

Lucas Clements Estate Collection

Fiona White

Origins of Lucas Clements Estate Papers

The Lucas Clements Estate collection first came into the possession of the Centre for the Studies of Irish Historic Estates (CSHIHE) at Maynooth University through a donation made by Rosemary Lucas Clements in 2014. The Lucas Clements family resided in Rathkenny House situated on a 2500-acre estate near Cootehill, County Cavan for generations.

The family originally hailed from Croft in Leicester, United Kingdom and Robert Clements was a member of the gentry class and owned lands in Croft where he ran a mill. Robert subsequently emigrated to Massachusetts, America, in the early 1640s, where he became one of the founding members of the town of Haverhill. There, it seems, he also owned a mill and served in a variety of public offices.

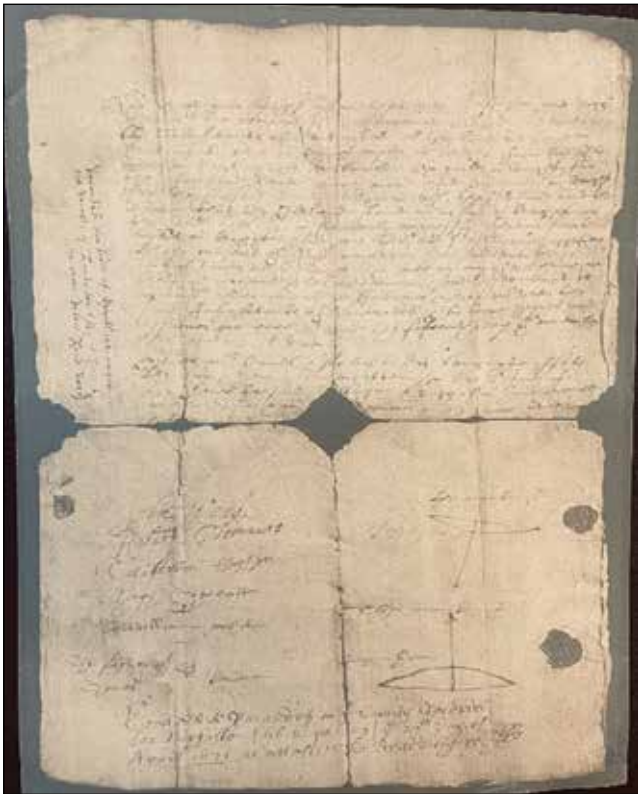


Image of Rathkenny House taken prior to 1920s when the wing of the house to the left of the image taken down as a cost saving measure. Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST1/9/11. Reproduced by permission of the Librarian, Maynooth University.

The records within the collection document the history of the estate from 1660s to the 1930s, detailing the social and financial history of the family and documenting how the estate was run generationally, reflecting the changing times and events that influenced how the estate was managed.

Foundation of Town of Haverhill, Massachusetts, America

The collection contains documents pertaining to Robert's role as a founding member of the town of Haverhill, Massachusetts. The town was founded in 1642 when the English settlers purchased a large tract of land known as Pentucket from the native Pennacook tribe along the Merrimack River, situated in what is modern day Haverhill. Two members of the tribe, Passaquo and SaggaHew, signed the land sale agreement with the English settlers, having been given consent to do so from their tribal leader, Passaconaway. The land was purchased from the Pennacook Tribe for £3 (just over €700 in today's money). The collection contains fascinating copy documents of the original land purchase agreement with the signatures of the founding members and the Native American representatives making their mark as a bow and arrow. These documents required conservation work, completed by our in-house conservator.



*Land Agreement for town of Haverhill, Massachusetts, America, 15 November 1642.
Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST1/1/3. Reproduced by permission of the
Librarian, Maynooth University.*

One of Robert's daughters, Mary Clements, became embroiled in the Salem witch trials. Mary had married Captain John Osgood of Andover, a wealthy and prominent man. She had confessed, under duress, to being 'dipt' by Satan and was imprisoned for some months. A legal examination dated 8 September 1692 accused her of committing Divers Acts of Witchcraft.

She was a pious woman who then feared for her immortal soul and subsequently recanted her confession even though she may have been put to death for doing so. Her husband repeatedly petitioned for her release. She was released on payment of a substantial bond. Mary Osgood was acquitted on 12 Jan 1693, when it was ruled that spectral evidence was not permitted in the trial.

