
Sources for Irish History at Suffolk Record Office

The Record Office is very grateful to Anthony Breen for giving his time voluntarily to compile these notes.

Introduction

The Suffolk Record Office holds a range of documents that reflect the long and complex historic relationship between England and Ireland. Some collections are of national or regional importance; others are of interest to the local and family historians. Most of the documents have come into the care of the Suffolk Record Office through the political, military and property interests of Suffolk families in Ireland and with their role in the administration of that country. These pages also describe a wide range of sources for the study of the small numbers of Irish people living in Suffolk. The records are freely available to researchers who wish to visit the three branches of the Record Office.

These pages highlight some of the more significant items within the collections and are arranged under various headings: Irish Family and Estate Papers, Political Papers, Military Records, The Irish and Suffolk and Libraries.

Researchers should note that each of the three branches has a Local Studies collection, which contains a full range of secondary sources for the history of Suffolk and some rare books and privately published editions of immediate interest to Irish historians.

Irish Family and Estate Papers

(NB: the catalogues of some of these collections can be searched online through the A2A web site.)

- Fitzgerald papers (Ipswich HB56:2803 Boxes 40 & 41)
Mary Frances Fitzgerald, the only daughter of John Fitzgerald, married her cousin Dr John Purcell of Kilkenny. On her father's death, she assumed the surname Fitzgerald. Her son Edward Fitzgerald was the author of 'The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam' published in 1859. The family, who lived at Boulge, were the descendants of an ancient Waterford family. This collection, which has been ably described by the Waterford historian, Dr Julian Walton, includes some early seventeenth century deeds and a considerable collection of later wills for various family members (Box 41)

The collection also includes some later family papers such as the Californian marriage licence of Gerald Purcell Fitzgerald of the Island, Waterford, who married aged 34 at Duarte, in the county of Los Angeles in 1899 (Box 45).

- The Adair collection (Lowestoft 741)

The Adair family, who were formerly resident at Flixton Hall, held large estates centred on Ballymena, county Antrim from the seventeenth century. Most of the Irish estate collection was transferred to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in 1993. The remaining records of interest to Irish historians are mainly family papers dating from the period of the Civil Wars. The few property records include lands obtained by a *'Protestant discoverer on the several acts made against the further growth of popery'* (741//A2/1/3).

There are copies of the wills of Colonel Morgan, Madrid 1744, his cousin Andrew Gallwey, St James, Westminster 1747 and his granddaughter Julia Henrietta Leslie, Henry Street, Dublin 1765 (741//B4/31, 36 & 37) an Irish catholic family, which relate to property in England. (see Military Records).

- Ashe family (Ipswich S1/1/77)

This is an important collection of early seventeenth documents relating to the Muscovy Company and other British merchants living in Russia. There are just three items of interest to Irish historians. These relate to the estate of James Waughope. James Wachop of Ballygraphan was granted denizen in November 1617. Capt James Wahobb described as a native of Ireland died in *'Muscovia'* in 1633 and his will is preserved in this collection (S1/1/77.6). The residue of his estate was paid to *'Helen Maxwell alias Waughhope and Colen Waughhope widow and youngest son of James Waughope of Ballegraphan'* in 1637 (S1/1/77.43,44).

- The White family of Tatingstone (Ipswich HB77/C/1)

There were a number of Suffolk families with property interests in Ireland before the civil wars of the seventeenth century. In 1642, the English Parliament, to help finance the suppression of the rebellion in Ireland, passed the Adventurers Act. It authorised the confiscation of the estates of Irish rebels. This is a small collection of four leases and associated papers dating 1656 to 1739. The land consisted of 1333 Irish acres in the Barony of Conello, in county Limerick, *'lands forfeited in Ireland upon the late rebellion there'* which had been granted to Steven White of London by the *"Committee of the body of adventurers"*.

- The Barnardiston papers (Bury 613)

Thomas Barnardiston, one of the adventurers under the act of 1642, first acquired his estates in the barony of Iffa and Offa, Tipperary as part of the Cromwellian Settlement of the country. The earliest surviving deeds in this collection are dated 1667 (613/49, 50), and were a result of the later *'Act for the better execution of his majesties gracious declaration for the settlement of his Kingdom of Ireland and satisfaction of the several interest of adventurers, souldiers and other his subjects'*. There are some early leases for parts of the estate, but in 1729 Nathaniel Barnardiston went bankrupt and his Irish properties were assigned to Thomas Lane, a London linen draper.

