List of Freeholders and Gentlemen
in Co. Limerick in 1570

Presented by J. H. PIERSE

The following is a transcription from the original list of freeholders and gentlemen in the county of Limerick, compiled in 1570 by Sir Humphrey Gilbert (and others) when he was Colonel of Queen Elizabeth's Forces in Munster, now preserved in the Carew Manuscript Collection (Vol. 635, ff. 73 and 74), in the Library of Lambeth Palace, London.

In the main, the document is self-explanatory since the persons mentioned are described together with their locality and grouped together under geographical divisions of the county, some of which more or less would appear to correspond with present-day baronies.

The existence of the list has been noticed before and a reference to the Carew MSS. Volume in which it is contained is given by Maurice Lenihan in his History of Limerick (published by Hodges, Smith, and Co., Dublin, 1836) at pages 584 and 585.

In actual fact, however, Carew MSS. Vol. 635 (comprising some 200 folios) consists principally of 'Pedigrees of Ireland' although from Lenihan's extracts it would seem to be devoted entirely to Sir Humphrey Gilbert's list.

It so happens that the present writer alighted upon the list and made preliminary extracts by mistake; at the time his interest was confined to Co. Kerry and he misread "Kenry" for "Kerry," although some of the names of the freeholders listed seemed strange for that county. During the ensuing process of checking to see if the list had been noticed before, the Lenihan reference came to light although it was at once obvious how much it had been abbreviated and modified—particularly regarding the spelling of personal and place names.

Regarding the original, the manuscript is in good condition and, in transcribing, the main difficulty lies in deciphering the handwriting of the scribe. Not that it is badly written—far from it: the writing itself is fairly regular, but of the "utility" variety devoid of flourishes, and this is where confusion comes in. For example, the scribe does not differentiate between the letters k and r, both being formed in the same way. Additionally, he employs both the long and short letter s, using them indiscriminately without regard to any convention concerning their use. Due to the absence of flourishes, a stroke / could be read as s, l, t, f, ı or j with equal claim for each letter. This ambiguity, however, may be an advantage—as far as the present writer is concerned—for he, completely ignorant of Limerick place-names and personal names, has been obliged to transcribe exactly as he sees it. To some extent, this is helpful for it goes a long way in eliminating that bugbear of many transcriptions of "difficult" hands, that of reading into a context from one's own knowledge of what might have been intended. This is borne out by comparison of Lenihan's extracts with the following, although it is evident that Maurice Lenihan also included in his extract material obtained from elsewhere in Carew MSS., Vol. 635.
The following transcription is set out in more or less the same fashion as the original:

The names of the freeholders and gentlemen in the Co. of Limericke when Sr. Humphry Gilbert was Colonnell of Her Ma's forces in Monster.

Sr. Willin Brughe of Castellconnell
Richard Brughe of Carrickgenise
Tyballt Brughe of Carrikynnell
Thomas m. Clanaghie of the guennan
Richard oge of the Lubanaghe
Donell fitz Donogh Oheyn of Kahyrelye
Teg oheyn [? obreyne] of Hew Cahirrlye [? Cahirkilye]
Richard fitz Thomas of killonan
Jhon fitz edmond of Ballysimond
Tiballt fitz davye of Carrig parson
Willm fitz Thomas of Ballincarrye
Wallter fitz Jhon of kilcullen
Morataghe m. Keogh of Klonecleef
Hubbard m. Meiler of knokmesouty
Donnell m. Kenry of Drumbany

The gent. and freeholders
of Owney multian [? mulrian]

Willm Ownlron of Anaghe
Connoghoe Ownlrian his sonne of the Craghe living 1598
Dermond Omnibrian { sonnes to Willm
Ea na Tologhe Oran brian [? Irian] { Omnibrian of
Donell Rue Omullrian
Jhon O carroll Omnibrian
Donell Omn Irian of Ballighe
Henry m. Lisaght
Wilm m. Donell Omnbrian Livinge 1598

The gent. and freeholders of
Mc Brian gonoghes Countrye

Mc Brian ogonaghe of Castell Towie Ogonghe Livinge 1598
Moriertoghe m. Brian
Connoghe m. Brian { sonnes to the aforesaid Mc Brian gonoghe
Calloghe m. Brian
Moraghe kevghe m. Teg m. Brian of Ballitasne Liv: 1598
Moraghe oge of quem [?] ogonaghe
Brian Boy m. Teg m. Brien of Castell gearl

The gent: and freeholders of the
quarters about Kilmallock

Jhon fitz Jhon of Desmond of Carrickrilled
Jhon fitzmarice of Ballinarde
James Roche of Rochester
fox ails Boxeacaghe of Bulligidene:
The Bryodeaghe of Bryodsowne [Boyodsowne]
The Pascaghe of garrynacahera
The Scullaghe of Ballinscudaghe
Jhon Browne of the Hospitall
Thomas Browne Constable of Aney
Reyne [? Keyne] Ohagan Constable of Loghgie
Thomas Hurtle of Knocklungy
Jhon Boy Roche of Killman
Me F Dunduna of Bally Witnerd [?]

