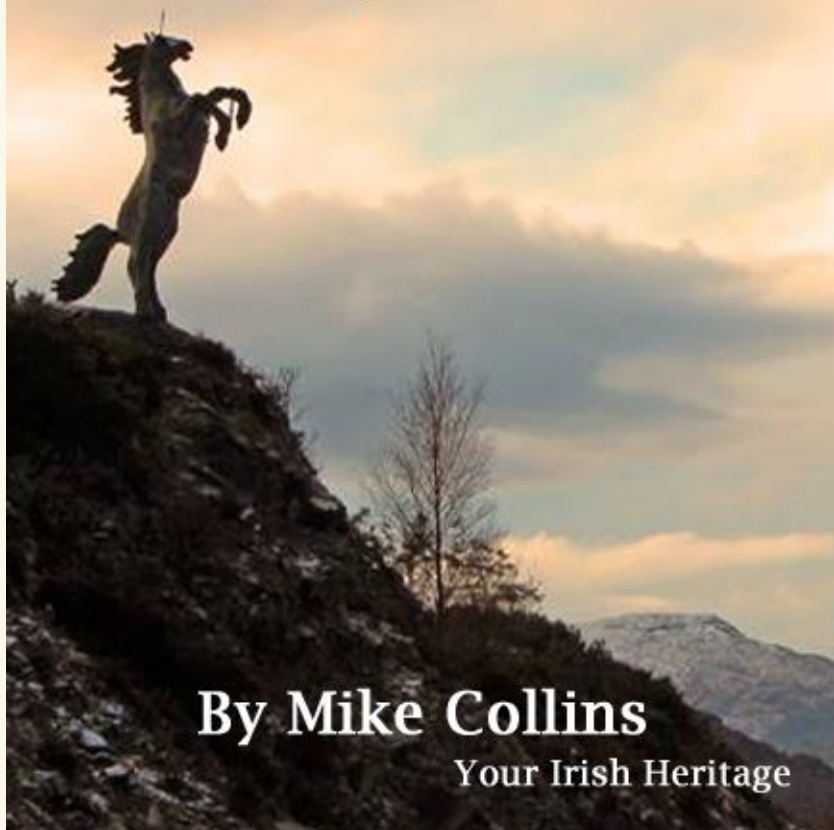


# Tribes of Ireland

## 1156 AD

Ireland at the  
Birth of your surname



**By Mike Collins**

Your Irish Heritage

# **The Tribes of Ireland: 1156AD**

**Ireland at the Birth Of Your  
Surname**

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## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to Carina, Evan and Rosaleen – my own history and future – and the thousands of readers of Your Irish Heritage who make the journey so wonderfully worthwhile.

# Table of Contents

Disclaimer.....	1
Preface.....	3
Introduction.....	7
<b>Section 1 – The Bigger Picture - Europe in 1156AD. ....</b>	<b>16</b>
Chapter One - Europe in 1156AD.....	17
Chapter Two - The Vikings.....	22
Chapter Three - The Normans.....	28
Chapter Four - England and Wales in 1156.....	38
Chapter Five - Scotland in 1156.....	47
Chapter Six - The Kingdom of the Isles in 1156.....	56
<b>Section 2 - Ireland in 1156.....</b>	<b>61</b>
Chapter Seven - A Brief History of Ireland.....	62
Chapter Eight – What Does it Mean to be Irish?.....	69
Chapter Nine - A Land of Little Kingdoms.....	77
Chapter Ten – Customs, Druids, Brehons and Bards.....	83
Chapter Eleven – Christianity in Ireland.....	93
Chapter Twelve - The Origins of Your Irish Surname.....	103
<b>Section 3 – The Kingdoms of the North. ....</b>	<b>116</b>
Chapter Thirteen - The Northern Uí Néill.....	117

Chapter Fourteen - Airgialla.....	125
Chapter Fifteen - Ulaid.....	133
<b>Section 4 – Kingdoms of the South. ....</b>	<b>140</b>
Chapter Sixteen - Tuamumu. ....	141
Chapter Seventeen - Desmumu.....	149
<b>Section 5 – Kingdoms of the East. ....</b>	<b>157</b>
Chapter Eighteen - Laigin.....	158
Chapter Nineteen - Mide.....	166
<b>Section 6 – Kingdoms of the West. ....</b>	<b>173</b>
Chapter Twenty- Connaught.....	174
Chapter Twenty-One - Breifne.....	183
Conclusion.....	188
Appendix 1 - The Surnames of Your Irish Heritage.....	190
Further Reading and Resources.....	220

## ***Disclaimer.***

Now, it may seem odd to start a book with a “Disclaimer” section. Just what is it that I am “disclaiming”?

The reason I have included this section is because I notice that us humans (including Irish humans) have a tendency to believe what we want to believe - especially when it comes to researching the significant people (and royalty who owned many castles) from which we are descended.

I have noticed this in the hundreds of conversations I have with the readers of Your Irish Heritage. I have the same tendency myself.

So, I want to bring your attention to the following facts:

1. This is the First Edition of this book. The second edition will be published at the beginning of September, 2014. In the meantime - each chapter of this edition is open to your comments, questions and suggested corrections. You can add your input on the special forum that is open to you when you purchase a copy of this book. I feel this approach is necessary because ...
2. It is much more interesting (and fun) to open this project up to the reader's of Your Irish Heritage - than for me simply to proclaim myself an expert in the field of your family history. This leads me to the next point.
3. I am neither an academic Historian nor professional genealogist. I am a resident Irish man who has also lived in many other parts of the world as an emigrant. I have a passion for engaging with others on the history of this beautiful Island and the world that surrounds it. Those “others” are typically people of Irish ancestry living in many different parts of the world - people like you who have come to value this aspect of your heritage. You also have a surname (or two) around which you wish to develop the story and journey of

Your Irish Heritage. And to my final point.

4. I believe that history is an open book. It is open to interpretation and discussion and there are many subjective truths. This is very much the case for the time we are looking at Ireland - 1156AD. A time that is often skipped over in the history books (and many of the written histories were written by the victors). We are also up against the many “genealogies” that were written by the paid employees of the leading families of the time. These books recorded the great victories and defeats and often sought to invent a royal lineage for the “up and coming” families of the time. As a new King arose - he had the power - now he needed the lineage.

So, I ask you to stay both open-minded and healthily sceptical around all that you read in this book. But I will make you a promise - together we will tease out an even more “useful truth” for you and me as we share and discuss the wonderful story and journey that is Your Irish Heritage.

*Mike Collins,*

*March, 2014.*



## *Preface*

As I write these words, I'm sitting on the waterfront of the beautiful port town of Cobh in County Cork. On one side are the waters of Cork harbour – to the other side is a Pub called “Kellys”. Over the door of the pub is a large sign for “Murphy’s” Stout – a locally-made beer.



**Figure 1** Cobh, County Cork

Between 1848 and 1950, over 6 million people emigrated from Ireland. Over 2.5 million of these departed from Cobh, making it the best-known port of emigration. Over much of that century, Cobh was known as “Queenstown” – but reverted to its older Irish name when Ireland regained Independence.

Ireland is a country of families and kin – a country of tribes – and it has

always been like that. If you travel around countries like England you will notice that many surnames derive from a place or an occupation.

In Ireland it is different.

When you examine the old Gaelic surnames that emerged after the tenth century, you see the vast majority of surnames are “son of” (Mac) and “Grandson of” (O). It was more important to tell the world which kin and family you belonged to than anything else. That is where the sense of honour, duty and trust came from. Not from place or occupation.

As you travel around Ireland even today – you encounter many surnames above the Pubs and shops – each a distinctive marker for a particular family. You quickly know which territory you are travelling through.

So, sitting here in Cobh – which only got going as an emigrant port at the time of the Great Famine in the mid 1800s – it comes to mind that there was next to negligible emigration before then by the native Gaelic population.

Many hundreds of thousands of Ulster-Scots left for the colonies through the 1700s – sometimes bringing Gaelic indentured servants with them. But the Gaels had a huge attachment to land and kin – one that did not break no matter how bad things got.

But they did get bad. And once the floodgates opened in the mid 1800s – whole extended families of Irish Catholics left Ireland for the shores of America, Canada and the UK. Over the following decades many chose to go further afield of their own free will to Australia and New Zealand.

I look at my own father who emigrated to England in the 1950s. One by one, he found work for each of his siblings and over a short number of years there seemed to be more of his family in London rather than Cork.

The reason I have written this book is to explore the tribes, families, territories, customs and culture of Ireland.

I frequently get asked the question: “My surname is e.g. O’Brien – can you tell me a little more about the name and where it comes from?””

This book is here to answer that question by taking a snapshot of Ireland at a time just before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in 1170AD. This was a time when Ireland was a fragmented place – both politically and in terms of territory – but was united in language, custom and culture.

It was a time when your Irish family surname came into being for the first time.

Mike Collins,

Cork,

February, 2014.

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## ***Introduction***

We all have a given name – mine is Michael – it marks us as an individual. We pay attention when we hear our name – it is often something unique to us in our family.

But surnames are different. Our surname is shared. Shared with many millions of people through the world, but more importantly, shared with our family and kin. Somehow, we carve a shared identity with the others in our family around this surname. And that is what this book is all about – the Irish surnames in your family tree. Not just the names and spellings, but the stories behind those names – their origins and evolution. We will use the Irish surnames in your family to help us uncover these shared histories, heritage – and hopefully uncover an enhanced sense of just what it is to be Irish.

To start our journey, we will travel back to a time when the use of surname was still in its infancy around the world. A time in Europe when population increase, feudalism and land ownership rights forced this new system into place for the first time. We will look at Ireland at the time of the birth of your surname.

### **Let's Start with a King**

O'Connor is just one of many thousands of Irish surnames in use around the world today. The spelling has often changed through the centuries as it travelled through the pens of the clerks of Ellis Island – we find Conor, Connors and I have even seen Okonor. Maybe it's just one of the Irish surnames in your family tree?

Turlough O'Connor – High King of Ireland for almost thirty-seven years – died in Dunmore (in modern County Galway) in May, 1156. Turlough – and all O'Connor's of Connaught - took their surname from Conchobar (Conor in English) – an illustrious ancestor who was King of

Connaught until 973AD. They were known as Ua Conchobair or “descendents of Conor”.



**Figure 2 The Irish Surname O'Connor**

Although he was born into the royal family of O'Connors and became King of Connaught – he spent most of his life in pursuit of the High-Kingship of Ireland. Forty years navigating the intricacies of Irish political life – splitting other kingdoms to weaken them - forging alliances through marriage, payment and the taking of hostages. He was buried in Clonmacnoise in modern County Offaly – where you can still visit the tombs of Turlough and his son, Rory – to this day.

In this book we will look at Ireland at the end of the reign of Turlough O'Connor. We will look at Custom and law, language and song, territories and tribes – and the family surnames of these Kingdoms and territories.

Let's start by reminding ourselves of two really important facts:

Firstly, human history only really began in the island of Ireland about 10,000 years ago.

Since then.... many different peoples have come to this island intermingled - and from this tiny island exploded across the rest of the world in a way that is quite remarkable.

So, when did humans come to Ireland? Let's have a look at the timeline:

10,000 BC	End of Ice Age – first settlers on island of Ireland arrive.
Up until 500BC	Stone and Bronze ages – People like the “Fir Bolg” and the “Tuatha Dé Dannan” lived in Ireland
Around 500BC	Gradual arrival of the Celts – who intermarry with people on the island. They gradually become known as “Gael”.
Around 400 AD	Introduction of Christianity – and historical record. “Pre-history” before this time.
Around the 800s AD	Arrival of the Vikings – who introduce towns and gradually intermarry with the native Gaels. Start of the surname “system”.
1169 AD	Arrival of the Normans – and their surnames – who gradually intermarry with the native Gaels.
1600s	Demise of the Gaelic chieftains – English take power and start the “plantation” of settlers – who bring their surnames from Scotland and England.
1700s – 1800s	Many Ulster Scots from Ulster to American colonies – with their surnames
Mid 1800s onwards	Famine and emigration of many Catholic Irish to US, Canada, UK etc. – with their surnames
1920s – 1940s	Republic of Ireland established

## **Where we will start our journey**

In this book, we choose a particular moment in time - a time before the arrival of the Normans in 1170AD. We will look at Ireland at the end of the reign of Turlough O'Connor. We will look at Ireland in 1156AD.

At that moment in time:

- The Gaelic “Tribes” and kingdoms of Ireland had been in place for hundreds of years.
- The Vikings had already landed on our shores and set up the first towns. They formed alliances with the native Gaelic kings and intermarried.
- The Anglo-Normans had yet to “invade” and start the gradual colonisation of Ireland.
- The surname system that we familiar with today was slowly being introduced.





Figure 3 The Kingdoms of Ireland - 1156AD

## The Kingdoms of Ireland in 1156AD

Tairrdelbach Ua Conchobair (anglicised as “Turlough O’Connor” -

pronounced “Ter-lock”) was the King of Connaught and High King of Ireland (with opposition) in 1156. At that time he was about 66 years of age. He ruled over an Ireland of nine provincial Kingdoms that was to shortly change in the most dramatic manner.

## **IRELAND IN 1156**

In 1156 Ireland was an island of Tribes. Each tribe was like a mini-Kingdom (called a “Tuath”). Each occupied its own tribal lands, administered its own justice – and constantly fought with other tribes for expansion of their territories. There were about 55 tribes throughout the island - each allied into a larger provincial over-kingdom.

These over-kingdoms (also showing their ruling families in 1156) were:

### **KINGDOMS OF THE NORTH:**

- Northern Uí Néill – MacLochlainn (McLoughlin)
- Ulaid (Ulster) – MacDuinnleibe (Dunleavy)
- Airgialla – Ua Cerbaill (O’Carroll)

### **KINGDOMS OF THE SOUTH:**

- Tuamumu (North Munster) – Ua Briain (O’Brien)
- Desmumu (South Munster) – MacCarthaig (McCarthy)

### **KINGDOMS OF THE EAST:**

- Midhe – Ua Malsechnail (Mc Glaughlin)

- Laigin (Leinster) – MacMurchadha (McMurrough)

## **KINGDOMS OF THE WEST:**

-Connaught – Ua Conchobhair (O’Connor)

-Breifne – Ua Ruairc (O’Rourke)

Do you recognise any of the family names above - are they one of yours?

Alongside these kingdoms were the Vikings – who had arrived 300 years before. At first, they came on short attacking trips – but over time set up the coastal towns of Ireland — Dublin, Cork, Wexford, Waterford and Limerick. By 1156AD they were still apart from the native Irish, but had evolved into the “Hiberno-Norse” – often called the “Ostmen” by the Irish.

## **Tribe, Clan and Kin.**

When you start looking at Irish history (and Scottish which is quite close) – you will hear lots of terms bandied about: Tribes, Clans, Kin, Septs and so on.

So, it’s time for us to make some distinctions.

- **TRIBE:** We will look at a “Tribe” as a group with a common leader who occupies designated Tribal Lands. Within these lands, all come under the same law.
- **CLAN:** The “Tribe” is made up of a number of “Clans””. Now, Clan doesn’t actually mean family in the way we understand it – although it is typically an extended Kin group. Its purpose is more administrative and political than a blood connection.

- **KIN:** Within the Clans were a number of “Derbhfine” – a male kin group all descended from a common great-grandfather. This again was a legal structure (in Brehon law) which dictated hereditary rights and so on.

So, tying this together - on the death of a Clan’s king, the surviving members of its Derbhfine would elect from their number a new successor. The wider clan, e.g. cousins who were too distantly related to be members of the Derbhfine, would not have a say in the election (maybe now you can see why it was so important to know your family, lineage and kin in Ireland – a habit we keep to this day). We will cover this in more detail later in the book.

So, you might be thinking “that’s quite small group of people from within which to elect a King”. But let me let you in on a secret. It’s not! Turlough had at least 6 wives and at least 24 sons. Brehon law allowed for children outside marriage and foster children to be included in the “Derbhfine”. As you can see – this extended “family” quickly grew to hundreds of individuals over 4 generations.

And another secret: Many of the Irish-descended readers here are actually descended from Royalty! Why? Well, when a King produces so many Princes — there is huge demand for land and resources among this ruling group. They edge out all the non-royals over some generations – until they themselves are displaced.

But, we are jumping ahead of ourselves – we will come back to the specific families and kingdoms in Ireland – as well as their customs.

First, however, we need to examine the world outside Ireland at the time. The world of Normandy, Scotland, England and Wales. A world that still contained many of Irish ancestors – ancestors who had yet to arrive in Ireland.

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# **Section 1 – The Bigger Picture - Europe in 1156AD.**

## ***Chapter One - Europe in 1156AD.***

While this is a book about the Island of Ireland - it is important to start with a broad overview of Europe up to 1156.

Why? For two reasons. First, some of the surnames and families of our Irish readers had yet to arrive in Ireland at this time. Many of these names we consider Irish today – but in 1156 they were still in their previous homelands of England, Wales, Scotland, the north of France and so on.

Secondly, many of the immigrations and invasions into Ireland came about because of great change on the continent of Europe - especially in the 200 years up to 1156. Of course, great change happened in the few hundred years after that also - but that is for another book. For now, let's take a view of Europe up to and including 1156.

In the rest of this section, we will look more specifically at each of the following groups and territories up to 1156AD:

- The Vikings
- The Normans and Normandy
- England and Wales
- Scotland
- The Kingdom of the Isles (Hebrides and Mann)



**Figure 4 Ireland and her Neighbours**

Before we look at the social and political pressures our ancestors faced in 1156 - let us put together a timeline of human habitation for Europe - and gain an appreciation of Europe up to that time:



## A Timeline of Human Habitation up to 1156AD

<b>35000 BC</b>	Earliest evidence of modern people in Europe.
<b>12500 BC</b>	The Wurm Glaciation period (the last ice-age) gradually ends. Temperatures and sea levels rise, gradually creating the islands of Britain and Ireland.
<b>10000 BC</b>	Earliest evidence of modern people on the island of Ireland.
<b>323 BC</b>	Height of Ancient Greek Culture and power.
<b>300 BC</b>	Roman Republic starts to expand.
<b>117 AD</b>	Roman Empire is at its height.
<b>476 AD</b>	Fall of the Roman Empire - start of the “Early Middle Ages”. This marks a period of depopulation, deurbanisation and movement of people across Europe - and the forming of new kingdoms and political boundaries. The start of what is often called “The Dark Ages” in modern history.
<b>400 AD</b>	Arrival of the Anglo-Saxons in Britain. They gradually drive the Celtic Britons to the North and the West.
<b>787 AD</b>	First recordings of Viking expansion to the west - raids on Britain and Ireland.
<b>880 AD</b>	Arrival of breakaway Norse Viking group in “Normandy” in the north of France.
<b>1066</b>	William of Normandy defeats the Anglo-Saxon King, Harold - and becomes King of England.
<b>1169</b>	The first Anglo-Norman forces from Wales into Ireland.

Oops - we are getting ahead of ourselves with that last one. But you can see where this is leading from an Irish point of view.

Back to the mainland of Europe. It seems that there are three major “themes” that we can keep an eye on in the above timeline.

1. A period of structure and stability marked by the growth of the Roman Empire.
2. A period of fragmentation and disintegration from the fall of the

Roman Empire to the 900s.

3. A period of increasing stability and structure (which resulted in population growth) from the early 900s up to the time we are looking at (1156AD).

From the late 10th century onwards the culture of the area of northern France and western Germany started to spread outwards - starting the creation of the "Europe" that forms the rump of what we call Europe today. Reasons for this expansion are linked to an improving climate that allowed more productive growing seasons. The availability of these "richer harvests" on one's own doorstep (as well as advances in farming technology) may have led to the end of raids by Vikings and other marauding groups.

This in turn allowed for political stability and some breathing space for civic structures and institutions to grow. Reforms of the Church in the 11th century (we will see more of this in the section on Ireland) reinforced and enhanced this political stability. Finally, the rise of Feudalism (a system of hierarchal land ownership that allowed people to remain more securely in one place) allowed increased social stability.

The money economy was beginning to reach all parts of Europe (including Ireland). Villages and towns began to emerge. New regions and lands became available and the overall effect of these combined factors was a rapid increase in the population of Europe. This population increase emerged from the 900s and only declined (but very severely) with the onset of the plagues of the 1400s.

As the core of Europe took on shared customs and stability, a small group of feudal knights (more about them shortly) began to strain against the boundaries in their Duchy of Normandy in northern France. In 1066 - the Norman conquest of England and Wales brought core European ideas and customs of the time to the Island of Britain. From that time on, many of the Kings of Ireland were becoming familiar with these new ideas of governance and land management. By 1156, many had in fact taken on aspects of this new approach and integrated it into the ancient

way that they already ruled their provinces and kingdoms.

So, let's take a journey around the key territories of Europe at this time. Lands that directly insinuated themselves on the course of Irish history - and the resulting migrations of your ancestors.

We will start with the last great group of raiders and marauders - but paradoxically also a group that brought many civilising elements to Ireland - the Vikings.

---

## ***Chapter Two - The Vikings.***

Do you have Viking blood in your family tree? With the advent of DNA testing and origin-matching, many people of Irish ancestry are finding they have a Scandinavian bloodline – even if their surname does not seem to originate there. I myself have the surname “Dolphin” in my mother’s line – a Norse name from the east coast of Britain that arrived in Galway in the 1300s.

So, who were the Vikings? Where did they come from? Where did they end up? And, of course – which Irish surnames have a Viking origin?

By 1156 many years had passed since the first recorded Viking raid on the Island of Lambay off modern County Dublin in 795AD. Over that time they had expanded outside their natural homelands of modern Norway, Denmark and Sweden - and established many of the trading cities we know today across Western Europe.

The Vikings were a seafaring people from what is now Scandinavia. They used the name “Viking” as a description of what they did – it meant to “go on an expedition” in old Norse. They raided and settled in wide areas of Europe from the 700s to the 1000s. During this time - and later through their descendents, the Normans - they brought about radical changes to the political and trading map across Europe. For example, it was Norse Viking pressure that split the Irish-Scottish kingdom of Dál Riada in two and pushed them into a union with the Picts of the East - forming the first Kingdom of Scotland.

In Ireland, the Viking trading posts and cities of Waterford, Wexford, Cork and Dublin caused the Irish Kingdoms to really look to the outside of the Island for the first time in a way that wasn’t just religious or cultural. These cities provided a funnel that introduced new ideas and technologies to the Irish.

And so in 1156, the extent of Norse-influenced Europe included (let's exclude the Normans for now):

- The Hiberno-Norse towns of Dublin, Waterford, Wexford, Cork and Limerick in Ireland.
- The Isle of Man
- The western Hebrides off the coast of Scotland
- Iceland and Greenland
- Denmark, Norway and Scandinavia
- The Irish “Viking” Towns of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Wexford.

In the late eighth and ninth centuries - the various monasteries and places of worship provided wonderful attraction for the raiding Vikings in the form of precious metals. Even better that Church rules required that lost, or removed, vessels be replaced continually to allow for proper worship.

These raids had an impact on the ruins and relics we see around us today. More buildings and relics were built in stone than wood – from round towers to high crosses - to better withstand the never-ending destructive raids.

The system of power in Ireland started to shift also - provincial Kingships grew in necessity as allegiances between the smaller kingdoms or “tuaithe” were formed to oppose this new threat. Both the role and power of the local Irish king began to diminish around this time.

The Annals of the time called the earlier Norse raiders “Finn-gaill” or “fair foreigners” and the later Danish raiders were known as “Dubh-Gaill” or “dark foreigner” (which also gives us the source of the surname “Doyle”).



**Figure 5 A Viking Longphort**

With their shallow-keel boats and ability to navigate shallow rivers - they had the early advantage of mobility. By 840AD they started to overwinter in Ireland - before that point always returning home after the summer raid. As they overwintered, they established fortifications around their camp - to combat an increasingly able Irish opposition - and so founded the core of what became the cities and towns of Dublin, Wexford, Waterford, Cork and Limerick.

All of these towns were founded twice by the Vikings – first in the late 800s as “Longphorts” – or temporary bases, and then after 917AD. In 902AD the Irish managed to expel all the Norse from the establishing towns to Northern England. When they arrived back in 917AD, they set about establishing fortified towns and these developed into the first towns and cities of Ireland. Over time – the inhabitants of these towns established their own culture as they disconnected from their own origins and intermarried with the local Irish. In history books today, they are known as the “Hiberno-Norse” although the Irish of the day always looked at them as a race apart – the Fair or Dark Foreigners.

Just like the rest of Europe at this time, there was a substantial increase in the population of Ireland. This led to an increased demand for more food and arable land. The work of farming was very labour-intensive, but one of the main lines of Viking trade provided a solution for this problem - the Slave trade.

The Vikings also introduced superior ship-building techniques to the Irish as well as silver coins - which quickly took over from cattle as the primary form of payment.



**Figure 6 Model of 12th Century Viking Waterford**

Overtime, each Viking city became an independent kingdom of its own - and a key link of trade and communication with the rest of Europe. Each of these “links” started to introduce a view of new possibilities to the Irish in their hinterland. In fact, it is also thought that the lack of Viking trading centres in the Uí Néill territory led to their weakening from the 10th century - and the rise of the Dál gCais who had the Viking City of Limerick in their back yard.

Over this time, Dublin became one of the most powerful trading centres across Europe - with a good size standing army and navy at their disposal. This army was often made available to the highest bidder in the

frequent bouts for power between aspirant Irish provincial kings.

Finally, the growing communication and trade channels between England and Ireland through these cities brought Ireland to the attention of the power and land-hungry Norman knights of Wales and England through the 11th and 12th centuries - and this was to change the course of Irish history in a very dramatic manner from the end of the 12th century.

### **The Irish surnames of Viking extraction**

It is difficult to establish any particular Irish surname as having a lineage stretching back to the Hiberno-Norse towns of Ireland – and certainly not back to Scandinavia. However, there are a number of surnames that come out of specific Norse given names as well as descriptive surnames for Norse in General. Of the names below, most are Irish Gaelic surnames that use a given name that has Norse origins e.g. O'Rourke.

Another is a descriptive surname given to many of the Danish inhabitants of the towns – Dubh Ghaill (Dark Foreigner) which anglicised phonetically as “Doyle”.

Of the surnames associated with particular Hiberno-Norse families – Cotter (MacCotter), Coppinger, Harold would be the only three still possessing significant territories in Ireland by 1451. The following are the Irish surnames of Viking influence and extraction:

Beirne Bligh Boland Broder Broderick Coppinger Cosgrave Cotter Crosbie Dolphin Doyle Dromgoole Gaule Gaynor Grannell Grimes Halpin Harford Harold Hendrick Herald Hever Hewson Higgins Jennings Kenrick Kett Kettle Kirby Kitt Lapin O'Loughlin O'Rourke McLaughlin McLoughlin McManus McSweeney MacAuliffe Sigerson Storey Sugrue Swan Sweetman Tarmey Toner Torney Trant Trehy Trihy

You may notice that I did not suggest which readers of Your Irish Heritage had names of Viking descent as many of the holders of these names probably had pure Irish Gaelic lineage – but just happened to have



a Norse-derived given name as part of their surname.

---

## ***Chapter Three - The Normans.***

Do you have Norman surnames in you Irish family tree?

When we hear the word “Norman” in Ireland today, we often think of the “Anglo-Norman” invasion of Ireland in 1170 that we heard about in school. Perhaps we also think about the Norman surnames that came into Ireland following that invasion. Many of my own friends today have Norman surnames - Roche, Barry, and Fitzgerald and so on. We attended the same classes in school, played for the same teams and shared a lot of growing up together. There was no “Us” and “them”. Over the course of a thousand years, the Norman families and surnames were fully absorbed into normal Irish life.



**Figure 7 Normandy in 1156AD**

Many of the readers of Your Irish Heritage have Irish surnames that have a Norman lineage. At the time we are setting this book however - 1156AD - your Norman ancestors had yet to arrive in Ireland. In this chapter we will track the evolution of the Normans (and your Norman surname) up the point in time before the Norman invasion of Ireland. To do so we need to go back in time and to another country.

## **The Norman Homeland.**

By 876, the Viking “threat” was well established over much of Europe. Vikings of both Norse and Danish extraction had set up trading posts - often planting the seeds of a later city - in many of the safe harbours of the east of Britain and south of Ireland. Vikings were still launching raiding parties from both these bases and their Norwegian home - returning home with their spoils for later trading.

In Norway around this time, a man called Harald FairHair was asserting himself as the first true King of Norway. King Harald began to impose a version of feudalism on what were free farmers up to that point, and won the local Earls over to this new way one at a time.

Not all were happy with this state of affairs - one man who fell out with King Harald at an early stage in his reign was Hrolfr (later also known as Rollo). Rollo was the leader of a band of Vikings that had been together for over 20 years – a tight-knit group who raided and extorted tribute on many shores across Britain, Ireland and France.

Rollo and his men found themselves banished from Norway following a particular transgression on their part. On the 17th of November, 876 - Rollo and his men arrived in the north-west part of France - what was the Kingdom of Neustria at the time (around the modern city of Rouen). This time they would have no home in Norway to which to return. They were looking for a territory in which to settle and use for a base for further raids. They were looking for a new place to call home.

Over the next forty years, this band of Vikings carried on their marauding ways from their new base - but also sent out a clear message to the rulers of France that they saw this territory as their new home. Charles, King of the Franks pragmatically decided to formalise the territory as the new homeland of this group. This pragmatism aimed to finish the endless cycles of raids and tributes that had persisted for decades at that point.

He met with Rollo in St Clair - coming to an agreement that would set up the Duchy of Normandy. The Duchy would be under the control of this Viking band and their descendants - the Normans.

### **The Norman Way of Life.**

The quality of the land in Normandy was a magnitude of difference to the old farmlands in Norway. The Norman focus was on the cultivation of grain (unlike the focus on cattle in Ireland) - and the rich, heavy soil of Normandy could yield four times more than back on the stony soil of Norway.

The Normans were masters of the crafting of iron - for their boat parts, weapons, armour and also for their farm equipment. Theirs was a fixed wealth - it lay in the land around them. Defining and counting lands became an important part of wealth consolidation. In order to prosper from tillage farming - stability was required over a number of seasons.

They also saw their wealth as lying in their farming technology and tools. It became important to count and list the equipment for its safekeeping.

Over time, the Normans took on the stabilising system of feudalism that was establishing itself with their French neighbours. They abolished slavery and replaced it with serfdom - it was seen as more pragmatic to have a "motivated slave" who would still be treated quite harshly, but now had accountability for equipment and a patch of land.

