

# **The Extended Parsons Family of Birr and Bellamont and Related Wills 1628-1692**

In this document, there are transcriptions of several related wills for two closely related lines of the Parsons family. These two lines descend from brothers Sir William Parsons, knight and first baronet Bellamont and his younger brother, Sir Lawrence Parsons of Birr. They include two in-laws as well: Sir John Hoey and John Franke Esq., who married Parsons' daughters.

Sir William Parsons, knight and baronet of Bellamont was the progenitor of the first generation of the title of Earls of Rosse. When the last male to hold that title died without heirs, after a time the title passed to the descendants of the first baronet Bellamont's younger brother, Sir Lawrence Parsons, whose grandson became baronet of Birr.

## **Archivist and Transcriptionist, Sir William Betham**

Three of these five transcriptions were created in the late 1700's and early 1800's by **Sir William Betham** (1779-1853). Betham was a member of the Royal Irish Academy, as well as later having positions at the College of Arms from about 1800 to his death in 1853, when held the office of **Ulster King of Arms**. The original will documents no longer exist, as they were filed at the Public Records Office (PRO) in Dublin, which was destroyed by fire in 1922 during the Irish Civil War.

Betham was particularly interested in the lower tiers of armorial families, baronets, knights and the sons of knights, classified as "gentlemen" and their extended families. It from this lower echelon of "gentry" that many Americans descend, so these wills are useful in identifying Irish ancestry of Scots-Irish families who were Scottish but first settled in Ireland, for a time, before coming to what became the U.S., Caribbean and Canada. Many of these Scots-Irish intermarried with other Scots-Irish, Anglo-Irish, and "native" Irish families while in Ireland.

## **Lady Anne Malham Parsons, wife of Sir Lawrence Parsons of Birr**

When Cromwell came to Ireland, he killed and dispossessed many, including Norman Irish families and Anglo-Irish families as well as "Native" Irish families. Sir William Parsons, knight and baronet of Bellamont and his nephew, William Parsons, gentleman of Parsonstown (Birr Castle), son of the first Sir William's brother, Sir Lawrence Parsons, were also dispossessed by Cromwell, and ended up in London, pleading with Parliament for the restoration of their lands. While in London, several members of the family died, including Sir William Parsons, baronet of Bellamont, his son, Richard, and Sir William Parsons' nephew, William Parsons, gentleman, heir to his father Lawrence and to his mother Anne Malham Parsons, who died in Ireland at Birr in 1644 (will after this introduction to the family).

The wife of Sir William Parsons, first baronet Bellamont had also died in Ireland. Her name was Elizabeth Lany and she was a daughter of Dublin alderman, later Mayor, John Lany. An obituary for her in the "Irish Builder and Engineer" reads as follows.

"Elizabeth (Lany), Lady Parsons, wife of Sir William Parsons, daughter of John Lany, sometime Mayor of Dublin and Sheriff (he was Sheriff in 1605), mother of 12, five sons and seven daughters, died 5th of April, 1640 and was buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral, 10th April, 1640."

Sir Lawrence Parsons, according to family records at Birr Castle and as stated in books printed by the family, had died unexpectedly just after completing the rebuilding of Birr Castle as it is now, between 1620 and 1628, and had just moved his wife and children into the castle. In 1620, he had bought the old mostly ruined 14th century O'Carroll's "Ely Castle" from Sir Robert Meredith who had bought it of the O'Carrolls. He kept the center tower and some of the cellars and kitchen and built the new castle around it, including a remarkable grand staircase, entirely of yew, that was described by some as "the fairest staircase in Ireland." After settling his wife and children, still in 1628, Sir Lawrence Parsons then went on a visit to Lord Loftus at Rathfarnham Castle in Dublin County, and died while visiting.

### **Foreword to Lady Anne Malham Parsons, wife of Sir Lawrence Parsons of Birr**

Anne Parsons, was Anne Malham Parsons, wife of Sir Lawrence Parsons, who bought Birr Castle. Sir Lawrence Parsons was the younger brother of Sir William Parsons, first baronet Bellamont, whose grandson, became first Viscount Rosse, followed by his son as 1st Earl of Rosse. The male line of William died out and the second generation of Earls of Rosse descend to this day, from Sir Lawrence Parsons and Anne Malham. A grandson of Sir Lawrence Parsons and his wife, Anne, also named Lawrence Parsons, who married Frances Savage became 1st baronet of Birr.

