

**22 October [1623]<sup>1</sup>, Lismore Castle, Katherine née Fenton Boyle (c.1588 - 1630), 1<sup>st</sup> countess of Cork to her husband, Richard Boyle, 1<sup>st</sup> earl of Cork** (The Devonshire Collections, Chatsworth, CM/14.173). Autograph. To my best beloved [/] the earle of corke [/] these bee delivered. Endorsed: primo novem[bris] 1623 From my wife.

my owne good selfe: heareing of this bearer by chance i thought it fit to let you know that my daughtter barry<sup>2</sup> and lettes<sup>3</sup> i thanke god are i hope - now past the worste: the rest of the childrene ar blessed bee god for it in good health the lorde preearve bothe them and us so still : jhone pine<sup>4</sup> is now veri dangersusly sick of the small pocke in the house hee is soo unruly that i muche feare his recovery : i heare nothing yet from Mr dance : i have heare inclosed sente you a letter i had from crosby toching dicke<sup>5</sup> i sent him worde to keepe the childe from colde and to get mr goden to teche him – att my lady parsons house<sup>6</sup> till your - retourne home : so praying the allmity to sen\ d/ you a safe and spedy returne home and too blesse us with a joyfull meeteting in all – health and happines i rest as by my – dity[duty] I ane[am] bounde your too command till i dye

Lismore this 22

of october late att night

Katherin Corke

<my mother<sup>7</sup> commends hir love too you>

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<sup>1</sup> 1623, based on the endorsement.

<sup>2</sup> Eldest daughter, Alice née Boyle Barry (1608-67), had married David Fitz-David Barry, 5<sup>th</sup> Viscount Buttevant on 9 July 1621.

<sup>3</sup> Third daughter, Lettice Boyle (1610-1643).

<sup>4</sup> Jack (John) Pyne was the son of Devon merchant, Henry Pyne (fl. 1589-1620). According to Katherine Boyle's letter of 26 October 1623, Jack Pyne subsequently died on 23 October. Henry Pyne had been granted a lease of lands at Mogeely, County Cork by Sir Walter Raleigh in exchange for exporting timber from Raleigh's Munster estates. Pyne developed a lucrative pipe stave export business. In 1603 Richard Boyle took over from Raleigh as Henry Pyne's new landlord and business partner, but this was a contentious relationship owing to their dispute over the length of the Mogeely lease. Pyne married into the Stronge family of Dunkitt, County Kilkenny and had four sons of which John (Jack) was the youngest. See, Terry Clavin, "Pyne, Henry (fl. 1589-1620), settler and merchant," *Dictionary of Irish Biography [DIB]*.

<sup>5</sup> Eldest son and heir, Richard Boyle (1612-1698).

<sup>6</sup> Lady Anne née Maltham Parsons was the wife of Sir Lawrence Parsons who was a close associate of Richard Boyle. Parsons purchased the property known as Myrtle Grove from Richard Boyle in 1613; Myrtle Grove is situated to the left and just below St Mary's Collegiate Church while the Boyles' Youghal residence was positioned on the right of the church. For more on the history and architecture of Myrtle Grove see James Lyttleton, "A godly resolucon to rebwilde': Richard Boyle's patronage of elite architecture" in David Edwards and Colin Rynne (eds), *The colonial world of Richard Boyle first earl of Cork* (Dublin, 2018), pp128-130. See Judy Barry, "Parsons, Sir Lawrence (d.1628), lawyer and planter," *DIB*.

<sup>7</sup> Lady Alice Fenton (d.1631) was widowed in 1608 and from that point on she lived with her daughter and son-in-law.