

The Papers of Sir. John Keane, Fifth Baronet, Cappoquin (1873-1956)

By,

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Sir John Keane succeeded his father, Sir. Richard Francis Keane, as fifth Baronet of Cappoquin, county Waterford, in 1892. Sir. Richard had been married to Adelaide Sidney Vance, daughter of John Vance a former MP for both Dublin city (1852-65), and Armagh (1867-75). Adelaide Sidney would survive her husband by fifteen years and during that time she would play an important role in helping to run the Cappoquin estate with Sir. John who was aged nineteen when he succeeded his father.

At the time of Sir. John's inheritance, the estate at Cappoquin was among the twenty largest in county Waterford with a valuation of £3,227 and just under 9,000 acres. The Keane family have resided at Cappoquin since the early eighteenth-century when John Keane (d. 1756) leased 7,313 from the earl of Cork, Richard Boyle, in 1738. This lease was later bought out by his grandson John Keane (d. 1829). The Keane family can trace their lineage to the Gaelic O'Cahans (Ó Catháin), of county Derry. After the Williamite victory in the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, George O'Cahan conformed to the established church, anglicised his name to Keane and entered government service as a lawyer. The Keanes reside at Cappoquin House with family tradition suggesting that it was built in 1779. The House is situated on an elevated site overlooking the town of Cappoquin. From this vantage point, the house commands a striking view of the river Blackwater which meanders sharply at Cappoquin. In 1923 the house was destroyed by fire during the devastating fratricidal conflict that marked the birth of the Irish Free State. Estimates suggest that some 300 houses were burned between, 1920-23 with over two thirds of them falling during the eleven month Irish Civil War, 1922-23 as the IRA targeted the homes of prominent supporters of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. In December 1922 W.T. Cosgrave had appointed Sir. John Keane to the Free State Senate and

this, when combined with a variety of other political and agrarian motives, more than likely accounts for the attack on the night of 19 February 1923. In spite of this serious setback, Keane resolved to rebuild Cappoquin and he forged a successful career in the Senate, serving as an appointed member under both Cumann na nGaedheal and Fianna Fáil led governments.

Sir John, like the sons of most members of the Protestant Ascendancy, had been educated in England at Clifton College, Bristol and at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. Later in life he used his free time to study law, being called to the bar in 1904. He was also a keen student of accounting, and was self-educated in public finance, developing a lifelong interest in the highest standards of accounting. On 14 February 1907 Keane married Lady Eleanor Lucy, the eldest daughter of Michael Hicks-Beach the Earl of St. Aldwyn and a former Chief Secretary for Ireland. The marriage had been delayed for two days due to the sudden death of Sir John's mother, Adelaide Sidney. Keane and Lady Eleanor had four children, one son, Richard, and three daughters, Adelaide Mary, Sheila and Madelaine Lucy. All four children were born between 1909 and 1914.

Sir John was commissioned into the Royal Field Artillery in 1883 before being appointed Aide-de-Camp to George Cadogan, Earl of Cadogan, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, 1895-1902. During this time, he was based at Dublin Castle before being called to South Africa where he was to see active service during the Boer War. During the Boer War he Keane was promoted to captain and in September 1901 he was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Queen's South Africa medal. On his return from Africa, Sir John served as a private secretary to Sir. Henry Blake, Governor of Ceylon. He also served in the Great War and was again honoured and mentioned in despatches. On the outbreak of the Great War in August 1914 a full mobilisation of the British army was ordered. Keane, as a member of the Officers' Reserve, travelled to Britain as arrangements were made to ship men and horses to France. Keane saw active service at Ypres, was an instructor at the Second Army's trench mortar school and was later posted to the War Office in London. In January 1916 Keane was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and in July 1917 the French Legion of Honour (*Legion d'honneur*). He ended the war as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Tank Corps. While Keane was on active service, his wife Eleanor assumed a major role in managing the affairs of the Cappoquin estate. In his wartime correspondence with his wife, Keane offers guidance on how to overcome certain problems that Eleanor encountered while managing the estate.

During a career of distinguished public service, Keane served as a member of Waterford County Council and later as a Senator in the upper House of the newly created

Irish Free State. In his younger days Keane had dreamed of making a career as a parliamentarian and observed in 1899 that he was 'more confident than ever that I should be satisfied with my career if I was in the House of Commons, but how to get there is the difficulty'. Keane regularly attended parliamentary debates at Westminster and in the mid 1890s believed that a unionist policy was the 'only sound one' as Ireland remained dominated by the politics of the monolithic Home Rule movement, in the decade after the fall of Parnell. However, Keane would later move away from Unionism and became a supporter of Home Rule. He was first elected to Waterford County Council in 1911 and soon became allied to William O'Brien's splinter group, the Munster based All for Ireland League. In 1912 he was appointed High Sheriff of county Waterford and he also served as a guardian of the Lismore Poor Law Union.

Sir. John returned from active service in the Great War to find Ireland at war. In his diaries, Keane recorded details of the destruction that accompanied the War of Independence, and the Civil War that marked the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922. By this time Sir. John was already prominent within the Co-operative movement and he was President of the county Waterford Irish Farmers Union branch. The constitution of the new state provided for the nomination, by the President of the Executive Council, of thirty senators to sit in an upper house of sixty. Of those nominated in December 1922, twenty were members of the Church of Ireland and a number were landowners and former southern unionists. It was Cosgrave's intention to give representation to a segment of the population unlikely to secure election to either the Dáil or Senate. Sir. John accepted Cosgrave's nomination and served with distinction, contributing to a wide variety of topics, until 1934. His contribution to national politics was appreciated by both the pro- and anti-treaty traditions. In 1938, 1943 and 1944 he was nominated to serve in de Valera's reconstituted Senate which reserved just eleven seats for the Taoiseach's nominees. In total, Sir. John Keane served as a Senator for twenty-two years. He would also serve with distinction as a Counsellor of State.

Sir. John Keane died on 30 January 1956. A memorial plaque in Cappoquin parish church reads: 'With no thought for himself he served his country through war and peace'. Sir. John Keane's diaries and correspondence, offer the historian a unique insight into two of the early twentieth-century's formative events, the Boer War and the Great War. His papers also reveal new perspectives on the transformative events that shaped modern Ireland.

