



# Cavan Town Commissioners

## Archives service

## **Cavan Town Commissioners**

Cavan Town was governed by the Cavan Town Commissioners during the period 1855-1900. A small amount of archives survive and they were transferred from Cavan Town Hall to Cavan County Archives Service during April 2006.

A few documents date from the time of Cavan Borough Commissioners, the municipal body which governed Cavan during the period 1837-1855. These include a letter (4 March 1854) from James Montgomery to the Commissioners requesting the formation of a new Market Jury from the shopkeepers of Cavan as the term of the current jurors will expire at the next Quarter Sessions in Cavan (in CTComm/00006). These documents were found in Cavan Town Hall with those pertaining to the Town Commissioners and due to their small number they have been described here.

Cavan Urban District Council (UDC) took over the functions of the Cavan Town Commissioners under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898. As a result of this, some documents pertaining to the Town Commissioners may be listed with UDC archives.

In relation to the archives of the Cavan Town Commissioners, the most important items are two minute books covering the periods 9 March 1868-8 April 1878 (CTComm/00003) and 4 January 1886-30 March 1900 (CTComm/00007). Similar topics arise in both minute books, for instance, the collection of rates, staff issues and the lighting of the town during winter months. The most predominant issues are works to improve sanitary conditions in Cavan and the town's markets. The latter is a topic that frequently arises in extant correspondence (chiefly, CTComm/00002) and throughout the minute books. The Lords Farnham were the owners of the market house premises and were much applied to by the Town Commissioners in relation to proposed improvements. At a meeting held on 25 August 1890 (CTComm/00007), the Town Commissioners resolved to apply to Archibald Godley, land agent to James Pierce, 9<sup>th</sup> Baron Farnham, to receive a deputation to discuss terms on which Lord Farnham might lease the market house premises to them rather than a private individual, in order that they might manage the premises for the welfare and interest of the town. A related topic that frequently arises in extant documents is that of a fund set up by Somerset Richard, 8<sup>th</sup> Baron Farnham, comprising profits deriving out of the markets, the monies to be applied to projects for the improvement of the town. A committee composed of Town Commissioners and persons appointed by Lord Farnham decided on improvement projects to be funded.

Doctor James Matthews, one of the Town Commissioners, also acted as Medical Officer or Sanitary Inspector, and prepared a report on the sanitary condition of Cavan Town. A transcription of his report is given as part of the minutes of a meeting held on 6 April 1868 (CTComm/00002). It reads, 'I beg to lay before you a short Report... commencing first with the sewerage, the fearfully neglected state of which I consider the primary cause of past epidemic diseases and of the present unsanitary state of the town, and which, if not remedied before the setting in of the warm weather, may prove the fruitful source of those malignant diseases (of cholera, black death &c)... so that I wish strongly to impress on this board the necessity of taking prompt and active measures to have those pregnant sources of contagion rectified, because on you alone rests the responsibility of ensuring the healthy state of the

town. The sewers at the foot of the Half Acre are in a filthy and choked up state, and one of them completely broken down. The grating of all the sewers I condemn, as I consider them incapable of preventing the miasmatic effluvia impregnating the atmosphere, thereby endangering the health of the inmates in dry, warm weather...'

of the Repuramen.-  
Dr Matthews then read the following  
Report of the Sanitary state of the Town:-  
"Gentlemen- In accordance with your request  
I beg to lay before you a short Report of my first  
sanitary inspection of the Town, Commencing first  
with the sewerage, the fearfully neglected state  
of which I consider the primary cause of past  
epidemic diseases and of the present unsanitary  
state of the town, and which, if not remedied  
before the setting in of the warm weather,  
may prove the fruitful source of those malignant  
diseases (as cholera, black death &c) which  
have caused such an amount of mortality  
in different populous districts of the Kingdom  
the Grand Jury. Let me now call your  
attention to the condition of the dwellings  
and back yards. Pudding Lane requires  
a sewer. The house of Phill McCall, I  
consider unfit for human habitation.-  
The rear of houses belonging to Phill Reilly,  
and James Brown, Egg Market, are in a  
most filthy and unsanitary state, requiring  
a gate to entry, and suitable privy and  
ashpit in the rear to abate the nuisance

Extracts taken from minutes of meeting of the Cavan Town Commissioners dated 16 April 1868 (CTComm/00002) comprising transcriptions of report by

## Doctor James Matthews on the deplorable sanitary conditions found in Cavan Town.

A topic that often arises in minutes of meetings (CTComm/00007) circa 1887-1888 is a proposal to build a Town Hall on the site of the Green House or Green Cottage, a property owned by Hugh, 5<sup>th</sup> Annesley. This plan eventually fell through and Cavan Town Hall did not open to the public until 1910. The Cavan Town Commissioners held their meetings in the Courthouse, Cavan.

