

JOURNAL of the COUNTY DONEGAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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túin na nġall

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JOURNAL OF THE COUNTY DONEGAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The County Donegal Historical Society

Founded at Lifford on 20th December, 1946.

VOL. 1.

No. 4.

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Transactions of the Society

1946—50

- Dec. 1946 Lifford:**—Foundation of the Society at the County House Lifford. Chairman—Very Rev. P. Mac Loingsigh P.P.
- April 1947 Stranorlar:**—J. C. T. MacDonagh, "County Donegal in Anglo Irish Literature," members and friends entertained to tea at Vocational Schools by Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Bastible, Mrs. Mac Donagh, Mrs. Hannigan and Miss Maire Walsh.
- August 1947. Lettermacaward:**—P. J. MacGill, "Notes on the Sandhill Settlements of Co. Donegal". Examination of the Dooley Gravemound. Members entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. John Boyle.
- October 1947. Beltany:**—Andrew Lowry: "The Tops—a Druidic Stone Circle".
- December 1947. Lifford:**—Dr. S. P. O'Riordain: "Antiquities of the Irish Countryside". Afternoon tea at Conneystown Hotel.

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Spring 1948. Letterkenny:—Rev. Dr. Cunea: "Territorial limits of the Diocese of Raphoe." D. O'Kelly: "Letterkenny and its Surroundings".

Whit Monday 1948. Brownhall as the guests of Capt. J. S. Hamilton and the late Mrs Hamilton: H. Deery "The Parish of Drumholm". Tour of the Pullins with Capt. Hamilton and Miss Hamilton. Afternoon tea at Brownhall.

August Bank Holiday 1948. Doe Castle: Papers read by Messrs Dunnion, O'Kelly and MacDonagh.

Autumn 1948. Lifford:—Exhibition of Books, Maps and Mss. relating to Co. Donegal, arranged with the County Library. Film, Father C. Finnegan and Father J. Doherty, "The Beginning of History".

ST. Patrick's Day 1949. Ardara:—P. J. Mac Gill: "The Woollen Industry and Co. Donegal." Members entertained to tea by Very Rev. Chas. Boyce, P.P., and ladies of Ardara.

Whit Monday 1949 The Grianan of Aileach:— Papers read by L. Emerson and J. C. Mac Donagh.

August Bank Holiday. Ballyshannon:—Antiquities in and around the Abbey, guide, Mr. J. McGonigle.

Autumn 1949. "The Two Mile Stones—a pre-Christian settlement." Paper read by S.D. Mac Lochlainn. Members and friends entertained to tea at Cavangarden by the Misses Atkinson.

Winter 1949. Lifford:—Book and Mss. Exhibition arranged with County Library: Paper—J. C. Mac Donagh — "Evolution and devolution of Local Government in Co. Donegal."

Spring 1950 Raphoe:—Venerable Archdeacon Homan. "The Cathedral"; T. A. Morrow. "The Castle"; A. Lowry "Antiquities around Raphoe".

Summer 1950. Conwall, Gartan, Temple Douglas: with the Londonderry Field Club. Members were entertained to tea at the Gartan Hotel by Rev. Richard Laird, President Londonderry Field Club, and Miss R. Laird.

Autumn 1950. Letterkenny Civic Week:—Exhibition of Irish Antiquities arranged through the courtesy of the National Museum of Ireland, H. P. Swan, Andrew Lowry and other members of the Society. Dr. G. A. Hayes McCoy, "The Irish Gallowglasses." Dr. E. O'Gallagher, "Ulster Folk Music." Andrew Lowry "Experiences as a collector of Irish Antiquities".

Notes and Queries

MILITARY HISTORY IN COUNTY DONEGAL

MacNevin in the appendix to his *History of the Volunteers of 1782* (Centenary Edition) gave the following as the delegates who represented County Donegal at the Dungannon Convention :

Col. A. Montgomery,
Col. John Hamilton,
Col. R. McClintock,
Lt. Col. Chas. Nesbitt,
Lt. Col. A. Stewart.

He also gave a list of the various corps formed in Ireland, but its incompleteness is apparent even if one tries to identify the Corps commanded by these Donegal delegates. I should like to place on record my amendment of MacNevin's list in so far as it relates to Donegal :—

1. **The Arran Phalanx** Scarlet faced white, Capt. Dawson, Lt. Fredrick Gore : Earl of Arran. (MacNevin) Was this a County Donegal Corps?

2. **Donegal First Regiment.** Lt. Col. Hamilton (MacNevin). Was he the County Delegate?

3. **Ramelton Volunteers,** Capt. James Watt. (MacNevin). Mr. Andrew Lowry has a brass belt badge engraved "Ramelton Supplementary Yeomanry Corps" and he rightly ascribes it to the 1798 period.

4. **Raphoe Battalion** — 1 July, 1778, scarlet faced blue, Lt. Col. Chas. Nesbitt. (MacNevin) See "Three Hundred years in Innishowen" (Young). MacNevin's title is not correct—See *Ulster Archaeological Journal* Vols. 111 and 1V (1897) for illustration of silver belt badge belonging to (Rev) John Lamy, L.L.D., (High Sheriff for Co. Donegal 1785) with the inscription "Royal Raphoe Volunteers." Mr. Lowry has a brass badge with a similar inscription.

5. **The Loyal Ballyshannon Volunteers.**

6. **The Killybegs Corps.** These

two units are noticed to some length by Hugh Allingham in his "History of Ballyshannon." The flags mentioned by him are now in the National Museum of Ireland and some excellent preservation work has been carried out on them by Dr. G. A. Hayes MacCoy.

7. **The Ulster Fourth Regiment.** Col. R. McClintock. (MacNevin) I assume that this was a Donegal regiment as its Colonel was one of the County Delegates.

8. **The Lifford Volunteers.** Belt badge found by Mr. Lowry near Argrey.

9. Mr. Lowry has a brass belt badge, one of many still to be found in the Whitecross, Raphoe district. It bears the inscription **Juvenum Manus** (Crown surmounting a harp) **Emicat Ardens** and he believes that this was worn by a corps drawn from that area.

As some of these Corps were reformed or re-incorporated during the last decade of the 18th century I now submit a list of territorial units which I have compiled for that period :—

1. **The Tir Hugh Cavalry.** Commission in the Hamilton Mss. at Bownhall.

2. **The Loyal Finn Water Corps.** Founded by Capt. John Cochrane of Edenmore. (Burke : *Landed Gentry of Great Britain*. 1925.) Corporal Richard Jenkins (Grand Jury Mss. in C.L.L.)

3. **The Raphoe Corps** (See J. D.H.S. Vol. 1 No. 3 p.)

4. **The Culdaff Yeomanry.** Lieut. Thomas Harvey (Grand Jury Mss. in the County Library at Lifford). These may be identical with the **Culdaff Infantry** (U.J.A. op. cit.)

5. **The Letterkenny Yeomanry.** Sergt. John Moore (Grand Jury Mss.)

6. **The Letterkenny Cavalry.** Sergt. Geo. Barrett (Barnet) (G. J. Mss.)

7. **The Malin Cavalry.** Stand-

ard at Malin Hall 1897 (U.J.A.)

8. **The Malin Infantry.** Drum at Malin Hall 1897 (U.J.A.)

These lists are not exhaustive and I should like to see them amplified and enlarged. As territorial units they were in addition to the **Donegal Militia** which appears to have set its roots as early as the middle of the 17th century? According to Major General Sir Henry McAnally, ***The Irish Militia** a Mr. Clements of Co. Kildare is the present custodian of **Donegal Militia** records and the regiment is worthy of a short history in this Journal. One of its last Company Commanders, Captain J. S. Hamilton, D.L., is a past President of this Society.

"MARS"

***"The Irish Militia 1793-1816:** a social and military study." Dublin: Clonmore and Reynolds, 1949.

FROM DONEGAL TO PERU — O'GALLAGHERS IN EXILE

"Senor Manuel Gallagher, 65 year old Foreign Minister for Peru, has arrived in Washington for a hemisphere conference of Latin - American Statesmen. Speaking Peruvian Senor Gallagher told the Irish News Agency through an interpreter 'My grandfather was a scientist and he came from Ireland. He came to Peru from County Donegal on the Charles Darwin expedition of the last century. He liked Peru so much that he stayed there and sent home to Ireland for his sweetheart who became grandmother'. Senor Gallagher was born in Lima, capital of Peru and he is the son of Patricio and Petranilla Gallagher". (People's Press. 1950)

SOME SEVENTEENTH CENTURY MERCHANT BANKERS OF CO. DONEGAL.

The following list of token coins has been brought to my notice. Can any reader add to it or supply biographical information relating to the merchants who issued them?—

(1) William : Anderso(n)—Harp with six strings Laterkenie (star) march(t). 1d.

(2) James Coningham 1d. Laterkenie (diamond) march(t) Harp with seven strings.

(3) Ion Mack(y) march (t) McCunningham 1660.

(4) Ion Calhowne, Castlefeine, 1d.

(5) Wil. Wigton, Donegal.

(6) Geo. Anderson, Rathmul-len. 1d.

THE BROOKES OF BROOK-HALL (now Fort Stewart)

Mr. Basil G. Brooke, 23 Halsey St., London S.W.3., would like to know the whereabouts of the family burial place of the above.

Tory Island Lighthouse,
Meenlaragh P.O.,
Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal.
24/8/1950.

Dear Mr. McDonagh,

I see by a news item which appears in to-day's **Derry Journal**, that an 18-centuries-old Roman coin was found near Conwal burying ground.

Some time ago a man on this Island, J. Meenan, brought me portions of coins which he found near the traditional site of Balor's Castle. I sent them to my friend, A.W. Stelfox, formerly of the National Museum. He took them to Dr. O'Sullivan who looks after the coins in the Art Division of the Museum. He said they are silver pennies of the reign of Edward the First, and minted between 1279 and 1307 A.D. Dr. O'Sullivan thinks one certainly between 1,302 and 1,307, the other older. They may be of some use to you in your capacity of Hon Secretary to the Historical Society.

I told Mr. Stelfox of four other **square** coins which were found by the islanders some years ago, and sold to visitors from Belfast at ten shillings each, £2 for the four. Dr. O'Sullivan says that these were almost certainly Spanish and minted during Philip's reign; i.e. Elizabethan — the time of the

Armada, but he does not suppose that they came from the Armada as there was much trade between Spain and Ireland about that

period.

Yours sincerely,
D. J. O'Sullivan.

"As Others Saw Us"

(John O'Donovan in County Donegal in 1835)

By Kit Taaffe.

"**Clonmany** is the most Irish Parish I have yet visited; the men, only, who go to markets and fairs, speak a little English, the women and children speak Irish only. This arises from their distance from villages and towns and from being completely environed by mountains which form a gigantic barrier between them and the more civilized and less civil inhabitants of the lower country. I never heard Irish better spoken, nor experienced more natural civility and innocence than in that very secluded and wild parish." (23rd August, 1835).

THE MACDERMOTTS (?)

"The [O] Duibhdhiarmas Doo-yearma's the ancient chiefs of Bredcha, of the race of Owen are very numerous in the parish: one of the name is the best seanachic or historian in Moville. The name is now changing to Mac Dermott!!" (Moville 17 August, 1835).

THE O'DOHERTYS OF INISH-OWEN

"..... John O'Doherty of the Townland of Bree, not far from Malin Well, a man full of years, traditions and hospitality. He thus traces his pedigree to Connor and Eny, who he says, was the first who got possession of Innishowen. Shane MacDonogh, Mhic Cahir, Mhic Owen, Mhic Cahir, Mhic Niall a Churry Mhic Dermot, Mhic Cooley, Mhic Brian Grooma, Mhic Cormac Carrach, Mhic Sean More Mhic Hugh Mhic Connor an Eny. I got him to repeat this pedigree six times over to see if it were settled in his memory and found that

he can repeat all the names in succession with as much certainty as I could ABCD to Z. He says that all the respectable branches of the Dohertys knew their pedigrees in the time of his grandfather.

Let us now try the accuracy of this pedigree, by allowing thirty years for each generation, according to Newton's chronology. (Conor an Eny O'Doherty, the first of the name set down in the Annals of the Four Masters as Lord of Innishowen died in the year 1413.

- 1433 Hugh
- 1473 Shane More
- 1503 Cormack Carrach
- 1533 Brian Grooma
- 1563 Cooley
- 1593 Dermot
- 1623 Niall a Churry
- 1653 Cahir
- 1683 Owen
- 1713 Cahir
- 1743 Donogh
- 1773 Shane, now about 80 years old and has a son.
- 1803 Donnell, and a grandson.
- 1833 Shane, now a little boy. (21 Aug., 1835).

..... Sir Cahir, by his hot-headness left his race without property but Big Tom Doherty of Muff (weight 23 stones) a rough customer, is purchasing Innishowen as fast as he can. Tom is worth, by all accounts, £170,000 and his next aim is to purchase Kilderry from Captain Hart who, if reports be true, is fast running through his property. (18 Sept., 1835).

"I want from O'Keeffe the account of the territories of Tir-Connell taken from the O'Doug-

herty Mss. he will find it in the Common Place Book into which he has copied all the Irish poems on Aileach, Temiur etc." (Sept. 30, 1835).

THE MacLAUGHLINS

" Saw the Reverend Mr. McLoughlin, P.P., of Muff, Burt and Inch a very intelligent and civil man who takes a great interest in our work.

The name Uisge Chaoin, which the natives understand to mean light water has been derived from a holy well situated not far from the Chapel, the water of which on being weighed was found to be "the lightest in Ulster". Near the modern Roman Catholic Chapel stands the gable and a part of the side walls of the Capella of Uisge Chaoin and around them a small grave yard, in which the grave stones exhibit the names of the principal Septs of Inishowen.

I was moved by various emotions upon viewing this grave yard which encloses the ashes of Prince Eogan the first Christian convert in Inishowen, and of fifty generations of his descendants; and these emotions were heightened by viewing the princely figure of MacLoughlin, the eldest branch of his descendants, who is now the actual possessor of the old grave yard and of the field in which the celebrated Uisge Chaoin or Clarifont springs". (August 27, 1835).

"Poor MacLoughlin, who wrote the article on Burt Castle and the Greenan, died last spring of the cholera, as did his brother a few days after him. They were both classical teachers, and the eldest not 23 years old." (Sept. 27, 1835).

"We are now in the capital of **Fanaid** Though Inishowen is divided from it only by a narrow arm of the sea the natives look upon themselves as a different people and speak of the Inishonians as a debased and demoralised people. And yet the

men of Innishowen, are of the two, the more estimable." (**Rathmullen** 30 Aug., 1835).

"The inhabitants of **Fanaid** have gotten the name of being a rude people, and for that reason the citizens of **Rathmullen** (which was anciently the Capital of **Fanaid**) deny that they are themselves **Fanaidmen**."

(**Rathmullen**, 30 Aug., 1835).

"We crossed (**Mulroy Bay**) and proceeded Southwards to the City of **Carrickart**, where we procured a comfortable lodging in the best house which that Great Town can boast of, a thatched house, a storey and a half high we slept feverishly all night, for a broken pane admitted the cold breeze. (**Dunfanaghy** Sept. 5, 1835).

"I am very anxious to visit the fertile island of **Tory**, the inhabitants of which have no religion, die as they come into the world, without the imposition of the hands of Bishop or Priest, and would be more rejoiced at seeing one wrecked vessel than all the men of God in **Christendom**. So the **Dunfanaghy** men assert, but it is not easy to believe them." **Dunfanaghy**, 8 Sept., 1835.

Mac Sweeney na Doe and the **MacSweenies** of County Donegal.

" A man, tall and stately, three women and some children accompanied by a hampered ass, some greyhounds and other dogs, and, I think a goat That is **MacSwyne na Doe** and his family, the heir of **Doe Castle** and the **Sinsear** of the **Clann Suivne**, who though he retains all the high notions of his forebearers, has been obliged to exchange the sword and the battle axe for the budget and the soldering (saudering) iron, . . . the only badge of his nobility are now his greyhounds and dogs which no petty game keepers have dared to deprive him for **Captain Hart** treats him with

great respect and delights to hear him romancing about the daring achievements of Sir Malmurry Mac Swinnedo, from whom, in a direct line, he is the fifth in descent.

... I asked the fisherman if I could call him back to converse with him about his family and he desired me to go down to his own house and that he would make signs to him to return.

On entering the house my eyes were astounded at the sight of 2 able-bodied men (with thighs as thick as those of two fat bullocks) playing with deafening sound, the one upon the bagpipes, the other upon the fiddle. On enquiry I learned that these were the two sons of MacSweeny who had been, for the last month employed in Captain Hart's house.

When the father arrived at the door of the fisherman's cabin, he, (equipped in his professional attire and carrying about him the implements that characterise his profession) looked in at us with that good humour and ease which travelling gentlemen are masters of, and with a countenance which spoke his descent from a goodly race.

... He then sat down and told me his story, the misfortunes of his family, how he came to be a tinker and lastly his pedigree up to Sir Malmurry MacSwyne-Doe, which runs thus:

1. Sir Malmurry, the father of
- 2 Donogh More, father of
- 3 Morogh, father of
- 4 Donogh Oge, father of
- 5 Torlogh, father of
- 6 Emon, now the senior, aged 61.
- 7 Donogh
- 8 Torlogh.

He refers to his relative, Morogh MacSwyne of Machairemore in Boylagh, for a confirmation of this pedigree, and asserts that every old Milesian from Fanaid to Ballyshannon acknowledge him to be the senior... He is in great expectation of

discovering Horn Head because Captain Hart told his youngest son that the Mac Sweenies (Swynes) were unjustly deprived of that part of Doe." (Sept. 5th, 1835).

"Yesterday we removed from Dunfanaghy... on the road we were overtaken by Donnell, Mac Torlogh, Mhic Owen, Mhic Brian, Mhic Torlogh, Mhic Shane, Mhic Donogh Mac Swyne, of the race of Godfrey Na Bunoige MacSwyne of Doe, who is most intimately acquainted with this coast and from whom we obtained a great deal of information." (Sept.- 11th 1835).

"To-morrow will be Sunday, and I expect to be able to see some of the MacSweenies. They are a most glorious race, warm-hearted, humane, obliging, manly and honourable and easily distinguishable from the other tribes by the peculiar cast of their physiognomy." (Ballyconnell Sept. 13, 1835).

(Kilmacrenan) — "This was a theatre of great sectarian fury until the year 1810 when Manus O'Donnell aided by a few humane Protestants succeeded in the restoration of peace." (Letterkenny 18th Sept., 1835).

THE INAUGURATION STONE OF THE O'DONNELLS

"One of the sappers (?) wrote in the Kilmacrenan Name Book that the O'Donnells were inaugurated at the Hill of Doon but Manus (O'Donnell) says that the O'Donnells were crowned (elected) within the old church (of Kilmacrenan) and that the stone on which they stood and which had on it the impression of a foot and other ornaments was to be seen there when he was a boy (circa 1775). Some suppose that the stone was stolen, and that it is yet preserved but Manus states that it was destroyed by a Mr. MacSwine, who having changed his religion, became a violent hater of everything Irish. He tore down a great part of the old Church to obtain

building materials and destroyed all the ornamented stones in the neighbourhood, . . . it is probable that the inauguration stone of the O'Donnells was originally placed on the Hill (recte Rock) of Doon, but the annals afford sufficient evidence that it was in latter times, at least, in or at the Church of Kilmacrenan. Manus saw it under the North-East window of the old Church." (Sept. 18th, 1835).