The collection does include later correspondence concerning the estate and other local matters. Some of the land had been leased to Lord Donoughmore who wrote in January 1852 complaining, *'The system which prevails in this country of allowing a running gale to all tenants, have put me in the distressing position of being liable for all charges affecting my property without being able to receive a shilling of the profits until the end of the year'*. (613/600/6)

One of the more unusual items is a single salmon rod licence granted in 1853 to Nathaniel Barnardiston of the 37th Regiment to fish the Ballyshannon District from Mullaghmore to Rossan Point. (613/804/5)

- De Mussenden Leathes family papers (Ipswich HA403:T1039)

This is a large collection of family letters sent to William Leathes who was Paymaster General under Queen Anne and later the British minister to The Hague and Brussels. William Leathes was born in county Antrim in 1674 and died at Brocket Hill, Hertfordshire in 1727. His nephew, Carteret Mussenden assumed the surname Leathes in 1727 and was elected MP for Sudbury in that year. He inherited an estate at Herringfleet from Hill Mussenden in 1772 and assumed the additional surname (see The Irish and Suffolk).

The letters are from various family members and include those sent to William by his brother, Rev. John Leathes of Hillsborough. Rev John Leathes who died in 1730 was the incumbent of Tamlaghtard alias Magilligan, county Londonderry (HA403:T1039/6). Among his letters there are two rentals dated 1720 for '*Aghenlock and Caberagh in the barony of Lower Eveagh*' county Down, an estate which had been owned by a sister, Jane Mussenden. A number of the letters concern the value of property in Ireland. A copy of John Leathes' will dated 30 August 1730 is included in this volume.

The letters from another brother, Moses Leathes, are described under Military Records.

- The Stradbroke collection (Ipswich HA11 & HB 26)

Sir John Rous, 1st Earl of Stradbroke acquired his Irish estates through his marriage to Frances Julianna Warter Wilson in 1788. She was the heiress of Edward Warter Wilson of Bilboa, county Limerick. The extensive estates were in counties Limerick and Tipperary though additional land was later acquired in the county of Waterford. A 'list of deeds and other papers belonging to Miss Frances Juliana Warter Wilson' (HB26/412/1873) details 135 documents, a large number of which are still to be found in this collection together with later material. In an 'account book of the Tipperary and Limerick Estate' there are details of another leases 62 leases dating from 1729 (HA11/D8/1). The book is not linked to "Maps of the estates in counties Limerick and Tipperary" dated 1769 (HA11: 8193 box 250B).

Other plans include those for the estates in the barony of Glenhiry, county Waterford surveyed by Samuel Nicholson in 1843 (HA11/D8/18). Apart from formal documents this collection includes rentals, applications for leases and a considerable amount of correspondence relating to local affairs. (see Political Papers).

- Albemarle papers (Ipswich HA67)

William Charles Keppel, 4th Earl of Albemarle, acquired his Irish estate through his first marriage to Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Southwell, Lord de Clifford. The records of the De Clifford estate, county Down include title deeds, legal papers and a rental for Downpatrick, Listowder and Ballydyan dated 1832. This estate was sold in 1834 (HA67/461 & 594).

There is also a small collection of papers dating from 1714 for the Richmond estate in Westmeath and Castle Roberts in county Limerick.

- L'Estrange Fawcett (Ipswich HA168)

John Fawcett of Dublin purchased the small estate in the '*townlands of Shreagh alias Srough, parish of Templeport, Barony of Tullahagh, County Cavan*' in 1803. In 1826, he purchased additional lands at '*Derrynetacooney, Barony of Dromhair, County Leitrim*'. His son, Edward remained resident in Dublin and entered Trinity College where he received his degree in 1850. He was ordained deacon at St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin in October 1850 and ordained priest at St Finbarr's, Cork in December of that year (HA168:T258/23). In 1855, he was instituted to the parish of Street in the diocese of Ardagh, but later moved to England. This small collection includes the original deeds for the estates together with rentals covering the years 1857 to 1902.

- Mackworth-Praed papers (Bury 400)

Bulkley John Mackworth-Praed of Ousden obtained his Irish estates through his second marriage in 1840 to Elizabeth Colthurst daughter of Patrick Perse FitzPatrick. She was the grand daughter and sole heir of Col. John Colthurst of Carrigrohane, near Castlemartyr, county Cork. The castle and manor of Carrigrohane had been granted to Sir Warham St Leger by letters patent in 1595 and leased in that year to Anthony Dillon of Ilfracombe, Devon (Box 12). In 1673 the estate passed by marriage to the Wallis family. Following the death of Elizabeth, the widow of Barachia Wallis in 1765, there was a lengthy legal dispute over the inheritance and the lands were finally settled on John Colthurst of Ardrum, Cork (Box 12).

A large number of deeds were listed and returned to Mr Philip William Bass, a Dublin Solicitor in the 1850s (Box 17). Also partly as a result of the legal dispute, a large number of deeds have been entered in the registers of Registry of Deeds in Dublin, an office established by the Irish Parliament in 1708 (Box 20).

A significant element of this collection is the correspondence for the period from 1841 to the end of the century (Box 18). The letters cover matters relating to the Famine 1845 - 1848, the effects of the Irish Church Act 1869 and the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act 1885. The 1885 act led to the eventual sale of the estate at the end of the century (Box 20). There are printed maps of the townlands of Ballycrehane in 1854 (Box 12) and 1877 (Box 17).

