



# A Guide to Irish Home Rule

in the  
DEVONSHIRE COLLECTION ARCHIVES



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rather ~~the~~ a Bill  
founded on the principles  
which have been adopted  
by the Cabinet can be  
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I shall be glad to

I hope that in a  
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Church & Land  
I shall be glad



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# What is this guide?

This guide is an aid to researching the topic of Irish Home Rule, specifically in the Devonshire Collection Archives. It provides an overview of the subject in general and a timeline of events, as well as key individuals and themes that feature in the Devonshire Collection Archives.

The topic is spread over a number of different collections in the Devonshire Collection Archives at Chatsworth. However, this guide brings together a list of the most relevant ones that may be used when further researching the subject. The lists of collections here are a guide to where to start your search, rather than a comprehensive list of all items on the topic.

The guide is for A-level and university students; teachers; history groups and any other parties who may find an introduction to the subject of Irish Home Rule and a summary of accessible primary resources helpful.



## Overview of the Devonshire Collection Archives

### Family Papers

The Devonshire Collection Archives hold the majority of the extant historic personal papers of the Dukes and Duchesses of Devonshire. In addition the archives hold many papers for other family members and associated individuals. The catalogues to the family papers have been broadly arranged into three groups:

- Correspondence Series
- Cavendish and Devonshire Family Collections
- Collections of other family lines, or persons closely associated with the Cavendish family

More information can be found here:

<https://www.chatsworth.org/visit-chatsworth/chatsworth-estate/art-archives/access-the-collection/archives-and-library/family-papers-guide/>



### Estate Papers

Founded in the 1540s by Sir William Cavendish, and reaching a peak of c.180,000 acres in the late 19th century, for the last four centuries the Devonshire estates have required considerable oversight and administration. These processes of management have generated a considerable amount of archival material. The estate papers have been broadly grouped into four categories with a fifth listing collections that are neither family papers nor estate material:

- Collections originating from estate offices which managed buildings, land and tenancies for different geographical areas
- Other estate collections
- Derbyshire mining record
- Maps and plans
- Related collections

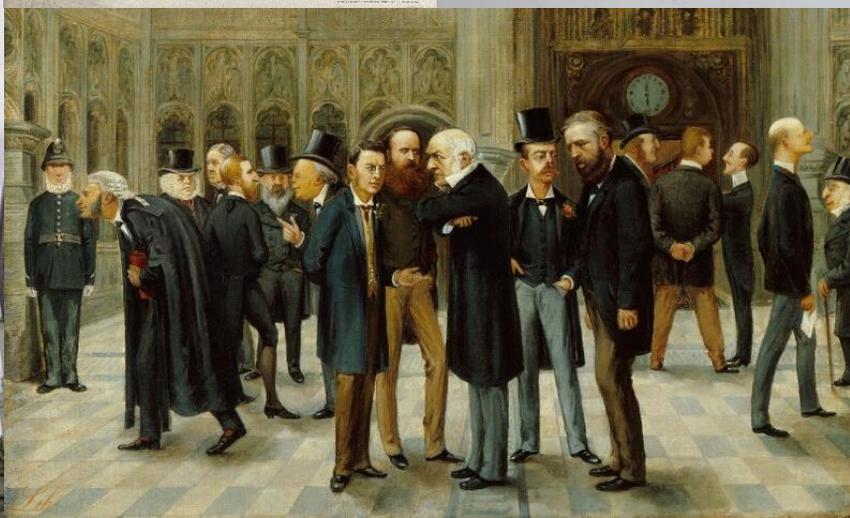
More information can be found here: <https://www.chatsworth.org/visit-chatsworth/chatsworth-estate/art-archives/access-the-collection/archives-and-library/estate-papers-guide>



# Irish Home Rule



have Ten Minutes Talk  
with you on this subject  
and I never go out till  
five o'clock  
Yrs sincerely  
Palmerston



## Introduction

Since the Act of Union in 1800, Ireland had been governed by a Viceroy or Lord Lieutenant in Dublin and a British Government minister who split his time between London and Dublin. Most of the land in Ireland was owned by Anglo-Irish landed classes who then rented land to the Irish peasantry. Many landlords were absentee or corrupt, with tenants having minimal rights.

Whilst opposition to the Union had always existed, the Home Rule movement particularly grew following the Great Famine of the 1840s in which around one million Irish people died and over a million emigrated. The lack of intervention on the part of the British government to ease the suffering of the people led to increased calls for Irish self-governance. Also, a succession of particularly poor harvests during the 1870s/1880s led to an increase in tenant evictions which further inflamed the situation. It wasn't until the Land Law Act of 1881 that tenants secured the '3Fs' meaning dual ownership of their land and the right to fixity of tenure, fair rents and free sale of improvements (when they left their tenancy they would receive compensation for any improvements they had made at their own expense). But the issues of land and Irish Home Rule had become politically entwined with continued nationalist agitation. In May 1882 Thomas Henry Burke (Under-Secretary for Ireland) and Lord Frederick Cavendish (Spencer Compton Cavendish's younger brother and Chief Secretary for Ireland) were assassinated in Phoenix Park, Dublin, by radical Irish republican group the Invincibles.

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Church & Land  
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The passing of the third Reform Act in 1884 and the extension of suffrage meant there were more Irish voters, strengthening the rural Irish nationalist vote. Charles Stewart Parnell as leader of the nationalist Irish Parliamentary Party found himself in a position to push for Irish reforms through consistent support for the governing party who best backed Irish Home Rule. In 1886 William Gladstone, the British Liberal Prime Minister, introduced the first of three Home Rule bills which proposed an Irish Home Rule Parliament to deal with internal affairs, with foreign affairs dealt with by the British Parliament. The bill was controversial and defeated in the House of Commons which triggered a General Election leading to a split of the Liberal Party and creation of the Liberal Unionist Party.

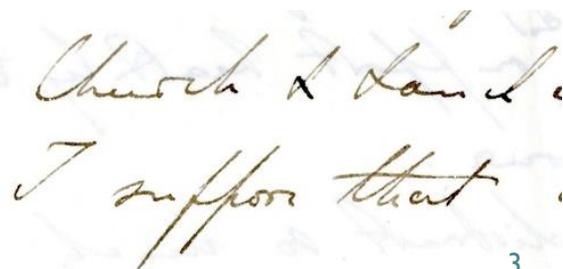
Following Gladstone's defeat and with the support of the Liberal Unionist Party, the Conservative Party came to power in 1886 with Lord Salisbury as Prime Minister. Whilst Salisbury was anti-Home Rule, he recognised the need for some action to be taken to appease Irish nationalists. He expanded on the 1881 Land Act introduced by Gladstone and calculated to cement Ireland more fully with the Union. This included making resources available for an Irish land-purchase policy enabling tenants to buy-out their landlords, with the aim that a new group of peasant-proprietors would be less inclined towards nationalism. However, not all Irish were in favour of Home Rule, with the Irish Unionist Alliance created in 1891 to oppose the plans (the Alliance became the Ulster Unionist Party in 1905).

In 1893 a second Home Rule Bill was proposed and was passed in the House of Commons, but defeated in the House of Lords. Despite this blow, from 1893 to 1912 Ireland entered a relatively peaceful period with supporters of Home Rule biding their time and waiting for their opportunity to come round again.

Their opportunity came with the introduction of a third Home Rule Bill in 1912 by the Liberal Prime Minister, H.H. Asquith. This resulted in a violent crisis in which Protestant unionists in Ulster took up arms to resist Home Rule and Irish nationalists planned an insurrection. The outbreak of the First World War temporarily averted the crisis, however after the War the bill was superseded by a fourth Home Rule Bill, which became the Government of Ireland Act 1920. This Act partitioned Ireland into north and south, with the 1921 Anglo-Ireland Treaty keeping Northern Ireland a part of Britain and allowing Southern Ireland to become the self-governing Irish Free State in 1922.



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I suppose that

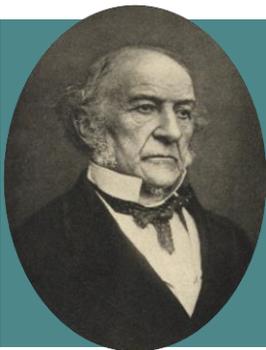
# Individuals of Interest in the Devonshire Collections

The following is a list of individuals with brief biographies. These people were all key to the political story of Irish Home Rule amongst the ruling classes and also feature prominently in the collections here at Chatsworth.



## Spencer Compton Cavendish, 8<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire, 1833-1908

The 8<sup>th</sup> Duke (SCC), also known as the Marquess of Hartington, was a Liberal politician and peer. He served as Chief Secretary of Ireland from 1871-74 and led the Liberal party in opposition from 1875-80. He then served as Secretary for India from 1880-82 and Secretary for War from 1882-85. His brother, Lord Frederick Cavendish, was murdered in 1882 in Dublin by a radical Irish republican group. He strongly opposed Home Rule in Ireland and led the Liberal Unionist Party after its formation in 1886. He became the 8<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire in 1891 and was elevated to the House of Lords. He consistently voted against Bills in favour of Irish Home Rule. He was also a significant landowner in Ireland: his family acquired extensive Irish estates through the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire's marriage to heiress Lady Charlotte Boyle in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. SCC is the most important figure relating to this topic represented in the Devonshire Collection Archives.



## William Ewart Gladstone, 1809-1898

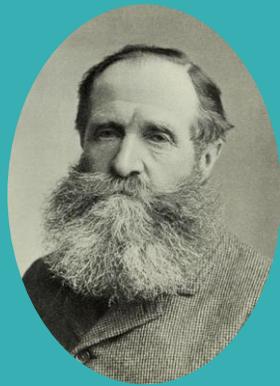
Gladstone served as Prime Minister from 1868-74, 1880-85, 1886, 1892-94. He was wary of a coercive approach to Ireland and allowed colleagues to take the lead on Irish affairs. He proposed a Home Rule Bill in 1886 which led to the re-election of his party. However, this Bill was defeated and led to the fracturing of his party with the creation of the Liberal Unionist Party who were not in favour of Home Rule.



## Lucy, Lady Frederick Cavendish, 1841-1925

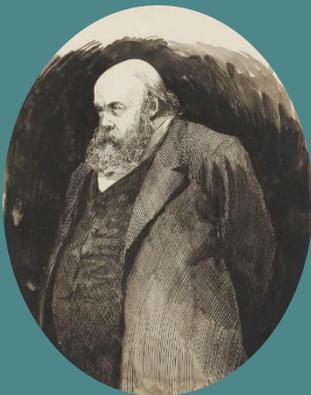
Lucy Cavendish (née Lyttelton) married Lord Frederick Cavendish in 1864. Her husband was a Liberal politician and younger brother of SCC. He became the Chief Secretary of Ireland in 1882 and shortly thereafter was killed in the Phoenix Park Murders. Despite the death of her husband at the hands of Irish Nationalists, she was of the view that Home Rule should be granted if it was the will of the Irish people. She was a strong supporter of education for women and Lucy Cavendish College at Cambridge University was named in her honour in 1965.

