

Cork City and County Archives

Descriptive List

Reference Code: IE CCCA/PR11
Title: Papers of TJ Clanchy (d.1897) & Family
Dates: 1860-1946 (1991)
Level of description: Fonds / Item
Extent: 48 items

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Context

Creator

Clanchy, T.J, (b1835-d1897) Cork butter merchant

Archival History

The papers of TJ Clanchy and his family were deposited at Cork Archives Institute by Sheila Murphy, his granddaughter, in 1991.

Biographical History

Timothy Joseph Clanchy, of ‘Sunville’, St Luke’s, Cork, was a prominent butter merchant, nationalist, and member of the local Catholic Establishment. Having worked in the butter trade, he set up his own business after his marriage in 1870, with assistance from his father-in-law, Edmund Slattery. His company, Munster Dairies, was successful, and Clanchy’s butters won many international prizes (PR11/34).

His position in society led naturally to an active role in the city’s public life. At various times, he served as a magistrate, as a member of Cork Harbour Board, and as a governor of Cork District Lunatic Asylum (PR11/48). He participated in many Catholic charities, including the Society of St Vincent de Paul (PR11/37). He was also very involved in nationalist politics, and was asked to run as a candidate for the Irish Parliamentary Party in the 1893 election (PR11/40). In the divisive period following the split in the Party in 1891-2, Clanchy was a supporter of TM Healy, who had opposed Parnell’s continued leadership and was the leader of one of the factions vying for control of the Party. Clanchy was also a supporter of the People’s Rights Association, set up by Healy to increase the independence and influence of constituency organisations within the Party.

Perhaps above all, TJ Clanchy was a family man who cared deeply for his children. He wrote verse and drew sketches for them, and wrote them affectionate letters (cf, PR11/18-20). His daughter Elizabeth (Lizzie) Clanchy, later Murphy, was the child of his first marriage, to Mary Anne (Marion) Slattery. Following Mary Anne’s death, he married again, to Ellen Slattery, apparently a cousin of his first wife (PR11/23). This second marriage produced sons Hugh and Edward and daughters Amy, Agnes, and Mary (May). TJ Clanchy died on 31 May 1897.

Content and Structure

Scope and Content

The collection is of interest in documenting both the family and the public lives of a prominent Cork figure in the later 19th century. The family papers, including legal documents, correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia, reveal the formal and informal ties connecting Clanchy’s large family. His daughter Elizabeth kept most of the collection together and passed it on to her daughter, Sheila Murphy. There are photographs of Clanchy’s son, Hugh, who served in the First World War, and of his daughter Mary, who became a nun in the Society of the Sacred Heart. Mary provided Sheila Murphy, her step-niece, with accounts of growing up in the Clanchy home at ‘Sunville’ (PR11/24). Clanchy himself seems to have written some light verse for publication, but most of his efforts, along with his own illustrations, were for the amusement of his children (PR11/32). These stand in contrast with more serious work, such as his book, *Ireland in the Twentieth Century*¹.

¹ TJ Clanchy, *Ireland in the Twentieth Century*, Dublin, 1892. In Cork Central Library, ref no 941.59 CLA.

While the collection contains some record of Clanchy's business, as well as his public and charitable work, it is the small volume of political correspondence, relating to the Irish Parliamentary Party in the 1890s, which is of most interest. The Irish Party in these years was riven by dissension. The split into Parnellite and Anti-Parnellite factions in 1891-92 was traumatic, creating a long-lasting division and ongoing bitterness. While the Anti-Parnellite group became the dominant one and retained the name of the Irish Party, factions continued to jostle for control of the party and its organisational machinery. Party debts and funds, including the 'Paris Fund' set up to assist evicted tenants, also became sources of dispute, as a letter to Clanchy from WJ Lane, the prominent Cork merchant, reveals (PR11/43).

