

The Origins of the McGrath Family



In Celebration of the 50th McGraw Reunion

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Preface

We arrived in Ireland, in the summer of 1997, knowing that Edmond McGrath had come from Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary and that was about it. On a rainy day during our first week in Ireland we visited Upperchurch, wandered through the graveyard and took a few pictures. During the second week of our trip to Ireland we were visiting the city of Ennis in Co. Clare. While wandering through the Ennis Bookshop on Church Street an oversized magazine with a pen and ink drawing on the white cover caught my attention. The name of the magazine was *The Other Clare* and it was published annually by the Shannon Archaeological & Historical Society. The first article that caught my eye was one called "Islandmagrath and the Macraith Family" by Paddy Connors. The article was only one page in length but it was a very condensed history of the Macraith family who were the ancestors of the present day McGraths. There was a reference at the end of the article to a manuscript on microfilm, at the Local History Center in Ennis, which contained the Pedigree of the Macraith Family. Later that week we went to find the Local History Center on a very rainy Friday that was also our last day in Ireland. After two strikes we found it on the third try and began making copies on a very old microfilm machine. We were running out of time and the copies were getting worse. The librarian, Ellen Comber, offered to make copies later on one of the better machines and send them along to us. After thanking her for her kindness we left to begin our search for Islandmagrath itself.

The article had described the approximate location of Islandmagrath but it didn't show up on the regular tourist maps. We purchased one of the Ordnance Survey Discovery Series Maps at that same Ennis Bookshop and figured out exactly where Islandmagrath was located. As our last day in Ireland was winding to a close we set out in search of Islandmagrath driving down roads that probably had not seen a tourist in years. About three miles southwest of Clare Castle we saw an elongated mound rising about 100 feet in height that fit the description of Islandmagrath. Making a lucky guess we found a "road" through a field that led us up to the top of Islandmagrath. After taking a couple pictures from the top the rain was starting again so we headed back toward Ennis as our time in Ireland was rapidly coming to an end.

After we were back in the U.S. the copies of the microfilmed manuscripts arrived from Ellen Comber at the Ennis Local Study Center. Not only had she copied the original manuscript with the Macraith Pedigree she had also copied a second related manuscript she had found. The second set of copies turned out to contain an extremely detailed genealogy of Miler Magrath and his many descendants. Miler was descended from the Macraiths of Islandmagrath by way of the Magraths of Termon Magrath in Co. Donegal. It turns out, as a result of my research, that Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch is probably descended from Miler Magrath and therefore from the Macraiths of Islandmagrath.

Miler was the Archbishop of Cashel from 1570 until 1613 and his descendants remained in the area around Cashel, Co. Tipperary in the years following his death in 1622. After the end of the Rebellion of 1641 the English confiscated their land and most of the Magrath family was transplanted to Co. Clare. Edmond Magrath, grandson of Miler Magrath, and his large family settled in the parish of Tulla east of Ennis. A portion of Edmond's family appears to have remained behind in the parish of Clonoulty, Co. Tipperary. Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch appears to have been descended from this branch of the family.

Over the years some of the descendants of the part of the family that was transplanted to Co. Clare settled in Ennis. They are listed in the book "The Merchants of Ennis," that was published recently by the Ennis Chamber of Commerce. According to this source, in 1846 and 1856 a Robert M'Grath was listed as a bookseller with a shop on Church Street. Now Church Street is only 3 blocks long so Robert's shop and the present Ennis Bookshop were at most only a couple of blocks apart.

It's ironic that a casual visit to a bookshop on a rainy day would begin a search whose trail led back to that very same street. And along the way we found the ancestors of Edmond McGrath and Mary Ryan.

The Origins of the McGrath Family

Summary

The McGraths were of Dalcassian ancestry, stemming from Cormac Cas, son of Oilioll Olum, King of Munster in the 3rd century A.D. The name McGrath is derived from MacCraith, a surname of ancient Irish origin, which is borne by the descendents of three distinguished septs that, had their common origin in the Kingdom of Thomond in present day County Clare. The Irish surname MacCraith is patronymic in origin, being one of those names derived from the first name of the original bearer. The name McGrath is from the Irish Mac Craith or MacRaith with the prefix Mac denoting the "son of Craith". The surname McGraw was not found in Ireland during ancient times and occurs only infrequently in Ireland today. McGraw is a variation of McGrath, which yields an English pronunciation equivalent to the Irish pronunciation of McGrath, where the "t" is not pronounced.



Figure 0-1 Islandmagrath, Co. Clare

The MacCraith's of the Thomond Sept supplied hereditary poets and genealogists to their kinsmen, the O'Briens of County Clare. Their castle at Islandmagrath, south of Ennis, in County Clare, was located on the west side of the River Fergus and was recorded as in the possession of MacCraith in 1574. In the Down Survey of 1656 the castle was not mentioned and probably was not

standing at that time. They eventually migrated from Clare to the Counties of Tipperary, Waterford and Limerick. In the 16th century, the MacCraiths established a bardic school in Cahir, County Tipperary.

The Ulster MacCraith's were seated at the castle of Termon Magrath on the northern extremity of *Lough Erne*, located near Pettigo on the Donegal-Fermanagh border. The Magrath castle, which was built in the 16th century, is still standing today. This family branched off from the Thomond MacCraith's around the 1100's. A leading family of this Sept became coarbs [hereditary abbots] of the church lands of St. Daveog Monastery at Lough Derg. According to tradition upon the ascendancy of the O'Donnells in the 13th century, they were driven east from their lands, settling at Ardstraw, County Tyrone, where the majority of their modern day representatives are still found. However Miler's ancestors appear to have remained at Pettigo at least through the beginning of the 17th century.

To further confuse the issue there was a branch of the Maguire family that took the name MacCraith and lived at about the same time in the adjoining county to the south called Fermanagh. However, they were not associated with Termon Magrath.

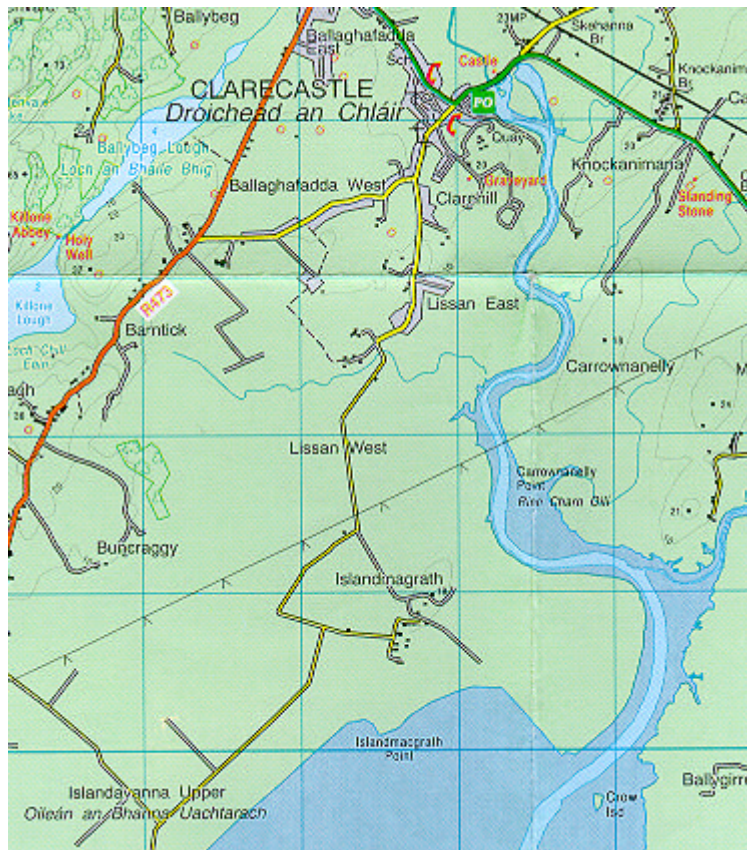


Figure 0-2 A portion of an Ordnance Survey Map showing Islandmagrath today.

During the 1300's a branch of the Thomond family migrated to County Waterford, and the ruins of the west wall of a castle attributed to them can still be seen at Abbeyside in Dungarvan. In records from the 17th century the name was rendered as McCragh. They occupied the region around Lismore and Dungarvan and a region called Sliabh Gua, which refers to the area around the base of the Knockmealdown Mountains.

In 1640 there were several McCragh families in County Tipperary, living in the townland of Curraghduffe, civil parish of Killoskully & Killcomonty, barony of Arra and Owny, which is northwest of Upperchurch near the River Shannon. At the same time there was a Marcus Magrath, son of Brian, son of Miler Magrath, who was living in the parish of Aghnamaydull (now Aghnameadle), barony of Upper Ormond. He also owned land in the adjacent parishes of Ballymacky and Latheragh. These lands were just north of the parish of Upperchurch.

Edmond Magrath, grandson of Miler Magrath, owned 800 acres at Ballymore, parish of Clonoulty, Co. Tipperary in 1641. His land was taken from him and he was transplanted to the parish of Feakle, Co. Clare during the Cromwellian transplantations. Knowing he had been a spy for the English during the Rebellion of 1641 his new neighbors took to cutting down the trees on his property. Edmond appealed his transplanted to Cromwell himself and received his 800 acres back again. But he appears to have remained in Co. Clare, dying there in 1683. Ballymore is in the parish of Clonoulty, which is separated from the parish of Moyalliffe to the north by only the intervening parish of Clogher - the total distance between being only about 6 miles. It wasn't unusual for the expelled Irish to return to their former lands and in this case with the return of Ballymore to Edmond perhaps some of the family moved back to Ballymore. The number of McGraths found in the parishes of Clogher and Moyalliff in 1851 strengthens the possibility.

In 1851 the Griffith's Valuation shows there were 9 McGraths in the parish of Clogher and 12 Magraths in the adjoining parish of Moyalliff separated by only the Turraheen River. [The difference in the spelling of the surname is probably due to the survey taker and doesn't reflect the true spelling of the surname.]

This proximity of these parishes to each other increases the probability the Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch was descended from Edmond Magrath of Ballymore. Edmond of Ballymore was a grandson of Miler Magrath, the notorious Archbishop of Cashel from 1571 until 1622. Miler was descended from the MacCraith's of Islandmagrath by way of the Magraths of Termon Magrath, in County Donegal. Therefore we can be fairly confident in stating that the ancestors of Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch go back to the original MacCraiths of Islandmagrath.

Margaret Dwyer McGrath and Mary Banan McGrath are buried in the Moyaliff cemetery in the civil parish of Moyaliff, in the Roman Catholic Parish of Upperchurch, County Tipperary. They are probably Edmond's grandmother and great-grandmother respectively. A Michael McGrath was found to be living in the town of Moyaliff in 1828 according to the Tithe Applotment Books and he was the only Michael McGrath found in that area. Edmond's father was named Michael and this might have been him. The parents of Edmond's wife, Mary Ryan, were found to be John and Eleanor Ryan and recorded as living in Gleninchaveigh in 1828. John died shortly thereafter and the Griffith's Valuation of 1851 recorded that Eleanor was still living in Gleninchaveigh with her sons. The Civil Survey of 1654 recorded that there were Ryans occupying Gleninchaveigh as far back as 1640.

Based on the evidence gathered so far I feel confident in stating that Edmond's immediate family appears to have been living in the civil parish of Moyaliff, Roman Catholic Parish of Upperchurch, County Tipperary in 1851. His ancestors had probably occupied land in that area as far back as the mid-1700's. Going back further there are fewer records available to document suspected genealogical connections. But circumstantial evidence would suggest that Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch is descended from Miler Magrath, who was descended from the McCraiths of Islandmagrath by way of the Magraths of Termon Magrath at Pettigo in Co. Donegal.

The ship named *British Queen* sailed from Dublin and docked in New York on November 7, 1850. Listed as passengers were¹ Mary McGrath, Michael McGrath and John McGrath. Edmond had arrived two years earlier on November 29, 1848 on board the *New Hampshire*. Both ships arrived at South Street on the lower eastside of New York City. The whereabouts of Edmond from the time he arrived in America until he showed up in Truxton on the New York State Census of 1855 is still a mystery and remains a matter of speculation.

After their arrival in the Township of Truxton the family settled into farming as their occupation. Edmond and Mary had no more children and it remained for Michael and John to expand the size of the family. Although marrying late in life both sons were prolific with Michael fathering nine children and John eight. The next two generations have been chronicled by Doug Currie in *A Genealogy of The McGraw's of Truxton*. From that point on it takes a computer to track the descendants of Edmond and Mary McGrath.

The Family of Edmond McGrath

Edmond William McGrath, b. 1813 in Upperchurch¹, County Tipperary, Ireland, d. May 14, 1899² in Truxton, NY, USA

Father: Michael³, born in County Tipperary⁴, Ireland.

Mother: Margaret(?), born in County Tipperary⁵, Ireland.

Wife: Mary Ryan, b. 1810-1814 in Gleninchaveigh (Glown)⁶, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, d. Dec. 1, 1899⁷ in Truxton, NY, USA.

Father: John Ryan⁸, Gleninchaveigh, Co. Tipperary

Mother: Eleanor Ryan⁹, Gleninchaveigh, Co. Tipperary

Married: September 1, 1841¹⁰, Roman Catholic Church, Upperchurch, County Tipperary, Ireland. Present were Rody Ryan, Daniel Ryan and others¹¹.

Children:

- Margaret, baptized June 27, 1842 at Upperchurch. The family was living in Drumdiha¹², County Tipperary, Ireland. Sponsors Michael Ryan and Bridget Ryan¹³. There is no record that Margaret accompanied either of her parents on the trip to the United States. She may have died during the famine or during the cholera epidemic of 1849.

¹ From Edmond W. McGrath's registration form for the Cortland County Poor House, Record No. 647.

² From Edmond W. McGrath's death certificate

³ From Edmond W. McGrath's death certificate

⁴ From Edmond W. McGrath's registration form for the Cortland County Poor House, Record No. 647.

⁵ From Edmond W. McGrath's registration form for the Cortland County Poor House, Record No. 647.

⁶ Letter to Doug Currie from Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary parish priest James O'Mara, dated 16 April, 1985.

⁷ A Genealogy of The McGraw's of Truxton, New York, Douglas D. Currie, 10 January, 1994

⁸ Tithe Applotment Books, Box 172, Parish of Upperchurch, Gleninchaveigh.

⁹ Tithe Applotment Books, Box 172, Parish of Upperchurch, Gleninchaveigh.

¹⁰ Letter from James O'Meara, Parish Priest, Upperchurch, County Tipperary, 24 February, 1982.

¹¹ Letter from James O'Meara, Parish Priest, Upperchurch, County Tipperary, 24 February, 1982.

¹² Letter from James O'Meara, Parish Priest, Upperchurch, County Tipperary, 24 February, 1982.

¹³ Letter from James O'Meara, Parish Priest, Upperchurch, County Tipperary, 24 February, 1982.

- Michael William, baptized November 19, 1843 at Upperchurch. The family was living in Drumdiha¹⁴, County Tipperary, Ireland. Sponsors John Magrath¹⁵ and Ally(?) Sweeney¹⁶. Died April 9, 1923¹⁷ at Truxton, NY.
- John William, born June 6, 1844¹⁸, baptized June 24, 1844¹⁹ at Upperchurch. The family was living in Glaninchavee (Gleninchaveigh), County Tipperary, Ireland. Sponsors Patrick Ryan and Mary Ryan. Died November 8, 1926 at Truxton, NY.²⁰

Mary Ryan had two sisters who settled in central New York

- Catherine Ryan Sheahan²¹ Married in Ireland to William Sheahan. She is buried in Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Pompey, New York.
- Margaret Ryan Tobin²²

Edmond McGrath arrived in the United States, at New York City, on board the *New Hampshire*, on November 29, 1848²³.

Mary, John and Michael arrived in New York City aboard the *British Queen* on November 7, 1850²⁴.

¹⁴ Letter to Doug Currie from Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary parish priest James O'Mara, dated 16 April, 1985.

¹⁵ Letter to Doug Currie from Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary parish priest James O'Mara, dated 16 April, 1985.

¹⁶ Letter to Doug Currie from Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary parish priest James O'Mara, dated 16 April, 1985.

¹⁷ From Michael W. McGraw's death certificate

¹⁸ From John W. McGraw's death certificate.

¹⁹ From John W. McGrath's baptismal record, Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary, Ireland.

²⁰ From John W. McGraw's death certificate.

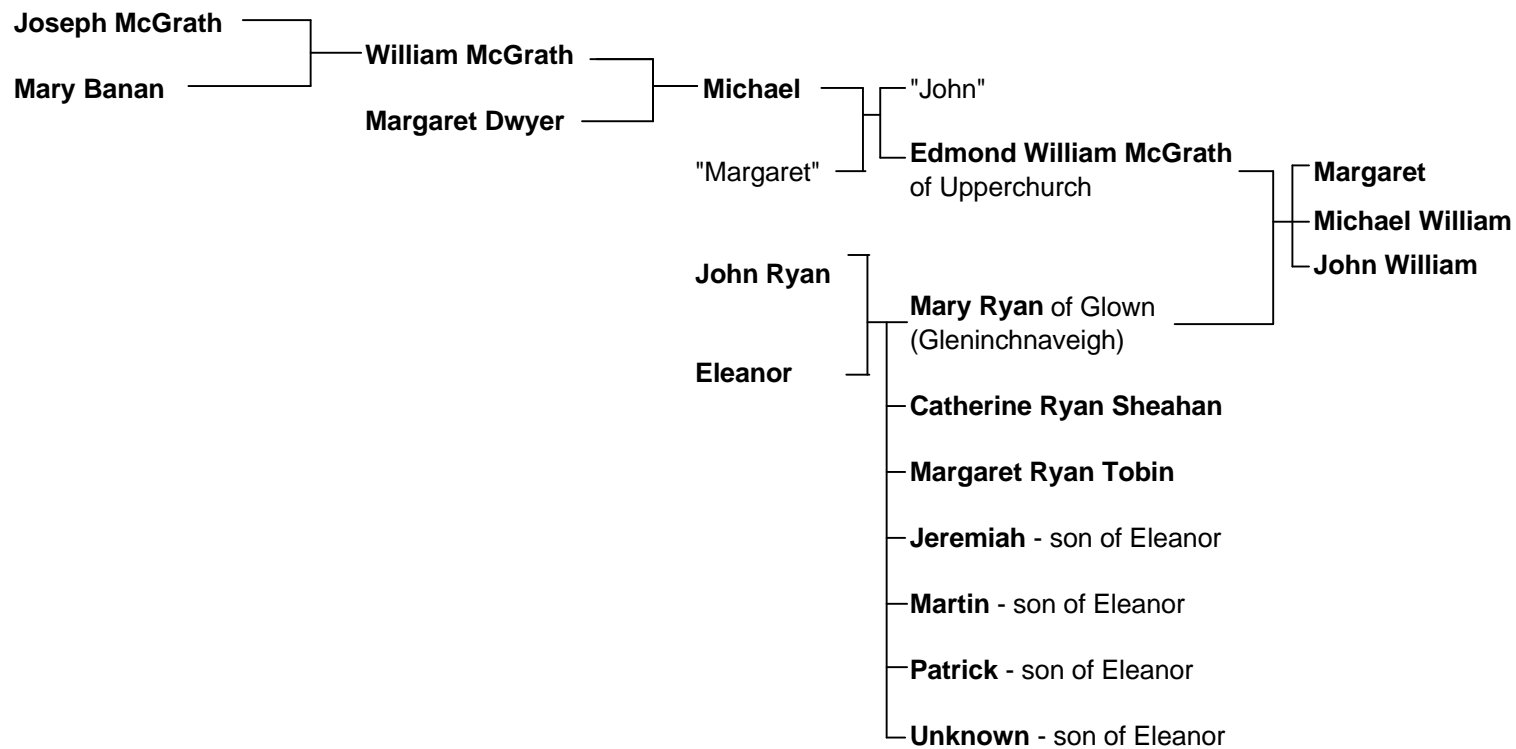
²¹ A Genealogy of The McGraw's of Truxton, New York, Douglas D. Currie, 10 January, 1994

²² A Genealogy of The McGraw's of Truxton, New York, Douglas D. Currie, 10 January, 1994

²³ From *Irish Immigrants*, Ira Tepper, Genealogical Publishing, Baltimore, MD .

²⁴ From *Irish Immigrants*, Ira, Tepper, Genealogical Publishing, Baltimore, MD

Working Version of Edmond & Mary McGrath's Family Tree



Working Version of Edmond McGrath and Mary Ryan's Family Tree

This is an explanation of persons found in the Working Version of Edmond McGrath and Mary Ryan's Family Tree. Also given are their relationships to others in the family tree and the evidence cited for their inclusion.

Name	Relationship	Evidence
Joseph McGrath	Suspected husband of Mary Banan McGrath. Possible father of William McGrath.	There was a Joseph who was a grandfather back in Ireland according to oral McGraw family history. His grave was not found. He erected Mary's gravestone.
Mary Banan McGrath 1743-1792	Suspected wife of Joseph McGrath.	Buried in Moyaliff Cemetery.
William McGrath	Husband of Margaret McGrath	William is a name that Edmond and his sons Michael and John have as their middle names. His grave has not been found.
Margaret Dwyer McGrath 1763-1823	Wife of William McGrath. Possible mother of Michael McGrath and Edmond's grandmother.	Buried in Moyaliff Cemetery
Michael McGrath	Father of Edmond William McGrath	Name found on Edmond William McGraw's death certificate. A Michael McGrath was found in the town of Moyaliff in the Tithe Applotment Books from about 1828

Margaret McGrath	Possible wife of Michael McGrath. Mother of Edmond McGrath.	Edmond's first born was daughter Margaret. Irish naming traditions would indicate that this was his mothers' name. Since Michael and John have been named after grandfathers according to Irish traditions we confidently assume that Edmond's daughter Margaret was named after his mother.
"John" McGrath	Possible brother of Edmond McGrath	Baptism sponsor for Edmond's son Michael William McGrath.
John Ryan	Probable father of Mary Ryan and husband of Eleanor.	Based on Irish naming tradition the second son is named after the wife's father. Mary and Edmond's second son was named John William McGrath. John Ryan occupied a parcel of land in the townland of Gleninchaveigh according the Tithing Applotment Books in ~1828.

Eleanor Ryan	Probable mother of Mary Ryan and wife of John Ryan.	Was occupying Gleninchaveigh in the Griffith's Valuation of 1851. Had taken over for her husband John in Gleninchaveigh according to the Tithe Applotment Books in ~ 1828. Probable ancestor of Con Ryan from National Geographic story (1981).
Jeremiah, Martin, Patrick and nameless fourth brother all named Ryan.	Probable brothers of Mary Ryan	Names of persons occupying Gleninchaveigh in Griffith's Valuation of 1851. Con Ryan story in Nat. Geographic –1981 indicates they are brothers and their mother might be Eleanor Ryan described above.

CHAPTER I - OVERVIEW

The Beginning of the Story

The history of Ireland is the history of the various invasions of that island. First came the Celts followed by the Vikings who settled in the coastal areas and built the first permanent towns in Ireland. Dublin, Limerick and Waterford were just some of the towns that benefited from their contributions. They were defeated by Brian Boru at Conflert in 1014 but never actually left the island. Instead they were assimilated into the Irish culture and became known as the Ostman. The Normans came from England in 1169 upon the invitation of Dermot MacMurrough, king of Leinster, who had been driven from Ireland and who was seeking to regain his kingdom. By the early 1300's County Clare was a battlefield. If the clans were not fighting among themselves they were taking sides with and against the Norman invaders and their representatives, each seeking to accomplish their own personal objectives. In 1318 the MacCraith clan, under Rory, fought along side the O'Brien's and others to defeat Richard deClare at the Battle of Dysert O'Dea. This ended the Norman presence in Thomond (County Clare). By 1348-49 the Black Plague had arrived in Ireland and drove the remaining Norman colonist's back to England. This may have been the motivation for some of the MacCraith's migrating south to Dungarvan, County Waterford.

The Province of Munster was known as such since ancient times but in the past it has been split into North Munster and South Munster. North Munster was known as Thomond and South Munster was known as Desmond.

The First MacCraiths

Brian Boru, King of Ireland, mandated surnames around the 10th and 11th century. From this point on it becomes easier to track the migrations of the families with the surnames providing a convenient label.

“With reference to the origin of *sirnames* in Ireland it may be mentioned that, in the eleventh century, the Irish Monarch Brian Boroimhe [Boru] made an ordinance that every Irish family and clan should assume a particular surname (or *sire*-name); the more correctly to preserve the history and genealogy of the different Irish tribes. Each family was at liberty to adopt a surname from some particular ancestor, and, generally, took their names from some chief of their tribe who was celebrated for his valour, wisdom, piety, or some other great qualities. And the members of a family, each in addition to his own proper name, took, as a common designation, the name of their father, or their grandfather, or of some more remote ancestor: in the first case prefixing the ‘Mac,’ which means *son*; and, in the other two cases, ‘Ua (modernized O’), which signifies *grandson*

or *descendent of*; and in all instances, the genitive case of the progenitor's name followed the 'Mac,' or the 'O'".¹²

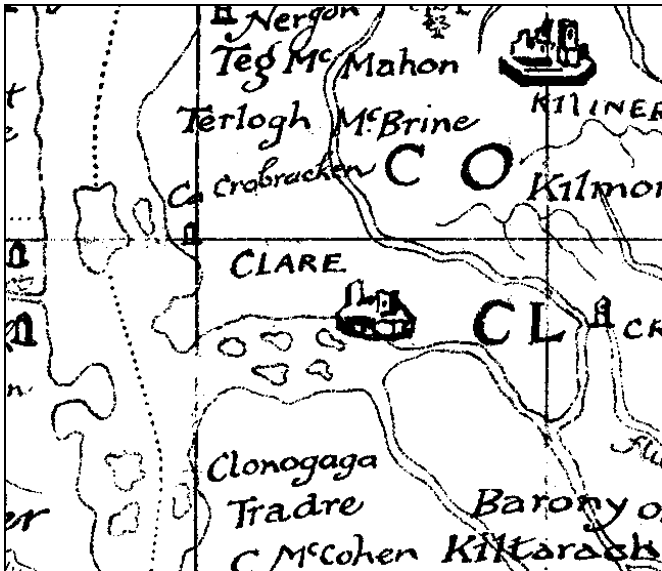


Figure 1-1 A portion of a 16th century map of Ireland. In the center is shown a tower structure at Islandmagrath, County Clare. From A Map of Ireland by John Nolan 1609-1611, Preserved in State Paper Office, London

The MacCraith Clan appears to have originated in the southern part of County Clare around the area presently known as Islandmagrath. The County Clare MacCraiths were in alliance with their relatives the O'Brien clan of the same county. The MacCraiths were descended from the brother of Brian Boru while the O'Briens were descended from Brian Boru himself. "This (the MacCraith family) was a very powerful family of historians, genealogists, poets, *brehons*, abbots and bishops. They were hereditary ollamhs in poetry, and historians to the O'Briens of Thomond, with whom they often intermarried."³ [This is the only reference to the MacCraiths being *brehons* (lawyers) and I suspect it is in error.] The O'Brien's built many castles, towers and abbeys in the southwestern portion of Ireland. However, their main residence was near the present day town of Ennis at Clonroad. Ennis is an anglicized version of the word *Innis* that means island. The original town of *Innis* was an island created between two forks of the river Fergus as it flows south into the Shannon River. South of Ennis, on the west bank of the river Fergus, is a region of land still known to this day as Islandmagrath. During the spring floods the river Fergus would overflow its banks leaving this region of high ground, known as Islandmagrath, isolated - creating an island. Recent examinations of the stone walls on the property has given evidence that at one time there was a castle or tower structure built upon Islandmagrath. Previously the "...only documentary evidence to hand of a castle at Islandmagrath is in the list of castles for Co. Clare in 1574."⁴ "The castle was probably built around 1400-1500, which was the main age of castle building in

Clare and survived until at least 1574.”⁵ In 1656 Sir William Petty’s Down Survey did not show any castle or building at Islandmagrath.

Islandmagrath

“Islandmagrath (Barony of Islands) takes its name from the Macraith family of Thomond, descended from Cinneide (Kennedy), who was the father of Brian Boru.”⁶ One of the early kings of Ireland was Brian Boru whose descendants were the clan O’Brien.

Islandmagrath isn’t shown on the regular tourist maps but if you purchase one of the Ordnance Survey maps (Map No. 58) you will find it 2 miles south of Clarecastle and about 7 miles north and a little west of Shannon Airport. For the more exacting: 52° 47’ North, 8° 58’ West. The “island” rises about 58 feet above sea level at its highest point. It is elliptical in shape running about 1600 feet along a line SW to NE. In the perpendicular direction it is about 900 feet wide.

In *The Antiquities of County Clare: Ordnance Survey Letters 1839*⁷ there is mention of a castle on Islandmagrath in the Parish of Clare Abbey. This is the 1574 list of castles mentioned earlier.

“In the list of Castles preserved in MS. T.C.D. Class E.2.14, the following Castles mentioned in it were situated in the Parish, viz: -

1. Clare Castle, belonging to the Earl of Thomond
2. Island Mcgrath Castle, belonging to Mac Craigh.”

In 1641 Islandmagrath belonged to the Earl of Thomond.

“Between 1850 and 1855, when Islandmagrath was the property of the Earl of Conyngham, Edward Maunsell acquired a long term lease tenancy of Islandmagrath. His sons Richard and Thomas inherited it, and it was then divided between them.”⁸ “Herbert, son of Thomas Maunsell above, inherited the part of Islandmagrath owned by his father. The Irish Land Commission took possession of it in the 1930’s and divided it into 5 farms, each about 40 acres.”⁹

The Popular Version of the Origin of the McGraths

There are various statements concerning the origin of the MacCraith clans found in the heraldry and Irish surname books. Below are some samplings:

“They sprang from two distinct septs.”

“This is the name of two distinct septs which originated in Thomond and in Ulster.”

“Two native Irish families adopted the name (MacGrath). The first was based on the borders of the modern counties of Donegal and Fermanagh, around Termon MacGrath, and were erenaghs (hereditary abbots) of the monastery of St. Daveoc on Lough Derg.....The other family were originally based in Co. Clare, where they were famous as hereditary poets and genealogists to the ruling O’Brien family of Thomond.”¹⁰

“There were two septs. In Donegal and Fermanagh the Macgraths were hereditary guardians of Saint Daveog’s monastery on Lough Derg....The other sept were from Clare and Limerick, where the MacGraths were poets and their patrons were the kingly O’Briens of Thomond.”¹¹

Most sources refer to two septs of the MacCraith clan but a case can be made for three. There is the Thomond Sept, in present day County Clare, the Ulster Sept, now located in Ardstraw, County Tyrone and finally the Waterford Sept located around Dungarvan, County Waterford. The reasoning for three rather than just two septs is that all these regions were occupied simultaneously for an extended period of time. Many sources claim incorrectly that the sept in County Clare left that region and established itself in County Waterford near Dungarvan. In actual fact both areas were occupied during the 14th and 15th century.

Splitting into the Various Branches

According to old manuscripts¹² the Ulster branch descended from the Islandmagrath MacCraith’s (of Thomond) by way of Terman Magrath near Pettigo, on the border between Co. Donegal and Fermanagh. The split is estimated to have taken place in about the 12th century.

From the Four Masters there are some early references to the “McGraths” - Petrus MacCraith died at Loch Cé in 1243. [Loch Cé may be Lough Key, which was located closer to Galway while St. Davidog’s was on the northern edge of Lough Derg.]

Simon Macraith was bishop of Ardagh in 1224. Ardagh is located in Co. Longford southeast of the city of Longford in the parish of Ardagh, barony of Ardagh. This is located about midway between Termonmagrath and Islandmagrath.

Roger Macraith was prior in the Abbeyside Augustine Monastery, near Dungarvan, County Waterford, in 1312. Donald “McGrath” died in 1400 and was buried in a wall of this Abbey.

It appears that the first recorded representative of the MacCraith name in a new location was in association with a religious connection. The earliest reference found so far, to a McGrath ancestor in a given area, was always as a member of the clergy. As an abbot or a bishop they would be assigned to a new region and then later perhaps other members of the family would follow and also settle in the new area.

One of the questions that has been analyzed in this research is whether a “push” or a “pull” mechanism drove these splits and migrations. The religious connection above would be an example of a “pull” mechanism.

The Religious Connections of the MacCraiths

From 1391 to 1463 the MacCraiths are recorded in the various annals of Ireland as being Abbots of Clareabbey, near Ennis, in County Clare. Many went on to be Bishops of the Diocese of Killaloe which encompasses all of present day County Clare and parts of the Counties of Galway and Tipperary. During this time the powerful families of the area ruled the Abbeys. Islandmagrath, where the head of the MacCraith clan resided, was considered part of the Abbey lands. The addition of abbey lands to the clan holdings was a regular practice at the time but it would later be seen to work against the clan’s best interests.

In the early years of the 1500s the annals of Ireland record the deaths of several notable Magrath ancestors who had died as wealthy and prosperous men. All that would soon change with the accession of Henry VIII to the throne of England. Henry created the Church of England when the established Catholic Church would not allow him a divorce from his then present wife so that he could marry young Anne Boleyn. Eventually this Church of England was imposed on the people of Ireland, where the entire population had been Catholic. In the process Henry claimed all church lands for himself and England. Since Islandmagrath had been combined with the abbey lands of Clareabbey this royal land grab probably caused the MacCraith clan to lose ownership of their ancestral lands. It was a probable cause for the migration of the MacCraith’s into Tipperary and Limerick counties. It was during this time, in the mid 1500’s, that some of the MacCraith’s established a Bardic school in the Tipperary town of Cahir. Being a sept of poets and church officials the MacCraiths were highly educated and starting a school would seem a logical occupational choice after having their lands taken away.

During this reformation period the Catholic clergy were greatly persecuted and those who chose not to leave the country had prices placed on their heads and were hunted down. This didn’t go unnoticed by a young Franciscan friar by the name of Meiler Magrath who was considered one of the most notorious men of this name. Meiler Magrath (1523-1622) was a Franciscan friar, who later

became a Protestant and rose to be Archbishop of Cashel though still holding the Catholic bishopric of Down. In 1604 he held four bishoprics and seventy livings. Some sources claim that he was twice married although I have examined his family genealogy and have found only one wife. Although he had changed to the Protestant religion his family remained faithful to the Catholic religion.

Miler Magrath: Scoundrel or a Man Who Knew the System?

Situated southeast of the town of Tipperary there is a famous ruin called "The Rock of Cashel." Buried in the southern wall of the choir of the church on top of this massive rocky outcropping is one Meiler Magrath who died in 1622. The stone carving bears the year 1607 which is the year that the carving was completed and is also the year in which I believe he resigned his appointment as Archbishop of Cashel. He was famous in that he was an archbishop in both the Catholic and Protestant churches at the same time. The previous Catholic Archbishop of Cashel had been tortured to death by agents of Queen Elizabeth I – this lesson was not lost on Miler Magrath. At the dissolution of the monasteries and churches by Henry VIII the English had confiscated all church property. One view of the situation is that Miler, by accepting the Church of England position as the Archbishop of Cashel, was just trying to get some of the land back for the Catholics. At least he didn't turn on his clan like the Earl of Thomond (O'Brien) who accepted ownership of the clan lands for himself.

Some of the land that Miler procured was for the church, some was given to him by Queen Elizabeth I (for example Tome, Co. Tipperary) and Miler purchased some of it.

Meiler was from the branch of the MacCraith family that had migrated to Northern Ireland. He had one wife and his descendants married and raised families in the area around Cashel in County Tipperary. This creates a problem in sorting out the northern Magraths from the County Clare McGraths except that the "northern McGraths" were usually referred to by the name "Magrath" while the others were referred to by the names McCragh, MacCraith, MacRaith or McGrath.

As part of this same stone carving is a coat of arms that is very similar to that of the MacCraith family of Thomond. This is not exactly the same as the coat of arms of the MacCraith family of Islandmagrath. There is not enough evidence available at this point to be able to draw any firm conclusions about the differences in the coat of arms. According to the traditions of that day the various branches of the family would make minor variations in the coat of arms to distinguish the branches yet at the same time identify with the common ancestor.

Meiler Magrath's second eldest son and heir was Redmond, "His (Redmond's) son Edmond, acted as a spy for the Cromwellians who confiscated much of the McGrath possessions and burned their castle outside Waterford.¹³". This statement implies a more direct connection between Meiler's family and the McGrath's of Waterford County than all the existing evidence would support. The reference to "outside Waterford" is suspicious. The Waterford McGraths were concentrated around the Lismore and Dungarvan areas. There are references to a Magrath's castle in Dungarvan, County Waterford. The castle near Dungarvan, in Abbeyside, predates the arrival of Meiler and his descendants by several hundred years and is connected with another branch of the family as will be seen later.

There is a reference to a house owned by Meiler Magrath in Lismore, County Waterford that was destroyed by fire¹⁴. Miler Magrath once occupied a castle known as Lismore Castle in the town of Lismore in County Waterford.¹⁵ This was when Miler was the also the Bishop of Waterford and the castle at Lismore was the residence of the bishop. This castle was also owned at one time by Sir Walter Raleigh and Richard Boyle, the First Earl of Cork. Lismore Castle is still standing today and is presently owned by the Cavendish family of the Dukes of Devonshire. There are several versions of the tale as to how Sir Walter Raleigh came into possession of Lismore Castle from Miler Magrath. One description of the transaction has Miler personally profiting from the sale. A more accurate description of transaction describes the approval of the church and the receipts of the sale going to the office of the Bishop of Cashel and not Miler himself.

The McGrath Coat of Arms

Arms originated out of the experience of the Crusades 1096 - 1271. With the advent of full body armor it was necessary to distinguish friend from foe quickly and accurately. The Normans brought arms with them during their invasion of Ireland. This was the first exposure of the Irish to the concept of a coat of arms. The Gaelic tradition of heraldry embodies the Irish myth of the common origin and the property rights of the extended family and extends in practice from the fifteenth century. Given the genealogical underpinnings of the arms it probably fell to one of the bards (poets) in the family to design the coat of arms.

There were three heraldic traditions in Ireland: the Norman, the Anglo-Irish and the Gaelic Irish. While the first two traditions formed a part of the mainstream of European heraldry the last formed a unique tradition in Ireland. There is no strict attachment of significance to particular symbols. A lion is conventionally regal. The characteristics of the arms in use among the important Gaelic families do have a number of common features. This is due in part to the role of genealogy in early Irish society. The myth of a common origin was a potent means of unifying the different Celtic and pre-Celtic peoples of Ireland and the enormously

elaborated Gaelic pseudo-genealogies, tracing every family in the country back to the same individual.

The stag which appears in the arms of many Munster families – MacCarthy, O’Sullivan and many others – relates very clearly to the kingship myth of the Erainn peoples. What the many families displaying the stag have in common is that they were originally part of the great Eoghanacht tribal group. The Thomond McGrath’s were descendants of the Dalcassian branch of the family and not the Eoghanacht branch and their arms display the antelope and not the stag.

In addition to the association of heraldic symbolism with pre-Christian myth the Gaelic tradition of land belonging to the entire tribe were carried over to the family ownership of the arms themselves. The Norman and Anglo-Irish tradition had a particular style of arms belonging to the person not the entire family.



Figure 1-1. The McGrath Coat of Arms

The other quadrants of the McGrath arms might be references to the families many religious connections (the cross) and their readiness to meet their adversaries in combat (the battle-axe).

On the tomb of Miler Magrath at Cashel there was engraved the McGrath Coat of Arms described above. This could be taken as further evidence that this northern sept was descended from the McGraths of Islandmagrath. At present this is the only use of the coat of arms by a McGrath that has surfaced.

Miler Magrath’s Arms: Quarterly

First: three lions facing left, reclining on out stretched front legs, head facing front toward the viewer

Second: a dexter hand lying fessways, coupé at the wrist ppr. holding a cross formée fitchée [flat on the bottom - not pointed as indicated by the word fitchée in the Waterford MacGrath arms]

Third: a dexter hand lying fessways, coupé at the wrist ppr. holding a battle axe [or possibly a hammer]

Fourth: an deer/stag facing left, walking on hind legs, right rear leg raised, left rear leg on the ground, front legs extending straight forward, antlers.

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“*Henry*: Of the Kings of England of the Norman Race, it was Henry II., who, in the Royal Banner, first assumed *Three Lions*: ‘Gu. Three lions passant gardant Or.’ As Henry, through his mother Mande, claimed to be of *Irish lineal descent*, and that Milesius of Spain, the ancestor of the Milesian Irish Nation, bore *three lions* [possibly some reference to his 3 sons??] in his shield, the fact of *three lions* on the escutcheon of King Henry II., of England, is very significant!” - O’Hart, John, *Irish Pedigrees, Murphy & McCarthy*, New York, 1923, p. 658.

This is somewhat confusing as to what years are they talking about – Milesius was around in a deep B.C. time frame. The use of Coat of Arms came into being around the time of the Crusades.

The Different McGrath Coats of Arms

The following arms description is given for the MacGrath Chiefs in the County of Waterford - *Irish Pedigrees or The Origin and Stem of The Irish Nation*, John O’Hart, Limited American Edition in Two Volumes, Murphy & McCarthy, 86 Walker Street, New York, New York, 1923

MacGrath - Chiefs of County Waterford. [Note spelling]

Arms: Quarterly

First: ar. three lions pass gu.

ar. = argent = silver or white

three lions pass. = passant = designating a beast facing and walking toward the viewer’s right with one front leg raised.

gu. = gules = red

Second: or. a dexter hand lying fessways, coupé at the wrist ppr. holding a cross formée fitchée az.

or. = gold

dexter hand lying *fessways* = *dexter* means located on the wearer's right and the observer's left; *fessways* describes an object borne horizontally in the middle of the field.

couped at the wrist = *couped* means cut off in a straight line.

ppr. = proper

cross *formée fitchée* = *formée* means a cross with curved sides and straight ends; *fitchée* means the lower end of the cross is pointed.

az. = azure = blue

Third: *gu.* a dexter hand lying *fessways*, *couped* at the wrist *ppr.* holding a battle axe *or.*

gu. = gules = red

dexter hand lying *fessways* = *dexter* means located on the wearer's right and the observer's left; *fessways* describes an object borne horizontally in the middle of the field.

couped at the wrist = *couped* means cut off in a straight line.

ppr. = proper

battle axe =

or. = gold

Fourth: *ar.* an antelope trippant *sa* attired *or.*

ar. = argent = silver or white

antelope *trippant* =

sa attired =

or. = gold

MaGrath of Ulster

Arms: *Ar.* three lions pass. *gu.*

O'Hart lists two pedigrees for the MacGraths of Co. Waterford, one pedigree in Ulster, from which Miler Magrath is descended, but none for Co. Clare. This is probably because many authors believe that the sept in Co. Waterford had migrated from Co. Clare. It is interesting that the surname in Waterford is **MacGrath** but in Ulster it is shown as **MaGrath**.

The origin of the MacCraith clan from which all three of these groups were descended began in Co. Clare near the modern day town of Ennis. The chief of the MacCraiths of Thomond, as they were called, maintained his home, during the 12th century, at Islandmagrath which is located southwest of Ennis on the western shore of the River Fergus.

According to old manuscripts the Ulster branch descended from the Islandmagrath MacCraith's by way of Terman Magrath near Pettigo, on the border between Co. Donegal and Fermanagh. The split took place in about the 12th century.

The Persecution of the Catholic Clergy in Clare

As part of the plan to put down the Irish population the Protestant religion was to supersede the Catholic faith of Irish people. The parishes were placed under the care of Protestant clergyman, most of which were brought over from England for this purpose. A Bishop Rider issued a report: *Answer to Inquiries made by a Royal Commission as to the condition of the Diocese of Killaloe*, in 1622. "In the course of his Answer, Bishop Rider complains that the abbeys that had been dissolved in his diocese were still used by the people as burial places for their dead friends; that these monasteries are resorted to by priests and friars, and on certain days of the year, are frequented by great crowds of country people, presumably while attending the funerals of their deceased relatives. He finds fault with the sheriffs of counties for not putting in force the laws against Popish Recusants.¹⁶" Bishop Rider went on to list the offending clerics by name, parish and sometimes even included the name of their hosts where they were residing. Rider continues, "...over the whole diocese, Mahone Magrath has been appointed Vicar-General by the Pope, with power of appointing priests, dispensing in cases of matrimony, and exercising other canonical jurisdiction; and his usual place of residence is in the house of Sir John M'Namara, Knight, at Mountallon.¹⁷"

The Vicar General's actual name was Matthew Magrath and he was the author of a manuscript that is preserved in the library of the College of the Irish Franciscans at Prague. This manuscript describes the sufferings of the Catholic clergy during the reigns of Henry VIII, Elizabeth, and James I. The manuscript was brought to Prague in 1660 by Daniel Conroy, who was a relative of Magrath.¹⁸

The English never understood the ancient Irish traditions. One of these was the visiting of the graves of dead ancestors. The churches were subsequently located near the graveyards because this was where people gathered not vice-versa.

The Legacy of Miler Magrath

While living to the advanced age of 100 Miler amassed a large holding of property in County Tipperary, which would not have been possible if he had

remained a Catholic. The Civil Survey of 1654 describes how this land was dispersed among Miler's sons and their sons who were living at the time of the survey. This survey was a preliminary assessment of land ownership in 1641, the year of the Rebellion. Oliver Cromwell and his English generals had fought their way across Ireland in 1649-51 destroying one castle after another to put down the Rebellion. After the rebellion had been put down the Irish were to be transported to the Province of Connacht so that there would not be any Irish left south of the River Shannon. Meiler Magrath's descendants would be no exception and they were transported to the eastern portion of County Clare and the southern portion of County Galway.

In actual fact England needed the land to pay for the costs of the war that had put down the Rebellion of 1641 and they didn't really want all the Irish removed. There were three reasons for their actions after the end of the hostilities. Take the land to pay the soldiers and the financial backers of the war. Remove the gentry and priests, as these were the leaders of the people and without them the peasantry would not rise up again. They left the peasants in place to work the land for the new English settlers. Without the workers the new English settlers would need to toil on their own land or starve. It was hoped that within a generation the Irish gentry themselves would join the peasantry by descending into poverty and obscurity.

Prior to the start of the Rebellion of 1641 there were no McGraths, Magraths or MacCraith's listed as landowners in County Clare. The Book of Survey and Distribution was a preliminary determination of land ownership in the year 1641, the year that the Rebellion began. It's not possible to say that there were absolutely no MacCraith descendants living in County Clare - only that they were not land owners. The reformation in the mid-1500's had probably already cost the MacCraith's their ancestral lands. Anyone who stayed on was reduced to renting from the new owners.

It was the transportation of Meiler Magrath's descendents into County Clare as a result of the Cromwellian wars that appears to have reintroduced the surname into the recorded history of the county. The plan for removing all the Irish from south of the Shannon never really had a chance for success. The land taken from the Irish was given to the English soldiers and adventurers who fought for or helped finance respectively Cromwell's campaign. They all wanted to own Irish estates and be lords of the manor, but that wasn't possible without someone to work the land. The former owners of the land could leave or become tillers of the soil they once owned under the new owners - some chose that route and disappeared into the ranks of the poor.

[Listing of the lands that the Magrath's received in County Clare]

The Cromwellian Transplantation

“Clare was reduced almost to a wilderness. Famine followed on the footsteps of war to a degree that, if a contemporary writer is to be believed, not only did the unfortunate people resort to horse flesh for food, but in their extremity, in some cases, used even human flesh. Only about forty townlands out of thirteen hundred, and these mostly in the barony of Bunratty, could be said to be inhabited in the June of 1653. To make the desolation more complete, an order was issued to destroy nearly all the castles. Commissioners sat at Loughrea to superintend these operations, as well as to parcel out the confiscated lands to the English claimants and the Irish who were driven out of the other provinces.”¹⁹

This is most likely the reason for the disappearance of the castle at Islandmagrath. The continuing existence of many ancient stone structures throughout Ireland shows that these structures are strong enough to survive the forces of nature over many centuries. The majority of these castles and towers disappeared from the Irish landscape only through the direct human intervention.

The Jacobites and the Williamite Rising

Starting in 1689 there was a short war between factions led by William of Orange and his son-in-law James II. The following men were some of the McGraths who rallied to support James II. From Tulla Barony: Nicholas Magrath and Thomas Magrath. The men from Clare were called the Yellow Dragoons, from the color of the facings of their uniforms. One of the officers of this group was Captain Redmond Magrath of Derrymore. In Charles O'Brien's regiment was Captain Thomas Magrath of Kilbarron.

“Edmond Magrath died in June, 1683, and was succeeded by his eldest son Redmond who was subsequently outlawed, being attainted of high treason, and his estate forfeited, the rents having been since 1696, received by Nicholas Westby for the use of Dr. John Leslie to whom the lands were granted by his Majesty.”²⁰

After losing another encounter against the English the Irish land was redistributed once again in 1703. The 1700's were the years of the Penal Laws - Catholics were forbidden from doing just about everything.

At the end of this section is a list of the “McGraths” who participated in this conflict, known as Jacobites, who lost their estates as a result of their participation and were forced into exile. Many Irish found service with the armies of England's enemies such as France and Spain.

The Penal Laws

The Treaty of Limerick, signed the 3rd of October, 1691, signaled the end of the Jacobite War fought between the supporters of William of Orange and those of his son in law James. One of the guarantees in the treaty was that "... the Roman Catholics of this kingdom shall enjoy such privileges in the exercise of their religion as are consistent with the laws of Ireland; or as they did enjoy in the reign of King Charles the Second; and their Majesties [as soon as their affairs will permit them to summon a Parliament in this kingdom] will endeavour to secure them such further security in that particular as may preserve them from any disturbance upon the account of their said religion."²¹ In practice the codes that were finally enacted required the Roman Catholics to become Protestants if they wanted to be freeman. Among the acts that came from the Parliament that was called in Dublin in 1695 was an act for "banishing all Papists exercising any ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and all regulars of the Popist clergy, out of the kingdom before the 1st of May 1698." A reward of £50 was offered to the priest-hunters for a bishop or vicar general, £20 for a priest not registered and £10 for any Popist schoolmaster. The learned professions were closed to all Catholics, with the exception of medicine. Included in the appendix is a full list of these restrictions imposed upon those of the Catholic faith that together were known as the Penal Laws.

Catholic Priests of Clare, 1704

"By the Act 2nd Anne, it was enacted that, after the festival of St. John the Baptist in 1704, every Popish Priest remaining in this country should give a return of his name, place of abode, his age, the parish of which he pretended to be parish priest, the place and time of his ordination, the bishop who ordained him: and should besides, enter into recognizance's with two sureties to be of good behaviour".²² At a general quarter session of the peace held at Ennis on July 11, 1704 there were 45 priests who were registered. Among these was Edmond Glissane, parish of Clonea and Killuran who listed as Sureties John Magrath, Teerovanan, parish of Killuran, barony of Tulla Lower and John Reid of Killevoe.

The Hedge Schools

"The hedge-schoolmaster became an institution in those dark days, and left a name that should be a name of honour in all succeeding generations. Some families deserve special notice in this connection – the Curtins or MacCurtins, the MacBrody's, the MacClancys, and the MacGraths. They carried on, in the face of persecution, the honorable traditional calling of the clans."²³

The Hedge Schools appeared on the scene but a short time after the demise of the Bardic Schools, the ancient professional schools of Ireland, in the wake of the Rebellion of 1641. The Bardic Schools were the truly National Schools that had survived until they were "...closed down for good only when their patrons had become landless and homeless, or exiles."²⁴ While the Bardic Schools were open only to the descendants of poets or to students who had already distinguished themselves the Hedge Schools were open to all. Their outlaw status naturally relegated the schools to the more rural regions of the county. The schools of Munster and Kerry were known for their excellence, which may in part be attributed to their mountainous environment that minimized legal intervention.²⁵

"...Arithmetic was one of the most popular of school subjects. Arithmetic...is a favorite branch of instruction with the Irish people generally...the Irishman's hobby."²⁶ In the 1820's a "...very successful classical school was kept ...in Ennis (County Clare) by Mr. O'Halloran. Mr. Magrath taught later on with great advantage to youths whose parents could not afford to send them to boarding-schools outside the county."²⁷ Down to the present day the McGraths continue to be well represented among the ranks of the clergy and the teaching profession.

The 1800's

In the 1800's Catholics began to get their freedom once again and the Catholic parish priests began to operate in the open once again. For this reason most Catholic parish records only go back to about 1820.

"In 1824, there were considerably over two million people who commonly used the Irish language. This was a remarkable number considering that it had rather become the fashion for some time to eschew the language in favour of English. That it still remained so vigorous was due partly to tradition and partly to the conservative character of the Irish peasantry."²⁸

"Life was increasingly difficult for men who endeavored to maintain independence of their schools after the establishment of the National Board of Education in 1832."²⁹ Parents were sending their children to these new schools because the fees were lower and the Hedge Schools were disappearing from a lack of students.

The tithing of all citizens to support the Church of Ireland (Protestant) necessitated the Tithe Applotment Survey in about 1830.

In the years of the Great Famine 1845-1850 many were evicted from their land, died or left Ireland in search of new lives. Griffith's Valuation was a post Famine survey of townland occupants covering all of Ireland, which started in the south

in 1848, moving northward and was completed in 1864. These are the main tools that are available to genealogists seeking their ancestors during those periods.

The Surname Variations and Possible Interpretations

The various spellings of the McGrath surname may have some significance despite the looseness with which many authors chose to render the surname. Starting with the original name of MacRaith or MacCraith. There are a few examples of the spelling McCraith that were found in the Griffith's Valuation Index which was conducted between 1848 and 1864. There is a case of the spelling MacRaith that I am aware of, still around today near Cahir in County Tipperary.

The spelling McCragh/M'Cragh was found in County Waterford in the 1660's and also in the northern part of Tipperary in the early 1640's. The appearance of the spelling Magrath can be traced to the Ulster Sept of the clan. Meiler Magrath, of the Ulster Sept, was appointed Archbishop of Cashel and Emly and introduced this spelling into County Tipperary in the 1570's. During this time the Reformation was in full swing and Catholics were being persecuted and their priests being driven into exile or killed. Meiler had switched from Catholic to Protestant and obtained his Cashel appointment. However he still maintained his position as Bishop of two Catholic dioceses for awhile and his family remained Catholics. It's possible that the name was changed earlier from something close to MacCraith to the less Irish looking Magrath, but this is just speculation at this point. However, during this time period the Earl of Desmond and his followers were in open rebellion against the Queen. Two of the Earl's followers were McCragh's from Co. Waterford and were referred to as outlaws in official state documents. Miler's choice in spelling his surname as Magrath may have been an attempt to distance himself from these "outlaws." In reality he was related to them through their common connection to the MacCraiths of Islandmagrath.

After the Rebellion of 1641 the Cromwellian transplantation of the Irish to the Province of Connacht in the 1650's saw Meiler Magrath's descendents bring the Magrath spelling to the eastern portion of County Clare around the parishes of Feakle and Tulla. The Cromwellian transplantation was not very successful and many of the Irish made their way back to their former homesteads.

In east Clare there were several Brady families near the village of Tuamgraney. This was the result of members of the O'Grady family in the area who changed their name to the more English-sounding Brady at the time of Henry VIII, whose favor they were courting (From a book on Irish names). This might be a possible explanation for Miler spelling his name Magrath rather than the more Irish looking McGrath.

In the Index to the Griffith's Valuation it's found that the greatest number of Magraths and McGraths, in 1851, were located in County Tipperary. There were more Magrath's in County Tipperary than in County Clare where they had been concentrated in the 1650's. In 1851 the Magraths were most numerous in the Northern Tipperary parishes of Dromineer, Kilmore and Moyaliff.

The presence of the Magrath variation in County Clare and in the Moyaliff area indicates there might be some possibility that our Edmond was descended from Meiler Magrath. The name Edmond even appears several times in the known descendents of Meiler Magrath. However, there is a gap between about 1750 and 1820 that must be filled in to show conclusively that our Edmond is one of Meier's descendants. It now appears that Edmond McGrath's parents, grandparents (McGrath) and great-grandparents (McGrath) lived in the area around the parish of Moyaliff bordering the parish of Upperchurch on the south.

Mary Ryan's parents were from Gleninchaveigh (Glow), Parish of Upperchurch. Edmond Magrath and Mary Ryan were married in Upperchurch in September 1841. It was probably a custom then, as it is today, for the wedding ceremony to take place at the bride's church, hence they were married at Upperchurch. The parish of Moyaliff borders Upperchurch on the south and had contained 12 individuals named Magrath in 1851 who were occupying land in that parish. There was only one McGrath family in the parish of Upperchurch and none in Moyaliff. In the correspondence with J. O'Meara, the parish priest at Upperchurch, he always used the spelling Magrath and not McGrath when referring to family references in the Upperchurch parish records. Therefore it is highly probable that Edmond McGrath was from the parish of Moyaliff not Upperchurch and there is a possibility that the name was spelled Magrath not McGrath. This can be resolved in favor of McGrath in light of the use of the McGrath in the Moyaliff Graveyard and in Edmond and Mary's ship records of their journeys to America.

According to Doug Currie the New York State 1855 census gives Edmond's spelling of his surname as McGraw. It is possible that the nearby town of McGraw, then know as McGrawville, might have had some influence in the change in spelling. John, his son, later used McGrath on the headstones of his wife Ellen and his children who died of the cholera epidemic in 1883. John's son, John J. McGraw, the famous manager of the New York Giant's at the beginning of the 20th century, maintained the use of the McGraw version of the surname. Edmond's other son, Michael, stayed with the surname McGraw. The death certificates of Edmond and his sons Michael and John all show the surname spelling as McGraw.

CHAPTER II - The Ancient Ancestors of Edmond McGrath

Oilioll Olum – 3rd Century A.D.

Oilioll Olum – “He became King of Leath-Mhogha, or the southern half of Ireland, after having conquered Lughaidh Maccon, the ancestor of O’Driscoll, in the battle of Ceann-Feabhradh Sleibhe Caoin, in the year 237 (A.D.). He married Sadhbh, or Sabia, daughter of Con of the Hundred Battles, and had by her seven sons, who all fell in the battle of Magh-Mucruimhe, near Athenry, in the present county of Galway, except Cormac Cas and Cian. Of these three only three left issue, namely, Eoghan, Cormac Cas, and Cian, the ancestor of O’Carroll of Ely O’Carroll, of O’Meagher of Ikerrin, [Donovan], and several other families. “

“Previous to this time, the ancestors of the O’Driscolls, of the Ithian race, and the Ernaans, of the race of Heremon, had been kings of Munster, according to the fortune of each in the war, in which they were almost constantly embroiled with each other. But Oilioll Olum fixed the sceptre in his own family, and divided Munster into two parts, between his second son, Cormac Cas, and the heir of his eldest son, Eoghan, and enjoined that their descendants should succeed to the government of the province in alternate succession; and this injunction was complied with until the time of Brian Borumha, who set it aside forever, after dethroning the heir, not only of Eoghan, but of Con of the Hundred Battles.”

Oilioll Oluim ordained that Munster would alternately be ruled by the descendents of Eoghan and Cormac Cas. “The posterity and dependents of Eoghan (called Eoghanachts), who was killed in the battle of Magh Macruimhe, A.D. 195, possessed all South Munster. Being the more numerous and more widely extended, whenever they could they disregarded the will of their ancestor, and consequently we find them possessed of the throne of Munster much more frequently than the descendents of Cormac Cas. These latter ruled in North Tipperary and Clare. From the time that Luighaidh Meann, the fourth in descent from Cormac Cas by his wife, the daughter of Oisin, and grand-daughter of Finn MacCumhaill, wrested Clare from the Firbolgs, this county became the patrimony of the principal families claiming descent from Cormac Cas. To Luighaidh Meann succeeded his son, Conal Eachluaith, or Conal of the Fleet Steeds. This Conal had a son called Cas, after his great ancestor, and to this Cas are traced back all the chief Clare families, called after him by the well-known and illustrious title Dalcassian. “

“It is a fact that cannot be called in question, that, while over nearly all Europe changes, dynastic and popular, were frequently made, in Clare, and indeed in all Ireland, the possession of the soil remained and still remains in the hands of the descendents of those ancient colonists.”

“Cas, the common ancestor of the Dalcassians, and who was the seventh in descent from Cormac Cas, the second son of Oilíoll Oluim, had twelve sons. The eldest son, Blod, was the ancestor of the O'Briens, who, by right of birth, as well as by the force of their strong right hand, -Lauve Laudher, - held undisputed pre-eminence in Clare. Their chiefs were frequently kings of Munster, and sometimes monarchs of all Ireland. From Blod, through his two sons, Cairthinn Finn and Brenân Bân, descend also many other Clare families, namely, the MacMahons, the Malones and O'Molonys, the Currys, the O'Hurleys, the O' Riada (now Reidy), the O'Seasnain (now Sextons), the O'Hogans, and various others, spread through Tipperary and Limerick as well as Clare, such as the O'Mearas, the O'Sheehans, the O'Bolands, the MacInirys, the O'Fogartys, the O'Ryans, the O'Gleesons, etc.” **[The MacCraiths were descended from Cairthinn Finn.]**

“From Caisin, the second son of Cas, descend the MacNamaras, who, in extent and wealth of territory, and in strength of numbers, ranked next to the O'Briens; the O'Gradys, the MacClanchys, the O'Deas, the MacInernys, the O'Meehans, etc. From Luighaidh, the third son of Cas, descend the O'Liddys; from Aengus Cinnaitin, the O'Quins, the O'Hehirs, the O'Howards, etc.; from Aedh, the O'Heas, etc.; and from Dealbaith, the MacCoghlan, the Scullys, etc. The descendants of the other sons of Cas cannot be directly traced, probably because by intermarriages they were absorbed into the more numerous and more powerful neighboring clans.”

History of Clare and the Dalcassian Clans of Tipperary, Limerick and Galway, by Rev. P. White, M. H. Gill & Son, Dublin, 1893, pp. 17-20.

From the Book of Survey and Distribution³⁰ we find the following relationships between the ruling O'Briens and those families that perform services in support of the O'Briens. These functions were hereditary in nature with the same families providing the same services over many generations.

O'Briens – Long possessed kingly power

MacNamara – hereditary Marshall's

MacDonnell – of Darach, descended from the monarch Brian Boromhe

MacBroudings – (MacBrody), hereditary poets and historians to the O'Briens.

MacClanchy – hereditary judges and lawyers.

O'Hicky – hereditary physicians to the O'Briens

In 1437, “we find recorded the drowning of Geannan MacCurtin, ‘intended Ollav of Thomond in history. There was not in Leth-Mogha’ (the southern half of Ireland) ‘in his time a better material of a historian than he.’ This family gave, in nearly all the years following, up to a recent period, men of note in Clare as preservers of the old traditions of the country in the Irish language. The last of the line was a teacher in the parish of Kilfarboy, who died only a few years ago.”³¹ This is just another example of the ancient traditions being passed down through the Irish families from generation to generation.

Bardic Families

“Accounts of the chief bards, from the earliest ages, are to be found in O'Reilly's “Irish Writers;” and throughout the “Annals of the Four Masters,” the names of a great number of eminent bards, historians, and Brehons have been recorded. The following were the chief Bardic families in Ireland, and many of them were eminent historians...”

- **MacCraith**, O'Daly, O'Dinneem, and O'Keefe, were chief poets in Desmond, to McCarthy, O'Donoghoe, O'Sullivan, and other great families; and to Fitzgerald, earls of Desmond.
- **MacCraith**, MacBruodin, MacCurtain, and McGowan were the bards and historians of Thomond, to O'Brien, MacNamara, MacMahon, O'Loghlin and other great families of Clare and Limerick.”

“The Irish bards and brehons assisted at the inauguration of kings and princes, and had some of the highest seats appropriated to them at the banquet. The bards attended on battlefields, recited their war songs, and animated the champions to the contest; and they recorded the heroic actions of the warriors who fell in the conflict.”

“The bards of Ireland were for many centuries proscribed and persecuted, and great numbers of them put to death by the English government: and many penalties were enacted against them by the parliaments as in the ‘Statute of Kilkenny,’ etc.

“In Ireland the bards were a famous order from the earliest ages; and, after the Milesian conquest of Ireland, Amergin, one of the sons of Milesius, was

appointed chief bard of the kingdom; in subsequent times, many even of the kings and princes composed poems and attained the high honour of being enrolled amongst the bards. In the institutions of the country, the bards held a rank equal to the princes and chief nobility: the bards and brehons were permitted, as a mark of distinction, to wear six colours in their garments, the kings themselves wearing six, some say seven; while military commanders and various other public officers, according to their rank and dignities, wore only five, four, three, and two colours, the slave being allowed to wear only one colour. The word 'Bard' is also *Bard* in Irish; *Ollamh* [Ollav] was the name applied by the Irish to a professor, a sage, a learned man, or poet; and 'Ard Ollamh' or *High Poet* was the designation of the chief bard to the king - a title equal to that of our "Poet Laureate." At a very early period the bards became a numerous body in Ireland; and, from their undue power in the state, excited the jealousy and enmity of some of the kings and princes. In the reign of the 97th Monarch Conaire Mor, in the century before the Christian era, the bards were proscribed and expelled from Munster and Leinster; they fled to Ulster, where they found refuge, and were protected and patronized by Count MacNessa, the then celebrated King of Emania. From time to time down to the reign of Elizabeth the bards of Ireland were proscribed and persecuted; the Acts against minstrels were so stringent in the reigns of Henry the Eighth and Queen Elizabeth, that, in the language of the immortal Thomas Moore, 'the charms of *song* were ennobled with the glories of martyrdom.' Bardism and Brehonism, like many offices in Ireland, were hereditary in certain families; each of the kings, princes, and chiefs, having his own Bards and Brehons." ³²

Andrew M'Grath, a rambling disciple of Anacreon, and a good lyric poet, well known in Munster, in the last century (19th), by the name of '*Mangaire Sugach*.'"

The pedigrees shown on the following pages, for the most part, proceed through the male line of the family going from father to eldest son. The lack of dates is most annoying but occasionally some of these can be pieced together from other sources. In generation 46 and 47 of the Termon Magrath Branch the methodology was varied when the male line of Miler Magrath's first son Terlagh died out. At that point the pedigree moved to the line of Miler Magrath's second son Redmond.

The Beginnings of the Original Clan MacCraith

On the Twigge A&I MS 39266 and MS 39270 Manuscripts on Microfilm (Clare Local Studies Center, Ennis, Co. Clare) are found the pedigrees of the McGraths of Thomond and Termon Magrath. This is the original stem from which many of the clans of Irelands are descended.

1. Olioll Olum, King of Munster, 237 A.D.
2. Cormac Cas, King of Munster
3. Magh Corb.
4. Fer Corb.
5. Aengus Tirech, King of Munster
6. Lughaidh Meim(?), King of Munster
7. Canall Eachluath, King of Munster, 366 A.D.
8. Cas
9. Blod
10. Carthum Finn, 438 A.D.
11. Eochaidh Ballderg
12. Conall
13. Aedh Carinh, King of Munster 571 A.D., ob. 611 A.D.
14. Cathal
15. Toirdelbhach, K.T.
16. Mathghamhain
17. Anlaun
18. Core

This list picks up on the next page.

