

**DIARIES OF JOHN AND ARTHUR ORAM**

**P258**



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## CONTEXT

### Biographical History

#### John Oram

John Oram was born in November 1824 at Castle Cary in Somerset. He married Jane Talbot in July 1847. Through an acquaintance with Captain Wyndham, John was offered and accepted the position of managing Wyndham's estate at Burrishoole, County Mayo. In 1853 John Oram moved his young family to the west of Ireland where they would live for the next twenty years. In 1873 he, along with his wife and children, returned to live in England at Clinsfold Farm in Sussex. Up to this point John Oram had recorded daily entries in his diaries but between 1873 and 1877 he simply provides a short summary, resuming his daily entries when he returned to county Mayo in April 1877. He continued to farm and carry out his agency work at Burrishoole and surrounding townlands until September 1881 when he once again returned to live in England, this time in Somerset. He settled at Lovington where he became a tenant of Charity Farm run by the Church Commissioners. He retired to Little Weston in 1892. John Oram was pre-deceased by his wife in 1906. He died a year later in 1907. They are both buried at Weston Bampfylde.

#### Arthur Oram

Arthur was born in March 1853 in Irwerne, Dorset but moved with his parents and two other siblings to County Mayo in June 1853. Arthur was educated in Ireland at Athlone School, completing his education in May 1868. The following year he commenced a clerkship in the offices of the Great Western Railway at Paddington where he remained for the next five years; moving to Burrishoole in 1873 to take over his father's agency business when John moved to Sussex. He took over the agency business again in 1881 when his father returned to England to live permanently in Somerset. He remained at Burrishoole with his wife Catherine living at Wilford Lodge, farming and carrying out agency work for the rest of his life. He died on 6 August 1919.

John and Arthur Oram acted as land agents on the Burrishoole estate between the years 1853 and 1907. Initially John Oram acted as the agent for the owner of Burrishoole, Captain Wyndham. After his death the estate was sold, in the 1870s, to a number of people including Victor C. Kennedy, who became John and subsequently Arthur's employer. After the death of Victor Kennedy's son the estate was sold to Mr Anketell-Jones, who in turn sold the tenanted holding to the Congested Districts Board in 1906-07.

In addition to the agency work carried out by John and Arthur, both men farmed land in the surrounding areas, John leasing land at Teevemore. They also carried out agency work for other landlords in the surrounding townlands. Both John and Arthur were elected members of the Board of Conservators and managed fishing rights in the area. Arthur was also employed by the railway company assisting in the surveying and valuing of land required by the railway as well as acting on behalf of the Drainage Committee, surveying, advertising and awarding tenders and inspecting the work carried out.

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## **Archival History**

Deposited in UCDA by Carolyn Sturdy and Christopher Oram in June 2012.

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## **CONTENT AND STRUCTURE**

### **Scope and Content**

Two sets of diaries, 1854–1907 and 1887–1919 written by John and Arthur Oram, father and son, farmers and land agents in Burrishoole, County Mayo.

Records the day to day management of the estate including herd management, crop sowing, harvesting and crop rotation; attending livestock markets, indicating the prices for the buying and selling of animals. Also refers to the maintenance of the land, roads, access points, dwellings and outbuildings.

Describes commitments to various committees including acting on behalf of the Board of Conservators seeing to the fishing rights on the estate and other local fisheries; and the Vestry Committee overseeing the management of the local church, the incumbency and the school. Also included in Arthur Oram's diaries are references to his work on the Railway Committee, the Drainage Committee, and his association with the Congested Districts Board and Land Commission.

Refers to the collection of rents from tenants, settling terms with existing and new tenants, drawing up leases, negotiating with the tenants regarding arrears, attending the Assizes and Petty Sessions.

Both sets of diaries record the weather for each day and often refer to national and international events; current affairs including agrarian unrest in Ireland; famine; emigration, 1862–64; the 'Fenian' conspiracy, 1865; the beginning of the Land League, 1879; the shooting dead of Lord Cavendish, Chief Secretary of Ireland and Sir Thomas Burke, Permanent Undersecretary in the Phoenix Park, 1882; the election of William McKinley as the 25<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, 1896, and his subsequent assassination on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1901; the death of Queen Victoria 1901; the appointment of James Stevenson as Chief Constable of Glasgow, 1902; the death of King Edward VII on 7 May 1910; news of a Rising in Dublin, 25 April 1916; and the 1918 'flu epidemic. Also refers to notable meteorological and astronomical events such as the total eclipse of the sun on 22 December 1870.

### **System of Arrangement**

<b>1</b>	<b>DIARIES OF JOHN ORAM 1854–1907</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>DIARIES OF ARTHUR ORAM 1887–1919</b>	<b>14</b>

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## **CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE**

### **Access**

Available by appointment to holders of a UCDA reader's ticket. Produced for consultation in digital format available through the UCD Digital Library.

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### **Language**

English.

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### **Finding Aid**

Descriptive Catalogue.

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## **DESCRIPTION CONTROL**

### **Archivist's Note**

Catalogue prepared by Orna Somerville, April–June 2013.

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**1 DIARIES OF JOHN ORAM 1854–1907**

Series of 6 diaries of John Oram. For the most part the diaries record the day-to-day administration of the estate managed by John Oram in Burrishoole, County Mayo. The estate was owned by Captain Alexander Wyndham. The diaries consist of one-line entries recording the management of the herds on the estate, the purchase of feed, management of the fisheries, sowing crops, collecting rents, settling terms with existing and new tenants, drawing up leases, attending the Assizes, and the upkeep of buildings and roads. Also attending markets and the buying and selling of livestock. An observation about the weather is made for each daily entry. Also refers to unusual meteorological events, astronomical events, and current affairs. In general John Oram concludes his diary for each year summarising the number of days of rain and dry days, the harvest, prices for livestock and a few lines of religious verse.

**P258/1** January 1854–December 1857

89pp

Diary is written from Maryland House, a tower on the Burrishoole Estate. This was the first house occupied by John Oram and his family.

Includes:

- Records visit of Captain Wyndham, the owner of the Burrishoole estate from England (9 March 1854).
- Notes the beginning of the salmon fishing season (14 March 1854).
- Records that he sent salmon to the Duke of Leinster and Lord Fitzgerald (15 March 1854).
- Records that 102 salmon were caught (20 July 1854).
- Refers to a letter from Captain Wyndham expressing his wish to get rid of the dairy and to invest in a better breed of sheep (31 August 1854).
- Refers to a riot at Knockbrega (1 October 1854).
- Records the sale of the dairy herd and remarks ‘... gone at last a very good riddance ...’ (16 October 1854).
- Remarks that he received a ‘threatening’ letter (8 November 1854).
- Reviews the weather over the preceding year comparing the number of ‘Fair’ days and ‘Rain’ days (31 December 1854).
- Records the move of his family to their new home in Corraunboy and remarks ‘... very glad to make the change’ (18 January 1855).
- Records that he caught fourteen salmon and notes that the boat crew got drunk. Remarks ‘Whiskey and Popery the two curses of Ireland—the land cannot bear them both’ (18 April 1855).
- Refers to the fall of Sevastopol during the Crimean War (11 September 1855).

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- Notes a 'splendid harvest thank God' (14 September 1855).
- Remarks that he was appointed agent to the Estate replacing the former incumbent Caine whom Captain Wyndham '... let off ... without prosecution' (13, 14 November 1855).
- Records his thankfulness to God for the end of another year and expresses his wish for continued good fortune (31 December 1855).
- Notes his attendance at a preliminary meeting to establish a farmers' club at Newport (23 January 1856).
- Records that a farmers' club has been established in Newport with Sir Richard O'Donnell as President (6 February 1856).
- Refers to Sir Richard O'Donnell's resignation as President following a difference of opinion with MacQueen. Also notes that his son Charles is very ill (2 May 1856).
- Records the death of his son. 'My poor dear Charley left earth for heaven this day—dear blessed babe, he is with James' (11 May 1856).
- Records Charles' funeral 'Dear, dear innocent' (16 May 1856).
- Records the laying of the foundation stone of the Wesleyan Chapel in Newport (5 September 1856).
- Remarks that Captain Wyndham has refused to give him permission to act as an agent for Colonel Vaughan (13 December 1856).
- Remarks that he sent a letter to Captain Wyndham '... telling him my mind as above ...' (14 December 1856).
- Records his thoughts on the last day of the year. Remembers his son Charley (31 December 1856).
- Records the birth of his son James (9 February 1857).
- Refers to the month of April as the coldest and wettest on record and remarks that hundreds of cattle died on the mountains (30 April 1857).
- Records an account of his visit to England (7–28 June 1857).
- Remarks that he was elected Inspector of Fisheries for Burrishoole and Achill (5 September 1857).
- Records the finishing of the harvest and remarks '... a finer harvest never known in Ireland—thank God ...' (19 August 1857).
- Concludes his diary for the year referring to Captain Wyndham and the loss of his first wife. Refers also to the death of Captain Wyndham's daughter, her husband and child in the Indian Mutiny of 1857 (31 December 1857).

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January 1858–October 1864

138pp

Includes:

- Describes his duties as Inspector of Fisheries and the area he patrolled from Achill Sound to Keel, then to Keem and back to the Sound. Nothing to report (9 May 1858).
- Describes a meeting to elect inspectors for the Conservators of Fisheries in the Bangor-Erris area. Remarks that votes were

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rigged, that he objected and that the meeting was adjourned following 'disturbances' and 'riotous proceedings' (4 September 1858).

