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THE WRAYS OF DONEGAL

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JANE WRAY, 1741-1798

*Daughter of Jackson Wray of Skelfield, Co. Donegal  
Wife of Guy Atkinson, D.D.*

1945

# *The Wrays of Donegal*

LONDONDERRY AND ANTRIM



BY

CHARLOTTE VIOLET TRENCH

*'Out of manaments, traditions,  
private recordes, fragments of  
stories, passages of booke and  
the like, we doe save and  
recover somewhat from the  
deluge of time.'*

FRANCIS BACON, 1623

OXFORD

PRINTED AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1945

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PART I  
YORKSHIRE, LONDONDERRY, AND  
DONEGAL

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## I

## A BRIDGE OF MEMORY

We cross a bridge of memory  
To the land of absent friends.

IT was in the year 1930 that the youngest and last of my aunts died, and I realized then that I had become the eldest descendant of my mother's family and the only one left who was old enough to remember my grandmother, Mrs. Wray, in her house at Kingstown, where the family portraits hung, grouped upon the high walls of her lofty Victorian drawing-room. Furthermore, I realized that if I did not preserve these memories and link them with the records of earlier generations, of which I was myself as yet in ignorance, there was no one else who could make the attempt, and thus the history of another old-time Ulster family would be lost. It was these reflections that spurred me to venture upon the task.

To my lasting regret I cannot claim to remember my grandfather, George Cecil Gore Wray, as I was not 2 years old when he died. But, from a very early age, I well remember sitting on the fender stool at my grandmother's feet, where I heard bygone times talked over and listened to many old stories. Scraps of these stories embedded themselves in my child-mind, so that when I started to piece together the family history I had some memories and more traditions from which to build. Of written material I had very little at first; later I found various letters and items of family interest, and through the kindness of friends, more old letters were given to me. But to begin with I had only one little, old, penny note-book in which the house accounts had been kept during the days when eggs were sixpence a dozen and chickens tenpence a couple in the County Donegal. At the end of this note-book, in my grandmother's handwriting, there was copied, evidently from some Family Bible, a list of the children of two generations, with the date and place of the birth of each one and the names of their

#### A BRIDGE OF MEMORY

respective godparents. These latter names supplied many a link, especially where relationships were stated. I found this little book tucked away at the back of a drawer in a small cabinet when, as her executrix, I was clearing up the papers of my Aunt Cecil, widow of Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson.

Of printed records, I found amongst Lady Wilson's books *The History of the Wrays of Glentworth* in which are references to the branch of the family who settled in Ireland, and I knew already of Burke's statement in *Landed Gentry*, 1864 edition, under Wray of Castle Wray, that 'John Wray came to Ireland at the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign and bought 1,000 acres called Carnagillagh in the County Donegal'. It was obvious, therefore, that I had to find out where John came from and to connect the generations known to me with his, as yet, unknown descendants.

The geography of that part of Ireland as well as the history of the family was a new experience to me.

When my mother, Leonora Wray, married my father, she went from her Donegal home to live in Kerry, where we, their children, were born and brought up. We left the old home at Kenmare when I was twenty and for many years I lived in England and had never seen the north of Ireland.

I remember long ago my mother often saying to me, 'Some day I will take you to Donegal and show you my old home'. But in those days Kerry was a long way from Donegal, travelling was not easy and was expensive, and 'the day' never came. In later years Aunt Cecil used to say, 'Some day we will go to Ulster and see where the old people lived'. But, after her husband was murdered on the doorstep of their house in London, she was under police protection for a considerable time, and did not travel much. Then her health failed and again the day never came. So I determined not to risk the loss of any more time but to go and see for myself and search until I should find such traces as might remain.

From the first I met with the utmost kindness and received more help than I can ever acknowledge, severally and individually. But I would say at the outset that to this help

#### A BRIDGE OF MEMORY

I owe such success as my search has achieved, and that through the kindness of the learned, the gentle, and the simple, my quest was lifted out of the gloom of ruins and tombstones into the sunshine of many pleasant friendships.

It is necessary to record the fact that the tracing of all family history in Ireland has been rendered extraordinarily difficult by one of the most utterly grievous destructions perpetrated during the 'Troubles' of modern times.

From the year 1866 onwards all Irish Records, which included wills, grants, leases, family muniments and parish registers as well as national archives, were gathered together from various other offices in Dublin and from parish churches throughout the country and housed in the Four Courts, a great block of magnificent Georgian buildings erected in 1786, facing the quays on the north bank of the River Liffey.

An account of the fate of these Courts and their priceless contents is given by Herbert Wood, B.A., M.R.I.A., late Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, Ireland, in a paper read before the Royal Historical Society on the 13th of March 1930 and printed in *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, Fourth Series, vol. xiii.

By the kind permission of the Society I quote the following extract:

'The Public Record Office, which had been a reserved service under the Government of Ireland Act 1920, was handed over to the Provisional Government of Ireland as from 1st April 1922, and on the night of Thursday, 13th April of that year, irregular military forces took possession of the Four Courts including the Public Record Office.

'The housekeeper was allowed to continue in residence till the 30th of that month, when he was compelled to leave the premises and from that date till the 30th of June, the rebels retained possession of the Record House and Treasury, the latter of which was turned into a manufactory for bombs, for which the large spacious building of the Treasury made it particularly suitable. . . .

'Towards the end of June, the Provisional Government decided to drive out the Irregulars by force, and on Wednesday the 28th June, they attacked the Four Courts with artillery. The end

#### A BRIDGE OF MEMORY

could not long be delayed. On Friday the 30th of June a tremendous explosion announced the conclusion of the business. The Four Courts lay in ruins. But it is with the Record Office that we are most concerned. The Record House escaped marvellously and most of the damage it sustained was produced by the artillery fire which had been directed on it during the preceding days in the attempt to drive the Irregulars out, but the Record Treasury, the home of a magnificent collection of records dating back to the thirteenth century, was not so lightly let off. It had been set on fire earlier in the day by an explosion which occurred probably under the Land Judge's Court just opposite, but the explosion of two heavy mines in the Record Treasury itself at 2.15 and 2.16 in the afternoon sealed its fate. Of the large building, nothing but the four walls, roofless and windowless, containing a mass of distorted and tangled ironwork and debris, met the gaze when it was possible to get near enough to survey the scene. The rest of the contents had either been consumed by the intense heat, or, as happened with some of the records on the top storey, scattered by the winds of heaven over the city and suburbs, some being found on the Hill of Howth, seven miles distant from the city.'

Mr. Wood was in Dublin on the day of this tragic destruction, his is the account of an eye-witness, and few men knew more about the treasures, the fruits of the labour of seven centuries, thus wantonly destroyed in a few seconds. Mr. Wood concludes his account with the words:

'Apart from the loss from a historical point of view, the difficulties of genealogical study will be increased a hundredfold in the future. Who can regard unmoved the destruction of thousands of parish registers, the only chronicle of multitudes of people ever having lived?'

In an earlier portion of his paper, when describing the contents of the Record House, Mr. Wood explains the position regarding parish registers. He says:

'An important addition to the existing collections was made by the Act 38 & 39 Vic. c. 59, whereby the registers of the parishes of the late Established Church of Ireland were brought under the control of the Master of the Rolls and were, upon the death or resignation of the person who was the parochial officer on the 31st December 1870, to be removed to the Record Office. Fortunately, as it afterwards turned out, great opposition was made

#### A BRIDGE OF MEMORY

to this Act, and an Amending Act of 39 & 40 Vic. c. 58 passed, by which the Master of the Rolls might permit any parish registers which would have been attachable under the former Act, to remain in the charge of the incumbent of the parish, if satisfied that they were kept in a fit and safe building and that due provision was made for their custody; it being obligatory on the incumbent to make a return to the Master of the Rolls every year that the registers were safe and in proper condition. A large number of incumbents availed themselves of this concession, but the registers of about half the parishes of Ireland were lodged in the Record Office.<sup>1</sup>

As we have seen, this meant that they all perished.

When I first went to the unfamiliar North of Ireland I shrank from the thought of going back to Dublin, which I had known well in former times, and I sought only what might be found in the new Record Office established in Belfast, and in the Land Commission Office of Northern Ireland. But as time went on I realized that it was necessary to go to Dublin and seek for what might still exist there. After an absence of twenty-four years it was a greatly changed Dublin that I found in 1935. From the searcher's point of view, however, there is still much valuable information relating to families and their property to be found in the Office of Deeds, in the Quit Rent Office,<sup>1</sup> in the Royal Irish Academy of Learning, from the Manuscript Commission and the Land Commission, from the National Library, from the archives of Trinity College, and from the Office of Arms in Dublin Castle. A Public Record Office has been established in the rebuilt Four Courts, where some new material has been acquired, some of the old that was damaged, but not destroyed, has been repaired and the volumes known as Lodge's *Records of the Rolls* which were saved through being housed in another portion of the building, have come into a position of importance denied to them so long as the original Rolls existed.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Quit Rent — the small rent paid by Freeholders of manors. 'Quietus' because thereby the tenant goes quiet and free of all other services. Black, *Com.* ii. 42.

<sup>2</sup> John Lodge, a distinguished genealogist and author of the well-known *Pierrepont*, was also Deputy Keeper of Rolls and Keeper of Records in Dublin

#### A BRIDGE OF MEMORY

But in spite of these many sources of knowledge, one is constantly brought up against the blank left by that which has been lost. As regards wills, the poignancy of the loss is accentuated by the *Index of Prerogative Wills* compiled by Sir Arthur Vicars in 1897, which shows what existed at that time, and has now entirely disappeared.

During the years that I have studied the family history, each one of the nine generations from John Wray down to my mother's time have become filled with such living people that there are many whom I feel as if I could remember and whom I sometimes think I have known, 'whether in the body or out of the body, I cannot tell'.

Suffice it to say that it is with great respect and deep affection I have come to know my ancestors and in that spirit I have endeavoured to give a true picture of their history and some idea of the country and the times in which they lived. I hope the result may convey something worth having, from the past to the present, for the descendants of the family who are now living in England, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States of America, as well perhaps as to some others outside the family who are interested in the lives of bygone generations.

In all family history the effect of various marriages and of the different strains brought in through inheritance from one generation to another is of the deepest interest and importance. The family of Wray is no exception, rather is it a good example. Throughout many generations the male line owed much to the distaff side and therefore I have given what details I could collect of the families where intermarriage took place, which carries the direct bearing of this record into the families of Gore, Sampson, Galbraith, Knox, Babington, Jackson, Brooke, Hamilton, Moutray, Boyd, Atkinson, Stewart, Donnelly, Johnston, and Waller.

In the Ulster of to-day there live no Wrays descended

Castle. On his death in 1774 he left MSS. consisting of Calendars, Abstracts, and Indexes compiled from Patent and other Rolls, and Records of Chancery under his charge. They were considered of such value that by a King's letter dated 15th Aug. 1783 they were directed to be purchased for the Crown. See 26th Report of Deputy Keeper Public Records. Dublin, 1894.

#### A BRIDGE OF MEMORY

from the branches of the family which I have traced. There are families named Wray living throughout the counties of Donegal, Londonderry, and Antrim, whom I believe to be descended from some of the younger sons of John Wray but, as they bore no arms and held no manorial rights, it has been impossible to trace their lineage. No traditions, private papers or public records known to me have established relationships between them and the family whose history I have striven to chronicle in the following pages.

This family was known as the Wrays of Castle Wray, from whom sprang two junior branches, one known as the Wrays of Ards, that being the name of the place where they lived in County Donegal. The other branch was the Jackson Wrays, who descended from a second son of John Wray's great-grandson, the third Henry of Castle Wray. During the eighteenth century they acquired land in County Antrim which they held until it was sold to the tenants under the Land Act at the beginning of the twentieth century.

## II

## SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY: HIS FOREBEARS AND DESCENDANTS

IN England there were two families with the name so nearly alike that they were sometimes confused. The name was spelt Wray with an 'a' in the north, and Wrey with an 'e' in the south.

Wotton describes both families in his *Baronetage* printed 1771. Writing of Wrey of Trebitch, he says: 'From an old pedigree of this family I find Robert le Wrey living the second of King Stephen A.D. 1136. By the prefix adjunct they seem to take their name from some office, others denominate them from their habitation and possessions of Wrey in Devonshire.'

This reference gives the earliest date mentioned in connexion with either name that I have found. As to whether the Yorkshire Wrays descend from the same origin as do the Devonshire family, I have no evidence. The arms borne by the two families are entirely different, as are also their crests and mottoes.

Wotton gives a pedigree for the Wrays which dates from early in the fifteenth century, and this was the line accepted by Charles Dalton when, in 1880, he compiled a *History of the Wrays of Glentworth*. The two volumes of this work centre round Christopher Wray, who became Speaker of the House of Commons and Lord Chief Justice of England. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth and received from her the means to purchase the estate and to build the mansion at Glentworth. He also shared the doubtful distinction of being one of the five judges, together with peers and privy councillors, before whom Mary Queen of Scots pleaded in vain for her life.

Charles Dalton himself claims descent from Sir Christopher's descendants, as his ancestor Captain John Dalton married, in 1756, Isabella Wray, second daughter of Sir John

SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

Wray, 12th Baronet of Glentworth, and eventually, failing heirs male, the Daltons inherited some of the Wray estates in Lincolnshire.

In the introductory chapter of Volume I, Dalton says :

"The Wrays of Castle Wray in County Donegal, which is the Irish branch of the Wray family I am writing about, did not descend from Sir Christopher Wray the founder of the Glentworth line, but from an uncle of Sir Christopher's, whose son emigrated to Ireland in 1610. From this Wray descends the present Mr. Wray of Castle Wray."

I am indebted to Charles Dalton's *History* for a great deal of information, but I have not followed the Wotton pedigree for the earliest generations. I have followed instead the pedigree accepted by the *Dictionary of National Biography*, which is founded on the work of the Rev. Octavius Wray, LL.D., who wrote an article on the family of Wray which appeared in the *Genealogist*, vol. iv, pp. 278-82, shortly after the publication of the first volume of Dalton's book, and had for its object the correction of certain statements as to the pedigree made in that volume.

Octavius Wray says :

"In the 16th century the Wrays of Wensleydale and Coverdale, commonly called the "Dales Wrays" were a numerous clan living in the parishes of Aysgarth, West Witton and Coverham within a circuit of about two miles, of which the centre was in West Witton. This circuit comprised, within these parishes, various hamlets, villages and townships, all within the Royal Manor of Middleham, in which adjacent town some of the family lived.

"Most of the Wrays were Crown-tenants of land held in the Royal Manor, and the wealthy members afterwards bought, in fee simple, large portions of these lands either direct from the Crown, or from the Citizens of London (commonly called "The Londoners") to whom they had been granted by Charles I." (Ditchfield Grants, Public Record Office.)

The article is supported throughout with references to records in various leases, re-leases, purchases and sales of lands by members of the family mentioned in the accompanying pedigree.

SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

PEDIGREE

Stephen Wray, lessee from the Crown of land at West Witton, living 1543-6. Issue:

1. Adam Wray of Thursbie. Will 1584, 30 November. Died 1584.
2. Christopher Wray of Swinithwaite. Will 1584-5, 16 February. Died same year. Widow: Elizabeth.
3. Leonard Wray.
4. Thomas Wray, seneschal 1535 of Coverham Abbey. Married Johan Jackson, who wedded 2ndly John Wyclif. Thomas and Johan Wray left issue:
  - i. Thomas Wray of St. Nicholas, from whom the Beamish branch. (*Surtees' Durham*, vol. ii, 226.)
  - ii. Leonard Wray, from whom the Cusworth branch. (See Hunter's *Deanery of Doncaster*, 349.)
  - iii. Sir Christopher Wray, Knight, Chief Justice, from whom the Glentworth branch. (See Dalton's *History of the Wrays of Glentworth*.)
  - iv. Richard, from whom the Kelfield branch.

Adam Wray had issue one son and three daughters:

1. Sir Ralph Wray, devisee under his father's will.
1. Dorothy.
2. Elizabeth.
3. Catherine.

Ralph Wray, in Priest's orders, was Crown-tenant in 1553 of land in Middleham. He left issue John Wray, Crown-lessee in 1571 of land at Middleham. John Wray left issue John Wray the younger. He married Sisselle Wynne and they left issue.

From this pedigree as given by Octavius Wray, I pass on to quote the following notes from vol. xxi of *D.N.B.*, with some additions from Charles Dalton:

'Sir Christopher Wray (1524-1592) Judge.

'Third son of Thomas Wray, seneschal in 1535 of Coverham Abbey, Yorkshire—by Joan, daughter of Robert Jackson, of Gatenby, Bedale, was born at Bedale in 1524.

'The ancient doubts, revived by Lord Campbell (*Chief Justices*,

#### HIS FOREBEARS AND DESCENDANTS

i. 200) as to his legitimacy were removed by the publication, in 1837, of the will of his mother, by her second marriage wife of John Wycliffe, auditor of issues in the Richmond district. (*Surtees Society*, vol. xxvi.)

'Wray was an alumnus of Buckingham (refounded during his residence as Magdalene) College, Cambridge, where he founded two fellowships, and added another by his will. Two more were founded by his wife in 1591.

'Like most gentlemen of the North he was probably Catholic at heart but he evidently steered a wary course for in the religious census of Justices of the Peace, compiled by Episcopal Authority in 1564, he is entered as "indifferent".

'In the Parliament of 1571, Wray then member for Ludgershall, Wiltshire, was chosen Speaker of the House of Commons.

'Wray was appointed on 14th May 1572 Justice, and on 8th November 1574, Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench. He died on 7th May 1592 and was buried in the church at Glentworth, Lincolnshire. He was Lord of the Manors of Brodsworth and Cusworth, Yorkshire, and of Ashby, Fillingham, Grainsby and Kennington, Lincolnshire.

'Original portraits of Wray are at Fillingham Castle, Lincolnshire, and Sleningford Park, Yorkshire—the seats of his present representative, Mr. Seymour Berkeley Portman-Dalton, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, and a copy at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

'By his wife Anne, daughter of Nicholas Girlington of Normanby, Yorkshire, Wray had a son, William Wray. This son, Sir William Wray (1555-1617) was created a baronet on 25th November 1611 and married first in 1580 Lucy, eldest daughter of Sir Edward Montagu of Broughton, by whom he was the father of ten sons and five daughters. Lady Wray died 1 March 1599, three weeks after her fifteenth child was born—"a martyr to maternity". Her second son Edward Wray became a Groom of the Bed-chamber to James I, and in 1619 was appointed by the king to be Collector of all fines and forfeitures payable by the natives inhabiting British Undertakers' lands in Ulster. (See *Calendar State Papers, Ireland, 1615-25*, pp. 244 and 357-8; also *Wrays of Glentworth*, vol. i, pp. 66, 177, and 191, &c.) Sir William was succeeded at Glentworth by his eldest son Sir John Wray. Sir William married secondly, *circa* 1600, Frances, daughter of Sir William Drury, of Hawsted, Suffolk, and widow of Sir Nicholas Clifford, by whom he was the father of three sons and one daughter. The eldest of

#### SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

these sons was Sir Christopher Wray (1601-1646) of Ashby and Barlings, Lincolnshire. Born 1601 and knighted on 12th November 1623. M.P. for Grimsby in Long Parliament, was Deputy Lieutenant of Lincolnshire under the Militia Ordinance, and co-operated in the field with John Hotham; was appointed Commissioner to the Admiralty 15th April 1645 and on 5th December 1645 Commissioner resident with the Scottish forces before Newark. On the 3rd August 1623, Christopher Wray married Albinia, daughter of Sir Edward Cecil (afterwards Baron Cecil of Putney and Viscount Wimbledon). Edward Cecil was the third son of Thomas Cecil, 1st Earl of Exeter.

'Sir Christopher Wray died on the 8th February 1645-6, leaving six sons and six daughters. He was succeeded by his eldest son, William, created baronet 1660. William married Olympia, second daughter of Sir Humphrey Tufton, Bt., The Mote, Kent. William died in October 1669, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Christopher Wray, Bt., who, on the extinction of the male line of the elder branch of the family, succeeded, in 1672, to the Glentworth baronetcy and died without issue in August 1679.

'Sir Christopher was succeeded by his only surviving brother, Sir William Wray. He died without issue about March 1685-6. The junior baronetcy (of Ashby) thereby became extinct.

'He was succeeded by Baptist Edward Wray, son of Edward Wray, second son of Sir Christopher by his wife Albinia Cecil.

'Sir Baptist Edward Wray, 8th Baronet of Glentworth, died about 1689 without issue, and was succeeded by his uncle, Sir Drury Wray.

'Sir Drury Wray (1633-1710) third son of Sir Christopher Wray (1601-1646) by his wife Albinia Cecil, born on 29th July 1633, obtained in 1674 grants of lands in the counties of Limerick and Tipperary, which he forfeited by his loyalty to James II, on whose side he fought at the Battle of the Boyne.

'He succeeded his nephew, Sir Baptist Edward Wray, as 9th Baronet of Glentworth about 1689, and died on 30th October 1710, leaving, with female issue by his wife Anne, daughter of Thomas Casey of Rathcannon, Co. Limerick, two sons, both of whom died without issue after succeeding to the baronetcy.'

Of Sir Drury Wray and his life in Ireland, Charles Dalton says :

'When James II succeeded to the throne . . . the Kingdom was rent asunder by the two most diametrically opposite factions.

#### HIS FOREBEARS AND DESCENDANTS

Difference in religion and politics caused the most deadly feuds in hitherto united and happy families. Landed proprietors lived in fear of losing their estates. . . . Some of these gentlemen had been worldly wise enough to prepare for the contingency. Drury Wray following the example of many others and being himself a Protestant, had brought up his eldest son in the Protestant religion and his youngest son, Cecil, in the Roman Catholic, so that whichever party came into power his estates might still remain in the family. . . .

'There is every reason to believe that Sir Drury Wray served at the Battle of the Boyne on 1st July 1690, as Captain in Sutherland's Horse.'

Charles Dalton continues—

'Sir Drury Wray was attainted in 1691 and his estates consequently sold by the Commissioners of the Forfeitures. . . . At the Court of Claims, Major Christopher Wray, the eldest son of Sir Drury, claimed and was allowed a reversion in fee, after his father's decease, in various lands in Limerick and also in others in Cork. . . .

'Major Wray offers one of the many instances of the sad domestic severance which this war effected, fighting as he did at the Boyne for King William. He afterwards served in the wars of Flanders, Spain and Portugal as Lieut.-Colonel in Colonel Farington's Regiment and eminently distinguished himself at the attack on Ostend. . . . Colonel Sir Christopher Wray died unmarried at Portsmouth, twelve days after his father's decease, while preparing to embark with the fleet for Spain. . . .

'He was succeeded in the baronetcy by his only surviving brother and heir, Cecil, Captain in Farington's Foot.'

'Sir Cecil Wray, 11th Baronet of Glentworth, had been bred a Roman Catholic, but seems to have returned to the religion of his fathers. He served in Flanders, Spain and Portugal, and after leaving the Army, became Colonel of the Limerick Militia.'

'Sir Cecil married Mary, daughter of Edward Harrison Esq., of Morely, Co. Antrim, by Joanna his wife, daughter of Dr. Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Dromore.'

Sir Cecil Wray died on the 9th of May 1736, without leaving legitimate issue. The title and the entailed English estates passed to his cousin, John Wray, who was son of William Wray, son of Cecil Wray, younger brother of Sir Drury Wray.

#### SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

John Wray succeeded as 12th Baronet of Glentworth. He married Frances, daughter and sole heir of Fairfax Northcliffe of Langton, Yorkshire. He died in 1752, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Cecil, as 13th Baronet. Sir Cecil Wray inherited large estates in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and in Norfolk.

In 1760 he built Summers Castle, now known as Fillingham Castle, ten miles from Lincoln. He was M.P. for Westminster 1782-4. He died at Fillingham on the 10th of January 1805 and was buried in the church there.

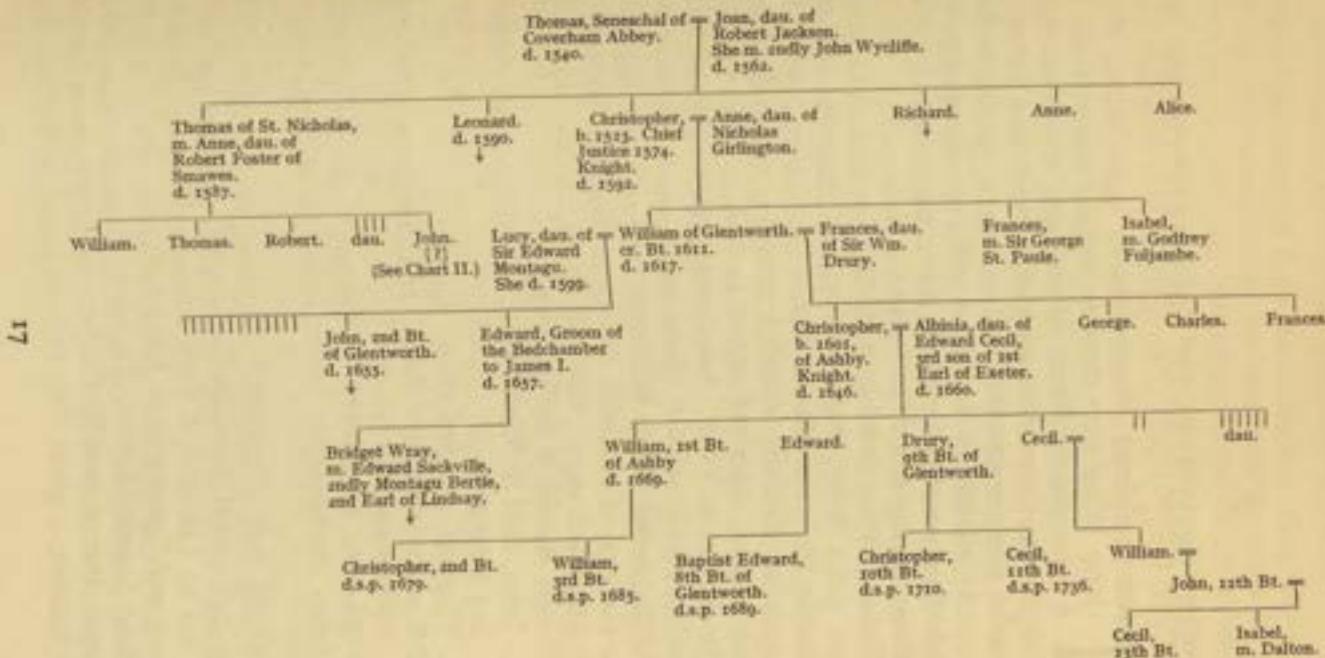
His wife, Esther Summers, also died at Fillingham in 1825, aged 89, and was buried beside her husband.

The date of their marriage is not known, nor is anything known of her history. They had no issue and Sir Cecil Wray's estates, which his widow enjoyed for her life, passed to his nephew, John, second son of John Dalton (1726-1811) who had married Sir Cecil's sister, Isabella Wray.

For three years after the death of Sir Cecil the title was borne by the Rev. William Ullithorne Wray as 14th Baronet. He died in 1808, aged 87, and was succeeded by his only surviving son, William James Wray, as 15th and last Baronet of Glentworth.

Sir William died without issue, on the 27th of August 1809, aged 36 years.

THE WRAYS OF YORKSHIRE AND LINCOLNSHIRE. CHART I



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### III

#### THREE BROTHERS OF SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

THE foregoing chapter shows quite clearly that the John Wray who came to Ireland was not one of Sir Christopher's direct descendants, therefore we turn to his brothers the other sons of Thomas and Johan Wray and seek first the record of their youngest, known as Richard Wray of Kelfield. He had a son and a grandson named John whose fates are chronicled, therefore the possibility of either of them having settled in Ireland is removed.

Richard Wray lived at Kelfield; married 1551, and had a son John Wray, born in 1552, of Brogden House and Auburne Hall, the Manor House of Kelfield. John Wray, yeoman of Kelfield, married in 1587 Anne, daughter of Adam Carter. Her will dated 22 March 1619 was proved 17 June 1622 at York. John's will dated 28 July 1610 was proved 31 August 1610. John and Anne Wray were buried at Stillingfleet. They had three sons and one daughter:

1. George of Kelfield, Yeoman. Married Anne Kendal. She died 1647. His will dated 27 May 1645. They were buried at Stillingfleet.
2. John, died in March 1619. Administration the following February.
3. Thomas, married 1619. d.s.p.
1. For the daughter Anne, administration was granted 18 February 1613.

(See Burke's *Commoners of England*, vol. iv, p. 21, and *Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Index of Wills*, vol. A.D. 1585-94.)

Having thus eliminated the possibility of John Wray's being descended from Sir Christopher or from Richard, we pass on to Leonard, a short account of whom is given in *History and Topography of South Yorkshire*, vol. i, p. 349, by the Rev. Joseph Hunter. This account is incorrect in several respects. It mentions Sir Christopher as if he were Leonard's only brother, it gives their father's name as William instead

### THREE BROTHERS OF SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

of Thomas, and omits all mention of their mother, whereas Johann Wycliff in her will mentions 'my sonne Leonard Wray' and gives to him 'my best standyng cuppe of sylver with cover'. She also leaves small legacies of money to the three 'junior chyldren of my sonne Leonard Wray'. (See Dalton's *History of the Wrays of Glentworth*, vol. i, p. 6, and *Surtees Society*, vol. xxvi.)

The grant of Arms made to Sir Christopher Wray was extended to his brother 'Leonardus Wray de Adwicke in Eborac' provincia' on the 21st of May 1587.

Leonard predeceased his brother Christopher, and Sir Christopher 'died seised of the Manor of Cusworth' which by his will he left to his wife as part of her 'joyneter', so that it was Leonard's son, Christopher, who became possessed of Cusworth some years later.

The names of the sons of Leonard Wray as given by Hunter are the same as appear in Leonard's will, and there is no John among them, so that John Wray's descent from this branch also is eliminated.

Leonard's will is preserved in the Probate Registry Court at York (vol. 24, fol. 476) from whence the following copy was supplied to me:

Abstract of the Will of Leonard Wray of Adwick by the Street

Date—14 August 1590

To the Curate of the Church for tithes forgotten 10/-.

To the poor of Adwick 10/-.

To my son Christopher Wray the house in Bentley where Robert Scoley and John Bridge dwell and all the land and meadow, also the land I bought of Robert Bradford of Bentley and Burnaby Skyers of Pickburn.

To my son Phillip Wray one house in Arksey in the occupation of one Whyttacre, and my house in Shaftholme, and on his decease to his issue, and for default to my son Robert Wray and his issue, and for default to my son Leonard and his issue, and for default to my son Christopher.

To my son Leonard Wray my lease of the Manor House in Bentley, also one house in Bentley where Gilbert Naylor dwelleth.

To my son Christopher one house in Billame in the occupation of Christopher Scales.

THREE BROTHERS OF SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

To my wife a third part of my lands and goods during her life.

To my son Christopher the house I now dwell in in Adwick and one cottage in the occupation of James Wrath.

To my brother Thomas Vicars one old rayl.

To my son-in-law William Adams one standing bed.

To my son Christopher one standing bed at Cusworth.

To my brother Christopher Wray, Knight, Lord Chief Justice of England, one black bay gelding, and to my nephew Mr. William Wray, my said brother's son, one grey gelding.

To Lady Wray two old angels.

To Mistress Fuliambe one old angel.

To Mistress St. Poll one old angel.

To my son-in-law Francis Yarburgh one gold ring, and to Frances, my daughter, his wife, two angels.

To my godson Edmund Yarburgh £6-13-4d. and to Elizabeth Yarburgh, his sister, £3. 6. 8d.

To Robert Hogg £3-6-8d.

To George Huscroft and Thomas Sharp a quarter of barley.

To each of my servants two metts of barley.

To my son Robert Wray and my daughter Margaret Wray 200 marks each.

The residue of my goods I give unto my son Robert Wray and my daughter Margaret Wray and I make them Executors.

Supervisors:—The Right Worshipful Sir Christopher Wray, Knight, my brother, Thomas Vicars of Scawsbie, my brother-in-law, and William Adams, my son-in-law.

Witnesses: Thomas Vicars.

William Adams.

Proved 3rd February, 1590,  
by the Executors.

'Mistress Fuliambe' mentioned in Leonard's will was Isabel, second daughter of Sir Christopher, who after the death of Godfrey Foljambe married secondly Sir William Bowes, and thirdly John, Lord Darcy of Aston. 'Mistress St. Poll' was Frances, eldest daughter of Sir Christopher, she also married twice, for Sir George St. Paule died in 1613 and she then married Robert Rich, first Earl of Warwick.

'An old rayl' meant a linen garment, and 'an old angel' was a gold coin showing St. Michael piercing the dragon. Value 6s. 8d. to 10s.

Leonard's widow, Ursula, survived him by four years.

### THREE BROTHERS OF SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

She died intestate, but administration was granted to five persons, and though there is a note made that no relationship was given, they are easily identified: Christopher, Leonard, and Phillip Wray as her sons, Margaret as her daughter, and we know that William Adams was her son-in-law from Leonard's will in which he is so described.

'On the 18th April 1594, Administration of the goods of Ursula Wraye, late of Adwicke le Street, deceased intestate, was granted to Christopher Wray, William Adams, Leonard and Phillip Wray and Margaret Wraye. (No relationship given.)' (*Doncaster Act Book*.)

In thus pursuing the policy of elimination, we now come to the last of the four brothers Wray, Thomas, who was the eldest. Here I met with a really cruel disappointment. There is an entry in the Index at the Probate Registry in York of the will of 'Thomas Wraye de St. Nicholas 1588', but it is marked 'Missing'. The Registrar adds the comment, 'Many of these wills perished years ago'.

Through this loss we are deprived of the evidence which was most likely to be reliable and comprehensive as to the number and the names of Thomas Wray's sons.

In the *Surtees History of Durham*, vol. ii, p. 226, a pedigree of the first Thomas Wray of St. Nicholas is given. There are several items omitted from it which are well authenticated by other records, therefore the fact that in it the second Thomas Wray (eldest brother of Sir Christopher) is credited with only three sons and that their names are given as William, Thomas, and Robert is not conclusive evidence that they were the only sons. There are several identifiable omissions. Thomas's brother Richard is omitted. The Christian name of Thomas's mother is omitted, as is also her father's Christian name, yet this marriage was an important one and seems to have brought an increase both of mental ability and worldly wealth into the Wray family. Joan, or Johan, was daughter and coheir of Robert Jackson of Gatonby in the parish of Bedale. Thomas's wife is described as daughter of Leonard Foster, whereas she was his sister.

Thomas Wray was mentioned several times in his mother's will, so there is no doubt that he was her son. Johan leaves

### THREE BROTHERS OF SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

her 'best sylver salt wythe cover gilt' to the son of her second marriage, but the will proceeds, 'I gyve to my sonne Thomas Wraye my next sylver salt with the cover' and 'I gyve to my sonne Thomas' wyffe my litell goblet of sylver'.

Thomas Wraye also inherited 'my lease and interest of the after croppe of St. Nicholas field' and 'the resydew of all my goods moveable and not moveable, not bequested, my debts and funeralls payed and discharged, I gyve to my sonne Thomas Wraye and my sonne Robert Wycliffe whom I do make and orden to be my executors'.

Arms were granted to Thomas Wray on the 21st of May 1587, the same date on which they were granted to his brother Leonard.

Thomas died on the 1st of November in the same year and was buried at the parish church of Richmond.

Failing the lost will of Thomas Wray, I give the translation of an Abstract of his Inquisition Post Mortem which is lodged in the Public Record Office, London. This document recites the property held by the deceased at the time of his death but gives only the name of his eldest son and heir. The *Surtees History* gives, as well as the two other sons, four daughters: Dorothy, Eleanor, Elizabeth, and Mary.

*Chanc. Inq. P.M., Ser. II, vol. 219, no. 61*

Taken at York Castle on the 12th of Sept. 30 Eliz. (1588) after the death of Thomas Wraye late of St. Nicholas near Richmond gentleman.

He was seised of the reversion of the site of the house of the late Carmelite Brothers in Richmond and the lands thereto belonging, late parcel of the hereditaments of John Gower attainted of high treason. Which premisses were held by a certain James Cotterell and Anne his wife for term of the life of the said Anne with reversion to the said Thomas Wraye.

He was also seised of the manor of Barden, and so being seised on 1 Nov. 29 Eliz. (1587) he made his will and left the said manor of Barden to Agnes his wife for life in name of her jointure.

He was also seised of a 4th part of Cotham Grange otherwise Crosbie Coote in the parish of Northallerton.

He was also seised of the late chantry, free chapel or hospital of St. Nicholas next Richmond.

### THREE BROTHERS OF SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

Thomas Wray died on 1 Nov. 29 Eliz. (1587) and William Wray his son and heir was aged twenty at the time of his father's death.

According to this Inquisition, Thomas Wray was survived by his wife Agnes, or Ann as she is called in the *Surtees History* and in a Feet of Fines dated 1574 'Thomas Wray Gent and Ann his wife'.

She was the daughter of Robert Foster of Smaues and, as Ann and Thomas are mentioned in his will, I give an abstract of that will and also an abstract of the will of Jane Foster, Ann's mother, in which the two eldest Wray children are mentioned.

Abstract of the Will of Robert Foster of Tadcaster in the County of York. Gentleman

Date—25 June 1567

To be buried in the Church of Tadcaster.

I will that Leonard, my son and heir, at the end of seven years after my death shall enter into The Smaues, and I also give him the lease of my Hessell Wood.

To Robert Foster, my son, the house I now dwell in and all my land in Tadcaster at the bridge end.

To Agnes Wray, my daughter, £10.

To Phillippe Nevill, my daughter Dorothy Nevill's child, £10.

To the child that my said daughter Dorothy is now withal £10.

To John Cooke, £10.

To Robert Foster of Caitterton all my lease in Caitterton.

To Jane, my wife, and Leonard, my son, seven years of The Smaues.

To Henry Nevill, my son, 40/- yearly out of The Smaues.

To Mary Beilbie, my daughter's daughter, 40/-.

To John Tailior the lease I bought of Patrick.

To Thomas Tailior my half of the close in Caitterton.

To Robert Tailior, son of the said Thomas, 20/- and to the rest of his children 6/8d. apiece.

To Richard Jackson's children of Caitterton 20/-.

To John Bene's children of Owiston 6/8d. each.

To my cousin Jane Foster 6/8d.

To Thomas Jordayne and Christian, his wife, 40/-.

To Thomas Bilbrough the close in his occupation for six years.

To Elizabeth Foster, my daughter, 200 marks.

Excutors—Mr. Thomas Hungaite, Esquire, and my two sons—

THREE BROTHERS OF SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

in-law Henry Nevill and Thomas Wray, and I give unto them £40 apiece, they to receive the rents of my lands in Labberston, Killaby and Catton for the payment of my debts.

To William Foster for his life 20/- yearly out of my house in Malton.

To Thomas Wentworth 26/8d.

The residue of my lands I give unto Leonard, my son.

I will that if my lands come to Robert Foster, my son, and his heirs, for default of heirs to Leonard, my son, and that my son Leonard have one daughter only by Isabel, his wife, then my son Robert shall pay to the said daughter two hundred marks.

Witnesses: Richard Beilbie,

Thomas Jordayne.

William Foster.

Thomas Wentworth. George Marshall.

Proved 13th November 1567

by the Executors.

(Probate Registry Court, York, vol. 17, fol. 734.)

*Chanc. Inq. P.M., Ser. II, vol. 147, no. 166*

Taken at Tadcaster on . . . Sept. 9 Eliz. (1567) after the death of Robert Foster. He was seised of the manors of Newton in Cleveland and Smaunes in Tadcaster. He made his will on 25 June 9 Eliz. (1567) in which he mentioned his two sons Leonard and Robert. He died at Tadcaster on 31 July last past (1567) and Leonard his son and heir was aged 23 at the time of his father's death.

*Chanc. Inq. P.M., Ser. II, vol. 150, no. 163*

Taken at York on the 8th of Jan. 10 Eliz. (1567/8) on the death of Robert Foster late of Tadcaster. He was seised of a messuage, lands &c in Oxton, Bilburgh and Tadcaster. He died on 1 Aug. last past (1567) and Leonard Foster his son and heir was aged 23 at the time of his father's death.

Abstract of the Will of Jane Foster of Tadcaster in the County of York

Date—3 Oct. 1568

To Anthony Harwood, my son, all my lands and tenements.

To Elizabeth Foster, my daughter, £20.

To my said son Anthony Harwood, £40.

THREE BROTHERS OF SIR CHRISTOPHER WRAY

To Mary Beilbie, daughter of my daughter Frances, £6.13.4d.  
To my son Thomas Harwood's children, £13.6.8d.  
To Mistress Jane Foster, the Nun, 40/-.  
To Leonard Foster, my son, and Isabel, his wife, £40.  
To Margaret Tailer, Thomas Tailer's wife, 40/-.  
To Thomas Bilbrough's wife, my goddaughter, 6/8d.  
To John Bene's wife, 6/8d.  
To Bryan Fentyman's wife, 6/8d.  
To Thomas Wentworth, 20/-.  
To Phillip and Francis, the two children of Henry Nevill, my son, £40.  
To Robert Foster, my son, £40.  
To William and Dorothy, children of my son Thomas Wray, £40.  
To my son Raufe Rasing's children, Richard, John, Edward, Francis and Myllysing Rasinge, £40.  
To my son Henry Nevill, £8 which he oweth me.  
To Thomas Harwood, my son Thomas Harwood's son, £13.6.8d.  
The residue of my goods I give unto Henry Nevill, my son-in-law, Thomas Wray, my son-in-law, Robert Foster, my son, and Raufe Rasinge, my son-in-law, and I make them Executors.

Witnesses: Thomas Hungate.  
Thomas Lacie.  
John Tayller.  
Nicholas Wryter.

Proved 13th October, 1568,  
by the Executors.

(Probate Registry Court, York, vol. 18, fol. 10.)

## IV

JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY AND  
CARNAGILLAGH, COUNTY DONEGAL

FROM the facts recited in the foregoing chapters we saw that John Wray was not the son of any one of the three brothers, Leonard, Christopher, or Richard Wray, and that this left Thomas, the eldest of that family, and the only other Wray to whom the grant of arms was extended in 1587.

We further saw that Thomas Wray's will was quoted in the Index of Yorkshire Wills, proved 1588, but was marked 'Missing'. The loss of this will removes the most direct source of evidence, positive or negative, as to John's parentage. I have explored every avenue, every alley-way, that showed any hope of leading to reliable information about John Wray's antecedents, and having done so and summed up the net results, which inevitably fall short of definite proof, I can only affirm my conviction that John was a younger son of Thomas Wray by his wife Ann Foster, and this conviction I base on the three following indications —I will not call them more:

1. In the Chancery Inquisition taken at Lifford on 16 April 1621, John Wray is styled 'Armiger'—bearer of arms. Only as son of Thomas would he have been entitled to bear arms. The earliest description of the arms as borne in Ireland is dated forty-five years later in the will of John Wray's grandson and is identical with the grant to Thomas.

2. In the *Carew Manuscripts* there is an entry under the date of 1609, among fines paid to Sir Henry Dockwra, 'at the Derry by John Wray for the inheritance of a house that was Martin Foster's'. Here again we lack the direct proof of a Martin Foster being mentioned in the wills of Robert or Jane Foster of Smaues, but Foster was the name of Thomas Wray's wife. It was not a common name in Ireland at that date, and, therefore, the explanation of mere coincidence is a less likely one than that of relationship, added to the fact that

#### JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY

John Wray 'inherited' Martin Foster's house, and inheritance is more probable from a relation than from a stranger.

3. The tradition in the Irish family that they were directly descended from the same branch of the English family as Sir Christopher Wray was never questioned. The relationship is alluded to as accepted fact by Charles Dalton in his *History of the Wrays of Glentworth* and by Burke in *Landed Gentry* from its earliest editions. Again, in the report of an appeal to the House of Lords, made in 1866, on a law-suit referring to Fishery Rights in County Donegal, Sir Cecil Wray, 11th Baronet of Glentworth, is referred to in connexion with a lease, as is also William Wray of Ards and his son William, all deceased. George Cecil Gore Wray was called as a witness in the case and was described in Court as 'The representative of the three Wrays already mentioned', thus bracketing him equally with Wray of Ards and Sir Cecil Wray of Glentworth.

I submit that these premises justify the assumption that John Wray was a son of Thomas Wray of St. Nicholas, Richmond.

The actual date of John Wray's coming to Ireland is not known. In various books relating to the Plantation of Ulster the Wrays are enumerated among the Elizabethan families who came from England. The Rev. George Vaughan Sampson says:

'The English Settlers in the six escheated counties of Ulster may be distinguished under two general classes, those who arrived in the latter end of Queen Elizabeth's reign and those who came over in the reign of James I. The former were almost all of English descent and the latter for the greater part Scottish. The chief families of the former class were the Gores, Wrays, Sampsons, Brookes and Harts.' (See Biographical Notes to the *Historical Song, The Siege of Derry*, edited by Rev. James Graham.)

The earliest authoritative record of John Wray is given in the *Carew Manuscripts*, 1603-24, preserved in the Library at Lambeth Palace. These manuscripts, calendered by J. S. Brewer and William Bullen, were published by Longmans, 1873. In the Introduction to the printed volumes the following explanatory note is found, 'This volume contains

JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY

all that Sir George Carew had thought fit to collect respecting the plantation of Ulster and the events in Ireland during that eventful period'.

In the text of the Calendar, under the date of 26 March 1609, we find the following entries:

'Sir Henry Docwrae's Certificate. A note of such money as I have received for fines of houses at the Derry.

Of Edwin Babington for the fee simple of four houses 4.l. John Wray is to pay me within one week 20.S. for the same. Of John Wray for the inheritance of a house by the waterside that was Martin Foster's.'

A further mention of John Wray occurs in the King Manuscripts of the Clarke Collection preserved in Trinity College, Dublin. Among the 'Ulster Plantation Papers' which form part of this collection is 'a schedule of sums to be paid by the King to ancient inhabitants of Derry as composition for surrender of houses and lands, July 1611'.

	li.	s.	d.
Captain Henry Hart for a house by the Water-side, one in the Upper Fort and for the grand Lease of all the Town lands at	023	00	00
Captaine John and Captaine Henric Vaughan for 3 acres of land in the Iland at	046	00	00
Reece Coitmore for a peece of grounde at	004	00	00
John Wray for a house and twoe peeces of land at	009	15	04

(*Analecta Hibernica*, No. 8, March 1938.)

During my search for information about John Wray I came upon the following note in the Preface to vol. xxvi of the *Surtees Society*. It refers to the town of Richmond in Yorkshire, the town where Thomas Wray and his family lived:

'That mysterious scourge the plague, was in those days not an infrequent visitor, and left behind fearful traces of its irresistible power. . . . In 1598 no less than two thousand two hundred souls,

#### JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY

more than four-fifths of the whole population of the town, fell victims to its violence in Richmond alone.'

This terrible visitation may well have been the reason for all who could leaving Richmond. And it may have been then that young John Wray sought refuge and new enterprise with his mother's relation in the distant city of Derry.

We learned from Thomas Wray's Inquisition Post Mortem that his eldest son was aged 20 at the time of his father's death in 1587, and from the pedigree given in Hunter's *History* we believe that Thomas had two other sons and four daughters. On the supposition that John was the youngest son it is probable that he was born about 1577 and therefore would have been aged 21 in 1598-9.

The final years of that century were a time when many young Englishmen sought their fortune in Ireland. According to Doherty in his book *Inisowen and Tirconnell* it was in 1599 that John Vaughan, a military engineer, came to Ireland.

In the schedule of householders in Derry, referred to above, the brothers John and Henry Vaughan appear on the same page as John Wray and, as shown presently, they were further connected in later years. As a military engineer, the repairing of the fortifications of Derry were entrusted to John Vaughan, and under his supervision the building of the stone walls around the city was completed in 1617.

Among some family papers I found a bundle of old letters that had not been opened for many years. They had belonged to my elder aunt, Frances Wray, who died in 1913. These letters all referred to Frances Wray's maternal grandmother, Mrs. Waller, except one large sheet of faded, yellow paper, which was unsigned and undated. Upon this paper was given a chart of the Wray pedigree and a sketch of the family history from early times in Yorkshire down to about the year 1800 in Ireland. No authorities were quoted nor was any idea given of the origin of the information, and while many statements agreed with established facts there were others entirely unsupported by reliable evidence, so that I have not felt justified in using this pedigree. There is,

JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY

however, one statement in the description of the family that bears particularly upon our subject, and in spite of its being unsupported by references, I think it merits quotation here. It says:

'John Wray came over to Londonderry in Ireland about the latter end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, being a younger brother, and for his care in seeing the said City of London Derry repaired and some additions made to its Fortifications was rewarded by the Londoners who gave him the four quarter Lands of Lisglass and Gortegranagh in the County of Derry.'

This may be true, or it may be merely an embellishment of the fact that John Wray bought these four quarter lands which are marked among Native Freeholds on Sampson's map which originally belonged to O'Cahan. According to Mr. Tenison Groves's<sup>1</sup> interpretation, John Wray bought from O'Cahan, probably on very advantageous terms.

Following on the schedule of ancient inhabitants, dated 1611, John Wray's name next appears among the Aldermen in the first Corporation of Londonderry, appointed under the Charter dated 29 March 1613, and granted to the City by James I.

'We have also assigned . . . and do make our well beloved Ralph Bingley, John Vaughan, John Rowley, Henry Harte, Henry Vaughan, John Baker, Francis White, Henry Sadler, John Wray, William Gage, Jesse Smith, John Bankes, and George Carey Gentlemen to become and be first and present Aldermen of the same City of Londonderry to continue in the same office during their natural lives.' (From the 'Charter'. See the *Historical Narrative of the Irish Society*.)

In *The Londonderry Plantation 1610 to 1641* (pub. 1939), Dr. T. W. Moody has brought to light three further references to John Wray. Under the heading of 'the Mission of Proby and Springham', pp. 167 and 169, Dr. Moody says:

'The Irish Society on 9th November 1615 renewed its demand for certificates from the Companies of progress made in building and planting . . . Tristram Beresford's position as Mayor of Coleraine,

<sup>1</sup> W. Tenison Groves, B.A., B.Sc., T.C.D., was a great authority on Irish families and historical matters in general. He died in 1940, aged 74.

#### JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY

where he lived, was . . . considered (by Proby and Springham) highly detrimental to the City's interests at Derry, which he seldom visited. . . . They [Proby and Springham] discharged a number of officials who, now that the bulk of the City's buildings was completed, were no longer necessary. An exception was made of John Wray, a clerk, who acted for Beresford as the City's representative at Derry for a salary of £26 a year.' (City of London Records Office, Guildhall. Letter Book F.F. Journals 30.)

And on p. 204,

'Phillips's report contained various allegations of hardship inflicted on the Londonderry settlers. . . . In May 1619, the Mayor John Wray, and some of the leading aldermen and citizens of Derry wrote to the Irish Society explaining that the period within which their city was to remain subordinate to London would soon expire and that considering how impossible it was for so poor a place to thrive without the fullest assistance from London, they earnestly desired their subordinate status to be continued for so long, and on such conditions, as should be thought good for the mutual advantage of London and Derry. This "subordination" evidently referred to the special powers of control over the Derry Corporation for a period of ten years vested in the Irish Society by the Charter 1613. The letter being read at a meeting of the Common Council on 17th August 1619, the Society was ordered to consider what action should be taken. The sequel is unknown, but the Londonderry Charter remained unaltered.' (City of London Records Office. L.B., G.G., ff. 186-186<sup>v</sup>; Jor. 31, ff. 72<sup>v</sup>-73.)

Again on p. 349,

'Derry, while only a very small and struggling town, was soon ranked among the leading Irish ports. When, in 1616, the Government decided to institute a system of staple ports in Ireland to encourage the woollen manufacture at home and to restrain the export of Irish wool to France and Spain, Derry was one of the eight towns selected as the sole ports of departure for wool. . . . A Charter of the Staple was granted to Derry, dated 31 July 1621, by which Sir John Vaughan, Sir Francis Cooke, Sir William Windsor, Captain Henry Vaughan, Captain Henry Hart, Captain John Baker, Tristram Beresford, Robert Goodwin, George Carey, John Wray, Jesse Smith, Brute Hammond and eleven others were incorporated as the "Mayor, Constable and Society of Merchants of the Staple of the City of Londonderry", Sir John Vaughan being named as first Mayor. They and their officers and appren-

### JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY

tices were empowered to purchase and ship to any of the English Staples, wool, woollen yarn, shearlings, sheepskins, lambskins and morkins (sheep and lambs killed by accident or disease). (*Cal. Pat. Rolls, Jas. I, pp. 498, 538.*)

The original Summonister Rolls perished in the Four Courts, but fortunately some had been copied, and I am indebted to the Dean of Derry, the Very Rev. R. G. S. King, for allowing me to make the following extracts which mention John Wray from a copy made for him from the original manuscript by Mr. Tenison Groves in Dublin prior to 1922.

### SUMMONISTER ROLLS

1617

Co. Londonderry.

Qt. Sessions at Londonderry 30 April & 1 May, 15 Jas I & 1617, held before Sir John Vaughan Kt. Mayor of Londonderry. George Carey Esq Recorder of Londonderry.

Henry Harte, John Rowley, Tristram Beresford, John Baker, William Gage, Baptist Johnes, & John Wray Esqs & Justices of the Peace.

Henry Moone of Achadoey fined £3 for selling cervisian lupulat at the rate of 4<sup>d</sup> the qt.

Fines for not attending

John Freeman of Glendermot parish, g<sup>t</sup>

Eugene M'Shane, Murry O'Mullen of Ballimulle.

Manus Carrogh M'Closky of Camsen.

Redman O'Chane of Crossalt.

Donogh duf M'Robert O'Chane of Fawgher.

### SUMMONISTER ROLLS

Co. Londonderry

Recognizance 20 July 1618 before John Wray Mayor of Londonderry. Henry Nicholas of Vintnerstown is in gaol for assaulting Wm. Chapman.

9 Sep 16 Jas I & 1618

Fines for living in an Irish house

Manus O'Cahan Esq. 40.S. Daniel M'Manus O'Mullan 5.S.

Brian ban M'Gilligan 5.S. Gilduffe oge O'Mullan 5.S.

Owen M'Shan Murry O'Mullan 5.S. Gilduffe M'Brian

O'Cahan 5.S.

### JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY

In tracing the history of John Wray I now turn to records of the lands which he purchased in County Donegal; these are found in the *Calendar of State Papers, Ireland, 1615-25*, *The Carew Manuscripts*, *The Chancery Inquisitions of Ulster No. 11, 1621*, and *No. 15, 1624-5*, and in the *Civil Survey, 1654*.

A survey made by Captain Pynnar is recorded as follows in the *Calendar of State Papers, Ireland, 1615-25*:

<sup>1618</sup> Co. Donegal

#### Barony de Kilmacrenan.

Mr. John Vaughan	1000 acres
Capt Dutton	1000
Sir Richard Hansard	1000
Capt Sanford	1000
Sir Thomas Chichester	500
Mr. John Wray	1000
Sir George Marbury	1000

True Certificate of the Servitors' Lands in the Six Escheated Counties in the Province of Ulster, which ought to have a competent store of arms in readiness as the former (foregoing) Undertakers; all which said Servitors appeared not either with men or arms.

*Note: "There ought to be of Arms in these Counties after the rate of 24 for every 1,000 acres, 1,226."*

A somewhat fuller account of the proprietorship of the same thousand acres is given in the *Carew Manuscripts* under the date of the following year:

<sup>1619</sup>

#### Freeholders Leases

Sir John (106) John Wray, 1,000 ac. called Carnegille. A good Vaughan strong bawn of lime and stone, 40 ft. long, 15 high, was first Patentee. 4 flankers, good lodgings, 2 stories high, a stone house length of bawn, 2 stories high, inhabited by an English gentleman and family.

English Undertenants. Stands in a good place for the King's Service.'

In George Hill's *Plantation of Ulster* there is also an account of the thousand acres of Carnagillagh, quoted from the

JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY

Ulster Inquisitions, with a summary of the original grant made to John Vaughan, the first patentee:

'Grant to John Vaughan Esq. Dogh-Iyey Carranagilly, Lisnandise and Dromon one quarter each, Colleboy one quarter, Lis-sanana one and half quarter, half of Ellestran quarter, and half of Ighterrosse quarter, in all 1,000 acres with free fishing in Loughswilly. The premises are created the Manor of Carranagilly with 300 acres in demesne and a court baron, Rent 8l. English. To hold forever, as of the Castle of Dublin and subject to the Conditions of the Plantation of Ulster 19. February (1610-11).'

In the year 1608 Sir Arthur Chichester subdued and captured Sir Cahir O'Dogherty, Chieftain of Enishowen. By Letters Patent dated 16 July 1610 King James granted the whole of the confiscated territory of Enishowen to Sir Arthur Chichester. According to the *Chancery Inquisition for Co. Donegal*, 'No. 11, Jac. I, taken 16 April 1621 & 19 Jac. I', Sir Arthur leased portions of these lands on long terms to the following:

John Vaughan, Kt.,  
Henry Vaughan, Esq.,  
James Vaughan, Gent.,  
Peter Benson, Esq.,  
Walter Stephens, Gent.,  
John Roper, Gent.,  
Henry Harte,  
John Baker,  
George Cary, Esq.,  
Robert Fleming, Gent.,  
Wm. Newton, Gent.,  
Arthur Leaning, Gent.,  
James Parpoynt, Gent.,  
James Walsh, Gent.,  
George Scretnam or Surtnam, Gent.,  
Sir Tho. Chichester, Kt.

And to John Wray, Esq., he gave the following lease:

'John Wray Esq. for a term of 51 years 5 quarters of the land of Derryvaughan alias Crossihowell, Soplock, Dromheiry, & Gort-carmorgan with the appurtenances, for an annual rent of 28 li English money.'

JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY

These lands were all situated in the old parish of Templemore, which is now divided into the parishes of Muff and of Burt. In the *Civil Survey of County Donegal, 1654*, we find them described as part of Sir Arthur Chichester's grant from the Crown, and enumerated thus :

'fol. 16	Part of the Parrish of Templemore.	
Arther	forty two quartrs	The Crowne
Lord	six ballibose & one	rentt
Chichester	third partt of a Quartr	included as
	Called The Castle Quartr	in ffol. 2
	of Burtt.	
'fol. 17	The two ballibose of	
Arther	Balli Mc Roorty	
Lord	Ballinigally	
Chichester	Elloghmore	
aforesaid	Bondreene	
	Elloghbegg	
	Balliderowin	
	Drumheggerty	
	Gortcarmigan	
	Soppogg	
	Derryvane	
	Balliarnall	
	Craye Muff	
	Ardmore	
	Carrownamoyel	
	Ischehcene	

'fol. 18. This parte of ye Parrish of Templemore Conteyning fortey tw quarters six ballibose<sup>1</sup> and one third of a quart mentioned in folf 16 belonging to ye Lord Chichester are bounded as followeth one ye Eastside with Logh Foile, and from thence by a bogg stretching southward to an olde forte, joyning to ye quarter of Ballin<sup>2</sup> Ward, belonging to ye libberties of Derry, and from thence by an olde Ditch bogg and Logh to ye river of Ballin<sup>2</sup> Roorty, joyning with ye libberties of London Derry.'

<sup>1</sup> 'Balliboe' from the Irish bally = hill, boe = a cow. These old Irish measures cannot be reduced to linear accuracy. A balliboe was accepted as equivalent to the present 'townland', i.e. about 120 acres. But they were also calculated according to the productivity of the land. A smaller area might be described as a balliboe if it was very good land. In fact a balliboe was estimated to some extent from its capacity to feed cows!

JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY

While John Wray owned a house and these various lands in Donegal, he was not far removed from Londonderry, and we find his name in a Muster taken in 1622 by Sir Thomas Phillips and Richard Hadsor, Esq., His Majesty's Commissioners 'Of all the inhabitants with their servants residing in the County (City?) of Londonderry with their several arms':

'Corslets—Mr. Mayor. 2. Mr. Wraye. 1.

Pikes—Robert Flavell 1. Thomas Crawford 1. George Hamond 1.

Piece. One of the Sheriff's men. 1.

Muskets. Mr. Wraye's servant 1.

Richard Bingley 1. Henry Dunkin 1. William Simple 1.

Brown Bill. George Sandeck 1.

Halberds. Mr. Shreiffe (Sheriff?) Smith 1. his servant 1.  
Thomas Brooke 1.

23 Corslets | The whole number of Masters and Servants very

60 Muskets | well armed are 110

27 Halberds | Signed by John Wrary—Captain—'

110

(See *Londonderry and the London Companies 1603-1629. Phillips MSS.*, published by H.M. Stationery Office, Belfast. Northern Ireland Record Publications.)

Under date of the same year, 1622, in 'The Estate of the Diocese of Derry' there is this entry:

'The temporalities of the Deanery are four quarters whereof two . . . are . . . and two called Evagh are lett by the same Deane [Webb] . . . one quarter and a half to George Carey Esq for three lives, . . . and half a quarter to Johan Wray Esqr as Leasee' . . .

(Ulster Visitation Book, T.C.D. MS. See *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, n.s., vol. i, pt. 3.)

The next reference, in chronological order, to John Wray's property describes him as 'deceased'. This is taken from vol. ii of *Chancery Inquisitions, Ulster*:

'A.D. 1624-5. Inquisition No. 15. Jac. I. Lifford 7 Oct. an. 22. John Wray Esq, assign of John Vaughan K<sup>t</sup>, deceased, was seized as of fee of 1000 acres of the proportion of Cormegelly in the

### JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY

County aforesaid. The same John Wray died thus thereof seised on March 25, 1620. Henry Wray his son and heir was then aged 14 years and not married, these premises at the time of the death of the said John were and now are held of the King as of his Castle of Dublin in free and common socage and by an annual rent of 8 Li English money.'

The date given above cannot be reconciled with John Wray's will which is dated 1623. I wrote to Mr. Tenison Groves asking for his opinion, and he replied:

'I consider the date of his death given in the Inquisition as 1620 is wrong; the date in the original manuscript would be written as "sixteen hundred twenty and three four or five" and it is almost certain that the "and" and the last word were either illegible, or else were omitted by a careless abstractor.'

It must be borne in mind that the original manuscripts are among the historical treasures that perished in 1922. The translation quoted is from the Latin as given in the Elephant Folio volume published in 1829.

In 1623 John Wray made his will and Sir Arthur Vicars records that it was proved in 1628.

That will would probably have solved many problems, but it perished. However, there is a record of it, for Sir William Betham, who was the Ulster King of Arms about a hundred years earlier than Sir Arthur Vicars, made notes and abstracts of many wills and other documents, apparently for his own pleasure, and had them bound in small volumes. A set of these manuscript volumes came up for sale in London in 1934 and the Irish Government secured them for the new Record Office in Dublin. In one of these manuscript volumes I found the abstract of John Wray's will, which reads as follows:

'John Wray Esq. Ald. of Dublin 20 March 1623.  
Wife Frances.

Manor of Carnagilly in Co. Donegal.

Eldest son Henry.

Sons, Jonathan, George, John, William and David.

Daus. Elizabeth, Frances.'

(Betham Wills. Extracts, vol. 14, dated 28 January 1809.)

#### JOHN WRAY OF LONDONDERRY

It will be observed that the testator is described as Alderman of Dublin. This must be an error in the transcription.

Sir Arthur Vicars compiled his Index in 1897 from the original wills and he quotes thus:

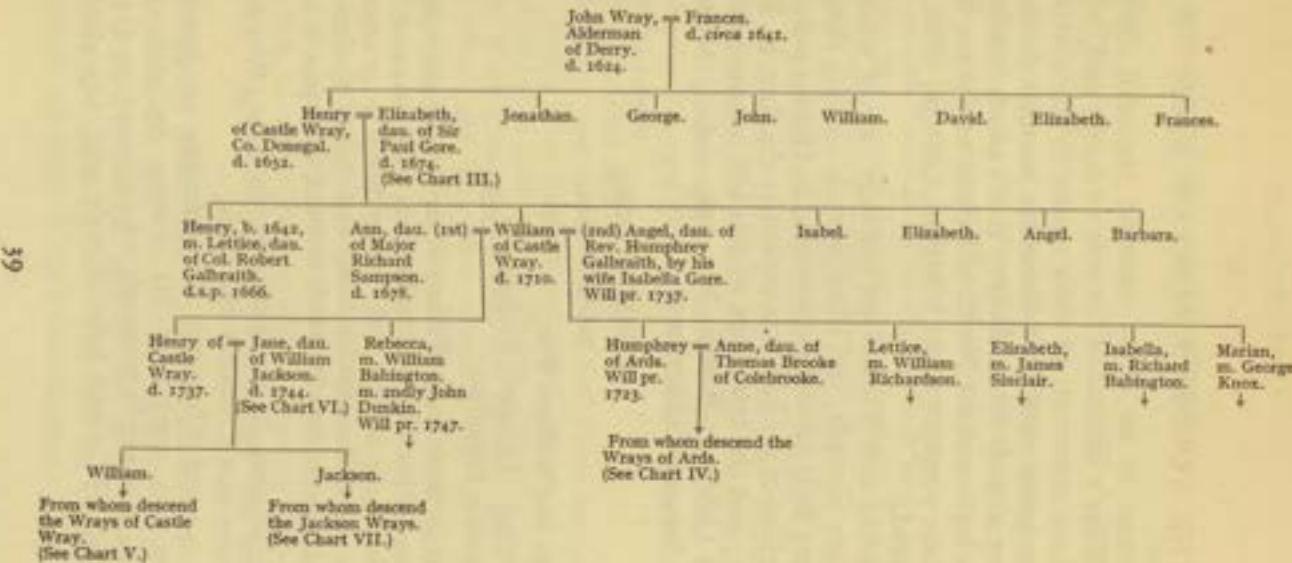
'1628—Wray—John Esqr. Alderman of Londonderry.'

The dates given in the Index refer to the year the will was proved. The will was dated 20 March 1623 and, according to the calendar then in use, the year 1624 began five days later, on 25 March.<sup>1</sup> By the 7th of October of that same year ('Jac. I—An. 22.') when the Chancery Inquisition was taken at Lifford, John Wray is described as 'deceased'. Therefore he must have died during those intervening months; probably, as the Inquisition says, on 25 March; and the discrepancy in the records is explained by Mr. Groves in his surmise that the words 'and four' were omitted when the manuscript was copied. Thus we take the date of John Wray's death as New Year's Day, 25 March 1624.

With the loss of his will has gone all record of John Wray's burial-place. I have found no memorial tablet, nor gravestone. Rare indeed are the inscriptions that have survived from the early years of the seventeenth century. If John Wray was buried in or near Londonderry, the chance that any memorial could have survived would have been further reduced owing to the number of battles and burnings that occurred when the city suffered rebellion, siege, pillage, and fire during the succeeding years of that fateful and blood-stained century.

<sup>1</sup> England adopted the Gregorian Calendar in 1752, but the change from old style to new was not confirmed in Ireland until 1781-2, by Statute 3 section of an Act 21 & 22 Geo. III, cap. 48.

THE WRAYS OF DERRY AND DONEGAL. CHART II



Donegal County Library Service

## THE YOUNGER SONS OF JOHN WRAY

HERE is no direct mention recorded during John Wray's lifetime of his wife or family and, beyond the bare statement of their names in the abstract of his will, we know very little about his younger children. But, as I have already said, I believe that various families named Wray who live in the North of Ireland to-day are descended from these younger sons: Jonathan, George, John, William, and David.

Jonathan and William are the only two of whom I have found any records; and these records survive through two Chancery Bills having been copied in Dublin prior to 1922. The earliest of the bills was copied by the Rev. H. B. Swanzy in 1915, and the transcript of this bill is now in the Public Record Office in Belfast, No. 498, vol. i, Miscellaneous Notes, Swanzy Collection:

## CHANCERY BILL

22 April 1662.

Jonathan and William Wray.	Plts.
Henry Wray Elizabeth Erskine	Defts.
and Tristram Beresford	

Jonathan Wray and William Wray two of the sons of John Wray late of the City of Londonderry Esq. deceased, shew that said John made his last will. Henry Wray, your orators' eldest brother and Elizabeth his wife, and James Erskine, her late husband, whom she afterwards married, took part in a deed.

Then follows, in the transcript, the note: 'Very illegible.' And there that Chancery Bill ends.

The second Chancery Bill referring to Jonathan and William was copied by Mr. Henry Archdale, of Castle Archdale, County Fermanagh, who allowed me to reproduce his copy. He noted John Wray's will, but alas! did not copy it.

THE YOUNGER SONS OF JOHN WRAY

CHANCERY BILL

26 Nov 1664.

Alice Wray, relict and adm<sup>re</sup> of Wm. Wray

Plaintiff

Henry Wray

Elizabeth Erskine

and Tristram Beresford

Defts.

Allice Wray, relict and administratrix of William Wray deceased, sheweth that the said Wm. Wray in his life-time to wit on 22 April 1662, exhibited his Bill of Complaint in this Honorable Court in word following:

'Your orators Jonathan Wray and William Wray two of the sons of John Wray, late of the City of Londonderry Esq. deceased, shew that the said John Wray was possessed of several lands in the Manor of Carrongilly and being so possessed by his indenture bearing date 25 March 1623 did devise sd lands to Tristram Beresford of Coleraine Esq. George Carey of Redcastle Co. Donegal William Gage of Armagilligan Co. Londonderry Esq. John Baker of Culmore near Londonderry Esq. and John Sandford of Castledoe Co. Donegal Esq. in Trust to allow the sd John Wray to receive the profits.'

'Details of the Will of John Wray'

'Frances Wray, your orators' Mother died about the time of the rebellion. Henry Wray your orators' eldest brother inheritted the lands, and paid your orators their charges. Since the death of the said Henry Wray Elizabeth his wife, and James Erskine her late husband whom she afterwards married, the said Elizabeth and Henry Wray, son of the said Henry got the will into their hands', &c.

Here Mr. Archdale's transcript ends. It gives a great deal of valuable information and is most satisfactory as evidence but, now that the original documents are lost, it is only natural that one sadly regrets the copy was not made in full.

In the Swanzy Collection in the Public Record Office, Belfast, there is the copy of another Chancery Bill which, though it does not include any of the Wray family, does include several Erskines, and attached to it is a little pedigree chart of John Wray's descendants. I can detect

THE YOUNGER SONS OF JOHN WRAY

no apparent reason for this being quoted here, except to show the two marriages of Elizabeth Gore, first to Henry Wray, and secondly to James Erskine, one of the defendants. Of the other defendants, Humphrey Galbraith married Elizabeth's sister Isabella Gore, and Anne, who was John Moutray's wife, was the daughter and coheiress of Archibald Erskine by, it is believed, his second wife Lettice Gore, elder sister of Elizabeth and Isabella. Archibald Erskine died in 1645. It was through Anne Erskine's marriage with John Moutray that Favour Royal in the County Tyrone passed from the Erskine family (who had received it through the Royal Favour of James I) to the Moutray family who still own it to-day.

Mary, wife of William Richardson, was another daughter and coheiress of Archibald Erskine, she and Anne being sisters, and just as John Moutray acquired Favour Royal through Anne his wife, so William Richardson acquired Augher through Mary his wife.

CHANCERY BILL

4 Nov 1657

James Chadwicke Esqr P<sup>bl</sup>

Humphrey Galbraith		Defts.
William Richardson,	Mary his wife	
James Erskine		
John Moutray,	Anne his wife	
Thomas Cowburn		
James Spotswood		
William Lee		
John Moore and James Moore		

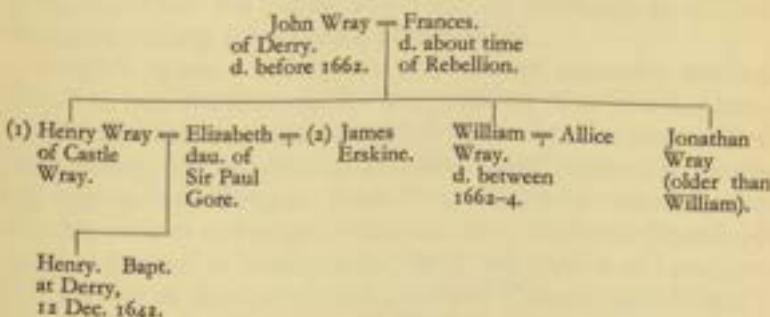
James Chadwicke of the Inner Temple London Esq. sheweth that he did agree with one Archibald Erskine Esq deceased sonn and heire apparent of Sir James Erskine Knight, also deceased, for the annual sume of three hundred and fifty pounds to be yearly paid to your orator and his heirs for one thousand yeares the first payment being on the feast of St Michaell the Archangell next after the death of the said Sir James Erskine in security, after his death, the inheritance of the Lordship of the Awgher and all other lands to which he was heir in Co Tyrone,

THE YOUNGER SONS OF JOHN WRAY

as one of the Judges of the Upper Bench in Ireland should direct. The Articles were made at the mediation of the Right Honble. the Lord Castle-Stewart dated 8 June 1634 between your orator and Archibald Erskine. The lands were inquired in the Rebellion.

Humphrey Galbraith William Richardson Mary his wife James Erskine John Moutray Anne his wife Thomas Cowburn James Spotswood William Lee John Moore and James Moore did combine to defeat your orator of his right and title.

So ends the transcript on a page numbered 107, and on the next page, numbered 107A, without any further explanation is given the following little chart:



In the Belfast Record Office there is the transcript of yet another Chancery Bill, dated 1680 (T. 359 Archdale MSS. Collection) which deals with the Erskines and refers to Colonel James Erskine's widow and her husband Alexander Wyer. It does not mention her Christian name, but we know that she was Elizabeth Gore, who had married Henry Wray as her first husband. This bill also mentions Thomas Erskine, brother to Anne and Mary, and states that he died, a minor, *circa* 1660. The bill also says that Anne and Mary were minors in 1653.

With reference to this statement, Mr. Archdale adds the comment 'this supports the view that they were the children of Archibald Erskine's second wife Lettice Gore, and not of his first wife Beatrix, daughter of James Spottiswoode, Bishop of Clogher, to whom he was married before October 1622'. (See Gore and Dunbar Pedigrees in *Memoirs of the*

THE YOUNGER SONS OF JOHN WRAY

*Archdale*, by Henry B. Archdale.) The Chancery Bill gives the further information:

'Colonel James Erskine, brother of Archibald, took on himself the guardianship of Thomas, Ann and Mary. . . . Colonel James Erskine did also die soon after Thomas. . . . Deeds James Erskine had in his custody came into hands of the widow of Colonel James Erskine, and she soon after married Alex<sup>r</sup>. Wyer, gent, and she gave all deeds to Wyer.'

## HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH GORE

THE Chancery Inquisition taken at Lifford on 7 October 1624 which speaks of John Wray as 'deceased' also says he was succeeded by 'his son Henry aged 14 years'.

Therefore I take 1610 as the year of Henry's birth.

It was the year after that in which it is recorded that John Wray inherited the house in Derry, all pointing to John's marriage having taken place about 1609.

Henry's mother had seven years of his minority during which to care for him and for the property of which her husband had become possessed, as well as for the rest of her large young family. But she had the help of some of the leading men in the Province. John Wray's Trustees were all men of achievement and responsible position. Tristram Beresford came to Ireland as Manager for the 'Corporation of Londoners' known as the 'Society of the New Plantation in Ulster'. George Cary was Recorder of Derry in 1613, William Gage was Alderman of Derry and Justice of the Peace, John Baker was another Alderman of Derry and Justice of the Peace, and John Sandford was owner of Doe Castle, a fortress of no small importance on the western shore of Lough Swilly.

George Cary had five sons, three of whom held commissions in the King's Army. Tristram Beresford also had two sons serving, which makes it probable that these two trustees were instrumental in young Henry's joining the Army.

In 1642-3 Henry Wray appears as Lieutenant in Captain Henry Gore's Company of Colonel Audley Mervyn's Regiment which mustered at Elagh on 25 July 1643. (Muster Rolls 1642 in Domestic State papers, Bundle 120, and Commonwealth Exchequer papers 1643, Bundle 121A, Public Record Office, London.) Elagh lay on the boundary

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH GORE  
of the counties of Derry and Donegal, about half-way  
between the city of Derry and the old church of Fahan.

Robert Galbraith was Lt.-Colonel of the same regiment, with Francis Gore as Lieutenant of his Company; Michael Beresford was Captain of another Company in the same regiment, while Tristram Beresford was Captain in Sir Thomas Staples's Regiment which mustered at Londonderry. James Galbraith was Major in Sir Robert Stewart's Regiment which mustered at Rafoe, Co. Donegal, 22 August 1642. Captain James Erskine, with William Richardson as Ensign, served in Sir William Stewart's Regiment which mustered at Letterkenny, August 1643. We shall hear of these men again later.

There is one other name connected with the Wray history for which I searched the Muster Rolls in vain; this was the name of Richard Sampson. Mr. Tenison Groves said that some of the Muster Rolls of Sir Audley Mervyn's Regiment are missing and known to have perished. Amongst the Muster Rolls in Bundle 121A was one of a Company, with 'Henry Vauhan' as its 'Captaine', which mustered at Londonderry 18 July 1643. The parchment of this Roll, as well as of some others in the Bundle, had perished at the top of the page where the names of the officers had been inscribed. With these various losses a strong possibility remains that Major Richard Sampson may have served in the same regiment as Henry Wray.

All the regiments above mentioned were known collectively as the Laggan Regiments.

Among the notes by James Graham on the historical song entitled 'The Siege of Derry' there is found the following short and graphic description of the Laggan Regiments:

'The inhabitants of the lands surrounding Lough Swilly, like those on the banks of the Erne, were distinguished for their military prowess in the Civil Wars of 1641. Trained to the use of fire-arms from their habit of shooting the wildfowl of the lakes, they became very expert in taking down their wilder opponents who frequently felt the power of their long musquets. A renowned regiment of sharpshooters was raised in the Laggan,

#### HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH GORE

a tract of country on the south side of Lough Swilly in the Barony of Raphoe; they were well known by their name of Lagganeers which carried terror to the ears of the Irish Rebels.'

When referring to the same troubled period, Cyril Falls in his book *The Birth of Ulster* says: 'It is certain that the whole Plantation would have been uprooted (in the rebellion of 1641) and thrown to die upon the refuse-heap but for the defence of certain towns and castles, the vigour of the Antrim settlers in aiding their less lucky neighbours, and above all the magnificent rescue work of Sir William Stewart's Laggan Force.'

The date of Henry's marriage can only be estimated, but from other events for which dates are known I take 1635 as the year in which Henry Wray married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Paul Gore. This marriage was evidently an important one and Elizabeth's influence upon her husband's family can be traced as considerable and far-reaching. All references to her give the impression of a powerful personality and a woman of purpose, though from two of the surviving Chancery Bills it would appear that she was considered not over-scrupulous in dealing with wills and that she was involved in some controversies over property, arising partly, no doubt, from her succession of husbands.

Paul Gore was the youngest son of Gerard Gore, Merchant Taylor and Alderman of the City of London. Gerard Gore had seven sons and one daughter, named Margaret. He died on the 11th of December 1607, aged 91. His will was dated 19 December 1602 and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 16 January 1607. In his Funeral Certificate (Heralds' College, London) dated 27 December 1607, it is stated that 'his son Paul was then living in Ireland and unmarried'.

Paul is said to have brought a troop of Horse to Ireland, and he was sent 'with the Queen's protection' to Rory O'Donnell, Chieftain of Tyrconnell, when the latter submitted to Elizabeth in 1601-2. In 1610 Paul Gore received a grant from the Crown of lands in County Fermanagh, of which the following abstract is found in Lodge's *Records of the Rolls K. James I*, vol. ii:

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH GORE

Paul Goore Esqr.	Largiloughsharke 2 Tates Carrige, Carricke 8 T. Killiegh 2 Tates Cloghogall 1 Tate Shancogh 1 Tate & $\frac{1}{2}$ Carrowkill 2 Tates. In All 1000 Acres	Pursuant to Commission, dated at Dublin 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 1610
For ever in com: Socage		
B. Coole and Tiercanada Co. Fermanagh	also The Whole Island called McManus-Island & Inishmore in Louherne Cont. 5 Tates & on 5 <sup>th</sup> part of a Qr., by Estima- tion 348 Acres	10.16.0 Eng.
3 Jan <sup>ry</sup> . 1610	Created the Manor of Inishmore with 450 A. in Demesne & of Court Baron.'	

Writing of the town of Ballyshannon, Hugh Allingham says:

'In 1613 a parliament was summoned to meet in Dublin. . . . James conferred grants on certain towns, which made them corporate; appointed fairs and markets, with other liberties, and with the power of sending members to Parliament.

'Ballyshannon was one of the towns thus favoured, it was created a borough by Royal Charter dated 23rd March 1613. . . .

'The first member of Parliament for Ballyshannon was Powle Goare, Bart., Magherybegg 1613 April 29.' (*Ballyshannon: Its History and Antiquities*, pub. 1870.)

Sir Paul was thus the first of a long line of Gores to be members of the Irish Parliament. Three of his sons represented their counties, two commanded regiments, one was created a baronet, and another was knighted.

Paul Gore's mother was Ellen, daughter of Ralph Davenant of Davenant Lands, Co. of Essex. She survived her husband by only a few months and died on the 13th of February 1607/8, aged 72. She was buried, with her husband, in St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Milk Street, in the City of London.

Paul must have married very soon after the death of his

#### HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH GORE

parents, for he himself died in 1629, and he was the father of thirteen children. He married Isabella, daughter of Francis Wycliffe of Wycliffe, Yorkshire, by his wife Jane, daughter of Thomas Rokeby of Mortham in Richmondshire.

