

# Brother Allen Deposit (O’Connell Papers)

Ref. IE CCCA/U4

## Descriptive List

### Cork City and County Archives

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## Identity Statement

Reference Code:	IE CCCA/U4
Title:	Brother Allen Deposit (O'Connell Papers)
Dates:	1772 – 1895 (1952)
Level of description:	Artificial Fonds
Extent:	13 items

## Context

### Creator(s)

### Archival History

The items comprising this artificial collection were donated by WP Allen, Christian Brothers, O'Connell School, North Richmond Street, Dublin, in late 1974. A correspondence began between Allen and Ann Barry, Archivist, Cork Archives Council, regarding the McCrohan letter (U4/1), and, while searching for this elusive item, Allen came across the other items present, all of which were sent to Barry between September and December 1974, and accessioned in late 1974 and early 1975.

### Administrative / Biographical History

The collection is artificial, and while some items relate to each other, the principal connection is that they all came from a single donor over a limited period. Many of the items, however, have a connection to the O'Connells of Derrynane, Co Kerry, the family of Daniel O'Connell (1775-1847), 'The Liberator', champion of Catholic Emancipation and repeal of the Act of Union between Ireland and Britain.

The first item, U4/1 (1777), is addressed to Maurice Connell at Derrynane. This would appear to be Maurice 'Hunting Cap' O'Connell, uncle of Daniel. Two of the children of Charles Bianconi (1776-1875; U4/3, 4), the transport pioneer, married relatives of O'Connell, his son Charles marrying a granddaughter and his daughter Mary Anne marrying a nephew, Morgan John O'Connell (U4/8-10). Morgan's mother was a sister of William Coppinger (1779-1863) of Barry's Court, whose estates Morgan inherited, including one at Ballylean, Co Clare (U4/5-7)<sup>1</sup>. The John O'Connell to whom item U4/11 is directed would appear to be a nephew of Daniel.

Cornelius O'Mahony referred to in U4/1 and U4/2 was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Spanish service. Payment of inheritance from him to his nieces and nephews in Ireland was executed by Dermitius, Count O'Mahony (b1702), Spanish ambassador at the court in Vienna, with the assistance of Robert French, Cork agent of Maurice O'Connell<sup>2</sup>.

The final two items do not appear to have an O'Connell connection. U4/12 is a letter by Isaac Butt (1813-79), Home Rule leader, regarding a major meeting in 1869 on the Irish land question. U4/13 is a copy of the findings of the inquisition into the death of John Twiss, hanged in Cork in 1895. Twiss, from Castleisland, Co Kerry, imprisoned for agrarian violence in 1879 and regarded as a 'Moonlighter', was convicted of the killing of James Donovan, a landlord's representative, in Glenlara, near Newmarket, in 1894. The inquest, and the finding that magisterial enquiries were made in the gaol without Twiss's legal advisor being present, were discussed in the House of Commons in February 1895. The affair is remembered in the song 'The Ballad of John Twiss'<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *Inside Their World*, exhibition catalogue by Marita Foster, Cork Archives Institute (now CCCA), Cork, 1992. This catalogue contains a biographical note and selected list of documents relating to the younger William Coppinger (1779-1863) in the Exham Flynn Solicitors Papers (CCCA/U229).

<sup>2</sup> Rev Can John O'Mahony, 'A History of The O'Mahony Septs of Kinelmeky and Ivagha', *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society*, 1906-10 (published separately in Cork, 1912. Cf [www.tommahony.com](http://www.tommahony.com)); [www.fr.geneawiki.com/index.php/Famille\\_O'Mahony](http://www.fr.geneawiki.com/index.php/Famille_O'Mahony)

<sup>3</sup> O'Riordan, Manus, 'The Ballingearry Moolighting Case of 1894', *Ballingearry Historical Society Journal*, 2000 (Cf [www.ballingearryhs.com](http://www.ballingearryhs.com)); footnote 43, p80 in Kelly, MJ, *The Fenian Ideal and Irish Nationalism 1882-1916* (Woodbridge, 2006); <http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1895/feb/14/the-execution-of-john-twiss>; for the ballad, see: <http://www.limerickcity.ie/media/songs%20of%20agrarian%20strife.pdf>

## Content & Structure

### Scope & Content

The scope of this collection is mixed and partial, but it relates to many aspects of Irish social and political history in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

U4/1, a 1777 letter from Jerry McCrohan to Maurice Connell, and including a copy of a legal letter relating to the O'Mahonys of Kilmichael, concerns both the butter trade and commercial and family connections with continental Europe. U4/2 also relates to this O'Mahony family.

U4/3, a letter to Charles Bianconi from a poet seeking patronage, sheds some light both on his fame and his political outlook, while U4/4 documents the financial difficulties of his son.

