

Will of Dennis Kelly 1758

PCC Canterbury Prob 11/838

Dennis Kelly went to Jamaica with his brothers Edmund (died about 1728 in France), Charles (died 1731), Darcy (died 1731) and John (died 1740) in the first quarter of the eighteenth century. All but Darcy married there but only Dennis had any child who survived to adulthood – Elizabeth, daughter of his wife Priscilla Halstead was born in Jamaica in 1733 and married Peter Browne, the second Earl of Altamont, in 1752; Mary Wright, was baptised on 3rd July 1737 at St Catherine Jamaica, recorded as the daughter of Dennis Kelly and Wright (no first name recorded) and is probably the child ‘buried by her mother’ at Kingston on the 22nd February 1738/39. Margaret Wright was baptised in Kingston on the 12th November the following year, the daughter of Ann Right (sic) and Dennis Kelly. By 1754 Dennis Kelly’s estates, which included all the lands inherited from his brothers, totalled 4002 acres primarily in the parishes of St Dorothy and St George. Dennis Kelly died in Ireland in a post chaise accident when the horses were attacked by an eagle and the chaise overturned. His daughter who was with him survived unharmed.

I **Dennis Kelly late of Jamaica but now of Lisduffe** in the County of Galway Esquire do make this my last Will and Testament, and the following Disposition of my Estate. I desire my Executors in Jamaica would pay two hundred pounds current money of Jamaica towards building a house for the Rector of the parish of St Dorothy and that they would order a good Well and Cistern to be compleated in some convenient place near Old Harbour for the use of the Inhabitants of that Town and Neighbourhood. I Devise and bequeath to my **Brother Bernard Kelly** forty pounds sterling yearly during his natural Life and I bequeath to my **Nephew Kelly Prendergast** the sum of five hundred pounds To **Mrs Hawkes and Mrs Martin both of Elphin** one hundred pounds each and to the four youngest children of my **Sister Prendergast** the sum of six hundred pounds

to be divided among them in such Shares as shall be thought most reasonable by the said Kelly Prendergast and Mrs Hawks. I bequeath to my **Sister Dalton** one hundred pounds and to my **Nephew John Dalton** five hundred pounds and to **Margaret Wright now in Jamaica** at her age of eighteen years or day of Marriage the sum of five hundred pounds current money of Jamaica and I desire that somewhat may be allowed by my Executors in Jamaica for her Maintenance until she shall arrive at that Age or Marry. I give and bequeath to my **Grand-Daughter Priscilla Browne** at her age of eighteen years or day of Marriage which shall first happen the sum of two thousand pounds. I give and bequeath to my **Servant James Collings** if he be living with me at the time of my Decease the sum of twenty pounds over and above what Wages may be then due to him and to my **Servant Anne Irwin** if she be living with me at the time of my decease the sum of twenty pounds over and above her wages. All the rest and residue of my Estate real and personal charged and chargeable with my Debts and Legacies, I devise and bequeath to my **daughter Elizabeth Browne** and to the heirs Males of her Body and in default of such Heirs I devise and bequeath the same to my Nephew John Dalton and the heirs Males of his Body he and they taking upon themselves the Sirname of Kelly and in Default of such Heirs then to my own right Heirs. And my Will and desire is that in case my daughter Elizabeth Browne and her Husband should not be disposed to reside at Lisduff a Lease should be made of the Lands of Lisduff, Carmurkogue and Carrow for the term of thirty one years to my Nephew Kelly Prendergast at a Rent not exceeding eight shillings per Ann. And I do hereby appoint my friend **Dennis Daly of Haford**, my Son in Law **Peter Browne**, my Nephew **Kelly Prendergast** and my friend **John Cope Freeman** and **John Burke of Serjeants Inn** in London Esquires my **Executors** in Great Britain and Ireland and the Honourable **Rose Fuller and Matthew Gregory Esquires** my **Executors in Jamaica**. And lastly I do hereby revoked all former Wills by me made and to this my last Will and Testament (whereof I have made two Duplicates of the same Tenor and Date) I have set my hand and Seal this first day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty four. Den^s. Kelly Signed Sealed and declared by the Testator to be his last Will

and Testament in presence of us and by us subscribed as Witnesses in his presence and in the presence of each other **George Browne. Edward Leigh. James Browne**

This Will was proved at London before The Right Honourable Sir George Lee Knight Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted on the third day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty eight by the Oath of **Peter Browne** Esquire one of the Executors named in the said Will so far as concerns the deceased's Estate in Great Britain and Ireland to whom Administration was granted for the purposes aforesaid but no further or otherwise he having been first sworn by Commission duly to administer Power reserved of making the like grant to Dennis Daly Kelly Prendergast John Cope Freeman and John Burke the other Executors for the like purposes named in the said Will when they or either of them shall apply for the same.