

Ancient Cork Septs & Territories

The Ancient and Present State of The County and City of Cork.

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BOOK I.

Containing the Ancient Names of the Territories and Inhabitants, with the Civil and Ecclesiastical Divisions of this County, etc.

I conceive it is the business of a writer who describes a country to relate his observations without ornament, and in so plain and simple a manner, that a person who may afterwards view the places described, may be put into the easiest way to see what the author relates. A laboured elegance of style, beautiful turns of period, and a studied connection of all parts of a discourse, will, undoubtedly, render such descriptions most pleasing to a reader of a polite and classical taste ; but if he designs to be more than a reader, and to consider his author in another light than as a writer of romance, that is, if he designs to have recourse to the originals from whence those descriptions were taken, he will soon observe the difference between a native simplicity and the additional ornaments of a descriptive style. Some, indeed, affect a Ciceronian style in description ; but were Tully himself to paint a country, he certainly would avoid a florid diction on such a subject. In my description of places I have constantly endeavoured to draw the picture as like the original as possible ; this, to me, was the most easy, as well as the most pleasing part of my task ; for, as M. Paschal observes, “ Curiosity is little better than mere vanity ; for the most part, we desire to see things, that we may relate them. Few would undertake such dangerous voyages and travels for the bare pleasure of entertaining their sight, if they were bound to secrecy on their return, and for ever cloistered from conversation.”—Paschal’s Thoughts.

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Of the Ancient Names of the Territories and Inhabitants of this County

PTOLEMY [1] places several people in this country, since known by the names of the counties of Cork and Desmond, and calls them Coriondi, Udiæ, or Vodii, Velabori, and Uterini, which seem to be a corruption of the name Iberni, and are, according to Baxter [2], only synonymous names for one and the same people. The Coriondi, whose name still bears some affinity to the Irish name of this tract, were the inhabitants of the middle part of the county, particularly near the present city of Cork. They seem to be derived from the ancient Coritani, a British tribe, whom Cambden places in Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Lincolnshire, &c ; or, according to that other celebrated antiquarian, Lhuyd, who makes them only to be a small colony inhabiting Lincolnshire ; but whether our Coriondi be a colony of the British Coritani [3] or not is, at this distance of time, no very easy matter to determine. It is certain that many of the ancient British people retired into Ireland upon the invasion of the Romans, in the reign of the Emperor Vespasian, about the year of Christ 76, during the government of Petilius Cerealis in Britain. And Cambden adds that they fled hither ; some for the sake of

ease and quietness ; others to keep their eyes untainted with the Roman insolence ; and others, again, to preserve their liberty.

The Irish, to this day, call all marshy places, bordering on rivers, corcass grounds. The boats made of wattles, covered over with raw hides, in which the old Irish, as well as the ancient Britons, used to sail, were called, in the Irish tongue, curraghs ; in the old British, corcog, which comes very near the Irish name for Cork, viz. Corcach, signifying, in the Irish language, a marshy place, or rather a naval place, or a place for curraghs, *i.e.* “ boats” [4] Hence the Latin name of those people, Coriondi, *i.e.* “ navigators,” from corion, leather. The Welsh, to this day, call skins Crugh, from the Greek Χρῶς, and also in the Latin, Corium. If we may give any credit to the old Irish chronicles, the first who made use of leathern boats in Ireland was Eochaid Vairceas, king of Ireland, A.M. 3394, the surname Vairceas signifying an open skiff, or boat. They add, that this prince was banished two years before he came to the throne, but, with a number of his followers, kept the sea [5] in several vessels, from which he often landed his men, to spoil the inhabitants, in these kind of boats. They are mentioned, as a sort of miracle, by Festus Avienus, [6] describing the Oestrymindes, or isles of Scilly.

Non usque navibus turbidum late fretum
Et belluosum gurgitem oceani secant,
Non hi carinas quippe pinu texere,
Facere morem non abiete, ut usus est,
Curvant phasello : sed rei ad miraculum,
Navigia junctis semper aptant pellibus,
Corioque vastum sæpe percurrunt salem.
Yet not in ships they try the wat'ry plain,
And rouse the shapeless monsters of the main.
For neither galleys fram'd of lofty pine
They know to make, nor weaker fir to join
In barks ; but wondrous ! skins to skins they sew ;
Secure in these to distant regions go.
And pathless seas with keels of leather plow.

The method of making those boats is also described by Lucan [7] thus :

Utque habuit ripas Sicoris, camposq ; reliquit,
Pnum cana salix, madefacto vimine, parvam
Texitur in puppim, cæsoque induta juvenco
Vectoris patiens tumidum superenatat amnem.
Sic Venetus, stagnante Pado, fusoque Britannus
Navigat oceano : Sic cum tenet omnia Nilus,
Conseritur bibula Memphitis cymba papyro.

Cæsar the champaign leaves, and spreading ground,
When Sicorean waves his troops surround ;
The twisting willows to the keel he joins,
And reeking hides cements, and close the lines.
Proud of their crew, they waft them to the shore,
Such Venice knows, such Britons had before,
And such as river Nile to Memphis bore.