The letters in the present collection shed light on a difficult Party Committee election in 1895 (PR11/45-47). They also include correspondence between Clanchy and Justin McCarthy, chairman of the Irish Party (PR11/42, 43). While he declined the invitation to run for parliament himself, Clanchy was clearly a loyal Party man, providing advice and financial assistance. Also present is a letter from TA O'Callaghan, Catholic bishop of Cork, regarding an election, hinting at the close involvement of the Catholic hierarchy in nationalist politics (PR11/44)².

Taken altogether, this small but interesting collection provides an insight into the social and political milieu of a Cork upper middle class family around the turn of twentieth century, as well as lovingly documenting its domestic life.

System of Arrangement:

SECTION A: Family and Private Papers

1. Legal Documents
2. Family and Private Correspondence
3. Family Tree, Reminiscences, and Memorabilia
4. Family Photographs
5. Poems and Drawings

SECTION B: Business, Public, and Political Papers

1. Business Papers
2. Public and Charitable Papers
3. Political Correspondence

SECTION C: Newspaper Cuttings on the Death of TJ Clanchy

Conditions of Access and Use:

Open by appointment to those holding a current readers ticket.

Archivists Note:

Timmy O Connor
Temporary Archivist, CCCA
May 2005

² On the Party in this period, see FSL Lyons, *The Irish Parliamentary Party, 1890-1910*, London, 1951. On the 'Paris Funds', see p23 and p28n. On Healy's People's Rights Association, see p63n.

List of Items and Descriptions

SECTION A

FAMILY & PRIVATE PAPERS

A1 Legal Documents

1. 25 February 1870

Copy Marriage Settlement between Timothy J. Clanchy and Mary A. Slattery

Parties: (1). TJ Clanchy
(2) Edmond Slattery and his daughter Mary Anne.
(3) Daniel Hegarty, pawn broker, and Patrick Moore, vintner, trustees

The bride's father agrees to pay a marriage portion of £2000 Stg, in consideration of which TJ Clanchy agrees to enter a bond of £4000 Stg in trust, with warrant of attorney for conferring judgement, in favour of Mary Anne and any children of the union.

Witnesses: Sara Louisa Slattery, J.C. Blake

3pp

2. 5 March 1874 (Copy dated 19 November 1898)

Copy will and codicil of Edmond Slattery, Shandon St, merchant, deceased.

Executors: James Hegarty, Sunday's Well, merchant; TJ Clanchy; William Hegarty, Paul St, friend; and Nicholas Burke, nephew.

Slattery leaves to his son-in-law, TJ Clanchy, in trust for his granddaughter Elizabeth Mary Clanchy, his linen, plate, £2000, and three houses on the Watercourse Road. Should she die unmarried, the houses are to be sold and the monies raised divided among Cork charities. To his grandnephews Nicholas Burke and Thomas Mockler he leaves £400 each and his interest in business premises in Shandon St. Slattery also leaves several smaller financial bequests to relatives, including £400 to TJ Clanchy. He leaves his estate and interest in houses in Well Lane and Peacock Lane to the Christian Brothers. He also makes bequests to hospitals, schools, and orphan asylums in the city, and leaves money for masses for the repose of his soul and those of his children.

In a codicil, dated 28 September 1875, it is stated that, in the event of his granddaughter dying unmarried, the £2000 bequeathed to her is to be divided among Cork charities as selected by the bishop of Cork.

3pp

3. 2 March 1878

Copy case submitted to A.M. Porter, Q.C., on behalf of TJ Clanchy, to advise and settle draft will. Submitted by Hone and Falkiner, Solicitors, 9, Suffolk St, Dublin. Reference is made to Clanchy's marriage settlement. It is explained he was engaged to Mary Ann Slattery for twelve months before the marriage and had discussed with her father his plans to set up in business. There was no mention of a settlement until a few days before the marriage. Clanchy consented to it as a mere formality without fully understanding it. It is contended that Mr Slattery never intended that the bond so created be claimed. It is noted that Mr Slattery made separate provision for his granddaughter in his will. Clanchy requires clarification of this issue prior to drafting his own will. Counsel's reply not present.

