

The Countie of Sligo 1598

Sligo [1] containeth all the Lands betweene the River of Earne and the plaine of Conaught by the Skirts of the Mountains of Ballibyan and Curleges to the river of the Boyle in M'Dermots Countrie and from thence North west by the River of Moyne which divideth the Countie of Maio from the Countie of Sligo. So hath it the River of Earne to the East, Maio to the West, the Sea to the North, and the Countie of Roscomon to the South.

It hath in it no Towne but Sligo, a Sea towne with a Haven, which the Castle Shot.

Principall} Sligo belonging to the Quene.
Castles } Baller [2] belonging also to the quene.

Bondrois} belonging to O'Donnell who claimeth a
Belike} chief rent of £240 per Annum out of
O'Connor Sligoes Country.

The chief L. of this Countie is O'Connor Sligoe. [3] It is most inhabited by men of his name, and few Vassals the chief whereof is called Odood. [4] This Countrie is in a manner Subject to the Quene, yet are Rebels but against their Will, for their chief L. O'Connor being in Suite for the Lordship of Sligo in England 7 years and the Rebellion beginning long before he cou'd end his Suite, O'Donnell tooke the best of the Countrie Prisoners and to this day detaineth them, and thereby constreyneth their followers to obey him at his pleasure, all the foresaid Castles be in O'Donnells hand saving Sligo which was demolished by O'Donell 4 years ago, and since not re-edified.

Donal O'Conor-Sligo. The last Chief, General O'Conor-Sligo, d. in 1756 ; the last Lady of the House of Hapsburg erected a monument to him in the Church of St Gudule, Brussels. The present senior of the race is a farmer. The descendants, maternally, are M'Dermot of Coolavin, and O'Connor-Donellan of Sylane.

O'Crean of Annagh. Crean-Lynch of Clogher House, Mayo (maternally).

Dathi O'Dowda, son of O'Dowda of Bunnyconnelan, 43rd. in
Dathi (slain in 1594) and descent from Eochaidh, Monarch of
nephew of O'Dowda, Ireland in 358.—*Hy-Fiachra, pedigree*
elected by O'Donnell *by O'Donovan.*
in 1595.

Families of 16th century.

Cormac O'Hara of Coolany m. a dau. O'Gallagher ; he d. in 1612 ; his son Teig was High Sheriff in 1608.

Sir. Tibbot Dillon of Costello Gallen, Sligo.

French of Gortrassy, and Sessueman Castle, Co. Sligo, m. a dau. of O'Connor-Sligo ; he d. in 1624.

Patrick French obtained an estate from Donagh O'Conor-Sligo.

George Bingham, Governor of Sligo in 1596.

Dodwdl settled at Tanrago *circ*, 1590.

Representatives in the 19th century.

O'Hara of Annaghmore, Co. Sligo (maternally).

Viscount Dillon of Loughglynn, Roscommon.

Lord de Freyne, Co. Roscommon.

French of Cloonyquin, Co. Roscommon.

Lord Clanmorris, Newbrook, Mayo.

Dodwell of Glenmore.

[1] 'It hath of auncyent or new English none ; off Irishie—O'Connor Sligoe, the M'Donoghues, the O'Dowdes, the O'Haraes, the O'Hartes, some of the M'Swynes and others.'—Description of Connaught in *Archæol*, vol. 27. The Lord Deputy reported in 1576 that O'Connor 'hath under his Tyranny O'Dowd, two M'Donoghues, two O'Hares and Agare, and yet he himself trybutarie to O'Donnell They be all men of great lands, the countye b wdl inhabited, and ritche and more haunted with strangers than I wish it were.'—See *Iar-Con*. p. 300.

'The lords and chieftains in the year 1586 were—Sir Donyll O'Connor of Sligo, knight ; Pheolyme O'Harte of Ardtarmon, otherwise called O'Hart, chief of his name ; O'Connor of the Grawndge ; Edmond O'Dowey (O'Dowda) of Killglasse, otherwise called O'Dowey, chief of his name ; Hubert Albenaghe of Rathly ; Breene M'Swyne of Ardneglas ; Dowdy of Castle-Connor ; Cormocke O'Hany (O'Hara) of Cowlany, otherwise called O'Harey buy, chief of his name; Ferral O'Harry of Ballinefenock, otherwise called O'Harry reoghe, chief of his name ; O'Harry of Tulwy ; O'Harey of Cowlany ; Ferrdorraghe M'Donoghe of Cowlea, otherwise called M'Donoughe Tyrreryll, chief of his name ; M'Donogh of Ballyndowne ; M'Donogh of Cowlwonye ; M'Donoghe of Clone-mahyne ; Cene M'Hughe of Bryckleawe ; Croftone of Ballymote ; Goodman of Taghtample ; Manus Reoghe of Rathmollyne ; Manus M'Teig buy of Lysconnowe ; Mac Swyne of Loughtnevynaghe ; Uryel Garrey of Moye, otherwise called O'garry, chief of his name ; Rory O'Garry of Kearrowercogh ; Manus M'Bryene Reoghe of Levally. ... Sir Donill O'Connor shall have the castles of Sligo in the barony of Carbry, and Meynlagh in the bar. of Magherylene, etc. In the bar. of Corran Carmac O'Harry Buy shall have his castle of Cowlany, Ferragh Carragh O'Harry reogh his castle of Ballinefenock or Ballyhany ; Hugh M'Donoghe shall have land in the bar. of Corran removing from Ballymote ; in the bar. of Tirrel Ferdoragh M'Donogh of Cowlea, and M'Donogh of Cowlwony Castle ; in the bar. of Tirreagh Edmond O'Dowd his castle of Kylglasse, his cousin and heir apparent Davy O'Dowd of Castle Connor ; Urrel O'Garry his castle of Moygarry, John O'Crean his house or town of Ballynegare.—*Iar-Connaught*, p. 340 to 345.

