and ten years hence.

The farms include Ballynecourty, Gortnedehy, Culecormuck, Killinefarna, Mealecorny, Currabehy, Ballyconnery and Ballyknock. Keily offers a 16% increase in rent for the longer leases. “…Considering the great losses and disappointments I had continually from under-tenants and dairymen, etc, and no hopes of their using me better hereafter, as also the uncertainty of good markets and merchants…” he is only interested in renewing at a higher rent if he gets longer leases. “…I would at my own expense lay out a considerable sum in improving the land…”, which would also help him with the payment of the rent.

“…My Lord, I know by … experience that the rents commonly undertaken by small and poor tenants is {sic} not to be depended upon. For my part, I never get half of what they undertake to pay, and what they pay is forced by difficulty and great trouble. The rent
of dairy cows is also uncertain, attended with great loss. I know that I never, one year with another, could make twenty shillings sterling of the milk and grass of each dairy cow round. The difference `twixt the prices I am to allow the dairymen for the butter, and what I am promised by the merchants, who but sometimes pays {sic} it, and the arrears of the dairymen, which they never pay, runs away with upwards of a third part of the sum they undertake to pay; and if they are changed every year, it commonly turns to the same account with the former, and sometimes worse. Besides these misfortunes, there is another loss incident to dairies. They must [be] replenished every year with a third part – sometimes half – of new milks {sic} cows, and the stripers sold for about half the money they cost or would yield the year before. There are also vast many casualties that cows and other stocks of all kind {sic} are subject to, as death by various distempers, as well as by poverty, and many lost in bogs, clefts and mountains, etc...” Thus, a farmer should not undertake to pay for a farm on the assumption that every year will be a good year either for stock or crops.

“...[P.S.] Though this has been a plentiful year of grass, my dairymen made not above hald a hundred and 14 lbs for every dairy cow, which I received the other day, from which I may judge I am in a bad way even to pay my present rent, and this has been often my case. The land does not produce much milk.”

C/7/27 15 Mar. [1844/1745]

Samuel Pike, Cork, to Grandison, Dromana, about a plumber and about wine. He expresses the view that only three plumbers in Cork understand their business perfectly. One of them is fully occupied with work in Cork itself, but would send an apprentice, whose wages would be 2s. 6d. a day, besides diet and lodging. Pike is sending out hams, has the Canary wine ready and will negotiate for the French white wine.

C/7/28 22 Mar. [1744/1745]

Pike, Cork, to Grandison, Dromana about a plumber and about wine. He refers to Grandison’s account with him (which shows that Pike is acting as intermediary between Grandison and the plumber and the wine importers). He also refers to John [Newsom], the linen draper, who is in Dublin in present.
C/7/29 4 Sep. 1744

Pike, Cork, to Grandison, Dromana, about bills of exchange. He refers to a bill of Grandison’s one Hoare & Arnold, and another on George Fitzgerald, which Pike has negotiated at 63/4% in Cork, “the highest given this day”. This comes to £325, which Pike debits by £262, by bill “in Winthrop’s hands”.

C/7/39 18 July 1761

Charles Kennedy, Dublin, to Grandison, Dromana, reporting that “The bills on Latouche and Pike were accepted...”
Estate and Financial Correspondence and Associated Papers of the 1st Earl Grandison, 1708-1766

C/8/1-61  1730-1753

Sixty-one letters, with accompanying accounts or bills of costs, to the 1st Earl Grandison from his Dublin attorney, John Kennedy, about estate, legal and financial affairs. As the dates indicate, the important Kennedy letter of 1738, which is printed in Therese Muir Mackenzie *Dromana: the History of an Irish Family* (Dublin, c.1920) pp 193-4, is now not to be found. The letters include:

C/8/2  23 Feb. [1739/1740]

John Kennedy, [Dublin], to Grandison about a loan or mortgage of £8,000 from Alderman [Dawson].

“…We talked about the interest: he insisted on 6[%], I think I’ll bring it to 5 or 5½. I’ll call on him on Monday…”

C/8/12  27 Aug. 1741

Kennedy, Dublin, to Grandison, London, about Grandison’s absenteeism.

“… all the honest men in the county of Waterford (as to the poor) lament your Lordship and family’s absence. I hope all the affairs you went about will turn out agreeable to you…”

C/8/43  13 Nov. 1744

Kennedy to Grandison, near Cappoquin, about the hardness of the times.

“…This is the worst of times to dispose of lands. Several estates are going a-begging, but no purchasers. Mr Wall is here in confinement; has a good estate, and most of them chief rents, to be sold at 20 years’ purchase; and not one to buy…”

78
Eighteen drafts or copies of letters from the 1st Earl Grandison to various correspondents about estate and financial affairs. The correspondents include Henry Mason about the marriage settlement on Lady Elizabeth Villiers’s marriage to Mason’s nephew, Aland Mason, in 1739; Sir John Osborne about the boundary dispute between Grandison and him; John Kennedy and Joseph Dobbins about legal and financial business etc (it is not clear who some of the correspondents are). The letters contain some incidental mention of political affairs, particularly in Co. Waterford. They include:

C/10/13  15 Sep. 1749


“...I shall be glad to hear how assizes go with you, and if you make anything worthwhile to support you decently, which I should be very glad of. Mr Mason has been [treating] about the county for his election. Lord Burlington declined concerning himself for either Sir William Osborne, Mr May or Mr Mason, so the Speaker recommended Mr Mason to my Lord’s tenants, supported by Lords Tyrone and Doneraile, Mr Christmas and many others. Notwithstanding you have been so long from this county, you may judge whether we have not much of the greatest power of our side. Our two opposers make but little bustle, and I don’t in the least doubt, should they stand a poll, but we will have many more than double both their forces put together. This is my opinion is not a genteel behaviour. I think I deserve some better usage from both their families for what passed formerly, and it is making such a breach, there can be no [reconciling] it, to give such a needless opposition. I should never blame anyone to try their interest, but to persevere when there is not the least probability of success, is not acting the part I would, and [be] [assured] the Speaker will not forget them, no more than I shall. I had rather live in a friendly way, but such behaviour is not [to] be passed over, and they may be sorry for it hereafter. As to the expense, thank God, we don’t [value] it, and they take care to spare themselves.”
C/10/16  6 May 1757

Copy of a letter from Grandison, Dromana, to [John Kennedy] about legal and financial business, and the economic situation locally, with some reference to national politics.

“...The grain is backward, and it will be a very hard summer with the poor people. I will spare the oats from the horses as much as I can, to help the poor, and I reserve a good quantity of barley for them, and will help my neighbours with good mutton, which is not to be bought all about here. I will do some little more good while I am amongst them. I am obliging the Dungarvan engrossers to perform their engagements with the people of the town, by which I hope to keep them pretty quiet. There was a report they had invited the gentry from Carrick to come [a yesterday] to destroy the corn locked up in the town, but I hope I prevented it by sending them word, if they behaved well, I would make stop {sic} engrossers do them justice.

... As to politics, I shall say but little. It is pretty plain we are quite undone and are to be slaves to the ministry. What remedy, since they have the parliament to support them in all their wise [as] wicked actions? We must keep up as long as we can, then all go down to the bottom at once. Perhaps it may not happen in my time...”
Estate and Financial Correspondence and Associated Papers of the 1st Earl Grandison, 1708-1766

C/11/1-28  1737-1746

Twenty-eight letters, with some associated accounts, to the 1st Earl Grandison from Hoare & Arnold and Harper & Armestead, respectively his [London] and Cork bankers, about bills of exchange, etc. The letters include:

C/11/2  26 Apr. 1737

Harper, Mitchell & Armestead, Cork, To D[enham] Hammond, London, about the signing of some documents. When Grandison called, Mr Mitchell was in Dublin and Mr Harper was out of town. Mr Armestead accordingly signed the documents, “... whose handwriting is as well know in London as any of ours...”

C/11/3  27 Apr. 1740

Harper & Armestead, Cork, to Grandison, Dromana, about money matters. They acknowledge the return of bank notes endorsed, and Andrew Crotty’s bill on them, and enclose their own bill on A[rnold] Nesbitt [in London] in return.

C/11/5  2 Dec. 1740

Harper & Armestead, Cork, to Grandison, Dromana, about money matters. They have got a £300 bill of Calwell, Lawton & Carleton on Nesbitt, “…for which we debit you, and pray your Lordship will return us our cash notes for £300, for which we will give you credit; and as your Lordship sends us any more, please desire a receipt only to be taken, for which we will be accountable. ‘Twill answer better than cash notes, which can’t properly be brought to your credit till delivered us up. When you return our note, please erase out our names for fear of miscarriage...”

C/11/10  28 Apr. 1741

Harper & Armestead, Cork, to Grandison, Dromana, about money matters. They acknowledge receipt of their notes for £150 “… the caution your Lordship made use of by writing on the back, was a very proper one, when notes are payable to bearer, to prevent any accident... As there is no business doing here, we could not take a proper bill today to endorse your Lordship, which obliged us to draw ourselves...”
C/11/11 May 1740-1741

Statement of accounts between Harper & Armestead and Grandison. This shows that, between July 1740 and June 1741, Harper & Armestead remitted approximately £4,800 on Grandison’s account to London.

C/11/12 28 July 1741

John Harper, Cork, to Grandison, London, about exchange rates. He is drawing at 9%, “... which is as low exchange as we could draw at to get one half per cent, which is all we shall desire in the remittal of your Lordship’s estate, and on these terms you may depend and rely it shall be remitted, if I have the honour of serving you and [you] do me the honour of showing inclination to prefer my house to any other here...”

No sub-number assigned Aug. 1741-Dec 1742

Statement of accounts between Hoare & Arnold and Grandison. The total sum passing through the accounts is £7,140. A variety of out-payments is shown, including an expenditure of approximately £5,650 on the purchase of bank stock.

C/11/21 Mar. 1744

Further statement of accounts between Hoare & Arnold and Grandison. This records an obscure transaction involving £3,382 18s 6d. on 18 March 1744.

C/11/24 5 Dec. 1745

Christopher Arnold, [London], to Grandison, Dromana, about money matters. He has bought £600 worth of bank stock (the equivalent of £795) for Grandison, but in Arnold’s name.

C/11/26 10 Apr. 1746

Edward Arnold, [London], to Grandison, reporting that all Grandison’s bank stock is now sold.
Nineteen letters to the 1st Earl Grandison, in Dublin, from his agent, Christopher Musgrave of Tourin, Co. Waterford, about routine estate affairs, but including a considerable amount of general information as well. There is gossip about various, mainly local, people, including references to Lord Doneraile’s inability to drink without being sick, and the extravagance of Sir Charles Coote’s installation as a Knight of the Bath; there are some references to the linen industry established by Lord Grandison in Villierstown, and many references to Whiteboyism in the area, the problems of getting people to give evidence, the distress of the clergy because of their inability to collect their tithes and the depopulation which Whiteboyism has brought about in various parts of the country. The letters include:

C/14/2 23 Dec 1763

Christopher Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin, about estate and financial affairs. He refers to the cold frost. “…People talked of very high prices for their oats on account of the frost, but [I] hope they be disappointed…Saturday morning {sic} has been a very we night, but am glad the poor people are relieved about their potatoes…”
C/14/3  20 Jan. 1764

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about estate and financial affairs.

“...James proposes beginning to place at Villierstown next Monday, and [I] hope he will have the two fields prepared for oats in good season, and he thinks it will be better sow 'em with white Poland oats, than those of East Friesland, as the latter are apt to shed, but are very productive, though my brother and many others prefer 'em...

I find the people of Youghal have remonstrated against the Cork people having their letters taken up at Leighlin Bridge, as they say it would give them great advantage in point of trade over our great Youghal merchants, and they dread that it may be an inlet to an application hereafter to have the post removed to the northern road, which was always a favourite object of theirs...”

The cattle are all going on very well, but the sheep less so. Musgrave is glad to hear that the Popery bill will fail. He remits £250 in bills to Dublin (apparently Cork bills, one on H. Farrell).

C/14/4  24 Jan. 1764

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about estate and financial affairs. He refers to an enclosed (not included) invoice for 122 pieces of linen ready to be sent off

“... on which there will be a profit of near 16%, which is well. But I fear the weavers will be idle for want of yarn; and yet it would be wrong to give a bad custom of such a price as Mr Higinson demanded for his yarn. I wish your Lordship had the cash I have [;] perhaps it would answer for Mr Gleadowe that I should pay to his correspondent in Cork about £600...

They are going on very well with the [placing-planning] at Villierstown, and is much easier than in the lime kiln field, and [I] hope it will be done in three weeks, both fields...”
Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about estate and financial affairs. He will sow the 2 acres of flax ground as Grandison directs.

“... The seed must be sent down from Dublin, as we have no foreign seek in this country, but [I] believe it may be had in Cork....I wish your Lordship had a jail in some of your manors, where the body may be lodged, which would be of great use to the public, and a great extension of your jurisdiction, and would prevent a great deal of false swearing. And you have a right to your patent to have the bodies attached...”

This suggestion appears to arise out of a case in which another creditor had rescued a distress taken by the bailiff of the occupant on one of Grandison’s manors for a debt of £1 2s. 0d. He reports that only two cuts of flax have been worked up, and that they had a great deal of two in them.

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about estate and financial affairs. He expresses regret that Mr O’Flaherty has not got his pardon in Dublin as quickly as expected. “... People are of various opinions about granting indulgences [to Jacobites who have been in foreign service]...” in case there is a new war with France.

He reports that in the previous year the Villierstown manufactory produced 1580 pieces of linen at a cost of £2,346 2s.1d. and a selling price of £2,652 9s 0d – a profit of £306 7s 0½d.; “... which is very well, and [I] wish it may answer so well hereafter, as yarn is likely to be excessively dear. But why should not 9d. linens be so too? The weather has been so excessively bad that Shea could not set out for Cork with the 122 pieces for Mr Gay, but [I] hope he will tomorrow and [Will] Morisey proposes going to try if he can pick up any yarn. If he gave that high price to Mr Higinson, it would be a means of raising the market hereafter. He promises to have the general account ready soon after he returns form Cork...”
C/14/7 31 Jan. 1764

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about estate and financial affairs.

“...I showed the invoice you sent of the prices of yarn in Dublin to Mr Morisey today, and he would not have any bought, especially as he had a letter... from a yarn merchant from Castlebar that he proposed being in Cork soon with a parcel; but he can’t stir this weather...

Mr Shea went to me today again about the tenants of Shanacool, whom the Youghal people make pay tonnage for their own corn [which] they carry to market in their own boats; which is an imposition. But as he has a lease forever, he should assert his right...”

Wind and rain are likely to do a great deal of damage, and will cause a scarcity of wheat next summer.

C/14/8 3 Feb. 1764

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about the Roman Catholic bill estate and financial affairs. He expresses the hope that the Roman Catholic bill will be defeated; its proposer should be voted an enemy of his country.

“...I never knew so great a scarcity of firing as there is this winter...The poor people are in [the] utmost distress...” Also, the roads are almost impassable to carriages. He hopes that legislation will be passed to secure to the clergy their tithes, but the clergy may aim at extending their power too far, “...as they are very tenacious...” He observes that various churches are out of repair, and comments:”... If the Popery bill passes, there will be little occasion for them...”

C/14/10 4 Nov. 1764

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about estate and financial affairs. He mentions that Morisey is not prepared to sell linen to a Mr Haffiset [a London merchant] on the latter’s terms; Morisey “... has great hopes of disposing of all the linens to the Cork people...” He refers to Grandison’s sale of land in Oxfordshire and to a British act of parliament, “... by which it appears that your Lordship has an absolute power over your estates, in case you want to raise any money...”
C/14/11 10 May 1765

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about estate and financial affairs. He discusses arrangements for Grandison’s forthcoming journey to Dromana.

“... James proposes turning out the fat cattle tomorrow to grass, all except or four for present use, and will have ten or a dozen fat sheep shorn next week...”

C/14/12 13 Oct. 1765

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about estate and financial affairs. He discusses the clergy and their tithes, and refers to a very good farm of Lord Mountjoy’s near Fermoy, which is out of lease and which Musgrave is potentially interested in.

C/14/13 15 Oct. 1765

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about estate and financial affairs. He discusses the Whiteboy menace, though without using that term—“... them wicked people”; “em villains”. The disturbed areas should be proclaimed, and the bishop and clergy should offer a reward for convictions. Musgrave himself would subscribe 20 guineas. He can see no objection to such subscriptions: “... at any rate, none of the clergy could be on a jury, and I’m sure I could {sic} be always objected to by such villains...”

Morisey has had letters from Cork ordering 200 pieces of linen, but the price was too low, so he refused. He goes on to discuss fern’s ash, a successful and cheaper substitute for barilla (about one-quarter of the price), which “... still continues doing the business very well...”
C/14/14 20 Oct. 1765

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about estate and financial affairs. He refers to the fact that the normal price of coal, locally, is 16s. 0d. a ton.

