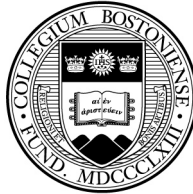


# Helen Landreth Papers

## 1852-1983 (bulk 1948-1978)

MS.2001.044

<http://hdl.handle.net/2345/2826>



### Archives and Manuscripts Department

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## Summary Information

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<b>Library Unit</b>	Archives and Manuscripts Department
<b>Creator</b>	Landreth, Helen
<b>Title</b>	Helen Landreth papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1852-1983 (bulk 1948-1978)
<b>Extent</b>	15.75 Linear feet (21 boxes, 1 oversize folder)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	Personal papers of librarian and historian Helen Landreth relating to her research on Irish history.

### Preferred Citation note

Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, Helen Landreth Papers, MS.2001.044, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Processed by Jennifer Lowe, Fall 2002. This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit.

### Last Update

Fall 2014

### Restrictions on access

Collection is open for research.

### Restrictions on use

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### Provenance

Gift of Sister M. Columba, 1986; gift of Margaret MacCurtain, 1993; gift of the Helen Landreth estate, 2001; gift of Evert Volkerz, 2010.

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## Biographical Note

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Helen Landreth was born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1892. Her father, Olin Landreth, was then the Dean of the Engineering Faculty at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. In 1894, the family moved to Schenectady, New York, where her father headed the Engineering Department at Union College.

In 1914, Landreth entered Teachers College at Columbia, but left in 1918 before completing her degree requirements. She joined the staff of *Collier's*, a magazine based in New York, in 1922. In 1925, Landreth traveled to Lodz, Poland with her father, and saw, from the ship, Ireland for the first time. This first glimpse acted as a magnet on her mind and imagination. The study of Ireland would become her life's work.

Landreth worked for a brief time as a fiction editor for *McClure's* magazine in New York before returning to Ireland. She devoted herself to research and writing. Her first book, *Dear Dark Head*, a history of Ireland until 1919, was published in 1936. She returned to Ireland in 1938 to work on her second book, *The Pursuit of Robert Emmet*, which was published in 1949.

While in the US to oversee publication of this book, Landreth met Rev. Terence Connolly, S.J., who was then the Librarian of Boston College and a great admirer of her work. Connolly asked Landreth to assemble an Irish Collection for Boston College and Landreth accepted.

Landreth worked in the Library's Irish Collection for the next 30 years, until her retirement in 1979. During this time, she wrote a small volume on Mary Childers, based on their correspondence, as well as writing several articles which appeared in magazines in both the United States and Ireland.

Landreth never married nor had any children. In 1964 she was inducted into the Eire Society. In 1976 she received the Boston College Bicentennial Medal. She was also a dedicated volunteer at the Children's Hospital in Boston, beginning in 1955, working mainly with polio victims. She died in 1981.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The Helen Landreth papers consist of the personal papers of librarian and historian Helen Landreth, mainly pertaining to her research on Irish history. The collection includes correspondence, legal papers, newspaper clippings, photographs, research materials, scrapbooks, and some of Landreth's writings.

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## Arrangement note

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Organized into eight series: I. Correspondence; II. Published works; III. Research materials; IV. Manuscripts; V. Photographs; VI. Scrapbooks; VII. Legal papers; and VIII. Miscellaneous.

# Collection Inventory

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## Series I: Correspondence, 1927-1980, undated

### Scope and Content Note

Much of the correspondence relates to her writing of *The Pursuit of Robert Emmet* (1948), *The Mind and Heart of Mary Childers* (1965) and the article "Was John Keogh an Informer?" (1950). Prominent correspondents include Erskine Childers, Jr., Richard Cardinal Cushing, Eamonn DeValera, and Father Myles V. Roman.

### Arrangement Note

Arranged in chronological order.

