

Papers of Bernard O'Rourke

P117

Descriptive Catalogue



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CONTEXT

Biographical history

Bernard O'Rourke was born on 3 November 1874 to Patrick and Anne O'Rourke, his father owned a mill which Bernard inherited. He married Clare Clinton in 1907 and they lived at Gleneven, Inniskeen, County Monaghan. They had four daughters, May, Eileen (b. 1909), Clare and Monica, and three sons, Patrick (1917–78), Brian (b.1919) and Clinton (b.1923).

He was active in local and national politics, a member of Monaghan County Council, 1905–25 and 1929–45; a Justice of the Peace, 1904–16, a position from which he was removed by the Lord Chancellor in June 1916 almost immediately after his release from detention in the aftermath of the Easter Rising; chairman of the Carrickmacross Board of Guardians, 1915–17, 1919 and 1922; a magistrate in the Dáil Éireann courts and a member of the Free State Senate, 1922–38.

Archival history

The Bernard O'Rourke Papers were deposited in UCD Archives by Clinton and Emily O'Rourke in September 1993.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and content

Easter Rising, 1916: correspondence between Bernard O'Rourke, imprisoned in Richmond Barracks, Dublin, in the aftermath of the Rising, and his wife Clare and other family members and friends; material concerning attempts to secure his release; official documents relating to his imprisonment (May 1916).

Material concerning his removal from the Commission of the Peace for County Monaghan (June 1916).

Correspondence concerning subscriptions to the Dáil Éireann loan in South Monaghan and lists of subscribers (1919–24).

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CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Access: Available by appointment to holders of a UCDA reader's ticket.
Produced for consultation in original format.

Language: English

Finding-aid: Descriptive catalogue

DESCRIPTION CONTROL**Archivist's note**

Descriptive catalogue prepared by Colm McQuinn and Seamus Helferty in 1996.
Updated by Niamh Scannell, and edited by Kate Manning in 2016.

1. Prison Correspondence, 1916

1.1 Bernard O'Rourke to his wife Clare

P117/1 11 May 1916

4pp

From The Prison, Dundalk

O'Rourke describes his able quarters as 'fairly comfortable' and has arranged with his cousin, Charlie, to have food sent in. He is allowed one letter a day. Asks Clare to write to Charlie to tell him that he does not know the nature of the charges against him. He mentions his mother's reaction to his arrest and hopes that neither she, nor Clare, nor 'the little ones', have been upset. He asks Clare to write to him, but to only include 'family affairs as all other news will be cut out'. He wishes [his brother] Pat O'Rourke to run the business and provides instructions for Pat and Charlie about getting corn, prices to charge for meal, and bank books. O'Rourke says all he wants is 'a smoke' which is forbidden, 'unless allowed by Doctor Gill'. He would prefer the daily papers to the novel he has been given. In a post-script, he asks for his sister's, Minnie Patsy, address in Dublin so that he might ask her to send him food should he be sent there. **Includes:**

- Annotation by the prison authorities: 'This prisoner has been removed from here since this letter was written'.

P117/2 12 May 1916

2pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Says he is 'fairly comfortable' and shares the room with thirty five other men. He still does not know what he is charged with, but says there are 'hundreds' like him. He asks Clare to write to Minnie to send him in some food, and to ask Pat to get her meat for Sunday. Edward Phelan from Dundalk has agreed to act as his solicitor and he has arranged an interview with him, after which he will have Phelan call to Clare to inform her of anything he knows. He urges her to write to him with news of Gleneven, though he must restrict his own writing to lack of supplies of paper.

P117/3 [13 May 1916]

2pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Letter written on paper headed 'YMCA with H.M. Forces on Active Service' given to him by a sentry. O'Rourke describes his conditions;

P117/3 cont'd his fellow prisoners, 'the finest men alive'; their routine, saying the rosary, singing and dancing, to pass the time, so there is 'not a dull moment'. He feels encouraged by the day's papers, has been told the charges against him, regards it as very little and expects to be released and says he has never felt better in his life and would not have liked to have missed the fun.

P117/4 [14 May 1916]

4pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

O'Rourke explains how he had heard mass. He lists his visitors; Charlie, [James] Lardner [1879–1925, MP, his solicitor] and H.H. Asquith [1852–1928, Prime Minister]. Lardner who came directly from London and who has taken on O'Rourke's case 'freely' says there is no evidence against him and he hopes to have O'Rourke released 'early in the week'. O'Rourke also lists people who, according to Charlie, have taken an interest in his case: Thomas McArdle [later Secretary of the Local Government Department of the Dáil, 1919], Lord Fingall [Oliver James Horace Plunkett, 1896–1984, 12th Earl of Fingall, 5th Baron Fingall], Matt Clinton and Sir Henry Bellingham [1846–1921, Lord Lieutenant of Louth], all of whose 'interference' Charlie regards as unbeneficial. O'Rourke complains of not having received any letters and advises Clare to keep her letters short, with no 'outside' news, as they will not be passed by the censor.