Descendants of Robert include the earls of Leitrim. Another famous relative is the writer Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known by his pen name of Mark Twain, author of famous works such Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Mark Twain was Robert Clements five times great grandson. The 'T' in Clements was somehow lost through the generations of his branch of the family.

Daniel Clements and the beginnings of the Rathkenny Estate

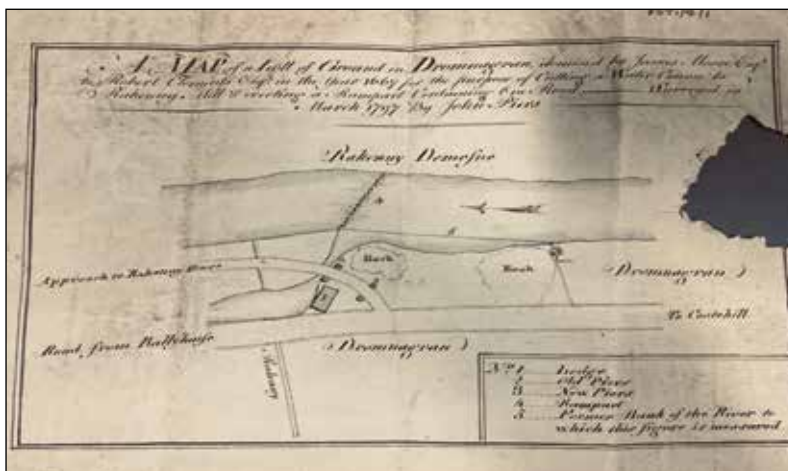
Two of Robert's sons remained behind in England to fight for Oliver Cromwell who led the parliamentarian group who had Charles I executed in 1649. One of those sons, Daniel, was a soldier in Cromwell's army aged only nineteen. He was subsequently granted lands by William III, William of Orange in Cavan and Meath as a reward for his loyalty. The lands in Cavan comprised of 2500 acres and the lands in Meath, 632 acres.

Rathkenny Estate became the main estate of Daniel Clements and his descendants. Rathkenny House, as we see it today, was constructed in the 1820s by Theophilus Lucas Clements using money he had inherited from his cousin Harriet Clements. Originally there was a smaller Jacobean house built on the estate, the tea house and walled garden which is still visible there today.



*Image of Jacobean Walled Garden adjacent to Annalea River on Rathkenny Estate.
Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST1/9/18. Reproduced by permission of
the Librarian, Maynooth University.*

Within the collection there is a map and lease of lands showing the Clements family's possession of the lands dating back as far as 1667. Interestingly, Robert Clements had set up a mill in Leicester, England and in Haverhill, Massachusetts and there is evidence on the below map of a mill on the Rathkenny estate in 1667.



*Map of part of Rathkenny Estate depicting a mill on the estate.
Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST1/8/1. Reproduced by permission of the
Librarian, Maynooth University.*

Elizabeth Clements and Reverend Edward Lucas

In the main, however, the collection centres around Elizabeth Clements, great-great granddaughter of Daniel Clements, and her husband, the Reverend Edward Lucas along with their son and their grandson, both named Theophilus Lucas Clements.

Elizabeth Clements inherited Wood Lodge and a tract of land on the estate from her father, Theophilus Clements. Her sister Catherine inherited Rathkenny House and Demesne in trust until Elizabeth's son, Theophilus Lucas Clements, reached the age of twenty-one. Theophilus assumed the name and arms of Clements in 1823 when he came of age (Ref. No. MU/EST1/4/1/5/2).

There is a multitude of correspondence relating to this inheritance within the estate papers. Numerous legal queries and issues arose as result of the complexity of the inheritance. Catherine Clements had moved permanently to England with her husband, John Richardson and Rathkenny was falling into a state of disrepair. Edward Lucas, father of Theophilus Lucas Clements, thus applied to Chancery to become legal guardian of his son's inheritance until he reached the legal age of twenty-one, to prevent the estate falling into further disrepair (Ref. No. MU/EST1/3/5/3). Family relations between Catherine's family, the Richardsons, and the Lucas Clements eventually declined over this matter. We see evidence of Edward's applications to Chancery and legal correspondence and indeed family correspondence regarding this issue within the collection. He completed various repairs to Rathkenny house, and the records demonstrate how he had to apply to court for the required funds for these repairs, including his requests for permission to cut down trees on the estate. Permission to use the trees for repair work was subsequently denied by the court.

