

Coote Papers

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Introduction

The Coote family of Mount Coote were descended from Colonel Chidley Coote (c.1608-1668) whose second son came to Ireland in the 1650's and settled near Kilmallock Co. Limerick.

Charles Coote married Elizabeth (daughter of Philip) Oliver of Altamira in the early 1700's. Charles succeeded to the estate after his father's death in 1764. It was this Elizabeth that kept the first series of notebooks(P21/1- P21-4). According to Burke's landed gentry their children were Chidley, Charles, (who became Vicar of Doon in 1813) and Elizabeth but the notebooks also contain references to a John and Lucy. These notebooks held by Elizabeth provide an insight into the lifestyle of a county Limerick family during the late eighteenth century as they meticulously detail a wide variety of purchases for the household, for herself and for her family. Food items included such items as lobster, and oysters.

The collections contain a number of account books held by Elizabeth's son, Chidley and his wife Anne (Hewitt) whom he married in 1779. These include Chidley's personal and farm accounts and Anne's personnel and household accounts. The note books refer to their children's expenditure Charles Chidley, William, Eyre, Philip, John, (Jack), James (Jem) and Alicia.

The notebooks also refer to the regular donation of alms and although this collection does not include records relating to successive generations at Mount Coote, contemporary newspaper accounts refer to them as benevolent landlords. In a report dated 15 June 1847 the Cork Examiner reports 'Charles Eyre Coote, of Mount Coote, Esq., in this County (Limerick) has advanced the rate of wages to the labourers employed in Mount Coote, from ten pence, to one shilling, a day and has also ordered a good substantial dinner, (Bread and Milk) to be given to all the labourers, men, boys, and girls, in his employment, over eighty in number. This is abundantly supplied to them every day at one o' clock in the presence of Mrs Coote. These generous acts now, in the time of need, should be in record for that benevolent family'.

The family sold their estates in 1911 and the house itself was demolished c.1960.

Bibliography:

S.C. O Mahony , Gleanings from the Coote Household Accounts, 1776-1785,
North Munster Antequarian Journal xxiv 1982, 55-60

A postcard of Mount Coote House and a sale catalogue dated 19 February 1940 are held in Limerick City Museum

1. Elizabeth Coote's Private Expenditure Books (1776-1785)

Elizabeth Coote's private expenditure account books containing details of a wide range of mainly household expenditure listed under separate accounts including 'Apothecary Drugs', 'Children's Account', 'Coach Account', 'Beef Killed', 'Furniture Bought', 'Groceries' and 'Horses Expenses'. Items are listed under columns by date, description and cost and each page is totalled and carried forward. Three of the volumes are indexed and while the third volume P21/3 does not contain an index the accounts are arranged under similar headings to the other three volumes.

4 volumes

1	1 May 1776 -22 July 1779	c.352pp
2	30 July 1779-5 May 1781	c.266pp
3	3 May 1871-27 April 1783	273pp
4	3 May 1873-24 April 1785	253pp

11. Chidley Coote Personal Expenses (1797-1837)

Chidley Coote's personal expenses account book with separate accounts for a range of personal and household expenditure including an 'Account of Money given to Anne for Housekeeping, a 'Letters Account', 'Creditors Account', 'Account of money expended on Ourselves, an 'Account of Wine', an 'Account of Grattan's Expenses, a 'Servants' Account', an 'Account of Extras', an 'Account of Money paid on Account, a 'Letter Expenses, an 'Account of Coalman', Personal Expenses, 'Wages', and an 'Account of Receipts. Some volumes contain a summary account at the end. Later volumes include separate accounts for older children.

8 Volumes

5	11 November 1797- 27 January 1800	c.120 pp
6*	1 August 1800-21 July 1804	c.150pp
7	1 August 1804-27 December 1806	c. 150 pp
8	1 January 1807-31 December 1811	c.200 pp

* Closed for conservation

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| 9 | 31 December 1811-27 December 1817
Includes a receipt for the payment of property tax, 5 April 1814 | c. 200 pp |
| 10 | 1 January 1818- 4 June 1825
Includes an account for his children, Charles, William, Eyre, Phillip
Account and Alicia. | c.200 pp |
| 11 | 6 August 1825-30 December 1828
Includes a new account for his sons 'Jack' and 'Jem'. | c. 150pp |
| 12 | 5 January 1829- 30 April 1837 | c.290pp |

111. Farm Account Book (1832-1857)

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|------|-----------------------|--|---------|
| 13.* | 1 May 1832-8 May 1837 | Farm Account book listing all income and
expenditure relating to the farm at Mount
Coote including wages paid to paid local
workmen and labourers, the purchase of animals, animal bedding and farm
equipment. | c.100pp |
|------|-----------------------|--|---------|

1V Anne Coote's Personal Expenditure (1803 – 1833)

Anne Coote's personal expenditure account books listing all items purchased under her annual allowance; mainly clothing, donations to charity, 'chair hire', books and newspapers. Details of her annual allowance are entered at the rear of the notebook under 'own money'. From 1922 her daughter Alicia has her own account.

7 volumes

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|----|----------------------------------|--------|
| 14 | 30 April 1803- 30 December 1806 | 33pp |
| | | 28pp |
| 15 | 5 January 1811- 31 December 1812 | |
| 16 | 1 January 1813-31 December 1815 | c.33pp |

* Closed for conservation

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| 17 | 2 January 1816- 27 December 1819 | c.92pp |
| 18 | 1 January 1820- 23 August 1824
Includes an entry towards the rear of the volume 'Mr Coote allows me £120 a year for my own expenses, Alicia's clothing, Jack and Jem's excepting all their cloth clothing, and for other little sundries' 1 January 1820. Includes notes on sums advanced to her daughter Alicia | c.77pp |
| 19 | 26 August 1822-31 December 1826
Includes a note on Alicia's allowance and a total sum recd. when she landed in Bristol in 1822 and when she landed in France in 1824 | c.63 pp |
| 20 | 1 January 1831-31 December 1833 | c.51pp |

V. Household Expenditure Books (1820-1843)

Household expenditure books detailing all domestic expenditure under separate accounts including a bakers account, a milk and cream account, a butter account, a cheese account, a vegetable and fruit account, a beer and ale account, poultry and game account and a fish Account.

10 Volumes

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|----|--|---------|
| 21 | 10 January 1820-29 December 1820 | c.100pp |
| 22 | 9 September 1822-3 March 1823 | c.100pp |
| 23 | 1 January 1831-31 December 1832 | c.100pp |
| 24 | 7 January 1833-1 May 1834 | c.80 pp |
| 25 | 18 November 1833-20 June 1834
Includes a summary of 'expenses in England from September 1833 to June 1834'. | c.85 pp |
| 26 | 16 December 1836-13 September 1837 | |
| 27 | 4 May 1835-30 April 1838 | |
| 28 | 15 August 1838-15 September 1838 | c.20pp |
| 29 | 7 May 1836-29 April 1839 | c.80pp |
| 30 | 1 May 1840-9 January 1843 | |

V1 Posthumous Account Book relating to Chidley Coote's estate (1843-1844)

31. 12 October 1843-6 January 1844

Executors of Chidley Coote
in account with Captain
Robert and John Maunsell.

6pp