The town of **Letterkenny** is in the middle of **Glensoolie**, and yet the inhabitants deny that they are Glensoolien, that appellation being applied to the wild yet distilling inhabitants of that Glen from Scarve Sollus to the source of the river. (Raphoe Sept. 30th, 1835).

"**Drumbo (Stranorlar)** is now the Castle (as the peasants style it) of a Sir Edmond Hayes, a name which sounds plebeian on my ears, as his fortunes were not won by the long bow or the gallows-glass axe, but by usury and prudence. This shows what a wild sort of philosopher I am, to look with veneration at the fortune and castle of the ancient hangman or hanging man and cut throat, and to despise those acquired behind the counter by a patient and persevering accumulation of pennies and white shillings. And why should not the physician who receives his fortune in isolated sovereign pieces be as profusely sumptuous and as open-handed as he who receives the golden shower at once—a shower which he never earned by the sword or dagger, but which flowed upon him from his sublimely rascally ancestors? One will answer that the money which one obtains in isolated small sums will be hoarded, because it is human nature to do so! No matter Irish property is now variously held—by night's service, by Knight's service, by fealty—by **soccage in capite et cætera**, but we must respect all. The O'Muldories and O'Can-

onans, men of ancient noble blood (if nobility consists, which I doubt, in robbing, burning, maiming, blinding, imprisoning for life, putting away wives and procuring others, building monasteries and making pure perpetual donations of land to the men of God, making pilgrimages to Lough Derg and Iona—and putting on the habits of monks, and dying conquerors of the world and the devil) are now no more! Their very name is buried in the tomb of non-existence.

These were succeeded by the O'Donnells—a proud and haughty race who disturbed the North and South for five successive centuries, and by so doing, proved a most formidable check to Terminus and Ceres, and finally left their progeny a pennyless, proud race, stalking in the Glens of their ancient principality with pride and wretchedness and deriving sustenance not from the rich fields of Raphoe but from the blue mountains and hungry glens of North and West Tironnell." (Sunday night, October 12th 1835).

. . . Romantic **Gleann Finne** in the heart of a purely Irish country. We entered a Chapel Yard and soon found ourselves surrounded by a crowd of the old and long headed natives of Glen Fin—the remnant of the men of Moy-Iha, who were driven to the mountains by the dominant party of James I . . . I am glad to say that the Irish of Glenfinn do not hate the descendants of their Scotch conquerors, though the Scotch keep them at a most unnatural distance. A very respectable farmer, who lives close to the Church of Donoghmore, could not tell me the name of the Parish Priest—nor direct me to any one individual of Irish descent who might be acquainted with the country! It is all the fault of the preachers!" **Ballybofey**, Oct. 5th 1835.

"I had never thought there was any part of the Sacred Isle

so extensive and desolately wild or so thinly inhabited as the region through which we have wandered since I wrote last. It is sublimely barren, and at night poetically gloomy and horrible." (Dunglow Oct. 12th 1835)

"We veered a little to the South-West with an intention of visiting the townlands of **Min A. Ghebhann and Dumhaidd (Doocy)** where the most intelligent natives of the parish reside . . . on the road we met with crowds of women of the mountains loaded with stockings going to the stocking fair at **Dunglow** and who bore deep graven on visages the effects of poverty and smoke. (Glenties, Oct. 15th 1835).

"**Glencolumbkille** . . . what their forefathers thought, believed, said and did, a thousand years ago, they think, believe, say and do at present. They are primitive beings who have but few points of contact with the civilized world. They hate, as indeed, they should, the travelling preacher, and cling to the notions of their fathers with dignified independence. Social immobility seems to be the dominant trait in the character of these people, who live in what may be called the extreme brink of the world, far from the civilization of cities, and the lectures of philosopher. (Oct. 20th, 1835).

The inhabitants of these glens and mountains are fair specimens of what the Irish were in times of yore. They have no idea of comfort; the smoky cabin of the cottier is perhaps not much less comfortable than the slated house of the grocer or the leather-cutter; the wet potatoes that grow in the holm or bog serves them for food, and if they can procure buttermilk for kitchen (as they call it) it is deemed a luxury; everything else (eggs, butter, oats, pigs, sheep, etc.) is sold to make the rent or to buy tobacco. It is probable that their condition is worse now

than in ancient Irish times before the introduction of peace and the potato; for then they had little or no rent to pay except a few methers of butter in the year; and the population being small they were well able to live upon the little corn produced by the rich spots in the mountains and glens, and upon the milk and flesh of the cattle fed upon the mountains, adding now and then the creachs or preys carried off in triumph from their lowland neighbours. Fish also was a great source of support. (Oct. 25th, 1835).

"Have reached **Mount Charles** . . . we shall have a fair here to-morrow and a pitched battle between the McGroartys and the O'Dohertys . . . there being no appearance of the battle, the police flocked from their stations to prevent it. we left the town as soon as the showers were over, and so lost a view of the spunk of old time." (Oct. 20th, 1835).

"A week at **Pettigoe** and another at **Ballyshannon** will now finish this dull county." (Donegal, Oct. 24th, 1835).

Though my letters are wild as the mountains in which they were written, still I do feel myself very sober in thought, and exceedingly (excessive) in love with truth even to the prejudice of all national feelings. But when you consider the subject, the difficulty of my task—that of seeking through the dim vista of tradition some faint glimmerings of truth—and the incoherency of rude tales which I have attempted to digest, you will, perhaps feel convinced that I could not be at all times serious or sober in expression.

(Pettigoe, Oct. 28th, 1835).

TALTA TÍR CONAILL niall Ó Domhnail

"Sin ríad faobair, rín ríad
fir i Móin Mór Doire lochair . .
Feargur, Domhnall, Ainmire,
asur Ainri Mac Duac."

Ir corúil gur é Ainri
Mac Duac an taoiread mór
veipeannac a bí as Seantuaata
Tíri Conaill. Maire pé le linn
Colum Cille. Bí pé com cumar-
ac rin gur cuiread ar éirinn sin-
ealaig Clanna Néill é. Sin an
uóig a bí as na boic rin lena
éactai a cúiteam do fear bols;
so víreac mar bhonnac na Sar-
anaig, lá ba moille, céim ptoipe
nó iapla ar an éipeannac ábalta
a cuiread cloc pan Impieadé
uóib.

Bí Ainri ina cúl taca as
Clanna Néill an Tuaircirt pan
am a raib ríad as cur a vtreire
ar éirinn. Tíro pé as Cúl
Dreimne uóib. Tíro pé le
heógan Déal uóib. Tíro pé le
reanaicmí Ulaó uóib. Lá Doire
lochair éuroig pé leo veipead a
cur le réim na sCruinead pa
cír éuró. Nil iompá ar Sean-
tuata Tíri Conaill óna lá féin
amad. Ir aic do toirad, a éirinn!
Crocad Ainri so sraonamad ar
éirioib coibneara Néill na naoi
nSiail.

Deir na reanróimicí so
mba tíri Cruinead an mórcuro
de Cúigead Ulaó anallón, ac
gur fir bols ir mó a bí riap ó
loc feadbail asur ón Dearnar
Mór. Bí ríad trí tuata móra
ann: Tuat Captraip i noúice
Oilig asur pán Logán; Tuat foc-
mainne asur Tuat Suairpe riap
ó loc Súilige so Drobdair. Ba
iad na príomáiteaca a bí acu:
Oileac as an muintir toir; Sall
asur lonhall (pá Ror Soill) as

an muintir éar; Ear Ruair asur
Mag sCéinne as an muintir éar
ba leir na fómarais Tuata Toir-
aige. Bí Dún Daloir i toirais
com hiompáiteac ar a uóig féin
le hOileac na Rí.

Ní raib as luét an treant-
raoil ac mirtá a déanam ar
huine asur bí pé ina fear bols
acu; asur ní doncaíonn luét
raibe cé acu dia nó daonai a
bí pan fómarac bhraoac. Ir é mar
cá, ir corúil, gur haimmíotó Sall
asur lonhall asur Dún na
nSall ar Sall na heorpa (luét
na Sallia). Ir iontac so raib
foémannig taob éar de loc
Súilige asur foémannig eile ar
na Saileoin: aicme de Sall
laigean. Bí na Saileoin ar an
treant ba raigóiréa in éirinn
le linn na tána. asur, a tálta
rin, bí aicme i Ror Soill a bí
sápta ar a seleara airm:

Ar Sall ir lonhall na ndro
Clearraige Monac mórgas,
San laige do éogad ceann,
Ba horde uógaib éipeann.

Le linn pátrais Mic Cal-
prainn gab clann Néill naoig-
illaig reib ar an méro de
Cúigead Ulaó atá i toirí Con-
aill anoir. Tíro ríad a mbealac
aneap éar an éirne asur trío an
Dearnar Mór, asur anrin rmac-
taig ríad an Logán asur na cinn
tíre ríor ar an dá taoib de loc
Súilige. Roimn tríúr acu an
uóice sabála rin eataréu. Fuair
eógan uóice Oilig (Inir eógan)
asur éanna an Logán (Tíri éan-
na), asur tugad an taoib éar de
loc Súilige asur den Dearnar
Mór do Conaill Sulban. Tugad
Tíri Conaill ar a éurpean den
uóice asur Cineál Conaill ar a

phloct.

Bain ré céato bliam ar phloct Conaill a tseir a cup ar cladais cúl na tíre. Dhúis ríad riar fá na cuanta do réir a céile, tar éis dá ceann an córta. Chroim nár mór an airt a bí as Conall é féin ar a talta gabála i bparó ó tuair. Marbair i mDhéirne é, agus ir ann a had-lacair é. D'fag mac dó, Éanna Bogaine, a ainm ar iar-Deirceart Tír Conaill : Tír Bogaineac (Báineac). Smaectais fionnua dó, Ainmire Mac Séanna, an taob tíre atá roir luadpor agus Saot Dobair : Tír Ainmireac iar. Teannair crása an pionrúir ar na Seantuaia inr na Rora.

n.p. Da é Ainmire an céato Arto-Rí a táimis de Cineál Conaill. Ón cú céato amac bí dá aicme ar na Conallais : Cineál Ainmireac, ó Ainmire Mac Séanna, agus Cineál Luad, ó Luadair Mac Séanna. Mac deapára do Séanna a bí i gColum Cille. Maip Cineál Luad i réim i tseirceart Tír Conaill, roir loé Súilise agus Saot Dobair, agus hainmníot an oúice uatu. Da oíot na Dálais agus na Daoiseallais agus na Doctais, agus fó-aicmí eile. Da de Cineál Ainmireac Muinter Canainn (nó Canannain) agus Muinter Maoltopair agus na Galldobairis. Da leo an tseirceart.

Ar fearó ré scéato bliam (ac amáin le linn Dálais agus a mic) bí ceannar Tír Conaill as Cineál Ainmireac. Táimis oét náro-Rí den aicme. Dhíreac Cineál Éanna ar a gcuadct, agus clamaip Cinent Conaill agus Cineál Eogain a céile fán agus Cineál Eogain a céile fán oíreac. Ar fearó céato bliam

bí an Logan ina éir tuadail le cogair, ac fá deireac minneac páirt de Tír Conaill de.

Fearac caia fuíteaca roir Muinter Maoltopair agus Muinter Canainn fá tiarnar Tír Conaill, nó fá deireac sup éir is leoman lároir Droma Tuama. Flaitceartac ó Maoltopair, agus sup reiror ré Muinter Canainn den traol ac ra deas. Níor fás ré féin don oíre cumarac ina oíar, agus o'as flaitiúnar Cineál Ainmireac leir . . . Ruó ronraíot é i rtaip na gciníot so tóaimis an fear mór i gcónaí ar deireac. Caillac na Seantuaia le Mac Duac. Muinter Maoltopair le Flaitceartac, na Dálais le hadó Rua.

Sa bliam 1197 tugair tiarnar Tír Conaill do na Doctais. Copain ríad coicir é. Cuais ríad fearc in araicir Seáin an Duille Móir (DE COURCEE) so Doire, agus minne Seán ríad oíre féin agus ar na Daoiseallais agus ar móran eile o'uaip le na gConallac a cuais ar an eadtra leo. Ir é an céato tráct eile atá ar an tiarnar so raib ré as éisneacán ó Domnaill (1200).

Nuair a bí an tiarnar as Muinter Maoltopair cónais a bflata i scoir éirne (fá Déal áta Seanais). Cónais Muinter Canainn i scoir Súilise (fán Congbail 1), agus coinnis ríad raortalta anpin nuair a táimis Cineál Luad i réim. Bí na Doctais i scoir finne (fá Arto Míobair), na Dálais i scoir leanainne (fá Rát Mealltain), agus na Daoiseallais i ttuata Topais (fá Clac Ceannacra).

I tóir ré na nDálac ra tiarnar bí fó-réim i tTír Conaill as na haicmí reo leanar :

1.—Níor hainmníod Léitir Ceanann ó Muintir Ceanann. Tá an f o c a l C E A N A N N (-ceannfionn) coitianta in ainmeada áiteann: an Ceat-rú Ceanann, na Tonna Ceananna, agus rl. Bí an t-ainm LEITIR fírinneach agus réimniú bainneach leir (corúil le rliab, tír, agus rl.). Cuireadh an rliail i bfeiríom ar an áitíocht.

Muintir Dhríleáin i bFánaio; Clann Mhic Siolla Samair i Ror Sioll; Muintir Maoleagáin i Muintir Muirtheadis agus Muintir Conaill agus Muintir Toirdeart i Limirtéir Cineál Luag (bairneacht Cill Mhic Néan-áin anoir); Clann Mhic Loinneacháin i nSleann Finne; Clann Mhic Dubáin agus Clann Mhic Fionnaeadais agus Clann Mhic Feargail ar an logán. Bí talta ar an logán go fóill as aicmí de Cineál Éanna: Muintir Saimeleadais agus Muintir Laifeartaig agus Clann Mhic Conallais go háirithe.

Fao ip bí Cineál Conaill as bhrí irthead ar an logán bí Cineál Eogain as rmaectú Ulaó tug ríao a n-agaíto roir ear Loé feabail ar Oilead. Cuais ríao ear ar an dá áoib de na Speir-fní, go ríab reilb acu ar talta Loé neadae agus na banna; agus fá deirthead fíao ríao Loé laog. Bí dá mhóraime oircuran mar an gcéanna: na Miallais agus Clann Mhic Loélaínn. Bí bunúr na Miallae i rTír Eogain. Tíao an dá aicme go fíochmar le céile ar fead na gíanta, ac fá deirthead ríaoir Drian (Caáa Dúin) ó Néill ríapnaí Clann Mhic Loélaínn i scaé Cairnéirge (1241), le curíu Maoleaclaínn úi Dornnaill, agus ní táimis

Clann Mhic Loélaínn ina neart ar rín amaé ní ba mó, cé gur marí ríao go líonmar in Inir Eogain. I ríur an lóu céao rmaectais na ríocartaig Inir Eogain oo na Conallais, agus ear éir móran acraínn cuirthead úííce Oílig irthead le Tír Conaill. Míle bliain ón am a cum ríurí mac Néill naogíallais ríogaéct úóib féin in lairar Ulaó fágaó íomlán a talta bunaró as ríioéct Conaill. 2.

Tá ré cíaoe go leirthead ac gur é Dún na nSall rííom-baile Tír Conaill le linn na nDálae, gur ann oo gíat a bí cónaí ar a bflaá. Ba gearr uil-is an real a éar ríao ann. Ceir-re céao bliain a marí ríao i réim i rTír Conaill. Caé ríao corraó mar le dá céao bliain oen ríéimre rín ina gcónaí i Murbae beal éirne; real éile anrín i mbéal áea Seanaig, real i nDún na nSall, agus real i leirthead. Ba é leirthead a bpríombaile i noirthead a réimé. Bí ceir-re rííombaile ac áoó Rua ó Dornnaill: leirthead ar túr, ríul ar éann an coaó air; Dún na nSall anrín, ac go mb'éigean oo a rííaoir; beal áea Seanaig anrín, go ríí gur buailead ear an éirne é; agus

2.—Bí ríaoine áoirthead náí ear Tír Conaill a éabair ar Conrae Dún na nSall, ar an ríeala nae ríab Inir Eogain in am ar bí ina páir de Tír Conaill. Ní hamlaíto mar bí. Spíeig Tír Conaill oo réir mar fáa a flaa reilb ar talta. Cuirthead an logán (Cineál Éanna nó Cineál Moáin) irthead léi ar túr agus anrín Inir Eogain. Níor é Conall Sulban é féin a bí i sceir ríann ainn i noirthead ama ac a ríioéct. Deiríí "Conall

ir Eoghan” go coitianta ar Clanna Néill an Tuaircirt. Mar shampla, fuair Brian Bórbha “clor Conaill ir Eoghain.” D’éimíodh Conall agus Eoghan amach ar pluasadó, cé go raibí riamú caite ag cnuimhsa. Ir fionn go dtáinig na h-Éireann mar lúgaró ó Cléirigh ar “tír Conaill agus Cineál Moaín agus Inir Eoghain,” ac bí na tír rin iontao reanaimpearta. Ní raibí meap acu ar iuto ar bíe nac raibí míle bliain de aoir. Bí doo ó Néill agus Rúraí Ó Domhnail ina mbail len coirte a minne fioppú ar éiríodh tír Conaill do Rí Séamur le condae a déanamh oi. Ir iao éiríodh a tuairc an coirte rin na éiríodh atá as Condae Uún na nGall anoir (ac amáin de go raibí Doirce i tTír Conaill). Rinnead “Condae Tír Conaill” den tír ina diaio rin (in éagmar Doirce) agus minnead pfiomhaile na condaeo de Uún na nGall. Da é an snár condaeo a luath ar a bphiomhaile, agus mar rin tugad “Condae Uún na nGall” éiríodh am ar Condae Tír Conaill. Oá noéanao na Gall pfoadain le Mall garb, in ionaio Rúraí, beao léithear ina baile condae ó túr, agus beao “Condae Lifiir” ar Tír Conaill inniu, agus beimir ag tpoio rán léiríú!

Daile an Mhóta fá dteiread. Bí
barlaí agus ríor coisrte aige
i gcairleán loch Iarcais. Píll
Rúnaí ar Óin na nSall i nOisrte
Ceann tSaile, ar an ábhar go raib
reilb as Niall Sarr ar Leir-
dear.

Nuair a fuair na Dálais tair-
nar Cíor Conaill dainsinís a bfla-
ta iad féin ar an Éirne o'fonn
brieadó amac ó deap, mar nac

faib bealaí roim acu tar Cíneál
 Eogáin. Cuip an dara fear acu,
 Domhnall Mór, a rmaíct ar fo-
 tar Connaíct (go Corriphlaib)
 agus ar feara Manac agus ar
 Oirghialla go clár na Míde
 Anuar go haimpir. Tarlaíis an
 fíona cónaíis ríad i nDún
 Murbais : cairéal cruinn a faib
 baile timpeall air, ar nóir Oilí-
 níor éim ríad don cairleán go
 tóí an lú éadó. fuair a éoiríis
 tairíis tír Conaill go gineapá-
 ta a éósaíl túir ceapnaí agus
 bábúin ar an nor Noimannaí. Sa
 bliain 1423 éós an dara niall
 Sairb cairleán Déal áta Sean-
 aís. Anrim féim níor tréisead
 Murbad ar fáo. Anonn ra éadó
 túirí a ollam le tairna tír Con-
 aill naí faib ac óá óóíis ar
 Murbad : panaíct ann nó éaíct
 ar. Níl don tréíct ar Dún na
 nSall rna hannaíol to tóí fur
 éós an éadó doó Rua an máim-
 írtir ann i 1474. Ír é an doó
 Rua céanna rin a éós cairleán
 Dún na nSall ar túr. Éós Má-
 ur (mac a míc) cairleán leíthir
 i 1527. Ír ann a éim ré Deata
 Coluim Cille. Ír ann a fuair ré
 báir.

