NAMES AND SURNAMES IN COUNTY LIMERICK.

BY REV. PATRICK WOULFE, C.C. (KILMALLOCK).

(Continued from page 24).

It will be interesting, as well as instructive, to compare the present-day surnames in County Limerick with those in use at different periods in the past. The comparison, besides throwing an important side-light on the history of the county, will enable us to distinguish our native Limerick surnames from those of extraneous origin; and in regard to the latter, it will help us to determine, at least approximately, the period when they first obtained a foothold in the county.

Before, however, we approach this aspect of the subject, it will be well to take a brief survey of the state of Irish nomenclature in former times and to note the different kinds of name that we meet with in the records.

Strictly speaking, the personal name, or as it is now often called, the forename or Christian name, is the only true name. The surname, whatever its nature—whether patronymic, descriptive, or local—is something superadded to the name, something over and above the name. Its function is to define the name and distinguish the bearer from others of the same name. In early times when the population was small and scattered there was little or no need of a surname. The name alone was, as a rule, sufficient. A man was known to his neighbours as Art, or Conn, or Niall, and as long as there was no one else of the same name in the locality the identification was complete. Personal names were of course far more
numerous then than now. We have seen that John, Patrick and Michael now give names to over forty per cent. of the male population of the county; and the total number of men’s names at present in use in Ireland does not exceed eighty or a hundred. But in early times the stock of personal names was exceedingly large, and it was by no means difficult for each individual in an average Irish community to have a distinct name all to himself. The single-name system soon, however, broke down. With the growth of population, or as one name outstripped others in popularity, namesakes were necessarily multiplied and difficulties of identification at once arose, with the result that a further distinction became a necessity.

From an early period we find the patronymic in use for this purpose. Irish patronymics were formed by prefixing Mac (sometimes softened to Mag) to the genitive case of the father’s name, or Úa (also written O) to that of the grandfather, and the Irish annals are full of designations of this character. Cormac Mac Airt (Cormac, son of Art) and Laoghaire Mac Néill (Leary, son of Niall), among the names of our early kings, are examples. Brian Boru was probably best known to his contemporaries as Brian Mac Cinnéidigh (Brian, son of Kennedy①). The Normans similarly prefixed Fitz (for fils, a corruption of the Latin filius) to denote ‘son of,’ as FitzGerald, FitzSimon, for which, when they became Irish, they substituted the Hibernian Mac. FitzGerald and FitzSimon are in Irish Mac Geralt and Mac Slomún respectively. The Welsh had Mab or Ap, cognate with the Irish Mac, as Ap Evan, now Bevan; Ap Owen, now Bowen; Ap Howel, now Powell. The English added s, as in Williams, Jones, etc. This system of naming was extremely common at every period of Irish history, and in a modified form still survives, especially in districts where the same surname largely prevails. Nothing is more common in certain parts of the country than to hear a man designated, no matter what his surname, as Maurice William, or John James, meaning Maurice, son of William, or John, son of James. The connecting word,

① Kennedy is still a personal name among the O’Briens from whom it has been borrowed by the Ryans. It is becoming very rare, but it will be a pity if it is allowed to die out.
Mac or Fitz, which down to a few centuries ago was always inserted between the two names, is now dropped; and this is true even when Irish is the language used. In Irish, however, the second name is in the genitive case with its initial aspirated if an aspirable consonant.

Another very common method of distinguishing namesakes was by the addition of descriptive epithets. These were of various kinds. Some personal characteristic, physical or mental or moral; complimentary or the reverse, the trade one followed, or the place where he was born or was fostered or lived; one or other of these—it mattered not which—gave rise to a sobriquet which attached itself to the name, and, like the patronymic, served to give increased individuality to the bearer. Epithets denoting age, size, shape, peculiarities of complexion, existed in endless variety, and even now, in Irish-speaking and semi-Irish-speaking districts, afford a ready means of distinguishing between namesakes. These second names, though quite common in all our records, Irish and Anglo-Irish, were not however surnames in the modern sense of the term. They were not fixed or hereditary, nor common to all the members of a family. The adjunct, whether patronymic or descriptive, was purely personal and ceased with him whom it particularised and to whose name it was attached.

Besides personal names, and surnames of the character just described, our Irish ancestors had from an early period, and even from pre-historic times, a complete system of fixed clan-names. The political and social organisation was tribal, and each political and social unit—each clan and its sub-divisions—had its own distinct name. These clan-names are of great importance in tracing the early history of the county. Though long obsolete as people names, they still survive in many instances as baronial and parochial designations, in the same way as Norfolk and Suffolk, which were originally people-names—north-folk and south-folk—became the names of two English counties. They were generally formed by prefixing certain words to the genitive case of the names of distinguished ancestors, sometimes gods and goddesses, or by the
addition of terminations, and in many respects resemble the family names of a later period. Some, however, and probably the very oldest, appear to be plural names, like the names of the Celtic tribes of Gaul in Caesar's time; while a few are formed by prefixing certain words to place-names. We have also a few names which cannot be fitted into any of these three classes but must be classed apart.

We have a good example of our oldest class of clan-names in that of the Ara Cliach, an ancient people whose territory covered a great portion of the county to the east of the Samhair, or Morning Star, and comprised Knockany, Kilterney, and the whole of the barony of Coonagh. They were called the Ara Cliach, or Ara of Clu, from their situation in the ancient district of Clu Mál, and to distinguish them from another section of the same people, who were known as Ara Tire, and whose territory lay on the north-west of the present County of Tipperary. The Ara, or according to O'Flaherty the Ara Cliach, were divided into four sub-clans, the names of which appear from the Book of Leinster and other authorities to have been Artraighghe, Taecharaighge, Uí Fidhban naígh or Uí Fidhmaine, an Ui Monan, the last named seated in the south of Clu.

According to the Irish genealogists they derived their descent from Feartlachta who was son of Fergus Mac Roigh, King of Ulster, in the first century. Early in the fourteenth century, a branch of the O'Briens took possession of the territory of this ancient clan, whence their chief was styled Mac I Brien Ara.

Uaithne is probably another example of the same order of clan-name. As in the case of the Ara, the territory of this ancient race is now divided between the counties of Limerick and Tipperary. The Limerick section was known as Uaithne Cliach or Uaithne beg, now the barony of Owneybeg, and the Tipperary section as Uaithne Tire, now the barony of Owney. Both sections at a later period passed into the possession of the Leinster family of O’ Maoilriain,

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2 Ogygia, Part iii, chap. xlvi.
3 Onomasticon Goidelicum, Voca Araid. Araid, gen. pl. Arad is the mid.-Irish. form of Ara.
now Ryan, and the united territory began to be called by the name of Uaithne Ui Mhaoilriain. A portion of Uaithne Cliach which seems to have remained in the possession of the O’Heffernans was known as Uaithne Ui I fearnain.

The name of the Déis beag, another ancient clan, whose territory stretched from Ardpatrick to Knockany is a distinct type. Déis according to Prof. John MacNeill is simply a common noun denoting a vassal people. But as Prof. MacNeill has shown there were two kinds of Déisi, an aristocratic Déisi and a vassal Déisi. The Déis beag were, no doubt, a branch of the great Déisi Mumhan whose territory comprised the whole of South-East Munster and was approximately equivalent to the present diocese of Waterford and Lismore. This appears to be clear from the Tripartite Life of St. Patrick which states that the Saint on his journey through Limerick “went into the southern Déisi and set about building a church at Ardpatrick.” The local dynasty, Derball, son of Aedh, however opposed the project and refused to accept the faith; whereupon St. Patrick said to him: “There will not be till Doom either a king or bishop of thy race, and the men of Munster will peel you every seventh year like an onion.” ‘The Southern Déisi’ was another name for the Déisi Mumhan who were so called in contradistinction to the Déisi of Meath. That the Southern Déisi who, according to the Tripartite, were settled at Ardpatrick, were the Déis beag, there seems no room to doubt, especially since we know that the adjoining parishes of Ballingaddy and Effin were included in the territory of the Déis beag. The Déis beag, whether as a consequence of St. Patrick’s ‘curse’ or not, have long since completely disappeared from Co. Limerick, leaving no other living record to preserve their memory but the names of Bruff (Brugh na nDéise) and Athaneasy (Ath na nDéise), the fortress and ford, respectively, of the Déise.

