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THE
TRIBES AND TERRITORIES

OF
ANCIENT OSSORY;

COMPRISING THE PORTIONS OF
O'HEERIN'S AND O'DUGAN'S TOPOGRAPHICAL POEMS

WHICH RELATE TO
THE FAMILIES OF THAT DISTRICT.

ENLARGED FROM THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE KILKENNY ARCHÆOLOGICAL
SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1850.

BY
JOHN O'DONOVAN, LL.D., M.R.I.A.

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1851.

THE TRIBES AND TERRITORIES

OF

ANCIENT OSSORY.

GILLA-NA-NAEMH O'HUIDHIRIN (Gillananaeve O'Heerin), from whose Topographical Poem the following extract is printed, died, according to the Annals of the Four Masters, in the year 1420. His production was intended, as he himself informs us, as a supplement to another celebrated Topographical Poem, by Shane More O'Dugan, chief poet and historian of Hy-Many, who died in 1372, and who had given an account of the ancient Irish families of Meath, Ulster, and Connacht; and a brief notice of those of Leinster.

O'Heerin's Poem gives an account of the principal families of the ancient Leinster and Munster, and the districts occupied by them. It consists of seven hundred and eighty lines or verses; beginning "Tuille feara ar Eilinn Oí," i.e. "Additional Knowledge on Sacred Eirinn." See *O'Reilly's Irish Writers*, p. cxix.

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¹ The Barrow, Երբ, explained, Երբ Երբ Երբ, i.e., the dumb or silent river, in the Dinnsenchus.

² *Ancient streams.* This clearly alludes to its tributaries, which frequently cause it to overflow its banks.

³ *Heroes of Leinster.* Ossory is usually distinguished from Leinster. The people of Ossory are sometimes called *Fionn-Mhuimhugh*, i.e., fair Munstermen. See note 44.

⁴ *Of my heart*, i.e., "dear to me," a common Irish idiom.

⁵ *Mac-Gillaphadraig*, now Fitzpatrick. Patrick Vincent Fitzpatrick, who believes himself to be the head of this race, and Felix Fitzpatrick, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, who married Miss Colclough, are now (next after the illegitimate son of the late Earl) the most distinguished members, *clari homines*, of this family. But Malachy Fitzpatrick, who is clerk to Sir Matthew Barrington, says that he is of an older sept than either of these gentlemen; he cannot, however, show any proof of his descent. I believe that Felix Fitzpatrick can prove his descent from the old stock of Ossory, as well as his relationship to James Freney and Cardinal Wiseman.

⁶ *Bregian fort*, i.e., Tara, a *tasteless* compliment to the king of Ossory, to indicate his regal grade.

⁷ *From Bladhna out to the sea*, i.e., from Slieve-Bloom to the Meeting of the Three Waters, opposite Cheek-point, County of Waterford.

⁸ *Brave is his battle over battles*, or brave his battalion above battalions.

⁹ *Urries*, i.e., sub-chiefs. Shane O'Neill contended in England that all the chiefs of Ulster were Urrihs, or sub-chiefs, tributary to himself.

¹⁰ *Chiefs, taoisigh*, i.e., leaders, or commanders of smaller clans.

¹¹ *Liathdruim*, another name of Tara, introduced here in very bad taste. It

Pass the Barrow¹ of ancient streams,²
 After [describing] the heroes of Leinster³
 To the tribe of the level land of my heart,⁴
 To the beautiful host of Ossory.

Mac-Gillaphadraig⁵ of the Bregian fort,⁶
 The land of Ossory to him is due,
 From Bladhna out to the sea,⁷
 Brave is his battle above battles.⁸

Urries⁹ and heavy chiefs¹⁰
 I mention under this hero of Liathdruim,¹¹
 From the Barrow to the plain of Munster,¹²
 To the king of Tara¹³ it belongs to cement them.

The head chieftain of the fruitful cantred
 Of the delightful Coill-Uachtarach¹⁴
 Is O'Dubhshlaine,¹⁵ hospitable the man,
 From the mountain of most beauteous rivers.¹⁶

O'Cearbhaill¹⁷ for whom the trees are ruddy,¹⁸
 O'Donnchadha¹⁹ of honest aspect
 (Whose firm hosts possess the fruitful land),
 Are two kings in the same direction.

would improve the context much to insert *Roighne*, the old name of Kells, in Ossory, in place of *Liathdruim*. Thus:—

URRIŪ IR TAOIRIŪ FINE
 LABHOM FA LAOC MARIŪE ROIŪNE.

¹² *Plain of Munster*, i.e., Magh Femhin, in the south-east of the County of Tipperary.

¹³ *King of Tara*. This means Mac-Gillaphadraig, and not O'Melaghlin, for which O'Heerin deserves some rough castigation. Originally, however, I believe that Ossory was specially under the protection of the king of Tara.

¹⁴ *Coill-Uachtarach*, i.e., Upper Wood. The Ordnance Survey has erected this territory into a separate barony in the Queen's County.