The fiscal management of a large estate was quite exigent and there are numerous documents detailing Edward Lucas' severe financial difficulties dealing with this onerous task. His second wife, Olivia Hamilton, wrote often to her brother Dacre Hamilton, the infamous land agent, pleading with him for financial assistance as it appeared Edward would be sent to prison until all his debts were cleared (Ref. No. MU/EST1/3/1/1/2).

High Sheriffs of Cavan

Theophilus Lucas Clements came from an extensive line of high sheriffs of Cavan, and ten Clements in all served in that post. As the British Crown's judicial representative in Cavan, he signed warrants to search for arms in the county, evidence of which we can see within the collection.

*By the Lord Lieutenant-General and
General Governor of Ireland.*

Dudley

*Whereas We have been pleased to nominate
and appoint you for and to be High Sheriff of
the County of Cavan during
His Majesty's pleasure: These are therefore to
require you to take the Custody and Charge of
the said County, and duly to perform the Duties
of Sheriff thereof during His Majesty's pleasure,
and whereof you are duly to answer according
to Law.*

*Given at His Majesty's Castle of Dublin, this
thirteenth day of January One Thousand
Nine Hundred and five.*

By His Excellency's Command,

A. Mac Donnell

To

*Theophilus E. Lucas Clements, Esquire,
Rathkenny,
Boothill.*

(2-2)

Theophilus Lucas Clements' appointment as High Sheriff of Cavan, 13 January 1905.
Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST1/6/4/2/1. Reproduced by permission of
the Librarian, Maynooth University.

Estate Management

The collection also encapsulates documents such as estate correspondence, including letters from solicitors and land agents, general estate correspondence and family correspondence. Such correspondence is invaluable within the context of the estate's history detailing the day-to-day events affecting the Rathkenny estate. Family correspondence gives an insight into all manner of family life, such as travel, schooling of children and general estate management, particularly in relation to estate inheritances and bequests.



Image of horses and carriage outside Rathkenny House pre-1920s.

Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST1/9/2. Reproduced by permission of the Librarian, Maynooth University.

There are records relating to the rentals and tenancies on the estate. Records such as rental agreements, caretaker's agreements, and leases.

Financial records within the papers exhibit the overall fiscal management of the estate and indicate the difficulties that came with managing such an estate. These records comprise of correspondence relating to expenditure, loans, debts, and documentation conveying the payment of these debts. There are assorted receipts for the payment of wages to tenants, the payments of bills for goods and services relevant to Rathkenny house and the estate itself.

There is extensive correspondence regarding the various inheritances connected to the estate, including the inheritance of the Rathkenny estate by Theophilus Lucas Clements and the application for guardianship by his father, the Reverend Edward Lucas.

Land valuations and surveys, conducted to ensure the correct tenants paid the correct rents based on current and accurate land values, are contained within the papers. On occasion, such surveys caused an outcry from tenants when rents were subsequently increased in line with valuations. One such case was the survey conducted by Alexander Fleming which resulted in a letter of petition being sent by eighty-eight 'Rawkenny' tenants from ten townlands to Theophilus Lucas Clements on 25 July 1829, outlining that they were struggling to pay the rents laid on by Fleming's valuation and entreating Theophilus to reduce the rents (Ref. No. MU/EST1/3/3/3).



'Rawkenny' Tenants Petition 25 July 1829.

Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST1/4/1/2/2/5. Reproduced by permission of the Librarian, Maynooth University.

EST14/1/2/2/5/9

To Sir Philip Edward Lucas Clements Bart.

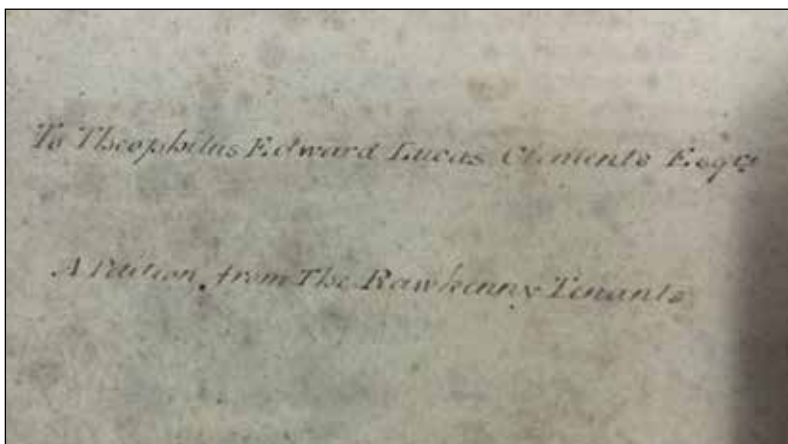
The Humble petition of the tenants
on the Rawkenney estate—