From Cæsar's own description of this passage in his Commentaries, it appears that he had learned the method of making these boats from the Britons. For, says he, “ cum in his angustiis res esset, atq ; omne, vice ab Afranianis militibus, equitibusq ; obsidirentur, imperat

militibus Cæsar, ut naves faciant, cujus generis eum superioribus annis usus Britanniaë docuerat. Carinaë primum, ac statumina ex levi materia fiebant, reliquum corpus navium viminibus contextum Coriis integebatur, &c.” When things were brought to such extremities, and all the ways were guarded and shut up by the soldiers and horsemen of Afranius, Cæsar ordered the soldiers to make such boats as he had seen used in Britain formerly : The keels whereof were made of light stuff, and small timber, and the upper parts formed of osiers, covered with hides. And Pliny [8] says, “ ad eam Britanni vitulibus corio circumsutis navigare.” We have an example also of another place taking its name from a boat or vessel—viz. the country of Liburna, being a part of Croatia, from Liburna, a kind of ship used by these people.

The Vodii or Udiæ were a people which Baxter [9] will have to inhabit the inland parts of Munster. They took their name from their situation in a woody country ; the British words Vydheiu, Guydieu, denoting wood. Ptolemy, if the maps handed down to us be his, places those people on the coast, between the mouths of the Lee and Avenmore (which last I take to be the Daurona of that ancient geographer) S. of the Coriondi. So that the great Cambden’s conjecture, for placing them in the county of Kilkenny, founded only in the likeness of the sound of the words Vodii, or Udiæ, to Idou or Idouth, a territory in that county, comprehending the modern barony of Fassaghding, cannot be admitted ; as the position of that barony is very remote from the S. coast of Munster : nor need we seek elsewhere for those Vodii, than in the very spot assigned them by Ptolemy, viz., the barony of Imokilly ; which, in the Irish tongue, signifies the woody territory ; the same as the word Vodii, a latin termination of the British Vydheiu, also means. The chief place in which tract is Youghal, in old writings called Ochella, derived from the words O-chill, or Y-chill, “ the place of a wood.” In all ages, whole countries, cities, and towns have been denominated from trees ; as Cyparissa in Greece, Cerasus in Pontus, Laurentum in Italy, Myrhinus in Attica ; as also ports, mountains, and eminent places ; as the Viminalis, Æsculetum, &c., probably, from the spontaneous growth and abounding of such trees in the respective soils.

Ptolemy places, near the Notium of Munster (which is now called the Missen-head, and, in Irish, Mullavogy-head), a people named Vellabori ; in some copies of this geographer they are called Ουελλεβοροç, and also Ουελβοροç. We can neither seek for the origin of those people, nor of the former, as they both take their names from the nature of the country ; for Bel or Bel Abor, in the old British, signifies “ the head of a bay,” probably Biar or Bear-head.

The same geographer calls those people, which inhabited the more western parts of this county, viz. about Bear-haven and Bantry, Uterini ; and, in some editions, Iberni. That these Iberni had their origin from the Iberi, or Spaniards, who, by the Irish writers, have been said to send early colonies into Ireland, is very probable ; not only from the affinity of the name, but also from those parts of Ireland lying nearer and more opposite to the Spanish coast than any other. The distance between Cape Ortugal in Spain and Cape Clear in Ireland being but 150 leagues, almost opposite to each other N. and S., and as far as to Ushant in France, which is two-thirds of the way, may be, in a manner, coasted, the usual method of sailing in those remote ages ; they not daring to venture far to sea, not having the use of the compass to steer by, but observing the sun by day and the stars by night to direct them. Yet, notwithstanding these difficulties, many of the ancients undertook long voyages, as the Phenicians and Carthaginians, which last nation had many colonies in Spain, who often sailed to Britain and other northern climes. Certain it is, that in Aristotle’s time [10] the Greeks had some notion of this island, which limited their knowledge of the western world. I make no doubt but the northern and eastern parts of Ireland were peopled from Britain, those parts lying opposite and contiguous to each other, the navigation being short and safe, even in open boats. Yet, if all the kingdom was originally inhabited this way, it would be hard to conceive how there should remain such a diversity of manners, customs, and dialects, between the northern and

southern parts ; which diversity being common to all the other nations of Europe, can be owing to nothing else but to the different colonies they were first peopled with.

I should not dwell so much on this subject, but that many modern English writers treat this colony of the Iberi, under Milesius, as a fable. But the contrary appears from the testimony of all the old Irish MSS. which, like other early histories, are blended with truth and fable ; besides, the remains of the Irish tongue is still spoken among the Vascones and Cantabrians, as is shown by Llhuyd in his Archeologia, where we may also meet with many singular customs of theirs, which agree with the Irish ; as wearing bonnets, short skeins, or durks. In Cantabria, the peasants still wear Irish courrans, or rough shoes, without heels ; use their pipes, tunes, and ways of dancing ; and, in their shape and features, resemble the tall, thin make, and black, slender hair, of our Momonian Irish ; a very different kind of bodied men from the squat, short, thick-limbed people of the eastern coasts, resembling the Welsh, from whose country they undoubtedly came. [11]

Having given some account of those people mentioned by Ptolemy in this country, I shall next collect together what I find, by any good authority, related of the ancient Irish septs, dispersed in this large county, with the names their different territories went by, before the arrival of the English,

Cork, before the arrival of the Strongbonian conquerors, was a kingdom of itself, the kings of which were the Mac Cartys, that family being found in possession of it by the English. Diarmuid who was MacCarty More, king of Cork or Desmond, swore fealty, gave hostages, and subjected his kingdom to a yearly tribute to King Henry II. in the year 1172. [12] This kingdom comprehended all that tract of country from Lismore to Brandon hills, in the county of Kerry, where they face the eastern parts of that county. Besides the county of Cork, and the western parts of Waterford, it also comprehended another county, formerly called Desmond ; which county, being now a part of those of Cork and Kerry, it may not be amiss to mention its extent It was divided into three tracts : 1st, Clancare, which lay next the sea, between the bay of Dingle and Kilmaire river ; 2nd, Bear, lying between that river and Bantry ; and 3rd, Iveragh or Evaugh, situated between Bantry and Baltimore. There was also another part of it, which lay near the Shannon, being the small barony of Iragticonner. Desmond, in the Irish language, signifies South Munster.

