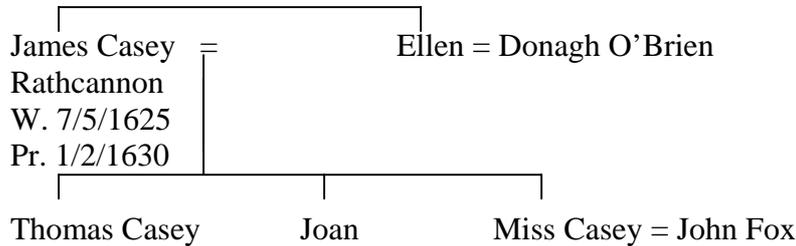


Anne Casey of Rathcannon

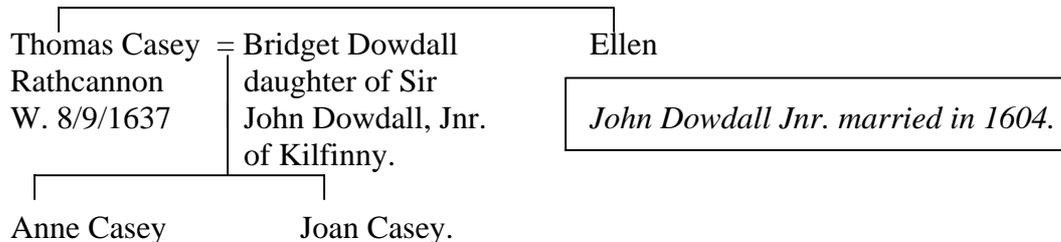
By Noel Murphy

Betham's Will Abstracts. G O 223. p 212.



Capt. Paul Arundel is mentioned. (*Paul Arundel and James Casey were both married to daughters of Sir George Thornton, the Provost Marshall of Munster. Another daughter, Grace, was married to John Bourke of Brittas, executed in 1607.*) William Casey is mentioned as a cousin of the family.

G O 223. p 217.



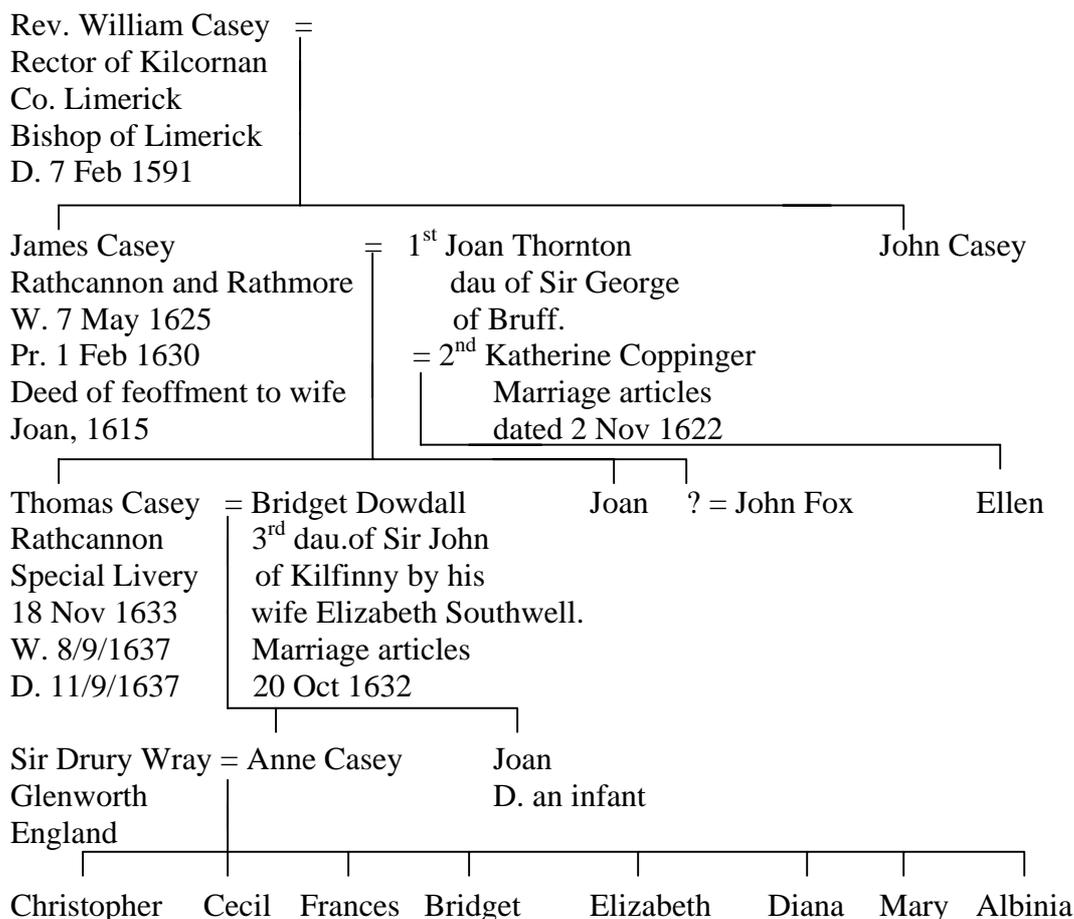
William Casey and his wife Margaret Galway are both mentioned in the Will.

