Patrick Reilly Papers, Millockstown, Ardee, 1873 – 1900

Repository Code: IE LHA

Collection Reference Code: PP00023/

Title: Patrick Reilly Papers, Millockstown, Ardee

Dates: 1873 – 1900

Level of Description: Fonds

Extent: 2 folders containing 36 items

Name of Creator(s): Patrick Reilly, Millockstown, Ardee (fl 1873 – 1900)

Admin/Biographical History: Patrick Reilly of Millockstown, Ardee, was a farmer and is listed as having a holding of 181 acres, 1 rood and 5 perches at Millockstown, Ardee in the 'Land Owners in Ireland 1876' which is a record of landowners in Ireland holding one acre and over. He became a member of the Irish Home Rule League and was a friend and supporter of Philip Callan, MP, of 39 North Great Georges Street, Dublin and of Cookstown House, Ardee. Patrick Reilly ran for election in Ardee Union in March 1876 and having got the highest votes in his electoral division, was elected to the Ardee Board of Guardians. Reilly was selected to the Council of the Irish Home Rule League for the year commencing February 1878 (PP00023/A/013/1 – 3) and was elected as a member of the National Convention Committee in 1879 (PP00023/A/014).

Patrick Reilly was a witness at the trial of the Louth County election petition on 14th June 1880. A petition was presented by Mr [GH] Kirk against Philip Callan charging that Callan obtained his election for the County of Louth 'by corrupt practices.' See the 'copy of the shorthand writer's notes of the evidence and judgement on the trial of the Louth County election petition' available on the website of the Enhanced British Parliamentary Papers on Ireland (EPPI): http://www.dippam.ac.uk/eppi/.

In the aftermath of the famine, better rights for farmers and labourers were sought and land reform became the main political issue of the day. The land

question centred on the unequal system of land ownership and on the treatment of tenants by their landlords as a series of land acts was introduced. The Irish Home Rule League was established in 1873 by a former Conservative turned nationalist campaigner named Isaac Butt (d1879). It had grown out of the Home Government Association, also founded by Butt in 1870. Within a year, the Home Rule party had won fifty-nine of the 105 seats in the 1874 General Election. The late 1870s was also a period of economic decline and it was against this background that Michael Davitt (1846–1906) founded the Land League in 1879. The new Home Rule leader at that time, Charles Stewart Parnell, realising that he needed to appeal to farmers, formed the Irish National Land League with Davitt. The aim of the League was to end landlordism in Ireland. The Land League undertook a bitter campaign against unjust rents and evictions, and the period became known as the 'land war.' It had a nationalist as well as a social element. By 1881, the government was forced by the League's popularity to introduce land reform measures to pacify Irish tenants, and so the 1881 Land Act was passed.

Archival History: This collection was deposited by the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society in Louth County Archives Service in April 2001.

Scope and Content: A small collection containing receipts, a poster, and letters and circulars relating to The Irish Home Rule League including the Isaac Butt testimonial in 1875, the election of the League's Council for 1878 and Patrick Reilly's membership of the League. It also contains letters concerning elections in County Louth including a voting paper of Philip Callan and a letter from Henry Bellingham thanking electors for electing him (1880); lyrics of a song entitled 'Louth Election 1880'; a receipt from The Ladies Irish National Land League; an admission card for the national convention of the Irish National Land League; and a poem entitled 'The Special Constable'.

It also contains personal receipts and letters of Patrick Reilly's family including three letters from his son Joseph M Reilly, regarding school at Saint Mary's College, Dundalk, and the sale of gas shares in 1893.

Subject index: Home Rule; Irish Nationalism; Personal and Family Papers; Poetry

Appraisal and Destruction: Retain permanently.

Accruals: No further accruals are currently expected.

System of Arrangement: The collection is divided into two sub-fonds: politics and family. It is arranged chronologically therein.

Conditions of Access: Open Access, by appointment

Conditions Governing Reproduction: Items may be subject to copyright. Contact Archive staff regarding copying.

Language/Script of Material: English

Physical Characteristics: Paper. Fair – good condition.

Technical Requirements: Careful handling required

Finding Aids: The descriptive list can be found on the on-line catalogue available at http://www.louthcoco.ie.