# Individuals of Interest (continued)



## John Poyntz Spencer, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl Spencer, 1835-1910

The 5th Earl Spencer was a Liberal politician and peer. He served as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1868-74 and from 1882-85, gaining great experience of governing Ireland. He became an unlikely supporter of Irish Home Rule in February 1886 to the consternation of many senior members of his party who joined the Liberal Unionists. Until 1905 he was considered a potential candidate for the Liberal Party leadership, when a stroke ended his political career.



## Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, 1830-1903

The 3rd Marquess of Salisbury was a Conservative politician and peer. He served as Prime Minister from 1885-86, 1886-92 and 1895-1902. He was resolutely against Irish Home Rule and won the general election in 1886 by joining with the Liberal Unionists which created an anti-Home Rule majority in the House of Commons.



## Joseph Chamberlain, 1836-1914

Chamberlain was a radical Liberal politician who served on the Board of Trade from 1880-85 and then on the Local Government Board in 1886. He strongly opposed Irish Home Rule and joined the Liberal Unionists in 1886, becoming their leader in 1891. He later served as Secretary for the Colonies from 1895-1903. He was a prolific anti-Home Rule campaigner throughout his career.

# Timeline -

## Spencer Compton Cavendish & Irish Home Rule

**1857** SCC elected as MP for North Lancashire. In next decade establishes himself as a junior minister and loyal Palmerstonian.

**1867** Fenians (Irish Republican Brotherhood) active in Ireland and Britain.

**1868 23 March** Gladstone supports Irish disestablishment; this means Ireland ceases to have a state church and that the wealth accumulated by the church is redistributed, sometimes for secular purposes.

**1869** Irish disestablishment debates. Increasing signs of independence from Irish Liberal MPs.

**1869 3 September**, Hartington's Cutlers' feast speech in Sheffield. Stresses Irish land is a vitally important issue

**1870 15 February** Irish land bill introduced. Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act receives Royal assent on 1 August 1870; new law gives 'Ulster custom' of tenant right force of law

SCC appears to have doubts initially about tenant right clauses but these were tempered by the prospect of pacifying Ireland.

**1871 12 January** SCC becomes Irish Chief Secretary, and joins Cabinet. He is close to Spencer the Lord Lieutenant.

**1872 5 January** Hartington speech in Radnor – advocates firm application of law in Ireland and criticises Irish denominational education.

1860

**1866 February** SCC made Secretary of State for War in Russell's Cabinet, which soon leaves office.

1865

**1868** Irish Reform Act (Irish equivalent of 2<sup>nd</sup> Reform Act); this significantly increases size of Irish borough electorate although this is less important in Ireland.

1868

**1868 December** Gladstone wins the general election. Irish ministers – Spencer is made Lord Lieutenant and Fortescue, Chief Secretary; both considered to be from the Whig wing of the party (traditional aristocratic liberals).

1869

**1868 December** loses his seat and has to find a replacement in Radnor boroughs in 1869 so can take up government post (Postmaster General). Had turned down offer of Irish Lord Lieutenantcy.

**1869 28 September** Isaac Butt forms Irish Tenant League.

1870

**1870 12 January** Pope condemns the Fenians. This is expected to encourage pacification, but Irish bishops insist that Fenianism and land agitation are different issues.

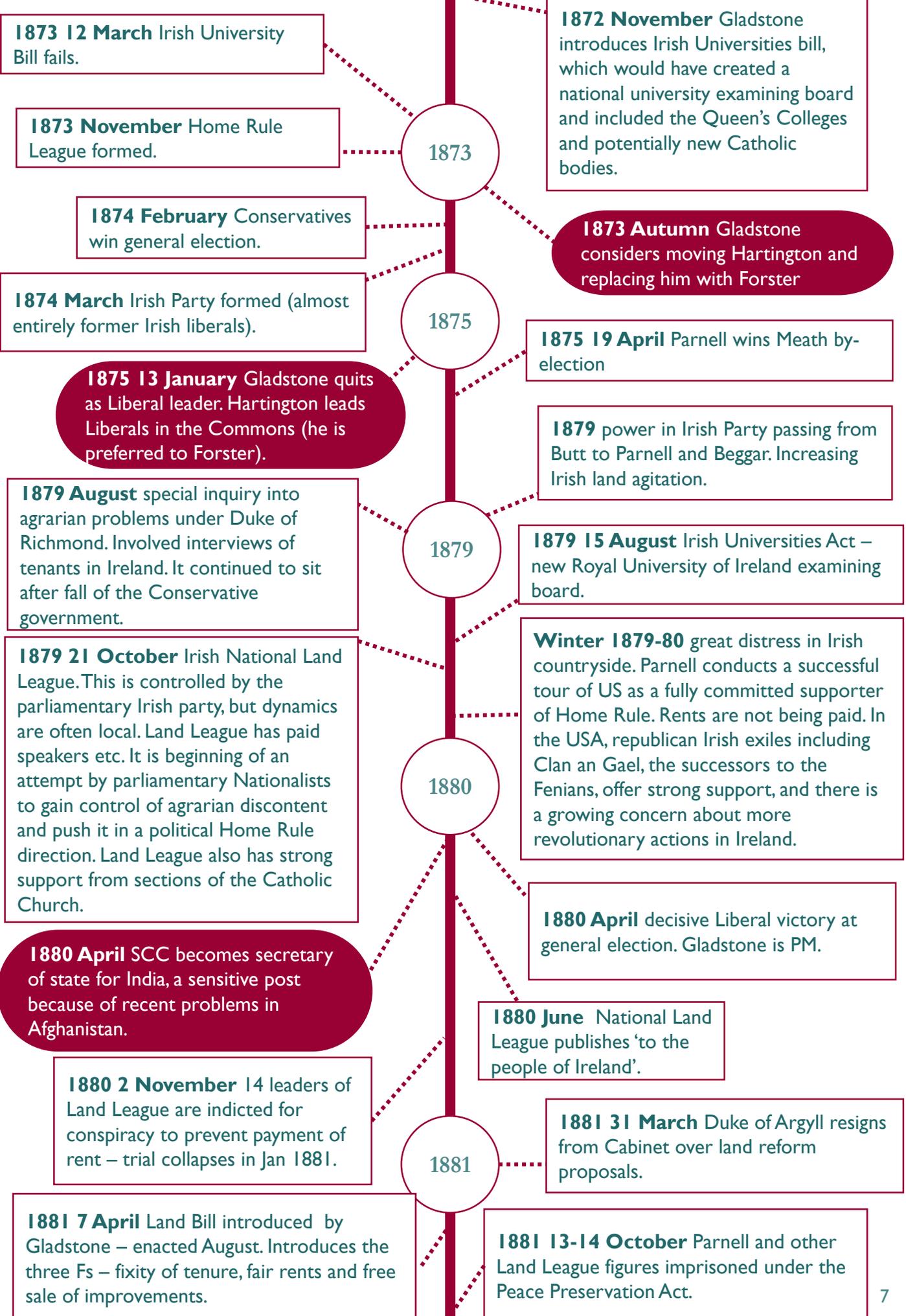
**1870 1 September** first meeting of the Home Governmental Association

1871

**1871 20 September**, Isaac Butt wins Limerick City by-election as independent Nationalist. Irish nationalists thereafter win several by-elections; support for Catholic denominational education (rather than land) behind the successes.

1872

**1872 April** Henry Fawcett's private Irish University bill divides opinion in Liberal party.



**1873 12 March** Irish University Bill fails.

**1873 November** Home Rule League formed.

**1874 February** Conservatives win general election.

**1874 March** Irish Party formed (almost entirely former Irish liberals).

**1872 November** Gladstone introduces Irish Universities bill, which would have created a national university examining board and included the Queen's Colleges and potentially new Catholic bodies.

**1873 Autumn** Gladstone considers moving Hartington and replacing him with Forster

1873

1875

**1875 13 January** Gladstone quits as Liberal leader. Hartington leads Liberals in the Commons (he is preferred to Forster).

**1875 19 April** Parnell wins Meath by-election

**1879** power in Irish Party passing from Butt to Parnell and Beggar. Increasing Irish land agitation.

**1879 August** special inquiry into agrarian problems under Duke of Richmond. Involved interviews of tenants in Ireland. It continued to sit after fall of the Conservative government.

1879

**1879 15 August** Irish Universities Act – new Royal University of Ireland examining board.

**1879 21 October** Irish National Land League. This is controlled by the parliamentary Irish party, but dynamics are often local. Land League has paid speakers etc. It is beginning of an attempt by parliamentary Nationalists to gain control of agrarian discontent and push it in a political Home Rule direction. Land League also has strong support from sections of the Catholic Church.

1880

**Winter 1879-80** great distress in Irish countryside. Parnell conducts a successful tour of US as a fully committed supporter of Home Rule. Rents are not being paid. In the USA, republican Irish exiles including Clan an Gael, the successors to the Fenians, offer strong support, and there is a growing concern about more revolutionary actions in Ireland.

**1880 April** SCC becomes secretary of state for India, a sensitive post because of recent problems in Afghanistan.

**1880 April** decisive Liberal victory at general election. Gladstone is PM.

**1880 2 November** 14 leaders of Land League are indicted for conspiracy to prevent payment of rent – trial collapses in Jan 1881.

**1880 June** National Land League publishes 'to the people of Ireland'.

1881

**1881 31 March** Duke of Argyll resigns from Cabinet over land reform proposals.

**1881 7 April** Land Bill introduced by Gladstone – enacted August. Introduces the three Fs – fixity of tenure, fair rents and free sale of improvements.

**1881 13-14 October** Parnell and other Land League figures imprisoned under the Peace Preservation Act.

**1881 18 October** 'no rent' manifesto from land League.

**1882 April** Parnell freed on parole.

**1882 2 May** Parnell freed from jail. Forster resigns as Chief Secretary replaced by Lord Frederick Cavendish.

**1874 March** Irish Party formed (almost entirely former Irish liberals).

**1882 December** SCC moved to the War Office.

**1884 1 October** Irish bishops ask Irish party to represent their education interests in Parliament.

**1884 6 December** 3rd Reform Act becomes law - major increase in Irish electorate.

**Winter 1884-5** Joseph Chamberlain and Charles Dilke work on a Central Board Scheme for Ireland – a combination of new Irish county councils which would elect a central board in Dublin with administrative powers. This would take over many of the administrative but not judicial functions of Dublin Castle. Chamberlain mistakenly believed that Parnell would accept something less than a Dublin parliament. It is rejected by the Whigs (including SCC) and also the Parnellites.

**1885 9 May** Cabinet rejects Chamberlain's Central Board plan. Spencer proposes local government reform in Ireland as an alternative. Hartington sceptical about even this.

**1885 25 June** Redistribution of Seats Act – Ireland loses seats.

**1881 20 October** Land Court begins operating. Land League banned (this was controversial as Forster had not consulted his Cabinet colleagues).

1882

**1882 6 May** Lord Frederick Cavendish and T.H. Burke murdered in Phoenix Park.

**1882 9 May** G O Trevelyan becomes Chief Secretary.

**1882 May** Prevention of Crime Bill and Arrears Bill introduced.

1883

**1883-1884** domestic politics dominated by proposal to equalise the county franchise to that of the borough – the Third Reform Act. Hartington had been critical of this partly for Irish reasons, where it would inevitably increase power of the Home Rulers. He believed against Gladstone that it must be accompanied by redistribution of seats (also view of the Conservatives).