Over the next one hundred and fifty years, the Normans slowly settled down alongside their new neighbours. They strategically intermarried and made alliances - and also copied a hierarchy headed by a class of nobility.

One part of their growing farming heritage was their increasing interest and success in the breeding of horses. This was complemented by their abilities with the crafting of stirrups and other riding equipment. They became famous for the quality of their fighting horses - and their ability

to fight while riding.

With this stability and growing wealth (although it was a wealth bound by the tight borders of Normandy) - came an interest in the finer and more spiritual elements of life. Their original leader, Rollo, was converted to Christianity as part of the original treaty - and over the generations the church had re-established itself on their land. The new Norman nobility now started to invite religious orders onto their lands - which they would sponsor handsomely. This arrangement safeguarded a noble's eventual spiritual destination - but it also gave him access to a learned class that were capable of careful record keeping and notarising agreements on his behalf.

One aspect of their Viking ancestry that the Normans were slow to lose was a restless ambition. They had a desire to expand beyond their present boundaries and gather more material possessions, land, power and glory.

In some ways, this attitude was similar to the Irish of the time. The Irish also valued ambition, bravery and daring. However, they were bound to a single island and had different means and technologies at their disposal - and they operated outside a hierarchy. At this time, the Normans could back up their individual ambition with the power of feudalism, farming and fighting technology, God on their side - and their use of the castle.



**Figure 8 Norman Tomb**

There were almost 40 castles built in Normandy during those early years. The Normans used the castle as a means of establishing control over a piece of territory. It was a visible sign of local dominance and ownership. It symbolised the new hierarchy that was quickly introduced into the territory. They saw the wealth as being in the land (and the local labour to work the land) - and their castle clearly illustrated the required ownership.

### **The Normans Expand Beyond Normandy.**

Over the course of one hundred and fifty years - from 1047 to 1200 – the combination of this ambition and ability triggered one of the most extraordinary expansions of power from such a small area.

During that time, Norman Knights had successfully been invited into/invaded Britain, Sicily, Ireland and had started the first crusades to

the near east where they established many more strongholds - all of which were consolidated with the winning and granting of land, building of castles and establishment of a new feudal order in each locality.

In 1035, Duke Robert of Normandy was killed on the return from one of these first crusades. His son, William was only about seven at the time and this created a power vacuum that the Norman Lords immediately addressed by consolidating and protecting their own power - waiting for a new Duke to emerge. Amazingly, William stayed alive despite many conspiracies to take his life before his coming of age - and at the battle of Val-és-Dunes in 1047 he met his enemies. His victory at this battle established him as the undisputed Duke of Normandy - and he built up his resources unchallenged over the next twenty years.

The King of England at the time - Edward the Confessor - died in January, 1066. William of Normandy had a distant claim to the throne of England and was ready to assert his claim. However, Harold Godwinson was crowned King of England on the King's death. Edward had died without an heir. William had a distant claim to the throne - whereas Harold had no claim at all, merely the political will and military power.

By September, 1066 - William's forces were ready to invade England and take what he considered to be his rightful place on the throne of England. His boats, knights, warhorses, archers and soldiers numbered in their thousands as they set sail in October. They met the English army at Hastings on the 14th of October, 1066 and after a full day of matched and ferocious fighting, Harold Godwinson was dead and William had won the crown of the Kind of England.

A hierarchy of just ten thousand Norman knights went on to replace the aristocracy of England - with William, now William the Conqueror, at their head.

The ancestors and acquired vassals of this aristocracy formed the main part of the later invasion of Ireland from England and Wales in 1170. The Normans would bring their fighting, farming and feudal technology with them - as well as an insatiable ambition - and shape much of what we see

around us in the Irish landscape and politics. Even to this day.

## **England and Normandy in 1156.**

William died in Rouen in September 1087 and is buried in his native Normandy. This emphasises the way that the Normans of the day saw England as a colony of Normandy. Their true home remained this small part of northern France. In all, William spent maybe one third of his reign in England.

William and his nobles spoke a Norman form of French. The use of their combination of English and French words gave birth to the language we know today as “English”.

The following 80 or so years after the Norman conquest were characterised by civil war and insurrection with power swinging towards the feudal barons for a time – many of them building castles without royal permission. This was always a characteristic of the Norman hierarchy – and new Kings were always aware of this inherent threat within their ranks.

In 1154, Henry, Count of Anjou, Duke of Normandy and Duke of Aquitaine was crowned King of England. Over the following years he expanded his power into Ireland, Scotland and Wales – as well as Flanders, Nantes, Brittany, Toulouse, Bourges and Auvergne on the continent of Europe. He supervised – from a distance – the initial forays of his mercenary knights into Ireland in 1170.

Ties with Normandy remained until the aftermath of the Battle of Bouvines in 1214. This battle removed control of Normandy from the Anglo-Norman nobility of England. From this point on no Englishman of Norman descent would see himself as having his homeland in Normandy. The Norman aristocrats were now an integral part of the Kingdom of England – they had become English men.



## **The Norman Surnames of Your Irish Heritage.**

Norman naming conventions were typically the same as many Irish naming conventions. Before the arrival of surnames, a person was named as “son of” or “from a place” or by a descriptive nickname - except in French. It is also notable how many Norman lords used their name as “from a place” - underlining their sense of value in a fixed place/parcel of land.

The three types of Norman naming conventions were:

- **Son of** - Fils - which phonetically became “Fitz” e.g. Fitz Gerald
- **From - de** - e.g. de Bari - which in Ireland became de Barra and eventually Barry. These “Toponymic” surnames were introduced to England by the Normans - again, reflecting the value they put on place.
- **Nickname/Role - le** - e.g. le Gros - or the fat one. Another famous Irish role name was Fitz Walter which assumed the role of Butler in Ireland. Funny enough, this became “de Butléir” when it should have more appropriately been “le Butléir”.

When readers subscribe to our weekly “Letter from Ireland” - we invite them to submit the Irish names in their family tree (and the counties they believe they came from). Some submit one name - and some submit up to 30 different surnames!

Remember that while many of these names originated in the Norman homeland, they often mutated from an earlier name by the time they reached Ireland. Also, the Normans had assembled many vassals and helpers by the time came for the Irish invasion. These vassals and soldiers of fortune were often from Wales, England and the Flemish lowlands.

The Norman-derived names, alphabetically (and using the exact spelling provided to me by the reader) are:

Agnew Archdeacon Ashe Aspel Athey Aylward Baron Barrett Barrie  
 Barron Barry Birmingham Blake Bluit Bonds Bourke Bowler Braden  
 Brannaugh Breanach Brett Brew Britt Britton Brown Browne Bryan  
 Burke Burnell Burt Butler

Cantwell Carew Carey Carrig Chambers Claire Clare Coady Codd Cody  
 Colfer Comerford Conderm Condon Cook Cooke Costello Costelloe  
 Courtney Crosbie Crozier Cuff Cuffe Cursey Curtis Cusack Cushin  
 Cusick Cussen

Dalton Darcy D'Arcy Dardis Davey Davies Dean Delamer DeLargy  
 DeLucry Denvir Dillon Durgy Everett Fagan Fanning Fannons Faye  
 Feerick Ferriter Field Fields Fitzgerald Fitzgibbon Fitzmartin  
 FitzSimmons Fitzsimons Fleming Flemming Flood Frain Francis Frayne  
 French Furlong

Galloway Galway Gauley Gibbons Goggin Goggins Gorham Grace  
 Grennan Hackett Harper Harris Harrison Hay Hayes Hays Henry Hoar  
 Hoare Hobert Holly Hopkins Hurst Hussey James Jennings Jordan  
 Jordon Joyce Keating

Lacey Lacy Largy Liston Logan Long Lunch Lundy Luttrell Lynch  
 Marshall Martell Martin Martyn McAndrew McElligot McElliot  
 McGibbon McGillick McKeating McKeeman McNicholas McQuillan  
 McWilliams Moakler Molyneux Mordaunt Morris Morrissey Morrissey

Nagle Nangle Nash Naughton Noble Nugent Padian Pender  
 Pendergrast Plover Plunkett Power Powers Prendergast Prior Purcell  
 Purtill Quilter Raymond Redman Redmond Roach Roche Rockett Savage  
 Shinnors Sinnott Sisk Stack Stanton Staunton Stephens Stevens Stimson  
 Stinson Supple Sutton Synott

Talbot Terry Thomas Tobin Trant Tyrrell Wales Wall Waters Watters  
 Weston Wolfe Woulfe

\*Notes:

1. These are surnames given by the readers of Your Irish Heritage. Some of these names e.g. Fitzgerald appear in many reader's family trees - others may appear only once in our entire list.
  2. I have included the precise spelling given by the reader. In many cases this spelling has been affected by many centuries of Anglicisation and clerical error.
  3. In 1156 all of these surnames would have been in the original French – many later developed into Irish over the centuries – and most of these names are the popular Anglicisation's of each.
  4. Some of these names are also Gaelic surnames e.g. Lynch.
  5. Many of these names also feature as later surnames of England, Scotland and Wales – where the Normans also had a major influence.
-

## ***Chapter Four - England and Wales in 1156.***

OK - so this is a book about the “Tribes of Ireland” - so why are we including a section in England (and Wales)? For a few specific reasons:



**Figure 9 England and Wales in 1156AD**

Firstly, our nearest neighbour has had a profound effect on the history of Ireland - especially from 1170 onwards with the arrival in Ireland of the Normans. Much of the modern law, customs, language and land

ownership systems are either direct replicas or derivations of those found in England.

Next, many of the surnames of the readers of *Your Irish Heritage* came from, and through, England into Ireland over the last centuries. In fact, there are a huge number of distinctive names (see below) which reflect plantation patterns i.e. individual families travelled to Ireland and flourished in small pockets. We are looking at Ireland - and England - in 1156. At that time, many of your ancestors had yet to arrive in Ireland. Some arrived as part of the Norman invasion. Some arrived later during the plantations or as soldiers of fortune. In most cases, the families of those who arrived saw themselves as Irish within three to four generations.

Finally, many of the Irish Gaelic names we find in Ireland (and over the last few centuries) have been “pegged” with phonetic and descriptively equivalent English names leading many of our readers to ask “Is my surname Irish or English”.

So, in the last chapter we looked at Normandy - its history and the Norman conquest of England in 1066. In this chapter, we will look at a brief history of England and Wales, a view of the country in 1156 and then some of the surnames of *Your Irish Heritage* readers that came from England and Wales originally.

## **A Brief History of England and Wales.**

43 AD            The Roman Conquest of Britain begins. They remain in control of the Roman Province of “Britannia” until the 400s. Saint Patrick came to Ireland towards the end of this time and would probably have seen himself as a Roman citizen.

Around the    Roman rule breaks down in Britain. Britain is gradually mid-400s        occupied by the Angles and the Saxons (Anglo-Saxons) - who came from a territory between southern Denmark and North Germany. The “visiting/invading” Anglo-Saxons push the indigenous Britons further to the west in to modern Wales, Cornwall and the west part of lowland Scotland. More than seven Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms are established. Eventually, the

Angles give their name to “England” - “Land of the Angles”.

- 793AD The first recorded Viking attack is made on a monastery in Lindisfarne in Northumbria. During the 800s, the Kingdoms of Northumbria and East Anglia fall to the Danes. There are repeated threats and invasions (many successful) from the Scandinavians over the next two hundred years.
- During the 900s The “Kingdom of England” is established for the first time as smaller Anglo-Saxon kingdoms as a series of Anglo-Saxon kings dominate smaller Kingdoms and invade the Danish kingdoms.
- 1066AD Edward the Confessor, King of England, dies without an heir. Harold Godwinson becomes King - but that is disputed by William, Duke of Normandy who believes that he has a greater right to the throne - and the means to enforce it. William and his Norman force invade England; kill Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings and William assumes the title of King of England.
- 1066AD-1156AD England and Wales become Norman colonies ruled by a Norman elite. Over this time there is continuous threat of invasion from the Danes. The Normans introduce their system of feudalism, land division, chivalry, church sponsorship and topynomic surnames (based on place) – and commission the Domesday book.
- 1156 Henry II assumes the throne of England. By this time, the Normans are becoming progressively more integrated with the local Anglo Saxons through marriage. Most are now bilingual.
- Early 1200s Anglo-Norman elite ties to Normandy effectively broken. By this time, the Normans in England were seeing themselves as “English”.

## **England and Wales in 1156AD**

It is telling that when William died in 1087 the Duchy of Normandy – what he considered his prime territory went to his eldest son, Robert and England to his second son – William.

By William's death, the majority of the native English aristocracy had been replaced by Norman nobles. However, many of the Normans who accompanied William returned home to Normandy - reluctant to take up

land in a territory that was far from peaceful. As a result, many of the newly rich Normans in England were from relatively humble backgrounds.

Between the year of William's death and 1154 – England was a territory that veered from chaos to relative calm, disputed Kingships and civil war. The Normans attempted to take control of Scotland and Wales on a number of occasions – but rarely managed to impose control for an extended period of time.

In 1154, Henry, Duke of Aquitaine was crowned King of England. Over the following years he was responsible for extending Norman influence to its widest extent – he extended his power into Ireland, Scotland and Wales – as well as Flanders, Nantes, Brittany, Toulouse, Bourges and Auvergne on the continent of Europe.

Henry inherited a difficult situation in England, as the kingdom had suffered through a civil war. The king's income had declined seriously and royal control over individual fiefdoms was not assured. Henry started to rebuild the kingdom of England – he restored the justice system and got the royal finances back onto a solid footing.

King David of Scotland and various Welsh rulers had taken advantage of the civil war to regain their lands. In Wales, Henry had to fight two campaigns before the two Welsh princes Owain Gwynedd and Rhys ap Gruffydd agreed to pre-civil war borders.

The Norman knights who settled in the Norman lands of South Wales became known as the “Cambro-Normans”. The most prominent of these Norman knights was the man in line to become the second Earl of Pembroke – Richard de Clare – otherwise known as “Strongbow”.

Richard backed the wrong side during the civil war - and King Henry refused to recognise Richard's claims to the earldom of Pembroke. So Strongbow was effectively kept untitled by the king - and facing mounting expenses. And then the opportunity came to launch a campaign into Ireland at the invitation of the deposed King of Leinster in

1168 – which must have looked appealing at the time.

Richard's neighbouring knights, allies and family included the ancestors of the FitzGerald, Griffith, Butler, Barrett, Joyce, Barry and Prendergast families in Ireland.

## **Surnames of England and Wales\***

The first use of surnames in England and Wales is tied in with the Domesday surveys and book of 1086. As we saw, the new Norman overlords of Britain placed great value in productive land as well as farming and fighting technology and implements. The Domesday survey set out to capture who held what land and what taxes would be liable going into the future. Evidence indicates that surnames were first adopted among the Norman nobility and then slowly spread to other parts of society. Many of the early Anglo-Norman nobility differentiated themselves by placing 'de' (of) before the name of their holdings in Normandy – and so had a form of territorial (toponymic) surname – which they then introduced to England.

The use of surnames continued to be adopted in England up until the 15th century – mainly driven by the administrative requirement for a taxation system - and hereditary surnames were adopted in the 13th and 14th centuries. By the by 1400, most English people used surnames, but many Scottish and Welsh people did not adopt surnames until the 17th century.

Most surnames of English and Welsh origin fall into six types:

- **Occupational surnames:** Cooper, Brewer, Carpenter, Taylor and so on.
- **Personal descriptive surnames:** Brown, Young, Long, White and so on.



- **Geographic feature near to where they lived:** Hill, Stone, Moore, Forest and so on.
- **Locational (Toponymic) surnames:** Leighton, Hamilton, Burton and so on.
- **Ancestral (patronymic) surnames:** Richardson, Thompson, Jones, Davies, Wilson and so on.
- **Patronal surname:** Rickman (Richard's man), Abbot, Bishop and so on.

When readers subscribe to our weekly "Letter from Ireland" - we invite them to submit the Irish names in their family tree (and the counties they believe they came from). Some submit one name - and some submit many more!

In this volume I have aimed to place each of these surnames into the appropriate chapter (in this case England and Wales) - but please make sure that you read the notes at the end of this list.

The names, alphabetically (and using the exact spelling provided to me by the reader are:

### **Of Welsh Origin:**

Blaney Blayney Bowen Brunnock Davis Evans Flood Floyd/Flood Gough Griffin Griffith Guinn Gwynn Jones Lewis Lloyd McDaniel Morgan Mostyn Owens Powell Preece Price Pugh Rice Taaffe Vaughan Walsh Welch Welsh Williams Wynn

### **Of English Origin:**

Adams Adkins Alcott Alford Allen Allingham Ambrose Amy Anderson Andrews Arkwood Armour Armstrong Arrick Arundel Ashe Aspel

Atkins Atkinson Averell

Baggott Bagley Bagnall Bailey Baker Ballinger Balun Bambery Banks  
 Barber Barclay Barker Barnard Barnes Barnett Barnidge Barr Bartley  
 Bates Beacom Bearer Beasley Bell Belshaw Belsher Berry Best Bevis  
 Biggins Bigham Bingham Binsely Bishop Blackburn Blackie Bloxham  
 Bonney Borden Boyce Boyle Bradley Brannick Bransfield Bray Brent  
 Brock Brooks Browner Brownley Bryson Buckley Burgess Burnim  
 Burrows Burton Bustard Byron

Cain Caine Calderwood Caldwell Camier Canning Capeheart Caplice  
 Carden Carleton Carpenter Carr Carter Caswell Caulfield Caulfield  
 Caviston Chaney Charley Charlton Clark Clarke Clinch Close Clough  
 Coates Cobey Coe Colclough Cole Colley Collings Collins Colvin Colwell  
 Compton Cook Cooke Cooper Copps Corbett Cottom Cove Cowley Cox  
 Crawford Crimmins Crippen Croke Crosley Crosse Crossen Crosset  
 Crossett Crow Crowe Cubbard Cuff Cuffe Culpepper Cumberlander  
 Curistan

Dabney Dale Dane Darling Davey Davidson Dawes Dawson Decker  
 Denieffe Dennison Dingman Dinnen Dixon Dobbin Dobson Dodd  
 Doggett Donathan Dorsey Dothard Draper Dudgen Dungan Dyer  
 Dykes

Eades Earl Eaton Eckley Edgar Edwards Eldon Elliot Elliott Ellis  
 Elver Elwood Emerson English Ennalls Evers Eyre

Fabish Fairchild Fane Fardy Faulkner Fawcett Fell Fennell Ferdinand  
 Ferron Fetherston Fisher Flood Floyd/Flood Ford Fox Free Frost Fry

Gage Gailey Gamble Gardiner Gardner Garland Gartland Gaston  
 Gaunt Gibbons Gilbow Gilman Gilpin Glenn Godfrey Goff Goode  
 Goodwin Goucher Goulden Gray Green Greenaway Greene Gregg  
 Gregory Grey Griggs Grimes Guinn Gunning Guy Gwynn

Haddock Hale Hall Halton Hand Harbison Harden Harland Harley  
 Harman Harmon Harper Harrington Harris Harrison Hart Haslett

Haston Hawe Hawkes Hawkins Heard Hearn Heaslip Hege Hempinstall  
 Herbert Hester Hetherington Hewitt Hicks Hide Hill Hinton Hoar Hoare  
 Hobert Hobson Hogg Holland Holmes Hope Hopkins Horn Houstin  
 Howard Hoyt Huddleston Hughes Hull Humenick Hunt Hunter Hurson  
 Hurst Hyde Idiens Igoe

Jackson James Jeffers Jeffrey Jeffries Jeffert Jess Jinks Johnson Johnston  
 Jones Karr Keaton Kellet Keppel Keyes Keys Kimmet King Kingston  
 Kingstone Kinman Kinnamon Kinsley Kirk

Ladd Lambe Lambert Lamison Landers Lane Lardner Law Lawless  
 Lawrence Lawton Layng Leach Leatham Lee Leech Leighton Lennard  
 Leonard Lewis Libby Lillis Lloyd Loftus Lonsdale Lovejoy Lovett  
 Lowther Lucas Lundy Lynam Lyng Lyons Lyttle

Mace Macklam Madden Magner Maids Manning Margey Markham  
 Marlowe Marnell Marney Marsh Mason Masterson Mathews Maune  
 Maybury Maynard Maze Meeke Miles Miller Millet Mills Minsey Mitchell  
 Moates Money Penny Monk Montgomery Moody Moor Moore Morley  
 Morning Morrison Morrow Mortimer Moss

Naismith Nelson Nesbitt Neville Newcomb Newman Newmarch  
 Nichol Nichols Nicholson Norfolk Norris Norton Oglesby Oliver  
 Ormsby Pace Paine Palmer Parke Parker Patterson Pattison Paul Payne  
 Peacock Peckham Peel Pendleton Pennefeather Perkins Perry Peters  
 Petty Phillips Philpot Philpott Pielow Pierson Pilkington Piper Poague  
 Poe Pogue Polley Pollock Pomeroy Porter Pouton Pritt Purvis

Quinton Raggett Raley Ralph Ralston Randall Reade Reaney Reeve Reid  
 Reynolds Riddell Riddle Ridgway Rispin Robinson Rock Rodgers Roe  
 Rogers Rolston Rose Ross Rossbotham Rossiter Rossiters Roundtree  
 Routon Rowan Ruane Rudd Russell Ruth Rutledge

Sands Sansburn Saunders Scales Scollon Scott Screen Scuffle Seaver  
 Seely Segrave Shackelford Short Shortall Shortis Silk Simpson  
 Skeffington Skelton Skeritt Skinner Skivington Sligh Sly Smeltzer Smith  
 Smyth Snodgrass Spears Speers Spiby Sprague St Lawrence Stanley Steele

Stenson Stephens Stevens Stilley Stilwell Stimson Stinson Stone Stoner  
Storey Story Stover Stratton Strawbridge Stroud Sutherland Swift Synge

Tatten Taylor Telford Thomas Thompson Thorpe Timms Titterington  
Todd Tone Tooker Totton Toy Travers Travers/O'Treabhair Treadwell  
Tremere Trimble Tucker Tuckey Turner Tuttle Twyford Tyre Vance  
Venable Vesey Vincent

Wade Wakefield Walker Walton Wardle Warke Warren Waters  
Waterson Watson Watters Webb Wellwood Weston Whistle White  
Whitehead Whitney Whitt Whitty Whyte Wiggins Wiley Willis Wilson  
Winchel Winston Winters Witt Wonderley Wood Woodard Woods Wray  
Wright Wrinkle Wylie Yates Yeates Yore York Young Youngue

\*Notes:

1. These are surnames given by the readers of Your Irish Heritage (some of these names e.g. Wood appear in many reader's family trees - others may appear only once in our entire list.

2. I have included the precise spelling given by the reader. In many cases this spelling has been affected by many centuries of drifting from the original English name.

3. Many of these names also feature as surnames of Gaelic Ireland. This was often because of the phonetic similarity between a Gaelic surname and an equivalent English surname. An English-speaking clerk would often substitute a Gaelic name with an English name they were more familiar with - and the English version stuck.

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## ***Chapter Five - Scotland in 1156.***

In September, 2014 - the citizens of Scotland will be asked to vote in a referendum - the question will be:

*“Should Scotland become an Independent country?”*



**Figure 10 Scotland in 1156AD**

Scotland has been part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain (and later Northern Ireland) since 1707. Before that, the Kingdom of Scotland was an independent sovereign state since the Picts and the Scotti united into a single political unit in the mid 900s.

In this chapter, we will look at an area that has had a great overlap with Ireland over so many centuries - had a shared culture, language (and

surnames) for much of that time. From the 1600s onwards, many of the ancestors of our readers came from the Lowlands and border regions of Scotland to Ulster as part of the plantations. A sizeable percentage of these “Ulster-Scots” went on to emigrate to the emerging colonies after generations of living in Ireland.

So - let’s dive a little deeper into the history of this country, its ties with Ireland and the Your Irish Heritage reader surnames that came from the various regions of Scotland.

## **A Brief History of Scotland.**

The first evidence of habitation in Scotland is around 10,000BC - similar to Ireland - as the ice retreated at the end of the last ice age.

Around 40AD the Romans advanced into what is now England and Wales - and by 70AD they attempted to invade Caledonia (what we now call modern Scotland). Over the course of 150 years, the Romans attempted to advance into Caledonia several times - only to be pushed back. During this time they built Hadrian’s Wall which ran from coast to coast and roughly in line with today’s border between England and Scotland.

The Romans called the people in the north part of Caledonia “Picti” (or Picts) - while the people to the south part of Caledonia were from Brytonic tribes. Roman occupation of Britain came to a gradual end in the 5th century.

From this point in time to the late 500s, there is very little recorded history to tell us about major events and dominant tribes of the country. But in the early 600s we gain further insight (mostly due to the writing and recording skills of missionary Irish monks of the time) - and we learn that:

- The Picts ruled a Kingdom to the north-east of modern Scotland.

- To the west the Kingdom of Dál Riada straddled the sea and lands between Antrim on the north-east coast of Ireland and Argyll in Scotland.
- To the southwest was the Brytonic Kingdom of Strathclyde
- To the southeast was the Kingdom of Northumbria inhabited by the Angles (as in Anglo-Saxon) - who had invaded Britain in waves over the previous decades.

The name “Scotland” came from the presence of the Dál Riada - whom the Romans knew as “Scotti” or “Irish”.

Over time the Pictish kingdoms adopted the language and customs of their western Gaelic neighbours - who referred to the Pictish kingdom as “Alba”. There was eventually a uniting of the Gaelic and Pictish kingdoms around 840AD. This was probably brought on by the Viking threat - which had formed the Kingdom of York to their south east and Strathclyde to their southwest.

Through the 800s, the name “Scotia” became increasingly used to describe this united Gaelic and Pictish kingdom which eventually became known as Scotland.

The most prominent King to take the throne of Scotland over the next 300 years was David the First - who reigned from 1124. He spent his early life in exile in England and was influenced by the Norman/French culture and administration. Many “modernising” changes took place in Scotland during his reign - the foundation of the first Scottish towns, introduction of coinage, the foundation of monasteries in line with the continental orders, the introduction of the Norman system of government as well as the placement of Norman Knights within the Aristocracy who in turn introduced the system of feudalism.

In 1156 - Malcolm IV was King of Scotland. He was fifteen years old at the time and had been King since the age of twelve.

## **The Clan System in Scotland.**

The word *clan* comes from the Irish Gaelic word *Clann*, meaning family. However, it was more like the “kin group” (Dearbhfine) and Tuatha system in Ireland at the time in that the Clans defined a territory using local men and families who accepted the authority of a single family kin-group.

Over time (as the successful Clans developed in numbers and territories it also included loosely-related families - who acknowledged the clan chief as leader and protector\_of the group.\_Often those living on a chief's lands would abandon their own surname and adopt the clan surname.

Like the leading families of Ireland — many Scottish clans have claimed illustrious founders from the early first millennium - however in reality the progenitors of clans can rarely be authenticated further back than the 11th century, and a continuity of lineage in most cases cannot be found until the 13th or 14th centuries.

Although the term “Clan” was mostly applied to the families and territories of the Highlands of Scotland - it is equally correct to look at the families of the border counties with England in much the same way.

## **Scottish Lowland and Border Clans and Surnames include:**

Agnew Ainslie Allardice Anderson Armstrong Arnott Baillie Baird Balfour Bannatyne Barclay Baxter Bell Bisset Blair Blane Boswell Boyd Boyle Brisbane Brodie Bruce Byres Cairns Caldwell Carmichael Carnegie Carruthers Chalmers Clelland Cochrane Cockburn Colville Cranstoun Crawford Crichton Cumming Cunningham Dalrymple Douglas Dunbar Duncan Dunlop Durie Elliott Erskine Fenton Fergusson Fleming Forbes Forrester Forsyth Fullarton Galloway Glen Glendinning Gray Grierson Guthrie Haig Hall Hay Hepburn Heron Hope Houston Irvine Johnstone Kelly Kennedy Kerr Kinnear Kirkpatrick Laing Lennox Leslie Lindsay



Little Lockhart Logan Lyle Lyon Macdowall MacDuff MacInnes Mackie  
 MacLellan Maitland Marr Maxwell McCulloch Meldrum Melville  
 Middleton Montgomery Mow Muir Nesbitt Newlands Newton Nicolson  
 Paisley Paterson Pentland Pollock Porterfield Preston Primrose Pringle  
 Purves Rait Ralston Ramsay Riddell Russell Rutherford Scott Somerville  
 Stewart Stirling Strange Swinton Tailyour Tait Tennant Trotter Turnbull  
 Tweedie Wallace Watson Weir Whitelaw Wood Young

### **Scottish Highland Clans and Surnames include:**

Buchan Calder Cameron Campbell Chattan Chisholm Colquhoun Craig  
 Davidson Drummond Farquharson Fletcher Fraser Gayre Gordon  
 Graham Grant Gregor Gunn Hamilton Henderson Hunter Keith  
 Kincaid Lamont MacAlister MacArthur MacAulay MacBain MacDonald  
 MacDonell MacDougall MacEwen Macfarlane Macfie Macgillivray  
 MacIntyre MacIver Mackay Mackenzie Mackinnon Mackintosh  
 Maclachlan Maclaine MacLaren MacLea Maclean MacLennan Macleod  
 MacMillan Macnab Macnaghten MacNeacail MacNeil Macpherson  
 Macquarrie Macqueen Macrae MacTavish MacThomas MacCallum  
 Matheson Menzies Moncreiffe Morrison Munro Murray Nairn Ogilvy  
 Oliphant Rattray Robertson Rose Ross Scrymgeour Shaw Sinclair  
 Spalding Strachan Stuart Sutherland Urquhart

### **Is My Surname Scottish or Irish?**

This is one of the most frequent questions I get asked by our readers. One of them (with the surname Scott!) asked “Is Scott Irish or Scottish?” (I had to read that one twice).

Now, I don’t know about her particular circumstances, but I thought it was a great question to open up some facts about Scottish versus Irish names.

My original (and somewhat smart!) answer to her was “If I told you

Scottish comes from the Latin for Irish, but the surname Scott is one given by the English, and found in Ireland would you believe me ?”

And that kind of explains the complications around how surnames such as Scott evolve over time.

