

Source: "The Quillin (MacQuillin) Family," (1961) by Claude MacQuillin, Milligan Wood Quillen and Mary Kinser (Mrs. H. B.) Brown. Published by the The Quillin Clan, Gate City, Virginia.

Chapter I

The MacQuillin Family in Ireland by Claude MacQuillin

The Quillin Clan or Sect originated in North Ireland, County of Antrim. The race from which it sprung is Celtic and Continental. Several Celtic migrations went from the European Continent B.C. to Ireland, and among them was the Milesian Colony, which was the fifth migratory group to arrive in Ireland. They came immediately from Spain but remotely from Gaul across the Pyrenees Mountains into the Ebro River Valley of Spain, where they were known as Celtiberi. Later, this wave of emigrants moved Northwestward into the province of Galicia, and then through the Port of La Coruna to Ireland, and were contemporaneous with Alexander the Great of the Fourth Century B.C.

This Colony settled in the region of Dalriada (also Ulidia and Dalaradia) which embraced the Northern part of Ireland, present Counties of Antrim and Down, later expanding into other parts of the Island. The old records inform us that there was a Dalaradia and an Ulidi as well as a Dalriada, all of which in later times comprised Ulster.

The ancient name for Ulster was Uladh or Ulaidh, upon the ruins of which there arose by the effort of the Colla brothers the Kingdom of Oriel, whose inhabitants were referred to as the Orghialla. For several centuries the Kingdom of Oriel established by the Collas, the grandsons of Conn of the Hundred Battles, continued to flourish.

The Clan Quillin trace their descent back to this remote past, and are said to be descended from a line of Princes of this House. An old manuscript of the MacQuillins purports to give a list of the Orghiallian Princes descended from Colla Uaish, one of the three Colla brothers who became an Ard Righ (High King) for four years. The manuscript mentions Mugdorn as the thirty-eighth on the list of succession. It contains some sixty to seventy names, and has been referred to by both Mrs. Webb in 1861, a noted Irish writer of that period, and John D'Alton, an eminent Barrister of the Dublin Bar, as evidence bearing on the subject of the

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MacQuillin descendancy from the ancient Lords of Oriel, Ulidia and Ulster.

The Clan Quillin, even before their surname was adopted, became early associated with the territory known as the Route of County Antrim, which in ancient times was called Dalriada. It was in Dalriada where the first settlement was made by the Celts, who later were called Gaels, which is a contracted form of Goidelic Celt, in contradistinction to Brythonic Celt, a branch of the Continental stream which settled in Britain and Wales.

There were two Dalriadas, one, the first, called Scotia Major, the other one in Western Scotland, which was then Scotia Minor. That part of Scotland is now known as Argyll, but was formerly called Scottish Dalriada. It was first colonized by Reuda or Riada, a grandson of Conn of the Hundred Battles, first cousin of Cormac Mac Art, so state the old records. The word Dal means probably an assembly, hence Dalriada meant Reuda's Assembly. And from Reuda on Riada the western district of Scotland, just across the North Channel, came the term "Scottish Dalriada." The Route of Medieval and Modern times is the same territory as the old Reuda or Euta, which has been contracted from the original Riada or Righfada. It was the name of a pleasant country situated between the Glynnes of Antrim and the River Bann, and from the sixteenth century extended from Clandeboy to the sea. In the Irish tongue this country was called Ruta Mac Uillin (sometimes spelled Cuillin, Cullen, Cullin). The Route was the main traveled road through which the Scots were accustomed to pass into Central Ireland.

In ancient times, the relationship between the two Dalriadas was very close; in fact, the kings of Irish Dalriada were also kings of Scottish Dalriada, and formed the nucleus of the Irish Kingdom of Scotland. There were thirty-three Irish kings of the continually expanding kingdom of Dalriada in Western Scotland. During that period, says Benedict Fitzpatrick, the ablest authority on the subject, "the Irish language and culture was established over all Scotland." It was

in this region where Clan Quillin and other old clans of North Ireland operated.

The Mag Uillins or Cuillins, or Clan Quillin, (all of these forms carry similar meaning) hold to the conviction that they are descended from King Niall I, the 116th Pagan king of Ireland, who ruled from 380 to 405 A.D. He was an Ard Righ (High King) of Ireland; in fact, he it was who instituted the High Kingship in the year 390 A.D. And it is certain that his ancestors were rulers in Ireland as early as the beginning of the Christian era.

