

Sir James Ware

Born at Castle Street, Dublin on 26th November 1594, Ware was the eldest son of James Ware, who arrived in Ireland in 1588 as a secretary to Lord Deputy FitzWilliam. The elder James was knighted by King James I, was elected M.P. for Mallow in 1613, and served as auditor-general for Ireland till his death in 1632, in which capacity he was succeeded by his son, who graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 1616, having received a good education in Latin and Greek. Becoming interested in Irish history, he began assembling a very fine collection of Irish manuscripts, and made transcriptions from works held in other collections, including that of his close friend James Ussher, Bishop of Meath.

Knighthood in 1629, Sir James was elected Member of the Irish Parliament (M.P.) for the University of Dublin in 1634.

Ware's first book, published in 1626, was *Archiepiscopo Porum Cassiliensium & Tuamensium Vitae*, followed by *Caenobia Cisterientia Hiberniae* and *De Praesulibus Lageniae*, both in 1631. In 1633 he published three edited works: Edmund Spenser's *View of the State of Ireland*; Meredith Hanmer's *History of Ireland*; and Edmund Campion's *History of Ireland*, followed by, in 1639, *De Scriptoribus Hiberniae*.

During the tumultuous 1640s Ware was actively involved on the royalist side in the 4-sided conflict of native Irish, Old English Catholic, Royalist and Parliamentarian forces, spending a year imprisoned in the Tower of London and eighteen months in exile in France.

In 1654 he published his first book in 14 years - *De Hibernia et Antiquitatibus eius Disquisitones*, followed in 1656 by *Opuscula Sancto Patricio Adscripta*.

Following the restoration of Charles II, Ware returned to Dublin where he was re-elected as M.P. for Dublin University, and, in 1664 published *Venerabilis Bedae Epistolae Duae* and *Rerum Hibernicarum Annales ab Anno Domini 1485 ad Annum 1558*, and in the following year *De Praesulibus Hiberniae Commentarius*

Ware died on Saturday 1st December 1666, and is buried in St Werburgh's Church, Dublin.

Ware's papers and books passed to his son Robert who died in 1696. Robert republished many of his father's books. He also wrote (or caused to have written) a manuscript entitled 'The History and Antiquities of Dublin, Collected from Authentic Records and the Manuscript Collections of Sir James Ware, Knt, by Robert Ware, son of that learned Antiquary'. These papers and 'memoirs' passed to Robert's son Henry of Stephen's Green, who died aged 73 in December 1740, and then to Henry's daughter Elizabeth. Elizabeth Ware married Walter Harris on September 22nd 1719, so it is not unreasonable to assume that she was born in the 1690s.

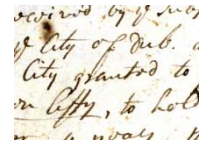
Harris used the Ware papers extensively to write his own *History and Antiquities of the City of Dublin*, which he left in MS, and which was published with additions in 1766, 5 years after Harris's death.

At the sale of Harris's material, the manuscript was bought with, it appears, much of the library, by the collector Michael Ignatius Duggan who died in 1768. Along with much of Duggan's material, it then came into the possession of John Lodge who was Deputy-keeper of the records in Bermingham Tower of Dublin Castle; then Deputy-clerk and Keeper of the

Rolls, and subsequently Deputy-Registrar of the Court of Prerogative, and who died in 1774. His son, William Lodge (1742–1813), became chancellor of Armagh Cathedral in 1790, as well as being rector of Kilmore in the same diocese. His son, also William, was rector of Killybegs and died in November 1862, aged 77. Soon afterwards, in 1865, William Reeves, Keeper of the Robinson Library in Armagh, bought much of the material from a son of this second William (possibly Thomas Lodge) and it remains in the Armagh library.

The relevant manuscript has Object Number P001498203. It is a bound manuscript with a frontispiece, 304 pages of text and a contents page (by Harris). It is clear that the binding was done subsequently, as the writing frequently goes almost right in to the spine.

On the first page (before the frontispiece), is pasted a note by William Reeves describing its provenance and remarking on the extensive ‘editing’ in Harris’s hand, a hand I will describe as ‘crabbed’.



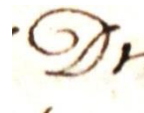
The manuscript is in three distinct hands. The first I will describe as Gothic.



The hand changes between pages 218 and 219, rather bizarrely in mid-sentence. The new hand (not Harris’s) is much more florid, with a fondness for putting the first word of important paragraphs in larger letters.