Burke describes Isabella as niece of Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford (*Peerage 1857*). This tradition is repeated in several accounts of the Gore family. I can find no foundation for it, except a very distant connexion with the Wentworths through Jane Rokeby whose mother was Jane, daughter of Sir Robert Constable of Cliff, Yorkshire (will proved 1502), fourth son of Sir Robert Constable of Flamborough (d. 1488) by Agnes his wife, daughter of Sir Roger Wentworth of Nettlested, Suffolk. This Sir Roger was descended from a younger brother of a very early ancestor of Sir Thomas Wentworth. Thus, while a relationship undoubtedly existed between Thomas Wentworth and Isabella Wycliffe, it was a very remote one. But Isabella had a further interesting strain in her heritage through her father's mother, who was 'Doraty, daughter of John Place of Halnaby in Yorke-shyre by his wife Catherine daughter and one of theyres of Thomas Surteys of Dynesdale County Durham'. (See *Visitation of Yorkshire, 1563*. Harl. Soc.)

It may well have been the gifts and traits which Isabella inherited together with solid worth and business capacity on her husband's side that combined to produce the distinguished and able men of the family, as well as seven daughters who all appear to have been gifted women of intelligence and force of character. Six daughters are known to have married into families of good quality and they undoubtedly enhanced those families, who, in turn, kept their memory green by perpetuating their names throughout many generations. In tracing the history of families in the northwest of Ireland it is remarkable how frequently are found the names Lettice, Rebecca, Angel, Isabella, Elizabeth, and Anne. In practically all cases Gore connexions are apparent, the first three of the names being, of course, the most distinctive. Sydney is the only one of Sir Paul's daughters whose name I have not found repeated. Rebecca

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Gore is believed to have died unmarried; I do not share this belief but if I am wrong, then she must have been a favourite maiden aunt or a popular godmother, for her name reappears in several families for several generations.

It has been surmised that Frances, wife of John Wray and mother of Henry, was sister to Isabella, Lady Gore, and was therefore another daughter of Francis Wycliffe. There are various connexions that make it a reasonable suggestion, but beyond that it is not possible to go.

John Wray's grandmother, Joan, married as her second husband John Wycliffe, first cousin to William Wycliffe, husband of Dorothy Place. John Wycliffe's aunt had married a Girlington, and Joan's son Christopher Wray married Anne, daughter of Nicholas Girlington, while her daughter Anne Wray married Ralph Gower of Richmond believed to be the same family as the Gores. Thus it is evident that the Wycliffes, the Gores, and the Wrays were allied to one another in earlier generations, and the three families lived as neighbours in Yorkshire or just over the border in the County of Durham.

If Frances Wray was a daughter of Francis Wycliffe, then her son Henry Wray married his first cousin when he took Elizabeth Gore to wife. As I have said, I reckon that 1635 was probably the year in which Henry's marriage took place. I also calculate that at least three daughters were born to Elizabeth and Henry before a son and heir made his appearance. Here we have a definite date, for in the Register of Derry Cathedral it is recorded in the first year for which records survive:

'Baptisms  
December 1642  
Henry, Sonne of Mr. Henry Wray, XII<sup>th</sup>

The Dean of Derry says:

"The earliest Wray entry in the Cathedral Registers is "Henry, son of Mr. Henry Wray baptized 12th December 1642". From the "Mr." it is evident that he was a leading man then. No Wrays appear in the Registers from 1654 to 1703. I cannot say about

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH GORE  
any date after that as the Registers are not printed after 1703 and it  
would require a search to be made.'

The reference made in the Chancery Bill to the death of Frances, Henry's mother, 'about the time of the rebellion' is all that we know of her. We can only surmise as to whether she continued to live in Derry, or with one of her sons in the country. Her name is not among those who owned houses in Derry in 1628. It seems reasonable to surmise that Elizabeth was in Derry in the winter of 1642, as her baby was baptized in the cathedral, and travel during December of that year would have been difficult and dangerous. Henry would have been with his regiment, and it can be only another surmise whether his wife and young children would be more protected in the city than out in the country, on the shores of Lough Swilly, in the house that he had inherited from his father, surrounded as it was by 'a good strong bawne of lime and stone'.

It will be remembered that John Wray bought the manor of Carnagillagh in 1619 from John Vaughan, to whom the first patent had been granted in 1610.

In the year 1636 a Commission was held 'at Canbury' (Canterbury) 'for the remedy of defective Titles' and under that Commission the grant from the Crown was renewed to Henry Wray.

I made such search as was possible throughout private sources for the original grant, but could find no trace of it, and as all documents and grants in the Public Record Office in Dublin had perished, it seemed that I should have blindly to accept Burke's statement in *Landed Gentry* 1858 that a grant had been made to Henry Wray in 1639, but eventually in Dublin I found an abstract of the original grant among Lodge's *Records of the Rolls*, and this supplied the definite proof for which I sought.

After the date of this grant of land, I can trace but few details of the family life of this generation.

Another son was born to Elizabeth whom they named William, and there was also a fourth daughter added to the family.

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH GORE

41.	Henry Wray Esqr. A Grant (in virtue of the said Commission & for y <sup>e</sup> Fine of 36. 4. 2) to Henry Wray Esqr. of
To hold y <sup>e</sup> Lands thus • marked in capite	The Manor of Bogh-I <sup>ç</sup> ey & the Towns & Lands of Bogh-I <sup>ç</sup> ey als Bohyey
B. Kilm <sup>k</sup> renan Co. Donegal.	• Carranagilly
	• Lisdavis', Dromone Colleboy, & lissannana Als. Lisnanoan
	Half of Ellistran – – Ighterrosse
	Free Fishing in Logh : : Swilly
	14. 11. 8.
43.	Created the Manor of Castle-Wray with 400 Acres in Demesne; a power to hold Courts Baron & Leet; to enjoy all Waifes & Strays; to impark 300 Acres, with free Warren & Parke.' (K. Charles I, 1640, vol. vi.)
19th March 1639.	

It is evident that Henry continued his service with the army, as his name is on Roll II, skin 40 of the '49 Officers' Certificates, and he appears as a "'49 Officer' who sold his arrears to Captain Thomas Stewart or to Sir Arthur Forbes. (See pp. 163 and 303, vol. iii, *Reports of Irish Record Commission 1825*.)

Mr. Tenison Groves points out that 'as Henry Wray sold his arrears he only appears on one skin of parchment, while if he had kept his claims his name would be on two or three skins and also in the printed list of "Savings" granted to the Trustees of the '49 Officers.' These arrears were for pay due to the Commissioned Officers who served Charles I and Charles II in wars in Ireland before the 5th day of June 1649.

In the *Book of Survey and Distribution* preserved in the Quit Rent Office, Dublin, there is the following entry:

Co. Londonderry	Terkeran Barony	Glendermot Parish	
Mr. Henry Wray mortgaged to Charles Davenport English Protestant	Townlands Lissglass Letteraine Gortigranoch ffamuly	Unprofitable Acres 42 " 20 " 16 " 8	Profitable Acres 22 " 22 " 8 " 18

#### HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH GORE

The fact that Henry Wray sold his arrears of pay and mortgaged his lands in the County Londonderry suggests that, like many other landowners, he was short of ready money.

Except for these brief entries we know nothing more of Henry Wray. There is no record of his having made a will and, until I found the memorial tablet in Letterkenny Church, I did not know the date of his death. This tablet records that 'Here Lye ye Body of Henry Wray Esq. died 11th of Feb. Anno Domino 1652'. Thus he was still a young man, only 42 years of age.

I have searched records of the fighting in Donegal during 1652, without being able to identify any particular battle in the Letterkenny district, but the fact that the year was in the very troubled times of the Commonwealth and of Cromwell's occupation of Ireland gives ample ground for supposing that Henry Wray died a soldier's death.

The town of Letterkenny is situated in the parish of Conwall and a church of Conwall was built in 1636. The present church was built in 1770, and in the north-west corner of the outside wall there is a stone with the date 1636 carved upon it, which is said to belong to the earlier church.

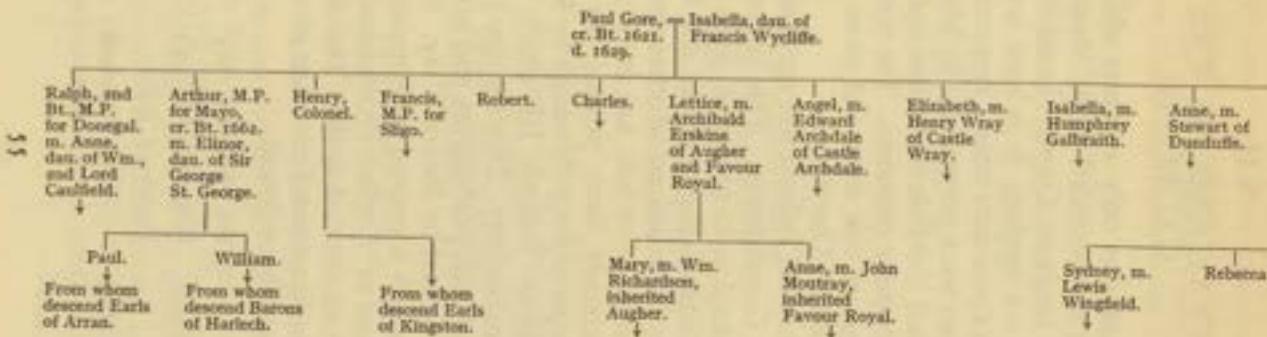
The Wray memorial tablet must have been removed from the old church to the new one at the time of its rebuilding. The tablet is now on the north wall of the nave near to the chancel. It is of white and grey marble, and records the death of Henry Wray in 1652 and of his son Henry in 1666, and of Elizabeth Wray in 1674. Above the inscription is a scroll with the motto 'Et juste et vray' and the crest of the ostrich carved in high relief. As this tablet gives the earliest representation of the crest used by the family in Ireland, I examined it with special care. I wished to see whether or not the ostrich had the horseshoe in its beak. I found that in fact no horseshoe was there, but on the flat surface of the tablet the mark is plainly defined of where a horseshoe once was, and from where it must have been chipped off at some time, thus showing that, from the first, the crest was the same in all details as that borne by Sir Christopher Wray of Glentworth.

Fox-Davies describes the crest of Wray of Glentworth,

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and of Kelfield, as 'an ostrich or', and that of Wray of Bentfield, Ireland, as 'an ostrich arg'. But in his plate he shows the Wray ostrich without a horseshoe, which according to the graven records both in England and in Ireland is not correct. (Fairbairn's *Book of Crests of the Families of Great Britain and Ireland*, revised by A. C. Fox-Davies, 1892. See also *Encyclopediæ Heraldica*, William Berry.)

THE FAMILY OF GORE. CHART III



## VII

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE LETTICE  
GALBRAITH

HENRY WRAY was only 10 years old when his father died and he succeeded to the Manor of Castle Wray and the lands in County Londonderry under the guardianship of his mother. It is hard now to picture the life of children in those days when Cromwell ruled in Ireland, and where cruelties were perpetrated by him and his Roundheads that have left indelible memories and a bitterness that has lived through three centuries. The records of the Wray family are meagre at this time and most of what survive come through official Chronicles.

In 1654 the whole of Ireland was surveyed by order of the Commonwealth Government. This survey, known as the *Civil Survey*, is stated in its preface to have been 'carried out by reliable inhabitants cognizant of the local conditions'. The manuscripts have had an adventurous passage during which some portions were lost, but much remains, and four volumes have already been printed for the Irish MSS. Commission (prepared for publication by Robert C. Simington). I quote from Volume III which covers Donegal, Tyrone, and Londonderry. Descriptions of lands are given with the names of their proprietors, and here we find records of the property owned by Henry Wray. He being a minor, his mother Elizabeth is quoted as proprietor with him; they are both described as 'English Protestants', and it is shown that Elizabeth had married again. The date of the survey places the time of her second marriage more nearly than any other record that I have found.

## CIVIL SURVEY 1654

DONEGAL. BARONY OF KILMACCRENAN

Parish of Tully

Henry Wray	Rany	One Hundred	Arable	Red bog
Minor English	on Qrter	Ackers	pasture	Rocky
Protestant	Land			Mount

## HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE LETTICE GALBRAITH

### *Footnote:*

The above said Quarter Land called Ranny, belonging to Henry Wray, Minor, and Elizabeth Wray als Erskin relict of Henry Wray deceased English Protestant, is bounded East with Carrowkeill, West with the same, North with Mullroy and South with Gortne verne.

### CIVIL SURVEY 1654

#### BARONY KILLMACCRENAN

##### Parish of Conwall

Henry Wray Minor and Elizabeth his mother English Protestant	Lissnenan one Quarter	One hundred thirty four Ackers
The said Henry Wray and Elizabeth his Mother	Illistrin and Drumen one Quarter and a halfe Coolboy one Quarter In all two Quarters	Three hundred and eighty Ackers

### *Footnote:*

The above quarter called Lissnanen belonging to Henry Wray &c. is bounded on the East with Aughnunshen, on the North with Bellirehan, West with Carnemogagh, Nort Illistrin, and the said two quarters of Illistrin &c. belonging to him are bounded on the East with Airds and Bohirril, West with Killidezert, North with Bellcherein.

### CIVIL SURVEY 1654

#### BARONY OF KILLMACCRENAN

##### Parish of Aghenunshen

The said parish is bounded on the East with the River of Lough-swilly, on the South West and North sides sorrunded with the parish of Conwall. And there is a Stone Pile called Castlwray wth in a Bawne on the one side, and neer the same on the East side there is a Little Lough called Loughnaginn and upon the River of Swilly bounding the same on the East, att flacetmore there is a passe, the several quarters of Land in the said parish followeth (Vizt)

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE LETTICE GALBRAITH

John Kingsmill Esqr English Protestant	Ballisnolely on qrter Eaghterosh seven Belliboes. In all one qrter & 7 bellibo	Two hundred & sixty Ackers.
Henry Wray Minor and Elizabeth his Mother English Protestant	Lisstaneero one qrtr Bogay one quarter wth one Bellibo of Eaghterosh, & a Mill thereon, and Carnegill one qrtr being in all three quarters and on Belliboe	fower hundred and twentie Ackers

*Footnote:*

The above said quarter of Ballymoley and seaven Belliboes of Eaghterosh belonging to Mr. Kingsmill are bounded on the East wth the sea, Sowth with Bogay, West with Lissnenan, North wth ye Ballibo of Buragh, and there is fower of the Belliboes Eaghterash claimed by James Erskin Esqr in behalfe of Henry Wray Minor sone to Henry Wray deceased English protestant.

The above said three quarters and one Bellibo of Listaneere &c. belonging to Henry Wray minor are bounded on the East with the Sea, Sowth with Aghanunshen, West with Lissnanen, and North with Ballymoley.

This ends the quotation from the *Civil Survey*. The next mention of Henry Wray is found in the Roll of the Poll Tax, 1660, otherwise called the Census of 1659, where his name appears thus, 'Henry Wray Gent. and James Erskine Esqr. for Boyay Townland with 12 people, 11 British, 1 Irish in the Parish of Aghanunshin, Barony of Kilmacrennan in the County of Donegal'.

In the Hearth Money Roll 1665 for County Donegal no Wray is mentioned, but in connexion with this Hearth Money the following description gives some idea of the conditions of home life in the comparatively peaceful days that followed the restoration of Charles II to the throne:

"The houses at first put up by the farmers and also what were called the Castles erected by the undertakers, were very comfort-

#### HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE LETTICE GALBRAITH

less and incommodeous structures: thus we find that in the year 1665 when a tax of two shillings was levied for every hearth or fireplace in a house there were only four houses in the Parish of Taughboyne, which then included the Parishes of Killea and All Saints, that had more than one fireplace. They were the house of William Conynghame Esq. of Newton which had three fireplaces and the houses of Mathew Halley of Culm 'atraise, Dr. Thomas Bruce of Taughboyne, Rector of the Parish, and Mathew Lindsay of Menymore, the latter was likely Mongavlin Castle, which had two each.

'In all this large extent of country there were only 162 houses that enjoyed the luxury of having a fireplace at all.'

'No doubt every inhabited house had a fire in it but the native Irish in general at this time and for a long time after, kept to the old Celtic custom of having the fire in the middle of the floor with a hole in the roof out of which, conjointly with the door the smoke made its escape as best it could.' (*The Laggan and its Presbyterianism*, by Rev. Alexander G. Lecky, B.A., pub. 1905.)

The few remaining details that survive of Henry Wray come from his own will as shown by the following abstract. This will gives the names of the four daughters of Henry and Elizabeth Wray, sisters of the Testator. It also refers to 'Uncle Francis Gore' who was brother to Elizabeth. Elizabeth had married James Erskine as her second husband before 1654, and he had died in 1661. She married a third time, Alexander Weir, and his name appears as one of the four executors of Henry's will.

The will was signed on the 9th of August 1666 and, according to the memorial tablet in Letterkenny Church, Henry died three days later on the 12th of August.

A copy of the will, which is long and elaborately worded, written in Old English characters, is preserved in the Record Office in Dublin, in the only book of seventeenth-century wills that survived the destruction of 1922.

But I quote the abstract made from the original will by the Rev. John Steele before the destruction, and subsequently lodged by him in the Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast, which Office supplied me with a certified copy:

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE LETTICE GALBRAITH  
Abstract of Will of Henry Wray of Castle Wray, Co. Donegal  
Dated 9 Aug 1666.

To be buried in Church of Letterkenny 'in such decent manner as becomes my quality & condition'—beloved wife Lettice Wray als Galbraith £40 per ann. & all goods & chattels whatsoever & quarter land of Drumrush or £10 per ann. 'she is now neere the tyme to be delivered'—brother William Wray, sisters Issable, Elizabeth, Angell & Barbarra, servant Archibald Kilkenny, servant Edward McCallen, uncle Sir Francis Gore Knt. Andrew Knox Esq, William Stewart, James Galbraith and Alexander Weere Gents Executors. . . .

Signed at Castle Wray nth day of August 1666. . . .

Witnesses

Gabriel Donlevy

Mich<sup>l</sup> Galbraith

John Colhoune

Seal

Crest—an ostrich

Arms—on a chief three martlets.

Sworn to by Jas. Galbraith & Probate granted (Prerogative)  
4 March 1666/7. . . .

In the full text of the will there is no mention of the landed property, so we must presume it passed by entail male under the will of Henry Wray's grandfather John.

The bequest which Henry made to his sisters was of twenty pounds sterling each and to his brother William he left 'a gray gelding and a bay horse, and three-score pounds sterling'.

In the copied text his wife's name is inscribed as Lettice, as it is also in the Burke Manuscript Pedigree.

One cannot but wonder what sore sickness befell this young man in his twenty-fourth year and cut off a life so full of promise.

In England, 1666 was the year of the Black Death and the Great Fire of London. Even in Ireland the plague was not unknown; there were strange fevers from which whole households died, and where the smallpox came it went its way unchecked. There were other dangers to life too. At about this time an order was issued from the Castle in Dublin for the 'better extermination of wolves,' which tells

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE LETTICE GALBRAITH  
its own tale. And the menace of rebellion, invasion, or civil  
war was never very far distant.

For Elizabeth, who had been guardian to Henry and to  
his property through so many troublous years, his death  
must have been a sore blow. She had already buried two  
husbands and now death took her eldest son.

Her second husband, James Erskine, was styled 'late of  
Castle Wray' in the Administration of his goods granted to  
her and dated 18 June 1661. In 1666 she was undoubtedly  
married to Alexander Weir and may have been still living at  
Castle Wray. There is a deed dated 1672 whereby Elizabeth  
receives arrears due to her late husband James Erskine as  
one of the "'49 Officers', in which Alexander Weir is  
described as 'of Carnagillagh'. (See Lodge's *Records of the  
Rolls, Charles II*, vol. i, p. 408.)

In Eng.	Deed	A DEED dated 14 February 1669 Whereby
	Stewart & Montgomery	Captain Tho* Stewart & Captain Hugh Montgomery in discharge of their Trust,
	to Weire	released & confirmed to Alexander Weire of Carnegill Co Donegall Gent & Elizabeth his Wife, late Wife & Adm* of Captain James
	Town of Drogheda	Erskine, in satisfaction of the said James's Arrears of 2076. 2. 9 the premises thus marked in the Act of Settlement Book Vol 2 P 348 which fell to the Proportion of the said Elizabeth upon the Division of the Lott.

Inrolled 14 February 1672.

The inference seems to be that Elizabeth with her successive husbands and her unmarried daughters lived on for a time at Castle Wray. If Lettice survived the shock of her husband's death and the birth of her child, she would have lived there too until such time as she married again. We know nothing definite about this young widow beyond what the will tells. But if the baby lived it must have been a girl, because Henry's brother William succeeded to the property. I have found no trace of a Wray daughter born at that date, nor any later mention of Lettice or Letitia Wray, als Galbraith.

#### HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE LETTICE GALBRAITH

With regard to the daughters of Henry and Elizabeth, the sisters of Henry the younger, we gain the record from the Derry Cathedral Register of Isabella Wray's marriage in April 1654, and the birth of her baby, Anne, in the following March 1654/5.

During the Commonwealth it was not permitted for marriages to take place in the churches, so we find this marriage solemnized at Manor Coningham, about five miles from Castle Wray, on the road to Londonderry.

It is thus recorded in the Cathedral Register:

##### 'Publication of banes

##### Solemnizations of Marriages

The banes of Lieuten<sup>t</sup> Henry Skevington and Mrs Issabella Wray published before the congregation at Londonderry three several Lord's days.

The Marriage of Lieuten<sup>t</sup> Henry Skevington and Mrs Isabella Wray was solemnized before Owen Wynn Esquire in presence of Cornett Alexander Cotton and Mathew Strong at Manner Konningham the twenty first of April 1654.'

##### 'Birthes and baptisms in March 1654/5.

Anne the daugh: of Lieuten<sup>t</sup> Henry Skevington borne March 5 bap y<sup>e</sup> 15th.'

For the marriage of the second daughter there is no date given. In Burke's *Landed Gentry* it is stated that Launcelot Lawder of Ardnunction, Co. Fermanagh, J.P., married 'Elizabeth Wray of Ards County Donegal' and that he died 15 November 1674, leaving issue. 'Of Ards' is a mistake. Her home was Castle Wray. Ards did not belong to the Wrays until many years later.

There is no record of the other two sisters, Angel and Barbara.

On the memorial tablet in Letterkenny Church, the third and last name is 'Mrs. Elezebeth Wray who died 13 of May Anno Dom 1674'. I believe this to be Elizabeth Gore, wife of the first-named Henry and mother of the second.

There was no other Elizabeth Wray at the time, and none other would have had the right, nor likely to be buried there,

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE LETTICE GALBRAITH  
and to have her name placed with those two men. Mr. Archdale confirms my view as to the identity of this Elizabeth. He says, 'I am certain that in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries ladies who had been widowed more than once did frequently revert to the first husband's surname. I have found a good many instances of it.'

## VIII

### WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS FIRST WIFE ANN SAMPSON

**O**WING to the events recorded in the last chapter, William Wray, Elizabeth's second son, became possessed of the Manor of Castle Wray and the rest of his father's estates in 1666. He must have been of age as apparently he inherited without trustees, but he cannot have been more than 22 or just 23 when he thus unexpectedly succeeded to a position of some responsibility and considerable possessions.

His mother had but too much cause to feel the uncertainty of life, and her first wish must have been for William, her only remaining son, to take a wife from among the daughters of one of the neighbouring families. In those days in Ireland it was a small circle within which choice was possible; a bride must belong to the same religion as her husband, an English Protestant must marry an English Protestant, her rank should at least equal that of her husband, and if she could bring some ready money as her fortune, so much the better for the owner of a landed estate.

There was a family established across the waters of Lough Swilly on the shore opposite to Castle Wray but some miles nearer to the open sea, whose creed and position were all that Elizabeth could desire and with whom she had also the bond of a corresponding sorrow.

I have already referred to the name of Richard Sampson, and to the possibility of his having been a brother-in-arms with Henry Wray the Elder. It may well have been that these two men fought together as Lagganeers—and possibly both were mortally wounded in one of the many raids, attacks, or defences of those cruelly disturbed years.

At any rate, death overtook Richard Sampson within a month of Henry Wray. They each left young children with considerable landed property. As time went on it would have been most natural that the two widowed mothers of

#### WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS FIRST WIFE ANN SAMPSON

William Wray and of Ann Sampson, respectively, should have arranged a marriage between their son and daughter.

The circumstances of the wooing are left to conjecture, but the fact remains certain that William, son of Henry Wray, married Ann, daughter of Richard Sampson, in about the year 1668.

Ann's age can only be estimated, but she was probably married at 17, and therefore born about 1650, a year or two before the death of her father. As far as I know, Richard Sampson left only two children, Michael and Ann, but as he had attained the rank of Major, he may have been senior to Henry Wray in years as well as in military rank. An account of the Sampson family will be found in the next chapter.

In the attempt to portray the life of this young couple we turn now to the home whither William brought his bride.

We presume that he fetched her from her own home at Burt, and brought her, probably by boat, from the Inishowen shore on the north-eastern side of Lough Swilly down to the southern end of the very beautiful and almost completely land-locked 'Lake of Shadows' at the head of which lies Letterkenny, and on whose western shore stood Castle Wray, with greenswards sloping down to the water's edge all sheltered by thick woods from the storms of the north-west. Here was the centre of the thousand acres that William's grandfather, John, had bought, known then as the Manor of Carnagillagh, renamed twenty-nine years later when the Grant was confirmed to William's father as 'the Manor of Castle Wray'.

For a description of the house we turn to Captain Pynnar's *Survey*, made in 1619. He thus describes it: 'There is a good strong Bawne of lime and stone 40 feet long, with four flankers, in which there is good lodgings, being two stories, also a stone house of the length of the Bawne, being two stories high . . . and standeth in a good place for the King's Service.'

It sounds rather grim, but at any rate it afforded some protection in days when attacks were not uncommon, and it stood in one of the few sheltered and fertile parts of this

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS FIRST WIFE ANN SAMPSON  
wild and little cultivated, though very beautiful, Barony of  
Kilmacrennan.

I have visited the demesne of Castle Wray now three times. Of the nineteenth-century house, which is rapidly falling into ruin, I will write later in connexion with the generations who lived in it.

The last time I was at Castle Wray, in 1937, I went most carefully over the ground. I leave the modern house completely out of account for the moment, but at the back of where it stands there is a long low building of rough-hewn stone, now used as outhouses, probably built as stables. Beyond these stables is the ruin of an ancient corn mill, and below the mill on sloping ground going down towards a stream that runs through the wood, is an old well. Stone steps lead down into this well, it has stone-built walls and a sloping roof of stone, all sound and strong, though much overgrown. Up the side of the steep bank of the stream are the remains of a very old, very thick and strong wall; this wall continues for some distance along the bank of the stream, then it turns inland from the stream, thus enclosing on three sides the well and the mill and connecting with the outside wall against which the stables now stand. At the far end there is an arched gateway which leads into the wood.

I was not able to dig in search of foundations, but there was ample space for a house of forty feet here in the centre, and I believe that these old walls are the remains of the original bawne which stood round-about the first house of 'lime and stone'. The stream was almost like a moat on one side. This stream turns towards the sea just where the walls end; at the turn there is an old stone bridge leading to another gateway which stands beside yet a third arched gateway, that leads into the walled garden.

This garden of Castle Wray adjoins, wall to wall, the garden of the next property, Castle Grove. Tradition says that in the early days these two gardens were used as one big Bawne where the cattle from both properties could be driven for safety when the native Irish were expected to come on a raid to carry them off.

#### WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS FIRST WIFE ANN SAMPSON

Whether William's mother still lived at Castle Wray after Ann came, we do not know, but I think not. During her eldest son's minority we know that Elizabeth and her second husband did live there. But in 1672, when Alexander Weire is styled as 'of Carnagillagh', I think it suggests another house on the property, probably the original house which stood on the site of what is now called Oak Park, a house with a nineteenth-century front, but back regions that are very much older.

Whatever their conditions and surroundings may have been, a son was born to Ann and William and was called Henry. There is no date recorded but, judging from other dates, I think that Henry was probably their first child and born in 1669 or 1670. Mrs. Younge, of Cudlaff, in her book *Three Hundred Years in Innishowen* suggests there were two children who died young. Of this I found no evidence, but the inscription on William's tombstone admits of the possibility as it says, 'He left issue surviving by his first wife Ann Sampson, Henry and Rebecca'. Thus at any rate we know that a daughter was born to Ann and named Rebecca. While again no date is given I calculate, from the date up to which Rebecca herself bore children, that her life cannot have begun much earlier than in 1678, and we know that 1678 was the year that brought great loss to William in the death of his young wife Ann. Probably Ann died at the birth of Rebecca. In his will, William singles her out by the only term of affection expressed (except, of course, for his surviving wife) as 'my dear child Rebecca' showing that peculiar tenderness that a father often feels for the 'Benjamin' whose coming cost the life of his beloved 'Rachel'.

The existence of William Wray's tombstone in Clondahorky Church was the one local record known to me before I ever saw Donegal and because I knew it was there I went first to Dunfanaghy, the nearest town to the old church. But the tombstone gave no hint of the date of Ann's death, nor the whereabouts of her burying-place.

From Dunfanaghy I went to Londonderry. At the time I knew very little about the ramifications of the quest upon

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS FIRST WIFE ANN SAMPSON

which I had embarked, but I knew there were some Sampson graves in the old churchyard of Fahan, and with no thought beyond finding them set out through heavy rain one Sunday afternoon. The road crosses the boundary from Londonderry into the County of Donegal a few miles outside the city and then turns down towards the shore of Lough Swilly opposite to Inch Island. The old Castle of Burt stood on the mainland between Muff on Lough Foyle and Fahan on Lough Swilly. Fahan is little more than a hamlet. At a cross-roads very near to the sea stands a little gateway leading into the old graveyard. The new church stands on the opposite corner of the cross-roads, and has a stone over the porch with the words carved upon it, 'Built A.D. 1820. Rev. Wm. Knox, Rector'. The door of this church was locked, but the gate into the old graveyard stood open, and I went in. It was terribly overgrown, bushes blocked the pathway, while nettles and long grass almost hid the graves. I found various curious old stones and inscriptions, one of these was to Horatio Nelson, midshipman of H.M.S. *Endymion*: 'An amiable youth who breathed his last at Fahan House in 1811 in the 18th year of his age.' It was a long inscription and went on to say, 'He was born at Burnham Thorpe in the County of Norfolk', and concluded with the remark, 'Could friendship have prolonged his days he had lived'. When, later, I searched the Muster Book of H.M.S. *Endymion*, it showed 'Horatio Nelson Mid. 2nd Sept 1811 Loughswilly sick' and 'Horatio Nelson Mid. D.D. 18 Nov 1811. Lough Swilly.' (Adm. 37/3559, P.R.O. London.) And in Somerset House, I chanced upon the administration of Horatio Nelson's goods granted to 'his Father, Robert Nelson'. ('Richard' Admons. 1823.)

In the graveyard the grass was long and very wet, but I threaded my way in and out searching for the name of Sampson, until I was soaked through, stung up to my knees by nettles, and on the point of abandoning the search when I felt almost as if a hand took mine and drew me towards a little pathway that I had not noticed earlier and which led to the far side of the ruined wall and east window of the sometime church. I stopped for a moment beneath a yew tree,

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS FIRST WIFE ANN SAMPSON

and there in the pathway, under my feet, I suddenly caught sight of the word 'Wray' on a stone that was half covered with earth. I knelt down, scraped away the earth, rubbed the stone with wet leaves, and found the inscription carved in the stone and still quite clear:

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF MAJOR RICHARD  
SAMSON WHO DIED THE 12<sup>TH</sup> OF MR ANN 1652

ANN WRAY HIS DOGHTER DIED THE 11<sup>TH</sup> OF SEP ANN DOM 1678

This surpassed my wildest hopes, for here I had found Ann Sampson's grave, my five times great-grandmother of seven generations ago, with the dates of her death and of her father's death, with his rank and Christian name which were all new to me. That day I think I shared in the exultation that belongs to discovery be it of codex or any other form of writing on the walls of time. Presently I left the graveyard, but the door of the new church was still locked. I waited a while until a man arrived on a bicycle and turned in at the church gate. He was the sexton, come to ring the bell for evening service. He took me into the church and showed me another tablet on the wall, erected there to replace the original one in the old church. There was also a further inscription to the memory of another Sampson, the last of his line, which said:

This Tablet is erected by Maria Hester Sampson of Walworth to replace one which was formerly in the Old Church of Fahan and which was broken in removal the following inscription being the same as that upon the Tombstone and the Tablet which were both within the church

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF MAJOR RICHARD  
SAMSON WHO DIED THE 12<sup>TH</sup> OF MR ANN 1652

ANN WRAY HIS DOGHTER DIED THE 11<sup>TH</sup> OF SEP  
AN DOM 1678

Also in memory of

HER BROTHER, COLONEL THOMAS EDMUND SAMPSON F.G.S. F.R.A.S.,  
OF THE INDIAN ARMY THE LAST MALE DESCENDANT OF THIS BRANCH  
OF THE FAMILY WHO DIED AT HIS RESIDENCE AT WALWORTH COUNTY  
OF LONDONDERRY ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 1863. AGED 63.

## IX

## THE FAMILY OF SAMPSON

THE Sampson family is a large one and has spread wide. I attempt no general history but have tried to trace the story of the branch which settled in Ulster and who are believed to descend from the Sampsons of Horsemunden in Kent, whose arms they bear.

There are several contradictions and some obvious anachronisms in such records as survive. The earliest of all reliable records are preserved in the *Visitation of Kent 1574* (Harr. Soc.) while a somewhat fuller account of the family is given by Edward Hasted in his *History of Kent*, vol. ii, publ. 1782. Hasted says :

'Robert Poynings died seised of Spelmonden (in the Parish of Horsemunden) in the 9th year of King Edward IV. His son and heir Sir Edward Poynings K<sup>st</sup> in the 14th year of that reign alienated it to John Sampson whose son Christopher Sampson in the 37th year of King Henry VIII passed it away by sale to Stephen Darell. . . . King Henry VIII in his 33rd year granted to Christopher Sampson the Manor of Twedale (in the Parish of Gillingham). . . . In the 7th year of King Edward VI Christopher Sampson purchased of the King several woods, parcel of the Manor of Twydale. . . . Henry Lord Cheney . . . had livery of Nutts a small Manor (in the parish of Leysdown) in the 3rd year of Queen Elizabeth's reign . . . and soon afterwards alienated it to Christopher Sampson who afterwards resided at Nutts. He left issue by his wife Mary daughter of Robert Sandes three sons Anthony, Henry and Christopher, the former of whom sold this Manor to Stephen Osborne . . . who was owner of it in 1578.'

Hasted puts a footnote to the Christopher of Nutts in which he says :

'He was descended from Thomas Sampson who, by his wife — daughter of Frogenthal, left issue a son John of Horsemunden in this county, who married Jane daughter of — Clifford, by whom we had Henry Sampson of that parish. Henry left issue by his wife Joane Norton two sons, Christopher the purchaser of this Manor as above mentioned and John.' . . . 'They bore for their arms Argent a Castle triple towered sable.'

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The will of John Sampson of Horsemonden, Kent, Gentleman, dated 9 October 1491, is in Somerset House (3 Doggett). This will does not mention his wife Jane or Joane. Presumably she was dead and John had married again, for he refers to 'Alys now my wife'. John bequeaths lands to his son Henry with remainder to Christopher; to his daughter Dorothy he leaves £20 if she remains 'a woman of the world'. If she were to enter a convent then her sister Elizabeth was to get the £20. In the *Visitation of Kent* under the Broker pedigree I found Dorothy's marriage, so she secured her legacy.

The will of Alice Sampson of Horsemonden, dated some seventeen years later in 1508, proved 8 May 1509, is also in Somerset House (14 Bennett). She desired to be buried at the Church of St. Margaret Horsemonden 'without the west door'. She left 'a cowe' to one of her maids and 'a blake kyrtle' to another, while she left her land in Kent to her sons Thomas, John, and Alexander Norton, thereby showing that for her, too, the marriage with John Sampson was a second one.

In his account, Hasted stops short with the words 'and John' but the earlier account in the *Visitation* carries that line of the pedigree one generation farther and shows that John had a son John. This second John is believed to have come to Ireland *circa* 1599.

There is a pedigree of the Sampson family preserved in the Office of Arms in Dublin which gives the same line of ancestors as I have quoted, and says that the John who came to Ireland had a son Richard who married Susan, daughter of Roger Lemyng of Barnetby, Caistor, Lincolnshire, but gives no date for this marriage and quotes no references. The pedigree credits Richard and Susan with one son Michael, who married Letitia Galbraith, and with two daughters: Ann, who married William Wray, and Elizabeth, who married John Hart of Muff, in 1637. Every printed account of the family that I have found follows this same line. But there is a serious discrepancy when dates come to be filled in. In the pedigree no dates are given except for Elizabeth's marriage with John Hart.

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There is one item in this pedigree which I have not found mentioned elsewhere; it has a note of interrogation against it, but as it specially refers to the Wray family I quote it here. An unnamed daughter of John Sampson of Kent is said to have 'married John Wray of Castle Wray, Co. Donegal'. It is of course highly probable that John Wray of Carnagillagh, as the Manor was then called, married a sister of the first Sampson who came to Ireland, but as we saw it also seemed probable that he might have married a daughter of the Wycliffes. We know his wife's Christian name was Frances but, as the Sampson daughter is not named, I fear we are still without proof of the parentage of John Wray's wife, and that the note of interrogation must remain in both pedigrees.

After considerable search I found a pedigree of the Lemyngh family (*Harl. Soc.* li, p. 595), which showed Roger Lemyngh of Barnetby and his wife Anne, daughter of Christopher Kelke. (See also *Kelke of Barnetby*, p. 556.) Roger and Anne Lemyngh had four sons and four daughters. Susan is described as '1st dau' and of her it is recorded 'Mar: at Caister 20 Sept 1609 Richard Sampson of Ireland'.

The date of this marriage would allow for Richard and Susan Sampson being the parents of Elizabeth, who married John Hart in 1637, but not for Michael and Ann being their children. William Wray, whom Ann married, was not born until in or after 1643. Michael married Letitia Galbraith who was described as 'an infant of tender years' at the time of her father, Humphrey Galbraith's, death, *circa* 1659-60. Michael's marriage with Letitia took place shortly before 1678, and Michael died in 1690, leaving eight children, all minors.

We know from the tombstone in Fahan churchyard that Ann Wray was the daughter of a Major Richard Sampson, who died in 1652.

I submit that there must have been two Richard Sampsons, either father and son, or uncle and nephew, and that 'Richard Sampson of Ireland' was brother or cousin to John and not his son.

In the Lemyngh pedigree, Richard Sampson is described as

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'of Ireland' in 1609, showing that he was then established in that country. The next mention in chronological order that I found of 'Richard Sampsone' is in a list of Householders of Londonderry, dated 1628. This manuscript, giving the names of some two hundred and sixty householders, has been reproduced page by page in facsimile and also in modern type, published in 1936 by the *Sentinel* Office, Londonderry, with an Introductory Note by the Very Rev. R. G. S. King, under its ancient title of 'A Particular of the Howses and Famylyes in London Derry May 15. 1628'.

In this list, 'Lot 144 & 145' containing '12 acres 68 perches' was owned by Richard Sampsone at a rent of 006 " 13 " 04. Again, in the Muster Roll of Ulster, *circa* 1630 (Add. MSS. 4770, fol. 200, British Museum Collection) two Sampsons appear—'Co. Donegal, Eneshone Barony, Lord Chichester's Servitors' lands, his men and arms'. Here a long list of names follows with among them

'No. 16. John Sampson—Sword only'.

'No. 52 Richard Sampson. Sword only.'

These two entries coupled with the date given for Richard Sampson's marriage, seem to leave no reasonable doubt that there was a Richard contemporary with the first John who came to Ireland, and that he was husband of Susan Lemyn, had a house in Londonderry, and held land in Eneshone as one of Lord Chichester's servitors.

Amongst the other early records of Donegal and Londonderry I have searched in vain for the name of Sampson. No Sampson appears in the *Ulster Inquisitions*, 1621, 1624-5, in the *Civil Survey* of 1654, in the *Census Roll* of 1660 charged with Poll Tax, nor in the *Hearth Money Roll* of 1665. There is no mention of the name in Hill's *Plantation of Ulster*. Lodge's *Records of the Rolls* quotes no grant of land from the Crown to the Sampsons, nor have I been able to find any authenticated record of such a grant. In spite of this lack of documentary evidence there is a strong belief that it was by virtue of a grant that the Sampsons owned a large tract of land on the northern coast of Donegal.

There is a book entitled *The Donegal Highlands*, published 1866, written by the Rev. Dr. James McDevitt, a native of

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Donegal, Roman Catholic Bishop of Raphoe from 1871 until his death in 1879. In this book the country and its scenery are described from intimate knowledge, and accounts are given of landowners and other inhabitants. Unfortunately no authorities are cited for the historical statements, and the account given of some families does not tally with other records of the same families that can be verified. With these reservations, however, I quote the following extract from the Bishop's very graphic book:

'After the submission of O'Neill and O'Donnell in 1602 a large portion of their property was transferred to English adventurers who, at their own expense, raised troops and fought for Queen Elizabeth against the Northern Chieftains. Prominent among these was one Sampson to whom the Crown assigned an extensive territory lying on the sea between Doe Castle and Falcarnagh.'

That the Sampsons did in fact own this territory there is no doubt, but of how they came into possession, or of the exact date of that possession, I have failed to find proof.

Michael Sampson was styled of 'Castlerea, County Donegal' in a deed dated 1669 (*Lodge's Records of the Rolls, K. Chas. II, vol. i*). In 1679 Michael Sampson bought from Kilner Brazier a large part, if not the whole, of the peninsula called Fanaid or Fanett, which lies some miles to the east of Castlerea between the estuaries of Red Haven and Lough Swilly. Red Haven was the old name for what is now called Mulroy Bay; it was so marked on A. G. Blaeu's map of Ireland, *circa* 1608, and on John Speed's map 1676.

On the question of place-names, an interesting reference to this district in Donegal is made by John O'Donovan in one of his letters at the time that he was engaged upon a survey of the county. Dated from Dunfanaghy, 7 September 1835, the letter says:

'It is curious to remark how the peasants here have names of their own for the parishes and it is very seldom they know their ecclesiastical names. Thus Clondavaddog they always call "Fanaid", Mevaagh "Rossgull", Clondahorky "Doe", and Raytullaghobaghy "Cloghaneely" thus giving the parishes the names of the old territories of which they are remnants.' (*Letters from Antiquarians 1835, R.A. of Learning, Dublin.*)

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Michael Sampson's purchase of Fanaid is recorded as follows:

'Deeds of Lease and release dated 21 & 22 April 1679 between Kilner Brazier of the Moigh Co Derry Esqr and Michael Sampson of Burt Co Donegal Esqr Whereby the said Brazier for the sum of 900/- sold to the said Sampson and his heirs

Ruddiffcarrigg	
Moynagh	
Leadmore	Barony Kilmacrenan
Glinsk	Co Donegal
Donaghmore	
Donaghbegg	
Balliruske	
Duaghnebinge	
Archarrerabin	
Glenfannett	
Clonye	
Kindrin	
Ballaghbologan	
Part of Aghelett be- yond Doagh	

To hold to him and his heirs subject to the rent of 22 " 0 " 9½ reserved to the Crown by the original grant of the premises containing in the whole

1652 - 3 -	Prof Plant* acres	} 22 - 0 - 9½
2644 . 2 . 6	Stat: " "	

Inrolled 25 November 1679.'

(*Lodge's Records of the Rolls, K. Chas. II, vol. ii.*)

Michael Sampson married Letitia, eldest daughter of the Rev. Humphrey Galbraith, before 1678. (See Chancery Bill 1678, Chapter XII.) In 1680 he was High Sheriff for the County of Donegal and in 1689 he was attainted by James's Parliament which met in Dublin. At that time he was an officer in the army of King William III and a year later Michael Sampson was killed at the Battle of the Boyne. He left eight children, four sons and four daughters, all of whom were minors. Michael Sampson's will was proved in 1690 (Index of Prerogative Wills, Sir Arthur Vicars, 1897), and in it he is described as of Rinduffcarrick, Co. Donegal. Rinduffcarrick is now known as Doocarrick, and is in the parish of Clandavaddock.

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In the *Ulster Inquisitions*, 1635-42, Donnell Gorme McSweeney is styled as of Rinducarrick. One branch of the McSweeney Sept was known as McSweeney Fanaught, and the district is so marked on Blaeu's and on Speed's maps. This land was forfeited in 1641 by Donnel Oge McSweeney and granted in 1669 to Sir John Ponsonby.

In 1699 lands known as 'Drum' were sold to Gustavus Hamilton, Lord Boyne by 'Benjamin Gallard and Letitia his wife'. And in 1733 there was a sale by Lord Boyne to William Lennox of the City of Dublin, Esq., for 'the sum of £3,000 of the lands of Ducarrick, Leadbeg, Glinsk, Duaghmore, Duagbegg, Duaghabin, and Glenfanet'. (See *Report of the Lackagh Fishery Rights Case*, 1866.) All these names, it will be noted, were included in the lease of lands which Michael Sampson bought from Kilner Brazier. I submit as the explanation that Michael bequeathed these lands to his wife Letitia; she being an heiress they had probably been bought with her fortune; she then married Benjamin Gallard as her second husband, and together they sold the lands to Lord Boyne.

William Wray, brother-in-law to Michael Sampson, refers in his will to 'a Deed of Sale made to me from Alderman. William Godfrey [and] Benjamin Gallard', obviously the same man, and I think the fact of this connexion strengthens the inference that the Letitia who married Gallard was Michael Sampson's widow.

In 1700 William Sampson, son of Michael, sold to William Wray 5,300 acres of land stretching from Doe Castle to Dunfanaghy. In the same year William Sampson and Colonel John Forward, who was husband of Lettice Sampson, William's youngest sister, sold the land to the west between Dunfanaghy and Falcarragh. Dr. McDevitt tells in *Donegal Highlands* that:

'In 1700 a Captain Charles Stewart of old Scottish blood, having the motto "Avant Darnley" engraved upon his seal, happened to come to these parts. He was so taken with the peninsula of Hornhead that he purchased it on the spot from Mr. Sampson, though his own gallant services at the Battle of the Boyne had been acknowledged with rich possessions in the King's County. Captain

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Stewart built the present Horn Head House where the family live on in full enjoyment of their ancient lineage.'

Dr. McDevitt wrote in 1866, since when two generations have passed and the last son of the Stewarts of Horn Head sold the house and demesne in 1936.

As well as these lands on the north coast of Donegal, the Sampsons owned property on the eastern shore of Lough Swilly. It will be remembered that to Lord Chichester was granted the whole barony of Inishowen and that he forthwith leased portions of land to under-tenants. It is probable that the Sampsons held Burt and Inch from Lord Chichester, and lived at Burt in the early days, for in 1638 the first Richard is styled 'of Burtt'.

In the Funeral Certificate of Henry Hart, taken 1638, the marriage of his son is thus described, 'John Hart 5th sonne married to Elizabeth daughter of Richard Sampson of Burtt in the County of Donegaule, gent.' (Office of Arms, Dublin: see also *Family of Hart and Three Hundred Years in Inishowen*).

There is, however, a further link with this district. Among Lord Chichester's servitors is one Arthur Leanyng who, according to the Chancery Inquisition of 1621, received from Lord Chichester the following lease:

Chancery Inquisition Co Donegal No. 11  
16 Apr 1621 & 19 Jac I.

'Arthur Leanyng Gentleman for the term of 51 years 8 quarters of land called Carreckbracky, Ballymacmurrerty, Tullynebrately, Dowygillin, Ardaughee, Ballylorryn, Cleagh & Monoclanyne with appurtenances for an annual rent of 40l. of English money.'

The following extract from the *Civil Survey* 1654 describes the barony, shows where the lands leased to Arthur Leanyng were situated and also describes a freehold belonging to Arthur Leyning:

The Description of the Barony of Enishowen  
in the Countey of Donegall  
fol. 1.

The bounds of this barony begineth westward at a place caled Burtt Castle which belongeth to the Lord Chichester and from

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thence norward with ye greate River of Loghswilly while wee come to a place caled Ardmalin belonging to ye Lord Chichester and soe continueth norward while wee come to the Ocean which boundeth to the north-eastward, while wee come to an ancient ruined Castle called Greene Castle and from thence by two Castles, the one called Redd Castle and the other called White Castle both belonging to Major George Carey as tennant to the Lord Chichester, and from thence southward to ye stronge ffort of Cullmore belonging to the State and soe continueth southward by a Bogg to an olde fortt joyning one the quarter of Ballinacard which quarter belongeth to ye cittie and libertie of Londonderry . . . and nothing else doe wee finde Remarcable in our Barrony.

fol. 2.

The Parrish of Clanmannie.

Names of Proprietors and their Qualification	Denomination of Land	Number of acres 1662-00-00	The Total rent paid to ye Crown by ye Lord Chichester for his whole land in this Barrony.
Arthur	Twenty one Quarters		
Lord Chichester	of land and two thirds. called. vizi.		
Viscont	Ffugatt		
Carrick- fargus	Ballim'fagen		Twenty three pound six shill P Annu
English Protestant	Leggo curry		
	Carrowreagh		
	Carrickbracky		
	Ballim'furratly		
	Tullinabreathly		
	Dowangh'gillin		
	Ardaugh		
	Ballilussin		
	Cleagh		
	Monocloyne		
	Altocally		
	The two thirds of ye Quarter called Ruskey		
	Doonally	Crossconnell	
	Rossmough	Doonass	Literr

fol. 3.

Mr. Arthur Leyning English Protestant	One free houlde called Rasheny	Two hundred acres 200-00-00
--	--------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

This freehoulde belonging to Mr. Arthur Leyning is bounded

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northward with the river of Streebregg, one the easte side with a ditch joyning to Knocknegelcausey and from thence south easte with ye qurtr of land called Ballinageene, belonging to ye Lord Chichester, and one ye Southwest with a moss, and olde Ditch, bounded by leggboy, being parte of the quarter of Ballimurerty, and from thence to ye river of Strabregg, where wee began our bounds.

According to the Index of Prerogative Wills, the will of Arthur Lenning of Downabrasalagh, Co. Donegal, Gent., was proved in 1662. It may reasonably be accepted that these various spellings of the name all refer to the same man or possibly to two Arthurs, father and son. According to the pedigree of the Lemyngs of Barnetby, Susan's third brother was named Arthur, and what more probable than that he should have followed his sister to Ireland and acquired land adjacent to her husband's estates?

But we must now return to Michael Sampson's eldest son William, who is described as of Burt and Inch. The Ulster Office Pedigree shows that he married twice; no name is given for his first wife but the pedigree credits her with a son named Robert, and in the Register of Derry Cathedral is recorded the baptism of a daughter, 'Mary Sampson dau of Capt Wm Sampson. Bapt. 20 Feb 1699'. Evidently the baby's mother died at her birth or soon afterwards, for in 1701 William Sampson married Anne eldest daughter and coheir of Colonel George Vaughan of Buncranagh Castle. His approaching marriage with this heiress may have provided the reason for William being willing to rid himself profitably of his more distant estates on the north coast of Donegal while retaining his property of Burt and Inch which was within a few miles of Buncranagh.

William and Anne had several children; the eldest son named Michael entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1718, took Holy Orders, became Vicar of Lambeg, and later Rector of Purdysburn, Co. Down. In 1734 he married Anne, daughter of Hill Wilson, of Purdysburn. They had one son, Arthur, who also took Holy Orders. His will was proved in 1781. The following memorial of conveyance dated 1792 gives particulars of his children and disposes of what appears

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to be the last remaining portion of Sampson property in County Donegal:

A Memorial of an indented deed of bargain and sale  
dated the 3rd day of January 1792

Made between Michael Sampson of Wellington, in the province of North Carolina in North America, Esquire, the Reverend George Sampson of the County & City of Londonderry, Clerk; William Sampson, of the City of London, in the Kingdom of Great Britain, Esquire: the Rev. John Dubourdieu of Annahill, in the County of Down, Clerk: and Thomas Seeds late of Belfast, in the County of Antrim, Surgeon, but now of Portsmouth, in the Kingdom of Grt. Britain, which said Michael, George and William Sampson, together with Margaret Sampson now the wife of the said John Dubourdieu and Mary Anne Sampson now the wife of the said Thomas Seeds are the only surviving children of the Rev. Arthur Sampson late of Lisburn in the County of Antrim, Clerk, deceased, of the one part and Henry Vaughan Brooke of Stoneville, in the County of Dublin, Esquire of the other part M. G. W. Sampson etc. did grant & sell to H. V. Brooke one undivided third in the lands of Doe, with its subdenominations Castle Doe South,

and North Magherablad,  
East, West, and South Killoughcarran  
Ruskey,  
Derryfad,  
Umphryfad Upper,  
and Lower Cashel,  
Upper & Lower Scarvey,  
Drimlasan,  
Drimnakelly,  
Killhill,

and the Mill thereon . . . and all other lands. . . . Whereof the sd Arthur Sampson was seised at the time of his death and which were devised by sd Arthur Sampson to his sd children by the name & description of all his real estate which sd lands & premises are situate in the Barony of Kilmacrennan & Co. of Donegal

To hold the same to the sd Henry Vaughan Brooke his heirs & assigns for ever. (*Report of Lackagh Fishery Rights Case*, 1866.)

Some years ago Mrs. Lilla B. Sampson published a book in America, entitled *The Sampson Family* (B.M. Library), which chronicles the story of many generations of

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Sampsons who lived in England, Scotland, Ireland, and America. The following extracts from *The Sampson Family* tell most of what is known of the two sons of the Donegal branch who went to America:

Michael Sampson who came to America married first Miss Agnew, and as his second wife Jane Jones.

In a genealogy of one of the 'Jones Families' I found the record of Michael Sampson married to Jane Jones, a daughter of Frederick Jones, judge of the Admiralty of Port Brunswick, South Carolina.

They had four children, Mary Ann m: Sam R. Jocelyn  
Lucy m: -- Strong  
Jane m: Dr. Henry Walker  
James m: Margaret Walker

and moved west.

William Sampson, the 'United Irishman', was exiled from Ireland and came to New York in 1806, where he became well known as a prominent member of the Bar for some years previous to his death. He was associated with Thomas Addis Emmet, Dr. McEwin and Wolfe Tone in Ireland.

McGee in his 'History of Ireland' says Emmet, McEwin, Sampson and the family of Tone were all reunited in New York. . . . William Sampson became, on his arrival in New York, legal adviser to Jerome Bonaparte. He is spoken of as being a Barrister of fine attainments, great humour and unconquerable buoyancy of mind.

William married Grace Clarke and had two children, a son John Curran, and a daughter who married a son of Wolfe Tone. He died in 1836.

It was left to George Vaughan Sampson to make a really great contribution to the life and history of the City and County wherein he was born and died. He took Holy Orders and went to France as Chaplain to the British Ambassador. On his return he was appointed curate to the parish of Templemore, elected master of the Diocesan School of Derry and later was rector of Aghanloo and of Errigal. (See *Derry Clergy* by Chancellor Leslie.) In 1802 he published the *Statistical Survey of the County of Londonderry* with a map of the County on a larger scale than any yet produced, and

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which is still in use as a valuable reference. In 1820 Mr. Sampson was offered and accepted the Agency and Management of the large estates of the Fishmongers' Company in County Londonderry, which as Colonel Colby says, in his *Ordnance Survey of the County*, 'gave him a wider field for the exercise of his various talents and his desire for the public good'. Colonel Colby adds, 'Mr. Sampson is said to have been not only a highly finished Classical Scholar but also well versed in the Hebrew, French, Italian, and Irish or Gaelic languages. He was also distinguished in his time as a chymist, mineralogist and botanist and he was thoroughly acquainted with biblical history.'

Most of what remains to be told of this servant of the Church and the State is found on the tablet erected to his memory in Bally Kelly Church:

To the Memory  
of  
THE REV<sup>d</sup> GEORGE VAUGHAN SAMPSON  
Rector of Errigal A.M. M.R.I.A. A.M.Q.S.I.  
This Tablet was erected  
A D MDCCCXXVIII  
By the Wardens and Commonalty  
of the Mistery of Fishmongers of London  
as a tribute of Respect  
For his Talents and Virtues  
And as a Testimony of their Sense  
Of the Great Services rendered by him  
to their Estates in the County of Londonderry  
of which he became their first Agent  
A D MDCCCXX  
He died on the X Day of March  
A D MDCCCXXVII  
And was buried at Aghanloo of which  
Parish he had formerly been Rector

George Vaughan Sampson married Hester, daughter of Alexander Lawrence of Coleraine, Esq. Hester was born in 1768. The marriage probably took place in 1791-2 as their eldest daughter was born in 1793. We know that George and Hester Sampson had four sons and three daughters.

#### THE FAMILY OF SAMPSON

The early death of their eldest daughter and youngest son is reported by the *Belfast News-Letter* of Tuesday, 27 January 1818:

'Died—In London, on the 10th inst. in the 25th year of her age, of a pulmonary consumption, Hellen Sophy Sampson, eldest daughter of the Rev. G. V. Sampson, Rector of Errigal, in the Diocese of Derry.

'Also, on the 17th of the same month, in the 12th year of his age, of dropsy, on the brain, William Sampson, fourth surviving son of the above-named Mr. Sampson, at the Parsonage-house of Errigal, in the County of Londonderry.'

William is here described as the fourth surviving son, yet on the memorial tablet which his sister Hester erected to Thomas, born six years before William, she describes him as fourth son of the Rev. G. V. Sampson. It seems strange that none of the sons married, nor either of the daughters known to us, though it has been suggested that Selina married Dr. George Wilson and died young. I think there may have been other children who also died, but at any rate the three sons who attained man's estate served their country in their several spheres and their memory is recorded on tablets in Bally Kelly Church as follows:

This Tablet  
is erected by  
the Wardens and Commonalty  
of  
the Mistery of Fishmongers of London  
To Commemorate  
The valued Services rendered by  
ARTHUR SAMPSON Esqr  
As Agent of their Estates in Londonderry  
during a Period of thirty four years  
And in Acknowledgement  
of his talents zeal and success  
as well as of his constant devotion  
to the interests of the Fishmongers Company  
and the happiness of their Tenantry  
He was upright and conscientious  
A Friend of the Poor  
A Promoter of Education

THE FAMILY OF SAMPSON  
Free from Bigotry and Sectarian Bias  
And a strenuous Advocate  
For Civil and Religious Liberty  
He died at Drummond 22nd January 1859  
Aged 64 years  
And was buried at Aghanloo  
By the side of his Father  
'The end of the upright man is Peace.'

In Memory  
of  
The Rev.  
GEORGE VAUGHAN SAMPSON A.M.  
Chaplain to several  
Lords Lieutenant of Ireland  
and Rector of this Parish  
who died on the 11th July 1860 Aged 64 years  
and was buried at Aghanloo  
He was through life a zealous Promoter  
of Education amongst the people  
and of peace and goodwill towards all men  
His last worldly care was for the  
enlargement of this Church  
to meet the wants of a Congregation  
increased by his Ministry

This Monument is erected  
By his surviving Brother and Sister.

An inscription on a tablet in the chancel amplifies this reference to the enlargement of the Church.

The Chancel, Vestry and Gallery  
of this Church were erected and the  
Building itself put into complete  
repair, chiefly through the Bounty  
of the Worship<sup>l</sup> Company of  
Fishmongers in the year 1851  
G. V. Sampson, Rector.

And finally, the list of Rectors in the Porch records:

'1846 George Vaughan Sampson to 1860'

THE FAMILY OF SAMPSON

Sacred to the Memory of

THOMAS EDMUND SAMPSON

F.G.S. F.R.A.S.

Late of Walworth in this Parish

Colonel in the Indian Army

Fourth Son of the Rev. G. V. Sampson, Rector  
of Errigal. And last Male Representative  
of the Elder Branch of a Family long Resident in  
the Counties of Donegal and Londonderry

He died on the 14th of October 1863

in the 64th year of his age

And was interred in the Family Burial Place  
at Aghanloo

This tablet is erected by his Sister

Maria Hester Sampson

In affectionate Remembrance  
of the best and kindest of Brothers

'I shall go to him but he shall not return to me.'

To this beloved brother we have already seen a memorial  
in Fahan Church. Hester, his sister, did 'go to him' just two  
years later. There was no one left to erect a tablet to her  
memory but her death is recorded on the altar tomb, the  
family grave in Aghanloo churchyard, where her body  
was laid with her parents. The inscription gives the names  
'Rev. George Vaughan Sampson and his beloved wife  
Hester Sampson who died 1845, their son George Vaughan  
Sampson and his sister Maria Hester Sampson who died  
1865'.

Side by side with this grave is another altar tomb with the  
names of Arthur and Thomas Edmund.

So ended the Sampson line in Londonderry and Donegal.

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PART II

ARDS

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## X

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS SECOND WIFE  
ANGEL GALBRAITH

IN 1678 William Wray, a man of not more than 33 or 34, found himself left with a little boy aged about 8 years and a baby girl of probably only a few days old. It appears a forlorn position; his mother was dead, two sisters were married, of his other two sisters no record remains. The obvious course was for him to marry again, and this he did without long delay.

The date of his marriage is placed within a few months by two Chancery Bills which also put beyond all question the parentage of his second wife. Angel was her name and she was the youngest of Humphrey Galbraith's three daughters. These daughters were his coheiresses and it was to enforce their rights that the Chancery Bills were exhibited.

William's second marriage is a striking instance of how interwoven were the relationships of the protestant settlers in those early days of the Plantation. Angel Galbraith was William Wray's first cousin, her mother Isabella Gore being sister to William's mother Elizabeth Gore. Angel was also first cousin to Lettice Galbraith, William's sister-in-law, wife of his brother Henry. And she was sister-in-law to his first wife Ann, for Angel's eldest sister, another Lettice, married Michael Sampson, Ann's only brother.

The earlier of the two Bills is dated 9 November 1678 and gives most of what we know of Angel's family history. It shows that in the year 1637 Humphrey Galbraith bought the Manor of Corkagh in County Donegal from Sir John Colquhoun for a 'valuable consideration' and refers to Humphrey's 'marriage with Isabell Gore daughter of Sir Daniel Gore'. This name is obviously a mistake for Sir Paul Gore. The Bill proceeds:

'In consideration of s<sup>d</sup> marriage and Isabell's marriage portion of £300 Humphrey Galbraith by deed dated in the year 1639 did settle an annuity of £60 to be paid out of the Manor of Corkagh

#### WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS SECOND WIFE

and did settle said Manor on heirs male of said marriage with remainder over to heirs female, and said Deed was lost or destroyed in the late horrid rebellion. . . . that the said Marriage Settlement and other deeds relating to the premises came into the hands of James Colquhoun, one of the sons of Sir John Colquhoun, who is in actual possession of the Manor of Corkagh. . . .

That Humphrey Galbraith not having been able to recover the calamities of the late horrid rebellion and having been a constant and loyal subject of His Majesty, not having any favour at the hands of those who ruled in Ireland, the said Humphrey Galbraith having been often imprisoned and his life sought after by those who served the Parliament against His Majesty that now is, John Colquhoun of Luss in Scotland . . . and James Colquhoun brother of said John, easily forced in possession of the Manor of Corkagh. . . . Humphrey Galbraith having died before the Restoration without issue male, leaving plaintiffs Lettice, Marianna and Angell infants of tender years, his daughters and coheirs to whom the Manor did descend and come begotten by Isabell Galbraith als Gore, his wife.

That Sir John Colquhoun and John his son are both dead.

That plaintiffs being orphans and of tender years at the death of their father Humphrey Galbraith and not capable to be sensible of their fathers interest in the Manor of Corkagh and continued ignorant thereof till of late. . . .

That James Colquhoun being demanded by plaintiffs for possession of the Manor of Corkagh doth refuse to surrender same . . .

The Bill concludes :

'Plaintiffs pray writ against said James Colquhoun . . .'

and there is the final note

'Writ granted against James Colquhoun 9 Nov 1678.'

In the above Bill the plaintiffs are described as 'Michael Sampson Esq<sup>t</sup>, Lettice Sampson Alias Galbraith his wife.

John Leslie D.D. Marianna Leslie Alias Galbraith, his wife,

and Angell Galbraith, Spinster.'

The second Chancery Bill is dated 21 January 1679 and it records that 'Humphrey Galbraith at the time of his death left three daughters Lettice, Marianna and Angell, having no more children. Lettice is married to Michael Sampson Esq., Marianna is also since married to John Lesley and Angell is

#### ANGEL GALBRAITH

married to William Wray Esq.'. Thus proving that Angel's marriage with William Wray took place between the 9th of November 1678 and the 21st of January 1679, a period of just over sixteen months allowing for the fact that the 25th of March was New Year's Day, but in January 1679 Angel's marriage is referred to as established fact and when we allow for the time needed in litigation and in preparation of such a Bill as this, it seems reasonable to presume that William and Angel were married early in 1679.

Of the Galbraith family there are various and somewhat varying accounts given in several books. The earliest record that I have found of a Galbraith is preserved on a very ancient tombstone that lies in the churchyard of Mullibrack in County Armagh. This stone marks the grave of the man believed to have been the first Galbraith who came to Ireland from Scotland: 'James Galbraith, Gudman of Balgair who departed this lyfe the 3 of No. Anno domini 1618.'

Mr. T. G. F. Paterson, Curator of the Armagh County Museum, says: 'James Galbraith, eldest son of the Gudman, signed the funeral certificate of Sir Archibald Acheson in 1634 as "a Kinsman", and in 1637 he bought the lands of Ballyenan in County Armagh.' The grant of these lands was confirmed to him in 1639 (see Lodge's *Records of the Rolls*, *K. Chas. I*, vols. i and ii).

Gosford Castle, the Irish seat of the Acheson family, is in the parish of Mullibrack and the churchyard adjoins the demesne.

The Gudman had four other sons: John, William, Humphrey, and Robert. We have no record that John came to Ireland. William's name is referred to in the Chancery Bill of 1679 as one of those mentioned in a bond dated 7 August 1637 'which did confirm to Humphrey Galbraith the Manor of Corkagh'.

James and Robert were both officers in the Army and became Colonels of their regiments. They both married and left issue. The second Chancery Bill says: 'That James Galbraith at the time he died left Rebecca since married to Andrew Hamilton, Clke, Elizabeth since married to James

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS SECOND WIFE

Galbraith, Gent, Angell since married to Hugh Hamilton, Gent, and Margaret since married to William Hamilton which were all the daughters of the said James'.

It is to be noted that three out of four of James Galbraith's daughters bore names belonging to daughters of Sir Paul Gore, and that Margaret was the name of Sir Paul's only sister. I can find no mention of the name of James Galbraith's wife, but I suggest that it is probable she was a Gore, and that if Rebecca was the eldest daughter of Sir Paul Gore; and as no dates are given for the birth of any of the daughters there is no reason she should not have been the first; it would then have been possible for her to have married James Galbraith and have been the mother of these daughters.

Of Robert Galbraith's descendants the Chancery Bill tells us that, 'At the time he died he left issue James since dead, and that said James the younger had issue three daughters Jane since married to Archibald Richardson Esq. Isabella since married to Andrew Hamilton the younger, Clke, and Anne married to John Sinclair, Clke'. Robert Galbraith had three daughters as well as his son James: Margery, who married Lt. William Hamilton of Ballyfatten; Rebecca, married to Andrew Knox of Rathmullen, and Lettice, married to Henry Wray of Castle Wray who died 1666. Again two out of three of these daughters bore Gore names, although in this case their mother is known to have been Jane Coningham of Castle Coningham.

Humphrey Galbraith is styled in the Chancery Bill as of Kilskerry, Co. Tyrone, Clke. As he took Holy Orders there are to be found various accounts of him and of the parishes in which he served. But some confusion is possible, as there was another Rev. Humphrey Galbraith contemporary with him! I quote the following from Canon Leslie's book, *Clogher Clergy*:

'Humphrey Galbraith, Archdeacon of Clogher, ins<sup>t</sup> Apr 10 1640. . . . He seems to have been a staunch Royalist.' 'A Scot by origin, well affected to the Episcopacy and monarchy. A man of very good sense and learning; great prudence and full of great resolution'. '(See Reid's *History of Irish Presbytery*, i. 226, following

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Carte.) Humphrey Galbraith, of Dublin, Clk, married Joyce daughter of Henry Everly, Wilts, and widow of Capt Samuel Newce of Newmarket (M.L. 3 Nov. 1634). . . . He was Rector of Derrybrusk 1622-8, Rector of Muckno 1634, Rector of Tedavnet 1637. It is not known when he vacated the Archdeaconry, but we find in 1661 Miles Sumner appears as Archdeacon.'

This entry confirms the statement that Humphrey Galbraith died before the Restoration, but the Marriage Licence quoted above must refer either to the other Humphrey or to a first marriage. In the latter case we must presume that Joyce died childless and that Humphrey married Isabell Gore as his second wife. From the Chancery Bill it appears that 1639 was probably the year of his marriage with her, and it states definitely that Isabell was the mother of his three daughters and that they were his only children.

If Isabell Gore was in fact a second wife and therefore married later in her generation than did her sisters, it would account for her daughters being younger than the rest of their generation.

As we have seen it was the youngest of these heiresses who came to Castle Wray as William's bride, and as stepmother to his little boy and baby girl. Babies of her own were soon added to the family. First a son whom Angel called Humphrey after her father, a new name amongst the Wrays, and distinctive from the Henrys and Williams. The names of her four daughters Angel gives on the tombstone she erected to her husband, in the following order: Lettice, Elizabeth, Isabell, and Marian. On the tombstone she also tells us that they had 'y\* advantage of a virtuous education'. That she should have been able to carry out an education which could be so naively described proved her a worthy daughter of the man 'of very good sense and learning, great prudence and resolution', and was a credit to any Donegal mother during the days when opposing armed-bands ravished the country, while the neighbouring city of Londonderry was suffering one of the most heroic sieges in Irish history.

William Wray was attainted for high treason in company with almost every protestant gentleman in Ireland when James II held his Parliament in Dublin on the 7th of May

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1689, but we have no record of his serving with any regiment or of his taking any part in the defence or relief of Londonderry. Like his grandfather John, he was evidently not a soldier but rather a citizen of the country—if the land-owners of those days may be so described. Any records that survive of William show him dealing in land, and it would seem that the ambition of his life was to increase and improve the estates that he owned.

There is a manuscript in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin (MS. F.4.3.), that gives 'a list of such protestants of Ireland as lately fled out of ye Kingdom for safety of their lives, and ye yearly value of their estates'. Among the names is 'William Wray, Co. Fermanagh, Esq. wife and six children. estate worth £400 per annum'. The list is dated 1688. At that time there was no other William Wray with such an estate. I think that Co. Fermanagh may be just a mistake in the copying of the list, or it may have been that the Wrays first took refuge with friends or relations in Fermanagh and therefore were described as coming from that county when they eventually sought further safety in Chester. Angel's first cousin, James Galbraith, lived in Fermanagh as did also one of William's married sisters.

Castle Wray was only twenty miles distant from Londonderry and the besieged city lay between them and such civilization as existed, so with six children, four of whom must have been very young, it is not surprising that William and Angel fled 'for safety of their lives'. But we may fairly surmise that as refugees they would not have stayed in Chester long after the time of danger had passed.

The siege of Derry was raised on the 30th of June 1689, and in the following year, on the 1st of July, King William won the battle of the Boyne. It seems reasonably certain, therefore, that before the winter of 1690 the family was again resident at Castle Wray and probably spent the next ten years there. Then apparently there came a change, and Henry, the eldest son, married. He was heir to the entailed property, and it would appear from William Wray's will that Castle Wray passed to Henry and his bride Jane Jackson under their marriage settlements. In his will reference is

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also made by William to 'the estate which I purchased in 1700', and finally William Wray styles himself as 'of Ffore'.

When I first went to Donegal I found that there was not only the house and demesne of Castle Wray on the shore of Lough Swilly, but also an old ruin on the northern coast between Dunfanaghy and Ards, called by some people Wray Castle, by others O Boyle's Castle, and again Faugher House, and no one in the neighbourhood seemed to know its history. To me this ruin presented at once a problem and a clue, and gradually I pieced the story together.

Of course it was known that the estate purchased by William Wray in 1700 stretched along the coast from Dunfanaghy to Doe Castle, and included the promontory of Ards, where he built a mansion for his son Humphrey which he settled upon him at the time of his marriage. This settlement pointed to the estate having been paid for with Angel's fortune and acquired as an inheritance for her son. In fact it was thus that the branch of the family known later as 'The Wrays of Ards' had its beginning. But none of these facts accounted for the ruins of Wray Castle, alias O Boyle's Castle, alias Faugher House, nor for William Wray describing himself as 'of Ffore'. Why of Ffore, and where was Ffore?

The many variations in the spelling of place-names are often confusing, but in a quest must never be ignored. One common variation is the insertion or omission of the letters *gh*. This gave me the clue between the spelling of *Ffore* and *Faugher*. The Ordnance Survey map (1834, revised 1853) shows two townlands on the northern coast of Donegal named *Faugher Upper* and *Faugher Lower* and within this area is marked '*Faugher House in ruins*'.

But the story began more than two hundred years earlier when an Inquisition was taken at Lifford to which Sir Arthur Chichester sent 'notes of remembrance' and speaking of Donegal said, 'Divers gentlemen claim freeholds in that country as namely the three Septs of the M<sup>o</sup>Swynes; Banagh, Fanaght and Doe; also O Boyle and O Gallagher. But these men passed over their rights, if any they had, to the Earl

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[of Tyrconnell] which he got from them cautiously and by unworthy devises.'

Chichester suggests that 'if the King's pleasure be to continue them in what they claim, the lands may be divided into many parts and disposed to several men of the Septs'.

Sir Arthur Chichester's advice was followed and in a schedule of Plantation Grants the names appear of Sir Mulmory M'Swyne 2,000 acres, Donogh M'Swyne 2,000 acres, Donell M'Swyne Fannett 2,000 acres and Tyrlogh O Boyle 2,000 acres. Tirlogh oge O Boyle's grant consisted of one-quarter each of the following lands: Carrowblagh, Cloonmasse, Anahire, Ballymore, Killdorrough, Carronamaddy, Clonmore, Bradard, Aghalative, Altcrone, Femore, Carricknasmere, Carrowmassinassa, Killnickelowe, Gortnaleckie, Greslagh, and one-half of Breaghwy quarter, 'in all 2000 acres—Rent £21 " 6 " 8 English, To hold forever as of the Castle of Dublin in common socage and subject to the conditions of the plantation of Ulster. 26 February, 8 Jas, A.D. 1610 and 11'.

One of these conditions was a promise to abstain from taking part in rebellion on pain of forfeiture.

In 1618-19 Captain Nicholas Pynnar made a survey of the Plantation in which he says, 'Tirlogh Oge O Boyle hath 2000 acres called Carrowbleagh and Cloonmasse. He hath built a good bawne and a house of lime and stone in which he with his family dwelleth, he hath made no estates and his tenants doth plough after the Irish manner.'

The *Civil Survey* taken in 1653-4 gave the names of those who were proprietors of land when the rebellion broke out in 1641. This was followed a few years later by William Petty's *Down Survey* illustrated by two complete sets of maps, one of the baronies, the other of the parishes. The original maps of the parishes perished in the Record Office in 1922, but the survey was preserved by being housed in the Quit Rent Office and the barony maps survived through a curious mishap of long ago. The sailing vessel in which they were being carried to England was seized by a French privateer and the maps eventually found their way to Paris, where they are now preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale, from

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whence reproductions can be obtained through the Ordnance Survey Office in Dublin.

In the text of the *Down Survey* under the heading County Donegal, Barony Kilmacrennan, Parish Clondahorka, the following particulars appear.

'Tirlough Roe Boyle Esq.	.	Antirerin alias Ards,
Gleab Land	.	Cluemore & Cashellbryard
Tirlough Roe aforesd.	.	Clunibeg
		Aughcliffe
'Tirlough Roe Boyle Esq.	.	Clonemassee
[marked Section No. 11 on map]		Ballymore
		Ffoure alias Doure Kildoragh.'

In the Quit Rent Office there is a set of tracings taken from the original parish maps. Through the courtesy of the Superintendent and staff of the Office, I was enabled to compare these several maps, and found that when the tracing of the map of Clondahorka parish was laid upon sheet 16 of the six-inch Ordnance Survey map, section 11, showing Tirlough Roe Boyle's quarter land of Ffoure alias Doure covered exactly the spot marked as 'Faugher House in ruins', thus identifying the ancient Ffoure with the Faugher of two hundred years later, and proving that this place once belonged to O Boyle, thereby reconciling three of the names as all referring to the same spot.

All these lands, except the glebe land, are marked in the *Down Survey*, as forfeited by O Boyle in 1641, and granted to Sir John Stephens. In the Crown Rent Roll, date *circa* 1700, the name of Hugh Hamill appears as assignee of Sir John Stephens for the following lands :

'Foare alias Duore 264 acres profitable  
80 " unprofitable  
Killdoragh, Gormaddy alias Knockmadyry, Gattymaddy,  
Kindrum, Maghremenagh, Killm<sup>e</sup> Jellow, Fawnemore, Doore,  
Beltamy, Skeagh, Gortleek.'

In his will, dated 1710, William Wray 'of Ffore' refers to 'all the estate I purchased from Hugh Hamill and William Sampson'. This statement completes the chain of documentary evidence showing that William Wray bought the land

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS SECOND WIFE

on which the house of lime and stone was built by Tirlough Oge O Boyle.

Angel Wray in her will gives further confirmation by reciting the names of a number of these same surrounding quarter lands.

So much for history. I now turn to tradition in support of the belief that William and Angel lived in the old house.

William Harkin, Fellow of the Irish Society of Antiquaries, and a resident in Creeslough, refers to 'the townland of Faugher' with upon it 'the ruins of an old fortress which tradition remembers as belonging to the Wrays'. (*Scenery and Antiquities of North West Donegal*, pub. 1893.)

In Raphoe there lived a very old lady who told me that she had spent most of her life at Falcaragh, of which parish her father and later her husband were rectors. She said she remembered the old house always being called Wray Castle, and that no doubt ever existed of the Wray family having lived there. The old lady remembered a farmer occupying the house and after his death an auction took place at which her father bought a chair that she believed had formerly belonged to the Wrays. This chair was shown to me as one of her prized possessions. It was a Queen Anne kitchen chair of very heavy wood, quite black with age.

Another testimony came from Mrs. David Wilson, whose maiden name was Mary Boyton. Her father Charles Boyton and her mother Dorothea Alice Grove were first cousins, their respective mothers having been the daughters of Robert Montgomery of Convoy and his wife Maria Stewart, who in her turn was daughter of Alexander Stewart who bought Ards in 1782. Mary Boyton spent much of her childhood at Ards and told me she remembered her grandmother speaking of the ruins at Faugher as 'the old home of the Wrays'.

Thus geography, history, and tradition agree in showing that William and Angel lived in O Boyle's Castle, the manor house of Ffore, and that it was known locally as Wray's Castle.

The ruins as they stand to-day, in a sadly neglected state, have nothing picturesque about them. Viewed from the



CLONDAHORKY CHURCH, CO. DONEGAL.



WRAY CASTLE, FAUGHER, CO. DONEGAL.

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#### ANGEL GALBRAITH

high road the roofless house looks gaunt and grim and without claim to any particular interest or apparent antiquity, but when I followed the narrow lane up to the house I found part of a battlemented wall still standing round one side of the house and also unmistakable remains and foundations of the rest of the sometime encircling wall. The measurements of the ground agree with those given by Pynnar, therefore we have here the one example of a stone and lime house within its bawne that still stands in northwest Donegal. Local tradition says that the mortar used in these walls was mixed with buttermilk instead of water and therefore that they will never fall.

There are chimneys at either end of the house, and fireplaces can be seen across the corner of the end rooms. From their position they might have been added after the hated tax on hearths was abolished under Gratton's administration late in the eighteenth century, or perhaps Angel Wray introduced some such comforts when she made the old fortress her home. It must in any case have remained a much simpler and more spartan dwelling-place than the handsome new mansion that was being prepared for Humphrey. It seems evident that all resources were centred on the building of Ards. Was Angel determined that the inheritance of her son should equal and indeed surpass that of William's first-born? Whatever the motives, we find both sons provided with a fine house in very beautiful surroundings and each possessed of broad lands, while their parents lived on together in the old Manor house.

William Wray's will is dated 12 June 1710 and, while he asserts that he has the enjoyment of his senses, he acknowledges to being sick in body. Sick indeed he must have been, for twelve days later, on the 24th of June, he died. He expressed the wish 'to be buired with as little serimony as possible'. His grave was inside the small church of Clondahorka which is now, like his house, a roofless ruin.

