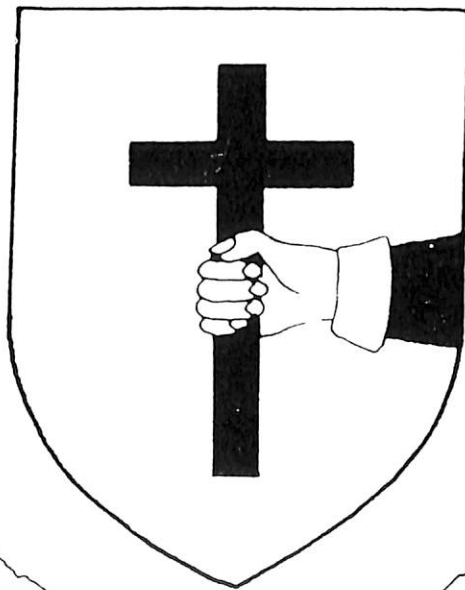


Ó Domhnaill Abú



O'Donnell Clan Newsletter No. 6
Autumn 1986

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Roger M. O'Donnell of 14 Blowering St., Duffy, A.C.T. 2611, Australia, whose forefathers immigrated from around Feakle, Co. Clare in 1858, would gratefully appreciate any help towards his family research from (i) anyone researching the Co. Clare O'Donnells, in particular those from (i) anyone researching as Scariff and Pollagoona; (ii) anyone researching places around Feakle such as immigrated to America in the mid 1850's; (iii) any O'Donnell from this area who would like to correspond with him.

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Present at the first St. Patrick's Day celebration in Spain, 1936 were:-
3rd from left Dona Blanca O'Donnell, then Duchess of Tetuan (303); 4th from left, Leopold H. Kerney, first Irish accredited diplomatic representative to Spain; 5th from left, Micheline Kerney (-Walsh), his daughter; 6th from left, Mrs. Raymonde Kerney, wife of Leopold H. Kerney.

CLANN DALAIGH
(1600 to the present)

by V. O'Donnell

THE SPANISH LINE

The O'Donnells of Spain, while ordinarily following the traditional profession of arms, found themselves at times, swept along by the tide of politics, and were destined to play a leading part in the affairs of the country of their adoption.

JOSEPH (36), born Mayo, 1722, the founder of the branch, was colonel of the Regiment of Ultonia and eventually rose to the rank of Lieut.-General. He had a large family, four of which served in the army. They were:-

HENRIQUE (43d), born 1770 who was renowned for the part he played in the defence of the strategic town of Gerona that straddled the main highway between Barcelona and France. The defending garrison was the depleted Regiment of Ultonia consisting of 424 officers and men, under the command of Colonel Antonio O'Kelly with Major Henrique O'Donnell as second-in-command. Henrique pressed every able-bodied man into service, even forming a company of clerical students, and trained them thoroughly in the art of war. The seige lasted eighteen months and at one period an attack by 30,000 French was beaten off. He was created Count of Abisbal for reducing the Fortress of l'Abisbal at another stage in the campaign. It was here he received a leg wound that left him lame for life. He rose to the rank of Lieut.-General, became Director General of Infantry and Regent of Spain during the incapacity of Ferdinand VII. He died at Montpellier, France in 1833. His only son - Leopoldo (301), 2nd Count Abisbal and a Captain of the Royal Guard was taken prisoner at Alsuzua in 1833 and shot in cold blood the next day. s.p.

ALEJANDRO (43b), born 1774, was Colonel of Infantry. He died in 1837. His only son, Jose (300), 1806-1882, was Chief of Civil Administration.

JOSEPH (43a), born 1772, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Ferdinand, Lieut. General and Captain General of Old Castile and of Valencia. He died in 1830 and left no male issue.

Carlos (43), born 1772/3, also had a distinguished army career. He was Captain General of Old Castile and Director General of Artillery during the Peninsular War. He died at Madrid in 1830. His son:-

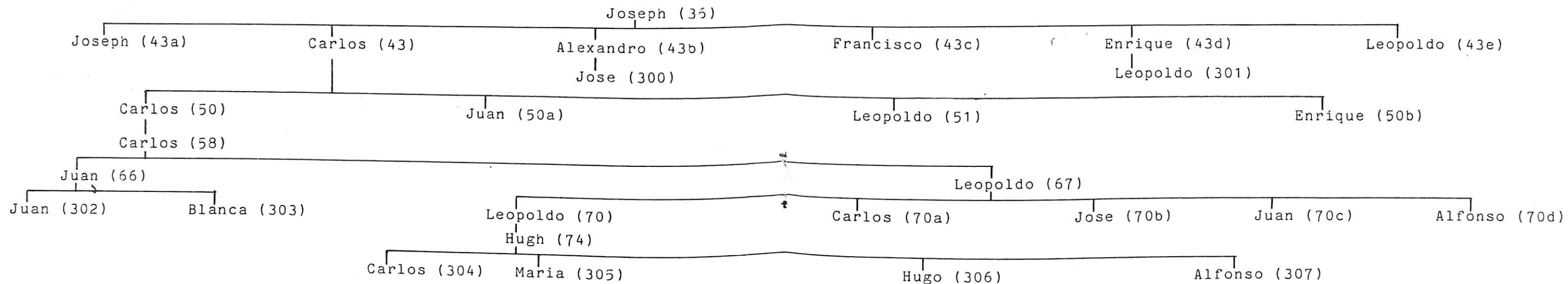
Leopoldo (51), born 1809, was the outstanding figure in Spain in his time and has been rated as one of the greatest of his race. He served in the army from an early age, winning rapid promotion. He was given the title, Count de Lucena and the high post of Captain General of Cuba for his services in the Carlist War. He returned home, rose to the rank of Field-Marshal, became Prime Minister and Minister of War. He conducted the brilliant campaign against the Moors that won Morocco for his country in 1860. This military victory made him tremendously popular. He was created Duke of Tetuan and received many other worthy honours in acknowledgment of his political and military skill. He died without issue in 1867 and the title went to his nephew Carlos (58). Leopoldo had three brothers:-

HENRIQUE (50b), 1843-1869, was Lieut.-General and Director General of Cavalry.

JUAN (50a), born 1804, Commander of the Royal Guard. He was assassinated by the populace in 1836.

CARLOS (50), 1802-1835, was General of Cavalry and Chief of the Royal Guard. He was killed in action. He had one son:-

CARLOS (58), 2nd Duke of Tetuan and Marquis of Altamira, born in 1834. He filled many offices, among them, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Ambassador at Vienna. He kept up a close association with Ireland, corresponding with the Larkfield O'Donnells. On the occasion of the Centenary Celebrations of the birth of St. Columbkille, held at Gartan on the 9th of June, 1897, he sent a telegram to His Lordship, Patrick O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe to be read to the assemblage. The 2nd Duke died in 1903 and the title passed to his son:-



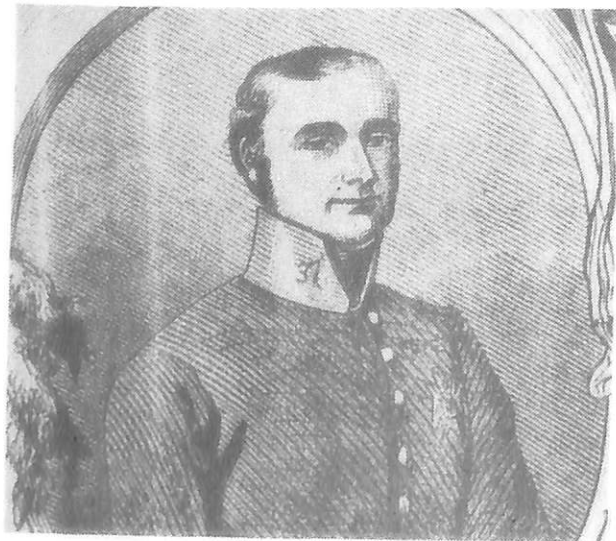
This chart shows only the main line, a full chart would be impossible as there were many large families as indeed there are today. Wives have been omitted but suffice to say most were nobility.



CARLOS (43)



JOSEPH (43a)



ALEXANDRO (43b)



ENRIQUE (43d)



LEOPOLDO, 1st. DUKE OF TETUAN (51)



CARLOS(58)



LEOPOLDO(67)

JUAN (66), born 1864, who became Lieut.-General of Cavalry. He, too, held many important posts, among them, Minister for War. Despite his lack of English, he presided over the stormy Irish Race Congress that was held in Paris in 1922. He died in 1928, leaving one son:-

JUAN (302), the 4th Duke, born 1898, died unmarried in 1932. his sister-

BLANCA (303), born 1899 was the 5th to hold the title. Her house was looted during the Spanish Civil War and family records stolen or destroyed. A volume of the Annals of the Four Masters that belonged to her grandfather, the 2nd Duke, was found years afterwards in a second-hand bookshop by the Director of the Irish College, Salamanca, and restored to her. She left no children and, upon her death, in 1952, the title was inherited by her cousin:-

LEOPOLDO (70), born 1915 and today alive and well and living in Madrid. As well as being the present Duke of Tetuan, he is also Marquis of Las Salinas. Accompanied by his wife, Consuelo, he travelled to Dublin in 1956 when he was conferred with a Doctorate of Laws, honoris causa, degree by the National University of Ireland. He was also present at the 1980 Clan Gathering in Donegal Town. His only son:-

HUGH (74), Count de Lucena, was born in 1948. He is a lawyer, an historian and is at present a Captain in the Spanish Navy. Hugh has been to Ireland on many occasions and attended both the 1980 and 1982 Clan Gatherings. He is married to Maria Armada and to date they have four children - Carlos (304), Hugo (305), Maria (306) and Alfonso (307), aged 12, 11, 7 and 2 years respectively.

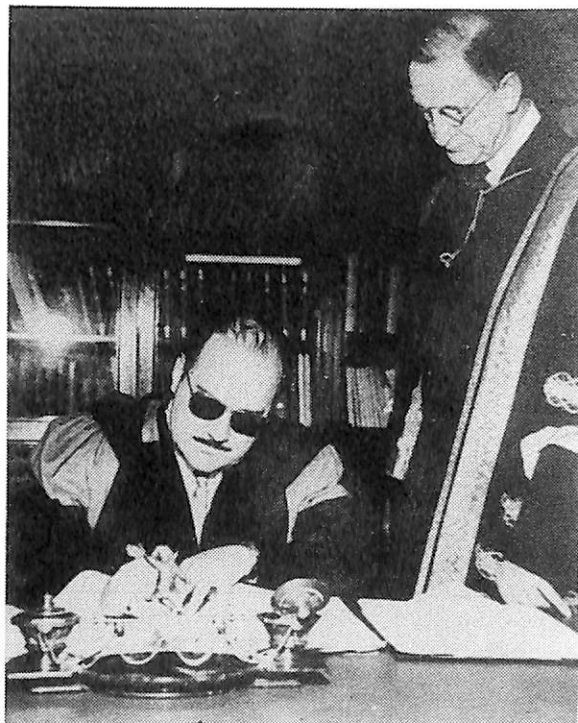
The Duke's other brothers are:-

CARLOS (70a), born 1916, married with eight of a family. Died in 1972.

JOSE (70b), born 1918, married with eight of a family.

JUAN (70c), born 1919, married with three of a family.

ALFONSO (70d), born 1921, married with four of a family.



Leopoldo (70), Duke of Tetuan and Marquis of Las Salinas, during the conferring ceremony in 1956. On the right is Eamon De Valera, the Chancellor of the National University of Ireland.



Hugh (74), Count de Lucena with his wife, Maria at the 1982 Clan Gathering in Donegal Town.

Letters, articles, subscriptions, etc. should be sent to The Editor, Vincent O'Donnell, Inver, Co. Donegal, Eire. Tel. (073) 36059
Yearly Subscription: Ireland and Britain £5.00 - Other Countries £6.00

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MANUS O'DONNELL, 21st Lord of Tir Chonaill

Manus, the son of Aodh Dubh the 20th Chieftain, was probably born about 1490. He lived at a time of great change when the old Gaelic way of life was under constant attack from the feudal system, and treachery, violence and family disloyalty were rife. Being a fierce and tough soldier he was well able for the difficulties surrounding him as he was soon to prove.

In 1510 he was left in charge of Tir Chonaill while his father went on a pilgrimage to Rome. Quite soon his country was attacked by an O'Neill army but Manus, with the help of the MacSwineys, defended it so well that the Tyrone men returned home without success. A few years later Manus had his revenge when with the aid of his father and 1,500 gallowglasses he plundered Tyrone as far as Dungannon and made O'Neill give up his claim to Inishowen and Kinel Moen (the Lanan country of East Donegal).

What has been described as the bloodiest battle ever between Cineal Chonaill and Cineal Eoghain was fought at Cnoc Rui (Knockavoe) near Strabane in 1522. Manus was defending his base at Lifford against an O'Neill (retaliatory) attack. It ended in great victory for Manus - over 900 of O'Neill's army were killed and much booty taken.

O'Neill was back seeking revenge a few years later but in vain. Manus with the help of more gallowglasses beat off the combined forces of O'Neill and the Lord Deputy (Garret Oge). In 1526 Manus and his father once again invaded Tyrone and took much booty.

In 1527 Manus built a magnificent castle at Port-na-dtri-namhad at Lifford. It was of stone with a wooden superstructure and he often had to beat off the O'Neills who made every effort to obstruct the building.

The last years of his father's life were difficult for Manus. His half-brother, Aodh Rui, was a rival for the Chieftainship and for several years they fought each other. Aodh Dubh died in

1537 and Manus managed to have himself inaugurated as Chieftain in his place. Aodh Rui died the next year and this left the field clear for Manus who was entering on the most critical period of his career.

As well as being a great soldier he was also fond of literature and even composed some poetry. He caused the "Life of Colmcille" (his kinsman) to be compiled from the many sources then available. While wooing the Lady Eleanor Fitzgerald, a sister of Garret Oge, he penned the following lines:

*Uaimse ag inghin an Iarla
Truagh gan iasacht mo chroidhe
Go dtuigeadh fein nach bhfeadar
Breagadh croidhe i mbi toirse.*

which have been translated thus:

*The daughter of a certain Earl
My heart may freely borrow
'Twill teach a lesson to the girl
Who lured me to my sorrow.*

She married him eventually only because she believed he would help her to protect a boy, the last of the Fitzgeralds, from the clutches of Henry VIII who had shortly before killed six of the family. But she soon suspected that her husband was planning to hand over the boy to the English for certain favours and so she had the boy smuggled out to France and she herself went back to her own people.

Manus however did come to terms with the English. He met St. Leger, the Lord Deputy, who described him as being the best-dressed Irishman he had ever seen, wearing 'a coat of crimson velvet with adlets of gold and over that a great double cloak of bright crimson satin guarded with black velvet and a bonnet with a feather set full of adlets of gold: we thought it strange to see him so honourable and all the rest of his nation that I have seen yet so vile'.

Manus accepted Henry VIII's policy of 'surrender and regrant' but this same policy meant very little in a remote

area such as Tir Chonaill. Indeed Manus was to have more trouble from within his own family for the remainder of his life than from the English. He defeated his son Calvach in 1548 at a battle near Ballybofey. In 1555, with the help of some Scottish mercenaries Calvach took his father prisoner and made himself a de facto Lord of Tir Chonaill.

Manus spent several years as his son's prisoner and very unhappy years they were as he expresses in the following lines:

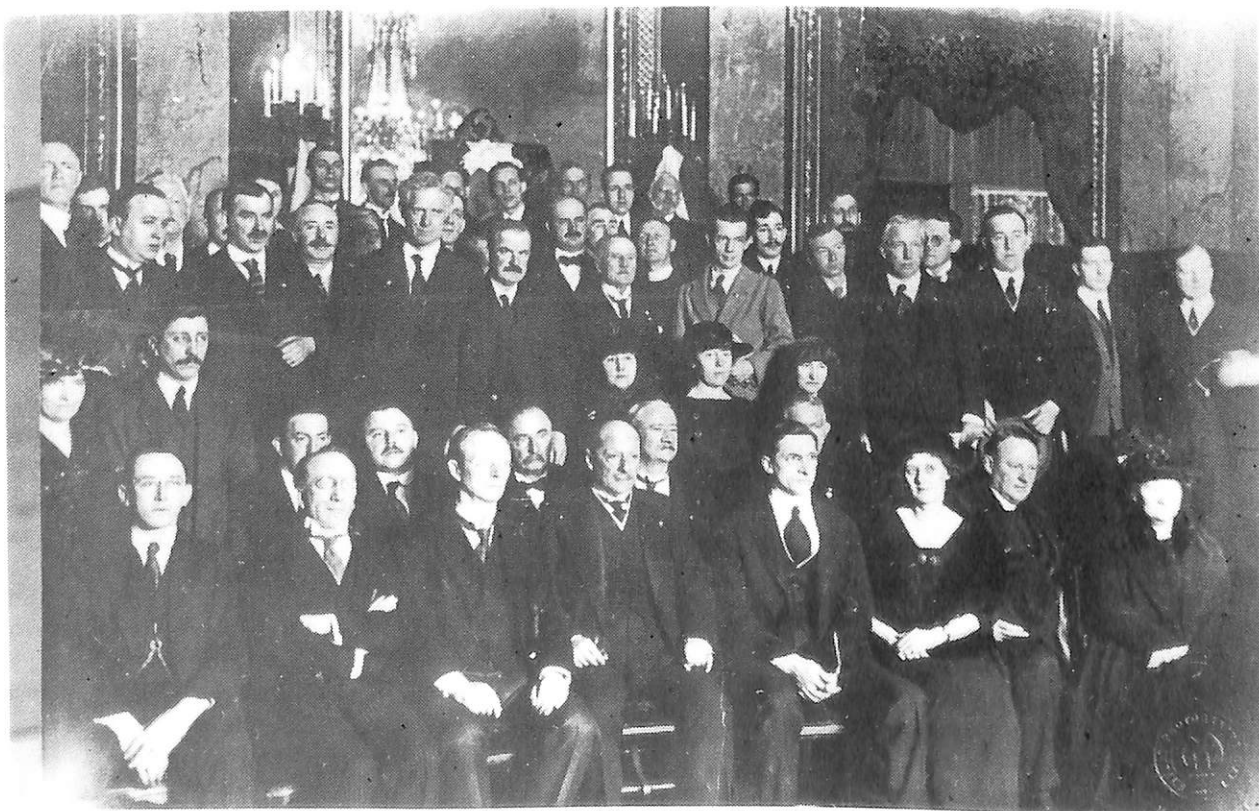
*Is cuid de na saobhaidh saobha
Is iad araon 'n mbeathaidh
O Domhnaill ar an gCalbhach
'S gan acht Maghnus ar a athair.*

Calvach gained little by his unfilial behaviour. His brothers resented his conduct and with the help of Sean O'Neill (Sean an Diomais) they captured and imprisoned Calvach.

Manus's freedom was short lived. He

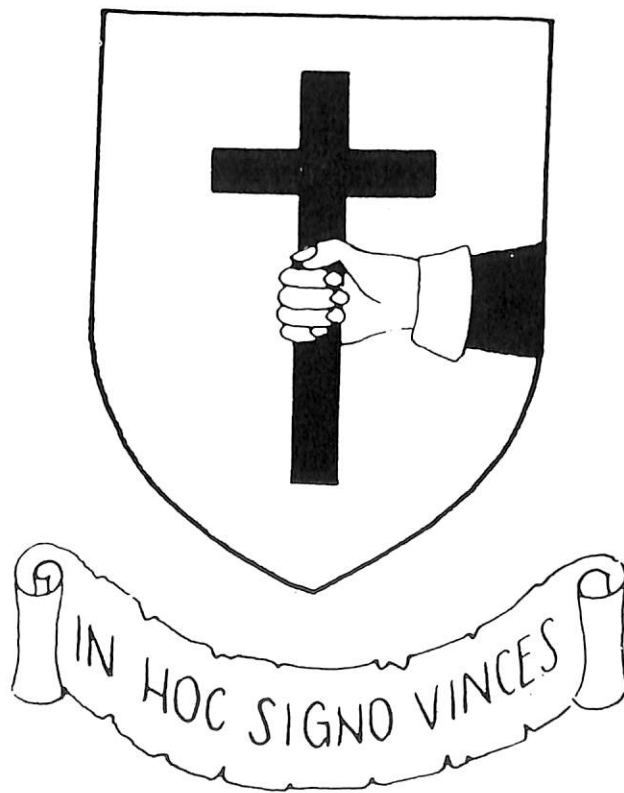
died early in 1564 at his mansion at Lifford and was buried in the Franciscan Monastery of Donegal. He had led a stormy life with a very mixed experience of triumphs and disasters. The contradictions of his character are well summed up in the obituary notice written by the Four Masters:

"A man who never suffered the chiefs who were in his neighbourhood to encroach on any of his possessions, up to the time of his decease and infirmity; a fierce, obdurate, wrathful and combative man towards his enemies until he had made them obedient to him; and a mild, friendly, benign, amicable, bountiful and hospitable man towards the learned, the destitutes, the poets and ullamhs, towards the orders and the church as is evident from the old people and historians, a learned man skilled in many arts, gifted with a profound intellect and the knowledge of every science."



Members of the Irish Race Congress which was held in Paris in 1922. It was presided over by Juan O'Donnell, Duke of Tetuan (66) from Spain, seen here seated centre front row. On his left is Eamonn De Valera and Maire Nic Suibhne (sister of Terence). On his right, Eoin Mac Neil and Sean T. O'Ceallaigh. Many other famous Irish men and women were present at this Congress.

Ó Domhnaill Abú



*Ó Donnell Clan Newsletter No. 7
Spring 1987*

First Irish Australian of the Year was born in Dungloe

The distinction of becoming the first recipient of the Irish Australian of the Year award has been bestowed on a native of Dungloe, Mrs. Nancy O'Donnell.

The president of Irish Week Australia, Mrs. O'Donnell (46) emigrated to Australia sixteen years ago when her husband Neil, a national school teacher, was offered a teaching position with the New South Wales Department of Education. For the past 14 years she has worked with an insurance company in data control and since arrival in Australia and she has worked tirelessly promoting Ireland. She was the most popular of the many candidates for the Irish Australian of the Year (1985-86) Award sponsored by the Irish Association of Australasia.

Nancy, who now lives in Sydney, has served on many Irish Committees including The Gaelic Club, The Irish Civilian Relief Association, The Irish National Association of Australasia, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Irish Week Australia and The Irish Heritage Radio Programme.

While serving on the Gaelic Club Committees she gave of her time unselfishly over and above her duties and during Christmas 1979 it was a pleasure to enter the Irish Club in Sydney and see how lavishly she had decorated it.

In The Irish Civilian Relief Association she was one of the leaders and organisers of The Easter Monday Concert at The Opera House from 1973-1977 and she also was highly involved in the Bloody Sunday Concert held at Glebe in March 1972 — proceeds going back to the families in Derry.

She has served on The Irish National Association of Australasia Committee for many years.

Since the revival of The St. Patrick's Day Parade she has given of her time, ideas and organising ability. During her involvement with the parade, she has served in the positions of Secretary, Vice-President and President. She now holds the position of Patron of the Parade.

Irish Week Australia was a dream which she has brought into reality and since she has established it in 1984 she has endeavoured to bring the Irish to the forefront, not only in Sydney and in New South Wales but now Australia wide.. In doing so she has also endeavoured to bring the Irish people and Associations together in unity. The Irish Week awards are also another idea which she brought into reality and in doing so involved other Irish organisations in running the Awards thus keeping them the sole property of Irish Week.

For over three years now she has carried most of the responsibility for The Irish Heritage Radio Programme. The programme is now the recognised voice of the Irish Community in Sydney, New South Wales, with an extremely large listening audience.

While in Ireland on holidays in 1985 she was still working to promote the Irish in Australia and as a guest on The Mike Murphy Show capably did promote all forms of Irish Heritage down-under. She went further and contracted with RTE Radio to purchase "The Best of the Week" from RTE for The Irish Heritage Radio Programme — the finance for this purchase coming from her own resources.

Still not content she organised that The Aer Lingus Musical Society visit Australia during Irish Week '86 — another idea and dream which has become a reality.

Overall, she has made numerous inroads with politicians in Government Departments at Federal, State and local level on behalf of The Irish Community. She is also in continuous contact with Ireland, promoting the Irish Activities down-under. Her work for charity is also well known to her friends — work which she keeps at a very private level.



Emperor Franz Joseph



Maximilian (59)



Joseph (44)

Fuadach Aodh Rua

"Ó triallaigh liom ar bhord na loinge,"
Arsa an captaen béalbhinn bréagach.
"Tá ár dtéad go teann, faoi bhruach na mbeann,
Ar ucht Loch Suilt céimigh.

Tá an bhroinn ltonlán d'fhón na Spáinne,
Céad oigsead mór is tuilleadh,
Den dígh is measúla i gcúirt an rí,
Beoir chroftúil chaoín gan mhilleadh.

Agus ólfaidh muid tocshláinte
As cornaibh óir ar aon.
Is beidh againn tamall cuideachta.
Nach gcosnatonn duitse pingin."

