**NLI 49164**

**Casement to Roger David Atkins Casement**

**b. 1852 London d. 1925 m. 1880 Melbourne Anna Meyer 1s. William, 6 d.**

**15 January 1903 (**no diary entry for that day – related mentions of Balharrys below)

Letter donated to the NLI by a descendant of David Atkins Casement, half brother of Roger Casement (1819-1877) [father of Roger Casement]. The donor's uncle gave this letter to her before his death.

Letter from Roger Casement to David Atkins Casement in Australia, who has the care of Roger's two nieces, the daughters of his brother Charles Casement,  1903 January 15.

Casement writes how sad he is to hear of the "hardships" of his brother Charles in Australia and says he will send money on to assist both him and the two "little girls" [Blanche Constance and Kathleen Casement]. Casement mentions that his brother Tom is "ill in Johannesburg, poor fellow and his appointment [job] is no longer his". He mentions Africa only briefly - "I am not in much humour to tell you anything of Africa or of my travels...the country is unhappy". He writes that his sister Nina [Agnes Newman] was with him in London until the previous week and that "she does not know much about Charles' affairs but she knows that his children are with you and I think should be told he has [...] married". The letter also mentions "Uncle John [Casement] - your father [Hugh Casement]'s half-brother - John Casement of Ballycartan died in October last. There is now only one of the half-brothers [of Hugh Casement] surviving - Julius Casement of Cronroe in Wicklow. Mrs. Moore Smith - who was Margaret [Elizabeth] Casement your father's half sister is still living at Ballycastle..."

Mention of Dalston

C/o H.O. King & Co,

45 Pall Mall,

London

 15 January 1903.

My dear David,

Your letter of 24 March last reached me only on 17 June on the Congo. I should have answered it long before this – but I was waiting until I could send the money – for I could not ?? spare it until now. I am sorry to have kept you so long – and very sorry for the poor little girls…

Hugh Casement (grandfather) m. 2nd London ca 1850 Rachel Atkins (b. ca 1829 d. 1907) his first wife’s “companion”,three sons and one daughter: **Roger** David Atkins b. 1852 London m. 1880 Melbourne.

Casement's brother, Charles Adam William Ball Casement (1861-1932) married, firstly, Minnie Balharry in 1890 with whom he had two daughters - Blanche Constance (1891-1972) and Kathleen Gertrude (1894-1969), the two little girls referred to in the letter. Charles then secretly married Beatrice MacGregor sometime after 1901, with whom he had a daughter Joan d. 1963.

1903 Diary extracts

11 May (Monday): Wrote Charlie sent £15. Wrote Tom and Blanche [née Balharry] – Hopeless affair that is. I see no possible outlook. Wrote to Nina all about the Balharry question…Bow. Jupiter.

Blanche Balharry, 436 Collins St., Melbourne, 25 Nov. 1903, recd 1 Jany. said. Hopes to sail by “Persic” on 22 Janry or if not then on 19th Feby. **[This is the Australian address for Blanche in Casement’s address book in use from about 1899 to 1909. It also contains a series of temporary London addresses dated 1905 for Emily Balharry – a third Balharry sister who became a musician. Emily reappears mysteriously in this story in 1916. She died in England where in her old age she was sent money by her Australian relatives.[[1]](#endnote-1)]** Emily Balharry, 2 Jan. 04, 18 Norfolk Square, Lancaster Gate, W.

H.W. Balharry, c/o Ambler Farrell & Co., 46, 48. 50. 52King St., Melbourne. Charlie owes him £33 which he writes about to me on 19 May/03. Sent his letter to Charlie on 16 Jan/04. **[More sibling debts – the Balharry creditor may be a brother of Charlie’s first wife Minnie Balharry.]**

 Date: Mon, 22 Jun 2015 08:06:02 +0100
 Subject: Re: David Atkins Casement
 From: hughcasement@gmail.com
 To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com

Thanks, Jeff.

I'd seen at least a partial transcript of that some years ago, but forget who sent it to me.

It was news to me that Charlie's daughters were being looked after by David and his wife: I suppose Charlie found it hard to cope after his first wife died in 1898. Charlie remarried in 1901 but kept it secret until the ceremony at a private house in St Kilda (which I take to be a suburb of Melbourne) on 7 Mar. 1905.

Would you like to tell the NLI that "Ballycartan" is wrongly transcribed?

I had an eMail yesterday from Janet Cook, a granddaughter of Charlie's daughter Blanche. Her sister Diana died on 1 Feb., aged only 66 but apparently she'd been in poor physical shape for some time, as well as suffering from acute depression. Now Janet tells me that her cousin Susan (Lesley's sister) has lung cancer and is not expected to live much longer.

 best,
 ............ Hugh

4. **Charles Adam William Ball (brother Charlie)** b. 5 October 1861 in Park Row, Knightsbridge, d. 10 January 1932 m. 1st 1890 **Minnie BALHARRY** b. 1869 d. of typhoid 1898: two daughters **Blanche Constance (Nina)** b. 1891 d. 1972 m. 1919 Arthur AYERS (five daughters, one Nina; dau. Lesley McNaughton); **Kathleen Gertrude** b. 15 November 1894 m. 1928 Neville VAUGHAN d.s.p. 17 April 1969. Charlie m. 2nd 1901 (secretly) **Beatrice MacGREGOR**: one daughter **Joan** b. ca 1905 m. 1940 John STUART, d.s.p. 1963. Charlie was baptised in St Anne's Church, Belfast on 9 April 1862, his parents' address being given as 174 York Street.

Blanche Ayers and Kathleen Vaughan attended the reburial in 1965.

5. **Thomas Hugh Jephson (brother Tom, his Jephson name was perhaps added later)** b. “at sea”, birth reputedly registered 3 January 1863 Boulogne, d.s.p. 6 March 1939 Dublin m. 1st ca. 1892 **Blanche BALHARRY** Australia b. 1866 d. Melbourne 1946, sister of Charlie’s first wife, divorced ca 1911; m. 2nd 1912 **Katje ACKERMANN** South Africa, artist b. 1878 d. 1970.

1. Information from Hugh Casement [↑](#endnote-ref-1)