



Education Leaflet 1

R.M.S. TITANIC



If the circumstances under which the launch took place can be accepted as an augury of the future, the TITANIC should be a huge success...'

Belfast Newsletter, 1 June 1911

Such were the expectations held of the *R.M.S. TITANIC* as she prepared to sail the trans-Atlantic route from Southampton to New York, calling on route at Cherbourg in northern France and Queenstown (now Cobh) on the south coast of Ireland. The great liner, built by Harland and Wolff Ltd. at the Queen's Island shipyard in Belfast for the Oceanic Steam Navigation Company (commonly known as the White Star Line) was launched on 31 May 1911. Weighing in at 46,328 gross tons with a length of 852.5 foot she was, at the time, the largest ship ever built and considered practically unsinkable. Tragically, her maiden voyage, which began on 10 April 1912, was to end in disaster. On the night of 14 April at 11.40 p.m. *RMS TITANIC* struck an iceberg south of the Grand Banks. Less than three hours later, she sunk without trace. The captain, Edward V. Smith, went down with his ship, together with 1,503 passengers and crew. There were only 703 survivors. By the time *S.S. CARPATHIA* arrived at the scene of the disaster (at 4.10 a.m. on the morning of the 15th) there was only debris: a few deck chairs, some cork lifebelts and a body marked the spot where the great ship had gone down.

Belfast is justifiably proud of being the *TITANIC'S* birthplace. Interest in the *TITANIC* has never waned and, despite being one of the greatest maritime disasters of all time, and she is still considered by many to be the greatest ship ever built. Those wishing to see the plans and drawings of the *TITANIC* should visit the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Cultra, Co. Down. Records held in PRONI include:

D1792/A3/3/18 Reference to the disaster in letter of Rev. J.B. Armour, 25 April 1912.

D2460/42A-C Photographs of the *TITANIC* leaving Belfast, 1912.

- D2519/B/4** Press cuttings relating to T. Andrews Jnr., a list of those lost and saved, and an article entitled 'The Atlantic Hustlers' a reference to the race across the Atlantic by steam liners, 25 & 27 April 1912 (pp.35 & 125).
- D2519/F/7A** Leaflet detailing the Memorial to the *TITANIC* erected in Donegall Square North, 26 June 1920.
- D2863/2** Press cuttings relating to the *TITANIC* disaster, 1912.
- D3655/A/6/2/1** Newspaper obituary for T. Andrews Jr.
- D3655/A/6/2/4** Letter of condolence to the mother of T. Andrews Jnr. from her niece, 25 April 1912.
- D3661/5** Photograph of the *TITANIC* at anchor off [Co. Down?] coast, 1911.
- D3661/6** A photograph of the First Class café/saloon on board *TITANIC*, 1911.
- D3661/7** A photograph of T. Andrews Jnr., Managing Director of Harland and Wolff Ltd. with responsibility for the work of the design department during the construction of *TITANIC*, and a victim of the disaster.
- D4022/A/1** Press cutting from the *Newry Reporter* on the entertainment held in Warrenpoint to raise money for the *TITANIC* Disaster Fund, 2 May 1912 (p.4).
- MIC525/1** Registry of Shipping Papers relating to the *TITANIC*, including crew lists and agreements, lists of those on board indicating the fate of individuals, and the published report of the formal court investigation into the loss of the vessel, 1912.
- TRANS/2A/45/
381A-E** Ships Agreements and Crew Lists for *TITANIC*, 1912.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following books available for consultation in the PRONI library

S.F. Bullock, *Thomas Andrews, Shipbuilder* (Dublin, 1912).

S. Cameron, *Titanic: Belfast's Own* (Dublin, 1998).

H. Jefferson, *Viscount Pirrie of Belfast* (London, 1960).

M. McCaughan, *Titanic* (Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, 1982).

M. Moss & J.R. Hume, *Shipbuilders to the World: 125 Years of Harland and Wolff, Belfast* (Belfast, 1986).

The Belfast ***Titanic Society*** can be contacted at:

32 Heatherstone Road
Bangor
BT19 6AE

The National Archives in London also holds a wide range of material.
Their website address is: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

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Education Leaflet 2

THE BELFAST BLITZ



Belfast had been relatively unaffected by WWII initially but, with the fall of France in 1940, Belfast's situation changed dramatically. The city now lay within range of German bombers flying from western France. Even so, by April 1941 much remained to be done to enable the city to cope with major bombing attacks and when large-scale air raids began on the night of 7-8 April, 1941, they found the city practically unprepared. A raid over the dockside not only caused considerable damage to the Harland and Wolff premises but left 13 people dead. A second air raid on the night of 15-16 April caused considerably more damage. 180 German bombers took part in the attack that lasted from just before midnight until 4 am on Easter Tuesday.