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Among the primary sources, the Mag Uillin manuscript claims that King Niall's youngest and only son by his second wife, or Queen Inne, is the ancestor of the Mag Uillins (this is the old form of spelling in the Gaelic). The youngest son here referred to was named Fiacha (pronounced Fee-acha). His Mother, Queen Inne, according the Abbe MacGeoghegan, in his history of Ireland was a princess of Uladh (Ulidia-Ulster) in her own right, being the sixth in descent from Fergus Davededah, King of Uladh, who was the grandson of the Monarch Conn of the Hundred Battles.

Rooney, an eminent Irish historian, claims that the Cullens, - Cullins, (the Gaelic way of spelling Quillen, - Quillin) are descended from Fiacha Baiceda, son of Cathire More, King of Ireland A.D. 144. He says that the ancient name was Culluins, meaning "fair-haired. "

Nearly every old historic subject is controversial, consequently there is no exception in this case. There are several theories relative to the beginning of this clan, and the origin of its name. Several authorities are in agreement in saying that the Clan traces back to Fiacha, one of the sons of King Niall of the Nine Hostages.

Fiacha Mag Uillin, - Mag Cuillin, was settled in West Meath, where his name remains located in the Parish of Ballyquillin, in the region now known as Queen's County. This Fiacha got possession of Dalriada sometime after his two elder brothers, Eoghan (Owen) and Conall (Connell) were settled in the government of Tir Owen, later Tyrone, and Tir-Connell, which corresponds to modern Donegal. These brothers were the sons of King Niall 1.

King Niall I was of the race of Conn; and, according to the record he appears to have been the greatest ruler of that race. Edmund Curtis, the late Professor of Modern History in the University of Dublin, says that Niall the First was "a splendid hero of the Gaelic blood, tall, fair-haired and blue-eyed, a great and noble-minded warrior, kind in Hall and fierce in fray."

Historians on the subject of Irish Kings inform us that Niall led expeditions against the Romans on the Continent, and tested his leadership in Britain and Gaul against the best military leaders that Rome could send to that part of the world, matching the courage and skill of his soldiers against that of the Imperial Legions. He also led in person an army against some Pictish Princes in Cantyre (Kintyre) and Ayr, in what is now Western Scotland, then called Scotia Minor, defeating the Picts and securing his own countrymen against future oppression.

Sons of King Niall, several of whom became famous in history as

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heads of noted clans, carved out for themselves in Uladh (Ulster) principalities which bore their names for centuries, among the most notable were Conall Gulban (Donegal) Eoghan (Tyrone) and Fiacha, (West Meath and Dalriada). Their descendants succeeded each other in the sovereignty of Ireland for six hundred years. Benedict Fitzpatrick, in his book "Ireland and the Making of Britain," says that the pedigrees of the leading families of Ireland converge for the most part in the Fourth Century and in the family of Niall the First.

The old records consistently claim that the Mag Cuillins or Mag-Uillins are descendants of this same Niall through the line of his youngest son Fiacha. The old Mag manuscript, long in possession of the Wexford County branch of the family, also holds to this view, and states that among their ancestors from the beginning of the Fifth century to the latter end of the Twelfth, there were kings and princes of Uladh (Ulidia, Ulster) and from the Twelfth to the Sixteenth century the same titled rulers of Dalriada and the Route. And after long and diligent research there has not been found

in the old records by any reliable historian any evidence which would deny this, their claim.

There are some detractors, however, of the Sixteenth century, during the time of the wholesale confiscations by the English Government, English writers, whose medium of expression, the Parliamentary Gazetteer, try to represent the Mag-Uillins,-Cuillins, (Anglicized to MacQuillins) to be an alien race to Ireland. There was an economic advantage to the former in trying to prove the latter, the old proprietors of vast estates, as invaders or intruders from Wales, and belonging to that country. Thus far, however, there has not been found in the Annals of Ulster, or the Irish Kingdom of the Four Masters, the best authority on the subject, any proof that Clan Quillin or family came of an alien race, but much to the contrary, that they were of the oldest native stock. And during the intervening centuries between the time of Fiacha Mag Uillin-Cuillin, and the invasion of the Norman Lords into Ulster, the MacQuillin manuscript and other old records show that the rulers of both Uldia (the Latin form of Uladh or Ulster) and Dalriada (the ancient word for The Route) were elected from the descendants of the previously mentioned Fiacha.

Captain Berry, in a volume of the Ulster Journal of Archaeology, (New Series) refers to a great Rath of the mound type, which on an ordinance map of the period was known as Rath More

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Mag Cuillin, or Moigh Cuillin. Following is a foot-note quotation: "Rath More Mag Cuillin, signifying the great Rath of MacQuillin, is the name which our manuscript says was the original designation of the spot where stood the ancient palace of the Ulster kings. It was often written Rath Mor Magh Line, again Moigh Cuillin, and now Moylinne."

