

Clanricarde, Thomond & Adjoining Territories

The
History and Antiquities
of the
Diocese of Kilmacduagh
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Distinguished families in Kilmacduagh Diocese in the opening of the seventeenth century — The Marchioness of Cianricarde retained Kilcolgan Castle—Edmond Burke, brother of the Earl of Cianricarde, resided in Kilcornan Castle—Redmond Burke of Kilcornan—The Burkes of Cloghcroke Castle—John Burke of Cloghcroke, Sheriff of Cianricarde—Honorina Burke of Cloghcroke, wife of the third Earl of Cianricarde—Rev. Thomas de Burgo, O.P., a member of the family—Their estates become Lambert property—The Burkes of Cahirforvace —The De Burgos of Mannin Castle—The Mac Huberts of Iser Kelly—Rev. William de Burgo, O.P., a member of the family—The Mac Redmond Burkes of Ballyconnell—The Burkes of Ballylee Castle—The Burkes of Tullyra—The O’Heynes of Lydecane Castle—The Kilkellys of Cloghballymore Castle—The O’Shaughnessys of the period —The O’Fahys—Episcopal succession.

Until the beginning of the reign of James I., the extensive territory of Thomond, usually known as Clare, was held under the government of Connaught. [1] From the letters of Carew to Cecil, dated June 1602, it appears that the Earl of Thomond had visited England a short time previously, mainly for the purpose of annexing Clare permanently to Munster. And, speaking of the earl’s anxiety on the subject, Carew says, “ which if he do not obtain, his heart is broken.”

The Earls of Cianricarde, who were the recognised owners of vast areas in the districts of Kilmacduagh and in the adjoining territories, [2] do not seem to have objected. And as Connaught was “ ever a rebellious province, but the most troublesome of all in A.D. 1588,” [3] the annexation was approved of by the Governor of Connaught, who wisely felt that the fewer counties he had to govern the better. It was after this that the province was divided into five counties, “ which ordinance continues unto this time.”

At that period the state of Galway was particularly sad. We are, in fact, told that it was in a manner depopulated. It was also famine-stricken, by reason of the recent warfare, “ so that scarce the hundredth man or house is to be found now that was several years ago.” [4] And in Galway there were no districts so severely stricken by this ruinous warfare as were the Clanricarde districts, comprehended within the diocese of Kilmacduagh. For the first time English law was enforced in the West, and the grand old code of the Brehons, which had come down from the days of St Patrick, was being finally abrogated there.

In the year 1606 it was stated by Sir John Davies that there were then more able men of the name of Burke, than of any other name in Europe ; and we think he might have added that they were in no district in Ireland more numerous, abler, or more influential, than they were in the diocese of Kilmacduagh. It is certain that they put forth here so many and such vigorous branches, that they far surpassed in number and influence the ancient territorial lords.

The expulsion of the O'Clerys from their territories in the thirteenth century, was but the prelude of those successful encroachments by which they became masters of nearly half of Hy Fiachrach Aidhne in the beginning of the seventeenth century. The many strong castles which they erected there, and which still remain, though somewhat ruined, to give to the landscape one of its striking features, show that they were determined not to yield up without a struggle those possessions which they were at so much pains to secure for themselves. It was the noonday of their greatness ; and the evidences of decay, certain if slow, set in very soon after.

Ulick, third Earl of Clanricarde, had made his castle of Loughrea his principal residence. He seems to have completely abandoned the splendid fortress which Richard the Great had erected at Dunkellin, and with which the name of Ulick, the first Lord Clanricarde, is inseparably connected. The close proximity of Tullyra, his father-in-law's residence, should have influenced him to return to Dunkellin ; but even that motive was powerless. We have seen that Dame Mary Lynch claimed, as wife of Ulick de Burgo, first Earl of Clanricarde, the castle and manor of Kilcolgan. We shall see that, even in the Cromwellian period it was claimed by the Lady Anne, widow of the Marquis of Clanricarde, " as her only jointure house in Ireland." It is much to be regretted that there is only a slight existing trace of the Castle of Kilcolgan. It is certain that it stood where the modern castellated residence, known by the same name, was erected by Christopher St. George of Tyrone, towards the close of last century. Richard, son of Ulick, succeeded to his father's titles, but resided, as his father had done, at Loughrea. Richard, fourth Earl of Clanricarde, was one of the most remarkable men in Ireland of his time. He contributed more than any other to the great Irish defeat at Kinsale. He married the widow of the Earl of Essex, and became, through her, Earl of St. Albans. [5] He was appointed first Lord President of Connaught. In 1616 he was appointed Governor of Galway. [6] His Majesty, when conferring those favours, did not hesitate to address him as his " trusty and right beloved cousin."

He died in 1635, leaving his son Ulick to inherit his wealth and numerous titles.