Of words prefixed to the names of ancestors to form clan-names we have the following:

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* See a valuable paper by Prof. MacNeill on Early Irish Population-groups in Proc. R. I. Academy, xxix Sec. C. p. 59 et seqq.
* Begley, Diocese of Limerick, p. 12
DAL, explained by Venerable Bede as meaning 'portion,' 'division,' and by O'Donovan translated 'tribe,' 'progeny,' as in Dál Cairbre Ebha, an alias for Ui Cairbre Aebhdha, and in Dálmoidola, the tribe of Dola of Pallasgreen who opposed St. Patrick. This tribe removed to Eastern Clu, and gave its name to the parish of Oola near Limerick Junction. Dál Cais (whence 'Dallassian'). The clan-name of the O'Briens and their correlatives in Thomond is one of the best-known names formed from Dál.

CORCA, 'race,' 'progeny,' as in Corca Oiche and Corca Muichet. Names formed from this word are very ancient. The Corca Oiche are descended from a certain Fochae beg. Canon Begley has identified their territory as comprising a great portion of the south-west of the county. To this clan belonged the celebrated St. Molua. The Corca Muichet, so called, according to the Book of Ballymote, from Muichet, son of Brian, son of Eocho Muidhmeadhon, anciently possessed an extensive district in the south of the county comprising the present parishes of Corcomohide, Kilmeedy, Drumcollogher and Cloncreev. The family of Mac Eniry in later times became lords of this district and had their seat at Castletown Mac Eniry.

MUINTIR, 'family,' 'people,' a very common word, but in Limerick we have only one instance, viz. Muintir Drynan, mentioned by Canon Begley.

CLANN, 'children,' 'race,' 'descendants,' another very common prefix, but in Limerick found only in the modern clan-name of Clann Uilliam, or Clanwilliam, the Burkes of Castleconnell.

POBUL, 'people,' as in Pobul Ui Bhriaín, another modern clan-name assumed by a branch of the O'Briens who settled in the present barony of Poblebrien.

UI, 'grandsons,' 'descendants,' a word of which we have several examples. The Ui Fidhghheinte from before the time of St. 

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6 Diocese of Limerick, p. 5.
7 Diocese of Limerick, p. 7.
8 Diocese of Limerick, p. 9.
9 The plural of Ua, a grandson; often written Hys by Anglo-Irish writers.
Patrick down to the Anglo-Norman invasion were the ruling race in the greater portion of the present county. Their territory was almost co-extensive with the diocese of Limerick, and Bruree was the seat of government. The Uí Fidhghheinnté derived their name and origin from Fiacha Fidhghheinnté who was grandson of Oílloll Flanbeg, King of Munster, and flourished in the fourth century. The Uí Fidhghheinnté were divided into two great branches, the names of which are further examples of the class we are now considering. These were the Uí Conaill Gabhra and the Uí Cairbre Aebhdha; the former, sometimes called Uí Conaill, Uí Gabhra, and Ergh-anacht Gabhra, seated in that portion of the county lying to the west of the Maigue and included in the present baronies of Upper and Lower Connelloc, Shanid and Glenquin; and the latter to the east of the same river and including that portion of the county within the confines of the diocese of Limerick, and also the barony of Kenry. Of the name Uí Cairbre we have now no trace in the county. It removed, towards the end of the twelfth century, together with the people who bore it, to west Cork, where it still survives as the name of the two baronies of East and West Carbery. The name of the Uí Cuanach who were converted and baptized by St. Patrick at Cullen is another example of clan-names formed from compounds of Uí; and we have yet another example in Uí Rosa whose territory is now represented by the parish of Iveruss in the barony of Kenry.

Of terminations used to form clan-names we have the following:

—RAIGHE, to be identified, in the opinion of Prof. MacNeill, with the noun ‘righe,’ kingship. Prof. MacNeill holds that clans with names of this ending originally formed petty kingdoms. We have a good example in Cænraighe, now represented by the barony of Kenry. I have already mentioned the Arraighe and Taecharaighe two sub-clans of the Ara.

—NE, as in Uaithne, if it be not a name of the Ara type.

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Diocese of Limerick, p. 11. The boundary between the Uí Conaill and the Uí Cairbre has not been clearly defined.
—ACHT, as in Eoghanacht Aine whose territory lay around the Hill of Knockany; in Eoghanacht Gabhra which, as we have seen, was an alias name for Ui Conaill Gabhra; and in Eoghanacht Airther Cliach which may have been an alias for Ui Cuanach.

Of words prefixed to place-names we have only two:

AES, 'people,' as in Aes Gréine and Aes trimaighge which may be only different names of the same people. They were located in the present barony of Clanwilliam.

TUATH, 'people,' 'state,' 'clan,' as in Tuath Luimnigh, in the neighbourhood of the City of Limerick, but whether north or south of the Shannon does not seem to have been determined. We had also Tuath O Rosa which was the same as Ui Rosa above, and Tuath Fer Morc or Fir Morc (men of swine) the name of a vassal clan in Ui Conaill Gabhra.

Any of these ancient clan-names might be turned into a kind of personal surname by prefixing Moccu, later Macu, to the genitive case of the eponym or ancestral name. Thus St. Molua who belonged to the Corca Oiche is in the Annals of Ulster twice called Lugaid Mac U Ochae 11 that is Lughaidh son of the descendants of Ochae (Focha). "In western and northern Munster" writes Dr. Henebry 12 "this Moccu has by a 'folks' etymology' been broken into Mac Ui, 'son of the descendant of' (ui gen. sing. of the ó of surnames)." Hence such modern forms as Mac ui Chaoimh, Mac ui Bhriain, for persons surnamed O'Keeffe and O'Brien respectively. The Moccu Ochae form of surname became obsolete in the eighth century, 13 but we still hear such expressions as "a man of the O'Briens," "a boy of the Caseys."

Surnames in the modern sense are the growth of the tenth and three succeeding centuries. During that period the patronymic which before was purely personal and changed with each successive generation gradually became fixed, like the clan-names centuries

11 A.D. 553—Nativitas Lugdach Mic U Ochae; and A.D. 608—Quies Lugdach Mic U Ochae.
before, and began to assume the permanent and hereditary character of a family name. Strictly speaking, all our Irish surnames are of patronymic origin, that is to say, formed from the names or other designations of ancestors by prefixing Mac or O, and in that respect they differ most from English surnames in which the descriptive and local elements predominate. There are, however, some apparent exceptions. In districts where the same surname largely prevailed, epithets or, as we would now call them, nicknames, continued to be used, as indeed they do to the present day, for the purpose of distinguishing persons of the same name and surname, and in some instances these have in course of time supplanted the real surname. Strangers, too, were often called by names indicative of their place of origin, as in the case of the celebrated family of O'Dunlevy, members of which were known all over Ireland by the sobriquet of Ultach in reference to their Ulidian origin. Similarly we had Muimhneach (the Munsterman), Laighneach (the Leinsterman), Deiseach (native of the Decies of Waterford). All these families had, however, originally distinct surnames in Mac or O, but owing to constant disuse they were in course of time forgotten and the epithet had thenceforward to do duty instead. The distinctive mark therefore of a real Irish surname is Mac or O, according to the well-known lines:

Per Mac atque O, tu veros cognoxis Hibernos;
His duobus demptis, nullus Hibernus adest;

which have been translated:

By Mac and O
You'll always know
True Irishmen, they say;
But if they lack
Both O and Mac
No Irishmen are they.

