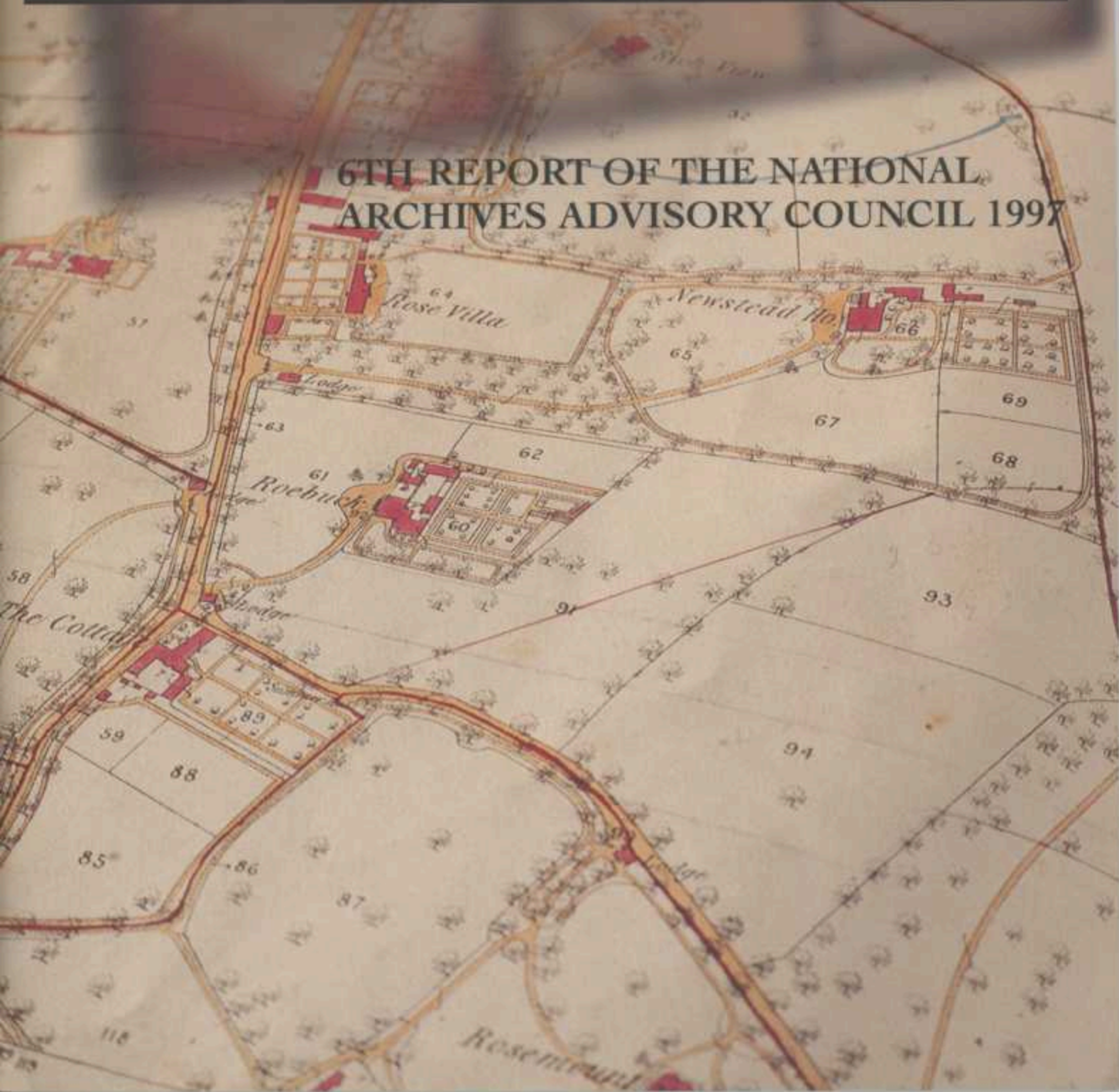




6TH REPORT OF THE NATIONAL
ARCHIVES ADVISORY COUNCIL 1997





**6TH REPORT OF THE NATIONAL
ARCHIVES ADVISORY COUNCIL 1997**

Weekly Return of the Army

Present

Effective Rank

Plan
of
FISHERY HARBOUR
Proposed to be built at
STEPHENS PORT
in the
County of Antrim

By Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kinmont to the Command of the Works
1788



491

89	5	30	12	55	2
Invalids	4	11	1	15	276
				3	6

in Ireland 8th May 1797

Alterations since last Recruit



MICHAEL DOWNEY, SHIP AGENT,
 QUAY, WATERFORD.

PASSENGERS' CONTRACT TICKET.