### *Cavan Town Commissioners*

*Document code* CTComm/00001

*Date* 1 June 1829

*Description* Lease made between John, 5th Baron Farnham, and Robert Davis, Cavan, county Cavan, merchant, in respect of piece of ground in the town of Cavan, barony of Loughtee, county Cavan. Map of demised premises present. Shows it fronting onto a street; adjoined in the rear by premises occupied by 'Doctor Roe'; and adjoined on either side by new church yard and building ground. Property contains 17 perches plantation measure. Map shows outline of two buildings on the property. Property is leased for the lives of the lessee and two others with covenant for perpetual renewal. Annual rent of £4.7.4 sterling.

*Size* 2p

*Document code* CTComm/00002

*Date* 12 October 1850-c. 28 January 1892

*Description* File of material, mostly letters, relating to the functions and works of Cavan Town Commission. A few items date from the time of Cavan Borough Commissioners, the municipal body which governed the town during the period c. 1837-1855. Predominant issue is that of monies gifted by Lords Farnham from the profits of the town's markets to the Town Commission for the improvement of the town. Letters mostly exchanged between various Lords Farnham as owners of the market premises and representatives of Cavan Town Commission. Includes copy of letter (25 October 1853) from Edward Smith, Town Clerk, Cavan, to the clerks or crane masters of various Town Commissions, requesting information about the sale of flax. For instance, requests to know if buyers or sellers are charged at the public crane for weighing it and at what rate; several replies (26 October 1853) to this letter; letter (4 March 1854) from James Montgomery to the Commissioners of the Borough of Cavan requesting the formation of a new Market Jury from the shopkeepers of Cavan as the term of the current jurors will expire at the next Quarter Sessions in Cavan. States that the current jury has been of great service to the public 'by suppressing & preventing the sale of fraudulently prepared meat'; five summonses (20 October 1855) issued by Edward Smith to various named persons. Includes one issued to an Anne Reilly, Cavan, in relation to a complaint that she 'did loiter on the streets of [the] township for the purpose of prostitution and being otherwise offensive [sic]'; contrary to the provisions of the Towns Improvement Ireland Act, 1854. Summonses are signed by R. Erskine, Justice of county Cavan; statement (28 October 1858) signed by members of the Cavan Courthouse Committee giving permission to the Commissioners of the township of Cavan to erect a Russian gun presented to them in the Courthouse yard in Cavan; note (5 November 1858) to Lieutenant Colonel Colbarne, Royal Hospital, Dublin, which states that the Brophy gun is soon to arrive in Cavan; letter (13 October 1868) from [ ] Mugan, clerk, Cootehill Town Commission, to [ ], which states that the Town Commission has no control over the markets in Cootehill other than to control order in them. Notes that 'Mr Horan,' who is the lessee of the tolls and customs, and has the market house in his hands, has all the benefits of the markets; letter (14 October 1868) from Thomas Clarke, clerk, Belturbet Town Commission, to James Maguire, clerk, Cavan Town Commission, states that the Town Commission there puts the tolls collected to improvements and public expenditure and no private person has any control over markets; copy of letter (10 December 1868) from James Maguire to Somerset

Richard, 8th Baron Farnham, asking if he will consent to receive a deputation from the Town Commission to discuss proposed improvements to the market; copy of letter (26 June 1869) from Maguire to Lord Farnham in relation to proposed improvements in how sewage is dealt with in Cavan; copy of letter (29 July 1869) from Maguire to Lord Farnham in relation to a public pump in the Market square presented to the people of the town by Henry, 7th Baron Farnham. It has been taken over by a private individual and permission to use the pump must be acquired from him. Writer describes how this is a nuisance to the people of the town; reply (4 October 1869) from Lord Farnham in relation to the pump; lengthy letter (2 September 1871) from Lord Farnham to the Editor, 'Cavan Weekly News,' also a Town Commissioner, in relation to an article published in the previous week's newspaper in relation to the market. Letter should be read in conjunction with the newspaper article to ensure it is fully comprehensible; letter (4 August 1873) from Lord Farnham to William Hague, Chairman, Cavan Town Commission, in which he mentions that he gives an annual gift from the profits of the market to the town for sanitary purposes. Amounts to £220 this year; letter (16 June 1882) from Lord Farnham to John Gannon, esquire, Chairman, Cavan Town Commission, enclosing money (not present) to be expended on the new Egg [and Fowl] Market; letter (28 July 1882) from Lord Farnham to Gannon agreeing to supply timber required for the building of the Egg Market; letters (16-22 November 1882) in relation to request for change of hours of butter market by the Town Commission. Letters mention John Reilly, the weighmaster; draft of letter (c. May 1887) from John Morris, clerk, Cavan Town Commission, to Archibald Godley, agent, Farnham estate, Killegar, Killeshandra, county Cavan, requesting him to set before James Pierce, 9th Baron Farnham, an agreement reached by the 8th Baron Farnham and Cavan Town Commission that the former would contribute some of the surplus funds of the market house for the improvement of the town of Cavan. Requests to know if the present Lord Farnham intends to contribute the monies in the same manner. If he declines to do so, writer states that the Town Commission will adopt legal proceedings; letter (25 September 1887) from Godley to clerk, Cavan Town Commission, in which he writes that while Lord Farnham is not in any way bound by agreements entered into by his late brother it is his intention to devote monies from the market tolls to useful projects that benefit the town of Cavan; copy of letter (25 August 1890) from Morris to Godley stating that the Town Commission would like to be tenants to Lord Farnham in respect of the market house premises lately held by Reilly 'for the purpose of managing them for the interest and benefit of the Town.'