Geoffrey Keating, a famous Irish scholar and historian, who wrote the first connected history of Ireland in the Gaelic language, records a great battle which was fought in the year 685 A.D. in Ulidia, at a place called Moigh Cuillin, in repelling an invasion of the King of Wales.

Doctor Keating's record is convincing that the Mag Uillins - Mag Cuillins, were rulers in Ulidia, and that they occupied the spot known as Rath More Mag Uillin (Mag Cuillin) and adopted the surname. He further says that they are descended from Fiacha, the son of Niall the First, but on the question of when and how they became kings of Ulidia, he fails to answer it. It is true, however, that he does bring out their name "as distinguishing the spot which is recognized by others as that of the palace of the Ulidian kings."

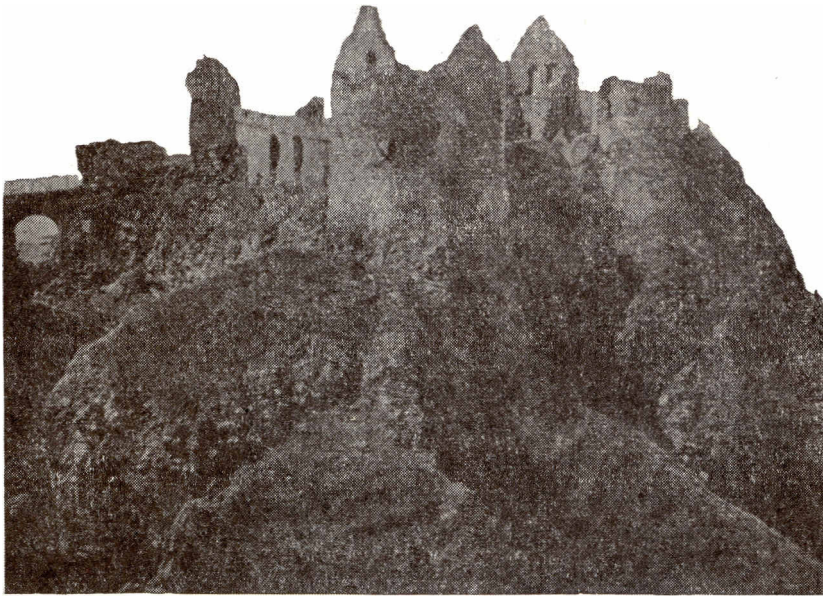
While there is controversy relative to both the origin of the Clan and surname of MacQuillin (the Anglicized form of spelling) there is none respecting the territory they occupied and controlled. All historians who have given the subject careful study agree that this clan occupied the territory of the Route, formerly called Dalriada for several centuries. Their name was definitely associated with Rath More back to the seventh century, and continued there until that stronghold was burned by the O'Neills, in 1513, at which time the Clan Chieftain Mag or Mac Uillin moved into Dunluce Castle. There is an entry in the Annals of the Four Masters which says: "The Castle of Dunlis (Dunluce) was taken by O'Donnell from the sons of Garrett MacQuillin, and given up to the sons of Walter MacQuillin" 1513 A.D. According to this Dunluce was occupied prior to the time Ponce de Leon discovered Florida.

It is appropriate to try to determine the origin of the name Quillin, with many variants of spelling. Should one seek for the answer under the letter "Q"? No, that would be a vain attempt, because there is no letter "Q" in the Gaelic alphabet. It has in it eighteen letters but no "Q". The Quillin ancestors were Gaelic and spoke and wrote that language, and, of course, had Gaelic surnames. This language is very old, and is said to have come to Ireland from Phoenicia instead of through the medium of Greece and

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Rome. Two learned Englishmen concur in the opinion of the antiquity of the Gaelic language. They are Edmund Spenser and Doctor Samuel Johnson.

Since the letter "Q" is not to be found in the original Gaelic, it was necessarily inserted later by the English in their process of Anglicization. This appears to have been done during the reign of



DUNLUCE CASTLE (the strong fort) in Antrim, Ireland was the home of the MacQuillin Clan early in the 16th century. Although partly in ruins the castle is preserved today as an ancient monument by the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland.

Queen Elizabeth (1558-1603). At any rate, that is the period of history when one finds the change in the name.

In the different uses of the name Quillin, one finds that it has been spelled variously. Some of the following ways will amply illustrate this: Mag Uillin, Mag Cuillin, Mag Uidhilin, Mag Uibhillin, Moigh Cuillin, Mag Ullaine, Mag Coillin, Mac Cuillin, Cuillinan, Cullin, Cullen, Cullinan, Quillinan, Mac Coillin, Mac Gwillin, Mag Uyllen, Quillen, MacQuillan, Quillian, MacQuillin, and perhaps others. All of these variants, however, have been and are related. Collateral evidence supports this relationship.