Catherine Fenton was the name of the mother of Sir Lawrence Parsons and his older brother William Parsons. She was a sister of Sir Geoffrey Fenton, Secretary to Queen Elizabeth I. Geoffrey Fenton had two sisters, the first having married a Parsons and the second a Bostick. Sir William Parsons, Lawrence's older brother then married a grand-daughter of the younger of Geoffrey's sisters, Elizabeth Lany, daughter of an alderman of Dublin who married Catherine Bostick. The names Fenton, Bostick and Savage are both found now in the U.S. as descendants of these families emigrated from Ireland to the U.S. in the 18th century, as did relatives of another later wife of a baronet, Elizabeth Preston, who married Sir William Parsons, the 2nd baronet of Birr. Birr Castle, to this day, holds the archives of the estate records of Sir Lawrence Parsons, his wife Anne Malham, and their descendants and in-laws, and some of the remaining records of his older brother William's line. The current Earl of Rosse is working on getting the bound index of the estate records updated and on-line. King's County was renamed County Offaly.

Anne Malham-Parsons was born in Yorkshire. She died, according to the probate record, on October 18, 1646. Her husband had predeceased her in 1628. Their oldest son, Richard Parsons and his wife Anne Loftus Parsons died without heirs in 1634 and 1633 leaving their next son, William, as heir to his father's (Lawrence's) estate and to the bequests of his mother, in this will and being named among her executors.

Anne Loftus' sister, Letitia Loftus, married Richard's cousin, also named Richard Parsons, the heir to Sir William Parsons, the first baronet Bellamont, an estate near Dublin. This Richard Parsons predeceased his father but did leave children. Thus Letitia Loftus-Parsons, was an ancestress of the first line of Earls of Rosse, who descended from the baronets of Bellamont. Descendants of the some of the females of this Bellamont line of Parsons are also now in the U.S.. Descendants of the Loftus family also emigrated.

**Transcription of Anne Parsons' Will, 1644-46**  
**From LDS microfilms of "Transcriptions of Betham's Will Copies and Pedigrees", Dublin, Ireland. (Originals/microfilms in National Library of Ireland)**

In the Name of God, Amen, I Anne Parsons, late of Birr, in the King's County being sickened and weak in body but of perfect memory and vision, thanks be to God, I do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following gist(?).

First, I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my faithful \_\_\_\_, steadfastly, petitioning(?) to have free pardon of all my sinns, through the \_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ, mine only Saviour. And I commit my body unto the earth from which it was taken to be buried where my guardians think fit. And as renouncing (?) money and worldly substance as it has pleased God to bless me, withall I give and bequeath them as follows.

Firstly I give and bequeath unto my six grandchildren out of those children of my son, William Parsons, one third of my son Fenton Parson's one third from my Lord Lowther, and to my grandchild Michaiil (Michael) Cole (?), one hundred pounds poone(?) to be paid unto them equally out of the first money that shall be received either out of my bonds or my Sparialtios (?) due unto me, or out of \_\_ moneys which are due unto me from this king and Parliament. And if it happens that my grandsonne Michael Cole dye before his receipt of the hundred pounds which I bequeath unto him my will is that the said one hundred pounds be at the disposing of my two sonnes William and Fenton. And if any of my other grandchildren dye before \_\_\_\_, it is my will that the disposing of each of their own fathers. Item I give and bequeath to my Lord Lowther, one silver basin and I earnestly \_\_\_\_ Lord Lowther to assist and aide my grandson Michaell Cole to recover whatever given unto him. And if it may not be received but by court of Laise (law?) my will is that worth twenty pounds of my plate be coined(?) for the presenting of that suite (suit).

Item after the satisfying of the foregoing (?) (the ink from the following page bled onto this one for the first line) in this my will and testament I give and bequeath my two sons William and Fenton Parsons, all my goods and chattel \_\_\_\_ forever more here after bequeathed \_\_\_\_ and appointees. (the sense is that after the foregoing bequests are distributed, the rest of her goods and chattels are to go to her two sons, William and Fenton Parsons forever after and then to their heirs and/or appointees.)

Item I give and bequeath to my Sonne William Parsons, this \_\_\_\_ parcel of land which I possess in King's County vide(?) Parlugge (?) Crinlill? and I bequeath the Castle of Ballydonnagh with all of the appurtenances thereunto belonging and Lillifadden to my said son and his heirs forever.

Item I give and bequeath unto Anne Holliman all my right and interest in the loans which I bought from Roger and William Osborne of Bundell.