The Branching of the Clan MacCraith

On the Twigge A&I MS 39266 Manuscripts on Microfilm (Clare Local Studies Center, Ennis, Co. Clare) are found the pedigrees of the McGraths of Thomond and Termon Magrath (MS 23.P.1). The Thomond branch is in the left column. The Termon Magrath branch splits off in around the 11th or 12th century. The Waterford branch splits in about the 14th century and is represented by splicing MS 23.G.4 onto MS 23.P.1 at what appears to be the approximately correct location.

Thomond Branch of the McGraths – County Clare and Tipperary			Termon Magrath Branch – Co. Donegal & Tyrone
19. Lachtna			
20. Lorcan			
21. Cenneidi (Kennedy – 945 AD)		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> See R.I. Ac. MS 23.B.12 tr. by Edmond Mahony 1833 </div>	
22. Echtighern (bro. Of Brian Boru)			
23. Flann			
24. Maccraith			
25. Flann			25. Donnchadh
26. Gilla losa			26. Domhuall
27. Maelmuire			27. Ragnall
28. Tomas mor			28. Aedh mor
29. Maelmuire mor			29. Aedh og
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">↓</div> <div style="text-align: center;">↓</div> <div style="text-align: center;">↓</div> </div>			30. Brian
			31. Domhuall
30. Giolla-losa	30. Maelmuire og	32. Aedh	32. Aedh
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">↓</div> <div style="text-align: center;">↓</div> </div>			31. Domhnall
			33. Marcus
Diarmaid Domhuall Giolla-Padraig Ruaidhri Tomás Seán (Poets of Thomond in	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 23.G.4 p. 409 tr. by John O’Cahan 1729 from 16th century MS </div> Tomas mor	32. Philip	34. Nicholas

older times)	an Shiona		
	Maelmuire	33. Séan	35. Matha
	Tomas	34. Donnchadh an Snechta (of the Snow)	36. Diarmaid
	Maelmuire		37. Sean Mor
	Domhuall		38. Sean Buidhe (Comharba of Termon Dabeog o.b. 1440)
	Philip		39. Andrias, d. 1505
	Domhuall		40. Toirdhelbhach
	Ruadri		41. Donnchadh
	Philip of Sliabh Gua		42. Maelmuire (Miler)
		Waterford Branch of the McGraths – Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	43. Terlagh of Aylewallane
			44. Sir John MacCraith
			45. Sir Terlagh MacCraith
			46. Sir John MacCraith 3 rd
			47. Edward of Ratiaghmore –Co. Limerick
			48. Marie Patrice Nicholas Thomas. Born at Calais 18-6-1768.

In some cases when comparing pedigrees an extra name shows up or a particular name is sometimes missing. The exact location of the County Tipperary branch is not certain and therefore I have not attempted to splice it into the main Thomond line at this time. The reason for the belief that the County Tipperary branch split directly from the Thomond line and not from the County Waterford Branch is contained in R.I.Ac. MS. 23.N.11 pp. 43-44. In that document it is stated that Donnchadh alluim's descendant Aedha (Hugh) was the first to cross the Shannon and from Aedha descended the M'Craghs of Bhaile ui Lomasna, Buirgeise and the line of Diarmaid Ruadh MacCraith. This means that

the County Tipperary (Cahir area) and County Waterford McGraths are separate lines from the common Thomond line.

The line of descent that ends with Donnchadh an Snechta (of the Snow) has not been traced out yet.

The McGrath Citations in the Annals of Ireland

Termon Magrath

The church of **Termon Magrath** (the sanctuary of St. Daveog) was situated on an island in Lough Derg, in the county of Donegal, but not a trace of it now remains. For some account of this celebrated island in Lough Derg, commonly called the island of St. Patrick's Purgatory, see Dean Richardson's work entitled Folly of Pilgrimages, and Lanigan's Ecclesiastical History of Ireland, vol. i. p. 368. The stone chair of St. Daveog, or Daibheog, the patron of this Termon, is yet shewn in a townland of Seeavoc, which verges on Lough Derg on the south side. The church lands of Termon Daveog are now called **Termon-Magrath.**"

It should be noticed that there is no mention of any persons named **Magrath** in connection with Termon-Daveog at this early date [1196 A.D.].

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1247 | Earliest mention of Termon Magrath – (4) Annals of Connacht |
| 1290 | The Annals of Ulster record the existence of a monastery at Termon Magrath : " Gilla Adomhnain Magrath , Superior of Termon Dabheog died on October 20th of this year (1290)." p. 28 (16) |
| 1344 | Nicholas Magrath , coarb of Termon-Daveog, died (1) |
| 1379 | The defeat of Dreach (now Dragh) was given by O'Neill (Naill More) to Philip Maguire, where Teige Maguire, the two sons of Mac Manus, Turlough, the son of Donough Maguire, Brian the son of Magrath (of Termon Magrath) , and Murtough Mac Milchon, were slain (1)
Note e: <i>Dreach</i> , now Dragh, a townland in the parish of Kilnawley, or Kinawly, in the barony of Knockninny, in the south of the county of Fermanagh. |
| 1435 | Mag Raith of Termon Dabeoc [Daveog] died (4) |

- 1440** **Matthew Magrath**, son of **Marcus**, coarb of Termon-Daveog, died; and **John Boy** was elected in his stead (1)
 Note r: **Magrath** was the coarb, or lay incumbent, of this termon, and had a castle of considerable importance, the ruins of which are still to be seen in tolerable preservation on the northern margin of Lough Erne.
- 1440** (and 1469) **John Boy Magrath**, son of **John More**, coarb of Termon-Daveog. (1)
- 1467** **Niall Magrath**, son of **Mahon**, official of Lough Erne, and Parson of Inis-Caoin, died (1)
 Note l: *Inis-Caoin*, now Inishkeen, an island in the river Erne. See note b, p. 727, supra.
- Note b: *Inis Caoin*, now Inishkeen, an island surrounded by the River Erne, in the parish of Enniskillen, and barony of Tirkennedy, and county of Fermanagh, and containing an area of two hundred and sixty acres, English measure. It contains the ruins of an old church in a burial ground. – See Ordnance map of the county Fermanagh, sheet 27.
- 1469** **John Boy**, the son of **John More Magrath**, Coarb of Termon-Daveog, died; and **Dermot Magrath** (died 1492), son of **Marcus**, son of **Maurice Magrath**, was made coarb of St. Daveog in his place (1)
- 1471** Rory, the son of Donough, the son of Hugh Maguire, was slain by Colla, the son of Hugh Maguire, and his sons at the **house of Magrath, at Alt Ruaidhin, in Termon [Daveog]**, but Donough Oge, the son of Donough, son of Hugh Maguire, pursued Colla, and slew him and his son the next day at the same place, through the merits of God and St. Daveog. (1)
 Note o: *Allt Ruaidhin*, i.e. *Altitudo Rotherici*. – In the Dublin copy of the Annals of Ulster it is written Alt Ruaidri. The name is now shortened to Alt, which is that of a townland in **Termon-Magrath**, an ancient ecclesiastical district in the parish of Templecarn, in the barony of Tirhugh and county of Donegal, of which Termon the family of **Magrath** were the ancient lay coarbs, or wardens.

Note p: Termon-Daveog, now Termon Magrath. See note z, under year 1196, p. 104 supra.

- 1490** (and 1491) **Rory and Hugh Magrath**, the two sons of **Donnell**, son of **Hugh Oge**, the two principal learned men of the **Clann-Craith** died (1)
- 1491** **Murrough Magrath**, son of **Owen**, died (1)
- 1491** (and 1496) **Rory Magrath**, son of **Dermot**, coarb of Termon-Daveog (1)
- 1491** **Rory**, the son of **Dermot**, son of **Marcus**, was made **Magrath of Tearmann (Magrath)** (1)
Note x: In the Dublin copy of the Annals of Ulster the entry is given as follows: "Coarb and Kennfiné was made in this year of a short time before Christmas, of Rory, the son of Dermot, son of **Marcus Magrath**."
- 1491** **Hugh** and **Rory**, the two sons of **Donnell**, son of **Hugh Oge**, son of **Randal**, son of **Donough Alainn Magrath**, died (1)
Note y: *Donough Alainn*, i.e. Denis the Comely
- 1492** **Mag Raith**, Coarb of Termon Dabeoc [Daveog] namely **Diamait** [Dermot] son of **Marcus**. (4)
- 1496** **Mag Uidir**, that is **Sean**, was captured in **Termonn Meg Raith** by Conn son of Aed Ruad O Domnaill, and in this rout many horses and much booty were taken from Aed O Domnaill (Son of Aed Ruad. He had called in Maguire to help him against his brother Conn.) and from Mag Uidir.(1)

Another version: Con, the son of Donnell, laid siege to the castle of Ballyshannon. Maguire, i.e. John, the son of Philip, son of Thomas, came at the instance of Hugh, the son of O'Donnell, to drive Con from the town, and forcibly drove him from it. Hugh and Maguire afterwards pursued him to Donegal; and they burned part of the town in the early part of the day. Con, with the forces of Tirconnell, Inishowen, and Dartry-Mac Clancy, turned in pursuit of Hugh and Maguire, and followed them to Termon-Daveog. **Magrath**, i.e. **Rory**, the son of **Dermot**, son of **Marcus**, Coarb of that Termon, came to them, and warned Con and the Kinel-Connell not to violate his protection, or the protection of the Termon, by

attacking Maguire; they regarded not that [his warning], but pursued Maguire, who was engaged in endeavouring to effect his escape by strength of arm. Con and his army, however, gained the common pass on them, so that they were obliged to take to a bog and morass which lay before them, where [an engagement taking place] they left one hundred and ten horses behind; and Maguire's people were defeated, himself taken prisoner, and twelve of the chiefs of his people slain, with many others, about Brian Maguire (the son of Brian, son of Philip). (1) , p. 1227-9.

- 1504** **Andreas Magrath**, son of coarb of Termon-Daveog [Termonmagrath], a general Betagh, died (1)
- 1524** **John Boy Magrath**, son of **Andrew [Aindrais] Magrath**, a man of note, a prosperous man, and very wealth, died (1)
- 1527** **William Magrath**, son of **Andrew [Aindrais] Magrath**, a man of wealth and prosperity, died. His wife died within one-day-and-night. (1)
- 1542** The Coarb of **Termon Magrath** died, namely **Toirrdelbach** son of **Aindrias [Andrew]**. (4)
- 1562** **Magrath** of Termon-Daveog, died [Termon-Daveog, now Termon-Magrath, in the parish of Templecarne, barony of Tirhugh, and county of Donegal.] (1)
- 1596** **Mulmurry (Meyler) Magrath**, archbishop of Cashel (1)
- 1597** "On 8 October, 1597 he (**Miler**) received the 'site, circuit and precinct' of the late priory and religious house of Thome, Co. Tipperary, as well as the properties and lands of Aughnameall, Envyne, Ballyboy, Aghincor and Killyertiragh." (18) p. 31-2. and (17)
- 1622** **Miler Magrath** died at Cashel.

Ardagh

- 1224** "**Simon Macraith** was bishop of Ardagh in 1224." (3). Parish of Ardagh, County Longford, Barony of Ardagh.

Lough Key

The Rock of Lough Key is the name of a castle on an island in Lough Key, near Boyle, in the county of Roscommon (FM Vol. 3, p. 76, note d.)

- 1243** **Petrus Magrath**, died after dedicating his life among the canons of Trinity Island, Loch Key, was buried on St. Martin's Day. (1), (4). Trinity Island (1 acre, 3 p. 13 r.) County Roscommon, Barony of Boyle, Parish of Kilbryan)
- 1291** **Edru Magrath**, abbot [of the Monastery of the Blessed Trinity in Lough Key], died (1).
- 1291** #12. **Edruth Mac Raith**, Abbot of Loch Key, died (4).

Unclassified

- 1241** **Aengus MacRaith**, a priest of Cormac MacDiarmata, died before Christmas. (1), (4), (9)
- 1367** **Mulmurry Oge Magrath**, died (1)
- 1507** **Thomas Magrath**, the son of **Philip**, son of **Thomas**, son of **Maelmurry Oge**, son of **Maelmurry More**, died (1)

Thomond

- 1086** During the reign of Murtagh More O'Brien [he gave Cashel to the church – died 1118] these people died
 Ua Mailcain, chief poet of Dalcais
 Magrath, chief poet of Munster (14)
- 1240** **MacCraith, Eoghan**, a Poet, died (10)
- 1267** In 1267 David de Laundry's son Peter, and **Mathew Bishop of Killaloe** both claimed the rectory of the church at Clondegad." (13) This Mathew might have been one of the

MacCraith clan.

- 1283** "In 1283/4 Donnchadh and Turlough O'Brien, Princes of Thomond, held a conference at Islandmagrath to establish peace between them. The choosing of this venue for the conference suggests the **Macraiths** were involved, and that the head of the clan lived there. The battle of Islandmagrath ensued, in which Donnchadh was killed, and he is believed to be buried in Ennis Abbey." (3)
- 1317** "**Rory**, chief of the clan, led the **Macraiths** to fight with Turlough O'Brien at the Battle of Corcomroe Abbey in 1317." (3)
- 1318** "He (**Rory**) had a dominant role in the wars between the native O'Briens and the Norman De Clare's - the most famous being the Battle of Dysert O'Dea in 1318. Here the O'Briens defeated De Clare, and stopped the progress of the Norman conquests in Thomond." (3)
- 1343** **Rory Magrath**, ollav of Leth-Mogha in poetry, died (1)
- 1369** " **Rory** was also a poet and his son, **Sean**, was author of the 'Caithreim Toirdhealbhagh' (The Wars of Turlough). This was written about 1369 and is, among other things, a history of the wars between the O'Briens and De Clare's. It is a most important record, written in the flamboyant style of the poet." (3).
- 1389** **Matthew M'Grath**, dean of Killaloe, was advanced by Pope Nicholas IV in 1389 but did not obtain restitution of the temporalities until the 1st of September, 1391. (In the meantime the manor of Galroestown, in the county of Dublin, being part of the possessions of this see, was granted during vacancy to John Griffin, bishop of Leighlin, the bishop of Killaloe, **M'Grath** being described in the writ of King Richard II, as a mere Irishman, abiding among the Irish enemies and not accountable to law or government.) **Bishop M'Grath** sat in this see in 1400, but Sir James Ware knows not how long after. He was buried at Limerick in the church of the Dominicans. p. 160 (14)
- 1390** **MacCraith, Maelmuire**, a Poet, died (10)
- 1391** "From 1391 to 1463 the Abbots of Clareabbey included

Donnchadh, Thady, Roderick and Mathew Macraith." (3)

"**Mathew, Donnchadh, Thady and Tadv** (all were MacCraiths) were bishops of Killaloe between 1391 and 1463." (3)

"...**Mathew** (MacCraith) was bishop of Clonfert." (3)

"The **Macraith** Abbots are now generally accepted to have been from the **Islandmagrath** family. The Abbeys at this time were ruled by the powerful families, as that of **Islandmagrath**, and the lands of **Islandmagrath** were Abbey lands." (3)

1395 This year was the end of the reign of Richard II and the beginning of the reign of Henry IV as king of England. (2)

In March 1395, King Brian Ua Briain of Thomond swore allegiance to Thomas Earl of Nottingham along with his chiefs Sioda Macnamara, Teige McMahan, Rory O'Dea, Conor O'Connor and Rory O'Loughlin. The witnesses included **Matthew McGrath** Bishop of Killaloe and **Patrick (McGrath?)** Bishop of Kilfenora. (??)

No **Macraith's** are listed among the chiefs but were well represented among the clergy.

1410 **Thomas Magrath**, son of **Mulmurry**, chief poet of Thomond, died (1)

1411 **Dermot Magrath**, son of **Gilla-Isa**, chief poet of Thomond (1)

1415 **Hugh Oge Magrath**, a poet (1) [This is **Aed Oc Mac Raith** below in 1415]

1415 Darcy of Rathwire died at the beginning of winter this year. And many Englishmen came to Ireland with Lord (The chronicler takes *Loard* to be his forename; cp. 1416, 33) Furnival, lieutenant of the King of England. He plundered Leix and Caislen na Cuilenntraige, the castle, that is, of Fachtna O Morda's son, and brought slaughtered cows and horses and cattle out of Oriel. And he destroyed the sons of the Bretnachs and hanged Gerald son of Thomas *Caech*, a Geraldine. Moreover he plundered many of the poets of Ireland: O Dalaig of Meath, Diarmait that is, and **Aed Oc**

- Mac Raith** [Hugh Og MacRaith] and Dubthach Mac Eochada Eolach and Muirgius O Dalaig. And in the following summer he plundered O Dalaig of Corcumroe, Fergal son of Tadc son of Aengus Ruad, at Bruiden Da Coca in Machaire Cuircne. More than all this, he granted no protection to saint or shrine so long as he was in Ireland. (1), (4)
- 1416 #32. The castle of Edenderry was razed by Furnival at the beginning of winter. p. 433 (4)
- 1416 #33. Furnival plundered the **Clann Craith** (the **Magraths**) this year, and his name was Loard. p. 433 (4)
- 1417 #12. Furnival took a great prey from the sons of Tomas O Fergail. p. 435 (4)
- 1418 #12. Great depredations by Lord Furnival against Aed son of Art Mag Aengusa, king of Iveagh. Mac Aengusa and Mac Ui Neill Buide followed up the track of their cattle and the Galls afterwards, and it is hard to estimate the number of Galls killed and captured there. p. 439 (4)
 “Note 4: Brian Ballach, fourth king of the line and grandson of Enri, the first. Brian, the second king, is called Mac Aeda Buide Ui Neill: Muirchertach, the third, is called O'Neill Buide and Aed Oc, the eighth, before he succeeds is called ‘son of [the late] O Neill Buide.’ There are thus at least three styles for the head of this sept.”
- 1418 **Donagh M'Grath** was bishop of Killaloe in 1428 (probably was 1418), and died in 1429 (probably was 1419 as the source goes on to state that **M'Grath** resigned in 1418). p. 160 (14)
- 1423 **Teige M'Grath** succeeded (as Bishop of Killaloe) by the provision of Pope Martin V., and was restored to the temporalities by king Henry VI., on the 1st of September 1431. He had been the abbot of the Augustinian Monastery of SS. Peter and Paul at Clare Abbey, near Ennis. p. 161 (14)
- 1425 son of **Flann Magrath**, ollav of Thomand in poetry, a prosperous and wealthy man, died (1)
- 1426 **MacCraith, Aedg óg**, Chief Poet of Thomond, died (10)

- 1460-1482** During this time period the following prelates held the Bishopric of Killaloe: **John M'Grath**, Maurice O'Canasa, **Dermot M'Grath**. p. 161 (14)
- 1461** **Aengus Magrath**, poet, died - "the theme of all Irishmen, died at the beginning of his prosperity and his preceptorship." (1)
- 1573** **Magrath (William**, the son of **Aengus**), Ollav of Dal-Cais in poetry, a learned man, distinguished for his knowledge of the sciences and agriculture, died (1)
- 1574** **Islandmagrath Castle** is the only castle owned by a **Macraith** in Co. Clare. (6)
- 1580** **MacCraith, Flann**, son of Eoghan, a Poet, died (10)
- 1620** **MacCraith, Eoghan**, a poet, flourished (10)
- ~1655** "The **Magraths** of Derrymore and Kilbarron, Co. Clare were from a Tipperary branch, who originally came from the Thomond family, through the Lough Derg branch at Termon **Macraith**." (3)
- 1656** Down's Survey - no castle is shown in **Islandmagrath** (6)
- 1659** No one was living in the townland of **Islandmagrath** in the census of 1659. **Islandmagrath** has become the property of the Earl of Thomond.(8)

Ardcarne

Note b: *Ardcarne*, Ard cárna, - A vicarage in the diocese of Elphin, situated in the barony of Boyle and county of Roscommon, and about four miles to the east of the town of Boyle. This church was founded by St. Beo-Aedh, a bishop who died on the 8th of March, 524; and it continued for some time to be the head of a bishop's see. For some account of the patron saint of this church, the reader is referred to Colgan's *Acta Sanctorum*, at 8th of March; the *Feilire Aenguis*, and Irish Calendar of the O'Clerys, at the same day; and also to Lanigan's Ecclesiastical History of Ireland, vol. i. p. 462. Archdall places Ardcharn in the county of Westmeath, which is a very strange blunder, as Clogan, his authority, had described it as in Maghluirg, in Connaught.

Considerable ruins of the church of Ardcarne are still to be seen; and in the field lying between the church and the high road are shewn slight remains of the walls of an abbey, and the foundations of some of the houses which constituted the ancient village of Ardcarne. (1) vol. 3, p. 209

Clarus Mag Mailin enlarged the church of Ardcarne in the year 1243. (4), p. 79.) In 1247 Roscommon and Ardcarne were burnt by the Galls.

- 1224** Mulkevin O'Scingin, Erenagh of Ardcarne, died (1)
- 1240** Gilla na Naem O Dreain, erenagh of Ardcarne, died this year. (4).
- 1271** **Simon Magrath**, deacon of Ardcarne, died (1). Ardcarne, Parish of Ardcarne, County Roscommon, Barony of Boyle.
- 1301** **Matha MacRaith**, a great priest of Ardcarne, a most charitable and humane man, rested in Christ. (1), (4).

Clonfert

- 1508** **Maigi Magrath**, Bishop of Clonfert, a prosperous, religious, wise, and pious man, died (1)

Waterford

- 1312** "The **Macraith's** of Sliabh Gua, Co. Waterford, descended from the Thomond **Macraiths** and Roger was prior in the Abbeyside Augustine Monastery, near Dungarvan, in 1312. Philip of Slievegua was head of the Clan in the 17th century." (3)
- 1400** **Donald McGrath**, dies. His tomb is in the 13th century Augustinian priory in the town of Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. He was one of the Co. Waterford Sept, which had migrated there from Clare and Limerick.

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CHAPTER III - The Master Genealogy of the Clan MacCraith

Introduction

The earliest entries in the various annals of Ireland indicate that the regions around Islandmagrath, in Co. Clare, Pettigo, in Co. Donegal, and Dungarvan, in Co. Waterford, were simultaneously occupied by “McGrath”s even at this early time. Tradition has it that these were branches descended from the main Thomond line (Islandmagrath) that migrated to Co. Donegal and Co. Waterford from Co. Clare. Various genealogies, of the MacCraith clan, in the old manuscripts indicate that these migrations took place. The ancient genealogists were big on line of succession but their works are almost always lacking in actual dates. This makes it difficult to pinpoint the exact times of the various migrations.

Range of entries in the Annals of Ireland mentioning a “McGrath”

Munster	1086
Thomond	1240 – 1659
Termon Magrath	1247 – 1597
Waterford	1312 – 1400

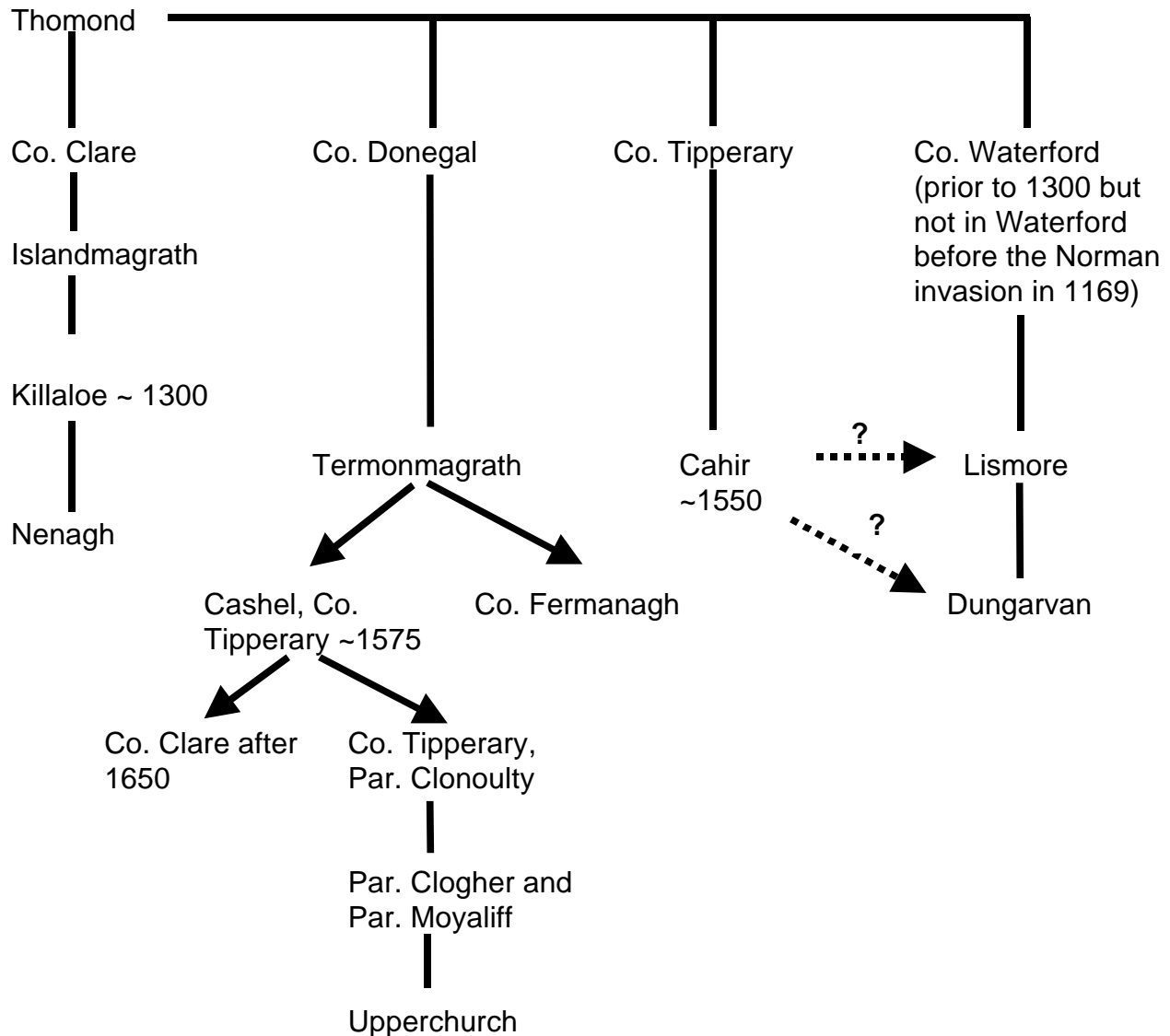
The 1086 reference assigned to Munster refers to a Magrath, described as the chief poet of Munster, who had died in that year during the reign of Murtagh More O’Brien. He was the ruler of Munster who gave the Rock of Cashel to the Church. This was at a time prior to the Norman invasion of Ireland, when the O’Brien seat of power was situated at Cashel. Since the Magrath’s were poets to the O’Briens then they were probably living in the Cashel area at that time. After the Norman invasion the O’Briens moved their seat of power north to Clonroad, County Clare, east of Ennis, and were probably followed by the Magraths who settled at Islandmagrath which is southwest of Ennis.

Minor Entries – from the annals of Ireland that mentioned a “McGrath”

Ardagh	1224
Ardcarne	1271 – 1301
Lough Key	1243 – 1291
Conflert	1508

These entries are labeled minor since there are only a few of them found in the various annals and there were no known concentrations of McGraths found to be residing in these areas.

The following diagram gives an overview of the various McGrath migrations with the approximate times when they could be determined.



The dotted lines between Cahir and Lismore and between Cahir and Dungarvan indicate that subsequent migration from Cahir to Lismore and Dungarvan are possible but the settlement in Waterford was prior to that in Co. Tipperary by at least 200 years.

O'Herne Connection

The Macraiths of Thomond were descended from Echtighern who was the brother of Brian Boru. The name O'Herne is possibly derived from this ancient Irish name, Echtighern. The patrimonial lands of the O'Herne's are in the region

south of Ennis, Co. Clare and west of the River Fergus that contains Islandmagrath. It is possible that these two families are related. Some of the genealogical information that accompanies the coat of arms that are available commercially list O'Herne as a variation of McGrath. Also Ahern is also sometimes related to Eachthegern³³.

Irish Pedigrees

The Origin of Surnames

“With reference to the origin of *sirnames* in Ireland it may be mentioned that, in the eleventh century, the Irish Monarch Brian Boromhe [Boru] made an ordinance that every Irish family and clan should assume a particular surname (or *sire*-name); the more correctly to preserve the history and genealogy of the different Irish tribes. Each family was at liberty to adopt a surname from some particular ancestor, and, generally, took their names from some chief of their tribe who was celebrated for his valour, wisdom, piety, or some other great qualities. And the members of a family, each in addition to his own proper name, took, as a common designation, the name of their father, or their grandfather, or of some more remote ancestor: in the first case prefixing the ‘Mac,’ which means *son*; and, in the other two cases, ‘Ua (modernized O’), which signifies *grandson* or *descendent of*; and in all instances, the genitive case of the progenitor’s name followed the ‘Mac,’ or the ‘O’.”³⁴

Source: Irish Pedigrees or The Origin and Stem of The Irish Nation, John O’Hart, Limited American Edition in Two Volumes, Murphy & McCarthy, 86 Walker Street, New York, New York, 1923

“In Volume F.4.18, are given the genealogies, marriages, or deaths of the following families. Some of those genealogies are given in this Edition, traced down to the period when those families were dispossessed of their estates: some of them by the Cromwellians, and other by the Williamite Confiscations” One of those families listed by O’Hart was: MacCrath (MacGrath)

=====

MAGRATH of Ulster

Arms: Ar. three lions pass. gu.

Dubhculin, brother of Gairbaidh who is No. 98 on the “O’Brassil west” pedigree, was the ancestor of *MacCraith*, of Ulster; anglicised *MacCraith*, *Maccrae*, *Magrath*, *MacGrath*, *McGrath*, and *Creeth*.

- 98. Dubhculin: son of Cearnach.
- 99. Giollachriosd: his son.
- 100. Dallgan (“dall:” Irish, *blind*; “gan,” *little*): his son; a quo *O’Dallgain*, anglicised *Dalghan*, *Dallan*, and *Dolan*.
- 101. Maolbrighid: his son.
- 102. Macraith (“craith:” Irish, *to weave*): his son; a quo *MacCraith*.

Note: Magrath: Miler Magrath, Archbishop of Cashel and Bishop of Emly, was born in the county of Fermanagh about the year 1522. Originally a Franciscan Friar, he became a Protestant, and was consecrated Bishop of Clogher, and in 1570-'71 advanced to the Archbishopric of Cashel and Bishopric of Emly. He also held the Bishoprics of Waterford and Lismore *in commendam* from 1582 to 1589, and from 1592 to 1607, when he resigned them, and was placed in charge of Killala and Achonry. He had four sons and four daughters; some of the sons, although being Catholics, contrived to possess themselves of several church livings. After occupying the Archbishopric for fifty-two years, he died at Cashel in December, 1622, aged 100 years, and was buried in the Cathedral under a monument previously erected by himself, which may still be seen. There is a tradition that he returned to Catholicity before his death, and directed his body to be secretly buried elsewhere.

p. 147

MacGRATH. (No. 1.)
Chiefs in the County Waterford

Arms: Quarterly

First: ar. three lions pass gu.

Second: or. a dexter hand lying fessways, coupé at the wrist ppr. holding a cross formée fitchée az.

Third: gu. a dexter hand lying fessways, coupé at the wrist ppr. holding a battle axe or.

Fourth: ar. an antelope trippant sa attired or.

CRAITH, brother of Roger who is No. 117 on the “O’Sullivan Mor” pedigree, was the ancestor of MacCraith: anglicised and modernized *MacGrath*, *McGrath*, *Magrath*, *MacCrae*, *Macrae*, and *Creeth*.

- 117. Craith (“craith:” Irish, *to weave*): son of Dunlong; a quo *MacCraith*, implying “the son of a weaver.”
- 118. Donall MacCraith: his son.
- 119. Conor: his son.
- 120. Owen: his son.
- 121. Buadhach: his son.
- 122. Dermod: his son.

123. Conor (2): his son.

124. Owen MacGrath: his son.

125. Thomas MacGrath of Glenaboy, Tallow, co. Waterford: his son

Had by his wife five children of whom three were sons, namely -

1. Edward
2. Daniel
3. Thomas

126. Daniel of Lismore²⁵, county Waterford: second son of Thomas; born 21st January, 1751; died in Montreal, Canada, in 1860 - at advanced age of 109 years. This Daniel married Ellen, daughter of Thomas MacGrath²⁶ of Ardagh, near Youghal, County Cork, and by her had four sons and twelve daughters: one of the sons died young, the others grew up and were married, viz. -

- Alderman Thomas MacGrath of Montreal (who died in 1864).
- Denis MacGrath of New York, U.S. (who died in 1846).
 - Ellen a daughter of Denis and niece of Thomas Murphy, Esq., of New York, married Terence Murtagh of that city.

²⁵ *Daniel of Lismore*: The marriage of this Daniel with his wife Ellen (born 1772), was the first union of the **Clanaboy McGraths** with those of **Clanabawn**. Instances of the large stature of many of the ancient Irish families are recorded. It may be mentioned that this family was particularly remarkable in that regard; for, not only was this Daniel McGrath a tall, strong, and handsome man, but his wife was a tall, handsome, and majestic women; they certainly were noble specimens of the ancient Irish race.

[Note: The reference to the Clanaboy McGraths is strange. This line of descent is from the O'Sullivan pedigree and O'Hart states that fact at the beginning of this McGrath pedigree. In addition this is the only reference to Clanaboy that I have seen so far.]

²⁶ *Thomas McGrath*: This Thomas was descended from the Ulster M'Graths of **Clanaboy**, who were of the race of **Clan Colla**; and who as late as the 17th and 18th centuries were men of influence in the county Waterford. He had by his wife Ellen (daughter of - Ahern of Shanakill, county Waterford) six children, of whom two were sons, viz.: -

1. Parson Denis M'Grath, near Dundalk.
 - The Rev. Denis M'Grath here mentioned married a daughter of General McNeill, and by her had one daughter, and two sons. These two sons were for many years members of the East India Company, and the latter (James) was the owner of a large estate near Liverpool, England, on which he resided in 1836.
 - Thomas *MaGrath*, who was married to a daughter of the late Judge Lefroy
 - James Magrath
2. Thomas M'Grath, of Kilcalf, county Waterford.

- Daniel, who is No. 127 of this Stem.

127. Daniel MacGrath, of Lachine, Province of Quebec, Canada :
son of Daniel; living in 1887, "a childless widower."

MacGRATH. (No. 2.)
Of Ballynagilty, County Waterford

Philip MacGrath, of Ballynagilty, co. Waterford, Chief of the Clan of Sleveguor,
had

2. Donal, who had:
3. Philip, who had:
4. John MacGrath, of Ballynagilty, gent., who died 4 May, 1639. He
married Eleanor, daughter of James Butler, of Derryloskan, and had
one son and three daughters: -
 - I. Philip.
 - I. Ellen, II. Anne, III. Margaret.
5. Philip MacGrath: son of John

CHAPTER IV - The McCraiths of Thomond – Co. Clare

Introduction

The earliest mention of a McGrath in connection with Thomond occurs in 1086 although the use of MacCraith and Magrath as a first name predates its use as a surname. This was during the reign of Murtagh More O'Brien and the event was the death in that year of Magrath, chief poet of Munster.³⁵ The next mention of a McGrath occurs in 1240 with the death of Eoghan (Owen) MacCraith who was described as a poet.³⁶

Much of what we know about the history of the early days of Thomond (County Clare) is due to Sean MacCraith who wrote "Caithréim Thoirdhealbhaigh" (The Triumphs of Turlough [O'Brien]). Written in the mid-14th century, the narrative is filled with details that have been repeatedly verified from other sources thus attesting to its authenticity. MacCraith covers the time period from 1258 until 1318 when the O'Brien family was fighting amongst themselves. The MacCraith clan was taking an active part in the hostilities supporting the efforts of Turlough O'Brien and his descendants.

From *History and Topography of County Clare* by Frost: p. 225, note 1 – *The History of the Wars of Turlough O'Brien* was written by John, son of Rory MacGrath. "I cannot discover where the patrimonial lands of the family of Magrath were situate in Thomond, several references are made to them, and to their learning, in the *Annals of the Four Masters*."³⁷ The patrimonial lands of the MacCraiths were on the west side of the River Fergus south of Clare Castle in an area still known today as Islandmagrath. It isn't clear why Frost was unable to discover this fact.

The Ancient Territories of Thomond

The Rock of Cashel was once the seat of power of the O'Brien family that ruled the Province of Munster for hundreds of years. After the Norman invasion Cashel was given to the church and the seat of power was moved further north to Clonroad, near Ennis in County Clare.

Malmurry Magrath, Bard of Donogh O'Brien, son of Mahon O'Brien, "...exhorts the Chieftain to retort in his enemies as his great ancestor Murtagh More O'Brien had done on the northern Hy-Niall, who on one occasion (in 1088) had treated him and his subjects with indignity. "He then tells Donogh the whole story. The Bard then goes on to describe the splendor and magnificence of Donogh O'Brien's fortress at Limerick, which he says, is superior to Aileach in the days of its greatest splendor."³⁸

“...the boundaries of the dioceses of Ireland were generally made to coincide with those of the tribe districts of the country...”³⁹

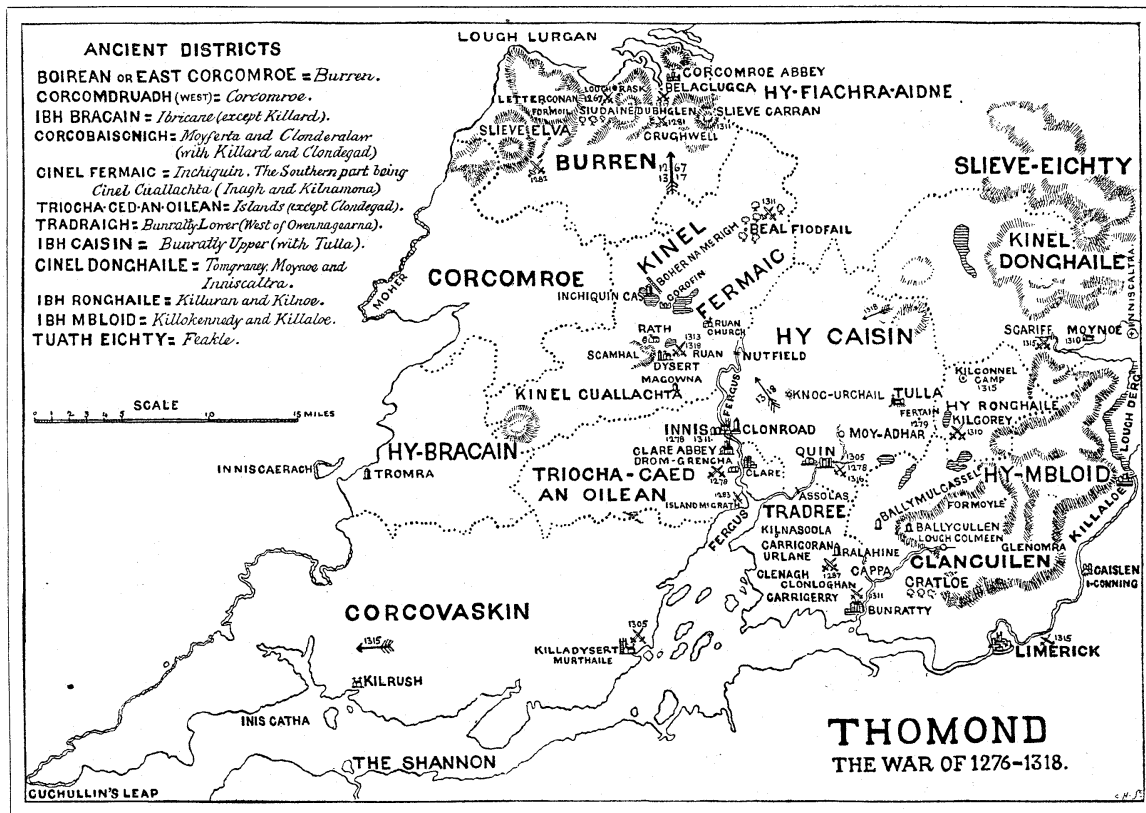
1. Ui Ainmire – “...uncertainty exists as to the tribes by whom it was occupied previous to the year 1318. The MacNamaras eventually took possession of it.
2. Burren (or Corcomroe East) – In Irish the name is Boireann, “which signifies the rocky district, being compounded of *Borr*, great, and *onn*, a stone or rock.”⁴⁰ The chief inhabitant, after the introduction of surnames, were O’Loughlen, from Lochluinn.
3. Ui Caisin – Named after Cas, the king of North Munster shortly before the time of St. Patrick. Previously known as Magh Adhair, the plain of Adhar, which was a name from Adhar the Firbolg who possessed it in the first century of the Christian era. Afterwards Magh Adhar became the patrimony of the O’Hehirs, but they in turn were driven westward to the present barony of Islands by the MacNamaras. The ownership by the MacNamaras extended from the 5th century to the beginning of the 14th century.
The O’Hehirs were driven to the region near Islandmagrath and were in the area from around the 5th century A.D. This was long before the MacCraiths were known to have occupied this region and it’s quite probable that the two clans intermarried in the early days.
4. Ui Cearnaigh – Previous to 1318 this territory was in the possession of the O’Eichtigherns, now Anglicised Ahern.
5. Ui Conghaile – The tribe of O’Duracks were the ancient owners of this territory.
6. East Corcabaskin – Divided into east and west parts in about 1488. These were inhabited by two branches of the MacMahon family.

In the northeastern portion of this region are two areas: Craig Ui Ciardudan and Craig Briain.⁴¹ In a map by Guihelmi Petty the latter is called Cragbrine. Just west of Islandmagrath, on this same map, is a place called Buncrage. These may have been related to the McCraiths of Islandmagrath. Firstly, all three of these areas are very close to Islandmagrath where the McCraiths were located between the 11th and 16th centuries.

Secondly, in Gaelic, the words Craig and Craith appear as follows:

Craig = Craig

Crait = Craith Mag Craith = MacCraith



[To face page 285.]

Figure 4-1. The Ancient Districts of Thomond showing Islandmagrath and Clare Abbey. Also shown are the locations of the Battles of Corcomroe Abbey and Dysert O'Dea. From "The Normans in Thomond" by Thomas J. Westropp, *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol 21, 1890-1891.

The Gaelic characters for "t" – "t" and "g" – "g" look very similar, especially when they are hand written. Cráigh is a verb which means to "annoy or to torment" and would not normally be used in naming a portion of land. The naming of land areas in Ireland normally used geographical features, or family and tribe names. Therefore these three areas were possibly named for and were the home territory for some of the early MacCraith clan.

"A great battle was fought here [near Clare Abbey] in the year 1278 by Donnell, son of Teige Caoluiske O'Brien accompanied by the two septs of O'Coilen (Clan-Cuillein) with the tribe of Fearmaic and O'wney, against Mahon O'Brien who was defeated with great slaughter (Annals of Munster)."⁴²

"It is asserted in the Wars of Thomond p. 41, Ord. Copy, that no battle was fought on the occasion, but that the captives of the Kenel Dungaile

were murdered. --E.C."⁴³ This has also been referred to as the Battle of Islandmagrath, although that appears to be an inaccurate description of what actually took place.

7. West Corcabaskin – The race of Carbre Bascaín inhabited the district and were its chiefs until the 12th century, when the offspring of Mahone O'Brien (hence called MacMahon), conquered them. The original chiefs of the district had the name O'Donnell, but they were taken over by the MacMahons, the descendents of Brian Boroimhe (Boru).

8. Corcomroe – Territory of O'Connor until about 1564. In the parish of Killaspuglonane was the townland of Carrowduff and Laghvally in the parish of Kilmacrechy. These were the patrimony of the family of MacCurtin, distinguished for their scholarship.

“A.D. 1376 – Kelloch MacCurtin, chief historian of Thomond, died.

“A.D. 1404 – Gilla Duivin MacCurtin, ollav of Thomond in music, died.

“A.D. 1435 – Sencha MacCurtin, ollav of Thomond in history, a man generally skilled in the arts of poetry and music died.

“A.D. 1436 – Geanann MacCurtin, intended ollav of Thomond in history, was drowned. There was not in Leth Mogha in his time a better *materies* of an historian than he.”

Killilagh parish – Toomullen, the property of Conner MacClancy. A caher in the townland of Cahermaclancy was the ancient home of the MacClancys, brehons (lawyers) of Thomond.⁴⁴

9. Ui Cormaic – This territory was the patrimonial inheritance of the O'Hehirs. The family of O'Hehir was not of Dalcassian origin. They were of the race of Daire Cearb, the ancestor of the Ui Figinte, who were located at the other side of the Shannon, in the present barony of Kenry, in the county of Limerick.

In the parish of Clare Abbey is found Oileián Meg Rait (Islandmagrath)

10. Ui Donghaile – This was the tribe name of O'Grady, and it became, as usually happened, the name of their country. “From the *History of the Wars of Thomond* it appears that the O'Gradys were originally settled in the parish of Killonasoolagh. After the Ui Bloid, that is, the O'Shanahans, O'Kennedys, etc., had been driven out by the descendents of Turlough O'Brien, aided by the MacNamaras, the O'Gradys were placed at Tomgraney, and their tribe name of Ui Donghaile transferred to the territory of which they got possession.

Tomgraney Parish - A.D. 1100 Macraith Ua Flaithen, successor of Ciaran and Cronán of Tuaim Gréine, died on his pilgrimage to Achadhbo.

11. Ui Fearmaic – This was the territory of the O’Deas and the O’Quins.
12. Gleann Ómra – This district was known as the country of the O’Kennedys, who bore the tribe name of Sliocht Donchuain. This is “exactly co-extensive with the parish of Killokenedy.” They were driven out of their territory by the MacNamaras during the struggles between the descendents of Turlogh and Brian Roe O’Brien. “They settled on the east side of the Shannon, in the baronies of Upper and Lower Ormond, and in that country of their adoption they became far more powerful than they had ever been in their ancient home in Thomond.”⁴⁵
13. Ui Bracain – This was part of the country of Corcabaskin until the end of the 12th century. At that time the MacGorman family settled the area under the protection of the O’Briens. “The MacBrody’s were the Ollaves of the Ui Bracain and of the Ui Fearmaic families.”⁴⁶
14. Ui Floinn – Generic name Ui M’Bluid for the districts of Ui Floinn, Gleann Ómra and Ui Toirdhealbhaigh – included a territory lying inside Tipperary and Limerick. Inhabited by Clan Turlogh and Clan Dermot – descendents of the O’Briens, O’Kennedys, O’Gunnings (of Castle Connell); the O’Coffeys, the Shanahans, the O’Hogans, the Aherns, the O’Muldoons (Malones), the Duracks (of O’Gonnello), the O’Lonegans, the O’Flahertys, and the O’Moloneys. The author Frost did not cover the families living east of the Shannon.
15. Ui Ronghaile – patrimonial inheritance of the family O’Shanahan, an important branch of the race of the Ui Bloids. Driven out in 1318, the territory was added to that of their enemies the MacNamaras. Consisted of the parishes of Kilnoe and Killaran in the 15th century. Was larger and probably included land that was given to Cinel Donghaile or O’Gradys.
16. Ui Toirdhealbhaigh – Lying about Killaloe, co-extensive with the parishes of Killaloe, O’Briensbridge and Kiltenanlea. Original patrimony of the O’Briens before they became powerful.
17. Tradraige – comprised some of the richest land in Ireland. In early times it appears to have belonged to a branch of the O’Neills, from the north – place in residence cannot be identified. They disappeared from history. A pretended grant was given to deClare from Brian Roe O’Brien and King Edward I. When deClare’s son was driven out (killed?) the land fell to

MacNamara. Portions went to McClancys, MacInerneys, Mulconcrays, and others.

The Pedigree of the MacCraith of Thomond

Genealogy MS 23.D.17	This is identical to the MacCraith of Thomond pedigree found in 23.G.4 and R.I. Ac. MS 23.H.22, p.9 (Twigge MS 39266)
Lachtna	
Lorcan	
Cenneidi	
Echtighern	
Flann	
Maccraith	
Flann	
Gilla losa	
Maelmuire	
Tomas mor	
Maelmuire	
<p>Gilla losa</p> <p>Sean Tomas Ruaidhri Gilla Patraic Domhnall Diarmaid</p>	

The Allegiance of the MacCraith's of Islandmagrath to the O'Briens of Thomond (North Munster).

There was near constant fighting over territory among the Irish clans. Some of the fiercest fighting took place within some of the clans. The O'Briens of Thomond were a classic example of this traditional barbaric behavior.

Though often described as a rebellion against the Norman invaders these basically battles over territory with the local Normans sometimes enlisted for support. In the period of 1300 – 1318 we see the descendants of Brian Rau teaming up with the deClares (of Bunratty) while Turlough's descendants sought out the de Burgos (of Clanrichard near Portumna). The Battle of Dysert O'Dea

resulted in the deaths of Richard deClare and his son and ended the Norman presence in Thomond for the next 200 years.

Late 13th and early 14th centuries ⁴⁷

	BRIAN RAU O'BRIEN	TURLOUGH O'BRIEN
1277	Brian Rau O'Brien dies son Donough - sought support from Thomas de Clare	
1281	Thomas de Clare (Bunratty) mediated a settlement between Donough and Turlough	
1284	Donough is killed Dermot (grandson of Brian) teams up with de Clare	Turlough kills Donough
1306		Turlough dies. His son Donough takes over. King 1306-11.
1311		Donough teams up with the de Burgh's of Connacht. Donough is killed in 1311. Murtough O'Brien takes over leadership of the clan. King 1311-43
1313	Dermot teams up with Richard de Clare. Dermot died in 1313. Donough takes over after Dermot's death.	
1317	In the Battle of Corcomroe Abbey Murtough prevails over Donough. Donough died in 1317.	The Macraith's fought on the side of Murtough O'Brien at the Battle of Corcomroe Abbey

1318	Both Richard de Clare and his son were killed in the Battle of Dysert O’Dea	Murtough pursued his advantage and prevailed over the de Clares in the Battle of Dysert O’Dea. The Macraiths backed Turlough’s faction that was led by Murtough O’Brien
------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The supporters of Turlough’s side of the clan were O’Dea and Macraith while the opponents of Turlough were the Macnamaras and O’Quin.

Upon hearing of the death of her husband Richard de Clares wife put Bunratty Castle to the torch and fled across the Shannon River to Limerick. By the time O’Brien and his men got to Bunratty the castle was in flames and de Clare’s wife was gone. This ended the Norman influence in Thomond for some time to come.

The MacCraiths of Thomond (Annals of the Four Masters)

The following table is not a pedigree although in some cases there are father-son relationships existing between individuals. The actual pedigree is shown in detail in another section.

Date	Event	Comment
1086	Magrath, chief poet of Munster died	
1240	Eoghan died	
1300	“Another of this family (from Islandmagrath), Owen M’Craith, living 1300, wrote a poem on this civil war (Corcomroe Abbey), and one on the desolate house of Conor O’Brian” ⁴⁸ .	
1343	Rory died	Led the MacCraith clan at the Battle of Corcomroe Abbey and the Battle of Desert O’Dea.
1369	Sean, son of Rory	Wrote the “Wars of Turlough”

1390	Mulmurry died	Mulmurry and son Thomas may tie into Maelmuire Oge – Thomas descent on the next table.
1410	Thomas, son of Mulmurry, died	
1411	Demot, son of Gilla losa, died	
1415	Hugh Oge Magrath, died	
1426	Aedg Og, son of Flann, died	
1461	Aengus, died	
1573	William, son of Aengus, died	
1580	Flann, son of Eoghan, died	
1620	Eoghan florint	

The Interior of Corcomroe Abbey

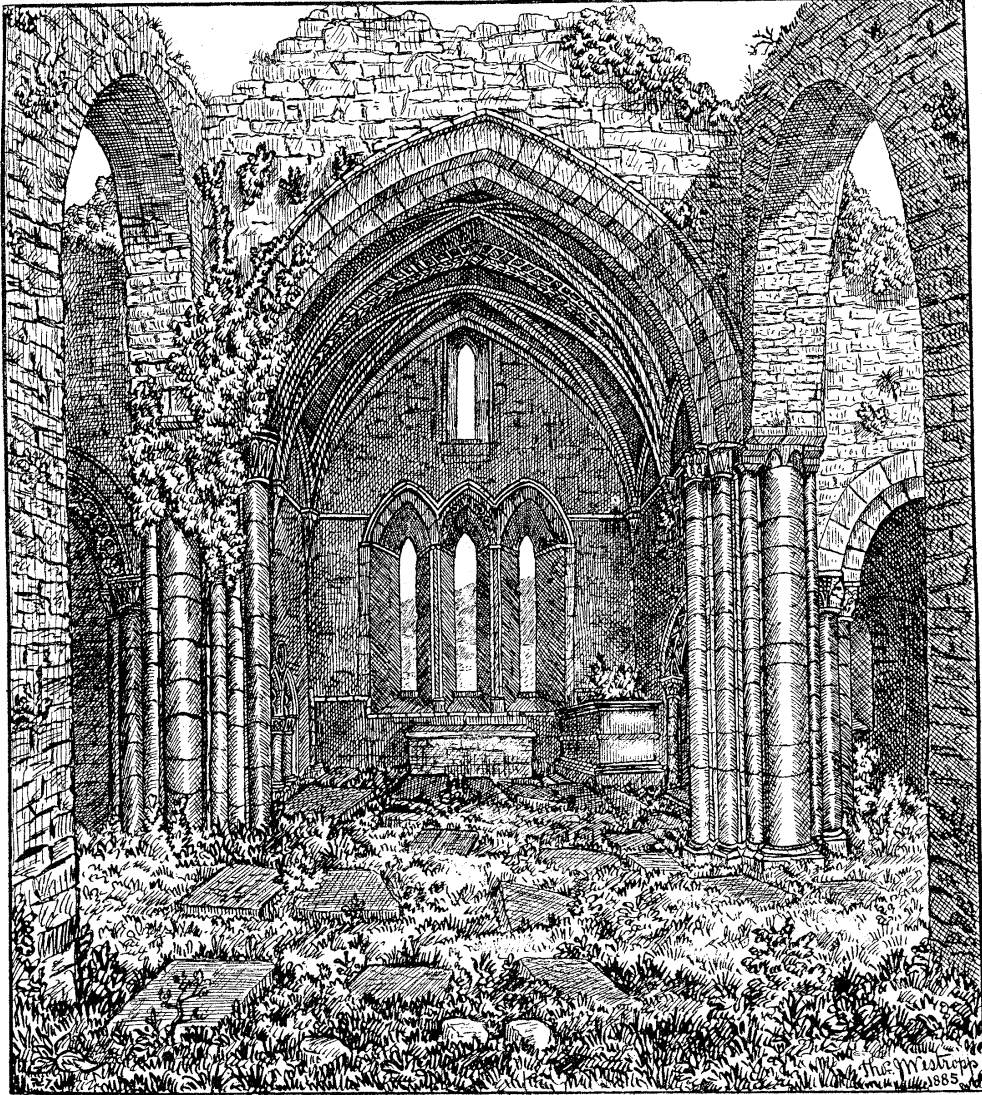
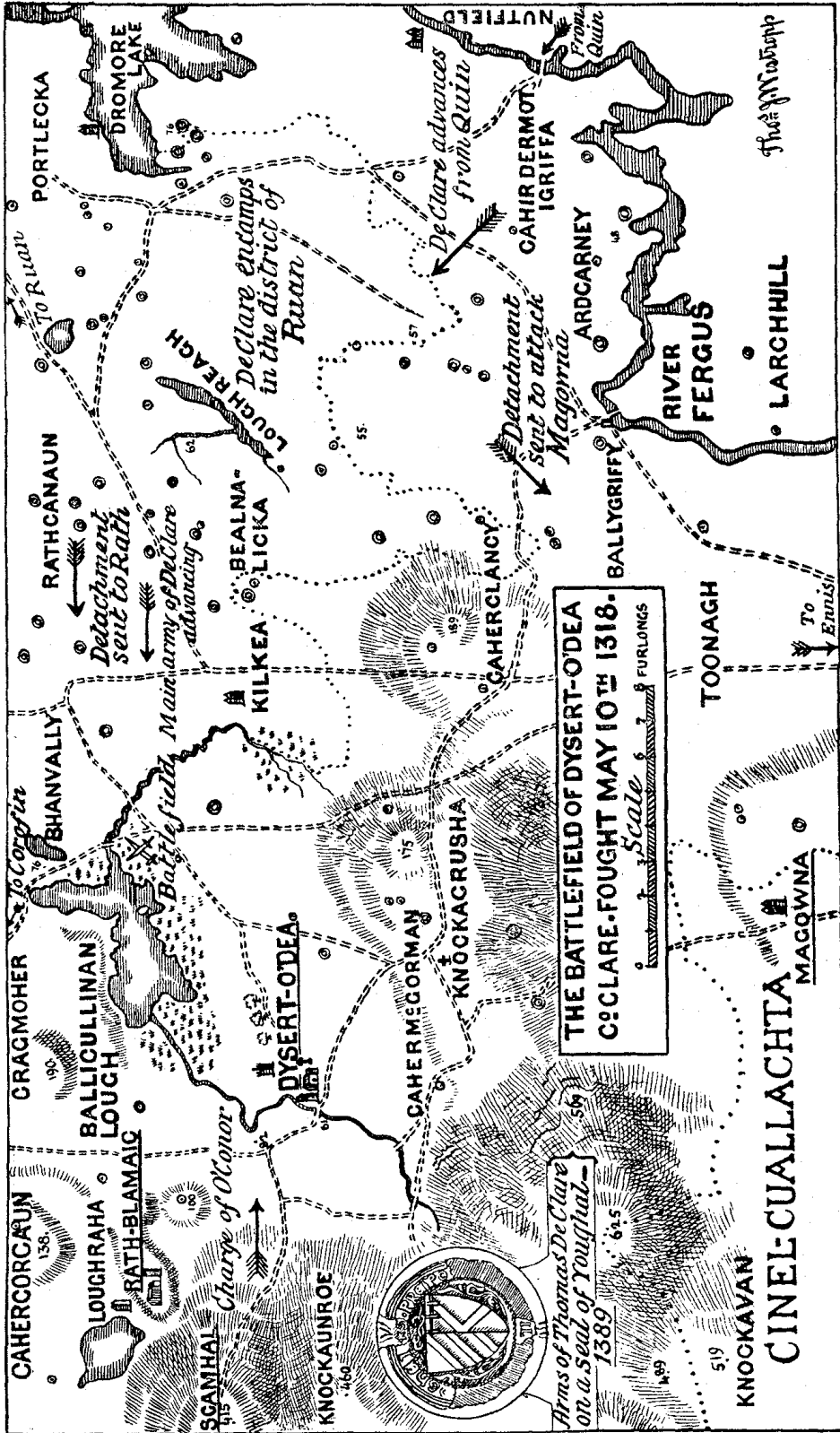


Figure 4-2 . Interior view of Corcomroe Abbey where participants from one side of the O'Brien family slept the night before the Battle of Corcomroe in 1317. This abbey is located a few miles west of Kinvarra, Co. Galway



THE BATTLEFIELD OF DYSERT-O'DEA
 O'CLARE FOUGHT MAY 10TH 1318.

PLAN OF BATTLE OF DYSERT O'DEA.

A MacCraith line of descent (Annals of the Four Masters)

Date	Event	Comment
	Maelmurry More 	
	Maelmurry Oge 	
	Thomas 	
	Philip 	
1507	Thomas, died	This was prior to the Reformation when King Henry VIII of England took possession of all church lands.

The O'Briens and the MacCraiths in the 16th century

Year	Event Description
May 1, 1537	Henry VIII declared head of the Church of England. "The abbeys and convents were appropriated, with all their possessions, for the king's service. This last iniquitous provision had a far-reaching effect. It enabled the king to bribe with those rich gifts many of the Irish princes into subjection." (4)
1539	Conor O'Brien died. "He was the last of the descendants of Brian Boromhe, who to the end of his life exercised supreme rule as king of Thomond." ⁴⁹ Conor was succeeded by Murrough the Tannist, which indicates that the Irish were still adhering to Brehon Law. English law would have dictated that Conor's son Donogh succeeded him upon his death.

1540	<p>“Morogh O’Brien and the Dal-Cas made common cause with the defeated Northerners and O’Connor of Offaly. They all met together at Fore, in Westmeath, with a view to operate against the English. The Lord Justice Brereton, who succeeded Lord Grey, being made aware of this combination, marched an army of eight thousand men, with a train of artillery, with all dispatch into Meath, and with this formidable force so awed the Irish princes that they retreated each into his own territory, without striking a blow. This collapse paved the way for the final surrender of Dalcassian independence. It became evident that they could not hold out singly against English attack much longer, and so the policy of averting it by timely submission was at last reluctantly adopted.” (3)</p> <p>Look up the entire story. MacNamara didn’t submit and a MacCraith was present</p>
1542	<p>Teigue O’Brien dies in battle and is buried in the Abbey of Clonroad. [This was referred to as being at the head of Church Street in Ennis and this is the same location as the Franciscan Friary in Ennis</p>
1543	<p>The English felt that if they could get Murrogh O’Brien to submit then the lesser chiefs in Munster would follow. They made him an offer in which they “...tendered to him the ownership in fee-simple, and to the exclusion of all the rest of the world, of the lands out of which he had received tribute as chief king, but to which he could lay no claim, as owner in our sense of that term. They further offered him the lands of the abbeys then lately suppressed, together with the Improprate ownership of the Tithes of the parishes to which the king claimed the right of presentation. Such proposals were too tempting too be refused, and Murrogh, who, in his capacity of Tanist, had succeeded to the chieftainship on the death of his brother Conor, gave intimation of his readiness to enter into negotiations with the king with a view to the surrender of his authority.”⁵⁰</p> <p>Murrogh gave up his title as the O’Brien and was given that of Earl of Thomond, with the privileges of a seat in Parliament. Donogh O’Brien, Murrogh’s nephew, was to inherit Murrogh’s title upon his death. Donogh was given the title of Baron of Ibrackan.</p> <p>“All these questions of titles and grants of land were viewed by the people with indifference. They little knew how important such things might become in the future. As long as the O’Briens,</p>

	<p>MacNamaras, and O'Gradys lived they received their usual tribute, and it was not until after their death that the enormous significance of their dealings with the English Crown became manifest. Then it was found that the lands, which had for ages belonged to the members of the clan, each possessing his own share by indefeasible right, suddenly became the exclusive property of the eldest son of the defunct chief. " 51</p> <p>Although the members of the clan protested violently the eldest son could call on the support of the British Crown in defense of his newly acquired rights. This was the beginning of the transition from Irish Brehon law to the feudal law of primogeniture.</p>
1551	<p>Murrough O'Brien dies. Earl of Thomond and direct descendant of Brian Boru, was one of the first great Gaelic chiefs to acknowledge Henry VIII. But this was not until after the Earl had met with O'Neill, O'Donnell, and O'Connor in 1540 to try to organize a united front against Anglo-Irish power in their homeland. Their forces were defeated, however, and this marked the beginning of the end for the Irish chieftains. In 1541 Parliament proclaimed Henry VIII King of all Ireland and Murrough, in return for having his estates restored to him, promised his support to the king."</p>
~1564	<p>"...MacBrody, Ollav of Ibricken and Inchiquin, who lived undisturbed in the midst of the contending parties at Ballybrody, near Dysert, went to his account, and was succeeded in his office by his brother." (2)</p>
1567-1571	<p>Launch of private colonization effort in Munster – local revolts breakout. (1)</p>
1572	<p>Sir John Perrott regains authority as president of Munster. (1)</p>
1574	<p>Castle on Islandmagrath was recorded as being in the possession of MacCraith and located in a region called "Clonrawde" (Clonroad). The Earl of Thomond was chief in this region. The Abbey at Clare was in the possession of Sir Donel and Teige MacConnor his son. – This is from a manuscript in the possession of Trinity College. There were 165 castles in County Clare at the time</p>
1579	<p>"Sir Nicholas Malley, President of Connaught, was directed by the queen to take Clare into his jurisdiction, to divide it into baronies, and to fix upon either Killaloe, Quin, or Ennis as the</p>

	capital of the county. ...The fact that assizes had been held in the monastery of Ennis brought it into such prominence that it was fixed on as the capital, and henceforward it became a town of some importance. The county, which before was divided into five great districts, Corcovaskin, Corcomroe, Hy-Cormaic, Hy-Fearmic, and Hy-Caisin, was now split up, A.D. 1579, into the baronies we have at present." (5)
1580	Conor, Earl of Thomond died in 1580 at the age of 45. No Dalcassian could ever be proud of how he had betrayed his Irish heritage. His son Donogh, the young Earl of Thomond, helped the English against the Irish. Didn't he die in 1539??
1582-83	Systematic suppression of Rebellion. (1)
1585	Meeting of Parliament in Dublin. Property of Desmond and supporters confiscated. (1)
1585	A commission in England decrees a scheme for the distribution of the confiscated Munster property. (1)
1585-87	Grantees of Munster Plantation lands assume possession of their properties. (1)
1602	Order restored in Munster.(1)
1641	The Book of Survey and Distribution for County Clare records Islandmagrath in the possession of the Earl of Thomond. A commission was seated in Atherny to resolve land issues and claims. They were also funding people to tear down the castles and other strong fortifications of the Irish.
1656	No castle on Islandmagrath was recorded in the Petty Down Survey.

“Murrough O’Brien (1614-1674), 1st Earl of Inchiquin, made his allegiances where they suited him and made his reputation as a ruthless military leader for both Royalist and Parliamentarian sides during the 1641-52 wars. In 1645 he drove the Catholics out of Cork, Youghal and Kinsale, confiscating their goods and burning their houses, thus earning the nickname ‘Murrough of the Burnings’. In 1647 he reduced Cappoquin, Cahir and Cashel, and for a while the entire civil and military administration of Munster was under his control. A royalist at the time when Cromwell came to the fore in 1650, he was forced to flee to France

where he remained until the Restoration. He then returned to his homeland where he served as Vice-President of Munster until his death in 1674. He has been described by the Catholics as 'the relentless persecutor of themselves and their religion.' The Republicans and the Independents denounced him as one whose sole aim was self-aggrandizement and they instanced as justifying these charges his frequent change of sides."

