

Mac Coghlan & O'Madden

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Mac Coghlan's "Fair Castles." Cloghan in Devlin. Clonoony Castle, and the tomb of the Bullyns. Their connexion with the families of Lestrange, Atkinson, and Parsons. Castles of Moystown, Fadden, &c. Shannon harbour. Ferbane. Gallen Monastery, and the abbeys of Glinn, Killegally, &c. Lemanaghan and the "Shrine of St. Manchan."

.....we find Mac Coghlan, lord of Delvin Eathra, alluded to by an ancient poet as "Mac Coghlan of the Fair Castles," and we have seen the *Four Masters* at the year 1590, in referring to John Mac Coghlan that died that year, state, "there was not a man of his estate, of the race of Cormac Cas, whose mansions, castles, and good dwelling-houses were better arranged, or more comfortable than his." But even long before this, these writers refer to "Mac Coghlan of the Castles," for at the year 1249, in mentioning the death of Donogh O'Gillpatrick who was killed by the English, they have the following curious passage. "This Donogh was one of the three Irishmen who committed the greatest number of depredations on the English : and these three were Conor O'Melaghlin, Conor Mac Coghlan of the Castles, and the before mentioned Donogh, who was in the habit of reconnoitring the market towns (of the English), by visiting them in the different characters of a beggar, a carpenter, a turner, an artist, or a pedlar, as recorded in the following verse :

"He is now a carpenter, or a turner,
Now a man of books or learned poet,
In good wines and hides, a dealer sometimes ;
Everything by turns as suits his purpose."

The O'Melaghlin, who are frequently mentioned in connexion with the Mac Coghlan, were called kings, and often princes, of Meath, and their territory came close to that of Mac Coghlan. These clans were sometimes in alliance, and at other times in contention, as in 1290 when, as the *Four Masters* tell us, "Carbry O'Melaghlin, king of Meath, the most valiant young warrior in Ireland in his time, was slain by Mac Coghlan."

Many of Mac Coghlan's celebrated castles and strongholds, were in the country around Cloghan in Delvin—the present little town of Cloghan, about seven miles north from Birr. This place was known as Cloghan-na-gcaorach, that is, Cloghan, or the stony place, "of the sheep," and the neighbourhood, particularly Cloghan Hill, is still celebrated for the rearing of sheep. The *Four Masters* inform us that the castle here was one of those destroyed in 1548, least it should be taken by the English. The ruins of the ancient church, and the holy wells of Kilcamin, are near Cloghan. This church was founded by St. Camin, probably the same that founded the church of Inis-celtre, or Holy Island, in Lough Deargh. The ruins of Killowney Church are likewise near Cloghan, on the road to Ferbane. Cloghan was heretofore, even in comparatively late years, a place of much more importance than it is at present. It was on the high road from Dublin to Galway, and there was a well-known inn there, called "The Coghlan's Arms," which was established in 1769. There was also a manorial court presided over by a seneschal, held in Cloghan.

The Castle of Clonoony, which deserves more than a mere local interest, is about a mile west from Cloghan, and eight miles north of Birr. This castle is still in pretty good preservation, although probably erected in the reign of Henry VIII., which began in 1509, as it appears to belong to that period. At all events there was a castle here in 1519, for in that year, according to the *Four Masters*, "A great contest arose in Delvin between the tribe of Fergal Mac Coghlan and the tribe of Donal, in which James Mac Coghlan, prior of Gallen, and heir presumptive of Delvin Eathra, was killed by the shot of a ball from the Castle of Cluan

Damhna.” This, as Dr. O’Donovan properly remarks, was the correct original name of Clonoony. The name, therefore, shows that this place was in remote times the residence of the heir apparent to the princes of the district, *cluain* signifying a plain or a retired place, and *damhna* a person eligible to become successor to the prince, which it seems the “ prior of Gallen” was at the time of this occurrence. The curious expression here rendered in English, “ shot of a ball,” may be frequently found in the Irish Annals for some years after the introduction of fire-arms into Ireland in 1489, when the first muskets were brought to Dublin from Germany. The expression appears to have been used, to distinguish a bullet fired from a gun, from any other kind of missile.

Clonoony is called “ Cluain-Nona” by the *Four Masters* at the year 1553, where they relate the following remarkable event, which then occurred there : “ After this a vindictive war arose between Mac Coghlan and the descendants of Farrell and O’Molloy, during which injuries not easily described were done between them. During this war an astonishing exploit was performed at Cluain-Nona, namely, a peasant of the people of the town acted treacherously towards the warders of the Castle, and slew three distinguished men of them with a chopping-axe, tied a woman who was within, and then took possession of the Castle ; and this was a bold achievement for one churl !”