¹⁵ *O'Dubhshlaine*, i.e., O'Dulany, now Delany, a name still common in this territory. *Dubh-Shlaine*, i.e., the Black Man of the river Slaney, *nomen progenitoris*.

¹⁶ *Beauteous rivers*. *Invers*, the term used by O'Heerin, is wrong, because the Nore and Barrow, which rise in this mountain, have their *invers*, or mouths elsewhere. He should have said "*in which the lovely sister rivers have their fountains or sources*;" but we must allow him his own terms. He evidently puts *invers* for rivers by bardic license.

¹⁷ *O'Cearbhuill*, i.e., O'Carroll; but different from O'Carroll of the race of Oilíoll Olum, seated in Ely-O'Carroll, at the Munster side of Slieve-Bloom, now a part of the King's County.

¹⁸ *Trees are ruddy*, i.e., with fruit. Such was O'Carroll's righteous rule that God blessed the fruit trees on his account. This tract is included in the barony of Gowran.

¹⁹ *O'Donnchadha*, now Dunphy. It is anglicised like Murphy, from

Լայն յե Բարձա աղ Կրսայ՝ տօրայծ,
 Իյ յա արձե աշ Կհալօճայր,
 Քար ծա Կօմէօճա ծր Պօլճ Պալ
 Օ'Դոնքհաճա յլօղ Յաբայր.

Օ Կիլլ-Կալոյիճ յա յ-Կլօճ Կ-Կօլ
 Կօ Տլաճ յ-Կալճե աղ Կնուշ Բէլ-Կօլոյ
 Կլալոյ Այ Կհարձալլ, ծ'աղմիղ մալր,
 Կիւ աղ Կալոյ Կհարճալր Կօճլայճ.

Կ-Ալ-Փաճ Օրմայճե աղ Բալոյ ճե,
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 Կի Բաճալա Բաճ աղ Կլայր,
 Քար ա Կարաղա Օ'Բրաճայր.

Պաճ Բրաճոյ աղ Բարալոյ լոյլլ,
 Ար յա Կաղմայճ Կալոյիճլոյ,
 Կիւ յլաղ Բա ծօլճ Կաղմ ա Կա,
 Օ'Բրճիճե ար Պալճ Բար Տէճոյա.

Ե Պալճ լաճա յա Լարճ ճե,
 Օ'Բաճայր, Բարձա աղ Բիւ,
 Պօր աղ ծաճայճ ար ծիճ ծալճ,
 Ծօ լիղ Բաճա Օ'Բաճայր.

Օ'Պոնքհաճա. The head of this family founded Jerpoint Abbey in 1180. I knew an old man of this sept, who lived near Gaulskill. He was always called Shane O'Donoghue; but his son is now called Dunphy. The latter form of the name is considered *genteel* in Ossory, but *plebeian* in Kerry, where O'Donoghue is considered noble. Such is the whim of custom!

²⁰ *Magh Mail*, i.e., the plain of Mal. This was the name of O'Dunphy's territory situate in that part of the barony of Gowran lying along the Barrow. After the English invasion the O'Dunphys removed to Clandonagh, now a part of Upper Ossory, in the Queen's County.

²¹ *Gabhra*n, now Gowran. O'Dunphy lived at Gowran till driven from thence by the English. The O'Caellys, or Kellys, afterwards had some property here.

²² *Cill-Chuinnigh*, i.e., St. Canice's church, now Kilkenny. Ledwich says that this name signifies "wooded head near the river" (*Antiq.* 2nd ed. pp. 6, 382); but Ussher gives the true derivation (*Primord.* p. 957). See also *Lanigan*, Vol. II., p. 202.

²³ *Sliabh g-Cuithle*. This was the name of a mountain, or rather mountainous grounds, on the confines of the territories of O'Carroll and O'Dunphy, in the barony of Gowran; but no trace of the *name* (which would be anglicised Slieve-Gahill, or Slie-Cahill) is now to be found.

²⁴ *The sea is smooth*, i.e., whenever he goes to sea he lays the storms. The Irish chiefs had nearly the same influence over the elements as the Irish saints, though both were of the *genus irritable*, according to Giraldus.

²⁵ *Ui-Duach*, now Idough. This territory, which was otherwise called *the cantred of the Comar*, from *Comar* (now Castlecomer), the chief residence of its chieftains, comprised the whole of the present barony of Fassadineen, and a considerable part of that of Galmoy.

Near the Barrow of fruitful border,
The king of the district, ye have heard,
Is the man, who is elected over Magh Mail,²⁶
The fine O'Domchadhla of Gabhran.²¹

From Cill-Chainnigh²² of the lime-stones,
To Sliabh g-Caithle²³ of beauteous slope
Is the plain of O'Cearbhail for whom the sea is smooth,²⁴
Land of the green rich grassy carpet.