This, of course, supposes the Danes and Normans who took surnames in O or Mac to be all "true Irishmen," while it excludes from that category the Plunketts, Nugents, Powers and many others Hibernis ipsis Hiberniores.
It has been stated by Keating and others, and the statement has been adopted by O'Curry, that surnames first became fixed in the reign of Brian Boru and in obedience to an ordinance of that monarch, O'Curry's words are: "Previous to the time of the Monarch Brian Boruimhe (about the year 1000), there was no general system of family names in Erinn; but every man took the name either of his father or his grandfather for a surname. Brian, however, established a new and most convenient arrangement, namely, that families in future should take permanent names, either those of their immediate fathers, or of any person more remote in their line of pedigree. But Brian himself, who, if he had been the originator of our surname-system, should have been the first to set the example of obedience to his own laws, never adopted a hereditary surname. Nor did his sons. It was only in the time of his grandsons that the surname O'Brien first came into existence. Brian himself was known all his life as Brian Mac Cinnéidigh or Brian Boruimhe, neither of which became hereditary. It is indeed quite clear that the new system was of gradual growth and that it arose out of the necessity of the time, rather than as part of a settled policy, or according to any pre-arranged plan. Apart from the fact that royal ordinances of the kind described by O'Curry were unknown in Ireland before the Anglo-Norman invasion, and in the best of times would be difficult, if not impossible, to enforce, it can be shown from the Irish Annals that fixed surnames were already in process of formation before Brian was born and that the process was not complete until nearly two centuries after he was laid to rest at Armagh. O Cléirigh was probably a fixed surname as early as the beginning of the tenth century, for we find the death of Tighearnaich O Cléirigh, lord of Aidhne, recorded in the annals at the year 916, and that of his brother Flann O Cléirigh, lord of South Connacht, who was slain by the men of Munster, at the year 950. I doubt if we have any older surname in Europe. O Macileachlainn

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15 It is not at all unlikely that this second designation of the victor of Clontarf had a much more prosaic origin than that usually assigned to it. Brian Boruimhe may after all be, not Brian of the Tribute, but Brian of Borumba, a fort, now called Bealboro, near Killaloe.
of Meath, O Canannáin of Tirconaill, O Neill of Tyrone, O Ruairc of Breifne, O Ciardha of Cairbre, Mag Aonghusa of Ui Eachach, O Dabhdha of Ui Fiachrach, O Ceallaigh of Ui Maine, and many others were firmly established before the end of the century. The statement of Keating and O'Curry is thus shown to be without foundation.

The eleventh and twelfth centuries must, however, be assigned as the period within which the great bulk of our surnames began to assume a hereditary character. The custom of forming surnames with O had almost certainly ceased before the coming of the Anglo-Normans, and I doubt if we have any O-surname that can be shown to have arisen at a later date. Mac-surnames are, generally speaking, of later date than O-surnames; still I think it must be admitted that by the end of the twelfth century surnames were universal among Irish families. Many Mac-surnames are, it is true, of later date than the Anglo-Norman invasion, but this was due to the breaking up of the old surnames into septs and the assumption of new surnames in Mac by branches that had separated from the parent stock.

The only difference between a surname commencing with Mac and one commencing with O is that the former was taken from the name of the father and the latter from that of the grandfather of the first person who bore the surname. The idea certainly was that all the members of a family derived their origin from the ancestor whose name they bore; but all the families of the same name are not of the same origin. All the Murphys, for instance, are not descendants of one original Murchadh, nor are all the Caseys of one original Cathasach.

Modern family names in many instances differ little, if at all, in form from the ancient clan-names, Muintir and Clann which occur so frequently in clan-names are also used to form the collective plural of family names, as Muintir Loingsigh, the O'Lynch's, Clann tSithigh, the Mac Sheehys or Sheehys. Similarly Ui, of frequent occurrence in clan-names, is also the plural of Ua of family names. Hence very often the same form, or nearly the same, is a clan-name
and a family name, but the meaning in each case is entirely different. Muintir Ifearnáin, for instance, as a family name denotes the O'Heffernans of Owney, but as a clan-name the O'Quins of Thomond. Irish writers have been frequently led into error by this similarity or identity in form of names of widely different meaning. Thus, to cite only one instance, Dr. O'Brien in his Irish Dictionary confounds the clan name Ui Conaill, or Ui Conaill Gabhra, with the family name O Conaill, and makes all the O'Connells of Limerick, Kerry and Cork, descendants of Connall, the ancestor of the Ui Conaill Gabhra, whereas it is well known that they are of an entirely different race. In like manner it is often difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish family names from patronymics. For instance, when we meet with forms like Shane McDonnell or Edmund Fitz Gerald in Elizabethan records we are often at a loss to know whether the meaning is John Mac Donnell or John, son of Donall; Edmund Fitzgerald or Edmund, son of Gerald. Obviously, the difference may be very great.

Let us now return to the clan-names. In the list given above we have the names of the oldest inhabitants of the county. Let us see who were the people that bore them and how far and by whom they are at present represented.

"Europe," writes Dr. Isaac Taylor, "has been peopled by successive immigrations from the East. Five great waves of population have rolled in, each in its turn urging the flood which had preceded it further and further towards the West. The mighty Celtic inundation is the first that we can distinctly trace in its progress across Europe, forced onward by the succeeding deluges of the Romance, Teutonic, and Slavonic peoples, till at length it was driven forward into the far western extremities of Europe." 17

The Celts were divided into two great branches, both speaking languages of the same stock but distinguished by certain important dialectic differences. The first of these, the Gadhelic or Gaelic branch, is now represented by the Irish, the Gaels of the Scottish

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16 Voce Conall.
17 Words and Places, chap. ix.
Highlands, and the Manx of the Isle of Man; the second, the Brythonic or Cymric, by the Welsh of Wales, the Cornish of Cornwall and the Bretons of Brittany. At what precise period of their history this division of the Celts took place we have no means of knowing and it would now be idle to conjecture. Certain it is that the Celts at an early period spread their dominion over a great part of Central and Western Europe, Germany, Northern Italy, Gaul, Spain and the British Isles, and that the division was then already well defined. Dr. Taylor, who made a study of the Celtic place-names of Europe, gives a summary of the results disclosed by the evidence of these names. "In Central Europe" he writes "we find traces of both Cymry and Gael. The most numerous people of primaeval Germany were of the Gadhelic branch. They were not only the most numerous, but they were also the earliest to arrive. This is indicated by the fact that throughout Germany we find no Cymric, Sclavonic, or Teutonic names which have undergone phonetic changes in accordance with the genius of the Gaelic languages. Hence it may be inferred that the Gaels, on their arrival, found Germany unoccupied, and that their immigration was therefore of a peaceful character. Next came the Cymry. They came as conquerors, and in numbers they were fewer than the Gaels whom they found in possession. This we gather from the fact that there are comparatively few Cymric names in Germany, but a large number of Gadhelic names which have been Cymricized. From the topographical distribution of these names we infer that the Gaels arrived from the East, and the Cymry from the South. The large number of Cymric names in Northern Italy, and the fact that several of the passes of the Alps bear Cymric names, seems also to indicate the quarter whence the Cymric invasion proceeded. Lastly came the Germans from the north—they were conquerors and fewer in number than either the Cymry or the Gael. They have Germanized many Gadhelic names which had previously been Cymricized. The names of Northern and Central France are still more decisively Celtic than those of Germany. In Brittany the Armorican, a language closely allied to the Welsh, is still spoken, and the local names, with few exceptions, are derived from Cymric
roots, and are in much purer and more recognizable form than in other parts. But we find that the same names which occur in Brittany are also scattered over the rest of France, though more sparingly, and in more corrupted form. In the north-east of France we find a few Gaelic roots which are altogether absent from the local nomenclature of the west, a fact which suggests that the Gaels of Germany may have crossed this part of France on their way to the British Isles."

But while the Celts are the first people whose migration we can distinctly trace, the idea has found favour among competent scholars that from the earliest times Central and Northern Europe was inhabited by a race which was neither Celtic nor even Aryan, and which is supposed to be now represented, in the North by the Finns and Lapps, and in the South by the Basques of the Pyrénées. "These Spanish mountaineers, who now number three quarters of a million, seem" to quote Dr. Taylor once more "to be the sole unabsorbed remnant of the powerful nation which once occupied the greater portion of Spain, the half of France, the whole of Sardinia and Corsica, and large portions of Italy. Whether these Iberians, or Euskarians as they are called, were the earliest inhabitants of Spain, or whether they were preceded by Celtic tribes, is still a disputed question amongst ethnologists."