In ainmhir Zofiaró Uí
Domhnaill tug Muintir Canaínn
iarrfaíó a tseacht i dtreir aifir i
oifir Conaill. Ac buail Zofiaró
iad, le curiú mhuir mhc Seap-
cilt (an fear a tpoio pé as
Cheatrán Cille fá deoró), agus
níl iompá leo ar rin amaí. Sa
treantaol, an muintir a bí tíor
bí riad tíor. Ní hé amáin gur
cuiread Clann mhc Loclaínn ar
apo-ceanann Éireann, ac níor
fágaó tairinnar tuaithe féin acu.
D'éirig na Dochartaig or a
scionn in Inir Eoíam, agus
Muintir Duibíoríma agus Clann
Daeró. Níon tós a sceann de

Cineál Ainmíreac ó ríocht tair-
nar tír Conaill uachtar na Gall-
cóbairis—agus d'éirigh ríocht
ar an aicme ba Uonmáire i ríthí
Conaill i n-ádh na nDoctarac.
D'éirigh gur fearaí an “cob-
air” dóib!).

Sa 13ú céad bí tairnar as
na Daoigheallais ar iarthar tíre
uile, ón maoil ruair go loc iar-
cais. Meac a réim le teac na
ngallóglac. Agus Domnall ós ó
Domnall anall Clann tSuidne
ar Albain (1258) agus focair ré
i bhfánao iad, ríocht ré Muintir
Dhírléain ar tairnar na dúice
dóib. Táinig ríocht i ríocht ar
tuata Toraige ina ádh rín, in
ionas na mDaoigheallac. Bain
ríocht dúice eile de na Daoig-
heallais i mBaineac, agus ir cor-
úil go raib ríocht as teac i
ríocht ar na Roran ruair a dhír-
eas an ríocht.

Ó tair ríocht bí tír Con-
aill ríocht ina tuata. Ríocht
na tuata ina mbailte diatais
agus ríocht na bailte arir
ina leathbailte agus anrín ina
scéatúnac. Ba iad na ceat-
túnac an ríocht ríocht i ríocht
eas an ríocht. Leasó
tuairim ar 1288 mór-achar de
talam tairbeac ar an ceatún,
nóir móir nóir lú ná rín do
rír feara an talam ra cean-
tar.

Tá cúntar Saeilge ar
tuata tír Conaill ríocht ra
CALENDAR OF STATE PAP-
ERS (30-11-1607), agus luaitear
ann an méir ceatúnac tal-
am a bí i ríocht acu. Áirítear
Tuat Sleann: Éilge (“30 ceatún
iní fá foc agus 13 de ríocht,
de nóir Clainne Dálais”); Tuat
Dálac (Sleann Saeilge, Coir
Leanninne, Doir Oóir, Loc
beata, Baile na Ríocht agus
dál baile na Ríocht); Tuat Cúil

Mic Néanain; Tuat tír Éanna
(46 ceatúnac); Tuat an Logáin
(49); Tuat Aró Míochair agus
tíir Dheair (36); Tuat Sleann
Finne; Tuat Daoigheallac; Leat-
Tuat Cloc Ceannaola; tír Tuata
Fánao; tír Tuata Toraige; Tuat
Baineac (37); Tíoch Céad Uí
Doctarais (Inír Eogáin). Fágad
tíir Ádh ar an áiríoch, ac tug-
ad le ríocht go raib Tuat Sleann
Finne agus Tuat Daoigheallac
agus Leat-Tuat Cloc Ceannaola
“fá gnáthearaí agus fear ionas
Uí Domnall.”

Do réir ríocht an rí-
ta tír Conaill a ríocht i Leat-
beair i 1608, bí ríocht le ríocht
scéat ceatún talam ra tír uil-
is, gan ríocht ar na talta ríocht.
Luaitear na ríocht a bí ar
ríocht na scéatúnac rín. Tá
ré ríocht ar na tuaracála
go raib níoir móir ná an cúigí
cúir de talta ríocht tír Con-
aill i ríocht na nDálac (a ríocht-
is agus “a ríocht agus a lúit
leannúna”); an cúigí cúir as na
Doctarais; an cúigí cúir as
Clann tSuidne; an cúigí cúir
as an Easlaire; agus an cúir
eile, fá ríocht, as Daoigheall-
ais agus Gallcóbairis agus
ríocht na ríocht.

Baineac cúir na nDoctar-
ac de Cineál Eogáin, ar ríocht.
Léiríonn ríocht ríocht Clann
tSuidne gur foc na Dálais go
ríocht (le talta Daoigheallac) ar
cábair na ngallóglac. Bí tairnar
na nSaeil ríocht ríocht i ríocht
leir an Easlaire. Cúiríoch fear
acu rín baile fearaí lea
anam lá ar bí dól mbuaité
ríocht áiríoch ríocht beata é,
agus ríocht ré go ríocht in áirí-
ríocht na nDoct dól n-áiríoch
ré an dól cúir.

Bí “talta ríocht” as ó
Domnall dól ríocht an Éiríoch

agus an Ombaoir (Maḡ Éine nó Maḡ gCéinne), an "mile acra" a ḡfuil tráct go minic oḡtu rna fíorriacám a pinnead in aimir na Plántála. Lena coir rin, o'féadofad pé ríoc agus oaoir-
teanóntaí a cur ar na talta rléibhe. Da leir an o'poinríad uilig, ó Sliab na Cíce go Sliab Tuair agus ón Múirn Deas go Doirí Deata.

Cónaig tairíḡ na nDoar-tac ar na Dearta, agus bí cair-leán eile acu ar an Inir i Loé Súilíḡe, ar an Cúl Mór as Loé Feabail, agus in íoctar tíre. Bí cornaí an bogaíḡ acu ar an leatínir. Da iad Clann Oaero (Oáibíro) a gcúl taca in Inir Eoḡain.

Cónaig Mac Suibne Fánad i Ráé Maoláin, agus bí cair-leán eile aige ar an Mlaol Ruair. Ní raib don daingean i o'ḡir Cónaill a ba láiríe ná Cairleán na o'Tuat, ceannárap míc Suibne na o'Tuat. Cónaig Mac Suibne Báineac i Raéain, in aice le Cuan Inbír. Bí tiarpar aige ar an oúice rin riap go Teileann, agus ir ina limirtéir a bí Cuan na gCeall. p'riomhíor na tíre. Cónaig ó Baoigíll i mBaile Uí Baoigíll, taob éar de Oún na nSall. Bí an t-ionad rin mar baile chúite aigé, agus an Crannóg Duí i Luadhor mar baile oúice. Cónaig ó Sallcob-air i gcoir Fínne, éar fá Deal-ac Féic (Baile bó Féic).

Bí talta na nOálac ar an Loḡán agus i mbarúnaect Cúll míc Néanáin agus in íoctar tír Aoḡa (san tráct ar na talta rléibhe, ná ar talta an tiarína ar an taob éar den Éiríne). Tá p'riomhailte Uí Domnáill luaithe ceana féin. I nveiréad an treaniréacta cónaig mórtairíḡ eile den aicme ar na bailté reo

leanar :— Miall Saib i gCair-leán na Fínne; Aoḡ Mac Aoḡa Duib i Ráé Mealltain; Caébarí Óg (rinreap Oálaiḡ na Slair-íḡe?) i Scaib Solair; Donnacó Scaite in na Rora; Seán Mac Mánuir Óis (rinreap Oálaiḡ Inir Saille) ar an Oún Duí, taob coir de Loé Súilíḡe. I nveiréad a raol cónaig an Níon Duib ar na Cairíḡáin, in aice Doirí, agus bí "p'riomárap" aici i Móin Seim-lín

i o'ḡur pé na nOálac éruin-niḡ riad filí agus lué léinn éarí oḡtu i mbéal Éiríne. Cor-niḡ ríioect na n-ollún gíeim ar a reantalta anrin go veiréad na oála. Bí talta as Muintir Uiginn or coinne Murbaiḡ, taob éall den Éiríne. Bí teac cónaite agus ceatnú talam i mBaile míc an Baíro as ollam Uí Domnáill le oán, agus bí teac aoréacta agus baile biat-aig (ceitíre ceatnúna) aige i gcoir Saot Deapa, i Leitir míc an Baíro. Cónaig Eoḡan Rua Mac an Baíro i gCúll Darríinn. Bí trí ceatnúna talam as Luḡ-aíó Ó Cléiríḡ i mBaile míc Rabartaig.

Cónaig na hEappaig i Ráit Doé, anuar go haimir na gEap-leanúna. Bí tuairim ar 29 gceat-núna de talta buirí acu, agus trian de oéadúim na tíre, agus ghára eile ar na talta eaglar-ta naé raib as riap do na mainir-treacá. Bí na fearainn eaglar-ta a ba mó irteac le heaglar Ráta Doé (35 ceatnúna). Bí 31 ceatnúna irteac le mainirtir Cúll míc Néanáin (ríor go taob na Maoile Ruairíe), agus cor-par le 13 ceatnúna irteac le mainirtir Eara Ruair (ríor go Loé Deapíḡ). Seantalta eaglar-ta a bí i gceantair Sleann Col-uim Cúlle uilig.

Sa 12ú céad éáinis na Manais Liata go hear Ruair. I r ina mainirir a haolacat tair-
nai Tir Conaill (ac triúr) anuas
go Tarlac an Fiona. Ó ainirir an
céad áda Ruair haolacat
teairnai Tir Conaill asur fear
Manac i mainirir Oir Poinir
i nDún na nSall. Roim ainirir
na plantála ví mainiriréada
eile as Oir Poinir ar an
Mácaire Deas (in aice Dún na
nSall), i mBaile Ásair—Caoin
(taob toir ve loe Súilge), i
Sill Ó tOmhair (taob tair ve
loe Súilge), i mBaile Mhí
Súibne na tUast, asur i bFána
Cárta i nDúice Mhí Súibne

Dáineac. Ví mainirir as Oir
Carmail i Ráe Maoláin. I r é an
ráe a tairtair mainiriréada ar
eaglaíir áiríoe eile, mar Cill
Mhí Néanán asur Toraí asur
Sleann Colum Cille, go raib
reanacra ortu as comairir
Colum Cille.

Duiread an reaniréad ar
rao i nDúice Céann tSáile.
D'imis formóir na tairiréad
cun na heoirra. Cuais na ras-
air ar a reanacat. Duiread na
"cniocá" cun na bpoitac. Éáinis
na talta "i láim an rí," asur
ráilead ar plantóirí iao ó 1610
amac.

Summary Of Thalta Tir Chonaill

Early inhabitants of Donegal not Pictish, but "Firbolg"; admixture of Gaill (Gauls). Three main tribes were Tuath Thardraí (Aileach), Tuath Fhochmainne (Rosguill) and Tuath Ghuaire (Assaroe). Last great chieftain, Aindi Mac Duach, helped Gaelic conquerors to subdue Picts.

Modern Donegal corresponds with the territory conquered in 5th century by sons of Niall of the Nine Hostages. The new Gaelic Kingdom was divided into three parts: Tir Chonaill (West of the line from Lough Swilly to Barnesmore); Tir Eanna (East Donegal); original Tir Eoghain, (Inishowen). Subjugation of Tir Chonaill tribes was completed in 6th century by Ainmire MacSeanna, first chieftain of Cineal Chonaill (descendants of Conall Gulban) to become High King of Ireland.

Two main branches of Cineal Chonaill were Cineal Ainmiréach (from Ainmire) and Cineal Lughach (from his brother, Lughaidh). Principal families of Cineal Ainmiréach were O'Can-

nons, O'Muldarries and O'Gallaghers. O'Cannons and O'Muldarries ruled Tir Chonaill until 1197 A.D. Cineal Lughach occupied district from Lough Swilly to Gweedore. Principal families were O'Donnells, O'Dohertys and O'Boyles.

Flahartach O Maoldoraidh vanquished O'Cannons, but died without heir. Lordship of Tir Chonaill passed to O'Doherty (1197). O'Doherty was slain by John de Courcey. Lordship then passed to O'Donnells. O'Donnells were supreme from 1200 to 1603. In 12th century the O'Muldarries were in occupation of Erneside, O'Cannons, Swillyside, O'Dohertys, Finnside; O'Donnells, Lennonside, O'Boyles, Cloghaneely.

Tir Eanna was subdued and occupied by Cineal Chonaill. Following a bitter struggle with Cineal Eoghain, the Lagan (East Donegal) became absorbed in Tir Chonaill. In the early 15th century the O'Dohertys occupied Inishowen. After 1,000 years the ancient tripartite kingdom of Aileach became the greater Tir

Chonaill.

Principal seat of O'Donnell rulers for more than two centuries was Murbhach (Murvagh on the Erne). Domhnall Mor (1207-41) extended his dominion over Fermanagh, North Connaught (to Curliews), and Oriel (to the border of Meath). His eldest son, Maileachlainn, helped Brian O'Neill to vanquish MacLaughlins, and thus probably cleared the way for eventual occupation of Inishowen by O'Dohertys. His second son, Godfrey, defeated a come-back attempt by O'Canons and a Norman effort at penetration. His youngest son, Domhnall Og, brought MacSweeney from Scotland as leaders of Galloglasses.

Donegal was capital of Tir Chonaill for only a short period. Niall Garbh II built the first Norman-type castle in Ballyshannon (1423). His son, Aodh Ruadh I, built a castle and monastery (1474) in Donegal. Manus O'Donnell built a castle in Lifford (1527) and made it his chief seat. Red Hugh abandoned Lifford, and later Donegal and Ballyshannon. His last seat was Ballymote. Rury returned to Donegal after Kinsale, for the reason that Niall Garbh commanded Lifford. Had the English recognised Niall Garbh, instead of Rury, Lifford would have remained the capital of the newly-formed "County of Tyrconnell," which became known later as County Donegal.

MacSweeney settled in Fanad (13th century) and gradually occupied Tuatha Toraighe (Doe) and Banagh at the expense of the O'Boyles, who had

ruled all West Donegal (Mulroy to Lough Eske). At the end of the medieval era O'Donnell chieftains and their sept and followers occupied more than one-fifth of the tribal lands of Tir Chonaill; O'Dohertys, one-fifth (Inishowen); MacSweeney one-fifth. One-fifth belonged to churches and monasteries. Remainder was in possession of the O'Boyles, O'Gallaghers, and others. District South of the Erne constituted O'Donnell's mensal lands. The whole extent of mountain pasture was grazed by tenants of O'Donnell.

The principal residences were—O'Donnell families : Lifford, Donegal, Ballyshannon, Castlefin, Mongevlin (on Foyle), Dunboy (near Burt), Ramelton, Scarrifhollis, Lough Veagh, Tory Castle; O'Doherty : Burt; MacSweeney, Fanad : Rathmullan; MacSweeney Doe : Doe Castle; MacSweeney, Banagh : Rahan Castle; O'Boyle : Ballyweel (West of Donegal), Crannogboy (Loughros); O'Gallagher: "Ballykit" (probably Ballybofey); O'Clery : Ballymagroarty; Mac an Bhaird : Ballymacaward and Lettermacaward.

The principal church lands were attached to Raphoe (including the bishop's mensal lands), Kilmacrenan and Assaroe. Cistercians occupied Assaroe Abbey; Carmelites Rathmullan Abbey; Franciscans, Donegal Abbey, Magherabeg (near Donegal), Balleeghan and Killydonnell (on opposite sides of Lough Swilly), Doe Abbey, and Fanaharragh (West of Inver).

Shore Dwellers and Sandhill Settlements of County Donegal

BY J. C. T. Mac DONAGH.

Mrs. Brunicardi in her Essay **Shore Dwellers of Ancient Ireland** (1) has published a very useful map of Ireland on which is marked the sites of known and partly explored middens associated with primitive dwelling places along the Irish coast. Thirteen of the fifty-six sites recorded are in County Donegal and whilst some of these have disappeared again into the sand dunes I hope to place on record some new sites which have recently been uncovered or are in the process of losing their sandy covering. The Essay, in so far as it relates to County Donegal, appears to be based on W. J. Knowles's report to the Royal Irish Academy (2) and on Sir B. C. A. Windle's explorations of 1911 (3). Mac Gill's paper (4) was my first introduction to this interesting study and the Dooley site, which he brought to my notice, has been examined regularly by me during the past four years.

Dooley's chief attraction, the grave mound, has suffered from much erosion during these years and hundreds of human bones have appeared and disintegrated quickly with exposure. It is now obvious that the slender monolith (fourteen feet by three by three), brought from the other side of the Gweebarra River, was erected as a pillar stone over a communal grave and that the smaller stones which continue to fall into eroded pits were used as packing to prevent the monolith from sinking into the sand built cairn. Beyond finding that flagstones were set horizontally and that small irregular granite pillar stones were set vertically it is impossible to say if there is any internal structural evidence in the mound as bones, stones

and sand are now mixed in confusion.

Two years ago Dr. Kerrigan and I visited Dooley and took a casual selection of the bones. These were sent to Dr. Wamsley of Queen's University, Belfast, and his report is now with the National Museum in Dublin. Our selection, taken at random, was found to represent age groups from children to elderly adults (5). That this mass inhumation was a hurried affair is revealed in the manner in which the corpses were dumped and piled—back to back heads to heads—the feet of one corpse across the chest of another—no two skeletons in a similar position. The hurried burial of such a large number of persons, of various age groups, is suggestive of a massacre or a plague and from the evidence associated with the mound I am convinced that this burial gave rise to a commemorative “**pattern**” which was celebrated over a long span of years; and that the memory of this “**pattern**” has only recently faded from the folk-love of the district.

Very Reverend John Canon Cunningham, P.P., of Glenties, told me that he remembered when **Stuckan Hill** was a gentle grassy mound surmounted by a solitary pillar stone which resembled the shaft of a large cross. From the Stone's appearance, and a faint echo of tradition he formed the opinion that the monolith was the remains of a Market Cross. Mr. John Boyle of Dooley told me that, in the olden times, whenever children were troublesome local parents threatened to “take them to the Fair of Stuckan,” by which it was inferred that they would be sold to the fairies at the annual

fair which the **good people** held on Stuckan Hill.

Coastal erosion and shifting sands have wrought many changes, down the centuries, in the Dooley plain and these are still at work. The plain is to-day a sand strewn rabbit warren which, year by year, is encroaching on what was once wooded country, tilled fields and human habitations. Rabbits and contrary winds were responsible for the breakup of the burial mound and the surface of several acres of sandy pasture around it. This has shewn that the burial mound is surrounded by a wide sub-strata of shells; in some places, upwards of two to three feet deep; and in other places with alternative layers of sand and shells. These layers are mostly cockle and periwinkle, but here and there they carry individual mounds of oyster, clam or mussel shells.