Further Reading:

- Dooley, Terence, *The decline of the big house in Ireland: a study of Irish landed families, 1860-1960* (Dublin, 2001).
- Farrell, Mel, Knirck, Jason and Meehan, Ciara (eds), *A Formative Decade: Ireland and the 1920s* (Forthcoming, Dublin, 2015).
- Ferriter, Diarmaid, *The transformation of Ireland: 1900-2000* (London, 2004).
- Fitzpatrick, David, *Politics and Irish life, 1913-1921: provincial experience of war and revolution* (Cork, 1977).
- Harkness, D.W., *The restless Dominion: the Irish Free State and the British Commonwealth of nations, 1921-31* (London, 1969).
- Hopkinson, Michael, *Green against green: the Irish Civil War* (Dublin, 2004).
- Keogh, Dermot, *Twentieth century Ireland: revolution and state building* (Dublin, 2005).
- Laffan, Michael, *Judging W.T. Cosgrave: the foundation of the Irish state* (Dublin, 2014).
- Lyons, F.S.L., *Ireland since the famine* (London, 1971).
- Regan, John M., *The Irish Counter Revolution, 1921-1936: Treatyite politics and settlement in independent Ireland* (Dublin, 2001).
- Symes, J.R.M., 'Sir John Keane (1873-1956), and the rebuilding of Cappoquin House, 1923-1930' (M.A. thesis, NUI Maynooth, 2013).

Detailed Box List and description of the Sir. John Keane

Papers

Box 1	<p>This box contains Sir John Keane's letters to his wife while he was on active service in the Great War. These letters date from 1914-16</p> <p>Folder One contains Sir John Keane's Great War correspondence with his wife. Includes correspondence from Belgium (28 Oct. 1914, and early November 1914), through to January 1915. On 4 November he wrote that he hoped 'the people at home realise the fine work of our men in the trenches and give them full credit' and that 'casualties are heavy and the nerve strain incessant'. In the same letter he makes many observations on modern warfare, noting how far things had changed since the time of Napoleon, when the 'day of battle' was the soldier's holiday. 'It is [now] all battle and comparatively little marching'. On 6 November he wrote that 'we are in position today but it is so foggy that the artillery cannot see their targets'. Includes six field service postcards from January 1915-May 1915. Correspondence from May 1915 contains advice with regard to super-tax. Includes details of a letter to the <i>Dungarvan Observer</i> on the importance of recruiting and Ireland's duty in the war (11 December 1914).</p> <p>Folder Two contains correspondence from February and March 1915. Refers to heavy bombardments, (15 March), complaints from local farmers at the way troops damage their crops (16 March), and trouble with the farm hands at Cappoquin (20 March). Keane tried to offer his wife guidance on how to deal with the issues raised by workers at Cappoquin. On 6 March Keane wrote that 'shelling of the village has been more persistent the last few days' and also made reference to an article he had</p>
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published in *Irish Homestead*. The correspondence also refers to weather conditions, Keane's observations on farming practices in both Belgium and France, and other aspects of the war. On 16 March, Keane wrote that 'the poor farmers are complaining bitterly at the way we damage their crops. There have been orders on the subject but the troops are so thoughtless that they still ride over newly sown fields at will'. He noted that horses poached pasture and that he felt 'very sorry indeed for these poor people'.

Folder Three includes war correspondence from January 1915. Refers to the bitter cold (17 January), sleet (18 January), details about farm buildings that he has noticed while on active service (24 January). He mentions that he was unimpressed with the cook, and the standards kept in the kitchen (31 January). In these letters, Keane shows a concern for life back home at Cappoquin, both estate and farm. On 4 February Sir. John asks his wife 'how are the apples keeping'. Keane also mentions his delight at receiving a letter from his daughter Adelaide (5 February), and to having slept well (7 February). Also refers to shelling the German lines (9 February) and the progress of the war.

Folder Four contains almost daily Great War correspondence from the spring of 1915 and mentioning his service in Ypres (6 April). Complains that he is 'out of writing paper again' (2 April), Keane's attendance at an early morning service (4 April). Keane refers to being ill during mid April in these letters. The weather was still cold (13 April). That they 'expected an attack last night but nothing happened' (16 April). Had been up all night during an assault and would get 'a little sleep' after writing (18 April).

Folder Five contains correspondence from the autumn of 1915. Some of this refers to the Keane children (7 October), Keane's thoughts on a rumour that the French had broken through German lines (28 September) and referring to Belgian customs when a death has occurred (30

	<p>September). Also contains correspondence referring to Keane's lecture of 14 October 1914 and to parcels received by him (5 November). He also noted that 'after the war I am going much more closely into the practical work' and wished to learn more by spending time on a 'general farm working with the men'.</p> <p>Folder Six contains correspondence November 1915 to January 1916. Occasional advice on affairs at Cappoquin: 'what bad luck with the red cow. I hope she will recover. Is she giving any milk?' (19 November). Includes references to the children and Keane's regret that he does not get to write to them as much as he would like: 'Adela is improving very much with her writing' (22 November). London in December 1915.</p> <p>Folder Seven contains further Great War correspondence, January 1916- Relates to advice on finding a secretary and the skills that would be needed (4 January 1916), effort to catch up with correspondence that had accumulated while he was in London.</p>
Box 2	<p>This box contains Sir. John Keane's correspondence with his wife while he was on active service during the Great War (1916-)</p> <p>Folder One contains correspondence from January 1916 to April. Refers to a night that he stayed in London in late March and going to a play with the Radcliffe family (1 April). Also refers to a lecture to be delivered to senior officers on trench warfare (14 March). Keane makes reference to the adverse affect on his health of a change in the weather (6 February). Also notes different aspects of modern warfare and Keane's belief that discipline was more difficult to instil than ever before.</p> <p>Folder Two refers to army business 'conferences' being 'the order of the day' 'and they save a lot of writing'. Another letter on 12 April refers to his father-in-law's ill-health, which was also mentioned again in May. Refers to progress in the war, On 3 April Keane notes that some four officers and eighty prisoners were taken on the previous night but that</p>