Thaitin comhrá an bhithiúnaigh
Go hansa le Aodh Rua.
Agus ar bhord na loinge, chuaigh sé amach,
Mo chreach agus mo mhíle trua.

Ba tapuidh 'shiúil na bomaitt
I measc imirtis is óil,
Ollghairdeas agus carthanas
Is mórán gléasraí ceoil.

Cuireadh agus freagraíodh ceisteanna
Os cionn na ngloint lán.
Fán bhuaireamh ins an bhaile againn,
Agus gntomharthaí thall sa Spáinn.

Agus na bristí fuilteacha a throidfí
Sula mbeadh duilliúr úr ar chrann,
Idir an bhanríon bhródúil Isibéal
Agus an Spáinneach uasal teann.

Agus nuair a ba mhian lenár gceannfort óg,
A bheith ag dul chun an bhaile a lú,
Chuala a chluasa an tormán,
A bhain léimneach as a chroí.

Bloic agus rópaí callánach',
Ag cur seolta geala ar chrainn,
agus garbhghuth na mairnéalach
Ag déanamh gealgháire agus grinn.

Is an long ina rith ar bharr na dtonn
Ag teitheadh roimh an tston,
Agus ba domhain amach san fharráige í
Nuair a nocht antos an ghrian.

Ba tiubh a threabh sí a bealach
Thart timpeall Chontae an Dúin,
Agus arís gur leag sí a hancaire
Tráthnóna trasna an chuain.

Tá mac Iníon Duibh go huaigneach
Anocht, i mBaile Átha Cliath,
A leaba lom ina leacacha,
Gan bhíotáilte gan bhia.

Ach ainneoin é a bheith ceangailte
Le slabhraí fuar' go teann,
Tá ar namhaid nimhneach lagchrotoch,
Le eagla roimh a lann.

Ainneoin ballaí arda agus bábhúin,
Slabhraí fuara agus glais lámh,
Agus airm tréan an gharda,
Á fhaire ótche is lá.

Ach bhí cairde i measc an namhad,
Lán carthanas is dáimhe,
A d'fhág Aodh is a chomrádaithe
Ina bhfí saora ins an tsí.

Bhí ábhar bróin i nDún na nGall,
An ótche a fuadaíodh Aodh,
Ó Rath Maoláin stos an loch,
Agus amach thar Ard Dún Rí.

Ach tá ábhar bróin inniu go fras
Ag Sasanaigh agus ag a glann,
Nuair atá ár bprionsa óg sa bhaile againn,
Ag cur faobhair ar a lann.

Is moch amárach a chluinfeair,
Ó mhullach cnoc agus gleann,
Guth bródúil adharc Thír Chonaill
Ag cur cuireadh ar a clann.

Agus sin an cuireadh a fhreagrófar,
Má freagraíodh uon chuireadh riamh,
Ó chladaí chúil cois farraige.
Agus amach ar ucht na sliabh.

Anonn ó chnoic dhubha Inis Eoghain,
Agus ó ghaineamh bhán na dTuath,
Ó thrí chnapánach na mBaioilleach
Go bruach an Easa Rua.

Tháinig siad ina gcéadta,
Fí thréanamhar' riamh nár sheall,
Léis na sionnaigh agus na mic tíre
A dhíbirt amach as Dún na nGall.

Mar a scanraigh glam an iolair,
An eanlaith ins na crainn,
Nó tafann toll na conaire
An giorra sa bhinn.

Nó búirtheuch leoin na hainmhithe,
As coillte coimhítocha cúil,
Scanraigh Aodh na rógairí
Agus chuir go léir faoi smacht.

Agus dá nglacfaí a chomhairle an ótche sin,
Roimh an bhriseadh bhrónach mhall,
Bheadh athrú dlí inniu againn,
Ó Chionn tSáile go Dún na nGall.

CLANN DALAIGH
1600 to the present

THE AUSTRIAN LINE

by V. O'Donnell

Calbhach Dubh's (31) third son, HENRY (37), born May 1726, joined his Larkfield cousins in Austria in 1742. He served in the army where on account of his courage and military skill he won rapid promotion and many rewards. 1763 found him Colonel of No. 41 Plunequette Infantry Regiment. Four years later he was in command of the O'Donnell No. 5 Cuirassiers. He retired in 1771 with the rank of Major General.

Henry was over six feet tall, red headed and reputed to have been the most handsome man in the Austrian Army. He was a great favourite at Court, especially with the Empress, at whose bidding he married Leopoldine, daughter of Prince Jean Rudolf Kantacuzene. Marie Theresa gave the bride a dowry of three estates in Galicia and led her to the altar in Bratislava on her wedding day.

The title of a German Count was granted to himself and his heirs by the Habsburgs (German Emperors of the time) on account of Rory's Earl-patent granted by James I.

Major General Count Henry O'Donnell died in Galicia on 4th August, 1789. He had four sons: Joseph (44), John (44a), Charles (44b), Henry (44c) and one daughter, Julie.

JOHN (44a) 1762-1828 entered the army at an early age and achieved the rank of Major by 1804. A great student of history and art, he received an Honorary Membership of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. He became Imperial Chamberlain, Commander of the Royal Bavarian Max Joseph Order, and Knight of the Royal Spanish Order of Charles III. He married Caroline Countess Clari-Aldringen but left no issue.

CHARLES (44b) was killed, as a Major, at the storming of the Bridge of Kehl in 1796. He was unmarried.

HENRY (44c) was also in the Austrian Service and died without issue.

JOSEPH (44), the first son of Major General Count Henry, was born in 1755. He received his early education at the Theresien Academy from which he passed to the Law School of Gottingen University. After graduating he held many important positions. He became a Privy Councillor and was made Governor of Carinthia. While serving as Minister of Finance, he saved Austria from bankruptcy during the Napoleonic War. He was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Stephen for this performance.

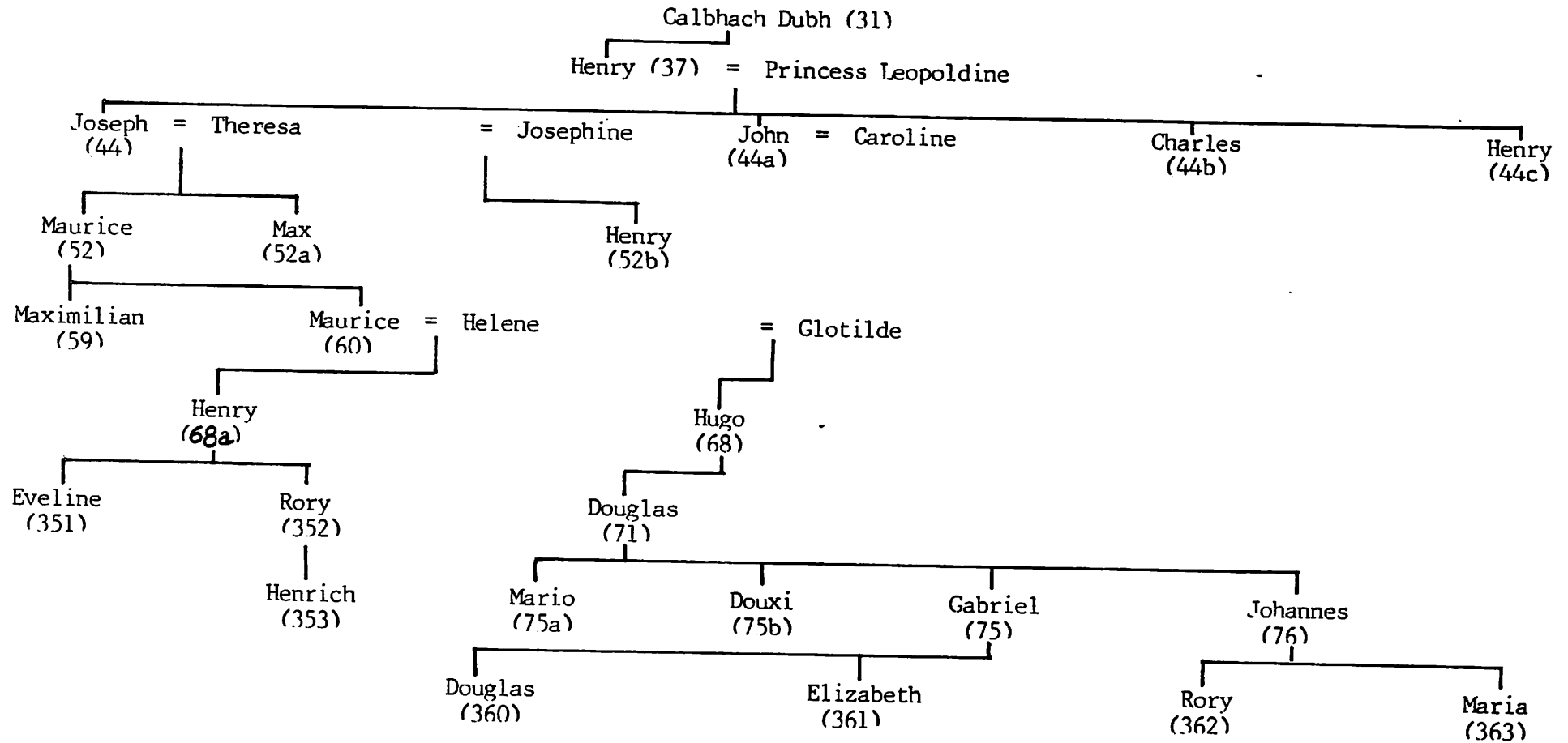
He died suddenly in May, 1810. He was married twice - first to Theresa, daughter of General John Count O'Donnell (122a) (Larkfield Branch) and secondly to Josephine Geisruck (sister of Cardinal Archbishop of Milan).

The first son of the family was

MAURICE (52) born in Vienna in 1780. He had a distinguished military career, participating in many battles and retiring with the rank of Lieutenant General. He was a friend of the fabulous Madame de Stael, whose attention embarrassed him greatly.

He married Christine, daughter of the Prince de Linge, a noted beauty of her day. They had two sons and two daughters. Maurice died in Dresden in 1843.

His eldest son, Maximilian (59) 1812 - 1895, was the most famous of the Austrian O'Donnells. He was born in Vienna, educated in Dresden and entered the army at a young age. Having participated in engagements all over Europe he gained many awards and promotion. He had the privilege of serving as Aide-de-camp to the Emperor, Franz Joseph I, in which capacity he saved the Emperor from assassination. In February, 1853 while strolling on the bastions of Vienna the Emperor was attacked by a man wielding a knife. Due to Max's quick action, the knife only grazed the Emperor's neck. Max soon overpowered the assassin and



help was summoned.

Max was showered with rewards. From the officers of the Austrian Army he received a highly ornamented and inscribed silver shield, now in the Salzburg Museum. He was conferred with the Commander's Cross of the Royal Order of Leopold, and granted the status and dignity of an Austrian Count, for up till this, the title 'Count' held by the family was only by virtue of their Irish nobility. The citation continues:- "and as a further proof of Imperial and Royal grace and favour, we augment henceforth his hereditary and family arms by the insertion of our own initials and shield of our most serene ducal House of Austria; and, finally, the double-headed eagle of our Empire, to be and endured as a visible and imperishable memorial of his proved and devoted services". This was a distinction received by only one other subject ever - Prince Schwartzburg.

(In the same citation, the surname was erroneously spelt as O'Donell, this form has been adopted by the family ever since).

Friendly Monarchs decorated him with orders of chivalry and the cities of Vienna, Prague, Pest, Laibach and others made him a Freeman.

A magnificent Gothic Church, the Votivkirche, subscribed to by the Nobility of Europe, was erected in Vienna as a mark of thanksgiving.

Max was granted a site of a house on the beautiful Mirabel Platz in Salzburg. The mansion, No. 2, still stands today, the only private dwelling on this beautiful square. Alas, it is no longer in O'Donnell hands. Above the door can still be seen the shield bearing the hand-held cross and the double-headed eagle of the Habsburgs.

Max married Franziska Wagner, a marriage that was frowned upon as she was not of nobility.

Max's brother, MAURICE (60) 1815 - 1890, served briefly in the Army and was Chamberlain to the Emperor. He and his heirs were elevated to the Austrian

Peerage in 1886 - which document is now the family's title of nobility. The Habsburgs were no longer German but Austrian Emperors at this time. He corresponded with Charles Joseph (57) (Castlebar Branch) as reported in Newsletter No. 5 and received a copy of "The Annals" when first published (another family heirloom). Maurice married twice. Firstly to Helene, Princess Kantakuzena, and secondly, to Glotilde, Countess Hardegg.

HENRY (68a) 1845 - 1907, was the only child from the first marriage. He entered the Army and distinguished himself in the war against the Prussians in 1866. He settled in Hungary having married a Hungarian and had two of a family: Eveline and Rory.

RORY Count O'Donell 1845 - 1946 received on loan many family documents, pictures etc. from Count Douglas (71) but was unable to return them due to a change in the political climate. It is hoped that they might still be recovered. Rory's only son, Heinrich, born 1908 died s.p. in 1932 having visited Ireland once.

We now return to Maurice (60). With his second wife he had a son

HUGO (68) 1858 - 1904 who also served in the Austrian Army where he received several military crosses and other honours. He married Gabrille, daughter of Count von Thurn-Vallesassina-Como-Vercelli. They lived in Schloss Aigen bei Salzburg.

They had a son, DOUGLAS (71), 1890-1970, who entered the Army, fought on the Eastern Front during World War I, was taken prisoner and escaped twice. He was a fine horseman and was reputed to have been the strongest man in the Austrian Cavalry at the time.

He married Elizabeth, daughter of Count Uberacker, and had four sons all of which served in the Army during World War II. They were:

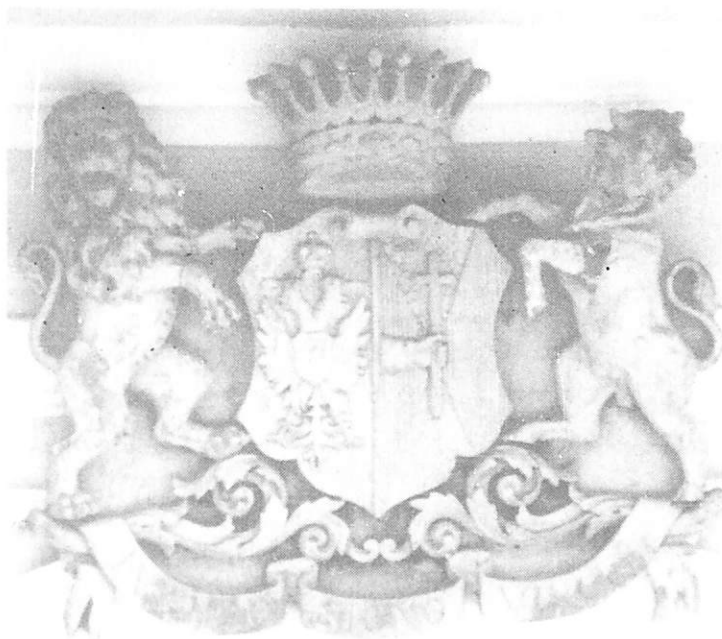
MARIO, born 1920 and died in 1972.

DOUXI, born 1921, Lieutenant with Iron Cross 1st. Class, wounded and missing on

the Russian front since 1943.

GABRIEL (75) Count O'Donell von Tyrconnell, born 1922, head of the Austrian branch today. He visited Ireland several times, last time with his only son, Douglas, when they attended a presentation made to Rupert Coughlan (see Newsletter No. 5). He is married to Ulrike Leeb and has one daughter, Elizabeth. Gabriel is a farmer, a successful businessman and proprietor of a well known wild-life park. He has in his possession many O'Donnell artefacts, such as Maximillian's glove, stained with the Emperor's blood; many portraits of his ancestors; the patent proving their Austrian title and above all, Rory's (13) patent of 1604 (sealed with the great seal of Elizabeth I) on which is given the peace conditions agreed upon after the defeat of Kinsale (see Newsletter No. 2).

JOHANNES (76), Count O'Donell von Tyrconnell, born 1926. He farms on the banks of the Danube near Linz. He is married to Berta Zoite of an Upper-Austrian family and they have two children - Rory, aged 13 and Maria aged 11.



Arms on No. 2 Mirabel Platz



Gabriel (75)



Johannes (76)



Maurice (60)



Hugo (68)



Douglas (71)

MANUS A'PHICE

The story of Manus a' Phice has been told for generations around Donegal firesides and no wonder for he gained a great victory over his enemy under the most adverse conditions. Happening, as it did, at a time when the Gael were being suppressed, it provided much needed inspiration and morale.

Manus O'Donnell was born near Kilmacrennan, Co. Donegal in 1758. He was a descendant of the Inis Saile O'Donnells whose progenitor was Sean, son of Manus Og (6).

Manus was educated for the priesthood, but found the call to arms stronger and eventually became a Captain of the United Irishmen in his own area in 1798. He was informed upon by a spy called McGrath, arrested and jailed in Letterkenny. He was kept for a month, fettered neck and foot in a cold, damp, dark cell with only a piece of bread and a pint of water a day.

He suffered much torture and abuse but would not reveal the identity of his comrades. At one time his cell was filled with hungry rats that actually ate the thongs out of his boots. When his captors failed to extract the information by these means, they tried bribery and promise of protection, but all to no avail.

He was then removed to Lifford Gaol, where after a long time he was brought before a military tribunal under the presidency of Captain Murray. But they failed to convict him due to lack of evidence; McGrath, the principal Crown witness, withdrew his earlier statement for some reason - a matter which caused much embarrassment to the Authorities.

Manus was renowned as a pikeman, and the President now declared he would grant him his liberty if Manus agreed to fight a fully armed and mounted dragoon. Manus accepted the challenge and a day was set.

The contest was arranged in an open field. Manus was warned that he was merely to defend himself and was not to make any attempt at his opponents life, while the dragoon was secretly ordered to kill Manus.

Thousands gathered to witness the contest. Cineall Chonail prayed and hoped for Manus, for not alone was he fighting for his freedom but he was also defending the honour and dignity of his race and country.

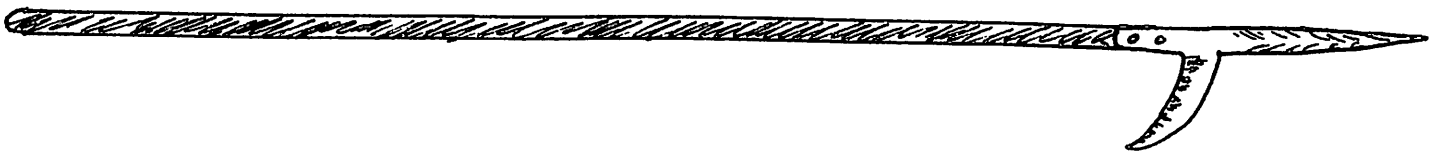
As the dragoon charged towards him, Manus swiftly stepped aside and with a quick flick of his pike cut the horse's reins, thus reducing the rider's control. Next time the dragoon approached, Manus again moved sideways and this time brought his adversary to the ground with his pike.

Manus was immediately apprehended on Captain Murray's orders and condemned to 500 lashes on the triangle. Fortunately for Manus, Lord Cavan, Commander of the Northern Forces happened to arrive on the scene and on hearing the story ordered the prisoner to be set free.

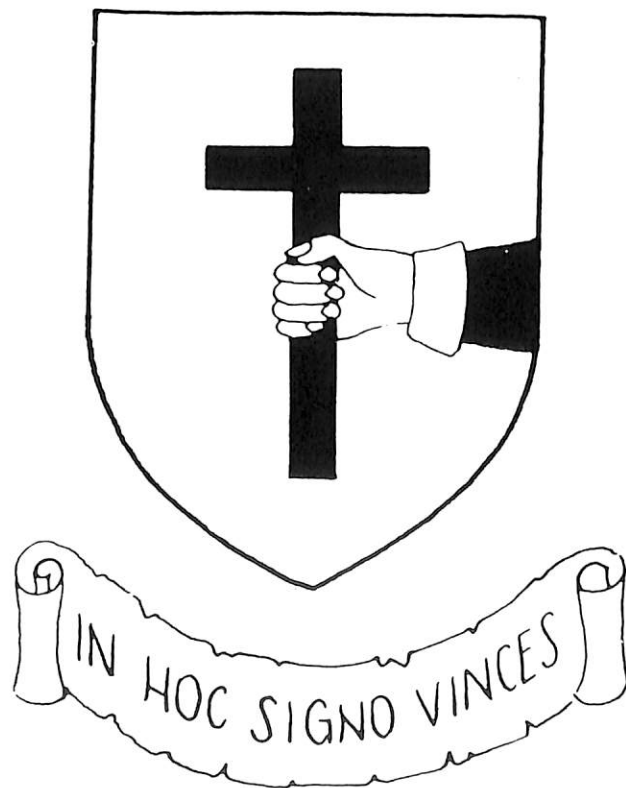
Manus lived a free man till he died in 1844.

A pike was a popular weapon at the time of the United Irishmen. As guns were almost unavailable to the Gael, pikes were manufactured by blacksmiths all over the country. With a 12'-14' shaft, a bayonet-like blade at the end and a curved blade at the side, especially designed for cutting horse's reins, they were quite effective against horsemen as the story demonstrates.

Indeed, shortly after the above incident the Authorities provided their cavalry with chains for attaching to the lower part of the reins that hangs between the horse's neck and the bit.



Ó Domhnaill Abú



O'Donnell Clan Newsletter No. 8
Winter 1987

RED HUGH'S MARCH TO KINSALE

A synoptic version of a lecture given by Capt. Joe O'Kane to the County Donegal Historical Society in the Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town on 29th March, 1984.

Hugh O'Donnell was at Ballymote Castle (then in his possession) when the decision was made to go to the assistance of the beleaguered Spaniards in Kinsale. A proclamation was issued to his forces to assemble at Ballymote and hasty preparations were made. The way to Kinsale was long, wet and marshy with little or no roadways and heavy opposition could be expected.

They travelled light, each man carrying his own weapon and food rations (oaten bread, butter, salt etc.). Few horses or cumbersome carriages or cannons were brought.

Having celebrated the Feast of Samhain (Hallowe'en), Hugh O'Donnell reviewed his troops clan by clan and on the 2nd November, 1601 began the march south.

On leaving Ballymote, they travelled in a south-easterly direction along a road still known as 'Bothar an Iarla Ruaidh' that leads in the direction of the Curlew Hills. They passed close to Lough Key avoiding Boyle (as it may have been garrisoned) and on to Elphin, a total of 30 miles, the first day.

Next day they marched south through Roscommon and crossed the Suck without difficulty. Avoiding Athlone and Shannon Bridge, they forded the Shannon at Shannon Harbour - Athlone was fortified. Having crossed the Shannon they met their first hostilities. It came from MacCoughlan, through whose lands they were travelling. This action proved costly for MacCoughlan as the Northmen ravished, plundered, burned and destroyed most of his property.

Travelling south-east through Kinnity, they crossed over Slieve Bloom (mountains) and down through the village of Bellaghmore, reaching Drumsaileach near Templenore where they camped on the 6th or 7th of November. Here they awaited the arrival of O'Neill's forces. For three weeks they waited, during which time they ravaged and plundered

the countryside around them in search of food, as armies did in those days.

The English had expected that O'Neill and O'Donnell would come to the aid of the Spaniards - on the 17th November they were sure of it when they learned of O'Donnell's position near Templenore. Next day they debated in council what action to take. Eventually, Sir George Carew with 4,000 horse and foot was sent to intercept O'Donnell. By the 21st November Carew reached Ardmoyle (north of Cashel and south of Holy Cross) and camped there. Both armies continued to spy on each other but made no attempt at an engagement. The distance separating them was 4 miles. On the 30th November, O'Donnell visited Holy Cross Abbey where he venerated a relic of the true cross and headed back to camp next day.

O'Donnell by now knew he would soon have to move as food was becoming scarce and his position becoming more precarious each day - Carew was joined by another regiment under Sir Christopher St. Laurence. Carew believed he had the only road south blocked so he was prepared to sit and wait. O'Donnell wouldn't be as fool-hardy as to make an encircular movement by going east because of the proximity of the English forces heading south.

On the night that Hugh O'Donnell visited Holy Cross the river Suir was in high spate (the whole of that November was extremely wet) but the next night hard frost set in, the like of which was never seen in Ireland before. O'Donnell took advantage of the weather conditions and set out over the Slieve Felim mountains. Slieve Felim were considered impassible in winter but with the unusual frost and the help of trusty guides it became just possible.

Before leaving camp, O'Donnell employed the age-old trick of having local people keep the fires burning all night and create the usual hustle and bustle of an occupied camp.

This ploy deceived Carew's spies and so precious time was gained for O'Donnell's troops, who travelling light as already mentioned, traversed slippery but hard

mountain paths, covering a total of 22 Irish miles (1 Irish mile = 2240 yards) of rough mountain terrain in one night. By early morning they were on the south side of Slieve Felim, close to Abbingdon, but still they did not rest. They marched all next day, covering another 12 Irish miles. That night they camped close to Croom.

When Carew learned that O'Donnell had departed he decided to quit camp and try to cut him off on the south side of Slieve Felim, but when Carew reached Abbingdon at 11 o'clock he was amazed to find that his adversary had already marched through - he was further amazed when he learned that they hadn't stopped till they reached Croom.

