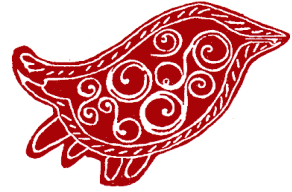


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Journal of the Cork Historical and Archæological Society.

(*Thirty-first Year of Issue.*)

The Family and Descendants of Edmund Spenser.

By W. H. WELPLY, B.A.

(*Continued from p. 34 Jan.-June issue*)

Mary Spenser, a possible other daughter of Peregrine the first, named probably after Mary Tynte (who married Gyles Workman), the sister, or half-sister, of Dorothy Tynt (see the Tynte pedigree, B.L.G.) comes on the scene as an inmate of William Spenser's household. William in his old age had married again, and the home became an unhappy one.⁴⁷ His only daughter, Susanna, tells how her brother, Nathaniel, brought her and her "cousin" Mary Spenser from her father's house and placed them at her nurse's home near Doneraile; how she was induced to return home by Arthur, Lord Doneraile; and how she had to leave home again. Susanna's cousin, Robert Mason, a defendant in this lawsuit, tells of his offer to keep her, "a sickly woman," in his own house, and of her refusal, since she preferred to live in Dublin "with her cousin" Mary Spenser. Curiously enough this Susanna made two wills—the former of which, undated and unproved, is one of the Diocese of Down Wills (P.R.O., Dublin). How it came to be included in the documents of that diocese with which the Spensers had no known connexion is unexplained. The value of the Will, genealogically, is considerable owing to the statement: "I appoint my cousin Mary Spenser, late of Renny, now of Meath Street, my sole executrix." Susanna herself is described in the Will as "of Kilcolman." Renny was the home and estate of Peregrine the first. It was the home of his son and heir, Hugolin, until it was lost by attainder in 1697. It was Mary Spenser's home. The inference is obvious. We think Mary must have been a sister of Hugolin and Catherine, and a daughter of Peregrine, the first. Mary had died by the time, 30th August, 1736, when Susanna made her second Will in which she desires to be laid as near to her kinswoman (Mary) as possible.

A certain John Spenser appears once in company with Nathaniel, William's son, in a Chancery suit of 28th June, 1718; but it is quite impossible to assign him any definite place in the Spenser genealogical table.

We are now in a position to take up the history of William Spenser, grandson of the poet, and heir to the Kilcolman Estates on the tragic death of his brother Edmund (August 1640).

William makes his first appearance in a history in a justly celebrated letter, 27th March, 1657, written by Oliver, Lord Protector, to the Council

⁴⁷ Chancery Bill: *Spencer v. Spencer*, 6 Dec., 1716.

in Ireland. It has been quoted more than once. It will be found in Colonel Grove White's *Historical and Topographical Notes*, Vol. III., and a MS. copy of the original is to be found in Commonwealth Book A/28 (P.R.O., Dublin). We may be pardoned for quoting it again:—

“To our Right Trusty and Right well-Beloved, Our Council in Ireland.

“A petition hath been exhibited unto us by William Spenser, setting forth that being but seven years old at the beginning of the rebellion in Ireland (1641), he repaired with his mother (his father being then dead) to the City of Cork, and during the Rebellion continued in the English quarters. That he never bore arms or acted against the Commonwealth of England. That his grandfather, Edmund Spenser, and his father, were both Protestants, from whom an estate of lands in the barony of Fermoy, in the County of Cork, descended on him, which, during the rebellion yielded him little or nothing towards his relief. That the said estate hath been lately given out to the soldiers in satisfaction of their arrears, only upon the account of his professing the Popish religion, which, since his coming to years of discretion he hath, as he professes, utterly renounced. That his grandfather was that Spenser, who, by his writings touching the reduction of the Irish to civility, brought on him the odium of that nation, and for these Works, and his other good services, Queen Elizabeth conferred on him the estate which the said William Spenser now claims. We have also been informed that the gentleman is of civil conversation, and that the extremity his wants have brought him to have not prevailed over him to put him upon indirect or evil practices for a livelihood. And if, upon inquiry, you shall find his case to be such, we judge it just and reasonable, and do therefore desire and authorize you that he be forthwith restored to his estate, and that reprisal lands be given to the soldiers elsewhere; in the doing whereof our satisfaction will be greater by the continuation of that estate to the issue of his grandfather, for whose eminent deserts and services to the Commonwealth that estate was first given him. We rest, Your loving friend, ‘Oliver P.’”

William Spenser was born therefore in 1634. He died in April, 1713.⁴⁸ Brought up a Roman Catholic by his mother, who probably had to remove for safety to the City of Cork when the Rebellion of 1641 swept like a tempest over the country, he renounced that religion, no doubt under the influence of his Travers cousins in Cork.

The Council acted promptly in his case. By decree dated 26th July, 1657, and a final settlement 11th August, 1657,⁴⁹ he was awarded 1,011 acres in Connaught, mainly about the town of Ballinasloe, in lieu of the part of his lands in Co. Cork given to soldiers. Under the Acts of Settlement and Explanation (1666-1684) his estate in Connaught is given as 1,619 acres, the grant being inrolled 7th December, 1677.

In 1658⁵⁰ William Spenser married Barbara Edwards, daughter of William Edwards of Loughrea, Co. Galway, called in the Will of his grandson, Robert Mason⁵¹ (Will proved 13 Nov., 1719), “Otto William

⁴⁸ Chancery Bill: Spencer v. Spencer, 6 Dec., 1716.

⁴⁹ Report on the Ormonde MSS., Vol. II.