"Daniel O'Brien (d. 1690), 3rd Viscount Clare, raised the regiment in James I's Irish Army which later became famous as Clare's Dragoons in the Irish Brigade on the Continent under the command of his son Charles. After the Jacobites were defeated at the Battle of the Boyne, Daniel and the Dragoons went to France where their victories at Ramilles and elsewhere 'retrieved the dishonour of their unsteadiness at the Boyne.' "

1. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Ireland*, Edited by R. F. Foster, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1991
2. *History of Clare and the Dalcassian Clans of Tipperary, Limerick, and Galway*, Rev. P. White, M. H. Gill & Son, 50 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin, 1893, p.184
3. *History of Clare and the Dalcassian Clans of Tipperary, Limerick, and Galway*, Rev. P. White, M. H. Gill & Son, 50 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin, 1893, p.175
4. *History of Clare and the Dalcassian Clans of Tipperary, Limerick, and Galway*, Rev. P. White, M. H. Gill & Son, 50 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin, 1893, p.174
5. *History of Clare and the Dalcassian Clans of Tipperary, Limerick, and Galway*, Rev. P. White, M. H. Gill & Son, 50 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin, 1893, p.198

Hereditary Roles of the Various Clans

In Thomond there were other clans that had hereditary responsibilities for providing services to the ruling clan of the O'Briens. The MacBrody's were hereditary poets and historians as were the MacCraiths. The MacClancys were the hereditary Brehans (lawyers) and the O'Hickies were the hereditary physicians.

MacBrody

“The sepulchral monument of the Earls of Thomond was in the church of St. Francis, and as a mark of his affection, one of them erected near it a tomb for the family of MacBrodie, the hereditary poets and historians of Thomond. There, for many generations, they were interred, all of them except MacBrody of Maynoe, his place of sepulture being at Inishcaltra.”⁵²

“Prefixed to the Annals of the Four Masters and to the Martyrology of Donegal, both works of great erudition, are certificates of various learned men, among which are two from Conor MacBrody, son of Maolin Oge, setting forth that they had been submitted to him for perusal, and that he found them erudite and accurate in every respect. The documents expressing these opinions are dated the 11th of November, 1636, not many years before MacBrody and his kindred were deprived for ever of the hereditary lands that had belonged to them for so many centuries; these were held by them, free from all tribute, by virtue of their office of chroniclers of the kings and people of Thomond. Deprived of education, their descendents quickly sunk from the position of gentlemen and scholars to the condition of unlettered peasants.”⁵³

“A.D. 1564. Dermot, son of Conor, son of Dermot, son of John MacBrody, Ollav of Ui Breacain and Ui Fearmaic, died, and his brother Maolin succeeded him.

“A.D. 1582. Maolin MacBrody, son of Conor, son of Dermot, son of John, Ollav to O’Brien in history, died, and his kinsman Gilla Brighde, was elected in his place.

“A.D. 1601. MacBrody, i.e., Maolin Oge, son of Maolin, son of Conor, died. There was not in Ireland a better historian, poet, and rhymer than he.”

From The Annals of the Four Masters

MacClancy's

The MacClancy's were the hereditary Brehons of Thomond. Their patrimony constituted a large portion of the modern day parish of Killilagh. Due to their office as judges these lands were held free of all taxes. Towards the end of the 16th century a change was in the wind. “Boetius Clancy, the then representative of the family, forsook his faith and gave his adherence to the English.”⁵⁴ His reward was to be appointed to the office of sheriff for the newly formed county of

Clare, where he was described as a cruel and despised man. Fifty years later, by way of the Cromwellian settlement, “the MacClancys were deprived of every acre they possessed, and their descendents have sunk into obscurity.”⁵⁵

The Franciscan Friary in Ennis

About 1240, Donogh Cairbreach O’Brien built a beautiful monastery for conventional Franciscan friars at Ennis. In 1305 the monastery at Ennis was enlarged by Turlogh, son of Teige Caoluisge O’Brien, and endowed by him with the holy crosses, gilt books, and embroidered vestments, excellent windows, cowls, and all the requisite furniture. The families who are buried in the monastery are: O’Brien, MacGillariabhach (anglicized Gallery), Clancy, Neylan, O’Dea, O’Hehir, Considine, MacMahon, and others.

Where were the early MacCraiths buried? The close association of the MacCraith clan with the O’Briens, as the hereditary poets of Thomond, would lead one to expect their interment to be in the Franciscan Friary at Ennis with the O’Briens that they served in life. However, the existing graves found within the Friary at Ennis all date from the 17th century at the earliest. All traces of the older graves, of individuals known to have been interred within the Friary at Ennis, are long gone. If the early MacCraiths were interred in the Friary no mention of it has been found in the historical literature to date.

Around 1586, Sir Richard Bingham, Governor of Connaught, which contained the province of Thomond at the time, ordered that the monastery of Ennis be suppressed and the friars were driven off to Spain, France, Belgium and other places. “About the year 1642, when the Kilkenny Confederation had established the power of the Catholics, Ennis was again opened to the friars, and it continued to be the last place in Ireland where a school of theology was taught by the Franciscans, until they were a second time expelled by Cromwell, and forced again to leave their native country.”⁵⁶

The Earls of Thomond continued to finance the preservation of the Ennis monastery until 1733.

“A.D. 1577 – In a rental office of the Crown for this year, in the public Record Office, Dublin, the queen was then in possession of the site of this monastery, a mill on the Fergus, an eel and salmon weir, with some houses and gardens in the village of Ennis, and on the first of June, 1621, all these were granted to William Donegan, Esq.” –*Archdall*.⁵⁷

The MacCraiths and Clare Abbey

There is a documented history of the association between the MacCraiths of Islandmagrath and Clare Abbey (of the Augustinian order). In the original charter founding the abbey by Donald More O'Brien in 1189 Islandmagrath was among the lands given to the abbey. In the 14th and 15th centuries several of the MacCraiths were abbots of Clare Abbey and some of these went on to become Bishops of the Diocese of Killaloe. County Clare and the northern portion of County Tipperary make up the Diocese of Killaloe. This gives rise to the expectation that the early MacCraiths might have been buried within Clare Abbey although no such documentary evidence has been found to date.

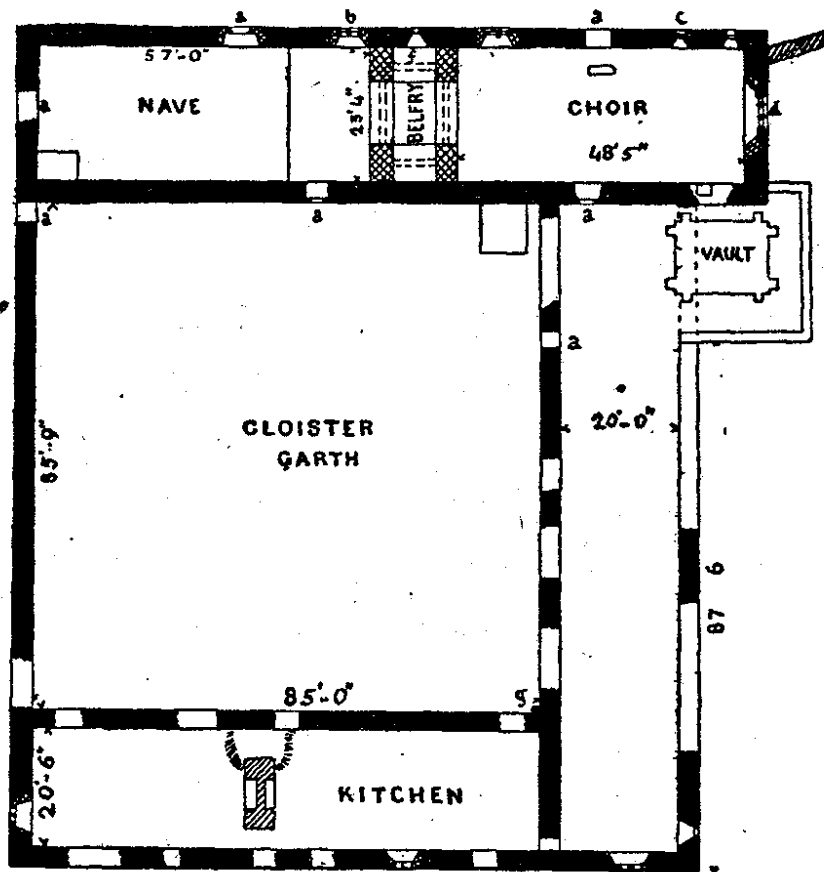
The MacCraiths were not recorded as being coarbs or erenachs in relation to Clare Abbey.

Irish History from Contemporary Sources 1509 – 1610, Constantia Elizabeth Maxwell, George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London, 1923

Note 2, p. 324 – “Coarb, ir., *comharba*, an heir, or in Church usage the successor of the patron saint or founder of an abbey or bishopric, e.g. the Archbishop of Armagh was coarb of Saint Patrick. The name ‘termon’ may have been derived from ‘terminus’ – a boundary. The coarb seems to have been the chief tenant of the termon land. The erenach (Ir., *airchinneach*) was apparently of lesser importance; he was the general supervisor or steward of the lands belonging to a church or monastery.”

The characterization of Islandmagrath as part of the lands of Clare Abbey has been stated by one author.⁵⁸ With the Dissolution of the Abbeys the ownership of Clare Abbey was transferred to the Crown and Henry VIII. These abbeys were used by Henry to bribe the Irish princes into submission with the ownership of Clare Abbey was granted to Donogh, Baron of Ibrocken in 1543⁵⁹. This indicates that Islandmagrath was not part of the abbey lands of Clare Abbey in the latter half of the 16th century. In 1573 and again on October 2, 1578, Clare Abbey was re-granted to Conor, Earl of Thomond. In 1584 the Abbey was held by Sir Donnell O'Brien and his son Teige. On January 20, 1620 the Abbey was confirmed to Donough, Earl of Thomond and was occupied by a Robert Taylor around 1635. The Abbey was subsequently confirmed to Henry, Earl of Thomond on September 1, 1661.

In spite of this granting of the abbey lands of Clare Abbey the ownership of the castle at Islandmagrath was shown as still belonging to a MacCraith in 1574 some 31 years after this initial granting. By 1641 the Book of Survey and Distribution for County Clare showed Islandmagrath to be in the possession of the Earl of Thomond and there was no mention of the existence of a castle.



- c. 1189
- ▨ c. 1460.
- ▩ LATER.

10 0 10 20 30 FT

the J.W. Estlin
1886

Plan of Clare Abbey.

REFERENCE.—A. Doorways. B. Window (fig. 1, p. 124). C. Window (fig. 2, p. 124).
D. Window (fig. 3, p. 124). F. Tomb and early Slit Window.

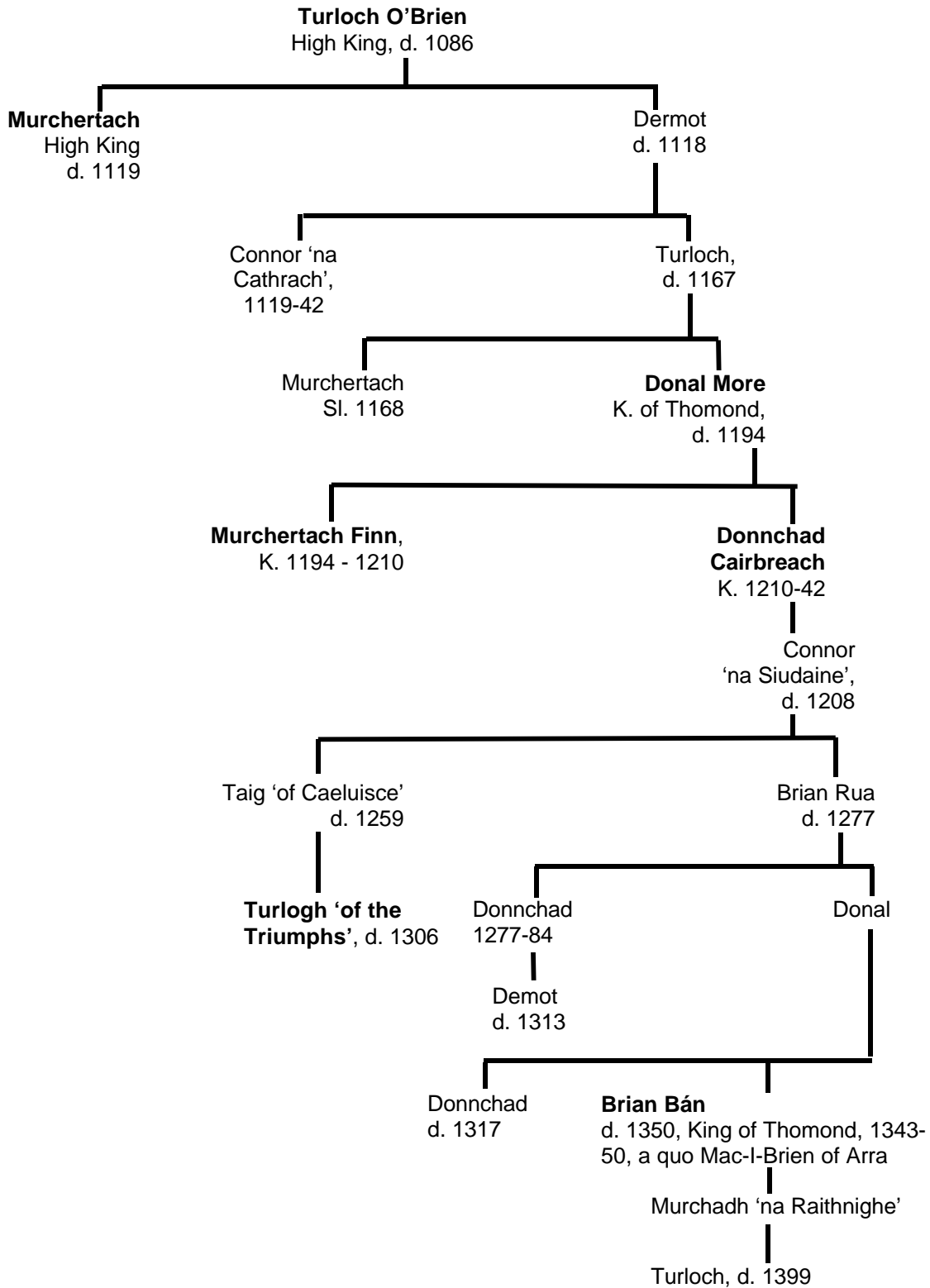


CLARE ABBEY FROM THE SOUTH.

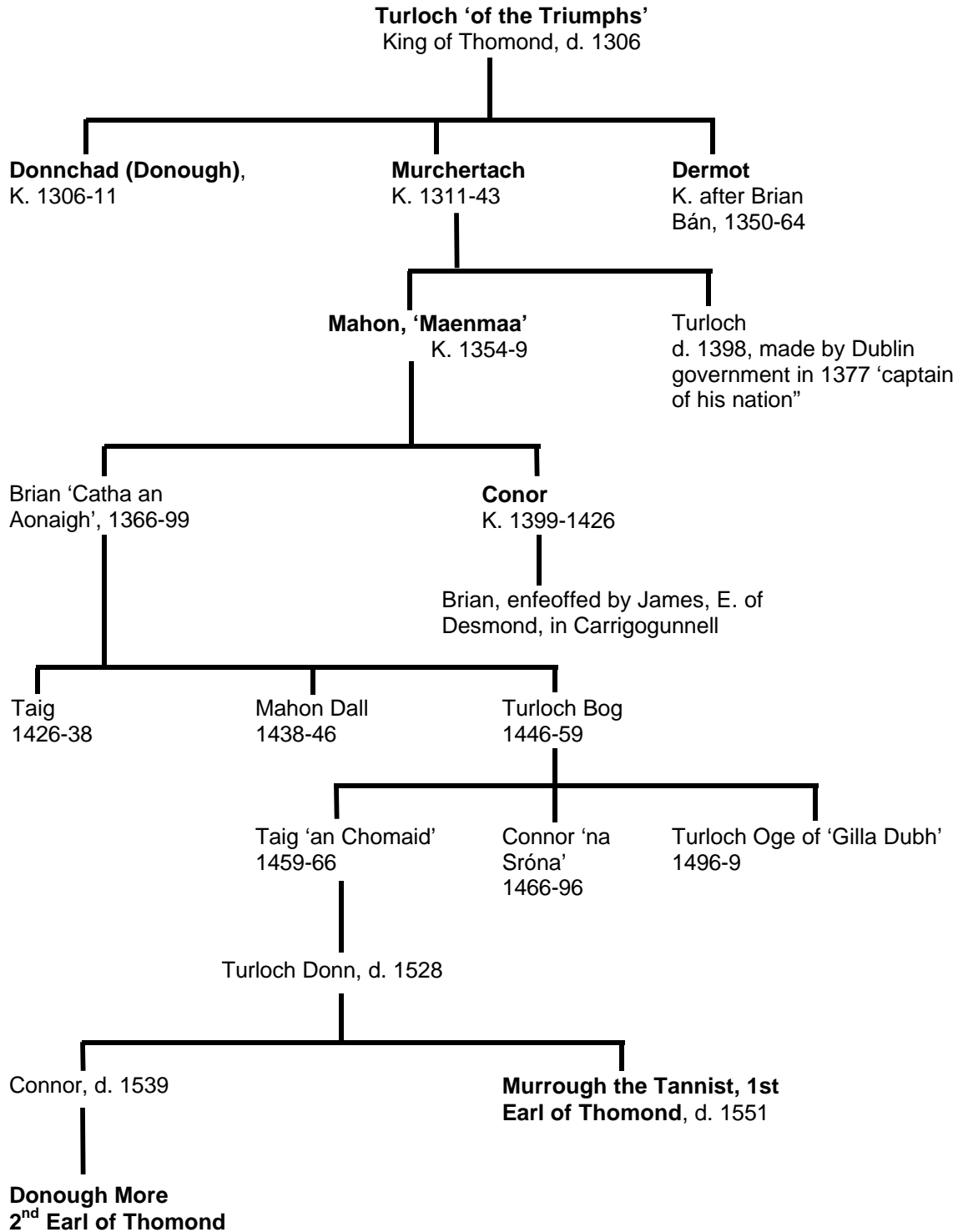
The imposition of a second religion on Ireland was the event that nullified the Irish nation's greatest weapon. Invader after invader had fallen victim to the great ability of the Irish to assimilate foreigners into their culture. Even to the point of becoming indistinguishable from the general population in their language and their manner. The introduction of the Protestant religion (the Church of England) into Ireland by King Henry VIII created an indelible label that would forever more distinguish between Irish and English. It was a potent antidote to the Irish weapon of assimilation and proved more powerful than all the previous attempts by all the armies that had invaded Ireland.

The O'Brien Kings of Thomond

– A History of Medieval Ireland from 1086 to 1513, Edmund Curtis, Methuen & Co. Ltd., London



The O'Briens of Thomond to 1540

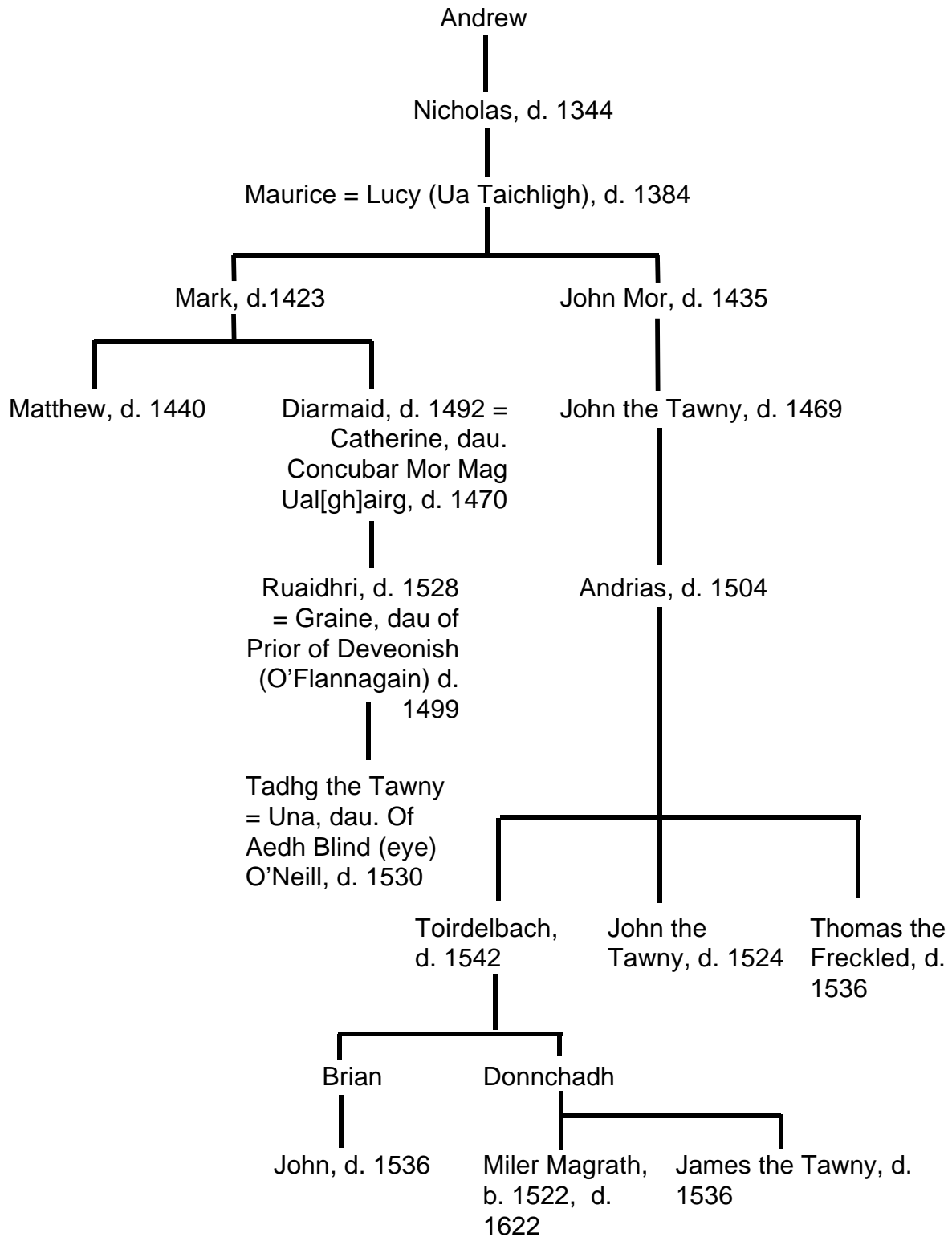


CHAPTER V - The Magraths of Termon Magrath – Co. Donegal

Overview

- The Magraths of Termon Magrath were a branch of the Thomond MacCraiths
- Coarbs of St. Daveog's
- Owners of St. Patrick's Purgatory on Station Island on Lough Derg
- Miler Magrath became the Archbishop of Cashel and married Amy O'Meara and raised a family in Cashel.
- Edmond Magrath owned land in central County Tipperary was transplanted to Tulla in County Clare.
- Some of the family remained in Tipperary or returned shortly thereafter.
- A dozen McGrath families in parishes of Moyaliff and Clogher
- Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch was from Moyaliff.

The Mac Craith's of Termon Magrath from the Annals of Ulster



Donchadh Mag
Craith the Comely

Ragnall

Aedh

Aedh, junior, d.
1415

Domnall (Donnell)

Aedh, d. 1491

Ruaidhri, d. 1491

Eogan

Murchadh, d.
1491

John Mag Craith

Diarmaid, d.
1536

There is more genealogical information in the extracts from the Annals of Ulster found in the Appendix. The appearance of some entries from the female side of the family, which is unusual, since most Irish pedigrees are male dominated. Missing from the above pedigree are Miler's brothers Michael and Naill (Twigge A&I MS 39270 FF).

Magrath Pedigree Comparisons

MS. 23.P.1	Annals of Ulster	Comment
24. Maccraith		
25. Donnchadh	Donchadh Mag Craith the Comely	Secondary Pedigree from Annals of Ulster.
26. Domhnall		
27. Ragnall	Ragnall	
28. Aedh Mor	Aedh	
29. Aedh Og	Aedh, Og (junior), d. 1415	The names match the MS. 23.P.1 with a couple of exceptions but the years are way off.
30. Brian		
31. Domhnall	Domnall (Donnell)	
32. Aedh	Aedh and Ruaidhri both died 1491	The names match the MS. 23.P.1 with a couple of exceptions but the years are way off.
33. Marcus	Andrew	Main Pedigree from Annals of Ulster
34. Nicholas	Nicholas, d. 1344	
35. Matha	Maurice	Matha usually means Mathew
36. Diarmaid		
37. Sean Mor	John Mor, d. 1435	
38. Sean Buidhe (Comhadba of Termon Dabeog o.b. 1440)	John the Tawny, d. 1469	
39. Andrias, d. 1505	Andrias, d. 1504	
40. Toirdhelbhach	Toirdelbach, d. 1542	
41. Donnchadh	Donnchadh	
42. Maelmuire (Miler)	Miler Magrath, d. 1622	

The Maccraith pedigree in the first column above is from the Twigge A&I MS 39270 FF Microfilm and was copied from MS. 23.P.1 that is the format for the manuscripts at the Trinity College. The numbering sequence that is found in the first column is the numbering sequence that is found in the original manuscript. The pedigree in the second column was assembled from entries extracted from

the Annals of Ulster. The entire pedigree from the Annals of Ulster is shown elsewhere in this chapter while two segments of it are examined here. They are referred to as the Main Pedigree and the Secondary Pedigree. The Main Pedigree matches up fairly well with the MS. 23.P.1 pedigree but the Secondary Pedigree has some problems. The Secondary Pedigree is in the area of the table with the thicker border and is placed there for comparison purposes only since the time periods are vastly different. The sequence of names that is found in the first column and in the Secondary Pedigree is identical with just two exemptions. However, this must be attributed to coincidence. In reality the Secondary Pedigree is a branch of the Main Pedigree but there was not enough information to determine its exact connection point.

The Magrath Superiors of the Termon of St. Dabeog (Daveog) are listed in the table below. These individuals are also found in the larger pedigree. Even though all the dates were not available from the Annals of Ulster this is probably a fairly complete list covering the period from 1384 until 1536.

The Superiors of Termon of St. Dabeog	Begin	Middle	End
Maurice		1384	
Marcus			1423
John Mor	1423		1435
Matthew			1440
John the Tawny	1440		1469
Diarmaid	1469		1492
Ruaidhri	1491 1499		1495 1528
Mag Craith		1536	

There is a very close relation between the following titles: Superior of Termon of St. Daveog, Coarb, Tribe Head and Chief of his Name. It's possible that all these titles are different aspects of a single person's functions.

Miler's Letters of Introduction from Queen Elizabeth I

The following two excerpts⁶⁰ are from letters written by Queen Elizabeth I to Sir Henry Sidney concerning the arrival of Miler Magrath in Ireland.

73. Queen to Sir Henry Sidney, 5 March 1570.

(4) "The other Irish man is named **Milerus Magrath**, one who, although he hath offended our lawes in resorting to Rome and accepting a Bisshoprik and other

pretended benefices and authorities of the Pope, contrary bothe to the lawe of God and of our realme, yet hath he so submitted himself to instruction as by many manifest declarations and confessions and by the opinion of the Bisshop of London and others he is estemid to be a fytt person to returne into that relme, and, if no contrary thing may be found in him, to be appoynted to som ministry in suche place as may be better devised there than we heere can conceave. And so require you at his coming thither to appoynte som of the Bisshops or other learned men to conferre with him, and as he shall be found meete and servicable for the church there so to lett him be used with the more favour because of his conformitie wherby others of lyke sorte having gon a straye may the rather be allowed to leave theyr errors by example of him. And in the meane tyme untill som place may be found fytt for his vocation it shall be well don to lett him remayne with som of the Bisshops for his relef and sustentation and to be therby confortd to contynue in the truth. And so meaning to hasten away this bearer with the monney which he hath in charge, we doo forbear to wryte to you of any other thing. Yeuen under our signet at our manor of Hampton Court the vth of March 1569. In the xiith yere of our reign.”

[Received ? April, 1570 and answered 7 April per Giffard.] – p. 122-3.

75. Queen to Sir Henry Sidney, 17 May, 1570

(24) “We did of late direct one **Milerus Magrath** a student of that countrey that had obteyned at Roome a certayne busshoprick, to have gon over thither but by impedymnt of sickness he then coulde not and nowe he doth come who is reported and so pretendh to neglect the authorytie of Roome and to be fully perswaded outwardly in the truth of religion and so being we thinke it goode that he sholde be there cherished and preferred to some busshorick mete for him and to have some other rectories in comendam to susteyne him and herein we pray you to cause the Archebusshopp of Dublyn and the Busshopp of Methe to take some regard to enforme you of his habilitie and judgement in doctryne and thereupon to be used with such favor as his conversion may deserve.”

[Received 2 June, 1570, per Luke Dillon.] p. 132-3.

The Pedigree of the Dal-g Cais Sept of Mac Craith, MagCraith or Magrath

Unless specified otherwise the entries in this table are from the Twigge A&I MS 39270 FF Microfilm that I located at the Local Studies Library, Ennis, County Clare. The pedigree on this microfilm follows the line of Miler Magrath in the most detail. His name has many spelling variations and these are just a few: Maelmuire (alias Milerus, Meyler, Miler or Miles)

1522	Born circa 1522, eldest son and heir of his father.
1540	Joined the Franciscans.
1549	Ordained priest.
1556	Labored in Spain and the Netherlands, 1556-64.
1564	Appointed bishop of Down and Connor by Pope (Pius IV), 12th October, 1565, and consecrated at Rome.
1567	Conformed to Protestantism at Dragheda, 31st May 1567.
1570	Given bishopric of Colgher by Queen Elizabeth, 18th May 1570, and translated by her to arel-see(?) of Cashel, 3rd February 1571. [This was the same year that Elizabeth was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by the Pope]
1575	Miler married <u>Ainé</u> (alias Amey or Amy) dau. of <u>John O'Meara</u> , of "Lysanyage(?)", or Tipperary. Note: The O'Meara's of Lissinisky, County Tipperary are described in the Tipperary Historical Journal, p. 117, 1996. John O'Meara, <i>Floruit</i> 1543 - <i>Circa</i> 1570, Captain of his Nation, Married Honora ?, Children: Ranyt, Any (Amy), who married Archbishop Miler Magrath, and son and heir Donyll. The O'Meara line of descent contains many Edmonds. This is possibly where the Edmond in the Magrath line originated.
May 14,1578	A Grant of English Liberty was made to Miler Magrath and his issue. ⁶¹
1580	Deprived by the Pope, (Gregory XIII) of bishopric of Down and Connor, in March, 1580, " <u>for heresy and many other crimes.</u> " (Dic.[tionary of] Nat.[ional] Biog.[raphies], 3.v. Magrath, Mieyler.)
1582	Given the sees of Waterford and Lismore in <u>commendam(?)</u> , January 7, 24th Eliz. (1582), which he afterwards resigned in exchange for Ashoury and Killaloe.

1584	Miler petitioned for the surrender and regrant of <u>Termon Magrath</u> and <u>Termon Imogayne</u> to his father, Donagh, with the remainder to himself and further remainder to his sons.
1593	Miler Magrath claimed that he had been beaten by a Captain Nuse and that his house had been “broken and burned” ⁶² at Lismore, County Waterford. At one time Miler was the occupant of Lismore Castle, which was a large very fine castle that is still standing today. Even though he was well off it doesn’t seem likely that Miler had enough money to purchase this castle. Miler had access to Lismore Castle as his residence in connection with his appointment as Bishop of Lismore.
Oct 8, 1597	“He received the ‘site, circuit and precinct’ ⁶³ of the late priory and religious house of Thome, Co. Tipperary, as well as the properties and lands of Aughnameall, Envyne, Ballyboy, Aghincor and Killyertiragh.” ⁶⁴
1604	Besides four bishoprics, held 70 spiritual livings. (Sir John Davis, 1604, Dict. Nat. Biog.).
1611	Requested to be received back again into the Catholic Church, 1611-12. On January 29, 1612, “the Apostolic Nuncio granted faculties to a certain Fr Mamin O’Dooulery to receive Miler Magrath into the Catholic Church at his own request. Defenders say Miler kept this quiet in order to avoid a stigma of illegitimacy on his issue.” ⁶⁵
1611	Said to be the handsomest man in Ireland in his day. (Dr. G. Petric, Dict. Pess(?) Journ., Vol I, p. 202).
1622	Died November 24, 1622, aged about 100 years. Buried in Cathedral of St. Patrick, Cashel. (Harris’s Ware’s Bishops, State papers, Fun. Entries, etc., etc., etc.)

1624	<p>Miler's Will was dated Nov. 8th, 1622. Provea 16th June, 1624. His son Redmond was made the executor of his estate, which was a task that usually went to the oldest son. In this case Miler's eldest son was Turlough Magrath. In the Twigge A&I MS 39270 FF Microfilm the genealogy of Miler Magrath indicates that Turlough was succeeded by his son John in 1627. Therefore the mystery remains as to why Miler's eldest son was not made the executor of his estate. This manuscript also states that Redmond was his father's sole executor but goes on to mention that Turlough (Terence) was the "heir of his father." In this genealogy the use of the surnames Magrath and MacCraith are used almost interchangeably.</p>
Extra Note	<p>The witnesses to Miler's Will were William James O'Dwyer, <u>William Magrath</u> and <u>Rory Magrath</u>. These Magraths are not Miler's brothers nor are they his sons or grandsons. These represent other Magrath families living in the Cashel area in 1622.</p>
	<p>Turlough's line lasted into the 17th century. his son was John and his son was Turlough. The younger Turlough moved to Tulla, Co. Clare. Redmond also went to Co. Clare. The line survived in Killbarron and a number of descendents served in the French army. This information is from <i>Irish Rogues, Rascals and Scoundrels</i>⁶⁶</p>

On Miler, Pseudo-Archbishop of Cashel ⁶⁷

"As it is right that these holy and glorious men who attained by their merits the highest praise on earth and eternal happiness in heaven should be celebrated in books and records, so on the other hand the wicked and abandoned men should not be passed over in silence, in order that not only might the living justly condemn them, but also that posterity might execrate their name. And so Miler, a man not as exalted in birth as famous for wickedness, entered into religion in which he conducted himself in a very irregular way and with very little of the manner of a religious. Consecrated a priest and endowed by the Pope with no little power and authority, he set out from Rome to Ireland as if he were going to denounce the new dogmatic errors of the English, but, perhaps, thinking otherwise in his mind; for from the time he reached England, I am informed, he used to carry the apostolic letters in a large and beautiful pyx or locket which hung openly from his neck and was obvious to everyone, for no other purpose but that he might betray himself and his calling. Being arrested by the ministers of justice, he was brought, together with the apostolic letters, before Queen

Elizabeth or her council, and deserted with little unwillingness the Catholic religion, readily embracing the Queens' sect and bribes before he performed the least duty. Then made pseudo-bishop of Cashel, he right away in unholy union wedded Anna (Amy) Ni-Meare. She upon a Friday would not eat meat. "Why is it wife," said Miler, "that you will not eat meat with me?" "It is," said she, "because I do not wish to commit sin with you." "Surely," said he, "you committed a far greater sin in coming to the bed of me a friar." The same woman asked by Miler why she wept: "Because," said she "Eugene who was with me to-day assured me by strong proof and many holy testimonies that I would be condemned to hell if I should die in this state of being your wife, and I am frightened and cannot help crying lest this be true." "Indeed," said Miler, "if you hope otherwise your hope will lead you much astray, and not for the possibility but for the reality should you fret." Not long after **Anna (Amy) died consumed with grief.** This Eugene who then, as at many other times, had endeavoured to bring her back to a good life was (*O'Duffy*), a Franciscan friar, some of whose rather incisive poems, written in Irish against Miler and other heretics, are extant. Well, the wicked **Miler married a second wife**, and now lives sinning, not in ignorance but willingly. He does not hunt priests nor endeavour to detach Catholics from the true religion. He is now nearly worn out with age."

Most authors seldom have anything complimentary to say in writing about Miler Magrath. In the instance quoted above the author makes the following statement even though the facts don't support it:

"Then made pseudo-bishop of Cashel, he right away in unholy union wedded Anna (Amy) Ni-Meare."

In actual fact Miler was made Archbishop of Cashel on February 3, 1571 and he didn't marry Amy O'Meara until 1575. This five-year interval can hardly be described as "right away."

Miler Magrath and Brian-na-Murhta O'Rourke

In 1591 – "O'Rourke, i.e. Brian-na-Murtha, the son of Brian, son of Owen, was banished, as stated before, into the Tuatha in Tirconnell, where he remained upwards of a year with Mac Sweeny (Owen Oge). After that he passed into Scotland, in hopes of obtaining protection or assistance from the King of Scotland. A party of the Queen's people, [however], took him prisoner, and carried him into London, where he remained for some time in prison, [i.e.] until the ensuing November Term. The law was urged against him, and he was condemned to death. He was afterwards hanged, beheaded, and quartered. The death of Brian was one of the mournful stories of the Irish, for there had not been for a long time any one of his tribe who excelled him in bounty, in hospitality, in giving rewards for panegyric poems, in sumptuousness, in [numerous] troops, in comeliness, in firmness, in maintaining the field of battle to defend his

patrimony against foreign adventurers, [for all which he was celebrated], until his death on this occasion.”⁶⁸

These events were recorded by an English writer in a manuscript *History of Ireland*, preserved in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, p. 452.

“Bryan O’Rourke, the Irish potentate, being thus, by the King of Scots, sent into England, was arraigned in Westminsterhall: his indictments were, that he had stirred Alexander MacConnell, and others; had scornfully dragged the Queen’s picture at a horse-taile and disgracefully cut the same in pieces; giving the Spaniards entertainment, against a proclamation; fier’d many houses, &c. This being told him by an interpreter (for he understood noe English), he said he would not submit himself to a tryall of twelve men, nor make answer, except the Queen satt in person to judge him. The lord chief Justice made answer againe, by an interpreter, that whether he would submit himself or not to a tryall by a jury of twelve, he should be judged by law, according to the particulars alledjed against him. Whereto he replied nothing, but ‘if it must be soe, let it be soe.’ Being condemned to die, he was shortly carried unto Tyburne, to be executed as a traitor, whereto he seemed to be nothing moved, scorning the archbishop of Caishill (**Miler Magrath**), who was there to counsell him for his soule’s health, because he (**Miler**) had broken his vow, from a Franciscan turning Protestant.”

Miler as a Negotiator in the O’Neill / O’Donnell Disputes

“When the Lord Justice and the Council of Ireland saw the bravery and power of the Irish against them, and that all those who had previously been obedient to themselves were now joining the aforesaid Irish against them, they came to the resolution of sending ambassadors to O’Neill and O’Donnell, to request peace and tranquillity from them. The persons selected for negotiating between them were Thomas Butler, Earl of Ormond, and **Mulmurry Magrath, Archbishop of Cashel**. The Earl of Ormond repaired to Traigh-Bhaile [Dundalk], and there halted; and he sent his messengers to O’Neill, to inform him of the purport of his coming; upon which O’Neill sent the same intelligence to O’Donnell; and O’Donnell came to the place where O’Neill was, with a body of cavalry, [and] both set out for Faughard-Muirtheimne (Faughard-Muirtheimne is now Faughard, near Dundalk, in the county of Louth.). Here the Earl and the Archbishop came to meet them.”⁶⁹

Sir John Davies’ Account of Clerical Abuses [Letter to Cecil (20 Feb., 1604), Cal. S.P. Ireland, p. 143.]⁷⁰

“Touching the state of religion here, there are 4 archbishoprics, and under them are or should be 20 bishops at least. Has perused the book of first fruits, wherein the spiritual livings are all numbered and valued, and finds the dowry of the

Church to be very great; but is informed by such as are both wise and honest, that the churchmen for the most part throughout the Kingdom are mere idols and ciphers, and such as cannot read, if they should stand in need of the benefit of their clergy; and yet the most of those, whereof many be serving men and some horseboys, are not without 2 or 3 benefices apiece, for the Court of Faculties doth qualify all manner of persons and dispense with all manner of residence and pluralities. And yet for all their pluralities they are most of them beggars, for the patron or ordinary, or some of their friends, take the greater part of their profits by a plain contract before their institution; so that many gentlemen, and some women and some priests and Jesuits have the greatest benefit of our benefices though these poor unlettered clerks bear the name of the incumbents. Nay (that which is almost incredible, but I heard it of one that hath a place of special credit in the Kingdom), the agent or nuncio for the Pope that lieth lurking here in this land, hath £40 or £50 a year out of the profits of a parsonage within the Pale. But for an example of pluralities, the **Archbishop of Cashel** is worthy to be remembered, having now in his hands four bishoprics, Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, and Emly, and three score and seventeen spiritual livings besides. Should corrupt his Lordship too much if he should tell him how they disinherit their churches by long lease, there being no such laws here as are in England to restrain them.

But what is the effect of these abuses? The churches are ruined and fallen down to the ground in all parts of the Kingdom. There is no divine service, no christening of children, no receiving of the sacrament, no Christian meeting or assembly, no, not once a year; in a word, no more demonstration of religion than amongst Tartars or cannibals." pp. 135-6

Land Transactions of Two of Miler's Sons

These transactions record the grant of lands to two of Miler Magrath's sons, James and Turlough, in 1610 and 1615 respectively. James' grant doesn't specify a description of the location of the land in question but he seems to have come into possession of the parcel of land as the result of a defective title by the previous owner. Tyrlogh (Turlough) was later changed to Terence but why both versions of the name were used on the same document is unclear. The grant to Turlough was for land in County Tipperary, where the majority of Miler Magrath's holdings were located. These transactions took place in a period of time prior to the Rebellion of 1641. Afterward much of this land would be confiscated and given to the soldiers and adventurers who supported Cromwell in quelling the uprising.

A *fiant* was unique to the Irish administration. The document was directed to the Irish chancery for the issuing of letters patent. "It was so called because it began 'Fiant literae patentis': let letters patent be made out."⁷¹ These warrants were

addressed to Sir John Davies, former solicitor general of Ireland (1603-1606), when he was attorney general of Ireland (1606-1619).

“13 December 1610

Box 9/11

By the lord deputy and other commissioners for sale of lands upon defective titles.

Warrant for fiant of grant to **James Magrath of Termon Magrath, esq**, assignee to Robert Leicester, gent of land in Counties Fermanagh, Tyrone and Donegal, according to tenor of commission. A blank is to be left for the fine. The land is to be held as in former letters patent.

Signed by Thomas, Archbishop of Dublin, Humphrey Winche, John Denham, Francis Aungier, Richard Cooke, John Davies.

There is a note in the particular signed by Parsons to the effect that some of the lands were contained in the last patent to Robert Leicester.

Grant enrolled 22 December 1610 (*Cal. pat. rolls Ire., Jas I, p. 187*)
[p. 148]

“8 December 1615

Box 4/12

Warrant for fiant of grant in fee farm to **Tyrlogh Magrath, esq**, of land in County Tipperary, according to tenor of king’s letter, 4 September 1614 (*Cal. S.P. Ire., 1611-14, p. 502*). The land is to be held in fee and common soccage.

Note in particular that the land in Co Tipperary was granted to Geoffrey Sale of Cashel by letters patent, 3 December 1607.

Grant enrolled to **Terence Magrath**, 20 December 1615 (*Cal. pat. rolls Ire., Jas I, p. 300*).” [p. 113]

The Ode to Miler Magrath

Miler MacGrath was buried in a wall tomb in the south wall in the Choir of the Cathedral (on the Rock of Cashel, Co. Tipperary). The following translated ode was given in Ware’s Bishops

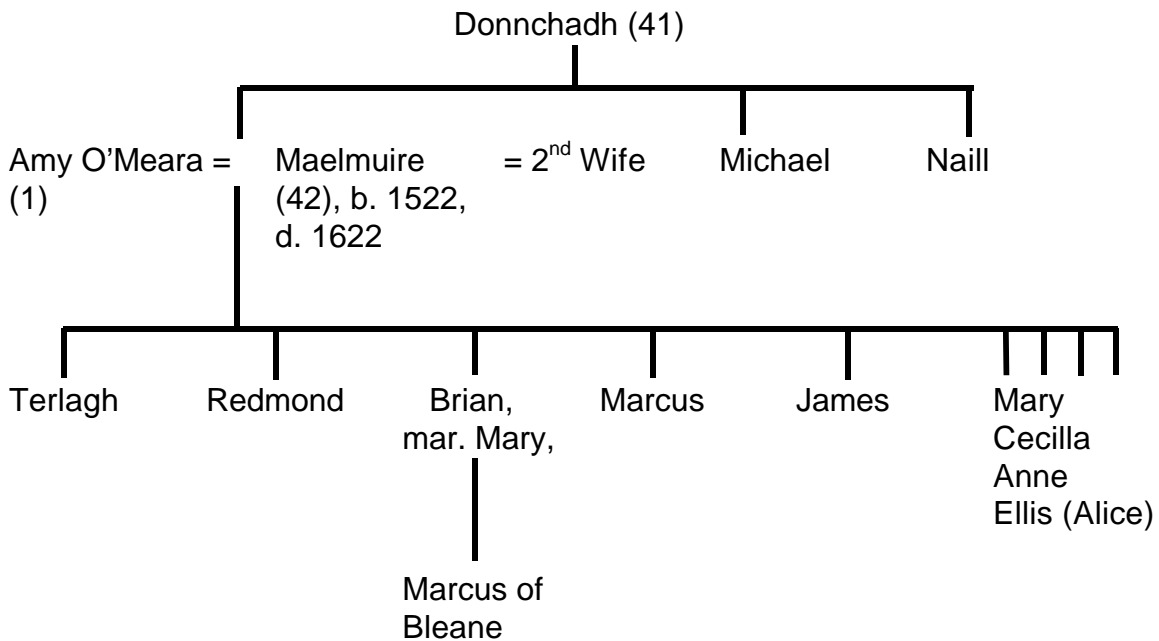
“The ode of Miler Magrath⁷², Archbishop of Cashel, to the passer by:

Patrick, the Glory of our Isle and Gown,
First sat a Bishop in the See of Down,
I wish that I succeeding him in place

As Bishop, had an equal share of Grace,
I sew'd thee, England, fifty years in Jars
and pleased thy Princes in the midst of Wars;
Here where I'm placed I'm not; and thus the case is,
I'm not in both, yet am in both the places, 1621
He that judgeth me is the Lord, 1.Cor.4.
Let him who stands, take care lest he fall."

The Genealogy of Miler Magrath

Twigge A&I MS 39270 FF Microfilm and other sources



41. Dingiolla (DuGiolla) gruamdha, (the Surly Lad), alias Donnchadh, alias Gillagmana, Pat. Roll. Chief of his name "in Ulster", and of Terman Dabheag, alias Terman Magrath, and Terman "Imonghan," par. of Templecarne, bar. of Tirhugh, and county of Donegal. [par. of Carne, bar. of Tirhugh and co. of Donegall].

He and his eldest son Maelmuire, who were hereditary Coharbs of these lands, surrendered these to Queen Elizabeth, and got a regrant according to English tenure (Pat. Rolls of Eliz. 1596, No. 13.). [This is either a second surrender and regrant or else the surrender and regrant described in 1584 in the earlier table or this date is in error.]

42. Maelmuire (alias Milerus, Meyler, Miler or Miles)

Eldest son and heir of his father. Born circa 1522.

Joined the Franciscans 1540. Ordained priest 1549. Labored in Spain and the Netherlands, 1556-64. Appointed bishop of Down and Connor by Pope (Pius IV), 12th October 1565, and consecrated at Rome. Conformed to Protestantism at Draghedra, 31st May 1567. Given bishopric of Colgher by Queen Elizabeth, 18th May 1570, and translated by her to arel-see(?) of Cashel, 3rd February 1571. Married 1575.

Deprived by the Pope, (Gregory XIII) of bishopric of Down and Connor, in March, 1580, "for heresy and many other crimes." (Dic.[tionary of] Nat.[ional] Biog.[raphies], 3.v. Magrath, Mieyler.) Given the sees of Waterford and Lismore in commendam(?), January 7, 24th Eliz. (1582), which he afterwards resigned in exchange for Ashoury and Killala. Requested to be received back again into the Catholic Church, 1611-12. Besides four bishoprics, held 70 spiritual livings. (Sir John Davis, 1604, Dict. Nat. Biog.). Said to be the handsomest man in Ireland in his day. (Dr. G. Petric, Dict. Pess(?) Journ., Vol I, p. 202). Died November 24, 1622, aged about 100 years. Will, Nov. 8th, 1622. Proved 16th June, 1624. Buried in Cathedral of St. Patrick, Cashel. (Harris's Ware's Bishops, State papers, Fun. Entries, etc., etc., etc.)

Miler married Ainé (alias Amey or Amy) dau. of John O'Meara, of "Lysanyage(?)", of Tipperary.

[The O'Meara's of Lissinisky, County Tipperary are described in the Tipperary Historical Journal, p. 117, 1996. John O'Meara, *Floruit* 1543 - *Circa* 1570, Captain of his Nation, Married Honora ?, Children: Ranyt, Any (Amy), who married Archbishop Miler Magrath, and son and heir Donyll. The O'Meara line of descent contains many Edmonds. This is possibly where the Edmond in the Magrath line originated.]

Miler's brother Michael, Pat. Roll Eliz 1596, No. 13.

Miler's brother Niall (alias Neal, or Neale) (Cal St. Papers, ??, 1607.)

The Children of Miler Magrath Generation 43

1. Terlagh, or Terence (43)
(Toirdealbhaeh) of "Allevolan," or "Aylewallane," Co. Tipperary, son and heir of his father. ob. 1627. [Wife is unknown. Children: Sir John MacCraith Knight and Baronet of Aylewallane and Amy MacCraith.]
2. Redmond,
second son of Miler MacCraith, Archbishop Cashel, his father's sole executor, to which he left all his moneys, debts, rents due, etc. (Will of his father, 8-11-1622)
wife Cecilia, dau. of O'Dwyer, chief of his name. Children: Edmond Magrath, Thomas Magrath, Catherine Magrath, four other daughters who died young.

3. Brian [from Irish Rogues, Rascals and Scoundrels, by Padraic O'Farrell, The Mercier Press] married Mary, son Marcus of Bleane [Civil Survey 1654]
4. Marcus
 Marcus of "Killinollowse" co. Tipperary, where he died circa 14th April 1639, and was buried in Cathedral Church of Emly on the following day. Fun. Ent. vol VIII, p. 16.
Catherine (1st wife), dau. of Thomas Butler, of "Ardmoyle" Co. Tipperary. Children: Miles, Donogh, Ellen and Katherine.
5. James
 He got new grant of Termon Magrath circa 1610, and was the probable builder of Magrath's Castle in that place. Ob. s. p. aute(annuity?) his brother Brian (Fun. Ent. Vol VI, p. 144)
6. Dau. #1 - Mary
7. Dau. #2 - Cecilia
8. Dau. #3 - Anne
9. Dau. #4 - Elis (Alice)

Additional information from the LDS Ancestral Files (unverified)

Mary, born 1581 at Cashel, Co. Tipperary, married M'Coghlan in 1605 at Co. Tipperary.

Cecillia, born ~1581 at Cashel, Co. Tipperary, married John Butler 1603-5 at Co. Tipperary.

Anne, born ~1584 at Cashel, Co. Tipperary, married Butler (born ~1580) in 1610, Kilmoyler, Co. Tipperary.

Ellis, born ~1583 at Cashel, Co. Tipperary, married John Bowin (born ~1580 in Co. Leinster) in 1610 at Co. Tipperary.

Giles, born ~1585 at Cashel, Co. Tipperary, married Philip O'Dwyer (born ~1585) of Dromdromy, Co. Tipperary

The additional daughter named Giles is new. She does not appear in the other sources on Miler Magrath. The names of their husbands and their birth and marriage information is also new. Normally there is little genealogical information available about the female members of the family. This information is labeled

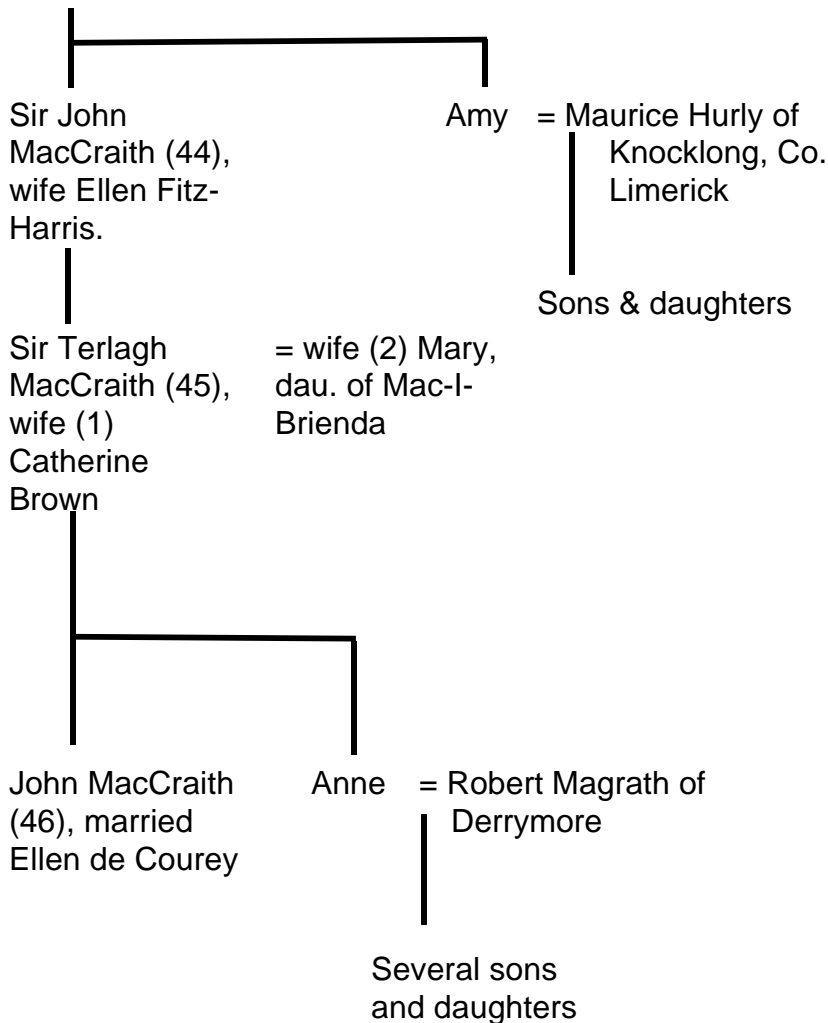
unverified because the LDS accepts data from any individual who desires to submit information and its authenticity is not checked in any way. The name of the person submitting the information is given and it is the responsibility of anyone using the information to verify its correctness. This information relating to Miler Magrath seems to use the Irish birth pattern tradition (one child every year) to assign the birth dates to Miler's daughters.

The Descendants of Terlagh Magrath

Donnchadh (41)

Maelmuire (42)

Terlagh (43),
died 1627



Descendants of Terlagh MacCraith (43)

Son #1 (44) Sir John Knt. and Bart. of Aylewallane,

succeeded his father, 1627. Created baronet - by patent, 5th June, 1629. Sheriff of Co. Tipperary in 1641. Excepted from pardon of life and estate in 1652.

Wife - Ellen, dr. of Sir Edward Fitz-Harris (First Bart.) by Gyles, dr. and heir of John Roche. Fun. Ent. Vol. IX, p. 273. One son (45) Sir Terlagh, 2nd Bart.

Dau. #1 - Amy

Fun. Ent. Vol VII, p. 188.

Husband - Maurice Hurly, of "Knocklougy," (Knocklong) co. Limerick.

Children: sons and daughters.

Children of Sir John MacCraith (44) - Wife #1 Ellen Fitz-Harris

1. (45) Sir Terlagh, 2nd Bart. of Fertanemore, par. of Tulla, co. Clare, in May, 1671 (Answer to Chancery Bill, Burke v. Macnamara, 26th June, 1679.)

Wife #1 - Catherine, 3rd dr. Sir Valentine Browne, Bart. by Ellie, dr. of Gerald Fitz Gerald, Earl of Desmond. Children: John MacCraith (46), Anne MacCraith

Wife #2 - Mary, dr. of Mac -I- Briendra. o.s.p.

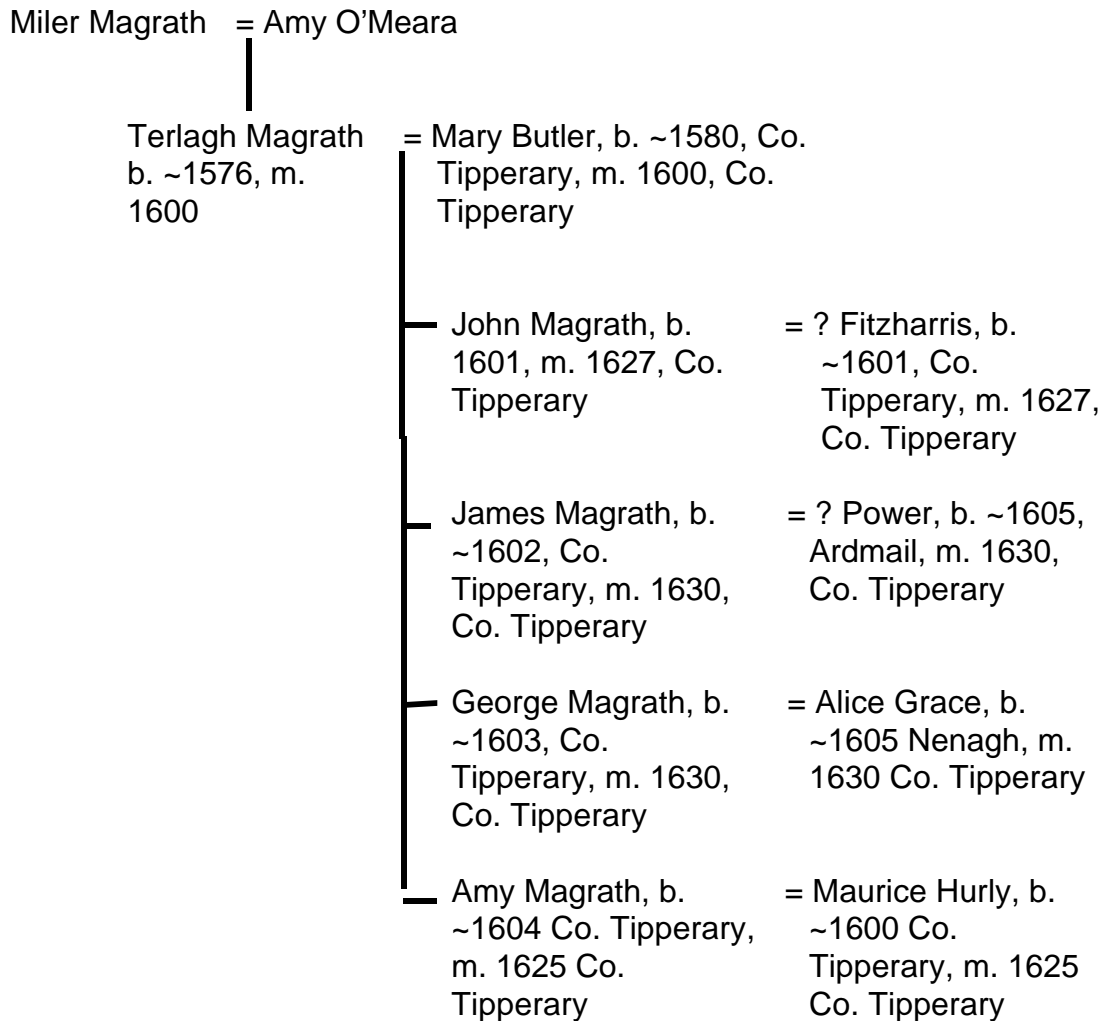
Children of Sir Terlagh MacCraith (45)

1. John MacCraith (46), 3rd Baronet, o.b. (apparently) s.p.m. when the baronetry became presumably extinct, married Ellen, sister of Patrick and Americus (22nd & 23rd) barons of Kinsale, and daughter of John de Courey (21st) baron of Kingsale by Ellen, daughter of Charles MacCarthy Reagh.
2. Anne, married Robert, son of Edmond Magrath of Derrymore, parish of Tulla, co. Clare – Killbarron Pedigree. Children: Sons and Daughters.

"Marsh's Library, Dublin, has extracts from a 'Warrant of the Lord Deputy' granting a baronetcy to J. Magrath of Allevollan, County Tipperary, in 1629. There are also allegations in a suit for separation for adultery and cruelty brought by Lady Ellen Magrath (daughter of Lord Kinsale) against Sir J. Magrath, in 1701." – From a book on Irish names.

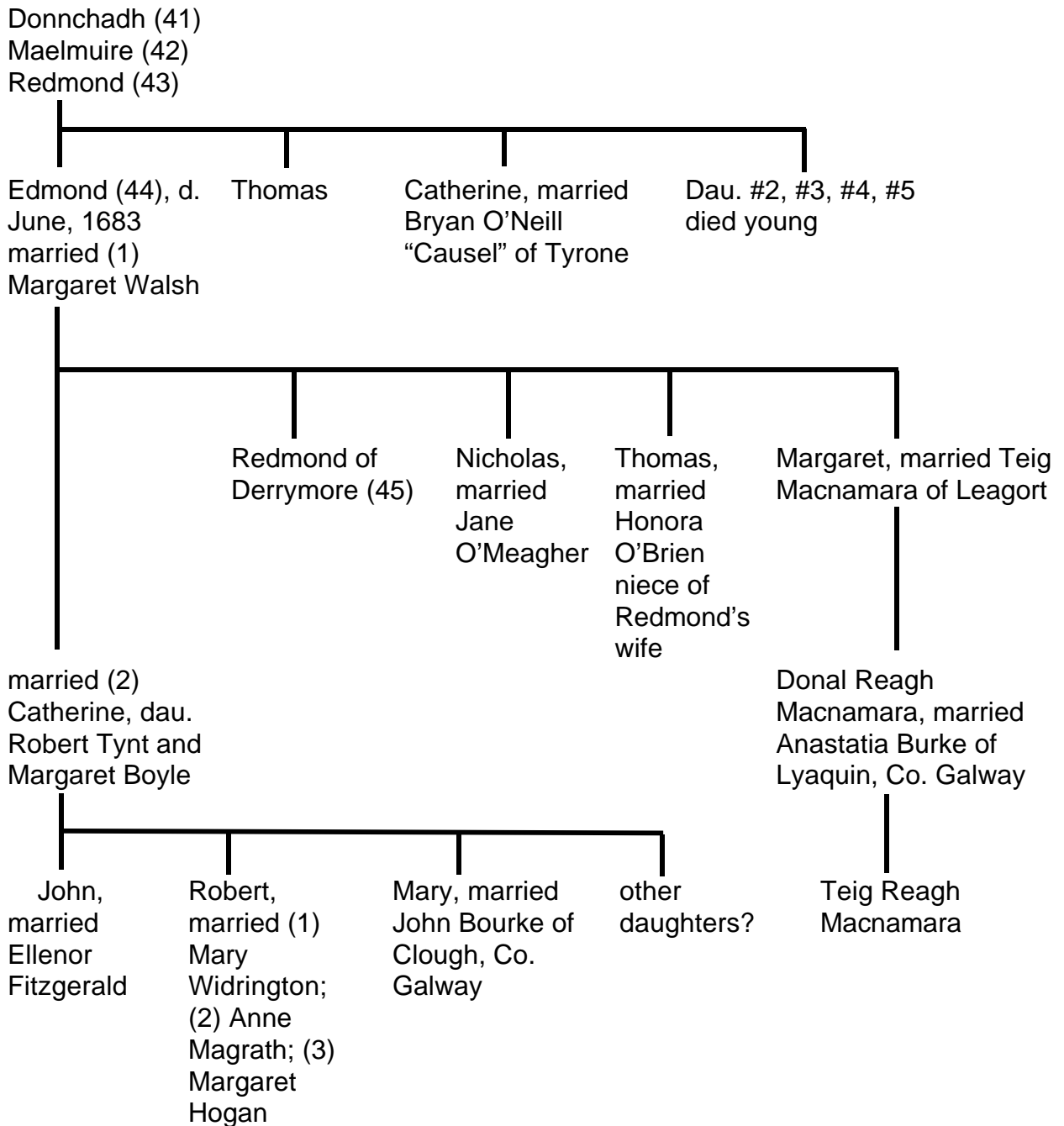
This is as far as the line of Turlagh MacCraith has been traced.

Additional information from LDS Ancestral Files (unverified)



The existence of two more sons of Terlagh MacCraith, namely James and George, is new information. The birthdates again seem to be estimated following the traditional Irish birth pattern. The marriage dates seem more certain as do the locations of the marriage ceremonies where they are given.

The Descendants of Redmond Magrath



Edmond Magrath and wife (1) Margaret Walsh

Redmond of Derrymore – married Ellenor, daughter of James, Lord Dunboyne, and Margaret, grand daughter of the "Count" Earl of Thomond. Attainted for loyalty to James II and his estates forfeited (Assize at Ennis

12-7-1696, Frost's History of Clare, pp.332, 581) and granted same year by William III to Dr. John Leslie (ibid. pp. 595, 597).

Nicholas – married Jane, daughter of Sir Daniel Meagher and Lucie O'Brien. A colonel in the Infantry in the army of James II. Passed in to the service of France with the Irish Brigade, after the fall of Limerick.

Thomas – married Honora O'Brien, niece of his brother Redmond's wife and the "???" of Thomond. Survived her husband. Got an annuity from his brother Redmond dated Feb. 28, 1682 (Frost, History of Clare, p. 591).

Margaret, married Teig Macnamara of Leagort, par. of Feakle, co. of Clare. He was the great grandson of Donal Reafe, who died in Dublin 1607 and the "Macnamara Reagh."

Edmond Magrath and wife (2) Catherine, daughter of Robert Tynte and Margaret Boyle, niece of the 1st Lord Cork.

John – married Ellenor FitzGerald of Currigoran, Killnacoola, co. Clare.

Robert – married (1) Mary of ___ Widrington – lived near Newcastle, England. (2) Anne, daughter of Sir TerLagh Magrath, Baronet.. (3) Margaret, daughter of ___ Hogan of Kilcedan..., co. Tipperary. Was a Lieutenant colonel in service of France. Afterwards of Killbarron, parish of Feakle, co. Clare. ob 1751(?).

Mary (eldest daughter) – married John Bourke of Clough, co. Galway. Designation of Mary as the eldest daughters indicates the probable existence of other daughters who were not listed in this genealogy.