	<p>such operations are costly for both sides. The wet weather is both depressing and makes work difficult (22 April), and also referring to the Easter Rising in Dublin ‘I imagine the rebels were full of drink’ (30 April), and hoping that the Kildare Street Club had not been destroyed during the fighting.</p> <p>Folder Three contains correspondence between Sir John Keane and his wife, June through August 1916. Referring to his mother-in-law’s ill health (11 July) and also to that of the children. Includes letters referring to the heat (12 August). On 22 August Keane wrote that he should write to the children ‘more regularly as I think it ought to do them good’. Keane also refers to his study of peasant proprietorship and the implications for Ireland. These letters also contain speculation about a possible fourth recruiting campaign in Ireland.</p> <p>Folder Four contains correspondence from September 1916. On 26 September Keane refers to photographs of his children that had been sent by his wife. These indicate that the children had changed physically since he last saw them and he refers to his daughter having grown.</p> <p>Folder Five contains correspondence from late 1916. On 1 November Keane mentions an unpleasant encounter that had angered him while this group of letters also includes details of an entertainment show for troops that took place in November.</p>
<p>Box 3</p>	<p>This box contains further Great War correspondence between Sir. John and Lady Keane, 1917-18.</p> <p>Folder One contains January to June 1917 correspondence. Keane refers to the political situation in Ireland and on 24 February remarks that he thought ‘Edward Carson’s speech quite good’. He described the Unionist as fearless, ‘unusual for a politician now a days’. Letters on 28 February and 16 March refer to the children while Keane was based at the Trench Mortar School. On St. Patrick’s day 1917 he notes that the day passed off</p>

	<p>quietly with much dancing and little drunkenness. The folder includes a series of June 1917 letters from the Pall Mall Army & Navy Club.</p> <p>Folder Two contains correspondence from Spring through to autumn 1917. Some of these are written in London, others from Norfolk. On 23 July he wrote that he was to return to France for a week on 26 July and that it would be not much use writing during that time. On 29 August Keane predicts reorganisation but hopes that he will remain in London long enough to intersect with a visit his wife intends to make. Includes two letters from Sir. John's son Richard, 22 September and 29 September. Further letters in this folder reveal that Sir. John took an active interest in the progress of his children at school while he was on active service.</p> <p>Folder Three contains correspondence from October 1917 through to May 1918. Sir John was busy at this time and on 29 September apologises for not writing on the previous day due to his role at a special conference. In the same letter Keane makes references to difficulties that have been encountered on the farm back in Cappoquin. On 28 May 1918 he again refers to how busy he has been and that he had spent time in Birmingham on the previous day.</p> <p>Folder Four contains correspondence from June 1918 -. In the closing stages of the war Keane was busy and on 4 July 1918 wrote that he did not feel 'up to writing much today having had a strenuous morning [and] being somewhat exhausted'. In the same letter, he refers to an expensive trip to the dentist. He also refers to missing the children (15 February 1918),</p>
Box 4	<p>Sir John Keane's Great War correspondence with his wife Lady Eleanor.</p> <p>Folder One contains letters from John Keane to his wife, January to July 1918. Includes a letter of 3 May 1918 from the Tank Corps Headquarters in France. Refers to the glorious weather. In this letter Keane makes</p>

	<p>reference to Richard's return to school and how he misses his family. On 14 May Keane refers to the 'shocking state' of his teeth and the visit he made to a dentist on the previous day. 1 July 1918 Keane refers to difficulties experienced during a technical reorganisation. References to government policy in Ireland (27 February 1918), and problems with mail (14 April 1918).</p> <p>Folder Two contains correspondence, March 1918- December 1918. On 11 March. Sir. John refers to his son Richard's school report, remarking that he has encouraged him not to be discouraged. Also refers to the conscription crisis, believing the government should introduce martial law at the first hint of disturbance 18 April 1918. Refers to 'great speculation' as to how long more the war would last (29 September 1918) and on 13 October 'we may have an armistice before Xmass'. On 9 November Keane notes the affect the approaching Armistice is having on everybody.</p> <p>Folder Three contains letters from the final period of the war and various meetings that took place in the closing months.</p> <p>Folder Four contains post-war correspondence with Lady Eleanor, January 1919-. Attends a concert in the Royal Albert Hall (6 January 1919). Many letters deal with the political climate in Ireland with reference to the land question also (20 February 1919). On 19 January Keane wrote that 'Everybody is very anxious about the future outlook and nobody seems to have any policy. The next year is going to be a most anxious one'. Again refers to Richard's education and doubts about modern methods (2 January 1919). On 13 March, Keane note that his service is soon coming to an end and that his papers were to come through later that day. On 15 March Keane wrote 'I am looking forward with great joy to joining my family on Tuesday. I feel I do not really know any of them now'.</p>
Box 5	<p>This box contains material related to the Boer War and also correspondence between Sir. John Keane and his mother, Adelaide Sidney.</p>

Folder One contains correspondence from 1899 to 1902. References Christmas 1899 not being ‘a very festive Xmass’, accounts of action that were published in the papers and the progress of the war.

Folder Two contains further Boer War correspondence between Sir. John Keane and his mother. Letters refer to Boer advances, the occasional reference to the mundane nature of some periods of the war ‘Another week has passed without any special event’ (28 December 1899). More often the letters refer to the harshness of war and Keane’s concern about the progress made by the Boers. On 8 December 1899 he noted that the Boers were ‘attacking the rear’ and that he was unsure whether his letters would even reach home: ‘I suppose you will get it some day, unless the Boers get hold of it’. In the same letter he remarked that there had been heavy losses because the Boers take up good positions. In Keane’s view, the British papers were putting ‘the best complexion on things’ and he asked his mother to make his friends and relatives aware of the difficulties he faced corresponding as often as he would like (2 December 1900). On 23 April 1900 he refers to the proximity of the Boers to his position.

Folder Three contains further Boer War correspondence between Sir. John Keane and his mother. Letters explain gaps in correspondence (10 February 1902), Keane’s growing dislike of anniversaries as they remind him of ‘neglected opportunities’ (2 June 1901), and his unease with the progress of the war.

Folder Four contains letters written to Sir. John by his mother. These refer to her delight at receiving letters from her son, reports that she has read in the newspapers about the progress of the war and reference is also made to Lord Cadogan.