*Size*

116 items

**Document code**

CTComm/00003

**Date**

9 March 1868-8 April 1878

**Description**

Minute book of Cavan Town Commission. In general, minutes refer to topics such as the collection of rates; markets; staff issues; and a great deal of attention is paid to works for the improvement of sanitary conditions in the town. Noted (6 April 1868) that a letter was received from the Secretary, Irish Midland Great Western Railway, confirming that the evening trains to and from Cavan are to be discontinued as they are loss-making; transcription of report (6 April 1868) of first sanitary inspection of the town of Cavan. Medical Officer or Sanitary Inspector is James Matthews, esquire, medical doctor, who is also a Town Commissioner. Discusses the 'fearfully neglected state' of the town's sewerage system and that it must be remedied before warm weather sets in to prevent the outbreak of disease. Goes into some detail about areas of the town in which improvements are necessary and states, 'I may mention that those same places had been a few years ago, when fever visited this town the hotbed of a most malignant type of typhus; and during the past twelve months malignant scarlatina left not a house in these districts unvisited'; proposal (18 July 1868) that earthenware pipes be put in the river which runs through Farnham street to carry away waste. Noted in minutes of next meeting (25 July 1868) that this proposal has been approved by 'Mr Gahan,' the County Surveyor; minutes (4 September 1868) of special meeting convened for the purpose of drawing up an address to the relatives of the late Henry, 7th Baron Farnham, and his late wife, Anna, Lady Farnham, who died on 20 August 1868 in a train disaster at Abergele, Wales. The train on which they were travelling caught fire; copy of address and reply from Somerset Richard, 8th Baron Farnham, included with minutes of next meeting (14 September 1868); recorded (14 September 1868) that in relation to a letter received from the Town Clerk, Cork, enclosing a resolution in support of the release of Irish political prisoners held in Ireland and abroad, Cavan Town Commission decided that 'matters of a political tendency' should not be discussed at its meetings. However, resolution (7 December 1868) in support of it was carried during a later meeting of Cavan Town Commission; recorded (14 September 1868) that Philip Fitzpatrick, Town Clerk, was directed to write to the gas company requesting a proposal for the lighting of the town during the winter evenings, as in the manner of the previous year. This subject arises annually. Transcription of letter (19 September 1868) from James Brady, Secretary, Gas Company's Office, Cavan, to Fitzpatrick, describing manner in which town had been lit the previous year and suggesting that this arrangement be repeated. In total, 33 lamps to be lit for varying periods. Minutes note that in the town of Cootehill, county Cavan, there are 23 lamps which are lit for a period of six months; noted (5 October 1868) that order was passed, that in order to prevent obstructions and overcrowding on the streets and thoroughfares of the town, the Constabulary shall on all market and fair days, cause a free passage to be kept through the centre of all streets, passages and thoroughfares; transcription of letter (10 December 1868) from James Maguire, Town Clerk, to Somerset Richard, 8th Baron Farnham, requesting him to receive a deputation to discuss the development of further market accommodation; minutes (1 February 1869) deal with difficulties experienced with the rate collector, James Montgomery. There are arrears in rate payments and Montgomery has declined to allow access to his accounts for audit purposes; record (2 November 1868) of a motion by Thomas Kiernan to levy a toll on goods including vegetables for sale on market and fair days as they pose a nuisance to shopkeepers and members of the public; meeting (16 November 1868) called to consider this issue. Tolls decided on are noted in the minutes but in later meeting (21 November 1868) it was decided that matter should not be pressed until they were in a position to carry it out more effectually; copy and transcription of letter (28 June 1869) from Somerset Richard, 8th Baron Farnham, to William Hague, esquire, Chairman, Cavan Town Commission, offering to pay £50 towards a project whose objective is the improvement of Cavan's sewerage system; in minutes (7 August 1869), transcription of address presented to Judge Connelly, New York; record (7 February 1870) that the Scavengers (street sweepers) have handed in a petition applying for a pay rise from 15 to 18 pence per day; transcription of petition (17 March 1870) included in minutes dated 16 March 1870 to be sent by Cavan Town Commission to Parliament requesting that land legislation be amended, 'to afford the tenant occupier substantive security from disturbance by the Landlord so long as he pays a fair and just rent for his holding'; vote of thanks (7 December 1868) to the Honourable Edward Saunderson, esquire, and Colonel the Honourable Hugh Annesley for receiving deputation and agreeing to co-operate with Commissioners in the erection of a Town Hall for Cavan. Town Hall did not open until 1910; minutes (2 May 1870) record complaint made by Thomas Kiernan, Town Commissioner, that the Town Serjeant was not doing his duty in suppressing begging in the town; noted (1 May 1871) that the Chairman, William Hague, explained, 'the manner in which he would dispose of the Street Girls which was highly approved of, and the Town Serjeant was instructed to have them summoned as a preliminary step.' In minutes (5 June 1871), it is noted that Chairman told the meeting that two of the most noted prostitutes were sent to jail for three months; transcription of letter (c. 10 August 1871) from William Hague, Chairman, Cavan Town Commission, to Somerset Richard, 8th Baron Farnham, in connection with matters relating to the market. Discusses a proposal previously made, that is, that Lord Farnham would make a lease of the market house premises to Hague, Robert Erksine, and person to be nominated by Lord Farnham, to hold the market in trust for the people of Cavan town. Letter indicates that Lord Farnham took offence at this suggestion and