Arabella, the aunt of Bulkley had married John, 4th Earl of Mayo in 1792. She became a lady in waiting in 1819 to Adelaide, the wife of William, duke of Cumberland, later William IV. Letters between Queen Adelaide and Arabella from 1819 to 1843 are in this collection (Box 13).

- Schreiber family papers (Ipswich HD76/1)

This small collection consists of marriage settlements and wills. James Alfred Schreiber, a captain in the Dragoons Guards, married Mary the daughter of Thomas Ware of Cork in July 1822. He died at Melton in August 1840 and his widow at Melbury Abbas, Dorset in 1857; both their wills were proved at the Perogative Court of Canterbury. Their son William Thomas Schreiber of Annaghmore House, Cork married Sarah Martha Meade, Innishannon, county Cork in October 1854. He died in 1858 leaving the unexpired lease of Annaghmore House to his brother Charles Schreiber. Additional details for all three families given in these documents offer an insight to their services throughout the then British Empire.

Political Papers

- Grafton papers (Bury 423)

"It was not his Majesty's intention that you should send over against their will any witnesses to support the allegations made against Mr William Wood for having failed in the execution of the powers given him by the patent granted to him for the coinage of halfpence & farthings for Ireland".

Charles Fitzroy, 2nd Duke of Grafton was Viceroy of Ireland 1720-1724. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has prepared a calendar of his political papers, available at Bury. The original records, which are contemporary copies of his correspondence, remain in Bury St Edmunds. He resigned his office over the patent to produce copper coins for Ireland granted to William Wood, a Wolverhampton ironmaster. The dispute over Wood's Half penny led by Dean Swift to observe that 'Government without the consent of the governed is the very definition of slavery'.

- Hervey collection (Bury 941)

Augustus Hervey was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1766 to 1767, though he never visited the country during his brief office. A notebook of his correspondence mainly concerning appointments but also including measures against famine is held in this collection together with his letter of resignation (941/50/7 & 8). He appointed his younger brother Frederick Hervey, later 4th Earl of

Bristol to the bishopric of Cloyne. The earl bishop, who became the Bishop of Derry in 1768, was a political intriguer. His genius was unkindly described by Lord Charlemont as 'a shallow stream, rapid, noisy, diverting, but useless'. He later became the chaplain to the Irish Volunteers and is mentioned in letters in the Pretyman collection (below). He is commemorated by an obelisk in Ickworth Park, paid for by a subscription raised in Ireland. HD480/16

Due to the Hervey family's long association with Suffolk, the Bury office holds a large collection of secondary sources relating to the history of this family, such as William S. Childe's *The Life of Frederick Hervey, Bishop of Derry, Earl of Bristol* published in 1924.

There are also printed parliamentary papers for the state of Ireland in 1825 and for the Irish Education Enquiry 1825-1827 in a later deposit of Hervey papers (HA507/8/36-38).

The Hervey collection includes other items of Irish interest such as a letter from Walter Jones dated 26 October 1787 in which he describes the Duke of Rutland's tour of Ireland (941/55/3).

'If ever any man was the cause of his own death without destroying himself by fire or sword, it was his Grace: He has just returned from a tour through Ireland, during which time he was seldom sober and with the quantity of exercise and drink his blood was so heated that his illness lasted but a few days'.

The duke, who was lord lieutenant of Ireland, died of a 'disease of the liver and violent fever at Phoenix Lodge, Dublin' in November 1787.

- Pretyman collection (Ipswich HA119)

An unexpected source for the politics of Ireland in the months July to October 1784 can be found in the correspondence in the Pretyman collection (HA119/4/4/12/5/1/9). Sir George Pretyman (later Tomline) had been the tutor to William Pitt at Cambridge and became his private secretary on Pitt's appointment as Prime Minister in December 1783. Pretyman remained Pitt's secretary until his appointment as Bishop of Lincoln in January 1787. They remained lifelong friends. Tomline was with Pitt at the time of his death and became his literary executor.

The correspondence includes letters from George III, Charles Manners 4th Duke of Rutland, who was then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Thomas Orde, the then chief secretary, and Irish political leaders such as Sir Edward Newenham, George and Napper Tandy. A number of the letters are original documents; others are contemporary copies.

Another document in the Pretyman collection is a speech made after July 1791 proposing the establishment of the Society of United Irishmen because *'The True Greatness and happiness of Ireland can arise solely from a complete internal union of all her people. We lament the mistaken policy which has so long divided them'.*

The society favoured a National Government for Ireland *'We have no National Government, we are ruled by Englishmen and the servants of Englishmen, filled as to commerce and politics with the short sighted and ignorant prejudices of their country'.*

The speech is signed by Dr William Drennan, described in another hand as *'the most mischievous Leveller of the clan. A Northern physician who has now established himself in Dublin and is employed wholly in promoting and fermenting Treason'.* (HA119/4/4/9/6/6).