P117/5 [15 May 1916]

4pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

O'Rourke acknowledges receipt of Clare's letters. Their food has improved in variety from their previous diet of bully beef, dog biscuits, and a form of tea, and they are in 'the best of health and spirits', though they would like some furniture and a pillow as they sleep on the floor. He notes a concert enjoyed the previous night and sent a postcard to Minnie asking for some things he needed, but has not heard from her. If he does, everything will be fine. He would like more writing paper and to get *The Democrat* as they get all the Dublin papers. He does not recommend that Clare comes to visit him because of the long hours of standing in wait. **Includes:**

- 'I have heard nothing further about my case only that an officer on Saturday night late called me out and asked me some particulars about myself—he said they got a wire about me. This must be from Asquith'.

P117/6 16 May 1916

3pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

O'Rourke acknowledges receipt of Clare's. Minnie visited and brought everything he needed. The solicitors Phelan and Lardner also visited. Lardner informed O'Rourke, having seen the depositions, that there was nothing against O'Rourke and is pushing the military authorities to dismiss the case. **Includes:**

- 'We are all in the best of spirits. We have not a dull moment any day. I saw some of the Carrick and Dundalk chaps yesterday. They are all A1. There are over 1000 prisoners in this block and I did not meet any of them but said they never had such a holiday in their life'.

P117/7 [17 May 1916]

4pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Acknowledges receipt of Clare's letter of Monday and explains that he must write early in the day to allow for the delay in the letters going out through the censor. They are more comfortable now having received tables, seats, plates and cutlery, towels and blankets, and 'all the fellows say they won't leave here at all.' He himself will be sorry leaving them, 'they are such a lot of fine Irishmen'. He sees little of the Carrick men, He was amused at Clare's account of 'the new play of the little ones' and looks forward to seeing it when he returns home.

Includes:

- 'I am very glad to hear all in Inniskeen have taken the pledge. I hope they will keep it, If this mission strips the barbarous custom of drink at funerals it will be the greatest blessing ever came to the parish.'
- 'McMahon of Ardee got 3 years imprisonment. The fellows here are quite jealous of him as they look on it as a great honour to get so much. In fact any man that does not get some time is in the eyes of all the prisoners here a disgrace...'
- 'I am pleased indeed that you have all these visitors. It shows that it is not such a terrible crime after all in being the wife of a potential rebel'.

P117/8 [18 May 1916]

4pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Acknowledges receipt of Clare's letters since her letter posted on Monday, and comments on the necessity to write early so that he ensures same day postage. **Includes:**

- P117/8 cont'd**
- 'Nothing fresh about my trial. I thought Lardner would be able to get my case taken out of its turn but so far he has not succeeded. There is no fear of their giving me any time as they released a number of young men yesterday that were drilling on the week of the Rising. But they had to stand their trial. They say the court was very nice with them although it was proven that they were drilling and marching after the start of the rebellion'.

P117/9 19 May 1916

4pp

From Richard Barracks, Dublin

Acknowledges receipt of Clare's letter and portrait of their daughters, a letter from his cousin, Fr Stephen, and stockings from both herself and Minnie. He describes their diet in the prison in detail and says they are giving their leftovers to the English soldiers and are better off than if they were at the Gresham [Hotel, Dublin]. He explains the delays involved in getting in parcels, but that there are now no restrictions on the number of letters they can receive though they are still checked. He mentions [Monica] Glendon's recovery. **Includes:**

- 'There is a rumour in the prison of a great number of prisoners being deported that night to England. 'All in this room are afraid to go, as they much prefer to remain in Ireland. I sincerely hope they won't send me but I would not be surprised if they did. They are in a hopeless muddle here with all the prisoners on their hands and sent many to England and released them in a few days after landing'.

P117/10 [20 May 1916]

4pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

O'Rourke refers to his letter to Clare of the previous day where he mentioned a message he had received from Major Crean that his release has been agreed, though the order had not yet come. **Includes:**

- 'I am anxiously waiting all day for my release without result'. Advises Clare not to get uneasy if he does not arrive home, as due to the delay he may not arrive until Monday.
- The rumoured deportation occurred. 'Things are much the same with us here, only that about 400 men were deported from this barracks last night including all the Carrick prisoners and 7 of the jolliest fellows we had in this room...'
- '...I have had a visit from Lardner who informs me that there is no truth in the report or message I got yesterday that I was to be released today. I am very sorry I can't be with you for tomorrow but I must put up with my confinement for the present'.

P117/11 [21 May 1916]

4pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

O'Rourke expresses his disappointment that 'red tape' is delaying his release. He has asked Minnie to call into Major Crean for an explanation for the false message that he was to be released. **Includes:**

- 'The reason you don't get my letters regularly is that they are delayed here by the censor, but you may not have this delay now as the censors' have less to do now since the 400 prisoners were deported on Friday. Since writing the above I have heard mass. The priest says it out in the open square opposite our window and all the prisoners can see it from their room. There seems to be only one Catholic lady prisoner here and she was beside the altar with an armed sentry. John McNeil [Eoin MacNeill] is in the next block to us. He was taken here last night and will be tried on Monday'.