thought that his rights as landlord were being infringed upon. Hague further writes that such a proposal was originally conceived of by Lord Farnham but that he seems to have forgotten this now. Later in the letter, Hague writes, 'It would be idle to deny that the proposition...to have the markets managed and controlled by a Committee... was intended & would have been a compromise & perhaps not an unfair one of the conflicting claims to the tolls of the markets between the late tenant & the Commissioners.' Discusses the history of the market house premises. States that it was formerly the county courthouse and after the present courthouse was built (c. mid-1820s) it was put up for public auction by order of the Grand Jury. Some of the principal inhabitants of the town went to the auction with the intention of purchasing the premises, and the bidding was underway when the then Lord Farnham, John Maxwell Barry, 5th Baron Farnham, said he would buy it as a market house to be used for the sole benefit of the town. Minutes further state, 'I need not inform your Lordship to whose benefit & gain the proceeds of the markets have since been devoted.' The markets were held up to that time at the market cross under the late William Burrows, esquire, Sovereign; several entries (for example, 5 August 1872) suggest that the tenancy of the pork market is at the disposal of the Town Commission; minutes (26 February 1872) note that the archives of the Corporation of Cavan were then found to be in the possession of 'Mr Nesbitt,' London; minutes (3 June 1872) note that the Town Clerk is to be instructed to sue Nesbitt for the recovery of documents; minutes (7 October 1872) note that the Town Clerk be instructed to write to Somerset Richard, 8th Baron Farnham, that the Town Commission has nominated three of its members to a committee to act in concert with committee named by Lord Farnham for improving the town of Cavan from surplus derived from the profits of the market house. Minutes (14 October 1872) contain transcription of letter (11 October 1872) from Lord Farnham to the Town Commission on the same subject. He appoints 'Mr Thompson,' James Hartley and Thomas J. Smith to act as his representatives on the committee; minutes (2 December 1872) note that William Hague, Chairman, Cavan Town Commission, called the attention of the meeting to the great want of fuel by the poor and suggested that a subscription list be opened for that purpose. John Gannon, Town Commissioner, suggested that a committee be appointed to wait on grocers and spirit merchants to ask them to subscribe to the fund in view of the provision of Christmas boxes; transcription of letter (3 May 1873) in minutes of meeting dated 5 May 1873 from Thomas L. Clements, The Derries, Monasterevan, [county Kildare], to James Maguire, Town Clerk, that he is unable to accede to request to return the town mace of Cavan to the Town Commission as he considers it a family heirloom. It had been in the possession of his grandfather. Minutes note that Town Clerk was instructed to take legal proceedings against Clements for the recovery of the mace; transcription of letter (4 August 1873) from Somerset Richard, 8th Baron Farnham, to William Hague, Chairman, in which he mentions that the total of his annual gift to the town amounts to £220; minutes (7 October 1873) in which Thomas Smith called the attention of the Commissioners to the great loss likely to arise to the town by the withdrawal of trains by the Midland Railway Company on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings; minutes (5 November 1873) in which it is stated that William Hague, Chairman, repeated the substance of a conversation which took place at the last Sanitary Committee meeting. This was in relation to the advisability of soliciting contributions from landlords who owned property on Farnham street for the bridging of the river. Resolved that circulars be sent to all interested parties; minutes (5 January 1874) which record that the Town Clerk was instructed to write to 'Mr Plews,' traffic manager, Irish North Rail, to show the great benefit that would derive to the town of Butlersbridge, county Cavan, from having a station on the rail there; minutes (6 July 1874) record that John Gannon called the attention of the Commissioners to the great need that exists in Cavan town from both sanitary and moral points of view for the erection of cottages for labourers. This is not the first time he has raised this subject and it would be a comfort to the poor and source of wealth to the town. Motion passed that committee should be appointed to procure a site; minutes (5 July 1875) note that the collection of rates is to be added to the usual duties of the Town Clerk; noted (6 September 1875) that the current proposed site for cottages for labourers is that now occupied by Mudwall row. Same minutes record statement by John Fegan, Commissioner, that there is a great need for a fire engine in the town and that a public subscription should be set up; minutes (4 October 1875) note that the duties of 'McKeon,' the Town Serjeant, include inspecting pumps, cleansing the streets and removing obstructions; minutes (4 October 1875) note that the Town Clerk was directed to write to the Board of Works informing it that the Town Commission had obtained a 'most eligible site' for the erection of twenty cottages for labourers and inquiring about the terms on which it might obtain a loan of £1,200; minutes (12 June 1876) record resolution to put the site of the pork market up for sale by public auction to a tenant, subject to the approval of Reverend William Prior Moore. The pork market has fulfilled the objective of its establishment and new sanitary legislation makes its operation at its current site objectionable; minutes (6 November 1876) include transcription of letter (2 November 1876) from Archibald Godley, land agent, Farnham estate office, Cavan, to Edward Kennedy, esquire, Chairman, Cavan Town Commission, informing him that Somerset Richard, 8th Baron Farnham, is willing to give them a lease which will enable them to borrow money from the Board of Works for the erection of cottages for labourers. However, excluded from the lease will be all the land to the