1884

1885

**1885 1 May** Irish Loyal and Patriotic Union founded.

**1885 9 June** Liberal government falls – very little regret from many Cabinet ministers including Hartington. Salisbury appointed PM leading a minority government. For the next 6 months Government survives as long as Parnellites don't oppose it.

Churchill had already informally pledged to Parnell that there would be no new coercion powers if Parnell guaranteed the Irish vote in the Commons. Hence a 'moderate' was sent to Ireland – Carnarvon – to investigate the state of the country, and suggest possible reforms. Carnarvon was interested in imperial federalism and was likely to suggest unorthodox solutions to Ireland

**1885 17 July** Ashbourne introduces Irish Land Purchase Bill, which is enacted in August.

**1885 29 August** SCC's major speech at Waterfoot, Lancashire. Defence of moderate Liberalism with pointed criticisms of Chamberlain. Indicates no possibility of him supporting any Home Rule solution.

**1885 5 October** National League meeting – Parnell indicates Irish party will stand on Home Rule.

**1885 5 November** SCC speaks at Belfast indicating outright opposition to Home Rule..

**1885 16 Dec** 'Hawarden Kite' – a public indication that Gladstone would support a Dublin Parliament which had not been Liberal policy during the general election.

**1886 1 January** Devonshire House meeting between Hartington, Dike, Chamberlain and Harcourt to discuss tactics. They agree Hartington should press Gladstone for a clear statement of intention on Ireland before government is voted down; this he does not do.

**1886 25 Jan** Ulster Unionist party founded.

**1886 1 Feb** Gladstone is PM. He appoints John Morley Chief Secretary, a supporter of Home Rule.

SCC not in Cabinet – his views at this point are unclear – opposed to a radical form of Home Rule, but does not lead overt opposition like Goschen.

**1886 3 April** Chamberlain and Trevelyan resign from Cabinet in opposition to Home Rule.

**1886 8 April** Home Rule bill introduced.

**1885 1 August** Carnarvon and Parnell meet in secret. This is a highly controversial meeting. Salisbury was aware of the meeting, but it was not 'official'. Dispute over whether Carnarvon offered a form of Home Rule as a bargaining point.

**1885 21 November** Irish National League of Great Britain advises Irish voters not to vote Liberal. This would be means of pressurising Liberals to commit to Home Rule, which is not part of their 1885 manifesto.

**1885 Nov-Dec** general election. Liberals expect to win. Their manifesto is bland and does not propose Home Rule. Chamberlain's radical Unauthorised Programme, which encompasses free primary schools, county councils, and land reform in Britain proves less effective than he hoped. Libs largest party but no overall majority. Irish Nationalists sweep board in Ireland outside Ulster. Conservatives will remain in office until voted down in the Commons. Gladstone stays as Liberal leader and seen as only person who can unite the Liberals in current situation. In the coming weeks, SCC and other moderates try to get Gladstone to commit on what he plans to do on Ireland.

**1886 28 January** Salisbury resigns after losing a Commons vote.

**1886 22 Feb** Churchill's Belfast speech – militantly anti-Home Rule.

**1886 March** Gladstone reveals a radical Home Rule proposal (partly after being pressured by Chamberlain), transferring many powers to a new two chamber Dublin parliament. Irish MPs will leave Westminster and so not have direct say on powers reserved to the Westminster Parliament. Home Rule Bill will be accompanied by major land purchase legislation.

1886

**1886 14 April** SCC and Goschen appear with Salisbury at a Unionist rally at Haymarket Theatre, London.

**1886 17 April** Land Purchase bill introduced.

**1886 26 June** Parliament dissolved.

**1886 8 June** Home Rule bill falls on second reading in Commons – 93 Liberals including Hartington against. Means general election is inevitable.

**1886 July** Conservatives win general election with Liberal Unionist support.

SCC had spoken very effectively against the bill in the Commons (partly to make up for his relative silence in preceding months).

SCC acknowledged leader of Liberal Unionists (Chamberlain's Radical Unionists have a slightly detached existence). Liberal Unionists support but do not join new administration.

**1886 20 September** Parnell's Tenant Relief bill introduced

**1886 October** Plan of Campaign – poor economic situation with many evictions. Home Rulers encourage tenants not to pay 'unfair' rents to landlords.

**1886 December** Salisbury again suggests that he would serve under SCC as PM. Salisbury's proposal was not popular with Liberal Unionists or some Conservative backbenchers.

1887

**1887 21 February** Cowper Commission reports. Reviews the 1881 Act and concludes in support of land purchase.

**1887 28 March** Criminal Law and Procedure Bill introduced. Hartington supports. Making a strong speech during second reading against Gladstonians.

**1887 31 March** Irish Land bill introduced.

**1887 April** Parnell 'letters' in Times – accused of being in league with revolutionary Irish nationalists.

**1887 19 August** National League proscribed.

**1888 20 April** The Pope, via a written Papal rescript, condemns the Plan of Campaign – a strategy devised by Irish politicians to secure reduced rents for Irish tenants.

1888

**1887 9 September** Mitchelstown incident; RIC fire on crowd, three die.

**1888 August** special parliamentary commission on 'Parnellism and Crime' – investigates allegations against Parnell.

**1889 February** Parnell letters revealed to be forgeries.

1889

**1889 25 October** Tenants Defence Association launched.

**1889 24 December** Capt O'Shea files for divorce citing Parnell as co-respondent..

1890

**1890 November** Parnell's leadership of Irish Home Rule party challenged

**1890 28 November** Parnell issues manifesto to the Irish people.

**1891** open split in the Irish Party – creation of the anti-Parnell Irish National Federation. Parnell now on back foot as majority of Home Rule MPs against him.

1891

**1891 6 October** death of Parnell.

**1891 December** SCC becomes 8th Duke of Devonshire, now leads Liberal Unionists in Lords and Chamberlain leads in Commons (rather than Goschen or Henry James).

**1891 5 August** Purchase of Land Act which creates Congested Districts Board – part of Balfour's plan to improve Irish infrastructure.

**1892 July** Liberals win general election but without working majority. Morley again Chief Secretary. Gladstone committed to new Home Rule bill; other Cabinet ministers esp. Rosebery not enthusiastic.

1892

**1892** Irish Education bill introduced

**1893 April**, SCC's Edinburgh and Dalkeith speeches bitterly critical of Gladstone's Home Rule policy.

**1893 8 September** Home Rule Bill thrown out by Lords.

1893

**1893 2 September** Home Rule bill passes Commons.

**1894 3 March** Gladstone resigns and is replaced by Lord Rosebery, who is not an enthusiast for Home Rule.

1894

**1894 26 May** Royal Commission on the Financial Relations between GB and Ireland appointed with Childers as chair. This investigates whether Ireland has paid fair share of tax in past. This is significant to the economic case for Home Rule, but also how land purchase should be subsidised.

**1895 23 June** fall of Rosebery government.

1895

**1895** Recess Committee set up to promote reforms in Irish agriculture- lead to creation of a Department of technical and agricultural instruction.

**1895** General election leads to a decisive Unionist majority. Gerald Balfour (Arthur Balfour's brother) becomes Chief Secretary. Feeling amongst Unionists that Home Rule now on the back foot. Hartington becomes Lord President, with responsibilities for education and defence coordination. Chamberlain Colonial Secretary. Ireland is not a major pre-occupation of this government.

1896

**1896** Irish local government legislation, introduces county councils.

**1902 December-January 1903** Land Conference backs state aided land purchase leads to Land Purchase Act 1903, which begins process of transferring land to the ownership of the tenantry.

1902

**1903 2 October** SCC stands down from government. He had opposed Chamberlain's tariff reform campaign and Balfour's handling of the divisions between free traders and protectionists. Devonshire becomes a public though not especially active supporter of the free trade cause. Does not consider rejoining Liberals.

1903

**1904 May** SCC steps down as chairman of the Liberal Unionist Association which he had headed since 1886.

1904

# What types of records on Irish Home Rule are held in the Devonshire Collections?

Types of records at Chatsworth include:

- LETTERS
- DIARIES
- OFFICIAL MEMORANDA
- NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

The collections at Chatsworth relating to Irish Home Rule can be found in the Cavendish family papers, which include a mixture of personal and political papers.

Often references in personal letters to the subject of Home Rule are passing comments that provide a more human perspective of the factual events.

Combined with more official letters and memos or public documents such as newspaper cuttings, the personal records can enhance our picture of how the events were perceived by different people that were there at the time.



Accessing multiple accounts of the same event in various formats or types of records, will provided a richer picture of the event and its significance.



Some of the handwriting in these records is very difficult to read, including Spencer Compton Cavendish (SCC)'s. There are no typed transcriptions. Be aware that the poor handwriting may slow you down when consulting archive material.



# What information do the records contain?

The relevant records in the Devonshire Collections capture the general feelings in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century surrounding Irish Home Rule from the perspective of the Cavendishes and their associates and family members. They contain information about events and political manoeuvres within the Houses of Parliament and particularly by ministers of the Government. They also contain opinions and ideas of the writers about these events and the opinions of others involved.

The records document the political build up that led to Gladstone's Home Rule bill in 1886; the break away of some Liberal politicians that formed the Liberal Unionist Party; and the response to the second Home Rule bill raised by Gladstone when he returned to power in 1893.

They also document related Irish bills and Acts of Parliament of the time as well as the response to the murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish in Phoenix Park in 1882, which was linked to the rising issue of Home Rule at the time. See the box below for more information.

## What were the Phoenix Park Murders?

The Phoenix Park Murders were the fatal stabbings of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Thomas Henry Burke in Phoenix Park, Dublin, Ireland, on 6 May 1882. Cavendish was the newly appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland, and Burke was the Permanent Under-Secretary, the most senior Irish civil servant. The assassination was carried out by members of the rebel group Irish National Invincibles, a more radical breakaway from the Irish Republican Brotherhood.

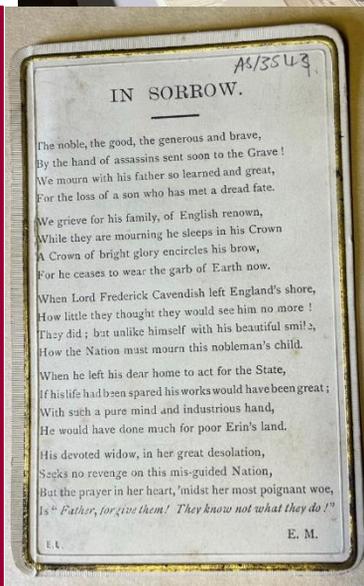
Opposite: A poem produced by "E.M", on the death of Lord Frederick Cavendish (Archive ref: DF5/3/2/1).



Archives are a place of power. So....



When consulting archive material, think about why the document you are consulting exists. Who created it? Who decided to keep it? What does this tell you about the perspective it provides? Whose side of the story is missing?