P117/12 [22 May 1916]

4pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Acknowledges receipt of clothes and other personal effects. **Includes:**

- 'I am in want for nothing only to get out of this...The boys here are in bad spirits today as there is a rumour that 100 are to be deported tomorrow and each one thinks he will have to go. They are quite satisfied with the conditions here but on the other side the prisoners are put in cells. No one likes that. I see all they have to say about me at the local councils. I did not think I was such an important man in the county'.

P117/13 [23 May 1916]

4pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Writing early so that he can get Minnie to post the letter. **Includes:**

- 'There are dozens of men here with more influence than I have and they can do nothing. John Dillion [1851-1927, MP Irish Parliamentary Party] has worked for all he is worth for 7 chaps from his town and they were deported on Friday. Some are far worse cases than me. One man Chas Hughes [from] Westport has an extensive drapery and boot store. He and four of his assistants were arrested. The assistants are all deported and he went in to hospital from here last night with a bad leg he has. He says his business will be ruined as his wife does not know it well enough and she can get no one who does. He used to cry here when he got a letter from his wife'.

P117/14 [24 May 1916]

2pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Incomplete and partially censored. **Includes:**

- 'You need not be uneasy about me as I am getting on all right and have plenty of everything. They have made no charges against me so far...There was a notice put up in the room last night informing us that "there was no necessity for engaging solicitors until we were charged with something." This indicates that they don't intend to make any specific charge against most of them here.'

P117/15 [25 May 1916]

4pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Includes:

- 'Nothing fresh about my case since I wrote you yesterday. I got all your letters up to the one you wrote on Tuesday and I am glad to hear you and all the little ones are in good health and spirits. They changed us over to [Room] 1.4 last night which is on the same landing as 1.5. There is only 12 of us here and we are quite comfortable. All very nice chaps. We have [Austin] Stack [1879–1929, Commandant, Kerry Brigade, Irish Volunteers] and [Con] Collins [1881–1937, member Irish Volunteers and Irish Republican Brotherhood], who were arrested on Good Friday near Tralee close to where [Roger] Casement [1864–1916, former British diplomat Nationalist, poet] landed...'
- 'This is an extraordinary place one never gets tired of it. I would not wish for a nicer place to spend a holiday. The only drawback is that I can't have you and the little ones near me.'

P117/16 26 May 1916

4pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Includes:

- 'The reason you did not get all my letter of Tuesday is that I made reference to the prisoners who were deported that day. The censor probably cut out the whole page [see P117/14]....'
- '...I had a letter from Father Stephen [Glendon] last night in which he enclosed a communication from Sir John Maxwell [1859–1929, General Officer Commanding the Forces in Ireland] stating "that the information obtained about this gentleman is not such that he immediately sanction his release but that he does not propose to bring him to trial before a court martial". The meaning of this is that they can bring no charge whatever against me...'

- '...They are probably not making any further local enquiries about me as the police know very well I was at my business all the week of the Rising'.

P117/17 27 May 1916

4pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Includes:

'I had Lardner in to interview with Col[onel] Byrne on my behalf before he called on me. They have no charges whatever against me and they are satisfied with my statement as to my movements during Easter Week...The only thing that prevents me being released this week is that the police have made secret reports that I have been in the movement but they are unable to connect me in any way with it. It is all "belief" and "surmise". No definite evidence'.

1.2 Clare O'Rourke to Bernard O'Rourke

P117/18 [12 May 1916]

4pp

From Gleneven, Inniskeen, County Monaghan

Mainly concerns family and business affairs and the expectation of Bernard's immediate release. **Includes:**

- 'I need not tell you we all miss you every minute of the day but I am not worrying about you now as I know you will be home in a day or so'.

P117/19 [13 May 1916]

2pp

From Gleneven

Informs Bernard that all his friends are enquiring when he will be home. **Includes:**

- 'I don't have so many enquiries as they do in the office and shop. They are simply "smothered" there with enquiries because everyone was astounded at your arrest and all are as much at sea as we ourselves are as to why you were arrested. Some of your Unionist friends—and you have many—say they are making a bad mistake by arresting men like you...Mr Quinn had a nice letter from Sir Horace Plunkett [1854–1932, MP, agricultural reformer, pioneer of agricultural cooperatives] about you during the week. I never knew you had so many aristocratic friends'.

P117/20 [16 May 1916]

4pp

From Gleneven

Arranges to have sent anything Bernard needs, including newspapers and laundry, and includes family and local news. **Includes:**

- 'It must be rather hard on you who led so much of your life outdoors to be inside on these sunny warm days. I look for your coming after every train passes'.

P117/21 [May 1916]

4pp

[From Gleneven?]