But though Richard de Burgo had then ceased to occupy Kilcolgan or Dunkellin, his brother Edmond resided in the immediate neighbourhood, at Kilcornan. The Castle of Kilcornan is not more than a mile in a right line from Dunkellin, and has been from that period to the present in the hands of that ancient and influential family. The present estimable representative in the maternal line is the Right Hon. C. T. Redington, J.P., D.L., whose benevolence and rare abilities are well known and widely appreciated. The estimate formed of his success as an Oxford student may be inferred from the high positions which he holds in connection with education in Ireland, as a Senator of our Royal University, and as a Commissioner of National Education,

Edmond Burke of Kilcornan, whose connection, through his mother, with the Tullyra family may not be forgotten, married Eleanor, daughter of Sir Ulick Burke, Knight of Glynsk. [7] His son Redmond took an active part in the important political movements of his time. The character of his influence and efforts may be best inferred from the penalties which he incurred under the Cromwellians. He was held guilty of treason. His property was accordingly confiscated, and his name was expressly mentioned amongst those to whom pardon was not to be extended. [8]

Cromwell's Act for " settling Ireland" excepted from pardon for life and estate " Miles Bourke, Viscount Mayo, Sir Theobald Bourke, his son, Edmond of Cloghan, County Mayo, Thomas of Anbally, and Redmond of Kilcornan, both in the county of Galway."

The confiscated lands must have been restored, however, at the Restoration, as we find them in possession Christopher Burke, the last of his family in the male line. His daughter Sarah married in 1763 Thomas, third son of Thomas Redington, Esq. of Cregana, of whom more hereafter.

The Castle of Cloghcroke stood about eight miles eastward of Kilcornan. It was the seat of an ancient and distinguished branch of the same family. [9]

We are assured by De Burgo that Cloghcroke, and Cabirforvace, were the seats of two very influential branches of the De Burgos. The Cloghcroke branch was certainly ancient as well as influential. We find from the Carew MSS. [10] that it was occupied by John Burke in the early part of the sixteenth century, a gentleman who held the office of “ Sheriff of Clanricarde during the King’s pleasure,” When Dr. Bodkin, Archbishop of Tuam, [11] acted as Royal Commissioner, he received the following instructions regarding the Lord of Cloghcroke : “ And as John Burke of Cloghroge has well and faithfully executed the office of sheriff in the county of Clanricarde since the death of the first earl, he shall peacefully hold the office during the King’s pleasure, or until it shall by us be otherwise determined. He shall receive the profits of the office, as by the Archbishop of Tuam, and others therein mentioned, shall be reasonably limited. And for that divers complaints were made before us by the said John Burke, the sheriff, and the inhabitants of the same country, that since the death of the late earl they have been spoiled of their goods, we order and arbitrate that the said Archbishop of Tuam shall have full power to determine all complaints.”

De Burgo [12] speaks of a marriage which took place between Honoria Burke of Cloghcroke, and Ulick, third Earl of Clanricarde. Her mother was a daughter of Sir Roger O’Shaughnessy of Gort. But as Ulick, third Earl of Clanricarde, was also married to the daughter of Burke of Tullyra, we are bound to assume that the earl was married twice, and that the Lady Honoria Burke of Cloghcroke became his wife by the second marriage. The family remained Catholic. Dr. Thomas de Burgo, who holds a distinguished place amongst the distinguished members of the Dominican Order of his time, belonged to this family. His career shall be referred to at greater length in a future chapter.

The family is now entirely extinct, and it is extremely probable that their ruin was effected by the operation of the penal laws in the early part of the last century. Their estates are a considerable time in the possession of a branch of the Lambert family resident at Aggard, near the village of Craughwell.

As to the residence of the once distinguished family of the Burkes of Cahirforvace, it is much to be regretted that no trace of it exists in our time. The village of Cahirforvace is situated in the present parish of Craughwell, and perhaps not more than four miles from the Castle of Dunkellin. We are indebted to the learned author of the *Hibernia Dominicana* for the little that we know regarding it. He also leaves us a brief notice of Edmond de Burgo, a member of the Cahirforvace family, whose career as a member of the Dominican Order shall be hereafter noticed.

The Castle of Mannin is the only other De Burgo residence of which we find any notice at the period under review, within the barony of Dunkellin, or north-western district of the diocese of Kilmacduagh. It stands less than a mile north of the Castle of Cloghcroke. It is within the present parish of Ardrahan. It is, as it stands at present, but a square keep, partially ruined, and but little interesting. From the “ Indentures of Composition” already quoted, we find that Mannin Castle, at the close of the sixteenth century, was in the possession of Shane Oge Burke.

The family is long extinct, and the lands of Mannin are part of the St. Clerans property,—more correctly Iser or Dysart Clerans,—a remnant of the old De Burgo possessions. The Burkes of St. Clerans were its owners within our time, but at present the property has passed, through his wife, to Mr. Maxwell, the present owner.

In the eastern districts of Kilmacduagh, the De Burgo possessions do not extend beyond Oireaght Redmond, or the north-eastern districts of the Kiltartan barony, and the portion of the barony of Loughrea which the diocese includes. But within this comparatively limited district there were several important castles in the possession of the De Burgos at the period of which we treat

The Mac Hubert Burkes of Iser Kelly were at once the most ancient and influential branch of the family within the district We have already seen that it was founded there towards the close of the thirteenth century by Hubert, son of Walter de Burgo, Earl of Ulster. The representative of the Iser Kelly family at the period of which we write, [13] was Ulick Carraghe Mac Hubert, whose castle, the reader will remember, was plundered by O'Donnell on the occasion of his memorable raid on the eastern districts of Aidhne. To the Mac Hubert de Burgos also belonged the small Castle of Cloghane opposite the present entrance to Castleboy. In 1617, W. Mac Hubert Burke was owner of three cartrons at Castleboy. [14] They were represented about a century later by the Burkes of Garden Blake, in the parish of Peter's Well, of which place they became owners in fee by inter-marriage with the O'Fahys, the original owners. An inscription on the mantelpiece in one of the chambers of the Castle of Iser Kelly, which may still be read, seems to indicate clearly the Catholic tone of the family, and at a time when indications of Catholic spirit were fraught with serious personal danger. The inscription—which is in raised letters—is as follows : “ Titulus triumphalis defendat nos periculo animæ et corporis.” The date, 1603, is also inscribed similarly.