Ship *St. Lawrence* No. *722* has regularly departed, on and from *Waterford*
 for *Quebec* on the *24th* day of *May* 1847

I engage that the Captain to be named shall be provided with a *Provision* Storage in *Quebec*
 and not to exceed 10 casks for *Engage* for each *Stowage* subject for the
 use of *St. Lawrence* according to the *Stowage* of any of the place of
 loading, and every other charge, and I hereby acknowledge to have
 received one of *St. Lawrence* a *Provision* Storage

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Rank	Profession	Remarks
1	<i>John Smith</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	
2	<i>James Brown</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	
3	<i>William Green</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	
4	<i>Thomas White</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	
5	<i>Richard Black</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	
6	<i>Henry Grey</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	
7	<i>George King</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	
8	<i>Edward Lee</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	
9	<i>Franklin Hall</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	
10	<i>Charles Young</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	

Health and health for every and drinking water provided by the
 Passengers
 Signature *Michael Downey*
 Agent of the Ship *St. Lawrence*
 Signed at *Waterford* on the *24th* day of *May* 1847

By *John Smith*
 Captain of the Ship *St. Lawrence*

North Channel

background
6205002 Rebellion Papers: weekly return of the army in Ireland, May 1797

main image
OPW5HC35291: plan for a fishery harbour at Stephensport, Co. Antrim, 1828

inset right
97748: passenger's contract ticket for steerage voyage from Waterford to Quebec, May 1847

36
 43
 84

18
 4
 4
 5
 3 50

Return

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97/46/4/3 Fembroke estate map:
extract from survey of the parish
of Taney, Co. Dublin, 1865

inset left
*97/36: marriage licences for the
parish of St. Paul, Diocese of Cork
and Ross, 1803-17*

inset centre
*97/46/1/1 letters relating to the
Fitzwilliam family, 1639-91: permit
from Oliver Cromwell for William
Fitzwilliam to pass from London
to Ireland, November 1653*

inset right
*620/30/39 Rebellion Papers: weekly
return of the army in Ireland, May
1797*

LIST OF CONTENTS

LETTER TO THE MINISTER FOR ARTS, HERITAGE, GAELTACHT AND THE ISLANDS	6
1. Background	7
2. Establishment and functions of the Advisory Council	8
3. Membership and Secretary	9
4. Annual reports of the Council	10
5. Activities	11
6. Strategic plan for the National Archives 1996-2001	12
7. Departmental Records	14
8. Local Authority archives	15
9. Freedom of information	16
10. Cabinet confidentiality	17
11. Standards publication	18
APPENDIX:	19
Ministerial announcement of major extension to the National Archives	
INDEX	20

Ms. Síle de Valera, T.D.,
Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands

6TH REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES ADVISORY COUNCIL 1997

A Aire, a chara,

In accordance with Section 21 of the National Archives Act, 1986, I have the honour to submit the 6th Report of the National Archives Advisory Council for the year 1997. I regret the delay in submitting the report.

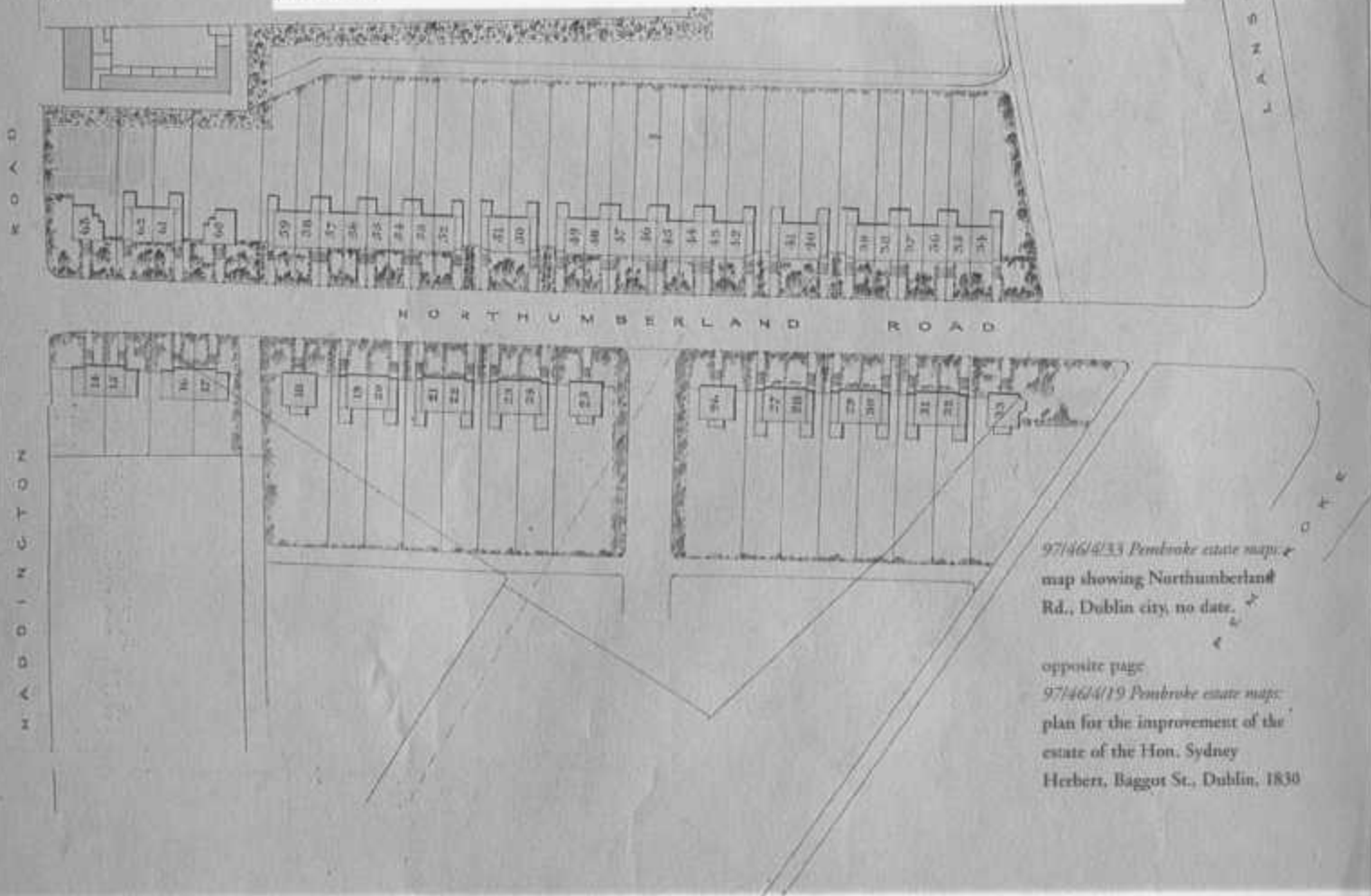
As a Council we are conscious, on the eve of a new millennium, of the growing awareness and interest among the public of the primary sources that constitute our National Archives and of the major position which the National Archives occupies in the cultural and intellectual life of the nation.

