GENEALOGICAL OFFICE (OFFICE OF ARMS) OF IRELAND

Records, 1842-1961

Reel M984

Genealogical Office
Dublin Castle
Dame Street
Dublin 2    Ireland

National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales

Filmed: 1976
HISTORICAL NOTE

The office of Ulster King of Arms, the heraldic authority for the Kingdom of Ireland, was created in 1552. The holder of the office, which was not part of the College of Arms, was responsible for granting arms to individuals and corporate bodies who had substantial historical, cultural, educational, financial or ancestral connections with Ireland. As a result of the Irish diaspora, there was a long tradition of Irish individuals and families who were living abroad seeking grants of arms from Ireland. For many years, arms and attested pedigrees were necessary as proofs of gentility for anyone seeking commissions in European armies. Some sought new grants of arms, while others requested confirmation of the arms that had been used by their families in earlier times.

The Office of Arms, which was located in Dublin Castle, was not abolished when Ireland became a self-governing dominion in 1922. However, following the death of Sir Nevile Wilkinson in 1940, the position of Ulster King of Arms was left vacant. In 1943 the British and Irish governments agreed that the Office of Arms and its records should be retained in Ireland, while the post of Ulster King of Arms would be transferred to the College of Arms in London.

The name of the Office of Arms, which remained in Dublin Castle until 1987, was changed to the Genealogical Office in 1943. The title of the Genealogical Officer was changed to Chief Herald of Ireland in 1946. Like his predecessor, the Chief Herald authorises the granting of arms to Irish bodies and individuals, including the descendants of Irish emigrants. The office of the Chief Herald is now part of the Genealogy and Heraldry Division of the National Library of Ireland.

In 1943 title of the Ulster King of Arms was changed to the Norroy and Ulster King of Arms. The Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, who is responsible to the Earl Marshal, is the heraldic authority for Northern Ireland.

Ulster Kings of Arms, 1820-1940

1820-53 Sir William Betham
1853-92 Sir Bernard Burke (editor of *Burke’s Peerage*)
1893-1908 Sir Arthur Vicars
1908-40 Sir Nevile Wilkinson
GENEALOGICAL OFFICE (OFFICE OF ARMS), DUBLIN

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Grants and confirmations of arms, 1854-1941

The volumes contain copies of grants of arms, with coloured illustrations of the coats of arms. They were copied at the time when the grants were made.

MS 108

Select page:

6  Robert Balbirnie, 8 Dec. 1854. Grant of arms being Vance quartering Balbirnie to Robert Anstruther Balbirnie of Balmerino, Victoria, on his assuming under Royal Licence and as representative of his uncle, the late George Washington Vance of Coagh in Co. Tyrone, the name and arms of Balbirnie Vance.

MS 109

Select pages:

211-12  Charles Moore, 7 Nov. 1870. Grant of arms to the descendants of James Moore of Ballymacarne in Co. Cavan, son of Charles Moore, and to his son, Charles Moore of Coogee in New South Wales, Mayor of Sydney 1867-69, with mention of the heraldic monument erected to John Moore who died 30 Aug. 1765 at Annagh in Co. Cavan.

245-46  William West, 2 May 1872. Grant of arms to William Alexander Erskine West of Delgany in Co. Wicklow, and later of South Australia, eldest son of Rev. William James West, Rector of Delgany, by Elmema Erskine, co-heir of Alexander Erskine, on his assuming under Royal Licence the name and arms of West Erskine.

333-34  Richard Day, 8 Sept. 1875. Confirmation of arms to the descendants of Thomas May of Youghal by Susanna Roviere and to their grandchildren, Richard Day of Auckland in New Zealand, Robert Day of Cork, and Rev. William Tottenham Day, Rector of Rathclarin, Diocese of Ross, the three sons of Richard Day by Mary Anne Collins.

MS 110

Select pages:

19-20  Sylverius Moriarty, 28 Sept. 1881. Grant of arms to Sylverius Moriarty of Hobart in Tasmania, eldest son of the late Commander William Moriarty R.N. by Alphra Crumpe, sister of Dr Francis Crumpe of Tralee on his assuming under Royal Licence the name and arms of Crumpe.