It is not unreasonable to suppose that the early population of Ireland was substantially the same as in Britain, and that in both countries it was made up of various racial elements, Iberian, Gaelic and Cymric. We find traces of the presence of a non-Aryan people in both countries before the advent of the Celt. Such in Co. Limerick are the megalithic monuments at Tinnakilla, Friarstown North, Kilpeacon and Lough Gur. The people called Cruithni by the Irish, of whom we had numerous colonies, were racially identical with the Picts of Scotland, and these we now know were Celts of the Cymric branch; and there is evidence of Gaelic settlements in Britain as well as of Pictist settlements in Ireland. Owing to the

18 Words and Places, loc. cit.
19 Words and Places, loc. cit.
20 See Begley, Diocese of Limerick, p. 29, et seqq.
Roman occupation we have much better knowledge of the early inhabitants of Britain than of Ireland. The oldest extant document that gives anything like a detailed account of the early inhabitants of Ireland is the geography written in Greek by Ptolemy about A.D. 150. Ptolemy gives the names of sixteen peoples inhabiting Ireland. These peoples are all ranged along the seacoast around Ireland. The interior seems to have been almost totally unknown to Ptolemy’s authorities. On the south coast he names four peoples. The middle south of Munster has for its chief people the Iverni who Sir John Rhys identifies with the Iberi of Spain, whose race and language are still preserved by the Basques. Prof. MacNeill has shown that the name, Iverni, is a derivative from an older name Iveri and that the people so-called may safely be identified with the powerful southern nation of the Erainn who at the period of the Táin Bó Cualnge were the chief people of Munster. The Erainn who were also called by the more poetic name of Clanna Dedad, had their chief royal seat at Teamhair Luachra which Father Hogan places near Castleisland. From the manner in which this people has given its name to the whole island both in the Latin and Celtic tongues, it is reasonable to conclude that they were the most widespread and conspicuous people in ancient Ireland. According to Mac Firbis they comprised, in Munster, the Deisi of Waterford and Tipperary, the Muscraige of Tipperary and Cork, the Corca Duibhne of West Kerry, and the Corca Baiscinn of West Clare; and outside Munster, the Dál Fiatach of Co. Down, and the Dál Riada of Co. Antrim, from which branched off the Scottish Dál Riada who in the ninth century established the Kingdom of Scotland.  

22 St. Patrick calls Ireland Hiberio, and St. Columban twice speaks of his fellow-countrymen as Hiberi.  
23 Among the families enumerated by Mac Firbis as belonging to the Erainn are the Ui Lachtnáin, or O’Loughnanes; the Ui Luinnín, or O’Lennons, of Co. Tipperary; the Ui Maolachta, or O’Mulloughnys, of the same county, some of whom now incorrectly call themselves Moloney; Muineir Chonaire, the O’Connerys, or Connerys; Muineir Mhuirthile, or O’Murleys, now generally, but wrongly, called Hurley in English; Muineir Sheaghdha, the O’Sheas; Clann Tiobraidhe or Tubridys; the Ui Ciabháin or O’Keevans, who however have usurped the name of another family and are now commonly known in English as Kavanaghs; the Ui Meisgill or O’Meskills; the Ui Spealáin or O’Spillans; the Ui Breain, or O’Breens; some of the Ui Ceallaigh or O’Kellys; Muineir Laoghaire the O’Learys; and various others.
All these at the beginning of the tenth century were free clans in the enjoyment of self-government, subject only, in the case of the Munster Erainn, to an annual tribute to the Eoghanacht Kings of Cashel.

But besides the Erainn of free status, there was also, it would seem, an Erainn people, the remnant of a conquered race, who had been reduced to the status of vassals or serfs by the Gaelic invaders. Mac Firbis states that the Erainn were a branch of the Fir Bolg, and Fir Bolg, as used by Mac Firbis, is a comprehensive name for all the older population-groups who were not of Gaelic descent or of free status. Moreover, the Book of Glendaloich in a list of the principal vassal communities of Ireland includes the Tuath Sen Erann, that is the Tuath or community of the Old Erainn which it locates in the district of Luachair. Luachair included North Kerry, North-West Cork, and West Limerick, and was, as we have seen, the seat of the Clanna Dedad, a free people, at the period of the Ulster epic, and who must therefore have been conquered and reduced to vassalage at a subsequent stage of the Gaelic conquest. There were therefore, apparently, two kinds of Erainn, new Erainn and old Erainn, free Erainn and Erainn who had been reduced to the status of vassals. The free status of certain Erainn clans presupposes that they were either of Gaelic descent or became Gaels, as suggested by MacNeill, by some sort of adoptive fiction, for the Gael in ancient Ireland reserved the status of freemen altogether to those whom they recognised as of their own race. MacNeill's theory is that the free Erainn were really Gaels—that is that their aristocracy was such—but that they became known by the familiar names of the people over whom they ruled, just as we speak of the FitzGeralds, Powers and Nogents not as Normans but as Irish. This theory fits in very well with what we know of Celtic policy on the Continent. There the Celts did not exterminate the original inhabitants of the regions over which they obtained dominion, but imposed on them their language, arts and traditions and formed among them an aristocratic and ruling caste.

There is no need to suppose that the Gaels all came to Ireland at one and the same time; there may have been many successive waves of invasion; nor is it necessary to suppose that all the pre-Gaelic inhabitants were of one race. Possibly the later invaders differed little racially from the older inhabitants, for the Gaels by the time they reached these islands, after traversing Europe, must have been a people of rather mixed blood. Some of these invasions may have been comparatively late. Prof. MacNeill ascribes the establishment of the first Milesian Kingdom to about the end of the first century as the result of an invasion from Britain, and traces the Eoghanacht Kingdom of Cashel to a late Gaulish settlement on the seaboard of East Munster.

Broadly speaking, the history of Co. Limerick begins with the visit of St. Patrick to Munster about A.D. 450; and the first distinct reference to its inhabitants is to be found in the Life of the National Saint. That portion of the county included in the diocese of Limerick had been conquered, perhaps a century before, by the Uí Fidhgheinte, a branch of the Eoghanacht of Cashel. The remainder included in the diocese of Emly was still for the most part in possession of the older races of whom the chief clan were the Ara Cliach. These were evidently the two most important clans in the county when St. Patrick came to convert its people. Besides these, three or four other clans are mentioned in the Tripartite. These are the Uí Cuanach who were converted and baptized by St. Patrick at Cullen, the Eoghanach Airther Cliach who may be the same as the Uí Cuanach, the Dál moDola of Airther Cliach, and the Déisi with whose chief the saint came into collision at Ardpatrick. It seems to me that the Uí Cuanach were a colony of the Eoghanacht of Cashel who had settled in the territory of the Ara Cliach, and that Eoghanacht Airther Cliach, or Eoghanacht of Eastern Cliu, was only an alias name for the Uí Cuanach in contradistinction to the Eoghanacht Iarthair Cliach, or Western Cliu, that is, the

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29 New Ireland Review, March, 1906, p. 5. See a remarkable series of articles by Prof. MacNeill in the New Ireland Review for the year 1906. MacNeill uses the word 'Milesian' to denote the people or peoples who traced their descent from the three ancestors, Conn, Cathair Mór and Aillill Olum in the second century and in the same sense it is used here.
Eoghanacht Aine. The Tirpartite Life tells us that St. Patrick "went afterwards to Aradha Cliach until he was in Iochtar Cuilleann in Ui Cuanach, and Aillill, son of Cathbadh, son of Lughaidh, of the Eoghanacht of Airther Cliach, met him." Aillill's son had just been devoured by wild pigs, and Aillill promised to believe if Patrick would resuscitate his son. Patrick did so, and "the boy subsequently preached to the hosts and multitudes in Patrick's presence. Aillill and his wife thereupon believed; and all the Ui Cuanach believed and were baptized in that place." This passage seems to show that Aillill of the Eoghanacht Airther Cliach was chief of the Ui Cuanach, in other words that the Ui Cuanach and Eoghanacht Airther Cliach were one and the same people and a branch of the Eoghanacht of Cashel.