The Descendants of Redmond Magrath of Derrymore

Donnchadh (41)



Maelmuire (42)



Redmond (43)



Edmond (44)



Redmond (45) of Derrymore, married Ellenor, dr. of James Lord Dunboyne, and Margaret, grand dr. of the "Count" (Earl) of Thomond

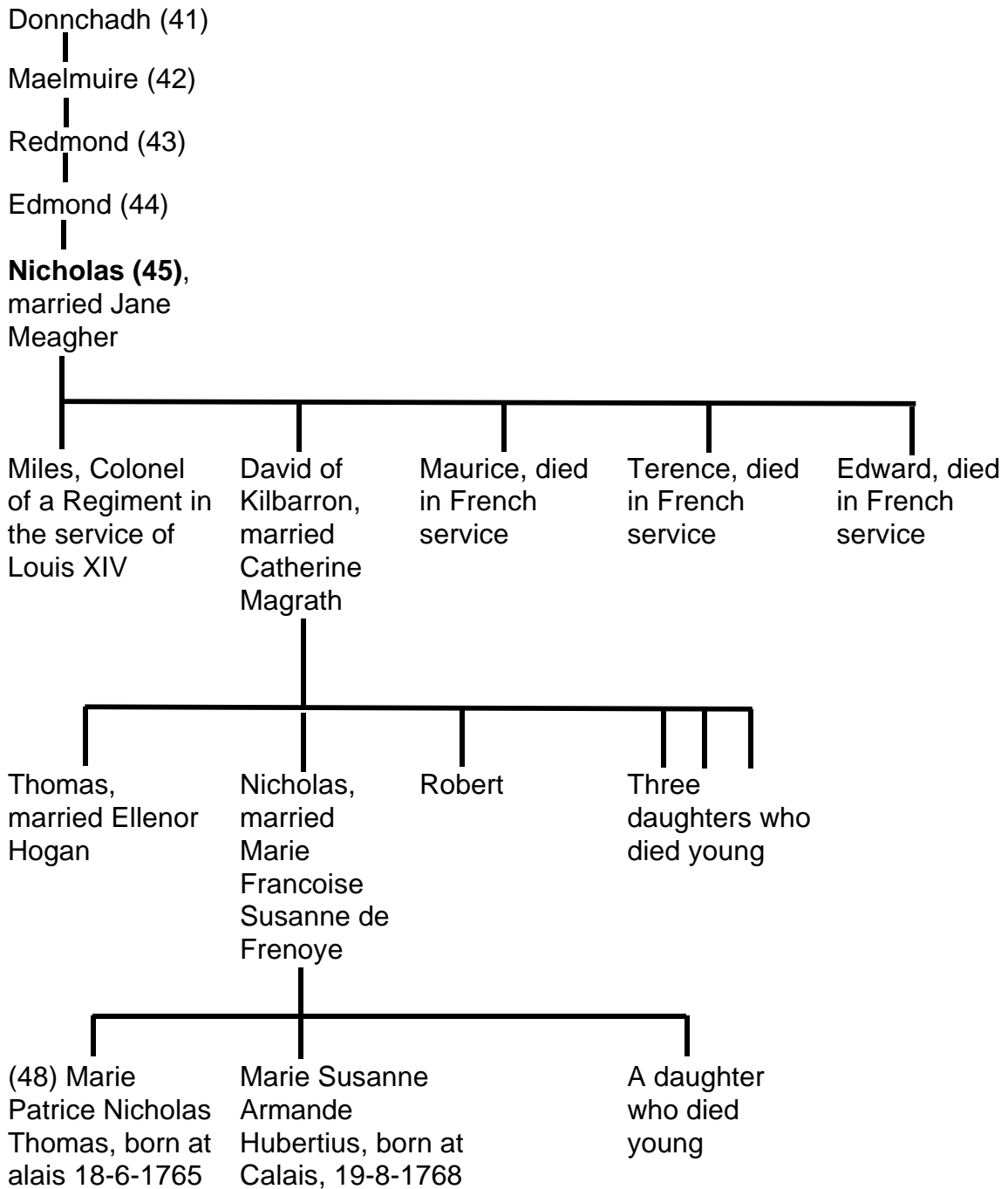


James (46), married Mary Bourke, dr. of James Bourke of Cahermoyle, Co. Limerick.



Edward (47) of Ratriaghmore, Co. Limerick. Made an unsuccessful attempt to recover some of his grandfather's forfeited estates.

The Descendants of Nicholas Magrath



The Descendants of John Magrath

Donnchadh (41)

Maelmuire (42)

Redmond (43)

Edmond (44)

John (45),
 married Ellenor
 Fitzgerald, of
 Currigoran,
 Kilnacoola, Co.
 Clare

Luke, whose descendants
 lived in Clare. Married
 Catherine Txton(?)

Edmond,
 married
 Catherine
 Sarsfield

Five daughters,
 two of whom
 became nuns and
 another married
 Deacon O'Keefe
 Esq. of Kilcrea,
 Co. Cork

Luke, married
 M. Moriarty

John,
 married
 Ellen
 Macnamara

Matthew

John

Joseph of Clooney,
 parish of Dysert
 afterwards of Corofin.
 Married (1) Alice
 Powers and (2)
 Elizabeth Power

Wife (1)
 Three sons, one of
 whom was Robert,
 will of his father

Bridget, married
 John Power

Dau. #1 Jane
 Dau. #2 Mary
 Dau. #3 Ellen
 Dau. #4 Catherine

Dau. #1

Dau. #2 Mary,
 married John
 O'Brien

Children of Edmond MacCraith's wife (2)

1. John

Wife: Ellenor Fitz Gerald of Carrigoran, barony of Kilnacoola, co. Clare.

Children: Luke whose descendents lived in Clare. mar. Catherine dr. of James Txton(?) and Jane dr. of David England Lifford, near Ennis.

Children:

Edmond (had sisters) (1) Jane, (2) Mary, (3) Ellen, (4) Catherine. Mar. Catherine dr. of Michael Sarsfield.

Children: Five daughters, two of whom became nuns and another married Deacon O'Keefe Esq. of Kilcrea, co. Cork.

John mar. Ellen Macnamara. Children

- Luke, mar. M. Moriarty
- Matthew
- John
- Bridget, mar. John Pown.

Joseph of Clooney, par. of Dysert afterwards of Corofin. Will 2-7-1782.

Wife #1 Alice, dr. of Patrick Power, of Corofin, (o.b. 1772) and Mary dr. of Thomas and Gorman, of Inchiquin, co. Clare and Power Pedigree.

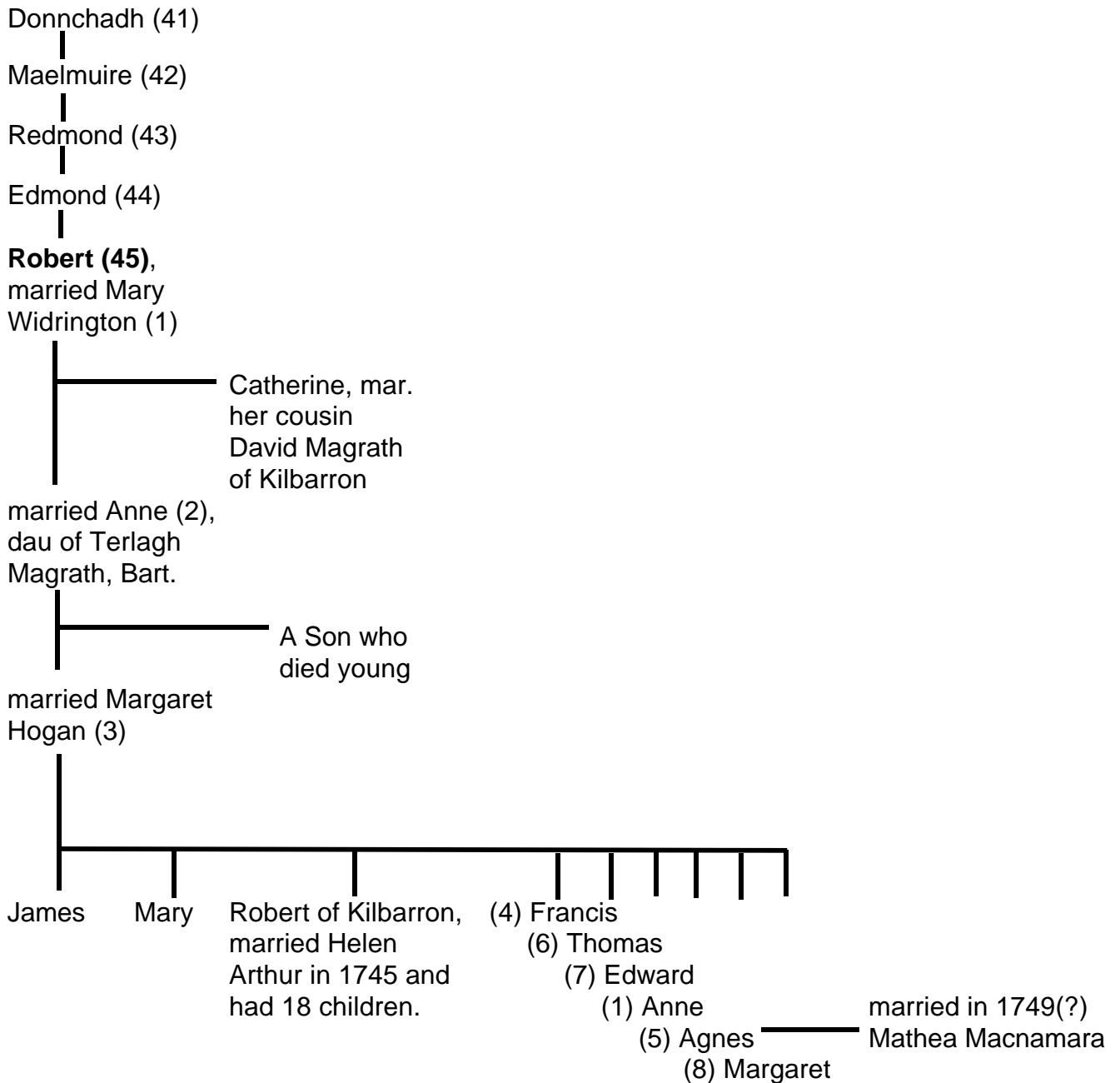
Children:

- Three sons, one of whom (a younger) was Robert will of his father.
- Mary (the 2nd daughter). mar. John O'Brien

Wife #2 Elizabeth, dr. of Dominick Power of Corofin and Bridget, dr. of Teige O'Habir, of Clontookill, par. of Dysert, co. Clare. Power Pedigree.

Note: The following may be a relation to the Dominick Power of Corofin above Eleanor Creagh, wife of Dominick Power, 1673 is buried in a small church in Coad on the road between Kilnaboy on the north and Corofin on the south. J.R.S.A.I., Vol. 30, 1900, p. 410.

The Descendants of Robert Magrath



2. Robert, (son of Edmond Magrath of Ballymore and wife Catherine) a Lieut colonel in service of France. Afterwards of Killbarron, par. of Feakle, co. Clare. ob 1751(?)
 mar (1) Mary of _____ Widrington who lived near Newcastle, England. Children:
 - dau. Catherine mar. her cousin David of Killbarron. three(?) children.

mar(2) Anne, dau. of Sir Terlagh Magrath Bart. Children:

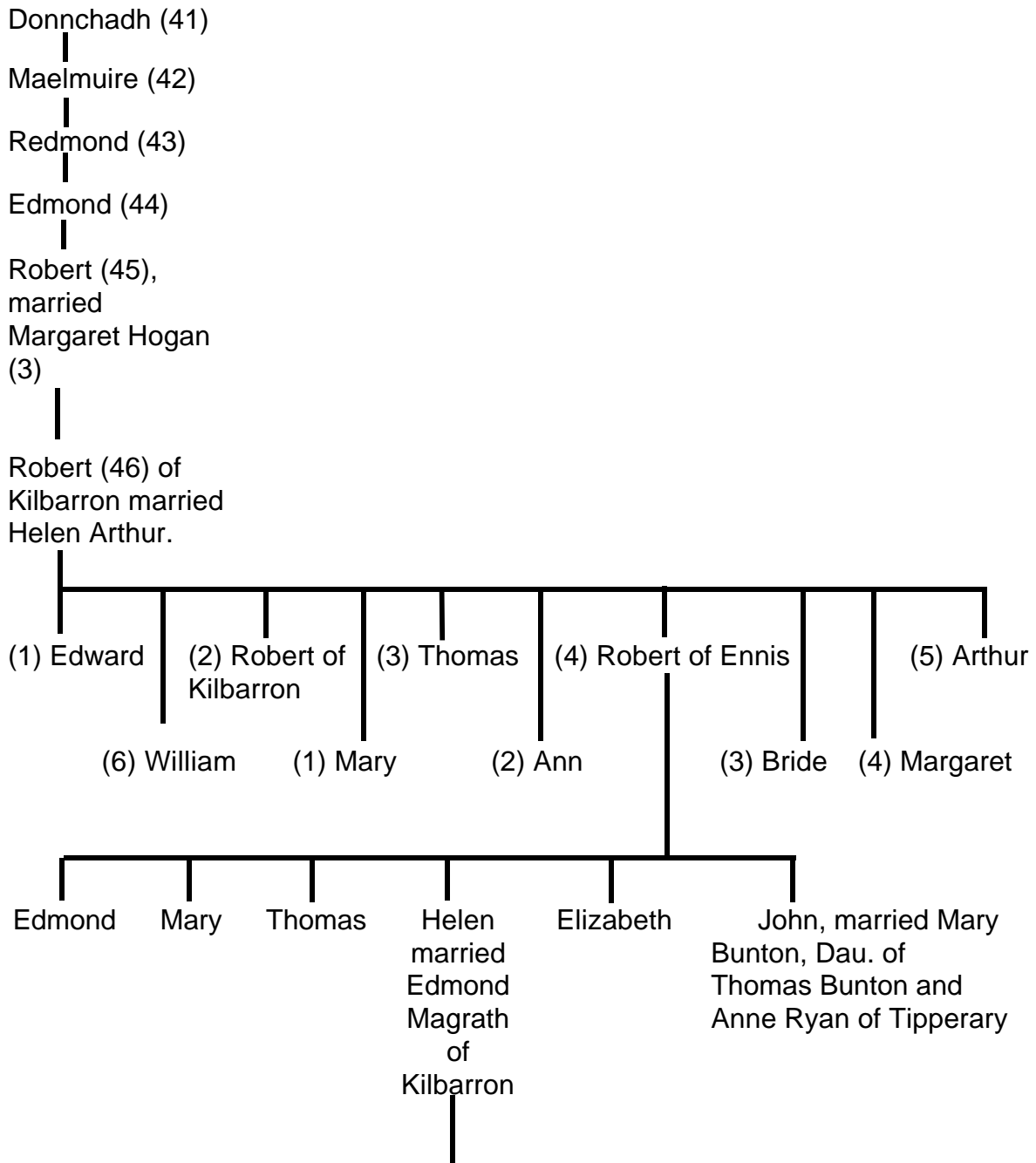
- a son who died at the age of one year

mar (3) Margaret, dau of ____ Hogan(?) of Killcedan... co.

Tipperary. Children:

- #1 James
- #3 Robert of Killbarron, mar. Helen Arthur in 1745 and had 18 children.
- #4 Francis, #6 Thomas, #7 Edward
- #1 Anne, #2 Mary, #5 Agnes, #8 Margaret

The Descendants of Robert Magrath of Kilbarron (46)



From these cousins the present male representative of the Magrath's of Kilbarron, Co. Clare (Dr. E. F. Magrath, of Upper Norwood, London) is descended.

Descendents of Robert MacCraith of Killbarron and Helen Arthur

Next generation from Robert and Helen

1. Edward
2. Robert of Killbarron o.s.p.
3. Thomas
4. Robert of Ennis, married August 14, 1791 to Anne, daughter of Thomas O'Dwyer o.b. August, 25, 1819 (Ennis Chronicle)
5. Arthur
6. **William**
7. (1) Mary
8. (2) Anne
9. (3) Bride
10. (4) Margaret

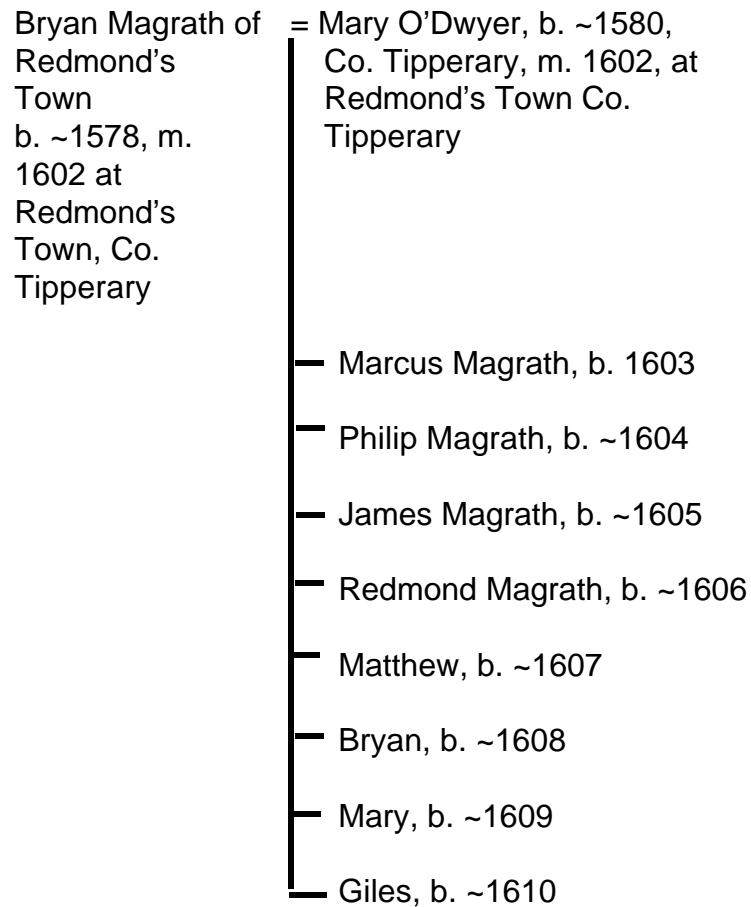
Next Generation from Robert of Ennis (#4 Above)

1. Edmond
2. Mary
3. Thomas
4. Helen married Edmond Magrath, of Killbarron on 14th January, 1819, her cousin Clare Journal
 - From these cousins the present male representative of the Magrath's of Killbarron, Co. Clare (Doctor E. F. Magrath, of Upper Norwood, London) is descended.
5. Elizabeth
6. John, married Mary, daughter of Thomas Bunton, and Anne Ryan of Tipperary.

The Descendants of Bryan Magrath

From the LDS Ancestral Files (unverified)

Miler Magrath = Amy O'Meara



The Descendants of Marcus Magrath

Donnchadh (41)



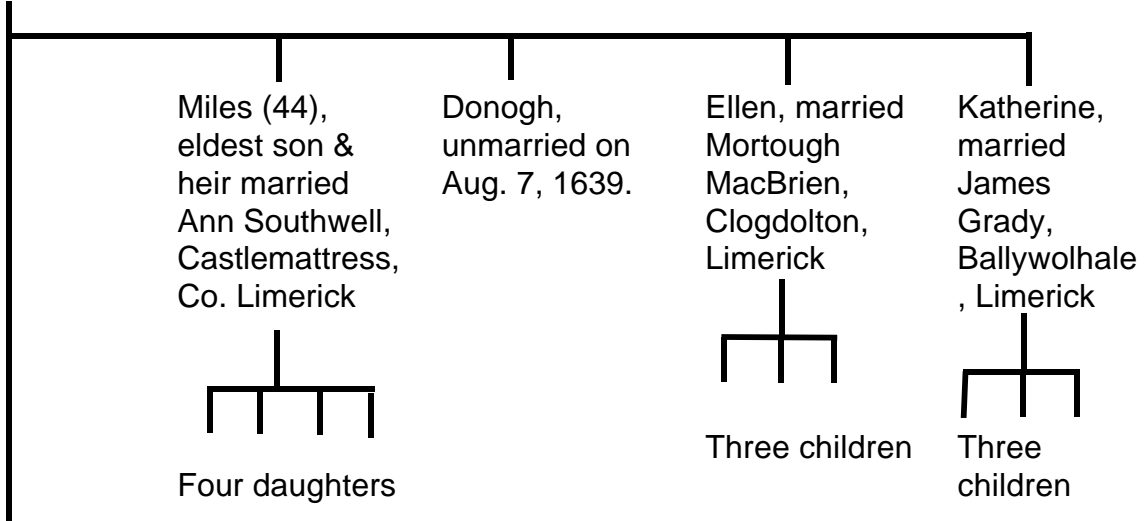
Maelmuire (42)



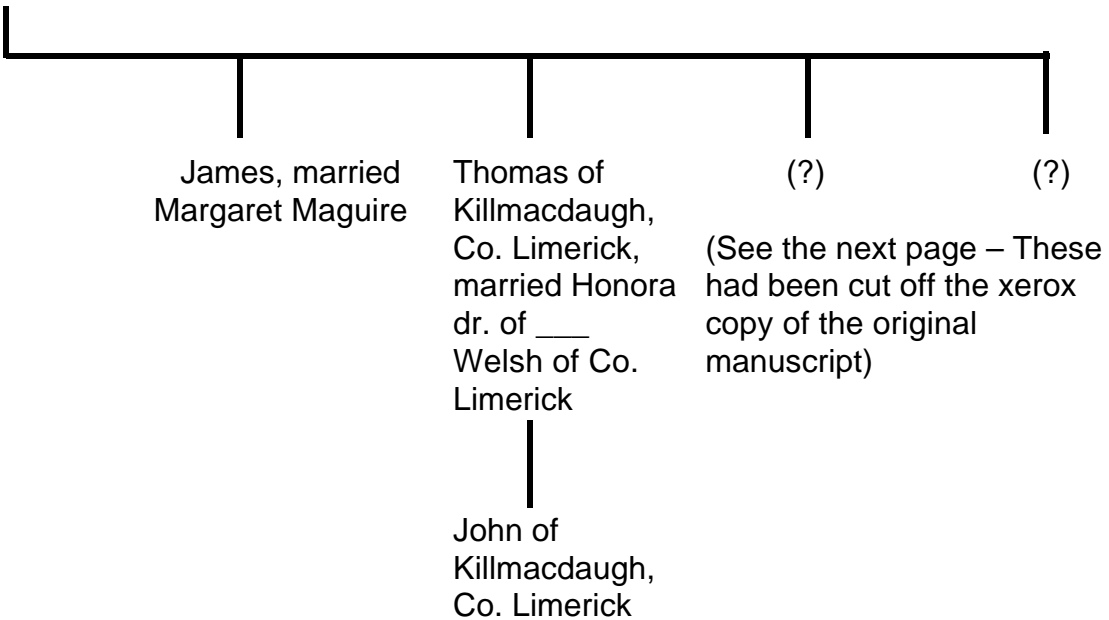
Marcus (43)

d. 14 April, 1639, married

(1) Catherine Butler



married (2) Frances
Spring, dr. of Thomas
Spring of "Killagha" of
Co. Kerry



Marcus (Miler's son)and wife Catherine Their children:

- Miles (1) eldest son and heir. Mar. Anne, dau. of Edward Southwell(?) of Castlemattres, co. Limerick - 4 daughters

[Named after paternal grandfather]

- Donnogh(2), unmarried on Aug 7, 1639

[Is #2 named after the maternal grandfather?]

- Ellen (1), mar. Mortough MacBrien of Clogdalton of Limerick - 3 dau.

[Is the eldest daughter named after the paternal grandmother?]

- Katherine (2), mar. James Grady of "Ballywolhale", co. Limerick

[Is the second eldest daughter named after the maternal grandmother?]

Marcus (Miler's son)and second wife Frances, daughter of Thomas Spring, of "Killagha", Co. Kerry Their children:

- James, married Margaret Maguire Killbarron Pedigree
- Thomas, of Killmacdaugh, gent., Co. Limerick. Married Honora, daughter of _____ Welsh of Co. Limerick Killbarron Pedigree
- Son. John, of Kilmacduagh, Co. Limerick Fun. Ent. Vol VII p. 224, and Vol VIII, p. 224. Mar ???

Additional Information from the LDS Ancestral Files (unverified)

Miler Magrath = Amy O'Meara

Marcus Magrath = Frances Spring

— James Magrath = Margaret Maguire,
b. 1607, m. 1634
Co. Tipperary

— Thomas Magrath of Killmacdough, Co. Limerick = Honora Walen, b. 1609

— Bryan Magrath, b. ~1611, Co. Tipperary = ?

— Marks Magrath, b. ~1613 Co. Tipperary = Ellen Purdon, b. ~1640 Co. Tipperary

— Francis Magrath, b. 1613 Co. Tipperary

Forfeitures and Distributions

These tables include the original owners before the Cromwellian transplantation, the transplanted Irish, some tenants in later years and in some cases the final owner after the Williamite confiscations.

Townland	Parish	Proprietors in 1641	To Whom Disposed	Tenant 1659	Tenant 1663	Tenant 1664	Page
Knocksaggart-na-banshagh	Kilnasoolagh	Conor Oge Clancy	Marcus Magrath; George Hart				415
Oumurkagh Fanellan	Kilnasoolagh	Conor Oge Clancy	Marcus Magrath; George Hart				415
Lisduff	Kilnasoolagh	Mahone MacNamara; John, son of Teige MacNamara	Marcus Magrath; John MacNamara		Edmd. MacDaniel		416
Finvarra	Ooughtmama			Teige O'Daly; Laurence Bigg; Lawrence Markahan		Teige O'Daly; Laurence Bigg; Lawrence Markahan	437
Knockalough	Kilmihil	John MacNamara; Murtagh MacMahon; John O'Gillahinane	Paul Strange (Decree dated June, 1676; Marcus Magrath; Donogh MacNamara; Henry Ivers; Teige O'Brien; Edward Fanning; Thomas Green				455

Townland	Parish	Proprietors in 1641	To Whom Disposed	Tenant 1659	Tenant 1663	Tenant 1664	Page
Tirmanroe & Lissenegan	Kilmihil	John MacNamara	Marcus Magrath				456
Cahermacrusheen	Killilagh	Boetius, and Daniel Oge Clancy	Conor, son of Donoh O'Brien; Thos. Corr.	James Clancy			464
Carrowgar.	Killilagh	Hugh, and Daniel Oge Clancy	Thomas Carr; Arthur Hyde; John Gore	"Sir Turlagh Magrath, a poore decayed Baronet" <small>73</small>			465-6
Clooncoul.	Kilmanaheen	Donogh O'Brien	Lord Ikerrin	Thomas Magrath			468
Ballingaddy	Kilmanaheen	Donogh O'Brien	Lord Ikerrin	Thomas & Donogh MacGrath			468
Nooan, (caves)	Ruan	Teige O'Brien of Dromore	Lord Clare			Thomas McGrath	489
Cragleigh	Drumcliff	Mahone Clancy	Peter Forrestal; Henry and Edward Nugent	Turlogh Magrath	In 1660 the Lord President of Munster took Forrestal lands away and gave them to Lord Clare.		496
Cloonyconry	Killokennedy	Earl of Inchiquin	Earl of Inchiquin	Thomas Magrath			510

Townland	Parish	Proprietors in 1641	To Whom Disposed	Tenant 1659	Tenant 1663	Tenant 1664	Page
Kilbarron	Feakle	Daniel, son of Donogh MacNamara (a Ward).	Daniel MacNamara	Doctor Patrick Connell		Redmond Magrath	518
Annagh	Feakle	Teige, son of Daniel Reagh MacNamara, Esq.	Edmond Magrath	Thomas Tobin			518
Lecarrow	Feakle	Finola Delahoyde	Edmond Magrath			In 1703, John Cusack ⁷⁴ purchased from Chichester House Commissioners	519
Lecarrowangarry	Feakle	John, son of Daniel Reagh; John, son of Donogh, son of Sheeda; and Conor, son of Teige Laith MacNamara	Conor Mahone; Franc Ryan; Edmond Magrath			In 1703, John Cusack ⁷⁵ purchased from Chichester House Commissioners	519
Annaghneal	Kilnoe	MacNamaras, viz.: John, Mahone, Loghlen, and Daniel	Edmond Magrath (afterwards Terence Geoghegan, purchaser for £26).				520

Townland	Parish	Proprietors in 1641	To Whom Disposed	Tenant 1659	Tenant 1663	Tenant 1664	Page
Ballynahinch	Kilnoe	Daniel and John MacNamara	Donogh O'Callaghan; Edmond Magrath				520
Clogher	Kilnoe	John and Daniel MacNamara	Edmond Magrath			Maurice Roche and Thos. Magrath	521
Affick	Tulla	Oliver Delahoyde; John Oge Moore	Edmond Magrath ; Philip Bigoe; Colonel Garrett Moore	Thomas Hewitt and Teige MacNamara		Charles Carthy	523
Cloondanagh	Tulla	O'Molony's, viz.: - Conor Oge; and Donogh, and John, sons of Teige	Edmond Magrath				524
Fortanebeg	Tulla	Teige, son of Daniel Reagh MacNamara, Esq.	Edmond Magrath			John Purdon	525
Glendree	Tulla	O'Molony's, viz.: - Conor Oge; John Venagh; Dermot; Daniel; Roger; Donogh; John M'Teige; and Conor M'Teige	Edmond Magath				525

Townland	Parish	Proprietors in 1641	To Whom Disposed	Tenant 1659	Tenant 1663	Tenant 1664	Page
Kilmore	Tulla	Teige, son of Daniel Reagh MacNamara, Esq.	Murtagh Dowling; Edmond Magrath				525
Rosslara	Tulla	Teige, son of Daniel Reagh; and John, son of Donogh MacNamara, Esq.	Edmond Magrath				526
Tome	Tulla	Teige, son of Daniel Reagh MacNamara, Esq.	Edmond Magrath				526
Tyredagh		Oliver Delahoyde	Edmond Magrath				526
Uggoon	Tulla	O'Molonys, viz.: - Conor Oge; Donagh, John, and Conor, sons of Teige.	Edmond Magrath ; John, Francis, and Melaghlen Ryan				526

The Ownership of the Lands of Clare

Many of the transplanted Papists were assigned portions of the estates of the Earl of Inchiquin, but they were subsequently forced to relinquish them to that nobleman at the Restoration.

The Parish of Clare Abbey: In 1641 the entire parish (including **Islandmagrath**) belonged to the Earl of Thomond, with a few exceptions. In 1664 the tenant on Islandmagrath was Murtagh O'Brien. In 1712 the Earl of Thomond demised Islandmagrath and Buncraggy to the executors of Francis Burton at £111 yearly rent.⁷⁶

The lands of the whole parish of Moynoe belonged to the Bishop of Killaloe in 1641. After the Cromwellian Settlement they were confirmed to that See. The Petty Census of 1659 showed that the tenants of Meenross were Edward Fitz Edmond, John Leo and Marcus Magrath. Before Cromwell's time the tenants of Moynoe were MacCormickan and the MacBrodiacs according to Bishop Worth.

The Seige of Bunratty Castle

The Confederation of Kilkenny – The Parliamentary army arrived from England at the mouth of the Shannon and sailed up the river on the 11th of March, 1646. The forces were under the command of Lieut. Colonel MacAdam and they took possession of Bunratty Castle. The Confederates assigned the task of regaining the possession of Bunratty to Lord Muskerry, General Purcell, General Stephenson and Colonel Purcell.

“In 1646, Bunratty and its surroundings presented an aspect such as few places in Europe could rival. With a feudal castle of enormous size and strength, girt round by offices capable of affording accommodation to a thousand men, and surrounded by a park of several thousand acres, it had been the principal residence of successive Kings and Earls of Thomond for many generations”⁷⁷.

In one skirmish, “...on the 1st of April, Captain Magrath, Commander-in-Chief of the Irish horse, was wounded. A rout followed, in which large numbers of the Confederate army were taken prisoners by the Protestants. Captain Magrath and a lieutenant who had also been wounded, died, and both were buried honourably, with three volleys of small shot.”⁷⁸

Lieut. Colonel MacAdam was struck and killed while standing in a window of the castle by an accidental shot from a field piece placed on a hill above the castle. After the death of MacAdam the castle was soon surrendered to the Catholics on the 13th of July, 1646.

The Surrender of Clare Castle

“Clare castle was surrendered to Ludlow on the 1st of November (1651), by Captains William Butler, and Donogh O’Connor, acting on behalf of Colonel MacEgan, the Governor, who was then absent. The usual terms accorded to the Irish garrisons by Cromwell and his Lieutenants were conceded to the defenders of Clare. They were at liberty to march out with bag and baggage, and such of them as desired, ‘except Romish priests, Jesuits, and Friars’ to live in protection, should have liberty to do so, submitting themselves to all Ordinances of Parliament.”⁷⁹

The Devastation in County Clare

“The county of Clare was totally ruined, and almost destitute of inhabitants. Out of nine baronies, comprising 1,300 townlands, not above forty townlands at the most, lying in the barony of Bunratty, were inhabited in the month of June, 1653, except some few persons living for safety in garrisons. Scarce a place to shelter in. The castles, either sleighted by gun powder, as dangerous to be left in the hands of the Irish, or occupied by the English soldiery, or by the ancient Irish proprietors, who looked on the Transplanters as enemies liable to supplant them; and therefore encouraged their followers to give them rough reception. Besides this, Loughrea Commissioners gave some of the earliest Transplanters assignments in the barony of Burren, one of the barrenest, where it is commonly said there was not enough wood to hang a man, water enough to drown him, or earth enough to bury him. Edmond Dougherty, mason, presented a petition, certified by the Commissioners at Loughrea, containing a demand on the Commissioners for the Settlement of the affairs of Ireland, for the sum of £32.10s. ‘for demolishing thirteen castles in ye county of Clare at £2. 10s. each castle,’ which was allowed accordingly.”⁸⁰

The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland

“Besides the sufferings of the transplanters from the corrupt dealings of the officers of transplantation, and the hostility of the Connaught proprietors, they had to endure also the vengeance of the transplanted Irish wherever any were known to have favoured the English during the war. On 4th November, 1653, the Commissioners for the Affairs of Ireland required the members of the High Court of Justice, lately held in the respective provinces in Ireland, to certify the names of those who had given evidence against persons convicted of murder, and had thereby incurred the hatred and malice of the kindred and alliance of the persons condemned, as they could not, probably, without much danger, live amongst them in case they transplanter.

“Edmund Magrath, transplanted from Ballymore, in the barony of Kilnemanagh, county of Tipperary, had his woods daily cut, on his assignment in the county of Clare, by the Irish, who bore him no good will (he said), for his services to the English. They had discovered, no doubt, his acting the spy for Sir William St. Leger, President of Munster, during the war, -a fact that appears in a letter under the Lord Protector’s hand, dated March the 11th, 1657-8, restoring him to his ancient estate of 800 Irish acres, in consideration of his having given intelligence to Sir William St. Leger, deceased, as certified to the Protector when he was in Ireland, and by those put in principal authority there by him since.”⁸¹

Edmund Magrath, of Ballymore, in the Barony of Kilnemanagh, County of Tipperary, Esq

“Upon consideration had of the within petition of Edmund Magrath, complaining that the woods upon the lands set out unto him in the County of Clare (pursuant to his qualification), are daily cut and destroyed by the Irish there, who bear him malice for his good services to the English, and by others, to his great damage and discouragement, and therefore praying relief in the premises; It is ordered that it be referred to the next Justices of the Peace in that country, or any two of them, who are to consider of the allegations, and to examine the matter of fact, and to take such care for the petitioner’s relief in the premises as shall be agreeable to law.”⁸²

“Dublin Castle, 20th May, 1656.

“Thomas Herbert, Clerk of the Council.”

Footnote - This said Edmund Magrath, of Ballymore, Barony of Kilnemanagh, county of Tipperary, acted as a spy from the beginning of the Rebellion, and for his good service obtained Cromwell’s special Letter of Dispensation from Transplantation, and had order to have his estate, not exceeding 800 acres, plantation measure, restored to him. Letter dated Whitehall, March 11th, 1657-8. “Letters of Lord Protector,” p. 121, Record Tower, Dublin Castle.

CROMWELL'S RE-ORGANIZATION OF IRELAND ·1653·

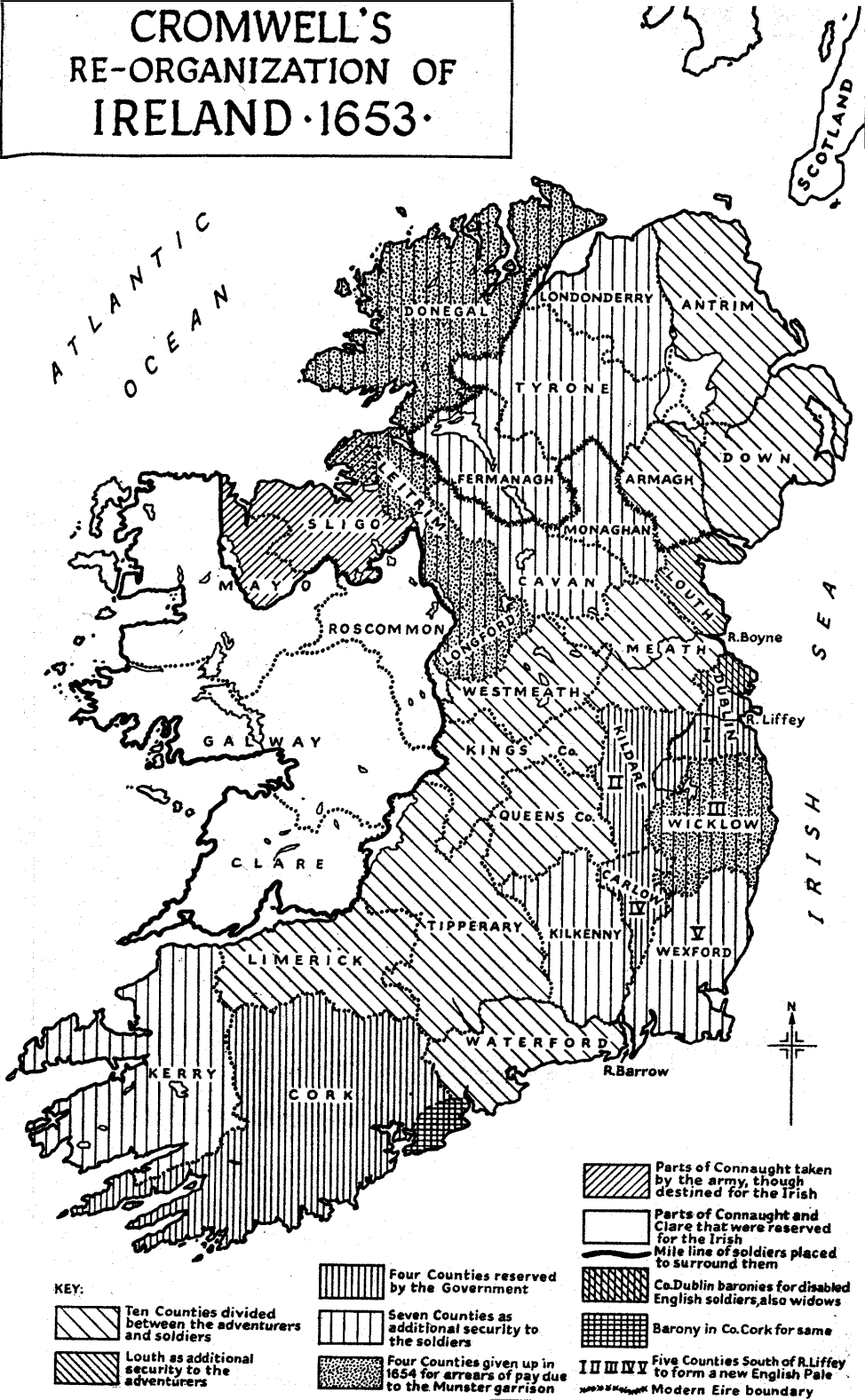


Figure 5-1 The Map of the Cromwellian Transplantation

A New Commission in Dublin

A new Commission (the Commissioners of 1676) was created which sat in Dublin to finish the work left undone by the earlier Commissioners who had sat at Athlone and then at Loughrea. Before these commissioners “Bryan Magrath, his cause being heard, Feaquin was given to him on account of deficiency.”⁸³

The Loss of Redmond Magrath’s Estate

“Inquisition, taken at Ennis, on the 22nd of July, 1696, before John Budden, finds that REDMOND MAGRATH, mentioned in the King’s commission, which bears date the 11th of May, in the third year of his reign and that of the late Queen Mary, was attainted of high treason and his estates forfeited; finds that said Redmond was owner in fee of the lands of Lecarrow, Lecarrowgarry, Glandree, Kilmore, Tooreen, Affock, Tyredagh, Cloondonogh, Tome, Roscartery, Rosslara, Fortanemore, Ballinahinch, Annaghheale, Cloonelane, Clogher Upper, Annagh, and Clogher Lower; finds that some time before the attainder of said Redmond, his father, EDMOND MAGRATH, had demised the lands of Roscartry to Margaret and Daniel MacNamara, and other lands to Teige Maloney and James Freney; finds that said Redmond, on the 15th of April, 1684, had demised to David Nihill, the half quarter of Arud, part of Clogher Lower; finds that this David’s son, also named David, being engaged in the rebellion, was killed at Limerick, on the 8th of April, 1691, and his lands confiscated⁸⁴; finds that a certain THOMAS BOUCHER claims sundry debts due, by virtue of a judgment of the Court of Common Pleas against him; finds that one THOMAS BUTLER had an annuity of five pounds a year, chargeable on Magrath’s lands, which annuity Butler assigned, in 1696, to Henry Boucher; finds that Thomas and John Magrath also had charges on the estate of Redmond Magrath.”⁸⁵

The Gentlemen of Clare in 1690

Tulla Barony: Nicholas Magrath; John Magrath

Corcomroe Barony: Daniel Clancy; Thomas Clancy; Boetius Clancy

Burren Barony: J. O’Daly

No Magraths were listed for the Islands Barony (which is where Islandmagrath is located).

The Troops Furnished By County Clare

In the early part of 1689, the Duke of Tyrconnell, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, called upon the Irish loyalists to take arms in defense of the rights of their

sovereign, James II. Clare supplied two regiments – one of Dragoons, commanded by Daniel Viscount Clare and the other of infantry commanded by his son Charles O'Brien. Commissions were issued to the gentry of the county who were supporters of James II. The dragoons were known as the "Yellow Dragoons" because of the color of the facings of their uniforms. Among the officers of the Dragoons was Captain Redmond Magrath of Derrymore. In Charles O'Brien's regiment was Captain Thomas Magrath of Kilbarron.

They were sent to Ulster under the charge of Sir James Cotter where they were made part of a larger force commanded by Lord Mountcashel. "On the 26th of July, 1689, they were encountered, near Lisnaskea, by two troops of horse and two companies of foot, directed by Captain Martin Armstrong. An ambush was prepared for them, and Armstrong, attacking them with his horse, made a feint to retire as if in disorder. They, pursuing their opponents, fell into the ambuscade, and, while the enemies' foot poured a volley into their midst, they were set upon by the horse, and almost cut to pieces."⁸⁶

The following year, under the name of Clare's Dragoons, they were deployed at the Boyne. "There it acted badly, its conduct being the more disgraceful because of the superior style in which the other regiments of James' cavalry fought at that battle. In the December of 1690, they were quartered at home, and, as on account of their misconduct there at a former time they had been severely punished..." Their earlier behavior has been attributed to their condition then as raw recruits – in exile they went on to distinguish the unit 'from Dunkirk to Belgrade'⁸⁷

The Irish Clan System

"Of all the political institutions ever devised by human ingenuity the system of clanship, as it prevailed in Ireland, was the best contrived for retarding the progress of civilisation and preventing the material prosperity of a people. The perpetually recurring practice of the different septs, invading the territories of their neighbors, on the slightest provocation, and often without any reason at all, acted as an effectual bar to the advancement of the inhabitants in worldly well-being. No man would build a substantial house when he knew, that at any day, it might be burned to the ground. No man would sow more corn than would suffice for his indispensable wants when he knew, that at any time, it might be trampled on, burned, and destroyed. War was the occupation of the people; the maintenance of a crowd of idle retainers, the business of the chiefs. Steady industry or trade was never thought of; nothing was considered but the indulgence of empty pride and insolent bullying. Their jealousies prevented the native rulers from combining to expel the English."⁸⁸

The Court of Claims

Abstracts of Petitions presented to the Honorable Trustees appointed to put in execution the Act 11th and 12th William III., entitled “An Act for Granting an Aid to his Majesty by sale of the forfeited and other Estates and Interests in the Realme of Ireland. A.D. 1700.

[From the Originals in the Public Record Office, Dublin]

“As everyone knows, the power of James and his adherents was short lived, and the day of retribution soon came round. We can easily gather, from the subjoined abstract of petitions presented to the Court of Claims, as it was called, the extent of the ruin brought upon the gentry of the county of Clare by reason of their loyalty to a man whom they regarded as their legitimate monarch. After the surrender of Limerick they found themselves despoiled of everything, with no prospect before them but exile and poverty.”⁸⁹

Teige M’Namara of Leaghort, Esq., was the owner in fee of Lismeehan by a deed dated the 24th of October, 1681. One of the witnesses to his petition was **Edmond M’Grath**.⁹⁰

Edmond Moroney of Kilmacduane, gent., petitioned to regain land from Lord Clare. One of the witnesses to his petition was **Flan M’Grath**.⁹¹

“Teige M’Namara of Leaghort, Esq., says that the late **Edmond Magrath** of Derrymore, Esq., being seized in fee simple of the lands of Rosscarhy (Rosslara), did, by deed of 1682, witnessed by **Robert Magrath**, Darby Ryan, Ambrose Perry, Thomas Butler, **Thomas Magrath**, and Donogh M’Namara, in fulfilment of an agreement made by him with petitioner, on the occasion of his marriage with **Margaret Magrath**, daughter of the said Edmond, granted to petitioner, for the life of his wife Margaret and the life of their eldest son Daniel M’Namara, that part of Rosscarhy then held by Donogh McConny and Edmond McMurragh, being half a plowland, and containing 86 acres, worth £6 per annum, to hold to them at the yearly rent of ten shillings. This deed was proved at the Inquisition held at Ennis in 1696, on the attainder of **Redmond Magrath** of Derrymore, Esq., eldest son and heir of said **Edmond**. The petition was witnessed by David and Richard England, and by George Stackpoole.”⁹²

“Conor Ryan, a poor man, says that his nephew Martin Ryan was owner in fee of fifty acres, part of Kilbarron, that said Martin died in his bed at Cashel, in 1699, without issue, and leaving petitioner his heir-at-law; further says that, at the Inquisition taken at Ennis he neglected to put forward his claim as heir, and it was found there that Martin died or was killed in rebellion. The petition is witnessed by **Robert Magrath**, Darby Ryan, and James Ryan.”⁹³

“**John Magrath** of Teerovanin, gent., in his petition, states that in 1684, **Redmond Magrath** of Derrymore, gent., being owner in fee of Lecarrow, containing 400 acres, and of Lecarrowgarry, containing 176 acres, all profitable land, situate in the parish of Tulla, did mortgage them to petitioner for £400. The mortgage deed is witnessed by **Nicholas Magrath**, Edward FitzGerald, John Maghee, **Robert Magrath**, Stephen White, James Henry Grady, and Denis Hickey. Magrath’s petition is witnessed by John Cusack, Cornelius Gillareagh, and Thomas Cusack. [His claim was disallowed, and the lands sold in 1703 to John Cusack.]”⁹⁴

“**Mrs. Honora Magrath**, widow of **Thomas Magrath**, sets forth in her petition, that **Redmond Magrath** of Derrymore, Esq., by deed, dated 28th February, 1682, witnessed by **Nicholas Magrath**, Ambrose Perry, Thos. Butler, Darby Ryan, James Molony, and George Perry, in pursuance of an injunction imposed upon him to that effect by his father **Edmond Magrath**, did grant to his brother **Thomas**, an annuity of £20, payable out of Knockmaelpatrick and Dummin. Some difference having arisen between the brothers Magrath as to the true meaning of the deed, the matter was referred to the arbitration of Florence MacNamara, Theobald Butler, and Edmond Hogan, Esqrs. Their award, bearing date March, 1688, confirmed the deed, and was witnessed by Thomas Dundon, Richard White, Nicholas Monckton, and by John and Edmond Ryan. Edmond Ryan being attainted of high treason, petitioner claims her annuity. Her petition is witnessed by Francis Healy, and by the brothers England of Ennis.”⁹⁵

“Thady Molony of Gurteenaneelig (barony of Tulla Upper, parish of Tulla, Co. Clare), declares that **Edmond Magrath** of Derrymore, deceased, being owner in fee of Kilnoe and part of Uggoon, did, in 1680, by lease, in consideration of part of the marriage portion of Sheela Dwyer, wife of the petitioner, and of the rents reserved, demise these lands to petitioner for a term of 61 years if he and Sheela should so long survive. **Edmond Magrath** died in June, 1683, and was succeeded by his eldest son Redmond who was subsequently outlawed, being attainted of high treason, and his estate forfeited, the rents having been since 1696, received by Nicholas Westby for the use of Dr. John Leslie to whom the lands were granted by his Majesty. Complainant being comprehended under the articles of Limerick, prays confirmation of his lease. Witnesses to his petition, Teige MacNamara, James Molony, and Laurence Nihill.”⁹⁶

“**Edmond Magrath** of Rathtraighmore, co. Limerick, son of **James**, son of **Redmond**, makes an unsuccessful attempt to get back his grandfather’s estate granted by King William to Dr. Leslie. His mother was Mary, daughter of James Bourke of Cahermoyle, co. of Limerick. Her fortune was £450.”⁹⁷

“The foregoing list includes nearly all the claims sent up for hearing from the county of Clare. The Court had sat for several months, and in the great majority of instances its decisions were unfavourable to those who came before it in the

hope of escaping the penalties of attainder. It was found that the petitions presented could not be heard within any reasonable time; the Court was dissolved, and the lands of James' partisans were put up for sale by auction without further inquiry as to the degree of culpability of their several owners. The sale took place at Chichester House, Dublin, in 1703. All hope was now abandoned by the unfortunate Irish gentry. Many of them left their homes for foreign countries and there struggled to eke out a miserable existence in the army or navy. Some few attained to eminence as soldiers, statesmen, or diplomatists, but for the majority, the life on the continent was one of privation and hardship. Of those who remained at home the greater number sunk into the condition of peasants, and for a hundred years, under the baneful operation of the penal laws, led a life of slavery and degradation." ⁹⁸

From the Clare Champion about 1873

- "Some handsome additions have recently been made at Toonagh House, the residence of William Henry Magrath Esq, [Note: see Merchants of Ennis, W. E. Magrath - 1844] situated midway between Ennis and Corofin. The building stands within a picturesque demesne, is spacious with every apartment laid on and furnished in most fashionable and costly style. Conservatories of new design have been erected, the pleasure grounds and gardens remodelled and designed with botanic skill and great taste by the steward, Mr. John Rooney, late of Dublin, whose improvements generally deserve praise. The winery is equal to any in Ireland and all that is visible in this horticultural department appears to be cared with attention and nicety." ⁹⁹

McGraths noted in the *Merchants of Ennis*

Date	Description ¹⁰⁰
1787	Masonic Lodge convened at <u>Thomas McGrath's</u> house in <u>Bow Lane</u> for several years
1824	<u>R. McGrath Jr.</u> was an apothecary in <u>Arthur's Row</u> <u>Edmond McGrath</u> was a physician in <u>Arthur's Row</u> <u>Patrick McGrath</u> was a seedman in <u>Church St.</u>
1844	<u>W.H. McGrath</u> was initiated as a Freemason.
1846	<u>James M'Grath</u> conducted an academy in the <u>Causeway</u> . <u>Robert M'Grath</u> was a bookseller in <u>Church St.</u>

- James M'Grath was also a liner draper and haberdasher.
- Patrick M'Grath was still in business as a seedman.
- 1856 Robert M'Grath was a bookseller in Church St.
- John M'Grath was an iron monger and hardware dealer in Church St.
- James McGrath was a linen and woolen dealer and haberdasher in Mill St.
- Robert M'Grath was a linen draper, haberdasher and stationer in Church St.
- 1875 & 1876 James MacGrath was a grocer, draper and spirit dealer in Mill St.
- Thomas McGrath was a grocer and a spirit dealer in Military Rd.
- John McGrath was an excise supervisor
- 1880 & 1881 Miss MacGrath was a spirit dealer in Mill St.
- 1886 & 1893 Miss McGrath had a hosiery and trimmings trade in O'Connell Square.
- 1893 Margaret McGrath was a vinter in Mill St.
- 1901 James McGrath was a fancy goods dealer in O'Connell Square.
- Mary McGrath was a spirit dealer in Mill St.
- 1976 M. McGrath was a grocer and provisions merchant in Parnell St.
- Mrs. McGrath was the proprietor of a guest house *Avonlea*, in Clonroad.
- 1993 William McGrath opened *Occasions* at 40 & 42 O'Connell St.
- 1996 Michael McGrath was the proprietor of Safeway Tyres Limited in Upper Main St.

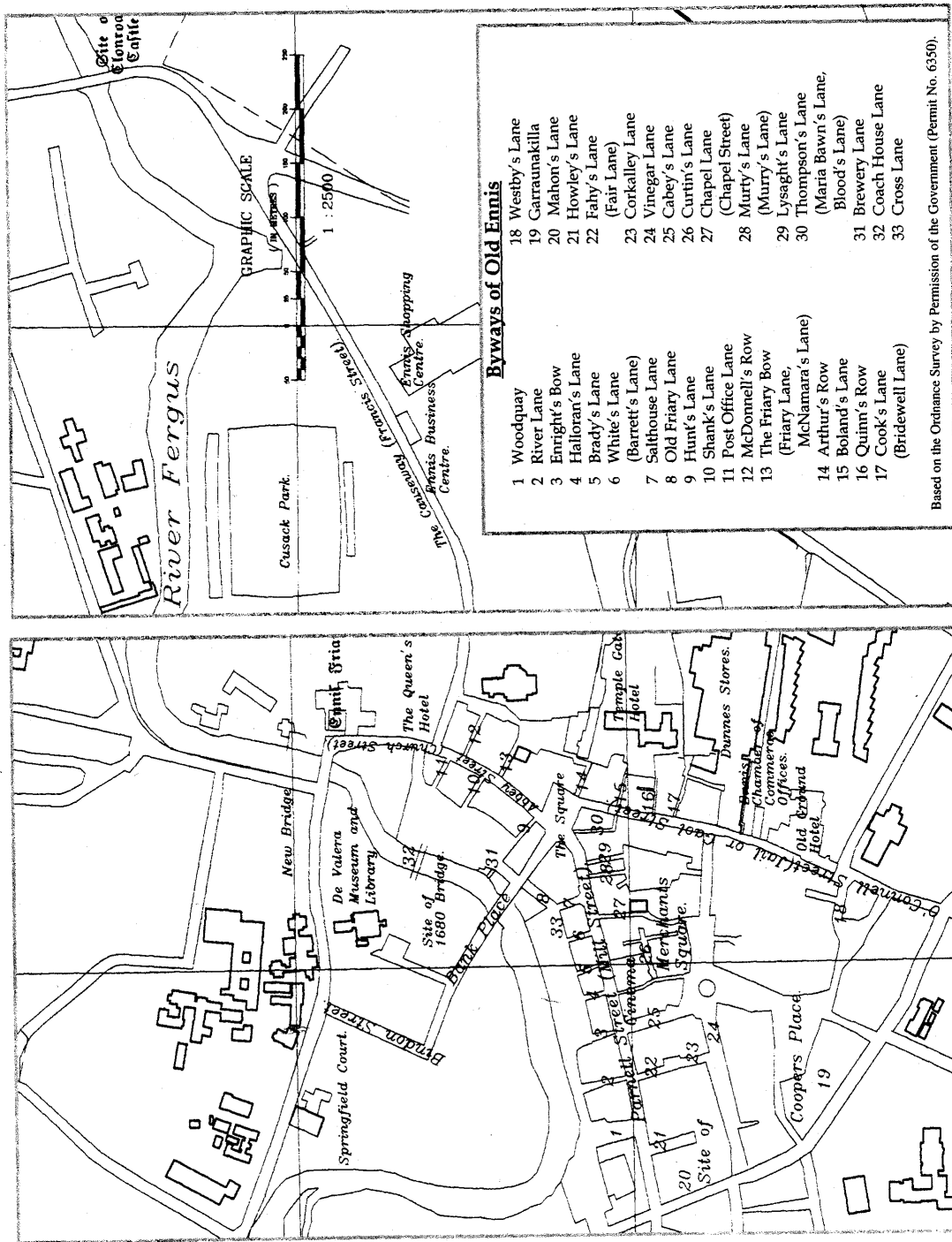


Figure 5-2 Street of Ennis County Clare. From *The Merchants of Ennis* by Sean Spellissy, Published for the Ennis Chamber of Commerce by On Stream Publications Ltd., Cloghroe, Blarney, Co. Cork, 1996

The Town of Ennis, County Clare And the Descendants of Miler Magrath

In the town of Ennis there are the ruins of a Franciscan Friary. This was the burial place of most of the Earls of Thomond (O'Brien). There is a stone marker in one of the walls that reads:

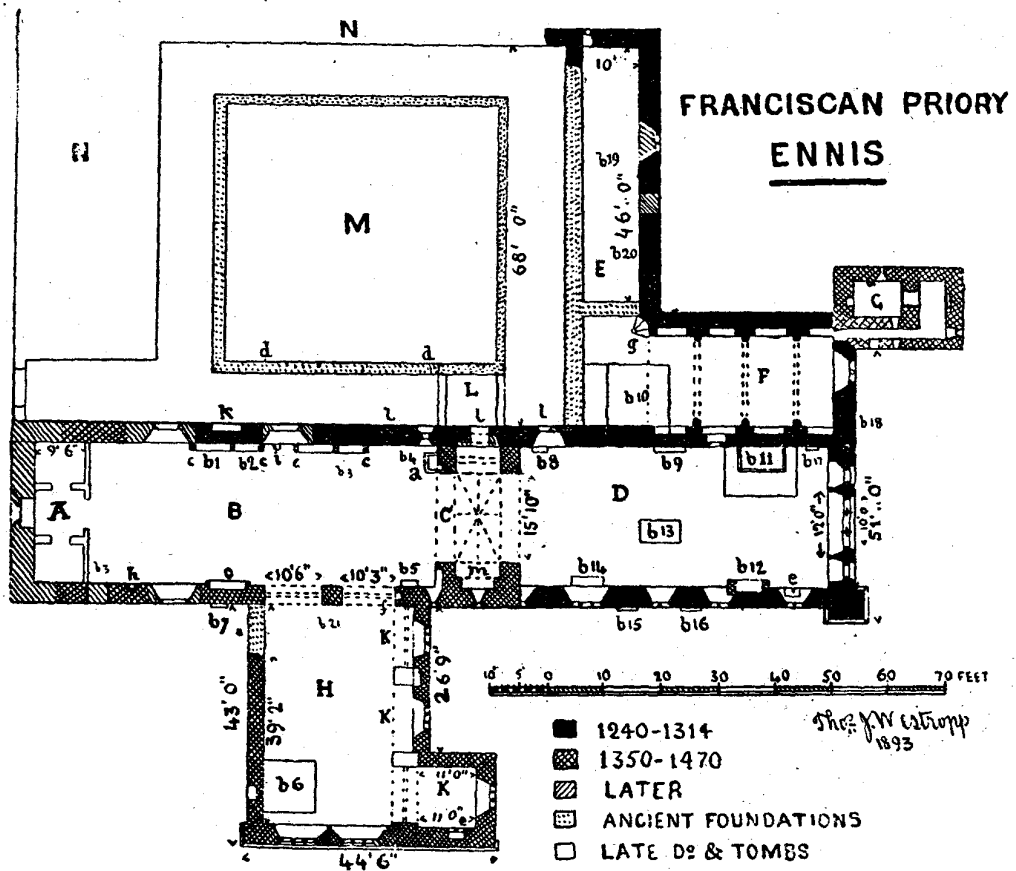
“John Robt McGrath of Ennis in memory of his wife Anne McGrath - 1821”

This is probably the Robert Magrath of Ennis above and the memorial is the “b20” item shown below the floorplan of the Ennis Friary shown below.

The following Thomas and R.(obert) McGrath are probably the sons of Robert Magrath of Killbarron and wife Helen Arthur as shown in his family tree at the beginning of this section. This is further strengthened by the presence of the title Jr. after his name. Edmond McGrath, shown below, is also probably part of this family and is the son of Robert Magrath of Ennis and his wife Anne Dwyer.

W. H. McGrath is probably the William Henry Magrath, Esq. who was the owner of Toonagh House, located midway between Ennis and Corofin (mentioned in the excerpts from the Clare Champion circa 1873).

“Some handsome additions have recently been made at Toonagh House, the residence of William Henry Magrath Esq, [Note: see Merchants of Ennis, W. E. Magrath - 1844]situated midway between Ennis and Corofin. The building stands within a picturesque demesne, is spacious with every apartment laid on and furnished in most fashionable and costly style.



Plan of Ennis Priory.

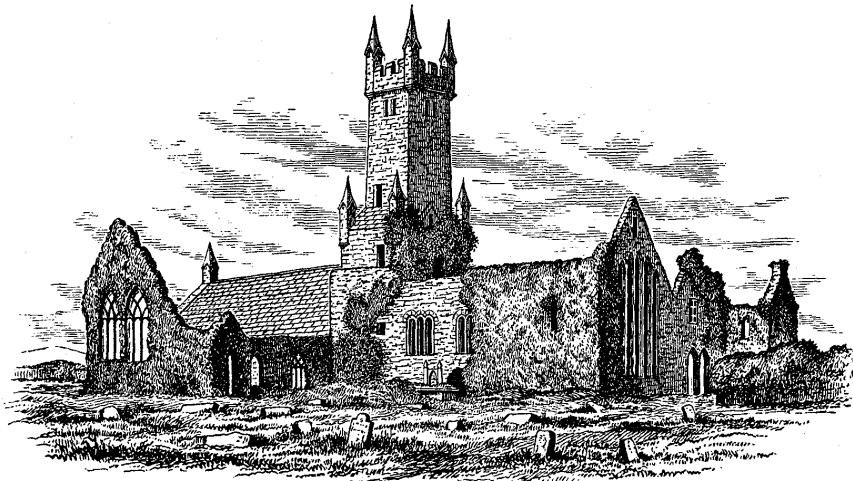
- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>A. Site of Modern Porch.
 B. Nave, 74 ft. 8 in. X 25 ft. 3 in.
 C. Belfry, 16 ft. X 25 ft. 3 in.
 D. Chancel, 54 ft. 5 in. X 25 ft. 3 in.
 E. Domicile, 46 ft. X 10 ft.
 F. "Chapter House," or Sacristy.
 G. Cell and Garderobe.
 H. Transept, 40 ft. X 27 ft.
 K. Three Chapels.
 L. Site of Modern Vestry.
 M. Cloister Garth, 68 ft. X 72 ft.
 N. Buildings on site of Kitchen, Refectory, &c.
 a. Altar of St. Francis.
 Monuments marked thus—
 b 1. O'Kerin, 1685.</p> | <p>b 2. Davenport, 1761.
 b 3. Considine slabs, 1631 and 1686.
 b 4. O'Hehir, 1622.
 b 5. Crowe, 1772.
 b 6. Gore, from 1694.
 b 7. Burke 1772.
 b 8. Banks, 1728-1773.
 b 9. Mac Namara, 1686.
 b 10. Mahon.
 b 11. Creagh (on site of Royal Tomb), 1460-1843.
 b 12. Inchiquin, 1306-1480.
 b 13. Stacpoole, from 1744.
 b 14. Woulfe, 1697-1742.
 b 15. Roche, 1755.</p> | <p>b 16. Power, 1761.
 b 17. Finucane, 1750.
 b 18. Waller.
 b 19. King.
 b 20. Mac Grath.
 b 21. Strafford 1765.
 c. Sedilia.
 d. Cloister Arcade (site).
 e. Piscinæ.
 f. "Ecce Homo."
 g. Stair.
 h. Stoup.
 i. Bracket.
 k. Recess in Cloister.
 l. Clerestory Windows.
 m. Screen.</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Note: The "Mac Grath" listed above as "b20" is of modern origin.

"John Robt McGrath of Ennis in memory of his wife Anne McGrath - 1821"

Robert of Ennis was married on August 14, 1791 to Anne, daughter of Thomas O'Dwyer o.b. August, 25, 1819 (Ennis Chronicle). Given the context of the other items in the Ennis Priory this appears to be the tomb of Mary Dwyer McGrath.

Conservatories of new design have been erected, the pleasure grounds and gardens remodelled and designed with botanic skill and great taste by the steward, Mr. John Rooney, late of Dublin, whose improvements generally deserve praise. The winery is equal to any in Ireland and all that is visible in this horticultural department appears to be cared with attention and nicety.”



Ennis Abbey, 1887.

There are numerous McGraths listed in the *Merchants of Ennis* from the 18th century to the present day.¹⁰¹ The table below shows a few of those McGraths who are probably descended from Edmond Magrath, Miler Magrath’s grandson.

- | | |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1787 | Masonic Lodge convened at <u>Thomas McGrath’s</u> house in <u>Bow Lane</u> for several years |
| 1824 | <u>R. McGrath Jr.</u> was an apothecary in <u>Arthur’s Row</u>
<u>Edmond McGrath</u> was a physician in <u>Arthur’s Row</u> |
| 1844 | <u>W.H. McGrath</u> was initiated as a Freemason. |

A comment on the spelling of the surnames is appropriate here. The Ennis Friary memorial gives the spelling of the surname as McGrath. This was Robert

McGrath himself selecting the spelling. Occasionally authors will refer to a particular variation of a surname as the “modern spelling” of the name implying that an alteration has been made in the spelling of that surname. Earlier I had speculated that the surname variation Magrath had come into use at a time when Irish Catholics were being increasingly persecuted for their faith, around 1550 – 1600. In the early 1800’s as the catholic emancipation was well underway perhaps some of the families reverted back to the more Irish surname variation of McGrath.

Feacle and Tulla are the civil parishes where Edmond Magrath, Miler’s grandson, received his allotment of land during the Cromwellian Transplantation in the early 1650’s. When Edmond first arrived in the area he displaced some of the Moloneys who had owned and had been occupying the land which had been granted to Edmond by the English. Nearly 200 years later there are still Magraths, a few of some prominence, and some Moloneys occupying the same townlands. In the book *County Clare - A History and Topography*¹⁰² (Originally published in 1837 as part of *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland.*) are found the following facts:

“Feacle, a parish in the barony of Tulla, county of Clare, and province of Munster, 4-1/2 miles (W.N.W) from Scariff on the new road to Gort; containing 8844 inhabitants.”

“Prior to the year 1828 there was scarcely a road in which a wheel carriage could be used; but through the spirited exertions of Jas. Moloney, Esq., of Kiltannon, excellent roads have been constructed, partly by the Board of Public Works and partly by the county; and this district has now a direct communication with Limerick, Gort, Ennis, Killaloe and Loughrea.”

“The gentlemen’s seats are ... Kilbarron, of E. McGrath Esq., rebuilt on the site of the old mansion.”

“The chapel at Killenana is intended to be rebuilt, and those at Kilcleran and Cahirmurphy to be taken down, and a large chapel erected at Knockbeagh, on a site presented by J. Molony, Esq., who will also contribute liberally towards its erection.” pp. 48-9.

“Tulla, or Tulloh, a market and post-town, and a parish, in the barony of Tulla, county of Clare, and province of Munster, 10 miles (E.) from Ennis, and 109-3/4 (W.N.W.) from Dublin, on the road from Ennis to Killaloe; containing 7514 inhabitants, of which number, 874 are in the town.”