west of the high road adjoining Cavan river and containing 1 acre, 2 roods and 22 perches; transcription of letter (5 February 1877) from Godley, Killegar, Belturbet, county Cavan, to Kennedy, indicates that the land excluded from the lease to the Town Commission was held by a 'Mr Mulligan' and that the property is located on the west of the high road leading to Stradone, county Cavan, [at Creighan]; in minutes (7 May 1877) noted that Kennedy informed the meeting that he had prepared a memorial to the Commander-in-Chief on behalf of Cavan Town Commission requesting that the county regiment will not be removed from Cavan town for training. However, he had learned earlier that morning that the regiment is not to be removed to the Curragh, county Kildare, this year; minutes (3 September 1877) which state that a communication was read from the Manager, Great Northern Railway, in reply to a letter from Cavan Town Commission, that the Directors were of the opinion that there would not be sufficient traffic to justify the construction of a station at Butlersbridge; minutes (18 March 1878) note that meeting of the Town Commission was held for the purpose of adopting

***Size*** 344pp

***Document code*** CTComm/00004

***Date*** 19 July 1875-19 April 1884

***Description*** Copy of will and codicils of Somerset Richard, 8th Baron Farnham, deceased. Will is dated 19 July 1875. It is noted that probate of the will was granted on 3 September 1884 to Somerset Henry Maxwell, Arley cottage, county Cavan, the sole executor.

***Size*** 18pp

***Document code*** CTComm/00005

***Date*** 7 October 1878

***Description*** Fee farm grant made between Somerset Richard, 8th Baron Farnham, and Joseph Grier, Cavan, county Cavan, landowner. Recites original lease dated 18 February 1835 made between John, 5th Baron Farnham, and William Bell whereby Lord Farnham leased to Bell parcel of ground at Farnham street, Cavan, county Cavan, to be held for three lives renewable forever. Annual rent of £10.5.6. Last renewal was executed on 15 February 1843. Renewal now granted as fee farm grant in accordance with the provisions of The Renewable Leasehold Conversion Act. The perpetual annual fee farm rent is calculated as £10.17.1. Property demised is further described as being formerly known as waste or quarry and lying between the houses formerly occupied by William Bell and James Elliott, esquire. Map of demised premises also present. Names 'Doctor Roe' as former or present occupier of adjacent land, to the rear. Noted that deed was registered at the Registry of Deeds, on 12 October 1878, in book 46, number 211.

***Size*** 6pp

***Document code*** CTComm/00006

***Date*** c. 8 August 1879-23 December 1889

***Description*** File containing miscellaneous material, mostly letters, relating to the functions and works of Cavan Town Commission. Includes letter (17 April 1880) from John Gannon, Chairman, Cavan Town Commission, to Richard Clegg, esquire, that together with a deputation from the town and the Town Commission he attended the last sitting of the Grand Jury asking their assistance to get part of the jail not wanted by Clegg for use by the town as reformatory, lunatic asylum, barrack etc as it is considered a hardship in the town to have the building shut up; documents (c. early 1880s) relating to the securing of a water supply for Cavan town; letter (23 February 1887) from Thomas Corr, Drumkilly, Kilnaleck, county Cavan, to John Gannon, Chairman, Cavan Town Commission, stating he was pleased to see Gannon attempting to have the Cavan Gaol building converted to some useful local purpose. Further writes that the river Erne from Belturbet, county Cavan, could be used to compel the railways to lower their rates; certificate (9 July 1887) signed by [ ] Tatlow, Secretary, Grand Jury Room, Courthouse, Cavan, that by resolution passed at recent summer assizes, Cavan Town Commission is permitted to open a public pound; specification and estimate (1 August 1887) for the building of ten houses at Breffni terrace, Cavan, in continuation of the terrace, for Cavan Town Commissioners. Submitted by Thomas McGurk, College street, Cavan. He estimates cost at £655; letter (23 December 1889) from