The original Latin name (remember, the Romans were in southern Britain for quite a few hundred years) for Scotland was “Alba”. The original Roman name for an Irishman was “Scotus”. Overtime, the area to the north of Scotland (where the Gaels were) became known as “Scotland” (or – land of the Irish!).

Back to the Scott surname.

In the highlands of Scotland, you had the Gaels (and the language they spoke was Scots Gaelic – an offshoot of Irish) – and in the lowlands near the border with England, you had the non-Gael Scottish.

There was a particular clan in this border area that came to be known as the “Scotts” by the English – and they adopted the name as their own clan name. So, you could say that Scott is a Scottish name – named so by the English!

And what about the Scotts in Ireland?

Well, many of this particular clan moved to the north of Ireland in the 1600s to escape religious persecution at the time. Today you will find Scott as a very popular surname in Northern Ireland – mostly in counties Down and Antrim – centred in the Belfast and Lisburn areas and the Ards peninsula.

And one final “complication”! When the Scottish “galloglass” came to Ireland (mercenary soldiers from the western isles of Scotland) – they were initially known as “Albanach” in Ireland (remember, Alba was the given Roman name for Scotland). But over time as surnames were taken – Albanach became known as “Scott” in Ireland.

So that's the answer – Scott was originally a Scottish name – they just got named that by people from other countries! And now, let me get started on the Irish name “Welsh”!

## **Surnames of Scotland\***

When readers subscribe to our weekly “Letter from Ireland” - we invite them to submit the Irish names in their family tree (and the counties they believe they came from). Some submit one name - and some submit up to 30 different surnames!

In this volume I have aimed to place each of these surnames into the appropriate Irish “Kingdom” - but please make sure that you read the notes at the end of this list.

The names, alphabetically (and using the exact spelling provided to me by the reader are:

Acheson Adair Adams Aiken Aikens Allen Alpin Baird Baron Barr  
Bean Beattie Beatty Berney Black Blair Bonney Bowes Boyd Bride Bruce  
Buchanan Burdin Burns Calhoun Campbell Carmichael Carr Carson  
Caruth Clannan Cleland Clendenen Cole Cook Cooke Cormac Cormack  
Craig Creelman Creighton Cubitt Culbertson Culbreath Cunningham

Darling Dicky Dinsmore Donaldson Douglas Duff Dunbar Dunlop  
Dunn Dunne Dunns Entrikin Erskine Erwin Ewing Ferguson Ferris  
Findley Finley Fisher Fletcher Forster Foster Fosters Frazier Fulton

Gardiner Gardner Gaston George Gibboney Gibbs Gibson Gilbonney  
Gilbow Gilchrist Gilliland Glenn Gordon Gove Graham Grant Gray  
Greer Gregg Grey Gunn Hamilton Hana Hanna Harkness Hawthorne  
Hepburn Holmes Hutchinson

Irvine Irwin Jamieson Jamison Johnson Johnston Karr Kee Kell Kerr  
Kinman Kinnamon Kinney Kirkpatrick Knox Kyle Laird Lang Leakey  
Leckie Leland Lewis Lockhart Logan Lowery Lowrie Lucas Lyle

MacCartney MacDonald MacKeon MacKinney MacKnew MacMillan

MacPhillips MacTavish Magee Maxwell McAfee McAlpine McAninch  
 McAninley McAttackneys McBee McBride McBurney McCartney  
 McClain McClanahan McClaran McClaghry McClellan McClelland  
 McClement McClements McClendons McCliment McCloud McClure  
 McClurg McCole McConaghey McConaghie McConaha

McConnaughey McCook McCool McCormack McCormick McCrary  
 McCray McCrum McDaniel McDonald McDormand McDow McDuff  
 McElwaine McEttrick McFadden McFalls McFarland McFarlane McGee  
 McGhee McGrice McIlwain McIntire McIntosh McIntyre McKay McKee  
 McKenzie McKeon McKeown McKey McKillop McKim McKinley  
 McKinney McKinnon McKinzie

McLain McLean McLellen McMillan McMullan McMullen McMullin  
 McNair McPhail McPhillips McQuay McQueary McQueen McRee  
 McRobert McSorley McVeen McVickar McWilliams Moffatt Moffet  
 Moffit Moorhead Moorheads Mullen Mullin Munn Murdoch Murray  
 Murtagh Murtha Orr Orrick

Paisley Patrick Paul Peden Phillips Purvis Randall Rankin Rea Rispin  
 Ritchie Ross Scott Seaton Shaw Simpson Smiley Spence St. Clare Stewart  
 Stirling Stitt Stuart Suitor Telford Thompson Todd Turbett Turbitt  
 Turner Tweedy Tyndall Wallace Watson Weir Willis Wray

**\*Notes:**

1. These are surnames given by the readers of Your Irish Heritage (some of these names e.g. McDonald appear in many reader's family trees - others may appear only once in our entire list.
2. I have included the precise spelling given by the reader. In many cases this spelling has been affected by many centuries of Anglicisation and clerical error.
3. In 1156 all of these surnames would have been in the original Scots Gaelic (if they existed at all) - most of these names shown are the popular Anglicisation's of each.

4. Many of these names also feature as surnames of Ireland (and sometimes England) etc. This was because Irish Gaelic surnames assuming a local Scottish planter surname equivalent – typically in Ulster e.g. sometimes the Scottish MacDonald stands for the Irish Gaelic MacDonnell. Also – many of the lowland Scots names may have also been in use across the border with England. Many of the later Scottish/English planters in Ireland came from these border territories.
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## ***Chapter Six - The Kingdom of the Isles in 1156.***

Many of the readers of Your Irish Heritage have “Galloglass” names in their family tree. The term “Galloglass” comes from the Irish *galloglaigh* meaning “foreign warriors”. They arrived in Ireland (from the mid 1200s to the late 1500s) at the invitation of various Irish Kings and chieftains who needed the fighting ability and technology of these mercenaries to push back the Norman threat to their homelands.



**Figure 11 The Kingdom of the Isles in 1156AD**

The Galloglass came from Norse-Gaelic clans on the islands of the west

of Scotland and shared a common background and language with the Irish Gaels. We know now that most of the Galloglass families were Gaelic in ancestry as opposed to Norse - and they came from kinship groups (or Clans) that were from Argyll on the west coast of Scotland and the southern Hebrides Islands. In essence they were indigenous Gaelic families who adopted Norse Viking military organisation and weaponry.

In return for military service to Irish kings, gallowglass groups were given land and settled in Irish lordships, where they were entitled to receive supplies from the local population.

In some cases, entire clans and major branches moved their base to Ireland over a short period of time. They were particularly motivated as they lost their lands by taking the wrong side in the Scottish war of Independence in the late 1200s and early 1300s. This time marked an end to their Norse-Gaelic Kingdom - the “Kingdom of the Isles”.

## **History of the Kingdom of the Isles.**

The **Kingdom of the Isles** consisted of the Hebrides Islands and the Isle of Man - and existed from the mid 800s to the mid 1200s. At times the Kingdom was independent of external political control but they often had to tolerate overlords in Ireland, England, Norway and Scotland.

Before the arrival of the Vikings in this area in the mid 800s, the southern Hebrides were part of the Gaelic kingdom of or Dálriada (which also had part of their kingdom over the sea in Ulaid). The Vikings arrival effectively split the middle of the kingdom of Dál Riada in two and hastened the decline of the kingdom.

Around 872, Harald FairHair became King of a Norway that was united for a first time. The effect of his policies (and banishments) was to send many Viking bands that would not live under his control to lands that they had previously only plundered. One famous example of these “ex-patriots” is Rollo and his men who went on to base themselves in what is

now Normandy in North France (see the chapter on Normandy in this book).

Many other Viking bands fled to the islands on the west and north of Scotland. Harald pursued them and established the Kingdom of the Isles which he incorporated into his own kingdom of Norway. However, by 876 the Viking chieftains of the Hebrides rebelled. Harald then sent Ketill Flatnose to reclaim the islands and he then declared himself the "King of the Isles". By the 900s, the Kingdom of the Isles included the Isle of Mann. At this time, the Viking Islands had very tight links with the cities of Dublin, Wexford and Waterford in Ireland.

The Isles had always been difficult to control since the days of Ketill Flatnose – and over the following two centuries the idea of a separate, independent “kingdom of the Isles” appeared to be an aspiration as opposed to a watertight defined territory.

By 1164 the Lords of the Isles were coming to prominence – two sons of Somerled – a previous King of the Isles. They were Dubgall the progenitor of the Clan MacDougall, and his brother Ragnall – the progenitor of the Clan Donald and Clan McRory.

The Hebrides and Mann were given over to the Kingdom of Scotland in 1266. That and the subsequent Scottish wars of independence disenfranchised many of the noble families of the islands. This was the motivation for so many families to move to new lands in Ireland as Galloglass.

The first record of gallowglass service was in 1259, when Aedh O'Connor, King of Connacht, received a dowry of 160 Scottish warriors from the daughter of the King of the Hebrides. The use of gallowglass in Ireland helped to contain Norman advances.

From Shakespeare – Macbeth:

*The merciless MacDonald,*



*Worthy to be a rebel, for to that*

*The multiplying villainies of nature*

*Do swarm upon him, from the Western isles*

*Of kerns and gallonglasses is supplied*

## **Galloglass Surnames of Your Irish Heritage\***

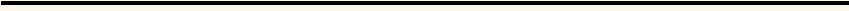
When readers subscribe to our weekly “Letter from Ireland” - we invite them to submit the Irish names in their family tree (and the counties they believe they came from). Some submit one name - and some submit up to 30 different surnames!

The names, alphabetically (and using the exact spelling provided to me by the reader are:

Coll English MacDowell McAllen McAllister McCabe McCallion  
McCoy McDonall McDonnell McDowell McGrail McGreal McNeil  
McSweeney Sheehy Shehey Sweeney

\*Notes:

1. These are surnames given by the readers of Your Irish Heritage (some of these names e.g. Sweeney appear in many reader’s family trees - others may appear only once in our entire list.
2. I have included the precise spelling given by the reader. In many cases this spelling has been affected by many centuries of Anglicisation and clerical error.
3. In 1156 all of these surnames would have been in the original Gaelic - most of these names are the popular Anglicisation’s of each.



## **Section 2 - Ireland in 1156.**

## ***Chapter Seven - A Brief History of Ireland.***

Ireland today is a country that wears its history for all to see - and to hear! If you drive around the island, you will see stone circles, promontory forts, “fairy rings”, burial sites and old field systems in many parts of the land. These are just some of the signs of human habitation that were already ancient by the time we look at the Tribes of Ireland in 1156.

As you travel, you will hear people talking with an accent and using words in a way that has been in use for hundreds of years. They call each other by given names that have been recorded on the island for thousands of years in some cases.

Before we dive a little deeper into the Ireland of 1156AD, let’s remind ourselves of a brief history of the people of the island of Ireland up to that point:

<b>35000 BC</b>	Earliest evidence of modern people on mainland Europe. No evidence has been found of human habitation in Ireland before 10000 BC
<b>12500 BC</b>	The Wurm Glaciation period (the last ice-age) gradually ends. Temperatures and sea levels rise, gradually creating the islands of Britain and Ireland.
<b>10000 BC</b>	Earliest evidence of modern people on the island of Ireland
<b>4000 BC</b>	Neolithic people (Stone age) - builders of dolmens and passage tombs. Newgrange in County Meath built about 3200 BC
<b>2500 - 600 BC</b>	Bronze age. Crafters of Gold ornaments, stone circles and wedge tombs

- Around 500BC** The Iron age. The first Celtic people arrive from central and western Europe. Start of the Irish language and building of Tara (in modern County Meath) and Emhain Macha (in modern County Armagh).
- 300 BC** Roman Republic starts to expand into Britain. It never reaches the island of Ireland.
- 450 AD** Christianity comes to Ireland. Start of the recorded historic period.
- 476 AD** Fall of the Roman Empire - Start of the “Early Middle Ages”. This marks a period of depopulation, deurbanisation and movement of people across Europe - and the forming of new kingdoms and political boundaries. The start of what is often called “The Dark Ages” in modern culture.
- 600 - 700AD** Codification of the Brehon laws
- 787 AD** Start of Viking expansion to their west – first recorded Viking raid on Lambeth island off the east coast of Ireland.
- 900 AD** Start of the surname system in Ireland - the first recorded surnames in Europe.
- 1014 AD** Battle of Clontarf. Defeat of the Vikings of Dublin by Brian Ború.
- 1156 AD** Synod of Kells - Reform of Church.  
Death of Turlough O’Connor king of Connaught and High King of Ireland.



Figure 12 Ireland in 1156AD



**Figure 13 Stone Circle at Kealkill, County Cork**

## **How do we know the History of Ireland?**

If you look at an Irish history book today, you will typically find that it covers the years up to about 1650AD in the first two or three chapters. The bulk of the history books cover a later time - a time when British administrative rule in Ireland ensured the compilation of general record keeping and specific recording of assets and trades. A particular version of history.

So, how do we dig into this earlier time? What historical records do we use to uncover this particular time in Irish History?

Well, apart from archaeological records - there have been a number of popular and scholarly books that offer different perspectives on the Ireland of the mediaeval period. These books typically rely on the following three sources:

## 1. The Irish Annals.

You may have noticed in our earlier timeline: 450AD, the “start of the recorded period”. The presence of the Christian church in Ireland from this point - and their learned monks led to Ireland being the country in Europe with the most recorded history during what we call the “dark ages”.

These monks started to write down the feast days of the various saints in a chronological order. Over time, these journals/annals included the obituaries of important local persons as well as major political events – events such as battles, blindings, marriages and so on. Unlike the recorded history that we are used to today, they did not offer any analysis, opinion or connection between individual events. But, they do give us accurate dates, locations and names for a chronology of events. These “annals” continued to be written in Ireland up to the 1600s. It is the combination of these annals that provided us with many of the dates for specific Irish events and characters that are used in this book.

## 2. Brehon Texts.

Around the 600s, something happened in Ireland that was quite unique in Europe at the time. The “Brehon Laws” which were previously transmitted orally, were written down for the first time. These were codified and written by “Brehons” (or judges) from about this time up until the early 1600s. They were so much more than mere law texts - they reflected how Irish society of the time was structured and how it operated. If we put these texts together with the date-rich Annals referred to above, we get a lovely contextual window into how Irish society was structured and operated up to and 1156AD and beyond. While some of these Brehon texts may be aspirational, they were used in a very practical manner to resolve everyday disputes. As a result they maintained a close reflection of day to day living (and disputing) in Ireland of the time.

The largest grouping of these written Brehon texts is the “*Senchas Már*”



written sometime in the 7th - 8th century.

### **3. The History and Topography of Ireland by Giraldus Cambrenis.**

If you are looking for a critical (and biased) view of Ireland of the time, what better source to use than the man who chronicled the arrival of the Normans in Ireland in 1188AD. "Gerald the Welshman" was of mixed Norman/Welsh stock and the son of William FitzOdo de Barri, common ancestor of all the Barry families in Ireland. Gerald accompanied the first royal party to Ireland in 1185 and published "Topographia Hibernica" in 1188. In this account he gives a biased, jaundiced and critical appraisal of the people and topography of Ireland of the time (as well as revealing much about the Norman perspective and mindset of the time).



**Figure 14 A Country of "Mountains, Bogs and Lakes"**

Although this account was published shortly after the time we are looking at Ireland, I feel it gives us a third dimension for looking at the history of Ireland up to 1156AD - as well as a view on its people,

environment, society and politics.

So, in the rest of this section we will examine Ireland of 1156AD through these various “lenses” – before we later look at the families and surnames of your Irish ancestry.

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## ***Chapter Eight – What Does it Mean to be Irish?***

What was Ireland like in 1156? What was the country like? How was everyday life? These are some of the questions we will explore in this and subsequent chapters.

Think of what constitutes the Irish “character” today. When I ask our readers: “What do you Love most about Your Irish Heritage” - I get replies like: an ability and love of music; closeness of family; a sense of justice; ambition; a fondness for a party; a love of words and learning and a keenness for all things spiritual. These seem to be timeless qualities that most people would see in Irish people. Maybe you would like to add some extra qualities to this list?

Two things strike me when we look at Ireland of 1156AD – First, ALL of these qualities were there at the time. They were enjoyed by the people – and frequently commented upon by visitors. Secondly, when later waves of immigrants arrived in Ireland – the newcomers took on many of these characteristics themselves, often within a few short generations. Later, as so many people left the Island of Ireland for new colonies and countries, these qualities travelled with them and were often preserved in their descendents right up to the present day. These are timeless qualities that I still see today when I ask our readers a question such as “What do you Love most about Your Irish Heritage?”

To talk about everyday life in Ireland in 1156 it is essential to start by talking about the character of the people. We Irish have always listened with great interest to the opinion other nations and outsiders have when observing our character.

When one digs into the history and character of the people who have occupied the island of Ireland for the past 12,000 years or so - and more specifically since the start of written history around the fifth century, one discovers fairly quickly a steady theme. The theme revolves around the consistency of character of the Irish people - the sorts of traits and values

that seem to set someone out as being Irish, even today.

One of my own favourite stories is the source of the word “Gael” or “Gaelic” which did not come into use among the Irish until around the 8th century. It came from a Welsh word - “Goidheal” - which means “marauder” - and was the name given to the Irish raiders on the coast of Wales during the first millennium. The Irish of the time - with their value of daring and glory - quite liked that label and it worked its way into everyday use.

In more recent times, a famous psycho-analyst commented:

*“This is one race of people for whom psychoanalysis is of no use whatsoever.”*

— Sigmund Freud

I doubt if there is an Irish man or woman who would not take pride in such a description - our preference not to be pigeon-holed or labelled - and our love of individual self-expression.

I think the following description captures the Irish character - emerging from hundreds of years of colonisation that encompassed war, forced migration, famine, emigration and repression of religion, culture and language:

*“When anyone asks me about the Irish character, I say look at the trees. Maimed, stark and misshapen, but ferociously tenacious.”*

— Edna O'Brien

Rolling back another few hundred years - to a time when the inhabitants of Ireland had yet to undergo the full force of colonisation, we come across this description by the Englishman Richard Stanihurst:

*“The [Irish] people are thus inclined: religious, frank, amorous, ireful, sufferable of infinite pains, vain-glorious, with many sorcerers, excellent horsemen, delighted with warring, great almes-givers and surpassing in hospitality. The lender sort (both clerics and lay people alike) are sensual and loose in living. They are sharp-witted, lovers of*

*learning, adventurous, kind-hearted and secret in displeasure”*

Richard Stanihurst, The Holinshed Texts, 1587.

“Thank you very much” - might be the reply of many Irish people, even today.

## **Gerald of Wales:**

Finally, we roll all the way back to the time of 1156. We have a lot of written history available to us - the Annals compiled by the monks of the church, which captured the major events and celebrated victories and defeats. We have the early myths of Ireland - written down from the oral tradition by the clerics of the time. And we have the Brehon texts - capturing the law and custom of Ireland at the time. However, let's go to the writings and observations of an outsider of the time - Geraldus Cambrenis - who came from Wales with the first English royal party.

Gerald was son of William FitzOdo de Barri, (common ancestor of the Irish Barry families), nephew of Maurice FitzGerald (common ancestor of the Irish Fitzgerald families) and grandson of Gerald de Windsor (alias FitzWalter - common ancestor of the Irish Butler families).

He was ultimately biased as he saw himself on the side of the superior victor - part of the Anglo Norman nobility who valued chivalry, honour and advanced farming and war technologies. He saw the native Irish as heathen savages - justifying any action that was taken by his noble superiors. So, it is then interesting to examine his biased comments on the Irish appearance, character and values.

The following are excerpts from his Topographia Hibernica - published in 1188:

## **On the appearance of the Irish:**

*"[Nature] gives growth and proportions to these people, until they arrive at perfect vigour, tall and handsome in person, and with agreeable and ruddy countenances. The islanders have little need of physicians as there are few sick people - except those at the point of death."*

*"Their custom is to wear small, close-fitting hoods, hanging below the shoulders a cubits length, and generally made of parti-coloured strips sewn together. Under these, they use woollen rugs instead of cloaks, with breeches and hose of one piece or hose and breeches joined together, which are usually dyed of some colour."*

## **On the Fighting Irish:**

*"they go into battle without armour, considering it a burthen (burden) and esteeming it brave and honourable to fight without it."*

## **On Attitude to Work and Learning:**

*"The Irish are a rude people, subsisting on the produce of their cattle only, and living themselves like beasts - a people that has not yet departed from the primitive habits of pastoral life. [They] lead the same life their fathers did in the woods and open pastures, neither willing to abandon their old habits or learn anything new."*

*"They neither employ themselves in the manufacture of flax or wool or in any kind of trade or mechanical art; but abandoning themselves to idleness, and immersed, in sloth, their greatest delight is to be exempt from toil, their richest possession, the enjoyment of liberty. Whatever natural gifts they possess are excellent, in whatever requires industry they are worthless."*

## **And finally, on Irish Music:**

*"It is only in the case of musical instruments that I find any commendable diligence in the [Irish] people. They seem to me to be incomparably more skilled in these than*

*any other people that I have seen. The melody is kept perfect and full with unimpaired art through everything – through quivering measures and the involved use of several instruments – with a rapidity that charms, a rhythmic pattern that is varied and a concord achieved through elements discordant.”*



**Figure 15 12th Century Irish Whistle**

A quick and not completely inaccurate summary of Gerald's view would be that - the Irish are barbarous, savage, and lazy with no clear system of power and authority - on the other hand they are very healthy and their music and musicians are very good.

But Gerald was of his time and class - while there is a certain truth in what he observes and notes - there is much that Gerald also left out from his observations as he considered the existing Anglo-Norman systems to be superior and more civilised. He chose to ignore the intricacies of Irish culture and law as captured by the Brehon texts, the Irish love of spirituality and land (often the two meaning the same thing), the respect

for societal status, the love of language and learning - and finally, a love of hospitality and extended celebrating!

I'm not sure how Gerald would have enjoyed the fact that the descendants of his relatives - the Anglo-Norman families of Ireland - were mostly "Hibernicised" by the fourteenth century. They took on the wives, customs, dress, law and language of this "barbarous people" in a way the Normans who invaded England could never adopt to the Anglo-Saxon customs and traits.

### **An Island Nation of Bogs, lakes and Forests.**

Ireland at the time was a land of bogs, woods and lakes on the interior – surrounded by mountain ranges. It took 4 days to travel from east to west and eight days to travel from south to north.



**Figure 16 Path Through an Irish Mountain Meadow**

Gerard of Wales, on visiting Ireland later in the century observed:

*“A great number of beautiful lakes – full of large fish greater in size than other countries. Birds – Hawks, Falcon and Sparrow-hawk, Eagles, Wild Pea cocks,*



*Ospreys and Swans. The air is so healthy that no clouds bring infection.”*

And regarding that perpetual talking point, he remarks on the weather:

*“You will hardly see three clear days together – even during summer – but this does not seem to disturb those in health and spirits.” In fact, he noticed: “The islanders have little need of physicians as there are few sick people – except those at the point of death.”*

The only towns of the time were the Hiberno-Norse towns of Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Wexford and Limerick – as well as the ecclesiastical communities in places like Clonmacnoise and Glendalough. The rest of the land was inhabited by scattered homesteads and small groups of family buildings spread through each individual “Tuath”.



**Figure 17 Reginald's Tower in the Hiberno-Norse City of Waterford**

While Ireland was insulated from much of the rest of Europe up to the

800s – that was changing quite substantially by 1156. The presence of the trading Norse towns had introduced many ideas and systems from other parts of the world. For example – coinage had taken over the main currency of trade. Often, we hear about Ireland waking up suddenly in 1170 with the Norman invasion to new ideas and technologies – but in reality, Ireland had already been moving in these directions since the 800s.

In the further chapters of this section we will look at different aspects of life and custom in 1156 - and examine some of the families and family names associated with many of the professions and institutions of the time.

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## ***Chapter Nine - A Land of Little Kingdoms.***

Beside the Norse-governed towns, the rest of the land was made up of a number of mini-kingdoms – known as “Tuatha” (pronounced “Too-ha). There were up to one hundred and fifty of these – each with up to three thousand people. This puts the population of the Island of Ireland at the time at approximately 500,000 (the current population is approximately six million people). The population density was also quite a lot lower for similar quality land in Britain and on mainland Europe.

Back to the “Túath”. The people of each Túath were made up of interrelated kin-groups. The notion we have of “individuality” today did not exist back then – the smallest unit was the family. Individuals stayed within their Túath – they did not travel beyond the boundaries as the law no longer covered them. To travel beyond the boundary was extremely dangerous. The only individuals who had the freedom to travel were groups such as Poets (Filidh), craftsmen and Brehon (Judges). This notion of “staying close to your family and people” is an attitude that stays with many Irish people even today.

Each Túath had a King. In earlier centuries this King was symbolic as opposed to administrative. He did not have executive power in the way we know today. He was a symbol of the fertility of the land and the health of the Túath. However, by the time we look at Ireland, this was slowly changing in line with ideas prevalent in Britain and Europe – the King exerted more direct power. Each King answered to an “over-king” covering four or five Tuatha – and each over-King answered to a provincial King. It is with these over-kings and provincial kings of the time where the real power lay.

The notion of a “High-King” in Ireland was mostly aspirational. Even Turlough O’Connor – King of Connaught - was High-King of Ireland but a “King with opposition” i.e. his power was not great enough to gain the support of all the provincial kings. Over the course of his long rule, he had never managed to gain the support of the provincial kings of the

Northern Uí Néill.

Let's go back to the family.

Family was not the tight unit of mother, father and children that we know today – it was known as “Dearbhfine” (true kin) and it was the smallest political unit recognised in Ireland of the day. The composition of your Dearbhfine determined succession rights, fines and punishment within society.



**Figure 18A Family "Crannóg" - Lake Dwelling.**

The “Dearbhfine” was comprised of the four generations of males that come from a single great grandfather - so it was made up of all males from great-grandfather down to second cousins. This group was expected to support one another and hold all of its members in line – the entire Dearbhfine was liable if a single member stepped out of line. This was not just a notion of loyalty and nobleness – but a key component of the justice system of the time.

Land was owned and farmed by the Dearbhfine – each adult male took an equal share and his part was marked by large standing stones, streams and fences. On his death, his portion was redistributed among the surviving members of the Dearbhfine. You can see how population increase must have put pressure on a Dearbhfine and individual Túath to risk war with neighbours to expand their available land.

While there was arable farming (some wheat, oats and barley) – the Cow reigned supreme – and the emphasis was on the milk cow (much the same in Ireland today). Taxes, fines and penalties of all sorts were specified in Cows in the Brehon texts.



**Figure 19 A Medieval "Clapper" Bridge in County Cork**

This is an important distinction between the Gaelic society of the day and later Normans and English. The Normans saw the value in the land itself – the Gaelic Irish saw the value in the Cow. The cow was mobile – moving as the pasture changed. The land stayed in place for the Normans and English – with their emphasis on land cultivation for arable crops. As a result, many of the Irish homes were of a more temporary nature – all

the better to follow your moving wealth. Whereas the stone houses and castles we see today were in place to show a fixed dominance over the wealth and yield of the land.

The “Cattle-raid” was well recorded in the myths of Ireland as being the main motivating factor in going to war. Young nobles proved themselves through daring raids on neighbouring túatha and kingdoms – and this act was so accepted in society that cattle-raids are just another category of record in the monastic Annals – alongside the battles, coronations and deaths.

While Ireland in 1156 had changed substantially since the earlier days of the Celtic kingdoms - certain values remained. It was still a country that hailed the hero.

In theory, any warrior who was born into one of Ireland’s royal families could rise to become king. He required certain abilities beside his fighting power - he required the skill to build and choose the right alliances and make an impression on his peers. Such a warrior would have to be able enough in war to win the obedience of his neighbouring tribes and this often making an impression through ruthlessness.

In 1156 only two of the five provinces had the strength to fight for the position of High King - the Uí Néill in northwest of the island and Connaught in the far west.

### **Where the King Lived.**

The royal fort or Dun Rígh in each Tuath was central to the everyday business of being a king. It was where he was expected to make himself accessible to his people. There were seasonal assemblies – which was the duty of the King to convene. At these assemblies, the business of the Túath was transacted. The main function of the King was to preside over these assemblies and he was also the ultimate commander in times of war.

How did you become a King? It was different to the rest of Europe –

where Promengenture was the means of succession (accession of an eldest son). In Ireland, the King was chosen from eligible males within the royal extended family (dearbhfhine).



**Figure 20 A Model of an Irish Ring Fort**

The king was not above the law – but expected to observe it like all other members of the Túath. However, by the time the 12<sup>th</sup> century came along, there was significant growth in royal power. Nobles and Kings started to form alliances with one another and these alliances developed into higher political structures. Some dynasties were exerting authority over ever larger territories. A hierarchy of kingdoms developed.

For example, the Eóghanacht and Uí Néill dynasties began to assert themselves from the seventh century onwards and through a number of alliances the provinces that we know today started to evolve as real territories – Munster, Leinster, Ulster and Connacht – each ruled by a confederacy of dominant dynasties.

But even as the royal power grew, dynastic alliances developed and the provinces were created – Ireland still remained politically fragmented. At the same time, the island was united by a common culture, language and law.

However, by 1156AD – Ireland was on the cusp of an invasion that would take full advantage of this political fragmentation.

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## ***Chapter Ten – Customs, Druids, Brehons and Bards.***

Do you have any poets or musicians in your family? How about lawyers and doctors? In this chapter we will look at the families and family surnames associated with the Brehons, Poets, Bards and Physician class in Ireland before the imposition of English rule in the 1600s.

Many of us today have a romantic notion of Ireland – a land of Saints, Scholars and Musicians. A nation where a “turn of phrase” or a “nice run on a fiddle” is valued alongside the more “pragmatic” aspects of life.

But where did these notions and values come from? Were these abilities always held in such high esteem? In this chapter we will look at the people who were entrusted with safeguarding Irish law and customs, Poetry and Music as well as healing and medical knowledge. We will look at the Brehon, the Filidh and Bards and the Physician class of society in Ireland. A class that encoded and preserved so much of the knowledge and customs that tied together a politically fragmented society.

At the time we are looking at the Island of Ireland - and for many hundreds of years before - it was a country fragmented into the local kingdoms that we call Tuatha. But the aspect that united all of its residents outside the Hiberno-Norse cities was language and custom and law. And the last two were bound together – the customs of the land were codified in the law.

The Celtic language that we know as Irish today - and the accompanying beliefs and customs - gradually arrived in Ireland from 500 BC. Its main channel of distribution was the Celtic oral tradition.