Mainly concerns family affairs with news of friends. Incomplete and opening pages missing. **Includes:**

- 'Peter and Pat Carny came in last night at half ten on our clock. Pat is always a later visitor and does not believe at all in the new time—so when we are ready to go to bed Pat strolls in and says it's only half nine. He thinks "that the farmers will lose with the new time as the fields won't be dry enough to start at 7..."'.

P117/22 [May 1916]

2pp

[From Gleneven?]

Mainly concerns family and business affairs and the lack of any case against him. Incomplete and opening pages missing. **Includes:**

- 'All the very nice things alone that everyone is saying about you would take days to tell and as for letters I'm seriously thinking if sending to the papers "Mrs O'Rourke returns thanks for the many kind letters and telegrams etc. etc."...In fact I could count 50 people—well known decent people who saw you before, during and after Easter Week—but of course nothing like that will be necessary—when they reach your lot you will we know get home to us'.

1.3 Bernard O'Rourke to his cousin Fr Stephen Glendon

P117/23 19 May 1916

3pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Includes family news from Clare. **Includes:**

- 'I am getting on all right here and the best of everything for the past few days, but the first few days we were here the food and accommodation was very bad. They have very slight charges against me...I must say I never spent a more enjoyable holiday in my life'.

P117/24 24 May 1916

3pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Includes:

- 'I am still here with not much prospect of release...The military authorities are in a muddle. They have not a staff yet to deal with all these prisoners and it will be 12 months before they are through with them. Most of the people here like myself had no connection whatever with the recent trouble...I am getting tired of this place and I would be very glad to hear I was getting home'.

P117/25 26 May 1916

2pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin

Includes:

- 'I am just after having an interview with Mr Lardner BL...he says they can't bring any charges against me but the police reports require to be investigated. It seems they hint I am a sort of dangerous man working under the surface although not publicly connected with any disloyal organisation...I may say that only for my influence in the parish of Inniskeen there would have been a strong corps of Sinn Féinners in it. Several attempts were made to start this and I worked for all I know to keep them out. This is the thanks I get now'.

1.4 Clare O'Rourke to Father Stephen Glendon

P117/26 18 May 1916

4pp

From Gleneven

Apologises for the delay in writing. Describes, from Bernard's letters, the great improvement in his prison conditions and events in the prison. She also describes the children's new play based on their father's arrest and imprisonment. Informs Glendon that she has written to John Dillon [MP] about Bernard's case. **Includes:**

- 'I have not a minute to call my own. I have visitors galore and as for letters—they are nearly beyond count'.
- 'He had a visit from [H.H.] Asquith [Prime Minister] on Saturday. He had a long chat with him and asked Barney many questions—his views on Home Rule question etc. and thanked him when coming away remarking he was sorry he (B) had to be detained there'.

P117/27 [22 May 1916]

4pp

From Gleneven

Passes on further news from Bernard's letters, the false news of his release and the deportation to England of the Carrickmacross men.

Includes:

- 'The Carrick men were all sent to England with the exception of Barney and a man named Burke. This man according to rumours we hear was connected with the Irish Volunteers and I heard too among other things there was a Republican flag found in Burke's house—but we hear so many strange tales we don't know if half of them are true. I hope by keeping Barney back (who as we all know had far too much of his own business on hand to bother with Irish Volunteers or be mixed up with the unhappy "rising") along with Burke does not mean that they are both to be treated alike'.

P117/28 [26 May 1916]

8pp

From Gleneven

Passes on further news from Bernard's letters and discusses the weakness of the case against him. Mentions the contents of letters from Bernard's solicitors concerning meetings with the authorities concerning his release. **Includes:**

- 'Thank God he was never mixed up in any of those organisations which has brought about the trouble. People were very proud of

P117/28
cont'd

him the time he spoke up against the police and the whole country agreed with what he said as to their brutality etc. That is the only thing they can now bring against him'.

1.5 Bernard O'Rourke to other family members

P117/29 16 May 1916

3pp

From Richmond Barracks, Dublin to Charlie [Glendon, his cousin and manager of the Dundalk mill]

Mainly concerns the business and the price of meal. Describes prison conditions and visits by his solicitor, and Prime Minister H.H. Asquith.

Includes:

- 'I gave Asquith a bit of advice about how to rule Ireland and the cause of all this trouble which I think will have an effect on him'.

P117/30 [18 May 1916]

1 item

Postcard from Richmond Barracks, Dublin to Mrs [Minnie] Patey [sister], Vernon Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin

Asks her to bring in small change if visiting the next day.

1.6 Letters to Clare O'Rourke

1.6.1 From Edward Phelan and James Lardner MP, solicitors

P117/31 18 May 1916

1pp

From Edward Phelan, Carrickmacross

Mainly concerns visiting times and procedures at Richmond Barracks. Advises her against going because of the very long delays frequently faced by visitors.

P117/32 18 May 1916

1pp

From James Lardner, 4 Leinster Street, Merrion Square, Dublin

Reassures her that there was no question of Bernard being tried and that he was working incessantly for his release.

