

Representative Church Body Library, Dublin

D.11

Records of the Dioceses of Ossory, Ferns & Leighlin
14th-20th cent.

From the Dean & Chapter of St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny
1931 & 1985; from the Palace, Kilkenny, 1993-94; from Revd
Dr R.B. MacCarthy, 1995

Notes

The bishopric of Leighlin was united to Ferns in 1597, and Ferns and Leighlin were united to Ossory in 1835.

The vast majority of the records of all three dioceses were destroyed in the fire in the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922. The material which is listed in Herbert Wood *A Guide to ...the Public Record Office of Ireland* (Dublin 1919), pp. 243-46, is largely a catalogue of the records which were destroyed.

1. Diocese of Ossory

1.1 Records rel. to Irishtown, Kilkenny

Deeds, 1320-1648; court book, 1667-1683; poll books, 1702-1758; legal papers, 1730s; subscription roll, 1750-1762; miscellaneous papers, 16th-18th cent.

1320-1762

1.2 The Red Book of Ossory

A parchment (sheep) register containing copies of documents, 1154-1583, rel. to the Diocese of Ossory, the Province of Dublin, and government in Ireland, together with religious verse of Richard Lederede, Bishop of Ossory, 1317-c.1361 and miscellanea including papal bulls, Magna Carta and other English statutes, extracts from French verses on the proverbs of the Sybil, and a treatise on aqua vitae.

Latin, French & English

300 x 210 mm

Mid 14th cent.

[See J.T. Gilbert "Archives of the See of Ossory" in *Historical Manuscripts Commission. Tenth Report, Appendix, Part V* (London 1885), pp. 219-265; J.T. Gilbert *Facsimiles of the National Manuscripts of Ireland*, Part IV, Vol.II (London 1884), Appendix, Plate xxii; H.J. Lawlor "Calendar of the Liber Ruber of the Diocese of Ossory" in *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, Vol.XXVII, Section C, No.6 (Dublin 1908), pp. 159-208; R.L. Greene (ed) *The Lyrics of the Red Book of Ossory* (Oxford 1974)].

1.3 The White Book of Ossory

The original White Book is lost and this volume, which was repaired and rebound in 1905, contains six paper folios of early 17th century copies of an inquisition of 1331 and 14 charters, 1202-1289, rel. to the Bishops of Ossory and the city of Kilkenny.

Latin

300 x 210 mm

Early 17th cent.

Also guarded into the volume is "An Index of Papers belonging to the Diocese as left by Bishop Newcome" [William Newcome, Bishop of Ossory, 1775-1779]. This is the second folio of a list of papers numbered 1-65. The first folio containing nos 1-45 is not present.

[See H.F. Berry "Ancient Charters in the Liber Albus Ossoriensis" in *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* Vol.XXVII, Section C, No.3 (Dublin 1908), pp.115-155.

1.4 Deeds

1. 31 July 1639

Lease of Oughterath and Foulkstown from Jonas [Wheeler], Bishop of Ossory to Jane Bulger, widow, Kilkenny

2. 2 Nov. 1678

of Agreement that the presentation to Kells union shall alternate between the Duke of Ormond and the Bishop of Ossory

3. 27 April 1678

in Patent for the lands belonging to the see of Ossory Co. Kilkenny and for the Corporation of Irishtown

4. 27 Dec. 1701

- Exonerations and deductions rel. to crown rents from certain livings
5. 7 July 1705
Licence for Bishop Hartstingue to be absent from the diocese