The Old Kill Church, as it is sometimes called, stands on a hill about half a mile inland from the small town of Dunfanaghy. I found the gate locked but the wall was

#### WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS SECOND WIFE

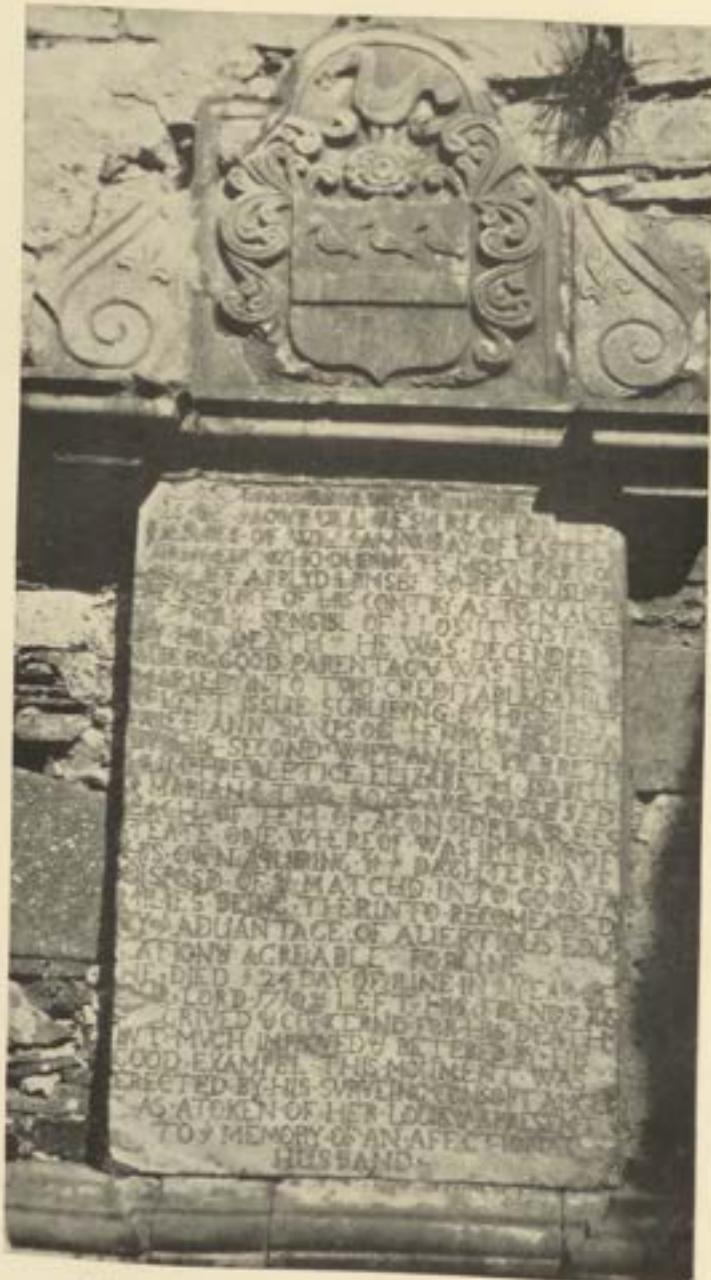
easily climbed, and I picked my way through the usual long, wet grass over gravestones that were themselves half buried. The church walls were intact, but there was no roof, and the windows had been built up. An iron gate closed the doorway of the church against wandering cattle, but it was not locked. I went in and there upon the north wall of the chancel was a large and rather rough marble slab with the long inscription cut with some quaint lettering and peculiar spelling but all quite legible and surmounted by the Wray coat of arms and crest carved in bold relief. On the ground just below this tablet lies a flat stone marking the burying-place of Richard and Isabel Babington. The sometime floor of the church is grass-grown, and there were no other inscriptions of corresponding date that were legible.

When I left this deserted little sanctuary, I followed a mountainy road with a surface of half grass, half gravel, that led towards the east in the direction of the ruins of Faugher, and I pictured the summer day when the funeral from Ffore had wound its way over that hill, followed by two sons and several sons-in-law, as well as the friends who were 'justly grived and concerned' for the death of this man who had 'applyd himself so zealously to the service of his Country'.

This tombstone in Clondahorka Church supplies a valuable record of William Wray, especially as father and twice-wedded husband, and it is a record of which to be justly proud. We may be grateful that Angel's pride caused it to be carved in stone, but as she told so much one would fain that she had told more. I wonder what she meant when she qualified his service by saying 'during the most of his life', and why did she leave out the date of his birth?

Rendered in present-day type, and with the missing letters included, the inscription on the memorial tablet to William Wray reads as follows:

'Near this place are laid up in hopes of a joyful resurrection the relictus of William Wray of Castel Wray Esqr who during the most part of his life applyd himself so zealously to the service of his Country as to make it truly sensible of the loss it sustained by his death. He was descended of a very good parentage and was



MEMORIAL TABLET TO WILLIAM WRAY, 1710  
*in Choulakry Church*

Donegal County Library Service

Donegal County Library Service

#### ANGEL GALBRAITH

twice married into two creditable families and left issue surviving by his first wife Ann Sampson Henry and Rebecca. By his second wife Angel Kilbreath Humphrey. Letice, Elizabeth, Isabell and Mariana. Two sons are possessed each of them of a considerable estate one whereof was intirely of his own aquiring and the daughters are disposed of and matchd into good families being thereinto recommended by ye advantage of a virtuous education and agreeable fortune.

He died ye 24 day of June in ye year of our Lord 1710 and left his frends justly grived and concerned for his death. But much improved and bettered by his good example.

This Monument was erected by his surviving Consort. Angel. As a token of her love and a present to ye memory of an affectionat husband.'

The coat of arms as portrayed here is the earliest example of the full coat borne by the Donegal family and shows it to have been the same as the arms granted to Thomas Wray in 1587. The crest here also shows the horseshoe in the beak of the bird intended for an ostrich.

'In the sixth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady, Queen Anne' an Act of Parliament was passed 'entitled an act for publick registring of all deeds, conveyances and wills'. Under this Act an office was established in Dublin. It is now housed in the King's Inn which stands on high ground on the north side of the Liffey, overlooking King's Inn Fields.

In this office William Wray's will was registered and I was able to secure a copy in full. The original will perished in 1922, but the following are extracts from the memorial of the will as registered in the Office of Deeds:

'IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN I WILLIAM WRAY of FFORE in the COUNTY OF DONEGALL Esqre. being sick in body butt having the enjoymtt. of my senses praised be God by which I discover the great misfortune my ffamily would be under should I depart this life without making some settmmt. of my estate reall and personall and ordring how my debts should be paid. I hartyly thank my mercifull Creatore for all his mercys to me in and thorow the merritts of my blessed Saviour Jesus Christ for whose sake I have received them all and I doe make and constitute this as my Last

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS SECOND WIFE

Will and Testament utterly revoking all other and former wills and appointing this as my last sole Will and Testmtt. first I bequeath my soul into the hands of my mercyfull Saviour Jesus Christ who purchased it with his precious blood and my body to be buired in the Church of Clandahorkae with as little serimony as possible may be done Item I bequeath all the Estate I purchased from HUGH HAMILL and WILLIAM SAMPSON Esqrs. with the ffree-holds I purchased from WILLIAM GARVAN and the heirs of FFRANCIS STEWART Gentt. to my beloved wife ANGEL WRAY only shee to make good the articles made on the mariage of my son HUMPHRY WRAY with Mrs. ANN BROOKE I likewise bequeith to my sd. wife ANGEL WRAY all my chattles stock leases and other goods and debts whatsoever shee paying all my debts out of the remainder of my estate that is not settled on my son HUMPHRY in the aforsd. articles and out of the aforsd. chattles the remainder of the sd. estate and chattles after the articles aforsd. are pformed. and the sd. debts and the legacies hereafter mentioned are paid I order my said Wife to dispose of amongst my children begotten on her body as shee shall think fitt att her death. . . . to my daughter REBECCA BABINGTON Two HUNDRED POUNDS Sterll. . . . To my grandson WILLIAM BABINGTON Two HUNDRED POUNDS Sterll. one moyetty of the said Two HUNDRED POUNDS to be paid when he is bound anne apprentice and the other moyety immediately after he hath done with his apprenticeship and receive TWELVE POUNDS p. annum from the day of my death untill the said Two HUNDRED POUNDS be paid as aforsd. Item I beqeth the estate of GREENFORTH as it is mentioned in a Deed of Sale made to me from Aldrman. WILLIAM GODFREY & BENJAMIN GALLAND and my son-in-law CAPTAIN WILLIAM BABINGTON deceased to my grandson HENRY BABINGTON he paying to the heirs of RICHARD PORTER the sume of FFIFTY POUNDS sterll. and to Mrs. ANN SINCLAIRE the sume of ONE HUNDRED POUNDS Sterll. and to CAPTAIN HENRY HART the sume of THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS Sterll. These debts in consideration that I on the purchase of the sd. Estate was obliged to pay to Mr. JOHN HAMBLE JOHN EVANS and CAPTAIN GEORG HAMILTON the sume of EIGHT HUNDRED POUNDS Sterll. and also that the sd. HENRY BABINGTON and his Heirs shall save my execr. and administr. free from a bond I stand bound in with his father to WILLIAM FFINLAY OF DRUMNATINNY to make good to him the sale of TRINAMULLAND and to perform all the clauses of the Deeds of Purchase of GREENFORTH aforsd. Item I beqeth to my dear child

ANGEL GALBRAITH

REBECCA BABINGTON aforsd. all my right and Interest I have in the QUARTERLAND of URNY and the CHURCH LANDS of RAYMINSTER DAWNTY BRUNLOCK and GLASSAGH and the one moyety of the stock of cattle and corne now in the sd. URNY and GLENS that I did administr. to her husband for shee paying to the Heirs of RICHARD PORTER aforsd. the sume of TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY POUNDS Sterll. and the other moyetty of the sd. cattle and corne I bequeth to HENRY BABINGTON aforsd. to help to pay what he is bound to pay as aforsd. . . . And whereas by Articles of Marriage of my son HENRY WRAY with Mrs. JOAN JACKSON the Estate of CASTLEWRAY and the ffour TOWNLANDS of CLANDORMONT is their setled on the Heirs Male of the sd. HENRY WRAY I doe hereby order that the sd. estate and freeholds to descend to the sd. HENRY WRAY and his heirs Male and ffamily . . . and also I doe order my said wife to pay unto my servant SAMUEL DINSMOORE as a token of my favour and for the paymvt. of his debts FIVE POUNDS P. annum untill the sume of TWENTY FIVE POUNDS sterll. be paid: Lastly I bequeth to my servant THOMAS BLAIR Two Cows grass and his house and garden he now poseses in FFORE during his natural life. And I do hereby appoint my said wife ANGEL WRAY my sole executrix and administrrix (*sic*) to this my last Will and Testmvt. and do further order my said wife to give unto the poor of the parish of CLANDAHORKA to such as shee shall think fit of them the sum of THREE POUNDS Sterll. within nine months after the day of my death. Signed Sealed this TWELFTH day of JUNE one thousand seven hundred and ten.

Signed WM. WRAY, and Witnessed GEORGE KNOX PATRICK DINSMOOR and SAMUEL DINSMOOR

SAM. DINSMOORE (Seal) Signed Sealed in the presence of us  
WM. WRAY GEO. KNOX.

Regd. 1st DECR. 1710  
at 10 O'Clock.'

Angel Wray survived her husband by twenty-seven years and apparently spent them at Ffore, as in her will she is described as 'of Fore'. Her will, like William's, was registered, and thus the memorial of it is preserved in the Office of Deeds. It was dated 8 March 1732 and proved 1 February 1737. In substance it is primarily a recapitulation of several clauses of her husband's will which she makes good according

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS SECOND WIFE ANGEL GALBRAITH to his behest. She then enumerates the townlands from which she received rents and profits during her natural life: 'Maghremenagh, Corcregan, the five balliboes of Fore, Breachey, Clonemess, Ballymore, part of Dunfanaghy and the marble and Mill quarries.' She left legacies to three daughters: Isabell, Elizabeth, and Marian; to her granddaughter Angel Wray one hundred pounds, and fifty pounds each to granddaughters Sarah, Lettice, and Ann Wray, and grandsons Charles and Henry Wray.

Angel desires 'to be decently but privately buried at the discretion of her executor' who was her son-in-law George Knox. Probably her grave was with her husband in Clondahorka Church, but there is no record of her last resting-place.

In the next two chapters, references to this dominating woman occur, but for the sake of clarity in the narrative I have included these extracts from her will in this chapter and here must close her life story, so far as we know it, together with that of her husband William Wray.

## THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

**A**CCORDING to the statement on William Wray's tombstone, his five daughters were all married before the time of his death: 'Disposed of and match'd into good families being thereinto recommended by ye advantage of a virtuous education and agreeable fortune.'

So said 'his surviving Consort Angel' when she recited the names of the four daughters of whom she was mother, Lettice, Elizabeth, Isabell, and Mariana.

It was a common custom in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries for the first-born daughter to be named after her paternal grandmother. But in the Wray family neither Angel Galbraith nor her mother-in-law Elizabeth Gore, who was also her aunt, followed this practice. Both women show preference rather for names from their own side of the family, and reference to the Gore pedigree shows from whom these names came.

For her first daughter, Angel chose the name of her eldest aunt and eldest sister, and waited for her second daughter to repeat the name of Elizabeth; the third daughter was given the name of Angel's mother, and the youngest the name of Angel's second sister. Thus these four daughters of William Wray all bore Gore names, names which persisted for several generations in the Wray family and those families into which their owners married.

In the choice of husbands for these her daughters, Angel's predilection for her own family connexions still persisted and is so marked as almost to suggest lack of enterprise and certainly maintained the spirit of exclusiveness. The five men who became sons-in-law to William and Angel all had Galbraith mothers and one, possibly two, had also a Gore grandmother.

In the month of May 1709, Lettice Wray married William Richardson of Castle Hill in County Tyrone.

William was the eldest son of Archibald Richardson by

#### THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

his wife Jane, daughter of James Galbraith of Rathmoran, Co. Fermanagh, Archibald having been the eldest son of another William Richardson by his wife Mary, daughter of the Rev. Archibald Erskine and his wife Lettice Gore.

Mary was coheiress to her father and it was through her that the property of Augher came into the Richardson family (see Chapter VI). The Richardsons had owned the property in County Tyrone at the time of Pynnar's survey in 1618, and in each generation the owner served as High Sheriff for the County. William like his predecessors was High Sheriff in 1716. William and Lettice had a family of eight children—five sons and three daughters. (See Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 1863 ed.)

In the Office of Deeds there is registered an Indenture of a lease bearing the date 5 November 1709 between William Wray of Fore and William Finlay, referring to farms in Donegal, which was witnessed by William Richardson and as second witness there was another Tyrone man, James Sinclair, of Holly Hill.

James Sinclair married William Wray's second daughter, Elizabeth and, although no date is recorded for their marriage, it seems probable that the second witness as well as the first was already a son-in-law.

James Sinclair was eldest son of the Rev. John Sinclair by his wife Anna, another daughter of James Galbraith. John Sinclair was Rector of Leckpatrick in 1665, and later of Aughnish in the diocese of Raphoe; he was also chaplain to the Duke of Ormond.

Lord Belmore says that James Sinclair of Thura in Scotland had three sons: Alexander, William, and James. James married Elspeth Innis, and it was their son John who came to Ireland and married Anna Galbraith. (*The Cory Family*. See also Burke's *Landed Gentry*.)

The third Wray daughter married Richard Babington, second son of Matthew Babington, who is said to have married one of the 'six daughters of Colonel James Galbraith of Dowish, Co. Donegal'. On this point records vary; most records credit James Galbraith with only four daughters, all of whom are known to have married Hamiltons, but an old

#### THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

family tree of the Babingtons refers to the six Galbraith daughters, and it seems to be generally accepted that the mother of William and Richard Babington was a Galbraith. William like his brother Richard took a wife from among the Wray daughters, so I leave any further account of the Babingtons to his portion of this story.

Richard served as a Captain in King William's army at the Battle of the Boyne. Eventually he lived near Limavady in County Londonderry, at Daisy Hill, which was also known by the name of Mullagh, meaning hill or summit. (See *Notes on the Place-Names of the Parishes and Townlands of the County Londonderry* by Alfred Moore Munn.) Mr. Munn describes Mullagh as being on the eastern boundary of the parish of Limavady and bounded on the east by the river Roe; he also says: 'Roe Park formerly Daisy Hill is here.' It is marked as Daisy Hill on Sampson's map but, when I made inquiries in Limavady about Mullagh and Daisy Hill, neither name was recognized; only Roe Park was known.

The tombstone on the floor of Clondahorka Church bears the following inscription:

Cap<sup>t</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> Babington of  
Mullagh  
in y<sup>e</sup> County of Derry Lay'd This Stone  
in y<sup>e</sup> Church of Clundahurkey as A  
Monum<sup>t</sup> to Posterity of ye Burying  
place of his family.  
Sarah y<sup>e</sup> Daugh<sup>t</sup> of Rich<sup>d</sup> & Isabell  
Babington, Did May y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1711, Aged  
A year & four months  
Ann their Daugh<sup>t</sup> Did July y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1719  
Aged Six y<sup>e</sup>ars.

The stone is chipped, so that the last figure in the date of Sarah's death might be 0 or 9, i.e. 1710 or 1719.

Richard and Isabell Babington had also a third daughter, and three sons: William, Humphrey, and Richard. No date is given for their marriage, but I think it probably took place before that of Isabell's younger sister Marian.

In 1708 Marian married George Knox of Rathmullan and Moneymore.

#### THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

The Knoxs are another family with a long history and many connexions, therefore I give the following sketch of their wide-spreading tree, collected from various family sources, from *Calendar of State Papers*, Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 1863 ed., *Three Hundred Years in Inishowen* by Mrs. Young, and from a small book entitled, *Andrew Knox, Bishop of Raphoe, and his Descendants*, printed by James Hempton, Shipquay, Londonderry, 1892.

In 1612 Andrew Knox was consecrated Bishop of Raphoe.

'The house and priory of Donegal was at this time annexed to the Bishopric of Raphoe. As the house of Donegal was in a ruinous state, it behoved the Bishop to borrow Sir Ralph Bingley's house on Lough Swilly, where he resided with his wife and family and seven ministers he brought out of Scotland, who are hated by the Irish.'

Tradition says that the Bishop purchased from the Mac-Swine the priory and lands of Rathmullan and repaired and improved it as a dwelling-place for himself. Bishop Knox also restored the chapel of the monastery. In his time and for long after it was used as the parish church of Rathmullan—within its walls is the burying-place of the Knox family.

Bishop Knox brought with him from Scotland 'a goodly number of sons' whom he ordained and planted in different parts of his diocese.

Thomas, the eldest, became Bishop of the Isles in 1619. He died in 1628, having married Prudence, daughter of Peter Benson. They had one daughter but no son.

Claudius, the second of the Bishop's sons, was ordained in 1615, and John, his third son, was ordained in 1619 and appointed to the parish of Kilbarron, which parish contains the town of Ballyshannon.

John Knox became possessed of the adjacent abbey lands of Assaroe, not by grant but by purchase from the original patentees. This fact lends colour to the family tradition that John Knox also purchased the lands on which he built his dwelling-house of Moneymore.

John Knox married Jane, daughter of George Downham, D.D., who was appointed Bishop of Derry in 1617. They had a son whom they named George after his grandfather.

#### THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

In 1633 Bishop Andrew Knox died. He was succeeded at Rathmullan by his son Andrew, who again in his turn had two sons named Andrew and Robert.

By the time of the siege of Derry in 1688, this third Andrew had succeeded his father at Rathmullan and his cousin George had become owner of Moneymore. Andrew and George Knox were among the loyal county gentlemen who rode to the defence of Derry. George Knox was appointed Provost Marshal during the siege. He died in the following year, aged 68, probably from the effect of the privations endured throughout the siege. He bequeathed Moneymore to the son of his cousin Andrew who was named George. Andrew had married Rebecca, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Galbraith of Dowish. Thus it is easy to see what a favoured suitor George Knox of Rathmullan and Moneymore would have been when he found his way to Ards to seek the hand of Marian Wray. In course of time they had a family of two sons and five daughters: Andrew and George, Mary, Letitia, Elizabeth, Jane, and Angel.

Of these daughters, Mary married, in 1730, Captain Frederick Stewart of Horn Head, and had two children—Charles and Mary. Letitia married Thomas Atkinson of Cavangarden, Co. Donegal, in 1752, and had four sons and two daughters Rebecca and Angel. Elizabeth married her first cousin John Sinclair of Holly Hill, Co. Tyrone, in 1745, and left issue. Jane married Robert Torrens and left issue. Angel married the Rev. Josiah Marshall. Their eldest son George was born in 1767. They had another son named Josiah, and four daughters, the eldest of whom married Admiral Heath of Fahan, the second, Honoria, married the Hon. John Huddleston, M.P., Director of H.E.I.C., of Down Place, Maidenhead, Berks, and left issue. Another daughter became Mrs. Stokes, and the fourth married the Rev. Francis Gouldsbury of Upper Cumber.

George Knox, the second son, took Holy Orders. He married Catherine, daughter of Francis Nesbitt of Woodhill. They had four sons and three daughters—Letitia, Angel, and Marian.

#### THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

George Knox of Rathmullan and Moneymore died in 1741. No date is mentioned for the death of his wife Marian. He was succeeded by his eldest son Andrew, who married Honoria, daughter and coheiress of Alexander Tomkins of Prehen, Esq. Honoria is said to have brought beauty as well as fortune into the family. Through her Andrew Knox became the possessor of a third property, thus acquiring a very large stake in the country. He sat as M.P. for County Donegal for twenty-seven years.

Andrew and Honoria Knox had one son George, and a daughter Marianne. Her sad and romantic story is known all over the north of Ireland; it is told at length by Bernard Burke in *Family Romance*.

John Macnaghton, widower, a lover who would not be discarded, attacked the coach in which Colonel Knox was taking his daughter to Dublin. Near Strabane, Macnaghton rode up to the window of the coach, presented his pistol at Colonel Knox, Marianne flung herself across her father's breast to protect him and received the full discharge in her body.... She was buried in the Priory of Rathmullan, aged 21. The story concludes with gruesome details of how Macnaghton was finally hanged after two ropes had broken in the attempt. This was in 1761.

Colonel Knox died in 1774 and was succeeded by his son George, who married Jane Mahon, sister of the first Lord Hartland, of County Roscommon. They had four sons and one daughter. Andrew, the eldest son, succeeded his father at Prehen, and also inherited Rathmullan and Moneymore, but the residences on both these properties had by this time fallen into ruins.

He built a house lower down the Lough at Rathmullan, called the Lodge, where the Prehen family went for sea-bathing in the summer. In 1832 the Rathmullan property was sold to Mr. Batt, who enlarged and greatly improved the house.

Andrew Knox was Colonel of the Donegal Militia and member of Parliament. He married Mary, daughter of Dominick McCausland, Esq., of Daisy Hill. They had five sons and five daughters.

Of these, the eldest, George Knox, married Anna Maria,

#### THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

daughter of Robert Johnston, Esq., of Magheremena Castle, Co. Fermanagh, by his wife Letitia daughter of Sir William Richardson, Bart. George Knox died in 1848, leaving one son George, born in 1834, and two daughters, Letitia and Harriett.

George Knox married Rose Virginie Grimm, of Neufchâtel. They had only two daughters; the eldest, the heiress of Prehen, married Dr. von Scheffer, from Germany. Dr. von Scheffer neglected his father-in-law's wish that he should take British citizenship, and consequently, in 1914, on the outbreak of war, Prehen was confiscated to the State and in course of time the demesne was cut up and sold in small holdings. Thus ended a very fine property and the elder branch of yet another old family.

I have taken the marriages of Angel Wray's four daughters first, as it seemed more convenient to do so, though chronologically they should have followed Rebecca's wedding. Therefore we must now turn back in years to trace the story of William Wray's eldest daughter.

If I am correct in supposing Rebecca to have been born in 1678, she would have been 16 in 1694, quite a usual age for a girl to marry in those times. And we must bear in mind what the times of Rebecca's youth were; the end of James II's reign, the revolution, and the coming of King William all took place while she was still a child.

The siege of Londonderry began on the 7th of December 1688, when the 'prentice boys of the city closed the gates against Lord Antrim's regiments. The story has been told in prose and in poetry of how noblemen, knights, and gentlemen, with what followers they could muster, rode in from all the surrounding counties to make a garrison for Derry and man the defences of the Maiden City. Among these gallants rode young William Babington from Urney, in the County Tyrone. He was the eldest son of Matthew Babington, son of Richard, son of Brutus. Brutus Babington had been consecrated Bishop of Derry in 1610, and granted the lands of Urney in Tyrone as well as a tract of wild country in Northern Donegal. The Bishop died suddenly in 1611,

#### THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

and the lands descended according to entail male. The Bishop's grandson Matthew married a Galbraith, who is said to have been a daughter of Colonel James Galbraith. In this case she would have been first cousin to Angel, and no more suitable match for their eldest daughter could have presented itself to William and Angel Wray than this eldest son of a large landowner whose mother was their own kinswoman, and who had acquitted himself creditably as a soldier. William Babington was one of the officers in the garrison who signed the address to King William and Queen Mary at Londonderry on the 29th of July 1689, the day before the city was relieved and the siege raised.

The civil war did not end with the raising of the siege, and it is probable that William fought at the Battle of the Boyne, together with his brother Richard and that both brothers remained with the King's Army for yet a few years.

I reckon that in 1694 William would have been 26 and Rebecca 16, and that about this time they two were married.

Rebecca's babies must have come in quick succession, for by the end of 1702 she had five sons. In that year William Babington died at the early age of 34 or 35, and Rebecca, still little more than a girl, was left a widow with five boys, who in their turn were little more than babies.

The following is a copy of an abstract of the Administration Bond of William Babington of Urney, dated the 19th of December 1702. This abstract was made by the Rev. W. B. Steele of Levally, Enniskillen, from the original bond before it perished in the Dublin Record Office. The abstract is lodged in the Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Abstract of Administration Bond of  
WILLIAM BABINGTON of Urney

Dated 19 Dec. 1702.

Admin: bond &c. Gulielmi Babington

Henrici, Gulielmi, Radolphi, Thomae et Richardi  
Babington min. liberorum Jural.

Admon to Rebecca & William Wray.

Dat 19 Dec. 1702.

Public Record Office, Belfast.

T 277

#### THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

Of these five sons of Rebecca and William Babington, Henry, the eldest, died without issue. William succeeded his brother in the inheritance of Urney. He married Catherine, eldest daughter of the Rev. John Johnston, Rector of Clondavaddock, Co. Donegal, by his wife Mildred, youngest daughter of the Rev. James Hamilton of Montgavelin Castle, Co. Donegal, Archdeacon of Raphoe, and his wife Catherine Leslie. William Babington died *circa* 1736, without issue. He devised Urney to his wife, who sold it. She married secondly Colonel John Pigott, M.P. for Banagher.

Ralph, the third son, inherited the Donegal property of Greenfort. He married Angel, daughter of Humphrey Wray of Ards, by whom he had two sons and two daughters. From the eldest son, Humphrey, descended the Babingtons of Greenfort, and later through the female line the Bartons—present owners of Greenfort.

Thomas was gazetted Ensign 1723, and later Captain, in General Desney's Regiment. He died unmarried April 1751. Will proved November 1751. He divided his estate between the children of his brother Richard.

In 1723 Richard of Marble Hill, Co. Donegal, was also gazetted Ensign in Colonel William Barrell's Regiment, the 22nd Foot. He retired before 1737, and married Anne, daughter of Captain Charles Stewart of Horn Head, Co. Donegal, by whom he had one son William, who married and left issue, and two daughters, the second of whom, Ann, married James Scanlon, and had one daughter Rebecca, who married her second cousin Ralph, son of Humphrey Babington of Greenfort.

The next mention of Rebecca (*née* Wray) is in her father's will, when she is still Rebecca Babington. He leaves 'to my daughter Rebecca Babington two hundred pounds sterling' and again bequeaths 'to my dear child Rebecca Babington aforesd', &c.

Within a few years of her father's death Rebecca married again. She tells us this in her will, for the abstract of which we are again indebted to Mr. Steele. Mr. Steele himself claims descent from Rebecca and William Babington through their youngest son Richard of Marble Hill.

THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

Abstract of Will of

Mrs. Rebecca Dunkin als Babington als Wray

Dated 26 Dec. 1747

I, Rebecca Dunkin, als Babington als Wray of the City of Dublin widow . . . son Henry Dunkin . . . arrears of my jointure due to me by my son Ralph Babington . . . son James Dunkin . . . my son Thomas Babington . . . Do. Ralph . . . Henry Dunkin sole Executor.

Signed 26 Dec. 1747.

Witnesses Franc. Gorman, Jo Heron

Richard Babington, James Jackson.

Probate granted 30 April 1752 to

Henry Dunkin, Clk.

Public Record Office, Belfast.

T 277.

Transcribed by W. B. Steel, Clk.

Levally, Enniskillen.

'I, Rebecca Dunkin, als Babington als Wray . . . widow'. Nothing could be more clearly stated, and she mentions two sons of her second marriage, Henry and James Dunkin. Her will was proved by Henry Dunkin, Clerk, which definition further identifies him. According to *Alumni Dublinenses* Henry Dunkin entered Trinity College on the 3rd of June 1740. The Christian name of his father is not stated, nor is the age at which Henry entered college. He was ordained Clerk in Holy Orders and in 1774 he was Rector of Donagh, Glasslough, Co. Monaghan. Henry Dunkin married Jane Johnston of Littlemount, Co. Fermanagh, and by her left issue. In 1778 he died.

James Dunkin was called to the Bar in Dublin.

The above account makes the life of Rebecca perfectly clear. She defines her career and position with remarkable clarity and precision, yet in spite of all this a most curious myth has grown up around her name.

Burke states in *Landed Gentry* that Rebecca, daughter of William Wray of Ards, married in 1711, John Atkinson of Cavangarden, who died in 1748, and had a son Thomas Atkinson born 1713, as well as other children.

#### THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

In the summer of 1935 I went to Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, to search the churchyard there. I found a grave enclosed by iron railing, of the square altar-tomb type, with a flat stone on the top, on which was the following inscription:

Beneath are deposited the remains of  
Thomas Atkinson of Cavangarden Esqr.  
He departed this life the 11th May 1783. Aged 70 years.

Also the remains of his daughter  
Rebecca  
who died 17th January 1768. Aged 12 years.

The Rector of the parish kindly searched such parish records as exist, but the earliest book preserved in the church dated only from 1785.

Later I met Miss Atkinson, sister of the present owner of Cavangarden. She promised to search family archives, and subsequently wrote to me as follows:

'I have looked at all our old tombstones but could get no information from them, as all the really old graves of our family are underneath the chancel of the present church. I then hunted through my father's old papers, and discovered that he had written a short history of the Atkinson family. In it he says that John Atkinson was born in 1682, married in 1711 Rebecca, daughter of William Wray of Ards, and died in 1747. My father then refers to the custom of calling the eldest daughter after her paternal grandmother.'

and Miss Atkinson continues:

'Rebecca Atkinson who was born in 1736 was the eldest granddaughter, so it seems very definite that Rebecca Wray was John Atkinson's wife. John's father, Thomas Atkinson, died in 1738; in his will dated 28th of May 1736 he left Cavangarden and all his furniture and plate to his wife Elinor for her life. Some of his other lands and his silver tankard he left to his son John, and his silver sword to his grandson Thomas. I cannot find out who Elinor's father was, but I know that John Atkinson's grandmother, or great grandmother, was one of the O'Clerys of Kilbarron Castle. A sister, I presume, of the O'Clery who was one of the monks who wrote the "Annals of the Four Masters"—The original Atkinson who came to Ireland from Yorkshire in about 1586 was Charles, son of Sir Thomas Atkinson. Charles had

#### THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

two sons, one of whom settled at Creevy and Cavangarden in County Donegal, and the other at Rehins in County Mayo. We have, in the family, an old pendant, a green stone mounted in gold with an angel engraved upon it, which is supposed to have belonged to Angel Wray. It has always been handed down to the daughter named Angel in the Atkinson family.'

Such were Miss Atkinson's very conclusive renderings of their side of the story. But on the other hand there stood the will of 'Rebecca Dunkin, als Babington, als Wray, widow' with the solid fact of her two Dunkin sons and their dates. Therefore I was equally unconvinced and in all my wanderings and researches still kept a watch for anything that might throw light on the problem. I had no success until the following summer—1936, when visiting at the house of Mr. Leach, near Coleraine. An old chart was produced and Mr. Leach asked if it interested me. At the first glance I thought it was quite outside my range, as it was the pedigree of the Atkinsons of Rehins in the County Mayo. But when I looked again my eye suddenly caught the two names Rebecca and John, and I saw the statement that John Atkinson, eldest son of Thomas Atkinson of Cavangarden, had married Rebecca, sister of Charles Atkinson of Rehins. No date was given, but the marriage of her sister Jane was given as having taken place in 1711, so that the period fitted exactly.

I give below the extract from the pedigree as I copied it from the chart which was marked 'Certified by Sir John Bernard Burke, Ulster King. 4 July 1865.'

There was a footnote in another handwriting, which said, 'the statements in red ink are additions and amendments introduced by me from documents to which recently I had access. 1885. Signed Wm. Leach.'

The statement about Rebecca and John was written in red.

Mr. Hunt Walsh Leach told me that William Leach was his uncle, and a solicitor in Dublin. I wish he had left particulars and references of the documents from which he gleaned the information, but he did not do so. His nephew vouched for his having been a careful genealogist and with that it would seem we have to be content.

THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

I searched in the Office of Deeds in Dublin through the early books dating from 1708 to 1750 for any deed that might be identified as referring to John Atkinson of Cavan-garden, but found none. I had hoped to find marriage bonds or even his will, but I found nothing at all about him.

Captain Charles Atkinson settled =  
in Ireland tempo Queen Eliz.  
married *circa* 1611.

Andrew Atkinson Esqr. = Jean, dau. of Ambrose  
mar. *circa* 1645. Crean Esqr. of Sligo.

William Atkinson Esqr. of = Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas  
Ardnaree in the County of Duell Esqr. of Bally-  
Mayo, party to Mar. magibbon, Co. Mayo.  
Artles. of 8 August 1711.  
Obt<sup>t</sup> Intestate Admon  
granted to his son Charles  
22 May 1717.

Charles Atkinson = Deborah, dau. of Rehins, Co. Mayo Esqr. Mar. An <sup>t</sup> 8 Aug. 1711. By his will d. 29 Mar 1751 he devised his Estates in remainder to his Cousin William Atkinson Esqr. of Forgney, Co. Longford. Died 22 July 1765. Will p. 10 Feb. 1766.	Jane = John Nicholson Esqr. of Iceford, son of Samuel Nicholson of Castle Connor, Co. Sligo, Esqr. Settlement dated 17 April 1711.	Rebecca = John Atkinson Esqr. of Ardnaree, eldest son of Thomas Atkinson Esqr. of Cavan Garden, Co. Donegal.
---	--	--

Burke states in *Landed Gentry* (1863 ed.) that Mary, daughter of Charles Atkinson, Esq. of Rehins, married William Leach, Esq., of the County of Dublin. From the dates mentioned for other marriages in the same generation it may be estimated that this marriage took place about 1820. The William Leach who made the additions to the chart

#### THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM WRAY

was probably son or nephew of the man who married Mary Atkinson, which would account for Atkinson family papers coming into his hands.

The existence in the Atkinson family of the pendant with the engraved angel is amply accounted for by the marriage, in 1752, of Thomas Atkinson with Letitia Knox, whose mother was Marian, youngest daughter of William and Angel Wray. The name of Thomas's mother was Rebecca, so the custom of the paternal grandmother's name being given to the eldest daughter was duly carried out by Thomas and Letitia, and their youngest daughter being named Angel after her maternal great-grandmother inherited her pendant.

In the parish register of St. Mary's Church, Dublin, there is an entry dated '29 Jan. 1748. Buried Mrs. Dunkin.' I think this undoubtedly refers to Rebecca. She styles herself as of 'the City of Dublin'. The date is just one month after she made her will, and St. Mary's was the church where, as we shall see presently, her brother Henry Wray and his wife were buried.

## XII

## HUMPHREY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ANNE BROOKE

**I**N writing of William Wray, I pointed out that it was from his marriage with Angel Galbraith that a second branch of the family derived. Therefore I count the story of the Wrays of Ards as beginning with that marriage, and now continue directly with Humphrey Wray and his descendants, and must leave the history of William's eldest son Henry for the later chapters under the heading of Castle Wray.

It is most disappointing that very few records of Humphrey Wray survive. The house and demesne of Ards are evidence of the preparations made for his life but, beyond the fact that he served as High Sheriff for the County of Donegal during the year 1715, his marriage is the one important event known, and even of this the date can only be estimated.

From the date at which Humphrey's eldest son entered Trinity College, Dublin, the marriage cannot have taken place later than 1707; I think the most probable year was 1706. Marriage articles are referred to in the will of Humphrey's father, dated 12 June 1710, and the name of Mrs. Ann Brooke is given as Humphrey's wife, but those articles are lost. There was, however, another deed executed five years later, evidently with the object of putting the property into trust. This deed was registered in the Office of Deeds, and I quote the following abstract:

WRAY & Others  
to  
HAMILTON

Reg'd, ye  
16th Dec<sup>th</sup>  
1725

Memorial of . . . Deed bearing date 11 Aug  
1715—between Henry Wray of Castle Wray . . .  
Son & Heir of W<sup>m</sup> Wray of fflore in County  
of Donegal deceased Angell Wray widow &  
Exe<sup>r</sup> of first part Humphrey Wray of Ards &  
Ann his wife of second part the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Major  
Gen<sup>r</sup> Gustavus Hamilton of Stack Allen in  
Co. Meath Esq one of His Maties Most  
Honble. Privie Councill & Henry Brooke of  
Colebrooke in the Co. of fermanagh Esqr of  
third part and George Knox of Monimore in

HUMPHREY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ANNE BROOKE

Co. of Donegall Esq. of fourth part . . . s<sup>d</sup>  
Deed recited that . . . Humphrey Wray & Ann  
his wife for the consideration mentioned in s<sup>d</sup>  
Deed did grant . . . to Gustavus Hamilton &  
Henry Brooke . . . all those towns, lands of  
Ards . . . [here follows long list of townlands]  
formerly belonging to s<sup>d</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Wray to the  
value of £25.12.0 pr ann situate in B. of  
Killmacrenan to have & to hold . . . unto s<sup>d</sup>  
Gustavus Hamilton & Henry Brooke to the  
several uses & intents & purposes in the s<sup>d</sup>  
Deed mentioned which s<sup>d</sup> Deed is witnessed  
by the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup>. Sir Ralph Gore Chancell<sup>r</sup> of  
his Maties Court of Excheqr in Ireland and  
Thom<sup>s</sup> Jackson of the City of Dublin and this  
Memorial by s<sup>d</sup> Thom<sup>s</sup> Jackson & Dougall  
Rochanan of Monncore Co. Donegall gent.

signed Henry Wray (Seal)

Humphrey Wray

duly witnessed as above.'

(Wray-Hamilton, Book 49, p. 24, no. 30539.)

The Trustees for Anne in this deed are Henry Brooke  
her eldest brother, and Gustavus Hamilton her uncle by  
marriage.

The choice of a wife for her only son must have been a  
serious problem to Angel who had much more experience  
in matchmaking for daughters, but as she herself would  
have expressed it, Anne 'came of a creditable familie'.

For details of this family I am indebted to Basil G. Brooke,  
lineal descendant of Anne's brother Henry.

The first Brooke, member of a Cheshire family, came to  
Ireland about the same time as John Wray arrived from  
Yorkshire. He was Captain Basil Brooke, who with other  
chosen officers brought over levies to join the English army  
in 1598.

By 1607 Basil Brooke was made Constable of Doe Castle  
and in the following year Constable of Donegal Castle. In  
1616 his services to the Crown were rewarded by knight-  
hood, and in 1621 he received a free grant of Donegal

#### HUMPHREY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ANNE BROOKE

Castle and very large tracts of land in the County of Donegal. He married Anne, daughter of the Cheshire family of Leycester of Toft Hall.

In 1633 Sir Basil Brooke died and was succeeded by his son Henry. Henry Brooke was also a soldier and served, evidently with distinction, for after the rebellion of 1641 he received further grants of forfeited lands in the County Fermanagh. At the Restoration his grant was confirmed and in 1664 Captain Henry Brooke, like his father, was knighted.

Henry Brooke married three times: first Elizabeth, daughter of Captain John Winter of Dyrham, Gloucestershire; secondly Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Henry, Lord Docwra; and in 1652 he married as his third wife Anne, daughter of Sir George St. George, Kt., and M.P. for County Leitrim. The St. Georges, a very old Cambridgeshire family, were long seated at Hatley St. George, Cambridgeshire. There were children of all three marriages.

It is the third marriage which concerns this story, and the children of it were:

'Thomas, of whom later.

Richard, Ensign in Colonel Gustavus Hamilton's Regiment,  
he died 1723;

Oliver, Lieutenant in Sir George St. George's Regiment, he  
died 1739;

Catherine, married Charles Hamilton of Cavan, Co. Donegal;  
Elizabeth, married Colonel Gustavus Hamilton, 1st Viscount

Boyne;  
Anne, married Kilner Brazier, Colonel in Lord Boyne's  
Regiment.'

Sir Henry Brooke died in 1671. He divided his property amongst the children of his three marriages, and to Thomas he bequeathed the estate in County Fermanagh.

Thomas followed his family tradition and joined the Army. He held commissions in the Regiments of Colonel Edward Villiers, Colonel Chidley Coote, and Sir Thomas Newcome. In 1688 Thomas Brooke took the side of King William and was gazetted Major in Lord Drogheda's Regiment. This regiment suffered severely but did good service at the Boyne and the siege of Limerick.

#### HUMPHREY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ANNE BROOKE

In 1695 Thomas Brooke was returned M.P. for Antrim Borough, but he died the following year, a comparatively young man.

Thomas Brooke married Catherine, daughter of Sir John Cole, Bart., by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of the Hon. John Chichester, M.P., and sister of Arthur, 2nd Earl of Donegal.

Catherine had three sisters and eventual co-heiresses: Elizabeth, wife of Sir Michael Cole, Kt., M.P., of Enniskillen; Mary, wife of Lord Drogheda; Margaret, wife of the Very Rev. John Burdett, Dean of Clonfert.

Their brother Arthur became Lord Ranelagh, the title (which belonged to his maternal grandmother's family, the Jones) being revived for him.

Catherine Cole could claim royal descent from Thomas, Duke of Gloucester, son of Edward III, through nine generations to her mother, Elizabeth Chichester.

When Thomas Brooke inherited the Fermanagh estate of Brookeborough from his father, he changed its name to Colebrooke in honour of his wife.

Thomas and Catherine had ten children, several of whom died young:

Henry	born <i>circa</i> 1684
James	baptized 30 Dec. 1686
Arthur	baptized 16 May 1693
Thomas	baptized 1 Apr. 1695
Frances and	
Elizabeth—twins	—buried 16 Nov. 1682
Elizabeth	baptized 6 Jan. 1690; died Feb. 1691
Mary	
Anne	
Catherine	buried 18 Sep. 1696

(See John Lodge's MSS. Col., Add. MSS., British Museum, 23685, f. 42.)

The fact that Lord Drogheda owned a house in Westminster and that Thomas Brooke and his wife Catherine stayed in that house, as shown by a letter addressed to Captain Thomas Brooke 'at my L<sup>d</sup> Droughadah's house in New Pallas Yard in Westminster' suggested to me that a search should be made in the parish registers of St. Martin's

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in the Fields and of St. Margaret's, Westminster. There was no mention of Thomas and Catherine Brooke in St. Martin's Register, but in the Register of St. Margaret's there appears the following entry:

'Baptisms 1687-1689  
1688. Apt 15 Henry Brook. S. to Tho. Esqr by Katherin'

The letter addressed to Thomas Brooke, which is preserved at Colebrooke, was from his brother Oliver Brooke, dated from 'Rosquill, ye 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 88' and concludes with the sentence, 'I hope my sister is well, pray give my servase to her and to Harry'. From these records it is evident that Henry, though the eldest to survive, was not the firstborn son, and it will be noted that in John Lodge's manuscript the date of his birth was qualified by the word '*circa*'.

The manuscript in T.C.D. Library which gives the list of Irish Protestants in Chester in 1688-9 includes the name of 'Thomas Brooks Esq, Major, Wife, Four Children', and 'Ye yearly value of their estates' is given as £600. In the list this family from Fermanagh immediately precedes William Wray, wife and six children. The four children of Thomas and Catherine Brooke must have been James, baptized 30 December 1686 and Henry, baptized 15 April 1688. John Lodge's manuscript gives no date for Mary and Anne's baptism, but from the dates given for the other children these are the only two who could have made up the family of four in 1689. The twins having died in 1682 it appears most likely that Mary and Anne's place in the family was between them and James, therefore it may be estimated that Anne as second of these daughters was born in 1685. She would have been a little girl of four and Humphrey Wray, the third of William's six children, would have been about eight. The two families were, of course, well known to one another and it may well have been that playmates in exile was the beginning which eventually led to Angel's son marrying the orphan heiress Anne. Both Anne's parents died while she was a child. Catherine Brooke survived her husband by only three years, the date of her death being placed by the administration granted to her brother-in-law Charles Hamilton.

#### HUMPHREY WRAY AND HIS WIFE ANNE BROOKE

The original document perished in 1922, but an abstract was preserved in the Betham Collection which is now in the Public Record Office, Dublin, and reads as follows:

'Brookes—Catherine—Dublin.

Widow—To Cha<sup>z</sup> Hamilton of Cavan, Co. Donegal. Esq.

for Henry, Arthur, Maria and Anne children

Admon granted 31 Day December 1699.'

It will be noted that, of her ten children, only four are mentioned. James and Thomas must be presumed to have died young as well as the four little girls already so described.

I can find nothing more about Humphrey Wray until it is recorded in the Index of Raphoe Diocesan Wills that his will was dated in the year 1723. It is not stated when the will was proved, but it seems to have been the common custom to make a will only when signs of approaching death appeared, therefore I assume that it was in the year 1723-4 that Humphrey died.

I have not been able to find any memorial tablet commemorating his burying-place. There is none extant in Clondahorka Church nor, so far as I could find, is there any Wray grave in the little church of Cloon, the ruins of which stand just inside the walls of Ards demesne. But both the sometime church and its surrounding burial-ground are so completely overgrown by bushes and brambles that it was impossible for me to make a thorough search, even with the help of a strong young farmer and his reaping-hook.

By the time that Humphrey died, Anne had borne him three sons and five daughters. As Humphrey's will perished, it is to his mother's will that we owe the names of his six younger children. Angel Wray was an exception to those who made their will at the eleventh hour. Her will was dated five years before it was proved, and in it, as we saw, she makes bequests to two of her grandsons, Charles and Henry Wray, and to four of her grand-daughters, all of whom were under age in 1732. The story of these sons and daughters will be found in the following chapters.

I have not been able to find any further mention of Anne, nor any date for her death, nor place of her burial.

### XIII

#### THE YOUNGEST SON AND FIVE DAUGHTERS OF HUMPHREY AND ANNE WRAY

HENRY WRAY was the youngest of Humphrey and Anne's three sons and, calculating as we are repeatedly obliged to do from a variety of other dates, it seems probable that he was their sixth child and born in about 1719-20. The Army was chosen as his profession, for we find him gazetted Ensign in the 39th Regiment of Foot, on the 31st of August 1739. (MS. Army List, P.R.O.)

The 39th Regiment was raised in Ireland in 1702 by Colonel Richard Coote. In the *Short Histories of the Territorial Regiments of the British Army* R. de M. Rudolf says:

'The Dorsetshire Regiment is composed of the old 39th and 54th Regiments of Foot. Few regiments have more glorious records of service or have prouder traditions. . . . For about fifty years after its formation the 39th was employed in Portugal, Minorca, Gibraltar and Jamaica, where it acquired great honour for gallantry and valour in many engagements.'

At intervals the 39th returned to Ireland. In 1732 it came from Jamaica and during the ten following years was stationed in Ireland. It was during this time that Henry Wray obtained his commission. He was promoted to be Lieutenant on the 11th of May 1742 and Captain on the 14th of February 1754. In the same year the 39th proceeded to India and served there until recalled to Ireland in 1758.

In 1757 the regiment took part in the battle of Plassey and 'won fresh laurels by its heroism' (Rudolf). There is no record of Henry Wray in India, but neither is there any reason to suppose that he did not accompany his regiment. On 1 April 1762 Henry Wray was promoted to the rank of Major (vol. i of printed Army List, P.R.O.). And on the 13th of February 1765 'Major Henry Wray (of Ards) retires on Captain's half pay'. (Succession Book, W.O. 25.210 P.R.O.)

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Exshaw's *Magazine* for February 1766 makes the announcement 'Married at Derry Major Wray to Miss Mauleverer'.

Foster's *Pedigrees of Yorkshire Families*, vol. ii, shows that Jane, second daughter of the Rev. Bellingham Mauleverer, Rector of Maghera, Co. Londonderry, married 'Captain Rae'. Unfortunately no Marriage Articles survive, but Articles of the Marriage of Ann Mauleverer, Jane's younger sister, are preserved in the Paterson Collection, P.R.O., Belfast, and her marriage portion is stated to have been £8,000. Anne married Kennedy Henderson of Dawsonbridge, Co. Londonderry, in July 1759, and it is reasonable to suppose that Jane had a corresponding fortune when she married in 1766.

Jane's father died in 1752; her mother was Elizabeth, third daughter of William Nicholson, Bishop of Derry.

Major Henry Wray and his wife lived at Brookhall, Londonderry, which according to tradition was Mauleverer property. I know no history of the house, but it still stands in a fine position surrounded by a handsome demesne, about two miles outside the city, on the shores of Lough Foyle.

Three years after his marriage, Henry Wray was elected an Honorary Freeman of the City as recorded in the Minutes of the Derry Corporation, dated 8 June 1769:

"The Mayor acquainted this Common Council that he called them together to elect four honorary Freemen pursuant to eight days notice posted up, when Henry Wray of Brookhall within the liberties of the City, William Cunningham of Springhill in the County of Londonderry, the Rev. Dr. Robert Law, late Fellow of Trinity College and Spencer Huey Esq. of Coolnafintrie in the County of Londonderry were elected honorary freemen by a fair majority."

Henry and Jane had no children, but I think we may conclude that Henry was a useful and trusted uncle. We find him as trustee to the Marriage Articles of his niece Catherine Hamilton when she married her first cousin, his nephew, Humphrey Babington in 1765, and as Trustee to the will of his brother Charles, dated 1772. His name also appears as witness to a deed carried out by his step-first-cousin Jackson Wray and, as we shall see presently, Jackson

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Wray's youngest son was gazetted to the 39th Regiment in 1767, only two years after Major Henry Wray had retired, which suggests the probability that he had a hand in procuring young William Wray's commission.

I can find no further record of Henry Wray, except that he died at Brookhall and that his prerogative will dated 1780 was proved in 1784.

His widow's will was proved in 1794 (Derry Diocesan Wills).

I have not been able to find any tombstone or memorial tablet to either Henry or Jane Wray.

Jane's sister, Alicia Mauleverer, was buried in Derry Cathedral churchyard, but hers was the only grave of the family that I found in Derry:

Here lieth the Body of  
Mrs. Alice Mauleverer  
Who departed this life on the 11th  
of January 1813. She was Daughter  
to the late Rev'd Bellingham Maul  
everer and Grand Daughter to  
the Right Rev'd William Nicholson  
Lord Bishop of Derry.

Of Henry Wray's five sisters the eldest, Catherine, named after her mother's mother, was born in 1709. Catherine is not mentioned in the will of her grandmother Angel Wray, dated 1732, because she had already married Andrew Hamilton of Ballymadonnell Hall on the 22nd of January 1730, and we may presume had received her fortune.

Ballymadonnell is on the west coast of County Donegal, in the parish of Killaghtee. Andrew Hamilton's name appears several times in the Vestry Book of the parish church. There were of course a great many families of Hamilton settled in Donegal and the neighbouring counties, who came from Scotland in the seventeenth century. See *The House of Hamilton*, pub. 1928. The author does not give the name of Andrew Hamilton's mother or grandmother, but in the generation of his grandfather there were at least five marriages between Hamiltons and Galbraiths. All these Galbraiths were first cousins to Angel Wray, which seems

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to indicate once again the hand of this worthy old match-  
maker in the choice of a husband from a 'creditable familie'  
for her only son's eldest daughter.

Catherine and Andrew Hamilton had eight children: four  
sons—Andrew, James, Henry, and Robert; and four daugh-  
ters—Anne, Catherine, Angel, and Elizabeth.

Anne married Gerard Irvine of Greenhill, Co. Fermanagh.  
Catherine married her first cousin Humphrey Babington of  
Greenfort on the 27th of January 1764 at Killaghtee Church,  
and Elizabeth married John Atkinson of Cavangarden in  
1776. He was her second cousin as well as a near neighbour.

Angel did not marry; we find her name recorded on the  
tombstone in the old churchyard of Killaghtee erected by her  
to the memory of her parents. This is a flat stone lying  
within the ruins of the old church; beside it lies another  
Hamilton gravestone, with the Christian name James still  
visible, but the dates are obliterated. The inscription on the  
grave of Andrew and Catherine is quite clear and reads as  
follows:

Beneath  
are deposited the Remains  
of  
Andrew Hamilton of  
Ballymadonnell Esq  
he died  
the 29 day of October 1769  
Aged 66 years  
Also  
The Remains of his Wife  
Mrs. Katherine Hamilton  
she died  
the 29 day of October 1813  
in the 105 year of her age  
This Stone  
was erected to their memory  
by their Daughter  
Angel  
An Dom 1814

This record of Catherine's age is interesting, in that it  
shows her as the only member of the Wray family who lived

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to over, or even near, a hundred years. The Wrays were not remarkable for long lives, and the branch of the Brooke family from which Catherine's mother descended were not long-lived either. I think Catherine must have inherited her tendency to longevity from her grandmother Angel, who must have been nearly ninety by the time of her death. Catherine's daughter Catherine lived to be 95. Her first husband Humphrey Babington died in 1767 or 1768, and Catherine married Thomas Lee of Dublin as her second husband.

In Angel Wray's will, her second grand-daughter is called Angel and received from her grandmother a legacy of one hundred pounds, where her sisters received only fifty pounds. The compliment of having been 'named for' her grandmother probably gained her this advantage.

Marriage Articles preserved in the Registry of Deeds, Dublin, dated 30 October 1736, record the marriage of Angel Wray with Ralph Babington of Greenfort, Co. Donegal. Ralph Babington was the third son of William of Urney by his wife Rebecca Wray, therefore Ralph and Angel were step-first-cousins. Ralph's two elder brothers died without leaving issue. Ralph and Angel had four children. Humphrey the eldest son, as recorded above, married his first cousin Catherine Hamilton and inherited the Greenfort property. (See Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 1937 ed.) Richard, the second son, styled as 'of Boyles Hill, Co. Donegal', married, first, Mary Stewart of Horn Head, and secondly his first cousin Letitia, daughter of William Wray of Ards, by whom he had four children. Thus in three successive generations Babington sons married daughters of the Wray family, and their descendants continued this propensity for marrying cousins.

Ralph and Angel Babington's two daughters, Rebecca and Katherine, married respectively John Morgan and Owen Digby, both 'of the City of Dublin'.

Ralph Babington died *circa* 1755. I have found no record of Angel's death. She was alive in 1764, as she is cited in the Marriage Articles of her daughter Rebecca as 'Angel Babington als Wray, the now widow of the said Ralph and the mother of the said Rebecca'.

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Sarah comes next in the list of Humphrey Wray's daughters, and it is from *Pul's Occurrences* dated 21 to 25 January 1755 that we learn 'Last week was married at Ballymacdonald, Co. of Donegal, Mr. John Wolverston, Attorney, to Miss Sarah Wray, sister to Wm. Wray of Ards in the said County, Esqr. A most agreeable lady, with a considerable fortune.' It will be noted that Sarah was married from her sister Catherine's home at Ballymadonnell. John Wolverston's name appears at various dates as trustee or witness on marriage articles, and other family documents. There is no record of any children of this marriage, in fact the only other reference to Sarah is found in the Index of Prerogative Wills where the will of 'Sarah Wolverston of Dublin, widow', was proved in 1796.

In Burke's *Manuscript Pedigree of the Wray Family* (P.R.O., Belfast) a star is placed against the names of Sarah and her sister Lettice and a footnote says, 'One of these married James Mauleverer of Dublin Esqr.' We know that it was not Sarah, therefore presumably it must have been Lettice.

In the pedigree of Mauleverer (*Foster's Pedigrees of Yorkshire Families*, vol. ii) James Mauleverer appears as the eldest son of the Rev. Bellingham Mauleverer and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of William Nicholson, Bishop of Derry. It also appears that James married Mary, daughter of the Rev. George Gowan, and that she died in 1803, having borne five children to James Mauleverer, who died in 1791. Their eldest son William was born in 1768.

The names of their four other children were: Jane, born 1772; Elizabeth, 1773; Letitia, 1779; and Richard, 1782.

From these dates I thought, at one time, that it was possible that William, born in 1768, was the child of an earlier marriage, but through a copy of William's marriage settlements, given me by Mr. T. G. F. Paterson, this was ruled out. These settlements, dated 17 October 1799, describe William, then a Clerk in Holy Orders, as one of the children of Mary Mauleverer by the said James Mauleverer. But I still think that James Mauleverer married Lettice Wray as his first wife and that she died childless, and that his marriage with Mary Gowan took place in 1767.

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I think the probable explanation is that James Mauleverer of the City of Dublin, Attorney, was a colleague of John Wolverston, and that in about the year 1760 a match was made up between him and Mrs. Wolverston's sister, her family as well as his being also closely connected with Londonderry.

James Mauleverer's youngest daughter is named Letitia, for which there is no precedent in the Mauleverer pedigree, and I think it may have been a tribute to his early love. At any rate we have no other record of Lettice Wray and as Burke compiled his Manuscript Pedigrees chiefly from wills he must have had reason for his statement.

Humphrey's youngest daughter was named Ann, but I have failed to find any mention of her beyond what is given in her grandmother's will.

## XIV

## WILLIAM—“THE LAST WRAY OF ARDS”

SIR BERNARD BURKE says that, ‘Humphrey Wray of Ards appears to have been a careful man, as he left his son a very considerable estate; indeed, something little short of a principality in territorial extent, with a splendid rent roll’.

As Humphrey Wray died when his eldest son was about fifteen years old, I think some of the credit for the care with the fortune he inherited must have been due to his mother Anne Brooke as well as to the trustees for the ‘wide spreading property’. The care of young William was left, most probably, in the hands of his mother and his grandmother. Whether their training was responsible for his pride which preceded the proverbial fall we cannot tell. Angel died while the family fortunes were still at their height, and it may be hoped that Anne also was spared the sorrow of witnessing her son’s downfall.

We know that Angel Wray realized the advantage of education and we learn from *Alumni Dublinenses* that William was put to school with Mr. McMullan in Dublin until he entered Trinity College on the 10th of July 1726, aged 18. He is described as ‘Son of Humphrey, Armiger’ ‘born at Ards, Co. Donegal’. The Rev. Mr. McMullan kept ‘an academy for young gentlemen in Stafford St. Dublin’.

Beyond the T.C.D. record there is little actual history of William Wray, but a great deal of tradition still lives connected with his name. In his book *Vicissitudes of Families* Bernard Burke devotes a chapter to him under the title of ‘The last William Wray of Ards’. From this chapter I quote the following descriptions and anecdotes:

‘Amidst his woods and wilds, sea-cliffs and mountains, reigned William Wray in feudal state, and with an assumption of power which his neighbours seemed to allow him. His heart was kind, his purse was long, his step was high, and his hand was open. He was profuse, proud, energetic, jealous, stately, hospitable,

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eccentric, and exclusive. Tradition tells us that he had twenty stalls in his stables, kept ready for the horses of his guests, and twenty covers on his table for their masters, yet the difficulty of reaching Ards was what would never come into the computation of modern diners-out. At that time there was but one available road from Letterkenny to Ards, and this had been made by William Wray himself, and with such zeal that he caused his labourers to work at it all night by torch light. It runs straight up and over Lough Salt, a mountain one thousand five hundred feet high. When the guests who were invited to Ards arrived at Kilmacrennan, a small town near the southern base of the mountain, the postillions unyoked the horses and replaced them with bullocks, which animals were regularly provided by William Wray, and which slowly but strongly dragged the carriages up the great mountain. As the equipages emerged at the other side of Lough Salt, and became visible to the northern region beneath, tradition has it that the Master of Ards from his own lawn took telescopic observations at the distance of fourteen miles, and computing that the company would not complete the rest of their journey under four hours more, and being a man given to punctuality, he ordered dinner accordingly. . . .

'He was, indeed, a perfect martinet. One day walking in his pleasure-ground he cried to his gardener, "John, I cannot get on!" to which the other answered, "I do not wonder at it, Sir, for there is a straw in your path" which being removed the master resumed his walk. . . .

'He was very dignified in his appearance and manner, and once in the Grand Jury room at Lifford when a young fop, desirous of knowing the hour, turned to him and said, "And what are you, Sir," he struck the floor with his gold-headed cane, and answered, "I am William Wray of Ards, Sir." Yet with this characteristic of hauteur, he was most kind to the poor and would suffer the fishermen, if it blew hard from the north or west, to run their smacks close in under his very windows, and to coil their hawsers round the stems of the great trees which grew close to the sea, and which remain till this day.'

Burke wrote in the middle of last century; to present-day ideas it would seem but common humanity that boats should shelter where they could. Another small act of kindness remembered locally was told to me by a neighbouring farmer. He said, 'I heared it from me grandfather that

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Wullie Wray was good to the poor, and he gave the land that Doe Chapel now stands on for nothing and he sent five horse loads of wattles to pale it in'.

There is one extraordinary episode in the early part of William Wray's life of which an absolutely authentic first-hand account has been preserved in letters written by William Wray to Captain Charles Stewart of Horn Head, together with copies made by Captain Stewart of his replies. These letters were preserved among the family papers at Horn Head, and were lent to me by Mrs. Howard, four times great-grand-daughter of Captain Stewart. Mrs. Howard was the daughter of another Charles Stewart of Horn Head and as Anne Stewart she spent her girlhood there, for only after her father's death did the property pass out of the family's hands. Mrs. Howard has allowed me to reproduce the letters which tell their own story; they also reveal a good deal of the spirit and manners of the day, though they make one blush for a young coxcomb of 24 whose conceit allowed him to behave in such a manner to his neighbour, a man of his father's generation though some twenty years older than Humphrey Wray would have then been had he lived.

Sr

The ill usage I have lately had from you requires speedy satisfaction I am concerned I must have thus to do with a man of your years, but my Honour is att stake and I cant but have justice done me. Be Master of your own weapons, fix the time and appoint the place where I shall wait on you, It had better not be out of your own Farm, to prevent discovery, for as you regard your own Honour, I desire you may keep this most secret. You must come alone, as I will, the sooner this affair is ended, the sooner will Revenge cease

Wm Wray

Ards. Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 1732.

Nov<sup>b</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1732

Sr

You say that you have rec'd a great deall of ill usage from me I am quite a stranger to that, but not so to the base usage you have given me, and all the satisfaction you intend me is banter by yo' sham challenge, if you be as much in earnest as your let<sup>r</sup> says,

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asure yourself, if I had but one day to liv I would meett you on the top of Muckish rather than lose by you what I have carried all my life

C.S.

Two more letters, in much the same strain, were exchanged and then Wray wrote the following elaborate recital of his injuries, to which Captain Stewart replied.

Novem<sup>r</sup> the 11<sup>th</sup> 1732

Sr

I have recv'd yours of yesterday and now tell you I am willing to give my oath or if you think I have any honour I will give that to vindicate my innocence as to what I am charged with, all I said is as follows. I mett Mary M<sup>th</sup> Gomery on the strand gathering oysters, I gently chidd her for it, she told me she thought it no crime nor did she come there often to gather oysters, unless it was for Cap<sup>tt</sup> Stewartt I told her it was a falt to gather there in any one but me, but as for Cap<sup>tt</sup> Stewartt or any neighbour I would never hinder them but that I would not suffer her or any other to gather there under that pretence, so desired her to lay down her oysters, which she did; att the same time I gave her six pence which I told her was for her loss of time and charged her never to say to any one that she had mentioned you in it, least the story should be altered, and you believe the Tale Bearer which I had reason to doubt from old times, (tho when I recollect,) I remember att your own house, about three year ago, we swore a Friendship and the cheif article w<sup>th</sup> was of your own enforcing, was y<sup>r</sup> we should never beleive stories nor Tattles of each other. Who now has violated the Treaty? Nor did I ever send to the womans house; or ever heard of any one else sending till it came from you. I have now told you the truth Yes and as I shall answer, I have told the whole truth in this affair; when it is so, you must immagin I cannot but think myself verry hardly used by you, and pray how would you have me acquit my self. I have been affronted publickly in the face of my country by sending y<sup>r</sup> Boatt & twelve men & your son armed with Pistolls and ready by your directions to use me I know not how. All this beside what you your self said of me gave me much uneasiness how I should manage especially to a man of y<sup>r</sup> years, and was it not to such a one, & to you, I never should have wrote such a letter as this, and now I must tell you after what you have said in your last letter & I in this if you are satisfied without any more to do, to aske my

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pardon for your rashness before onley one friend, which I will bring with me to y<sup>r</sup> House if I have y<sup>r</sup> lave; I am willing to forgive All and remain y<sup>r</sup> friend, as I ever was before; if not I do not think I can do myself justice in any other way than what I mentioned to you; I am att present restless to have an end put to this, if you are satisfied with what I propose, let me know exactly, if not, I value my life not one farthing in respect of my Honour & creditt which I must loose if I have not satisfaction done me, I am much concern'd that it should be ever objected to me y<sup>t</sup> you are an old man & an unfirm one, & I a young one & not so, but what would you have me do, you would not like to be scolded nor could I do it you. I have been much injured by you my proposalls are I think fair & easie & all I shall ever make, & were it not to you & a man of your age I never would make any.

This is the last and all I have to say, if you do not come into it I am concern'd to tell you I must have justice done me otherwise.

I would be y<sup>r</sup> Friend

W<sup>m</sup> Wray

Least this should not make an end to our affair I beg earnestly that all may be kept most secrett.

I alway took you to be a man of truth, therfor reddily believ all y<sup>u</sup> now say, and you have said enough to vindicat me in what I did, for I never believd that oyster bed to be yours. if it be I will not only doe what y<sup>u</sup> desire, but doe it on my knees and if it proves not yo<sup>rs</sup> you will acknowledge that y<sup>u</sup> wronged me, you were ever welcom to my hous and I always with a free open heart, treated you as my friend, if you com upon friendly tearms you shall still finde me the same. the reason I delayed that matter so long was that I wanted a friend to discours you of these before we, both, exposd ourselvs to shame and danger I therfor sent for Dick Babington, and intended to send him to you on Munday morning to settle either for peace or ware as he found you inclined

I am C.S.

Nobody breathing knows anything from me for I think it both our interests to keep such things a secret

In spite of the conciliatory tone of this reply Wray was not satisfied, and penned a further absurd recapitulation of complaints. This he sent by the hand of his cousin, Andrew Knox. Captain Stewart made no record of his reply so it may be concluded that he wisely left it in the hands of Dick

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Babington and Andrew Knox, and that thus ‘the matter ended as it should do, in a renewal of good feeling’.

Dick Babington was step-first-cousin to William Wray. He married Anne, daughter of Charles Stewart, and lived at Marble Hill, another promontory in Sheep Haven, about half-way between Ards and Horn Head.

Andrew Knox was a full first cousin of William’s, and his sister Mary Knox was already the wife of Frederick Stewart, Captain Charles’s son, who had come in command of the offending boat. Thus both men were closely connected with the Challenger and the Challenged and well fitted to be friendly intermediaries, especially in an absurd quarrel where the older man showed such an obvious desire to appease the injured vanity of his hot-headed young neighbour.

William Wray’s eccentricities did not lessen as his years increased. Burke’s account continues:

‘One would be inclined to accuse a man who acted thus of folly, but his conduct was rather the result of pride fostered by the solitary magnificence in which he lived and the station in which his wealth and birth had placed him, and which the neighbouring gentry, who ate his mutton and drank his claret, did not dispute. He was undoubtedly a man of wondrous activity, enterprise and public spirit. The causeway he made up the steep of Lough Salt he made entirely at his own expense. A second road he constructed over Mongorry Mountain between Letterkenny and Raphoe, with incredible trouble and cost, yet it is now quite forsaken, only cattle drivers make use of “Auld Wullie Wray’s road.”’

Such adventures as well as building additions to the mansion, much forestry and lavish hospitality ‘produced their inevitable results in pecuniary difficulties, gradual decay and eventually irretrievable ruin’. ‘Yet’, Burke adds, ‘there is no record of anything coarse or vicious in the extravagances which beggared the Master of Ards. One hears nothing of hard drinking, loud swearing, or boisterous revels in his courtly mansion. William Wray was a gentleman—a high Irish gentleman—too proud to be popular, too eccentric to be understood.’

No dated record of William Wray’s marriage survives,

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but I calculate that it was in 1733, when he was about 25, that he married the second daughter of Dr. Andrew Hamilton by his wife Jane (or Anne, as she is named elsewhere) only child and sole heir of Henry Coningham of Castle Coningham. Canon Leslie records in *Derry Clergy* that Andrew Hamilton was 'Anne Coningham's guardian' and adds that 'it is said she was only twelve years old when she ran away from school and her guardian married her'.

There is some confusion also about the name of this second daughter of Dr. Andrew Hamilton. In *Vicissitudes*, Burke gives the name of William Wray's wife as Mary, but in the memorial of a deed dated 1782 her name appears as Anne, so I have called her Mary Anne. Her father had become Archdeacon of Raphoe, and she was one of six daughters who all married men living in the county or just across its borders—the other five sisters became respectively Mrs. Span of Ballymacool; Mrs. Benson of Birdstown; Mrs. Olphert of Ballyconnell, all in County Donegal; Mrs. Smith of The Lodge, Newtown, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, and Mrs. Hugh Stewart of Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone. These names I copied from a very indistinctly written old list which was unsigned and undated, lent to me by Mrs. Howard. As well as his six daughters, Archdeacon Hamilton had two, possibly three sons; the eldest Henry, who inherited Castle Coningham, was created Baronet in 1775 and died without issue in 1782. The names of the other two were, I believe, William and Andrew.

Mary Anne came of a family with a large proportion of daughters and of the six children that she bore to William Wray five were daughters.

*Vicissitudes of Families* was written about seventy years after William Wray's death, yet by then Burke said it was almost impossible to collect any details of his domestic life. Burke has, however, pictured the quality of atmosphere and of conditions in which the early years of Wray's children were spent and in the next chapter I give such account as I have been able to collect of their later lives. It is sad indeed to be obliged now to chronicle the loss of their stately and beautiful home.

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Irretrievable ruin overtook William Wray and he was obliged to sell Ards and all his land for such a price as, it is said, 'paid only a moiety of his debts'.

The following abstract of a deed preserved in Dublin records the transaction executed between William Wray and Alexander Stewart, brother to the 1st Marquis of Londonderry by which the entire estates passed to the said Alexander Stewart:

Wray & wife &  
others  
to Stewart  
Reg 26  
Apr 1782

A Memorial of an Article of Agreement entered into the 4 Apr 1782 between W<sup>m</sup> Wray of Ards in C. Donegal Esqr of one p<sup>t</sup> and Alexander Stewart of Kilkrea in Co Londonderry Esqr of the other p<sup>t</sup> which witne seth that s<sup>d</sup> William Wray for & in Consideration of the sum of £13,250 to be paid by s<sup>d</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Stewart did for his heirs etc . . . Covenant . . . & agree to & with s<sup>d</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Stewart his heirs etc . . . that he s<sup>d</sup> William Wray and Anne Wray otherwise Hamilton his Wife & every other person claiming . . . title . . . should or would on or before the 21 day of July next ensuing . . . by such conveyance . . . grant, sell, lease . . . unto s<sup>d</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Stewart . . . in free simple all that & those Lordships & Manors of Boyle & port Island & lands of Fegartknox . . . (*here follows long list of Townlands*) . . . Ards and East Aghalative except such parts as are now in his possestion and also such lands now in pos<sup>n</sup> of John Finlay Esq. formerly sold by the Ancestor of the s<sup>d</sup> William Wray & by the s<sup>d</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Wray party thereto . . . situate in C. of Donegall together with Barns etc . . . Paths . . . waters . . . Mountains . . . Turbarries & Fisheries, Trees & woods fairs Markets . . . Rights & Priveledges . . . except a yearly Quit or Crown Rent of £35 wh: . . . Alex Stewart . . . his heirs etc. are to pay, & the leases made to tenants . . . And W<sup>m</sup> Wray did . . . covenant . . . to grant . . . to Alex Stewart . . . the Lands of Ranasliegey Con<sup>s</sup> 150 acres in C. Donegall together with the Salmon Fishing situate near Lachagh Bridge

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... held by him under Nath<sup>l</sup> Clements Esqr  
Deceased . . . to hold unto him s<sup>d</sup> A. Stewart  
his heirs . . . during natural lives of Andrew  
Hamilton son of W<sup>m</sup> Hamilton Esqr Deed  
George Hamilton late an officer in the Army  
son of W<sup>m</sup> Hamilton And W<sup>m</sup> Wray Esqr son  
of s<sup>d</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Wray . . . subject to yearly rent of  
£17 . . . s<sup>d</sup> salmon fishing during the s<sup>d</sup> three  
lives for yearly rent of a peppercorn

Witnessed by George Knox of Lifford in  
Co Donegall and James Patterson.'

(Registry of Deeds, Dublin, Book 547, p. 185, Deed 231634.)

For a long time I was unable to find any trace of William Wray's will and I believed Burke's statement that he, as well as his only son, died in Paris. Eventually, when that fruitful source of information, the Report of the Case *Stewart v. West* on the Fishing Rights of the Lachagh River, was lent to me by Mr. Osborne of Milford, I found the following short extract of William Wray's will which showed that when he made his will he was in Bristol.

His burial-place I have not been able to find.

In a deed dated 24 May 1787, William Wray is described as deceased. His will was proved 16 October 1789.

His wife is believed to have predeceased him. Burke says she died of a broken heart.

Extract of the Will of William Wray  
Dated the 20th June 1786

In the Name of God, Amen.

I, William Wray, of the City of Bristol, being of sound mind, memory, and judgement, do make this my last Will and Testament in manner following—

[*after some pecuniary Bequests*]

And I leave all and everything I may die possessed of in the Kingdom of Ireland, whether real or personal, to my said Trustees, to be disposed of to my grandson, Thomas Babington, eldest son of my daughter Angel Babington, and failing him to his brother William and his sisters Annie and Mary above mentioned.

Probate 1789.

WILLIAM—"THE LAST WRAY OF ARDS"

Before closing this chapter I want, for the sake of those who may not know County Donegal, to try and give some idea of the beauty and charm of Ards as I saw it, together with the pathos of its memories.

William Harkin describes 'the stately Mansion of Ards' as being in his day 'one of the finest seats in the North of Ireland'. He says 'the Demesne is most extensive containing several hundred acres, with waving woods of oak, ash, sycamore, holly and hazel, growing fantastically amidst rude rocks and glittering in the sunshine'. Mr. Harkin knew Ards in the last two decades of the nineteenth century while it was inhabited by the Stewart family. I came nearly half a century later and too late to see Ards lived in as a 'stately mansion', for it had been sold again, and bought this time by the Franciscan Order, who turned the house into a college where young men receive 'ecclesiastical instruction'.

On a fine morning in August I set out from Dunfanaghy, driven by my host of the 'Stewart Arms' who knew the country well.

Three or four miles along the coast brought us to Ballymore Church, in front of which is a large sweep of gravelled road now partly overgrown with grass. Here the carriages of olden times could be turned when their owners drove in stately fashion to the church, where are still reserved the 'Ards Pew' and the 'Marble Hill Pew'—square wooden pews with doors. Opposite to this approach to the church was the 'grand gate' of Ards. A high mound of rock overgrown with brushwood stood there, and William Wray had tunnelled through the rock for about thirty yards to make an entrance. On the inner side backed by rock had once stood a gate-keeper's lodge. This entrance is no longer used. The iron gate is closed and barred and overgrown by brambles with nettles forcing their inveterate heads through the bars. We drove on by the road that skirts the walls of Ards, until we came to an open gateway and an avenue leading through the demesne, much of which has now been cut up into small holdings and sold to the tenants.

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A good deal of the land was taken over by the Forestry Board and is being used as nurseries for young trees.

Ards is a peninsula, a narrow tongue of land, which rises to a hill in the centre, all beautifully wooded, and sloping down to the blue waters of Sheep Haven which lap the silver border of its sandy shore.

We drove for a couple of miles or more before we reached the house, which stands on the southern slope near the peninsula's point, sheltered from the north by the wooded hill at its back, with velvety lawns in front on which grow a large cypress and an old mulberry amongst other fine trees.

The house is a long two-storied mansion. The old part, now at the back, was, as we know, built by the first William Wray for his son Humphrey. Then his grandson William added lavishly to the house, and I believe the Stewarts built on yet another drawing-room and the portico over which they put the Stewart arms in stone. The coat of arms has gone, leaving a rough place in the stone-work like a half-healed wound.

I rang the bell beside the hall door, and a brown-bearded, brown-habited friar appeared in answer. I explained my reason for interest in the place and asked if I might be allowed to see the house. The friar said he would inquire, and left me in the hall where the ceiling is of Adams' workmanship with a beautiful frieze round the top of walls in which there are alcoves surrounding the circular hall. Double doors of fine old mahogany stood open into an inner hall where I saw that a broad staircase mounted up and divided into two flights leading to the floor above.

I had barely taken in these few details before another friar came and, very politely, explained that he was not allowed to show me over the house, and pointed to the doorway leading from the hall over which there hung a white notice-board with the word 'Enclosure' painted in black letters. The friar said he could show me the chapel, which led directly out of this front hall and had been the drawing-room in old days. Here was another beautiful ceiling and frieze. The rounded end of the room, which must once

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have been a great bow window, was all closed in and draped with curtains, in front of which stood the altar. My guide led me through the chapel into the room alongside of it, now a sacristy or robing-room, but once another drawing-room, probably the original one, before the larger room was built to the west of it. Here three great big windows looked out upon an ideal view of lawn with shrubs and trees, sloping down to the blue sea, and then, across the narrow bay, inland to the purple hills beyond.

I can find no words to describe the sense of the conflicting scenes between the present and the past that came over me, as I stood there in that lofty room, now so empty and unadorned except for the surplices of servers in the chapel that hung round the walls. There was the calm serenity of nature's beauty outside in the sunshine, while within I saw, as it were mirrored, the departed glories of these rooms inhabited as they had been first by Anne Brooke as a young bride, then later when she as a widow received Angel Wray, come in her coach from Ffore, to visit her grandchildren. Or again the last William's bevy of five lovely daughters, 'the lilies of Ards' as they were called. And, for one fleeting moment, I seemed to hear the weeping voice of Mary Anne as she looked her last on those stately rooms before she followed her impoverished husband out of house and home to the cheerless grey shores of Pembrokeshire.

With a sad heart I turned and came out, bade farewell to the ftiar and, having been given permission to visit the garden, drove away round the back of the house where there are the many coachhouses and stables, said to be still capable of accommodating forty horses.

The gardens are half a mile from the house, enclosed with high walls, where some fine old fruit trees still bear good crops. There are the ruins of many greenhouses and marks showing where the vinery once stood. One garden used to be a pleasure ground with lawns for croquet; a few oleanders and a palm survive, but otherwise it looked derelict and deserted. In the centre of the sometime pleasure ground stood a sundial with carved upon it 'William Wray Esq.

1736'. The one and only place where his name is had in remembrance!

Four years later I was to see Ards again and this time from the approach that is still known among the grandfathers of the country people as 'Auld Wullie Wray's road'. It is no road for motors, but Mr. Osborne volunteered to take me in his powerful car. We started from Milford, passed through Kilmacrennan and leaving the main road took the rough mountain track. After we had gone a little way, Mr. Osborne said, 'Now we are on "Auld Wullie's road".'

The day was fine and each view that unfolded before us was more lovely than the last. Great stretches of black bog bordered with purple heather and bunches of yellow rag weed were divided here and there by little blue lakes with mossy banks of true emerald green, where one could not doubt that fairies danced in the moonlight. Now and then we met a couple of boys with a donkey carrying creels of turf on its back, or a horse and cart drawing home the turf. And all this time we were winding up the stony old road, and sometimes not winding at all but going straight up. For the horse with a loaded cart, or even for the car of to-day, the ascent is hard enough; the thought of what it must have been in winter as well as summer for an old-time carriage made one realize the need for the team of strong bullocks.

As we neared the mountain top we came suddenly upon the lake that gives its name to the mountain. The road runs close to the water's edge, while on the opposite shore the hill-side comes down steep and sheer like a wall of rock. The lake looked so dark and so deep that it seemed to shed a sinister atmosphere on all around. The wind blew cold and an eerie shiver went through one's bones. I was glad to turn over the brow of the hill and find there a fresh panorama of beauty laid out before our gaze. Misty blue hills in the distance, Erigal's peak and Muckish's long back standing high, while below them there glowed in the sunshine fields of green and gold where a meadow had been

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mown or the corn still stood, and on either side of our road the colours of the bog and the heather were such as belong to dreams. Far down below us the sea looked full of sapphires streaked with jade and as if handfuls of diamonds had been thrown in to make the surface sparkle. In the centre of all this bewitching beauty Ards House gleamed white from amongst the dark woods, as it were the very eye of the picture, and I felt it was no wonder that William Wray could not resist making a road over this inaccessible mountain, to see and to show such a marvellous view of glorious country that all belonged to him, and still less of a wonder that his proud heart was broken when he lost all and was obliged to leave his beautiful Ards for ever.

## THE SON AND DAUGHTERS OF ARDS

FROM various calculations I think that William, the only son of William and Mary Anne Wray, was their youngest child, but as he predeceased his father I will give what little is known of him first and then proceed to the account of his five sisters.

William was born in 1741 as established by *Alumni Dublinenses*, where it is said that he entered T.C.D. 5 July 1757, aged 16, having been previously educated by Mr. Hawkey and, like his father, he is stated to have been born at Ards, Co. Donegal. There is no mention of his having taken his degree.

