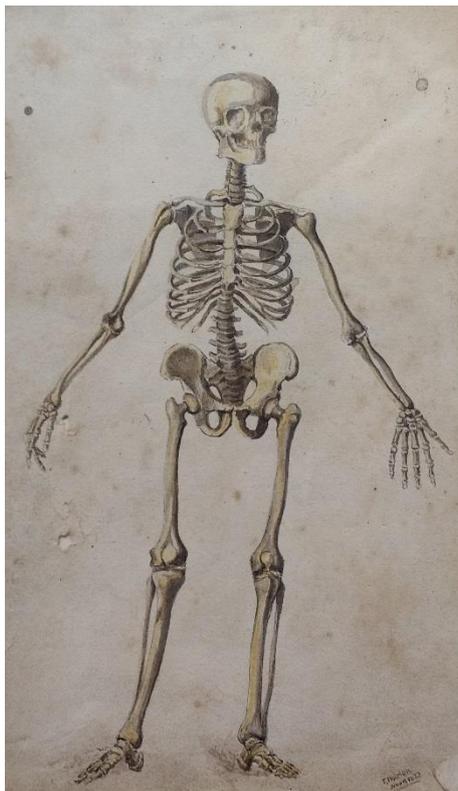


Macnamara Family Papers

ACC/2016/26



Papers relating to the Macnamara family of Corofin, Country Clare, who provided four generations of dispensary doctors and general practitioners to their local community.

Catalogued by Harriet Wheelock
December 2017, updated June 2019

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MFP
Macnamara Family Papers

Collection
[1833-2019]

Extent:

2 boxes

Creator:

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Macnamara, Maccon, b.1936

Description:

Papers relating to the Macnamara family of Corofin, Country Clare, who provided four generations of dispensary doctors and general practitioners to thier local community. The collection includes certificates, copies of 19th century medical lecture notes, medical history and biographical prose and verse.

A copy of John Lizars' *A System of Anatomical Plates of the Human Body* (Edinburgh, [1822-1826]) was donated with this collection, is has been catalogued in the library catalogue, reference #15191.

Arrangement:

Items have been divided by the member of the Macnamara family to whom they relate, further subdivision have been made as necessary.

Administrative History:

The first member of the Macnamara family to study medicine was Michael Macnamara (1806-1892). He established himself in practice in Corofin in 1826, before undertaking further medical training in Dublin. Michael Macnamara married Elizabeth Unthank in 1846, and the couple had fifteen children. Of these children six sons followed their father into medicine. The eldest, George Unthank Macnamara, worked as a general practition in Corofin, while his five brothers joined the Royal Army Medical Corps or Indian Medical Service. A cousin of these men, Henry O'Flanagan, also practiced medicine in County Clare.

George Unthank Macnamara (1849-1919) married Jane Moran in 1891. 18 years earlier, as a newly qualifed doctor, he delivered the baby who would grow up to be his wife. George and Jane also had a large family, with their eldest son Donough Wheeler Macnamara (1893-1970) following his father into medicine. On the death of George Unthank in 1919, the newly qualified Donough returned to Corofin to take over his father's practice. Two of Donough's sons, Michael (1924-1997) and Maccon (b.1936) qualified as doctors, Maccon carried on the family practice following his father's retirment in 1966. On Maccon's retirement in 2006 an unbroken chain of 180 years of medical provision by the Macnamara family to the citizens of Corofin came to an end.