Carew declared that there was no way he could hope to catch up with such a fleet-footed enemy and later remarked that it was the greatest march ever recorded or even heard of. So he gave up the chase and returned to Kinsale arriving there on 6th December.

O'Donnell rested briefly at Croom where he spent the night in the Countess of Kildare's castle. He then crossed the Maigue (river) into the Barony of Connelagh where he camped for a week. Again he plundered the countryside in search of food.

Now the Fitzmaurices in this area of Kerry had lost all their castles to Carew. So when O'Donnell arrived, he and Fitzmaurice took the opportunity of attacking the Carew-held fortresses and succeeded in regaining many of them.

The march was resumed on 10th December passing through and around Slieve Luchra, through Muskerry and Dunhollow and on down the valley of the Bandon to Innishannon which they reached about the 15th December, 1601. Here the arrival of O'Neill's forces was awaited and the joint armies camped there for one day; their combined strength is said to have numbered 5,500 along with 500 Munstemmen. They now moved to Belgooley and camped in a large field (which had corn just set in it) on the 16th December. This field is 3 miles North East of Kinsale.

Here they remained until 31st December

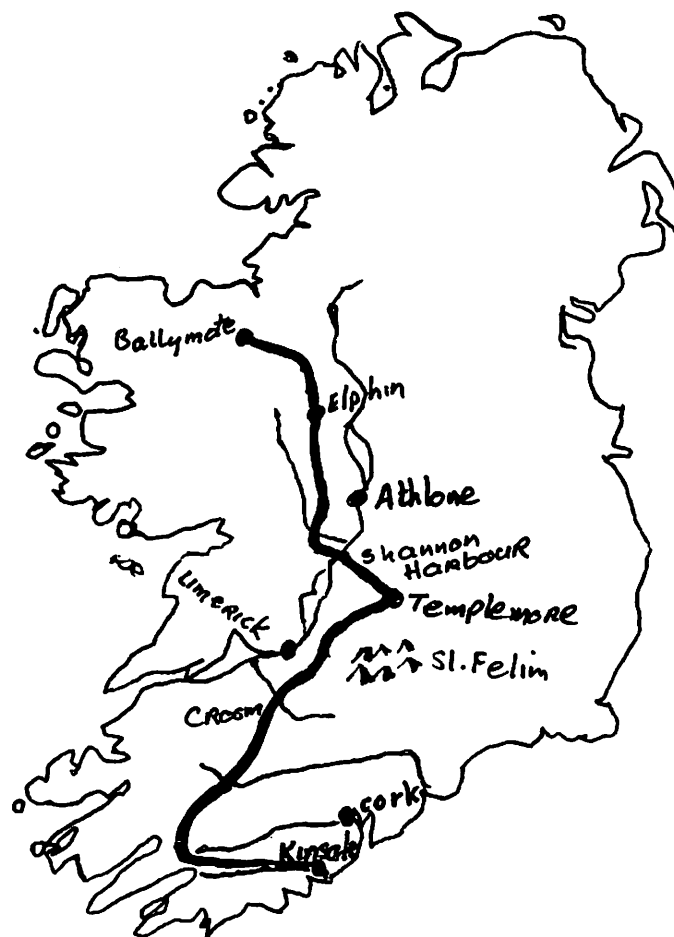
when at nightfall they moved to the hill of Coolcarron, bringing them in sight of the English camp. Early on the morning of 3rd January, 1602 they made their final and fateful move when they advanced into battle - a battle which ended in disaster for them and was the death of Gaelic Ireland.

NAMES FROM SOME OF THE CHIEF CLANS OF ULSTER AND CONNAUGHT WHO MARCHED TO KINSALE

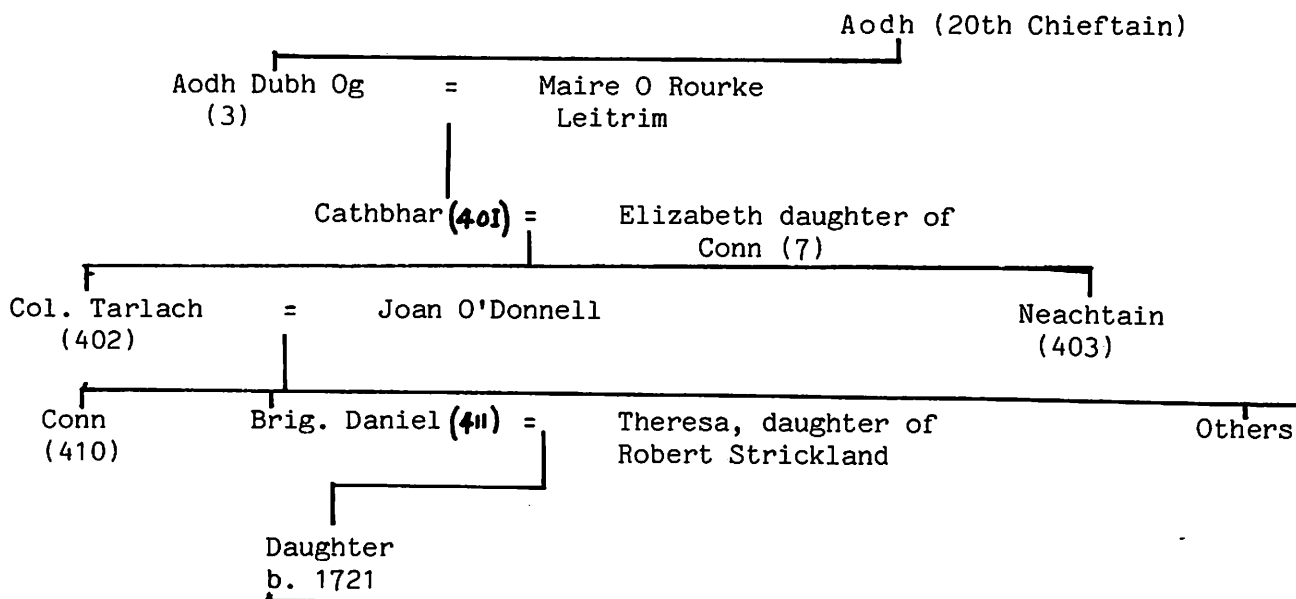
O'Rourke; Mac Sweeney of Doe;
 O'Doherty; O'Cahan; O'Boyle; Mac
 Donagh; MacDermott; O'Kelly;
 O'Beirne; O'Connor; Burke; O'Hara;
 Maguire.

FROM MUNSTER

Fitzmaurice; Fitzthomas; MacCarthy



O'Donnells of Ramelton



THE O'DONNELLS OF RAMELTON

Returning to Aodh Og Dubh (3) (see O Domhnaill Abu No. 2) who was a brother of Manus the 21st Chieftain, we find he was married to Maire, daughter of O'Rourke, Lord of Leitrim and seems to have had two other wives as well, the last being a daughter of O'Connor, Sligo with whom he had two sons - Calvach (408) and Neachtain (409). Both are mentioned in the O'Clery Genealogies.

Calvach had a son, Aodh Bui (413), who was a Colonel in the Irish Army 1641-49. There is a poem addressed to him in the "Book of O'Donnell's Daughter" which is now in Brussels.

With his second wife, Aodh Og Dubh had four sons - Manus Og (404), Tarlach (405), (both of these are mentioned in the inquisition of 1626), Eineachan (406) and Sean (407).

With his first wife, Aodh (3) had one son Cathbharr (401) living in 1615 and married to Elizabeth, daughter of Conn (7) son of Calbhach Chief (4).

Aodh Dubh Og (or Aodh Og Dubh) died in 1618. Cathbharr (401) had two sons, Col. Tarlach (402), a leader of 1641 and Commander of the O'Donnell Regiment who fought against Cromwell, and Neachtain (403) who was wounded fighting at Glenguin, 1642.

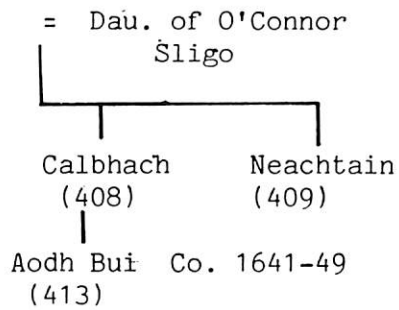
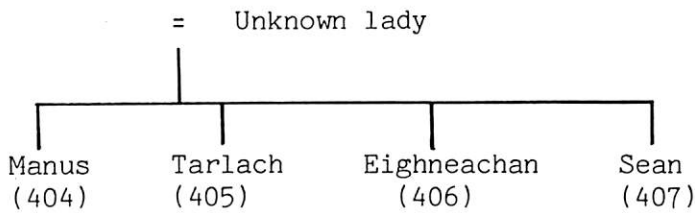
Col. Tarlach was married to Joan, daughter of Tarlach O'Donnell of Culmhic an Trean (Castleforward) and had several sons and a daughter Mary who married Edmund O'Malley of Bedclare, Co. Mayo. The first son was Conn (410) who succeeded his father as Commander of the Regiment and was killed in action at Wexford.

The second son of Col. Tarlach was Brigadier Daniel O'Donnell (411), 1665-1738. He fought at the Boyne and later took his own Regiment with him to France where he spent his fortune bringing other O'Donnells to the Continent to replenish the Regiment.

It was Brig. O'Donnell who brought the 'Cathnach' to the Continent. On seeing the erosion of the old Gaelic System, at the hand of the Sassanach who destroyed

everything Irish or Catholic, Daniel feared that the 'Cathach' would suffer the same fate as other Gaelic relics. Before his final departure, he stole the 'Cathnach' from its place of safekeeping in the little church of Ballymagroarty and brought it with him to the Continent. He deposited it in a Franciscan Monastery in Belgium with the condition that only the head of Clann Dalaigh could reclaim it (see O Domhnaill Abu No. 3 Niall Mor).

Genealogical Chart No. 7



Mary = Edmund O Mally
Bealclare

Brig. O'Donnell married Theresa, daughter of Robert Strickland of Catterick, Yorkshire, and widow of John Stafford, controller of the King's Household at St. Germain. They had a daughter who was aged 14 in 1735. Nothing further is known of this family.

Letters, articles, subscriptions etc. should be sent to The Editor, Vincent O'Donnell, Inver, Co. Donegal, Eire. Tel: (073) 36059.

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R O TUISMÓDh ém clann aohainne ná O'Donnall (Aósh mac Maḡnurá mic Aósha óicc mic Aósha Rúarsh mic Néill ḡairb mic Toimnealbaiḡ an fiona, &c.). An Inghean Dubh, inḡln Semar mic Alaxandroair mic Eoin Chathanaḡ mic O'Donnall, no nrol Cholla uair mic Eachóac Doimléin, noba bainneḡ ná O'Donnall, & nób iróe maḡair an nóbair amlḡha ná éoino. Icaḡ anmanna a fflḡcal ífí nupó ḡline Aósh Rúarsh, Rúaraiḡ, Maḡnur, & Cathbair.

The opening lines of 'Beatha Aodha Ruaidh', written (in the Gaelic of the time) by Lughaidh O'Clery in 1602 and incorporated in the Annals of the Four Masters, 1636, are translated to English and published by Rev. Denis Murphy in 1893.

The above lines were translated thus:-
The famous progeny sprung from O'Donnell, (Hugh, son of Manus, son of Hugh oge, son of Hugh Roe, son of Niall arbh, son of Turlough of the wine, etc.). Ineen Dubh, daughter of James, son of Alexander, son of John thanach MacDonnell, of the race of Colla Uais, son of eachaidh Doimhlen, was the wife of O'Donnell, and she was the mother of the most renowned of his children. The names of their sons in the order of their birth were Hugh Roe, Rury, Manus, and Caffir.



Uniform of O'Donnell Regiment, Austrian Army (see O'D.A. No 7).

O'Donnell participants in the "Flight of the Earls"

The peace that followed the Treaty of Millifont 1603 was an uneasy one for the northern chiefs. It soon became obvious that the English had no intention of keeping their side of the bargain and that they wouldn't rest until the Irish leaders were eliminated. With the utmost secrecy, the Chieftains planned their departure. That same departure has been wrongfully called "The Flight of the Earls", for flight it was not but rather a withdrawal to a place of refuge until such time as they could return with Spanish aid, and confidence to rid Ulster of the 'Gall'. (See Newsletter No. 2).

On the 4th September, 1607 a ship put into Rathmullen Harbour under the guise of a fishing boat. Nine days later she sailed down Lough Swilly bearing with her the cream of Irish nobility, Hugh O'Neill, Chief of Tyrone; Rory O'Donnell, head of Clann Dalaigh, and Cuchonnacht Maguire, Chief of Fermanagh with their respective families, friends and followers - ninety-nine in all.

"A distinguished crew, was this for one ship; for it is certain that the sea never carried, and that the winds never wafted from the Irish shores, individuals more illustrious or noble in genealogy, or more renowned for deeds of valor, prowess, and high achievements". (Annals of the Four Masters).

Here follows a list of those who travelled with Rory on that fateful voyage.

Cafair: (14) a younger brother of Rory (13). He was married to Rose Doherty (of Inishowen) and had two sons, Hugh and Conn. Conn was left behind in Ireland. Cafair died a week after his brother Rory, 15th September, 1608, at the age of 25 and was buried in the same grave.

"Tread bhocht gan aodhaire ionnn
Cafarr ceann einigh Eirionn
Fa lig, thra, ga truaighe dail,
Ata uainne san Eadail."

(Lines written by Feargal Og Mac an Bhaird lamenting Cafair's death in Italy).

Rose Doherty: born 1590, married to Cafair (14) at 14 years. She was a sister of Sir Cathaoir O Dochartaigh who rebelled and was killed in 1608. She left Rome in 1612 and returned to Flanders. After Cafair's death she married Eoghan Rua O Neill. She died in Brussels in 1660 and was buried in St. Anthony's College, Louvain. She had a pension of 80 crowns a month from the King of Spain.

Hugh (son of Rory (13)), Baron of Donegal: he was born in 1606 and was almost a year at the time of their departure. He received 100 escudos of a grant from Spain. He was adopted by Albert, Archduke of Flanders, and called Hugh Albert. Hugh was educated in Louvain. He served in Court and was known as Conde de Tyrconnell after his father's death. He was in receipt of a 100 crowns a month from the King of Spain. He was made colonel of an Irish regiment in the Spanish Army in 1632. In the same year he married Anne Margherite de Boussu, daughter of Count de Boussu. He was drowned near Barcelona during a sea battle against the French in 1642.

Hugh (son of Cafair (14)): He was born in 1605. He was fostered at the time of departure but unlike his brother, Conn, was not on board in time. He was left in Louvain in 1608 along with his cousin Hugh (son of Rory (13)) with two Donegal women to take care of them. He was in receipt of 50 escudos a month from Spain. He joined the Spanish Service, became captain and fought at Bergh and Breda. He died in 1625 and was buried in front of the high altar in St. Anthony's College, Louvain where his mother was later buried.

Nuala (15) sister of Rory and Cafair: She deserted her husband Nial Garbh (16) in 1600 when he went over to the English. She went to Rome along with the main party but was left sad and lonely after the death of her two brothers.

.....

LAMENT FOR THE PRINCES OF TYRONE AND TYRCONNEL.

O woman of the piercing wail,
Who mournest o'er yon mound of clay
With sigh and groan,
Would God thou wert among the Gael!
Thou wouldst not then from day to day
Weep thus alone.
'Twere long before, around a grave
In green Tyrconnel, one could find
This loneliness;
Near where Beann-Boirche's banners wave,
Such grief as thine could ne'er have pined
Companionless.

Beside the wave, in Donegal,
In Antrim's glens, or fair Dromore,
Or Killilee,
Or where the sunny waters fall,
At Assaroe, near Erna's shore,
This could not be.
On Derry's plains—in rich Drumclieff—
Throughout Armagh the great, renowned
In olden years,
No day could pass but woman's grief
Would rain upon the burial-ground
Fresh floods of tears!

Oh no!—from Shannon, Boyne, and Suir,
From high Dunluce's castle-walls,
From Lissadill,
Would flock alike both rich and poor.
One wail would rise from Cruachan's halls
To Tara's hill;
And some would come from Barrow-side,
And many a maid would leave her home
On Leitrim's plains,
And by melodious Banna's tide,
And by the Mourne and Erne, to come
And swell thy strains!

(Mangan's beautiful translation of
Mac an Bhaire's "Lament").

:::~::~:

Nuala returned to Louvain in 1611. She was in receipt of 60 crowns a month from the King of Spain, it was later increased to 175. It is not known when she died but she was living in Flanders at the time of her husband's death in 1626.

Donal Og (son of Donal (10), Red Hugh's half brother): He remained in Louvain

in 1608 and joined the Spanish Service. He was Captain of the O'Neill Regiment when he was killed in 1620 or 1623.

Neachtain (cousin of Rory): remained in Louvain in 1608 and joined Spanish Service.

Eamon Cruama Mac Daibheid and his wife, Aodh O Gallchoir and his wife Cecilia: These were the two women referred to above who cared for the two Hugh's (Rory's son and Cafair's son) while their husbands saw to the boys' education. The two couples remained in Louvain in 1608. Gallagher received 30 escudos a month from Spain but no mention is made of a pension to McDaid.

Sean Croin Mac Daibheid: He was born in Inishowen and was one of Doherty's followers. He travelled to Rome in 1608 and was still there in 1615. He wrote to Chichester from Rome asking for a pardon and a safe return but was unanswered. His wife Finnuala O'Doherty and family did not leave Ireland. Sean was in receipt of 45/50 crowns a month of a pension from Spain. After Rory's death he served O'Neill.

Cathaoir (mac Toimlin) O Gallachoir, Cathaoir (mac Airt) O Gallchoir, Toirleach Corrach O Gallchoir, Tuathal O Gallchoir agus Aodh Og (mac Thuathail) O Gallchoir: those five stayed in Belgium and joined the Spanish Army.

Colman: Tyrconnell's priest.

Matthew Tully: was an educated Connaught-man. He went to Spain with Red Hugh in 1602, but returned and became Rory's secretary. He went back to Spain in 1605 and was instrumental in planning the departure of the Earls. He travelled to Ireland in the ship that took them away. On arrival at Rouen it was he who travelled ahead to Paris and Flanders to announce their approach. He served in the Spanish Navy and was in Madrid in 1610.

Dennis O Brian: his grandfather was bishop of Killaloo. He himself served with Rory O'Donnell. He travelled to Spain in 1602. On his return to Ireland a few years later he was imprisoned in Athlone but escaped and went to Spain again. He sailed to Rathmullen and

travelled by night to bring the news of the ship's arrival to Rory. He went with them to Rome.

Eoghan Rua Mac an Bhaird (Ward): O'Donnell's poet. He remained in Flanders in 1608 and was in receipt of 30 escudos a month of a pension. He later went to Rome where he probably died.

Doighre O Duigeannain: An educated Roscommon man, he stayed in Flanders and was in receipt of a monthly pension of 20 escudos. He and Eoghan (above) seem to have been responsible for the education of the youths left behind there.

Donnchadh Mac Suibhne: (Son of Mac Sweeney, Bannagh). Remained in Flanders in 1608 and joined the Spanish Army, O'Neill Regiment in 1612. He later returned to Ireland.

David Crafford: A Scotsman who served as Rory's butler. He went to Rome but returned to Ireland in 1610.

Muiris, Rory's pageboy: Travelled to Rome where he died on 3rd August, 1608.

Sean MacPhilip, Aonghus Mac Dhuifithe, Uilliam O Loinsigh and Cathal O Broin: Four of Rory's attendants who remained in Flanders and joined the Spanish Service.

Gearoid O Conchur (O'Connor) and Capt. Sean O Conchur: There is nothing known of these two except that Capt. Sean was in the Spanish Army in 1603, and distinguished himself at the Siege of Ostend.

Gearald Fitzmaurice: Nothing definite is known of him.

Henry O'Kelly: Joined the Spanish Army, O'Neill Regiment.

Fr. Maurice Dunleavy: A Franciscan Priest from Donegal. He travelled to Spain with Red Hugh in 1602. He was Provincial of Irish Franciscans 1609-1612. He signed the introduction to the Annals of the Four Masters in 1636.

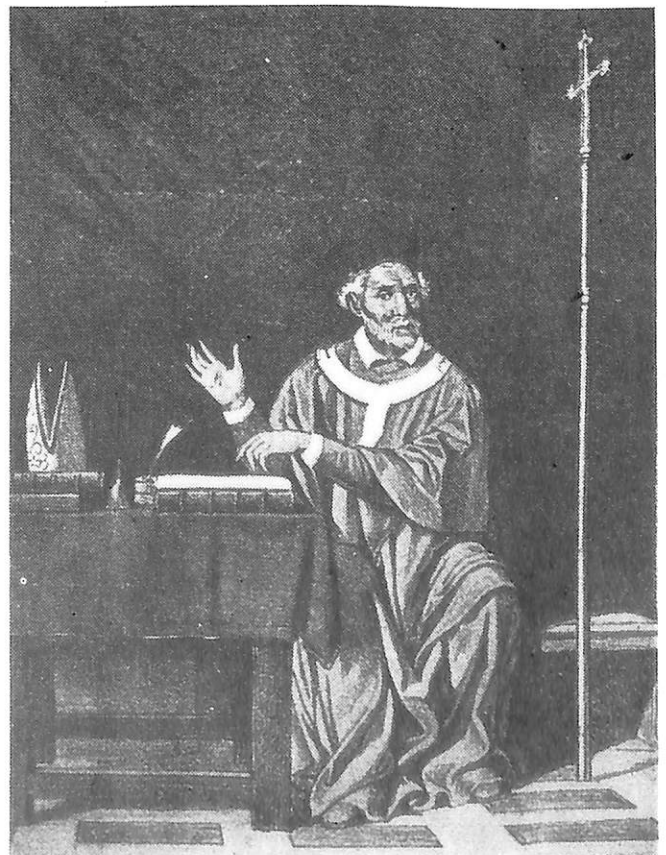
Fr. Florence Conry: Born 1560 a

Roscommon man, he studied in Salamanca and entered the Minor Order of St. Francis. He came to Kinsale with the Spaniards in 1601, but returned with Red Hugh in 1602 and attended at his bedside during his fatal illness (see Newsletter No. 4). He was Provincial of the Franciscans 1606-1609. He established St. Anthony's College of Louvain in 1606, met the Earls at Douai and accompanied them to Rome. He was appointed Archbishop of Tuam in 1609. He spent the rest of his life between Spain and the Netherlands. His death occurred in Madrid on 18th November, 1629 and was buried in St. Anthony's, Louvain in 1654. He is well known as the author of *Desiderius*.

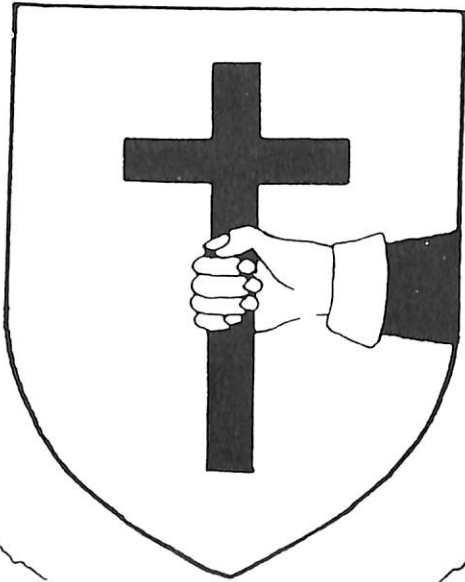
Fr. Dermot Doolin: He travelled with the Earls but remained in Flanders to further his studies.

Five students who went to Flanders to study - **Brian O Muiriosa, Niallan Mac Daibheid, Donnchadh O Cochlain, Brian O hEigearthaigh agus Conchur Og O Duibheannaigh** who was ordained to the Priesthood in 1617.

There were several more - servant boys and maids who attended Rory, Caffar, Rose O'Doherty and Nuala but their number and names are not reported.



Ó Domhnaill Abú



*O'Donnell Clan
Newsletter No. 10
Spring 1989*

IN HOC SIGNO VINCES



Donegal Castle

NEWS

This Summer being the fourhundredth anniversary of the ill-fated Spanish Armada we had a plethora of historical events and commorations.

Events took place in Killybegs, Dungloe, Carndonagh, Grange and other places culminating with the Spanish banquet in Donegal Town.

Probably the most important of these was the week-long symposium held in Sligo where Hugh O'Donnell(74) of Spain was one of the main speakers. Hugh of course has done much research in Madrid and is quite an authority on the subject, as was shown when he appeared in a series of programmes broadcast by the B.B.C. last August. He also gave the inaugural talk at the Merriman Summer School in Lahinch, Co Clare whose theme this year was the Spanish Irish connection.