The Irish antiquarians allow but eight families of royal extraction in Munster, of which they place four in Carbery, [13] which comprehended all the S. W. part of this county : And these were, besides the Mac Cartys above mentioned, O'Mahon or Mahown, O'Donovan and O'Driscoll. [14] Those Mahowns derive their pedigree from Kean Mac Moyle More, who married Sarah, daughter to Brien Boruma, king of Munster, by whom he had Mahown, the ancestor of all that sept. For, in that king's reign, surnames were given to the Irish, and were commonly deduced from the name of their principal ancestor, with O or Mac annexed. It is from this Kean that the village of Iniskean, in Carbery. has its name : and from this sept, that Bandon is called sometimes Droghid Mahon. and the tastle near it, Castlemahon The head branch of the family resided in West Carbery, and were called O Mahownfune, *alias* Owinyerer, or " of the west," where they had many castles, the chief of which were at Ardintenant and Three Castle-head. [15] This family had also anciently possessions in part of the modern barony of Muskery, viz. the parishes of Kilmurry, Moviddy, Caneboy, Aglish, &c., which bore the name of Ive-flan-lee, from Flan, one of the Mahonys nursed there, who conquered almost all this tract, as appears from those ancient Irish lines :

O Glaise crithe fuair flan
Na ciocha thuaig adteorinn
Mar ar shaig cuan achros

Gan Chios uatha ach deaglais.

West from the stream of Glaiscrithe brook,
To Muskery's paps, where holy Patrick struck
His crosier ; thence unto the southern main
The conquering Flan o'er all this tract did reign.
No rent, or tribute, for this land he paid,
But to the church alone, his offering made.

From this Flan descended Beake ; from whom, according to the Munster Annals, the territory of Kinalmeaky [16] took its name, which was anciently part of Carbery. [17]

The family of O'Donovan [18] was the next mentioned as allowed to be of royal extraction ; their territory, in this county, went formerly by the name of Clancahill, a part of West Carbery, comprehending the large and mountainous parish of Drumalegue, and other tracts, in which parish they had their chief residence, at Castle-Donovan. This family came hither from a barony in the county of Limerick called Coshma, where they built the famous castle of Crom, which afterwards fell to the Kildare family, and from which the motto Crom-a-Boo, still used by that noble house, was taken. The representative of this ancient family has his seat at Banlaghan, in West Carbery. Another ancient sept, also said to be of royal extraction, are the O'Driscolls, [19] who took this surname, as they pretend, from Heidersgoil, son of Fin, who sprang from Ith, son of Bregoon, which Ith they will have to be uncle to King Milesius. Other antiquarians, with more probability, say they had their name from Conary More Mac Eidriscoll, king of Ireland. But be that as it may, this sept had possession of a large tract, both in this county and in Kerry, called Iveragh, and also Cothilia, in old Irish records, being a very considerable country on the S. W. coast. They had in it several strong castles, viz. Dunashad, now Baltimore ; and opposite to it, in the island of Inisherkin, Dunelong castle, in which island Sir Florence O'Driscoll founded a Franciscan abbey, anno 1460. The island of Cape Clear also belonged to them, the castle of which place, together with all their other castles, were, by Sir Fineene O'Driscoll, delivered up to the Spaniards, anno 1601, but were retaken by the English two years after. In order to ingratiate himself with Queen Elizabeth, a fleet of English ships of war were supplied, for a considerable time, with fresh provisions by this Sir Fineene O'Driscoll, who also nobly entertained all the captains and other officers in his castles. The queen being informed of it, pardoned his joining the Spaniards, and sent for him to court. But, before he arrived there, the queen died ; and, during his absence, great part of his possessions were intruded into by Sir Walter Coppinger, which caused this ancient family to fall to decay.

I have already taken notice that the Mac Cartys were kings of Cork, but the chief of this name in Carbery was Mac Carty Reagh, who was also the chief person in the whole territory of Carbery. He is not only in the Irish chronicles, but also in several patents and records, styled Prince of Carbery ; and it is certain that he enjoyed a chief rent, more or less, out of the greatest part of this barony, computed to be 300*l.* per annum, which, for the most part, was paid in hogs, beeves, sheep, and the like, and was counted a greater and more noble chiefrie than was received, in those times, out of any other seigniory in Ireland.