- Remarks that he was unanimously reappointed as Inspector of Fisheries by the Board of Conservators (20 September 1858).
- Refers to the collection for the Curate's Aid Society which employs fifty Curates at £50 per annum '... in places in Ireland that would otherwise be without a church minister for want of means' (17 October 1858).
- Records the birth of his son Francis Albert and his attendance at the Newport Petty Sessions, prosecuting offenders against Fishery laws (21 December 1858).
- Remarks that he began writing 'Connaught as it is' (24 December 1858).
- Received Power of Attorney from Captain Wyndham (1 January 1859).
- Records that he has been elected Church Warden by the Vestry (25 April 1859).
- Records the death of his son Francis Albert (17 August 1859).
- Records his journey to England. During his stay in England he receives a letter informing him of his son Albert's illness and his death (26 September–21 October 1859).
- Remarks that he has heard that Lord Plunkett's bailiff has been assassinated (3 January 1860).
- Records that Lord Arran's steward has been shot near Ballina but has survived (23 February 1860).
- Refers to his membership of a jury at the Castlebar Assizes and the court case *Boycott v Carr* concerning a dispute over the salvage rights to a ship wreck (10, 12 March 1860).
- Remarks that he is collecting rents but that two thirds are unable to pay (23 April 1860).
- Records that he settled terms for taking Lord Sligo's fishery (28 April 1860).
- Records that the foundation of Burrishoole House was laid (25 June 1860).
- Refers to his resignation from the Inspectorate of the Board of Conservators (1 September 1860).
- Remarks that he received news of Captain Wyndham having an accident (30 September 1860).
- Describes 1860 as the wettest and coldest year on record (31 December 1860).
- Records the birth of his son Alfred William (12 January 1861).
- Records the formation of the Cess-payers Defence Association (10 July 1861).
- Remarks that the potato harvest is very bad and that 'distress is imminent' (18 October 1861).
- Records that he dug his own potatoes and that a third of the crop are diseased (21 October 1861).
- Concludes his diary for 1861 'Wet as 1860 was 1861 was still wetter as regards the harvest months—now at the end of the year a famine of fuel exists and the potatoes being very bad great distress is anticipated. This year will be long remembered as the year of the venerated and noble Prince Albert's death' (31 December 1861).

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- Remarks that he received an order to stop building Burrishoole House (14 January 1862).
- Records that he attended a lecture on electricity (5 January 1862).
- Remarks that he went to Mulranny to inspect the distress of the people there (30 May 1862).
- Records the distribution of meal among the people of Mulranny (2 June 1862).
- Records that he travelled to Clogher and Westport to collect rents but that he was unsuccessful (13 June 1862).
- Describes his journey to England with his son John to organise John's apprenticeship to Mr Gooch in Swindon (12 August 1862).
- Remarks that he saw the Great Exhibition in London before returning to Ireland (14 August 1862).
- Records that he searched for iron ore in Glendahurk (26 September 1862).
- Concludes his diary for 1862 'Very wet year and late deficient harvest potato disease less prevalent—the poor tenants still getting poorer and less able to meet their engagements' (31 December 1862).
- Records his decision to attempt to lower Clogher Lake by widening the [gulphs] (3 February 1863).
- Remarks that he took possession of Maryland from Mr Hope and received documentation from Mr Bushby following his appointment to Mr Bushby's Agency (14 February 1863).
- Records that he travelled to Clogher looking for rents and reports that there is 'much distress among the poor people' (20 February 1863).
- Remarks that the chimney tops were installed at Burrishoole House (19 March 1863).
- Remarks that he received orders from Colonel Vaughan to distribute two tons of meal among his poor tenants (8 March 1863).
- Records his attendance at a meeting of the Fishery Commissioners at Newport and a decision that bag nets were illegal (20 April 1863).
- Records the birth of his daughter Caroline Susannah (7 May 1863).
- Remarks that his baby daughter is sick and has been privately baptised (19 July 1863).
- Observes that there is a 'great deal of emigration going on' (19 February 1864).
- Makes the same observation again regarding emigration (11 March 1864).
- Remarks that he has let Burrishoole house and the shooting and the angling rights to Captain Goff (20 April 1864).
- Remarks that he received a letter from Captain Wyndham indicating that he wants to let the farm (18 May 1864).
- Records that Captain Goff has taken up residency in Burrishoole House (14 June 1864).
- Reports that he saw 489 salmon taken from the weirs at Ballina (6 July 1864).
- Remarks '... it blew the most fearful hurricane I ever witnessed

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- on this coast, great damage to crops ...' (31 July 1864).
- Records that he was elected Conservator to Sheskin (3 September 1864).
  - Copy of a letter from John to his sister Mrs Hockey, Weston Bampfylde, Ilchester, England concerning the possibility of taking up the lease of a farm in England. Urges his sister to be discreet, remarking that if the present tenant decides to continue with his lease he does not want to cause any tension between him and his landlord. Remarks 'I would write to Mr Blandford and ask him not to forget me in case of a vacancy but I fear it would look too much like undermining others a thing I will never do' (8 March 1861, 2pp).

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November 1864–December 1878

102pp

Includes:

- Remarks that Captain Goff has asked to sub-let Burrishoole House (7 November 1864).
- Concludes his diary for the year by referring again to the 'fearful hurricane' on 31 July which nearly destroyed the harvest along the shore (31 December 1864).
- Records the birth of his daughter Emma Agnes (9 April 1865).
- Remarks that Emma was baptised privately due to being sick (19 April 1865).
- Remarks that he was presented with a gold watch and silver chain by Captain Goff (24 April 1865).
- Records Captain Goff's departure for London (2 August 1865).
- Records that Mr Hope's mare has been 'maliciously killed' (3 September 1865).
- Refers to an arbitration between himself and Jonathan Pim MP and that the case was decided in his favour with Mr Pim instructed to pay John Oram commission for the sale of Ross House (28 October 1865).
- Reports that Mr Hope's claim that his horse was deliberately killed was accepted at the Barony Sessions (13 October 1865).
- Notes the improved conditions for the tenants and observes that they are '... more comfortable than for some years past ...' (14 December 1865).
- Remarks that Mr Kennedy has taken possession of Burrishoole House (14 December 1865).
- Concludes his diary for 1865 remarking on the excellent harvest and making note of the 'Fenian conspiracy' towards the end of the year (31 December 1865).
- Records his journey to England and safe return home via Dublin where he saw the Model Farm in Glasnevin (26 January 1866).
- Remarks on the sale of the wreck of the American Barque 'Otter' (31 January 1866).
- Records the launch of the repaired hull of the 'Otter' at Mulranny (15 May 1866).

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- Refers to panic in the cattle trade due to the appearance of the viral disease Rinderpest in County Down (22 May 1866).
- Notes that there is cholera in Westport (23 August 1866).
- Again remarks that there are 'fearful accounts' of cholera in Westport (27 August 1866).
- Refers to the harvest and the dry settled weather for 15 successive days '... during which millions worth of corn and hay has been secured throughout Ireland—we were in despair—now we are rejoicing thanks be to God' (12 October 1866).
- Remarks that his wife Jane is very ill following the birth of their son George who died the same day (16 December 1866).
- Records that he obtained one of four licences granted in the Barony to carry arms (17 December 1866).
- Remarks that all of the public houses are closed because of the Fenians (17 March 1867).
- Records his son John's departure for New York (18 March 1867).
- Remarks that he travelled to Sheskin to serve P. Joyce with a notice of proceedings in the Landed Estates Court (18 June 1867).
- Remarks that he finished work on the new fish pass and hopes that salmon will get into Scaderaughdauntaun Lake (31 July 1867).
- Remarks that his son Arthur is attending Athlone School (28 August 1867).
- Records that Mr McDonnell and his wife have been put in charge of Burrishoole House (3 September 1867).
- Records his visit to England, his meeting with Captain Wyndham and a proposal from the Captain to manage Pertwood, Dorset. Remarks that he returned to his relatives in West Lodge, held a family conference and decided to remain in Ireland (14–25 October 1867).
- Records the birth of his daughter Lily Louisa (30 December 1867).
- Reports that there is 'great alarm' owing to the theft of gunpowder from Mr Carey's store (24 January 1868).
- Remarks that Captain Goff surrendered the lease of Burrishoole (29 June 1868).
- Remarks that a company of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment are in Newport to keep order during the county elections (17 October 1868).
- Concludes his diary by remarking on the harvest as the '... best ... probably ever known in Ireland ... England was literally burnt up—the heat there was tropical' (31 December 1868).
- Records the news of Captain Wyndham's death (12 January 1869).
- Remarks that the stock was valued for probate duty (12 February 1869).
- Records his journey to England where he was interviewed in London by solicitors representing the Executors of Captain Wyndham's estate (22 May–3 June 1869).
- Remarks that he received orders to return to England to attend a meeting concerning the sale of Burrishoole (16–26 June 1869).

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- Records receiving notice that Mr Kennedy has purchased the Burrishoole Estate (30 June 1869).
- Remarks that he has arranged to continue with Mr Kennedy (29 July 1869).
- Records his journey to England where his son was taking examinations for Clerkship at Paddington, Arthur remaining as a Clerk in Paddington and John Oram returning to Ireland (15–22 July 1869).
- Refers to the shooting dead of Hunter (29 August 1869).
- Refers to the inquest ‘... verdict wilful murder against persons unknown’ (31 August 1869).
- Records the arrival of the Executor to the Estate, Mr W.C. Wyndham (1 September 1869).
- Remarks that it has been a week of ‘trouble and hard work’ (4 September 1869).
- Records that the prisoners in Hunter’s murder case have been discharged (5 October 1869).
- Refers to a great riot at the funeral of Susan Nixon. ‘Priest and mob burying corpse by force’ (11 October 1869).
- Remarks that he finalised an agreement with a contractor to build Rosturk Castle (6 November 1869).
- Remarks that he received a ‘threatening’ letter (12 November 1869).
- And that he made an Affidavit of receiving a threatening letter (19 November 1869).
- Remarks that he received news of Miss Gardiner of Ballycastle being shot, but not fatally (31 December 1869).
- Concludes his diary for 1869 by reviewing the harvest. Refers also to the death of Captain Wyndham and the shooting dead of Mr Hunter. ‘This county long considered the quietest, now has the name of being one of the worst if not the very worst in Ireland (31 December 1869).
- Remarks that he has been asked to join in a memorial to the government concerning the state of the country (5 January 1870).
- Refers to his attempts to sell seaweed at Mulranny but that there is a conspiracy not to buy it (15 January 1870).
- Refers to the disturbed state of the country and men demanding higher wages (17–18 January 1870).
- Remarks that wages were raised but that the men are demanding more, ‘country very disturbed’ (24 January 1870).
- Records the birth of his daughter Edith Mabel (11 March 1870).
- Refers to canvassing the parish regarding the Parochial schools and proposing a plan for their future management (10 May 1870).
- Observes the strange appearance of the sun ‘... rose quite red, got dark red at 10 o’c pink at 1 fading into yellow after—so dim that it looked like the moon’ (22 May 1870).
- Records the opening of the National Bank in Newport (5 June 1870).
- Reports news of the defeat of the French by the Germans during the Franco-Prussian War (8 July 1870).
- Records that Mr Saunder’s guns were taken from Burrishoole

