



Popery, people, property,
legacies, alliances and
records of 18th and 19th Irish
society in the Registry of
Deeds

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The beginning

- King Billy defeated the Papist King James at the battle of the Boyne on 1 July 1690
 - Now celebrated on 12 July
- The Protestant Irish Parliament wanted to cement Protestant power
- It passed a number of laws to restrict Catholics
 - Oaths
 - Land tenure



Penal laws

- Enforcement
- Registration of land transactions



Registry of Deeds Act 1707

- An act for the Publick Registering of all Deeds, conveyances and wills that shall be made of any Honors, Manors, Lands, tenements or hereditaments — MDCCVII
- Main provisions:
 - Set up office of Registrar
 - Stated what should be registered
 - Stated how records should be kept
 - All deeds after Lady day 1707



Main provisions

- Memorials on parchment
- Signed by a grantor or grantee
- One Witness signed the memorial and made an oath
- Date and time of registration recorded
- Lands involved indexed
- Grantors indexed



The legacy 300 years later

- While many transactions were not registered the registrations have immense genealogical value
- About 600,000 memorials prior to 1834 when the numbering changed
- Each memorial usually has at least two parties and two witnesses



Who Registered

- Many transactions were not registered
- A registered deed had priority over an unregistered deed
- Where there was doubt or a transaction might be contested it was more likely to be registered
- Middle level tenants
- Middle class and above tended to register



What information?

- Names
- Relationships
- Ages – death dates
- Places – residences – townlands
- Sub-tenant names
- History of tenancy – tenures
- Settlements
- Autographs



How is the information recorded

- **Memorial**
 - A copy or detailed abstract of deed
 - Certified by a party and a witness of the deed
 - Certified photocopies available for €12
- **Memorial volumes**
 - A copy of the memorial written out by the clerks into the 'tombstone' books
 - Microfilmed by the Mormons and available through the Family History Centres and at HAGSOC

appointed by act of Parliament for Registering deeds ^{15th Nov 1791} ^{15th Nov 1791} ^{15th Nov 1791}

A Memorial of and executed deed of Marriage

between the said one thousand eight hundred and fifty two made between Robert Croker of
 Newtownards in the County of Down by officers of Deeds of the first part Eliza Dobson of Newtownards
 of the second part daughter of Peter Dobson of Newtownards of the second part and John Dobson
 of the third part of the County of Down officers of Deeds and James St. John of Newtownards of the fourth part
 trustees named and appointed for the purposes therein after mentioned of the said first part after Reciting
 that a Marriage was agreed upon and was intended to be shortly had and solemnized between the said
 Robert Croker and Eliza Dobson and deed of Marriage that for and in consideration of said intended Marriage
 and in pursuance and further Execution of the said agreement it was thereby declared and agreed
 between and by the said parties that the said John Dobson and James St. John their Executors and assigns
 should stand and be possessed of and interested in the sum of four hundred pounds
 had been paid and transferred to them the said John Dobson and James St. John by the said Peter
 Dobson as therein before mentioned upon the trusts and in the manner following that is to say
 in trust that the said trustees should out of the said sum of four hundred pounds pay to the
 said Robert Croker the sum of fifty pounds and unto the remaining three hundred and fifty pounds
 in the public funds or upon real securities to be placed in Ireland held in fee or for lives renewable
 for ever or for a long term of years or years or both or otherwise as the said Eliza Dobson should direct
 and to pay the interest thereof to the said Eliza Dobson during her life or on her own receipt and for
 her own sole use notwithstanding her Coverture and at her death in trust for the Child or Children of
 said Marriage and on the death of the said Eliza Dobson without issue entitled as therein then the
 principal sum of three hundred and fifty pounds to be paid to the said Robert Croker to and for
 his own use and said deed contains several covenants and is duly executed by all the parties
 that is also this Memorial and both are duly witnessed as to the Execution thereof by William
 St. John of Belfast in the County of Down and James St. John of Newtownards in the County of Down Robert Croker

