NAMES AND SURNAMES IN COUNTY LIMERICK.

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(Continued from page 111.)

It will be seen from what has already been said that the native element now forms only a very small proportion—perhaps not more than five per cent.—of the total population of the county. To recount the series of events which resulted in this almost complete overthrow of the native Gaelic families, would be, in a measure, to write the history of Ireland for the past seven hundred years. I shall confine myself to indicating a few, what may be called, revolutionary periods, when more or less important changes were effected in the population and nomenclature of the county.

The first of these, but by no means the most important, was that of the Danish Invasion. The Danes made their first attack on Ireland as early as 795, but it was only about 30 years later that they visited Limerick; and nearly one hundred and thirty years passed before they effected a permanent settlement. In 922, Tomar, son of Elge, with an immense fleet, sailed up the Shannon and landed at Inis Sibhthon, now the King's Island, laying the foundation of the City of Limerick. He was followed a few years later by a still more numerous fleet, the largest yet seen in Ireland, under the command of Imar, grandson of Imar, chief king of the foreigners, and his three sons, Dubhceann (blackhead), Cuallaiddh (wild dog), and Aralt (Harold). From this central position they plundered all Munster, both churches and chieftainries, taking hostages and levying contributions under a well-organised system of tax-gatherers, who were distributed over the country and billeted in the houses of the inhabitants.1. Thus they held the country in bondage for many years.

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1 War of the Gaedhill with the Gaill, p. 49,
until at length they were vanquished by Mahon and Brian in the
decisive battle of Solohead in 968, after which they embraced Christian-
ity, and turned their attentions from war to commercial pursuits.

Whatever may be said of the political aspect of the Danish
Invasion, it does not seem, from an ethnological point of view, to have
been productive of any very far-reaching result. At its close the old
order was practically unchanged, and no very large and important
foreign element seems, as a consequence, to have been added to
the population. This is true at least of the county. Nor did it add
greatly to our stock of surnames. In fact, to judge from the Register
of Electors, there might never have been a Danish colony in Limerick.
Danish surnames indeed we have, but, with possibly one or two excep-
tions, they originated elsewhere, and some of them are borne by families
of undoubtedly Irish descent.

At the time of the Danish Invasion, hereditary surnames, it will be
remembered, were not yet in vogue, and whatever surnames were
adopted at a later period by the Danes who remained in Ireland, were
formed after the Irish fashion, by prefixing O or Mac to the genitive
case of the names of their ancestors. Meanwhile, through intermarriages
and other alliances of friendship with the Irish, they had been adopting
Irish personal names. Some of them, moreover, had in addition to their
native Danish names, names of a descriptive character bestowed on
them by the Irish, and were thus known to the Irish by Irish names.
Dubhheann and Cuallaichidh, the names of the sons of Lmar of Limerick,
were not Danish, but Irish. The Irish, in like manner, borrowed names
from the Danes, and some of the names thus introduced have been
popular ever since. As a consequence of this interchange of names
between the two nations, it is now impossible to say, judging merely
from the surname, whether a family is of Irish or Danish descent. A
Danish eponym, generally speaking, is merely indicative of a Danish
strain in the family, Danish names having been adopted by the Irish
mostly through intermarriages.

The number of Danish surnames on the Register of Electors, that
is, surnames formed by prefixing O or Mac to Danish personal names,
will scarcely be found to exceed a dozen in all. Besides these we have
four or five others of Danish origin, but which came in at the time of
the Anglo-Norman Invasion, and must, therefore, rather be described as
Anglo-Danish.

O'Doyle, or Doyle, is a Danish surname, and, not unlikely, of local
origin. The Irish distinguished between two nations of the Danes—
the Fionn-Ghaill, or fair strangers, who were natives of Norway, and
the Dubh-Ghaill, or black strangers, who were natives of Denmark and
of darker complexion. The individual Dane of the latter nation was
known as Dubghhall, the black stranger. This in course of time became
a personal name. Dubhghall, for instance, was one of the Danish
leaders who fell at Clontarf. O'Doyle is "grandson of Dubghhall," the
black stranger—in Irish O Dubhghaill. The family is very probably of
Danish race. There are Doyles in all parts of Ireland, but it will be
remarked that they are most numerous in the maritime counties of
Leinster and Munster, and in the neighbourhood of the old Danish
settlements. It is very likely, therefore, that our Doyles, of whom we
have sixteen on the Register of Electors, are a remnant of the Danish
colony of Limerick.

