

## B623 Bantry Bay Steamship Company Ltd

### Descriptive List

### Cork City and County Archives

#### IDENTITY STATEMENT

**Reference:** B623

**Title:** Bantry Bay Steamship Company Ltd

**Level of description:** fonds

**Date:** 1884 - 1934

**Extent:** 6 items

#### CONTEXT

**Creator:** Bantry Bay Steamship Company Ltd

#### ***Biographical/Administrative History:***

The Bantry Bay Steamship Company Ltd was set up in 1883. Its founding director was John W Payne, with CV Handcock as secretary. Among its early directors were Payne, Michael Shea, Francis Scott, and John Dwyer. Somers Payne was appointed Manager on 11 April 1884. The Cork Bandon and South Coast Railway Company was a major shareholder by 1903, with Great Southern Railways having taken over this holding by 1925 [B623/3 & /4]. The Company offered goods freight and passenger services from Bantry to Castletownbere and Bere Island, and to Adrigole and Glengariff. Vessels included the SS Countess of Bantry (thrice-weekly service between Bantry and Castletown Berehaven), the Princess Beara (which succeeded on this route in 1901), the SS Lady Elise, and the Lady Betty Balfour, which operated a passenger service between Bantry and Glengariff. Following the development of roads in the region, the Company's business diminished, and it ceased operations in 1946. [For images/information, see

[http://www.westcork.org/coppermine2/thumbnails.php?album=6;](http://www.westcork.org/coppermine2/thumbnails.php?album=6)

[http://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000305381;](http://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000305381)

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail1946071700026?opendocument>

#### ***Archival History:***

The records of the Company forming this collection were originally part of collection U180, papers of Paddy O'Keeffe, a local historian and businessman in Bantry. The records were grouped and listed as a distinct fonds in April 2014.

## CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

### ***Scope and Content:***

Records of the Company, including minutes, lists of shareholders, cash book, and a file.

B623/1 Minute Book, 15 Feb 1884 - 12 May 1927. The volume includes minutes of board meetings, general meetings of shareholders, and meetings of directors and the committee of directors. Also present are related insertions, and other Company information

B623/2 Minute Book, 29 Apr 1913 - 29 May 1929. Minutes of meetings of directors, generally held three or four times a year. The volume also includes related insertions

B623/3 Annual List and Summary, 3 May 1903 - 5 Jun 1914. Record of persons holding shares in the Company, and an account of the shares. The lists of shareholders for each year are followed by a list of company directors and a summary of capital and shares, both recorded under the Companies Acts.

B623/4 Annual List and Summary, 22 May 1925 - 12 Jun 1934. Similar record to B623/3

B623/5 Cash Book, 5 Jan 1899 - 5 Jan 1911. Record of daily cash accounts of the Company (receipts and payments), noting date, amounts, and other details for each item. The volume used was printed for property valuation purposes, and in fact the first 31 pages contain entries giving descriptions, acreage, and valuation of property of which the landlord was the Earl of Bantry, c1883-1899.

B623/6 File, Company Documents and Letters, 1883 - 1935 (6 items). These include an 1883 prospectus and a 1935 directors' report, and other items

Item-level descriptions of the above records follow below.

The collection is of interest to those studying maritime transport and shipping services, and the development of transport in the West Cork region, in a period when the Beara peninsula, in particular, was remote and underdeveloped.

### **Subjects:**

Bantry Bay Steamship Company Ltd

Transport

Maritime Trade

Mines and Mining

Bantry, Co Cork

Castletownbere, Co Cork

West Cork

## CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

### Conditions Governing Access:

Open by appointment to all holding a current reader's ticket

### Conditions Governing Reproduction:

Subject to Rules Governing Reproduction of Records at CCCA

### Language:

English

### Finding Aids:

ISADG Descriptive List; <http://catalogue.corkarchives.ie/>

## ALLIED MATERIALS

### Related Units of Description:

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Other</i>
U180	Paddy O'Keeffe Papers	See especially U180/10/18 (i): Agreement between The Gloucester Bantry & Liverpool Steamship Co. & G. W. Biggs re Bantry Tolls; and U180/18/11 (d): Bantry Steam trawler "Evelyn", A/c's. 1900-1910 [notes by O'Keeffe, possibly extracted from Company records]

## RULES /CONVENTIONS USED

ISADG

## ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

Prepared by: Timmy O Connor, Local Government Archivist

Date: April 2014

## Description of Items

**Ref.** B623/1 **Date:** 15 Feb 1884 - 12 May 1927

**Title:** Minute Book

**Level:** item

**Extent:** 234ff

**Scope and Content:**

Volume including minutes of board meetings, general meetings of shareholders, and meetings of directors and the committee of directors. Printed Directors' Reports and Statements of Accounts have been inserted with the general meeting minutes for many years. In the pages following the minutes are lists of free passes issued to shareholders (1908-13), a record of transfer of shares following administration/probate of wills (1889-1904), rough Statements of Accounts (1887-1907), and (starting from back of volume) rough accounts and a note of orders arising from meetings (1885).