Folder Five contains further letters from Sir. John’s mother. References her concern for Sir. John, her delight when the tone of his letters became more cheerful (16 May 1901) and also referring to his aunt Edith (whom

	he was also in regular correspondence with).
Box 6	<p>Material related to the Cappelquin House reconstruction after the fire of 19 February 1923.</p> <p>Folder One contains correspondence related to reconstruction of Cappelquin House, August 1924- May 1927. References to plans and materials. Correspondence in August and September with the architect Richard Orpen and engineers Delap and Waller. October 1925 correspondence that relates to electrical work at Cappelquin House.</p> <p>Folder Two contains material of a similar nature, related to the reconstruction work at Cappelquin House, September 1927- March 1930. Relates to electrical work, lighting and supplies.</p> <p>Folder Three related to skirting, plaster in the drawing room, sketches, ornaments, glazing panels and sourcing building materials January 1927- July.</p> <p>Folder Four, January 1925- Dec 1928 correspondence that is again concerned with the reconstruction work at Cappelquin House.</p> <p>Folder Five, correspondence relating to handles for sliding doors, plans for the library and correspondence with Orpen. Also contains a document dated 2 August 1928 that sets out remaining works to be completed at the house. Correspondence relating to sealing roofs, corrosion and pumps.</p> <p>Folder Six, some items in this folder need to be handled with care. Related to the works on the porch and electricity installation.</p>
Box 7	<p>This box contains material related to the rebuilding of Cappelquin House. The material <u>should be handled with the utmost care.</u></p>

Folder One contains correspondence with architects and suppliers in 1930. Refers to joinery work (21 October 1930), Mahogany Panels (9 October 1930), stone jams under the Portico (23 August 1930), and also work on the library at Cappoquin House (various dates). A letter on 9 May 1930 refers specifically to the plaster cornice and frieze for the library.

Handle with care, some of this material is delicate.

Folder Two contains more material related to the rebuilding of Cappoquin House, 1930.

Folder Three contains material relating to the rebuilding of Cappoquin House. Includes letters from November 1925 that refer to glass cut to a special specification by Pilkington Brothers Limited and the cantilever bracket supporting the staircase at Cappoquin House. Also contains correspondence from the same month dealing with plumbing (W. Barr). Also contains correspondence relating to orders placed for numerous materials. Letter on 20 October 1925 to J. Williams, Board of Works with Keane intending to outline why he needs to obtain more compensation for the House. Correspondence with the British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Co. Ltd in September and October 1925. Letter from a Michael Willoughby of Youghal offering plastering services (8 September 1925).

Folder Four contains correspondence related to the rebuild at Cappoquin House, 1924-25. Includes letters exchanged with the engineers with regard to water tanks required for the roof. Also contains a beautifully illustrated document from Grave's Patent Roofing dated, 4 June 1925. Also contains material related to the mantle-pieces. A letter from the engineers on 29 January refers to waterproof concrete in response to a query from Keane about the use of lime plaster as part of the reconstruction.

Folder Five contains the 51 page 'Detailed Claim' prepared by the Architect R. Caulfield and Quantity Surveyor J. Graves as part of Keane's

	<p>claim for reinstatement of damage caused by the fire. The document is dated March 1924.</p> <p>Folder Six contains early correspondence relating to the House after the burning in February 1923. Includes an undated list of materials. Also later material (March 1936 to January 1938), relating to scrap copper and Keane's efforts to sell wire that he no longer needed. Among the other items that he tried to offload were generators and a switchboard. These items may have come from the saw mills.</p> <p>Folder Seven contains various correspondence concerning materials such as plywood and red oxide iron, primer etc. January-November 1927. Contains letters noting the difficulty of sourcing some of the materials requested and also problems associated with the quantity/scale required. [Circa 350 items].</p>
<p>Box 8</p>	<p>This box contains material related to the burning and rebuilding of Cappoquin House 1923-1928. <u>Note, handle with care, the conservation status of some of this material is fragile.</u></p> <p>Folder One contains correspondence with Fredk. Dye of London related to plumbing associated with the rebuilding of Cappoquin House (dated 29 Oct. 1925), and with Delap and Waller of Dublin (July 1924). Also contains correspondence related to various works from the 1930s.</p> <p>Folder Two, June 1934 correspondence with McCreath, Taylor & Co, Eden Quay Dublin. May 1934 correspondence with the County Surveyor. Also contains correspondence related to the repair of locks, book case grilles, marble etc.</p> <p>Folder Three contains material related to compensation and rebuilding. Correspondence with government departments including Finance and Industry & Commerce. Correspondence with the Department of Finance, including a letter from Finance, dated 9 May 1933, that relates to payment</p>

of compensation and which also refers to Keane's earlier communication with officials. Some of this material is heavily annotated. Includes correspondence with the Revenue Commissioners with confirmation from Revenue that marble imported as part of the works will be free of duties. Also contains a response by the Walpamur Co. Ltd to a complaint by Keane about a delay in receiving goods from the company.

Folder Four correspondence with various suppliers and the placement of orders for different materials needed (paint remover, iron, metal), as part of the rebuild. Contains correspondence with the Walpamur Co. Ltd. about chimney.

Folder Five contains correspondence with Brooks-Thomas builder suppliers from April 1932. Includes illustrations of a lever flush bolt for book-case doors. Contains January 1932 correspondence with Bratt Colbran & Co. Of London, fireplace specialists. And with H.G. Whalley of Waterford, a painter, glazier and decorator. Also Feb. 1934 correspondence relating to supplies from Wardell & Co. London, Machinery Merchants and Railway part contractors.

Folder Six contains material of a similar nature to the above. Lengthy correspondence with Maguire & Gatchell, engineers and merchants, in relation to locks. Also relates to sash window fasteners and locks for sliding doors. Contains estimates from James Gibson & Son for decorative works to be carried out at Cappoquin House. Also contained in this folder is an extract from a *Times* article from 13 April 1931 on Britain's unfolding economic crisis.

Folder Seven. Mostly contains correspondence of a routine nature from the early 1930s (1930-32) concerning the rebuilding works at Cappoquin House. Includes correspondence with Elvery's, weatherproof specialists. Includes a 4 December 1930, and a revision from 18 December, drawing of the proposed library chimney piece and estimates for same.

