

MS 92 Tedford Manuscripts

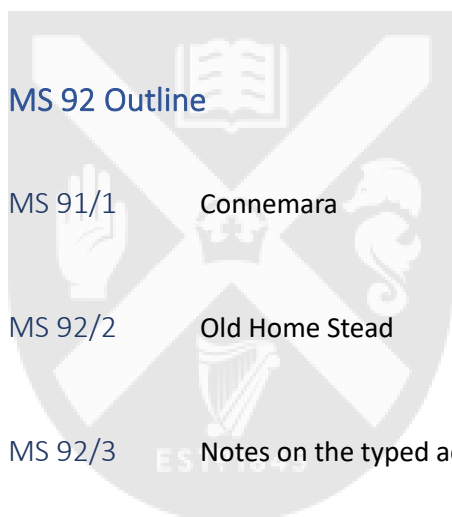
About the Collection:

A small collection of the personal accounts of Barney Tedford, mainly of late 19th century Ireland (Connemara and greater Belfast), also Canada. The older document (Connemara) describes a journey to Connemara to build a shooting lodge for a fish and game club in the 1850s, also the work that was involved in its construction and the people met. More recent comments by the author on his life and acquaintances in Canada are included. The second document (June. Old Home Stead.) describes the life and times of Barney Tedford in mid-19th century greater Belfast and Dundonald. Reference to his life in Canada in later life is again made.

Barney Tedford was an apprentice to John Lowry of John Lowry & Sons.

This collection was donated to Special Collections, Queen's University Belfast in March 2023 by Patrick Smyth, a collateral descendent of John Lowry, to whom both documents are addressed.

Listing compiled by Louisa Costelloe in 2023.



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Typescript document written by Barney Tedford circa 1895, brown paper covers (possibly carbon copy on Remtico L.G. paper as per watermark). The document describes a journey to Connemara by sea and over land to build a shooting lodge for a fish and game club in the 1850s (circa 1855). His stay in Connemara, the work involved, and the people he met there are described in some detail. Patrick Mullen who helped finish building the lodge is one such spoken of. The final three pages of the document describe a chance encounter in Canada between his son and the same Kate O'Shaunessy that he had met and befriended in Connemara. Kate or Kathleen O'Shaunessy had emigrated to Ontario in 1875. She describes why she left and how her family in Canada (sister Rosie and her husband Patrick Mullen) had built a successful business. 22 pp.

The document is addressed to John Lowry, Fairfield on the front cover. John Lowry had a building firm in Belfast called John Lowry & Son. He was married to Mary Mayne, sister of Erskine Mayne.

MS 92/2 Old Home Stead

Typescript document written by Barney Tedford addressed to 'My dear Mr Lowry'. Tedford is living in Canada when writing the account. 23 pp.

There are numerous themes and tales in the document, it jumps from one seemingly unconnected to another. Some are summarised below:

- His youth in 1840s, 1850s greater Belfast. Detailed descriptions of his childhood including memories of neighbourhoods and streets, his school life, local people, poverty in the area exacerbated by the famine, also charity at the time. Areas in and around Belfast written about include the Newtownards Road, Cabin Hill, Dundonald, Stormont, Strantown and Hackmore.
- Religion is a strong theme with Sunday schools and their teachers described, also his involvement in choirs (religious).
- Tedford's working life for Mr John Lowry is frequently referenced, particularly his work on the Clondeboye Estate. Stories about 'the Countess' and Lord Dufferin (Governor General of Canada), who Barney became friendly with in Canada, are included.
- Information about various trades of the time, for example sewing circles, mill girls, nail makers, fish wives, turf cagers, farm labourers.
- Tedford sponsoring the baby of an unmarried mother. His godson found him in Canada many years later.
- His work for the architect Charles Lanyon also while under the employment of Lowry. A good working relationship between Lowry and Lanyon is noted.

Note: This item was possibly written after 1913 as Mary Lowry (née Mayne) published *The story of Belfast and its surroundings*. London : Headley, (1913).

Mary Lowry was the wife of John Lowry, Fairfield.

MS 92/3 Notes on the typed accounts

A summary of both documents, compiled by Patrick Smyth. 1 p.