I do by these present constitute and appoint my Lord Lowther, my sonne William Parsons and my sonne Fenton Parsons executors of this my last will and testament who I pray to be aiding and assisting each to other so it be fully performed. In Witnesses thereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seal this 25th of May, 1644.

Furthermore I do hereby will and bequeath fourty pounds of plate to my Lady Lowther to be disposed by her according to my directions.

Item that the necessary charges of my funeral to be satisfied out of the remains of my plate and that it is

to be Christian and Apostolic.

In wittnesse of all the above written I have sett my hand and seal this day and month first above mentioned--Anne Parsons

Witnesses at the signing and sealing and signatures.... Will Hervetson, Robert Mason and marks of Anne Holliman.

Will presented after her death of October 18, on November 4, 1646. Willbook 2nd., page 125.

## **William Parsons knight, baronet and William Parsons, gentleman**

Here's where it begins to get confusing. In some Irish wills found in London are two wills of two William Parsons. Sir William, baronet of Bellamont, had as his oldest son, Sir Richard Parsons who married as his first wife, Letitia Loftus. Letitia Loftus Parsons died 26th October, 1633 and was interred at St. Patrick's Cathedral 29th October, 1633 and left three children: William, Jane and Elizabeth. The oldest son of Sir Lawrence Parsons, also named Richard, titled gentleman, married Letitia's sister, Anne. Richard Parsons, gentleman, who married Anne Loftus; his wife who also died in 1633, he himself died in 1634. Richard Parsons, the gentleman, and Anne died without children. The next heir to his father, Sir Lawrence Parsons, was then Richard's younger brother, named William Parsons, gentleman. William Parsons, gentleman, died in 1650 in London, and mentioned his brother Fenton who, along with William is also in their mother Anne's will of 1644, proved in 1646. Anne's will follows this introduction to the Parsons family. Sir Richard Parsons, who was son to Sir William Parsons, died just before his father, in 1649/50, and apparently intestate. However, by the time he died, he had four children by his two wives, a widow named Katherine (daughter of Sir Beverly Newcomen) and left a son, as heir to himself and his father, yet another Sir William Parsons who became second baronet Bellamont, and who died a few years after his father and grandfather, but left children. This young Sir William Parsons is mentioned in his grandfather's 1650 will also proved in London. Abstracts of 17th Century Irish Wills in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury by John Ainsworth

## **Transcriptions of the Wills of William Parsons knight, baronet and William Parsons, gentleman**

**From Abstracts of 17th Century Irish Wills in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, by John Ainsworth, in The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Vol. 78, No. 1 (Jul., 1948), pp. 24-37, Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland This content downloaded from 50.184.206.61 on Mon, 16 May 2016 18:22:52 UTC All use subject to <http://about.jstor.org/terms> 36 ROYAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF IRELAND**

### **William Parsons of Parsonstown als. Birr, Kings County, esq.**

Dated 17 Apr. 1650; proved 14 Apr. 1653. (Brent 330.)

With the exception of £50 a year to Fenton Parsons, my brother; and the general rents granted to Dorothy Parsons, value £200 a year, all lands, castles, manors, messuages, tenements, and hereditaments mentioned in the indentures of 18 Jul. 1636, and 28-29 May, 1639, with the castle and bawn of Ballindarragh and 30a. arable and pasture, to go to Phillip Begot and Damian Hutchinson, and their assigns, for 12 years after my death: they paying the following annuities and portions:

To my eldest son Laurence Parsons, £40 a year until the age of 18; £60 a year from 18 to 21; and £100 a year from 21 to 24.

To my daughter Dorothe Parsons, at 18 or marriage, £1500 " if she marry the man I have chosen," £1000 if not. In the meantime, she is to have £20 a year, to be increased to £40 should two or more of her brother and my executors decide to send her abroad for her education.

To my daughters Margaret and Elizabeth Parsons each £1,000 as marriage portions; each to have, in the

meantime, £10 a year until 13, then £20 a year, to be increased to £40 if they go abroad.

To my son Lowther Parsons the lease of the manor of Eathangan, Co. Kildare. In the meantime, until he can take peaceable possession, he is to have £20 a year until 13, £40 until he is 21, then £50 until he can take possession.

To my son John Parsons £1000 at 24. In the meantime, he is to have £20 a year until 13, £40 until 21, and £50 until 24.