# Which are the key archives?

Below are summaries of the collections worth accessing to research this subject and an outline of what you might find in them.



## Correspondence of Spencer Compton Cavendish, 8<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire (Archive ref: CS8)

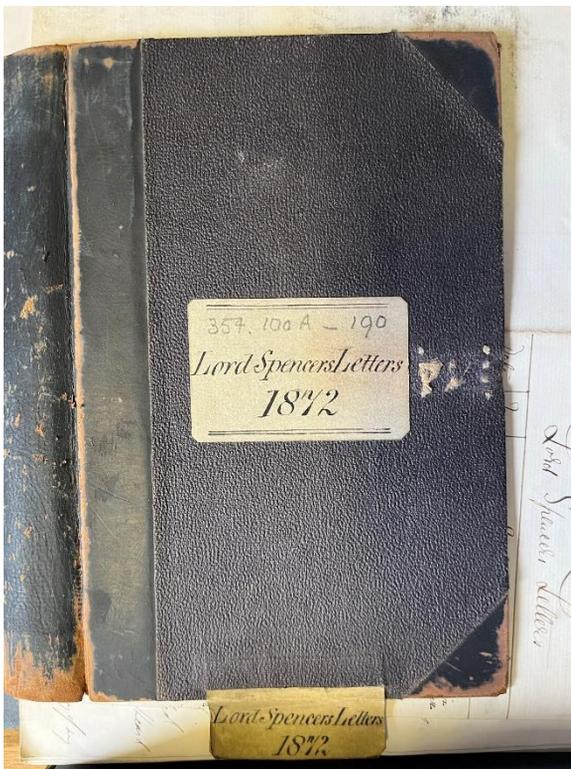
This collection includes some of the most significant correspondence on Irish Home Rule – particularly documenting the views of Spencer Compton Cavendish (SCC), who was known as Lord Hartington until 1891. He was vehemently opposed to Irish Home Rule and along with fellow Liberal MPs this stance was the cause of the split of the Liberal Party and formation of the Liberal Unionist Party in 1886. This split and SCC's and Gladstone's personal feelings about Home Rule are all captured in these letters, as well as their fellow politicians' views. There is also much mention of the bill that followed the defeat of the first Home Rule bill in June 1886 – the Tenants' Relief (Ireland) Bill known as "Mr Parnell's Bill", in which Parnell needed the support of Liberal Unionists whom he argued had "affirmed their belief that England was both able and willing to redress Irish grievances and to attend to her wants".



# Which are the key archives? (continued)

There are letters between SCC and William Ewart Gladstone, Granville George Leveson-Gower, 2nd Earl Granville; Joseph Chamberlain; John Poyntz Spencer, 5th Earl Spencer; Garnet Joseph Wolseley, 1st Viscount Wolseley; Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury; George Joachim Goschen, 1st Viscount Goschen; Thomas George Baring, 1st Earl of Northbrook; Sir William George Granville Venables Vernon Harcourt; George John Douglas Campbell, 8th and 1st Duke of Argyll; Henry James, 1st Baron James of Hereford; and Lady Frederick [Lucy] Cavendish (née Lyttelton), widow of Lord Frederick Cavendish.

Key letters include: CS8/517, CS8/535, CS8/903, CS8/1850-1865, CS8/1852, CS8/1875, CS8/2051.

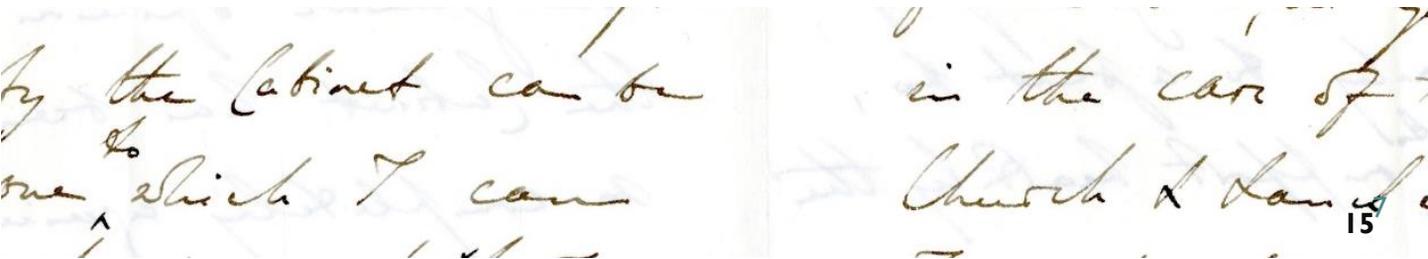


## Correspondence of John Poyntz Spencer, 5th Earl Spencer (Archive ref: CS2/354)

These letters largely written to SCC show the political environment in the 1870s that likely led to the future bills on Home Rule. The topic of education in Ireland is mentioned and segues into discussion of Home Rule. Earl Spencer's perspective is one perhaps closer to Ireland than most, being based in Dublin as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. However, as an English member of the British Government in Ireland his stance is still influenced by the Union, despite becoming later a supporter of the 1886 Home Rule bill.

In his letters, he mentions: early discussions with Gladstone about Home Rule; the threat of the Fenians; prominence of Home Rule sentiments in south and west of Ireland; rise of the Home Rule movement and his own view of the benefits of the Union; disapproval of pro-Home Rule Liberals standing as candidates in the 1874 elections.

Key letters include: CS2/354/79, CS2/354/211, CS2/354/251.



# Which are the key archives? (continued)

## Papers of Spencer Compton Cavendish, 8<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire (Archive ref: DF6)

A separate collection of SCC's letters can be found in this collection of papers. Key groups include:

**DF6/1/2/1** Letters sent to Spencer Compton Cavendish, 8th Duke of Devonshire, concerning Ireland and Irish Politics 1870 – 1911, including:

**DF6/1/2/1/5** Letters sent to Spencer Compton Cavendish, Marquess of Hartington concerning Political Matters 1872 – 1874.

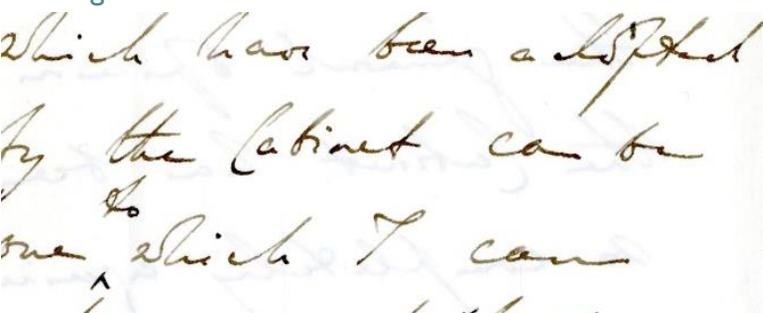
These are mainly political letters relating to Spencer Compton Cavendish, Lord Hartington's time as Irish Secretary. The letters concern topics such as Ireland, Home Rule and elections. The political correspondents are: Thomas Henry Burke, Permanent Under Secretary at the Irish Office; Earl Selborne, Lord Chancellor; William Gladstone, Prime Minister; FitzGerald, Duke of Leinster; [Fuller-Greville], [Mullingar, Ireland]; Earl Spencer, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; unidentified signature, letter sent from 18 Carlton House Terrace, 20 February 1874 (letter regarding Hartington and Gladstone); George Russell; Arthur Peel to the Attorney General; [Robert] O'Hara; Thomas McClure; [Thomas O'Hagan, 1st Baron O'Hagan, Lord Chancellor of Ireland]; Henry [Pitre]; A. Power, of the Local Government Board Division, Dublin; [Hartington] to Harcourt. The family correspondents are: William Cavendish, 7th Duke of Devonshire; [Edward] Cavendish; and Emma Cavendish.

**DF6/1/2/1/6** Letters sent to Spencer Compton Cavendish, 8th Duke of Devonshire, concerning Ireland and the Land Question 1898 - 1902; 1911.

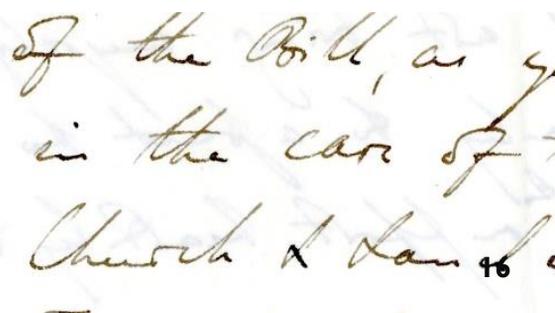
**DF6/1/2/5/2** Letters sent to Spencer Compton Cavendish, 8th Duke of Devonshire by Sir Henry James, 1886 – 1908.

This is private correspondence to SCC. The letters are of a political nature, including letters concerning leading political figures of the time. Included with the letters are two indexes, one of which provides notes on the topics covered in some of the letters.

**DF6/1/2/5/5 - 1893-1895** Letters sent to Spencer Compton Cavendish, 8th Duke of Devonshire, concerning political matters: Letters addressed to Spencer Compton Cavendish, 8th Duke of Devonshire, concerning the Nonconformist Unionist Assoc. Home Rule, State Relief and Irish Land Legislation.



which have been adopted  
by the Cabinet can be  
one which I can



of the Bill, as  
in the case of  
Church & San 16

# Which are the key archives? (continued)

## Papers of William Cavendish, 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire (Archive ref: DF5)

These records provide the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke's perspective of Irish Home Rule and that of his correspondents such as Lord Edward Cavendish (his son) through his letters and diaries. They also include collated papers relating to the death of his son Lord Frederick Cavendish.

### Diaries (Archive ref: DF5/1)

These diaries include regular entries documenting the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke's: travel to various properties; meetings he attended (for companies, charities and organisations); consultations with land agents and lawyers regarding his estates; bills and debates in the House of Lords (occasionally) and the House of Commons; shooting parties; and visits from his many family members, including SCC. They also detail what SCC was involved with in Cabinet or as an MP when not in office.

What is interesting in these diaries is how his personal role as a landowner and the political affairs of the day provide two different aspects of the issues of Home Rule and unrest in Ireland. As well as fearing for the safety of family members and reporting on incidents and matters on his own land in Ireland, he includes information on the reception of Gladstone's sympathies with the Home Rule movement and the frustration it causes other politicians including some of the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke's own sons like SCC.

Key diaries include: DF5/1/27, DF5/1/28, DF5/1/29, DF5/1/30, DF5/1/31

## Correspondence

### (Archive ref: DF5/3/1)

Most of the relevant correspondence is between Lord Edward Cavendish and the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke. In the 1870s they were written from the Chief-Secretary's Lodge and Vice Regal Lodge, Dublin (in Lord Edward's role as private secretary to Lord Spencer) and may be a source of general commentary on the atmosphere in Dublin during this time.

Key letters include:

DF5/3/1/3/1/5: 18 Feb 1886 – responses to Gladstone's lack of clarity on the Irish policy; DF/3/1/3/1/5: 6 Mar 1886; DF/3/1/3/1/5: Aug 12 [1886?] – letter from unknown sender [M Longhurst] to Lady Emma Cavendish (née Lascelles) sharing her opinion on the concept of Home Rule and pros and cons; DF/3/1/3/1/6: 16 November 1887; DF/3/1/3/1/ 6: 20 October 1888.