1.5 Papers rel. to see lands, 1663-1819

1.6 Papers rel. to livings and presentations, 1664-c.1692

1.7 Visitations

1. "A true Coppy of the Book called A State of The Diocese of Ossory Ecclesiasticall and Temporall...1679."
The visitation was made in the first year of the episcopate of Thomas Otway but the copy must date from later than 6 March 1693 (the date of Otway's death) as the volume also contains, in the same hand as the visitation, "A Catalogue of Dr Thomas Otway late Lord Bishopp of Ossory His Library". The hand is consistent with a late 17th century dating.
2. Typescript copy, by Canon J.B. Leslie, of No.1 above with indexes of subjects, places and names, [1931].
3. "The State of the Diocese of Ossory as far as the same could be collected from my Parochial Visitation. A.D. 1731" and "Account of Pensions to Poor Vicars in the Dioceses of Canterbury and Ely".
This is a visitation book from the first year of the episcopate of Edward Tennison. At the back of the volume there is a copy trust deed, 30 March 1703, and related accounts, 1699-1703, concerning a trust for poor vicars of which the Archbishop of Canterbury (Thomas Tennison, uncle of Edward) and the Bishop of Ely (Symon Patrick) were trustees. The accounts are signed by Tennison and Patrick.
4. Typescript copy, by Canon J.B. Leslie, of No.3 above, [1931].
5. Loose visitation returns for the parishes of Rosbercon and Kilmacow, 1756.
6. Loose visitation returns for the parishes of Callan, Castlecomer, Freshford and Rathkyran, 1758.
7. Visitation return for the parish of Rosconnel, 1759.
8. Loose visitation returns for the parishes of Aghour/Freshford, Ballycallan, Callan, Castlecomer, Castleinch, Dunkitt/Kilcollum, Fidown & Whitechurch, Inistioge, Kells, Kilculliheen, Kilnamagh, Kilkenny-St Mary, Kilmoganny, Knocktopher, Offerlane, Rathdowney, Rosbercon, Seirkieran, Thomastown & the Rower, 1777.
9. Loose visitation returns for the parishes of Aghaboe, Aughmacart, Burnchurch, Fartagh, Kilfane, Kilculliheen, Rathkeran, Rosbercon, [n.d., but probably from the period 1756-77].
10. Returns to "Queries from John Lord Bishop of Ossory ... 1781".
These are visitation returns to John Hotham, Bishop of Ossory, 1779-1782. They are contained in two notebooks and the style of the books and the hand suggests that they are official contemporary copies.
11. Answers to queries proposed by the Lord Bishop of

Ossory, c.1796.

These are visitation returns from the episcopate of Thomas Lewis O'Beirne. They are contained in two notebooks, one of which is disbound and are in the same style as No.10 above.

12. Answers to "Queries from the Lord Bishop of Ossory...", 1799.

These are printed lists of queries with the hand written replies of the clergy, which have been bound up into a volume. They date from the first year of the episcopate of Hugh Hamilton.

13. Do, 1800

14. Episcopal visitation 1841

15. Do, 1842

16. Do, 1844

17. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1845

18. Do, 1846

19. Do, 1848

20. Do, 1849

21. Do, 1850

22. Do, 1851

23. Do, 1852

24. Do, 1853

25. Do, 1854

26. Do, 1855

27. Do, 1856

28. Do, 1857

29. Do, 1858

30. Do, 1859

31. Do, 1862

32. Do, 1863

33. Do, 1864

34. Another copy of no.17

35. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1866

36. Do, 1867

37. Do, 1868

38. Another copy of no.21

39. Do

40. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1869

41. Another copy of no.40

42. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1870

43. Another copy of no.42

44. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1875

45. Do, 1876

46. Do, 1879

47. Do, 1882

48. Do, 1887

49. Do, 1891

50. Do, 1894

51. Do, 1897

52. Do, 1878

53. Do, 1900

54. Do, 1903

55. Do, 1905

56. Do, 1907

57. Do, 1908

58. Do, 1910

59. Rural deans' visitation returns for Ossory, Ferns &

- Leighlin, 1913
60. Do, 1919
 61. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1926
 62. Do, 1941
 63. Do, 1944
 64. Do, 1948
 65. Rural deans' visitation returns for Ossory, Ferns & Leighlin, 1948-50
 66. Do, 1954
 67. Do, 1957

1.8 The register of Bishop John Hartstonge

Extracts from the register of John Hartstonge, Bishop of Ossory, 1693-1714, rel. to the unions of Kells and Knocktopher; the Marquis of Ormond's school in Kilkenny; the admission of James Gilbert into holy orders; Dean Mossom's dissent from the Archbishop of Dublin's rule about residence, 1709-10.

This is an 18th century memorandum, consisting of one paper bifolium. The original register was destroyed in the fire in the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922.

1.9 Papers rel. to the Palace, Deanery and glebe houses, 1734-1760

1.10 "Epitaphi Monumentorum Basilicae Ossoriensis Sancto Canico Sacrae 1763"

The manuscript upon which was based *Epitaphs on the Tombs in the Cathedral Church of St Canice, Kilkenny collected by John O'Phelan...* (Dublin 1813). The flyleaf records this as the gift of the Revd Mervyn Archdall, [(1723-1791), author of *Monastican Hibernicum*] and a label on the front board dates the gift to 1776. Latin

1.11 Correspondence rel. to the Red Book of Ossory.

1851; 1968-87

1.12 Letters and papers of Henry Semple, Diocesan Registrar.
1864-1865

1.13 Letters and inventories rel. to diocesan, cathedral and parish records
1875-1930

1.14 Diocesan Council attendance book
1. 1882-1897

1.15 Account books

1. Fees paid by clergy on institution, 1882-1903
2. Diocesan trusts and charities, 1905-1929

1.16 Episcopal visiting book

Register maintained by the Bishops of Ossory, Ferns & Leighlin [John Baptist Crozier, Charles Frederick D'Arcy & John Henry Bernard] recording their visits to parishes, together with papers, notes, maps and correspondence rel. to the parishes.