After the April raids measures were taken to improve the defences of the city but resources were not available and neither was time – the Germans were to attack again in less than three weeks. On the night of 4-5 May, another air raid began shortly after 1 am targeting the east of the city where the strategic areas of the shipyards, the aircraft factory and the harbour, were situated. A large number of bombs also fell on residential and business property. A smaller raid the following night continued the destruction.

The effect of these raids was devastating. The Civil Defence movement and voluntary organisations, such as the Air Raid Precaution (A.R.P) units and the Women's Voluntary Service, played important roles in the city's defence but massive damage was done to businesses and industry. Civilian casualties were lamentably high. Over 900 people were killed in the Easter Tuesday raid alone. During World War II probably no other city in the United Kingdom, except London, lost so many of its citizens in a single night's raid.

Records in PRONI relating to the Belfast Blitz include:

MPS/1/3/8 Public Security War Room War Diary. Record of warning messages, details of the opening and closing of the War Room, staff duty times, and times of receipt or despatch of important messages with a brief summary of their nature, 1941-44.

- MPS/2/3/516** Ministry of Home Affairs file on publicity surrounding the war effort in the form of press cuttings from various local and national newspapers, 1940-45.
- MPS/2/3/197** Ministry of Public Security file – Women’s Voluntary Services, 1941.
- CAB/3/A/63** Origins and early development of the Civil Defence organisation in Northern Ireland including the establishment of the A.R.P., details on evacuation procedures, emergency medical provisions and related publicity, 1936-40.
- CAB/3A/68** Ministry of Public Security report on air raids including photographs, news cuttings and a map with raid areas indicated.
- CAB/3A/3** Detailed report on the damage inflicted on Harland and Wolff Ltd. and to Short and Harland Ltd. during the air raids of 1941.
- HA/32/1/761** ‘Ministry of Home Affairs, National Defence file – After Blitz action to be taken.’ Details of the co-ordination of the war effort arrangements of various departments and details of an emergency scheme, the ‘Hiram plan’, designed to meet contingencies in the event of an air attack, 1941-44.
- HA/32/1/764** ‘Ministry of Home Affairs, National Defence file – Reports as to damage caused by air raids’, 1941.
- FIN/30/A/A/99** Ministry of Public Service file – Intelligence summaries of air raids on Belfast in April and May 1941.
- D2742/1** ‘St Ninian’s Church: Notes of Air Raids, Eastertide 1941’, by William Ward, Whitewell Road, Belfast – Notebook describing the air raids of 1941 and their affect on the area.
- D1896** Two aerial photographs of German air raid targets – Harland and Wolff Ltd. and Belfast Corporation Electrical Works.
- D3038/3/12** ‘Bombs On Belfast 1941’ – booklet of photographs by the *Belfast Telegraph* showing the bomb damage inflicted on Belfast.

- D2109/18/9** Diary of Emma Duffin, including a description of the scenes in St George's Market, Belfast, which was used as a mortuary, in the aftermath of the Easter Tuesday raid, 1941.
- T3756/1** 'Easter Tuesday at Veryan Gardens, April 15th-16th 1941.' An account of the air raids by Mr Alfred Ambrose, Senior Air Raid Warden, Whitewell Road, Belfast.
- LA/65/3/AG/2** Casualty lists for raids on Belfast April-May 1941

The *Ulster Year Book, 1947* (pp.xxxii-xxxviii) includes a summary of the war effort in Northern Ireland. J.W. Blake, *Northern Ireland in the Second World War* (Belfast 1956) is also available for reference in PRONI.

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Education Leaflet 3

THE GREAT IRISH FAMINE



There have been many famines in the history of Ireland but when people refer to from any previous event was not just the number of people who died (proportionally, more people died during the famine of the 1740s), but the duration, the lack of effective aid, and the radical change in attitude of those who survived.