	V		184209
	P		231
	M		184209231
	T	marriage articles	
	DD		1
	DM		5
	DY		1842
P1	N	Robert Croker	A
	R	Newtownards DOW	
	O	Esq, Officer of Excise	
P2	N	Eliza DOBSON	
	R	Newtownards DOW	
	O	spinster, daughter of C	
	N	Peter Dobson	
	R	Newtownards DOW	
	O	Esq	
trustee	N	John Dobson	
	R	Antrim ANT	
	O	Gent, Officer of Excise	
trustee	N	James H Sterne	
	R	Newtownards DOW	
	O	Gent	
		marriage shortly to be solemnised between A + B, C gave £400 to trustees £50 to A and interest on £350 to B	
	C	for life reversion to issue of marriage then to A if no issue	
W	N	Willian Sterne	
	R	Belfast ANT	
	O	Gent	
W	N	James BELL	
	R	Newtownards DOW	
	O	Gent	



Indexes

- Grantors index — devisors, textators
 - Has family name of other party
 - Can be used for a reverse grantees index
- Townland index — lists lands in deeds
 - Useful starting point
- Full name index — the dream I am creating!!
 - Registry of Deeds Index Project



Virtual tour



Virtual tour







Virtual tour





Memorial No. 1

- Grantor – Nafan COOTE Earl of Bellomont
- Grantee – Connell VERECKER, Esq of Ballinsculla LIM (he signed the memorial)
- Lease and release dated 26 March 1708 (the second of the year)
- The lands of Stephenstown, Ballinscaula, and Fanningstown, barony of Coshlea, county Limerick (near Kilmallock) for lives of Connel's brother Henry and eldest son Henry



One person's story through deeds

- Edward CROKER son of Andrew CROKER and Elizabeth TAYLOR
- His parents marriage settlement
15 Feb 1728 – Memorial 102702
- A transfer of trusts under MS
13 Apr 1752 – Memorial 102701
- Lease of houses from above MS
25 Jan 1787 – Memorial 256826



Edward Croker of Annets, Bruff & Kilmallock; continued

- Second marriage – Memorial 185107
- Settlement of dispute – Memorial 199212
- Settlement of debts – Memorial 211904
- Lands to son-in-law 1792 – Memorial 292878
- Houses in Kilmallock made freehold c1850
- Autographs

A photograph of a large, historic stone castle with multiple towers and battlements. Several flags are flying from the towers. In the background, there are rolling green hills under a cloudy sky. The castle is situated on a hillside, and some modern buildings are visible to the right.

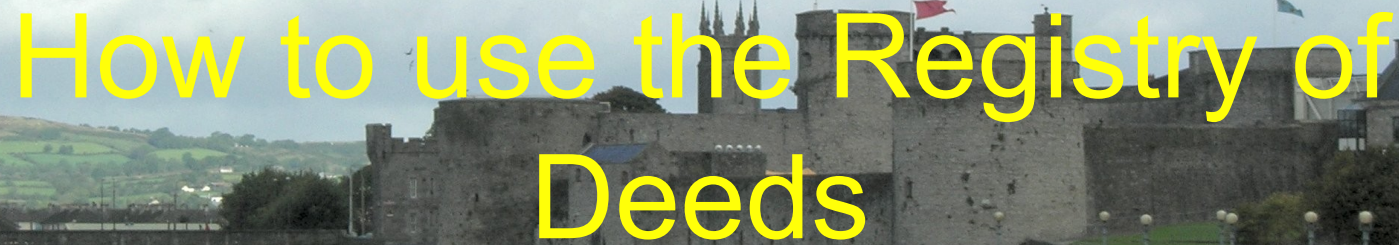
William SWAN in deeds

- Father's living will 1733 – Memorial 51820
- Consolidations to circa 1750 – e.g. Memorial
- Power of attorney – Memorial
- Deed with second wife – Memorial
- Autographs



Thomas Swan CROKER

- Annuity from lands in father's marriage settlement – Memorial 443742
- Inventory of house – Memorial 542735
- Marriage settlement for second wife – Memorial 553026
- Death date in deed involving widow and son – 1840 V20 No139
- Autographs



How to use the Registry of Deeds

- Indexes
 - Grantors
 - Townland
 - Full names — in development
- Start with what you know and work back
- Do your homework
- Share your results



Registry of Deeds Index Project

- <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~>
- Accepts contributions:
 - Index entries
 - transcriptions