We must congratulate the people of Rathmullan on an excellent historical weekend in which they commorated the "Flight of the Earls". Having restored an old historical tower known locally as the 'Battery' which they hope to use as an interpretive centre, a seminar on the 'Flight' was organised to coincide with it's official opening. After the official opening we had the pleasure of the first lecture, "From Rathmullen to Rome by boat, coach and horseback", given by that wonderful orator and scholar, His Eminence Cardinal Thomas O Fiaich, Archbishop of Armagh. His talk lasted seventy minutes and held the audience spell-bound. Immediately after that we heard Frank O'Donnell LL.M., Solicitor, speak on Ulster after the 'Flight'. Frank is the son of the late well-known Donegal lawyer and politician, Pa O'Donnell. On Saturday night Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill (64a) RTE presenter/reporter gave a talk on the O'Donnells from Kinsale to the present. This lecture illustrated the fortunes of those who remained after the 'Flight' and the fact that Nuala herself is a direct descendant of one of these families gave it an extra quality. The second speaker on Saturday night was Michelene Kerney Walsh who at the request of the Irish Government has spent many years researching the Irish documents in the Spanish archives in Simancas (see ODA Nos.4&6). She brought home with startling reality the ambitions, frustrations, plans and setbacks of the Northern Chieftains during the last years before Kinsale and during their subsequent years in exile. This weekend in Rathmullan brought toghther these eminent lecturers



Frank O'Donnell speaking
at Rathmullan.



Hugh (74) in Sligo.

Other News

whose interest lies in that era of our history dealing with the last days of old Gaelic Ireland and these four lectures neatly complimented one another.

Our sympathy is extended to Leopoldo O'Donnell, Duke of Tetuan (70) on the death of his wife Consuelo, who died in March 1988. She of course is the mother of Hugh, Count de Lucena (74). Hugh's two oldest children Carlos and Maria spent the Summer months in Athlone perfecting their English.

While visiting Medugorje in Yugoslavia where the Blessed Lady is said to appear daily to certain teenagers, I had the pleasure of meeting Milona Von Hapsburg, a descendant of the Imperial House of Austria (see ODA No 7, Max O'Donnell and Franz Joseph). This lady has given up her home and job to devote her life to the Marian cause in Medugorje. She works as secretary and interpreter to Fr. Slavko, a most demanding job.

During the Summer I've had some letters and visits from O'Donnells seeking their 'roots'. It is quite difficult to trace most Irish families further back than 1850 as records are few. It was a deliberate policy of the British at the time to destroy the identity of Gaelic Catholic families. It was only with the relaxation of the Penal Laws around the middle of the last century that church records began to be kept but unfortunately many of the earlier ones were damaged or lost. A genealogical service is being set up here in Co. Donegal and hopefully it will be in operation within the next five years. It is the brainchild of Arthur Speers, retired Assistant County Engineer and I too am involved. So I would ask all O'Donnells to collect all information about their families in the hope that with the aid of computers pedigrees could be extended.

Count Gabriel O'Donnell of Austria (75) was in Ireland during November when he was special guest of the Irish Military History Society at their annual dinner in Dublin. His son, Douglas, accompanied him.

It seems we are to have two Clan Gatherings next year. Eddie O'Donnell, Chairman of the Donegal County Council intends to organise a one-day rally at the Rock of Doon sometime in June while Mrs. Crossan and the members of the Donegal Town Development Association are planning a week-long gathering beginning on the 16th. of September. Apart from the date, nothing else is definite about the Donegal one.

Books

To anyone interested in a short simple book of Irish History, I would very much recommend "A Short History of Ireland" by Martin Wallace, published by Appletree Press, 7 James st. South, Belfast. ISBN 0-86281-171-6 costs about one pound and is the most precise, complete and best layed out book on the subject that I've ever come across.

Another book, just published by 'Worldbook' as part of the 'Childcraft' series is the 'Story of Ireland'. It gives the history of Ireland in story form and although a lovely book it has many flaws, e.g. it states that Red Hugh O'Donnell was an Earl and that he sailed with O'Neill in 1607. Firstly, Red Hugh never had that title (such a title would be repugnant to any Irishman) and secondly, he died in 1602. V.O'D.



Michelene K. Walsh speaking
at Rathmullan.

The Capture and Escape of Aodh Rua.

The opening lines of 'Beatha Aodha Ruaidh Ui Dhomhnaill' written by Lughaidh O'Cleirigh in 1616 and translated by Rev. Dennis Murphy in 1893 are as follows, "A famous progeny sprung from O'Donnell." (This was Aodh Dubh(5)). Ineen Dubh, daughter of James MacDonnell, Lord of the Isles (of Scotland) was wife of O'Donnell and mother of the most renowned of his children - Aodh Rua, Rory, Manus and Caffir.

Having been fostered by several of the noble houses of Ulster, "then he continued to grow and increase in comeliness and urbanity, tact and eloquence, wisdom and knowledge, goodly size and noble deeds, so that his name and fame spread throughout the five provinces of Erin among the English and the Irish, even before he passed the age of boyhood and completed his fifteenth year."

It seems that the birth of Aodh fulfilled many prophecies including one by St.Colmcille - "There will come a man glorious, pure, exalted, who will cause mournful weeping in every territory; he will be the god-like prince, and he will be king for nine years".

All this plus the fact that Aodh's sister, Joan, was betrothed to Aodh O'Neill, disturbed the English to such an extent that they planned to imprison him from an early age.

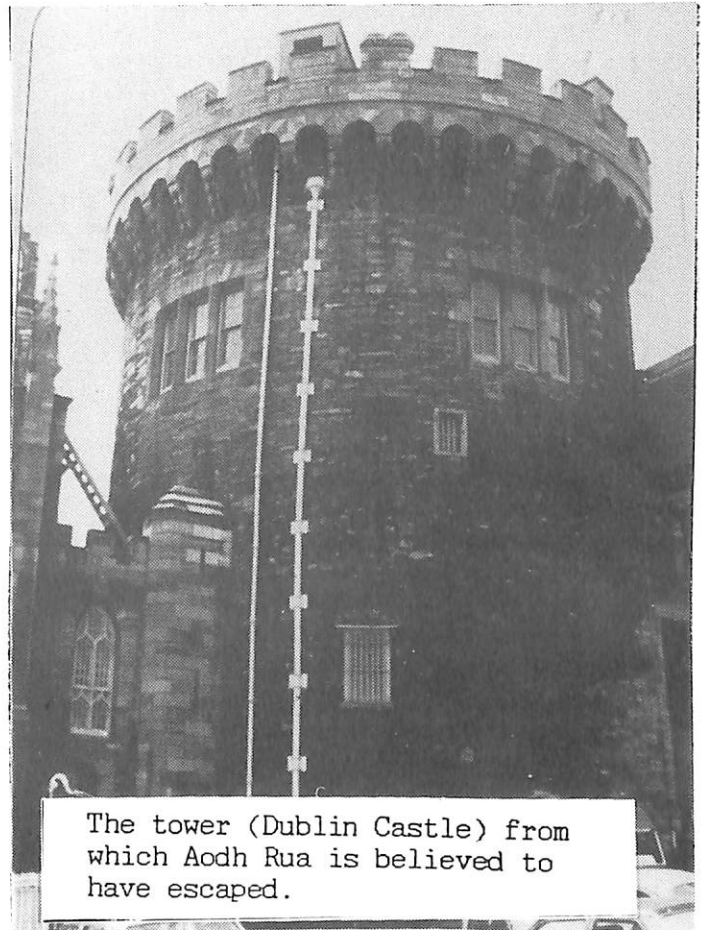
The kidnapping of Aodh Rua is a famous story and subject of the Irish poem in O'D.A. No. 7, 'Fuadach Aodh Rua'.

In September 1587, the Lord Deputy, Sir John Perrot, sent a ship disguised as a Spanish merchantman to Rathmullan where she dropped anchor opposite the castle of MacSweeney, where Aodh Rua was visiting at the time.

Aodh along with some of his friends was invited aboard to sample the fine wines and beers brought by the ship. The youths unsuspectingly accepted. While they were enjoying 'Spanish hospitality' they were suddenly seized, unarmed and imprisoned in a well-secured apartment, while the crew on deck weighed anchor and prepared to sail.

As the ship reached deep water, those on shore realised what was happening but by then it was too late to take action.

On arrival in Dublin Aodh was incarcerated in the Castle. During his stay there he never gave up seeking a



The tower (Dublin Castle) from which Aodh Rua is believed to have escaped.

means to escape. This of course was difficult as the tower (probably the Birmingham Tower) in which he was kept was a tall, strong structure surrounded by deep water and, of course, well guarded. However, with the aid of outsiders, a plan was formed. Towards the end of Dec. 1590 a rope was smuggled into his cell. On a prearranged night Aodh along with his cellmates managed to remove the iron bars from the window. They then lowered themselves by means of the rope to the ground outside the tower. The guard on the main gate, it seems, was well bribed to neglect his duty for a brief moment that night. Outside the walls a guide (Art Kavanagh was his name) was waiting who quickly led them from the city.

But the boys, wearing bad footwear and through lack of strength and exercise soon grew tired. The guide was sent to Phelim O'Toole, whom the youths regarded as a friend, for help. However, to their great disappointment, they were soon handed back to the English and this time their confinement was more severe. Aodh was bound in chains and the guard doubled.

But he was determined to escape. A second plan began to take shape and about a year later, on the fifth of January 1592 (and not the 25 Dec. as many books report) Aodh made his second attempt. His comrades on this occasion were Henry and Art O'Neill, sons of Shane the Proud, with whom he had shared his cell since his recapture.

Files had been smuggled in (it is believed that Aodh O'Neill had much to do with the business) with which they cut their bounds, and again, they descended by rope, crossed the moat and with the help of a guide made their way out of the city.

The weather on this occasion was more inclement than on their previous attempt and in their haste they lost Henry O'Neill.

As they left the city behind and began to climb the Wicklow Hills the rain turned to sleet and snow from which they suffered being poorly clothed. Soon Art became exhausted and had to be helped along by Aodh and the guide but after a while the going became impossible.

At this stage Aodh and Art sought the shelter of a lofty cliff while their guide proceeded to Fiach Mac Hugh, an Irish Chieftain whose home was in the impregnable valley of Glenmalure.

Fiach immediately sent a party to search for the two youths bringing with them food, drink and clothes. It was difficult to find them at first as it had snowed alot during the night and one cliff face looked like another but finally they were located, covered with frozen hailstones.

The two bodies huddled together under the frozen mass seemed more dead than alive, indeed Art, although alive then, died shortly after and was buried there. Aodh made a remarkable recovery but suffered severe frost bite of both feet. He later had both big toes amputated and was lame for the rest of his life.

As soon as Aodh had recovered fully he headed north. Travelling on horseback along with a small escort he crossed the Liffey right under the walls of Dublin Castle, for they knew well that every other crossing was closely guarded.

Among his escort were, Phelim O'Toole and his brother. This was probably a gesture of reconciliation. Having accompanied him well north of Dublin, and so beyond the most dangerous part of his journey the O'Tooles took their leave and returned south. Aodh was now in the care of Turlough Bui O'Hagan,

one of O'Neill's most trusted men. Turlough was also an excellent choice as he spoke the language of the English and was well acquainted with O'Neill's friends both Irish and English.

Boldly travelling the main roads of Meath on two fine horses they reached the Boyne before morning. Here, rather than chance riding through Drogheda where they might be recognised, they paid a fisherman to ferry them across in a currach and bring them their horses via the town later in the day.

About two miles north of the river they visited and were entertained by Sir Garret Moore, an English Lord who was friendly with O'Neill.

Having spent two days enjoying the hospitality of this gentleman, they continued their journey. They left after nightfall, and travelling all night and all next day, they made their next stop at the home of Turlough O'Neill of the Fewes where they received a great welcome.

They now felt safer as they were in O'Neill territory. Next day they reached Armagh and on the following day arrived in Dungannon where their host was O'Neill himself. Here Aodh was entertained secretly as O'Neill was still submissive to Dublin Castle.

Four days and four nights he spent there and on leaving, was provided with an escort to protect him from robbers and woodkern, until he reached Lough Erne. Here he was received by Maguire, Chief of Fermanagh who gave him the best of hospitality.

Having rested here he travelled down the Lough by boat, and on reaching the lower shore, where Beleek stands today, was met by a band of his own faithful and loyal people for he was now in his own country. They travelled to Ballyshannon, where the O'Donnells had a well-fortified castle. Here he was made welcome by many of his clansmen who gathered from all over that area.

But all was not well in the land of Connal. For the past few years the English had gradually made many encroachments upon it, even taking up residence in O'Boyle's castle two miles from Donegal and closer still, in the Monastery only a few hundred yards from Donegal Castle. Thus Aodh found his native territory practically overrun by the enemy.

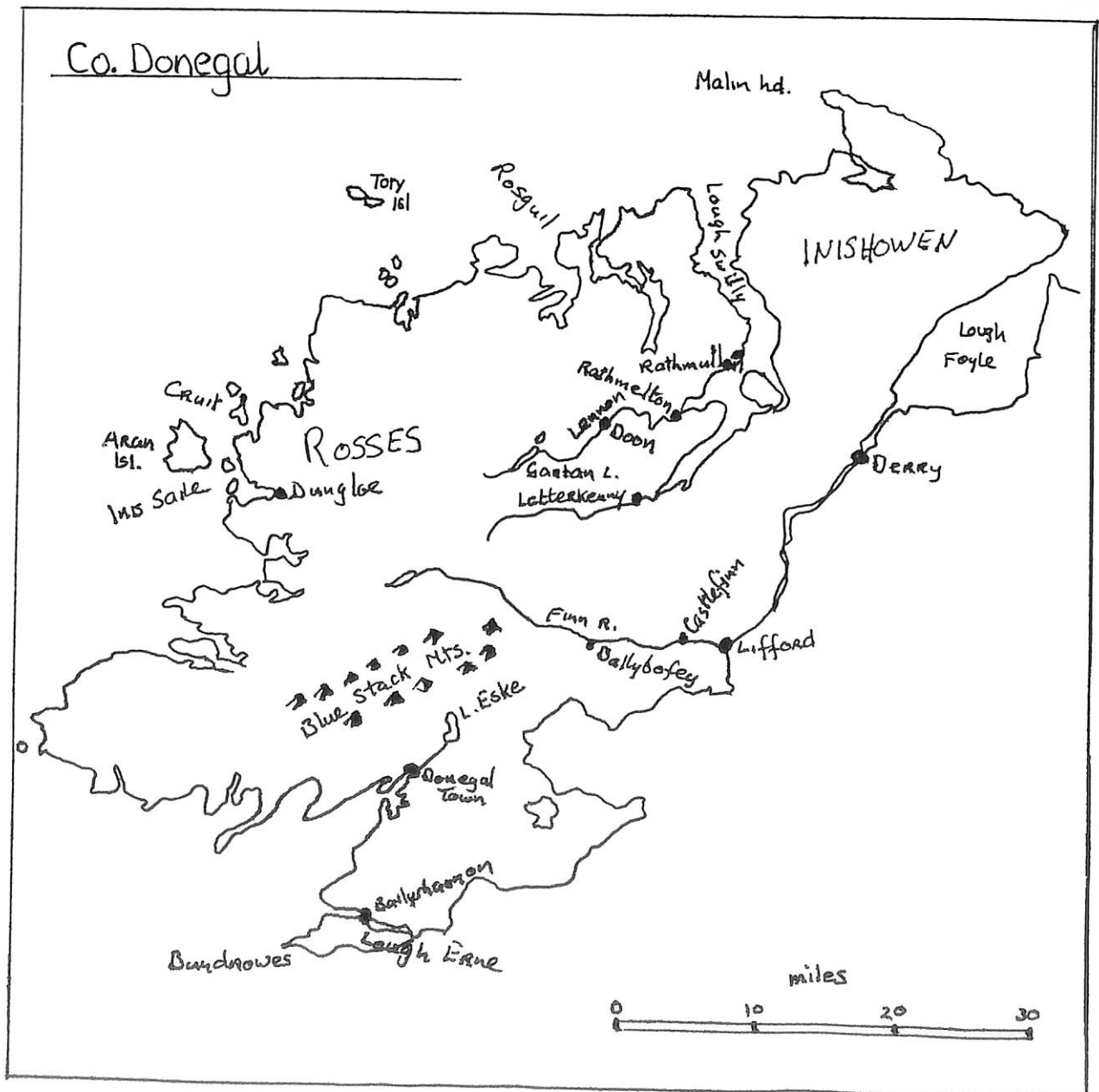
Immediately he commenced to assemble an army but before an engagement could take place the English departed after which the Brethern returned to the Monastery.

Aodh now had time to have his feet seen to and it was at this stage that the physicians decided to remove his toes as they couldn't cure them otherwise.

By April when his wounds were almost healed he set about uniting his people. He assembled all those who were loyal to him at Kilmacrennan, O'Boyles, McSweeney Banagh, McSweeney Doe, McSweeney Fanat and many other smaller septes. Having held council, the nobles including O'Donnell himself (since he was aware of his feebleness and advanced age) agreed to transfer the chieftaincy to Aodh Rua . On the third of May at the Rock of Doon as was customary (see ODA No.9) Aodh was inaugurated and acclaimed "O Domhnaill".



Nuala(64a) at Rathmullan.



O'DONNELL DWELLING PLACES

The O'Donnells first resided on an island, probably a man-made one (crannog), in Lough Veagh. But where was Lough Veagh? Here follows an article which appeared in the Donegal Annual 1965.

"The Crannog of Lough Veagh:

Since the visit of John O'Donovan here, exactly 130 years ago, most writers have followed his identification of the centuries-old O'Donnell Crannog of Lough Veagh with the little island in Glenveagh Lake. Now this O'Donovan-sponsored doctrine must be abjured, as its error has been proved in a recent piece of research by a Donegal scholar in this journal. From this we learn that Loch Beathach (or Lough Veagh) was the old name for Gartan Lough (just over the hill from Glenveagh) and was known as such to Manus O'Donnell (d.1564) and his forbears, who had their lake-girt stronghold there for many generations.

"Here then on this island on Gartan Lough, and not in Glenveagh, was O'Donnell's medieval fort. Here was the scene of Godfrey O'Donnell's historic homecoming on his bier from the decisive victory over the Connacht Normans at Credran, in 1257. Here, we may take it, in the words of Aubrey de Vere:

O'Donnell lay sick with a grievous wound: The leech had left him, the priest had come; The clan lay weeping upon the ground, Their banners furled and their minstrels dumb.....!

From this island fort too, the dying, but dauntless Godfrey, still on his bier, led the Cenel Conaill against the invading Brian O'Neill to win the day at the Swilly, in 1258, and there to die and be buried at Conwall, where his tomb is still to be seen. 'This', states the Four Masters, 'was no death of cowardice, but the death of a hero, who had at all times triumphed over his enemies'....

Gartan Lough is drained by the Lennon River and it was on the banks of this river close to where Ramelton stands today, that the O'Donnells had their first permanent home (see ODA No. 1)

Later, they built castles or forts at Bundrowes, Ballyshannon, Lifford, Caoluisce, Castlefinn and Donegal.

They also had a fortress, the ruins of which still exist, on an island known as 'O'Donnell Island' in Lough Eske a few miles from Donegal Town. It was here that Aodh Rua (12) imprisoned O'Connor Sligo. O'Connor was released by Rory after Aodh's death.

As Aodh Rua destroyed Donegal Castle before Kinsale (see ODA No.1) Rory returned to Lough Eske Castle after the battle. This tower-house was built on the shore of Lough Eske and it was from here that Rory set out on his journey to Rathmullan to board the ship that took him to the Continent in 1607.

On Rory's departure his property was confiscated by the English, but his mother, Ineen Dubh, seems to have been resettled in the east of the County as we find her shortly afterwards living in Monagavlin Castle on the banks of Lough Foyle. Lifford Castle was occupied by other members of the family until Rory of Lifford (22) was moved to Connaught during the Cromwellian Plantations sometime prior to 1664.

by V.O'Donnell.

O'DONNELL OFFICERS

Under the Clan System, lesser Clans were delegated an office by a superior Clan. Here is a list of the smaller Clans and the offices they held from the O'Donnells.

Mac Roartys, custodians of the 'Cathach'.
MacSweeneys, standardbearers and commanders of gallowlasses.
O'Breslins, brehons (Judges).
O'Clerys, historians and genealogists.
O'Dunlevys, physicians.
O'Friels, Chief inaugurators.
O'Gallaghers, commanders of cavalry.
Wards, poets.
O'Kerrigans, harpists.
O'Timoneys, cattle drovers.

Argentinian O'Donnell visits Donegal Castle

Mr. Guillermo O'Donnell, an Argentinian living in Brazil, paid a special visit to Donegal Town last week to visit the O'Donnell Castle, the ancestral home of his forbears. He was accompanied by Mr. Vincent O'Donnell, a schoolteacher living in Inver who publishes a regular newsletter about the activities of his kinsfolk in the O'Donnell Clan. It was through reading one of Vincent's publications that Guillermo first became interested in paying a visit to Donegal. His brother Alex was in Donegal three years ago and came across the newsletter and sent it to his brother Guillermo.

Guillermo O'Donnell is President of the International Political Association, a worldwide organisation, and is a Professor of Politics in Sao Paulo, Brazil. His particular branch of the O'Donnell family arrived in Spain after the Flight of the Earls and were given a welcome in royal circles. His great, great grandfather Santiago O'Donnell was invited by the then King of Spain to create an Academy of Mathematics of Vice Royalty Plata in Buenos Aires.

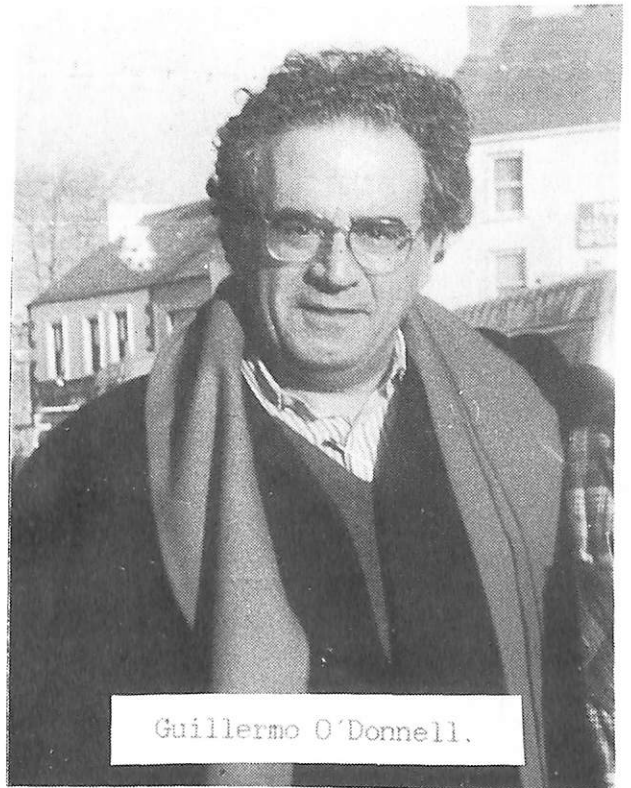
Guillermo was born in Argentina and was educated there. He taught in one of the universities and published a number of books. Because of his leaning towards democracy and his detest for dictatorship he fell foul of the General Videla regime, or dictatorship, that existed in Argentina at the time. His outspoken comments and well-known views got him into trouble. His books were banned and he left the country in 1979 and took up residence in Brazil where he carried on his teaching. Although the military regime in his native country has since been replaced he still lives in Brazil.

His brother, Mario, a well-known novelist in Argentina, is now a member of the ruling party and was appointed Minister for Culture in '84-'87. He is currently running for parliament and Guillermo places him a number one favourite for a large vote. "Democracy will always win out".

It was something of a shock in the circumstances for Guillermo to face a gruelling at the hands of the authorities in Heathrow when he arrived there en route to Ireland. They examined his passport, showing him a native of Argentina and asked him where he had come from and where he was going. He explained that he was born in Argentina, lived in Brazil, had been on an annual lecture tour in Notre Dame University, U.S.A., had flown back to Italy, and had then while in Europe decided to come to Donegal.

"This, together with the name O'Donnell, caused them some apparent confusion", he comments amusedly. He was immediately taken out of the queue and shown into a room where he was "very much grilled". As he says himself, he was not scared as he had suffered years of this type of harrassment at the hands of Videla hirelings and he had become hardened to this kind of treatment, but he was greatly annoyed at the questioning and the indignity inflicted on him.

He actually missed his connecting flight and had to wait some hours before getting another one. He was allowed to sit up in the first class, presumably by way of amelioration or compensation for the way he was treated. They could also have been at that stage conscious of the faux pas they had made in their heavy-handed treatment of a distinguished overseas visitor, who was after all only en transit at Heathrow. "Next time I visit Ireland I will make sure I will choose a plane that will not fly to England", he said.



Guillermo O'Donnell.

The above is taken from the 'Donegal Democrat' of the 8th. Nov. 1988. There are, however, a few errors, e.g.

1. Guillermo is President of the International Political Science Association.
2. The O'Donnells went to Spain in the middle of the 18th. century.
3. His great, great, grandfather created the Academy of Mathematics in what was then called the Vice Royalty of the Rio de La Plata (River Platt).

