



Ballymool House, Home of the Boyd Family, 1950s



Castle Mrenglas



Demolition of Lifford Jail, 1907



Extract from Electoral Register, 1936-37



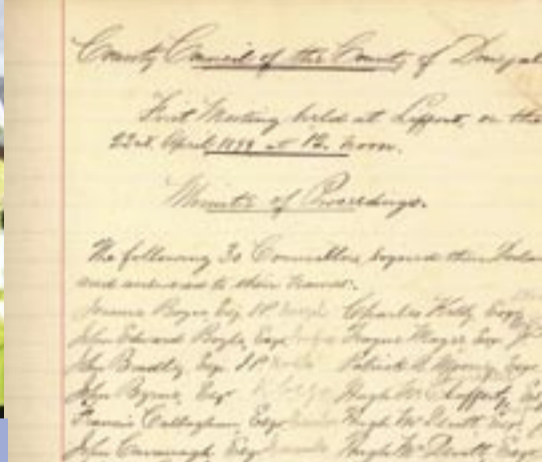
The Electoral Acts, 1922 to 1936, the Local Government Elections Act, 1926, the Local Government Act, 1927, and the Local Government (Extension of Franchise) Act, 1933



Denis O'Flanagan and Senator O'Flaherty, Board of Health, 1920s



Election of Neil Blaney, Dail By-Election, 1948



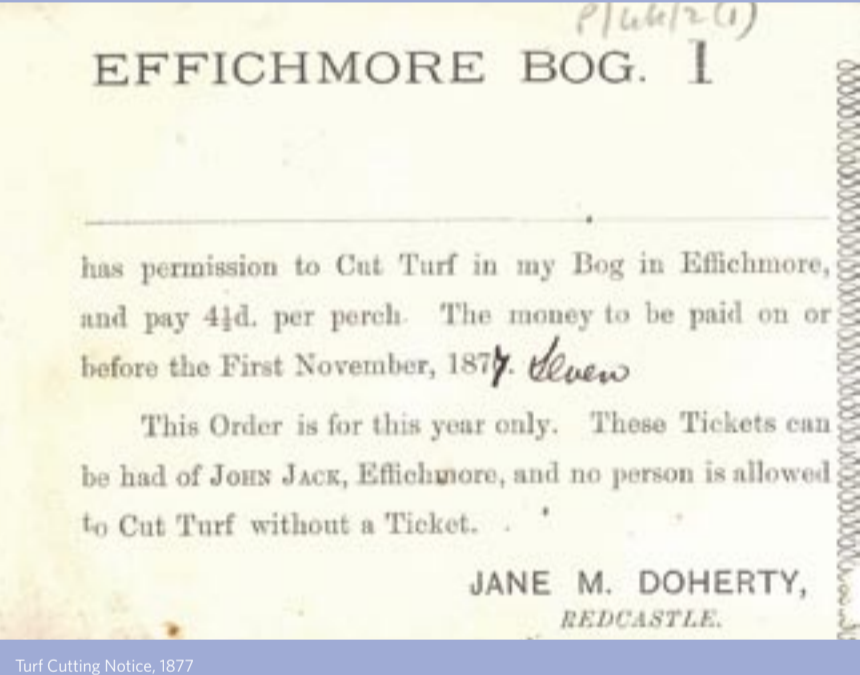
Inauguration, Mulroy Bridge, 2007



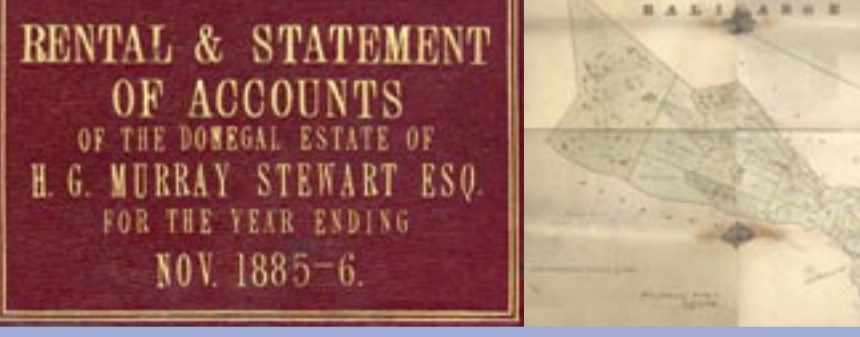
Minutes of Meetings



Carlton Hotel, formerly Redcastle House, 2008



Turf Cutting Notice, 1877



Murray Stewart Estate, South Donegal, 1885-86

LANDLORDS AND TENANTS

Landed estates in Donegal comprised a wide range of acreages, from the larger estates owned by landlords with extensive properties across Ireland, such as the Marquis of Conyngham, to smaller local landlords. There was a range of both resident and absentee landlords in Donegal, while some landlords were themselves middlemen, holding their land from larger estates' owners. The infamous Lord Leitrim was one of these.

Landlords expected to receive the rents due from their tenants on gale day. If a tenant failed to pay the amount due he was issued with a notice to quit, which could lead to eviction. In exchange for the payment of rent, tenants were normally

allowed the use of a portion of land and a cottage on the landlord's estate, however, this did not necessarily mean access to the estate's resources such as turf, fish or game. On some estates tenants were threatened with eviction for poaching and trespassing on bogs.

Not all landlords went to these lengths; within Donegal there were a number of 'good' landlords, such as the Hamiltons and Lord George Hill. These landlords were reforming landlords who modernised traditional farming practices to create more profitable farms for their tenants.