A rebellion that would lead to 30,000 deaths broke out in 1798.

- Henniker collection (Ipswich S1/2/401).

Brydges Trecothick Henniker was the senior Lieutenant Colonel of the 9th Light Dragoons and the youngest son of John Henniker of Worlingworth Hall. His father who had been the M.P. for Sudbury and later for Dover had been created Baron Henniker of Stratford upon Slaney, county Wicklow. At

the time of the rebellion of 1798, his son's regiment was stationed in Carlow and took part in the battle there on 25th May 1798.

The 'Register of Orders and Proceedings in Suppressing the Rebellion' was *'drawn up by the under sheriff Dudley Hill, who attended with General Henniker and the Magistrates'* who after the defeat of the rebels were present to grant pardons (Ipswich S1/2/401). The orders were directed to Edward Eustace, the High Sheriff and include a list of arms surrendered before the outbreak of the rebellion. The account of the battle is confined to Hill's role in obtaining carts to remove the dead *'about seven hundred killed'*. During the following days *'Court martials commenced many rebels tried and found guilty some sentenced to be hanged shott transported and whipped'*. The manuscript includes a list of hundreds of pardoned rebels with brief accounts of their role.

Also in the Henniker collection, there is the writ of summons dated 21 August 1799 for Lord Henniker to attend the last Irish Parliament (S1/2/200 Box 27). This was the parliament that passed the Act of Union. Another Suffolk witness to the rebellion was Charles Jackson. He was born in Sudbury, though his family later moved to Ireland. In 1798, he was in Wexford at the beginning of the rebellion and spent his time as the terrified prisoner of the rebels. Copies of his account of the rebellion *A Narrative of the Sufferings and Escape of Charles Jackson* are available in Bury and Ipswich.

- Bunbury collection (Bury E18)

Henry Edward Fox was the third son of Henry Fox, Lord Holland. In 1803, he became the commander in chief in Ireland. His account of *'the insurrection in Dublin'* is a comprehensive description of the actions taken to suppress Robert Emmet's rebellion in 1803 (E18/840/1). Lt General Fox's eldest daughter married General Sir Henry Bunbury whose family held large estates in Suffolk at Mildenhall and Great Barton.

- Stradbroke collection (Ipswich HA11)

References to further threats of rebellion can be found amongst the estate papers in the Stradbroke. These relate mainly to agrarian disturbances or the assassination of land agents. Daniel O'Connell and his campaigns dominated Irish politics in the period up to the famine for Catholic Emancipation and later for the repeal of the union. His popularity can be judged by this letter dated August 1831, from James Fitzgerald, secretary of the committee of Bilboans to Lord Stradbroke (Ipswich HA11/D8/3)

'King Daniel O'Connell will soon give us an Irish Parliament of our own in spite of you Englishmen and if England don't give it by fair means she must give it by foul means and there is no doubt of it. King Daniel O'Connell will get the upper hand for all Ireland is backing him, and this then Irishmen will get fair play'.

The Young Ireland rebellion of 1848 was a complete failure. In a letter to Lord Stradbroke, Lord Clarendon, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, speculated that *'I don't expect any more of a political character but we have a state of things before as ever here difficult to deal with. This winter will I fear be characterized by a banditti warfare against property and by a struggle between ruined landlords and tenants for the insufficient produce of the soil that will lead to agrarian outrage and assassination'*. He was incorrect in that the following year, a group of Young Irelanders led an attack on the police barracks at Cappoquin. The attack is fully described in a letter sent to Lord Stradbroke's agent (HA11/D8/3).

- Cranbrook papers (Ipswich HA43)

Among those involved with the conspiracy that led to the attack at Cappoquin were the future leaders of the Fenian Movement. Gathorne Hardy, later the first Earl of Cranbrook was Home Secretary from 1867 to 1868. His personal diary includes references to the executions of the Manchester Fenians - *'Poor wretches, I have thought much of them & prayed for them as for myself'* – and also Michael Barrett's execution for his part in the attempted rescue of Fenian Prisoners held in Clerkenwell Prison (HA43/T294). His correspondence relating to Fenianism in England and Ireland includes letters from

Queen Victoria and Richard Southwell Bourke, Lord Naas, later 6th Earl of Mayo, the chief secretary of state for Ireland, among others.

There are no records relating to the period of the Land League, though Captain Boycott was supported by the Adairs and later came to live in Flixton. Another target of the Land League was the Beccles-born William Bence Jones. The Bence family lived at Thorington. The effect on an Irish estate resulting from the changes in the law relating to the ownership of land in Ireland can be traced through the Mackworth-Praed papers (above).

- Lowther Collection (Ipswich HA47)

Sir James William Lowther (1855 - 1949), who was created Viscount Ullswater of Campsea Ashe in 1921, had been Speaker of the House of Commons 1905 - 1921. He attended the Buckingham Palace Conference in July 1914, summoned to work out details for the proposed partition of Ireland. This collection includes letters from the Unionist leader Edward Carson, the Nationalist leader John Redmond together with a copy of the King's speech (HA47/C3/71).