⁵⁰ Exchequer Bill: Spencer v. Spencer, 13 Feb., 1713. 1653 is the date given in another place for this marriage.

⁵¹ P.R.O., Dublin.

Edwards," brother of Evan Edwards of Rahall in Flintshire. Barbara brought certain lands as her dower, so that William held eventually about 2,000 acres in the Counties Galway and Roscommon besides the part of the Kilcolman property, Co. Cork,⁵² which was not given to soldiers, Captain Peter Courthope and his troop. Of this marriage there were only two children—Nathaniel and Susanna.

The name of William's son suggests a discussion at this point as to whether Betham's conjecture—for it is only a conjecture—that the Rev. Nathaniel Spenser of Ballycannon, Co. Waterford, who died intestate in 1669, was also a son of Sylvanus Spenser. Dr. Grosart thinks he was a son of Peregrine. The recorded accounts of the Rev. Nathaniel Spenser are meagre.⁵³ He appears as Minister at Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, on a salary of £120 per annum, from the 29th September, 1657.⁵⁴ On the 28th November, 1660, he appears as a pluralist, holding the parish of Blackrath in union with other parishes.⁵⁵ On the 10th November, 1662, he was installed as prebend of St. Patrick's in the Cathedral of Waterford. In 1663 he appears in the Visitation Books as a prebendary of Lismore,⁵⁶ and in 1668 as Rector of Whitechurch, Diocese of Ferns and Leighlin.⁵⁷ He died intestate, and Letters of Acquittance⁵⁸ were issued 24th September, 1669, to his widow, Margaret Spenser, als. Deane, wherein he is described as "late of Ballycannon, Co. Waterford." His son, Thomas, who must have been born very shortly before his death,⁵⁹ entered Trinity College, Dublin, as a pensioner, 13th May, 1685, aged 16, from Mr. Hinton's School, Kilkenny, the entry in the Matriculation Register being, son of "Nathan. Theologus de Passage in Com. Menapiensi."

The Rev. Nathaniel Spenser married Margaret, daughter of the Rev. Richard Deane, B.D., who, at one time (1654) was rector of Callan, Co. Kilkenny, and afterwards Prebendary of Mora or Moretown. One of the witnesses to the Will of the Great Earl was a Richard Deane. This fact has a certain significance as has also the fact that the Rev. Richard Deane⁶⁰ about 1656 demised certain lands to one James Travers, lands that had been purchased by James Phillips of Tregibby, Cardiganshire, to whom Deane acted as Agent. Betham alleges that the Rev. Nathaniel Spenser's wife died intestate also. He found the Will (P.R.O., Dublin) of a certain Margaret Spenser of Thomas Street, Dublin, and he, in the most unwarranted way, assumed that she was the widow of the Rev. Nathaniel Spenser. There is not a tittle of evidence to support this view. Margaret Spenser, the widow of Nathaniel, would have had a son, Thomas, alive in 1677, yet no children are mentioned in the Will.

Reviewing these facts and theories one feels prompted to think this Nathaniel was of the poet's family, but there is no sufficient proof of it.

⁵² Grosart's *Spenser*. From Certificates for Adventurers (P.R.O., Dublin), xxvi., Skin 57, it would appear that Zachariah Travers had acquired a right to that part of Kilcolman set out to Captain (afterwards Sir) Peter Courthorpe; 26 June, 1668. This was doubtless in William Spenser's interest.

⁵³ *Commonwealth Book*, A22, P.R.O., Dublin.

⁵⁴ ⁵⁵ ⁵⁶ ⁵⁷ *Commonwealth Book*, A25, P.R.O., Dublin.

⁵⁸ Cotton's *Fasti*, I., 157.

⁵⁹ Prerogative Grants, P.R.O., Dublin.

⁶⁰ Chancery Bill: Phillips v. Deane, 16 Nov., 1664.

We know that the widow of Sylvanus Spenser with her children took refuge from the fury of the rebellion in the City of Cork. There lived the Travers family, first cousins of her late Protestant husband, firm Protestants themselves. Sir Robert Travers had married first a Nangle, perhaps a cousin of the widowed Ellen Spenser. To this powerful family she would naturally turn for aid and counsel. Probably through their influence William Spenser became Protestant, a course that would probably be followed by the other sons also—if other sons there were. But the Trinity College pedigree of the Nagle family names only two sons of Sylvanus Spenser. There the matter must rest now, no further record having been found of Nathaniel's son, Thomas, who entered Trinity College in 1685.

We return to William Spenser of Ballinasloe and Kilcolman. He ran into debt. He borrowed money, mortgaging his estates.⁶¹ Frances Lady* Lanesborough, lent him £1,000 in 1684, which she recovered after several lawsuits and with difficulty. He took the Williamite side in the wars of 1689-91, and he is supposed to have guided Ginkel's army as it marched south from Athlone.⁶² For these acts he lost 300 head of black cattle and 1,500 sheep, his houses were plundered, and burnt; his family ill-treated, and his only son wounded in 20 places by the Irish Army. His first cousin Hugolin took the side of King James.

William Spenser's tenure of his Galway and Roscommon estate, which was formerly the property of Anthony Brabazon, a forfeiting person, was not undisturbed even in times of peace. William Brabazon, Anthony's heir, and other persons caused trouble in 1671,⁶³ and, emboldened by the aspect of things political, returned to the attack in 1689. By 1698⁶⁴ the debt on William's estate had grown to £2,000, and he was forced to borrow that sum from Robert Peppard of Dublin, Counsellor at Law, in order to pay off Lady Lanesborough, the trustees to a settlement then effected being Arthur St. Leger,⁶⁵ afterwards Lord Doneraile, Robert Mason and his brother Christopher Mason, and Isaac Levine of Loughrea. William's wife, Barbara,⁶⁶ died in 1702, and in 1703, in his 70th year, he married Ann Widdenham, daughter of John Widdenham of Colletstown, Co. Cork, deceased, a young lady of some 17 years, who afterwards said that William was 80 years of age at his second marriage. As she most probably was guilty of some exaggeration regarding her husband's, it is not unfair to conclude that she may have underestimated her own, age.⁶⁷ The natural result ensued. There was much unhappiness in the home.