To my unborn child, if a son, the same as my son John; if a daughter, the same as my daughter Elizabeth. These payments to be made regularly at Strongbow's Tomb in Christ Church, Dublin. If the rents are not large enough to cover them, proportionate reductions are to be made; any overplus to be laid up in stock to cover future payments. The said Begot and Hutchinson to make all the above payments out of the above-mentioned lands and tenements; in default of which, the persons to whom money is due may enter into possession of them. If all the above payments are satisfied within 12 years, the surplus to be handed over to my eldest son Laurence Parsons, or to such of my sons as shall be in possession of my inheritance. If not, those outstanding to be paid from a moiety of the rents and profits of the above lands; the other moiety to my issue male, failing which, they are to be used for the above payments, each of my daughters then unmarried receiving £500. The remainder of the said term of 12 years to be for my eldest son; then for my younger sons, in order of age, and their lawful male heirs; for my brother Fenton Parsons and his lawful male heirs; and the lawful male heirs of my sister Katherine Parsons.

Out of £1,113 due to me from Parliament, £100 to my nephew Michael Cole, due as legacy from my mother Ann, Lady Parsons; £100 to my brother in law Sir Gerrard Lowther, Kt., as legacy from my mother to his son John Lowther, deceased; the residue to my son Laurence Parsons. Out of another £1,092. 12. 6. due from Parliament, (in obtaining which my brother Fenton is to help my executors), £100 to my nephew William Parsons, son of Fenton, due as legacy from my mother; £195 4. 4. to my brother in law Sir Gerrard Lowther, for soldiers; residue to my executors, for family expenses. Out of the money due from Goldsmiths' Hall, London, by order of Parliament, £50 to my mother in law Alice, Lady Phillips, for mourning.

To my son Laurence Parsons all legacies bequeathed me under the will of my mother. When my said son's income, from the estates bequeathed him by me, exceeds £1,000 a year, he shall, out of my share of my mother's estate, build a house with an orchard for four old people (to be Protestants, of English families), who shall each receive 12d. every Sunday.

To Lady Parsons, William Parsons her son, my brother Fenton Parsons and his wife, Sir Gerard Lowther and his wife, and Sir Paul Davis, each a gold ring value 10/-.

To my three servants each a year's wages for mourning; and, (while they remain in the family service), 30/- a year extra for Robert and Kate, 20/- a year extra for Besse. To my son Laurence and my daughter Dorothy each £100 and the residue of the state. To each of my overseers a gold ring value 10/-.

To Alice Mollunixe 40/- for mourning. To Mr. Francis Jacobb and Mr. Symon Jacobb each a ring. In case of controversy over this will, my children to obey their grandmother, and to live with my mother in law.

In case of disobedience among my children, any three of my overseers can reduce their allowance until they conform. My children to marry only with the consent of their grandmother or any three of my overseers, and not to marry Irish papists; penalty for marrying without consent, the same as for disobedience.

Executors. Son Laurence Parsons and daughter Dorothy Parsons.

Overseers. Richard, Earl of Cork, Lieutenant-General; Charles Fleetwood; Sir Henry Vaine the younger; Sir John Parsons, Kt.; Mr. Richard Hill; Mr. Robert Southwell of Kingsale; Sister in law Mrs. Elizabeth Parsons; Sir Gerrard Lowther; Sir Paul Davis; and Philip Begoe [Begot] gent. Witnesses. Ka. Percivalle; John Percivalle; Tho. White; John Powell; Robert Thorps.

**Sir William Parsons, Kt. & Bt.**

Will undated; proved 18 Feb. 1650 [I]. (Grey 33.)

If I die near London, to be buried in Margaret's Church or yard, Westminster; if I return to Ireland, to be buried in my own vault in Patrick's, Dublin, without ceremony " my present destitute condition not permitting it, the number of my now poor relicts considered."

To my grandson William, son and heir to my eldest son Richard, all the rest of my goods. My estates of inheritance and leases to come to him and others as they are estated by my grants."

To my sons Francis and James lands in my manor of Tasagard, Co. Dublin, which I hold by lease from Robert Preston, Esq., of Balmadon or Patrick Scurlocke late of Rathcredan, Co. Dublin, Esq., (formerly known as Preston's lands); for 60 years, if they so long live, at ancient rents to my heir. Whereas by the said former grants I conveyed the towns and lands of Kilcoole, Ffores, and Ballmoroghrod, Co. Wicklow, with a power of revocation, I now revoke the same as follows; to my said son Francis, Kilcoole and Ffores for 21 years, paying my heir a rateable share of the Crown rent (about Id. an acre). WThen, within the said 21 years, " there be such a quietness in Ireland" that my said son Francis may hold the lands in Co. Leitrim conveyed to him in my said deeds, then this 21-year term shall cease. To my said son James the town and lands (under similar conditions), of Ballimoroghod.

