1641 DEPOSITIONS

VOLUME VI

Laois / Queen's County, TCD, MS 815 Offaly / King's County, TCD, MS 814

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ABOUT THE 1641 DEPOSITIONS SERIES

The collection of papers commonly known as the '1641 depositions', more formally as TCD, MS 809-841, was presented to the University of Dublin in 1741 by its Vice Chancellor, John Stearne, bishop of Clogher, to mark the centenary of the 1641 rebellion. The collection was subsequently bound in thirtyone volumes. In the first of these, entitled 'Depositions concerning the Rebellion in general, more especially of the Persons seized upon the first discovery thereof in October 1641', the material was arranged to tell the story of the attempt on Dublin Castle. The two most celebrated depositions, those of Henry Jones and Robert Maxwell, were given pride of place and were followed by the statements of Owen Connolly (Owen O'Connally) and Hugh MacMahon and a succession of others suspected of having been involved in the conspiracy. This thematic sequence ended on f. 239v of MS 809. Thereafter, and for the following thirty volumes, the papers were grouped according to the county to which they were thought (not always rightly) to belong, but randomly jumbled together within the county groups.² The principle of county arrangement had already been breached by the thematic selection of items included in the first part of MS 809. This was exacerbated by inconsistency of practice where the county of residence of the deponent differed from that in which the reported events took place, a problem which was in turn aggravated by the tendency of refugees to describe themselves as of their place of refuge. An extra layer of difficulty in allocating material to counties was provided by the fact that many landowners held land in more than one county and many Dubliners owned or leased estates only outside the county. Moreover, while the records collected in the 1640s were arranged by county, those collected in the 1650s were organized according to the event or individual with which they dealt. The combination of the initial lack of clarity in categorizing the material with the later failure to preserve either the alphabetical sequences of the 1640s material or the numerical sequences of the 1650s material and to sort the categorized material before binding it created a state of multiple disorder that has concealed the fact that the collection is an amalgam of four different sets of records, and one sub-set. Each was created by the conduct of separate enquiries into particular aspects of the rebellion, but they shared a later history.

The depositions are available online, together with transcriptions, at https://1641.tcd.ie. There is a general description of the collection in Aidan Clarke, 'The 1641 Depositions', Peter Fox (ed.), *Treasures of the Library, Trinity College Dublin* (Dublin, 1986), pp 111–22.

A further two volumes were added to the series some years later. TCD, MS 840 is a compilation of documents drawn from Henry Jones's papers relating to the years 1641–7. Only those pertaining to the 'commission for the despoiled subject' have been transcribed. TCD, MS 841 is discussed below, pp xli, xlviii.

1. TITLE PAGE, TCD, MS 815

[f. (i)r] Depositions concerning murders & robberies committed in the Cou Queen's County, F-2-8

[**f.** (**i**)**v**, blank]

TCD, MS 815, unfoliated (i)r-(i)v

2. FIRST COMMISSION OF CHARLES I

23 DECEMBER 1641

[f. 1r] <hand symbol> Queen's Countie, Charles by the grace of God kinge of England, Scotland, ffrance and Ireland defender of the faith &c. To our welbeloved Henry Jones deane of Kilmore, Roger Puttocke, William Hitchcocke, Randall Adams, John Sterne, William Aldriche, Henry Brereton and John Watson Clerkes Greetinge Whereas divers wicked and disloyall people have lately risen in Armes in severall partes of this kingdome and haue robbed and spoyled many of our good subjects Brittish and Protestantes who have been separated from theire settled habitacions and scattered in most lamentable manner And forasmuch as it is needfull to take due examinacion concerninge the same Knowe yee that wee reposinge especiall trust and confidence in your care dilligence and provident Circumspeccion have nominated & appoynted you to be our Comissioners and doe hereby give vnto you or any two or more of you full power and authoritie from tyme to tyme to call before you and examine vpon oath on the holy Evangelists (which wee hereby authorize you or any two or more of you to administer) aswell all such persons as have been so robbed and spoyled as all the witnesses that can give testimonie therein what robberies and spoyles have been committed on them or any other to their knowledge since the xxijth of October last or shall hereafter be committed on them or any of them, what the particulars were or are whereof they were or shalbe so robbed and spoyled, to what value, by whome, what theire names are, and where they nowe or last dwelt that committed those Robberies, on what day or night the said robberies or spoyles committed or to be committed, were done, what traiterous or disloyall wordes, speeches or Accions were then or att any other tyme vttered or committed by those Robbers or any of them, what violence or other lewde Accions were then performed by the said Robbers or [f. 1v] any of them And howe often And all other circumstances touchinge or concerninge the same particulars and every of them And you our said Comissioners are to reduce to writinge all the examinacions, which you or any two or more of you shall take as aforesaid And the same to returne vnto yo our Justices & Counsell of this our Realme of Ireland vnder the handes and seales of you or any two or more of you as aforesaid Witnesses our right trustie and welbeloved Counsellors Sir William Parsons knighte and Baronett

and Sir John Burlase knighte our Justices of our said Realme of Ireland att Dublin the xxiijth day of December in the seaventeenth yeare of our Raigne.

