

Cork City and County Archives

Descriptive List

Identity Statement

Reference Code:	IE CCCA/YTR/B
Title:	Council Books of the Corporation of Youghal
Dates:	1610-1659, 1666-87, 1690-1705, 1711-1718, 1719 -1840
Level of description:	Series / Item
Extent:	4 items

Context

Creator(s):

Youghal Corporation

Archival History

The Youghal town records, consisting of the records of Youghal Corporation, Town Commissioners and Urban District Council, including the present series, were transferred to the Archives by Youghal Urban District Council from 1973-1988.

Administrative & Biographical History

The town and sea -port of Youghal dates back to the 13th century and consisted of almost 12,000 inhabitants in 1837. The ancient Corporation of Youghal, styling themselves "The Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses and Commonality of the Town of Youghal" recognised their authority to govern locally from the charter of James I of 1609-10. In c.1830 Commissioners for Lighting and Cleansing were elected, under the Lighting of Towns (Ireland) Act 1828, and were responsible for lighting streets (including the gas works), appointing watchmen, cleansing and sweeping the streets, wells, water supply, fire engines, closing of dangerous grates, cellars etc., naming of streets and numbering of houses. Commissioner costs were met by rates on property worth over £5. As a chartered Borough, Youghal Borough supplied 2 members ('Burgesses') to the Irish Parliament up to the Act of Union and thereafter 1 member to the Westminster parliament. Electors were originally the Corporation and Freeman but this was revised to include £10 housholders and to exclude non-resident Freeman in 1832, possibly under the Representation of the People (Ireland) Act 1832. A new extended borough boundary was made in 1832, under the Parliamentary Boundaries (Ireland) Act 1832. Thereafter Youghal Borough elected mainly Liberal and later Home Rule candidates. An unreformed and unrepresentative body by the advent of the 19th Century, Youghal Corporation's authority and dominance was undermined by the Irish Reform Act of 1836 and the Corporation was finally abolished by the Municipal Corporations Act of 1840. Youghal was created an Urban Sanitary Authority in 1879 under the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878. In 1895 Youghal adopted the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act 1854 thus Town Commissioners were elected replacing those of the 1828

Act. Under the 1898 Local Government Act, the Youghal Town Commissioners, like all urban sanitary authorities, became an Urban District Council.

Content & Structure

Scope & Content

Minute books recording the proceedings and decisions of the Council of the Corporation meeting in General Assembly, Court of D'Oyer Hundred, Court of Common Council, Court of Election, and General Quarter Sessions of the Peace.

In the first volume, 'Folio A', the 2nd section in particular does not seem to have been extensively transcribed by Richard Caulfield. The 1st section is largely, but not always, transcribed verbatim by Richard Caulfield.

(See List of Items and Descriptions below)

Arrangement

Items are arranged in chronological order.

1. 14 Sep 1610 – 11 Jan 1659
2. 20 Oct 1666 - 1687; 1690-1 Jun 1705; 6 Jul 1711 – 14 Jan 1718
3. 29 June 1719 - 21 Sep 1816.
4. 24 Sep 1816 – 25 Oct 1840 (1860)

Conditions of Access & Use

Access: Open by appointment to those holding a current readers ticket.

Language: English, some Latin in the title paragraphs in items 1 and 2

Script: Secretary hand in earlier volumes

Finding Aids: Descriptive List

Allied Materials:

Related Material

CCCA:

Other series in Youghal Corporation records including charters, poll books, mayoralty correspondence, leases and deeds, legal records.

Youghal Town Commissioners / Youghal Urban District Council (including material inherited from Youghal Corporation)

Elsewhere:

National Library of Ireland: MS.9579, and Lismore Papers, MS.7162

Publication Note:

Richard Caulfield LLD FSA '*The Council Book of the Corporation of Youghal 1600-1659, 1666-1687, 1690-1800*' (1878)

Archivists Note:

Brian McGee
Archivist, CCCA
September 2010

List of Items and Descriptions

1. 14 Sep 1610 – 11 Jan 1659

Marked 'Folio A'

Includes:

Oaths of various officials, including the Mayor, Recorder, Constables, Attorneys, Freemen, Sargent, Porters, Baliffs (pp1-8).

1st section: (c.718pp): Details the proceedings and decisions of Council meetings, often as the 'Court of D'Oyer Hundred', 1610-1659.

Such as; presentment of the grand jury, list of names of the shoemakers and broguemakers, butchers, weavers, tailors, tuckers, carpenters and chandlers, '...that have transgressed the Statutes of this towne'. (18th January 1610).

Ordered that all freemen who refuse to bear their part of all lawful charges shall be disfranchised of their freedoms, excepting noblemen, knights and esquires. (30 Jun 1626)

Notice to the Corporaion to elect 2 Burgesses to the Dublin parliament, from John Barry, Esq. High Sherriff of County Cork (20 Feb 1639)

2nd Section (c. 307pp): Copies of documents which include memoranda, copies of indentures, copies of royal proclamations and official proclamations, letters from the Lords President of Munster (c.1627-41), accounts, names of chief inhabitants of Youghal, 1614-41, oaths of freemen, officials. Such as, copy of proclamation by 'Lord Inchiquine' concerning military governance of Youghal town '...by some person of skill and experience in martiall affaires in thies tymes of danger ', and upkeep of his majesties army in the town (17 July 1642) (p115, 2nd section).

Copy of letter by Lord President Inchiquin to Thomas Stout Esq Mayor of the Staple, Youghal, noting that he has not thought of invading or retrenching the liberties and privileges of the Corporation (6 Oct 1646)

Answers to several desires of the inhabitants of the city of Cork, from Commissioner Oliver Cromwell (12 Nov 1649)

Note: The 2nd section in particular does *not* seem to have been extensively transcribed by Richard Caulfield. The 1st section is largely, but not always, transcribed verbatim by Richard Caulfield.