The burial mound was elliptical in shape—its axis 100 by 75 yards approximately—and around its base I found the remains of various fire sites associated with middens strewn with animal bones and teeth—ox, boar, and horse. At least two of these fire sites were used by Bronze Age peoples. At one of them I picked up a small fragment of a pottery mould, casting a wedge-shaped object, which had a fragment of coppery bronze still embedded in the pointed end of the mould. A few feet away I found two small fragments of a well fired crucible pointed base and a portion of the curved lip. Each was coated inside with particles of bronze. This site was strewn with minute bronze pellets and much of the decomposed matter which indicated the occupational level of this site was impregnated with powdered copper. It was at this site that a bronze brooch and several bronze pins were found some years ago. (6) Some bronze pins are still found there—so I was informed by people in the locality. On the opposite side

of the mound I found another site which was indicated by a very deep layer of charcoal in which was embedded the thickly walled base of a pottery vessel whose very irregular outside surface was glazed with a dark green glossy substance. On this site I picked up several small sheets of bronze, some beaten as thin as a sheet of fine brown paper; some bronze chain links, bronze brooch pins, a wooden bead and several flint chips (7). Flint chips are to be found all over this area, particularly, amongst the human bones, in the burial mound where I found a small well worked button scraper and also a well worked circular stone with an edged circumference and a flattened top and bottom. This stone is too well worked to be dismissed as a **rubber** and may have been closely associated with the burial ritual of this mass inhumation (8). On the other hand what may have been a Christian association with the burial came to light with a Latin Cross inscribed on a small slab which was found amongst the skeletons and which I have had placed, for safety, on the wall of Mr. Boyle's front garden.

My last visit to Dooley was made in May 1950 and I found that some of the sites were again being covered with sand. Nature having offered some of her secrets to the mid-Twentieth century archaeologists, and being ignored by them (9) has very wisely begun to conserve what remains of **Stuckan**—for the explorations of future experts in this science.

The most recent addition to the list of known Sandhill Settlements came to my notice when bathing at Rossnowlagh. A large part of the Golf Links there has the appearance of a raised beach towards which the present strand is receding quite rapidly. During the late Emergency, for instance, a **pillbox** was erected in the sand dunes and that portion of land which screened it from the sea has disappeared during

the last few years. Unfortunately as the erosion is vertical the middens are only apparent as a strata in the cliffs, out of which bones and shells may be plucked before they fall into the stony groin which fringes the strand. Near the pillbox site I took a circular quern from this strata and Captain Hamilton promised to take charge of it if the owner of the land would permit him to bring it to Brownhall. With the exception of the Finner district this portion of the Donegal coast has never been fully examined and from descriptions received locally Wardstown, near Ballyshannon and the coast on each side of Donegal Bay have the remains of numerous settlements.

The following is a list of sites which have been examined in County Donegal together with notices of some of the objects found in them.

Buncrana — Sandhills between Buncrana and Fahan—several pieces of flint, neatly dressed flakes; hammer stones; fragments of pottery; top of saddle quern.

Kinegar Bay — (near Rathmullen) primitive hearths consisting of large water worn stones, much altered by fire; shell heaps of different varieties; rough wedge implements some of which were carefully worked. No pottery nor traces of metals.

Doagh Beg — Shell heaps; pieces of pottery of a very early type; bone implements.

Doagh More—Numerous kitchen middens and stone circles which may have been hut sites. Long Cist grave examined by Dr. O Riordain, of University College, Dublin.

Gortnugoge Bay— Cist burial.

Glenalla — Hoard of bronze axes.

Portsalmon — Numerous hut sites containing shells and bones together with crude instruments. Some coarse pottery. A few hammer stones and a few worked flints.

Rosapena — The hotel is

built on a prehistoric settlement. In the summer of 1909 a stone Cist was discovered in the sand dunes; fragments of pottery; bronze pins—some beautifully decorated; Red Deer's antlers with secondary work on them; pottery disks peculiar to the locality.

Sheephaven— Knowles does not mention the exact locality in which he found *Venus Verrucosa*; shells which are long extinct in the North of Ireland. Amongst the objects which he lists are glass beads and bronze brooches, a 17th century comb, Stone Age and Iron Age implements. The parish of Meevagh is extremely rich in archaeological remains. At Tranarossan I have picked up several pieces of flint and some more on the earth and platforms which surmount the very high sandhill which overlooks the Carrigart Catholic Church. From Glenree I have got a large collection of bronze pins, some coarse pottery several whet stones, pot boilers, a well polished stone chisel, and an early Iron Age sickle.

Dunfanaghy — Fifty sites "discovered not far from a small stream"—scrapers, borers, small axes, anvil stone, and some small pieces of coarse pottery. Bronze pins.

Falcarragh — The National Museum now has some of the bronze needles and a bronze ring which Knowles found in the Sandhills here. About a hundred years ago the Wybrant family of Ballvonnell House had a very large collection of antiquities from these sites. What became of it?

Ballyness— Flakes of quartzite, hammer stones, scrapers of chert, shale and felsite. The National Museum now has a pottery cooking vessel of the cranog type from here.

Maghermoarty: Bronze pins.

Innishboffin: Bronze brooch from its sand dunes now in the National Museum.

Bunbeg and Møghergallan — Crude implements of local hard

crystalline rock and some good examples of hammer stones and scrapers of this material. Two pieces of pottery with holes near the rims. Some Iron Age pottery from Maghergallan.

Islands of Gola, Innishinny and Illanaran — At Innishinny there are good indications of pre-historic man. Flint knives and split pebbles of crystalline rock. On the other two islands there are numerous shell heaps and sites which have not been fully examined.

Rutland Island—Eroded pits containing bones and teeth of various animals. Shells of oyster, cockle and periwinkle. Some hammer stones and pottery.

Maghera—Several hut sites, one of which was bounded by a circle of stones. Some well worked hammer stones and several pieces of flint, broken bronze pins, and a comb decorated with concentric circles.

Narin and Portnoo — This district yielded a vast amount of flint objects when explored by Knowles and others fifty years ago. As recent as last summer I picked up a variety of flint objects (most of which were never used) and amongst them a partly finished arrowhead. The sites lie between the golf links and the strand. See Bibliography of Donegal. Part 11.

Loughros More and Rossbeg —The sands are constantly shifting here and last year a very fine arrow head was picked up. Amongst the finds made in this area are, hammer stones, stone anvils, portion of a bronze cauldron and a stone lined cist.

Maghera — Dr. Evelyn of Ballymena, Co. Antrim, made a very fine collection of flint objects from these sandhills.

Bundoran, Finner and Coolmore — Knowles acquired over three hundred objects from this locality of which only a few remain in this country. These included arrowheads, borers, scrapers, knives, etc., as well as some pottery. The Stone Age implements were made from

flint and chert. This district is worthy of an exhaustive survey.

Although the antiquity of the **Shore Dwellings** and **Sand-hill Settlements** in County Donegal affords the greatest harvest to the Archaeologists it is important to point out that the scarcity of **Iron Age** objects is due to the rapid disappearance of that metal when it comes in contact with sea air and sea sand. There is, however, plenty of other evidence available which shows a very intimate continuity between these primitive settlements and our modern health resorts.

NOTES

1. Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries Ireland, (1914).
2. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 3rd Series Vol. VI No. 3.
3. Journal R.S.A.I. Mar. 1911.
4. Journal of the Co. Donegal Historical Society Vol. 1. No. 1 pp 27/31.
5. The following is a precis of Dr. Walmsley's report :

The bones found at Dooley, mainly skulls, though they kept their shape, when covered in the grave, were, almost inevitably bound to disintegrate (when removed) due to the drying effect of the air and the eroding effects of the fine sand and salt which had already removed the harder outer ivory surface. By the time they had reached Dr. Wamsley they were disarticulated and the teeth which were of Ivory consistency furnished the best clue. Stripped of its technicalities the report says that all the bones were human bones buried by inhumation and not incinerated.

(a) Vault of an adult skull aged about 40 years—typical Irish type of Mediterranean origin with powerful neck muscles such as occur in boatmen. Teeth normal, no evidence of disease.

(b) Frontal region with nasal bones of a child about 3 years. All the milk teeth erupted, first permanent molars in their crypts

(c) Almost complete skull with lower and upper jaw, of a girl about 14 years—the lower jaw outshot—upper jaw not so well developed.

(d) Upper jaw of a child of 6 years; jaw and teeth larger than usual in present day children—spacing between the teeth wider.

(e) Teeth of an adult 40 to 50 years of age has considerable development of the cement, but no caries.

(f) Similar to (e) of an old adult. Caries (i.e. breaking down of tooth substance) was absent from all the teeth examined but it must be admitted that diseased teeth were very unusual in this part of Ireland down to forty years ago; due to the use of hard meal in oat bread. Although the bones furnish no evidence to suggest a date of burial, Dr. Walmsley was of the

opinion that it was not very ancient and suggested that an effort should be made to discover if the burial place was remembered as being used in the time of some famine or general epidemic disease.

6. Journal of D.H.S. Vol. 1. p 131. No. 1. p 31.

7. I also found the following objects within a radius of three to four feet of this site: an iron penannular brooch, a piece of bone decorated with concentric circles and ferns which may have been part of a comb; a bone pin; a flat piece of bone with a rivet hole in it; a sandstone spindle whorl; and a whetstone.

8. Joyce *Social History of Ancient Ireland*. Vol. 1. p.100.

9. See final paragraph in Mac Gill's paper Journal of Donegal Historical Society op. cit.

Thrills and Disappointments of a Donegal Collector

BY ANDREW LOWRY.

(First President of the Donegal Historical Society)

Everyone who has a hobby that involves the acquisition of objects associated with it must often experience those delightful feelings which arise from the search for and final obtaining of some rare or desirable specimen which, at once, enriches their collections or adds to their knowledge of the subject concerned. There are people who affect to despise the amateur collector whose aim is to add specimen to specimen, whether the hobby be coins, stamps, silver, glass, coloured prints or any of the other popular subjects of modern collectors. This attitude can be justified if collection is not accompanied by, at least, a reasonable amount of knowledge of the subject and a desire to increase it. When this is combined with an eager enthusiasm it gives a

wholesome pleasure and can become a very definite enrichment of life. It is not always true to say that a "little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

Having been a student collector for well over three score years I have naturally experienced many pleasant thrills and some disappointments of varying degrees of intensity—a few of which I shall try to tell you about in this short paper. Like most schoolboys the first objects in my collection were of a very miscellaneous character—marbles of the rarer sort, buttons and even empty spools were not despised. Old coins gradually replaced these early objects and, at first, were mostly poor, worn specimens of the old Anglo-Irish Harp coppers, American cents, Indian annas etc.—absolute rub-

bish from the point of view of a moderately advanced collector.

One day, however, a Scottish visitor to our home presented me with a small silver coin about the size of a 3d piece which was one of a hoard found in an iron chest during quarrying operations in the South-West of Scotland. None of us, at the time, knew what it was, but, it happened that my father was getting an Illustrated History of England in fortnightly parts and the part which came a few days later dealt with the reign of Edward 11. It had an almost full page illustration of the coins of that foolish and tragic king and there, to my great surprise and delight, I saw my little coin clearly represented — a penny struck at the ecclesiastical mint in Canterbury. Experts said that the coins found were part of the army pay for the great campaign against Scotland which ended so disastrously for Edward on the field of Bannockburn. It was, probably, captured as booty and hidden by someone who never returned to get it. The acquisition of this little coin, almost co-inciding with the means of its identification gave me such a thrill of interest that, from that day to this, any coin that is associated with great historic events or outstanding period of human progress never fails to evoke the liveliest interest and pleasure.

Years afterwards I stood, one day, on the battlefield of Bannockburn with the little coin in my pocket and amongst the many thoughts which crowded into my mind was one something like this—Is the dust of the man who might have earned my penny, as the wages of a day's bloody work, mixed with the soil of the fields around—those fields enriched with the blood and bones of slaughtered Englishmen and patriot Scots?

Another thrill of a somewhat similar character was experienced when later I picked up with my own hand, during farm-

work, a small black disc, which, when cleaned and deciphered (with the aid of a small numismatic manual) proved to be a half-groat of Henry VIII struck at York by the all-powerful Cardinal Wolsley. It bears the hat and keys—the symbols of his office and it will be remembered that one of the charges brought against him when he lost the royal favour was that he had the presumption to put his insignia on the King's coin. Anyone knowing something of Wolsley's career—his rise to power and brilliant accomplishments followed by such a tragic fall can hardly look upon and handle this little coin without hearing—as it were across the centuries faint echoes of those pathetic words put into his mouth by the immortal dramatist, "O Cromwell, Cromwell, had I but served my God with half the zeal I served the king, he would not in mine age have left me naked to mine enemies."

It is not without interest to speculate a little as to how this coin came to be lost on a hillside in East Donegal. Did some soldier of the Elizabethan campaign wander far to the North-West and drop it, or, perchance some settler or planter from the following reign have the misfortune of a hole in his pocket? At any rate I am sure its loss gave someone a thrill of a different kind from what I felt on picking it up and later finding it an incentive to the study of a most interesting period of Irish and English history.

These two coins laid, as it were, the foundation of a collection which not only includes representatives of practically every ordinary issue made in these islands but also of that magnificent series of Roman First Brass issued by the Emperors of the early centuries of the Christian era, the twelve Great Caesars, as they are called. These coins bear in high relief the splendid portrait busts of the great Masters of the Roman world on one

side and on the other an almost inexhaustible wealth of allegory and symbolism.

Whilst I quite appreciate the value of the unique position of Ireland's not having come under the direct influences of Roman occupation—leaving it for centuries an almost original specimen, as it were, of a very different culture and way of life—yet there are times when I could wish that there was a Roman Camp on my farm, and a fragment of Roman masonry or tessellated pavement in my back yard! I remember, years ago, having entertained some slight feeling of envy of a Cumberland farmer through whose land passed Hadrian's famous Wall, at a point where it was carried over a little river on a massive bridge, when I watched his pigs and poultry feeding from Roman querns and other hollowed and sculptured stones which were lying around—debris of a great Imperial undertaking to mark and guard the Northern limits of the Empire. At this point I think I should interpose a few remarks on the recent finding of a Roman coin near the site of the ancient abbey of Conwall by young Master Kelly (1). He is a very lucky boy, indeed, and I should like to congratulate him on his most interesting find and I hope that he has, already caught something of the fascination of old coins and ancient history. I notice that some writers in the local newspapers suggest that the finding of this coin might be evidence of the presence of Roman occupational sites near Letterkenny, but I am afraid that the finding of a single coin here is much too slender evidence on which to base an opinion of that sort. Roman coins have been found in many parts of the world where they were accidentally lost in modern times and it would not be at all surprising to hear of them being found in Iceland, Mexico or Australia, "regions Caesar never knew."

I, myself, had an experience which may illustrate the possibility of such erroneous impressions being formed. For the past thirty-five years or so I have carried in my pocket a large First Brass coin of the Emperor Titus. This coin has a special interest for me as a farmer as it has on its reverse side a symbolic design referring to the importation and distribution of grain at a time when the home supply had become quite unable to feed the growing population of Rome and large quantities were imported from North Africa and elsewhere. The periodic arrival of the corn ships was an occasion of great public rejoicing and deemed worthy of commemoration on the coinage. It was one of their ships, by the way, bound for a Roman port from Alexandria on which St. Paul was wrecked.

Footnote. Son of Superintendent T. Kelly, of the Garda Síochanna

Now one day I lost my favourite coin and for days I searched for it till at length, to my great joy, like the woman in the parable, it was found. But, supposing I had not found it and that fifty, one hundred or five hundred years hence it was picked up by some sharp-eyed schoolboy we could imagine an enthusiastic member of the Donegal Historical Society of the future contributing an article to the Society's Journal entitled **An inquiry into the evidences of the Roman occupation of Argey Hill, with illustrations and Map!**

In this connection I might also mention that in addition to odd coins several hoards of Roman coins have been found in Ireland. One, found in 1854, near Coleraine, had upwards of 1500 silver coins in it. In 1827 a hoard of 300 was found near Bushmills and in 1830 another of 500 coins was found in the same district. (2) It is generally supposed that such hoards were the result of raiding parties crossing the Irish Sea and pillaging the rich Roman Settlements that were left un-

protected by the withdrawal of the legionaries to defend the heart of the Empire when the Huns were hammering at the Gates of Rome.

But, after all, coins, even the oldest of them—and all the glory and grandeur of Greece and Rome are but things of yesterday in the long story of Man. I know of few things more calculated to give one a worth-while thrill that to stoop, when crossing a ploughed field and to pick up a stone axe or a flint arrowhead dropped from the hand of some hunter or worker many thousands of years ago. These objects show that even in that dim an distant morning of the world our ancestors in Ireland were both craftsmen and artists. How interesting to think that so much of their work has survived the suns and storms, the frosts and snows of many centuries—not to mention the myriad possibilities of accident and damage in the more recent times of mechanical cultivation?

My first introduction to the study of the evidences of prehistoric man in my district came when a country carpenter—a species almost extinct now-a-days—used to work at our place. He had a small farm in a neighbouring townland and being an observant character had picked up several unusual-looking stones which he brought to me, knowing that I was interested in everything old and curious. I just knew enough to recognise them as Neolithic axe-heads and for years afterwards, in the course of his work around the district he obtained many others. These formed the nucleus of my collection which, at least, has the merit of being entirely local. Then one day my ploughman found one on my own farm—the first to be found on it, as far as I know and a very fine one it proved to be. This was the precursor of numerous others found by the same man, by myself and by others during the past forty five years. There is

now not a field on my own farm nor a townland in the parish which has not yielded one or more objects made and used by our distant predecessors. Sometimes when in an imaginative mood I can see these former owners stretching dusty hands across the dim centuries to claim their old possessions. Then I look upon my collection with a kind of reverence—too often missing now-a-days, I am afraid,—in regard to these and other relics of the distant past.

For several years my collection did not include anything representative of the succeeding Bronze Age, until one day a neighbouring farmer told me that he had found on his land what he thought was a stone hatchet and he asked me to go to see it. It turned out to be a stone axe all right and in the course of talk I happened to mention that a later class of weapons and tools were made of bronze and that the earlier ones were somewhat similar in shape to the stone axes.

"Hold on a bit" said he as he mounted on a chair and brought down a small box from what is known in old country houses as the **half loft**. Groping through a miscellaneous assortment of old bolts, screws, nails etc he produced—an excellent Bronze axe of the earliest type with an evidently high proportion of copper in it. He had found it when cleaning out a ditch and had often thought of using it as a wedge for his grubber but did not think it just quite suitable! You can imagine what a double-barrelled thrill I got when he said "Take the two. They are no good to me". This was my first Bronze object and subsequent years brought me several more. One was from a tin-smith who had made ineffectual attempts

Footnote—Can any member of the Society give information about a hoard of silver coins found at Meencarriga, Ballybofev near the old Barnesmore bridlepath? (Ed)

to use it as a soldering iron! He told me that it was found when an ancient stone monument was being levelled to facilitate farming operations—a fate which befell many of our antiquities in this county. Unfortunately I was never able to trace any of the others or to get exact circumstances of their finding and so this item gave me both a thrill and a disappointment.

Another Bronze Age axe of the socketed type was dug up whilst a drain was being made on the line of march taken by the army of James II from his camp at Ballindrait to the Siege of Derry. I was solemnly assured by the previous owner that it was an ornamental final to one of the flagpoles of the Jacobite troops! This axe has some decoration consisting of circles, dots and radiating lines not very often found on Irish specimens. It is, at present, in the National Museum of Ireland.