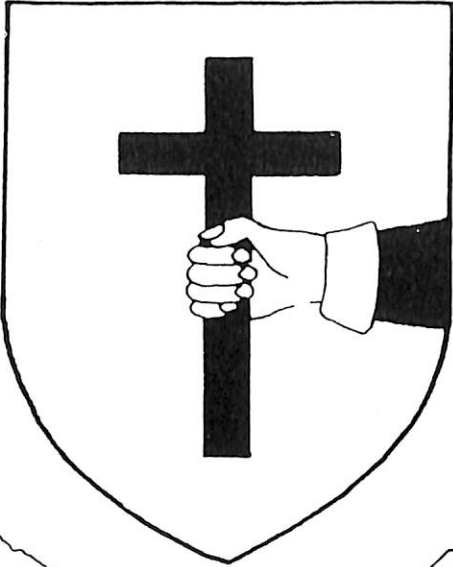
Guillermo visited Donegal the last weekend in Nov. and I must say it was a delight to have such a jolly, friendly and interesting guest. I hope to publish more about this unique family in a later issue. V.O'Donnell.

'O Domhnaill Abu' is published by Vincent O'Donnell, Inver, Co. Donegal, Eire.

Subscription rates are as follows...
Ireland & U.K ...5 pounds} for four
Other countries...6 pounds} issues.

Irish Cottage to let, June, July and August. Beside beach on the north west coast of Co. Donegal (Ireland). For details ring Charles Greene, 075-48251.

Ó Domhnaill Abú



*O'Donnell Clan
Newsletter No. 11*

Summer 1989



Larkfield House, built by Conn (24).

To Rome by Boat, Coach and Horseback

(A lecture given by His Eminence, Tomas O Fiaich, Cardinal Archbishop of Armagh, at Rathmullan in Sept. 1988. The following is a synopsis of that lecture and is reproduced here by his kind permission and that of the Donegal Historical Society. The lecturer stressed the fact that in this talk he was more concerned with the human side of the story.)

For a list of the O'Donnell participants and their fate see ODA No.8.

A year before the 'Flight Chichester had got word that Rory O'Donnell and Cuchonnacht Maguire, Chief of Fermanagh were planning to depart to the Continent. Maguire left in May 1607 and in Brussels contacted Henry O'Neill, son of the Earl of Tyrone, who was colonel of the Irish Regiment in the Spanish Army in the Low Countries. With a grant of a thousand pounds from the Archduke Albert, governor of the Netherlands, they hired a ship, disguised her as a fishing smack and under the command of captain, John Rath sailed from Dunkirk in Aug. 1607. On the 25th. of the same month (4th. of Sept. in the modern style calendar) she dropped anchor in Lough Swilly where she remained for nine days. Along with her came Cuchonnacht Maguire, Matthew Tully (O'Donnell's secretary), and Donnchadh O Briain. Upon coming to Lough Swilly Donnchadh landed by night and went immediately to Rory who in turn sent word to O'Neill. O'Neill was in Slane Co. Meath for a meeting with Chichester at the time. By the 8th. of Sept. he was on his way stopping at Armagh where he collected the Altar Plate of Armagh Cathedral and brought it with him for safekeeping to Louvain. This collection survived until 1741 but its whereabouts is unknown today. So hasty was O'Neill's departure that he left behind his youngest son, Conn, who was out on fosterage and could not be contacted in time. Hugh made a speedy journey, meeting with Caffir O'Donnell at Ballindrait and together they arrived at Rathmullan on the 14th. Sept. Caffir's second son, also Conn, did not turn up in time and eventually they left without him. Therefore we can appreciate the urgency and the hard decisions that had to be made before the "Noble shipload" was ready to sail.

Having taken on board sufficient supplies of food and water, they sailed at noon on Friday 14th. Sept. the Feast of the Holy Cross. Altogether there were ninety nine people whom we divide into four groups -

(1) Over thirty men and women who finally reached Rome.

(2) Twenty more consisting of children with their teachers and nurses who remained in Flanders.

(3) Twenty three who joined the Irish Regiment in the Spanish Army.

(4) Seventeen, some priests and some clerical students who remained in Flanders to join the Irish seminaries there like Louvain and Douai.

Having sailed down Lough Swilly they headed west where they saw their last sight of Tyrconnel. Going down the west coast of Ireland they kept well off shore to avoid the English ships at Galway but by so doing ran into very stormy weather that lasted 17 days. O'Neill, we are told, had a gold cross which contained a relic of the true cross and this he trailed in the water behind the ship, and according to O Cianain, it gave some relief from the storm.

The normal journey from Ireland to Coruna should have taken only four or five days but they were over fourteen days on board ship when nearing the Spanish coast on Sun. 30 Sept. the wind began to blow directly against them and made it impossible to sail for Spain. Instead they were blown up the English Channel, past the Channel Isles and after many adventures and with their stores depleted, the seasick passengers made a landing on the 4th. of Oct., the Feast of St. Francis, near the mouth of the Seine in the little port of Quillebeuf.

Here they were well received by the Governor of the town but he was reluctant to allow them to travel through Normandy without the King's (Henry IV of France) permission. So their interpreter, Matthew Tully sent post haste to Paris to meet the King. Meanwhile the English Ambassador, Sir George Carew, requested the King to have them arrested and sent to England. The King, finding himself in a spot,

compromised. He did not allow them to travel through France to Spain but granted them permission to go to Spanish occupied Flanders.

That they did - it took almost a month, (4th. Oct. -9th. Nov.) to reach Louvain. After leaving Quillebeuf, the first big city they encountered was Rouen at the mouth of the Seine. Then they travelled to Amiens and Arras (by now they were in Spanish Netherlands, today Arras is in France) where they were met by Doctor Eugene McMahon, Bishop of Clogher and later Archbishop of Dublin.

From Mon. to Fri. (22 - 26th Oct.) they stayed at Douai with its twin Catholic seminaries. Here they received a tumultuous welcome as they were held as popular heroes by the students. On the 23rd. the Earls were invited to the English seminary where they were warmly welcomed and entertained at a banquet.

Two of the distinguished Irish Franciscans of the time, Fr. Florence Conry, founder of St. Anthony's Louvain and Fr. Robert McArthur of Co. Louth came to Flanders to meet them. From Douai they passed through Tournai and into Halle where O'Neill met his son Henry, who was colonel of the Irish Regiment. From Halle they were invited to dine in Brussels with the Marquis Spinola, commander of the Spanish Army in the Netherlands and they were also invited to visit the Archduke Albert at his palace at Binche. This visit must have been quite a dramatic one as present was de Lasso, a survivor of an Armada wreck twenty years earlier on the Donegal coast, where he saw 300 of his comrades put to death by Henry Hovendon, an English officer. Those spared, 45 in all, including de Lasso were force-marched to Dublin by Earl Rory's father, Aodh Dubh, and handed over to the authorities there. De Lasso and a few other high-ranking officers were exchanged for English prisoners in Spain. Here now at this meeting were de Lasso, Earl Rory and Henry Hovendon who had since come over to the Irish and was O'Neill's secretary.

From Fri. 9th. Nov. - Sun. 25th. Nov. they spent in Louvain, then about 40 of the men set out on horseback for Rome where they hoped to go by ship to Spain. They had travelled only 27 miles from Louvain to Namur when they were met by a messenger from King Philip of Spain ordering them to send their

plans in writing and await his reply in Flanders. England and Spain had just made peace and Philip hoped to prolong it by avoiding trouble with England but at the same time he didn't wish to alienate himself from the Earls as he would wish Ireland on his side if circumstances changed.

After their initial disappointment, they settled down to spend the winter there. From here we are told they visited places of special interest. The river Schelt was frozen over that winter and they saw about 20,000 people enjoying themselves on the ice.

As the new year came they were under pressure from the Archduke to move on. He didn't wish to offend the English any longer. On Thurs. 28th. Feb. they began their long journey once again: 32 men on horseback with a carriage for the women. However the road was so bad that they had to abandon the carriage at Namur after 40 miles and the women too took to horseback. Inside a week they had crossed into Lorraine where they were entertained by the old Duke of Lorraine at his palace at Nancy. By the middle of March they passed into Switzerland and arrived in Basle, the first big protestant city they had encountered. The change was noticeable, says O'Cianain, 'the inhabitants are heretics', "Teampaill ro-mhoir ina bhfuil dealbhai de Luthar agus Calvin agus droch udair diobhailai eile".

They then moved on till they reached Lake Lucerne where they took to boats and sailed to the southern shore. On St. Patrick's Day in the middle of the Alps occurred the worst accident of the journey. While crossing the Devil's Bridge (Die Teufelsbrücke) which spans a deep gorge on the river Reuss near Fluellen, one of O'Neill's horses carrying most of his wealth panicked and fell into the cascading flood far below. While a few men made their way cautiously down the snowy ravine the rest continued on their journey. But no trace of the money was found. According to O'Cianain, this was a serious blow to O'Neill. The amount lost was one hundred and twenty pounds, estimated to be worth about five thousand pounds today.

A week later they came down and out of the Alps on the southern side and travelled to Lake Lugano where they made their second boat journey and reached Milan on the 23rd. March 1608. They were now on Spanish territory once

again and spent a fortnight there. Here they were generously received by the Spanish Governor Count de Fuentes; visited the Cathedral of Milan and stayed at the hostelry called "The Three Kings", this hotel is still there today.

From Milan to Rome still required a fortnight, they passed through Lodi, Piacenza, Bologna with its great fountain squirting water in the air as it still does today. Friday 18th. April they reached the Adriatic at Remini and Catolica. They were now within a few days of Rome which they eventually entered through the Porta del Popolo on the 29th. April 1608 and immediately went to pray in St. Peter's Basilica. Thus their journey was completed.

In summing up, the lecturer said, they had travelled approximately 1200 miles since landing on the Continent. That was an average of 40 Kilometres a day. 55- was the longest they had covered in any one day with the exception of their boat journeys. They were well armed and on a few occasions were escorted. Seemingly they had no difficulty obtaining lodgings. They were received graciously and with honour in most towns they passed through, sometimes they were met outside the cities by governors and some times escorted on leaving. They were shown all the important sites, provided with entertainment of all sorts, saw some of the finest scenery in Europe and saw many of the artistic treasures of the time. As for shrines and relics they had a grand tour of these all along the way and especially in Rome, e.g. the head of John the Baptist, two thorns from the crown of thorns, the nail that went through Christ's feet, a piece of the plate on which was written 'Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews', portions of the true cross, the cross beam of the cross of the good thief, and many more.

Now, what about those left behind? O'Neill's youngest son, Conn who was left behind was shortly afterwards arrested by the authorities. Chichester proposed that he, along with the son of Caffir O'Donnell should be sent "to some remote part of England or Scotland to be kept from the knowledge of friends and acquaintances or should be dispatched to the plantation of Virginia". In 1615 Conn O'Neill was removed to Dublin, transferred to England where the King sent him to Eton College. In 1622 he was

sent to the Tower of London and never heard of again.

Caffir's son, Conn was more fortunate. Having been held prisoner in Donegal and later in Dublin, he was transferred to England from where he escaped to the Continent. A Donegal tradition claims he returned to end his days in Glenfinn.

Many of those who went with the Earls later pleaded with the English Authorities to allow their wives and families to join them there, and indeed some were successful as the English figured that by their going they were placing an extra burden on Spain and Rome.

The Earls were given a palace in the centre of Rome by the Pope - possibly what is now the Columbus Hotel that you pass on your left as you go into St. Peter's Square. In the days following their arrival they were well entertained and honoured by everyone including the Pope. Eight of them had the honour of carrying the canopy over the Holy Father during the Corpus Christi procession.

Yet the King of Spain and the Pope were always blaming each other for not being more generous towards the Irish exiles but before matters improved both Rory and Caffir, Maguire and others died in 1608 as reported in ODA No.2 and were buried in the Franciscan Church of San Pietro in Montorio where their graves can be seen till this day.

Editor's note - I've been told that a carpet covers that floor today, but it may be rolled back upon request to reveal the inscriptions on their graves. The grave next to the O'Donnells is that of young Hugh O'Neill, Baron of Dungannon. His father, the Earl, died in 1616 and is buried elsewhere in that same church. V.O'D.



Cardinal O Fiaich at Rathmullan.

General Rosy O'Donnell.

During the last O'Donnell Gathering (1982) in Donegal, someone asked about Rosy O'Donnell, a four-star General in the U.S. Air Force but alas! no one present had ever heard of him. While working on ODA No. 10, I came across the notes I had taken at that Gathering and the reference to 'Rosy', so I began to make inquiries. A few days after Christmas '88 a large envelope containing many photocopies of files and newspaper clippings arrived from the Department of the Air Force, Washington D.C. I am most thankful to them. Here is a synopsis of the contents of that envelope.

Emmett O'Donnell was born in Brooklyn on the 5th. Sept. 1906, his parents, Emmett O'Donnell and Veronica Tobin, educated him for a career in medicine but while at high school, Emmett visited Congressman William E. Cleary on his own to apply to the U.S. Military Academy. On graduation from West Point on 9th. June 1928 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. He then entered the Army Air Corps and was assigned for flight training at Brooks Field, Texas.

In 1940 he was transferred to Hawaii and assigned as a Squadron Commander in the 11th. Bombardment Group. In September 1941, he led the 14th. Squadron of B-17 Flying Fortresses across the Pacific to Manila. This was the first mass flight of land planes to cross the Western Pacific from Hawaii to the Philippines. On the 7th. of Dec. the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour and began raids on Clark Field in the Philippines. Forced from the field by the raids, O'Donnell took to the air and attacked two Japanese warships. Five times he flew over his target while subject to heavy anti-aircraft fire and enemy fighters. He then returned to make a safe landing despite flat tires on two wheels. For this action he received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

When the beleaguered defenders of the Philippines had lost all their planes and fields, the General and his men took up rifles to fight on the ground in what he called, "a dismounted bombardment group." However, they were forced to withdraw to Bataan, then to Mindanao and later to Java where he served as Operations Officer of the Far East Air Force during the Spring of '42. His

group was then evacuated to India where he was assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations of the Tenth Air Force. In March '43 he was recalled to Washington to receive the Air Medal and a top staff post.

A year later, having been promoted to Brigadier General, he took command of a heavy bomber group and trained the men for six months in the operation of the then new strategic bomber, the B-29. He then flew at the head of his wing to Saipan in the Marianas Islands. On November 24th. he piloted the "Dauntless Dottie" the lead B-29 of the 111 planes that set out from Saipan on a 3,200 mile round trip to bomb Tokyo. Only two failed to return. For this action he earned the Silver Star. Rosy's comment was, "It was a start and much better than getting run out of the Phillipines."

After the war in the Pacific he held several top posts in the Air Force until the outbreak of the Korean War when he was rushed from a Californian air base to take command of bombing operations in the Far East. His first B-29 units to arrive in Japan accomplished the outstanding feat of carrying out a maximum effort bombing mission in Korea 36 hours after the first B-29 touched down in Japan having flown from the United States. During this tour of duty he commanded the 15th. Air Force.

After the Korean War, General O'Donnell became Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel at Air Force Headquarters in Washington. In August '59 he became Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Air Force in which capacity he served until his retirement in '63. President John F. Kennedy held a special ceremony for General O'Donnell's retirement to pay tribute to what he called "one of the most distinguished careers in the history of the U.S. Air Force."

Among his many other decorations were: the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster and Legion of Merit.

During World War II, his men salvaged a B-18 that had been hidden in the Philippine jungle. O'Donnell was assigned to fly a senior Army officer to Australia. His flight plan called for

him to land at a certain island to refuel; however, the condition of the aircraft was such that he felt he might not get back in the air again if he made the stop. Taking advantage of tail winds, he stretched his flight non-stop to Australia. On arrival he learned that the Japs had captured the island where he intended to refuel and, had he landed, they undoubtedly would have been captured.

Emmett O'Donnell, nicknamed 'Rosy' because of his tendency to blush, was the grandson of a Civil War soldier. A keen sportsman, he played and coached football at West Point, was a member of the lacrosse, swimming, and football varsity teams at the United States Military Academy. He always supported and maintained a keen interest in the Olympic movement and was the U.S. Service representative on the U.S. Olympic Committee. In 1956 he was selected to represent the Dept. of Defence at the Games in Melbourne. In 1957 the Olympic authorities honoured him by making him a member of the Executive Board.

In the late 50s General O'Donnell and Senator Margaret Chase Smith feuded over the promotion of actor James Stewart to Brig. General in the Air Force reserve. Sen. Smith said Stewart wasn't qualified but O'Donnell disagreed.

On the 26th. Dec. '71, General Emmett 'Rosy' O'Donnell died of a heart attack at the age of 65. He was survived by his wife Lorraine Muller, and two sons, Patrick and Terrence.

"Money's Portrait of Hugh Roe O'Donnell" is taken from a little book entitled "Memories of the Irish Franciscans" and seems to be based on Fr. Donagh Mooney's pen-picture of Aodh Rua (12) but it does not give the poet's name. Fr. Donagh Mooney O.F.M. who was personally acquainted with Aodh and was by his bed side when he died (See ODA No.8) described him thus - "He was above the middle height, strong of body and of a becoming countenance, form and aspect. His voice was musical, and he was vivacious and quick. He cultivated justice and was an avenger of evil deeds. He was constant in his resolutions, truthful in his promises and unwearied in toil. In matters of military discipline he was watchful and severe. He was brave in battle and was urbane and affable to all."
V.O'Donnell

As reported in ODA No. 10, two O'Donnell Clan gatherings are planned for 1989. The first of these is a three-day event beginning on the 17th. of June with a reception in the Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny and followed by an evening of traditional entertainment and probably a short talk on the Clann history. There will also be a display of photos, books etc.

Sunday is the main day and events will be centred around Doon Rock, inauguration site of the O'Donnell Clan chieftains. Sunday's programme begins at three o'clock and will include unveiling of a plaque and talks on the Clan and their inauguration ceremony. Afterwards, entertainment will be provided in local taverns.

For Monday, a coach tour is planned leaving the Mount Errigal hotel at noon and visiting places of O'Donnell historical interest viz. Conwal Graveyard (last resting place of Godfrey O'Donnell one of our great Chieftains), Gartan Heritage Centre which contains information on St. Colmcille (author of the Cathach), Kilmacrennan Abbey (site of religious inauguration ceremony) and then on to Rathmullan where there will be a wreath-laying ceremony commemorating the 'Flight of the Earls'. Talks will be given at all venues. Among the speakers will be Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill (64a) and Frank O'Donnell (mentioned in ODA No.10). The Gathering will come to an end with a function in the Milford Inn that night.

For further information contact the secretary, Deirdre O'Donnell, Clonkillymore, Termon, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

As for the second Gathering, it begins on the 16th. of September in Donegal Town and ends on Sunday the 24th. It promises to be the best yet with a very ambitious programme already being planned. For information contact Mrs. D. Crossan, Secretary O'Donnell Clan Rally, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal. Do your best to be present at both or at least one of these assemblies.

CLAN RALLIES

The value of clan rallies in Donegal is seen as being very high and the potential is there to attract hundreds of clan members and their families. The O'Donnell rally this year will be followed in 1991 by the O'Doherty rally and the following year by the Sweeney rally.

Donegal Democrat 24th. Feb. '89.

I stood on Kilmacrenan on a day
That saw our gallant prince, O'Donnell, crowned,
With chief and clansmen clustered thick around,
A martial, fierce, magnificent array.
Trumpet to trumpet poured defiant bray;
The hoves of rushing charges shook the ground;
Then, when the tribal erenach had placed
Within the compass of his small white hand
The sceptre which no deed of his disgraced -
The sovereign, the imperial, ruling wand -
The skies quacked with the clamor of acclaim;
The mountains shouted back in sullen glee -
The very valleys knew O'Donnell's name -
Red bolt of battle! Pledge of victory!

I rode at the Blackwater at his side
When Bagnall's routed columns, erst so proud,
Streamed, like a shattered skirt of thundercloud,
Towards Armagh, spur and lash with wrath applied.
I saw him upon Castlehaven's beach
Waving his hand, what time he passed to Spain,
With sparse retainers in his faithful train,
Never again his native shore to reach,
Gaily he spoke to us: he would soon return -
Renew the fight, if God should give him grace:
My aged eyes within their sockets burn,
Hot tears of agony run down my face.
A poor Franciscan closed his eyes in Spain.
We'll never look upon his like again.

Comely his stature, tall and finely knit;
His features symmetry; his entire mien
With rare nobility of life was lit -
Buoyant, but with a buoyancy serene.
His voice was musical, but in its tone
A tender, patient melancholy reigned -
A sadness half inflect, and half ingrained.
A low wind through a ruined forest blown.
His aspect was a king's, majestic, slow,
Save when in his shielded eyes there blazed
An enterprise's momentary glow,
And the thin lid inquiringly was raised;
Then the great orbs flashed out, dilated broad,
And - pardon! - but he seemed a very god.

No perils daunted him; brave, courteous, true,
Each promise was fulfilled, each word redeemed;
Not of this bastard age of ours he seemed,
But of time whilst yet the world was new.
Fearless in battle, he loved discipline;
Punished excesses, honoured valiant men;
Encouraged learning, execrated sin;
Revered what lay beyond his wisdom's kin.
Yet so accomplished, so immaculate,
I've heard him say, if God would grant him peace,
By making the war's issue fortunate,
From camp and court he'd essay swift release,
Take our poor habit, and be buried with
Us in community of life and death.

£50,000 to be spent on Donegal Castle

By Vera Cave

Donegal Castle will be enhanced this year with the spending of a special allocation of £50,000 for works at the gate house.

The castle is the only monument or tourist facility in the county to benefit from the extra £3.5 million the Minister for Finance allocated in the budget to the Office of Public Works for tourism and heritage projects such as national parks, monuments and wildlife. However, the O.P.W. intends to spend over £1 million in the county carrying out normal maintenance and improvements in parks, at castles, stone circles and on wildlife projects during the year.

Much of its £900,000 for parks will be spent at Glenveagh Castle on restoration and conservation. The figure for national monuments will be around £70,000.

At Donegal Castle, the gatehouse built by Sir Basil Brooke in the 1600s will be adapted to provide facilities for visitors. The work is expected to include roofing the building and carrying out works on the interior together with the provision of information for visitors.



Gen. Emmett O'Donnell

Rory O'Donnell's Pardon.

In November 1602 Sir Paul Gore was sent by the Lord Deputy with the Queen's protection to Rory O'Donnell, who had petitioned to be admitted to mercy, with direction to bring him to the Deputy, then in Connaught. Accordingly, on the 14th of December, Gore brought him to Athlone, where with O'Connor Sligo, he made his submission to the Queen.

In the beginning of June 1603, Rory O'Donnell, along with Mountjoy and Hugh O'Neill with their respective retinues, embarked at Fyan's Castle, in the harbour of Dublin, on board the pinnace Tramontana, and sailed for Holyhead. They made a rapid passage, for next morning the coast of Wales was sighted. But then suddenly, the sky became overcast and a dense fog enveloped the ship. However, the captain kept a course running swiftly before the wind under full sail. A flight of gannets screaming and whirling above the rigging attracted the attention of the officer on watch, who concluding that they were near land, called to the helmsman to put her about. The command was obeyed immediately, and as the Tramontana came about, so close was she to the Skerries, that the boat hanging at the stern davits was smashed to pieces. Fortunately for them that the birds disliked having their desert habitation invaded.

Soon the fog cleared and their fortuitous escape became even more apparent to all on board. At noon they dropped anchor close to Beaumaris where boats were waiting to take them ashore. They then travelled via Chester to London escorted by cavalry as the King feared for their safety. Indeed it was a wise step, for wherever they were recognised they met with hostility and abuse. Indeed it was no wonder for many families there had suffered the loss of a dear-one in Ireland during the previous years.

Having reached London, the Northern Chiefs were well-entertained until the 6th. of June when they were summoned to appear at Hampton Court next day. Meanwhile, proclamation was made that his Majesty had restored both O'Neill and O'Donnell to his favour and that they should be of all men honourably received.

Indeed the King himself received them

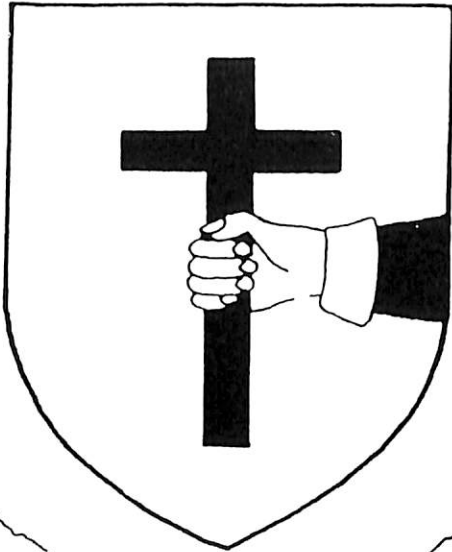
well and granted O'Donnell and his male heirs the privilege to ... "hold all the country of Tyrconnel, with remainder to his brother Caffar and his cousin Donald Og O'Donel, which his ancestors had many years past, with all the lands and rights of ancient time belonging to the lands thereof, excepting abbeys and other spiritual livings, the castle and town of Ballysahnon, and 1,000 acres adjoining the fishing there. It was further provided, that O'Donel should renounce all claims upon Sir Cahir O'Doherty's and O'Connor Sligo's countries; and in lieu thereof, "because he received so large a country as Tyrconnel for his inheritance," the king thought fit to grace him with the name, style, and honour of earl of Tyrconnel, to hold to him and his heirs male, with remainder to his brother Caffar, and that the heirs male apparent should be created barons of Donegal." A footnote says, "To said Rory was granted at same time a custodian of all abbeys, &, within county of Tyrconnel, till we shall otherwise dispose of them. The aforesaid grants were all given under privy seal, at Tottingham Court, Sept. 4, 1603."