Ui-Duach²⁵ of Ossory of the warm soil,
The fair, wide plain of the *Féoir*,²⁶
Not easily passable is the wood of the plain,
Its protecting chieftain is O'Broenain.²⁷

Mac Broein²⁸ of the *fast* land
Over the Clanns I commemorate,
A fine district of beauteous nuts;
O'Broithe²⁹ over free Magh Sedna.³⁰

In Magh-lacha³¹ of the warm hill-slopes,
Is O'Faclain³² of manly tribe,
Extensive is the district due to them
Which the O'Faclains have peopled.

²⁶ *Plain of the Féoir*, i.e., of the river Nore, which flowed through the ancient Ui-Duach. This line is valuable.

²⁷ *O'Broenain*, now Brennan. The head of this family is unknown. Some of them are Quakers at Mountmellick, Queen's County! Dr. Brennan of Dublin, commonly known as "*the Wrestling Doctor*," was believed to be the head of the race in the beginning of this century. He was a poet of no ordinary sarcasm. He left a son, who recovered his property, which was involved in law.

²⁸ *Mac Broein*, now Breen. The situation of the Clanns is not determined; perhaps the barony of Knocktopher may be the district alluded to. A branch of this family settled in the County of Wexford.

²⁹ *O'Broithe*, now Brophy,—there are several of this name in the County of Kilkenny.

³⁰ *Magh Sedna*, so named from Sedna, the progenitor of the O'Brophys, was comprised in the present barony of Galmoy, in the County of Kilkenny, but nothing has yet been discovered to fix the boundary between it and Ui-Duach. Sometime after the English invasion, O'Broithe was driven out of Magh-Sedna, and he settled under the protection of Mac-Gillaphadraig in Upper Ossory, at a place called from him *Baile-Ui-Bhroithe*, now anglicised Ballybrophy, situated not far from Borris-in-Ossory.

³¹ *Magh-lacha*. The plains of Magh-lacha and Magh-Roighne are comprised in the present barony of Kells, in the County of Kilkenny. According to Colgan (*Trias Thaum.* p. 625), Magh-lacha contains the parish church of Cill-Bhrighde major, and the chapel of Cill-Bhrighde, and according to the Festilogium of Áengus the Culdee, Magh Roighne contains the church of Cill-Flinche, now Killinny, a townland in the parish and barony of Kells, in the County of Kilkenny.

³² *O'Faclain*, now Whelan and Phelan, a name still common all over the

Ór Mhaíḡ Mírb, ríorhíeann co ríe,
 Ó' Caibdeanaíḡ cláir éorlle
 Ceann ḡac corhíe an ríor ríoráíḡ,
 I ḡ-cíorhíe Chóirle Ó' ḡ-Caítoráíḡ.

Fuaru Ó'ḡloiaru, ḡécc mír
 ḡríochá céd do éríech mírí,
 Fíearann mírí rí Chállairí chaoí,
 ḡíu ḡan cállairí do éacḡaoí.

Uí Bearríeann an bhuíḡ buíḡ—
 Rí na críche Ó'Caolluíḡe,
 Cláir na ríeáíḡa ar ríom do éí,
 An ríorhíe ó' Bearríe bíaoíḡ-ḡíí.

Rí Ó'-í-Éíre na í-eacíḡaí ríeann,
 Ó'ḡíuadairí, bíle híleann,
 Críoch ḡáíríeac ó'í ríom túíle,
 Mairí ríorhíe maíḡíeac Míaoíḡuíḡe.

County of Kilkenny. The O'Faelains of this race are to be distinguished from those of the Desi-Mumhan, in the present County of Waterford.

³³ *Magh-Airbh*, i.e., the plain of Arbh (a man's name), a territory comprised in the present barony of Cranagh, in the County of Kilkenny. See *Circuit of Muirheartach Mac Neill* (published by the Irish Archæological Society), p. 39.

³⁴ *O'Caibdeanaigh*, now Gaffney, and sometimes Kavanagh.

³⁵ *Coill-O'g-Cathosaigh*, i.e., Wood of the O'Caseys, was a large wood in the plain of Magh-Airbh, but no trace of the name is now preserved. It would be anglicised Kill-o-Casey.

³⁶ *O'Gloiairn*. There are some traces of this name at present in the name O'Glorin; Clorin, Claran, or Clerrin may also represent it. It is to be found in the King's County, but I do not remember it in Kilkenny.*

³⁷ *Callann*, now the King's River. There are two other rivers of this name in Ireland, one in the County of Kerry, in Munster, called Callainn-Glinne-Ua-Ruachtain, and the other in the County of Armagh, in Ulster. The present "Liberties of Callan" formed a portion of the sweet cantred of O'Gloiairn lying on both sides of the Callann.