⁶¹ Chancery Bill: *Muschamp v. Spencer*, 4 March, 1692. Denny Muschamp was the husband of Lady Lanesborough.

*Lady Frances Sackville, daughter of Richard, 5th Earl of Dorset. It is a curious coincidence that the cost of the monument erected in 1620 to Edmund Spenser in Westminster Abbey was borne by Anne, Countess of Dorset, wife of Richard Sackville, 2nd Earl of Dorset. One wonders if any reason existed for this interest of the Sackville, or Russell, family in the family of Spenser. The Countess Anne's mother was Lady Margaret Clifford, née Russell, Countess of Cumberland, and sister of Anne, Countess of Warwick. The "The Fowre Hymnes" of Spenser's Prothalamion are dedicated to these two sisters.

⁶² *The Case of William Spenser*—a leaflet in the British Museum.

⁶³ Chancery Bill: *Spencer v. Dawson*, 6 Dec., 1671.

⁶⁴ Chancery Bill: *Spencer v. Brabazon*, 8 July, 1689.

⁶⁵ Chancery Bill: *Spencer v. Spencer*, 6 Decr., 1716.

⁶⁶ Cork M.L.B., P.R.O., Dublin.

⁶⁷ Exchequer Bill: *Spencer v. Spencer*, 4 Decr., 1714, and answers to this Bill.

William's only daughter, Susanna, went away to live with her cousin Mary, in Dublin, where she died in 1737. The young wife made a final parting from her husband in 1708, and he died in April, 1713, just after a decree for alimony had been obtained against him in the Consistorial Courts. Nathaniel, William's son, stated however that this decree had never been confirmed by the Consistory Court of Cashel to which his father appealed, and he further alleged that Ann had been turned away for immodesty and misbehaviour. For William's services and sufferings in the wars of 1689-91 a grant pursuant to Privy Seal dated at Kensington,⁶⁸ 23rd April, 1697, was made to his son Nathaniel of the forfeited estates of Hugolin Spenser worth £67 17s. 6d. per annum, to whom William was the next Protestant heir, viz. :—the lands and towns of Rinny, and Killaherry (barony of Fermoy), the Rectories and Improprate tithes of Rinny, Nowens (barony of Muskerry), Templebreedy als. Kilbride (barony of Kerricurrihy, and Brinny (barony of Kinalea). This grant was inrolled the 18th June, 1697, having been confirmed by Letters Patent at Dublin, 14th June, 1697. But by a subsequent Act of Parliament all grants were made void in Ireland, and the forfeited estates were vested in Trustees to be sold for the use of the public.⁶⁹ William Spenser being ill at the time of the passing of this Act was unable to apply for a saving clause, and was consequently dispossessed by the Trustees. He had therefore to go to London to press his claims. Dr. Birch's *General Dictionary* states that: "In the reign of William III. a person came over into England from Ireland to solicit the same affair, and brought with him letters of introduction as a descendant of Spenser." He was introduced to Montague, afterwards Earl of Halifax, by the poet, Congreve. By the good offices of Montague, who was then head of the Treasury, the grant was ratified (Gibson's *History of Cork*, I., 310). To procure this ratification, however, a private Act of Parliament was needed which may be found in the records of the House of Lords. It is entitled, "Act for relief of Wm. Spenser, Esq., in relation to the forfeited Estates in Ireland" (I., Anne, No. 97), and it runs thus:—"Whereas Silvanus Spenser of Kilcolman, Ireland, Esq., in order to prefer his second brother, Peregrine, in marriage, did settle upon him part of his estate in Co. Cork, and the said Peregrine dying and that part of the said estate coming to Hugoline his son, he was seized thereof, but on account of the late rebellion in Ireland, was outlawed and attainted of high treason, whereupon William Spenser of Kilcolman, Esq., having (on account of his services to the late King William III.) applied for a grant of the said estate, formerly given by Queen Elizabeth to Edmond Spenser, the famous poet, grandfather of the said William, and King William III. was pleased to grant him the estate of the said Hugolin worth £67 17s. 6d. a year, and he laid out over £600 (the best part of his fortune) to improve the estate. Afterwards by an Act the said and other forfeited estates in Ireland were vested in Trustees to be sold, and he begs he may have the said lands. *Soit fait come il est desire.*"

Dr. Birch goes on to describe William as a man somewhat advanced in years and unable to give any account of the works of his ancestor which are wanting.

⁶⁸ Lodge MSS., P.R.O., Dublin.

⁶⁹ *The Case of William Spenser of Kilcolman, Co. Cork, Esq.* 641 m. 6 (2), Brit. Museum Library.

The private Act quoted above is very nearly a verbatim copy of the printed leaflet already mentioned in a footnote, viz. :—“The Case of William Spencer of Kilcolman, Co. Cork, Esq.,” of which two copies are preserved in the British Museum, their designation being :—

- (1) 641, M. 6 (2)—produced in the Reading Room.
 (2) 816, M. 17 (42)—produced in the North Library.