But in the career of the Rev. William de Burgo, whose piety and distinguished abilities cast a lustre on the great Dominican Order to which he belonged, we shall find still more unmistakable evidence of the fidelity of this family to the Catholic religion. We shall refer briefly in its proper place to his career and death. Their extensive estates were, we believe, for the most part confiscated early in the seventeenth century. Large portions of them have passed by purchase into the possession of the Persse family, long residing at Roxboro and Castleboy.

We have seen that the Redmond Burke from whom the district of “ Oireaght Redmond” received its name, was also a son of Walter de Burgo, Earl of Ulster. The Mac Redmond territory [15] comprised the districts of Lisbrien, Ballyconnell, and Ballycahalan. From the inquisition taken at Loughrea before Carew on the 16th September 1617, it appears that in the opening of the seventeenth century the Castles of Castletown, Ballyconnell, and Ballyturrin were their principal residences. At that period Hubert Boy Mac Edmond Burke was “ seized of ffee of Castletown manor. Castle town and lands.” [16] The castle is also referred to as Ballinamantane Castle, and was a splendid pile, still striking in its massive ruins.

We also find that Edmond Oge Mac Edmond Burke was then seized of Ballyconnell Castle and three cartrons of land. It also appears that Ulick Oge Burke and Thomas Leigh Mac Henry Burke were extensive landowners in the same district

By the same inquisition we find that Sir William Burke was owner in fee at that date of Ballyturrin Castle town and lands. It is much to be regretted that there is but a bare trace of

this interesting pile in our time. Its materials were utilised for erecting stables by a subsequent proprietor.

From the “Indentures of Composition,” dated 1585, we find that Edmond Mac Ulick Burke resided at Ballylee. We extract from our annalists the following record of his death, A.D. 1597 : “Edmond, son of Ulick na g-Ceann, son of Richard, son of Ulick of Cnoc Tuagh of Baile Hilighi, died in the summer of this year.” O’Donovan correctly identifies “Baile Hilighi” as Ballylee, but inaccurately places it in the barony of Loughrea. Though close to the barony of Loughrea, Ballylee is situated in the parish and barony of Kiltartan. The castle, which is commodious, and provided with well-constructed Tudor windows, occupies a somewhat low and singular situation. It rises almost from the bed of the Cloon river, which, after its leap of about 30 feet at the “Waterfall,” rushes rapidly by the castle walls to disappear immediately on its subterranean journey to the sea. Richard, Earl of Clanricarde, was owner of this castle in 1617, with the “town and four quarters, Lisnapouna, Skehanagh, and Carrowbane.” [17] The Ballylee estates are now in the hands of the heir of the late Sir W. H. Gregory of Coole Park.

The Castle of Rahealy, situated in the present parish of Peter’s Well (Kilthomas), was the residence of Richard Mac William Burke [18] at the close of the sixteenth century. In 1617 it was the property of Richard Burke, with 120 acres. Its chief architectural features are similar to those of Ballylee Castle, with the exception of some unimportant ornamental detail. On the eastern angle, and on the second storey, a well-sculptured cherub surmounts a narrow loop window which lights the stairway. There is on the northern angle also a corresponding figure, which is much more rudely carved. Attached to the castle is a ruined residence, large, and much more suited to modern requirements than the strong keep with which it is connected. Like the similar structure at Cloghcroke, it probably belongs to the early part of the last century. And here, too, there are, as at Cloghcroke, walled enclosures which speak of comparatively recent occupation. The gateway of the courtyard still remains, and has clearly inscribed on the keystone the date, 1737. There can be little doubt that the castle was still occupied by the Burkes at that period.

Local tradition has it that the estates passed soon after from their hands, owing to the claims of a married sister. They were purchased, it is said, by the Lambert family, from which they have passed into the possession of the Martynns of Tullyra Castle.

Tullyra Castle, which has been already referred to, is in the immediate vicinity, and was in the possession of the De Burgos long before the close of the sixteenth century. We have seen that Ulick, third Earl of Clanricarde, married a daughter of Burke of Tullyra. We find, however, in the State of Ireland, 1598. that Martynn was then the owner of Tullyra Castle ; and there can be little doubt that it was by intermarriage that the castle and estates passed into his possession. We are, however, unable to fix the particular date at which this occurred. Though we find the date 1614 sculptured in one of the upper chambers of the castle, and with it the initials S. B., we cannot assume that it throws any light upon the matter.