We have noted, with keen appreciation, the special interest which you have taken in the National Archives since coming into office. This was first demonstrated by your early visit to the Bishop Street headquarters, and given greater emphasis by your achievement of Government sanction for the adaptation and extension of the Warehouse at Bishop Street.

We would like to place on record our appreciation of the courtesy and assistance extended to us, at all times, by the staff of your Department, and especially by our Secretary, Mr Joe Meleady. We would also like to record our gratitude to the Director and the dedicated staff of the National Archives who have eased our way into assuming our present responsibilities.

Is mise,
Margaret MacCurtain
Chairman

June 1999



97/46/433 Pembroke estate map & map showing Northumberland Rd., Dublin city, no date.

opposite page
97/46/419 Pembroke estate map: plan for the improvement of the estate of the Hon. Sydney Herbert, Baggot St., Dublin, 1830

Present	Effective Rank and File		Wanting to Complete		Absent since last	
	Men	Horses	Men	Horses	Men	Horses

1. BACKGROUND

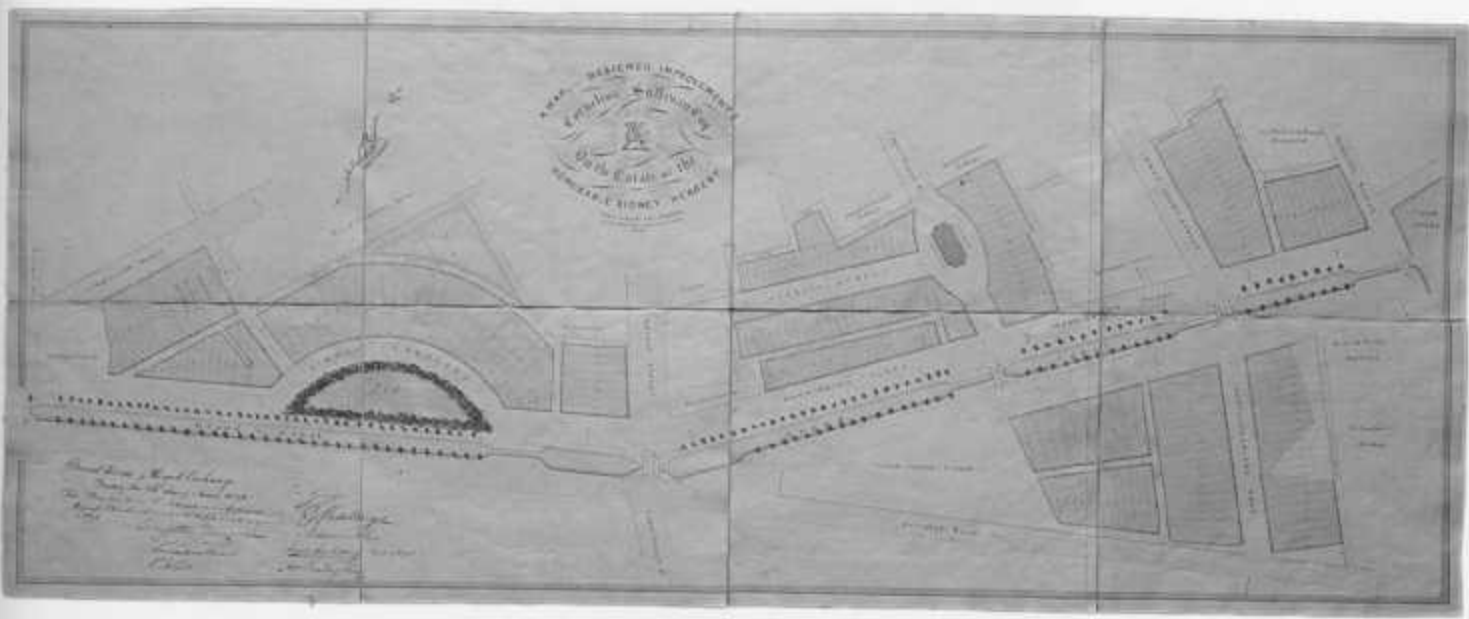
1.1 General:

Ireland is a country with a unique and ancient manuscript heritage but with a young and still developing archival tradition. The past three decades have witnessed a dramatic growth in archival consciousness both among the general public and among those responsible for record creation and preservation in central and local government, universities, businesses and in private institutions. This archival revolution has been greatly facilitated by landmark legislative enactments such as the National Archives Act of 1986 and the Local Government Act of 1994 and by the foundation of the Archives Department at University College, Dublin, in 1973, to provide professional archival training for the first time on the island of Ireland.