Military Records

- Parish collections

Though Suffolk does not have any surviving Lieutenancy records for the sixteenth century, a reference to some 800 infantry sent to Ireland during war against O'Neill, 1594 - 1603, can be found in the churchwardens' accounts for Framlingham (Ipswich FC101/E2/5) and in the Parish Constable's warrants for South Elmham St Margaret (Lowestoft FC141/I1/1 & 2).

A result of the 1800 act of Union was that English Militia Regiments could be required to serve in Ireland. Among the records of the parish of Withersfield there is a copy of *'An order for the relief of wives of militia men serving in Ireland'* (Bury FL653/3/7).

A few references to applications for the assistance for the families of individual soldiers serving in Ireland have survived. An example from East Bergholt (Ipswich FB191/G5/14) is a letter from Robert Irons, *'private soldier in Captain Cooper's company, County Wicklow'* dated 1814. In the Groton parish collection there is a letter from the family of Benjamin Kidby, a private in the East Essex Militia serving at Mullingar, Westmeath in 1814 (Bury FL506/7/41). There are letters to the churchwardens of Wortham relating to the death of Samuel Dye, *'late a private in Captain Barker's Company 9th Regiment of Foot'* who died while serving in Ireland in 1805 (Ipswich FB131/G10/1). There is a later letter requesting assistance from the overseers of Framlingham from John Herring *'private in the 43rd Regiment Cork Barracks'* dated 1825 (Ipswich FC101/G8/1/67).

- Adair Collection (Lowestoft 741)

Sir Robert Adair was commissioned in 1648 to serve as colonel of a regiment of horse under General George Monck, *'Commander in chief of the British Forces in the province of Ulster'*. (741/A2/3/8). Details of his service are given in his petition to the *'Commissioners of the Commonwealth of England for the affaires of Ireland'* (741/A2/2/18).

Large numbers of Irish catholics served in the armies of continental Europe. The collection includes the will of Colonel Morgan, an officer in the service of Spain, who died in Madrid in 1744. (741/B4/8/31), as well as the wills of his cousin Andrew Gallwey and his granddaughter Julia Henrietta Leslie. (see Irish Family and Estate Papers).

- De Saumarez collection (Ipswich HA 93)

Martin Bowes on a visit to Marseilles in 1700 saw British prisoners of war kept as galley slaves and visited some of the vessels: *'I was on board several & found amongst the slaves a great many Irish, condemned for desertion'*. He then described the conditions in which they were held (HA93 /9/10).

Details of Sir Philip Vere Broke's service on the 'Druid' stationed at Cork from October 1805 to February 1806 can be found in his letter book (HA93/6/2/5).

- De Mussenden Leathes papers (Ipswich HA 403)

A particularly important collection is the De Mussenden Leathes family papers (Ipswich HA403:T1039). The collection includes letters from Moses Leathes, a brother of William the Paymaster General and later British minister to The Hague and Brussels. Moses Leathes served in the Royal Regiment of Ireland during the war of the Spanish Succession and rose to be the colonel of the regiment. He died at St Margaret's, Westminster in 1729 (see Irish Family and Estate Papers).

- Albemarle papers (Ipswich HA67)

Among the Albemarle papers, there is the manuscript *'The Establishment of His Majesty's Guards & Garrisons in Great Britain, Ireland, Minorca & Gibraltar and the Plantations'* by Gul: Hetzer, 1733. This volume contains a full account of the book strength of the British forces then serving in Ireland, some 14,033 men which included *'one Company to attend the state in Dublin'* (Ipswich HA67 461/33 & 34).

- Suffolk Regiment collection (Bury GB554)

Among the papers in the Suffolk Regiment collection there is an interesting biographical account: *'A few notes and stories from the Life of General John Maxwell Perceval CB'*, Colonel of the Regiment, written by his daughter Elizabeth Perceval. The general was born in county Monaghan in September 1814, the second son of Rev William Perceval. The family then moved to Kilmore, county Waterford where their property *'had greatly decreased in value owing to the difficulty of getting the tenants to pay their rents. So Mr Perceval determined to clear the tenants and build a suitable house for his family'*. The notes mention various family members and include a charming description of the *'Southern Irish peasants'* attending church in Tallow (Bury GB554/Y1/200c).

In common with other East Anglian Regiments, the Suffolks saw service in Ireland in 1921 - 1922. A collection of 19 photographs taken in Galway and Belfast in these years (Bury GB554/C9/249) is of some interest.

The Irish and Suffolk

There are very few archival sources that relate only to the presence of Irish people living in Britain. Most of the sources included in this section have been selected because they contain a significant number of references to Irish people. Similar material can be found in other county record offices. Suffolk, a predominately rural county, offered few economic opportunities for Irish emigrants and the resident Irish population within the county has always been small (see Census). In other counties the same record sources may well produce a greater number of references to Irish people living in Britain.