The Mag Uillin (Mag Cuillin) name appears to be inherent in the very soil of old Uladh (Ulster). There are still to be found there many local impressions of the name. For example, the name Ballyquilline, previously mentioned as one of the Parishes in the

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region of Queen's County. It was in the Kingdom of Meath where Fiacha Mag Uillin or Cuillin was settled, and his name was left there in the above-named Parish.

"The derivations of this name which present themselves in various forms in the old Irish annals in the designation of places and their inhabitants within the bounds of ancient Uladh (Ulidia), Counties of Antrim and Down, suggest the thought of a common origin between the names Uladh and Ullin, especially when one observes that the former was occasionally written Ullin or Ullain." And again: "The Latinized name Ulidia and the Anglicized Ulster must be regarded as exotic derivations from the native name." And the Irish MacQuillins, aside from this point, "insist that their family principality anciently included Dalaradia (Dalaraidhe) as well as Dalriada, which is exactly the ancient Uladh or Ullin."

"From these and other indications, it appears to be probable that not only the family name, but the name of the principality they governed was derived from Fiacha Mag Cuillin (Ullin)."

There is further ambiguity regarding the name in connection with the name Mac Dunslevey. In the primary sources of the Annals of Ireland in the year 1178 there is found the following entry: "Murrough O'Carroll and Cu Uladh, son of Dunslevey, King of Uladh, attacked De Courcy's forces, of whom they slew four hundred and fifty."

John De Courcy was of Norman-French extraction, son of a Somerset knight who had gone over to Ireland to seek

adventure which he readily found. The Kingdom of Uladh, now Latinized to Ulidia, became his new field of adventure, and the capital, Downpatrick, was his immediate objective.

Donslevey signified a mountain fortress, which fortress belonged to the kings of Ulidia, and is said to have been located on one of the Mourne mountains. Its king at this time was Rory Mac Dunslevey, who had done homage to King Henry II of France and England (jointly ruled), and he bitterly resisted De Courcy's aggression.

Dunslevey was not the real surname of the family which occupied that fortress, but rather signified their rank of royalty or nobility. A dun was the residence of a king according to historical authority on the subject. The family who occupied the castle of Dunslevey in the Mournes, went by the name of their fortress, but strong evidence shows them to have been Mag Uillín or Mag Cuillin, who were true descendants of Fiacha, the son of Niall I. The same evidence indicates that there were two branches of Fiacha Mag Uillín's descendants, one residing at Rath Mar in Moylinne,

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the other one at Dunslevey, "who according to national usage, being of the same origin, were equally eligible to the kingship of Ulidia; and since the latter branch had been driven out, or well-nigh annihilated by De Courcy's armored knights, it resulted in their giving up the Mourne mountain fortress, as well as the title, Kings of Uldia, and henceforth the remnant made Rath Mor Mag Uillín their seat of power until 1513, at which time the latter was burned by the O'Neill Clan, and the Mag Uillín Chieftain moved into Dunluce Castle, built on a huge rock jutting out over the Atlantic Ocean, opposite Scotland. Soon the clan members were to meet enemies coming from the seaward side-the Western Isles of Scotland.

After the twelfth century the Mag Uillín territory was limited to Dalriada, and Dunslevey was no more heard of among the Ulster Chieftains, unless "Sleven Mag Uillín, in the Fourteenth century can be regarded as an exception."

There is a clue, however, to the origin of the name in Cu Ulladh, the son of Connor Dunslevey (sometimes spelled Donsleibhe) King of Uladh (spelled with one and two l's.) or Ulidia, later Ulster.

In Connellan's translation of the Annals of the Four Masters, there is a clear reference to this Cu Ulladh as being King of Ulladh, and personally leading his forces. O'Connor, another celebrated Irish historian, states that this Chieftain or king was called Cu Ulladh because the name signified the hound of Ulladh from his great swiftness of foot and bravery in battle, and that the first big defeat suffered by De Courcy's forces was largely due to the valor of Cu Ulladh.

In a volume of the Ulster Journal of Archaeology, under the heading of Irish proper name, there is the following entry: "We find several names of Chiefs commencing with Cu, which signifies a hound, and figuratively, a swift-footed warrior", as for instance, Cu Cullain, a famous warrior of the Red Branch Knights of Ulladh, or Ulster. The name signified, 'warrior of Ulster! and as Ulladh is sometimes inflected Ullain; now adopting this inflection of Ulladh, "we have Cu Ullain as the name in the Twelfth century of one of the forefathers of the Sixteenth century MacQuillins. The son of Cu Ullain would be Mac Cu Ullain, since the true meaning of "Mac" is son of, or in English orthography, in which "Q" represents Cu, it would be Mac Qu Ullain." This manner of unfolding and natural growth appears to be the most reasonable way in which the name has come to its present form.