On the 29th. of September, in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Dublin, Rory O'Donnell was invested with the style and title of Earl of Tyrconnell and empowered to have a place and seat in all parliaments and general councils in Ireland. This was the first time that a chief of Tyrconnell had borne an extraneous title which seemed to them in no way comparable to the old title - 'O Domhnaill'.

Source: pages 11,34-9,45 of 'The Fate and Fortunes of the Earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnell. by Rev.C.P.Meehan. V.O'Donnell.

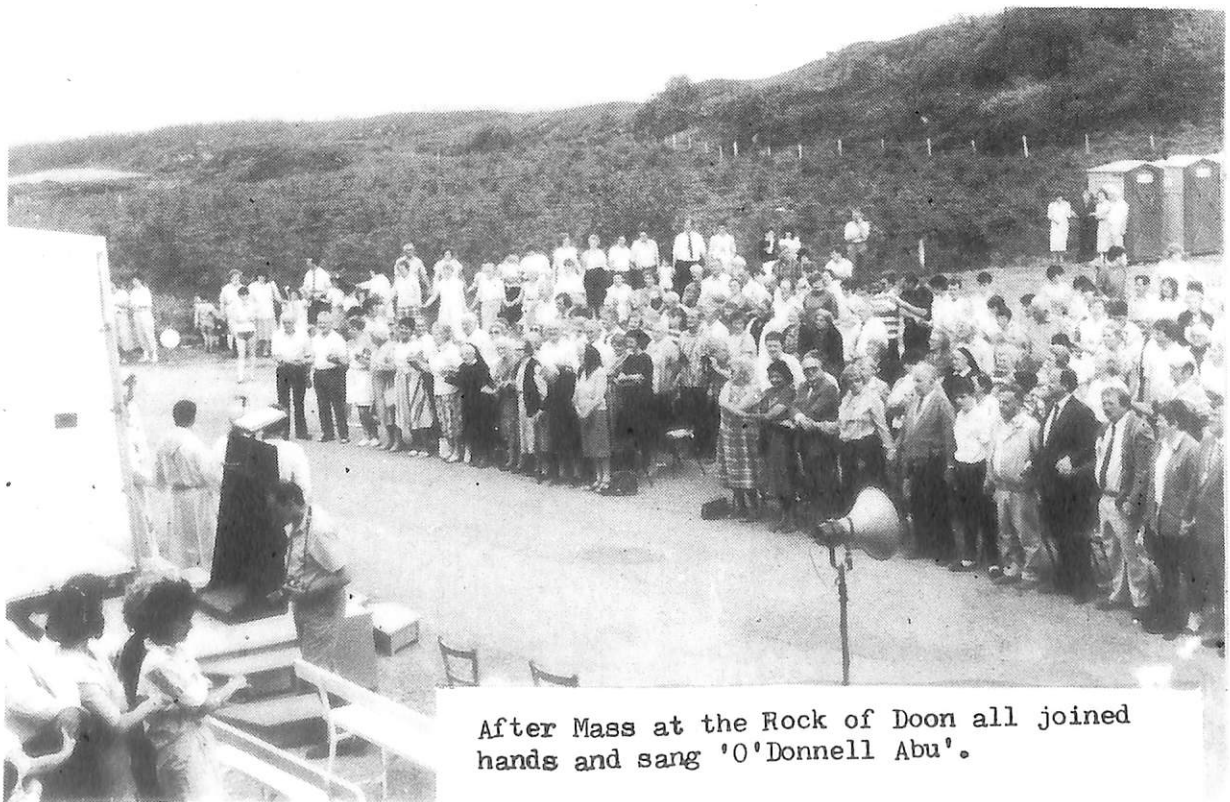
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Ó Domhnaill Abú



*O'Donnell Clan
Newsletter No. 12*

Winter 1989



After Mass at the Rock of Doon all joined hands and sang 'O'Donnell Abu'.

It was a delight to see all three main branches of our Clan represented at the Gathering last June. Count Hugh had just published his 5th (or was it his 6th?) book entitled 'La Fuerza de desembarco de la Gran Armada contra Inglaterra (1588)'. See photocopy of spine. Count Gabriel, I discovered, writes for some magazines, see photocopy from 'Umweltshutz', and, of course, Nuala is back on Irish television with another series of 'Suil Thart' on Saturday afternoons.

Count Hugh's eldest children for some years have spent their summer holidays in Ireland perfecting their English, and this September (1989) Count Gabriel's daughter, Elizabeth, has become a student of the Loreto Abbey, Dalkey, Co. Dublin where the Mother General happens to be Sr. O'Donnell.

It was unfortunate that the September Gathering was cancelled as it promised to be quite an event but the organising committee considered that one Gathering in a year was enough.

There are two video films (VHS) available of the June Gathering - one containing the lectures, the other, a record of all the events of those three glorious days. They may be had from the Secretary, Deirdre O'Donnell, Clonkillymore, Termon, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Also available (though only a few left) is the souvenir book (80 pages) edited by me and containing most of the articles which have appeared in the first ten issues of 'O'Donnaiill Abu'. It costs £4 plus postage. The clan badge (shown in ODA No. 2) along with membership to the Clann Society costs £5 plus postage; however, in order to facilitate families, extra badges may be had for £3 each. They are also available from Deirdre.

Donegal Castle was open to the public this summer having been closed for some years. Much restoration work has been done and more is planned when money becomes available. During the summer months many visitors were shown around and given its history by the newly-appointed guide.

I hear plans are being formed for a Gathering of all organised Irish Clans on the Hill of Tara in 1992. The Hill of Tara was the seat of the Irish High Kings and a gathering place on ceremonial and festive occasions. The last Irish High King was Rory O'Connor who ruled at the time of the Norman invasion, 1169. It is very appropriate

that it is a name-sake and one who claims descent from the 12th. century monarch that is now organising this Gathering. The present Rory O'Connor works for R.T.E. (Irish T.V.) and takes a great interest in his Clan's history. We wish him every success in this venture. We the O'Donnells intend to be there in strength and it is also possible that an O'Donnell Clan Gathering will take place at the same time. So stay tuned for more information.

During the Summer I had the pleasure of visits from some subscribers - Bill and Rita O'Donnell from Ohio; Dr. Hancy O'Donnell, Ontario; Ralph O'Donel, Essex (sorry I missed you), and Bill and Hazel O'Donnell from Nashville, Tennessee. I met many more at the Gathering. It is always a delight to know other members of the Clan, or those interested in our Clan's history. In future I intend to publish a list of members' names and addresses. If anyone has any objections please let me know within six weeks of receiving this issue.
V.O'Donnell.

HUGO
O'DONNELL
Y DUQUE
DE ESTRADA

LA FUERZA DE DESEMBARCO DE LA GRAN
ARMADA CONTRA INGLATERRA (1588)



EDITORIAL NAVAL
MADRID

Naturschutz ohne ökologische Zielsetzung

Das Dilemma trifft auch die Ökologen
bisher keinen umfassende
naturschützenden Anwendungen
entwickeln konnte, aber auch nicht
Lage war, einen übergeordneten
Naturschutz in ihre bestehenden
Arbeitskreise wirksam einzuordnen.

Gabriel O'Donnell

der Natur genausowenig, wie
der Hochbau-Technik eine
Statik helfen würde, die ohne
konkreten Bezug auf Material

schützenden Strukturen unserer
Kulturlandschaft. Sie werden
heute von unserer technisierten
und chemisierten Bo-

Day 1.

The 17th of June, a glorious sunny day, saw the last touches being put to the preparations for the O'Donnell Clan Gathering; Alex O'Donnell on his way to Dublin to collect Count Hugh O'Donnell from Spain; me on my way to Belfast to collect Count Gabriel of Austria; and O'Donnells from all over Ireland making their way to Ballybofey. I was at Belfast Airport an hour ahead of time only to find Count Gabriel there an hour ahead of time also. Count Hugh was not so fortunate, his plane being three hours delayed.

By nine o'clock a large crowd was gathered in Jackson's Hôtel waiting for proceedings to begin but it was almost ten before our full complement of special guests were present and the Gathering officially got under way.

Master of Ceremonies for the night was Ben O'Donnell who introduced the guests, giving a brief outline of O'Donnell history and explained how our three special guests, Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill(64a), Count Hugh(74) and Count Gabriel(75) had descended from the Chieftains of Tyrconnell. I did the same in Gaelic. Each of them in turn addressed the assembly. Mr. Eddie O'Donnell, chairman of the Donegal County Council and chairman of the organising committee of this Gathering, welcomed all present, wished the Gathering every success and stated that this was only a beginning - there would be others.'

Other speakers were Mr. Dan O'Neill, N.W. Tourist Organisation (yes! there was an O'Neill present), indeed he made reference to the turbulent relations that existed between these two great Northern Clans down the centuries - sometimes allies, sometimes foe. But tonight he was delighted to be present at this official opening, wished it every success and looked forward to more as in his opinion such Gatherings were important to the tourist industry. He also promised to help financially as indeed he had with this one.

Present also were the Spanish and Austrian Ambassadors representing their respective countries. Both expressed their gratitude at being invited to this function, talked about the connections between their countries and Ireland with

Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill at the Opening, beside her is Micheline K. Walsh.



special reference to the O'Donnell connections.

This was followed by the launching of the Clann Society and registration of members. Nuala, Count Hugh and Count Gabriel were first to register and were made honorary members. Each member received a Clan badge (same as was used at the 1954 Gathering - see ODA No 2), a membership card and had the name and address recorded.

After a pause for supper (wine was served earlier) we enjoyed what was considered the high-light of the evening - a talk by that eminent historian\lecturer - Micheline K. Walsh, "Red Hugh's mission to Spain". It was delivered in her usual eloquent, spell-binding manner and well deserved both the applause from her captivated audience and the vote of thanks proposed by Lucius Emerson of the Donegal Historical Society.

Genealogical charts and a display of O'Donnell photographs were exhibited by yours truly while the souvenir booklet "Na Dalaigh" and 'ODomhnaill Abu' No.11 were on sale.

The evening ended with the entire assembly singing "O'Donnell Abu" and our National Anthem with Connor Sinclair at the piano and led by Dany Minnie O'Donnell and Christina Campbell (nee O'Donnell). It was truly a fantastic evening to begin the event. It was also unique in that it was the first time that the three remaining O'Donnell branches i.e. Larkfield, Spain and Austria, had met. Nuala had met the others but the two Counts had never met. I was delighted to have made the acquaintance of so many 'O Domhnaill Abu' subscribers. As always, there wasn't just enough time for chatting.

Day 2.

Sunday turned out to be even warmer, indeed unusually warm for Donegal. From 2 o'clock the crowds were converging on Doon Rock, the ancient inauguration site of the O'Donnell Chieftains (see ODA No.9). As always it took some time to get everyone organised but with the beautiful weather no-one seemed to mind the wait.

Finally the ceremony began with a bang! Yes, a bang of a drum; led by St. Eunan's Pipe Band the assembly marched from the cross-roads up to the Rock with John O'Donnell of St. Johnston, a veteran of the '54 Gathering carrying the O'Donnell standard.

On arrival the band played on, while priests, choir and congregation prepared for Mass. Fr. John O'Donnell, the chief celebrant, welcomed the crowd. Mass then continued with Fr. Peter McMahon P.P. concelebrating and assisted by Fr. Neil Boyle P.P., Kilmacrennan, Fr. Willie Peoples C.C., Churchill, Fr. Dan McGettigan P.P., Glencolmkill, Fr. John Fitzgerald, Buncrana and Fr. Joe O'Donnell, Letterkenny. Readings and Prayers of the Faithful were performed by O'Donnells while the offertory gifts were brought to the altar by Nuala, Count Hugh, Count Gabriel and Eddie O'Donnell.

Immediately the Mass was over, all present joined hands and, led by the choir, sang 'O'Donnell Abu' - a very moving occasion, bringing tears to many eyes.

After a short break, Frankie 'Pa' O'Donnell LL.M Solicitor, Dublin and son of the late Pa O'Donnell, lawyer and politician, gave a lecture on the O'Donnells with some references to the Rock of Doon. It was a delight for me to hear Frankie, and indeed others refer to 'O Domhnaill Abu' as a source for their talks.

After Frankie's excellent talk, all made their way to the summit where Count Hugh unveiled a plaque which explains the significance of this historic spot. In a brief address the Count went on to say that this was not his first time in Ireland, and that he and the O'Donnells of Spain were always delighted to be associated with their kin in Tyrconnell.

Gradually the crowd dispersed, most making their way to nearby restaurants where meals were provided. Afterwards all adjourned to the Lagoon and the Angler's Haven for a night's dancing and entertainment. As Monday dawned, we made our way home and to bed.



Count Hugh and Eddie O'Donnell
on the Rock of Doon.

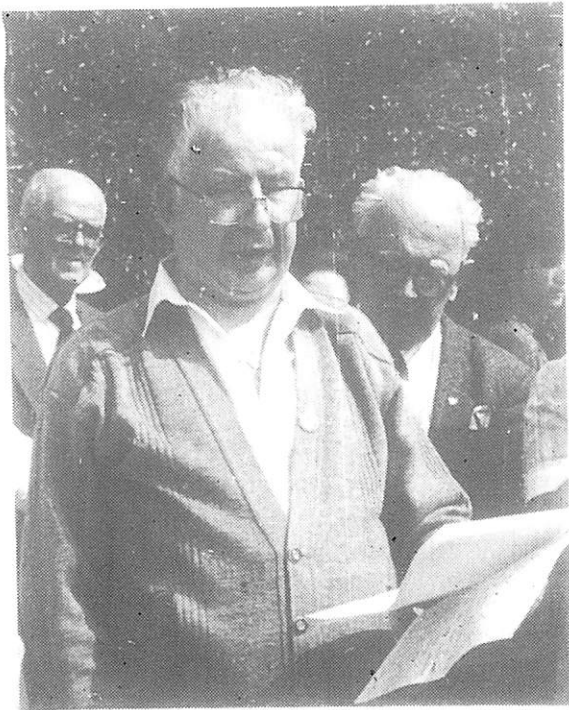
Day 3.

Monday proved to be another beautiful day with temperatures soaring. Those of us who hadn't to work assembled at Letterkenny for a bus tour to historic places (of O'Donnell interest of course). Our first stop was at Conwal Graveyard where Godfrey, one of the greatest O'Donnell Chieftains, is buried. Our guide here was Patsy O'Donnell who, for many years, has looked after this historic site. Also buried here are many O'Donnells who died at the two battles in the vicinity, i.e. Fearsaid Mor and Scairbh Sholais.

Then we travelled to the newly-built Gartan Heritage Centre where we were given a talk on the O'Donnells by Fr. John Silke. (He wrote the article on Cardinal O'Donnell. in ODA No.9). This illustrated talk was very informative and dealt a lot with the Clan history before Kinsale.

Our next stop was an unscheduled one. Manus a' Phice, the famous pikeman of 1798 (see ODA No.7) is buried in the little graveyard of Gartan and as this hero was an ancestor of Fr. John O'Donnell, chief celebrant of Sunday's Mass, and of Eddie O'Donnell, chairman of our organising committee and indeed the man responsible for the entire Gathering, we thought it right to visit the grave. Here Fr. John recounted brilliantly the life and exploits of his forefather.

A few miles further on we stopped in Kilmacrennan for lunch, and then down the road where Fr. John Fitzgerald, a



Patsy O'Donnell speaking at Conwal.

noted historian, gave us an account of the Abbey.

From here we journeyed to Rathmullan, and how lovely the town looked on this day with hundreds enjoying the beach and watersports - a far cry from what we were commemorating, when on the 14th of Sept. 1607 the cream of Ulster's Nobility, stealthily and secretly, boarded a ship about a mile upstream and sailed for the continent - some knowing they would never see Ireland again; others hoping to return with support to continue the struggle. But on this day we were enjoying the peace, freedom and prosperity of a new age.

Having been promised a naval vessel to assist with the wreath-laying ceremony, we were a little disappointed to see it not there. On enquiring we were told that the L.E. Orla was on her way but



Count Gabriel with Chris Campbell at Rathmullan.

was delayed due to duties on the high seas.

After enjoying the sun, sea and sand for a few hours, we retired to the function room of Keaveny's Hotel where we had the pleasure of listening to Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill deliver a wonderful lecture on "The Flight of the Earls". It added to the lecture that it was presented by one who descended from the same family as those who departed this shore almost four hundred years ago.

Then it was back out into the sunlight again. There was still no sign of L.E. Orla so a local boat was hired to take the wreath-laying party out to the middle of the Lough. On arrival there the boat came to a halt, the engines were cut and a solemn silence fell. Fr. Fitzgerald stepped forward and blessed the wreath which was then placed on the water by Count Gabriel.

It was a heart-moving moment. One couldn't but think of that other boat load we were commemorating and how heart-rending it must have been for them. They were leaving their homes, their friends and in some cases members of their own family (see ODA No.11). Of course they had hopes to return as already stated but yet they had witnessed the deterioration of the old Gaelic System for the last number of years and would have been under no illusion as to what lay in store.

There was a loud blast on the boat's siren, the engines started up again and we headed for port. Few words were spoken on the return journey but on arrival at the pier we were jolted back into the present. There was now a certain urgency to get back to Letterkenny to prepare for the final event - the banquet.

By nine o'clock the Milford Inn was filling up with O'Donnells and their friends. A magnificent meal was enjoyed by all at the end of which more speeches and presentations took place. Pieces of Donegal Parian China, suitably inscribed, were presented to our special guests - Nuala, Count Hugh and Count Gabriel and one also to the widow of our late clan historian, Rupert Coughlan. This was received by Eileen Bannon on behalf of her mother.

The night continued with more Irish music and dancing. Finally it was all over. Having sung 'O'Donnell Abu' and our national anthem, we said our farewells and promised to be back to the next O'Donnell Gathering. And so it was home and to bed, exhausted as the sun sent its first rays over Dark Inisowen.

Patent of Rory O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrconnell.

When Earl Rory had made his peace with King James (see ODA No.11) a patent was drawn up specifying the terms of that agreement. Three copies in all were made, one for the King, one for his Lord-lieut. in Ireland and one for Rory. Rory's is now in the possession of Count Gabriel of Austria. The parchment measures about 42" by 24" and although now housed in a specially designed case shows sign of having been folded small enough to fit into a pocket. It is also evident that it has suffered much rough handling during the centuries. Some years ago it was brought back to Ireland where the late Rupert Coughlan had it compared with the Lord-lieutenant's and found many discrepancies. The copy given to the Lord-Lieut. held more favourable terms for Rory, in other words Rory was cheated out of some of his property and rents. Here is an English translation of part of Rory's copy, the original is in Latin.

"James, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc., to all whom these letters patent shall come, Greetings. Since our well-beloved cousin, Roderick, alias Rorie O'Donell, Knight, now Earl of Tirconnell, in our Kingdom of Ireland, when all the country burned with the flames of rebellion, freely made his humble submission to our beloved cousin and councillor, Charles Blount, Knight, Lord Mountjoy and Earl of Devon, our Lieutenant in our Kingdom of Ireland, and since after being received into mercy he hath shown his loyalty and obedience by doing many good and acceptable services not only in our Kingdom of Ireland but also by dutifully presenting himself before our royal person in our Kingdom of England, humbly beseeching our princely favour that we would vouchsafe to grant unto him the territories and countries of Tirconnell in the province of Ulster in our Kingdom of Ireland, which his ancestors had and held by inheritance there for many centuries past and had ever, as loyal and faithful subjects distinguished themselves by rendering much acceptable service to our ancestral Kings and Queens of England, and have ever assisted in putting down many insurrections and rebellions of the O'Neales in the said province of Ulster, also in maintaining, assisting and supporting the armies of our predecessors in the said province to suppress various insurrections and rebellions fermented in that place until Hugh Rufus O'Donell brother of the said Roderick, lately deceased in Spain by a treacherous rebellion against our fair sister, Elizabeth, lately Queen of England, stained the reputation of the unspotted name of O'Donell with much disgrace and dishonourable infamy. Therefore of our princely grace and favour we desire that the said Roderick be heretofore known by the name, title, style and honour of Roderick, Earl of Tirconnell, wherefore we create and constitute the same Roderick Earl of Tirconnell by these our Letters Patent under the Great Seal of our Kingdom of Ireland, and the aforesaid title, style and honour of Earl of Tirconnell shall be proper to the aforesaid Roderick, and to the heirs male of his body, legitimately begotten, with remainder to Cafferie O'Donell, brother of the aforesaid Roderick, and his male heirs legitimately begotten, as will hereafter be more fully set out in these same Letters Patent, accordingly since Roderick and his heirs aforesaid shall preceive themselves to be advanced and honoured by our favour above all their ancestors they shall gratefully remember how far they are bound by a greater and more fitting bond of loyalty and obedience and henceforth be influenced and desirous to carry out, perform and do even greater and more worthy service to us, our heirs and successors. Be it known that in view of the foregoing and in consideration of the good and faithful service of the aforesaid Roderick, Earl of Tirconnell and his said heirs we bind our heirs and successors. Furthermore for the honourable upkeep and tenure of the said title and style of Earl of

Tirconnell and for various other reasons and considerations, and also out of our special grace and favour and assured knowledge as well as by the advice and consent of our beloved and trusted Councillor, Sir George Cary, our Deputy General and Treasurer for War in this our Kingdom of Ireland and by virtue of these letters signed by our own hand and under our own seal at our Court of Tottenham, the fourth day of September in the first year of our reign over England, France and Ireland, and the thirty-seventh over Scotland. Our Chancellor of Ireland is commissioned to put to the charge of the aforesaid Deputy * and others of direct rank the enforcement of this title *. By virtue of this Patent we grant, bestow and confirm upon our aforesaid cousin, Roderick O'Donell, Knight, Earl of Tirconnell, all and singular the territories, countries and hereditaments within the ambit, extent and circuit of land called Tirconnell, within the province of Ulster, with all castles, manors, lordships, islands, messuages, granaries, tofts, edifices, storehouses, stables, haggards, bawns, lands, tenements, meadows, commons, pastures, wastes, bogs, moors, ponds, lakes, marshes, swamps, waters, water courses, fishings, fish courses, warrens, chases, mines, quarries, advowsons, services, rents, annuities, all rents and services of free and customary, tenants, fines, fees, markets, fairs, tolls, customs, courts, jurisdictions, franchises, privileges, profits, commodities, advantages, emoluments and all other hereditaments whatsoever, with all pertaining to them of whatever nature or kind or species, by whatever name they are known, given or recognised or everywhere known, lying or existing within the aforesaid ancestral precinct or territory within Tirconnell or within any other of them and whatever any one or other of the ancestors of the aforesaid Earl had of ancient time just and legitimate possession within the limits and boundries of the aforesaid precinct of territory of Tirconnell, in the said province of Ulster.".

..... There is some doubt about the correct translation of this phrase.



Some of the crowd on the Rock of Doon, Sun 18th. June.

Lieutenant-General Charles H. O'Donnell

Charles O'Donnell was born on the 3rd. Sept. 1857 in Jujuy in the very north of Argentina. His father was Dr. Sabino O'Donnell, a Federal Government Minister of that province, his mother was Dona Josefa Perez. Sabino's grandfather (of the Spanish line) was sent from Spain in the middle of the eighteenth century to create the Academy of Mathematics in what was then called the Vice-royalty of the Rio de la Plata. (See ODA No.10). Charles joined the army at a very early age and saw much action in the civil and frontier wars that raged in the country at the time. The country known as Argentina today was then, taking shape but with much resistance. "The Central Government of the time had much trouble quelling continuous local rebellions by the natives and it was here with the 12th Battallion, Border Infantry that young O'Donnell saw his first action.

In Dec. 1870 he entered the newly created Military Academy in Buenos Aires . A year later he was back in service with the same 12th Batt. He was, once again, much involved in the campaign to unify Argentina which often meant subduing minor resistance by local tribes who resented and resisted any infringement of their territories by, what they considered, foreign rule.

O'Donnell's greatest contribution to this campaign was the part he played in opening up the Patagonia for colonization. This was a large triangle of land stretching from Buenos Aires right down to the very south of the Continent. This territory was an uninviting land, with the second highest mountains in the world, much desert, and populated by Indian tribes who were inhospitable to the white man. The only white men there at the time was a colony of Welsh whalers living on the coast just opposite the Malvino Islands.

O'Donnell suppressed all resistance offered by the native tribes, and so brought this vast area under Argentine rule, including that area held by the whalers whom he forced to obey Argentine laws and sing its National Anthem. This news reached Britain somewhat altered. It was reported in London that a colony of British whalers in South America was

attacked by marauding Irishmen led by an O'Donnell.

