

The Countie of Mayo 1598.

This Countie [1] containeth all the Land of M'William Euter, [2] and the Lands of the Omaylies, [3] Clandonels, [4] M'Morice, M'Jordan, M'Custologhe and the []; this Countie hath in the Sea certain Ilands both Fertile and most comodious for Shipping, for which purpose both Inglyshe and Strangers had Intercourse there. It hath the Ocean to the West and North, the Counties of Sligo and Roscommon to the East and the Countie of Galloway to the South.

The most part of this Countie is possessed by the Burkes, [5] whose Capten they commonlie call M'William. They are many of the name and Stoute men able to make in tymes past before the Warr consumed many of them 1,500, the rest of the Countrie is inhabited by the M'Jordans, M'Custulaghes, and the rest above Specified, who be dependers upon M'William, and in a manner his Vassals. They are whollie out in Rebellion saving one principall man called Tibbotnelong. [6]

There are no Townes in this Countie of any importance, but many good Havens and fayre Castles belonging to the Gentle-men before named, whereof the chief is Castlebury Ardenery Belike, and the Castle of [] belonging to the Earle of Ormond

Mayo.—Families of 16th century.

Bingham of Castlebar, whose father, the Governor of Sligo, was killed in 1596.

Bourke of Moneycrower.

Richard *Ruadh* Bourke of Rathroe Castle, Inniscoe, and Carrowkeel, m. a dau. of M'William. Browne of the Neale, High Sheriff of Mayo, whose grandson was made a Baronet in 1622.

Sir C. Dillon of Bealalahin, son of the 1st Viscount Dillon.

Shane M'Costelloe of Castlemore, Chief, m. in 1586 a dau. of O'Kelly of Screggs, Roscommon.

Edmund M'Jordan, Chief in 1586.

O'Higgins of Moyna.

O'Malley (son of Brian) of Morska Castle.

O'Malley (Edmund), nephew of Granauille O'Malley, b. 1579, d. 1651.

Captain Atkinson, Elizabethan officer.

Representatives in the 19th century.

The Earl of Lucan, Castlebar, Mayo ; Lord Clanmorris, Newport, Mayo.

The Earl of Mayo, Co. Kildare.

Bourke of Carrowkiel ; Bourke of Curraghleagh.

Lord Kilmaine of the Neale ; Marquess of Sligo, Westport, Mayo ; Browne of Breafty, now Sir C. M. de Beauvoir, Johnstown, Dublin ; Browne of Manulla ; Browne of Raheens, Mayo.

Viscount Dillon, Loughglynn, Roscommon.

Costelloe of Edmundstown, Mayo.

Jordan of Rosslevin Castle, Mayo

Higgins of Westport.

Sir W.O'Malley, Bart, Rose Hill, Mayo.

O'Malley of The Lodge, Co. Mayo.

Atkinson of Rehins, Co. Mayo.

Maio is a fruitful and pleasant country, rich in cattle, deer, hawks, and honey. — Camden,

The castles in this county are very numerous, and all square, says Gough, who gives the names of forty-five and the dimensions of six of them.

[1] In 1574 the chiefs of the baronies were M'Moris in Crossbwyhin, M'Moris' Country ; in Kilvean Wm. Burk FitzJohn, E. Burke Vaghery, and the Clan Jonyns ; O'Maley in Murisk ; Richard en-Iren in Burres ; M'Vadin in Kunermore (Envyremore) ; John M'Oliverus or M'William, and M'Vadin called Baron Barret, in Many (Moyne) ; M'William Burk, and M'Philipin in Burrisker ; M'Jordan or Baron D'Exeter in Beallalahane ; M'Costello otherwise Baron Nangle in Beallahaunes.—*Car, Cal*, 1601-1603, p. 474 and 450.

1587 ' M'Costello his country' was inhabited by Sir Theobald Dillon and his tenants.—*Iar-Con*, p. 340.

Sir Theobald m. a daughter of Tuite of Tuitestown ; he saw assembled at one time in his house of Killenfaghny above one hundred of his descendants.—*Lodge*.