1.2 The National Archives:

The National Archives occupies a key position in the cultural and intellectual life of the nation. The pre-eminent archival repository on the island of Ireland, the National Archives houses the records of the modern Irish state, of its historical evolution, and of its national identity. Its collections relate to each of Ireland's thirty-two counties and contain enormous potential as a source for historical research. They provide essential primary source materials for historians seeking to understand and explain how the citizens of this state are governed and to delineate and describe the political, economic and social forces which have shaped modern Ireland. They also permit the study of policy by contemporary civil servants, the identification of their roots by the many visitors whom we welcome to this country, and an understanding of their heritage by school children living in every part of this island.

Until 1988 the collection and preservation of public records was carried out by the Public Record Office of Ireland (founded in 1867) and the State Paper Office (founded in 1702). The bulk of the archives held in the Public Record Office was lost in the Four Courts fire of 1922, when the building itself was largely destroyed. The National Archives, created as a result of the National Archives Act of 1986, subsumed these bodies in a new institution of national importance. Since 1 June 1988, when the Act was brought fully into force, the National Archives has not only been responsible for existing collections but has taken on additional responsibilities as a branch of Government. Subject to certain necessary restrictions, all Departmental records more than thirty years old must be transferred to the care of the National Archives and be made available for inspection by the public.



2. ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

- 2.1 The National Archives Advisory Council was established under Section 20 of the National Archives Act of 1986 to advise the Taoiseach, and subsequently from 20 January 1993 the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands in the exercise of their powers under the Act and on all matters affecting archives and their use by the public.
- 2.2 The Council consists of a chairman and not more than eleven other members. The first council was constituted on 14 January 1987 for a five year term. Upon the expiry of that period all the members were re-appointed for a further term of five years up to 29 January 1997. The present Council was appointed on 20 May 1997.
- 2.3 In addition to the functions ascribed to the Council under the National Archives Act of 1986, the Council may, under Section 64 of the Local Government Act of 1994, advise the Minister for the Environment and Local Government on any matters affecting local archives and their use by the public.
- 2.4 Similarly, under Section 92 of the Harbours Act of 1996, the Council may advise the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources in like manner in relation to the archives of harbour companies and authorities.



Present	Effective Rank and File	Wanting to Complete		Alterations since last	
		Men	Horses	Men	Horses
				9	

5. MEMBERSHIP AND SECRETARY

Membership of the Council

- Margaret MacCurtain, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.H.S., *Historian and Senior Fellow, Faculty of Arts, University College Dublin (Chairman of the Council)*
- Niall Bradley, *Kildare County Manager*
- Mary E. Daly, M.A., D.Phil., M.R.I.A., *Associate Professor of Modern Irish History, University College Dublin; member of the Irish Manuscripts Commission; member of the Board of Visitors of the National Museum of Ireland*
- John Horgan, *Senior Lecturer in Journalism, Dublin City University; author*
- Liam Irwin, M.A., *Head, Department of History, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick*
- Michael Kenny, *Bookseller and local historian*
- Charles Lysaght, M.A., M.Litt., B.L., *Academic lawyer and writer*
- Patricia McCarthy, B.A., D.A.A., *Archivist, Cork Archives Institute; member of the Society of Archivists*
- Susan Parkes, M.A., M.Litt., F.T.C.D., *Senior Lecturer in Education, Trinity College, Dublin; education historian*
- Peter Rigney, *Industrial Officer, Irish Congress of Trade Unions; labour historian*
- David Sheehy, B.A., D.A.A., *Archivist, Dublin Diocesan Archives; member of the Society of Archivists*
- Anngret Simms, Ph.D., M.R.I.A., *Associate Professor of Geography, University College Dublin; member of the Irish Manuscripts Commission*

Secretary to the Council

Joseph Meleady, *Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands*



OPW5HC5/41: plan of the village and pier at Barna, Co. Galway, 1830

opposite page
OPW5HC5/48: plan for a fishery pier at Laurence's Cove, Bere Island, Co. Cork, 1828

to be placed
 your Copy of H. Lee's
 Willm Ellis

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE COUNCIL

Previous reports of the Council covered the periods shown:

- 1st Report - January 1987 to June 1990
- 2nd Report - July 1990 to June 1992
- 3rd Report - July 1992 to December 1993
- 4th Report - January 1994 to December 1994
- 5th Report - January 1995 to December 1996

620/30/52 Rebellion Papers:
 William Ellis, Philipstown, to
 John Lees, Postmaster General,
 reporting that the local Protestants
 are fleeing into Philipstown, where
 they are inadequately defended,
 May 1797

opposite page:
 620/30/53 Rebellion Papers: Guy
 Gordon, Londonderry, to J.
 Beresford, forwarding papers
 relating to United Irishmen and
 their arms. Key supplied to code.
 May 1797

Philipstown

The Defiance for this week past has run to such
 an alarming pitch in the neighbourhood that all the Protestants of any property
 is flying into this town with their families for protection as we a night passed
 without some violence being committed. A Mr. Farrell Mr. Donagan Mr. Bellam
 Mr. Company & Mr. Puckel all Mrs. of property within three miles of this town
 were Rob. of a considerable value besides a good many more that was rob.
 of their lives. Only 20 furnished arms etc in this town for good service of
 week there is not above thirty soldiers in our barracks and the most of them
 Protestants so that our case is much to be feared
 I am, Sir, your very H. Servant
 Wm. Ellis