	[Circa 450-500 items are contained within this box in total]
Box 9	<p>This box contains miscellaneous material related to work carried out at Cappoquin House.</p> <p>Folder One contains material related to the reconstruction that took place at Cappoquin House after the fire of February 1923. Includes correspondence with George Jennings, Sanitary Engineering Specialists (20, 23 April 1926), a price list for under-g geared mill and correspondence with Brooks, Thomas & Co., builders' providers (20 August 1926). Also contains correspondence with other suppliers such as Cement Manufacturers, Delap & Walker civil engineers, and engineers Aldous and Campbell ltd. Includes estimates for various works. Dates, 1925-27.</p> <p>Folder Two includes various items relating to the reconstruction of Cappoquin House. Most of the material dates to Spring/Summer 1929 and includes quotations for building materials and correspondence with architects G. Jackson & Sons in May 1929. Includes May 1929 correspondence with the Imperial Chemical Industries Limited and, in the same month, letters from F.W. Smith, the Great Northern Marble Works who were based in London. Also includes correspondence with Jenson & Nicholson Ltd, London (3 July 1929).</p> <p>Folder Three contains correspondence with various suppliers connected to the reconstruction works at Cappoquin House. Includes letters relating to unsatisfactory supply of Cuba Mahogany and Mallinson & Sons offer of a credit note (12 March & 25 April 1929) and a letter from Bratt Colbran & Co, fireplace specialists (26 March 1929). Includes a Department of Finance letter dated 22 February 1929 related to payment of compensation to Keane. Includes two drawings <u>(handle with care)</u>.</p> <p>Folder Four contains miscellaneous correspondence related to the rebuilding of Cappoquin House. Includes correspondence requesting remaining compensation having received £8,502 and having paid over</p>

	<p>£9,000 to-date (25 January 1929). Also includes estimates from various firms and a tender from Aldous & Campbell. <u>Folder contains a lot of loose material, handle with care.</u></p> <p>Folder Five contains material related to the removal of furniture from Cappoquin House prior to the Civil War of 1922-23. Includes estimates from companies such as Jolly & Son of Bath, and Cork based furniture remover Nat Ross. Also contains correspondence with Pickfords, a Dublin based insurance and forwarding agent. Includes a detailed list of books contained within the Cappoquin House library dated September 1922.</p> <p>Folder Six contains material related to the effort to estimate the cost of furniture damage caused by the fire at Cappoquin House in February 1923. Includes detailed list specifying what items have been destroyed or damaged as a result of the fire. Correspondence with valuer John D Palmer (30 May, 2 June 1923).</p>
Box 10	<p>Various correspondence of Sir. John Keane, 1900-1946. Much of this material relates to Keane's lifelong interests in best accounting practices and the most up-to-date developments in agriculture.</p> <p>Folder One contains correspondence from the mid 1920s with various editors and accountants, 1923-25. The folder includes correspondence with the <i>Morning Post</i> about the proposal to abolish the Corps of Military accountants and revert to pre-war accounting methods. The decision to revert to the pre-war system of military accounting was one that alarmed Keane and he would remain an advocate of the most up-to-date accounting practices throughout his life. This folder also contains miscellaneous farm-related correspondence.</p> <p>Folder Two contains preliminary report on army costing systems compiled by M. Webster Jenkinson in April 1922. Includes correspondence related to same. Includes documents related to farm account, agricultural wages and farm costs.</p>

	<p>Folder Three contains further correspondence relating to military accounting and also reference to the difficulties in Ireland during 1922 with the postal strike and the disruption to transport (Keane to the secretary of the institute of cost and works accountants, 4 October 1922). Also contains further correspondence with accountants and editors, 1921-22. Also contains a newspaper clipping from <i>John Bull</i>.</p> <p>Folder Four contains correspondence related to agricultural organisation. Letter dated 23 March 1896 broaches the possibility of establishing a Creamery at Cappoquin. Correspondence also with the agent, Mr. Marmion and references to Horace Plunkett. Also contains a copy of the 1914 Rules of the Blackwater Valley Co-op.</p> <p>Folder Five contains copies of a working plan for the Cappoquin estate farm prepared by T. Wibberley, of the Irish agricultural organisation society, in conjunction with Sir. John Keane. The document discusses soil quality, accessible markets, and advice on the management of the farm including the type of crops grown.</p> <p>Folder Six contains Keane's correspondence with Land Agent Thomas Marmion in the 1890s. At the time of this correspondence, Marmion and Keane's mother took care of affairs at Cappoquin and Keane was sometimes frustrated at the failure of the agent to adapt to new methods. The folder also contains material related to farm accounts</p>
Box 11	<p>This box contains material that dates from 1906 to 1932. It mostly comprises: Keane family correspondence, estate correspondence, some letters from the front, 1914-18 and material related to the death of Charles McCarthy Wisconsin. Also contains material related to Keane's career as a Senator after 1922, including some correspondence with W.B. Yeats.</p> <p>Folder One correspondence with staff from 1931 & 1932 relating to wage reductions resulting from higher taxes and a deteriorating economy. In</p>

July 1932, Keane felt 'compelled owing to reduced income and higher taxation to reduce the wages of ordinary hands from 30/ to 25/ per week'. These changes came into effect on 1 August. Owing to the 'bad times and heavy fall in prices' he had already cut all wages by 2/6d the previous June. This folder also contains material related to the death of Dr. Charles McCarthy of Wisconsin. McCarthy had Irish parents and had completed his PhD at Wisconsin. The folder also includes a bibliography on the cost of agricultural production that was compiled by Anne Martin Robertson of University of Wisconsin.

Folder Two This folder contains more material related to the passing of Charles McCarthy. Articles (including the *Wisconsin State Journal*), newspaper cuttings and correspondence. Includes some of Keane's correspondence with McCarthy before his death.

Folder Three contains Sir John Keane's correspondence with members of the Hicks Beach family from December 1906 to December 1914. These contain commentary on political developments, including Home Rule.

Folder Four contains more correspondence with various members of the Hicks-Beach family. This correspondence dates from Jan. 1915 to May 1917. Much of this material is, therefore, from the front during Keane's Great War service and refers to the progress of the war.

Folder Five contains some correspondence (four letters) between Keane and W. B. Yeats at the time when they were both members of the Free State Senate. In the correspondence, Yeats refers to legislation in both Ireland and the USA. Reference is also made to the Blueshirts and the Public Safety legislation. The original file also contains correspondence with A. E. From 1914-1917 (includes undated material), much of this material concerns *Irish Homestead*.