Julius Caesar wrote of the Celtic people:

*“The Druids believe that their religion forbids them to commit their teachings to writing, although for most other purposes the Gauls (Celts) use the Greek alphabet.*

*But I imagine this rule was originally established for other reasons - because they did not want their doctrine to become public property, and in order to prevent their pupils from relying on the written word and neglecting to train their memories.”*

He was talking about his experiences of the Celtic people when they occupied much wider territories than they do today - but there are a number of key ideas in his observations:

1. He talks about the “Druids”. When we think of Druids today, we conjure pictures of old men with staffs and grey beards from Lord of the Rings. But the Druids were the intellectual class of the Celts in pre-Christian times.
2. This reliance on the oral tradition to learn and teach was extremely frustrating to later scholars who missed the opportunity to study the actual written word of these Druids. But I believe, like most Irish people, in the power of spoken language. A power through which canter, volume and tone paint much more information around the mere words of written language. All situations are subjective, unique and fluid – but the written word is fixed. The spoken words allow you to place subjective nuance in the right places. This is what a native Irish speaker often calls “Blás” (pronounced “Blauce”) today.

So, this oral tradition was how major events, genealogies, agreement and the law was transmitted for hundreds of years by the intellectual class known as the Druids - who probably metamorphosed in Priests, Monks, Brehon, Physicians, Poets and Bards after the coming of Christianity to Ireland in the sixth century.

Irish society of the time was a hierarchical one - going from Kings and nobility at the top down to craftspeople and freemen - and then down to slaves. In parallel with the nobility and craftspeople were the “professional classes”. Many of these professions we will now talk about were hereditary and we will look at some of the family names associated with these professions at the end of this chapter.

Let's go through each of these Professions one at a time.

1. **The Brehon.** The ancient laws of Ireland have become known today as the “Brehon Laws”. The word Brehon is an Anglicisation of the Irish word “Breitheamh” or “Judge”. The Brehon was employed by the local Túath kingdoms and the larger over-Kings. Their role was initially to pass on the oral system of laws and apply them in the many cases of dispute. They passed on the laws - often to family members - through established Brehon schools. They were also later responsible for the first written laws in the 6th century. We will look more at Brehon law a little later.
  
2. **Filidh (poets) and Bards.** The Irish celebrated acts of heroism and daring. The Filidh and Bards captured these heroic victories in verse and songs of praise for the victor. They also composed verses of satire - which were considered a powerful weapon. The Bards were the poets who composed the verse and song but the Filidh were seen as class above with supernatural powers that were capable of injury through words. Being held in esteem - having your honour upheld - was the most desirable state. Losing that esteem - losing your honour in the eyes of others could be ruinous (and costly) for an individual and their family for generations.

The Filidh were also the genealogists and historians for leading families of the day. Remember that Ireland was a land of little kingdoms – or “túatha” – at the time. People did not travel beyond the boundaries of their land. Put simply, the law of the land no longer covered them and they were placed in danger without the support of their kin. However, the Filidh and Bards were one of the very few groups who were free to travel across the Island – and this gave them a unique perspective on life and power at the time. They were the media of the day.

The Filidh and Bards travelled throughout Ireland and became attached to Gaelic families and schools of law and poetry - often in ecclesiastical settings from the sixth century. After the twelfth

century church reform the Filidh lost their connection to the ecclesiastical schools as the continental religious orders took over instruction of their novices, and so the production of genealogies and poetry moved to secular schools.

3. **Physicians.** The physicians of the day were herbalists, surgeons - and used astrological observation as part of their diagnosis and prescription. Under the Brehon laws, the provision of treatment and nutritional food and herbs was made available for all who needed it. Wounded people were covered for compensation and treatment expenses by the perpetrator of the wounding. Only qualified Physicians were allowed to treat the sick and each Physician had to maintain four students. These physicians and their students maintained hospitals in the local T $\acute{u}$ ath. The Irish language contains the world's largest collection of medical texts in any language before 1800 - after which English took over first place.

## **Brehon Law.**

For well over a thousand years, Gaelic Ireland was governed by "Brehon Law" until eventually outlawed by the English administration in the 1600s – to be replaced by English common law. Today, we are beginning to realise what a sophisticated and fair system it was – and a revealing insight into ancient Irish society.

The laws themselves evolved from the customs of a tribalised society with no central authority – and the name "Brehon" or judge, comes from the judges who carried and advised on the law. Many of these judges and advocates came from specific hereditary Gaelic families – and were granted a very high standing in Irish society.

Each Gaelic kingdom (there were between 100 and 150 kingdoms, or "Tuatha" at any one time) appointed an official judge. Their job was to advise the king on all legal decisions to be made. He received a payment for his work – usually one twelfth of any award that was made. However, he was also responsible for any mistake made – and had to pay a fine for

a bad judgement.

How do you think that would go down today?

Remember, there was no central government in Gaelic Ireland to create laws - it was a society of tribes and smaller kingdoms. So, the laws were built over time through popular acceptance by the people as a whole. The laws were the customs of the people – put into spoken law by the Brehons – and were based on hundreds of years of development and social acceptance.

### **The Building Block - The Gaelic Family.**

There are two things we need to remind ourselves of before we look at the administration of law - the idea of "family and kin" and the unit of currency (and therefore fines for punishment!)

When we talk about “Family” today – we often mean our immediate parents, brothers, sisters, sons, daughter, nephews and nieces at the most. Back in Gaelic times it was a little different. This is reflected clearly through the laws.

A family was four generations descended from a common great-grandfather. This was defined as true kin. The kin was responsible for any member who got into trouble – they were expected to support one another and were often had to collectively pay a fine or debt that was incurred by one of their members.

On currency, the Celts in early Ireland did not make coins – but cows were used as a unit of value for trading, fining and asserting social status. Even land was measured in terms of the amount of cows it could maintain. The basic unit of “currency” was a milk cow accompanied by her calf. Coinage was not introduced into Ireland until the Vikings set up there trading centres in the new towns on the coast.

### **Crimes and Punishment.**

The king was not responsible for punishing any criminal act - instead it was left to the injured party to demand compensation. In effect – all law was what we know as civil law today. If there was a dispute between the parties, it was referred to a Brehon. And this is a key point – the customary laws were enacted by private individuals against others, and the use of a Brehon was considered important only in dispute resolution.

So, what were these typical punishments and fines?

Here are some examples from around 700 AD:

- Causing a mark (bruise) on someone else: 2 cows and one seventh of the victims “honour” price. This was moved up to 2 and a half cows and a quarter of the victim’s honour price when blood was involved.
- When the victim died, the kin could seek 21 cows and the victim’s full honour price. There was no capital punishment for homicide in ancient Ireland – it was up to the victims kin to gain compensation from the perpetrator’s kin.

So, you might wonder what we mean by “honour price”?

### **What’s your Honour Price?**

The “honour price” really illustrated just how hierarchical Ancient Irish society was – but also just how socially mobile individuals could be.

Basically, a person’s place in Irish society was determined by their material wealth. As their circumstances changed, their rank could go up – or down! The “honour price” tracked where you were on the social ladder – from king and lords to professionals like Brehon and Poets, to craftsmen and wealthy farmers - all the way down to the common freeman (and below!)

The desire to maintain your honour price was probably the strongest incentive to stay within the law – no matter what your rank. Here are a

few ways that individuals could lose their honour price:

- A lord could lose his honour price for refusing hospitality (still a mortal sin in Irish families), sheltering a fugitive, tolerating satire (!) or eating food that was known to be stolen.
- A poet could lose his honour price through overcharging for his services.
- A Brehon could lose his honour price if he committed a serious breach of duty.
- A king could lose his honour price if he showed cowardice in battle.

It must be remembered that ancient Irish society was not a caste or feudal society – but one in which social rank could be changed. This resulted in constant attempts to protect or improve power.

This was the world that the Brehon laws reflected and tried to protect and enhance – overseen by a cohort of Brehons (or judges).

### **The Brehon Families of Ireland.**

Who were the “Brehon” families of Ireland? As you may have guessed – different traditions and professions often ran over generations in particular kin groups. The following were families that provided many generations of Brehons to serve the various kingdoms of Ireland (I’ve put the county in to give a location – but use them as a guide as many of these counties were not in existence at the time of the Brehons):

- MacAbraham/MacAbrehan/MacBehany
- Egan (Galway and Tipperary - also ran Brehon schools)
- Forbes (Mayo)
- Keenan (Fermanagh)
- Coffey (Longford/Westmeath)

- Donnellan (Galway)
- Davoren of (Clare - also ran Brehon schools)
- Breslin (Fermanagh)
- Hussey (Fermanagh)
- Agnew (Antrim)
- Foy (Fermanagh)
- Courneen (Leitrim)
- Corcoran (Fermanagh)
- Cloonan (Galway)
- Gilsenen (Tyrone)
- Caffrey (Fermanagh)
- Clancy (Clare/Tipperary - also ran Brehon schools)
- Folan (Galway)

### **The Filidh/Bardic Families of Ireland.**

Who were the “Filidh/Bardic” families of Ireland? The following were families that provided many generations of Filidh/Bardic to serve the various kingdoms of Ireland (I’ve put some counties in to give location – but many of these counties were not in existence at the time):

- O’Bardon/Berden/Bardane
- O’Canty (Cork)
- O’Cleary/O’Clery/Clarke
- Mac Craith (Munster)
- O’Daly (Meath)
- O’Higgins (Sligo)
- Uí Chuill (Munster)
- Ward (Donegal)



- Conway (Tyrone)
- MacCarroll/McCarvill (Ulster)
- Uí Eodhusa (Fermanagh)
- Uí Shléibhín (Ulster)
- Uí Ghnímh (Antrim).
- O'Phelan (Donegal)

### **The Physician Families of Ireland.**

Who were the “Physician” families of Ireland? The following were families that provided many generations of Physician to serve the various kingdoms of Ireland (Again, I’ve put some counties in to give location – but many of these counties were not in existence at the time):

- MacKinley (Connaught)
- MacVeigh (Connaught)
- Canavan (Connaught)
- Kearney (Connaught)
- Fergus (Connaught)
- Tully/Flood (Connaught)
- Lee (Mumhan)
- Dunleavy (Donegal)
- Cashin/Cash (Laigin)
- Bolger (Laigin)
- O'Connor (Laigin)
- Cullen/Calhoun (Laigin)
- Callanan (Mumhan)
- Hickey (Mumhan)
- Lane (Mumhan)

- Nealon (Mumhan)
  - Troy (Mumhan)
  - Dunleavy/McNulty (Ulaid)
  - Cassidy (Ulaid)
  - Shiels/Shields (Ulaid)
-

## ***Chapter Eleven – Christianity in Ireland.***

Why are we including a chapter on “Christianity in Ireland and the Irish Church” in this book about the Tribes of Ireland?

For a number of reasons:

- First, this book is about the wider cultural aspects of the Gaelic world – it aims to paint a picture of what life was like for your ancestors at the time and what was important to them. Much of Gaelic and Celtic ritual, feasting and moral principles was encoded by the church of the time.
- Secondly, written history really only started in Ireland with the arrival of the Christian church. Much of what we regard as history from this time is written through the lens of the learned monks of the time who were sponsored by the local Tuath and over kings.
- Thirdly, it was a time of great change in Ireland – the various “belief systems” and their churches were important players in the streams of Irish history that surrounded your ancestors.
- Finally, many Irish family surnames are associated with the church of the time. They were lay “ecclesiastical” families who were responsible for the running of monasteries and church lands. I have included a list of these family surnames at the end of this chapter. Maybe your family surname is among them?

### **Christianity Arrives in Ireland.**

It is thought that the first Christian missionaries arrived in Ireland around the early 400s. This was at a time when the Roman Empire was breaking down and losing its influence in neighbouring Britain. A number of “bishops” arrived in Ireland from 431 onwards - including Palladius,

Auxilius and Secundinus. They went on to establish churches at sites that were very close to already established royal and sacred sites such as Tara in modern Meath and Emhain Mhaca in modern Armagh.

Saint Patrick was one of these bishops - he spent time as a boy slave in the north of Ireland and returned as a missionary Bishop around the mid-400s. And Saint Patrick was unlike the other bishops as he was a wandering missionary – covering a huge area of the island in his bid to convert as many to Christianity as possible.



**Figure 21 Gallarus Oratory in County Kerry**

Although this early missionary movement was initiated and sponsored by the hierarchal Roman church - it was the Celtic monastic tradition that came to dominate Ireland by the sixth century. It was a tradition that typically started with the arrival of a holy man (or woman) at a site where they led a life of prayer and austerity with a small group of followers. Over time a cult often grew around that holy person and site (often after the holy person had moved onto a new site). This is a time that is often

referred to as the “Dark Ages” in Europe - and the “Golden Age” in Ireland.

### **The Golden Age.**

By the mid 600s - a number of monastic centres were founded by various saints: Ciarán – Clonmacnoise (in modern Offaly); Declan – Ardmore (in modern Waterford); Brendan – Ardfert (in modern Galway); and Bridget – Kildare being among them. You may also notice that these are popular given names – still in use today - following the old Irish tradition of naming children after saints.

These monastic centres required an infrastructure to feed and support the monks they housed and the followers they attracted. Ireland’s first sizable communities grew around these monastic sites. Along with this, the church sites themselves become a focus for local economic and craft activity - trading, craftsmanship and learning - producing wonderful illuminated manuscripts like the Book of Kells and beautiful gold and silverwork for celebrating mass.



**Figure 22 Clonmacnoise, County Offaly**

However, it was not possible for these new monastic centres to exist in the middle of the local Gaelic Tuatha without some form of protection and sponsorship - and so lay-patronage and involvement was an essential part of the survival and growth of these centres. It was this lay-patronage that also started the tradition of “ecclesiastical families” that we will revisit at the end of this chapter.

The “Golden Age” of this period reflected the fact that many monks from these monasteries spread around Britain and Europe at the time - bringing with them a high level of learning and missionary zeal - and founding many significant monasteries along the way. They were responsible for the education of many in the royal families of Europe - many of whom also travelled to sites such as Clonmacnoise in modern County Offaly for their “university” education.

### **The Viking Age.**

When the first Vikings raids were recorded at Lindisfarne (founded by the Irish monk Aidan) on the east coast of Britain in the late 700s - it was the beautiful gold and silver ware of the monasteries and their churches that provided them with their most-prized loot. The Church’s policy of replenishing these precious ornaments and chalices after each raid kept them coming back! During the 800s we see the building of the great Round Towers and stone churches on the monastic sites. It is the sight of these Round Towers today that provide us with the clue that we are close to a monastic site of the early Christian church in Ireland.



**Figure 23 Round Tower at Glendalough**

### **Church Reform in Europe.**

From the middle of the 11th century - the Church throughout Europe was in a phase of reform. It was generally felt by the Roman church that the freedom of the churches attached to the monastic tradition was resulting in a church that was becoming more lax in morals - and a movement was made to bring all aspects of these churches inside the formal control of the Roman church hierarchy.

In Ireland – the abbots of the monasteries often held more real power than the local Roman-appointed bishops. They were, in effect, the kings of their local Tuath and their associated lay families were in control of the economic activity of the monasteries. The abbots themselves were often married and the position was often a hereditary position - handed down from father to son.



**Figure 24 Cashel, County Tipperary**

In 1111 AD, The King of Munster, Muirchertach O'Brien - supervised the Synod of Cashel which forbade a number of practices such as the marriage of Abbots. The later Synod of Raith Bressail in 1118 divided the country into four ecclesiastical provinces - Cashel, Tuam, Dublin and Armagh - which we still have to this day.

This "fixing of boundaries" was a new concept in Ireland of the time - and many of the kings of the time were quick to see the political advantage in sponsoring a new wave of reformed Church monasteries with their fixed lands in areas that lay in previously disputed territories. And so, over a period of twenty years we find a new wave of continental monastic tradition establishing such as the Cistercian Monasteries at Mellifont - established by Donnchadh O'Carroll, King of Airgialla; Baltinglass - established by Diarmait MacMurrough, King of Leinster and Bective established by Mael Seachlainn, King of Mide.





**Figure 25 Jerpoint Abbey, Kilkenny**

This new wave of continental monastic tradition replaced the original Irish tradition - and with it went the original Irish focus on learning, scholarship and production of wonderful works of illumination. With the arrival of the Normans in 1170 - the continental orders and their associated lands - grew more substantial and powerful until the final dissolution of the orders and monasteries by Henry VIII in the 15th century.

### **Ecclesiastical Families and Surnames.**

By the 12th century many of the early church monastic sites had no monks or clergy attached to them. Instead there were lay abbots who supervised the hereditary tenants on the monastery lands.

The titles given to these lay Abbots (supplied by their extended families) were “Coarb” and “Erenagh”.

## Coarb

A coarb, from the Irish *combarba* - means successor (i.e. successor to the saint) - who governed the principal church lands in a network of satellite churches dedicated to the saint. The coarb, in effect, had charge of a high rank – and governed the most extensive church lands.

## Erenagh

Erenagh comes from the Irish “oirchinneach” (superior). They governed the satellite as well as smaller church sites and lands.

Both the offices of coarb and erenagh were responsible for ensuring parish revenue from tithes and rents as well as building and maintaining church property (and relics). He paid a yearly rent to the Bishop (in the newly installed parishes sponsored by the Roman church) and the role usually passed down from generation to generation in certain families in each parish. The term coarb often appears interchangeable with the term erenach.

Here are just some of the family surnames that have a tradition of Coarb and Erenagh (note that this does not mean all holders of this surname – but a particular branch of the family holding that surname):

- O'Breslin - Inishkeel
- O'Cronin – Gouganebarra of Cork
- Doonan – Fermanagh
- O'Heaney – Derry
- Leonard – Fermanagh
- MacMullen – Kilkenny and Kildare
- MacCahan
- O'Clery – Kilmacdaugh
- O'Crilly – Derry

- O'Keely – Louth
  - O'Fergus - Leitrim
  - O'Bruen
  - O'Callinan - Galway
  - O'Lennon
  - MacBride – Donegal
  - O'Meere - Clare
  - O'Kearney - Derry
  - O'Brannan - Fermanagh
  - O'Noonan - Tullylease
  - MacNestor – Burren
  - MacLoughlin
  - O'Cassidy
  - Kirwin – Louth
  - MacInerney – Clare
  - O'Farrelly – Cavan
  - O'Hara – Sligo
  - O'Bogan – Donegal and Derry
  - O'Morrison – Donegal
  - O'Dimond - Derry
  - O'Larkin – Tipperary
  - O'Flynn – Mayo
  - O'Foy – Fermanagh
  - McConville - Armagh
-



## ***Chapter Twelve - The Origins of Your Irish Surname***

The title of this book is “The Tribes of Ireland: 1156AD” – the subtitle is “Ireland at the time of the birth of your surname”. So, let’s take a deeper look at just that - your Irish surname.

You have probably already discovered that the surnames in your family are the best way to track and audit the journey of your family and kin from some location deep inside an Ireland of generations ago - to wherever you are today.

A problem quickly arises, however, when you start your investigation and notice all the disconnections and fragments that come to the surface. As you continue your investigation and research, ancestry websites and internet user groups can be a fabulous way of discovering some of those fragments. However, they can also be full of frustrating “red herrings” and distractions.

I have found that most of us need a map. A map that gives you the bigger picture. With this map, you can better understand the areas where the genealogical gold is likely to be buried. With this map, you can quickly decide what sounds likely – and what is evidently nonsense.

This chapter aims to be your map.

### **THE OBSTACLES IN YOUR WAY.**

One thing a map does very well is to outline and locate the obstacles in your way. Many of us have come across the following obstacles already when digging deeper into our Irish Heritage:

- Missing Irish Records (burned apparently in 1922).
- The many spelling variations of Irish surnames.
- Clerical error (often absurd) when a name was spoken, but transcribed to something the clerk was more familiar with (like an English equivalent name).
- Finally, in keeping with their sense of escape and starting a new life – many of our ancestors assumed new surnames that they felt better suited their new life station (losing the “O” just being one example).

Edward Neafsey (author of the very useful “Surnames of Ireland”) – highlights this very well when he describes the migration of his own surname. His surname comes from the original Irish O Cnáimhsighe (get your tongue around that one!). While his grandfather’s sister was spelled “Navisey” on her baptismal book, his grandfather was entered as “Neafsey” in the same book. His birth cert, however, was spelled as “Kneafsey” – and when he moved to England his marriage cert spelled his name “Neafey”. One family, five variations.

While some surnames like Murphy and Kelly may not have changed so much – quite a few of our Irish names have mutated in a similar way over the generations.

So, for the rest of this chapter we will take the longer view. We will stretch back over the generations to a time when surnames first came into use in Ireland – and look at some of the outside influences, events and naming conventions that have changed your Irish names from what they were originally to what they are now.

## **LET’S START AT THE BEGINNING.**

My own postal address is:

Mike Collins,

Old Abbey,

Waterfall (near Cork)

County Cork, Ireland.

This is a typical Irish postal address that you find today outside the cities of Ireland. As you can see, it relies on the local knowledge of the postman to figure out which specific house I live in. The one absolute he has to deal with is my name – Mike Collins.

You may notice the absence of Post and ZIP codes. Why am I showing you this?

Well, it illustrates an attitude that has persisted over many thousands of years in Ireland. Originally we were a nomadic and pastoral nation. Yes, we had land – but we followed our animals depending on season and climate. We didn't like to be tied down.

From the 900s onwards the population increased in Ireland as elsewhere in Europe. As political stability increased across Europe along with a better climate for growing food and fewer raids by marauders – so too did the hierarchal structure we know as feudalism. Land became parcelled, was owned by freeman, worked by serfs – and overseen by the lords. This situation allowed for the later start of Postal and ZIP codes in a way – a time when people were tied to specific locations.

In Ireland things were different.

While our population also increased, so too did the power and influence of a more centralised church - as well as the power of a group of overlords and kings assuming control of entire provinces in a real sense for the first time.

I believe that the very real problem of administering a moving population, enforcing the Brehon laws and simply keeping tabs on the increasingly complex genealogies and rights of inheritance – caused

Ireland to be possibly the first country in Europe to introduce the “surname”.

We had to lock the name in – as the locations were too mobile. This surname would become the one constant in a moving sea of variables and possibilities (like in my postal address above).

The first recorded surname in Ireland is O'Clery (Ó Cléirigh) in what is now modern County Galway around 920AD. Although the creation of surnames in Ireland may have begun early, it continued at a much slower pace over the following six hundred years.

By the end of the eleventh century the main families of Ireland (those whom had their genealogies recorded) had acquired many of the surnames we know today. They were constructed using either an "Ó" (short for Ua – “descendent of”) or a "Mac" (“son of”) followed by a personal name of an illustrious ancestor. The surnames of Ireland’s ruling families can typically be tracked down to one single individual e.g. the O'Neills of the Northern Uí Néill in Ulster take their surname from one of their kings - Niall Mac Aoidh who died in 917.

However, the process continued for some hundreds of years as different major families (such as the O'Neills) went on to split into further groups and assume new surnames for that splinter group.

## **LET'S TAKE SEVEN IRISH SURNAMES.**

Now, let us build up our "map" from another perspective. I want to take a sample of seven different Irish Gaelic surnames that represent many of the surname mutations we referred to earlier. “Mutations” and changes that have so frustrated us in our family history searches.

### **1. Keohane.**

If you travel around West Cork today, you will see and hear this



surname around the towns of Clonakilty and Skibbereen. However, unlike the illustrious names of McCarthy, O'Neill etc. – names that had their lineage carefully recorded – this surname is representative of SO many Irish names. It can be tied down to a single area in Ireland, but its source and meaning have become lost in the mists of time.

However – when it comes to Keohane, the world of Hollywood has done us a service by imprinting a version of this name in our collective memories. Does the following song sound familiar?

“I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy

A Yankee Doodle, do or die

A real live nephew of my Uncle Sam

Born on the Fourth of July”

These were the words of George M. Cohan – written in 1904 – but probably best known from the movie “Yankee Doodle Dandy” with James Cagney (by the way, Cagney is another Cork name).

George Cohan was born in Providence, Rhode Island to Jeremiah and Helen Cohan. They were Irish Catholics from County Cork – probably from around the Clonakilty area. Somehow, their name “migrated/mutated” from Keohane (pronounced “ka-yo-haan”) to Cohan on their arrival in the US. Was it their choice? Or was it clerical error - and they just chose to stick with it?

Keohane is an old Gaelic name that is peculiar to West Cork that comes from the Irish "Mac Eocháin". It's also one of those names whose history is lost to us – probably a derivative or version of a similar Irish surname.

So, come on Clonakilty – let's see you put up a statue to one of your emigrant sons – the Yankee Doodle Dandy himself – George M. Cohan.

## **2. Mannix.**

Not so much Hollywood with this one as late-night 70's TV (who remembers "Mannix" the private eye?). While Mannix may sound like an unlikely Irish name – it actually comes from the Irish O Mainchin, meaning a "descendent of a Monk".

This was a sept founded, like George M. Cohans family, in West Cork where the name was also anglicized as Manahan. Anglicization was the main reason for a lot of the name mutation we have discussed – clerical staff (often English) hears the name in Irish, and chose a similar sounding word or name to give it an English version.

## **3. Sullivan.**

Staying in County Cork, the Sullivan's were one of the prominent families of Munster – found in great quantities in both West Cork and Kerry. The interesting thing to note is that many of the Sullivans who emigrated to the US from Cork and Kerry did so around before the 1860s. Two things about this name:

I was contacted by a Mr. Cohue who stated that his family came from around the Beara Peninsula in West Cork. He had also carried out some investigations of his own. You see, there were SO MANY Sullivans in this area that many were designated with a middle name that gave their occupation – to distinguish them from another person of the same name. In this case a John "Cohu" O'Sullivan designated the person as a quartermaster of types. However, when this person eventually emigrated – the Cohue stuck as a surname and the Sullivan was dropped.

Which brings us to another point – the dropping, and reinstatement of Os and Macs. At this time, the Os and Macs were dropped from many surnames in Ireland – but many were reinstated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in Ireland. So, if you are a US Sullivan – this often means your family emigrated before 1860 or so. If you are a US O'Sullivan – they probably emigrated after that time.

#### **4. Carroll.**

The surname Carroll comes from the Irish Ó Cearbhaill. This is a surname that is found in many distinct places in Ireland (coming from the popular Irish first name of the time – Cearbhaill). It was simultaneously adopted as a surname by many distinct families.

The interesting thing is the way that this surname travelled quite “intact” – only losing or gaining the O. This is probably down to the way that it sounds like an English word (like Christmas “Carol” song or a girl’s first name).

#### **5. MacDonald**

Here is a surname that is normally assumed to be Scottish. However, when the name MacDonald is found in Ireland it can be from an old Scottish Galloglass (mercenary) family OR it can be an Anglicisation of the Irish “Mac Domhnaill” (MacDonnell) - and to confuse everything, it can sometimes be from later Scottish planter families.

#### **6. Delaney.**

Delaney comes from the Irish “Ó Duibhlearga” – and is found mostly in modern counties Laois and Kilkenny. This is an example of a name that lost its O – and never got it back. You will never hear the surname O’Delaney nowadays.

#### **7. Conaty.**

This family name kind of belongs to same category of surnames like Walsh, Scott, Ireland etc. – they usually mean “man from Wales, Scotland or Ireland” etc. In this case, Conaty is an abbreviation of Connaghty which comes from the Irish – “Ó Connaghtaigh” – meaning “man from the province of Connaught”.

It was a nickname – that stuck – in County Cavan. So, the Conatys probably came from Connaught to Cavan at one time – were given the nickname Ó Connaghtaigh – and hung onto it (and stayed in Cavan).

So, there you go - seven Irish surnames - and seven areas and themes to be aware of when researching your Irish family history. Next, I want to encourage you to take a step that some people may find a little "scary" - entering the wonderful world of the Irish language. But don't worry, I'll be beside you all the way!

### **ALWAYS START WITH THE IRISH FOR YOUR NAME.**

If you are looking for a “true north” to go with your surname “map” – then this is it. Given all the spelling variations that you are likely to come across, there is **ONLY** one correct spelling.

Yes, only one.

When you are **REALLY** interested in tracing the heritage of your Irish surname – I have found that the **ONLY** way to pin down that name is to learn the original Irish language version of that surname.

Have a think about it.

Take the surname O'Reilly – which is also heard as Riley, Reilly, O'Riley (and other versions I's sure I'll hear one day).

The thing is – none of these are correct!

These are versions that have sprung up over centuries with the introduction of English in Ireland, emigration, mutation and so on.

The most useful starting point is the original Irish language version: Ó Raghailigh (pronounced Oh Rah-al-ig – just say it fast). This is the root for all the O'Reilly English language versions out there.

But of course, the Reillys have it easy (and the McCarthys, O'Briens, Murphys and so on) as they were never pegged to an equivalent English name. When English speakers heard O Raghailigh spoken for the first time – they just said it as they heard it: O Reilly/Riley

The "trouble" started when an English speaker heard another name for the first time – AND it reminded them of an English name that they already knew – and that's the name they gave!

To illustrate let's take an example of a lesser-known Irish name – **Hamill**. If you think this sounds like an English name – you are right! But if you come across the name in your Irish family tree, it most likely has a different source to the Hamills you will come across in England (it is facts like this that cause your frustration with mega-ancestry sites – their focus is on the greater population of the surname – not on us - the little Irish contingent!).

Back to Hamill. Hamill comes from the original Irish “Ó hAdhmaill” (pronounced Oh–ham-will). This surname comes from a nickname-derived first name “Adhmall”. This Gaelic family were part of the Cenél Eóghain part of the Northern Uí Néill in what is now County Tyrone.

In the case of Ó hAdhmaill, an English speaker/clerk heard the Irish name spoken – it reminded them of the English name Hamill – a name they were already familiar with – and so “Hamill” became a given name for this old Gaelic family. This process happened slowly from the 1600s onwards as the English administration spread through the island of Ireland.

And today when you go onto many ancestry sites, you notice that while names like “Hamill” are included – there are a small portion of Irish folks jumping up and down in the corner protesting that this is also an Irish name! And they are right – to a point!

So, when a reader chastises me for using the incorrect spelling for an Irish surname (e.g. Maguire instead of McGuire) – I reply that the ONLY correct spelling is the original Irish. So, I recommend that you find out

the original Irish for your Irish surname, learn to phonetically pronounce it – and learn all the English variations that have come along for this name over the centuries. This will open up a whole new world of understanding in your Irish Heritage journey as you “widen the net” to include many possibilities of mutations of your surnames – but all anchored to a single Irish language origin.