Many skeletons, with coin of Queen Elizabeth near them, and also several old swords have been found at Clonoony, from which it seems probable some well-fought actions took place there during that Queen’s reign. The following seems, however, to be the most curious circumstance connected with this place. In or about the year 1803 some labourers employed raising stones for the building of the barracks or canal locks near the Castle, discovered a kind of cave in the limestone rock, within about a hundred yards of the Castle. In this cave, at a depth of about twelve feet under the surface, and beneath a heap of stones apparently placed there for the purpose of concealment, was found a large limestone flag, eight feet long by four feet wide, and one foot thick. There then appeared underneath the slab, as was said, a coffin cut in the solid rock, containing the bones of two persons greatly decayed. On this slab was an inscription then perfectly legible, and which was seen and copied by the writer of this, many years afterwards. It appears the slab is even yet there. The inscription is cut in alto relievo on the lower end of the stone, as if reserving the upper part for something else. The following is a copy :

“ Here under leys Elisabeth and
Mary Bullyn daughters of Thomas
Bullyn son of George Bullyn the
Son of George Bullyn Vicount
Rochford son of Sr Thomas Bullyn
Erle of Ormond and Willsheere.

From this it appears that the ladies interred here were second cousins of Queen Elizabeth, and grand-daughters of George Bullyn, cousin-german of Anne Bullyn, the unfortunate consort of Henry VIII. It is a curious subject, and worthy the inquiries of the antiquary to try and ascertain how these ladies came to be interred in this obscure part of the King’s County, and to determine whether they came to this neighbourhood living, or were removed there after death. Perhaps their father might have been employed here during the wars of his cousin Elizabeth’s reign ; but the most probable conjecture is, that different persons of the name of Bullyn fled to Ireland to escape the fury of King Henry VIII., who, it seems, had the whole family attainted. Thus the king at first compelled the Earlof Ormond to resign his title in favour of Thomas Bullyn, but the Earl re-assumed it afterwards when the house of Bullyn was attainted.

In considering the question as to how these ladies came to be interred here, it is interesting to find the Bullyn family connected by marriage about this time with the very respectable families of Lestrange and Atkinson, both of which were then settled in the King's County. The connexion appears to have been as follows : Lieutenant Anthony Atkinson, of the Island of Kiltubrid (the " Church of the Well,"), married Mary, daughter of Thomas Bath, Esq. This Anthony Atkinson, who must have died previous to the 9th of October, 1626, as his will was proved at that date, had, with other children, a son William Atkinson of Cangort, who previous to 1638, married Anne, daughter of Bartholomew Peisley, Esq., of Puncherstown, in the County Kildare. William Atkinson of Cangort, had a son Anthony, also of Cangort, who died in 1663 or 1664, his will being dated in the first-mentioned, and proved in the latter year. This last-mentioned Anthony married Anne, daughter of Sir Robert Newcomen, Bart., by his wife Anna Bullyn, or Bullen, kinswoman of Queen Elizabeth, and amongst several children had a daughter Frances Peisley married to Thomas L'Estrange, who, described as " Thomas, son of Henry Lestrange, of Moyestown," obtained considerable grants of land in Garrycastle barony. From this alliance the name Peisley was frequently used afterwards in the L'Estrange family. It thus appears the Bullens were allied with the Atkinson's of Cangort, who are settled in the King's County since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and with the Lestranges of Moystown, which latter place is only a short distance from Clonoony where this tomb was discovered. Colonels Lestrange and Atkinson—who were then the representatives of these two respectable old families—are referred to, as being amongst the magistrates who took a prominent part in a very remarkable proceeding at Birr Quarter Sessions, in October, 1828.

The Parsons family, since their settlement at Birr, likewise became connected by marriage with the Bullens. Thus, Sir Robert Newcomen, above stated to have married Anna Bullen, had a brother Sir Beverley Newcomen, who was drowned at Passage, near Waterford, on the 28th of April, 1637, and this Sir Beverley left a daughter Catherine, who in the following month of August was married to Richard, the eldest son of Sir William Parsons, Bart. Again, Sir William Bullyn, K.B., of Blickling, Norfolkshire, married Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Butler, seventh Earl of Ormond, and by her had several children, including the Sir Thomas Bullyn, Earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, named on the Clonoony slab ; and also including Alice married to Sir Robert Clere, of Ormsby, whose descendant, John Clere of Kilburry's daughter Mary was married the 28th of June, 1754, to Sir William Parsons, of that period. Hence the name Clere sometimes occurs in the Parsons family since this alliance.