[2] I found M'William verie sencible, though wantinge the English tongue, yet understanding the Latin. . . . Surely, my Lords, MacWilliam is well wonne, for he is a great man ; his Land lyeth along the West North West Coast wherein he hath manie goodlie Havens, and is Lord of a Territorie of three times as moche land as the Earl of Clanricarde is.

' O'Maylle came likewise with him, who is strong in galleys and seamen.

' Also MacPhaten or Barrett, MacIvyle Staunton, Macjordan or Dexter, Mac Custelo or Nangle, MacMorris or Prendergast . . . all five have been Englishe, which everye man confesseth, but also Lords and Barons in Parliament, as they them selves affirme, and surely they have lands sufficient for Barons, if they might weeld their owne quietlye. But so base and Barbarous Barons are they now, that they have not three hackneyes to carry them and their train home. There were with me many more of lower degree and no deeper of wealth,

as the Chiefe of Clanandros and Mac Thomyn ; both they, and many more Barretts, Cusacks, Lynches (Lynottes), and of sundrie English surnames now degenerate.’
— *Sir H. Sydney*, in 1576.

- [3] ‘ By inquisition taken A.D. 1607, it appeared, that Owen O’Maly, chief of his name and nation, and his ancestors, had chief rents, of barley, butter, and money, out of several lands within the barony of Murrisk ; that he was seised of the Castle of Cahir-na-mart (now Westport), the castle and island of Carrowmore, etc, in right of tanistry ; and that he, as chief, ought to have, as his ancestors had ‘ all fines for bloodshed, all skins of animals killed, or to be killed, within that barony.’— *Iar-Con.* p. 58.

‘ The O’Mallies and O’Flaherties purposed with 600 men, whom they had gathered, to invade Kerry.’—Carew to Privy Council, May 2, 1601.—*Car. Cal.* The O’Mallies are celebrated in several Irish poems as expert seamen, as the sea-gods of the West. Graine O’M., mother of Tibbot ne long, first Viscount Mayo, was renowned for her bravery at sea. The O’M. were chiefs of the two Ualls, *i.e.* baronies of Murrisk and Boirishoole. O’Dugan says, ‘ A good man there never was of the O’Malleyes, but he was a seaman.’

- [4] The Lord Deputy wrote to the Council in 1576—‘ Out of the Countye of Maio came to me to Galway first seven principall men of the Clandonnells, for everye of their seven Linagies one, of that surname, inhabiting that Countye, all by profession mercenarie soldiers by the name of Galloglas ; they are very stronge, and moche of the wealth of the countrie is under them ; they are able to go where they will, and with the countenance of any meane Lorde of Force, to make Warre with the Greatest. I won Mac William Ewghter’s chief force from him in getting these Clandonnells.’

- [5] The Burkes of Mayo were ‘ noble of mind and of good courage,’ and with the O’Flaherties were considered ‘ the greatest nation, and possessing the strongest country of any people in Ireland ;’ and were joined with the O’Rorkes and O’Connors—forming a league of the ‘ proudest, wildest, and fiercest clans.’—*L. Deputy to Walshingham* in 1589.

In 1586 the Bourks, very badd and loose people, very hardlye continued themselves two years together within compass of obdyence. The sons of Edmund Bourk of Castlebar were seven in number; he was an oulde man, a competitor for the MacWilliamshippe, a most badd member to the state, and his wife as bad as himself.—*Docwra’s Narrative*, p. 214.

‘ There are more able men of the surname of Bourke than of any name wheresoever in Europe.’—Sir J. Davis in 1606.—*Car. Cal.*, p. 465.

In 1589 the Lower Burkes of Tirawly went on their defence, beat the English and Irish under Brown at Bealach and Diothruibh, slaying Brown, Donnell O’Daly an officer, and Redmond oge Burke of Benmore Castle, Galway ; then they were joined by the sliocht of Oliverus Fitzjohn Burke of Tirawly, by the Clan Donnell Galloglach, etc ; they ravaged Connaught by day and night during the spring.