James Casey, 2 Jan. 1892. Confirmation of arms to the descendants of James Casey of Tromroe, Barony of Ibrickane in Co. Clare, and to his son James Joseph Casey of St Kilda and Port Phillip Bay in Victoria.

John Payne, 18 Feb. 1892. Confirmation of arms to the descendants of John Payne of Giltown Lodge in Co. Kildare, and to his son John Budds Payne of Maretimo, South Yarra in Victoria.


Frederick Eyre, 21 May 1895. Confirmation of arms to Frederick James Eyre of North Adelaide, South Australia, son of Thomas Eyre of St Helen's in Jersey, by his second wife, Elizabeth Mary Jarvis of St Helen’s, which Thomas was the natural son of Thomas Eyre of Eyrecourt in Co. Galway, Brigadier General in the South American Patriot Forces.


George Higinbotham, 26 Nov. 1902. Confirmation of arms to the descendants of George Higinbotham, Chief Justice of Victoria, youngest son of Henry Higinbotham of Tullymaglowny in Co. Cavan, who was great-grandson of Thomas Higinbotham of the same place and to the son of George Edward Higinbotham of Croydon, Surrey.

Ralph Smith, 8 Aug. 1904. Confirmation of arms, later cancelled, to the descendants of Ralph Smith of Milford in Co. Tipperary, and Kilmore in Co. Dublin, descendant of Ralph
Smith of Ballymacash in Co. Antrim, High Sheriff of Antrim 1679-80, and to the grandson of the first mentioned Ralph, being Ralph Sneyd Smith, son of William Sydney Smith, both of Milford, Christchurch in New Zealand.


222 Frederick Rowley, 5 Aug. 1908. Grant of arms to Frederick Pelham Rowley of Curriganough in Co. Tipperary, and of Adelaide, son of Capt. Toler Rowley of Maperath in Co. Meath, by Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Daniel Toler of Beechwood in Co. Tipperary, on his assuming under Royal Licence the name and arms of Toler-Rowley.

**MS 111a**

Select pages:

19 John Lane Mullins, 23 Sept. 1909. Confirmation of arms being Mullins quartering Lane to the descendants of James Mullins of Sydney and Elizabeth, only daughter and heir of John Lane of Bandon, and to their eldest son John Francis Lane Mullins of Sydney.


57 David Storey, 28 March 1911. Grant of arms to the Hon. David Storey of Randwick in New South Wales, only surviving son of Robert Storey, eldest son of Edward Storey, both of Aughagaw in Co. Monaghan.

106 Frederick Roche, 2 May 1913. Confirmation of arms to Frederic William Castle Roche of Cavan, Yass in New South Wales, eldest son of Frederic William Roche of Dalby in Queensland, youngest son of Stephen Benjamin Roche of Abbeyside, Dungarvon in Co. Waterford, son of James Roche of the City of Cork.


120 Ralph Smith, 3 Feb. 1914. Confirmation of arms to the descendants of Ralph Smith of Milford (or Lismacrory) in Co. Tipperary, and to his grandson Ralph Sneyd Smith of Christchurch in New Zealand, third son of William Sydney Smith.

**MS 111b**

Select folios:
Charles Creagh, 1 May 1914. Confirmation of arms to the descendants of Major James Creagh and to his grandson, Charles Vandeleur Creagh, CMG, late Governor and Commander in Chief of British North Borneo, son of Capt. James Creagh, RN, all of Caherbone in Co. Clare.

Frederick Butler, 14 Oct. 1914. Grant of arms to Frederick Paget Butler of Garryhundon, Brookstead, Darling Downs in Queensland, on his assuming under Royal Licence and in compliance with the will of Frederick Louis Fitzgerald of the Manor of Graney in Co. Kildare, the name and arms of Butler Fitzgerald.


David Rothe, 25 June 1917. Certificate of arms, being Burtchaele quartering Rothe, Waving and Chamberlayne to (David Henry) Rothe, only son of David Burtchaele, both of Port Fairy in Victoria, with descent from Thomas Rothe, Sovereign of Kilkenny, 1403.

Ralph Smith, 14 March 1921. Confirmation of amended arms to Ralph Sneyd Smith of Milford Street, Christchurch in New Zealand, mentioning the confirmation of arms 29 Oct. 1844 and 3 Feb. 1914, made in error.

