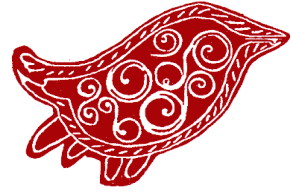


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Author: Welply, W. H.

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Wednesday, 1 August, 1733.—This day I went to London, and called on Counsellor Annesley, where I met Dr. Berkeley, Dean of Derry, and perfected to him a mortgage of lands in Ireland for £3,000 Irish money, lent me at 5 per cent. Irish money payable in Ireland. This money paid me in English was £2,700, which I received on signing the mortgage, and lodged it with Mr. Hore, the banker. The lands mortgaged are as follows:—

CREGANCOUNTY and GURTEENROE. Tenant, John Freeman. Per annum	... ..	£61 0 0
GORTFONLEARY. Tenant, Robt. Wrixon. Per annum	9 0 0	
JORDENSTOWN and LISKELLY. Tenant, Will. Dampier. Per annum	... ..	46 0 0
STRADEEN. Tenant, Rdc. Purcell, sen. Per annum	18 0 0	
KILINLEAH. Tenant, Robt. Callaghan. Per annum	32 10 0	
SHANALOGHERT. Tenant, Jo. Wrixon. Per annum	30 8 0	
SPITTLE and JORDAN'S GARDENS. Tenant, Chris. Wagget. Per annum	... ..	41 0 0
WELSHSTOWN. Tenant, Chr. Conran. Per annum	52 5 1	
		£290 3 1

Sunday, 5 August.—My wife and I went to Hampton Court, where I kissed the hands of the King, Queen, and Prince for being made an Earl, by the title of Egmont in the county of Cork. In the evening I returned.

The published instalment of the Diary ends with December 31, 1733, and we are promised two further volumes which will bring the Diary down to the year 1744. Incidentally it may be added that Perceval gives the explanation how it came about that the Speaker of the House of Commons first extended to ladies the privilege of admission to the gallery of the House to hear the speeches.

## The Family and Descendants of Edmund Spenser.

By W. H. WELPLY, B.A.



THE principal facts of Edmund Spenser's too brief life are so well known that only a short outline of them is required here. The poet was born in East Smithfield, near the Tower of London, in 1552 or 1553; his father is said to have been identified as John Spenser<sup>1</sup> of North-East Lancashire, a gentleman by birth, who had settled in London and become a free journeyman of the Merchant Taylors' Company; his mother's Christian name was Elizabeth, the name borne by his wife also. He had a brother John and a sister Sarah, not

<sup>1</sup> See E. de Selincourt's *Introduction to the Poetical Works of Edmund Spenser*, Oxford University Press.

*Elizabeth*,<sup>2</sup> as Mr. de Selincourt states. He was one of the first pupils to attend the Merchant Taylors School then under Dr. Mulcaster, whence on the 20th of May, 1569, he proceeded, as sizar of Pembroke Hall, to the University of Cambridge. His brother John followed the same course as to school and University, beyond which his career has not been traced however.

It is very probable that the family from which Spenser sprang belonged to Hurstwood in the neighbourhood of Burnley, Lancashire. The Registers of Burnley Parish, 1564-1703, contain 29 entries of either an Edmund, or a Laurence, Spenser. An Edmund Spenser<sup>3</sup> was Churchwarden there in 1617 and again in 1649.

Spenser took his bachelor's degree in 1573, and his master's degree in 1576, when he left Cambridge, going, it is said, to relatives in the North of England, where he fell in love with Rosalind, the widow's daughter, of the glen. In 1578 he seems to have become Secretary to Dr. Young, Bishop of Rochester,<sup>4</sup> sometime Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, who was appointed to this See in that very year. Whether, as has been stated, he was employed by Leicester on missions to France, Italy, &c., in the years 1577-9 seems to be doubtful, but on the 12th July, 1580, he landed with Lord Grey in Ireland, as his Secretary, and was a witness in the same year of the slaughter at Smerwick,<sup>5</sup> Co. Kerry, of some 600 Spanish and Italian freebooters, Sir Walter Raleigh,<sup>6</sup> and Hugh O'Neill, afterwards Earl of Tyrone, being also present. On the 22nd March, 1580-1, Spenser was appointed Clerk of Decrees and Recognizances of Chancery in Dublin. In 1586 he got a grant<sup>7</sup> of 3,028 acres of land in Co. Cork, where, at his abode of Kilcolman Castle, he seems to have resided from that year until 1598, except for occasional visits of varying duration to London. On the 22nd June, 1588, he became Clerk to the Council of Munster, an office afterwards held by Richard Boyle, the Great Earl of Cork. In 1598 the Irish rose in rebellion, Kilcolman Castle was partially burned, and Spenser and his family were forced to flee for refuge to the City of Cork, whence on the 9th Decr., 1598, he was sent, the bearer of despatches from Sir Thomas Norreys, Vice-President of Munster, to Cecil in London, where he died on the 16th January, 1598-9, in King Street, Westminster, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Under February 1598-9 the Calendar of State Papers cites a petition to Sir Robert Cecil of Nicholas Curteys, who had served long "in that poor and troublesome place of Clerk of the Council of Munster, and held his state therein on the trust of Lodowick Bryskett<sup>8</sup> and Edmund Spenser."

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine*, August, 1842.

<sup>4</sup> See Article in the *Times*, 28th Nov., 1907.

<sup>5</sup> Spenser's *View of the State of Ireland*: "Myself being as near to them as any."