In 1595 Tiboid Burk (son of Walter Kittagh son of John, son of Oliver, son of John) laidseige to Belleek Castle near Ballina, took it, beat and pursued Captains Bingham, Foal, Mensi and Tuite (son of W^m Boy Tuite) slaying Foal, Mensi and Tuite. Then, as Clan William Burk were at variance concerning the Lordship of the territory, O’Donnell nominated Tiboid chief in presence of the forces of O’Donnell and Clanwilliam.

In 1601 Walter (son of the late M’William Burke) was shot in a battle near Ennis. Up to the spring of this year Lord M’William and Tibot-na-Long were at peace, but then the descendants of Ulick and Tibot-na-Long chose as M’William, Rickard Burke, the son of *Deamhan an Charrain* (‘ *Daemonis Falcati filius*’ says O’Sullivan, or, as Docwra puts it,

‘ the Devil’s Hook son’). But O’Donnell’s M’William at Michaelmas got help from him, came back, beat his rival, and the sliocht Ulick Burke and Tibbot-na-Long, in a fierce battle, in which they were mindful of their ancient grudges and recent enmities, and in which Rickard was slain.—*Four Masters*.

This Tiboid, the last M’William, retired to Spain, where his son Tiboid was made Marquess of Mayo ; he had seven brothers—Oliver of Iniscoe ; Ulick Ruadh of Crossmolina; John *an t’Sldbhe* (of the Mountain); William *Fada* (the Tall) of Castlelacken . . . *Lodge*, —‘ Viscount Mayo.’

[6] ‘ M’William was in action with 60 foot and 60 horse. Tibbot *na Long*, ‘ of the ship,’ so called because he was born at sea, was son of Sir Richard *an Iarain* (of the iron) and the famous Graine ni Maille, dau. of Owen O’Malley of the Owles. His brothers Walter and Edmond were slain by the English. He defeated and hanged his brother-in-law, O’Connor, who was going to join the English interest ; in 1599 he with his followers maintained 600 f. and 60 horse against Elizabeth ; at the battle of Kinsale he fought on the English side ; got, with his step-brothers Morogh and Donall Ikeggie O’Flaherty, a re-grant of his lands, was member for Mayo in 1613, became Viscount Mayo in 1626. He married a dau. of O’Connor Sligo. He had 4 sons—Miles, David, Tibot *Riveagh* (the strong) of Cloghans, and Rickard (called Iron Dick). His daughters were mar. to O’Conor Dun, O’Flaherty of Aghnamurra, Burke of Castlehacket, and Burke of Turlogh.—*Lodge*.—‘ Viscount Mayo.’

In 1597 he undertook with the aid of her Majesty’s forces to banish Tibbot M’Walter, the now M’William ; for reward to have M’William’s lands, and in lieu of the name of M’William to have a title, etc.

In 1597, the people of Mayo (except W_m Boork of Shroul, his son Oliverus M’Shane, and his brother Edmond, W_m Boork FitzRichard who fled into Munster, and M’Morrice) in number 1500 men in action. Tibbot ne Long with the Devil’s Hook and others had put in pledges. MacWilliam is in action, in July last lost 200 of his men ; at his late coming his brother Thomas, equal in mischief to himself, was slain, and one of the chief commanders of the Clandonnells, with 30 or 40 of his men—their heads sent to me by Tibbot ne Long. M’William’s forces, with 400 out of O’Donnel’s country amount to 700.—*Car. Cal.*, year 1597, p 265, 270.