Folder Six contains letters related to pre-war construction work at

	<p>Cappoquin House. The material relates to decorative plastering, architectural drawings and the replacement of a Regency Veranda. Correspondence between Keane and Orpen & Dickinson, architects, is contained within this folder. It also contains correspondence with the plastering firms Creedon of Dublin and Jackson of London, March 1913-May 1914. Both firms were asked for quotes but Creedon of Dublin eventually won the contract.</p> <p>Folder Seven contains circa 36 items relating to a loan of \$6,500, given by Keane, to his cousin Frederick H. Keane of Penticton. The loan is given on security of an orchard of ten acres recently purchased by Frederick Keane in 1921.</p> <p>[Circa 350-400 items]</p>
<p>Box 12</p>	<p>This box contains material related to the Cappoquin estate, 1919-24. The material concerns leases, rents, legal correspondence, references to maps and the consideration given to arbitration with regard to disputed agricultural rents. Also numerous references to the tense political climate of the time. Some of the material related to the estate refers to individual tenants by name.</p> <p>Folder One containing items relating to agricultural rents in February 1922 and Keane's agreement with the priest and Mr. Dee to consider a proposal from the tenants which would 'presumably mean an offer at a reduced figure' (15 February 1922). The possibility of the Provisional Government stepping in to arbitrate is also mentioned. This folder also includes correspondence referring to Keane's intention to sell a number of houses which become vacant (14 April 1922). Some of the material is related to the theft of thirteen bullocks from Keane's estate on 12 June 1922 including Keane's correspondence with his solicitors (16-17 June), and the Ministry of Home Affairs (19 June). Reference also to other aspects of estate management and the strikes of June 1922 'the whole place is surrounded by pickets'.</p>

	<p>Folder Two contains material dating between Oct.1922 and April 1923. Some of the material relates to a tenant vacating a holding and the Civic Guard commandeering the house.</p> <p>Folder Three contains correspondence from June 1923, while Keane was staying at the Kildare Street Club and some of this relates to the 1923 Land Act and its provisions. There are also letters relating to agricultural rents.</p> <p>Folder Four contains material that concerns leases from 1919. It also encompasses estate correspondence between Keane and his solicitors from 1921. This material refers to valuations and improvements and the holdings of named individuals (Michael Murray, 27 May 1921).</p> <p>Folder Five contains further estate correspondence from 1919-20. Includes details of disputes with the tenants over turf-cutting.</p> <p>Folder Six contains estate correspondence relating to Keane's claim for compensation for the fire at Cappoquin House. It also contains material relating to his attempts to turn the estate into a company. February 1923-December 1924. [Circa 350 items]</p>
Box 13	<p>This box contains correspondence between Sir. John Keane and his mother, 1893-1903. During this time Keane had stays in such places as Coventry, Gibraltar and finally South Africa during the Boer War.</p> <p>Folder One contains correspondence between Sir. John Keane and his mother. The letters are of a routine nature,1902-1904. From locations such as Switzerland, Stratford-on-Avon, County Louth and Cappoquin.</p> <p>Folder Two contains letters to Sir. John Keane from his mother, 1894-96. Refers to events at Cappoquin, mostly of a routine nature. The weather is</p>

sometimes a topic covered, gales and snow (7 January 1894) and apologies that letters will not arrive on Christmas day (23 December 1894).

Folder Three contains correspondence between Sir. John Keane and his mother, 1896-1898. Mostly of a routine nature, enclosing a cheque (12 July 1896), organising shooting parties (3 August 1896), and dances (20 August 1896). At this time Keane was in Coventry and makes reference to trips to Birmingham (7 May 1896) and attending an Irish Unionist Alliance meeting and investments (15 and 16 May, 10 June 1896).

Folder Four contains further letters written by John Keane to his mother. He notes the number of invitations one gets to shooting parties while in England 'if time allowed one has several opportunities of becoming a good shot' (1 October 1896). He also writes about dances he has attended and women he has danced with. Also makes reference to parcels that his mother has sent him and material that he intends to send to Cappoquin.

Folder Five contains further letters from Sir John Keane to his mother. Some letters show the young Keane's efforts to make some money. Much of the correspondence from 1899 refers to life at the Vice Regal Lodge in Dublin. He also notes various transactions, such as the sale of a horse that he had loved in April 1899.

Box 14

This box contains further Keane family correspondence

Folder One contains miscellaneous correspondence between John Keane and his mother, 1895-1898. Includes a reference to good Egyptian cigarettes (3 September 1896), and also to his bad luck with horses (5 September 1896).

Folder Two contains letters from Sir. John Keane to his mother. These letters were written during 1893 while Sir. John was in Gibraltar. In these letters, Keane writes about his time in Gibraltar and informs his mother of the options that he has to take leave (22 December 1893), and his climb to the top of the rock (25 December 1893). He found the climate there, 'very nice and warm which is a great improvement on England'. He notes that it will come as a surprise to his aunt Annie that he is in Gibraltar and writes that he had to bring Catholics to Church and 'sat in the gallery' while they observed Mass below (Christmas Day, 1893). In the same letter he was critical of the training received by recruits at the depot before coming out with him from Dover. Looking ahead to 1894, he believes that 'something will have to be decided about Home Rule during 1894' (31 December 1893). Various letters document Keane's efforts to buy a pony as everybody 'has one here', and once bought, the progress made by the animal (14 May 1894). Also refers to attending his first Bull fight and his mixed feelings on the practice (5 June).

Folder Three contains further correspondence between John Keane and his mother. These letters date from September 1895 while Keane was based at Aldershot. Informed his mother of a woman that he had become acquainted with. She was 'very good looking...and well informed' (22 September 1895). Several letters refer to the poor health of his horse. He also refers to his arrival in Coventry in December 1895. Many letters in December refer to Keane's hunting exploits, and an injury that he sustained after a fall while shooting (17 December 1895).