Dubhghall, though it does not appear to have been adopted, to any
very great extent, as a personal name by the Irish, was not uncommon,
anglice Dugald, among the MacDonals of Scotland; whence the sur-
name MacDugald borne by a branch of that family. Some of the Mac
Dugalds, like the MacDonals, came to Ireland in the 13th or 14th
century, as captains of gallowglasses, and settled in Co. Roscommon,
where the surname is now anglicised MacDowell. In other parts of
Ireland, owing to the aspiration of the initial D of the eponym, it is
anglicised Coyle.

Harold is another Danish surname, which almost certainly origi-
nated in Limerick. The Irish form is O'Harait, 'grandson of Aralt.'
Aralt, as we have seen, was one of the sons of Imar, king of the Danes
of Limerick. O'Harold appears as a Limerick surname in the Patent
Rolls of James I., and we have now twenty-five Harrolds on the Register
of Electors.

2 It is interesting to compare the older anglicised forms of these three sur-
names: O Dubhghaill—O'Doagill, O'Dowell, O'Doyle, now Doyle; Mac Dubh-
ghaill—M'Dougall, M'Dugald, M'Doile, now MacDowell, Dowell; Mac Dubh-
ghaill—M'Cowgall, M'Cougald, M'Cowell, M'Coyle, now Coyle.
Imar himself has left his name clearly stamped on the nomenclature of the county. It was a name renowned among the Northmen. The native form appears from old Danish coins to have been Ifars or Imrs. In Irish it became Iomhar or Íomhar, anglicise Ivor. O hIomhair, "grandson of Ivor," was an old Thomond surname, now represented on our Register of Electors by thirty-four Howards. Strange as the English equivalent may seem, the various steps in the process of anglicisation can be easily traced. Even as early as the reign of Henry VIII., it was written O Hawrde. In the Flints of Elizabeth it occurs as O Hyver, O Hewer, and O Huar in Thomond, and as O Houre in Co. Limerick. From this last the transition to Howard is easy. O'Hure still exists as an anglicised form.

There was another family of the name—a branch of the Ui Fiachrach—in the county Sligo, where the name was formerly anglicised O'Heiver, whence probably Eivers and Ivers. The Mac-form—Mac-Iomhair—is not represented on our Register, but MacIvor, MacKeever, MacGeever, and MacGeevor, are well-known surnames in the north and west of Ireland.

Amhlaobh appears to have been the native name of the son of Imar of Limerick, who was known to the Irish as Cuaillaigh. After their defeat by Mahon and Brian, the Danes for a while made Scattery Island their headquarters, perhaps in the hope of receiving reinforcements from their countrymen. There they were attacked in 977, by the O'Donnells of Corca Baiscinn, probably acting under Brian, and great numbers of them slain, together with three of their leaders. The names of these leaders are given by the author of the "War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill" as Imar, Dubhceann and Cullaith. The Four Masters, recording the same event, gives the leaders who were slain as Iomhar, and his two sons, Amhlaobh and Duibhceann; and with this Keating agrees. Aralt, the only surviving son of Imar, was recognised king of the foreigners of Munster after the death of his father, but was himself slain the next year together with his ally, Donovan, by Brian at the battle of Cathair Cuan.

Amhlaobh was a famous Scandinavian name and was borne by saints as well as warriors. The native forms were Anlaf and Olaf, which were latinised Anlavus and Olavus. The proper English form is
Olave. St. Olaf, the martyr-king of Norway, whose feast is kept on July 29, and another royal St. Olaf of Sweden have made it one of the most national of Scandinavian names to the present day.3

Amhlaoibh first appears in the Irish annals at the year 851, where it is recorded that Amhlaoibh, son of the king of Lochlainn, came to Ireland, so that all the foreign tribes in Ireland submitted to him; and for two centuries after it was one of the commonest names among the Norse leaders in Ireland. The Irish early borrowed it as a personal name, and it became very popular among them. It still survives in West Munster, but is absurdly anglicised "Humphrey."

We have on our Register of Electors fifty-one "sons of Amhlaoibh," or MacAuliffes—Irish MacAmhlaoibh. The family, however, is not Danish, but, according to Keating, a branch of the MacCarthys. The head of the MacAuliffes resided at Castle MacAuliffe, near Newmarket, and was tributary to MacDonough MacCarthy, chief of Duhallow. The clan-lands comprised the district lying between Newmarket and the boundaries of the counties of Limerick and Kerry.

This surname in the north of Ireland is anglicised MacAuley and MacAulay. It was borne by a branch of the Maguires of Fermanagh, whose territory comprised the barony of Clanawley. There was also a Scottish clan of the name, seated at Ardincaple in Dumbartonshire, some of whom afterwards settled in Co. Antrim. To this family the celebrated Lord Macaulay belonged.