“...I’m glad Mr Higinson made a remittance to your Lordship, and hope you will do well in Cork. I imagined he applied to Mr McCreight, but I did not hear of any answer...”, which Musgrave thought odd.

“... Mr Bernard’s people won’t suffers {sic} anybody to take sand at the ferry point of Youghal, where all the country have been taking it for manure for time immemorial; which occasions a general murmuring amongst all people on this river and the River Bride, as it will prevent tillage, that being the only manure they had...” If the usage is customary, Bernard’s action must be illegal.

C/14/15 5 Nov. 1765

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about Whiteboys. He discusses Whiteboy outrages in his parish.

“... Except there are some very penal laws made to prevent such practices, we shall be all undone, as the evil will not end in tithes ony; for there was a farmer threatened lately to have his throat cut, if he dared to take a farm which he proposed for, and he was obliged to decline on that account...”

C/14/16 23 Mar. 1766

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about the Lismore election and estate affairs.

“...Mr Cavendish was elected yesterday for Lismore, and [I] believe the entertainment he gave cost about £100, so he gets into the House very easily. He goes to Cork tomorrow, and after a short stay there he sets off for Dublin. And I dare say your Lordship is much better pleased at this event than [to] be engaged in a contest, in so precipitate a manner as was proposed...

He reports the sale of four bullocks (the fattest 6 cwt) for £36. He has received, via Morisey, Higinson’s note from Cork for £328 for 200 pieces of linen. One hundred of these [or of other] pieces have been sold in Higinson to Mr Hearne and 40 Mr [Thomburg], at prices which have not been stated to Morisey. Morisey could get no yarn until the time for the yarn markets come round. The market for cloth are low....”
C/14/19 6 Apr. 1766

Musgrave, Tourin, to Grandison, Dublin about Whiteboys. He hopes that the special commission at Clonmel, or the King’s Bench in Dublin, will convict many Whiteboys.

“...They are frightened greatly in the County of Tipperary, and I heard a gentleman say, who rode from Clonmel to Kilworth last week, that they {sic} country looks as if it was quite depopulated, and [no] kind of husbandry or tillage going on there, most of the inhabitants, conscious of their guilt, having fled, many of Newfoundland and to the mountains...”

Musgrave credits the report that the French are assisting the Whiteboys. He refers to the fact that James McCraight has been accused, apparently of involvement with the Whiteboys; his family are all honest and industrious, and tenants of Grandison’s.
Estate and Financial Correspondence and Associated Papers of the 1st Earl Grandison, 1708-1766

C/16/1-9 [1710] - 1848

Depositions, numbered 1-12, concerning the late Earl of Tyrone’s claim on Comyne, Co. Waterford; together with other, apparently associated, depositions concerning rival claims to land and boundary disputes, mainly with the Osborne family; some of the lands mentioned are Fahagh, Mountain Castle, Ballykennedy, Knockane, Grange, Ballynocky and Killnefarna, all apparently on Slievegrine; also included is a later resumé of c.1800. The section includes:

C/16/1 [1710]

Depositions, numbered 1-12, concerning the late Earl of Tyrone’s claim on Comyne, Co. Waterford. The deponents are: William Mony and David Callahan of Knockancullin; Derby McCragh of Barracree; Edmond O’Fowlow of Knockancullin; Anastace McCragh, alias Reily, widow; Daniell McCragh of Ballyboy; John Powr of [Ballynefensogy]; William Power of Ballynefensogy; Edmond [Fllying] of Gragurish; Daniel Flahine of [Gragagh], James Mony of [Leanisbryen]; Nicholas Cowman of Ballyboy and Daniell Sovane of Templebrick.

“... Edmond O’Fowlow of Knockancullin in the County of Waterford, husbandman aged about seventy years says that his father, grandfather and himself have been serjeants to and for the Lords of the Deacis, time out of mynde, but this deponent knows the Lands of Comyne and that is now in question these 60 years past; that in Cromwell’s tyme when the Kingdom was to be surveyed and soldiers and adventurers were to have lands set out to them, one Col. Sanky who was then a powerful man, and Governor both of the county of Waterford and Tipperary, had the wardship of John FitzGerald the now Lady Grandison’s father who was then a minor, and for some part of his time was with his sister Letice sent by the said Sanky at one Captain Batty’s at Clonmel; the said Sanky or those that acted under him in the management of the estate of Deacis sent to this deponent’s grandfather, who then, and for several years thereafter, was alive and serjeant for the house of Dromanny in the manor of [Caweragh] to go along with the surveyor to show him the bounds of the said estate of Dromana in the said manor. That this deponent being then young went along with his said grandfather, and the said surveyor, and that among
other places they came to Comyne and that the lands now in question were then surveyed with and as part and parcel of Comyne and were since until the late Earl of Tyrone entered upon the same, held and enjoyed by the tenants of Comyne and when Brigadier Villiers sent one Mr Hyington, a surveyor, to survey his estate, this deponent went likewise with him to show him the bounds, and that the lands now in dispute was by him likewise surveyed along with and as part and parcel of Comyne and that this deponent either before or after never heard of any challenge or pretence made to it either by the family of Corroghmore or the tenants of Killcan [ ] but quietly and peaceably held by those of Comyne until the said entry was made by the said Earl of aforesaid, and is sure if there were any dispute about it this deponent could not but hear of it, being so near to it, and so conversant with the affaris of that estate...”

No sub-number assigned [nd]

List of deponents for the plaintiffs in a case concerning Slievgrine mountain: Henry Thomas Gee Esq., Lissaroe, Co. Waterford, aged “near60”; Thomas Foley, Gaulane, (Farmer), 66 and upwards, “a respectable Irish witness”; John Owens, Ardmore, (Land Surveyor), 50; James Curreen, Mullinahorney, a respectable farmer, 50, nearly connected with the defendant’s concerns; John Fudge, Ballyellinane, a very respectable farmer, 45; John Whelan, Knocknamultina, farmer, 84, a respectable English witness; Patrick Brien, Tynmelyre, farmer, 78; Michael Tobin, Sh[ ]ill; Joseph [Yelvin] James Durnvey, Moigne, 65; and John Scanlan, Glenwilliam, farmer, 60.
Estate and Financial Correspondence and Associated Papers of the 1st Earl Grandison, 1708-1766

C/20/1-14  1739-1767

Letters, bonds and calculations of the 1st Earl Grandison, including one letter to his daughter’s second husband, Lt-General Charles Montague, about Grandison’s and Aland Mason’s bond and mortgage debts to Richard Dawson, and the complicated transaction whereby they were deducted from the purchase price for the Manor of Templemichael, which Grandison sold to Dawson in 1750; together with 2 legal opinions of 1740 and 1742 about Grandison’s title to sell part of his estate under the 1728 Grandison Estate Act. The section includes:

C/20/8  [1750]

Account of the payment of the purchase money by Alderman Richard Dawson to Lord Grandison for the manor of Templemichael, Co. Waterford. The terms were 21 years’ purchase, which amounted to £46,961 15 s 6d., and which other items brought up to a grand total of £49,038. From this sum the value of mortgages granted by Grandison and now paid off by Dawson was deducted - £6,600 borrowed on mortgage from Sir John Hynde Cotton, and £11,472 from [Henry] Montague. A further £12,000 was also deducted, apparently arising out of a mortgage granted to Dawson by Aland Mason on the lands of [Timolin, Co. Kildare]. Grandison seems to have assumed responsibility for this debt, in return for a re-settlement of the Mason-Grandison estate.
Grandison family and political correspondence and associated papers, mostly of the 1st Earl Grandison, 1708-1766

D/5/1-16  1732-1765

Sixteen letters and papers of the 1st Earl Grandison relating to Co. Waterford politics, patronage and local government, as follows: letters to the Lord Chancellor, [Lord Newport], about the Co. Waterford commission of the peace and about foreign enlistment; letters between Grandison and Henry Boyle, Speaker of the House of Commons, about the Co. Waterford by-election of 1749, with a letter from the Bishop of Waterford on the same; and other more miscellaneous papers bearing on Waterford politics and patronage.

D/5/1       6 Sep. 1732

Copy of a letter from Grandison to Newport about the Co. Waterford commission of the peace.

“I had last post the favour of your Lordship’s of the 29th of last month. Since it’s your opinion Mr Keily ought not to be restored to the commission of the peace, I must not press it further. Only give me leave to say, it’s a little hard he must be doubly punished for one fault, and that not in the execution of his office.

I hope your Lordship will excuse my not giving an account what justices are not duly qualified. That would be disobliging to many of my neighbours, as also those that recommended them. My chiefest motion in writing on Mr Keily’s behalf was knowing him to be a very good magistrate and of great use to the country, which I could learn as well as any judge that gave a certificate...”
Copy of a letter from Grandison, Dromana to Newport about the Co. Waterford commission of the peace.

“I find on my coming to this place more reason to have something done relating to the number as well as qualifications of justices of the peace. I am informed there is one Mr [Michael] Green has a commission, and is to be sworn this next sessions. Who recommended him, I know not, but am sure he is a young attorney, and [I] believe of very little fortune. Therefore [I] hope your Lordship will be so good [as] to supersede him.

There is also a report of some others of very moderate circumstances that either have or expect soon to be in the commission of the peace. I’m sure nobody that lives out of the county can know the proper persons so well as myself, and I shall always tame care not to recommend any but such, to the best of my judgement.

As I before had the honour to acquaint your Lordship, there is so many in this neighbourhood in the commission, that really I don’t care to go to the sessions (where I’m sure my presence is of great service to the poorer sort, that are often oppressed), many of whom are person of very low circumstances as well as family. Therefore [I] hope your Lordship will take into consideration to remove this growing evil, which I believe is in many part of the kingdom. We really have so many justices in this neighbourhood that there is difficulty to make a grand jury at the sessions. The latter place would become most of them better than the former...”
D/5/3 8 May 1734

Copy of a letter from Grandison, Dromana, to Newport about a case of foreign enlistment.

“Ever since I cam last to this kingdom, I have done all I could to prevent the practice of men going from this neighbourhood into foreign service. The 4th inst. I had an account of some persons near Dungarvan just ready to go away, on which I wrote to a justice of peace to endeavour to secure them. He immediately issued his warrant against those he had intelligence of from one of their company, that run {sic} away that very morning. Some of the custom house officers with men of that town went that night and secured four of them, with one Philip Dwyer, which is called an officer. Dwyer endeavouring to make his escape out of the house threw two of the persons down, and another then let him escape. The made some shots at him, both within the without the house, by which he lost his life, and took care to send a militia officer with a proper guard along with the four persons, as also the person that gave the information, to Waterford jail, where I hope they will be safe conveyed.

I hope your Lordship will consider and make this affair as easy as possible to the persons that was [sic] so ready to go serve their country. I can’t tell whether a noli prosequi is proper, but am sure the easier it is, the more ready people will be to do their duty. Besides, if they must be prosecuted, it will be a considerable expense to the country…”

D/5/4 22 June 1749


“I am honoured with your Lordship’s letter of the 10th instant. I imagine, before you receive this, you’ll know I have given directions to let the mine according to your Lordship’s desire. I wish I had had the satisfaction to make your Lordship the compliment, and am sorry yours don’t succeed.

I have it from very good hands, my Lord, that Lord Burlington has declared he will not meddle in the county election either one way or other. Your Lordship may make what use you please of this information, but beg my name may not be mentioned. Had I not thought your Lordship knew this, I would have given you notice of this sooner…”
D/5/5 30 June 1749

See also D/5/14

Copy of a letter from Grandison to Henry Boyle about the pretensions of Grandison’s son-in-law, Aland Mason, to stand for a forthcoming by-election for Co. Waterford.

“I have long expected hearing what answer Lord Burlington would give concerning his interest for the next election in this county. I should never have mentioned Mr Mason but that I hoped it would be quite agreeable to you. There has been some time a report Lord Burlington would not interefere. I did not give any credit to it, till I heard yesterday the same account from England. The authority is so good that I don’t in the least doubt that report being true. As I relied altogether on your friendship in this affair, I beg the favour of your opinion in what manner we are to proceed…”

D/5/6 6 July 1749

Henry Boyle to Grandison in reply.

“If I had received any answer from Lord Burlington, your Lordship might have assured yourself, I should have done myself the honour to have acquainted you with it. But I really have not, neither has Mr Conner, my Lord’s agent, though he writes me word he has often reminded Sir William Abdy of it. If your Lordship’s intelligence from England be true, which I very sincerely wish it may be, and really I have no reason to suspect it not being so, you may depend on that interest and my best services in favour of Mr Mason. I hope your Lordship will not conceive that I have in any degree deviated from the assurances I gave you of this when I saw you in Dublin. The honour I have for you is great and sincere, and I never will on any occasion depart from it…”

D/5/7 9 July 1749

Copy of a letter from Grandison, Dromana, to Boyle about the pretensions of Grandison’s son-in-law, Aland Mason, to stand for a forthcoming by-election for Co. Waterford.

“I had yesterday the favour of your letter of the 6th inst., and do assure you, Sir, I had not the least mistrust of your friendship. You may depend on Mr Mason’s engaging most heartily (under your banner) all opponents, whenever there is occasion. I am sorry to find the Primate prevents your having the pleasure of coming this summer to the country…”
Boyle to Grandison about the pretensions of Grandison’s son-in-law, Aland Mason, to stand for a forthcoming by-election for Co. Waterford.

“I received a letter by yesterday’s post from Mr Conner, my Lord Burlington’s agent, in which he tells me he has received one from Sir William Abdy, my Lord’s agent in England, assuring him that my Lord will not concern himself in the election for the county of Waterford, which is quite agreeable to the information you had before received from England, as I hope you will think it to be in regard to your purposes in favour of Mr Mason; for as matters stand circumstanced, more could not well be expected from him.

I shall write to Mr Conner by this post to exert himself in Mr Mason’s service, which I know he is well disposed to do, as he has been long apprised of my inclinations, that way. He writes in great spirits on the receipt of Sir William’s letter and I promise myself you will not be disappointed in any part of that interest. He tells me he shall not mention one word of the letter he has received from England till he hears from me, so your Lordship will either wait his going to Lismore, which will be soon, or act in the meantime as you think most proper.

You will also be pleased to give Beverley Ussher notice of the success I wish Mr Mason, and my Lord Doneraile’s interest will immediately declare themselves in it, in consequence of a letter I sent him long ago, which I received from Mr St Leger from England, as well as in regard to the honour which I imagine him to have for your Lordship’s family.

I imagine your Lordship will not think it unadvisable for Mr Mason to begin to bestir himself on this occasion, without which all endeavours for his service will be vain. I very sincerely wish him success…”

On the inside is a copy of Grandison’s reply, dated Dromana, 14 July 1749.

“I had yesterday the favour of your letter of the 11th inst., and [hear] Lord Burlington has declared he will not concern himself in the next election for this county. I am satisfied all his dependants will vote as you please. Therefore, we have all the reason imaginable to hope for success. Mr Conner is expected any hour at Lismore, and I write this post to Mr Beverley Ussher, as you
desired. You may be sure we will act with all spirit possible on this occasion…”

D/5/9 12 Aug. 1749

Copy of a letter from Grandison, Dromana, to Boyle about the pretensions of Grandison’s son-in-law, Aland Mason, to stand for a forthcoming by-election for Co. Waterford.

“I gave you an account some time ago that Mr Mason proposed, on Mr Conner’s coming to Lismore, to go about to entertain the freeholders, and he has been at Lismore and Youghal, and proposes going a Monday to Dungarvan, but was desired not to go to Tallow till they had a letter directly under your hand. Mr Beverley Ussher writes that he is using all his interest that end of the county.

We heard from several that Mr May would decline, but Mr Mason had lately a letter that assured him he would not, and would even stand a poll, and that Sir William Osborne would give him his interest in case he [Osborne] should decline. However we think we are strong enough to disappoint them, should they be united, and do assure you we will be as active as possible, and should be glad to know if you have directions on this occasion, being much better acquainted in managing such affairs…”

D/5/10 15 Aug. 1749

Boyle to Grandison about the pretensions of Grandison’s son-in-law, Aland Mason, to stand for a forthcoming by-election for Co. Waterford.

“I find by the Friendly Society at Tallow that they think they have not been fairly dealt by in some representation of them to Mr Mason. They tell me they would have waited on him there, had they been sent to, but they should not have engaged themselves to him. But be that as it may, they will now receive him with open arms. I received a letter from them yesterday, which I have answered by this night’s post, and everything will go there as your Lordship and Mr Mason can wish. I flatter myself all opposition will soon cease, and I shall have the honour of wishing him joy on an uncontroverted election soon after the parliament meets, which will be on the 10th of October. I hear all proper measures are taken by you towards this good end, so it will be vain in me to pretend advise…”
D/5/11 10 Sep. 1749

Copy of a letter from Grandison, Dromana, to Boyle about the uncertain support being given to him by Lord Tyrone.