Most respectfully
Sheweth that they have been struggling against
the greatest difficulties since 1823 (and often
at the sacrifice of the necessary comforts of
of their families) to pay the rents laid on
by Mr. Fleming's valuation, which were equal
to those exacted in 1815 and 16 times that
enabled Petitioners to meet such demands
but lately from their exertions to pay arrears
accumulated by the depression of times
and the now unprecedented fall of markets
Petitioners are (however reluctantly) obli-
ged to make their distressed Reason to your
Honor, in hopes your Honor will take the matter
into your consideration, and direct the
Agent to enquire into it, and give such
a reduction as may enable petitioners
to pay your Honor his rents punctually
and not suffer an industrious tenantry
to be driven to ruin, which with the greatest
diffidence petitioners are now to say (in their
opinion) must be the inevitable consequence
of holding them up to such a valuation.

Yours &c

'Rawkenney' Tenants Petition 25 July 1829.

Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST14/1/2/2/5. Reproduced by permission
of the Librarian, Maynooth University.



'Rawkenny' Tenants' Petition, 25 July 1829.

Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST1/4/1/2/2/5. Reproduced by permission of the Librarian, Maynooth University.

Famine and the Rathkenny Estate

Of particular interest within the estate papers are those records pertaining to the famine years. The collection contains a wealth of papers for this period on the estate. Such documents provide an invaluable insight in to how such an unprecedented event was contended with by the Relief Committee in the area.

Edward and Elizabeth's son, Theophilus Lucas Clements, was responsible for the management of the estate during the Famine years in Ireland. As Justice of the Peace for Cavan, Theophilus was chairman of the Rathkenny Relief Committee. The relief system was difficult to manage. Issues such as changing directives from Westminster and Dublin Castle, difficulties with coordination of finances, compilation of the works lists and the large government loans for the supplies of food and goods made for a particularly burdensome system.

The administration and maintenance of the works list was a huge administrative task. Those on the lists were often put on works a great distance from their homes, forcing them to walk miles to and from a hard day's work, an impossible situation. Documents within the papers, such as Notice of Cavan Relief Committee Ticket Exchange dated 27 October 1846 (Ref. No. MU/EST1/4/2/1/8), detail how those on the works were subsequently given permission to change to works nearer to home. The administration of this system was arduous, and there is voluminous evidence within the collection of the difficulties encountered in the running of the Public Works daily on the estate.

There is also within the estate papers, an array of government circulars. These records include government and official documents issued by

Dublin Castle giving clear and direct instructions on how the Public Relief System was to operate. One printed circular dated 21 April 1846 from a local landowner, William Tatlow of Crusherlaw, Cavan, outlines the crops best suited for planting in place of potatoes for the following year, should the next seasons' potato crop also fail. The circular instructs on how to plant such crops and details what crops would grow as well as potatoes. He notes that seeds were available, and they be sown as soon as possible (Ref. No. MU/EST1/4/2/1/3).

The collection of records depicts how the Public Relief System had been established on the ground on the estate and how it was managed on a day-to-day basis. The documents provide a fascinating insight into the difficulties of managing the ever-increasing numbers of people requiring public relief as the situation worsened and the administrative difficulties in managing these numbers.

Significantly, the Lucas Clements collection contains a legion of petition letters sent to Theophilus Lucas Clements and the Rathkenny Relief Committee by those residing around Rathkenny who were desperately in need of food and work. These letters are a clear depiction of the worsening situation in the area as the years of 1846 and 1847 progressed (Ref. No. MU/EST1/4/2/2/3).

Other letters detail the coordination by the Rathkenny Public Relief of soup kitchens, Public Relief works and the logistical management of both, no mean feat.