A stone shield bearing the arms of the Martynn family surmounts the somewhat modern doorway that looks into the courtyard. Their armorial bearings were, it is stated, given by Richard III. to Oliver Martynn, [19] who accompanied the king on his expedition to the Holy-Land, and distinguished himself there by his valour. They consist of a cross on an elevated plinth, over the right arm of which is represented the “sun in splendour,” and over the left the “moon in crescent.” It is surmounted by an object resembling a star, described in the language of heraldry as an “etoile wavy of six points or.” Underneath the shield on the right side are the letters B. M., and G. M. on the left.

Whatever difficulty there may be in connecting the family with the remote and chivalrous days of Richard, and with England, there is none in connecting them, from an early period, with the successful and prominent merchant families of Galway “*citie*,” who are commonly designated “*tribes*.” The Martynn family held positions of distinction there. We find that from the year 1590 to 1609 [20] there were three mayors and four bailiffs of the name in the town of Galway. The senior branch of the family was that of Ballinahinch. With the Ballinahinch that of Ross and Tullyra are enumerated by Hardiman as “*amongst the most respectable in the province*.”

In 1642 we find Richard Martynn, who was then elected Mayor of Galway, residing in the Castle of Dunguaire at Kinvara. This Richard Martynn, who was by profession a “*councillor-at-law*,” and is described as a “*rank Papist*,” was married to the grand-daughter of James Darcy, who at the close of Elizabeth’s reign held the office of “*Vice-President*” of Connaught. We are informed by Hardiman that he was “*by her, ancestors to the Martynns of Tullyra*.” [21] The Castle of Tullyra has remained in the possession of the family to the present day, and forms an interesting feature in connection with the beautiful mansion recently erected by the present representative of the family, Edward Martynn, Esq.

In the beginning of the seventeenth century the once strongly-fortified Castle of Ballinamantane,—commonly called Castletown,—in the parish of Kiltartan, was also in the possession of the De Burgos, and is one of the most striking ruins in the district. A vague tradition would connect it for a period with the history and cruelties of Nora, one of the so-called wives of Ulick na g-Ceann. It is supposed to have remained in possession of the De Burgos till the Cromwellian period, when it is thought a strong force was sent to seize it by the notorious Ludlow, who took possession of the Castle of Gort. The expedition was but too successful, as the fortifications and castle were shattered by the artillery of the Parliamentarians, and the inmates were put to the sword. It is still a picturesque ruin. It stands a few miles north-east of Gort, close to a deep whirlpool, where the Gort river sinks to continue its subterranean journey to the sea. Vast masses of masonry lie around, which speak still of the former strength of the ruined fortifications and dismantled castle, but which speak with equal clearness of the character and of the result of the siege.

The remaining well-known and recognised divisions of the Kilmacduagh territories towards the close of the sixteenth century were Kinelea and Killoveragh. [22]

Killoveragh was the O’Heynes’ country, and comprised 45 quarters [23] of land, most of which, if not all, still remained in the hands of the territorial chiefs. They still retained considerable influence. Even towards the close of the sixteenth century, we find the O’Heyne still accorded the somewhat valueless title of “*Lord of Hy Fiachrach Aidhne*.” The Castles of Lydecane and Dunguaire were their principal residences, both of which are well preserved to our time.

The Castle of Lydecane is situated in the present parish of Ardahan, about two miles south of Tullyra. It was occupied towards the close of the sixteenth century by Owen Mautagh O’Heyne, who in 1578 succeeded Ruadhri na Coille as chief of his name. The annalists record his death in 1588 : —

“*Eoghan Mautagh, son of Edmond, son of Flan, son of Conchobar O’Heyne, Lord of Hy Fiachrach Aidhne, died, and his son Aodh Buidhe (the Yellow) was elected in his stead*.”

This Aodh or Hugh Buidhe, who succeeded as chief of his name to his father’s possessions, surrendered his property to the crown, and received a royal grant of the same on the usual

conditions of military service. This “ Graunte unto Hughe Boy O’Heine, son an heire of One Owen O’Heine of Lydecane in the Coy. of Galway,” bears date “ the 23 July in the 30 yeare of Her Majesties raigne.” [24]

The document enumerates the various townlands which the property included ; and as the names of the townlands are but little changed in our time, we can see that they comprised most of the present parish of Kinvara, and also considerable portions of Clarinbridge, Ardahan, and Kilmacduagh.

The death of this Hugh Boy O’Heyne is recorded by the Four Masters in 1594. An inquisition taken in Galway, 1608, shows that the O’Heynes’ territory then consisted of 8640 acres.

From Mac Firbis’ *Genealogy* it would appear that he left a son Hugh Boy, who had a son Hugh Boy, that represented the family in the middle of the seventeenth century (1645-1666).