“Mr Mason returned lately from the assizes of Waterford, where he had the good fortune to obtain some votes that he did not expect, and we think he is secure. But by what passed there is some reason to conclude that Lord Tyrone is not quite fixed in your interest – I mean to secure as many votes as he can have any influence with. I had some suspicion of this before, when I mentioned in a former letter that it would not be amiss if you would write to him on this affair.

Sir William Osborne gave the ladies of Waterford a ball and a supper. Mr May entertained some gentlemen at his house, but neither has made the least progress in the country since they went round some months ago to desire the voters not to engage till My Lord Burlington declared who should have his interest. It is said they will both dispute it to the last. Whether they will try interest or not, we don’t know, but I am still of opinion that we are strong enough to give them a total defeat whenever we face each other.

I hope, Sir, you will take care the writ is moved for as soon as the parliament meets, for we can’t stir from this place till that affair is over, and I am determined to exert myself to the uttermost. They shall not think to have me as Mr Congreve did on a former election...”

D/5/12 30 Sep. 1749

Boyle to Grandison about the election.

“I hope you will be so good as to excuse my not having answered the honour you lately did me, when I do assure you upon my word that I have been in so great hurry ever since, that I have scarce had leisure to get pen to paper; and indeed I am greatly stinted in point of time for it now.

I should have wrote to my Lord Tyrone, however, who I hear is exceedingly ill in the gout in the North, were it not that I feared it might imply a doubt of his honour, when he very early promised me that his interest should attend my wishes which were signified to him to be in favour of Mr Mason.

By the letter which I received from Mr May on the 23rd inst., in which he says, ‘My interest in the County of Waterford is at your
disposal’, I think there can be no necessity for my doing it now, unless Sir William’s [interest] singly is of much greater consequence than I apprehend it to be; so I think I may now fairly wish Mr Mason joy.

If Bev[erley] Ussher comes to town, he will be the most proper person to move for the writ. But if not, what does your Lordship think of Mr Serjeant Marshall? You may assure yourself I shall take care to have it done the first day of the session, and if my man be ready, the first on the first day.

It grows late, but I believe I shall write to Mr May this night in favour of Mr Mason, though I cannot but think that my inclinations towards him must be pretty publicly known in the county of Waterford on this day. I am sure they are in the city [of] Dublin ...

The grand topic here is Lucas, whose ruin appears to me to be inevitable.

I have now wrote to Mr May, and desired him to join his interest to Mr Mason’s.”

On the inside is a copy of Grandison’s reply, dated Dromana, 3 October 1749.

“I had yesterday the favour of your letter of the 30th of last month. I am quite satisfied you can’t have much leisure time. I should not have wrote what I did of Lord Tyrone, but that I had such plain proofs of his indifference (which you shall be fully informed [of] when I meet you in Dublin) that I could not avoid it.

I think Mr May would have done better had he made that compliment sooner and as to Sir William Osborne’s opposition, I think it of little consequence, and by a letter I received this day, his objection (if he makes it) to Lord Burlington’s tenants that have leases for three lives with a subsequent term of 21 years, will avail little. You will choose appoint [neither word cancelled] whoever you judge proper to move for the writ. As I perceive there can be little in this opposition, I shall not press for Mr Marshall coming to the election, as he may have a good deal of business in Dublin about that time...”
D/5/13 6 Oct 1749

Copy of a letter from Grandison, Dromana, to Beverley Ussher about the behaviour of Mr May.

“I had the favour of your letter of the 1st inst., and am perfectly convinced of your friendship respecting to our approaching election. I must own, I am a good deal surprised at not hearing anything of Mr May’s joining his interest to Mr Mason (not that it is the least wanted). I think we had great reason to expect such notice, for the Speaker wrote to me that Mr May complimented him with his interest, and the Speaker wrote him an answer to join Mr Mason, but we never heard one word of it, though the Speaker wrote to him the 30th of last month.

Since there is not the least reason to make any doubt of this, we should take it as a particular favour if you would go to Waterford and apply in our names to all the persons in general that we engaged to Mr May, and let them know the true [case], and hope they will do us the honour to give Mr Mason their vote and interest. As Mr May has not thought proper to send to us on the occasion, I shall not send a him; but you may, as from yourself, say whatever you judge proper. I leave it to your opinion whether you will apply, till you see Mr May.

I believe the election will be the 30th inst., but you shall have time {sic} notice, that you may have all forces in readiness for the day of engagement. I don’t apprehend there will be much difficulty in gaining the victory…”


Copy of a letter from Boyle to [Robert] Pratt about the supersession of the Duke of Dorset as Lord Lieutenant by Lord Hartington, and the subsequent discomfiture of Primate Stone.

Other copies of this letter exist, one of which is in the Macartney papers, PRONI D/572/2/78 and one in the Chatsworth papers, D/205/6.

D/5/15 23 Dec 1765

Copy of a proxy given by Grandison to the Earl of Tyrone.
D/5/16  [1760’s]

“Memorandum for General Montague or Lady Viscountess to speak to Sir Harry Cavendish or some of the Devonshire family about the Rev. Mr Norris Green, as the living of Dungarvan or Tallow will probably be vacant...”
Grandison family and political correspondence and associated papers, mostly of the 1st Earl Grandison, 1708-1766

D/6/1-17 1754-1761

Letters between the 1st Earl Grandison and the Hon. Thomas Villiers, [First Lord of the Admiralty], mainly about the Money Bill Dispute of 1753-1754.

D/6/1 1 Jan. 1754

Villiers, Admiralty, to Grandison announcing the birth of a son.

D/6/2 10 Jan. 1754

Copy of a letter from Grandison, Dublin, to Villiers congratulating him and going on to discuss politics.

“...Doubtless you are so strange to some affairs that has {sic} passed here this session of parliament. As we may want friends to represent the whole truth, give me leave to mention a few particulars. In the first place, I can with great justice assure you, his Majesty has not more dutiful and loyal subjects than the protestants of this kingdom, but I must inform you, the chief grounds of this uneasiness is entirely owing to the remarkable high conduct of a certain prelate (Primate Stone), who will order and govern everything without the least control. Such behaviour can’t be agreeable on any account.

I hope, Sir, you will do me the favour (as also in justice to this kingdom) to mention this when you judge proper...”
D/6/3 18 Jan. 1754

Villiers, Admiralty, to Grandison to reply.

“...I communicated to the ministry, in the best manner I could, the substance of the remaining part of your Lordship’s letter. They were convinced of your Lordship’s honest zeal, and expressed the same for the protestants of Ireland. They are equally grieved, with all undersigning, faithful Irish subjects, at the present unhappy divisions among those whose interest, and indeed whose safety, depends upon union, but don’t impute the cause to the conduct of anyone in very high station, because no particular facts are alleged, but apprehend it must arise from principles not avowed and that may tend, if not seen and stopped, to the subversion to all right and righteous things. The King’s prerogative, it is thought, is already attacked, and that must be supported, or the whole would soon be in confusion and ruin.

It is feared by all who are attentive to the welfare of Ireland, as all good Britons ought to be, that the dispute is becoming rather national than person, and that the best men may contribute to support, because they don’t know the worse designs. But these things and dangers will, I suppose, be fully explained to Lord Kildare. Yet, if your Lordship should want any particular information, or have any particular matter to communicate or transact, I should be happy with the commission, as I should with any and every opportunity of showing that true and great regard and esteem....”

D/6/4 31 Jan. 1754

Copy of a letter from Grandison to Villiers in reply.

“...As there is an end to our sessions, I shall not write much to trouble you with our Irish affairs. But as you express yourself in that very kind manner, I can’t but give you some of my notions. I was always against proceeding with too great heat and passion, as that frequently has very ill consequences, and often told those gentlemen that insist that the King had not a right to have that preamble to the money bill for paying of the National Debt, that they were quite mistaken, and [I] much feared we should feel the ill-effects. But I must assure you, according to my judgement, that any wrong opposition in those gentlemen was founded chiefly to show their resentment against a certain person, [which] must be condemned by all prudent, moderate people. Notwithstanding this very wrong proceeding, I hope we shall be regarded as people most zealously attached to his Majesty and family. It is both our interest and duty to be ...”
D/6/5 9 Feb 1754

Villiers, Admiralty, to Grandison informing him that he has shown his latest letter to the ministry, and that everyone joins in praising Grandison’s moderation. If Grandison can suggest any means of reconciling the warring factions, Villiers would be very glad to learn of it.

D/6/6 20 Feb 1754

Copy of a letter from Grandison, Dublin, to Villiers repeating his accusations against Primate Stone.

“I wish most sincerely it was in my power to contribute towards making us more easy than we are at present. I am under all the concern imaginable to be {sic—see} there is still too much heat in many persons against a great man. I must be so free to inform you that, ever since he was promoted to his high rank, his behaviour was such that he could not gain the respect due to his character, nor the friendship of the nation, and that has been the chief occasion of bringing this kingdom into this unhappy situation. However, that can’t in the least justify those persons in opposing the King’s prerogative…”

D/6/7 7 Mar. 1754

Villiers, Admiralty, to Grandison in reply, and discussing the consequences of Henry Pelham’s death.

“… It is generally believed that now both sides are in the wrong, and it is feared that neither think of proper remedies by considering the principal causes of the feuds.

I am afraid that all business must be suspended till a successor is named to Mr Pelham, who expired yesterday at 6 in the morning, much regretted by the King and the public. Both Houses of Parliament are adjourned till Tuesday. Whether we shall be soon dissolved, as many imagine, or set {sic} longer than before was determined, is not yet settled. The first point will probably be the disposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer’s seal, as that is daily wanted, and that officer has of late years had the management of affairs in the House of Commons. That he will immediately have the secret service money and the extensive power that that gives, is not likely. Mr Fox, Mr Murray, Mr Pitt and Sir George Lee are the members talked of by the public for this department. The majority seems to be for the first…”
D/6/8 14 Mar. 1754

Villiers, Admiralty, to Grandison announcing the new ministerial appointments in Great Britain.

“In consequence of my last trouble, I must acquaint your Lordship with what is in every newspaper, viz, the D. of Newcastle is to be First Lord of the Treasury, Mr Fox, Secretary of State and Mr Legge, Chancellor of the Exchequer. I need not add the reasonings of these nominations. Others are not yet made, but certainly will [be] before the dissolution of the parliament, which it is said will be the 4th of next month, and that the writs will bear test for the choosing a new one, the 9th of the same.

The plan for the elections formed by Mr Pelham will be followed, as will that for power and the government, which has long subsisted, as far as will depend on the old Ministers of State.”

D/6/9 14 Mar. 1754

Villiers, Admiralty, to Grandison reporting a new development.

“Since writing this morning, I hear Mr Fox, on some dispute with the D. of Newcastle on power in the House of Commons, has declined the office of Secretary of State...”

D/6/10 19 Mar. 1754

Copy of a letter from Grandison, Dublin, to Villiers about the political situation in Ireland.

“... I am extremely concerned to find the animosities here are (in my opinion) as strong as ever, and fear very much there is no prospect of abating. It will depend very much on appointing our Speaker one of the Lords Justices (as usual) or not. There are various reports on that account, and to give you my thoughts freely, both for his Majesty’s service and for the quiet of the kingdom, it will be better not to leave the entire management of affairs here to a high person (in the absence of our Lord Lieutenant) who is not quite agreeable to the people, and perhaps has not judgement sufficient to such an employment. I agree with you entirely that both parties are in the wrong, and always said the same, and wish most sincerely some method could be proposed to make us quiet. Our credit is daily sinking by the failure of merchants and bankers, and more in danger. These things must alarm us greatly...”
D/6/11  21 Mar. 1754

Copy of a letter from Grandison, Dublin, to Villiers about the political situation in Ireland.

“...The nation is already sensible of the inconvenience. By the parliament being prorogued, we have lost some good public bills, as also several private bills. We all here know this great contest is altogether owing to whether affairs shall be transacted by two persons (as usual) or by a high person. It must be allowed that it is a melancholy case the public should suffer on this account. This is a point I am certain nobody can contradict. I never passed a winter more disagreeably, and am impatient to go to the country, where I set up a few years ago the linen manufactory (to which they were strangers in that part of the country) under the care of protestants, and have the pleasure to see it in a thriving way. That part of the country was inhabited with very few Protestants before this undertaking. This business employs a number of people, which is doing some good. [Words omitted] the latter part of my life, and wish most sincerely I had thought of it sooner...”

D/6/12  23 Mar. 1754

Villiers, Admiralty, to Grandison regretting that the confused political situation in Great Britain makes it impossible for the new ministry to devote the necessary attention to Ireland.

D/6/13  28 Mar. 1754

Villiers, Admiralty, to Grandison giving him details of the junior ministerial appointments in Great Britain.

D/6/14  4 Apr. 1754

Copy of a letter from Grandison, Dublin, to Villiers thanking him for his letters and commenting on the Irish political situation.

“...We are all here in the same unsettled situation. There has {sic} been some attempts at several assizes (but not carried) to addresses {sic}. In my opinion it would have been better there had been no such endeavours. It rather increases than lessens animosities, which gives me great concern.”
D/6/15  6 Apr. 1754

Villiers, Admiralty, to Grandison about Irish affairs and Grandison’s improvements.

“...Now they (the vacant offices in Great Britain) and the elections are settled, it is declared that the government of Ireland, during the absence of the Lord Lieutenant, will be the first consideration. I only say it ought, and hope that it may procure the tranquillity and happiness which that nation so well deserves of this. I am not at all acquainted with the probable issue of such counsels. I hear it conjectured that a Deputy may be sent from hence. But surmises are too numerous and too impertinent for me to report to your Lordship.

I heartily wish your Lordship that success and satisfaction in the country which industry merits. I have heard much of your improvements, and how great a benefit they are in themselves, and from example and extension, to all his Majesty's dominions...”

D/6/16  [6 May 1754]

Copy of a letter from Grandison to Villiers commenting on the dismissal of Henry Boyle as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

“...It is very plain, by the removing [of] our Speaker from the employment he held so many years, how much he has incurred the displeasure of the King and the Ministry, and shall not enter particularly into that affair. I always believed that party to be more moderate, but to no purpose. I was apprehensive of the consequence. It is all owing to a contest between two persons, whether one should have the sole power, or [it] be divided as formerly...”

D/6/17  1761

Villiers, now Lord Hyde, St. James’s [London], to Grandison thanking him for agreeing to be godfather to Hyde’s child and referring to the new ministerial arrangements and to the war. (This letter is printed in Mackenzie, Dromana, pp.205-206)
Grandison family and political correspondence and associated papers, mostly of the 1\textsuperscript{st} Earl Grandison, 1708-1766

D/7/1-5 1715-1716

Five papers of the 1\textsuperscript{st} Earl Grandison, as Governor of Co. Waterford, in connection with the 1715 invasion scare: a copy of directions for raising the Co. Waterford militia; a copy of a warrant for seizing horses “in the custody of any Papish or Papists in the County of Waterford”; a deposition concerning the depredations of a proclaimed Tory; a protest (from Grandison and various JPs) against the seizure of plough-horses belonging to Catholics; and an order for the release of people imprisoned on suspicion. The section includes:

D/7/1 [13 Aug. 1715]

Copy of directions for raising the Co. Waterford militia. This has been transcribed verbatim.