³⁸ *Ui-Bearrchon*, now Ibercon. It is to be remarked that O'Heerin makes this comprise the three old baronies of Ida, Igrine and Ibercon, while at present Ida sinks the other two names. Of the three old baronies now comprised in Ida, that called Igrine contained Tory-hill (Sliabh-Igrine), Gaulskill, Gaulstown, &c. Ida contained the central portion of the same barony, and Ibercon contained Ross-Ibercon and the northern part. A family of the name of O'Dea,† or O'Day, was highly respectable in Ida down to the time of Cromwell. The head of this family was locally called an Ríorhíe Deaḡaí, i.e., the Knight O'Dea, and the ruins of his house were to be seen about thirty years ago near the meres of the townlands of Scartnamoe and Carriganurra, in the parish of Kilcolumb, barony of Ida, and County of Kilkenny. See Ordnance map, and "*Names of the Gentlemen inhabiting the County of Kilkenny with the Value of their Lands*," in the Carew collection of MSS., at Lambeth Palace, No. 611, p. 87. It should be here remarked, that according to local tradition the

* The name, Glory, is found in the City of Kilkenny.

† The Ui-Dea EAST and WEST, were under the special patronage of St. Moling. The eastern Ui-Dea were seated in the deanery of Oday, barony of Gorey, County of Wexford.

Over Magh-Airbli,³³ I now mention,
Is O'Caibhdeanaigh³⁴ of the woody plain,
Head of every meeting is the steady chief
At the head of Coill-O'g-Cathosaigh.³⁵

O'Gloiairn,³⁶ the fruitful branch, has got
A cantred of a sweet country,
The smooth land along the beauteous Callann,³⁷
A land without a particle of blemish.

Ui-Bearrchon³⁸ of the yellow mantle—
King of that territory is O'Caelluidhe,³⁹
Plain of a tribe, who return heavily,⁴⁰
The land over the bright-flowing Barrow.

King of Ui-Eirc⁴¹ of slender steeds,
Is O'Bruadair⁴² scion of the flood [the Suir],
A sandy territory of heavy floods,
Like the champaign land of Maenmhagh.⁴³

heads of several families under the Earls of Ormonde, were knights, like the Knights of Glyn and Kerry, under the Earl of Desmond. Of these the most conspicuous in this barony were Gaul-Bourke, O'Dea, Denn and Freney, and in Galmoy, Archdeacon or Mac Odo. The last head of the Archdeacons was always locally called *Sir*.

³⁹ *O'Caelluidhe*, now always, but incorrectly, Kelly.* I knew John, son of Kieran O'Caelluidhe, and his sons Thomas and John, who lived at Rochestown on the Barrow. They were very honest, decent farmers, but never heard that their ancestors were chiefs of Ibercon! The late Rev. Mr. Brennan, a native of the City of Waterford, a Roman Catholic priest of very refined learning and eloquence, was the grandson of Kieran O'Caelluidhe above referred to. They had a particular veneration for St. Kieran of Ossory. According to an Irish poem attributed to O'Dugan, O'Caelluidhe was sometimes chief of all Ossory from Slieve-Bloom to the sea; but this family sank into insignificance after the English conquest; only one small family seated near Gowran having retained any kind of hereditary estate.

⁴⁰ *Return heavily*, i.e., loaded with spoils from the territories of their enemies! I wish the meaning were "plain of a tribe whose sown crops give heavy returns."

⁴¹ *Ui-Eirc*, i.e., *nepotes Erci*, now the barony of Iverk, in the south-west of the County of Kilkenny, washed by the river Suir, which divides it from the County of Waterford. This sandy territory is the richest part of the County. The inhabitants were till recently wealthy and well-fed, and were called *Dur-nauns*, or churls, by the Munstermen. This epithet, or soubriquet, is said to have been originally bestowed by St. Patrick, on account of the cold reception he got from St. Kieran, at Rathkieran in this barony.

⁴² *O'Bruadair*, now Broder, Brothers and Broderick. This name still exists, but there is scarcely one respectable man of the name now in Iverk, nor is there one in the barony who ever heard that O'Bruadair was the ancient Milesian chieftain.

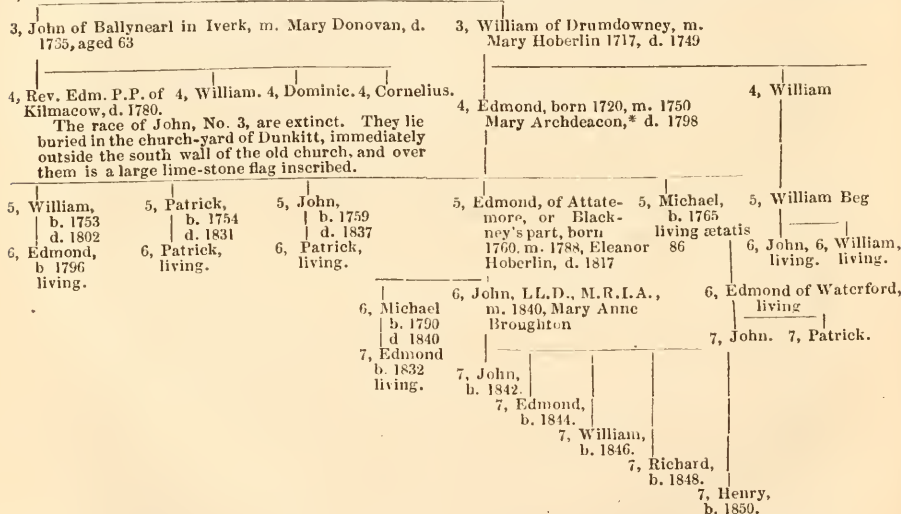
⁴³ *Maenmhagh*, to which Iverk is here compared, was the ancient name of a