<sup>6</sup> Mr. Goddard Orpen once told the writer that he had found a record of Raleigh having been in Cork City, three days before the affair at Smerwick, 120 miles away. He considers it somewhat improbable that Raleigh was present.

<sup>7</sup> In the Lodge MSS., P.R.O., Dublin, under date the 26th Oct., 1591, are set out the details of this grant of Kilcolman, Kylnevalley, Ardadam, Ardenreagh, Ardenbane, etc.

<sup>8</sup> Lodowick Bryskett, Clerk of the Council in Ireland under Sir Henry Sidney, Pensioner Trin. Coll. Camb., 1599. We find him in a Chancery Lawsuit: *Briskett v. Sir Wm. Synott and others*, 28th June, 1609, and we find Ellen Briskett, widow, in a Chancery Suit, 29 Jan., 1612. Lodowick died c. 1611.

By the rebellion Curteys had all burned and taken from him and, *pour comble de malheurs*, Bryskett has turned against him ("Edmund Spenser being lately deceased," he writes), and is trying to deprive him of his official post; and John Chamberlain, in a letter to Sir Dudley Carleton, Sunday, Jan. 17, 1598-9, wrote: "Spenser the poet, who lately came from Ireland, died at Westminster last Saturday." From the State Papers also we have a record of the despatch by Sir Thomas Norreys of Spenser to London, 1598, Dec. 9. The despatch is endorsed: "Received at Whitehall, 24 Dec.]" and a note is added: ("The despatch has been sent by the hand of Edmund Spenser, the poet.").

Spenser's sister, Sarah, joined him in Ireland, and kept house for him at his castle of Kilcolman until she married John Travers, a Lancashire man, who may have gone to Ireland with, or about the same time as, Spenser. In the *Annals of St. Fin Barr's Cathedral, Cork*, quoted in the Rev. Dr. Grosart's *Life of Spenser*, we read: "1623, Geo. Lee, Dean, and the Chapter, grant to Robert Travers of Mooretown, a place of burial in the South Chancel of our Church . . . in which place John Travers, father of the same Robert, as well as Sara Spenser, *als.* Travers, mother of Robert, with his paternal grandmother, as also his two brothers, are buried."

Kilcolman Castle lies about 8 miles north of Mallow, about 2 north of Doneraile. In spite of the glamour which his poetry cast over the hills and streams of the locality, and the woodland character of its scenery in those days, it must have been a somewhat dreary spot to the poet, brightened though it was by visits from the great Sir Walter Raleigh and others of less note. A certain zest was added to life, too, by quarrels and litigation with a neighbour, Morris, Lord Roch,<sup>9</sup> and the times were hazardous and uncertain. In 1593 Spenser came under the influence of the cultivated and charming lady who, on St. Barnabas Day, 11th June, 1594, became his wife. Her family name was long a puzzle to genealogists. In the pedigree by Sir William Betham, to be found in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of August, 1842, it is asserted that she was the daughter of a peasant of obscure fame. The Rev. Dr. Grosart was the first to discover the name and station of this lady. She was Elizabeth Boyle, of Kilcoran, Co. Cork, a place one mile south of the town of Youghal, overlooking the bay. She was of Herefordshire, and a kinswoman of Richard Boyle, the Great Earl of Cork. He who would study the genealogy of the Spenser family aright must be conversant with the details of at least four other genealogies: those of Boyle, Hyde, Travers, and Tynte, and he must consult with diligence the ten volumes of *Lismore Papers*, edited by the Rev. Dr. Grosart.

How do we know beyond the possibility of doubt the name of Spenser's wife? The best evidence is to be found in a hitherto unnoticed Chancery lawsuit: Perregreene Spencer v. Francis Marshall, 9th July, 1622.<sup>16</sup> The

<sup>9</sup>There is a Chancery Suit (P.R.O., Dublin): Morris Lord Roch v. Edmund Spenser, Hilary, 1593, in which plaintiff alleges that Spenser "doth multiply suits" against him in the Presidential Court of Munster, and begs for the grant of a certiorari to remove a case about the lands of Shanballymore to the Chancery Court in Dublin. The certiorari was granted over the signature of Adam Loftus.

<sup>16</sup>P.R.O., Dublin.



EDMUND SPENSER.

*From picture in Earl of Kinnouli's possession.*



EDMUND SPENSER.

*By Alexander Allori of Florence in Rev. S. Baving-Gould's collection.*

statement of claim sets out that the plaintiff is son and heir to Edmond Spenser, late of Kilcolman, deceased, and goes on to show that Sir William Sarsfield, of Lucan, and Sir Garrett Aylmer, by their deeds, 24th August, 1600, granted certain lands and impropriate tithes in trust for the use of Roger Seckerstone and Elizabeth, his wife; that these lands had been bought for £200 by Edmond Spenser, who had paid all the purchase money but £35, which with £25 more, £50 in all, had been satisfied after the death of Edmond Spenser by Roger Seckerstone, who married his widow, Elizabeth, plaintiff's mother. Elizabeth died 23rd August, 1622.<sup>11</sup> Perregreene goes on to state that the purchase of the lands, &c., in question was intended by his father for his (Perregreene's) use.

In the *Corporate Records of Youghal*, edited by the late Dr. Richard Caulfield, F.S.A., is an entry under date 3rd May, 1606, of an Indenture between Sir Richard Boyle, of Youghal, and Elizabeth Boyle, *als.* Seckerstone of Kilcoran, widow.