To return to Mac Coghlan's " Fair Castles." There was likewise a castle of some importance heretofore at Moystown, near Clonoony, for we learn from the *Four Masters* that the castle of Magh-Istean, or Moystown, was one of those demolished in 1548 " least they should be taken by the English." There was also a Castle at Liscloony in this neighbourhood, as to which the same writers tell us that in the year 1556, " the Castle of Lis-Cluaine, in Delvin, was completed by Malachy O'Dalachain on the festival of Saint Mathew the Evangelist." The monument of the O'Dalachain's is in the old church at Pallas, in the County Tipperary, about four miles from Birr.

The ruins of the Castle of Fadden, sometimes called Fedan, are near Bellmount, about two miles north-east from Clonoony, and about the same distance north from Cloghan. This was likewise a very remarkable place in its time. The castle here was erected probably towards the end of the reign of Henry VII, or the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII., for the *Four Masters* record that in 1520, " Torlogh, the son of Felim Mac Coghlan, lord of Delvin Eathra, a man distinguished for wisdom and learning, a man of prosperity and great riches, who built the castles of Feadan and of Cincoradh, died after a well-spent life." The castle of Cincoradh, now Kincor, will be referred to hereafter. The same writers again inform us, that in the year 1540, " James Oge, the son of the prior Mac Coghlan, was treacherously beheaded by Ceadach O'Melaghlin, in his own castle, *i.e.*, Caislean-an-Fheadain, and great destruction befel the country on that account. Felim O'Melaghlin brought the English and the treasurer

with him to Delvin ; but, however, they could not take the castle of Fedan, and they returned home after having destroyed a great deal. Donal, the son of Ferdorcha Mac Coghlan, chief of his own sept, died before James Oge, the son of the prior, had been slain." Sir William Brabazon was " the treasurer" here alluded to.

Tisaran, in the neighbourhood with Clonoony, Moystown, Liscloony, and Fadden, is also mentioned in these annals. Thus it appears that in the year 1541, " Tessaaran, both houses and churches was burned and plundered exactly in Lent, by the sons of O'Madden, namely Murrough, Breasal, and Cathal." As an instance of the retaliative system of these days, we learn from the same authority, that " Felim O'Melaghlin proceeded after that to Clonfert and plundered and demolished the great church and monastery at Clonfert." It is almost unnecessary to mention, that Clonfert was in O'Madden's country, on the opposite side of the river Shannon from Tisaran in Mac Coghlan's territory. The contention thus begun did not end here, however, for we are informed that in 1542, the following year, " the sons of O'Madden marched with their forces to attack the castle of Fedan ; they plundered and burned the town, and slew Malachy O'Raighne on that occasion ; the people of the country pursued them to Tigh-Sarain (Tisaran), but were, however, defeated, and Malachy, the son of Edmond Mac Coghlan. David, the son of Felim, son of Donagh, and Torlogh the son of Fergal, son of Conor, with many others, were slain on the 4th of the Nones of October."

Again, the *Four Masters* inform us, that when O'Melaghlin and Edmond a Faihi or Fahy, invaded Delvin in 1548, " Edmond Fahy encamped before the castle of Fedan for the space of eight days, and Cormac Mac Coghlan, who was in the castle, was compelled to give him hostages, after which he and Edmond made a gossipship with each other." It appears that Mac Coghlan must have been in hostilities with the English for some time after this, as we are again informed, that in 1551, " A great court was hold in Athlone, and Mac Coghlan having repaired thither, obtained his pardon, and a patent for his estate, and Delvin Eathra was put under rent for the king." Notwithstanding this, however, it seems that in 1554 " a great Boroimhe (cattle tribute), viz., three hundred and forty cows, was allotted and levied on Delvin Eathra by the Earl of Kildare, as an eraic (fine) for (his foster-brother, Robert Nugent, who was killed by Art, the son of Cormac Mac Coghlan."

The castle of Fadden must have been again taken from Mac Coghlan after this, for we find that in the year 1557, " The castle of Fadden in Delvin Eathra, was taken by a prisoner who was confined in it, and he delivered it into the hands of Mac Coghlan, who expelled the tribe of Fergal, and hanged the hostages on Shrove-Monday, which happened to be the 1st of March." At the same year we also learn that, " the castle of Racra was demolished by O'Melaghlin and the English of Athlone ; and after that a commotion arose between Mac Coghlan and O'Melaghlin." This castle which was also called Roughra, was not far from the present Shannon Bridge, a place not very remarkable for anything unless a good bridge there over the river Shannon, from which the name is taken, and some comparatively modern defensive works, to prevent the passage of the river from the Connaught side.