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Other theories have been advanced to try to explain the origin of the surname of Clan Quillin, but time and space preclude giving them here.

Another view is that the origin of the clan and name is Welsh; that is, one branch of the clan, is said to have a connecting link with the Llewelyns of that country. There is a historical account of an early migration of a branch of the Mag Uillín Clan from Ireland to Wales in the Eighth century, and the descendants of the same came into Ireland during the Thirteenth century, at about the time of the English invasion there.

There is no historic record, however, so far as this writer knows, to prove that the Clan Quillin really originated in

Wales. Of course there was constant communication between Ireland and Wales for several centuries, as there is now; in fact, for several hundred years the latter country to a large extent, was regarded as a principality of the former.

The family record of the Mag Uillins refutes the idea of a Welsh origin. The old manuscript records of this family show them to be lineal descendants of the kings of Ulidia, who were dispossessed of the Southern part of their territory, Ulidia, by John De Courcy, self-styled Chief of that region, so called Earl of Ulster, in the year 1200. The English, of which De Courcy's forces constituted a fragment, did not control a tenth of the land when he was first known as the Earl of Ulster. After De Courcy took over temporarily, the clans of this region were somewhat subdued. The Clan Quillin became identified with Dalriada, later called the Route, where they continued in power until their defeat by the Mac Donnels, and subsequent dispossession by James I of England in the year 1603.

From the Thirteenth century onward, Dalriada was definitely the territory over which the Mag Uillin Clan ruled. The region at that time, compared to other parts of Ireland, experienced a period of peace, while neighboring Chieftains were at war with the English. The Chronicles of this century make no mention of a Dalriadan war, defensive or offensive, by the Mag Uillins. And, according to the Annals of the Four Masters, Dalriada and its lords again appear only in a peaceful role. The records show that the rulers of Dalriada were on good terms with the English at this time, and by treaty and diplomacy, maintained the same for two centuries. This is an excellent record. Only the Pax Romana surpasses it, and Rome had the power to dictate peace to its subjugated people. England, however, at this time did not have control over the Irish clans.

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During the following two centuries, the Fifteenth and Sixteenth, conditions changed from one of peace to violence. The Annals of the Four Masters brings to the fore the name of Mac Uillin, (the Mac superseded Mag) in defense of their paternal estates in the Glynnnes and Route. At this early date the MacDonnells had not come into possession of the former, nor had the O'Neills yet encroached far into the Route. They had, however, pushed across the Bann River about the middle of the Fifteenth century (1442) and settled in or on the plain East of Lough Neagh. This was not altogether a voluntary move on the part of the latter, nor was it the main body of the O'Neill clan. It was a branch of that clan led by their Chief Aedh Buidhe, who is said to have belonged to a tamer breed than the old Tyrone branch, whose Capital or seat of power was the town called Dungannon, first mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters the year 1430. According to these records the crossing of the Bann River by the O'Neills, later to be known as the Clandeboy branch, being an English equivalent of the Clan of Aedh Buidhe, which conformed to some extent to the native tongue, was not a voluntary one on the part of said clan, but resulted from an expulsion by the O'Donnells of Donegal. The entry in the record of the Four Masters reads as follows: "Great depredations were committed by Niall O'Donnell upon O'Neill whom he banished Eastward across the Bann to Mac Uillin's land."

What at first appeared to be a haven from a storm of violence for the O'Neills, resulted in an intrusion, becoming permanent in Mac Uillin territory, since the former occupied Clandeboy right down to the close of the Sixteenth century. Undoubtedly the O'Neills were resisted by the MacQuillins or Uillins, but there is no detailed account as to the nature or extent of such resistance.

The occupation of the plain East of Lough Neagh, known henceforth as Clandeboy, from the Clan of Aedh Buidhe O'Neill, naturally limited the Mac Uillin Clan to the Route and the Glynnnes. The Route, according to the most accurate information obtainable, furnished at this time 140 horses and 300 footmen, and the Glynnnes ordinarily the same number. In later times, other great leaders besides the MacQuillin Chieftain, figured prominently in the control of the Glynnnes and to some extent in the Route. They were O'Cahan, M'Guire, MacMahon, Magennis, O'Hanlon, and Mac-Quillin. "These six are great men in lands and fordes." The immigrants or settlers in the Route and Glynnnes paid tribute to the lords who rule there.