U4/5-7 are connected by reference to the Coppinger family and to property in Co Clare. Morgan John O'Connell inherited lands in Clare from his uncle William Coppinger, and these papers may have come to him with that inheritance.

U4/8-10 relate to Morgan John O'Connell himself, and particularly to his bankruptcy in 1854. U4/8 relates to his removal from the office of Justice of the Peace for Co Kerry in 1844, perhaps owing to his declining circumstances. U4/9-10 illustrate the bankruptcy process of the time.

U4/11, a letter to John O'Connell in France in 1848 from Charles Sugrue, Cork, contains fascinating references to the Young Ireland rebellion then underway and Sugrue's views on it. O'Connell's financial arrangements and difficulties are also discussed.

U4/12, a letter from Isaac Butt in 1869 regarding a national meeting involving the Irish Tenant League on the Irish land question, is an important record of the beginning of joint agrarian and national political action in this period.

Agrarian action, more particularly violence, provides the context for the final item present, a copy of the findings of the inquest into the death of John Twiss, hanged at Cork in 1895 for an agrarian murder. The views of the coroner and jurors reflect their political outlook and their attitude to the Crown's handling of such cases.

Many of the items in some measure relate to the O'Connells of Derrynane, Co Kerry, and will be of interest to students of that family and of Daniel O'Connell. The O'Mahony family material, relating to Lt Col Cornelius O'Mahony of the Spanish army, is also of genealogical interest. The records of Morgan John O'Connell and his Coppinger connections complement other Coppinger records held in CCCA. Bianconi, Butt, and Twiss are all figures of interest in different ways, each of them in a sense echoing political themes associated with O'Connell. The political and social interests of Irish Catholics, especially in Cork and Kerry, and their financial difficulties, are recurring themes throughout this varied and significant artificial collection.

### System of Arrangement

The collection was originally arranged and numbered in 1975 following processing of the items in several accessions. It was reviewed in 2012, with the arrangement largely retained, with the following exceptions. Items 5-7, relating to Coppinger interests in Co Clare, were rearranged into chronological order. Items U4/8-10, relating to Morgan John O'Connell, were rearranged into chronological order. Items U4/12 and 13 were reversed in order, the present U4/13, the Twiss inquisition of 1895, being the latest nineteenth century item present.

U4/1-2	O'Mahony, O'Connell, McCrohan items, 1776-7, 1952
U4/3-4	Charles Bianconi items, 1843, 1863
U4/5-7	Coppinger interests in Co Clare, 1772, 1810, 1827
U4/8-10	Morgan John O'Connell items, 1844, 1854
U4/11	Charles Sugrue Letter to John O'Connell, 1848
U4/12	Isaac Butt letter, 1869
U4/13	Inquisition findings on the death of John Twiss, 1895

### Conditions of Access & Use

**Access:** Open by appointment to those holding a current reader's ticket

**Language:** English

**Finding Aids:** Descriptive List

**Physical/Tech Requirements:**

## Allied Materials:

### Related Material:

#### CCCA:

- U405 Coppinger of Barryscourt, Letters, 1740-1843
- U229 O'Flynn Exham Solicitors Papers (includes many Coppinger items)
- 89/7 Brother Allen Typescripts (Two bound volumes of typescripts of notes by the donor of U4, Brother Allen, relating to the parishes of Enniskeane and Desertserges and to Catholic Qualification rolls 1775-1800 for Cork City and County)
- U611 Denny Lane Papers (Lane a leading Young Irelander; his arrest in 1848 mentioned in U4/11)
- SM621 White Letter, 1906 (referring to Daniel O'Connell and to agrarian unrest and 'Moonlighting' in Co Limerick)

#### Elsewhere:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| National Library of Ireland | O'Connell Papers (various manuscripts, including Mss 13646 and Collection List 155) |
|                             | Isaac Butt Papers (various manuscripts, including Ms. 8706)                         |
|                             | Ms 5911      Brief for the crown in the trial of... John Twiss... 1895              |
| University College Dublin   | IE UCDA P12      Daniel O'Connell Papers  |

## Rules or Conventions Used:

ISADG

## Archivist's Note:

Timmy O Connor

Local Government Archivist, CCCA

January 2012

## Descriptive List of Items

1. 18 April 1777

Letter from Jerry McCrohan to Maurice Connell 'at Darrinane Near Tralee' [Derrynane], sending information on the weight and quality of 24 firkins of butter received on 18 March. He refers to present poor prices and his being obliged to ship many firkins to England. He also comments on the arrival of a cargo of butter from Dunkirk at Glengarriff. He remarks 'I am thinking Mr Kean Mahony will find a bad account of his butter which he left here in the hands of Mr Taylor and is still unsold'. On the facing page is a copy by McCrohan of the weigh house note regarding the 24 firkins.