It was probably at Shannon Harbour, some four or five miles down the river, in the neighbourhood of Moystown and Tisaran, that the hostile parties of the O'Maddens on one side, and Mac Coghlan and O'Melaghlin on the other, usually crossed the Shannon. Thus we find Tisaran, where, in 1542, the Mac Coghlan overtook the O'Maddens on their return from Fadden, after having " plundered and burned the town," is on the direct way from Fadden to Shannon Harbour. In like manner Clonfert was conveniently situate on the other side in O'Madden's country, for attack by a plundering party from Mac Coghlan's territory, crossing the river here. The old name of Shannon Harbour was Ath-Crochda, Ath-Croich, or Ath-Croch, *ath* signifying a ford, and *crochadh* a hanging, grief, or vexation. This ford must have been much used from an early to a comparatively late period, by expeditions crossing the river Shannon between Siol Anmcha on the Connaught side, and Delvin on the other. Thus,

we learn from the *Four Masters* that in 1266, “ William Burke marched with a force to attack O’Melaghlin ; and many of his men were drowned at Ath-Crochda, and he was obliged to return without succeeding or gaining hostages.” Again we are informed by the same writers, that in 1547, “ O’Connor and O’Moore, after some of their clans had gone for them to Ath-Croich, crossed the Shannon, and collected a great force for the purpose of taking revenge on the English, who deprived them of their estates and properties, and they afterwards passed into Leinster.” There are several other references to hostile parties having crossed the river here, and even so late as the year 1601, when O’Neill, with several other Irish chiefs and their army, “ were expeditiously conveyed across the Shannon at Ath-Croch.”

There are likewise the ruins of several, once celebrated, abbeys and castles, in the neighbourhood of the neat little town of Ferbane, about three miles north-east of Cloghan. Ferbane is on the Greater Brusna river in the ancient Dealbhna Eathra, and is the property of John Gilbert King, Esq., D.L., whose elegant seat at Ballylin is about a mile from the town. Mr. King represented the King’s County in Parliament for a considerable time. The ruins of the monastery of Gallen, which was also called Galinne and Gailenga, are near Ferbane and the river Brusna, within the beautiful demesne of Gallen Priory, the seat of the Rev. Sir E. Armstrong, Bart. It is almost unnecessary to mention that the late respected Sir Andrew Armstrong, father of the present Baronet, represented the King’s County in Parliament for many years. Mr. Archdall tells us, that Saint Canoc, or Mocanoc, erected near the Brusna river, the “ Monastery of Galinne, in Delbhna M’Cochlain,” about the year 492, and that Felym M’Croimhain set the abbey on fire in 820, and destroyed not only the dwellings, but even the church and sanctuary. It appears, however, that some emigrants from Wales afterwards founded a celebrated school here, from which the place acquired its name, *gall* being Irish for an Englishman, or stranger. According to Mr. Archdall and the authorities he refers to, this monastery was “ spoiled and nearly demolished,” in the year 949, and it was “ again destroyed” in 1003. In 1519 it met the same fate, while the spoilers visited it again in 1531. The *Four Masters* tell us, that in 1543, Roderick O’Melaghlin and his kinsmen, “ made a nocturnal attack on Moy Gallon, in Delvin, and burned and plundered the plain. They were pursued by Malachy Balbh O’Madden, and by Art Mac Coghlan, who gave them battle at Gallen, in which Cormac O’Melaghlin, the brother of Roderick, together with thirteen men of the chiefs of his people, were slain or drowned on that occasion.” They also inform us, that when Edmond Fahy and O’Melaghlin invaded Delvin in 1548, this monastery, and the castles of Kinkora and Kilcoman were taken by them, but Mac Coghlan soon afterwards retook the castles, and expelled Edmond Fahy.

Mr. Archdall states, however, that “ notwithstanding almost innumerable misfortunes, this monastery existed when Colgan, the Franciscan, wrote, at which time it belonged to the Canons of Saint Augustin.” He also tells us, that “ the site of this abbey, together with the church, cemetery, &c., five cottages and two gardens, in the town of Gallen,” with several denominations of land, and a “ moiety of the tithes and alterages” of several rectories, including Reynagh (Banagher), “ parcel of the possession of this abbey were granted, 4th June 1612, to Sir Ger. Moore, at the annual rent of .3 12s. 2d., who was to maintain a horseman for ever on the same.” By Inquisition *post mortem* taken at Birr, the 14th of October 1619, the then late Viscount Moore of Drogheda, was found to have been seized “ of the lately dissolved monastery or abbey of Canons of Gallon, and of the site, circuit, ambit, and precincts of the same,” with a moiety of the rectories, &c., and the several denominations of land there mentioned.