Henry Moore, 7 Feb. 1922. Grant of arms to the descendants of Robert Moore of the City of Cork and to his grandson, Henry Percival Moore, son of Robert Walter Moore, both of the City of Adelaide, South Australia.

Joseph Meek, 18 March 1922. Confirmation of arms to the descendants of Thomas Meek of Tullyish House in Co. Down, and Meek’s Place, Belfast, and to his grandson, Joseph Meek, of Tanderagee in Co. Down, and Woollahra in New South Wales, third son of Charles Meek of Belfast and Longhans in Co. Down.

Patrick Garvey, 10 Nov. 1924. Confirmation of arms to the descendants of Joseph Garvey of Ballingtoger in Co. Sligo, eldest son of Patrick Garvey of Toolulane, near Dunsandle in Co. Galway, and to the grandson of the said Joseph, being Patrick Joseph Garvey, MD, son of Patrick Samuel Garvey of Wellington in New Zealand.


71-72 Harry Darling, 21 Jan. 1932. Grant of arms to the descendants of Richard Darling of Belmont, Roebuck in Co. Dublin, and to his grandson, the Rev. Harry Darling, Canon of Bunbury in Western Australia, and of Bective Rectory in Co. Meath, son of Richard Sisson Darling, MLC, of Trinidad.

MS111f

Select folios:


195-96 Austin Coghlan, 21 Dec. 1940. Confirmation of arms to the descendants of Timothy Coghlan of Co. Cork and to his great-grandson, Austin Francis Coghlan, only son of Hon. Sir Timothy Augustine Coghlan, Agent-General in London for New South Wales, son of Thomas Coghlan of Sydney.

271 Hans Hamilton, 21 Dec. 1940. Confirmation of arms to the descendants of Lieut. James Wilson Hamilton, RN, who settled in Australia, who was descended from Hans Hamilton of Carlow, brother of James Hamilton of Sheephill in Co. Dublin (ancestor of Lord Holmpatrick) and to the son of the said Lieut. Hamilton, being Hans Hamilton of Melbourne in Victoria.

Registered pedigrees

Pedigrees in the form of family trees, compiled by personal request.

MS 114

Select pages:

36-41 Pedigree of Barnewell Family, Baronets, of Crickstown in Co. Meath, of Athroneen and Ballybritten in Kings Co., Roskeen in Queens Co., of Ballyard, Killarow and Ballyhost in Co. Westmeath, of Moyrath, Grenanstown and Boyne Lodge in Co. Meath, and of Upper Thornton in Australia, c. 1560-1892.

101-3 Pedigree of the Richardson Family, later Richardson Bunbury, Baronets, of Augher Castle in Co. Tyrone, of Paddington in London, and of Australia, c. 1720-1910.

MS 152
Select pages:

206-8 Royal License to Robert Anstruther Balbirnie of Balmerino in Victoria, to take the name Vance in addition to and after Balbirnie and to quarter Vance, 2 Dec. 1854.

MS 168
Select page:


MS 172
Select pages:


MS 175
Select pages:


477-80 Pedigree of the Hutton Family of Dundrum and Baldoyle in Co. Dublin, of Scart in Co. Limerick, of Toronto in Canada, and of New Zealand, c. 1662-1925.

517-22 Pedigree of the Macgillysacht Family, also Lysaght and McLysaght, of Tallybrack and Camus in Co. Limerick, of Shandangan and Ballymarkshan in Co. Clare, of Mount North in Co. Cork, Baron Lysaght of Clogheen, Kilmacoon, Hazelwood and Carrigmore, all in Co. Cork, of Raheen, Tuamgraney in Co. Clare, of Kansas City in the United States, and of Sydney in Australia, c. 1595-1943.

MS 177
Select pages:
196-207 Pedigree of the Glascott Family of Aldertown, Polemaloe (now Piltown), Ballymore and KIllorvin, all in Co. Wexford, and of Australia, c. 1642-1842.
510-13 Pedigree of the Deacon Family of Altaturk, Temascrobe, the Hall, Kildarton and Rich Hill, all in Co. Armagh, of New York City, and of Australia, 1698-1942.
536 Pedigree of the Coghlan Family of Sydney, New South Wales, c. 1820-1908.