[2] Ballymote had belonged to the Queen for the space of thirteen years, but in the summer of 1598 it was taken by its rightful inheritors the Clan Donogh of Corran, namely, Tomaltach

and Cathal Dubh M'Donough. In autumn they sold the castle to O'Donnell for £400 and 300 cows.—*Four Masters*, p. 2076.

[3] 'Donogh O'Connor Sligo, after his return from England in 1596, proceeded on behalf of the English to reduce Connaught; was joined by the Clan Donough of Collooney, and had Ballymote in his power. The O'Harts also adhered to him, for they had always been faithful to the man who held his place; and they began to threaten the Kinel-Connell. But O'Donnell plundered their territory; and in February 1597, he defeated O'Connor Sligo who had mustered an army of English and Irish and was marching on Sligo.' However in that year O'C. Sligo with the help of his brother-in-law, Tibbot na-Long, twice beat M'William out of Mayo, and soon after, having joined Tibbot and Sir Conyers Clifford, he was severely wounded in a smart skirmish with O'Donnell's cavalry. Towards the end of the year he went to England and remained there to the end of 1598. He went with Essex on his host-ing through Munster, then joined Clifford in Connaught, reached Collooney Castle (belonging to M'Donogh of Tirerrill) the only castle which held out for O'Connor Sligo. It was deemed impregnable; O'Donnell besieged him; Clifford going to his relief with 1900 foot and 200 horse was beaten by O'Donnell, and lost his life in August 1599. O'Connor Sligo submitted and was reinstated in his territory by O'Donnell, and got from him 'a countless deal of cows, horses, etc, of com and other necessaries to replant and inhabit his territory, after it had been a wilderness.' In 1600 he joined O'Donnell in his invasion of Galway and Clare; in 1601 for dealings with the enemy O'Donnell imprisoned him in Lough Esk. Donogh's brother, Dermot O'Connor was a distinguished captain of Connaught buonaghés serving in Munster in 1600 with 1400 men, and 'knoweth not better how to spend his time than to be resident where he gaineth so much; is grown to such reputation that he could bring 2000 more, were the Munster chiefs able to give them content' Dermot took O'Sullivan More prisoner out of Munster; he himself was soon after, while going to join the English, attacked near Gort and hanged by Tibbot na-Long.—*Four Masters and Car, Cal.*, p. 401, 491.

[4] O'Dowda of Tireragh (Dathi son of Teig) was slain by one of the queen's soldiers in one of his own castles in Tireragh of the Moy; his brother Teig Buy was made O'Dowda by O'Donnell in 1595—they were 7 brothers. Dathi had mar. Miss Lyons, who became successively wife of O'Dowda, of Sir L. Ghest, of Wm. May and of FitzMorrice FitzGerald. Her son Dathi O'Dowda was ordered to be brought up in the English religion and habits by Lionel Ghest. Sir R. Musgrave, in his narrative of the Irish rebellions, states, that this family counted 25 castles on their lands, "and they have a burying place appropriated to them in the Abbey of Moyne, where may be seen the gigantic bones of some of them, who have been very remarkable for their great stature, as one of them exceeded seven feet in height." Mac Firbis was hereditary historian to O'Dowd, held the rod over O'Dowd at his inauguration, and drank at the banquet even before the acknowledged senior of the race. Ciothruadh and James M'Firbis and their cousin John Oge built the Castle of Lecan in Tireragh in 1560. Ciothruadh had a son Ferfeasa, In 1672 Duaid M'Firbis, the last of these hereditary antiquaries of Lecan, was murdered.—*Hy-Fiachrach*, p. 407.

Maurice M'Donogh of Tirerill was slain in Breifney-O'Rorke in 1598 as he was carrying off a prey, and then Conor M'Donogh of Ballindoon was appointed MacDonogh.—*Four Masters*.

Dermot had married the sister of Elizabeth's Earl of Desmond.

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 Dubourdieu 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.

The description of Ireland : and the state thereof as it is at this present in anno 1598 (1878)

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