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- House by 'villains' (28 August 1870).
- Refers to reports that the French Emperor (Napoleon III) has been taken prisoner and that the French army have surrendered to the Germans (4 September 1870).
  - Records the letting of conacre (16 December 1870).
  - Records the total eclipse of the sun (22 December 1870).
  - Concludes his diary for 1870 by making observations about the weather for the past 17 years in Ireland. Remarks '... 1870 is the finest season on the whole and the least number of rainy days—the weather whether as regards the forwardness of the spring, the heat of the summer or the frost of December was just what would be looked on as a good average season in the South of England' (31 December 1870).
  - Remarks that Mr Clive's guns were taken (4 January 1871).
  - Records visiting Clogher and warning the tenants of the consequences of not paying their rents (25 February 1871).
  - Remarks that Mr Hope was shot at (3 April 1871).
  - Records receiving a letter informing him of the death of his uncle Thomas Talbott (21 October 1871).
  - Reports that some of the cattle have foot and mouth disease (23 November 1871).
  - Refers to repairs to the house at Maryland in preparation for the school and the opening of Maryland school (2, 6 December 1871).
  - Refers to the 'alarming' illness of the Prince of Wales who was suffering from typhoid fever (9 December 1871).
  - Concludes his diary for 1871 by remarking 'A year of high prices and good crops in Ireland—politically quieter than the last two but dislike to England and English rule gaining ground and deterring strangers from either coming to or investing money in Ireland (31 December 1871).
  - Remarks that he has received replies about farms in Dorsetshire (6 January 1872).
  - Records the death of his daughter Letitia Kathleen (27 January 1872).
  - Remarks that he accepted Colonel Roome's offering for House (not specified) and Sporting (23 February 1872).
  - Remarks that he attended the Castlebar Assizes and the trial of A.E. Molloy and R.H. Smithwick who were found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to two years imprisonment (13 March 1872).
  - Refers to the fishery case at Westport and the decision to reinstate bag nets (17 May 1872).
  - Reports that he was shot at returning home from Mulranny and that the bullet went through his clothes (2 October 1872).
  - Records his journey to England to look at farms (4–19 November 1872).
  - Remarks that he had a police escort as he went about his business (27 November, 9 December 1872).
  - Remarks that he handed over the books, papers and documents relating to Mr Vaughan's estate to Mr Hope (5, 11 December 1872).
  - Concludes his diary for 1872 observing that it was the wettest year on record and remarking 'A memorable year to me as on

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the 2<sup>nd</sup> October I was shot at, at 2 o'clock pm a mile beyond Dughill. The ball passing through my Macintosh and under coat by God's blessing I escaped unhurt—in consequence of this I surrendered Mr Vaughan's agency, and tried to get a farm in England but have not as yet succeeded' (31 December 1872).

- Remarks that he has been offered a farm in Sussex (11 January 1873).
- Describes his journey to England and his decision to lease Clinsfold farm in Sussex from Mr Simes (17 February–4 March 1873).
- Remarks that William Rose was appointed farm manager to Mr Kennedy (26 May 1873).
- Records that he arranged for his son Arthur to succeed him in Ireland as agent (31 May 1873).
- Records the departure of his wife and children for England (25 September 1873).
- Records his own departure for England (6 October 1873).
- Provides a summary of his life in England for the years 1874, 1875, 1876 up to April 1877 when he returned to Ireland to live in Wilford Lodge. Remarks 'On Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup> left Clinsfold very glad indeed to leave it ... all well—a home in Ireland once more—thanks be to the giver of all good. After all was settled found the price paid by Mr Anscombe (who took over Clinsfold) re-imbursed all my loss and left me £147 better than when I left Ireland in Oct 1873' (January 1874–April 1877).
- Reports that Sir R. O'Donnell had been made Earl of Tyrconnell (18 September 1877).
- Remarks that the Lord Lieutenant arrived at Westport (22 October 1877).
- Remarks that Lord Hinton took Burrishoole (22 July 1878).

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January 1879–July 1888

73pp

Despite returning to England in 1881, John Oram records in his diary regular journeys to Ireland up to and including the year 1885. Some of the trips involved buying and selling livestock. John's son Arthur and his wife Catherine *née* Anderson remained in Mayo living in Wilford Lodge.

Includes:

- Records that Mr Sydney Smith was shot at near where he himself had been shot at in 1872. Remarks that Mr Smith's son returned fire and shot the man (1 October 1879).
- Remarks that he was at Mulranny sitting on the coroner's jury regarding the man who was shot by Mr Smith's son. The verdict returned was justifiable homicide (2 October 1879).
- Records that a 'Land meeting' was held on the street at Newport (19 October 1879).
- Concludes his diary for 1879 remarking that it was the 'most

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disastrous' year for farmers and the worst harvest in England. Remarks that in Ireland the oat crop was fair but that potatoes were diseased '...much distress among the poor—rents badly paid ...' Refers to the beginning of the Land League (31 December 1879).

- Remarks that he sent off his application and testimonials to the trustees of the Achill Mission, formerly the O'Donel estate (3 January 1880).
- Refers to crowds at Newport 'looking for relief' (12 January 1880).
- Remarks that there are 172 applicants for the Achill Mission agency (17 January 1880).
- Records that he was not chosen as the agent for the Achill Mission. (4 February 1880).
- Remarks that he received an offer of Wheathill farm in Somerset (21 February 1880) and that he declined to take it (27 February 1880).
- Records polling day at the county election and that John O'Connor Power and Charles Stewart Parnell were returned (12 April 1880).
- Records the arrival of his cousin Marshall Bartlett (23 August 1880).
- Remarks that he received a letter from Revd L. Bartlett offering a farm at Weston (12 October 1880).
- Remarks that he received 'particulars' of a farm in Lovington (6 November 1880).
- Records his journey to England to visit the farm at Lovington and his decision to take it. Remarks that on his return to Ireland as he made his way from Dublin to Mayo he came across the 'Boycott' expedition in Roscommon (13–27 November 1880).
- Remarks that he travelled to Newport to have the Lovington agreement signed and witnessed (17 December 1880).
- Remarks that he brought his son Jemmy to Dublin who was travelling on to Liverpool (18 January 1881).
- Records his journey from Dublin to Holyhead to oversee matters in preparation for the move back to England (3 February 1881).
- Records his arrival back in Ireland (7 May 1881).
- Refers to another journey to England, again to attend to the farm at Lovington (3 June–17 September 1881).
- Remarks that he settled terms with his son Arthur (5 September 1881).
- Records his return to Lovington (6 October 1881).
- Records the news of Lord Cavendish (Chief Secretary for Ireland) and Sir Thomas Burke (Permanent Undersecretary) being murdered in the Phoenix Park (8 May 1882).
- Records the marriage of his daughter Jane to William Puttock. (19 October 1882).
- Refers to a great storm and flood that destroyed the ancient Lovington Cradle Bridge (24 October 1882).
- Records the presence of foot and mouth disease (12 February 1883).
- Records the departure of his daughter Jane and husband,

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- William Puttock, for New Zealand (28 February 1883).
- Remarks that he was re-elected as Church Warden (24 March 1883).
  - Remarks that there has been no sale of store stock at the markets or other public sales because of foot and mouth disease (31 March 1883).
  - Records the re-opening of the markets (6 April 1883).
  - Refers to an order prohibiting any stock from being brought from Bristol (3 November 1883).
  - Remarks that he received notification offering him a continuation of his lease for the farm (22 December 1883).
  - Concludes his diary for 1883 by remarking on the prevalence of foot and mouth disease and the effect this had on the buying and selling of livestock (31 December 1883).
  - Remarks that he travelled to London to sign the agreement for the farm (8 February 1884).
  - Records that he was reappointed as Church Warden (24 March 1884).
  - Records a 'great eclipse' of the moon (4 October 1884).
  - Remarks 'Prospects of peaceful settlement of dispute with Russia ...' referring to the Panjdeh incident which caused a diplomatic crisis between Russia and Britain (6 May 1885).
  - Records that he used a machine to cut the wheat (15 August 1885).
  - Concludes his diary for 1885 remarking that there were low prices for all farm produce, livestock and that the price for wheat was lower than it had ever been for more than a century (31 December 1885).
  - Records the marriage of his cousin Marshall Bartlett (23 February 1886).
  - Remarks that there has been frequent communications concerning Teevemore, County Mayo and the sale or purchase of the estate as a result of bankruptcy (2 May 1886).
  - Records that he 'retook' the farm. (26 June 1886).
  - Remarks that he is very anxious on account of not hearing from Ireland. (12 October 1886).
  - Expresses relief at hearing from all of his absent family (16 October 1886).
  - Records that John [his son], his wife and their son left for America (4 August 1887).
  - Records that the drought continues and that there is 'great scarcity of water and grass in many places' (5 August 1887).
  - Expresses relief that the rain has come at last (31 August 1887).
  - Remarks that he has received a letter from his daughter Jane informing him of her arrival from Australia (12 September 1887).
  - Announces that Jane has arrived safely (26 September 1887).
  - Remarks that he was elected as a Guardian and Waywarden, Ladyday Vestry and that he received a letter concerning the purchase of Teevemore (23 March 1888).