Right, we are almost there. But let's finish off the map to guide our journey with three questions that I often get from the readers of Your Irish Heritage.

### **Three Reader Questions to Finish off our Map.**

These are probably the three most frequent reader questions I get asked on Your Irish Heritage. With these answers we will finish off the map that we are developing – a map to help you anticipate and avoid the main obstacles when reaching your Irish surname family tree.

#### **Question 1.**

Recently I got an email from a lady who goes by the surname of “McGee”. She asked: “I met a lady called “McCoy” last year – she insisted we are distant cousins – how could that be?”

Looking through our reader list on Your Irish Heritage – I notice that we have Keyes, MacHugh, Gee, McGee, O’Hea, Hayes, MacKaw Makay and McCoy. All of these Gaelic surnames have something in common. They have all been anglicized from the same Irish surname – Aodh. “Mac Aodha” (son of Aodh) or “O hAodha” (descendent of Aodh).

Aodh/Aedh (pronounced “Aay” – rhymes with “hay”) was a very popular first name in Ireland up to the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Up to that point individuals were known by their first names and lineage. So, individuals were known as “Aodh son of Donnchadh” and so

on.

And then from the 900s to 1100s – families adopted the surname system we know today. Lots of families across Ireland (and Scotland) chose the name MacAodha or O hAodha – and that got anglicized into the different surnames we see above over the next few centuries.

So I got back to Mrs. McGee and told her while we all may be cousins going back to Adam and Eve – you would have to go back almost as far to make this Mrs. McCoy your cousin.

## Question 2.

One of the more frequent questions I get asked sounds something like “why do YOU write MacCarthy as McCarthy?” (Read that one again – there is a difference).

As we said earlier, Ireland was probably the first country in Europe to introduce a surname system in the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

The Gaelic surnames of the time were formed around an illustrious ancestor e.g. the O’Briens from Brian Ború. These Irish Gaelic surnames typically have one of five prefixes:

- "O" as in O’Brien or O’Neill.
- Mc or Mac – as in McCarthy or McCoy.
- Gil – which comes from the Irish "Giolla" meaning follower – as in Gilmartin.
- Mul – like in Mulrooney or Mullarkey.
- Sometimes a combination of the above as in “Mac Giolla Íosa” (MacAleese).
- A smaller class of Irish surname named the family after an

occupation or profession e.g. McInerney (Mac an Airchinnigh in Irish) which means "son of the eranagh" (a type of lay abbot) OR Hickey (in Irish O hIcidhe) which comes from the Irish for Physician or Healer.

What is the difference between a Mc and a Mac (some people wonder is the "Mc" Irish and the "Mac" Scottish?) The answer is: there is no difference! Mc is simply an abbreviation of Mac.

Also, you are very unlikely to hear a surname starting with "O" in Scotland (although a very few do exist).

### **Question 3.**

A Mrs. Sullivan contacted me and commented "it's a pity our family lost the "O" when we came to the States – I wonder can we get it back?"

But, there's a bit more to it than that. From the 1600s on – Gaelic and Catholic people were discriminated against by the English ascendancy – and this led, gradually, to the abandonment of the Os and Macs in many surnames. O'Murphy became Murphy; O'Kelly became Kelly and so on.

However, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a Gaelic cultural resurgence in Ireland and many of these surnames took their Os and Macs back as a badge of Gaelic pride.

Take "O'Sullivan" as an example – when we look at available surname records – there were only 4% of Sullivans with an O prefix in 1866 – but by 1944 it had increased to 62%.

So, you can see that many emigrants who left Ireland during famine times (before 1866) were missing their Os and Macs – and mostly never took them back. Whereas a high percentage of those who stayed in Ireland had them reinstated.

Maybe it's time to take your O or Mac back?



**IN CONCLUSION.**

I realise that we covered a lot of ground in this chapter. As well as that, we went WAY outside our remit of “around the time of 1156AD”. However, I hope you can see that a firm understanding of the evolution (and mutation) of the surname in Ireland will help you anticipate and avoid many of the obstacles that are thrown in your way as you continue on your journey.

I also hope that this chapter gives you a useful outline map to move quicker towards the genealogical gold that you are seeking!

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## **Section 3 – The Kingdoms of the North.**

## ***Chapter Thirteen - The Northern Uí Néill.***

Turlough O'Connor was always undisputed King of Connaught – but as High King, he was always High King “with opposition” – and that opposition came from the powerful Muirchertach Mac Lochlainn, King of the Northern Uí Néill.



**Figure 26 Northern Uí Néill Territory**

If you look at a map of the Island of Ireland - and then bring your attention to the north-west corner (modern counties Donegal, Derry and Tyrone) - that's the area of Ireland that was “governed” for centuries by the tribe known as the “Northern Uí Néill”. Now, remember that at the

time we are looking (around 1156AD) there were no real political boundaries. The extent of the tribe's power and alliances dictated the "border" - and that border ebbed and flowed as the might of an individual tribe came and went.

And so, this territory of Ireland was known as the "Northern Uí Néill" for centuries.

Today, we associate this part of Ireland with the many English and Scottish planter families who populated this area alongside the Irish Gaelic families from the 1600s onwards. However, until that time - this area of Ireland was probably the strongest and most "Gaelic" of all the kingdoms of Ireland.

But let's step back a bit - let us look at the history, families and surnames associated with the Northern Uí Néill.

## **History of the Northern Uí Néill.**

The Northern Uí Néill took their name from their illustrious ancestor: Niall of the Nine Hostages) who was King of Mide in the fifth century. His descendents were collectively known as the Uí Néill ("descendents of Niall"). This dynasty divided into two in the 400's, the Northern Uí Néill to the north and the Southern Uí Néill established in Mide. Their members alternated as High Kings of Ireland until their hold was broken by Brian Ború and the Dál gCais in the early 1000s.

A little more? Well, the legend goes that three of the sons of Niall of the Nine Hostages - Eóghan, Conall, and Enda - moved into the northwest region of the island of Ireland - what is modern-day County Donegal. His other sons establish the tribes that made up the territory of the Southern Uí Néill.

But let's concentrate on the Northern Uí Néill. Over time, a different branch evolved - each with a name after each of the three sons. By the 400s the Cenél Eóghain and Cenél Conaill were established as the main

overlords in this area. (However, the surname O'Neill that we know today was not the same as the Uí Néill. The surname O'Neill came from a leading family in the Cenél Eóghain and is named after a later Niall). Cenél Enda was subsumed into the Cenél Conaill over time as they moved eastward.

The Cenél Eóghain originally established their power base in the Inishowen peninsula - and their capital at Aileach. The Cenél Conaill centred themselves around the area of Magh Ithe, in the valley of the river Finn.

### **The Northern Uí Néill in 1156**

By 1156 - there were only two provinces in Ireland that had the strength to challenge for the high King of Ireland - the Northern Uí Néill and Connaught.

As Turlough O'Connor looked to ascend to the position of High King he concentrated on winning over Mumhan, Laigin and Mide. By 1145, he ran into his most serious opposition so far – Muircheartach MacLoughlin – King of the Cenél Eóghain and the Northern Uí Néill. By 1151, Muircheartach had extended the power of the Northern Uí Néill into Ulidh and much of Airgialla which they ran as overlords – and he was openly challenging Turlough for the High Kingship.

When Turlough died suddenly in May of 1156, Muircheartach eventually became High King of Ireland without opposition – but it was only to last for a short while.

### **Main Tribes of the area and their families.**

The balance of power shifts over generations. Tribes, families and their associated surnames rise to prominence serve their time and often fade to obscurity. Often, the only way we know of their once great power is through the records, annals and genealogies commissioned by many of

these families themselves. And, of course in later years - some members of these families played a major part in the struggle against colonisation - names like Owen O'Neill, Hugh O'Donnell are all captured in our history books.

Back in 1156 - the Northern Uí Néill dynasty was in expansionist mode, and this expansion was led by two main tribes. These were the Cenél Eóghain and the Cenél Conaill. The following is a brief snapshot of these tribes, their leader at the time and the dominant families.

## **Cenél Eóghain**

The Cenél Eóghain (race of Eóghain) got their name from Eóghan who was the son of Niall of the nine hostages. He established his kingdom in Inishowen, centred at Aileach. However, by the 10th century they had moved their power base further south to Tullahogue in the modern County Tyrone (which derives its name from this group - Tir Eóghan or "land of Eóghan").

The sub-clans of the Cenél Eóghain were the Clan Néill, Clan Domhnaill, Cenél Fergusa, Cairrge Brachaidhe, Cenél Binnigh, Cenél Moen, Cenél Fearadhaigh, Cenél Tigernaich, Clan Conchobhair and Clan Diarmatta.

In 1156 the chief of the Cenél Eóghain was Muircheartach Mac Lochlainn and their chief families were Kilpatrick, MacCann, MacCloskey, MacDermott, MacGilmartin, MacLaughlin/MacLoughlin, MacPaul, McGettigan, Mulfoyle, O'Carolan, O'Connor, O'Devlin, O'Donnelly, O'Gormley, O'Hagan, O'Hamill, O'Hosey, O'Kane, O'Kelly, O'Looney, O'Mallon/O'Mellon, O'Mullan, O'Murphy, O'Neill, O'Patton, O'Quinn and Montgomery.

## **Cenél Conaill**

For many years, the area we now call "Donegal" was known as Tyrconnell or Tir Conaill – named after this group of the Northern Uí

Néill.

In 1156 the chief of the Cenél Conaill was Aedh Ua Canannáin (Aedh O’Cannon) and their chief families were O’Boyle, O’Breslin, O’Cannon, O’Doherty, O’Donnell, Farran, O’Gallagher, O’Kernaghan and O’Muldorey.

### **Surnames of the Northern Uí Néill\***

When readers subscribe to our weekly “Letter from Ireland” - we invite them to submit the Irish names in their family tree (and the counties they believe they came from). Some submit one name - and some submit up to 30 different surnames!

In this volume I have aimed to place each of these surnames into the appropriate Irish “Kingdom” - but please make sure that you read the notes at the end of this list.

The names, alphabetically (and using the exact spelling provided to me by the reader are:

Agnew Arrells Bagley Baron Barron Begley Bird Black Bogan Bonar Boner Bonner Boyce Boyle Braden Brannen Brannigan Breadin Breslin Bride Bryson Cain Caine Caldwell Cannon Carey Carleton Carlin Carlon Carnahan Carolan Carolin Carr Caufield Caulfield Cole Conway Conwell Cooney Corey Corp Corr Corry Cowan Cowley Coyle Crampsey Crean Creary Culgin Culley Cunniff Cunningham Curran

Daugherty Devanney Deveney Dever Devine Devlin Devor Dimond Diver Docherty Doherty Donaghy Donlan Donley Donlon Donnellan Donnellon Donnelly Doohan Dorrian Dougherty Dowd Dowdy Duddy Duff Dunlop Fair Farmer Fee Feeley Fitzpatrick Flanagan Flanigan Flannagan Flannigan Foy Friel

Gaffney Galeen Gallagher Galleen Garland Gartland Garvey Gill Gillen

Gillespie Gilligan Gillon Gilmartin Gilsenan Ginty Godfrey Goodwin  
 Gormley Granahan Grimes Gunn Hackett Hagan Haggan Haggarty  
 Haggerty Hamill Hannigan Harkin Harkins Harley Harrity Hayes Hays  
 Heaney Heffron Hegarty Heraghty Herly Hoban Hobin Hogg Holland  
 Houstin Hughes Hussey

Ivers Kane Karr Keaney Kee Keenan Keeney Kelley Kelly Kenney  
 Kenny Kerins Kern Kernahan Kerns Kerr Keyes Keys Kiernan Kilgariff  
 Kinney Kneafsey Lafferty Larkey Laughlin Laverty Lennard Leonard  
 Logue Loney Long Loughran Lunney

MacFarland Mack MacKinney Mackle MacMachado MacNamee Mallon  
 Martin Martyn McAuley McBrearty McBride McCafferty McCaffery  
 McCaffrey McCahill McCalla McCandless McCarrick McCarrig McCarron  
 McCaul McCauley McCloskey McCluskey McCole McConnell McConney  
 McConway McCool McCooney McCormack McCormick McCracken

McCreary McCrory McCulley McCullough McCully McCurry McDaid  
 McDaniel McDevitt McElhaney McElhatton McElroy McElvaney  
 McElwee McFadden McFarland McFarlane McFarren McFaul McGarvey  
 McGee McGeever McGettigan McGhee McGill McGillen McGinley  
 McGinn McGinnley McGinty McGlinchey McGloin McGlone

McGonagle McGonigal McGrann McGroarty McGuckin McGuffin  
 McGuigan McGuin McHargue McHugh McIlhaney McIlhatton McIllwee  
 Mcilwee McKelvey McKelvie McKinney McLaughlin McLoughlin  
 McManegle McManus McMenamin McMonagle McNamee McNelis

McNemea McPeake McTighe McTigue Melley Mellon Millen Milligan  
 Monaghan Monahan Mondy Mooney Moss Mulhearn Mulhern  
 Mulholland Mullarkey Mullen Mullican Mulligan Mullin Mulroony Neal  
 Neil Nickell

O'Bannion O'Bannon O'Boyle O'Cain O'Cannon O'Cassidy O'Doherty  
 O'Donnell O'Dougherty O'Hagan O'Hannigan O'Kaine O'Kane O'Neal  
 O'Neil O'Neill O'Niell Peters Pheley Quinn Rafferty Rodden  
 Roden Rodgers Rogers Rorie Rudden



Scanlan Scanlon Shane Sharkey Shearin Sheeran Sheerin Sheils Sherrans  
 Shields Slavin Taggart Tague Teague Ternney Tierney Tighe Toland  
 Toner Toughill Toy Tunney Twigg Ward Wiggins Winters Woods

\*Notes:

1. These are surnames given by the readers of Your Irish Heritage (some of these names e.g. Murphy appear in many reader's family trees - others may appear only once in our entire list.
  2. I have included the precise spelling given by the reader. In many cases this spelling has been affected by many centuries of Anglicisation and clerical error.
  3. In 1156 all of these surnames would have been in the original Irish - most of these names are the popular Anglicisations of each.
  4. Almost all of these surnames started with an "O" or "Mac" at the beginning. Many of these got dropped from the 1600s onwards and only restored in the later 1800s.
  5. Many of these names also feature as surnames of England/Scotland etc. This was often because of the phonetic similarity between a Gaelic surname and an equivalent English surname. An English-speaking clerk would often substitute a name that they were already familiar with for Gaelic names - and the English version stuck.
  6. Many of these surnames will be found in other kingdoms of Ireland. Almost all of these names are based on familiar first names (e.g. Conor, Niall). Many septs sprung up in different parts of Ireland - calling themselves after a particular illustrious ancestor - and many of these septs survived in parallel e.g. O'Neill.
-



## ***Chapter Fourteen - Airgialla.***

On a map of Ireland, you can locate Airgialla (later anglicised as Oriel) in the north-east. At the time we are looking (around 1156AD) there were no real political boundaries. The extent of the tribe's power and alliances dictated the "border" - and that border ebbed and flowed as the might of an individual tribe came and went. By the time of 1156 - much of Airgialla (as well as Ulaid) became sub-kingdoms of the Northern Uí Néill - forming mostly what we know as the province of Ulster today. This was the part of Ireland that never accepted Turlough O'Connor as Ard Rí - and he never managed to bring into his Kingship.



**Figure 27 Airgialla Territory**

But let's step back a bit - let us look at the history, families and

surnames associated with Airgialla.

## History of Airgialla.

Airgialla (later anglicised as “Oriel”) was a kingdom in the Northeast of Ireland. Its meaning in English is “those who give hostages”. The use of hostage giving was widespread in early Ireland. It was a way of underwriting an agreement between tribes. The stronger side took important hostages (often a relation of the King) - and if an agreement was broken, the hostage was killed or at least blinded. Give that this area was called out as one that “gives hostages”, it illustrates that is was generally on the weaker side of inter-tribe agreements.



**Figure 28 The Modern City of Armagh**

Airgialla was (according to legend) founded by the three brothers who were known as the “Three Collas” in the 300s. The legend goes that these three brothers all shared the nickname of “Colla” (meaning *strong man*) but their real names were Aodh, Muredach and Cairball. They were exiled in

Scotland (known as Alba at the time) for a period but eventually invaded a territory in the North east of Ireland and displaced the Ulaid tribe who were already there. They burned the capital of the Ulaid - Emhain Mhaca (near modern Armagh city) and established their own capital in Clogher (in modern County Tyrone). The new kingdom stretched from modern County Louth in the south to modern County Derry in the north and from Loch Neagh west to Loch Erne in modern County Fermanagh.

### **Airgialla in 1156.**

Airgialla was a federation of tribes that occupied a space where you will find the modern counties of Armagh, Monaghan – as well as parts of Fermanagh and Louth. It was larger at one stage, but by the first years of Turlough O'Connor it had diminished substantially in size. This was caused by expansion from the Uí Néill from the west. Many of its tribes were subsumed into the Northern Uí Néill as they expanded. However, in 1133 – the King of Fernmag - Donnchadh O'Carroll rose to become the King of the Airgialla federation. He was strong enough to resist most of the Northern Uí Néill expansion to the North, and went on to expand Airgialla to the south and east – pushing all the way down to near the banks of the River Boyne and establishing one of the first Cistercian abbeys in Ireland at Mellifont.

### **Main Tribes of the area and their families.**

The Kingdom of Airgialla was always a loose federation of tribes (as opposed to a Kin group) - and the kingship was shared among the main families of each of the tribes. In the 12th century the O'Carroll's of Fernmag were the main kings of Airgialla. The King of Airgialla in 1156 was Donnchadh O'Carroll. The chief families of Airgialla were O'Lynn/O'Flynn, O' Heaney, O'Carroll, O'Hanlon, O'Rogan and MacMahon (and later Maguire).

The over-kingdom of Airgialla was itself composed of nine tribal

territories, named after their ruling dynasties. However, by 1156 some of these tribes were outside the earlier Kingdom of Airgialla (and subsumed into the Northern Uí Néill). They were:

### **Uí Cremthainn**

Their territories covered east of the modern County Fermanagh and north of the modern County Monaghan - these were known at the time as Fir Manach (where modern County Fermanagh gets its name) and Fernmag (Monaghan). The chief families of the Uí Cremthainn were MacMahon, Maguire (who assumed control of Fermanagh in the 13th century), MacManus, MacCaffrey, O'Heaney, MacAuley, MacDonnell, Masterson, Magee, McHugh/Hughes and Mulrooney/Rooney.

### **Uí Méith**

Their territories covered north of the modern County Louth and east of the modern County Armagh. Their ruling family at the in 1156 were the O'Hanrattys.

### **Uí Tuirtre**

Their territories were east of the River Bann by 1156. Their ruling family in 1156 were the O'Flynns/O'Lynns. Other chief families included Donnellan and Mulrooney.

### **Uí Meic Uais**

Their lands were at the southernmost part of Airgialla when the Kingdom was at its greatest extent - around the north part of the modern counties Meath and Westmeath. By the time of 1156, Airgialla had withdrawn northwards. The main families of this tribe were O'Curry and O'Hennessey.

## **Uí Fiachra Ard Sratha**

They occupied a large part of modern County Tyrone - and so by 1156 were directly within the Northern Uí Néill. Their chief families at this time were O'Crehan and Hughes.

## **Mughdorna**

Their territory went from Monaghan south into modern County Meath. By 1156 it reverted back to Monaghan. Their chiefs at this time were the Muckian/McKean family.

## **Uí Mic Cáirthinn**

They covered part of modern County Derry near Lough Foyle. By 1156, this area would be directly controlled by the Northern Uí Néill. The chief families of this area include O'Colgan and O'Connell.



**Figure 29 Emhain Mhaca - Navan Fort - near Armagh City**

## **Airthir**

This was centred in County Armagh in 1156. The O'Hanlons were the Kings of Airthir at this time. Leading families included O'Hare, O'Hanlon, O'Rogan, O'Garvey, MacCann, O'Long and O'Connor.

## **Fernmag**

This was an area centred on County Monaghan. Donnchadh O'Carroll was chief here at the time and the leading families were O'Carroll, MacMahon, O'Crehan and O'Ciaran. The O'Carroll family - and later the MacMahons - were the effective rulers of all of Airgialla at the time we are examining and for sometime afterwards.

## **Fir Manach**

Who gave their name to modern County Fermanagh. They were based around Upper Lough Erne and partly considered to be of Airgialla influence and partly Connaught. Their chief families were O'Heany, Mulrooney (the Maguires were to come later).

## **Surnames of Airgialla\***

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Bird Boylan Boylen Brannian Brannon Breagy Brennan Bryan Cadden  
 Callan Carberry Carbury Carey Carpenter Carr Carrigan Carroll Carrolls  
 Case Casey Cassidy Caufield Caulfield Cawley Conally Connelly Conner  
 Connors Connery Connole Connolly Connoly Cooley Corcoran Cormac  
 Cormack Corrigan Cosgrave Cosgrove Cowan Coyle Crawley Crilly Cuff  
 Cuffe Cullen

Devanney Devany Deveney Devine Donegan Doonan Dority Doroity  
 Dorris Duffee Duffy Fagan Fearon Finegan Finn Finnegan Finnigan  
 Flanagan Flanigan Flannagan Flannigan Free Gaffney Garvey Gilley  
 Gorman Grennan Hackett Hagan Haggan Halligan Haney Hanlon  
 Hanratty Hanvey Harden Hare Haren Heaney Hogg Holly Iveagh  
 Jennings

Karr Keelaghan Keeley Keenan Kell Kelledy Kerins Kern Kernahan  
 Kerns King Lambe Larkin Lennon Levins Long Loughlin Loughnane  
 Loy Lynn

MacAroy Macaulay MacMahon Maguire Mahan Mannis Marren  
 Masterson Mathews Mc McArdle McAteer McAuley McBrien McCaffrey  
 McCalla McCann McCauley McCawley McClure McConnon McConville  
 McCormack McCormick McCourt McCreanor McCusker McDonall  
 McDonnell McElroy McEnaney McGarrity McGee McGivern  
 McGoldrick McGough McGuire McHugh McIllenden McIntire McIntyre  
 McKeever McKenna McKinna McKittricks McMahan McMahan  
 McManus McNalley McNally McNulty McPartlan McQuade McQuaide  
 McVeigh McVey Moran Morgan Moyers Muldoon Muldowney

Neary O'Bannon O'Carrol O'Carroll O'Connely O'Gorman O'Hagan  
 O'Hare O'Larkin O'Lone O'Sorahan Quaid Rafferty Rice Rogan Rooney  
 Rush Scanlan Scanlon Sherry Skelly Sorohan Trainor Traynor Treanor  
 Vallely Wade Waters Watters Weir White Whyte

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  6. Many of these surnames will be found in other kingdoms of Ireland. Almost all of these names are based on familiar first names (e.g. Conor, Niall). Many septs sprung up in different parts of Ireland - calling themselves after a particular illustrious ancestor - and many of these septs survived in parallel e.g. O'Neill.
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## ***Chapter Fifteen - Ulaid***

While the modern province of Ulster extends over nine counties: Monaghan, Donegal and Cavan in the Republic of Ireland and Derry, Antrim, Down, Armagh, Tyrone and Fermanagh in Northern Ireland - Ulaid - the ancient name for the people and territory related to the eastern part of the province. At their greatest power, Ulaid territory extended south to modern County Meath and west to County Leitrim. However, that heyday was over by the 5th century.



**Figure 30 Ulaid Territory**

By this time the western and central portions of Ulaid was taken over by the tribes of the Northern Uí Néill and the Airgialla pushing the Ulaid further east of the River Bann - into the modern counties of Antrim and Down. However, they are remembered in the English word Ulster - the

first part of Ulster coming from “Ulaid” and the second part from the Irish “tír” (meaning land) - Land of the Ulaid. Of the three main tribes of the Ulaid - the Dál Riada was a lesser kingdom. The Kingship of Ulaid was dominated by the Dál Fiatach and contested by the the Dál nAraidi.

Many of the myths and story cycles we hear today originate in this part of Ireland.



**Figure 31 The Giants Causeway, County Antrim**

First there is the idea that Scotland was conquered and named after the Irish. The Dál Riada tribe extended their kingdom into Scotland around the 4th century. The Romans referred to these tribes from Ireland as "Scotti" (giving modern Scotland its name). During that time, the Dál Riada moved their kingship to the modern Scottish area of Argyllshire. Remember that the sea was an important means of travel and communication – and in this case the sea between the Northern Irish territories of the Dál Riada and the Scottish territories was an integral part of the territory. However, this communication passage was cut in half with the arrival of the Vikings in the 800s - isolating the two halves of the kingdom of Dál Riada from that point onward.

Secondly - the neighbours of the Dál Riada to the south (in modern County Down) were the Dál Fiatach and were considered to supply legendary heroes of the Ulster Cycle. These wonderful stories and myths are set in the time of King Conor of the Ulaid who is based in Emhain Macha near the city of Armagh. The most famous hero of the stories is Conor's nephew - Cú Chulainn. He is featured in stories such as the Cattle Raid of Cooley (Cooley is in modern County Louth) - and it features the rivalry and fights between the Ulaid and Connaught.

### **Ulaid in 1156.**

At that time of the stories of Cu Chulainn, Ulster and Connaught were the strongest in Ireland - and funnily enough, when we look at Ireland again in 1156 - these two provinces are the strongest once more. However, the might of the Ulaid has been replaced with that of the Northern Uí Néill - and the Kingdom of Ulaid (as well as Airgiolla) has come under the lordship of the Northern Uí Néill. Ulaid has been effectively confined to the modern Counties of Down and Antrim - under the kingship of the Dál Fiatach based in Downpatrick (near the place where Saint Patrick was a slave as a young man).

The Dunleveys of the Dál Fiatach were kings of Ulaid at this time.

However, shortly after this time - with the arrival of the Normans and later English and Scottish settlers, many families were spread to other parts of Ireland. Examples are the Gillespies and Dunleavys who travelled first to Donegal.

### **Main Tribes of the area and their families.**

As mentioned before, the Kingship of Ulaid was dominated by the Dál Fiatach and contested by the the Dál nAraidi. The Dál Riada in the north of modern County Antrim were also prominent.

The chief families of the Ulaid were Donlevy (later also known as McNulty and Dunlop), Haughey/Hoey, Lynch, McGinnis, O'Lynn/O'Flynn, Gillespie, McArtan, Lavery/Lowery,

## Dal Fiatach

In some books, the name of the Dál Fiatach and Ulaid are considered interchangeable - as they were considered the original Ulaid people. They were based in the town of Downpatrick and in 1156 - their chiefs were the Haughey/Hoey family - but were to be replaced by the Dunleavys by the end of the century.



Figure 32 The First Bishops at Downpatrick

## Dal nAraidhe

The territory of the Dál nAraidhe spanned the south part of modern County Antrim in north County Down (where Saint Patrick was held as a slave as a young man). The Lynch family were kings of Dál nAraidhe in

1156.

## **Dal Riada**

Dal Riada was the early tribal and territory name for the tribes in the north-east portion of the Island - in the north part of modern County Antrim. As noted above, this kingdom had strong ancient ties with Scotland up to the coming of the Vikings in the 800s - which effectively split their Irish/Scottish kingdom in two. By 1156, the Dál Riada were the least powerful of the three main tribes of Ulaid.

The O'Lynn/Flynn family were the chief family in the Dál Riada in 1156.

## **Uí Eathach Cobha**

They were centred in the north and west parts of modern County Down. The name "Iveagh" (associated with the Guinness brewing family) came from Eochaid Coba

Their chief families were Mcgennis, O'Rogan and McArtan.

## **Surnames of Ulaid**

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Carroll Clooney Close Coe Coey Colter Colue Conwell Cooley Coulter  
 Cranney Culley Cunningham Darraugh Dungan Dunleavy Dunlevy  
 Dunlop Flattery Flynn Gillespie Gilmore Gilmour Gordon Green Greene  
 Gribbin Hanvey Heenan Henry Hoey Huey Kenney Kenny Kernahan  
 Keyes Keys Kielthy Kielty Lavery Lowery Long Lunch Lynch Lynn

MacKeon Mackle MacNiece Magee Magenniss McAteer McCarl  
 McCartan McCarten McCartin McCaugherty McConnell McCosh  
 McCullough McCurdy McGill McGinnis McGinniss McGrath McGrattan  
 McGraw McIlwain McInness McKenna McKeon McKeown McNeice  
 McSpadden McSpedon Meechan Miller Noctor O'Hoy O'Loyal O'Pry  
 Patterson Quinn Reeve Rooney Sloan Turley

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6. Many of these surnames will be found in other kingdoms of Ireland. Almost all of these names are based on familiar first names (e.g. Conor, Niall). Many septs sprung up in different parts of Ireland - calling themselves after a particular illustrious ancestor - and many of these septs survived in parallel e.g. O'Neill.
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# **Section 4 – Kingdoms of the South.**

## ***Chapter Sixteen - Tuamumu.***

### **History of Tuadmumu**

Tuadmumu comes from the Irish “Tuadh Mhumhain” meaning North Munster and today is more commonly called “Thomond”.



**Figure 33 Tuamumu Territory**

Tuadmumu came to prominence - and the Kingdom of Tuadmumu came into being because of one tribe, the Dál gCais. When I look at our reader surnames on Your Irish Heritage, it's astonishing just how many

came out of this tribe originally. Names like O'Brien, Kennedy, McNamara, Hogan and so on. The Dál gCais were originally a small tribe based in modern County Clare. Their name comes from Dál – meaning “portion or territory”) of Cais (which is from a Cormac Cas – who may have lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century).



**Figure 34 Killaloe - thought to be the site of Kincora Palace**

In the 900s, the Dál gCais rose to power and prominence in Ireland - culminating with the accession of their leader, Brian Ború, to the High Kingship of Ireland. The speed of their powerful rise from insignificance was not seen in Ireland up to that point.

The Dál gCais challenged the Eóghanacht – who were Kings of Munster for centuries - and following their crowning as Kings of Munster, went on to provide the first Irish High King (without resistance from other tribes for centuries). In doing so they broke the hold the powerful Uí Néill’s had on the High Kingship up to that point.