(1025pp) *Fragile*

('Folio B', 11 Jan 1659 - 23 Oct 1666: *Missing*)

2. 20 Oct 1666 - 1687; 1690-1 Jun 1705; 6 Jul 1711 – 14 Jan 1718

Marked 'Folio C'. Proceedings of the Court of Common Council.

Includes

'Ordered that tenn pounds shall be paid by Mr. Maior unto Mr. Walter Cooper being towards the repayveing of the highway leading to Charleville and to be allowed the said Maior out of the revenue of the Corporation' (24 Sept 1668)

Debate concerning the title of Right Hon. Richard Earl of Cork and Burlington to various houses in Youghal (26 Aug 1669)

'Ordered that a Rate by forthwith made for the Releef of the Poor of the Parish for this present yeare..' (14 Jul 1674)

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Military declarations by Lord Deputy (March 1686) (p400-402)

Quartering of four companies of Lord Mountjoy's forces in the town and weekly payments by members of Council and others (3 Aug 1686)

Desertion of town by Charles MacCarthy and the garrison of King James, and re-establishment of protestant Corporation (7 Aug 1690)

'Whereas in this time of danger wherein our Malitious and Implacable enemyes the papists dayly threaten to beseige, Sack and burn the said town...there are severall defects in our walls and som bulletts for the cannons...are wanting...(25 Aug 1690)

Admission as Freeman at large of William Cooke, having served a 7 year apprenticeship and having married a Burgesses' daughter (8 Feb 1697)

(415pp)

3. 29 June 1719 - 21 Sep 1816.

Folio D. Marked 'The Town Book of Youghal'. Proceedings of the Town Council, including the Court of Election, General Quarter Sessions of the peace and the General Assembly.

Includes:

Court of Election of Magistrates for the towne of Youghal 'pursuant to certain rules orders and directions made by the Lord Lieut. and Councill of this Kingdome in the yeare of our Lord 1672', recording election of the Mayor and Bayliffs for the ensuing year. John Lucas elected Mayor and Thomas Croker and Simonn Greene elected Bayliffs. (29 Jun 1719)

Summoning of a General Assembly of all freemen and members of the Corporation at the Tholsell or Court House '...consult on severall matters relating to the Publick Good and profit of the Corporation'. (7 May 1729)

Court of D'Oyer Hundred. New charter to be granted to the company of merchants and shopkeepers. (19 Jul 1734)

Ordered that Richard Boyle et al., sons of Henry Boyle, Lord Justice of Ireland and speaker of the House of Commons, '...be each of them presented with Coppies of their Freedoms at large of this Corporation. (15 Jan 1744)

Ordered that the town chest be opened in the presence of 3 Aldermen, 3 Burgesses and as many freemen as pleased to attend in order to take out the Corporation Seal to be fixed to Alderman Mannix's lease (29 June 1758).

General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, swearing in of Grand Jury including Robert Pratt Esq. of Castle Martyr 'having received the Holy Sacrement of the Lords Supper in the Parish Church of St. Mary...' and taking '...severall oathes and declarations...'. (6 Oct 1758)

Address by General Assembly of the Corporation to King George III; begging leave '...to approach your Throne with our warmest congratulations on your Providential Deliverance from the late Desperate Attempt on your Majestie's life...'. (26 Mar 1803)

Enclosed is a list of Mayors and year of appointment 1800-1828.

(528pp)

4. 24 Sep 1816 – 25 Oct 1840 (1860)

Folio E. Marked 'The Town Book Of Youghal 1816'

Proceedings of the Court of D'Oyer Hundred/General Assembly and General Quarter Sessions of the Peace.

Includes:

Order that the management of the Ferry be vested in the Committee of Town Lands, together with the Mayor, Mayor of the Staple, and Bailiffs. (24 Sept 1816)

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Order for building of new court house be suspended due to high cost of timber and other causes. (24 Sep 1816)

Order extending a 1792 reduction in tolls for exporting merchants not Freemen of the Corporation, 'to encourage trade and commerce'. (24 Sep 1816)

Read by Town Clerk at Council: certificate of approbation by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council for the election of James Ellis Green as Mayor and Mathew Hayman and Samuel Allin as Bailiffs. (29 Sep 1826)

Court of Election: election of 1 burgess to represent Youghal at Westminster Parliament. With details of polling, etc (7 Aug 1830)

Petition by Corporation to House of Lords and House of Commons, against pending Municipal Corporations Ireland Act 1840 which will abolish certain corporations, hoping that the household voting qualification will not be less than a yearly rent of 20 pounds and '...that such other provisions will be made to counteract the overwhelming influence of the Roman Catholic Priesthood, which...will preponderate in a Country where the...majority of the People are of a different Creed from the Bulk of the Proprietors of the Soil and where ties connecting Landlord and Tenant have...been severed [and] broken down...' Cites example of Poor Law Guardian election where only 1 liberal protestant was elected. (26 Mar 1839)

Dissolution of Youghal Corporation under Act of 1840. Questions concerning legal, administrative and property issues answered by Recorder, such as vesting of all Corporation property in the [Lighting and Cleansing] Commissioners first elected in 1828. (25 Oct 1840)
Catalogue/inventory of charters, leases, records, town books and other muniments in the town chest, to be delivered to the town Commissioners. (Oct 1840)

Rental and abstract of leases of Corporation property (Oct 1840)

Registry and enrollment of indentures and apprentices to freemen (1848-60).
(253pp)