It appears, however, that Hugh Boy did not succeed to the estates on his father’s death in 1594. A certain Connor Crone O’Heyne had possession of Lydecane and its lands in 1612. He may have been the brother of the late lord. We find that this Connor, who had then attained the patriarchal age of about one hundred years, executed a deed of “ Enfeoffment,” by which he wished to transmit with special security certain portions of his property to his son Bryan O’Heyne. This deed of “ Enfeoffment” is fortunately published by Mr. O’Donovan in his valuable notes to the Irish Annals, and is, we think, so quaint and interesting that it may be transcribed into our pages. It runs as follows : —

“ To all Chresten people to whome these presents shall come, Connor Crone O’Heyn of the Ledigan in the county of Galway, Gent, send greeting to our Lord God Everlasting. Knowe yee, that I the said Connor, for sundry good and lawful considerations me moving, and in especial for and in the regard and consideration both of my ffatherly care and affection, as well toward my sonne Bryan O’Heyn, as toward the establishment, continuance, and succession of myn inheritance and living in myn owne kindred and family, and the better insuring and supportation of the same from ingerous chalenges, suits and vexations, thereunto to be at any time pretended, wherin the impotencie of age and state and declining years disabling me to imploy the mindful pains and travails thereunto behoofeful, the defence and upholding of my said inheritance in nature and right belonging unto my said sonne Bryan O’Heyne, have given granted enfeoffed and confirmed like as to those presents.”

He here sets forth the grants, which seem comparatively insignificant when compared with the extent of the O’Heyne possessions but a little earlier. They consisted of a third part of a cartron of Gortenshine, the fourth part of a cartron in the tearmon known as Ballymolfargie and Pollantlynte, and half a cartron in Corroboye. And for this rather limited grant he exacts a yearly rent from his son. The deed continues : —

“ And further knowe yee, that I the said Connor Crone O’Heyne have covenanted and agreed that my said sonne Bryan shall pay unto me some reasonable rent yeerlie during myn owne liffe out of the before mentioned parcels, and after my decease to be to the use of him the said Bryan, his heires and assigns as aforesaid for ever,” etc

“ In witness whereof I the said Connor Crone O’Heyn have herunto put my hand and seale the 20 February 1612.”

The action of Connor Crone O’Heyne seems to indicate that the O’Heyne estates were being divided among various members of the family. We find a certain Donnell O’Heyne

mentioned as a freeholder of Kiloveragh in 1615, and in the year 1641 there were over thirteen families of the name, chiefly in the parish of Durus-Kinvara.

Though references to the Kilkellys in our annals are very rare after the expulsion of the O'Clerys, still they continued to hold a position of respectability and influence under their kinsmen the O'Heynes. Their chief seat was the strong Castle of Cloghballymore in the present parish of Ballindereen. It is even still well preserved, and its lofty battlements may be seen far above the extensive plantings which surround it. It is not more than three miles from Kinvara. It is stated that the ruined castle which adjoins Dunguaire also belonged to the family. But O'Donovan thinks that this opinion is not supported by any historical evidence.

There can be no doubt that in Elizabeth's time they still held the Cloghballymore estates. By reference to the "Indentures of Composition" signed by the landed proprietors of Clancricarde in A.D. 1585, we find there the name of Brian Reagh Mac Kilkelly, Lord of Cloghballymore.

We shall find that the Most Rev. Peter Kilkelly, Bishop of Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora in 1744, was a member of this ancient family.

O'Donovan, in his interesting notes to *The Manners and Customs of Hy Fiachrach*, adds that the name of Kilkelly or Killikilkelly, as it is sometimes written, "is still very respectable in the county of Galway."

The territory of the O'Shaughnessys, lords of the territory of Kinelea, at one time comprised 105 quarters of land. [25] Their chief residences were the Castles of Gortinsiguair and Ardameelavane, near Lough Cutra.

Sir Dermot O'Shaughnessy, whose death occurred, as we have seen, in the year 1606, was succeeded by his son, Sir Roger O'Shaughnessy. At the time of his father's death Sir Roger was twenty-three years old, and married to Elis Lynch, by whom he had a son, Sir Dermot, his heir and successor, and one daughter, who married Daniel Donovan of Castle Donovan, chief of Clancahill, County Cork. In an ode addressed to her husband in 1639, by one of the bards of the period, her beauty and virtues are referred to in the following laudatory strain :-

"The palm for beauty of her sedate aspect, O'Shaughnessy's daughter has obtained.
Meekness without narrowness of heart, humility, generosity, firmness.
A fruitful palm tree of the race of Dathy, the kind-hearted daughter of Rory
Who inherits the attributes of the sires she sprang from in longing to
indulge the flame of hospitality.
The undying character of the kings before her, she has not suffered to pass away.
But has reflected on the name of Guaire that lasting lustre she had derived from him."

This Sir Roger O'Shaughnessy was most probably the builder of the Castle of Fiddane, which may be seen at the present day, in excellent preservation, about two miles south-west of Ardameelavane. We find no mention of it before his time. But we do find that he resided there in the middle of the century. There is a letter still extant which he addressed from Fiddane Castle to his "verie lovinge daughter," Mrs. Giles Donovan of Castle Donovan. It is dated 14th March 1647.

His second wife, by whom there was no issue, was Julia, second daughter of Cormac Mac Carthy, lord of Muskerry.

Though the litigation between the contending O'Shaughnessy claimants had ceased, still Sir Roger was not allowed to take quiet possession of all the lands of Kinelea. We find that a suit was lodged before the Irish Court of Chancery in the year 1615, by which a certain Fulk Comerford, son of Gerald Comerford, Baron of Exchequer in 1603, claimed from Sir Roger O'Shaughnessy of Gortinshigory in Galway county, the town and lands of Cappafennell or Capparell. We are not told the grounds on which this claim was founded. But it is said that it rested on the will of Fenton already referred to, made in his favour. Apart from the grounds and results of this claim, the depositions of the witnesses in the trial, which are fortunately preserved, are interesting, as they help to cast additional light on the families of note in the district at that period. They show that the defendant's father "enjoyed the greatest part of the lands of which Sir Roger had died seized," [26] also that the lands of Cappafennell were in his grandfather's possession, and that he was known to have as many as 280 men engaged there together at harvest-cutting.