The Arthur Mss. Dr. Arthur's Fee Book.

- 1619 James **Casey's** wife. (Joan Thornton)
- 1620 James Casey's son Thomas. Peripneumonia obnoxia. (T.B.)
- 1620 Patrick Casey's daughter.
- 1622 Patrick Casey's wife.

I am very certain that the first two lines refer to the James Casey and his family as mentioned in the Will Abstracts. James Casey's wife was Joan Thornton. James was granted the wardship of Thomas Thornton, his brother-in-law, when Sir George Thornton died circa 1604. Both young men, Thomas Casey and Thomas Thornton died shortly after marrying, i.e. in their early thirties and I would surmise that T.B. was the cause of their deaths. The lands of Rathcannon were held on lease from the Earl of Kildare and prior to the Casey lease, were held by the Lacy family to whom George Thornton was married into. See "Sir George Thornton" in the North Munster Antiquarian Journal, 1998-9. Vol. 39.

Betham's Sketch Pedigree.



More details on Anne Casey's story are to be found in the **Egmont Papers, Vol 1. & 2**

P 96. 7/9/1637. Deed drawn up between Thomas Casie of Rathcannon on the one part and William Comyne of Whitestowne and John Bourke fitzEdmonde of Cloghnedromon on the other part. Casie assigne to them the castle town and lands of Rathcannan and other estates for the use of his wife Bridget Casy, alias Dowdall, his two daughters Ann and Juane and his sister Ellen, (daughter of James Casy deceased) with remainder, in case of failure of direct heirs, to Thomas Casy's uncle, John Casy, and James, his son and heir and failing him to the other nine sons of John Casy and their heirs in succession.

P 98. The next move was by the land grabber Sir Philip Percivalle. On the 23 November 1637 he wrote petitioning for the wardship of the two daughters and co-heirs of Thomas Casey, late of Rathcannon, "dead above forty days since", and offering to find an office for his Majesty at his own charge. His letter was endorsed by the Court of Wards, "Let the office be found and upon return thereof such consideration shall be had of the petitioner's request as shall be fit".

Percivalle, about one month later wrote to Sir Hardress Waller. (Waller was married to Elizabeth Dowdall, Bridget's sister). 16 Jan. 1637/8. Dublin. "I am sure you are no

stranger to the disposition of your brother Casie's estate and how the same is like to be swallowed and his children educated [as Catholics] by such as are unworthy of either. For the latter, I have, I hope, prevented it already and for the former no charge or endeavour of mine shall be wanting. The Lady (Lady Dowdall) is pleased to think well of my course and tells me that the writings that I look for, which I conceive may make the children wards, are in her daughter's custody, for whom I have sent a process to deliver them.