It is also manifest, from the honourable marriages [20] and noble alliances of this family of Mac Carty Reagh, that it was always esteemed amongst the most considerable in Ireland ; nor was there any of this house in rebellion against the crown of England until the unhappy year of 1641 ; which makes it strange that so great a man as the head of this house was had then but 1200*l.* per annum. But the Irish give two reasons for this : the first is that the younger sons of the family had drawn off many tracts from the patrimonial estate ; and another that, in the infancy of Daniel, who was called Ni-pipy [21] (who was Mac Carty Reagh by tanistry),

his uncle, Sir Donogh Mac Carty, gave his own son, Florence, a better estate in Carbery than he left to the heir, or than his son got by Mac Carty More's daughter. For he gave him Tough Carriganassig, containing 12 ploughlands ; Tough Mountain, being 7 ploughlands ; and Tough Iniskean, 12 ploughlands. So that he left Mac Carty Reagh only the 10 ploughlands of Kilbritton, [22] 3 of Coolmain, 2 of Downtaniel, 4 of Ballynadee, 1 of Burrin, 2½ of Gorticlogh, now Skibbereen, 1 ploughland of Knockandee, and some other parcels, besides his chief rent

Of all the Mac Cartys of Carbery, the above-mentioned Florence Mac Donogh was the most famous. He was a man of extraordinary stature, and of great policy ; he had competent courage, and as much zeal as anybody, for what he imagined to be true religion and the liberty of his country. He married Ilen, daughter and heiress to the Earl of Clancare, [23] and, purely by his merit, dispossessed her bastard brother, Donald, of the name and title of Mac Carty More, which he himself assumed, by the unanimous suffrages of Tyrone, the clergy, and the people ; this is the more strange, for in Ireland they usually preferred bastard sons before daughters, in order to preserve the name and the family, as in the Roman adoptions, and to defend the country. For this marriage, without the queen's licence, this Florence was sent to the Tower of London, where he was kept eleven years ; and then, being set at liberty, he joined in Tyrone's rebellion.

The other clans of the Mac Cartys in Carbery, and their territories, were, first, the branch of Clancrimine, so called from Mac Crimin, a sept of the Mac Cartys, whose seat was at Ballynorohor, anciently one of the best castles in this county, which he justly forfeited, together with his life, for a barbarous murder by him committed, anno 1641. A second branch of the Mac Cartys. possessed a tract, called Glawnacrine, being the parish of Fanlobush, now Dunmanway, near which place they had their residence, in a castle lately demolished by Sir Richard Cox. This family was famous for extravagant hospitality, a practice formerly much applauded in this county. The last of this house was called Teige O'Downy, who, besides the fore-named castle, had another, which is still standing, called Togher. A third branch of this family had the surname, or rather the soubriquet, of Rabagh, *i.e.* " the hospitable."

West of the last territory was another small tract in Carbery, called Clandonel-Roe's country, the Mac Cartys also possessed it As did another small branch of the same name, a little territory to the east of Dunmanway, formerly called Mac Inganauras, though some give this last to the Collins's.

These were the chief Irish septs in this large barony of Carbery, which is the greatest in Ireland ; nor could I hear of any other who possessed any considerable territory in it, except the O'Crowleys, who inhabited a tract called Kilshallow, which lay west of Bandon, on the river of that name. This family derived their descent from Diarmuid, of Mylurig, in Conaught Their country, in old MSS., is described to have been woody and mountainous ; and mention is also made of a smart skirmish happening in it between the Mac Cartys of Carbery and the O'Learys of Muskery, anno 1600.

I have already observed that Kinalmeaky was a part of Carbery, as was also the modern barony of Ibawn and Barrayroe, which, though divided by an arm of the sea, comprehends but one small barony. The tract called Ibawn, *i.e.* " the fair territory," was, after the coming in of the English, wrested from the old proprietors by Lord Arundel, commonly called Lord Arundel of the Strand ; and from him it fell to the Barrymore family. There are the remains of an ancient castle on the strand of Cloghnikelty, formerly called Arundel castle, [24] but now Rine castle. Barryroe has its present name from a branch of the Barrys, [25] but anciently it belonged to the O'Cowigs, who have been quite extinguished by the conquerors ; yet there are some remains of them in a promontory called Dun O'Cowig, which was fortified with a

small old castle. They were originally descended from the O'Driscolls before mentioned. There was also a sept of the O'Donovans in those parts, named O'Hea, whose residence was at a castle called Ahimilly ; and they had a territory called Pubble O'Hea in this tract. The residence of the Barrys, in this barony, was named Rathbarry, which was a stately castle in its time ; it is now called Castle-Freke, and is the seat of Sir John Freke, bart. All this tract fell into English hands, anno 1642, being taken by Colonel Myn.

Another Irish sept, west of Carbery, are the O'Sullivans, who were distinguished into the names of O'Sullivan Bear, and O'Sullivan Bantry [26] Bear, probably, retains its name from the Iberi, before mentioned. Bantry (in ancient times named Bentraighe) was reckoned a part of Carbery, and is said to have its name from Beant Mac Farriola, a person descended from the O'Donovans and Mahonys. A son of his, called Bair Briver, possessed that small rugged tract, called by the name of Minterbairr, being now the parish of Killegrohan. I find, in latter times, the O'Dalys had this territory, who were successively bards or poets to the O'Mahon and the Carew family. O'Glavin, who was also their termon or steward, possessed a part of it. By these names, Daly and Glavin, I design the family, and not any particular branch of it. In Bantry bay there is still a place called Ardragoal, probably named from a clan of the Gauls or Celtiberi, who landed here. Ardgoal or Ardgyle, in Scotland, is the same name. A colony of the clan of Gaul, or Celtiberi, sailed over from Ireland to the Western Isles, and gave the country of Argyle, in Scotland, their name. They called that country Gael Albenich, from Old Albania, and those of Ireland, Gael Erinich, both nations, to this day, retaining the same language, manners, and customs.

