

Wallace Wills and Pedigrees from Betham's notes from Original Irish Prerogative Wills

Archivist and Transcriptionist, Sir William Betham

These 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.

The earliest prerogative will for a Wallace in Ireland, thus far found, is the John Wallace will proved in Dublin in August, 1666. However, he has as a witness, Thomas Boyd, whose name is associated with the Wallaces of County Down as well. Sir William Betham, apparently thought this will was particularly significant and transcribed the entirety of its abstract in his notes of the Wallaces. The rest of the family members who left prerogative wills only have pedigrees that he created from reading the original abstracts of the wills. These copies ended up in Dublin Castle, and not solely the Anglican diocese, where the family normally resided.

Paterson's History of Ayrshire states that all the Wallaces in Ulster came from the Wallace House of Failford. That may be a little too broad a statement, but it is true that the Wallaces initially were a small group in Ireland in the 1600's and the first group may well have all come from the prolific House of Failford. The pedigrees and this will that Betham transcribed do show connections between Dublin and other more southerly areas of Ireland with County Down, where the earliest Wallaces in Ireland were know to reside from other records (cemetery inscriptions, the depositions of the 1641 rebellion, the 1659 hearth rolls, etc.).

Because the John Wallace will is the earliest of the Betham transcriptions, it precedes the later pedigrees he created. Additionally, the pedigrees are in chronological order and sorted by area as the families of one town are often shown to be related to those of a second town, such as Crobane and Newry in County Down.

Transcriptions of Wallace Wills by Wm. Betham

John Wallace Will, Dublin, 1666.

In the name of God Amen, the twenty-nynth day of July, in the year of our Lord, one thousand six hundred sixty and six, I John Wallace, of Copper Alley, in the parish of St. Warborough's (St.

Werburgh's) in the City of Dublin, More hard, being sick and weak in body but being of sound and perfect memory (Praises be to the Almighty God for the same), and knowing ___ of this long orall (?) life and being desirous to settle things in order doo make this my last Will and Testament in manner and for ino ___ing that is to say. First and principally I commend my soul to Almighty God, my Creator affirmedly, believing that I shall ___ full pardon, and ___ remission of all my Sinns, and beelabors, saved by the previous deeds and moves of my ___ Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and my body to the earth from whence it was taken to be reverently (?) buried at St. Warborough's churchyard, and next to my dear Sister who is already buried, as reverently can be.

And regarding such worldly goods and Estate as the Lord's mercy hath lent me my will and meaning, the same shall be cassered and disposed as hereafter in and by this my will as expressed. And first I do ___, renounce and make void all wills by me formerly and ___appoint this my last Will and Testament.

Item I give and bequeath to my loving mother Flora (or Sara?) Chambers five pounds sterling. Item I give to my loving brother William Wallace twenty schillings to buy him a gold ring. Item I give to my loving brother James Wallace twenty schillings to buy him a gold ring. Item I give to my loving sister Mary Wallace twenty schillings to buy her a gold ring. Item I give to Mr. William Lowe twenty schillings to buy him a gold ring. Item I give to Mr. George Stowell and his wife twenty schillings apeece to buy each of them a gold ring. Item I doo give and will five pounds should be paid to Mr. William ___ my Executors hereafter named to bee disposed of by means (?) she shall think fit. All the rest of my goods and Chattles and all and personnall (my funerall and ___ and debts being paid and satisfied) I do give and bequeath to my dearly beloved wife, who I do make and ordain sole and whole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament. ___ded and will is that after my wife's Death, my said sister Mary (if she survives) shall have all my goods and chattles and if she dies before, then my said brother William if he be living or such of his children as bee living at the time of my wife's deceass shall have the said goods and chattles, and if neither of them shall survive, then that my brother James or such of his children as shall survive my said wife shall have the said goods and Chattles afterward ___. And I do hereby appoint and desire the beforenamed Mr. George Stowell and Mr. William Lowe to be overseers of this my last Will desiring that the ___ in seeing that the Contents ___performed.

