

Abstract of the Will of Charles Kelly 1731

Charles Kelly was one of five Kelly brothers from Lisduff in County Galway, Ireland who went to Jamaica in the first quarter of the eighteenth century. Brothers Edmund and Darcy predeceased him. Charles Kelly married Sarah Risbie (or Risby) on 14th Jan 1723/24 in Spanish Town, Jamaica and they had two daughters, Jane and Mary and a son Edmund all of whom died young. After the death of Charles Kelly in October 1731, Robert Hunter, a Governor of Jamaica who died in 1734, left his estate to his son Thomas on the strict condition that he should not marry the widow of Charles Kelly. It seems likely this was because of the tangled nature of Charles' affairs since in early 1732 his nominated executors (not including Darcy Kelly who had died in January 1731) all jointly refused to act. The widowed Sarah Kelly married Samuel Whitehorn about 1736 and had at least five children with him.

Charles left a plantation called Goffts to his **son Edmund**, subject to payment of £2000 to 'the child my wife is now bigg with' at the age of fifteen or at marriage, and if Edmund died without issue his inheritance to go to the unborn child. In case of the death of that child reversion to his brother **John Kelly** during his life, then **Darcy Kelly** then **Dennis Kelly** and then to **Henry Kelly** son of his deceased brother Edmund, and then to **Edmund Kelly** son of his brother John. His **wife Sarah** received his chariot and horses and his house during her lifetime, reverting to his son Edmund or the yet unborn child after his death. He appointed as Executors and as guardians of his children John, Darcy and Dennis Kelly, **Andrew Arcedeckne** and **Dr Matthew Gregory**.

Signed by Charles Kelly on 22nd October 1729.

In January of 1731/32 the Executors jointly renounced and refused to accept 'the burthen of the said Executorship'.