Also present on the reverse is a copy of an acknowledgement by the nephews and nieces 'in our quality of heirs' of the late Lieut Col Cornelius O'Mahony 'deceased in the Spanish service' acknowledging receipt from His Excellency Count O' Mahony by the hands of Master French, Cork, of ninety pounds sterling, which, together with sums already transmitted, makes the full amount of their inheritance, receipts for the payments having been signed on 19 Nov 1776. The copy acknowledgement is followed by an unsigned note dated 18 April 1777 [by McCrohan] to 'Dear Sir' [Maurice Connell] stating that the foregoing 'is a real copy taken from Mr French'. It concludes 'I believe they [ie, the heirs] live in or about the parish of Kilmichael'. The names of the heirs who signed the acknowledgement are as follows: Cornelius O'Mahony; Kean O'Mahony [referred to in McCrohan's letter]; Edward Parks 'for the son of Mortagh O'Mahony' [Cornelius]; Elizabeth O'Mahony; Mary O'Mahony; Tim McCarthy; and Elinor O'Mahony. 4pp

[Both the original document and a photocopy by the Photographic Department of the National Library of Ireland, dated 3 Oct 1953, are present]

2. 19 July 1952

Letter in Irish from Diarmuid Ua Mathgámhna [Jeremiah O'Mahony,], Baile an Chaisleáin, Inis Céin, Co Corcaí, to 'A bhráthair dilis' [Brother WP Allen], showing his family connection with Cian, nephew of Lieut Col Cornelius O'Mahony. 2pp

[In a letter accompanying the deposit of this item, Bro Allen states that Jeremiah O'Mahony is a national teacher, and describes him as 'the historian of West Cork'].

## 3. Undated [29 November 1843]

Letter from John Burke 'Connaught Bard' to Charles Bianconi, seeking the latter's approval to his name being associated with Burke's present work in progress. The letter contains three poems, the first an acrostic on the name Charles Bianconi, with the preamble 'The Harp Awake to patriotism in the glorious cause of repeal/ tunes in rapturous notes to the distinguished name of Charles Bianconi', and the opening line 'Charm'd with his conduct Ireland must admire'. The next, a four-line poem beginning 'Fam'd Charles Bianconi justly excel', follows the main body of the letter and a note by Burke on his 'work in progress', stating 'subscription towards printing not particularized here'. The last poem, given as a post script, begins 'The Bard has got so rich perchance', and consists of five stanzas, each concluding with a refrain ending '...on your car!' [referring to the Bianconi long car, a form of public transport between Ireland's cities and large towns operated by Bianconi from his base in Clonmel]. Following this poem is a note by William Fahy, Abby Convent, Loughrea, dated 29 Nov 1843, stating 'I know Mr Burke and deem him worthy of Mr Bianconi's kind attention'. 3pp

## 4. 25 August 1863

Bankrupt's Summons calling on Charles Bianconi the Younger to surrender himself to a commissioner of the Court of Bankruptcy at a public sitting on 13 Oct 1863 in London. Bianconi lodged a petition for adjudication of bankruptcy on 6 Aug 1863. On the reverse of the summons are signed and dated statements of the court. The first, dated 25 Oct 1863, states that Bianconi having surrendered himself is protected from arrest and imprisonment until 30 Oct next. A statement of 30 Oct extends this protection until 7 Jan 1864. 2pp

## 5. 11 July 1810

Royal writ in the name of George III ordering John Thrustout to deliver unto Richard Nugent full possession of lands in the barony of Clanderlaw, Co Clare, lawfully let to Nugent and forcibly taken from him by Thrustout. It is recited that the lands of Lessvoraheen, Clanderlaw, Co Clare, were let to Nugent by William Coppinger of Barry's Court, Cork, and his wife, and by Walter Kavanagh, for a term of eleven years to run from 1 May 1810. Nugent took possession on 2 May 1810 but was expelled on 3 May 'with force and arms to whit with swords clubs and soforth'. Thrustout is to attest to the execution of the writ before the King's Courts, Dublin, on All Souls Day. The writ is witnessed by Standish O'Grady, Chief Baron of the Exchequer. On the reverse is a sheriff's note empowering two men to execute the writ. There is also a note stating that it was executed on 13 August 1810. 2pp

## 6. 19 July 1827

Letter from Coppinger McMahan, Cork, to FR Murray, Provincial Bank of Ireland, instructing him to pay Mrs Broadway of Cobh, or the bearer, Eight Pounds Six Shillings and Two Pence Sterling, to be charged to his account. Stamped as paid on 23 July 1827. The names 'Mary Broadway' and 'Catherine Norris' are noted on the reverse. 2pp

[The paper is marked as being of Irish manufacture.]