However, since the death of Brian Ború at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 - the fortunes of the Dál gCais diminished slowly. They had shown the way for many other tribes with their actions - provincial and High Kingships were no longer reserved for specific dynasties - they are a prize available to those with the right powerbase, alliances, tenacity and daring.

In 1119 – Muircheartach O’Brien – the last Dalcassian High King of Ireland died. This gave the opportunity to a young Turlough O’Connor, King of Connaught to make a bid for the High Kingship. This may not have happened if the Dál gCais had not shown that this was possible to others outside the “entitled” Royal families.

In 1118, Turlough O’Connor invaded Munster (Mumhan) and divided into Tuadh Mumhan (North Munster) and Deis Mumhan (South Munster) – thereby splitting up the power to oppose his bid for High Kingship. The treaty of Glanmire made a division along the border of modern counties Limerick and Cork and eastwards into Tipperary, giving Desmumha (south Munster) to the lordship of the McCarthys under Tadhg McCarthy and Tuadmumha (north Munster) to the lordship of the O’Briens.

## **Tuadmumu in 1156**

By 1134 the alliance of the McCarthys of Desmumha and the O’Briens of Tuadmumu had collapsed. This rivalry culminated at the battle of Moin Mór in County Cork where the O’Briens were defeated and over 7000 lost their lives. This effectively marginalised the old power of the tribes of Munster and their rivalries left them particularly vulnerable when the Normans arrived in their territory from 1170AD onwards.

The kingdom of Tuadmumu covered all of modern counties Clare and Limerick and part of counties Kerry, Tipperary, Offaly at its greatest extent - with the arrival of the Normans (especially the Butler family) at the end of the 12th century, its boundaries shrank back to modern

County Clare and parts of County Limerick and Tipperary.

## **Main Tribes of the area and their families**

### **Dál gCais**

Dál gCais was a small kingdom in modern County Clare in the 800s. Their ancestors descended from the sons of Cas who included Caisin (Ui Caisin which the MacNamaras dominated) and Blat (Ui Blait which the O'Briens and O'Kennedys dominated) along with other smaller dynasties. The power of Brian Ború and his family - the O'Brien ancestors – rose through the 10th and 11th centuries. They became the most important dynasty in Munster and culminated with Brian Ború, recognized as the High King of Ireland by the turn of the 11th century. The Palace of Kincora, near the mouth of the Shannon river, was the stronghold of Brian and his family. It is thought that this royal site is in the modern town of Killaloe.

Leading Dalcassian families included:

Boland, O'Casey, Eustace, O'Brien, MacClancy, O'Dea, MacDonnell, O'Duggan, O'Gorman, O'Grady, O'Hanrahan, O'Healy, O'Heffernan, O'Hogan, O'Kennedy, MacNamara, O'Quinn, O'Shanahan, Kelleher, O'Aherne, Malone, Power, O'Regan and Twomey.

### **Corco Mruadh**

The Corco Mruadh occupied a territory to the north of modern County Clare - where we find the Burren today.

The main families of the Corco Mruadh were O'Conor, O'Melody, O'Drennan, O'Deely, O'Loughlin (chiefs of the area in 1156) and O'Neill.

## **Corco Baiscinn**

Corco Baiscinn were located in the southwest of modern County Clare. Leading families included O'Baskin, MacDermot, O'Donnell/MacDonnell and MacMahon.

## **Uí Fidgeinti**

The Uí Fidgeinte inhabited much of modern west County Limerick from the 3rd to the 12th century - around the time we are looking at. Many of the family names that we are familiar with today from West Cork and Kerry (O'Donovan, Collins, and O'Connell) came from this area originally - but migrated south towards the end of the 12th century. The Uí Fidgeinti were comprised of two major groups the chiefs of one being the O'Donovans and the chiefs of the second the Collins's.

Main family names of the Uí Fidgeinti include Broderick, Kenneally, O'Donovan, Collins, Flannery, Lyons, McEniry and O'Sheehan.

## **Éile**

Éile was a territory at the north tip of the modern County Tipperary and over the border to the southwest of modern County Offaly. By 1156, the O'Carrolls were Lords of Ely and leading families included O'Carroll, O'Fogarty, O'Meagher/Maher, MacCorcoran, O'Flanagan, O'Banan/Bannon, O'Cahill and MacGuilfoyle.

## **Surnames of Tuamumu\***

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Ahearn Aheren Ahern Allen Banks Bannon Bohannon Boland Brahan  
Brigman Broderick Bryan Buckley Cahaney Cahill Carey Carmody Carney  
Carrig Carrigan Carroll Case Casey Clancy Clerkin Clohessy Clune Collins  
Collopy Colue Connelly Connor Connors Conoulty Conroy Considine  
Conway Cooley Cooney Corbett Corcoran Corridan Creagh Creegan  
Cregan Cregon Crotty Crow Crowe Culhane Culleens Cullen Cullinan  
Cullinane Cunnane Cunneen Cunningham Currie Curry Curtin

Daley Daly Daniel Darmody Davern Davoren Dawes Deady Devine  
Dinan Donahoe Donahue Donovan Donegan Donoghue Donohue  
Donovan Donworth Doohan Doolan Dowling Downes Dunahoe  
Dunigan Dunworth Dwan Dwyer Egan Eustace Evans

Fennell Finnucane Flaherty Flanagan Flannery Flynn Fogarty Foran  
Furey Gallivan Galvin Gannon Gilroy Giltinane Gleason Gleeson Glenn  
Glenny Glin Glynn Gorman Grady Green Greene Griffin Guilfoyle  
Guinan Guinane Guiry Gunning

Halloran Haloran Halpin Hanahan Haney Hannan Hannon Hanrahan  
Haren Harney Hartigan Harty Hassett Haugh Hawkins Healey Healy  
Hederman Heenan Heffernan Hehir Hickey Hinchy Hogan Holland  
Holohan Honan Hoolihan Houlihan Howard Hurley

Kanary Kean Keane Kearney Kehoe Keily Keleher Kellegher Kelleher  
Keller Kenealy Keniry Kenneally Kennedy Keogh Keough Kieley Kiely  
Kierce Kiley Killian Killoughy Kinnerk Kirby Lahey Lane Larkin Leahy  
Lee Lenahan Lenihan Leyden Lonergan Looby Looney Luby Lunch  
Lynch Lyons



MacDermot Mackey MacMahon MacNamara MacNamee Madigan  
Magadan Mahan Maher Mahoney Mahony Malanaphy Malone Maloney  
Maloughny Mangan Mangin Mannix Maroney Marrinan Mc McConway  
McCormack McCormick McCoy McDonald McDonall McDonnell  
McEnergy McGlynn McGrath Mcinerney McInerny McKenna McKeough

McKinna McMahan McMahan McNamara McNerney Meagher Meer  
Melican Melody Melody Millane Minogue Moloney Moroney Mulcahy  
Mulholland Mullins Mulvey Mungavin Myers Naughten Neal Nealon Neil  
Neilan Nelly Nestor Neville Niland Norton Nunan

Oates O'Brian O'Brien O'Briens O'Bryan O'Carmony O'Conner  
O'Connor O'Dea O'Donnell O'Donoghoe O'Donoghue O'Dwyer  
O'Flynn O'Gorman O'Grady O'Halloran O'Hanrahan O'Heffernan  
O'Houlihan O'Larkin O'Laughlin O'Loughlin O'Mara O'Meara O'Neal  
O'Neil O'Neill O'Neil O'Niell O'Reagan O'Regan O'Tuama

Quaid Quilty Quinan Quinlan Quinn Quirk Rabbit Rae Ready Reagan  
Redden Redican Regan Reidy Riedy Roughan Ryan Sexton Shanahan  
Shannon Sheedy Sheehan Slattery Spelesy Spillane Talty Toohey Toohy  
Toomey Tubridy Twomey Vaughan Wiley Woods Wylie

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-

## ***Chapter Seventeen - Desmumu.***

### **History of Desmumu**

Desmumu comes from the Irish “Deise Mhumhain” meaning South Munster and is more commonly called “Desmond” in English.



**Figure 35 Desmumu Territory**

From the time around the division of Munster into Tuadmumu and Desmumu in 1118 (see the previous chapter on Tuadmumu for more) - all the way through to the late 16th century, the Kingdom of Desmumu was ruled by various branches of the MacCarthy family. They were the leading family of the “Eoghanachta” - the tribe that dominated all of Munster until the rise of the Dál gCais tribe from County Clare. At that

time, they came under pressure and many of their members were pushed southwards into areas of modern Counties Cork and Kerry.

At the time of the division in 1118 - Desmumu covered all of Modern County Cork, the southern part of County Kerry, all of County Waterford and the south part of County Tipperary.

### **Desmumu in 1156**

By the time Turlough O'Connor – King of Connaught and High King of Ireland – died in 1156, Munster as a whole was a bitterly divided and weakened province. This was just how Turlough wanted it as he pursued his bid to fully win and maintain his Kingship to the North and East.



**Figure 36 Saint Finbars Oratory in Gouganebarra**

## **Main Tribes of the area and their families.**

### **Eóghanachta**

The Éoganacht were a federation of tribes that were spread throughout the territory of south Munster. They took their name from Eóghan Mor, who was son of Oilill Olum – a mythical King of the south of Ireland (the Dál gCais in Tuadmumu took their name from Eóghan's brother – Cas).



**Figure 37 Cormac MacCarthy's Chapel in Cashel**

By the early 1100s, the dominant family were MacCarthy (Mac Cárthaigh) - named after Carthach, a son of the king of the Eóghanacht who died in 1045.

Family names of the Eóghanacht included MacCarthy, O'Sullivan, O'Callaghan, Murphy, O'Keefe, O'Callaghan, O'Mahony, O'Keefe, O'Donoghue, Moriarty, Spillane, O'Neill, McGillicuddy, Long, Flynn, Keating, Ring, Canty, Dillon, Healy, Slattery, Coughlan, Cahalane,

Canniffe, Hurley, Wholey and Kearney.

## **Déisi Mumhan**

This tribe covered an area covering modern County Waterford and South Tipperary.

Family names included O'Bric and Phelan/Whelan.



**Figure 38 Ardmore in Waterford - Déisi Mumhan Country**

## **Corco Láigde**

This tribal name was given to a group that occupied the southwest part of the modern County Cork. Their lands were extensive at one time but were put under pressure as the O'Donovans and O'Collins of the Uí Fidgheinte moved into their lands from Tuadmumu in the 12th century as well as earlier pressure from families of the Eóghanacht.

Family names included O'Cowhig/O'Coffey, O'Downey, O'Driscoll, O'Fehilly, O'Flynn, O'Hennessy, O'Leahy, O'Leary, O'Long, O'Doheny, O'Duggan, O'Dunlea, O'Hea, O'Kevane, O'Henegan, O'Deady and O'Hea.

## **Corco Duibhne**

Nowadays, the name “Chorca Dhuibhne” (pronounced “Corca Gweena”) is normally applied to the land mass of the Dingle Peninsula. However, the territory of the original Corco Duibhne covered a lot of the modern County Kerry - to the south and west. As a tribe they branched into three different groups – each headed by the O'Sheas, O'Falveys and O'Connells respectively. By the 11th century they were put under pressure by the various families of the Eóghanachta and retreated into a smaller area - the O'Sheas and O'Falveys into the Dingle Peninsula and the O'Connells into a part of the Iveragh peninsula.

Family names included O'Falvey, O'Shea and O'Connell.



**Figure 39** The Dingle Peninsula, County Kerry

## **Surnames of Desmumu\***

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Bresnahan Brick Broder Broderick Brosnan Buckley

Cagney Cahalane Cahill Calannon Calhoun Calannan Callaghan  
Callahan Callanan Cantey Canty Carberry Carbury Carey Carroll Carrolls  
Case Casey Cashman Clifford Coakley Coffee Coffey Coleman Collins  
Colman Conlin Conlon Connell Connor Connors Cork Corkery Corridan  
Corry Cosgrave Cosgrove Cotter Coughlan Coughlin Counihan Courtney  
Cowhig Crahan Crean Creeden Cremin Crohan Cronin Cronyn Crowley  
Cullina Cullinan Cullinane Cummings Cummins Curran

Daley Daly Deady Delay Deneen Dennehy Denning Denny Desmond  
Dinan Dineen Dinneen Doheny Donahoe Donahue Donovan Donegan  
Donoghue Donohue Donovan Doona Dorgan Dorigan Dougan  
Dowling Downey Driscoll Drohan Duane Dugan Duggan Dullea  
Dunahoe Dunigan Dwan

Eady Fallon Falvey Fane Farragher Feehan Fegan Fehily Fennessy  
Ferris Field Finn Flaherty Flaven Flynn Foley Foran Ford Forde Gaffin  
Gallivan Galvin Garvey Gavin Geary Gill Glavin Goulden Greaney  
Greany Green Greene Griffin Guiry

Haggarty Haggerty Haley Hallahan Hanafin Hannigan Hanvey Harrigan  
Harrington Harty Hayes Hays Healey Healy Hearn Hegarty Henegan  
Hennessey Hennessy Herlihy Hill Hogan Holohan Hoolihan Hooly



Horan Horgan Houlihan Hourigan Hourihan Hourihane Hughes Hurley  
Hyland

Keady Kean Keane Kearns Keefe Keily Keleher Kellegher Kelleher  
Keller Kennedy Keohane Kerins Kern Kerns Kidney Kieley Kiely Kiley  
Kirk Lahiffe Lane Lawton Leahy Leary Lee Lehane Lenahan Lenihan  
Lennard Lennon Leonard Leyhane Linnane Long Longan Lordan  
Loughlin Lovett Lucey Luddy Lunch Lynch Lyne Lyons

MacAuliffe Mahoney Mahony Malloney Mannix McCarthy McCarty  
McDonagh McGaoulif McGillicuddy McGrath McKenna McKinna  
Meara Meehan Mehegan Menton Minahan Minihan Minoughan Mohally  
Mohoney Morey Moriarty Morierty Moynahan Moynihan Mulchinaugh  
Mulchinock Mullins Murphree Murphy Murray Murtagh

Neal Neil Nelligan Nolan Noonan Noonans Nowland Nowlin O'Hea  
O'Callaghan O'Calligan O'Carrol O'Carroll O'Connell O'Conner  
O'Connor O'Cronin O'Donoghoe O'Donoghue O'Donovan O'Driscoll  
O'Flaherty O'Flynn O'Hannigan O'Hearn O'Herrons O'Houlihan  
O'Keefe O'Keeffe O'Leary O'Mahony O'Neal O'Neil O'Neill O'Niel  
O'Niell O'Nolan O'Reagan O'Regan O'Riordan O'Shea O'Sullivan  
O'Tuama

Phelan Quill Raher Reagan Reardon Regan Riordan Roe Rowan Ruane  
Scanlan Scanlon Shalloe Shay Shea Shelley Shine Shinnick Sugrue Sullivan  
Sullivan Tangney Toomey Torpey Tracey Tracy Tuomy Twomey Warren  
Whalen Whealon Whelan Wholey Woods

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## **Section 5 – Kingdoms of the East.**

## ***Chapter Eighteen - Laigin.***

### **History of Laigin.**

While the modern province of Leinster covers the twelve counties of Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow - we find that Laigin (“Laigin” gives the modern province of Leinster its name - combining the words “Laigin” and “staor” - meaning “place of the Laigins”) previously occupied a much smaller area to the south-east of the Island.



**Figure 40 Laigin Territory**

It also held the Norse (Viking) trading cities of Wexford and Dublin within its boundaries (although they were independent entities - they had

a symbiotic relationship with the local chieftains by 1156). This was the part of Ireland where the Normans arrived in 1170AD – and to this day there is a strong mix of English, Norman and Gaelic surnames throughout the area.

It is believed that the Laigin were a people from either Gaul (modern France) or Britain, who arrived in this area no later than the 6th century BC - more or less the time that we consider the first Celts to have arrived in Ireland.

### **Laigin in 1156**

Since 1042, the Uí Cheinnselaig sept were the Kings of Laigin. Diarmait Mac Murchada (McMurrough) was born into the Uí Chennselaig at their capital, Ferns – and became King of Laigin about 1130. Diarmait was a strong and ambitious king who set about expanding his own kingdom – much at the expense of the High King – Turlough O'Connor and his allies.

When the truce between the Eóghanacht and Dál gCais of Munster collapsed in 1134 – he managed to win the overlordship of the city of Waterford from the McCarthys and also pushed into Desmond territory in modern County Waterford. In 1143, Turlough O'Connor was decimating the power of Mide by dividing its lordship into different parts. He left the western half of that province with the Mide Kings – but divided the eastern half between Tiernan O'Rourke of Breifne and Diarmait McMurrough. These last two kings were seen as both rising stars and potential threats to Turlough and his Kingship.

There was already a rivalry and equal ambition between Tiernan and Diarmait, but this act and many of the actions that followed brought that rivalry to a crescendo over the coming years – leading to Diarmait going into exile in 1166 and successfully seeking the help of the Welsh Norman knights to recover his Kingdom and also make a bid for the high Kingship of Ireland.

Although the arrival of the Normans will be covered in a later volume of this series, over the following centuries the surname “McMurrrough” was almost erased from the Uí Cheinnselaig as the sept divided into the surnames of Kavanagh, Kinsella, Hendrick and Mernagh.



Figure 41 St. Mullins' in County Carlow

## Main Tribes of the area and their families

### Uí Cheinnselaig

The Uí Cheinnselaig tribe included the chief families of MacMurrrough (later Kinsella and Kavanagh), Murphy, O'Garvey, O'Ryan (not the same as the Tipperary Ryans who were originally called Mulryan) and Hartley.

Their principal stronghold was in Ferns in modern County Wexford -

which in turn was the seat of the McMurroughs - Kings of Leinster in 1156.

## **Uí Failge**

The Uí Failge dynasty occupied part of modern County Offaly (and north County Laois) - and gave the County its name – as Uí Failge was anglicized as Offaly. The three chief families of this region were O'Connor, O'Dunne and O'Dempsey.

The Dunne family were centred in north of the modern County Laois. The O'Dempsey family were centred in northeast Co. Laois.

## **Uí Dúnlainge**

The Uí Dúnlainge tribe had their main fort at Naas (in modern County Kildare and ruled the north of Leinster. Their chief families were O'Toole, Fitzdermot, O'Byrne, Cosgrave and O'Kelly. Up to the 800s they were the Kings of Leinster. By 1156, the O'Byrnes were forced from Kildare into the Wicklow mountains – and that's where we associate them today.

## **Clann Cholgan**

The Clann Cholgaín were centred in northern Offaly and their leading families were O'Houlihan and O'Hennessy.

## **Uí Bairrche**

The Uí Bairrche were split into two groups - one based in the north of modern County Carlow and the second in south County Wexford. Their chief families were O'Gorman and O'Tracey

## Uí Dega

The Uí Dega were based in the north of modern County Wexford and their chief family was O'Hay/Hea/Hughes (different anglicisations of the same name) in 1156.

## Osraighe

Although considered to be part of Mumhan (Munster) from around the 8th century, they had ancient ties to Laigin - and I have included them here. Their territory included most of modern County Kilkenny and part of south County Laois. The chief families of Osraighe were Fitzpatrick and Costigan (who were a branch of the Fitzpatricks).



Figure 42 The Rock of Dunamase, County Laois

## Loígis

The Loígis were centred in the modern county of Laois (and give the county its name) and their chief family in 1156 were the O'Mores (Moore). The Loígis were later lead by the 'Seven Septs of Leix', - the



O'Moore, O'Kelly, O'Deevy, O'Doran, O'Lalor, O'Dowling and McEvoy families.

There were also many smaller tribes in this province - led by families such as O'Kealy, O'Tighe, O'Duff, O'Farrell, O'Nolan and O'Larkin.

## **Surnames of Laigin\***

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Baron Beary Bergen Bergin Berrigan Black Bogan Bolger Bowes Brahan Breen Brennan Brew Broder Broderick Brody Brophy Brougham Bryan Buckley Buggy Bulger Burns Byrne Byrnes Byron

Carroll Carrolls Carty Cashien Cashin Cashion Caulfield Cavanagh Cavanaugh Clooney Colgan Colohan Colue Condren Conley Conlin Conlon Connor Connors Corcoran Cosgrave Cosgrove Costigan Coughlan Coughlin Coveney Crahan Creegan Cregan Cregon Cuddihy Culin Cullen Culliton Cummings Cummins Cunneen

Dargan Darmody Deegan Delahunty Delaney Delanny Dempsey Dermody Devoy Donlan Donlon Donnellan Donnellon Doolan Dooley Doran Doreen Dowling Doyle Drohan Duff Dunn Dunne Dunns Dunphy Durgy

Faughan Faughnan Faulkner Fennelly Ferrell Finley Fitzdermot  
 Fitzpatrick Flanagan Flanigan Flannagan Flannigan Flood Floyd Fox  
 Furey Gaffney Gaynor Gear Gilsenan Glennon Guilfoyle Guinan  
 Guinane Gunning Harrigan Hartley Hayde Hayden Headon Henchy  
 Hennessey Hennessy Hoban Hobin Holland Holohan Hoolihan  
 Houlihan

Irish Kavanagh Keady Kealey Kealy Keegan Keeley Keenan Keeran  
 Kegan Kehoe Kelley Kelly Keogh Keough Kinsella Lacey Lacy Lahart  
 Lahy Lanigan Lannan Larkin Lawler Lawlers Lawlor Lee Levy Loughman  
 Lynam Lyng

Maher Mahr Malone McAvoy McCarl McCashion McCormack  
 McCormick McEvoy McHendrick McKeegan McKeogh McKeough  
 Meagher Molloy Mooney Moor Moore Morrissey Muldowney Mulhall  
 Mulvaney Murphree Murphy Murray Murtagh Murtha Neal Neil Nolan  
 Nowland Nowlin

O'Gorman O'Bannion O'Bannon O'Beirne O'Byrne O'Carrol O'Carroll  
 O'Conner O'Connor O'Dempsey O'Durgy O'Farrell O'Flanagan  
 O'Houlihan O'Larkin O'Neal O'Neil O'Neill O'Niel O'Niell O'Nolan  
 O'Reagan O'Regan O'Toole Powell Quinlan Quinlivan Rafter Raymond  
 Reagan Reddy Redman Redmond Regan Rigney Rock Ryan Sheridan  
 Toole Tormey Tracey Tracy Treacy Tucker York

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## Chapter Nineteen - Mide

At the time we are looking at the Island of Ireland - it was divided (and had been for centuries) into five provinces. Today, we count only four: Leinster, Ulster, Connaught and Munster. The missing province is that of Mide.



Figure 43 Mide Territory

Midhe roughly covered the modern counties of Meath, Westmeath, Longford and parts of County Louth, Dublin, Kildare and Offaly. This province is most strongly associated with “Niall of the Nine Hostages” who gave the Uí Néill dynasty their name. This dynasty was in two parts, the Northern Uí Néill occupying the northwest corner of the island - and the The Southern Uí Néill [not to be confused with the O'Neill surname] dominating Mide from the 5th century right up to the coming of the

Normans.

The High King of Ireland (Ard Rí) was inaugurated and held gatherings at the ancient site of Tara in Mide (in modern County Meath). This position alternated between the Northern and Southern Uí Néill up to the time that Brian Ború and the Dál gCais broke the link in the late 10th century. Before the arrival of Niall of the Nine Hostages, this province was probably part of the Kingdom of Laigin. In modern times, most of the area of the province of Mide reverted back into the modern province of Leinster.



Figure 44 Hill of Tara, County Meath

### Midhe in 1156

By 1156AD – the territory of Mide was being used as a “political football” between Turlough O’Connor – the High King – and the various provincial kings who opposed his reign. In 1144, Turlough divided the Kingdom of Mide into two halves – giving the western portion to Donnchad Ua Mael Seachlainn (often anglicised “McLaughlin”) and the

eastern half was divided between Tiernan O'Rourke, King of Breifne and Diarmait MacMurrough, King of Laigin. In the meantime, Donnchad O'Carroll, the King of Airgialla was chipping away at the Mide territories to the north.

In 1150, Mide underwent partition one more time – this time by Muircheartach McLoughlin, King of the Northern Uí Néill, who was asserting his opposition to the High Kingship of Turlough O'Connor.

This province was to change hugely over the 75 years or so after 1156. Many of the leading families were displaced from the lands following the arrival of the various Norman lords.



**Figure 45 Clonmacnoise**

## **Main Tribes of the area and their families**

### **Cenél Lóigaire**

The Quinlans were the senior family - based near the modern town of Trim in County Meath.

### **Clan Colmain**

The O'Melaghlin/MacLoughlin family of the southern Uí Néill were the main family - based in modern County Westmeath.

### **Fir Tethba**

By 1156 they were confined mostly to modern County Westmeath and their chief families were O'Quinn, O'Carney/Kearney, Fox, MacConway, O'Laughnan and O'Hea.

### **Delbna**

Based across modern Counties Westmeath and Offaly, their chief families included Mac Coughlan, O'Scully and Mulholland.

### **Uí Maic Uais**

Their chief families were O'Hennessy and O'Curry.

### **Conmaicne Mide**

Centered in modern County Longford and Westmeath by 1156. Their chief families included O'Farrell, Mac Rourke, O'Breen and, O'Toler and MacConway.

## **Luigne**

Based in the modern Count Meath, their chief families were O'Breen and O'Kernaghan.

## **Gailenga**

Based in modern County Meath - their chief families were O'Loughan and O'Hennessy.

## **Muintir Tlamáin**

The MacGees were chiefs of this area in modern County Westmeath.

## **Surnames of Mide\***

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Carney Casey Coffee Coffey Conally Conlan Conlin Connelly Conner  
Connors Connery Connole Connolly Connolly Conway Cranney Crosbie  
Currie Curry

Daley Daly Dermody Donegan Dooley Ennis Fagan Fallon Farrell  
Faulkner Ferral Ferrell Filan Fox Gahagan Garvin Geoghagan Geoghan



Geoghegan Glenn Glenney Glennon Gonoude Growney Hanvey Hart  
Hayes Hays Heary Heeran Hennessy Hoey Holland Huey Hughes

Kealey Kearney Keary Keeley Keena Kelley Kelly Kernaghan Lackey  
Laughnan Logan Macaulay MacGeoghegan Malloy Martin Martyn  
McAuley McCarney McCarron McCauley McEvoy McGee McGeoghegan  
McGrane McKenna McLoughin Mead Meade Merrigan Molloy  
Mulholland Mulloy Murtagh Nerney North Nulty

O'Hea O'Daly O'Dooley Quinn Reaney Scally Scully Seery Shane  
Sheridan Ternney Tierney Tormey Trainor Traynor Tully

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# **Section 6 – Kingdoms of the West.**

## *Chapter Twenty- Connaught.*

### **History of Connaught**

Nowadays, the Province of Connaught covers the counties of Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim - and lies between the River Shannon to the east and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.



**Figure 46 Connaught Territory**

The kingdom of Connacht was originally ruled from “Cruachain Ai” near Rathcroghan in the County Roscommon. Conn Ceadchadhach

(Conn of the Hundred Battles) was a king of Ireland in the 2nd century and ancestor of the tribes of Connacht - and they also took their province name from this illustrious ancestor.

In 1156AD Connaught had a historical overlordship of the sub-kingdom of Breifne (the modern counties of Cavan and Leitrim) as well as containing modern counties Galway, Mayo, Roscommon and part of Sligo. We cover Breifne in a separate section of this book.

### **Connaught in 1156AD.**

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century – the provinces of Connaught and the Northern Uí Neill were the most powerful kingdoms in Ireland. However, strong emerging kings in Breifne, Laigin and Airgialla played the power game very effectively to gain advantage for themselves. It was, in essence, a continuing game of thrones. At the centre of this game was Turlough O'Connor – King of Connaught since 1106 he started his campaign to become High King in 1119. He spent much of the rest of his life consolidating his position and looking to eliminate opposition to his High Kingship – which he never managed to achieve by his death in 1156AD.

### **Main Tribes of the area and their families**

The main dynasties of the province - the Uí Briúin and Uí Fiachrach refer to dynasts of the sons of Eochu Mugmedón, a fourth century 'high king' of Ireland. King Eochu Mugmedón's son Bríon was the ancestor of the Uí Briúin and his other son Fiachra was the ancestor of the Uí Fiachrach. The Uí Briúin split into three main tribes: The Uí Briúin Aí, the Uí Briúin Seola and the Uí Briúin Bréifne (this last tribe will be covered in the section on Breifne). Meanwhile, the Uí Fiachrach divided into the Uí Fiachrach Aidne and the Uí Fiachrach Muaidhe.

Other Connaught tribes of the time were the Uí Mainne, Uí Maille, Luigne

and Gailenga and the Uí Ailella.

## **Uí Maille**

This covered the area in the west of modern County Mayo - around Clew Bay. O'Malley were chiefs of the area. The Kingdom of Connaught under Turlough O'Connor had a powerful navy at its disposal and the chiefs of this navy were the O'Malleys and the O'Flahertys.

## **Uí Ailella**

This covered the area in the south-east of modern County Sligo. Chief families of the area were MacDonagh, MacDermot and O'Flynn.

## **Luigne and Gailenga**

Covered a territory in the east of modern County Mayo and part of Sligo. The chief families of the area were O'Hara and O'Gara.

## **Uí Briúin Ai**

Were based in modern County Roscommon. Their chiefs were also Kings of Connaught - O'Connor.

Other chief families included Mulrennan, Geraghty, Finnerty, O'Flanagan, MacDermot, O'Flynn, O'Hanly, O'Beirne, O'Teighe, MacDockery, O'Beirne, MacDonagh and MacManus.

## **Uí Briúin Seóla**

Were based on the east of Lough Corrib in modern County Galway - but were driven west into "Iar Connaught" (Connemara) in time. Their kings were the O'Flaherty. The Kingdom of Connaught under Turlough O'Connor had a powerful navy at its disposal and the chiefs of this navy were the O'Malleys and the O'Flahertys.

## Uí Máine

The O'Kelly, O'Donnellan and O'Madden families were the chief families of the Uí Máine of modern east County Galway and Roscommon. The O'Kellys were Kings of the territory. Other prominent families of the area included: O'Coffey, O'Naughton, O'Mulally/Lally, MacKeogh, Mac Geraghty, O'Fahy, O'Downey, O'Dugan, O'Kenny, O'Murray, O'Tracy, O'Connolly, O'Conroy, O'Drennan, O'Dolan, O'Fallon, O'Mannion/O'Manning, MacWard, O'Lennon, Cashin and MacGing/MacGinn.