Also included here are a small, yet important, number of documents that provide a glimpse of the impact of events in Ireland on the wider community in Britain. The chance survival of such sources suggests that further references to similar material may exist elsewhere.

There are no separate indexes recording references to Irish people in Suffolk and there is considerable scope for further research on all aspects of this subject.

Seventeen-Century Records

- Parish Collections

Registers recording baptisms, marriages and burials survive for most Suffolk parishes but contain few references to Irish people living in the county. Early examples such the baptisms in January 1640 of the children of Thomas and Elizabeth Spring, "Irish Travellers" can be found in the published registers for Little Whelnetham (Bury FL650/4/1). References to the baptisms of the children of Thomas St. Lawrence, Lord Howth in 1633, 1641 and 1645 appear in the register for Wissington (Bury FB65/D1/1).

Parishes were required by law to provide relief to deserving travellers. References to Irish people passing through Suffolk in the period before the civil wars can be found in the constables' accounts for Gislingham (Ipswich FB130/I2/3 & 9) and in the churchwardens' accounts for Mendlesham (Ipswich FB159/E7/65, 69-71) and Woodbridge (Ipswich FC25/E1/1).

Following the rebellion of 1641, large numbers of English and Scots settlers fled from Ireland to return to their friends and families. References to assistance given these refugees can be found in most surviving seventeenth century parish or town books, churchwardens' and constables' accounts. The accounts for Cratfield have been published. Other examples from Suffolk include churchwardens' accounts for Boxford (Bury FB77/E2/3), Framlingham (Ipswich FC101/E2/25-30), Mendlesham (Ipswich FB159/E7/73-82), Peasenhall (Ipswich FC67/E1/1), Stonham Aspal (Ipswich FB22/E1/1), Wattisfield (Bury FL668/5/9), Walberswick (Ipswich FC185/E1/2) and Woodbridge (Ipswich FC25/E1/1) and constables' accounts for Gislingham (Ipswich FB130/I2/10-20) and Hawstead (Bury FL580/9/1).

References to the raising of rates and subsidies for the relief of Irish refugees and for sending troops and supplies to Ireland can also be found in these sources. Additional references are to be found in the churchwardens' accounts for Weybread (Ipswich FC99/E1/1), a constables' account and a separate rate list for Horham (Ipswich FC85/F2/19 & FC85/I1/112) and in the parish register for Harleston (Ipswich FB213/D1/1).

There is a later 20th century copy of the full 'Assessment of the Irish Benevolence in Suffolk 1642' (Ipswich HD103/D12/5).

Collections or briefs for the relief of Irish Protestants during the Williamite Wars 1689 - 1691 can be found in numerous parish registers. Examples at Bury include the registers for Kedington (FL595/4/1), Exning (FL567/4/2), Hessel (FL584/4/1), Stanton All Saints (FL629/4/1) and Sudbury St Peter (FL635/1/1). Similar records in Ipswich include the town book for Brundish (FC89/A2/4) and the parish book for Bentley (Ipswich FD181/A3/1). Church bells were rung to celebrate victories in Ireland and special prayers were ordered to be read. Examples can be found in the vestry minutes for Ipswich, St Nicholas (Ipswich FB94/A1/1), the churchwardens' accounts for Ipswich, St Lawrence (Ipswich FB106/E1/1), the parish book for Bentley (Ipswich FB181/A3/1) and the churchwardens' accounts for Boxford (Bury FB77/E2/3)

- Borough Records

Churchwardens' accounts can also be found in borough collections. Numerous references to the relief of '*Irish Protestants*' can be found in the accounts for Eye in 1642 (Ipswich EE2/Q1/5) and in the constables' account for the same year (Ipswich EE2/L2/5/1).

The assembly books for Dunwich are a particularly rich source (Ipswich EE6:1144/B1/11) with references to Irish passing through the town from 1627 onwards. In the Ipswich Borough collection, the churchwardens' accounts for St Mary Elms, 1643 (C/5/3/2/5/1) contain a reference to another Irish refugee. The Borough Court Book for Sudbury 1639 - 1672 includes a detailed description of the raising of a separate rate for the relief of Irish refugees (Bury EE501/2/7).

A copy of the 'Assessments Ipswich to act in the speedy reducing of Ireland' 1689 can be found in the Edgar collection (Ipswich HA247/5/2).

- Quarter Sessions

Until the Local Government Act of 1888, the administration of the county was the responsibility of the Court of Quarter Sessions. As with other papers of the civil war period, there are references to Irish refugees at Lavenham and Elmswell in 1649 (Ipswich B105/2/5).