“The principal seats are: ... Kiltanon, of J. Moloney, Esq.; ...; Cragg, of J. Maloney, Esq.”

“At Kiltanon is a succession of limestone caverns, through which a rivulet takes its course; these are much visited in the summer; many petrified shells are found in the limestone, some of which are nearly perfect and very curious.”

“On the hill of Tulla are the remains of an ancient abbey, and of a druidical altar.” pp. 123.

Other McGrath's in the area

County Clare

In the year 1855, in the Parish of Kilnoe, Denis McGrath and Michael McGrath were leasing lands in the townland of Annaghneal from Nicholas Westby. It is worth noting that Edmond Magrath of Ballymore, Co. Tipperary, owned 172 acres of land in this townland in the 1650's as a result of the Cromwellian resettlement. The land was sold to Terence Geoghagan (Rent Roll #54) in about 1703 in the sale of Forfeited Land. Source: Griffith's 1855 Valuation - Parish of Feakle and portions of the Parish of Kilnoe and The Books of Survey and Distribution for County Clare.

A listing of the Killaloe Marriage License Bonds: 1680-1720 and 1760-1762 from the source MS 31883 consists of 197 folios containing 144 original marriage license bonds, 2 marriage licenses, 3 bonds of wardship and 4 releases from excommunication. Among these was

MAGRATH, David, Gent., of Killgowry, Co. Clare and **Catherine McGrath** als BROWNE, Widow. Bondsman: **John McGrath** of Tome, Co. Clare, yeoman. 13 June 1705 (folio 40).

County Galway

This is the region where Miler's son, Redmond Magrath, had been transplanted in the mid-1650's. These individuals are possibly some of his descendants.

Griffith's Valuation circa 1850's - Parish of Beagh, Co. of Galway lists in the townland of Cloghnakeava: **Richard Molony and Mary Magrath**

In Beagh Parish, County Galway, Galway (1837-39) in the townland of Derrycallen Commons the tenantry was all Roman Catholic. One of the prevailing surnames was **McGrath**. One of the parish priests was **Fr. McGrath** 1816-1830.

Fermanagh McGrath Genealogies

This is from the “Fermanagh Genealogies” that is owned by St. Colman’s College in Fermoy, Co. Cork, in Munster, who allowed the Irish Manuscripts Commission of the Republic of Ireland to publish it in their journal *Analecta Hibernica*, No. 3. These genealogies cover the Maguire period in Fermanagh that ran from 1300 until the end of the Annals of Ulster in 1588. The quality of the information in these genealogies is not always the highest. “Topographical data are extremely rare. The spelling of names is at times careless, at times capricious. The punctuation is often defective. The connexions between branches of the same stock are not always explicit or easily traced. “

The McGrath family was described as follows: “MagRaith ‘Magrath,’ said to be descendants of Cennéidigh, father of Brian Bórumha.” The first portion of the list, or pedigree, starts back in ancient history and I simply repeat them here for completeness. Starting at entry 45 in this pedigree we find Oilioll Oluim. He is the common ancestor for many of those in southwestern Ireland known as the province of Munster. The rest of the pedigree is almost identical to that of Miler Magrath

Geineolach Chloinn Mhégrath

.....

1. Mileadh Easbáinne
2. Éimhir Fhinn
3. Conmáil
4. Eochaidh Faobharghlais
5. Glaise nuaighad dheagláimhe
6. Roachtaigh
7. Eirroárda
8. Caishlathaigh
9. Eillirdhóidmhoin
10. Thaiscuimhnidh
11. Failbheil chrothaidh
12. Rónáin
13. Roachtaidh
14. Féidhlime
15. Airt Imligh
16. Breisrigh
17. Seanam--thar
18. Duachfinn
19. Eana dheirg
20. Luigheachardhuinn
21. Eochaidh uaircheis
22. Laoighidh
23. Lúigheach (ardhuinn)

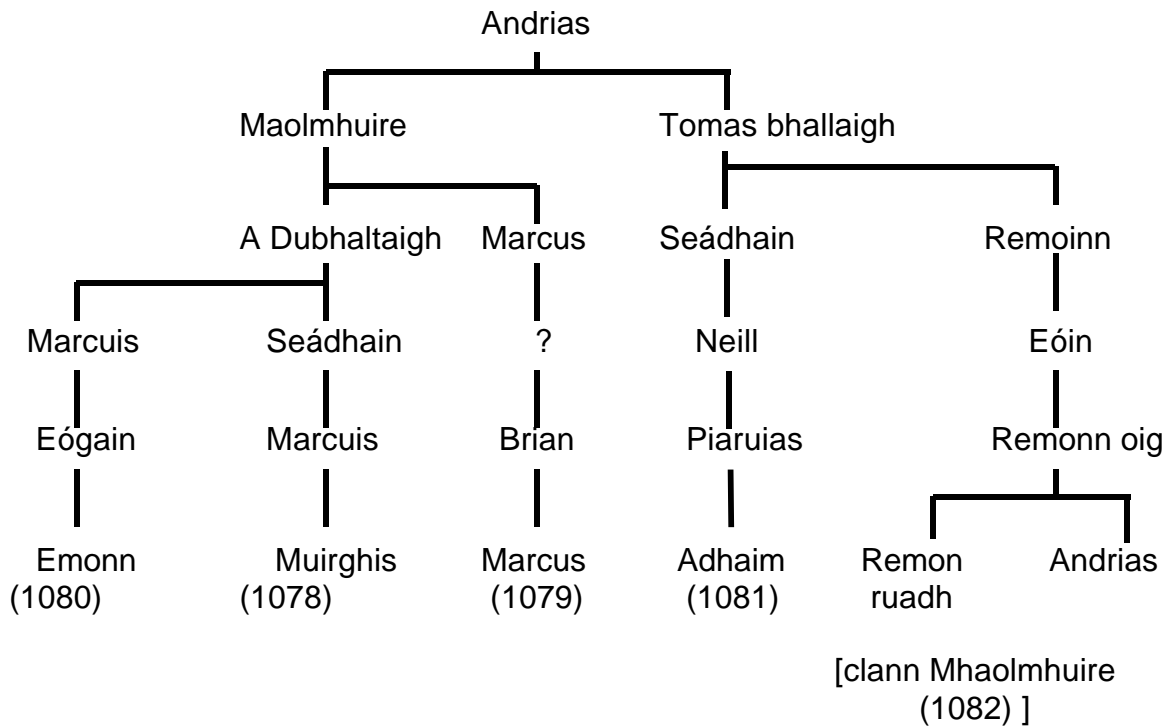
24. Airt
25. Oillfin
26. Eochaidh
27. Lúaignidh
28. Reachtdheirg
29. Cobhthigh chaoin
30. Modha chorb
31. Fircorb
32. Admhair Fholtchaoin
33. Naidhfhéman
34. Luighdheach [Pg. 115] Luaighne
35. Cairpre Luisleathuinn
36. Duach duinndalta Deaghaidh
37. Eathach ghairbh
38. Murchadh Mhúchna
39. Laoichmhóir, dár mháthair Moféimea
40. Eanna Maonchaoin
41. Deirgtheinne
42. Deirg
43. Modha Neid
44. Modhanugad
45. Oilíoll Oluim, .i. rí Dhá Chóige Múmhan (King of Munster 237 A.D.)
46. Chormuic Chais (Cormac Cas, King of Munster)
47. Torb (Magh Corb.)
48. Firchuirb (Fer Corb.)
49. Aonghusa tirigh (Aengus Tirech, King of Munster)
50. Luighdheach Meann (Lughaidh Meim(?), King of Munster)
51. Conaill Eachluath (Canall Eachluath, King of Munster, 366 A.D.)
52. Tais (Cas; Blod missing between 52-53)
53. Tairthuinn Fhinn (Carthum Finn, 438 A.D.)
54. Eochaidh baildeirg (Eochaidh Ballderg)
55. Conaill (Conall)
56. Aodh chaoimh (Aedh Carinh, King of Munster 571 A.D., ob 611 A.D.)
57. Cathail (Cathal)
58. Toirdhealbaigh (Toirdelbhach, K.T.)
59. Mathghamhna (Mathghamhain)
60. Anluain (Anlaun)
61. Tuirc (Core)
62. Lachtna (Lachtna)
63. Lorcáin (Lorcan)
64. Cinnéide (Cenneidi)
65. Eochaidh Tighearna (Echtighern)
66. Floinn (Flann)
67. Chráithfhile (Maccraith)
68. Floinn (Flann not in this branch)

From the Twigge A&I MS 39270 FF - Ennis
Local Study Center.

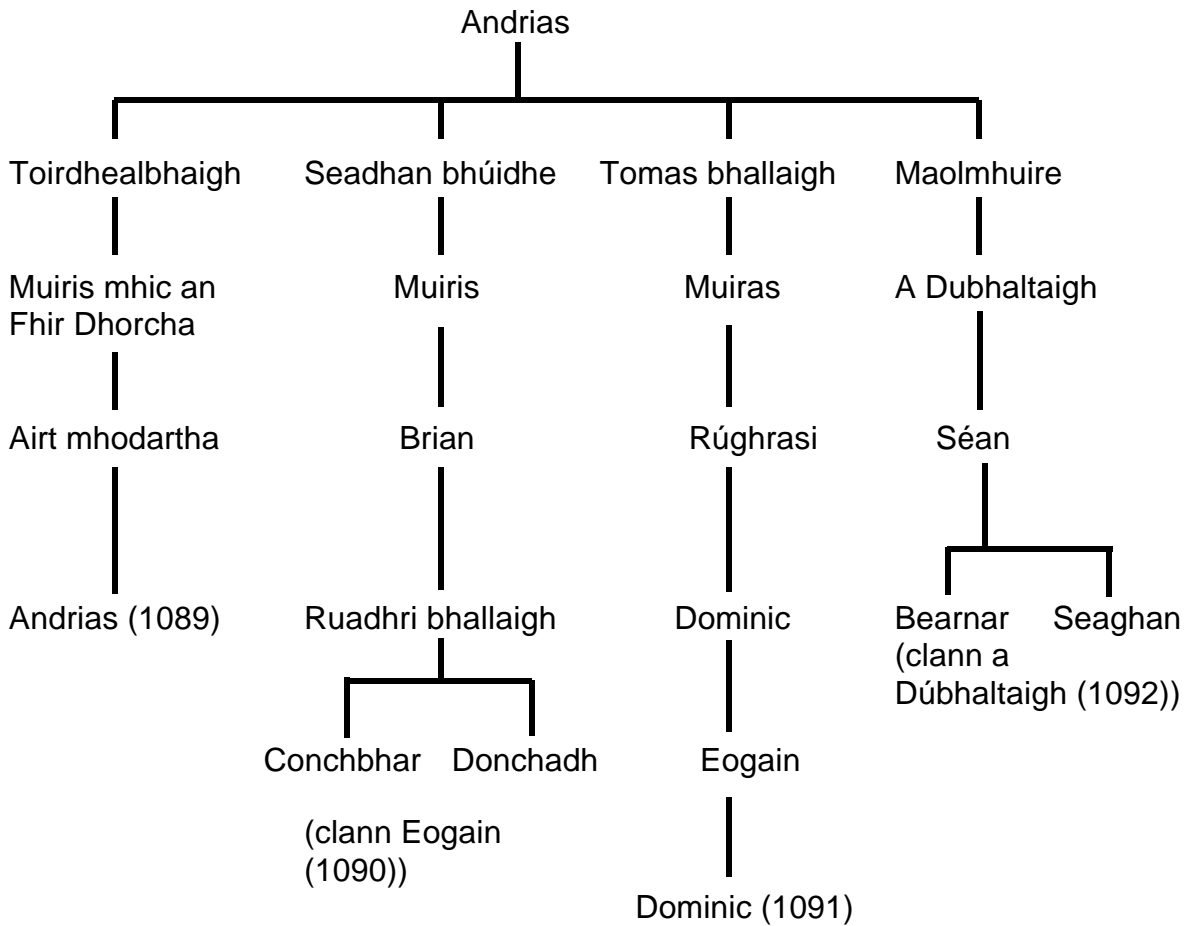


- 69. Donchadh áluinn (Domhuall missing between 69-70)
- 70. Raghnaill (Raghnaill)
- 71. Aodh móir (Aedh mor)
- 72. Aodh óig (Aedh og)
- 73. Briain (Brian)
- 74. Dómhnaill dheirg (Domhuall)
- 75. Aodh (Aedh)
- 76. Marcuis, .i. an Dall (Marcus)
- 77. Néill óig (Nicholas)
- 78. Matha (Matha)
- 79. Diarmada (Diarmaid)
- 80. Seanmhóir (Sean Mor)
- 81. Seáin bhuide (Sean Buidhe – Comharba of Termon Dabeog)
- 82. Aindrias (Andrias, d. 1505)
- 83. Toirdhealbhuicc (Toirdhelbhach, d. 1542)
- 84. Ghiolla ghruamdha (Donnchadh)
- 85. Maolmhuire, .i. Ardeasbog Chaisil (Miler Magrath)
- 86. Séamus duibh
- 87. Séamus óg agus Brian clann Toirdhealbhaigh

The numbers in parenthesis at the end of each descent is the number used to identify that particular line of descent in the original document. These descents were grouped with the above pedigree in the source document. Exactly how they fit in has not yet been determined.



Some more Fermanagh Genealogies

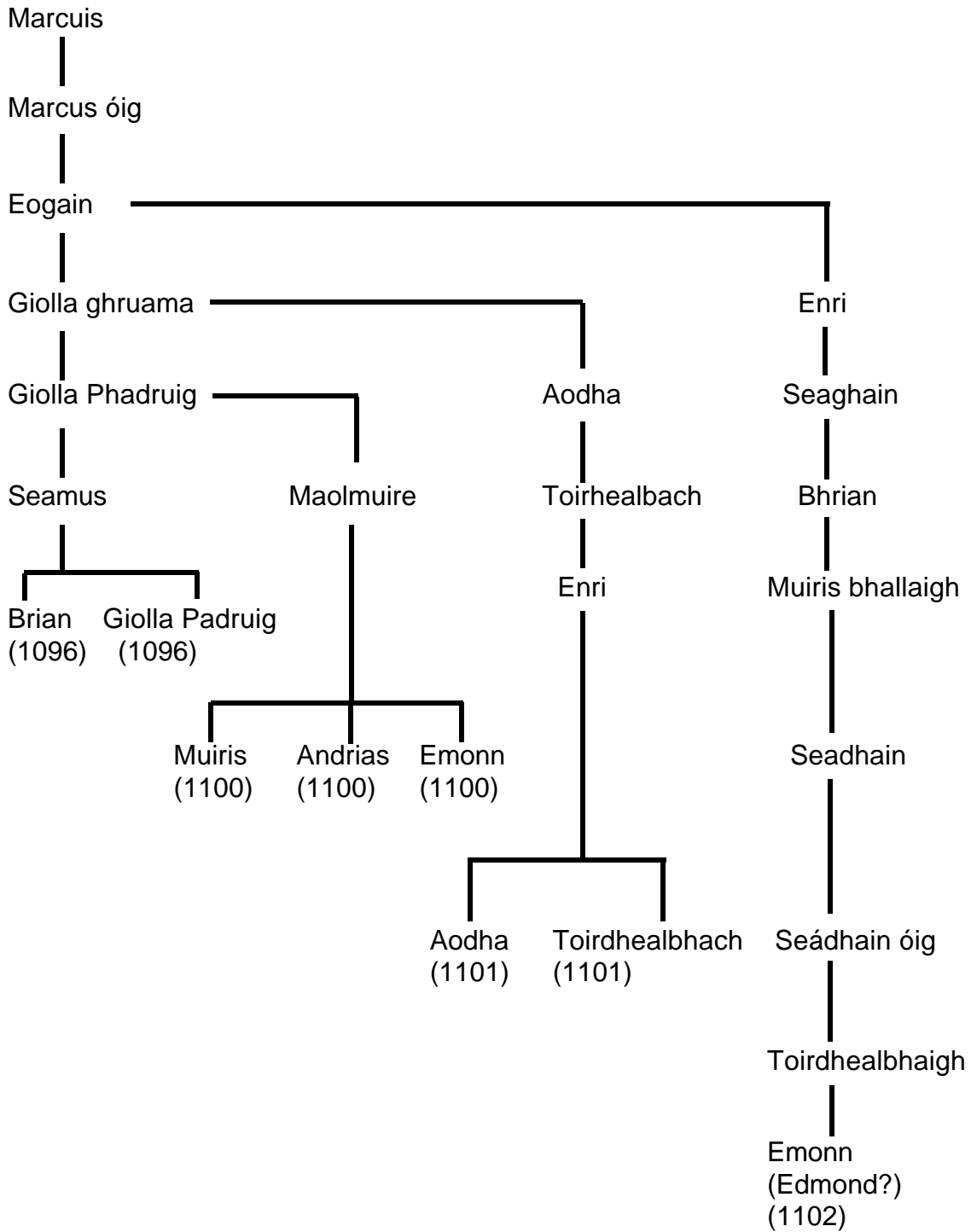


Definitions:

- An - the
- Agus - and
- Alainn – delightful, beautiful
- Ballach – adj.: spotted, speckled
- Brathair - brother
- Clann – nf2: Children, offspring, family
- Clainne – to be expecting
- Clann cloinne – grandchildren
- Eadhon - namely
- Gruama – gloomy, bleak, dismal, downcast, gaunt
- Rau – red

Sagart - priest
 Sliocht – mn3: descendants
 Sliochtach – nm1: descendant

Some more Fermanagh Genealogies



The Clanns of Fermanagh –

These are probably the parts of Miler Magrath's family who remained behind in Co. Donegal.

Briain mc Marcus	Marcus, Eóghan
Bhrian mc Seámus	Aodha, Seamus and Marcus
Eóin	Andrias, Proinnsias, Toirdhealbach and Remonn
Proinnsias	Pádrúig and Proinnsias
Andrias Maolmhúire	Maolmhúire, Pronnsias, Toirdhealbach, Eóin, Seamus and Tomas.
Phádrúig	Seamus, Remonn and Michael
Aodh	Brian and Toirdhealbach
Seamus	Enri
Marcus mc Brian	Emonn (a priest), Briain, Tomas, Eogan, Maoilmúire
Bhrian mc Marcuis oigm cMarcus, a quo Sliocht Eogain, etc.	Maolmhúire and Marcuis

The MacGraths of Fermanagh

Source: *Fermanagh, Its Native Chiefs and Clans*, by Thomas Maguire of Chuocninne, Clanabogan, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, published Omagh 1945.

Art	
Cormac mac Art	= Eithné; Ard Ri (High King) of Eireann A.D. 226-268.
Eocha or Eochaid	Dublein (Dublin)
Murtagh	(The Three Colias) Colla da Chrioch
19 Generations	
Uidhir	Maguire
Ranauill	
Don Mór	
Gilla Iosa	From whom descend Gillaeco family
Domhnail	
Donn Carrach Maguire	24 th in descent from Colla de Chnoch) d. 1302
Donn og, 1 st Chief	
MacCraith	From whom descend the MacGraths of Co. Fermanagh [Time period is late 1200's or early 1300's

The Clanaboy McGraths were descended from the race of Clan Colla (according to O'Hart) – Are these the same as the Colla da Chrioch? These are the MacGraths who were descended from the Maguires who were the ancient rulers in Co. Fermanagh.

CHAPTER VI - M'Crags from Cahir - Co. Tipperary

The Migration to County Tipperary - County Tipperary Genealogies

Source: Twigge Manuscripts #39266 at the Local Studies Center at Ennis, County Clare. R. I. Ac. MS. 23.N.11, pp. 43- 44. – Transcribed by Michael O'Longan in 1780.

“Descendents of Donnchad aluinn: clainne Craith na Buirgese; Baile ui Lomasna; glinn o bThaolain; cloinne meic Craith glin “(glinn – clear, sharp, distinct). “...and it was this Aodh mc Domhnaill mc Rádnaill mc Donnchadha áluinn – who was first to cross the Shannon along with his(?) wife of Ua Briain himself. Ragnaile .i. McGioll Phatraic so. who was put away, and she had many sons by him.” [This translation reads strangely but the general idea comes through]


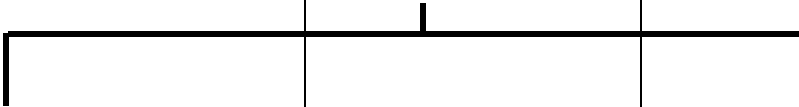
Even though the Irish pedigrees are short on dates it is sometimes possible to infer some time references through other sources. The date of this transcription is seen to be 1780 and therefore the last persons shown here will have been alive at some point prior to this date.

Gen. Aedha oig Bhaile ui Lomasna	Comment
1. Raghnaill	
2. Séan Aedha	
3. Aedha	
4. Domhnaill	
5. Aedha	
6. Domhnaill	1-5 Common to following
7. Ruaidhri	
8. Séain	
9. Donnchadha	
10. Eoghan	

Fear na Buirgeise	Comment
1. Raghnaill	
2. Seinodh	Sean Aedha ?
3. Aedha oig	
4. Domhnaill	
5. Aedha	
6. Diarmada	1-5 Common to proceeding
7. Ruaidhri	
8. Tomas	

Pedigree Diarmaid ruadh Mac Craith	Comment
1. Maelmuire	Are Maelmuire and Gilla losa elements of the main line Thomond lineage?
2. Gilla losa	
3. Donnchadh alluim(n?)	- Donnchadh the Comely
4. Ragnal	
5. Seanodh	Sean Aedha? Is this two persons?
6. Diarmaid ruadh	? Same as above?
7. David	Where did this name come from?
8. Aedh	
9. Aengus	
10. Aengus og	

This larger table is a combination of the three smaller tables joined where the connections seemed most logical to demonstrate the common descent.

Gen. Aedha oig Bhaile ui Lomasna	Thomond Pedigree	Fear na Buirgeise
	1. Maelmuire	= (29. Maelmuire Mor in MacCraith of Thomond)
	2. Gilla losa	
	3. Donnchadh alluim	
	4. Raghnaill	
	5. Séan Aedha	
		Pedigree Diarmaid ruadh (see above table)
	6. Aedha	
	7. Domhnaill	
	8. Aedha	
		
9. Domhnaill		9. Diarmada
10. Ruaidhri (Ballylomasny in Civil Survey of 1654)		10. Ruaidhri (of Burgesse in Civil Survey of 1654)
11. Séain		11. Tomas
12. Donnchadha		
13. Eoghan		

Fearna i.e. Loch Ferna means place of the alders (alder trees). Buaille – describes any area set aside for the tending of cattle and is usually translated simply as ‘milking place’. Baile = homestead

The genealogists of Ireland were more interested in the line of descent than the dates when events happened. Therefore indirect evidence needs to be found to pin down the approximate dates. A sampling of that indirect evidence is the following: “In 1401 a clan of the name (MacGrath) was located in Tipperary, and a writer of that name is mentioned in O’Reilly’s ‘Irish Writers’.”¹⁰³

Bhaile Ui Lomasna and Buirgeise

These are the townlands where two of the McCraith descents from the previous page settled. Based on the context of the manuscript material these descents were related to the first McCraith who crossed the Shannon and left Co. Clare and ventured into Co. Tipperary. According to legend the McCraiths of Islandmagrath, Co. Clare started a Bardic School in the town of Cahir and ran the school for several generations. This has been placed in the mid 16th century. In the latter half of the 16th century some of the MacCraghs participated in the Desmond rebellion. By the end of this period, in the 1580’s, all the schools in Munster had been destroyed.

In the Civil Survey of 1654 there were adjacent townlands of Ballylomasny and Burgesse located in the parish of Tubrud, Co. Tipperary. A portion of the parish of Tubrud shares a common border with the parish of Cahir. According to the survey both of these townlands were wholly or partially owned in 1641 by individuals named McCragh.

Roger MacCragh of Ballylomasney owned a third of the townland of Ballylomasney, amounting to 133 acres. This land was held “in fee by descent from his ancestors.”

Roger MaCragh of Burgesse and Donogh MaCragh of Kilcorane were proprietors of a portion of Burgesse and all of New Burgesse. Roger was proprietor of 4/5’s “in fee by descent from his ancestors.” Donogh was proprietor of the other 1/5 called new burgesse in Mortgage from Roger.

Hugh MaCragh of Burgesse was the proprietor of the other half of Burgesse “in fee by descent from his ancestors.”

In 1537, when Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries, and all the church lands became crown property, this may have adversely effected the MacCraith clan. Islandmagrath, in 1574, was still in the hands of a MacCraith but the trend for the future may have influenced the migration of some of the MacCraiths to County Tipperary.

In Griffith's Valuation, carried out in Tipperary in 1851, the parish of Tubbrid contained the townlands of Ballynomasna, Burges New and Burges West. There were no "McGraths" in these townlands at the time of Griffith's Valuation but there were some "McGraths" in other townlands in the parish of Tubbrid.

Mc Grath	Rev. Patrick	Ballygarrane
Mc Grath	Rev. Patrick.	Ballyhohan
Mc Grath	James	Ballylaffin
Magrath	Jeremiah	Cloheenafishoge
Magrath	John	Cloheenafishoge
Magrath	Philip	Cloheenafishoge
Mc Grath	Patrick	Cloheenafishoge
Magrath	Robert	Cranna
Magrath	Rev. Patrick	Derravoher
Mc Grath	Daniel	Kilroe
Mc Grath	Michael	Kilroe
Mc Grath	Thomas	Roosca (Miles)

The McCraith's of Loughloher, Parish Cahir

In the mid-16th century the McCraith family had established a Bardic school in the town of Cahir. They ran the school for several generations and it was probably destroyed during the Desmond Wars near the end of the latter half of the 16th century. In the Civil Survey of 1654, for the County of Tipperary, there were no "McGraths" listed as owners of property in the parish of Caher in 1641.

The following "Magraiths" were found in the International Genealogical Index (IGI B109: Ireland – Tipperary) at the LDS Family History Center. The name of this castle is unfamiliar and is the name of the townland where it is located. There is a possibility that the castle was also known by another name.

Mrs. Magraith – Female	~1648	Tipperary of Locklocker Castle
Magraith - Husband	~1674	Tipperary of Locklocker Castle
Mrs. Magraith – Wife	~1674	Tipperary of Locklocker Castle
Miss Magraith – Female	~1770	Tipperary of Remonstown

The fact that these Magraiths occupied the same castle both during and after the Rebellion of 1641 is remarkable. After the suppression of the rebellion Cromwell issued orders to remove all the Irish gentry from their lands and transplant them

to the province of Connaught. Anyone living in a castle would be considered gentry and would be prime candidates for being transplanted. The fate of their former castles was demolition unless one of the English officers, soldiers or adventurers was awarded the castles as part of their settlement with the English government over money that was owed to them. In this particular case the exact sequence of event is not known at this time. Perhaps the Magraiths left and then returned to their castle at a later date. Although many Irish did return to their former homelands in the years following the Cromwellian transplantations few returned to the same social status that they had previously held. Most returning Irish were forced to rent their former lands from the new owners.

This spelling of the surname is an unusual combination of MacCraith and Magrath that has not been found in any of the other sources.

Locklocker is the same as Loughloher. Remonstown is probably Redmond's Town that in Gaelic is Shanballyredmond and is located near Cashel. Shanballyredmond was located east of Cashel at the time of the Civil Survey of 1654 but was no longer around at the time of the Griffith's Valuation in the 1850s. Literally the name means the old town of Redmond or Redmond's old homestead. The town most likely takes its name from Redmond Magrath who was the second eldest son of Miler Magrath, the Archbishop of Cashel from 1571 until 1613. In the Civil Survey of 1654 Redmond was shown to be the proprietor of the following townlands in 1641: Thurlesbeg and Ballyknock in the parish of St. Patrick's Rock; Clonbonane, Cloone and part of Thory in the parish of Clonoulty; Grangemore in the parish of Erry; Geale in the parish of Geale.

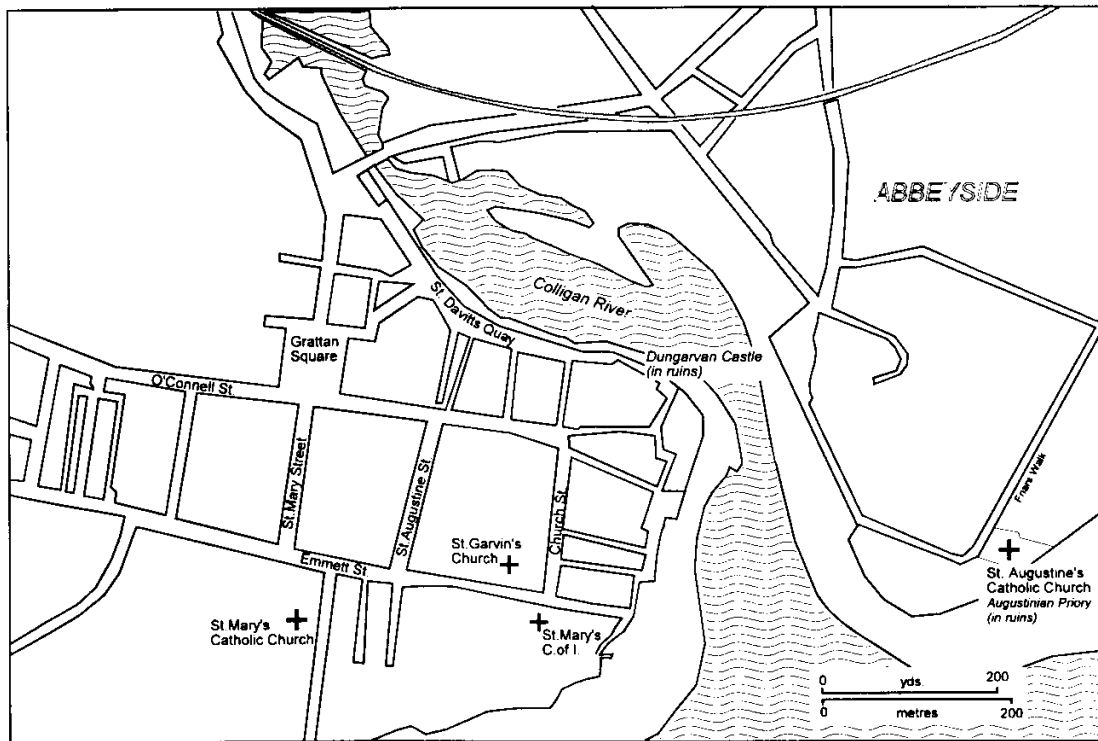
In the Griffith's Valuation Index (1851) for the townland of Loughlohery, parish of Caher, there were only seven individuals listed and one of them was a Robert McCraith. Writing in the Tipperary Historical Journal, author Denis G. Murnane, *Writing the Past: Tipperary History and Historians*, 1997, p. 11, mentions "Mrs. L.M. McCraith (b. 1870) of Loughloher near Cahir, a member of a long established family farming some 500 acres."

In one of the posts on the Tipperary Query web page, in 1998, there was mention of a McCraith living near Cahir in recent years. He was living on a farm that had been in his family for many years.

CHAPTER VII - The M'Crags of Sliabh Gua – Co. Waterford

Introduction

The M'Crags of County Waterford are often referred to as the M'Crags of Sliabh Gua. They were descended from the MacCraiths of Islandmagrath and had been in the Dungarvan and Lismore area since the 14th century. In 1312 Roger M'Cragh was the prior of the Abbeyside Augustinian Monastery, near Dungarvan. In the 17th century Philip of Slieve Gua was the head of the M'Cragh clan.



Dungarvan, based on Ordnance Survey of Ireland, six inches to one mile, 1922-3

The Main Line of the Waterford Branch of the McGrath family:

Philip mc Ruaidhri to Echtigern – 21 generations as in 23.H.22 (omitting first Flann son of Echtigern). From this main line there are five other descents.

1. Clann Tomais an Shina => = 23.G.4
2. Clann Mailmuire oig etc. => = 23.G.4
3. Tomas persun mc Philip mc Dirunaill a clann .i. Sean, Philip, Tomas, etc.

4. Clann Tomais mc Seagain mc an persuin .i. Tadhg and Tomas og <sic, sed?>
5. Séangan dis mac oige .i. Marcus, Donnchadh (etc. v.G.4).

The first four of these descents are found in the pedigrees shown in this chapter. The fifth descent has not been tied into the main line of descent at this point.

The Search for Sliabh Cua

The McGraths of County Waterford were associated with a mountain called Sliabh Cua that occurs in the literature with many variations in spelling.

- **Sliabh Cua** – Genealogy of MacCraith – R.I. Ac. MS 23.H.22, p. 9 (Twigge MS 39266)
- **Slievegoe** - Sept of Old Knight – J. His. & Arch. Soc. of Ireland
- **Sleveguor** - O'Hart
- Philip MacGrath, Ballynagilty, Chief of Clan of **Sleveguor** (par. Seskinane, bar. Deaces)
- G. cloinne Craith **Sliebhe Chua** – Genealogy of MacCraith - Twigge MS 39266
- **Sliabh Gua** = Sliavegoe ??

Despite these numerous occurrences in the literature it was not possible to locate these various spellings on any maps of County Waterford. A first approach was to assume that the spelling had been altered over the years but that didn't lead anywhere.

From the Irish Dictionary: Sliabh = mountain; Rua = red. The modern equivalent of Sliabh is Slieve. *Ṛua* is rua written in Gaelic. The Gaelic "r" looks something like an English "c". One possible guess could be: Sliabh Cua becomes Slieve Rua or Slieverua or Slieveroe

There is a Slieveroe just a two or three miles northeast of the city of Waterford on the north side of the Suir River. However, this is actually in the next county of Kilkenny.

From the Griffith's Valuation Index CD a search was made of parish Lisnakill, in Co. Waterford, which contains the townland of Slieveroe. There were no "McGraths" of any kind in the parish.

The solution to the mystery was found in the Transactions of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, Vol. 1, 1849-51. Printed for the Society by John O'Daly, 9 Anglesea-Street, Dublin, 1853. "Folk-Lore, No. 1 – The Fenian Traditions of Sliabh-na-m-ban.", by Mr. John Dunne, Read at the meeting of the Society of July 9th, 1851. p. 358

Quote from Dr. O'Donovan:

"...Sliabh Cua, which was the name of a high mountain, is now transferred to the lands at the base, while the mountain itself goes by a different and wrong name, i.e. Knockmuldoon (Anglice, Muldowney's hill)."

Old Name	New Name
Crotta Cliach	Galtees
Sliabh Dile	Slievenaman
Sliabh Eibhlinne	Slieve Phelim
Sliabh Cua	Knockmuldoon
Sliabh Alduin	Devil's Bit
Sliabh Comhalt	Keeper Hill

O'Donovan speculates:

"...if we ever come to publish the ancient Irish work called Dinnseanchus, we shall be able to recover all the ancient names of our great mountains, which now go under such undignified appellations as Tory Hill, Bessy Bell, Mary Gray, Katty Gallagher, Sugar Loaf, etc."

It is possible that Knockmuldoon is now called Knockmealdown, which are the mountains just north of Lismore and Dungarvan where the McGraths of Co. Waterford settled and remained for many centuries.

Pedigree of MacCraith of Sliabh Cua

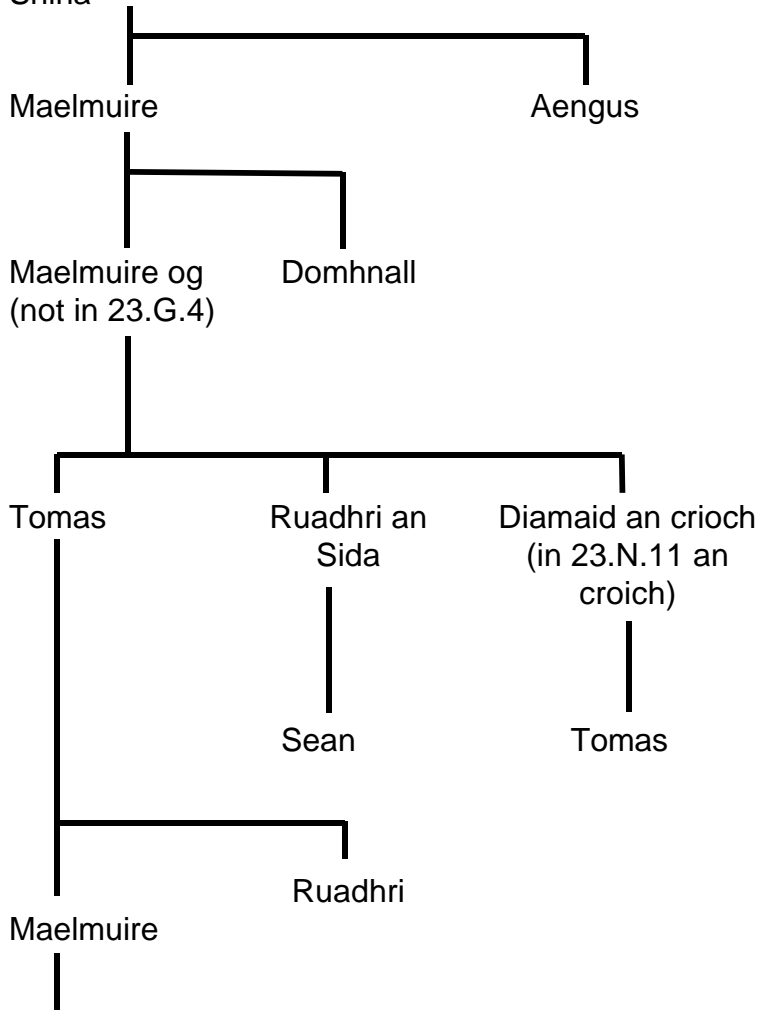
The following is the primary pedigree of the McCrags of Co. Waterford. It traces back into the pedigree of the MacCraiths of Islandmagrath in Thomond, Co. Clare. Comments have been inserted in various places in the following pedigree to explain possible connections with other pedigree fragments. The letter "d." followed by a year is an approximation of the year in which the individuals in a particular generation probably died. Also included are several fragments of pedigrees that haven't as yet been tied into the main Co. Waterford McCragh pedigree.

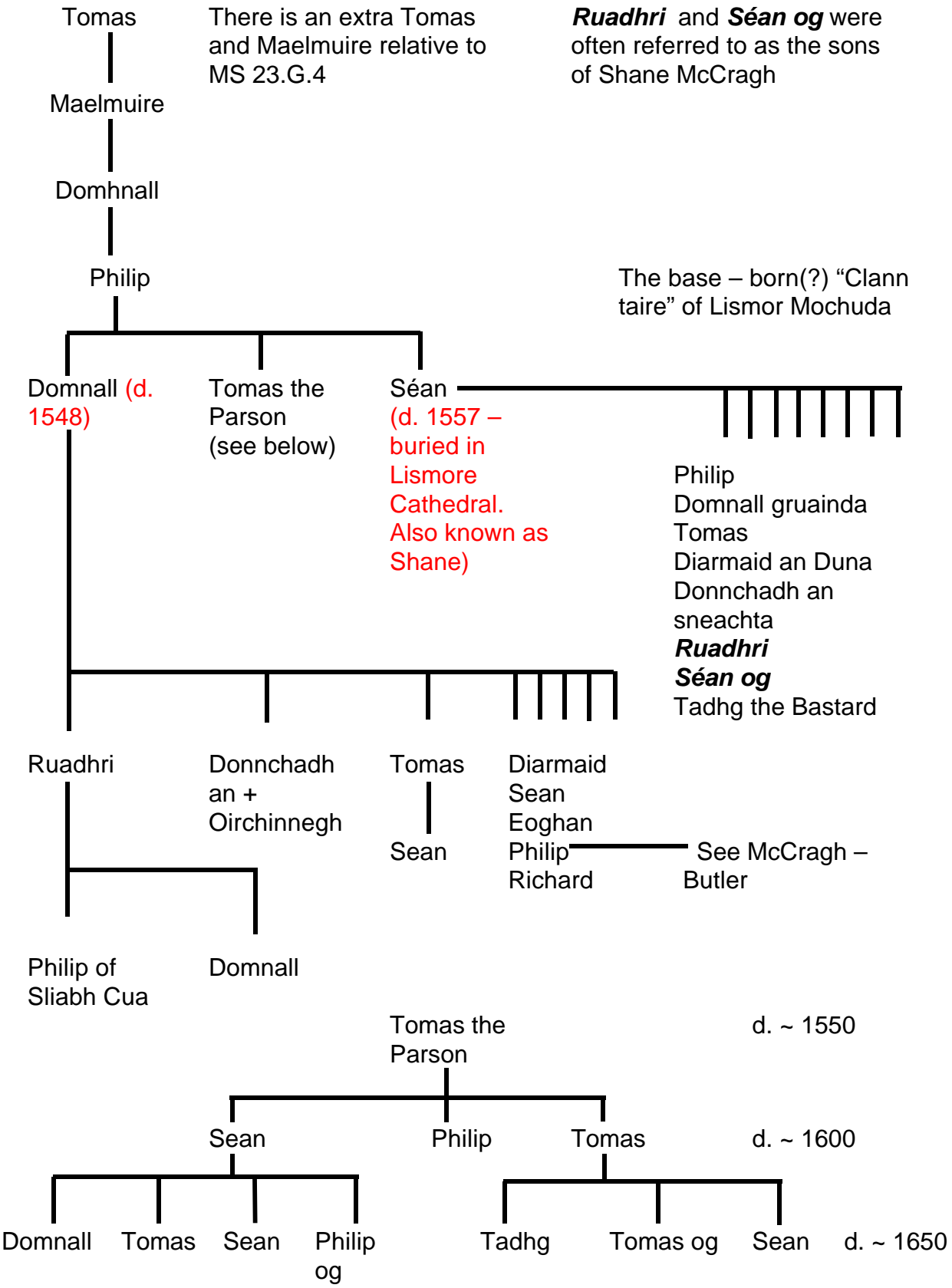
Pedigree of MacCraith of Sliabh Cua

Source: R.I. Ac. MS 23.H.22, p. 9 (Twigge MS 39266). Same as 23.G.4

Echtighern (bro. Of Brian Boroimhe)

Flann
 Maccraith
 Flann
 Gilla losa
 Maelmuire
 Tomas
 Maelmuire
 Gilla losa
 Maelmuire
 Tomas mor an
 Shina



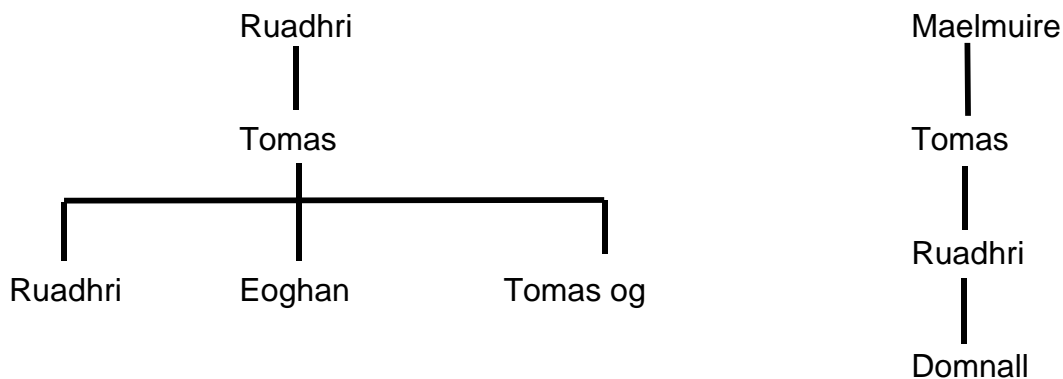


The sons of John M'Cragh, Ruadhri (Rory) and Sean Og (John Jr.) were the subject of letter from Queen Elizabeth I to Sir Henry Sidney, 14 May, 1566 ¹⁰⁴

(3) "Secondly the said Erle is informed that the Erle of Desmond should sue for the enlarging of certein capteyns of his galloglasses and others that were taken at the conflict who heretofore have confessed sundry matters charging the said Erle of Desmond with manifest ayding of rebells and traytors amongst which prisoners we heare that two of **John McCraghes sonnes** be enlarged, who have ben known notable murderers and offenders in the counties of Waterford, Tipperary and other places condemned by lawe to dy at the cessions holden in Clonmell before Nicholas White, being Seneschall of the liberty of Tipperary and nowe one of the justices appointed by you to joyne with Sir Warham St. Leger which semeth strang, having also herd that not long before they were taken in the conflict they wilfully murdered one John Inghish an ancient gentleman of faier living in the same county. And forasmuch as the producing of these persons for testimonies appeare to be most necessary we cannot but think them worthy great blame that delt so partially as to deliver them to the Erle of Desmond and do command that they remain where they did untill they may be brought before you and others that shall have the hearing of the matters betwixt the two Erles, the Erle of Ormond being present. And so we wold have you to order the same matter and the rather for that it is reported unto us that when the same persons had confessed such matters before certen of our counsaile there, Sir Nicholas Arnold, being informed therof, wold not examin them, which of itself semeth strang."

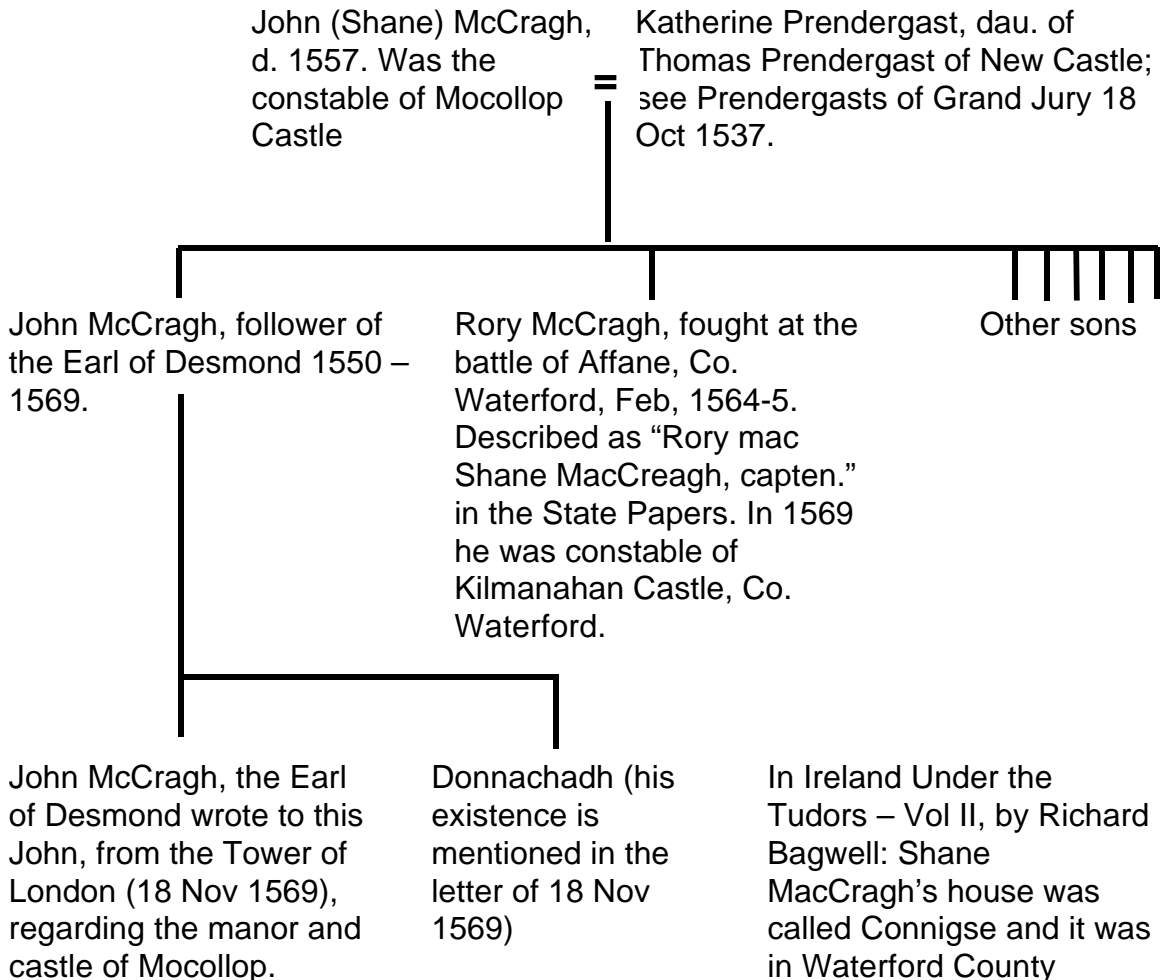
Descents from MacCraith of Sliabh Cua

(R.I. Ac. MS 23.H.22, p. 9. Also in MS 23.N.11)



The McCraghs of Lismore, Co. Waterford

Source: "On the McCragh Tomb in Lismore Cathedral," by John Ribton Garstin, *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol. 34, 1904, p. 295



"Donagh Magrath, a great benefactor to the Austin (Augustinian?) Friars of Dungarvan, died on the 9th March, 1400." His tomb can still be seen in the Monastery in Abbeyside, across the river from Dungarvan. In the article on Islandmagrath in *The Other Clare* – "Roger was prior in the Abbeyside Augustine Monastery, near Dungarvan, in 1312."

Donald McCragh (John's [Shane's] brother) was described on the tomb in Lismore Cathedral as having died in 1548.

In 1572 Donagh MacCragh was Archdeacon of Lismore. He was a layman and was deprived on Nov. 2, 1588. In 1580 this same Donagh was prebendary of Mondeligo as recorded in Cotton's "Fasti."



McCragh Tomb, Lismore Cathedral - The Covering slab, or Mensa

McGrath Castles in the Counties of Waterford and Tipperary

“Sleady Castle and Its Tragedy”, Author Unknown, *Journal of the Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland*, 1887-88, #18, p. 301 ff.

“In very early times, the ancient family of M’Grath held large estates in the western part of the county of Waterford.” The McGrath family richly endowed the Augustinian Abbey at Abbeyside, across the river from Dungarvan. Among the ruins of the abbey, in the east end, under a low window is a tomb inscribed “Donald M’Grath, 1400.” (Note: “It formerly stood at the north side, near the altar – the usual situation for the tombs of founders of religious edifices.”) Nearby they built a lofty square tower for the defense of the abbey.

Notes on the abbey: “The remains of this building (the wall, tower, entrances, and windows) show it to have been of great beauty. The light Gothic tower is sixty feet high, and the arch that supports it is greatly admired for the elegance and skill of its construction. The oak timber used in turning the arch, though much exposed to the wet, is still in good preservation, after a lapse of six centuries.” p. 301, Note 2

“At the close of the sixteenth, and commencement of the seventeenth century, the most remarkable person of the family was Philip M’Grath, commonly called in Irish *Philib-na-Tsioda* (pronounced *na-Teeda*), that is, ‘Silken Philip,’ meaning polished or elegant. The country people relate that, at this period, one of the family estates comprised seven townlands, within a ring fence.” Philip had two brothers, John and Pierce. “ According to this unknown author the following castles were associated with the M’Grath family.

Fernane Castle: This castle was located near Sleady Castle. “Near Fernane now stands a modern house, called Mountain Castle, in memory of the ancient stronghold.” Only a fragment of Fernane Castle existed at the time of the publication – 1887.

Castle Clonagh: This is a circular structure located in county Tipperary commanding the Glen of Rossmore, through which runs the boundary line of the counties of Waterford and Tipperary.

Castle Connagh: This castle stands on a high rock over the river Nier. It is a square and it is protected on the side next to the river by two round towers. (Could this be the house called Connigse mentioned on the previous page?)

Castle Reigh and Castle Connagh are in the county of Waterford in the barony of Glenaheira.

Castle of Cloncoscoran: This castle is located near Dungarvan in county Waterford. John McGrath, brother of Philip McGrath (builder of Sleady Castle), is said to be the builder of this castle. It's located in a very low situation and has a moderately elevated square tower at one end, and has an appearance similar to a religious structure.

Sleady Castle: This castle is located in the parish of Modelligo, county of Waterford, within a few miles of the town of Cappoquin. "It stands on a slight elevation, at a short distance from a road little frequented, leading from Cappoquin to Clonmel, consisting simply of ground a little undulating, a sprinkling of plantation, the shallow river Finisk winding beside the way, and peeps of low hills in the distance."

"The tall, dark, square ruin, with its many gables and high chimneys, less resembles a castle than a bawn, as we call in Ireland a stone dwelling, strongly and defensively built, but not regularly castellated. It is a lone and naked object: there is no graceful veil of ivy, no umbrageous tree near it. The edifice is in the form of a double cross, the eight limbs all of equal length, and each finished by a tall, large gable, crowned by a high chimney. Of these gables seven remain perfect, the eighth has fallen. The castle is placed diagonally on its site – a circumstance that added considerably to its defensive capabilities. It is of rough stone, plastered over, and every corner is faced with cut-stone. The walls are very thick, and still partially covered with a steep stone-roof. The windows are irregularly placed – rather small, oblong squares, divided into panes by slight stone mullions and transoms. The entrance is completely demolished, but its two square flanking towers, one at each side, still remain. That on the left (as the spectator faces the castle) has a parapeted and battlemented platform, with a machicolation: the other is of inferior size, with remains of stone stairs, midway in which is an opening – a small round arch of cut-stone. The broken stairs lead to a small, ill-lighted stone room, the 'ladye's bower' of the olden times, and thence up to the turret top."

"The interior of the castle is a mere shell, and the ground is covered with ruins and rubbish, overgrown with nettles and rank weeds: but it is still evident that there were four storeys, with three floors supported on plain stone corbels. On the ground floor may be traced the kitchen, with its ample fireplace, and an arched recess behind it: this apartment adjoins the machicolated flanking tower. Of other rooms nothing can be distinguished. The whole building is very plain; solidity and security seem to have been the sole aim of the founder."

"The entire was surrounded (according to tradition) by a moat, furnished with a drawbridge: of these no vestiges remain."

"Sleady Castle was deserted from the time of the forfeiture [Cromwell – around 1650], and it fell to ruin by slow degrees. ... Short, indeed, had been the period

of its palmy state: from the completion of the building to the day of its desolation, by the decree of forfeiture, it had scarce numbered twice seven years. This ancient family of the M'Graths has passed away; their place knoweth them no more; their lands are held by other lords, their strongholds and mansions are in ruins, their very name has now but a legendary existence –“

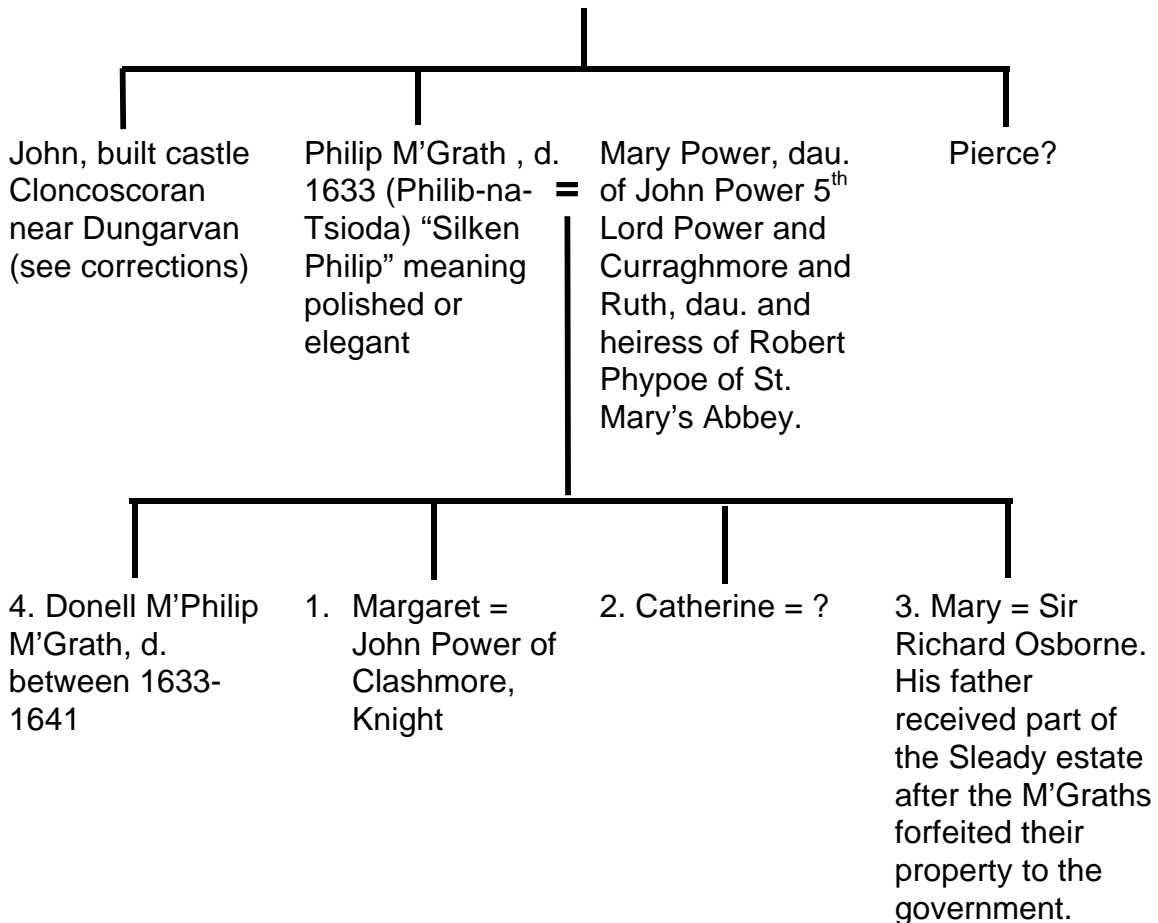
“Omnia tempus edax depascitur, omnia carpit;
Omnia sede movit, nil sinit esse diu.”

“[Sleady Castle is now the property of Richard Power, Esq., M.P.]”

“Sleady Castle and Its Tragedy,” Contributed by Gabriel O’C. Redmond, Journal of the Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland, 1887-88, Vol. 18, [Vol VIII, 4th Series], Dublin Press, Dublin, 1889, p. 300.

Castle Sleady, par. of Modelligo, bar. Decies-Without-Drum (a few miles from Cappoquin) Curagh-na-Sleady – “Bog of the Quagmire.” See Ordnance Map #22.

The M’Grath’s of Sleady Castle



Actually Nicholas
– see corrections

In the time of Queen Elizabeth I several members of a branch of the McCragh family, “of Mountain Castle, Co. Waterford,” are mentioned in the “Fiants.” This is related to Fernane Castle, which was built by a branch of the family that included the builder of Sleady Castle – Philip na Tsioda M’Grath.

The Story of Sleady Castle

By 1889 Sleady Castle had been reduced to a shell but when it was completed in 1628 it was an elegant four-story structure. Philip M’Grath was called Philip-na-Tsioda (Silken Philip meaning polished or elegant). He had built Sleady Castle for his new wife who had refused to live in Fernane Castle where Philip was residing at the time of his marriage. His wife was Mary Power, daughter of John le Poer (Power), the 5th Earl of Curraghmore. Philip and Mary had four children: daughters Margaret, Catherine and Mary and a son Donell M’Philip who died sometime between 1633 and 1641. Only 5 years after the completion of Sleady Castle Philip died. His son was taken to Dublin by guardians while Mary and the girls remained in Sleady Castle.

The three girls, who were described as being “fond of society” frequently, visited nearby Clonmel where there was a military station. In the summer of 1641 their mother, Mary, had invited three English officers to be her guests at Sleady Castle. Her daughters were about 20, 18 and 17 at that time and had become acquainted with these officers during their frequent visits to Clonmel. During the visit to the castle a tragedy ensued.

While the officers visited with Mary and her daughters upstairs the servants who had accompanied them to Sleady Castle were visiting with the servants of the castle. The servants of Sleady Castle decided to treat their visitors to whiskey at a nearby public house. They persuaded Mary’s brother-in-law that one of them would stay behind to watch the lowered drawbridge until they returned. No sooner had they left than the kitchen maid, who had been left to guard the drawbridge, placed a light in one of the flanking towers. This was a prearranged signal to one of the local bandits who inhabited the woods near the castle. The bandits soon entered the castle and took as much plunder as they could carry and also took the three officers as hostages.

The bodies of the officers would not be found for another twelve months but by the fall of that year the Rebellion of 1641 was raging throughout the country. The M’Graths were treated as traitors because of their suspected involvement in the disappearance of the three officers. Eventually a decree of forfeiture went forth against the M’Graths that effected all their property. These were confiscated by the Government and apportioned among strangers.

After their expulsion from Sleady Castle the family occupied a small cottage a little more than one-half mile from the castle. In the latter half of the 19th century this cottage, although in the state of decay, was still standing. Although reduced from their previous status they avoided the depths of poverty due to a few resources saved by Mary M'Grath.

Part of the Sleady estate fell to the Osbourne family. The head of that family was Sir Richard Osbourne whose son Nicholas eventually married Mary M'Grath, daughter of Philip and Mary M'Grath.

Corrections to the M'Graths of Sleady Castle

Source: The Journal of Royal Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland, Vol. 19, 1889, p. 64 – Gabriel O'C. Redmond, Hon. Local Secretary, Co. Waterford.

The main points of the article were the following:

- “They (the M'Graths) were not originally a county Waterford family at all; that is to say, previously to the Anglo-Norman invasion in the 12th century. Cambrensis does not mention them, nor does the name occur in Deeds and Records of the 12th and 13th centuries, as connected with the above named county. They were rather, I think, a clan from the county Tipperary, a branch which settled in the county Waterford.”

Augustinian Abbey (founded by the Earl of Desmond), Abbeyside, Co. Waterford – The Sleady Castle article stated that the O'Briens of Cummeragh and the M'Graths were the founders of the monastery and gave lands to the Abbey.

- “In an Inquisition, *post mortem* (3rd James I., No. 6), on James FitzGerald of Dromana, who died in 1581, it is shown that the M'Graths and O'Briens held their possessions of the FitzGerald, Lords of the Decies, by rent and service, and it is very doubtful if the M'Graths held any lands *in capite* of the Crown.”

Castle of Cloncoscoran – The building of the castle (two miles to the east of Dungarvan) was attributed to John M'Grath and the event was placed in the 17th century

- “It is beyond dispute that Cloncoscoran Castle was built centuries previous to that era, and that a M'Grath never held an acre of it.”

Kilmanahin Castle –

- “The author is also wrong in assigning the erection of Kilmanahin Castle, in the barony of Glenaheira to a M’Grath. This castle, I understand, was a lordship of the Fitzgeralds of Dromana, and never belonged to a M’Grath.”
- “There is no doubt that Kilmanahin castle was originally built by the Geraldines of Desmond, but it is possible the M’Graths may have held under the Earls of Desmond ‘by rent and service’ as we know they did Mountain Castle under the Lord of Decies; but in official documents and records no mention is made of M’Grath in connection with Kilmanahin.”

Philip McCragh of Sleady Castle and Philip of Sliabh Gua

In the Civil Survey of 1654, for the County of Waterford, one Phillip McCragh of Curraghnesledy was shown as the proprietor of Curraghnesledy (the location of Sleady Castle) and Ballykereene (800 acres total) in 1640 but was deceased at the time of the survey. Phillip died in 1633 and it was his heir, son Donell M’Philip McCragh, who possessed the lands until his death somewhere between 1633 and 1641. Upon Donell’s death the next heir would have been one of Phillip’s brothers. “The estate of Sleady, or at least a principal part, seems then to have vested in the next male heir, Pierce M’Grath (probably the brother of Philip); but the widow still continued at the castle with her daughters, who were possessed of large fortunes.”¹⁰⁵ Although there is some confusion as to which individual in Philip’s line of descent was in possession of these townlands in 1640 there is no uncertainty that it was still in the family.

In 1662 there was a survey taken called the Subsidy Roll of Co. Waterford. A subsidy to support the crown, based on land, was assessed against the individuals in the county. In the parish of Modeligo there was a Daniell McCragh of Curraghnesleidy (yeoman) and Daniell McCragh of Mountencastle (yeoman). The first Daniell was in the townland of Sleady Castle while the second was in the townland of Castle Fernane.

In the Civil Survey there is a description of Sleady Castle. “There is a defensible howse on the premisses beinge the ancient Mansion howse of the MacCragh’s of Slivego.”¹⁰⁶ This would appear to identify the Philip of Sleady Castle with Philip of Sliabh Gua. From the Pedigree of MacCraith of Sliabh Cua we find that both Philip’s alive at about the same time and both have been described as the leading figure in the family. Philip of Sleady Castle was described as “the most remarkable person of the family.” Philip of Sliabh Gua was described as the head of the M’Cragh clan in the 17th century. Based on this evidence it would seem that these two Philips are actually one and the same but there is a fragment of a pedigree labeled “McCragh – Butler” that is in disagreement.

Philip McCragh of Curraghnesledy was also listed as being in possession of “part of the burgery called MacCraghsland” in the section of Dungarvan called

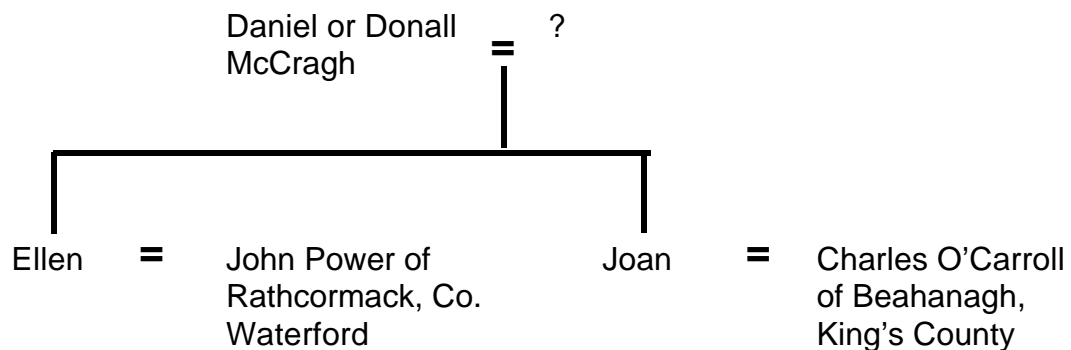
Abbeyside that was 83 acres in size. In addition Philip was also listed as being in possession of MacCragh's Castle, also located in Abbeyside adjacent to MacCraghsland. There is a description of this castle:

"There is on the premises a smale Castle formerly called MacCragh's Castle wch is stronge and defensible and now possessed by Capn. James Oldfield in pursuance of an order granted by Lt. Colonel Francis Foulkes then Gou'nor of Dungarvan grounded upon direcons from Colonel Sankey confirmeinge a lease made by Mrs. Ellin Boyton alias MacCragh of the premisses for 7 years into the sd Captain Oldfield." ¹⁰⁷

This Ellin Boyton alias MacCragh is possibly the daughter of John McCragh of Ballynagilty and Ellen Butler (see McCragh - Butler pedigree).