Amongst the distinguished witnesses was Margaret, Countess Dowager of Clanricarde, who was sister-in-law of Sir Roger O'Shaughnessy, and had then attained the venerable age of eighty years. But older and still more venerable was the lord of Lydecane Castle, "Knougher Crone O'Heyne, Gent." Richard Burke of Rahealy, "sixty-four years old or thereabouts," and Sir Tirrelach O'Brien of Dowgh in Clare county, nephew of Sir Roger, were also amongst the witnesses, and so was Manus Ward, Dean of Kilmacduagh, then "eighty years old or thereabouts."

Sir Roger's son, Sir Dermot, took an active part in the great movement of the Confederates, though he was himself probably prevented by years from taking any part in that momentous movement. He died, according to the O'Clery manuscripts, in the year A.D. 1650. It would appear that there is a portrait of him still preserved at Ormond Castle, Kilkenny, in which he is represented as wearing a suit of armour. His arms may be seen on the seal of the letter addressed to his daughter from Fiddane Castle, and consist of "a tower crenelled in pale between two lions combatant." The crest is "an arm embowed holding a spear."

On the extreme eastern side of the territory of Hy Fiachrach Aidhne there lay a very extensive district, which extended through the Echtge Mountains to the dioceses of Clonfert and Killaloe. Its most fruitful districts lay along the bases of the Echtge range, from the Mac Hubert districts of Roxboro to the Mac Redmond territory in Kilbecanty. It therefore included the Castle Daly and Cappard districts, with most of the fertile valleys and wild moorlands which extend to "Abain da Loilgheach," the Derrybrien river which flows by Chevy Chase into Lough Cutra lake. These districts, comprising considerable portions of the baronies of Loughrea and Kiltartan, were in the possession of the O'Fahy sept at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

We find that in A.D. 1617 "eight gentlemen of the name had fee-simple property in the barony of Loughrea." [27]

From the returns of an inquisition made at Loughrea on the 16th of September of that year, we find the names of those gentlemen, with their possessions, mentioned more or less in detail. The inquisition referred to, and yet preserved in the Rolls Office, gives the names of more than ten of the family, then owners in fee.

"Teigue (Antlevy, *i.e.*, of the Mountain) O'Fahy was seized in fee of portions of Lishadoile, Kealuragh, and Cappard." [28] This Teigue or Timothy O'Fahy also held conjointly with his son Edmond "a portion of the quarter Knocanteigue and Cappaghard."

“ Edmond Uny O’Fahy, Edmond Oge Mac Edmond O’Fahy, Richard Mac Edmond O’Fahy, and Teigue Mac Edmond O’Fahy, were seized of fee of portions of Keluragh, Lishadoile, and Cappaghard ; and that John Mac Uny O’Fahy was seized of fee of portions of the townlands of Lishadoile, Cahercranilly, Garryblaken, and Ballinrowan.”

Teigue O’Fahy (Antlevy), who was evidently the chief of his sept, resided in the Castle of Dunally. The village of Dunally occupies a picturesque situation at the base of the Echtge Hills, and about four miles from Gort and one mile from the village of Peter’s Well. The castle, which was extant and in a state of fair preservation within the memory of living men, has been unfortunately entirely destroyed, for the purposes of utilising its materials for the erection of a residence in its immediate vicinity, which, however, has not been completed.

The following additional records regarding the lands occupied by the O’Fahys in the Kilmacduagh diocese in 1617, are transcribed by the author from the Loughrea Inquisition preserved in the Rolls Office, Dublin : —

“ John Loughlin O’ffahie, Edmond Mac Richard O’ffahie, and Edmond Oge O’ffahie, were seized in ffee of (cartron) Lorgebane.

“ Mahone O’Hickey and John Logha O’ffahie were seized of ffee of Bellaghtempene (cartron).

“ Owen O’ffahie was seized of ffee of Cloinmoingan, 1/6 quarter ; Ballyichoilan (1/6 of two quarters.

“ Donagh O’ffahie, Hugh O’ffahie, and Loughlin O’ffahie were seized of ffee of Clonimonigan (1/2 quarter), Ballyichoilan (1/6 quarter).

“ Rory O’ffahie, Loughlin Mac Shane O’ffahie, and Murtoth O’ffahie were seized in ffee of Ballycoighlane (cartron), Lisibrien (1/2 cartron).”

The next entry records the possessions in fee of William O’ffahie, John O’ffahie, David O’Duill, Murtagh Mac Shane O’ffahie, and Donagh O’ffahie. But though the author found the record somewhat illegible, the names of four other land-owners of the name are given there.

It may be interesting to our readers to know that the lands of Ballycoighlane referred to, are the fertile districts now known as Ballycahalan. The lands of Clonimonigan are the lands now known under the general name of Cloon.