"George by the grace of God of Greate Britain, Ffrane and Irelan\(\textsuperscript{d}\) King defender of ye. Faith etc. to our trusty and well beloved ye. Governour of ye. County of Waterford for ye. time being the High Sheriffe of ye. sd. County for ye. time being the Rt Honrble John Ld. Viscount Grandison and Arthur Ld. Viscount Donerale, Edward Hubbart, Jno. Silver, Richard Christmas, Wm. Hubbart, Edwd. May, Robert Carew, James Roch,William Disney, Wm. Harrison, Rod. Greene, Wm. Maynard, Thomas Medlicott, James Walle, Richard Ftz. Gerald & John Odell, Esq/s. greating Whereas we have received certain advice yt. Preparations are making abroad by ye. pretender for an invasion of these Kingdoms, in whose favour, severall rebellions, tumults & insurrections have of late beene fomented & stirred up in Great Britain and being desirous in case such an attempt should be made yt. our Kingdom of Ireland should not be found in a defenclesse conditions, We have according to the practice of our Royall Progenetors and ye. Laws antient usage and custome of this Kingdom out of our princly care for ye. preservation of our people thought fitt for ye. prevention of surprize and to repel foreigne invasion and suppressse intestive rebellion yt. a sufficient number of our loveing subjects fitt and able to weare arms be arrayed, inlisted, and trained in warlike mannor, for ye. defence & safety of our Realm of Ireland. Know yee therefore that we of our certaine knowledge and reposeing spetiall trust and confidence in your faithfullness, industry & circumspections, wth, ye. advice &
consent of ye. Rt Reverd. Father in God our trusty & well beloved counsellor William Ld. Archbishop of Dublin and John Ld. Archbishop of Tuam, and our trusty and well beloved Cousen & Counsellor Robert Earle of Kildare, our Justices & Cheife Governours of our sd. Kingdome of Ireland, have assigned and constituted ym. and by these presents doe assigne & constitute ym. ye. aforesaid several persons above mentioned & every of ym. our Commissioners for ye. Militia and array within & throughout ye. County of Waterford, and does hereby authorise and require ym. or any five or more of ym. to meet in ye. most convenient places of ye. said County of Waterford from time to time for ye. dispatch of this service soe nearly concerning us in our honour and our people in theire safety, and to cause publication to be made throught ye. sd. County of Waterford for all such persons of what state, degree, or dignity soever they be dwelling and inhabiting within ye said County of Waterford, fitt and able to weare arms as yu. shall find convenient to appeare before yu. with ye. best furniture and arms and out of them according to ye. quantity of land, tenemts, houses, goods & chattels of all our subjects in ye. sd. County of Waterford, immediately to enlist & array such number as yu. shall think fitt of horsemen besides officers, dragoons & foot soldiers besides officers well appointed for ye. defence & safety of this our Kingdome and for ye. resisting, opposeing & destroying our sd. enemy & rebels and ye. sd. soldiers to place under such officers & commanders as by our Authority shall be comissioned for yt. end, and in ye. expedition of this our Comission yu. are to precede according to ye. Instructions hereunto affixed & such other instructions & directions as yu. shall from time to time receive from us or in our absence fromour Lieut. or other Cheife Governour or Governours of this our Kingdome, hereby willing and strictly comanding all our loveing subjets of ye. sd. County of Waterford to be obedt. to yu. or any five or more of yu. herein as they thender [tender] ye. safety of ye. Kingdome and ye, avoiding our just displeasure and we require all Mayors, Sherriffes, Constables & all other officers and Ministers to be obedt. aiding and assisting to yu. in ye. observance & execution of all summons, commands and directions yt. yu. Or any five or more of yu. shall give for ye. better execution of this our Comission, Wittnesse our aforesd. Justices & Generall Governours of our said Kingdome of Ireland att Dublin ye thirteenth day of August in ye. second yeare of our Reigne.

Domvill.

Instructions for ye. comrs. impowerd & authorised by our Comission for raiseing & settling ye. Militia in ye. County of Waterford.
1. You shall immediately upon receipt of yr. Comn. Assemble yrselves yeth. all diligence in some convent. place within ye. Sd. County of Waterford att wch. Yu. shall divide yrselves into several Companies as shall seeme to yu. most convent, see as yu. make ye. musters with more speed according to yr. Comission.

2. You are wth. all convent. speed to sumon our subjects in ye. respective Barronies & parishes wthin yet. sd. County of Waterfd & to Inlist all well qualified persons betweene ye. age of sixteene & sixty furnished wth suff. horse as may make up such a number & such a number of foot soldiers aas yu. can & shall think fitt, & every person as shall not upon such sumons or warneing appeare before yu. at ye. day & place appointed being within ye. sd. Limits of age and able to weild weapons for ye. defence of ye. Realm shall incur our utmost displeasure & be punished wth. Ye. utmost severity of law.

3. You are to take spetiall care yt. ye. persons to be raised & inlisted shall consent [consist] of such as are faithfull & obedt. to our Governmt & will take ye. following oath established by act of Parliamt in our Kingdome of Greate Britaine wch. yu. are hereby authorised to administer, wch. oath followeth in these words (viz.) I A.B. doe sincerely promise & swere yt. I will be faithfull and beare true allegiance to his Matie King George soe help me God, and also ye. following oath likewise established by law in our sd. Kingdome of Greate Britaine wch. yu. are alsoe authorised to administer, and wch. oath followeth in these words (viz.) I A.B. doe swere yt. I doe from my heart abhor, detest & abjure as impious and hereticall ye. damnable doctrine & p[rop]osition yt. princes excommunicate or deprived by ye. pope or any authority of ye. See of Rome may be deposed or murthered by their subjects, or any other whatsoever, and I declare yt. noe foreign prince, prelate state or potentate hath or ought to have any powr, jurisdiction, superiority, preheminence or authority, ecclesiasticall or spirituall within this Realm, soe help me God, as alsoe ye. oath of abjuration.

4. You are to appoint such place or places within ye. limits of ye. sd. County of Waterford for mustering traineig & exerciseing ye. say’d troops & company’s as lye most convent. to ye. place or places from whence ye. sd. forces are raised & upon occasion to appoint such Generall Rendezvous within ye. sd. County of Waterford as may be most fitt for ye. defence & security of ye. sd. County of Waterford.

5. You are in our name to give assurance of ye. officers [and] soldiers soe raised yt. they shall not be drawne out of ye. County without their owne consents, but made up of for ye. necessary
defence thereof, unless it be in foreign invasion or intestine rebellion, and if there shall happen any occasion of embodying ye. sd. troopes & companies & marching into ye. field, yt. after ye. two day’s march they shall be paid equal pay with those of our standing army during such service & duty by them performed.

6. You are to consider & agree of ye. fittest & safest place or places for lodging ye. arms, ammunition, drums, trumpets & colours belonging to each troope & company respectively where they may be directed to resort upon occasion.

7. You are to take a view of ye. severall arms in ye. Sd. County fitt for service & make returne to us [our] in our absence to our Justices or other Governour or Governours of this Kingdome for ye. time being of their numbers & condition.

Ye. course may be taken for a timely supply of soe many as shall be found wanting for ye. full armeing of ye. horse & foot appointed to be raised & inlisted in ye. sd. County of Waterford.

8. We think fitt to lett yu. know yt. Comissions shall be issued form us or such other persons as we shall nominate wth. all convenient speed to such offers as we shall think fitt to command ye. Sev[era]ll troops & companys in ye. sd. County of Waterford.

9. The Governour or deputy Governour of ye. sd. County for ye. time being or in his absence yu. or any five or more of yu. are from time to time as often as our service shall require it to send abroad any parte of ye. Militia of ye. sd. County of Waterford to any place within ye. sd. County of Waterford, or elsewhere upon such service as yu. shall think requisite.

10. You are forthwth. from time to time to send an account of y[ou]r proceedings herein together wth. ye. trew list of such horse and foot as shall be soe raised & inlisted to ye.Lds. Justices & other Cheife Governour or Governours of this Kingdome for ye. time being.

11. You are thereupon ye. place [sic] to consider of what further power & instructions yu. shall think necessary for ye. better managing & carrying on of ye. sd. service wch. yu. are to transmit to our Justices or other Cheife Governour of this Kingdome.

12. You are carefully to observe these instructions & such further & other instructions as yu. shall from time to time receive from us or in our absence from our Justices or other Cheife Governour or Governours of this Kingdome for ye. time being, of wch. ye.
Promises [ ] yu. must truely & uprightly doe & execute, and of yr. doings make true certificate to our Justices or other cheife Governour or Governours of this Kingdome wth. all convenient speed, as yu. tender our favour & ye. advancement of our service wth. ye. defence of this our Kingdome [Kingdome deleted and Realm substituted] of Ireland.

I A.B. doe truely & sincerely acknowledge, profess, testifie & declare in my conscience before God & ye. world yt. our Soverigne Ld. King George is lawfull & rightfull King of this Realm & of all other his Maties Dominions & countries, thereunto belonging, & I doe solemnly & sincerely declare that I doe believe in my conscience, that ye. person pretended to be Prince of Wales dureing ye. life of ye. late King James & since his decease pretending to be & takeing upon himself ye. stile & title of King of England by ye. name of James ye. third hath not any right or title whatsoever to ye. Crowne of this Realm or any other ye. Dominions belonging, and I doe renounce, refute & abjure any allegiance or obedience to him, and I doe sweare yt. I will have faith and true allegiance to his Matie King George & him will defend to ye. utmost of my power agt. all tryterous conspiracies, wch. I shall know to be agt. him or any of them, and I doe faithfully promise to ye. utmost of my power to support, maintaine & defend ye. succession of ye. Crowne agt. ye. sd. James and all other persons whatsoever as ye. same by an Act for ye. further limitation of ye. Crowne and better secureing ye. rights & liberties of ye. subject is and stands limitted to ye. Princess Sophia Electoresse & Dutchess Dowager of Hannover, & ye. heires of her body being protestants, and all these things I doe plainly & sincerely acknowledge & seare according to these express words by me spoken and according to ye. plaine & common sense & understanding of ye. same words without any equivocation, mentall evasion or secret reservation, and I doe make this recognition, acknowledgement, abjuration, renuntiation & promise heartily, willingly & truly upon ye. true faith of a Christian, soe help me God.’
D/7/2 16 Feb. [1715/1716]

Copy of a warrant for seizing horses “in the custody of any Papish or Papists in the county of Waterford.” This had been transcribed verbatim.

“By virtue of a Power to me given by their Exelens. The Lords Justices of Ireland, you are hereby required, with a party of my troop immediately to seise all ye. servisable horses you shall find ye. custody of any Papish or Papists in ye. County of Waterford notwithstanding any Protestion given him or them by any Justice of ye. Peace, and them soe seise to distribute to my troop and for soe doeing this shall be yr. suffitient war[ran]t and authority. Given under my hand this 16th day of Febry 1715. Signed by Jon. Silv[e]r. to Cor[ne]t William Smith att Kilmn. Nicholas.”
Grandison family and financial correspondence, 1766-1799

E/1/1-12 1766-1781

Twelve letters and papers of the Countess Grandison (daughter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl and mother of the 2<sup>nd</sup>), mostly while on the Continent and mostly from Cavin Delane, who was apparently the family’s agent or attorney in London, and his wife, about the disordered state of the Grandison family’s finances, including a lengthy self-justification by Delane against charges of mismanagement. Included is a letter from Christopher Musgrave, the agent for the Irish estate, giving a fairly detailed resumé of the financial situation in 1768, and a letter from a Mrs. Alcock, apparently asking to be let out of a lease of Dromana House, because of the ill-health of her husband. The section includes:

E/1/3 22 Apr. 1768

Christopher Musgrave, Tourin, to the Countess Grandison, about the Villierstown linen manufactory, etc. He discusses the various arrangements he has made since Lord Grandison’s death [in May 1766], and his plans for an auction of the house furniture. He mentions the sale of 359 pieces of linen, apparently in Dublin, for £529 11s 0d. He has still about 1,048 pieces in hand, which he values at £1,600. “...I have ordered 500 pieces more to be sent up to Dublin directly to [the] same factor, as he is very strongly recommended ... for his honesty and skill in disposing of linens...” This may relate to the winding-up of the factory.
Grandison family and financial correspondence, 1766-1799

E/2/1-17 1778-1779

Seventeen letters to Viscount Villiers, afterwards 2nd Earl Grandison, at Avignon, in Provence, from Cavin Delane about the family’s financial situation, including letters from Richard Musgrave, son of Christopher Musgrave, to Delane lamenting the trickery of which the Grandison family has been the victim and which makes it necessary for them all, including the old Countess Grandison, to live abroad; a list in Delane’s handwriting of annuities payable out of the Grandison estate (possibly as a result of raising a lump sum by tontine), 1778, printed sale particulars of parts of the Grandison (originally Mason) estate in Queen’s Co. and Waterford, 1778; and a copy of a letter from Lord Villiers to [Delane] making detailed calculations of the money which he has raised or hopes to raise by selling all or part of the estate, 1779. The section includes:

E/2/2 1778

List [in Cavin Delane’s handwriting] of annuitants having judgements in England. There are 32 such annuitants, the capital sum concerned is £30,800, and the annuities payable (at one-sixth of capital) amount to £5,100 a year.

List [in Cavin Delane’s handwriting] of annuitants having judgements in Ireland: 15 annuitants; a capital sum of £21,500 (including £2,000 from Christopher Musgrave, which is not charged with any annuity); annual payments of £3,250.

The 15 Irish annuitants include Musgrave, Thomas Newenham (£1,200), Robert W[a]ters (£600), John Hyde (£600) and Nathaniel Newenham (£1,200).

This may relate to money raised by a tontine on the Grandison estate, although if this were so, the money would presumably be secured by mortgage rather than judgement.
Viscount Villiers, Avignon, to [Delane] making detailed calculations of the money which he has raised or hopes to raise by selling all or part of the estate.

About Michaelmas 1778, he sold part of the Irish estate at 22 years’ purchase, raising £19,478 16s. 0d. Irish; and if the remainder sold at 20 years’ purchase, it would produce £15,406 17s. 0d. This, plus the rents, savings from the estate over several years, etc, which amount to £14,000, comes to a grand total of £45,000, approximately, when converted into British currency.

He calculates that his debts from annuities amount to £6,500, from principal to £33,000, and from interest to £1,650, of which £4,000 has already been paid. There is also a mortgage debt to Musgrave of £2,000, and debts to tradesmen of £3,500, coming to a grand total of debts of £44,000.
Grandison family and financial correspondence, 1766-1799

E/3/1-15 1778-1799

Fifteen letters, including papers on rates of exchange, to Viscount Villiers, afterwards 2nd Earl Grandison, from miscellaneous correspondents, but mainly relating to the financial mess. The correspondents include his mother, Countess Grandison; H. Crathorne and H.F.A. Stanhope (who provide English social and political chit-chat); various acquaintances on his continental travels (who write in French); his father-in-law, the 1st Earl (subsequently Marquess) of Hertford (who declines to take on a trusteeship of the Grandison estates); Richard Musgrave (who discusses his dealings with the Grandison tenants); and Sir John Keane (who proposes for a lease of Dromana House in 1799). The letters include:

E/3/2 5 Nov. 1778

Richard Musgrave, Tourin, to [Viscount Villiers, probably at Cassel], about his dealings with the Grandison tenants.

“...The distress of this country... has continued to increase ever since you left it... It gives me sincere pleasure that your Lordship’s creditors have come into terms so very advantageous to you, from which, and the very rational plan of economy which you have adopted, I have not a doubt but that you will soon be finally extricated. Of £1,500 English which I remitted to Lady Grandison for your Lordship’s use, I borrowed £1,100, and as the lodgement which I made in the bank to be remitted consisted mostly of bills at 21 and 31 days’ sight, I was obliged to pay out of my own pocket about nine pounds discount. I left n resource untried to make your Lordship a remittance sooner. I tried in many places to borrow, but in vain. I ejected such of the tenants as owed a year’s rent, and distressed the rest. I am much censured and abused in this country for adopting such rigorous measures. But my zeal to serve your Lordship is such that I shall bear such reflection with indifference...”

He mentions that the phaeton to be sold should be exported back to England.

“... I have sent a peremptory order to the tenants to pay their November rents next Thursday. My servant, who is just returned from serving them with that notice, tells me that they murmur very
much at being required to pay their rents so soon, as the custom of the country is not to demand a half year rent till a year is due. Your Lordship will easily discover how disagreeably I am circumstanced from this mode of collecting your rents; for if tenants refuse to pay at the time required, I can only distrain them, which in a large estate is a very tedious and often an ineffectual method of compelling the payment of rent, as there are commonly but few bidders at an auction of cattle. Ejecting when a year’s rent is due is a much easier and a more effectual remedy, as it is more perilous and expensive to the tenant.

Another disagreeable circumstance is this: I’m paid mostly by bills of 21 or 31 days; sight on Cork or Dublin, and as your Lordship and Lady Grandison expect your rents to be remitted immediately, I’m obliged to pay one pound in the hundred discount…”

Musgrave hopes that Villiers’s sojourn on the Continent will exonerate his fortune and relieve his mind of former worries and embarrassments.

(The letter is badly torn; alongside it is an even more torn fragment, which almost certainly relates, and from which the date has been taken:)

“…Dr Gervais cannot go to England till February. Lord Cahir is detained here by, I believe, the same cause – the want of money. He has great quantities of his tenants’ cattle to sell, but people are too poor to buy them, such is the distress of this miserable country!…” Musgrave promises another remittance.

E/3/12 26 June 1782

Musgrave, Dublin, to Villiers, now Earl Grandison, Spa, Germany, commenting on the economic situation in Ireland.

“…a prospect of a plentiful harvest, though we had strong reason to apprehend a dearth, if not a famine, from the inclemency of the weather…”
Grandison family and financial Correspondence, 1766-1799

E/6/1-14 1779-1784

Fourteen letters to Viscount Villiers, afterwards 2nd Earl Grandison, from Pierse Barron, Christopher Musgrave’s successor as the Grandison agent, about estate and financial affairs, particularly the raising of further sums of money on mortgage. (Between 1779 and 1782 Lord Grandison is living in various places on the Continent, but by 1784 he is back in Dublin). The letters include:

E/6/1 17 Mar. 1779

Pierse Barron, Fahagh, [Co. Waterford], to Viscount Villiers, about Grandison estate affairs. He comments: “...money still scarcer and harder to be obtained than ever when you were here...”