McCragh Descents

Funeral Entries in Ulster's Office – no year given



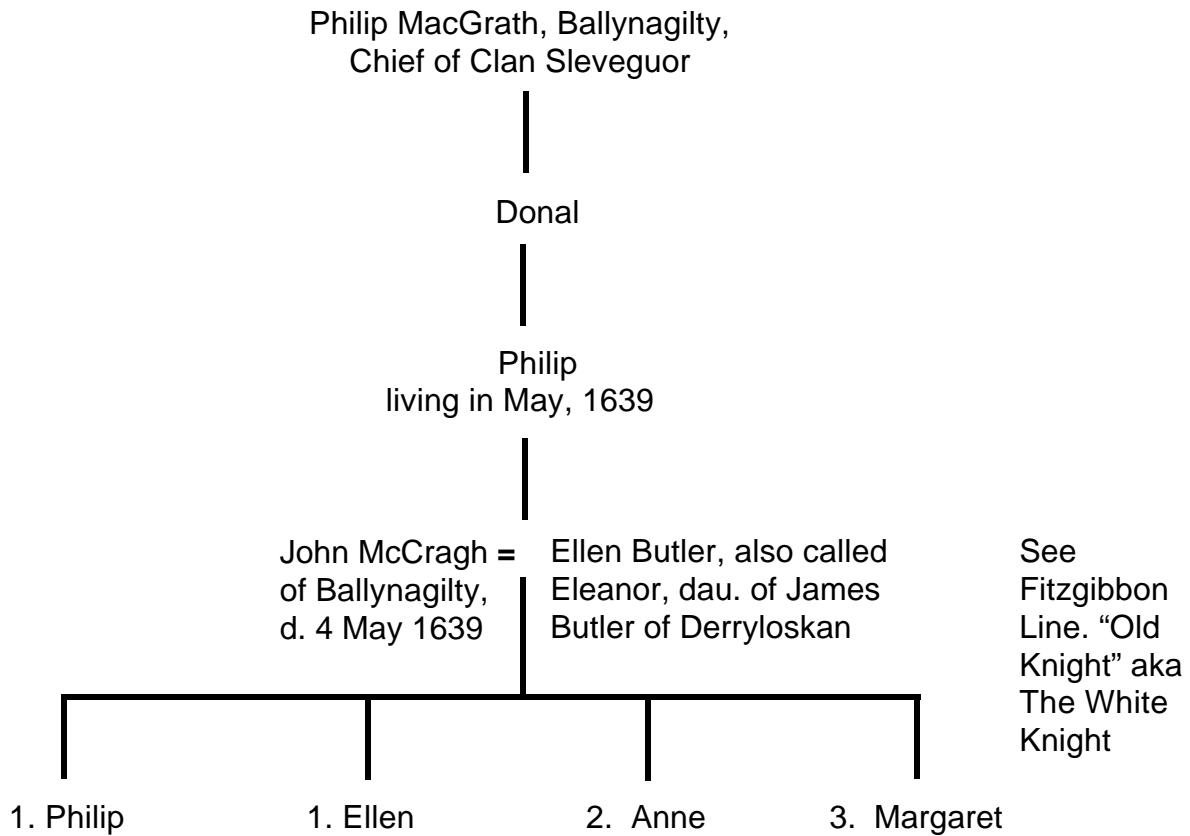
Notes:

"This name occurs in old records, with various orthographies – Cragh, Creigh, Creagh*, M'Cragh, M'Craith, Magrath, and M'Grath. I have adopted the latter, as in use in the districts where the family flourished. Dr. Lanigan says: 'our old writers allowed themselves too great a latitude in spelling proper names, so as often to excite doubts as to the identity of one and the same person. Hundreds of instances might be adduced.' " *Ecclesiastical History*, vol ii. p. 301, Note 1

* "The author has erred in stating that *Creagh* is a form of M'Grath. According to a tradition amongst the *Creaghs* themselves, their name was originally *O'Neill*, and they obtained the cognomen, *Craobac*, i.e. *Ramifer*, from one of the family, who carried a green branch in a battle in which he distinguished himself. – Note by Gabriel O'C. Redmond." p. 301.

McCragh – Butler

Source: O'Hart; see also 23.G.4, R.I.Ac. MS 23.H.22, p. 9



Ballynagilty is located in the parish of Seskinane, barony of Deaces, Co. Waterford.

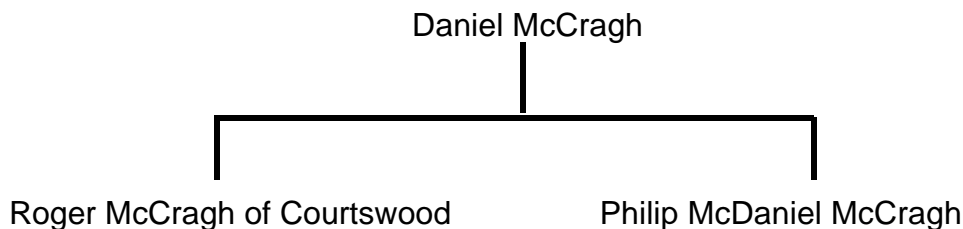
From Philip on down this is exactly the same as in "On the McCragh Tomb in Lismore Cathedral," by John Ribton Garstin [Read April 19, 1904], Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 1904, Vol. 34, p. 306. This was described as "The only connected scrap of Pedigree of McCragh in Ulster's Office..."

[Is this Philip (son of John and Ellen) the Philip McCraith, Heir of Slievegoe, Co. Tipperary found in the Sept of the "Old Knight?"]

McCragh of Courtswood

Source: The Will of the 1st Earl of Cork, dated 4 Nov 1642

Roger McCragh of Courtswood was named in the Will of the Earl of Cork as the person he wanted to repair a bridge whose construction the Earl had earlier financed. The original construction was substandard and the bridge did not survive the next incident of high water. The executors of the Earl's estate were instructed to engage Roger and his brother Philip McDaniel to do the repairs if the original builder did not make good on the repairs. Whether they actually got the job is unknown. However Philip's middle name of McDaniel means that his father's name was Daniel. That fact together with the information that he and Roger were brothers allows us to draw the following



The Civil Survey of 1654 for the County of Waterford gave the following information concerning Courtswood and the McCraghs in the Barony of Glaneherly.

Proprietor in 1640	Description	Size Acres	Value £:s:d
Roger McCragh of Courts-wood, gent., Irish papist, deceased.	Courtswood	Arrable 200	15:00:00
		Mountain 6	0:18:00
		W 300	3:00:00
		Mountain 200	1:02:00
		TOTAL 706	TOTAL 20:00:00

Description of the land:

Courtswood the mansion house with its appurtenances namely Ballyrowcan the hamlet of Drumgorry and the hamlet of Cahirbrack by estimation $\frac{3}{4}$ of a plowland of the estate of Courtswood aforesaid. The said proprietor, Roger McCragh divided it making each hamlet a quarter part of the said $\frac{3}{4}$ of a plowland and did mortgage the hamlet of Ballyrowcan to Patrick Geogh of Kilmanchin Esqr. Irish

papist deceased. And did also mortgage the hamlet of Cahirbrach to Phillip McCragh of Curraghnesleady in the Barony of Deaces, Esqr. Irish papist deceased. The said lands of Courtswood being only reputed a fourth part of the said three quarters of a plowland meeted on the south side with the Rivelett of Ire, with the lands of Cullynagh on the west with the lands of Castle Reagh on the east which is estimated to contain – see table below. It was adjudged in the year 1640 to be worth 20£ rent per annum. It is at present inhabited paying only contribution.

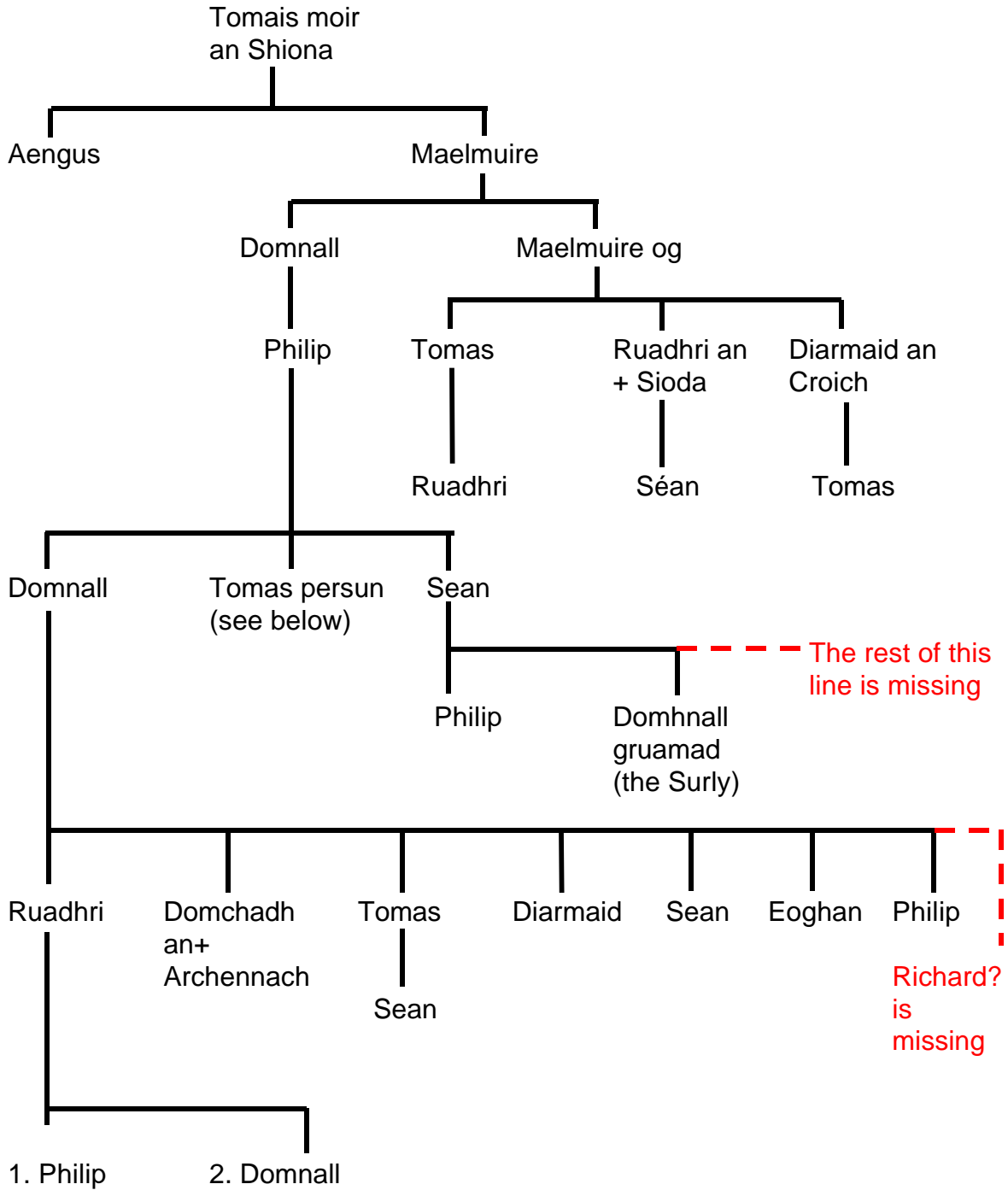
Tenant in 1640	Townland	Size Acres	Value £:s:d
Patrick Geogh of Kilmanchin Esqr. Irish papist deceased	Ballyrowcan	Arrable 250	12:00:00
	Dromgorry	Arrable 50 Mountain 100 TOTAL 150	5:00:00 5:00:00 TOTAL 10:00:00
Phillip McCragh of Curraghnesleady in the Barony of Deaces, Esqr. Irish papist deceased	Cahirbrack	Coppice 20 Mountain 250 TOTAL 270	2:00:00 8:00:00 TOTAL 10:00:00

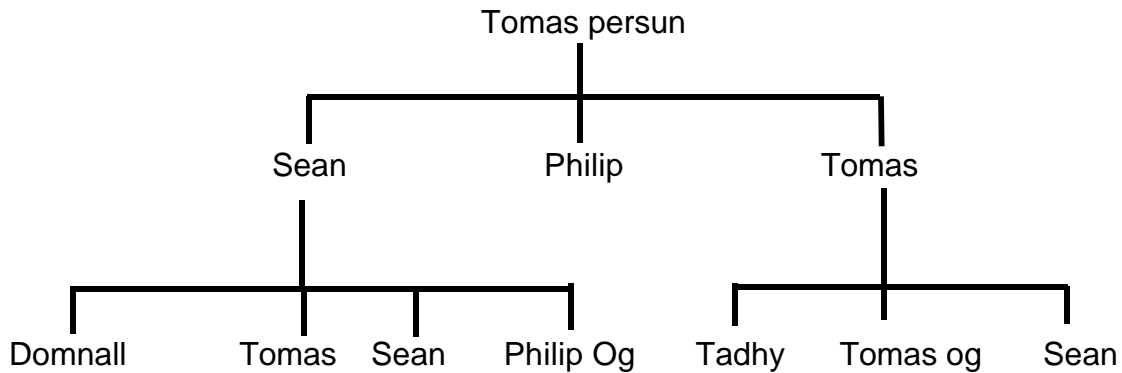
John Power of Dunhill in the Barony of Middle Third, Esqr., Irish papist was the proprietor of Castle Reagh (so called for a decayed old castle that stood upon the land.)

The implication of all this is that Daniel, the father, died at some time prior to 1640 and his son Roger inherited his father's estate that included Courtswood. At the time of the Civil Survey (1654-1656) however Roger was also deceased.

Another Version of the same Macraith pedigree

23.G.4 p. 409 (Twigge MS 39266)





Summary of the M'Craths of County Waterford

- The M'Craths were not in County Waterford prior to the Norman invasion in 1169.
- The earliest recorded M'Crath in County Waterford was Roger who, in 1312, was the prior of the Augustinian Monastery in Abbeyside near Dungarvan.
- The M'Craths were well established in County Waterford by the 15th and 16th centuries.
- Some of the M'Craths lost their lands following the Rebellion of 1641. But subsequent surveys showed that there were substantial numbers of M'Crath in the pre-rebellion areas.
- They stayed primarily in the region around Lismore and Dungarvan but there was spillover into the adjacent counties of Cork and Limerick due to the close proximity of the borders of those counties.

Eoghanacht McGrath Genealogies

From The Book of Munster, Written in 1703, Rev. Eugene O'Keefe, Parish priest and Poet of Doneraile, North Cork

Branching out of the Race of Eoghan, son of Oilill Olum. Here commences the genealogies and the branches of relationships of the family of Eoghan Mor son of Oilill Olum - as set out here; and beside the other descendants of Oilill Olum.

The MacCraiths of Thomond were descended from another of Oilill Olum's son, namely Cas, and they were called Dalcassians.

O'Sullivan

Eochaid (alias Suilleabhan) had two sons: Lorcan and Suibhne.

Lorcan had a son Buadach of Ath Cro.

Buadhach of Ath Cro had two sons: Aodh and Gormgall, from the latter (Clan Denair).

Aodh had a son, Cathal.

Cathal had four sons: Aodh, Buadhach, Deamhanville and the Bishop.

Buadhach son of Cathal had three sons: Giolla Padraig, **Macraith** and Anadh.

Macraith had six sons: Diarmuid, Giolla na bhFlann, Conchobhar, Cearbhall, Lochlann and Domhnall Mor of Carraig Fionmhuige - from his twelve sons were sprung the various branches of O'Sullivan.

His twelve sons were: Ruaidhri, from whom Clan Ruaidhri; Giolla na Flann from whom O'Sullivan Beare and O'Sullivan Maol; Giolla Mochuda from whom O'Sullivan More; Siuthchraidh, Conchubhar, Diarmuid, Finginn, **Macraith Reagh**, Henry, Anadh the bishop, and Lochlainn.

The Genealogy of O'Sullivan Mor

Domhnall (now alive in 1703), son of Eoghan Roe (who in Dublin 1687), son of Domhnall son of Eoghan, son of Domhnall, son of Eoghan, son of Domhnall na Eluinige son of Domhnall, son of Domhnall na Sgreadaighe, son of Domhnall Kantagh son of **Ruaidhri (his brother was Macraith from whom the family of Macraith of Cappanacugha)**, son of Dunlang, son of Buadach, son of Bearnard son of Muircheartach Mor son of Dunlang son of Ciolla Mochuda son of Domhnall Mor of Carrig Finnihuighe.

Sept of Macraith (Magrath) of the O'Sullivan's: Diarmuid son of Eoghan son of Conchobhar son of Diarmuid son of Buadach son of Eoghan son of Domhnall, son of Macraith, son of Dunland, etc., as in O'Sullivan Mor pedigree.

The Genealogy of O'Sullivan Beare

Domhnall na Spainne, first Earl (defender of Dumboy, 1602, slain at Madrid 1618), son of Domhnall cron son of Diarmuid, son of Domhnall, son of Domhnall, son of Diarmuid fallach, son of Tadhg, son of Amlaoibh, son of Anadh, son of Pilib, son of Giolla na Flann son of Domhnall Mor of Carraig Fionnmhuighe.

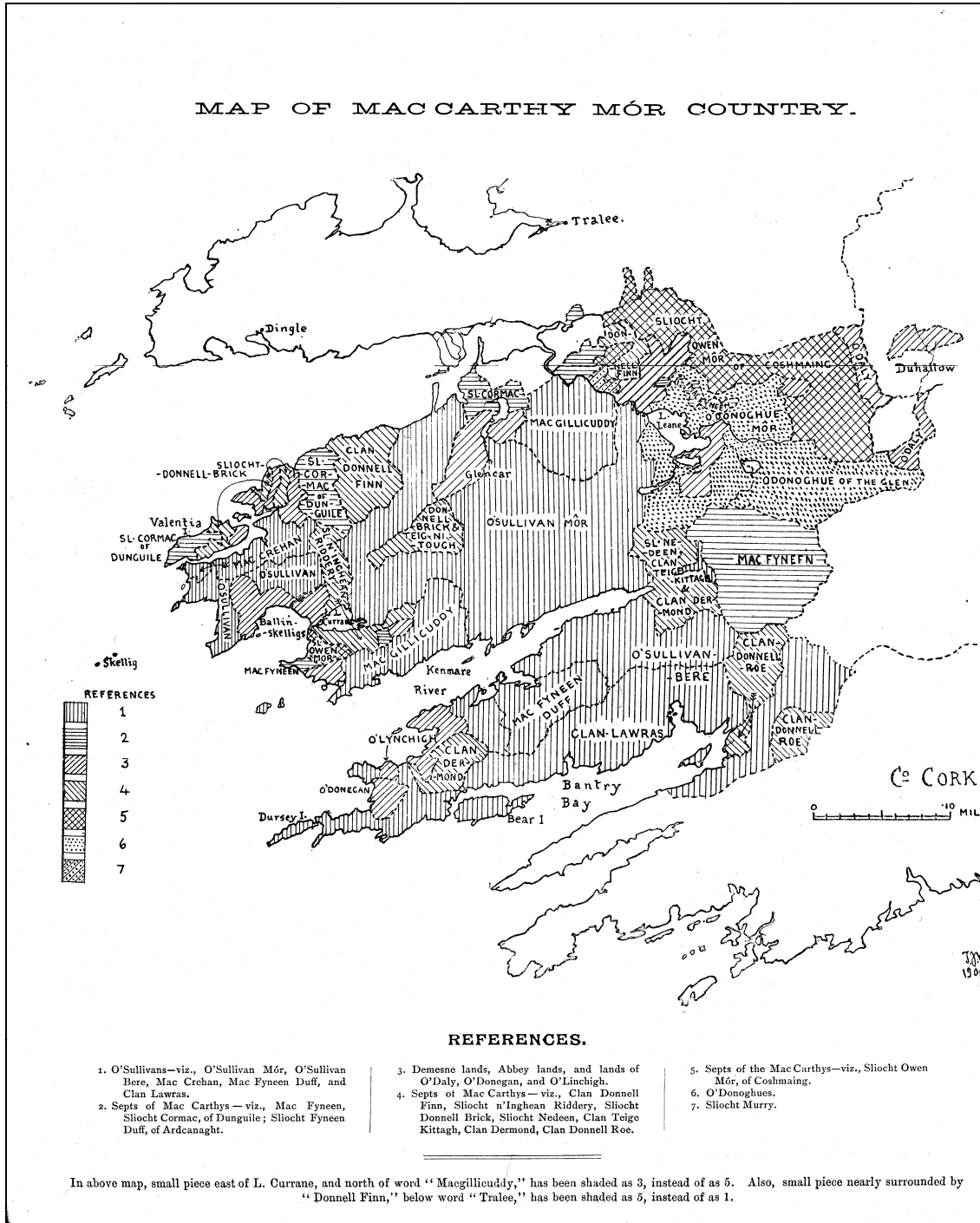
O'Sullivan Beare	O'Sullivan More	Macraith of Cappanacugha
	Domhnall Mor of Corrig Finnihuighe	
Giolla na Flann	Giolla Mochuda	
Philib	Dunlang	
Anadh	Muircheartach Mor	
Amlaoibh	Bearnard	
Tadhg	Buadach	
Dairmuid fallach	Dunlang	
Domhnall	Ruaidhri	Macraith
Domhnall	Domhnall Kantagh	Domhnall
Diarmuid	Domhnall na Sgreadaighe	Eoghan
Domhnall cron	Domhnall	Buadach
Domhnall na Spainne (first Earl, defender of Dumboy, 1602; slain at Madrid in 1618)	Domhnall na Eluinige	Diarmuid
	Eoghan	Conchobhar
	Domhnall	Eoghan
	Eoghan	Diarmuid
	Domhnall	
	Eoghan Roe (b.? 1687)	
	Domhnall (alive in 1703)	

Another son of Domhnall Mor of Corrig Finnihuighe was Macraith Reagh but nothing is said of his descendants.

The following is taken from the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland and describes the individuals in the third column in the table above.

“Another branch of the O’Sullivan clan resided at the castle of Cappanacushy. They were often called MacCrah, as being descendants of a chief called MacCrah. They were, it appears, the senior branch of the O’Sullivan race, but

had been deprived of the chieftainship through the workings of the law of Tanistry. The younger brother of MacCrah had succeeded him as chief, and had managed to secure succession to his own sons, excluding his nephews, who had the best right to the chieftainship. The Sliocht MacCrah had to content themselves with an estate of twenty ploughlands, and the reversionary right to the chieftainship, if the ruling house should become extinct.”¹⁰⁸



These MacCrahs occupied lands within the territory of O'Sullivan Mor that was part of the Mac Carthy Mor country. The name of their land was Cappanacugha and they were located on the upper portion of the north side of Kenmare Bay.

It is appropriate at this time to repeat one of the Waterford descents shown earlier because it represents the continuation of the MacCraith of Cappanacugha shown in the third column of the table above. Common names are bolded.

MacGRATH. (No. 1.)
Chiefs in the County Waterford

Arms: Quarterly

First: ar. three lions pass gu.

Second: or. a dexter hand lying fessways, coupé at the wrist ppr. holding a cross formée fitchée az.

Third: gu. a dexter hand lying fessways, coupé at the wrist ppr. holding a battle axe or.

Fourth: ar. an antelope trippant sa attired or.

CRAITH, brother of Roger who is No. 117 on the "O'Sullivan Mor" pedigree, was the ancestor of MacCraith: anglicised and modernized *MacGrath, McGrath, Magrath, MacCrae, Macrae, and Creeth.*

117. **Craith** ("craith:" Irish, *to weave*): son of **Dunlong**; a quo *MacCraith*, implying "the son of a weaver."

118. **Donall** MacCraith: his son.

119. **Conor**: his son. (Conchobhar -)

120. **Owen**: his son. (Eoghan)

121. **Buadhach**: his son.

122. **Dermod**: his son. (Diarmuid)

123. **Conor** (2): his son. (Conchobhar)

124. **Owen** MacGrath: his son. (Eoghan)

125. **Thomas** MacGrath of Glenaboy, Tallow, Co. Waterford: his son

Had by his wife five children of whom three were sons, namely -

1. Edward
2. Daniel
3. Thomas

126. Daniel of Lismore²⁷, county Waterford: second son of Thomas; born 21st January, 1751; died in Montreal, Canada, in 1860 - at advanced age of 109 years. This Daniel married Ellen, daughter of Thomas MacGrath²⁸ of Ardagh, near Youghal, County Cork, and by her had four sons and twelve daughters: one of the sons died young, the others grew up and were married, viz. -

- Alderman Thomas MacGrath of Montreal (who died in 1864).
- Denis MacGrath of New York, U.S. (who died in 1846).
 - Ellen a daughter of Denis and niece of Thomas Murphy, Esq., of New York, married Terence Murtagh of that city.
- Daniel, who is No. 127 of this Stem.

127. Daniel MacGrath, of Lachine, Province of Quebec, Canada : son of Daniel; living in 1887, "a childless widower."

²⁷ *Daniel of Lismore*: The marriage of this Daniel with his wife Ellen (born 1772), was the first union of the **Clanaboy McGraths** with those of **Clanabawn**. Instances of the large stature of many of the ancient Irish families are recorded. It may be mentioned that this family was particularly remarkable in that regard; for, not only was this Daniel McGrath a tall, strong, and handsome man, but his wife was a tall, handsome, and majestic women; they certainly were noble specimens of the ancient Irish race.

[Note: The reference to the Clanaboy McGraths is strange. This line of descent is from the O'Sullivan pedigree and O'Hart states that fact at the beginning of this McGrath pedigree. In addition this is the only reference to Clanaboy that I have seen so far.]

²⁸ *Thomas McGrath*: This Thomas was descended from the Ulster M'Graths of **Clanaboy**, who were of the race of **Clan Colla**; and who as late as the 17th and 18th centuries were men of influence in the county Waterford. He had by his wife Ellen (daughter of - Ahern of Shanakill, county Waterford) six children, of whom two were sons, viz.: -

1. Parson Denis M'Grath, near Dundalk.
 - The Rev. Denis M'Grath here mentioned married a daughter of General McNeill, and by her had one daughter, and two sons. These two sons were for many years members of the East India Company, and the latter (James) was the owner of a large estate near Liverpool, England, on which he resided in 1836.
 - Thomas *MaGrath*, who was married to a daughter of the late Judge Lefroy
 - James Magrath
2. Thomas M'Grath, of Kilcalf, county Waterford.

CHAPTER VIII - The McGraths in Other Irish Counties

The Magraths of Kinvarra, Co. Galway.

Although the Magraths were present in northeastern Co. Galway in the 1650's as a result of the Cromwellian transplantations they were not known to be in southwestern Co. Galway around Kinvarra. There is a notation in *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, Vol II*, which gives rise to this line of inquiry.

“There are some remains of the old church (in Kinvarra), which was for ages the burial-place of the O’Haynes and Magraths, no others being allowed to be interred within its walls.”¹⁰⁹

“The church of St. Coman stands on a hill that faces the quay on the east. The hill falls away sharply to the south (the main street of town), and more gradually to the north, while to the west the ground is fairly level and is bounded by the outbuildings of the Old Plaid Shawl and the backyard of J.J. O’Dea.”¹¹⁰

In every source that has been consulted, with the exception of the one quoted above, the Magraths do not appear in the Kinvarra area. It was not one of the areas where individuals of the name Magrath were not known to have resided. The prominent names in that area were O’Heynes and O’Shaughnessys.

The following quote serves to show that the original reference to Magraths in the Kinvarra area might have been mistaken. “In the long past, none but the recognized and leading representative branches of the Hy Fiachrach tribes, such as the O’Heynes, Kilkellys, and O’Shaughnessys, were allowed the privilege of interment within the sacred precincts of the church of Cil Ua Fiachrach at Kinvara.”¹¹¹

The Magraths were of Dalcassian origin not Hy Fiachrach.

The MacCraiths of Co. Limerick.

In the town of Kilmallock, County of Limerick, there is the Collegiate Church of St. Peter and Paul. It is located on the Lubash River across from the ruined Dominican Priory. Inside the church is the grave of the 18th century poet Andrias MacCraith.¹¹²

CHAPTER IX - McGraths in Other Countries

McGraths in France

Archives in Paris contain receipts for pension payments and certificates of Catholicity, dated between 1752 and 1767, for Françoise Therese MacGrath, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel François MacGrath.

The Irish Brigades in the Service of France: Paper No. 2 ¹¹³
List of Irishmen who served in the Armies of France; extracted from the *de la Ponce MSS.*, in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

M'Grath, George, Sous Lieut.; admis à l'Hôtel Royal des Invalides en 1695 - Regt. de la Marine Royale d'Irlandaia.

M'Grath, Lieutenant en 1722 - Regt. de Rothe

M'Grath, Capitaine en 1737 - Regt. de Berwick.

M'Grath, James, Sous Lieut. en 1777-1784 - Regt. de Berwick

M'Grath, Thomas, Chevalier de St. Louis; Lieut. en 1771 - Regt. de Berwick

M'Grath, le Baron, Lieut. en 1813-1819 - 20^e Chasseurs.

Irish Jacobites

Lists from TCD MS N.1.3

Analecta Hibernica No. 22, Dublin Stationery Office for the Irish, Manuscripts Commission 1960

This table is extracted from the accompaniments to the report to the commission appointed in 1699 by the English parliament to inquire into the Irish forfeitures.

William III issued a declaration in 1689 calling for the supporters of James II in Ireland to surrender. Failure to comply would result in forfeiture of their estates. There was little or no response to the declaration requiring the Williamite authorities to proceed through the courts.

The label "Edmond's Relatives" refers to Edmond Magrath, grandson of Miler Magrath, who had been transplanted from Ballymore, Co. Tipperary to Tulla, Co. Clare after the Rebellion of 1641. He died in Co. Clare in June, 1683.

Name	Town	County	Title	Date
<u>Edmond's Relatives</u>				
M'Gragh, Redmond	Derrymore	Clare	Esq.	
Magrah, Miles	Tullagh (Barony)	Clare	Gent.	
Magrath, Robert	Kilbarren	Clare		13 Nov 1694
Magrath, John	Gortdroma	Clare		20 Nov 1694
<u>Possible Relatives</u>				
Magrath, Owen	Ballynehinch	Tipperary		25 Aug 1699
Magrath, James	Arraghbegg	Tipperary		5 July 1699
Magrath, James	Killeennamallane	Tipperary	Capt.	26 June 1699
Magrath, Thomas	Templehurney	Tipperary		5 July 1699
McGragh, James	Bellynakilly	Waterford	Gent.	
<u>Local McGraths</u>				
McCraith, Donagh	Kilkenny	Limerick	Lt. Col.	3 Feb 1698
M'Grath, Denis	Kilverheny	Cork	Esq.	
<u>Remote McGraths</u>				
M'Gra, Cullo	Annaghmactiobin	Down	Gent.	
Magrath, Roger	Dublin City			25 Aug 1699

Irishmen in the Spanish Army

At the commencement of the 18th century there were eight Regiments in Commission in the Spanish service known as

- Dragones de Dublin Est 1701 Disbanded 1722
- Dragones de Edimburgo Est 1703 Disbanded 1722
- Regimento de Infanteria de Hibernia Est 1705
- Regimento de Infanteria de Irlanda Est 1702
- Regimento de Infanteria de Limerick Est 1718
- Regimento de Infanteria de Ultonia Est 1718
- Regimento de Infanteria de Wauchop (Conacia) Est 1715
- Regimento de Infanteria de Waterford Est 1718

The Regimento de Infanteria were disbanded at the end of the century

<u>Magrath, Don Jaime</u> , Lieut.	1718	Regimento de Limerick
<u>Magrath, Don Tomas</u> , Sub-Lieut.	1718	Regimento de Limerick
<u>Magrath, Don _____</u> , Cadet	1718	Regimento de Limerick
<u>Magrath, Don Tomas</u> , Cadet	1724	Regimento de Waterford
<u>Magrath, Don Juan</u> , Lieut.	1768	Regimento de Hibernia
<u>Magrath, Don Pedro</u> , Cadet	1725	Regimento de Ultonia
<u>Magrath, Don Nicolas</u> , Cadet	1766	Regimento de Ultonia
<u>Magrath, Don Terencio</u> , Lieut.-Colonel	1732	Regimento de Ultonia

p. 666

Irish Rebels to Australia 1800-1806

Internet

www.actonline.com.au/~ppmay/rebels.htm

Annesley McGrath (DOB 1775) was tried at Belfast, Co. Down in 1800 and sentenced to a life term. He was shipped to Australia on board the ship *Hercules*. He died in 1820.

James McGrath was tried at Kildare in 1801 and sentenced to a 7 year term. He was shipped to Australia on board the ship *Hercules*.

James McGrath (DOB 1771) was tried at Dublin in 1805 and sentenced to a 7 year term. He was shipped to Australia on board the ship *Tellicherry*. He was a laborer.

Michael McGrath (DOB 1771) was tried at Kildare Naas in 1803 and sentenced to a 7 year term. He was shipped to Australia on board the ship *Tellicherry*.

Peter McGrath was tried at Limerick in ? and sentenced to a life term. He was shipped to Australia on board the ship *Atlas2*.

Transportation as a Punishment in Ireland

The document references are to National Archives of Ireland

Edmond McGrath, 25 was tried in Wexford County on March 10, 1839 on a charge of "Greivous assault" and was found guilty and sentenced to "Transportation 7 yrs." - Document Reference TR 3, p. 170

John McGrath, 20 was tried in Tipperary County on July 20, 1840 on a charge of "Attempting to compell to quit" and was found guilty and sentenced to "Transportation 7 yrs." - Document Reference TR 3, p. 156

John McGrath was tried in Limerick County on July 14, 1849 on a charge of "Sheep stealing" and was found guilty and sentenced to "Transportation 7 yrs." - Document Reference TR 9, p. 112

Michael McGrath, 25 was tried in Tipperary County on July 20, 1840 on a charge of "Attempting to compell to quit" and was found guilty and sentenced to "Transportation 7 yrs." - Document Reference TR 3, p. 156

Patrick McGrath, 23 was tried in Tipperary County on March 13, 1849 on a charge of "Larcency" and was found guilty and sentenced to "Transportation 10 yrs." He was transported on the ship BLENHEIM in July, 1851 - Document Reference TR 9, p. 153

CHAPTER X - The Civil Survey of 1654

The “McGrath’s” Co. Tipperary

The McGraths in Tipperary, as recorded in the Civil Survey of 1654¹¹⁴, can be separated into three separate families. One family is recorded under the name Magrath while the second is recorded as McCragh and the third is recorded as MaCragh.

McCragh

Owen McCragh (Curraghduffe)

- Rory mc.Owen McCragh (Downane)
- Donogh mc.Owen McCragh (Curraghduffe)
 - Daniel mc.Donogh McCragh (Curraghduffe)

(Shane) - All of Curraghduffe

- William McShane McCragh
 - John mc.William McCragh
 - Henry mc.William McCragh
 - Morrogh mc.Henry McCragh
 - Teige mc.Henry McCragh

Also of Curraghduffe

Daniell mc.Phillip mcCragh (Daniell, son of Phillip)

Teige McCragh of Ballymoyline

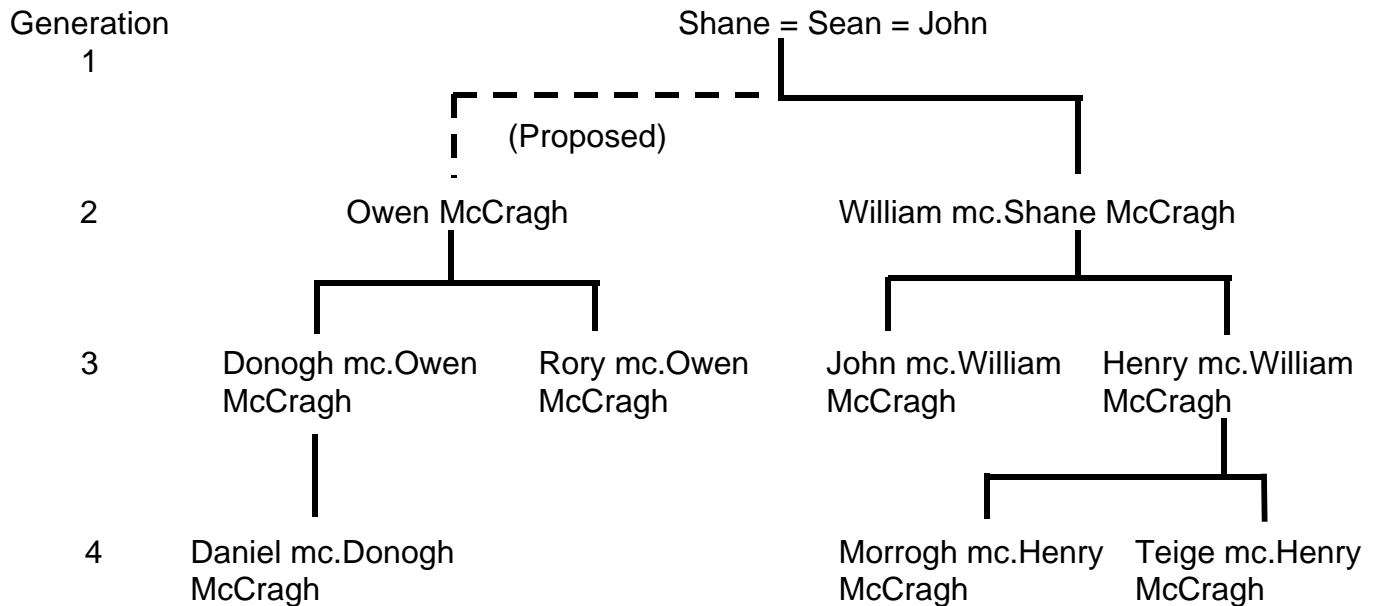
Rory mcCragh (is this the same as Rory mc.Owen McCragh?)

These individuals appear to be related for the following reasons:

1. The naming of the sons exhibit the incorporation of the name of the father in the middle name - another old Irish custom. This allows the placement of most of the individuals into their respective family generations.
2. These individuals follow the old Irish tradition of dividing the land among the clan. This is very evident in the division of an already small townland among many related individuals.
3. The spelling of the name itself, McCragh, is close to the ancient spelling MacRaith. One might venture a guess that these individuals were related to the ancient MacRaiths of Islandmagrath in Co. Clare.

4. The first names found above are Owen, Rory, Donogh, Daniel, William, John (Sean), Henry, Morrogh and Teige. These are all examples of Irish names.

Possible Pedigree for the McCraghs of Arra & Owny



The relationships between these individuals can be displayed graphically as shown above. Owen McCragh did not have a middle name recorded in the Civil Survey of 1654 so we cannot place him in this pedigree with 100% confidence. However, William mc.Shane McCragh's middle name allows us to see that his father was named Shane, which is sometimes written as Sean or John. This allows us to construct a four generation pedigree on William's side of the family. Comparing Owen's and William's descendants we find that they are probably in the same generation and therefore it is proposed that William and Owen were brothers and were both descended from Shane McCragh.

Magrath

These Magraths are all descendents of Miler Magrath, Archbishop of Cashel

(Miler Magrath)

- Sir Terlogh Magrath, Allevallane, par. of Knigh, bar. of Lower Ormond.
 - Sir John Magrath of Allevollane
 - George Magrath of Clonekenenane
- Redmond Magrath of Thurlesbegg

- Edmond Magrath of Ballymore
 - Brien (deceased by 1641)
 - Marcus Magrath of Bleane, parish of Aghnamaydull, barony of Upper Ormond, co. Tipperary
 - Marcus (deceased 14 April 1639)
 - Donnogh Magrath
 - Miles Magrath
 - James (at Termon Magrath, Co. Donegal in 1641)
1. The names of some of these individuals are more English sounding than the McCraghs above. The first names are Edmond, Redmond and Marcus are English while Miles, John (Sean) and Terlogh are more Irish sounding.
 2. These Magraths distributed land through inheritance to their descendents in the English manner. Only in a few cases did they subdivide the land among many owners with the same surname, as was the Irish custom. In many cases they shared the ownership of the land with individuals who were related to them by marriage. Although fewer in number these Magraths owned more parcels and more total acres than the McCraghs above.
 3. The spelling of the name is closer to the modern day McGrath than the ancient MacRaith.
 4. From other sources (Twigge A&I MS 39270 FF, Ennis Library) we find the pedigree of Miler Magrath, Archbishop of Cashel (1522-1622), wherein we see that Terlogh, Redmond, Brien, Marcus and James are sons of Miler with John and George being the sons of Terlagh, Edmond is the son of Redmond, Marcus is the son of Brien and Donogh and Miles are the sons of Marcus.

At first there was some measure of uncertainty as to the identity of one Marcus of Bleane. He had owned a substantial amount of land that was inherited from his father and grandfather. He held two parcels of land with George Grace of Klyboy whose wife Mary was the widow of Bryen Magrath of Currehineowrine, par. of Kylmore, barony of Upper Ormond, co. Tipperary. Bryen died in 1640 as that was when Mary had come into possession of the land. This Bryen was one of the sons of Miler Magrath and one of Bryen's sons was Marcus of Bleane was seen in the Civil Survey of 1654 to have inherited land in several townlands where George and Mary Grace were also owners. Bryen had purchased the townlands of Kylboy, Lehed, Ballincharra, Lisnagowly and Moore, all in the parish of Kylmore, barony of Upper Ormond from the Sept of Clanmorish (also known as Kennedy).

From another source we find reference to the time when Miler Magrath had originally obtained title to some of these land now in the possession of his descendents:

“On 8 October, 1597 he (Miler) received the ‘site, circuit and precinct’¹¹⁵ of the late priory and religious house of Thome, Co. Tipperary, as well as the properties and lands of Aughnameall, Envyne, Ballyboy, Aghincor and Killyertiragh¹¹⁶.”

The land at Thome was listed as belonging to Marcus of Bleane in the Civil Survey of 1654. Sir John Magrath was also listed as a co-owner of Thome.

After the transplantation into County Clare Marcus Magrath wound up with land in the baronies of Bunratty and Clouchelan.

- Lisduffe, parish of Killenasullogh, barony of Bunratty
- Knocksegertnabansagh & Oumarkagh Fanellan, parish of Killenasullogh, barony of Bunratty
- Carrenreah als Knockaloughe, parish of Kilnighil, barony of Clouchelan
- Tarmarroe, parish of Kilnighil, barony of Clouchelan

Kylmore (now Kilmore) contained 15 listings for Magraths and 4 listings for McGrath in the Griffith’s Valuation conducted in 1851, nearly 200 years later.

MaCragh

Roger MacCragh - Ballyomasney
Roger MaCragh of Burgesse
Donogh MaCragh of Kilcorane
Hugh MaCragh of Burgesse

These individuals are all in the parish of Tubrid, barony of Iffay and Offay. The two Rogers (Ruaidhri which has become Rory or Roger) appear in the pedigree in R.I. Ac. MS. 23.N.11, pp. 43-44 found in the Twigge Manuscripts #39266 and #39270. They are direct desendants of the first MacCraiths of Thomond to cross the Shannon and settle in the area around Cahir. The settling of Cahir can be placed around the year 1550. Tracing the generations back from the two Rogers, allowing for 50 years per generation, establishes the year as approximately 1550. The MacCraiths were known to have established a Bardic school in Cahir in the 16th century and ran it for several generations. The mid 16th century was also the time when Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and churches of Ireland and claimed them for the England. The MacCraith lands around Islandmagrath were at one time part of the endowment of Clare Abbey. Henry VIII gave claim to Clare Abbey to Donogh, Baron of Ibracken in 1543¹¹⁷. This may have displaced

some of the MacCraith clan although a MacCraith was in possession of the Castle at Islandmagrath in 1574.

Unidentified Magrath:

John Magrath of Monokyll whose daughter Eleanor married James Kearney ¹¹⁸ (born on July 24, 1625) of Rathcoole near Fethard. Given the year of his daughter's marriage (~1645 – 1655) that would put his date of birth probably at about 1600. This would mean that he would have to be one of Miler's grandchildren if he was going to be related to him. That isn't possible because it is fairly certain that all of Miler's grandchildren have been identified and there isn't a John Magrath of Monokyll among them. This John is not one of the descendants of Miler Magrath.

The Counties of Donegal, Londonderry and Tyrone

Cullen, Pettigoe and Coolemore are townlands that are part of the Parish of Carne, Barony of Tirhugh, also known as Tarmonmagrah. ¹¹⁹ The rest of the parish is in the Barony of Lurg in Co. Fermanagh. James Magrath, son of Miler Magrath, was listed as the person in possession of "Tarmonmagrah" in 1641.

There is a Kilbarran Parish in the Barony of Tirhugh, County of Donegal. Inside Kilbarran Parish is a quarter of land, measuring 110 acres, called also by the name Kilbarran. Nearby is found another quarter of land named Cashell.

In the Parish of Bannacher, Barony of Kennaght, Co. of Londonderry there is a townland called Magrew. p. 209

There are no Magraths, MacRaiths, MacCraghs or Mcgraths to be found as property owners in the Parish of Ardstragh, Barony of Strabane, Co. of Tyrone. This is where tradition says that the Magraths of Termon Magrath emigrated when driven out of Castle Magrath in Pettigo, Co. Donegal by the O'Donnells.

The Books of Survey and Distribution, Counties of Galway and Mayo

Redmond Magrath and Thomas Magrath were the only "McGrath's" found in these two volumes. ¹²⁰ Redmond owned land in the baronies of Killconnell, Cloone McNowne and Teaquin in County Galway. Thomas Magrath owned land in the barony of Killmaine in County Mayo. These individuals received their holdings in Counties Galway and Mayo as a result of the Cromwellian transplantations and had forfeited their holdings in County Tipperary.

Occurence of First Names in the Pedigree of Miler Magrath

Gen 41	Gen 42	Gen 43	Gen 44	Gen 45	Gen 46	Gen 47	Gen 48
Sons							
Donnchadh	Maelmuire (Miler)	Terlagh	John James George	Terlagh	John	Thomas	Marie Patrice Nicholas Thomas
	Michael	Redmond	Edmond Thomas	Redmond	James	Nicholas	Marie Susanne Armande Hubertius
	Niall	Brian	Marcus Philip James Redmond Matthew Bryan	Nicholas Thomas John Robert	Miles David Maurice Terence Edward Luke James Robert Francis Thomas Edward	Robert Edmond John Joseph Edward Robert Thomas Robert Arthur William	Luke Matthew John Edmond Thomas John
		Marcus	Miles Donnogh James Thomas Bryan Marks Francis				
		James					
Daughters							
		Mary Cecilia Anne Ellis Giles	Amy Mary Giles Catherine Ellen Katherine	Margaret Mary	Anne Catherine Mary Anne Agnes Margaret	Jane Mary Ellen Catherine Mary Anne Bride Margaret	Bridget Mary Mary Helen Elizabeth

CHAPTER XI – Distribution Maps

Civil Survey of 1654, Books of Survey and Distribution and the Griffith's Valuation

The information from these three surveys were analyzed for the surnames McGrath, Magrath, MacCraith, McCragh and any other names that were close to these surnames. The McGrath and Magrath variations were the most numerous. The change in the Irish condition that had transpired over the intervening 200 years between the surveys is reflected in the reduced status of the one-time proprietors having become renters of their former homesteads.

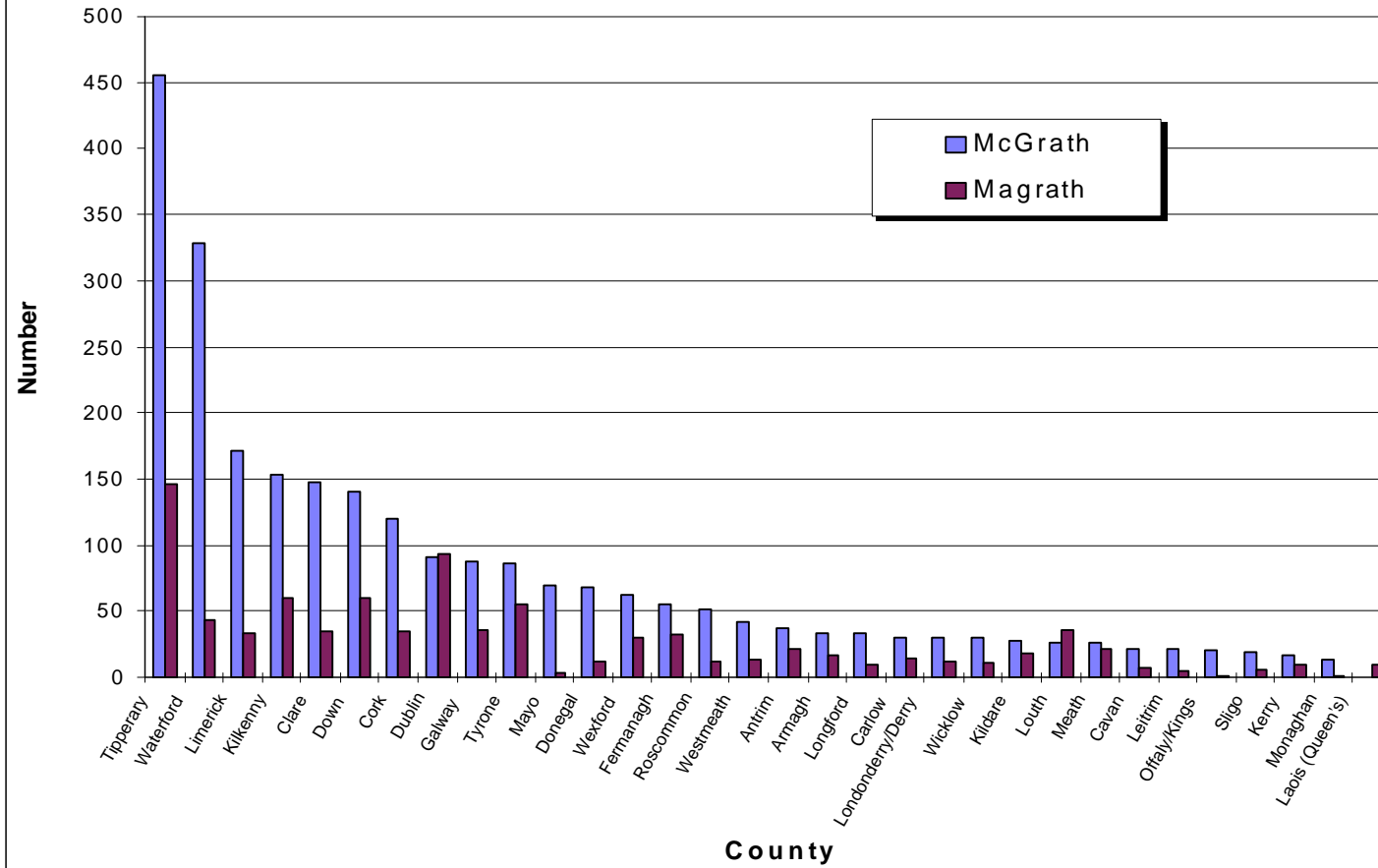
These surveys are organized with the townland as the basic land unit. Also included are the civil parish and barony in addition to the county. There are around 60,000 townlands in Ireland and they are not all unique and many have changed over the interval between the two surveys. For those reasons and also the difficulty in obtaining copies of such detailed maps led to the decision to base the distribution on the civil parishes. The events that were enumerated in the surveys were land ownership/occupation. In counting these events no account has been taken of the size of the holdings nor has the ownership/occupation of multiple townlands been taken into account. This gives rise to an over counting situation but to a greater degree in the Civil Survey of 1654 than in the Index of Griffith's Valuation. The reason for this is that Griffith's doesn't uniquely identify all individuals but given the economic situation in post-famine Ireland most individuals occupied single townlands.

The totals for each civil parish were broken into seven numerical categories and color-coded. The scale was chosen to have a fine discrimination at the low end so that it would be possible to discern the boundaries of the regions where the "McGraths" were found. Included is a color-coded distribution map of the Griffith's Valuation data for the County of both Tipperary North and Tipperary South. The parish maps in this section are from A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland, by Brian Mitchell, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD, 1996. The Co. Tipperary map is a composite of two separate maps and therefore the numbering of the parishes are duplicated above and below the thick line that separated the northern half of the county from the southern half. The keys to the parish names are contained on the two following parish maps.

Also included is a table with the McGrath and Magrath surname totals from the Index to the Griffith's Valuation for each of the counties in Ireland and a chart of all the data.

Index to Griffith's Valuation of Ireland						
1848 - 1864		All Counties				
County Name	McGrath	Percentage	Year	Magrath	Percentage	Ratio
Tipperary	456	18.1%	1851	146	16.3%	3.123
Waterford	329	13.1%	1848-51	43	4.8%	7.651
Limerick	172	6.8%	1851-52	33	3.7%	5.212
Kilkenny	153	6.1%	1849-50	60	6.7%	2.550
Clare	148	5.9%	1855	35	3.9%	4.229
Down	140	5.6%	1863-64	60	6.7%	2.333
Cork	120	4.8%	1851-53	35	3.9%	3.429
Dublin	91	3.6%	1848-51	94	10.5%	0.968
Galway	88	3.5%	1855	36	4.0%	2.444
Tyrone	86	3.4%	1860	55	6.1%	1.564
Mayo	69	2.7%	1856-57	3	0.3%	23.000
Donegal	68	2.7%	1857	12	1.3%	5.667
Wexford	62	2.5%	1853	30	3.3%	2.067
Fermanagh	55	2.2%	1862	32	3.6%	1.719
Roscommon	51	2.0%	1857-58	12	1.3%	4.250
Westmeath	42	1.7%	1854	13	1.4%	3.231
Antrim	37	1.5%	1861-62	22	2.4%	1.682
Armagh	33	1.3%	1864	17	1.9%	1.941
Longford	33	1.3%	1854	9	1.0%	3.667
Carlow	30	1.2%	1852-53	14	1.6%	2.143
Londonderry/Derry	30	1.2%	1858-59	12	1.3%	2.500
Wicklow	30	1.2%	1852-53	11	1.2%	2.727
Kildare	28	1.1%	1851	18	2.0%	1.556
Louth	26	1.0%	1854	36	4.0%	0.722
Meath	26	1.0%	1855	22	2.4%	1.182
Cavan	22	0.9%	1856-57	7	0.8%	3.143
Leitrim	22	0.9%	1856	5	0.6%	4.400
Offaly/Kings	20	0.8%	1864	1	0.1%	20.000
Sligo	19	0.8%	1858	6	0.7%	3.167
Kerry	17	0.7%	1852	9	1.0%	1.889
Monaghan	13	0.5%	1858-60	1	0.1%	13.000
Laois (Queen's)	0	0.0%	1858-60	9	1.0%	0.000
Total	2516			898		

The McGraths of Ireland 1848-1864



Comparison of Surname Distribution Patterns between 1650 and 1850

County Clare

The Castle at Islandmagrath was reported to be in the possession of a MacCraith as late as 1574¹²¹. Pre -1641 distributions show no “McGraths” as landowners in all of County Clare. Islandmagrath was probably lost when Henry VIII took over the church lands of Ireland including Clareabbey in the mid 1550’s. This event probably led to the gradual migration of the MacCraiths into County Tipperary. A McGrath sept had earlier migrated to here and had already established themselves around Dungarvan in County Waterford. Although the McGrath lands finally wound up in the possession of the Earl of Thomond (O’Brien) some members of the clan appear to have remained in the area after the dissolution of the monasteries and the churches.

Post –1641 surname distributions (~1654) reflect the arrival (transplantations) of Miler Magrath’s descendants into County Clare. They had forfeited their lands in Counties Tipperary and Limerick and were given smaller parcels, according to their needs, in Clare. Edmond Magrath of Ballymore, who had spied for the English during the Cromwellian war, appealed the forfeiture of his lands in County Tipperary and was granted back some of his former lands. He received 800 acres at Ballymore, barony of Clonoulty, County Tipperary. However, he appears to have remained in Co. Clare and retained his lands there, finally dying there in 1683 with his son Redmond inheriting his lands.

1855 – The surname Magrath is sparsely represented in this county as compared to the surname McGrath. The highest concentrations (McGrath) were in the western tip of the county and in the northeastern portion of the county. Those in the northeastern part of the county, especially the parishes of Tulla and Feakle, probably contain a large number of the descendants of Miler McGrath. The western portion of Co. Clare was essentially deserted after the end of the Rebellion of 1641. The McGrath’s in the western part of the county in 1855 are probably descendants of one or more of Miler Magrath’s sons who were transplanted to that portion of the county in the 1650’s.

County Tipperary

The pre – 1641 and 1850 surname distribution maps for Tipperary are very similar. This could be attributed to the fact that the “peasant” class was allowed to remain on the land during the Cromwellian transplantations. The thinking was that if the Irish gentry and priests were removed to the Province of Connaught then there would be no one to incite and lead the peasantry in revolt.

Another line of reasoning, based on the Hearth Survey of the 1650’s, was that even though the people were removed from the land they soon returned. The

new English landowners needed people to work the estates and in some cases the English simply abandoned their new lands and returned to England.

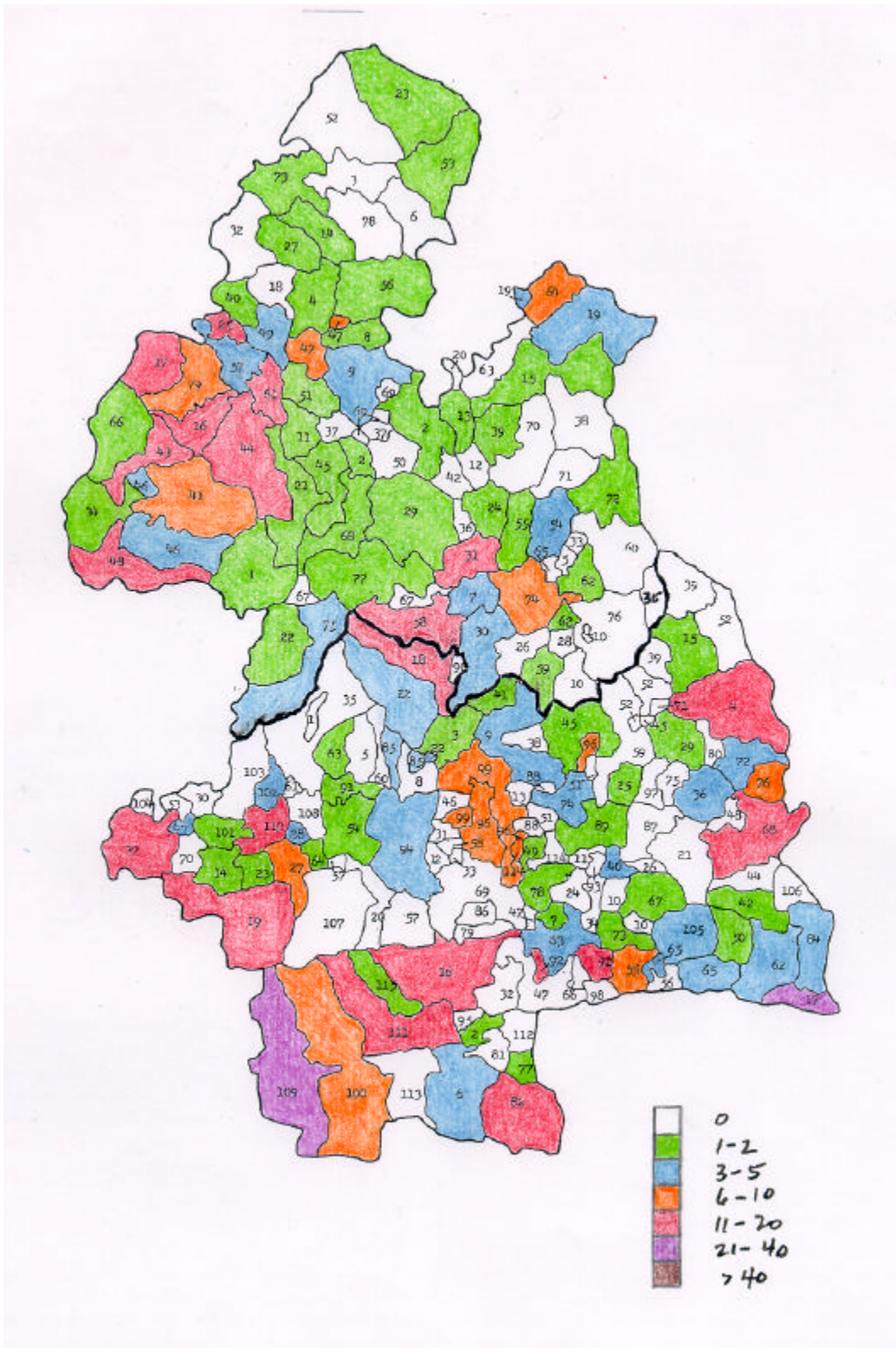
County Waterford

The post – 1641 (~1660) and 1850 surname distribution maps were fairly similar. County Waterford seems to have enjoyed more stability than the lands to the north. An examination needs to be made for the purpose of determining the role of the Earl of Cork in the functioning and stability of the region.

Summary

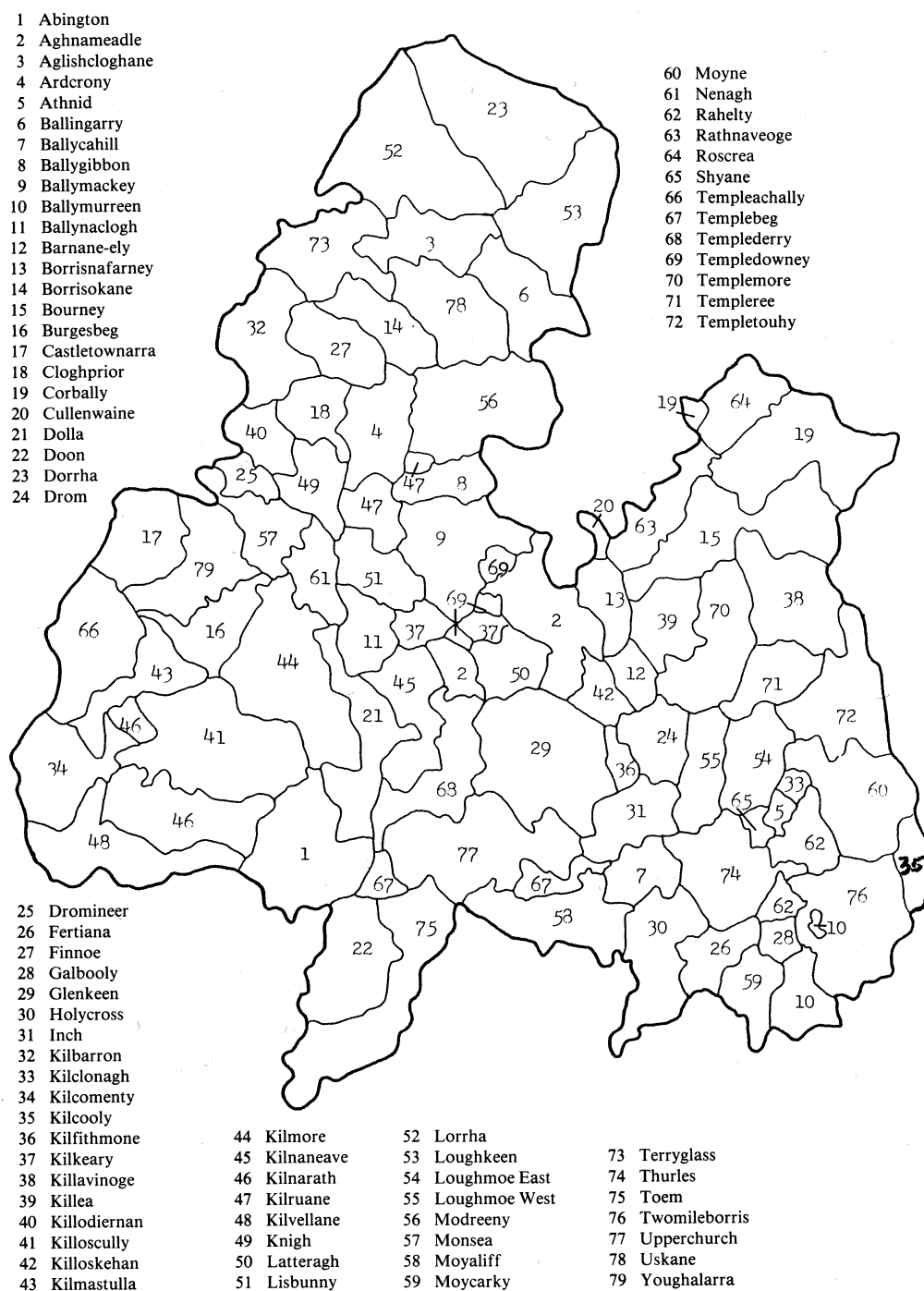
Despite the upheavals brought on by the forfeitures of the Cromwellian transplantations after the Rebellion of 1641 and the Williamite rising the Irish tended to cling to their homelands. In most cases their situations had changed from that of owners to renters of their former lands. The 1850 population maps demonstrate a persistence of the Irish people in their striking similarity to the 1640 population maps.

The highest concentration of “McGraths” (all the surnames variations taken together) in the central part of Co. Tipperary are in the parishes of Moyaliff and Clogher. This is in the region of Miler’s original land holdings in the parishes of Clonoulty and Upperchurch. These lands were inherited by Miler’s grandson Marcus of Bleane (son of Brien Magrath, deceased in 1640) and Sir John Magrath (son of Sir Terlogh Magrath, died in 1627).