7. 9 December 1772

Bond entered into by Donatus MacMahon, Clenagh, Co Clare, binding himself unto William Mumford, Stoke, Norfolk, in the sum of Two Hundred and Forty Pounds. 1p

8. 26 June 1844

Royal writ in the name of Queen Victoria, removing Morgan John O'Connell, Grenna, Killarney, Co Kerry, from the office of Justice of the Peace for Co Kerry. Witnessed by the Lord Lieutenant, Thomas Philip Earl de Grey. 1p

9. 12 April 1854

Attested Copy of Petition of Morgan John O'Connell, late of Lakeview, Killarney, Co Kerry, and formerly of other addresses recited, to the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors, seeking discharge from custody and liberty of his person. It is stated that he is now a prisoner for debt in Tralee Gaol at the suit of John Charles O'Reardon for the sum of £420 16s 6d, and that he was first arrested on 10 April. He expresses his willingness to having his estate and effects vested in the provisional assignee of the court. Witnessed by Martin Crean, Governor. On the reverse is a Form of Retainer and Acceptance, dated 13 April, by which John MacNally accepts the retainer to act as O'Connell's attorney. There is also a Form of Prison Certificate certifying to O'Connell's committal and continued custody, and that there is no other detainer against him, signed by the governor. 2pp

10. 13 April 1854

Certified Copy of Order of the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors in Ireland, vesting the estate and effects of Morgan John O'Connell, Lakeview, Killarney, Co Kerry, in Christopher Hume Lawder, provisional assignee of the court. 2pp

11. 2 August 1848

Copy letter from Charles Sugrue, Cork, to John O'Connell, care of Abbe Grattan, Tourville, Port au de Mer, Department de L'Eure, France, forwarding a bill of the Provincial Bank on Spooner Attwoods & Co, London Bankers, for Thirty Pounds, the balance remaining in Sugrue's hands of the amount of O'Connell's club shares. He refers to applying to the chancellor for an allowance and asks for an accurate list of simple creditors with a view to obtaining a letter of license [a letter signed by creditors agreeing not to seek his arrest]. He asks after O'Connell's health and that of 'dear Catherine' and then refers to 'the terrible state of alarm' in Ireland. He states that this is owing 'to the insurrectionary movements of some of the Young Irelanders', and notes that habeas corpus has been suspended and that rewards are offered for the arrest of Smith O'Brien, Meagher, and O'Gorman. He adds that Denny Lane, Michael Joseph Barry, '& 4 or 5 other respectable citizens/heads of clubs' were arrested today. He remarks 'it is now people who, were before opposed to the dear

Liberator's "moral force" agitation acknowledge the wisdom and the policy of it'. He adds 'their conduct has been the cause, I very much fear of crushing liberty and the free expression of opinion in this country for many years to come'. 1p

12. 29 November 1869

Letter from Isaac Butt, Dublin, 'most earnestly' inviting the unnamed recipient to a meeting to be held on 14 December, at which members of the Irish Tenant League are to attend. He notes that he calls this meeting 'under circumstances that are calculated to create the [deepest anxiety] not only for the cause of the tenantry of Ireland but for the general interests of the country'. He writes 'I trust you will agree with me that the discussions of the Irish land question have now reached a point at which it is of the utmost importance that the opinions of the Irish tenant farmers should be authoritatively expressed'. He stresses the value of a strong, organised body such as the league in representing the interests of tenant farmers. He remarks 'in uniting together the varying elements of opinion we can I am persuaded reconcile or prevent those differences and dissensions which bring weakness to any national effort. We may with God's blessing be able to give a direction and popular feeling which may guide our country through those perils the greatness and imminence of which it is impossible not to perceive'. He ends by suggesting the recipient give notice of the meeting to friends and neighbours 'who though not members of the league may be prepared to cooperate with us in the objects we have in view'. 3pp

13. 9 February 1895

Printed Copy of findings of an Inquisition into the death of John Twiss, held on 9 February 1895. It was found, by a jury of 19 named men, that Twiss died in Cork male prison as a result of hanging, in obedience to a sentence of death pronounced on 9 January by the Lord Chief Baron. The jury express their belief in Twiss's innocence, that they regard 'holding private magisterial enquiries in the gaol, and in the absence of the prisoner's legal advisor, highly prejudicial to the interests of justice', and that 'the system by which police officials are allowed to interrogate and tamper with prisoners awaiting trial' be considered. Witnessed by MJ Horgan, Coroner, and twelve of the jurors. 1p