Lishadoyle and Garryblaken, the other chief residences of the O’Fahy septs of that period, are situated about a quarter of a mile respectively north and south of Peter’s Well. We shall hereafter see that the O’Fahys were the owners of another important district in the adjoining parish of Kilbecanty. In that parish they were owners of Cloon and its estates. We shall see how the Cloon estates passed from their hands to the Burkes of Eyre, and are now the property of the Lahiffs of Gort House.

Though some historians class the O’Fahys amongst the tribes of Hy Fiachrach Aidhne, we think it more probable that they belong to the Cinel Fathaith of Hy Maine, in which territory many of the name may still be found. Assuming the accuracy of this opinion, they are of the race of Heremon, and claim the celebrated Maine Mor as their ancestor.

Hence their descent would be through

Fathadh, son of
Usadhraim, son of
Aengus, son of
Flan, son of
Colman, son of
Richlamhail, son of
Colman, son of
Ailibar, son of
Maenach, son of

Cormack, thirteenth in descent from Maine Mor. The present parish of Peter's Well, correctly Kiltomas, seems to have represented in a broad sense the chief portion of the tribe lands. It was therefore generally known as "Pubbell Muntir-Fachie." [29] Designations of districts were at that period often taken from the tribe or sept by which they were occupied. Hence we find the adjoining districts of Iser Kelly, [30] then in the possession of the Mac Hubert Burkes, referred to in the "Indentures of Composition" as "Pubbell Mac Hubert."

The O'Fahys seem to have regarded the aggressive claims of the De Burgos over their tribe and district with contempt. This fact is supported by the traditions of the district, and is also referred to by Mr. O'Donovan in his valuable notes to the *Book of Hy Maine*. [31] He writes: "There is a tradition in the barony of Loughrea that the Earl of Clanricarde found it very difficult to get the O'Fahys to pay him tribute, their chief always telling the earl that the lands he possessed were his own, and that the earl had no claim to them." An instance of the determination with which they enforced this refusal has reached the present writer from a gentleman, who, though living in America, is an offshoot of the family. [32] His ancestors, for perhaps a century, kept a written record of local occurrences of interest in that district.

At the period of Somerset's protectorate, Clanricarde made an attempt to enforce his demands through one of his illegitimate sons. The mountain chief, who had been assisting at Mass with his clansmen and dependents in the old church of Kiltomas, was just leaving the sacred edifice when he met this deputy. Though in a position to treat the demand as of little importance, he regarded it as a personal insult to be asked to treat with such a man. A duel was the immediate consequence, as both were well armed, according to the usage of the period. They fought on the rising ground south of the cemetery, and immediately outside the present entrance. As both were practised swordsmen, the fight was well contested, but at length Burke, who had inflicted some severe wounds on his adversary, fell mortally wounded.

It may be well to repeat that it was only towards the close of the sixteenth and the beginning of the seventeenth century that English law began to make itself felt amongst the Irish of the West. As this applied especially to land tenure, it is certain that the agrarian relations between the native chiefs and their septs were until then regulated by ancient Brehon statutes. "The English families remained under the rule of the Burkes, and the Irishry under the Cheeffes of every particular sept." [33]

It may be noted also that the ancient forests, which had hitherto formed an interesting feature in the districts of Hy Fiachrach Aidhne, seem to have been in some instances—as in that of the Burren forests—entirely destroyed. We are informed by the editor of *Iar Conn-aught* that "incredible quantities" of timber were consumed in the iron works erected before that time, and by the exportation of pipe staves in "whole shiploads." [34] And we also find

that a charter to cut and export Irish timber for a period of twenty-one years was granted by King James I. in 1616 to a certain Richard Milton.

Towards the close of the sixteenth century, we for the first time hear of a Protestant Bishop of Kilmacduagh. But, considering the small number of Protestants in the diocese, it was united to Clonfert. The united Sees were governed by STEPHEN KERROVAN.

ROLAND LYNCH was next Protestant bishop, having succeeded Kirwan in 1602.

From an inquisition [35] taken under Lynch in the reign of Charles I., we find the following recognised as vicarages : —

Ardrahan.	Killila.
Kilthomas.	Killchyne.
Kinvara.	Kiloragh.
Dromacoo.	Kilchrist.
Killinvarra.	Killogillynn.
Kilcolgan.	Killyna.
Stradbally.	Beagh and Isserkelly.

The revenues of the See must have been considerable ; but such as they were, they were sold by Lynch to Robert Blake of Galway for £5. [36] From an inquisition made at Portumna, [37] we find that the Church lands of Kilmacduagh were sold to John Eyre for twenty-one years, beginning from the 20th May 1661.

It is certain that Lynch's alienation of the Church lands of Kilmacduagh was regarded as fraudulent.

He was charged by the Royal Commission, then held, with having alienated considerable portions of the Church property of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh. And we are told that the "Royal Visitation," having considered that he had dealt with them "fraudulently and perversely," refused to set any reliance on his statements.

"We have undeniable evidence," say the members of the Commission, "that upon his first promotion Clonfert was estimated worth £160 per annum, and Kilmacduagh £100. But now the bishop hath returned us a roll in writing, in which he makes the value of Clonfert only £40, and Kilmacduagh only £24, but gives us no account how this happened." [38]

The Catholic succession in the See was through Dr. OLIVER DE BURGO, who was appointed Vicar-Apostolic of Kilmacduagh, A.D. 1626. He was a native of Galway, and member of a family that was destined to exercise a powerful influence on the history of the province. John, Archbishop of Tuam, and Hugh, Bishop of Kilmacduagh, were his brothers.