* The names O'Ceallaigh, O'Caelluidhe, O'Ceile, O'Cadhla and O'Caela, are often confounded: O'Ceallaigh is properly Kelly; O'Caela is now Kyley; O'Ceile, Kealy; and O'Cadhla, Keely. Such are the whims of custom!

Ար քօր Օրմաճե ալ քսրոյ ձաօրն,
Ար 5-cumա ձօրոյնե Եաթաօրն,

level district around Loughrea, in the present County of Galway, much celebrated by the Irish poets for its fertility; but I would venture to state, that Iverk is not honoured by being likened unto it, for O'Bruidair's sandy territory is far more beautiful and more fertile than the Firbolgian and Lallyan territory of Maenmhagh; but Iverk had no poets to celebrate its amenities. The only persons distinguished, *locally*, for learning who were natives of this barony at present known to tradition, were Edmond (son of John, son of Cornelius) O'Donovan, P.P. of Kilmacow, who died in 1780, the Rev. Francis Donovan, of Kilmacow, a Franciscan friar, and Mr. James Scurry, of Knockhouse, a good Irish scholar. Michael Donovan, Esq., M.R.I.A., now of 11, Clare-street, Dublin, the celebrated chemist, was born at Kilmacow, in this barony about the year 1788. He is the son of John, son of Michael, son of Michael Donovan, of Kilmacow; and it will not be attributed to Clan-feeling on my part to express the opinion that he is the profoundest philosopher that the Milesian Irish race has yet produced, and that though he has not succeeded in a worldly or lucrative point of view, he is infinitely superior in originality, profundity, and research, to those on whom favours have been showered by the state. I am exceedingly sorry to have to record that I have not the honour of being his relative, or even of being of the same sept of the race of Heber. The Rev. Francis Donovan was of his sept, i.e., Calry of Cashel, but the Rev. Edmond O'Donovan was of mine, i.e., Uí-Cairbre Aeva. The latter and I stand related thus:—

- 1, Edmond O'Donovan, of Gaulstown, and Bawnlahan, near Castletownshend, in the County of Cork, killed at Ballinvegga, March 18th, 1643, m. Catherine, d. of William Gaul Bourke of Gaulstown, County of Kilkenny
- 2, Cornelius of Ballymountain, m. Rose Kavanagh of Ballyleagh, County of Carlow



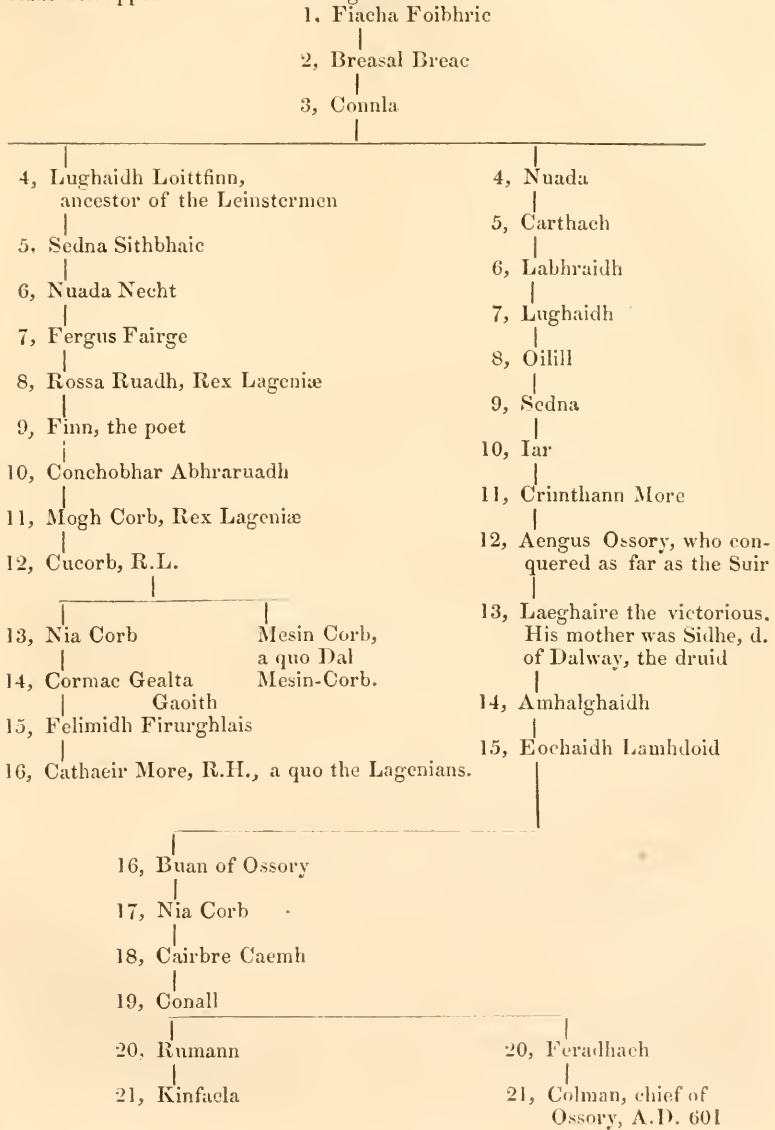
⁴⁴ *Clans of Cathaeir*, i.e., the families descended from Cathaeir More, king of Leinster and Monarch of Ireland in the 2nd century. These were O'Conor Faly, O'Toole, O'Byrne, Mac Murrough (now Kavanagh), O'Dunne, O'Brennan, O'Rian, O'Dempsey, and various other families. See the Will attributed to this Monarch, printed in the *Book of Rights* (published by the Celtic Society),