The County Archives holds a range of material relating to landed estates in Donegal. The records include estate rentals and maps, lists of tenants, correspondence and photographs.

CONFLICT

The late nineteenth century in Ireland was dominated politically by the home rule movement, founded by Glenfinn native Isaac Butt, and the land war. A combination of these two movements ultimately resulted in various land purchase acts, which redistributed the land of Ireland from the landlord to the tenant.

However, efforts to introduce a form of Irish Home Rule failed and the 1916 Easter Rising led to the rapid development of revolutionary nationalism throughout Ireland over the next few years.

A Truce in July 1921 was followed by the controversial Anglo-Irish Treaty in December 1921.

Donegal was largely pro-Treaty in the subsequent Civil War. This was evidenced by the resolutions passed by local authorities within the county, though many people, such as the ill fated Joseph McKelvey, did reject the Treaty.

Despite this nationalist zeal, large numbers of young men from the county had joined the British Army and fought for the Allied forces in the First World War. Donegal men were also present in the Allied forces in the Second World War, while many others joined the local defence forces.

Today in Donegal, the Irish Army's 28th Infantry Battalion is stationed at Finner Camp with occupied posts at Lifford and Rockhill, Letterkenny. The major duties of the Army today are peacekeeping and aid to civil power.

The County Archives' collection includes records detailing local authorities' handling of and reaction to conflict, and a number of private records, such as letters from Isaac Butt, photographs of Finner Camp and the James Grove First World War letters.



Joseph McKelvey, executed during the Civil War, 1922

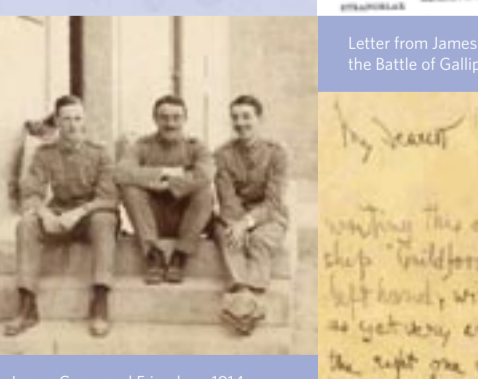
In Donegal, as elsewhere during the War of Independence, local authorities demanded the withdrawal of British forces and acknowledged the authority of Dáil Éireann.