To my sons Francis, James, and William a debt of £437 6. 2. due to me from Nicholas Loftus, esq., by bond dated 30 May, 1646, " the want of repayment whereof has put me to great distress "; executors to give my son James powers of attorney to sue for the same.

To Katherine, my son Richard's widow, a bed and bedding. The marriage portions apportioned in my deeds for my two grandchildren, Jane and Elizabeth, to be raised out of my lands " at their age of 20 "; meanwhile they are to have £15 a year each, to be paid them by my heir, and to live with their brother till married. To my grand child Katharine, daughter of my said son Richard, £500 to her preferment in marriage. To my grandchild Arthur £200 to his preferment; to be paid to Katharine at 18, and after payment of her two sister's portions, and to Arthur at 21, similarly. To the said Katharine when 14, £13. 6. 8. a year.

No granddaughter to marry (on pain of losing one-fourth of her portion), without the consent of my

grandchild and heir William Parsons, Sir James Barry, Sir Willm. Usher, Sir Paul Davies, Sir John Hoyer, Kts., and Arthur Hill, Esq., or any three of them.

My grandchildren, sons and daughters of my said son John, with their mother (so long as she is widowed), to hold all the houses and lands in the city and suburbs of Dublin, which belonged to their grandfather, John Lany, alderman; which he and I intended for my son John, as by deeds appears; all these deeds to be delivered for their use to Sir Paul Davis, or, if dead, to Sir James Barry. My said grand-children, and their mother (during her widowhood), to receive the profits of my rectories in Co. Catherlagh, " being 4 as I remember," and of my rectories of Kilpatricke and Templeowdgan, Co. Wexford, all being lately possessions of the late Abbey or cell of Glascarig, Co. Wexford; which rectories I have demised to James Kelly and George Comerford, at a rent of £100 a year, which rent I promised to my said son John, so long as Sir Walsingham Cooke, Kt., should live. On Sir Walsingham's death, the rectories to revert to my heir.

Executors. My grandson William and my sons Francis, James, and William.

[No witnesses.]

Proved by Francis Parsons and William Parsons, sons, two of the executors, power reserved to William Parsons, son [sic]; James Parsons, son, having died.



## **Sir John Hoey, husband of Lady Jane Parsons Hoey**

Sir Richard Parsons, son to Sir William Parsons, first baronet Bellamont had a number of younger brothers and sisters. One will of one of his brothers in law are also here in this group of wills, that of Sir John Hoey who married Richard's sister Jane Parsons. When Sir John Hoey died, according to the pedigrees in *The Peerage of Ireland* by John Lodge (b. ca. 1698--died 1774, deputy-registrar of the court of prerogative at Dublin Castle) who knew his grand-children and great-grandchildren, Sir John Hoey left five children but only four are named in the will, William, Parsons, Mary and Elizabeth. His oldest son and oldest daughter had already married, but his oldest son, William Hoey, gentleman, according to the laws of primogeniture inherited a large portion of his father's lands and thus is identified in the will of Sir John Hoey, written in 1664 which after this introduction follows the Parsons' wills.. Lady Jane Parsons-Hoey died in June, 1692 and was buried with her husband on 13th June, 1692 at St. Audoen's Church in Dublin, Ireland. Sir John Hoey's oldest daughter, Anne, had received her dowry, similar to what was mentioned in the will for her younger sisters, and therefore had no need, by law, of further mention. Lodge gave her first name, and her last name is indicated in the will and related documents of the 2nd baronet Bellamont and a piece of property that her husband co-owned with her brother, William Hoey, in County Wicklow. Both William Hoey, gentleman, and Sir Thomas Woods, as co-owners of the property had to sign a deed of sale found in the Registry of Deeds. The main Hoey properties were in Counties Kildare, Wicklow and Dublin. An early property of Sir Thomas Woods was near that of Sir John Hoey in Kildare. Both were near the town of Naas. "Hoey's Court" in Dublin, where Jonathan Swift and other notables wer born, was built by this family and owned by it for over 100 years.