Archibald Godley, Farnham estates office, to John Gannon, Chairman, Cavan Town Commission, who writes that sum of £58.13.10 is available for expenditure on the improvement of Cavan town from the market rents of James Pierce, 9th Baron Farnham. Godley proposes that the money is spent on the extension of the iron railing around Farnham Gardens; document (c. late 19th century) which summarises discussions at meetings of the Town Commission in relation to the proposed improvement of the Fair green hill. Minutes of meetings which are summarised are from the period 3 November 1879-c. March 1880. Board of Works denied loan of £650 to carry out the improvement works.

*Size*

26 items

*Document code*

CTComm/00007

*Date*

4 January 1886-30 March 1900

*Description*

Minute book of Cavan Town Commission. In general, minutes refer to topics such as the collection of rates; markets; staff issues; and works to improve the sanitary condition of the town. Abstracts of accounts are also present for the general account of the Town Commission and also in relation to the Egg Market and labourers' cottages. Minutes (4 January 1886) contain transcription of memorandum of agreement made between the Town Commission and Charles Donohoe, Cavan, county Cavan, pig dealer, in respect of piece of ground situated at Lurganboy, town of Cavan, on which Donohoe is to erect a slaughter yard and house in which to slaughter pigs; minutes (7 February 1887) in which John Gannon, esquire, Justice of the Peace, Chairman, Cavan Town Commission, suggested that the former County Gaol be secured for the town in order to be converted to some useful purpose; minutes (7 February 1887) record an order that the town ladders not be hired out in future but kept locked up for use in case of a fire; minutes (11 May 1887) record that the Town Clerk is directed to write to James Pierce, 9th Baron Farnham, requesting to know if he intends to carry on with fund set up by his predecessor to direct part of the market profits for the improvement of the town. Also, to state that, if Lord Farnham declines to do so, the Town Commission will take legal steps to assert their rights; meeting (10 June 1887) was held to decide course of action to be taken with regard to converting the County Prison into an industrial institution. Resolved that the Town Commission would wait on the Grand Jury at the next assizes and offer them a fair rent for the Gaol for the benefit of the county at large, to be used for local industries under the control of the Town Commission for the benefit of the rates of the town. Another option would be to let it to a body of shareholders who will subscribe the necessary capital; in minutes (4 July 1887) states that the Town Clerk was directed to write to the Board of Works [to enquire about a loan] and the Town Commissioners decided to wait on 'Mr Vance' to ascertain upon what terms the site of the Green House could be obtained for building a town hall. Minutes (5 September 1887) indicate that Lord Annesley is the owner of the site and he wants £12 per annum rent for it which is regarded as too much by John Gannon, Chairman. John Fegan, Town Commissioner, states that building leases on the Annesley estate are regulated by a Special Act of Parliament; transcription of letter (20 June 1887) from Archibald Godley, Killegar, Killeshandra, county Cavan, agent to James Pierce, 9th Baron Farnham, to John Morris, Town Clerk, in which he writes, 'Am I to understand by your letter that it is intended to convey a threat to the present Lord Farnham that unless he continues this annual gift of money the Town Commissioners will attempt, at the expense of the ratepayers, an infringement on his legal rights'; transcription of letter (25 September 1887) from Godley, Malvern, to the Town Clerk, in which he writes, 'his Lordship desires [the Town Commission] to be informed that while he is not in any way bound, as they must be aware, by the action of his late brother in the matter referred to, it is his intention for the future, with a view to conferring a benefit on Cavan, to devote the market rents to the promotion of such useful projects in the Town as may approve themselves to his judgment'; minutes (15 December 1887) record a resolution that the Town Commissioners passed, that they will take the site of the Green House on the terms proposed by Lord Annesley if the Board of Works will lend them the money to build the Town Hall; transcription of letter (15 March 1888) from Richard Allen, solicitor, Cavan, to John Gannon, Chairman, Town Commission, included in minutes (16 March 1888) mentions that the Town Commission also planned to build cottages fronting onto the Cock hill on the plot to be taken from Lord Annesley. However, Lord Annesley does not wish cottages to be built on the plot. Also, as the Town Commissioners cannot 'place themselves in a position to satisfy his requirements as to the Town Hall' Allen has been asked to intimate to the Town Commission that negotiations are now off. This resulted in the meeting agreeing to secure the plot for a Town Hall and leaving out the clause in the lease empowering them to build cottages; reference (1 October 1888) to prevalence of typhus fever in Cavan town; slipped into volume between leaves numbered 69-70 is resolution passed by Belturbet Urban District Council (5 March 1900). It expresses astonishment that Cavan County Council has fixed the salaries of its new Secretary and Assistants at £660 per annum, against £450, being the salaries of the Secretary and Clerk to the late Grand Jury, an increase of almost 50%. Signed by John Kellegher, Town Clerk; minutes (4 February 1889) containing resolution passed