P117/33 26 May 1916

1pp

From James Lardner, 4 Leinster Street, Merrion Square, Dublin

He has seen Bernard who is in good form. Lardner has been given to understand by General Byrne that Bernard's case will be disposed of in the next week.

1.6.2 From friends of Bernard O'Rourke

P117/34 15 May 1916

4pp

From Sister M. Brendan, Convent of Saint Louis, Carrickmacross

Offers sympathy on Bernard's arrest and detention.

P117/35 22 May 1916

2pp

From James O'Daly, Ballytay

Informs Clare that he has heard from Bernard and writes offering his sympathy and details of his own circumstance. **Includes:**

- 'I had to leave Clogher [County Louth] secretly and on the understanding that I should not return. The Castle order was to remove me from all communication with the people. I would have much preferred Richmond but the Castle had not the courage to enforce the martial law in my case. The authorities might as well proceed against an infant as against Mr O'Rourke, and myself. We have always tried to observe the law better than the men that made the laws. We are neither felons nor rebels and nothing can be invented to prove us such'.

1.7 Letters to Fr Stephen Glendon concerning O'Rourke

P117/36 13 May 1916

2pp

From Major General L[ovick].B. Friend [1856–1944], Headquarters, Irish Command, Parkgate, Dublin

Replies at the direction of General Sir John Maxwell to Fr Glendon's letter. Sir John has already given instructions that the prisoners in Cork jail be allowed to see their priests and attend Sunday mass. Enquiries are also being made about Bernard O'Rourke and any allegations against him will be investigated as soon as possible.

P117/37 14 May 1916

1pp

From Captain [Johnston], Richmond Barracks, Dublin, to Reverend H.S. Glendon O.P., St Mary's Priory, Cork

Informs Glendon that Bernard O'Rourke is in Richmond Detention Barracks.

P117/38 15 May 1916

4pp

From Patrick O'Rourke, The Mills, Inniskeen

Gives details of Bernard's arrest. **Includes:**

- 'They did not get any papers or anything else in the house, only a bandoleer belonging to Redmond's Volunteers [John Redmond, 1856–1918, MP]and an old single barrel gun belonging to me. So they took them with them'.

P117/39 17 May 1916

1pp

From Joseph Devlin [MP for West Belfast], House of Commons

Confirms that he has 'communicated with the War Office Authorities' regarding Bernard O'Rourke's case.

P117/40 18 May 1916

4pp

From [Minnie Patey], Vernon Avenue, Clontarf

Giving news of Bernard whom she has visited. **Includes:**

- 'I was there yesterday morning at nine o'clock to take my place in the queue and I saw B[ernard] at a quarter past three. You would pity all the poor women and babies standing all the time'.

P117/41 19 May 1916

4pp

From Ernest [Cullen], 21 Effra Road, Rathmines, Dublin

Describes managing to get in to Richmond Barracks 'with a little strategy' to see Bernard. **Includes:**

- 'He looks hale and hearty. Says he is having the time of his life—a regular holiday. Of course the first few days of his confinement were miserable beyond description—hardship and starvation but now they are fed like fighting cocks. He has plenty of grub and Minnie visits him every day or so. I also saw Count Plunkett [George Noble Plunkett, 1851–1948, nationalist, father of Joseph]—he is looking very sad and haggard'.

1.8 Official correspondence concerning O'Rourke's imprisonment

P117/42 17 May 1916

1pp

From Headquarters, Irish Command, Parkgate, Dublin to James Lardner

Inquiries are continuing into Bernard O'Rourke's case and if the facts justify it, he will no longer be retained in custody.

P117/43 25 May 1916

2pp

Handwritten copy of a letter from J. Crean, late 4th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, to Edward Phelan

Because of conflict between military and police evidence in Bernard O'Rourke's case, the matter has been referred to Mr Asquith. The reverse contains a list of allegations against O'Rourke.

P117/44 27 May 1916

1pp

C. Harold Heathcote, Officer in charge of Prisoners, Richmond Barracks, to Bernard O'Rourke

Makes arrangements for the long interview with his wife and sister requested by O'Rourke.

**1.9 Letters from Charlie Glendon to Harry
[his brother Fr H.S Glendon, known to others as Fr Stephen ?]**

P117/45 11 May 1916

1pp

From Dundalk, to 'My dear Harry'

Informs him of O'Rourke's arrest and of their lack of knowledge as to his destination in custody or the nature of any charges against him.

Includes:

- 'I am satisfied that he has no connection with the Sinn Féin Party. I always heard him speak of them as silly fanatics'.

P117/46 19 May 1916

1pp

Letter from Charlie to?

Informs him of Bernard's impending release. **Includes:**

- 'He is probably free this evening, if not will be free tomorrow morning'.

P117/47 21 May 1916

1pp

Letter from Charlie

Bernard's release has been delayed but they expect to see him on Monday. Includes family and local news.