9pp

4. Undated [c. 1892]

Notes by TJ Clanchy concerning his marriage settlement and the bond of security he entered into as part of it. He discusses his business as a butter merchant and states his view that it would not be prudent to withdraw the amount of this bond from his business at present, as it "might cripple me afterwards and reduce the profits of the business". He adds "I do not feel called upon to carry out what is only a technical claim which neither he [Mr Slattery] nor I had full understanding of the meaning of".

1p

5. Undated [c. 1892]

"Note in reference to Settlement on my marriage with Lizzie's mother", by TJ Clanchy. He sets forth his view of the case as in other items above, and states "I think it is her [Lizzie, his daughter] duty...to discharge me from liability under that settlement and that she could not with justice enforce it". Undated [c. 1892].

1p

6. 27 April 1892

Letter from Hone and Falkiner, Solicitors, to TJ Clanchy, in reply to his concerning the marriage settlement of 1870. They state their view that Miss Clanchy is entitled to the £2000. He is advised to obtain an acquittance of the sum itself and all future interest. Or, if it is to remain in his hands, he is advised to make some arrangement. Reference is made to his proposed visit the following week.

2pp

7. 6 June 1899

Draft Marriage Settlement between Edmond Murphy and Elizabeth Mary Clanchy.

Parties: (1) Dr Edmond Murphy, No 47, South Mall, Cork
(2) Elizabeth Mary Clanchy, 'Sunville', St Luke's, Cork
(3) John George McCarthy, Parkview Tce, Cork, and James Murphy, 29, Upper Mount St, Dublin, trustees

A schedule details stocks, shares and other securities in the name of Elizabeth Mary Clanchy. These are to be placed upon trusts, and income from their investment paid to Elizabeth for her separate use. There is further provision for holding of the capital and income in trust for issue of the marriage. Provision is also made allowing the couple to raise a loan against the trust if required. Murphy agrees to make provision in his will for property of at least £4000 value to pass to Elizabeth on his death.

9pp

8. 27 November 1916

Copy of Marriage Settlement of Edmond Murphy and Elizabeth Mary Clanchy, with attached Deed of Appointment of new trustees. Daniel Murphy, 13, St Mary's Rd South, Dublin, and John J. Hanton, 47, South Mall, Cork, are appointed in place of John George McCarthy and James Murphy, both deceased. Includes a schedule of stocks, shares and debts held in trust.

4pp. Parchment

9. 6 June 1899

Promissory note by TJ Clanchy & Co., promising to pay Elizabeth Mary Clanchy, on demand, £500 Stg value received with interest at the rate of 4 pounds 10 shillings per cent per annum till paid.

1p

10. 7 June 1899

Promissory note from Edmond Murphy and Elizabeth Mary Murphy to pay on demand or order to John George McCarthy and James Murphy the sum of £816 Stg, for value received.

1p

11. 28 June 1909

Promissory note from Edmond and Elizabeth Mary Murphy to pay to James Murphy the sum of £300 10s Stg. A further note admits they are indebted to Mr Murphy in the sum of £816 Stg.

1p

12. 19 January 1916

Letter from M. Dillon & Son, Stockbrokers, to James Murphy, 40, North Great George's St, Dublin, acknowledging his cheque for £100 for investment in inscribed 5% Exchequer Bonds.

1p

13. 20 January 1916

Signed statement by Edmond Murphy and Elizabeth Mary Murphy, admitting they are indebted to James Murphy in the sums of £816 and £300 10 s.

1p

14. 30 September 1916

Typed letter from Maxwell, Weldon & Co., Solicitors, Dublin, to Messrs John Stanton & Sons, Solicitors, Cork, forwarding deeds relating to the appointment of new trustees to the marriage settlement of Dr Edmond Murphy.

1p

15. Draft of schedule included in deed of appointment of new trustees to the marriage settlement of Edmond Murphy and Elizabeth Mary Clanchy. [See PR11/8, above].