* Mary Archdeacon, my grandmother, was the daughter of John, son of Patrick, son of Pierce Archdeacon, alias Mac Odo, of Erek, in the County of Kilkenny. See *Annals of the Four Masters*, Ed. J. O'D., A.D. 1544, p. 1188, A.D. 1600, p. 2159, and Appendix, p. 2482.

After visiting Ossory of beauteous land,
After enumerating the Claims of Cathaír,^{4†}

where the Editor, by an oversight, forgot to observe that it was written in imitation of the will of the patriarch Jacob in the Old Testament (*Genesis*, c. 49.)

The Ossorians are not of the race of Cathaír More, but descended from Connla son of Breasal Breac, son of Fiacha Foibhric, from whom Cathaír More was the 16th in descent. The relationship of the Lagenians and Ossorians will appear from the following table:—



Scannall na Gaoithe co Shíle Rí,
 Síle co Ríogh-²haid úir Feirmh.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 22, Scanlan More, i.e., the Great | 22, Scanlan,
the friend
of St. Columbkille. |
| 23, Laigne Failidh, i.e., the Gay | |
| 24, Bieue Caech, i.e., the Blind, or one-eyed | |
| 25, Colman More | |
| 26, Ronan Righfhlaith, or Regal Chieftain | |
| 27, Crunnmhael | |
| 28, Faelan, or Phelan | |
| 29, Cucerca | |
| 30, Anmchadh, or Animosus | |
| 31, Amhalgaidh, or Awley | |
| 32, Ferghal, or Farrell | |
| 33, Dunghal, or Dunnal | |
| 34, Cearbhall, or Carroll | |
| 35, Ceallach, or Kellagh | |
| 36, Donnchadh, or Donough | |
| 37, Gillaphadraig, slain by Donovan, son of Ivor or Ifars, king of the Danes of
Waterford, A.D. 995 | |
| 38, Donnchadh, R. Lageniæ, obiit, A.D. 1039, ancestor of O'Dunphy | |
| 39, Domhnall, founder of Jerpoint Abbey | |
| 40, Gillaphadraig | |
| 41, Scanlan | |
| 42, Domhnall Clannach*, i.e., of the Clanns or tribes | |
| 43, Domhnall of Magh-Laeighse, i.e., of the Plain of Leix | |
| 44, Geffry Bacach, i.e., the Lamé | |
| 45, Geffry Finn | |
| 46, Domhnall | |
| 47, Domhnall Dubh | |

* "Donnate Clonaghe Mac Gilpatricke was a peerless warrior in Anno 1219."—*Campion*.

Pass we (nor wonder at it) to the Suir
Westwards to the fair rich plain of Feinhin.

48, Finghin, or Florence
 |
 49, Finghin
 |
 50, John
 |
 51, Brian *na luireach* (loricarum)
 |
 52, Sen-Brian Finghin.
 |
 53, Brian Oge
 |
 54, Finghin
 |
 55, Tadhg 55, John
 | 56, Finghin, or Florence
 | 57, Col. John Fitzpatrick,
 | living A.D. 1666.
 58, Brian, living in 1666.

O'Dugan, who mentions *only* the great families of Ossory, sets down the Clann-Cearbbaill, the Clann-Donnachdha and Mac-Gillaphadraig, as the kings in their turn; and the Ui-Bruadair, Mac Breens, and the Ui-Broenain, as three families of Munster, inhabiting, the one Uibh-Eirc, the second the *Clanna*, and the third the *Comar*, i.e., Castlecomer, the head residence of Ui-Duach. It is highly probable that the *Clanna* or Clanns, were seated in the barony of Knocktopher, and that they were supplanted by the Breathnachs or Walshes.