Miss Anne Hoey's husband was Sir Thomas Woods, who had lands in four counties by the time of his own death, which appears to be just before 1690. According to the pedigrees compiled by Lodge who knew some of his grand-children, he left "numerous offspring." His oldest son, a John Woods gentleman is listed on the 1689 "Lists of Attainted Persons" in County Offaly (aka King's County). This gentleman is shown by other records to have had property in County Meath and County Offaly, and a grandson moved from Meath back to County Offaly, according to a will. Another grandson, Thomas, sold and leased a number of properties in Dublin County and elsewhere, as per the Registry of Deeds. According to the 1659 census Sir Thomas Woods and Miss Anne Hoey were married about 1658. In 1659, they were living at/near Parsonstown (Birr) in King's County (now called Offaly) and had no surviving children as yet; they were born between 1660 and the early 1680's. His oldest son, John Woods, gentleman, was of age in 1689 when he was on King James' Irish Parliament's "List of Attainted" and living near Parsonstown, in County Offaly. The Woods' and Wood's families will--as both ended up related to the Parsons are in another set of documents under the surnames Woods/Wood on this same website.

## **Transcription of Will of Sir John Hoey, husband of Lady Jane Parsons Hoey From LDS microfilms of "Transcriptions of Betham's Will Copies and Pedigrees", Dublin, Ireland. (Originals/microfilms in National Library of Ireland)**

Hoey, S. John, Knight

In the name of God, Amen, I, Sir John Hoey, Knight, doe hereby do Ordain my last will and testament as follows. First I bequeath my Soule unto Almighty God in the momitts (what the scrawl looked like) of his Sonne Jesus Christ who first created it, Secondly solemnized it, and Thirdly in a measure has sanctified it.

Also my will is that so much of my Estate of Johnstown as I have passed by Deed unto \_\_\_ Sposous

(another scrawl) to the use of my oldest Sonne for him and his wife \_\_\_\_\_ and as she survives him, and a jointure for my now wife, if she shall survive me, shall stand from without any alteration whatsoever.

It is my Will further that Sir William Ussher and those of the Sisters therein named shall stand \_\_\_ and possess of all my Lands Rortorious by those and other horedatamonts in the Counties of Mayo, Roscommon, Meath and Lowth to the use of the my Sonne Parsons Hoey and the house made of his body lawfully to be begotten and for want of such issue to the use of my oldest Sonne and the house made of his body lawfully begotten, and to be begotten, and for want of issue then to sure further use and uses as have boon me. (Sir John Hoey's brother-in-law and sister(s) were to manage the lands of his son, Parsons Hoey, until Parsons Hoey reached the age and education to own and manage them himself.)

Ordained in the forementioned Deeds upon the Settlement of the rest of my Estate. After my will is that my Dear and well beloved wife shall have besides the Joynture of three hundred pounds issued unto her by the said Deed ), my coach, and coach horses, bed, furniture for a bedd, and other necessaries for a Chamber, and one \_\_\_ of Chest of Linen such as she shall choose and her Child bed linen and that she shall have the tuition of all my younger children during her widdowhood and if she shall weary, then they are taken into the tuitionship of their said older brother (William) by to be manitimod (maintained?) until they shall be accomplished the years' hereafter expressed.

And also my will is that any Executor shall during the nonage of my said Sonne Parsons Hoey \_\_\_growing profits of the Estate sett by me on him as aforesaid out of which he is to pay yearly unto my said wife over and above an Allowance for (\_\_\_) the sum of twenty pounds to maintain him in schooling and clothes until he shall accomplish the age of fourteen years and afterward until he accomplishes the age of eighteen years, the sum of fifty pounds yearly to maintain him in the university and from then until he accomplishes the age of twenty-one years the sum of eighty pounds to maintain him in Lincoln Inns (law school) (where I deemed he may spend those years and more if the Lord please to putt into his head so to do, all whose etc., so all Allowances due to aunhe and etc. estate formerly settled on him at which by his (vizt at twenty one years of age) my Executor is to render him our Aronyst of the Rents of the said lands and tythes settled on his? wife the profitts thereof without any other Deductions than what has necessarily been expended for his use and occasions.

And also my will is that my Daughters Mary and Elizabeth shall each of them be paid by my said Executor the sum of one thousand pounds and at such time as each of them respectively shall accomplish the age of fourteen years which portions are to be taked out of any Mortgage, my stocks and Leases my Annoares before June, 1649, my engagement on Wm. Chichester's lands in the County of Wexford and out of the thousand pounds by me—expenses to be charged on my Estate of Johnstown—towards my younger Children's portions and the Life maintenance to be allowed each of them, as unto my Sonne Parsons, they to live with their mother as aforementioned, and if either of them shall dye before they accomplish the said age, that then the said portion of her so dead to remand unto my Executor.