	<p>Folder Four contains miscellaneous Keane family letters, the majority of them written to John Keane, 1899-1904. Includes references to John Keane's apparent admiration for Joseph Chamberlin, and also to the progress of the Boer War.</p> <p>Folder Five contains further Keane family correspondence with John Keane. Includes letters from his brother and aunts. Correspondence refers to the Boer War. Francis Keane makes reference to a lecture delivered by Winston Churchill (16 November 1900).</p>
<p>Box 15</p>	<p>This box contains further Keane family correspondence.</p> <p>Folder One contains correspondence related to news of Sir. John Keane's engagement to Lady Eleanor Lucy and their subsequent wedding ceremony, at the Church of St. Margaret in Westminster, on 14 February 1907. Includes various letters of congratulations and good wishes after news of the engagement appeared in <i>The Times</i> (1906-07). Includes a letter from James Stafford in which Stafford expresses hope that Keane will be settling in Ireland given that 'we so need new blood'. [circa 50 items].</p> <p>Folder Two contains various correspondence to Sir. John Keane, 1904-07. Some of the material relates to the death of Keane's mother and includes a resolution of sympathy passed by the Cappoquin rowing club (12 February 1907). Includes various letters of sympathy to Keane and his new wife.</p> <p>Folder Three contains correspondence to Sir John Keane, mainly from his</p>

future wife Eleanor Hicks-Beach. *Note: Much of the handwriting is very difficult to decipher*. Includes a letter from his future wife, Eleanor Hicks-Beach, regretting that she did not 'succeed in seeing you again, except for that brief second' (17 July 1904). In a letter dated 24 December [1904?] Eleanor refers to her father's recent acceptance of a Peerage and the voice it will give him in politics. In another letter, Eleanor invites Sir. John to dinner (30 June 1906). This folder also contains letters from October 1906 and an apparent rejection by Lady Eleanor of Sir. John's first proposal of marriage.

Folder Four contains letters from Eleanor Hicks-Beach to Sir. John, 1906-07. Contains January 1907 correspondence detailing their busy lives in the weeks leading up to the wedding. The folder also contains correspondence from the months that followed the couple's marriage.

Folder Five contains correspondence with Keane's aunt Edith, 1899-1902. Much of this material relates to the Boer War and Keane's thoughts on strategy, progress and prospects for success. Keane frequently apologises for the delays in responding to his aunt's letters and the apparent guilt this induces (eg. 18 December 1900). He was not sure quite how the Boers could be defeated given their tactics and often struck a pessimistic tone in these letters. Includes correspondence documenting changes in some of the investments in securities for which Keane was a trustee (3 December 1900).

<p>Box 16</p>	<p>This box contains various documents and letters related to Sir. John Keane and his wife Lady Eleanor. The box contains material related to Sir. John's time in Ceylon.</p> <p>Folder One contains the 'Canadian Diary', 11 April to 31 July 1919. Refers to various meetings such as that with the Minister for Agriculture (28 April 1919), and also makes reference to Canadian political controversies of the day. Seventy pages.</p> <p>Folder Two contains miscellaneous correspondence and documents related to the 'Poor Clergy Relief Corporation' in the 1930s, November 1934-1935. This folder includes an undated list of seventy-five heirlooms left by Miss Keane of Glenshelaun.</p> <p>Folder Three contains material related to the decorating of Cappoquin House in 1911-13. Includes estimates and inquiries as to supplies and acetylene gas and lighting. Also correspondence with Henry Tovey & Son, Ironmongers, relating to Keane's suspicions that pipes at Cappoquin House are leaking. <u>Contains a number of fragile carbon copies.</u></p> <p>Folder Four contains material related to work carried out at Cappoquin House. Refers to plastering and plans for the drawing room. Includes designs for new curtains.</p> <p>Folder Five contains Sir. John Keane's 'Letters from Ceylon'. Contains a beautiful, type-written, thirty-five page account of Keane's stay in Ceylon, December 1903-February 1904. Included within it are twenty, loose items in their original place.</p>
<p>Box 17</p>	<p>Contains Keane scrapbooks and a collection of journal and newspaper articles written by Sir. John Keane. Five bound items and two folders.</p> <p>Folder One contains various articles written by Keane on the Irish Free State. It includes an account of the [1938?] general election campaign, two</p>

	<p>pieces on the [1933?] election and the text of a BBC broadcast delivered in August 1934. The folder also includes material that relates to Canada. The pieces on Irish politics reflect the fact that Keane was a shrewd observer of politics</p> <p>Folder Two includes the annotated text of an address to the Church Congress. The topic of the address was Tolerance and it was delivered on 13 October 1932. The folder also includes a paper on National Accounts: Waste in War and various other documents relating to proper accounting procedures.</p> <p>Articles by Sir. John Keane: a bound collection of thirteen articles published by Sir. John Keane in various journals. The articles cover a variety of topics, including the politics of the Irish Free State and its constitutional relationship with the Commonwealth. The articles appear in such journals as <i>Journal of the Board of Agriculture, The Edinburgh Review</i> and <i>Royal Institute of International Affairs</i>.</p> <p>The box also contains two bound scrapbooks that contain numerous articles, speeches, and photographs. There are also two notebooks.</p>
<p>Box 18</p>	<p>The diaries of Sir. John Keane. This box contains the diaries of Sir. John Keane from 1895 to 1914. It also includes one miscellaneous item dating to 1850.</p> <p>Item 1 dates to April 1850 and possible belonged to Sir. John Keane's father.</p> <p>Item 2 is a red coloured diary from 1895. The diary commences on 1 January 1895 and continues to the 31 December. The diary provides an almost daily account of Keane's life in 1895. There are occasional references to politics in this diary.</p> <p>Item 3 is a black coloured diary from 1895. It commences on 1 January</p>

1896 and continues forward to 6 March 1897.

Item 4 commences on 8 March 1897 and continues to 28 November 1898. An inscription on the first page notes that the diary was not intended for 'general perusal' and that 'if in the following pages I may have said any unkind words about any person, pray may I be excused as such was not my intention [signed] J.K, 25. 3. 97'. The diary records his efforts to modernise the Cappoquin estate and also the active social life that he lived as a young man.

Item 5 commences on 29 November 1898 and ends on 22 September 1899. The diary records his first meetings with Lady Eleanor Hicks-Beach in May 1899 and hints that he harboured political ambitions (20 April 1899), Keane noting that he would like to sit in the House of Commons but knew that 'how to get there is the difficulty'. These entries include snapshots of Keane's thoughts on military life 'a regular mess life would kill me in a very short time' (23 June 1899).

Item 6 is a continuation of Sir. John Keane's 1899 diary, commencing on 23 September 1899 and continuing to 15 January 1901. This diary was pierced through with a Boer bullet on 21 June 1900. Keane wrote that the diary had been 'lying just where I had a few moments previously been seated'. There are a number of loose pages within this diary, handle with care.