Acquisition:

Donated by Dr Maccon Macnamara in 2016

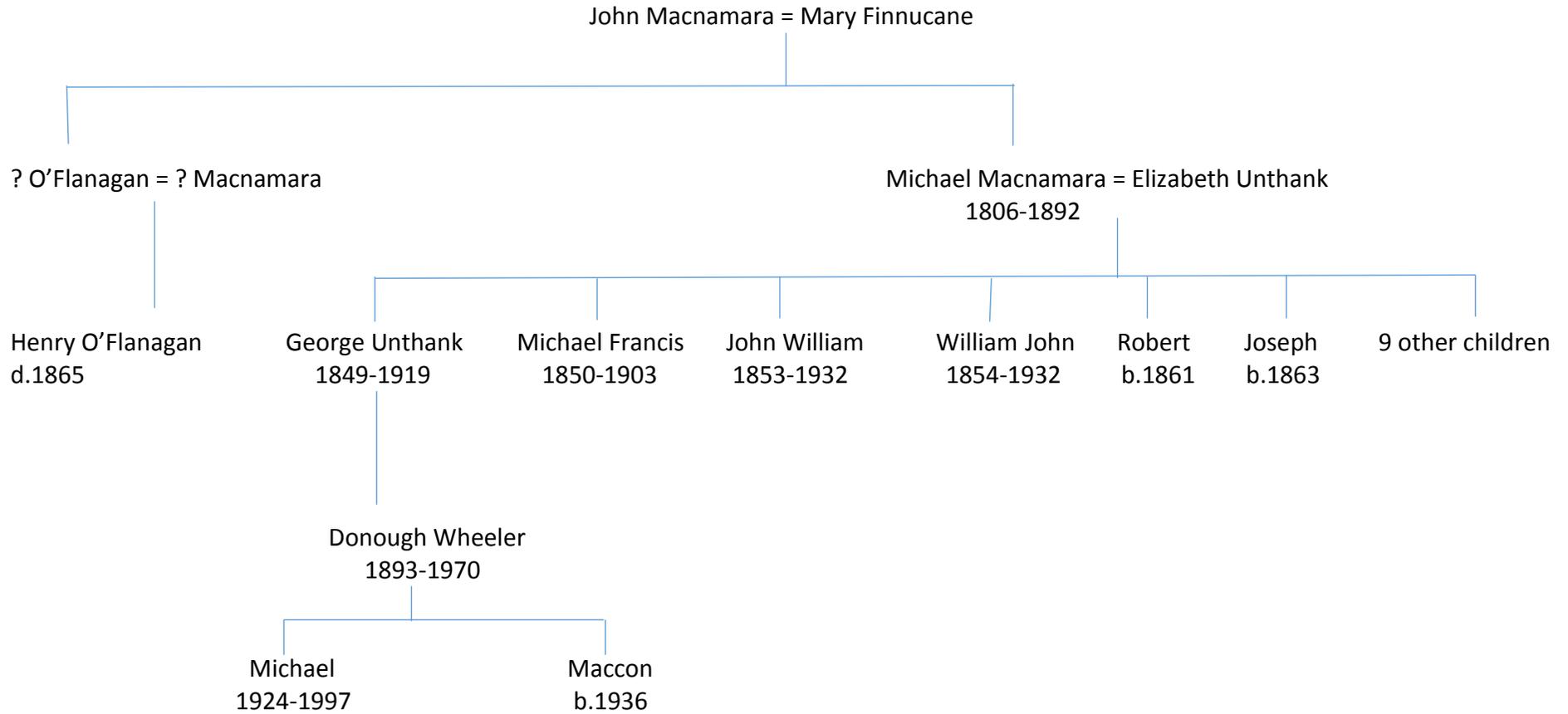
Access Conditions:

Access subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Access Guidelines

Reproductions:

Copying of archive material is subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Copying Guidelines

Macnamara of Corofin Family Tree
Showing the main medical members of the family



MFP/1
Michael Macnamara

File
[Mid twentieth century]

Extent:

6 items

Creator:

Macnamara, Michael, 1806-1892

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:

Manuscript and typescript copies of lecture notes made by Michael Macnamara in Dublin, between 1838 and 1842, prior to taking his Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons in London. The notes include lectures given by William Stokes, Robert Graves, Dominic Corrigan, [William Fetherston-Haugh] Montgomery and [Robert] Harrison on various aspects of medicine and surgery.