P117/48 29 May 1916

1pp

Letter from Charlie

Bernard has been released unconditionally and is at home none the worse for his experience. **Includes:**

- 'There is one result of all this trouble which forces itself on one's attention and that is the greatest revival of the Irish spirit in the people generally. [General] Maxwell did more to revive this in one week than the Gaelic League has done since its foundation'.

2. Release from Prison

2.1 Correspondence between Bernard O'Rourke and Fr Stephen Glendon

P117/49 [28 May 1916]

1pp

Notes from Bernard at his sister Minnie's home, Vernon Avenue, Clontarf

Informs Fr Stephen that he has just been released and will travel home on the evening train. Thanks him for all he has done in the matter.

P117/50 29 May 1916

1 Item

Telegram from Fr Stephen

Congratulates Bernard on his release.

2.2 Other letters to O'Rourke

P117/51 29 May 1916

1pp

From James Lardner, 4 Leinster Street, Merrion Square, Dublin

He has heard of O'Rourke's release and had been hoping to see him as he passed through Dublin. Refers to the possibility of O'Rourke's commission [as a magistrate] being cancelled as a result of his

P117/51
cont'd

presence at a public meeting at which magistrates actions were criticised [see P117/28 and P117/60-63]. **Includes:**

- 'May I suggest to you that you should give the fullest explanation of your presence and of your views in reference to the incident. Incidents which at the time did not carry any great importance, in the light of recent events, as you will fully apprehend, bear a much more serious aspect in the eyes of the authorities'.

P117/52 30 May 1916

1pp

From Patrick Duffy, Grocer, Castleblayney

Congratulates him on his release. **Includes:**

- 'I hope the men of South Monaghan may soon get an opportunity of appreciating your services and manly spirit'.

P117/53 30 May 1916

2pp

From Thomas O'Byrne, Detention Barracks, Lewes, Sussex England to Bernard at Richmond Barracks [Dublin] and forwarded from there.

Thanks O'Rourke for writing to his mother and encloses news of the Carrick prisoners in Lewes. **Includes:**

- 'And we have some of the boys here out of your room [in Richmond Barracks]. They are speaking very well of you and your razor is doing great work'.

P117/54 31 May 1916

3pp

From John Trainor, Magheracloone, County Monaghan

Congratulates him on his release. **Includes:**

- 'You have no idea of the high place you hold in the hearts of people of this district and the recent action of the Government helped to give you still a higher place'.

P117/55 1 June 1916

1 item

Postcard from P.J. Ryan, Military Detention Barracks, Lewes

He has heard of O'Rourke's release and sends his best wishes and thanks for his past kindness in Richmond Barracks.

P117/56 16 June 1916

1pp

From W.J. Loughran, Paddington Station, London, in transit to Bala, Wales

Includes:

- 'Burke is in solitary confinement at Wandsworth. Can you do anything to relieve him'.

P117/57 17 June 1916

1pp

From Laurence Ginnell (1852-1923), MP [Westmeath North]

Acknowledges his letter. **Includes:**

- 'You are not the stranger to me that you suppose, though we have never met ... I am at once taking energetic action on behalf of Mr Daly and am hopeful that you may soon hear of his release'.

P117/58 23 October 1916

2pp

From C. Hughes, Frongoch Camp, Wales

Thanks O'Rourke for his letter. Mentions the few ex-Richmond Barracks prisoners still with him and those transferred to Reading Jail. He has appeared twice before the Advisory Committee in London but has neither been charged nor released. The men are in great spirits but expect a severe winter.

P117/59 6 June 1917

1 item

Postcard from M. McBride

Gives his new address as Fairford, Gloucester.

3. Removal from the Commission of the Peace, 1916

P117/60 26 February 1916

1 item

Photocopy of report from the *Dundalk Democrat*

Report of an Irish Volunteers demonstration in Carrickmacross to celebrate the release from Armagh Jail of three local men. They were imprisoned for two months for refusing to give bail in connection with charges arising from a meeting in the town the previous November. Includes details of the men being delayed on their way by train to the home-coming demonstrations; and their being taken by car by Bernard O'Rourke on the final part of their journey.

P117/61 1 June 1916

1pp

Photocopy of letter from Gerald Horan [Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper, and Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor], Lord Chancellor's Secretary's Office, Four Courts, Dublin, to Bernard O'Rourke

Requests an explanation for conduct considered improper for someone holding a Commission of the Peace. **Includes:**

- 'The attention of the Lord Chancellor has been called to your action on the 21 February last in conveying in your motor car from Inniskeen to Carrickmacross three men who had been liberated from prison, and in attending with them at a procession and meeting at the latter place, where their prosecution and conviction were denounced'.

P117/62 20 June 1916

1pp

Photocopy of letter from Gerald Horan, Lord Chancellor's Secretary's Office, Four Courts, Dublin

Refers to a letter from O'Rourke containing neither recognition of impropriety in conveying three released prisoners in his motor car, nor regret at conduct 'most unbecoming to your position as a magistrate'. The Lord Chancellor requires a statement by O'Rourke from the bench disassociating himself from the demonstration and regretting 'that your action on the occasion was entirely due to inadvertence'.