A great number of Cromwellian families were settled in the County of Kilkenny, who got considerable estates, forfeited by those Anglo-Irish families who opposed the peace of Ormonde, and had fought against him at Ballinvegga, 18th March, 1643. The Archæological Society of Kilkenny ought to investigate the exact amount of forfeiture in Cromwell's time, and the restorations under the Act of Settlement and Explanation. The families of Bishopp, Dyas, Snowe, Caroline, Furnish, Oberlin, &c., were settled in the barony of Ida in Cromwell's time; and it is curious to observe, that nearly all these families, are now either extinct, or reduced to plebeianism. My great-grandfather William, who was proud almost to madness of his maternal descent from the Kavanaghs and from Sir William De Burgo of Ballydooley, was in the habit of telling old Robert Snowe of Snowhill, that he (Robert Snowe) was descended from a weaver, who came over with Cromwell and his pick-pockets; and Snowe, who was a very sensible man, was wont to reply that all bloods were equally red *and equally old*; and that it would be found that all bloods were good or bad according to the kind of food the possessor used. To this William was wont to reply, that the families settled by Cromwell in Ida had never any food but what they either stole or earned by mean trades. These feelings of ancient pride and family distinction, which certainly have retarded the progress of industry, existed to a late period in the County of Kilkenny, but the late famine has nearly obliterated them. The ancient Irish were the first stream of population from Asia, and they retain the traces of primitive shepherd rudeness, and patriarchal feelings.

THE EXTENT OF ANCIENT OSSORY.

The following short poem, describing the original extent of Ossory, is ascribed to O'Dugan :—

O Bheairbha go Siuir riarair
 O rriairde an fúinn áirid-áiridair,
 O Bhladhma buig go ráile,
 Cuib do'n Bhanbha ir brian-áille.

O Glairre-an-ionachair ar
 go Barle Dairtí ó at-éomair,
 Leicéad O rriairde ar é ríu,
 Síné fan corruirle cairtair.

O Mhullaic-Jheona fáil,
 Cuib O rriairde d'íat Sairlian
 Do éiric Fíorinn go Leic-áirinn ríu,
 Neiréirín an ríorinn d'a ríogairb.

Slíocht Chonnla éirída éiréadair
 Áir ríorinn ríarín re Mhúirneadair,
 Córín ríorinn-Mhúirinn go ríad ríu,
 Láir d'fíorinn-buirínirín ir d'áirid-áir.

Ní bairé, ó Bheairinn Eirle
 go Connán-áirinn-rén r-réirbe,
 Slíab Bladhma air fad ir é ríu,
 Sairda é a n-am lair Láirén.

Slíab Bladhma caom or a éirinn,
 O rriairde, ór áiridair Eiríorinn,
 D'Eiríorinn d'áir éirín mair cairt Sall
 Áir cairt réir air áir fíorinn.

¹ *Bearbha*. See note 1, p. 4, *supra*. It has its source in Sliabh Bladhma, or Slieve Bloom.

² *Siuir*, i.e., the sister. It has its source in Sliabh Alduin in the County of Tipperary, and unites with the Barrow and the sea, about one mile below the City of Waterford. Ossory originally comprised the entire region lying between the Barrow and the Suir; but that portion of it at present contained in the County of Tipperary was wrested from the Ossorians by the race of Fiacha Suidhe, brother of Conn of the Hundred Battles, in the time of Aengus Mac Nadfraich, king of Munster, who was slain, A.D. 489. See Keating's History of Ireland, reign of Cormac Mac Airt.

From the Bearbha¹ to the Siuir² westwards
Extends Ossory of high sunny land,
 From the soft *Bladhma*³ to the sea,
 The most irriguous fair part of Banbha.⁴

From Glaise-an-ionathar⁵ forth
 To Baile Daithi⁶ in re-measurement,⁷
 Is the breadth of Ossory,
 Of aspect how like to loveliness.

From Mullach-Inneona⁸ the hospitable,
 Is Ossory's part of the land of *Gailian*⁹
 Of the country of Flann, eastwards to *Leith-ghlinn*,¹⁰
 Fearless the division *is defended* by its kings.

The race of brave and plundering Connla¹¹
 Were at all times dividing with Munstermen,¹²
 It is right to call them fair Munstermen,
 Full of fair mansions and high fame.

³ *Bladhma*, i.e., Sliabh Bladhma. See note 7, p. 4.

⁴ *Banbha*, one of the ancient names of Ireland.

⁵ *Glaise-an-ionathar*, i.e., the stream of the entrails. This was evidently the ancient name of the "Munster river" which divides the County of Tipperary from that of Kilkenny.