Philipstown
 18 May 1797

6. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES 1996-2001

- 6.1 The National Archives was established under the National Archives Act of 1986. Under the Act, the records of all Government departments (and 61 scheduled public bodies) more than 30 years old were, with certain exceptions, required to be transferred to the National Archives and made available for public inspection.
- 6.2 The setting up of the National Archives was a progressive and enlightened step towards informing the public of the activities of Governments. However, if it is to function effectively resources commensurate with the legal responsibilities imposed must be made available by Government.
- 6.3 Though a number of steps were taken by successive Governments to facilitate the National Archives in its early development, the former Advisory Council, a decade after the enactment of the National Archives Act, remained 'deeply concerned that resources necessary to meet the requirements imposed by statute (had) not been made available with inevitable consequences' (5th Report).
- 6.4 Accordingly, the previous Council published, in June 1996, *A Future for Our Past - Strategic Plan for the National Archives, 1996-2001*. The purpose of the Strategic Plan was to identify and highlight the key requirements necessary to bring the National Archives up to an acceptable standard. Objectives, to be met within the lifetime of the Strategic Plan, were set out covering Departmental and non-Departmental Records, Premises, Staffing, Preservation Policy, User and Outreach Services and Information Technology. These were all areas identified as being vital to the successful operation of the National Archives and to the effective implementation of the National Archives Act and other relevant legislation enacted since 1986.
- 6.5 The present Council wishes to place on record its appreciation of the hard work, energy and careful thought which the former Council put into producing the first ever Strategic Plan for the National Archives. The Council considers the Plan to be the essential benchmark by which progress in the National Archives may be measured over the next four years.
- 6.6 The fact that already, since the publication of the Strategic Plan, significant developments of a positive nature have taken place in a number of important areas, offers encouragement that the needs of the National Archives are being taken seriously by the appropriate authorities. The Council is especially heartened by the degree of interest in the National Archives shown by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Síle de Valera, T.D., in the short time that the Minister has had charge of Ireland's premier archival repository.
- 6.7 The Council is determined to ensure that as much progress as is practicable is made in meeting the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan between now and the year 2001. To that end, the Council intends to avail of the opportunity of furnishing an Annual Report to discuss and draw attention, on a selective basis, to progress or lack thereof in relation to the fundamental objectives set down in the Strategic Plan.
- 6.8 **In relation to Premises:**
Following the enactment of the National Archives Act in 1986, the holdings of the National Archives were, during the period 1990 to 1994, transferred from the former various dispersed locations to Bishop Street, Dublin 8. The Bishop Street premises became the headquarters of the National Archives with the former Public Record Office building at the Four Courts retained solely as an off-site store for archives. The Bishop Street premises, occupied by the Government Supplies Agency, were to be allocated for the exclusive use of the National Archives.
- 6.9 However, the Government Supplies Agency, (G.S.A.) between 1990 and 1997, remained in occupation of significant parts of the Bishop Street premises, namely, floor 1, part of

Present	Effective Rank and File		Wanting to Complete		Alterations since last	
	Men	Horses	Men	Horses	Men	Horses
					15	

the ground floor in the front block, the basement and the warehouse to the rear of the building. On account of the delays associated with the evacuation of Bishop Street by the G.S.A., the storage accommodation available to the National Archives was so restricted as to threaten to halt the annual transfer of Departmental and Court records, as required by law, from 1997.

6.10 It was against this sorry background that the Council learned with relief and delight the news, formally communicated by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, on 30 December 1997, of Government approval for the adaptation and extension of the warehouse at Bishop Street at an estimated cost of IRE13 million. The scheme is to be undertaken by the Office of Public Works based on approach No 4. contained in a consultancy report by Building Design Partnership (B.D.P.) prepared in 1994. (See Appendix)

6.11 The Council wishes to warmly congratulate the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands for securing Government sanction for this essential scheme of works to enable the National Archives to discharge its statutory functions. The Council also wishes to acknowledge the keen interest in the warehouse project shown by the Minister for Finance in the last Government, Ruairi Quinn, T.D., who, in his Budgetary Statement of January 1997, allocated IRE500,000 for preparatory work in anticipation of eventual Government approval of B.D.P.'s approach No. 4. Finally, the Council wishes to record its appreciation of the active role played by the former Council in lobbying for Government action to make the warehouse project a reality.

6.12 In the course of 1997, further progress was made in the evacuation of the Bishop Street premises by the G.S.A.. In October, the Printing Unit finally vacated floor 1, as called for in the Strategic Plan (SP 1.2). Work began immediately to adapt floor 1 for use by the National Archives (see the Report of the Director for 1997). By the end of the year, the G.S.A. remained in occupation of the basement, part of the ground floor in the front block, and the warehouse. However, it was anticipated that those areas of the building would be surrendered to the National Archives by the Spring of 1998.

In relation to Staffing:

6.13 Apart from difficulties in relation to premises, the biggest obstacle to the National Archives fulfilling its role is the low level of staffing numbers sanctioned. The new Council has taken cognizance of the proposals in the Strategic Plan in relation to staffing and intends, during its term of office, to devote special attention to this subject which it regards as crucial to the successful operation of the National Archives.

In relation to User and Outreach Services:

6.14 The Council is anxious to see the development, by the National Archives, of a comprehensive range of user and outreach services, especially in the areas of education, publication and exhibition. Strategic objectives in this field have been enumerated in the Strategic Plan and the Council is concerned to see that matters are progressed. In particular, the Council is keen to advance user friendliness through longer reading room opening hours (see section 6.2 of the Strategic Plan), especially in the light of the enormous increase in the number of researchers using the National Archives over the past decade (see 5th Report, Appendix III).

