

William B. Fitt and Company Auctioneers

P47

Contents

	Page
I. Introduction	1
II. Auction Grazing Books (1905 – 1977)	2
III. Grazing and Property Ledger (1964 – 1969)	3
IV. Meadow Ledger (1962 – 1972)	3
V. Property Ledger (1963 – 1978)	3

Introduction

William B. Fitt and Company Auctioneers was established by William Burkitt Fitt c.1840 and was the longest established auctioneering firm in Limerick until its closure in 2002. The business operated for most of this period from 46 O'Connell Street and from the mid 1980's from number 4, the Crescent.

William Gabbett acquired the business in the 1930's, as prior to this he was a partner in the firm. On his death in 1946 his wife ran the business until their son Alec with other family members took over the business in 1948-1950. Until its closure the firm remained in Gabbett family ownership.

The collection includes mainly Auction Grazing books containing details of weekly markets held at the Paddocks, Rutland, dealing in mainly cattle, sheep and pigs and annual sales for Bulls and Pedigree animals. The annual bull sale was the oldest annual bull sales in the country. As these also contain details of grazing sales- the rent of grass for grazing purposes, the collection provides an insight into agricultural practice and land use in county Limerick.

Some volumes also contain details of auctions and other sales handled by the business including furniture sales, clearance sales and property sales. As the firm handled the sale of some of the largest properties in Limerick and Munster, these volumes reflect economic and social trends relating to the transfer of wealth in Limerick and surrounding areas.

Auction Grazing Books (1905 – 1977)

Auction Grazing Books containing details of weekly markets held at the Paddocks, Rutland Street, dealing in mainly cattle, sheep and pigs including annual sales for bulls and pedigree animals. These also detail grazing sales- the rent of grass for grazing purposes. Some volumes also contain details of auctions and other sales handled by the business including furniture sales, clearance sales and property sales.

It also contains sales related to the Munster Fair (P47/2 – P47/5)

All volumes include an alphabetical index

16 volumes

1	28 January 1905 – 2 September 1909	c. 500 pp
2	3 July 1906 – 15 October 1911	c. 500 pp
3	21 October 1911 – 18 May 1918	c. 500 pp
4	23 May 1918 – 21 November 1924	c. 500 pp
5	25 November 1924 – 12 December 1930	c. 500 pp
6	17 January 1931 – 5 January 1934 Includes 'Auction Ledger, Debts for half-year ending December 31 st 1930 at the beginning.	c. 230 pp
7	10 January 1934 – 23 December 1936	c. 260 pp
8	5 January 1937 – 4 October 1941	c. 500 pp
9	14 October 1941 – 6 May 1946	c. 500 pp
10	19 May 1946 – 28 December 1951 Includes 1952 Grazing settings at the end of the volume	c. 500 pp
11	1 January 1952 – 4 December 1956	c. 500 pp
12	29 November 1956 – 21 April 1960	c. 500 pp
13	26 April 1960 – 28 July 1963	c. 500 pp
14	26 February 1963 – 16 June 1965 Includes grazing from January 1963	c. 500 pp
15	16 June 1965 – 29 June 1967	c. 500 pp
16	7 July 1967 – 22 December 1977	c. 500 pp

Grazing and Property Ledger (1964 – 1969)

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|--|
| 17 | 2 January 1964 – 23 December 1969 | Ledger of auction sales comprising grazing and private properties. Index included. |
| | | c. 330 pp |

Meadow Ledger (1962 -1972)

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--|
| 18 | 30 June 1962 – 30 August 1972 | Meadow ledger of land let for grazing by area or farm. Each entry includes the name of the lessee, details of the land ‘field near the house’, acreage and price |
| | | c. 270 pp |

Property Ledger (1963 – 1978)

Property Auction Sale’s Account, including residential holdings, dwelling houses, farms, and business premises. Includes newspaper cuttings of auction notices. Index included

2 volumes

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 19 | 20 April 1963 – 2 February 1967 | c. 100 pp |
| 20 | 28 May 1974– 21 May 1978 | c. 250 pp |