Needless to say promotion followed success and Charles received much of the latter. Indeed he was always on the winning side. By 1886 he was made Lieut.-colonel and Chief of the 1st. Infantry Batt. Later that year he was raised to Colonel. In 1893 he was nominated director of the Military Academy and in 1896 Chief of the 2nd Batt. of the Buenos Aires Division. In 1900 he was made a member of the committee of the Council of War, an office he exercised only for a year, when more important posts came along. These included Inspector of Infantry, Director of the School for Potential Officers, and C.O. of the forces encamped in the Campo de Mayo in which capacity he rose to General of Brigade in 1904.

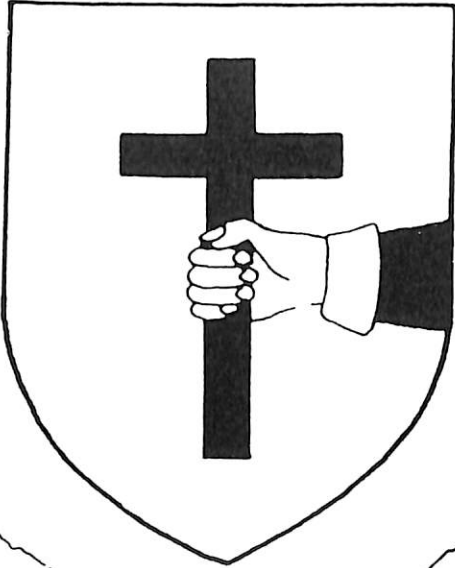
In May 1910 he was assigned Aide-de-Camp to the president of Chile during the centenary celebrations. In August of that year he was promoted to General and took command of the 5th Division, a post he filled with the distinction that characterised all the acts of his military career. He retired on the 30th April 1917 a 5-star General after 59 years and 19 days of military service. General Charles Henry O'Donnell died in Buenos Aires on the 22nd. Sept. 1927.

He had been married to Felisa Rosa Suarez and had 15 children, 11 of which survived. One of those was Mario father of Guillermo mentioned in ODA No 10. He had received many honours in his time including silver and gold medals. On the 17th of Sept. 1910 he was conferred with the 'Order of Merit' of Chile (a gold medal).

(The above is translated from "BIOGRAFIAS ARGENTINAS Y SUDAMERICANAS" p.190-194 with some remarks by Guillermo O'Donnell.)

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Ó Dhomhnaill Abú



IN HOC SIGNO VINCES

*O'Donnell Clan
Newsletter No. 13*

Spring 1990



At the '89 Clan Gathering - L. to R. Count Gabriel of Austria, Bríd Ní Dhomhnaill a niece of the late Cardinal O'Donnell, Margaret O'Donnell, Sr. B. O'Donnell and Count Hugh of Spain.

NEWS

Shortly before Christmas I received a letter containing several O'Neill Clan newsletters from Kathleen Neill, editor of that publication. I hadn't been in touch with Kathleen since the O'Neill Clan Gathering in 1982 when Jorge O'Neill was inaugurated as the O'Neill of Clannabuidh. Alas! Jorge died in 1988 so plans are being made to have his son Hugo inaugurated at a Gathering in 1991. Indeed a special invitation to that event has been extended by Hugo to all O'Donnells. That Gathering will take place sometime in the second half of June, the precise dates will be announced later.

Kathleen is also editor of "Irish Heritage Links", a magazine (over 40 pages) dealing with Irish families and their origin along with other aspects of Irish life. Anyone interested in contacting Kathleen may do so at 162a Kingsway, Dunmurry, Belfast BT17 9AD, Northern Ireland.

Kathleen and her husband have recently launched a new company, Tara Tapestries, producing do-it-yourself tapestry kits, depicting Irish coats of arms and some well-known scenes. The finished work measures 16"X16" with an inch border suitable for hanging or framing and costs about \$80.

In the last few years, a great interest has developed in Clan Societies, Gatherings etc. Over sixteen Clan Gatherings are planned for 1990 including Brennan, Egan, Gormley, Killoran, Long, O'Byrne, O'Connor(Royal), O'Connor(Kerry), O'Dea, O'Doherty, O'Dowd, O'Driscoll, O'Mahony, O'Malley, McGettigan, Crawford and O'Rourke. The Irish Genealogical Office in Dublin has set up the "Clans of Ireland Office" to deal with this upsurge of interest. Bord Failte, the Irish Tourist Board, have also become aware of the interest, so much so that they have appointed Mary Nash to handle all matters to do with 'Roots' and tourism.

The Irish Family History Society was formed in 1984 to collect and make available information on Irish family history. As well as holding seminars, lectures, and assisting members with their research, the Society also publishes an annual journal (150 pages). Membership costs £8. The person to contact is John Kearney, Irish Family

History Society, Charleville Rd., Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Eire. Tel.:(0506)21421.

The 1989 issue (Vol. V) contains among other items, a list of the Irish people who emigrated to Canada and settled in Ontario and Quebec during the 19th. cent., a list of research centres in Ireland, reviews of useful books, a list of members and their queries.

Kathleen O'Donnell Kassimates (D 123) is President of the Greek Irish Society in Greece, while Patricia O'Donnell Lyle is President of the Irish Greek Society in Ireland.

It is with much regret we learn about the death of one of our earliest subscribers, Ann O'Donnell of 50 Golden st., W. Wyalong 2671, N.S.W., Australia. The subscription is being continued by her sister Johanna D122 of the same address.

Postal rates have just been increased and subscriptions rates must suffer likewise. This does not concern those who have already subscribed.

Some people complain of receiving their copy of ODA in a rather crumpled condition and would like their newsletter mailed flat in an envelope. From now on this service will be available at an extra £1 per 4 issues.

So the new subscription rates are as follows -

Ireland & Britain (rolled).....	£6.
Ireland & Britain (envelope).....	£7.
All other countries (rolled).....	£7.
All other countries (envelope).....	£8.
Subscriptions etc. to be sent to the publisher, V.O'Donnell, Inver, Co. Donegal, Eire. Tel.:	073-36059.

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Bill O'Donnell (D 54) on his recent visit (Sept. '89) to Donegal.

Francis 'Red' O'Donnell

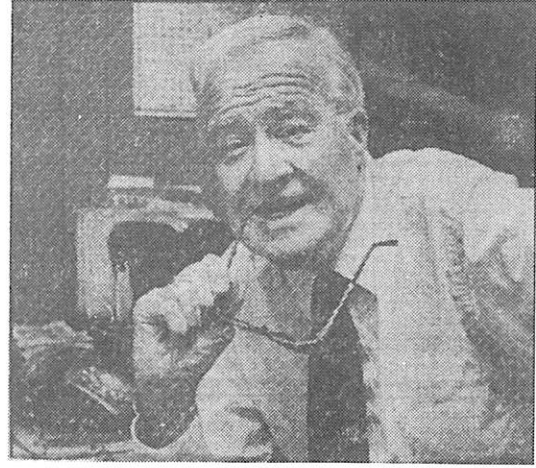
Among the list of members is William J. O'Donnell, D54 a pharmacist in Nashville, Tennessee, often visited by the well-known stars of Country and Western music. William's brother, Francis Xavier (better known as 'Red') was also a star but in a different field. For over fifty years he worked as a journalist, carving for himself a niche in the world of newspaper.

Born in Nashville in June 1911, the son of a locomotive engineer, Francis' first job was as a book-keeper with a biscuit company. At the age of twenty-one he joined 'The Tennessean' as a sports reporter. In 1943 he took leave to do his stint with the Marines in the Pacific, but even then he sent home regular dispatches from the front, full of the humour and the human interest that characterised his later life as a columnist. In 1946, Francis was discharged from the Marine Corps and on return to his hometown went back to work in his old job with the 'Tennessean'. In the years that followed he made quite a name for himself as an author of that paper's daily column 'Top o' the Morning' and later with the 'Nashville Banner' doing a column called 'Round the Clock'.

An authoritative local voice of the entertainment industry, he interviewed and was on first-name terms with many in the entertainment world. During a special reception and banquet held in his honour by members of the music, radio, T.V., film and newspaper world in 1979, present were ex-Beatle Paul McCartney, Tammy Wynette, Brenda Lee, Roy Acuff, Chet Atkins, Burt Reynolds, and telegrams were received from Elvis Presley, Elton John, John Wayne, Tom Jones and many others. During his life he received many awards, among them the 'Journalist of the Year Award' from the Country Music Association in 1984.

In February 1954, he and his wife Ebbie hosted a celebrity show on WMAK radio, and during the 60's he appeared as a regular on WSM-TV's Noon Show hosted by Jud Collins.

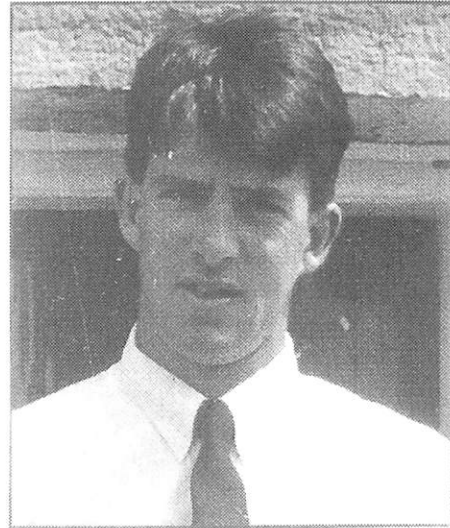
He was always known for his wit, charm and magnetic personality, and was truly gifted with words but even more gifted with people, and seemed to be on first-name terms with everyone and anyone, a gift which served him well in his profession as it opened many doors and made many 'scoops' possible.



Perhaps, the greatest tribute paid him was by the chairman of the 'Banner' when he called him a "wonderful human being".

Francis Xavier O'Donnell, or 'Red O'Donnell' as he was popularly known, died on the 3rd. Dec. 1984 at the age of 73. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, daughter Diane Ozier, brothers William and John, and four grandchildren.

by V. O'Donnell.



SIMON O'DONNELL'S COMEBACK.

One of the great present-day heroes of Australian cricket is Simon O'Donnell who in 1987 played for the Australian team that beat India to win the World Cup. Shortly afterwards, he was diagnosed as having cancer of the rib cage. After a traumatic six months of chemotherapy and treatment during which time he lost all his hair and gained nineteen kilos, he made a full recovery and was back in play during the '88-'89 season being reinstated as Captain of Victoria and regaining his place on the Australian team.

GODFREY O'DONNELL

CHIEFTAIN 1248-'58

An extract from the talk given by Patsy O'Donnell at Conwal Graveyard during the 1989 Clan Gathering as mentioned in ODA No. 12.

Now let me dwell for a moment or two on the famous Godfrey O'Donnell. The well known sepulchral slab in this graveyard has always been regarded as Godfrey's gravestone. From time to time it has been on different locations within these surrounds. There is no valid reason for questioning the verdict of tradition. His castle consisted of clay and timber and probably stood nearby because the O'Donnells had not yet established themselves at Scaribh Sholais. His father was Domhnall Mor. The achievements of the death of Godfrey would form the subject of a great epic.

In 1247, Malachy, or Mac Lochlann O'Donnell, son of Domhnall Mor and brother of Godfrey, was slain by Maurice Fitzgerald in battle at Ballyshannon. The country was then spoiled and plundered by the English and they appointed Roderick O Canannain to the Government of Tir Chonaill. Within a year their covenant with Roderick was violated and Maurice Fitzgerald and the English marched with a great force to Assaroe on the invitation of Godfrey O'Donnell. Roderick opposed them, but he was not sufficiently supported by the people of Tir Chonaill. Obviously the majority of the chiefs regarded Godfrey as the legitimate heir to the chieftaincy, and treated O Canannain as an usurper, but both they and Godfrey were playing into the hand of the wily invader. During the next year Maurice Fitzgerald led his forces into Tir Chonaill, which he plundered and devastated. He banished Roderick O Canannain into Tir Eoghain and left Tir Chonaill in the hands of the great Godfrey.

In 1257, a brilliant battle was fought by Godfrey O'Donnell, now Lord of Tir Chonaill, against Maurice Fitzgerald, now Lord Justice of Ireland, and the English near Sligo Town. A fierce bloody conflict took place. Heroes were disabled and the strength of both sides exhausted. However, Godfrey's men maintained their ground and completely overthrew the English forces, but here unfortunately, Godfrey himself was severely wounded. Having encountered in the fight, Maurice Fitzgerald in single combat in which they desperately wounded

each other.

As usual the O'Neills, chieftains of Tir Eoghain, had always taken advantage of the weaknesses of the O'Donnells. Brian O'Neill, Lord of Tir Eoghain, took advantage of the dying Godfrey, and in the month of January 1258 sent a messenger to Godfrey demanding -

1. That Godfrey should personally acknowledge his submission and obedience to Brian and,
2. That the Clan should send him hostages to guarantee what he termed 'the continued obedience'.

However, the dying Godfrey (see ODA No. 10, p. 7) would never submit to these terms and he summoned his entire armies to stand and do battle for the Country he loved so well. They encountered O'Neill's forces near the Swilly and fought each other without respect for friend or relative. In the end O'Neill withdrew acrimoniously leaving behind horses and supplies and of course many dead and wounded. As the cry of 'O Domhnaill Abu' was heard over the battle ground, the soul of Godfrey was ascending to the throne of Almighty God, and his body was interred in the sacred ground on which we stand.

N.B. Conwal graveyard is about two miles west of Letterkenny on the Fintown road.



Godfrey O'Donnell's grave at Conwal.

O'Domhnaill Abu Mailing List 1989.

- D1 Roisin Coughlan, Cruit Island, Kincaslugh, Co. Donegal.
D2 Peg O'Donnell N.T., 'The Rookeries', Dungloe, Co. Donegal.
D3 Kathleen O'Donnell, Gweedore Rd., Dungloe, Co. Donegal.
D4 Nancy Huston, Croohy, Dungloe, Co. Donegal.
D5 Dinnie (Jimmie Hughdie) O'Donnell, Ranafast, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
D6 Eamonn De Burca, De Burca Rare Books, Cloonagashel, 27 Priory Drive,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
D7 Hugh O'Donnell, 15 Lakeshore Dr., Renmore, Co. Galway.
D8 Larry O'Donnell, RD5 Box 22, Moscow, Pa. 18444, U.S.A.
D9 Niall O'Donnell, 116 Ascaill Vernon, Cluain Tarbh, Baile Atha Cliath 3.
D10 Count Gabriel O'Donnell, Wildpark Hochkreut, A-4814, Neukirchen bei
Altmunster, Upper Austria.
D11 Cecilia O'Donnell, 1 Brunt Terrace, Trillick, Co. Tyrone.
D12 Margaret O'Donnell, Boyle Road, Cloonbrackna, Roscommon.
D13 Alice Quinn, Kilmeena, Westport, Co. Mayo.
D14 Frank O'Donnell, 'Inver', Dundela Park, Sandycove, Co. Dublin.
D15 Christina Campbell, Selacis, Letterbarrow, Co. Donegal.
D16 Anthony O'Donnell, Annagry, Co. Donegal.
D17 P.D. O'Donnell, 'Tahilla', 149 Glasnevin Ave, Dublin 11.
D18 Albert O'Donnell, 39 Nottingham Drive, Nashua N.H. 030602, U.S.A.
D19 Neil O'Donnell, 9 Top Mast Point, Stafford st., London E14.
D20 John O'Donnell, Convent Rd., Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
D21 Tom O'Donnell, 13g Ray Rd., Epping, N.S.W., Australia.
D22 Eilis T. O'Donnell, Mullaghderg, Kincaslugh, Co. Donegal.
D23 Annie (Mhicki Hughdie) O'Donnell, Ranafast, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
D24 Kathleen O'Donnell, New Row, Donegal Town.
D25 Mary Freely, Water st. Donegal Town.
D26 Rev. Patrick Gallagher, Parochial House, Derrygonnelly,
Co. Fermanagh.
D27 E.M. O'Donnell, 15 Ben Madigan Park South, Belfast BT36 7PX.
D28 Conall Mac Cuinneagain, An Spideal, Co. na Gaillimhe.
D29 Padraig S. O'Domhnaill, Cnoc an Stolaire, Bun Beag, Leitir Ceanainn,
Co. Dhun na nGall.
D30 James A. O'Donnell, 38 Anglesea Rd., Dublin 4.
D31 Patrick O'Donnell, Mweelin, Docega, Achill, Co. Mayo.
D32 Cathal O'Domhnaill, 8 Rosehill, Sligeach.
D33 Mairead O'Donnell, 5 St. Eunan's Terrace, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
D34 Seamus O'Donnell, 'Dun an Oir', Milford Rd., Castleroy, Co. Limerick.
D35 Gabriel O'Donnell, 73 Wrangholm Drive, Motherwell, Lanarkshire,
Scotland.
D36 Hugh O'Donnell, 65 Idrone Drive, Templeogue, Dublin 16.
D37 John H. Deeves, 8 Jonathan Court, Windmill Rd., Chiswick,
London W4 1SA.
D38 Satia Bernen, 201 Summit Ave., Providence, R.I. 02908, U.S.A.
D39 Kathleen O'Donnell, Nazareth House, Malahide Rd., Dublin 3.
D40 Brendan O'Donnell, 119 Farley Hill Rd., Luton, Beds., England.
D41 Marie O'Donnell, 17 Howth Rd., Sutton, Dublin 13.
D42 Dr. John O'Donnell, 29 Sea Rd., Galway.
D43 Nancy Ethel O'Donnell, 14\60 Queen's Rd., Melbourne 3004, Australia.
D44 Everard Jeffery E. O'Donnell, Redhill Farm, Burlescombe, Tiverton,
Devon, England.
D45 Mary Ellen O'Donnell, 1039 Fullertown Ave., Allenton, Pa. 18102,
U.S.A.
D46 Mary O'Donnell Kelly, 19 George st., Strathray N7G 3K9, Ont.,
Canada.
D47 L.A. O'Donnell, 18 Stonehenge Lane, Malvern, Pa. 19355, U.S.A.
D48 John & Margaret O'Donnell, Ingleside Guest House, 16 Park Rd.,
Swanage, Dorset BH19 2AD, England.
D49 John O'Donnell, The Course, Downpatrick, Co. Down.

- D50 Pius Oller, 717 Burchett, Glendale, Ca. 91202, U.S.A.
- D51 Edward J. O'Donnell, Vicar General, Archdiocese of St. Louis, C/O Liguori Publications, One Liguori Dr., Liguori, Missouri 63057, U.S.A.
- D52 Robert M. O'Donnell, 528 Viking Drive, Pleasant Hill, Ca. 94523, U.S.A.
- D53 Lorraine M. Gallant, 162 Johnston Rd., North Bay, Ont. P1B 8E8, Canada.
- D54 Dr. William F. O'Donnell, 2500 Abbot Martin Rd., Nashville, Tennessee 37215, U.S.A.
- D55 Brian O'Donnell, Square Baron A. Bouvies 4, B-1060 Brussels, Belgium.
- D56 Hugh O'Donnell, 35 Sefton, Rochestown Ave., Dunlaoghaire, Co. Dublin.
- D57 Bernard O'Donnell, 4 Tudor Gardens, Burnham, Bucks. 54 6HJ, England.
- D58 Nora McConville, 8457 N. Olcott Ave., Niles, Illinois 60848, U.S.A.
- D59 June Doyle, 399 Willarong Rd., Caringbah 2229, Australia.
- D60 Elizabeth T. O'Donnell, 19603 Riverwood Ave., Rocky River, Oh. 44116, U.S.A.
- D61 Nancy O'Donnell, 23/30 Rosebank st., East Sydney, N.S.W. 2010, Australia.
- D62 Hugh B. O'Donnell, Sea View House, The Spa, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
- D63 Godfrey John O'Donnell, Burmah Petrol Station, Main st., Ardara, Co. Donegal.
- D64 John O'Donnell, Lr. Keadue Strand, Burtonport, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
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About 50 more copies are sold in Donegal shops. As only 250 copies of each issue are printed it leaves the price per unit quite expensive so I urge all members to renew their subscription when notified and recruit new members if possible.

If your name and address on the above list is not correct please let me know, and from here on please use Ref. No. given opposite your name.

V. O'Donnell.

The Battle of Farsetmore

When Shane O'Neill (the Proud) became Chief of the O'Neills in 1559 he was not content with the Lordship of Tyrone but considered the sovereignty of Ulster his birthright as he claimed descent from the High Kings of Ireland. But before he could assert his dominance, he had many enemies to contend with: members of his own family, neighbouring clans and Queen Elizabeth whose eyes were set on the sovereignty of Ireland.

Shane invaded Tyrconnell in 1557 but O'Donnell had surprised his camp and routed him. Two years later Shane captured Calvagh O'Donnell and his wife Catherine McLean. Calvagh was held prisoner till his release in 1561. After Calvagh's death in 1566 his brother Hugh Dubh succeeded him as Chief of Tyrconnell and one of his first acts was to raid Tyrone. In 1557 he attacked again and ravaged the whole neighbourhood of Strabane.

Shane retaliated. Mustering a large army he marched to the southern shore of the Swilly estuary. Hugh Dubh O'Donnell was at Ardingarry on the other shore with a small body of men. He immediately sent messengers to summon his forces, but by next morning (8th. May, 1567) none had arrived when the Tyrone men advanced in squadrons of horse, and battalions of foot, towards Farsetmore which lay below Ardingarry.

The river is tidal for some distance above Farsetmore, but this being the hour of low water O'Neill's army passed over the sandbank without difficulty.

O'Donnell prepared his little force and, taking the footmen himself, made off across flat ground to a position amid bogs where he was secure from attack. He had sent his horsemen under the command of his son Hugh, known as Aodh mac Aodh Dubh of Ramelton, towards the ford to delay O'Neill's progress. Young Hugh attacked the vanguard of O'Neill's cavalry. Many notables fell on each side. But O'Neill was superior in numbers and, noting that his father had reached his objective in the bog, young Hugh rejoined him to await the arrival of their supporters.

Soon they were joined by MacSweeney Doe, later by MacSweeney Fanad and finally, MacSweeney Bannagh. O'Neill by this time had pitched camp to the north of the estuary at Ardingarry. O'Donnell's men, now much reinforced,

descended on O'Neill. The latter drew out his force to meet them. Once again, as with so many Irish battles, all detail is lost. Weapons used were: axes, spears, swords, javelins and bows. Gunners were also present. Helmets were worn and round shields were carried.

Horsemen in Irish battles appear to have fought separately from the infantry - as much evidence of class distinction as a matter of tactics - and they fought to the left of the infantry. Mercenary soldiers - Galloglaigh - were not always easy to get and we are told of Shane that "he armeth and weaponeth all the peasants of his country" and that he was the first Irishman to do so. They were called *Bonnacht*....."Bonnacht and Gallowglass throng from each mountain pass."

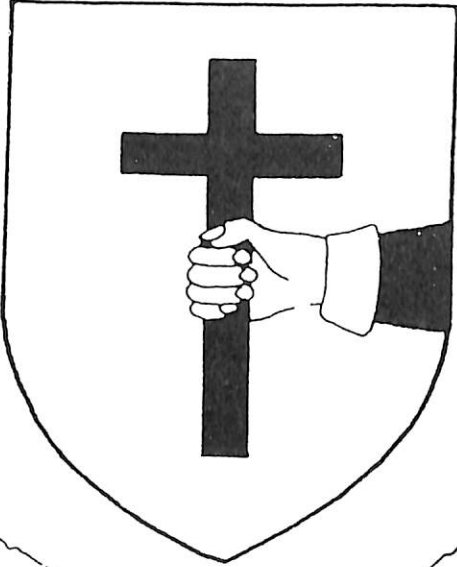
The two armies fought for some hours but in the end O'Neill's men began to draw back pursued by O'Donnell. They made for the estuary but by now the tide had risen and the sand was covered. It was a choice of either facing O'Donnell in fury or struggle to the safety of the far bank. Many opted for the latter but to their horror found it too deep to wade. 1300 is the estimate of Shane's losses killed or drowned. The Tyrconnell men had the spoils of victory - horses, arms and military equipment. Shane escaped along the north side of the river, crossed the river near Scairbh Sholais and made his way back to Tyrone. It was to be his last battle. No sooner did he arrive home than he received news of the Lord Deputy advancing against him at the head of a powerful army. Shane fled to the MacDonalds of Antrim and sought their aid, but they hadn't forgotten the past and the result was that Shane's head was severed and delivered to Dublin Castle where it was exhibited over the main gateway.

The remains of those who died at Farsetmore were buried in Conwal graveyard along with Godfrey O'Donnell who was buried there three hundred years earlier as was so well told by Patsy O'Donnell at the Clan Gathering last June.

(Farsetmore is the Gaelic for Big Ford)

Sources: "Irish Battles" by Hayes-McCoy.
Annals of the Four Masters.
V.O'Donnell.

Ó Domhnaill Abú



*O'Donnell Clan
Newsletter No. 14*

Summer 1990



Sean O'Donnell and Mary Lavelle, both of Cleveland, Ohio, who made a special trip to Donegal to be wed in the land of O'Donnell are seen here being congratulated by Vincent O'Donnell (editor).

Eamonn deBurca, whose advert sometimes appears in ODA (he sells rare and antiquarian books, in particular those pertaining to Ireland and Irish history), has undertaken the mammoth task of reprinting the Annals of the Four Masters, the most authoritative source of Irish history and masterpiece on Irish antiquities which was compiled between 1632 and 1636 from all the available manuscript sources at that time. The Four Master were, Br. Michael O'Clery, Chief of the Four Masters, assisted by Cucogry and Canary O'Clery, Peregrine O'Duigenan, Maurice and Fergus O'Maolconary. Although the aforementioned number more than four yet only four were involved at any given time.