From St. Patrick's time down to the Anglo-Norman invasion the population of Co. Limerick appears to have remained substantially undisturbed. For the purpose of elucidating this early period of our history, the Book of Rights, composed about the year A.D. 900 and added to a century later, is a document of first rate importance, from an ethnological as well as a political point of view. It tells us clearly what clans were autonomous and indirectly what were not; what clans were tributary to Cashel and what clans were free from tribute. The non-tributary clans were branches of the Eoghanacht, the ruling race of Cashel. The tributary clans were the older inhabitants who had been compelled to submit to the Eoghanacht conquerors, but were allowed to retain their native rulers; in other words they enjoyed Home Rule, but were required to pay a certain annual tribute to the King of Cashel. The tributary status in ancient Ireland was rigidly regarded as a question of race, tribute being always claimed from rulers not of the family of the original over-king. Or Our ancestors recognised three grades of clan. Clans of the first grade paid neither tax, nor tribute, nor rent to any other clan or people. These were called Saerthuatha. Clans of the second grade enjoyed self-government, but paid tribute to an external over-king. These were called Forthuatha. The

third grade comprised vassal clans who were held to be the descendants of the ancient conquered races and not of Gaelic origin. These were called Daerthuatha or Aitheachthuatha. The only completely free clans in Munster at the period of the Book of Rights were the Eoghanacht and Dál Cais, the descendants respectively of Eoghan Mór and Cormac Cas, two sons of Oilioll Olum who was King of Munster towards the end of the second century. There were altogether in Munster six Eoghanacht clans or sub-kingdoms, namely: (1) Eoghanacht Caisil; (2) Eoghanacht Glennamhnach in East Cork; (3) Eoghanacht Raithlenn, about Bandon; (4) Eoghanacht Locha Léin, about Killarney, and in Duhallow, Co. Cork; (5) the Ui Fidhgheinte, whose territory was co-extensive with the diocese of Limerick, and (6) Eoghanacht Aine, about Knockany. These together with the Dál Cais were the royal clans of Munster who owed no tribute but merely subjection and military service to the King of Cashel, and entertainment on the occasion of his royal visitation. It is expressly stated in the Book of Rights that the Ui Fidhgheinte and the Eoghanacht Aine were exempt from tribute.

"No tribute is due of the Ui Fidhgheinte
Nor of the noble Aine."²⁸

The dynasts of the six Eoghanacht clans all traced their descent from Eoghan Mór, son of Oilioll Olum, as shown in the following table:

(See next page for Table).

²⁸ Book of Rights, p. 67.
The tributary but otherwise autonomous clans were eleven in number, and of these two lay partly in the present County of Limerick and partly in Tipperary. These were the Ara and the Uaithne. The descent of these two clans is traced to Fergus Mac Roigh, King of Ulster, in the first century; but Prof. MacNeill has shown that this was merely a genealogical fiction by which the older clans who preserved their tributary status down to Christian times and thus became a permanent fixture in the Milesian settlement of Ireland were, so to speak, Milesianised by being endowed with a Milesian pedigree. In that way several clans scattered here and there through Ireland were made to descend from one or other of the many sons of Fergus Mac Roigh; others were traced to Conaire Mór, King of Ireland in the first century. To what race the Limerick clans belonged it would now be difficult, if not impossible, to say. The Ara are said to have come originally from South Leinster under the guidance of a certain Laidir Ara of the race of Fergus Mac Roigh; and curiously enough we find a people of the very same name in South Leinster, the Ara Cliach of the present Co. Carlow.\textsuperscript{30} The Book of Lecan gives the names of the four sons of Laidir as Dula, Toeca, Nena and Arta,\textsuperscript{30} and here we have a curious little piece of evidence which, if it be not a mere coincidence of names, which is unlikely, fixes approximately the date of the settlement of the Ara Cliach in Co. Limerick. We have seen that two sub-clans of the Ara were known as Artraighe and Taechraighe, two clan-names formed from Arta and Toeca respectively. We need scarcely doubt that these were two of the sons of Laidir. Now, we have in the Tripartite Life of St. Patrick the names of two local potentates, one of whom at least, opposed the Saint on the occasion of his visit to Pallasgreen and refused to give him the site of a church. His name was Dola or Dula. St. Patrick said there would not be a house of Dola’s there, or if there should be, it would be only a poor one. And this was fulfilled, for Dola’s descendants removed to Airthre Cliach, “and Dál modola is their name until this day.” The name of the other potentate was Nena.

\textsuperscript{29} Ononi Goidel in voce.
He was obviously a close friend or near kinsman of Dola. When he found that St. Patrick was angry on account of the hostile treatment he had received from Dola, he went to the saint apparently for the purpose of effecting a reconciliation between him and Dola; but Patrick refused to see him and said, with a play upon the name "of Nena will be nothing," which was verified, for his descendants were slaves in Muskerry Mitine in west Cork. Obviously there was some close connection between these two landholders of Pallas-green. Were they brothers and sons of Laidir Ara? If so, the arrival of the Ara was not long anterior to the visit of St. Patrick.

The annual tribute of the Ara as it stood at the beginning of the tenth century is thus stated in the Book of Rights:

"Thirty hogs which are not able to rise,
Thirty beves which are large,
Thirty cloaks from the fierce men of Ara,
A hundred young cows for drinking." 31

A century later, in the time of Brian Boru, a greatly increased tribute was exacted:

"Two hundred wethers from the host I will say,
A hundred hogs, the tribute they exact,
A hundred cows that enriched the farmers' dairy,
A hundred green mantles from the men of Ara." 32

The tribute of the Uaithne was:

"Three hundred hogs from the men of Uaithne,
To Caiseal without failure;
Three hundred mantles, all variegated,
With a hundred strong milch-cows." 33

And in the time of Brian Boru:

"A hundred cows on the hill at time of calving,
A hundred pigs within to be stored,
A hundred oxen to the resident host are ordered
From the men of Uaithne freely." 34

31 P. 63.
32 P. 45.
33 P. 63.
34 P. 45.
Both tributary and non-tributary clans received "stipends," or annual gifts, from the King of Cashel which are thus enumerated in the Book of Rights:

"Ten steeds to the King of Ui Gabhra\(^{35}\)
Ten shields, ten swords fit for battle,
Ten drinking horns in his protective foot,
Without hostages from him, without pledges."

Seven steeds to the King of Brugh-righ,\(^{36}\)
Seven horns from which wine is drunk,
Seven swords, it is a happy engagement,
Seven serving-youths, seven bond-women.

Seven drinking-horns to the hero of Aine,\(^{37}\)
Seven swords—not an engagement to be violated,
Seven steeds to that hero during his time,
Two rings and two chess-boards.

Seven steeds to the King of the men of Uaithne,
Seven swords it is a wise covenant,
Seven drinking-horns to their companies to whom it is due
To be in office under the monarch.\(^{38}\)

The vassal clans are not noticed in the Book of Rights. Fir Morc (men of swine) may have been a comprehensive name for all the conquered races in Ui Conaill Gabhra, and was, no doubt, like Fir Bolg (men of bellows) given in contempt. The names of the Caenraighe, Corca Oiche, and Corca Muichet imply that these clans were of pre-Milesian origin, and, doubtless, they were the oldest clans in the county. The descent of the last-named from Muichet, son of Brian, son of Eochaidh Muighmheadhon, is a genealogical fiction on a par with the descent of the Ara from Feartlachta, son of Fergus Mac Roigh. All these clans were likely enough of Ernaan stock, for when we find Erainn tribes in all the surrounding counties,

\(^{35}\) i.e. the Ui Conaill Gabhra.
\(^{36}\) i.e. Brucc the royal seat of the Ui Cairbre Aebhdha.
\(^{37}\) That is the king or chief of the Eoghmanacht Aine Cliach.
\(^{38}\) Book of Rights, pp. 77, 79. The Ara were apparently forgotten in the distribution.
north, south, east, and west, it is only reasonable to suppose that in Limerick also the bulk of the population, excluding of course the Boghanachta, was of Ernaan origin.

Giolla-na-naomh O'Huidhrin, a learned historian who, according to the Four Masters, died in the year 1420, wrote in verse an account of the principal families of Leinster and Munster and the districts occupied by them at the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion. From him we learn the family names adopted by the different clans, The following is his account of the clans of Co. Limerick and the family names adopted by them at the time of the establishment of surnames, as translated by O'Donovan:

UI CAIRBRE AEBHDHA.

"The share of the noble Dal Cairbre Ebha,
Of the Kings of Caiseal of white wattles,
Lasting is his profit of the land,
The brave pillar O'Cleirchin.

"Hereditary to O'Donnabhain of Dun Cuirc
Is this land, as a land of encampment;
To him, without tribute, belonged [the land] along
the sluggish Maigh,

And the plains down to the Sionainn."

One of the Ui Cléirchín who rejoiced in the name of Glúniarainn, or Iron-Knee, was chief of Ui Cairbre in the first half of the eleventh century; his death is recorded by the Four Masters and in the Annals of Ulster at the year 1045. The family must have been dispossessed and expelled about the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion, for I find no reference to it in any subsequent records relating to Co. Limerick. ODonovan is in error when he states that the name is now anglicised O'Clery and Cleary, and that the family is still represented in the district. He was, no doubt, misled by the fact that O'Clery or Cleary is a common surname in the locality and, rather hastily, concluded that it must represent the

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49 The Topographical Poems of O'Dubhagain and O'Huidhrin, edited by O'Donovan, p. 119.
ancient O Cléirchín. But the present O'Clerys or Clearys (for they have all now dropped the O') undoubtedly belong to the far more illustrious family of the Ui Clóirigh of Aidhne; and O Cleirchin is not anglicised O'Clery or Cleary but Clerihan, a surname still extant in Tipperary, whither, no doubt the Ui Cléirchin removed when they were driven out of Ui Cairbre. Dronin would appear to have been the ancient seat of the family.  