All these documents and others quoted previously seem to leave no room for doubt that William was the son of Sylvanus, and that Sylvanus generously gave Peregrine part of the family estate in order to prefer him in marriage, the estate which Queen Elizabeth granted to the poet. But if we are to believe Peregrine’s statement (Chancery Bill: Spencer v. Marshiall, 9 July, 1622), the estate of Renny, &c., was never part of the Elizabethan grant: it was acquired by purchase, the purchaser being the poet himself, and his object to make provision for his younger son. Moreover the estate of Renny and the Improprate tithes conjoined with it appear nowhere as part of the original grant, or as part of the property of Sylvanus.⁷⁰ There is a curious and most puzzling sequel to all this, as well as a strange story to be found in the Rev. J. Mitford’s Edition of *Spencer’s Poetical Works* (1839). The institution of the Penal Laws in Ireland gave origin to a strange and—let us hope—numerically small class of persons called ‘Protestant Informers.’ “If a Catholic secretly purchased either his own forfeited estate, or any other land in the possession of a Protestant, the first Protestant who informed against him became the proprietor.”—Lecky’s *History of Ireland in the Eighteenth Century*, I., 151-2.

For the credit of Irish human nature let it be said at once that many of the so-called lawsuits instituted by Protestant informers were collusive actions undertaken by friends to save Catholic proprietors from the attacks of the unscrupulous.

Whether the actions about to be cited were of this nature it is impossible to say. They are :—

- (1) Chancery Bill: Richard Browning v. Hugolin Power: 7 March, 1723.
 (2) Exchequer Bill: Wall v. Pierce Power, &c.⁷¹: 12 July, 1737.
 (3) Exchequer Bill: Wall v. Edmond Spincer, &c.: 24 Jan., 1745.

In No. (1): William Spenser of the Private Act of Parliament is described by R. Browning as *Brother* of Hugolin, son of Peregrine.

In No. (2): Edmund Spenser, grandson of William, states in his sworn answer that William was “younger brother of the said Hugolin,” and in No. (3) Edmond Wall, the plaintiff, makes the same statement. In spite of all this, I think there is no doubt that William was the son of Sylvanus. William’s son, Nathaniel (married c. 1710) died whilst his eldest son, Edmund, was still a mere boy, who consequently may have grown up with a very hazy knowledge of his ancestry.

The story in Mitford is still stranger. He quotes from a letter from 7, Grove Terrace, York, 22nd July, 1839, signed Robert Roulere Pearce, in which it is asserted that the person who went over in the reign of King William was John Spenser of Youghal, and this person raised a troop of horse at his own expense, and fell at the Boyne, and that he lent the King a considerable sum of money which was never repaid, that the fact of his

⁷⁰ See Fiants of Elizabeth, No. 5473.

⁷¹ P.R.O., Dublin.

death in the manner stated is recorded in a tablet in St. Mary's Church, Youghal, and that the daughter and heir to this John Spenser was Mrs. Day, whose children were Thomas Day, John Day, and Mrs. Pearce.

It is true that John Spenser, Merchant and Alderman of Youghal, and Giles Spenser of Limerick City, Attorney, joined King William's forces,⁷² Giles going to London and making his will⁷³ there, 11th July, 1689. John made his will⁷⁴ at Youghal, on the 4th February, 1688-9, and he died in Belfast in 1690, as is recorded on a tablet in St. Mary's Church, Youghal: "He departed this life in the town of Belfast in their Majesties' service," but it makes no reference to the Boyne, and there is no evidence to show that he went to London, or that he lent the King money.

It is very probable that John and Giles Spenser were relatives. Giles' sister, Elizabeth,⁷⁵ became the wife of one Richard Vaughan, and in John's will his cousins: Richard, Giles, and Thomas Vaughan are mentioned, but alas! for the Rev. Mr. Mitford's story, John Spenser seems to have been childless. No children are alluded to in his will.

As told above, William Spenser died in April, 1713, leaving a much embarrassed estate. His son, Nathaniel, had married c. 1710, Rosamund Bulkeley, eldest daughter of the Rev. John Bulkeley, sometime Rector of Mallow, Co. Cork, whose will was proved in June, 1702. In December, 1714, Nathaniel⁷⁶ sold portion of his Connaught estate to his cousin, Robert Mason, for £1,100.⁷⁷ In 1715, 1716, 1717, he parted with further portions of his estate to Frederick Trench, Robert Mason and Elizabeth Lady Meade, widow of Sir John Meade, called elsewhere the widow of Sir Richard Meade, the last-named acquiring a mortgage (£2,000) on the lands of Kilcolman, &c., Co. Cork.⁷⁸ By 1738 all the Cork Estate, the original grant of Elizabeth, viz.:—Kilcolman, Ardenbane, &c., seems to have passed into the possession of Sir Richard Mead, son of Lady Elizabeth above. Nathaniel Spenser⁷⁹ died 10th January, 1719-'20, leaving his widow Rosamond, and four children, all minors, the eldest of whom, Edmund, was born on the 25th November, 1711. The other children were Nathaniel, John, and Barbara. The executors to Nathaniel's will were Colonel Arthur Hide, and Jephson Busteed, Counsellor at Law. For some unexplained reason the will signed 14th August, 1718, was not proved till July, 1734. Colonel Hide died in 1721, and charge of the estate fell to Jephson Busteed during the minority of Edmund Spenser, the third, whose father-in-law, John Freeman⁸⁰ of Ballingule, asserted in 1734, that Edmund "had been greatly wronged by his guardians, and that he is a great sufferer by their ill-conduct." At all events it is certain that Busteed, dying, left his own affairs in great confusion. Rosamond Spenser, Edmund's mother, died between 1725 and

⁷² Chancery Bill: Spencer v. Vaughan, 6 Novr., 1696.