**Includes:**

p69. Trawler "Evelyn" on hire weekly @ £22. 8. 6. 1900.

p92. List of Directors & Managers sent to Registrar:- Somers Payne, managing director, Monkstown; M. M. O'Shea, Castletown; L. N. Trust, Bantry; and Joseph Brennan, Bandon  
P. L. & Joseph Brennan, manager Bandon.

p94. "S. S. Princess Beara" –one of the ships 1905

p98. Adrigole & Glengarriff piers, Oct. 1905

p112. "S. S. Lady Elsie" boat. 30. 3. 1909

p140. Time table of "Princess Beara" & "Lady Elsie"

p148. Pay sheet of staff & crew

p149. Gratuities to staff

p150. "Countess" Chartered

p173. Ref. To strike on Cork/Bandon Railway Co. 1921

p200. (also p203) Sale of "Lady Elsie". Reference to Allihies Copper Mines

p207 & p208. List of Shareholders issued with freepasses

p210-213. Probates of Administration 1889 – 1904

p214-230. Statements of Accounts 1887 – 1908. At back of book – synopses of orders/letters. 2pp.  
1885

**Ref.** B623/2 **Date:** 29 Apr 1913 - 29 May 1929

**Title:** Minute Book

**Level:** item

**Extent:** c100ff

**Scope and Content:**

Minutes of meetings of directors, generally held three or four times a year. Partially indexed. The volume includes insertions such as directors' reports and statements of accounts, copies of some board minutes, notes of wages and services, and some correspondence. These include the following:

7 Dec 1914, letter to the Congested Districts Board regarding claims of exorbitant rates;

10 Dec 1914 letter from the Board regarding termination of a subsidised service;

16 Oct 1917 note of Castletown and Glengarriff services (the latter includes calls to Adrigole and Lawrence Cove);

4 Sep 1918, note of wages and bonuses to crew;

14 May 1919 notice of increase of rates and new schedule of rates for goods, including exceptional rates for stated items;

1 Jul 1919 letter to the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union regarding a wage increase, noting a loss in receipts and increase in working costs;

3 Jun 1927 (minutes of 10 May 1928) letter to Great Southern Railways forwarding particulars of Company vessels and its financial position, with a view to GSR assisting in winding up the Company or acquiring it.

**Ref.** B623/3 **Date:** 3 May 1903 - 5 Jun 1914

**Title:** Annual List and Summary (Shares)

**Level:** item

**Extent:** c60ff

**Scope and Content:**

Record of persons holding shares in the Company, and an account of the shares. The lists of shareholders for each year are followed by a list of company directors and a summary of capital and shares, both recorded under the Companies Acts.

**Ref.** B623/4 **Date:** 22 May 1925 - 12 Jun 1934

**Title:** Annual List and Summary (Shares)

**Level:** item

**Extent:** c60ff

**Scope and Content:**

Record of shareholders and Company information, similar to B623/3

**Ref.** B623/5 **Date:** 5 Jan 1899 - 5 Jan 1911

**Title:** Cash Book

**Level:** item

**Extent:** 604pp

**Scope and Content:**

Record of daily cash accounts of the Company (receipts and payments), noting date, amounts, and other details for each item. The volume used was printed for property valuation purposes, and in fact the first 31 pages contain entries giving descriptions, acreage, and valuation of property of which the landlord was the Earl of Bantry, c1883-1899. Entries appear to be by an agent, with descriptions referring to tenancies and recommendations regarding letting and rents. Countess Bantry is listed in Company records as a shareholder (B623/3 and B623/4).

**Ref.** B623/6 **Date:** 1883 - 1935

**Title:** File, Company Documents and Letters

**Level:** item

**Extent:** 6 items

**Scope and Content:**

File of Company documents and letters:

(1) Draft of Prospectus, Bantry Bay Steamship Company, Limited, 21 May 1883 (capital £3000, in 300 shares of £10 each);

(2) & (3) letters to Captains and to the National Sailors' and Firemens' Union, 1 Jul 1919 regarding a wage increase, noting in the former 'since the Military left Bere Island the Steamers have not been earning their working expenses';

(4) letter from Michael O'Shea, former director, 28 Apr 1922, referring to his disposal of Company shares and unfortunate personal circumstances, and requesting that the directors grant him a pension (with covering letter and envelope);

(5) 8 May 1924 [changed to 1926] proxy of the Cork Bandon and South Coast Railway Company, appointing proxies for the general meeting of shareholders to be held in Castletownbere on 24 May 1924;

(6) Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts, 3 May 1935 [directors: Col James M Sugrue (chairman), PJ Cullinan, DF MacCarthy, and Thomas Brennan, Secretary and General Manager: GS Henry]