For quite a long time these few axes were the only representatives of the Bronze Age in my collection, and I was constantly hoping that one day I would have the good fortune either to find or acquire a bronze sword which I always regarded as the most graceful and most beautiful weapon of antiquity. One day a local farmer stopped me in Raphoe Fair to inquire if I had seen the illustration of a bronze sword in such and such a paper, a few days previously. The sword had just been found in County Tyrone. I replied that I had and that I was very interested in it as it appeared to be a very fine one. "Well," said he, "I have one—the very same," and he proceeded to tell me how his father and a labourer were making a drain through a meadow sixty or seventy years before and had dug it up. It had been carefully preserved though its finders knew little of its age or archaeological interest. There it was—all those years in a house within sight of my home and I knew nothing of its existence.

That, you may be sure, was a thrilling story for me to hear in the prosaic and matter of fact atmosphere of an Irish fair day.

The climax of this story and its thrill came several years later as I walked home one night with the sword under my arm, feeling on the very "top of the world." Its owner, all along, had refused to part with it although I had offered a substantial sum for it, but, at last, growing old and infirm and having no direct successor he sent for me and generously presented me with it—knowing, as he said that it would be appreciated and preserved in the interest of Irish Archaeology. Tho' I am a man of peace, any old sword has always had a strange fascination for me and I have collected many—here and there—some with historic and National associations but, to me, this bronze sword was in a class by itself. Not only did it hold the grim romance of a weapon, and the fascination of antiquity, but it was, in itself a thing of grace and beauty—so enduring it promises to outlast countless generations of men.

I have never been able to come across very much to illustrate the period known as the Iron Age as most of the objects of this period have disappeared through rust and general corrosion. I had, however, the great pleasure of owning for a number of years one object of outstanding importance. Many years ago fishermen in Ballyshannon Bay dragged up an object which looked like a mass of shells and sand cemented together and attached to it was a human-like object of bronze. It passed into the collection of the late Hugh Allingham—a noted Donegal antiquary of his day, but it was not reported or described in any of the antiquarian publications of his day. After Mr. Allingham's death it passed to a dealer who assumed that it was a relic from one of the Spanish Armada ships wrecked off the Donegal coast. I happened to see it and although I did not

know just what it was I felt strangely intrigued with it and as the saying goes "chanced my arm" by buying it— not without difficulty as the dealer, somehow, had formed the impression that it was extremely rare and valuable. I felt vaguely that I had seen somewhere an illustration of a similar article and after considerable search I ran the illustration to earth, as it were, in the pages of the British Museum Guide to the Iron Age. There it was fully illustrated and described. The bronze part was the hilt of what is known as an Anthropoid short sword or dagger from its resemblance to the human figure. The blade of iron to which the mass of sand and shells had been attached had entirely disappeared leaving behind a perfect mould of itself in the material.

This acquisition gave me intense pleasure and led to a most interesting correspondence, not only with our own Museum officials, but also with those of the British Museum and with French authorities on this particular period as the object itself is of Continental origin rather than Irish; and was in all probability lost overboard from the ship of some trader or invader. Only a few anthropoid swords have been found on the Continent and as mine was the only one found in Ireland it was illustrated and described not only in the Journals of the Irish Antiquaries, but also in the French *Revue Archéologique* of the year 1926. I gave it on loan for a considerable period to the National Museum of Ireland and finally parted with it to that museum as I felt that this unique object should be housed in a National Collection rather than in a private one. The Museum officials, however, very kindly presented me with an excellent plaster replica just to remind me of an interesting episode of my collecting experiences.

I have had few thrills with ancient pottery beyond fragments from shore settlements,

but it has provided me with, at least one first class disappointment. Many years ago, seventy to eighty, I believe, some labourers, removing sand from a pit on a kinsman's farm, discovered a small stone-lined chamber covered with a flagstone—the usual type of cist, I suppose—and inside was a small pottery vessel with some dust in it and according to the finders, a few fragments of bones. The "wee bowl" as the men called it was taken to the farmhouse and after inspection, and a little serious consultation the finders were instructed to take it back and to replace it as they had found it and to cover all carefully again. Some years ago an antiquarian friend and I spent many hopeful hours probing with pointed iron rods the approximate site of the cist in the belief that we might locate the flagstone. It brought no result :

**And there it is beneath the lea
To tantalise the like of me!**

Many of you will remember that some months ago a ploughman unearthed a similar cist with two vessels near Bridgend and that the find attracted considerable public notice as it was considered of great importance. Like many others Mr. MacDonagh and I planned to visit the finder and the site and so one fine evening—in somewhat altered version of famous words : **We came. We saw. And we carried away!**

Yes, — actually carried away in a splendid and flagrant disregard of all rules and regulations, by-laws and Acts of Parliament. I think that we justified our action—to ourselves, at least—by feeling that we were securing the precious vessels from any or all possible risk that might be run had the more orthodox procedure been awaited. I, therefore, had the great privilege and pleasure of housing, for several weeks, these two interesting examples of the part played by the potter in the early burial customs of Ireland. One day, how-

ever, Mr. Hartnett of the National Museum, descended upon me and I instinctively felt that it was my sad and solemn duty to pack the two vessels as carefully as possible in a box, to carry it gingerly to his car and to wish him God Speed in his journey to Kildare Street—not without the hope, however, that one day I would see them again suitably housed and cared for in Donegal where they rightly belong.

This was my latest experience—or shall I call it adventure; but in closing I must say that not all my experiences and thrills have been concerned with prehistoric man or old coins. I have had many pleasant little thrills—say at an ordinary country auction—a **first edition** or an **out of print volume** tied up in a bundle of junk and should my last bid be followed by the auctioneer's **gone** it always brings a very satisfactory feeling if not a very exciting thrill. Similar experiences can, now and again be had when the lot offered is a bit of **Waterford**, a piece of old china, an old or rare coloured print and what a pleasant thing it is to find that you have become the owner of an attractive morsel of old Irish Silver after the auctioneer's fateful monosyllable.

In conclusion may I add that I have had other collecting ex-

periences not connected with such tangible things as Stone Axes, Bronze Swords, Roman coins etc.—things which you can label, keep in glass cases and show to interested friends. For some time past I have been collecting sets of interesting memories—memories of pleasant people with kindred tastes I have met—memories of famous and historic places I have had the opportunities of visiting—memories of the immortal works of the great artistes of ancient and modern times which I have been privileged to look upon with wonder and admiration—and so on. One can make an almost endless collection of this sort and I have much pleasure in telling you to-day that the last one added to my list concerns your town and its Civic Week. On Tuesday night after Dr. Hayes McCoy's lecture when I stepped outside this building, on my way home, I was thrilled and delighted to see the flood-lit front of your lovely Cathedral. It looked magnificent, soaring up in a gleam of glory against the sombre background of the night sky — **"a kindly light amidst the encircling gloom."** There, I said to myself, is something Letterkenny people and their visitors can look upon with pride and pleasure—**A thing of beauty** which memory can make **a joy for ever.**

NA DALAIGH

(The O'Donnells of Tirconail)

By Rupert S. O'Cochlain, Meenbanad, Co. Donegal

Paper read to the County Donegal Historical Society in Four Masters' Hall, Donegal Town, on Saturday, 15th July, 1950.

The bardic historians tell us that about 1700 years before the Christian era Golamh Milidh, or Golamh the Knight, who is commonly called Milesius of Spain, collected an invasion fleet of 30 ships to attack Ireland. He died, however, before D-day, so that the carrying out of the project devolved upon his sons who saw it through successfully. Having defeated the Tuath de Danann, the previous colonists, the Milesians took possession of the island and set up Eber and Eremon, sons of their dead leader, as joint monarchs. As the brothers did not agree they divided the kingdom between them. Even this was not satisfactory as dissensions sprung up and Eber was slain. Eremon thus became sole monarch and from him are descended, with few exceptions, all the High Kings of Ireland. One hundred and twenty sixth in the line and fifty second in descent from Eremon was Niall Naoig-hiallach, or Niall of the Nine Hostages, who reigned from 379 — 405 A. D. He had many sons. Of these, Laoghaire was Ard Ri at the coming of Patrick in 432; Eoghan became the ancestor of the O'Neills and Conall Gulban (who was fostered at Ben Bulbin in Co. Sligo) of the O'Donnells.

Conall Gulban and his brothers conducted a campaign in West Ulster that made them masters of the territory comprising the present county of Donegal. This they divided, Conall receiving the district west of the Swilly and Barnesmore. A struggle for supremacy between Cine-

al Chonail (the descendants of Conall) and Cineal Eoghain (the descendants of Eoghan) ensued. Feuds and wars raged for 1,000 years before the Lagan (Raphoe) and Inishowen were finally incorporated in Tir Chonail.

Conall Gulban quickly entered upon his new domain and became the founder of one of the greatest Houses in the long history of our country. From him have sprung no fewer than 41 saints, 10 Monarchs of Ireland and a host of lesser nobility.

It was at Siodh-Aodha, now Mullaghnashee, close to the town of Ballyshannon, that Conall Gulban first met St. Patrick, and not near Tailte in Meath as is commonly supposed. The following is a description of the meeting from the Tripartite Life of the Saint:—

"Returning from thence (Ardfortadh near Ballymagroarty) he (Patrick) came to that beautiful hill called Siadh-Aodha, situate on the margin of the river Erne, near Eas-Ruaidh, where at a public meeting he met Conall, son of King Niall the Great and brother of King Laoghaire, and enriched him with the happy patrimony of his blessing. He also blessed Fergus, son of Conall (who devoutly sought his blessing) placing his hands on his head with delay and great devotion saying 'From thy seed shall be born a son of blessings, who shall be enriched with the treasures of science and wisdom, and who shall be a prophet of the Most High, and a burning and a shining lamp; from whose mouth no intentional falsehood shall ever escape.'

And he bestowed his blessing on his country and its fortresses, churches and rivers."

It was not long before the Saint's prophecy was fulfilled, for to the wife of Fergus's son, Feilim, was born a child that shed lustre on the Church, his people and his country; one whose fame and work extended beyond our shores. This was Columcille, patron of Cineal Chon-aill, our greatest National Saint next to Patrick himself and, broadly speaking, the first O'Donnell in exile!

The incident of St. Columcille surreptitiously copying a book of St. Finian and the latter demanding the return of both book and copy is well known. Here we have the first case of copyright being invoked in the country! Columbkille's refusal to part with the copy brought the dispute before the Ard Ri, who gave his famous judgement "to every cow her calf and to every book its copy." This decision did not please the Saint and a battle resulted in which the King's forces were defeated with terrible slaughter. Columbkille became grieved at all the bloodshed and took upon himself the responsibility for it. As a penance he submitted to perpetual exile.

The manuscript that caused all the trouble was a copy of the Psalter in Columcille's own handwriting. It was restored to him after the battle and ever afterwards became known as the "Cathach" or "Battle-Book." It was inherited by the O'Donnells, who guarded and treasured it as their greatest spiritual talisman. The belief was that if the sacred parchments were carried thrice around the army on the breast of a sinless cleric before battle victory was assured. It also played an important part in the inauguration of the Chieftains at the Rocks of Doon:—

Here he swore upon the Cathach,

Held aloft the willow wand,
While ten thousand tribesmen
hailed him

And awaited his command."

The MacGroartys were the hereditary custodians of the Cathach. Cathbharr O'Donnell had a magnificent silver and guilt shrine made for it about the close of the eleventh century. It was usually kept in the little church at Ballymagroarty, near Ballintra, where a secret crypt was constructed as a hiding place. In times of stress, however, it was taken to Tory.

The leading families in the country began to adopt surnames during the reign of Brian Boru (circa 1,000 A.D.). The earlier system was for a person to add the name of his father or grandfather to his own. Brian extended the more convenient arrangement by making it compulsory for each family to adopt a permanent surname. This was done by selecting the name of some distinguished ancestor and prefixing it by either "O" or "Mac". The change to the new system was gradual and almost a century elapsed before the surname "O' Domhnaill," anglicised "O'Donnell," was first taken by Cathbharr (died 1106), the great-grandson of Domhnall Mor who flourished in 970 A.D. In due course the surnames O'Gallagher, O'Cannon, O'Muldory, O'Doherty, O'Boyle, etc., made their appearance in Cineal Chonail.

The O'Muldorys and O'Can-nanans were the rulers of Tyrconnell before the rise to power of the O'Donnells. It was not until circa 1200 A.D. that Eigneacain was installed as the first "O'Domhnaill." He was followed by twenty-four others ending with Sir Niall Garbh, who was inaugurated in 1603.

The original home of the O'Donnells was on the Lennon at Ramelton but upon becoming Chieftains they established themselves at Murvagh on the River Erne. In the second quarter of the 15th century they built a Norman-type castle at Ballyshannon and about 70 years later transferred their seat to Donegal. Here they also built a castle which they subsequently

partially destroyed to prevent it from falling into the hands of the English. There is an entry in the State Papers under the date 1612 that refers to the removal of material from the nearby desecrated Franciscan Abbey "for the building of the Castle of Donegall." Four years later Undertaker Brooke received a grant of the property and his family built the edifice whose ruins are familiar to us to-day. It was constructed on the site of the original O'Donnell Castle and incorporated such parts of the latter as had survived. In 1527 Manus, the 21st. Chieftain, constructed a strong castle, known as "Port na dTri Namhad," at Lifford. From thence it tended to become the principal home of the family. Not a trace of it now remains.

Practically all the earlier Chieftains were interred in the Cistercian Abbey of Assaroe, Ballyshannon. With the removal of the seat to Donegal the Franciscan Abbey there became the family burial place. Heads of the Clan not buried in either of these places were :— Gofraidh (1248-58) in Conwell; Domhnall Og (1258-'81) in Derry; Niall Garbh (1422-39) in the Isle of Man; Aodh Ruadh (1592-1602) in Valladolid, Spain; and Sir Niall Garbh (1603-'25) in the Tower of London.

The noble part played by the Royal House of Tyrconnell in our country's history has been well chronicled. The name "O'Donnell" appears an aggregate of 288 times in the Annals of the Four Masters alone! It is not necessary, therefore, for me to dwell on the fate and fortunes of its members until their overthrow in the beginning of the 17th century. One point, however, is worthy of notice. Elliott O'Donnell states in his "The Irish Abroad," that Calvagh, the 22nd. Chieftain was created Earl of Wexford by Elizabeth when he visited London, and goes on to say that as late as 1911 the original Patent, bearing the Queen's signature, was in the

hands of a Birmingham gentleman who lent it to the Archaeological Society of Belfast. There is no mention of an Earldom having been conferred on him either by the Four Masters or Dr. O'Donovan, nor can I trace the title in Burke's "Dormant, Abeyant, Forfeited and Extinct Peerages."

Calvagh's brother, Sir Hugh O'Donnell, contested the Chieftainship with the former's son, Con, and held it against him. This became a sore point with the descendants of Calvagh as the coveted office had now passed to a junior branch of the family. This Sir Hugh was married twice. I will advert to his first marriage later. His second wife was Nuala, "an Ineen Dubh," daughter of James McDonnell, Lord of the Isles. Their eldest son was Aodh Ruadh (Red Hugh) who is considered to have been the greatest of all the O'Donnells. He was born in 1571, kidnapped and held prisoner in Dublin Castle from 1587. He made his sensational escape on the eve of "Christmas of the Star" (Epiphany), i.e., 5th January, 1592, and not the following Christmas night as is often stated. He was received with great joy by his people and upon returning to Tyrconnell his aged father resigned the Chieftainship in his favour. The young Aodh was inaugurated, with the usual custom and tradition, on the 3rd May of that year. He went to Spain to solicit help from a friendly monarch after the disaster of Kinsale and was poisoned at Samanco on 10th September, 1602, aged 30 years. He had married Rose, daughter of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, but left no issue.

Events moved rapidly after Aodh Ruadh's death. Sir Niall Garbh being the grandson of the elder brother of Sir Hugh O'Donnell and therefore of the senior line, always considered that he had been deprived of his birthright when the Chieftainship passed to his cousin. The

English were quick to seize the opportunity and, in pursuance of their well-known 'divide and conquer' policy backed Sir Niall Garbh against his kinsman. He, however, was playing a deeper game and when Aodh Ruadh died began to show his independence, declaring his intention of having himself inaugurated as "O'Domhnaill." This did not suit Dublin Castle and so the Lord Deputy found a less stubborn and less ambitious person for their schemes in Aodh Ruadh's brother, Rory. Henceforth they lavished their attentions on him. Sir Niall Garbh became more discontented at the turn of events. He retaliated by collecting his clansmen at Kilmacrennan and going ahead with the inauguration ceremony. Undaunted by this display the Government's next move was to create Rory Earl of Tyrconnell and Baron of Donegal (27th December, 1603). It took the wheel but four years to turn. Earl Rory who had been piled high with English honours and favours in 1603 was compelled to fly with Hugh O'Neill and a host of their kinsmen because of English treachery in 1607. He sailed out of Lough Swilly in September and sank to an early grave in Rome on the following 28th July, aged 33 years.

When Earl Rory fled his wife, Brigit, daughter of Henry 12th Earl of Kildare, did not accompany him but he took with him his infant son, Hugh, then 11 months old. The baby was well cared for, being befriended by the Archduke Albert, Governor of the Low Countries, who granted him a pension and as he grew up had him attached as a page to the Court of the Infanta Isabella at Brussels. Hugh adopted his benefactor's name in Confirmation and is usually styled "Hugh Albert" in contemporary records. He completed his education at the University of Louvain, joined the Spanish Service and rose to the rank of Major-General. He was a person of

much influence and standing on the Continent, being recognised as "The O'Donnell." We find him described as "O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrconnell, Baron of Lifford, Lord of Lower Connaught and Sligo and Knight of the Order of Alcantara." He desired to return to Ireland at the outbreak of the Confederate Wars but permission was refused him. He was sent instead to the Mediterranean where he was drowned in the summer of 1642. He left no issue.

Before passing from Hugh Albert it might be mentioned that a sister was born in Ireland after his flight of 1607. She was brought up in the Old Faith by her mother. Her grandmother, the Dowager Countess of Kildare introduced her to the English Court when she was 12. She made a great impression and became a general favourite, especially with the King. He felt sorry for her father and desired to make amends to her for the harsh treatment her parent had received. He accordingly bestowed a large sum of money on her and gave her the name of Mary "Stuart." Her grandmother too named her as her heir. A brilliant future was therefore assured. As was to be expected Mary had many suitors. Every inducement was held out to her to renounce her religion and marry one of the Protestant nobility. This she positively refused to do and thereby incurred displeasure of those in high places. Things began to look black as her name became linked by rumour with the escape of two of her prisoner kinsmen to the Continent. Mary was summoned to appear before the Council to give an account of herself. Being forewarned by a friend of what the consequences were likely to be she decided to provide for her safety by disguising herself as a cavalier and leaving England under an assumed name. In due course she reached Flanders and was welcomed at the Court of the Infanta. The fame of her exploit spread throughout Europe and

was applauded by everyone. On 18th February, 1627, Pope Urban VIII wrote commending her stand in defence of Religion.