⁷³ Both Wills are at the P.R.O., Dublin.

⁷⁴ Chancery Bill: Spencer v. Vaughan, 6 Novr., 1696.

⁷⁵ Chancery Bill: Spencer v. Spencer, 6 Dec., 1716.

⁷⁶ See Spenser Deeds—Registry of Deeds, Dublin.

⁷⁷ Exchequer Bill: Spencer v. Mead, 18 Novr., 1738.

⁷⁸ Exchequer Bill: Spencer v. Spencer, 20 Feby., 1719.

⁷⁹ Exchequer Bill: Mead v. Spencer, 19 Jan., 1733—ans. of John Freeman, 13 July, 1734.

1734. The smallness of the bequest to her in Nathaniel's will is excused on the ground that she had a competency in her own right.

A pause must here be made in order to take up the history of Hugolin, son and heir of Peregrine Spenser. The earliest mention of Hugolin is contained in a deposition⁸¹ taken at Mallow, 14th March, 1653, concerning William Roche, of Balline McLawrence, Barony of Fermoy, Co. Cork. Hugh Hide, of Carrigeaneady, Barony of Condons, deposed that Roche was in actual arms in 1643, that he often saw him, and that amongst "the English living near deponent was 'Hugoline Spencer' now living at Renny." In 1663 Hugolin and his wife Ellinor made their claim before the Commissioners to be restored to their estates as "Innocent Papists,"⁸² and they relate that Ellinor was first married to William Roche of Bally-McLaurace, of which estate, settled on Ellinor by deed, 13th February, 1649, she became seized on the death of William Roche which, they say, occurred "shortly after." They also state that Peregrine, Hugolin's father, was an "Innocent Papist." On the 22nd May, 1666, in his lawsuit against Ellen Cahill, Hugolin mentions the many debts he had contracted during the time he was out of his father's small estate and for the recovery of the same in the Court of Claims, and adds that he "is left nothing to maintain himself and his numerous charge." In what did this "numerous charge" consist? His mother still held one-third of the estate. It is incontestable that he had only one child, a daughter named Dorothy, unless indeed she was the only survivor of several children. It is probable that a brother and sister had claims on the estate also.

By decree, 21st August, 1663, Hugolin was declared an "Innocent Papist," and was granted 424 acres in fee and 125 acres for life. His name appears in a list of Co. Cork gentlemen who signed in 1685 an address to King James II.⁸³ and in 1688 he was defendant with Francis Smith of Rathenry, Co. Cork, and Pierce Power of Clonmult in a Common Pleas suit of William Babington and Robert Power, administrators of Robert Power deceased. For his activities on the side of King James he was outlawed and his property confiscated.⁸⁴ By deed, 9th August, 1673, on the marriage of his only child, Dorothy, to Pierce Power of Clonmult, Hugolin conveyed his estate of Renny to Power for securing payment of Dorothy's marriage portion of £300, which was to be raised to £500 if Hugolin died without heirs male. The estate being forfeit, Pierce Power exhibited a claim before the Trustees for the Sale of Irish Forfeitures in 1701 setting forth the facts which were found endorsed on the said deed by Inquisition taken on the forfeiture of Hugolin before the Escheator of Co. Cork, 15th August, 1694.⁸⁵ Dorothy Power died in February 1690,⁸⁶ leaving eight children then living. Hugolin was alive in 1701, but he had died by 1706, and the date of his birth would seem to fall between 1724 and 1731.

⁸¹ MSS. Depositions, T.C.D.—Cork, Vol. VI., p. 118.

⁸² *Roll of Innocents*, No. XI., Skin 34, P.R.O., Dublin.

⁸³ *Common Pleas Outlawry Book*, 3f, 139, 89, P.R.O., Dublin.

⁸⁴ Exchequer Bill: Wall v. Power, 12th July, 1737 P.R.O., Dublin.

⁸⁵ The Commissioners decreed that the lands of Renny were subject to a debt of £500, due to Pierce Power, and that Nathaniel Spencer was liable for this. See Exchequer Bill: Wall v. Power, 12 July, 1737.

⁸⁶ Exchequer Bill.

Pierce Power's eldest son, Hugolin, married in 1707, Honora, daughter of Richard Barrett, and had 6 children, two sons and four daughters, of whom one, Dorothy, married Cornelius Ryan (Cloyne M.L.B., 1738). Pierce Power's⁸⁷ daughter, Dorothy, married Francis White, another daughter married William Fitzgerald, but the marriages of his other children and grandchildren have not, so far, been traced. Enough has been said, however, to show how numerous must probably be the descendants of Edmund Spenser in the families of Cahill, Fitzgerald, Power, Ryan, White.

