

James Butler, 4th Earl of Ormond

James Butler, 4th Earl of Ormond (23 May, 1393 – 23 August, 1452) was the son of [James Butler, 3rd Earl of Ormond](#). He was called 'The White Earl' and was esteemed for his learning. He was the patron of the Irish literary work, '[The Book of the White Earl](#)'. His political career was marked by his long and bitter feud with the Talbot family.

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Family

James Butler was the second but eldest surviving son of [James Butler, 3rd Earl of Ormond](#), and his first wife [Anne Welles](#), daughter of [John de Welles, 4th Baron Welles](#) by [Maude de Ros](#), daughter of [William de Ros, 2nd Baron de Ros of Helmsley](#).^[1]

Career

He prevailed upon [Henry V](#) to create a [King of Arms](#) in Ireland, with the title of [Ireland King of Arms](#) (altered by [Edward VI](#) to [Ulster King of Arms](#)), and he gave lands in perpetuity to the [College of Herald](#)s, London. He was appointed [Lord Deputy of Ireland](#) in 1405, and [Lord Lieutenant of Ireland](#) in 1420, 1425, and 1442. He appointed [James FitzGerald, 6th Earl of Desmond](#) as [Seneschal of Imokilly](#) in 1420.

James Butler, 4th Earl of Ormond	
Born	May 23, 1393 <div>Kilkenny, Ireland</div>
Died	August 23, 1452 <div>Dublin, Ireland</div>
Buried	St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin
Spouse(s)	Joan de Beauchamp <p>Elizabeth FitzGerald</p>
Issue	James Butler, 5th Earl of Ormond <p>John Butler, 6th Earl of Ormond</p> Thomas Butler, 7th Earl of Ormond <p>Elizabeth Butler</p> Anne Butler
Father	James Butler, 3rd Earl of Ormond
Mother	Anne Welles

- Elizabeth Butler, who married John Talbot, 2nd Earl of Shrewsbury.
- Anne Butler, who died unmarried.

He married secondly, by licence dated 18 July 1432, Elizabeth FitzGerald (c.1398 – 6 August 1452), widow of John Grey, 2nd Baron Grey of Codnor (d. 14 September 1430), and daughter of Gerald FitzGerald, 5th Earl of Kildare, by whom he had no children.

See also

- Butler dynasty

Notes

1. Richardson I 2011, pp. 379-80.
2. O'Flanagan, J. Roderick *Lives of the Lord Chancellors of Ireland* London 1870
3. Otway-Ruthven, J.A. *History of Mediaeval Ireland* Barnes and Noble 1993
4. Otway-Ruthven
5. Lodge, John *The Peerage of Ireland or, A Genealogical History Of The Present Nobility Of That Kingdom*, 1789, Vol IV, p 11.
6. Richardson I 2011, p. 380.

References

- Ellis, Steven G. (2004). "Butler, John, sixth earl of Ormond (d. 1476/7)". *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (online ed.). Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/4195 (https://doi.org/10.1093/ref%3Aodnb/4195). (Subscription or UK public library membership (http://www.oxforddnb.com/help/subscribe#public) required.)
- Richardson, Douglas (2011). Everingham, Kimball G., ed. *Magna Carta Ancestry: A Study in Colonial and Medieval Families. I* (2nd ed.). Salt Lake City. p. 382. ISBN 1449966373.
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- Charles Mosley, editor, *Burke's Peerage, Baronetage & Knightage*, 107th edition, 3 volumes (Wilmington, Delaware, U.S.A.: Burke's Peerage (Genealogical Books) Ltd, 2003), volume 2, page 2298.

Peerage of Ireland		
Preceded by <u>James Butler</u>	<u>Earl of Ormond</u> 1405–1452	Succeeded by <u>James Butler</u>

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