His name next appears in a list of the Donegal Militia, in the Independent Troop of Dragoons: 'Captain William Wray of Ards' gazetted 1756 (Armagh Library). In 1762 he was gazetted Ensign in the Second Regiment of Foot (Queen's Royal Regt.). Successive Army Lists show his name slowly mounting the ladder of Ensigns until he was promoted Lieutenant on the 1st of October 1770. The Army List for the next year records 'Lt. Wm. Wray Retired 31st January 1771' (P.R.O. Index 5455 to 5461. See also Succession Book W.O. 25/210 and 211.) I found no further detail of his Army career.

In the minutes of the Londonderry Corporation dated 3 May 1764 there is the following entry:

'This day being appointed by Act of Common Council for the Election of four Honorary Freemen the Mayor acquainted this Common Council that he called them together for that purpose when

James Mauleverer Esqr. Atty,

Ensign William Wray of Ards,

Gervais Lowther Esqr. and John Dawson Esqr.

were by a fair majority elected Honorary Freemen.

Ordered that the Chamberlain make out Tickets of Freedom to each of them.'

#### THE SON AND DAUGHTERS OF ARDS

Very little more is known of this William, and that little only by tradition. Among neighbouring families in County Donegal, where I heard the Wrays of Ards discussed, the story was current that young William used to be held up as a warning to sons in old days with such words as 'Don't be like William Wray, who spent his time playing cards and gambling and broke his mother's heart'. It is generally believed that his debts were among the causes that contributed to the family ruin, but from such glimpses as are preserved of the extravagance, self-indulgence, and intolerance towards others in the midst of which he was reared it does not seem that he was given much chance. From a deed executed in 1787 it would appear that young William was dead before that date, and he is believed to have died in obscurity and poverty, in a garret in Paris. Even after this lapse of time one cannot but feel very sad for such a tragic wreck of a life begun amidst the high hopes of a proud father and a fond mother.

William Wray's eldest daughter married Richard Babington of Boyle's Hill in the diocese of Raphoe in the southern part of the County Donegal.

This Richard is believed to be the younger son of Ralph Babington of Greenfort, Co. Donegal, by his wife Angel, daughter of Humphrey Wray.

The old family tree of the Babingtons from which I gathered many details does not mention Richard of Boyle's Hill at all. But a descendant of Richard's daughter, Mary, who married Captain Fishe, has family papers which show Richard of Boyle's Hill as Richard son of Ralph of Greenfort. In the 1756 list of Donegal Militia, Richard Babington was Lieutenant in the Independent Troop of Dragoons, of which William Wray of Ards was Captain.

Richard Babington was a widower when he sought consolation among his cousins. His first wife was Mary Stewart of Horn Head, and she died childless.

There is a difference of evidence as to the name of this eldest daughter of Ards. Burke gives her name as Letitia in the Manuscript Pedigree which he compiled chiefly from

#### THE SON AND DAUGHTERS OF ARDS

original wills. Yet in a printed abstract of William Wray's will, he speaks of 'his grandson Thomas Babington, eldest son of my daughter Angel Babington'.

William Wray's second daughter was certainly named Angel, so it is most unlikely that two daughters were given the same name. No child of this Babington-Wray marriage is named either Letitia or Angel, but in the next generation, where three of Richard Babington's grandchildren marry, the name Letitia is given to a daughter in each of their families.

On this combination of evidence, I take Letitia as having been the name of William Wray's eldest daughter who married Richard Babington, and must suppose there was a careless slip made in transcribing the abstract of William Wray's will.

Letitia bore four children to Richard Babington, their names were: Thomas Richard, William, Anne, and Mary. Then Letitia died and Richard married a third time. Again his choice fell upon a relation—Ann Hamilton, niece to Mrs. Wray of Ards, and therefore first cousin of Letitia his late wife. There were no children by this third marriage.

We learn the date of the birth of William Wray's second daughter, Angel, from the tablet erected to her memory in Donaghmore Church, Co. Monaghan, which says that she died on the 17th of May 1789, aged 54. Therefore she was born in 1735 and would have been 50 at the time of her marriage, which took place in 1765 as recorded in the Marriage Bonds of Cloyne. In that year Angel Wray married the Rev. Joseph Stopford, son of James Stopford, sometime Bishop of Cloyne.

Joseph had been born in Dublin in 1732. Entered T.C.D. 5 January 1746, aged 15. He was Vicar of Garry Cloyne at the time of his wife's death, and he died on the 24th of May 1801.

Anne Wray, the third daughter, was married six years earlier than her elder sister. She married another son of the Bishop of Cloyne, who also was a clerk in Holy Orders—the 'Rev. James Stopford of the City of Dublin'. He was born in Dublin in 1731, entered T.C.D. 5 January 1746-7,

#### THE SON AND DAUGHTERS OF ARDS

aged 16, and married Anne Wray in 1759. Prerogative Marriage Licence dated 16 February 1759, at St. Anne's Church in Dublin. In the same year he was Prebendary of Cloyne and Rector of Glanworth.

They had three sons: James, Joseph, and Edward. James died without issue; Joseph and Edward were both ordained. Edward became Bishop of Meath, and had three sons and five daughters, and Joseph had one daughter who married the Rev. Richard Sinclair Brooke, whose sister Margaret Brooke married Thomas Atkinson, of Cavangarden.

Anne died before 1787.

In Burke's pedigree no name is given to William Wray's fourth daughter, only the fact is stated that a daughter married James Atkinson. In the family tree of the Atkinsons of Cavangarden her Christian name is omitted also, but it is shown that the third son of Thomas Atkinson by his wife Letitia, daughter of George Knox of Rathmullan and Moneymore, 'married a daughter of William, the last Wray of Ards'.

I have already referred to the old unsigned and undated list of Dr. Hamilton's family in which the children of Mrs. Wray of Ards are given as 'Mrs. Stopford, Mrs. Babington, Miss Veritty, and William'. By the place thus given to her in the family, I think Verity was the name of the daughter who married James Atkinson.

The fifth daughter Katherine did not marry. In 1779 her father made a settlement upon her which may be presumed to correspond to a marriage portion.

In the Record Office, Belfast, there has been deposited the Original Document (O.D. 348. No. 3.) of 'a fee farm grant from William Wray to Katherine Wray spinster one of the daughters of the said William Wray'. The following is an abstract of the deed:

'William Wray Esquire  
Miss Katherine Wray  
Memorial

Fee Farm Deed of a Tenement  
in the Town of Dunfanaghy.

It is covenanted that Katherine Wray her heirs etc. shall & may cut and carry away . . . from Turbury or Turf bog . . . such quantities of Turf yearly as shall be necessary for her or their fuel and

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consumption on the tenement without being charged or chargeable with any trespass

Signed W. Wray

This Indenture made the twentieth day of November one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine, Between William Wray of Ards in the County of Donegal, Esquire, of the One part And Katherine Wray Spinster one of the daughters of the said William Wray of the other part witnesseth that the said William Wray for and in consideration of the rent reservation . . . hereinafter . . . & mentioned hath granted . . . doth grant & confirm unto the said Katherine Wray All that and those the Tenement in the Town of Dunfanaghy near the western end of the street lately occupied by Albert Maxwell . . . bounded on western side by Thomas McNair's tenement on the east by James O'Donnell's tenement and on the south by James O'Donnell's field . . . bounded on the west by the land in occupation of John Richardson on the north by the sea . . . lands of little Seggart . . . Runcleven . . . and on the east by the old road to the lands Runcleven or to the old church All which said premises are situate and lying and being in and near the Town of Dunfanaghy in the Manour of Port Island in the County of Donegal . . . with all ways and rights . . . granted to said Katherine Wray, her heirs etc. . . . in Fee Farm forever . . . yielding and paying therefor yearly and every year at the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord for ever unto said William Wray . . . one pepper corn if demanded . . . Katherine Wray . . . shall & will from time to time . . . grind all grindable corn and grain that shall grow and be expended distilled brewed . . . at the Mill of Cororeggan in the Manour of Port Island . . . and pay the accustomed toll or mulfre to the Miller . . .

In Witness whereof the

said parties to these presents . . . have put their hand & seal

Kath Wray

W. Wray

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of Tho' Stewart

Wm. Swiney.'

There is yet one more deed which gives the last that we know of these daughters, the sometime 'lilies of Ards'. The following abstract enumerates various names and shows that Katherine was living at Charleville, and presumably had abandoned her tenement in Dunfanaghy.

THE SON AND DAUGHTERS OF ARDS

<sup>1</sup>24 May 1787. Between Ralph Babington of Greenfort in the Co. of Donegal, only son & heir of Humphrey Babington of the City of Londonderry Esq. Dec<sup>d</sup> and Rev. Joseph Stopford of Charleville, Co. of Cork, Clk. and Angel Stopford, als Wray, his wife, and Catherine Wray of Charleville, aforesaid, Spinster, which said Angel and Catherine are the coheiresses at law of William Wray, formerly of Ards Co. of Donegal, but late of the town of Pembroke, in the Co. Pembrokeshire in South Wales, Esq. dec<sup>d</sup>, who was surviving trustee named in a certain deed of release dated 26 Jan 1765 made upon the marriage of Humphrey Babington Esq. with Catherine Lee, als Babington, therein named of 1st part, James Hamilton of Manor Waterhouse in the Co. of Fermanagh Esq. of the 2nd part, and James Atkinson and Thomas Lee both of the City of Dublin Gents. of the 3rd part.'

(Registry of Deeds, Dublin, Book 391, p. 155.)

## XVI

## CHARLES WRAY AND HIS WIFE MARY

WE now leave the tragedy of Ards and of William's immediate family and turn back a generation to Humphrey Wray's second son, Charles. I have kept his story to the last because he alone of this branch left descendants who have carried on the name through four generations to the present day. The sons of these generations travelled far from the County Donegal and so the tradition of William as the last Wray of Ards remained unchallenged.

The name Charles was as new in the Wray family as Humphrey had been, and like Humphrey it came from the distaff side. Anne Brooke had grown up under the guardianship of her Uncle Charles Hamilton, and it was most natural that when her second son was born she should give him the name of the man who had filled the place of father and mother to her.

I can find no record of the date of Charles Wray's birth, but calculate, as I have done before, from the size of the family and such dates as are known, that he must have been born between 1712 and 1718. Probably in about 1715-16.

As Charles's name was a new venture in the family so was the profession chosen for him.

He was the first of his line to serve in the Royal Navy. A brief description of his career is given by John Charnock in vol. v of *Biographia Navalis*, pub. 1797:

"Wray, Charles, was on the 9th of December 1746, promoted to be Captain of the Rye frigate. He was not long after ordered to America, on which Station we find him mentioned, in the month of May 1748, as the Captor of two privateers, one Spanish, the other French, which he carried into Charlestown. The next notice we find taken of him is in the year 1756, when he was one of the Captains ordered to the Mediterranean, in the month of September, as passengers on board the Ambuscade, for the purpose of supplying the place of those officers who were ordered to England as evidences on the approaching trial of the unfortunate

### CHARLES WRAY AND HIS WIFE MARY

Admiral Byng. We believe him on this occasion to have been appointed to the Captain, of seventy four guns.

Soon after his return from thence he appears to have been appointed to the Augusta yacht, as we know him to have commanded that vessel in 1761; and do not find any intervening mention made of him in any more active Station, we suppose him to have continued in that as we have just pointed out till the time of his death, which happened in the year 1773.'

This supposition is confirmed as correct by the Admiralty Records in the P.R.O. London, from which I have also been able to fill in some detail of Charles Wray's career, but particulars of his family life are few and have to be pieced together from the ship's log, his will, and records of the careers of his two sons.

I have not found the maiden name of his wife nor the place or date of their marriage. From various inferences I think that Charles Wray was unmarried at the time of his service in America. Among the Collection known as 'Captains' Letters' (Admiralty Records, P.R.O. London) appear the following which give all that we know of Charles Wray's expedition to the Mediterranean:

Admiralty Office

Aug<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1756

Sir,

May I beg the favour to know if I am to wait to receive their Lordships orders to the Cap<sup>t</sup> of the Ambuscade to take me on board, if she is the ship intended for the Mediterranean, or if my applying to him will be sufficient. I am with much respect Sir your most obedient and humble servant

Chas Wray.

On the reverse side of the letter is a note dated 24 August from Adm<sup>rs</sup> Osborne 'to order such Captains as shall be sent to the Mediterranean to be received on board the Ambuscade —or such other ship as shall be ordered to proceed with her—Let him know he may stay a week before he sets out'.

Admiralty Office

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1756

Sir

I have the honour of yours of the 31<sup>st</sup> ult<sup>r</sup> wherein you are pleased to say their Lordships intend I should be sent to his

CHARLES WRAY AND HIS WIFE MARY

Majestys ship Captain in a ship that is soon to be ordered from Spithead.

When their L<sup>d</sup>ships think proper to give an order for my being received on board I hope they will be so good to order the Captain of that ship to receive three of my people with me.

I am with much respect Sir etc.

Chas Wray.

Again there is a note, 'Let him know an order will be given to receive him and the people he desires'.

There are no letters from the Mediterranean but one reports his return, dated from

Captain, in Hamoaze  
13th January 1757

Sir,

Be pleased to acquaint their Lordships this his Majesty's ship Captain under my command arrived here yesterday evening, having parted company with Sir Edward Hawke and his Squadron off the Land's End on Monday morning the 10th Instant.

S<sup>r</sup> Edward was then proceeding to the Eastward with the trade from the Streights and Five of the East India Company's ships from Ireland who joind us at sea with their convoy.

Enclos'd is a copy of S<sup>r</sup> Edwards last orders, with the state and condition of the ship.

I am Sir your most obedient & humble serv<sup>t</sup>.

Chas Wray.

John Cleveland Es<sup>r</sup>.

And two months later another letter from

Trident, Hamoaze,  
March ye 18th 1757.

Sir

As the Dock is not yet ready to receive His Maj<sup>ts</sup> Ship under my command & as my private affairs very much require my being in Town I beg you woud please move their Lordships to grant me a fortnight's leave of absence.

I am Sir etc.

Chas Wray.

John Cleveland Es<sup>r</sup>.

On the reverse side of this letter is the note from Ad<sup>m</sup> Hamin 'to give him 14 days leave'.

#### CHARLES WRAY AND HIS WIFE MARY

This is the first reference to private affairs, and I think this may well have been the time at which Charles Wray married 'Mary'. It is only from his will that we learn her Christian name and the fact that they had three children: Henry born at Peckham; Nicholas born in the parish of Beckenham; and Angel born in the parish of Lewisham. No dates are mentioned, but from Henry's subsequent history he must have been born in 1759-60.

Our next source of information is the Log of H.M. Yacht *Augusta*. (P.R.O. London.) From this Log a few items indicating the nature of Charles Wray's service can be collected. Throughout the Log the daily comments upon the weather have a very familiar sound:

'Fresh gales and squally with rain.

'Strong gales and hazy weather with small rain.

'Light airs and clear weather.

'Little wind and fair weather.

'Strong gales and cloudy with rain.

'July 1761 Off the Island Helighland, in the River Elbe. Lord Harcourt disembarked we saluted his L'ship with 7 guns.

'January 8. 1762 His Majesty's Declaration of War against the Catholick King and his subjects was read to the Yacht's Company.

'June 15. 1763 Moorings at Deptford Received on board the new Cabbin Furniture from His Majesty's Great Ward Robes.

'January 9. 1764 His Serene Highness the Hereditary Prince of Brunswick embarked with his Attendants and Baggage, we saluted his Highness with 7 guns.

'Sept 1765 At anchor in the Rooling Ground off Harwich. His Serene Highness Prince and Princess of Brunswick disembarked as did his Royal Highness the Duke of York. Received orders to go into the Harbour on account of the Princess being ill.

'3 Oct 1766 Laying in Harwich Harbour, at 4 p.m. came into town Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark with her attendance. At 8 a.m. unmoored, at 11 embarked on board HM the Queen of Denmark. The whole fleet saluted her with 21 guns each.

'Oct 9 1766. At Rotterdam. At 9 a.m. the Queen of Denmark whent on shore as did his Excellency Count Bothmar, with their attendance. Saluted them with 21 guns each. At Meridian a Pilot came on board to carry us down the River.

'Sept 26 1771. At Anchor off Deptford Yard at 7 a.m. Lieutenant Perry came on board to dress the Yacht, at 10 Capt Wray

CHARLES WRAY AND HIS WIFE MARY

went on shore, received instructions and signals, at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 the Capt. came on board . . . 20 men from Woolwich and 10 from Royal Charlotte on board to be present at the manning of the Yacht . . . At 2 o'clock His Majesty accompanied with the Queen & Duke of Cumberland came into the Stage, manned the Yacht and gave 3 Cheers, saluted & immediately display our Colours which made a magnificent appearance.

'Oct 9. in dry Dock.

'Nov. Yacht under repair.

Chas Wray'

In the Log, Charles Wray's signature appeared at the end of each year; on this occasion the yacht continued under repair until April 1772. Her sojourns in either the Wet Dock or the Dry Dock come fairly frequently throughout the Log.

'June 16. 1772. At Spithead.

'June 17 at St. Hellens. H.H. Prince Panatoiki, L<sup>d</sup> Palmerston L<sup>d</sup> Pembroke. Duke of Bolton came on board, saluted 11 guns coming and going. At 6 got under sail in company with H.M.S. Royal Oak, Centaur, Worcester, Hazard sloop, and Grace frigate.

'18th. At sea.

'21 Off the Start.

'25 in Hamoaze. (Plymouth).

'July 2. Received a salute from 2 Dutch men of war.'

'July 20 off Gravesend.

'July 22 at Deptford, L<sup>d</sup> Sandwich and his retinue disembarked at Blackwall Reach on board Admiralty Barge. Unbent sails. Discharged the Supernumeraries (*sic*).

'Aug. At the Catherine's Moorings.

'Dec. in the Wett Dock.

Chas Wray'

'June 5. 1773. At the Catherine's Moorings.

'7th Saluted the Master and Wardens of the Trinity House as they passed for Deptford and at their return for London.

'8th L<sup>d</sup> Sandwich came on board with several Lords and Gentlemen, weighed and worked down the River.

'13th Portsmouth Harbour.

'20th At Spithead.

'22nd His Majesty came into Portsmouth was saluted with 3 rounds from the Garrison.

### CHARLES WRAY AND HIS WIFE MARY

'23rd His Majesty came off in the Admiralty Shallop preceeded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in their Barges, And the 3 Admirals and all the Captains in their barges following him. When the King came out of the Harbour every ship saluted him, man'd & cheered. . . . At 7 His Majesty came on board the yacht and sailed into Portsmouth Harbour. At 1 past 8 His Majesty went on shore.'

'June 25 At 6 p.m. His Majesty came on board. At the Buoy off the Ridge.

'26th At 10 His Majesty went on shore.

'27th Spithead.

'July 17. Off Deptford Yard.

'July 21. Little wind and fair weather, received an order for to alter the name of the Yacht from Augusta to Princess Augusta.

'Aug. 19. Hard gales and rain. The yacht was paid up to 31 December 1772.

'September, off Deptford.

'October, off Deptford.

'October 15. In the River. Moderate and fair weather. His Majesty visited Deptford Yard attended by L<sup>d</sup> Sandwich the Controller—etc.—.

'October 21st In the Wett Dock.

'28th Fresh gales and rain. Read the Articles of War and the Abstract of the late Act of Parliament to the Ships Company.

'Sunday Oct. 31. Fresh breezes and fair. At 11 a.m. Captain Charles Wray died.

Signed Charles Rickesies,  
Master.'

The Muster Book of the yacht repeats the same bare statement: 'Chas Wray Capt. D.D. 31 Oct 1773'.

'D.D.' signifies: discharged dead. Charles Wray was succeeded in the command of the yacht *Princess Augusta* by Captain Richard Bickerton.

At the time of Captain Wray's death, his two sons were included in the ship's company, employed as 'Captain's Servants' and a sad little streak of light is thrown upon the otherwise shrouded family history by the record in the Muster Book: 'Henry Wray Capt. Sert. discharged 31st Oct 1773, at request' and 'Nicholas Wray Capt. Sert. discharged 31st Oct 1773, at request'

#### CHARLES WRAY AND HIS WIFE MARY

In the Muster Book, William Saword's name appears as 'Clerk' on board the yacht; he was, as will be seen from Charles Wray's will, at the same time Chief Butler of Greenwich Hospital. William Saword evidently lived and died at Greenwich, for eventually his name appears in the Index of Greenwich Hospital Pensioners: 'William Saword, Butler. D.D. 10 April 1812. (on superannuation).' (Adm. 73/38. P.R.O.)

I have failed to find any memorial tablet or record of the burying-place of Charles Wray. He is not mentioned in the Burial Register of the parish church of Greenwich, of St. Nicholas Church, Deptford, or of the Chelsea Old Church. As he died on board his ship and as the Chief Butler of Greenwich Hospital, who was also his own ship's clerk, was one of his executors, the most likely place for him to have been buried would have been the officers' burial-ground at Greenwich Hospital of which the registers were kept in the Royal Naval Chapel. But all records prior to 1789 were destroyed by a fire in that year which gutted the interior of the chapel. I searched what is left of the burial-ground but it has been disused for many years and has been levelled and enclosed; there are very few gravestones left, and no trace of the name Wray anywhere, so there now remains only the record in his will, which is preserved in Somerset House, among Wills of Officers of the Royal Navy, in Book dated 1773, and of which the following is an abstract:

'This is the last Will and Testament of me Charles Wray of Chelsea in the County of Middlesex Esquire made this twenty first day of March 1772 being of a sound mind memory and understanding Praised be God. ffirst I direct my ffuneral to be managed with as much ffrugality as possible. Then I give and bequeath unto my wife Mary Wray my watch and my best seal set in gold, my great silver ladle and eighteen silver table spoons All my tea table furniture All my Household Goods and ffurniture Also my Linnen and Cloaths together with All such wine and other Liquers as I shall be possessed of at the time of my decease

'Then I give and bequeath unto my Brother Henry Wray of Brook Hall in the Kingdom of Ireland (one of my Trustees here-

CHARLES WRAY AND HIS WIFE MARY

after named) my gold headed cane and all the remainder of my plate, except the Yacht's plate. Then I give and bequeath unto Henry Wray who was born of the said Mary Wray at Peckham in the Parish of Camberwell in the County of Surrey now at school at Masons Hill in the Parish of Bromley in the County of Kent all my books which I desire my executors will take care of till they can be of use to him. Also I give and bequeath unto the said Henry Wray the Infant my seal set in gold and engraved with my own coat of arms and as to all my Stocks or Moneys that may be standing at my Service in any of the Public funds or Government Securities and also all my ready money, Goods, Chattels and all other my estate whatsoever and wheresoever and of what nature or kind soever not otherwise by this my Will given after payment of my debts and funeral expenses I do hereby give and bequeath one full fourth part thereof unto my said wife Mary Wray her executors & administrators and the remaining three fourth parts I give & bequeath unto Robert Lindsay of Loughray in the Kingdom of Ireland Esquire my said Brother Henry Wray and William Saword Chief Butler of his Majesty's Royal Hospital at Greenwich in the County of Kent their executors & administrators, upon the trusts hereafter mentioned . . . to pay and apply (with the privity and approbation of my said wife Mary Wray) the dividends Interest and product thereof for and towards the respective maintenance and education of the said Henry Wray who was born of the said Mary Wray, Nicholas Wray born of the said Mary Wray at Clayhill in the Parish of Beckenham in the County of Kent and Angel Wray born of the said Mary Wray in the Parish of Lewisham in the County of Kent aforesaid . . . until said Henry Wray & Nicholas Wray attain the ages of twenty one years or that the said Angel Wray shall attain her said age of twenty one years or marry which shall first happen . . . then . . . divided amongst them share & share alike. . . . I also give and bequeath unto the said William Saword the sum of twenty pounds And lastly I hereby constitute and appoint my said wife Mary Wray together with the said Robert Lindsey my brother Henry Wray & said William Saword executors of this my last Will & Testament. . . .

signed Cha<sup>8</sup> Wray.'

'This Will was proved at London the fourth day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy three . . . by Mary Wray widow . . . and William Saword two of the Executors . . . to whom administration was granted.

CHARLES WRAY AND HIS WIFE MARY

Loughray, the home of Robert Lindsey, was the mansion house of an estate, part of which lay in the county of Londonderry and part in Tyrone. The choice of Henry Wray and Robert Lindsey as his Trustees gives a definite proof that Charles Wray kept in touch with his family and friends in Ireland.

## XVII

## HENRY WRAY AND HIS DESCENDANTS

FROM Charles Wray's will we learn that he had three children. He states the places of their birth, but unfortunately does not tell the dates. Of his daughter Angel I have found no further mention, and of his second son Nicholas only very scanty records survive.

The Muster Book of the yacht *Augusta* states that Nicholas Wray entered the Navy on the 24th of May 1770 as Captain's servant, one day after his brother Henry had been discharged from the same position 'at request'. According to the Muster Book Nicholas continued as Captain's servant up to the day his father died, when he was discharged at request.

The next mention that I have found is in the printed List of Flag Officers (P.R.O.) where Nicholas Wray appears as 'Lieutenant. 2 April 1794'. In subsequent Navy Lists he appears as Lieutenant up to September 1810, but his name is not in the list for October. There is no mention of him in the retired list or among the obituary notices. I found no Passing Certificate for him as lieutenant though I searched the certificates of several years. I never found the name of any ship he served in and therefore could trace no details. I searched at Somerset House but no will made by Nicholas Wray was to be found there, so what became of him I cannot tell.

Of Charles's eldest son Henry, there is much more known. It is however only possible to estimate the date of his birth from his Passing Certificate which is dated 5 May 1780 and describes him as 'more than twenty years of age'. From this I take it that Henry was born in 1759-60. He can only have been Captain's servant for a very short time before he was discharged at request on the 23rd of May 1770, and, according to his father's will, was sent to school at Mason's Hill, Bromley. On the 9th of June 1772 his name appears again in the Muster Book of the yacht *Augusta* as Captain's servant and is found there until he, like his brother, was discharged

HENRY WRAY AND HIS DESCENDANTS

'at request' on the day their father died. The next mention of Henry Wray is the account of his service and attainments given in his Passing Certificate as a Lieutenant. In many cases a birth certificate is found attached to the passing certificate but for Henry Wray there was not one.

The certificate reads as follows:

'In pursuance of the Directions of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty signified to us by Mr. Stephen's letter of the 5th May 1780. We have examined Mr. Henry Wray who by Certificate appears to be more than Twenty years of age, and find he has gone to sea more than eight years in the Ships and Qualities under mentioned—viz.

Ship,	Entry,	Quality,	Discharge,	Years	Time		
					M.	W.	D.
Augusta Y <sup>t</sup>	—	Cap <sup>t</sup> S <sup>t</sup>	—	2.	10.	2.	4
do.	—	do.	—	1.	11.	—	4
Unicorn	—	A.B.	—	1.	11.	—	—
do.	—	Mid <sup>m</sup>	—	1.	6.	2.	4
Arrogant	—	do.	—	—	4.	—	3
Sandwich	—	do.	—	—	—	1.	—
Bienfaisant	—	L <sup>t</sup>	—	—	2.	2.	3
				8.	7.	1.	2

He produceth Journals kept by himself in the Unicorn, Arrogant and Bunfarant, and Certificates from Captains Ford, Cliland, Mackbride & Conway of his Diligence and Sobriety.

He can splice, Knot, Reef a Sail, work a ship in Sailing, Shift his Tides, keep a Reckoning of a Ship's Way by Plain Sailing and Mercator; observe by sun or star, and find the Variation of the Compass And is qualified to do the duty of an Able Seaman and Midshipman. Dated at the Navy Office the 18th May 1780

Chas Middleton Ed. Le Crass  
Capt North.'

Admiralty 'Passing Certificates' (Adm. 107/8, P.R.O.)

In the Navy List for 1790 the name of Captain Henry Wray appears as commanding the cutter *Advice*, 14 guns, on the Jamaica station. There is no mention of him in the 1794 list, but in 1798 Captain Henry Wray commanded the sloop *Seagull*, stationed in the Channel. The Log of the *Seagull* 1 July 1798 to 30 June 1799, records the weather and

#### HENRY WRAY AND HIS DESCENDANTS

how 'the people' on board were employed with an occasional mention of 'made sail in chace of a brig'.

On the 16th of January 1800 the Log is signed by Henry Wray at Plymouth Sound, and after that the *Seagull* had a new commander. (Adm: 51, 1255, and 1284, P.R.O.)

I have not been able to trace Henry Wray in command of any other ship. His name appears in the Navy Lists up to October 1825, but is not in the December list for that year.

There is no record of Henry Wray's marriage nor of the name of his wife. In Burke's *Colonial Gentry*, 1895 ed., an account of the family is given, but it is incorrect in many respects and confusion is made between the careers of Henry Wray and of his father. Charles Wray's name is omitted altogether. Burke says that Henry had a son called Nicholas who entered the Royal Navy and died at sea, and there is a note added 'he followed the fortunes of the Duc de Bouillon'. Of this Nicholas I found no official records. Of Henry Wray's second son Luke Henry presently.

In this generation as in the preceding one there was an only daughter and, again following precedent, she was named Angel. She is mentioned in her father's will, and in a family note-book it is recorded that she died in 1860.

The following will tells all that we know of the end of Henry Wray's life:

"The Tenth day of the month of November 1825 before the Rev. Daniel Francis Durand A.M. Dean of the Island of Guernsey and Surrogate of the Right Revnd Father in God George Lord Bishop of Winchester. The Testament under written has been proved after that Henry Clark, Abraham Odlum and Edward Effingham Grant Esqrs and Henry Bovie have sworn on oath that the said Testament is wrote and signed with the proper hand and writing of Henry Wray Esqr the Testator, the witnesses therewith signed being both absent from this Island of which Testament the Tenor followeth.

'Know all men that this is my last will and testament

'I give and bequeath unto my daughter Angel Wray all my furniture and everything I may die possessed of likewise all money or monies that I may be possessed of or entitled to at my service

HENRY WRAY AND HIS DESCENDANTS  
for her sole use and benefit. Given under my hand and seal at  
Guernsey this 13th day of November 1819.

HENRY WRAY (Seal)

Witness P. Paterson L<sup>t</sup> h p

53 Regt

Elizabeth Fay

We Daniel Francis Durand  
do approve

14 day November

1825

On the 30th November 1825 admon: (with the will annexed) of the goods of Henry Wray late of the Island of Guernsey, a Commander in the Royal Navy upon Half pay, Esqr. deceased, was granted to Angel Wray Koretti (wife of Anthony Koretti), the daughter and universal Legatee being first sworn (by Canon) duly to administrator and Executor.'

(Somerset House, 1825, St. Albans, 661.)

We now turn to Luke Henry, second son of Commander Henry Wray. He entered the Royal Navy in 1798 and appears in the Navy List as Lieutenant 14 April 1805, and as Commander 29 December 1824. He retired on halfpay in 1825. I found no mention of the date of his birth, and no Lieutenant's passing certificate, but an account of his service appears in *A Naval Biographical Dictionary* compiled by William R. O. Byrne, pub. 1849. (P.R.O. Library)—and this account I quote as follows:

'Luke Henry Wray entered the Navy 19 June 1798 as midshipman on board the Seagull sloop, Captain Henry Wray, stationed in the Channel. From May 1799 until Jan. 1801 he served on the Coast of North America in the Boston, 32, Capt. John Erskine Douglas, and in the course of the latter year he joined the Fortune 36, Capt. Henry Vansittart; with whom after cruising in the North Sea and the Channel he sailed for the West Indies where he removed in 1804 to the Hercule 74, Flagship of Sir John Thos Duckworth and was made Lieutenant we believe 14 April 1805, into the Theseus 74, Capt. Temple. His next appointment was to the Port Mahon Sloop, Capt. Sam Chambers. In that vessel he united 25 June 1806 in chasing the San Josef Spanish letter-of-marque brig (armed with 1 long 18 pounder on a pivot amidships, and 4 12-pounder caronades and 2 long 4 pounders on her sides

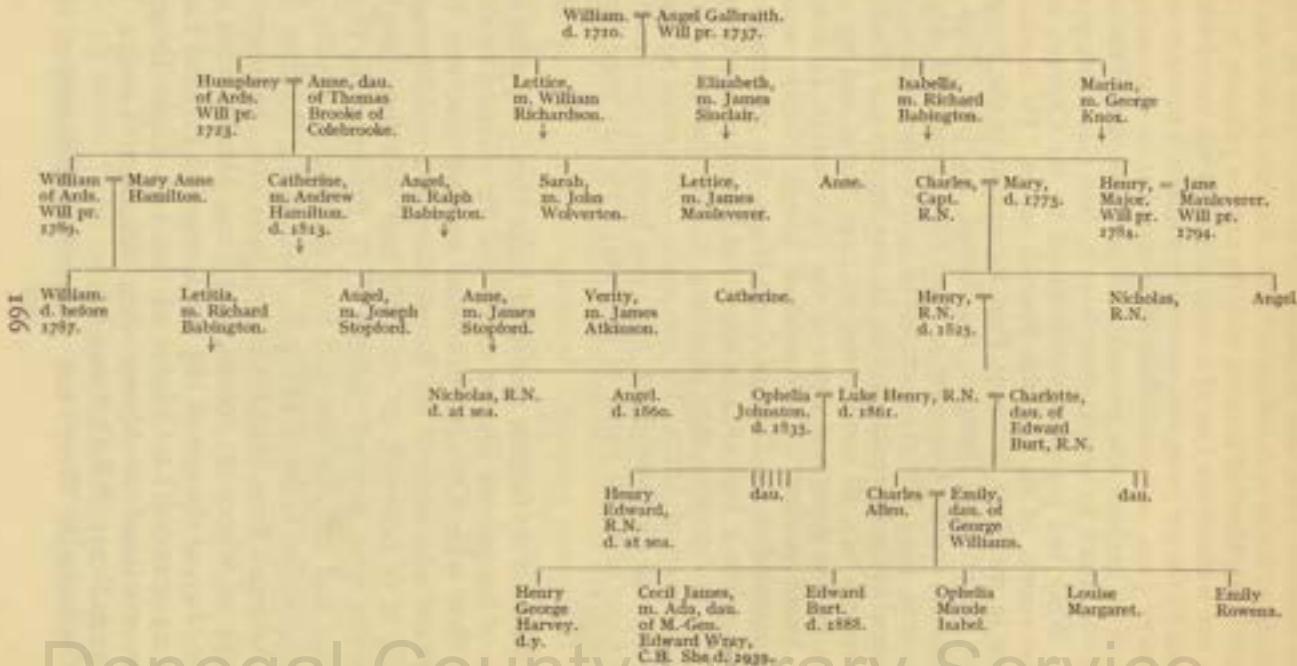
#### HENRY WRAY AND HIS DESCENDANTS

with swivels, pikes, and muskets and 30 men) into the intricate harbour of Banes in the island of Cuba, and then in the boats under Lieut. John Marshall assisted with the utmost gallantry in cutting her out without the loss of a man, although the vessel was protected by the fire from, and moored by a line to, a tower mounting 2 heavy guns, and notwithstanding too that in conducting her out of the harbour, she grounded within pistol-shot of the battery and was struck by several shots from it. (*vide Gaz.* 1806, p. 1537.) Mr. Wray had previously contributed to the Capture, among other vessels, of the *El Galgo* Spanish packet. He continued to serve in the West Indies as First Lieutenant in the *Ferret*, 18, Capt. Peter John Douglas; the *Tweed*, 20, Capt. Thos Edw Symonds; and the *Guerrière* 40, Capt Alex Skene until 1809. He was next, until Feb 1813, employed in a similar capacity in the Channel in the *Guerrière* and the *Hussar* frigates and *Minden* and *Illustrious* 74's, all commanded by Capt Skene, and on 1 Nov 1821 he was appointed senior of the *Andromache* 44, fitting for the broad pendant of Commodore Joseph Nourse whom he accompanied to the Cape of Good Hope. On the death of the Commodore 4 Sept 1824 he appointed himself to the Command of the *Andromache* then returning to the Mauritius from the eastern coast of Africa. He was made Commander 29 Dec following into the *Espiègle* 18, and came home in that vessel from the Cape of Good Hope in Dec 1825. He has since been on half-pay.'

We have no further record of Luke Henry's public career but of his private life we know that he married twice. By his first wife Ophelia Johnston he had one son Henry Edward who entered the Royal Navy as a midshipman and died, it is believed, at sea. He had also five daughters: Ophelia who married Colonel T. G. Fraser of the Bombay Army and left one son and four daughters; Sophia Anne who married Colonel Philip E. Hart, R.E., Bombay Army, of Ashleigh Ross, Herefordshire; Julia who died unmarried, Emily of whom no record, and Eliza Matilda who in the year 1845, at the age of 18½ years, married Edward Harvey, the 45-year-old Lt.-Colonel of the 14th Light Dragoons, then stationed at Meerut (see Marriage Licence W.O. 25.3240.F 295, P.R.O. London).

Commander Wray was granted administration of his

## THE WRAYS OF ARDS. CHART IV



#### HENRY WRAY AND HIS DESCENDANTS

wife's goods to the amount of £100 in 1835, as follows: 'Ophelia Wray formerly Johnston on the 20th day of October admon: of the goods, chattels and credits of Ophelia Wray formerly Johnston, spinster, late of Honfleur in France, deceased, was granted to Luke Henry Wray the lawful Husband being first sworn by common duty to administer.' (Somerset House, 1835.)

In 1838 Luke Henry married as his second wife Charlotte Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Commander Edward Burt, R.N. She was a first cousin of his first wife. Presumably the family continued to live at Honfleur for a time as Elizabeth's only son Charles Allen Wray was born there on the 11th of October 1840. Elizabeth had also two daughters, Frances who died unmarried, and Annette who married — Hazlett of New Zealand. She died in San Francisco.

Luke Henry Wray died at Chester in 1861. His will may be at Chester; it is not in Somerset House.

The following brief outline of the career of Charles Allen Wray was written by himself in a small note-book, and was lent to me by his daughter Isabel Wray, by whose permission I copied it:

'Charles Allen Wray, born Honfleur, France, Oct. 11, 1840, son of Capt. L. H. Wray, R.N. and Eliza daughter of Commander Burt, R.N. Married in 1865 at St. Mark's Church, Remuera, Auckland, Emily second daughter of George Williams of Fairfield, Remuera, Auckland, son of the late J. Williams of Wands-worth, England, and grandson of the late Rev. Thomas Williams vicar of Alfreton.

Educated at the Royal Naval School, New Cross, London. Joined the Indian Navy 1856. Served in Persian War 1856-57. Indian Mutiny 1857-59.

Retired at abolition of Indian Navy 1863.

Arrived in New Zealand 1864.

Licensed Surveyor Auckland and Taranaki to 1868.

Captain N.Z. Militia 1868, served on West Coast North Island during hostilities 1868-69. Medals Persia and N.Z.

Justice of the Peace 1869, appointed to Civil Service 1869.

Officer in Charge of Confiscated lands West Coast N.Z. 1873.

Sheriff, Coroner, and Resident Magistrate Patea District 1877-

### HENRY WRAY AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Chairman Patea Education Board 1877.  
Member Patea Harbour Board 1877.  
Commissioner of Crown Lands West Coast N.Z. Land District  
1880-86.  
Recorder of Native Land Court 1887.  
Resident Magistrate and Sheriff Timaru 1888.  
Stipendiary Magistrate with extended jurisdiction 1893.  
Retired 1909 and returned to England, address Ards, Bournemouth, Hants, England.'

It is a great loss that a more detailed account was not preserved for us of a career that must have been full of interest and achievement, during those early days of New Zealand's history as a part of the British Empire.

Charles Allen and Emily Wray had three sons and three daughters, Henry George Harvey died young and Edward Burt also died young in 1888. Their second son Cecil James took law as his profession and practised as a solicitor in New Zealand and latterly in London. He married Ada, daughter of Major-General Edward Wray, C.B., of the Indian Army, and a descendant of the Yorkshire Wrays. She died in 1939. Charles Allen's daughters were named Ophelia Maude Isabel, Louise Margaret, and Emily Rowena. They returned from New Zealand with their parents and live in England.

Charles Allen Wray died in 1920, Emily his wife died in 1930. Their grave is at Bournemouth.

PART III  
CASTLE WRAY AND OAK PARK

Donegal County Library Service

## XVIII

### HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE JANE JACKSON

WE now turn back in the story to William Wray's first-born, Henry, the eldest son and the heir of Castle Wray, whose mother was William's first wife, Ann Sampson.

As I have already said, I can find no exact date for that marriage, nor for Henry's birth, but I reckon that he was born about 1668 to 1670. His mother Ann died in 1678, his father married again in 1679, and during the following ten years five children were added to the family, amongst whom Henry and his sister Rebecca must have grown up.

With regard to Henry Wray, I have to repeat what I have said of some of his predecessors, and also of his half-brother Humphrey, that records are very meagre. There is no mention of his having served in any army in Ireland or in the wars on the continent. The first reference to Henry Wray in public life is the record that he was High Sheriff for the County of Donegal in the year 1706. This fact, in conjunction with other dates, points to the probability that his marriage had taken place some few years earlier, most likely in 1702-3. His bride was Jane, youngest daughter of William Jackson of Coleraine, by his wife Susannah Beresford. This is the third marriage that had particularly marked bearing upon the fortunes of the Wray family, and yet at the beginning of my search I had considerable difficulty in finding where the Jackson connexion came in, because in several editions of *Landed Gentry* Burke omitted this marriage, and thus the error crept into various other records of the family. Burke fastened upon the marriage with Elinor Gore, and in some editions he attributed her as wife to Henry, while from other editions he left out Henry's generation altogether. Eventually I found, in the 1884 edition, the entry of Jane Jackson as wife to Henry Wray at the beginning of the eighteenth century.

It was from Henry and Jane's younger son, Jackson, that

#### HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE JANE JACKSON

the second junior branch derived, which became known as the Jackson Wrays and, later, as the Atkinson Wrays.

For the sake of clarity in the story, I have found it necessary to break off at Henry's generation as I did with the Ards branch. In this case, however, I continue direct from Henry Wray to his eldest son William, heir to Castle Wray, and so on, through the remaining four generations of the senior line, and then in Part IV return to Henry Wray's wife Jane, her family of Jackson with the story of the property that became hers, and so on to her son Jackson Wray and her other children.

We know from the will of William Wray, 1710, that marriage settlements were made for Henry and Jane, and it is apparent that his father handed over Castle Wray to Henry at the time when he, William, bought the Ards property, and took up his own abode at Ffore.

Therefore it was at Castle Wray that the family of five sons and seven daughters were born to Henry and Jane.

In 1715 we find Henry Wray as one of the parties to a deed by which Humphrey and Anne were raising money on the Ards estate. There is another deed, also preserved in the Registry of Deeds, dated 1731, by which Henry Wray did much the same thing on the Castle Wray estate, with the collaboration of his eldest son, William, as follows:

'Memorial of Lease between Henry Wray of Castle Wray Esqr. and William Wray Gent. son and heir apparent of the sd Henry Wray of the one p<sup>rt</sup> and William Forward of Castle Forward in s<sup>d</sup> Co Donegal and Thomas Jackson of the City of Dublin Esqr. of the other p<sup>t</sup>

The said Henry Wray and William Wray did Convey all that and those the Manor or Lordship of Castle Wray or Cornagill containing the Towns and lands of Bogey & Carnigill alias Cornagill & Lisnenan & Lisdances & Culbuy & Rany & Upper & Lower Elistran being & & & And the lands commonly called the Mill Baliboe with a corn mill thereon all lying and being in the B. of Kilmacrenan and C. of Donegal af<sup>d</sup>, and the Towns and Lands of Lisglass Gortegranagh fiamully and Litterrean lying and being in the Manner of Grocers in half B. of Tirekerin and Co Londonderry to the sd W<sup>m</sup> Forward and Thomas Jackson, etc. upon the Trusts

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE JANE JACKSON

in the 5<sup>d</sup> Deed of release contained to which W<sup>m</sup> Jackson of Coleraine in Co of Londonderry Esqr James Innis of Cry of Dublin Esqr and Robert Smith servant of above named Thomas Jackson are subscribing witnesses

Henry Wray (Seal)  
W<sup>m</sup> Wray (Seal)

delivered etc. 28 January 1731<sup>2</sup>

(Book 70, p. 85.)

Meantime, in the year 1714, Jane Wray's brother, Beresford Jackson, had assigned to his sister and her husband some lands round Letterkenny which adjoined the Castle Wray estate. This is the property of which an account will be found in a later chapter.

In 1730, Beresford Jackson died, which may have had some bearing on the Trust deed made between Henry Wray and his eldest son in the following year.

Although no record exists, I believe it must have been during Henry and Jane's tenure of the property that the new Castle Wray was built, and that the family removed from the original house of lime and stone within its protecting bawne. The site chosen for the 'modern' house was but a few hundred yards from the old one, to the south-east, on the grassland that slopes down towards the shore of Lough Swilly. The house stands clear of the trees that surrounded the old castle, though they still provide shelter from the north and west winds.

The house can never have been on as grand a scale as the house at Ards, but in the old part of this new house there was a good carved oaken staircase, and the walls were very thick and strong.

The exterior of what that house must have been is now impossible to identify. It is known that additions were made by succeeding generations, and that portions of it were taken down and other parts built up, the architectural style being thus so mutilated that no period could be assigned to any portion of the building.

On the 27th of December 1736, Henry Wray made his will, of which the following abstract is all that remains:

'I Henry Wray of Castle Wray . . . my daughters Elizabeth,

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE JANE JACKSON

Angel, Catherine, and Dorothy . . . sons, Sampson, Henry and Jackson . . . my wife's brother Beresford Jackson.

Dated 27 Dec. 1736.

Proved Aug<sup>t</sup> 1737.

The Rev. John Steele, M.A., the Rev. William A. Reynell, B.D., and Tenison Groves, Esq., copied these items from the original will in the Dublin Record Office prior to 1922, and later lodged the Abstract in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, which Office supplied me with a certified copy.

For a long time I thought that Henry Wray must have been buried at Letterkenny but in the Burial Book of St. Mary's Church in Dublin I found an entry which I think undoubtedly refers to him:

'27th Feb. 1737 Henry Ray.'

St. Mary's is one of the few churches in Dublin which kept their records in their own vestry and thereby saved them from the general destruction in the Public Record Office in 1922. St. Mary's is on the North side of the Liffey in the part of the city that was fashionable in the eighteenth century, but has now become some of the poorest slums. St. Mary's Lane, where the church stands, runs west from Sackville Street and crosses Capel Street which leads up towards the King's Inn.

Seven years later, the name of 'Mrs. Wray' appears in this same Burial Book, also others of the family, as will be recorded. These entries taken together leave little doubt that Henry and Jane Wray found their last resting-place in the churchyard of St. Mary's, though no tombstones remain now to mark their graves.

XIX

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELINOR GORE

WILLIAM, eldest son of Henry and Jane Wray, was born at Castle Wray in about the year 1706. He was probably not the first child of his parents, as from other dates it seems likely that one or possibly two of his seven sisters preceded him in the family.

He was evidently destined for the Army, as we find in Charles Dalton's 'George the First's Army' under 'Irish Establishment',

'Brig.-Gen. Phineas Bowles's Regiment of Dragoons.

William Wray gazetted to be Cornet 2 May 1724, f.

Comm. renewed in 1727.

Serving in 1737.

Out before 1740'

and Dalton adds, 'Believed to be one of the Wrays of Castle Wray, Co. Donegal'.

In State Papers, Ireland (Bundle 401, P.R.O. London), the following note is found from the Duke of Devonshire to the Duke of Newcastle, dated 1737/8 January 14, Dublin Castle, enclosing a list of military promotions recommended 'In the Regiment of Dragoons commanded by Brigadier Phineas Bowles, Cornet William Wray who by reason of infirmity is absolutely unfit for service and desires to retire, to be succeeded by Quarter Master John King who has served well in the regiment for fourteen years, Recommended by the Colonel'.

There is no explanation of the nature of the infirmity, and I have found no further reference to it. William's retirement from the Army and the death of his father took place at about the same time. William was obviously needed at home and probably a slender excuse was enough to secure his retirement. It becomes evident a few years later that he had not abandoned his interest in the Army, for in the year 1745 William Wray of Castle Wray commanded a Regiment of Foot in the Donegal Militia which was raised in that same

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELINOR GORE

year. He was still its Colonel in 1756 when the name of Henry Wray appears as Major. In 1756 Henry Wray of Ards was serving in the Regular Army, therefore I think this Henry must have been William's eldest son. Henry cannot have been more than seventeen, but in the early days of the Militia it was not unusual for commissions to be given to the sons of senior officers while they were still very young. (See *List of Officers of Militia in Ireland* printed in Dublin 1761, preserved in Armagh Library. A typed copy may be seen in the Library of the War Office, White-hall.)

William Wray married his fourth cousin Elinor, daughter of Sir Arthur Gore, Bart., of Newtown-Gore, Co. Mayo, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Maurice Annesley. No date is given for this marriage but, judging by the events related above, it seems most probable that it took place in 1738.

Elinor's father, Sir Arthur Gore, had succeeded his grandfather Arthur (Sir Paul Gore's second son) who had inherited Newtown-Gore, had sat as M.P. for County Mayo in 1661, and had been created Baronet 10 April 1662. This first Sir Arthur had a son Paul, who was a Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, and married his second cousin Anne, daughter of Sir John Gore Knt. of Saccombe, Hertfordshire. Paul predeceased his father, and his son Arthur succeeded his grandfather as second Baronet and died in 1741. Thus it is Elinor's brother, Sir Arthur Gore the third baronet, who is quoted in a deed dated 3 January 1744. This deed makes a trust on the Castle Wray estate for Elinor and her children very similar to that made by William's father in 1731, and recites the same lands as were entailed in that deed:

Office of Deeds  
King's Inn  
Dublin

(Book 115, p. 310.)

Wray to Gore  
4th Feb  
1744

Mem<sup>l</sup> of Certain Indented Deeds of Lease etc.  
3rd & 4th January 1744 made between  
William Wray of Castle Wray Co Donegal  
Esqr of the one part and Sir Arthur Gore of  
Saundur's Court in C<sup>o</sup> Wexford B<sup>1</sup> and

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELINOR GORE

Annesley Gore of Cottestowne in C<sup>o</sup> Sligo  
Esq Brother of s<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Arthur Gore of the other  
part Whereby the s<sup>d</sup> William Wray in Con-  
sideration of the love & affection which he  
beareth to his wife Elenor & her Children &  
in Consideration of one Thousand p<sup>nds</sup> to s<sup>d</sup>  
W<sup>m</sup> Wray by s<sup>d</sup> Annesley Gore in hand paid  
& of Five shill<sup>g</sup> by s<sup>d</sup> Sir Arthur Gore, Hath  
given granted etc. . . . unto s<sup>d</sup> Arthur Gore &  
Annesley Gore . . . their heirs . . . etc. for ever  
all that . . . Manor or Lordship of Castle Wray  
. . . [here is recited exactly the same list of names  
of lands as in Deed 'Wray to Forward 1731'] to  
have & to hold . . . to the uses Trusts Intents  
& purposes in s<sup>d</sup> Deed of release . . .

Witnessed by W<sup>m</sup> Gore of City of Dublin  
Esqr & James White of City of Dublin Gent

W<sup>m</sup> WRAY (Seal)

Sir Arthur Gore, 3rd Baronet, was created Baron Saunders  
15 August 1758, Viscount Sudley of Castle Gore and Earl  
of Arran of the Arran Islands 12 April 1762.

He sat in the Irish Parliament for County Mayo, being  
then one of the 'nine Gores' described in an article entitled,  
'Ireland under George II' which appeared in the *Edinburgh  
Review* No. 413, July 1905:<sup>1</sup>

' . . . There was at every period in the history of the Irish Legisla-  
ture a family group, which proved by its numbers the almost  
boundless possibilities of family aggrandisement under the 18th  
century system of placemen and pensioners . . . In the Parlia-  
ment of George II the phenomenon was witnessed in the perhaps  
unparalleled achievement of the powerful family of the Gores.  
In 1750, no fewer than nine gentlemen of this name known as the  
'Nine Gores' sat together in the House of Commons, of which  
one of them had, for a time, been Speaker. Of the nine there was  
not one who was not in receipt in one form or another of the  
sweets of Government patronage; no fewer than four among  
them were eventually advanced to the peerage. One, rising to

<sup>1</sup> From *Report on the Manuscripts of Mrs. Stopford Sackville of Drayton  
House, Northamptonshire*, vol. i, London. Printed by H.M. Stationery  
Office, 1904.

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELINOR GORE

eminence as a lawyer, attained to the great office of Lord Chief Justice of Ireland and the dignity of Earl of Annaly. And the noble houses of Arran and Harlech derive from this singularly capable family coterie. . . .

In the list of High Sheriffs for the County Donegal, the name of William Wray appears for the year 1741.

It has been thought that this referred to William of Ards, but for two reasons I think it refers to his cousin William of Castle Wray :

First, had William of Ards ever been High Sheriff, Burke must have known and would have surely mentioned the fact when he wrote *Vicissitudes of Familiars*. But the second and more positive reason seems to be that William of Castle Wray was an older man, the representative of the senior branch, and had lately made what might be described as a fashionable marriage by wedding a daughter of this eminent family of Gore.

From this renewed connexion with the Gores Colonel Wray, and later his children, undoubtedly received a good deal of reflected prestige. At the same time it called for a scale of expenditure, especially as regards daughters' dowries, that was really beyond the resources of the property.

William Wray and his wife Elinor had six children :

Henry, eldest son and heir, of whom presently,  
Gore, of whom also presently,  
Elizabeth, married John Hatton,  
Jane, married Leslie Moutray,  
Elinor, married George Hughes,  
Wilhelmina, married Fuller Sandwith.

It is sad to have to relate that Mrs. Wray did not live to see these marriages take place. From the *Irish Magazine* we learn the following bare fact :

'Died at St. Stephen's Green, the wife of Colonel Wray, and sister to the Right Hon. Sir Arthur Gore, Bt., July 1757.'

*Pals' Occurrences* gives much the same meagre information :

'28 June-2 July 1757. Died at Stephen's Green, Mrs. Ray, wife of —— Ray Esq. and sister to the Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur Gore, Bart.'

### WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELINOR GORE

Ten years later, it is in *Pult's Occurrences* again that we find the announcement under the heading 'Death':

'Sept. 1767 at Castle Wray, Co. Donegal, William Wray Esq.'

and according to the Index of Prerogative Wills, the will of William Wray of Castle Wray was proved in 1769, and that ends all that we know of him.

Within a few months of her mother's death, Elizabeth Wray, the eldest daughter, was married to John Hatton, Barrister-at-law. The following is an abstract of the memorial of their marriage articles, which was registered in the Office of Deeds in Dublin (Book 188, p. 449):

'Articles bearing date 9th October 1757 . . . between John Hatton of Newbay Co. Wexford Esq of the one part . . . and Arthur Saunders Gore of Saunders Court Co Wexford Esqr  
William Bolton Gent. of the City of Dublin  
R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir Arthur Gore B<sup>r</sup> P.C. and  
Annesley Gore of Cotteston Co Sligo Esq  
W<sup>m</sup> Wray of Castle Wray Co Donegal Esq  
and Elizabeth Wray his eldest Daughter of the other part.'

The deed proceeds to recite that 'Henry Hatton of Clonard Co Wexford Esq, in his will devised unto his son John . . . Towns . . . and lands. . . .'

Here follows a long list of names of townlands with details as to jointure, &c.

The deed then mentions that 'William Wray has two sons and four daughters now living' and goes on to say 'whereas a marriage, by the grace of God, is shortly to be solemnized between John Hatton and Elizabeth Wray . . .', and finally it states that 'the Marriage portion for Elizabeth Wray is £1600'.

The Articles are signed: 'John Hatton,  
Arthur Gore,  
W<sup>m</sup> Wray'

and witnessed by 'John Wolverton of the City of Dublin Gent. and Christopher Farrell of the s<sup>d</sup> City  
servant to s<sup>d</sup> Sir Arthur Gore.

S<sup>d</sup> Articles and this Memorial were deposited 18 Nov. 1757'.

#### WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELINOR GORE

Of the names mentioned in this document, Arthur Saunders Gore was eldest son of Sir Arthur Gore, Bt. Annesley Gore was brother to Sir Arthur, therefore they were respectively first cousin and uncle to the bride. The witness John Wolverton was husband to Elizabeth's cousin Sarah Wray, a daughter of Humphrey of Ards. As we have already seen he was an attorney in Dublin, and evidently had a hand in much of the family business.

In George Faulkener's *Dublin Journal* 25 October to 29 October 1757, it was reported under Marriages:

"This day Counsellor Hatton, to Miss Elizabeth Wray, Niece to the R<sup>st</sup> Hon. Sir Arthur Gore Bart. a young lady of great merit and beauty, with a fortune of 4000<sup>l</sup>."

I have noticed in reports from this and other contemporary journals that £4,000 appeared frequently as the figure when one was mentioned for the 'handsome fortune' of a lady who was always 'young and beautiful'. With the further light from the marriage articles given above, the question presents itself whether this fortune was habitually magnified.

The marriage took place at St. Anne's Church in Dublin—marriage licence dated 27 October 1757—and in the following year John Hatton was High Sheriff for County Wexford.

Elizabeth and John Hatton had six children, of whom their eldest son and heir, Henry of Clonard, married in 1783 his second cousin, Lady Anne Jane, eldest daughter of Arthur Saunders Gore, second Earl of Arran, K.P. He died without issue, and Lady Anne married secondly in 1800 John James Hamilton, first Marquis of Abercorn, K.G.

As a further item of matrimonial interest connected with the Hattons, the Gores, and the Wrays, Mr. Edward Gray drew my attention to the fact that Lady Anne's half-sister, Lady Cecilia Letitia Gore, married as her second husband H.R.H. Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, K.G., son of H.M. George III. She was created Duchess of Inverness. (See *D.N.B.*)

Elizabeth Hatton's second son, William, married Miss Ross, and their only son, another William, died young, so

### WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELINOR GORE

that the Hatton name was carried on through Elizabeth's third son George, who was M.P. for Lisburn, and in 1785 married Lady Isabella Rachel Conway-Seymour, youngest daughter of Francis, 1st Marquis of Hertford, K.G., Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1765. Their son Villiers Francis Hatton became an Admiral and eventually sat as M.P. for County Wexford.

Their second son, Henry John Hatton, also served in the Royal Navy.

Of the marriages and after-lives of the other Wray daughters, I cannot trace any such varied or 'exalted' details, though in 1763 a prosperous marriage was made for Jane Wray, with Leslie Moutray, third son of John Moutray of Favour Royal, Co. Tyrone, by his wife Elizabeth daughter of Alexander Montgomery of Ballyleck, Co. Monaghan.

In the Registry of Deeds there is the memorial of a deed dated 1763 of which the following abstract gives the names, dates, and main points :

'Registered  
14 June 1779

A Memorial of a Deed bearing date 20 Dec 1763 between John Moutray of Favourroyal Co Tyrone Esq and Leslie Moutray Esqr one of the sons of s<sup>d</sup> John Moutray of the 1<sup>st</sup> pt William Wray of Castlewray in Co Donegal Esq and Jane Wray one of the Daughters of the s<sup>d</sup> William Wray of the 2<sup>nd</sup> p<sup>t</sup> and Rev Alexander Montgomery of Bara in Co Fermanagh Clerke and James Moutray of the City of Dublin Esqr of the 3<sup>rd</sup> p<sup>t</sup> whereby s<sup>d</sup> John Moutray & Leslie Moutray for the Consideration therein mentioned have granted etc unto s<sup>d</sup> A. M<sup>t</sup>gomery & James Moutray . . . all . . . those Lands . . . of Lissmore in Co Tirone of which s<sup>d</sup> Leslie Moutray holds by a lease for 3 lives—under James Richardson . . . to have & hold . . . to s<sup>d</sup> A. M<sup>t</sup>gomery & James Moutray . . . to & for the several uses, trusts etc. . . . subject to a Jointure of £50 stg payable to S<sup>d</sup> Jane Wray out of s<sup>d</sup> Leasehold Interests in case she should survive her intended husband Lesly Moutray etc. . . . s<sup>d</sup> Deed witnessed by Rev<sup>d</sup> Ans<sup>lls</sup> Moutray of Glebehill in

WILLIAM WRAY AND HIS WIFE ELINOR GORE

Co Fermanagh & by James Lendrum of Magheracross Co Fermanagh.

And this memorial is also witnessed by the s<sup>d</sup> James Lendrum and by Thomas C. Speer of M<sup>t</sup> Cavan in Co Tyrone

(signed) Jane Moutray (Seal)

Signed sealed & delivered in presence of James Lendrum Thomas C. Speer. The above named J. Lendrum this day maketh oath before me that he is a subscribing witness to the deed whereof the above writing is a memorial and also to the above memorial and that he saw the s<sup>d</sup> deed duly executed by the above named John Moutray Leslie Moutray and William Wray Esqrs Jane Wray Alexander M'gomery & James Moutray Esqr and this Memorial duly executed by the s<sup>d</sup> Jane Moutray widow of said Leslay Moutray and that the name of James Lendrum subscribed as a witness to the s<sup>d</sup> Deed & memorials is this Dep<sup>s</sup> proper handwriting James Lendrum  
Sworn before me at Favour Royal Co Tyrone this 1st day of June 1779 etc.

(signed) James C. Tothaun.'

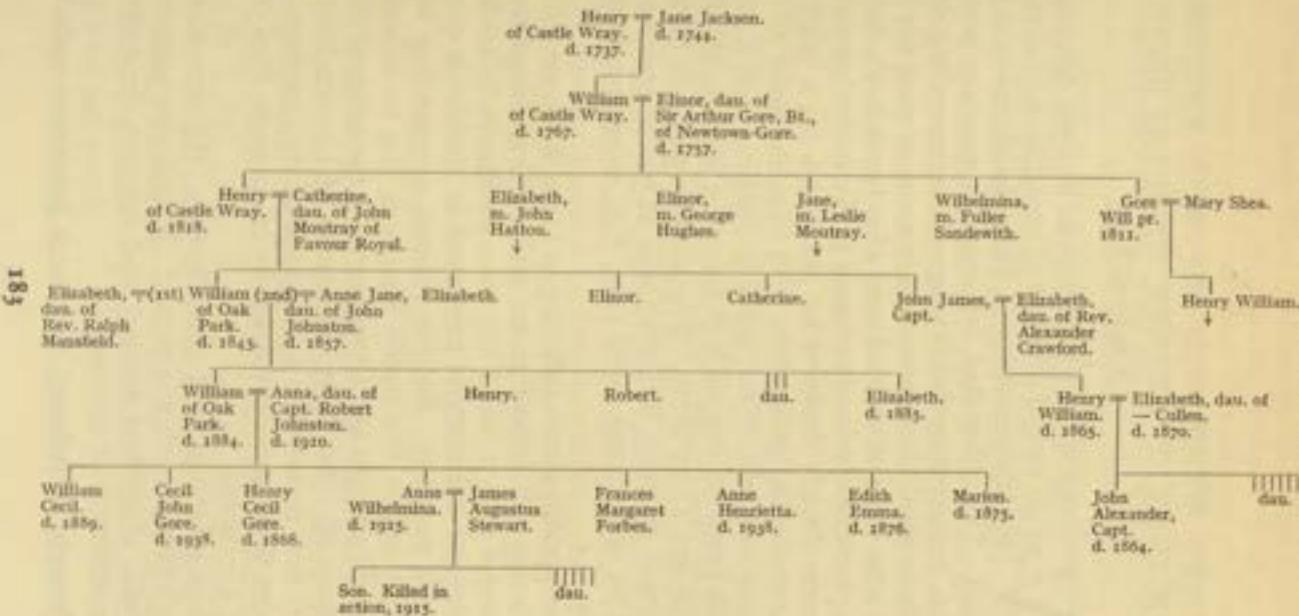
(Book 320, p. 560—Registry of Deeds, Dublin.)

Leslie and Jane Moutray had three sons, Leslie who left, with other issue, a son named Leslie; Alexander who left five sons; and James who died unmarried.

In the year following Jane's marriage her third sister, Elinor Wray, married George Hughes of Newtown, Co. Wexford. She died childless before 1779, as in July of that year George Hughes married Hannah Fox, and Burke adds, 'George Hughes died 1799 and left three sons by his second wife.' (See *Landed Gentry*, 1912 ed.)

Wilhelmina, the youngest daughter, did not marry until 1778, eleven years after her father's death. Her marriage licence is dated the 28th of February in the parish of St. Bride, Dublin, where she was married to 'Fuller Sandwith Esq. of Coolnaboy, Co. Wexford, by the Rev. Mr. Mahon'.

## THE WRAYS OF CASTLE WRAY AND OAK PARK. CHART V



Donegal County Library Service

## XX

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE CATHERINE  
MOUTRAY, TOGETHER WITH HIS BROTHER  
GORE WRAY

WILLIAM WRAY'S will, proved in 1769, has been lost, so no record survives to reveal how he divided his worldly possessions. Three daughters were already married. The eldest had, we know, a marriage portion of £1,600, her sisters probably received corresponding dowries, and there would have been some provision made for Wilhelmina who was not married until after her father's death. All these portions obviously created heavy encumbrances upon an estate already depleted by provisions for a large family in the preceding generation. But from the point of view of the heir to Castle Wray, there is evidence that a yet more serious partition was made in favour of William and Elinor's second son, Gore Wray. Whether this partition of the property was made in William's will or by the trustees of the deed for settlements dated 1744, it is, of course, impossible to say.

The various deeds referring to Gore Wray are somewhat conflicting and difficult to reconcile. He is altogether rather an elusive person, and I can trace no history or tradition to supplement the records preserved in the deeds connected with his property. But the interest surrounding him that specially affects this family history is that he inherited the lands of Lissglass and Gortegranagh, the original gift to or purchase of John Wray, Alderman of Londonderry. This fact is first revealed in a memorial of the marriage articles of Gore Wray and Mary daughter of Anthony Shea of Castle Barr, Co. Mayo.

Their marriage took place in 1770, the year after Gore Wray's father's will was proved. It took two years to prove the will, which was unusual, and suggests the existence of some difficulty or controversy.

*'Memorial of Indented Articles of Agreement made between*

### HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE CATHERINE MOUTRAY

Henry Wray of Castle Wray Co Donegal Esqr and Gore Wray Esqr his Brother of the one part and Anthony Shee of Castle Barr in Co Mayo Merch<sup>t</sup> and Mary Shee spinster s<sup>d</sup> Anthony's Eldest Daughter of the other part reciting that marriage was shortly to be had and solemnized between s<sup>d</sup> Gore Wray and Mary Shee whereby s<sup>d</sup> Gore Wray and Henry Wray for the considerations therein mentioned Did for them and their heirs Covenant and promise to and with the s<sup>d</sup> Anthony and Mary Shee that s<sup>d</sup> Gore Wray should . . . settle by good and sufficient Deeds and articles or Settlement the lands of Lijglass and Gortegranagh with their appur<sup>em</sup> situate in the Liberties of Londonderry whereof the s<sup>d</sup> Gore Wray was then seised and poss<sup>ed</sup> as his Estate to the use of s<sup>d</sup> Gore Wray for life with remainder to his first and every other son on the Body of the s<sup>d</sup> Mary Shee to be begotten in tail male with such remainders over as the s<sup>d</sup> Gore Wray should think fitt and whereby s<sup>d</sup> Gore Wray agreed to secure unto s<sup>d</sup> Mary Shee his intended wife a Jointure or provision of Fifty pounds sterlin to be Iſuing out of and chargeable upon s<sup>d</sup> Lands and to be paid . . . yearly to s<sup>d</sup> Mary during her life in case she should survive s<sup>d</sup> Gore Wray. And in lieu of Dower or thirds and whereby s<sup>d</sup> Gore agreed to Charge his s<sup>d</sup> estate with £2000 as the portions . . . for such younger children as he should have by s<sup>d</sup> Mary and whereby s<sup>d</sup> Henry Wray agreed to join s<sup>d</sup> Gore Wray his brother in execution of such Deeds . . . etc. and in doing all other acts that might be thought necessary for limiting said Lands and securing s<sup>d</sup> jointure and charge . . . the execution thereof is witnessed by Edmond Jordan of Elmhall Co Mayo Esqr and George Gennings of the C<sup>r</sup> of Dublin Gent.

Reg<sup>d</sup> at the Office Lower Castle Yard Dublin 24 May 1777'

(Book 318, p. 104, Deed 212115.)

Gore Wray seems to have changed his place of abode very often according to the way he is styled in the different deeds referring to leases, mortgages, &c.

In 1771, he is described as 'of Letterkenny' (Registry of Deeds, Book 285, Deed 185888). In 1773 as 'of Carramore, Co. Mayo' (Book 297, Deed 196363). In this deed, Gore Wray makes a further provision for the jointure of his wife and charges the lands of Dunmore and Tinver in County Donegal on her behalf.

From an earlier deed, dated 25 July 1738 (Book 109, p. 79),

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE CATHERINE MOUTRAY

it appears that these farms of Dunmore and Tinver had been the portion inherited by Jackson Wray from his father Henry Wray, whose will was proved in August 1737. And yet another deed, dated 18 March 1764 (Book 230, p. 420) shows that Jackson Wray and his wife Leonora with their trustees agreed to sell these same lands 'for the consideration mentioned' to William Wray of Castle Wray, so it would appear that William Wray bought them back with the purpose of settling them on his second son. (See Chapter XXIX.)

In 1777 Gore Wray is described as 'of the City of Londonderry' (Book 317, Deed 217293) and in 1797, on the Articles of his son's apprenticeship, as 'of Cashell, Letterkenny'.

I can trace no more of his story until, in the Index of Raphoe Diocesan Wills, we find that probate was granted for the will of 'Gore Wray of Dunmore' in the year 1811.

George Vaughan Sampson in his *Statistical Survey of the County Londonderry* (pub. 1802) gives a list of 'Principal Proprietors in the County of Londonderry'. Among the names mentioned appear the following:

*First Class £2500 annual value and above:*

Earl of Bristol, Bishop of Derry.

John Richardson, Esq.

George Jackson, Esq.

*Second Class £1000 annual value and above:*

Lucius Cary, Esq. Freeholder

Coheirs of — Mauleverer Esq.

*Third Class £500 annual value and above:*

Gore Wray, Esqr. Freeholder.

John Hart Esq. Freeholder.

John Crommy Esq. Freeholder.

In 1813 George Vaughan Sampson supplemented his *Survey of Londonderry* with the first really accurate and reliable map ever made of the county. Mr. Ingram of Limavady has a very fine, large-size specimen of this map hanging

TOGETHER WITH HIS BROTHER GORE WRAY

upon the wall of his Land-Agency Office, which he showed to me and pointed out Lisglass and Gortegranagh marked in a section of 'Native Freehold', with the name 'Wray Esq' engraved across the two townlands.

In a record of apprentices to Attorneys in Dublin, preserved in Ulster's Office, the entry is found: '1797. Henry William Wray eldest son of Gore Wray of Cashell, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, and Mary Wray otherwise Shea, his wife.'

If there were other children of this marriage, as seems to be implied by the statement that Henry William was the eldest, I have been unable to identify them.

There is no record of Henry William Wray's marriage. But it is probable that he did marry and had a son born in one of the first years of the nineteenth century.

Although it means anticipating dates, this seems to be the appropriate place to quote the records of the final severing of the Wray connexion with the lands in Londonderry.

Under the date 31 July 1838 there is a deed of mortgage (Registry of Deeds, vol. 15, Deed 60) executed by George Sinclair Shiels Wray of White Cottage, Londonderry, who appears to have been son of Henry William, and grandson of Gore Wray. Mary Ann Wray, otherwise McDowell, his wife, is party to the mortgage, which deals with the lands of Lisglass and Gortegranagh. And, under a date fourteen months later, there appear the following 'Articles of Agreement' (vol. 18, Deed 246) in which no mention is made of Wray's wife; so I take as the interpretation that Mary Anne had died and that if there were children they consented and hence the final sale of the property.

(1839, vol. 18, Deed 246.).

Articles of Agreement bearing date 2nd Oct 1839 made etc. . . . between George Sinclair Shiels Wray of White Cottage in the Liberties of the City of Londonderry Esquire for his heirs etc. . . . on the one part and Robert Stevenson of Ardkill in s<sup>d</sup> City . . . for himself his heirs etc. on the other part Whereby the s<sup>d</sup> George Sinclair Shiels Wray did agree with s<sup>d</sup> Robert Stevenson to sell to him s<sup>d</sup> Robert Stevenson All those towns and lands of Lisglass and Gortegranagh situate . . . in the P<sup>r</sup> of Glendermott

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE CATHERINE MOUTRAY  
in the Liberties of the City of Londonderry with the appur<sup>t</sup> etc.  
for the sum of £8750 Stg to be paid at the time and in the manner  
herein after expressed. . . .

Signed George S. S. Wray (Seal)

Witnessed: George Alex<sup>r</sup> Cunningham  
L. L. Crawford.

This deed ends all that we know of Gore Wray and his  
descendants.

I now turn to the eldest son of William and Elinor Wray. I have taken the history of the second son first because it seems to throw considerable light upon events that occurred during Henry Wray's lifetime. As already mentioned Henry Wray began his career in the Donegal Militia as a major in 1756.

On the hypothesis that William and Elinor were married in 1738, and that Henry was their first child, born in 1739, he would have been 17 when granted his commission and 24 years old when he married Catherine, daughter of John Moutray of Favour Royal in County Tyrone. Their marriage licence was dated 21 September 1763 in the diocese of Clogher.

This was the same year in which Henry's sister Jane married Catherine's brother Leslie Moutray. It was also four years before the death of Henry's father, who had been a widower for six years, so it may have been that Henry and Catherine lived with him at Castle Wray. Or there was the smaller house, on a hill not far distant, sometimes called Rosemount and later known as Oak Park. At this time Gore Wray and Wilhelmina were still unmarried and it equally may have been they who lived with their father. But in any case William Wray died at Castle Wray in September 1767, and then Henry, as his successor, would have come into possession of the house, demesne, and what was left of the estate.

A son and heir had been born to Henry and Catherine on the 17th of May of that same year. In their family there were three daughters, two of whom were born before this eldest

TOGETHER WITH HIS BROTHER GORE WRAY

son, who was named William. (See *Landed Gentry*, 5th edition, 1871.)

The daughters' names were Elizabeth Gore, Elinor, and Catherine. I can find no record of the marriage of any one of them, nor any detail as to their life or death.

A second son, named John James, completed the family. Of his marriage and descendants presently.

These were the days when Henry's cousin William Wray lived at Ards and indulged in his princely hospitality and lavish expenditure. Henry's bride had come from a great house of a neighbouring county, so that on both sides this young couple had the traditions and example of affluence and extravagance. And they can have known nothing of economy or of making ends meet on a reduced income. Yet, from what we know of the provisions made for Henry's brother and sisters, it must have been a very much reduced income upon which he found himself expected to keep up the old family home, and rear his own children.

Tradition says that Mrs. Wray was 'a very grand lady' and that she was accustomed on all occasions to say 'her children must have the best and only the best'.

A cloud of mystery, or perhaps it is just oblivion, hangs over this family, though there are various legends as to how their misfortunes culminated. The sad fact remains that money failed; and, though in Henry's time the débâcle was not so complete as that which overwhelmed Ards, yet Henry and Catherine were not destined to end their days in Castle Wray.

When I first visited County Donegal I was regaled with many stories of how the Wrays lost 'the Castle'. Some mystery there may have been to have given rise to such a crop of suppositions but I think it was the greatly reduced income owing to so much having been willed away to the younger children that made the owner's position an impossible one.

Three different people told me three different versions of the story that Henry Wray 'lost the castle over cards'. An old Colonel described how the custom of those days was

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE CATHERINE MOUTRAY

for the gentlemen of the county to meet in one or another's house on a Saturday evening and play till Monday morning behind shuttered windows with a plentiful supply of punch as an enlivening accompaniment. A different explanation, and I think a more probable one, was given by an elderly lady who said she remembered hearing from a very old friend of a later Mrs. Wray that 'Henry Wray was for ever borrowing money; a little now and a little again, whenever he wanted it; and he was no business man and kept no account of how things were going until at last a day of reckoning had to come and some way of meeting his debts had to be found'.

When I went to Dublin later I discovered in the Registry of Deeds the memorial of a deed which told the bare facts of how Castle Wray had been disposed of in the year 1793. There is also a further deed dated 20 August 1800. Of both these deeds the following are abstracts:

(Book 468, p. 301.)

"Wray  
to  
Mansfield  
Regd 16 Nov  
1794

A Memorial of an Ind<sup>td</sup> Deed of Lease to bear y<sup>e</sup> date the seventeenth Day of June One thousand seven hund<sup>d</sup> & ninety three and made between Henry Wray of Castle Wray in the Co. of Donegal Esq. of the one part & Fran<sup>s</sup> Mansfield of Letterkenny in s<sup>d</sup> Co, Esq. of the other part Whereby the s<sup>d</sup> Henry Wray did demise and to farm let unto the s<sup>d</sup> Fra<sup>s</sup> Mansfield All that part of the Demesne of Castle Wray as laid down in a map thereto annexed contg Ninety five Acres & 28 perches To hold to the s<sup>d</sup> Fra<sup>s</sup> Mansfield for thirty one yrs from the first of Nov 1793 or the lives of s<sup>d</sup> Fra<sup>s</sup> Mansfield and of Ralph Mansfield aged three yrs & David Mansfield aged two years at the yearly Rent of Twenty pds Sterlg in w<sup>h</sup> s<sup>d</sup> deed there are sev<sup>l</sup> other clauses & cov<sup>ts</sup> & the s<sup>d</sup> deed of lease is wit<sup>nd</sup> by W<sup>m</sup> Wray son to the s<sup>d</sup> H<sup>r</sup> Wray J<sup>no</sup> Rea of Letterkenny Esq & Stewart Peoples of Letterkenny, Innkeeper, & this Mem<sup>l</sup> is wit<sup>nd</sup> by s<sup>d</sup> J<sup>no</sup> Rea & Ja<sup>s</sup> Orr of the City of Dublin Att<sup>y</sup> at law. Signed

Fra<sup>s</sup> Mansfield (Seal)

TOGETHER WITH HIS BROTHER GORE WRAY  
(Book 531, p. 241).

Wray  
to  
Mansfield.

Memorial 20 Aug 1800 made between Henry Wray of Rosemount in Co of Donegal & W<sup>m</sup> Wray eldest son & Heir app<sup>t</sup> of s<sup>d</sup> Henry Wray and R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Thomas L<sup>d</sup> Viscount Northland one Part & Francis Mansfield of Castle Wray Esq deed recites Indenture of lease executed on Intermarriage of s<sup>d</sup> Henry Wray with Catherine Wray otherwise Moutray his present wife made 20 & 21st day Sept 1763 between W<sup>m</sup> Wray father of s<sup>d</sup> Henry Wray . . . & John Moutray of Favour Royal . . . and Catherine Moutray his daughter & Andrew Knox of Prehen & Galbraith Lowry of Ahenis in Co Tyrone & Gustavus Brooke of City of Dublin . . . & L<sup>d</sup> . . . Northland by his name Thomas Knox, the younger, of Dungannon in Co Tyrone

The Manor of Castle Wray together with all lands etc . . . were limited to the use etc . . . of Gustavus Brooke & Thomas Knox during the Term of 500 years In trust . . . in case there should be Issue male . . . Should by sale . . . or mortgage . . . Raise . . . the sum of £3000 as Portions for the s<sup>d</sup> other Children and s<sup>d</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Wray party to the s<sup>d</sup> Deed . . . & Henry Wray by s<sup>d</sup> deed hath executed power vested in him . . . & appointed the sum of £3000 amongst his younger children

Whereas Hy Wray & W<sup>m</sup> Wray are desirous of having the £3000 in Lifetime of H. Wray . . . and Francis Mansfield hath agreed to give S<sup>d</sup> £3000 . . . on Towns & lands of Castle Wray now in his possession.

The deed recites that the sum was paid in consideration of lands & premises granted to Francis Mansfield for 500 years at the rent of one pepper-corn if demanded.

[*Deed also alludes to "Rough Park" and to some lands held by Roger Deeney*]

Witnessed by  
Charles Dunluce, John Wray,  
& Charles Crawford all of Letterkenny.

Signed by Henry Wray  
& W<sup>m</sup> Wray

#### HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE CATHERINE MOUTRAY

It will be noted that in 1800 Henry Wray is described as of Rosemount which I believe to have been the same house as that called Oak Park. But as I have said a cloud obliterates the family and their doings. There is no record of when Catherine died. Henry Wray died in 1818, and I have searched in vain for his grave.

On my first visit to Donegal in 1933 I stayed in Dunganagh but made no stop at Letterkenny. By the time of my second visit, two years later, I had learned that it was there I must seek for the old family burying-place. When I went to Letterkenny to look for the church I was directed to follow the lane which turned up the hill. On doing so I saw, first, the handsome modern Roman Catholic Cathedral and then, just beyond it, the parish church, which, as we know, was built in 1770.

The gate was open, and two men were cutting the crop of nettles that seems to be indigenous in every ancient churchyard. The old sexton stood watching these men work with their reaping-hooks, and when I told him what I sought he became rather excited and exclaimed, 'I have the monument, mi-lady, inside in the church. I'll show it till ye.' And he did, with the names of the first two Henrys and Elizabeth Wray as already described in an earlier chapter. The sexton then took me out of the church through the vestry door to a vault where he said, 'All the auld Wrays was buried'.

The vault is in the side of the hill which slopes steeply down to the east of the church towards the town, which lies far below. On the level ground, above the vault, there is a square altar grave. I walked round this grave and down the rough grassy slope to where the door of the vault used to be, flush with the side of the hill. The iron door had crumbled away and the opening had been built up. The sexton said he remembered seeing the inside, 'it had shelves, like bunks in a ship, and a coffin on each of them, about a dozen of them'.

