



Clerical and learned lineages of medieval Co. Clare

A survey of the fifteenth-century papal registers

Luke McNerney

'Students of Irish church history, Gaelic cultural history, Irish historical geography, family and local history are all indebted to Luke McNerney for such a detailed and intensive examination. Never before has the evidence for Co. Clare been brought together in such a comprehensive and detailed manner, and employed to answer such fundamental questions about medieval Irish church and society. This will certainly remain an invaluable reference work for many years to come.'

Katharine Simms, Trinity College Dublin

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Medieval & Early Modern history; Church history; Gaelic Ireland

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This book is a timely and refreshing look at Robin Flower's proposition that there was an unbroken link between hereditary learned families and the medieval Irish Church. The book takes this as its core argument and marshals an array of sources to develop the proposition by surveying 15th-century church appointments in Co. Clare. It reveals how extensive those connections were in medieval Co. Clare and, despite the reform of the Irish Church in the 12th century, that there was no clear severance between the ecclesiastical world and the custodians of the native monastic church. The old clerical lineages remained material elements in the structures of the medieval Irish Church, alongside members of the learned class and the aristocratic families who sought preferment in the ranks of the church as a staging post for their political ambition. This survey provides a template for bringing all of these disparate points together by using an array of original source material – Latin, Gaelic and English – to understand the social and political milieu of the Church in Gaelic Ireland.

This book contains genealogical pedigrees of many Clare families, as well as extensive appendices useful for genealogical research into the families of Clare, and will be of interest to the historian, archaeologist and genealogist alike.

Luke McNerney is an independent researcher with a particular focus on the late medieval history of Gaelic Ireland. He has published in *The Other Clare*; *The North Munster Antiquarian Journal*; *Archivium Hibernicum*; and *Seanchas Ardmhacha*.

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