

THE PARENTAGE OF EDWARD IRELAND

Edward Ireland of Bridge Sollers, Hereford, aged 33 & Mary Hampton of Chaceley, Worcs, aged 26, married at Ledbury, Hereford, by license dated 17 April 1694. Therefore Edward Ireland was born in about 1663.

The Bishop's Transcripts of Bridge Sollers are on the IGI and record only 2 Irelands, both marriages: in 1632 Penelope Ireland married Thomas Spencer; and, in 1714 Thomas Ireland married Joan James. Therefore Edward Ireland is not native to Bridge Sollers.

The Herefordshire Military Assessments for 1663 list 3 Irelands

- Jo: Ireland of Mauncell Lacy – goods valued at £11
- Edw: Ireland of Mauncell Lacy – goods valued at £5
- Jo: Ireland of Yazor – goods valued at 10s

While there appear to be two John Irelands in 1663 the Parish Registers have no contemporary Ireland entries. The only entries that do appear are in 1691 and 1693 and are the baptisms of two children of Thomas and Damaris Ireland of Mansel Lacy. Therefore it is probable that there is one man named John Ireland who had property in the neighbouring parishes of Mansel Lacy and Yazor.

The 1664 Hearth Tax lists four Irelands in the Bridge Sollers area:

- John Ireland of Mansel Lacy – one hearth
- Edward Ireland of Mansel Lacy – one hearth
- John Ireland of Mansel Gamage – one hearth
- John Ireland of Wormsley – one hearth

Some caution has to be exercised with these entries. The appearance of three John Irelands does not necessarily mean that they were three separate persons. Although the name of the head of the household in each dwelling was supposed to be used the name of the owner of the house was sometimes used instead of the name of the tenant.

As there are only two men of property named Ireland in the area of Bridge Sollers it is probable that one of them is the father of the younger Edward Ireland.

The Court Rolls of Mansel Lacy mention two distinct properties in the hands of men named Ireland, both being described as “one messuage and nine acres of customary land” viz:

Message 1.

- 14 January 1635/6 Katherine wife of Thomas Ireland, surrendered her lands which were leased back to Katherine, Thomas and their son John and his wife Joan. *A party to the transfer was Simon Price so it is likely that Katherine is to be identified with Katherine Price who married Thomas Ireland at St Nicholas, Hereford, 17 Aug 1612. The wording of the entry suggests that the land belonged to her as heiress.*
- 27 October 1675 John Ireland senior transferred his lands to John Ireland junior and Anne his wife. *This John Ireland is, without doubt, the John Ireland of Mauncell Lacy who wrote his will in 1677 and died 1680. His detailed will identifies his eldest son and heir as John and none of his sons are named Edward. John was quite affluent as his estate was valued at £145 6s. This is consistent with his having property in three parishes.*

Message 2

27 October 1663

Granted to Edward Ireland and Elinor his wife. It had previously been held by John Ireland, late father of Edward.

1 October 1690

Edward Ireland has recently died and his lands have passed to his son John. *This is Edward Ireland who, in 1687, left a nuncupative will bequeathing his estate to his son John. As the only major property was customary land, which Edward could not bequeath, he may have had little other estate to bequeath to other children. His estate was valued at £5 14s 10d.*

The conclusion that can be drawn is that Edward Ireland was a younger son of Edward of Mansel Lacy. He named his eldest son Edward, after his father, and his second and third sons John after his grandfather.

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