1p

16. Schedule of deeds in the case of Carroll and others to Dr Edmond Murphy. Undated. Deeds listed range from 1791 to 1907.

1p

17. Draft statement of value of rents relating to the representatives of a Mrs Leckenby. [Seems to relate to the appointment of new trustees]. Unsigned, undated.

1p

A2 Family and Private Correspondence

18. 21 February 1880

Letter from TJ Clanchy to Lizzie [Elizabeth Mary, his daughter], telling her of his visit to family in Dublin.

4pp

19. 13 December 1889

Letter from TJ Clanchy to Lizzie, speaking of the illnesses of her grandfather and Aunt Bessie, and enquiring about domestic matters.

4pp

20. 23 December 1889

Letter from Clanchy to “My Dear Children”, thanking them for their letters and cards. He states “there is no greater consolation to a parent than the love of good and dutiful children”.

4pp

21. Christmas 1916

New year’s greeting card from Hugh Clanchy (son of TJ Clanchy), “In the field”, on stationery of the 73rd Light Trench Mortar Battery.

22. 19 October 1880

Letter from DF Giltinan, Corporation of Cork, to TJ Clanchy, acknowledging receipt of lodgement made to Cemetery Fund and granting permission for erection of a monument at his plot at St Finbarr’s Cemetery. He notes the monument is not to exceed three feet in height, and that further permission would be required for a larger monument. Receipt also present.

3 items

A3 Family Tree, Reminiscences, and Memorabilia

23. [23 January 1991]

“Ancestors, Descendants & Family Members of Edmund Slattery (1792-1876), Skin and Hide Merchant, 5, Shandon St, Cork”. The family tree begins with Edmund’s grandfather, Edward, and ends with his great-granddaughters, the latest-born of whom, Sheila Anne Murphy, was born in 1904. A note states that “the papers are not clear” on certain relationships.

1p

24. [1945-46]

Reminiscences of the Clanchy family.

(1) Notes on TJ Clanchy and his family by Mary Clanchy, Sacred Heart Nun, Mount Anvil, Dublin, daughter of Clanchy by his second marriage. In a covering note dated 30 December 1946, Mary forwards the notes to her step-niece, Sheila Murphy, as requested. Two copies of Mary’s notes are present. Also present is a newspaper cutting regarding Francisco Lopez of Paraguay and his Irish wife Eliza Lynch, whom, a marginal note states, was “a great-grandaunt” [of whom is not specified].

(2) “Memories of life at Sunville”, by Mrs Anita Daly, nee McCarthy, neighbour of the Clanchys. She recollects childhood friendships around the turn of the century, in particular her friendship with Mary Clanchy. [c. 1945].

25. Undated

Letter from Mary Clanchy to Lizzie (her step-sister), discussing family members and speaking of her life.

5pp

26. Undated

Copy of prayer copied by Elizabeth Mary Clanchy from an original in her mother’s (Mary Anne Clanchy, nee Slattery) handwriting. The prayer relates to impending matrimony. Dated June 20th [year not given].

3pp

27. [1890s]

Small note book (of TJ Clanchy), containing rough notes in a tiny hand. Notes include names and addresses, prices, travel information, notes on research (mainly into the Tudor period), quotations from books and papers. Undated [1890s]. Fragile.

A4 Family Photographs

28. [1860s-1910s]