MS 178
Select pages:
145-51 Pedigree of Minnitt Family of Mount Minnitt in Co. Limerick, Knigh Castle, Annabeg and Blackfort in Co. Tipperry, and of Van Diemen’s Land, c. 1680-1855.
225-27 Pedigree of Foster Family of Dunleer and Collon, both in Co. Louth, of Moyvane in Co. Kerry, of Mount Bernard in Co. Galway, and of Victoria, Australia, with descent from Sir Diarmud O'Shaughnessy.

MS 179
Select pages:
24-26 Pedigree of Browne Family of The Neale, Knockmore House and Manulla, all in Co. Mayo, of Shankhill in Ireland, of New Zealand, and of Ballarat, Victoria, c. 1680-1858.
221-30 Pedigree of Carleton Family of Knockananama, of Darlinghill near Clonmel, and of Clare, all in Co. Tipperary, Viscount Carleton of Cork City and Greenfield in Co. Cork, of Green Park in Co. Down, of the City of Dublin, and of New Zealand, c. 1640-1866.

447-60 Pedigree of Glascott Family of Aldertown and Killish, of New Ross and Ballynamona later Fruit Hill, of Killowen and Banna Lodge, Seafield and Clonation House, of Camolin Park and Portobello, all in Co. Wexford, of the City of Dublin, and of Emigrant Creek on the Richmond River, Australia, c. 1641-1872.

MS 180

Select pages:

310-19 Pedigree of Wentworth Family of Argreagh, Trim and Fyanstown in Co. Mayo, Mollartini in Co. Amagh, of Vaucluse in Sydney, New South Wales, originally of South Kirby, Yorkshire.


364-67 Pedigree of Beers Family afterward Leslie Family of Rathfriland, Ballygorian and Ballyward in Co. Down, of Manorcunningham in Co. Donegal, and of Wellington in New Zealand, c. 1740-1859.

368-77 Pedigree of Prior Family of Leverington and Parson Drove in the Isle of Ely, of Rathdowney in Queens Co. and pedigree of Murray Prior of Rathdowney, aforesaid, of Southsea in Hampshire, of Brighton in Sussex, and of Queensland, c. 1600-1889.

398-401 Pedigree of Agnew Family of Donegore and Ballyclare in Co. Antrim and of Tasmania, 1708-1890.


472-75 Pedigree of Ffrench Family of Monwea Castle in Co. Galway and of Victoria, later Ffrench de Freyne-Ffrench, c. 1700-1890.

496-503 Pedigree of Molony Family of Ballynahiney, Kiltannon, Clonmore, Craganascreene or Cragg and Ennis, all in Co. Clare, of Dublin City, and of Australia, c. 1680-1919.

525-28 Pedigree of Eyre Family of Eyre Court in Co. Galway, of St Helens in Jersey, and of North Adelaide, Australia, c. 1740-1895.

MS 182

Select pages:
Pedigree of Davies Family of Newcastle near Aughrim, of Bunrea later Hampstead, of Coltragh, Moate, all in Co. Galway, of Cahinch and Rossleven in Co. Clare, and of Australia, c. 1620-1902.

Pedigree of Rathborne Family of Masefen and Chester, and Drogheda in Co. Louth, of Scriplestown and Dunsinea in Co. Dublin, of Ngeruawahia in New Zealand, and of New Jersey in the United States, 1265-1911.

Pedigree of Nicholson Family of Cranagill, Derrycan, Drummannon, Kineary, Stramore, Greenagh, all in Ireland, and of New Zealand, Australia, the United States and India, c. 1560-1907.


Pedigree of Seaver Family of Ballaghy, Trea, Killeavy, Navan and Heath Hall, all in Co. Armagh, of Bellaghy in Co. Monaghan, of Greencastle in Co. Down, of Mexico, New South Wales, and Buffalo, New Jersey and Boston in the United States, c. 1620-1937.

Pedigree of St George Family of Kilrush House and Australia, 1775-1914.

MS 182a

Select pages:


67-68 Pedigree of Dillon Family of Mount Dillon and Townsville in Australia, c. 1700-1951. (continued from MS 172, pp 52-54)

107-17 Pedigree of Rooke Family of City of Dublin, of Sydney in Australia, and of Wellington in New Zealand, c. 1670-1946.