⁶ *Baile Daithi*, i.e., the town of Dathi or David, now Ballydavis, in the parish of Straboe, barony of Maryborough, and Queen's County. See the Ordnance map of that County, sheet 13. The ancient Ossory comprised the three districts called the Three Comanns, which extended northwards to Baile Daithi, until the time of Gaoithine Mac Cinaeth (ancestor of O'More), who attached them to Laoighis or Leix, in the beginning of the ninth century.

⁷ *Re-measurement*, this is the measurement of the territory of the Ossorians since they lost Magh Feimhin, which their ancestor Aenghus Osraidheach (i.e., Aengus of Ossory, No. 12, in the pedigree, p. 11, *supra*), had won from the Munstermen. From this period forward Ossory is referred to as the western portion of Leinster, *occidentalis Lageniensium plaga*.

⁸ *Mullach-Inneona*, now Mullaghinony, a townland in the parish of New-chapel, in the barony of Iffa and Offa East, in the County of Tipperary. Keating states in his account of the reign of Cormac Mac Airt, that the Ossorians were defeated by the Deisi at this place, and routed from thence into Leinster.

⁹ *Gailian*. This was one of the old names of Leinster.

¹⁰ *Leith-ghlinn*, i.e., half glen, now Old Leighlin, in the County of Carlow.

¹¹ *Connla*, i.e., Connla son of Breasal Breac, the common ancestor of the Ossorians and Leinstermen. See No. 3, in the pedigree, p. 11, *supra*.

¹² *Dividing with the Munstermen*. The kings of Munster claimed jurisdiction over Ossory as far as Gowran, while the Ossorians contended that their territory should extend to the river Suir, so as to embrace the whole of Magh Feimhin. The territory is still traditionally considered a part of Munster by the natives of Ulster and Connacht.

It is no falsehood; from *Bearnan Eile*¹³
 To *Conlan-Cinn-Sen Sleibhe*¹⁴
 Is the entire of *Sliabh Bladhma*,
 Which is a protection in the time of Leinster's weakness.¹⁵

Sliabh Bladhma, the fair, is over the head
 Of Ossory, above the heights of Eirinn,¹⁶
 To [each sept of] Eirinn by the poets,¹⁷ like the charter of
 the English,
 Is given their own charter for each land.

¹³ *Bearnan Eile*, i.e., the Gap of Eile, now the Devil's Bit, in the barony of Ikerrin (originally a part of Ely-O'Carroll), and County of Tipperary. This shews that the ancient Irish gave the name of Sliabh Bladhma to the whole chain of mountains extending from the Devil's Bit to near Clonaslee in the territory of Iregan, Oregan, or O'Dunne's country, now the barony of Tinnahinch, in the Queen's County; and hence Keating is wrong in his criticism on Cambrensis, who had written that the Three Sister rivers, Suir, Nore, and Barrow, had their sources in one mountain.* See Haliday's edition of the first part of Keating's *History of Ireland*, preface, pp. 28, 29, 30.

¹⁴ *Conlan-Cinn-Sen Sleibhe*. This was the old name of the north-eastern extremity of Sliabh Bladhma, now the Ridge of Cappard, in the barony of Tinnahinch, Queen's County.

¹⁵ *Leinster's weakness*. The fastness of this mountainous region is frequently referred to in Irish history. In the petition of Dr. Charles Dunne, of Trinity College, Dublin, to the Lord Deputy and Council, A.D. 1608, he remarks, that "Teige Reaghe O'Doyne, sonne to Margaret, daughter to Shane O'Neyle, is not a fitt ruler over so strong a contrye, and so fitt for rebellion, as Iregaine is." See a paper MS. in Marsh's Library, Dublin, Class V. 3, tab. 2. No. 20, pp. 221—231.

¹⁶ *Above the heights of Eirinn*. O'Dugan is very erroneous here, if by *above the heights of Eirinn*, ὅρ ἄνωγῃς Ἐρρινου,† he means actual altitude, for *the cone*, or highest top of Sliabh Bladhma, is only 1676 feet above the level of the sea, whereas Carrantuohill at Killarney, in Kerry, is 3404 feet.

¹⁷ *By the poets*, i.e., the poets have, in their poems, recorded the territories with their boundaries, and the families to whom they belonged, with as much truth and certainty as the charters granted by the kings of England, since the Anglo-Norman invasion, have recorded and defined the estates granted by them to the Anglo-Norman settlers, or to such Irish families as have submitted to their authority.

* The poet Spenser has also been censured for making the Three Rivers the sons of the Giant Bloomius. See the *Faerie Qucene*, Canto XI.

† The highest ridge of the Slieve Bloom range, lying over the Gap of Glandine to the S. E., is still locally called the Height of Ireland, i.e., Ἀπὸ ἡς ἡ-Ἐρρινου; but the inhabitants of the district always use the English term, the Irish language being totally forgotten even in the deepest glens of Sliabh Bladhma. The view from the Height of Ireland comprises fifteen Counties, and is perhaps the most extensive and richest in Ireland.—J. G.



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