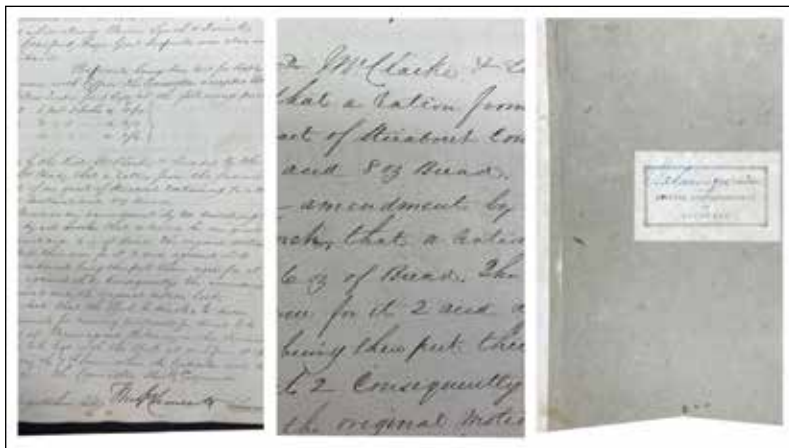
During 1847, the Rathkenny Relief Committee saw 9000 daily rations given. Westminster issued directives contained within a letter from T.N. Crawford dated 14 March 1847 instructing the Rathkenny Relief Committee to reduce the names on the Public Works Lists by 20% at a time when the numbers of those requiring assistance was increasing exponentially (Ref. No. MU/EST1/4/2/2/2/1/1/2). The provision of rations was a monumental task, particularly when numbers seeking relief began to climb. Dublin Castle issued numerous circulars on the exact rations that were to be given. One such circular sent on 20 January 1847, entitled 'Augmented Ration of Donations on Subscriptions for affording Gratuitous Relief and providing food for sale' by W. Stanley, Secretary, Commissariat Relief Office, Dublin Castle instructed how food would be a free gift of charity in the form of soup and would be offered for sale in order to economise on the sales of corn (Ref. No. MU/EST1/4/2/1/16).

Printed materials include a printed booklet dated 8 March 1847 relating to the Public Relief Works during the Irish Famine. Entitled 'Works pertaining to Drainage 'enabling employment to be quickly afforded in the execution of works of drainage', under Drainage, Navigation and Water Power Acts 5 & 6 and Part IV Regulations for Relief Committees under the Act 10 Vic., CAP.7', it detailed the overall execution of the relief system. It explained how the system was to be maintained with reference to the means by which relief was to be provided, the appointment of a clerk for each committee, the description of the food best suited for each district, how

such food was to be provided, specific ration amounts, that soup was to be adopted where practical, that rations were to be advanced only to helpless poor, cost of sale and clerk to be included in cost of food, black cards to be issued for receiving rations and lists of names to be numerical, committee meetings, correspondence, committee books to be supplied and open for inspection. The regulations were issued by order of W. Stanley, Secretary, Relief Commission Office, Dublin Castle. (Ref. No. MU/ EST1/4/2/1/18).

Rathkenny Relief Committee

Also within the estate collection is the Rathkenny Relief Committee Minute Book detailing the administration of the relief system on the Rathkenny estate and surrounding areas. This minute book details each meeting for the period dated 29 March 1847 to 5 September 1847. The first meeting, held on 29 March 1847, appointed the relevant committee members. Theophilus Lucas Clements was appointed as the chairman, the deputy chairman was Mr James Faucett and committee members included Archdeacon Beresford, Reverend Peter Clarke, Reverend Hugh Brady, Mr William Armstrong, Mr Thomas Smith and Mr Martin Lynch. Mr George Higginsbotham was nominated as clerk to take minutes. Members in attendance were recorded at each individual meeting. The meetings were noted as having taken place at Rathkenny house and Rathkenny school.



Rathkenny Public Relief Book 29 March to 5 September 1847.

Section detailing rations and coffin sizing. Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/ EST1/4/2/2/1. Reproduced by permission of the Librarian, Maynooth University.

The committee defined rations as one quart of stirabout and 8oz of bread. The bread ration was subsequently reduced to 6oz of bread by a majority vote of the committee. We see also within the committee minutes details

of the tendering for provision of coffins in three sizes for men women and children.

A committee meeting entry for 3 May 1847 makes note that the proposal submitted for the supply of oatmeal at market price was accepted and that samples of Indian meal were to be obtained as none had been supplied. It was recorded that cooked food to be distributed would comprise of rice, Indian meal, or oatmeal.

