

Library of Birmingham Archives & Collections

A Source List regarding Ireland & the Irish in Birmingham

Archive Collections

BCC/1/BQ/9/1/1

John Feeney Bequest Fund Special Sub-Committee minutes (1912 – 1917)
– see also MS 2847 – Birmingham Post & Mail and MS 4058 – Frank Feeney

BCC Acc:

2004/170

Records re: Irish Studies Group, Birmingham Library Services (1990s)

EP / DRO 14 Churchwardens' Accounts, Northfield, 1643-1699

EP / DRO 41 Churchwardens' Accounts, Aston, 1644-1689

MS 1468 -

2010/142

Birmingham Athletic Institute: [Red Album includes photos of]
'Miss Mulholland's Irish Dance Course held at BAI, April 1956'

MS 1611

Banner Theatre Collection – Research library on Ireland (MS 1611/F/7/3/4):

Includes material by Troops Out Movement (in Birmingham and nationally); publications concerning the political and economic situation in Ireland and the experiences of Irish people in Britain. These have a primarily republican and socialist stance on many matters (1975-1983)

MS 1645

Records relating to Mary Ann Egan, the Warner family and to J. F. Smart:

Includes information about Mary Egan's early life as an orphaned child, because of the Irish Famine

MS 1902

Papers and tape recordings created and collected by Carl Chinn (many relate to Birmingham's Irish Community)

MS 2141

Papers of the Indian Workers' Association: Includes flyers for Troops Out Movement and other Irish Republican support groups (MS 2141/A/5/3/16)

MS 2208

David Ruffles, photographer (includes 'Abhaile: Photographic Perceptions' relating to rural Ireland 1990s)

MS 2294

Paul Hill, photographer (includes Belfast 'Troubles' late 1960s)

MS 2502

Phil Lea, photographer (People like us – Birmingham Irish 1990s)

Includes one photograph 'Visit of Mary Robinson to Birmingham 1996' showing the President of the Irish Republic addressing press and media [venue believed to be the Munster Room, Birmingham Irish Centre]

- MS 2637 'Building Sights' project, later Photopack - Image Education - Includes:
 'A Rough oul' crossing' (1989) - Acocks Green Library
 'A Measured Glance - at the Conflict in Northern Ireland' by
 Ann Kelleher [in 'In the Picture', Issue 20, Summer 1993]
- MS 2647 Stan Morgan, Birmingham Irish photographer 2000s (see also MS 4275)
- MS 2726 John Egerton, Birmingham Irish photographer (1960s)
- MS 2795 Norris, Hill Norris & related Families: Election leaflet for Joseph
 MacGuinness, Sinn Fein candidate for Longford South in the 1917 By-
 Election (Acc: 2010/128)
- MS 2847 Records of the Birmingham Post and Mail Ltd:
 Birmingham Daily Mail private ledger entitled, 'Executors of the Late John
 Feeney', 1906 - 1912,
 'Estate of the Late John Feeney,' dealing with legacies 1906 - 1914, 1
 volume
 'Estate of the Late John Feeney: Inland Revenue Forms,' 1 volume
 (See also BCC/1/BQ/9/1/1 - John Feeney Bequest and MS 4058 Frank
 Feeney)
- MS 2936 Photographs by Denis Thorpe & others of the Irish War of Independence,
 Irish
 Civil War and Troubles (1970s-1980s) [MS 2936/B/62]
- MS 3196 Sir Benjamin Stone (photographs of Ireland by Stone and other
 photographers, notably Robert Walsh 1870s-1910)
- MS 3255 Journal of Thomas Finigan 1837-38 [IIR 28] - See also Ms 4755
- MS 4000 Charles Parker Archive: interviews and music relating to Ireland and the
 Irish
 (see catalogue)
- MS 4018 Tom Ranahan, Birmingham Irish Artist & Photographer (1980s-2010s) -
 Includes:
 'Indeed the Hunger' - poster for an exhibition re: Irish Famine
 1845-9 - Birmingham Central Library [1997]
 'Gallda' - notes re: project exploring contemporary Irish identity in
 Britain [1998]
- MS 4058 Frank Feeney Collection (Sligo & Birmingham) - see also
 BCC/1/BQ/9/1/1 John Feeney Bequest Fund and
 MS 2847 Records of Birmingham Post & Mail Ltd
- MS 4067 Library Postcard Collection: Extensive collection for all parts of British Isles
 & around the world. Most counties of Ireland are covered
- MS 4237 'Birmingham Irish Association' and predecessor bodies