Chronology

The potato blight, *Phytophthora Infestans*, struck Ireland in late August, 1845. To a people whose staple diet was the potato, this was a disaster. At this stage, however, the blight did not affect the whole of Ireland, so some potatoes were available (at vastly inflated prices) and most people had some resources to trade for substitute foodstuffs, such as oats or maize. The following year (1846), the blight was total. By this stage, fewer people had any resources to fall back on. They also had less strength to get through another hard winter. The death rate increased dramatically. In 1847 there were few seed potatoes left for planting. Amazingly, those planted were blight free and commanded high prices in the markets. With the new crop came renewed hope. Government withdrew the emergency measure it had put in place and Irish agriculture returned to . The crop of August, 1848, was anxiously awaited. It too, was affected by the blight. Again, in 1849, there were few seed potatoes for planting and so there was a very small harvest of blight-free potatoes in August 1849. The following year, the crop was more plentiful and mainly blight-free but by then it was too late for the thousands who had died of hunger and of famine-related diseases.

Population

It is estimated that during the years 1845 to 1850, around 800,000 people died of starvation or of a famine-related disease such as typhus, dysentery, scurvy or pellagra. A further two million people emigrated. Unlike earlier famines, in which the population recovers quickly from the catastrophe and continues to grow, the after-effects of the Great Irish Famine were such that the population of Ireland, standing at 8.2 million people in 1841, declined to 6.6 million in 1851.

Fifty years later, Ireland's population was still showing a decline (down to 4.5 million), even though every other European country was showing a population return to its pre-famine heights until over one hundred years later (in 1964). These figures imply that approximately 8 million people left Ireland between 1801 and 1900 - the equivalent of the entire pre-Famine population.

Emigration

Emigration was obviously a major reason why population continued to decline. From 1820 to 1830, emigration from Ireland to North America was running, on average, at just less than 5,000 people per year. From 1831 to 1845, however, the overall yearly average was 26,250, consisting mainly of middle-class family groups, younger sons seeking adventure, artisans, or merchants taking business overseas. Between 1846 and 1851, over 1,000,000 Irish people arrived at North American ports, making an average of 200,000 per year. This time the main flow came from the poorer classes, young single women making up a disproportionately large section.

Marriage rates

There were other reasons for the decline in population. The cottier class, the poorest of the population, who had lived by hiring a potato plot on a year-by-year basis, had been more or less eliminated. This class had, by custom, married young and had large families. After the Famine, the average age at first marriage rose to 27 for women, and the average family size fell. There was also a much greater percentage of the population that remained unmarried. Again, this trend continued well into the next century.

Sources

There are few events that have caused such cataclysmic change in the history of a country and few that still, over a hundred and fifty years later, arouse such emotion. For those studying this watershed period of Irish history, PRONI holds some excellent material.

The **Boards of Guardians** records (**BG**) are a good place to start. There are minute books giving, among other information, details of committee meetings and on those receiving aid to emigrate; there are admission and discharges registers; registers of births and deaths in the workhouses, and outdoor relief books.

Valuation Records (VAL1B) show land use and ownership, as well as rateable

(**VAL2B**), undertaken 1848-64, which shows land use, ownership and rateable value just after the Famine. Griffith
www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation.

Landed Estate Records are an excellent source: see particularly **D4131**, the Lissadell papers; **D1928**, the Brownlow papers; **D623** the Abercorn papers and **D607 & D671**, the Downshire papers. The Vere Foster papers, **D3618/D** are invaluable.

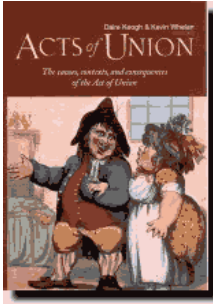
Emigrant letters of the period frequently mention the effects of the Famine. See **T3258** especially for a collection of informative letters.

Newspapers (N) of the period give details about famine relief and death rates. They are also very useful for showing the prices of consumables at the various markets. Other newspapers in private collections include *The Illustrated London News* **D3618/D/1**, which provides most of the images of the Famine.

Census statistics for the period 1851 1891 (including data for 1841, although the earlier statistics are not considered totally reliable) can be consulted in PRONI, as can a number of books relating to the famine.