The chief men in 1585 were—Sir Richard Bourke of the Newton, knight, otherwise called M’William Eughter—Walter Kettagh Bourke of Bealycke and Crossmalyene—Bourke of Ardnerly—E. Bourk M’Oliver of Ropa—Barret of Ross, otherwise called M’Padin, chief of his name—Barret of Ballasseekery—Myly M’Evily of Kenturk, otherwise called M’Evily, chiefe of his name—Bourke of Castlebar, tanest to the said M’William Eyghter—Bourke of Ballenecarrae, otherwyse called the blinde abbote—Moyler B. of Castle M’Kerra— Tybbott Reoghe Bourke of Boherfayne —Evagher M’Jordan of Bellalahan, otherwise called M’Jordan, chief lord of the barony of Bellalahan or Gallen—Moyller M’Jurdan of the Newcastle—Walter Leaghe M’Stevane of Corran M’Stephane—Jordan M’Thomas of Ballahaghe —R. M’Moryse of the Bryse, otherwise called M’Moryshe, chiefe of his name—M’Moryshe of Castell M’Geralte—Walter M’Erydry of Castell-Reoghe—William Bourke of Shrowell—Bourke of Conge—R. oge Bourke of Cloynecashell—Molaghlyne O’Mayle of Belclare, otherwise called O’Mayle, chiefe of his name—Teige roe O’Mayle of Cahairenemart—Ouan O’Mayle of the same —M’Arte of Clare—Gilleduffe M’Gibbon of Ballynekellye—R. oge M’Gibbon of Glankyne—Sherrone M’Gibbon of Lackane—fitz Symons of Dunmacknynyne—Walter M’Phillypyne of Brehe, otherwise called M’Phillypyne, chiefe of his name—Ferraghe M’Tirrlage roe of Carrickmadye— E. oge M’Gibbon of Derrymacgoman—W. Bourke of Torrane—R. oge M’Tomyne of Ballicroen—Barret of Dowlaghe—J. Browne of the Neyle —Barret of Kyrenan—Caree of Downmacknyny.

—*Iar-Connaught*, p. 331 to 338.

List of Descriptions of Ireland.

1. Topographical Poems of O'Duggan and O'Heerin.
2. MS. Abbreviate of Ireland and Description of the Power of Irishmen, by Dean Nowell who died in 1576.
3. Campion's, in 1575.
4. Derricke's 'Image of Ireland,' 1581.
5. Carew MSS., No. 635.
6. Stanihurst's 'Plaine and Perfect Description,' 1586.
7. A brife Description by Payne, in 1589.
8. Dymmok's 'Treatice of Ireland,' circ. 1598.
9. Camden's in 1607 ; the best hitherto published.
10. Bamaby Riche's 'New Description of Ireland,' in 1610.'
11. Moryson's, in 1617.

Descriptions of Parts of Ireland.

1. Bagnall's Slender Description of Ulster, in 1586 ; published in 1854.
2. Carew MSS., Description of Ulster, II. p. 437.
3. Carew MSS., Description of Ulster, Vol. 621.
4. Sir A. Chichester's Description of Ulster, in Calendar of State Papers, an. 1609.
5. 'Dobbs MS. Description of Antrim,' circ. 1598 ; published by Dubourdiou in 1812.
6. Loughfoyle in 1601 ; published in Ulster Journal of Archaeology.
7. 'Perambulation of Leinster in 1596,' in Calendar of Carew MSS.
8. 'Counties of the Pale,' Ussher MSS. E. 4 33.
9. Barony of Forth, printed in the Kilkenny Journal of Archaeology.
10. Composition of Connaught in 1585 in Hardiman's *Iar-Connacht* and O'Donovan's *Hy-Many and Hy-Fiachrach*.
11. Description of Connaught in 1612, printed in *Archaeologia* Vol. 27.
12. Description of Clare, MSS. E. 2. 14., Trinity College, printed in this book.
13. O'Flaherty's Chorographical Description of *Iar-Connacht* in 1684, published by Hardiman.
14. O'Roddy's Description of Leitrim, MS. T.C.D.
15. Ordnance Survey MSS., in Royal Irish Academy.
16. Old Maps—the first in 1567 ; the second in 1571 for the Government ; Nowel's ; Jobson's Ulster in 1590 ; Janson's ; Speed's ; Maps of the Escheated Counties in 1609 ; Maps in the *Pacata Hibernia*.

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