The vault was greatly overgrown with a tangle of weeds, and was shaded by two cypress trees that had grown tall beside it.

TOGETHER WITH HIS BROTHER GORE WRAY

Later in the same evening I went across the street from the hotel to a little shop where in the window amongst bullseyes and pigtail tobacco was a notice which said: 'Cars for hire.' After inquiring the distance to Castle Wray and the price of a car for the trip, I led the conversation round to old times. Though grey-headed, the shopkeeper was not old enough to remember anything I wanted to hear about, but he offered to take me 'down street' to see a man 'who knowed a turrible lot about Letterkenny in the auld toimes'. So we set off together and found the old man, who 'minded' various tales of the later Wrays, but nothing of importance to me until just as I was leaving he said, 'There used to be a stone on the front of the Wray vault with the names on it, but it fell down and when it was put back the mason that done it turned the inscription inside and the plain side of the stone out'.

Here was another of those heart-breaking checks to which the searcher who comes late in time is subjected.

Next morning I called on the Rector of the parish, who was most kind in showing me such registers as he had in his keeping, but they referred only to much later members of the family, and were of no help about the nameless vault.

When I reached the churchyard I found the sexton rather grumpy and I thought he was annoyed because I had consulted the Rector instead of only listening to him. Presently I asked if he had ever heard that a stone had been turned over in the vault. He said he had, and that he thought 'the writing was inside in the vault'. 'But,' he added rather suspiciously, 'how du u know aanything about that?' I said, 'An old man in the town told me,' and with a note of satisfaction in his voice, he exclaimed, 'That were him at the shop. I know! I seen u going in there last night and u with n'er a hat on u, but,' his voice rising, 'I knew u, by the cut of u! and there's not a man in Donegal knows more about this graveyard, and it's my belief u're right and the secret's on th' inner side o' that stone.'

I made various inquiries and consulted the Rector as to the possibility of the stone being removed and turned, but it would have involved more pulling down and building up

HENRY WRAY AND HIS WIFE CATHERINE MOUTRAY  
than seemed justifiable, and so the names of those whose  
dust lies within that vault must remain hidden. The vault  
was probably built at the same time as the church and there-  
fore we may suppose that Henry and Catherine were laid  
there, together with others of the family down to the  
William Wray who died in 1843, and whose name is on the  
flat stone of the altar tomb above the vault.

## JOHN JAMES WRAY, HIS WIFE ELIZABETH CRAWFORD, AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

**I**N this generation as in the foregoing I take the story of the younger son first. John James was the youngest of Henry and Catherine's five children.

From other dates in the family I calculate that he was born in 1770.

In the Army List of 1796, P.R.O. London, there is shown 'J. Wray. Ensign 10 Oct 1795' gazetted to the 39th Regiment.

In subsequent lists he appears:

J—— Wray Lieutenant 6 Apr 1796  
John Wray Captain 19 Feb 1801

His name is in the Army List of 1804 but not in 1805.

The Muster Book of the 39th Regiment for 1804 (W.O. 12 5253) shows 'John Wray retired from the service and was succeeded by I. W. Browne, 16 Aug 1804'.

There was no other John Wray living at this date, which fact coupled with the family connexions with the 39th Regiment leaves no room for doubt that this John and John James were one and the same man.

'During the year 1793 the 39th Regiment embarked for Barbadoes. The National Convention of France having declared war against Great Britain and Holland, an expedition subsequently proceeded from Martinique against Guadalupe. During this campaign which lasted throughout 1794 the 39th lost many officers from fever and other disorders, and also suffered severely in several engagements. In the beginning of 1795 the regiment proceeded to Ireland, and there speedily recruited its ranks . . . and was again destined to proceed to the West Indies.'

It was in October of this year that John Wray joined as Ensign.

'The regiment embarked for Barbadoes towards the end of 1795 and arrived on the coast of Demerara 21 of April 1796. The

JOHN JAMES WRAY, AND HIS WIFE

39th remained at Demerara throughout the years 1797-8 and 9. In 1800 the regiment proceeded to Surinam.

'In 1802 a treaty of peace was signed between France, Spain and the Batavian Republic on the one part and Great Britain on the other.

'In March 1803 the 39th embarked for England.

'During 1804 when invasion by Napoleon threatened, the 39th was stationed on the Sussex Coast.' (R. de M. Rudolf, *Short Histories of the Territorial Regiments of the British Army*.)

As we know John Wray retired in August of that year but, in the list of the Irish Militia Regiments, John Wray's name appears as a Captain in the Donegal Militia under the date 20 May 1805.

The Irish Militia Regiments continued embodied throughout the Napoleonic Wars and though they were disembodied in 1816 Captain John Wray's name is still in the list up to 1820.

No date is given for John James's marriage with Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the Rev. Alexander Crawford of Myrath, Co. Donegal, but from the date of John James's retirement from the regular Army it seems probable that they were married in the same year and that their son was born in 1806-7. He was named Henry William and entered the Royal Irish Constabulary, eventually becoming a County Inspector.

His marriage licence is entered in the Appendix to the *30th Report of the Deputy Keeper of Public Records*, pub. 1899 (Dublin Marriage Licences 1800 to 1850): 'Henry William Wray to Elizabeth Jane Cullen 1833.' The register was amongst those that perished, so no further details are available from that source, and I have not been able to trace the Christian name of Elizabeth Jane's father. I am, however, indebted to the Rev. John Armstrong of Lislea, Kenagh, Co. Longford, for the following information which fills in the history of Henry William Wray and his children through the family records of Elizabeth Jane's mother, who was Margaret Armstrong. The Rev. John Armstrong points out that there were two families named Cullen who were near neighbours of the Armstrongs at Manorhamilton, and

### ELIZABETH CRAWFORD, AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

that there was known to be a long-standing friendship between the families.

Allen Armstrong of Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim, died in 1757, aged 33; he left one son Simon Armstrong of Toothville, who had two sons, James and Simon, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret.

Simon of Toothville made his will in 1799, fifteen years before he died. In this will he left:

'To my youngest daughter Margaret Armstrong £351. 5. 0 sterling with the lawful interest of the same to support her at school or elsewhere until she is married, provided always she marry with the consent of my executors and guardian and not otherwise.'

In the old churchyard of Cloonclare, about two miles from Manorhamilton, there is an inscription on a tombstone from which it would appear that Margaret married — Cullen and died before her father. The inscription reads:

'Here lyeth the body of Allen Armstrong who departed this life on the 3rd day of May in the year of Our Lord 1757 aged 33 years. This tomb erected by his son Simon Armstrong. Also the remains of Margaret Cullen alias Armstrong.'

As Simon Armstrong died in 1814, it seems probable that Margaret died in 1813, possibly at the birth of her baby Elizabeth Jane. By this calculation, Elizabeth Jane would have been 20 when she married Henry William Wray.

*Alumni Dublinenses* (1935 ed.) gives 'George Hill Wray entered T.C.D. 30 June 1855. Aged 21. S. of William Sub-Inspector of Police, b. Moneygall.'

Thus George Hill was their eldest child, born in 1834 and beyond the fact that he died in 1858 we know nothing more of him.

The names of the other children of Henry William and Elizabeth Jane Wray are given in extracts from the wills of Margaret Cullen's two brothers. Major-General James Armstrong (11th Batt. R.A.) in his will dated 15 April 1853 leaves the farm of Upper Faughrea to 'my grandnephew and godson John Alexander Wray'. He mentions John Alexander's sisters, 'Maggy, Bessie, Mary, Mabel, Henrietta and

JOHN JAMES WRAY

'Adelaide Wray' and 'my beloved niece Elizabeth Jane Wray wife of Henry Wray' to whom he leaves Hollymount, Manorhamilton, where he lived, also 'H. Wray, now of Omagh, Co. Tyrone', making him one of his executors. Probate was granted to Allan Armstrong and Henry Wray, 13 October 1853.

The second brother, Simon Armstrong, made his will 11 July 1859 and left £100 per annum to 'my grandnephew John Alexander Wray' and an annuity of £50 to 'my niece Mrs. Elizabeth Wray' and leaves £500 to 'grandnieces Henrietta Wray and Ada Wray'. Simon Armstrong also left the millfarm of Cherrybrook to John Alexander Wray, with the provision that, if John Alexander died before his mother, the farm should go to her. Probate 13 November 1862.

The list of the Irish Militia (Armagh Library, and typed copy War Office Library) records that during the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny the Militia Regiments were again embodied and served continuously. John Alexander Wray's name appears as Lieutenant in the Leitrim Militia 28 December 1854, and as Captain 12 November 1855. It is further stated that on the 22nd of May 1864 Captain John Alexander Wray died and was succeeded on the 8th of August 1864.

A tombstone in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Co. Dublin, concludes what we know of this family. John Alexander died before his mother, being at the most aged 28 and unmarried, so that with him this line ended. The inscription on the grave reads:

'Sacred to the Memory of Captain John A. Wray who departed this life on 22 May 1864. Also his father Henry W. Wray died 28 March 1865, and Eliza J. Wray, wife of Henry W. Wray who departed this life on 24 July 1870.'

XXII

WILLIAM WRAY, ANNE JANE JOHNSTON HIS  
WIFE, AND THEIR SIX YOUNGER CHILDREN

WILLIAM WRAY, eldest son of Henry and Catherine, was 51 when his father died, and he had already married for the second time.

His first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Ralph Mansfield, and sister to Francis Mansfield who had bought Castle Wray. By this marriage there were no children according to Burke's *Landed Gentry* (1871 ed.). It is certainly true there was no surviving issue, but I think Elizabeth was the mother of one little girl.

In Letterkenny churchyard, outside the door of the Wray vault, there is a flat stone fixed in the ground, as it were like a doorstep to the vault. It must at some time have been joined to another stone, which has disappeared, or else it has been broken or cut, for the first two letters of each line of the inscription are missing. It now reads as follows:

RE LYETH THE BODY OF  
MA HELLENA RHODA  
AY WHO DEPARTED  
IS LIFE THE 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF  
IL 1804 AGED 2 YEARS.

In the Mansfield pedigree the names Emma, Helena, and Rhoda are found recurring in several generations (*L.G.*, 1871) showing that this little girl bore Mansfield family names. At the same time, from the position of the stone and the two letters of her surname which exist, no reasonable doubt can remain as to what the missing letters were, thus justifying the belief that she was the child of William Wray and his first wife Elizabeth Mansfield.

William Wray's position must have been a difficult one, obliged as he was to stand by and watch his father becoming more and more heavily embarrassed. Tradition says that Henry Wray acted in the last resource without consulting

WILLIAM WRAY, ANNE JANE JOHNSTON, HIS WIFE

his eldest son, though William's signature was needed in the end to complete the sale of the old family home.

Whether William himself was extravagant I do not know, but one story told of him suggests that he could be parsimonious on occasions. When his wife died in Dublin he said he 'might as well bring her home to bury in Letterkenny as it would cost him less than burying in Dublin'. Another story is of his keeping turkeys and when on a visit to Dublin he bought some new birds to add to his flock, to save carrier's freight he put the turkeys inside a grand new carriage which he had also bought in Dublin, and in this way brought them to Oak Park. It was in the same carriage that he brought home his dead wife, but that was on a later trip.

There is no date given for Elizabeth's death, but William's second marriage took place on the 27th of May 1817, when he married Jane, daughter of John Johnston, of Brook Hill, Co. Leitrim.

Their first child was a son, born the following year, on the 15th of June 1818. This son was named William, and two years later a second son, Henry, was born. Then came four daughters: Anne Jane, Catherine, Elizabeth, and Barbara, and in 1829 a third son, named Robert. We know that Robert was educated at Foyle College, Londonderry, and entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1847, aged 19. There is no record of his subsequent career, but in the Vestry Book of the parish of Aghanunshin there is an entry which says, 'Robert Wray was vestry man 1870'. The Vestry Meeting of 1870 would have been the first held after the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland. Oak Park was in the parish of Aghaninshon about half a mile from the church, on a hill overlooking it. The church, which also stands on a little hill, is small, grey and very bare; it has no burying-ground attached to it, and the parish is now united with Letterkenny.

In another and earlier Vestry Book there is an entry that says, 'Mr. William Wray was Churchwarden in 1841'; this may refer to the eldest son. In the two following years, 1842 and 1843, Henry the second son is entered as having

AND THEIR SIX YOUNGER CHILDREN

been churchwarden. I have found no other record of this Henry, except that he died on the 9th of May 1861. (L.G., 1871 ed.)

There is no record of the marriage of any of the daughters, nor any further account of Anne Jane, Catherine, or Barbara.

Elizabeth, remembered in Letterkenny as 'Miss Lizzie', lived on at Oak Park after her father's death, with her brother and his wife until her own death. The Burial Book of Letterkenny Church records, 'Elizabeth Wray of Oak Park buried 27 May 1885'.

I know nothing more about William Wray or his wife Anne Jane, except what is told on the altar tomb above the vault in Letterkenny churchyard, where the inscription reads :

Beneath are deposited the Remains of  
William Wray Esq<sup>rs</sup>  
of Oak Park County of Donegal  
who departed this life the  
11th of December 1843  
Aged 76  
Also the Remains of  
his wife Anne Jane  
who died the 9th of April 1857.

## XXIII

### WILLIAM WRAY, HIS WIFE ANNA JOHNSTON AND THEIR CHILDREN

**N**EITHER history nor tradition reveals how the finances of the family fared during the life ownership that closed in 1843. There is certainly no evidence of their having improved, and it was but a very few years after the next William Wray had come into possession of the property that Ireland was overtaken by one of the great disasters in her history.

Famine stalked through the land. The potato had become the staple food of the people until in the years 1847 and 1848 suddenly, with little or no warning, the entire crop failed. A disease known as the blight turned the plants black in a night, and the potatoes were found to have rotted in the ground. This meant literally that the poor people throughout the country had no food, and they starved. Thousands died of hunger, and thousands more died of the fever that followed hard upon the heels of the famine.

The roads were bad, means of communication were very slow, and terrible delays and blunders occurred. In spite of measures for public relief, and of the efforts to help made by individuals, the suffering and the distress was appalling. Graphic accounts can be found in many books written at the time.

William Wray was a comparatively young man when he found himself, under these conditions, faced with the responsibility of an estate, still considerable in extent, but much of which was in a wild and out of the way part of the country. He was early made a Justice of the Peace, which indicates the part he took in the public life of the district. In 1851 he served as High Sheriff for the County of Donegal. His call to this office followed one year after his marriage. On the 22nd of January 1850 William Wray married Anna, daughter of his first cousin the late Captain Robert Johnston, 67th Regiment and of Brookhill, Co. Leitrim.

WILLIAM WRAY, HIS WIFE ANNA JOHNSTON

During the twenty years that succeeded their marriage, eight children were born to William and Anna Wray:

William Cecil	born	21st July 1851,
Cecil John Gore	"	27th September 1859,
Henry Cecil Gore	"	1st September 1866, he died 2nd December 1868,
Anne Wilhelmina,		
Frances Margaret Forbes,		
Anna Henrietta,		
Edith Emma		who died 1876,
Marion	born	21st July 1871 : died 1875.

Of the two sons and three daughters who lived to grow up, only Anne Wilhelmina married, and her marriage took place but a few days before her father's death. On the 12th of June 1884 Anne Wilhelmina Wray married James Augustus Stewart, of Ramelton, Co. Donegal, younger son of Sir Augustus Stewart, Bart., of Fort Stewart. Mrs. Stewart died in 1915, having had one son who was killed in action in France during the first year of the Great War. She also had five daughters who are living unmarried, at Buncrana.

Frances and Anna Henrietta Wray accompanied their mother when eventually she left Ireland and went to live in California, where she died in 1910. Later, the surviving members of the family moved to British Columbia. Henrietta died in Victoria, Vancouver Island, on the 8th of July 1938.

The fact that William Wray was a Justice of the Peace appears to be the circumstance by which he is most remembered in the neighbourhood. The Vestry Book for Aghaninshon Parish shows William Wray as churchwarden in 1845, also in 1848 and for each of the six succeeding years. And again in 1865 there is the following entry: 'Resolved that Mr. Wray of Oak Park and Mr. Hughes of Barnhill be elected churchwardens for the ensuing year.'

The Vestry Book of Letterkenny Church showed that 'William Wray owner of the Property of Oak Park was vestry man of Conwall Parish in 1871 and 72, and Churchwarden in 1873'.

The Burial Book of the same parish records 'William

WILLIAM WRAY, HIS WIFE ANNA JOHNSTON

Wray of Oak Park buried 24th of June 1884 in Letterkenny  
Graveyard'.

There is no tombstone or inscription that commemorates his name.

Anything more that I know about William Wray and his sons was told to me by old people living in the town of Letterkenny, or in cottages near to Castle Wray, and of course these are but old-time memories.

On my first day in Letterkenny I stopped to speak to a very old woman sitting outside her shop door. 'Yes,' she knew the church and would send a boy to find the sexton and she 'minded well auld Mr. Wray that was the Magistrate, and came to the Court House above there'. She pointed up the street with a poor old hand all twisted and knotted with rheumatism. 'And Miss Fanny, a fine tall daughter he had and she would drive the big grey horse bringing Mr. Wray in to the Court.' 'But me dear, do you know Mrs. Grove, 'tis herself you should be talking to and if you goes out to Castle Grove 'tis a real lady you'll find there.' So I went to Castle Grove, about three or four miles outside the town on the shore of Lough Swilly. A large demesne, then a lawn with flower-beds and the house; not the original Castle Shanagan; but, like most of these places, a house built about a couple of hundred years ago and added to at intervals. Mrs. Grove was at home and I was led through a square hall to a long-shaped drawing-room with many windows, where Mrs. Grove received me, and I realized the truth of my Letterkenny friend's words.

Mrs. Grove had never seen old Mr. Wray, but she knew Mrs. Wray well, and Fanny Wray the eldest daughter, 'she was a fine woman and very clever'. The next one, Henrietta, 'was shy and retiring'. Mrs. Grove spoke of the break-up of the family and of their home. She said money troubles grew worse and worse after Mr. Wray died. Some solicitor, she thought, held a mortgage and finally he foreclosed on Oak Park.

Mrs. Grove told me of the sorry state of ruin into which the house of Castle Wray was now falling, and said her gardener should take me to see it. On the way he wished

#### AND THEIR CHILDREN

first to show me the garden of Castle Grove: a vast place, enclosed by great high stone walls. It seemed very full of fruit trees and vegetables of all sorts, some parts were rather wild; it would have needed a regiment of gardeners to keep it really in order; but the old-time herbaceous border was a blaze of colour and rich in beauty. In the old days there was a gate in the wall that divided the two gardens by which the families could pass through to one another's place, but I had to drive round by the avenue and down a lane to the entrance of Castle Wray. There is still a gate lodge though the demesne is now cut up and let out in small holdings. We passed through another gate leading into a wood that slopes down to the shore of Lough Swilly. Through this wood of fine old beech trees we drove until we came to a stretch of open grass and then to what had once been lawn surrounding the house.

It must have been a very ordinary and ugly square house since the new front was built on to the old 'modern' house of Henry and Jane Jackson's day, but I was hardly prepared for the forlorn tumbledown derelict that is now all that remains. One bow-window had fallen completely out on to the lawn, where stones and rubble lay in heaps, leaving an open view into the rooms on both stories with the ceiling and floor between them sagging down in the centre. The wall round the bow-window on the other side was all cracked and looked ready to fall at any moment. The hall door was boarded up, but in any case it would not have been safe to go inside this crumbling shell of a house.

True to his trade the gardener again insisted that it was the garden I must see, so we crossed the old stone bridge where many fine trees overhang the stream that flows between the house and the garden.

The hinges of the garden door were so rusted that it was hard to push it open far enough even to look into the sometime garden. It is a jungle now, high grass and nettles, brambles and great weeds grow right up to the doorway, blocking any path there may have been. The top branches of a fruit tree and the blossoms of some flowering shrubs peeped above the tangle, but it was impossible to force a

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way in. Here indeed was the garden of the Sleeping Beauty's Castle, but I fear she died in her sleep and has been spirited away beyond the reach of any fairy prince, even if such were ever to come in search of her.

The gardener left me here as he had 'a near way home by the shore' and I drove back as I had come. It was all terribly sad to see such dilapidation in a place that had once been beautiful, cared for, and beloved.

My next visit was to a cottage beside the narrow lane that had been the old road to Castle Wray. In Letterkenny I had been told that a very old man named Roger Deeney had lived here all his life and had a good memory, so I came to seek him.

A shaggy, dishevelled-looking woman was feeding hens outside the cottage door, and when I explained my errand she turned without a word to me and called out, 'Roger, here's a leddy till see ye'.

Roger was sitting in the kitchen by the turf fire, over which a pot-oven hung from a hook in the chimney. He certainly was very old, but bright and alert. He sat there with his hat on his head in a grey flannel shirt and waistcoat, his trousers were made up of patches, there was hardly any of the original cloth to be seen! When I told him my mother was a Wray, he said, 'Shure I'd have knowed you was one of the family'. The woman fetched a chair and I sat beside him and asked him to tell me all that he remembered. I only wish I could have taken down every word! He was one of the real old-time talkers with great command of language, a wonderfully clear memory, and a most graphic way of expressing himself. He said he 'was in sERVICE with the Wrays whiles, when he wasn't farming his own place' and 'whiles he done a bit of building for them on the house at Oak Park' and 'me brother he was coachman to them'.

Roger had 'heard tell that the auld Mr. Wray of all had borrowed twenty hundred pounds and that was the way he lost Castle Wray'.

And he 'minded the time when one of them other magistrates wanted to put a gate across the road going down to the strand over beyond Mr. Wray's place, so that he'd make

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a private road out of what was a county road, and you'd only get going there wid his pearmeession, and some more o' the magistrates were along wid him. Only whin Mr. Wray heared of it—himself that were a Magistrate ye know—he says, says he, "there's them as was too smart for the Wrays once, but they'll not get one inch more", and me brother what told me, here in this house, he hits that table over yonder a great clout and says he "the same as the Master done". . . . Roger said "There was an agreement that if the Wrays paid off the mortgage within 90 years they would get back Castle Wray. But instead of that wasn't it more mortgages and more debts they had?" 'Auld Mr. Wray had twelve thousand pounds owing to a company in Derry, I dunno were they a company or what were they, and Mr. Wray he wanted to pay it off by degrees, they having thirteen hundred pounds a year coming in, besides the demesne, but Mrs. Wray she would not, for she says she must have all of the best for her family.'

'Mr. Billie, that's the eldest son, he went to Dublin and had great larning in College there, and he to be a barrister, but the poor feller he went a bit quare, it was quiet he was but quare, and he used to be a great one with the gun for shooting rabbits, but they was in dread some trouble would happen, and they took away the gun, and that annoyed him and 'twas worse he got, an' in the latter end they sent him away to Edinburgh and he died there and Miss Wray she went over for the burial.'

'Mr. Cecil he was the next brother an' he was in the Navy, not the fighting Navy ye mind, but the Marchant Navy and he travelled the whole world, an he'd come home here and he'd tell us about all the grand countries he travelled, South Amerikie and Australia and Norway, where they'd bring home the grandest timber ever you saw. I seen some of it and they building the cathedral in Letterkenny and they tauldt me it was from Norway it come.'

'After auld Mr. Wray dying the mortgagees were pressing for the money and it got worse and worse, and in the latter end the Mistress she packed up some big boxes and she went down to Castle Grove and stopped with Mrs. Grove about

three weeks and then the whole family went away to Caleifornie.'

At last I said I must be going, then the old man drew himself up beside the fireplace, leaned against the wall, and looking very hard at me he said, "Tis long since I had such a con-vern-sable lady come to see me, 'tis very rare now that I would have onny one of intelligence to be talking to". Then he added rather reflectively, 'An' indeed, when you were young you must have been a fine girl wid the bright eyes that ye have'.

After leaving Roger Deeney, I went on up the lane to another little house where another old man lived. He was not as old as Roger and he seemed very active, for he was on a ladder mending the thatch of his cottage. It looked a poor little cabin and had the usual manure heap just outside the front door and a few hens pecking about, with ducks waddling in the mire. The old man looked rough and dirty, his face was nearly black. But when I asked him if he remembered the Wrays he answered at once, 'Is it the Wrays! of coourse I mind them well. They were the grand family and I was in their service all me life, and 'twas meself left Mrs. Wray and Miss Annie into Derry the day they went away to Caleifornie, and I sent their furniture after them, away in a sailing vessel, an' shure they wanted me for to go wid them to Caleifornie.'

It was in 1892 that Mrs. Wray and her daughters left Oak Park.

The old man went on to tell how Oak Park 'was put into the Coourts' (The Encumbered Estates Courts) 'and Mr. Cecil he would have liked well to buy it out of the Coourts. But Mrs. Wray she was that proud sort she wouldn't leave him be the tenant in her lifetime.' . . .

'Oak Park is not so auld a house, no more than about two hundred years, but Castle Wray, shure it was a turrable auld house. Them as bought it put a new front on till it, but them as was building it used bad slates that would crumble in your hand, and they let in the wet, and bad joists too, and now shure didn't the floor fall down in one of the

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rooms and the front is after falling out of the place. And the Missus what was in it long ago, nothing would do her only to pull down a piece of the house out of the way of her guarden where the pantries and the sarvants' rooms was, and 'tis my belief that shook the whole place. Only the real auld house, at the back part, the walls do be four feet thick and solid, you couldn't tumble them.'

Thus his stream of talk flowed on, but presently he turned more personal and to a later date.

'Whin the land around Oak Park was sold, 'twas meself bought it and paid twelve hundred pounds for it and,' he added with a whimsical glance at me, 'I suppose you don't think I'd be worth that?' He certainly did not look as if he had twelve hundred pence in the whole world, and I had just been wondering whether I should give the old fellow a shilling for tobacco!

Then he said he 'would like well to get news of Mr. Cecil' and if ever I heard anything would I let him know, which I promised to do. And when I saw him the next year he was in the greatest delight having had a letter from Mr. Cecil, after I had written to tell him his old friend was still alive and was inquiring for him.

'Mr. Cecil' must have been a particularly lovable character. Just the same tribute was borne to him by the old sexton in Letterkenny, 'I tell ye there was no pride about him, "call me Cecil John" says he. And when I thinks of Cecil John I says "heart o' corn", that's what I says.' 'Heart o' corn' is the highest term of praise that can be expressed for the sterling qualities of any man in the North of Ireland.

During the Great War, Cecil John wrote home from Vancouver Island offering his services as an old Merchant Service Captain. But he was beyond the age for such service as he was qualified to render.

The closing years of his life were spent in Victoria, with his two sisters, for Cecil John never married. And on the 16th of April 1938 he died in the seventy-ninth year of his age.

The Irish family of Wray came with a John and it has gone with a John, for Cecil John Gore Wray was the last direct lineal male descendant of the senior line of Castle Wray.

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PART IV  
LETTERKENNY, COUNTY ANTRIM,  
AND ARDNAMONA

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## XXIV

### JANE JACKSON AND HER FAMILY

**I**N Chapter XX it was recorded that Henry, son of William Wray by his wife Ann Sampson, married Jane daughter of William Jackson of Coleraine by his wife Susannah Beresford.

The Beresfords and the Jacksons are two of the families that took leading parts in Ulster during the seventeenth and following centuries. The history of the Beresfords is preserved in many records, but of the Jacksons there is much less known. They were a more ordinary family but had among them many able and useful men who served their day and generation.

I found it difficult to collect any clear account of the family owing to the loss of so many wills and other documents and to the fact that the male line has died out. I hope that such notes as I have collected may be of use to others who happen to be interested in the Jacksons.

In this story interest naturally centres round Jane, who brought with her a far from negligible share of property and of influence.

In course of time a valuable portion of land adjoining the Wray estate in County Donegal came to Jane and her husband. From what we know of her family we may conclude that she was also possessed of a well-balanced heredity from which to add her contribution to her children's genetic endowment, and through her connexions their environment was spread farther afield; new family links were forged with the neighbouring County of Antrim and with the City of Dublin, links which in following generations led some of the sons to many distant lands.

The family from which Jane's mother descended had lived at Coleraine since Tristram Beresford first came over from Kent in 1609 as manager of the Corporation of Londoners, known by the name of 'The Society of the New Plantation in Ulster'.

### JANE JACKSON AND HER FAMILY

It will be remembered that John Wray worked with Tristram Beresford in the early days in Derry. They must also have been intimate friends, for Tristram was one of the trustees of John Wray's will.

Tristram Beresford had two sons and four daughters. The sons were named Tristram and Michael. Michael was Captain in the same Laggan Regiment in which Henry Wray, son of John, was lieutenant; he also served as High Sheriff for the County of Londonderry in 1655. Michael married Mary daughter of Sir John Leake and left four daughters. The elder son Tristram represented the County of Londonderry in the Parliament of 1661, and in 1664 he was created a baronet. In 1673 he died and was buried in Coleraine Church. He had married twice; by his first wife Anne Rowley he had one son, Randall. A descendant of this Randall Beresford was created Earl of Tyrone, and later Marquis of Waterford. By his second wife Sarah Sackville, Sir Tristram had three sons and three daughters; the eldest of these daughters was named Susannah and she married William Jackson of Coleraine. Susannah was probably much younger than her husband as he was a widower and had been the father of six children who were all dead. Susannah bore nine children to William and then he died.

Most of what we know of William Jackson, his family, and his property is found in his funeral certificate and an abstract of his will.

The funeral certificate is preserved in the Office of Arms, Dublin. I quote from a copy of this certificate contributed by J. Paul Rylands, F.S.A., to the *Genealogist*, vol. xxxv, pub. 1919.

#### Funeral Certificate of William Jackson of Coleraine in the County of Londonderry Esq. 1688

William Jackson of Coleraine in the county of Londonderry Esq. son of the Reverend Richard Jackson, minister of Whittington in Lancashire, which Richard Jackson had to wife Dorothy Otway, sister to Sir John Otway, by whome he had issue surviving at ye time of the said William's death three sons and two daughters, viz: John, Nathaniel, and Samuell, Hannah married

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to Major Bond, and Dorothy maried to Thomas Walker of Leeds, merchant. The first mentioned William Jackson tooke to his first wife Elizab: dau<sup>r</sup> of S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Staples of the County of Derry Bart<sup>r</sup> by whome he had issue six children. All dead.

Hee tooke to his second wife Susanna daught<sup>r</sup> of S<sup>r</sup> Tristeram Beresford of Coleraine afforesaid Bart, by whome he left issue nine children, viz<sup>t</sup> William, Richard, Beresford, John, Thomas, Samuel, Otway, Rosse, and Jane. The first mentioned William Departed this mortall life at Coleraine afforesaid the twenty fourth day of July One thousand six hundred eighty and eight, and was inter'd the one and thirtieth day of the same month in the Parish Church of Coleraine, the truth of the premisses is testified by the subscription of the above named Samuel Jackson, brother of the Defunct, who returned the certificate to be recorded in the Office of S<sup>r</sup> Richard Carney Kn<sup>t</sup>, Ulster King of Arms of All Ireland the 22nd day of September Anno Dom 1688.

Samuel Jackson.

A true copy. Ulster's Office, Dublin, 9 April 1883.

Two years later Susannah married Colonel John Michelburne whose name is famous among the defenders of Londonderry in the great siege, but who is believed from his subsequent history to have been 'rather a quarrelsome fellow'.

For the following abstract of William Jackson's will and the other notes I am indebted to Mr. T. G. F. Paterson who when sending them to me wrote, 'it is only by accident that these identifications have survived. A friend of mine who has a Michelburne Collection copied them in the Record Office in Dublin some years previous to its destruction.'

Prerogative Will dated 24 Jan 1686.

Proved 29 Oct 1688.

William Jackson of Coleraine  
Co. Londonderry Esqr

Mentions deeds of settlements of 23 & 24 June 1679 of estate of inheritance in England and Ireland on eldest son William, but charges with £500 for second son Richard when 21. Now varies above so that Richard should have lands in England in the Manor of Kirbylonsdale.

£500 to each younger child. Mentions his leases of Manors of Mercers and Clothworkers.

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Wife to have use of mansion house etc and tuition of children till sons are 21 and daughters 18, and to be Executrix and if she die or marry, then to Trustees.

Overseers Brother Samuel Jackson

Henry Arkwright, if in my service.

Witnesses Roger Kilpatrick. Ab. Bailey,  
Rich<sup>d</sup> Leister and H. Arkwright.

Probate to Susanna Jackson widow and executrix.

'Prerogative Commission to swear, 18<sup>th</sup> July 1688 directed to—  
Richard Lynan, Pat Gordon and Henry Arkwright all of Coleraine.

To swear Susanna Jackson executrix of the will of William Jackson of Coleraine Esquire in trust for his minor children namely—

I	William	II	Richard
III	Beresford	IV	John
V	Thomas	VI	Otway
VII	Rose	VIII	Jane'

It will be noticed that Samuel is not mentioned in this Commission.

Exchequer Bill dated 1 July 1709  
John Michelburne of London City  
V. Richard Jackson of Dublin City.

That above John Michelburne married Susanna Jackson in 1690, and that she was widow of W<sup>m</sup> Jackson dec<sup>d</sup> and that she died intestate in 1706.

'On 6th May 1694 Trustees were appointed by Grant, in accordance with William Jackson's will.'

In Marsh's Library, Dublin, another note was found (see v. 3. i. 30, no. 19):

'Marriage Settlement 6 Sept 1700 Col John Michelburne and Susanna widow of William Jackson Esq. deceased.

Trustees William, Bishop of Derry [William King, D.D.] and Samuel Jackson Esqr.

Bishop of Derry to dispose of £1000 among children of Susan by W<sup>m</sup> Jackson.'

#### JANE JACKSON AND HER FAMILY

From Mr. Paterson I also received the abstract of Samuel Jackson's Prerogative will dated 4 December 1705. Proved 12 February 1705.

'He left a large Estate, including lands in the Counties of Meath, Monaghan and Cavan, and an estate in Yorkshire to his nephew William son of Brother Nathaniel Jackson of Leeds deceased. . . . To nephew Richard Jackson and his wife £20, and houses at Young Castell and Fishamble Street and house in which I now live in St. Mary's Lane, Dublin.

£20 to nephew Cap<sup>t</sup> William Jackson of Coleraine.  
Executors Cap<sup>t</sup> Henry Arkwright of Galway and Cap<sup>t</sup> Edward Downing of Derry.'

From these records a good deal respecting Jane Jackson and her family may be gleaned, but the date of her parents' marriage is not to be found. The deeds of settlement dated 1679, referred to in William Jackson's will, were made when there must have been at any rate four children already in the family. The birth of the fifth son, Thomas, is placed as having occurred in 1680, by the fact that he entered T.C.D. on '22<sup>nd</sup> of July 1698 aged 18'. I think that most probably Jane came after Thomas in the family; she was certainly the younger of the two daughters though not necessarily the youngest of the nine children who were all minors at the time of their father's death. These and other events, severally recorded, support the assumption that 1702 was the year in which Jane's marriage with Henry Wray took place. According to her father's will daughters were to inherit their portion on attaining the age of 18. Therefore it seems reasonable to suppose that Jane married as soon as she could claim her dowry of £500, a valuable sum as money counted in the early days of Queen Anne's reign.

I have found no trace of the later life of Jane's brothers John and Otway, nor of her only sister Rose, so they must be presumed to have died young, as also her brother Samuel who was mentioned in his father's funeral certificate but not in the Commission to swear his widowed mother Susanna.

Of Jane's other brothers William, Richard, Thomas, and Beresford, there are various records and, as these men with

### JANE JACKSON AND HER FAMILY

their descendants materially influenced the welfare of Jane's children and grandchildren, I quote here a few notes about them.

Jane's eldest brother William married, in 1695, Elizabeth daughter of Robert Gorges and by her had two sons and five daughters. In a return of the Freemen of the Corporation of Coleraine, which list dates only from 1715, William Jackson is mentioned as admitted in 1721, and his residence is given as Jackson Hall which is believed locally to be the same house as that described in his father's time as the Mansion House.

An abstract of the will of William Jackson is preserved among the Burke Abstracts (P.R.O. Belfast):

'Pre: Will dated 28 Feb 1711. Pr: 28 May 1712.  
William Jackson of Coleraine. Co Derry Esqr:  
To be buried in Killowen Churchyard near Coleraine.  
Eldest son W<sup>m</sup> Jackson. All real estate.  
Wife Elizabeth Jackson.  
5 daug: Elizabeth, Jane, Susan, Dorothy and Araminta under  
16.  
2<sup>nd</sup> son Gorges under 21.  
£10 to Poor of Killowen and Dunboe.  
Exors wife & son W<sup>m</sup>.  
Witnesses Thomas Jackson, Simon Rowe, Chas Church,  
Griffin Howard.  
Prob: to W<sup>m</sup> Jackson saving right of Elizabeth J.'

This eldest son, the third William Jackson of Coleraine, married in 1729 Frances only child of George Eyre of Eyre Court by his wife the Lady Barbara Coningsby, daughter of Thomas Earl of Coningsby. He died in 1746, it is believed without leaving issue.

The graveyard of Killowen, referred to in William Jackson's will 1712, lies just outside the town on the banks of the river Bann. I found no Jackson memorial among the many very old graves. This is one of the very early burial-grounds of Plantation days. The ruins of the little watch house still stand near the church, where for some nights after a funeral a man was paid to watch that no 'body-snatchers' interfered with the newly buried dead.

#### JANE JACKSON AND HER FAMILY

The following extract from Faulkner's *Dublin Journal* shows how the gruesome practice was dealt with:

'December 25 1742. Tuesday night last a porter who went by the name of Crow was committed to Newgate for taking up a Corps out of a grave in St. Andrews Churchyard, and one Fox, the gravedigger, who was concerned with him is gone off; but as there is a reward offered for apprehending him, its hoped he will be brought to justice.'

Jane's second brother Richard who inherited his father's Yorkshire property married a sister of Colonel Hugh Boyd of Ballycastle, Co. Antrim. Her christian name is not recorded.

As well as his father's English estate, Richard inherited house property in Dublin from his Uncle Samuel Jackson, and must have been a rich man. The following abstract of his will is preserved among the Burke Abstracts (P.R.O. Belfast):

'Richard Jackson of Dublin  
Will d: 18 Aug 1750. Pr: 11 Aug 1751.  
Married a sister of Hugh Boyd Esqr. & had issue  
1. Richard of Forkhill  
2. a dau who married Hamilton of Castle Hamilton  
3. Hugh d.s.p.  
4. Beresford d.s.p.  
5. Susanna Ann who m: Benton Art

The above Richard had a brother Thomas of Coleraine.  
He was a son of W<sup>m</sup> Jackson by his wife Susan Beresford.'

It must be borne in mind that the original of this will perished and it is evident that when Sir Bernard Burke made his abstracts he added descriptive notes to some of the names mentioned regardless of the date of the will. Richard Jackson's children were minors when he died, his son Richard though styled by Burke as 'of Forkhill' did not buy that property until many years later, nor of course were the daughters married until much later.

Richard Jackson 'of Forkhill' married, in 1750, Nichola Ann Cecil, daughter of Arthur Cecil Hamilton of Castle Hamilton, Killishandra, Co. Cavan. It was probably about this time that he bought Forkhill, a very considerable estate

### JANE JACKSON AND HER FAMILY

in County Armagh which had changed hands many times, and has a long and complicated history of sales, leases, and re-leases as well as blank periods marked only with the note 'documents missing'. There is no date mentioned for Richard Jackson's purchase of the Manor. In 1752 he sold some of his Dublin property as shown by the following Articles of Agreement epitomized in Lodge's *Records of the Rolls*:

Lodge's *Records of the Rolls*, vol. x, King George II, P.R.O. Dublin.

'Articles betw  
JACKSON  
&  
HOWARD  
Co. Dublin

Articles of Agreement—made . . . 1 Feb 1752  
between Richard Jackson & Gorges—Edmond Howard of Dublin Esqrs Whereas the following Premises were . . . set up to sale . . . ground N. side of Christ Church Yard with 3 Houses thereon . . . Ground W. side of Fishamble St. running backwards W to rear of Rose-Alley Tenements . . . Virginia Court . . .  
And Whereas Howard bid for Christ Church Yard £592 & for Fishamble St. 350<sup>4</sup> . . . & said Jackson should by proper deeds . . . convey the premises & all his estate & interest therein to the said Howard & his Heirs

Inrolled 5 February 1752'

Richard Jackson was Captain of one of the Independent Troops of Dragoons arrayed in 1756. (List of Officers of Militia, BB. VI. 23, No. 12, Armagh Library.) In 1760 he served as High Sheriff for the County of Armagh. On the 11th of June 1787 Richard Jackson died, without issue. His will dated 20 July 1776 had been compiled and written by himself and was a very long and most complicated document which eventually required the passing of a special act of Parliament (29 George III, Cap. 3) to confirm an agreement made between the Trustees in 1789. Jackson Wray, jun., was one of the executors and the will was proved by him in 1788. Most of the estate, a very large one, was left between Richard Jackson's wife and his sister Susanna Barton, with remainder to various charities. There was a legacy of £100 to Jackson Wray, jun., and 'to M<sup>a</sup> Ann Boyd

#### JANE JACKSON AND HER FAMILY

of Wexford £200, and after her decease to her nephew, my godson'. The final legacies were '£100 to buy looms to be given to the poorest of my tenants in my two manors whose sons have served an apprenticeship of three years. And one hundred great coats to one hundred of the oldest of them at the time of my decease.'

We deal next with the youngest surviving of Jane's brothers Thomas Jackson. He 'entered T.C.D. 22 July 1698 aged 18, son of William, Generosus, born at Coleraine' (*Alumni Dublinenses*). He was called to the Irish Bar in 1710.

Thomas Jackson married his cousin Margaret daughter of Michael Beresford who bore him three children, Henry, Margaret, and Richard. Of Henry I only know that he entered T.C.D. in 1734 and took his B.A. in 1739. Margaret married Colonel Adam Downing. It is of Richard that most is known and it was he who had most to do with his Wray cousins.

Richard Jackson was born in 1726. We have no record of where he was educated but he must have been an able man as well as one endowed with wealth. In 1746 his cousin William Jackson, the third of Coleraine, died without issue, and Richard Jackson came into possession of Jackson Hall, Coleraine, whether by inheritance or by purchase I do not know.

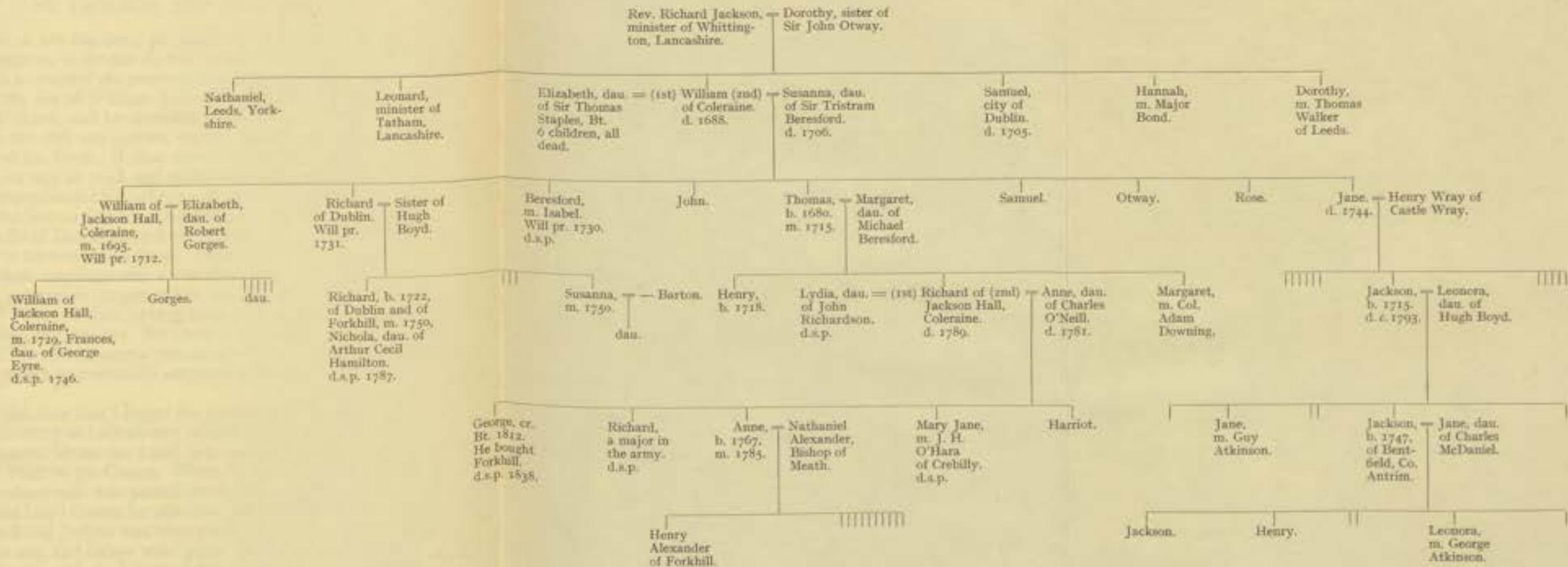
The Return of Freemen of Coleraine shows Richard Jackson admitted 2 December 1749 and gives his residence as Jackson Hall, Coleraine. Richard Jackson sat as M.P. for Coleraine, was made a Privy Councillor, and was appointed Agent-General to the Honorable Irish Society. He married twice. His first wife was Lydia daughter of John Richardson, Dean of Kilmacduagh. John Richardson's mother was Lettice Wray, daughter of William and his wife Angel. Lydia died childless, and within a few years Richard Jackson married Anne only daughter of Charles O'Neill of Shanes Castle, by whom he had two sons and three daughters. Anne died in 1781 and was buried in the old church at Killowen where her husband erected a memorial tablet with a long inscription which is a marvellous example of superlative eulogy.

#### JANE JACKSON AND HER FAMILY

In 1789 Richard Jackson died at Jackson Hall. His son George owned Forkhill for a time; it is believed he bought it and that in 1805 he sold it again, to Mr. Hannington, who in his turn sold it to 'Mr. Alexander'. In 1812 George Jackson was created a Baronet. He died without issue in 1838.

Richard Jackson's eldest daughter Anne married, in 1785, Nathaniel Alexander, D.D., who became Bishop of Meath. She bore him eleven children. Anne is described as heiress to her brother Sir George Jackson. Henry Alexander, the eldest of Anne's children, is styled 'of Forkhill', which certainly was in his possession for some years. Later Forkhill was acquired by the descendants of James Alexander who for his services in India had a peerage bestowed upon him in 1790, when he took as his title the name of his estate in County Tyrone and became Baron Caledon of Caledon, and in 1800 Earl of Caledon. Forkhill is situated in the corner of County Armagh adjoining County Tyrone. Field-Marshal the Hon. Sir Harold Alexander, Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces in Italy 1944, and in 1945 Supreme Allied Commander Mediterranean Theatre, is great-great-grandson of James, 1st Earl of Caledon.

THE FAMILY OF JACKSON. CHART VI



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## JANE JACKSON AND HER PROPERTY

I HAVE left the story of Jane's third brother, Beresford Jackson, to the last so that it may be told together with the account of the property that came to her through him.

In the list of William Jackson's children Beresford was placed third, and by counting back from Thomas, whose date is the only one known, we may put 1677 as the probable year of his birth. If that were so, Beresford would have come of age in 1698 and taken possession of his share of inheritance under his father's will. We know that Beresford married but no date for the marriage is recorded. It is from the wills of Beresford and of his wife that we learn most of what is known about them. From these wills it is evident that their marriage was a childless one. Abstracts of the wills, unusual in length and in amount of detail, have survived owing to their having been printed in *Irish Wills and Pleadings*, vol. 1734-7. But there is no intimation of how or when Beresford became possessed of the Letterkenny property which he eventually assigned to Henry and Jane Wray.

By the time that I began the quest for the family history, this property at Letterkenny was in course of being sold to the tenants under the Land Act, and had already been for many years in the Courts. When the Land Act introducing compulsory sale was passed the number of estates brought into the Land Courts for sale was very great and the number of the Land Judges was very small; there were other difficulties too, and delays were great. Many estates took years passing through the Courts and though there was an arrangement by which the unfortunate landlord received at any rate a portion of his rents, it was a difficult and tedious period for him. When the catastrophe to the Four Courts in Dublin occurred, a great many estates were still unsold and inevitably much further delay followed. Among these estates was the Jackson Wray property at Letterkenny.

### JANE JACKSON AND HER PROPERTY

The difficulties of proving title when so much valuable material had been destroyed were so general and so painfully well known that the Land Commissioners often had to accept a bare summary of title. In this particular case the estate was simply described as 'granted to Sir William Sempill 1640, subsequently Beresford Jackson, Lease 1714, to Henry Wray and his wife Jane Wray'. This information was, however, enough to set me on the Sempill trail and I found, among Lodge's *Records of the Rolls*, the epitome of a grant to Sir William Sempill, and also the record of another grant in which 'Sir William Semple of Letterkenny' was a trustee. To this latter grant John Lodge added a note explaining what had happened to the property in question in the year 1692. This note provided me with a further clue which in turn proved a link with information found in the *Civil Survey* (vol. iii) where this Letterkenny estate appeared under the proprietorship of Mr. Charles Hamilton.

Sir William Sempill died in 1642. An abstract of his will is preserved among the Betham Wills. (P.R.O. Dublin.)

I now quote these three abstracts:

#### Lodge's *Records of the Rolls*, vol. vi.

Sir William  
Sempill Knt

To hold Y<sup>e</sup> Lands  
thus . marked in  
Capite, & ye rest  
in common  
soccage  
B. Kilmaeran  
Co. Donegal

A Grant (in Virtue of the said  
Commission & for the Fine  
of 428 . 9 . ) to Sir William  
Sempill Knt of The Manor of  
Letterkenny

The Castles, Towns and Lands  
of Ballyrehan Letterkenny Sal-  
regrean Gortlea, alias Gortlett  
Glancharaha, Polan, Carrow-  
enamogagh & Killolosty . . . .

To hold ye Castle  
or Capital Mansion  
house of Letterkenny the gar-  
den & orchard behind y<sup>e</sup> same &  
12<sup>o</sup> on y<sup>e</sup> N.W.  
side of ye Gar-  
den, in Capite.

Half of Killesedwer als Kil-  
lesedner . . . . . }  
Free Fishing in Loughswilly  
The Towns & Lands of Kill-  
nagellagh alias Stakernagh and  
Carrowforte, als Carrowfurte }  
Half of Carrowgarragh alias  
Googarragh }

JANE JACKSON AND HER PROPERTY

Cloncoosy als Gewlog als Kil-  
logg, and Ballym<sup>g</sup>ginn, alias  
Ballym<sup>g</sup>guein . . . . . } 21.16.4

22 June 1639.

Created the Manor of Manor-Sempill, with 500  
Acres in Demesne; a power to create Tenures;  
to hold Courts Leet & Baron; to enjoy all Waives  
& Strayes; to impark 400 Acres with free Warren  
& Park.

(See *B. of Fairs*, p. 53).

Lodge's *Records of the Rolls*, vol. vi.

A Grant (in virtue of the said Commission &  
for ye Fine of 50. 10. 5) to Sir George Hamilton  
of Downelong Kn<sup>t</sup> & Bart. Sir George Hamilton  
of Greenalays Kn<sup>t</sup> Sir William Stewart of New  
Stuarton Kn<sup>t</sup> & Bart and Sir William Semple of  
Letterkenny Kn<sup>t</sup> of  
the Manor & small proportion of  
\*Strabane—etc. etc.

To hold ye lands  
thus . marked in  
Capite,

B. Strabane  
Co. Tyrone

Lord Strabane deceasing  
before ye passing of his  
new Patent & leaving his  
heir under age, this Patent  
was passed to these  
Trustees in Trust for all  
the parties interested in  
the said Estate & this  
Order of Commission, &  
all Proceedings relative  
thereto are enrolled Anno  
170<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>mo</sup> Pars Facie &  
these exemplified 8 April  
1641 Rv 23 July 1639

[N.B. Here follow four pages of names of townlands  
all in same B. and County, which I have omitted.—

C. V. T.]

To hold to the uses Trusts & Intents  
expressed limited and appointed in an  
Order of Composition or Agreement  
made by the Commissioners for Remedy  
of defective Titles 22 Feb 1638.

Created Manor of Strabane with 1000 A  
in Demesne a power to create Tenures to  
keep a Ferry over the River Mourne at  
or near Strabane to build and keep two  
Tan-houses or Tan-yards for Tanning  
hides notwithstanding the Statute of  
11<sup>th</sup> Eliz; to hold Courts Baron & Leet  
to enjoy all Waives & Strayes to impark  
800 Acres with free Warren & Park

\* *Notes.* The Estate of Strabane &c. w<sup>ch</sup> had been mortgaged  
by Claud Earl of Abercorn & Lord Strabane to Brooke Bridges  
& afterwards forfeited by his Lordship's outlawry for high  
Treason against King William, together with the Title of Baron

JANE JACKSON AND HER PROPERTY

of Strabane were restored and confirmed to his Brother Charles Earl of Abercorn by Privy Seal dated Whitehall 24 May 1692 &  
by Patent 5 July 1693. (Roli de Anno 5 Guli 2<sup>da</sup> Pars Dorso and  
enrolled 17 August following. <sup>M 2</sup>

*Abstract of Sir William Sempill's will:*

Sir William Sempill of Letterkenny in Co. Donegal Knt  
12 May 1642

Mother Johanna Baroness Sempill  
sister Dame Margaret Acheson  
relict of Sir Archibald Acheson  
nephew Sir George Acheson

(Betham Wills, P.R.O. Dublin)

From the *Civil Survey*, vol. iii.

	Parish of Aghenunshen	
Charles	Magherigenan	Gowerty
Hamilton Esqr	one third parte	five
Scotts pro testant	of a quarter	Ackers

*Footnote.* The above s<sup>d</sup> one third pte of a quarter called Magheryenan belonging to Mr. Charles Hamilton is bounded on the east wth the other Magheryenan Gleab, south wth Ballirehan west with Gortlee and north with Aghanunshen.

Had the *Civil Survey for County Donegal* been printed at the time that the Wray title to the Letterkenny property was being made out, some of the information in this valuable book would certainly have been included.

The name of Charles Hamilton appears in the *Survey* as proprietor for nearly all the townlands mentioned in the grant to Sir William Sempill. This was mystifying at first sight, but Lodge's footnote to the second Sempill grant showed to which of the many branches of Hamiltons 'Charles' belonged, and Burke's *Peerage*, 1857 edition, showed how 'Mr. Charles Hamilton' became fifth Earl of Abercorn, in succession to his brother Claud who 'on the discomfiture of his Royal Master at the Boyne, having embarked for France, lost his life in the voyage'. In 1691 Claud had been outlawed, and forfeited the estates and title

### JANE JACKSON AND HER PROPERTY

of Strabane, but 'the earldom of Abercorn devolved upon his brother Charles as 5th Earl, who, the late Lord's attainder having been reversed, succeeded likewise to the restored title and estate of Strabane, but left no issue at his decease in 1701, when the honours and estates devolved on his kinsman'.

In the absence of definite evidence as to what actually happened, the most probable explanation appears to be that on the death of Charles as 5th Earl of Abercorn, in 1701, when the family estates passed with the title, his Letterkenny property was sold, and was bought by Beresford Jackson.

Beresford Jackson had, as we know, lately come of age and at about the same date he married Isabell. Her surname is not mentioned but she was closely related to the well-known Derry family of Crookshank. She was evidently a lady of property and on their marriage this property would have come into Beresford's hands, together with his own estate of inheritance. What then more likely than that he should buy a Manor with a good house, surrounded by land which adjoined the estate of the man who had married his sister at about this same time?

The lease which proved Beresford Jackson's proprietorship of the property is dated 1714. It would appear to have been accepted by that time that Beresford and Isabell were not to be blessed with a family, while we know that his sister Jane already had several children. Whether this was the reason or not there is nothing to show, but a deed dated 4 August 1714 was made between Beresford Jackson and Henry Wray and Jane his wife,

'which witnesseth that for the sum of five shillings lawful mony of Ireland paid by Henry Wray unto Beresford Jackson the said Beresford hath sold unto Henry Wray and Jane his wife all those lands, tenements and hereditaments of Magherigenan, Gortlee, Carnemogagh, Ballynassaddens, Killalastin and tenements in Letterkenny all lying in the barony of Kilmacrennan and County of Donegal . . . to have and to hold . . . during one whole year . . . paying therefor the yearly rent of one peppercorn at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel only if the same be demanded, in the intent that by virtue of these presents . . . Henry Wray

#### JANE JACKSON AND HER PROPERTY

and Jane may be in actual possession of the premises and be enabled to accept the grant . . . and inheritance thereof to them and their heirs . . .

signed Ber Jackson.<sup>7</sup>

This deed was in the keeping of Mr. Leech, solicitor in Coleraine, who allowed me to make extracts from it, and also from another deed dated 5 August 1714, both of which deeds have since been lodged in the Land Commission Office in Dublin. The second deed granted the same lands as above described to Henry and Jane Wray 'to have and to hold with their every appurtenances unto said Henry and Jane . . . and their heirs forever'. And provided that during Beresford Jackson's life they shall pay to him a yearly rent of £84 and after his decease that 'Isabella his wife shall receive the sum of £56 yearly . . . in case she shall survive her Husband . . . signed Ber Jackson Henry Wray.

In the following year, 1715, another son was born to Jane and was named Jackson which may reasonably be taken as in compliment to his mother's family.

There are no further details about Beresford Jackson's life, death, or place of burial; we only know that his will was proved on the 4th of August 1730; it was dated seven years earlier. The following is a copy of the abstract from *Irish Wills and Pleadings*, vol. 1734-9. I include also the abstract of his wife Isabella's will because, though she mentions no Wray, she does mention a good many other names that may be of interest to some searchers, and her will is a good specimen of the style of those days of which we have unfortunately too few left in Ireland.

#### PREROGATIVE WILL

A.D. 1732  
Jackson  
Beresford.

Beresford Jackson, Maghryenan  
G<sup>t</sup> 1730

I, Beresford Jackson of Machryenan Gent &c  
make my last will &c.

I bequeath to Isabell Jackson my beloved wife  
all my household goods plate cattle & crops &c  
with the annuities reserved in the deeds from my  
brother Thomas Jackson and my brother &  
sister Wray &c.

JANE JACKSON AND HER PROPERTY

I bequeath to my brother Richard Jackson £300 &c.

I bequeath to my cousin William Jackson £300 &c.

I likewise order £5 to be distributed to the poor, &c.

I appoint my well beloved friend Chas King & my s<sup>d</sup> well beloved wife Isabell Jackson to be joint exors—&c &c—

Dated 17 Aug 1723

Witnesses John Campbell

Ber: Jackson

Barnard Orr

Roger Fullerton

Proved Isabella Jackson wid. & relict.

& Charles King

4 Aug 1730.

PREROGATIVE WILL

A.D. 1737  
Jackson  
Isabella

Will of Isabella Jackson

Wid. of the City of Londonderry—1741

Her body to be buried in Burial place of her Cos Crookshank in Londonderry

Leaves large silver Tankard to Mr. Gage of Tyonee (Syonee) and 2 family pictures.

Leaves Mrs. Mary Church wife of Arthur Church of Coleraine Esqr. her diamond ring and small silver carver.

Silver Casters—the large one to grand niece Deborah Henderson and the 2 small ones to Coz Elizabeth Crookshank and her sister my Coz Bennett.

Further gives Deborah Henderson a silver can & two silver salts, with my tea furniture, kettle, cups & saucers & Teaspoons & Tongs & Pot —

Leaves Coz Ann Crookshanks 2 flowered silver spoons

Gives to niece Jane Moorhead a flowered silver spoon.

Gives to nephew Thomas Lee of the Waterside 1 silver spoon & 1 doz. pewter plates.

To niece Margaret Moorhead als Caldwell 1 silver spoon & 6 pewter plates.

To Coz Mary Strawbridge 1 silver spoon.

JANE JACKSON AND HER PROPERTY

To Coz. George Crookshank large silver carver  
To Mr. Gage gager in Coleraine gold seal  
To Alex<sup>d</sup> Patrick of Coleraine Merch<sup>t</sup> 1 silver can.  
To Deborah Henderson the red bed goods and  
furniture in my room & rest of pewter & Kitchen  
furniture also 6 chairs.

To Isabella Moorhead—green bed over Kitchen  
with blankets rags & curtains to the same.

To Esther Moore the Yellow bed over my own  
room with blankets, quilt & curtains to the same.

I give Nanny West two coarse table cloths & the s<sup>d</sup>  
Isabella Moorhead 1 pr coarse sheets & a coarse  
table cloth & to Miss Betty Dent 1 fine diaper table  
cloth & rest of my linen to s<sup>d</sup> Deborah Henderson.

Velvet mantle to Coz W= Gage's wife of Agha-  
dowey, scarlet cloak to Deborah Henderson and my  
velvet hoods as also Damask silk gown and shagarein  
gown, and rest of my gowns and petticoats to be  
divided among Esther Moor, Isabella Moorhead, &  
Margaret Moorhead as Deborah Henderson shall  
think fit.

My Cambrics & best of my wearing linen to s<sup>d</sup>  
Deborah Henderson—and the rest to be divided  
among s<sup>d</sup> Esther, Isabella, and Margaret as the s<sup>d</sup>  
Deborah shall think fit.

To Rob<sup>t</sup> Caldwell £5 sterling  
To Mary Baron £5 st<sup>1</sup>s.  
To Isabella Moorhead £10 st<sup>1</sup>s  
To Jane Moorhead £10 st<sup>1</sup>s  
To Esther Moorhead £10 st<sup>1</sup>s  
To John Moorhead £10 stlg.  
To the children of Wm. Lee of Magilligan de-  
ceased £12 stlg.  
To children of Ralph Lee £5 stlg.  
To Deborah Henderson £10  
To her son Thomas Henderson £10  
To Ann West £5  
To Esther West £5  
To Thomas West £5  
To Susannah Graham £5  
To the poor of the parish of Derry £5  
To the poor of the Parish of Tamlaghtard £5

JANE JACKSON AND HER PROPERTY

To my coz Elizabeth Crookshanks Sen<sup>r</sup> £5\*  
To Elizabeth Gardner Wid: of John Gardner of  
L.Derry Blacksmith deceased £5.  
And constitutes & appoints my Coz George  
Crookshank of city of Londonderry Merch<sup>t</sup> Sole  
Executor.

her  
Isabella X Jackson 8th February 1737  
mark

John Raines Proved by Geo Crookshank Mer<sup>cht</sup>  
Ralph Booth of the City of Londonderry 1st  
Wm. Dent August 1741

\* Elizabeth Pitt.

In the hope of finding Isabella's name I sought for the Crookshank burying-place in Derry, and eventually found a tablet on the east wall in the extreme southern corner of the chancel of the Cathedral, which gave the early dates but appeared much later in style. Below the inscription, however, was carved the explanation: 'The above Inscription was on an ancient tombstone in the Churchyard of this Cathedral. The Tombstone disappeared when the extension of the Chancel was built in the year 1886. This Tablet was erected by members of the Crookshank family in 1914.'

It was a disappointment that Isabella's name was not included on the Tablet but several of those who received legacies under her will are identifiable:

Alderman John Crookshank of This City, Died the 23rd of January 1704 Aged 65 years

Also the body of John and Robert, sons of Alderman George Crookshank, and Mary his wife, who departed this life the . . . Day of January 1744 Aged 55 years . . .

. . . Elizabeth Crookshank Alias Pitt departed this life 10th March 1762 Aged 96 years

Also the body of Anne Crookshank Her daughter who died February 13<sup>th</sup> 1763 Aged 65 years.

As we have already seen, Henry Wray died in 1737. His eldest son William left the Army and returned to take up his inheritance at Castle Wray. Sampson and Henry, the

#### JANE JACKSON AND HER PROPERTY

next two sons, were established in business in Dublin probably through the influence of their Jackson relations.

There are only a few references to Jane Wray after her husband's death, but they show that she kept her business affairs in her own hands. In the Registry of Deeds I found six leases made by Jane Wray, five of them dated in the year 1740, when she is still styled as 'of Castle Wray'. The sixth lease is dated 9 December 1743 and in it Jane is styled 'late of Castle Wray'. This was the lease by which she made over her Letterkenny property to her son Jackson Wray (see Chapter XXVII).

In the list of godparents to the children of this son, Jackson Wray, 'Mother Wray' is godmother to his second daughter, who was given her name of Jane, in July 1741, and when Jackson's first son was born in 1743 'Mother Wray' was one of his godmothers.

Jane Wray's will was proved on the 6th of May 1746, but as no record of it survives we do not know when it was made or anything about its contents.

In the Burial Book of St. Mary's Church in Dublin, where the burial of 'Henry Ray, Esqr' was recorded in 1737, I found an entry under the date 16 October 1744, 'Buried Mrs. Wray', and this I think undoubtedly must have been Jane.

It will be remembered that Jane's brother Richard inherited a house from his Uncle Samuel Jackson in which Samuel stated that he lived in St. Mary's Lane. Richard Jackson died in 1731, but, referring again to the list of godparents, 'Aunt Dick Jackson' was alive in 1745, and in 1747 'Dick Jackson' is identified as 'of Dublin', which all goes to show that the family connexion with that part of the then fashionable Dublin provided at any rate one good reason for Jane Wray choosing the same parish when, as we believe, she made her home in the city.

THREE SONS AND SEVEN DAUGHTERS OF  
HENRY AND JANE WRAY

THE story of Henry and Jane's eldest son William has already been told in Chapter XIX, that of their son Jackson Wray will be told in Chapter XXVII. This Chapter gives such records as I have been able to collect of their remaining ten children. The names of all this large family are found in Burke's Manuscript Pedigree in the P.R.O. Belfast.

Sampson's name appears as second son in the pedigree and in his father Henry's will. The only further mention that I have been able to find of Sampson refers to his burial and his will. The Burial Book of St. Mary's Church, Dublin, records '15th April 1741, Buried, Sampson Wray Esqr.' and the Index of Prerogative Wills says 'Sampson Wray of Dublin, Will proved 1742'.

Of the next son, Henry, a little more information survives, but it is chiefly contained in the records of his death as reported in Faulkner's *Dublin Journal* (National Library, Dublin), 'Saturday Aug. 3 to Tuesday Aug. 6. 1754'. 'Deaths'—'Late on Sunday night, on the Bachelor's Walk, Henry Wray Esqr, one of our present High Sheriffs, greatly regretted for his many amiable qualities'. And again in the same *Journal* dated Tuesday 6 August to Saturday 10 August, 'At a Post Assembly at the Tholsel, Alexander Reeves Esq of the Coomb, Ironmonger, was chosen High Sheriff of this City for the remainder of the year in the room of Henry Wray Esqr deceased, and being approved of by the Lords Justices he was sworn into that office in the evening'.

The Freeman Roll, Dublin City, shows 'Henry Wray Merchant admitted by Service, Christmas 1747'. (Office of Arms, Dublin.)

Henry Wray's will was dated 4 August 1754 and proved 28 August in the same year. In Burke's Manuscript Pedigree which quotes these dates, there is a footnote that says

THREE SONS OF

'mentions brothers-in-law Rev. W<sup>m</sup> Montgomery and Lieut<sup>t</sup> Johnston'; as the will perished this is all we know of its contents.

*Irish Magazine*, a publication which existed from 1732 to 1811, also made the announcement, 'Died, Henry Wray, one of the High Sheriffs of this City', August 1754.

The only other mention of Henry Wray that I found is contained in a deed dated 1 May 1754,

'whereby Edm<sup>d</sup> Huband and Henry Wray Esq, Sheriffs of the Co of the City of Dublin by virtue of three writts . . . and of their office, and in consideration of the sum of £120 paid to them by Jno Exshaw of the City of Dublin, Stationer did Grant etc . . . unto said J. Exshaw all that Dwelling house in Dame St. etc.' (Book 169, p. 40, Registry of Deeds.)

The following items taken from Faulkner's *Dublin Journal* reveal something of the conditions of life and of the opinions held upon them in the year 1754:

'June 1754 It is to be hoped, if it shall please God to bless with some fine weather to enable us to get in the fruits of the earth and prevent a Famine which must otherwise be the consequence after such inundations of water as have fallen of late, that a proper use will be made of it, and that no unnecessary Holidays will be kept nor idle Diversions followed to take Labourers from their work.'

'August 1754—Many complaints are come to hand against Hackney Coachmen carrying the bodies of people who have died of spotted fever, measles, smallpox and other malignant disorders which must render it unsafe for the Publick to go in such carriages as have front windows, but such complaints should be made to the Governors of the Workhouse who can provide a Remedy against this pernicious practice.'

Burke's Manuscript Pedigree gives the name of a fifth son in this family as John. If Burke is correct in including John as a child of Henry and Jane I think he must have died young. I made all possible search for further record of him but without success. At one stage I thought I was on his track when I found 'John Wray' entered in the MS. Army List as Ensign in General O'ffarell's Regiment, 20 June 1744. (P.R.O. London, Index 5436 MS. Army List, p. h.77.) His name did not appear in any subsequent printed

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Army List or Commissions Book. But in the Commissions Book for 1744-6 there appears the entry 'Robert Wrey Gent to be Lieut in Col Richard O'ffarell's Regt of Foot', and it was shown that his first Commission dated from 26 June 1744.

Sir Bourchier Wrey, 6th Bart. of Trebitch, who died in 1726, had five sons, two of whom bore the names of John and Robert respectively. Burke's *Peerage*, 1840 ed., says that this Robert became a general in the army of the Queen of Portugal and died in 1809.

The explanation may be simply that a mistake was made in the manuscript entry or a commission may have been obtained for Sir Bourchier's second son John and then passed on to his fourth son Robert. In either case it leaves John son of Henry and Jane unaccounted for.

Faulkner's *Dublin Journal*, 8 June 1754, announced that 'Lt. General Handasyde's Regiment of Foot was replaced last week by the arrival of seven Companies of Brigadier General O'Farrell's Regiment from Athlone. The Hon Major Rollo's, Capt Wrey's and Capt Moteau's Companies in said regiment arrived in town yesterday from Nenagh and Philipstown.' This 'Capt Wrey' must undoubtedly have been Robert of the Devonshire family.

We now pass on to the seven daughters of Henry and Jane. I think that one, probably two, of them were born before the eldest son William. It also appears probable that Rose was the eldest of these daughters. Burke places her first in his pedigree and I calculate that Anna Maria came next and Jane third. These three daughters are not named in their father's will, December 1736, indicating that they were already provided for by marriage portions. In his book *A History of Montgomery of Ballyleck* the author refers to Rose Wray as wife of Edward Monckton. This name was rather puzzling as it belonged to County Limerick and savoured of Cromwell's army. But records of the Cary family showed that Tristram, fourth son of Robert Cary of Whitecastle, son of the Recorder George Cary by his wife Jane daughter of Tristram Beresford, married Elizabeth daughter of Major Nicholas Monckton. This marriage

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pointed to a Cary alliance strengthened by the Beresford link being in some way connected with the marriage of Jane's daughter Rose. But there was no proof until the copies of abstracts of two Limerick Diocesan Wills were given me by Mr. Paterson. These wills explained the whole situation. The first was the will of Nicholas Monckton of Liskennet, Co. Limerick, dated 27 February 1721. Proved 7 April 1725.

'Nicholas Monckton of Liskennet, Co. Limerick. Ratifies mortgage and M:S<sup>nts</sup> of his son-in-law Tristram Cary with testator's dau: Elizabeth, his now wife, viz £360 on Ballinleeny Co. Limerick, £500 on Ballynana etc. Also mortgage to M<sup>r</sup> John Langton of £300 on Turlas and Killimore. Also £500 to M<sup>r</sup> James Langton £420 to my son-in-law M<sup>r</sup> Christopher Carr. All above to be paid out of my real estate.

'All my real estate to my grandson Edward Cary, then to grandson George Cary, then to grandson Monckton Cary in succession on condition that they use the surname of Monckton instead of Cary.

'Failing them to my cousin-germain George Monckton. Trustees till grandson Edward Cary be married, dau: Elizabeth Cary and nephew Ralph Wilson of Boher Esq. If any fine or recovery of lands be made then my nephew Standish Grady of Elton, Co. Limerick is to get £1000 in trust to pay £500 of it to my said cousin-germain George Monckton and £500 to my natural son George Monckton.

'Bequeaths his personal estate, viz. his farm of Liskennet and the stock on it to his s<sup>d</sup> cousin germain Geo Monckton, he paying £20 yearly to s<sup>d</sup> natural son George Monckton, now a minor, whose guardian is to be Christopher Carr, Senior, of Limerick City.

'My horse and horseman's sword to nephew Hassed Powel.

'At end of 10 years after my death £10 yearly for life is to be paid to said George Fitz Thomas Monckton for his life and £10 yearly to s<sup>d</sup> George Monckton Jun<sup>r</sup> for his life both out of my real estate.

Witnesses Dermod Mullauly  
Will Denworth and  
David Cormick.

Probate to George Monckton—  
7 April 1725'

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The second will was that of Tristram Cary of Morg (or Moygr) in the County of Limerick, dated 13 October 1723 and proved in the following February, 1 February 1723 (1723/4).

It will be noticed that Cary's will was both dated and proved after that of Nicholas Monckton was dated, but more than a year before it was proved.

Tristram Cary desired 'To be buried in Parish Church of Ballingarry near wife'. Bequeathed to son Edward Cary the farm called Gortnagraugh with its stock. The rest of his substance equally amongst rest of children (not named).

Exors      Nicholas Monckton Esq.  
              Charles Conyers Esq. and John Langton Gent

Witness      Rev Jn Bunbury  
              Jn Skelton, David Regan

Probate to Charles Conyers 13 Feb 1723/4  
the other 2 Exors renouncing.

Thus the family connexions that were associated with the marriage of Rose Wray and Edward Monckton are established, but I found no further record of their life, death, or descendants.

The next two daughters of Castle Wray married two sons of the neighbouring house of Brooke Hill.

It will be remembered that Humphrey Wray of Ards married Anne daughter of Thomas Brooke of Colebrooke who was son of Sir Henry Brooke by his third wife Anne St. George. Sir Henry's first wife was Elizabeth daughter of Capt. John Winter of Dyrham, Gloucestershire, and the elder of their two sons was Basil who married and had a son Henry, who in his turn married Elizabeth daughter of George Vaughan of Buncrana. Henry Brooke died in 1725, leaving two sons Basil and Gustavus, also four daughters. Basil entered T.C.D. 2 July 1724, aged 19. Graduated Vern. 1727.

When his father died Basil inherited the estates of Brooke Hill and Brooke Manor covering between them a large part of the County of Donegal.

I calculate that it cannot have been long after he came

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into this inheritance that Basil Brooke married Jane Wray, and made her, at the age of 18, mistress of a fine house in a beautiful demesne on the shores of Lough Swilly only a few miles nearer to the open sea than was her old home of Castle Wray.

Jane became the mother of two sons, Henry Vaughan and George, and of six daughters, Elizabeth, Jane, Rose, Lydia, Angel, and Catherine.

The second son George was probably the youngest child as the date of his birth is given in the Baptismal Register of St. Peter and St. Keirin, Dublin, as 4 March 1749. George died unmarried. Henry Vaughan Brooke also died unmarried, but after a long, prosperous, and useful life. He sat as M.P. for Donegal for thirty years, during seven consecutive parliaments from 1776 until his death in 1807.

Basil Brooke died in 1768; there is no date given for the death of Jane, and I failed to find any tombstone or burying-place for the Brookes of Brooke Hill. But Jane's name is mentioned in her sister Elizabeth's will dated 1769, showing that she survived her husband.

Rose Brooke married James Grove of Castle Grove and had a son Thomas and a daughter Jane. Under Henry Vaughan Brooke's will Thomas Grove took the name and arms of Brooke and inherited a very large part of his uncle's estate, but Thomas died without issue, and under the same will this estate passed to his sister Jane Grove and her husband Thomas Younge of Lougheske, whom she had married in 1794 and then to their son Thomas Younge who in his turn took the name and arms of Brooke (see Chapter XXXVI).

But we must return to the generation which is the immediate subject of this Chapter. The second daughter of Henry and Jane Wray was named Anna Maria. According to the Index of Dublin Marriage Licences 'John Dunkin of the City of Dublin Gent. married Anne Maria Wray of the said City, Spinster, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 1736 at St. Mary's Church'. John Dunkin died the following year and in 1739 Anne Maria Dunkin alias Wray married Gustavus Brooke of

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Marlborough St., Dublin, second son of Henry Brooke of Brooke Hill.

Gustavus Brooke also married twice but there is no date given for his second marriage. He was the father of six sons and seven daughters, but it is difficult to be sure which children belonged to which wife. There is documentary evidence that Anna Maria was alive in 1756 as she witnessed a trust deed executed in view of the marriage of her sister Dorothy Wray. Gustavus Brooke was one of the trustees and the deed 'is witnessed by Anna Maria Brooke wife of Gustavus Brooke' and dated 2 June 1756.

In the Burial Book of St. Mary's Church, Dublin, there are two entries either of which might refer to Anna Maria: '28<sup>th</sup> Aug 1761 M<sup>rs</sup> Brooke of the Bachelor Quay' and '30 Nov 1763 M<sup>rs</sup> Brook'.

Gustavus Brooke died in 1799, his will proved 11 March 1800. In his will two of his children are described as minors, therefore they must have belonged to his second wife. The Brooke family records describe Gustavus's second wife as 'Anna Jane daughter of Andrew Murray Alderman of the City of Dublin'. These records also include the names of four children which are marked 'not mentioned in father's will', so may be presumed to have died in infancy and to have belonged to the second wife; they were Jane baptized 1783, Henrietta baptized 1785, George Vaughan 1786, and William 1788.

These various dates and items make it reasonable to presume that Anna Maria Wray was mother of Henry who succeeded his cousin Henry Vaughan Brooke in part of his estate, and of Gustavus (who married and was father of seven children), and also of three daughters Angel, Elizabeth, and Catherine.

After the marriages of the three elder Wray daughters several years elapsed before the next marriage took place. Then we find the record of a marriage licence dated 2 January 1744, 'Rev. Galbraith Richardson Rector of Eriglekeroge, Co. Tyrone, and Catherine Wray of St. Anne's Parish in the City of Dublin Spinster'.

Galbraith Richardson and Catherine Wray shared family

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links that reached back to great-grandmothers from among the daughters of Sir Paul Gore. They were actually step-first-cousins as Galbraith Richardson was the son of William Richardson of Castle Hill, Co. Tyrone, by his wife Lettice daughter of William Wray of Fore and his wife Angel Galbraith. Galbraith Richardson entered T.C.D. 29 April 1729, aged 16; his degrees are not recorded, but in 1735 he was appointed Curate in the parish of Termonmaguirke, Co. Tyrone, and in 1741 Curate in the parish of Clogher in the same County.

Galbraith Richardson was just 30 when he married Catherine Wray and she bore him three sons and four daughters. The sons were William, Henry, and James, and the daughters Jane, Dorothea, Catherine, and Elizabeth. In 1775 this daughter Elizabeth married her first cousin Sir William Richardson of Augher, Co. Tyrone, 1st Baronet, and M.P. for the County.

Galbraith Richardson's will was dated 2 June 1778 and proved 28 January 1780. At the time of his death he was Rector of Errigalkeerogue in the diocese of Armagh, to which he had been appointed in 1743: thus it had been Catherine's home during the whole of her married life. I have found no record of when or where Catherine died.

The next Wray daughter to marry was Elizabeth; she married 'Cairns Edwards of Ramelton, Esq' in 1745. Beyond this fact all that I know about Cairns Edwards is found in a printed pedigree of the Edwards family, which was lent to me by Mr. T. G. F. Paterson, who himself descends from the same stock through a grand-daughter of Hugh Edwards. This pedigree was drawn up by another descendant through the female line, John Grainger, D.D., T.C.D., Rector of Skerry and Rathcavan, Canon of Lisburn. The pedigree chart is dated 12 July 1881. St. Patrick's, Broughshane, Co. Antrim.

Cairns Edwards was the tenth child of Thomas Edwards of Castlegore by his wife Jane (Joanna) daughter of David Cairns, M.P. She was born in 1680, married 13 July 1699, and died 23 September 1716. Jane and her husband Thomas, who died 27 April 1721, were buried at Castlederg.

#### HENRY AND JANE WRAY

Thomas Edwards was son of Edward Edwards, who was son of Hugh Edwards—the first mentioned in the pedigree—described as

'of a Welsh family, settled in City of Londonderry early in 17th Century, Alderman in the first Corporation after the Restoration; purchased the estate known as the Manor of Hastings which extended from near Omagh to the shores of Loch Derg on one side, and in another direction nearly to the Gap of Barnesmore, an estate forfeited by the Earl of Tyrone, and granted in 1609 to Sir John Davys, whose only daughter Lucy married Ferdinand, Lord Hastings: Hugh Edwards was Mayor of Londonderry four years before his death. He died 24th February 1672. Buried in the Cathedral, in which, on the north side, is his monument. Will dated 26th June 1662, proved 1675.'

Cairns Edwards died in 1748. There is no record of their having had a child, and though I searched the old graveyard and ruins of the church at Ramelton I could find no memorial tablet or tombstone.

There was some degree of uncertainty about Elizabeth's subsequent life owing to her name being quoted as Murray. She is known to have married again once at any rate and possibly twice, but bearing in mind that we are dependent upon transcripts of wills I think it possible there was a mistake in the copying of Elizabeth's name where it appears as 'Murray' and that it may well have been written originally as Wray, or she may have married a Murray after the death of Cairns Edwards.

There is no date given for Elizabeth's later marriage, but it will be remembered Burke notes in his pedigree that Henry Wray mentions 'Brother-in-law Rev W<sup>m</sup> Montgomery' in his will dated 1754.