Includes the book by Gudrun Limbrick 'A Great Day: Celebrating St Patrick's Day in Birmingham' (2007); research material for the St Patrick's Festival history project (2005-2007) and material relating to the exhibition for the oral history project 'English Accent, Irish Soul' (2010-2012)

MS 4275 Stephen Morgan, Birmingham Irish photographer 2000s (see also MS 2647)

MS 4606 Notes and photographic slides created or collected by W.A. Simson

Includes Notes, brochures etc relating to wall art in Birmingham
Such as the Kennedy [JFK] Memorial, St Chad's Circus

MS 4672 Jim Ranahan, Convenor of the 'Archives of Irish Birmingham' project

MS 4697 An Post Project, by Artist Nikki Dowd (2012-14) (Irish Migration Experiences)

MS 4704 Rick Sinclair Collection:

Includes information on a campaign for official recognition of the Irish contribution to British success in World War One

MS 4734 Brendall Farrell, Photo-Journalist and one of the founding members of the Irish Post (1950s - 2000s)

Included in this collection is:

'The Irish Rural Immigrant and British Urban Society' by J.V. Hickey (1960)

MS 4755 Birmingham Irish Heritage Group (2000s - 2010s) See also MS 3255 & MS 4704

Includes 'Cruel Fate, One Man's Triumph of Injustice' by Hugh Callaghan [and Sally Mulready: 1993, this edition 1994]

MS 4769 Hugh McCallion, Local Politician & Community Worker (County Tyrone & Birmingham) (1970s - 2000s)

MS 4819 Photographs relating to the Barlow Family, including:
James Barlow, Birmingham born novelist, settled in County Cork -
Author of 'Both Your Houses' [1971] set in Belfast.

Printed Sources

B&W/B/4 'Early Stationary Steam Engines in Ireland' by G. Bowie, Industrial Archaeology Review reprint 1978

B&W/B/5 'Surviving Stationary Steam Engines in the Republic of Ireland' by Gavin Bowie, Industrial Archaeology Review reprint 1980

D/52 Anti-Irish Partition League-Eamon De Valera in Birmingham, 1949

- A941.809 Bell, J. Bowyer, *The Secret Army*, 1976
- Working Pr. Biographical Newscuttings
- L17 Birmingham Catholic Magazine, Oct 1913, May 1919-Mar 1920
- L21.7 Birmingham Centenary Irish Festival, 1889-1989
- Birmingham Daily mail, 15th Nov. 1904
- Birmingham Gazette, 31st January 1949
- L05.1 Birmingham Post Year Book, 1949-1950
- Birmingham Weekly Post, Dec. 1904
- Lp.42.022 Burke, Aggrey W, attempted suicide among the Irish born population in Birmingham, 1976.
- LP 42.021 Case of the Birmingham 6, The, 1986.
- Census, (microfilm) 1851-1881
- L 21.7 Clews, John, 'The Irish Worker in English Industry', with particular reference to the Birmingham District. British Association for the Advancement of Science, 1952
- L 05.1 Cornish's Yearbook, 1925-1939
- L 46.07 Darwall, Dr John, 'Observations on the Medical Topography of Birmingham, in the Midland Medical and Surgical Reporter & Topographical and Statistical Journal', Vol 1, 1828-29.
- Working Pr. Directories of Birmingham, 1767-1973.
- LF 21.85 Ethnic Communities Newscuttings, 1987-
- LF 80 Experiences of Birmingham, 1989.
- L 42.021 Fairfield, Letitia, 'The Trial of peter Barnes and Others, 1953'
- L 90 Franciscan, Thomas A., 'Journal of, No.24, 1896'
- L 93.1 Handsworth Magazine, Vol 11, No 24, 1896
- L42.021 Gibson, Brian, 'The Birmingham Bombs, 1977'
- L64.1 Heslop, T.P, 'Medical Aspects of Birmingham', in Timmins, Samuel, (ed.), 'The Resources, Products & Industrial History of Birmingham & the Midland Hardware District, 1855'.
- History & Topography Newscuttings, 1939.
- L.L.F 21.7 Irish in Birmingham (Loose Leaf file newscuttings). Irish in Birmingham, The, Birmingham Evening Mail, 27-29 October 1965.