1927-1950	Box 1	Folder 1-15
1952-1967	Box 1	Folder 16-28
	Box 2	Folder 1-3
1968-1980	Box 2	Folder 4-18
Incomplete letters, undated	Box 2	Folder 19
Undated	Box 2	Folder 20
Miscellaneous, 1921-1966	Box 2	Folder 21

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## Series II: Published works, 1924-1981

### Scope and Content Note

Published works contains articles written by Landreth as well as reviews of her work, dated between 1924 and 1981. The articles are arranged chronologically, while the reviews have been arranged by subject: *Dear Dark Head*, *The Pursuit of Robert Emmet*, and *The Mind and Heart of Mary Childers*.

Published works, 1924 May - 1945 April, 1950 September - 1977 April	Box 2	Folder 22-23
<i>Deirdre Magazine</i> , 1975	Box 2	Folder 24
Articles about Helen Landreth, 1940-1981	Box 2	Folder 25
Reviews of <i>Dear Dark Head</i> , 1938	Box 2	Folder 26
Reviews of <i>The Pursuit of Robert Emmet</i> , 1949	Box 2	Folder 27
Reviews of <i>The Mind and Heart of Mary Childers</i> , 1965-1966	Box 2	Folder 28
Biographical materials, 1953 October - 1978 November	Box 2	Folder 29

### **Series III: Research materials, 1943-1946, undated**

#### **Scope and Content Note**

Research materials contains three subseries: Notes on Wolfe Tone, Notebooks, which is also mainly about Wolfe Tone, but includes other Irish research, and Loose notes, which contains a variety of research. The majority of the notebooks are numbered, although several unnumbered volumes are included.

#### **Arrangement Note**

Organized into 3 subseries: A. Typed notes, B. Notebooks, and C. Loose notes.

<b>Subseries A: Notes on Wolfe Tone during the period 1790-1804, undated</b>	Box 3	Folder 1-14
	Box 4	Folder 1-12



## Subseries B: Notebooks, undated

Robert Emmet, undated	Box 5	Folder 1
John Keogh, undated	Box 5	Folder 2
Wolfe Tone, undated	Box 5	Folder 3
Alexander Lowry, undated	Box 5	Folder 4
Journal of Thomas Russell, 1791-1794, undated	Box 5	Folder 5
Correspondence with Public Records Office of Ireland, undated	Box 5	Folder 6
Notes from McNally Papers, undated	Box 5	Folder 7-8
Photographs of paintings of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Emmet, undated	Box 5	Folder 9
Untitled photographs from <i>The Pursuit of Robert Emmet</i> , undated	Box 5	Folder 10
Untitled photograph, undated	Box 5	Folder 11
Photograph of a painting of Robert Emmet, undated	Box 5	Folder 12
John Martin, undated	Box 5	Folder 13
Samuel Turner, undated	Box 5	Folder 14
William Pitt, undated	Box 5	Folder 15
The Russell Family, undated	Box 5	Folder 16
Mary Childers, undated	Box 5	Folder 17
Teeling Family, undated	Box 5	Folder 18
Curran Family, undated	Box 5	Folder 19

Miscellaneous, undated	Box 5	Folder 20
Photostats of Newgate Prison records, undated	Box 20	Folder 1
Newgate Prison records, undated	Box 20	Folder 2
<b>Subseries C: Loose notes, 1943, 1946, undated</b>		
Wolfe Tone notebooks, undated	Box 6	Folder 1-5
	Box 7	Folder 1-5
	Box 8	Folder 1-5
	Box 9	Folder 1-5
	Box 10	Folder 1-6
	Box 11	Folder 1-6
	Box 12	Folder 1-6
American notebooks, undated	Box 13	Folder 1
Untitled notebooks, 1943, 1946, undated	Box 13	Folder 2-4
Notebooks, possibly Wolfe Tone, undated	Box 13	Folder 5-7

#### **Series IV: Manuscripts, 1938-1975, undated**

##### **Scope and Content Note**

Included are an unpublished postscript, a complete typescript of *The Pursuit of Robert Emmet*, and materials relating to the Irish Collection at Boston College.