**P258/5** July 1888–August 1898

187pp

Includes:

- Remarks that he has heard that Priest Greally has purchased Teevemore (22 October 1888).
- Concludes his diary for 1888 referring to the weather and harvest and the entire area of the Wincanton division being declared infected due to foot and mouth disease (31 December 1888).
- Records the death of Mrs E. Oram (9 January 1889).
- Refers to an outbreak of cattle disease in Weston and remarks that 25 animals had to be killed (14 January 1889).
- Remarks that he has received a letter from his son Arthur regarding the difficulty in settling the Teevemore account and rent arrears (18 March 1889).
- Remarks that he has resigned the office of Guardian and Waywarden (25 March 1889).
- Refers to a letter from America from his son John informing the family of the death of John's wife (12 January 1890).
- Remarks that he has received a letter regarding the purchase of the Teevemore lease (29 April 1890).
- Records that he 'gave up' Teevemore to his son Arthur (30 September 1890).
- Remarks that he finished reading the Bible and that he has begun again (19 October 1890).
- Refers to his cousin John Oram's funeral, 'aged 90' (15 January 1891).
- Remarks that he reported 'sheep scab' in his flock and that restrictions were put in place (23 February 1892)
- Reports that the restrictions have been lifted by the veterinary inspector (12 April 1892).
- Remarks that John, James and '3 girls' arrived from America (14 June 1892).
- Remarks that Emma married Alfred Hinxman (12 August 1892).
- Remarks that he offered the farm and stock to Mr Emerson (22 August 1892).
- Records that he received a letter from the Commissioners agreeing to the transfer to Mr Emerson (9 September 1892).
- Remarks that he got the keys to the house at Weston Bampfylde (10 September 1892).
- Remarks that he travelled to London with Mr Emerson to arrange the surrender of the farm (15 September 1892)
- Records his departure from Lovington and arrival at Weston to live in 'Mr Lye's old house!' (17 September 1892).
- Concludes his diary for 1892 describing the season as very 'trying' for farmers. Continues '... an extraordinary year on the whole—to me it is so on account of our family gathering in August and my giving up business and coming to live at Weston Bampfylde in September—having left it in August 1841 ...' (31 December 1892).
- Records the marriage of Edith to Walter Loveridge (15

**P258/5**

- February 1893).
- Records that he made his will and had it signed and attested (26 September 1894).
  - Records the news of the resignation of the Prime Minister, Lord Rosebery (26 June 1895).
  - Refers to the election and reports that the Unionists have performed well at the polls (16 July 1895).
  - Remarks that he 'engaged with Mr Bennett to take charge of the manor' (10 October 1896).
  - Reports the news of William McKinley's election as the 25<sup>th</sup> President of the United States (5 November 1896).
  - Refers to Alfred's appointment [to the Ulster Bank] in Letterkenny (18 December 1896).
  - Records the death of Marshall Bartlett (12 June 1897).
  - Records the 60<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Queen Victoria (20 June 1897).
  - Refers to his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (18 July 1898).

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August 1898–March 1907

161pp

John Oram's final diary.

Includes:

- Records an eclipse of the sun (28 May 1900).
- Records the death of Queen Victoria (22 January 1901).
- Remarks that he heard of President William McKinley's death (14 September 1901).
- Remarks that his wife Jane is very ill (14 March 1902).
- Refers to Jane's recovery (6 April 1902).
- Records the coronation of King Edward VII (9 August 1902).
- Records the fall of Port Arthur during the Russo-Japanese War (2 January 1905).
- Remarks that Jane came downstairs for the first time in nine weeks (15 April 1906).
- Over the course of six days John records Jane's illness and the gathering of family at the house (23–28 May 1906).
- Records the death of his 'beloved' wife (29 May 1906).
- Newspaper cutting of Jane's death notice published in the *Western Chronicle* (May 1906).
- Records that he resigned the Sparkford Agency (29 September 1906).
- Concludes his diary for 1906. 'An eventful year for me—the loss of my darling wife in April and sickness since September—all my children here in April—I never expected to see another year in this world' (31 December 1906).
- The final entries are very brief, simply recording whether he left the house or stayed at home, and the weather. On 29 March 1907 he remarks that he saw the doctor. His final entry reads 'Easter Sunday. A dry March—mostly bright days and frosty nights' (31 March 1907). John Oram died on 14 April 1907.

**2 DIARIES OF ARTHUR ORAM 1887-1919**

Series of 33 diaries of John Oram's son, Arthur Oram, farmer and land agent, County Mayo. Records his day-to-day work on the farm, the management of the land under his care, the management of the animals and crops, the buying and selling of livestock at local markets. Also repairing fences, farm buildings, roads and ensuring their upkeep. Also notes the weather for each day, his commitments at the Assizes, attendance at the Petty Sessions and other community work relevant to his social standing. Alludes to his work as an elected representative on the Board of Conservators, his membership of the Drainage Committee and the Railway Committee, the surveying and valuing of land, the advertising and awarding of tenders, and the commissioning and inspection of work carried out in respect of these two committees. Refers frequently to the difficulty in collecting rents from tenants. Records rents received, name of tenant and amount. Refers to events and milestones reached in his own family, attendance at church and the regular company the Orams kept with their neighbours and extended family. Makes reference to current affairs.

**P258/7** January 1887–December 1887

108pp

Includes:

- Records the death of Robert Dick (Robert was married to Arthur's sister-in-law Isabella Anderson) after an illness (7 May 1887).
- Refers to his journey to England to see his father John Oram at Lovington Farm and that he met his brother John 'after 20 years absence in America ...' (28 May 1887).
- Records the death of Mr James Dick (8 September 1887).
- Refers to the Clogher tenants and attempts to offer a deal which very few accepted (13 December 1887).
- Refers to a letter received indicating that part of the Teevemore lands had been sold to another person. His father John Oram had an interest in the Teevemore lands. Remarks that he sent a telegram to his father (17 December 1887).
- Includes accounts of money paid to labourers for work at Wilford and Teevemore (12 February–10 September 1887).

**P258/8** January–December 1888

106pp

Includes:

- Records that he received a letter from Mr Kennedy, proprietor of the Burrishoole Estate and Arthur Oram's employer, informing him of the death of Miss Kennedy and that the

**P258/8**

funeral was strictly private (6 January 1888).

- Records the baptism of his daughter Margaret and the people who attended the celebration (22 February 1888).
- Describes a meeting with tenants of the Clogher Estate and his refusal to meet their demands of 20% on arrears. Remarks that after a consultation, Mr Carey consented to the demands of the tenants (3 March 1888).
- Numerous references to the difficulty of Mr Hope to fulfil his commitments concerning his tenancy. The Hope family were long time neighbours of the Oram family. Remarks that he asked Mr Hope to leave in advance of the Sheriff's arrival (10 October 1888).
- Remarks that Mr Hope called to say that he has obtained security (22 November 1888).

**P258/9**

January–December 1889

106pp

Includes:

- Refers to a meeting with the Clogher tenants and their request to be given more time to settle their rent arrears (22 January 1889).
- Remarks that Mr Hope's nephew agreed to act as security and that he has written to Mr Kennedy to inform him (1 February 1889).
- Refers to the Newport Races and remarks '... what would have been a nice day's amusement spoiled by the continual wet ...' (19 August 1889).
- Records that he attended a meeting of the Railway Committee in Newport (5 November 1889).

**P258/10**

January–December 1890

106pp

Includes:

- Records that he attended an inquiry concerning the railway to Belmullet (14 January 1890).
- Refers to the birth of his twins, a boy and a girl (20 February 1890).
- Records the baptism of the twins, James and Emily (4 April 1890).
- Remarks that he remained at home filling out notices for defaulting tenants (4 September 1890).
- Remarks that all but one tenant looking for relief on their rents and promising to pay next month (20 October 1890).
- Records that the Chief Secretary of Ireland Mr Balfour passed through Newport on his way to Achill (28 October 1890).
- Remarks that on the day appointed for Mr Kennedy's tenants

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- to pay rent, only one appeared (31 October 1890).
- Records that he went to Castlebar to attend a Grand Jury assembled to deal specifically with railway business, remarks that the proceedings were 'merely formal' (24 November 1890).
  - Remarks that he has received a 'good many' of the rents due from Mr Kennedy's tenants (28 November 1890).
  - Records that he met with Mr J. O'Donel concerning Mrs Dick's consent for the use of land for the railway. (6 December 1890).
  - Remarks that he travelled to Newport and Mullawn and saw the railway cuttings at Kilbride and Carrowbawn for the first time (9 December 1890).
  - Remarks that he and Mr Kennedy walked the full line marked out for the railway on Mr Kennedy's estate (13 December 1890).

**P258/11**      January–December 1891

105pp

Includes:

- Notes the commencement of work on the railway at Mr Kennedy's farm at Burrishoole (13 January 1891).
- Remarks that he reached an agreement for the site and cost of the huts for the construction of the railway at Kilbride (19 January 1891).
- Remarks that he met Mr Banks to discuss railway business at Newport Hotel and expressed his opposition to the construction of a culvert for a cattle pass; 'asked for over or under bridge.' Also objected to the railway crossing (26 January 1891).
- Records that there is a strike at the railway with workers asking for higher wages (5 February 1891).
- Remarks that Michael Davitt was at Newport where he advised the striking railway workers to return to work (7 February 1891).
- Records that he met with the surveyors for the railway line and accompanied them as they inspected Mrs Dick's and Mr Kennedy's lands (14 August 1891).
- Remarks that he was re-elected for the Upper or Fresh Water Division by the Board of Conservators. Notes that he was first elected in 1879 and has served on the Board ever since (3 October 1891).
- Records the birth of his daughter (14 October 1891).
- Records the baptism of his daughter Isabella at home (30 October 1891).

**P258/12** January–December 1892

107pp

Includes:

- Records the details of his sister-in-law, Bella Dick's severance from the Railway Company (12 January 1892).
- Refers to difficulties arising out of the payment of compensation by the Railway Company for land required for construction (26–27 January 1892).
- Remarks that he went to Newport to receive Mr Carey's rents but none of the tenants came. Describes Mr Carey as '... displeased and vows to process them ...' (15 June 1892).
- Records his journey to Lovington to attend the wedding of his sister Emma to Alfred Hinxman (12 August 1892).
- Remarks that he called on Mr Carey to discuss the defaulting tenants and Mr Carey's decision to serve ejectments (1 September 1892).
- Remarks that Mr Carey, along with Mr Kennedy, has agreed to act as security for Alfred (Arthur's brother) if necessary (13 December 1892)

**P258/13** January–December 1893

105pp

Includes:

- Records that his scheme to improve drainage in the area was adopted by the Board (2 March 1893).
- Remarks that he signed a petition against Home Rule (5 March 1893).
- Remarks that he was elected as a Church Warden (28 April 1893).
- Records a journey to London. 'Left for London as delegate to the Anti-Home Rule demonstration at Albert Hall ... went on board the special steamer 'Banshee' cheers and National Anthem sung by crowd on board and on the wall. Pleasant trip all the way to London' (21 April 1893).
- Describes the meeting in London and the 'splendid speeches' (22 April 1893).
- Describes the journey to Hatfield as part of the delegation, where they again enjoyed a reception, lunch and more speeches (24 April 1893).
- Records his visit to his former place of employment at Paddington where he worked as a clerk. Remarks that many of the clerks who he worked with were still there. Arthur Oram left this job in 1873 (25 April 1893).
- Records his journey from London to visit his Father and Mother at Lovington. 'Found Mother fairly well but Father suffering from bad arm and hand, very old fashioned house but comfortable (26 April 1893).
- Refers to a 'dreadful storm' and the damage done to crops,

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- hay, and fruit trees (21 August 1893).
- Refers to a Vestry meeting at Newport regarding the presentation of candlesticks for the pulpit, reading desk and communion table from the Girls Friendly Society. Remarks 'Hugh O'Donel objects to any addition to communion table, Rector (Mr O'Connor) charges sexton (D. Reynolds), with impertinence, complaint heard and sexton cautioned' (19 September 1893).
- Remarks that he walked over the railway from the west end of Knockregga to Burrishoole Bridge and made notes of work needed to repair the damage to people's holdings and accommodation (29 September 1893).
- Refers to the collection of rents at Aughness 'a good many tenants appeared but only 3 cases of arrears paid, 5 water keepers ask their pay and are paid which I consider bad on their part but having promised them when appointing them to pay irrespective of rent I did so' (12 October 1893).