1897-1915

- 1.17 Correspondence rel. to the White Book of Ossory.**
1901-1908
- 1.18 Letters, papers, presscuttings and printed material rel. to St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny.**
A miscellaneous collection of original material and copies, 17th-20th cent., made by John Henry Bernard, Bishop of Ossory, in 1914.
- 1.19 Clerical successions in Ossory, Ferns & Leighlin**
A volume of succession lists of parish clergy together with some related correspondence in 1914 and notes.
- 1.20 Index of churches, clergy and synodsmen in Ossory, Ferns & Leighlin**
1921
- 1.21 Ossory and Leighlin Glebes Committee Minute Book**
1. 1934-1993
- 1.22 Minutes, letters, papers and drawings rel. to a memorial in St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny to John Godfrey Fitzmaurice Day, Bishop of Ossory, 1920-38; Archbishop of Armagh, 1938.**
1940-1943
- 1.23 Returns from parishes in Ossory, Ferns & Leighlin**
1. Triennial returns of statistics, 1963-1966, 1972
2. Annual returns, 1963-1966
1963-1972
- 1.24 Miscellaneous papers, 1755-1826**

2. Diocese of Leighlin

1. Visitations

1. Episcopal visitation, 1842
2. Do, 1844
3. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1846
4. Do, 1848
5. Do, 1849
6. Do, 1850
7. Another copy of no.6
8. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1851
9. Do, 1852
10. Another copy of no.9
11. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1853
12. Do, 1854
13. Do, 1856
14. Do, 1857
15. Do, 1859
16. Do, 1860
17. Another copy of no.16
18. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1862
19. Another copy of no.18
20. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1864
21. Do, 1865
22. Do, 1866
23. Do, 1867
24. Another copy of no.23
25. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1868
26. Do, 1869
27. Do, 1870
28. Another copy of no.27
29. Do
30. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1875
31. Do, 1876
32. Do, 1879
33. Do, 1882
34. Do, 1891
35. Do, 1894
38. Do, 1897
39. Do, 1898
40. Do, 1900

[Returns for 1913 and 1919 are bound with the Ossory returns for these years]

41. Do, 1903
42. Do, 1905
43. Do, 1907
44. Do, 1908
45. Do, 1910
46. Do, 1926
47. Do, 1939
48. Do, 1941
49. Do, 1944
50. Do, 1948

[Returns for 1948-50, 1954 & 1957 are bound with the
Ossory returns for these years]

2. Glebes Committee

1. Minute books
 1. 1908-1940
 2. 1941-1963
 3. 1963-1976
2. Register of quinquennial inspections and paintings
 1. 1927-1991
3. Miscellaneous papers 1923-45

3. Miscellaneous papers, c.1670-1829

3. Diocese of Ferns

1. Visitations

1. Episcopal visitation, 1842
2. Do, 1844
3. Do, 1844
4. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1845
5. Do, 1856
6. Do, 1848
7. Do, 1849
8. Another copy of no. 7
9. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1850
10. Do, 1851
11. Do, 1852
12. Another copy of no. 11
13. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1853
14. Do, 1854
15. Do, 1855
16. Do, 1856
17. Do, 1857
18. Do, 1859
19. Do, 1860
20. Do, 1861
21. Do, 1863
22. Do, 1864
23. Do, 1865
24. Do, 1866
25. Do, 1868
26. Another copy of no.25
27. Do
28. Do
29. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1869
30. Do, 1870
31. Another copy of no.30
32. Do
33. Rural deans' visitation returns, 1875
34. Do, 1876
35. Do, 1882
36. Do, 1894
37. Do, 1897
38. Do, 1898
39. Do, 1900
40. Do, 1903
41. Do, 1905
42. Do, 1907
43. Do, 1908
44. Do, 1910

[Returns for 1913 & 1919 are bound with the Ossory returns for these years]

45. Do, 1926
46. Do, 1939
47. Do, 1941
48. Do, 1944

49. Do, 1948

[Returns for 1948-50, 1954 & 1957 are bound with the
Ossory returns for these years]