Existence & Location of Originals: Louth County Archives Service

Existence & Location of Copies: Some digitised documents may occasionally be found on http://www.louthcoco.ie

Related Material:

Louth County Archives Service: IE LHA E/ Election Archive Collection for County Louth

Louth County Archives Service: IE LHA PP00001/005/003 - Anti-Home Rule poster, 1884
Louth County Archives Service: IE LHA PP00118/ Joseph Dolan papers
Louth County Archives Service: IE LHA PP00218/ Irish National League (Michael Davitt) Branch, Dundalk
Louth County Archives Service: IE LHA PP00486/ Irish National Land League Drogheda Branch Minute Book

Repository Home Page: http://www.louthcoco.ie

Source Material: http://www.louthcoco.ie

Date of Description: April 2010, by Lorraine A McCann, Louth County Archives Service

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Level Headings:

Fonds: PP00023/
Patrick Reilly, Millockstown, Ardee, 1873 – 1900, 36 items

Sub-fonds 1: PP00023/A/
Politics, 1873 – 1900, 28 items

Sub-fonds 2: PP00023/B/
Family, 1873 – 1893, 8 items

Descriptive List

Patrick Reilly Papers, Millockstown, Ardee, 1873 – 1900, 36 items

Sub-fonds 1:
PP00023/A/
Politics
1873 – 1900
28 items

PP00023/A/001
Receipt confirming payment of two pounds by PK (Patrick) Reilly esquire: one pound to the special funds of the Irish Home Rule League and one-pound annual subscription.
03 Dec 1873
Level: item
1p

PP00023/A/002
Handwritten letter marked 'urgent and important' from Philip Callan, Dundalk to Patrick Reilly, Millextown (Millockstown), Ardee requesting him to sign the nomination paper for the County Louth election.
03 Feb 1874
Level: item
1p

PP00023/A/003
Circular letter from The Irish Home Rule League, 29 Lower Sackville Street, Dublin requesting that a public meeting be held in the county in favour of Home Rule. It notes 'such meetings are of the greatest use both in keeping up the general spirit of the Home Rule movement and in causing the electors to take a more immediate and practical interest in its progress'.
25 Aug 1874
Level: item

1p

PP00023/A/004
Letter and receipt confirming payment of yearly subscription for 1875 of one pound to The Irish Home Rule League by PK (Patrick) Reilly esquire.
23 Jan 1875
Level: item
2 items

PP00023/A/005/
Documents relating to the Butt testimonial including circular letters from The Irish Home Rule League.
1875
Level: series
3 items

PP00023/A/005/1
Printed copy of the Butt testimonial listing resolutions that were adopted at a meeting held in Limerick on 25th February and 9th March and at a meeting held in Sackville Street on 16th March. On the back there is a list of trustees from around the country who have 'promised their support'.
[Apr - May] 1875
Level: item
2pp

PP00023/A/005/2
Circular letter from the honorary secretaries of The Irish Home Rule League, 29 Lower Sackville Street, Dublin 7 conveying details of the resolution 'that the members of the League should ...give all possible aid towards making the Butt Testimonial a success'. It provides arrangement details of the Testimonial.
07 May 1875
Level: item
2pp

PP00023/A/005/3
Circular letter from the honorary secretaries of the Central Committee, 4 Bachelors Walk, Dublin providing a summary of proceedings taken 'to carry out successfully the National Movement' and requesting 'assistance and active co-operation' to be given to the movement. The letter states 'it remains for the Irish people to prove that they are not unmindful of the raised public services rendered by Mr Butt, nor of the sacrifices which he has so continuously made for many years of his own interests, in order that he might best serve those of Ireland'.
1875
Level: item
4pp

PP00023/A/006
Handwritten letter from William Taaffe, Ardee to Patrick Reilly relating the results of the election for the Ardee Union. He begins 'a glorious victory for the cause' and proceeds to give the number of votes received by candidates including himself coming second with 479 votes and P Reilly first with 554 votes. He urges Reilly to '...get these numbers put in the Argus this week. Send it to them at once. I will get it in the Democrat.'
23 Mar 1876
Level: item
1p

PP00023/A/007
Handwritten letter from Patrick Reilly, Millockstown to P (Philip) Callan, MP sharing news and thoughts on the subject of labourers in County Louth. He discloses opinions he overheard on the way to Drogheda about Callan ‘censuring you for speaking in favour of Mrs Brennan and particularly for bringing forward the cause of the labourers.’ He reveals that he agrees with him having attended the meeting noting that ‘in an agricultural county like Louth the question of the labourers is rather a ticklish one to deal with and would meet with very little sympathy from the majority of the farmers even as it is some of them think the labourer is too well off.’ However, he declares that this is not his opinion as he thinks ‘the labourers were most shamefully treated’.
12 Sep 1876
Level: item
4pp

PP00023/A/008
Voting paper of Phillip Callan, 39 North Great Georges Street, Dublin and Cookstown House, Ardee for five guardians in the Ardee Union election of 1876.
1876
Level: item
1 item