**P258/14**      January–December 1894

107pp

Includes:

- Remarks that almost everyone in the house is sick with colds and influenza (27 January 1894).
- Remarks that he travelled for the first time by train from Newport to Westport (22 February 1894).
- Refers to Mr Kennedy's death and the funeral arrangements. 'I have to mourn the loss of a kind indulgent employer and the greatest personal friend' (24 May 1894).
- Remarks that he heard that Mr Kennedy had left £200 in his will to him and Mr Rose (30 May 1894).
- Refers to a telegram from Mr Lane asking Arthur to act as a valuer on the Achill railway and that he agreed (16 July 1894).
- Describes inspecting the route of the railway line from Achill Sound as far as the boundary of Owenduff (3 September 1894).
- Describes over the course of a number of days, meeting with the engineers from the railway company and the arbitrator concerning the building of the railway line out to Achill (31 August–13 September 1894).
- Remarks that he met Mr Murphy who informed Arthur that anyone who wished to pursue re-arbitration along the route of the railway line between Mulranny and Newport would have to do so by memorial (14 September 1894).
- Remarks that none of Mr Kennedy's tenants paid their rent on the appointed day (15 September 1894).
- Refers to another day appointed for the payment of Mr Kennedy's rents and the arrival of a large group of tenants seeking an abatement of their rent. Remarks that he wrote up their petition (13 November 1894).
- Remarks that the tenant's petition has been refused (21

*Diaires of John and Arthur Oram*

**P258/14**

November 1894).

- Refers to a meeting at Newport at which William O'Brien and others spoke and denounced landlord's agents and Unionists generally and naming Arthur Oram amongst others (29 December 1894).

**P258/15**

January–December 1895

106pp

Includes:

- Remarks that he has let Burrishoole House to the Right Honourable Master of the Rolls for three months at a charge of £200 (2 March 1895).
- Refers to the death of Mrs Carey (25 May 1895).
- Remarks that he posted lists for ejectments from the Burrishoole and Clogher Estates (6 December 1895).

**P258/16**

January–December 1896

108pp

Includes:

- Remarks that he travelled to Dublin with Mary, his wife joining them later. Attended, in Ballsbridge, a 'fine show of cattle, poultry and dogs, also implements etc. horse jumping etc. To the opera at the Gaiety Theatre' (16 April 1896).
- Refers to the remainder of their trip to Dublin describing the places visited including the Phoenix Park, the People's Gardens and the zoo, Glasnevin and the Botanical Gardens and then to a service at St Patrick's Cathedral (18 April 1896).
- Refers to the consecration of the new church at Inisbeagh by Bishop O'Sullivan of Tuam and describes it as a 'long impressive ceremony ...' (29 April 1896).

**P258/17**

January–December 1897

108pp

Includes:

- Remarks that a group of tenants came to offer to purchase their holdings. Remarks that he wrote to inform Mr Kennedy (13 January 1896).
- Refers to an accident with the harness of his car, expresses relief that no one was hurt (23 January 1897).
- Remarks that Mr Kennedy's tenants have asked if he will settle out of court at 25% off the current judicial rent (16 February 1897).

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- Refers to the death of Mr Kennedy (20 May 1897).
- Remarks that he received a letter from Mrs Kennedy regarding the sale of Burrishoole (30 June 1897).
- Refers to an accident at Burrishoole Bridge involving his horse 'Paddy' who suffered a broken leg. Arthur Oram describes how he had to shoot him and remarks 'Poor Paddy, 16 years ... working 13½ years ... and & a more useful horse never lived, great sympathy from everybody' (22 July 1897).
- Refers to his children Gretta and John suffering from chicken 'pock' (pox) (30 July 1897).
- Refers to the marriage of his brother Alfred to Miss Jane Green at Ballyshannon (18 August 1897).
- Remarks that he was re-elected by the Board of Conservators (5 October 1897).
- Remarks that the Burrishoole tenants have asked for an abatement of their rent (12 November 1897).
- Refers to Aunt Margaret Anderson's funeral (16 December 1897).

**P258/18**

January–December 1898

107pp

Includes:

- Remarks that he spoke to two tenants: 'Mrs Muldone re rent which she is evidently not inclined to pay, spoke to Michael Grady re rent ... who refuses to pay any rent ...alleging that no rent having been demanded for many years he is now not liable I am astonished as I have regularly paid the 4<sup>th</sup> year for him' (6 January 1898).
- Remarks that Michael Grady agrees to pay and that the case is settled. Remarks that he sent a wire to Mr M.J. Kelly to inform him of the outcome (7 February 1898).
- Refers to a meeting of the Relief Works Committee. Arthur Oram served as Honorary Secretary on the Committee (14 February 1898).
- Refers to a rumour that an Anti-grazing Crowd were to assemble and were planning a protest. Remarks that the police approached him, asking if he anticipated any trouble or if the crowd meant him any personal harm 'I informed them decidedly not.' Remarks that approximately 300 people arrived with Mr P Grady acting as spokesperson. On behalf of the crowd he asked for work on the land and failing that the land to be divided up among the people. 'I replied that I gave as much work as I could ... that I had no land of any great extent Grady said "what about Teevemore?" I said that I believed they were all aware how I was treated about Teevemore, how I am and have being paying £60 a year or over ... owing to Rev Canon Greally without saying a word to me buying it over my head ... several in the crowd said they knew about it. Grady then asked if I would sell Teevemore if the Congested Districts Board, Canon Greally and I could agree, I replied "yes" but the

**P258/18**

first condition I insist on is that I am restored to the position I was deprived of by Canon Greally and that then I would meet the CDB, they said that was all they wanted, thanked me and left' (15 February 1898).

- Includes a handwritten statement by Michael Dever, Water Bailiff, pasted into the diary. Describes coming across a boat with three men in it at the tidal area of the Burrishoole fishery. He was alerted to their presence by a noise 'as if an anchor was being thrown.' The men in the boat saw Dever and turned towards the sea. Dever eventually caught up with the boat and boarded it. Remarks that he demanded to inspect their net which the men refused. Describes a struggle. At Ardagh harbour Dever measured one of their nets using a penny and found that the mesh 'was considerably larger than the breadth of the penny. Names the men as John Fergus, A. Conway and M. O'Grady. Arthur Oram contributes to the statement remarking that Dever, during the struggle, threatened one of the men, Fergus, with the butt of his gun and pointed the muzzle at him (30 June 1898).
- Remarks that he went to see the effects of Mr Carey's drainage of the lake and that he was shocked to see 'cracks and landslips' caused by the drainage (26 July 1898).
- Remarks that he asked John and Owen Coyne to come to do some work on the farm but 'he expresses his great sorrow that he cannot, as if he does Pat, his son, will leave ... John Coyne's health evidently failing under the coercion of the UIL.' (the United Ireland League) (28 July 1898).
- Remarks that he discovered two boys trying to drive yearlings into the river and that he found two boats which he took. (15 August 1898).
- Refers to the new owner of Burrishoole as Mr Anketell-Jones. Also provides a brief history of the owners of Burrishoole. Ashworth sold the estate to Captain Wyndham who in turn sold it to Mr Victor C. Kennedy. The estate then passed to Kennedy's son, Mr J. Kennedy whose executors sold it to Anketell-Jones (22 September 1898).
- Describes the day appointed to collect rents from the Burrishoole tenants and the difficulty in reaching an agreement satisfactory to all parties (19 October 1898).
- Describes the collection of rents from the Clogher Estate tenants (23 November 1898).

**P258/19**

January–December 1899

103pp

Includes:

- Remarks that the tenants at Knockbrega have declined Mr Jones' offer of a mountain for grazing (3 January 1899).
- Refers to an agreement between the tenants and Mr Jones about the mountain grazing (31 January 1899).
- Remarks that he went to the Rectory to see about the Sexton,

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Mr O'Connor and found him 'hopelessly drunk' and incapable of carrying out his duties (13 February 1899).

- Refers to a Vestry meeting and the matter of Mr O'Connor's drunkenness. Remarks that O'Connor attempted to 'wriggle' out of the charge but failed (21 February 1899).
- Describes his journey to England to visit his family at Lovington (23 March-3 April 1899).
- Remarks that he received a wire from Colonel Malone who asked him to come immediately to Lagduff. On arrival Arthur Oram is informed by Colonel Malone that an RIC Constable had observed Mr Gallagher transporting fish to Bangor. Following a consultation with Colonel Malone Arthur Oram inspected the full length of the river with the Keeper (22 August 1899).
- Describes having three teeth extracted and difficulty in stopping the bleeding (7 October 1899).

**P258/20** January–December 1900

108pp

Includes:

- Remarks that he travelled to the lake and walked as far as the leap beside Lake Fadda. Remarks that he found a net concealed in the sally bushes (29 June 1900).
- Reports on the first meeting of the new Board of Conservators and remarks that they have the largest amount of funds on record and that a sum of £220 has been allocated to rivers. Also remarks that he proposed that Ulster Bank be appointed treasurers instead of Bank of Ireland but that voting on the matter was split down the middle (18 October 1900).
- Refers to his son John travelling to Belfast to apply for a position (23 October 1900).
- Remarks that he received a wire from John saying that he failed his exam but that he could try again in a few months (25 October 1900).