In *Lismore Papers*, under date 3rd March, 1612, we read:—

“Captain Robert Tynt<sup>12</sup> was married in my study in Yoghall by my cozen Richard Boyle, dean of Waterford, to my kinswoman, Mrs. Elizabeth Boyle *als.* Seckerstone,” and in the same work under date 15th November, 1623, occurs this entry:—“Be it knowen unto all men that I Peregrine Spenser, one of the sonnes of Lady Elizabeth Tynt, deceased, do hereby acknowledge to have received of the Rt. Hon. Richard Earl of Cork the some of 50li. . . . given by her by will between me, the said Peregrine, and Richard Seckerston, another sonne of hers.”

Certain facts emerge from all this evidence, viz., the poet's widow had married a second time by August, 1600, was a second time a widow by 1606, and married again in 1612. We learn the date of her death, and we find that before his death the poet had been making provision for his second son by the purchase of certain lands and tithes. These lands of Renny, Co. Cork, figure largely in the later history of the Spenser family.

We think it a not unfair inference too that Spenser had no third son.

What manner of woman was this golden-haired Elizabeth Boyle,<sup>13</sup> to the lure of whose love we owe the Epithalamion, “the most magnificent lyric ever penned of love triumphant,” as it has been well described?

Here is one of her letters to Sir Richard Boyle. It has been reproduced in facsimile in *Lismore Papers*, where one may study its beautiful bold handwriting:—

Sr. Being the time is long sinc I saw you and the distance of my being so farr off. . . . As for healeth I thanke God I am much better than I was, and have found better contentment than ever I have found befor. I remayn  
Your very loving kinswoman

Gillinghame this

Eliza: Tynt

xxij Desember

1615.

<sup>11</sup> The discrepancy between the date at the head of the Chancery Bill and that of Elizabeth's death is accounted for by an endorsement on the Bill: “This Bill with the answer thereunto filed were both delivered by James Browne unto me the 14th daie of Januarie, 1622, he gave unto me 12d. for the filing of them, and wanted me to enter the Bill in my Ld. Chancellor's name the 9th of Julie, 1622, because it concerned the Ld. Chancellor.

<sup>12</sup> Afterwards Sir Robert Tynt.

<sup>13</sup> “Her locks are finest gold”—*Amoretti*, Sonnet xv.

On the 1st April, 1620, she sent a letter to Boyle asking him to accept £5 from her, "my brother's Rente and hereafter I hope he will not be so backward." From the endorsement on this letter it appears her brother's name was Alexander, but whether this is a surname or a christian name is not known, nor—if the latter—whether he was Alexander Boyle, or Seckerstone, or Tynt, "brother" being also the common designation of "brother-in-law" in those days. On the 19th November, 1616, writing to Boyle, she alludes to his offer "for my sonne to remaine with your Lordshipe for his better edicacion." Further on she calls this son "one of my cheefist joys." Dr. Grosart thinks she refers to Peregrine Spenser, then about 20 years of age, but it is much more probable that the allusion is to her son, Richard Seckerstone, about whom the Great Earl writes, the 30th May, 1625: "I gave my godson, Richard Seckerston, cornett to Sir Thomas Stafford, a faier horse."

A digression may be permitted here in order to insert a brief note on the exceedingly rare name of Seckerston.

The Irish records reveal the names of only three persons of that family, viz. :—Roger, who married Elizabeth Spenser, his son Richard, and a Stephen Seckerston who was an interrogator of the witness to the nuncupative will of William Tynte, of Cahirmoney, Co. Cork, 5th October, 1669. Interrogation dated 10th September, 1671. It is thought that Segerson, Seggerson, and Sigerson are variants of the name.

In *Lismore Papers*, under date 11th May, 1627, we find:—"I have this day promised my godson, Richard Seckerston, cornett of Sir Thomas Stafford, a lease for 31 years . . . of the ploughland of Ogekill, parcel of Campier at the rent of 31li," and again 20th December, 1629:—"Wm. Barber received of Mr. Seckerston who is married to Wm. Luellyns widdoe, for the Michas Rents of Clonards xiii<sup>li</sup>.

In the List of Prisoners taken at the Battle of Cnocnanos (Knockanuss), 13 December, 1647, occurs the name of Quarter Master Richard Segerson<sup>14</sup> and in the Book of Transplanters' Certificates (11c, 8c, 126, *Custom House Collection, P.R.O. Dublin*) we find "Richard Segerson of Ballyskellixke, Co. Kerry, gent, hath (16 December, 1653) 36 persons, 8½ acres summer corn, 21 cows, 2 yearlings, 9 garrons." This person's case seems to have been too bad to permit of his getting a grant of lands in Connaught. One wonders therefore whether after the disastrous day of Knockanuss<sup>15</sup> when Lord Taafe's forces were routed and Colkitto (Alastair MacDonnell) slain, Richard Seckerston (Segerson) gaining his freedom somehow, betook himself to the uttermost parts of Iveragh in Kerry. At all events the name of Segerson has persisted there till recent times. Amongst the Ardfert (*i.e.*, Kerry) Wills (P.R.O., Dublin) are

<sup>14</sup> Gilbert's *History of the Confederation and War in Ireland*.