In 1442, the O'Cahans, another powerful Sept came into the

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picture to aid the O'Neills in the clan wars with the Mag Uillins (MacQuillins). At times it appeared like a major

struggle between the O'Cahans and the Mag Uillins, in which the O'Neills aided the former. This struggle continued sporadically for a hundred years. The O'Cahan-O'Neill alliance continued in full force; that is, the O'Neills of Tyrone, until the break-up of the Irish power in the North in the time of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Although the O'Cahans consisted of two branches, namely, one of the Bush, and the other of the Bann River, both trace back to a common source to Eoghan (Owen) son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, and bear one of the oldest surnames in Irish history. Apparently, the first recording of this name was in the year 980 A.D., a full generation before King Brien Boru issued a proclamation requiring all clans to have surnames.

The dispute between O'Cahan and Mag Uillin (sometimes spelled here in the State papers Mag Uyllen) Chieftain began over territory and cattle rights. In the year 1442 a battle was fought in which the latter was aided by Brian Oge O'Neill, and a number of O'Cahan's people were killed, thirty-two in all, and O'Cahan was defeated. This was the beginning of a long struggle between these old clans, which resulted in severe suffering and heavy losses on both sides.

Another thing involved between them was fishing rights on the Bann River, in which, later, the British Government interfered. This river appears to have been at all times the natural boundary between these two clans. It was not impassable, however, but was frequently crossed and re-crossed by the leaders of both clans, as well as by the O'Donnells of Donegal.

In 1472, the old feud broke out again, in which Roderick O'Cahan (spelled O'Cathain at times) was slain by Semus Cincarragh Mag Uillin, after which Con the son of Hugh Buidhe O'Neill mustered his forces and hastened into the Route, Mac Uillin's territory. Can O'Neill was quickly joined by Godfrey O'Cathain, the brother of Roderick, or Rory as he was sometimes called, whose purpose was to avenge his brother Roderick's death. A battle was fought in which Godfrey was slain, a man "full of chastity, hospitality, and nobleness," so states the record of the Four Masters. The record continues to say that he was slain by Rory Mac Uillin with one cast of the Javelin. On the next day Can O'Neill gave the Mac Uillin and his forces a great defeat, killing the leader Cormac Mac Uillin; and henceforth, Rory was called the Mac Uillin, and peace was made with Con O'Neill, the son of Hugh Boy. They,

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together, made an appointment to hold a peace conference with O'Cathain, (O'Cahan-O'Kane) at the mouth of the Bann River. Mac Uillin procured a boat in which to cross over and present himself before O'Cathain (O'Kane), but as he was landing the boat an attack was made upon him by a number of O'Cahan's forces, who slew him and threw his body into the river. This tragic incident serves to illustrate the bitterness of the two clans in relation to each other, even while trying to make peace. Therefore, after this attempt to bring about peace, they now appeared to be farther apart than ever before; and their war dragged along in a desultory but sanguinary fashion until the year 1542, which date was near the close of the long reign of King Henry VIII of England, who was instrumental in helping to bring it to an end.

An eminent Irish historian, writing on this subject claims that Henry was not concerned primarily in bringing peace to the warring clans but was interested in getting a foot-hold in Ireland to form a base there for his own operations. Be that as it may, peace did come in a few months after his intercession, after Henry's forces made an expedition to the North into O'Cathain's and Mac Uillin's territories to try to establish royal fishing rights on the Bann River.

In a letter written by Saint Leger, Lord Deputy of King Henry VIII, addressed to the King, he conveys the impression that Mag Uyllen's (His way of spelling) ancestors were English subjects, or Welsh, who were frequently called English after King Edward I conquered that country. The descendants, however, according to his version of the subject, had certainly "strayed from their former allegiance, and had in fact, become as rebellious as the worst."

After exacting a promise of loyalty from Mag Uyllen, temporarily at least, and getting the subject of the fishing rights settled on similar terms, the way was now open for the English military forces to proceed on their planned expedition to the North of Ireland, which was in Mag Uyllen's and O'Cathain's territory. The campaign turned out successfully for the English. In the month of August 1542 two English officers, Travis and Brereton by name, who headed the expedition, returned to Dublin, after having taken the said O'Cathain (O'Kane) and his castle from him, "which standyth upon your river of Bann, being an obstacle to your Highness's farmers, and other English subjects to fische there."

The River Bann a short distance South of Coleraine widens into a small lake, in the middle of which is an island, and on it Mag Uyllen had a wooden castle. It is called by the English, Loughan Is-

land. Here are still to be seen traces of earthen fortifications. This station was of great importance in guarding against attack and in controlling the fishery of the Lower Bann. This river has been described by the English writers as the most fertile stream in Europe. During this period of history several hundred tons of fish were taken annually, and most delicious salmon they were.