These copies were probably made by Donough Macnamara, who records in his 1960 article 'A century of General Practice - and After' (see MFP/5/2/4) that he found the original notebooks of his grandfather, Michael, in the attic of his family home 'about thirty years ago'. The typescript and manuscript copies are largely the same although there are a couple of small sections that appear in one copy and not the other.

MFP/2
Henry O'Flanagan

Section
1855 - [mid-twentieth century]

Extent:
2 files

Creator:
O'Flanagan, Henry, d.1865
Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:
Small collection of original, and copy documents, relating to Henry O'Flanagan's medical education.

Henry O'Flanagan was a nephew of Michael Macnamara (1806-1892). He studied medicine at the Catholic University Medical School in the mid-1850s, before taking his Licentiate of RCS Edinburgh in 1857 and his MD from St Andrews University in 1862. O'Flanagan worked in his native County Clare, first as physician to the Union Workhouse and then as Medical Officer for the Cree and Mullagh Dispensary. He died in October 1865 from a fever 'contracted in the discharge of his duties'.

Arrangement:
Items are divided by type and arranged chronologically

MFP/2/1 Medical education certificates of Henry O'Flanagan 1855-1862

Extent:
4 items

Creator:
O'Flanagan, Henry, d.1865

Description:
Medical education certificates awarded to Henry O'Flanagan;

- Licentiate in Midwifery of the Coombe Hospital, Dublin, 24 November 1855
- Licentiate of the Apothecaries Hall of Ireland, 16 January 1857
- Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, 1 December 1857
- MD, University of St Andrews, 24 December 1862

MFP/2/2 Lecture notes made by Henry O'Flanagan

**1857-1859,
[mid-
twentieth
century]**

Extent:
4 items

Creator:
O'Flanagan, Henry, d.1865
Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:
Bound Medical Officer's Case Book used by Henry O'Flanagan to make clinical lecture notes during his time as a student at the Catholic University Medical School.

File also contains manuscript and typescript copies of the lecture notes, probably made by Donough Macnamara, who records in his 1960 article 'A century of General Practice - and After' (see MFP/5/2/4) that he found the original notebook in the attic of his family home 'about thirty years ago'. The start of the manuscript copy of O'Flanagan's notes is in the same notebook as the manuscript copy of last of the Michael Macnamara lecture notes (MFP/1).

MFP/3
George Unthank Macnamara

File
1865-1889

Extent:

8 items

Creator:

Macnamara, George Unthank, 1849-1919

Description:

Medical education certificates awarded to George Unthank Macnamara;

- Arts' Certificate, Apothecaries Hall of Ireland, 21 July 1865
- Licentiate in Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, 26 April 1871
- Coombe Lying-in Hospital, certificate of attendance at 30 Cases of Labour, 3 May 1871
- Licentiate in Midwifery, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, 10 May 1871
- Licentiate of Apothecaries Hall of Ireland, 12 July 1872
- Licentiate in Midwifery, King & Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, 11 October 1889
- Licentiate in Medicine, King & Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, 11 October 1889
- Medical Registration, certificate of additional qualification, 19 October 1889

MFP/4
Robert Joseph Macnamara

Item
October 1884

Extent:

1 item

Creator:

Macnamara, Robert Joseph, b.1861

Description:

Doctor of Medicine certificate awarded to Robert Joseph Macnamara by the Royal University of Ireland

MFP/5
Donough Wheeler Macnamara

Section
1918-2000s

Extent:

17 files and items

Creator:

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:

Papers of Donough Wheeler Macnamara including certificates, history of medicine and biographical articles, and poetry.

