

Eedy Letters

Ref. IE CCCA/U9

Series Level Description

Cork City and County Archives

Identity Statement

Reference Code:	IE CCCA/U9
Title:	Eedy Letters
Dates:	1814-1877
Level of description:	Series
Extent:	15 items

Context

Creator(s)

Eedy, Robert, Bandon and New Brunswick, Canada (1785-1857)

Archival History

The collection consists primarily of photocopies of manuscript letters (U9/2-9). Also present is a photocopy of the will of James Morgan (U9/1), and a photocopy and a transcript of two separate 1877 letters by William Eedy (U9/10-11). The latter has a note stating 'original - Elizabeth Eedy Brown, Simcox, Ontario, Canada'. This is the only information contained regarding the provenance of the collection. Also present are photocopies of accounts of Robert Eedy, 1835-40 (U9/12), two ms sermons (U9/13), and two editorial items evidently prepared by an archivist or librarian: a list of names and places mentioned in the Robert Eedy material (U9/14) and a copy typescript of items U9/1-U9/9. Some or all of the collection was deposited in this Archive on 25 June 1973 by Pdraig O Maidin, Cork County Librarian. [No accession number issued]. Photocopies of some of the letters form collection MC651 (Robert Eddy fonds) in the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (www.archives.gnb.ca).

Administrative / Biographical History

Robert Eedy (1785-1857) emigrated from Bandon, Co Cork, in 1824*, to the Nova Scotia area of British North America, later Canada, his address in 1830s being Bathurst, New Brunswick. Earlier letters are addressed to New Bandon, Chaleurs (or Shaloor) Bay, evidently in the same vicinity. Letters are principally from his nephew, John Hewston (or Huston), and his brother and sister, William and Lidia Anstis, in the Bandon area. Also present are two letters of 1877 by William Eedy of Gloucester County, New Brunswick, apparently to his distant cousin John Wolfe Eedy. He explains the Cromwellian origins of the Eedys around Bandon, and discusses family connections. This William may have been a grandnephew of Robert. Robert Eedy was married to Jane Morgan, and a copy of the 1814 will of her father, James Morgan of Newcestown, Co Cork, is also present. *Dates for Robert Eedy from finding aid MC651, Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

Content & Structure

Scope & Content

Copy letters and other items mainly concerning Robert Eedy, formerly of Bandon, Co Cork, later of Bathurst, British North America. The collection sheds light on Eedy's family and local connections in Ireland and Canada, on the tribulations of poor protestant families and depression in the weaving and other trades (especially in Bandon), political unrest arising out of Catholic Emancipation (including the formation of Liberal and Brunswick Clubs), and pre-Famine protestant emigration to Canada. A brief description of the items present follows:

U9/1 Will of James Morgan, Newcestown, Clothier, making bequests to his daughters Mary, Martha, Jane, Sarah, and Elizabeth, and to his sons James and Robert. He leaves his land to his wife Mary, to descend to James. Jane is wife to Robert Eedy, farmer. 23 October 1814.

U9/2 Letter from James Hewston, Bandon, to Robert Eedy, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick Province, Chaleur Bay, New Bandon (his uncle). He refers to the poor state of the weaving trade, to currency changes ('Irish money was by an act of Parliament this year made like the English'), and emigration: 'Great numbers are leaving this poor kingdom for the United States and British settlements'. 24 March 1826. 3pp. 2 copies

U9/3 Letter from Wills and Lidia Anstis, Bandon, to Robert Eedy (brother), referring to their precarious position on Lord Bandon's estate, and noting 'the chief part of the weavers in Bandon are in a state of beggary'. They also refer to provisions prices, their family, those who have emigrated and their own plans in that regard. 29 July 1827. 3pp

U9/4 Letter from James Hewston, Ballinadee, to Robert Eedy, St Peter's, Nova Scotia, informing him of his new teaching position in Ballinadee parish school 'from Mr Jervois under the Dublin Association for Discountenancing Vice'. He refers to the Corn Bill and Catholic Emancipation Bill, to the disturbed state of the country, and to the conversion of Catholics to the protestant communion in France and Ireland. 29 July 1827. 3pp

U9/5 Letter from James Hewston to Robert Eedy, referring to family affairs, and to Catholic Emancipation, noting O'Connell's election in Clare and the formation of rival Liberal and Brunswick Clubs. He also refers to European wars in the context of biblical prophecies, and to provisions prices. 31 December 1828. 4pp

U9/6 Letter from James Hewston to William Hewston (his brother), care of Robert Eedy, regarding his and his mother's delay in joining him, having been disappointed by Mr Casey. He refers to the deplorable state of the country. 29 May 1830. 2pp

U9/7 Letter from Isaac Draper, Fredericton, to Robert Eedy, Bathurst, Maremashee, speaking well of the area he has arrived at, and asking about Eedy's area. He refers to mutual friends, including the Hewstons. 23 August 1830. 3pp

U9/8 Letter from Wills and Lidia Anstis, Park, Bandon, to Robert Eedy, regarding Wills's disappointments in his situation [on the Bandon estate] and in his emigration prospects. He asks whether Eedy could pay their passage. He notes that he now has six children and mentions James Hewston who is again unemployed. He states Bandon's trades people are 'in a state of starvation'. 6 April 1834. 3pp

U9/9 Letter from William and Lidia Anstis to Robert Eedy regarding family tribulations and asking about the state of the country and family [in Canada]. He also gives provision prices. 2 September 1838. 4pp

U9/10 Letter from William Eedy Snr, Clifton, Gloucester County, New Brunswick, to [John Wolfe Eedy], introducing himself, having seen the latter's name in a newspaper in connection with a [Masonic] lodge, and explaining his family background, with a view to establishing whether they are related. 4 April 1877. 2pp

U9/11 Letter from William Eedy Snr to [John Wolfe Eedy], explaining their distant relationship through two Eedy brothers who served with Cromwell and settled in west Cork. He speaks of their own fathers having met in Ireland and of other connections and mutual friends. 18 October 1877. 2pp [typescript only, no copy of original present]

U9/12 Statements of account of Robert Eedy, Bathurst, New Brunswick, with Jos Cunard & Co [hardware and general provisions], dated 14 March 1835, 20 November 1836, and 31 December 1840. 5pp

U9/13 Two sermons, one 'preached by Mr Dodd of Dedham, commonly called Old Dodd, to some students of Oxford who met him on the road to London and insisted on his preaching to them'. 11 April 1836. The other is 'A Sermon preached by an old minister to three highwaymen' (undated). 4pp

U9/14 Ms index, 'Names and places mentioned in the letters etc concerning Robert Eedy. [Writer unknown]. 4pp [photocopies]

U9/15 Copy typescript of U9/1-U9/9 (writer unknown). 17pp

Conditions of Access & Use

Access: Open by appointment to those holding a current readers ticket

Language: English

Finding Aids: Descriptive List

Allied Materials:

Related Material:

CCCA:

Elsewhere:

Copies of some of the letters form collection MC651, Provincial Archives of New Brunswick
(www.archives.gnb.ca)

Rules or Conventions Used:

ISADG

Tags/ Index Terms

Bandon, Co Cork

Bandon Estate, Co Cork

Emigration

Weaving Trade

Protestant Ascendancy

Catholic Emancipation

Liberal Clubs (19th century Catholic organisations)

Brunswick Clubs (19th century Protestant organisations)

Cork City and County Archives 2012

O'Connell, Daniel

Nineteenth Century Cork

Archivist's Note:

Timmy O Connor
Local Government Archivist, CCCA
November 2012