Before the summer of 1542 had expired the English forces had caused considerable destruction to O'Cathain's land, and many of his people were killed, including a hundred or more of the Scots from out of the Western Isles, "certain traytorous deedes by them commyted, to the terryble example of such rebelles."

Following this defeat, Manus O'Cahan (O'Kane) not only decided to desist his further attacks on Mag Uyllen, but also to join up with the latter in a form of submission to the English government. A copy of this submission in the form of a government document is preserved in the Lambeth Palace Library in London. It is written in Latin, and contains the most ample promises on the part of the two North Irish Chieftains. The terms of peace agree not only to submission to the English government, but also in addition, to active co-operation with the English agents, especially in making war on the salmon violators of the Bann River. The agreement is signed by Rory Mag Uyllen, and Manus O'Cahan. Both Chieftains surrendered two hostages each, as sureties in keeping their contract. Hostages then were treated courteously and kindly, given the comforts of life and not subjected to various degrees of torture which some nationals mete out to prisoners in modern times.

Mag Uyllen surrendered Hugh O'Quin and Jenkin MacGerrald Mag Uyllen; and O'Cahan gave up for the same purpose, Donnell Ballow (Balcah) and Ony (John) McRorye.

The Dublin Council Book for the year 1542 throws some light on this subject, by the following entry:

"The submission of Mag Uyllen, who desireth to be reputed an Englishman as his ancestors weare out of Wales." This submission is printed in the State Papers. The Lord Deputy observes in the letter forwarding it, "Mag Uyllen is an Englishman." This appears to be pure propaganda, which may have proved expedient at the time. It is signed, "Roderic Mac Cuyllen, sui nationis principalis et Capitaneus de Rowte." The name appearing in the Council Book as hostage to guarantee its performance is 'Jenico Mac Gerrald Mac Uyllen; both Christian names being so Anglicized.

The ancestors coming out of Wales did not necessarily make them English. Such people were referred to as Norman-Welsh. It

is true, Wales had by now been over-run by Edward I, and the people there were beginning to be called English subjects. He had only changed, however, their political complexion, but their ethnological nature was still Norman-Welsh.

Now that the war between the O'Cahans and the Mag Uyllens had been settled, peace was expected to reign for a long period of time, but such was not the case. No sooner had the war closed between these old clans, than another began with the O'Donnells of Donegal; at least, within two years. The Chieftain of the O'Donnell clan led an army into the Route, Mac Uillin's territory, and took Inis-an-Lochain, i.e., the island of the small lake which is known on the County Down survey as Inis Loughan, and still so called in the Gaelic. He took the island castle commanding the fishing on the Lower Bann and gave it to O'Cahan (O'Kane). Also on the same expedition, O'Donnell took the castle of Baile-an--Locha from Mag Cuillen (Mac Uillin), from which he obtained many spoils, such as weapons, armour, copper, iron, butter, and many other provisions. O'Donnell, however, did not long maintain this advantage for his ally O'Cahan. There soon came into the Route re-inforcements to aid Mac Uillin in regaining his lost possessions.

During the year 1544, two sons of Alexander Carrach MacDonnell, James and Colla, appeared on the scene with a band of Scots at the instance of Chief Edward Mac Uillin (Mac Quillin). They, together proceeded to Innis-an-Lochain, and over-powered Q'Cahan's (O'Kane's) guards and recaptured the spoils which had been taken by the O'Donnell forces, which included much personal property, such as arms and armour. Great destruction of property and much injury to personnel were inflicted on O'Kane by the Mac Uillin forces. The temporary alliance of the Mac Quillin Chieftain with the MacDonnell Scots was really paying off, for the time being, at least. This very helpful ally, however, turned out to be a bitter foe.

This MacDonnell expedition in the Route pursuant to aid Chief Edward Mac Uillin, for the friendship manifested to the father of the two MacDonnell brothers, by the head of the House of Dunluce, served to furnish valuable information to James and Colla, who later used it to great advantage. The encroachment on the Mac Uillin territory in the Route by the Scots had been going on for a long time. But before proceeding with that story let us glance at some early history of the MacDonnells.

They became lords of the Western Isles, commonly known as

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the Hebrides, after the overthrow of Haakon, the last sea king of Norway, 1263 A.D., who had tribute of the Outer-Hebrides.