The estate records contain a Circular Notice from Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends (the Quakers) dated February 1847 in which they give instruction on the use and distribution of their grants of rice. The notice instructs how the rice was to be prepared and cooked and given daily especially to those who were suffering from dysentery, which was widespread at the time. They recommend that soup and rice be given on alternate days and rice, when prepared properly, was a corrective for bowel complaints. They add that the poor did not know how to prepare the rice properly themselves and recommend that the rice be cooked where it could be easily transported and that salt, sugar and spices could be added for extra benefits. They note that rice is a cheap food which provided a substantial meal.

Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends.

Grants of Rice to a considerable extent have been made by this Committee, upon condition that it be distributed in a *prepared or cooked* state, daily, or two or three days in each week, in small portions, to the most destitute of the poor, especially those afflicted or threatened with dysentery.

It is earnestly hoped that no trifling difficulties may be suffered to prevent these arrangements being carried out to the fullest extent by all Relief Committees, or individuals to whom such grants are made.

The value of Rice, *when properly prepared*, as a corrective in the bowel complaints now so prevalent, and as a wholesome and nutritious food for those in health, need not be insisted on; but so much depends on its right preparation, that it is to be feared the object of these grants will in a very general way be frustrated, if it be left to the poor, who have been little accustomed to its use, to cook ~~it~~ themselves.

Where Soup Shops are established, the boiler may be readily used for this purpose, and it is strongly recommended that the distribution of Soup and cooked Rice on alternate days be adopted in all cases where it can be done.

In rural districts, the use of Rice will in many cases be found more convenient than Soup—it is easily portable—may be kept for several days without injury—and can be heated at pleasure with little trouble.

The addition of some seasoning—either sugar and spices—or salt and other flavouring materials—which may be had in great variety, is especially to be attended to, not only for rendering it palatable, but decidedly more wholesome.

When it is considered that one pound of Rice, in its raw state, worth about threepence, is capable when properly cooked of producing six to eight pounds of substantial food, its value as a *cheap* article of diet is evident.

Directions for the cooking of Rice in various ways are intended to be circulated herewith.

Second month, 1847.

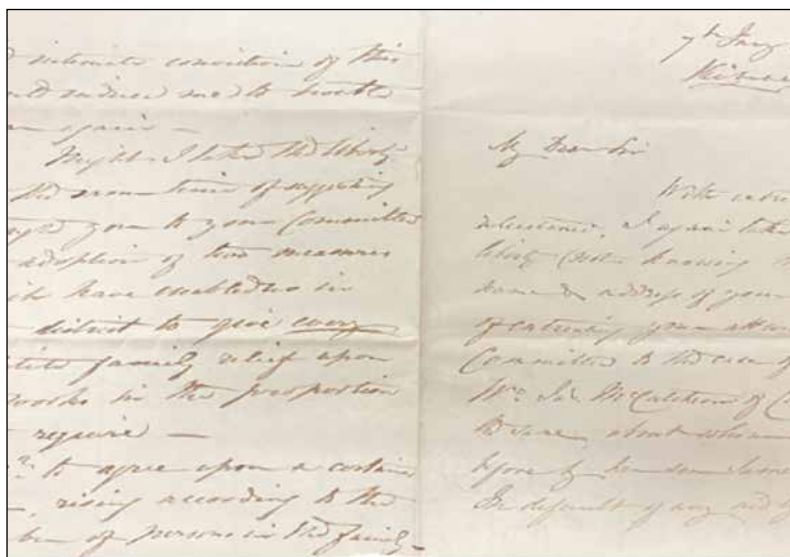
Letter from Quakers February 1847 advising on how to prepare and distribute the rice donations. Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST1/4/2/1/17. Reproduced by permission of the Librarian, Maynooth University.

In a letter dated 27 January 1847 to Theophilus Lucas Clements from Mr John Campbell, treasurer of the Cootehill Poor Relief Committee, he urges Theophilus Lucas Clements to apply to the government for aid to match funds raised in Cootehill by the local people to help those in need who

were destitute and unable to gain access to the workhouse. He notes that £320 had been raised and requests Lucas Clements write to the government to request that they match the funds in government aid required to keep this going. He also writes that a soup kitchen had been established, providing about a thousand people one pint of soup three times per week costing £10 10s. per week (Ref. No. MU/ EST1/4/2/2/1/1/1).