Statistics relating to population, emigration, famine, crime and other subjects are now available at Enhanced British Parliamentary Papers on Ireland 1800 1922 (EPPI) on-line at www.dippam.ac.uk

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Education Leaflet 4

THE ACT OF UNION



The Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland came into effect on the 1 January, 1801. By this Act, Ireland joined with the rest of the British Isles to form The United Kingdom of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

History

Between 1295 and 1800 the kingdom of Ireland had its own separate Parliament. In 1798, at the height of the rebellion of that year, the British cabinet decided that this Parliament should be extinguished, and that Ireland should send representatives to a United Parliament at Westminster. The idea of a Union, however, was far older than this, and had, in fact, briefly been implemented by Cromwell. In the early 18th century it was once again mooted, due to the legislative Union between England and Scotland in 1707. At this stage, Union with Britain would almost certainly have been acceptable to Ireland but, during the last third of the 18th century, Irish people acquired a new sense of self-consciousness and national pride. Union was no longer acceptable and the Irish Parliament disassociated itself with the British Parliament. Union was no longer a popular ideology.

From Britain's point of view, the new constitutional settlement of 1782, by which the Irish Parliament had secured its independence of British control, left the connection between the two kingdoms dangerously vague and imprecise. In 1785 Britain made an attempt to make the connection tighter and better defined, but the attempt failed amid much bitterness on both sides of the Irish sea. When, in 1788, King George III went mad, it became necessary to appoint a Regent to rule the two kingdoms while his insanity lasted. Both the British and the Irish Parliaments named the Prince of Wales as Regent, but the Irish Parliament made the appointment on different terms from the British. Although the King quickly recovered, the episode served to increase the desire of British politicians to draw the two kingdoms more closely together, if necessary by a Union.

The defect of the Irish Parliament in British eyes was not that its loyalty to Britain was suspect. It was, on the contrary, almost extravagantly loyal. The problem was, first of all, that it was corrupt even by the standards of the contemporary British Parliament, and secondly, that it

was strongly and bitterly opposed to all concessions to the Irish Roman Catholics, even though they composed the overwhelming majority of the population of Ireland. While some concessions had been made to the Irish Catholics in 1792 and 1793, these were reluctant concessions, extorted from the Irish Parliament by heavy pressure from the British cabinet. Then came the '98 Rebellion, that showed how deep the rift between Irish Protestants and Irish Catholics ran. Britain, engaged in a bitter struggle with Revolutionary France, could no longer allow the disaffection of the Irish Catholics to provide an opportunity for France to invade Ireland. Yet the Irish Parliament, and the class it represented, had shown itself to be in favour of violently repressive measures that only served to increase that disaffection. In the view of the British cabinet there was a much better chance that the Protestant and the Catholic sections of Ireland would become one if the Irish Parliament was wiped out and the representation of Ireland transferred to Westminster.

In these circumstances, it is hardly surprising that, when Union was first debated by the Irish House of Commons on the 22 January 1799, the government found itself with a majority of only one, and two days later was defeated outright by five votes. Even such a small opposition majority in the normally subservient Irish Parliament spoke volumes for the opposition to the measure at this stage. Between the early summer of 1799 and the beginning of 1800, when Parliament was in recess, the Irish government, in close conjunction with the British cabinet, busied itself in making the terms of the Union more palatable to the various interests that stood to lose by the extinction of the Irish Parliament. In this they were greatly assisted by the fact that many of its members had been so frightened by the events of the '98 Rebellion that they automatically turned to Britain as their only protection against forfeiture and massacre, and were prepared to swallow anything the British government thought was for their good. Once it became clear that the British government would keep introducing a bill of Union into the Irish Parliament until eventually it was passed, people like these automatically swung over to support the measure. From the beginning of the 1800 session, therefore, the Irish government had a comfortable majority for the Union - a majority that increased as the session wore on. The Act of Union passed on 1 August 1800, and the Union became effective on 1 January 1801.

Sources

PRONI is rich in manuscript material on the Union. Of particular interest are the following archives:

An entirely new Change of Amusements, with several new Performers.

At the ROYAL CIRCUS,
Near College-Green.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF
The Great Mrs. Britain.

On MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3d,
Will be performed a grand Serio-Comic PASTICCHIO,
CALLED, THE
RAPE of IERNE;
OR,
Fidelity Betrayed.