The castle of Cincoradh or Kincora, now Kincor, was also near Ferbane. It has been stated that this castle was erected by Torlogh Mac Coghlan, who died in 1520, and the *Four Masters* likewise tell us, that in 1517, “ O’Carroll, *i.e.*, Maolroona, committed great depredations in Delvin, and he took and plundered the castle of Cinncoradh.” It was in retaliation for this the Delvinians, the same year, destroyed the castle of “ Fothair of

Delvin" (Garrycastle). We have already seen that the castle of Kincora, and the monastery of Gallen, were taken by Edmond Fahy in 1548, but were soon afterwards retaken from him.

At Kilcolgan, also in this neighbourhood, are the ruins of the fine baronial residence of the head of the Mac Coghlan, in somewhat later and more civilized times, than when their numerous fortified castles were inhabited. This building appears to have been erected about the 17th century. The name Kilcolgan, that is, Colgan's Church, originated, according to Mr. Archdall, from Saint Colgan having founded in the year 580, an abbey here, "in the country of Dealbhna M'Cochlain."

The abbey of Gleane or Glin, was on the river Brusna, not far from the monastery of Gallen, at the place still known as Glinn or Glynn. Mr. Archdall tells us, that "Saint Dierinit built an abbey here, which then had the name of Glinnhufann, where his festival is observed on the 8th of July;" and that in 563, "St. Comgan, whose mother's name was Ethnea, succeeded St. Diermit, and died in a respectable old age on the 27th of February this year." St. Murgenius, the abbot, died on the 27th of January, but the year is uncertain; Moelmoedoc, a learned scribe of "Gleannusen," died in 915; and in 1016, Coemcomrac, a professor in this abbey, died. In 1041, the abbey was "plundered;" in 1077, it was "destroyed by fire;" and in 1082, died Conchouran, a professor in this abbey.

Killegally is near Glinn, and as to it we learn from Mr. Archdall that St. Trena, Trenan or Trien, about the end of the fifth, or beginning of the sixth century, was abbot of Killelga or Kilalga in the territory and diocese of Meath. The ruins of several other abbeys and castles, of less importance, are yet to be seen in this neighbourhood.

About three miles from Ferbane, on the road to Ballycumber, is Lemanaghan, once a very celebrated place, and where are still the ruins of a monastery and of a castle. As to this monastery, Mr. Archdall informs us, that it was "so called in the map of the diocese of Meath, in possession of the bishop, but Sir William Petty gives it the name Levanaghane." Mr. Archdall also states, that in the year 661, "St. Manchan of this monastery died of the plague," and that we find another St. Manchan of Leth, who lived after this year. The latter was at St. Adamnan's Synod in the year 695. We likewise learn from Mr. Archdall, that "Gillebrenyn O'Rocholly, abbot of Leithmanchan," died in 1205, and he adds, that when he, Mr. Archdall, wrote (1786), "Its ruins may yet, though distantly, be seen, being surrounded by a bog at present impassable." Mr. Seward, in his *Topographies Hibernica*, written about the same time, describes the situation of this place in just the same way. The public road now passes close by the ruins at Lemanaghan, which were thus described between eighty and ninety years since, as then surrounded by an impassable bog. This place has given the name to the parish.

The very curious and celebrated shrine of St. Manchan, was for many years preserved on the altar, in the Roman Catholic Church in that parish. It was said to contain the relics of the saint. His friend, the late George Petrie, the learned antiquary, informed the writer of this work, that he had opened this shrine several years before, at Doon, in the neighbourhood, then the residence of Mr. Mooney, and that it contained some black earth and an old chalice. The shrine is of a cruciform shape, made of yew, except the base, which is of a different timber. It was originally covered with silver, and most elaborately ornamented with crosses and bronze figures. It would be impossible to fully describe here this very interesting shrine, which was constructed probably in the eighth or ninth century.

Lusmagh, part of ancient Siol Anmcha. O'Huallachain and O'Madagain, Chiefs of Siol Anmcha. Eoghan O'Madden, The "Lion of Birra." Cloghan Castle, formerly "Cloghan O'Madden." O'Moores or Moores.