The hand changes again, between pages 248 and 249 to one quite similar to hand 2, but less florid. It is also to be noted that, firstly, Harris’s pen is much more evident in this section, breaking up extremely long sentences by inserting a full stop and capitalising the following letter, and, secondly, hands 2 and 3 spell the word ‘common’ with one ‘m’, where hand 1 has the modern version.

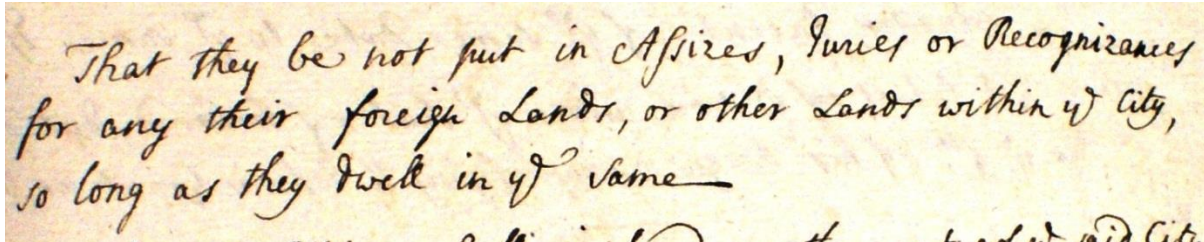


It is a worrying feature of the manuscript that in the very areas where one might expect it to be most accurate – the early history of Trinity College Dublin – there are significant discrepancies between it and the standard histories of that institution. The events occurred within the lifetime (albeit early) of James Ware, and one would expect his records to be reliable. The work has, however, William Burleigh, the first Chancellor, dying in 1612 rather than 1598. It has Luke Chaloner as the first Vice-Chancellor, rather than Henry Alvey. Most particularly, the omission of Henry Jones, Vice-Chancellor 1646-60 and both head of the 1641 Depositions Committee and Bishop of Meath is difficult to explain.

Sir John Gilbert had two copies of the manuscript made for his library, both now in the Dublin City Archives. One is bound in two volumes, MS74 and MS75, the other a collection of loose sheets, unhappily with many gaps, and filed as MS76.

In 1981 Professor J.H. Andrews, Department of Geography in TCD, presented a microfilm of the Armagh manuscript to the Library in Trinity where it is filed as non-TCD Microfilm 102.

Also in Armagh, filed as Object P001948241 is 'History And Antiquities Of The Citie Of Dublin, Collected From The Writings Of Sir James Ware, With Map Of 1610'. The map of 1610 has in fact been pasted into the main bound manuscript, obliterating some wording. P001948241 is a folder of loose slips of paper, both sheets and folios, in a hand that is neat and legible.



That they be not put in Affires, Iuries or Recognizances
for any their foreign Lands, or other Lands within y^e City,
so long as they dwell in y^e same

It contains material that is clearly either copied from the main manuscript or from material used in making that manuscript, in that there is a considerable amount of wording common to both. There are, however, both additions and discrepancies. For example in the piece on the wells of Dublin, (Chapter 24 in the main manuscript), and here entitled “on the wells and waters of Dublin”, it is said of St Patrick’s Well, located under the Nassau Street entrance to TCD, “This famous well which had for many years afforded the citizens a continual supply of the sweetest water in Dublin, as well as the purest, fell entirely dry, as is said, on 17th March 1729. The cause of which is attributed to a shoar sunk in the fields adjoining thereto, called Molesworth’s Fields.”. Additionally, in the main work, the finding of Richard Mutton, the first mayor of Dublin, is described. He was found, wrapped in a mutton skin (hence the surname); but information on where he lay is blank in the main work – there is a dash in the text. Here the location is named:- he was found in a basket. Again, the number of aldermen is correctly given as 24 (rather than “twentie” in the main work), and extra information is given about the Four Courts Prison.

All this would lead one to conclude that a beginning was made, sometime after 1729, in editing Robert Ware’s manuscripts. Since the hand is not that of Harris, the obvious possibilities are Henry Ware of Stephen’s Green, Robert’s son, or Elizabeth Ware-Harris, daughter of Henry. Since Harris, in his History of Dublin, frequently acknowledges the work of both James and Robert Ware, it seems likely that if he used any work by his father-in-law that too would be credited. It is suggested therefore that the author of these slips of paper was in fact Elizabeth Ware, working in tandem with her husband on her grandfather’s manuscript, but with a view to publishing it, rather than, as her husband was doing, incorporating it into a totally new work.

In the present edition footnotes enclosed in square brackets are those of the editor; those not so enclosed are in either the original manuscript (mostly in the hand of Harris, but some clearly by one of those involved in the original work) or in the Gilbert transcription. These latter are explicitly indicated.