Eighteenth Century Records

There are very few references to Irish people in Suffolk during the eighteenth century. A monumental inscription to *'Mr John Moody, Merchant late of Ireland who dyed 15 of Sept 1717 aged 69'* from St James, Bury St Edmunds is recorded in the antiquarian papers of Francis Blomfield (Ipswich HD1538/79). His father Samuel Moody had been prominent in the Eastern Association during the Civil War and was one of the Irish adventurers who received a grant of land in Waterford as part of the Cromwellian settlement.

Carteret Mussenden born in July 1698 at Hillsborough, County Down, was the nephew of William Leathes, the British minister to The Hague and Brussels. He assumed his uncle's surname in 1727. In that year he was elected MP for Sudbury; he served until 1734 and again from 1741 to 1747 (see Irish Family and Estate Papers and Military Records).

There is the will of John South, yeoman *'I ate of Kildare now Newmarket'* dated 1776 in a solicitor's collection (Bury 1627/191). This collection also includes the will of Rev. Edward Richardson of Moortown, Kildare dated 1809 (Bury 1627/191).

There are card surname indexes for the individual settlement and other poor law records at all branches of the record office. These documents have survived for some parishes from the seventeenth century onwards. The surnames listed do not include a significant number of Irish surnames. A rare example is the settlement and removal papers for Catharine Kelly of St Peter's, Ipswich dated October 1781. She was a widow and stated that *'William her late husband deceased... was a native of Ireland'*. She was removed from Ipswich to St George in the East, Middlesex (Ipswich FB101/G3/478 & FB101/G4/94).

Nineteenth Century Records

- Census Records

Suffolk has never had a large resident Irish population. In the 1891 census, there were just 1020 Irish-born living in the county, out of a total population of 384,293. A century later, the total of Irish-born from both Northern Ireland and the Republic was 6,511, out of a total population of 625,421. Of the 968 Irish-born living in Suffolk in 1881, 111 can be found at the barracks in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Gorleston or at the coastal defences at Langard Fort and Shotley. Many others were the children of British servicemen, naval personnel or civil officials who had been stationed in Ireland. The presence of Irish-born nurses working at various hospitals in Suffolk is evident by the end of the century. Their presence continues to the present time, though most records relating to their employment are closed for 100 years.

- Parish Records

The voluntary examination at Aldeborough of John Herdy, Drumiskan, county Louth dated 1 November 1804 is another rare example of an individual from Ireland mentioned in the parish settlement papers. He had served on a ship called the 'Province' of Great Yarmouth. On the ship's arrival at Yarmouth, Herdy claimed that his captain had *'set ashore without paying him wages there*

due' and he was seeking assistance *'to be passed to Manchester where his uncle lived or "his own home which to his knowledge is Drumiskan'* (Ipswich FC129/G2/149).

Among the parish collections there are examples of attempts to raise money for the relief of distress caused by famine in Ireland. These include a printed letter in the Bromeswell parish collection sent to officiating ministers from the Bishop of Norwich in 1822 (Ipswich FC172/C8/1). The Haughley parish collection includes a receipt for a subscription for the 'Relief of a large portion of the Population in Ireland' in 1847 (Ipswich FB220/C8/1). Another receipt for the same subscription can be found in the Spexhall parish collection (Lowestoft FC200/E1/4).

There are also examples, as in Ipswich St Lawrence in 1894, of collections for the Irish Society and the Irish Church Missions, whose role was to sponsor attempts to convert Irish Catholics (Ipswich FB106/A2/4). For further examples see Newspapers.

- Police records

A possibly surprising source for Irish in Suffolk is the service records of the East Suffolk Constabulary (Ipswich 1465/1). The force's first Chief Constable, John Hayes Hatton, appointed in April 1840, was from Newcastle, county Wicklow and the Deputy Chief Constable P. Valentine Hatton was from Donoughmore in the same county. One of the superintendents Edward Fitzgerald was from Youghal, county Cork. Of the Irish constables serving with the force, James McFadden who joined in 1842 was killed while on duty at Gisleham in 1844, Clark Chambers who joined in 1843 was wounded by a pistol shot preventing a robbery at Higham, and Samuel Rolleston who joined in 1845 died at Melton Asylum as a result of a head wound received during riots at Alderton.

The West Suffolk Constabulary was formed in 1845. Fewer Irish officers served with this force. The records include constables John Barrett and Andrew Mewharter, both formerly of the Irish Constabulary, together with some other Irish officers (ED 500/C1/1).

There are card indexes at Ipswich for the surviving Gaol Receiving Books for Ipswich and Woodbridge Gaols. The records for Ipswich Gaol include a few references to Irish prisoners. The entries also give the name of the prisoner's father, a useful additional detail. The original records are now available on microfilm only (J465/A609/1-32).

- Newspapers

The record offices in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds hold copies of the various Suffolk local newspapers, now available on microfilm. These are worth examining for comment on events in Ireland and the reactions of people in Suffolk to them. As an example the *Ipswich Journal* for 30 January 1847 contains an account of a meeting organised by the mayor of Ipswich to raise funds for famine relief in Ireland. The speech of Mr Fonnereau, the owner of Christchurch Mansion, is mentioned *' He trusted that the country would come forward liberally and that no prejudices would be suffered to interpose in the way of contributing succour to Roman Catholics: if the people were in error he hoped they would live to repent'*.