Referring to land which the Countess Grandison has asked to be set, he reports: “...I have settled with Mr Galway for the part he wanted, to make a beginning this year, and I apprehend it’s the best method gradually to set it, as if the entire or the major part was set in one or two years, it would occasion a general ferment and a rising of the people in and about Dungarvan, to whom, though not entitled, this has been a commons for many years past. Counsellor Musgrave and I have agreed to stop them this year from cutting turf and otherwise using it, and when once warned from any advantage, it will become a matter of indifference whether set or otherwise. This, in my opinion, will be the most prudent manner of proceeding. It’s certain I could set the entire in the course of a month, but would be afraid of the consequence...”

E/6/5 10 Feb. 1782

Barron, Fahagh, to Villiers thanking him for appointing Barron agent, and expressing the belief that the Catholic Relief Bill will pass. “...This circumstance may be favourable for the sale of land” (presumably Villiers’s).
E/6/7 11 July 1782

Barron to Villiers, now Earl Grandison, Spa, about estate affairs. He refers to various fines and, apparently, to the removal of Musgrave from the agency because of the size of his debt to the estate, the confusion of his accounts and, as Barron implies, suspicions of Musgrave’s honesty.

“...My ambition would be fulfilled if I had once the happiness of seeing you fixed at Dromana, where you would be adored, and [I] convinced your residence there, even for a few months, would most materially contribute to the final adjustments of your affairs...”

E/6/10 8 Sept 1783

Barron, Fahagh, to Grandison, Lausanne, about estate affairs. He refers to the Co. Waterford election, in which Barron has apparently been acting as an agent.

“...I have indeed joined my credit with your [rental] to make remittances agreeable to Mr Delane...”

E/6/11 22 Feb 1784

Barron, Fahagh, to Grandison about estate affairs. He refers to the equipping of Dromana for Grandison’s forthcoming visit.

“...Wines, groceries and most other articles [I] do think may be bought cheaper here. It would be well to have china and some few other articles from London. Baking it will be necessary to have at the house, but [I] do think it will be best to have malt liquors from Youghal or some other brewery, at least for the next year, as malt, etc, at present is very dear...”
Maps, rentals, accounts, etc. for the Grandison and Mason Estates, 1708-1799

F/4/1-89  1708-1788

Eighty-nine rolls and related accounts for the Grandison estate in Ireland, including:

F/4/14  1738

Anonymous account of sub-rents on Ballylinan, Ballymacart, etc, [part of the Grandison estate, Co. Waterford]. This includes two instances of setting farms with cows (30 and 12 cows respectively), at approximately £2 per cow let; and cases, for example [Baleigine] where it is observed, “... John Mansfield’s part under cows, but may be set to £30...”

F/4/24  1746

Rental of Lord Grandison’s Irish estate. This shows that the half-year’s rent due on 29 September 1746 was £4,765 6s. 0d. [i.e. £9,530 12s 0d. a year]; that the estate was leased out in 95 lots, including the fishery, Dromana fairs and Raheen, [Mountain] Castle and Aglish mills; and that the arrears in September 1746 were £1,471 11s. 0d., and in June 1747, £1,023.

F/4/24 (cont’d)  1765

Rental of Lord Grandison’s Irish estate. This calculates the rental of Lord Grandison’s estates as £1,000 and the value of Dromana demesne as £1,000, making a total of £8,166 7s. 6d. In addition, the Hon. Mr Villiers’s [i.e. the future 2nd Earl of Grandison] estates in Ireland are calculated as yielding an income of £3,756 6s.2d., making a grand total of £11,922 13s. 8d.

F/4/24 (cont’d)  1771

Rental of Lord Grandison’s Irish estate.

This shows that the Countess Grandison’s rental income stood at £4,820, and her son, Lord Villiers’s, at £3,818. £2,426 of the £3,818, derives from land in Co. Waterford, all presumably of Mason provenance.
F/4/85  Michaelmas 1778

Half-year’s rental for Countess Grandison’s estate. This come to £2,454 162.3d., plus £537 10s. 0d for the rent from the demesne, producing a total of £2,992 6s. 3d. This is subject to yearly disbursements on interest charges (there are 5 loans at 6% and one at 5%), charitable annuities, head rents, agent’s salary (£200) etc, totalling £1,210 5s. 0d. This means that the clear half yearly income is £2,387 3s. 9d.

F/4/88  1785-1788

Pierse Barron’s accounts. These give a rental figure for the Grandison estate of £5,709 12s. 6d. in 1785, and for the Mason estates, £2,514 in the same year. In 1786 there is a reference to remittances to Messrs Latouche.

F/4/89  15 July 1787

Rentroll of the Dromana estate. This amounts to £6,443 9s. 10d (including £1,000 for Dromana [House and demesne]. The estate is let mainly in townland units – nearly all to esquires, and there are a number of small accumulations of holdings.
19th and early 20th Century Villiers-Stuart Estate and Financial Correspondence (not copied)

G/1/1-21  1800-1809

Twenty-one letters from Lord Henry Stuart to and from Coutts Trotter and from Sir William Homan to Lord Henry Stuart, about estate and financial matters, with related financial papers.

In 1802 Lord Henry Stuart, a younger son of the 1st Marquess of Bute, married Lady Gertrude Villiers, only daughter and heiress of the 2nd Earl Grandison, and so came into possession of the surviving Grandison property. Sir William Homan was his brother-in-law, whom he appointed agent, superseding the Barrons, and Coutts Trotter, another marriage connection of the Bute family, was the member of the Coutts banking firm in London who transacted his affairs. This sub-section is not of Villiers-Stuart provenance, but was retrieved subsequently by some member of the family from Coutts’s bank.

The letters include:

G/1/3  [1802]

Schedule of the debts of Lord and Lady Henry Stuart.

This shows that the mortgage, judgement and bond debts in Ireland (in Irish currency), stand at £21,859 17s 3d, and the English debts (in English currency) at £3,600. There are also debts to tradesmen of £2,549 5s 0d, and an annuity of £80 a year, granted in 1784, and payable for the lives of Henry Hanson and his wife of Brussels.

The yearly rent of Dromana in 1801 stood at £5,698 15s 2d, and of the Mason estate, £2,149 17s 4d making a total of £7,848 12s 6d/

From this has to be deducted the interest on the Irish debt, £1,311 10s 8d., on the English debt, £180 0s 0d., agent’s salary, quit rent, etc, £443 15s 1d, the annuity of £80, Lady Gertrude’s allowance of £2,500, Lord Henry’s of the same and the interest of the debts to tradesmen, £150, making a grand total of £7,165 5s 9d The rest is paid over to trustees to reduce the principal of the debts.
G/1/8 6 Nov. 1802

Lord Henry Stuart to [      ] about estate and local political affairs. He is investigating Lady Henry’s property in Ireland, not only

“... to curb present irregularities, but [to] frighten many tenants into such a conviction of their insecurity that they esteem themselves well off in having agreed to renew their leases upon very advantageous terms to this estate, without pressing heavily upon themselves...”

He hopes to add £1,500 to the rental from March 1803, and will save £100 a year by not keeping up the demesne. Furthermore, in six years time he hopes to be able to add a further £1,200 to the rental.

“...I have the pleasure of adding that our political interest in the county of Waterford will by these arrangements [re-lettings-i.e. creations of freeholders] be extensively augmented. I have little doubt of carrying out member singly, and conceive that the Duke of Devonshire and myself might with a little management wrest the county out of the hands of all antagonists. It probably, however, will be for my advantage to join no great leader, but rather to co-operate with the independent gentlemen of the county.”

G/1/14 3 Apr. 1803

Stuart, [The Grange, Alresford, Hampshire], to Coutts Trotter about estate and local political affairs. Barron has written of

“...a tract of country in the mountains, enclosed by interlopers, who are on the point, and some actually have agreed, to pay a fair rent, [which] has been overrun and laid waste by the Barbarians. The ringleader, who avowed himself, was not secured till great mischief was done, and people will now be frightened from the neighbourhood...”

G/1/15 20 Apr. 1803

Stuart, Cheltenham, to Trotter about estate and local political affairs.

“...The ringleader of the late aggression near Dungarvan has been brought to trial and condemned to three months’ imprisonment and the pillory. This will be much in favour of letting parts of the mountain...”
G/1/16 [Mar.] 1805


“...If I can get good bills on London at Youghal or Waterford I shall forward money to you as fast as the rents are paid...”
19th and early 20th Century Villiers-Stuart Estate and Financial Correspondence (not copied)

G/2/1-145 1803-1848

One hundred and forty-five business letters to Sir William Homan, including some letters to Lord Henry Stuart and to his son and successor, Henry Villiers-Stuart, later created Lord Stuart de Decies, from miscellaneous correspondents, including: Alexander Nimmo and others about the pier at Helvick, 1812-1815, Lord Henry Stuart, 1805-1808, Lord Stuart during the 1840s, Thomas Keane (a sub-agent or clerk based at Cappoquin and later at Dromana) during the same period, and all manner of bankers, lawyers, etc. The letters include:

3 Feb. 1808

Lord Henry Stuart, The Grange, to Homan, Dromana, forwarded to Dublin, about estate and political affairs.

He refers to the proposal of one Graves [a Youghal merchant] to take the “bleach ground”, upon which he proposes to erect a mill.

“...Lady Lonsdale wrote word this morning that you thought the Collector of Waterford wished to resign. I wish it would be procured for you. If it were vacant, it would without doubt be at the disposal of Lord Waterford. Although the chance is not great, yet I am willing, if you can make a private arrangement for the resignation of the present Collector, to try what I can do with Lord Waterford. If I could positively get his interest, I should proceed with confidence to Lord Castlereagh. Write me word [of] your wishes on the subject. I will with pleasure go up to town to speak with Lord Waterford...”

26 Feb. 1808

Stuart to Homan, Dromana, forwarded to Moate, about estate and political affairs. He refers to the advantage to Villierstown if Graves’s proposed mill is established.

“...I agree with you with respect to Mr Mansfield, not that I am likely to come forward as a candidate for the county, though the thing might happen...I see no plan better of letting Ballyduff and [Curadurre] them {sic} to the occupying tenant.”
3 Apr. 1808

Stuart to Homan, Dromana, forwarded to Moate, about estate and political affairs. Stuart has told Mansfield, in answer to his proposal, that

“... as I did not and could not manage the estate, which was in strict trust, I would not converse upon any business relating to it but through you, as agent of the trustees...”

3 Aug. 1808

Stuart to Homan, Dublin, about estate and political affairs. He is exasperated at Homan’s failure to give him information about the farms, while at the same time expecting him to be able to decide on the lettings. He seeks such a detailed letter

“... as can be laid before the trustees, and I will recommend to them accordingly...”

22 Oct. 1808

Stuart, near Derby, to Homan, Dromana, about estate and political affairs.

“... My trustees, from their situation in life, cannot give much attention to the business, and I have lately thought of putting the whole of the property in Chancery...”
19th and early 20th Century Villiers-Stuart Estate and Financial Correspondence (not copied)

G/9/1-199 1828-1954

One hundred and ninety-nine letters to Henry Denehy, [including 2 to his predecessor, George Greene], from Henry Villiers-Stuart, Lord Stuart de Decies, about business matters, including the purchase of Currahroche (see G/12), the Patrick Smith case (see G/10), Villierstown chapel (see G/18), the defalcation to the tune of £2,000 of Sir Charles Shaw [who succeeded Homan as head agent in 1847], which came to light in 1849 (see G/19), and also including references to the Waterford Gaol Enquiry of 1835, to the Waterford Militia, of which Lord Stuart was Colonel, and to meetings of the Irish Privy Council, of which he was a member; among the letters are several to Stuart, apparently forwarded to him to Denehy, originals or copies of letters from Denehy to Stuart, and two copies of letters from Stuart. The letters include the following:

G/9/1 5 Jan. [1828]

see also L/13

[Henry Villiers-Stuart], Banbury, [Oxfordshire], to [George Greene], about a legal question which has arisen as to whether Villiers-Stuart has not forfeited his claim to the Mason part of his inheritance through failure to assume the name Mason (see L/13).

"In the matter of so much importance as that which you have submitted to the consideration of counsel on my behalf, you will easily understand how anxious I must feel that their answer should be plain and unequivocal. Let it be affirmed by them, therefore, either (as one or other must be the case) that the estates are mine or that they are not mine. If they decide in favour of the first proposition, then is there no obstacle in the way of effecting the mortgage: if of the latter, then they belong to my youngest brother, and into his hands I shall without hesitation commit them, and leave to his guardians the charge of completing the purchase, which by no means must be foregone.

All, therefore, I have to request of you is that the answer of counsel may be directly affirmative or directly negative, and that Mr
Sidebotham abide by the decision of these referees, let it turn which way it will, as I can much more for the welfare of the estates than I do for the profits accruing for them. You will therefore comprehend my anxiety that, in whomsoever they are vested, the title should be clear and above all possible dispute; and I protest, I had much rather see them thus, and in possession of my brother, than held by myself under a possibly doubtful tenure.”

G/9/2 6 Jan. 1828
see also
L/13
Henry Villiers-Stuart to [George Greene] about his failure to assume the name Mason.

“I re-enclose (L/13) the case you have submitted to my perusal, which places the whole matter in a very clear and I think most favourable point of view, as far as I am concerned, and I have not the remotest doubt that the Court of Chancery would at once scout an objection raised upon so trivial a point as the introduction of a couple of names in a deed by the hand of the mere scrivener who engrossed them, and whose principal, Lord Grandison, probably signed the document without casting his eye over its contents. Why, if the trifles like these were to avail against our titles, where is the man of England who would not have his estate at the mercy of the Common Law.

On speaking to Lord Bute on the subject, he suggested a step which I think is at once calculated to relieve me from the objections Mr Sidebotham has raised, if indeed he still continues them: viz. that an amicable suit should be commenced in his name, as guardian to my brother Charles, setting forth his readiness to drop the name of Stuart and take that of Villiers only, and praying that I be ousted from the estate, and that it be conferred upon himself. I should of course immediately file a bill, etc, and the matter might be satisfactorily disposed of without the necessity of changing names or estates, by the end of the spring, when of course the mortgages would be warranted in advancing the money, and in the meantime Messrs Coutts, I have no doubt, would advance me as much as I pleased on the security of my bond. You will be so good as to add this suggestion in the case you lay before counsel for their opinion, and report to me the substance of it, when delivered.

As far as I am personally concerned, the King’s commands to bear the name of Villiers in conjunction with and before that of Stuart, relieves me, I imagine, from the necessity of following the directions of Earl John’s will, which would only in that case affect the interest of Earl George, supposing the introduction of the word Mason into the deed by the engrosser is to be construed as a
forfeiture of the estate into the hands of trustees, which interpretation, however, I cannot think would be sanctioned for an instant by the Lord Chancellor.”

G/9/4 20 Oct. 1835


“At my particular request, the evidence of the gaol enquiry, together with the rest of the minutes, has been placed at my disposal, and as you will learn from an address which I have just sent to the Waterford Chronicle, it is my intention to print the whole of the documents.

In pursuance of this resolution, I should wish you to apply at Dublin Castle for the purpose of obtaining from the proper officer there the copy which has been promised to me, and on receiving it, I must request you will be so good as to make arrangements with the editor of the Waterford Chronicle for its publication.

The matter being one of public rather than private concern, of course places it out of the question that I should pay anything for its insertion, nor can I expect that so voluminous a mass of evidence will be printed altogether. It is to you, then, that I look for such stipulations with the editor as shall secure me against piecemeal publication of a description to mislead rather than enlighten the public.

You will please, therefore, to take care that the cross-examination shall on no account be separated from the examinations in chief, and if possible that the entire evidence relating to each particular charge should be given in one and the same publication, whilst the best mode of ensuring the observance of these regulations will be, after having come to the understanding with the editor in respect to the parcelling out the evidence, to furnish him with the precise quantity he may require from time to time.

I am anxious that those portions of the minutes in which Mr Prendergast expresses his approval of the proceedings and evidence, together with his protest, should precede and form a kind of introduction, as it were, to the evidence itself...”

G/9/5-17
All relate to Currahroche.
G/9/8 14 Apr. 1836

Henry Villiers-Stuart, Long’s, to Henry Denehy, 24 College Green, Dublin, about the title to Currahroche.

“...If the possibility of a reversionary interest in the crown to be the main point upon which a farther search is necessary, I believe it will be found that an act of either the last session or the session before the last, the crown has given up its claims, and that they have ceased and determined accordingly. Pray let me know whether I am right in my belief. The act in question was brought in by either Mr Lynch or Mr O’Connell – the latter I rather think...”