Irish Mail, Birmingham Evening Mail, 16th Dec. 1967-18th May 1973
(Saturday evening)

- LF21.7 MCK McKenna, Joseph 'The Irish in Birmingham'
- L.F 17 Midland Catholic Pictorial, 1960-1964
- L 42. 021 Mullins, Christopher, 'Error of Judgement'. 1986.
- LF 42.01 Murphy Riots, The, 1867.
- L 75.9 National Roll of Honour of the Great War.
- LF 40.2 Nationality of Parents of Birmingham Born Children, 1963-1978.
- LFF 71.061 Newspaper Cuttings relating to the Dynamite Conspiracy, 1883.
- LF 48. 968 O'Donvan, Ita, 'Report for the Race Relations Committee on Travellers and the Irish Community in Birmingham, 1987'.
- L 84.3 J. Piggott Smith, A Map of Birmingham, 1828
- Map Cab N J. Piggott Smith, A Map of Birmingham, c. 1850
- LP 21.7 Reilly, Oliver, 'A Worker in Birmingham. The Church and the Emigrant, 1958'.
- L 91.6 Rex, John, & Moore, Robert, 'Race, Community and Conflict,' 1967.
- LP 42.021 Robertson, Geoffrey, 'Lennon: A Case to Answer.' Article from the New Statesman, 1 5th Nov 1974.
- LW 40 Statistics, 1981-1985
- Working Pr Woodward's Biographical Index
Sunday Mercury, 15th January 1961, pp. 12-13.
- BF 305 New Society, 20th September 1973. Pp. 699-702
- O'Connor, Kevin, 'The Irish in Britain, 1972'
- 322.420942 Quinlivan, Patrick, & Rose, Paul, 'The Fenians in England, 1865-1872', 1982
- 301.4519162 Swift, Roger, & Gilley, Sheridan, 'The Irish in the Victorian City, 1985'.
- Scott, Roger, & Gilling, Sheridan, [Eds.] 'The Irish in the Victorian City' (Located in Social Sciences)
- Quinlivan, Patrick, & Rose, Paul, 'The Fenians in England, 1865-1872'. (Located in Social Sciences)
(See: Richard O'Sullivan Burke and Michael Davitt, who purchased arms in Birmingham for the Fenians)
- Newspaper cuttings relating to the Dynamite Conspiracy, 1883.

(Irish American, including Tom Clarke of 1916 Uprising fame, set up a bomb-making factory in Birmingham. The factory was discovered, and the conspirators were given long jail sentences.)

O'Connor, Kevin, 'The Irish in Britain' (Located in [Social Sciences](#))
(References to the Irish in Birmingham)

The Early Period

Aston Churchwardens' Accounts, 1644-1639

Northfield Churchwardens' Accounts, 1643-1699
(These accounts relate to the Irish passing through these two parishes. The earliest named Irishman, John Conly, appears in the Northfield Accounts in July 1684.)

Franciscan Register 1657-1824
(The Baptismal registers especially, lists Irish families living in Birmingham. From 1785 the Irish parents are listed as 'Hibernii'.

Trade Directories, 1767-
(The first directory, Sketchley's, lists 6 Irish artisans)

Rate Books, 1736-1800

The early 19th Century

IIR 28 Finigan, Thomas A., Journal of, 1837-38.