##### **Arrangement Note**

Organized in 7 subseries: A. *Dear Dark Head*, B. Robert Emmet, C. Wolfe Tone, D. John Keogh, E. John Boyle O'Reilly, F. Thomas Reynolds, and G. Miscellaneous.

**Subseries A: *Dear Dark Head*, , 1938, 1946**

Postscript to *Dear Dark Head*, 1946 Box 14 Folder 1

Proofs of *Dear Dark Head*, 1938 Box 14 Folder 2

**Subseries B: Robert Emmet, 1945, undated**

Manuscript and corrections of a chapter from *The Pursuit of Robert Emmet*, undated Box 14 Folder 3

Notes on *The Pursuit of Robert Emmet*, undated Box 14 Folder 4

"A Rathcole Hero", undated Box 14 Folder 5

Notes and outline for "William Pitt and His Kinsman Robert Emmet", undated Box 14 Folder 6

"Sarah Curran to Her Love", 1945 Box 14 Folder 7

Outline for "William Pitt and His Kinsman", undated Box 15 Folder 1

Complete typescript of *The Pursuit of Robert Emmet*, undated Box 16 Folder 1

Draft of *The Pursuit of Robert Emmet*, undated Box 17 Folder 1

**Subseries C: Wolfe Tone, 1941, undated**

"A Resume of the Circumstances Surrounding the Death of Wolfe Tone", undated Box 14 Folder 8

"The Wind and Wolfe Tone", undated Box 14 Folder 9

Untitled essay about Wolfe Tone, 1941 Box 14 Folder 10

Untitled typescript, incomplete, undated Box 14 Folder 11

**Subseries D: John Keogh, 1949, undated**

"Was John Keogh an Informer? A Response to Fr. Finegan", 1949	Box 14	Folder 12
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"Was John Keogh an Informer?": first revisions, undated	Box 14	Folder 13
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"Was John Keogh an Informer?": general revisions, undated	Box 14	Folder 14
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**Subseries E: John Boyle O'Reilly, undated**

"John Boyle O'Reilly in His Letters", undated	Box 14	Folder 15
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"Love and Splendor to John Boyle O'Reilly", undated	Box 14	Folder 16
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"Letters Reveal Wit of John Boyle O'Reilly," galley proof, undated	Box 14	Folder 17
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**Subseries F: "How Thomas Reynolds Turned Informer", 1941, undated**

"How Thomas Reynolds Turned Informer", 1941, undated	Box 14	Folder 18-20
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**Subseries G: Miscellaneous, 1949-1975, undated**

"Mrs. Erskine Childers", 1964	Box 14	Folder 21
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"Making of an Irish President", 1973	Box 14	Folder 22
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"An Informal History of the Special Irish Collection", 1975	Box 14	Folder 23-24
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"Interim Report on a Special Aspect of the Irish Collection Catalog", 1949	Box 14	Folder 25
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"Odd Notes on the Language Movement", undated	Box 14	Folder 26
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"A Triangle of Unrequited Love", undated	Box 14	Folder 27
"My Dearest Doctor", undated	Box 14	Folder 28
"Government Propaganda", undated	Box 14	Folder 29
Miscellaneous manuscripts, undated	Box 14	Folder 30
Untitled articles, undated	Box 14	Folder 31-32
"The Lavender Vine", 1959	Box 14	Folder 33
"A Day in the Park", undated	Box 14	Folder 34

### **Series V: Photographs, 1852-1979, undated**

#### **Scope and Content Note**

Photographs consists of both formal and informal photographs of Landreth throughout her life. Also included are photographs of family members and friends, and a photographic reproduction of a portrait of Landreth, drawn in charcoal, by Lydia Emmet (the great grand niece of Robert Emmet).