There is not a single one of the name on the Register of Electors.

Dún Cuirc, the fort of Corc, is a bardic name for Bruree, the seat of O Donnabhain, who was chief of Ui Cairbre and sometimes of all Ui Fidhgheinte. The surname is now anglicised O'Donovan and Donovan. The O'Donovans are descended from Donnabhán a celebrated chieftain of Ui Fidhgheinte in the latter part of the tenth century whose opposition to the growing power of the Dál Cais under the leadership of the heroic brothers, Mahon and Brian, cost him his life and nearly led to the extirpation of his clan. About the year 1178, as the result of a disastrous war between the MacCarthys and O'Briens, the O'Donovans were driven from Ui Cairbre and forced to seek refuge in South-west Cork where, with the aid of their old allies, the O'Mahonys, they effected a settlement in O'Driscoll's country of Corca Laoighdhe, to which they gave their clan-name Ui Cairbre, and where they retained considerable power and held extensive possessions down to the close of the Jacobite wars. From a branch of the family who settled in Co. Kilkenny the celebrated Irish antiquarian and scholar, Dr. John O'Donovan was descended. We have seven O'Donovans and fifty-five Donovans on the Register of Electors.

UI CONAILL GABHRA

"Let us proceed across Luachair hither,
A journey which is fit for poets,
To the cold and festive Ciaonghlaís
Of the green, irriguous, wooded land.

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41 Begley, The Diocese of Limerick, p. 111.
42 See Annals of Four Masters A.D. 974 and 976.
43 See a very full account of this family from the pen of Dr. John O'Donovan in Appendix to Four Masters, pp. 2430-2483.
"The Ui Conaill of the battalion of Munster,
Multitudinous is the gathering,
A great tribe, with whom it is not usual to contend,
Are the battle-trooped host of the O'Coilens.

"O'Billraidhe who used to bestow cows,
Over Ui Conaill of the field of Gabhra,
King of truth, of fair lands,
The smooth dells of heavy fruit.

"Eoghanacht of the sunny field of Gabhra,
Land of the sweetest, smooth-round apples,
The gem of each female band of fame,
To O'Cinnfhaoladh of red weapons [it belongs].""44

The Ui Coileain, or Ui Cuileain, most probably derive their name and descent from Cuilen, lord of Ui Conaill Gabhra, who was slain by O'Cinnfhaolaidh, or O'Kenneally, in 1155. The great bulk of the clan was apparently driven out at the same time as the O'Donovans, about 1178, together with whom they settled in Southwest Cork. The Ui Coileain who remained continued to be lords of Claonchlaís, identified by Canon Begley as corresponding to the present parish of Killeedy 45 until they were dispossessed towards the end of the thirteenth century by the FitzGeralds, a branch of whom then became lords of Claonchlaís. The name is now very common throughout, Munster, and we have 181 Collineses on the Register of Electors, 136 of whom are in West Limerick.

It would appear from the Annals of the Four Masters that the Ui Bilraighe (as the name is there written) belonged to the Ui Cairbre, and not to Ui Conaill Gabhra, as stated by O'Huidhrin. The Annalists at the year 1105 record the death of Maolruanaidh Ua Bilraighe, whom they describe as lord of Ui Cairbre. O'Donovan too, is of this opinion, for he says that the family was of the same race as the O'Donovans.46 The fact seems to be that the clan lands of the Ui Bilraigh lay on the west side of the Maigue and on the

44 Top. Poems, pp. 117, 119, 121.
45 The Diocese of Limerick, p. 6.
border line between Ui Conaill and Ui Cairbre. " Ri fhirinne" which O'Donovan translates "King of truth." as applied to O'Billraidhe may really mean King of Knockfierna (Cnoc Fiirinne). Possibly the clan-lands lay between Knockfierna and Bruree. In any case the name is long obsolete in the county and the family is now extinct. After being expelled from Co. Limerick they settled, according to O'Donovan, at Cnocan Ui Bhillraidhe, now Watergrass Hill, in Co. Cork.

The Ui Cinnfhaolaidh, in English O'Kenneally, Kenneally Kennelly, &c., no doubt derive their name and origin from Ceannfhaolaidh, son of Conchobhar, lord of Ui Conaill Gabhra, whose death is recorded by the Four Masters at the year 1000. Conchobhar Ua Cinnfhaolaidh, or as he would now be called Connor O'Kenneally, lord of Ui Conaill Gabhra, was slain by the lord of the Eoghanacht of Loch Léin in 1049. The O'Kenneallys were expelled from Ui Conaill about the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion. The name is now more common in Kerry than in Limerick, but we have 25 Kenneallys and Kennellys on the Register, 21 of whom are in West Limerick.

O'Donovan gives O Flannabhra (O'Flannery) as another family of Ui Conaill Gabhra. They are no doubt descended from Flannabhra, lord of Gabhra, who fell at the battle of Innoin, near Clonmel, in 876. There is only one elector of the name on the Register.

EOGHANACHT AINE.

"Eoghanacht Aine of warm land,
O'Ciarmhaic is prop of the territory,
Territory of fairest root-lands,
Ui Enda of Aine Aulum." 46

The surname O Ciarmhaic is variously anglicised in the Fiants of Elizabeth O'Kiervicke, O'Kerwick, O'Kerry, O'Kerby, &c., and now Kerby and Kirby. In the spoken Irish of Limerick and Kerry

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47 Book of Rights, p. 75, note C.
48 Annals of the Four Masters.
49 Top. Poems, p. 119
there is current a corrupt form O Ciarba, from which the Elizabethan O'Kerby and the present anglicised forms are derived. There was also a Leinster family of the same name now, no doubt, represented by the Kerwicks of Co. Kilkenny. The Limerick family is still well represented not only in the county where we have 44 of the name on the Register of Electors, but also throughout Munster.

It is impossible to say whether Ui Enda is here a surname or a clan-name. If a surname the modern form, in the singular, would be O' hEanna, anglicise O'Heany, O'Heney, Heaney, Heney. We have two electors named Heaney on the Register.

AES GREINE.

"Aes Gréine of the bright land was obtained
By O'Conaing of the territory of Saingel,
He possessed a cheery land around fair Grian,
From his noble descent from Eoghan." 50

"Aos-tri-muighe, smoothest of plains
Is the grassy territory of O'Conaing;
A bright watered plain, of noblest aspect,
By the meadowy side of Craobh Cumhraide." 51

It would appear from the above that the Ui Conaing were of Eoghanacht stock and that they possessed considerable territory extending from Cnoc-Gréine near Pallasgreen, to the City of Limerick. Their chief seat was at Caislen-Ui-Conaing, now corruptly anglicised Castleconnell. They were dispossessed by the Burkes shortly after the Anglo-Norman invasion. The name, according to O'Donovan, is anglicised Gunning, but we have not a single Gunning on the Register of Electors.

UI CUANACH.

"A territory around Crotach Clicach was acquired
By Mag Longachain, a fair, gray hero;
Lord of a populous plain is here,
Ui Cuanach of the green soft land." 52

50 Top. Poems, p. 121.
51 Ibid, p. 129
52 Top. Poems, p. 131.
Crotla Cliach was the ancient name of the Galtee Mountains. The surname Mag Longachain in the present form is obsolete, but if we suppose a substitution of O for Mag, a not uncommon change, it may be the origin of the present-day surname O Luingeacháin, in English Lenihan, of whom we have 53 on the Register of Electors. O Luingeacháin is merely an attenuated form of O Longacháin. This view is confirmed by the fact that besides O Lunyghan and O Lunighane as Elizabethan forms of Lenihan we find also McClymancane and McClynnycane. 53

BOGHANACHT AIRTHER CLIACH.

"Of the race of Éoghan of Oirír Cliach,
The Ui Cormaic of beautiful green land;
To O'Haíchir belongs the warm land,
The plain of Meath is such another.