Darwall, Dr John, 'Observations on the medical Topography of Birmingham', in 'The Midland Medical and Surgical Reporter & Topographical and Statistical Journal', vol. 1, 1828-29. (A brief reference to the Irish, living in a definable Quarter)

Piggot Smith, J. Map of Birmingham, 1828
(A very detailed map, necessary for locating the Irish Quarter)

Piggot Smith, J. Map of Birmingham, c. 1850
(A large scale map of the town, showing the Irish Quarter in even greater detail.)

Journal of Thomas Augustin Finigan, Missionary, 1837-1838. [IIR 28, 312749]
(Every day life in the Irish Quarter from the journal of a religious bigot.)

Census, 1851
(Essential for any serious study of the Irish in Birmingham. The majority of immigrants came from Connaught.)

Birmingham Catholic Magazine, Vol 2, No. 19, October 1913. p.389. Park Street and the Oratory.
(A brief account of the Roman Catholic Church's establishment of a school and church in the Quarter in 1847)

The Late 19th Century

Biographical Newscuttings

The Reverend Thomas McDonnell, October 1869.

The Reverend Arthur O'Neill, 16th May 1895

(Radical Clergymen and Chartists)

Handsworth, Vol. 11 No 24, June 1896

The Reverend Arthur O'Neill

Heslop, T.P, 'Medical Aspects of Birmingham', in Timmins, Samuel, [Ed]. The Resources, Products & Industrial History of Birmingham & the Midland Hardware District, 1866. Pp. 696

Kelly's Directory, 1890-96

(Useful for analysis of the progress and position of the Irish community in English society. By 1894 the Commercial section of the directory shows a number of Irish in the professions, as manufacturers, and in the service trades. The court section shows the dispersal of what was then an established Irish population.)

Census, 1841-1901 [Printed] (Located in [Social Sciences](#))

Woodward's Biographical Index

(An index to biographical material, which includes several native-born and Birmingham-born Irishmen who, lived in the city during the 1860-1914 period.)

Biographical Newscuttings index, 1872-1900

(Includes the biographies and obituaries of several Irish people.)

Early 20th Century

Kelly's Directories, 1900-1939

(References to Irish in Birmingham in the Court and Commercial sections. From 1898 there are entries for the Irish National Club.)

Birmingham Centenary Irish Festival, 1889-1989

(References to the original Gaelic League, suppressed in 1916, and Gaelic sports.)

Birmingham Daily Mail, 15th Nov, 1904

('Birmingham's Sons of Erin'-A brief account of the Gaelic league's activities in Birmingham)

The Birmingham Catholic Magazine, May 1919-March 1920

(Irish Notes & Comments column. Mainly trivia, but one or two very pointed articles.)

Birmingham Weekly Post, December 1904

(An account of the Irish Industries Association exhibition, held at Bingley Hall. Irish craft industries, 'Sponsored' by titled ladies.)

National Roll of the Great War

(Brief biographies/obituaries, of Irish Brummies who fought in World War 1.)

Biography Newscuttings

(Also contains material relating to Irish-Brummies who fought in the war.)

Census, 1921 [Printed] (Located in Social Sciences)

(Irish in Birmingham now divided into Irish Free State and Northern Ireland.)

Cornish's Birmingham yearbook 1925-1939

(The Who's Who section has a number of Irish people listed.)

Fairfield, Letitia, 'The Trial of Peter Barnes and others', 1953

(An account of the trial of the Coventry bombers. It also contains a list of bombers convicted in Birmingham.)

History & Topography Newscuttings, 1939

(Contains a number of references to the I.R.A's bombing campaign in the Midlands.)

Bell, J. Bowyer, 'The Secret Army'.

(Contains a brief history of the I.R.A's bombing campaign in the Midlands.)

World War II and its aftermath

Biographical Newscuttings 1939-1945

(Irish men in the forces, and civilians awarded medals for bravery on the Home Front.)

Birmingham Centenary Irish Festival 1889-1989

(Article by Tom Hayes, about the recruiting of Irish labour during World War II)

'Anti-Irish Partition League-Eamon De Valera in Birmingham'

(De Valera's 3 day visit to Birmingham in January 1949, when he spoke in the Town hall in favour of the unification of Ireland.)

Birmingham Gazette, 31st January 1949

(Details concerning De Valera's visit.)