Figure 47 Connemara Ponies

## Uí Fiachrach Aidne

They covered the section to the southwest of modern County Galway. Chief families included O'Heyne/O'Hynes, O'Cleary, O'Shaughnessy, O'Cahill and Kilkelly.



**Figure 48 Kilmacdaugh - Associated with the O'Clearys**

## **Uí Fiachrach Muaidhe**

They were located in the north of modern County Mayo. Chief families included O'Dowd (who were chiefs of the area), O'Canny, O'Coynne, O'Carney/Kearney, O'Towey, O'Gaughan and O'Murray.

## **Surnames of Connaught**

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Colman Comer Conally Conaton Conheaney Conlin Conlon Connaughton Conneely Connelly Conner Connors Connery Connole Connolly Connolly Connor Connors Conroy Conway Cooley Coogan Cooley Cooney Corbett Corless Cosgrove Cowley Cox Coyne

Crahan Crean Creegan Cregan Cregon Crogan Croughan Culleens Cummings Cummins Cummiskey Cunneen Cunniff Cunningham Curley Curran

Daley Daly Dane Darcy Davey Davitt Deely Deffley Degnan Dermody Devanney Deveney Diffley Diskin Dolan Donahoe Donahue Donegan Donlan Donlon Donnellan Donnellon Donoghue Donohue Doolan Doonan Dougan Dowd Downey Duane Duffee Duffy Dugan Duggan Duigenan Duignan Dulin Dunahoe Durcan Durgy Durkan Durkin Dyer

Egan Fahey Fahy Fair Fallon Fannons Farragher Faulkner Fee Feeley Feeney Fergus Finan Finegan Finerty Finn Finnegan Finnerty Finnigan Fisher Flaherty Flanagan Flanigan Flannagan Flannery Flannigan Flynn Folan Ford Forry Foy Frain Furey

Gaffin Gaffney Galligan Gann Gannon Garrey Garry Garvin Gaughan Gavaghan Gavigan Gavin Geary Geraghty Gerrity Giblyn Giblyns Gilbride Gilgan Gill Gillen Gilleran Gillogly Gillon Gilmore Gilmour Gilooly Gilpin Glavin Glenn Glenney Glennon Glin Glynn Goodwin Gorham Gormley Grady Graham Graney Greeley Greely Green Greene Grennan Grimes Grogan

Hale Halloran Haloran Haney Hanley Haren Hargedon Harney  
 Harrington Harris Harrison Harrity Hart Hastings Haverty Hayes Hays  
 Healey Healy Heanue Heffron Henaughan Heneghan Henehan Henry  
 Heraghty Herly Hession Hester Higgins Hines Hoban Hobin Hollon  
 Holmes Horan Huane Hughes Hunt Hyland Hynes

Igoe Judge Karr Kaveny Keady Keaney Kearney Kearns Keaveney  
 Keegan Keenan Keeney Kegan Kehoe Keigher Kelley Kelly Kenney  
 Kenny Keogh Keough Kerins Kern Kerns Kerrigan Kerwin Kielthy  
 Kiely Kiernan Kilbane Kilcoyne Kileen Kilkelly Kilkenny Killeen  
 Killeran Killian Kilrairie Kilroy King Kirby Kirrane Kirwan Kirwin Knee

Lacken Laffey Lalley Lally Langan Lardner Larkey Larkin Larrisey  
 Lavelle Lavender Lavin Leach Lee Leech Lenahan Lenihan Lennard  
 Lennon Leonard Leyden Linsky Loftus Logan Loughary Loughnane  
 Ludden Lyden Lynagh Lynskey Lyons

Machan MacKeon Mackin MacMachado Madden Mahagan Mahan  
 Mahon Malley Malloy Mangan Mangin Manion Manning Mannion  
 Mannon Marren Martin Martyn Masterson Maune Mauriceroy  
 McCafferkey McCarley McClisham McConway McDermot McDermott

McDonagh McDonough McDonoughan McElwaine McErlean McEvey  
 McGann McGarry McGary McGlynn McGourn McGovern McGreal  
 McGrievy McGwin McHale McHugh McIlwaine McKeegan McKenna  
 McKeogh McKeon McKeough McKeown McKinna McLaughlin

McLeary McLoughlin McManus McNally McNeely McNey McTighe  
 McTigue Meehan Mehan Melia Melley Miles Minoughan Mitchell Molloy  
 Monaghan Monahan Mongan Monk Monnelly Moran Moren Morley  
 Morris Mortimer Moyles Mulkerrin Mullally Mullan Mullaney Mullarkey  
 Mullooly Mullowney Mulloy Mulrenan Mulroy Mulvihill Munnely  
 Murphree Murphy Murray

Nally Navin Nee Neely Nellany Newcomb Noone Norton O'Dowd  
 O'Bannion O'Bannon O'Cannon O'Clisham O'Colmain O'Connely  
 O'Conner O'Connor O'Donnell O'Donoghoe O'Donoghue O'Durgy

O'Flaherty O'Flanagan O'Flynn O'Gara O'Garr O'Hale O'Halloran  
 O'Hara O'Hora O'Killea O'Lalley O'Larkin O'Madden O'Malley O'Mealy  
 O'Meehan O'Shaughnessy O'Toole

Owens Quigley Rabbit Radigan Raftery Ratigan Rippy Rock Rowan  
 Ruane Rush Scally Scanlan Scanlon Scarry Shaughnessy Shockency  
 Shovlin Silk Snee Spellman Stone Swift Tague Tarpey Teague Ternney  
 Thullis Tierney Tighe Tivenan Toland Toohey Toohy Toole Towey Toy  
 Tracey Tracy Treacy Tucker

Vahey Varley Vaughan Ward Waters Watters White Whitehead Whyte  
 Woods Wright York

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4. Almost all of these surnames started with an "O" or "Mac" at the beginning. Many of these got dropped from the 1600s onwards and only restored in the later 1800s.
5. Many of these names also feature as surnames of England/Scotland etc. This was often because of the phonetic similarity between a Gaelic surname and an equivalent English surname. An English-speaking clerk would often substitute a name that they were already familiar with for a Gaelic name - and the English version stuck.
6. Many of these surnames will be found in other kingdoms of

Ireland. Almost all of these names are based on familiar first names (e.g. Conor, Niall). Many septs sprung up in different parts of Ireland - calling themselves after a particular illustrious ancestor - and many of these septs survived in parallel e.g. O'Neill.

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## ***Chapter Twenty-One - Breifne.***

Breifne was ruled by the families of the Uí Briúin Breifne tribe from the 7th century – this tied their ruling families in with the Uí Briuin families of Connaught. At the time we are looking at Breifne it covered all of modern Counties Leitrim and Cavan - as well as parts of Sligo and Longford. At one time it covered from County Meath to Co. Sligo.



**Figure 49** Bréifne Territory

It was part of the Kingdom of Connacht but was ruled in a semi-autonomous fashion for much of that time. The O'Rourke's were Kings of Breifne and the O'Reilly's were Kings of the Muintir Maoil Mordha (covering modern County Cavan). The main seat of the O'Rourkes was in Dromahair in modern County Leitrim.

## Breifne in 1156AD

The king of Breifne in 1156 was Tighernan O'Rourke. It was an escalating rivalry between Tighernan and Dermot McMurrough (King of Leinster) that was to trigger the invasion of the Normans in 1169. Although Tighernan could number four of his ancestors among earlier Kings of Connaught – things were at a low ebb when we meet Tighernan in 1156. He had fallen out with Turlough O'Connor (High King at the time) - and O'Connor had even been involved in a plot to kill Tighernan.



**Figure 50 O'Rourkes Tower at Clonmacnoise**

Part of his kingdom (Conmaicne in the south of modern County Leitrim) had successfully rebelled against him. And now - his wife, Dervorgilla (an independent woman and daughter of an earlier King of Mide) had eloped with his sworn enemy - Diarmuid McMurrough, the King of Leinster. The actions that escalated from the rivalry of these two provincial Kings set in motion Diarmuid's expulsion from the King of Leinster and his subsequent invitation to the Norman Knights of Wales to come and help him regain his provincial throne.

## **Main Tribes of the area and their families**

As mentioned already, the main tribe of the Breifne region was the Uí Briúin Breifne. Their chiefs were O'Rourke - Kings of Breifne. Other leading families included: McTiernan, McGauran/McGovern/McGowran, Mac Kinnawe/Ford), Mac Cogan) over Clann Fearmaighe, Mac Darcy (not the same as the Norman D'Arcy), O'Finn, O'Carroll, Mac Clancy, O'Reilly, O'Quinn, Gaynor, Mac Rannall/Reynolds, Mulvey and O'Farrelly.

## **Surnames of Breifne\***

When readers subscribe to our weekly "Letter from Ireland" - we invite them to submit the Irish names in their family tree (and the counties they believe they came from). Some submit one name - and some submit up to 30 different surnames!

In this volume I have aimed to place each of these surnames into the appropriate Irish "Kingdom" - but please make sure that you read the notes at the end of this list.

The names, alphabetically (and using the exact spelling provided to me by the reader are:

Argue Boyne Bradden Brady Breadin Cahill Caldwell Carroll Carrolls  
Clancy Clark Clarke Clary Cleary Cogan Conaty Conaughton Crean  
Curran Darcy Dermody Donahoe Donahue Donoghue Donohue  
Doonan Dunahoe Earley Early

Farley Farrelly Farris Faughan Faughnan Faulkner Fee Ferrigan Flood  
Floyd Ford Fowley Foy Gaffney Galligan Gargan Garrey Garry Gaynor  
Gilgan Gilhooly Gill Gillogly Gilooly Glancy Gonoude Goulden Halton  
Hand Heslin Holmes Kangley Keaney Keegan Keeney Kegan Kell  
Kernan Kiernan Leddy

Lunch Lynch MacTavish Masterson McCahill McCleary McCleery  
McCormack McCormick McCullough McCurren McCusker McDonall  
McDonnell McEnroe McGarry McGary McGloin McGlone McGoey  
McGoldrick McGourn McGovern McGowan McGreal McGurren  
McKeegan McLeary McMorrow McReynolds McSharry McTeirnan  
McTiernan

Meehan Mehan Moran Moren Morrow Mulvey O'Carroll O'Carrol  
O'Carroll O'Donoghoe O'Donoghue O'Meehan O'Reilly O'Rielly  
O'Rourke O'Sorahan Prior Rahal Raley Rawl Reilly Reily Reily/Riley  
Reynolds Rielly Riley Rourke Rylee Shanley Shanly Sheridan Smith Smyth  
Sorohan Thompson Thomson Tiernan Tormey Travers Tully White

**\*Notes:**

1. These are surnames given by the readers of Your Irish Heritage (some of these names e.g. Murphy appear in many reader's family trees - others may appear only once in our entire list.
2. I have included the precise spelling given by the reader. In many cases this spelling has been affected by many centuries of Anglicisation and clerical error.
3. In 1156 all of these surnames would have been in the original Irish - most of these names are the popular Anglicisation's of each.
4. Almost all of these surnames started with an "O" or "Mac" at the beginning. Many of these got dropped from the 1600s onwards and only restored in the later 1800s.
5. Many of these names also feature as surnames of England/Scotland etc. This was often because of the phonetic similarity between a Gaelic surname and an equivalent English surname. An English-speaking clerk would often substitute a name that they were already familiar with for Gaelic names - and the English version stuck.



6. Many of these surnames will be found in other kingdoms of Ireland. Almost all of these names are based on familiar first names (e.g. Conor, Niall). Many septs sprung up in different parts of Ireland - calling themselves after a particular illustrious ancestor - and many of these septs survived in parallel e.g. O'Neill.
-

## ***Conclusion.***

And so we finish our journey around Ireland – and her neighbours – at the time of the birth of your surname.



**Figure 51 Sculpture of Unicorn in the Cork and Kerry Mountains**

However, this is just the first “layer” in this book. Over the next six months we will add further layers based on the comments, questions and suggestions we cover on the Reader forum. Our second edition will publish – and you will receive a free updated copy – at the beginning of September, 2014.

Remember, at the end of each chapter you will see a link to a page on the YourIrishHeritage forum where you can leave comments, questions and requests. I will answer your questions, and many of the answers and comments will make their way into the next edition of the book.

So, as a reminder - here is how it works:

- Enjoy dipping into the book in whatever sequence suits you.
- If you have a question, comment or would like to share a story - click the link at the end of each chapter.
- This will bring you to the forum entry - and comment section - for that chapter.
- Have a read of the other comments you find there.
- Want to add a comment or question? No problem, just add it at the end of the comments section. I'll answer as best I can within a short number of days.

Rest in the knowledge that your query or comment will add to the next release of the "Tribes of Ireland" - a wonderful collaboration between all the readers of Your Irish Heritage.

I very much look forward to continuing the journey in your company!

Mike Collins.

## ***Appendix 1 - The Surnames of Your Irish Heritage.***

One of the things we invite our readers to do when they want to find out more about their Irish Heritage, is to pass on the names of their ancestors and the counties they come from (if known).

We have been doing this since April 2013 and so far have over 6000 individuals on the list.

Here are the names that were submitted. I divided them up by county of origin (note: this is NOT necessarily where this surname originally came from but where the reader says their ancestor came from).

Also, we have a large number of “don’t know”.

Please do have a look and see if you can find the Irish names in your family. If you want to add a name, just email me at [mike@youririshheritage.com](mailto:mike@youririshheritage.com) - include your own name as well as the names you want to add and the counties they come from.

### **County Antrim**

Adair Adams Agnew Allen Allingham Anderson Armour Arrells Baird Barnard Barnett Barry Black Blair Blaney Boyd Brown Brownley Butler Calhoun Carney Close Compton Connolly Corry Craig Crawford Creary Crossett Crowe Cubitt Culbertson Cunningham Curistan Curran

Devlin Dinsmore Dixon Dobbin Donnelly Dougherty Duffy Dunbar Earl Entrikin Ferguson Ferral Fosters Frost Gaunt Gibson Gilmore Gilmour Gilpin Gorman Graham Green Gribbin Griggs Guinn Haney Harland Hawthorne Henry Hewitt Hill Hughes Hull Hurson

Irvine Jamieson Johnston Kell Kelley Kelly Kenneally Kennedy

Kernahan Keys Knox Larkin Lavery Law Leatham Leighton Logue Lucas  
Lynn

MacKeon Mackle Maids Malone Marshall McAteer McAuley McBride  
McBurney McCaffery McCann McCaugherty McClain McClements  
McClure McCluskey McConaghey McConaghie McConnell McConway  
McCormick McCrary McCrum McCurdy McDonald McDonnell  
McDowell

McDuff McElwee McFarlane McGee McGowan McGrattan McIlhatton  
McIlwee McKay McKeegan McKeeman McKeever McKelvie McKeown  
McKillop McLaughlin McMullan McNair McQuillan McSpadden  
McWilliams

Meechan Miller Molyneux Moore Morgan Morrow Mulholland Noble  
O'Boyle O'Connor O'Hara O'Kaine O'Malley O'Neill O'Niel O'Reilly  
Palmer Patterson Peden Perry Quinn Ralston Reilly Reynolds Riddle  
Ritchie Rock Ryan

Sally Scott Sheridan Simpson Slattery Stirling Strawbridge Stuart  
Telford Thompson Todd Toole Traynor Trimble Twigg Wales Walker  
Wilson Youngue

## **County Armagh**

Armstrong Atkinson Barron Black Blackburn Blackie Canavan Caulfield  
Clarke Connelly Connolly Creary Crozier Culley Davitt Devine Devlin  
Donnelly Doyle Dunlop Eldon English Farmer Finnegan Flanagan

Gallagher Gamble Gibson Gilbonney Gillon Gilpin Graham  
Greenaway Greer Gregory Haddock Hamilton Hinton Hughes Hunter  
Irwin Johnston Keady Keenan Kinman Lonsdale

Mackle MacTavish Magee Martin McArdle McCalla McCann McCarron  
McCartin McConnell McConville McCrum McDonald McGivern  
McGrann McGwin McIllenden McKee McLeary McQuade Montgomery

Moore Morrow O'Brien Oliver O'Neil O'Neill Quinn Reynolds Shields  
 Simpson Slattery Smyth Taggart Taylor Toner Traynor Valley Wilson  
 Winters Woods



**Figure 52 Emhain Mhaca, County Armagh**

## **County Carlow**

Alpin Brahan Brooks Butler Condren Connolly Denieffe Edwards  
 Fitzpatrick Griffin Hayes Hoare Hogan Kelly Keppel Kirwan MacDonald  
 Moran Noctor Nolan Nowlan O'Byrne Ryan Smith Tracey Walsh Ward

## **County Cavan**

Argue Armstrong Baron Biggins Bradley Brady Brown Campbell Clark  
 Cleary Clerkin Conaty Cosgrove Curran Dale Denning Doonan Doyle  
 Farrelly Fitzpatrick Fitzsimmons Flannagan Flood

Gaffney Gargan Gillick Gilsenan Gourley Greene Halton Hand Hanna  
 Heaslip Hill Hughes Jamison Kelly Kernan Kiernan Lally Lamison

Lawlers Leddy Lynch Maguire McBrien McCabe McConnon McCullough  
McCully McDermott McDonald McDonnell McEvoy McGillick McGinn  
McGovern McNally Murtagh

North O'Reilly O'Reilly O'Rielly Patterson Poague Pogue Quinn Reilly  
Reynolds Rielly Rogers Scott Seefin Smith Sorohan Sullivan Thompson  
Tweedy Varley Weir

## **County Clare**

Ahern Barrett Belsher Blake Boland Brady Bransfield Brennan Brew  
Burke Burnell Cahill Carey Carrig Casey Clancy Clare Clune Collins  
Connell Connole Conoulty Considine Conway Corry Coughlan Coyle  
Cregan Crotty Crowe Crowley Cunningham Curry Cusack

Davoren Deegan Delahunty Dempsey Dillon Diskin Doherty  
Donnellan Donohue Downes Doyle Driscoll Dunleavey Dunleavy Egan  
Ennis Falvey Fennell Fitzgerald Fitzgibbon Fitzmartin Fitzpatrick  
Flaherty Flanagan Flannagan Foley Foran Galvin Garvey Geoghegan  
Glennon Gordon Gorman Gregg Griffin Guinane

Hall Halloran Hannon Hanrahan Haren Hart Haugh Hayes Hehir  
Hennessy Hickey Higgins Hinchy Hogan Hogg Holland Horan Houlihan  
Howard Hurley Hurst Keane Keating Kelly Keniry Kenneally Kennedy  
Kierce Lacey Langan Larkin Lawler Lawlers Leyden Lillis Linnane Lynch

MacDowell MacNamara Madigan Magner Maher Mangan Markham  
Maroney Marrinan Martell Maxwell McAllen McEnery McGann  
McGough McGrath McInerney McInerny McKinney McLaughlin  
McMahon McNamara McNerney Meehan Melican Minahan Minogue  
Moloney Moroney Morrison Murphy

Nagle Nash Nelson O'Keefe O'Brian O'Brien O'Dea O'Grady  
O'Halloran O'Heffernan O'Keefe O'Loughlin O'Mealy O'Neill O'Shea  
O'Sullivan Petty Pilkington Quilty Quinn Reidy Riedy Roach Rourke  
Rowan Ryan

Scales Scanlan Scanlon Scully Sexton Shalloe Shannon Shaughnessy  
Shea Sheedy Slattery Sullivan Talty Tierney Tubridy Waters Whelan  
Whyte

## **County Cork**

Ahearn Aheren Ahern Allen Arundel Barker Barr Barrett Barron Barry  
Bartley Beatty Bergen Berry Bluitt Bolger Brady Brannelly Bransfield  
Brennan Brogan Brown Browne Buckley Burdin Burke Byrnes

Cahill Cain Callahan Callanan Camier Cantey Carey Carmody Carrigan  
Carroll Carter Case Casey Cashin Cashman Cassidy Cavanaugh Clancy  
Clarke Cleary Cleland Coakley Coffee Coffey Collins Comerford Condon  
Connell Connery Connolly Connor Connors Conroy Conway Coppinger

Corbett Corcoran Cork Corkery Corridan Costigan Cotter Cottom  
Coughlan Coughlin Coyle Crawford Creeden Cremin Cronin Crossen  
Crowe Crowley Culliton Cummings Curran Curtis Cushin





**Figure 53 Gougane Barra, County Cork**

Dabney Daly Daugherty Davis Delaney Deneen Dennehy Dennison  
Desmond Deveney Dineen Dinneen Doheny Donahoe Donahue  
Donohue Donovan Dorgan Driscoll Duffy Dugan Duggan Dunn Dwyer  
Dykes

Early Eckley Egan Ellis Ennis Fane Farmer Farrell Fegan Ferdinand  
Ferrigan Finn FitzGerald Fitzpatrick Flaherty Flanagan Fleming Fletcher  
Foley Gaffney Gallagher Galligan Galway Gaughan Gerrity Gibbons Gill  
Gilleran Gilman Glavin Goggin Green Greer Griffin Grogan

Haggerty Hallahan Haloran Haney Harney Harrington Harris Hartigan  
Hawkes Hayes Healey Healy Heard Heffernan Hegarty Hennessey  
Hennessy Herlihy Hickey Holland Holohan Horgan Hourihan Hourihane  
Howard Huey Hurley Irish Jeffers Jeffrey Jennings Joyce Joynt

Kearney Kee Keefe Kelleher Kelley Kelly Kennedy Kenny Keohane  
Kieley Kiley King Kingston Kingstone Kirk Lalley Landers Lane Lawless

Leach Leahy Lee Leyhane Lordan Lucey Luddy Lynch Lyons

MacAuliffe MacDonald Madden Mahoney Malone Manning Mannix  
Marnell Martin McAninley McCann McCarthy McCartney McCarty  
McCloskey McCormick McCotter McDermott McDevitt McGarry  
McGinn McGinnis McGlynn McGourn McGrath McGraw McIntyre

McKenzie McLaughlin McMahan McThreinfer Meehan Mehegan  
Mohally Molloy Moran Morey Morrissey Moynahan Mulcahy  
Mulchinaugh Mulchinock Mullarkey Mullen Mullins Munday Murphy  
Murray Nally Neely Newman Nicholson Noonan Nugent

O'Brian O'Brien O'Bryan O'Callaghan O'Colmain O'Connell O'Conner  
O'Connor O'Cronin O'Donnell O'Donoghue O'Donovan O'Driscoll  
O'Flaherty O'Flynn O'Halloran O'Hearn O'Herrons O'Kane O'Kaye  
O'Keefe O'Keefe O'Lalley O'Larkin O'Leary O'Mahony O'Malley  
O'Neil O'Neill O'Niell O'Rourke O'Shaughnessy O'Shea O'Sullivan  
O'Tuama

Parker Pension Phelan Phillips Philpott Power Poythrus Price Purvis  
Quinlan Quinn Quirk Raymond Reardon Regan Reilly Riley Riordan  
Roach Roche Rogers Ryan Rylee

Saunders Savage Scanlan Scanlon Shea Shearin Sheehan Shine Simpson  
Sisk Slattery Smith Snee Stanton Steele Stewart Stone Sullivan Sweeney  
Synge Taylor Terry Thomas Timmons Tobin Toohy Tooker Toomey  
Tracey Traynor Tuckey

Walsh Ward Webb Welsh Weston Whalen White Wholey Winters



**Figure 54 Standing Stones in Kealkill, County Cork**

## **County Derry**

Baird Bean Boyce Boyd Braden Breen Cassidy Cowan Coyle Creighton  
 Crow Cunningham Dicky Dinsmore Doherty Duddy Elliott Glenn  
 Haggerty Hasson Heaney Irwin Johnston Kiernan Knox Laughlin Law  
 Lyttle

Mallon McCarron McCashion McCloskey McCluskey McDevitt  
 McElvaney McKenna McKinnon McLaughlin McMillan McPeake  
 McQueary Moody Mooney O'Cain O'Connor O'Doherty O'Kane Reilly  
 Reily Teague Toughill Warke Whistle

## County Donegal

Barr Begley Bonar Boner Bonner Boyce Boyd Boyle Bradley Brennan  
Breslin Brown Bryson Burns Byrne Canning Carey Clark Cole Coll  
Collins Conwell Corrigan Coyle Crampsey Crawley Daly Daugherty Davis  
Dever Devlin Diver Docherty Doherty Donaghy Donahue Doohan  
Doonan Doran Doroity Dorrian Dougherty Duffy Dunn

Early Elliott Erskine Ewing Flanagan Friel Gallagher Gavigan Gill  
Gillen Gillespie Granahan Grant Haggerty Hamill Hanlon Hannigan  
Harkin Harkins Harley Hegarty Heraghty Houstin James

Kane Keaveney Kee Keeney Kelly Kerr Kerrigan Knee Long Lowery  
Mangin Margey McAteer McAuley McBrearty McBride McCafferty  
McCahill McCallig McCallion McCann McCarrig McCarron McCloskey  
McClure McCole McConaha McConnell McCool McDaid McDevitt

McElwaine McFadden McFaul McGarry McGarvey McGee McGeever  
McGeoghegan McGettigan McGill McGinley McGinty McGlinchey  
McGlynn McGonagle McGonigal McGough McGovern McGowan  
McHugh McIlhaney McIlwee McIlwain McIntyre McLaughlin McNamee

McNelis Melley Milligan Monahan Mooney Morrison Merville Mulhern  
Mullin Mullins Murray Norfolk O'Boyle O'Brien O'Cannon O'Doherty  
O'Donnell O'Hare Orr Orrick Pettigrew Porter

Rea Redden Reddin Reilly Robinson Rodden Ryan Scanlon Sharkey  
Sheedy Sheils Shovlin Simpson Spence Stuart Sweeney Toland Walsh  
Weir Wylie

## County Down

Bailey Bannon Belshaw Bigham Bingham Binsely Brennan Byrnes  
Cahill Carmichael Clendenen Collins Connors Coulter Cunningham  
Dargan Darraugh Dawson DeLargy Denvir Devine Donley Dorrian  
Dorris Dougan Downey Duffy Edgar Fagan Ferguson Ferris Fox

Garvin Gibson Gilbert Gilbow Gilliland Gilmore Grace Graham Green  
Gregg Gunning Halpin Hamilton Hanvey Heaney Heenan Jennings Jess  
Jordan Kelly Kenealy Kennedy Kiely Laverty Lundy Lyttle

MacMillan Maguire Mannis Martin McCafferty McCliment McClurg  
McConnell McCosh McCullough McGrattan McGuffin McKinney  
McMillan McMullen McRobert Miller Moorheads Mulhall Mulholland  
Mulloy Murphy Murray Nelson

O'Neil O'Rourke Peters Polley Robinson Rooney Rossbotham Ryan  
Scott Shea Skinner Sloan Smith Smyth Speers Spiby Thompson Todd  
Torney Trainor Tremere Turner Wallace Wright



**Figure 55 reported Burial Place of Saint Patrick, County Down**

## **County Dublin**

Adkins Byrne Callaghan Carson Caviston Coffey Coleman Comerford

Condern Cooke Corcoran Corp Crippen Cummins Cunningham Davis  
Delanny Dixon Donaldson Donlan Doolan Dowling Doyle Duden  
Duffee

Egan English Evans Faughan Free Fulton Gilligan Grant Halpin  
Hawkins Hayde Heffernan Higgins Hughes Iveagh Jordan Kane Kearney  
Kelly Leonard Mackey Madden Mahan Mangan Masterson Mc Mahan  
McClelland McConnell McGuire McIntyre McVickar Mitchell Molloy  
Mooney Moore

Nolan O'Connely O'Connor O'Flanagan O'Leary O'Neill O'Reilly  
O'Rourke Owens Pollock Puzsau Redmond Reid Reilly Riddell Riley  
Rolston Ross Ryan Seaver Smith Sutton Taylor Tyndall Walsh White  
Woodard Woods Yeates

## **County Fermanagh**

Amy Armstrong Averell Beacom Beatty Bevis Bird Brady Carleton  
Cashon Cassidy Clark Corrigan Creighton Dolan Donaldson Donnelly  
Dowd English Fair Farrell Fisher Flanagan Gillogly Graham Gunn  
Harman Hicks

Johnston Kenney Largy Logan Loughnane Lunney Maguire Malloy  
Maze McBrien McCabe McCauley McCusker McGee McGhee McGillen  
McGrice McGuigan McGuire McLaughlin McManus McVeigh Meehan  
Moneypenny Moore Moroney Morris Munday Murray Nugent Peters  
Quaid Rowan Slavin Taylor Thompson Tierney Vance

## **County Galway**

Athey Balun Beegan Blake Broderick Burke Byrne Cahill Callan  
Canavan Carr Carroll Carty Casey Cawley Cloonan Collins Comer  
Conheaney Conneely Connelly Connolly Connor Conroy Corless Corr  
Costello Coyne Crowe Cubbard Cullinane Cusack

Dean Deely Dillon Dinan Doherty Dolan Donahoe Donnellon Dorsey  
 Dowd Duffy Fair Feeney Fell Finn Finnerty Fitzgerald Flaherty Flannery  
 Fleming Flynn Folan Fox French Gallagher Garvey Geoghegan Gibson  
 Gill Glynn Gorham Gormley Guy Halloran Hannan Hannon Haverty  
 Heanue Heneghan Hession Higgins Hobin Hogan Holland Holmes  
 Hughes Hynes

Irvine Jennings Joyce Keady Kean Keaney Kelley Kelly Kennedy  
 Kenny Kern Kerwin Kileen Kilkelly King Kirrane Laffey Lardner Lavelle  
 Lee Leech Leonard Linnane Lowery Lunch Lynch Lyons

Machan Madden Mahan Malloy Manion Mannion Martin McAndrew  
 McDonough McDonoughan McHugh McKeever McLaughlin McNalley  
 Melia Melody Melody Molloy Monahan Monehan Mongan Mooney  
 Moriarty Morris Morrison Mullaney Mullen Murphy Murray

Nee Nelly Noonans Norton O'Brien O'Dea O'Donnell O'Flaherty  
 O'Halloran O'Malley O'Shaughnessy O'Toole Quinn Raftery Reardon  
 Reilly Rielly Rooney Ruane Rush Scarry Screen Scuffle Shehey Skeritt  
 Sloan Smyth Spellman Stanton Stephens Sweeney Tivenan Treacy Walsh  
 Warren