THE name Lusmagh, seems to signify "the plain of herbs." The modern parish of that name, extends in a south-west direction from about half a mile of Banagher, to within something over a mile of Birr, and is bounded on the south by the Little Brusna river, which separates it from Lower Ormond in the County Tipperary. This ancient territory was heretofore a portion of Siol Anmcha or Anmchadha, Latinized to Silancia, which comprised the present barony of Longford, in the County Galway, with the present parish of Lusmagh, now part of the King's County. The district took its name from Anmchadh, one of the ancient chiefs. Although at the opposite side of the river Shannon from the present County Galway, Lusmagh was included in that county as originally formed, and appears to have so continued, as will be seen by what follows, at all events up to the middle of the seventeenth century. By Inquisition taken at Galway on the 11th of August in the year 1607, it appears the County Galway then extended to the east side of the river Shannon, and was there bounded on the south by the "River of Brosnagh," the present Little Brusna river, which separates Lusmagh from Lower Ormond on the south. For this reason, although the diocese of Killaloe joins Lusmagh on the south, and the diocese of Meath joins it on the north, Lusmagh still remains a portion of the diocese of Clonfert, in the County Galway on the opposite side of the river Shannon, to which it originally belonged.

O'Huallachaiu, Mac Uallachain, or O'Hoolaghan, afterwards Mac Coulaghan, or O'Coulaghan, and now Cuolahan. appears to have been chief of Siol Anmcha, of course including Lusmagh, in the early times.

O'Dugan thus refers to him :

"A noble chief of lasting fame
Rules over the plain of the race of Anmcha,
A valiant rough-fettering warrior,
Of keen-edged weapons, is O'Hoolahan."

There are several notices of Mac Uallachain in the Irish annals, previous to the English invasion ; and, at least once, he is called, "King of Siol Anmchadha." Since the English invasion, however, the O'Hoolaghans appear to have lost their rank as chieftains, and there is little reference to them in the annals ; while in still later years the family are found almost entirely on the east side of the river Shannon. The *Four Masters* at the year 1182, record the death of "Donal O'Huallachain, Archbishop of Munster."

An Inquisition taken before Sir Charles Coote at Kilconnell, the 26th of September 1617, found that "Brian M'Cooleghan is seized of fee, of Bally-mac-Couligan, and that Hugh M'Cooligan is seized of Cogrune ;" and this Inquisition also found that several others of the family held lands in the neighbourhood. Another Inquisition, which was taken at Philipstown the 13th of March 1637, found that the then late Queen Elizabeth was seized in right of her Crown of part of "Ballyviccollaghan," the land of Melaghlin Duffe M'Donnogh M'Coullaghan "slain in rebellion," and also of one quarter of land called "*le quarter de Cograne*" likewise in Ballyviccollaghan, part of the possession of John M'Coullaghan, also "slain in rebellion." This Inquisition states, that these lands were then, 1637, part of the County Galway. Dr. O'Donovan gives the descent of the family down to their progenitor Uallachan, the 15th from Maine Mor ; and he again continues it from Carroll Mac Cuolahan, who lived towards the end of the sixteenth century, to the late Henry Cuolahan of Cogan, who, according to Dr. O'Donovan, was head of the name. Since Mr. Henry Cuolahan's death,

his brother, Mr. Bigoe Armstrong Cuolahan of Cogan, should therefore be the chief representative of this ancient family.

O'Mudagain, or O'Madadhain, anglicised to O'Madden, appears to have been chief of Siol Anmchadha at a later period than O'Hoolaghan. The O'Madagain's were of the race of Clan Colla, and took the name from Madudan More, one of their ancient chiefs. There are many of this sept referred to in the annals, from which we will give a few extracts. Thus, in the year 1201, according to the *Four Masters*, "Murrogh O'Madden, chief of the half of Siol Anmchadha, received a wound in his head from an arrow, of which he died;" and in 1235, "Madden O'Madden, lord of Siol Anmchadha," died. In 1336, Eoghan O'Madden "defeated the clan Rickard Burke, and many of their people were slain, viz., sixty-six in number." This Eoghan O'Madden, who was 19th in descent from Eoghan Buac, appears to have been one of the most remarkable of the O'Maddens. The name Eoghan is Latinized Eugenius, and in English is Owen. Eoghan O'Madden was chief of Siol Anmcha twenty years, and the *Four Masters* at the year 1347, record that "Owen O'Madden, chief of Siol Anmcha, died, and was succeeded in the chieftaincy of Siol Anmcha by his son Murrogh." The *Annals of Clonmacnoise* have his death at the year 1346. This is the "Lion of Birra," who, according to a poem written by an ancient poet in his lifetime, and addressed to himself, defeated the men of Ormond in battles fought at Ballaghanoher, in Lusmagh, and at Lorrh. This poem gives the pedigree from Eoghan Buac to Madugan, and pompously described the Eoghan who died in 1347, as "a man with the courage of a true lion, the Lion of Birra, with the venom of the serpent, the Hawk of the Shannon, a tower which defends the frontiers, a Griffin of the race of Conn of the Hundred Battles, a large man of slender body, with a skin like the blossom of the apple trees, with brown eyebrows, black curling hair, long fingers, and a cheek like the cherries." The poet also compliments Mac William's daughter, "of the fair hand and curling tresses," the noblest woman he had seen in his time. She seems to have been O'Madden's wife.