TARQUINUS BRUTUS, *Mr. Bull*, (from the
Booth Theatre)
FILIPUS PALINUS, *Mr. Rappell*,
DOUBTFACE, *Mr. Jones*,
FIRST KAPTAN, *Mr. Robinson*,
SECOND RUFFIAN, *Mr. Graydon*,
BENGLADO, *Mr. Conventina*

KNOWING NED, *Mr. Cobden*,
TRIMMER, *Mr. Spence*, (from the City)
BRONZE, *Mr. Bole*,
PELLEAS, *Mr. Corbett*,
ALIBON, *Mr. Barton*, and
IERNE, *Mr. Brown*

AFTER THE PASTICCHIO,
Grand Trials of Strength, with *Mr. Rappell's* new Trampoline Troup
of *Fiscal* Performers, Melin, THE DEVIL KNOWS WHO, from the
Provincial Theatres, THE DEVIL KNOWS WHERE.

Immediately after which, a farcical Exhibition of the celebrated
Dr. Touch's astonishing Experiments with the Metallic Traitors.

SECOND COURSE.

A grand Display of Lofty Tumbling,
Followed by a grand Sweepstakes Race for Coronets, Ribbons, and Rouleaus,
By *Mr. BEYCASTLE's* trained Squad of JACK ASSES,
To be rode by *English Ladies* and which, among other Parts, will see *Whiffled*, over a
Proprietor, and *Stop to my Tune* at the Wheel of Command, in a most farcical Manner.

After the Race, a new Interlude, called,
The SCRAMBLE;
OR,
Every One for Himself.

With an occasional Prologue, written by Commodore PACKWOOD, called,
"Blood and Quack! Hur! Hur! Hur! Hur! Hur among Thieves!"

TICKLE PALM, *Mr. Rappell*,
PANDER, *Mr. Spence*,
SINEUR, *Mr. Corbett*,
MACHAVEL, *Mr. Cobden*,
TERRIVERSE, *Mr. Brown*

INDIATE, *Mr. Conventina*,
SHITTEL, *Mr. Jones*,
HEADTHRESHIN, (with a Song) *Mr. Barton*,
MR. IMPULS, (with a Song) *Mr. Barton*,
Appearance in this Character.

After which, a Politico-Dramatic 'JEU D'ESPRIT, called,
High Bidding;
OR,
HONOURS FOR RAPS.

In which will be displayed a perspective View of the Honorable FOUNTAIN, with a
Transformation of *Panders* and *Playactors* into *Fairs*.

In the Course of the Performance will be introduced *Mr. Corbett's* favourite Concerto on the
UNION PIPES,
Mr. Vandrieker's admired Solo on the
HURDY GURDY;
The GRINDERS,
A very popular Quintetto, by *Mr. Vandrieker*, *Mr. Brown*, *Mr. Phoskit*, *Mr. Gracius*, (being
his second Appearance,) and *Mr. Gogarty*, (being his 3d Appearance these two Years.)

A very favourite Song,
"By your Leave, Larry Grogan,"
By *Mr. Jones*,
AND THE HEAVENLY AIR OF
WHILL-IL-LHU, by *Signora Grana Weal*,
From the GREEN ISLAND THEATRE.

To conclude with a grand Display of the new
Political Steam-Engine;
OR,
Civilising Machine,
For Britanizing the wild Irish.

After which, there will be
A harsh Concert of Woeful and Detrimental Music.

TICKETS to be had of *Mr. Corbett*, *Mr. Bull*, at the round Gate's Shop, in the Fishers; near Callin-d.
"Vive la Bagatelle."
[5, College-Green.]

D3030 – Castlereagh Papers comprise c.7,500 documents relating to the career of Robert Stewart Viscount Castlereagh. Lord Castlereagh held the post of Chief Secretary for Ireland from 1798 to 1801 and was thus largely responsible for the passage of the Union legislation through the Irish Parliament.

The two major events of the time, the 1798 Rebellion and the passing of the Act of Union dominate the papers relating to Castlereagh's Chief Secretaryship. The former include letters and reports about the military campaign, about the trial of rebels, about information received from government informers and agents abroad, and about the landing and movements of the French invasion force and the steps taken to resist it.