G/9/18 13 July 1837

Henry Villiers-Stuart, Castletown, [Co. Kilkenny], to [Henry Denehy] about the Privy Council.

“I omitted in my letter of yesterday to request you would be so good as to inquire from the Clerk of the Privy Council whether it will be necessary that I should proceed to Dublin for the purpose of being re-sworn a Privy Counsellor under the new reign, and whether the time for so doing will depend upon myself or be notified to me by authority...”

G/9/19 14 July 1837

Henry Villiers-Stuart, Dromana, to Henry Denehy, 37 Lower Ormonde Quay, Dublin, about William Villiers-Stuart’s qualification to stand for Co. Waterford.

“The fortune of my brother, Mr W. V. Stuart, being now secured by mortgage on my estate, he considers that he no longer possesses the requisite qualifications for a county member, and I shall be obliged therefore by your writing me word whether the change in his security is such as to throw difficulty in the way of his establishing his qualification.”
G/9/20 23 July 1837

Henry Villiers-Stuart, Dromana, to Henry Denehy, 37 Lower Ormonde Quay, Dublin, about Co. Waterford registrations.

“Enclosed is a canvassing letter addressed by my brother [William] to Charles E. Kennedy Esq., whose address we are unacquainted with, but as he has 28 or 30 tenants registered, feel it to be desirable that we should obtain his support, if possible, the rather as it is understood that these freeholders, unless influenced in favour of the liberals by their landlord, will go with Mr Uniacke. I believe you are acquainted with Mr Kennedy, and will perhaps be able to contrive so as to deliver the enclosed to him and obtain his reply.”

G/9/22 23 Sep. 1837

Henry Villiers-Stuart, Dromana, to Henry Denehy, Union Hotel, Cockspur Street, London, about arrangements for paying the purchase price of £15,500 for Currahroche.

G/9/23 29 Sep. 1837

Henry Villiers-Stuart, Dromana, to Henry Denehy, Union Hotel:

“...I forwarded you a letter in reference to your brother’s application for the office of emigration agent for the port of Waterford, but forgot to enclose the letter of Lord Glenelg for your perusal...”

G/9/25 12 June 1839

[Henry Villiers-Stuart, now Lord] Stuart de Decies, Long’s Hotel, to [Henry Denehy] (letter marked ‘Private and confidential’):

“Will you oblige me by exerting yourself to procure for me a copy of Mr Stafford’s sworn informations in the case of the man on account of whose imprisonment he was fined some years ago. Being upon the Irish Committee, I have not a moment to add more...”
G/9/27 9 Apr. 1840

Lord Stuart de Decies, Prague, to Henry Denehy, Tivoli, Cappoquin, about county administrative affairs and estate affairs.

“Will you be good enough to inform me whether it would be necessary for me to be sworn in as Custos Rotulorum and Militia Colonel of the Co. Waterford, and if so, whether I am at liberty to take the oaths before the Assistant Barrister or the local magistrates.

I shall be glad to hear from you at the same time what progress you have made towards recovering the fines so long due on the leases in perpetuity.

As I propose setting out from London in the course of the present monthly, your reply had best be addressed for me to the care of Mr Markwell, Long’s Hote, Bond Street.”

G/9/28 15 May 1840

Lord Stuart de Decies, Long’s Hotel, to [Henry Denehy] about county administrative affairs and estate affairs.

“…Parliamentary business is likely, I fear, to detain me in London until the first week in June, but about that time I hope to be able to proceed via Liverpool to Dublin. Perhaps I may find you still there. If not, it will be necessary of course to leave the patents in the hands of your clerk, in order that they may be forthcoming on the occasion of my being sworn in.”

G/9/29 17 May 1840

Lord Stuart de Decies to [Henry Denehy] about the Co. Waterford clerkship of the peace.

“…I perceive in an extra printed quarter sessions notice the signature of Bart. And Vernon Delandre, Clerks of the Peace. Before making any communication of these gentlemen, I should be glad privately to hear from you whether you are aware of the circumstances under which this joint responsibility has been assumed by the father and son…”

134
G/9/30  10 June 1840

Lord Stuart de Decies, Long’s, to [Henry Denehy] about the Co. Waterford clerkship of the peace.

“...I am inclined to think my best course will be, on arriving in Ireland, to demand from Mr Delandre Senior the official proof of the joint appointment, which as my deputy he can scarcely think of declining to afford, and the date being the test of its legality will determine the question of whether a case has arisen for my farther interference.

Can you ascertain for me whether, in the event of my passing through Dublin the course of the present month, an opportunity would be likely to occur of my being sworn in as a Privy Counsellor?”

G/9/33  1 July 1840

Lord Stuart de Decies, Long’s Hotel, to [Henry Denehy] about the Co. Waterford clerkship of the peace.

“Either on Monday or Tuesday next, I purpose leaving London for Dublin with the view of being sworn in one of the superior courts there as Custos Rotulorum and Colonel of the Waterford Militia...”

G/9/34  28 July 1840

Lord Stuart de Decies, Dromana, to [Henry Denehy] about the clerkship of the peace.

“...I have had an interview with Mr Delandre and obtained a copy from him of his and his son’s joint appointment to the clerkship of the peace for this county. The document bears date October 1826, and Mr Delandre Senior admits that his son was only sixteen years of age. The question therefore appears to me to be this, whether the appointment of a minor to this office was legal at the time of its being made, and, if not originally legal, whether it can have become legalised by continued possession since attaining his full age...”
G/9/36 21 Aug. 1840

Lord Stuart de Decies, Dromana, to [Henry Denehy] about borrowed documents.

“May I beg you will be so good as to return me the documents which you removed from amongst my deeds at the time of the late assizes, when the trail of Lord Huntingdon was about to come on. There is one relating to Slievegrine, an ancient deed of one of the Fitzgerals, which I particularly wish to have access to.”

G/9/40 23 Sep. 1840

Lord Stuart de Decies, Long’s to [Henry Denehy] about miscellaneous business.

“Lord Bute writes me word that he is to have an interview towards the end of the month with Mr Stephenson, the engineers, and will speak to him about your son, and I have requested him to communicate the result to my brother, from whom you will hear it.

You will be glad to hear that I continue improving in health, thank god. Tomorrow I purpose crossing the water to Antwerp. This, therefore, is the farewell letter before leaving England...”

G/9/47 14 May 1842

Lord Stuart de Decies, Long’s Hotel, to [Henry Denehy] about renting a house near Dublin.

“...I am inclined, if I could get a place in the neighbourhood of Kingstown likely to suit us, to make that our residence after the close of the parliamentary session shall dismiss us to Ireland. Will you be so good, if in Dublin, to let me know whether somewhere along the bay I should be able to find a mansion and grounds with five or six bedrooms, two dressing rooms, a couple of study rooms for my son and daughter, dining room, drawing room and servants’ rooms in proportion, together with two coach houses, stables for four or five horses, etc, and what kind of rent would be asked per annum for such a house, furnished.”

G/9/49 27 May 1842

Lord Stuart de Decies, Long’s Hotel, to [Henry Denehy] about the terms on which Lord Stuart would be prepared to lease Maretimo from Lord Cloncurry.
G/9/60 1 Oct. 1842

Lord Stuart de Decies, 13 Grafton Street, [London], to [Henry Denehy] about illness and death.

“...Lady Stuart has been and I fear is still far from well, so that the very earliest day in which I can expect her arrival in England will be the 6th, Thursday next. It is a formidably long journey for an invalid to undertake, and I dread the fatigue which must result.

I am myself, many thanks for your kind enquiries, going on very satisfactorily, but continue to keep my leg upon the sofa, hoping I may thereby get well the sooner.

Poor Sir M. O’Loghlen. What a loss to us in Ireland. A cancer in the stomach was the cause, I understand, of his premature death.”

G/9/77 Endorsed 3 Oct. 1843

Lord Stuart de Decies, Dromana, to [Henry Denehy]

“If you let me see you in the course of the morning, I shall be prepared to point out to you the items of charge in the Maretimo list of damage[s] to which it is my intention to object...”

G/9/94 20 Apr. 1844

Lord Stuart de Decies, Fortfield House, [Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin], to [Henry Denehy]:

“I regret very much that a cold which I picked up at the Philharmonic concert last night will prevent me going into Dublin till Monday, when I hope, please God, to be able to execute the leases...”

G/9/101 9 Nov. 1844.

Lord Stuart de Decies, to [Henry Denehy]:

“My cousin, Lord James Stuart, has a sum of £12,500 to lay out on mortgage, which it is however indispensable should be a maiden one. If you know of any present investment of this description, have the goodness to let me hear from you...”
G/9/104  24 Feb. 1845

Lord Stuart de Decies, Fortfield House, to [Henry Denehy]:

“...I wish the deeds of sale of the tenements I propose to sell in Waterford and Youghal to be prepared forthwith, in all cases where the tenants have accepted the terms proposed.”

G/9/120  Endorsed, 12 Aug. 1848

Lord Stuart de Decies, Dromana, to [Henry Denehy]:

“...The special constable list is, I suppose, by this time as full as ever it will be, and therefore you will oblige me with the copies thereof, one of which the act requires I believe that I should forward to the Lord Lieutenant, whilst the other is left as a record for reference in the hands of ...”

G/9/148  18 Jan. 1852

Lord Stuart de Decies, Dromana, to [Henry Denehy]:

“I was much gratified, as I am sure you will be, by the receipt of the enclosed [not found] communication from Sir W. Somerville announcing the appointment of your son to a constabulary cadetship.”

G/9/157  23 Feb. 1852

Lord Stuart de Decies, Dromana, to [Bart. Delandre] about the clerkship of the peace.

“On parting with you on Thursday last, you informed me that it was your intention to proceed forthwith to Waterford for the purpose of demanding possession from Mr Vernon Delander {sic} of the county records, etc, of which the late Clerk of the Peace had had the charge, and I naturally expected that, asa Custos Rotulorum, I should have been made acquainted without an hour’s delay with the result of that interview.

To my great surprise and disappointment, however, four post deliveries have occurred since you left Dromana, without my receiving from you a single line to inform me in what position the matter stands at present, and I am consequently under the necessity of writing to beg that you will be so good as to let me hear from you without further delay upon the subject.
In the course of our interview, you mentioned your intention, if I had no objection, to exercise your right of appointing a deputy in the person of your son, I stated that of course I had no intention of interfering with this arrangement, but lest my assurance on this point should lead to any misinterpretation of my views, I beg to add that I should consider it very objectionable, were so very young a man allowed to act except in conjunction with yourself, and therefore I hope that, as long as you hold the office, you will continue to give your personal superintendence to the discharge of all its duties, as I am most solicitous that they should be performed..with the same punctuality and businesslike habits as those which distinguished the administration of the affairs of the office in the time of the late Mr Delander.”

G/9/163 10 May 1852

Lord Stuart de Decies, Dromana, to [Henry Denehy] (letter marked ‘Private’) about election politics.

“It has occurred to me since I saw you today that it may be well to remind you that, without knowing anything to Mr E.’s opinions in detail upon the various questions of public importance which it may be expected will engage the attention of the next parliament, that {sic} of course I could not say how far this gentleman would prove acceptable to the liberal interest of the county generally, and that I still think the first step we should take is to force Power to state his intentions.

I also hope the liberals will be able to act with unanimity in supporting the two candidates who may be selected to represent their opinions”.

G/9/164 11 May 1852

Lord Stuart de Decies, Dromana, to Henry Denehy:

“I beg to remind you that it is necessary I should be furnished with your official report respecting both the qualifications of Mr John Sheehan and of Mr John McCarthy before I can recommend either of those gentlemen for ensigncies.”
G/9/166 24 Aug. 1852

Lord Stuart de Decies to [Henry Denehy] (letter marked ‘Private’): more about elections.

“I have written to Mr Strange of Waterford mentioning that you would see him on the subject of my subscription to the registry club, but I hope you understand that I should wish you, after speaking with him, to communicate with me previously to the amount of my contribution being finally fixed on.”

G/9/172 18 Oct. 1852

Lord Stuart de Decies, Dromana, to [Henry Denehy]:

“... Will you be so good as to send back a few lines today on what day the quarter sessions will open in Dungarvan, as well as the day and hour at which the election of the barony collector is to take place...”
Miscellaneous 19th Century Estate Papers (Not copied)

H/8/1-4 1801-1945

Rentals and accounts (mainly in volume form) for the Dromana estate and demesne, Slievegrine, Killalan and other property in and near Waterford City, and the Kilcoran property, near Youghal. [Material dated c.1900-c.1945 has not yet been listed. The listed material represents a sampling of a much larger quantity which amounts to c.125 volumes, c.1850-c.1945, plus the volumes in P/33-36.] Not copied except for H/8/1 (parts), H/8/3/1-13 and H/8/4/1

H/8/1/1-145 1801-1900

Rentals and rent accounts, as follows:

H/8/1/1 3 Sep. 1801

Rental and account of the Dromana estate. This shows that by this time the agricultural land is leased in only 45 holdings, 35 of them to esquires. Richard Power leases 4, and C.F. Musgrave 3.

H/8/1/2 1801

Similar Dromana rental.

H/8/1/3 1801

Statement of Dromana arrears.

H/8/1/4 1824

Volume containing Dromana rental.

H/8/1/5 – 53 1813-1843

Half-year rentals and general estate accounts (loose), including a number of duplicates.

H/8/1/54 – 68 1843-1853

Further series of loose Dromana accounts, as follows:
H/8/1/54 1845
Dromana half-year’s account to Christmas.

H/8/1/55 1845
Dromana half-year’s account at midsummer.

H/8/1/56 1846
Dromana half-year’s account at midsummer.

H/8/1/57 1846
Dromana half-year’s account at Christmas.

H/8/1/58 1846
‘Twig Island and weirs’ – September and November.

H/8/1/59 1846
‘Twig Island and weirs’ – Christmas.

H/8/1/60 1846
Dromana account to Christmas.

H/8/1/61 Dec. 1847
Dromana account to Christmas.

H/8/1/62 1849-1850
Dromana rental, March and May 1849, and account, October 1849 – March 1850.

H/8/1/63 1849-1850
Rental, October and November 1849, and account, March-October 1850.

H/8/1/64 1850-1851
Rental, March and May 1851, and general account, October 1851-March 1852.
H/8/1/65  1851-1852
Rental, March and May 1851, and general account, October 1851-March 1852.

H/8/1/66  1851-1852
Rental, September and November 1851, and general account, March-September 1852.

H/8/1/67  1852-1853
Rental, March and May 1852, and general account, September 1852-March 1853.

H/8/1/68  1852-1853
Rental, September and October 1852, and general account, March-October 1853.

H/8/1/69  1827-1843
Volume of consolidated half-yearly rentals and accounts kept by Sir William Homan.

H/8/1/70  1838-1853
Volume of half-yearly rentals relating to the ‘small tenants’ only on the Dromana estate.

H/8/1/71-92  May 1853-May 1875
Mainly unbound set of half-yearly rentals and accounts for the whole Dromana estate.

H/8/1/93  Nov. 1861-Nov. 1874
Summary rental for [the whole] estate.

H/8/1/94  Mar. 1862-Mar.1875
Summary rental for the small tenancies only.

H/8/1/95-105  1879-1900
Incomplete series of loose half-yearly rentals and accounts for half years ending as follows:
H/8/1/95  March 1879
H/8/1/96  March 1881
H/8/1/97  March 1887
H/8/1/98  March 1890
H/8/1/99  March 1891
H/8/1/100 September 1895
H/8/1/101 September 1895
H/8/1/102 March 1896
H/8/1/103 March 1897
H/8/1/104 March 1898
H/8/1/105 September 1900

H/8/1/106  1826-1875

Volume containing a rental of Slievegrine Mountain. For an explanatory note on Slievegrine, see M/10.

H/8/1/107-132  1854-1875

Series of loose, annual rentals of Slievegrine, lacking the rental for 1864.

H/8/1/133  1846

Soft-cover volume containing a rental of Ballyheeny, near Slievegrine, for the half year ending March 1846.

H/8/1/134-137  [c.1850]-1911

Four undated or partial rentals for parts of the Dromana estate.

H/8/1/138-143  [1860]

Six summary rentals relating to the Waterford City estate, and to Killalan, near Waterford City, including some sale particulars, and some duplicate rentals.

H/8/1/144  [1860]

Sale rental of Youghal property [presumably the Villiers-Stuart property there].

H/8/2/1-16  1821-1927

Rental ledgers and cash books.

H/8/2/1  1821-1826
[Dromana] cash ledger.

H/8/2/2  1824-1837
Volume recording house and incidental expenses at Dromana.

H/8/2/3  1845-1847
[Dromana] cash ledger.

H/8/2/4  1825-1845
Rent ledger recording payments from the ‘small tenants’, and [payments to] labourers.