Item 7 is Sir. John Keane's diary, 16 January 1901-14 January 1902.

Item 8 commences on 15 January 1902 and finishes on 9 October 1902.

Item 9 'Diary of journey from London to Hong Kong via Siberia', 10 October to 19 October [1902].

Item 10 'Diary of journey from London to Hong Kong (continued), 20

	<p>October 1902 to 4 April 1903.</p> <p>Item 11 Diary of Sir. John Keane, 5 April 1903 – 22 April 1904.</p> <p>Item 12 Diary of Sir. John Keane, 23 April 1904 – 25 July 1905.</p>
<p>Box 19</p>	<p>Item 1 Diary of Sir. John Keane, 2 August 1905 – 25 October 1907.</p> <p>Item 2 Diary of Sir. John Keane, 27 October 1907 – 12 June 1909.</p> <p>Item 3 Diary of Sir. John Keane, 13 June 1909 – 8 June 1911. Includes game card from 18 November 1910. Occasional references to his health, such as a heavy cold on 1 July 1909.</p> <p>Item 4 Diary of Sir. John Keane, 9 June 1911 – 12 September 1914, 31 May 1922 - 4 August 1922. This diary records Sir. John's thoughts on the tumultuous political issues of the day such as Home Rule, concern over the Ulster Crisis, the outbreak of War in Europe, the opening salvo of the Irish Civil War and the prospects for the new state. Numerous entries also refer to the Labour unrest of 1922. The first part of the diary paints a picture of social and political life before the cataclysm of the Great War. The pre-war entries also refer to Keane's work as a member of the county council including a particularly storming meeting that took place on 7 July 1911 with 'much personal abuse'. Keane was in Dublin on the night of 27 June 1922 and in his entry for 28 June writes that he was 'woken at 4.15am by rifle and gun fire' as the Free State army attempted to dislodge the IRA garrison at the Four Courts, the opening salvo of the Irish Civil War. Keane wrote that there was a great deal of 'undesirable activity in streets' as the country descended into fratricidal conflict. He also noted the disruptions caused as a result of the conflict with heavy civilian casualties, train disruption (29 June), affect on postal services and the IRA attack on the <i>Cork Examiner</i> (3 July).</p>

Item 5 Diary of Sir. John Keane, 5 August 1922- 12 December 1930. Records Sir. John's despair during the Civil War, the death of Michael Collins and the burning of Cappoquin House on 19 February 1923. On the death of Collins Keane wrote that 'He was our one hope of strong government'. He also made reference to the progress of the war noting that the IRA had taken to the hills by early August. As President of the county Waterford Farmers' Union Keane also wrote about the business of the local committee and meetings that he attended (20 August 1922, 12 April 1923). On 15 December Keane wrote that he had returned to Dublin and found it 'dusty and depressed'. Civil War was to strike at his own life within months and on 20 February 1923, Keane recorded his reaction to the burning of his home at Cappoquin on the previous evening. More generally, the diary relates to Keane's wider role as a Senator in the Free State Senate from December 1922, with a high number of references to the 1923 Land Act, and also the rebuilding of Cappoquin House through the decade. In 1923, Keane felt that the Farmers' Party would not fare well in the general election (30 August 1923). He had earlier remarked that apathy among farmers would be the main obstacle (12 April 1923). This diary also records Keane's reaction to events like the assassination of Kevin O'Higgins (10 July 1927) and also the decision by de Valera to lead Fianna Fáil into the Dáil (11 August 1927). The writing in this diary becomes progressively more difficult to decipher.

Item 6 Diary of Sir. John Keane, 12 December 1930 – 6 April 1943. This diary covers yet another tumultuous period in Irish history as the world creaked under the weight of the Great Depression and the Free State experienced its first change of government. This diary is the most difficult to decipher. On 9 March 1932 Keane remarked that the House was 'packed' for the opening of the Dáil and that de Valera was elected President. On 27 January 1933 he wrote that the 'Election going badly for Cosgrave'

Box 20

This box contains various maintenance claims of a routine nature.

Folder One contains material from 1915-24. Includes 'Counsel's Opinion' re. Burning of Cappoquin House, 13 September 1923. It also contains various taxation and maintenance claims from the Great War period.

Folder Two contains material, 1917-21. Including supporting documentation and reference points such as the Finance Act of 1919 and information from the office of tax inspection.

Folder Three includes maintenance claims for farm lands at Cappoquin and also claims in respect of repairs carried out at the House. Dates from 1917-29.

Folder Four contains documents related to insurance at Cappoquin House. Includes a letter from brokers Sedgwick, Collins & Co. Limited, 26 November 1921, regretting that they were unable to obtain any quotation covering the house 'against all risks, owing to the troubled state of the country at the present moment'. Also contains correspondence related to the compensation claims related to the burning of the House in February 1923. This includes correspondence with Orpen and Maloney & Son. Includes a letter from Richard Mulcahy acknowledging that Keane received very little assistance from the Free State army around the time of the burning (20 April 1923).

Folder Five contains miscellaneous material related to compensation, maintenance claims and the burning at Cappoquin House during the Civil War. Includes correspondence with the Department of Finance (22 July 1927), newspaper clippings and telegrams

Folder Six contains more material related to inspection of taxes, maintenance claims and insurance.

<p>Box 21</p>	<p>Folder One contains various articles by Sir John Keane. The index relates to the material in both this folder and also folder two. Included among them are: Keane’s typed Flanders diaries, remarks on the practices observed on a Belgian farm in (1915). The Flanders diaries cover the period, October 1914- March 1915 and vividly describe Sir. John’s experience during the early stages of the war and the challenges that had to be overcome.</p> <p>Folder Two includes a second Flanders diary in which Keane elaborates on the pros and cons of a soldier’s life. It also includes some material published in <i>The Irish Homestead</i> in which Keane writes about what he has observed on Belgian farms during the war (6 March 1915). This folder also includes Keane’s observations on French farming in 1917, and his thoughts on the political situation in Ireland. In ‘Ireland as the Irishman sees her’, undated, Keane remarks on the great differences between Ireland and England: ‘the differences between England and China are, in their essential points, hardly greater than those between England and Ireland’.</p>