In witness whereof I have sett my hand and seal the day and year first above written Jo (John) Wallace (his sigilli). Signed sealed and declared (?) by the said John Wallace to bee his last will and Testament. The ___ of Thomas Boyd, Will Cridham, Jane Bens ___

Probat et approbat in juris... Civitate de Dublin... by Elizabeth Wallace... date of 7 the month of August, the year 1666.

Transcriptions of Wallace Pedigrees by Wm. Betham from Abstracts of Prerogative Wills then at Dublin Castle.

Family of John Wallace d. 1725, Dublin, Ireland

John Wallace, of Dublin, wrote his will 25th December, 1715, and it was probated 30th April, 1725. It mentioned a brother, James Wallace and a cousin Francis Knox. Mentions a son, Thomas? (handwriting is an overwritten scrawl) Wallace, gentleman, who predeceased him and left a will, also found by

Betham), dated 7th May, 1723 and proved 31st December, 1723; and a daughter Elizabeth who was wife to John Rogers.

Family of Hugh Wallace, carpenter, d. 1741, Dublin

This Hugh Wallace seems to be related to John and James Wallace, in the entry above. Hugh is a Gaelic name for James, though there have been families that have sons named James and Hugh. Hugh Wallace, carpenter, left a will dated 5th December, 1740 and proved 12th February, 1740/1. The will mentioned wife, Jane, a brother, Thomas Wallace, and a daughter, Jane Wallace.

Family of William Wallace d. Dublin, widow Jane d. 1741, Dublin

The widow of a William Wallace, Jane Wallace, of Dublin, left a will dated 1 March, 1741 and proved 27 October, 1748 and mentioned one son, William Wallace, a brother of Jane, Francis Congletier who lived in Edinburgh and was a surgeon, Francis' daughter, Margaret, and another brother Alexander Congletier, a merchant in Dublin.

Family of George Wallace d., 1764, Dublin County?

George Wallace of ___fribel, Dublin, "salesmaster" left a will dated 12 December, 1763 and proved, 7th May, 1764. In it he mentions brother, James Wallace, brother, Huris(?) Wallace who has a son Michael, and a cousin Lewis Wallace.

Family of William Wallace, gent. died 1729, Crobane Co. Down

William Wallace, gentleman of Crobane, County Down, left a will dated 27th August, 1726, and proved 29 April, 1729. This will mentioned a wife, Jane, and a brother Peter Wallace, and children (of William), James, William, Abraham, Isaac, and Hannah who was wife of Collin Houston.

Family of James Wallace, Esq., d. 1736, Crobane, Co. Down

James is related to William Wallace above, and probably his son. However, son James, is probably a lawyer as the title "Esq.," unless it was used by a lawyer, was the father of a "gentleman," and the son of a knight. This James Wallace left a will, dated 20th June, 1736 and proved 20th December, 1736. It mentions his wife Ann (Ross) and brother-in-law Robert Ross of Dublin, Esq., and children, Robert, Ann, Mary and Elizabeth Wallace.

Robert Wallace, gentleman, single d. 1784, Newry, County Down

He left a will dated 18 February, 1784 and proved 5 August, 1784 and mentioned only a neighbor, William Hanna(?) (scrawl of light ink). This is probably the son of James Wallace of Crobane in the entry above, and nephew of Isaac, in the entry below..

Family of Isaac Wallace, gent., d. 1741, Newry, County Down

Isaac Wallace left a will dated 30th October, 1739 and proved 14th September 1741. In it he names sister Hannah married to Houston, and a Robert Wallace (no relationship stated by Betham) and a Rev. James Dickson. This Isaac Wallace was definitely the son of William Wallace who lived and died at Crobane, in County Down.

Family of Robert Wallace, single, d. 1768 Co. Monaghan

Robert Wallace of Aughtnamullen, County Monaghan died single, but left a will dated 24 December, 1762 and proved, 6th February, 1768. In the will he names a brother, John Wallace and John's children, Elizabeth, James and Gl/C1___(very difficult to read scrawl).