H/8/2/5  1839-1865
Rent ledger for Villierstown and Ballingown.

H/8/2/6  1846
Rent Ledger.

H/8/2/7  1847-1865
Rent ledger for Ardsallagh and Ballycurrane.

H/8/2/8  1875-1903
Rent ledger, and memorandum book recording tenant agreements.

H/8/2/9A-B  1882-1890
Two concurrent rent ledgers.

H/8/2/10  1890-1898
Rent ledger for part of the Dromana estate.

H/8/2/11  1909-1922
Rent ledger for part of the Dromana estate.

H/8/2/12  1881-1891
Collecting day book.

H/8/2/13  1891-1897
Collecting day book.

H/8/2/14  1907-1909
Collecting day book.
H/8/2/15  1908-1932
Collecting day book.

H/8/2/16  1899-1904
Rent ledger for Sir R.J. Musgrave’s estate (Tourin, etc, across
the Blackwater from Dromana).

H/8/3/1-30  1820-1927
Dromana demesne accounts- labourers’ wages book,
stock books, account books recording sales of livestock,
farm produce and fish, etc.

H/8/3/1-13  June-July 1807: Mar.-July 1808
Thirteen weeks returns by Sir William Homan of labourers’ work and
wages at Dromana. [In date order.]

H/8/3/14  Apr.-Nov. 1820
Bundle of labourers’ accounts.

H/8/3/15  Dec. 1837-Jan.1846
Volume containing week-by-week labourers’ accounts, with
livestock and general farm accounts.

Volume of week-by-week labourers’ accounts, with some livestock
returns.

Volume of week-by-week labourers’ accounts.

H/8/3/18  Jan. 1854-Sep. 1855
Volume of week-by-week labourers’ accounts.

H/8/3/19  1848
Board of Works expenditure book recording sums spent on the
improvement of Dromana and three other townlands.
H/8/3/20  July 1874 – Mar. 1887

Volume of week-by-week labourers’ accounts from July 1874 to September 1876, with summary returns from June 1875 to March 1887.

H/8/3/21  Nov. 1886-May. 1887

Bundle of weekly returns of labourers’ wages and farm sales.

H/8/3/22  Oct. 1915-Sep. 1916

Bundle of labourers’ and farm accounts.


Three ‘passbooks’ between Wilson and Fox (successive stewards at Dromana) and a carpenter and a blacksmith, itemising work done for Lord Stuart de Decies.

H/8/3/26  Oct. 1847-Oct. 1852

Dromana stock books.

H/8/3/27-28  Nov. 1852- Apr. 1874

Two volumes of stock books, the second of including a list of fish licences, 1885-1894.

H/8/3/29  1908-1922

Volume recording fish sales, and also grazing and conacre letting agreements.

H/8/3/30  1908-1927

[Dromana] farm account book.

H/8/4/1-15  1802-c.1900

Miscellaneous volumes (leasebooks, account books, etc).

H/8/4/1  [1802]

Schedule of all leases of the main estate at the time of Lady Gertrude Amelia Villiers’s marriage to Lord Henry Stuart, with calculations.
H/8/4/2-3 [1820]

Two unbound notebooks concerning tithe settings on the Dromana estate.

H/8/4/4 [1820]

Volume listing 630 leases granted on the estate in the 1820s.

H/8/4/5 [1820s]

see also M/10-21

Schedule of Henry Villiers-Stuart’s leases for Slievegrine Mountain.

H/8/4/6 1827-1844

Volume itemising financial aid for tenants’ improvements on the Dromana estate, with details of expenditure.

H/8/4/7 1849-1871

Volume of estimates, specifications, accounts, etc, relating to building on the estate – with later, miscellaneous material.

H/8/4/8 1840s

Volume (with related, loose enclosures) reciting the Poor Law Valuation of various properties.

H/8/4/9-13 1843-1869

Series of bank deposit books of Lord Stuart de Decies with Messrs Coutts.

H/8/4/14-15 1863-1870

Series of bank deposit books of Henry Windsor Villiers-Stuart with Messrs Coutts.
Miscellaneous 19th Century Estate Papers (Not copied)

H/10/1-72 1803-1892

Three volumes of coloured maps and sixty-nine loose maps, valuations, plans and surveys including: a design for a pier and fishing village at Ballingaule, Co. Waterford, by Alexander Nimmo, 1816 (basically cruciform street plan with smaller lanes intersecting one arm going down to the market-house, which is at the extremity of the arm and quay beyond-c.75 dwellings and ample stores envisaged); and a survey/map of “part of” Henry Villiers-Stuart’s estate, 1825, with a pencil cartouche of a mill and bridge.

H/10/1/1 1803

“A map of the encroachments made upon the mountain of Sleavegrine, the estate of Lord Henry Stewart {sic} in County Waterford, surveyed by Mich[ael] Broderick.” The scale is 80 perches to 1 inch.

H/10/2/1-12 1808

“Survey of estates in England and Ireland belonging to Lord Henry and Lady Gertrude Stuart by Michael Cuddehy 1808”, as follows:

- H/10/2/1 1804
  see also H/11/1
  Manor of Branfield and [Queen Hoo] Hall in the county of Hertfordshire.

- H/10/2/2 1808
  Agles in the county of Waterford.

- H/10/2/3 1808
  Ballycurryne in the county of Waterford.

- H/10/2/4 1808
  Ballyduff in the county of Waterford.

- H/10/2/5 1808
  Coolbagh and Craggs in the county of Waterford.
H/10/2/6  1808  
Correheen in the county of Waterford.

H/10/2/7  1808  
Carradala in the county of Waterford.

H/10/2/8  1808  
Dromana in the county of Waterford.

H/10/2/9  1808  
Helvick in the county of Waterford.

H/10/2/10  1808  
Kilmagibrogue in the county of Waterford.

H/10/2/11  1808  
Tinknock in the county of Waterford.

H/10/2/12  1808  
East Ballymullala in the county of Waterford.

H/10/3/1  1808  
“A survey of Agles and Kilmagibrogue part of the estate of the Rt.
Hon. Lord Henry Stuart and Lady Gertrude Stuart in the county of
Waterford”. Surveyed by Mich[ael] Cuddehy; the scale 20 plantation
perches to 1 inch.

H/10/4/1  1808  
“A survey of Correheen and Ballycollanes part of the estate of Lord
Henry Stuart and Lady Gertrude Stuart in the County of Waterford”.
Surveyed by Michael Cuddehy; the scale 20 plantation perches to 1
inch.

H/10/4/2  1808  

H/10/5/1  15 July 1811  
Plan for a pier to be built at Helvick, Co. Waterford. [See G/2.]
H/10/6/1  July 1816
see also G/7

H/10/7/1  1816
Design for a pier and fishing village at Ballingaule, Co. Waterford, by Alexander Nimmo, 1816 (basically cruciform street plan with smaller lanes intersecting, one arm going down to the market-house, which is at the extremity of the arm and quay beyond – c.75 dwellings and ample stores envisaged).

H/10/8/1  24 June 1817
Valuation of the parts of Dromana occupied by Daniel Leamy, Michael Power and John Lynch (farmers).

H/10/9/1  29 July 1817
“A map, and survey of Gralagh wood situated in the parish of Grange, barony of Decies within Drum and county of Waterford, surveyed for Richard Musgrave Esq. containing... 75 acres 10 perches statute measure ... by John Owens.” Scale is 420 feet to 1 inch.

H/10/10/1  20 Aug. 1817
“A map of Drohan’s Grillagh part of the estate of Christopher Frederick Musgrave Esq., ... barony of Decies within Drum, county Waterford, containing English statute measure 95 acres 25 perches. Surveyed by James O’Brien.” Scale is 20 plantation perches to 1 inch.

H/10/11/1  1-24 May 1818
Verbal survey of Slievegrine by Shapland Graves, recording rulings in boundary disputes, etc.

H/10/12/1  Jan. 1820
“A map of part of the lands of Grilagh part of the [ ] John Musgrave Esq.” Surveyed by James O’Brien, the scale is 20 plantation perches to 1 inch.
H/10/13/1 paper marked 1820

Trace of Slievegrine from the Down survey.

H/10/13/2 [c.1820]

Plan, elevation and sections of G. Nimmo of a proposed wooden bridge over the Blackwater at Ringcrew, near Youghal, with an estimate of cost. Not copied.

H/10/14/1 Jan. 1823


H/10/15/1 1824

“Map of Coolbagh in the parish of Clashmore part of the estate of Henry Villiers Stuart esq., by S. Chaloner.” Scale is 40 perches plantation to 1 inch.

H/10/16/1 1825

Map of part of Henry Villiers Stuart’s estate, 1825, with a pencil cartouche of a mill and bridge.

H/10/17/1 1825

“Map of Ardsallagh, Tinnabinna and Ballycrompane the estate of Henry Villiers Stuart Esq. by S. Chaloner.” The scale is 20 plantation perches to 1 inch.

H/10/18/1 27 Feb. 1826

Trace of part of the parish of Ardmore, barony of Decies and county of Waterford. The scale is 320 perches to 1 inch.

H/10/19/1 17 July 1828

Trace of part of the parish of Ardmore, barony of Decies and county of Waterford. The scale is 320 perches to 1 inch.

H/10/20/1 1829

“Plan and section of a new and old road from Rathwhealan Cove to Portally Bounds by Nich[olas] Sinnot.”

152
H/10/21/1  1831

“Plans and section of a proposed canal from the River Blackwater to Clashmore, Co. Waterford, designed by John Jones, Civil Engineer.”

H/10/22/1  Nov. 1853 (misplaced in the sequence)

see also NLI MSS 24673

“Sketch of mingled flower garden and shrubbery adapted to a peculiar situation at Dromana’, showing Lady Stuart’s Pheasantry.

H/10/23/1  1834

“A map of part of the Dromana estate situated at Slievegrine...Co. Waterford demised to Patrick Smith Esq.”

H/10/24/1  1834

Map recording rights of way through the townlands of Ballyaury, Kocknaglough Lower, Knocknamona, Lackenagreeney, Monagela, Monahummeuy, Reamanagh Upper and Toor North, Co. Waterford, part of the Villiers Stuart estate.

H/10/25/1  paper marked 1837

Pencil sketch map of the Glebe land and the townlands of Rathmeelan and Coolart.

H/10/26/1  [c.1837]

Ink sketch map of Rathmeelan Glebe in the parish of Rathmeelan, barony of Galtiere, County Waterford, containing 2 acres and 17 perches plantation measure, copied from a map surveyed 4 January 1744 by Thomas Roberts and lodged in the Registry of the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore.

H/10/27/1  Feb. 1839

Valuation of the Ballycurrauns, Grillaghs, and Four, part of the estate of the Rt. Hon. Henry Villiers Stuart.

H/10/28/1  18 Oct. 1839

“A map of part of the lands of Villierstown, late in the possessions of Mrs Clarke containing 20 acres 3 roods 20 perches statute measure, part of the estate of the Rt. Hon. Baron de Decies {sic}.” Surveyed by Thomas Quirke; the scale is 20 feet to 1 inch.
H/10/29/1-43  1840

Survey and maps of Slievegrine, parish of Ardmore, part of the estate of the Rt. Hon. Lord Stuart de Decies; surveyed by John Logan as follows:

- H/10/29/1 Monagoeele
- H/10/29/2 Knocknamoona
- H/10/29/3 Upper Knocknaglough
- H/10/29/4 Lower Knocknaglough
- H/10/29/5 Raymanagh West
- H/10/29/6 Mount Stuart
- H/10/29/7 Monalummery
- H/10/29/8 Raynaboola
- H/10/29/9 Corran Beg
- H/10/29/10 Lackengrany
- H/10/29/11/A-B North Tour
- H/10/29/12 South Tour
- H/10/29/13 Corrandaverig
- H/10/29/14 Lyre
- H/10/29/15 Moyng
- H/10/29/16/1-2 Upper Ballyguiree and Monacullee
- H/10/29/17 Clash Brack
- H/10/29/18 Carranahyla
- H/10/29/19 Knocknahoolagh
- H/10/29/20 Puillough alias West Killongford
H/10/29/21 Raynaveedory alias Weaver’s Reagh
H/10/29/22 Drumslug
H/10/29/23 Monameana
H/10/29/24 Moignanea
H/10/29/25 Meeling
H/10/29/26 Raynagolea
H/10/29/27 Little Moyng
H/10/29/28 Glen Lickey
H/10/29/29 Grilla
H/10/29/30 Raynaskehy
H/10/29/31 Boher Buigh
H/10/29/32 Mulnahorna and Bornaleagh
H/10/29/33 Glounalerick
H/10/29/34 Moanbrack
H/10/29/35 Ballycurrane
H/10/29/36 Monaguileeny and Knockatour
H/10/29/37 Clogherawn and Lackamoor
H/10/29/38 Coolrooa
H/10/29/39/A-B Barnastook and Knocknafeeny
H/10/29/40 Lands of Upper Ranamanenagh
H/10/29/41 Scrahans
H/10/29/42 Raynaclogheen
H/10/29/43 Remanagh

155
H/10/30/1 Oct. 1842

“A survey of part of the lands of Clough situated in the parish of Kilmalash, barony of Decies within Drum, Co. Waterford, part of the estate of the Rt. Hon. Lord Stuart de Decies.” Surveyed by John Logan; the scale is 16 perches to 1 inch.

H/10/31/1 Oct. 1842

“Map and survey of the lands of Upper and Lower Ballygambon, Clonkerdin and Coole... Co. Waterford part of the estate of the Rt. Hon. Stuart de Decies.” Surveyed by John Logan; the scale is 16 perches to 1 inch.

H/10/32/1 23 Dec. 1842

Valuation of the townlands of Upper Ballygambon, Clonkerdin, Coole and Lower Ballygambon, Co. Waterford.

H/10/33/1 Feb. 1843

“Map of part of the lands of Ballyheena, adjoining clashmore demesne, being part of the estate of the Rt. Hon. Stuart de Decies”, surveyed by John Logan.

H/10/34/1-2 Jan. 1843

Map of part of the lands of Ballyheena, surveyed by John Logan; the scale is 8 perches to 1 inch.

H/10/35/1 Nov. 1844

“Map and survey of James Moore’s land at Monamean, containing 16 acres 0 roods 12 perches stat[ute].” Surveyed by T. Quirke; the scale is 20 perches Irish to 1 inch.

H/10/36/1 May 1845

“Map of part of the lands of Ballyheeny, let to the Earl of Huntingdon from the Rt. Hon. Lord Stuart de Decies, containing 0 acres 1 rood 4 perches stat[ute] measure.” Surveyed by Thomas Quirke.
H/10/37/1 Aug. 1845

Map of part of the lands of Ballyheeny, containing 12 acres 1 rood 17 perches statute measure, surveyed by Thomas Quirke; the scale is 120 ft to 1 inch.

H/10/38/1 Sep. 1845

“Map of part of lands of Ballyheeny”, surveyed by Thomas Quirke, the scale is 80 perches to ¼ Irish mile.

H/10/39/1 Mar. 1846

“Map and survey of the lands of Creggs, situated in the parish of Clashmore, barony of Decies within Drum, Co. Waterford, part of the estate of the Rt. Hon. Lord Stuart de Decies.” Surveyed by John Logan.

H/10/40/1 Mar. 1846

Survey of Coolebagh South, parish of Clashmore, Co. Waterford, by John Logan.

H/10/41/1 1846

Valuation of John Logan of tenants’ holdings on the lands of Coolebagh South.

H/10/42/1 Apr. 1846

Map and survey of the land of Coolebagh East, parish of Clashmore, Co. Waterford, surveyed by John Logan; the scale is 20 perches to 1 inch. A reference table lists the names of tenants and the acreages.

H/10/43/1 Apr. 1846

Valuation of John Logan of the tenants’ holdings on the lands of Coolebagh East.

H/10/43/2 Apr. 1846

Map and survey of Greenland, parish of Clashmore, by John Logan; the scale is 20 perches to 1 inch. A reference table lists the names of tenants and the acreages. Not copied.
H/10/44/1  1846
Map and survey of the lands of Curraheen, parish of Aglish, Co. Waterford, by John Logan; the scale is 20 perches to 1 inch. A reference table lists the tenants’ names and acreages.

H/10/44/2  [1814]
Rolled, outsize map and survey of Slievegrine, by John Logan. Not copied.

H/10/45/1  18 May 1847
“Plan and estimate for subsoiling, fencing and reclaiming part of Rathnameneenagh…”

H/10/46-48  1848
Designs for the Chinese-Gothick bridge in the Dromana demesne.

H/10/49/1  17 Mar. 1848
“Rental of the tenants of Coolroe and Lyre late in the possession of Mr Patrick Smith.”

H/10/50/1  [c.1850]
Estimates for drainage works proposed to be carried out for Lord Stuart on various townlands in the barony of Decies within Drum.