Birthplace of Helen Landreth's father, 1852	Box 18	Folder 1
Helen Landreth's mother, 1879	Box 18	Folder 2
Helen Landreth portrait, 1892	Box 18	Folder 3
Helen Landreth portrait, 1912	Box 18	Folder 4
Helen Landreth's mother, 1913	Box 18	Folder 5
Helen Landreth with father and sister, 1926	Box 18	Folder 6
Helen Landreth portrait, 1936	Box 18	Folder 7
Helen Landreth portrait, 1948	Box 18	Folder 8
Helen Landreth on Bapst Library steps, 1958	Box 18	Folder 9

Helen Landreth at Clonmacnoise, 1960 June	Box 18	Folder 10
Helen Landreth and Tommy, 1967, 1969	Box 18	Folder 11
Helen Landreth at Joanne Lawlor's baptism, 1960s	Box 18	Folder 12
Helen Landreth at Eire Society function, 1972	Box 18	Folder 13
Sean MacBride, 1976	Box 18	Folder 14
Helen Landreth and Kathleen Bouchel outside Bapst Library, 1977	Box 18	Folder 15
Helen Landreth portrait in Bapst Library's Gargan Hall, 1978 November	Box 18	Folder 16
Helen Landreth at induction into Alpha Sigma Nu, 1979	Box 18	Folder 17
Unidentified house, 1979	Box 18	Folder 18
Alanna and Erinn, 1979	Box 18	Folder 19
Helen Landreth in Thompson Room, Bapst Library, 1970s	Box 18	Folder 20
Helen Landreth portrait, 1970s	Box 18	Folder 21
Christmas card from the Lawlor family, 1970s	Box 18	Folder 22
Jennifer Boyd, 1970s	Box 18	Folder 23
Family portraits, undated	Box 19	Folder 1-2
Helen Landreth portrait (charcoal drawing) by Lydia Emmet, undated	Box 19	Folder 3
Helen Landreth receiving the Rale Bicentennial Award, undated	Box 19	Folder 4
Helen Landreth's parents, undated	Box 19	Folder 5
Helen Landreth's father, undated	Box 19	Folder 6

Family portraits, undated	Box 19	Folder 7
Unidentified baby, undated	Box 19	Folder 8
Mary Childers, undated	Box 19	Folder 9
Ireland and Robert Emmet, undated	Box 19	Folder 10
Robert Emmet's grave, undated	Box 19	Folder 11
Unidentified house, undated	Box 19	Folder 12
Unidentified man, undated	Box 19	Folder 13, 17-18, 21
Unidentified child, undated	Box 19	Folder 14-16
Unidentified group, undated	Box 19	Folder 19-20
Richie and his nurse, undated	Box 19	Folder 22

## **Series VI: Scrapbooks, 1936-1949**

### **Scope and Content Note**

Scrapbooks consist mainly of newspaper clippings from around the United States of reviews of Landreth's books.

Reviews of <i>Dear Dark Head</i> , 1936	Box 20	Folder 3
Reviews of <i>The Pursuit of Robert Emmet</i> , 1949	Box 20	Folder 4-5

## **Series VII: Legal papers, 1964-1983**

### **Scope and Content Note**

Legal papers contain copyright materials related to Landreth's publications, dated 1964-1969, and a 1968 letter written to her literary executor, containing information regarding Landreth's early Irish research. Also included are her legal estate papers, filed after her death in 1981.

Copyright, 1964 October - 1969 May	Box 21	Folder 1
Letter to literary executor, 1968 June	Box 21	Folder 2
Estate papers, 1981-1983	Box 21	Folder 3

**Series VIII: Miscellaneous, circa 1930-1948, undated**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series includes recipes, Landreth's cancelled passports, an Irish ration book, Landreth's address book, and Landreth's genealogical research on her own family. The passports and the ration book are from the 1930's and 1940's, while the remaining material is undated.

Recipes, undated	Box 21	Folder 4
Advertisements for <i>The Pursuit of Robert Emmet</i> , 1948	Box 21	Folder 5
Family research, undated	Box 21	Folder 6
Irish ration book, 1944	Box 21	Folder 7
Passports, 1936, 1940-1941	Box 21	Folder 8
Address book, undated	Box 21	Folder 9
Family tree, undated	Oversize 22	