The O'Clerys were historians to the O'Donnells and it is generally accepted that the Annals were compiled mainly in the Franciscan Convent of Donegal and due to the Flight of the Earls there was no O'Donnell to patronise the work so Br. Michael dedicated his masterpiece to Farrel O'Gara, Chief of Coolavin who assisted in every way possible to enable the completion of the work.

The importance of these Annals can best be described in the words of Br. Michael O'Clery: "For as you well know, my friends, evil days have come upon us and our country, and if this work is not done now, these old books(mss.) of ours that contain the history of our country, of its kings, and its warriors, its saints and its scholars may be lost to posterity."

These Annals were translated from the original manuscript by the noted Irish antiquarian, John O'Donovan, and what makes his edition most interesting is his invaluable footnotes on persons, places and events. This will be the first Irish reprint (there was a reprint done in the U.S.A. some years back) since O'Donovan's in 1856 and it is intended to retail at £285.00 if there is sufficient interest. The finished article will be bound in a Celtic designed green cloth, with sewn headbands and on fine paper. And, like previous editions, there will be seven volumes, five containing the text (original Gaelic on the left, English translation on right), footnotes, appendices, etc. while the other two volumes contain indices of persons and places. In my opinion no library is complete without the Annals of the Four Masters, so if you are interested then contact Eamonn at 27 Priory Drive, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. Tel.: 01-882159.

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Count's visit

Count Gabriel O'Donnell visited his ancestral Donegal at the week-end as guest of long standing friends Vincent and Annette O'Donnell, Inver. The Count was accompanied by his wife and daughter Elizabeth who has been studying in Ireland since last September. During that time she stayed with well known RTE presenter Nuala Ni Domhnail whose brother, Father Hugh O'Donnell, is head of the Clan.

Count Gabriel has visited Donegal on a number of occasions, the first being the opening of the Tostal in 1954. In 1984 he came over from Austria to honour the late Rupert Coughlan for the part he played in compiling a family lineage record of the Austrian side of the family. Last year he attended the O'Donnell clan rally at Doon, near Kilmacrennan.

The Countess and her daughter were very impressed with the scenery around Donegal and Elizabeth said she felt a decided affinity with the area. "The Castle and Old Abbey especially struck a nostalgic note". The family were later taken on a tour of the county by Vincent and Annette.



Count Gabriel(75) with his wife Ulrike and daughter Elizabeth in Donegal Castle during their visit last April.

Here is a synopsis of Micheline Kerney Walsh's talk on Red Hugh's mission to Spain as given by her at the Clan Gathering in June '89 .

Aodh Rua holds a very special place of affection in Ireland's historical memory. He had a short life; he was inaugurated chief of Tir Chonaill at the young age of nineteen and he died at the age of twenty-nine but he remains one of the outstanding and best loved figures of Irish history.

After the defeat of Kinsale in Jan. 1602 Red Hugh delegated all authority to his brother Rory(13) and sailed to Spain to plead with King Philip for more assistance. Indeed Spain, who was at war with England at the time and shared a common religion and ancestral background, was always favourable towards the Irish and it was to Spain we turned in our hour of need. Had the Spanish aid of 1601 been greater in number and had it landed in the north it surely would have been more effective. This, Red Hugh intended to point out to the King while requesting further aid. Red Hugh was accompanied by two Franciscans, Fr. Florence Conry and Fr. Maurice Dunleavy along with some other notable Irishmen. After a stormy journey they landed in northern Spain on 13th Jan. 1602.

Red Hugh immediately wished to visit the King but the latter was on a tour of the province of Leon and Hugh had to wait for his return. This new king, Philip III, unlike his father Philip II, was weak and ineffective. He delegated much of his power and authority to the ambitious and unscrupulous Duke of Lerma. Red Hugh was made very welcome by everyone in Spain and finally on 29th of Jan, the Council of State received and discussed the dispatches from Ireland concerning the defeat of Kinsale. Their immediate response was to sanction more aid, and so they submitted their recommendations to the King adding that he should hear the facts from O'Donnell himself.

Hugh was invited to court where he was well received by the King and his councillors, to whom he explained the purpose of his mission and requested military aid for Ireland. Again his request met with approval and the 20th March was set as the date by which the expedition should be ready.

O'Donnell, now satisfied that all was in order, went on a visit to his nephew, the fifteen year-old Henry, son of Hugh O'Neill and Siobhan (Red Hugh's

sister) who was studying at the University of Salamanca. This Henry later became colonel of the first Irish Regiment in Spanish service.

But meanwhile, Philip's ministers disagreed about the Irish mission, some maintaining that the King would be better advised in using such force directly against England. The force planned was 14,000 men in 67 ships to be assembled at Lisbon where the King himself intended to be present at their departure to give his good wishes and encouragement. This expedition would include some experienced Irish officers then serving in Flanders, along with money, medicines, hospital supplies, munitions, arms and all necessary equipment for the planned campaign.

But now the division of opinions among the ministers was a major factor in the eventual abortion of the expedition. The King now ordered that a "well-equipped ship under the command of a well-experienced and trustworthy person" should bear O'Donnell with 100,000 ducats and some munitions to Ireland, and there await the proposed expedition which would materialise later. Needless to say, these instructions caused great surprise and consternation to O'Donnell and his companions who objected strongly, pointing out their dismay at the change of plans and the futility of such a proposal. They immediately made their feelings known to the King and his council in letters.

The King in reply on 3rd of April ordered instead that the aforementioned ship should be sent immediately to Ireland to obtain further information regarding the strength of the English occupation there and in particular the ports, so as to decide where best to land an expedition. In the meantime O'Donnell was to be kept "in patience with good words which neither bind to any promise nor prevent any hope". On hearing this, O'Donnell wrote to Philip requesting at least 2,000 men with many munitions etc. to land at Killybegs and outlining a plan of campaign by which he promised with the help of the Irish they could "deliver half of all Ireland to the King". O'Donnell goes on to say that if 2,000 are not possible then 1,500 or even a mere 1,000 could clear "the enemy

from my lands and from those of the Earl O'Neill". But he warns that if the expedition sails later than June "it would find anything other than the blood and ashes of that multitude of faithful people who have placed their trust in your Majesty".

On the 7th of May the Council of State again considered O'Donnell's request and recommended to the King that a small army would not be advisable in view of the defeat already experienced at Kinsale. And so once again Philip began to assemble a force of some 14,000 men with all provisions under the command of Don Juan de Cardona. No doubt, King Philip was sincere in his desire for a successful expedition but the successful organisation of such a vast enterprise would have required the talents and constant application of a far more competent monarch than the well-meaning King Philip.

From his arrival in Spain Red Hugh was constantly receiving news from Ireland through Spaniards returning from Kinsale, merchants plying between both countries and other travellers. He was well aware of the ever-deteriorating state of the Irish, and with each report was prompted to renew or increase his pleas to the King. By June he was so consumed with anxiety and impatience that the Count of Caracena wrote on his behalf from La Coruna (where O'Donnell resided for most of his time in Spain) to Philip.

"Senor,

The extreme difficulties in which the Catholics of Ireland, and particularly Onil, must find themselves is the cause of great affliction to the Earl Odonel. Yet he says that he considers his own situation to be worse for, while they are losing their lives, he is absent from the war and is losing the honour and reputation of many years. He says that what he now wishes is only that Your Majesty should order immediately his departure for that kingdom in whatever way it may please Your Majesty for, although he has absolutely no doubt that Your Majesty will send them help, neither has he any doubt that any delay will result in the loss of his lands and the death or desertion to the enemy of his followers....."

The King replied by requesting the latest news from Ireland and promising Caracena of his continued attention to the planned expedition. As June and July passed more bad news arrived from Ireland. By the end of July the King

informed Caracena that it had not been possible so far this year to assemble enough ships at La Coruna for such an expedition and indeed the ships already there were needed elsewhere. So remembering how the Spanish Armada of 1588 suffered from the autumnal storms it would be unwise to go ahead with the expedition until spring of the following year.

On hearing this Red Hugh immediately pressed for an audience with the King. By mid August he was in Simancas where the King resided. On the 22nd of that month he had still not been admitted to the King when his last illness was upon him. According to Ludhaigh O Cleirigh, his biographer, he was sick for sixteen days dying on the 10th of Sept. Three days earlier Red Hugh had made a will. On attempting to sign it he only got as far as Aodh O before the quill fell from his hand, yet his final wish in that will was for the King "to send money and some troops to Ireland to the Earl O'Neill and to my brother before the news of my death should arrive over there, otherwise, when it becomes known, they will be lost, for all will hasten to make peace with the English, because all their hopes depended on the help which I was to bring to them. So that their courage be rekindled, letters from His Majesty, and the money, should reach them before the news of my death....."

O'Donnell asked to be buried in the church of St. Francis in Valladolid and this was done. Ludhaigh O Cleirigh describes his burial: "His body was taken to Valladolid, to the King's Court, in a four-wheeled hearse, with great numbers of State Officers, of the Council, and of the royal guard all round it, with blazing torches and bright flambeaux of beautiful waxlights blazing all round on each side of it. He was buried after that in the chapter of the monastery of St. Francis with great honour and respect and in the most solemn manner any Gael ever before had been interred....."

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Hugh O'Donnell, titular Earl of Tirconnell, 1608-42.

By Fr. Canice Mooney, O.F.M.

(This article appeared in the Donegal Annual of 1953/4.)

This Hugh O'Donnell was the son of Rory, the first Earl, and of Briget Fitzgerald, his wife, who was daughter of the Earl of Kildare. He was less than a year old at the time of the Flight of the Earls, and since his mother, partly for personal reasons (she was expecting the birth of another baby) and partly perhaps, for diplomatic and political reasons (in an attempt to salvage some of the lands and rights forfeited by Rory's flight), did not follow her husband into exile, the baby remained in charge of two Irish wetnurses. When the Earls set out from Louvain on their journey to Rome in February, 1608, the infant was placed in charge of Anne Madden, wife of Denis Kelly, who had replaced Sheila, wife of Hugh Gallagher, as his nurse and fostermother. At the request of the Archduke Albert, the party was given quarters in the convent of the Augustinian Canonesses, known as the White Ladies. Rory O'Donnell before departing had given Colonel Henry O'Neill and Father Donagh Mooney, O.F.M., guardian of St. Anthony's College, Louvain, a general right of supervision over his son.

In October, 1610, Hugh, with his three young companions, Sean and Brian O'Neill (sons of the Earl of Tyrone by his third wife, Catherine Magennis) and a namesake (his own first cousin, the son of Cathbarr) were removed on the orders of the Archduke to the Irish Franciscan College of St. Antony, where they were placed under the jurisdiction of Fr. Aodh MacAingil, O.F.M., and their education continued. In October, 1621, Hugh enrolled as a student at the University; a few years later we find him in attendance at the court at Brussels; and before the end of 1625 he had entered on the military career which was to occupy him until his death in action sixteen years later.

King Philip IV of Spain and the Archduchess Isabela Clara at Brussels continued towards him the benign favour of their predecessors, by grants and pensions, commissions in the army, and titles of honour. In January, 1632, he was made Maestro de Campo of an Irish regiment like his friend and rival John O'Neill, titular Earl of Tyrone, and the eyes of all patriotic exiles were turned towards those two scions of the princely houses of O'Neill and O'Donnell to lead them back some day to free Ireland once

and for all from her ancient enemy.

In order to ensure a lasting friendship between them for the common good, Archbishop Florence Conry, O.F.M., had proposed a marriage between Sean and the famous Lady Mary Stuart O'Donnell, sister of Hugh, who had been born in Ireland shortly after the flight of Rory, and who, allegedly, to escape marrying a protestant, had fled to Flanders from England about March, 1626, disguised in man's clothing. Nothing came of the proposal, and the eve of the rebellion of 1641 found wise counsellors of the king of Spain advising that both of these men should not be sent to Ireland together, as their mutual jealousy might wreck the undertaking. Fate took a hand in the game and neither one nor the other but a greater than both, the dauntless Eoghan Rua O'Neill, was destined to become the leader of the Ulster army of the Confederation. John died in Catalonia in Spain, 27th January, 1641, and Hugh was killed in action in the summer of the following year during a naval engagement against the French in the Mediterranean.

For three centuries the O'Clerys had proved themselves faithful and efficient chroniclers to the O'Donnells. When the sad news of the death of Hugh reached St. Antony's, Louvain, Brother Michael O'Clery, O.F.M., lamenting the death of his hereditary chieftain, sat down and penned his obituary notice on one of his manuscripts, which is now preserved in the Royal Library at Brussels. As far as I am aware, this is the first occasion on which it has been published.

'Aois Criost, 1642. O Domhnaill da ngoirthi Iarla Thire Chonail, i. Aodh mac Ruadhraighe mhic Aodha mhic Maghnasa I Domhnaill do bhadhadh a Samhradh na bliadhna so ar an muir da ngoirthir Mari Mediterraneo ag cuidiughadh le Ri na Spainne isin ccogadh tarla idir e fein agus Ri Frange, 7c. A mi October na bliadhna roimh an bliadhain si mar ata 1641, do thionnsgainsiod senGhaoidhil agus senGhoillaigh d'urmhhor coimheirghe chogaidh in aghaidh na n-eitricedh in Erinn, da saoradh o gach broid da raibhe orra.

Mar do-chualaidh an t-iarla O Domhnaill adubhrmur an coimheirghe cogaidh sin do bheith in Erinn do-chuaidh do lathair ri na Spainne agus do mhaoigh a sheirbhis fein agus bas I Neill roimhe sin air

agus gach obliogaid da raibhe ar righ na
Spainne fa chuidiughadh le
hEireannchoibh, agus da bhrigh sin do
iarr a ched le congnamh dfaghail, no gan
a fhaghail, agus a leigen da dhuthaigh.
Agus as amhlaigh do-conncas don righ
agus da chomhairle gan a leigen go
hEirinn acht a chuir ar cogadh na
fairrge do chathughadh re
Frangcachaibh."

.....
English Translation:

A.D.1642. O'Donnell, who was called Earl of Tirconnel, that is, Hugh son of Rory son of Hugh son of Manus O'Donnell, was drowned in the summer of this year in the sea called the Mediterranean Sea helping the king of Spain in the war that occurred between himself and the king of France, etc. It was in the month of October of the previous year, namely in 1641, that the Old Irish and the Old English of Ireland in general began an insurrection and war against the heretics in Ireland to free themselves from every disability under which they laboured.

When the Earl O'Donnell, whom we have mentioned, heard about this insurrection and war in Ireland, he went to the king of Spain and referred to his own service and the death of O'Neill before that and the many obligations under which the king of Spain was to help the Irish. For those reasons, he besought his permission to secure aid and return to his country, or even to go without aid. But the king and his council decided not to let him go to Ireland, but sent him to war at sea to fight against the French.

.....
Reading between the lines, one can discern Brother Micheal O'Clery's enthusiastic support for the rising of 1641, his joy at the union of Old Irish and Old English in the common cause, a slight regret that not an O'Donnell but an O'Neill would now lead the forces of his native province, and a hint of the old native pride in his way of saying that O'Donnell was helping the king of Spain and not merely serving under him. Notable too is the ready acceptance of the English title of earl side by side with reference to O Domhnaill, The O'Donnell.

Obituary.

It was with deep regret we received the news of the death of Cardinal Tomas O Fiaich, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. He had been a subscriber to 'O Domhnaill Abu' and had on several occasions helped with articles. A synoptic version of his wonderful lecture 'To Rome by Boat, Coach and Horseback' delivered at Rathmullan in Sept '88 was published in Newsletter No. 11 and the full text appeared in the 1989 Donegal Annual. A keen historian, he left several important and scholarly works, e.g. 'Imeacht na nIarlai' (Flight of the Earls), 'Gaelscrinte san Eoraip' etc. along with his many lectures and articles.

Ar dheislaimh De go raibh a anam uasal!

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Tough Times, Tough Men.

A new subscriber, Leon O'Donnell from Tasmania, sent me, along with other information, the following:....."In the early part of this century my grandfather Edward O'Donnell, along with his brother, Bill and their father, James, supplemented their small farm income with a contract with the railway to supply 'squared sleepers', these are the timber 'ties' the rail lines rest on. Things were obviously very tight in this period and there were plenty of people ready to take your contract if you slackened and did not provide the daily quota of 'sleepers'. They were felling a tree in the bush from which to cut their 'sleepers' when a limb of the tree dislodged and fell onto James breaking both of his legs. There was no rush to get him to the doctor as it was early in the day and the quota needed to be met. James was placed in the shade while Pop and uncle Bill finished felling the tree, sawed it into sleeper lengths, split and squared the 'sleepers'. The 'sleepers' were then stacked onto the horse and cart, James lifted on top of the 'sleepers', then the two hour trip down the track out of the bush to the rail head, in the township of Bridgewater, where the doctor finally attended to my great grandfather James. Then the return two hours journey home. James spent his period of incapacity sharpening the axes, adzes and saws. Tough times they obviously were but the pioneers coped to secure their small properties and support their families. James died in 1932 at the age of 85."

£100,000 castle restoration

By Annette O'Donnell

Over £100,000 is to be spent on the restoration of Donegal Castle in the coming year, it was announced last week.

The Castle is one of several National monuments to benefit from a grant pool of £25 million allocated by the European Regional Development Fund. Sixty tourism projects are to benefit involving a total investment of £55 million approved by the Office of Public Works, Bord Fáilte and SFADCo.

A spokesman for the Office of Public Works said this week that they expected to begin work on Donegal Castle within the year.

Major structural improvements are planned, beginning with the restoration of a major section of the medieval roof. As the castle is one of the few medieval structures in the

country the work will be copied from designs from that period.

The spokesman said the roof work was essential if a large ornate fireplace in the castle is to be preserved. At present rain is coming through the roof onto the fireplace.

The sandstone structure is again in the medieval mould and the Board are aiming to preserve the intricate carved stone.

Glazing will also be installed in a huge bare window frame in the room.

Tourist information at the castle is also to be upgraded — with a change in the present displays and an upgrading of interpretive facilities.

The OPW spokesman said they saw Donegal Castle as "a gateway to Glenveagh" and for this reason they hope to do as much work as possible to upgrade the building. "We are delighted we now have this facility to do so," he said.

Restoration work is to take at least 12 months.

From Donegal Democrat.

Donncha's March To Kinsale

*"O'er many a river bridged with ice,
through many a vale with snowdrifts dumb
past quaking fen and precipice
the Princes of the North have come....."*

The poem commemorates Red Hugh O'Donnell's forced winter March 389 years ago to Kinsale to relieve the forces of Don Juan Del Aquilla who were besieged by the Lord Deputy, Lord Charles Mountjoy. The Spanish forces should really have landed in Ulster to help sustain the momentum of the 9 years war. The O'Donnell march in the depth of winter was admired even by their mortal enemies, the English, with Sir George Carew saying, "It was the greatest march with baggage that has been heard of". However, victory was not to be theirs, and in their defeat at Kinsale (a battle lasting only 3 hours) Ireland's fate was decided: a distinctive way of life, customs, laws, culture and family upbringing disappeared for ever. After Kinsale Red Hugh went to Spain for help but died there on 10th September 1602. Five years later Hugh O'Neill and Rory O'Donnell (brother of Red Hugh) together with 100 members of the leading Irish Families in Ulster left Ireland for ever in what was called "The Flight of The Earls". Within a few years the Plantation of Ulster had taken place, and Ireland is still suffering from the effects of this.

On Sunday the 8th April 1990 a much different band set forth to March from Donegal to Kinsale. In pleasant morning sunshine Donncha O'Dualaing with his intrepid warriors and comely maidens assembled under the shadow of Donegal Castle (securely locked up

not by the enemy now but our very own Board of Works in Dublin (the Centre of the Universe), not even to be opened for this special occasion). Vincent O'Donnell piped, Sean O'Siochain (former Director General of the G.A.A. and Patrick Campbell, noted Donegal man did their little bits to see them off and the collectors with their buckets moved into position because this was not just a walk for the crack. The 350 miles to be travelled was for a much different battle than Red Hugh's — it was to collect money for the fight against Multiple Sclerosis by the M.S. Society of Ireland. M.S. is a disease which affects the brain and central nervous system. It is not contagious. It is not a mental illness. It cannot be prevented because its cause is unknown. It cannot be cured, but it can be managed. The Society provides support for sufferers and their families; a network of community workers; a telephone helpline service; professional counsellors and funds for research to find the cause and so a cure for M.S. With the legendary great hearts of the people of Ireland in contributing to such causes (Donncha's troops collected over £300 around the local pubs on the eve of their March) there is no doubt about the outcome of this March to Kinsale — the winners this time will be the M.S. Society of Ireland and ultimately those in our country suffering from this disease.

From Donegal Times May '90.

Grant of Arms for noted historian's family

The Chief Herald of Ireland, Mr. Donal Begley, recently presented Mr. Liam Coughlan with a family Grant of Arms at the National Heraldic Museum, Kildare Street, Dublin.

The Grant of Arms was awarded as a tribute to the historical research carried out by Mr. Coughlan's late father, Mr. Rupert J. Coughlan, a former senior civil servant, who was also a noted historian, author and genealogist.

The late Mr. Coughlan's research centred mainly on the O'Donnell clan not only in Ireland but also abroad — his widow, Roisin, is an O'Donnell from Lower Rosses, Co. Donegal. He was an authority on the history and genealogy of the O'Donnells.

His research traced and documented the history of the O'Donnell clan in Ireland and his genealogy of the O'Donnell chieftains, dating from the 14th century to the present day, is on display in the National Heraldic Museum. He traced the origins of the O'Donnells in Austria and Spain from the time of the Flight of the Earls to the present day. This has culminated in the renewal of friendship and ties

between the present heads of the clan in Austria, Count Gabriel O'Donnell, and Spain, Hugh O'Donnell, Duke of Tetuan, with Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, the current head of the clan in Ireland.

Born in Youghal, Co. Cork, in 1907, the late Mr. Coughlan was a founder member and past president of the Co. Donegal Historical Society, a former honorary secretary of the Military History Society of Ireland and a noted contributor to many historical journals. In addition, his biography of Napper Tandy is probably the most scholarly work on this famous Irishman.

Mr. Coughlan died in 1986. He is survived by his wife, Roisin (nee O'Donnell), and his five children, Mrs. Roisin O'Doherty, Mr. Liam Coughlan, chief executive, Irish Steel; Mr. Malachy Coughlan, consultant gynaecologist; Mr. Ernan Coughlan, chartered surveyor, and Mrs. Eileen Bannan.

The late Mr. Coughlan was also interested in the genealogy of his own and his wife's families. His research enabled him to trace ten generations of each family on both the male and the female sides going back to the early 17th century.

From Donegal Democrat 6th July '90.



Photo: Connor Sinclair.

Burke inaugurated by O'Donnell.

The Royal Rath of Ruaskeera near Kilmaine, Co. Mayo, was the place of inauguration of the Chieftains of the Mayo Burkes known as MacWilliam Iochtar. The last chief of the name to be elected here was Theobald, the illegitimate son of Walter Ciotach Bourke, in 1595. He was not the most senior of the line but he had the support of Red Hugh O'Donnell and this ensured his election. Present at this gathering were most of the chieftains of the West, but also present were 1,800 men from Tirconnell who formed the first circle around the rath, next to them were the O'Dohertys of Inishowen and behind these were Clan MacSweeney Gallowglas. Outside again were the Bourkes and their neighbouring Clans.

"They came the tall O'Dohertys from Swilly's rugged shore,
O'Clerys from Kilbarron's woods where hoarse the waters roar
O'er Assaroe, MacSweeney's towering glensmen brave and stern
And many another clan from Inishowen to Erne."

This, it is said, was the last official inauguration in Ireland under the old Gaelic system and it says a lot for the power of the twenty-two year old Red Hugh who had so much control over Connaught that he could dictate to the Burkes who their leader should be and personally inaugurate him on the Royal Rath of Rauskeera.

The 29th of June 1990 saw the next Burke inaugurated on that same spot. In the middle of a westerly gale and a downpour of rain a large group of Burkes and friends made their way to the same rath (gaelic for ring-fort) where their chieftain-elect took his place upon the inauguration stone, repeated the sacred oath which was read aloud by the local priest and then received the 'Slat Bhan' (a white willow wand, the symbol of office) from Vincent O'Donnell, Inver, Co. Donegal who reminded him that he was to govern his Clan in a manner as pure and as straight as that same wand. This done, the newly-elected Chieftain, Mr. Richard Burke, (one time Fine Gael Minister for Education and twice E.C. Commissioner) stepped down from the stone, turned three times round in honour of the Holy Trinity and to show himself to his people while they chanted "Hail MacWilliam".

On arrival back in the town-hall of Kilmaine the same scene was re-enacted for the benefit of those who didn't brave the elements to be present on the rath, only this time Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill(64a) was present to hand over the 'Slat Bhan' having missed the earlier event due to a slight road accident from which she escaped, thankfully, unharmed.

..... V.O'Donnell.....