H/10/51/1  Feb. 1850
Valuation of Creggs listing the names of tenants, the acreages and rents.

For the next item in the chronological sequence, which has been misplaced because the date was initially misread, see H/10/22.

H/10/52/1  Feb. 1854-Apr. 1855
Survey of Ballycullane and Graigue; the scale is 20 perches to 1 inch.
H/10/53/1     Mar. 1855

“Trace of the boundaries of Ballycullane and part of Graigue in the possession of Jake Fleming...by T. Quirke.” A reference table lists the tenants’ names and the acreages.

H/10/54/1     Feb. 1856

Estimate for a library at Dromana.

H/10/55/1     31 May 1858

“List of denominations comprised in the surveys of Lord Stuart de Decies estates in Ireland.”

H/10/56/1     paper marked 1864

Map and survey of Clonherdin and Ballygambon Upper part of the estate of the Rt. Hon. Lord Stuart de Decies. A reference table lists the tenants’ names and acreages.

H/10/57/1     6 Apr. 1865

“Map of Coolroe by Richard U. Roberts, C.E.”

H/10/58/1     paper marked 1867

Map and survey of Aglish. A reference table lists the tenants’ names and acreages. The scale is 20 statute perches to 1 inch.

H/10/59/1     paper marked 1867

Map and survey of Clogh. A reference table lists the tenants’ names and acreages. The scale is 20 statute perches to 1 inch.

H/10/60/1     paper marked 1867

Map and survey of Keereen Upper. A reference table lists the tenants’ names and acreages. The scale is 20 statute perches to 1 inch.

H/10/61/1     paper marked 1867

Map and survey of part of Tiknock. A reference table lists the tenants’ names and acreages. The scale is 20 statute perches to 1 inch.
H/10/62/1 25 Sep. 1875

Trace and valuation of Mount Stuart (part), Lackenagreany, Reamanagh West (part) and Knocknaglough Upper (part).

H/10/63/1 7 Oct. 1875

Trace and valuation of Monamean (part), Reanagullee (part), Coolroe (part) and Reanaviddage (part).

H/10/64/1 [nd]

Map of Ballingowan East. A reference table lists the names of tenants.

H/10/65/1 [nd]

Ink and water colour map and survey of Coolbagh East as formerly held by Mr Daniel Crotty containing 198 acres 24 perches. The scale is 20 perches to 1 inch.

H/10/66/1 [nd]

Pencil sketch map of Edmund Walsh’s and D. Dooey’s holdings bordering Clashbrack and Knocknahoola.

H/10/67/1 [nd]

Plan and elevation of castle.

H/10/68/1 [nd]


H/10/69/1 [nd]

Plan of engine house and boiler house.

H/10/70/1 [nd]

“Comparative plan and section of the Principal Engineering features of the Clonmel, Lismore and Dungarvan Railway and the Southern Railway between Clonmel and Cappagh.”
H/10/71/1   [nd]

Plan and sections of Dungarvan Harbour, Embankment and reclamation.

H/10/72/1   1892

Outsize volume containing drawings made by Maurice Villiers-Stuart, [younger brother Henry Charles Villiers-Stuart], at the Royal Irish Engineers College, 1890-1892.
Political and personal papers of Henry Villiers-Stuart, Lord Stuart De Decies, and of his son and grandson, Henry Windsor and Henry Charles Villiers-Stuart, 1827-1908

I/1/1-8 1827 - [1880s]

Letters and papers of Henry Villiers-Stuart of Dromana about the Co. Waterford general election of 1826 and its aftermath.

I/1/1 9 Feb. 1827

Sir William Homan, [the agent and receiver for the Villiers-Stuart estate], Cavendish Square, [London], to [George Greene, the Villiers-Stuart attorney and principal election agent in 1826] of Little Bridge, Cappoquin, about the petition.

“The debate on the petition is adjourned to Tuesday, as you will see by the papers. Spring Rice and Mr Abercomby and Brougham strongly urge the dismissal of it forthwith, from not being verified on oath. Croker disclaimed any connection with it, further than it having been given him in charge, but would not be even answerable for the forthcoming of [Gun] on Tuesday next.

Pray, do you know who it was Rodie Greene mentioned got a letter from Paul Gun stating that Mr Goulburn had seen the petition and made some remarks of it being corrected, or words to that effect? Let me know the particulars of what Rodie Greene told me at your lodgings.

O’Connell’s opinion is not come over. They seem curious to see it here. But I believe from what I have heard from parliamentary men that the petition will sink under itw own demerits, without going to a committee. At any rate, come to the worst, it is quite impossible Lord George Beresford can sit in parliament. It is only a wonder he has not of himself declined, to save trouble and expense to his friends, as well as other inconveniences.”
Observations for the consideration of Messrs Farrer.

The petition against Mr Stuart’s return appears to be founded on the 33rd George III ch.21, sec.14 and 16, and 37 George III, ch.47, sec. 19 (to which refer), for no taking the qualification oaths and producing certificates thereof to the high sheriff or his deputies.

14 section provides “that no benefit shall arise under the act unless the oath and declaration in it be taken and subscribed and also the oath appointed by 13 and 14th George III, as therein”, and 16th section of same provides “that no freeholder, being a Roman Catholic, [be] capable of giving his vote until certificate produced, and then permitted to vote, but not otherwise”, and 19th section above referred to provides “that no Roman Catholic freeholder shall be entitled to vote, unless he shall produce to the sheriff or other returning officer a certificate of having taken and subscribed said oaths and declarations”.

These enactments are no doubt very difficult to be got rid off, except for the arrangement mentioned, and besides, it may be argued with respect to section 14, that the elector took no benefit from giving his vote, but as such it was, it devolved solely on the candidate; and as to section 16th, that the capability of voting followed the permission to do so, no demand of a certificate having been made at the time of polling, nor any objection made for the want of it. The sheriff or his deputies could not be aware of the religion of each elector, and it ought therefore to be presumed that the respective officers did their duty. The 19th section above mentioned refers only to sheriff or other returning officer.

By the 1st George IV, ch.11, “An act for the better regulation of polls, etc, for Ireland”, the right of receiving the poll is taken away from the sheriff (except upon disputed votes), who is the returning officer, and it would be an endless contest if these certificates were to be referred to him, and therefore, and with this view perhaps, in section 11th, after the question therein being answered, the voter’s name shall be used according to his answer unless objected to, and first in writing. This act is altogether silent about those oaths and declarations, for in section 17 it states that no oaths concerning his freehold, but as therein, shall be taken. But by section 45, all former acts relating to elections [are] to continue in force, and in no act is it stated that, a vote once been given, for the want of this certificate can be taken off the poll. But by section 18 of same act, cases are therein mentioned when, supported by affidavit made on the day vote was given, may be investigated, and if proved by
examination of witnesses, then may be taken off the poll. Upon that, the legislature thought to meet every case, and never intended to give a party the benefit of an objection not made or relied on at the time of polling. The presente is a most unprincipled attempt of a few disappointed individuals, and a peculiar hardship on Mr Stuart, and if even gone into, will place the House of Commons in the predicament of investigating the legality of the votes by which Mr Power takes his seat, by an attempt to oust Mr Stuart, the injustice of which proceeding is manifest and ought to be strongly insisted upon.

As a great deal of trouble and expense might be saved by the discovery of any irregularity on the part of the petitioners, their proceeding should be examined step by step, to ascertain if any error may have occurred in their progress: and first, as to the day of presenting the petition; was it in time and conformable to the usage of the notice in *The Gazette* the next day or the day but one after of the intention to enter into recognisance to the House, presented by a member, etc, and a notice served on the opposite party (42nd George III, c.106, sec.5) that a commission would be applied for to the select committee, the omission of which would preclude the petitioners from a commission altogether. The recognisance being entered into in Ireland, is liable perhaps to objections, both as to amount and the mode of taking it, and might be avoided for irregularity, if not according to 28th George III, c. 52, sec. 5, which gives 30 days for entering into them. But this, it is submitted, does not extend to Ireland. The 47 George III, ch. 14, sec. 8 allows only 28 days for the purpose, and contains a proviso that nothing therein shall extend or be construed to extend, alter or enlarge the time for entering into recognisance under the provisions of the said recited act; so it appears to be imperative to dismiss the petition, if the recognisance be not received by the Speaker before the expiration of 28 days. All these objections should be made, if possible before the appointment of a committee on the petition, as all select committees by 53rd George III, chap. 71 sec. 18, when sworn in, are deemed to be legally appointed, which might cure all irregularity on the part of the petitioners. Though this act does not extend to Ireland, yet by the usage of parliament, the case might be made applied to Ireland, and the reason this observations is made is, that the Speaker is reported by the public papers to have stated to the House that the petitioners in this case amongst others had not entered into recognisance pursuant to 53 George III, ch. 106, sec.3, after the chairman of the committee is appointed, which is not altered by the 47th George III, though by 53 George III, ch.71, sec.1, such lists are required 10 days, etc, before petition is to be considered, and this also by the usage of parliament might be extended to Ireland.
Mr. R. Greene, one of the agents for Messrs Power and Stuart upon the late election for the county of Waterford, has given the following statement of what occurred as to preliminary arrangements in his presence, viz.:

“At the last election for the county of Waterford, Mr Stuart and Mr Power were candidates and coalesced. Daniel O’Connell was their conducting counsel. Thomas Wallace was the counsel for Lord George Beresford, the other candidate. An arrangement was entered into between the counsel, that the qualification oath should be dispensed with, but it was not reduced into writing. A memorandum of it, however, was entered on the sheriff’s books, but not signed by any party. A few evenings before the election, a meeting took place, at which Mr Power was present, Mr Tandy, the conducting agent for Lord George Beresford, Mr Burke, the conducting agent for Messrs Power and Stuart, and Mr Pollock and Mr R. Greene, two of the coalition agents, were also present. A negotiation was set on foot and commenced on the part of Mr Tandy, as to what points would be waived; that entertaining and carrying the freeholders should not be taken advantage of. It was then mentioned, but I do not know exactly by whom, that the oaths, etc, should be dispensed with, which was assented to, when Mr Burke said, “You may as well throw in cockades and banners”. Mr Tandy replied, “I say nothing on that subject”. Mr R. Greene said, “Nor can you dispense with the qualification oaths either”. Mr Power added that they could not, and [they] should be taken. Mr R. Greene then read the 16th section, 33rd George III, ch. 21, in support of his opinion, when Mr Burke put an end to the conversation by saying, “Sure your counsel agrees to it”.

I/1/3 [1827]
Lawyer’s bill of costs, including costs in connection with the Co. Waterford election of 1826.

I/1/4 [1826-1832]
“Copy of grand panel of the freeholders of the Co. Waterford.”

I/1/5 1829-1832
Lawyer’s bill of costs for registering freeholders on Slievegrine [Mountain, part of Henry Villiers-Stuart’s estate].
[Mrs] Frances Yates, Derrynane, [Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry], to Henry Villiers Stuart, Dromana, describing a visit to Daniel O’Connell; the letter is franked by O’Connell.

"Here I am, actually with Daniel in the lion’s den, and a very comfortable abode it is. We received at Killarney an obliging message from him, which did not lose by being delivered in the cordial, hearty manner of his nephew, Morgan John. Finding that a visit from us was wished for and expected, we yesterday left Kenmare (a small town of Lord Lansdowne’s) for this place. The scenery was in one direction very beautiful the whole way – first on the banks of the river, and afterwards along an estuary or arm of the sea, which forms a junction with the river, a varying range of hills, often highly picturesque, bounding the horizon. Altogether, we travelled 30 miles with views frequently changing, but on the whole very like what are seen from Helvick. The road lies through a part of the country that I am sure cannot be exceeded in wildness and barrenness – all rock and bog – nothing imaginable more dreary – when, pretty well tired, descending a long hill, we saw at the bottom this particularly neat, cheerful looking house.

It is an old one, yet without an external appearance of being such, for lately the walls have been, every one, weather-slated with a very light-coloured grey slate (about the colour of hewn stone). It gives a new, cheerful look, which is still further increased by a good deal or regular paling, painted white, surrounding extensive young plantations. Amongst them, vistas are made to admit views of the sea. The house consists of numerous small rooms, to which two of good size (especially in length) have been added, dining and drawing-room over it {sic}.

Two of the young men rode some miles to meet us, and on our arrival we had a cordial reception from our host, who had just come in from hunting, and looked remarkably well in his black velvet cap and other appropriate costume. I must say that he is seen to very great advantage at home, surrounded by men, women and children of all degrees of relationship, to whom his manners are kind and paternal. Our party at dinner consisted of not less than 20 O’Connells, besides two or three persons who are come to examine if there are mines in the neighbourhood. At the top of a long and well filled table sat (very like, I should suppose, to a Highland chieftain) the head of the clan O’Connell. He looked convivial and open-hearted, and became very interesting when you formed the topic of our conversation. I was glad to find him express himself most warmly as to the generous and noble part you had acted in
emancipating your county form the thraldom of its selfish oppressors. He has had every possible incentive that could arise from personal and family motives, as well as the feelings of clanship and patriotism, to impel him forward in his great career, but when the history of the struggles Ireland is now making come (sic) to be recorded, it will not be forgotten that you, in taking your stand against the oppressors, had not those incentives, but on the contrary, had to cast away the prepossessions and prejudices of “your order”, upon whom you waged war, to uplift the people that their unfeeling policy had degraded. O’Connell seemed well acquainted with the history of your mother’s family in times past, and related several particulars respecting them. We ended our chat by drinking your health in a flowing bumper, after which the ladies retired. We were soon joined by the gentlemen who were examining specimens of copper found in the neighbourhood. O’Connell retired early, and was replaced by a piper, who gave us Irish tunes (sad and merry) until bed-time.

This morning at breakfast the Liberator wore a loose dressing-gown and a traveller’s cap. His post-bag full of letters coming in makes him stationary just at this moment, and is giving Mary Ellen an opportunity of making a sketch of him in the above-mentioned dress.

I am happy to say that M.E. has done what we all think an excellent likeness, which I will send to you, probably from Clonmel. We are going to that immediate neighbourhood (to Baron Pennefather’s) early next week from Killarney, when Mr Yates will join us after visiting Limerick, Co. Clare and some part of Galway. I am not such an unwearying traveller as he is. Fanny has made a sketch of this house, which she also intends sending you, if it goes on to her satisfaction, but it can convey no idea of the fine, old rocks and deep-sheltered, little bays that form the boundary of this domain, the nearest land to which, in one direction, is America.

O’Connell, at my request, has just read to us the whole of his forthcoming work – at least that part to which voluminous notes are to be appended. It is addressed to the Queen and is a rapid and powerful sketch (set forth in chronological order) of the tremendous evils and injuries that have been inflicted on Ireland from the reign of Henry the 2nd to the present day. It is admirably calculated to produce the most striking effect, for the attention of the most careless and superficial reader is secured by the short and spirited narrative, whilst those who choose to enter upon proofs and details will find them given at length in the notes. Truly, he is a man of genios in all that he does.
I took a long and very interesting walk with him yesterday along his wild and rocky shore. He told me that his uncle (a man of great ability, to whom this place belonged) had £3,000 lodged for the purchase (having agreed for it) of the large estate of Muckruss, near Killarney, when Mr Herbert sent him word not to dare to become the purchaser, or he would give information that would forfeit it, the penal laws being in force. Such things cannot be forgotten, especially by those who are looked down upon and despised for their want of fortune by the successors of men who deprived them of the power of obtaining it…"

I/1/7 [1880s]

Incomplete newspaper cutting: “The Waterford-Stewart {sic} election of 1826. Interesting and amusing speeches of Messrs Stewart and O'Connell.”

I/1/8 1829-1838

Eight issues of Waterford and Dublin newspapers containing Henry Villiers-Stuart’s retirement address, 1829, his anti-Repeal election address, 1832, etc, etc. This bundle has not been copied.
Political and personal papers of Henry Villiers-Stuart, Lord Stuart De Decies, and of his son and grandson, Henry Windsor and Henry Charles Villiers-Stuart, 1827-1908

I/2/1-5  1831-1839

Patents appointing Henry Villiers-Stuart, Lord Stuart de Decies, Lieutenant of the county and city of Waterford.

I/2/1  17 Oct. 1831

“Patent appointing Henry Villiers Stuart Esq., Lieutenant of the county of Waterford.”

I/2/2  2 May 1832

Patent appointing Henry Villiers Stuart, Lieutenant of Waterford City.

I/2/3  6 Nov. 1837

Same as I/2/1 (reappointment after the accession of Queen Victoria).

I/2/4  14 Nov. 1837

Same as I/2/2.

I/2/5  1 Dec. 1839

Patent appointing Villiers Stuart, now Lord Stuart de Decies, Custos Rotulorum of Co. Waterford.