Bundle of photographs of TJ Clanchy and his family

- (1) Envelope containing 3 portrait photos of TJ Clanchy and one of his wife, Mary Anne. A note on the reverse of one portrait of TJ Clanchy suggests a date in the early 1860s.
- (2) Envelope containing a photo of Marion (Mary Anne) Clanchy and a photo of her sister, Sarah Slattery. There is a note on the reverse of the second photo by Elizabeth Murphy, nee Clanchy, daughter and niece respectively to these women. No date.
- (3) Envelope containing two portrait photos of Elizabeth Clanchy as a child.
- (4) Envelope containing 4 portrait photos of May (Mary) Clanchy, step-sister of Elizabeth.
- (5) Envelope containing 2 portrait photos of Hugh Clanchy (son of TJ Clanchy), 2nd Leinster Regiment, 1914, in uniform. Also, one photo of him in civilian dress, marked "Hugh at Ramsgate" [undated].
- (6) 2 photographs of the interior of Clanchy's home at Sunville, St Luke's, Cork. One shows the drawing room, the other the foot and part of the main staircase [and entrance to room]. Also present are photocopies of these photographs and of 2 other photographs, showing an internal archway and the conservatory. Many ornamental items, pieces of furniture, paintings, and photographs may be seen. [Undated]

A5 Poems and Drawings by TJ Clanchy

29. [4 August 1918]

3 copies of a poem by TJ Clanchy beginning 'May life like a flower that opens before you'. One copy, dated Christmas Eve, 1895, is signed from 'Pappy' to 'Lizzie' (Elizabeth Mary, his daughter). This copy is torn down the middle. The other two copies, one of which is dated 4 August 1918, are directed by Elizabeth to her daughters Marjorie and Sheila Murphy, with a note of dedication.

30. [1890s]

3 poems by TJ Clanchy. All undated.

- (1) Printed poem, entitled 'The Bounding Brothers', with a note on the reverse by Clanchy explaining that the brothers of the title are the political figures, John and William Redmond.
- (2) Ms poem, entitled 'The Bell Buoy', beginning 'There's a bell that is always tolling'. Includes an illustration by Clanchy, and a marginal note [by a publisher].

- (3) Draft ms poem, entitled 'The Garden Gossips', beginning 'Listen to the twitter of the sparrows'.

31. [1991]

Notes on 'Poems and Drawings by TJ Clanchy of Sunville, Cork (c. 1895-1897)'. Present are a note on the title and a rough list of poem titles and illustrations. May refer to the 'Drawings Book', below.

3pp

32. [1890s]

'Drawings Book', containing humorous poems, rhymes, and drawings by TJ Clanchy. The title page gives the title 'Solomon Pry and Others', referring to the characters to which the rhymes and drawings relate. Pages are interleaved with gauze.

c. 40pp

33. [1880s-90s]

9 cards containing rhymes and illustrations by TJ Clanchy, many with a Christmas theme. The rhymes and drawings are the same as some of those contained in the 'Drawings Book'. One card is dated 1883.

9 items

SECTION B

BUSINESS, PUBLIC, & POLITICAL PAPERS

B1 Business Papers

34a. 4 February 1901

Memorandum from TJ Clanchy & Co., Great Munster Dairies, Cork, to J.G. McCarthy, Court House, Cork, sending by bearer cash for £116-13s-4d to pay off £100 out of a sum advanced with ten months interest at four per cent per annum on £500. Signed by Joseph A Hastings on behalf of the company. The memorandum is headed by an advertisement noting "Medals & Distinctions Gained by Clanchy's Butter".

1p

PR11/

34b. 8 August 1903

Photocopy of Memorandum from TJ Clanchy & Co., Great Munster Dairies, Cork, to J.G. McCarthy, Cork, forwarding a cheque. The memorandum is headed by an advertisement noting "Medals & Distinctions Gained by Clanchy's Butter". An ms note states that the Gold Medal, Barcelona 1888, is now in Cork Museum.

1p

35. 3 May 1905

Printed statement of affairs of Messrs TJ Clanchy & Co. The statement lists assets and liabilities. Both amount to £6597 14s 11d.

1p

B2 Public and Charitable Offices

36. [March 1888]

Letter from City Sheriff's Office to TJ Clanchy, requesting his attendance as foreman of the Grand Jury at the ensuing assizes on 15 March 1888.