by meeting, 'that we the Cavan Town Commrs. protest against and condemn the brutal and unconstitutional treatment given Mr Wm. O'Brien, M.P., Ireland, best beloved and heroic representative by his jailor, Mr. Balfour and his [ ] in Clonmel Gaol on Thursday last, and that we consider such proceedings dangerous to the peace of this country and disgraceful to any form of Government'; minutes (4 February 1889) quote Gannon as saying that he has received lease for Town Hall site; minutes (7 August 1889, 16 August 1889) contain references to the suspension from duty of John Morris, Town Clerk, for undefined misbehaviour; minutes (7 January 1890) note that motion was approved to apply to James Pierce, 9th Baron Farnham, for possession of field between the gaol and the river at the Railway road for the purpose of improving the horse fair; minutes (7 January 1890) note that motion was approved to convey to Charles Stewart Parnell, 'an expression of their confidence in him as the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, and their warm sympathy with him in view of the cowardly attacks recently made upon him by his political opponents'; minutes (4 June 1890) note that a conversation took place on the refusal of the Board of Works to recommend the Treasury to grant a loan of £2,000 to build a Town Hall on the grounds that the rating power of the Commissioners is limited to 11 pence in the pound by the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854; minutes (25 August 1890) note that after short discussion it was resolved to apply to Archibald Godley, agent to James Pierce, 9th Baron Farnham, to receive a deputation to discuss terms on which Lord Farnham might lease the market house and premises to the Commissioners, in order that they might manage the market for the welfare and interest of the town; transcription of letter (11 October 1890) from John Morris, Town Clerk, to Godley, outlining the terms which the Commissioners are prepared to fulfil. The Commissioners wish to point out their belief that placement of the public markets under the control of a private individual would be injurious to the trade and prosperity of the town; transcription of reply (16 October 1890) from Godley also present. He states that the representatives of the late weighmaster, John Reilly, have not indicated that they will be surrendering the lease. Adds that he has received a number of applications similar to that submitted by the Town Commissioners. One of the applications received is from an individual Town Commissioner on his own behalf; minutes (4 January 1893) note that three individuals were appointed to a committee to draw up regulations in relation to street traffic; minutes (2 November 1892) state that William Finlay, Chairman, 'drew attention to a statement made in a Provincial paper, that he was instrumental in imposing on the Ratepayers the cost of a contest at the recent election of [Commissioners]. He wished to contradict that statement and to say that the persons who circulated that statement had sinister motives for doing so'; minutes (7 August 1897) of special meeting held to consider proposals made by Somerset Henry, 10th Baron Farnham, in relation to control of the public markets of Cavan town; minutes (22 September 1897) which mention the untimely death of the Honourable Barry Maxwell, son of Lord Farnham, who died in an accident soon after his twenty-first birthday. Volume opens with lists of names of Town Commissioners elected during the period 1886-1897. There is also a page with entries detailing the amount of gas consumed in public lamps during the period September 1890-February 1891.

***Size*** c. 500pp

***Document code*** CTComm/00008

***Date*** 14 October 1886-1 June 1973

***Description*** Register of mortgages to which Cavan Town Commission and later, Cavan Urban District Council were party. Mortgages usually taken out by the relevant local authority for improvements to the town, for example, waterworks, bridging Cavan river, erection of cottages etc. Information recorded includes date of deed, parties involved, purpose for which loan was obtained, amount secured by mortgage, repayment information and date when mortgage discharged. Dates supplied refer to dates when deeds were executed.

***Size*** 17pp

***Document code*** CTComm/00009

***Date*** 28 July 1891

***Description*** Copy of lease made between Reverend William Prior Moore, The College, Cavan, county Cavan, clerk in Holy Orders, lessor, of the first part, Alexander Richard Norton, Cavan, bank manager, and Edward Erskine Stone Moore, County Asylum, Letterkenny, county Donegal, physician and surgeon, of the second part, Reverend Samuel Allen Shone, 45 George street, Devonport, Devonshire, clerk in Holy Orders, and Reverend Henry Grattan Moore, 3553 Champlaine street, Chicago, clerk in Holy Orders, of the third part, and the Commissioners of the township of Cavan, the lessees, of the fourth part. In consideration of lessees

surrendering any right they have to premises leased by Reverend Henry Cottingham to Robert Fitzgerald on 22 January 1844; and the sum of £146 paid to lessor by lessees, the lessor leases to the Commissioners that plot of ground fronting on the river and College street, in the town of Cavan, and known as the Egg Market and Pork Market, and all buildings thereon, in the townland of Lurganboy, barony of Upper Loughtee, county Cavan. Bounded on the east by the Kennypottle river which separates same from Mill street; on the north-east by the mill race; on the north and north-west partly by premises occupied by William Hague and known as the corn mill, and partly by premises belonging to the lessor; and on the west by College street. Premises is leased for term of 999 years for annual rent of £40. Map of leased premises is present. Noted that a memorial of the deed was registered at the Registry of Deeds, Dublin, on 18 August 1891, in book 40, number 2.