For all the rest of Elizabeth's history we are dependent on Lt.-General George S. Montgomery's *History of Montgomery of Ballyleck* (pub. 1897). He says, 'There is a will in Dublin of widow Elizabeth Montgomery of Sackville St Dublin 1769', and an entry in the Funeral Entries Dublin Castle, vol. iii, p. 347, notices this—she is there mentioned as 'wife of — Montgomery of Sackville St Dublin'—Elizabeth Murray, will, dated 18 January 1769—sisters Catherine wife

THREE SONS AND SEVEN DAUGHTERS OF  
of Richardson, his son William Richardson; Sarah wife of  
Gustavus Brooke; Dorothy wife of Dobson, son Robert  
Dobson, daughters Jane and Eliz.; Robert Montgomery is  
noted in the funeral entry.

In her will Elizabeth names Catherine Richardson of  
Richmond and leaves 'to Brother Robert Montgomery of  
Brandrinna large silver cup and two smaller cups', 'two small  
waiters and a soup spoon'. It is probable these are among  
the old plate at Convoy; the large one might be that on  
which are the Wray arms. '£10 each for mourning to Sister  
Jane Brooke, Angel Johnston, Dorothea Dobson, Brother  
Jackson Wray, Sister Wray his wife, and Brother Gustave  
Brooke. Rent of Bara to Robert of Brandrinn, set by me  
to Rev Thomas Hastings.' 'To Sister Dorothea Dobson,  
my best negligée and best suit of lease, and flat silver  
candlestick; and to her son Robert Dobson, and her  
daughter Jane Dobson, and her daughter Elizabeth Dobson  
£250, To nephew William Richardson now Ensign in  
America £100.' 'Niece Rose Grove' is named.

This ends the quotations from the will but General  
Montgomery continues:

'It has been suggested to the writer that this Mrs. Elizabeth  
Montgomery was the daughter of Henry Wray of Castle Wray,  
Esqr, and his wife Miss Jackson; that she was first married to  
Cairns Edwards Co Donegal, Esqr, and secondly to Montgomery.

'It appears from deeds and papers dated 1751, and about that  
time in possession of W. Wray Esq. of Oakpark, that there were  
seven Miss Wrays; of whom Rose married Ed. Monckton; Anna  
Maria, Gustavus Brooke; Jane Basil Brooke; Catherine Rev.  
Will Gilbert Richardson; Angel married Lieut. Johnston;  
Dorothea's marriage is not mentioned but there is a Dorothea  
in this will.

'It may therefore be a mistake that Mrs. Montgomery's maiden  
name was Murray, it may have been Wray. This might account  
for a relationship that was known to exist between the Wrays  
and Montgomerys and for the Wray arms being impaled with  
Montgomery on a silver cup at Convoy, and which is doubtless  
the same cup that is mentioned in this Will. The silversmith's  
marks on the cup point to 1706 or thereabouts.'

So ends General Montgomery; of course the surmise is

#### HENRY AND JANE WRAY

correct that the names in Mrs. Montgomery's will together with her own are those of the daughters of Henry Wray of Castle Wray. It is a great loss that the documents referred to are gone; I made all possible inquiries but could find no trace of them. It will be noticed that the will mentions 'Brother Gustave Brooke', but speaks of 'Sarah wife of Gustavus Brooke' and does not call her sister, which I take as indication that it was Gustavus's second wife who is referred to here.

Angel Wray married in 1750. The Index of Dublin Marriage Licences for the Parish of St. Peter shows 'for Thomas Johnston of the city of Dublin Esq to marry Angel Wray of said City, spinster. 18 May 1750'. Thomas Johnston was a lieutenant in the army but had been on half pay since 1748. He was gazetted Ensign in General Richbell's Regiment 5 April 1742, Lieut. 29 October 1745, and in 1748 the regiment was disbanded. On 7 April 1750 Lt. Johnston was transferred from half pay to General O'Farrell's Regiment, the 22nd Regiment of Foot, later to be known as the Cheshire Regiment.

In the Office of Deeds there is the memorial of a deed dated 29 May 1752 (Book 158, p. 8) made between Adam Noble of Carrickmacrosse, Co. Monaghan, John Johnston of Rocksborough, Co. Armagh, Lt. Thomas Johnston of the Hon. Brig. Gen. Offarel's Regiment, and Angel Johnston otherwise Wray his wife, and Richard Benson of the City of Dublin, which witnessed that 'for the Consideration mentioned Adam Noble by direction of John Johnston granted unto Richard Benson all that parcel of the lands of Camilly belonging to the Rt. Hon. Henry L<sup>d</sup> Ferrard situate in the barony of Fews and Co. of Armagh in trust . . . for . . . the uses and intents in s<sup>d</sup> deed mentioned. Signed John Johnston.'

The will of John Johnston of Roxborough, Esq., dated 7 June 1753, proved 27 November 1759, mentions his 'son Thomas Johnston and Angel his wife' (Mr. Paterson's manuscript notes). Angel Wray did not have a very long married life as shown by her husband's will dated 24 October 1765, proved 18 November 1765. Two sons are mentioned

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and his 'brother-in-law Jackson Wray of Ballycastle', but there is no mention of his wife; whether this meant that Angel had predeceased him or that she was provided for by the trust is impossible to guess, but her name does not appear in her sister's will 1769. In any case Angel Johnston must have been alone much of the time while her husband still lived, as he was on foreign service for several years. The Regiment to which he was transferred, the 22nd Foot, had been quartered in Ireland at intervals for many years from the time it was raised in 1689. Some idea of its foreign service in which Thomas Johnston took part may be drawn from *A History of the 22nd Regiment* by Lieut.-General Sir Hastings Anderson (pub. 1920):

'In 1756 the regiment embarked from Ireland for North America and was quartered in Nova Scotia. The famous fortress of Louisberg, the Dunkirk of America, had been built by the French regardless of expense. It was the key to Canada. . . . At 8 o'clock on the morning of 27th of July 1758 Brigadier Whitmore, the 22nd Colonel, took possession of the town and hoisted the British flag. . . . Brig: Gen: Whitmore was appointed Governor of Louisberg with a garrison consisting of his own regiment the 22nd and the 28th, 40th and 45th. The remainder of the force proceeded to join the Army at Halifax and Boston. . . . With Cape Breton had surrendered the dependant island of St. John, renamed Prince Edward Island, in compliment to the Royal family; this island was garrisoned by a detachment of the 22nd under Lt. Col. Lord Rollo. . . .

'On the 4th of May 1759 Wolfe having arrived at Louisberg, orders were issued that the 22nd, 40th and 45th were to remain and garrison Louisberg but their Grenadier Companies (of men all over six foot) were formed into a Corps known as "Louisberg Grenadiers" and proceeded with the rest of Wolfe's army. . . . After the departure of this Army a Monsieur Bois Hibert with a motley following of Rangers and Indians paid a visit to Prince Edward Island and summoned the Commander of the post to surrender. But the detachment of the 22nd which formed the garrison was not so easily overcome, and he received the following reply from Captain Johnston the officer in command "Monsieur, you are mistaken, I am not to be terrified by your threats and if you have any regard for yourself and your raggamuffins, you and they would do better to carry yourselves off while you

#### HENRY AND JANE WRAY

are yet in whole bones." Upon this the Frenchman retired with his force to the woods and lay perdu for several days. . . . Throughout the summer of 1759 Wolfe's army continued the fight for Quebec until by the 1st of September the General determined to scale the cliffs on the north shore. On the night of the 12th the attack was carried out, General Wolfe himself leading the Louisberg Grenadiers and the 28th Regt. When, in the moment of victory, Wolfe fell, wounded for the third and last time, he was supported by Lt Henry Brown a subaltern of the 22nd Regt. . . . That night the French Army retreated up the River, leaving Quebec with a garrison of about 1500 men. On the 18th of September these capitulated and were allowed to march out with the honours of war. In the afternoon the British troops marched in, the gates being taken possession of by the three companies of the Louisberg Grenadiers. . . . After the conquest of Canada the 22nd Regiment was removed to Albany. In April 1761 the regiment proceeded to New York, embarking shortly after under Lord Rollo for the West Indies. . . . The British forces in the West Indies were next directed against the Spanish. . . . Peace was declared with France and Spain in 1763. . . . In 1765 the 22nd Regt. returned home after almost nine years continuous fighting.'

But meantime Thomas Johnston who had been promoted Captain on the 22nd of January 1755 was transferred and promoted to be Major in the 56th Regiment, dated 31 October 1762.

In 1755 an order was issued adding ten regiments of Infantry to the regular Army; among these was the 56th.

'On the 5th March 1762 the 56th sailed for the West Indies, where it took part in fighting the Spaniards, and assisted in the capture of Moro Fort. For its distinguished conduct on this occasion the 56th was honoured with the Royal authority to bear the word 'Moro' on its regimental colours.

'In September 1763, after the conclusion of peace, the 56th Regt. embarked for Ireland and landing the following month marched to Limerick. Leaving Limerick on the 2nd of May 1765 the regiment proceeded to Dublin where it was stationed for two years.'

(*Historical Record of the 56th Foot*, by Richard Cannon.)

On the 11th of September 1765 'Major Thomas Johnston

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resigned and was succeeded as Major by Henry Pringle of the 27th Foot'. (Succession Book W.O. 25/210. P.R.O.)

The Muster Rolls of the 56th Regiment for 1765 are missing from Bundle W.O. 12 6543, so no further information is available, and we only know that Thomas Johnston made his will on 24 October 1765 and must have died within a few days, for this will was proved on the 18th of November.

Of the seven daughters of Henry and Jane Wray there now remains only Dorothy. Her portrait was painted together with those of her sisters Catherine and Angel and are all dated 1745. They were probably painted in Dublin, it may be at the behest of Jane Wray, and though not finished until after her death were bequeathed to her son Jackson Wray, and thus through him and his eldest son Colonel Henry Wray they eventually descended to my grandfather. I first knew them in my grandmother's drawing-room, though in those days the recognition of who the portraits represented was very vague.

From Elizabeth Montgomery's will it was known that her sister Dorothea was named Dobson and had a son named Robert and two daughters, Jane and Elizabeth Dobson.

In the Registry of Deeds (Book 186, p. 198) I found the following memorial of a deed which gives the names of her husband and her trustees, details of her portion, and shows that her marriage took place in June 1756:

Memorial of Deed dated ye 2nd June 1756	
made between Robert Dobson	First Part
of City of Dublin Esq.	
Dorothy Wray	Second Part
of same City Spinster	
Andrew Knox of Prehen	
and Gustavus Brooke	
of Cy of Dublin Esqrs	Third Part

witnessing that s<sup>d</sup> Dorothy Wray in consideration of a marriage then intended to be shortly had between her & s<sup>d</sup> Robert Dobson and for other considerations in s<sup>d</sup> deed mentioned, did release & confirm unto Andrew Knox & Gustavus Brooke . . . those Towns & Lands of Tassmore & Irish Dromore situate in ye Co.

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Donegall & all other Real Estate of the said Dorothy Wray . . .  
in Trust for herself untill ye s<sup>d</sup> marriage . . . & after ye solemn-  
ization of s<sup>d</sup> intended marriage for use of s<sup>d</sup> Robert Dobson etc.  
etc. . . . [deals with survivors]

The same [Deed] is witnessed by Anna Maria Brooke wife of  
Gustavus Brooke of the City of Dublin Esq Will<sup>m</sup> Montgomery  
of the same City Esqr & Matthew Pilkington of same City.

Signed Robert Dobson (Seal)

Beyond these records I know nothing more of Dorothea  
or her children.

## XXVII

## JACKSON WRAY AND HIS WIFE LEONORA

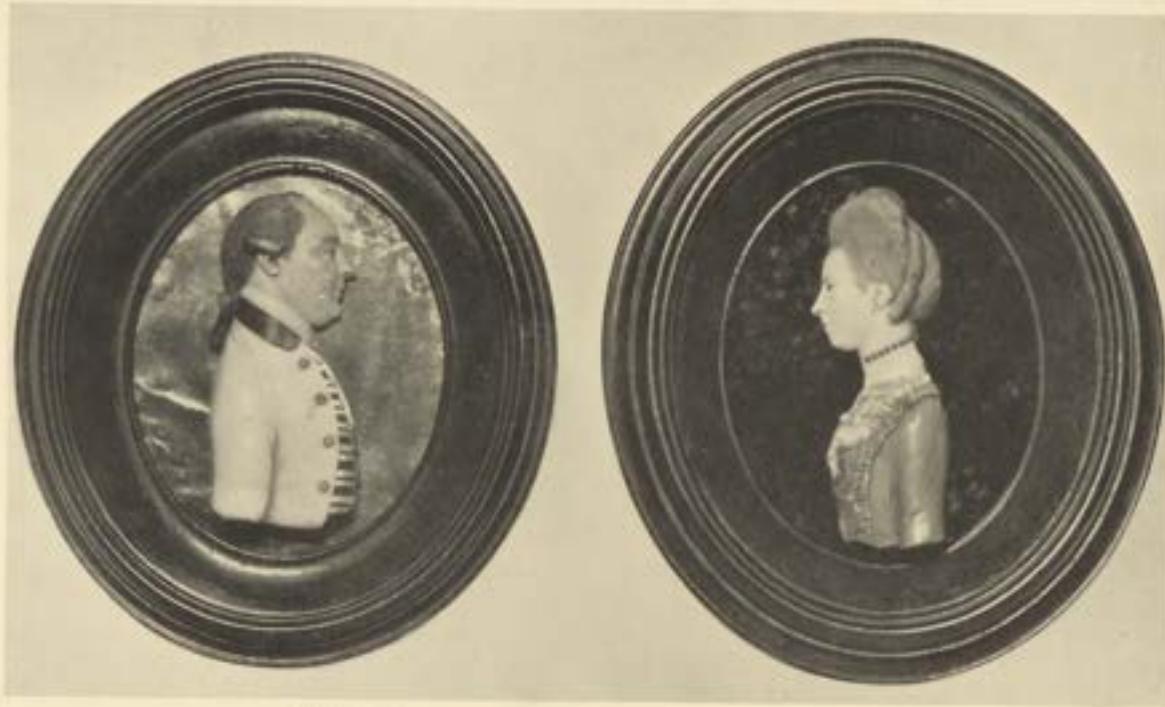
In the abstract, which is all that remains, of Henry Wray's will, dated 27 December 1736, he places his sons Sampson and Henry as second and third and Jackson as fourth. But in a deed executed by Jane Wray in 1743 she specified 'my second son Jackson'.

The date of Jackson's birth is placed as 1715 by his having 'entered Trinity College Dublin on the 4th of February 1733, aged 18'. He is designated as 'son of Henry, generosus, born at Castle Wray' (*Alumni Dublinenses*). Jackson Wray took his B.A. degree in 1738, by which time he would have been 23 and in that same year he married Leonora daughter of Colonel Hugh Boyd of Ballycastle, Co. Antrim. As noted in a foregoing chapter Hugh Boyd's sister had married Richard Jackson, brother to Jane Wray. This marriage established the first link between the families and evidently Jane Wray sought a wife for her favourite son amongst the connexions of her own people.

The Boyd family came from Scotland and are said to be descendants of Thomas Boyd, Earl of Arran, and his wife Mary daughter of King James II of Scotland.

Hugh Boyd's father was William Boyd, Vicar of Ramoan Parish, that is Ballycastle. He married Rose daughter and heiress of Daniel McNeill, Esq., of Clare, Co. Antrim. William Boyd died in 1727, leaving I believe four sons and two daughters. Hugh was the eldest son and is said to have been born in 1680. Alexander the second son succeeded to his mother's property of the Clare estate. He married a sister of Eziel Davis Wilson of Carrickfergus and had eight sons and five daughters. The other two sons William and Charles took Holy Orders. Charles married but apparently had no children.

The records of the Boyd family are somewhat vague. When I first went to Ballycastle in 1930 Miss Kathleen Boyd of the Mansion House lent me her family tree, but warned



JACKSON WRAY AND HIS WIFE LEONORA, c. 1738

*from rice miniatures*

Donegal County Library Service

Donegal County Library Service

#### JACKSON WRAY AND HIS WIFE LEONORA

me that this copy had been put together after the original was lost and that there were known to be some inaccuracies. Miss Boyd was the last of her line and her father the Rev. Sir Francis Boyd descended from a distant connexion of the original family. He came to Ireland when the senior male line there failed, and he inherited the estate but the Baronetcy, created in 1775, belonged to his branch who lived at Danson Hill, Kent, and became extinct on the death of Sir Francis in 1889.

In every record that mentions Hugh Boyd, and there are many, he is referred to as a man of talent and good judgement as well as of great enterprise. He built the Harbour at Ballycastle and was instrumental in the development of shipping there. He also inaugurated schemes for mining coal and iron ore.

In 1734 he was High Sheriff for the County of Antrim. He was also Lt.-Colonel of the County Antrim Militia Regiment of Foot, arrayed in 1756 by Alexander, Earl of Antrim.

In 1737 Hugh Boyd purchased what is described as the Ballycastle estate from the Earl of Antrim.

It is difficult now, if not impossible in many cases, to identify the houses lived in two hundred years ago. I found some helpful notes in various books descriptive of driving tours in Ireland, especially in one, published in 1783, entitled *The Post Chaise Companion*. It says, 'A little beyond Ballycastle on the right, situated on the banks of the river Glenshesk is the seat of the late H. Boyd Esq. One mile on the left of Ballycastle is Clare the seat of E. D. Boyd Esq.' This is all I know of Hugh Boyd's home. Faulkner's *Dublin Journal* announced on 8 June 1754, 'We hear from Ballycastle that there is a glasshouse erecting there for the making of bottle, window and plate glass'. This 'glasshouse' was another of Hugh Boyd's industries which worked successfully during his lifetime but later fell into disuse.

Hugh Boyd married Anne daughter of Colonel McAlister and had two sons and two daughters. The sons were William and Daniel. Daniel survived his father but died unmarried, and I imagine cannot have been what we call

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'all there', as his father's will left an annuity of £100 a year for him in the hands of trustees. There seems to have been trouble for this brilliant father connected with his sons. His elder son predeceased him. William must have died comparatively young having married Mary daughter of Eziel Davis Wilson, and left seven sons and two daughters, the elder of whom, Mary, married the Rev. Alex Cuppage.

Hugh Boyd's will was dated 16 June 1762, first codicil 7 September 1762, second codicil 8 June 1765.

It was a very long and involved document, and provided for contingencies which might arise in generation after generation. A copy of a large part of this will is preserved in an Album, originally the property of Miss Kate Gage of Rathlin Island, now in the possession of Mrs. Campbell of Lisvarna, Ballycastle, who inherited the book and who kindly allowed me to make some extracts from it.

Colonel Boyd's two sons-in-law Alexander McAulay and Jackson Wray were left as trustees and executors together with his eldest grandson Alexander Boyd.

On the 15th of June 1765 Colonel Hugh Boyd died at Ballycastle, and was buried in a vault beneath the church, as recorded on a mural tablet erected in 1856 when the vault was sealed. This inscription says he was aged 75 years, but other accounts describe him as being 85 years old which I think is correct, especially when compared with his wife's age.

Mrs. Boyd died on the 21st of March 1776, aged 91 years, and was buried in the vault with her husband as recorded on the same mural tablet.

Another mural tablet records that this church was founded in 1756 by Colonel Hugh Boyd.

Hugh Boyd's two daughters were Margaret, who married the Rev. Alexander McAulay, D.D., and had a large family, and Leonora who married Jackson Wray. The name Leonora has been repeated in each generation of the Wray family since this first Leonora's own grandchildren. It came into the Boyd family through a friend and neighbour Mrs. Stewart of Ballintoy, and is probably of French origin. John Vesey, born 1638, who was Archbishop of Tuam and Lord Justice of Ireland, married twice and had twelve

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children, two by his first wife, ten by his second, who was Anne daughter of Colonel Agmondisham Muschamp. The third daughter of this second marriage was named Leonora and she married the Rev. Archibald Stewart of Ballintoy, Co. Antrim. (See Burke's *Peerage*, Viscount de Vesci, and *The Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, New Series, vol. vi, pp. 160-1, footnote p. 85, and vol. vii, pp. 15 and 16.)

Jackson Wray's inheritance from his father consisted of the lands of Dunmore and Tinver in the barony of Kilmacrennan. These lands he leased to George McSwine for a yearly rent of £42 as shown by a deed dated 25 July 1738 (Registry of Deeds, Dublin, Book 109, p. 79).

This lease suggests the making of, at any rate, some small provision for marriage, and another deed, dated twenty-six years later, records the sale of Dunmore and Tinver and shows that they must have formed part of a marriage settlement for they were then sold with consent of Leonora wife of Jackson Wray and of trustees Basil Brooke, Hugh Boyd, and Alex McAulay. (Registry of Deeds, Book 230, p. 420.) As was seen in Chapter XX, William Wray of Castle Wray bought these lands back from his brother Jackson and he in turn settled them upon his second son Gore Wray. Jackson's deed of sale to William dated 18 March 1764 was witnessed by Gustavus Brooke, Esq., of the City of Dublin.

For the first few years of their married life it would appear that Jackson and Leonora lived at Ballycastle, where Jackson probably worked with his energetic and versatile father-in-law.

I have already described my grandmother's note-book which quoted the list of the children of two generations. The first generation is marked 'These were the children of Jackson Wray and Leonora (Boyd) his Wife', and it begins thus:

Anne Wray born at Ballycastle ye 4 of Febry 1739

Mother Boyd	}	Godmothers
Mrs. Brooke		
Father Boyd	}	Godfathers
Doc' Rose		

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Jane Wray born at Ballycastle 28 July 1741

Mother Wray	}	Godmothers
Mrs. Jane Stuart		
Bro <sup>r</sup> McAulay	}	Godfathers
Bro <sup>r</sup> Brooke		

Henry Wray born at Ballycastle [date torn]

Mother Wray	}	Godmothers
Sis <sup>r</sup> McAulay		
Doctor Rose	}	Godfathers
Bro <sup>r</sup> Boyd		

There is little doubt that 1743 was the year of Henry's birth, and in that year a change came in the family's circumstances brought about by Jane Wray. Her son Sampson had died in 1741 and we may suppose that she felt herself failing in health and growing old. At any rate on the 10th of December 1743 she assigned her 'estate of inheritance' to 'my second son Jackson Wray'.

The deed by which this was done defined both the persons concerned and the lands as follows:

"This Indenture made the tenth day of December one thousand seven hundred and forty-three. Between Jane Wray widow of Henry Wray late of Castle Wray in the County of Donegal Esqr, deceased, of the one part, and Jackson Wray second son of the s<sup>d</sup> Jane Wray of the other part. Whereas the lands of Killylaston situate in the barony of Kilmacrennan and County of Donegal aforesaid . . . with divers other lands also the estate of Inheritance of the s<sup>d</sup> Jane Wray that is to say the lands of Gortlees, Machreanan, Ballywaskaddens and Carnamaggagh . . . Jane Wray did covenant and grant unto s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray his heirs . . . etc . . . forever.

Signed Jane Wray Jackson Wray.  
(Registry of Deeds, Book III, p. 538.)

These lands were part of the original Sempill Grant and they remained in the possession of Jackson Wray's direct descendants until they were compulsorily sold to the tenants under the Land Act at the beginning of the twentieth century.

It would further appear that after acquiring this property

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Jackson and his family moved from Ballycastle and took up their residence in the neighbourhood of the property. In a lease dated 9 November 1744 Jackson Wray is styled as 'of Shelfield'. This lease said:

"Wherby Basiell Brooke of Brooke Hill Barony of Kilmacrennan County of Donegall did demise and sett unto Jackson Wray of Shelfield, B: of Kilmacrennan C: of Donegall, Gent, all that part of the land of Upper and Lower Kirrygalt which is situated on the north side of the Road leading from Fort Stewart Ferry to the town of Ramelton containing 129 acres Plantation measure . . . for a term of 61 years . . . at a yearly rental of £24 . . ."

The lease then refers to the possible acquiring of the freehold by Basil Brooke and conditions for its sale to J. Wray; also refers to the 'Dwelling House situated on the premises' and to the 'Cormmill with the mill dams and watercourses thereunto belonging' which Jackson Wray is 'to hold and enjoy and take the profits thereof to his own use'.

"Witnessed by Chris<sup>r</sup> Dalton of Dublin, Public Notary and John Ryan his Clerk.

"This Memorial witnessed by s<sup>d</sup> J. Ryan and Fielding Ould of the City of Dublin Doctor in Physick." (Registry of Deeds, Book 116, p. 160.)

The list of births in the family confirm the change of residence, for the fourth entry shows:

Hugh born at Shelfield 18 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1745

Aunt Dick Jackson	}	Godmothers
Sister Edwards		
Archdeacon Boyd	}	Godfathers
Coz. Andrew Knox		

Jackson born at Shelfield 19 July 1747

Aunt Alick Boyd	}	Godmothers
Sis <sup>r</sup> Angel		
Dick Jackson (of Dublin)	}	Godfathers
Bro <sup>r</sup> Harry		

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William Wray born at Shellfield 18 May 1749.

Sis. Richardson } Godmothers  
Mr. Todd }  
Mr. J. D. }  
Mr. J. D. }  
Mr. J. D. }

Thus within eleven years of their marriage, Jackson and Leonora had a family of six little children, growing up as Jackson himself had done on the shores of Lough Swilly.

In August of 1935 I spent some weeks at Milford in County Donegal, the small town where my grandfather had had a house as land agent to the Earl of Leitrim, and where he and his wife lived for part of each year between 1850 and 1856. They had two children when they went there and my mother was born at Milford, January 1851. Milford was also the home of their old nurse, and my eldest aunt, Frances, returned to visit there from time to time in her latter years. So Milford was full of tradition to me.

From Milford I drove over to Shellfield which, as I saw it, was a small square house with high steps leading up to the entrance floor, which was raised above a basement of cellars. The outside walls were whitewashed and there was a slate roof, which looked rather new and not likely to have been the original one. Some fine trees and a shrubbery surround the house, while in front a lawn and some fields slope down to the waters of Lough Swilly. There was a large stable-yard at the back of the house, with stalls for many horses, and beyond rose a high stone wall enclosing the usual large garden. On the outer side of this garden wall, facing the sea, was a pathway beneath tall trees, where one could picture children of long ago days at their games, while their elders walked in the shade.

I called at the house, but the owner was ill so I could only look within at a small square hall with a room opening off it on either side and a broad staircase with very shallow steps leading to the floor above.

On the other side of the road from Shellfield were the walls of the Brooke Hill demesne. Thus when Jackson Wray came

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there he was next door to his sister Jane Brooke, as well as near neighbour to his brother at Castle Wray, and within a few miles of his cousin William, who still reigned at Ards.

Naturally my mind was filled with the family of those days and I turned back to my childhood's memories and to the portraits in my grandmother's drawing-room. The chief amongst them hung over the mantelpiece and was a life-sized picture of a lady, seated, and wearing a blue gown, with some distant landscape as background. The name painted in gold letters at the lower edge of this picture was Angel Wray and the date was 1715. There were five other portraits of ladies, about half the size, showing the figure only to the waist. These bore the names Cicely Wray 1714, Leonora Wray 1740, and Angel, Catherine, and Dorothea Wray respectively all dated 1745. These portraits were always spoken of by my grandmother and my aunts as 'The great-grandmother in the blue gown, with her five daughters round her'.

At the beginning of my quest I had to piece the history together like a jigsaw puzzle, bit by bit, as it was collected from one source or another. After a time I identified Angel, Catherine, and Dorothea as daughters of Henry and Jane, and Leonora as their daughter-in-law, the dates given being those of the year in which each portrait was painted. Cicely, dated 1714, I have failed to identify. The lady in the blue gown, with the name of Angel and the date 1715, was most perplexing. The only Angel Wray at that date was Angel *née* Galbraith. It was true she had five daughters, counting her son's wife, but none of their names fitted with those on the five portraits, and in 1715 she, as a widow, was unlikely to have worn a blue gown, also her portrait would have hung in Ards and could not have descended to my grandfather. But there I had to leave the question until some further light should be thrown upon it.

On the morning after my visit to Shellfield, I awoke very early with the sense that someone had spoken to me. I heard no actual voice but it came to me, as if spoken, that the truth about the picture was that the lady in the blue gown was Jane and not Angel at all. Either the name on

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the picture was incorrectly copied, having perhaps become partly illegible, or the tradition of the mother with her daughters round her had fastened on to Angel Wray of Ards and was thus written when the gold lettering was renewed. At any rate with this clue that puzzle slipped into place and I only wondered why I had not thought of it as the explanation long ago, but in reality I never thought of it at all; I believe that I was 'told'.

The year 1715 was a time of prosperity for Jane. She had just come into possession of her estate of inheritance, her 'second son Jackson' had been born, and the picture portrays a comely, handsomely dressed lady of about the age that Jane would then have been.

The Jackson Wray family appear to have lived at Shellfield for about twenty years. In 1745 Jackson Wray was made a Justice of the Peace for County Donegal. I found no lease or deed of sale relating specifically to Shellfield, but amongst some old papers there was a copy, which Jackson Wray had made, of a letter written by him to his nephew 'Harry', 'Cornet Brooke', dated from Ballycastle, on 25 April 1769. 1769 was the year after Basil Brooke's death, when Henry would have come into his inheritance of the Brooke Hill estate. The letter shows there had been some friction between uncle and nephew and that Henry Brooke wanted to regain possession of Shellfield, while Jackson Wray explains that, without knowing this, he had re-leased it to 'Doctor Forster'. The letter ends with the postscript: 'Your Aunt and Angel are well, you're sure of their regards.' This 'Angel' may have been Angel Johnston.

In 1762 Jackson Wray made his first purchase of land in County Antrim where he bought from Lord Antrim, whose ancestor had received a grant from Charles I dated 1630. (Patent Roll, Chancery, Ireland, 5 Car. I, pt. 5.) This grant gave to 'our cousin Sir Randall McDonell, Knight, Earl of Antrim' nine territories or toughes, that is to say, 'Done-severicke, Bailleatoy, Ballelaighe, Loughgill, Ballemony and Drumart, also Magharedonoghe, . . . also all the region . . . called the Glynes . . . also that Island of the



FAMILY PORTRAITS IN MRS. WRAY'S DRAWING ROOM

Donegal County Library Service

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Raughlines . . . and that Castle called Dunluce . . . being in the territory called the Rowte in the aforesaid County of Antrim'. For this Lord Antrim was to pay to the Exchequer £100 yearly, and 'to present to the Governor General of Ireland a pair of falcons on the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and to find and maintain twenty good and able Horsemen and one hundred and sixteen footmen well trained and armed'.

Jackson Wray's lease (Registry of Deeds Dublin, Book 213, p. 417), dated 16 January 1762, was:

'for lives renewable forever made between R<sup>t</sup> Hon. Alexander, Earl of Antrim and Jackson Wray of Ballycastle Esq. . . in consideration of one thousand eight hundred pounds sterling paid by Jackson Wray, Lord Antrim did grant re-lease and demise to Jackson Wray his heirs etc. . . all that half townland of Ballynalube . . . in the Barony of Dunluce . . . together with the townland of Manister . . . in the Barony of Carey commonly called and known by the names of Drumroan, Clegnagh, Prolusk and Craigalapon and all their sub-denominations. To have and to hold . . . for and during the natural lives of his present Majesty George the third . . . , Charlotte his Queen Consort, and the said Jackson Wray . . . and for such other lives as shall hereafter be added by virtue of a covenant acknowledged forever in said lease . . . under the yearly rent of forty four pounds sterling . . . together with five pounds sterling at the renewal of each life . . . Signed—Antrim, in the presence of James Leslie Ja. Reily.'

'James Reilly maketh oath that he saw the said Alexander Earl of Antrim execute the Indenture of lease . . .

'Present at the swearing of the above affidavit John Dunkin and Charles McDaniel, Justices of the Peace for Co. Antrim.'

As we saw, Jackson Wray sold Dunmore and Tinver in 1764, and in 1765, by a free farm deed dated 27 December, he conveyed the lands of Kirrygalt to Henry Vaughan Brooke from whose father, Basil Brooke, he had leased them in 1744. In this deed Jackson Wray is styled 'late of Sheldfield in the B. of Kilmacrennan & Co. of Donegall, but now of Ballycastle'. The other party to the deed was 'Henry Vaughan Brooke eldest son and heir apparent of Basill Brooke' and the witnesses were 'Alexander McAuley the younger, of the City of Dublin and Major Henry Wray of

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the Thirty-ninth Regiment of Foot'. This deed was executed six months after Colonel Hugh Boyd's death and these various transactions seem to show that Jackson Wray was transferring his interests, as far as he could, from Donegal to County Antrim, while evidently he and his family again made their home at Ballycastle. In a clause of Colonel Boyd's will, which bequeathed to his grandson Alexander Boyd a number of lands immediately surrounding Ballycastle, exception is made of 'the dwelling house wherein Jackson Wray Esq. now lives together with the offices, houses, yard and garden, and a park containing about six acres now occupied therewith'. No name is given to this dwelling-house but a deed executed in November 1766 refers to it again as having been bequeathed 'unto Leonora wife of Jackson Wray'. (Registry of Deeds, Dublin, Book 253, p. 537.)

In his will Colonel Boyd bequeathed to his son-in-law Jackson Wray two yearly sums, one of £40 and one of a third share of £100. Reference is also made to 'my daughter Wray'; evidently settlements had been made for her on her marriage. A sum of £1,000 was bequeathed to 'my grandson Hugh Wray' when he is 21, with interest at 5 per cent. from the time of Hugh Boyd's death 'for his education'. By the second codicil of the will Jackson Wray Junior was left a tenth share in the Bottle House and Bonamargay lands.

Within six months of Colonel Boyd's death, Jackson Wray purchased more land in Co. Antrim, this time from Archibald Stewart, who had obtained a lease of the lands forever from Alexander Lord Antrim in 1738. Archibald Stewart, in his turn,

'did grant etc. . . . to Jackson Wray . . . all that quarter land of Dowey alias Duoghmore situate . . . in the Barony of Carey and Co. of Antrim with all houses etc. . . . gardens, orchards etc. . . . In consideration of four hundred pounds sterling to him paid by the s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray . . . to hold to him the s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray his heirs etc. . . . forever subject to the yearly rent of five pounds.

Signed Arch<sup>d</sup> Stewart.

The third day of December 1765.

(Registry of Deeds, Dublin. Book 236, p. 604.)

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It was upon this townland of Dowey that the house called Bentfield stood, in a fine position commanding a beautiful view of Antrim's rocky coast and of the Atlantic Ocean. Bentfield was about two miles distant from the Giant's Causeway. Whether Jackson and Leonora ever lived there I do not know. Records show that it had become the home of their son Jackson by 1776 and was lived in by members of the Wray family up to about 1820.

As he predeceased his parents this seems to be the most appropriate place to tell what little is known of the life and death of William, youngest son of Jackson and Leonora.

William Wray was born at Shellfield on the 18th of May 1749. His godfathers were Mr. Todd and Mr. J. Boyd of Letterkenny. I do not know the family connexions with either of them. His godmothers were 'Sister Boyd', who must have been wife of William Boyd, Leonora's elder brother and 'Sister Richardson' who was Jackson's sister Catherine, wife of Galbraith Richardson.

On the 30th of May 1767, William Wray was gazetted Ensign in the 39th Regiment of Foot, Lieutenant on the 21st of February 1772, and Captain on the 13th of October 1780.

According to the *Historical Records of the 39th Regiment* by Richard Cannon (War Office Library),

'The Regiment was stationed in Ireland during 1766-7 and 1768.

'In 1769 the 39th again proceeded to Gibraltar and while serving in that garrison events transpired which enabled the regiment to acquire additional honour. . . . It is a proud circumstance in the service of the 39th that the regiment had twice shared in the defence of Gibraltar.'

In another *Short History of the Dorsetshire Regiment* (War Office Library) rather more is told of the rigours of the campaign. It says:

'The 39th remained at Gibraltar for many years and was one of the six splendid regiments that took part in the memorable defence of the fortress when it was besieged for nearly four years by the full naval and military strengths of Spain and France. . . .

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'In the winter of 1779 the gallant garrison began to suffer from want of fresh provisions which became very scarce and dear . . . Fuel was exhausted . . . But the defence was stubbornly maintained . . . Throughout the winter the gallant garrison faced foes, elements, disease and starvation.'

A further light on these hardships is thrown by a list of the prices of some articles of food which I found included in a journal kept by Henry Hamilton of the 56th Regiment. The fly-leaf was dated Gibraltar 20 February 1780. The journal I found in an old chest at Brown Hall, Co. Donegal, and Captain John Hamilton allowed me to copy from it.

The list was headed 'Estimate of different articles and different prices during a long and tedious siege and blockade of Gibraltar from 21 June 1779 to Feb. 2, 1783.'

	£.	s.	d.	English
Veal per lb.		5.	9	
Calves' head and feet	1.	14.	1½	
Mutton per lb.		14.	7½	
A Sheep's 5th and hindquarter sold for	7.	16.	0	
Beef per lb.		4.	10	
A bullock's heart		9.	9	
Bacon per lb.		3.	3	
A goat's head		8.	1	
A Turkey	3.	12.	0	
A couple of ducks	1.	3.	4½	
Bread per lb.		1.	8	
Butter per lb.		4.	10½	
Loaf sugar per lb.		17.	0	
Tea per lb.	2.	18.	6	
A hen's egg			7½	
Potatoes per lb.	2.		6	
A pint of milk		1.	3	
Apples per lb.	2.		1	
A bottle of Rum		4.	10½	
A bottle of Malaga wine		4.	1½	
A bottle of Porter		2.	10	

'In November 1783 the 39th Regiment quitted Gibraltar and on its arrival in England was for some time stationed in South Britain.'

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It must be inferred that the hardships he had endured led to William Wray's early death. He died on the 21st of August 1784 while on duty at the Regiment's Head-quarters at Musselburgh, Midlothian. See Muster Roll for Lt.-General Sir Robert Boyd's Company of the 39th Regiment 1784. (Bundle, W.O. 12. 5247, in P.R.O. London.)

'Capt. L<sup>t</sup> William Wray D.D. (= discharged dead) succeeded by L<sup>t</sup> Thomas Dacres 21st Aug. 1784.'

The only further record of William Wray is found in two bonds made between Jackson Wray and his second and third sons in which loans of money, amounts unspecified, made by these two brothers to William are referred to. It might have looked as if their soldier brother had been a spendthrift, but the account of the privations endured and high prices paid during the siege of Gibraltar gives a different colour to the otherwise obscure picture of this youngest son.

In the bond made with Jackson Wray the younger, Jackson Wray the elder is described as 'formerly of Ballycastle in the County of Antrim now residing in the City of Bath in the Co: of Somerset'. This bond was dated 2 December 1791. In the second bond made with Hugh Wray and dated 13 January 1792 the description of Jackson Wray is the same. In both bonds Jackson makes over sums of money to his sons who each agree to pay him an annuity (see Chapters XXVIII and XXIX).

These payments of capital sums were made possible through a transaction carried out between Jackson Wray and his eldest son Henry Wray on 29 November 1791, when Henry paid to his father the sum of £3,150 and also undertook to pay him an annuity of £440 and further to pay to his mother Leonora an annuity of £340 should she survive her husband, and in consideration of these payments Jackson Wray granted to Henry Wray his entire estates in the Counties of Donegal and Antrim (see Chapter XXXI).

I searched all the Church and City records that I could in Bath hoping to find some mention of the Wrays during their sojourn there but I found none.

The various dealings between Jackson Wray and his sons

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explain the fact that he left no will, and there being no will coupled with the further facts that Jackson and his wife were buried in a vault beneath the church at Ballycastle and that no tablet was erected to the Wrays when the vaults were sealed, and that the parish registers were lost, combine to make it impossible to find the date of the death of Jackson or Leonora Wray.

The only record of their burial comes from Miss Kate Gage's Album which again Mrs. Campbell allowed me to copy. This record is on a separate sheet of paper, pasted into the Album, and is in a different handwriting to the rest of the book; there is no signature or date.

It runs as follows:

'A State of they Famely of they Boyds Interment in the Vaults of Ballycastle Church taken from the witnesses present at each funeral,

First or East Vault

Mr Dan<sup>l</sup> Boyd son to the Collonel.

Interred next the wall

2nd The old Collonels Lady

3rd The Collonel himself

4th M<sup>r</sup> Jno Cuppage of Glenbank

5th M<sup>r</sup> Hugh Boyd M.P.

6th his father M<sup>r</sup> Boyd late of Belfast

all thaths for this vault.

Middle or Center Vault

M<sup>r</sup> Martin next the wall.

2nd M<sup>r</sup> Downing

3rd M<sup>r</sup> William Boyd son to M<sup>r</sup> Ezel Davys Boyd Esq.

next to M<sup>r</sup> William four children

next to children M<sup>r</sup> Wray Jun<sup>r</sup>

next to M<sup>r</sup> Henry Wray betwixt

M<sup>r</sup> Wray and his father

Outside old M<sup>r</sup> Wray late of Benfield

Third Vault the Rev M<sup>r</sup> Jas Boyd and children,

with some others old fowers of the family.'

I do not know who 'M<sup>r</sup> Wray Jun<sup>r</sup>' could have been unless it was Captain William Wray who died 1784. It may be that his body was brought from Scotland for burial amongst his own people.

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Mr. Henry Wray was, I believe, the eldest son, Colonel Wray. 'M<sup>n</sup>. Wray and his father' were Jackson and Leonora. And 'old M<sup>r</sup> Wray late of Benfield' must have been their son Jackson.

I searched for records in Bath and in Dublin and made inquiries at Ballycastle but could discover no further details of the lives or the deaths of Jackson and Leonora Wray.

## XXVIII

### HUGH WRAY, MARY HIS WIFE, AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

**I**N this Chapter I take the story of Jackson and Leonora's second son Hugh and his descendants.

Hugh Wray was born on the 18th of November 1745, at Shellfield, Co. Donegal. His godparents were 'Archdeacon Boyd, Coz Andrew Knox, Aunt Dick Jackson and Sister Edwards'.

Archdeacon Boyd was Colonel Hugh Boyd's brother, Charles, and was therefore uncle to the baby's mother. 'Coz Andrew Knox' was the eldest son of George Knox of Rathmullen and Moneymore, by his wife Marian Wray of Ards. 'Aunt Dick Jackson' was Colonel Hugh Boyd's sister who married Richard Jackson of Dublin, and whose christian name is not recorded. 'Sister Edwards' was Elizabeth Wray, wife of Cairns Edwards, who later became Mrs. Montgomery.

It appears from Colonel Boyd's will that he took a special interest in this grandson who bore his name. In his will Colonel Boyd says:

'I give and bequeath to my grandson Hugh Wray the sum of £1,000, of the debt due to me by my son-in-law Alex McAulay, the same to be paid at his age of twenty-one years, with the interest thereof at £5 by the hundred towards his education from my death until the same shall become payable and if he dies before that age the interest thereof shall, from his death, go to the sole and separate use of his mother.'

The will was dated 16 June 1762. On the 2nd of November 1762 Hugh Wray entered Trinity College, Dublin. He was the only one of Jackson Wray's sons to follow his father to the University, and it is a reasonable surmise that Colonel Boyd paid for Hugh's education so long as he lived. Colonel Boyd died on the 16th of June 1765. Hugh Wray came of age eighteen months later, and, we presume, inherited the £1,000 capital under his grandfather's will. There is no

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record of Hugh taking his degree; he appears, on the contrary, to have left the University and entered the Army. The Army List of 1767 shows Hugh Wray as gazetted Ensign, on the 16th of May 1766, in the 64th Regiment of Foot, Ireland. In the Army List of 1768 Ensign Hugh Wray retires and is succeeded by Matthew Millett on the 13th of April 1768. Thus his career in the Army was short, but short as it was Hugh married during this time. His marriage licence is dated 26 August 1767, 'Licence directed to the Minister of the parish of St. Anne, for Hugh Wray of the city of Dublin, gent, to marry Mary Smyth of the said city, widow.' (Index of Dublin Marriage Licences.)

The feelings of parents in those days when a son just turned 21 married a widow can be imagined. Perhaps she was a lady of property; her maiden name was Armstrong, but whether she belonged to the same family of Armstrong with whom Hugh's cousin, Henry William Wray, became connected I do not know, nor do I know what occupation Hugh followed after he left the Army. At some time he returned to County Donegal and lived in his father's house of Shellfield, possibly when the lease to 'Dr. Forster' expired.

In a deed dated 1775 Hugh Wray is styled 'of Shelfield, Co. Donegal'. (Registry of Deeds, Book 302, p. 719.)

'Lease bearing date 6 Dec. 1775 between Jackson Wray of Ballycastle Co Antrim Esq, and Hugh Wray of Shelfield Co Donegal Esq . . . whereby the s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray for the consideration of the sum of £250 sterling & for other con<sup>n</sup> therein mentioned did demise grant sett and farm lett unto s<sup>d</sup> Hugh Wray in his actual possession then being, by virtue of a bargain and sale to him thereof made by the s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray for the term of one whole year by indenture bearing date the day next before the day of the said deed for sum of 5/- sterling & by force of the statute for transferring uses into possession and to his heirs etc . . . all that and those that part of the town and lands of Upper and Lower Kirrygalt, which Kirrygalt is commonly called and known by the name of Shelfield, as the same were then meared and bounded & in the possession of the s<sup>d</sup> Hugh Wray, situate lying & being in the Parish Augherish in the B. of Kilmacrennan, and Co of Donegal, together with all & singular s<sup>d</sup> demised premises etc . . . To hold etc . . . unto Hugh Wray etc . . . during the

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life and lives of our Sov<sup>e</sup> Lord George the third, Charlotte his Royal consort and George Prince of Wales . . . yielding and yearly & every year . . . to the s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray . . . the yearly sum of £70 sterling payable half yearly, clear rent . . . quit rent and browne rent only excepted.

Signed Hugh Wray  
in the presence of Jackson Wray Jun<sup>r</sup> of Colliers Hall Esq and John Magawley of Ballycastle both in the Co. of Antrim.'

In another lease dated two years later, 1777, Hugh Wray is still styled as of 'Shelfield', but by this lease he parted with his interest in the property to James Miller of the City of Londonderry, merchant, 'together with the locks, grates, racks, mangers, a copper Brewing pan, a Keive, a large Pott sett in the Brew House and all other fixtures.' (Registry of Deeds, Book 324, p. 230.)

Hugh Wray now appears to have established himself permanently in the King's County, where he and his wife must have already spent part of their time, as they had a large family of children, three of whom are known to have been born in the King's County. The eldest son named Jackson was born in 1769 in the King's County (*Alumni Dublinenses*). Hugh Boyd came next, date and place of birth not stated; he was followed by Robert and Henry who were born in the King's County in 1773 and 1776 respectively. There were also four daughters for whom no dates are given; they were named Jane, Anne, Angel, and Anna Maria.

Three of these sons were educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and during these early years Hugh Wray was also able to advance money to his soldier brother, William, as acknowledged in a deed drawn up between him and his father in 1792. (Land Commission Office, Belfast.)

13th January 1792.

Where as the said Jackson Wray the Elder has on the day of the date of the above written Obligation and prior to the Execution hereof well and truly paid to the said Hugh Wray the sum of £1500 Irish Currency as & for the portion he might hereafter expect from his Father the s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray the elder, but such sum of £1500 was paid to him the s<sup>d</sup> Hugh Wray upon his entering into and giving his Father the s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray his Bond or

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Obligation that he would pay him the Annuity herein after mentioned, and that he would accept & take the same sum of £1500 as & for & in full Discharge of all sum or sums of money or other part or parts of the Estate and Effects of his Father the s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray (unless by him particularly devised and given to him) and would also take the same in full discharge of any sum or sums of money William Wray his late Brother at the time of his death owed or stood Indebted to him in any manner whatsoever. . . .

Now the condition of the above written obligation is such that if the above bounden Hugh Wray shall . . . pay Annuity of £42 'lawful money of Great Britain' half yearly 1<sup>st</sup> May 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. for the life of Jackson Wray the elder over & above taxes etc. . . .

And also if the s<sup>d</sup> Hugh Wray . . . shall . . . after the death of the s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray the Elder take & consider the s<sup>d</sup> £1500 so paid to him as and for a Child's portion and in full discharge of all and every Claim or Demand he may hereafter have or claim as one of the sons or children of the s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray . . . his estate and effects . . . etc etc

Signed

*Hugh [Seal] Wray*

In presence of

Jackson Wray of Bentfield

Jackson Wray of the City of Dublin

'The Cottage' still stands about half a mile outside the town of Birr, earlier known as Parsonstown in the King's County.

In 1801 Hugh Wray died, in the fifty-sixth year of his age. The only entry in the registers of the parish church at Birr is in the Burial Book: 'Buried Captain Wray June 11, 1801.' There is no memorial tablet within the church, and I failed to find the name of Wray on any tombstone in the old graveyard.

An abstract of Hugh Wray's prerogative will is preserved in the Office of Arms, Dublin:

'Hugh Wray of Birr, Kings Co.

Wife Mary alias Armstrong

Eldest Son Jackson Wray

. . . daughter Jane Adams

Wife exec.

Witnesses Eliza Ryan

H. Palmer

Alice Armstrong.

Dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 1796.

Proved 26<sup>th</sup> June 1801.'

#### HUGH WRAY AND MARY HIS WIFE

So ends all that I know of Hugh Wray. His branch had become completely separated from the rest of the family in latter years, and I never remember hearing my mother or aunts mention any of this family. It was not until 1935 that, in Dublin, I met Miss Louisa Sibthorpe, great-grand-daughter of Hugh Wray's eldest son, who told me a certain amount about the family, as did also my mother's cousin, Miss Saida Atkinson. Both these old ladies had lived most of their long lives in Dublin and remembered some of Hugh Wray's grandchildren who had also lived in Dublin. But before I piece together any of their recollections with such facts as I gathered from Army lists, T.C.D. records, Burke's *Landed Gentry*, wills, and tombstones, I must record so much as is known of Hugh Wray's four sons and four daughters. Even their names came from a variety of sources, as there was no complete list of them, and I had some difficulty at first in unravelling the generations owing to the repetition of Christian names.

According to *Alumni Dublinenses*, Jackson 'son of Hugh Wray generosus, born in the Kings Co, entered T.C.D. on the 29 Dec. 1789 aged twenty'. There is no mention of his having graduated.

In the latter years of the eighteenth century when England was at war with France and Spain a landing in Ireland by the French was threatened and the Militia Regiments were embodied. Jackson Wray's name appears in the list of officers of the Royal Meath Regiment. His Commission as Lieutenant was dated 18 November 1796, as Captain 19 June 1798, and as Major 28 September 1811. The Militia was maintained throughout the Napoleonic Wars, and Jackson Wray's name is found in the list up to the time that the Regiments were disembodied on the 19th of March 1816.

In 1791 Jackson Wray married, marriage licence dated 21 March 1791: 'Jackson Wray of the City of Dublin Esq. and Dorothea Adams of St. Mary's Parish in the City of Dublin, spinster.'

A lease dated 27 November 1802 gives what little is known of Dorothea.

#### AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

'Jackson Wray of the City of Dublin Esq and Dorothy Wray, otherwise Adams, his wife, one of the younger children of William Adams formerly of Hoathstown in the County of Meath Esq, by Maria Adams otherwise Reilly his wife . . .'

This connexion with County Meath explains Jackson's serving in the Meath Militia.

Jackson Wray, like his father, had a family of eight children, a list of whom is found in the return of the Census taken in 1821 and of which a record was preserved in the Office of Arms, Dublin. The home of the family is given as Rathbeg in the parish of Kilcoleman, King's County, and the name and age of each member is also stated. Thus in 1821 Jackson Wray was aged 50 and 'Dolly Wray' his wife was 45. The sons and daughters follow according to seniority.

Hugh Boyd Wray	aged 25	(half-pay officer)
William Wray	" 20	
Dolly Wray	" 19	
Jane Wray	" 18	
Jackson Wray	" 17	
Margaret Wray	" 16	
Robert Wray	" 11	
Henry Wray	" 10	

I found nothing more about Jackson or his wife, until a reference in the will of his brother Hugh Boyd Wray showed him as living in Canada in 1831, where it must be presumed he ended his days.

The four daughters of Hugh Wray all married. Of the first two we know only the surnames of their husbands. Jane married Adams, as shown by her father's will, and it may be noted that Adams was the maiden name of her brother Jackson's wife. Anne married Richardson; this fact we know only from her brother Hugh Boyd Wray's will, which also shows that she was living at Rathbeg in 1831.

Angel married Thomas a younger son of Sir Thomas Dancer, Bart., of Modreeny, Tipperary (creation 1662). Her marriage licence was dated 1802.

#### HUGH WRAY AND MARY HIS WIFE

Anna Maria married Thomas Prior (see Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 1912 ed., under Prior-Wandesforde).

Thomas Prior was born in 1767, entered T.C.D. 1784, Fellow in 1791, became Regius Professor of Greek, and in 1840 Vice-Provost. In 1843 he died (*Alumni Dublinenses*). Angel Dancer and Anna Maria Prior both left several children who have descendants.

Hugh Wray's two younger sons Robert and Henry entered T.C.D. Robert is stated to have been born in the King's County in 1773, entered College in June 1790, and graduated in the spring of 1795. Of Robert I know nothing more.

Henry the youngest son must have been a promising youth for he entered T.C.D. in October 1790, aged only 14; thus within a few months he joined his brother who was three years his senior, and eventually took his degree in the same term as Robert. Henry became Fellow in 1800, D.D. in 1813, Archbishop King's Lecturer 1832, Regius Professor of Greek 1838, Professor of Civil and Canon Law 1841, and in 1843 he succeeded his brother-in-law Thomas Prior as Vice-Provost. Henry Wray died on the 4th of November 1847 (*Alumni Dublinenses*). The Dublin University Calendar records under 'prizes in Mental and Moral Science' the founding of the 'Wray prize'. 'A sum of £500 was given in 1848 by Mrs. Catherine Wray, widow of the late Rev. Henry Wray D.D. Vice-Provost and senior Fellow of Trinity College to found a prize for the encouragement of metaphysical Studies among undergraduates of the University of Dublin.'

As far as is known Henry Wray left no children, and his wife's maiden name is not mentioned.

According to Pettigrew and Oulton's *Dublin Directory*, 1842, the Rev. Henry Wray, D.D., lived at 4 Merrion Square North, and up to 1855 Mrs. Wray was still living there.

As I have said the repetition of identical christian names in successive generations may become very confusing. For a long time I did not know that Hugh Wray had a son named Hugh Boyd, nor did Miss Sibthorpe know it when she told me about the family. Miss Sibthorpe and Miss

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Atkinson both spoke only of Hugh Boyd Wray son of Jackson Wray. Yet in the Army List I found two men named Hugh Boyd Wray in different regiments, and then realized the impossibility of some of the dates attributed to Hugh Boyd son of Jackson. Hugh Boyd Wray was gazetted Ensign in the Meath Militia Regiment of which Jackson was then Major. (List of Militia, Ireland, War Office Library.) But his Commission was dated 1797 and Jackson's son was only born in 1796. Furthermore in the Public Record Office, London, I found in successive Army Lists Hugh Boyd Wray's name as paymaster in the 30th Regiment of Foot from August 1806 to 1818. And in Dalton's *Waterloo Roll Call* his name appears as receiving the Waterloo Medal.

It was however Hugh Boyd Wray's will which proved him beyond all doubt to be a son of Hugh Wray. This will is preserved in Somerset House. (15 Tebbs 1793.) The following brief extracts tell all that remains to be known of his latter days and private life:

'Last will and testament of Hugh Boyd Wray of the 30th Regiment of Foot, Paymaster . . .

'To daughter Mary Boyd living in East Indies, Madras Presidency £450, when she attains age of 17 years.

'To son Robert Boyd living in Madras Presidency when he attains age of seventeen £50.

'To Christiana a native of India and the mother of said Mary and Robert all interest in my house at Scanderabad in the Nizam's Territory.

'I will to my brother Jackson Wray . . . residing in Upper Canada £150.

'To my sister Anne Richardson residing at Rathbeg near Birr £100.

'To my sister Angel Dancer residing at Hilton near Clough-jordan £150.

'Residuary Legatees Jackson Wray and Angel Dancer, share and share alike.

'To my nephew Hugh Boyd Wray of Maryborough £50.

Signed H. B. Wray 30th Regt  
Rathbeg 27 Sept 1831.

Proved in London 22nd December 1831.'

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I now turn to the next generation in the children of Colonel Jackson Wray and his wife Dorothea Adams of whom we have the list in the 1821 Census return.

Of William born 1801 and of Henry born 1811 I know nothing more. Of Jane born 1803 I only know that her husband's name was Armstrong. Maria, called Dolly, born in 1802, married David Richardson-Goodlatte; she had one child Dorothea, and died while the child was still very young. Dorothea married Charles Sibthorpe and had two children, a son who was a great traveller and died unmarried, and a daughter Louisa who was living, also unmarried, in her very comfortable and well-appointed house in Dublin, where I visited her in 1935 when she recounted to me her recollections of her mother's family. Miss Sibthorpe said that her grandmother's sister Margaret Wray went to Canada and married a man called Rea. She told me that her grandmother's brother Robert also went to Canada, married, and had two sons and one daughter named Maria. Miss Sibthorpe thought he went to Canada in about 1860; she knew that in 1873 he lived in Richmond, Quebec, and in 1882 in Mansfield Street, Montreal. Robert was born in 1810 so at that time would have been 72. According to Pettigrew and Oulton's *Dublin Directory* 'Robert Wray, Land Agent' lived at 1 Leeson Street Upper in 1842, and at 46 Eccles Street in 1843. This might have been either the above Robert son of Jackson, or his uncle Robert son of Hugh.

Jackson Wray's son Jackson is said in the Census to have been aged 17 in 1821, but in *Alumni Dublinenses* his age is given as 18 when he entered T.C.D. on 22 January 1821. In this case he and his sister Jane must, I think, have been twins. He was born in the King's County: his father Jackson is described as 'Agricola' — a farmer. Jackson, the younger, was a scholar in 1823 and graduated in 1826. As far as I know Jackson Wray did not marry. He took Holy Orders, became Precentor of Kilfenora in the diocese of Killaloe, Kilfenora, and Clonfert on 11 March 1835, and in 1855 Jackson Wray died. (See Boase, *Modern English Biography*, Supplement 3, p. 959.)

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Of Colonel Jackson Wray's sons there now remains only the eldest, Hugh Boyd Wray, who, in the Census return of 1821, is described as 'aged 25, an officer on half pay'.

In 1823 Hugh Boyd Wray married Anne daughter of Francis Biddulph of Mount Oliver, Queen's County. (Ossory Marriage Licence Bonds.)

It was on the 23rd of January 1811 that Hugh Boyd was gazetted Ensign in the 40th Regiment, and Lieutenant on the 10th of September 1812. He did not rise above that rank though he served in the Peninsula and at Waterloo. He retired on half pay 25 March 1817. His name appears in Dalton's *Waterloo Roll Call* among those who received that medal. Upon his tombstone are the three words: Vittoria—Pyrenées—Waterloo.

Miss Sibthorpe remembered hearing that Hugh Boyd Wray served as Chief Constable for the King's County, and she had seen his truncheon. Both Miss Sibthorpe and Miss Atkinson said that he had lived at Wraymount near Birr. In later years Hugh Wray and his wife had a house in Waterloo Road, Dublin. They had only one child, a son, named Jackson, who entered the Army as an Ensign in the 88th Regiment, the Connaught Rangers, in 1847. He served with that Regiment on the West Indian and North American stations. Jackson Wray then returned to Ireland and it was from his father's house in Dublin that he set out on his last campaign.

Miss Atkinson had many childhood recollections of him. Her father's house faced the Wrays' house in Waterloo Road. Saida Atkinson was then a very little girl and Captain Wray used to try and kiss her, but to this the child would never consent; even when the time came that he was going away to the Crimea she still refused. Her nurse told her this was very wrong, as perhaps she might never see Captain Wray again and then she would be sorry. So little Saida agreed and was carried across the street on her nurse's back, who explained that Miss Saida had come 'to say goodbye properly'. The Wrays were at dinner and Captain Wray exclaimed, 'How can I kiss you with my mouth full of celery!'

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so the child waited and in due time was embraced by the big soldier whom she was never to see again.

The Regiment was lying at Preston and was to embark from Liverpool, 'where they arrived by special train at Tithebarn-street Station and were received with most vociferous cheers by thousands of spectators. Having formed into marching order the band struck up "Patrick's Day" which was the signal for a tremendous cheer by the entire regiment. . . . The march was then resumed to the landing stage where the Cunard steam-tenders were in attendance to convey them to the *Niagara* lying at her moorings in the Sloyne.' So said an account from an old newspaper cutting which went on to describe many more cheerings and waving of handkerchiefs. One letter from Jackson Wray to his father has also been preserved. It is dated from Liverpool, Angel Hotel, 4 April 1854, and reads:

My dearest Father,

We arrived here all safe today. I have got a few hours leave to come ashore, so came to our last dining place. I found my luggage all here except my Portmanteau, but Elliott says it will turn up all right, let me know when you write as I cannot now look after it. I send you a Liverpool Paper also one to M<sup>r</sup> Henry to show you the reception we met with. I wish I could see one myself but it is not printed in time. You must excuse great haste in this epistle, but I will write the *first* and *every* opportunity. I got your letter this morning through Charles Sibthorpe's friend. Now with best love to my dearest Mother Believe me as ever

Your devotedly atta<sup>ed</sup> son J. Wray.  
Best love to dear Francis.

The remainder of Jackson's story is told in another newspaper cutting which followed a letter dated fourteen months after the Regiment's departure. This letter came from the War Department dated 12 June 1855:

Sir,

It is with much regret I have to announce to you, that by a Telegraphic Message from Lord Raglan, I have received the intelligence of the death of Captain J. Wray, 88<sup>th</sup> Foot, who fell

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before Sebastopol, on the 7th or 8th instant while engaged in taking an advanced work from the enemy.

I have the honour to be Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Panmure.

Lord Panmure was War Secretary 1855-8.

The newspaper cutting comes evidently from an Armagh journal, but the account given is quoted from the *Daily Express*. The following are extracts from a full-length column. Though told in more flowery language according to the custom of that day, many of us recognize the story as the same that we have read again and again throughout each succeeding war during the years since the Crimean campaign. It is no harm to tell it here 'lest we forget' those long-ago battles and their personal price, in our natural preoccupation with the much greater wars of our own immediate days.

"The thrill of exultation with which the country received the intelligence of the brilliant advance of the 8th inst. has passed away. That swift messenger of doom—the electric telegraph, recording even on the track of triumph the fearful cost at which it was achieved has been quietly doing its work, and in many a cottage and many a stately hall Old England mourns her gallant dead. . . . Foremost in that morning's terrific struggle was an Irish regiment whose name and story are household words in many lands; for wherever throbs an heroic heart, the chivalrous daring and devotion of the Connaught Rangers must ever evoke strains of the loftiest admiration. . . .

"On the morning of the 8th that splendid Corps was true to its well-won renown, and many a Ranger "sleeps the sleep that knows no waking" on that rocky ridge before Sebastopol. . . .

"Their fame will be the theme of loftier pens than mine "yet one I would select from that proud throng," partly because memory holds him fondly cherished within those magic folds which so faithfully preserve the recollections of boyhood . . . now hallowed by the reminiscences of his stainless career and glorious death. . . . And partly that the memory of a soldier . . . and one who has sealed with his blood his devotion to his country, becomes the property of that country. . . . Since the commencement of that tremendous siege, now the object of the world's attention, no nobler breast was pierced, no truer Irish heart ceased to throb, than that of Jackson Wray. . . . This is

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not the partial judgement of a sorrowing friend; it is the conviction of all who knew him—a conviction founded on his character and conduct at all times and on all occasions. Of that character and of that conduct truth was the ground and basis, and round it were grouped all the sentiments and feelings that enoble man and endear him to his fellows. . . .

The account continues to tell of the changeless fidelity, the fearless heart, and the gentle kindness of Captain Wray, and gives several little instances of his care for his Rangers and of their devotion to him. In recording his service and the departure from Liverpool it says:

'and he was never after absent for one day from the regiment sharing with it in all the horrors of the plague-smitten camp near Varna, as well as in all the triumphs of the Crimean Campaign including the battles of Alma and Inkerman. But it was during the intense sufferings of last Winter, ever on picket or advanced trench duty, that the unflinching fortitude of his spirit developed. . . . That dreary frightful winter in which the Rangers, officers and men, endured hardships and privations equal to, if not exceeding those suffered by the Swedes under Charles XII. . . . The article concludes with the words 'power could confer no higher honour than he deserves who so gloriously rests in his Ranger's grave before Sebastopol'.

So ended the male line of Hugh Wray's descendants in Ireland.

Jackson's mother died on the 29th of November 1872, and his father died three months later on the 23rd of February 1873.

They were buried in the same grave in Dean's Grange Cemetery near Monkstown, Co. Dublin. And upon their flat tombstone of grey granite is carved a second inscription which is headed:

Alma.      Inkerman.      Sebastopol.

Sacred to the memory of  
Jackson Wray Captain 88th Regiment  
The only son of Captain Hugh Boyd Wray  
and Anne Wray  
who fell before Sebastopol on the  
7th of June 1855  
Juste et Vray

## XXIX

### JACKSON WRAY OF BENTFIELD, HIS WIFE JANE McDANIEL, AND THEIR CHILDREN

JACKSON WRAY the third son of Jackson and Leonora was born at Shellfield on the 19th of July 1747. His god-parents were 'Aunt Alick Boyd, Sister Angel, Dick Jackson of Dublin and Brother Harry'. Aunt Alick Boyd was wife of Alexander Boyd of Clare. Sister Angel was Angel Wray as yet unmarried. Dick Jackson of Dublin was first cousin to both Leonora and to Jackson Wray. Brother Harry was Henry Wray who lived in Dublin.

The next event in young Jackson Wray's life to be recorded is his marriage which took place before he was 21.

By the second codicil to Colonel Hugh Boyd's will he left a tenth share in the Glass House and in the lands of Bonamargy to his grandson Jackson Wray, and on the 15th of January 1767 Jackson Wray the elder and Alexander Boyd signed an agreement whereby they covenanted that

'in consideration of an annuity of £45 sterling the sd tenth part of the issues and profits of the said glass house and parcel of land . . . shall . . . belong unto the sd Alexander Boyd . . . and Alexander Boyd doth covenant . . . to pay unto Jackson Wray the younger the sd annuity of forty three pounds sterling. . . .

Signed      Alexr Boyd seal  
                 Jackson Wray seal'

On this meagre provision young Jackson Wray apparently started life in Dublin. He is described as 'merchant' in his marriage licence, which is quoted in the Index of Dublin Marriage Licences:

'Licence directed to the Minister of the Parish of St Mary for Jackson Wray of the City of Dublin, merchant, to marry Jane McDaniel of the said city, spinster, 10 June 1767.'

The other side of the story is that Jane McDaniel, who must have been nearly ten years her husband's senior, was heiress to the property of Ballylough and Bellisle in County

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Antrim, but her rights were being contested under her father's will.

Mystery shrouds the married life of Jane's mother, Sarah Ann Stewart, but the fact emerges that her marriage was an unhappy one, and that it came to an end, by what means is not recorded, nor is the date at which the marriage took place known for certain.

Most of what I know comes through old letters and family traditions handed down through the Stewarts of Ballyhivistock, Co. Antrim, and I can only give the story for what it is worth as it came to me. I also give abstracts of some deeds found in the Registry of Deeds, Dublin, and these, to some extent, confirm tradition.

The Stewarts of Ballyhivistock bear the arms of the Earl of Galloway, and their pedigree is given in *Three Hundred Years in Inishowen* by Mrs. Amy Younge of Culdaff, herself a daughter of William Stewart of Ballyhivistock. In about the year 1700 Henry Stewart married Jane Irwin. It is said that she bore him twenty-one children. Their son Irwin Stewart married Elizabeth McDonnell in 1736, and direct descendants of this marriage have been in possession of Ballyhivistock ever since. Irwin Stewart's youngest sister Sarah Ann married Charles McDaniel, who was brother to Elizabeth McDonnell, Irwin's wife.

The story of this family of McDonnells is told thus: There was a certain Captain James Stewart (no relation to the Ballyhivistock Stewarts) who had served with distinction in the German wars, and was in command of the Guard at Dublin Castle when the then Lord Antrim was held a prisoner there, attainted for High Treason and about to be tried for the offence. Lord Antrim appealed to Captain Stewart to allow him his liberty for four hours to enable him to communicate with some important witnesses. The captive Earl gave his word as a nobleman and a gentleman that he would return within the specified time and Captain Stewart acceded to his request. Lord Antrim fulfilled his pledge having meantime secured the necessary witnesses for his defence and thereby proved his innocence and was acquitted. This incident created a lasting friendship between

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Captain Stewart and Lord Antrim who eventually persuaded his sometime gaoler to purchase an estate in the County Antrim and thus become his neighbour.

Captain Stewart never married, but his sister Elizabeth married a cousin of Lord Antrim's named McDonnell by whom she had two sons, James and Charles, and a daughter named Elizabeth. Her eldest son James 'acquired reckless habits' considered due to his companionship with the young Lord Antrim who had by this time succeeded the friend of his uncle. Young James was disinherited by Captain Stewart, who then made Elizabeth's second son, Charles, his heir on condition that he changed his name to McDaniel in order to sever all connexion with the doubtful influence of Lord Antrim.

Elizabeth McDonnell's daughter Elizabeth married Irwin Stewart on the 6th of December 1736, and at what can have been no distant date her brother Charles McDaniel married Irwin's youngest sister Sarah Ann Stewart. Charles McDaniel duly inherited his uncle's property of Ballylough and Bellisle. But before long Charles McDaniel left his wife, or she left him; she then went to Dublin and lived there with her baby girl, Jane.

On the 4th of August 1738 Charles McDaniel married again, Maria Hill, widow of the Rev. Thomas Hill. In 1745 Charles McDaniel was High Sheriff for the County Antrim. His address was then given as Clogher.

Charles McDaniel's will dated the 15th of June 1763, propounded by Charles Hill, son of Maria Hill, was contested by Sarah Ann McDaniel and was 'not proved'.

I am indebted for the following abstract of a Chancery Bill to Mr. Edward Stewart Gray:

#### Chancery Bill, Charles Hill *v.* Alex<sup>r</sup> Legg 21 June 1766

Charles Hill of Coleraine Co Londonderry gent, says that Charles McDaniel, late of Bellisle, Co Antrim Esq, in June 1763 made his will and devised all his estate to your suppliant in trust to pay yearly to Jane McDaniel and Sarah Ann Stewart her mother, then of the City of Dublin, £60-0-0 and after the death of Mary McDaniel his wife that then his estates should be the joint property of suppliant and his sister Alice Hill. . . . After

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the death of said Charles McDaniel Jane McDaniel claimed to be his heir and took forcible possession of his estates and Sarah Anne Stewart by virtue of a pretended marriage between her and the said Charles brought a writ of dower. . . . Charles McDaniel in 1764 entered into a treaty with Alexander Legg of Malone in said Co Antrim Esq to sell him some part of said lands. . . .

21 June 1766

In the Burial Register of St. Mary's Church, Dublin, there is an entry '15 Jan 1766 Mrs McDaniel, Drumcondra Lane'. Whether this was Sarah Anne or not I cannot say, but McDaniel was not a common name, and the entry is made in exactly the same way as that of Mrs. Wray, Mrs. Dunkin, and Mrs. Brooke in this register.

Miss Isabella Stewart of Ballyhivistock allowed me to copy a letter addressed to her mother, Mrs. Stewart, by my aunt, Frances Wray, dated 8 November 1905, in which she says:

'I wrote to Aunt Juliet asking if she could tell anything of the old people you asked about, but she says she only knows that her grandmother was a Miss McDonnell who had an estate in Antrim and was a relation of Lord Antrim and that she married a Wray and was "made to sign away her estate to a Mr. Legg." It sounds a queer story but I give it to you as she tells it to me. Aunt Juliet also says her grandmother had a fan which "her cousin" Lord Antrim gave her as a wedding present.'

Mrs. Stewart wrote in reply to Frances Wray:

'Aunt Juliet is quite right that the old property is now in possession of the Legge family, though we did not know how it happened till I found that there was a Law suit after Charles McDaniel's death and that Jackson Wray who married Jane McDaniel (marriage licence bond dated 1767) was "heir-at-law in right of his wife" to Charles McDaniel's estate. I have not yet seen the particulars of this lawsuit, but I know it is in the Public Record Office, Dublin, because the clerk told me it was there.'

That letter was written in 1905, and of course the documents alluded to have since perished.

In another Stewart letter there is an allusion to 'a siege of Belleisle when a Wray carried off a Mrs Hill. I believe she was Charles McDaniel's widow, he left her his property

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but Jackson Wray disputed the will and I suppose *made* her get out of Belleisle.' This ends the letters and the traditions as far as I know them, and I now give abstracts of two deeds which I copied in the Registry of Deeds, Dublin. They show conclusively that Jackson and Jane owned the Bellisle property and sold it and were paid £7,705 for it, under what conditions of duresse or otherwise I cannot tell.

'Memorial of Deed dated 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1769 between Jackson Wray the younger of Ballycastle in Co of Antrim Esq and Jane Wray otherwise McDaniell his wife of the one part and Wentworth Thewles of the City of Dublin Esq of the other part, whereby after reciting that s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray and Jane Wray his wife did as of Hilary Term 1769 levy-affim'— sur cognizance De Deo it Cum Gio and so forth unto s<sup>d</sup> Wentworth Thewles & his heirs the several towns & lands following . . . Bellisle . . . Ballyweany . . . Maghreheny . . . Duneyvernan . . . Balliness . . . Sheans . . . Shelton . . . Alldaragh all situate in Co. of Antrim for the consideration of a sparrow hawk with intent to enable s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray and his wife to settle . . . s<sup>d</sup> Lands in manner in s<sup>d</sup> indenture ment . . . and s<sup>d</sup> Indenture witnesseth that s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray shall have full power and authority to grant . . . sell . . . release all or any part . . . of the . . . lands . . .

Signed Jackson Wray. Jun<sup>r</sup> seal  
Jane Wray seal

Witnesses J<sup>no</sup> Magawley of Ballycastle  
Chs Dowglass of Antrim  
Joseph Donnelly City of Dublin'

(Registry of Deeds—Book 273, p. 667.)

For the second deed see Book 287, p. 189:

'A memorial of deeds of Lease and release bearing date respectively the nineteenth and twentieth days of May 1771 between Jackson Wray the Jun<sup>r</sup> of Bellisle in the County of Antrim Esq, and Jane Wray otherwise McDaniell his wife of the one part and Alex<sup>r</sup> Legge of Malone in the s<sup>d</sup> Co of Antrim Esqr of the other part, the said deed of release witnessed that the s<sup>d</sup> Jackson Wray and Jane Wray his wife in consideration of the sum of seven thousand seven hundred and five pounds sterling to them in hand paid by the s<sup>d</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Legge did grant bargain sell . . . unto the s<sup>d</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Legge all that and those lands of Bellisle otherwise Inchgrane . . . reputed to contain two quarters Lands . . . Ballyweany

JACKSON WRAY OF BENTFIELD, HIS WIFE

... Magherahony ... Duneyvernon ... Ballyness ... Sheans ...  
Shelton ... Aldaragh in the Barony of Dunluce and Co of  
Antrim.

Signed Jackson Wray Jun<sup>r</sup>  
Witnesses John Smythe Robert Blakeney

From allusions that I came across in various letters from my grandfather and others it was evident that great soreness over these transactions remained throughout several generations.

Up to the year 1771 Jackson and Jane Wray had no child but on the 27th of September in that year their eldest son was born in Dublin and was named Jackson.

His godparents were 'Jackson Wray Esq, Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr Atkinson—Godfathers, and Grandmother Boyd, Godmother'.

Six weeks after the birth of this child Jackson Wray apparently severed his connexion with Dublin and with whatever merchant business he owned there, for a deed dated 13 November 1771 is registered (Book 285, p. 386), whereby Jackson Wray 'granted to John Stronge all those tenements, warehouses, gardens etc within the town of Lush in the barony of Nethercross Co Dublin', which Jackson Wray held under lease from the Archbishop of Dublin.

Jackson and Jane then returned to County Antrim and took up their abode at Colliers Hall, a house two or three miles outside the town of Ballycastle.

In 1772 a second son was born at Colliers Hall. He was named Henry and his godparents were

'Richard Jackson Esq, Forkhill  
Alder<sup>r</sup> Pat Boyd, Dublin  
M<sup>r</sup> Barton of Lisburn and  
Mother Wray'

On the 22nd of August 1774 the first daughter was born at Colliers Hall. She was named Sarah Anne and her godparents were John Downing, Esq., of Rowersgift, Bro. William Wray, Mrs. McDonald, Dublin, and Mrs. Barry of Ballycastle.

There is no further record of Sarah Anne except a note

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in my grandmother's little book added to the list of children which says, 'Died at Bentfield March 30<sup>th</sup> 1791'.

Another daughter, Jane, was born at Colliers Hall in 1776. Her godparents were Henry Brooke, Esq., Bro. Hugh Wray, Mrs. Jackson, Forkhill, and Mrs. Cuff of Dublin.

About this time the Wray family moved again and went to live at Bentfield, the house on the townland of Dowey that stood half-way between the market town of Bushmills and the Giant's Causeway. It is shown on Taylor and Skinner's maps, pub. 1778, and marked 'Wray Esq. Dowey'.

In the *Post Chaise Companion*, pub. 1786, Dowey is given as 'the seat of M<sup>r</sup> Wray 1½ miles beyond Bushmills' and the book adds 'about 1½ miles from Doway on the left is the Giant's Causeway'.

There is a stretch of sandhills here along the northern coast of County Antrim, bordered by many beautiful little bays and coves with sandy shores that have been the delight of successive generations of children. But there are also very fierce and rugged rocks and steep walls of cliff that must have been the terror of all mariners and fishermen throughout our island's history.

Bentfield stood high above the sandhills where the rough grass, known as bent, grows over the sand. Inland from the sandhills lay large fields of good and fertile land. From the house there must have been a beautiful view. Away to the west lies the headland of Portrush and the distant coast of Inishowen, with the headland of the Causeway to the east framing the wide ocean that stretches up towards the North Pole.

Many years before ever I saw County Antrim there was nothing left of Bentfield House, just a levelled space in the centre of a ploughed field, a few heaps of grey stones with here and there some fragments of wall still standing.

But to return to the eighteenth century, it was on the 2nd of November 1778 that the third of Jane's daughters was born. Her name was called Leonora and her birthplace is given as Bentfield. Her sponsors were 'Brother Henry Wray, Mother Wray and M<sup>a</sup> Dan Boyd'. Mrs. Dan Boyd was wife of Daniel Boyd, son of William Boyd.

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Four years later the youngest child William was born at Bentfield on the 7th of July 1782. His sponsors were 'R<sup>t</sup> Hon Rich: Jackson, Sister Atkinson, and Brother W<sup>m</sup>'. All that we know of him is told in a letter written sixty-four years later by his daughter Elizabeth Wray dated 5 December 1846. This letter which announced his death came from Jamaica and was addressed to William's sister, Miss Jane Wray at Blackrock. It alluded to 'his children' but gives no names beyond the signature of Elizabeth. She speaks of 'his business' and also, very sadly, of his 'impoverished condition' and of his suffering in his illness. I am afraid William must have been somewhat of a black sheep in the family, as Elizabeth tells how her father had been 'much gratified' by the letter his sister had written him which 'he said he did not deserve'. Yet Elizabeth spoke of him as a 'most excellent parent'.

On the Roll of Freemen of Coleraine the name of Jackson Wray, junr., appears dated 9 May 1781, and again he appears as Alderman 19 August 1784; in the list his residence is given as Bentfield. At about this period Jackson Wray was land agent to Lord MacCartney, and also to his two cousins Richard Jackson of Forkhill, and Richard Jackson of Jackson Hall, Coleraine. The latter was M.P. for Coleraine, and Agent-General to the Honorable the Irish Society and also the Receiver of their rents in Ireland.

The death of the Right Hon. Richard Jackson was announced to the Society by Jackson Wray in a letter dated from Jackson Hall on 31 October 1789. A month later the Secretary of the Court of the Society reported having received a memorial from Jackson Wray offering himself as candidate for the office of General Agent and Receiver of the Society's rents in Ireland. On the 11th and again on the 17th of December in the same year Jackson Wray attended the Court in London and presented a letter from Lord MacCartney in his favour. But when the ballot was taken John Claudius Beresford was elected by a substantial majority over both John Conningham and Jackson Wray. (See Records at the Society's Office, Guildhall, London.)

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As already recorded in a foregoing Chapter Jackson Wray the elder executed a bond with his son Jackson, in the City of Bath on the 2nd of December 1791:

'Jackson Wray the Elder having paid to Jackson Wray the younger the sum of £1500 Irish Currency . . . Jackson Wray the younger agreed . . . he would take the same as his inheritance . . . and in full discharge of any sums of monies . . . William Wray, his late brother, at the time of his death, owed to him . . . Jackson Wray, the younger, further agreed to pay an annuity to his Father of £42 . . . Signed Jackson Wray Jun<sup>r</sup>.

J. W. (seal)

in the presence of Hen Wray, Robert Clarke of Bath, attorney, and Samuel Ewing, clerk to R. Clarke.'

(Preserved with other Wray Estate Title deeds in the Land Commission Office, Belfast.)

In 1794 Jackson Wray executed the last lease of which we have any record; it is also the first upon which his signature is not followed by the designation 'Jun<sup>r</sup>', or 'the younger', which suggests that by this time his father Jackson Wray of Ballycastle was dead.