P117/63 23 June 1916

3pp

Photocopy of letter from James Lardner, Leinster Street, Merrion Square, Dublin, to Bernard O'Rourke

Encloses a draft reply to Horan's letter of 20 June and advises against the public expression of regret requested by the Lord Chancellor. This draft reply explains the circumstances behind his conveying the released prisoners from Inniskeen to Carrickmacross after their train had been derailed.

P117/64 29 June 1916

2pp

Photocopy of letter from Gerald Horan Lord Chancellor's Secretary's Office, Four Courts, Dublin to Bernard O'Rourke

Acknowledges receipt of a letter of 26 June. Since O'Rourke has declined to make the required public statement of regret, the Lord Chancellor 'deems it his duty to remove you from the Commission of the Peace for the County of Monaghan'. A photocopy of the Writ of Supersedeas exonerating O'Rourke from further acting in that office is enclosed.

4. Prison Correspondence, 1920

P117/65 25 October 1920

2pp

From Belfast Prison to his wife, Clare

Reassures her that he has everything he needs, both food and personal effects, and that he is quite comfortable. Mentions fellow prisoners including Denis McCullough (1883-1968). **Includes:**

- 'I can get home any time if I give bail to appear later at trial but I have refused to give bail'.

P117/66 3 November 1920

2pp

From Belfast Prison to May [his daughter at school]

Mentions family matters and describes general prison conditions. **Includes:**

- 'I have come down here to this famous spa for a course of

treatment. The waters are not so objectionable as those of Harrowgate ...'

- 'I don't find the time going in. I am away from home a fortnight on Saturday and think it is only a couple of days'.

5. Dáil Éireann Loan in South Monaghan, 1919–24

P117/67 October 1919–January 1920

9pp

Handwritten lists of subscriptions to the Dáil Éireann Loan in Monaghan South.

[Collected by Bernard O'Rourke?] Names and amount subscribed are included with town or townland occasionally given. Also included is an additional undated list of subscriptions 'from Corrigan'.

P117/68 December 1919–September 1920

28pp

Typescript list of subscribers to the Dáil Éireann Loan in Monaghan South

List includes subscription numbers, subscribers' names, and addresses with the amount of the loan applied for and paid by each applicant. Includes a page summary of subscriptions including the names of organisers. Dates given are those of the collection period. The list and summarised account are stamped by the Dáil Éireann Finance Department on 28 August 1924.

P117/69 7 August 1924

2pp

Letter from Fr A.H. Boylan, St Joseph's Presbytery, Monaghan, to Bernard O'Rourke

He has checked his records and attempts to resolve some minor inconsistencies and errors in subscriptions he had forwarded, so that O'Rourke can finalise matters.

- P117/70** 12 August 1924
2pp
Letter from Fr A.H. Boylan, St Joseph's Presbytery, Monaghan, to Bernard O'Rourke
Offers further clarification concerning the list of subscribers forwarded by him.
- P117/71** 22 August 1924
1pp
Letter from Leon T. MacAmhlaibh [Leo T. MacCawley], Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance, to Bernard O'Rourke
Acknowledges receipt of the list of subscribers to the Dáil Éireann Loan whose subscriptions had passed through O'Rourke's hands, and notes minor amendments.
- P117/72** 30 August 1924
2pp
Letter from J.J. McElligott [Assistant Secretary], Department of Finance, to Bernard O'Rourke
Refers to the list of subscribers sent by O'Rourke and analyses minor discrepancies in addresses between a number of entries on the list and the original forms of application. He suggests ways in which the South Monaghan account can be 'squared up without much difficulty'.
- P117/73** 8 September 1924
1pp
Letter from J.J. McElligott, Department of Finance, to Bernard O'Rourke
Acknowledges receipt of additional names in respect of subscriptions to the Dáil Éireann Loan. A number of names remain to be forwarded and official acknowledgements will then be issued to individual subscribers.

6. Material Related to Election, 1918–24

- P117/74** 22 June 1918
1 item
Telegram from 'McGuinness', Cootehill, County Cavan to Bernard O'Rourke
Announces the election result as 'Griffith 3795, O'Hanlon 22581'.
- P117/75** 13 May 1921
1 item
Handwritten receipt from William H. Swan
Acknowledges the deposit of £150 lodged with the nomination of Seán MacEntee (1889–1984) for election as member of parliament for County Monaghan.
- P117/76** Not dated
1 item
Telegram from 'Owen', Monaghan, to Bernard O'Rourke, Carrickmacross
Announcing the result of a [local] election as 'O'Rourke 344, Kelly 244'.

7. Photographs and Printed Matter

7.1 Photographs

- P117/77** [c1918/1919]
1 item, 13cm x 4.5cm
Photograph of Eamon de Valera addressing an outdoor meeting in a field.
De Valera in profile on the platform, to his right facing the camera but partially obscured is Ernest Blythe (1889–1975), MP for Monaghan.
Black and white tinted.