Kelly's Directory 1943-1955

(Gives details of the establishment of Irish organisations in Birmingham.)

Birmingham Post Year Book, 1949-1950

(References to the establishment of Irish societies in Birmingham.)

The early 1950s & 1960's

'Experiences of Birmingham', 1989 (A short account of the arrival of Mrs EC McEntee in Birmingham in 1957.)

Reilly, Oliver, 'A Worker in Birmingham. The Church and the Emigrant', 1958 (

(An account of the trials and tribulations of a young Irishman's arrival in Birmingham.)

Clews, John, 'The Irish Worker in English Industry', with particular reference to the Birmingham District. British Association for the Advancement of Science. 1952

(An account of the trials and tribulations of a young Irishman's arrival in Birmingham.)

Rex, John & Moore, Robert, 'Race, Community and Conflict' 1967 (Chapter 4, pp 84-99, deals with the Irish community living in Sparkbrook.)

Nationality of Parents of Birmingham Born Children 1963-1978 (Statistics relating to the number of children born to Irish parents)

Birmingham Evening Mail, 27th-29th October 1965
(Three articles relating to the Irish in Birmingham.)

Irish Mail
(A series of articles which appeared in the Saturday edition of the Birmingham Evening Mail from the 16th Dec. 1967-18th May 1973. Every day activities of the Irish community.)

Midland Catholic Pictorial 1960-1964
(Occasional references to, and activities of, the Irish in the West Midlands.)

Loose Leaf File (Newscuttings), 'The Irish in Birmingham'(A small collection of cuttings relating to the Irish in the city.)

Birmingham Post yearbook 1949-1969
(The Who's Who section has a growing number of entries relating to Irish Brummies.)

Biographical Newscuttings 1950-1969 (Irish biographies and obituaries.)

Birmingham Gazette, 15 June 1956, p4. 'Jobs but no homes to go to'.
(An article which made aware that though the Irish were welcome to fill vacancies in Birmingham factories, finding somewhere to live was not always so easy.)

Sunday Mercury, 15 January 1961, 'The Shame of the Twilight Houses'. (The Irish Labourer and his family living in slum housing)

The 1970s

Loose leaf File (Newscuttings), 'The Irish in Birmingham' (Material from the 1970s dealing with the Civil Rights Movement in Northern Ireland, The Peace Movement, etc)

News Society, 20th September 1973, pp 699-702, 'The Irish English' (Located in [Social Sciences](#))
(An account of the Irish in Birmingham, particularly the attitudes of those born in England.)

Robertson, Geoffrey, 'Lennon: a case to answer. New Statesman, 15th November 1974 (Kenneth Lennon, a British agent provocateur, attempted to recruit Irishmen into an 'I.R.A Unit' with a view to betraying them.)

Midland Bombings newscuttings
(The Provisional I.R.A bombings of the mid-1970s, culminating in the Pub Bombing.)

Gibson, Brian, The Birmingham Bombs
(Published soon after the conviction of the Birmingham Six)

Faul, Fr Denis, 'The Birmingham Framework', 1977 (Located in [Local Studies and History](#))
(The first book to question that justice had been perverted to convict the Birmingham Six)

Mullin, Chris, 'Error of Judgement'

(An investigation into the Birmingham Pub Bombings, and the evidence to suggest that the Birmingham Six are innocent.)

The Case of the Birmingham 6

(Produced by the Troops Out Movement)

Burke, Aggrey, W, 'Attempted suicide among the Irish-born population in Birmingham, 1976'

(One of the more tragic aspects of Irish immigrants unable to come to terms with their new life.)

1980's

Ethnic Communities Newscuttings

(From 1987, cuttings relating to the Irish are included.)

Statistics 1981-1985

(Includes statistical details of the Irish population in Birmingham , suburb by suburb.)

Birmingham Centenary Irish festival Programme, 1989 (Full of material relating to Irish organisations in Birmingham)

O'Donovan, Ita, 'Report for the race relations Committee on travellers and the Irish Community in Birmingham, 1987'.

McKenna, Joseph 'The Irish in Birmingham'