6.15 In January 1997, the National Archives mounted its first major exhibition assisted by generous sponsorship from the John Jefferson Smurfit Foundation. The exhibition, entitled 'A Nation and not a Rabble', drew on original documents in the National Archives and other repositories to relate the story of the momentous year July 1921 - June 1922 in the political and social development of modern Ireland. The exhibition was subsequently hosted at a number of venues around the country (for further details see the Report of the Director for 1997). The Council takes this opportunity to congratulate the Director and staff of the National Archives and, in particular, the exhibition co-ordinator, Catriona Crowe, on this outstanding first venture.

7. DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS

7.1 Details regarding the transfer of Departmental records to the National Archives in 1997 are given in the Report of the Director for 1997.

7.2 The Council wishes to express its concern that the delay in the vacation of floor 1 in Bishop Street has severely limited the annual transfer of records by Government Departments since 1995 and, in particular, has prevented the transfer by the Departments of Finance and Education of large backlogs of records which were already overdue for transfer in 1995. However, it notes that the acquisition of floor 1 in Bishop Street by the National Archives in late 1997 will enable it to accept all records of Government Departments due for transfer in 1998 or already overdue for transfer. The Council intends to continue to monitor closely the performance of Departments in transferring records in 1998.

97/2/11 Dept. of Foreign Affairs
memorandum on the state of
organisation of the IRA,
December 1966

I.R.A. Organisation Aide memoire

1. The estimate (December 1966) of the number of the I.R.A. who would obey military orders is about 1,000. This number has increased progressively from an estimated 650 in March 1962 when the organisation ordered a cessation of its campaign of violence.
2. Some isolated acts of violence have occurred since 1962 but nothing like an organised campaign has been conducted or been contemplated except where the organisation felt that they would lose too much face if they did not make a public showing: occasions, such as the visits of British warships to Irish ports (recruiting for the Navy) and the visit of members of the British Royal Family were regarded as extremely provocative necessitating some organised opposition.
3. A certain amount of drilling with firearms has been going on since 1962 but there is no more reason now than in any of the past 4 years to conclude that a campaign of violence is imminent - will commence within, say, the next 12 months. But occasions such as (a) the 1966 B. & I. Commemoration Ceremonies or (b) the Paisley sectarian riots might serve as an excuse for the recommencement of a campaign of violence if the organisation were otherwise ready.
4. The organisation is not yet in a financial position to maintain an organised campaign for any length of time. Individual acts of terrorism cannot be ruled out altogether but in 1966 the organisation has been evidencing a strong sense of military discipline amongst its members.
5. There were fairly strong signs during 1966 that a policy of force might be left in abeyance for a period of years while the military organisation and its political arm Sinn Féin would seek public support through the capture of a sufficiency of seats in municipal and Dáil elections. Leaders of the movement have been attending "education" classes conducted by persons listed by the police as members of communist organisations.
6. In parliament at Statement on 10th November, 1966 the Minister for Home Affairs (Mr. Craig) said that while the I.R.A. in Northern Ireland had not ceased to exist their activities were no longer a matter of serious concern. As to this statement it is relevant to observe that it is unquestionably true that there is a strong recrudescence of nationalist-feeling running through the country at present which might be reflected in violence again unless signs become evident that the large block of nationalists in the Six Counties will not be denied their fair share of public appointments and participation in public affairs.

8. LOCAL AUTHORITY ARCHIVES

- 8.1 As already referred to in Section 2.3 of this Report, the Council may, under Section 65 of the Local Government Act of 1994, advise the Minister for the Environment and Local Government on any matters affecting local archives and their use by the public.
- 8.2 The Council has been very concerned with the need to have local authority archives properly preserved and subsequently made available for public inspection.
- 8.3 The Council is aware that there is increasing use of local government archives by the general public and specialist researchers. There is also a growing recognition of the heritage value of these archives for architectural and environmental conservation projects, for tourism development and for local and family history. It is clear that such records add considerably to our understanding of history at local level and the Council considers it essential that this element of our cultural and administrative heritage be safeguarded.
- 8.4 The Council recognises the obligations placed on local authorities by Section 65 of the Local Government Act of 1994 and intends to advise the Minister as to the best means of establishing and maintaining archives services in a local authority context.
- 8.5 Under the Act, local authorities must provide an archives service but the Council is aware that, in the overall context of resource constraints, it is difficult for archives to achieve a high priority. Accordingly, the Council hopes that particular assistance will be given to facilitating best practice and efficient and effective use of available resources.
- 8.6 The Council welcomes the survey of local authority archives, funded by the Department of the Environment and carried out by the National Archives, which took place in 1995. The object of the survey was to provide information to a Steering Group on the extent and condition of local authority archives, with the aim of establishing immediate priorities and formulating policy for future development.
- 8.7 The Council views the publication by the Department of the Environment and Local Government of the *Report of the Steering Group on Local Authority Archives and Records*, published in April, 1996, the circulation of County Reports to relevant parties, the issuing of Guidelines for Local Authority Services, in December 1996, and the putting in place of grant aid, as positive developments. The Council wishes to provide whatever assistance possible to ensure that the recommendations of the Steering Group are fully implemented and looks forward to the development of archives services that can protect, preserve and make available local authority archives in a manner consistent with modern professional standards.
- 8.8 The Council is pleased to acknowledge the contribution made in recent years by the relevant Government Departments, professional bodies, such as the Society of Archivists, and the staff of the National Archives, in informing and advising local authorities with regard to archival issues. There is, however, a danger that these contributions may not be sufficient to ensure that the recommendations made by the Steering Group, particularly those relating to phased development and linkage of archives functions to the public library service, will be widely accepted.
- 8.9 A basic archives service will require the recruitment of professionally trained staff, the provision of safe and permanent accommodation for archives and the incorporation of archival issues in the strategic management of local authorities. This will only be achieved if appropriate financial incentives are put in place at a variety of levels.

9. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- 9.1 The Freedom of Information Act was enacted on 21 April, 1997. It is a measure designed to make public administration at all levels more open and accountable and so lead to better decision-making and enhanced public participation in government.
- 9.2 Every public body is required to publish a reference book outlining its structure, organisation, functions, powers and duties as well as particulars of any services it provides and the procedures by which such services may be availed of by the public. It is also required to make its records available to the public to the greatest extent possible consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy of individual citizens.
- 9.3 The National Archives Advisory Council and the National Archives are listed separately on the schedule of public bodies to whom the Act applies. The Council is required, under section 15 of the Act, to produce a 'reference book' and this will be published with that of the National Archives.
- 9.4 In general, the Freedom of Information Act applies only to records created after it comes into operation. However, individuals are entitled to seek access to records relating to themselves which were created prior to the enactment of the Freedom of Information Act. Initially, there should be little overlap between records of public bodies covered by the Act and records kept in the National Archives. However, it would be advisable to anticipate any difficulties that may arise and put suitable arrangements in place at an early stage.
- 9.5 It should be noted that under section 15(5) of the Act, the Minister for Finance may, after consultation with the Director of the National Archives, make provision for the management and maintenance of records held by public bodies. By enhancing the standards of record-keeping in public bodies it may be anticipated that the Act will enhance the quality of archives that will eventually become available to researchers in the National Archives.
- 9.6 The Council is of the opinion that the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act at local authority level, in November 1998, will underline the importance of the management of information for local authorities. This should provide an opportunity for archives services to present themselves as an asset to the smooth running of local authorities. The Council wishes to liaise with other initiatives underway to prepare local authorities for the implementation of the Act. This would enable the role of archives at local level to be addressed in a coherent, consistent and integrated manner.

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Fróm	<i>[Signature]</i>			(This form must accompany all messages respecting the telegram.)		To	
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AN TADISEACH DUBLÍN							
CONGRATULATIONS . AT LAST WE ARE HAVING SOME REALISM IN IRISH POLITICS - AUSTIN CURRIE MP +							
KIMPT-HOUBER-DE-LENA-BOITHEIN-DUBLIN-IRL.							

10. CABINET CONFIDENTIALITY

- 10.1 The seventeenth amendment to the Constitution, which was passed on 30 October 1997, guaranteed the confidentiality of the contents and details of discussions at Cabinet, except where the High Court determined that disclosure was in the interest of the administration of justice or pursuant to an application by a tribunal of enquiry. The Council was concerned that this constitutional amendment might limit access to the records of government departments that were already in the National Archives, and result in some files not being opened to the public in the future.
- 10.2 The Director drew the Council's attention to the potential difficulties presented by some pink slips - the notelets that the Secretary to the Government uses to make a brief record of decisions taken during meetings of the Cabinet. Many of these slips can be found in the National Archives, on files from the Department of the Taoiseach. In a small number of cases, these notelets give a brief record of the views expressed by one or more Ministers at Cabinet. It was feared that making such pink slips available to the public in the National Archives might constitute a breach of Cabinet confidentiality. The Council also noted the possibility that brief accounts of the views expressed at Cabinet might occasionally be found in departmental files.
- 10.3 In October 1997, before the referendum was held, the Chairman wrote to the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to express the Council's concern about the possible impact of the forthcoming referendum on access to Departmental files. The Council was given an assurance that records currently open to the public will not have to be withdrawn, as confidentiality could not be said to exist in relation to such documents. The Council will keep these matters under review.

97/6/18 Dept. of the Taoiseach:
letter from Thomas McGreevy to
the Taoiseach in the aftermath of
the destruction of Nelson's Pillar,
proposing a replacement, March
1966

opposite page
97/6/301 Dept. of the Taoiseach:
telegram from Austin Currie, MP,
to the Taoiseach, congratulating
him on his meeting with the
Prime Minister of Northern
Ireland, January 1965

49 Morehampton Road,
Dublin 4.
8th March, 1966.

Sean Lemass, Esq., T.D.,
Taoiseach.

Dear Taoiseach,

Shortly after the Cultural Relations Committee was set up I put forward a proposal that we should hold an international competition for a winged figure representing Belfast and place the winning statue on the Pillar instead of old Horatio Nelson. I don't think Michael Scott, Maurea Lavery and, (I think) Alison MacCarvill, would mind my telling you that they were ready to support the motion. My plea was that the Pillar was the finest Doric pillar, so far as I knew, in Great Britain or Ireland, that because of its political association it was in danger of destruction etc.

Certain members immediately objected that my proposal was political. I pointed out that at our first meeting the then Minister and suggested that at cultural level we could help in regard to the problem of Partition. But the Chairman approved the objection and ruled the proposal out of order.