Edmund Spenser,⁸⁸ the third, son of Nathaniel, great-great-grandson of the poet, came of age on the 25th November, 1732,⁸⁹ and in the next year he married Anne, eldest daughter of John Freeman, of Ballinguile, Co. Cork. Edmund's brothers, Nathaniel and John, were still minors on the 19th March, 1733-4.⁹⁰ Edmund would seem to have sold or mortgaged the estate of Renny to John Dillon of Quartertown, in 1733, for £2625.⁹¹ In 1748 he disposed of the remnants of the Connought estate to John Wallis of Dublin. The deeds of Lease and Release,⁹² 5-6 December, 1748, in the latter case are interesting because they tell us that Edmund's brother, Nathaniel, then resided at Strabane, Co. Tyrone, in what capacity is not known, and that his sister Barbara, was then the wife of Edmund Connolly, of Shane's Castle, Co. Antrim. As his brother, John, is not mentioned in the deed, it is inferred that he had died by that date. At the end of 1748 Edmund is still described as "of Renny," but in deeds of May, 1753, December 1754, and January 1755, he is described as "of Dublin," the probability being that, having parted with all his Cork and Connaught property, he went to reside in, or near Dublin, where he seems to have been the owner of tenements in Castle Street, and to have acted as agent for his wife's uncle, William Freeman, of Castlecork, Co. Cork. In the parish Registers of St. Marie, Dublin, we find recorded the marriage of Barbara Spencer and Edmund Connolly, 1742, April 20 "by *bans* in the Ch. of Kil" (teel), the blank in the original record having been restored from the Parochial Returns. Kiltel als Rathmore, Co. Kildare, is in the diocese of Glendalough. That may have been Edmund Connolly's native parish, but nothing has been ascertained, so far, regarding him or his married life.

The Registers of the parish of Castletownroche, Co. Cork, record the birth and death of one child of Edmund Spenser, the third, viz. :—(a) 1734, Wed. Sep. 16, was baptized Ann, dau. of Edmd. and Ann Spencer. Miss Mary Wrixon, Mrs. Martha Ross, gd. mothers; Mr. Thos. Lane, Mr. John Freeman, gd. fathers. (b) 1743, Tues. 11 Octr., was buried Anne, dau. of Edmd. and Ann Spencer. These Registers begin in 1728, and we notice three other interesting entries :—(1) 1734, Sunday May 8, was buried A. Spencer. (2) 1734, Sunday, July 2, was baptized David, son of Thoms. and Margt. Hunter. Geo. Land, Robt. Browne, gd. fathers; Ma. Spencer,

⁸⁷ Power Wills—P.R.O., Dublin.

⁸⁸ Exchequer Bill: Cooper v. Spenser, 17 Jan., 1735—Ans. of Edmund Spenser.

⁸⁹ Cloyne M.L.B.—P.R.O., Dublin 15 Jan., 173 2/3.

⁹⁰ Exchequer Bill: Spencer v. Hyde, 19 March, 1733.

⁹¹ Deed, 19 June, 1733—Registry of Deeds, Dublin.

⁹² Deeds 5-6 Dec., 1748—Registry of Deeds, Dublin.

g. mother. (3) 1736, Dec. 12, baptized Anne, dau. of Geo. Hales. Edmd. Spencer, gd. fr.; Ma. Spencer, g. mr. We cannot hazard any guess as to who "Ma (Mary,) Spencer" and "A. Spencer" of these entries may be. One Alexander Spencer only of Co. Cork is known to us, and he was son of the Rev. James Spencer of Castlemartyr, Co. Cork, was apprenticed in Limerick City, c. 1682, to one Robert Higgins, apothecary, ran away owing to alleged ill-treatment, and in 1700 his father stated he had not heard of him afterwards.⁹³ It is very unlikely that was the "A. Spencer" of Casletownroche.

Edmund Spenser, the third, had another daughter, Rosamond, who married James Birne (Burne) of Castle Coote, Co. Roscommon, who seems to have been a government official. She was living at Mallow, Co. Cork, 1805, and had children.

When Edmund left Renny⁹⁴ for good and took up his residence in Dublin we know not, but in the 1766 census returns for the parish of Castletownroche no Spencer names occur. Gibson (*History of Cork*) states that "Edmund Spenser died about 1790 at Mallow, leaving this sad epitaph for his tomb: 'Here lies the body of Edmund Spenser, great-great-grandson of the poet Spenser, unfortunate from his cradle to his grave.'" And he goes on to state that an effort to find this tomb was unsuccessful, and to suggest that this must be the Spenser mentioned by a writer in *Anthologia Hibernica* in 1793. The reference here is to a letter signed "O. W.," dated 2 March, 1793, in *Anthologia Hibernica*, pp. 189-90, which runs: "I have lately heard that, within a few years, a lineal descendant and namesake of the celebrated Spenser was resident at Mallow: that he was in possession of an original portrait of the poet, which he valued so highly as to refuse £500 which had been offered for it: with many curious papers and records concerning his venerable ancestor."

If Gibson is correct, the "Edmund" who died at Mallow, c. 1790, was Edmund, the fourth, and must have been a son of Edmund, the third. On the other hand a slight error in the number of *greats* used to describe his descent would, if rectified, make him out to be Edmund the third himself, who was certainly unfortunate in his early years owing to the mismanagement of his estate by the executors, and there is nothing inherently improbable that his span of life was 1711-1790. What other children, if any, this Edmund had has not been ascertained, nor do the records consulted afford many glimpses of his career after he left Co. Cork.

In making out the history and pedigree of any family difficulties inevitably occur. Persons crop up who cannot be fitted into the genealogical table. In the present case the Spencers of Youghal and of Bandon cannot be brought into this. There is no known connexion between them and the family of the poet.

The following note from Brady's *Ecclesiastical Records of Cork, Cloyne and Ross* is illuminative, (Vol. II., pp. 259-261):—

"1667. James Spencer, R. Killeagh, V. Clonmult, Curate of Youghal in 1662. V. of Clonmult from 1667 to his death in 1701, and R. Killeagh. He was married

⁹³ Chancery Bill: Spencer v. Smith, 27 May, 1700.

⁹⁴ In Exchequer Bill: Freeman v. Freeman, 20 May, 1779, Edmund Spenser and his wife Anne, are described as "now of Mallow."