Also my will is that my said younger children shall be disposed of in marriage by the consent of my siad wife, my Executor, and my Overseers (or such as be there living) and if they shall Dispose of themselves in marriage contrary to their Likings then I Leave to her so offending but five hundred pounds.

Also I leave unto my oldest son and heir William Hoey all the rest of my Estate as well Reall and

Personall of which nature and find soever in Reason or otherwise but doe appoint him my sole Executor of this my last will. Also my will is that my Debts be paid (with all concerted speed) by my said Executor, out of any pts of my Estate subject thereunto.

Also I leave the charge of my old Nurse unto my Sonne William not to see her want while she lives. Also I leave unto the poor persons of Dublin and Naas, the sum of ten pounds so to be distributed amongst them as my wife shall appoint. Also I leave unto each of my servants resident in my house half a year's wages.

Also I leave unto my most beloved Brothers Sir William Ussher and Sir Paul Davies, Knights, (whom I wish to be Overseers of this my last will ), a piece of plate of ten pounds value unto each of them which my Executor is to have made and J/delided (decided?) accordingly. Also I appoint my Summ Charges to be defrayed by my Executor in whatsoever. I have Rene (scrawl) unto sett my hand and Seale this 5<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 1660. Jo. Hoey (soto signitti—his signature). In this was destined to be the last will and testament of the said Sir John Howey and also sealed and witnessed in the persons of Walter Plunkett, Wm. Dixon, Tho. Worsopp, John Salt, Tho. Manley.

Probat et approbatum: (accepted as exhibit 4, February 1676) mori juris forma Assisos (Assize court) Cur Reg. (All Latin entry, translated as best we could manage)... The last will and testament of Johannis Hoey of Johnstowne, in his own hand... Presented by Willemus Hoey, first son and heir to Diocesan (Church) Court verified and annotated (?) by \_\_\_ Loftus, and ... Presented Date of 11<sup>th</sup> July, (recorded 8<sup>th</sup> August) Anno Domini 1664 (will written 8<sup>th</sup> August, 1664, and presented for probate court 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1664, and then ended up refiled in 1676, in Court of Assizes—perhaps after his son Parsons came of age and had his full settlement bestowed upon him.) (Note: the three youngest children were not yet 14 years of age, but the oldest son was over 21 and married; the oldest daughter was also about 21 and married but not mentioned in this will, but a pattern of dowries is described. The will also mentions at least one estate already bestowed upon his oldest son, possibly at the time of his marriage.)

## **John Francke, Esq., husband of Mrs. Jane Parsons Francke**

Sir Richard Parsons, and his first wife, Letitia Loftus, had three children before she died, in 1633, as previously described. Their oldest daughter, Miss Jane Parsons, married John Franke, Esq., in 1657. She was granted property for her dowry that was held by her husband after her death, 3rd October, 1659, and then passed to her next younger sister, Elizabeth who married Sir Thomas Worsopp, by Jane's husband's will about a year after her own death. John Franke's will follows this Parsons family introduction, the Parsons wills, and the will of Sir John Hoey, a son in law of Sir William Parsons, first baronet of Bellamont who was Jane Parsons-Franke's grandfather. Mrs. Jane Parsons-Franke was interred at St. Patrick's next to her mother. Elizabeth Parsons-Worsopp and her husband had about 10 children, but only some of her daughters had children. One of her daughters who did not have children, was Elizabeth Worsopp who married John Wood of Rossmead in County Westmeath. This surname is Wood, not Woods and they had no children. His estate passed to a nephew, Hans Widman who then was required to change his surname to Wood to inherit. Some of her marriage portion passed to her remaining sisters and/or their children. This is all documented by a series of deeds connected to the properties, owned and leased that came to Elizabeth Worsopp Wood from her Parsons mother, and had to be transferred according to entailments, and likewise according to the details in her own and her husband's wills, found by Hibernia Research, Ltd. and described in other documents on the AmeriCeltic website.