<sup>15</sup> "In the year 1647, a battle was fought in this plowland (*i.e.* Knockanuss) between the Irish under the command of Lord Taafe, and the Parliamentary forces under Lord Inchiquin. Alexr. McDonnell, the celebrated Irish Chieftain, fell in the engagement, in memory of whom a piece of music was composed expressive of all the movements of the action and the fall of McDonnell, and afterwards of his funeral procession. It is played by all pipers in the South of Ireland to this day. Balls, skeletons, and locks of musketry are easily discovered on various parts of the plowland, which obtained the name of Knockanuss, or the Hill of Sighs and Lamentations, from the carnage committed on that day."—Note made by the Enumerator of the 1821 Census for this district.

those of Christopher Segerson, of Iveragh, 1774, and Thomas Segerson, of Ballynskellix, 1777, and Segerson wills of much later date exist also.

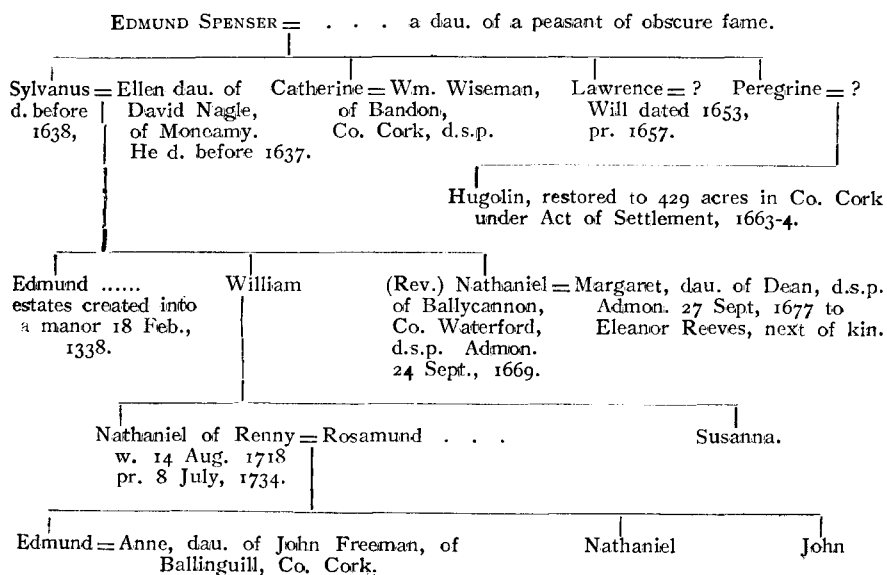
But to return to Elizabeth Boyle. She seems to have been a generous, eager-hearted woman, quickly responsive to kindness, and well-educated as became her kinship with the illustrious family of which she was not the least ornament. Her marriage with the poet was rendered unhappy in actuality by the stress of the times and in retrospect by his early death. Marrying again in 1600 she was again a widow in 1606. She was married a third time to Captain, afterwards Sir Robert Tynte. It should be noted incidentally that the seven children assigned to her by Burke as the offspring of this third marriage must be accepted with caution. Burke states that Robert Tynte's first wife, whose name is unknown, died childless. We shall presently learn the name of one child of that marriage.

In August, 1842, Mr. F. F. Spenser, of Halifax, contributed to the *Gentleman's Magazine* an article on his famous namesake. It is stated that he had collected many Spenser documents, which might have formed the basis of further articles had not his sudden death in 1852 disappointed that hope.

A writer in *Notes and Queries*, October 1853, suggested that in the volumes left to the nation by Sir Hans Sloane there might be something to prove Spenser's genealogical descent. This writer added, somewhat quaintly, that he believed himself, "morally speaking, to be lineally descended" from the poet and collaterally from Sir Hans Sloane. It is much to be regretted that he did not indicate the lineal descent, of which, so far, no proof has been forthcoming.

The aforesaid article in the *Gentleman's Magazine* included a Spenser pedigree prepared by the late Sir William Betham, Ulster King-at-Arms, a very rash genealogist.

Shorn of inessentials, this very erroneous pedigree is as follows:—





In the year 1634 the borough of Bandonbridge,<sup>16</sup> Co. Cork, had as its two parliamentary representatives, William Wiseman, Esq., of Kilbeg Castle, Bandon, and Sir George Wentworth,<sup>17</sup> Strafford's brother. In the *Lismore Papers*<sup>18</sup> we read: "the last day of October, 1635, being Saturday, in the evening Wm. Wiseman, Esq., was married to my neec, Alice Smyth, dau. to my (?) in lawe, Sir Richard Smythe, and my sister the Lady (?) Smyth"; and further on: "1635, Feb. 12, my cozen and deer friend, Mr. William Wiseman, died at Ballynetra"—the family mansion of the Smythes. William Wiseman's will is in existence: it is dated the 11th February, 1635,<sup>19</sup> the day before his death, and it was proved in Cork, July 1636. He desires to be buried in the chancel of Kilbrogan Church, Bandon, and he mentions his "cousin," Sir Robert Travers, and his "nephew" Edmund Spenser, but no children are mentioned. The inference is obvious. Both these persons were his relatives by marriage. Travers, the son of Sarah Spenser, would be cousin to Wiseman's first wife, the poet's daughter, and Edmund Spenser, the eldest son of Sylvanus, was that wife's nephew, and hence *his* nephew by marriage. The assertion that Lawrence Spenser of Bandon was a son of the poet is wholly untenable. No vestige of proof can be adduced in its favour except that in the Spensers of Burnley, mentioned above, the name Lawrence frequently occurs.