The papers which relate to the Union include material on the defeat of the measure on its first introduction in the Irish House of Commons in 1799, on Irish trade, on the linen, cotton and distilling industries, parliamentary representation, the representative peerage, the strength of the leading borough proprietors, and the negotiations with the more influential opponents of the measure to persuade them to change their minds.

The correspondence of the period also covers the issue of Catholic Emancipation.

Castlereagh's correspondents during his term as Chief Secretary include: William Pitt, the British Prime Minister; the Duke of Portland, Home Secretary; Lords Camden and Cornwallis, successive Lords Lieutenant of Ireland; Lord Clare, Lord Chancellor of Ireland; John Foster, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons; Edward Cooke, Under Secretary; John Thomas Troy, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin; and Rev. Robert Black, a representative of the Presbyterian Synod of Ulster.

D1606 – Gosford Papers comprise c.40,000 documents in total. However, within this large estate collection is a significant cache of correspondence of Viscount Gosford relating to the late 1790s and the passage of the Act of Union and its aftermath. Lord Gosford supported Union but did not succeed in persuading his son and heir, then one of

the MPs for Co. Armagh, to follow his example. His letters include references to disturbances in Co. Armagh in 1796 between the 'Orange Boys' and 'the lower order of the Catholics', and give a graphic account of a parade of 1,500 Orangemen at Markethill, Co. Armagh. The correspondents include: 1st Marquess Cornwallis, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

See D1606/1/1/199, 203, 205-6, 208, 220, 215, 225-6, 228, 229.



D642 – Hill of Brook Hall, Co. Londonderry Papers comprise c.3000 documents. The correspondence of Sir George Hill, Bt., MP for the City of Londonderry (1795-1801; 1802-1830) contains many letters relating to the Irish Act of Union. Hill held the lucrative sinecure of Clerk of the Irish Parliament from 1798-1801 and received a pension of £2,265 in compensation for its abolition. The collection includes: letters from Lord Castlereagh, Irish Chief Secretary, Edward Cooke, under-secretary at Dublin Castle, and Alexander Knox, private secretary to Lord Castlereagh on the topics of the 1798 rebellion, the Union and Catholic Emancipation.

D207 – Foster/Massereene Papers comprise 4,700 documents. They mainly relate to John Foster, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons from 1785 to 1800. Although Foster was the leading opponent to the Union, only a small number of documents, c.50 relate directly to the Union.

D591 – Drennan Papers comprise c.1,400 letters. It is a unique collection containing the letters exchanged between William Drennan, a doctor in Newry and Dublin, and his sister, Martha McTier in Belfast, discussing every aspect of their lives. Drennan campaigned for political reform and Catholic Emancipation. He was a founder of the United Irishmen. Martha shared his political convictions and their letters provide a first-hand account of the events that led up to the 1798 rebellion and, its aftermath, especially the Act of Union.

Drennan wrote two pamphlets opposing the Act of Union and his letters detail the growth of Belfast, and the decline of post-union Dublin. The correspondence provides a vivid picture of the Union period.

See also:

Colclough family of Tintern Abbey (T3048/C)

John Foster (D207)

D572/13/55

Pelham papers (T755)

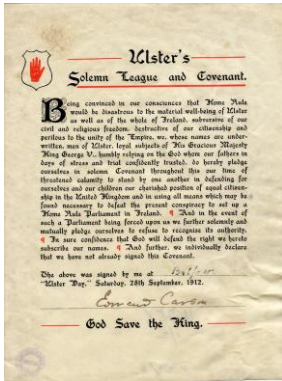
The Marquess of Downshire (D654)

Volumes of speeches and debates in the Irish House of Commons can be found under T3326. Petitions opposing the introduction of the Act of Union are referenced D207/10, and a Belfast petition on the same lines in T533/6.

Printed material on the Union is also abundant. The best narrative account of events, particularly of events inside the Irish Parliament, is that given by Lecky in his *History of Ireland in the Eighteenth Century*. The classic study, *The Passing of the Irish Act of Union* by G.C. Bolton (Oxford, 1966), has shown the necessity for modifying some of Lecky's conclusions. The most recent scholarly publication is Patrick M. Geoghegan's *The Irish Act of Union*. Useful adjuncts to these works are the published editions of the papers of several politicians who played a leading part in the Union crisis. Of these, probably the most important is the papers of Lord Castlereagh, published in eight volumes in 1849 under the title, *Memoirs and Correspondence of Viscount Castlereagh*. Lord Castlereagh's Union papers are also drawn on extensively by H. Montgomery Hyde in *The Rise of Castlereagh* (London, 1933).