P117/78 [c1919]

1 item, 12.8m x 17.8cm

Crowd photograph of Cumann na mBan/Sinn Féin meeting [in Castleblayney, County Monaghan]

Platform party facing the camera; uniformed Cumann na mBan officer addressing the crowd.

[see also P117/85]

7.2 Pamphlets and Printed Matter

P117/79 28 October 1915

3pp

Department of Recruiting , Ireland

Recruiting pamphlet consisting of patriotic messages from [Ivor Churchill Guest, 1st Viscount Wimborne, 1873–1939], Lord Lieutenant and Director-General of Recruiting. Includes details of pay and allowances, and an enlistment form to be completed and returned.

P117/80 [1916]

4pp

Songs of Freedom. Easter, 1916

Printed pamphlet containing the texts of four songs, *Before the Battle* and *After the Battle* by P.H. Pearse; and *The Call* and *Our Faith* by Countess Markievicz:

- *Before the Battle* begins 'God! We enter our last fight,/Thou dost see our cause is right, ...'
- *After the Battle* begins 'Mother Erin, I have loved thee,/With a love that knew not fear, ...'
- *The Call* begins 'Do you hear the call in the whispering winde?/The call to our race to-day, ...'
- *Our Faith* begins 'We are ready to fight for the land we love,/Be the chances great or small; ...'

P117/81 [1916]

4pp

To your Places, Slaves. A Striking Pronouncement on the Easter Insurrection by Reverend Fr Yorke, San Francisco.

P117/81
cont'd

Printed pamphlet. **Includes:**

'At the solemn moment when Ireland, a strong man, armed, entered the clangorous halls of war, and with drawn sword demanded that nationhood which seven centuries of tyranny have been unable to destroy, one would think that every American remembering the rock from which he was hewn and the pit from which he was digged, would feel a thrill of sympathy with men and women who believe that liberty was worth winning even at the price of blood'.

P117/82 [1917]

16pp

Patrick H. Pearse. A sketch of his life by 'Coilin' (Dublin, Curtis, 12 Temple Lane)

Printed pamphlet. A short sketch of Pearse's life with extracts from, and commentary on, his writings. First page inscribed 'C.M. O'Rourke, Gleneven, Inishkeen March 1917'.

P117/83 [1917]

12pp

Ireland, England and The War

Printed pamphlet. Propagandist argument against Irish involvement in the war. **Includes:**

- 'The accompanying leaflet was dropped from a German aeroplane into the English lines in France. As the matter is of very important and very general historic interest, it is hoped that its presentation in pamphlet form will be of use'.

P117/84 [1919]

1 item, 12cm x 8cm

Printed colour cartoon of Ireland

In the form of a uniformed Irish Volunteer (representing Ireland) being introduced to the Versailles Conference table by Uncle Sam. Other participants at the conference table are represented by stylised figures such as John Bull.

P117/85 [c1919/1920]

1 item, 50x40cm

Photographic copy of a poster announcing Saint Patrick's Day demonstration

Announcement of demonstration in Castleblayney, under the auspices of South Monaghan Cumman na mBan, to be addressed by Mrs [Hanna] Sheehy Skeffington [1877-1946] and Mrs [Jane "Jennie"] Wyse Power [1858-1941].

P117/86 [c1923]

1 item, 25cm x 16cm

Leaflet Number Nine issued by the North Eastern Boundary Bureau

Printed flyer concerning the numerical strength of Catholics in border areas and calling for the retention of these areas in the Free State.

7.3 News Cuttings

P117/87 April-June [1914]-1978

33 items

Cuttings from the *Dundalk Democrat* and *Dundalk Examiner*

Dundalk Democrat cuttings relating to events in the period around the Easter Rising. Includes reports of public bodies such as Monaghan County Council, Carrickmacross Rural Council and Carrickmacross Board of Guardians, expressing regret at Bernard O'Rourke's arrest and subsequent relief at his release, with a lengthy report from the *Dundalk Examiner* consisting of an interview with him.

Other material includes general editorial comment on the Rising, the treatment of prisoners and the courts-martial and execution of the leaders. A much later cutting (26 April 1978) contains an article on the Senate with a photograph of seven senators, including Bernard O'Rourke, with Douglas Hyde [1860-1949], President of Ireland, in 1938.

8. Personal Material

P117/88 3 November 1874

1pp

Photocopy of certified copy of Bernard O'Rourke's entry in the Register of Births

Certified copy given 9 September 1901.

P117/89 Christmas 1945

2pp

Letter from [Fr] Stephen [Glendon] to Bernard O'Rourke

While sorting through old papers he has come across 'some correspondence about your arrest and imprisonment for your country's cause in 1916. It occurs to me that you may like to look over them and keep some of them as a souvenir, so I am sending them to you herewith'. [P117/23-28, P117/36-41]. Offers season's greetings.

Includes:

- Comments on the burning of the mill and hopes it will soon be back in full swing. 'I don't see the Sunburst packets in the shops even now so I suppose you are not able to supply your customers yet'.