"A dynast powerful in every house,
A noble sept of the Ui Aíchir
Is over Ui Flannchadha of hospitable seats,
The thin-edged illustrious host." 54

Ui Cormaic is the name of a district comprising the parish of Kilmaley in Co. Clare. Ui Flannchadha was probably the name of an adjoining district. The surname O hAíchir is now anglicised O'Hehir, Hehir, and Germanised Herr. Though long settled in Thomond, the family was not of Dalussian but of Éoghanacht origin. At the end of the eleventh century they were lords of Magh-Adhair between Ennis and Tulla, but afterwards settled in Ui Cormaic on the west side of the Fergus between Ennis and Slieve-Callan. O'Donovan says they were a sept of the Ui Fidhgheinte-which can hardly be correct. How or when the O'Hehirs settled in Thomond has not been discovered. We have 12 returned exiles of the name on the Register of Electors, 5 Hehirs and 7 Herrs.

CORCA MUICHEIT.

"Mac Innerigh, hero of gems,
Over the mellow Corca Muicheat,
A fine host who constantly ramify
Like the white blossom of the branching apple tree." 55

53 Fiant of Elizabeth, 5612 and 6302.
54 Top. Poems, p. 125.
55 Top. Poems, p. 119.
Corca Muichet, which ranked as one of the free tribes of Erin, must have been in early times one of the most conspicuous clans in the county. From a genealogical point of view, its position is peculiar. The form of the name connotes a pre-Milesian origin. Prof. MacNeill failed to discover a single clan bearing the generic name Corca that could be traced to a Milesian source. And yet Corca Muichet is said to derive its name and descent from Muichet, who was grandson of Eochaidh Muighmheadhon, one of the Milesian Kings of Ireland. Furthermore. Mac Inneirghe, its chieft in later times, is traced to an entirely different, but still Milesian, stock. There seems, however, to have been some considerable uncertainty among Irish scholars about the family pedigree. O’Donovan states\(^{46}\) that Mac Inneirghe was descended from Sedna, fourth son of Cairbre Aebhdha from whom the Ui Cairbre got their name; but elsewhere\(^{57}\) he gives Mac Inneirghe as the name of one of the chief families into which the Ui Conaill Gabhra divided after the establishment of surnames. Dr. O’Brien, on the other hand, says that the Mac Ennerys are descended from Mahon, the brother of Brian Boru.\(^{58}\) This statement appears to have been taken from Keating,\(^{59}\) but nevertheless, is certainly incorrect. It shows, however, that the genuineness of the Mac Inneirghe pedigree is open to suspicion. The probability is that the Mac Enirys belong to the old pre-Milesian stock, and are neither of Eoghanacht nor Dalcassian descent. It is not without significance that none of the family, so far as we know, was ever chief of Ui Cairbre, or of Ui Conaill, not to speak of Ui Fidhgheinte, a fact which cannot be easily explained, in view of the high standing of the family, unless we suppose a difference of race; nor did they share the fate of the Eoghanacht families, the O’Donovans, O’Coileains, &c., who were all driven out about the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion, but held their ground down to the Williamite confiscations and are still numerous in the county. The name is now variously written in English. In the Register of Electors it occurs as Mac Eniry, Mac Enery, Mac Enry, Mac Keniry and Keniry. We have in all 47 electors of the name.

\(^{57}\) Book of Rights, p. 76, note C.
\(^{58}\) Irish Dictionary voce Concobar.
\(^{59}\) History of Ireland, Vol. iv, p. 20.
CORCA OCHE.

"Corca Oiche of beautiful wood,
A fair-surfaced territory of fresh inholders,
A fair land of best showers,
Under the vigorous hero, O'Macasa." 50

The surname O Macasa was formerly anglicised O'Mackessy. The family was dispossessed soon after the Anglo-Norman invasion by a branch of the Fitzgeralards and dispersed through Munster and Leinster. We have on the Register of Electors 14 Mackessys and two electors called McKissy, the latter a very misleading form of the name.

UI ROSA.

"O'Bearga of the fair mansion obtained
The cantrid of Ui Rossa of rich course." 61

Ui Rosa is represented by Iveruss, the name of a parish on the Shannon and in the barony of Kenry. O'Bearga would be now written and pronounced O'Beargha. It was anglicised O'Barrie and O'Barry in the Fiants of Elizabeth. Judging by the number of references to it, the family can hardly be extinct; and there need scarcely be a doubt that many of the Barrys of East Limerick belong to this ancient race and not to the Anglo-Norman Barrys.

CAONRAIGHE.

"The hero of Caonraighe of fair land
Is O'Maolcallann of branches." 62

Caonraighe is now the barony of Kenry. The family of O Maolcallann is long extinct in Co. Limerick. In the north of Ireland the same name, which was anglicised O'Mulchallan in Elizabethan records, still survives under the form of Mulholland.

UAITHNE.

"To approach the Uaithnes is meet for us
Noble their fame and their defence.

50 Top. Poems, p. 119.
51 Top. Poems, p. 119
52 Ibid, p. 119.
“Over Uaithne-tire of fruit,
Is Mag Ceoch who loved great projects;
Muintir Loingsigh, people of the lands,
In this wood at the breast of strangers.

“Uaithne Cliach of bright green land,
Is the country of O’h-Ifearnain;
Fine land at the side of each hillock,
Beautiful and loved by O’Cathalain.”

Mag Ceoch, more correctly written Mac Eothach, is now anglicised Mac Keogh and Keogh. Mac Hough also occurs in the Register as the name of one elector. “This family,” writes O’Donovan, “was seated at Ballymkeogh, near the river Mulkern, not far from the City of Limerick.” We have two Mac Keoghs and thirty-eight Keoghs on the Register.

Muintir Loingsigh is the collective plural of the family name, O’Loingsigh—in English, Lynch. Lynch is one of our commonest surnames. We have 146 Lynches on the Register. Strictly speaking, these two families belong to Tipperary rather than Limerick. O’h-Ifearnain was formerly anglicised O’Hifernane, O’Hifernan, now Heffernan. It is still a common surname in Limerick and Tipperary, and is known all over Munster. We have forty-four Heffernans on the Register of Electors, of whom thirty-three are in East Limerick.

The surname O’Cathalain was found in many parts of Ireland outside Limerick. In the Fiants of Elizabeth it is variously anglicised O’Cahallane, O’Cohallan, and O’Callane, and now appears as Cahalane, Cohalane, Coholan and Callan. In Limerick it seems to have been contracted to O’Cathláin and was anglicised, in Elizabethan records relating to the county, O’Colhane, O’Callhan and O’Callane. It is now fairly common as Culhane. From a metathesised form O Clathain, which I heard once pronounced O Cliothain, we get the rarer anglicised forms, Claheane and Clehane. There are eighty Culhanes on the Register of Electors, two Cullanes and four Clehanes.

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These four ancient families of Uaithne were dispossessed by the O'Mulryans or Ryans, in the thirteenth century.

ARA CLIACH.

"Chief King of Ara, over every tribe
O'Donnagain of the noble aspect;
The territory yielded heavy produce
For the King of Ara; it is not trifling."

O'Donnagain appears to have been chief of both sections of the Ara, and also of Ui Cuanach, now the barony of Coonagh. The name is now anglicised Donegan. The O'Donegans of Ara were, in early times, a very important family. They are frequently mentioned in the Irish Annals of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, but after the Anglo-Norman invasion they began to decline and soon disappeared from history. Their territory was occupied in the fourteenth century by a branch of the O'Briens, the chief of which was styled Mac I Brien Ara. We have only seventeen Donegans on the Register of Electors, but it is unlikely that all these are of the Ara family, for there was another family of O'Donegans who were chiefs of Muscraighe-tri-Maighe, or Muskerry Donegan, in the neighbourhood of Charleville, some of whom, no doubt, crossed into Co. Limerick.

TUATH LUIMNIGH.

"Tuath-Luimnigh about the noble Shannon
Two chiefs are over it on one side
O'Cadhla and O'Maille, the swift,
Beautiful ravens of the two inbheres."