“Dorothy ye wife of Mr. James Spencer, Minister, on 17 March, 1670-1 was buried in Youghal. He had a dau., ‘ffrancis,’ who was baptized at Youghal, 1st Febry., 1668/9. (Youghal Par. Reqr.)

“I venture no remark as to the relationship of this James Spencer to Edmund the poet.”

We may add that the Rev. James Spencer resided at Castlemartyr, Co. Cork.⁹⁵

We find also a Boyle Spencer of Rathangan, Co. Kildare (Will signed 29 Sep., 1755; proved 29 Jan., 1756; P.R.O., Dublin) to whom Robert, Earl of Kildare, left by will in 1743, £1,000 “to my dear and faithful servant, Boyle Spencer, and £1,000 to be divided between his children.” Spencer was the Earl’s estate agent. Where did he come from? To what family did he belong? The name “Boyle” is suggestive. We think he was a son of the Rev. James Spencer of Castlemartyr. He mentions a sister, Mary Simcocks, in his Will, and we find a Cloyne M.L.B. of 1698. Thomas Simcocks of Castlemartyr, Clk., to marry Mary Spencer of Mogeely,⁹⁶ Spinster. We think, too, that the name Boyle was given to this son as a compliment to Colonel Henry and Lady Mary Boyle of Castlemartyr, who were evidently patrons of the Rev. James Spencer.⁹⁷

Another and more difficult case is that of “Kathrine Spencer, late of Carghrick,⁹⁸ in the parish of Clandellane and baroy of Condon and Clangibbon, Co. Cork, gentlewoman (a Brittish protestant)” who made deposition,⁹⁹ 20 August, 1642, regarding her losses in the recent rebellion, losses amounting to £48 10s. od. Apparently she could not write her name. Who was she? From “Funeral Entries” in Ulster’s Office, Dublin, we know on the attestation of Sir Robert Travers, 21 June, 1636, that the poet’s daughter, Katherine, was the first wife of William Wiseman of Bandonbridge.

These investigations bring the account of Edmund Spenser’s descendants down to comparatively recent times, they correct many errors, they disclose many new facts, they perhaps afford a starting place for further inquiries, and they aim at removing the reproach of Chalmers’ *Biographical Dictionary* that, since the time of William Spenser, the family has been very imperfectly traced.

⁹⁵ Exchequer Bill: Fitzgerald v. James Spencer, 4 June, 1698.

⁹⁶ Mogeely is quite near Castlemartyr.

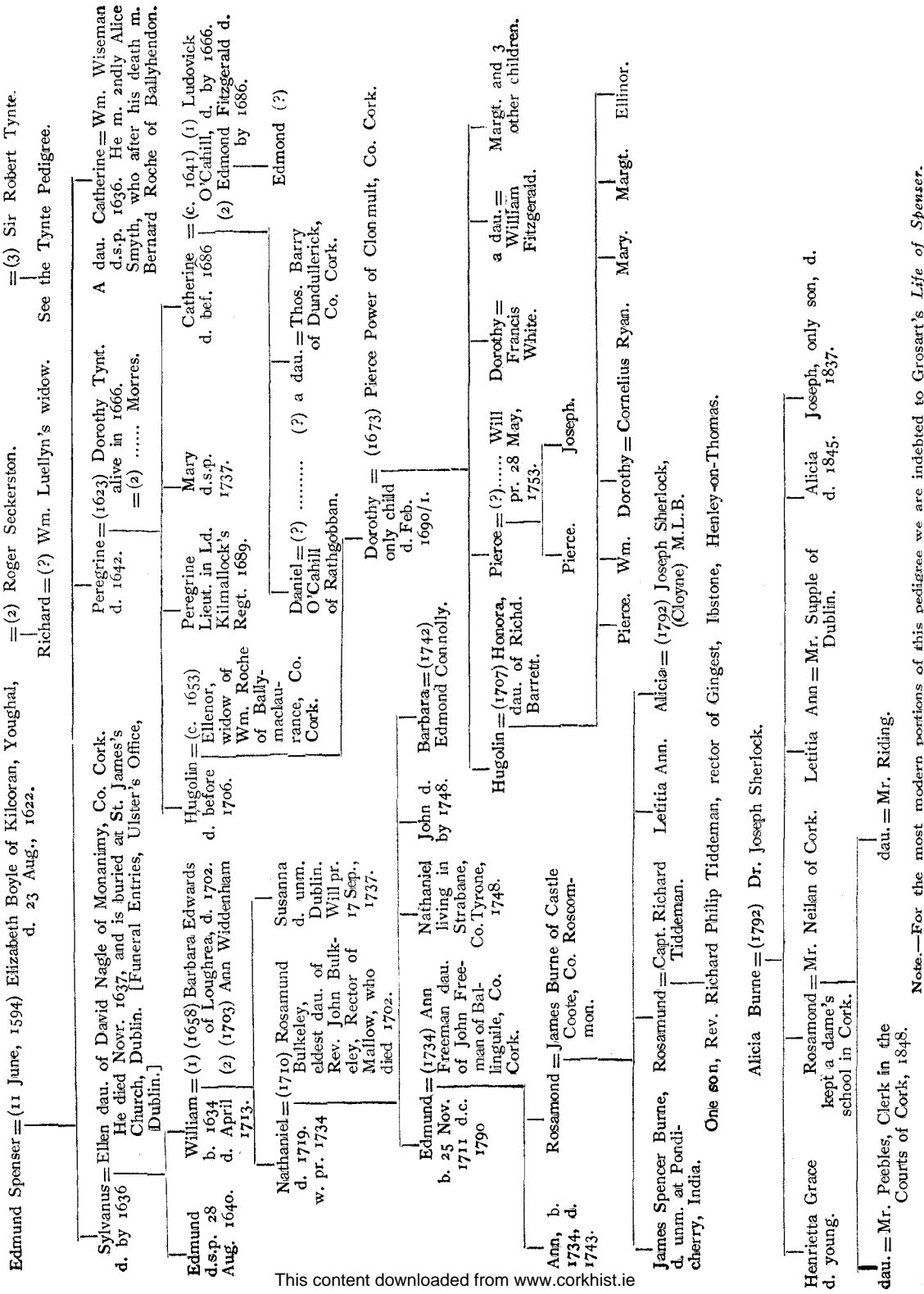
⁹⁷ Exchequer Bill: Fitzgerald v. James Spencer, 4 June, 1698.