The collection contains leather memorandum notebooks belonging to Theophilus Lucas Clements detailing day to day events on the estate. These are of particular interest to the years 1846 and 1847 and the daily activities in respect of the public relief works (Ref. No. MU/ EST1/4/2/3).

Starvation, emigration, and the desperation of those in the area and the struggles of the committee to provide for the ever-increasing numbers and the cost of same are all evident within the papers. The records found in the collection contains letters of petition by and on behalf of those who were starving, destitute and desperate. Letters include petitions of the local people requesting their names be added to the Public Relief Works Lists. They could then purchase food for their families. Other letters detail those scenarios where families were forced to give up their homes and farms as they could no longer pay rents and required money to purchase food. Other letters request money to aid in the emigration of families to America and other countries such as Scotland.



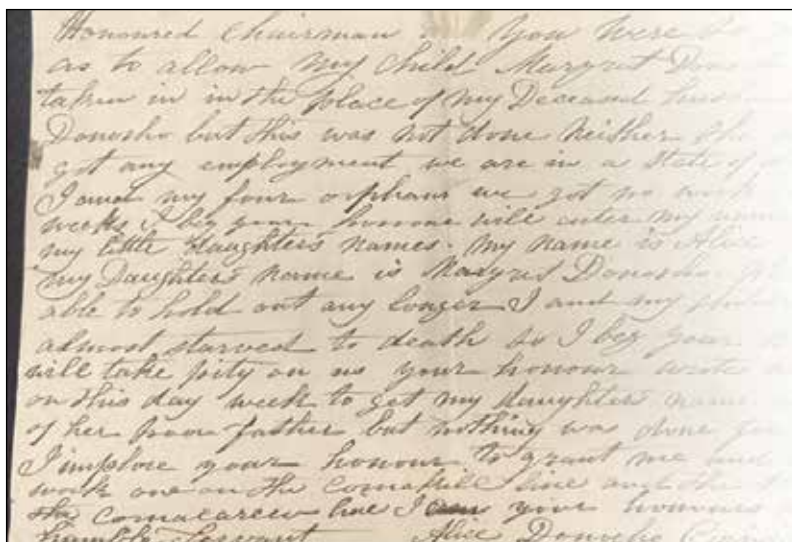
The families of Brian Muldown and James Muirk were given money to emigrate to America in March/April 1848. Letter dated January 1847 appealing to aid William McCutcheon family's emigration to Scotland, they 'having no other hope'. Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST1/4/2/2/3/1. Reproduced by permission of the Librarian, Maynooth University.

Received from Theophilus E. L. Clements Esq
the sum of seven pounds ten shillings
being the sum given to me for
assisting one family out to America
Dated this 10th April
1848
Bryan Muldown
Thank

Voucher 20
Received from Theophilus E. L. Clements
the hands of Mr. Wm. Armstrong the sum
of seven pounds ten shillings sterling being
money given me for the purpose of assist-
ing one family out to America
Dated March 16th
1848
James Muirk

The families of Brian Muldown and James Muirk were given money to emigrate to America in March/April 1848. Letter dated January 1847 appealing to aid William McCutcheon family's emigration to Scotland, they 'having no other hope'. Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST1/4/2/23/1. Reproduced by permission of the Librarian, Maynooth University.

The Rathkenny Relief Committee experienced administrative and logistical difficulties. The management and governance of the relief system was an arduous task given the scale and magnitude of the famine, ever-increasing numbers, and difficulties in ensuring only those who needed relief were given assistance. There is evidence of those availing of the relief who had food or livestock or both in letters from neighbours informing the committee of this. There is also evidence in the records of overseers or clerks having been appointed to the Public Relief Works who were noted as taking advantage of their positions. However, it does appear that in certain cases, it was done to alleviate the suffering of their neighbours.



Honoured Chairman. You have been so kind as to allow my child Margaret Donohoe to take in in the place of my Deceased husband Donohoe but this was not done neither she got any employment we are in a state of I must say four orphans we get no work we are all poor. My name is Alice Donohoe my little daughter's name is Margaret Donohoe. I am not able to hold out any longer I and my children are almost starved to death so I beg you will take pity on us your honour write on this day week to get my daughter's name of her poor father but nothing was done for I implore your honour to grant me and my children one on the Cornfield Lane and the other on the Cornfield Lane I am your humble servant Alice Donohoe

Letter from Alice Donoho asking to take her husband's place on works as she and her children 'are not able to hold out any longer' and that 'my children are almost starved to death'. Reproduced by permission of the Librarian, Maynooth University.