It may well be that Lawrence Spenser of Bandon was a distant relative of the poet, but it is stated that there have been Spencers in Ireland since the reign of Edward III.<sup>20</sup> There were Spencer settlers in Bandon and in the barony of Carbery, Co. Cork, probably in 1597, and certainly early in the 17th century. A Captain Thomas Spenser was killed at the siege of Kinsale, 1601-2. There were Spencer families in Co. Limerick, at Youghal, Co. Cork, and at other places. A well-known family of the name, seated at Trumery, Co. Antrim, was originally brought over by Lord Conway and Kilultagh.

Mark now how one assertion leads to another and a bolder one. George Bennett, Barrister-at-law, wrote in 1869 a *History of Bandon*, long out of print and somewhat rare, in a footnote to page 95 of which occurs this passage:—"Spenser's second son, Laurence, died in Bandon in 1654, and was *also* buried in Kilbrogan." He had previously stated that Spenser's daughter, Catherine, is buried there, and he continues: "In his will dated in 1653, he is described as Laurence Spenser, of Camden Bridge, Youghal. His assets consisting of feather beds and a few pounds in cash, he left to some friends. Mr. Nathaniel Spenser, the poet's great grandson, had a son Thomas buried in Kilbrogan in 1729, a son John in 1730, and a son Nathaniel in 1732."

It would be difficult to match this passage for errors of statement. The present writer has examined very carefully the will<sup>21</sup> in question. On its enclosing wrapper Laurence Spenser is described as "of Youghal," but in the will itself as "of Bandon Bridge"—not Camden Bridge. It is a nuncupative will, beginning thus:—"A true relation of the last Will and

<sup>16</sup> See Bennett's *History of Bandon*.

<sup>18</sup> Lismore Papers.

<sup>20</sup> D'Alton's *King James's Irish Army*.

<sup>17</sup> See Bennett's *History of Bandon*.

<sup>19</sup> P.R.O., Dublin.

<sup>21</sup> P.R.O., Dublin.

testament of Lawrence Spenser of Bandon Bridge, delivered unto us by Honor Botkin he being grievously sick with the mercy of God and doth bequeave of his goods as follows:—29 August, 1653: proved 3 October 1654." "To Honnor Botkin, my cozen or grand-childe by lawe a silver bowl . . . my grand child Mildred Merton." Other names that occur are:—Robert Bathurst, junr., Mary Bathurst, Davie Merton, Elizabeth and William Jones, Thomas Jones and Elizabeth Court(?). "All residue to my son by law Robert Bathurst," who is to be executor. Witnesses.—Robert Bathurst, junr., and John Banfielde(?). These are the only names mentioned and not one of them ever occurs in connexion with any known member of the poet's family.

But we are not without other information regarding this Lawrence Spenser. On the 23rd September, 1642, he made before Thomas Gray and Philip Bisse a sworn deposition<sup>22</sup> as to his losses in the Irish Rebellion of 1641. He is there described as Lawrence Spenser, late of Kilpatrick, Barony of Kinalmeaky, Co. Cork, yeoman. He had lost cattle and household goods, was dispossessed of his farm, houses which he had built had been burned down, and he estimated his total loss at £223 6s. He was unable to write his name. Curious to relate, Robert Bathurst made a deposition on the same day. His losses came to £246 17s., a debtor of his being one Barbary Spenser.

On the 28th February, 1640-1 we find a Cork Marriage Licence Bond of William Jones and Mary, daughter of Laurence Spenser,<sup>23</sup> and on the 9th March, 1641 "Laurance Spenser" was witness to the will of Thomas Flewellyn of Bandon.

In 1624 we find Joanna Spenser,<sup>24</sup> widow of Isaac Spenser, of Kilbrogan, Bandon, and in 1636 Barbara, widow of Charles Spenser, of the same.

Mr. Bennett's statement that the Thomas, John, and Nathaniel Spenser, buried in Kilbrogan in 1729, 1730, and 1732 respectively, were children of Mr. Nathaniel Spenser, the poet's great grandson, is ludicrously wrong. Mr. Nathaniel Spenser<sup>25</sup> had no son called Thomas, his son Nathaniel<sup>26</sup> was alive in Strabane, Co. Tyrone, in 1748, and his son John was certainly living, and still a minor, in 1734.

The net result of our inquiries so far is that Edmund Spenser left two sons, Sylvanus and Peregrine, and a daughter, whose children, if she bore any, died young. Sylvanus, the poet's elder son, was probably born in 1595. In March, 1601, a petition<sup>27</sup> was presented to the Privy Council by Sir George Carew, Lord President of Munster, on behalf of the widow and children of Edmund Spenser. In 1603 Sylvanus made petition<sup>28</sup> to the Lord Chancellor of Ireland stating that his father's lands of Kilcolman were being unjustly withheld from him by his mother and her *now* husband.

<sup>22</sup> MS. Depositions, T.C.D.—Cork Vols. I. and IV.

<sup>23</sup> P.R.O. Dublin—Prerogative Grants.

<sup>24</sup> P.R.O. Dublin—Prerogative Grants.

<sup>25</sup> Exchequer Bill: Spenser v. Hyde, 19 March, 1733-4.

<sup>26</sup> Deeds: Spenser to Wallis, 5 and 6 Decr., 1748, Registry of Deeds, Dublin.

<sup>27</sup> Grosart's *Spenser*.

<sup>28</sup> *Spenser and his Poetry*, George L. Craik.

In a list of the names of the Undertakers in Munster, 1603-6,<sup>29</sup> as are now resident in England is: "The heir of Edmund Spenser."