*“the state of the country is the chief topic. It seems to be generally believed here that a very great number would be only too glad to be free from the persecution of the National League, but have not the courage to separate themselves from it for fear of being boycotted”.*

DF/3/1/3/1 part 6 – 16 November 1887 – Letter from Lord Edward to 7<sup>th</sup> Duke written from Lismore Castle.



# Which are the key archives? (continued)

## Papers of Victor Cavendish, 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire (Archive ref: DF7)

This collection consists of the personal papers of the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire including correspondence, diaries, memoranda and official documents from 1855-1937. Like his “Uncle Cav” (SCC) these papers show Victor’s support for the Union, most clearly in the speech of 1912 against the third Home Rule bill.

The most relevant items in this collection to the study of Irish Home Rule are:

**DF7/1/1-50** Personal Diaries, 1884-1938 – you can search relevant dates (e.g. 1893, 1912) for the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke’s comments on Home Rule etc.

Key diaries include: DF7/1/17, DF7/1/18, DF7/1/19, DF7/1/21, DF7/1/23, DF7/1/31, DF7/1/32.

**DF7/6/4/7** Newspaper Cuttings concerning Victor Cavendish and his involvement with the Home Rule Bill, May 1893.

**DF7/5/8** Notes for a Speech made by Victor Cavendish, 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire in the House of Lords at the second reading of the Home Rule Bill, 27 January 1913, January 1923. Includes 3 bundles of notes compiled for a speech that favoured the rejection of the 1912 Home Rule Bill, 2 newspaper cuttings reporting on the reading of the Bill dated 28 January 1913, a pamphlet summarising the Bill and an annotated copy of the Bill.



*“a fantastic and impossible scheme”.*

- Victor on Asquith’s 1912 Home Rule Bill (DF7/1/18)

*“My Lords, as the noble Marquess who has just resumed his seat has told you, the duty which devolves upon me this afternoon, is, I regret to say, somewhat of a hereditary one. But strong as the reasons were at the time my predecessor brought a similar Motion before the House of Commons in 1886 and before your Lordships’ House in 1893, I think I can confidently assert that those reasons are as strong to-day... I can conceive of no possibility or combination of circumstances which, however limited and attenuated your Lordships’ rights and privileges may now be, would justify your Lordships in passing this Bill, or even in giving it a Second Reading.”*

Victor Cavendish, 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire’s speech in the House of Lords on the second reading of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Home Rule Bill, 1912.

# Which are the key archives? (continued)

Whilst many of the Ireland-related letters from the 1930s concern the Duke fishing at Careysville and the Lismore salmon hatchery, earlier letters do have some relevance to Irish Home Rule!

There is passing commentary on Irish affairs, the state of Ireland and sometimes policy and Home Rule in the following letters from Evelyn Cavendish and others:

**DF7/2/2/2/1** Letters sent to Victor Cavendish, 9th Duke of Devonshire by Lord and Lady Lansdowne, 21 February 1893 - 6 September [1893] – offers Canadian experience of Home Rule.

## Letters from Evelyn Cavendish to Victor Cavendish

DF7/2/2/1/6/10, 20 July – reference to Home Rule for Ireland

DF7/2/2/1/9/43, 23 March [1900]

DF7/2/2/1/10/53, 11 December 1901

DF7/2/2/1/11/27, 23 October [1902]

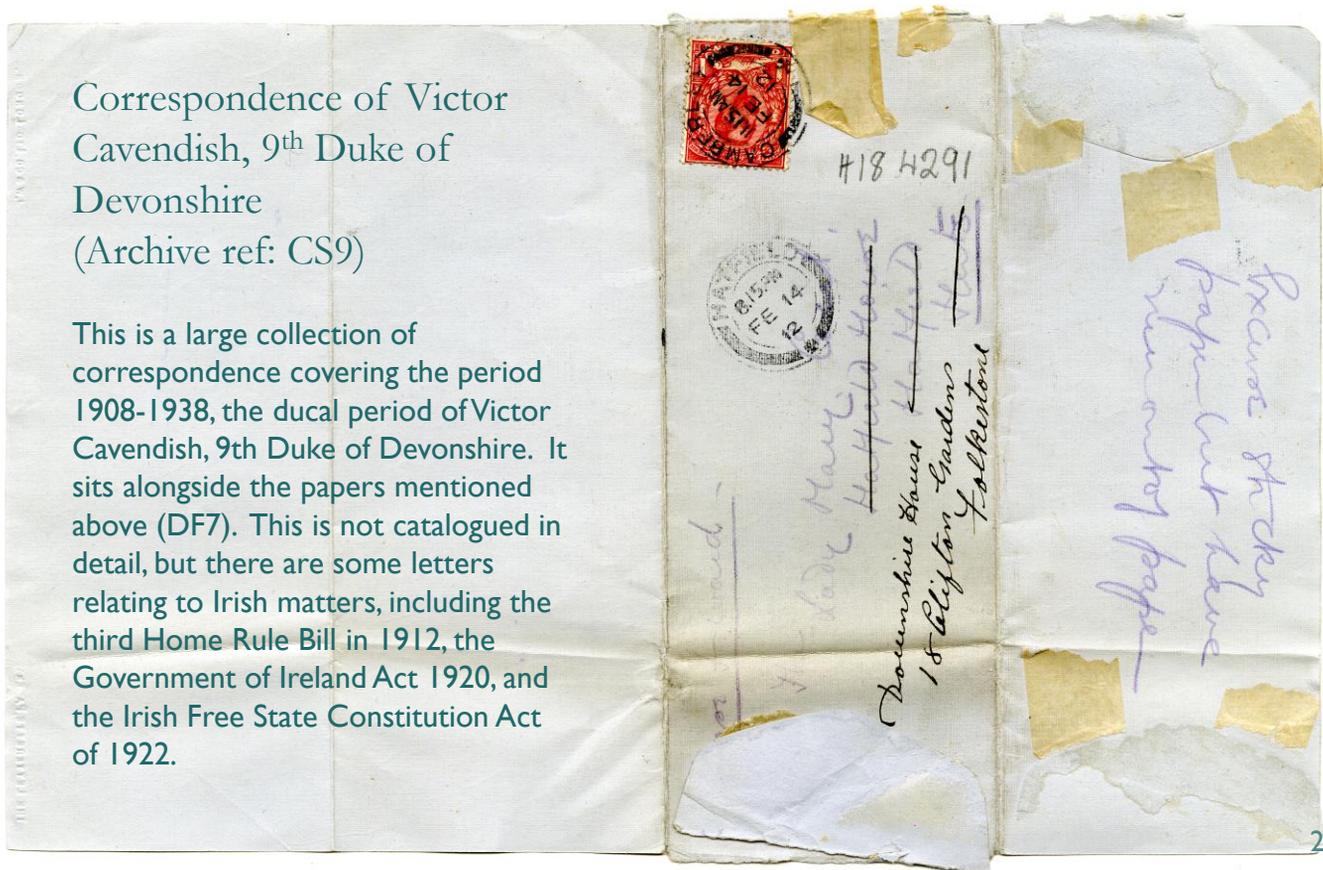
DF7/2/6/3/24 Letter signed HTA to Victor Cavendish, 13 October 1900 - commenting on political policy concerning Ireland.

DF7/2/6/10/72 Letter from [John Dunville] to Victor [Cavendish], 10 December 1907

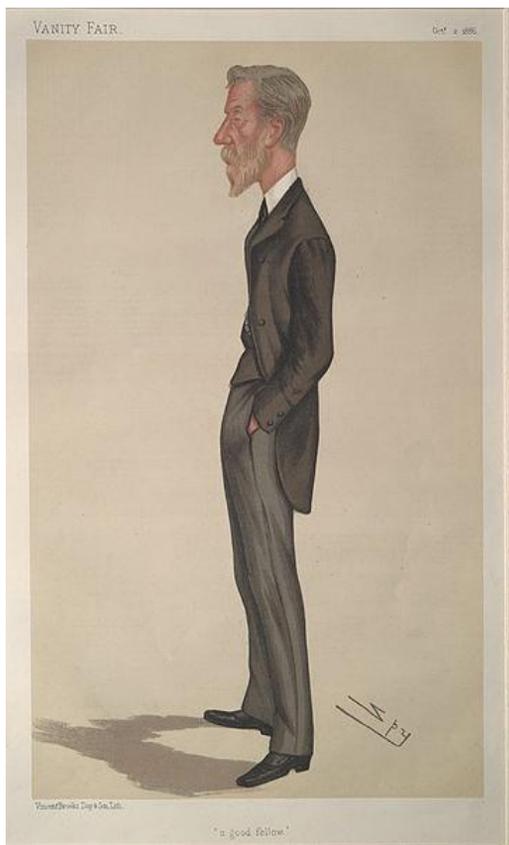
DF7/2/6/16/48 Letter from [Lord Selborne] to Victor [Cavendish, 9th Duke of Devonshire], 25 May 1927 - support of ex [army] service men in Southern Ireland.

## Correspondence of Victor Cavendish, 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire (Archive ref: CS9)

This is a large collection of correspondence covering the period 1908-1938, the ducal period of Victor Cavendish, 9th Duke of Devonshire. It sits alongside the papers mentioned above (DF7). This is not catalogued in detail, but there are some letters relating to Irish matters, including the third Home Rule Bill in 1912, the Government of Ireland Act 1920, and the Irish Free State Constitution Act of 1922.



# Which are the key archives? (continued)



## Papers of Lord Edward Cavendish (Archive ref: DF18)

This collection comprises the personal papers of Lord Edward Cavendish, politician and soldier, son of the 7th Duke of Devonshire, brother of the 8th Duke, and father of the 9th Duke. He was secretary to the 5th Earl Spencer in Ireland in the 1870s.

There are 38 diaries of Lord Edward Cavendish, which begin in 1858 and end in 1891, the year of his death. The collection also contains over 400 pieces of Lord Edward's correspondence including with family members. There is also some personal correspondence which includes: letters and resolutions of condolence sent to Lord Edward on the death of his brother, Lord Frederick Cavendish, who was murdered in Phoenix Park, Dublin, in 1882.

Key diaries include: DF18/1/32, DF18/1/33. Key letters include: DF18/2/3/1, DF18/5/1 Papers of John Spencer, 5th Earl Spencer, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland including draft speeches.

## Papers of Lord Frederick Cavendish (1836-1882) (Archive ref: DF23)

This collection consists of the personal papers of Lord Frederick Cavendish, son of William Cavendish, 7th Duke of Devonshire, who became Chief Secretary for Ireland the day before he was murdered in Phoenix Park on 6 May 1882. These papers highlight Lord Frederick's role in Irish politics and his close relationship with Gladstone (his wife Lucy's uncle) and the influence of Lady Lucy's politics on Lord Frederick's own political involvement in education (not always specifically relating to Ireland), as well as the influence of Gladstone.