In letters dated 7 and 8 January 1847 from a Mr Roberts to Theophilus Lucas Clements, the conduct of an overseer on the Public Relief Works in Cavan comes into question. The letters outline the infractions of a Mr Tumin, overseer and check clerk for Works No. 75 in the barony of Tullygarvey, Cavan. He notes that Theophilus Lucas Clements had believed the man was ignorant of his duties as overseer, however Roberts feels that he was not. He writes of misconduct such as paying one labourer three weeks wages whilst the man was in bed sick, that he paid his brother-in-law for the use of his horse on the works when he had no horse and permitting some to work on more than one relief work at a time and that he allowed

a nine year old boy to impersonate his father who was out of the country. He writes that the overseer, Tumin, was using his position to collect he and his father's debts by taking the wages of one man and that Tumin was not performing his duties as overseer as he was not visiting the works which he was employed to oversee. Mr Crawford, inspecting officer for the Public Relief Works, writes that evidence of these infractions must be collated before the overseer was dismissed (Ref. No. MU/ EST1/4/2/2/1/1/1).

Papal Petition

Amongst the records contained in the collection, is a petition entitled 'The Papal Invasion' signed by Protestants in various townlands in Cavan. The petition was sent to Her Majesty, Queen Victoria and contains the signatures of the protestants of Ireland to convey their sentiments on the encroachments of the Papacy. All signatures obtained were sent to the office of Messrs. Curry & Co., Sackville Street, Dublin. The petition assures the queen of their loyalty and their concerns following the Papal Synod held in Thurles, Tipperary in 1850. They ask for the same protection as their Protestant brethren in England. Theophilus Lucas Clements signed the petition as justice of the peace for Cavan.

Orange Order

The men in the Lucas Clements family were prominent members of the Orange Order in Ireland for generations. Theophilus Lucas Clements had been awarded the Royal Purple Arch Marksman in Ireland and British Columbia in Canada and was named as Deputy Grand Master in Ireland at the half yearly meeting in 1850.

her house within two days. The letter points out that her husband's family had been Grand Masters for generations and she should not be sheltering a 'papish'. She died three weeks later.

Orange Lodge.
Dublin.
14 3 35.

Mrs Clements.
Rathkenny.

Madam, I beleive you have a papish nurse in your house and attending papish service get rid of her at once, inside two d ays. Out of the house of the Clements gr and master of the Orange Lodge for generati-
ons, to shelter a papish. Get one of our own, why not try ourr own city Belfast. If Theo. was alive she would never come there. I was informed about this at our last ms eting and got orders to see to it at once.

Kindly take notice of my warning.

By order of the
Lodge.

Letter from Orange Order regarding a 'papish nurse' 14 March 1935.

Source: Maynooth University Ref. No. MU/EST1/6/4/1/1. Reproduced by permission of the Librarian, Maynooth University.

Family and Social History

There is a myriad of interesting documents contained within the collection, one of which is a passport belonging to Theophilus Lucas Clements dated 1842 which he used whilst holidaying on the continent. Related to this are letters for the rental of houses whilst abroad and a carriage hire agreement for time spent in Italy.

The collection contains family correspondence, giving an insight into the daily lives of the family, the societal norms, visits amongst the various family members and indeed quarrels and disputes within the family. Such correspondence gives an invaluable glimpse into a bygone era and how society functioned at that time.

Such correspondence affords the reader a glimpse into newsworthy events of the time. One such letter to Edward Lucas from his sister discusses how Napoleon Bonaparte was unhappy as he was losing to the allies (Ref. No. MU/EST1/3/7/3).

In another letter written by a cousin of Theophilus, she discusses her holiday in Geneva, and she writes that the women in Geneva were ‘generally speaking ... frightfully ugly’.

The processing of this wonderful collection, made possible through funding provided by the Stackallen Benefaction, has made available to the wider community a collection containing a wealth of information pertaining to various facets of life in Ireland on a landed estate. The history of the Rathkenny estate, recorded over an extended period from its foundations in the seventeenth century up to the twentieth century, tells the story of all those who lived on the estate and the surrounding townlands through uprisings, wars, famines and challenging times. It is a recorded history of political changes and social history and a vital tool in the examination of the complex history of Irish landed estates.

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