

John Ferrall

Born: 1708

President: 1752-1753, 1762-1763, 1770-1771, 1773-1774, 1778-1779 (died in office)

Died: 1779

John Ferrall (otherwise known as Farrell), was described in the entrance book for Trinity College Dublin as the son of 'Garreti Generosi' (his father was Garret Ferrall, gentleman). He was born in Edgeworthstown in County Longford and was educated in Dublin by Dr Sheridan and Dr Whitcome. He entered Trinity College as a pensioner on 28 May 1728 aged 20 years and graduated BA there in 1733. He then matriculated as Farrall, Johanes (Hibernus), as he was known abroad, in Leiden on 12 September 1735 and then graduated MB at Dublin in 1737 having been examined in January of that year.

On 23 April 1741 he was successfully examined for his MD degree, and on 15 July 1741 it was agreed that he be admitted as a Candidate to the College of Physicians of Ireland. He was later elected Fellow of the College on 18 October 1745 in the room of Dr Foreside. He was elected President of the College a total of five times in 1752, 1762, 1770, 1773 and 1778 but died in office in March 1779. He was obviously a well-regarded physician to have been President so many times but there is no record of any of his College activities or of his clinical achievements.

He died on 21 March 1779 at his home on Jervis Street at the age of 71. He was predeceased by four of his children but was survived by his wife, his son, Edward, and three daughters, Mary, Elizabeth and Catherine. He requested in his will 'that I may be decently and privately interred in that part of Drumcondra churchyard where four of my children have been interred and as close to my son, Fergus, as possible'.¹ He requested no pomp or parade but a quiet interment at 6 in the morning. He left several estates in addition to his house on Jervis street which had a coach house and stables.

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¹ Copy of the Will of John Ferrall, Irish Medical Wills Notebook, RCPI Archive (TPCK/5/3/1)