Mary appears to have been a bit of a wild and romantic character by nature and at times her conduct was frowned upon by Hugh Albert. He had never heard that he had a sister and was somewhat incredulous about the whole thing. She frequently masqueraded in male attire and her behaviour generally did not meet with his approval. In July, 1631, he complained to Fr. Luke Wadding that Mary Stuart was an imposter defaming the House of O'Donnell by her conduct. He asked the friar to use his influence to have her exposed and punished. About this time she married an Irishman named Don John Edward O'Gallagher, by whom she had two children, both dying in infancy. Mary was now falling on lean times. Early in 1632 she was living in poor quarters in Rome and petitioned the Pope to alleviate her extreme want. What the outcome of the appeal was I do not know. Of her ultimate end there is no record.

Earl Rory's brother, Caffar, who accompanied him on the Flight was destined to follow him to his grave within a few weeks. His widow, Rose O'Doherty, subsequently married Owen Roe O'Neill.

The English had succeeded in breaking the power of the Royal House of Tyrconnell and effective steps were taken to ensure that it would not rise again. Its remaining members, deprived of their hereditary dominions and titles were transplanted as mere tenants to Connaught. But an O'Donnell is an O'Donnell to his followers, irrespective of his circumstances, and the descendants of the Chieftains continued to be afforded the same loyalty, respect and devotion by the old natives as if their rule in Tyrconnell had remained undisturbed.

Writing a little over a century ago Matthew O'Connor stat-

ed in his "Military Memoirs of the Irish Nation" :—

"The O'Donnells who remained in Ireland after the flight of the Earl lapsed into poverty and but few of them preserved any authentic trace of their descent . . . Ignorance and money, and the shameless compliances of dishonest heralds have framed pedigrees for them that have no foundation . . . The O'Donnells of the present day cannot by grants, inquisitions or other memorials trace their pedigree for five generations."

These were very serious charges indeed, but they did not go unchallenged. Quickly came Dr. John O'Donovan's vitriolic reply that it can be shown

"on the evidence of many monuments and memorials which Matthew O'Connor, son of Denis, son of Charles the historian, did not take the trouble to examine that the pedigrees of many branches of the O'Donnells now living in Ireland, and others living abroad, can be traced with certainty to the old stock of the O'Donnells of Tyrconnell."

The branches to which the learned doctor refers are those of Newport, Larkfield and Castlebar with offshoots to Spain and Austria. Dr. O'Donovan backed up his words with deeds and gave up his famous Appendix to the Four Masters, in which he proved beyond all doubt the genuineness of these O'Donnell pedigrees. He followed this up later with his monumental work "The O'Donnells in Exile"—one of the greatest documented family records ever presented to the public.

With the passing of Hugh Albert, son of Rory, Earl of Tyrconnell, the descendants of Sir Hugh O'Donnell and the Ineen Dubh became extinct in the male line. It is necessary, therefore, to turn to Con, son of Calvagh, from whom Sir Hugh held the Chieftainship. He had many sons but only three left issue. These were

Sir Niall Garbh, Aodh Buidhe and Con Og, from whom the families of Newport, Larkfield and Castlebar respectively are descended.

NEWPORT BRANCH

Sir Niall Garbh was married to Nuala, sister of Aodh Ruadh. She left him when he was "taken in" by the English and mortally wounded her brother Manus at Lifford in 1600. She later accompanied the Earl to the Continent. Her husband made his submission not out of love for the Crown but as a means of furthering his scheme for the recovery of the Chieftainship. He helped his new found ally to wage a ruthless campaign against the indomitable Aodh Ruadh. Mountjoy knighted him in 1602. When his kinsman died he commenced to show his independence and had himself inaugurated "O'Domhnaill" in 1603—an action that proved his undoing. He continued to lose favour until 1608 when he was arrested at Raphoe in June for his alleged participation in the Sir Cahir O'Doherty Rising of that year. He was sent to the Tower of London where he died in 1625.

His son, Manus, was a Colonel in the Irish Army, being killed at the Battle of Benburb in 1646.

Colonel Manus's son Rory migrated from Lifford to Connaught with a large band of followers circa 1654. This was apparently part of the Cromwellian transplantation of that period. They settled about Ballycroy, in the Barony of Erris, Co. Mayo, and their descendants are still known as "na h-Ultaigh".

Rory too had a son Manus. He also was a Colonel and fought against William at the Boyne and again at Aughrim. Tradition says that he lived first in South Ballycroy and later in the North of Ballycroy, beside the Owenmore River. He went surety for several priests at the time of their registration in 1704, his address then being Rosturk, a place between Newport and Mulranny,

on the north shore of Clew Bay. The Colonel was a person of distinction and is the subject of a poem by Cathair Mac Caba, in which the year of his death is given as 1736.

Manus had three sons, Charles Roe, of Newcastle, Co. Mayo, will proved 19th. June, 1770; Hugh Mor, died 1762 and Manus who died in 1767 leaving only daughters. The last named, then living in Dublin, emulated the example of his nephew and Conformed in 1764, as did his eldest daughter, Ellinor (who married Caesar French, the noted duellist) three years later.

Charles Roe's eldest son Manus was born in 1713. He entered the Austrian Service at an early age, rose to the rank of Major-General and was created a Count of the Empire by Maria Theresa. He returned to Ireland, died without a male heir on 21st. December, 1793, and is buried at Straide Abbey. His brother Lewis is also served in Austria where he attained the rank of Captain. He too came back to Ireland, settled at Killeen, Co. Mayo and died in 1822, aged 108 years. We find his son Manus dying of wounds in the British Service on the Continent in 1812—the first of the senior line to fight for the Crown since his great - great - great - great - grandfather, Sir Niall Garbh, came to an inglorious end in the Tower of London almost 200 years before. His second son, Lewis, lived at Ross, Co. Mayo, and died in 1841. The latter's son Charles (born 1823) was an officer in the Connaught Rangers and died without issue circa 1853. With his death the senior line is brought to a close.

We must, therefore, return to Hugh Mor, brother of Charles Roe, referred to above. He was probably the "Mr. O'Donnell of Newport" mentioned in Pococke's "Tour of Ireland in 1752". He married Maud, the daughter of Valentine Brown of Mount Brown, near Westport, and not of Brownstown as O'Donovan says. Her cousin John conformed

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in 1729 and was created Lord Altamont. His grandson, the 3rd. Lord Altamont was made Marquis of Sligo for his services in connection with the Union.

Hugh Mor had a number of sons. The eldest, Hugh, was unmarried. The second, Francis, had one son, Hugh, who died in the East India Company's Service without issue. The third was Neal Garve. He was the first of the Clan to embrace the Protestant Religion and is entered on the Convert Rolls under date 14th. November, 1763. It is not known what prompted him to take this course but it is believed that he was influenced by the example of his kinsman and neighbour John Brown, first Lord Altamont. It is with surprise, therefore, that we observe him donating a free site for the Catholic Church at Newport thirty-three years later.

Neal Garve had been a local magistrate for some time and on 2nd. December, 1780, was created Baronet. The same year he bought the Cong Estate, the ancient property of the Abbey of Cong. for a figure in excess of £30,000. On the 15th. July, 1785, he concluded the purchase of the Medicott Estate, also called Burrishoole Manor, and part of the O r m a n d property for £33,589-19s-4d. In addition he held lands under lease from the See of Killala and maintained a town house at 15. M e r r i o n Square, Dublin. This "fortuitous acquisition of wealth" has always been the subject of much speculation. Where the money came from to buy these extensive properties has never been disclosed and remains a mystery.

In January, 1792, a Danish warship was forced into Newport by storm damage. The entire crew was struck down with fever and most of them died. The captain, de Bille, was buried on 17th. March, military honours being rendered by the Newport Volunteers, under their Colonel, Sir Neal O'Donnell. He must have revised his outlook in the succeeding years as he played a

prominent part in the suppression of the Humbert Rising not much more than a decade later.

In 1766 Neal Garve (he had not yet been knighted) married Mary daughter of William Coane of Ballyshannon and had a numerous family. Their eldest son, Hugh, was a Lieutenant-Colonel of the South Mayo Militia and Colonel of the 110th. Regiment of the Line, while the next, James Mor, followed the dual occupation of lawyer and soldier. He captained a corps of yeomanry during the Rebellion. Their father paid high prices for the "rotten boroughs" of Donegal and Ratoath for them and both sat in Grattan's Parliament. They vehemently opposed the Union. Neither bribes nor so-called honours could induce either to vote for the bill.

Colonel Hugh married in 1798, whereupon his father drew up a deed giving himself power to charge the Estate with a sum of £14,000 to be spent on legacies for his daughters and younger sons and their descendants, besides an annuity of £3,000 to his widow. A tablet to the memory of Colonel Hugh O'Donnell in Newport Protestant Church gives the date of his death as 1st. September, 1798, although there is a record of him having spoken in the Irish Parliament on 22nd. January, 1799.

Captain James Mor was somewhat of a paradox. As a soldier he did not spare himself to suppress the '98 Rising. At the same time he turned up at the court-martial at Castlebar to defend the captured rebels with all his legal might. This was unpopular and led to a charge of high treason being laid against him by Rev. Dr. Benton, Protestant Chaplain to the Mayo Militia. A sworn enquiry followed and he was acquitted. He met an untimely end in a duel with Major Denis Bingham at Killanley Glebe, near Enniscrone, Co. Sligo, on 24th. September, 1806. He was aged 36 years.

Sir Neal Garve (1st. Bart.) died on 2nd. January, 1811. The

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following are extracts from his will date 10th. November, 1810, probate of which was granted forth of the Prerogative Court on 4th. August, 1813, to Dame Mary O'Donnell and Connelly Coan, Esq., widow and brother-in-law, respectively, of the said Testator, and Executors named in the will:—

Under the terms of the Marriage Settlement of my eldest son, Hugh O'Donnell, decd. and Alice Hutchinson, which settlement bears date 4th. Oct., 1798, I have power to charge my estates at Newport and Cong with the sum of £15,000 for my children and grandchildren, and I did so charge my sd. estates with £14,000 with interest at 6 per cent on the 8th. Dec. 1798, to be paid six months after my death. . . . I bequeath to my son Neal O'Donnell £10; to my son Connell O'Donnell £3,000; to my daughter, Lady Molyneux £10; to my grandson Hugh Henry Browne, eldest son of Dodwell Browne, Esq., of Rahins, £1,999; to my grand-daughter, Mary Anne Browne, daughter of sd. Dodwell Br. £5,000; to my grand-daughters Matilda, Louisa, Maria Browne, daughters of Dodwell Br. £1,000 each; sd. sums to sd. grand-daughters to be raised out of my said lands of Newport and Cong, and the interest thereof to be applied to their education till they reach twenty-one or marriage.

"On the intermarriage 8th. Nov. 1793, of my son James Moore O'Donnell with Debora Camac of Greenmount, Co. Louth, I conveyed to Trustees named in sd. Marriage Settlement the lands of Kilmactiege in Co. Sligo and the lands of Termon in Erris held by lease by me under the See of Killala. The sd. James M. O'Donnell died without issue and his widow Deborah, is entitled under sd. Mar. Setmt. to £480 out of sd. lands, which I hereby devise to my son Connell O'Donnell.

"Under the terms of my Mar. Setment, dated 1766 the Leases I held were conveyed to

Trustees in trust to rise the sum of £1,600 for my childrer: as I should appoint. I now devise sd. sum of £1,600 to Neal O'Donnell Browne and Hugh Henry Browne, my grand-sons, share and share alike, and if either die before the age of twenty-one, the whole to the survivor.

To my grand-daughter, Alice O'Donnell £100, and on Lady O'Donnell's death, the picture of her father, Hugh O'Donnell.

To Dodwell Browne, Esq. £100 as a small token of my regard for him.

To my beloved daughter-in-law, Deborah O'Donnell £50 to purchase a ring.

To my niece Mary O'Donnell, daughter of John O'Donnell of Newport Pratt, £500.

To Nurse Kelly, wife of Daniel Kelly of Newport Pratt, one annuity of £20.

To Mrs. O'Donnell, wife of my brother Francis O'Donnell, one annuity of £50.

To Connolly Coan, now of the City of Bath £300.

To Connolly Coan, his son, £100.

To John Coan, his grand-son, £100.

To my wife, Lady O'D. my carriages, horses, cows, plate, furniture and direct that all those legacies, except the sums which comprise the £14,000 which I have charged on my estate, shall be payable out of such personal estate as I shall die possessed of or entitled to, except my carriage, horses, plate, and furniture, which I hereby exempt and discharge therefrom—I make my dearly beloved wife, Lady O'Donnell, residuary legatee and she sole executrix."

A Codicil was later added making Connolly Coan joint Executor with Lady O'Donnell—any difference of instruction or interpretation being left to the decision of the latter. He also bequeathed to Lady O'Donnell his Right, Title and Interest in his freehold lease of part of the lands of Knockeerragh together with the same in the house and

furniture of No. 15 Merrion Square North, both for her sole use and benefit to be enjoyed or disposed of in any way she might think fit.

As Sir Neal's two eldest sons had predeceased him without male issue the title, estates and interest on mortgages passed to the third boy, Sir Neal Beag (2nd Bart.). He was instrumental in bringing the Cathach back from the Continent. Upon learning that it was lying in a Belgian monastery with instructions that it was to be delivered to whosoever should prove himself to be Head of the O'Donnells, he submitted a claim that was accepted. His twin brother, Conell brought the venerable relic back to Ireland and so, after its long repose in a foreign land the Cathach was once more restored to the family. Sir Neal Beag died in 1827 after making arrangements for a jointure to his widow (who was the daughter of Lord Annesly) and legacies for his younger son and daughters. His elder son, Sir Hugh James Mor (3rd. Bart.) succeeded him. His reign was a short one. He died of gunshot wounds on 29th July, 1828, whether by accident, suicide, or worse is not known. He too charged the estate with a yearly jointure for his widow and a legacy for an unborn child, that turned out to be a girl.

The 3rd Baronet's brother, Sir Richard Annesly O'Donnell (4th Bart.), born 1808, next got the title. He and some local merchants bore the expense of erecting a pier at Newport that accommodated ships up to 200 tons. Sir Richards's sister, Mary, became a Catholic and entered the Presentation Order of nuns in Galway. He, however, took religion the other way and was a bit of a "hot-Gospeler." O'Donovan in his "Ordnance Survey Letters for Mayo" calls him the "Darbvite Preacher." Despite this he presented Dean Waldron of Cong with 2 acres of land rent-free for a Catholic school in 1852.

He married in 1831 but was hard set with all the encumbrances on his estate to make any arrangements to secure his wife's wellbeing in case she survived him. He was not able to pay the amounts due to his brother's widow and child and was forced to sell the property piecemeal. In 1856 he disposed of 7,770 acres at Cong to Sir Benjamin Guinness. The thing must have gone very far as only a small fraction of the first Baronet's wide domains descended to his own son, George Glendinning O'Donel, who was born in 1832. Sir George was the fifth and last Baronet. He married a Catholic lady and it was probably at her instigation he purchased and donated the site for the Mercy Convent in Newport in 1884. Two years later he presented the nuns with two beautiful stained glass windows executed in Munich. With his death in 1889 the Newport Branch of the O'Donnells became extinct in the male line.

Sir George's niece, Millicent Agnes, daughter of his brother, Richard Alexander, who had predeceased him, succeeded to the property. She had married Edwin Thomas and he took the surname "O'Donel" by deed-poll in 1889. They had one son, George Frederick Thomas, an officer in the British Army who was killed in action on 16th June, 1915. He left a widow but no family. After the death of the parents (1933) she sold what was left of the place—Newport House and demense—to a Mr. MacShane, a returned American. He in turn sold to a Mr. Smith, an English businessman, who enlarged "the big house" and is now conducting it as "Newport House Hotel."

The Newport Branch still continues strong in the female line. The first Baronet's youngest daughter, Maria, married Dodwell Browne of Rahines, Castlebar, who is mentioned in the Will. She died on 22nd February, 1809, aged 36 years. There is a wall-tablet to her memory

in Newport Protestant Church and a cenotaph, about 80 feet high, in what were formerly the grounds of Rahine House—now divided among the tenants. It has inscriptions in three languages, Irish, French and English. She left numerous progeny. Prominent among them are the Alexander family, who until recently, resided at Imlick, Carrigans, Co. Donegal, of which Hugh O'Donel-Alexander, Esq., of London, the English chess champion, is perhaps the best known.

LARKFIELD BRANCH

When Sir Niall Garbh was arrested in 1608 his brother Aodh Buidhe was taken with him. The latter was, however, released the following year and received a grant of land in Kilmacrennan in 1610. He lived until 1649 and was called "O'Donnell" after the death of Col. Manus, of Newport, at the Battle of Benburb in 1646.

Aodh Buidhe's son John, entered the Spanish Service and died in 1655. John's elder son, Hugh, was the famous "Balldearg" O'Donnell.

"Balldearg" is, as the word denotes, a red spot or blemish about the size of a thumb-print, found on the body. It is recognised as the hall-mark of a "true" or "real" O'Donnell. Some of the older Donegal people do not refer to the spot as "Balldearg" but as "Balldearbha na nDálach," and translate it as the distinguishing or genuine mark of the O'Donnells, i.e. only those possessing it belong to the main line of the Clan! While the "Balldearg" is hereditary to the House of Larkfield it is not uncommon among certain Rosses families to-day.

Although Hugh Balldearg was born in Ireland he went into the Spanish Service at an early age and was known abroad as the Earl of Tyrconnell. He became testamentary heir to Hugh Albert, inherited the family papers and passed them to the Austrian Branch.

When the Williamite wars

broke out he desired to return to Ireland but permission was refused him as England was then the ally of Spain; and France, who supported James, her enemy. The Balldearg therefore, left Spain without licence, reached Cork four days after the Boyne, met the fleeing James at Kinsale and was recommended by him to Talbot, Lord Lieutenant and Commander-in-Chief, who had taken the title "Duke of Tyrconnell." The Irish immediately rallied to O'Donnell and Talbot became alarmed. He did his utmost to undermine the Balldearg's position and treated him scandalously throughout the entire campaign. With the failure of the Jacobite cause O'Donnell found himself in the unenviable position of being without either a country or a fortune. He was disgusted with the treatment he had received since his return to Ireland. He could not go back to Spain as he was a deserter. He was a soldier of fortune and so threw in his lot with the Williamites. Even this proved disastrous as shortly afterwards he was deprived of his commission because he would not take the Test. He was fortunate enough to procure a small pension and thereupon retracted his steps to the Continent. After a time he succeeded in overcoming his difficulties in Spain and once more re-entered her service. He rose to the rank of Major-General, dying without issue circa 1703/4.

John's second son Connell, who was James 11's Lord Lieutenant of Donegal, was next considered "O'Donnell" by the Irish. He married his cousin Grace, daughter of Rory who settled in Ballycroy.

Their son, Hugh, migrated from Donegal, first to Mullaghbane, Co. Fermanagh, and thence to Larkfield, near Manorbhamilton, in the County of Leitrim. The latter remained the family seat down to our times. Pocock met Hugh at the house of Colonel Foliot, near Ballyshannon, on the

26th July during his 1752 Tour. He describes him as :—

"... the head of the family descended from the Earl of Tyrconnell and that he has only leases, yet he is the head of the Roman Cathelicks in this country and has a great interest, is a sensible man, and well versed in Irish History, both written and traditional."

Under the Penal Code then in force no Catholic could hold land outright and a lease was limited to thirty-one years.