Hally was formerly the name of a merchant family at Cashel and Kilmallock. It is probably to be identified with the family of O hAilche mentioned by O'Huidhrin,4 as proprietors of Tuatha Faralt, somewhere in the north of Tipperary. If so the surname is Danish, Ailche being only another form of the name of the father of Tomar, the leader of the first Danish settlement in Limerick. We have six Hallys on the Register of Electors.

The native home of the northern invaders was known to the Irish as Lochlainn, a name which is supposed to signify "Lakeland" or "Fiordland," and well describes the coast of Norway. However

4 Topographical Poems, p. 134.
it came about, Lochlainn was quickly adopted by the Irish as a personal name, and became very popular. The form of the name is not easily explained. Lochlannach, which Dr. O'Brien in his Irish Dictionary translates "Lakelander," is what we should expect. Dr. MacBain suggests that it was originally MacLochlainne, "son of Scandinavia," a Scandinavian. However, that may be, it was early adopted by the Irish, and still survives, being anglicised Laughlin and Loughlin. A couple of centuries ago it was latinised Ludovicus, and so, perhaps, is now represented in some instances by Louis. As early as 983, we find the death recorded by the Four Masters of Lochlann, lord of Corcomroe. He was the ancestor from whom the O'Loughlins of Thomond derive their name and descent. This ancient and distinguished family originally formed one clan with the O'Connors, and ruled over a district co-extensive with the diocese of Kilfenora. This district which was called Corcomroe from the clan-name of the inhabitants, the Corca Mughruadh, was afterwards divided into two parts between the two families. The O'Loughlins continued to rule over Eastern Corcomore, also called Burren, down to the reign of Elizabeth, and are still numerous in Thomond. With us the O'Loughlins are few.

We have only three O'Loughlins and eight Loughlins on the Register, MacLochlainn was the name of a branch of the northern Uí Neill, which, down to the 13th century, was the most powerful family in Ulster. We have only four MacLoughlins on the register. The surname MacLoughlin, it may be remarked, in the Midlands, is generally a corruption of the old Meath surname O'Melaghlin.

Cotter is an unmistakably Danish surname. The Cotters were an old and respectable family in the neighbourhood of the city of Cork. They are very probably of Danish descent. The Irish form of the surname was Mac Oitir, which, by attraction over of the c of Mac, became Mac Coitir. In Elizabethan records we find it anglicised M'Cottir, M' Cotter, &c. The meaning is "Son of Oitir." More than one leader of the name is mentioned among the Danes. In 916, the Earl, Oitir Dubh, or Oitir the Black, arrived at Waterford with one hundred ships and plundered all Munster, including

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*Etymological Gaelic Dictionary, p. 403.*
the greater part of the present county of Limerick. Another Oitir Dubh, probably his grandson, is mentioned among the Danish leaders at Clontarf. We have thirty-one Cotters on the Register of Electors.

Gothfraidh, in English Godfrey, a common Danish name, has left us seventeen Godfreys on the Register of Electors. The Irish is O Gothfraidh. It appears in the Elizabethan records as O Gogherie and O Goherie. MacCaffrey in the North is from the same source.

Kenrick, represented by six electors on the Register, is in Irish MacEanraic, "son of Eanrac," a Danish form of Henry. This surname was in use in Cork, Waterford and Wexford, and the family is probably of Danish descent. O hEanraic, anglice O'Henrick, Henrick, also exists, but is not represented on our Register.

The Annals of Ulster, under the year 874, record the slaying of Oistin, son of Amhlaobh, king of the Norsemen. Oistin is the source of the surname O hOistin borne by a Connacht family, who were followers of the MacDermotts of Moylurg. This surname was anglicised O Hustyne, O Hustin, in Elizabethan records, and is still common in Connacht, especially in Mayo. It is also now common in Clare. Before the end of the 16th century it had found its way into Limerick and Kerry, where it still survives. The modern anglicised forms are Histon, Hestin, Hestion, Hasting, Hastings, and Hastings. We have eight Histons and five Hastings on the Register of Electors.

O Bruadair, "grandson of Bruadar," must, I think, also be regarded as a Danish surname. The only difficulty is that the name Bruadar seems to occur too early to be ascribed to Danish influence. The Danish invasion began, as I have said, in 795, but for many years after the inland parts of the country were unmolested. The Annals of the Four Masters, however, record under the year 809 (recte 814), the death of Bruadar, lord of Ui Fidhghheinte, who must have got his name some considerable time previous to the first appearance of the invaders. But though this seems to prove that the name Bruadar is not of Danish origin, yet it is just possible, as
Father MacErlean remarks, that a Danish name may have been introduced through commercial intercourse with that people prior to the period of the warlike invasions. Bruadar certainly became common only during the period of the Danish Invasion, and this seems to lend colour to the theory of its Danish origin. Brodar, we know, was the name of the Dane who slew King Brian at Clontarf.