The wardship, if it may be found, is granted unto me, but I sought more for the preservation of the infants and their estates than for any other end, being much moved to see the son of a friend, a ward, so long bred up in the true religion, should be in such a way perverted". I know that I shall have your assistance in clearing the truth.

Percivalle's contention that the children would be reared as Catholics is rather weak. Thomas Casey was a grandson of William Casey, Queen Elizabeth's Protestant bishop of Limerick. Bridget Dowdall, their mother, was the daughter of a solid Protestant family. Percivalle was an opportunist who only saw an opening to get control of Casey's lands. Indeed when Anne the only surviving daughter reached her majority and was about to have the Estate returned to herself, Percivalle's son and heir John, tried to marry her off to his sickly brother Arthur in order to keep her inheritance under Percivalle family control and provide Arthur with a living. Anne Casey had the good sense to reject her Percivalle suitor. Moreover Thomas Casey knew he was dying and had made adequate provision for his wife and children as can be seen in the indenture he signed on the 7th of September 1637, which was the day before he signed his will, and three days later he eventually died. John Burke's daughter and heiress married into the Protestant Purdon family of Tullo, Co Limerick, who counted The Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, Adam Loftus, amongst their closest relatives. The Archbishop's wife was a Purdon.

Note: - The Purdons of Tullo were a newly settled in Limerick family. Tullo was later renamed Altavilla and is near Askeaton. One of their younger descendants was associated later, after the Cromwellian wars, with Tullow in Co. Clare when he settled at Tinnerana. This has led others to claim the Purdons were a Co. Clare family.

Hardress Waller wrote back a week later. 25 Jan. 1637/8, Castletown. "I have got John Fox, (Bridget's brother-in-law) to deliver up to my cousin Hart (Henry Harte) all writings which may tend to the finding of my brother Casey's children heirs, "Wherein his widow, my sister [in-law], might be in some danger were she not in some hopes to fall into your hands, where I shall conclude her as safe as with any son of man". I beg you to do nothing until she knows how to make her address to you, which you may impart to this bearer."

On the **1 Feb 1637/8** Percivalle made his legal move. He ordered the Sheriff of Co. Limerick to "summon a jury of 48 Freeholders to appear at the town of Kilmallock on the 12 inst. in order to the finding of offices for the King". The Sheriff was also ordered to warn certain heirs to bring their writings and evidences with them.

On the **6 June 1638** Percivalle wrote in triumph to his cousin Courtenay. "When I was last at Kilmallock, the jury found a mortgage by Thomas Casy of the lands of

Rathmore to Henry Casy for £320. The wardship of the heirs being granted to me, I have this day paid the money, which must be certified, to fortify the title of the children. I send you a commission and also Henry Casy's acquittal, a diminicle ready drawn for the jury, and a warrant for a jury to be called, which (having filled in a day) you must send to the Sheriff.

Waller to Percivalle from Newcastle [West] 11 July 1638. Thanks him for his assistance in Lady Dowdall's business and also in that of his poor sister [Bridget] Casie, who desires pardon for sending for her child without applying to Sir Philip, her excuse being that the wardship was (as they heard) undetermined and the child suffering much through the neglect of greedy executors.

We know that the baby Joan died about this time and note the use of the term child (Singular) in the above letter. Did Joan die through the neglect of greedy executors?. Is Bridget referring to William Comyn and John Bourke?