Exchequer records show that in 1606 Sylvanus Spenser<sup>30</sup> contested with Sir Allan Apsloe, Knt., and John Power of Doneraile the right to the lands of Carigin and Ardraham, and the Calendar of State Papers<sup>31</sup> under 1611 has this entry: "A fourth of the seigniorie of Kilcolmaine granted to Edmund Spenser, the King's now tenant, Silvanus Spenser, total 3100 acres. The Undertaker has no demesnes nor dwells on the land. Most of the tenants are mere Irish."

The poet's sons therefore spent portion of their youth in England, for we find Sir Richard Boyle paying £5, May 15, 1618, "to Peregrine Spenser in London" (*Lismore Papers*).

According to a MS. pedigree of the Nagle (Nangle) family (F. 3, 27, p. 42) in Trinity College, Dublin, David Nangle of Moneanymy,<sup>32</sup> Co. Cork, died in Dublin, the 14th November, 1637, and was buried in St. James's Church, Dublin. He had married Ellen, daughter of William Roche, of Ballyhooley, Co. Cork, and had six children. His eldest daughter, Elinor, married Silvanus (son of Edmund Spenser "who wrote the Fairy Queen") and had issue Edmund Spenser and William. No mention is made of Betham's third son of Sylvanus, viz., Nathaniel.

That David Nangle<sup>33</sup> (Nagle) was buried in Dublin would seem to have a certain significance and to point to a more northerly origin than Co. Cork for this family.

Sylvanus Spenser seems to have attracted little, if any notice from the Great Earl, which is somewhat remarkable, nor does his mother make mention of him in any of her letters which are extant. He married a Roman Catholic lady, but that can hardly be said to have been a serious bar, even in those times, to social intercourse between relatives. The Great Earl himself, though a robust Protestant, loved to feast and make merry with his Catholic neighbours. At all events Sylvanus, after he attained to manhood, makes but a fitful appearance in a few unimportant Chancery lawsuits, and he would seem to have died in 1636, because on the 18th February, 1636, a fee farm grant was made to Edmund Spenser,<sup>34</sup> Esq., of the lands of Kilcolman.

In the Spenser pedigree set out in *The Patrician*, Vol. V., and copied with additions in Colonel Grove White's *Historical and Topographical Notes*, Vol. III., the date of Sylvanus Spenser's death is given as "before 1638," that year being apparently fixed by the grant in virtue of the Commission dated at Canbury, 11st September, 1638, to Edmond Spenser, of Kilcolman.<sup>35</sup> Kilcolman and the other lands of the Elizabethan grant were created the Manor of Kilcolman with power to hold Courts Leet and Baron; to impark 500 acres with five Warrens of Park, &c.

We have said that the name Nangle or Nagle probably came into Co. Cork from further north. The name existed also in Co. Meath and in

<sup>29</sup> Russell and Prendergast's Calendar of S.P., Irish Series.

<sup>30</sup> Grosart's *Spenser*.

<sup>31</sup> C.S.P.

<sup>32</sup> Moneanymy, or Monanimy, is only about two miles distant from Kilcolman.

<sup>33</sup> The Nangles were at one time Barons of Navan, Co. Meath—Lodge's *Peerage*.

<sup>34</sup> Grosart's *Spenser*.

<sup>35</sup> Lodge MSS., P.R.O. Dublin.

Dublin, and it is significant that Sir Robert Travers,<sup>36</sup> nephew of the poet and first cousin of Sylvanus, married, as his first wife, Katherine Nangle, who was cousin of Dame Elizabeth Ashe, wife of Sir Thomas Ashe of Trim, Co. Meath, a fact not hitherto made known. Sir Robert was killed in the Battle of Knockanuss, 1647, his second wife having been Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Boyle, Archbishop of Tuam. It is interesting to note that from this Co. Cork family of Nagle sprang the mother of the celebrated Edmund Burke.

The fate of Edmund the elder, or eldest son of Sylvanus, has long been obscure. He must have died without heirs male, because his brother, William, succeeded to the property. A letter from him, 25th June, 1639, to the Great Earl, gives details of a quarrel he had with one "Redmond Roche, in the City of Corke, in the shopp of one James Meagh."<sup>37</sup> His name appears in the Common Pleas Outlawry Book,<sup>38</sup> 2 Q, 47, 15: Edmund Warren and Richard Rogers, merchants, sue him for £113, 29th October, 1639, and "Richard Nagle *als* Nangle" his first cousin, of Monaneany, Co. Cork, is party to the suit. Commenting on the letter quoted above, the Rev. Dr. Grosart notes: "This Edmund Spenser was not related apparently to *the* Spenser." He was only his grandson.

Adopting the language of the Integral Calculus we may say that a "superior limit" is set to the life of this Edmund by the Outlawry Book already mentioned, in which is recorded a suit for £20 of Zachary Travers of St. Finbarr, Cork, brother of Sir Robert, against William Spenser late of Kilfolman (sic), Co. Cork, gent., *brother* and *heir* of Edmund Spenser, 3rd November, 1665. The date and manner of Edmund's death can however be settled very precisely, because on 9th September, 1640, Henry Smithwicke, steward to the Great Earl, who was then at Stalbridge, Dorset, wrote to him from Dublin, as follows:—"Mr. *Edward* Spenser,<sup>39</sup> with a fall from his horse, broke his neck going to Munster, the 28th day of August, not far from the fox and geese, and was bered in St. James's Church yeard by his grandfather in Dublin." Dr. Grosart did not see the significance of this letter. He presumably had not a Spenser pedigree before him or he would not have been misled by the substitution of the name Edward for Edmund. Any trace of doubt is swept away when it is recollected that David Nagle, Edmund's maternal grandfather, was buried in St. James's Church, the word "by" used by Henry Smithwicke being the equivalent of our "beside." Edmund, the second, therefore rests beside his grandfather, David Nagle, in Dublin. It may be noted that "the fox and geese" was a well-known inn near Clondalkin, a few miles from Dublin.