*Size* 4pp

*Document code* CTComm/00010

*Date* 16 December 1893

*Description* Agreement made between the Commissioners of the town of Cavan, of the first part, William Hague, 50 Dawson street, Dublin, civil engineer, of the second part, and James Cullen, Cavan, merchant, of the third part. Recites that the Commissioners agree to lease to Cullen for term of 200 years a plot of building ground being part of the Egg Market premises, Cavan, county Cavan, at annual rent of £8.10.0. Hague has a right of way from Mill street to the back door of the mill by virtue of fee farm grant dated 29 May 1865 from William Prior Moore to William Hague, under which Hague holds the mill premises. Hague has agreed to grant the Commissioners a lease of his exclusive right of way for term of 200 years at annual rent of £3. In turn, Cullen has agreed to give Hague right of way on foot from the small house known as the Dust House at the rear of the mill, along the mill race and river to Mill street, and to erect a footbridge across the river to Mill street. Right of way to be given to Hague by Cullen rent free for term of 200 years. Map of demised premises present. Drawn by James Brady, civil engineer. Shows location of intended footbridge. Noted that the agreement was registered at the Registry of Deeds, Dublin, on 22 October 1896, in book 66, number 300.

*Size* 3pp

*Document code* CTComm/00011

*Date* 26 August 1895

*Description* Fee farm grant made between James Pierce, 9th Baron Farnham, of one part, and Rose Anne Reynolds, widow, and Charles Davis Reynolds, gentleman, both of 17 Pump street, Londonderry, county Londonderry, of the other part. Recites lease dated 1 June 1829 (described as CTComm/00001) made between John, 5th Baron Farnham, and Robert Davis, Cavan, county Cavan, merchant, in respect of piece of ground in the town of Cavan, barony of Loughtee, county Cavan. Rose Anne Reynolds and Charles Davis Reynolds have applied to James Pierce, 9th Baron Farnham, to grant them the premises in fee farm in accordance with the provisions of the Renewable Leasehold Conversion Act. Annual fee farm rent of £4.16.2 will be payable by them. Noted that the deed was registered at the Registry of Deeds, Dublin, on 6 November 1895 in book 62, number 291.

*Size* 3pp

**Document code** CTComm/00012  
**Date** 4 December 1895  
**Description** Agreement made between the Cavan Town Commissioners and James Cullen, Mill street, Cavan, merchant. The Commissioners permit Cullen to take down 49 feet of the boundary wall between the Egg Market and Cullen's premises. Cullen is to replace the demolished wall with new wall and iron railing of six feet in height. Purpose of agreement is to provide light and air to Cullen's premises.

**Size** 3pp

**Document code** CTComm/00013  
**Date** 1 October 1896  
**Description** Conveyance made between Rose Anne Reynolds and Charles Davis Reynolds, both of 17 Pump street, Derry (Londonderry), of one part, and William John Fegan, Cavan, county Cavan, solicitor, in respect of parcel of ground at Farnham street, Cavan. Same property as detailed in lease made on 1 June 1829 (described as CTComm/00001).

**Size** 3pp

**Document code** CTComm/00014  
**Date** 28 May 1897  
**Description** Memorandum of agreement made between The Chairman and Commissioners of the Cavan Town Commissioners, of one part, and The Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, having a registered office at Enniskillen, county Fermanagh. Commissioners agree to let to the Society a store in the Egg Market, Cavan, in the townland of Lurganboy, barony of Upper Loughtee, county Cavan. Store has been occupied by the Society for some time past. Store to be held for period of five years for annual rent of £7 sterling.

**Size** 2pp

**Document code** CTComm/00015  
**Date** 1 December 1897  
**Description** Counterpart lease made between the Commissioners of the town of Cavan, of the first part, William Hayes Fisher and Henry Torrens Anstruther, esquires, being two of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, hereafter called the Lords, of the second part, and Andrew McCarren, Cavan, county Cavan, merchant, of the third part. Commissioners lease to McCarren plot of building ground at College street, Cavan, county Cavan. Property is part of the townland of Lurganboy. Fronts to College street on the north; and adjoins the Egg Market to the rear. Lease to run for term of 200 years at annual rent of £11. McCarren has erected dwelling houses on the property at his own expense. Map of demised premises present. Names William Hague as adjacent land occupier. Noted that the deed was registered in the Registry of Deeds, Dublin, on 26 January 1898, in book 6, number 81.

**Size** 3pp

**Document code** CTComm/00016  
**Date** c. 1887-1889  
**Description** File containing three abstracts of accounts of the Cavan Town Commissioners for the years ending 1 June 1887, 1888 and 1889.

**Size** 3 items