**Figure 56 Kilmakedar, County Kerry**

## **County Kerry**

Ashe Bowler Brassil Breen Brennan Brogan Brosnan Browne Cahill  
 Caldwell Callaghan Carmody Casey Clifford Coffee Coffey Collins  
 Connell Connolly Corcoran Costello Cotter Coughlan Counihan  
 Courtney Crimmins Cronin Curran Cusack

Daly Daugherty Deady Degnan Devlin Dillon Dinneen Doherty  
 Donnelly Donohue Donovan Doona Dowd Dowling Downey Doyle  
 Eaton Egan Ferris Ferriter Finn Finnegan Fitzgerald Fleming Foley  
 Gallivan Galvin Gamble Garvey Gear Godfrey Goggins Grady Greany  
 Griffin Grogan

Hanafin Harper Healy Herlihy Higgins Hoare Hobert Hogan Hoolihan  
 Humenick Hurley Hussey Keane Kelleher Kelly Keyes Kirby Landers  
 Lawlor Leary Long Looney Lovett Lynch Lyne MacMahon Mahoney



Mahony Manning Mason McCarthy McCarty McDonald McDonnell  
McElligot McGillicuddy McKenna McMahan McSweeney

Millane Moore Moriarty Morierty Mulchnock Murphy Nolan  
O'Connell O'Connor O'Donnell O'Flaherty O'Houlihan O'Mara O'Neil  
O'Neill O'Shea O'Sullivan Paine Parker Purcell Quigley Quilter Quinn  
Reagan Reidy Riordan Roche Rourke

Scanlon Shea Sheehy Shine Slattery Spillane Stack Stevens Stratton  
Sugrue Sullivan Tangney Tempe Walsh Warren Webb White Wonderley



**Figure 57 Saint Bridgids Cathedral, Kildare**

## **County Kildare**

Bolger Brady Bryan Burke Campbell Carney Carroll Connolly Deegan  
Fitzgerald Flannagan Garland Goucher Graham Hannon Hayde Leonard  
Lewis Marsh McCormack Mills Moran Murphy O'Nolan Payne Ryan  
Stewart

## **County Kilkenny**

Archdeacon Bearer Berrigan Brannen Brennan Brett Brophy Burns  
Butler Byrne Campbell Carey Clancy Coady Cody Collings Conway  
Cormac Cove Cronyn Cuddihy Deady Delaney Dempsey Denieffe  
Dermody Dillon Dowling Dungan Dunn Dwan

Fennelly Ferguson Fitzpatrick Fitzsimons Galvin Gannon Gorman  
Griffin Guilfoyle Hamilton Hawe Hickey Hoban Holly Hunt Hurley Irish  
Keefe Kelly Kennedy Kirwin Lahey Lyng Maher McCartan McGuire  
McLaughlin Morris Muldowney Murphy Naughton

O'Donnell O'Leary O'Mara O'Shea O'Stahl Phelan Pielow Plunkett  
Power Purcell Reade Roche Ryan Sansburn Shortall Sullivan Walsh  
Welch



**Figure 58 Saint Canices Cathedral, Kilkenny**

## **County Laois**

Aiken Barnett Bergin Carter Cavanaugh Chambers Clooney Cranney  
Dempsey Dowling Doyle Dunne Fahey Feeney Finn Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick Hayes Hetherington Keating Kelly Lawler McDermott  
McEvoy McLean Moore Morrissey Mulhall Nolan Scott Scully Tobin Wall  
Wilson Wright

## **County Leitrim**

Byrne Campbell Carrigan Clarke Conroy Costello Cullen Cunningham  
Darcy Dinnen Dorigan Dunne Faughnan Flynn Fowley Fox Gallagher  
Gilmartin Gormley Green Grennan Heeran Keeran Kelly Kennedy  
Kiernan Lenihan

Mahan Marlowe McCartin McGarry McGoey McGoldrick McGowan  
McGrail McGuire McNulty McPartlan McSharry McTiernan McTigue  
Mostyn Mulligan Murray Myers Noone O'Hara O'Neil O'Rourke Rahal  
Reilly Shanley Shaw Smyth Tiernan Travers Walsh White

## **County Limerick**

Bagnall Barry Bowen Boyle Brigman Brown Burke Byron Cahill Carroll  
Carrolls Caswell Cleary Coleman Collins Collopy Colwell Conway Copps  
Cottam Cottom Coughlin Cronin Culhane Cullen Cunneen Cussen Daly  
Davern Dempsey Doran Downes Doyle Dunne Ennalls Enright Farrell  
Finn Fitzgerald Flaherty Flynn Fogarty

Gaynor Gernon Gillespie Gillon Gleeson Glenney Hannan Hannon  
Hartigan Hays Healey Heffernan Hennessy Herbert Hickey Hourigan  
Ivers Keane Keating Kelly Kinnerk Kirwan

Lacey Lacy Lawler Leakey Liston Lynch Madigan Maher McCarthy  
McCormack McCurren McDonall McGrath McQueen Minihan Mulcahy

Murphy Nash Naughton Nealon Neville Nolan

O'Connell O'Donnell O'Donoghue O'Heffernan O'Sullivan Quinn  
Raynard Ready Reidy Riordan Ryan Sexton Shanahan Sheedy Sheehan  
Shier Smyth Spelesy Spillane Switzer Teskey Tobin Tracey Wade Walsh  
Watson Woulfe

## **County Longford**

Adams Ahern Blake Brady Campbell Corrigan Cullinan Dimond Duffy  
Duignan Fallon Farrell Farrells Ferrell Finsely Ginty Heaney Johnston  
Kane Keane Keating Kelly Killian Larkin Loftus Lynch

McCabe McCauley McClaghry McCreanor McGann McGovern  
McKenna Mulvihill Murray Murtha Nulty O'Farrell Quinn Radigan Rawl  
Reilly Rodgers Rudden Seery Smith Walsh Whitney York

## **County Louth**

Breagy Byrne Callan Carroll Cassidy Devine Doyle Duffy Finegan  
Harmon Kavanagh Kelledy Levins Lynch Mathews McCabe McDonald  
McDonough McKeon Mulholland Murphy Newcomb O'Hara Rafferty  
Reilly Reynolds Rogan Rooney Shane

Short Simpson Taaffe Venable Yore Breagy Byrne Callan Carroll  
Devine Doyle Duffy Finegan Kavanagh Kelledy Mathews McDonald  
McDonough Mulholland Murphy Newcomb Rafferty Reynolds Rogan  
Shane Simpson Taaffe Yore

## **County Mayo**

Ansbro Bailey Barrett Beatty Begley Bermingham Bird Blackburn  
Bloxham Bourke Boylan Boyle Brannick Brennan Breslin Brett Browne  
Burke Burns Cadden Caine Callaghan Canavan Cannon Carey Carney

Carolan Casey Cassidy Caulfield Caulfield Chambers Clarke Coleman  
 Conlon Conners Connolly Connor Conroy Conway Cooney Costello  
 Coughlin Coyne Crean Cuff Culbreath Cullina Cummings Cunnane  
 Cunningham

Daly Dane Davies Davitt Devanney Devlin Devor Dixon Doherty  
 Dolan Donlon Donnelly Dougherty Dowd Duffy Dulin Dunleavy  
 Durkan Durkin Earley Early Fallon Farragher Fee Feeley Feerick Fergus  
 Finn Fitzpatrick Flanagan Flannigan Flynn Ford Forry Forster Foster  
 Frain Gallagher Galvin Gannon Garrey Garvey Garvin Gaughan  
 Gavaghan Gavin Geraghty Gibbons Gormley Gough Granahan Graney  
 Greeley Greely

Hall Halligan Hanahan Haney Harrington Hart Hastings Healey Healy  
 Henaughan Heneghan Henehan Henry Hickey Higgins Hoban Hogan  
 Huane Hughes Hurst Hyland Igoe Jordan Joyce Judge Kane Kavanagh  
 Keady Keane Kearns Keenan Kelly Kennedy Kenny Kerins Kerrigan  
 Kilbane Kilcoyne Kilgariff Kilroy Kneafsey

Lally Landers Larrisey Lavelle Layng Leonard Levy Linsky Loftus  
 Ludden Lyden Lynagh Lynskey Malley Malloney Malone Maloney  
 Marney McBride McCauley McDermot McDonagh McDonald  
 McDonnell McEvey McEvoy McGibbon McGinty McGowan McGreal  
 McGuigan McHale McLaughlin McManus McMenamin McMonagle  
 McNamara McNicholas McNulty McQuaide

Mealey Millet Minoughan Molloy Monahan Monnelly Moore Moran  
 Morley Morrison Mortimer Muldowney Mullaney Mullen Mulligan  
 Mulroy Munnely Murphy Murray Naughton Nealon Neary Nellany  
 Nolan Noone O'Hara O'Boyle O'Brien O'Donnell O'Gara O'Hale  
 O'Hara O'Hora O'Malley O'Rourke O'Sullivan O'Toole

Owens Parker Patterson Payne Phillips Plover Prendergast Pugh Quinn  
 Rabbit Radigan Reaney Regan Riley Roach Roache Rooney Ruane Rush  
 Ryan Sands Scully Sheeran Sheerin Sheridan Sherrans Smith Stenson  
 Stephens Sweeney Swift Tarpey Tighe Totton Treacy Tucker Tully  
 Tunney Vahey Walsh Walton Webb

## **County Meath**

Barry Butler Byrnes Clinch Cummiskey Dillon Dolan Durgy Fields  
Finnegan Fitzsimmons Flannigan Foy Gilsenan Goodwin Growney  
Halpin Heary Hughes Kangley Keeran Lane Lowther Lynam Lynch

Mahon Malone Manning McDonnell McFarren McGrane McLaughlin  
McMahon McNally McNamee Meeke Monahan Mooney Murphy Murray  
Nangle O'Daly Pender Reilly Riley Rispin Shanley Sheehy Tully Williams  
Yore

## **County Monaghan**

Bowes Boyd Brannigan Brown Callan Carolan Carroll Cassidy Conally  
Connolly Duffy Duggan Faulkner Fawcett Fields Finnegan Gauley  
Hughes Karr Keenan Kellegher Lillis Lynn

MacPhillips Maguire Martin McCabe McCarney McCarron McCaul  
McConnon McKee McKeever McKenna McKittricks McMahon  
McQuade Meehan Moor Moorhead Morris Quigley Quinn Sheridan  
Smyth Stephens Sutor Taggart Treanor Ward Waters Weir Wiggins

## **County Offaly**

Carroll Coghlan Coleman Connolly Corcoran Culgin Dempsey Dooley  
Dunne Dunns Egan Flannagan Flynn Hogan Kelly Lane Loney Malloy  
McMahon Menton Mooney Moran Moren Mullally O'Bannon O'Bannion  
O'Carrol O'Carroll O'Madden O'Reilly Rafter Rigney Stone Warren  
Watson



Figure 59 Clonmacnoise, County Offaly

## County Roscommon

Beirne Brehon Brennan Bresnahan Burke Butler Byrne Byron Casey  
 Cassidy Cawley Charley Conaughton Conlin Connaughton Connor Cox  
 Coyne Croughan Curley D'Arcy Deffley Diffley Dillon Donoghue Doyle  
 Egan Fallon Fetherston Filan Finan Finerty Finnegan Finnerty Flanagan

Gaffin Giblin Giblins Gilmartin Gilooly Glancy Glennon Glynn  
 Gonoude Grace Hanley Hayden Healy Heffernan Higgins Hoar Horan  
 Kaveny Keane Keegan Keena Keigher Kelly Kenny Kimmert Lane Larkin  
 Leonard Lynch

Martin Mauriceroe McDermott McGee McHugh McLoughlin  
 McManus McNulty Mulrenan Murphy Murray Murtagh Neilan O'Brien  
 O'Connor Padian Quinn Reddy Rush Savage Shanahan Skeffington  
 Smith Tague Thullis Tiernan Webb Winston



**Figure 60 Knocknarea, County Sligo**

## **County Sligo**

Armstrong Banks Barber Beatty Brennan Cahill Canty Carbury Casey  
Cawley Clark Coleman Colman Coyle Coyne Cuffe Culleens Cullen  
Cummiskey Cunningham Daly Donegan Dunigan Durcan Durkin Dyer  
Fahey Farrell Fee Feeley Feeney Finan Finnigan Flannery Flynn Foley

Gallagher Gardiner Gartland Geary Gilgan Gilmartin Gilmore Grady  
Graham Healy Henry Herly Higgins Hunt Jennings Jinks Judge Kelly  
Kennedy Kenney Kerrigan Kilroy Lacken Lang Lawrence Layng  
Loughlin

Madden Maguire Malloy Marren McCafferkey McDonough McEttrick  
McGarry McGary McGloin McGowan McKeon McKeown McTeirnan  
Meehan Meer Moore Moriarty Morrison Mulligan Mulvaney Niland  
O'Brien O'Gara O'Hara O'Neill

Owens Pugh Quinn Rafferty Regan Scanlon Scott Scully St Lawrence



Stimson Stinson Sweeney Vesey Walsh White Young



**Figure 61 The Rock of Cashel, County Tipperary**

## **County Tipperary**

Ahern Aylward Bannon Barry Beary Blake Bonney Bowes Brett Britt  
Browne Brunnock Bryan Burgess Butler Cahill Cain Carden Carey Carney  
Carroll Charlton Clancy Coady Coffey Colue Corbett Costelloe Cotter  
Coughlin Crotty Cummings Cummins

Daley Daly Dempsey Doherty Donnelly Donovan Dwyer Egan  
Emerson English Fannons Fennessy Field Flynn Fogarty Galligan  
Gaynor Giltinane Gleason Gleeson Harrigan Haslett Hawkes Hawkins  
Hayes Hennessy Hogan Horan Houlihan Hyde Hyland Jackson

Kane Keefe Kelleher Kennedy Kenney Keogh Kirwan Lahy Landers

Lanigan Lewis Lloyd Llyod Lonergan Long Looby Luby Luttrell Lynch  
 Mackey Madden Maher Mahoney Maloughny McElliot McEvoy McGrath  
 Meagher Meara Moloney Monahan Mooney Moyles Mulcahy Mullally  
 Nolan

O'Bannon O'Brien O'Connor O'Donnell O'Dwyer O'Gorman  
 O'Halloran O'Mara O'Meara O'Neill O'Sullivan Pendergrast  
 Pennefeather Prendergast Purcell Purtill Quinlan Rockett Roughan Ryan  
 Shanahan Shea Shelley Slattery Smeltzer Smith Spillane Talbot Tobin  
 Torpey Tracy Tucker Tyrrell Walsh Wellwood

## **County Tyrone**

Anderson Barclay Braden Bradley Bryson Buchanan Calderwood  
 Caldwell Calhoun Carlin Carlon Carolin Carson Casey Coffee Corr  
 Crawford Daley Davey Devlin Duff Dungannon Earley Early Findley  
 Galeen Galleen Gibboney Gibson Gilchrist Glennon Gorman Gray  
 Greer

Hackett Hamill Haston Hide Hughes Johnston Kennedy Killeran  
 Lafferty Lambert Laverty Logan Logue Loughran Loy MacAroy  
 MacCartney Macklam MacKnew Mallon Martin Maune McCaffery  
 McCaffrey McCarron McClanahan McConaha McCook McCooney  
 McCormick McCracken McCusker McDonald McElhatton McFarland  
 McGarrity McGinley McGlynn McGrath McGuckin McGurren McHugh  
 McKenna McKinney McLaughlin McLean McNulty McSorley

Mellon Mullen Murray Neville Nickell O'Brien O'Donnell O'Neill  
 Paisley Pomeroy Porneroy Quinn Redmond Rooney Scott Seens Shea  
 Shinnars Skivington Snodgrass Thompson Turbett Turbitt Vaughan  
 Wallace

## **County Waterford**

Ahearn Barnidge Black Browner Butler Cantwell Carr Caruth Cleary

Clooney Connolly Conway Corcoran Costello Croke Cunningham Daly  
Egan Finn Flynn Foley Furlong Godfrey Guiry Heffernan Hogan Keane  
Keily Kenneally Kiely Kiley Leckie Leonard Long Lyons

Maher Mahoney Martin McCarthy Moakler Mohoney Moore Munn  
Murphy Navin O'Brien O'Brien Porter Power Reagan Regan Roach  
Roche Roe Shortis Sullivan Synott Terry Wall Walsh Whalen White  
Whitty

### **County Westmeath**

Ahearn Begley Bohan Brady Broder Brougham Byrnes Callaghan  
Callahan Casey Cashin Coffey Conaty Cormack Daly Darcy Delamer  
Dillon Dooley Dorsey Earley Evers Farrell Flynn Foley Gaffney  
Gallagher Garvey Gavin Geoghan Geraghty Gorman

Heaney Higgins Jeffries Jeffert Kearney Kehoe Kenny Killoughy Lavin  
MacGeoghegan MacNamee Mahon Manning Mannion McGuigan  
Mulhall Murray Nally Nugent O'Farrell O'Rourke Redden Reilly Rigney  
Rush Seery Stanley Stone Tierney Tormey Tyrrell

### **County Wexford**

Aspel Berney Bishop Bolger Brett Buggy Bulger Butler Byrne Byrnes  
Cahill Carroll Casey Cavanaugh Codd Coe Colclough Colfer Corcoran  
Cox Crosbie Cullen Doyle Edwards Fanning Fardy Fitzgerald Flynn  
Furlong Gaffney Gannon Gavin Goff Hall Hempinstall Hope

Jones Kanary Kavanagh Kelly Kennedy Kielthy Kinsella Kinsley  
Kirwan Lannan Libby Martyn McDonald McGrievy Molloy Mordaunt  
Morris Murdoch Murphy Noctor Nolan O'Byrne O'Connor O'Keefe  
O'Neill O'Shea Ralph Redmond Roche Rooney Rose Rossiter Rossiters  
Ryan Sheehan Sinnott Skelton Stanton Sutton Teague

## County Wicklow

Barnes Barry Bates Byrne Clarke Doyle Gartland Johnson Jones  
Kavanagh Kennedy McAttackneys McHendrick McQuillan O'Byrne  
O'Toole Pender Power Toole Twyford Tyrrell Wall Ward Whelan Yates



Figure 62 Glendalough, County Wicklow

## Don't Know!

Acheson Adams Adkins Ahern Aikens Alcott Alford Allen Ambrose  
Anderson Andrews Arkwood Armstrong Arrick Atkins Babcock Baggott  
Bagley Bailey Baker Ballinger Bambery Barclay Barnes Baron Barr Barrett  
Barrie Barron Barry Bartley Beasley Beattie Beatty Begley Bell Benner

Bergin Best Black Blair Blayney Bogan Bohannon Boland Bonds  
Bonner Borden Boyd Boylan Boyle Boylen Boyne Braden Brady

Brannaugh Brannian Brannigan Brannon Bray Breadin Breanach Breen  
Brennan Brent Bresnahan Bride Britton Brock Broderick Brogan Brooks

Brown Bruce Bryan Bryson Buckley Burke Burnim Burns Burrows Burt  
Burton Bustard Butler Byrne Cahaney Cahill Cain Calannon Calhoun  
Callaghan Callahan Campbell Canovan Capeheart Caplice Carberry Carew  
Carey Carlin Carlon Carmichael Carnahan Carney Carpenter Carr Carrig

Carroll Carson Carter Casey Cashien Cassidy Caswell Cavanagh  
Cavanaugh Chaney Clacherty Claire Clancy Clannan Clark Clarke Clary  
Cleary Clifford Clinch Clooney Clough Coady Coakley Coates Cobey  
Codd Cody Coey Coffey Coleman Coll Colleran Colley Collins Colohan

Colue Colvin Conaton Conaty Condon Conley Conlin Conlon Connell  
Connelly Conner Connolly Connor Conroy Conway Cook Cooke Cooley  
Cooney Cooper Corcoran Corey Corr Corrigan Costello Costelloe Cotter  
Coughlin Coulter Courtney Cowan Cowley Cox Coyne Crahan Craig

Crawford Crean Creegan Creelman Cregon Creighton Crimmins  
Crogan Cronin Crosbie Crosley Crosse Crosset Crow Crowe Crowley  
Cullen Culpepper Cumberlander Cummings Cummins Cunneen Cunniff  
Cunningham Curley Curran Currie Curry Cursey Cusack Cusick

Dalton Daly Daniel Dardis Darling Darmody Daugherty Davey  
Davidson Davies Davis Dawes Decker Delaney Delay DeLucry Dempsey  
Dermody Desmond Deveney Devine Devlin Diffley Dillon Dingman  
Dinsmore Diver Dixon Dobson Dodd Doggett Doherty Dolan Donahue

Donaldson Donathan Donavan Donlan Donlon Donnelly Donovan  
Donworth Doran Doreen Dority Dothard Dougherty Douglas Dowd  
Dowdy Dowling Downey Doyle Draper Driscoll Drohan Duddy Duffy  
Duggan Duignan Dunahoe Dunigan Dunleavy Dunlevy Dunn Dunworth  
Dwan Dwyer Dyer

Eades Earl Earley Egan Elliot Ellis Elver Elwood Emerson Ennis  
Enright Erskine Erwin Evans Everett Eyre

Fabish Fairchild Fallon Fanning Farley Farrell Farris Faulkner Faye  
 Feeney Ferguson Ferrell Ferris Ferron Fields Finley Finn Finnerty  
 Finnigan Finnuane Fisher Fitzgerald Fitzgibbon Fitzpatrick  
 FitzSimmons Flaherty Flanagan Flanigan Flaven Fleming Flemming  
 Flood Floyd Flood/Flood Flynn Fogarty Foley Ford Fox Foy Francis  
 Frazier Fry Furey Furlong

Gage Gahagan Gailey Gallagher Gallogly Galloway Gann Gannon  
 Gardner Garvey Garvin Gaston Gaughan Gaynor Geoghagen Geoghan  
 Geoghegan George Gibbons Gibbs Gibson Gilbride Gilley Ginnebaugh  
 Glavin Glennon Glin Goode Goodwin Gordon Gough Goulden Gove  
 Grady Gray Greaney Green Greene Greer Gregg Grey Griffin Griffith  
 Grimes Grogan Guilfoyle Guinan Gunning Gwynn

Hagan Haggan Haggarty Haggerty Hale Haley Hall Halloran Halpin  
 Hamilton Hana Hanafin Haney Heaney Hanlon Hanna Hanney Hannon  
 Hanrahan Harbison Harden Hargedon Harkin Harkins Harkness Harper  
 Harrigan Harrington Harris Harrison Harrity Hart Harty Hassett Haverty

Hawkins Hay Hayes Healey Healy Heaney Hearn Heffernan Heffron  
 Hegarty Hege Hennessy Hepburn Heslin Hester Hickey Hicks Higgins  
 Hill Hines Hinton Hobson Hoey Hogan Holland Hollon Hooly Hopkins  
 Horan Horgan Horn Hourigan Howard Hoyt Huddleston Huey Hughes  
 Hunt Hunter Hussey Hutchinson Hyland

Idiens Igoe Irwin Ivers Jackson Jamison Jennings Johnson Johnston  
 Jones Jordan Jordon Joyce Kane Kavanagh Kealey Kearney Keating  
 Keaton Keegan Keeley Keenan Keeney Kegan Kehoe Keleher Keller  
 Kellet Kelley Kelly Kennedy Kenney Kenny Keough Keppel Kernan  
 Kerns Kiernan Kilcoyne Killeen Kilraine Kinnamon Kinney Kinsella  
 Kirby Kirk Kirkpatrick Kissinger Knox Kyle

Lacey Lackey Ladd Lahart Lahey Laird Lambe Lane Langan Langley  
 Larkey Larkin Larry Lavender Laverty Lawler Lawlor Lawrence Lawton  
 Leahy Leatham Lee Leland Lenahan Lennard Lennon Leonard Lewis  
 Lloyd Lockhart Loftus Lonergan Long Loughary Loughman Loughran  
 Lovejoy Lovett Lowrie Lucas Lyle Lynam Lynch Lyons

Macaulay MacDonald Mace MacFarland Mack Mackin MacKinney  
 MacMachado MacNamee Madden Magadan Magee Maguire Mahagan  
 Maher Mahoney Mahr Malanaphy Malloy Malone Maloney Manning  
 Mannion Mannix Mannon Maroney Marshall Martin Mason Maybury  
 Maynard

McAfee McAllister McAlpine McAninch McArdle McAteer McAvoy  
 McBee McBride McCabe McCaffery McCaffrey McCandless McCann  
 McCarl McCarley McCarrick McCarten McCarthy McCartney McCarty  
 McClain McClaran McCleery McClellan McClement McClendons

McClisham McCloskey McCloud McClure McConaghie McConnaughey  
 McConnell McConney McCool McCormack McCormick McCourt  
 McCoy McCracken McCray McCreary McCrory McCulley McCurdy  
 McCurry McCusker McDaniel McDermott McDonald McDonnell

McDormand McDow McDowell McElroy McElwee McEnaney  
 McErlean McEvoy McFadden McFalls McFarland McGann McGaoulif  
 McGarrity McGarry McGee McGinnis McGinniss McGinnley McGinty  
 McGlone McGoldrick McGonigal McGovern McGowan McGrath

McGroarty McGuigan McGuin McGuire McHargue McHugh  
 McIlhaney McIlhaney/McElhaney McIlwain McIlwee McInness McIntire  
 McIntosh McIntyre McKay McKeating McKee McKelvey McKelvie  
 McKenna McKeon McKeough McKeown McKey McKim McKinley

McKinna McKinney McKinzie McLain McLaughlin McLeary McLellen  
 McMahan McMahan McManegle McManus McMillan McMullen  
 McMullin McNally McNamara McNeely McNeice McNeil McNemee  
 McNey McNicholas McNulty McPhail McPhillips McQuay McQueen

McRee McReynolds McSpedon McTighe McVeen McVey McWilliams  
 Mead Meade Meagher Meehan Mehan Merrigan Miles Millen Miller  
 Milligan Mills Minsey Mitchell Moates Moffatt Moffet Moffit Molloy  
 Monaghan Monahan Mondy Monk Montgomery Mooney Moore Moran

Morgan Moriarty Morning Morris Morrison Morrissey Morrow Moss

Moyers Moyles Moynihan Mulcahy Mulhall Mulhearn Mulholland  
 Mullally Mullarkey Mullen Mullican Mulligan Mullins Mullooly  
 Mullowney Mulroony Mulvaney Mulvey Mulvihill Mungavin Murphree  
 Murphy Murray Murtagh Myers

Nagle Naismith Nash Neal Neil Nelligan Nelson Nesbitt Nestor  
 Newmarch Nichol Nichols Nickell Niland Nolan Norris Nowland  
 Nowlin Nunan O'Dougherty O'Leary Oates O'Bannon O'Beirne O'Boyle  
 O'Brian O'Brien O'Briens O'Bryan O'Calligan O'Carmody O'Carroll

O'Cassidy O'Clisham O'Connell O'Conner O'Connor O'Daggett  
 O'Dempsey O'Doherty O'Donnell O'Donoghoe O'Donoghue O'Dooley  
 O'Dougherty O'Doyle O'Driscoll O'Duggan O'Durgy O'Flaherty O'Gara  
 O'Garr Oglesby O'Gorman O'Grady O'Hagan O'Hannigan O'Hanrahan

O'Hara O'Hare O'Hora O'Hoy O'Keefe O'Killea O'Lalley O'Laughlin  
 O'Leary O'Lone O'Loughlin O'Loyal O'Mahony O'Malley O'Meara  
 O'Meehan O'Morchoe O'Neal O'Neil O'Neill O'Pry O'Reagan O'Regan  
 O'Reilly O'Rielly O'Riordan Ormsby O'Rourke O'Shea

O'Sorahan O'Sullivan O'Toole Otter Owens Pace Parke Parker Patrick  
 Patterson Pattison Paul Peacock Peckham Peel Pendleton Perkins Peters  
 Pheley Philpot Pierson Piper Plunkett Poe Pollock Porter Pouton Powell  
 Powers Preece Price Prior Pritt Proctno Quigley Quinan Quinlivan  
 Quinn Quinton

Rae Rafferty Raggett Raher Raley Randall Rankin Rea Reagan Reddy  
 Redican Redman Redmond Reeve Regan Reilly Reily Reynolds Rice  
 Riddle Ridgway Rigney Riley Riordan Rippy Roach Robinson Roche  
 Roden Rodgers Rogers Rooney Rorie Roughan Roundtree Rourke  
 Routon Rowan Ruane Rudd Rush Russell Ruth Rutledge Ryan

Sands Scanlon Scollon Scott Scully Seaton Seely Segrave Sexton  
 Shackleford Shanahan Shannon Sharkey Shaw Shay Shea Sheehan  
 Sheridan Shields Shockency Silk Simpson Sinnott Skelly Slattery Sligh  
 Sloan Sly Smiley Smith Smyth Spears Spillane Sprague St. Clare Stanton  
 Staunton Stephens Stewart Stilley Stilwell Stinson Stitt Stone Stoner



Storey Story Stover Stroud Sugrue Suitor Sullivan Sullivan Supple  
Sutherland Sutton Swift

Tatten Taylor Teague Ternney Thompson Thorpe Tierney Timmons  
Timms Titterington Todd Tone Toner Toohey Toole Toy Tracey Tracy  
Trainor Trant Treadwell Tully Turley Turner Tuttle Tweedy Twomey  
Tyre Vance Vaughan Vincent

Wade Wakefield Walker Wallace Walsh Wardle Warren Waterson  
Watson Watters Webb Welch Welsh Whalen Whealon White Whitehead  
Whitt Whyte Wiley Williams Willis Wilson Winchel Witt Wolfe Wood  
Woods Wray Wright Wrinkle Wynn

Right - that's a long list! Remember, if you still want to add a name, just email me at [mike@youririshheritage.com](mailto:mike@youririshheritage.com) - include your own name as well as the names you want to add and the counties they come from.

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*Would you like to comment on this part of the book – or ask the Mike a question? Just click on the following link:*

<http://youririshheritage.invisionzone.com/index.php?/forum/40-appendix-the-surnames-of-your-irish-heritage/>

## ***Further Reading and Resources***

### **Books**

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## **Online Resources**

Your Irish Heritage Blog: [www.youririshheritage.com](http://www.youririshheritage.com)

Your Irish Heritage on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/youririshheritage](http://www.facebook.com/youririshheritage)

CELT online manuscripts - <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/>

Walsh, Denis, *Ireland’s History in Maps* -  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~irlkik/ihm/index.htm>

Irish Times Ancestor Research - <http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/>

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