The long history of Edmund's brother, William, must be postponed in order that some account may be given of the poet's second son, Peregrine.

Betham does not name Peregrine's wife, but in the *Patrician*, Vol. V., as well as in Vol. III. of Colonel Grove White's *Historical and Topographical Notes*, her name is given as Dorothy Morris or Maurice, with the addendum that, after Peregrine's death, she married a Tynt. The true facts of this marriage are now disclosed for the first time. Every

<sup>36</sup> Chancery Bill: Travers v. Ashe, 5 Nov., 1625, *Ibid*.

<sup>37</sup> Lismore Papers.

<sup>38</sup> P.R.O. Dublin.

<sup>39</sup> Lismore Papers.

previous investigator has been misled by an entry—of which a transcript follows—in the *Commonwealth Book*, A 61 (P.R.O., Dublin) entitled: “Mallow Proceedings, 1656.”—“Dorothy Tynt als Spencer als Morres—cause in hearing—Edward Snookes sworn sayeth he knows ye claimant, yt. she lived at Renny at the beginning of the Rebellion, yt. she kept two troops for a year. He heard that they lost their horses and she supplied them. Several English were relieved by her. She had all her goods taken from her a little before Lymerick was taken.” Everyone hitherto has assumed that this lady’s maiden name was Morres, that she married (1) Peregrine Spenser and (2) ... Tynt. The names should be taken in the reverse order. Dorothy, Peregrine’s wife, was a daughter of Sir Robert Tynt, obviously by his first wife. She married Peregrine in 1623, and ... Morres after 1642, and she was still living in 1666. It is curious, however, that no mention is made of her in Sir Robert’s will (1646) or in the wills of her brothers. The evidence for these statements, however, is indubitable. In a Chancery lawsuit: *Peregrine Spenser v. Frances Marshall*, 15th May, 1626, the plaintiff expressly mentions the marriage between himself and Dorothy Tynt, daughter of Sir Robert Tynt, the marriage portion of £300, and the Marriage Articles, 23rd February, 1623. And in another Chancery lawsuit: *Hugolin Spenser v. Ellen Cahill*, 22nd May, 1666, the plaintiff, Peregrine’s son and heir, states that his mother *has* one-third of his estate. On the 6th November, 1663, Hugolin Spenser<sup>40</sup> of Renny, and Ellinor his wife, setting forth their claim before the Commissioners for the Sattlement of Ireland, state that “in the first year of the Rebellion Peregrine Spenser died.” Of the marriage of Peregrine and Dorothy Tynt there was a son Hugolin, probably a son Peregrine and a daughter Mary, and certainly a daughter Catherine, who may have been named after Peregrine’s sister, Mrs. Wiseman.

What more do we know of Peregrine Spenser? We have his letter of October, 1616, to the Great Earl<sup>41</sup> asking to be put in the way of making his fortune; we have records of three separate payments of £5 by the Earl to him, May 15, 1618, November 30, 1618, and March 18, 1618-9, Peregrine being then in England. In Summonister Roll, No. 39 (P.R.O., Dublin), is recorded a fine against him for non-attendance as a juror at the Cork Assizes, August 1639. In MS. F. 2, 15 (*Depositions*, Cork, Vol. I., Trinity College, Dublin) Thomas Martin of Downerayle (Doneraile) mentions (4 March, 1642) Peregrine Spenser as one of the persons “which are utterly disenabled by means of this Rebellion, being impoverished Protestants.” The date of Peregrine’s death is thus brought within very narrow limits: he must have died between the 4th March and the 23rd October, 1642—since he died in the first year of the Rebellion. None of Edmund Spenser’s children lived long.

But what of Dorothy, Peregrine’s widow? Her subsequent history has not been traced, nor is the christian name or the social status of her second husband known. One slight trace there may be, but that, if it refers to her, belongs to her life as Dorothy Spenser. It is, however, much too interesting to be omitted. In November, 1907, Professor Gollancz<sup>42</sup> read before the British Academy a paper on Edmund Spenser of which a summary appears in the *Times* of the 28th November, 1907.

<sup>40</sup> *Roll of Innocents*, No. xi., Skin 34 (P.R.O., Dublin).

<sup>41</sup> *Lismore Papers*.

<sup>42</sup> Now Sir Israel Gollancz.

He exhibited Spenser's own copy of the *Fairie Queen* bearing the written Greek words "προς αυτον" = ad se on the title page, in the right hand corner of which are the initials D.S. and T-B bracketed together, and at the foot of the page these words: "mr john borlace gave me this booke/1630." The book contains also a sonnet in Spenser's handwriting addressed apparently to Elizabeth Boyle, a very remarkable discovery since no scrap of poetry written by his hand had previously been found, although his writing is well known from official state documents, a framed specimen of it hanging in the British Museum to the left as one goes towards the MS. room.

One wonders whether the D.S. above stands for Dorothy Spenser, and whether the T-B represented some member of the Borlace family, the head of which, Sir John Borlace (died 1649), was master of Ordnance in Ireland (*Dict. Nat. Biog.*).