Kerricurihy and Kinalea are now one barony ; the former was anciently called Muskery Millane, and was possessed by the Mac Cartys, but granted, after the conquest, to Richard de Cogan, as I shall shew hereafter. It is, in old manuscripts, called Long a Gowganig, *i.e.* "Cogan's ship," and comprehended not only the tract now called Kerricurihy, but also the barony of Imokilly, in which last the Carews, soon after the English conquest, likewise settled. In Queen Elizabeth's time it went by the name of Kerry-wherry. The other part, called Kinalea, was anciently named Insovenagh ; and, being also a territory of the Mac Cartys, was granted to Robert Fitz-Martin, by King John, [27] anno 1208. But, in latter times, it was possessed by Barry Oge.

Having thus far treated of the ancient tracts and septs of the maritime parts of this county, I now proceed to the inland territories. And first, of the large barony of Muskery, which still retains its ancient name, and was, according to the conquests of the Irish upon each other, sometimes of a greater, and, at other times, of a lesser extent Kerricurihy, called, as before, Muskery Millane, being once a part of it ; as was also Muskery Donegan, a tract lying round Baltimore. It was anciently a wild and woody country, and so continued until the days of Cambden. The Mac Cartys [28] were, for many years, the chief proprietors of it ; and so continued long after the conquest of the English ; the head of this branch being created Viscount Muskery, and Earl of Clancarty, which titles have been forfeited since the revolution.

The other Irish septs of Muskery were the O'Learys, who had a considerable territory in the west of this barony, called Iveleary, and many castles. Also the Swinys, Riardans, and Murphys, who were all followers of Mac Carty. The modern barony of Barrets was also a part of Muskery ; as was, formerly, the present barony of Barrymore.

The eastern extremity of Barrymore was called, in the English grants, the cantred of Olethan, also Ivelehan ; part of it had the name of Coshbride, which territory extended into the county of Waterford, and there still retains its name. Besides the Mac Cartys, who possessed the western part, which belonged to Muskery, the O'Lehans, an ancient Irish sept, inhabited the eastern, whose chief seat was Castle-Lehan, now softened into Castle-Lyons.

This country was granted, soon after the English came over, to the Barrys, who were, for some ages, called Lords Barry, of Castlelehan ; The Great Island, anciently called Arda-Neimhid, was also possessed by the same family.

The modern barony of Duhallow, in some old manuscripts Alia, is a large tract, of which Mac Donough, a branch of the Mac Cartys, [29] was chief. He is, in several old chronicles, styled prince of Duhallow, and lived in this country, with his followers, in great splendour, till the year 1641. His dependents were O’Kief, chief of Poble O’Kief, a country in the north-west part of this county ; Mac Auliff, chief of Clan-Auliff ; and O’Callaghan, chief of the territory called Poble O’Callaghan, [30] west of Mallow, being the present parishes of Kilshanick and Clonmeene, where the chief sept of the O’Callaghans lived, and where a descendant of the family still remains. Mac Donough’s chief residence was at Kanturk, near which are the sumptuous ruins of one of his castles. [31] Anno 13th of James I. letters patent were passed to Dermot Mac Owen Mac Carty, of the town and lands of Keantwirk, Lohort, and divers other lands, &c, containing the greatest part of the territory of Duhallow, with a chiefrie and other duties and customs, out of the territories of Poble O’Callaghan, Poble O’Kief, and the lands of Donough-Oge, with the royalties of all waifs, strays, goods of felons, court-leet, and court-baron, view of frankpledge, &c. ; a weekly market and annual fair, with power to impark 550 acres, to have free-chace and free-warren throughout the said territory, and divers other ample privileges, to be held in free and common soccage of His Majesty’s castle of Dublin. Dated at Dublin. June 6, 1615. [32]

The large tract, now known by the names of the modern baronies of Armoy or Fermoy. Orrery and Kilmore, and Clangibbon, was, before the arrival of the English, a principality of the O’Kiefs, called Fearnmuigh ; which, say the Irish antiquarians, is a contraction of Fera Muighe Fere, which Flaherty interprets, viros Mogruthii Militis ; and adds, this Mogruth was a Druid, who, for services to his prince, had those territories given him, *vid.* Ogygia, p. 336, or, according to others, it is a contraction of Fera Muigh fene, signifying “ the husbandman’s grassy plains,” and thus Colgan calls it. [33] The princes of this tract did sometimes so enlarge their territory by conquest, that this whole country, in some Irish manuscripts, is called Fermuigh, the patron saint of which was, in ancient times, St. Molac, [34] whose festival was on the 30th of January. But of this saint and his church, recorded in old manuscripts to have been so famous, there are now no traces here. The O’Kiefs of this country pretend to be descended from a brother of Feidlimid Eochaid, second son of Aongus, monarch of Ireland.