Not all the Uí Bruadair, or O’Broudors, derive their descent from the same original Bruadar. There were several Bruadars who founded families in Ireland and perpetuated their name in the surname of their descendants. At least five families of the name are known to have existed: (1) O Bruadair of Ossory, the head of which was chief at Iverk in the south of Co. Kilkenny; (2) O Bruadair of Galway, a respectable family in the 16th century, and still numerous in that county; (3) O Bruadair of Carraic Brachaidhe in Inishowen, Co. Donegal, a name still in that district at the beginning of the 17th century; (4) O Bruadair of Uí Ceinnsealacht, Co. Wexford; and (5) O Bruadair of Corca Laoíghe, Co. Cork.⁶ To this last, which is of the same stock as the O’Driscolls, the O’Broudors of Co. Limerick almost certainly belong. At what precise time they came hither, it is not easy to say, but I find no trace of the surname in the county prior to the year 1600.

O’Bruadair has been variously anglicised in different parts of Ireland. Brouder is the form most common with us, but unfortunately there is a strong tendency to substitute for it the English surname Broderick, with which it has absolutely no connection—many who began life as Broudors becoming Brodericks when they move into town, or ascend somewhat in the social scale. Thus the origin of this fine old surname is being rapidly obscured. Broder is the form in a few instances. We have on the Register of Electors thirty-nine Broudors and Broders, and twenty-nine Brodericks.

The principal Danish names borrowed by the Irish, in addition to those already mentioned, are:—

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⁶ See a full account of these families by Rev. John C. MacErlean, S.J., in his introduction to the Poems of David O Bruadair, published by the Irish Texts’ Society.
Carlus—Latin Carolus, English Charles, a name adopted by
the Northmen in honour of Charlemagne, whence the Connacht
surname MacCarluis, in English Corless.

Magnus—Latin Magnus, another name taken in honour of
Charlemagne (Carous Magnus), and borne by a son of St. Olaf of
Norway, whence the Irish name Manus, still in use, and the sur-
name MacManus.

Raghnaill—Reginald, Reynold, and incorrectly Randal, whence
the surname MacRaghnaill, anglice MacRannal, MacRanald, Mac-
Reynold, Reynolds, &c.

Siocfhraidh—Sigefrid, a common name among the O'Sullivans,
therefore the old Kerry surname O Siocfhradhla, O Siochradha, angl.
O'Shighrowe, now Sugre.

Sitreac—Norse Sigtrygge, Danish Sihtric, whence Mac-
Kittrick, Kittrick, &c., and, in the neighbourhood of Limerick,
Setright.

Somhairle—Sorley, a common name among the MacDonaldis,
therefore MacSorley.

Tommhair, whence the common Ulster surname O'Tonor,
Toner, in Irish corruptly O'Tomhnair.

Torcall—Thorkell, whence Mac Thorcaill, Mac Corkill, a
common surname among the Danes of Dublin in the 12th century,
but as a present-day surname seemingly of Scottish origin.

None of these names was prominent at Limerick, nor are any of
the surnames formed from them represented on our Register.

Toirdhealbach, anglice Turlough, was a famous name among
the O'Briens, who got it from their ancestor, Toirdhealbhach, who
was son of Cathal, King of Munster, in the early part of the 7th
century. It occurs too early to be Danish; Cathal, the father of
Toirdhealbhach, died in 620. Still it appears to have for its root a
Danish word, Thor was the Jupiter of the North. We have his
name in the word Thursday, and it was the root of many personal names. I have already mentioned Thorkell. Toirdhealbhach is seemingly "Thor-shaped," shaped like the god Thor, not "Tower-shaped," as I think I saw it once explained. It is still extant as a Christian name, but replaced in English by Terence, with which it has no connexion.

Oisdealbhach, whence M'Cosdallowe, now Costelloe, a surname represented by sixty-one electors on our Register, is of similar origin and import, meaning "god-shaped." The Costelloes are a branch of the family of Nangle and Nagle, who are said to be Anglo-Irish. MacOisdealbhaigh, however, occurs in the Annals earlier than any Anglo-Irish surname formed by prefixing Mac, and it may well have been that the Nagles were a Danish family of Dublin.

Nihill, though a well-known surname about Limerick, is not represented on our Register. In Elizabethan records it appears as O Nyhill, O Nihill, &c., and is in reality the same surname as O'Neill. Its form is, however, peculiar, and shows Danish influence. Much might be written on its history. Briefly, the Irish name Niall, whence O'Neill, was borrowed by the Danes, and returned again with them at a later period in the shape of Nigel. The Irish form of O'Nihill is O Neighill, and signifies "Son of Nigel."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]