Details of the 'Anti Popery' disturbances in Ipswich in November 1863 are given in the same newspaper. They followed the Gunpowder Plot commemorations and coincided with the salacious anti-catholic lectures given by Andre Massena, the self styled Baron de Camin. At the same time the Ipswich Auxiliary of the Irish Society and the Irish Church Missions were organising their annual collection for the conversion of Irish Roman Catholics to the reformed religion.

- Quarter Sessions

In most instances the history of the Irish within Suffolk does not produce separate archival sources. Exceptions are the records relating to a parliamentary examination of the costs of removing of Irish Paupers from England (Ipswich B101/1/24).

The papers included correspondence from contractors offering to reduce the cost of their removal. However the small total of six Irish paupers shipped to Ireland from Suffolk between 1823 and 1833 suggests that this was not a significant problem for the county.

- **Merchant Sailors**

It is possible to trace Irish merchant seamen who served on ships registered at the ports of Suffolk using the Crew List indexes for Ipswich 1868 - 1913 (Ipswich IG1:3383) and Lowestoft 1863 - 1913 (Lowestoft Ac No 23). They are few in number and most did not visit Suffolk, but served on deep sea vessels registered at these ports. The registers of ships include a few examples of Ipswich-registered vessels that were built in Ireland (Ipswich IG2/2/1-10).

- **Roman Catholics**

It is an error to believe that all Irish emigrants were Roman Catholics. Among the various denominations in Ipswich, Rev Andrew Melville, minister of St Nicholas Street Congregational Church, Ipswich from 1827 to 1833, was from county Down. In 1828, Stoke Green Baptist Church, Ipswich appointed Rev J Sprigg from *'the Baptist church, Swifts Alley, Dublin'*. He remained their minister for 14 years before moving to Turret Street Baptist church, Ipswich (Ipswich FK2/1/2/4). Rev W J F Whelan, who was curate of St Peter's, Ipswich and later vicar of St Lawrence's, Ipswich from 1886 to 1935, received his degrees from Trinity College, Dublin. He had served in various Irish parishes from 1875 until his appointment to St Peter's.

In many parts of the country Roman Catholic churches were built to cater for the spiritual needs of the majority of Irish immigrants. All but one of the Catholic churches established in Suffolk before 1851 had their origins in the chapelries of old Catholic families. One of these families, the Mannocks of Stoke by Nayland, was related to the Power family, Irish émigrés from Waterford who were connected with the wine trade in Tenerife (Ipswich HA246G & H).

Most Catholics in Suffolk were English. Records that do identify Irish families include *Libri Animarum* and church census books. The registers normally only offer dates of birth and baptism or burial. An exception is the burial register for St Pancras, Ipswich (FN 400/3/1), written in Latin; it does note that some of the congregation were *'ex Hibernia'*. For most the possession of an Irish surname is the only clue to their nationality in these records.

The school admissions registers of the various Roman Catholic schools within Suffolk offer a limited number of references to Irish families. Most appear to be children of soldiers stationed at the various military establishments within the county. The registers give the names of the children, their date of admission, name and address of their parents and date at which they left. Links to Ireland are to be found in the column naming the last school attended. The admission register for St Pancras Roman Catholic Voluntary School includes references to schools in Queenstown (Cobh), Rathmines and Mount Rathan (DC5/6/25/5) and other registers may have similar entries.

Libraries

- **Parochial Libraries**

The books from some of the former parochial libraries of the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich are now under the care of the Local Studies Librarian. These volumes are available by appointment. Works include Bishop Gilbert Burnet's *The Life of William Bedell, Bishop of Kilmore* (1685), the first volume of Sir Richard Cox's *Hibernia Anglicana* (1689), Roger Puttock's *A rejoinder unto William Malone's reply* (1632)A and Archbishop John Vesey's *A sermon preach'd to the Protestants of Ireland in and about the city of London 23rd October 1689*. The offices in Bury and Ipswich have copies of Elizabeth Birkby's *Suffolk Parochial Libraries A Catalogue*, which describes these collections in full.

The former parish library of Brent Eleigh has not survived. In a catalogue '*taken 16th May 1737*', there are references to Sir John Temple's 'History of the Irish Rebellion' London 1680, Walker's 'History of the Sufferings of the in the Grand Rebellion 1641' and Story's 'History of The Wars in Ireland continued' London 1693 (Bury E14/4/6).

The Cullum Library, which was donated to the town of Bury St Edmunds, includes *The State of Protestants of Ireland under the Late King James's Government* (1692) and the two volumes of Francis Grose's *The Antiquities of Ireland* (1797) among other works relating to Ireland. There is a card index for this collection at Bury.

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