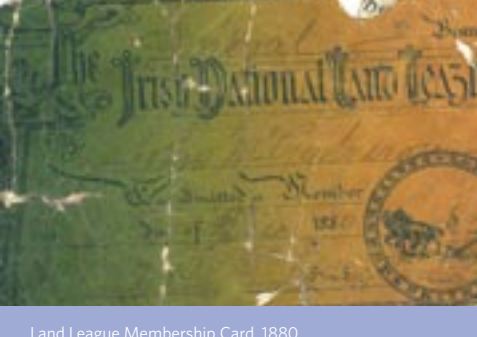
Occupation of Ballyshannon RIC Barracks, Updated



Defence Forces in Training, 2008



James Grove and Friends, c. 1914



Land League Membership Card, 1880

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & DEMOCRACY

From Norman times the administration of local functions in Donegal was carried out by the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury was made up of the county's largest landowners, who were summoned to meetings, known as Assizes, by the County Sheriff. The Assizes dealt with matters relating to the building, repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, piers and harbours, courthouses, hospitals, and the County Gaol. They also had responsibility for the financing of local dispensaries and the boarding out of orphaned or deserted children.

After the introduction of the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1838, boards of guardians were established in poor law unions across Donegal to erect workhouses and administer relief to the destitute poor. The functions of the boards of guardians expanded through time to include local government functions such as public health and sanitation and the building of labourers' cottages.

At the same time many urban areas had their own local authority in the form of town commissioners or corporations which provided public services such as public lighting, street sweeping, road repairs and the removal of nuisances.

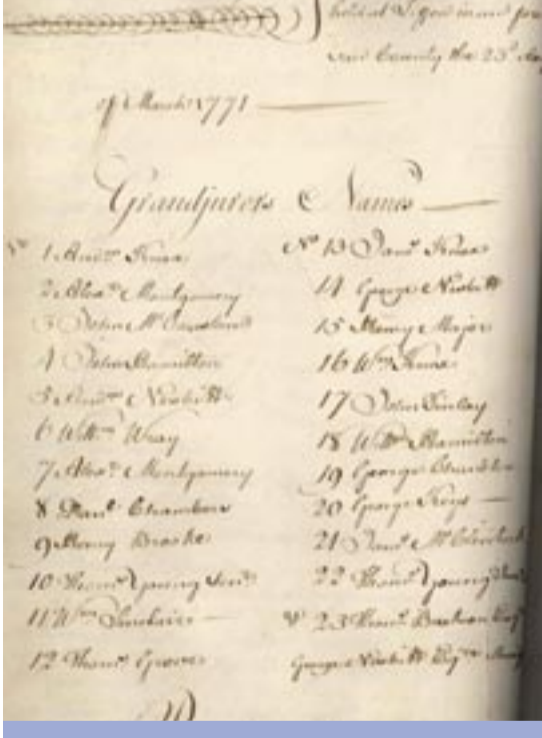
This system of local government was reformed under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, with the creation of the county, urban district and rural district councils, which took over the local government functions of the grand jury and boards of guardians. This system was simplified in 1925, with the abolition of the rural district councils and the transfer of their functions to the county councils.

The County Archives holds minutes, correspondence and reports from each of these local authorities, as well as information relating to the election of their members.

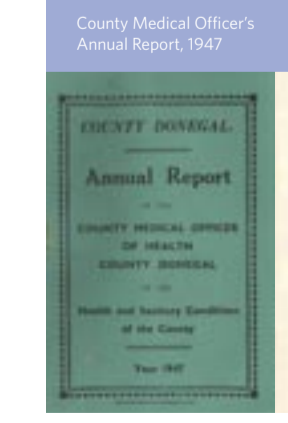
First Meeting of Donegal County Council, 1899



Donegal County Council, Elected Members, 1999



List of Grand Jury Members, 1771



County Medical Officers Annual Report 1947



Re-opening of the County House, Lifford, 1930



Presidential Election Poster, 1966



The 1st Donegal Grand Jury, c.1899