The history of Catherine, daughter and probably eldest child of Peregrine Spenser, is not devoid of interest, albeit it is now told for the first time. From the Chancery lawsuit already mentioned above: *Hugolin Spenser v. Ellen Cahill*, 22nd May, 1666, we learn that Hugolin's sister, Catherine, was married about the year 1641 to Ludovicus O'Cahill, son and heir of Daniel Duffe O'Cahill of Rathgobban, Co. Cork, an estate purchased by Daniel on a lease of 99 years from David, Earl of Barrymore.<sup>43</sup> Ludovicus seems to have died about 1654, and his widow, the mother of at least one son, Daniel,<sup>44</sup> married Redmond Fitzgerald of Gleanageare, Co. Cork. Both she and her second husband had died by 1686.

Who was Daniel Duffe O'Cahill of Rathgobban? Let us quote from Dorothea Townshend's *Life and Letters of the Great Earl of Cork*: "Donal Duffe O'Cahill was Queen Anne's Harper"—i.e., Anne of Denmark, Queen of James I.—"he was a prosperous person and did a great deal of business with Boyle, making money in his native land as well as at Court."

References to him occur in *Lismore Papers*:—

- (a) 3 March, 1612-13. "And this last 40<sup>li</sup> and other ijli wch. I had of Mr. Clayton was paid to Donnell, the queen's harper for peers power, who is to repay me." (1st series, Vol. I., p. 30).
- (b) 20 Jany., 1613. "I paid donnell duff o cohell her Mjestys harper in London xxxvijli ster."
- (c) 22 Feb. 1614. "I delivered peers power Donnell the queen's harper acquittance for the 80<sup>li</sup> for the sheryfwick of Corck which I paid for him." (*Ibid.* p. 65).
- (d) 25 Jan., 1615. "I lent Donnell her Matys. harper 3<sup>li</sup>."
- (e) 22 July, 1616. "Lent Donnell the harper other vli."
- (f) 12 May, 1629. "donell duff o cahill, the harper, this day delivered Wm. Barber 40<sup>li</sup> to be paid his wife by Exchandg in Ireland."

The Harper may have been the owner of the house in Cork city described in the *Survey of Houses in Cork*, 1641 (1C, 8b, 85 P.R.O., Dublin): "Daniel O'Cahill one front thatch cabbinn, value £8." He probably had a town, as well as a country, house.

<sup>43</sup> Hist. MSS. Commission—Egmont MSS., Vol. II., p. 7.

<sup>44</sup> Exchequer Bill, *Daniel Cahill v. Richard, Earl of Barrymore*; 19 Feb., 1686.

The position at Court once held by Daniel Duff did not restrain his son, Ludovicus, from resort to arms in 1641 against the Government (T.C.D. MSS., *Depositions*, Cork, Vol. VI., p. 280). The Deposition in the same volume, p. 278, concerning Daniel Oge O'Cahill, probably refers to the harper himself, for we find 400 acres of land assigned to him in Connaught by decree dated 28th March, 1656.<sup>45</sup> Whether he removed beyond the Shannon or whether death supervened we know not. From the absence of Ludovicus' name from these decrees it may be inferred that he had died before 1656.

The interesting point of it all, however, is that the poet's grand daughter married the harper's son.

The history of Hugolin, eldest son of Peregrine the first, is reserved for treatment later on. We shall now deal with the shadowy Peregrine, the second. On the 11th October, 1621, one John Barrett of Pluckanes, Co. Cork, preferred a suit in Chancery against Peregrine the first, who, he said, pretended some title to the land of Pluckanes. Barrett made complaint too that he was unable to get justice in the Presidential Court of Munster since Spenser was nearly related to (many) members of that Provincial table. Hence he takes his suit to the Court of Chancery in Dublin.

Strange to tell, on the 6th July, 1685, 64 years after, one David Barry of Pluckanes, brought a Chancery suit against one Peregrine Spenser about the letting of a dairy farm at West Pluckanes. Pierce Power of Clonmult, who had married Hugolin Spenser's only daughter, Dorothy, had, with Thomas Barry, been called in as arbitrators.

Windele, the Irish antiquarian, saw this Chancery Bill. How did he treat it. He wrote (Windele MSS.): "In 1684 David Barry of Pluckanes and Hugolin Spenser left their dispute to Thos. Barry and Mr. Pierce Power." D'Alton, the author of *King James's Irish Army List*, found in Lord Kilmallock's regiment a Lieutenant Peregrine Spenser respecting whom he made a note: "This Lieutenant's name was Hugoline not Peregrine."

In a document to be quoted later Hugolin's age in August, 1694, is given as 70. In 1689, therefore, he must have been 65 years of age. Windele and D'Alton were plainly puzzled by the appearance of a Peregrine Spenser at this time, and they got rid of the inconvenience of having to account for him by assuming that he was really Hugolin. It is hardy possible, however, to believe that two errors were made about the name of this person who flits, a transient phantom, across the page of history. What became of him we know not. Perchance he fell at the Boyne, or in Athlone, at Aughrim, or in Limerick. He appears also as witness,<sup>46</sup> 1st July, 1672, to the nuncupative Will of Edmund Nagle of Shanballyduffe, Co. Cork. This Will is endorsed as that of Edmund Nagle of Monomy.

(To be continued.)

<sup>45</sup> Report on the Ormonde MSS., Vol. II.

<sup>46</sup> (Cork Wills—P.R.O., Dublin): There is a slight doubt about the name in this case. The best authorities say it is *Peregrine*.