Newspaper sources can be found under D2451/2 and T2344/1-2.

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Education Leaflet 5

ULSTER'S SOLEMN LEAGUE AND COVENANT



On the 28 September 1912 - 'Ulster Day' – Sir Edward Carson had the honour of being the first person to sign Ulster's Solemn League and Covenant at a ceremony at the City Hall, Belfast. Altogether, almost half a million people – 471,414 – pledged their opposition to Irish Home Rule by signing the Covenant or, in the case of women, the Declaration. Those who signed the Covenant pledged:

to stand by one another in defending for ourselves and our children our cherished position of equal citizenship in the United Kingdom and in using all means which may be found necessary to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule parliament in Dublin.

Contrary to popular mythology, there is no evidence of anyone signing the Covenant in blood: black ink was the preferred medium. Interestingly, women did not sign the Covenant: instead they signed the Declaration, although this was very similar in content to the 'proper' Covenant. While the City Hall in Belfast was a rallying point, with literally thousands of people anxious to sign up to the Covenant in the same building as its instigator, thousands more added their names in less august surroundings throughout Ireland, England and Scotland. 218,206 Ulstermen, and a further 19,162 men of Ulster origin living outside Ulster, signed the Covenant, while 228,991 Ulster women and a further 5,055 expatriate Ulster women, signed the Declaration.



Left: Sir Edward Carson after signing the Solemn League and Covenant at the City Hall, Belfast, September 28, 1912. To the left is Lord Charles Beresford and Lord Londonderry, and to the right Captain Craig (Lord Craigavon), Mr J.H. Campbell, K.C., (Lord Glenavy), and Dr William Gibson.



Right: Covenant signed by Sir Edward Carson.

Until recently to find a name among 47,150 forms (there was usually ten names to each form) was an impossible task but the names have now been indexed and the actual forms digitised so that you can search the index of names and then view the digitised image of the page where the name occurs. The searchable index and digitised images are available on the PRONI website.

The forms are to be found in the Ulster Unionist Council (UUC) archive in PRONI (D1327). This archive comprises 200 volumes and c.60,000 files and documents, dating from 1886 to 1986. Requests for permission to access any records in this archive other than the Ulster Covenant signatures which can be accessed on-line must be put *in writing* to the Council *via* PRONI. Attempts to speed up the process by writing directly to the UUC are counterproductive as the UUC will direct the writer to apply through the proper channels.

For those interested in the period generally, PRONI holds a number of archives, besides those of the Ulster Unionist Council (D1327 and D972), that are a rich source of information. The following are a few of the highlights.

Northern Ireland Information Service	INF/7/A/2
Abercorn Papers	D623
Sir Edward Carson	MIC665
Craigavon Papers	D1415
Joseph Cunningham	D1288
H Montgomery Hyde	D3084
7th Marquess of Londonderry	D3099
Sir Robert Lynn MP	D3480/59
Ellison Macartney	D3649
Joshua Peel	D889
Col. Saunderson MP	MIC281, T2996
Ulster Women's Unionist Council	D2688, D1098

The birth and growth of Unionism is well documented through a large collection of printed material. The material available in PRONI includes: press cuttings and items produced by Irish unionists for propaganda purposes (maps, posters, leaflets and pamphlets); minute books, correspondence, etc., relating to the various unionist organisations such as The Irish Loyal and Patriotic Union (D989), The Irish Unionist Alliance (D989), the Unionist Anti-Partition League

(D4125), the Unionist Clubs Council (D1327); and the records of the Unionist Party of Northern Ireland (D3061).

In addition, PRONI also has many collections of private correspondence and papers of individual unionists. Particularly useful are the papers of the Co. Tyrone Liberal Unionist, H de F Montgomery (D627), the diaries of Lady Craigavon (D1415) and the correspondence of Major 'Fred' Crawford (D1700). Most of these sources are exemplified in PRONI's still-available *Irish Unionism, 1885-1923: a documentary history* by Patrick Buckland (Belfast, HMSO, 1973).

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