Key papers include:

### **DF23/1/3** Political Correspondence of Lord Frederick Cavendish 1871 - 1881

This series contains a small number of letters sent to Lord Frederick Cavendish concerning politics, including letters from William Gladstone and his private secretary J.A. Godley. For further political correspondence of Lord Frederick Cavendish, including additional letters from William Gladstone, see the general correspondence section, DF23/1/5.



# Which are the key archives? (continued)

**DF23/1/5/5/1** Copy of a letter from P. Shuldham Henry to an unspecified recipient 5 March 1873. Concerning an education bill for Ireland, the author states that due to local opposition there should be a separate university for Catholics in Belfast. This a copy of a letter sent from Queen's College Belfast.

**DF23/1/5/5/3** Letter from [John Poyntz Spencer, 5th Earl] Spencer to Lord Frederick Cavendish 16 March 1873. Concerning a letter he had received from Mr Gladstone and the possibility of the Tories forming a government. Sent from Dublin Castle.

**DF23/1/5/5/25** Notes signed by Gladstone 7 October 1873. Written in note form - proposals for payments from the exchequer in aid of local taxation and the conditions associated with the grants; Mr Gladstone was concerned about the freedoms of local government. Also mention of a similar plan for Ireland.

**DF23/1/5/12/9** Letter from William Gladstone to Lord Frederick Cavendish 17 December 1880. Mr Gladstone was concerned with poverty in Ireland and Outdoor Relief together with grants from the Church Fund. He recommended a book "The True Story of the Irish Famine" by a man called Blake, a former Irish magistrate. Sent from Hawarden Castle.

**DF23/1/5/12/26** Letter from W.E. Tinter to Mr Gladstone 22 December 1881. Regarding the Land Act in Ireland and the appointment of commissioners and valuers to investigate appeals there. Sent from Chief Secretary's Lodge, Phoenix Park, Dublin. 2 pages

**DF23/1/5/12/35** Letter from R.S. Welby to Lord Frederick Cavendish 11 March 1882. The writer had had a conversation with Mr Gladstone regarding a land scheme for Ireland. Sent from the Treasury.

**DF23/1/5/12/37** Letter from William Gladstone to W. Welby, 6 April 1882. Mr Gladstone was considering options for the forthcoming budget - expenditure on roads and Ireland possibly financed by a tax on carriages or houses. Also a note in Lord Frederick's hand on financial matters. Sent from 10 Downing Street.

**DF23/2/2** a campaign flyer Gladstone vs Disraeli; and an advertisement for a concert held at Grosvenor House on 4 May 1882 on behalf of the Association for Relief of Ladies in Distress through non-payment of rent in Ireland, endorsed "the last concert I was at" by [Lady Lucy Cavendish].

**DF23/2/7** Parliamentary papers and political memoranda [1870s - 1880s] concerning the Land Law Ireland 1881-1882, annotated papers.



# Which are the key archives? (continued)

## Papers of Louise, Duchess of Devonshire (née von Alten) (Archive ref: DF14)

This collection consists of the personal papers of Louise Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire.

The majority of the correspondence originates from the time period when the Duchess was Duchess of Manchester and includes correspondence of her first husband and three of their children. The covering dates for the correspondence extends to 1922, after the Duchess's death.

The letters between Duchess Louise and SCC in 1885-6 were written when Duchess Louise was Duchess of Manchester and the long-term lover of SCC (not yet his wife). Whilst away from each other in these years SCC's letters are less amorous and more political. The topic of Irish Home Rule is rife and he divulges all his thoughts and plans relating to the subject as well as the fallout from the rejection of the Home Rule bill; the formation of a new government; and growing "organized resistance" to the Union.

After their marriage in 1892, any letters that do exist seem to cover more domestic/ logistical topics rather than the political events of the day – perhaps because those conversations could more regularly happen in person.

Key letters include:

[DF14/1/1/27](#) – 15 Dec 1885, Harcourt's opinion on Parnell and murmurings of a Home Rule plan;

[DF14/1/1/28](#); [DF14/1/1/29](#); [DF14/1/1/30](#);

[DF14/1/31](#) – An account of SCC's visit from Gladstone asking him to join the government and SCC citing his opposition to the policy on Ireland as a reason he can't. He also mentions in this letter that he believes the only way to overcome the issue of Home Rule is to let Gladstone try out his bill and once it fails the government can move on and govern Ireland in another way. But without trialling the bill, Ireland will "become ungovernable".

[DF14/1/1/32](#); [DF14/1/1/41](#); [DF14/1/1/42](#); [DF14/1/1/43](#); [DF14/1/1/45](#)

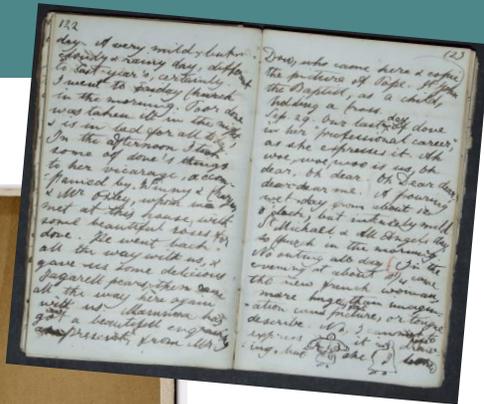


Duchess Louise, Hughes, 1896

A snippet of handwritten text in cursive script, likely from a letter. The visible text reads: "by the cabinet can be" on the first line, "one which I can" on the second line, and "I" on the third line. There are some faint markings and arrows pointing to specific parts of the text.

*After the 1886 Home Rule bill  
Lord Hartington notes:  
Unrest in Ireland and that Home  
Rule was "not dying out".  
See [DF14/1/1/42](#)*

# Which are the key archives? (continued)



## Papers of Lady Lucy Cavendish née Lyttelton (Archive ref: DF19)



This collection consists of the personal papers of Lady Lucy Cavendish (née Lyttelton, known as Lady Frederick Cavendish). This section largely consists of correspondence concerning Lord Frederick Cavendish, including letters of congratulation sent on his appointment as Irish Secretary and letters and tokens of sympathy sent to Lady Lucy following Lord Frederick's death in May 1882.

Other letters concerning Lord Frederick include an account by Lord Spencer of the last two days of Lord Frederick's life, a letter describing the wounds received by Lord Frederick when he was killed and letters concerning memorials to Lord Frederick.

Lady Lucy's papers provide a perspective on how the murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish was seen to relate to the Irish Home Rule cause. They also shed light on her own position navigating between the Liberalism of her uncle, Gladstone and her Unionist brother-in-law Lord Hartington (SCC).

Key records include:

**DF19/1/12** – The Diary of Lady Lucy Cavendish, Volume XIV, 27 October 1880-1896. This includes Lady Lucy's account of Lord Frederick's appointment, their arrival in Ireland and his murder as well as the aftermath.

**DF19/2/3 – DF19/2/8** - Papers concerning Lord Frederick's appointment as Chief Secretary of Ireland and then his murder.

**DF19/2/9** – General incoming and outgoing correspondence of Lady Lucy Cavendish and other letters, [1864 - 1887] – Includes 11 letters addressed to Lady Frederick Cavendish, including **3 letters from Spencer Compton Cavendish, Marquess of Hartington concerning Home Rule in Ireland** and William Gladstone, a letter from G.O. Trevelyan and 3 letters from Augusta Noy.

The correspondence also includes letters/copies of letters sent by Lady Lucy Cavendish, including: a letter dated 22 June 1886 sent to her uncle, William Gladstone concerning a speech given by **Gladstone on Ireland** and home rule that had negatively affected the Duke of Devonshire.

**DF19/3/4 5.** Review by W.E. Gladstone, of Mary Ward's *Robert Elsmere and the Battle of Belief*, May 1888, pamphlet endorsed by William Gladstone, addressed to Lady Lucy.

# Which are the key archives? (continued)

## Papers of Evelyn, Duchess of Devonshire (née Petty-Fitzmaurice) (Archive ref: DF15)

This collection consists of the personal papers of Evelyn Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire. Duchess Evelyn was the daughter of prominent English landowners in Ireland, Lord and Lady Lansdowne.

Papers that may have references to Ireland and Home Rule include:

[DF15/1/4](#) Diary 1886

[DF15/1/17-21](#) Diaries 1911-1922

[DF15/3/1/1/1](#), Letters sent to Evelyn Fitzmaurice by Victor Cavendish, 13 June 1892 - 13 July 1892

[DF15/3/1/1/2](#), Letters sent to Evelyn Cavendish by Victor Cavendish, 15 January 1893 - 21 December 1893

[DF15/3/1/1/18](#), Letters sent to Evelyn Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire by Victor Cavendish, 9th Duke of Devonshire, 1922; 1925

Bear in mind that the Devonshires were based in Canada from 1916-1922.

Key record: **DF15/5/24** – An account of raids at Derreen, Kenmare, the Irish Estate of Lord Lansdowne, September 1922 – this was the summer home of Duchess Evelyn's parents.

The house was plundered and burned in 1922 during the Irish Civil War (1922–1923).



*“There is nothing left of Derreen, or its surroundings...”*

- DF15/5/9/22

## What was the Irish Civil war 1922-23?

“A conflict between Irish nationalists in 1922-23 over whether or not to accept the Anglo-Irish Treaty.

The Treaty came about as a result of both political agitation and guerrilla warfare by the Irish Republican movement, organised respectively in Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Army between 1918 and 1921.

In July 1921, a truce was arranged between British and Irish republican forces, negotiations were opened and ended in the signing of the Treaty on 6 December 1921. The Treaty gave the 26 southern counties of Ireland – now the Irish Free State – a considerable degree of independence – the same within the British commonwealth as Australia and Canada. The British military garrison was to be withdrawn and the RIC police disbanded. However the settlement dissolved the Republic declared in 1918 and pledged Irish TDs or members of parliament to swear allegiance to the British monarch.

...For all of these reasons, the Treaty was viewed as a step backwards by many Irish Republicans and nationalists.”

- John Dorney, the Irish Story online

# How are the archives arranged and catalogued?



This subject guide is not a comprehensive list of all relevant individual items in the Devonshire archive collections. Many of these collections are not fully catalogued so there may be more items than those highlighted in this guide that refer to Irish Home Rule or are relevant to the subject.

All collections that are fully catalogued will be available via:

**THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

 Archives Hub

Key Collections	Arrangement	Catalogued?	Link to catalogue or further info 
CS8 – Correspondence of 8 <sup>th</sup> Duke	Letters are arranged chronologically and range from SCC's boyhood (1849) to his death in 1908.	Yes, fully (description of every letter)	<a href="https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/data/gb2495-cs8">https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/data/gb2495-cs8</a>
CS2/354 – Correspondence of 5 <sup>th</sup> Earl Spencer	Letters are arranged chronologically as part of the Second Correspondence series which includes correspondence from Cavendish family members and associates from 1839 onwards.	Yes	Not yet available online - contact archives
DF5 – 7 <sup>th</sup> Duke's Papers	Papers are arranged into four series, according to groups of material.	Yes, to file level	<a href="https://www.chatsworth.org/media/12450/df5_rev_201902.pdf">https://www.chatsworth.org/media/12450/df5_rev_201902.pdf</a>
DF6 – 8 <sup>th</sup> Duke's Papers	Papers are arranged into five series, according to groups of material.	Yes, to file level	<a href="https://www.chatsworth.org/media/12451/df6_rev_201812.pdf">https://www.chatsworth.org/media/12451/df6_rev_201812.pdf</a>
DF7 9 <sup>th</sup> Duke's papers	Papers are loosely arranged into series according to groups of material	Yes, to series level	Contact archives for more info.