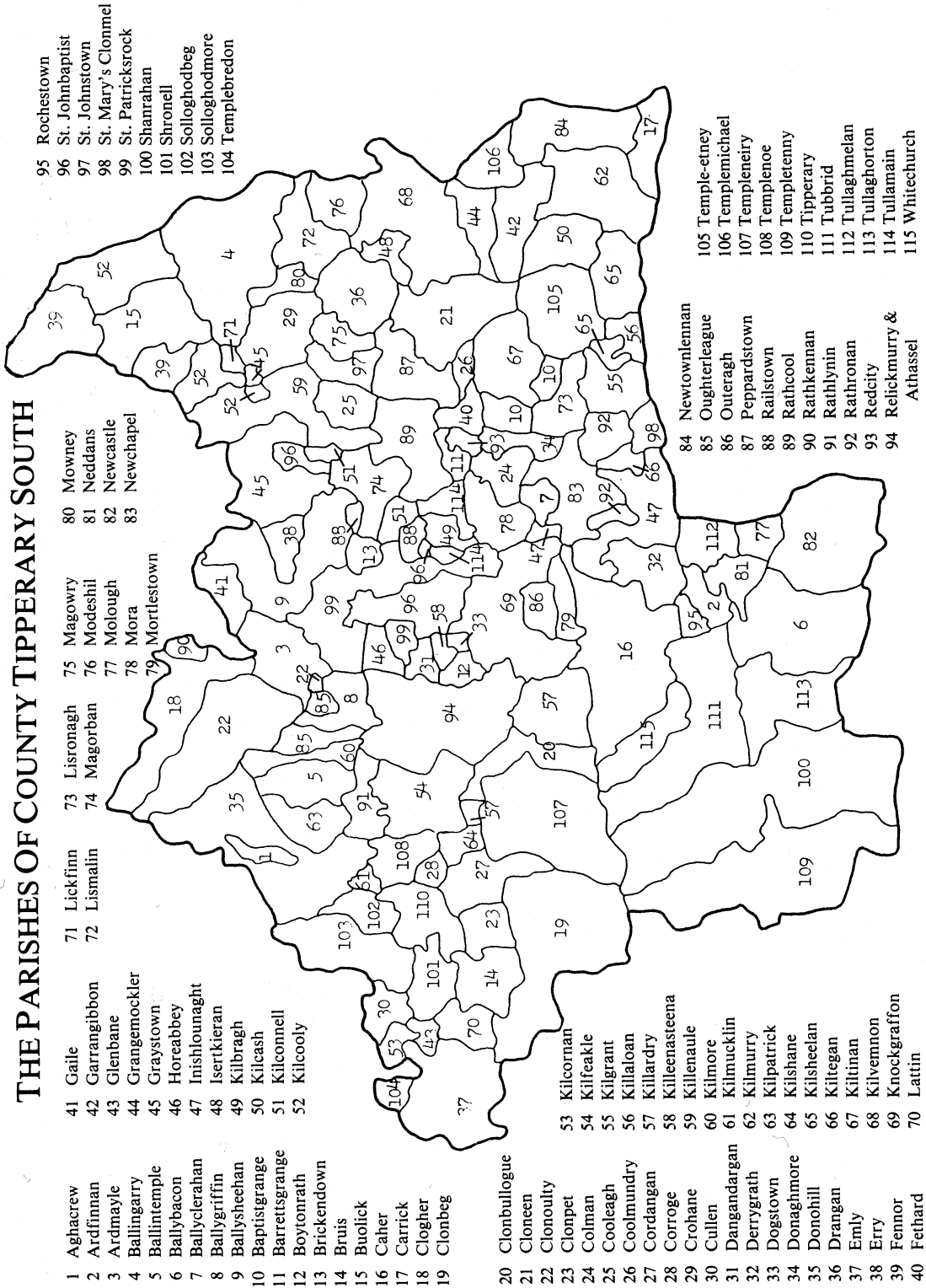


The Griffith's Valuation data for McGrath and Magrath for County Tipperary

THE PARISHES OF COUNTY TIPPERARY NORTH



THE PARISHES OF COUNTY TIPPERARY SOUTH



- 95 Rochestown
- 96 St. Johnbaptist
- 97 St. Johnstown
- 98 St. Mary's Clommel
- 99 St. Patrick'srock
- 100 Shanrahan
- 101 Shronell
- 102 Solloghobeg
- 103 Solloghodomore
- 104 Templebredon

- 80 Mowney
- 81 Neddans
- 82 Newcastle
- 83 Newchapel

- 75 Magowry
- 76 Modeshil
- 77 Molough
- 78 Mora
- 79 Morlestown

- 73 Lisronagh
- 74 Magorban

- 71 Lickfinn
- 72 Lismalin

- 41 Gaile
- 42 Garrangibbon
- 43 Glenbane
- 44 Grangemockler
- 45 Graystown
- 46 Horeabbey
- 47 Inishlounaght
- 48 Isertkieran
- 49 Kilbragh
- 50 Kilcash
- 51 Kilconnell
- 52 Kilcooly

- 1 Aghacrew
- 2 Ardfinnan
- 3 Ardmayle
- 4 Ballingarry
- 5 Ballintemple
- 6 Ballybacon
- 7 Ballyclerahan
- 8 Ballygriffin
- 9 Ballysheehan
- 10 Baptistgrange
- 11 Barrettsgrange
- 12 Boytonrath
- 13 Brickendown
- 14 Bruis
- 15 Buolick
- 16 Caher
- 17 Carrick
- 18 Clogher
- 19 Clonbeg

- 20 Clonbullogue
- 21 Cloneen
- 22 Clonoulty
- 23 Clonpet
- 24 Colman
- 25 Cooleagh
- 26 Coolmundry
- 27 Cordangan
- 28 Corroge
- 29 Crohane
- 30 Cullen
- 31 Dangandargan
- 32 Derrygrath
- 33 Dogstown
- 34 Donaghmore
- 35 Donohill
- 36 Drangan
- 37 Emly
- 38 Erry
- 39 Fennor
- 40 Fethard

- 53 Kilcornan
- 54 Kilfeakle
- 55 Kilgrant
- 56 Killaloe
- 57 Killardry
- 58 Killeenasteena
- 59 Killenaule
- 60 Kilmore
- 61 Kilmucklin
- 62 Kilmurry
- 63 Kilpatrick
- 64 Kilshean
- 65 Kilshegan
- 66 Kiltegan
- 67 Kiltinan
- 68 Kilvemnon
- 69 Knockgraffon
- 70 Lattin

- 84 Newtownlennan
- 85 Oughterleague
- 86 Outeragh
- 87 Peppardstown
- 88 Ralstown
- 89 Rathcool
- 90 Rathkennan
- 91 Rathlymin
- 92 Rathronan
- 93 Redcity
- 94 Relickmurry & Athassel

- 105 Temple-etney
- 106 Templemichael
- 107 Templeiry
- 108 Templeoe
- 109 Templetenny
- 110 Tipperary
- 111 Tubbrid
- 112 Tullaghmelan
- 113 Tullaghorton
- 114 Tullainin
- 115 Whitechurch

CHAPTER XII – The Upperchurch Area

McGraths of Upperchurch Roman Catholic Parish

The following individuals are currently believed to be the grandparents and great-grandparents of Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch. The graves of Mary McGrath and Margaret McGrath were found in the Moyaliff (Civil) Parish Graveyard, Townland of Drumdiha, Upperchurch RC Parish.

The Upperchurch R.C. Parish is made up of the Pre-Reformation parishes of Upperchurch, Templebeg and Moyaliff. The townlands of Gleninchaveigh and Drumdiha are located within the Upperchurch RC parish. The baptismal and marriage records commence in 1829 - therefore this cannot be a source for the baptismal record of Edmond W. McGrath. The year 1829 was the year in which the Roman Catholics obtained complete emancipation in Ireland, therefore it is no wonder that parish records did not exist prior to this date.

The Family History Center in Nenagh, County Tipperary sent me information on any McGraths that they found. These were all the McGraths that they were able to find in the three graveyards in the Upperchurch R.C. Parish.

Moyaliff

Mary McGrath als Banan was born in 1743; d. 1792 (Joseph McGrath)

Thomas McGrath was born in 1781; d. 1817 (Moras McGrath, father)

Margaret Dwyer McGrath was born in 1763; d. 1823 (William, husband)

Daniel McGrath was born in 1812; d. 1892

Winifred McGrath was born in 1864; d. 1872 (daughter)

John McGrath was born in 1927; d. 1969 (Pauline [Ryan], wife)

Upperchurch

Mary McGrath was born in 1804 (mother); d. 1869 (Patrick, husband)

William McGrath was born in 1847 (son); d. 1874

Templebeg

Ellen Ryan nee McGrath was born in 1864; d. 1937 (mother)

Matty Ryan was born in 1905; d. 1971 (son)

Willie Ryan was born in 1904; d. 1978 (son)

The third entry in the Moyaliff Cemetery is of considerable interest

Margaret Dwyer McGrath, d. **July 7, 1823**, aged 60 years
Erected by William McGrath (Husband)

These people are possibly Edmond William McGrath's grandparents on his father's side (Michael McGrath).

- Margaret Dwyer McGrath died about 10 years after Edmond was born at age 60 years. Her age is consistent with someone who could be his grandmother.
- Edmond and his two sons, Michael and John, all have the same middlename of William. This would imply that there was someone named William of some prominence in the family. Margaret's husband was named William.
- Edmond's oldest child was a daughter named Margaret, born in 1842. She could be named for a great-grandmother named Margaret.
- Margaret Dwyer McGrath is buried in the Moyaliff Graveyard, which is located in the civil parish of Moyaliff in the Upperchurch RC parish. The townland of Drumdiha, where Edmond was living when his two oldest children, Margaret and Michael, were baptized is also in the civil parish of Moyaliff.
- Note that Margaret's husband William was not found to be buried anywhere in these three graveyards in the Upperchurch R.C. Parish.

The first entry in the Moyaliff Cemetery is also of interest

Mary McGrath was born in 1743; **d. 1792** (Joseph McGrath)

- Joseph was the name of a grandfather back in Ireland.
- Mary lived in approximately the right time period to be a mother of the William McGrath, husband of Margaret above.
- The scarcity of McGraths in this region increases the probability that Mary is related to William.
- Note Mary's husband Joseph (since he erected her gravestone) was not found to be buried anywhere in these three graveyards in the Upperchurch R.C. Parish.

Since McGrath was not a common name in the Upperchurch area it is quite possible that all the McGraths found in the various Upperchurch Roman Catholic

Parish cemeteries were related. As an exercise all these names can be fitted together according to their generation. The results are shown in the table below.

Generation 1	Generation 2	Generation 3	Generation 4	Generation 5
<i>Joseph McGrath</i> Mary McGrath 1743-1792	<i>William McGrath</i> (husband) Margaret (Dwyer) McGrath (wife) 1763-1823	Michael McGrath	Edmond McGrath 1813-1899 Mary Ryan McGrath 1810-1899	Margaret McGrath 1842-? Michael William McGrath 1843-1923 John William McGrath 1844-1926
			<i>Patrick McGrath</i> (husband) Mary McGrath (mother) 1804-1869	William McGrath (son) 1847-1874
	<i>Moras McGrath</i> (father)	Thomas McGrath (son) 1781-1817	Daniel McGrath (father) 1812-1892	Winifred McGrath (daughter) 1864-1872 Ellen Ryan Nee McGrath (mother) 1864-1937

Entries in **Bold** are persons buried in one of the Upperchurch cemeteries.

Entries in *Italics* are persons mentioned on the gravestones in one of the Upperchurch cemeteries.

Entries in parenthesis are relationships indicated by gravestone inscriptions.

We know from Edmond's death certificate that his father's name was Michael. From Edmond's Poor House Registration form, filed Aug. 16, 1892, we know that Edmond was born in Upperchurch, County Tipperary. Therefore his father, Michael, was living in Upperchurch in the time period 1811-1813 when Edmond was born. However, no record of Michael has been found so far and he isn't buried in any of the three graveyards in the Upperchurch R.C. Parish. In 1830 Edmond would have been between 17-19 years old and might have been out on his own but more likely was still living at home. The Tithe Applotment Book for ~1830 listed Philip Magrath as the only person of that surname in the entire Upperchurch Parish. Strangely enough Philip doesn't show up in any of the parish graveyards either.

William McGrath could be the father of Michael because of their relative ages and because Edmond, Michael and John all had William as a middle name. William's wife was named Margaret as was Edmond's only daughter. This is evidence, although not rock solid evidence, for William being Edmond McGrath's grandfather.

Edmond's son John also had a son named John with a middle name of Joseph. In a document called "The McGraw Family Tree" that was compiled from conversations with present day relatives a comment is made that "Joseph was the name of a grandfather in Ireland." This makes a good case for the Joseph McGrath, mentioned on Mary McGrath's gravestone, being Edmond McGrath's great-grandfather.

From a copy of Edmond's son Michael William's baptismal record we find sponsors John Magrath and Ally Sweeney. This John could be a brother or a cousin. There is no John Magrath (or McGrath) in any of the Upperchurch Parish graveyards. Later we will see that there were 3 John Magraths that showed up in the civil parish of Moyaliff.

The sequence of Moras, Thomas, Daniel, Patrick and Winifred may or may not be related to Michael McGrath. They have been included only because they are buried in one of the Upperchurch graveyards and their ages and birth dates are such that they fit a generational pattern. Moras and Thomas are father and son. Daniel and Winifred are father and daughter but there is no evidence in support of the other relationships.

This is a summary of what is known about Joseph, William, Michael and Margaret who are still among the missing.

- Joseph - Definitely died after 1792 and probably died around 1800. Too early for any church records since the Irish Roman Catholics were not emancipated until the 1820's and not fully emancipated until 1829. The Tithe Applotment records don't start until about 1826.
- William - Lived to at least 1823 and quite possibly longer but his name doesn't appear in the Tithe Applotment Records.
- Michael - He probably lived from about 1785 until about 1860. If he was living in the Upperchurch area his name should have appeared in the Tithe Applotment books and the Primary Valuation Records. However, his name appears in neither. Neither he nor his wife are buried in any of the graveyards in the Upperchurch R.C. Parish.
- Margaret - The only record that I am aware of on Margaret is Doug Currie's mention of her baptism on June 27, 1842 at Upperchurch while the family was living in the townland of Drumdiha, civil parish of Moyaliff, Co. Tipperary. That information came in a letter from J. O'Meara, parish priest at Upperchurch, who found the reference to Margaret in the parish baptismal records. The passenger list of the *British Queen* doesn't list a Margaret traveling with her mother and her two brothers. If she had died during the voyage that fact would have been recorded by the ship's master. A more probable scenario is that she died during the Great Famine, possibly during the cholera epidemic of 1849 and may be buried in a mass grave with the other epidemic victims.

Some key links that need to be established are:

- Show William McGrath had a son named Michael (Edmond's father)
- Show that William McGrath's father was Joseph.
- Show that Joseph McGrath had a son named William
- Establish a link, if it exists, between William and Joseph and the Magraths of Killbarron.

The Banans of Ireland

This was just a first quick stab at checking out Mary Banan McGrath's ancestors. The following individuals are the only persons with the surname of Banan found in the entire Index to Griffith's Valuation of Ireland, which contains over one million names.

Edward Banan was found in the townland of Tara, parish of Durrow, county of Offaly/Kings. Martin Banan was in the townland of Course, parish of Killosohan, county of Galway. Patrick Banan was in the townland of Ballynahinch, parish of Cashel, county of Longford.

In the townland of Windmill or Black Islands, parish of Enniscoffey, county of Westmeath were Edward, Esther, James and Mary Banan.

Bordering Northern Tipperary on the northeast is the county of Offaly (Kings) [1864], north of that is Westmeath [1854] and then Longford [1854] is on the northern border of Westmeath. The southeastern corner of Galway [1855] borders the northern tip of Northern Tipperary and the western border of Offaly (Kings). The persons in the listing given above were the only Banan surnames occurring in the entire Index to Griffith's Valuation. The numbers in the [...] are the years in which the Griffith's Valuation surveys were submitted for the named counties.

Mary Banan McGrath's husband is believed to be the Joseph McGrath who erected her grave marker. She was born in 1743 and died in 1792. There were about 100 years and a devastating famine between the time when William would have met Mary and the time when the Griffith's Valuation captured the Banan's listed above. I haven't followed the Banan trail any further because my main interest here is to search out a possible connection with other Magrath/McGrath families in the area.

The name Dwyer is found throughout Ireland, however the name is also found to show up in the Griffith's Valuation Index for the civil parish of Moyaliff. William Dwyer is listed as occupying the townland of Allengort, parish of Moyaliff. Since this was not the main trail of this research this lead was not pursued further.

Ryans in Gleninchaveigh

Evidence from the Civil Survey of 1654

The Civil Survey of 1654 was a preliminary survey carried out after the end of the Rebellion of 1641. Its purpose was to determine the ownership of the land at the beginning of the Rebellion for the purpose of determining which lands would be confiscated by the English Crown.

At that time Upperchurch was called Tampleoughteragh and the townland of Gleninchaveigh was called Glyssinivie and consisted of about 150 acres. The owners of this townland were John Ryan, Teige Ryan and Daniell Ryan, all of Glissinniue (Gleninchaveigh) and all were Irish Catholics or Papists as they were then called. They had inherited these lands from their ancestors.

Evidence from the Tithe Applotment Books ~ 1828

There are three persons listed in the townland of Glaninchnagee (Glaninchnaveigh, now Glown) in the Tithe Applotments Books for the Civil Parish of Upperchurch. These were Philip Ryan, Ellen Ryan and John Kennedy. The entry for Ellen Ryan is written over the entry of John Ryan, which had been crossed out. This was the tradition when the husband died and the widow took possession of the land formerly occupied by her husband. The entry for Ellen was written in a darker manner over the original entry of Eleanor, which was written in a lighter and barely visible manner. When "tracing" over the original lighter entry Eleanor was changed to Ellen. I believe this was in error since in the Griffith's Valuation (1851) entry for Glaninchnaveigh Eleanor is still occupying this townland.

Quarter of Glaninchnagee = 100 a.	Patrick Kennedy	3	1	2
	Edmund Kennedy	3	1	2
	Matthew Ryan	10	1	
	Thomas Ryan	54	2	8
	Philip Ryan	11	3	20
	Ellen Ryan	19	3	16
	John Ryan	31	2	14
	John Kennedy	31	2	14
	Thomas Quinlan	7	2	18
	Catherine Widow Edmund Ryan	31	2	14
	Eleanor Widow John Michael	1	3	4
	Denis Ryan	2	2	1
Thomas Ryan	31	2	28	
Edward Ryan	1	1	1	

Figure 7-1 A portion of the Tithe Applotment Books for Upperchurch, Co. Tipperary ~1828 showing the Ryans of Glaninchnaveigh. Note that John is crossed out and Ellen is written in. Although it is difficult to see the name Eleanor is written below the name Ellen.

You will notice that several entries below the one for Eleanor Ryan there are entries for "Widow Edmund Ryan" and "Widow Brien Michael." The use of the word widow would indicate that the husband's of these ladies were already dead at the time of the Tithe Applotment survey in 1828. At the time of the survey Eleanor's entry read "John Ryan" indicating that he was alive at the time of the survey. At some later date someone went through and entered the names of the women who had previously only been listed as "widow." During the intervening period John Ryan had died and so his first name was crossed out and the name Eleanor written in above it. At some still later date someone went through the survey to go over the earlier changes since they had been written very lightly. It was at this time the entry "Eleanor" was changed to "Ellen."

The fact that Eleanor's husband was named John is important because it fits with the Irish tradition of naming the second born son after the maternal grandfather. Edmond and Mary McGrath's second born son was named John and they were living in Gleninchaveigh when John was baptized at Upperchurch on June 24, 1844.

At the time of the Tithe Applotment survey their holdings in Gleninchaveigh were:

Philip Ryan	11A. 3R. 20P.
Eleanor Ryan	19A. 3R. 6P.
John Kennedy	31A. 2R. 24P.

Evidence from the 1851 Griffith's Valuation

According to the Griffith's Valuation Index there were only four persons listed for the townland of Gleninchaveigh (now Glown) in the Parish of Upperchurch. Although they are not shown in the index the actual Griffith's Valuation documents show that two persons named Kennedy shared a portion of the townland of Gleninchaveigh with these Ryans. They are quite possibly related to the Kennedys who were living in this townland when the Tithe Applotment survey was taken in about 1828.

The Ryan listings for the townland of Gleninchaveigh were

- Ryan, Eleanor
- Ryan, Jeremiah
- Ryan, Martin
- Ryan, Patrick

Some cautions are in order: Griffith's Valuation was carried out for taxation purposes - it was not a census. If a person occupied land in more than one

townland then his name would show up multiple times. Also only the head of a household or family was recorded and not all the family members. Therefore each occurrence of a name represents one or more actual individuals occupying that parcel of land.

Gleninchnaveigh was the townland where Mary Ryan was born. It is the same place where she was living with her husband Edmond McGrath when their son John William was baptized at the Roman Catholic Church in Upperchurch on June 24, 1844. Sponsors were Patrick Ryan and Mary Ryan. This is very likely the Patrick listed above and is probably one of Mary's brothers. The female sponsor, Mary Ryan, is probably Patrick's wife since we know the names of Mary's sisters were Catherine and Margaret and her parents wouldn't have given two of their daughters the same name.

In an article called "A New Day for Ireland" in the April, 1981 issue of National Geographic magazine there were a few paragraphs about a man named Con Ryan. He was a dairy farmer living in the townland of Glown (Gleninchnaveigh) just west of Upperchurch. The townland was 113 acres in size and contained four houses that were built by his great-great-grandmother early in the last century for her four sons, according to the article. Since there were only four Ryans listed in the Griffith's Valuation for Glown in 1851 it is reasonable to assume that Eleanor Ryan was Con's great-great-grandmother and Jeremiah, Martin and Patrick were three of Eleanor's four sons. We had earlier speculated that Patrick was Mary Ryan's brother and now given Con Ryan's information it appears that Eleanor might be Mary's mother. Shirley Maloney had found this article back in 1981 and had written to Con but never received an answer. I also sent a letter to Con Ryan telling him about some of the more recent information that I had found but never received an answer.

In the actual Griffith Valuation, not the index, there is more information such as a Map Reference, the name of the Immediate Lessor, description of the holding, Area and Valuation. The Map Reference refers to a set of maps that were made to accompany the original valuation. Even without the maps these Map References can be used to establish associations and relationships. Upon examining the entries for the townland of Gleninchnaveigh it was noticed that the Index had missed a couple people. There was a Mary and Patrick Kennedy who were occupying 28 acres of the total of 113 acres in the townland. The remaining 85 acres were occupied by the Ryans with the immediate lessor of all the lands in this townland being John Armstrong, Esq. This might be the owner of the land or one of the notorious middlemen of that era. Parcel 3 has Eleanor, Martin and Patrick Ryan as occupants with the value of their holdings rated at £16.5s.0d, £4.15s.0d and £5.15s.0d respectively. The larger size of Eleanor's holding relative to Martin's and Patrick's would be consistent with Eleanor being their mother. This is consistent with Con Ryan's story in the National Geographic

about his great-great grandmother. He said that it was she who built cabins for her four sons and he made no mention of his great-great grandfather.

In Parcel 2, which is probably adjacent to Parcel 3, the occupant was Jeremiah Ryan and the size of his holding was about 19 acres. This is probably one of Eleanor's sons given the proximity of the two parcels of land and given that there seems to be no husband of Eleanor's in the picture. If Jeremiah were Eleanor's husband we would have seen his name on the holding that had her name.

The size of these holdings would indicate that these Ryans were not in the poorer class of farmer whose holdings were usually in the sub-acre category. Another observation about the land parcels in the Thurles Poor Law Union, where Upperchurch and Moyaliff are located, is that there were very few vacant parcels. One of the sad characteristics of the famine was the wholesale clearing of the peasants from the estate lands to avoid the payment of the Poor Law rates by the landowners. Possibly there weren't as many persons forced off their land, in this region, during the Great Famine. Perhaps the persons who remained took over the vacated parcels or perhaps new persons moved in during the years immediately after the famine is uncertain at this time. Since this survey was conducted in late 1850 and early 1851, several years after the end of the famine, it isn't possible to say much more based on just this information.

Based on this analysis we can say with a great amount of certainty that we have found Mary Ryan's parents. We therefore place these individuals in the working version of Edmond McGrath's family tree.

It is significant that Edmond and Mary were living in Gleninchaveigh when their third child, son John William was baptized, on June 24, 1844. This was the townland of Mary Ryan's parents. The reason for Edmond and Mary leaving Drumdiha and relocating to Gleninchaveigh is unknown. The beginning of the Potato Famine the following year, in 1845, may be responsible for their not having a larger family. It would have made sense for Mary to remain with her parents when Edmond traveled to America in the fall of 1848. She could have been still living in the same townland with them at the time of Edmond's departure. It would be two years before Mary and the rest of the family would join Edmond in America.

Conclusions

It would appear that we have found Mary Ryan's parents and that we are indeed related to Con Ryan from the National Geographic article (1981).

Since Michael and John were named after their paternal and maternal grandfathers, respectively, according to the Irish naming tradition, we can

confidently assume that their sister Margaret was named after her paternal grandmother. Therefore Edmond's mother was most likely named Margaret.

Recently I discovered a Michael McGrath living in the town of Moyaliff, in the civil parish of Moyaliff, according to the Tithe Applotment Books for the parish of Moyaliff. The survey was conducted in approximately 1828. Moyaliff is adjacent to the civil parish of Upperchurch on the southeast and the town of Moyaliff is just a few miles east of Drumdiha (also in Moyaliff parish). This is where Edmond and Mary were living when their first two children were born.

Ryans in Drumdiha

In the townland of Drumdiha, Parish of Moyaliff, the Valuation listed six persons:

Perkin, Eleanor
Ryan, Daniel
Ryan, Edward
Ryan, Michael
Ryan, Owen
Ryan, Timothy

Drumdiha (189 a: 2 r: 31 p in size) was the townland where Edmond and Mary were living when their children Margaret and Michael were baptized in the Roman Catholic Church in Upperchurch on June 27, 1842 and November 19, 1843 respectively. Margaret's sponsors were Michael and Bridget Ryan. Michael is probably the person listed above and might be a brother or cousin and Bridget is probably Michael's wife. Michael McGrath's sponsors were John McGrath [check spelling] and Ally Sweeney. John could be a brother of Edmond's so I placed his name in the working version of the family tree.

When Edmond and Mary Ryan were married in the Roman Catholic Church in Upperchurch on (Wednesday?) September 1, 1841 their witnesses were Rody Ryan and Daniel Ryan. Daniel may be the Daniel Ryan listed above as residing in Drumdiha and could be a brother or cousin of Mary's. It is a little odd that one of them was not a McGrath/Magrath.

Magraths in Moyaliff

Just south of Upperchurch is the civil parish of Moyaliff and although there are no McGraths found in this parish the Griffith's Valuation Index lists 13 Magraths. Listed after the name of the townland is the size of the holding occupied by each person. The meaning of the numbers are (acres: rods: perches)

NAME	TOWNLAND	ACRES:RODS:PERCHES
Magrath, Thomas	Allengort	12:1:0
Magrath, Philip	Clareen	3:0:29
Magrath, Philip	Coolkill	17:1:38
Magrath, John	Coolnamoney	3:1:12
Magrath, James	Dooree Commons	21:0:21
Magrath, Jeremiah	Drumbane	6:2:36
Magrath, Thomas	Drumbane	11:0:37
Magrath, John	Drumminphilip	52:2:0
Magrath, John	Gortahoola	30:2:3
Magrath, Thomas	Knockacarhanduff Commons	2:1:28
Magrath, Mary	Moyaliff	38:1:12
Magrath, Philip & Thomas	Roskeen	9:2:32
Magrath, Philip & Thomas	Roskeen	4:2:20

A John Magrath was one of the sponsors for the baptism of Edmond and Mary's son Michael William. He might be in the list above.

In the townland of Moyaliff, civil parish of Moyaliff, there was a **Mary Magrath** occupying Parcel 4a. The Immediate Lessor was John Armstrong, Esq. Mary's holdings consisted of about 38 acres on land valued at £26.5s.0d and a house and office valued at £2. On the same parcel was Michael Ryan on 4b and Thomas Ryan on 4c. Their holdings were 2r.3p and 1r.30p in size and valued at £2.10s and £2.5s respectively.

When a woman's name was shown as the occupant of a parcel of land in this survey it usually meant her husband was not around – being either deceased or having left the country. There is a slight possibility that this Mary is Edmond McGrath's wife and she was occupying their land while Edmond had gone on ahead to America. There is the Magrath/McGrath name variation to resolve and the timing issue. The surname will be discussed elsewhere and the timing issue will be handled here. The Valuation for the county of Tipperary was submitted on 15 August 1851. We know that Mary McGrath and her sons Michael and John arrived in New York City aboard the *British Queen* on 7 November 1850. They probably left the Moyaliff area around mid-September 1850 to begin their journey to America. It remains to be determined when the actual survey was carried out in the Moyaliff area that will determine if this Mary Magrath could be Edmond's wife.

There was a Michael Ryan who was a sponsor at the baptism of Edmond and Mary's daughter Margaret the Michael Ryan occupying Parcel 4b might be that Michael.

The following individual was found in the Griffith's Primary Valuation for Upperchurch (1851)

Thomas McGrath, of Finnahy, leased about 8 acres from Joseph Hanley, Esq. The land was valued at 4£10s and the building(s) at 10s. Finnahy [827 acres: 2 rods: 17 perches] is located in the civil parish of Upperchurch in the barony of Kilnamanagh Upper.

The following individual was found in the Tithe Applotment Book (~1830)

Philip Magrath, of Ballyboy, "held" a little over 9 acres. This document is hand written and Upperchurch was written "Upper Church." The townland of Ballyboy [523 acres: 2 rods: 15 perches] is located in the civil parish of Upperchurch in the barony of Kilnamanagh Upper.

Analysis:

It is possible that these two versions of the surname were used interchangeably. For example, in a letter from Father James O'Meara, parish priest at Upperchurch, dated 16 April 1988 he writes "Edmund Magrath." In a copy of a 1913 certification of Baptismal Register information about John McGrath's baptism on 24 June, 1844 the name is written "Edmond McGrath."

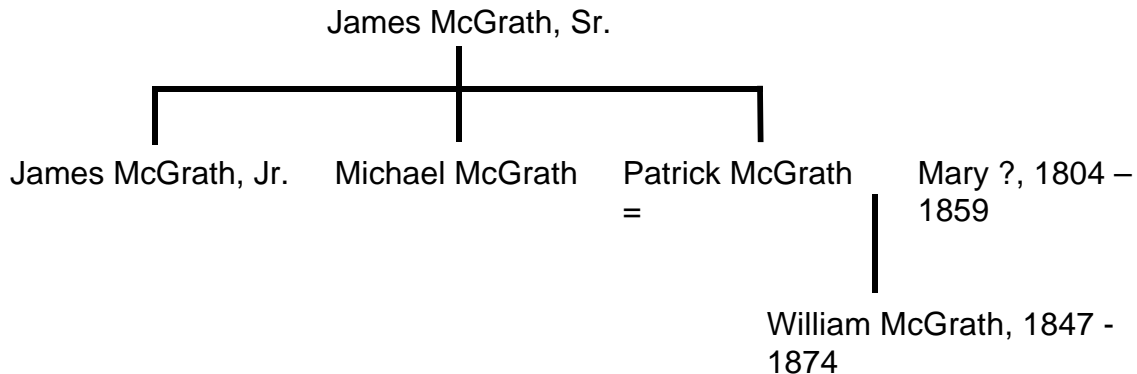
In the Civil Survey of 1654 for Tipperary the "McGraths" can be grouped into three families. One was Miler Magrath's descendents in central Tipperary, another was a family listed as McCragh in northwest Tipperary while a third family was listed as McCragh and was in the Cahir area.

McGraths in Turraheen Lower, Parish of Clogher

Bordering Moyaliff on the south is the civil parish of Clogher. The Griffith's Valuation for the parish of Clogher shows nine (9) listings for McGraths, all in the townland of Turraheen Lower. This particular townland is just across the Turraheen River from Drumdiha, in the parish of Moyaliff. Drumdiha is the townland where Edmond and Mary McGrath were living when their first two children were baptized at Upperchurch. The listing of persons in Turraheen Lower is as follows

Map Coordinate	Name	Size (Acres)
3A & 3B	Mary McGrath	18
6	Thomas McGrath	23
8	Philip McGrath	28
9A & 9B	Patrick McGrath (Jas.)	12
21, 22	Michael McGrath (Jas.)	23
24Aa & 24B	James McGrath, Jr.	71
24Ab & 25	Michael McGrath (Edw.)	< 1
30A	Patrick McGrath	16
59	James McGrath, Jr. James McGrath, Sr. Patrick McGrath (Jas.)	10
17a	Michael McGrath	3

Some of these individuals from the table above can be grouped into the following pedigree. The addition of Mary McGrath as Patrick's wife is from inscriptions found in the Moyaliff graveyard and is only included as a possibility.



In addition to these relationships shown above there is also an Edward McGrath and his son Michael McGrath. The geographical closeness of these two concentrations of McGraths/Magraths would suggest that they are probably related although the hard evidence of such relationships is lacking at this time.

The Fate of Edmond and Mary McGrath's daughter Margaret

The fate of Mary and Edmond's daughter Margaret has been a mystery. Since she didn't travel to America with Mary, Michael and John in 1850 it is assumed

that she died as a result of the famine or perhaps she was a victim of the cholera epidemic. The first cases appeared in December 1848, having spread from England and then traveled across Ireland from the east coast to the west. There were 30,000 cholera deaths in Ireland in the year 1849 with children under 15 being especially vulnerable¹²².

The Tipperary Family History Society performed a survey, at my request, of the graveyards in the Upperchurch Roman Catholic parish. This consisted of the Templebeg, Moyaliff and Upperchurch cemeteries. Their survey turned up no Margaret McGrath that fit the age of Edmond and Mary's daughter.

During the height of the Great Famine large numbers of tenant families were being evicted from their homes for failure to pay rent. Homeless, they could try to enter the already over crowded workhouses and seek relief or they could slowly starve to death in the ditches along the roadside. Life in the workhouses was not always a reprieve but sometimes only a postponement of death from starvation or disease. The deaths in the workhouses were so numerous that individual burials in well-marked graves were a luxury that the times would not allow. Mass unmarked graves were the signature of the workhouses and today the sunken depressions near the former workhouse locations bear silent witness to the final resting places of the many nameless former workhouse residents.

Even their former homesteads offered no shelter. Once evicted the houses of the former tenants were "tumbled" – the roofs were removed and the walls knocked in. Since Mary Ryan's relatives were still in place, in Gleninchaveigh, at the end of the famine this fate doesn't appear to have befallen her family. In an epidemic the victims were usually buried quickly in an attempt to slow the spread of the disease. With the already large death tolls from the Workhouses and those dying along the roadsides the additional deaths from the cholera epidemic probably made private individual burials impractical during that time. It's quite possible that Margaret McGrath's baptismal entry, in the Upperchurch parish record, is the only trace that's left of her short existence.

The Parish Records

After using the Griffith's Valuation and Tithe Applotment surveys to establish the existence of family members in particular regions of Ireland it's time to move onto the parish records, where they exist.

The earliest Catholic parish records for County Clare begin in about 1815 as the Catholics were gradually allowed to practice their religion in the open once again. These records consist of Baptisms and Marriages and in the earliest cases are hand written and are seldom indexed. The baptismal records typically contain the date, the name of the child being baptized, the names of the father

and mother (plus maiden name), residence of mother and father, and the names of one or two sponsors. The marriage records contain even more information: the date of the ceremony, names of the husband, wife and one or two witnesses. In addition there is usually a residence given for each of these individuals, although this can vary somewhat from parish to parish. It takes a while to get accustomed to the handwriting but in a while it isn't too difficult to recognize the familiar patterns in the names you are searching for in the records.

The approach taken was to select a few specific parishes and to record every occurrence of a McGrath, Magrath or anything that looked like a McGrath. After awhile patterns begin to appear in the surnames and locations that allow family relationships to be reconstructed. If you're lucky maybe you might even find the names of the individuals that you were searching for in the first place. Miler Magrath's descendants were originally located in the parishes of Tulla (1819) and Feakle in County Clare. In addition, Islandmagrath, the ancestral lands of the MacCraiths, was located in the parish of Clare Abbey (now Clare Castle), which is also in County Clare in the Diocese of Killaloe. The number in parentheses indicates the year of the earliest records.

From our Edmond's side of the Shannon, in County Tipperary, whose most northern portion is part of the Diocese of Killaloe and the remainder is in the Diocese of Cashel, the parish of Upperchurch (1829) is the starting point. Interestingly these are two of the dioceses that figured most prominently in the history of the McGrath family. Many of the Bishops of Killaloe were descendants of the MacCraith's of Islandmagrath and Miler Magrath had been the Archbishop of Cashel.

An analysis of the distribution of the Magrath surname among the parishes in the Index of the Griffith's Valuation for County Tipperary was conducted. The civil parishes of Moyaliff, Kilmore and Dromineer were found to contain the highest concentrations of the surname. Moyaliff is in the Roman Catholic (RC) parish of Upperchurch, Kilmore is in the RC parish of Silvermines and Dromineer is in the RC parish of Cloghprior & Monsea. An analysis of the County Clare distribution of the surname Magrath shows only a few scattered occurrences of this surname variation in that county at the time of the Griffith's Valuation.

A similar analysis for the surname McGrath was also conducted. The distribution of the McGrath variation of the surname is similar to the distribution of the Magrath variation. The maximum occurrences, of both surname variations, were found in County Tipperary. The parish of Clogher, which is adjacent to Moyaliff, had 9 McGrath's. There is still uncertainty as to whether the different spellings are real or the survey recorders' renderings of their preferred variation. Some peculiarities show up in the distribution patterns – for instance, in a sea of occurrences of a particular surname variation there will be a parish where there are no occurrences of the variation. Here was a veritable island where none of

these surnamed people were found to be living. However, that particular parish would not be an empty island for another variation of the same surname. This would make the absences appear to be more an artifact due to the survey recorders' surname preferences rather than real surname variations.

See the detailed analysis of these surname distributions including parish maps of the counties of Northern and Southern Tipperary and Clare.

Conclusions

- Edmond McGrath is most probably descended from the Magrath's of the civil parish of Moyaliff, in the Roman Catholic Parish of Upperchurch, County Tipperary. Margaret Dwyer McGrath and Mary Banan McGrath, who are buried in the Moyaliff cemetery, are probably Edmond's grandmother and great-grandmother respectively. Edmond's immediate family appears to have been living in the civil parish of Moyaliff, Roman Catholic Parish of Upperchurch, County Tipperary in 1851. His ancestors had probably occupied land that area as far back as the mid 1700's.
- In 1641 there were several **McCragh families** living in the townland of Curraghduffe, civil parish of Killoskully & Killcomonty, barony of Arra and Owny, northwest of Upperchurch. These McCraghs don't appear to have been transplanted to the province of Connaught in the 1650s with most of the other Irish. Their names don't appear in the Book of Survey and Distribution for the Counties of Clare, Galway and Mayo, with the other transplanted families who received lands, according to their needs, to partially compensate for those lands that were taken from them. These confiscated lands went to the English soldiers and their officers in payment for their services.
- Around the same time (1641) there was a **Marcus Magrath**, son of Brian, son of Miler Magrath, who was living in the parish of Aghnamaydull (now Aghnameadle), barony of Upper Ormond. Marcus also owned land in the adjacent parishes of Ballymacky and Latheragh. These lands were just north of the civil parish of Upperchurch. These lands went to the English adventurers, who had purchased bonds to support the war, during the Cromwellian transplantation.
- **Edmond Magrath** owned 800 acres at Ballymore, parish of Clonoulty, Co. Tipperary in 1641. His land was taken from him and he was transplanted to the parish of Feakle, Co. Clare during the Cromwellian transplantations. The lands that Edmond received were listed earlier. Having been a spy for the English during the Rebellion of 1641 his new neighbors took to cutting down the trees on his property. Edmond appealed his transplantation to Cromwell

himself and received his 800 acres back again but he appears to have remained in Co. Clare, dying there in 1683. Ballymore is in the parish of Clonoulty, which is separated from the parish of Moyaliffe to the north by only the intervening parish of Clogher - the total distance between being only about 6 miles. It wasn't unusual for the expelled Irish to return to their former lands and in this case with the return of the land to Edmond perhaps some of the family moved back to Ballymore.

In 1851 the Griffith's Valuation there were 9 McGraths in the parish of Clogher and 12 Magraths in the adjoining parish of Moyaliff. The difference in the spelling of the surname is probably due to the survey taker and doesn't reflect the true spelling of the surname. The proximity of these parishes to the parish of Clonoulty provides a strong indication of a link between Edmond Magrath of Ballymore and Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch.

This increases the probability the Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch was descended from Edmond Magrath of Ballymore, who was a grandson of Miler Magrath, the notorious Archbishop of Cashel. Miler was also descended from the MacCraith's of Islandmagrath by way of the Magraths of Termon Magrath, in County Donegal. Therefore we can be fairly confident in stating that the ancestors of Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch go back to the original MacCraiths of Islandmagrath.

- Knowledge of the migration paths of the various parts of the McGrath family could help the understanding of how much importance should be placed on the two surname variations: McCragh and Magrath.
 - Miler used the Magrath variation in the north at Termon Magrath, where he was born, and brought it into County Tipperary after he was appointed Archbishop of Cashel by Queen Elizabeth I on February 3, 1571. It was subsequently spread out across the counties of Tipperary and Limerick by his descendents. After the Rebellion of 1641 was put down Miler's descendents took the Magrath surname with them when they were transplanted into Counties of Clare, Galway and Mayo.
 - The McCragh variation of the surname is about "midway" between MacCraith and McGrath. By 1641 there were no MacCraiths, Magraths or McCraghs in County Clare but there were some in Tipperary and Waterford with a few in Limerick. By the year 1851 the McCragh variation of the surname is not found in County Tipperary, only the McGrath and Magrath variations had survived. Since the McCraghs probably were not transplanted in the 1650s we can venture that they remained on the land, although they were no longer the owners of the land anymore. Sometime over the next 200 years their surname had changed from McCragh to McGrath.

- The evidence cited above, if it can be further substantiated, will serve to document that Miler Magrath's descendants, the Magraths of Killbarron, County Clare, are ancestors of the McGraths of Upperchurch. The County Clare Magraths/McGraths remained primarily in the Tulla, Feakle and Ennis area.
 - Miler had five sons: Turlough, Redmond, Brian, Marcus and James. The manuscript of the MacCraith pedigree, that was the source for the majority of the Miler Magrath ancestral information referenced here, was not equally detailed across the five sons. Turlough's line died out in the 17th century in County Clare, James was associated with events in the north at Termon Magrath in County Donegal while the lines of Brian and Marcus had very little in the way of detailed information. Most of the detail in this manuscript was associated with the line of Miler's second son, Redmond. This line gave rise to the Magraths of Killbarron in County Clare and possibly Clonoulty in County Tipperary where a connection may have been found.
 - A second source of information on the descendants of Miler Magrath although it is not as authoritative as the Twigge Manuscripts. The information was from the LDS Online site however, the information was based on submissions by individuals and the information was not verified in any manner. The dates seem rather proforma but the collection of names show that Turlough, Brian and Marcus had more children than those listed in the manuscript record.
- Mary Ryan, Edmond's wife, is very probably related to the Ryans of Gleninchaveigh (Glown) who were occupying this land in 1851 and in all probability are still occupying those lands today.
- Margaret McGrath, Edmond's daughter, was most likely a victim of the 1849 cholera epidemic and was probably buried along with other epidemic victims in a mass grave.

OPEN ISSUES

- The parish records in Tipperary – Upperchurch doesn't appear to have been filmed by the Mormons. They are being held "hostage" by the Tipperary Family Heritage Centers by order of the Archbishop of Cashel. Taking a lead from his ancient predecessor, this modern day archbishop is selling our own history back to us. They are also available from the local parish priests but that is a slow and tedious process.

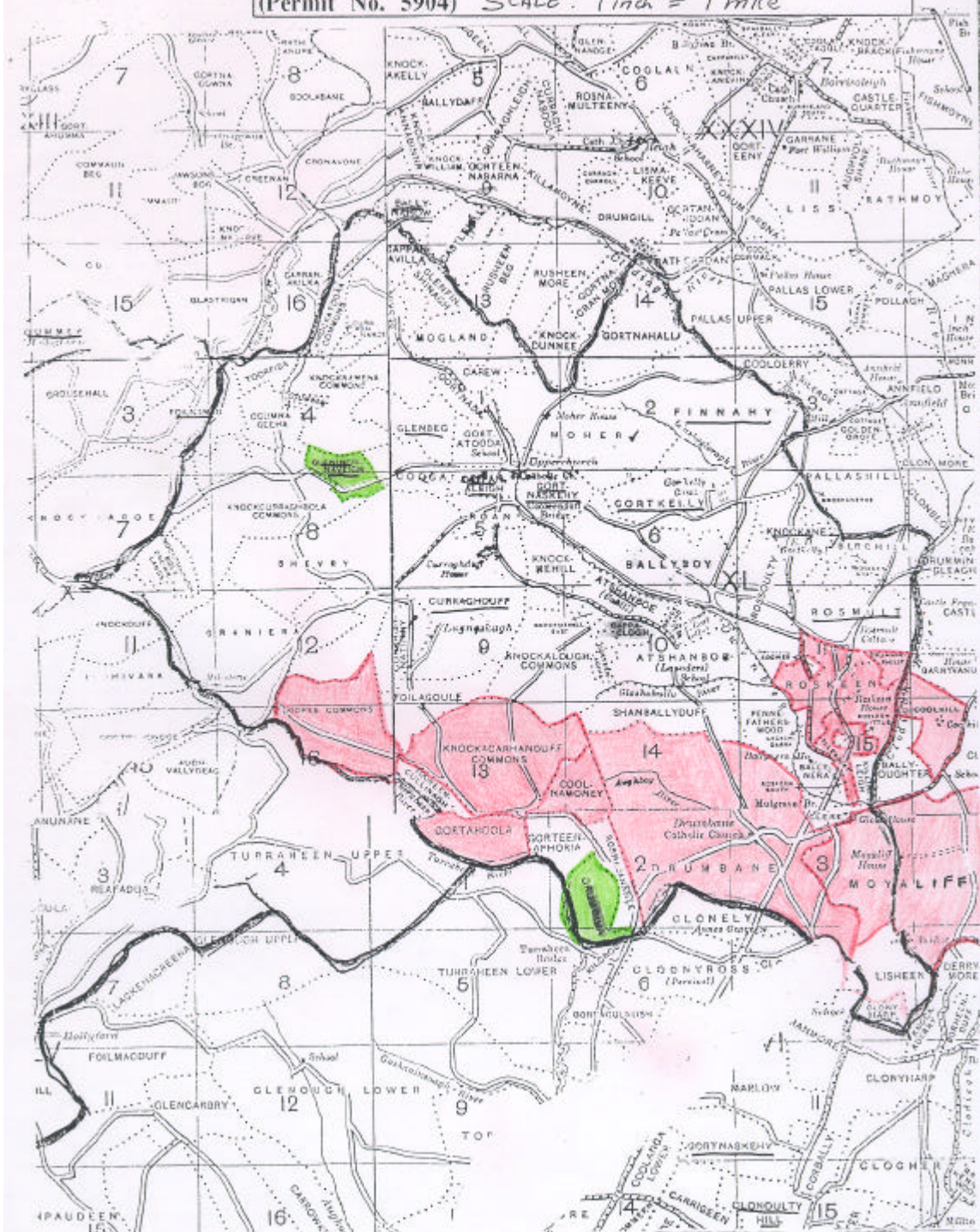
- By plausibility arguments we have established probable relationships between the families of William, Joseph, Michael and Edmond. The task of establishing firm evidence for these proposed relationships remains to be carried out.
- Possible links, if they exist, between William and Joseph and the Magraths of Killbarron.

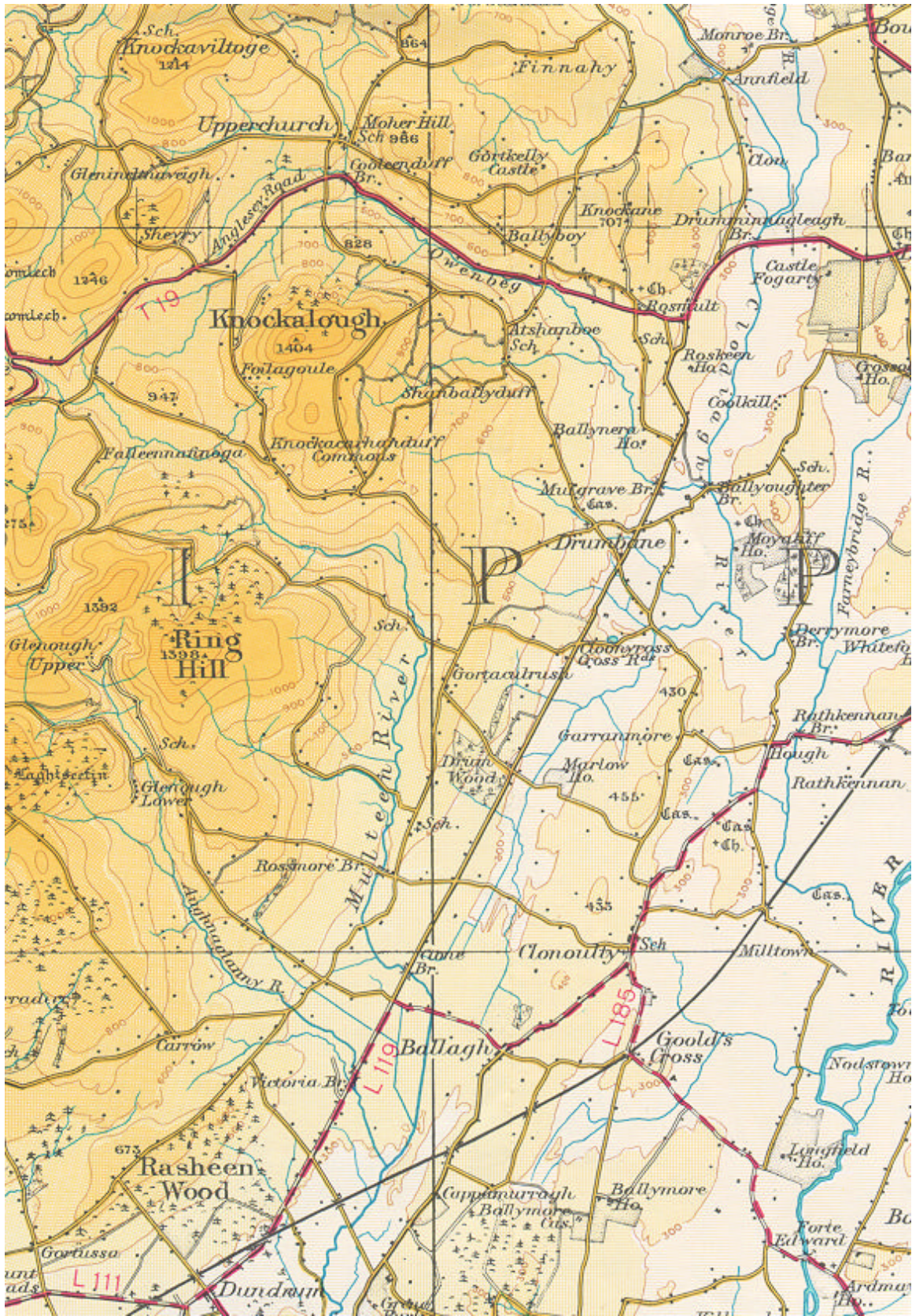
Upperchurch-Drombane RC Parish

Based on the Ordnance Survey

by permission of the Government

(Permit No. 5904) SCALE: 1 inch = 1 mile





Chapter XIII - From Upperchurch to Truxton

Name Changes

The earliest references to the name McGrath occurs in a citation from 1086 referring to a Magrath who was described as the Chief Poet of the Province of Munster. This Magrath is a probable ancestor to Clan Craith, who were in alliance with the O'Briens of Thomond (North Munster) around the 12th century. Their homeland was an area known today as Islandmagrath located on the west side of the river Fergus in the parish of Clare Abbey, County Clare.

The name in Clare became MacCraith while the branch in Donegal and Tyrone became Magrath while the variation McCragh appeared in the Dungarvan area in County Waterford. In 1654, after Cromwell had put down the 1641 Rebellion, the Irish from all over the island were to be transplanted into the Province of Connaught west of the Shannon River - at least that was the plan. By 1850 there were "McGraths" in every one of Ireland's 32 counties. The variation McGrath is the most numerous with Magrath coming in second. According to Griffith's Valuation the largest number of both of these variations occur in County Tipperary.

The McGraw variation was concentrated in the northeastern part of Ireland and wasn't very numerous. These could be variations on the Irish Magrath or the Scottish MacGraw as there was a large segment of the population in the area that had been transplanted from Scotland during the plantation of Ulster.

In 1851, in the civil parish of Upperchurch, there was only one McGrath living in the townland of Fannahy. In the civil parish of Moyaliff, bordering Upperchurch on the south, there were 12 Magraths occupying the various townlands in the parish. There were also 9 McGraths listed in the civil parish of Clogher, in the townland of Turraheen Lower, which shares the Turraheen River as a common border with the townland of Drumdiha in the civil parish of Moyaliff to the north. Admittedly these names were found in a survey that took place at the end of the Great Famine which had caused the eviction and death of a great many Irish. However, the Tithe Applotment Books, which were compiled in 1828, prior to the famine, recorded the presence of one Philip Magrath as the only person of that surname in the entire Upperchurch Parish.

In actual fact both of these surveys were for "tax purposes" and so they were more of a head of household survey rather than full-blown census. The conclusion that could be drawn from this is that Edmond McGraw's original surname might have been Magrath instead of McGrath as was originally thought. However, the name Magrath was entered by a survey taker and when these

people chose their own spellings, as on the headstones in the Moyaliff and Truxton graveyards, they chose McGrath and not Magrath.

Upon emigrating to America the Magraths/McGraths found that the Americans pronounced the “th” at the end of their name. The Irish do not pronounce the “t” in the “th” combination. Perhaps they changed the spelling from Magrath / McGrath to McGraw so that they were able to have the pronunciation of their family name, in their new country, sound close to the former Irish pronunciation. Or perhaps it was the nearby town of McGrawville, which later became the village of McGraw, which was the reason for the change in the case of Edmond McGrath.

The case for McGrath rests on the use of this name on the Truxton Cemetery headstones of Ellen Comerford McGrath, wife of John W. McGraw, and their children who died in 1883 as the result of a diphtheria epidemic. No one in the family has used that variation of the name since then. Although John’s death certificate listed his surname as McGraw he is buried under the McGrath headstone.

The second instance of the use of the name McGrath was the ship listing for Mary, Michael and John McGrath when they came to this country in 1850. Edmond also listed his name as McGrath when he traveled to America in 1848.

The third instance of the surname McGrath was in connection with the grave inscriptions found in the Moyaliff Graveyard. A possible identification was made of a Joseph McGrath and William McGrath through inscriptions on their wives’ graves who were buried at Moyaliff.

Family Status in Ireland from 1841 to 1848

The land in Ireland had long since been given to British citizens or Irish gentry loyal to the crown of England. In many cases landlords were hired by these landowners to oversee the rental of their estate lands. Sometimes these much-hated “middlemen” would rent large parcels of land from the landlords and then sublet the land, to the people who would actually occupy it, at a much higher rate.

In Ireland, prior to the time of the Great Famine, there were several classes of individuals who attempted to make their living off the land. These were laborers, cottiers, small farmers, medium farmers, and large farmers. There was not a clear distinction between the small farmer and the cottier, but generally the small farmer was the better off of the two. We don’t have any specific information on Edmond’s land holdings because the family left Ireland prior to 1851 when the county of Tipperary was surveyed for the Griffith’s Valuation. We can however

draw some general conclusions based on the holdings of Mary Ryan's family and the other McGraths in the parishes of Moyaliff and Clogher. The Ryan family had 83 acres in Gleninchaveigh, while the Magraths of Moyaliff had holdings that were about 20 acres in size on average as did the McGraths of Clogher. This would allow us to draw the conclusion that Edmond could have been somewhere between a small and medium farmer if he had the average sized holdings that the rest of the relatives had at that time.

The marriage of Edmond McGrath and Mary Ryan took place in the Roman Catholic Church in Upperchurch as did the baptisms of their children Margaret, Michael and John over the next few years. The family was living in nearby Drumdiha, parish of Moyaliff (Margaret and Michael baptisms) and later in Glaninchavee (Gleninchaveigh, parish of Upperchurch - John's baptism). Based on this evidence it is certain that the Edmond McGrath family was living in the Upperchurch area between 1841 and 1844.

From conversations that Doug Currie had with the locals, during a visit to Upperchurch, the name McGrath is not a common one in the area. The name Ryan however is a totally different story. A trip through the local cemetery can be a genealogist's nightmare or blessing depending on your point of view. The place is full of Ryans. [Note: The original Catholic Church was located inside the boundaries of the present cemetery, according to the owner of Dwyer's grocery across the street.] Even the locals have trouble keeping all the Ryans straight. Terry Ryan, who runs the Tipperary mail list on the Internet, is the president of the Ryans Association of America. He has assembled a huge list of some 240 nicknames used by the Ryans of Tipperary.

Edmond's Cortland County Poor House Registration lists his birthplace as Upperchurch but this may have been a reference to the Roman Catholic parish of Upperchurch and not the civil parish of Upperchurch. The work in the previous sections show that the McGraths/ Magraths had been living just south of the town of Upperchurch, in the parish of Moyaliff for many years, possibly as far back as the mid-1700's. The civil parish of Moyaliff is in the Roman Catholic parish of Upperchurch.

The Period from 1848 to November, 1850

Even the smaller farmers who had little money saved could pick up some money to help pay for their passage out of Ireland. "If individual tenants wished to emigrate they were helped by the sale of good-will, a procedure about which there has been a good deal of confusion. In essence this was a mechanism whereby an outgoing tenant was paid a sum of money by the incoming tenant to compensate him for such things as improvements made, the right to enjoy peaceful possession, or in some cases to acknowledge the benefit of holding a

farm from what was locally recognized as a 'good landlord.' The point about this mechanism was that the law did not sanction it and different landlords regarded it variously. It was also known as the 'Ulster Custom' or 'tenant-right.' ... Two witnesses (to the Devon Commission), referring to the area around Tipperary town, thought that the practice was widespread, though not recognized by landlords"¹²³

It appears that Edmond traveled to America by himself and left his family behind in Ireland. This happened in 1848¹²⁴ with Edmond leaving from Liverpool and arriving in New York City on November 29, 1848 on board the *New Hampshire*. It appears to have taken Edmond two years to save up enough money for the passages of his family to America. The family probably remained in the Upperchurch area to stay close to family after Edmond left for America. There was a railway from Thurles to Dublin and Thurles was only 8 miles east of Upperchurch. This might be how the family traveled to Dublin to begin their journey to America. His family arrived from Dublin on the *British Queen* on November 7, 1850 and the family was reunited in New York City.

The year 1847 was said to have been the worst year of the Famine. It was the very next year that Edmond McGrath chose to leave his family behind and travel to America. It would be two years before they would leave Ireland to join him. As was seen earlier, Edmond and Mary were living in Gleninchaveigh with her parents in 1844 at the time of the baptism of their youngest son, John. They were probably living there during the Famine and most likely Mary and the children remained in Gleninchaveigh when Edmond left for America.

After Edmond arrived in New York City aboard the *New Hampshire* on November 29, 1848 he needed to make money as quickly as possible. Where would he go and what jobs would he seek? There were quarry jobs up the Hudson River in Hurley, in the County of Ulster. Some of the Irish immigrants found work in the bluestone quarry industry that was developing in Hurley and the surrounding areas. The village of Ruby is on the northern border of this town and during the bluestone days most of the surrounding settlements were filled with Irish. The Irish settled in Stoney Hollow, Jockey Hill and Morgan Hill. Since the work was seasonal many of them turned to ice cutting during the winter months.

A preliminary search of some records in the Ulster area gave no evidence of Edmond living in the area. So far no information has surfaced that would give any hint as to where Edmond went or what he did after arriving in America during the time frame of 1848 – 1850.

The Voyage to America by Mary, Michael and John

The ship named *British Queen* sailed from Dublin and docked in New York on November 7, 1850. Listed as passengers were¹²⁵

McGrath, Mary - Age 45, Female

Michael - Age 8, Male

John - Age 6, Male

Edmond had arrived two years earlier on board the *New Hampshire*. These names were found on lists compiled from Immigration records and were originally generated by the captains of the various emigration ships. When they reached port the captain would present a list of the immigrants on his ship to the immigration authorities at that port. Large numbers of people died on each of these voyages during the height of the famine but most of the lists that I have seen don't indicate that an individual on the list died during the voyage.¹²⁶ The general impression that I get is that these lists are generated at the beginning of the voyage, based on the passenger regulations in effect at the time. The procedure was for "...collectors after mustering the passengers, were required to give a certified list to the master to be inspected by an official in the colonies before any passengers were allowed to land."¹²⁷ Therefore it is expected that the passenger lists should contain the names of those who died at sea.

In the case of Margaret McGrath if she had begun the voyage with her mother, Mary, and her brothers Michael and John then her name should appear on the passenger list. Her absence from the list indicates she may have died prior to the voyage since she was too young to leave behind on her own.

The vessel that brought Mary, Michael and John to America would sink less than a year later while transporting emigrants to America from Ireland. "One of the oldest vessels on the Atlantic during the mid-19th century was named the *British Queen*, not perhaps the best name for a ship carrying Irish emigrants fleeing the Famine. The 225-ton barque had been at sea for 66 years. She had seen out the last two decades of the slave trade and then earned her owner further profits during the six Famine years. As an emigrant ship, she had sailed from the Irish ports of Dublin, Sligo, Belfast and Liverpool bound for America and Canada. Her worthy service ended dramatically in December 1851, when she went aground in ice around Nantucket Island, but her passengers and crew were rescued by the islanders in a spectacular mission which remains part of the proud maritime history of the old whaling port of Nantucket Island."¹²⁸

"The *British Queen* left Dublin with 228 passengers on October 22nd 1851. It must have been a difficult voyage, as she was still on passage eight weeks later. Yet even with unfriendly headwinds, another two or three days might have seen her safely berthed in New York, in time for her storm battered passengers to celebrate Christmas in the new country."¹²⁹

“Among the survivors who settled on the island was a young Irish couple: 29-year-old farmhand Robert Mooney with his young bride Julia, who was 21. They raised a family of seven children and became tenant farmers until Robert earned the money to buy his own 200-acre spread. ...One of the Mooney family’s treasured links to the past, to their Irish heritage and to that memorable event in 1851, is the *British Queen’s* nameboard. Robert C. Mooney is the current guardian of this polished piece of wood, recovered when the wreckage washed up on shore. It hangs splendidly above the fireplace in his home.”¹³⁰ Robert C. Mooney is the great-grandson of the original Famine emigrant and still practices law in Nantucket.

When the McGrath family arrived in New York City aboard the *British Queen*, in November, 1850 the ship would have stopped first at Staten Island for inspection from a health official and to remove any of the ill to be quarantined on the Island. Continuing on to New York City they would have tied up at one of the many docks along South Street on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

"In May 1855 an old fort at the tip of Manhattan, **Castle Garden**, was leased, renovated, and on August 1 reopened as a state immigration reception center: New York's Emigrant Landing Depot. The quarantine procedures would now be supplemented by the individual examination of immigrants. Every vessel bringing immigrants had to anchor at the Quarantine Station, 6 miles below New York City. There, a New York State emigration officer boarded to ascertain a count of passengers, deaths during the voyage, the degree and kind of illnesses suffered during the trip, and the overall cleanliness of the vessel. A report was sent to the general agent and superintendent at Castle Garden and the boarding officer remained on the ship as it steamed up the bay to ensure that no one from the ship contacted anyone on shore before the authorized disembarkation of emigrants. The prohibition was destined to inhibit the activity of runners and swindlers who accosted arriving immigrants with schemes and scams.”¹³¹

In 1850 Castle Garden was in use as a concert-hall, where Jenny Lind made her first American appearance the same year and by 1890 it was operating as the New York Aquarium.¹³² Ellis Island would not come into use as a reception center until around the year 1890.

The Period from November, 1850 - June, 1855

The New York State Census of June, 1855 found Edmond McGrath, his wife Mary and their sons Michael and John in Truxton, NY - having moved there just two months before. They had also changed the spelling of their name to McGraw from McGrath. Edmond had become a naturalized citizen by this time, a process that takes five years. Since the family had not all come to America at the same time they would not have been eligible to be naturalized when Edmond had been

naturalized. Mary and the boys arrived in New York on November 7, 1850 on the *British Queen* and therefore they had been in the country less than five years at the time of the NYS Census in June, 1855.

Edmond arrived in America on November 29, 1848 and therefore the earliest he could have been naturalized was December 1, 1853. Since Edmond's naturalization records were not found in Cortland, Onondaga, Madison or Jefferson counties we can surmise that the family was not living in any of these counties in the period of December, 1853 - April, 1855. In any event, woman seldom bothered to become naturalized since they were not allowed to vote even if they were citizens. Children became naturalized when their parents became citizens.

Information from Edmond's Cortland County Poor House Registration indicates that he arrived in America in 1847 at New York City. It is possible that Edmond remained in the New York City area and obtained employment, saved his money, found a place for the family to live, sent for his family, met them at the dock when they arrived and then set off with his family for their new home. Therefore it made sense to look for Edmond's naturalization records in the courts around the New York City area.

Since it was known that the Irish, with their control of politics in the New York City area, could vote the immigrants almost as soon as they stepped off the boat¹³³ there might be some voting records from Edmond's stay in New York City. The Irish areas in New York, around 1850, were Greenwich Village and an area known as Five Points¹³⁴. Over the years the Irish moved out and were replaced by the Italian immigrants, Al Capone was born and raised in the Five Points area. Following the Italians came the Jews and today the Five Points area is part of Chinatown.

Around the turn of the century this latter area was described in Baedeker's *New York* as follows: "Five Points, the district (roughly speaking) between Park Row (S.E.), Centre St. (W.), and Grand St. (N.), once bore, and to some extent still bears, the reputation of being the most evil district in New York, the home of rowdies, thieves, and drunkards. Like the Seven Dials in London, it has, however, of late been much improved by the construction of new streets, the removal of old rookeries, and the invasion of commerce. It took its name from the 'five points' formed by the intersection of Worth (then Anthony), Baxter, and Park Streets; and here now stand the *Five Points Mission* and the *Five Points House of Industry* (visitors courteously received)." ¹³⁵

Records in The New York City Area

It seemed logical to search for Edmond McGrath among the records for the New York City area. The Naturalization records and the Declaration of Intent records of the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas for the County of New York were searched from 1846 to 1855 and no Edmond McGraths or Magraths were found.

Edmond responded on the 1855 New York State census that he had been naturalized. A person needed to be in the country five continuous years and in the state for one year just previous to becoming a citizen. However there wasn't any record of a naturalization for Edmond McGrath in New York County, in the time period 1850-1855. Doug Currie had previously determined that there were no naturalization records in Cortland, Onondaga, Madison or Jefferson counties for Edmond McGrath. So after quite a bit of searching we still don't know where Edmond McGrath was naturalized.

Back in Ireland John Magrath was the sponsor at the baptism of Edmond and Mary's son Michael William. This John is probably some relation to Edmond, perhaps even his brother. There was no John Magrath (or McGrath) buried in the graveyards of the Upperchurch Roman Catholic parish. Perhaps John also went to America like Edmond.

In searching the naturalization records of New York County in both the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas there were no Edmond McGraths or Magraths found in the time period from 1847 to 1855. Since it took five years of residence in the United States prior to naturalization that means Edmond could not have been naturalized prior to November 29, 1853. When Edmond and Mary show up in the NYS Census of 1855 they were living in Cuyler, NY, Edmond has been naturalized and they had been there for three months, arriving in about March, 1855.

The only naturalization record for New York County that came close was an Edward McGrath who was naturalized in the New York County Superior Court on May 16, 1854. His witness was John McGrath of 146 Christopher Street (Greenwich Village), NYC. Could this possibly be our Edmond with a John McGrath again as a witness/sponsor? Everything fits but there is no hard evidence to prove that this is Edmond McGrath of Upperchurch.