The position of Tuath-Luimnigh has not been defined but it would appear that portion of it, at least, lay on the Limerick side of the Shannon. The surname, O'Cadhla, was anglicised O'Keyly, O'Kealy and O'Quealy in the Fiants of Elizabeth, and is now generally made Kiely in Munster, and Kealy in Connacht, where there was another family of the name. O'Quealy, now Quealy, was a Thomond form. We have fifty-nine Kielys on the Register of

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56 Top. Poems, p. 131.
55 Top. Poems, p. 129.
56 See the Diocese of Limerick, p. 13.
Electors, but no Kealy or Quealy. O’Máille is anglicised O’Malley, O’Mealy, Malley and Mealy. We have on the Register six O’Malleys, one O’Mealy, twenty-four Malleys and one Mealy, in all thirty-one electors of the family of O’Máille.

DEIS BEAG.

"The Deis Beg of the purple cloak
Is hereditary to the valorous tribe,
The heroes of Claire mentioned by us,
Of the fairest bay of Erin.

"Three septs of high hilarity
Are over Deis Beag of trees,
Fair over the smooth plain of the house of Tal
The populous tribe of O’Luain.

"The Ui Dubhrosa of hot incursions,
The Ui Farcceallaigh of the land of Claire,
True is the blood of the other tribe
By whom the trine of the Maírtine were subdued."

Cláire was the ancient name of a hill near Duntryleague. It would appear from the above that the territory of the Deis Beag was much more extensive than has been supposed. By ‘house of Tál’ is meant the Dál Cais whose territory may have originally embraced this region, as it did in later times. The ‘three septs of high hilarity’ are, it is much to be regretted, all long extinct. The same surnames were in use in other parts of Ireland where they still survive. O’Luain is anglicised O’Loane, O’Loan and Loane, in the North of Ireland, and in other parts, according to O’Donovan, translated Lambe. O Farcceallaigh, also an Ulster surname, is, in English, O’Farrelly, Farrelly and Farley. O Dubhrosa may be the origin of the Mayo surname, Doris.

Among the old families of the county we must also reckon the Ui Longáin, now Ui Luingéáin, coarls of Ardpatrick, who are represented on the Register by twenty-three electors of whom however, eighteen have adopted the foreign name, Leonard, the remaining five being Linganes or Linnanes; the Ui Maolchorcra, now represented by twelve Cokerry’s; and some of our Caseys and Duanes, or Dwnes.

*7 Top. Poems, p. 123.*
The following notices of the clans of Co. Limerick and their rulers are collected from the Four Masters. Both sections of the Ara and Uaithne are included.

A.D. 645—The battle of Carn Conaill [in the present Co. Galway] gained by Diarmaid, son of Aedh Slaine, against Guaire, where was slain Cuan, son of Conall, chief of Ui Fidhgheinte.

699—Conall, son of Doineannaigh, chief of Uí Fidhgente, died.

713—Aedh Dubh, chief of Uí Fidhgenti, died.

745—Dubhdabhoireann, lord of Uí Fidhgente, died.

755—Flann, son of Erc, lord of Uí Fidhgente, died.

767—Cennsealach, lord of Uí Fidhgente, died.

770—Dubhinnreachtach, lord of the Ara, died.

781 (recte 785)—Scannlan, son of Flann, lord of Uí Fidhgente, died.

802 (recte 807)—Murchadh Ua Flaian [i.e. grandson of Flann], lord of Uí Fidhgente, died.

809 (recte 814)—Bruadar, lord of Uí Fidgente, died.

833—A battle [was gained] over the Danes by Dunadhach, son of Scannlan, lord of Uí Fidhgente, wherein many were slain.

833—Dunadhach, son of Scannlan, lord of Gabhra, died.

834—Dunadhach, son of Scannlan, lord of Uí Fidhgente, died.

844—Niall, son of Ceannshaoladh, lord of Uí Fidhgente, died. (The same entry is repeated under 845).

852—Crummhaoil son of Maolduin, lord of Uí Fidhgente, died.

855—Bran, lord of Scannlan, lord of Gabhra, died.

858—Aedh Dubh, son of Dubhdabhoireann, lord of Uí Fidhgente, died after being wounded.

876—A victory was gained by Cearbhall, son of Dunghal, and by the Deisi, over the men of Munster, at Inneoin [near Clonmel], where fell Flannabhra, lord of Gabhra, and many others along with him.

878—Fianna, son of Dubhshlagen, lord of Uí Fidhgheinte, died.

901—Ciarmhacan, son of Flannabhra, Ua Dunadhagain [that is, grandson of Dunadhach], lord of Uí Conaill Gabhra, died.

914—Ainle, son of Cathan, lord of Uaithne Cliach, was put to death by the foreigners of Loch Dachaoch [Waterford].

914—Gebhennach, son of Aedh, lord of Uí Fidhgente, was slain by the Norsemen.
949—Dubhdabharc, son of Maolmordha, lord of Uaithne-tire, died.

974—Mathghamhain, son of Ceinneidigh, supreme King of all Munster, was treacherously taken prisoner by Donnabhan, son of Cathal, lord of Ui Fidhgeinte, who delivered him up to Maolmhuaidh, son of Bran, lord of Desmond, who put him to death against the protection of saints and just men.

976 (recte 978)—A battle was gained by Brian, son of Ceinneidigh, over the foreigners of Luimneach (Limerick) and Donnobhan, son of Cathal, lord of Ui Fidhgeinte, wherein the foreigners of Luimneach were defeated and slaughtered.


1013 (recte 1014)—Caibre, son of Cleirchen, lord of Ui Fidhghenti, was treacherously slain by Maolcolaim of Kenry.

1013 (recte 1014)—Ruaidhri Ua Donnagain, lord of the Ara, and many others along with him fell in battle.

1014 (recte 1015)—Dunghal Ua Donnchaidh went on a predatory excursion into Ara Óliach, and Finn, son of Ruaidhri Ua Donnagain, lord of the Ara and Ui Cuanaich, was slain by him.68

1015 (recte 1016)—A victory was gained by the Eili over Eoghanacht Chaisil, where Domhnall, grandson of Ruaidhri, lord of the Ara, and numbers of others, were slain.

1031—Oisraigh was plundered by Donnchadh, son of Brian, and the Oisraigh slew (among others) two grandsons of Maelchlaíinn, son of Flannabhrat, both royal heirs of the Ua Conaill. Gabhra.

1031—Maolcolaim Caonraighbeach [i.e. Malcolm of Kenry] died.

1031—Ua Donnagain, lord of Ara-tire, was slain by O'Briain, i.e. Toirdhealbhach.

1043—A predatory excursion was made by the Oisraighi and the men of East Munster, i.e. by Macraith Ua Donnchadha and Echthighern Ua Donnagain, lord of the Ara, to Dunnaściath, and they burned the dúin and seized some small spoils. But Guthach, son of Saerbhreathach, lord of the Eoghanacht overtook them at Maelicennaigh on the brink of the Shuir; and he defeated the men of Óssory and Ormond, where Ua Donnagain, lord of the Ara, was slain, together with many others.

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68 This entry is wrongly translated by O'Donovan.
1045—The son of Maeleichlainn, son of Ceannshaoladh, son of Conchobhar, royal heir of the Ui Conaill, was killed.

1049—Conchobhar Ua Cinnshaolaidh, lord of Ui Conaill Gabhra, was slain by the lord of the Boghanacht Locha Léin.

1080—Eochaith Ua Loingsigh, lord of Uaithne-tire, died.

1094—Ruaidhri Ua Donnagain, lord of the Ara, died.

1105—Maolruanaidh Ua Bilraighc, lord of Ui Cairbre, died.

1107—Cuilen Ua Cathalain, lord of Uaithne Cliach, died.

1115—Muircheartach Ua Ciarmhaic, lord of Aine, was slain.

1122—Maelsechlainn Ua Donnagain, lord of Ara-tire, died.

1123—An unusual attack was made upon the successor of Ailbhe, i.e. Maolmordha, son of Mac Cloithnia, viz.: a house in the middle of Emly was taken from him and from the son of Cearbhail Ua Ciarmhaic, lord of Aine Cliach, and seven persons were killed therein, but the chiefs escaped through the miracle of God, Ailbhe, and the Church.

1155—Cuilen of Claonghlaiss, lord of Ui Conaill Gabhra, fell by Ua Cinnshaolaidh, who was slain immediately after by Cuilen’s people.

1174—Maelsechlainn O Donnagain, lord of the Ara, was slain by Ua Conaing.

1266—Mahon Ua Cuileain, lord of Claonghlaiss, was killed by his own wife with one stab of a knife, given through jealousy.

[TO BE CONTINUED].