Anno 954, Donogh Mac Kief, king of Fermoy, commanded the Irish forces in an expedition against the Danes, under Kenedy, prince of Munster, whose father Callaghan, with his brother Duncan, were retained prisoners by them. Donogh, with the assistance of an Irish fleet, pursued the Danes into Ulster, and, after an obstinate battle, rescued the prisoners, who were then on board a Danish vessel. [35]

Keating mentions another prince of this territory, called Dubhagan, who was slain in a battle fought by Flan Fiona, monarch of Ireland, assisted by the Leinster forces, against Cormac Mac Cuillinane, king of Munster, in the plains of Magh Ailbhe, near Leighlin. This battle was fought about the year 908, in which King Cormac, who was also bishop of Cashel, lost his life.

Keating also says, (p. 264) that this country was bestowed, by Fiachadh Muileathan, king of Munster, upon an eminent Druid, for delivering his army out of the power of his enemy. This fable is still believed and reported in this country ; and all their antiquaries add, it was given to this Druid for causing the sun to stand still, an hour or two, till the above-named monarch’s forces gained the victory ; and so by synderosis, they will have it called Fermoy. But this country was also named Armoy, *i.e.* the “ fresh field,” and sometimes Urmagh, which

has the same signification. This territory, after the conquest, was granted to Fleming, and, by the marriage of his daughter Amy, came to the Roches, or de Rupe, who were Lords Viscount Fermoy, and anciently Barons of Poole-castle, *alias* Castlelough ; and all this tract is yet called Roche's country. [36] Another part of the ancient Fermoy, now Condons and Clangibbon, [37] was, after the conquest, granted to the Cantons, *alias* Condons, one of whom was called Baron of Ballyderawne, now a ruined castle, near the exit of the river Araglin. Orrery, after the English conquest, was possessed by the Barrys, from whom, in old records, it has been called Orriria-Barria. They had several castles in this tract, which they held till the general rebellion of 1641. The northern parts of it, near Limerick, were possessed mostly by the Fitz-Geralds, till the same time.

[1] Geograp. lib. 4.

[2] P. 134.

[3] The name Coritani might easily be changed for the word Coridani, which last our people have been called, by a mere transmutation of the letter *t* into *d*, a change frequent in language, as Alexanter to Alexander, &c., and many examples might be given of this also in the Irish was it proper to enlarge on so needless a criticism.

[4] Cork harbour was, in ancient manuscripts, called Bealach Conglac.

[5] The ancients called our ocean, by the name of the Vergivian sea ; which sea was called, by the Britons, Morveridh, *i.e.* the Irish sea , for Mor, in the British tongue, signifies the sea, and Everdhon, Ireland ; and hence Llhuyd thinks the ancient name Vergivium is derived. But Cambden will either have it from Morveridh, or Farigi or Fairrge, (the letter F being pronounced like a V consonant,) which signifies, in the old Irish the seas. Marcianus Heracletea who wrote a geogriphical treatise, in Greek prose, called ire/xir\oys, says, that Ireland has 16 nations, 11 famous cities, 5 remarkable promontories, and 15 principal rivers.

[6] De oris Mantimis.

[7] Lib. 4.

[8] Lib. 4. cap. 16.

[9] Gloss, page 283.

[10] De Mundo, cap. 3.

[11] It may not be amiss to quote a very ancient writer in this place (Prima vita sanct. Patric. scholia veteris scholiast), who says, that Eberus, Erimon, Ir, Don. Amergius, and Calptha, were the six sons of Miessius. who landed in Ireland. From Eberus sprang the Momonii, or people of Munster. From Erimon, were derived the people of Lethlenii, and the Lagenii, or people of Leinster. The Ulides, or people of Ulster, sprang from Ir. From Don, the territory of Teach Duin, in the western parts of Ireland ; and from Calptha, the river Inber Calptha was called, where the Bodanus empties itself. These ancient accounts differ much from each other ; some making only three sons of Milesius to land in Ireland, whom Keating (page 83) follows ; but the landing of these, as well as of Partholanus, they all place in the bay of Bantry, which they call Inber Sceine.

[12] Ware's Ann., p. 7.

[13] The territory of Carbery took its name from an ancient Irish Chief, so called. There were three brothers, according to the Irish antiquarians, i. Carbry Riada ; 2. Carbry Muse ; and 3. Carbry Bascoin, who are said to be sons to Fiacbad, who was brother to Eana Aighnach, Monarch of Munster. They, and their posterity, were called Earnihade Mumhan ; from the first of these, this barony is said to take its name ; and some add, that from him, or his race, Dailriadi, in Scotland, was called. The second brother is said to give his name to Muskery, as did the youngest to Corca Bascoin, a territory where the city of Cork now stands. In the reign of Oilioll Olum, king of Munster, Carbry Muse presented a poem to the king, wherein he celebrated the valour, generosity, and magnificence of that prince, who so greatly liked the performance, that he rewarded him with the two Urmhumhains, *i.e.* Upper and Lower Ormond, called afterwards, from this Carbry, Muskery, and con-

tained all the country from Ossory to Carrigneshure^{A>a//<<^}.

- [14] According to the genealogical tables added to Keating, all the tribes and septs of the O'Mahonys, in the counties of Cork and Kerry, are descended from Cas, brother to Nadfraoch, and son of Core, kings of Munster.

In an ancient life of Saint Kieran, quoted by Archbishop Ussher, Carbery is called Corcaluidhe.

- [15] *Vide* a note of the names of all the ploughlands belonging to O'Mahown-fune in Luaghe, a part of West Carbery, in the Lambeth library, L. fol. 105.

The division of the territory of Ivagh (a part also of Carbery) among the O'Mahonys may also be seen, in the manuscripts of the same library, X. X. fol. 10.

