

N.D.[?1638-1641]¹, Katherine Jones² to her grandfather, Richard Boyle, 1st earl of Cork (The Devonshire Collections, Chatsworth, CM/24.107). Autograph. For the Earle of Corke [/] My honnered deare Grandfather. Endorsed: from Kate Jones.

My Lord

I am now a learning to write but cannot yet write to be understud , other=wise I would have [/] craved your Lordships blesing in my one[own]³ lines : which when I am able to present your Lordship with=all you shall receive my first frutes[fruits] : in the meane time I humbly crave your pardon for these [/] lines and earnestly desier a blesing for me [/] that am

My Lord

Your Lordships obedient Grandchild

Katherine Jones

¹ This letter is part of a series of letters written to Richard Boyle from his grandchildren (also, Lettice, Katherine, and Kildare Digby) which the Earl received while he stayed at Stalbridge Manor in Dorset between August 1638 and October 1641. It is estimated that the letter was written by Katherine Jones when she was between five and seven-years-old.

² Born in Athlone Castle, County Westmeath, on 23 December 1633, Katherine was the eldest child of Katherine Boyle and Arthur Jones, later Viscount and Viscountess Ranelagh, see *Lismore Papers Series 1*, volume iii, p.224. Katherine Jones first married Sir William Parsons, 2nd baronet (d.1658) with whom she had one son, Richard Parsons (c.1656, d.1702/3), 1st Visount Rosse. On 20 October 1660, Katherine married Hugh Montgomery (d.1663), 1st earl of Mount-Alexander, and they had three children with one surviving daughter, Katherine (c.1663, d. 1692). For more see, Terry Clavin, "Montgomery, Hugh (d.1663)," *Dictionary of Irish Biography*.

³ Ink smudged, one word.