I know certain motorists wish the Pillar away. The same element was succeeded in getting practically every footpath in North Kerry abolished (so that if a young fellow takes his girl for a walk in the evening he is run down and if he takes to the fields the Holy Mother is after him)! The Pillar was fine. Even Kirk's statue of old Horatio was fine. (So is the Victoria though it was cast by mistake larger than Hughes wanted it - the subsidiary groups below it were superb examples of the art of that great Irish sculptor, John Hughes, who, I believe, was an old Westland Row boy).

I venture to write to you about all this in the hope that the old Pillar will be restored and an UN-Georgian figure placed on top of it. Do, please, Sir, forgive my intrusion.

With every good wish to you as ever.

Yours sincerely,
Thomas McGreevy.
(Thomas McGreevy).

See Don't let the Pillar go. We should have it as a symbol of our own history.

Sean MacBride

The Council welcomed with enthusiasm the publication in 1997 by the Irish Region of the Society of Archivists of *Standards for the Development of Archives Services in Ireland*. *Standards* is the first archival publication of its kind to be produced in Ireland and is designed to guide institutions and organisations wishing to establish archives services in Ireland and to support archivists in their work. It contains sections on the establishment and development of an archives service, the professional work of an archivist, the repository, technical services, records management, and services to users and depositors.

We the undersigned, being passengers (and heads of Families) on board the Barque Lady Bagot, of New Ross, desire to return our sincere thanks to Captain Williams, for his kind & humane Conduct to us, on our passage to Quebec, he having paid the greatest attention to us, and used every effort that lay in his power, to make us comfortable ~~and to give us every assistance in his power~~ ~~to give us every assistance in his power~~.

~~Mr. Williams, & several others, Mr. McCreedy~~
~~who accompanied them, in every part of their passage~~
 In leaving the ship, we ~~parted with regret,~~
~~and wish them every success through life,~~
 We desire to give this public acknowledgement to their care & attention to us, hoping that it may meet the eye of any of our friends in Ireland, who may be about to emigrate to Canada, as we never would desire to have them committed to the care of waper or kinder men —

James Byrne }
 Greshidge }
 M. ...

David O'Sullivan - Kilkenny
 Charles J. Tweedy - New Ross
 John J. Whitney - Ballymore
 Arthur Goodall - Ballymore
 Charles O'Sullivan - Kilkenny
 Arthur Reeves - Gorey
 John O'Rourke - S. J. Spring
 Wm. Fitzgerald - Inghin
 James Ryan - Coolatten - Wicklow
 James Byrne - Coolatten
 George O'Sullivan - Coolatten
 John Kennedy - Inghin
 Thomas Saffield - Inghin
 Mary Deegan - Coolatten Park - Wicklow
 John Marshall - County
 James Kavanagh - Carlow

MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAJOR EXPANSION TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

On 30 December 1997, Sile de Valera, T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, attended at the National Archives the media preview of Departmental files released under the 30 year rule (National Archives Act, 1986).

The Minister stated that design work would commence early in 1998 and when initial designs had been drawn up and agreed with the Director of the National Archives and her Department, planning permission would be sought.

The following is an extract from the Minister's address:

"I am delighted to announce that this project, which will provide accommodation to international archival standards, will finally be realised. The important work of this institution in making the records of our past available to us had been limited by the lack of space to accept this material. This major development at the Bishop Street premises of the National Archives will address its long term storage needs and will, accordingly, be of crucial assistance in making records of the modern Irish state available to students, scholars, civil servants, Irish citizens in general and visitors from abroad.

I know that the provision of improved and extended accommodation for this important material is a primary strategic objective in the Strategic Plan, A Future for our Past. I wish today to acknowledge the dedication of the members of both the National Archives Advisory Council and the previous Council, who worked hard to develop the Archives."



9748: inventory of the Lady Bagot, plying between Ireland and Canada, ca. 1840s

opposite page

9748: memorial from passengers on the Lady Bagot, thanking the captain for his kindness during their voyage to Quebec, ca. 1840s

INDEX

Note: The numbers in this index are paragraph numbers, not page numbers.

Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Minister for, 2.1, 5.3, 6.6, 10.3

Cabinet confidentiality, 10.1-10.3

Education, Department of, records of, 7.2

Environment and Local Government, Department of, 8.7

Environment and Local Government, Minister for, 2.3

Finance, Department of, records of, 7.2

Finance, Minister for, 9.5

Freedom of Information Act, 1998, 9.1-9.6

records management regulations under, 9.5

Harbour authorities and companies, records of, 2.4

Local authorities, records of, 2.3, 8.1-8.9

access to under Freedom of Information, 9.6

survey of, 8.6

Local Government Act, 1994, 1.1, 2.2

Marine and Natural Resources, Minister for, 2.4

National Archives Act, 1986, 1.1-1.2, 2.1, 2.3

National Archives Advisory Council

activities, 5

annual reports, 4

establishment and functions, 2.1-2.4

membership, 3

National Archives

establishment, 1.2

premises, 6.8-6.12

staffing, 6.13

Strategic Plan, 1996-2001, 5.2, 6.1-6.15

transfer of Departmental records to, 7.1-7.2

user and outreach services, 6.14-6.15

Public Record Office of Ireland, 1.2, 6.8

Society of Archivists, Irish Region, 11

Standards for the Development of Archives Services in Ireland, 11

State Paper Office, 1.2

University College, Dublin, Archives Department, 1.1