**P258/21** January–December 1901

108pp

Includes:

- Refers to his son John going to Dublin to attend college (14 January 1901).
- Remarks that a rumour that Mr Carey had died turned out to be utterly false (28 February 1901).
- Refers to a meeting of the Conservators where he again proposed that Ulster Bank instead of the Bank of Ireland should act as Treasurers. Remarks that the vote was again split down the middle (7 March 1901).

*Diaires of John and Arthur Oram*

**P258/21**

- Remarks that he travelled to Srahnamanragh where he found that the Sherriff's Bailiff had carried out ejections but that he reinstated them as caretakers pending further arrangements. (15 April 1901).
- Remarks that he received a wire from his son John that he has passed the Ulster Bank's examination in Belfast (18 April 1901).
- Remarks that John received a letter from the bank regarding a position (2 May 1901).
- Refers to John's departure for Belfast to begin work at Ulster Bank (6 May 1901).
- Remarks that a large body of Clogher tenants request to see Mr Carey and ask for their holdings to be sold to them 'Mr Carey offers to sell all @ 18 years purchase under the Ashbourne Act, some agree but majority say it's too high' (19 August 1901).
- Remarks that he met with Mr Carey in Newport regarding the sale [of land] to the tenants appearing in the papers (23 August 1901).
- Refers to the sale of the Clogher Estate to the tenants (21 September 1901).
- Refers to the death of Mr Hope, Arthur Oram's friend and neighbour and long-time friend of Arthur's father John Oram (15 October 1901).
- Remarks that Mr Jones informed him that Revd Cannon Greally is selling a portion of his grass land to the Congested Districts Board (15 November 1901).
- Remarks that he applied for the Achill Mission Agency (28 November 1901).
- Refers to the death of Captain O'Donel and the military funeral in Castlebar (18-19 December 1901).

**P258/22**      January-December 1902

108pp

Includes:

- Refers to a meeting of Conservators remarking that he handed in his resignation with a view to being appointed Clerk. Remarks that his resignation was not accepted owing to there being confusion over the legality of this action (18 February 1902).
- Remarks that he interviewed a number of the Clogher Estate defaulters (7 March 1902).
- Refers to a meeting of Conservators and remarks that Mr William Nixon was appointed clerk (12 March 1902).
- Refers to a Vestry meeting at Newport where he is elected to continue as Treasurer and Secretary. Remarks that despite not receiving approval from Revd O'Connor it was agreed to approach the Representative Church Body concerning the poor state of the graveyard (31 March 1902).
- Refers to the appointment of James Stevenson, a native of

**P258/22**

Athlone, to the position of Chief Constable of Glasgow (2 April 1902).

- Refers to the arrival of Mr Anketell-Jones on his new yacht which set sail from Southend (2 July 1902).
- Refers to a letter from Mr Stoney who has offered a further £20 subscription to the school on condition that certain texts for religious instruction are used in the school. Remarks that he submitted the letter to Revd O'Connor (11 September 1902).
- Refers to the children's party in the school and the magic lantern and gramophone entertainment provided by Mr Anketell-Jones (30 December 1902).

**P258/23**

January–December 1903

108pp

Includes:

- Refers to the arrest of Francis Chambers over the theft of brass fittings from old engines at the railway (22 January 1903).
- Refers to the funeral of Billy Spicer (8 May 1903).
- Remarks that he submitted a case at Castlebar concerning the deliberate damage done to river dams at Lagduff (20 July 1903).
- Refers to the death of Mr Bushby, a landowner for whom Arthur Oram acted as agent. Refers to the Executors of Bushby's will (2 September 1903).
- Remarks that he and Mr O'Donnell judged cottages in Newport in connection with the Mayo Industries Exhibition (1 October 1903).
- Remarks that he came across John and Spencer Anketell-Jones stuck in their motor car between Mulranny and Ballygurney and the assistance they required to 'drag the machine' back to Mulranny (19 October 1903).
- Describes the atmosphere in the rent office in Newport and the Clogher tenants. Remarks that Mr Carey announced that he would give extra time to those who need it and was willing to take a half year's rent, the remainder to be paid by 7 February 1904 '...when coming to W. Joyce's name and he saying he would pay only half year, Mr C left the office displeased and saying "you might as well give it to the whole of them in that case", half years rents were then paid' (20 November 1903).
- Refers to the Aughness tenants who requested in writing to purchase through the Congested Districts Board, with the rent due to be added to the purchase money (26 November 1903).

*Diaires of John and Arthur Oram*

**P258/24** January–December 1904

107pp

Includes:

- Refers to a dispute over the gathering of seaweed at Aughness strand and the difficulty in settling shore marks for the Estate (3 March 1904).
- Refers to his inspection of the weirs and pools noting what needs to be repaired in advance of the season (10 May 1904).
- Remarks that he was unanimously elected as Secretary and [Superintendent] during a meeting of the Moyour and Brockagh Drainage Trustees (25 August 1904).
- Remarks that he was at Burrishoole House making out valuations for the sale of the outside portions of the Estate (7 October 1904).
- Remarks that he received a wire from his son Attie concerning his first place results in his exams (4 November 1904).
- Refers to the day appointed for the Burrishoole Estate tenants and remarks that none attended except for widow McNulty who was granted a remittance of a half year's rent by Mr Anketell-Jones due to her husband's death (12 November 1904).
- Remarks that he met Mr Anketell-Jones who said that the tenants arrived in a group but that he was determined to refuse their request for a general abatement (14 November 1904).
- Refers to Mr Carey's Clogher Estate tenants and their request for abatement. Arthur Oram informs the tenants he has no authority to grant this request. The tenants appeal directly to Mr Carey who allows 25% on the years rent (19 November 1904).
- Remarks that Mr Anketell-Jones instructs him that the Bailiff is to give a verbal notice to the tenants to pay by 10 January 1905 (29 November 1904).
- Refers to the Aughness tenants asking for a reduction citing a bad year '...after two hours (almost) hesitation the majority paid, a few asking a little time ...' (5 December 1904).

**P258/25** January–December 1904

10pp

Duplicate diary for 1904 mostly containing accounts relating to drainage work schemes for which Arthur Oram had responsibility.

Includes:

- Draft of a letter from Arthur Oram to [Mr Anketell-Jones] relating to the sale of the Burrishoole Estate to the Congested Districts Board in 1906–07 and a cheque 'over the sale of the tenanted portion of the Estate.' Remarks that he did not expect to receive any further amount in respect of the Estate. Makes reference to Mr Jones' concern over the charging of postage

**P258/25**

and stationery to the account and defends this action. Outlines in some detail the assistance he gave to Mr Jones and to his solicitors and the various letters he sent in response to their queries. Refers to his long association with the estate and previous Landlords of the Estate and the excellent working relationship that existed between his agency and the Landlords. Acknowledges that Mr Jones purchased the Estate in difficult times but that he received favourable terms and that everything possible was done to collect rents from the tenants during Mr Jones' ownership. Refers also to improvements made by the drainage works, the intact demesne and the salmon fishery. Remarks '...I fail to find and to express how much I regret to feel that you have, in this transaction which terminates my connection with the Estate, not considered my case more liberally and in a manner more keeping with the spirit of the Act which has worked out so much to your benefit ... I should like to have been able to [ ] the opinion of several who expressed their belief that in connection with the sale of the Estate and loss of the Agency ... I was safe in having such a one as you to deal with.' (9 May 1907, 5pp). [See also entries for 17 May and 19 June 1905 in P258/26]

**P258/26** January–December 1905

106pp

Includes:

- Remarks that Mr Anketell-Jones has instructed him to give no reduction on the rents due and to serve notice (23 January 1905).
- Refers to the payment of rent by the Burrishoole tenants (6 February 1905).
- Refers to the offer from the Congested Districts Board (CDB) for the Burrishoole Estate (17 May 1905).
- Refers to the news of the Japanese naval victory in the Russo-Japanese War at the Battle of Tsushima (30 May 1905).
- Remarks that the CDB agreed a purchase price with Mr Anketell-Jones and that Mr Anketell-Jones intends giving Arthur Oram four months' notice but that the representative from the CDB indicated that they were ready to take possession of the Estate immediately (16 June 1905).
- Remarks that Mr Anketell-Jones gave possession of the greater part of the Estate to the CDB but that he, Arthur Oram, was not present during this transaction (19 June 1905)
- Refers to a meeting in Dublin with the CDB concerning the Lagduff and Clogher Estates (5 July 1905).
- Remarks that his son Arthur (Attie) obtained first place in his exams (3 November 1905).

**P258/27** January–December 1906

106pp

Includes:

- Draft of a letter from a tenant farmer Joseph O'Boyle to the Chief Secretary of Ireland referring to the sale of the Anketell-Jones Estate to the CDB and asking for a holding to sustain his family. Describes his personal circumstances (Not dated, 1p).
- Remarks that Mr Carey has ordered proceedings against the defaulting Clogher Estate tenants for the May Sessions (2 March 1906),
- Remarks that he posted registered letters from his father John Oram regarding the lands at Teevemore and the transfer of ownership to Arthur Oram (8 March 1906).
- Remarks that he met Revd P. Grealley on the road and spoke to him about Teevemore, hoping to come to some agreement but that the Revd refused (3 April 1906).
- Refers to a letter informing him that his mother is not well (26 April 1906).
- Describes feeling 'ill, stiff, weak etc.' and expecting to hear news about his mother's condition (27-28 April 1906).
- Remarks that he received a wire informing him of his mother's death (30 April 1906).
- Refers to the defaulting Clogher tenants and Mr Carey's decision to proceed with the worst cases (1 May 1906).
- Describes his mother's funeral (5 May 1906).
- Refers to the '... continuous broken weather now becoming injurious to everything spoiling hay etc. etc. men commenced to gather up turf on bog into heaps ... a good deal of it injured by not being attended to sooner' (16 August 1906).
- Describes a long conversation with Miss Edgar and her resignation as a teacher in the school and the deficit in the amount she is owed. 'Resolved that a committee ... be in future responsible for £15 ... to be offered to a new teacher in addition to salary from National Board etc' (23 November 1906).