The lease was drawn on the 11th of March 1794 between

'Daniel McKinley of Ballytaylor in the Parish of Billy, Barony of Carey and Co. of Antrim, Farmer, of the one part and Jackson Wray of Bentfield in the parish, barony and county aforesaid, Esqr. of the other part . . . Daniel McKinley doth demise grant, etc. . . . unto Jackson Wray . . . all that Farm in Ballytaylor aforesaid . . . bounded on the north and east by Dowey . . . with all rights . . . thereunto belonging . . . excepting . . . all that is excepted . . . for the Head Landlord (now the Rev<sup>d</sup> David Dunkin of Clogher) to have and to hold . . . for the space of 42 years . . .

Signed Daniel McKinley  
Jackson Wray

in the presence of Patrick W. Ininch  
and Jackson Wray Jun<sup>r</sup>.'

This witness who now takes the place of the Junior is of course Jackson and Jane's son.

One year before the lease with McKinley was concluded Jackson Wray had made his will. Only an abstract survives and that was preserved in the Office of Arms, Dublin:

JACKSON WRAY OF BENTFIELD, HIS WIFE

'Jackson Wray of Bentfield, Co. Antrim. Brothers Hugh Wray of Cottage, King's Co. and Henry Wray of Springfield, Co. Down.  
Wife Jane  
Sons Jackson Wray  
Henry.

Dated 1793  
Proved Nov. 1802.'

The list of interments in the vaults of Ballycastle Church, already quoted, gives the only indication of where Jackson Wray was buried. 'Old M<sup>r</sup> Wray late of Benfield' can have been none other than this second Jackson Wray, who although thus described probably in contradistinction from his son, was not an old man; born in 1747 he was only 55 when he died. But he had assumed the cares and responsibilities of life early, and from the little that we know of his career I think he must have had much disappointment and a constant struggle with small means.

We believe Jane to have been ten years senior to her husband, yet she survived him by at least sixteen years as indicated in the will of their second son Henry, dated 1818, in which he alluded to his mother evidently as being alive. No date is recorded for her death nor is the place of her burial known.

With the loss of Jackson Wray's will has gone the knowledge of how he disposed of his property. But there are indications which I think point to his sons Jackson and Henry having been left as joint-owners of Dowey and of such other lands as he could bequeath, and undoubtedly provision was made for Jane, their mother, during her lifetime.

Dowey was one of the portions of land bought by Colonel Henry Wray from his father Jackson Wray the elder, and then assigned by him to his brother Jackson. After Jackson's death his two sons, Jackson and Henry, appear to have lived together at Bentfield for several years. In Leet's *Directory of Ireland*, 1814, they are entered as 'J. and H. Wray Esqrs, Dowey, Bushmills Co Antrim', and in 1817 both brothers signed the Vestry Book of Billy Parish

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Church. In 1818 Henry's signature appears on these Vestry Minutes.

Jackson Wray succeeded his father as land agent to Lord MacCartney and was also land agent to Dupré Alexander, 2nd Earl of Caledon. Two letters came into my possession signed by 'J. Wray' and dated from Bentfield on the 5th and the 19th of February 1815. They were only business letters but the preservation of a signature gives a degree of individuality to an otherwise obscure member of the family. I also have a silhouette of a man with a narrow head and wearing a lace-frilled shirt front which is marked on the back in my grandmother's handwriting 'Jackson Wray born 1771', and with it is a companion silhouette bearing so many points of similarity that, though no name is inscribed, there can be little doubt that it represented Henry Wray. Two identical memorial brooches have also descended to me; upon the gold back of one is engraved 'H.W. obiit August 1819. Aged 45'. There is no inscription on the second brooch but, again, I have no doubt that the lock of hair in its centre belonged to Jackson Wray, and that both brooches were memorials of the brothers and had belonged to their sister Jane, and were bequeathed by her with the rest of her possessions to my grandfather.

On the 19th of October 1820 J. Wray signed the Vestry Book together with a number of other men from Bushmills when the Vestry Court of the parish of Dunluce decided 'to build a new Church on the Glebe where the ruins of the old Church stand'. The foundation of this church was laid in 1821; it was completed in 1824, and is the church in use at Bushmills to-day and is known as the parish church of Dunluce.

A bond dated 30 October 1822 contains the last record of Jackson Wray. By the bond Jackson Wray was held bound to Dupré, Earl of Caledon, in the sum of £1,126. There was only one witness John Hall, and written across the outside of the document were the words, 'This bond has been settled by Geo. A. Wray Esqr 21st Febry 1825'. 'Cranston and Hall.' Cranston and Hall were solicitors in Ballymoney, Co. Antrim. From this settlement, made

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by his nephew, it may be assumed that Jackson Wray  
was dead.

Henry Wray predeceased his brother Jackson, and beyond the fact that he lived at Bentfield there is little record of his life. Two items in his will however give a slight indication of his tastes. He mentions his 'best fiddle' and his 'gun'. He was evidently a musician and a sportsman who cared about both pursuits.

Among the fishermen at the Giant's Causeway I met an old man who told me his grandfather, Hugh Faul, had been 'Gamekeeper to the gentlemen at Bentfield'.

The family solicitor in Coleraine showed me various old deeds from which I learnt that in 1802 Colonel Henry Wray of Bath bought from McKinley twenty-two acres called Blackrock, Ardihennon, in the barony of Carey and County of Antrim, and in 1803 Colonel Henry Wray conveyed these lands to his nephew Henry Wray.

In the Registry of Deeds (Book 644, p. 148) is a deed dated 8 April 1811 whereby

'Henry Wray of Bentfield . . . did sell . . . for £1000 . . . unto Jane Wray spinster sister of s<sup>d</sup> Henry . . . all that farm of Ardehannon . . . bounded on the west and north by the sea, on the east by the lands of Dan<sup>11</sup> Martin and on the south east by the rivulet running into the sea . . . containing thirty acres . . . situated in the barony of Carey & Co of Antrim . . . to hold forever.

Signed Henry Wray

In the presence of Geo. A. Wray Esq and Leonora Wray his wife . . . residing at Clogher in Co of Antrim.'

And also another deed (Book 728, p. 414) dated 13 April 1818 whereby

'Henry Wray of Bentfield . . . sold . . . unto George Atkinson Wray and Henry Irwin Stewart . . . one undivided moiety of . . . Dowey otherwise Bentfield, Tonduff, Ballyliney . . . also . . . the lands of Carryreagh and Dunseverick with the fishery of Poolmoon all situate in the parish of Billy . . .'

Henry Wray's will is indexed among diocesan wills of the Diocese of Connor (now the diocese of Down, Connor, and

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Dromore), proved in 1819. In the rebuilt Record Office in Dublin there are preserved the remnants of a book of Connor wills, and among them I found Henry Wray's will. The top corner of the binding of the book was burnt away and the edges badly charred. The pages had been written upon on both sides therefore three sections of the will were gone. The beginning read thus:

'The will of  
'Bentfield in the  
'In the name of God  
'of Bentfield in the County  
'of sound mind and memory'

and so on until the page became complete.

'All property of what nature or kind soever it be' is bequeathed to George Atkinson Wray and Henry Irwin Stewart in trust. All debts and funeral expenses to be paid and £300 in legacies, but here again the page was burnt so that these names are lost.

'£250 to my sister Jane, £50 to my brother William, £20 to my brother Jackson.' 'These legacies not to be payable until within three months after my Mother's death.' 'My best Fiddle to Geo A. Wray Junior, my other Fiddle and my gun to whoever my Trustees may think proper' . . . 'All residue to George Atkinson Wray Esqr . . . signed 6 May 1818

Henry Wray

in the presence of us  
Alex<sup>r</sup> Neill, Surgeon'

The other names are burnt away as is also the date at which probate was granted.

In Billy churchyard there is the Wray family vault within the foundation walls of where the old church once stood. This vault has the Wray crest of the ostrich and the date 1819 carved in stone above the doorway. Therefore I assume that George Atkinson Wray built this family burial-place when his cousin Henry died, and that Henry Wray was the first to be buried there. The parish registers were lost in 1922 so no record remains of the names of those buried.

The present church at Billy was erected in 1813. At the

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Easter Vestry in that year it 'was resolved that Mr. Babington (minister) Mr Wray, Dr Anderson and Mr Martin be empowered to contract with builders for the erecting of the new church'. These minutes were signed by Geo. A. Wray. The present church is the third that has stood at Billy. There are ruins in the centre of the graveyard that date from very early christian times, while the church which was demolished when the present one was built lay parallel with the new church but to the south of it on slightly higher ground.

Of Jackson and Jane Wray's daughters the story of Leonora's marriage and family will be found in the three following Chapters, and that of Jane's latter years in Chapter XXXVII. As we have seen Sarah Anne died young.

XXX

ANNE MAGENIS AND JANE ATKINSON  
DAUGHTERS OF JACKSON AND  
LEONORA WRAY

**I**N most generations of the Wray family, daughters largely outnumbered the sons, but of Jackson and Leonora's six children only two were daughters and they came at the beginning of the family. According to my grandmother's list, the eldest was named Anne and she was born 'at Ballycastle ye 4th of Febr 1739', her godparents being 'Mother Boyd and Mrs. Brooke, Father Boyd and Dr. Rose'.

On the 28th of July 1741 a second daughter was born at Ballycastle and named Jane. Her godparents were 'Mother Wray and Mrs. Jane Stuart, Brother McAulay and Brother Brooke'. 'Mother Wray' s name was Jane and 'Brother Brooke' was Basil, who had married Jackson's sister Jane, so this baby was a threefold namesake, whereas Anne was named after 'Mother Boyd'.

Jane was destined to play an important part in her family's history, but of Anne little is known for her life was cut sadly short. Of her early youth I know nothing, and the only personal record I have consists of a pair of miniatures of the two sisters in which they each wore a low-cut white gown and a little white lace cap. Anne's gown and cap were trimmed with pink ribbons, Jane's with blue. These miniatures are set in gold, one as a slide, the other as a clasp, both to be worn on ribbon bracelets. I have another miniature, different in style but set exactly to match Anne's, which shows a handsome young man wearing a green coat with gold braiding and a lace ruffle. My fourth miniature is set to match Jane's and shows an older man in the wig and white bands worn by divines of those days.

In Volume IX of the Parish Register Society of Dublin there is the following entry: 'Parish of St. Peter and St. Kevin. Richard Magines Esq. to Anne Wray Spinster

ANNE MAGENIS

Married by consistory licence by the Rev Mr. Will<sup>m</sup> Boyde, by leave of Dr. Maur A:D:D: Febry 5<sup>th</sup> 1760, while the *Belfast Newsletter* of 12 February 1760 supplies the name of the bride's father in its announcement:

'Dublin. Marriage in Aungier St. Richard Maginnis, High Sheriff of Co: Antrim, to Miss Wray dau: of Jackson Wray Esq.' Burke's *Landed Gentry* (1912 ed.) under Magenis of Finvoy Lodge, Co. Antrim, goes farther and shows that Richard Magenis of Dublin married Alicia, daughter of William Caddell of Downpatrick, Co. Down, that his will was proved in 1757, and that his eldest son was Richard Magenis of Waringstown, Co. Down, High Sheriff for County Antrim in 1760, that on the 5th of February 1760, he married Anne, daughter of Jackson Wray, and that she died in the same year. Also that Richard Magenis married secondly on the 31st of December 1761, Elizabeth, daughter of Captain William Berkeley, by whom he had two sons and five daughters. Their elder son Richard married Lady Elizabeth Anne Cole, daughter of the 1st Earl of Enniskillen, and became M.P. for Enniskillen.

Anne Wray's marriage had taken place four days after her twenty-first birthday. Evidently it was a 'good' marriage with every promise of happiness and prosperity, and Anne's death within the year must have been a deep grief to all connected with her. I think a special shadow must have been cast over her sister's young life.

More than a year passed and then, four months before attaining her twenty-first birthday, Jane was married to a man thirty-four years her senior, Guy Atkinson, D.D.

This marriage has special significance in our history because eventually it was one of Jane's sons who carried on her father Jackson's branch of the Wray family and assumed the name. Therefore I give Guy Atkinson's ancestry in particular detail as traced by his great-grandson Edward Atkinson, Archdeacon of Dromore, who gave me permission to copy from his manuscript notes, which since his death his daughter Mary has allowed me to do.

The first Atkinson of this line known in Ireland is believed to have come from Cumberland during Queen Elizabeth's

reign. He was Lieutenant Anthony Atkinson, who 'for his good services' received a grant from the Crown of the 'Island of Kiltobrit' later known as 'The Castle, towns and lands of Cangort' in the King's County. (Patent issued 12 December 1628). Anthony married Mary daughter of William Bathe, or De Bathe, of an Anglo-Norman family settled in County Meath, by whom he had four sons and six daughters; he died in 1626 and was succeeded by his eldest son William, then aged only 13 years. In course of time William married Anne, daughter of Bartholomew Peisley, Esq., of Punchestown, Co. Kildare. In the struggles between King and Parliament that spread to Ireland, Atkinson ranged himself on the Royalist side and 'held his Castle for the King'. In *Diocese of Killaloe*, Dwyer records that the Cromwellians took and destroyed Cangort Castle. It was subsequently rebuilt, in the style of a Jacobean mansion, though still fortified. When William died he was succeeded by his son Anthony, who on the 15th of September 1657 married, at St. Kevin's Parish Registry, Dublin, Anne, daughter of Sir Robert Newcomen, Bart., of Kenagh, Co. Longford, by his wife Anne Boleyn, described as 'Kinswoman of Queen Elizabeth'. (Burke's *Landed Gentry*.) On this traditional kinship, Edward Atkinson notes that

'Sir William Bullen, K<sup>t</sup>, who died in 1505, married Margaret, daughter and heir of Thomas Earl of Ormond. Their son Thomas, Earl of Ormond was created Earl of Wiltshire, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk. From this marriage sprang Anne Bullen, the ill-fated consort of King Henry VIII, and a son George, created Viscount Rochford, who like his unhappy sister was beheaded by the King in 1536. George Bullen married Jane Parker, daughter of Lord Morley and left issue, some of whom are believed to have retired to Ireland after the downfall of the family from Royal favour.'

Edward Atkinson continues :

'the presence of members of the Bullen or Boleyn family in the King's County is further witnessed to by an ancient inscription, found close to the keep of Clononey Castle, now a picturesque ruin, in the parish of Tessauran, not far from the village of Cloghan in the King's County, where there lies a great slab of

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limestone evidently quarried from the rock hard by and never removed to its destined position, which bears the inscription:

Hereunder lies Elizabeth And  
Mary Bullyn daughters of Thomas  
Bullyn son of George Bullyn The  
Son of George Bullyn Vicount  
Rochford Son of Sir Thomas Bulleyn  
Earl of Ormond And Wiltshire."

Edward Atkinson adds that he has not been able to discover the relationship of these ladies to Anne Bullen who married Sir Robert Newcomen and became mother-in-law to Anthony Atkinson.

Be that as it may, Anthony Atkinson died and his will was proved in 1664. He was succeeded by his son William who married Anne daughter of William Hamilton, son of Sir Francis Hamilton, Knt. of Killeshandra, Co. Cavan. William Atkinson died in 1684, leaving his young wife with three infant children, the eldest of whom, Anthony, was probably under the guardianship of his uncle Captain Newcomen Atkinson, whose name appears in the Act of Attainder passed by King James II's Parliament in Dublin in 1689. In 1691, Cangort Castle was surprised and seized by a party of Irish adherents of King James. There is no record of where Mrs. Atkinson and her children were at this time but at some time Anthony must have repaired to the North of Ireland, for in 1711 we find him representing St. Johnston, Co. Londonderry, in the Irish Parliament and later he sat for Belfast. On the 20th of February 1709 Anthony Atkinson married Mary, eldest daughter of Captain John Guy of Greenwich, Kent.

And here we find another of those family traditions the origin of which is not known but which has received credence in Burke's *Landed Gentry*. Burke describes him as 'Admiral John Guy of Greenwich, Kent. (Celebrated for having relieved Derry by breaking the Boom.)'

Archdeacon Atkinson disclaimed for his ancestor the rank of Admiral and the honour of having actually broken the boom, but he believed that John Guy took part in the relief of Derry and was strengthened in this belief by the results

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of inquiries which he commissioned the Office of Arms in Dublin to make for him. After having talked with the Deputy Ulster King-of-Arms in 1935, Edward Atkinson wrote to me: 'It appears from the ships' logs at the Admiralty that on the death of Captain Browning at the Boom, Lieut. John Guy was lent to the *Mountjoy* from H.M.S. *Deptford* and actually brought her into Derry.' The letter continues: 'I authorized the Deputy K: at A: to get me documentary evidence to substantiate this.' Unfortunately the documentary evidence was not produced and only a list of John Guy's commissions, without references, was sent. These included his appointment as Lieutenant to the *Deptford* frigate on 26 October 1688, and a statement that H.M.S. *Deptford* was in Lough Foyle at the time of the relief, but again without references.

Archdeacon Atkinson knew that in 1691 a 'Colon Guy' had been presented with the Freedom of Londonderry 'in acknowledgement of his favour to the City', and again he wrote to me: 'I have no doubt now that the so-called Colonel Guy, as he is styled in the Derry Municipal Records, where it is stated that in 1691 he received the freedom of Derry in a gold box "for his favour to the City", was really Lieutenant John Guy, R.N.' But Archdeacon Atkinson had seen only an abbreviated extract from the ancient minutes which omitted the statement that 'Colon Guy' was Secretary to the Treasury.

Archdeacon Atkinson died suddenly in 1937, and only in the early part of 1939 was I able to see some of the Admiralty Records in the Record Office. Too late, alas, to discuss them with cousin Edward and, owing to the outbreak of war, it was impossible to pursue the search, even if the prospect of my finding the proof which had so far eluded other searchers warranted so doing, which I do not believe it did. Upon certain points, however, I have found some further light, but I fear it is of negative rather than positive value.

Archdeacon Atkinson believed there was only one John Guy serving in the Navy during the years in question, whereas I found in vol. ii of *Biographia Navalis* that John Charnock states definitely there were two. He produces

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evidence to show this and adds: 'they are so intermixed that it is impossible to distinguish between them'. One of these John Guys died on the 9th of December 1697, on board of H.M.S. *Speedwell*, of which ship he was in command. There seems no doubt that he was the John Guy appointed lieutenant of the *Deptford* in 1688, and certainly was not the father of Mary Atkinson. Her father died at Greenwich and, as entered in the Register of Burials belonging to the parish church of Greenwich, was buried 'Feb. 14, 1729. Capt. John Guy . . . in linen'.<sup>1</sup> A certified copy of this entry was sent to Archdeacon Atkinson, and I have seen the Parish Register.

A copy of John Guy's will was also supplied to Archdeacon Atkinson from the Principal Registry of the Admiralty Division . . . in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. (125. Auber.)

The will is dated 7 February 1729, and was proved 12 May 1730. In it 'John Guy Esqr' makes financial provision for his daughter Elizabeth Guy and leaves her 'one of my biggest gold medall, such of them as she shall think fitt to chuse'. He leaves five hundred pounds 'to my daughter Mary Atkinson'. His son 'John Guy Esqr' is nominated as sole executor and to receive the residue of his estate. No mention of his age is made, but according to a letter from the Office of Arms John Guy's first commission was in 1671. 7 Apr. Captain's Servant, *Henrietta* yacht, followed in 1688. 26 Oct. by 'Lieutenant *Deptford* Frigate.' In the Record Office I found that the Captain's Log of H.M.S. *Deptford* for the years 1687-8-9 is missing. This loss prevents our being able to identify the stations where H.M.S. *Deptford* served during those years. But in no record of the relief of Derry have I found the name of H.M.S. *Deptford*.

<sup>1</sup> Charles II did much to encourage native manufacture and in 1678 introduced an act for the burial of all persons 'in woollen'. This was in order to encourage the ancient staple manufacture of woollen cloth, and to lessen the importation of linen from beyond the seas. Until the latter part of the eighteenth century few persons except the very wealthy were buried in coffins. The usual method of burial adopted was to wrap the corpse in a shroud of woollen or other coarse material. If the person were very well off, linen was employed for the purpose. (*Lyme Letters 1660-1760*, by the Lady Newton.)

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As to the Presentation of the Freedom of the City, the Minutes of the Corporation of the City of Londonderry state that 'Colonel Guy' was Secretary to the Lords of the Treasury, and documents in the Treasury archives show that Mr. Henry Guy was Secretary to the Treasury Lords from 1679 to 1695. During the latter years of his term of office the restoration of the city of Londonderry, after the destruction caused during the siege, was being carried out, greatly hampered by lack of money. Appeals were made to the Crown, and the Minutes of the 'Comon Council' held on the 8th of September 1691 tell of receiving 'a copie of the Queen's Warrant for fifteen Hundred pounds out of the rents of Glenarne and the Liberties of Coleraine, for building of the Markett House and Repaireing of the Church, Freeschoole and Walls—as also the Lords of the Treasury's Order to the Comrs of the Revenue in Ireland for granting us a Custodium of the Barony of Glenarne for another yeare' . . . and it was resolved 'that letters of thanks be sent to . . . likewise to Mr. Guy'.

And again at the 'Comon Council' held on the 17th of December 1691 it was ordered 'that a Pattent of ffreedom be sent with Mr Mogridge and ten Guineys out of the produce of the Farme for the makeing of a Gold Box on which the City Armes is to be engraved, and both to be presented by him to Colon Guy, Secretary to the Right Honble the Lds of the Treasury in acknowledgement of his favour to this City'.

These facts dispose of the supposition that it was John Guy who had rendered service to the City, and therefore remove one piece of evidence which was looked upon as confirmation of the tradition.

Archdeacon Atkinson also laid stress on John Guy's possession of a large gold medal as being probably the reward of his Derry service. According to the Ulster Office list of his commissions he was appointed in 1694 Commander of the *Mary* yacht. Charnock in his *Biographia Navalis* mentions that John Guy while in 'command of the Navy Yacht in 1696 had the honour of attending King William to Holland'. Although Charnock's biography is

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intended to refer to the other John Guy, I think it more likely that this incident referred to our John, who held a succession of commands in the yachts which the earlier Captain Guy did not do and, therefore, it might well have been that the gold medal referred to was a recognition from the King for this service.

It may seem that I have given undue prominence to this subject, but all who know Londonderry know how jealously guarded is any tradition of an ancestor's share in the defence or relief of the Maiden City during those fierce years of 1688-9. Every family loyal to the Protestant Cause would fain count an ancestor among the heroes of the Siege, and it is a disappointment not to have found confirmation for this family tradition.

But now to continue with the established history. Mary Guy bore fifteen children to Anthony Atkinson, eight sons and seven daughters. Of these, William born in 1710 died unmarried in 1738, John, born 1711, died young, so that when Anthony Atkinson died in 1748 he was succeeded by his third son Guy. Guy was born in 1713. He entered Trinity College, Dublin, as a scholar in 1733, graduated in 1735, took M.A. degree in 1739 and D.D. in 1756. He was ordained and became Rector of Newtown in County Meath and later of Trim in the same county. In 1746 Guy Atkinson married Jane, eldest daughter of Captain Charles Maule and niece of Dr. Henry Maule, Bishop of Meath. Faulkner's *Dublin Journal* described her as 'a young lady of great beauty, highly accomplished and with a fortune of £3,000'. Her only child was born in Aungier Street, Dublin, on the 13th of February 1747, a son named Anthony.

His portrait hangs at Cangort, distinguished from the earlier Anthonys by the designation 'Anthony the Traveller'. He never married, and died in August 1790.

I do not know the date of Jane Maule's death, but Dr. Atkinson was a widower aged 55 when he married again. 'On the 19th of March 1762 in St. Annes Church, Dublin, the Rev<sup>d</sup> Guy Atkinson and Jane Wray were married with a Consistorial Licence by the Rev. William Ford.' (*Parish Register Society of Dublin*. Edited by D. A. Chart, 1913.)

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At the time of his second marriage Dr. Atkinson was Rector of Trim, and there Jane Wray's first child was born on the 26th of January 1763. He was named Hugh. Her other children followed in quick succession. Their names and dates are written upon the fly-leaf of Mary Guy's *Book of Common Prayer* printed in 1679, and preserved at Cangort, where, in 1937, Mrs. Atkinson allowed me to copy the entries.

Next after Hugh came 'Anne born at Trim June 14th 1764'. Here followed the significant letters 'd.y.' = died young.

'Guy born in Molesworth St. Dublin March 6th 1766

Jackson Wray born in Molesworth St. Dublin 15th June 1767.

Charles (I) born in Molesworth St. Dublin 19th August 1768.  
d.y.

Charles (II) born in Molesworth St. Dublin 28th Sept. 1769.

William Harry born in Grafton St. Dublin 13 Nov. 1770. d.y.  
George (I) 1772. d.y.

George (II) born in Milsom St. Bath. 18th July 1773

Maria born in Russell St. Bath 1 Nov. 1774

John born in Russell St. Bath 12 Oct. 1778. d.y.

Jane born in Russell St. Bath 12 Oct. 1780. d.y.'

Thus, of her twelve children, six died very young. Hugh and Guy died unmarried as young men, leaving Jackson Wray as eldest son to inherit Cangort. He married Sarah, daughter of Richard Caddell, and had ten children, the eldest of whom was Guy who married Anne Margaret daughter of William Trench of Cangort Park. In due course he inherited Cangort, but his father had dissipated much of the family fortune. The youngest of Jackson Wray Atkinson's family of ten was Richard, who married Mary Jane Golding and had eight children, and the youngest of this family was Edward, who eventually became Archdeacon of Dromore.

But to return to Jane's children. Charles was the second who attained man's estate; he took Holy Orders, and became Rector of Forkhill, Co. Armagh, where he was buried, having died in 1851 at the age of 82. He married twice and left one son and five daughters.

Maria was Jane's only daughter who lived to grow up. She was married in December 1793 to the Rev. George

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Golding of Muff. The marriage articles, which are preserved with other Wray Estate documents in the Land Commission Office, Belfast, show that her fortune amounted to £3,000, and that one of her trustees was her uncle Colonel Henry Wray, lately returned from India. The witnesses to the signatures were Charlotte Wray and George Atkinson.

Maria's married life was a very short one, for she died on the 26th of November 1796, and was buried at Lisburn, in which town her parents lived at that time.

In the following year, 1797, George Atkinson married his first cousin Leonora, youngest daughter of Jackson Wray of Bentfield, Jane's third brother. I think it is justifiable to assume that Jane and her two brothers Henry and Jackson between them made up this match, and it is surely pardonable to picture the satisfaction for Jane of seeing her son George married to his beautiful cousin and with his future assured by his uncle. The story of that future will be found in the following chapters.

Jane must have had a hard life in spite of the material comfort of her position. To have borne twelve children and, as we say in Ireland, to 'have buried' nine of them was a heavy trial for any woman. How much time she spent at Cangort, if indeed she ever lived there, I do not know. In the dining-room of the old home hangs a large portrait of Jane wearing a blue gown very much like that worn by her grandmother Jane Wray in her portrait; a little boy is standing beside her and a baby, looking rather like a doll, is seated on her knee. There is a companion picture of the old Doctor, in wig and gown with his little daughter by his side. But by far the most pleasing portrait of Jane is the one that I have inherited showing her with beautiful curls. The miniature and the portrait at Cangort give her smooth brown hair drawn tightly back from her face. The curls are much more picturesque and becoming.

That Jane was an exquisite needlewoman is proved by some beautiful little caps and a baby's wee coat of finest lawn, seamed and tucked with invisible stitches, and with insertions and edging of Valenciennes lace that call for a

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magnifying glass to appreciate the delicacy of their texture. These treasures were given to my mother by her aunt Juliet Wray, who described them as the handiwork of her grandmother Jane and said they had been made for her ninth child, the second George. Tradition among the aunts told also of a white muslin gown which Jane embroidered for herself, of which I inherited one sleeve; this gown was admired and desired by Queen Charlotte during one of her visits to Bath, but Jane declined the honour of royal acceptance and kept her own gown.

Some of Jane's embroidery was reputed to have been worked during her coach journeys to and from Bath, but it is hard to reconcile the fineness of the stitching with the swaying and jolting of a coach over the roads of those days; perhaps it may have helped her to pass the time on board the ship, occupied by some travellers in playing cards for high stakes, as they sailed from Dublin up the river to Chester, a trip which often took several days. Jane certainly spent a good deal of time in travelling. Her first two babies were born at Trim, but after that she went to Dublin until several died young there; then it would appear that a fresh effort was decided upon to protect the life of her ninth expected child and Mrs. Atkinson went to Bath, already a favourite health resort in those days before its rise to fame and fashion during the Regency. The effort was successful: George II lived, so Mrs. Atkinson returned for the birth of her next three children. Maria, like her brother George, lived, but even the resources of Bath could not save John and Jane from early death. The tale of Jane's maternity was common in her day, and though to us it sounds arduous it pales before an announcement that appeared in Faulkner's *Dublin Journal* some years earlier:

'Feb. 10 1746 On Tuesday last died in childbed Mrs. Mary Luther alias Dillon of Gainsborough Co. West Meath, a lady who, had she lived till May next, would have attained to a very considerable gavelled estate. She was the mother of twenty-four children, who are all living, fourteen sons and ten daughters. Her death is a universal loss to all the Family.'

Certainly times change and we change with them.

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The last years of Jane's life appear to have been spent at Lisburn, where Dr. Atkinson lived after he resigned the living of Ahoghill, Co. Antrim, in 1795, which he had held since 1767.

On the 30th of December 1798 Jane died. Her husband survived her by six years, and died in 1804 as recorded on a memorial tablet in Lisburn Cathedral. The inscription is in Latin. Archdeacon Edward Atkinson gave me the following translation:

Sacred to the Memory of  
the Rev. Guy Atkinson, D.D.  
For many years Rector of the Parish of Ahoghill  
He died on the twentieth day of October 1804  
Aged ninety-seven years  
Also of his most attentive wife Jane Atkinson  
who died on the thirtieth day of December 1798  
In the sixty-second year of her age  
And of Maria their only Daughter  
wife of the Rev. George Golding who departed  
this life on Nov. 26th 1796. Aged nineteen years.  
Their mortal remains lie together  
In the adjacent cemetery

The statement of Jane's age is incorrect; she was only 57 and Maria was 22 not 19 when she died.

XXXI  
COLONEL HENRY WRAY

THERE remains now the story of only one more child of Jackson and Leonora Wray, their eldest son, born at Ballycastle in 1743. He was named Henry and had as his sponsors 'Mother Wray', Jackson's mother Jane whom we may presume came from Dublin for, what was to her, an important family event. The second godmother was 'Sister McAulay', Leonora's sister, Margaret Boyd, who had married Dr. Alexander McAulay, Vicar-General of the diocese of Dublin. The godfathers were 'Dr. Rose' and 'Brother Boyd', the latter being Leonora's elder brother William.

We know nothing further of young Henry, beyond the fact that he must have spent his childhood at Shellfield, until we find him gazetted as a Cadet in the Bengal Army in 1764. After that there follows the list of his successive promotions: Ensign 1 November 1765, Lieutenant 16 January 1767, Captain 26 June 1771, Major 17 January 1781, Lt.-Colonel 17 January 1788, and on the 9th of July 1790 he resigned. (See *East India Company Records*, and *Officers of the Indian Army*. Dodwell and Miles.)

No 'written up' record of Colonel Henry Wray's service exists in the India Office, and the outbreak of war in 1939 prevented my availing myself of the permission granted me by the Record Department to make search in their Military Consultations Series of Records. But in the Record Department of the India Office there is a will made by Henry Wray, before he left India, in which he disposed of property held by him in Calcutta and made provision for seven children borne to him by native women. To these children he had given family names—Jackson and Hugh, Leonora and Jane; he made detailed provision for their education and stated that 'it is my will and intention to make comfortable and decent provision for my said children'. There were three mothers, to each of whom he left 'a stipend', and a house

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which they were apparently to share. He also left 'a monthly stipend' to 'my old Sise (groom) who has lived with me since the month of June in the year of Our Lord 1766'. And 'he shall be permitted to occupy the same small upper round-house herein before mentioned . . . during the period of his natural life'. Trustees from among Colonel Wray's friends were appointed and James Dunkin and Charles Harding were witnesses. In this will Henry described himself as 'Lieutenant Colonel in the Military Service of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies'.

Henry Wray must have made a considerable amount of money during his twenty-six years' service with the Honourable East India Company and came home a comparatively rich man. The first record that we have of his presence in England is the deed signed at Bath on 29 November 1791 between Henry and his father Jackson (see Chapter XXVII).

Henry, as eldest son, was heir to his father's landed estates. His father was an old man and evidently in financial straits, so it would appear that a family arrangement was come to which was agreeable to all concerned, and certainly was generous on Henry's part even though by it he gained immediate possession of his inheritance. I found the record of this transaction in the Registry of Deeds in Dublin (Book 448, p. 3), where it is shown that Henry paid to his father a lump sum which enabled Jackson Wray to give portions to his other two sons, Hugh and Jackson, and to pay off the debts owed to them by his youngest son, the late Lt. William Wray. Henry also provided his father with an assured income for his life and made provision for his mother should she survive her husband. In return Henry took immediate possession of his estate of inheritance which comprised a stretch of lands along the north-east corner of County Antrim from Dunseverick Castle to the Church of Billy, and is described as the quarter lands of Ballynalube, Clegnagh, Manister, Moss Hill alias Drimroan, Prolusk, Craigalappan, and Bentfield otherwise Dowey, and in the County Donegal the estate of Killilastan in the parish of Letterkenny and the quarter land of Shellfield otherwise Kerrygault, in the parish of Ramelton.

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The next record in which there is mention of Henry Wray is dated December 1793, when he appears as trustee to the marriage settlement of his niece, Maria Atkinson (see Chapter XXX). In this document he is styled 'of Springfield Co. Down', and the name of Charlotte Wray appears as a witness. This was the only mention of her that I found until in Colonel Wray's will, dated 1809, she is shown to be his wife. Thus in the first two years after his return from India we conclude that Henry Wray acquired a wife, a country residence, and a house in the city of Bath. For the date of this last acquisition I searched the early editions of *Robbin's Directory* in the Reference Library at Bath. The 1791 edition gives no private residences. In the edition dated 1800 the name of Lt.-Colonel Henry Wray appears as owner of 65 Pulteney Street, and is also shown in the 1805 and 1809 editions. Pulteney Street is a fine broad street in the centre of Bath, with handsome high houses. Among Colonel Wray's near neighbours were William Pitt the younger, who had a house in Laura Place, and Jane Austen who lived for a time in Sydney Place.

In the County Down I searched for Springfield. A townland of that name is marked on the map about two miles from the small seaside town of Kilkeel in the beautiful district of the Mourne Mountains.

No record survives of Henry Wray having purchased land in County Down, but a deed is registered (Book 603, p. 452) recording the sale, in 1808, 'of towns and lands of Ballymackramery, etc. in Co. Down', by 'Henry Wray formerly of Springfield but now of Rostrevor', 'for the consideration of £6,000' 'to Alexander Stewart of Ballyedmont Co. Down'. 'Witnessed by Thos. S. Stewart of Dublin and Wm. King of Rostrevor man-servant to the said Henry Wray.' The deed does not mention the name of any dwelling-house, and when I went from Kilkeel to the townland called Springfield I found only a farm-house and two or three labourers' cottages. The farmer told me there had been 'an old house long ago called Springfield House down in the fields below'. His farm was up on a hill, and he volunteered to take me to see the place. As we were walking across the fields a very old

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man joined us and added his reminiscences to the conversation. They pointed out an old well and a few apple trees, the remnants of an orchard. The old man said he had once taken an apple tree out of it and very good apples it bore. And then he added with a sigh, 'If only you might have seen my mother. She could have told you, but she's been dead these twenty years.' How often have I joined in fruitless regrets that I came too late to meet that generation! We found a few bits of wall, all that was left, but they showed where a house had once stood, and both men said it had been a 'gentleman's house' not a farmer's, and with great conviction in his voice the old man added, 'In them days the people was very poor and it was only the gentry would have had an orchard'.

In the same year that Henry Wray sold the County Down lands, he also sold two of the quarters of his County Antrim estate, Mannister and Moss Hill, but these he sold to his nephew George Atkinson 'for the consideration of £400', and the sale was subject to the condition that, during the life of Henry Wray, George Atkinson should 'enclose a paddock containing 8 acres surrounding and adjacent to a building erected by Henry Wray on the said lands, reserve it for the use of Henry Wray, and also fodder and take care of four horses for Henry Wray every winter should he require the same'. This provision suggests that Henry Wray spent the winters at Bath. Also that he wished his horses kept in readiness and cared for, which could not be done at Rostrevor, where the house was probably without surrounding land. I could not identify the Rostrevor house any more than I could the Springfield one, but Archdeacon Edward Atkinson, who for some years held the living of Rostrevor, told me that on the site where the Great Northern Hotel now stands, backed by thick woods and facing, within a stone's throw, the sea-shore, there was once a house known as Lowood and that it was said Mrs. Wray had lived there long ago. He also said that an old man whose father had kept a bakery in Rostrevor told him his grandfather had been butler to Mrs. Wray of Rostrevor. There is some confusion between traditions of Mrs. Wray and of Lady Wray,

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who also lived at Rostrevor. Lady Wray was widow of Sir Cecil Wray, who died in 1805. She was grand-daughter of Jeremy Taylor, and according to Dr. Heber's *Life of Jeremy Taylor* his grand-daughter, Lady Wray, lived at Arno's Vale near Rostrevor, and presented a portrait of her grandfather to All Souls College, Oxford, which is the reason for her being mentioned in the first volume of Dr. Heber's work.

I have already referred to the marriage of George Atkinson and Leonora Wray. Being first cousins, they were nephew and niece of Colonel Wray, and he was also godfather to Leonora. This marriage took place in 1797, and I think there can be little doubt that Uncle Henry intimated his intention of making George his heir. There certainly is no doubt that Colonel Wray was the rich member of the family, and he seems to have been very fair-minded in spreading out his benefactions amongst his nephews. He appears to have recognized that Jackson of Bentfield's two sons were not going to carry on the name; his brother Hugh had settled in the South of Ireland and seems to have been much cut off from the rest of the family, so Henry turned to the daughter of his brother Jackson, his goddaughter and to his sister's third son, the only remaining one who was not otherwise provided for. It seems a most obvious plan that these two young people should be singled out by their uncle to inherit his property and bear his name.

In 1802 Colonel Wray bought 22 acres of land called Blackrock, which lies between Bentfield and the Giant's Causeway, and in 1803 he assigned this land to his nephew Henry Wray of Bentfield; he also lent £456 to this same nephew in 1809. In his will Colonel Wray left an annuity of £100 a year to his nephew, the Rev. Henry Wray, son of his brother Hugh.

As well as making these various provisions for his relations Colonel Wray bought two annuities for himself, one from John Lord Baron O'Neill in 1795 of £483 a year, for which he paid £3,250 sterling, the other from Charles Lord Viscount O'Neill in 1800 of £227 a year, for which he paid £1,820 sterling.

Henry Wray did not live to be an old man. He made his

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will on the 9th of May 1809, and in the *Bath Chronicle* for Thursday, 7 September 1809, I found the announcement: 'Died at his seat in Ireland Col. H. Wray late of Pulteney St.'

As I said in Chapter XXVII I believe that Henry Wray was buried in the vault beneath the church at Ballycastle. I searched the old burial-grounds at Rostrevor and Kilkeel but found no trace of any Wray grave.

No letters, no records of any kind, survive to tell any details of the closing years of Henry Wray's life. His will was proved on the 24th of November 1809. In that will he left an annuity of £800 a year to his wife, Charlotte Wray. Also annuities of £20 a year to his manservant William King, and of £12 a year to Mary Jones. All the rest, residue and remainder, to his nephew George Atkinson, on condition that he took the surname and arms of Wray.

There is a copy of this will in Somerset House and another copy was lodged in the Land Commission Office, Belfast, together with the abstract of title to the estate drawn up when the land was sold to the tenants under the Land Act at the beginning of the twentieth century. Attached to the Belfast copy are two notes which say: 'the said George Atkinson subsequently took the surname of Wray'. And again: 'The said Charlotte Wray died prior to the date August 30th 1820, whereupon the said George Atkinson Wray entered into possession of the several premises devised by the said Will'. And there ends all that is recorded of Charlotte Wray as well as of Colonel Henry Wray.

## XXXII

GEORGE ATKINSON AND HIS WIFE  
LEONORA WRAY

WE turn now to the story of George, son of Guy Atkinson by Jane Wray, his wife. In Chapter XXX we saw that George Atkinson was born on the 18th of July 1773 in Milsom Street in the city of Bath. There are no records of his childhood or of his education. His signature appears as witness to the marriage settlements of his sister Maria in 1793, but this is the only mention of his existence until his own marriage in 1797 with his first cousin Leonora, youngest daughter of Jackson Wray of Bentfield and his wife Jane McDaniel.

From Leonora's portrait, painted by the R.A., William Robinson (1799-1839), she must have been a beautiful woman; the picture shows the graceful figure of a tall slender lady with fine cut features, dressed in a white gown and wearing a white mob cap bound with pale blue ribbon. This portrait with its companion picture of George her husband is shown hanging above the fireplace in my grandmother's drawing-room on either side of the lady in the blue gown.

Of the young couple's first married home I know nothing. Leonora's first child was born at Dreen in 1798 and was named Maria in memory of George's only sister. It was at the end of this same year that George's mother Jane died, and it is significant that the birthplace of the next three children is given as Lisburn, thus indicating that on the death of Dr. Guy Atkinson's 'most attentive wife' his son George and his young wife Leonora went to live with the old man at Lisburn. Here three daughters were born, Jane in 1799, Leonora in 1801, and Louisa in 1803. In 1804 Dr. Atkinson died, and the young couple with their four baby daughters left Lisburn and went to Bentfield. By this time Leonora's father was dead, but her mother was still alive and apparently the young family shared the old home with her for the next few years.

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In 1805 their first son was born at Bentfield and was named Jackson. In 1806 another daughter arrived and she was named Charlotte.

The first mention that we have of George Atkinson's owning any land comes in the year 1808 when he bought the two quarters of Manister and Moss Hill from his Uncle Henry. This land was only a few miles from Bentfield, and coupled with the care of his uncle's horses may well have given George an outside interest.

In the first week of September 1809 Uncle Henry died and George became entitled to part of his inheritance, but he had to carry out the condition of assuming the name and arms of Wray before the will could be proved. The Royal Licence was dated 20 October and the will was proved a month later. The following is a copy of the Royal Licence:

*Grants & Confirmations of Arms. Cp. 107.*

TO ALL AND SINGULAR to whom these presents shall come WILLIAM BETHAM Esquire Deputy Ulster King of Arms and Principal Herald of all Ireland sendeth Greeting. WHEREAS His Majesty's letter bearing date at St. James's the Twentieth day of October one thousand Eight hundred and Nine signified unto his Grace Charles Duke of Richmond Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland that He had been graciously pleased to give and Grant unto George Atkinson of Bentfield in the County of Antrim Esquire and his issue His Royal Licence and Authority to take and use the Surname and bear the Arms of Wray instead of those of Atkinson in conformity to the Will of his Uncle Henry Wray Esquire a Colonel in the East India Company's service deceased such his Majesty's Concession and Declaration being first Registered and the Arms duly Exemplified in the Office of Ulster King of Arms in Ireland To The End that the Officers of Arms there and all Others upon Occasion might take full notice and have knowledge thereof

AND for as much as his Grace the Lord Lieutenant has by his Warrant under his hand bearing date at Dublin the fourth day of November one thousand Eight hundred and Nine authorised and directed me forthwith to Cause his Majesty's said letter and these presents to be Registered in Ulster's Office Accordingly, in Obedience to which Warrant

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KNOW YE therefore that I the said Deputy Ulster King of Arms by virtue of the power and authority to me given no by these presents Grant Ratify and Confirm unto the said George Atkinson now George Wray Esquire the Arms following, vizi. Azure on a chief or three martlets sable. For Crest an Ostrich or, and for Motto *Et Juste et Vray*

The whole as above more clearly depicted to be borne and used by the said George Wray and his descendants for ever according to the Laws of Arms.

IN WITNESS whereof I hereunto subscribe my name and title and affix the seal of Office this eighth day of November One Thousand Eight Hundred and Nine.

W. BETHAM, Deputy Ulster King of Arms of All Ireland.

My grandmother's note-book tells that on 'Sunday 5th Feby 1809 a fine boy born at Ballycastle, christened Henry Wray'. We learn later that he was also given the names of Basil and Brooke.

During the next year, 1810, George and Leonora sought a home of their own and rented Clogher House, which stood upon a wooded hill about two miles inland from Bentfield and near to the town of Bushmills. George A. Wray's signature is found regularly in the Minute Book of the Vestry of Billy Parish Church during the years 1810 to 1814.

At Clogher House three more children were born. In 1811 came a third son who was named George after his father with the two additional names of Cecil and Gore. He was the first of this family to be born under the surname of Wray. The baptismal names given to Henry and George express the consciousness of and pride in family descent which became evident in this generation. George Atkinson must have known Sir Cecil Wray of Glentworth when he lived in Ireland, and also his widow when she lived at Rostrevor. Her grandfather Jeremy Taylor was buried in Lisburn Cathedral. George Atkinson would also have been aware of his mother's descent from the Gore family, and the whole subject must naturally have been brought to the fore by his adoption of the Wray name and arms while he

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retained, as well, all the Atkinson traditions which were both proud and long.

The year after George Cecil Gore was born brought the first break in this growing family circle. Maria died, aged 14; we know no details of her short life but can picture the sorrow of the parents in this early loss of their first-born child.

In 1814 William Guy was born and in 1816 Sarah Anne, also at Clogher. Then there came another change of house, the reason for which I do not know, but the Wrays left Clogher. At this time Clogher belonged to Sir William Dunkin; later it passed to the MacNaughton family. The old house no longer exists; it was pulled down when Sir Edmund MacNaughton built the present house which he named Dunderave. The site of the old house was in the woods above Dunderave, where there is now a walled kitchen garden.

I know nothing about the style or size of the old house, but the Wray family was increasing rapidly; the elder children were growing up, and more space would naturally be needed. At any rate they moved to Cromore, a large handsome house standing among fine trees, some miles farther round the northern coast between Portstewart and Coleraine.

Cromore belonged to Michael Cromie, an ancestor of the Montague family who still own the place. Mr. Cromie's son, Michael, was killed in the battle of Waterloo, and tradition says that his father grieved so much that he could not rest at home, decided to travel, and therefore let his house. George Atkinson Wray rented it and removed there with his nine children.

In 1818 Leonora's youngest child, Juliet, was born at Cromore. Two years later William Guy, then 6 years old, died there, and I believe he was one of those buried in the family vault at Billy.

It must have been about this time that Charlotte Wray, widow of Colonel Henry Wray, died at Rostrevor, and that her jointure of £800 a year fell in to George Wray. A welcome addition of income for the growing family.

It will be remembered that throughout the Napoleonic

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Wars the Militia Regiments were maintained in Ireland. On 4 November 1811 George Atkinson Wray was gazetted to the Dunseverick Cavalry, a Yeomanry Corps raised by Captain James Stewart-Moore of Ballydivity in 1796. From Mr. Dudley Westropp I learned that in a Yeomanry List in his possession, dated 1820, G. A. Wray's name appears as Captain in the Dunseverick Infantry. Mr. Westropp adds: 'all the Cavalry were disbanded about 1814, but probably the officers continued in the Infantry'. James Stewart-Moore who was Captain in 1796 is still Captain of the Infantry in the list of 1820.

Among the family treasures handed down to me is a silver badge engraved 'Dunseverick Cavalry'.

George Atkinson Wray's eldest son Jackson was gazetted Ensign in the 96th Regiment of Foot in 1825, and in 1827 his second son Henry entered Trinity College, Dublin.

By this time four daughters were grown up, but the two youngest were still being educated at home by a governess. In 1826 the third break in the family circle occurred through the death of Leonora at the age of 25. I remember hearing Aunt Juliet Wray speak of this Leonora as a beautiful and beloved sister, and in her old age Aunt Juliet recalled Leonora's death as the first great sorrow in her own long life.

I know nothing more about the family until in 1832 the mother Leonora, Mrs. Wray, died. This date is recorded on her portrait, otherwise I found no mention of it. But I think that it was following closely upon her death, and possibly as a consequence of it, that the family left Cromore House and removed to Red Castle, on the Lough Foyle shore of the Inishowen peninsula.

In a deed dated 1832, the contents of which are irrelevant, George A. Wray is styled as 'of Cromore Co. Londonderry', while in Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary* he is credited with both addresses. Cromore is described as being his seat, while in the list of subscribers to the book he is styled as 'of Redcastle'. The names of occupiers of residences quoted by Lewis were taken from the census records of 1831, the book was published in 1837, but the list of subscribers was compiled some time prior to this latter date.

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In 1935 I spent some weeks at a small hotel which in other days had been a fort occupied by the British Army. This fort was near to the ancient ruins of Green Castle, and overlooked the Atlantic and the entrance to Lough Foyle. From there I visited Red Castle, and the present owner, Major Cochrane, very kindly showed me round the house and grounds. A long avenue winding through a fine demesne leads to the house, which stands immediately above the sea, built upon the rocks against which the waves beat at high tide.

The house is described as Elizabethan, yet has a tiled roof and dormer windows, but Major Cochrane explained that his grandfather had rebuilt the house except the outside four walls. The original house had great thick bog-wood beams, and a roof of slates each one weighing as much as a man could lift. In very early days Red Castle had belonged to the McLaughlin Clan; they intermarried with the O'Doherty Clan who owned most of Inishowen. When Arthur Chichester suppressed Sir Cahir O'Doherty's rebellion he acquired Inishowen as his reward and he granted the lands of Red Castle and White Castle, an adjoining property, to his cousin George Cary in 1621. The Cary family lived at Red Castle until 1822 by which time their finances had unhappily become so heavily involved that the property was put up for sale by order of the Court of Chancery. A member of the Doherty family bid for Red Castle, but was out-bid by another man who secured the place for £3,000. He paid the deposit and occupied the house, then it was discovered that he could not pay the remainder of the price, but at the same time he refused to quit. Litigation proceeded for eighteen years, and not until 1840 did Mr. Doherty finally get possession of Red Castle. Mr. Doherty had an only son who married and had an only daughter, Elizabeth Frances. In 1866 she married Captain the Honble. Ernest Cochrane, R.N., who was at the time in command of the Coast-guard Station at Moville. They had three sons and three daughters, of whom Major Cochrane was the eldest, but none of them married.

It was during the latter decade of the litigation that the house and demesne was rented by George Atkinson Wray.

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The Vestry Minutes of the neighbouring church were signed by George A. Wray in 1837, and during that same year his daughter Sarah Anne, who was by then just 21, married Lucius Cary in Dublin.

The next streak of light upon the history of the Wray family comes from a small printed handbill advertising an auction when the Wrays were leaving Red Castle in October 1839. This handbill survived through having been used as wrapping paper for a packet marked 'Aunt Jane's powders' and I found it amongst other old papers. The advertisement said that 'the entire household furniture will be sold' 'comprising a full assortment of Parlour and Drawingroom chairs, tables, sofas' and many other things. Also 'a very fine toned grand piano-forte by Broadwood and Son' and 'an excellent billiard table'. In describing the bedroom furniture the comment is made 'the feather beds are numerous and of superior quality'. The carriages are described as 'a remarkably light English-built chariot with moveable driving seat, and harness for four horses, a pony Phaeton with moveable shafts and pole, and harness for two horses, also a Fly-Car with harness'. Among the horses for sale are 'two grey ponies matched for running in a Phaeton'. The last item to be put up for auction was 'a very fast sailing Pleasure-boat'.

This brief description of these possessions give us now, as it were, a reflected picture of the surroundings and conditions of life more than a hundred years ago in which this family of our ancestors lived. Where they went to or what they did when they left Red Castle I do not know, though I have a hazy recollection of hearing that the great-grandfather took his daughters on foreign travel to 'the Continent', and I think Scotland was included in their tour. At any rate in 1841 the third surviving daughter, Charlotte, married Kenneth McKenzie and went to live in Edinburgh.

Before the family left Cromore the third son George Cecil Gore was established on a small property of his own, on the west side of County Donegal. Here young George farmed, fished for trout, and shot woodcock and snipe according to the season.

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The only document that I found dated during these years was the marriage settlement of this son George, dated 1844, in which his father styled himself as 'of Dunseverick Castle', but that gives no clue to where he was living five years after he had left Red Castle.

Dunseverick Castle is one of the most ancient ruins in County Antrim. In speaking of it to me the late Primate of Ireland, Dr. D'Arcy, said, 'Dunseverick was in ruins before ever Dunluce was built', and Dunluce boasts a history of many hundred years.

Dunseverick and its immediate townlands were not part of the estate that Jackson Wray bought, nor yet was it bought by Colonel Henry Wray. There is a deed dated 9 June 1815 which shows that it was George Atkinson Wray who bought this portion of the property. The following is an abstract from a very lengthy document lodged in the Land Purchase Office, Belfast:

'Said Indenture witnesses that in consideration of the sum of £6000 Sterling to s<sup>d</sup> Robert Grove Leslie . . . and Francis Hamilton . . . and Daniel McNeill . . . paid by s<sup>d</sup> George Atkinson Wray . . . and also £2500, the remainder of s<sup>d</sup> sum of £8500 paid . . . the s<sup>d</sup> Daniel McNeill, Roger Grove Leslie and Francis Hamilton . . . pursuant to all powers etc. vested in them . . . granted unto said George Atkinson Wray and to his heirs . . . all that and those the town and lands of Shanvally, also the lands, farms and quarters of Feigh, Dunseverick, Attymacormick, Callowreigh and Carnecolp, situated in the Barony of Cary and Co. of Antrim to hold . . . for ever. . . .

Executed by s<sup>d</sup> Daniel McNeill.'

There is also another deed in the Registry of Deeds (Book 885, p. 94), dated 24 June 1831, of which the following abstract says:

'Ellis, Master in Chancery for Edmond McDonnell of Glenarm Castle, Ann Countess of Antrim and several others did release and confirm unto George Atkinson Wray of Cromore Co Londonderry . . . several lands . . . formerly in the possession of Cornelius O'Cahan . . . demised by Alexander Earl of Antrim . . . to Hector McNeile of Dunseverick Esq. by lease dated 29 March 1738. . . . And also all those lands in the Barony of Dunluce and

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the Barony of Carey . . . Ballinalube, Drumroan, Prollusk and Craigalapon . . . etc., etc. demised by said Alexander, Earl of Antrim to Jackson Wray . . . by Indenture of Lease for lives renewable forever, bearing date of 6 June 1762.'

These two deeds show how and when George Atkinson Wray became possessed of Dunseverick. As we saw in connexion with Jackson Wray's purchase of lands, Sir Randall Macdonnell had received a grant from King Charles I of a great tract of the county. But long before Sir Randall's time a Macdonnell of Bute, known as Angus of Isla, had married Agnes O'Cahan, daughter of the Chieftain of Dunseveric Castle. (See *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, vol. vi, New Series, p. 19.)

A pamphlet entitled *Dunseveric Castle* by Robert M'Cahan, now out of print, was lent to me by Mr. Samuel Henry of Coleraine. It describes the waging of wars, feuds, raids, and rebellions in and around Dunseveric too numerous to recount here, but it also tells of some very early legends connected with the Castle. According to one of these legends Conal Cearnac of Dunseveric, a noted champion of the Red Branch Knights of Ulster, was present in Jerusalem on the day of our Lord's Crucifixion. He was the leader of a chosen band of warriors who had heard of the athletic feats of the Romans, and they crossed over to Britain to try their strength and skill. In a series of contests in jumping, wrestling, and throwing the weight the Irish were victors, among the most prominent being Conal himself. He was then challenged by the Romans to wrestle with the most powerful gladiator to be found in Rome. He accepted and in a memorable contest, in presence of Caesar Augustus, during which the greatest skill was displayed by the two champions, Conal defeated and slew his opponent, and for the remainder of the day proudly wore the crown of palm leaves as victor.

He subsequently proceeded with a detachment of soldiers to the East and entered Jerusalem on the morning of the Crucifixion. He stood near the Cross when the soldier thrust his spear into Christ's side, and a drop of blood fell on Conal's brow which was held to have constituted the first

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Christian baptism. He was present at the burial, and it was his shoulder which removed the stone from the mouth of the sepulchre when Joseph of Arimathaea desired it to be opened for the reception of Christ's body. So ends that legend.

Another old story, though of later times, is told of Turlogh O'Cahan, who, on his return from one of the Crusades found the Danes in occupation of Dunseveric. Their leader, Hakon Jarl, had fallen in love with Turlogh's sister; she had at last consented to marriage on condition that Hakon became a Christian. The Abbot of Bangor was about to administer the rite of baptism when Turlogh, who was dissatisfied with the proposed marriage, rushed into the great hall of the Castle and threw Greek fire over the Dane exclaiming 'Hakon Jarl, you have come here for baptism, I will baptize you with Greek fire.' In the fierce struggle which ensued between these two celebrated and valiant warriors their followers on both sides became involved, the castle was burned, both antagonists were killed, and the lady, in her frenzy, rushed to the edge of the cliff and threw herself into the sea. The long heart-broken wail of Granie Roe, the banshee of the O'Cahans, may yet be heard on a winter's night rising above the sound of wind and waves, in lament for the fate of Turlogh and his sister and for the fallen fortunes of the old Celtic family.

Returning now from legend to the hard facts of comparatively recent times, we must bear in mind the privation and tragedy that overshadowed Ireland in the middle of the nineteenth century owing to the Potato Famine. If the Wrays had been travelling for some years on the Continent and visiting in England, Scotland, and Ireland, they evidently now decided to settle in Dublin. Country places in Ireland would have been closed to them on account of the famine and probably Mr. Wray's income was considerably reduced by the same cause; also he was growing old. All these things may reasonably be taken to have combined in the decision to rent a house, No. 16 East, in Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin. In Pettigrew and Oulton's *Dublin Directory*

GEORGE ATKINSON AND HIS WIFE LEONORA WRAY  
for 1847 we find Atkinson Wray, Esq., resident there, and  
in the four succeeding years his name appears.

In 1852 George Atkinson Wray died. He left no will as he made a deed of settlement dated 22 May 1851, in which he recited his various lands and apportioned sums of money to his daughters and to his second and third sons. The landed estates in County Antrim and in County Donegal he settled 'in trust only for his eldest son Jackson Wray and his heirs; and upon failure of such issue in trust for George Cecil Gore Wray third son of the said George Atkinson Wray'.

George Atkinson Wray was buried in the vault in Billy churchyard, where twenty years earlier the body of his wife Leonora had been laid to rest. His portrait showed him as a small slight figure standing with one arm resting on the neck of his white horse. He wore a dark blue coat, scarlet waistcoat, and white breeches which may well have been the uniform of the Dunseveric Cavalry. That was while he was still a fair-haired man in early middle life.

The impression I have gained of the memory that he left behind him was of a proud old autocrat, feared rather than loved. But it is hard for us at this distance of time and with such meagre material to piece together any adequate picture of the narrow conditions and conflicting influences that surrounded his eighty years of life. The effect of his personality and character is further revealed in some degree by the lives of his sons and daughters whose stories are outlined in the following chapters.

XXXIII  
JACKSON ATKINSON WRAY

JACKSON was the eldest son but the fourth child of George and Leonora Atkinson and the first of their children to be born at Bentfield. He came while the family name was still Atkinson and was baptized Jackson Wray, therefore after his father took the name of Wray he had the cumbersome title of Jackson Wray Atkinson Wray.

The first record of him is that he was gazetted Ensign in the 96th Regiment of Foot in 1825, promoted Lieutenant 4 February 1828 and Captain 4 March 1838. His name is not in the Army List for 1839. But he joined the Antrim Militia later and served with that Regiment when the Militia was embodied during the Indian Mutiny and the Crimean War. His letters and those of his brother George to Charles Stewart make mention of this service. In May 1858 Jackson writes from Dover: 'We are kept hard at work. I have not been a day absent since I first joined the Regt, except 10 days we spent in London. This I would not mind if a body could be sure of some time each day for recreation and one's own affairs but the incessant drilling at all hours becomes wearying.'

Between his two terms of service Jackson Wray appears to have lived at Roonkerry. He was styled of that address when he witnessed his brother's marriage settlements 1844, and in writing to Charles Stewart about advertising the house to be let while he was serving with the Militia he said, 'When I was living there I was tormented with applications every summer'.

In 1854 Jackson married Agnes daughter of James Hannay, Captain in the 8th Regiment of Foot, and of Ballylough, Bushmills. They may have spent the first year or two of their married life at Roonkerry, but when Jackson went to England with the Antrim Militia his wife accompanied him. George Wray writing to Charles Stewart in September of 1859 says: 'I saw the Capt. and his wife at

#### JACKSON ATKINSON WRAY

Aldershot and spent a delightful day with them, she appears to greater advantage in her own house than any where else, as did her grandmother.' I think this refers to Lady Macnaughton, Mrs. Wray's maternal grandmother. Her mother Mrs. Hannay was Mary daughter of Sir Edmund MacNaughton.

In another letter to Charles Stewart dated 1858 Jackson Wray says: 'It appears now certain that the present Militia force will be kept up for another year at least and I am better pleased it should, indeed would rather stick to it now if I could but get another step, and somehow I fancy that will soon turn up.' His brother continued to refer to 'the Captain' but Jackson Wray was eventually promoted Lt-Colonel.

In 1860 George Wray writes to Charles Stewart, 'I heard from the Captain yesterday that he had taken a place in the Co. Down, it must be a grand house at the rent.' The house was called Ashleigh and was near Newcastle in County Down. Jackson Wray kept horses and hunted which seems to have been his chief amusement and, indeed, occupation. There is no record of him as J.P. or taking any other part in public life.

His portrait, painted by Martin Cregan, P.R.H.A., was exhibited in the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1856, but I do not know what became of this picture.

For some years Jackson Wray rented Somerset, a house standing in very pretty grounds with a view of distant hills and some good trees in the foreground on the banks of River Bann near to the town of Coleraine. It was here that Jackson Wray died in 1873. His will was dated 29 April 1871 and was proved at the District Registry, Londonderry, on 12 December 1873.

I found no record of his burial-place, but Albert Smythe told me he remembered his grand-uncle Jackson being buried in the family vault at Billy. He left no heir, his wife never having had a child.

Agnes Wray married again in 1877 as second wife of Rear-Admiral Henry McClintock Alexander. He died in 1896, but she lived until 1904.

## XXXIV

HENRY BASIL BROOKE WRAY, EMILY HIS  
WIFE, AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

**W**HEN Jackson Wray died the family estates were inherited by his third brother; thus the second son Henry Basil Brooke was passed over in the settlement made in 1851 by his father. The trouble had arisen about twenty years earlier, though I am not clear as to exact dates.

Henry Wray entered Trinity College, Dublin, on the 2nd of July 1827, aged 18, and took his B.A. degree in 1833.

I believe it was while Henry was at College that he married Emily Smith; she was governess to his two younger sisters, and his elder sisters were infuriated by his marrying outside what they considered his own rank in life. A terrible scene took place at Cromore. Henry was called into the dining-room where his father and sisters were assembled and his name was solemnly struck out of the Family Bible and he was disinherited from the family estates.

Soon after his marriage Henry and his wife went to Australia, where their first child was born and named George, and where Henry prospered on a ranch until he was robbed and his cattle and sheep were driven off by bushrangers. One of their grand-daughters told me that her grandmother had told her the story of how the bushrangers descended upon them while she was still in bed after the birth of her baby. They overpowered and bound her husband and the other men, took all money they could find, and then came to her room; they told her 'if she was quiet she would be all right'. They then proceeded to empty the contents of her cupboards into bags, and came to her bedside to take the rings from her fingers. When they took off her wedding-ring she wept and they put it on again.

Some time after this terrifying experience and devastating loss, Henry Wray with his wife and child returned to England, in a sailing vessel as they had gone out.

HENRY BASIL BROOKE WRAY, EMILY HIS WIFE

I believe it was after his return from Australia that Henry Wray was ordained. He held curacies at Bray in County Wicklow, in Plymouth, and in Birmingham, and then went to America where he had charge of a church in Vermont.

Another of the grand-daughter's stories was that the congregation asked to be allowed to come to his house one evening and, according to their custom, brought gifts to their minister, a ham, a bag of flour, a basket of apples, and so on, but his 'Irish pride' was hurt and soon afterwards he left Vermont and went across the border to Canada.

The only letter from Henry Wray that survives, as far as I know, was written to Charles Stewart in 1859, 24 June. Dated from Newark, Ohio, he says:

'My dear Charles, As I shall be in Philadelphia during the month of August will you make your next remittance to me there. Since I wrote you last, times are changed here rather for the worse, owing to a failure in the wheat crop and the war markets are very high. The mercantile world is the very deuce here, I cannot possibly obtain any situation for George in this town, hundreds of clerks and experienced bookkeepers are out of employment in these western states. I purpose locating George in Philadelphia if I can find a situation suitable for him.

'When you write will you tell me where Jackson is and how occupied. I have been and am suffering from low spirits and physical debility caused not so much by the heat as the variability of the weather. The climate here altho not so warm as Australia, is more trying from the sudden changes.

'I hope you are all well and have better hopes of peace being speedily restored than I have.

'With love to you all and thanks for your long kind letters and punctual remittances.

'I am dear Charles—faithfully,

H. B. Wray.

'Post Office Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A.'

I know no more except that in course of time Bishop Bonner appointed Henry Wray to a parish near London, Ontario, and there, in 1882, he died and I believe was buried. His widow spent the remaining years of her life with her eldest daughter Leonora at Kingston, Ontario, where she died 'on or about' the 13th of October 1896.

HENRY BASIL BROOKE WRAY, EMILY HIS WIFE

Henry Wray and his wife had eight children, four sons and four daughters.

George married Emma Barter from Ireland, and died 3 May 1913 in Florida, where he left descendants. Leonora, born in 1847, married Leonard Clements and left two daughters. Leonora died at Kingston in 1921.

Lily married — Fitch.

Henry Brooke married Bertha Smith in U.S.A. and died. Frank Atkinson died unmarried at Kingston, August 1933.

Charlotte Margaret married Harvey Coombe. She died 15 June 1915 in Vancouver.

Frances Susan married 1st Amos Witherow, and 2nd — Praill.

John Frederick born 1861 at La Prairie, Quebec, died unmarried 24 April 1938 in Toronto.

Owing to the sad break in the old family ties and the hard treatment meted out to Henry Wray the younger generations knew little or nothing of one another. I never remember having heard of the existence of this family until I went to Canada in 1920. It was while staying in the house of our mutual cousin Albert Smythe in Toronto, that I met Fred Wray and we made great friends. Neither of us had ever heard of the other but truly blood is thicker than water and we both recognized many family traits. In Fred I saw especially resemblance to Aunt Frances Wray, and although all his training and environment had been western there was that about him which spoke of the old country.

From Toronto I went on to visit my brother George who was then Principal of the Theological College in Saskatoon. He had served as a Chaplain in France and East Africa throughout the Great War, married the day peace was signed and, a month later, sailed for Canada with his wife to take up this University appointment. While I was there Frank Wray appeared, having heard of us from Fred and being on his way to Vancouver he thought he would look up his new-found cousins. He seemed a good deal older than Fred, a precise, little, elderly gentleman, a curious product of heredity and environment. Neither he nor Fred

#### AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

had ever left the American continent, and yet both had much of the old-world atmosphere. Every letter I received from them was written on paper crested with the Wray crest, and certainly if it had not been for the great depression in American affairs both brothers had hoped to visit England when they retired from business, but as it was neither of them ever came, which was a great disappointment to them and to me. I saw Frank again on my second visit to Canada in 1925. He was then living at Kingston and obviously failing in health. With him there I met Mrs. Clements's daughter, Mrs. Francis McNee, who is the only other member of the family I know.

Fred had a long illness which prevented his enjoying his one great recreation which was riding; he sent me several photographs of himself and his horse to whom he was greatly devoted. After his life of hard work it was distressing that he could not have the simple pleasure he had looked forward to. He died in Toronto in the spring of 1938.

XXXV  
FIVE SISTERS

I KNOW very little of the lives of my grandfather's five sisters, though I remember hearing about them as long as I can remember anything. Aunt Juliet is the only one of that family whom I ever saw. I have heard Aunt Jane described as a fine, commanding woman. Born in 1799, she was 33 when her mother died, so we picture her then as taking command of her father's house and of her younger sisters.

One letter of Jane Wray's survives, for which I am indebted to William Stewart; it is addressed to his father Charles and like the other letters preserved by him refers primarily to money affairs, but she touches on various points which lift a corner of the curtain that hides the past. The letter is dated from Rome, 20 November 1857, and addressed,

'My dear Mr. Stewart, If you have no Foreign correspondents our Post mark will surprize you, for your old Friends are become great wanderers and have just now reached this long wished for destination, but not I can assure you without much fatigue and some trouble. My brother George who has for so long a time so ably and kindly transmitted us our money finds that he has now no time from his own affairs but referred me to my Brother Jackson who being himself a wanderer desires me to beg of you to send it to us. I did not write sooner that I might be able to give you our address, to prevent any danger of losing the precious letter I should wish it sent to the care of Messrs. McBean & Co. Bankers, Corso, Rome.

'I hope Mrs. Stewart, your children and you, with dear Eliza are as well as we could wish. Winter everywhere is a trying time and finds Invalids in almost every Family.

'I am thankful to say our dear sister Juliet for whom we are expatriated, is better so far this season than for sometime past and bore a Journey from Florence, en Diligence, of 2 days and a night without stopping, better than any of us. The South certainly does suit her best. The country of Italy so far as we have

#### FIVE SISTERS

seen is not to compare in beauty with Switzerland but the works of art are beyond description! At Florence we remained 2 months, Picture Galleries not quite seen! If you have any Friends coming to Florence we can thoroughly recommend our Lodgings "Casa Scarpa, S. Maria Novella" we never were so comfortable or more cheaply situated. We have taken here a very nice suite of rooms in a central situation but Rome is a much more expensive place, as we are five ladies it lessens to us the amount. 4 months we intend passing here, not caring for the Holy-Week having seen too much of the same sad mummery at Venice. Afterwards we hope to see Naples and then in spring, please God, I will set out once more for my own country leaving my sisters near friends. I have now not many years to count upon and cannot give up the pleasure of seeing all the members of my Family. If in the north of Ireland I hope this time to be able to visit Ballyhivistock, I was sorry not to have been able to do so when last over.

"The Climate here is clear and cold a brilliant sun but keen air. We have been to St. Peters! Great and magnificent beyond idea, the crowds of English everywhere astonishing. Among many objects of interest we saw "Paul's own hired House" and the Prison he was confined in struck me most.

"Tell me of all your own family when you write and how dear Aunt Jane really is, I know she is not neglected by her kind Friends, but she has a sad gloomy life. Where is my brother Jackson now? Mrs. Wray told me they were to be the winter at Dover and I do not know their address. Where is your Brother Col Stewart? happy for those who have no relations in India in this *horrible* time. My sisters desire to be most kindly remembered to you and Mrs. Stewart in which I most cordially unite and with our best love to dear Eliza, Believe me dear Charles Y" very sincerely  
Jane A. Wray."

Jane Wray came to England in the following year; her brother Jackson's letter to Charles Stewart dated from Dover 22 May 1858 says: 'My sister has gone to Edinburgh to the Mackenzies whenever she goes to the "ould" country she hopes to avail herself of your kind invitation to pay you and Mrs. Stewart a visit.'

It must have been during that same visit that a daguerreotype was taken of Aunt Jane and her little niece Leonora. Aunt Juliet gave this picture in its little old faded case to my mother, the said Leonora.

#### FIVE SISTERS

I know nothing more about Jane Wray except that she died at Nice in the South of France on the 16th of January 1866.

Charlotte Wray the fourth daughter had married Kenneth McKenzie in 1841 and they had a large and comfortable house in Edinburgh.

After the death of old Mr. Wray the unmarried sisters made Charlotte's house their head-quarters whenever they were not travelling on the Continent, and after Mr. McKenzie's death Louisa and Juliet lived permanently with Charlotte.

Their niece Frances Wray often stayed with the aunts in Edinburgh, and took the opportunity to improve her painting by studying and copying pictures in the galleries there. I know very little about Aunt Louisa; she never married and in her latter years she lost her sight and eventually died in Charlotte's house in Edinburgh in 1890. A letter from Aunt Juliet to my mother gives a sad picture of these latter years. It was written from Edinburgh and dated 16 December, the year I think must have been 1891—she says :

"There is no change in your Aunt Charlotte except her mind going, indeed I may say gone. . . . The trial of seeing a sister so weak in mind is to me worse than a dangerous illness. I went out today for a little, it felt so sad and desolate thinking she never would be out again, she always calls me darling as all my sisters did, when she is gone I will have no one to love me, I was spoilt by having been as the youngest made a pet of by all my sisters. It is a comfort to me to have nursed my sister Jane and been with dear Louisa and now will never leave Charlotte. I am alive still is all I can say for my health. The cold has been intense."

It sounds very pathetic, and Juliet was a sad, lonely, old woman, but her nieces who knew her best thought she posed to herself and some of her loneliness was due to a tongue that could be cruelly sharp at times and to her inveterate pride, and contempt for what she called 'zeze horrible common English people'. After Aunt Charlotte's death Juliet lived entirely abroad—chiefly between Montreux and Kissengen. She liked French people better than any others. One of her peculiarities was in pronouncing 'th'



LEONORA WRAY WITH HER AUNT JANE WRAY

1858



Donegal County Library Service

like 'z'. Juliet was always scathing in criticism on the marriages of her relations. On one occasion when she highly disapproved she announced, 'Ze blood of a Wray boils at ze name of' so and so, another time her approval was expressed by the pious remark that she 'zanked Gaud — had married a gentleman'. In these and many other ways the poor old aunt made herself ridiculous to the few who knew her and would have cared for her had they been allowed.

My recollection of Aunt Juliet as I first saw her at Montreux in 1892 is of a very little old lady in a long black cloak and a large black hat tied on like a bonnet, who looked very poor and very sad, but had the features of a finely cut cameo and a delicate beauty about her face, but an expression of scornful pride that could be most withering. She was always kind to me, though being very young, I was frightened by the sharp things she said. In the summer of 1894 I was very ill, and my mother took me, with my sister Leo, to Nauheim so that I should have the 'cure' there and Aunt Juliet came over from Kissengen, where she spent the summer months, to see us. It was the first time she had ever seen my mother and they were glad to meet. I saw Aunt Juliet once again at Montreux in 1908, when she was in a very pitiful state having had a fall and broken her hip; she could only sit propped up in her chair but could not move alone and had to have a French maid to wait on her.

The next year Aunt Frances, though in failing health herself, went out to visit Aunt Juliet because she expressed a wish to see her after having refused to do so for several years. It could only be a short visit, she would not have tolerated anyone with her for long, and eventually in 1911 Juliet Wray died, alone, in the Pension at Montreux where she had wintered ever since she left Edinburgh. Her grave is in the little cemetery at Clarens overlooking the Lake of Geneva.

The sister Sarah Anne who was next in age to Juliet had died thirty-six years earlier. Sarah Anne married Lucius Cary while the Wray family were living at Red Castle. Lucius Cary was the seventh in direct descent from George

#### FIVE SISTERS

Cary, Recorder of Derry in 1613, by his wife Jane Beresford, through their eldest son George Cary of Red Castle who married Avis daughter of Captain Henry Vaughan of Buncrana. Lucius Cary's father, Francis, was a second son and inherited Red Castle on the death of his nephew, a posthumous child, who died a minor. Francis Cary's father and great-grandfather had each in turn married daughters of neighbouring Carys, one of Castle Cary, the other of Dungiven.

Francis Cary married Miss Paul who had the one son Lucius and then died; Francis Cary married again and had one daughter. As we saw it was in 1822 that Red Castle was sold, and during the time that the Wrays rented it Lucius Cary lived in a little house near by and presumably made love to Sarah Anne.

From the little I know of Sarah Anne's married life it must have turned out a sad one, beginning with the tragedy of her first and only son being burnt to death as an infant through the carelessness of his nurse. Her brother George Wray writing in January 1863 to Charles Stewart says: 'This morning's post brought me the sad news of poor Sarah Carys losing another daughter, her married life has been one of affliction.'

One daughter, Leonora, grew up and from an old photograph she must have had a beautiful face, and all accounts confirm the impression of a fine woman—Leonora Cary married James Smythe of Gracehill, Ballymena, and had a son Albert Stafford and a daughter also named Leonora.

Albert Smythe spent some holidays in Edinburgh with the old aunts, which young boys of to-day would think dull indeed, but Albert was always a student, somewhat of a mystic and a poet and appreciated all that there was of goodness in the aunts, especially Aunt Charlotte. Albert attended his grandmother's funeral which was the last burial in the vault at Billy. Sarah Anne died in 1876. Lucius Cary died in 1883. Albert was born in 1861 and as a young man went to seek work in Canada. His pen was both his sword and his spade. He served ably and devotedly for many years on the staff of leading newspapers in Toronto, as well as being

#### FIVE SISTERS

the author of some volumes of lyrics and other literary work. Albert Smythe married in 1889 Amelia Mary, daughter of Joseph Constantine, by whom he had a son Constantine Falkland Cary and a daughter Leo Mary. In 1906 Amelia Mary died and two years later Leo Mary died. In 1913 Albert married Jane, daughter of James Henderson of The Park, Newtown Stewart, Co. Antrim. She was his junior by several years but her tastes and ideals coincided with his, while she combined capability in the material things of everyday with a deep appreciation of the mental and spiritual side of life. Albert was by this time General Secretary of the Theosophical Society in Canada, and together they took part in many efforts for social reform and human betterment. They had one daughter Moira Hester Cary born in 1918. In October 1940 to the deep sorrow of her devoted husband Janie Smythe died. In November of the following year Moira married Thomas William McConnell Davis, M.A.

In 1914 Albert's son Conn joined the Canadian Artillery and served throughout the Great War in France, where he was awarded the Military Cross. During the latter part of the war he transferred into the Royal Flying Corps and won his pilot's wings. He was taken prisoner in Germany but eventually returned home safe, went into business, and also became a champion ice-hockey player and later was made manager of a group of the leading Canadian teams. Conn married Irene Sands in 1919, and they have a family of two boys and two girls. The eldest boy is now serving in the Royal Canadian Navy.

When the second world war broke out Conn raised and trained a battery of anti-aircraft artillery, and in 1942 came with it to England as second in command. The battery was one of those that guarded our eastern coast until the D-Day invasion when Major Smythe took it to France, where it shared in the desperate fighting around Caen and where he was severely wounded.

## XXXVI

## GEORGE CECIL GORE WRAY AT ARDNAMONA

AND now at last, in this large family, I come to the story of my own grandfather, George Cecil Gore Wray, born at Clogher House the 8th of December 1811, he was eighth child and third son of his parents. There are no records of his childhood. I do not remember having heard whether he ever learned to play his uncle's 'best fiddle' which he inherited when he was only 8 years old, and I have failed to discover where he went to school, unless it be that an entry in the list of pupils at Foyle College in Derry refers to him. In the year 1825 two boys named George and Henry Wray entered the College on the 1st of February. George left on 10 July and Henry on 9 October, so in any case the time spent there could hardly have counted in his education. In a letter written in later life to his Aunt Jane Wray, George speaks of 'the principles which you tried from my infancy to instil into me', and in another letter addressed to Charles Stewart he speaks of the same aunt as 'the kindest relation I ever had'. In the first half of the nineteenth century the attitude of father towards son was generally severe and cold, and we know that George Atkinson Wray as a father was no exception to this rule. When young George was born his mother already had seven children of whom the eldest, Maria, was not yet 14 and who died before the new baby was a year old. Before he was 7, three more babies had arrived and before he was 15 a brother and another sister died, so it is easy to picture that his mother was burdened with nursery cares, and she herself died before he was 21.

From Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary* we learn that in 1831 George Wray was established in a house of his own in County Donegal. Lewis says:

'There are about 900 acres of bog and a large tract of mountain-land in which is the beautiful lake of Lough Esk, at the upper end of which is the romantic and picturesque place called Ardnamona,

#### GEORGE CECIL GORE WRAY AT ARDNAMONA

the property of G. C. Wray Esq., and from which the river Esk descends southward to its estuary in the innermost recess of the bay of Donegal.'

I found no record of the purchase of Ardnamona, but I know that George Wray held it on a 'lease in perpetuity' from his cousin Thomas Brooke of Lough Eske Castle. Mr. Brooke's father's name was Younge. The Younges of Castlefin, Co. Donegal, had come in to the Lough Eske property through a marriage in 1717, when John Younge married Katherine, sister of Thomas Knox of Lough Eske, and failing heirs male she inherited the property from her brother. (See Burke's Manuscript Pedigrees, vol. 42, p. 321, P.R.O. Belfast.) Her great-grandson named Thomas Younge married Jane Grove. Jane Grove and her brother Thomas Grove were the children of Rose Brooke, sister to Henry Vaughan Brooke (see Chapter XXVI). Henry Vaughan Brooke inherited very large estates from his father Basil. He never married and left a large portion of his property to his sister Rose's son, Thomas Grove, on condition that he took the name and arms of Brooke, which Thomas Grove did, but he died without issue and, by his uncle's will, the property went to his sister Jane Grove's husband Thomas Younge, but he had predeceased Thomas Brooke, so his son Thomas Younge inherited and, in accordance with the terms of the will, took the name of Brooke, thus becoming Thomas Brooke of Lough Eske. Rose Brooke's mother had been Jane Wray and Jane Wray was sister to Jackson Wray, who in his turn was great-grandfather to George Cecil Gore Wray. Therefore Thomas Brooke and George Wray were third cousins. The records of the Grove-Younge generations are somewhat confused and some of the notes are contradictory, but the above outline is the clearest I can find.