- [16] Kinalmcaky signifies the "head of the noble root." From Kean a head, Neal noble, and MecJift a root, in old Irish, probably alluding to this sept of the Mahonys.
- [17] The last of this sept, who was called Conogher O'Mahony, was slain in Desmond's rebellion, and died seized of the seigniory of Kinalmeaky.—Cox[^] vol. I., p. 383.
- [18] The O'Conailles and O'Cullinanes, also derive their pedigree from the same origin as O'Donovan. What is remarkable of this last family of the O'Cullinanes is, that it was never known without one or more physicians in it, which is remarked by Cambden; insomuch, that when a person is given over, they have a saying in Irish, *'eveD O'Cullinane cannot cure him/* Which profession stil! continues in the family.

- [19] Keating's Tables.

- [20] Donald Mac Fineen Mac Carty Reagh was married to Elinor, daughter to Gerald, the eighth Earl of Kildare, who was lord lieutenant of Ireland, anno 1496, by whom he had four sons. 1. Florence, commonly called the deaf, who died without issue male. 2. Cormac Mac Carty Reagh, ancestor to the family of Banduff, in Carbery. 3. Sir Donogh, *alias* Mac Carthy Reagh, ancestor of Charles Mac Carty More, who lived in the reign of King William, and of Donogh Mac Carty, of Carigypheeaghane, in Kerry, esq. 4. Sir Owen Mac Carty Reagh, ancestor to the family of Trale, in Carbery, and of Owen Mac Carty, lieutenant-colonel in 1689, to Mac Carthy More. Sir Donogh and Sir Owen were Mac Carthy Reagh, during their lives. Thomas, their elder brother, had issue Donal. 1.

- [21] This Donald Ni-pipy was so-called, because, in his time, some pipes of wine were cast on shore at Burrin, and consequently, were his right, being a wreck, and accordingly he had them, which, in those superstitious times, was reckoned very fortunate; the wreck being esteemed (as the Cornish men's phrase is) God's goods. His grandson, Donald Mac Cormac, was high sheriff of this county, and a Protestant, anno 1635. The additional name of Reagh was annexed to this family from the time of Donald Reagh, one of its ancestors, to distinguish it from the other family of Mac Carthy More.

- [22] Kilbritton belonged to the Lords Kingsale long before Mac Carty Reagh possessed it. For, by a composition of Walter de la Haye, the king's escheator of Ireland, anno 23, Edw. I. 1295, the manor of Kilbritton and Ringrone, with the mills, fisheries, etc., thereto belonging; the lands of Corrotsheran, Holderness, Liffynin, Tathax, Lysside, and Kingsale, in the county of Cork; and other places in the extent roll taken on the occasion, being seized into the king's hands, upon the death of John de Courcey, who was slain by Mac Carty the same year, in the island of Inchydonny (as appears by a certificate of Samuel Mollineaux, Ulster king-at-arms, concerning the said battle.) This Walter restores the said lands, &c., on a composition of 12*l.* 12*s.* to James Keating, per brevi domini regis, &c. And the said Walter de la Haye restores the country of Glynardall, and other lands in the county of Kerry, to the said Keating, for the use of the heir of the Said John, Lord Courcey. Concordat cum original in thes. infra Cast Dubl. rememb. Philip recevall, penes dominum de Kingsale.

- [23] Donald Mac Carty More, Earl of Clancare (a territory in the county of Kerry), was so created by Queen Elizabeth, anno 1566, having resigned his estate to her, and then had it restored, to hold of the crown of England, by fealty, after the English manner. He was, at the same time, created Baron of Valentia, an island adjoining. Cambden says, he was a

man eminent, of great power in those parts, and a bitter enemy to the Fitz-Geralds, who dispossessed his ancestors, kings of Desmond, of their country.

In a manuscript, called a Breviate of the Getting of Ireland, .&c., in the College library, E. Tab. 3. N. 18. Mac Carty More, of Desmond, and these following, are enumerated among the chief Irish captains of Munster, Mac Donagh, of Duhallow. O'Donogh, of Ross, by Loughlean, in Kerry. O'Donogh, of Glanfleske. O'Kief, of Drumtariff, in this county. Mac Awly, of Clan-Awly. O'Callaghan, of Clonmeene, in the same. O'Sullivan More, of Dunkerron, in Kerry. O'Sullivan Bear, of Dunboy, in this county. Mac Gillicuddy, of Doneboo, in Kerry. Mac Fyneen, of Ardentully, &c. These were all followers of Mac Carty More ; they brought into the field 60 horse and 1500 foot. They, and all other of Mac Carty's followers, with his own forces, were to be at the call of the Earls of Desmond. Mac Carty Reagh, of Carbery, could raise 300 footmen, and 60 horse-men ; his territory extended, in length, 50 miles, and in breadth, 30 miles. Those following were his followers :—O'Driscoll, of Baltimore. Barry Oge Roe, and Barry-Oge, Oge, O'Mahon, of Ardintenan, O'Donovan, Mac Patrick, O'Crowley, O'Mulrian, &c He was also subject to the call of the Earls of Desmond.