Donough Wheeler Macnamara was born in Corofin, County Clare, in 1893, the eldest child of George Unthank Macnamara and Jane, nee Moran. He was educated in Ireland, England and Germany, before studying Arts and then Medicine at University College Dublin. While in Dublin he undertook medical student duties at the Mater and Coombe Hospital. Donough Macnamara returned to Corofin in 1919 on the death of his father, replacing him as Dispensary Doctor and General Practitioner. Dr Macnamara was involved in the foundation of both the Royal College of General Practitioner and the Irish College of General Practitioner. He published a number of articles on the history of medicine and on his own, and his families, experiences of medicine. He retired from practice in 1966 and died in 1970.

Arrangement:

Papers have been divided by type and arranged chronologically

MFP/5/1
Certificate of Donough Macnamara

File
1918-1969

Extent:

3 items

Creator:

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:

Certificates awarded to Donough Macnamara as follows;

- Bachelor of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics from the National University of Ireland, 29 April 1918
- Service with the Local Security Forces during the Emergency, 1946
- Fellowship of the Royal College of General Practitioners, 13 April 1969

MFP/5/2
Medical history and biographical writing

Series
1952-2000s

Extent:
15 files and items

Creator:
Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:
Between 1952 and 1966 Donough Macnamara wrote and published a number of articles on the aspects of the history of medicine or biographical accounts of his education and early career. This series contains printed copies of the articles, with manuscript drafts and preparatory notes.

Arrangement:
Material is divided by article, and the files arranged chronologically.

MFP/5/2/1 The story of diphtheria: a medico-historical whodunit 1952

Extent:
2 items

Creator:
Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:
Printed copy of 'The story of diphtheria: a medico-historical whodunit' by D W Macnamara, originally published in the Journal of the Irish Medical Association, July 1952. The article traces this history of diphtheria from Hippocrates to the 1950s, drawing on various published accounts to support the story. File also contains a copybook containing manuscript notes and drafts for the article, as well as draft of some poetry (see MFP/5/3)

MFP/5/2/2 What makes the good doctor? 1956

Extent:
2 items

Creator:
Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:
Printed copy of 'What makes the good doctor?' by D W Macnamara, originally published in the Journal of the Irish Medical Association, March 1956. The article considers the various characteristics required of a good doctor, drawing on several historical and literary examples.

File also contains a typescript draft of the article, with manuscript corrections. The draft has a different title 'The happy warrior or A good doctor as imagined by a bad one'.

MFP/5/2/3 The good general practitioner [1959]

Extent:
2 items

Creator:
Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:
Typescript of a talk given by Donough Macnamara to the final year medical students at University College Galway focusing on general practice. Macnamara draws on his own experiences, as well as historical accounts, to present an overview of the development of medicine in Ireland and the role of the General Practitioner. The file also contains a copybook with a preparatory manuscript draft of the lecture.

The talk was subsequently published in the Journal of the Irish Medical Association in February 1959 (see MFP/5/2/14 for a copy of the published version).

MFP/5/2/4 A century of general practice - and after 1960

Extent:

3 items

Creator:

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:

Printed copy of 'A century of general practice - and after' by D W Macnamara, originally published in the Journal of the Irish Medical Association, January 1960. The article looks at the history and development of general practice, especially in Ireland from the mid-nineteenth century. Macnamara draws on his own families experiences as GPs in County Clare, and on the lecture notes taken by his grandfather and great uncle (see MFP/1 and MFP/2/2).

File also contains two copybooks with preparatory notes and drafts for the article by Dr Macnamara.

MFP/5/2/5 The Mater - 1914-1919 1961

Extent:

1 copybook

Creator:

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:

Copy book containing a manuscript draft of an account of Donough Macnamara's time as a medical student in the Mater Hospital between 1914 and 1919. This account was published as 'The Mater 1914-1919' in the Journal of the Irish Medical Association, November 1961. The account contains Macnamara's recollections of the hospital's medical and nursing staff, his duties and the kind of patients treated, he closes the account with a discription of the hospital during Easter Week 1916. (A copy of the printed version of the article can be found in MFP/5/2/14)

The copy book also contains manuscript drafts of other works on Macnamara's early life include 'Corofin and the sky over it. Life in Corofin during the troubles', see MPF/5/2/13)

MFP/5/2/6 Student life during the nineteenth century 1961

Extent:

4 items

Creator:

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:

Printed copy of 'Student life during the nineteenth century' by D W Macnamara, originally published in the Journal of the Irish Medical Association, March 1961. The article looks at the life of students, especially medical ones, in nineteenth century Ireland. Dr Macnamara states that he began undertaking the research to get an idea of the life of his grandfather, Michael Macnamara, who studied medicine in Dublin in the 1830s and 1840s (see MFP/1).