The gent and freeholders of Coshemay

Wllm Leashe of the Browse and his sonn younge Wllm
Gerallt fitzmaurice of Thomas towne
David Leashe of Alleckaghe
James fitzmorrice Leashe of the Klewhir
Wllm fitz philippe of Ballyiany
Richard fox of Ballyveneghe
Thomas Lewes alls Lyeght of Drukshippe
James Lewes of Tolloghwyne
Edmond fox of Ballygrennan
Edmond Breckley of Ballicahan
Richard me Philippe of Balline
Thomas Grivkdan [? Grirddan] of Tullyoirney
Gilly duffe more of Corkyweyk
Mahon Mckigeage of Millicke
Wallter fitz edmond Balloghe of Ballinenal
Gerallt Mareschall of Rehen :

The gent and freeholders of Connologi :

Eddy Lacye of Browryc
Thomas fitz Phillippe fitz Edmund of Ballywywy
James Reoghe Leashye of the garell
Owen me Edmund me Shee of the new towne
Tirloghe me Edmund oge of Glankwyn
Willin fitz Edmund oge of Ballynarohe
Muroghe me Edmund oge
Me Gibbon of Mahonaghe
Thomas me gibbon fitz Jhon of Muohonaghe
Nicolas fitz willm of Dromin ande
gerallt fitz willm of Ballyce
David oge Kuoyne of Lismuskie
Jhon suppell of Killnmcknoghe
Peers Purcell of the Cnohe
Rory me Shee of Ballyalinan
Edmond fitz morice oge of Mugaen
Morice fitz Edmund of Rakelly
Ulicke Avale of Amenyllen
Tirloghe oge of Calloghe
Edmond fitzgerald of Buohull
fitz Thomas m. Ricard of the Pallice
Jhon fitz edmond of gautnatibund [? gortnatubrid]
Thomas fitz Jhon of Killeedie
Thomas Mc Shane Mc Tiballt of Runaseek
Mc Kininey of the twok [? twor]
David oge fitz David fitzmorrice of Newcastell
Oahunman of Castell Lyssin
Edmond Oucellen of Ballinsemterry
Edmond garcaehge of killyfyn
Moroghe mc Rory of Keelscannell
Mahon Boy of Callaghe
Jhon Lacy of Ballingarry
Willm Lacy of Ballindroghley
David mc shane Load of the great wood
Jhon mc Kennet [? Rennet] of Castell towne
David mc Donoghe of Clompasty
Thomas mc Hugohe of kidemoldy
Phillip mc Tey [? Teg] of Capinneagham
Thomas Recoghe of Lassimote
Edmund mc Thomas of freterstowne alls ferriters towne-
Edmond mc Morice of Mogun
Morice Donnonoghe of Castell mc Morice
Jhon Wuafe of Ballywillin
Jhon mc Collanaghy of BallyRobert
Thomas Dingbett [? Dinglett] of Ballydinglet
James Wall of Ballygream
Morice Wall of Bally geney
Geralit guknocke of Aungoole
Moricke mc Dermond of Argoole alls mc Lea philipston
James Ashe of Ballinecura
Moriertoghe mc Shee of Connda Browne
Willm Tancard of Ballinnowye
Richard Ridall of Ballinrydall
Edmond Wall of Clohaeney
Geralit Liston of Killcummen

The gent: and free holders of Kerry

The Knight of the Valley
Edmond fitz davey of Bally gill oghan
Thom fitzmoricc of Bally agh nina
Morice Ike [? Ire] of the Sarrywallimore
The Egtonloghe of Bulline Countye
Edmond oge of Ballinive
geralt fitzmoricce of Muane
Morrice fitz edmond of Ballmvu
Shane oge mc Shane mc Davie of Ballykahum
Dundenagh of Ballislov [? Ballislor]
Manus oge of Castell behy
Thomas fitzmoric of Eillconnor
Thomas purcell of Cailhames towne
Davy fitz philippe of the Correy
gerald fitz gibbon of Reyneywood Court
Edmond oge of Reintoucke wth his 2: broth:
Moric and gerralit
Edmond fitzwillm of Bedar
Willm fitzgerald of the pallice, Tho: his bro:
and gerald fitz Tho: his unkle
Thomas fitzwillms of Aramhire and his cosens
Willm fitz John and Jhon Nobolley his brother
Edmond oge fitz Edmond fitz Davey and his brethren
moric and philippe of Ballycnocke
Geralt fitz moric gerralit and his brother moric
of gowneleslowne
Thade mc Deneyhe of the Roche
Moric fitzgeraldt of the oldd great towne
Thomas fitzmorice of the myleestowne and his
bro. Willm
The Condon of Ballinsteyn and his unkle Thom oge
Thomas fitz Jhon fitzgeraldd of Mokynoghe Edmond
his broth:

The gent and freeholders of
Pokalbrian [? Pomalbrian]

Donogh mc Mahonoghe of Carrickgonell
Donaghe mc Donell of Dericknockan
Mahon Obrian
Tirloghe Obrian  } Sonnes to Moriertoghe obrian
Connogher Mele Obrian  
Donell Obrian  } Sonnes to Donoghe mc Mahonoghe
Connogher Obrian } O brian: supra.
Teg mc gillydufe of Allifnen
Connogher ne Carigi Obrian
Donell mc Bryan
Tirloghe Begg
Reymond mc gerralit

This booke was subscribde by
Sir Humphrey Gilbert
Jasper Hoursey
and Willm Apsley 1570

112