There were parish records for the various Catholic churches in the area that might contain some records on Edmond. The first Roman Catholic Church in New York City, was St. Peter's located at 16 Barclay Street in what is now Greenwich Village. I searched the church records for all the catholic churches in lower Manhattan that were old enough to have had the McGrath family as members and they haven't shown up. Shown in the table below are the churches that were contacted in the search for Edmond and his family.

Name	Founded	Address	City	State	Summary
Church of the Transfiguration	1837	29 Mott Street	New York City	NY	Church archives do not contain membership records. No indication from the short note whether their archives contain sacramental records.
Most Holy Redeemer Church	1844	173 East 3 rd Street	New York City	NY	Baptismal and Marriage records only. They did not do any search.
St. Anthony of Padua Church (and the extinct St. Alphonsus)	1847	154 Sullivan Street	New York City	NY	The only complete books that they have are baptismal and marriage records. They checked the First Communion and Confirmation Registers. St Anthony's start at 1869 and those of St. Alphonsus are incomplete and only go back to 1872.
St. Andrew Church	1852	20 Cardinal Hayes Place	New York City	NY	Searched the church records from 1848 to 1860 and found no McGrath or McGraw family registered.
St Bridgid Church	1848	119 Avenue B	New York City	NY	Baptismal records only. Several McGraths found but none related to Edmond.
St. Francis Xavier Church	1847	55 West 15 th Street	New York City	NY	Only records are baptismal, marriage and some membership but not dating back to the 1800's.
St. Ignatius Loyola Church	1836	980 Park Ave.	New York City	NY	No membership records. They do have records of sacraments - Marriage, Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. They searched these records for the time period 1848 - 1855 and found nothing.
St. James Church	1836	23 Oliver Street	New York City	NY	They only records they keep and still maintain are marriage and baptismal records.
St. Joseph Church	1829	371 6th Avenue	New York City	NY	Membership lists but none going back as far as 1847 - 1855. They searched for Michael and John in the parish communion and confirmation records and did not find them in the time period 1846 - 1857.
St. Mary's Church	1826	28 Attorney Street	New York City	NY	Only marriage and baptismal records.
St. Patrick's Cathedral (Old)	1809	263 Mulberry Street	New York City	NY	They searched their records for Edmond McGrath and his family and found nothing in the time period 1838 - 1901.

Name	Founded	Address	City	State	Summary
St. Peter's Church	1785	16 Barclay Street	New York City	NY	They searched their records "extensively and have not found any information..." regarding the Edmond McGrath family.

From The Church of St. Bridgid, Trinitarian Friars, 119 Avenue B, New York, NY we have the following "McGraths" but none of them appear to be related to Edmond.

- July 2, 1851 Stephen Patt Magrath - born the 1st ??? of Stephen and Ann Gibney. Sponsors Matt McManus and Clara Sioberg. Recorded by Thomas Farrell
- August 27, 1852 John (22nd) of Thomas McGrath and Mary Q(?)uirk - Sponsor Julia Dalton. Recorded by A. Regnier S.J.
- August 15, 1852 Mary McGrath of Pt. Chm(?) Michl Gairn and Margret Lenard N.Y. Quarter.
- August 28, 1852 Charles (28th) of Jas. McGrath and Catharine Dogherly, Sponsors Edward Farrell and Ellen Brace. Recorded by Thomas Joyce. (Spelling per the original)

Doug Currie mentions a ship named the *Olive Branch* that some of the family were supposed to have sailed on during their journey to America. Although a ship of that name was in service at the time he could find no record of Edmond having been on board. We now know that Mary and the boys came over on the *British Queen* and Edmond on the *New Hampshire*. This raises an interesting question: If Olive Branch is not the name of a ship could it be the name of a place? Could the family have come to Truxton by way of a town called Olive Branch instead of on a ship called Olive Branch? There was a town called Olive Branch, located near West Hurley in Ulster County around 1850. Olive Branch was abandoned in about 1913 with the building of the Ashekon Dam and today lies under the water of the Ashekon Reservoir. The dam was built to create a source of water to supply New York City. With the completion of the reservoir the villages of Glenford, West Hurley, Ashton and Olive Branch disappeared beneath the waters of the Ashekon Reservoir. West Hurley and Glenford were relocated to their present sites in the Town of Hurley but Olive Branch was not rebuilt.

Initial searches of the area, as mentioned before, failed to turn up any evidence of Edmond and his family having lived in the area.

CHAPTER XIV - Settling in Central New York

The Edmond McGraw family settled in Central New York in April, 1855 according to the New York State Census of 1855. Originally they settled in the Town of Truxton and then later were living near the “Keeney Settlement, about four miles north of Cuyler, on the road to Fabius. Oral history has it that the family farm was destroyed in a violent storm sometime in the late 1860’s.”¹³⁶ By the time of the 1870 Federal Census the family was living in Truxton.

It’s still an open question as to why the family choose Central New York has never received an answer. Therefore it is possible to propose probable reasons and see if any of them can be confirmed, by existing records, or at least be made to seem plausible.

- The Keeney Settlement might have been the attraction. Perhaps Edmond knew of the settlement or persons living in the settlement prior to his leaving Ireland. Or perhaps Edmond heard of the settlement while he was living in the New York City area.
- Similarity of climate. The weather in central New York (with the obvious exception of winter) is very similar to that of County Tipperary, in Ireland.
- Similarity of geography. The rolling hills of the regions south of Syracuse are very similar to the terrain found in County Tipperary, in Ireland.
- Just north of Truxton was Lafayette which was at the then “cross roads” of New York State in the 1850 time period. This was where Route 11 crossed Route 20 (The Cherry Valley Turnpike).

When the McGrath’s first came to the Truxton area there was a Lantry McGraw already residing there with his sons Patrick and Myles. At this time that is all that is known about them.

The Early Days of Cortland County

In the year 1801 there were no railroads to assist the early settlers of the area. The Erie Canal was still some years into the future so perspective settlers made the journey on foot with the aid of a team of oxen. Without roads horse drawn wagons were useless and so the early settlers relied on oxen to draw sleds.¹³⁷

Ezra and Hezekiah Dodge came to Pompey in 1795 and settled on a tract of land on Lot 50. Hezekiah settled on a portion that came to be known as John Wells farm and Ezra settled on a portion that came to be known as the Dodge farm. Ezra’s son David F. taught school and after converting to the Catholic faith

in 1835 was instrumental in the establishment of a Catholic Church at Pompey Hill.

Keeney Settlement

In the spring of 1794 Simon Keeney, father of the late John Keeney, came and “cleared land, erected a log house, and planted corn and potatoes, preparatory to bringing his family the following year.”¹³⁸ Simon Keeney was the first settler to establish a home in the valley that came to be known as Keeney’s Settlement. “In 1795 he, Benjamin Brown, Samuel Fox, and Gurden Woodruff, with their families and a part of the family of Samuel Webster, in all twenty-eight persons, established themselves in the log house erected the previous year by Simon Keeney.”¹³⁹ This house was located on Lot No. 47, on premises owned by Henry H. Clark in 1896. Other settlers soon came to the valley and eventually portions were subdivided and became part of Truxton and Cuyler in Cortland County.

In 1796 a Thomas Keeney arrived in Fabius. A historical marker in Cortland County commemorates a house that he built:

KEENEY CABIN
THOMAS KEENEY
SETTLED HERE IN 1796
BUILT THIS HOUSE 1810
PROPERTY STILL IN
FAMILY POSSESSION

The marker is located on the town road one mile north of Cuyler. I have found no direct evidence that he is related to the Keeneys of Keeney’s Settlement although there is a strong possibility of a relationship.

The Township of Truxton

“The original township of Fabius was designated No. 15 of the Military Tract, and embraced the present town of that name and nearly all of the towns of Truxton and Cuyler in Cortland County. On the formation of the county the whole of this territory, together with Tully, Preble, Scott, and the southern parts of Otisco and Spafford, forming the military township of Tully, No. 14, was included in the civil town of Pompey, from which Fabius, including all of the towns and parts of towns just mentioned, was set off by act of the Legislature on March 9, 1798. “ When Cortland County was organized on April 8, 1809 that left Fabius with 50 lots which was basically the northern half of township No. 15 of the Military Tract. These lots consisted of 600 acres each and Lot No. 13 was given as bounty land to Capt. Joseph Savage for services in the Revolutionary War, as were most of the lots in the Military Tract.

Other Central New York Irish Families

Anna Herlihy Flaherty's (1878-1971) mother was Mary Flynn Herlihy (1846-1892).

While still living with my parents there would be occasional references, at both our house and during visits to my grandfather's house, about a Flynn Picnic. I don't believe I ever attended one of these picnics, but perhaps my parents did. I can also remember references to a Jimmy Flynn.

There was a story about a group people that my father and grandfather knew who visited Ireland in the late 1950's or early 1960's. I don't know the town in which this event occurred. As the story goes one of these visitors was walking down a street in this town when they saw a person that looked just like one of the Flynn's that they knew back in Syracuse. They approached this person and he turned out to be a Flynn also. They went back to his home with him and met some members of his family and it turned out that they were related to the Flynnns in Syracuse.

Another name that would pop up in conversations between my father and grandfather was the name Savage. The name Francis Savage sounded familiar as does the name George Savage. I believe that Francis Savage was my father's (Francis Michael McGraw, son of Edward) godfather. The first Irish family in Syracuse was that of John Savage who had a son Richard Savage.¹⁴⁰ I don't know if this earlier Savage family is related to Francis Savage. It might be possible that the Savage family played a role in the Edmond McGrath's family coming to the Central New York area.

The Savage surname occurs mainly around the County Down area and their early ancestors came over to Ireland from England during the Norman invasion in the 12th century. Mary and Alice Rooney also both came from County Down possibly there is a connection there that would account for both families settling in the Central New York area.

Among my sister Shirley's notes I found the following information, which clears up the relationship between the McGraws and the Savages.

12/24/80 - Francis McGraw had an Aunt Sarah who married a Savage and they had four children. Sarah was Michael Flaherty's sister.

Francis (Francis McGraw's god father)

George Savage (politician)

2 other boys

Obituary from the Syracuse paper - Summer, 1981

George P. Savage (80) - son of Sarah Flaherty, grandson of Patrick and Catherine Flaherty. Former Onondaga County Democratic chairman. Four term member of the Onondaga County Board of Supervisors. George was a 1923 graduate of the Syracuse University College of Law. He was a partner in the Walrath and Savage Law firm. He was survived by his brother Francis J. of Syracuse, 3 nephews and a niece.

The Family Homesteads

There was a picture of the "Family Farm" that was at one time hanging in the attic of Edward C. McGraw's house at 512 Garfield Avenue in Syracuse, NY. My father or my grandfather pointed the picture out to me on one of our visits to my grandfather's house. It was a large rectangular shaped picture in a rather ornate golden colored frame. It was probably not Edmond W. McGraw's farm but rather Michael W. McGraw's farm seen in the picture. Now I don't believe this was a photograph but was instead a painting. For all I know the picture could still be in the attic.

There is a story about my father (Francis M. McGraw) being chased by a rooster when he was a very young boy. The incident took place on a farm in Truxton, NY. I originally thought it was his grandfather's farm (Michael W. McGraw). I also remember him saying he was born on a farm in Truxton on December 20, 1922. His grandfather, Michael W. died on April 9, 1923, at the age of 79, in his home in Truxton at the corner of Main and Prospect Streets. The point of this is that less than four months after my father's birth Michael W. was living in town where he had moved when his farm burned down. This casts some doubt on my father being born on his grandfather's farm. I don't believe my grandfather ever owned a farm but Michael Flaherty, my father's maternal grandfather, did have a farm in Truxton. This would fit the facts more easily because both grandfathers were named Michael, which could have been a possible source of confusion. In addition, Edward and Louise would have been returning from Albany around this time and would have needed a place to stay until they found something permanent. Louise would also return to the Flaherty farm in Truxton to have her children.

Early on, my grandfather (Edward C.) and his family lived on Elk Street in the short block just east of Garfield Ave. The east end of Elk abutted the railroad tracks (which later were replaced with Route 81) it was the first or second house on the south side of the street. In later years I remember that Edward's son, my uncle, Edward C. Jr., also lived in the same house for awhile. I can remember being there when my father was helping Edward Jr. move to a new apartment.

In 1918 Edward C. Sr. was employed by the U.S. Post Office Railway Mail Service. It seems likely that he would have moved to Syracuse about that time to

be closer to his work. After a short time on Elk Street the family moved around the corner to 512 Garfield Avenue.

The Family Homesteads

This is information from various census and tax records that I decided to put in one place to get an idea of where everyone was living and who were neighbors. Someday I'll pick up a copy of a detailed map of the Truxton area to see how all this all lays out.

- 1861 Edmond McGraw owned 60 acres in the Town of Cuyler - Lot 76
- 1864 Edmond McGraw owned 64 acres
- 1864 Edmond McGraw owned Lot 76 and another 63-1/2 acres for a total of 127-1/2 acres.
- Patrick McGraw owned 116 acres in Cuyler on Lot 100
- 1869 Edmond McGraw owned 63 acres on Lot 76
- Patrick McGraw owned 116 acres in Cuyler on Lot 100
- Henry Flynn owned land on Lot 17.
- 1870 Edmond McGraw owned 63 acres on Lot 76.
- Patrick McGraw owned 116 acres in Cuyler on Lot 100
- Miles McGraw paid 50 cent dog tax.
- 1871 Edmond McGraw still has 63 acres on lot 76.
- 1900 Michael Flaherty and Anna Herlihy were renting Farm #102 in Truxton. Thomas Herlihy and Mary Flynn owned Farm # 47, in Truxton, with a mortgage.
- 1915 Michael McGraw paid a tax of \$8.46 on Farm Lot 83. "acc. to Fran McGraw - Michael and Alice owned a farm on Labrador Rd. (a/k/a North Rd.), it was the road which ran from Truxton to Apulia. His father, Edward C. McGraw, was born on this farm and grew up there." (9/7/80)

1917-1922 Rural Directory of Cortland - Flaherty, M.W. (Anna), 3 children, farm and dairy, tenant, 5 horses, 75 cattle, Route 3, Tully, Truxton RD 45, bell telephone.

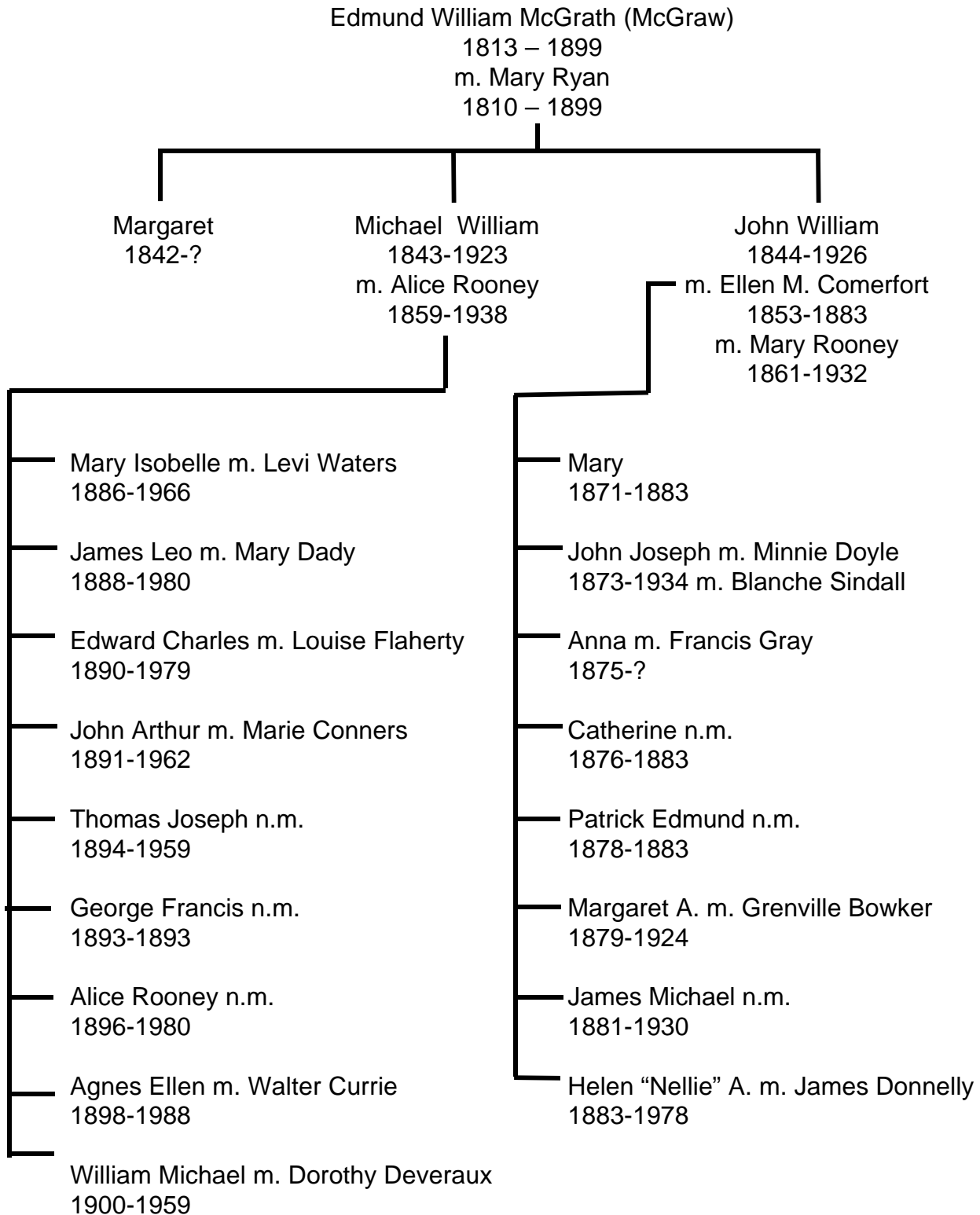
If we assume that people would only pay taxes on land that they were occupying at the time that the tax was paid then the table above can be used to put some dates with some events related to Edmond and his relatives.

Edmond and Mary's farm was supposed to have been destroyed by a violent storm in the late 1860's. According to the table above Edmond and Mary were paying taxes on 63 acres on lot 76 in the Town of Cuyler between 1861 and 1871. According to the 1870 Federal Census Edward (formerly Edmond), Mary, Michael and John were living together in the town of Truxton. Edward's occupation was still listed as a farmer. It's possible that Edmond was living in Truxton while still trying to farm lot 76 in Cuyler. His son John had returned to Cuyler from his Civil War experience in 1867 and had probably returned to the family farm. He was working as a maintenance man for the Midland Railroad and not working on the farm. It appears that he moved to Truxton with the rest of the family when the family farm was destroyed.

Michael McGraw paid tax on Farm Lot 83 in 1915 and therefore one could conclude that Michael and Alice were still living at the farm on the North Road as late as 1915. On April 9, 1923 when he died Michael was living in the town of Truxton in a house on the corner of Main and Prospect Streets. Therefore the fire that destroyed the McGrath family farm took place somewhere between 1915 and 1923.

1st and 2nd Generation of Edmond and Mary McGraw of Truxton

After Doug Currie: *A Genealogy of the McGraw's of Truxton, New York*



The Birth Date Problem with Edmond and Mary McGraw

Edmond William McGraw

Source	Date	Age	Year of Birth
Irish Immigrants	Nov. 29, 1848	26	1822
NYS Census	June, 1855	36	1819
Federal Census	1860	40	1820
Federal Census	1870	54	1816
Federal Census	1880	65	1815
Poor House Reg.	Aug, 1892	79	1813
Death Certificate	May, 1899	88	1811

Mary Ryan McGraw

Source	Date	Age	Year of Birth
Irish Immigrants	Nov. 7, 1850	45	1805
NYS Census	June, 1855	41	1814
Federal Census	1860	48	1812
Federal Census	1870	60	1810
Federal Census	1880	70	1810
Death Certificate	1899	89	1810

From a verified Transcript of a Birth Certificate for Agnes McGraw. Date of Birth Jan. 27, 1898, Truxton, NY. Mother: Alice Rooney McGraw (38). Father: Michael McGraw (55), Occupation: School Teacher. Previous children 9, now living 8.

Note: This information indicates that Michael was born in 1843 [This is in line with his baptismal record of November 19, 1843] and Alice was born in 1859-60 [Actual dob was Aug. 31, 1859].

The School Where Edward C. McGraw Taught.

My uncle, on my mother's side of the family, John Casey, lives in a big white farmhouse in Apulia on Berry Road. About 150 yards south of this house is an older house that his hired hand was renting when I was younger. The older house was just across the road from the barn and was probably the original

house that the family used. The big white house was newer and John Casey told me that it had been moved there from Truxton, New York, a few miles "down the road" in 1948 when he and my Aunt Evelyn were married. In Truxton it had been the old school house and after they moved it to Apulia the Caseys added on to it and did some remodeling. Doug Currie didn't mention it in his genealogy but it was common knowledge in my branch of the family that my grandfather, Edward Charles McGraw, had taught school in Truxton, in a one-room school house - in the very same house where John Casey is living to this very day. At some point in the mid 1960's my family took my grandfather, Edward, down to the Casey farm so that he could have a look at the old school house. His only comment that I remember was that it looked like they had made quite a few modifications. While my grandfather was teaching in Truxton he had a student named Louise Flaherty, he later proposed to her and she married him and became my grandmother.

During a recent conversation with my Aunt Evelyn she said that recently while she was doing some work in the upper level of the house she was looking at part of the old structure that was still visible. It was some kind of a wooden ledge that went around the upper level. People had carved their names in it during the years that the structure had served as a schoolhouse in Truxton on the North Road. One of the names that she saw carved in the structure was Ed McGraw.

Since Michael W. McGraw had taught school in Cuyler, Solon and Truxton and his son Edward Charles also taught school in Truxton this raises the question - Did Michael and his son Edward teach in the same school house that my uncle John Casey is now calling home?

Summary

After their arrival in the Township of Truxton the family settled into farming as was probably their occupation in Ireland. Edmond and Mary had no more children and so it remained for Michael and John to expand the size of the family. Although marrying late in life both sons were prolific with Michael fathering nine children and John eight. The next two generations have been chronicled by Doug Currie in *A Genealogy of The McGraw's of Truxton*. From that point on it takes a computer to track the descendants of Edmond and Mary McGrath. This task has been taken on by Tom Maloney of Herndon, Virginia and the result of his efforts can be seen on the Internet.

Epilogue

As one pushes back further in time searching for ancient ancestors the trail grows faint and finally disappears. Many ancient records have long since been lost or destroyed during the numerous periods of hostilities that fill the Irish past. While the individual trails might fade away the history of ancient Ireland offers an opportunity to follow events and trends further into the past. The religious trail is one of the most prominent trails flowing through Irish history.

Over the years, from the MacCraith's of Islandmagrath to the present day, there are many examples of McGraths, Magraths and McGraws in the religious and teaching professions. The religious thread leads back to the bishops of Killaloe and Miler Magrath the Archbishop of Cashel. This leads back to the days of St. Patrick's arrival in Ireland and his subsequent conversion of the population. Prior to his arrival the Celtic people who inhabited Ireland relied on their Druids for many services.

"The Druids were an indigenous Celtic intelligentsia, evolving from the original wise men and women during the age of the 'hunter-gatherer' among the ancient ancestors of the Celts, losing their original functions but retaining the Celtic name of those with 'oak knowledge'. They were to be found in every part of Celtic society but it was not until the second century BC that the Greeks realized that these individual learned functionaries had a collective name – the Druids."

¹⁴¹

"...the transition from Druidism to Christianity was gradual, possibly through the medium of Culdeeism." This would explain why the "intrusion of pagan ideas in the early religious literature can be more readily comprehended." The Church Festivals in the Christian Calendar are but the direct transfers from the Tuath de Danaan Ritual. "Their very names in Irish are identically the same as those by which they were distinguished by that earlier race." ¹⁴²

"Nothing is clearer than that Patrick engrafted Christianity on the pagan superstitions with so much skill that he won the people over to the Christian religion before they understood the exact difference between the two systems of beliefs; and much of this half pagan, half Christian religion will be found, not only in the Irish stories of the Middle Ages, but in the superstitions of the peasantry of the present day (refers to the time of the writing of the Annals of the Four Masters which end in the mid-17th century)." ¹⁴³

"...was it unlikely that a body of Druids, having secrets of their own, should, upon their real or assumed reception of Christianity, import some of their own opinions and practices, adapted to the promulgation of the newer faith? No one can doubt that the Druids, to retain their influence in the tribe, would be among

the first and most influential converts; and history confirms that fact. As the more intelligent, and revered from habit, with skill in divination and heraldic lore, they would command the respect of chiefs, while their training as orators or reciters would be easily utilized by the stranger priests in the service of the Church.”¹⁴⁴

With the coming of Christianity the religious aspect of Druidism became formalized in the church and religion of St. Patrick. The other talents of the Druids continued on in the bardic tradition. Out of this tradition came the bardic schools, which were the former Druid schools and they provided the Ollamhs, or teachers, to Ireland. For many years the MacCraith's had provided Ollamh's to the O'Brien family of Thomond in the form of poets, historians and genealogists. Let it be remembered that the MacCraith's established a Bardic school at Cahir, in County Tipperary, in the 16th century.

“The Ollamhs had colleges at Clogher, Armagh, Lismore, and Tamar. On this, Walker's *Historical Memoirs*, 1786, observes that ‘all the eminent schools, delectably situated, which were established by the Christian clergy in the fifth century, were erected on the ruins of those colleges.’ They studied for twelve years to gain the *barred cap* and title of Ollamh or teacher.’¹⁴⁵

The identification of Olioll Olum, King of Munster, as having been a member of the Bardic class¹⁴⁶ raises a couple of interesting points. In the 3rd century AD, when Olioll was the King of Munster, surnames were not in use. His second name, “Olum”, could be a misspelling of the word Ollamh which was a general class of learned individuals which included the bards (poets & genealogists) and brehons (judges). The MacCraiths of Islandmagrath, in the Kingdom of Thomond provided hereditary poets and Ollamhs to the O'Brien family, who were, like the MacCraiths, descended from the same ancestor, Olioll Olum.

It would appear that the McGraw family is not only descended from the ancient Kings of Ireland but their line extends back even further. Based on the traditional roles and occupations of the McGraws down through the years it is quite possible they were also descended from the even more ancient Celtic Druids.

CHAPTER XV - Appendix

The Timeline of Irish Historical Events

Year	Event
432	St. Patrick reached Ireland in 432 in the fourth year of the reign of Laoghaire, son of Niall, High-King. On the eve of Easter Patrick and his party encamped at Slaine, on the left bank of the Boyne, opposite to and in sight of Tara. p. 113, (15)
914	“During the first half of the tenth century the Danes gained possession of large parts of the interior of the country. In 914 strong reinforcements arrived at Waterford. They sailed again up the Shannon in a great fleet and into Lough Ree where they plundered the islands and burned Clonmacnois.” p. 275,(15)
975 – 1014	Brain Boru, King of Munster and latterly of Ireland (2)
1002-14	Brian Boru - King of Ireland (2)
1014	Brian Boru dies - Battle of Conflert. (2)
1101	Muirchertach O’Brien, king of Munster grants Cashel to Church (2)
1166	Dermot MacMurrough driven overseas - seeks help of Henry II (2)
1169	Arrival of the Anglo Normans in support of MacMurrough. (2)
1171	Death of Dermot. Strongbow lord of Leinster. Arrival of Henry II. Submission of Irish bishops and most Irish kings. (2)
1172	Second Synod of Cashel. Grant of Meath to Hugh de Lacy. Henry leaves. (2)
1175	Treaty of Windsor between Henry II and Rory O’Connor, high-king of Ireland, who agrees to rule unoccupied territory as a vassal. (2)
1177	Conquest of Ulaid by John de Courcy. Council of Oxford: Prince John made lord of Ireland, speculative grants of kingdoms of Cork and Limerick to Norman vassals. (2)
1185	Prince John’s first visit to Ireland. Occupation of lands in Limerick

- begun by Theobald Walter, William de Burgh, and Philip of Worcester. (2)
- 1210 King John's first visit to Ireland. Confiscation of earldom of Ulster and honor of Limerick. Submission of Irish kings. (2)
- 1215 King John signs the Magna Carta. (2)
- 1235 Final conquest of Connacht by Richard de Burgh. Five 'King's Cantreds' reserved for O'Connor. (2)
- 1252 "Michael McMahon quotes the Royal Charter granting the whole Barony of Islands to John FitzGeoffrey in 1252." (12) Islandmagrath was part of the Barony of Islands. The land grants were an attempt to place Ireland into Norman hands but it was up to those receiving the grants to subdue or clear out the Irish.
- 1257 Death of Maurice FitzGerald; his lordship of Sligo ravaged by Godfrey O'Donnell, king of Tir Conaill. Normans in Thomond defeated by Conor O'Brien and his son Tadhg. (2)
- 1258 Meeting at Caol-Uisce on the Erne between Aodh son of O'Connor, Tadhg son of O'Brien, and Brian O'Neill, self-styled 'King of Ireland' (2)
- 1260 Battle of Down: defeat and death of Brian O'Neill (2)
- 1261 Battle of Callen: John fitz Thomas of Desmond and his heir defeated and killed by Finghin MacCarthy, himself slain later that year. (2)
- 1263 Earldom of Ulster, long-vacant, bestowed on Walter de Burgh, lord of Connacht. (2)
- 1276 Hereditary lordship of all Thomond granted to Thomas de Clare. (2)
- 1292 Custody of rents, homages, and services of all Crown tenants English and Irish in the Decies and Desmond granted to Thomas fitz Maurice of Desmond. (2)
- 1315 Invasion of Ireland by Edward Bruce. His proclamation as 'King of Ireland.' (2)
- 1318 Battle of Dysert O'Dea: Richard de Clare defeated and killed by O'Brien. Battle of Faughart: Edward Bruce defeated and killed. (2)

- 1333 Murder of William de Burgh, earl of Ulster. Crown loses control of Anglo-Norman Connacht and the Irish chiefs in Ulster. (2)
- 1348-49 The Black Plague comes to Ireland. Shrinking population and an agricultural depression leads to the return of colonists from all classes back to England. Lands wasted by the Scots in 1315-1318 remained derelict for years. (2)
- 1361 Arrival of English expedition under Prince Lionel of Clarence, earl of Ulster, to stem decline of colony. (2)
- 1366 Parliament at Kilkenny before Prince Lionel codifies the defensive legislation of the previous fifty years, prohibiting *inter-alia* the adoption of the Irish language by the colonists. (2)
- 1394-5 King Richard II's first expedition to Ireland. Defeat of Leinster Irish under Art MacMurrough, and submission of nearly all Irish and rebel English chiefs. (2)
- 1399 King Richard II's second expedition to Ireland, with inconclusive results. (2) THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THIS RICHARD II DATE AND THE ONE ABOVE ABOUT THE END OF HIS REIGN.
- 1449-50 Richard duke of York in Ireland as king's lieutenant. Submission of many Irish chiefs and English rebels. (2)
- 1467-8 Edward IV appoints Tiptoft, earl of Worcester, Lord Deputy in place of Thomas FitzGerald, earl of Desmond, subsequently executed for treason. Munster rebels. (2)
- 1504 Battle of Knocktoe: by defeating Burke of Clanricard, O'Brien, and the Irish of Ormond, Kildare completes his dominance of Ireland, Irish and Anglo-Irish. (2)
- 1509 Accession of Henry VIII (2)
- 1534 Kildare placed in tower where he dies; out break of rebellion led by Lord Offaly. (2)
- 1547 Death of Henry VIII; accession of Edward VI (2)
- ~1550 From Irish Heraldic Arms & Genealogies - Kenny Gallery - Spiddal Craft Center, Spiddal, Co. Galway. The Thomond **McGraths** - in the 16th century, "...they established a bardic

school in Cahir, County Tipperary. During that time a branch migrated to Waterford, and the ruins of their castle can still be seen.” (5)

- 1553 Death of Edward VI; accession of Mary I (2)
- 1558 Death of Mary I; accession of Elizabeth I (2)
- 1560 Meeting of the second Irish Reformation Parliament which approves the Elizabethan church settlement for Ireland. (2)
- 1566-7 Sir Henry Sidney, governor of Ireland, launches military campaign in Ulster which produces the killing of Shane O’Neill; he attempts to restore government authority in Munster by arresting the earl of Desmond. (2)
- 1569-71 Appointment of first provincial presidents in Connacht and in Munster; launching of private colonization ventures in Munster and in Ulster; outburst of local revolts in Munster, in Leinster, and in Connacht against government policy. (2)
- 1570 Elizabeth declared excommunicated by the papacy. (2)
- 1570 On January 10th, 1570-71 **Malachy O’Molony** was named a successor to Turlogh O’Brien as Bishop of Killaloe. His name was put before the Holy See by Cardinal Morono, who represented him as of noble birth, and a priest of the province of Cashel. He governed the diocese for a period of five years only; then he was translated to Kilmacdaugh. He was arrested by the English at Gort, and thence conducted on foot as a prisoner to the Castle of Limerick. He was rescued from the goal by his cousin-german, and in the garb of a peasant wandered through Clare, performing his episcopal duties. Finally, in 1603, he died at Moyne, in the house of Conor Macbrody. p. 162-3 (14)
- 1572 Sir John Perrott and Sir Edward Fitton regain authority as presidents respectively of Munster and Connacht by bringing rebels to surrender. (2)
- 1580 The rebellion in Munster is joined by a second revolt in Leinster led by James Eustace, Viscount Baltinglass, and Feagh Mac Hugh O’Byrne. (2)
- 1580-98 Edmond Spenser in Munster (2)

- 1582-3 Systematic suppression of rebel forces in Leinster and Munster culminating in the killing of the earl of Desmond. (2)
- 1585 Meeting of parliament in Dublin, which proceeds, with the attainder of Desmond and his supporters, and the confiscation of their property. A commission in England devises a scheme for the distribution of the confiscated Munster property and the establishment of a plantation. The president of Connacht devises the Commission of Connacht; Hugh O'Neill, baron of Dungannon, created earl of Tyrone. (2)
- 1585-7 Grantees of Munster Plantation lands assume possession of their properties. (2)
- 1588 Spanish Armada defeated (2)
- 1595 Death of Turlough O'Neill provides Tyrone with the opportunity to assume the Gaelic title of O'Neill. (earl of)Tyrone then also enters into the rebellion and with Red Hugh O'Donnell opens negotiations for support from Spain. (2)
- 1602 Order restored to Munster. (2)
- 1603 Death of Elizabeth; accession of James VI and I and surrender of Tyrone to Mountjoy; towns seek formal acceptance of Catholic worship.(2)
- 1621 Plantation scheme revealed for settlement of portion of the Irish midlands. (2)
- 1622 Comprehensive survey of the Irish church and government and of all plantations established in Ireland. (2)
- 1625 Death of James I; succession of Charles I (2)
- 1626 Charles I offers 'Graces' to his Irish subjects in return for subsidies. This provides for the tacit toleration of Catholicism in Ireland, thus vexing his Protestant subjects. (2)
- 1628 Charles I formally issues the Graces; undertakers in the Ulster plantation permitted to retain 'natives' as tenants. (2)
- 1641 Stafford tried, convicted, and executed in England on a charge of treason; outbreak of rising in Ulster; Ireland lapses into political chaos. (2)

- 1649 Execution of Charles I; arrival of Cromwell in Ireland and sieges of Drogheda and Wexford (Sept. -Oct.); death of Owen Roe O'Neill (Nov.) (2)

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Definitions and Odds & Ends

There are various lands measure used in Ireland and their use is not consistent from county to county. Some of them are cartrons, quarters, ploughlands, sessiagh, carrowmeers and gneevs. Family partnerships or settlements were suggestive of Brehon decrees.

1 quarter = 4 cartrons

$\frac{1}{2}$ sessiagh = 2 cartrons

$1\frac{2}{3}$ quarters = $2\frac{1}{2}$ sessiaghs

carne is a parcel of 12 days ploughing.

Cor means corcasses – land adaptable for tillage or meadow.

In Connacht 1 quarter = $\frac{1}{4}$ baile biataigh was a single ploughland of 120 acres of arable land in Munster.

3 ploughlands are called vicariously sesreachs and ballyboes

The quarter and the ploughland varied in extent with the quality and situation of the land.

A baile biataigh was supposed to be able to carry 300 cows.

Arable land was often measured by a fixed number of days ploughing, forty-eight of fifty days being allowed to the ploughland of 120 acres – 12 days to a cartron.

Source: Book of Survey and Distribution 1636-1703, Vol. 4, County Clare,
Robert C. Simington, Dublin Stationery Office for the Irish Manuscripts
Commission, Dublin, 1967

“Before the English invasion there were 180 Triochas or Cantreds (now called baronies) in Ireland. There are 30 Townlands in a Cantred, 12 Ploughlands in a Townland and 120 acres in a Ploughland. Munster had 70 Cantreds.”

Source: The Civil Survey 1654-1656, County of Tipperary, Vol I & II, by Robert C. Simington, Government Publications Sale Office, Dublin, Ireland, 1934.

“A ‘barony’ seems to have meant a definite amount of tax-paying land; it was sub-divided into ‘quarters’ and each ‘quarter’ nominally contained three ‘ploughlands.’ A ‘ploughland’ was an amount of land which would afford employment to one plough with a full team of horses or oxen, and was normally valued at 120 acres of arable land. A ‘quarter’ was so-called because 4 ‘quarters’ made a ‘ballybetagh’ and 30 ‘ballybetaghs’ made a ‘tricha-ced’ or ‘cantred.’ A ‘cantred’ seems to have been equivalent to a ‘barony.’ The size of all these units differed in different districts.”

Irish History from Contemporary Sources 1509 – 1610, Constantia Elizabeth Maxwell, George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London, 1923, Note 1, p. 324

Other Land Measures

The land in the Civil Survey of 1654 “...is accounted for at the townland level. The extent of the land is measured by large Irish acres whereof twenty goeth to the Colpe.” “

Acres, Rods and Perches

Acres: Irish and Plantation

Land Ownership

“Fiants ... were the warrants directed to the Irish Chancery, directing the issue of letter patent under the Great Seal, and corresponding to the ‘Signed Bills’ of English procedure ... Letters patent could cover a wide variety of matters; leases and grants of land, either from the Crown itself or following upon a surrender by the original proprietor, in the well-known but often misunderstood process known as surrender and regrant; appointment not only to office and church benefices but also to Irish chieftancies and to the seneschalships into which they were converted as

an intermediate stage towards their eventual elimination under English law...”

- Church of Latter Day Saint Family History Center,
Locality Micofiche, #0554 Land and Property

Land Divisions

Mitchell, Brian, A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD, pp. 6-7

County – “This division reflects the imposition of the English system of local government in Ireland. Begun in the twelfth century, the thirty-two county framework was completed with the creation of Wicklow in 1606. County boundaries usually reflected the lordships of major Gaelic families. The four provinces of Ireland – Ulster, Connaught, Munster and Leinster – owe their origin to the pre-eminence of the families O’Neill (Ulster), O’Connor (Connaught), O’Brien (Munster) and MacMurrough (Leinster). It was these families that strived for the High Kingship of all Ireland in the centuries before the Norman invasion of the twelfth century. The Irish families reflected in the county divisions owed allegiance to these provincial kings”.

Barony – “This is now an obsolete division, but in the nineteenth century it was widely used. There were 331 baronies and they also tended to reflect the holdings of Irish clans. Baronies and counties became established in the government land surveys of the seventeenth century.”

Poor Law Union – “Under the Poor Relief Act, 1838, Ireland was divided into districts or ‘unions’ in which the local rateable inhabitants were to be financially responsible for the care of all the paupers in their areas. These unions, which didn’t respect county boundaries, were usually centered on a large market town. By 1850, 163 unions had been created. The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, adopted the poor law union as the basic administrative division in place of the civil parish and barony. The poor law unions of Ireland were subdivided into 829 registration districts and 3,751 district electoral divisions. Townlands were now arranged according to these divisions, with parishes and baronies being retained only as a means to make comparisons with records gathered before 1898.”

Civil Parish – “ From the seventeenth century the so-called civil parish, based on the early Christian and medieval monastic and church settlements, was used extensively in various surveys. By the mid-nineteenth century the pattern of civil parishes was well established. By

1841 the population of Ireland had risen to 8,175,124 and this was reflected in changing parish boundaries. New parishes were created by either subdividing larger ones or by withdrawing townlands from adjoining parishes. For example, in 1765 Montiaghs Parish in County Armagh was separated from Seagoe Parish, while in County Londonderry Carrick Parish was created in 1846 by withdrawing eleven townlands from the adjoining parishes – three from Balteagh, three from Bovevagh and five from Tamlaght Finlagan. The civil parish essentially covered the same area as the established Church of Ireland. The Roman Catholic Church, owing to the Reformation of the sixteenth century, had to adapt itself to a new structure centered on towns and villages. The parishes depicted in this volume, 2,508 in all, are civil parishes. Civil Parishes frequently break both barony and county boundaries, indicating they were drawn up at an earlier period.”

Dioceses – “Three ecclesiastical synods – Cashel in 1101, Rathbreasail in 1111 and Kells in 1152 – imposed a diocesan organization of four provinces: Armagh, Cashel, Dublin and Tuam, each headed by an archbishop and under them twenty-two bishops in charge of as many dioceses. These diocesan boundaries have remained virtually constant to the present day and are in use by both the Catholic and Anglican Churches. The number of dioceses has, however, varied with consolidation through time by both the Catholic and Anglican Churches. Dioceses have little or no relation to the boundaries of the counties, the latter having been created long after the dioceses. It is the Church of Ireland dioceses, as existing in the mid-nineteenth century, that are mapped here. Until 1834 the dioceses of the Church of Ireland were grouped into four provinces. The number of provinces was then reduced to two, Armagh and Dublin.”

Currency

Pounds, Shillings and Pence with (£,s,d). There were 20s in 1£ and 12 pence in 1s. In addition 4 farthings made 1penny and 21 shillings made 1 guinea.

Manuscript Reference System

The Manuscript reference system at Trinity College is described as a three component system.

Class E. Tab 3. No. 5 (i.e. E.3.5)

Definitions

Irish History from Contemporary Sources 1509 – 1610, Constantia Elizabeth Maxwell, George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London, 1923

Note 2, p. 324 – “Coarb, ir., *comharba*, an heir, or in Church usage the successor of the patron saint or founder of an abbey or bishopric, e.g. the Archbishop of Armagh was coarb of Saint Patrick. The name ‘termon’ may have been derived from ‘terminus’ – a boundary. The coarb seems to have been the chief tenant of the termon land. The erenach (Ir., *airchinneach*) was apparently of lesser importance; he was the general supervisor or steward of the lands belonging to a church or monestery.”

p. 324 – “...the word ‘termon’ doth signify in the Irish tongue, a liberty, or freedom, and that all Church lands whatsoever are called termon lands by the Irish; because they were forever free from all impositions and cuttings of the temporal lords, and had the privilege of sanctuary... For the name of coarb... I collect by that which they tell me, that he was a prior or a resident of a collegiate church; for, he did not only possess a good quantity of glebe lands, the tenants and occupiers thereof were called termon men, and had the privilege of clergy, but he had also some rectories appropriate, whereof he had that portion of tithes, which belonged to the parson, and had withal the presentation of the vicarages. He had always his place or seat in a mother church, where he had a certain number of priests serving with him; in the cathedral church he had a stall in the choir and a voice in the chapter: and this coarbship is named a dignity in the register at Rome...lastly, this coarbship was in a manner hereditary; for though the coarb were ever in orders, yet was he in this Irish country usually married...and after his death, if any of his sons were qualified with learning, he was chosen by the dean and chapter to be coarb...”

“For the erenach, there are few parishes...where there is not an erenach, which being an officer of the church, took beginning in this manner: when any lord or gentleman had a direction to build a church, he did first dedicate some good portion of land to some saint or other whom he chose to be his patron; then he founded the church, and called it by the name of that saint; and then gave the land to some clerk not being in orders, and to his heirs forever, with this intent, that he should keep the church clean and well repaired, keep hospitality, and give alms to the poor for the soul’s health of the founder. This man and his heirs had the name of erenach...”

p. 271, Note 1 – “James I instituted the Order of Baronets in 1611, to relieve the English Exchequer of the burden of supporting the army in Ulster.”

Irish History From Contemporary Sources (1509-1610)

Constantia Elizabeth Maxwell, M.A.

George Allen & Unwin Ltd.
Ruskin House
40 Museum Street, W.C., London (1923)

The tanist (Ir., *tánaiste*, O. Ir., *tánaise*, second) was the successor appointed to the chiefship during the lifetime of the reigning chief. He was generally the strongest and wisest of the available candidates, and was chosen from the royal kinsmen. Pg. 59, n. 2

Gavelkind did not imply a constant re-distribution of lands within the whole tribe as the English writers supposed, but was arranged with reference to the *Derbhfine* or Irish legal family of four generations. Pg. 59, n. 4

Coyne and livery (Ir. *coinmheadh*, Fr. *livrée*) is an extortion and violent taking of meat and drink and money by the warlike retainers of such as pretend to have captainry, rule, or charge of defense of countries, as well upon their own as upon their neighbors. They who take it say that it cannot be taken away until a better mean may be found for defense of the countries under their rule. Pg. 61, n. 1

“There is little evidence of an extensive money economy in the country districts, however. Ransoms were often reckoned in horses and herds, rents were generally paid in cows and some of the greatest of the Irish chiefs are described by Sir John Perrot in a letter to Queen Elizabeth in 1586 as ‘lords of cattle but not much money.’” Pg. 69

The “bonaghts,” or mercenaries of the chiefs, were also often paid in cows. Pg. 69, n. 4

“So far as is known, the first difference in the standards of English and Irish money began in 1470, when coins were struck of the proportion of 44s. Irish to 37s. 6d. English. Shortly afterwards, the Irish coinage is found to be one-third under sterling, that is to say, that the Irish shilling valued at 9d. in England passed in Ireland for 12d. “ Pg. 70.

“One pound weight of silver of the standard of Ireland costs the Queen 16s. 0-7/8d. and the workmanship 1s. 8d., or in all, 17s. 8-7/8d. It makes in Irish money by tale £3. 2s. One pound of copper costs the Queen 6d.

and the workmanship thereof 1s. 10d., which is in all 2s. 4d. It makes in tale 16s." Pg. 70, n. 7

The gallowglass, who were more heavily armed than the kerne (Ir. *ceithearnach*, foot soldier), were originally either the foreign mercenaries employed by the Irish chiefs, or Irish soldiers armed in imitation of the Normans. Both were foot soldiers. Ir. *gallóglack*, foreign soldier. Pg. 87, n. 3

Soldiers terminology

Jacks - leather quilted coats, sometimes plated with iron

Skein - a dagger, knife

Pads - stuffed saddles

Skull - close-fitting head piece.

Pesane, a gorget or mail plate attached to the helmet.

Horsemen, gallowglass, kerne and dalonyes

Horsemen - These men are armed with head-pieces, shirts of mail or jacks, a sword, a skein and a spear. They ride upon pads or pillions without stirrups, and in this differ from ours; that in joining the enemy, they bear not their staves or lances under arm, and so put it to the rest, but taking it by the middle, bear it above arm, and so encounter. Every horseman hath two or three horses, and to every horse a knave; his horse of service is always led spare, and his knave, which carrieth his harness and spear, rideth upon the other, or else upon a hackney.

Gallowglass - These are picked and selected men of great and mighty bodies, cruel without compassion. The greatest force of the battle consisteth in them, choosing rather to die than to yield, so that when it cometh to bandy blows, they are quickly slain or win the field. They are armed with a shirt of mail, a skull and a skein: the weapon they most use is a battle-axe or halberd, six foot long, the blade whereof is somewhat like a shoemaker's knife, and without pike; the stroke whereof is deadly where it lighteth. And being thus armed, reckoning to him a man for his harness bearer, and a boy to carry his provision, he is named "a spare" of his weapon so called, 80 of which "spares" make a battle of gallowglass.

Kerne - a kind of footman, slightly armed with a sword, a target of wood, or a bow and sheaf of arrows with barbed heads, or else 3 darts, which they cast with a wonderful facility and nearness, a weapon more noisome to the enemy, especially horsemen, than it is deadly; within these few years they have practiced the musket and caliver, and are grown good and ready shot.

Dalonyes - horseboys. They are the very scum, and outcast of the country, and not less serviceable in the camp for "meatinge" and dressing horses, than hurtful to the enemy with their darts.

Of Irish Ways

Mary Murray Delaney

pg. 16 - In 1815 Ireland had no railroads.

pg. 19 - "At the southern end of the Arigna Mountains nestles the little village of Keadue. Suddenly, we are aware of another of the numerous links that bind our own land of the free to the land of the Emerald Isle. For here in Keadue was the home of Turlough O'Carolan, last and greatest of the Irish bards, and composer of the music to our national anthem, 'The Star Spangled Banner.' "

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Celtic society was highly structured. The social equal of the King were the Druids (priests and teachers). They also acted as judges.

Irish scholars and bards of old had the responsibility of preserving records of Ireland history. Much of Ireland's literary records were destroyed by the Viking and English invasions.

Before the Christian era, which arrived in Ireland with the coming of St. Patrick in 432 A.D., the functions of priests and teachers were provided to the prominent Celtic families by individuals known as Druids. There was an Irish tradition of maintaining particular professions within the same families over many generations. This allows a case to be made for some of the ancient ancestors of the McGraths having been Druids.

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pg. 50 - The ancient Irish laws were called Brehon Law. This law stated that a family consisted of all the relatives in the male line of descent for 5 generations. Property was owned by the family and the family was also the unit that determined kingly succession. Under the Brehon Law there was no death penalty, but a levying of *erics* or fines, and the whole family of the accused individual was held responsible for the payment of these fines. On the downside if a certain branch of the family had held a kingship for four generations, they were not inclined to relinquish their rights. Under these circumstances the other

branches, fearful of losing their royal status for all time, were often tempted to slay their own kin. Since there was no provision made for appointing a head of state after the death of a king, there were times between two successive reigns when the country had no sovereign. Both problems contributed to the Irish people's inability to defend themselves in the invasions that would subsequently change the course of Irish history.

pg. 58 - "...there was no single ruler in ninth century Ireland who was responsible for the defense of the island as a whole. There were a great number of small kingdoms, and the island was divided into two halves: Leth Cuinn, dominated by the Ui Neill king of Tara, and Leth Mogha, ruled by the Egonachta of Cashel."

pg. 59 - In the ninth century "...(s)tone churches built with mortar were beginning to replace wooden buildings."

"Probably the most significant effect the Vikings had on Irish life was that the country's political and social center shifted from the midlands to the east coast, facing the Irish Sea."

pg. 61-2 - "Henry sailed for Ireland in October of 1171. Arriving in Waterford he made his way up through the country with his retinue. The Irish, except for the princes of northwesterly parts of the country, paid him homage. Possibly because Pope Adrian IV, a friend of Henry's and the only Englishman ever to sit on the papal throne, had approved Henry's expedition, Irish bishops, including Archbishop of Dublin, also submitted. It was a bloodless conquest for Henry. Taking up residence in a palace outside Dublin, Henry received and entertained the Irish kings who came to pay homage to him, overwhelming them with his generous gifts."

The Penal Laws

The Penal Laws enacted or re-enacted in the new era succeeding the siege of Limerick, when under the pledged faith and honour of the English Crown, the Irish Catholics were to be "protected in the free and unfettered exercise of their religion." provided amongst other things that:

The Irish Catholic was forbidden the exercise of his religion.

He was forbidden to receive education.

He was forbidden to enter a profession.

He was forbidden to hold public office.

He was forbidden to engage in trade or commerce.

He was forbidden to live in a corporate town or within five miles thereof.

He was forbidden to own a horse of greater value than five pounds.

He was forbidden to purchase land.

He was forbidden to lease land.

He was forbidden to accept a mortgage on land in security for a loan.

He was forbidden to vote.

He was forbidden to keep any arms for his protection.

He was forbidden to hold a life annuity.

He was forbidden to buy land from a Protestant.

He was forbidden to receive a gift of land from a Protestant.

He was forbidden to inherit land from a Protestant.

He was forbidden to inherit anything from a Protestant.

He was forbidden to rent any land that was worth more than thirty shillings a year.

He was forbidden to reap from his land any profit exceeding a third of the rent.

He could not be guardian to a child.

He could not, when dying, leave his infant children under Catholic guardianship.

He could not attend Catholic worship.

He was compelled by the law to attend Protestant worship.

He could not himself educate his child.

He could not send his child to a Catholic teacher.

He could not employ a Catholic teacher to come to his child.

He could not send his child abroad to receive education.

The priest was banned and hunted with bloodhounds. The schoolmaster was banned and hunted with bloodhounds.

If he had an unfaithful wife, she, by going through the form of adopting the Protestant religion compelled from a papist the heaviest annuity that might be squeezed out of him - and would inherit all the property at his death.

If he had an unnatural child, that child by conforming to the Established religion, could compel from him the highest possible annuity, and inherit all his property at his death - to the total exclusion of all the children who had remained faithful to their father, and their religion.

If he was discovered in the act of having his son educated at home, a ruinous fine and a dungeon awaited him. If he sent his son to be educated abroad, all his property was confiscated - and the child so educated was thereby disbarred from inheriting anything.

He was compelled to pay double for the support of the militia. And he was compelled to make good all damages done to the state by the privateers of any Catholic power in which the state was at war.

The law soon came to recognize an Irishman in Ireland only for the purpose of repressing him.

The Story of the Irish Race, Seumas MacManus, The Devin-Adair Company, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 1982, p. 458-60.

Inishmagrath, co. Leitrim, barony of Drumahaire, parish of Drumreilly, Poor Law Union of Carrick on Shannon. (6A. 1R. 28P).

Islandmagrath, co. Clare, barony of Islands, parish of Clareabbey, Poor Law Union of Ennis (537A. 3R. 29P).

Sliocht an Bhallaigh (**descendants** of the freckled man)

Miler Magrath References

Clogher Record, Vol. 2 No. 1 (1957), Magrath to Privy Council 12 October 1582
L. Ó Mearáin.

Somerset R.L. Belmore, 'The Castle and Territory of Termon Magrath', *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* Vol IX No. 3 (1903).

F.J. Bigger, *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* Vol XII (1906)

Rev. J. Graves, *Royal Society of Antiquities Journal*, Vol II (1958).

Robert of Ennis, married August 14, 1791 to Anne, daughter of Thomas O'Dwyer
o.b. August, 25, 1819 (Ennis Chronicle)

Helen married Edmond Magrath, of Killbarron on 14th January, 1819, her cousin
Clare Journal

See Strafford about making Miler Magrath's sons and nephews give back
Church lands. Source: *A Treasure of Irish Folklore*, ed. by Padraic Colum,
Portland House, New York – Second Revised Ed. 1982, p. 161

Marron Lawrence, Documentation from the State Papers concerning Miler
Magrath, *Archivium Hibernicum*, xxi (1958).

Jackson, R.W., *Archbishop Magrath, the Scoundrel of Cashel*, Dublin, 1974.

Excerpts from the Annals of Ulster

Annals of Ulster, A Chronicle of Irish Affairs

Vol. II A.D. 1057-1131; A.D. 1155-1378

Vol. III A.D. 1379-1541

Edited, with Translation and Notes by B. MacCarthy, D.D., M.R.I.A.

Alex Thom & Co., Ltd., 87, 88 & 89 Abbey Street, Dublin, Ireland (1895).

1271 – Simon Mag Craith, dean of Ard-carna, rested in peace. – p. 345 (II).

1290 – Gilla-Adomhnain Magraith, superior of Termonn-Dabeo[i]g, rested on the
13th of the Kalends of November [Oct. 20] this year. – p. 385 (II).

1379 – The defeat of Dreich was inflicted by Ua Neill (that is, by Naill Mor) on
Philip Mag Uidhir and on Domnall Ua Neill, where fell Tadhg Mag Uidhir and two
sons of Maghnus and Toirdelbach, son of Donnchadh Mag Uidhir and Brian, son

of Mac Craith Mag Uidhir and Muircertach, son of Milchu and others, on the 2nd of the Kalends of June [May 31]. P. 3 (III).

1384 – Lucy, daughter of Ua Taichligh, wife of Maurice Mag [C]raith, namely the superior of the Termon of [St.] Dabeog, died. P. 15 (III).

1395 – Ua Maile-Duin of Lurg, namely, Domnall, was taken prisoner by the sons of Art Mag Uidir in deception in the Termon of [St.] Dabeog and he was slain after he was captured by them. P. 31 (III).

1415 – The Saxons came into Ireland this year, namely, Lord Furnival. And he despoiled many of the poets of Ireland, to wit, Ua Dalaigh of Meath and Aedh Ma[c] Craith junior and Dubthach Mac Eochadha and Maurice Ua Dalaigh. P. 69 (III).

Lord Furnival – Sir John Talbot. He was Baron Furnival through his wife, the grand-daughter of the last Lord Furnival.

1423 – Mag Craith of the Termon of [St.] Dabeog, namely, Marcus, son of Maurice Mag Craith, died this year, and his brother, namely, John Mor Mag Craith, was made Superior in his stead. P. 95 (III).

1435 – Mag Craith of the Termon of [St.] Dabeog, died this year: namely, John Mor Mag Craith, that is, a man who kept a general guest-house and so on. P. 139, 141 (III).

1440 – Mag Craith, Superior of the Termon of [St.] Dabeog, namely, Matthew, son of Mark Mag Craith, died this year and John the Tawny, son of John Mor Mag Craith, was made Superior the same year. P. 147 (III).

1461 – Aenghus Mag Craith, namely, an eminent poet, died. P. 205 (III).

1463 – Tadhg the Black, ... - Toirdhealbach, son of Mark Magrath, rested. P. 21 (III).

1465 – Art, son of John Mor, son of Maurice Mag Craith, namely, dean of Loch-erne, died. P. 213 (III).

1469 – John the Tawny, son of John Mor Mag Craith, namely, Superior of the Termon of [St.] Dabeog, died this year and Diarmaid, son of Mark, son of Maurice Mag Craith, was made Superior in his stead. P. 227 (III).

1470 – Catherine, daughter of Concubar Mor Mag Ual[gh]airg, wife of Diarmaid Mag Craith, dies. P. 237 (III).

1471 – Ruaidhri, son of Donchadh, son of Aedh Mag Uidhir, was killed by Colla, son of Aedh Mag Uidhir and by his sons, at the house of Mag Craith in Alt-ruadhin, in the Termon. And Donchadh junior, son of Donchadh, son of Aedh Mag Uidhir, pursued Colla and Colla was killed by him and his son was killed along with him on the morrow, in the same place, through vengeance of God and of [St.] Dabeog, for the profanation of the Termon. P. 241, 243 (III).

1491 – Exceedingly great wind this year on the day and night of the feast [next] after Christmas. – Ruaidhri, son of Diarmait, son of Mark Mag Craith, was made coarb and tribe-head this year a short time before Christmas. – Aedh and Ruaidhri, two sons of Domnall, son of Aedh junior, son of Aedh, son of Ragnall, son of Donchadh Mac Craith the Comely, died this year. – Murchadh, son of Eogan Mac Craith, died. P. 357 (III).

1492 – The coarb of the Termon of [St.] Dabeog (that is Mag Craith), namely, Diarmait, son of Mark, son of Maurice, son of Nicholas, son of Andrew Mag Craith, died at end of Harvest of this year. P. 365 (III).

1495 – Mag Uidhir, namely, John son of Philip, son of Thomas Mag Uidhir,

(A)	(B,C)
<p>went, at instigation of Aedh, son of Ua Domnaill, to put Conn, son of Ua Domnaill, from the castle of Ath-Senaigh and Conn was put from the castle by them and Mag Uidhir pursued him to Dun-na-Gall and Dun-na-Gall was burned in the beginning of the day. Conn and the riing out of Tir-Conaill and Inis-Eogain and Dartraighe of Mag Flannchadha turned in pursuit on Mag Uidhir and on Aedh as far as the Termon of [St.] Dabeog. And Mag Craith, namely, Ruaidhri, son of Diarmait, son of Mark Mag Craith, namely, coarb of the Termon , met them in the Termon and proclaimed it to Conn and to the Conallians not to break his own protection, nor the protection of the Termon, against Mag Uidhir.</p>	<p>was taken by Conn, son of Aedh the Red, son of Niall Ua Domnaill the Rough, in the Termon of Mag Craith and Brian junior, son of Brian, son of Philip Mag Uidhir, was slain there and Edmond Carrach, son of the Archdeacon, son of Cathal Mor Mac Maghnusa and Donnchadh, son of Donn, son of Philip Mag Uidhir and Art, son of Tadhg the black-eyed, son of Mac Craith Mag Uidhir and Gilla-Padraig, son of Gilbert Ua Flannagain, were slain there and so on. And 110 horses were abandoned there.</p>

And they brooked not that and [accordingly] Mag Uidhir and his people went perforce, until their horses came into soft, shaking turf, in which they left 110 horses. And with that, the people of Mag Uidhir were broken [that is, defeated] and Mag Uidhir was taken within the protection of the Termon and of Mag Craith and 12 person were slain there, including Briain junior, son of Brian, son of Philip Mag Uidhir, who was slain on the morrow by the sons of Aedh Mag Uidhir in his own land and including Edmond Carrach, son of the Archdeacon Mac Maghnusa, and Donchadh, son of Donn, and son of Philip Mag Uidhir and Gilla-Padraig, son of Ua Flannagain, namely, son of Gilbert, son of Cormac Ua Flannagain, and Art, son of Tadhg the black-eyed, son of Mac Craith Mag Uidhir and so on. P. 405, 407 (III).

1496 – Ua Domnaill, namely, Aedh the Red, son of Niall, son of Toirdelbach of the Wine and his son, namely, Conn, let Mag Uidhir from out his captivity, the Saturday [Oct 29] before November Day, for Mag Craith and for the Termon. And it seemed to every one that they did not fully acquit [themselves] with [St.] Dabeog, nor with the Termon, because it was necessary for him [The termoner, Magrath] to give a certain part of the ransom from himself into the hand of Ua Domnaill and of his son, namely, Conn, on a condition of liberating Thomas Mag Uidhir, who was in durance much of the year with him.

(B,C)

Mag Uidhir was let out from his captivity by the descendants of Ua Domnaill, in honour of the Termon and of Mag Craith and for their own party and for their own dignity and so on. P. 411 (III).

1497 – The cave of the Purgatory of Patrick on Loch-ghearg[-derg, co. Don.] was broken this year by the Guardian of Dun-na-Gall and by representatives of the bishop in the deanery of Loch-erne, by authorization of the Pope, about the feast of Patrick of this year; it being understood by every one in general from the History of the Knight [Of the Knight Owen; given by Matthew Paris (*Hist. Major*, Lond. 1684, 72-7)] and other old Books that this was not the Purgatory that Patrick got from God, although they were, every one, visiting it. P. 417 (III).

1497 – O'Domnaill, namely, Aedh the Red, son of Naill the Rough, put his lordship from him, on the 7th of the Kalends of the month of June [May 26] of this year, in Carna of the Termon Mag Craith. [This took place] on Friday, the day of the week and the Tuesday after that his soon, namely, Conn, was made O'Domnaill. P. 417 (III).

1499 - The wife of Mag Craith (that is, Henry – The author is using Henry as the modern day equivalent of Ruaidhri which other authors interpret as Rory), namely, of the coarb of the Termon of Dabeog, namely, Graine, daughter of the

Prior (of Devenish; ob. 1462, sup.) O'Flannagain , died this year. P. 439, 441 (III).

1504 – Andrew (i.e. Andrias, “Ocinnrias”), namely, son of the coarb of the Termon of Dabeog, died this year. And there was not during his own time in Ireland at that time a son of a termoner that had greater respect and honour and kept a better guest-house than he. P. 467 (III).

1507 – Mag Craith, namely, Thomas and Mac Conmidhi, namely, Solomon and Ua Cuill, namely, Cennfaolaigh and Ua Dalaigh the Fair, namely, Godfrey and Ua Dalaigh the Carbrian, namely, Aonghus and Ua Gerain, namely, John – all these poets slept this year in Christ. P. 485 (III).

1516 – A French Knight came on his pilgrimage to the Purgatory of Patrick this year. O'Domnaill joins friendship with him and brings him with him to his house and does great honour to him and gives horses and an African ring to him and escorts him safe to his ship. It comes of the friendship of O'Domnaill with him, that he sent a ship full of ordnance and of guns [capable] of breaking a castle, in charge of the deputy of the king of Scotland, to O'Domnaill. P. 521 (III).

1516 – A large party of Friars of Cavan were drowned upon Loch-erne and two Friars of [Stricter] Observance [were] in it, namely, John, son of Thomas Carrach Mag Craith and Nicholas O'Cathain and other persons with them. P. 525 (III).

1524 – John the Tawny, son of Andrew Mag Craith , to wit, the son of a termoner that was of most esteem and influence in the Province of Ulster, died this year. P. 557 (III).

1528 – p. 573 (III)

(1)	(2)
<p>Mac Craith of the Termon of Dabeog, namely Ruaidhri, son of Diarmaid, son of Mark, son of Maurice Mac Craith, died this year. And a noble sermoner was that man and he was generous to strangers and was intelligent, informed and was cheerful, virtuous and was a learned antiquarian and a man that kept a general guest-house among Ultonians was he</p>	<p>Mag Craith of the Termon of Dabeog, namely, Ruaidhri, the one for whom was written THIS BOOK [The B copy.], died this year with victory from world and from demon.</p>

1528 – The daughter of Mag Craith, namely, Margaret, the wife Cormac O’Muirghesa the Red had, died this year. P. 575 (III).

1530 – The daughter of Aedh Blind [eye] O’Neill, namely, Una, wife of Tadhg the Tawny, son of Mag Craith, that is, son of Ruaighri, son Diarmaid, son of Mark Mag Craith [died]. P. 577 (III).

1531 – The daughter of Mag Craith, namely, Finghuala, the wife Gilla-na-naem O’Uiginn had, died this year. P. 581 (III).

1532 – The dark Damsel, daughter of Mag Craith, died this year; namely, wife of Dubhaltach Mac Domnaill: to wit, an excellent, virtuous, witty woman. P. 585 (III).

1536 – Mag Craith of the Termon fasted* on the sons of Aedh Bliind [-eye] O’Neill, namely, on Failghe and on Mael[-Sh]echlainn. Those sons and every muster they found made a raid [in consequence] on Mag Craith and the son of Mag Craith, namely, James the Tawny and Nicholas, son of the prior Mag Craith, were slain by them that day in revenge of that fasting. P. 607 (III).

*Fasting – For this legal procedure (which it is somewhat strange to find practised at so late a period), see *Anc. Laws of I., I. S.v. Fasting*. The offence, in all probability (*ib.* II. 71), was the removal, to prevent ordination, of a clerical student educated by the termoner, Magrath, for the service of the local church. P. 605, Note 5 (III).

1536 – Thomas the Freckled, son of Andrew Mag Craith and John, son of Brian, son of Toirdelbach Mag Craith and Diarmaid, son of John Mag Craith, died this year. P. 609 (III).

Finn = Fair

d’heg = white

burdi = tawny

Mharcuis = Marcus = Mark

Mhuiris = Maurice

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