He prepared himself early in life for the Dominican Order. Having made his preparatory studies in Spain, [39] he travelled to Louvain. Such was the esteem in which his piety and learning were held by his brethren, that he was appointed first rector of their college in that city. He was considered profoundly versed in profane and ecclesiastical history, and combined with his varied knowledge much prudence and practical judgment.

From Louvain he returned to Ireland, and was vested with the dignity of Vicar-Apostolic of Kilmacduagh. And when, yielding to the representations made to the Holy See by the Council of the Confederates, a bishop was nominated for Kilmacduagh by Rome, that bishop was

Hugh, brother of Oliver de Burgo. But as Hugh was at the time engaged in the important work of pleading Ireland's cause before the chief courts of Europe, some few years passed before he came to take possession of his See. During those years, however, Oliver de Burgo was permitted to retain the administration of the diocese.

The opposition to the Nuncio's authority shown by both John and Hugh de Burgo, is a part of the history of the period. But Oliver de Burgo did not share the opinions or feelings of his brothers on the matter; on the contrary, we are assured that he actively supported the Legate in opposition to his brothers. [40]

On the death of Dr. Lynch, Bishop of Clonfert, he was about to be appointed to that See ; but he declined the honour and the responsibility, feeling that, owing to the prevalent disorder and the severity of the persecution, he would be unable to discharge the duties of his onerous office. He was soon after compelled to fly to France, where he led an edifying life, till the Restoration of Charles II. afforded him an opportunity of returning to Ireland. On his return he made a stay at London, where His Majesty, who knew him at Paris, [41] promptly recognised him. After a kindly and cordial interview, he received from His Majesty, with ample means for prosecuting his journey, guarantees of protection for life in any part of Ireland in which he might travel or sojourn.

On his arrival in Dublin, his kinsman, Lord Clanricarde, had a splendid retinue awaiting him, to conduct him to his lordship's residence, and Clanricarde Castle continued to be his home for the remaining years of his life. Occasionally, indeed, he would visit his dear friends of the Dominican convent of Galway, and show himself in spirit and sympathy a true member of the great order of the Friars Preachers.

After a life full of labours and fruitful of merits, he died in the year 1671, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. The monumental slab placed in the cathedral church of Kilmacduagh, to the memory of Donatus O'Shaughnessy as priest, and of Roger O'Shaughnessy, vicar of Rossane, was, it is stated, erected there in the lifetime of Father Oliver de Burgo, Apostolic Administrator of Kilmacduagh, and by the assistance of Sir Dermot O'Shaughnessy, Anno Dom. 1646 : " In honorem Sanctissimi Colomani alias Cathedralis Ecclesiæ Duacensis Patroni, Donatus O'Shaughnessy et Rogerius Shaughnessy, Presbyter et Vicarius perpetuus de Rossane pro ipsis et ipsorum heredibus. Omnipotens Deus propitius sit Amen. Hoc conditum erat Patre fratris Oliverii de Burgo ex ordine Dominico Administratoris Apostolici Duacensis in vita per assistentiam illustrissimi Dermotii Shaughnessy Nationis Capitaneii. Anno Domini 1646.

" Jucundum habitare fratres.

" Memento Mori."

[1] *State of Ireland*, p. 122.

[2] *Ibid.*

[3] *Ibid.*

[4] *Ibid*, p. 138.

[5] *Burke's Peerage*.

[6] *History of Galway*, p. 99.

[7] *Burke's Peerage*.

[8] *Dalton's Army List*, p. 513.

[9] *Hib. Dom.*, pp. 134, 222.

[10] P. 213.

- [11] *Hist. Archbishops of Tuam*, p. 76.
- [12] *Hib. Dom.* pp. 134, 222.
- [13] *State of Ireland*, p. 136.
- [14] Inquisition Rolls Office.
- [15] *Iar Connaught*, p. 324.
- [16] Rolls Office.
- [17] ‘ Loughrea Inquisition.’
- [18] *State of Ireland*, p. 136.
- [19] Hardiman’s *Galway*, p. 18.
- [20] *State of Ireland*, p. 132.
- [21] *History of Galway*, p. 11.
- [22] Note, Four Masters, A.D. 1598.
- [23] Every quarter was 120 acres.
- [24] Hy Fiachrach.
- [25] Note, Four Masters, A.D. 1598.
- [26] *Hy Fiachrach*, p. 378.
- [27] *State of Ireland*, A.D. 1598, p. 138.
- [28] *Hy Maine*, p 37.
- [29] *Iar Connaught*, p. 324.
- [30] *Ibid.*
- [31] *Hy Maine*, p. 37.
- [32] M. Mullins, Esq., Nashville.
- [33] *State of Ireland*, p. 122.
- [34] *Iar Connaught*, p. 8.
- [35] Rolls Office, Dublin.
- [36] Office Rolls.
- [37] Rolls Office.
- [38] Ware ; Harris.
- [39] O’Heyne, p. 23.
- [40] *Ibid.*
- [41] *Ibid.*

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