

St Stephen's Hospital (Blue Coat Hospital)

IE CCCA/SM53

Descriptive List

Cork City and County Archives

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference: IE CCCA/SM53

Title: St Stephen's Hospital (Blue Coat Hospital)

Level of description: fonds

Date: 1699 - 1916

Extent: 1 vol and 1 file (with 3 items)

CONTEXT

Creator: St Stephen's Hospital, Cork [1699-1916]

Biographical/Administrative History:

St Stephen's Hospital, also known as the Blue Coat Hospital, was a charitable school founded in 1699 by William Worth, merchant, of Dublin, for the benefit of poor boys belonging to the Established church, the Church of Ireland. The Mayor and Common Council of the City of Cork were appointed governors of the school and its endowments. The Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork, Worth and his heirs, and the Provost of Trinity College Dublin, together with the Governors, nominated and chose pupils for the school. By the late 19th century the school and its endowments had been placed under a scheme by the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, under the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act, 1885 [the Commissioners as a public body were created in 1845]. In 1916 this scheme was amended and the school was closed, with arrangements made for funding of pupils elsewhere. St Stephen's was located in the parish of St Nicholas [near Barrack St/Douglas St]. [On this and similar charitable schools, see Lewis, Samuel, A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, London, 1837: <http://www.libraryireland.com/topog/C/Cork-Schools.php>]

William Worth is thought to have been from a Cork family which included his brother Edward, Dean of Cork and later bishop of Killaloe, incorrectly identified as the Hospital's founder in some sources.

Archival History:

Loose items were deposited in 1999, the volume having been deposited earlier, possibly by Cork Corporation.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content:

One volume containing copies of deeds, leases, accounts, and governors' minutes relating to St Stephen's Hospital, and a file containing a later deed and related items.

SM53/1 Volume, 'A Booke containing the grant from William Worth Esq of the lands belonging to St Stephen's Hospital of Cork, founded and erected' [by him] and the established rules and orders for regulating [it].. together also with an abstract of the several leases... pursuant to the said grant.. also, Accounts of the revenue of the said lands and the several additional rules and orders made by the governors of the said hospital as well touching and concerning the revenue thereof, as for the better management of the schoolmaster and poor boyes settled and maintained therein'.

Deeds and governors' orders and minutes 1699 to 1807 are included. From 1730, orders and minutes of governors are signed by those attending [earlier minutes and deeds transcribed]. At the back of the volume occur accounts from 1726 to 1750, some early accounts including lists or names of boys at the school.

The initial lease, dated 1 Sep 1699, from William Worth, Dublin, to the Mayor and Constables of Cork, refers to lands at Spittlelands, South Liberties, Cork, including St Stephen's Chapel, and lands in Ballymoghrt and Cahergall [Mayfield/St Luke's]. The release of 2 Sep 1699 sets out in detail the scope of the grant made by Worth 'out of a pious and charitable intent', directing the building of a house or school to be called St Stephen's hospital, for the benefit of poor boys, to be governed by the mayor and common council of Cork, who are also given power over the management of the endowments. In the minutes, pupils are sometimes referred to as 'Blue Boys' and the school as the 'Blue Coat Hospital' [referring to the uniform worn]. The first schoolmaster appointed was James Browne (10 Aug 1702). c300pp

SM53/2 Order Amending Scheme framed by the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, under the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act, 1885, for the future government and management of the endowments of or belonging to St Stephen's Hospital, Cork, founded by William Worth. 26 July 1916. Under this scheme the hospital is closed and its endowments applied to the education of poor boys 'of the Protestant Religion'. 'Qualifications of free pupils' and other terms are set out. The Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork is chairman of the governors. 2 copies present (one signed), and covering letter 29 Aug from Commissioners to Gregg, Jermyn & Son, Solicitors, Cork. Order 8pp

SM53/3 Copy of deed issued by the Mayor of Common Council of Cork as governors of St Stephen's Hospital, granting the power to nominate two poor boys of the Established religion for admission to the hospital, on foot of a donation of £200 by 'a person whose name is concealed', and following an order of the governors 'for the encouragement of benefactors to the said Hospital'. Rev John Kenny acted as clerk for the donor. A note by the donor is initialled 'TN'. Original grant dated 3 Jun 1707 and signed by B Poye, mayor.

SM53/4 List noting 'Names of Council' [councillors], 'Date of Admission' and 'Date of Presentation', evidently recording admission and presentation of Councillors as governors of the hospital [no direct

reference to governors or hospital is made]. 24 names are contained. Dates of admission run from 31 Sep 1811 to 27 Apr 1835. Many names are marked as 'disqualified from non attendance'. 1p

The collection documents much of the history of one of the several charitable foundations set up in Cork city and county in the 17th and 18th centuries. Such foundations were a feature of protestant charity of the period, and often involved the close support of secular authorities, such as Cork Corporation, which was protestant-controlled until reforms under the Municipal Corporations Act (Ireland) 1840 took effect. The deeds and minutes recorded in SM53/1 give much detail on the foundation and operation of St Stephen's, or Blue Coat, Hospital, while other items add to this record, and document the closure of the hospital and amendment of the scheme for its endowments.

Subjects:

St Stephen's Hospital (Blue Coat Hospital), Cork
Cork Corporation
Education
Religious Institutions
Church of Ireland
18th century
19th century
Charities
School records

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE**Conditions Governing Access:**

Open by appointment to all holding a current reader's ticket

Conditions Governing Reproduction:

Subject to Rules Governing Reproduction of Records at CCCA

Language:

English

Physical /Technical Requirements:

Volume is fragile
Handle with care

Finding Aids:

Descriptive List

ALLIED MATERIALS**Related Units of Description:**

| <i>Reference</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Other</i> |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|
| IE CCCA/U683 | Cork Preservation Society | U683 contains some background information on Skiddy's almshouse, Bettridge's charity, and the Green Coat School, all in Shandon, Cork city, and charity schools in Kinsale and Youghal, all based on charitable endowments. U413 and SM651 are records of Skiddy's charity and almshouse. |

RULES /CONVENTIONS USED

ISAD(G)

ARCHIVIST'S NOTE**Prepared by:** Timmy O Connor, Local Government Archivist**Date:** June 2014