PP00023/A/009
Circular letter from Isaac Butt to PK (Patrick) Reilly esquire, Millextown (Millockstown), Ardee requesting Reilly to meet him at the council of the Home Rule League on 14th September 1877. Includes envelope.
05 Sep 1877
Level: item
2 items

PP00023/A/010
Circular letter from the honorary secretaries of the Irish Home Rule League, 29 Lower Sackville Street, Dublin, requesting attendance at a Council meeting on 14th September 1877 for the consideration of notices of motion (included). One is from Isaac Butt regarding the summoning of a national conference 'to consult and advise upon the interests of the Home Rule Movement' and the other is from Charles Stewart Parnell MP regarding the appointing of a committee to consider steps for the summoning of a national conference to 'deliberate upon the present position of the Home Rule Movement.'
10 Sep 1877
Level: item
1p

PP00023/A/011
Handwritten letter (4pp) from Phillip Callan to Patrick Reilly esquire, Millockstown, Ardee urging him to attend a meeting of the council of the Home Rule League on 14th September 1877 to support Butt who is facing serious opposition within the party.

He declares that the meeting 'is the most important - will be the most momentuous in its consequences'. He writes 'availing themselves of the Parnell – Biggar agitation, the Sullivan clique aim at ousting Butt by publicly slighting him, and in as far as they can insulting him.' He explains that if the Council try to tamper with Butt's motion 'there's an end to party' and refers to the motion. He writes that 'Butt is most anxious for the county members to attend' noting others who have arrived in Dublin. Callan acknowledges that with the broken weather Reilly's absence would be 'a serious inconvenience' to him in 'the period of a bad harvest'. Envelope included.

13 Sep 1877
Level: item
2 items

PP00023/A/012
Circular letter from Isaac Butt, Bangor, North Wales urging attendance and support at a meeting of the Home Rule League on 11th October 1877 and noting enclosure of copies of resolutions. The meeting has been summoned for the purpose of considering the proposal 'to convene a conference to deliberate upon the position and prospects of the Home Rule cause'.
04 Oct 1877
Level: item
1p

PP00023/A/013/
Documents relating to the election of the Council of the Irish Home Rule League for 1878.
15 Dec 1877 - Feb 1878
Level: series
3 items

PP00023/A/013/1
Circular letter from the Irish Home Rule League, 24 D'Olier Street, Dublin notifying members that they can nominate up to fifty members of the League to be balloted as members of the Council. Includes a copy of the Eighth Rule regarding how the Council of the League shall be constituted.
15 Dec 1877
Level: item
2pp

PP00023/A/013/2
List of 243 nominated persons from which fifty are to be selected to the Council of the Irish Home Rule League for the year commencing February 1878. Includes copy of Law 8 regarding how the Council of the League shall be constituted. In addition to Philip Callan, MP, 39 North Great George's Street, Dublin, PK (Patrick) Reilly, Millextown (Millockstown), Ardee and Nicholas Leech, town commissioner, Drogheda, it includes GH Kirk, MP, Newgrange, Drogheda and Major M O'Reilly, MP, Knockabbey, Dundalk.
07 Jan 1878
Level: item
3pp

PP00023/A/013/3
List of members of the Council of the Irish Home Rule League for 1878. Also contains a copy of the general principles of the League. It includes the names of Philip Callan MP, 39 North Great George's Street, Dublin and PK (Patrick) Reilly, Millextown (Millockstown), Ardee. Nicholas Leech, town commissioner of Drogheda is also included.
Feb 1878
Level: item
4pp

PP00023/A/014
Printed letter with handwritten insertions from AJ Kettle, Honorary Secretary, National Convention Committee, 24 D'Olier Street, Dublin to PK (Patrick) Reilly esquire, Millextown (Millockstown), Ardee informing him that he

has been elected as a member of the committee and requesting him to attend the next meeting of the Committee on 31st October 1879.
25 Oct 1879
Level: item
1p

PP00023/A/015
Handwritten letter from Henry Bellingham, Castle Bellingham (Castlebellingham) to Patrick Reilly esquire, Millextown (Millockstown), Ardee thanking him and the other electors of county Louth for electing him as their representative. He writes 'I beg to return my sincere thanks to you and the other electors of Louth for the high honor you have conferred upon me in electing me as your representative and to assure you of my desire to do everything I can to forward your interests'.
29 May 1880
Level: item
1p

PP00023/A/016
Lyrics of a song entitled 'Louth Election 1880' to the air of 'Bonnie Dundee'. The writer is not known. There are six verses and a chorus. The first verse is as follows:

'To the benchman of Parnell 'twas Philip who spoke
"You won in Dundalk but you'll find it’s no joke
You put in the Whig by the strength of the till
But you'll find to your cost I've a kick in me still"

Chorus - "I'm up for the county I'll travel it round
For I know ev'ry inch of the oft foughten ground
And all the electors who want to be free
From the priest hunting Parnell will joll up for me"
1880
Level: item
2pp

PP00023/A/017
Delegate's card of admission of PK (Patrick) Reilly of the Ardee branch for the national convention of the Irish National Land League to be held in the Rotunda, Dublin. Signed by Nicholas Halpenny, president, PK Reilly, treasurer, and John Bradley, secretary.
15 Sep 1881
Level: item
1 item

PP00023/A/018
Receipt signed by A (Anna) Parnell confirming PK (Patrick) Reilly of Ardee paid £30 to the general fund of The Ladies Irish National Land League, 39 Upper Sackville Street, Dublin.
04 Feb 1882
Level: item
1p

PP00023/A/019

Printed poster containing address of the Irish Home Rule League 'to the Irish people' signed by John Talbot Darcy, Major, DL & JP (Justice of the Peace).
[1882]
Level: item
1p

PP00023/A/020
Handwritten letter from Phillip Callan, 104 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin to Patrick Reilly esquire, Millockstown, Ardee arranging a meeting with him in Dublin and providing directions.
12 Feb 1900
Level: item
3pp

PP00023/A/021
Handwritten poem entitled 'The Special Constable'. It does not state who penned it. Seven verses are recorded. The first verse is as follows:
'You jovial gay fellows I'd have you believe
Wher e'r you're returning from market or fair
Be sure to walk straight when you're pursuing the idea
Or you're sworn dead drunk by 'Constable [F...]'
No date provided
Level: item
1 item

Sub-fonds 2:
PP00023/B/
Family
1873 – 1893
8 items

PP00023/B/001
Two copies of a prayer entitled 'Offering of her Child by a Christian Mother to the Sacred Heart of Jesus' for Patrick JG Reilly and Phillip G Reilly, signed by their mother Mary Reilly.
20 Jun 1873, 19 Nov 1874
Level: item
2 items

PP00023/B/002
Handwritten letter to Patrick Reilly esquire from J Levins, parish priest Ardee stating that he hopes to be at the Church around half past eleven 'to baptise your child'.
27 Sep 1876
Level: item
1p

PP00023/B/003
Receipt confirming payment of £1-13-9 on 20th May 1879 by Patrick Reilly esquire to Thomas Butterly, builder and undertaker, Dominick Street, Drogheda for a coffin for a child and for grave digging.
31 May 1879

Level: item
1p

PP00023/B/004
Handwritten letter from Joseph M Reilly, Saint Mary's College, Dundalk to his mother expressing his gratitude and affection to her. He writes that he 'will strive to be and continue as affectionate and obedient as I have always been or at least which you give me credit for'. He reveals that they have just had an elocution class for an hour and that 'we will have this class every Sunday now instead of the walk which we were accustomed to have on Sunday. I much more prefer this class to the walk'. He enquires about the date of the next fair day that his father will be down.
11 Nov 1888
Level: item
4pp

PP00023/B/005
Handwritten letter from Joseph M Reilly, Saint Mary's College, Dundalk to his mother in which he relates details about the impending Intermediate Certificate and the weather. He enquires if Moll and Cis like school 'very well in such fine weather as this is' and enquires about activities in Ardee writing 'I hope some of those honest Ardonian shopkeepers do not get their necks broke. Does Brian Keelan patronise them? If so, where are his feet placed or has some ingenious American hit an idea for accommodating them.' He notes that they play cricket for an hour every evening and asks her to 'look after Hooty as I intend'.
15 Jun 1889
Level: item
2pp

PP00023/B/006
Receipt of payment to Mrs Reilly from the Sisters of Mercy for £2-11-0 in respect of '3 months tuition in advance: Miss Reilly, Miss Mollie Reilly, [Masie] and stationery'.
16 Feb 1891
Level: item
1 item

PP00023/B/007
Handwritten letter from Joseph M Reilly, 63 Duleek Street, Drogheda to his mother regarding the sale of gas shares. He writes that he was 'very lucky' and explains that he brought it to Henry Smyth who got a purchaser at £1 over what the 'price really is' (words in quotation are underlined). He explains the price of gas shares and discloses 'I have seldom seen a share sold to better advantage'. He discusses going to Belfast and that he told H Smyth to talk to his mother direct. He mentions that he thinks he will 'go home on Saturday and take my holidays from then'.
10 Aug 1893
Level: item
3pp