He first married Flora Hamilton, of Cavan, and upon her death, Margaret Montgomery, of Derrygonnelly, Co. Fermanagh, whose father was a Captain of Horse under William III. It is thought that he hoped by these strong alliances with influential ascendancy families to secure his tenure of the Larkfield Estates. He was idolised by the impoverished Irish of County Leitrim who, besides holding him as "O'Donnell," further respected him as one of the very few Catholics that succeeded in retaining any property at that dark period of our history.

Hugh was a friend and patron of Irish literati that included Seamus Maguidhir, an t-Athair Padraig O Coirnin and Feargal (Padraig?) Og Mac an Bhaird. He commissioned Maguidhir to compile the Poem Book of the O'Donnells, and thus saved for posterity this wonderful collection of Irish verse. The task was completed in 1727 and he handsomely rewarded the scribe for his work. The manuscript is now in the National Library, Dublin. In a poem addressed to Hugh by an t-Athair Padraig he is called "the alumnus of heroes," the generous son of Connell, who hoarded not his wealth, grandson of John, great-grandson of the bountiful Hugh, who was son of Con, who hoarded not his **plunders** (!) the wide-spreading oak which sheltered the poets and the feeble." Toirdhalbhach O Cearbhallain, the last of the Bards, was a frequent visitor to

Larksfield at this period, as were the harpers, Arthur and Hugh O'Neill in later years. The place was a shelter for priests during the Penal Days. Fr. Patrick Ward, Parish Priest of Drumlease, frequently took refuge and celebrated Mass there as often as possible in the circumstances. Hugh died on 28th November, 1754, aged 63 years, and is buried in the Franciscan Abbey of Creevelea, Dromahair, on the borders of Sligo. His monument is known locally as "the Earl's tombstone."

His sons, Connell and John, by his first wife, went into the Austrian Service. Both were created Counts. Connell became a Field-Marshal, Governor of Transylvania and was awarded the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Maria Theresa, while John rose to the rank of General. Upon their father's death the Larkfield property passed to Con, a child of the second marriage. He too was called "O'Donnell." He married Mary, the sister of Sir Neal O'Donnell (1st. Bart.) of Newport and his will was proved in 1774.

Their eldest son, Hugh, settled at Greyfield, Co. Roscommon. He was grandfather of Rev. Constantine O'Donnell, Vicar of Allenheads, Northumberland. This Greyfield branch has completely died out—the property being bequeathed to their Larkfield cousins.

Returning now to Hugh of Greyfield's brother, Con, who inherited Larkfield—he married Mary O'Connor, of Ballanagare, (sister of The O'Connor Don) in 1795. He strongly resented the restoration of the Cathach to the Newport family, claiming that the Chieftainship had been inherited by the Larkfield Branch and, consequently, they were the heads of the O'Donnells. His leases must have been far from secure as the landlord turned him out and handed the place over to his son, John—the only boy of the family that married. Hugh then went to live at Bally-

shannon where his aunt, Alicia, his mother's sister, was married to Dr. Shiel, of Shiel Hospital fame. He died on 28th August, 1825, and is interred at Creevelea Abbey.

John, who was given the Larkfield lands, was born in 1801 and became a Justice of the Peace. It is told that on one occasion Lord Leitrim, who was landlord of most of the town of Manorhamilton had, for some reason or other, locked the gates of St. Clare's Church in that town, and taken the key away with him to Donegal. When John heard this he saddled his horse, stuck a pistol in his belt and set out in pursuit. He overtook the noble Lord at Glenade and made him deliver up the key, so that Mass was celebrated as usual next morning (a Sunday). He died on 1st August, 1874 and was brought to Creevelea.

He left two sons, Hugh, who inherited the Greyfield Estate, dying unmarried in 1887, and John Jr., who was born in 1862. The latter was High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant of Leitrim, a member of its first County Council and a popular local magistrate. He died on 15th April, 1932, and was laid to rest in the family plot at Drumahair.

He had one son, also John, born 1894, educated at the Holy Ghost College, Blackrock, and on the Continent.

In 1942 the last Ulster King of Arms, who held his appointment under Letters Patent from the King of England, died. There could be no successor. The office was therefore reconstituted, renamed the Genealogical Office, laid to the National Library and that distinguished scholar Dr. MacLysaght appointed Chief Herald. One of his first tasks was to sift the pedigrees of the Irish Chieftains with a view to ascertaining what had survived. From time-to-time the names of those entitled to the title "Chieftain of their Clan" were published. On 12th September, 1945, the following official announcement

was made :—

"O'Domhnaill Clann Dal-aigh-O'Donell of Tyrconnell-John O'Donell, 37, Seapoint Avenue, Monkstown, Dublin."

This is the John referred to above. The Young Ireland Book Fair was on at the Mansion House, Dublin, at this time and Dr. MacLysaght had a very interesting pedigree of the O'Donnells prepared in colour and exhibited at it. This pedigree now hangs in the Heraldic Museum, Dublin Castle.

O'Domhnaill married Eileen, daughter of Alfred Riedlinger, of Plymouth and I am glad to say that they have a son, Aodh, born 1940, who, if we accept the bardic traditions of the old schools, is the 94th lineal descendant of Milesius of Spain that planned the invasion of Ireland 3,600 years ago!

Both the Greyfield and Larkfield properties have been acquired and divided by the Land Commission. Eamonn O'Tuathail writing in Vol. 111, part 1, of *Eigse*, 1941, says :—

"The O'Donnells no longer possess Larkfield. A few years ago the property was purchased by the Land Commission and divided into farms. The house at Larkfield was razed to the ground, and on its site has been built a house smaller and more suitable to the needs of the farmer who now occupies this portion of the Larkfield estate."

CASTLEBAR BRANCH

Once more returning to the 17th century, we find that Con Og, brother of Sir Niall Garbh, was slain at Donegal in 1601. His son, Colonel Manus, fought with Owen Roe O'Neill and might have lived till 1675. Manus's son, Calvagh Ruadh, was a Colonel in the army of James II. He is reputed to have been the first O'Donnell to have settled in Mayo. His son, Aodh, married the daughter of Tirlough O'Neill, who had been transplanted from Armagh to Oldcastle, Co. Mayo. Their son, Calvagh Dubh, lived, first at Old-

castle, and later at Aughty, Murrisk, on the South shore of Clew Bay. This Calvagh Dubh married Mary O'Donnell of the Newport Line and had three very famous sons.

The first was Manus of Burishoole, Co. Mayo, and the others were Joseph, who settled in Spain and Henry that went to Austria. Manus's son, Joseph, born circa 1751, joined his uncle in Spain, entered the Spanish Service, attained the rank of Captain, became involved in a duel and was obliged to return to Ireland in 1776. He then married and in 1871 went to his brother, Hugh, in the West Indies, where he died shortly afterwards. Hugh had been at Vera Cruz for some time and was still alive in 1798. Another brother, Charles, born 1760, went to Austria, rose to the rank of Major-General and was created a Count. He died intestate on 16th October, 1805, and his nephew, Joseph, son of the Joseph that had been in Spain and died at Vera Cruz, became heir under German law to the title and estates. This younger Joseph was born in 1780 and at the age of 23 set out to join the Count and Major-General in Vienna. He was detained at Hamburg and after a time shipped back to England with other British subjects. The experience appears to have turned him against the Germans for, although a lawyer by profession with a lucrative practice at Castlebar, he took no steps to establish his claim to his uncle's title and estate. He died in 1834 and is buried at Strade Abbey. His son, Charles Joseph, was a well-known barrister and Dublin Metropolitan Magistrate living in Leeson Street. He supplied Dr. O'Donovan with "important and original information" for the Appendix to the Four Masters. He died in 1901, leaving three daughters and one son, Manus, born 1871. The last named was a Captain in the Royal Engineers and unmarried in 1911.

It will be observed that the name "Niall" has never been used by the Castlebar Branch. This is a tradition and mark of disapproval of the conduct of Sir Niall Garbh (d. 1625).

SPANISH BRANCH

The O'Donnells of Spain, while ordinarily following the traditional profession of arms, found themselves swept along by the tide of politics and were destined to play a leading part in the affairs of the country of their adoption.

Joseph, of Mayo, born 1722, the founder of the Branch, was Colonel of the Regiment of Ultonia and eventually rose to Lieut. - General. His son, Enrique, born 1776, held a similar rank. He was created Count Abisbal and was Regent of Spain in 1812. He died at Montpellier, France, in 1833. His only son, Captain Leopoldo, 2nd. Count Abisbal, was taken prisoner at Alsuzua and shot in cold blood the next day. The title is, therefore, extinct. The first Count's brother, Don Carlos, was Captain General of Old Castile and Director General of Artillery during the Peninsula War, dying at Madrid, in 1830. His son, Leopoldo, was the outstanding figure in Spain in his time and he has been rated as one of the greatest of his race. He served in the army from an early age, winning rapid promotion. He was given the title Count de Lucena and the high post of Captain General of Cuba for his services in the Carlist war. He amassed an immense fortune while abroad, returned home, rose to the rank of Field-Marshal, became Prime Minister and conducted the brilliant campaign against the Moors that won Morocco for his country. This military victory made him tremendously popular. He was created Duke of Tetuan and it is said that he was presented with an artistic gold crown worth 5,000 piastres, by the Province of Allocante in acknowledgement of his political and military skill. He died with-

cut issue in 1837 and the title went to his nephew, Carlos, Marquis of Altamira, who was born in 1834.

The second Duke filled many offices, among them being Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador at Vienna. He kept up a close association with this country, corresponding with the Larkfield O'Donnells. He sent the following telegram on the occasion of the Centenary Celebrations of the birth of St. Columbkille, held at Garton, on 9th June, 1897 :—

"To the Lord Bishop O'Donnell, Letterkenny.

As an O'Donnell, I beg your Lordship to convey to all those assembled to-day at Letterkenny the expression of my heartfelt sympathy on this the 13th. Centenary of your Patron Saint".

Martin Brennan writing of the Irish Brigades in "Antiquities in 1859, says that :—

"their descendants in Austria, France and Spain are this very day men of renown. Their Milesian names are plainly discernible in the modern armies they, according to our age, have assumed; yet there is one noble exception as to the change of names—and that is "The O'Donnell" of Spain, who not only retains his Irish name but speaks the Irish language and has his children taught it."

The second Duke died in 1903 and the title passed to his son, Juan, (3rd. Duke) a Lieut. General of Cavalry. He too held many important posts. He was a close friend of Primo de Rivera and was Minister for War in his Cabinet. He had no knowledge of English and despite the handicap presided over the stormy Irish Race Convention that was held in Paris in January, 1921. He publicly stated on that occasion that his grandfather spoke Irish to the members of his own family in their home in Spain. A delegate who attended the Convention described the Duke as of portly figure, smoking an inter-

minable chain of cigars who when he left the chamber begged permission with many gestures. He died in 1928 leaving only one son, Juan, the 4th Duke, born 1898. He died unmarried in 1932.

Upon his death Blanca, his surviving sister, became Duchess of Tetuan. Although married she still retains the name "O'Donnell." She is the Head of the Family in Spain while her husband is given the courtesy title Duke of Tetuan (5th Duke). Both have been distinguished guests at receptions given by His Excellency, Leo T. McCauley, Irish Ambassador at Madrid.

AUSTRIAN BRANCH

This illustrious Branch owes its origin to Major-General Henry Count O'Donnell, born Mayo, 1729. He rose to great eminence in the Austrian Service and married a royal princess. His descendants continue to render distinguished service to their new country. His great-grandson, Colonel Maximilian Charles Count O'Donnell von Tyrconnell, Imperial Aide-de-camp and Chamberlain, possessor of the Military Cross of Merit and Knight Commander of several foreign orders, saved the Emperor Francis Joseph I from assassination in February, 1853. For this he was rewarded with a special Patent of nobility and he and his male and female heirs were granted the unique honour of quartering the Imperial Arms of the Royal House of Austria with their own. The citation on the occasion epitomizes the splendid services rendered to Austria by the O'Donnells. After adverting to the death of Aodh Ruadh and the Flight of Earl Rory it continues :—

"Since that period their descendants have devoted themselves to the service of the monarchs of the Spanish line of our most serene Archducal House in the kingdom of Spain, and in later times, in the beginning of the past century, to that of our most serene predeces-

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sors in the imperial government. During their stay in the land of Spain, as well as in that of Austria, they ever enjoyed the consideration and respect due to the rank of Count and to their original nobility. It is to us a grateful and pleasing thing to bring to mind the banished (but with honour and dignity expatriated) forefathers, and relatives of our beloved loyal Maximilian Charles Count O'Donnell, here mentioned, whose virtues and deeds for the greatest welfare of our most serene House and the highest interests of the state, shine with such peculiar and distinguished lustre. Charles (i.e. Connell Count O'Donnell general of cavalry, and colonel proprietor of his regiment, distinguished himself at the battle of Torgau, November, 3rd, 1760, when appointed successor in command to Field Marshal Count Duan, and performed the important service of repelling the advance of the enemy on Dresden—for which achievement it was unanimously resolved by the Chapter of the Order of Maria Theresa, that although he was not a knight thereof, he should be invested with the grand cross of the Order, which honour was conferred upon him, December 21st., 1761. John Count O'Donnell, field-marshal, lieutenant and knight of the order of Maria Theresa, distinguished himself at the battle of Leuthen, December 5th, 1757 and at Maxen, November 20th. 1759. Henry Count O'Donnell commanded as major the 49th regiment of infantry, and volunteered to lead in person the storming of the principal gate of the fortress of Schweidnitz, September 30th, 1761, by which the same was taken; and for which achievement, by a resolution of the chapter, April 30th., 1762, the knight cross of the order of Maria Theresa was conferred upon him. In due graduation he attained the rank of Major-General. Francis Joseph Count O'Donnell was president of the

chief council, and the ministerial bank committee, and also of the board of finance and commerce, and was decorated with the grand cross of the order of St. Stephen. John Count O'Donnell was one of the first to offer himself as a volunteer for the campaign of 1809, and as such headed a corps with the greatest devotion and courage. Hugh Count O'Donnell, as major, was killed at Neerwinder; Charles Count O'Donnell, also a major, was killed at the storming of the bridge of Kehl; Charles Count O'Donnell a major-general, was killed in the battle of Aspern. Maurice Count O'Donnell distinguished himself as a commander of a battalion in the defence of the bridge of Ebersburg, in 1814, and afterwards attained the rank of Field-marshal lieutenant. Our well-beloved, trusty Maximilian Charles O'Donnell, son of the above-named Maurice, a grand grandson of Francis Joseph Count O'Donnell, was born October 29th, 1812, and entered our service in the year 1830, and in regular graduation was promoted to his present rank. In 1848 he served in the campaign of Italy, and in 1849, in that of Hungary; and on every occasion was distinguished for his valour. Already did WE, as a mark of our confidence in his zeal and abilities, appoint him as aide-de-camp to our person. At all times he has fulfilled the high expectations we formed of him; and most fully was this exemplified when, at the risk of being personally sacrificed, he warded off our imperial person the murderous attack of the 18th February, in the present year, whereby he rendered to ourselves, to our royal house, and to our realm, a never to be forgotten service. We rewarded him by investing him with the cross of our Order of St. Leopold. But that he may enjoy an enduring and conspicuous mark of our just acknowledgement, which can be transmitted to his posterity, we grant him further all the rights and

privileges of an Austrian Count; and as a further proof of our imperial and royal grace and favour, we augment henceforth his hereditary and family arms, by the insertion of our own initials and shield of our most serene ducal house of Austria; and finally, the double-headed eagle of our empire, to be and endure as a visible and imperishable memorial of his proved and devoted services."

Count Maximillian did not leave a son and the line is continued through his brother, Count Moritz John, born 1815, died 1890. He had two sons, Heinrich Karl Joseph, 5th Count, born 1845 and Count Hugo, born '70. The former married in 1870 and had a daughter and a son, Rory, 6th Count von Tyrconnell. He married in 1905 and has a son, Heinrich, born 1908. Count Hugo married in 1886 and died in 1904 leaving two sons Douglas, born 1890, and Maximillian, born 1892 and two daughters. Both boys were unmarried in 1914.

RAMELTON BRANCH

Once again we must go back to the line of Hugh Dubh Og, Chief of Tyrconnell in 1537. In addition to Manus, the common ancestor of all present-day branches of the O'Donnells, there was another son, Aodh Dubh, of Ramelton. He was a very famous person that has been described as "Glun deireanach gaiscidh Gael" or "The Achilles of the Irish Race." He lived to an advanced age. His great-grandson, Brigadier Daniel O'Donnell, fought with the Jacobites and went to France with the Irish Brigades. He commanded the Regiment of O'Donnell from 1708 to 1715 and distinguished himself in the field.

When he left Ireland he took with him that sacred heirloom, the Cathach. How it came into possession of a junior branch of the family cannot now be explained. After having the shrine repaired in 1723 he deposited the relic in a Belgian monastery. He died without issue in 1735, be-

queathing the Battle Book to whosoever should prove himself to be the head of the O'Donnells. For almost a century the Cathach lay unclaimed until discovered by Dr. Prendergast, the last Abbot of Cong, while pursuing his studies abroad. Upon his return to Ireland he told the news to Sir Neal O'Donnell, 2nd Bart. of Newport, who recovered it as already stated. The parchments have found a last resting place in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, while the beautiful caskets are displayed in a place of honour in the main hall of our National Museum.

MUNSTER O'DONNELLS

Torlach an Fhiona, King of Tyrconnell, who died in 1422, had a younger son, Sean a Loirg, who settled in Tipperary. He is the reputed ancestor of the Munster O'Donnells, but I have seen no pedigree that establishes an unbroken connection with him.

THE LINE OF DONNCHADH SCAITE

When dealing with Sir Hugh O'Donnell, father of Aodh Ruadh, I mentioned that he married twice. His first lady was an Irish woman. Unfortunately we do not know her name but the Annals record the death of two of her sons, viz. Rory, killed at Donegal, 1575 and Dornhall slain at the Battle of Doire-leathan, in 1590. In the Calendar of State Papers, under date January, 1592, there is a reference to a surviving boy. He is stated to be "strong in the opinion of the country because he is the eldest son and by an Irishwoman." Neither his nor his mother's name is given but the fact is established that at the time of Aodh Ruadh's escape from Dublin Castle he had a half-brother alive.

There is a widespread tradition in Donegal that Aodh Ruadh's father was married twice and that his first wife was an Irish woman. Their eldest son is said to have been Donnchadh.

The Ineen Dubh was jealous of him as he stood in the way of her children for the Chieftainship. One day she disabled his sword arm. Being now marred by blemish he was no longer eligible for the Office. His father thereupon assigned him to the North-West of his territory to collect the tribute and he henceforth became known as "Donnchadh Scaite." He was given the sixteen quarters of the Rosses, where he settled and his descendants are numerous in that area to-day. Who his wife was or how many children he had we do not know. In fact no person is now able to trace his pedigree back in unbroken suggestion to him. Some information has, however, survived.