- [24] Spenser, in his View of the State of Ireland, observes, that the Lord Arundel of the Strand, who was anciently a great lord, and had an estate of 3, 500*l.* per annum, was, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a tenant to the Lord Barry, to whom he performed those services which were only due to the queen.
- [25] The greatest part of this tract is now in the Barrymore family. In the Lambeth library, MS. X. X. fol 25, are the Lord Barry's titles to the lands of Barryroe.
- [26] *Vid.* An inquisition concerning O'Sullivan's lands in Bear and Bantry, preserved among the MSS. of the Lambeth library, X. X. fol. 13. *Vid.* also an account of the particular forces of O'Sullivan in this part of the country, in the same library, manuscript X. X. fol. 105. In a manuscript, called a Breviate of Ireland, and the diversity of Irish in the same, preserved in the College library, E. Tab. 3. N. 8., wrote by Philip O'Sullivan Bear, and presented to the King of Spain, anno 1618, by Florence, titular archbishop of Tuam ; after O'Neil, and O'Donnell, the author sets down Don Dermitius O'Sullivan among the ancient Irish seculars in Ireland. This Dermot was then at Madrid, and assumed the title of Earl of Bearhaven.
- [27] Ware's Annals.
- [28] I purposely omit giving a particular account of this branch of the MacCartys, called the Clancarty family, in this chapter, as they will frequently occur in the historical part of this work.
- [29] *Vid.* a note in the Lambeth library, manuscript X. X. fol. 15, concerning the several septs and lordships of the Mac Cartys, of Carbery. Also the division of Duhallow among the Cartys, X. X. fol. 43, 97.
- [30] By an inquisition taken at Mallow, on the 25th of October, 1594, before Sir Thomas Norris, vice-president of Munster ; William Saxey, esq., and James Gould, esq., chief and second justices of the said province ; by virtue of a commission from the lord deputy and council, dated the 26th of June before, it is found, among other things, “ that Conogher O'Callaghan, alias The O'Callaghan, was and is seized of several large territories in the inquisition recited, in his demesne, as lord and chieftain of Poble-Callaghan, by the Irish custom, time out of mind used ; that as O'Callaghan aforesaid is lord of the said country, so there is a tanist, by the custom of the said country, who is Teig O'Callaghan ; and that the said Teig is seized as tanist, by the said custom, of several ploughlands in the inquisition mentioned ; which also finds that the custom is further, that every kinsman of The O'Callaghan had a parcel of land to live upon, and, yet that no estate passed thereby, but that the lord (who was then Conogher O'Callaghan), and The O'Callaghan for the time being, by custom time out of mind, may remove the said kinsmen to other lands ; and the inquisition further finds, that O Callaghan Mac Dermot, Irrelagh O'Callaghan, Teig Mac Cahir O'Callaghan, Donogho Mac Thomas O'Callaghan, and others, were

seized of several ploughlands according to the said custom, subject nevertheless to certain seignories and duties, payable to The O'Callaghan ; and that they were removeable by him to other lands at his pleasure.”

In the reign of King James I. tanistry was condemned as a lewd and barbarous custom. — Vid. Davis's Reports, p 28, &c.

[31] Penes Comit. de Egmont

[32] Upon the first of Feb 1666, it was certified, by the Court of Claims, that Sir Philip Perceval, knight, deceased, had lent more money to Dermot Mac Owen Carty, alias Mac Donough, upon the territories of Duhallow, and manor of Kanturk, than they were worth ; and that the said Sir Philip was in actual possession of them, upon the 23rd of October, 1641. That the equity of redemption, which was of no value, was forfeited by the said Dermot s engaging with the rebels, and that Sir Philip Perceval, bart., then a minor, grandson and heir of the said Sir Philip the elder, was legally entitled to the said lordship and manor.

On the 20th of Feb. 18 Car. II. 1667, the said Sir Philip Perceval, bart, passed patent for the said lordship and manor, to him and his heirs for ever.

On the 10th of December, 27 Car. II. 1675, the said Sir Philip Perceval, bart., lord of Duhallow and Kanturk, passed another patent for the said lordship and manor.

On the 15th January, 36 Car. II. 1683, Sir John Perceval, bart, lord of Duhallow and Kanturk, brother and heir to the said Sir Philip Perceval, passed another patent for the same. From whom the same descended to John, late Earl of Egmont, &c., son and heir to the said Sir John Perceval, bart., from whom it descended to John, now Earl of Egmont, &c. Lord of Duhallow and Kanturk, son and heir to the said earl.—Penes Comit. de Egmont.

[33] Act. Sanct p. 148.

[34] Ib. id.

[35] Keating, p. 548.

[36] It is said, that Roche, who married the heiress of Fleming, first ingratiated himself by killing one of the Condons, against whom Fleming employed him as his champion ; and that he slew this Condon by a cross-bow shot in the thigh ; which part happened to be uncovered, by the rising up of his cuirass.

[37] The White Knight, otherwise styled Clan Gibbon, was descended from Gislebert, or Gilebert, called, by the Irish, Gibbon ; the eldest son, by a second wife, of John Fitz-Gerald, ancestor to the houses of Kildare and Desmond. From whom also descended Mac Gibbon, of Mohawnagh. They had large possessions in this territory ; a part of which is now the estate of the Right Hon. the Lord Baron of Kingston, whose grandfather, Sir John King, was, September 4, 1660, so created by King Charles II. This first lord married Catherine, daughter to Sir William Fenton, knt., and Dame Margaret Fitz-Gerald, his wife, sole heiress to the family called the White Knights, from whom the estate is descended to the present lord.

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