The *Four Masters* tell us, that Murrogh O'Madden (son of Eoghan), "lord of Siol Anmcha, the most provident man in his own territory, and of the most valiant hand and best government," died in the year 1451; and, in 1479, "The monastery of Meelick was founded by O'Madden, on the banks of the Shannon, in the diocese of Clonfert, for Franciscan Friars, in which he selected his own burial place." In 1556, "O'Madden, *i.e.* John the son of Breasal, lord of Siol Anmcha, was slain by Breasal Duv O'Madden, and two lords were appointed over Siol Anmcha, namely, Breasal Duv and Malachy Modardha." In the year 1566, "O'Madden, *i.e.*, Malachy Modardha, the son of Malachy, son of Breasal, died; he was learned in Latin and Irish, and the most inoffensive of the chiefs of Ireland in his time, the defender of his land and territory against the invasion of neighbours, the pillar of protection of women, of the poor, of the weak and destitute; and he was succeeded by Donal, the son of John O'Madden." In the year 1585, this Donal O'Madden attended Queen Elizabeth's Irish Parliament. The *Four Masters* also tell us, that in 1595, a great commotion arose, in which the O'Maddens were engaged, and "Meelick of O'Madden" was taken and demolished, and "Clonfert of St. Brendan" was plundered and spoiled, Stephen Kerovan or Kirwin, the bishop, being taken prisoner. Amongst those then engaged, was "Owen Duv, the son of Malachy Balv O'Madden, from the district of Lusmagh."

Cloghan Castle in Lusmagh, was heretofore a strong-hold of O'Madden's. It is about three miles south from Banagher, situate partly between the Shannon and Little Brusna rivers, and is the property of Major Grogan Graves, of the 82nd Regiment. This is one of the oldest inhabited castles, in Ireland, and is said to have been erected about the time of King John. It was generally called "Cloghan O'Madden," although it is named "Poghan" on Sir William Petty's maps. The following extract given in the Appendix to *Tribes of Hymanie*, from the MS. journal of Sir William Russell, Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1595, which is now in the British Museum, shows the importance attached to this castle nearly 300 years ago, and gives

some idea of the rough and fierce manners of those now long passed times. It is also curious as a specimen of the diction and spelling of the period. The transaction referred to appears to have taken place about the same time as the taking of Meelick, &c., above mentioned.

“Thursdaie, 11 March 159^{5/6}. From Rathingelduld my Lord rode to Cloghan, O’Madden’s castle in Losmage before which hee encamped, in cominge to which we passed through a straight pace (pass) of 4 miles in length. O’Madden himself beinge gone out in action of rebellion, and had left a ward of his principal men in his Castle whoe assoone as they perceaved my Lord to approach neare, they sett three of their houses on fire, which were adioyneinge to the Castle, and made shott at vs out of the Castle, which hurt two of our suldiers and a boye. And beinge sent to by my Lord to yield vpp the Castle to the Queene, their answeere was to Capten Tho. Lea, that if all that came in his Lordship’s Companie were Deputies, they would not yield, but said they would trust to the strength of their Castle, and hoped by to morrowe that time that the Deputie and his Companie should stand in as great feare, as they then were, in texpectinge, as it should seeme, some ayde to releive them. That night my Lord appointed Capten Izod to keepe a sure watch aboute the said Castle, for that a mayne bog was adioyneinge therevnto, and appointed the Kearnei with certain soldiers to watch there, least they should make an attempt to escape that way. About midnight my L. visited the watch and vnderstandinge of some women to be within the Castle, sent to them againe, advised them to put forth their women, for that hee intended the next morninge to assault the Castle with fire and sword, but they refused soe to doe, and would not suffer their women to come forth.