File also contains three copy books containing research notes and draft of the articles.

MFP/5/2/7 Do-it-yourself medicine in County Clare during the first half of the nineteenth century 1963

Extent:

5 items

Creator:

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:

Printed copy of 'Do-it-yourself medicine in County Clare during the first half of the nineteenth century' by D Macnamara, originally published in the Journal of the Irish Medical Association, April 1963. The article focuses on traditional medicine and homemade cures and is largely based on a book of medical recipes given to Dr Macnamara by a friend,

which were compiled by Lady Charlotte O'Brien of Dromoland, County Clare.

File also contains four copy books with preparatory notes and drafts for the article, and a partial copy of the medical recipe book of Lady Charlotte O'Brien.

MFP/5/2/8 Doing the Coombe in 1916 1966

Extent:

2 items

Creator:

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:

Typescript copy of 'Doing the Coombe in 1916' by Donough W MacNamara, originally published in the Journal of the Irish Medical Association, April 1966. The article is an account of Dr Macnamara's time as a medical student in the Coombe in 1916, it covers the staff in the hospital, the practice of midwifery, the conditions in the Dublin slums and the hospital's parties. File also contains a copybook with a draft of the article.

A copy of the printed version of the article can be found in MFP/5/2/14

MFP/5/2/9 A medical ramble through the nineteenth century 1966

Extent:

2 items

Creator:

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:

Typescript copy of the Doolin Memorial Lecture delivered by Dr Macnamara in July 1966 entitled 'A medical ramble through the nineteenth century'. The article is a review of the development of certain aspect of medicine during the nineteenth century. Although Dr Macnamara pulls out three 'great discoveries' (anaesthetics, Pasteur's work and x-rays)

he does, in his own words, 'wander off the main road down some less frequented byways'.

File also contains a copy books containing research notes and draft of the articles.

Dr Macnamara's lecture was published in the Journal of the Irish Medical Association in October 1966 (see MFP/5/2/14)

MFP/5/2/10 Rabies. The story of a forgotten killer [1960s]

Extent:

29 pages

Creator:

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:

Typescript [draft] of 'Rabies. The story of a forgotten killer' by Donough W Macnamara. The article traces this history of rabies from the Classical period to the 1950s, drawing on various published and manuscript sources including the lecture notes of Henry O'Flanagan (MFP/2/2).

MFP/5/2/11 A 'Liberal' education [2000s]

Extent:

33 pages

Creator:

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:

Typescript copy [made in the 2000s] of 'A 'liberal' education' by Dr Donough Macnamara, containing an account of his education at the National School in Corofin, Our Lady's Bower Convent in Athlone, Stonyhurst College in Lancashire, Kasier Friedrich's Gynasium in Hamburg, Castleknock School and as an art student at University College Dublin. The account includes recollections of his teachers at the various schools including Mary Hayden and Thomas McDonough at UCD.