Carleton1

TCD, MS 815, ff 1r-1v

3. SECOND COMMISSION OF CHARLES I

18 JANUARY 1642

[f. 1v] Charles by the grace of God Kinge of England Scotland ffrance and Ireland defender of the faith &c, To our welbeloved Henry Jones, Deane of Kilmore Roger Puttocke William Hitchcocke, Randall Adams, John Sterne, William Aldriche Henry Brereton and John Watson Clerkes Greetinge Whereas diverse wicked and disloyall people have lately risen in Armes in severall partes of this kingdome and have robbed and spoyled many of our good subjects Brittish and protestants, who have beine separated from theire setled habitacions and scattered in most lamentable manner and many others have been deprived of theire landes Rents goods and Chattells And forasmuch as it is needfull to take due examinacion concerninge the same Knowe yee that wee reposinge especiall trust and Confidence in your fidelities Care and provident circumspeccion haue nominated and appoynted you to be our Comissioners and doe hereby give vnto you or any two or more of you full power and [f. 2r] authoritie from tyme to tyme to call before you, and examine vpon oath (which wee hereby authorize you or any two or more of you to administer on the holy Evangelists)

aswell all such persons as have beine so robbed and spoyled or deprived of theire landes Rentes goods and Chattells, as all the witnesses that can give testimonye therein what Robberies and spoyles have been committed on them or any other to theire knowledge since the xxiith of October last or shall hereafter be committed on them or any of them what landes Rents goods or Chattells any person or persons have since that tyme beine deprived of by occasion of this Rebellion, what the particulars were or are in landes Rents goodes or Chattells whereof any person or persons were or shalbe so robbed spoyled or deprived, to what value; by whome such robberies or spoyles were committed, what their names are and where they nowe or last dwelt that comitted those robberies or spoyles, on what day or night the said Robberies or spoyles committed or to be committed were done, what traiterous or disloyall wordes speeches or Accions were then or at any other tyme vttered or committed by those robbers or any of them, And what vnfittinge wordes or speeches concerninge the present Rebellion or by occasion thereof were spoken at any tyme by any person or persons whatsoever, what violence or other lewde Accions were then performed by the said Robbers or any of them, and how often what numbers of persons have been murdred by the Rebells or perished afterwards in the way to Dublin, or other places whither they fled or retired for refuge; either by way of defence or otherwise what person or persons Clergimen or other protestants haue

George Carleton, (joint) clerk of the crown and hanaper.

become Papistes since the said xxijth of October last, and all other circumstances and [f. 2v] thinges touchinge or concerninge the said particulars and every of them either before the xxiijth of October last or sithence And for the better performance of this service all Incumbents Curats & parish Clerkes and Sextons of Churches in this kingdome are hereby required to give in to you our said Comissioners to the best of theire knowledge the names & numbers of the poore so spoyled who have beine buried in theire respective parishes And hereafter in and about Dublin they are to give in weekely bills vnder the hands of the Ministers or Churchwardens of such parishes of such of the said persons as shalbe so buried in the said parishes And you our said Comissioners or any two or more of you as aforesaid are to reduce to writinge all the examinacions which you or any two or more of you shall take as aforesaid And the same to returne vnto our Justices and Councell of this our Realme of Ireland vnder the handes and seales of you or any two or more of you as aforesaid. Witnes our right trustie and welbeloved Counsellors Sir William Parsons knighte and Baronett and Sir John Burlase knighte our Justices of our Realme of Ireland at Dublin the xviijth day of January in the seaventeenth yeare of our Raigne

Carleton

TCD, MS 815, ff 1v-2v

4. THIRD COMMISSION OF CHARLES I

11 JUNE 1642

[f. 3r] Charles by the grace of God Kinge of England Scotland ffrance and Ireland defender of the faith &c. To our welbeloved Henry Jones, Doctor of Divinitie deane of Killmore Edward Piggott William Hitchcocke, Randall Adams, John Sterne, William Aldriche Henry Brereton and John Watson Clerkes Greetinge Whereas divers wicked and disloyall people haue lately risen in Armes in severall partes of our kingdome of Ireland and haue robbed and spoyled many of our good subjectes Brittish and protestantes who have beene separated from theire setled habitacions and scattered in most lamentable manner and many others have beene deprived of theire landes rentes goods and Chattells. And forasmuch as it is needfull to take due examinacion concerninge the same; Wee therefore reposinge speciall trust and confidence in your care and wisdome doe hereby give vnto you or any two or more of you full power and authoritie from tyme to tyme to call before you or any two or more of you and to examine vpon oath on the holye Evangelist; aswell all such persons as haue so been robbed and spoyled or deprived of their landes Rentes goods or Chattells, as all the witnesses that can give testimonye therein what Robberies and spoyles have been committed on them or any other to theire knowledge since the xxijth of October last or shall hereafter bee committed on them or any of them what lands Rents goods or Chattells any person or persons have since [f. 3v] that tyme been deprived of by occasion of this Rebellion what the particulers were or are in landes Rentes goodes or Chattells whereof any person or persons were or shalbe soe robbed spoyled or deprived to what value, by whome such robberies or spoyles were committed what their enames are, and where they nowe or last dwelt that committed