“Fridai 12. My L. continued before the Castle, and as preparation was makinge for fire workes to fire the Castle, one in Sir Win. Clarke’s companie beinge nere the Castle, by making tryall cast vpp a fire brand to the topp of the roufe which was covered with thatch and presentlie tooke fire, and burned the roufe which greatlie dismaide them, wherevpon the alarum was stroocke vpp, and whilst our shott plaid at their spike holes, a fire was made to the grate and doore which smothered many of them, and with all the souldiers made a breach in the wall and entered the Castle, and took manie of them alive, most of which were cast over the walles and soe executed. And soe the whole number which were burnd and kild in the Castle were fortie sixe persons, besides two women and a boye which were saved by my Lords appointment.”

Appended to this account of the capture of “Cloghan O’Madden,” is a list containing “the names of such cheife men as were kilde in the Castle of Cloghan O’Madden at ye winninge thereof.” Most of those named in this list appear to have been of the O’Madden family, but there is also in it, “Melaghlin Duffe M’Coleghan of Ballymacoleghan, gent. ; Captain of shott, and his two sonness.” This appears to be the person whose property was disposed of in 1637, just 43 years afterwards, pursuant to an inquisition, which found that he had been “slain in rebellion.” Here is a fair example of the manner in which property changed owners in Ireland heretofore.

The journal from which this account of the capture of O’Madden’s castle is taken, cannot, it is true, be received as an impartial authority as to the particulars, although it is sufficient to show, that something of the kind then occurred there. There is no doubt but the place was attacked more than once, and as some confirmation of history, it may be mentioned, that when excavations were being made in front of the castle, some years since, several male human skeletons, having the appearance of being there a long time, were dug up. Some cannon shot were found there at the same time, and inside the castle, the bones of a human hand in a fine state of preservation, have been found covered in the plaster, which was being removed from an inner wall.

In the reign of Charles II., Cloghan Castle, there called “ Cloghane-castle,” and part of Ballymac-Coolahan, called “ Bally-M‘Modlaghan,” with several other lands, were granted to Garrett Moore, and in this grant also, Lusmagh is stated to be in the County Galway. There having been reference more than once in this work to the O‘Moore or Moore family, a few observations concerning them will be excused. This family claimed to be descended from Rory Oge O‘More, or O‘Morth, the warlike Dynast of the ancient Leix. It is true, the grant of Cloghan Castle was to Garrett Moore, and not O‘Moore, although some of the family afterwards used the “ O” but, however it may be as to Irish descent, there is no doubt but the family is old and respectable. The branch which settled at Cloghan Castle, was, more than once, united by marriage with the noble house of D‘Burgh. On the last occasion Colonel Garrett Moore of Ball Bries, in the County Mayo, and Cloghan Castle in the King’s County, married Margaret D‘Burgh, daughter of the sixth Earl of Clanrikard, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Walter, Earl of Ormond. The family was thus likewise allied to the noble descendants of Theobald Fitzwalter, the first Butler of Ireland, to whom Ely O‘Carroll including Birr, and Ormond, were granted.

The late respected Hubert Butler Moore, of Shannon Grove, in the County Galway, was representative of a younger branch of the Cloghan Castle family. His mother was Maria, Lady Dunboyne, widow of the twelfth Baron Dunboyne. Colonel O‘Moore, who commanded the Clanrikard Chasseurs, at the review of the Volunteer Corps at Birr in 1784, was uncle to the late Mr. Moore, whose father was adjutant in that gallant and patriotic corps. The burial place of the family is at Meelick, on the bank of the river Shannon opposite Lusmagh, where, as already mentioned, O‘Madden, dynast of Silancia, founded a monastery. At the vault of the O‘Moore or Moore family here, there is a slab with a Latin inscription, which in English is, “ Here lies Sir John More my grandfather who died in the month of May 1631. Also here lies Dame Margaret More otherwise De Burgo my wife who died in the month of February 1671 daughter of Richard Earl of Clanricarde in whose memory I Garrett More Colonel in the king’s army and faithful to the last have caused to be constructed this Tomb in which others of my family are also interred.” It is almost unnecessary to mention, that this was the Colonel Garrett Moore, or More, of Cloghan Castle, who has been already referred to.

This castle appears to have been generally held for the Irish, during the civil wars of the 17th century, and there seems to have been more than one conflict during these troubled times, between its defenders and the English garrison at Birr. On one occasion, after the battle of Aughrim, the troops from Birr took possession of the fort of Banagher, and of Cloghan Castle ; and a garrison, under the command of Lieutenant Archibald Armstrong, was then left in the latter place.

The early history of the town of Birr, or Parsonstown : with the particulars of remarkable events there in more recent times, also the towns of Nenagh, Roscrea, Banagher, Tullamore, Philipstown, Frankford, Shinrone, Kinnetty and Ballyboy and the ancient septs, princes, and celebrated places of the surrounding country (1875)

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