⁹⁸ “Carghrick” is, we think, Carrickabrick in the parish of Clondulane, on the road from Fermoy to Mallow.

⁹⁹ MSS. Depositions, T.C.D.—Cork, Vol. II., fo. 127.

Final Note.—Most, if not all, of the documents cited as being in the Public Record Office, Dublin, no longer exist, having been burned in the recent destruction of the Four Courts.

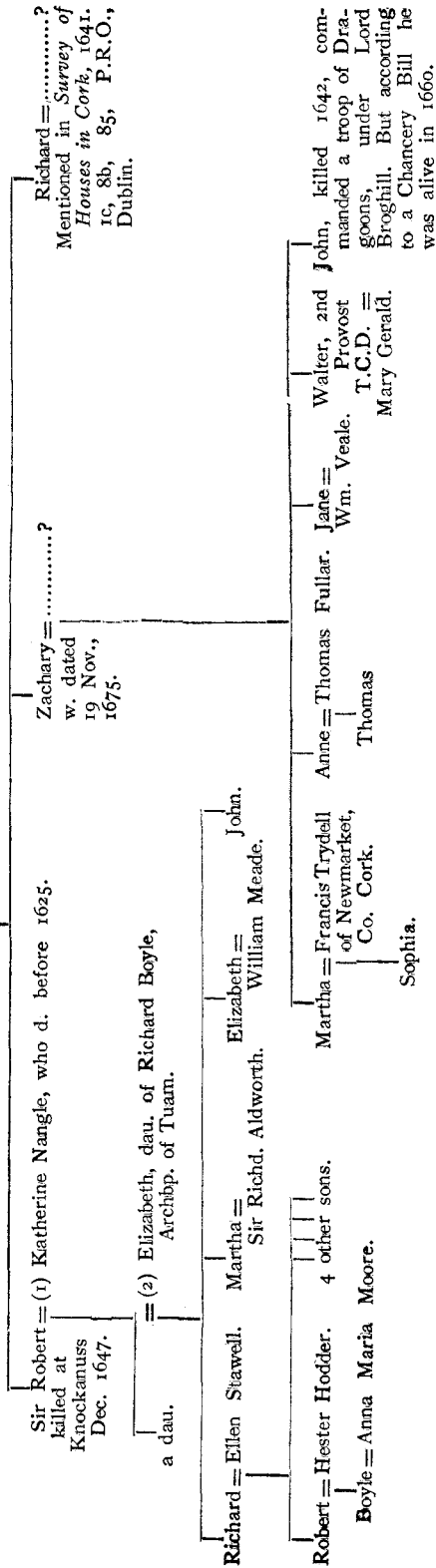
PEDIGREE OF SPENSER.



Note.—For the most modern portions of this pedigree we are indebted to Grosart's *Life of Spenser*.

PEDIGREE OF TRAVERS.

John Travers = Sarah Spenser.

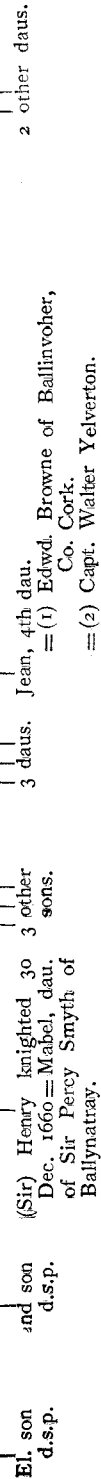
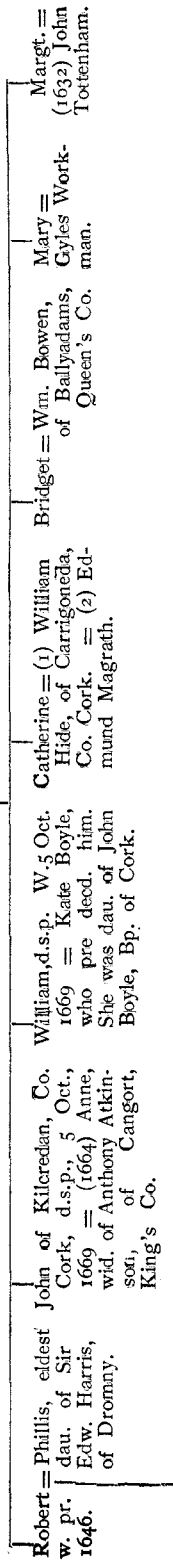


PEDIGREE OF TYNTE (Burke L.G.B.)

(Sir) Robert Tynte of Ballycrenane, Co. Cork, = (1)?

5th son of Edmund Tynte of Wraixhall, Somerset, knighted in Ireland, 4 July, 1620. W. dated 10 May, 1643.

a dau. Dorothy = (1623) Peregrine Spenser.



NOTE.—Some of the children ascribed here to Sir Robert Tynte and Elizabeth Spenser may have been children of Sir Robert's first marriage.