- MFP/5/2/12 Doing Medicine: 1912-1918 [2000s]**
- Extent:*
29 pages
- Creator:*
Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970
- Description:*
Typescript copy [made in the 2000s] of 'Doing Medicine: 1912-1918' by [Donough Macnamara]. The piece covers his time as a medical student in Dublin, his education and professors, politics and social life.
- MFP/5/2/13 Corofin and the sky over it. Life in Corofin during the troubles [2000s]**
- Extent:*
19 pages
- Creator:*
Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970
- Description:*
Typescript copy [made in the 2000s] of 'Corofin and the sky over it. Life in Corofin during the troubles' by [Donough Macnamara], a manuscript draft of this piece can be found in MFP/5/2/5. Macnamara writes about his political development, beginning with Arthur Griffith, but the main focus of the piece is his experience as a newly qualified dispensary doctor in Corofin from 1920 to 1922, during the Irish War of Independence.
- MFP/5/2/14 Medical papers 1952-1966**
- Extent:*
80 pages
- Creator:*
Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970
- Description:*

Bound volume of Medical Papers written by Donough Macnamara, volume contains the following articles;

- The story of diphtheria: a medico-historical whodunit
- Memories of 1918 and "the flu"
- What makes the good Doctor?
- The good General Practitioner
- A century of General Practice - and after
- The Mater - 1914-1919
- Do-it-yourself medicine in County Clare during the first half of the nineteenth century
- Doing the Coombe in 1916
- A medical ramble through the nineteenth century

MFP/5/2/15 Memoirs of Dr Donough Macnamara

2019

Extent:

294 pages

Creator:

Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Macnamara, Maccon, b.1936

Description:

Bound typescript of the memoirs of Dr Donough MacNamara, 'a compiltation of some his writings which I (Maccon Macnamara) have put together in no specific order, so that my family ... will enjoy it'. The volume contains version of many of the other writings in the collections, as well as additional material.

MFP/5/3
Poetry

File
[1960s-2000s]

Extent:
45 pages

Creator:
Macnamara, Donough Wheeler, 1893-1970

Description:
Original and copy typescripts of poems written by Donough Macnamara, mainly with a medical or history of medicine theme.

MFP/6
Maccon Macnamara

File
[2013]

Extent:

2 items

Creator:

Macnamara, Maccon, b.1936

Shannon, June

Description:

Typescript notes made by Maccon Macnamara on his family history, covering the four generations of the Macnamara family who practiced medicine in Corofin, County Clare, as well as other medical members of the family. Those covered include;

- Michael Macnamara (1806-1892)
- Henry O'Flanagan (d.1865)
- George Unthank Macnamara (1849-1919)
- Michael Francis Macnamara (1850-1903)
- John William Macnamara (1853-1932)
- William John Macnamara (1854-1932)
- Robert Macnamara (b.1861)
- Joseph Macnamara (b.1863)
- Donough Wheeler Macnamara (1893-1970)
- Michael Macnamara (1924-1997)
- Maccon Macnamara (b.1936)

The notes seem to have been used by June Shannon in her article 'Tales of a GP dynasty' which was published in the Irish Medical News in July 2013. A copy of this article is included in the file.

MFP/7
An Irish country doctor looks back

Item
[1950s]

Extent:

100 pages

Creator:

[Dowling, Jeremiah]

Description:

Typescript autobiographical account by an unnamed Irish doctor practicing in Tipperary. The account covers the writers early life, medical education in Cork and Dublin and experiences during nearly 'half a century' of general practice in Tipperary. Although no name is given on the manuscript the biographical information contained suggests it may have been written by Dr Jeremiah Dowling.

It is not clear how the document came into the possession of the Macnamara family, but it seems most likely it belonged to Donough Wheeler Macnamara.

MFP/8
De omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis

Item
[1833-1846]

Extent:

c.200 pages

Creator:

Burton, Thomas C

Description:

Notebook of Thomas C Burton, entitled 'De omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis' and dated November 9 1833. The book contains miscellaneous notes made by Burton at different times. It includes a series of medical drawings made by Burton, some annotated and dated. There are also extracts taken from books, both medical and literary works, and a series of recipes and instructions for [silver nitrate photography]. At the back of the book is the draft of a letter or resolution and a page of accounts.

The notebook was donated with the Macnamara papers although it is not clear if there is a connection between the Macnamara family and Thomas Burton, or how it came into the family's possession.