1p

37. 24 January 1878

Letter from John Murphy, President, Society of St Vincent de Paul, Council of Cork, to TJ Clanchy, informing him of his selection as one of the vice-presidents of the new Conference of St Patrick's. Also present is a draft of Clanchy's reply accepting the post. Addressed to Clanchy at 2, Mount Verdon Terrace.

2 items

B3 Political Correspondence

38. 20 June 1893

Letter from TM Healy, MP, to TJ Clanchy, asking him, at the request of the Committee of the Irish Parliamentary Party, to stand for the South-east Cork constituency.

2pp

39. [21 June 1893]

Telegram from TJ Clanchy to TM Healy, MP, stating "Exceedingly regret, quite impossible for me at present. Thank Committee of Party".

40. 22 June 1893

Letter from TJ Clanchy to TM Healy, MP, regretfully declining the unanimous request of the Party Committee that he stand for the South-east Cork constituency.

2pp

41. 26 May 1894

Letter from Justin McCarthy, MP, to TJ Clanchy, appealing for financial assistance to fund parliamentary attendance by Irish Party members of the Commons. He notes that depressions in the United States and Australia “have shut off temporarily several of our ordinary sources of revenue”. For now, he adds, “we must rely on the Irish people to maintain that efficiency of our Party on which depend the existence of the present Government and the hopes of our Irish National cause”. Enclosed is a cutting from the Freeman’s Journal of 29 May 1894, containing a copy of Clanchy’s reply to this appeal. He forwards £5 (“all I can afford in the face of incessant and almost innumerable public calls”). He urges the commencement of a public subscription list.

2 items

42. 4 June 1894

Letter from Justin McCarthy, MP, to TJ Clanchy, thanking him for his subscription. He adds “I thought your suggestion [the commencement of a public subscription list] an excellent one, and therefore to [sic] the liberty of sending your letter to the Freeman”.

1p

43. 21 December 1894

Letter from WJ Lane, merchant, to TJ Clanchy, regarding a writ for £2101 served on him in respect of a Mr Horgan’s claim on “the Paris Funds re Ponsonby Costs”. [The ‘Paris Fund’ was managed by the Irish Party to assist tenants evicted during the Land War. Control of the Fund became a source of contention after the split in the Party in 1891-2]. Lane asks that the Cork branch of the Irish National Federation [the Party’s organisation] protest against “this high-handed action of Dublin”. He asserts “it is a gross scandal to say that a private individual...should be victimised for the costs of the greatest national land fight of the country”.

5pp

44. 2 February 1895

Letter from TA O’Callaghan (Catholic Bishop of Cork), to TJ Clanchy, regarding a forthcoming election which, he states, “I shall attend without fail”.

2pp

45. 7 May 1895

Letter from TM Healy, MP, to TJ Clanchy, stating “I will see what I can do”, in reference to some matter raised in a letter by Clanchy [not present]. He remarks “The Land Bill is very good indeed”.

2pp

46. 20 August 1895

Letter from A. Donelan, House of Commons, to TJ Clanchy, acknowledging receipt of his telegram and apologising for delay in replying. He notes [in reference to the election of the Party Committee], “all cause for visitation has been removed; peace, harmony, and natural good will, may prevail in the future”.

2pp

47. 21 August 1895

Letter from Maurice Healy, House of Commons, to TJ Clanchy, regarding the election of the Committee of the Party. He speaks of the difficulties of the election, but adds “the result...has...been excellent...and I really think that we are now in for a period of peace and quietness”.

3pp

SECTION C

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS ON THE DEATH OF TJ CLANCHY

48. May-June 1897

Envelope containing newspaper cuttings reporting on the death and funeral of TJ Clanchy. Clanchy died on 31 May 1897. Reports note his involvement in nationalist politics, and his support of the People’s Rights Association. He was involved in many Catholic charities. He was a member of Cork Harbour Board, and was also a magistrate, and a governor of Cork District Lunatic Asylum. Chief mourners at the funeral were his brother, MJ Clanchy, and his son, Hugh M Clanchy. The cuttings were grouped together by his daughter Elizabeth.

9 items