**Tip**

To find relevant letters in uncatalogued collections or files, choose key dates as a place to begin your search for any useful references.

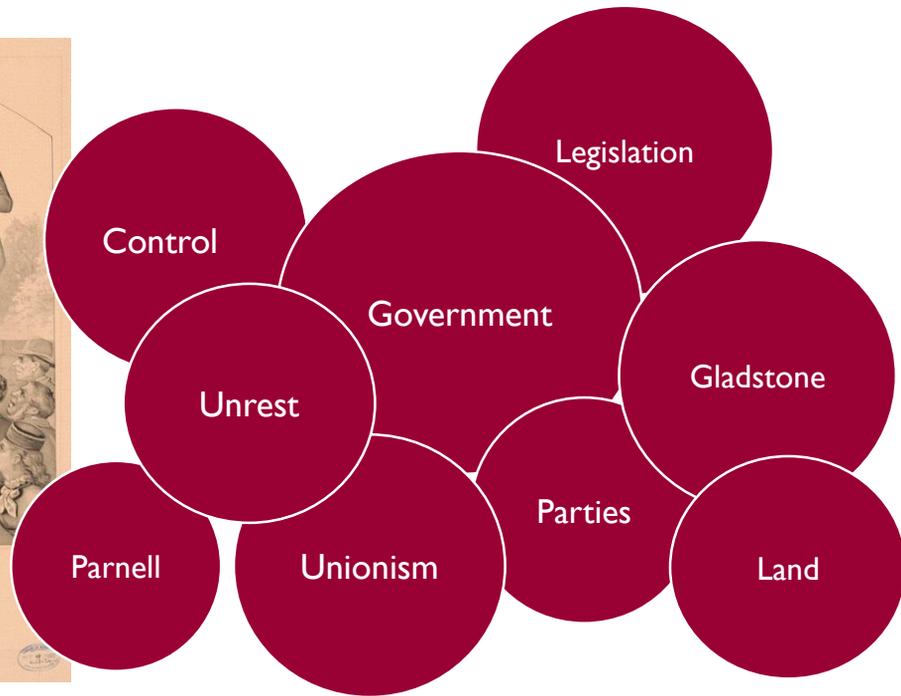
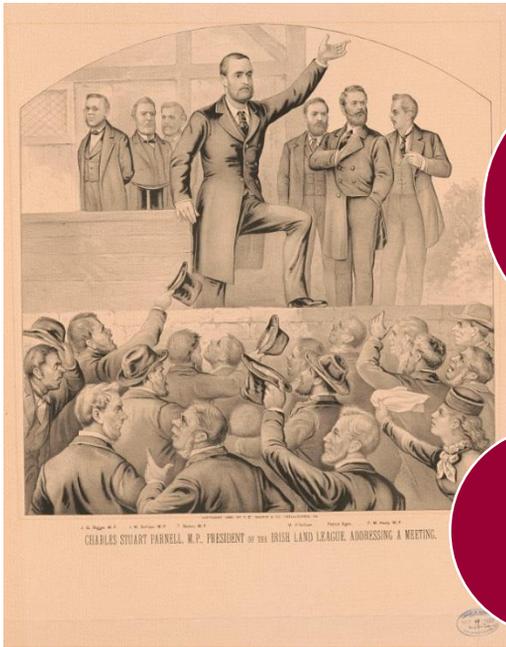
# How are the archives arranged and catalogued? (continued)

Key Collections	Arrangement	Catalogued?	Link to catalogue or further info
DF14 – Louisa, Duchess of Devonshire's papers	Papers are arranged into two series: correspondence and papers relating to jewellery	Yes, to file level	<a href="https://www.chatsworth.org/media/12453/df14_rev_201812.pdf">https://www.chatsworth.org/media/12453/df14_rev_201812.pdf</a>
DF15 – Evelyn, Duchess of Devonshire's papers		Yes, to series level	Contact archives for more info.
DF18 – Lord Edward Cavendish (1838-1891)'s Papers	Papers are arranged into five series, according to groups of material.	Yes, to file level	<a href="https://www.chatsworth.org/media/12454/df18_rev_201812.pdf">https://www.chatsworth.org/media/12454/df18_rev_201812.pdf</a>
DF19 – Lucy Cavendish's papers	Papers are arranged into series, according to groups of material.	Yes, to file level	Contact archives for more info.
DF23 – Lord Frederick Cavendish (1836-1882)'s papers	Papers are arranged into five series, according to groups of material.	Yes, to file level	<a href="https://www.chatsworth.org/media/12455/df23_rev_201902.pdf">https://www.chatsworth.org/media/12455/df23_rev_201902.pdf</a>
CS9 - 9 <sup>th</sup> Duke's Correspondence	This collection consists of over 12,000 letters sent during the 9 <sup>th</sup> Duke's ducal period of 1908-1938.	No	Contact archives for more info.

founded on the principles  
 which have been adopted  
 by the Cabinet can be  
 one which I can

take the main  
 of the Bill, as  
 in the case of  
 Church & San

# Themes relating to Irish Home Rule in the Devonshire Collections



## What *won't* I find relating to Irish Home Rule?

1. Home Rule post 1908 is less well covered – the majority of the papers here deal with the 19<sup>th</sup>-century rise of the topic of Home Rule, with a small but significant group in the papers of the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke;
2. The view of non-ruling classes – on the whole the Devonshire Collections include papers written by aristocrats and Westminster politicians;
3. The perspective of Irish nationalists or Ulster Unionists in their own words – any reference to the views of Irish groups for or against Home Rule comes from the perspective of English or Anglo-Irish aristocrats and politicians not Irish nationalists and unionists themselves.



# How do I access the Archives?

## Visiting in person

We offer free access to the Archives and Library collections in the Study Room, within the parameters set out in our [Access Policy](#)

See more on the website:

<https://www.chatsworth.org/visit-chatsworth/chatsworth-estate/art-archives/access-the-collection/archives-and-library/>

## Self-service photography

Researchers may take their own photographs of collection items for the purposes of non-commercial research and private study – the charge for this is £15 per day, which is payable by cash, cheque or bank transfer. You will also be asked to fill in a copyright declaration form.

## Ordering copies

The Archives and Library team can provide images for non-commercial research or private study purposes on receipt of a completed [Copying Order Form](#).



## Some relevant collections held elsewhere...

Here are some other relevant collections held in other institutions which may be of use when researching Irish Home Rule:

### Diaries of William Ewart Gladstone (1809-1898)

Lambeth Palace Library. GB 109 MS 1416-1455, 40 volumes, 1825-1896;

### Papers of the Lloyd George family, 1886-1968

National Library of Wales / Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, GB 210 MSLLOYDGEORGE, 1890-1968, 157 volumes. The collection is comprised mainly of correspondence, the bulk of which is addressed to David Lloyd George, mostly from contemporary political figures and from members of his family, it includes correspondence relating to the Anglo-Irish treaty. See: GB 210 NLW MS 23663E.

### Pudsey Civic Society Irish Home Rule Archive, 1884-1893

Bradford University, JB Priestley Library. GB 532 PUD. A collection of pamphlets and press-cuttings on Irish Home Rule, 1884 to 1893 and undated.

### Newspaper cuttings relating to Irish Home Rule compiled by Sir John Marriott M.P.

Explore York Libraries & Archives, MAR/5/12/10, 1 bundle, 1910-1913.

### Papers of Sir F Leith-Ross as Private Secretary to the Prime Minister (HH Asquith): Irish Home Rule, 1898-1913

The National Archives, Kew, T188/264.

## Some relevant collections held elsewhere (continued)

### Diary of Eunice Guthrie Murray: volume 1, 1895-1906

LSE, Women's Library, 7EGM/1/1, Manuscript diary of Eunice Guthrie Murray, covering 27 Nov 1895-20 Jun 1906. Eunice's entries increasingly demonstrate a lively interest in external affairs such as the South African War, the Irish question ('I see now that Ireland should have Home Rule, the Boers should have been left alone, and women should have a say in all these burning questions'), and politics at home.

### Papers of Charlotte Despard, 1920-1930

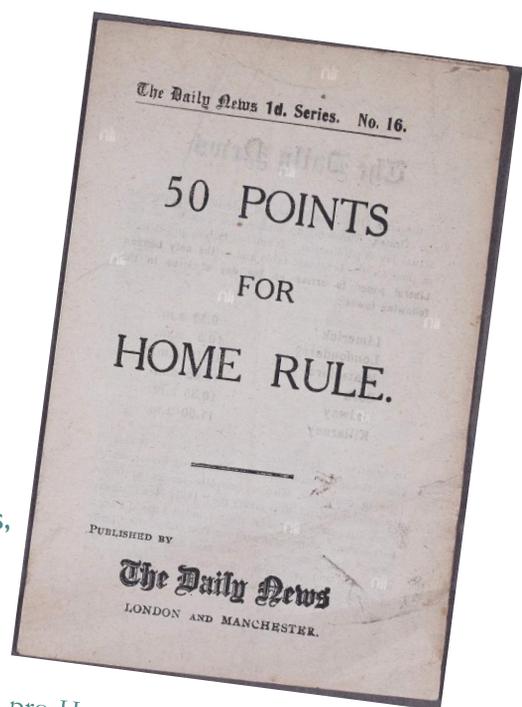
LSE, Women's Library, 7CFD, The archive consists of letters from Charlotte Despard to Charles Wilson (1920-1932) including her own political activities in Ireland lecturing the Labour Party against British Policy in India.

### Erskine Childers Papers, 1870-1922

National Library of Ireland, MS Collection List 161/MS 48,052-48,105, consisting mainly of official publications of Dail Eireann and the British Parliament, dealing with the Anglo-Irish Treaty and the War of Independence in Ireland. Includes correspondence and circulars, as well as pamphlets, posters and handbills relating particularly to events in Ireland during 1919 -1922.

### Papers of Diarmid Coffey, 1890-1966 in the Coffey and Chenevix Trench papers, 1868-2007

National Library of Ireland, MS 46,304-46,317, Includes correspondence, diaries, documents relating to the Irish Volunteers, Irish Conference Committee, Cooperative Movement, Irish Race Congress, Irish Convention 1916-18 representing all aspects of Home Rule including Ulster's objections to it.



A pro-Home Rule pamphlet, Erskine Childers Papers

<https://catalogue.nli.ie>



#### Tip

The National Library of Ireland catalogue includes many digitised examples of records in their collection relating to Irish Home Rule, making it easier to consult these documents remotely.

### A scrapbook containing letters and news cuttings pertaining to the Irish Home Rule League, 1876-1880

National Library of Ireland, MS 3272. This may provide a good counterbalance to the types of records found in the Devonshire Collections.