On the **12 July 1638** the Court of Wards sent an order for the appearance of Bridget Casey, widow, John O'Heyne of Rathmore, Donogh O'Heyne of the same, Morrish Casey of Rathcannon, Connor Clovane, Edward O'Henchie of Uregare and Teige Casey of Ballygaddy, Co. Limerick, to make answer to an information exhibited by the Attorney of the Court at the relation of Sir Philip Percivall. Endorsed- "Process for Thomas Casy's tenants"

16 July 1638. Order in the Court of Wards and Liveries that the office taken at Newcastle [West], Co. Limerick on July 10 last, after the death of Thomas Casey of Rathcannon, Esq., touching the redemption of the lands of Rathmore, or a copy of it, be given to the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Attorney of the Court that he may certify what his Majesty is entitled to thereby.

19 July 1638. Court of Wards.- Order for the appearance of Sir Hardress Waller, William Conin [Comyn], John Bourke, Dame Elizabeth Dowdall and John Fox next Michaelmas term, bringing with them all writings concerning Thomas Casey's Estate.

20 Aug 1638. Indenture between Sir Philip Percivalle, guardian of Ann Casy and Bridget Casy, widow, of the one part and Sir Hardress Waller of Castletown, Co. Limerick of the other part, granting a lease of the castle, town and lands of Rathcannon to Sir Hardress Waller during Anne Casy's minority, for which he covenants to pay yearly £250., viz: £6 to Sir Philip, £6 to the Earl of Kildare, £210 to Bridget, widow of Thomas Casy and £28 in building and enclosing. Rathmore was leased to Theobald Bourke of Ballynagard for £133-6-8 during Anne's minority.

Sir Philip Percivalle spent the last 7 years of his life in England and it would seem that he had his entire family with him, including Anne Casey. He died on the 10 Nov 1647.

Egmont Papers Vol. 2. P. 491.

Anne Casie

1649 [50], Jan. 7. – Memorandum that on this day at Lady Percivall's house in St. Martin's Lane – In the presence of the said Lady Percivall, Arthur Percivall, second son now living of Sir Philip Percivall, Capt. William Parsons, William

Dobbins, gent., and Thomas White, gent., - John Percivall, son, heir and executor to Sir Philip Percivall, did tender to Anne Casie (ward of the late Sir Philip Percivall and now ward of the said John Percivall) “ she being then within age, viz. of the age of fourteen years, and in the custody of the said John Percivall, competent marriage, viz. the said Arthur Percivall, of the age of sixteen years,” and that Anne Casie then and there refused the said marriage. *Signed by Lady Percivalle and her son John, and witnessed by Wm. Parsons, Wm. Dobbins and Thomas Whyte.*
(Arthur died at the beginning of 1654 aged 19).

P. 516. William Dobbins to his cousin John Percivalle, March 14 1652[3].
Mentions “I believe now something will be done in it before Sir H. W[aller ?] and others go from hence, which will be within a month. He goes to Dublin and A. C[asey ?] with him, of whose estate he told me there was not sixpence made.”
(Nobody made any money from their Estates during the Rebellion years).

Memorials of the Dead. Vol. XI. 1921 – 25. Appendix, P. 132.

Marriages extracted from St. Michaels Parish Register, Dublin. 1656 – 1800

“A Certificatt given unto Leunt. Drury Wray and Mrs Ann Casye.
Sept 9th 1656”

(This complied with a new Cromwellian law making Civil Marriages compulsory).

Drury Wray later turns up as the Titulado for Athlacca Townland in 1659.
Rathcannon was an adjoining Townland but in Athlacca Parish and Drury Wray did build a mansion there in which he and his large family lived.

Drury Wray fought for King James and lost his Estate, but his eldest son fought for King William and the Estate was granted to him. Drury Wray died in 1710.

Anne Casey died in 1697 at the age of 61. Her children continued to live at Rathcannon. The Wray family eventually leased Rathcannon to the Webb family and the Maunsell family moved in after the Webbs.

Anne Casey’s second son Cecil was heir to his older brother. He had an illegitimate daughter whom he called Anne Casey and when he died he left his fortune to her along with his Estates. She later married Lord Vere Bertie.