Regarding the John Franck/Francke will of 1664-5: he was the husband of Jane Parsons whom he married in 1657. She was a sister of William Parsons, 2<sup>nd</sup> baronet Bellamont. John Francke's wife died in 1659 according to other records. There were no children by his wife, so the marriage portion left his wife and held for his lifetime was remanded to her sister, Lady Elizabeth (Parsons) Worsopp, wife of Sir Thomas Worsopp, and her children, when John Francke/Franck died in 1665. John Franck had one brother, James Franck and three sisters, Abigail (married Hunt), Mary (married Wood or Woods) and Katherine (married "Dublday" Doubleday) and most of the estate went to the oldest son of Abigail Hunt, his nephew Thomas Hunt. In 1664, his sisters Mary and Katherine each had two under-age children.

Elizabeth Parsons-Worsopp and Sir Thomas Worsopp had several children one of whom was Elizabeth Worsopp who married John Wood of Rossmead, in County Westmeath.

## **Transcription of Will of John Franke, Esq., husband of Mrs. Jane Parsons Franke**

**From LDS microfilms of "Transcriptions of Betham's Will Copies and Pedigrees", Dublin, Ireland. (Originals/microfilms in National Library of Ireland)**

Francke, John:

In the name of God, Amen the tenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty four According to the computation of England, I John Francke of the City of Dublin, Esq. Being in ye fort mbutory and health blessed be God not yet knowing how soon it may please God to join my wife, I do make and ordain this my last will and testament as followeth. 1<sup>stly</sup> I bequeath my Soule to the hands of God my faithful Creator hoping that through the mistic Death and Passion of Jesus Christ my Saviour and Redeemer to forgive pardon of all my Sinns and so for my body to be buried in Christian burial at the Discretion of my Executor everafter nominated.

2.ly I give and bequeath unto my brother, James Franck seaven hundred pounds to be paid yearly, that is to say, one hundred pounds every last day of May after my death til the Summ of five hundred be paid, which said sum is in lieu of a sum that I owed unto him. Also I give unto his children as they come to age twenty pounds a piece both which is to be paid out of the Land I have for and upon Boulton/Goulton An. (Ave?)

3.ly I give unto my Lady Elizabeth Worsopp the moyety of what is in Auxvaire of her Sister's portion as it arose out of those lands sett out unto them for their satisfaction my late wife what has been \_ married by me \_\_ and remained under my hands. (Elizabeth Parsons Worsopp was the sister of his late wife, Jane Parsons Francke)

4.ly I give unto my sister Abigail Hunt fourty pounds, unto her oldest son Thomas Hunt, fourty pounds to be paid within one year after my death. (Abigail Hunt was John Francke's oldest sister)

5.ly I give unto my Sister Mary Wood(s?) To be equally divided among her children the sum of Sixty pounds to be paid within two years after my death. 6.ly I give unto my sister Katherine Dublday's children Sixty pounds to be paid within three years after my death.

7.ly I give unto Richard Bodhurst, my servant, five pounds, I give unto Mathew Jackson five pounds, I give unto Mary Gregory twenty pounds the sum has labor my servants to be paid within two years of my death; Anderson Barklay five pounds to be paid as the former.

8.ly All the rest of my goods and Chattles Lands and \_\_ and whatever else belongs unto me, I give unto Thomas Hunt, my nephew living here in the Kingdome of Ireland whom I make my sole Executor. And this I make my last will and testament, renouncing all former wills. In Witness whereof I have here unto sett my hand and Seale this day and year above written. Joh.Franck (Signed and sealed) in the presence of John Forbes and Thomas Keating.

Probatum et approbatum (entirely in Latin, translated as best as can be managed) Jurat..Assizos. Will and testament of Johannis Franck, of Dublin, Armigtor (has arms, not knighted) written in his own hand. Submitted by Thomas Hunt, nephew, and named executor. Dudley Loftus scribe. Date 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month of August, Anno Domine 1665. (Note: John Francke was listed elsewhere as "Esquire" son of a gentleman and grandson of a knight, and lived in Dublin. His wife was of the Bellamont Parsons line, Bellamont then being an estate in Dublin County, on the outskirts of the City.)

## **Closing**

The two brothers, Sir William Parsons and Sir Lawrence Parsons between them had acquired by forfeiture or purchase dozens of parcels of land from about 1605 until their deaths. These lands, castles, manor houses, etc. were in at least 9 counties mostly in southern and central Ireland, but a few in northern Ireland as well. In time, these properties passed to sons and grandsons, but also to sons-in-law, and grandchildren. This introduction and the wills of some of the family members are to help sort out the main lines and some of their numerous descendants.