### Joseph Chamberlain Collection, 1819-[late 20th century]

Cadbury Research Library, Birmingham, JC. These papers include material relating to current domestic political matters and foreign affairs [the Russian/Turkish War, Irish Home Rule, the Liberal Party and the Liberal Unionist Alliance, General Elections of 1874-1906, the Boer War, and the campaign for tariff reform].

# Selected further reading

Other secondary sources that may assist further study of Irish Home Rule include:

## Websites

Hansard:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/>

The official record of parliamentary debates in the Houses of Commons and Lords.

UK Parliament <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/legislativescrutiny/parliamentandireland/>

The official website of UK Parliament, includes a short video exploring the partition of Ireland.

Houses of the Oireachtas <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/visit-and-learn/history-and-buildings/>

The official website of the Irish National Parliament, includes links and short videos relating to the history of Irish independence.

British Library Timeline Sources for History: Gladstone's Home Rule Notes 1893:

<https://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item107704.html>

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Home Rule". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 15 Sep. 2010,

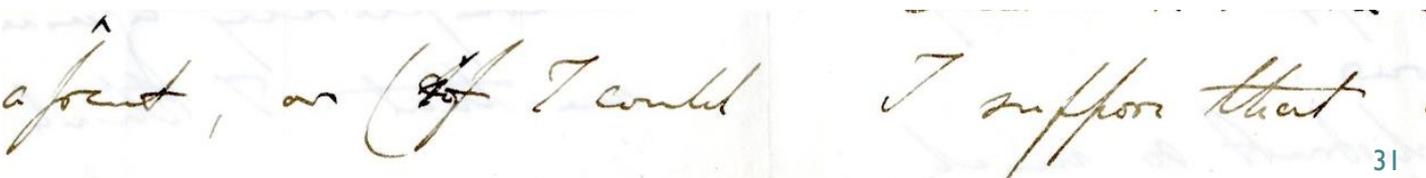
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Home-Rule-Great-Britain-and-Ireland>

The National Archives Blog "Between Home Rule and Revolution: Ireland in 1916-17":

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/home-rule-revolution-ireland-1916-17/>

## Books & Articles

- Cannadine, David, *Victorious Century: The United Kingdom 1800-1906* (Allen Lane, 2017)
- English, Richard, *Irish Freedom: The History of Nationalism in Ireland* (Macmillan, 2007)
- Foster, R.F., *Modern Ireland: 1600-1972* (Penguin Books, 1989)
- Jackson, Alvin (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish History* (Oxford University Press, 2014)
- O'Brien, Conor Cruise, *Parnell and his Party 1880-90* (OUP, 1957)
- O'Hagan, Lauren 'Home Rule is Rome Rule': exploring anti-Home Rule postcards in Edwardian Ireland, *Visual Studies*, 35:4, 330-346, (2020) DOI: 10.1080/1472586X.2020.1779612
- Pašeta, Senia, *Modern Ireland: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2013)
- Tóibín, Colm and Ferriter, Dairmaid, *The Irish Famine* (Profile, 1999)
- Winstanley, Michael J., *Ireland and the Land Question 1800-1922* (Methuen, 1984) (Lancaster Pamphlets)



... a point, as if I could I suppose that

# Terminology & Glossary

This is an alphabetical glossary of relevant terms explained. These terms may be found in the catalogue descriptions, this subject guide or in other secondary sources of information on the subject.

## **3Fs**

The '3Fs' refer to the demands of Irish tenants during the Irish Land agitation of the 1850s-80s. The '3Fs' were dual ownership land and the right to free sale, fair rents and fixity of tenure. A series of Irish Land Acts worked towards this, with the Land Law Act of 1881 finally giving security to tenants.

## **Clan na Gael**

An Irish republican organisation which was the successor to the Fenian Brotherhood and a sister organisation to the Irish Republican Brotherhood. Members of both Clan na Gael and the Fenian Brotherhood are often referred to as 'Fenians'.

## **Coercion Acts**

Acts of Parliament which gave increased state powers to suppress popular discontent and disorder. Many of these Acts were used in relation to Ireland such as the Local Disturbances, etc. (Ireland) Act 1883, the Protection of Life and Property in Certain Parts of Ireland Act 1871 and the Protection of Person and Property Act 1881.

## **Crimes Act (1887)**

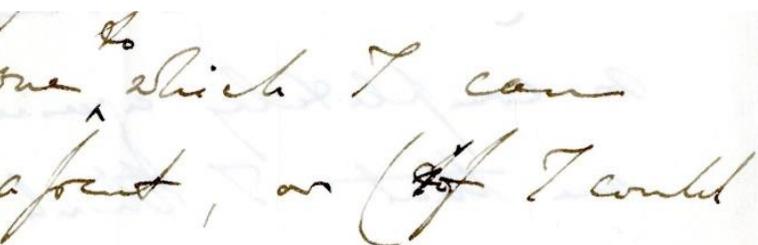
Officially called the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act 1887, the Act was introduced to deal with the increased activity and agitation associated with the Irish Land War. The Act allowed those associated with agricultural agitation to be tried by a magistrate without a jury. Bills to repeal the Act were regularly introduced by Irish nationalist MPs.

## **Fenians**

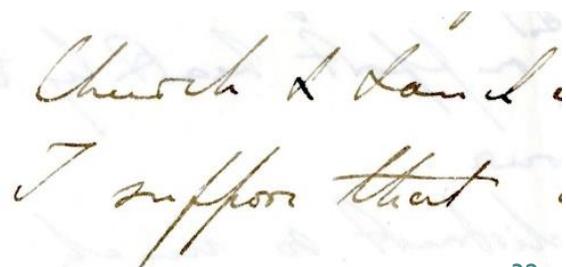
Members of a nineteenth-century revolutionary Irish nationalist organisation in the United States and Ireland. The Fenians staged an unsuccessful Irish revolt in 1867.

## **First Home Rule Bill (1886)**

Officially called the Government of Ireland Bill 1886, the Bill was the first major attempt by the Liberal Prime Minister, William Gladstone to create a law to grant a system of home rule for Ireland. It was defeated in the House of Commons with its failure partly attributed to the secretive manner in which Gladstone drafted the Bill. The failure also led to the dissolution of Parliament and the creation of the Liberal Unionist Party. The subsequent General Election was won by the Conservative Party with support from the Liberal Unionist Party.



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## **“Franchise bill” or Third Reform Act (1884)**

Officially called the Representation of the People Act 1884, the Bill (also known as the Third Reform Act) extended suffrage in the UK. The extension of suffrage meant that there were more Irish voters resulting in 105 Irish MPs.

## **Irish Councils Bill (1907)**

Bill proposed by Augustine Birrell, Chief Secretary to Ireland, in May 1907 which proposed a devolution of power to Ireland without full Home Rule. It proposed a partly elected Irish Council but was opposed by the Irish Parliamentary Party and formally withdrawn on 29 July 1907.

## **Irish Land Purchase Bill (1903)**

Officially called the Land Purchase (Ireland) Act 1903 (Wyndham Land Act), the Act built upon previous Acts and made it easier for Irish tenants to purchase land.

## **Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP)**

Political party formed by Isaac Butt in 1874 as the official parliamentary party for Irish Nationalist MPs. Charles Stewart Parnell was leader of the Party from 1880-1891.

## **Irish Question**

A term used to refer to the topic of Irish Home Rule becoming a pressing matter for Westminster politicians.

## **Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB)**

Irish republican organisation which played a major part in the campaign for Ireland's independence between 1858 and 1924.

## **Katharine O'Shea**

Katharine was an English woman of aristocratic background married to Captain William O'Shea, a Catholic Nationalist MP for County Clare, Ireland. Her secret affair with Charles Stewart Parnell (and subsequent well-publicised divorce from Captain O'Shea in 1890) led to his political downfall. Katharine and Parnell married in June 1891, however Parnell died less than four months later.

## **Kilmainham Treaty (1882)**

An informal agreement in May 1882 between the Liberal Prime Minister William Gladstone and the Irish Nationalist leader Charles Stewart Parnell. The agreement was reached whilst Parnell was imprisoned in Kilmainham Gaol. It was intended to extend the terms of the 1881 Land Law Act to benefit Irish tenant farmers, and for Parnell to use his influence to quell the rising violence among Irish nationalists.

## **Land Act (1881)**

Officially the Land Law (Ireland) Act 1881, the Act established security for Irish tenants through the '3Fs'. The Act was flawed as by this time the Irish were demanding full ownership of their land.

## **Land Act (1885)**

Officially the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act 1885 (Ashbourne Land Act), the Act provided financial assistance for tenants to borrow money to purchase land from their landlords. The loan was to be repaid at an interest rate of 4% over 49 years.

## **Land League**

This refers to the Irish National Land League, a political organisation of the late nineteenth-century which sought to reform the Irish landlord system to help poor tenant farmers.

## **Landlord and Tenant Act (1870)**

Officially the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act 1870, the Act was introduced by William Gladstone and largely designed to give force of law to the 'Ulster Custom'.

## **Liberal Unionist Party**

British political party formed in 1886 by a breakaway faction from the Liberal Party. Headed by Spencer Compton Cavendish (Lord Hartington) the party were wholly opposed to Irish Home Rule and the stance taken by the Liberal Party leader, William Gladstone. Between the years 1886-1905 the Liberal Unionists formed a political alliance with the Conservative Party before completely merging with them in 1912.

## **Phoenix Park Murders (1882)**

The fatal stabbings of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Thomas Henry Burke in Phoenix Park, Dublin on 6 May 1882 by the Invincibles, a radical Irish republican group. Lord Cavendish was Spencer Compton Cavendish's younger brother and Chief Secretary for Ireland. Lord Frederick had only been installed in post that day and happened to be walking to the Viceregal Lodge with Burke who was the intended target of the attack.

## **Redistribution Bill (1885)**

Officially called the Redistribution of Seats Act 1885, the Act redistributed seats in the House of Commons in an attempt to equalise representation across the UK.

## **Second Home Rule Bill (1893)**

Officially called the Government of Ireland Bill 1893, the Bill was the second attempt by the Liberal Prime Minister, William Gladstone, to grant a system of Home Rule for Ireland. The Bill was passed by the House of Commons but was defeated in the House of Lords.

## **Third Home Rule Bill (1914)**

Officially called the Government of Ireland Act 1914, the Act was the third introduced by the Liberal Government over a 28 year period. It provided devolved government for Ireland however the passing of the Act was disrupted by the First World War, which meant the Act never became effective. It was finally superseded by a fourth Home Rule Bill, the Government of Ireland Act 1920.

## **Ulster Custom**

The term used to describe the informal rights of tenants to security of tenure providing their rental payments were up to date. It also gave them the freedom to sell the right of occupancy to another tenant who had been approved of by their landlord.

## **Westminster**

The location of the Houses of Parliament where legislation is enacted after a bill is debated and passed through the Houses of Parliament and received Royal Assent.

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- Charles Stuart Parnell, M.P., President of the Irish Land League, addressing a meeting, 1883, Source: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2013645293>, no known restrictions on publication.