In Donnchadh Scaite's time practically all rents, tributes, fines, etc., were paid in beasts. Each clan had its stockman. The head man for that part of Donegal was Tadhg O'Tiomanaidhe. He is said to have married Donnchadh's daughter (name unknown) and taken her out with him to his district of Glenfinn. The names of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have been lost, but a son of the fourth generation was a well-known early eighteenth century poet. This was "Tadhg an File," otherwise "Tadhg na mBan," who married Grainne Fhanad. Their daughter, Grainne Ruadh, married Toirdealbhach Dall MacDaeid and had a son Colum. He married Peigi Bheag Ni Ghallachabhair and their daughter, Meadhbh, married Liam Mac Ailin, a Rosses man. These had a daughter, Maire, who married Peadar Mac Meanman and they became the parents of Sean Ban MacMeanman the noted Gaelic scholar and author of *Kingarow and Glenties*.

Mr. James F. O'Donnell, (more popularly known as "Jimmy Frank") of Burtonport and father of Pa O'Donnell, Esq., T.D., solicitor, also claims descent from Donnchadh Scaite. Jimmy's grandfather, Owen

Beag, visited the Timoneys of Min an Fhir Ruaidh, Glenfinn, and was told by the great-grandfather of a member of that family that was alive in 1917, that he was "Iaruaibh Dhonnchaidh Scaite."

INIS SAILLE O'DONNELLS

When Sir Cahir O'Doherty came out in rebellion in 1608 he was supported by Sean MacManus Og O'Donnell, grandson of the 21st. Chieftain. He lived at Dun Buidhe on Lough Swilly. He also had a castle in Tory. He took command of the Irish armies after the death of Sir Cahir and was forced to retreat into the North part of the county. Here the position worsened and he retired to his island fortress. The English effected a landing on Tory and the castle fell by treachery. In the account given in the State Papers we learn that Sean's two children, a boy aged 10 and a girl of 11, were found in the place but he had escaped by sea. He was pursued into Arranmore where his boat was found abandoned in the sands, but he himself was nowhere to be seen.

Sean MacManus Og was at this time the principal representative of his race left in Donegal. The Government feared that given the opportunity he would have himself inaugurated as "O'Domhnaill" and were determined to get rid of him at all costs. The last written record we have of him is in a letter to the Lord Deputy describing the fall of Tory, the pursuit to Arranmore and his escape. It concludes with the pious hope that if the traitor remained in those parts Dublin Castle would suddenly hear of the loss of his head. But Sean did remain in those parts and, what is more, he kept his head! He settled on Inis Saille and his line to-day is known as "Na Dalaigh Chearta."

The status of the Inis Saille O'Donnells has always been acknowledged as a special one. William Harkin refers to it in his "Scenery and Antiquities of

North West Donegal" and I have adverted to it in my "Manus 'a Pnice" article published in the 1949 issue of the Society's Journal. Canon Maguire tells us in his "History of the Diocese of Raphoe" that when he visited Templecrone (nineties of last century) he met one of the family who boasted of his direct descent from Sean MacManus Og and could trace his pedigree back to Torlach an Phiona (died 1422). He told the Rev. historian that the eldest son in each generation had always been Christened "Sean" in honour of their illustrious ancestor.

Tradition says that the first O'Donnell to settle on the island was Sean Ruadh, who came in by sea from "the braes of Derry" in the time of "Cogadh na hEir-eann." This was Sean MacManus Og. It is unlikely that he ever saw his children that were captured in Tory again. What happened them we know not. He was either re-joined by his wife or married again because tradition speaks of his sons, Sean Dearg and Aodh MacSheain Ruaidh. Much folklore has grown up around the family.

Here now is the full list of "Seans" of Inis Saille :—

Sean Ruadh (Sean MacManus Og), whose eldest son was Sean Dearg, whose eldest son was Sean Garbh, whose eldest son was Sean Giortach, whose eldest son was Sean Leathan, whose eldest son was Sean Beag, whose eldest son was Sean Mor, whose eldest son was Sean Beagaide (whom Canon Maguire met), whose eldest son was Johnny Sheainin, who went to America and whose only son was Sean (D.S.P.).

The line is therefore continued through Johnny's brother, Donnchadh, born 1858 and still with us! His eldest son is Sergeant Sean O'Domhnaill, Garda Biochana, Cliffoney, Co. Sligo. Now comes a tragedy. The Ser-

geant's eldest boy was born in March, 1931, and was Christened Padraig after our National Apostle. And so a glorious tradition that goes back through ten generations for more than 300 years has been broken! The name Sean has, however, been preserved in the family and it might be mentioned that another of the children possesses the Balldearg.

GLASSAGH O'DONNELLS

Lastly we come to this mysterious Branch that was so prominent in Glenfinn up to the middle of last century. I have already described them in connection with "Manus a Pnice." There have been so many conflicting statements concerning their origin that I leave it an open matter. There appears to be no doubt that they were closely connected with the main line of the Clan.

O'DONNELL ARMS

The ancient armorial bearings of the O'Donnells are :— Or issuing from sinister side of shield an arm dexter, slieved azure and cuffed argent, grasping a passion cross gules. Time has, of course, brought "differences" in the arrangement.

The origin of the cross is that St. Patrick upon meeting Conall Cremhthainn, an elder son of King Niall, impressed a cross upon his shield with his staff (Bachall Isa) promising and predicting that such of his race as would carry that sign on their standard should never be overcome in battle. The family motto is, of course, "in hoc signo vinces."

CLAN OFFICERS

O'Donnells, Chieftains.
MacRoartys, Custodians of the Cathach.
MacSweeneyes, Chiefs of galloglasses, Marshals and Standard-bearers.
O'Breslins, Brehons.
O'Clerys, Scribes and Historians.
O'Dunlevys, Physicians.
O'Friels, Inaugurators of the Chieftain.

O'Gallaghers, Commanders of
Cavalry.
O'Timoneys, Stockmen.
Wards, Bards.
**TRADITIONAL CHARACTER-
ISTICS OF A "FIOR DALACH."**
Eadan Fairsing.
Cioigeann Clarach,

Cui maith sinn,
Suile Dubha,
Sron leathan (no iolarach),
Guailleacha direacha,
Geaga beaga,
Mortasach.
Tallanach teith le na ndaoine
muinnteara.

'Willie Reilly and His Colleen Bawn'

WILLY REILLY: THE BALLAD AND THE SOURCE
BY MARCUS MACENERY.

MR. Colm O Lochlainn in his compilation of **Irish Street Ballads**, first published in 1939, revised and reprinted, 1946, pointed out that many of the ballads would prove to have a historical value. He went on to say, however, that "they soon became part of the lore of the countryside. They were altered and resung in the more intimate circle by the fireside or in the ale house." To the historian this cheerful comment is anything but re-assuring. The knowledge that any original narrative poem has been subjected to folk or other variations augurs nothing but trouble, not to say discouragement, for the historian, more especially if he cannot trace the succession of **variae lectiones** which lead back to the original. Still more objectionable are the efforts of "literary" hands to "improve" or edit the artless diction or supposedly unintelligible narrative of the anonymous author.

Throughout the ages historical fact has suffered queer changes when exposed to the metabolism of folklore but, in all its metamorphoses and anachronisms, the timeless folk mind invariably retained something of the essence of the fact. Whatever remnants of organic folk imagination still remain have for the last hundred years tended to be overlaid by a far more insidious process of invention. The "literary" romance, the "edify-

ing" article, the "patriotic" reconstruction do violence to history and folklore alike. Folklore absorbs and transmutes the new fiction as complacently as it did the old fact and the resultant mixture presents the historian with a farrago still more impossible to resolve.

These observations may be illustrated by an analysis of some of the folklore, fiction and fact behind the currently accepted version of the story of "Willy Reilly and his Colleen Bawn."

The last ballad in Mr. O Lochlainn's collection is entitled **Erin's Lovely Home**. It tells of a young man, the servant of a gentleman, who was apparently the proprietor of the place so ambiguously described as "Erin's lovely home." He served this gentleman in all honesty until, in the garden of the mansion, "all in the month of June," he was persuaded by his employer's daughter to elope with her to Belfast, where she gave him £500 preparatory to their getting their passage overseas.

Now to my great misfortune,

I mean to let you hear,

**It was in three days after that
her father did appear,**

**He brought me back to Omagh
Jail, in the County of Tyrone
From that I was transported
From Erin's lovely home.**

His true love comes to comfort him as he sets out to serve his seven years' sentence and says :
**Cheer up my dearest Willie,
for you I'll not disown,**

**Un'til you do return again to
Erin's lovely home.**

Mr. O Lochlainn's version of **The Mantle So Green** (No. 7) is based on the common theme of a damsel courted by a stranger who begs her to be his, as her own true love is dead or disloyal, and, on proving her faith, reveals that he himself is the lad whose absence she bewails. The heraldic symbolism is rather late: the heroine has the name of her lover embroidered in letters of gold on her "mantle so green." The new suitor reads the name:

**Young William O'Reilly
appeared to my view,
He was my chief comrade in
famed Waterloo
We fought for three days till
the fourth afternoon,
He received his death summons
on the 16th of June.**

The stranger has, somehow, got possession of the love token worn by the dead man, a gold ring, and on sight of this she grows pale, with a heart full of woe, until he reveals his identity:

**Oh! Nancy, dear Nancy, 'tis
I won your heart
In your father's garden that
day we did part.**

My traditional version abstains from the happy ending. When the lady hears that William is dead she says:

**If that be the case then I won't
be afraid
I'll go to the field where my
true love is laid;
And there as a maiden that
is constant and true,
I'll search for my dead love
in famed Waterloo.**

Ballad 55 in Mr. O Lochlainn's collection has:

**There's a place in my father's
garden, lovely Willie, said
she,
Where lords, dukes and earls
they wait upon me,
But when they are sleeping
in their long silent rest
I'll go with you, lovely
Willie, you're the boy I love
best.**

This lovely Willie is, however, slain at once by the lady's father who had overheard her proposal.

In Ballad 94 the lady rejects the strange suitor's blandishments —

**Now kind sir, since I must
tell you,
I am promised these five
years and more,
To one O'Reilly from the
County Leitrim,
Which often grieves my poor
heart full sore.**

The common features of the foregoing documentation present the story of a gentleman's daughter (Nancy), who loves a young man named William or Willie O'Reilly, probably a native of County Leitrim, who is engaged as a gardener or in some other menial post in her father's household. She persuades him to run away with her and gives him a large sum of money. Her father pursues and captures them and has the young man tried and transported. Whatever the details of his Odyssey abroad, his Penelope remains faithful at home until he returns and is identified on producing the ring which he had had from her as a love token. Alternatively he dies abroad (Waterloo).

11

William Carleton, in his Edition of his novel *Preface to the 1st* "Willy Reilly," says that he found the ballad on which his story was based "in a state of wretched disorder" and that the stanzas as published in that Preface had been re-arranged by him to remedy "the confusion to which unprinted poetry, sung by an uneducated people, is liable." This was written in 1855, but Carleton's version of the ballad had already appeared in Gavan Duffy's *Ballad Poetry of Ireland* in 1845 and may now be found in any edition of "Willy Reilly" as well as in a number of popular anthologies. Carleton implies

that his sources were entirely oral and I was long of opinion that other, older, and possibly more reliable, versions had all perished in the popularity of the novelist's rendering. Some time ago, however, I found in RIA 12 B 18, Irish Song Book, Vol. 6, a print of the ballad of **Willy Reilly** made in Dundalk in 1820. If Carleton had to re-arrange the oral version considerably it is a strange coincidence that his arrangement approximated very closely to the wording and order of verses in the 1820 version. It is also a coincidence that Carleton in his youthful wanderings spent some time in the Dundalk area. The two versions differ, however, in some important details, viz.

1820 : When the lady was rescued O'Reilly had no bail
And for the said offence he was sent to Sligo jail.

Carleton : It's home then she was taken and in her closet bound

Poor Reilly all in Sligo jail lay on the stony ground.

1820 : Gentlemen of the Jury with pity look on me
This inferior came among us to disgrace my family.

Carleton : "Oh ! Gentlemen," Squire Foillard said, "with pity look on me,

This villain came amongst us to disgrace our family."

Carleton has the following for which 1820 has no corresponding lines.

Now Willy's drest from top
to toe all in a suit of green
His hair hangs o'er his
shoulders, most glorious to
be seen;

He's tall and straight and
comely, as any could be found

He's fit for Foillard's daughter was she heiress to a
crown.

Thus Carleton's Reilly differs from the earlier hero in that he is not a man who "had no bail"; he may be rhetorically described as a "villain," but he must not be called an "inferior"; and in appearance, dress, etc.,

he is "fit for Foillard's daughter." All this is in harmony with the character of the gentlemanly Reilly portrayed in Carleton's novel, but it does violence to the peasant origin of the hero of the ballad.

The scene of Carleton's tale is laid near Boyle, "Corbo Castle," being a fictitious alias for the Folliott family home at Hollybrook, County Sligo, about five miles from Boyle. There is no record that Carleton ever visited Hollybrook or its neighbourhood and his fanciful descriptions of the district show that he was quite unfamiliar with it.

Carleton says that the events on which the novel is based took place about 1745. Priest-hunting and penal laws are rampant in the area and so are "rapparees," whereas in fact there is little or no evidence of active religious persecution at that time in the area in question where there is a well authenticated record of regular Catholic ministrations.

The heroine, "Helen Folliard," is called the "Cooleen Bawn." "Cooleen" Carleton attempts to explain (Chap. IV) in a passage where he is obviously confusing the spelling and the meanings of two words which we would now write Cailin and Cuilfhionn. (The 1820 ballad, by the way, refers to the lady as Reilly's "morneen bawn.")

In Carleton's book Reilly's love affair with "Helen" is thwarted by the ignorant bigotry of her father and the rascality of one "Whitcraft" who plans to marry her. Reilly has to flee from the plots of Whitcraft and his confederates but returns to Squire Foillard's in disguise and obtains employment as a gardener. His identity is suspected on account of his beautiful white hands, the hands of a gentleman—the gentlemanliness of Reilly is underlined throughout the book. The couple elope, but are captured and Reilly is charged with the theft of

Helen's jewels (which she had given him for safe keeping) and also with abduction. He is found guilty on the latter charge and sentenced to seven years' transportation. Helen becomes insane but recovers on Reilly's return when he shows her the ring she had given him at his trial, that he might think on her poor broken heart when in a foreign land. The aged parent now waives all objections to their union; they get married and leave for France where they live happily ever after.

111

Robert Folliott of Holybrook died in 1746 leaving issue one daughter Mary, wife of John Harlow, of Rathnullen ("Seon Harlo" of Carolan's poem of that title). Robert's estates passed to his cousin, General John Folliott, Governor of Ross Castle, who died (apparently unmarried and without male issue) at 20 Molesworth St., Dublin, in 1762. He was succeeded by his cousin, Lt. Gen. John Folliott, Governor of Kinsale and of the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, who died 1765, having had issue Francis, John, Mary, Letitia, Henry and Peter. Of the two daughters, Mary is not recorded (Burke, *Landed Gentry*, 1899, "Folliott") as having been married but if she was alive when her father succeeded to Holybrook in 1762 she must have been middle-aged. The eldest son, Francis, was disinherited for marrying a beautiful young girl named Barbara Allen from the Dublin Quays, who seems to have been strangely remiss in not inspiring another ballad saga on the Scarlet Town model. The marriage is, strangely enough recorded as having taken place as late as 1765, the year of the father's death. The estates reverted in time to John, son of Francis, and in the meantime were tenanted by William Phibbs until Phibbs died in 1801. John Folliott married in 1793 and his daughters, according to Burke (*op.cit.*) all married, save

Susan, who "died unmarried."

There appears to be no eligible candidate in the foregoing for the character of the Colleen Bawn, and at no time does the stage seem to have been set at Holybrook for the action of the drama.

The Folliotts occupied another mansion-house, in County Donegal, i.e. Ballymacward or Wardtown House, overlooking the estuary of the Erne at Ballyshannon. This house was built according to Allingham (*History and Antiquities of Ballyshannon, 1879*.) by "General Folliott" about 1740. It was occupied by Col. Folliott in 1752 (Pococke's Tour). These two names appear to refer to General Folliott, Governor of Ross, who died in 1762.

The ballad of "Willy Reilly" has always been particularly popular in Ulster and some researches of mine in Donegal indicated that there had been a long and tenacious tradition there that Wardtown was the true scene of the Reilly story, but that the tradition was gradually dying under the influence of the rival place in County Sligo being vouched for in Carleton's book. The shreds of tradition, such as they were, led me to the conclusion that the ballad of "Erin's Lovely Home," which I had already suspected to relate to Willy Reilly, dealt with events at Wardtown House and should have been written "Erne's Lovely Home."

As to the real date of the affair, all the evidence suggests the first or second decade of the 19th century. If Reilly was sentenced to transportation he may have been given the option of serving in the wars against Napoleon.

A note to Carleton's version of the "Willy Reilly" ballad, published 1887 in *Irish Minstrelsy*, an anthology edited by H. Halliday Sparling, states that the story on which the ballad was founded happened some "eighty years ago," i.e. *circa* 1807.

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A seven years' sentence imposed about that date would still permit of his having fought at Waterloo.

In a letter in Father Sharkey's **Heart of Ireland**, it is claimed that Willy Reilly lived at Kiltubrid, County Leitrim. The kinships claimed with him would appear to place his **floruit** in the late 18th century.

It is suggested that research in local newspaper files and other Donegal records of, say, the 1790-1810 period may enable local historians to exhume the historical Willy Reilly and his lady fair from the myths of folklore accretion and the "re-constructive" fictions of the uninformed literary imagination. Whatever lines such an investigation may take, the tradition that Hollybrook, County Sligo,

was the authentic scene of the romance, may be wholly discounted. There is not a word of reliable folklore now surviving in favour of that tradition which may not be confidently ascribed to the inspiration of Carleton's novel and to no period earlier than its publication. Even fictitious caves and underground passages have been invented in the adjacent hills to provide accommodation for Reilly on the run and for fugitive priests, to harmonise with the narrative in the novel. Newspapers, family documents, copies of old pleadings mouldering in solicitors' offices and court records, now afford the only possibilities of reconstructing the real story and of tracing the ballad to its source.

In Memoriam

To the relatives and friends of the following deceased members we extend our deepest sympathy :—

Dr. John Gormley, Cinel Moan, Stranorlar;

Mrs. J. S. Hamilton, Brownhall, Ballintra;

Very Rev. W. Hegarty, P.P., Culdaff;

Sean MacCumhaill, Stranorlar;

Dr. Jas. McCloskey, Carrickgart;

Vincent Stephens, Ballyshannon;

Mrs. H. Wyatt, Rockfield, Stranorlar. •

**REMINISCENCES OF AN
OCTOGENARIAN**

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT CAPT. J. S. HAMILTON, BROWNHALL, A FORMER PRESIDENT, HAS COMMITTED HIS REMINISCENCES TO PAPER AND THESE WILL SHORTLY BE PUBLISHED. A BOOK OF 260 PAGES, WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS, IT BEARS THE TITLE "MY TIMES AND OTHER TIMES." AS AN APPENDIX THE AUTHOR HAS INCLUDED KEARNEY'S HISTORY OF DRUMHOLM, THE REPRINT OF WHICH, LIKE THE AUTHOR'S OWN WORK, PLACES AT OUR DISPOSAL A VOLUME OF VERY GREAT INTEREST TO ALL CONCERNED WITH THE HISTORY OF DONEGAL IN GENERAL. ORDERS FOR "MY TIMES AND OTHER TIMES" SHOULD BE PLACED IMMEDIATELY WITH THE AUTHOR, OR WITH THE PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS, THE "DONEGAL DEMOCRAT," LTD., BALLYSHANNON.