**P258/28** 1 January–31 December 1907

108pp

- Remarks that a presentation of a clock was made to Miss Edgar, the school teacher (2 January 1907).
- Remarks that he travelled to Tully to meet with Mr Northcote where he had a 'satisfactory' meeting but 'nothing definite' (3 January 1907).
- Remarks that the new teacher Miss Hopson cannot start until February (8 January 1907).
- Refers to Mr O'Dowd accepting Mr Northcote's offer for Tully (17 January 1907).

**P258/28**

- Remarks that he received a wire informing him of his father's death (15 April 1907).
- Refers to his father's funeral and the contents of his will (18 April 1907).
- Notes that he received a letter from Mr Anketell-Jones and a cheque for £74 [.3] from the sale of the tenanted portion of the Estate '... which I consider very small and inadequate under all the circumstances.' (8 May 1907).
- Remarks that Alex Sweeney called to say good bye to him having sold his holding before leaving for America with his brother and sister (17 May 1907).
- Remarks that he received a wire from Attie concerning his success in his exams and that he has been called for honours (3 July 1907).
- Refers to an unexpected meeting with Mr E Sweeney and Mr F Chambers concerning Teevemore but that nothing was resolved (10 September 1907).
- Remarks that he went to Castlebar to consult Mr Robertson, Solicitor about the Teevemore case and Miss Hope's case (21 September 1907).
- Refers again to Teevemore and the agreement finally reached to pay the rent due and for Arthur Oram to be allowed back as caretaker with exclusive use of the farm until 1 January 1908 (30 September 1907).
- Remarks that he attended the conferring ceremony at the Royal University where his son Arthur was awarded a BE degree (1 November 1907).
- Describes an accident with his horse and trap and remarks that he was lucky to escape with a slight scratch (4 November 1907).
- Remarks that the Clogher tenants ask for abatement owing to bad crops and Mr Carey agrees (12 November 1907).
- Remarks that he remained at home '... rather suddenly taken with a bad back lumbago or whatever it is, the old complaint, had to keep indoors ...' (20 November 1907).
- Refers to the Aughness tenants who asked for abatement due to bad crops and referring to the other Ballycroy tenants who had asked for abatements '...and pending an answer they did not like to be the first to pay, after a long palaver they paid ...' (6 December 1907).
- Refers to the death of Mrs Rose (27 December 1907).

**P258/29**

January–December 1908

107pp

Includes:

- Remarks that he met with Mr F Chambers who took possession of Teevemore (1 January 1908).
- Remarks that he was served with a witness summons to appear at the Westport Sessions in the case of Hawkshaw and Others *v* CDB concerning cases of flooded lands (4 January

**P259/29**

- 1908).
- Remarks that he travelled to Knockloughra to talk to Miss Hope concerning the sale of lands to the CDB and to offer advice about what she should put in the letter (27 January 1908).
  - Remarks that he received a letter from his son Attie in London concerning his appointment by the Indian government as an engineer employed by the Indian Public Works. He consulted Major Harding about his choice of provinces in India (27 June 1908).
  - Refers to a letter received from the CDB and their objection to Miss Hope withdrawing her case and that she should appear the next day (2 July 1908).
  - Refers to the Land Commission Court and the hearing of Miss Hope's case '... the court decided with Mr Robertson for Miss Hope and so she practically defeated the CDB, their notice to quit being bad, they (CDB) are now no further forward than at the beginning' (3 July 1908).
  - Refers to Attie's departure for India (25 September 1908).
  - Remarks that he gathered apples but there were few left because of 'thieves and storms' (29 September 1908).
  - Refers to his inspection of various drainage works carried out, much of it unsatisfactory (9 October 1908).
  - Remarks that Mr Carey has received a letter asking him to meet a deputation about the sale of land directly to the tenants (15 October 1908).
  - Refers to his meeting at the Chief Engineers Office in Dublin discussing referencing work and mapping. Describes the referencing work carried out beginning at Mulranny and the difficulty he encountered at Castlehill owing to small plots of land (3-14 November 1908).

**P258/30** January-December 1909

c100pp

Includes:

- Refers to the resignation of Revd O'Connor, following a petition signed by the parishioners (20 & 29 January 1909).
- Remarks that Revd O'Connor is not speaking to anybody (31 January 1909).
- Remarks that Miss Hope has decided to accept the CDB offer of surrender and £700 (10 February 1909).
- Describes a meeting between himself, Mr Anketell-Jones and Mr E.T. O'Dowd concerning the vacant incumbency, no decision was reached but remarks that Revd B. Turney 'seems most suitable' (21 March 1909).
- Refers to the meeting, attended by the Lord Bishop of Tuam and the Archdeacon, at which it was unanimously decided to appoint Burton Turney to the incumbency of Burrishoole (24 March 1909).
- Takes note of his son Arthur's address in India—Assistant

**P258/30**

Engineer, Upper Bari Boat Canal, Amritsar, Punjab, India (17 May 1909).

- Refers to the death of Mr Carey (4 August 1909).
- Refers to the reading of Mr Carey's will and remarks '... by no means what people expected' (6 August 1909).
- Remarks that he has been re-elected to the board of Conservators for the twelfth time (2 October 1909).

**P258/31**

January–December 1910

c100pp

Includes:

- Remarks that Messrs Fitzgerald cannot agree to Arthur Oram becoming Mr Carey's agent at present (24 January 1910).
- Remarks that he walked to Srahacorrick and Rosgallin mountains to refresh his memory on the land suitable to be made into a golf links and on foot of an enquiry by Mr O'Neill, chief engineer for the NGW Railway (24 March 1910).
- Refers to a Sergeant from Brockagh RIC and their discussion concerning the Clogher tenants not paying rent (2 April 1910).
- Remarks that none of the Clogher tenants arrived to pay their rent (11 April 1910).
- Refers to a meeting of the co-executors to Mr Carey's estate at Marine Villa and a discussion regarding a list of witnesses (15 April 1910).
- Refers to a visit to Dublin and an interview at the Four Courts with counsel and solicitor (21 April 1910).
- Refers to the announcement of the death of King Edward VII (7 May 1910).
- Refers to a visit to Dublin and the assembly of witnesses to and executors of Mr Carey's will in anticipation of the case coming before the courts. Remarks that the case is delayed and finally put back until a date in June (9-14 May 1910).
- Remarks that none of the Clogher tenants appeared to pay their rent (27 May 1910).
- Refers to Mr Carey's court case and his examination as a witness in the case (13–17 June 1910).
- Refers again to the court case, the concluding arguments including arguments by the notable Irish lawyer Timothy Healy K.C. Remarks that the jury returned their verdict after a half hour deliberation upholding the will and all the codicils (20–23 June 1910).
- Refers to the death of Canon Greally (18 July 1910).
- Refers to a meeting of the executors of Mr Carey's will and the signing of cheques to settle various liabilities (9 August 1910).
- Remarks that he drove his daughter Gretta to Newport on her way to Loughborough to take up a position with Leicestershire County Council (30 August 1910).
- Remarks that he went to Lagduff to begin the preliminary work for the maps required by the CDB for the transfer of the estate (14 November 1910).

**P258/32** January–December 1911

105pp

Includes:

- Refers to the Westport Sessions and the cases of the Clogher tenants (6 January 1911).
- Refers to Mr Carey's estate and that he informed Miss Lavelle and the other Executors that he had been advised by Messrs Fitzgerald that he was not permitted to charge for the collection of Clogher rents (17 January 1911).
- Remarks that he was called urgently to Dublin, Mr Carey's case having been unexpectedly listed. Master of the Rolls found in favour of the terms of the will (17 February 1911).
- Refers to his appearance as a witness in the Land Judges Court in front of Judge Ross regarding the tenant's petition. Describes the terms decided on by the court (20 February 1911).
- Remarks that he completed the necessary papers for offering Lagduff to the CDB (2 June 1911).
- Refers to the coronation of George V (22 June 1911).
- Refers to the Royal visit to Dublin by King George V (8 July 1911).
- Refers to an Inland Fisheries Committee Inquiry at Foxford, preparing evidence and identifying members of the inquiry team including Sir D. Harrell, Chairman, Professor Mahaffy, Mr Green, Inspector of Fisheries and Mr Calderwood Inspector of Fisheries in Scotland. Remarks that many witnesses were examined (24 November 1911).

**P258/33** January–December 1912

c100pp

Includes:

- Remarks that he sent a preliminary application along with a letter from the Land Commission to the Office of Public Works stating that Wilford 'was vested in me' with a view to obtaining a loan (1 March 1912).
- Describes the collection of rents from the Clogher tenants as 'a long weary day, tenants asking reductions ...' (28 March 1912).
- Remarks 'Heard of Titanic going down, off Newfoundland 11.40 Sunday night' (16 April 1912).
- Remarks that he met Roman Catholic clergymen on their way to Burrishoole Abbey to unveil a memorial to Fr Manus Sweeney, '...met bands and banners on George's St hill, no trouble whatever in passing thro' crowd ...' (9 June 1912).
- Refers to collecting his son Attie from the train (17 August 1912).
- Remarks that Dr O'Rorke examined his wife and diagnosed her with '... a bad type of rheumatism and should go to Harrowgate (Harrogate) at once' (14 September 1912).

*Diaires of John and Arthur Oram*

- P258/33**
- Refers to Mrs Oram departure for Harrowgate (19 September 1912).
  - Remarks that Mrs Oram, Isa and Attie returned from Harrowgate (Harrogate) (12 October 1912).
  - Refers to a meeting in Westport with the defaulting tenants from the Clogher Estate. Remarks 'I mention own fee as acting Executor for Co-Executors Carey dec'd to Murray who considered nothing due' (17 October 1912).
  - Refers to Newport Fair and remarks that Patrick Daly uses 'abusive language towards me, in hearing of Mr Lally to whom I was speaking ...' The same individual is again abusive towards Arthur Oram in front of Mr Hennessy (20 December 1912).
  - Refers to a dreadful storm, damage to trees and property (24 December 1912).