Shortly after he succeeded to the property, Thomas Brooke built Lough Eske Castle near-by the site of a very old house now in ruins. The castle is approached by an avenue of fine beeches and surrounded by thick woods. Ardnamona lies on the same side of the lake but to the north-east, nearer to the Bluestack Mountains. Lewis speaks truly when he calls it romantic and picturesque; it has an appealing beauty

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that clings round one's heart and for which it is difficult to find words. When I first saw Ardnamona from the lake on a beautiful August evening, I felt as if it belonged to a dream world rather than to the material. The hills surround the upper end of the lake, with the near ones sloping right down to its shore, while in the distance the Bluestack range glowed with the deep pansy blue that is all their own. The foreground changed in colour from moment to moment, light and shade chasing one another over dark rocks and grass that looked like the greenest of velvet in which brown and purple blended in colouring that baffles description. The fleecy white clouds tinged with pink were mirrored in the dark water of the lake, water that looked almost solid in its blackness beneath an oily surface. All this time old Pat paddled the boat from one fishing-ground to another, here by the rushes and there where he thought 'there'd be the taste of a breeze'. I listened to the ripple of the water as we glided through it, to the gentle splash of the oars and to the stories Pat told of the days long ago when he 'was a wee boy', and 'he minded well' his father leading him by the hand to the house above yonder and there 'he seen auld Mr. Wray'. Presently I landed on a wooded shore and for just a little while wandered into the Fairy Glen. It is roofed by oak trees and carpeted with moss in to which your foot sinks deep at every step. There are little bunches of fern leaves, bilberry plants, and many seedling trees spending their sheltered babyhood in this veritable playground for fairies. Then we paddled away again round the Island and across to the opposite side of the lake, close under the Townawilly shore. The light was fading now and the reflections deepened from pink and yellow to lavender and grey in the ever darkening water. A chill crept up on the air; the water-lilies were closing their petals as we neared the flat stones that served as landing-stage. Stepping on shore seemed in very truth a coming back to earth from some other world. To me it had the added sense of having been away into the past, to a hundred years ago when George Wray first fished that lake and walked those shores.

In the old days a long low white house stood looking



ARDNAMONA

*from the Fairy Glen*

*From a watercolor sketch by Charlotte M. Wray, 1846*

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#### GEORGE CECIL GORE WRAY AT ARDNAMONA

down upon the lake across a grassy sward, while it was sheltered from the north winds by the surrounding woods of close-growing natural timber. George Wray planted some trees and more flowering shrubs, but most of his energies were devoted to farming the land. It is still remembered that Mr. Wray used to plough the lower fields with bullocks, the land near the lake was too soft for horses' hoofs. Old Pat told his recollection of seeing 'the tackle for harnessing the big bullocks hanging up outside in the yard'.

As well as being a good farmer, George Wray was a good sportsman. He fished the lake for salmon and white trout and occasionally caught one of the rare char that are still to be found in Lough Eske during the autumn months. In winter he shot woodcock on the mountains with Thomas Brooke.

By this time Thomas Brooke was married to Susan Maria, youngest daughter of John Donnelly of Blackwatertown in County Armagh, a beautiful, gifted, and charming woman, who to their great sorrow never had a child. She was, however, devoted to young people and beloved by them and as time went on became renowned as a matchmaker amongst her young friends and relations. The Donnelly family was a large one and linked as it became with the Younges, the Brookes, the Groves, and the Wrays, there grew amongst them many lifelong friendships.

Mrs. Brooke's eldest brother Thomas Donnelly and her third brother Frederick Alexander, went to India in the service of the H.E.I.C. Her eldest sister Anne married Edward Moore and their eldest son also went to India. A particularly thoughtful letter from this young man, twelve years George Wray's junior, survives to give us a glimpse of how two men of those days thought and compared their conditions, and I think it implies that George Wray was not entirely satisfied with his lot.

The letter is dated 'At A. F. Donnelly's Calcutta. 7th May 1843' and begins

'My dear George I have just returned from Church and cannot think of a better employment after it than writing to a friend, I have written you two or three dispatches which I hope you have received and intend to answer. Sometimes I wish you were here

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and again I wish I was at home, for I think India is agreeable only to those who have no inducement to go home or who did not enjoy it when there. For my part I never will cease looking forward to going back to ould Ireland, which I am convinced is the finest place in the world. You were sufficiently acquainted, I think, with my habits to know that I liked being out of doors all day, in fact being idle. Think what a change it must be, when I am limited by the sun to 1 hour at sunrise and another at sunset for being out of doors. The rest of the day you spend in the house. At the present moment the room I sit in has the glass windows shut close and venetian blinds outside to keep the glare off. Inside sits your humble servant and on the ground a black chap pulling a large fan to try and make it a little cooler. In fact my dear fellow I am hermetically sealed till 6 o'clock when I can breathe a little till 7. After all, your lot is better than mine by 100 degrees which I will prove. You say you are out of the world, perhaps? What the deuce will I be in two or three months in the jungle or even at a country station. You will say I have more means of enjoyment, more horses etc.? I say in return what is the use of any enjoyment in which you know yourself to be limited? What is the use of 20 horses if you can only ride for one hour and that perhaps by yourself. Sporting the same, enjoyable for about an hour or so at certain seasons. You may say at the end of 20 years I will be richer than you? Granted, but what will I be (if I live) at the end of 20 years, a poor weasened old devil who has only arrived at the conclusion that home, with a little, is better than a foreign land with affluence. So I have proved this, viz: although fond of open air I can seldom enjoy it. 2nd fond of good horses and showing them; in the jungle there is no one to look at them. 3rd Fagging for 20 years to find out at the end that I was a fool and had not enjoyed myself while I was young.

"Thank your fate that made you a country gentleman. I am glad to tell you that I passed one language the other day, so have only another language between me and the enviable position that awaits me. There is scarcely a pretty girl in Calcutta so you would be considered a benefactor by shipping a few off at once. I have a very good berth here with Donnelly, the use of his horses etc. and an introduction to the best people here; though as they say at home "good people are scarce." And now with enquiries for the neighbours, great and small, and kind regards to your own family I remain dear George your sincere friend John Cory Moore.

P.S. Tell me all the news when you find time to write."

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The Donegal postmark on this letter was dated 4 July so it took eight weeks to reach its destination.

John Cory Moore died of jungle fever at Ahmadabad on the 30th of December 1848.

In the spring of 1842 there came to stay at the Castle with their cousin Susan, two young girls, Lucy Waller and her younger sister Charlotte, who was not yet quite 19. I have a letter written by Charlotte to Anna, another sister aged 16. This letter is dated 'All fools day', and gives a lively account of how Mr. Brooke called them from their beds on humbugging pretexts, and when they explained their early rising to Margaret, the Scotch housemaid, she said, 'the Master was verra merry the morn'. Charlotte then described their attempts to take 'running leaps' in the woods until Lucy fell in the mud, and when they 'could not make much of that amusement' they set off for the Island 'to have a ride on the bridge which as Mr. Brooke says is the prettiest piece of architecture he ever saw. It was constructed and planned by Mr. Wray during Mr. B's absence at the Assizes. It is very long, 100 feet, so you may fancy there is a good spring in it. I sat right in the middle and had a nice ride.'

That is all we hear for the time being but it was only the first of Miss Charlotte's visits, and I have wondered whether these visits under Mrs. Brooke's wing perhaps caused the somewhat unsatisfied frame of mind which George Wray had evidently revealed to Cory Moore. Be that as it may, on the 1st of August 1844, George Wray, a tall, dark, and handsome man of 33, was married in the Cathedral at Armagh to Charlotte Margaret, third daughter of the late Colonel Charles Waller, R.A., by his wife Margaret daughter of William Johnston and his wife Marianne Donnelly.

## XXXVII

THE FAMILIES OF DONNELLY, JOHNSTON  
AND WALLER

At this point I must turn from County Donegal and the main story to the city of Armagh where Charlotte lived with her mother Margaret and give an outline of her family history. It is through this distaff-side that we who are Charlotte's direct descendants claim our one strain of true Celtic blood. Margaret's mother was Marianne Donnelly, who in her turn descended from the ancient royal house of O'Neill and O'Donnell. This Sept owned and ruled large tracts of land, including Tirconnell, as County Donegal was then called, 'O'Donnell's Country'. Much of the story of the Sept is told in the 'Annals of the Four Masters', which document has the sub-title of 'A history of events in Ireland from the earliest period to the year 1616', and was the work of four holy men, great scholars who were friars and lived and wrote in Donegal Monastery. Three original copies of the manuscript survive and are preserved in the Royal Irish Academy of Learning, Trinity College, and the Franciscan Library on Merchants' Quay in Dublin, respectively. A translation of the Annals was made and edited by J. O'Donovan, LL.D., in 1851, with an Appendix added by him which gives notes of the O'Donnelly family down to the date of publication.

In the Annals mention is made of 'Baile-Ui-Donnghaile', and in the translation a footnote explains the connexion and describes the place and family as follows: 'Baile-Ui-Donnghaile, the town or residence of O'Donnelly; a family which derives its name and origin from Donnghaill O'Neill, seventeenth in descent from Niall the Great, ancestor of the royal house of O'Neill.' The footnote continues: 'Bally Donnelly which is now called Castle Caulfield after that distinguished soldier Sir Toby Caulfield, ancestor of the Earls of Charlemont to whom it was granted by James I, contains 24 balli-

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boes as appears from an inquisition taken at Dungannon on  
the 23rd August 1610.'

Castle Caulfield, sometime Bally Donnelly, now in ruins, lies to the west of Dungannon about ten miles from the city of Armagh.

In the Appendix to the Annals it is stated that in 1623 Shane MacDonnell Grome O Donnelly died and was succeeded by his son Patrick Moder O Donnelly in his lands of Gortelary in County Tyrone, which were 'held of the King in free and common socage'. 'After the Revolution in 1688, this Sept who were remarkable for their adherence to the cause of James II, forfeited the remnants of their ancient estates, but still they never lost sight of their former station.' And they never have!

In 1689 Hugh O Donnelly was born; he was son of Terence, son of Patrick Moder O Donnelly above mentioned. 'His descendants have escaped the great reverse of fortune which has been the unhappy fate of many of the O Neills and other families of the royal line of Niall of the Nine Hostages after the confiscation of their estates.'

In 1719 Hugh O Donnelly married Alice, daughter of Doctor Lawrence de Butts, member of a Huguenot family. Doctor de Butts had also a son, Caleb, who was Rector of Mullabrack, Co. Armagh. Supported by her father and brother Alice induced her husband, Hugh, to conform to the Protestant religion, and at the same time they dropped the O from their name, which thus became Donnelly. Hugh and Alice had a son, Hugh Donnelly, of Blackwatertown, Co. Armagh. Young Hugh's first wife died childless; he then married Margaret, widow of Captain Haughton, and daughter of John Mahon, Esq., of Strokestown, Co. Roscommon, by whom he had one son, John, born in 1776, and one daughter, Marianne, who married William Johnston, Esq., of Armagh, and had one daughter, Margaret.

John Donnelly married in 1793, Rebecca, daughter of the Rev. John Younge, of Eden, Armagh, by whom he had nine children; of these Thomas became Major and A.A.G. in H.E.I.C., Bombay; William, known as 'of Auburn', was

#### THE FAMILIES OF DONNELLY, JOHNSTON, AND WALLER

Registrar-General for Ireland. He married Louisa Frances, daughter and heiress of Andrew Crawford, Esq., of Auburn, Malahide, Co. Dublin; Arthur Frederick served in H.E.I.C., Bengal; Anne married Edward Moore, Captain, Sherwood Foresters; Susan Maria married Thomas Brooke, Esq., of Manor Brooke and Lough Eske, Co. Donegal; Sophia married Arthur Baillie Wallace, Esq.; Lucy married Leonard Dobbin, Esq., of Armagh.

The Johnstons came to the County Armagh towards the middle of the seventeenth century and since that time the family divided into various branches, in each of which there were many children.

I trace the story of William's branch from tombstones, old letters, my grandmother's note-book, and some notes given me by George Paul Johnston, of Kilmore House, Armagh.

There are two Johnston tombstones in the Cathedral graveyard. They lie in the grass on the south side under the shadow of the Cathedral walls. Only one of these flat grey stones belongs to our branch and it shows only Margaret's name. This is explained by her daughter Charlotte in the note-book so often referred to already. The inscription on the stone reads :

'Here lieth the body of Margaret only child of William Johnston of this City and Marianne Donnelly his wife. She married first Colonel Charles Waller of the Royal Artillery and secondly William Lodge Kidd, M.D. of this City and died 17th September 1881 aged 83 years.'

In the note-book the copy of the inscription is followed by this explanation, signed by Charlotte :

'William Johnston married Mary Anne Donnelly, their only child Margaret was born 6 Oct. 1797. She—my Mother—married Charles Waller Col. Roy<sup>l</sup> Artillery 4 Febr 1819 at Benburb Church Co Armagh. (Rev. John Young). She died Sep. 17th 1881. She was buried in the grave of her Fathers, the tombstone being reversed as no room on it for record of her death.—the dates of her marriages & death were put on the upper side—C. M. Wray.'

My grandmother also gives a copy of the older inscrip-

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tion which now lies buried face downwards on the grave.  
She describes it as

'Inscription on Tomb Stone in the Church yard of Armagh  
Cathedral (near Dobbins Vault).

'Here lyeth the body of William Johnston late of Armagh, who  
departed this life on the 20th day of Sept 1792 in the (broken  
66<sup>th</sup>) of his age—Also the body of his wife Margaret, who de-  
parted this life on the 19th day of Decr 1762 in the 25th year of  
her age. And also the body of William Johnston—Grandfather—  
Edward Johnston—Father—Mary Johnston—Mother—and Rich-  
ard Johnston brother of the above named William Johnston—

'Likewise are interred here the remains of Mrs. Rachel Johnston  
second wife of the above named William Johnston, who died in  
Feby 1797 aged 60 years. And of William Johnston their son who  
died on the 25th day of Decr 1797 aged 33 years.'

From notes in an old family Prayer-book at Kilmore I  
collected a few further particulars:

Edward Johnston, son of the first William mentioned,  
was born 31 October 1701. On the 1st of June 1720, Edward  
married his cousin Mary Johnston, who was born 30 April  
1701. Their son William was born 3 February 1728 and his  
brother Richard was born 29 January 1731; he died 1758.

Edward and Mary had several other children but it is with  
their son William that this story is concerned.

William married Margaret (her father's name is not given)  
and had two sons, Richard and Francis. Margaret died in  
1762 and William married secondly Rachel, again no maiden  
name given. She also had two sons, William and Andrew.  
William married Marianne Donnelly, who had a daughter  
Margaret, born 6 October 1797. William died on 25 Decem-  
ber of the same year.

In the Appendix of the 26th Report of the Deputy Keeper of  
Public Records in Ireland there is the notice of a Marriage  
Licence 'Johnston, Mary Ann and Samuel Read 1798',  
'Dublin Grants.' It further appears from old letters that  
Samuel Reed was an Alderman of the City of Dublin, that  
he and Mary Anne lived in Dublin, and that Margaret  
Johnston spent her childhood there. I found no date for  
Mary Anne's death but it must have been before 1815, as

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there are letters dated in that year which show that Margaret  
was then living with her Uncle Andrew Johnston and his  
wife Sophia in their house in Upper Temple Street, Dublin,  
and that she was so unhappy she had determined to leave  
them. Her uncle, John Donnelly, wrote to her from  
Blackwatertown:

'At all times you are sure to find a welcome here from your  
Aunt as well as from me,' and he continues: 'I think you owe it  
to yourself to wait upon your Uncle and Aunt Frank and mention  
your intention and the cause, but in as gentle a manner as you  
can, you know he is as kind and good natured a man as possible,  
and I really do think and always did think, his wife a good natured  
woman, and very different from what you have been led to suppose  
her. Alderman Reed has always behaved to you in the  
kindest and most affectionate manner, I therefore think it due to  
him that you inform him of and explain to him your reasons for  
coming to the country, and I would not say more of your Aunt  
Sophy's unkindness than may be sufficient to justify yourself.  
Your Aunt adds a few lines & I remain my dear Margaret your  
affectionate Uncle

John Donnelly.'

Margaret evidently took refuge with her Uncle John and  
remained at Blackwatertown throughout the following year.

In March 1816, Samuel Reed writes to her in most affectionate  
terms, and tells her that her Uncle Frank had requested him, when he wrote, to make a request that she  
would write 'a kind letter' to her Uncle Andy. He adds:  
'which I hope you will do besides, I know your Uncle will be  
highly gratified, do my dear Margt and lose no time about it,  
you have no idea how much your Uncle Frank pressed for your  
writing to Temple St., do my dear and in your next let me know  
you have done so, and how you are getting on and how all my  
old friends about you are. The weather has been very severe here  
these 3 months past. Dublin as usual at this time rather gay.'

Margaret's 'Uncle Frank' had risen to considerable eminence as an architect in Ireland. He had been appointed  
architect of the Board of Works and Civil Buildings in 1805,  
had planned and erected the Chapel in Dublin Castle, St.  
George's Church, the General Post Office, the Customs

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House, and many other public buildings in Dublin, as well as Charleville Castle and Rokeby Hall in the country, the Observatory at Armagh, and the steeple which was added to the ancient cathedral there. Francis Johnston also designed and gave the Royal Hibernian Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture. He laid the foundation-stone on the 29th of April 1824, and was presented with a silver trowel bearing an inscription, from which the following is an extract :

"This building elegant in design, spacious in extent, and costly in execution, he raised and perfected at his sole and proper expense and with it endowed the members of the Academy and their successors for ever—"

This presentation was made in 1828. In 1829 Francis Johnston died.

One of the many tragic consequences of the Easter Week Rebellion in Dublin in 1916 was the destruction by fire of the Academy. A newspaper report at the time stated :

"Though the stout walls of the Royal Hibernian Academy still stand, the building is entirely gutted and its treasures have been consumed in the great fire. . . . The Academy has sustained an irreparable loss in the destruction of its permanent collection."

But this is a digression of a hundred years. In the year 1816 Margaret received another letter, which in its intimate touches gives a glimpse of the thoughts of her day. On 17 August John Reed, son of Samuel, writes :

"I was surprised at meeting Colonel Young at the Review on Monday last. . . . He looks very well, somewhat the complexion of a Cherokee, he had hair breadth escapes at Waterloo—was knocked down three times by the wind of Cannon shot. Are you really serious when you ask my advice about books? With regard to Swift tho he was undoubtedly the greatest genius of his time I don't think that the very best of his books are adapted to the Studies of your sex he deals too much in politics for that and his wit and humour tho of the very first description are not always the most delicate. As for Goldsmith there is not a line of his which you might not get by heart. I think history and travel, assisted by an atlas, a preferable Study (for young persons) to

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biography. I have a notion that you have laid hold of Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*. This letter is not worth paying postage for, so I shall send it free.'

The next letter from Samuel Reed that survives is dated the 4th of December 1818. His writing has greatly changed and he speaks of being ill 'with an inside complaint', but he goes on to congratulate 'his dearest Margaret'—and says:

'From Mr. Donnelly's letter and from the excellent character of Col<sup>l</sup> Waller I am rejoiced to hear of your looking forward to every happiness . . . you were not one yeare old when your mother was married ever since I have been as attentive as you could wish. . . . Let me know when the Col<sup>l</sup> is to be made the happy man, you will not be the first of the family that has commanded at Charlemont Fort. My illness & my Dr prevents me from saying a great deal more but recollect all that ought to be said and take it from the pen of your affec<sup>ts</sup> father Samuel Reed.'

It was on the 4th of February 1819 that Margaret Johnston married Charles Douglas Waller, eldest son of Charles Waller of West Wickham, Kent, by his wife Rachel du Barbut. He was a widower, twenty-six years her senior. His first wife was Ann, daughter of Major Stewart, R.A., whom he married at Quebec on 3 August 1791, while on service there. Ann died childless on the 26th of April 1808.

Colonel and Mrs. Waller lived in the Commanding Officer's house at Charlemont Fort, near to the market-town of Moy, which lies about seven miles from Armagh, on the border of the County Tyrone.

Mrs. Waller had three daughters in quick succession, and then came the only son, Charles. The first daughter was named Marianne after Margaret's mother and Lucy after Mrs. Mead, wife of Colonel Waller's old friend and 'man of business' in England, the second was given the name of Frances after Colonel Waller's sister Mrs. Legge, and the third, born on the 12th of May 1823, was called Charlotte Margaret as her mother said 'after her father and myself'.

In her girlhood Margaret had shown a very definite will of her own, and during her engagement she wrote some words of wise advice to her elderly fiancé. She asked him to write to her Uncle Donnelly 'not from any necessity but

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that of being a little civil', and she adds, 'Don't be offended, but I think I never saw any person who appears to care less for etiquette and its attendants than you do, and let me tell you tho it may sometimes be unpleasant yet it must be attended to. Politeness is that which unites society and without it we should be little better than so many savages, no person caring or thinking for anyone but self.'

Later Margaret's letters are those of a very devoted wife; when 'her dearest Charley' was away on duty at Buncrana, she is 'longing for your safe return. I have only been out once and that to Dungannon since you left home nor shall I have spirits to make any visits until I hear from you. You have been almost a week away, I hope by the time another has passed you will be drawing near home.'

A letter cost one shilling and sixpence from Armagh to Dublin and two shillings to London, where in 1823 Colonel Waller stayed at Whitehead's Turk's Head Coffee House, Strand. Many letters allude to obtaining the privilege of a frank. Margaret writes on 2 August 1823,

'Mrs. Dunne has promised me a frank for Monday, however as you would not receive a letter written on that day until the Thursday following, I fear you would be uneasy at not hearing from me so I write today to have the pleasure of telling you that we all continue well, we have not once called upon Dr. King since you left us except to vaccinate Charlotte.'

In 1826 it was Margaret who was away from home, visiting her Uncle and Aunt Francis Johnston at Eccles Street, Dublin. She tells of her uncle taking her to see 'his Academy', and then on 20 April writes:

'I was greatly annoyed and disappointed at not getting my seat yesterday. It was just as we were getting into the carriage that John Donnelly arrived at the door to say I could not have a seat. He assured me my seat was perfectly secure for Friday and the Coach does not start until 7. so I suppose it will not reach Armagh till the same hour in the evening and if you intend coming in for me perhaps it would be better for you to have an early dinner. The poor little people must wait another day.'

Thus her married life had proceeded happily for seven

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years; then tragedy befell Margaret. Of this she tells the  
story with great clearness in a letter to her husband's sister:

Moy 27<sup>th</sup> July 1826

County Tyrone

My dear Madam

Although I am obliged to Mr. Mead for being the first to announce to you the melancholy news it would have been my duty to do. Yet you may imagine my feelings in sitting down to address the Sister of my loved Husband. The Almighty took him suddenly but my greatest consolation and I hope it will prove one to you is to know that he was not called unprepared to meet his Judge and with humble confidence to express my hope that he is now inheriting Eternal Glory. The stroke to me was a most severe one and He alone who inflicted it could have given me strength to bear it. On the 23 of June we had gone out to drink tea at the house of a relation of mine at two miles distance. Never were the poor little children so anxious for a drive for they accompanied us to pass the evening with their cousins nearly their own age and Papa drove. Coming home which we did at nine o'clock there was a bonfire (as there always is on Midsummer Eve) nearly in the middle of the road. When we came near enough Charles called very loud to the people to put it out but they did not attend to him he then dismounted and threw the burning particles into the ditch led the horse past and mounted again but almost immediately turned to me and said 'I fear I have broke another bloodvessel' he had ruptured a small one about six weeks before but as he was not very ill at the time and recovered rapidly we did not dread any bad consequences from it. We assisted him into the car and I took the reins to drive home but before we reached it and we had not near a mile to come he was lifeless in my arms. I had only a female attendant with me and she having the four children to attend to could not give me any assistance. Such was the awful event that deprived me of the best of Husbands my poor children of a fond Father and you of a Brother who always spoke of you with the greatest affection how much I wish you and one of your daughters could have come to us last summer we did not propose your coming this summer on account of my confinement which I expect the end of next month but we looked forward to more distant schemes which God has in his wisdom thought fit to frustrate. God knows if we may ever meet but I shall always wish it most ardently

I hope you will let me hear from you frequently it will give me

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great pleasure to correspond with you and perhaps for the sake  
of Him who is gone you may wish to hear of His Children Fare-  
well my dear Mrs. Legg with every kind and affectionate wish  
for yourself and Family allow me to subscribe myself

Your sincere friend and afflicted Sister

Margaret Waller

Colonel Waller was buried in the churchyard at Moy,  
where a low altar tombstone marks his grave with the simple  
inscription:

'Sacred to the memory of Colonel Charles Waller, R.A. who  
departed this life on the 23rd of June 1826 aged 54 years.'

From letters dated in 1802 and addressed to Charles  
Waller as a Captain when he was serving in the West Indies,  
it is evident that he had been greatly influenced by the  
teaching of some of the immediate followers of John Wesley.

Charles Waller was a gunner by profession, a good soldier,  
and a much respected officer, but he was an artist at heart.  
With his brother Thomas of the Royal Navy, he was a  
close friend of Paul Sandby, known as the 'father of English  
water colour painting'. Both the Waller brothers painted  
with Sandby and in style undoubtedly resembled him.  
Charles Waller, like Sandby, produced some woodcut en-  
gravings from his own sketches. He carved in wood and  
was also a skilled carpenter; some pieces of his finely made  
mahogany furniture are still in my possession.

The Waller family have a long soldier history reaching  
back through Cromwellian days to the reign of King  
Henry V, when at the battle of Agincourt

Richard Waller with others of the archers found the Duke of  
Orleans beneath a heap of dead with some signs of life in him.  
Waller carried him to the King who ordered care to be taken of  
him and committed him to his custody. Richard Waller had, in  
honour of his taking so noble a prisoner, an additional crest  
granted to him and his heirs for ever, viz. the arms, or, escutcheon  
of France hanging by a label on a walnut-tree, with this motto  
affixed: 'Haec fructus virtutis'. (See Hasted's *History of Kent*,  
vol. i, p. 430, pub. 1782.)

The Wallers of West Wickham bear these same arms and  
motto.

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Three and a half years after her husband's death when writing to Mrs. Legge, Margaret said:

'I very much wish to know if you could give me a clue to any relations of ours of the name of Waller. There are numerous families of that name but to none can I trace any connection. I asked Mr. Mead when I was in London, he had not thought about this matter but said he would make enquiries, it is a pity we do not know to whom we are related, it is a good name & all the families of it are respectable, fortunately we do not want anything but I should like if possible that Charles should know with whom he is connected. I often thought it a pity that your brothers should have given up all intercourse with the more distant branches of their family so that of course in time the degree of kindred is lost.'

I do not know whether Mrs. Legge gave any information.

On the 14th of September 1826 Mrs. Waller's baby was born, a girl, whom she named Anna in compliment to her Aunt Anne, Mrs. Francis Johnston. Mrs. Waller had, of course, already moved from Charlemont Fort to a house in Moy, which enabled her to continue as near neighbour to her cousins the Donnellys at Blackwatertown, and also the Edward Moores who were the cousins with whom she and Colonel Waller had been visiting on the evening that he died.

Letters from Margaret to Mrs. Legge tell of her own and her children's welfare during the next two or three years while they continued to live at Moy. In October 1829 Margaret says:

'I look forward to my move from Moy without pleasure in one respect, and yet with satisfaction in others, for I get attached to places particularly where I have passed some happy days but there are no advantages for the children in the way of education. God knows where my tent may be pitched but I have a year and a half to consider about it, if my life is spared.'

In November of the same year, Margaret says to Mrs. Legge:

'You ask me if we are quiet in this country. In the North of

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Ireland and particularly in this neighbourhood, where almost all are protestants, we are, but in the South the accounts are very bad indeed, and I fear not exaggerated. In all parts of Ireland there is much poverty from the failure of the Linen trade which employed men, women and children, and from that ruinous system of Absentism. How can we be rich or have any comforts when all our large landed proprietors do not spend any part of their incomes among their Tenantry here, and by the absence of their Landlord they have no incitement to industry nor any good example to follow to induce them to throw off the trammels of ignorance in which they are kept by their Priests, and yet the Irish are a fine people and if it were not for their natural intelligence, hardy temperament & good humour they would sink under the burthen of want of food, of cleanliness and instruction and if Ireland was not one of the finest countrys in the World it would not, with the little labour it receives, sustain its immense population. I must acknowledge my poor country people have many faults but as that is a part of the character soon discovered, and often more held up to view than the good points I shall be silent and only hope that we may improve "as when anything comes to the worst they must mend".

In this same letter Margaret sympathized with Mrs. Legge in her alarm while her 'family was labouring under that terrible disorder the small pox', and she adds:

'you do not say whether they had been vaccinated in their infancy. I always understood that operation reduces the effects, if it is not altogether an antidote. I have great confidence in it and it is so constantly resorted to by rich and poor here that we scarcely ever hear of the small pox, which is a great blessing.'

In May 1830, Margaret writes:

'We are just seventy-one miles from Dublin, I go there occasionally and think it probable I shall be settled there next year. The last time I was up I had my likeness taken. I should have found it a great comfort to have had the likeness of some dear departed friends and feeling so I had mine done to leave to my children.'

The likeness was a rather large miniature of a very handsome young woman; it is three-quarter length and shows her in a plain black, low-cut gown, but with a rose-coloured scarf

THE FAMILIES OF DONNELLY, JOHNSTON, AND WALLER over her arm, and wearing the gold chain which was her husband's gift to her on her wedding-day, when it was enclosed in a very finely wrought little silver box bearing the design of two hearts pierced by two arrows. Both miniature and chain with its case have now descended to me.

The last letters from Moy are dated during 1831; they make no further mention of the approaching move, but it was not in Dublin that Margaret settled; instead she moved to a house in Beresford Row, Armagh, and later to Charlemont Place.

The reason for her choice of Armagh and for the cessation of letters to Colonel Waller's sister, who was probably annoyed with her, may I think be found in the fact that on the 22nd of January 1833, Margaret Waller married Dr. William Lodge Kidd, a widower, who had his practice in the city of Armagh.

An entry in Dr. Kidd's diary says: 'My wife having five children of Colonel Waller's and I five also, it required a larger house than mine in English Street to accommodate us and she living in one of the large recently built houses in Charlemont Place, No. 2, at the Mall, I, with my family, removed to it and disposed of my house.' By the end of the following year the family moved again, but only next door into No. 1 Charlemont Place. Within the next seven years, Margaret bore five children to Dr. Kidd. The youngest of these children died when just a year old, and one of Dr. Kidd's first family died and another married, but even so it was from a very large family circle that Charlotte came to be the young mistress at Ardnamona.

From her father she inherited 'an agreeable fortune', as Angel Galbraith would have said, and to finish the quotation 'had had ye advantage of a virtuous education'. Charlotte was both gifted and accomplished, an artist of no small talent, well read in English literature and a good French scholar, having spent some time in Paris during her sixteenth year. She was small in stature with beautifully shaped hands and feet; although without remarkable features, her face bore an expression of charm and serenity and she was

THE FAMILIES OF DONNELLY, JOHNSTON, AND WALLER possessed of that subtle dignity which seems to be the prerogative of some small women. In Charlotte's case it was accompanied by a gentle, trustful, and lovable character that never waned but rather waxed in strength throughout the joys and sorrows of her life, the story of which will be found in the remaining chapters of this history.

### XXXVIII

#### GEORGE AND CHARLOTTE WRAY WITH THEIR CHILDREN

THE few records that I have of early days at Ardnamona come from parish registers and from three letters written by Charlotte. The first of these letters is dated 23 August 1844, just three weeks after her marriage. In it she tells her sister Anna that she 'is happy as the day is long *at home*' and goes on to say, 'I forgot to tell you of the day I wore my wedding costume for them at Lough Eske, of course the servants had all to come and see, and Pat Fox sent up to know might he come, so up he came and walked round me and admired me very much, the tears almost in his eyes when he told me he had driven my mother to the church to get married at Benburb.'

Beautiful as were the surroundings of Ardnamona there could be no denying that it was 'out of the world' and in those days must have been very inaccessible; therefore it is not surprising to find a year later that Charlotte's first baby was born in her mother's house at Armagh, a son, on the 6th of August 1845. The parish registers of Armagh were never sent to Dublin and therefore are among those that survive. I found the entry: 'Baptised in the parish of Armagh and Church of St. Mark, on Sept. 28 George Atkinson, parents George Cecil Gore and Charlotte Margaret Wray of the parish of Killimard Co. Donegal, Esquire. Ceremony performed by Robt. Haig.'

After that there is silence again until the following summer, 1846, when another letter from Charlotte to Anna gives items of family news. It is only dated 'Wednesday'. She says:

'This intense heat stupefies me, and makes my hand shake. The evening before last we had a fearful summer storm, George went over to the Gap after dinner charging me to go to the Upper Meadow and watch the men. I went with Baby. Everything indicated the storm. All sorts of insects in the air, a sure sign, not a breath of air. Clouds falling lower and lower and mountains



CHARLOTTE MARGARET WALLER

*just before her marriage to George Cecil Gore Wray, 1 August 1844*

Donegal County Library Service

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growing awfully black. We were safe in the house just to hear the first crash of thunder, then down came the rain in immense drops and soon all was invisible in this even-pour! I never saw such a storm and when it cleared off that we could see, the torrents were magnificent down the mountains and the roar of them awful grandeur itself. George was not home until near 10 having been at the far end of Townawilly. It is now most wonderful and quite plain to see where one flash of Lightning struck the Townawilly waterfall side. There is a deep rip scored from about half way down, leaving *not* bog visible but red clay. We are mystified to our wits end as to what can have happened the old master. Jane is gone now almost three weeks, he wrote on her going up that he would be here instanta, and a scrape of a pen from any of them we have not had since. I lose all patience in such a case, can't people write a few lines to say I'm going or I'm not going; I'm well or I'm ill but Silence! is very puzzling and George's brain is rather fertile in self torturing himself, as to the cause. I console him as well as I can by supposing that if Louisa or Jane *had* eloped, he being young and active would have been sent in chase! Poor darling Baby met with what might have been a fearful accident yesterday, dashed his hand thro a pane of glass but I am thankful to tell you he has only got a flesh wound in the inside of his hand, but I got an awful fright, hearing him scream. I ran upstairs and met Anne bringing him down, they were both covered with blood for it actually poured. Anne could not speak, and I had just to *stop* a moment to compose myself before I could look what it was. It is not of any consequence but just imagine what an escape he had. It bled a great deal but we got it stopt with cobwebs, and I sent for some plaster which he would take infinite pleasure in pulling off, so his hand is tied up in a handkerchief and he is not a bit the worse. Now you will all say why don't you watch him better but that would be impossible and a child (that jumps about as he does) will make a fling the very way you least expect even while you are watching.

'For Lucy's information, she did not hear George say Mrs. Montgomery was at all elegant, but a fine, very large woman. The Mr. Knox Fanny speaks of is son of Col. Knox of Prehen and is a very distant connection of George's not sufficient to warrant a likeness. We met him the day we were at Portrush.

'Oh! that I had some one to send baskets of carnations to—they are lovely and so sweet. It is so provoking you can't have your will of them.

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'I have been exerting all my energies to make pens with knives as blunt as shovels and to write with ink as thick as stirabout and I can't do either to my satisfaction so goodbye ever being dearest Anna your affec C.M.W.'

In my childhood I remember cobwebs being used to stop bleeding, but not by my mother. My recollection is chiefly of her dismay when she discovered the means that had been resorted to when, in the passage of time, it was her little boys who had wounded themselves.

The next record comes again from the parish register of Armagh. On the 24th of February 1848 a daughter was born to Charlotte at her mother's house and the register says: 'Baptised March 14 in Armagh Cathedral Margaret Lucy Frances, parents George Cecil Gore and Charlotte Wray, Ardnamona Co. Donegal, esquire. Ceremony performed by Alex Irwin.'

The famine in Ireland was at its worst in 1848 and it is probable that Mrs. Wray spent most of that terrible winter in Armagh, but of this I have no evidence. Donegal was one of the counties that suffered most severely, the north-west side of the county being very wild, roads were bad and the 'picturesque and romantic scenery' meant high rugged hills and deep valleys. The cottages were scattered and many of them were in very ungetatable places, approached by a mere track across bog or over rocks on the bare hill-side, with just their potato patch adjacent to the house and when that crop failed there was literally nothing to eat. It is hard for any of us now to picture the conditions, intensified as they were by lack of all the communications that in our day we take for granted. Mrs. Brooke established a soup kitchen and kept a man all day long to stir the boiling cauldron of Indian meal porridge, while the people came with 'two pint cans' to fetch their daily portion. This meal was sent from America, but they did not understand how to cook it in their own little cabins and in their weakened, hunger-stricken state many died from eating it half raw.

In the winter of '49 Mrs. Wray and her two babies were back again at Ardnamona, and I will allow her own letter to tell a story which she does much more graphically than

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the correspondent of the *Newry Telegraph* in a printed report  
which also survives and gives the date of the outrage  
described as 26 December 1849. The newspaper account  
said: 'Mrs. Wray bore the shock with great fortitude' and  
added that 'she and her two children are now under the  
friendly roof of their kind friend and neighbour Thomas  
Brooke Esq. of Lough Eske House.'

Charlotte dates her letter 'Lough Eske. Thursday.'

My dearest Mama

You have heard before this of how mercifully we were pro-  
tected thro the awful perils of Tuesday night, from being sent  
rushing into Eternity out of our sleep, by a death more terrible  
than possible to conceive. That we are still left to thank and to  
praise our Heavenly Father and to prepare now in our Life and  
our Health for that death from which in his Infinite Mercy he for-  
the present snatched us. I could not write yesterday but after  
some sleep last night I feel much better today, and not knowing  
how much you have heard I will tell you all I can of that most  
*Fiendish and Brutal* plot. Anne had brought Baby to me at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past  
10 and put her in my arms, for I was in a heavy sleep (my first  
being always the soundest) and had left the room, perhaps 10  
minutes, when a crash awoke us & George & I started up in bed.  
We had not time to think, or recover ourselves before another  
followed, so awful—so overpowering—so impossible to de-  
scribe—that I shudder & tremble to think of it—There was the  
explosion! the crash of glass! & the glare of light & the *shock* wh.  
I can fancy now impelled us from bed. He rushed to the window,  
in the glare I saw him distinctly. Baby gave a loud cry, to clasp  
her tighter & run from the room was *mere instinct*—in the passage  
were Charles and William and the three maidservants. The only  
words spoken for some moments were Charles' question '*What*  
is this?' George's answer 'Where is your gun?' The crash was  
so sudden and universal that we didn't know where we should  
be attacked, but the feeling of all was that we had escaped but  
for a few minutes from certain Death. Charles' gun was loaded  
& in his hand in a minute. George had his single barreled one  
& his pistols—but his double gun was in the Hall—there he went  
for it—when he opened the cross door of the inside Hall, feeling  
the blast from the shattered window opposite—shutting the door  
again & returning upstairs—In undress, in darkness & in con-  
fusion, feeling that there alone might be comparative safety—&

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confidently expecting a *Rush* to have been made at us, for tho' by that time the smell of Powder was dreadful we only fancied the House was surrounded & every lower window been fired into at once—Oh the Hours! the weary, weary hours from 11 untill 7—in Terror & Darkness—for we didn't dare to light a Candle, fearing to be seen & only kept a *turf* burning in Charles' room, w<sup>h</sup> we felt more secure than any other place, from the lie of the ground its window being higher. Every moment of that long long night listening intensely, & expecting another attack, in the event of w<sup>h</sup> from the stairs, the three guns together were our sole security. George & William actually stood the whole night, poor Charles having dressed lay down in our room. I, in his—his knee was very stiff & painful so that he was or would have been incapable of pursuit, but the blessing of him there, a stout Heart and a steady Hand you little know! None of us women even spoke, I, only Trembled until I thought I w<sup>d</sup> have fallen in pieces—Gervais, as he always does, came down at the first daylight to feed the cattle, he had heard nothing & went to them first—he was called & we went down-stairs. The Hall door next the parlor burst from its hinges lock and bolt,—the window smashed & when the parlor door was opened such was the scene & the *feeling* that I'm sure I, for one, had I known at the time, the Nature of our escape & the state the house was left in, *must have* lost my senses! Had we been in that Parlor it must have been certain Death, or had the powder been inside instead of outside the window our Death had been equally certain. No vestage of the window left, the room a chaos. Plaster, glass, wood, chairs everything dashed about. Candlesticks in different Corners, *twisted*—some of the chairs broken in pieces—The Curtains in ribbons, some inside some outside. Had even both kegs of powder gone off together, as certainly intended, I w<sup>d</sup> not be here to write you this. The ceiling just under our Bed is Blackened with powder, the wainscoat torn from the wall in our room, the ceiling almost gave way, the cornice is almost completely fallen. It was not alone an explosion of powder they must have filled the Kegs or covered them with pieces of old rusty Iron broken Pots & smoothing Irons one of w<sup>h</sup> was found in the room, two outside. The window is now a mere hole in the wall—The wood work completely torn to pieces, in the end window strange to say 3 panes of glass escaped. The wood work of the projecting eave is much injured, the outside wall *black*. One Rhododendron 62 feet in front of the House is torn from its roots which are strewn with

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glass & beyond it was the top of one of the Kegs. Think of the audacity of the plotters, to take the boat across to the other side, & the Daring to cross the Lake on such a stormy dark night! The explosion was heard here in the Gap & for 6 Miles off & the glare in the sky distinctly seen at that distance (6 Miles) by a man returning from a fair. What then must it have been close! Their doing it so quietly seems wonderful but the night was very stormy, & if George *had* heard them he *w<sup>d</sup>* have rushed out, & been as certainly blown up, for it is supposed they may have been in the Boat at the time the explosion took place. Mr. Brooke & Mr. Wood, who by a fortunate chance came from Castle Grove unexpectedly the day before, & Mr. Chas Johnston were there all yesterday, Policemen & crowds of people. Peter Sleavin at once laid the blame on the McGuinty Connexion in Townawilly headed by Paddy the Butler, who has been arrested. A nephew of his was supposed to be one of the people at the House, he is just returned fr. Scotland whence in all probability the powder. The tracks in the sand at the Boat have been fitted exactly by curious Iron tipped shoes which were found on his feet & the evidence the family gave was most contradictory, Paddy the Butler's wife saying he spent Tuesday at a fair, his son saying he had been at home. George came here to breakfast, he & Charles had spent a most uncomfortable night—4 men taking it turn about to walk round & round the house—I mean 4 together, relieved by other parties. Charles remained there today to rest his knee *w<sup>b</sup>* George said was almost quite well this morning. We little thought his visit *w<sup>d</sup>* have been such an important one. George had to go to town on business. I have written these particulars knowing I cannot be *too* minute but my blood has run so cold with the vivid recollection that I am trembling & have had to stop two or three times to warm myself! William was a real comfort, so self-possessed & active, he was out of bed with the first explosion, with the second his window was shattered about his feet. Altogether I couldn't fancy three men with their wits more about them or ready for action sooner, how helpless & dependent women are in such a scene! I am not of course frightened now—as at present nothing further dare be attempted, but I feel I have rec'd an awful shock!

Georgie slept calmly thro' all! the Wreck of the morning being mere matter of amusement & curiosity to him. I never saw anything like the Horror stricken faces of our own Labourers when they came over, many shed tears! all are Roman Catholics

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& fr. their Religion not to be depended on but I would not say  
that every Roman Catholic w<sup>d</sup> plan a wholesale Murder like that  
& I *do* think their horror was genuine & the joy of some for our  
protection equally so. The *murder* of faithful watchful Dash was  
the forerunner of this—& no longer a mystery.

Would you send this to Louisa Wray George wrote to his  
Father last night but I may have told something he did not—&  
now I must conclude Ever being dearest Mama yr atten<sup>t</sup> & aff<sup>t</sup>  
C.M.W.

Dash was an old watch-dog who had been poisoned about  
a fortnight previous to this outrage. Charles was Lieutenant  
Waller, R.A., Charlotte's only brother, and William was the  
man-servant.

I never heard any reason given for the outrage and believe  
it was the only attempt ever made upon my grandfather's  
life. But as far as I know this was the last winter, except one,  
that the family spent at Ardnamona, though it continued to  
be their summer home as long as my grandfather lived.

I think that probably George Wray suffered serious financial  
loss through the potato failure, like many other men  
in positions similar to his. They did not lack food as did  
their poorer neighbours, but they lost crops and feeding for  
their stock and much of their prosperity went, never to  
return.

Whatever may have been the reason, George Wray found  
it necessary to add to his resources and in 1850 he undertook  
the Agency of Lord Leitrim's Donegal Estate. During the  
succeeding seven years, Mr. and Mrs. Wray spent the winter  
months in the Agent's house in Milford. It was there, on  
New Year's Day 1851, that their second daughter, Leonora,  
was born. In '52 and in '54 a son was added to the family,  
Charles Douglas Waller and Kenneth McKenzie, thus a  
family of six were soon being reared under the care of 'Old  
Nurse' Mrs. Kincaid.

In 1854 Lord Leitrim died and was succeeded by his son,  
then in India. In August 1857, George Wray resigned the  
agency because he would not carry out the orders given to  
him by the new landlord, who had returned from India.  
That landlord lived to be known as 'the wicked Earl' and

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eventually, when an old man, he was brutally murdered on the high road between his house on Mulroy Bay and the town of Milford on the 2nd of April 1878. Lord Leitrim was succeeded by his nephew, a very different character, and in consequence as much beloved as his uncle had been hated.

During my first visit to Donegal I determined to try to discover anyone still living in Milford who could remember my grandfather. I hired a car from the Dunfanaghy inn-keeper, who volunteered to drive me himself, though at the same time he assured me that everyone likely to know anything I wanted to hear was dead and gone. Some miles outside Milford we stopped to inquire the way from an old man and I asked him if he knew where Mr. Wray had lived. He did not, but said he 'minded' hearing his father speak of Mr. Wray and that 'he was well liked by the tenantry'. The road runs close to the shore of Mulroy Bay and parts are thickly wooded down to the water's edge. This was the scene of the murder and as we drove through a darkly shaded glade the tale of the gory details was rehearsed for my benefit. Here beneath a thicket by the water's edge the men had hidden the boat in which they came, and having done the deed, went away again. Many in the district knew who they were but none would give evidence, their victim was too universally and too deeply hated.

The small market town of Milford consists of the usual 'Main Street', and is built upon the side of a very steep hill. As I got out of the car at the foot of this hill, a young policeman stood by, watching, so I went up to him and said: 'I want to see the oldest inhabitant of this town.' For a moment he looked as if he thought I had escaped from the lunatic asylum, then on second thought he smiled somewhat indulgently and said: "Tis Mr. Hazlett you should see, he lives at the top of the town." I thanked him and went up the street as directed and knocked at the door. While I stood waiting a moment, a tall, upright old man came from a garden behind the house. I asked if he was Mr. Hazlett and began to explain the reason of my coming and who I was. Suddenly a light broke over his face and with tears starting in his eyes, he exclaimed: 'Why you're never Miss Leo's

GEORGE AND CHARLOTTE WRAY WITH THEIR CHILDREN  
child!" He drew me into the front parlour, repeating: 'I knew them all, your Grandfather and your Grandmother, the whole family.' Then he produced the large photograph album and showed me their photographs. He told me his father had been the miller of the town and he himself the carpenter. He married the daughter of old Mrs. Kincaid, my mother's nurse, and Mrs. Kincaid, who lived to be within a few months of a hundred, spent her declining years with him and his wife. Then both mother and daughter died and in time Mr. Hazlett married again. The smiling little woman who soon brought in a tray laid for tea was his second wife. Then Mr. Hazlett said he would show me the house where my mother was born, which he did, and I said: 'Their garden was across the street, wasn't it?' and he said: 'Indeed and it was and that's the gate and who should know better than myself, for I put it up?' I told him I remembered my mother telling me of Nurse Kincaid giving them their tea in the garden and that the great treat was a goose's egg, a spoonful for each child, all round in turn! Then he took me down the road to see the stable yard, where my grandfather kept his carriage and horses, and the little cottage at the corner where John Jameson lived. He was the coachman who was with them as long as my grandfather lived and whom I remember seeing when he was an old man and I was a little girl one day that my mother took me to Monasterevan. Mr. Hazlett told me he was over 80 now; he remembered the Wrays when they came back on visits to Milford, and knew all the early history by tradition from Mrs. Kincaid. At any rate I had found the one man alive in Milford who really did know what I wanted to hear about.

## XXXIX

### TWENTY-ONE YEARS AT MONASTEREVAN

THE next phase in the Wray family's life is recorded in a letter from George Wray to Charles Stewart of Ballyhivistock, who was his third cousin and also a land agent who managed the Wray estate among others in Co. Antrim.

Morrison's Hotel, Dublin. Nov. 24. 57.

My dear Charles

I dined with Jackson on Sunday in the Camp when he told me the reason of my not having received any money this month was your not knowing my address. I shall be home, please God, on Friday and should be obliged by your letting me hear from you on that day if convenient as I must return here early the following week. I am now the Marquis of Drogheda's Agent, at Moore Abbey in the County Kildare, it is a very agreeable agency, rich tenantry, a very handsome Agency House in the Demesne kept in repair etc. and a fixed salary of £600 a year. I never heard of it till it was offered to me last week by Lord D's Lawyer, I am allowed to take other agencies, and yesterday was offered a good one in another County. I will soon be like a Stipendiary Magistrate being now a Justice for three Counties Donegal, Kildare and Queen's.

I don't purpose moving my family till summer, as they are now made up for the winter, and not intending to move any furniture from Ardnamona I shall have time to furnish as I can afford it during the winter. I am beginning to think I must be a lucky beggar as I have so often landed on my feet. My address till the 1st will be Ardnamona, Lough Eske, Strabane. After that Agency House, Monasterevan, Co. Kildare.

I hope you are all flourishing. Jackson sails today for Dover. With kindest regards to Mrs. Stewart and Eliza believe me dear Charles yours sincerely

Geo. C. Gore Wray.

This was an important change for the family: it brought them very much 'into the world' of that day and gave them a home within easy reach of Dublin, as well as bringing

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Mr. Wray a considerable increase of income. It will be remembered that his father died in 1852 and that his brother Jackson then came into the estate. Shortly after the death of George Wray's father, his last surviving aunt, Miss Jane Wray, who lived alone at Blackrock, near to the old home of Bentfield, sent to her nephew her will. This is acknowledged in a letter that reveals a glimpse of our grandfather's character and something of his ideals:

Milford. Ramelton. 12 June 52.

My dear Aunt

Yesterday's post brought me an envelope containing your Will. This mark of confidence is more valued by me than I can express. I trust I may be enabled to conduct myself in such a manner as may be in accordance with the principles which you tried from my infancy to instil into me, and now and henceforth to prove my gratitude by keeping that name I bear untarnished, as it has been handed down to me. I shall soon write again but this is a subject not to be mixed up with any other. Believe me my dear Aunt your grateful and affectionate Nephew

Geo. C. Gore Wray.

Of course her will has since perished, but we know that whatever Jane Wray had she left to her nephew. She is still remembered by a few very old people living near Bushmills. She lived alone in a little house on the 'farm of Ardehannon' which she had bought for £1,000 from her brother Henry Wray in 1811. There were two other houses on the same piece of land and two fishermen's cottages. Mrs. Giveen lived in the house just over the way from Jane's house, and there was no love lost between the two old ladies! Tradition tells of many high words. Mrs. Stewart Moore, a daughter of Charles Stewart, who was over 80 by the time I knew her, told me that she remembered, when she was a very little girl, going with her brother Leslie to visit Miss Wray, and when they were leaving she always said, 'Good-bye, good-bye, my dears, shut the little gate after you and I hope we'll meet in Heaven.' The children used to go on purpose for the fun of hearing Aunt Jane say this!

In his will Atkinson Wray left his sister an annuity of £20. She let the grazing of the land, as well as the

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other houses, but all accounts agree in describing her as very poor.

Letters from Jackson and George Wray to Charles Stewart show that Aunt Jane became increasingly ill between May and December 1858 and that upon the 8th of December she died, aged 82, the last of her generation. There is no evidence, but every likelihood, that she was buried in the vault at Billy.

George Wray at once came into possession of her land, and proceeded to put the house into order with a view to letting it. There are several letters on the subject to Charles Stewart, which are among those that his son, William, gave to me and from which I have gleaned many items. It is evident from these letters that Jackson Wray had a lease of the nearby small house called Roonkerry; the year following Aunt Jane's death George Wray bought from his brother and repaired that house, also with a view to letting.

In May 1859 letters were exchanged arranging for Mrs. Wray and the children to go to Blackrock and spend some weeks at the seaside.

George Wray writes from Monasterevan :

Sunday May 22. 59.

My dear Charles

Your good news of the house being ready came in fine time. My wife and weans set out tomorrow morning for Armagh, and their present intention is to go on to Blackrock on Monday next, stopping at Ballymoney where an open carriage could meet them and a cart for their baggage, with this I must trouble you as I don't know whether there is a carriage in Ballymoney that would hold 2 ladies 4 children and a maid servant. Charlotte will write to you from Armagh. . . . The dry weather here is doing much harm to the grass.

A letter to 'Dear Father' in a childish hand shows they had arrived, and tells how, while the writer and Charlie were fishing, Kenny got his finger caught by a crab, but 'one would have wondered in how short a time Kenny's tears dried and the crab was turned into bait'. Then Kenny fell into the pond and had to be sent home

'and underwent complete cleaning, but he would not stay in the

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house, so we all went down to see some eels packed. One of them with its last breath and dying wriggle closed its mouth on one of Kenny's feet, Warren Graham took it off before it could do him any more harm than frightening him dreadfully. We went to Mrs. Giveen's for tea one evening and ate quantities of 'Slip-go-down' and played beggar my neighbour. I will write and give you an account of the Ballyhivistock day when it is over. I have not got your letter yet but if you have not sent me trout flys please do in your next letter. Georgie's last letter was very much better I think than any other I have ever seen of his. The postman will be here in a moment so goodbye. I am your affectionate daughter, Frances.'

The Ballyhivistock day must have been duly reported, for George writes to Charles, 'I am sure our young ones must have had a great day together, a revival of Rockfield times', which I suppose refers to their own young days.

George Wray continued his farming in spite of other pre-occupations, for he writes from Ardnamona on 1 May 1859: 'This is the first fine day I have had in Donegal. I got my potato planting finished yesterday.'

A week earlier he wrote: 'I hope we may meet at Blackrock but I am tied to time. I want to sell my own Bullocks in Raphoe on the 2nd of May.' He also writes from Monasterevan: 'In great haste, for this is rent day, and I hope to be kept signing receipts till 4 o'cl.' Another letter says: 'On my return from Norfolk I found yours of the 27th. I was obliged to come away from grand sport to attend to my trade, having fixed the 1st of Oct. as my first rent day. Altho the weather was very wet and birds very wild Mr. Clements and I killed 270 birds in 5 short days.'

There were evidently many disappointments about letting the three houses at Blackrock. But his family were there again in the summer of 1862. In that year a terrible drowning disaster occurred in the bay just below Roonkerry, where Mrs. Wray and her children were then living. I remember hearing my grandmother tell of the horror of 'the night the Grahams were all drowned'. In her latter years as she sat in her big chair, she would sometimes sadly count over the shocks she had suffered in her life, and that night

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was one of them. She used to say she could still hear the cries rising above the storm. But I never knew just what had happened until I visited a very old man living near Blackrock and he told me that he was born in August 1858 and 'though he was only a wee boy, he minded well that night in September 1862'. His father's cottage was next to the Grahams' cottage, both of them down beside the shore. He minded it well the night the Grahams were drowned, 'there was James and William and Warren and wee Dan, and a man called Craigs. They went in to Portrush fishing with lines. And I'm a-feared it was too much drink they took, and coming home it was a turrible night and they couldn't make the landing-place. They were caught in the surf and in the turrible strong currents. And their father and the rest of them on the shore heard their cries and couldn't get to them, nor do nothing, and the whole five of them they were all drowned.'

In the following year 1863 George Wray sold Blackrock. He found it too costly to keep the houses in repair in such an exposed position on that Northern coast and lettings were uncertain, so he took a price he thought too low and sold to Sam Orr, who several years later sold again to Lord MacNaughton, who pulled down the old Roonkerry and the fishermen's cottages and built the present 'Castle' of Runkerry.

In October 1861 Mrs. Wray had another baby, a daughter born at Monasterevan and named Cecil Mary, the youngest by seven years. At this time the eldest son Georgie was at the Arlington School in Portarlington, and his father, in writing to Charles Stewart, refers anxiously to the expense and to 'his eldest' as 'an idle rascal'. But that accusation was certainly not borne out in later years. Georgie was destined for the Army and was gazetted Ensign in the 84th Regiment of Foot in 1863.

During these years the other children of the family were being taught by a governess, and the Monasterevan schoolmaster came after his school hours to give some lessons to Charlie and Kenneth. But unhappily there was not money to send these two boys to school. The urgent necessity of

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schooling was not realized in those days, but I well remember my mother's regret that her younger brothers had not had even the same advantage that their eldest brother had, and it made her determined at all costs that her two sons should be sent to school in England.

Georgie was a small man, short and dark. From all that his mother and sisters ever said of him I gained the impression of great integrity and stability. Of the many troubles that befell the family in later years I used to hear Aunt Frances say 'this' or 'that' would never have happened if Georgie had lived. For, to the great sorrow of all who knew him, Georgie died of typhoid fever at Aldershot in 1874.

But before this break came, there were many good and happy days after the 84th returned from Malta and was quartered at Fermoy and at the Curragh Camp, when Frances and Leo were taken to the various Regimental balls and to the many other balls given in the hospitable houses of Kildare and Queen's County. I have a scrap of faded yellow newspaper that tells of one such :

'Captain and Mrs. Moreton of Graigavern House, Queen's County, gave their first ball this season on Thursday night, the attendance at which was both large and fashionable, and included the leading families of the Queen's and adjoining Counties. The whole suite of rooms, which were brilliantly lit up, were thrown open for the occasion. The company began to assemble shortly before ten, at which hour dancing commenced, and was kept up with unabated vigour until morning.'

To that particular ball Mrs. Wray and the Misses Wray were accompanied, according to the list of guests, by Mr. Charles Wray. Sometimes Mr. Wray chaperoned his daughters. On one such occasion Leo being out of sight was inquired for and someone said: 'Leo is sitting on the stairs with Captain so-and-so', at which Mr. Wray clasped his head with both hands and exclaimed: 'Oh, my God, to think of a daughter of mine sitting on the stairs!'

At a very early age Charlie was taken into his father's office. In those days of prosperous landlords and 'agreeable agencies' it presented an easy solution of the problem for the final stages in a younger son's education and opened a way

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for his future profession. Charlie Wray was unusually handsome, a tall man with a beautiful figure and a grace of movement that distinguished him in any company. It was all too easy for him to be called away from his work and led into pleasant paths of society where men and women had many more pounds than he would ever have pence. If Lord Drogheda was short of a gun in a shoot of the pheasant covers—'Send for Charlie. Mr. Wray can't keep the boy in the office to-day', or again, if Lady Drogheda wanted another man for her dinner-party, who better than the handsome Charlie? But it cannot have been good for his habits of work, and in the company at Moore Abbey and some of the other neighbouring houses there were many rich, hunting, horse-racing men and women, amongst whom there was no keener racegoer than Lady Drogheda herself. As time went on all this led Charlie into extravagant ways. Kenneth was growing up too, and though a fine, big man he was not beautiful as Charlie certainly was, and probably in consequence life offered him less temptation, at any rate all accounts of him give the impression of a more stalwart and steady worker. My recollections of what I heard are vague and records are few, but the time came when both brothers were sent to Australia, sheep-farming, or rather working on other men's sheep-farms. Kenneth was in Australia from about 1872 or 1873, but Charlie was at home again early in 1874. In the spring of that year his sister Leonora, who was as beautiful for a girl as he was handsome for a man, became engaged to and married John Townsend Trench, son of the late William Steuart Trench of Cardtown, Queen's County, land agent to the Marquis of Bath, at Carrickmacross in Co. Monaghan, and author of *Realities of Irish Life* (pub. Longmans, Green & Co., 1868). Towney Trench, as he was always called, was land agent to Lord Lansdowne and lived at Kenmare, in the County Kerry, to which southern clime he took his northern-bred bride.

Leo had had a very serious illness in March 1871, which called forth the anxiety and sympathy of many friends. Her mother kept some of the letters she received at the time, which give glimpses of Leo's character and of the feeling her illness

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aroused. Lady Lifford wrote: 'God grant your darling may be spared to you, *if best* for her. When I saw her last summer I felt she was then more with her thoughts heavenwards than for this world.' Lady Drogheda wrote: 'So many people out hunting yesterday had heard and asked me after dear Leo, all so anxiously', and again from Dublin Castle a day or two later: 'I am so thankful for your telegram. Pray let me have another telegram tomorrow, one is almost afraid to say one has real hopes now . . . I have had so many enquiries of sympathy and sorrow for you from all the people who know you. I cannot tell you how incessantly I think of you all.' And from Canon Fletcher: 'I wish your account was more cheering, still I trust that "holding her ground" is hopeful. I cannot but cling to the hope that there yet awaits her in this world a life of Christian usefulness and goodness of which she has already given such abundant promise.'

Her recovery was inevitably slow and in August her mother took her to Kingstown for some special baths and writes from there to her mother in Armagh: 'Leo is greatly better, and I am quite satisfied that the air and Baths have been of use. . . . I want Sissie [Frances] to be ready to start as soon as we go home and indeed *she* will need the change of scene and change of thoughts too. She has been very sensible, all alone by herself there [Ardnamona] these two months as the men were not much companions to her.'

Frances was the one who often cared for the house and the family, and also she paid many visits to her grandmother at Armagh and had taken lessons there, specially in French and music. She was a great reader and drew and painted well. Indeed she was a very gifted woman. Had she been able to give time and had opportunity to study in good schools of both music and painting she could have done great things, as she herself knew and sorely regretted in later years.

In Mrs. Wray's letter from Kingstown she tells that Cecil is with them. Cecil was just ten that year.

'Cecil will be sorry to go away. She says she never was so happy in her whole life as she has been here, and I well believe her. She was taken to the Circus in Dublin the other night, leaving

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town by the last train 11.30, home at 12, in perfect Raptures, couldn't sleep before she told us the whole story of Dick Turpin to whom she seems to have lost her heart, nothing lost on her anywhere.'

The letter goes on to tell of seeing various old friends, which Mrs. Wray says she is sure will interest her mother and then adds:

'For my own part I like the old far better than the new—the next generation will be so changed that I don't know really what the world will be like. The very names of the young! At the Bathing place I heard a mother shouting to her "Stephanie" to "come out". Also at the same place "Ernest and Theodore" were called for, and if you had seen the brats that came to heel at the call you would have said Jack or Bill would have been much more in their line. There must be a reaction and we shall come back to the pretty Mrs. Kittys and Mrs. Dollys.'

In 1873 Jackson Wray died, and as his wife had no child his brother George came next in the entail as settled by his father. This meant that at the age of 62 George Wray came into his father's estates in County Antrim and in County Donegal which, as we have seen, were considerable in extent and had a considerable rent-roll. But there were now heavy charges upon the property. George Atkinson Wray had provided handsomely for his daughters, and the 'encumbrances' were increased by Jackson Wray leaving his widow a jointure of £300 a year with no restriction about remarriage. Certain it is that George Wray continued in his agency work for Lord Drogheda and had no other house except Ardnamona. I cannot find any evidence that he had less anxiety even about ways and means.

Within little more than one year of this accession of property, George and Charlotte Wray suffered their first great and crushing sorrow. Their eldest son Georgie was taken suddenly ill at Aldershot. His father was telegraphed for and went at once. He found Georgie desperately ill and fetched another physician from London, who could only say he had never seen a worse case of typhoid fever. For five days letters and telegrams with fluctuating reports came to Monasterevan. Then, just as Mrs. Wray had decided to

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brave the journey and go to her son, came the news on the 12th of December that Georgie had died early that morning. He was buried in the cemetery at the Camp with full military honours. The General of the Division attended and three Regiments as well as his own sent their bands. Nine brother officers who were on leave came back for the funeral. Colonel Hardy, who was in command of the 84th, told Captain Wray's father that 'he had never met or known such a young man have such influence in a Regiment with officers and men—such tact, good sense, and firmness. He was the most popular man in the Regiment.' And letters from several brother officers all said the same.

In a letter to Cecil, who was at Miss Patton's school near Armagh, Mrs. Wray says: 'Your Father is going to telegraph to Mr. Cox' (with whom Charlie and Kenneth were working in Australia), and adds: 'twenty words including name and address cost £9. 12. 0. so that won't leave much to say, just the fact. But we think they ought to know at once.'

Many of the letters written and received at this time have come down to me and they are pathetic in their grief and also very striking in the sense of loss sustained by the family through the early death of this eldest son. Charlotte sums up her own feeling in one short sentence when writing to her mother: 'I have lost part of my life.'

Three months after this great sorrow the family had to prepare for what was perhaps the best possible new interest, the arrival of the first grandchild. Leo returned to Monasterevan for the birth of her first baby. On the 25th of March 1875 a daughter was born to her and named Beatrice Mary, but she was always called Bertie. Two years later I appeared; that, however, was in the middle of July and the Wray family were all at Ardnamona, so I was born at Kenmare, as were also my two brothers John and George, who came early in 1879 and 1881 respectively, and the little sister who came four years after the youngest brother.

In 1876 both Frances and Cecil Wray were very ill. Cecil nearly died of congestion of the lungs, as it was called in those days, and Mrs. Wray took them to Arcachon to escape the damp and cold of the Irish winter. They recovered and

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another year passed, then Mr. Wray's health began to fail. Charlie and Kenneth were both at home for the last months of his life, but it was upon the eldest daughter Frances that the chief weight fell both of upholding the family and of nursing her father. On the 4th of November 1878 George Cecil Gore Wray died at Monasterevan, aged 66.

His illness was diabetes, for which in those days there was little or nothing to be done and Mr. Wray failed very quickly. A telegram to my mother at Kenmare told her that 'the end came awfully suddenly in a sound sleep'. And a letter from her mother told of 'an immense funeral. Every man on the estate was there and every man wishing to carry the coffin.' The *Leinster Express* reported:

'The death of this highly esteemed and popular gentleman, we regret to say, took place at Monasterevan on Monday evening. The sad event was not altogether unexpected, as for some months previously he had been suffering from an acute disease which baffled medical skill owing to his rather advanced age. Mr. Wray was Agent to several extensive properties, among others to that of the Marquis of Drogheda, and he had the reputation of being kind and conciliatory towards the tenantry. Mr. Wray discharged all the duties appertaining to his position as a country gentleman and a Magistrate, and was a valued member of the County Kildare Grand Jury. His funeral was largely attended.'

He was buried in the churchyard at Monasterevan, as my grandmother could not bear the idea of the journey to what she called that wild, barren place at Dunseverick.

Again the letters were many and full of appreciation and regret, but there was none of the poignancy of grief as felt when the eldest son died in the fullness of his young manhood. A letter from the Reverend Mother Abbess of the Convent to my mother is typical of the general sympathy and at the same time demonstrates the very close friendship that prevailed between these two women of widely differing creeds:

Convent of Poor Clares  
Kenmare. Nov. 9 1878.

My dear Mrs. Trench.

I cannot tell you how much I felt for you in your great sorrow. I should have written at once, but I heard you had left Kenmare

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so I did not like to write for a few days longer. I feel deeply for you, dearest Friend, and wish so much I could comfort you and your dear ones at home but consolation in such affliction can only come from Heaven and I earnestly pray our dear Lord to give it to you and them and strengthen your dear Mother to bear her heavy Cross with resignation to His sweet will.

It was so good of you to send the darling children to see us in the midst of all your trouble. We all think them greatly grown and improved. Bertie was very friendly and the sweet Baby was very good.

Won't you try to take what care you can of yourself. All this is so bad for you and so trying. The Sisters join me in love and Sister Mary Clare is grateful for your kindness in thinking of her.

Believe me ever dearest Mrs. Trench yours most affectionately

M. J. Lowry.

## XL

## GRANDMOTHER WRAY AT KINGSTOWN

THE house at Monasterevan, which was called 'The Grove', belonged to the Agency and naturally Mrs. Wray had to leave it as soon as was possible. George had always made every arrangement and done everything for Charlotte, and now it fell to Frances as the eldest daughter to carry on that sheltering care of a very beloved mother. Cecil was only 17 at this time and my grandmother's own grief was added to by distress that so early in her girlhood her young life should be shadowed and that she should have lost the two happy homes that had been theirs. I do not think they ever went to Ardnamona again. A house was found for Mrs. Wray at Kingstown, 15 Clarinda Park, and to it she moved with her two daughters and brought most of the family possessions from Monasterevan.

The entailed estate passed into Charlie Wray's hands, but it was weighted with a further jointure and with portions for his sisters. Charlie Wray was already in serious financial difficulties himself, and, what was still worse, he was under the influence of two brothers who professed to be his friends and posed as business men experienced in the management of land. As time showed later, they were in reality an unscrupulous pair, who, without allowing opportunity for consultation, in fact with the utmost secrecy, took advantage of Charlie's temporary embarrassment to persuade him to sign away his life interest in the property for a mere fraction of its true value, under various conditions which were entirely to their own advantage and equally calamitous to all those dependent on the property. When he awoke to the consequences of what he had done, Charlie most bitterly regretted his action, but it was then too late.

Ardnamona had been bequeathed to Mrs. Wray for her life and intended afterwards for Kenneth, but conditions were such that it had to be sold. To Kenneth this was a

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life-long regret, but he returned to Australia and to unremitting hard work.

Charlie also went abroad, first to work in America and then in course of time to South Africa. He was always hopeful of doing something worth while. Eventually he went up-country in the early days of a gold-mining rush and staked his claim at Barberton with good prospect of success at last. But during the night of 11 December 1886 he was murdered as he lay sleeping in his tent. It was said no man would have dared attack him when awake. He was found in the morning with a deep wound in his forehead; he was still alive, but died within a few hours. It was never known who the murderer was nor what the motive could have been for so barbarous a crime.

This tragic death of her second son was another terrible shock and deep sorrow to Mrs. Wray. I remember very distinctly the news coming to my mother and her grief for this, her favourite brother.

By the determined and unwavering efforts of Frances Wray, the Antrim and Donegal estates had been rescued from the two brothers who had by this time become notorious for similar dealings in other directions. But a terrible amount of litigation was needed to achieve this end, involving passage of the property through the Encumbered Estates Court, and then out of the Court and into the hands of a land agent who collected what rents he could and paid the numerous charges on the property as far as these rents allowed.

Concurrently with these family troubles, successive Governments had brought in various Land Acts and under these the rents on most Irish estates were drastically cut down.

I do not attempt to describe the vicissitudes of the unfortunate Wray estate, but from what my researches revealed through documentary evidence I can only say that the wonder is there should have been anything left at all.

For some years Mrs. Wray's circumstances were very much straightened, but throughout she maintained a calm dignity in her widowed home at Kingstown. The loss of

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her husband and her two elder sons had changed her into a saddened woman, though she was always gentle and resigned. On her own side of the family, too, she had suffered losses. Her only brother, Major Charles Waller, died in 1864, aged only 39. He left a widow and four young children. Marianne Waller, Charlotte's eldest sister, died in 1880 and the following year her mother died. The house at Armagh was then closed and the two remaining sisters, Fanny and Anna, moved to Kingstown to be near Charlotte. It was during these years that Bertie and I, as very little girls, went sometimes to stay with our grandmother and the two aunts, who took care of us. I think these visits brought much amusement and pleasure to the house at Clarinda Park and they gave great delight to us. So many things were different at Kingstown and surprising compared with our home at Kenmare, where we were twenty miles from the nearest railway. The shops produced wooden spades and buckets, saffron buns, and little cakes with pink and white sugar tops! We were very fond of my grandmother and were never the least little bit afraid of her. Up to the time of her death, when I was 15, I never remember her as other than always kind and gentle, and interesting to talk to. It was always counted as a treat being allowed to sit beside her.

As well as these occasional visits my parents used to take a furnished house at Kingstown for a few weeks each year, and then we all came, nurses and babies and all. During one of these visits another very great sorrow fell upon us. In 1883 Bertie contracted diphtheria and died within a few days. She was just 8 and I was not quite 6, but the grief of the whole family over her death is my most poignant early memory. The letters that my mother kept speak of Bertie as a child of much promise, of much character, and tell of how greatly she was loved. I know that to my mother life was never the same again, though a new happiness was brought to her and my father two years later by the birth of another little daughter, who was named Leonora Wray.

My mother lived to see her two sons just grown to manhood and then she died, at Wimbledon, in December 1902, while she was still comparatively young in years though her

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hair was white with many sorrows. To the end she was a very beautiful woman, and as a mother she was entirely devoted to her children, whom she surrounded with all that devotion could give. I never remember a harsh word nor a cross look from her, but rather a host of wise sayings and good actions live in my memory, and I know now that she was extraordinarily ahead of her time in all that she did for her children, who have good cause to call her blessed.

But to return to Kingstown in the 'eighties. Cecil grew up there and in due course was presented at the Vice-regal Court in Dublin, and went to balls at the Castle, chaperoned by a friend as her mother never went out in society after her husband's death.

In 1891 Cecil married Henry Wilson, son of James Wilson of Curraghgrane, Co. Longford. Henry Wilson, then a captain in the Rifle Brigade, was destined to serve in some of the most responsible of positions in the British Army. He lived to attain a Field-Marshal's baton and later became M.P. for County Down, a few months after which he was foully murdered on the doorstep of their house in London, 36 Eaton Place, by Sinn Feiners on the 22nd of June 1922.

Ten years before Cecil's marriage Kenneth Wray had married Grace, daughter of Benjamin Lloyd Edwards. They were married in Sydney and finances never allowed of their coming home, so that Grandmother Wray was denied that joy which would have meant so much to her, especially when another George, Frances, Leo, Charlie, and Cecil came on the scene. She lived to know of all Kenneth's children except the youngest, who was given her name of Charlotte with Beatrice in addition.

My grandmother's health failed gradually; all her anxieties and sorrows told upon her physically. To me she always seemed very old as she sat in her big armchair wrapped in a Kashmir shawl and wearing a large, white crêpe widow's cap. Sometimes Grandmother went for an afternoon drive in a hired phaeton or if the weather was doubtful in a four-wheeled cab. She read *The Times* every day and always had a book on hand as well as her needlework, which was generally the making of chamois gloves, which she did with



LEONORA TRENCH

*sir Wray*

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#### AT KINGSTOWN

beautiful neatness. Throughout the fourteen years of her widowhood she was devotedly cared for by her eldest daughter, but no care could save her life when a sudden and severe heart attack seized her and she died on the 25th of March 1893. To her family Grandmother Wray left a memory of tenderest affection coupled with an example of simple, unwavering faith and a high sense of duty. It is no mere platitude to say that she was respected and loved by all who had ever known her.

For the twenty years that Frances survived her mother, she lived in a much smaller house at Monkstown. Here she copied many of the family portraits and in those years did much water-colour painting. But her main object and chief endeavour was to save all that she could for Kenneth, and she never relaxed her efforts to reinstate as far as was possible the family property, always with her mind fixed on Kenneth and his children. Early in this century a Land Act came into force which made sale of their holdings to the tenants compulsory. Frances Wray died before the sale was completed, but she lived to know that though Kenneth could not have the land, he would, some day, get the price paid for it. She died in 1913, and thus was spared the horrors of the First World War.

In that war Kenneth's son, Charlie Wray, served with the Australian Force in France, and his daughter, Cecil Dallas, a highly trained nurse, also served in France with the Australian Hospital contingent, and they both came on leave to England. After the war Cecil Dallas continued her nursing work in Australia, until she herself had a long illness and died in 1929.

Frances, her eldest sister, married in New Zealand, but she was early left a widow.

Leo Wray, who has twice been 'home' on visits, is active in public and patriotic work in Sydney, and is described as being 'for many years an outstanding figure' in the golf of the Commonwealth. She was New South Wales champion for three successive years before she was 21 and was also the holder of two other Australian titles, and about twenty years later won these same titles again. On the

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executive side Miss Wray is also described as being 'truly outstanding. Her study of the rules and experience of the game have made her invaluable at any championship, where her services are eagerly sought'. She also pioneered the publication of the *Ladies Golf Union Year Book* in N.S.W.

Charlotte Beatrice married Irwin Stewart and has an only child named Kenneth. Charlie married after he returned from the war and took up civil life again, the law being his profession; but he has no children. George, the eldest of the family, married and is the father of two sons and two daughters, named respectively George and Charles, Nina Beatrice and Leonora.

In the Second World War these two sons joined the Australian forces to fight side by side with Britain and her Allies as their uncle and their grandfather did in the wars of their day.

Early in 1927 the purchase money for a large part of the Antrim Estate was paid over to Kenneth Wray. He had the satisfaction of knowing it had come at last and of investing it in the land of his adoption, and then, on the 5th of October in that same year, Kenneth Wray fell dead as he walked across his own threshold. After years of hard work and unbroken courage a great heart failed.

As well as having been Sheriff for a district of New South Wales, Kenneth was Captain in the 1st Australian Horse. He served in the South African War in 1900-1, with the New South Wales Imperial Bushmen, was mentioned in dispatches, received seven clasps to the two medals of that war, and was awarded the D.S.O. in 1901.

On the 14th of April 1930 Cecil Mary, Lady Wilson, died. She had suffered several severe illnesses, but in the end, like her mother and her brother, her heart failed in one short hour. During her married life she had shared many interesting positions as a devoted wife through all the stages of her husband's career. When the South African War broke out they were living at Aldershot, where Henry was Brigade Major, and, after he sailed with General Buller, Cecil lived on near Aldershot and worked unsparingly among the wives and children of the men of his brigade who were left in the

#### AT KINGSTOWN

married quarters at the camp. Throughout the First World War and after it her efforts were centred on helping the families of officers, for whom Lady Lansdowne organized a Fund. The Order of Lady of Grace of St. John of Jerusalem was conferred on Lady Wilson, and later the C.B.E. Then came the horrifying shock and tragedy of her husband's death, from which she never recovered, though she lived as a widow for eight years. By a special concession her ashes were buried beside her husband's grave in the Crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral.

In fulfilment of her will and of the will of Frances Wray I sent the portrait of the great-grandmother in the blue gown, together with those of her daughters, to Uncle Kenneth's family in Sydney.

Thus is the material heritage of many families spread abroad where it may bear witness to old manners and bygone custom, while the traditions of character and high endeavour are entrusted to the human chain of succeeding generations.

*'And here I will make an end. If I have done well and as is fitting the story, it is that which I desired, but if slenderly and meanly, it is that which I could attain unto.'*

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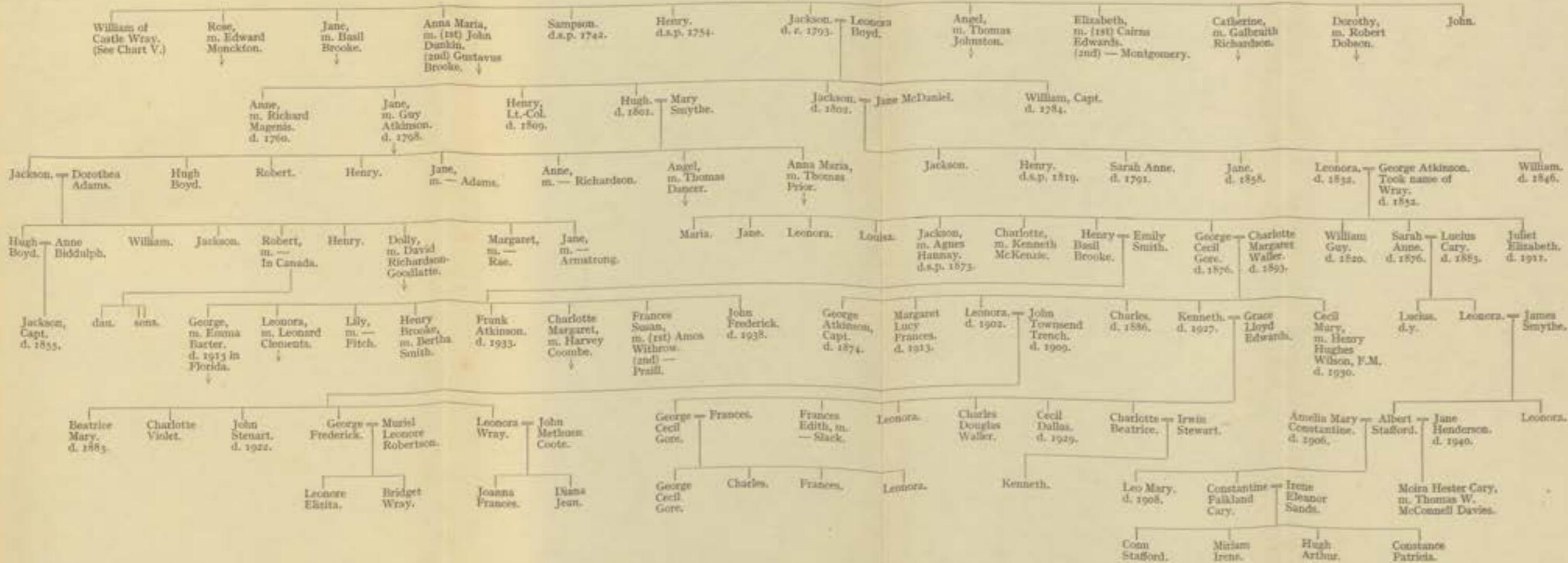
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THE JACKSON WRAYS. CHART VII

Henry Wray of = Jane Jackson.  
Castle Wray. d. 1744.  
d. 1737.



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