**P258/34** January–December 1913

106pp

Includes:

- Refers to his son Attie's departure for India (6 January 1913).
- Refers to the sale of Rockfleet Lodge and furniture by auction, bought by Mr J.L. [Hennessy], formerly of Ballycroy (7 March 1913).
- Remarks that Mrs Dick received notification from the CDB of their intention to visit her with a view to acquiring some of her land (21 May 1913).
- Remarks that he assisted James Dick with the particulars and maps required by the CDB (2 June 1913).
- Remarks that he received a telegram informing him of the sudden death of his brother John at Ilfracombe in Devon due to heart failure (14 June 1913).
- Remarks that he received the probate of Mr Carey's will (23 September 1913).
- Concludes his diary for 1913 'The past has been a year of prosperity and notwithstanding the continued illness of my wife and death of eldest brother in America there has been very much to be thankful for' (31 December 1913).

**P258/35** January–December 1914

108pp

Includes:

- Refers to his wife's illness and remarks that she is not improving (17 February 1914).
- Remarks again about his wife's ill-health and sending a request for his daughter Gretta to return home, mentions also the arrival of Aunt Annie, Aunt Bella and James (19 February 1914).

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- 1914).
- Remarks that he drove his daughter Gretta to the train for her journey back to Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (20 February 1914).
  - Refers to a meeting of the drainage trustees for Moyour and Owenbrockagh, the auditing of the accounts for both districts and an increase in his salary. (11 June 1914).
  - Remarks that Mr Rowlette enquired about his interest in Sandymount and that he mentioned a sum of £300 to him (3 November 1914).

**P258/36**

January–December 1915

107pp

Includes:

- Remarks that he met Messrs Vereker and Gahan at Newport to discuss the purchase of his interest in the Sandymount holding which he valued at £371. Agreement is not reached as the offer made is too low (4 February 1915).
- Refers to his son John and his employment with Ulster Bank in Belfast (15–17 March 1915).
- Refers to the marriage of his daughter Gretta to Sidney Thomas at Newport church (7 April 1915).
- Refers to his case before the Land Commission and the advice to the court that the application be rejected. Remarks that his interest was valued by the CDB at £250 (19 May 1915).
- Remarks that he met Mr Robinson, Land Commissioner at Sandymount in Newport and spoke again about the case before the Land Commission Court in Westport and the continuing doubt about the suitability of the land in question (28 May 1915).
- Describes a visit to Melton Mowbray to visit his daughter Gretta and his son-in-law Sidney Thomas and on to Heytesbury for the marriage of his son James to Ida Talbot. Describes visiting Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral and on to Weston Bampfylde where he visited the grave of his parents. Also visits Devizes where he meets Alfred Hinxman and Walter Loveridge (10 June–1 July 1915).
- Remarks that he received a letter from the Land Commission fixing the price of his Sandymount holding at £400 (16 July 1915).
- Refers to a meeting of the Board of Conservators and remarks that his re-election marks a continued service of between 30 to 40 years. Remarks that the funds are very low (6 October 1915).
- Remarks that he went to Newport and learned of an accident to Mrs Turney who was run over by a train near Newport Station ‘... engine going over and crushing one foot at instep, lay some time on line before screams were heard ...’ (12 October 1915).
- Remarks that he heard from Revd Turney that his wife was in

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Dublin for an operation (14–15 October 1915).

- Remarks that following a discussion with Eugene, whom he employs as a yardman, he realises that his reason for leaving is because he wants an increase in his wages ‘...which I refuse to increase ... the Father (Joe) having only one hand and the boy (Eugene) only 18 ...’ (27 October 1915).
- Remarks that he has informed Joe that owing to his disability and the fact that he cannot assist in milking the cows he should no longer come to work unless he is specifically required to do so (30 October 1915).
- Refers to his and Mrs Dick’s appeal cases at the Land Commission Court in Castlebar. Remarks that the Judge assigned a Court Assessor to visit the lands before a decision can be made (9–10 November 1915).
- Remarks that he saw Mrs Turney for the first time since her accident and observes that she is doing very well, all things considered (7 December 1915).
- Remarks that he met Mr Fitzgerald, the Judge’s Assessor from the Land Commission and Mr Duncan from the CDB at Sandymount concerning his land interest (14 December 1915).

**P258/37**

January–December 1916

108pp

Includes:

- Refers to a meeting in Dublin at Fitzgerald Solicitors concerning the succession duty due on the Carey Estate (5 January 1916).
- Remarks that he received notification from the Land Commission of reduced compensation by the Court of Appeal from £400 to £320 and that Mrs Dick’s compensation had been reduced from £1650 to £1500 (27 January 1916).
- Refers to a visit by Revd and Mrs Turney, the first visit by Mrs Turney since losing her foot in an accident on the railway line in October 1915 (28 January 1916).
- Remarks that he read in the newspaper, with much surprise, of the death of Sir Malachy Kelly, Chief Crown Solicitor (28 March 1916).
- Remarks that he handed over possession of Sandymount to Mr Duncan, Inspector, Congested Districts Board (31 March 1916).
- Refers to a draft received from the Cleveland Ohio Trust Company for \$1087.00, his portion of the legacy from his brother John’s will (1 April 1916).
- Refers to a Vestry meeting in Newport. Remarks that Mr Anketell-Jones wrote a letter to the meeting asking not to be re-elected as Church Warden but that his request was ignored. Remarks that, as Honorary Treasurer, he was instructed to place the balance of Miss Kennedy’s gift in Exchequer Bonds (24 April 1916).
- Remarks that he has heard news of a rising in Dublin ‘... of

**P258/37**

Sinn Féiners and Dublin Castle, Bank of Ireland, etc. having been seized by them, no post or papers here today (25 April 1916).

- Remarks that there is no train service to Dublin (28 April 1916).
- Refers to the news of an unconditional surrender in Dublin and rumours of a naval battle and a German defeat. (1 May 1916).
- Remarks that there is little or no news about the War or Rising and no letters (2–3 May 1916).
- Remarks that he went to Newport and that Dublin newspapers, the first since the 24<sup>th</sup> April, had arrived, met the postman who said that the post was operating as normal. Posted a letter to Hamilton Long & Co to their Kingstown address as their Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) offices had been ruined in the rebellion (5 May 1916).
- Refers to the death of William Rose. (21 May 1916).
- Remarks that many people sympathised with him on hearing of William Rose's death (22 May 1916).
- Refers to Babs Rose's first visit to the Oram's house since the death of her father and bringing news of a naval battle reported in the papers (3 June 1916).
- Remarks that he heard the sad news of Master Harry Jones' death at the front with his Canadian Regiment (23 September 1916).
- Remarks that he met with Mr O'Donel in Newport to discuss parochial affairs, in particular the subject of stipends to clergy '... in these very exceptional times ...' (5 December 1916).
- Refers to Arthur's change of address in India (12 December 1916).

**P258/38**

January–December 1917

106pp

Includes:

- Refers to extremely heavy snow and snow drifts '... nothing like it on record in these parts' (26 January 1917).
- Remarks that there is no post and no trains (27 January 1917).
- Refers to the death of Willie [Aukins], the funeral and internment in Newport Presbyterian churchyard. Remarks that he was a Sub Lieutenant of the RNVR (Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve), that officers from the RNVR, the Coast Guard, the RIC and Westport Bay Scouts all attended, the latter sounding the last post at his graveside. Observes that the coffin was draped with a Union Jack (19 April 1917).
- Remarks that he brought his daughter Emily to the train for an interview at Miss McClelland's Collegiate School at Celbridge and that in the meantime a wire came from Basingstoke asking Emily to accept a vacant post there (2 June 1917).

*Diaires of John and Arthur Oram*

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- Remarks that Emily decided to accept the vacant post at Basingstoke and to cancel her interview at Celbridge (4 June 1917).
- Refers to a special service at the new Roman Catholic Church at Newport. Remarks that the church bell was donated by Miss Lavelle and that the Bishop blessed it (15 August 1917).
- Refers to the engagement of his daughter Isa to Mr W.S. Robertson, Ilkley, Yorkshire (18 September 1917).
- Refers to a meeting in Derrada School concerning the Threshing Machine and the formation of a committee, Arthur Oram appointed as Honorary Treasurer (27 September 1917).
- Refers to another meeting at Derrada School concerning the Threshing Machine with 27 members paying £1 each (4 October 1917).
- Remarks that he attended Newport Rectory to act as a representative for the Glebe's Commission. Reports that the entire premises were carefully assessed (16 October 1917).
- Remarks that he heard of James Dick's (Eastfield) death at the front (11 November 1917).

**P258/39**

January–December 1918

c120pp

Includes:

- Refers to a meeting in Derrada School concerning the rise in price of the threshing machine (4 January 1918).
- Remarks that at a meeting to discuss the increase in price of the threshing machine the majority of subscribers have indicated that they do not want to go ahead with the purchase of the machine (16 January 1918).
- Remarks that he received a cable from Emma Hinxman informing him of the death of his brother James Henry Oram in Cleveland, Ohio at the age of 61 (19 February 1918).
- Refers again to a discussion regarding the purchase of a threshing machine, that some members wish to have their subscriptions returned, while others wish to press ahead with the purchase and take on new subscribers (23 January 1918).
- Refers to damage at Rossyvera House, panes of glass broken and a tree cut down. Remarks that he met a Constable at the premises (8 February 1918).
- Remarks that he returned the subscriptions to the members who do not wish to continue with the purchase of a hreshing machine (13 February 1918).
- Refers to the delivery of the new threshing machine (19 March 1918).
- Refers to the first meeting of the Pensions Committee with Lord Sligo in the Chair. Lists the other people present, the election of Dr Bain as Honorary Secretary and the arrangement for meetings on the last Thursday of the month (5 April 1918).
- Refers to the consecration of the new Roman Catholic Church at Newport (8 September 1918).

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- Refers to his re-election at the Conservators meeting (3 October 1918).
- Refers to the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of Carey Ltd and reports a ‘...very satisfactory state of accounts ...’ (25 October 1918).
- Remarks that he attended Westport Fair and was surprised to see two men who had accompanied cattle to the fair had returned instead of staying the night ‘...owing to prevalence of influenza ...’ (1 November 1918).
- Remarks that Carey Ltd (general stores) had to close owing to the staff suffering from influenza (15 November 1918).
- Refers to the influenza outbreak again ‘Geo[rge] Chambers second son buried, Jas Corrigan son Peter died. Influenza bad all over country’ (29 November 1918).
- Remarks that John left in uniform to return to his camp at [Romford] (1 January 1919).