Haakon was repulsed at the battle of Largs, after which the Clan Donnell took over and ruled the Island kingdom as Lords of the Isles until 1499, when James the IV of Scotland changed this. He defeated the MacDonnells, and climaxed his victory by hanging John MacDonnell and two of his sons. This event caused the MacDonnell clan to make a change in their plan. Henceforth its leaders cast longing eyes in the direction of the Irish coast. They decided to transfer themselves to Isley, Rathlin and Antrim; in fact, a James MacDonnell, who was styled Lord of the Isles, became established in the Glynnes of Antrim by the year 1550. An older branch of that clan is said to have settled there as early as 1423. This, however, was in a very small way, and, apparently, was not taken seriously by the old Irish Chieftains, some of whom, including the MacUillin, had ruled supremely in the Route generations before the coming of the Scots to the Antrim shores.

Some of these Scots, particularly the MacDonnells, manifested a strong desire in the first half of the Sixteenth century to establish themselves permanently in Antrim. This, of course, aroused the suspicions of the native rulers there, and among the principal ones was Edward Mac Uillin, (Mac Quillin), who alone appears to have been a true friend of the MacDonnells, especially to Alexander Carrach of Islay, the father of the eight war-like sons. Edward Mac Uillin, (whose name is soon to be spelled with a "Q") had succeeded Roderick, either his older brother or father. It is difficult to determine the line of tenure in Ireland, owing to the Brehon Laws and the rule of Tanistry in bringing about a successor. The old records state that Chief Edward Mac Uillin never refused the hospitality of Dunluce castle to the sons of the old friend Alexander Carrach MacDonnell of Islay.

"The very year after the brave Roderick's death, we find this Edward, his heir and successor, inviting the MacDonnells to Dunluce."

On this occasion, however, his purpose in so doing, was to obtain aid in recovering some property taken from him a few days prior thereto by the O'Donnell's and O'Kanes. This was in the year 1544.

Eleven years after this date, the MacDonnells again came in force into Dalriada (old name for the Route) striving to obtain land from one who had been their friend, Mac Uillin, lord of the Route. The Scots were not pressing their claim very strongly just

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at this time because of a prior struggle with the English, from which they had not fully recovered.

In 1551, Sir James Croft (Craft), the then Lord Deputy or Lieutenant of the Crown in Ireland, headed a formidable expedition against the MacDonnells. His expedition against them on Rathlin Island, their base of supplies, resulted in failure, according to the record in the Four Masters, as well as a letter written by Thomas Cusake, then Chancellor of Ireland. The letter is addressed to the Earl of Warwick. The Annals' account leads to the conclusion that the whole English force employed was annihilated by the Scots.

During this time Edward Mac-Uillin (Mac Quillin), his immediate family and clan members remained inactive for several reasons. First, the Chief of Dunluce never wanted to wage war against the sons of his old friend, Alexander MacDonnell; second, he was not fully prepared with manpower to meet the large force of the Scots. In supplies, such as weapons of war, equipment and provisions, the record shows him better off than some of the other clans. Doctor Edmund Curtis says as much in his history of Ireland. And for the third reason for not going to war, Chief Edward's daughter was married to one of the MacDonnell brothers.

The marriage appears to have been a romantic one, and had the husband lived a few years longer, the history of the MacDonnell and MacQuillin clan relationship might have been far more peaceable and successful.

Colla MacDonnell, the husband of Eleanore MacQuillin, the daughter of Chief Edward of Dunluce Castle, died in the month of May 1558, about eight years after their marriage. They had three sons, none of whom inherited any of the estates of their grandfather.

After Colla's death the relationship with the remaining brothers gradually grew worse rather than better. Now the question arose among the other brothers as to his successor. By now a policy had developed of having a representative in the Route. This was not for the purpose of securing land for Colla's sons, to which they were rightfully entitled. The law of inheritance, if left unhindered, would amply provide for them. It was not that which spurred on the MacDonnell brothers to gain a larger foothold in the Route. Their own selfish interests were involved. They wanted to conquer the MacQuillin clan and take over in their own name, as subsequent events plainly show. Finally, Sorley Boy MacDonnell assumed the leadership of their clan for this purpose.

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The same year of Colla's death, Queen Elizabeth came to the throne of England. Her policy, like that of her famous father, King Henry VIII was one of Surrender and Regrant, which applied to all Irish land-owners. She also, like her father, believed the Scots were becoming too powerful in Ireland, and she was puzzled to devise some means for reducing that power. She fell upon the scheme of dividing and conquering in any manner she could. One way was to aid the MacQuillins, for which there was a slim precedent. In the time of the reign of her father, this clan had cooperated with his officials in bringing to a close the war with the O'Cahans. And as long as the former clan remained strong with bright prospects of maintaining their position in the Route, this was to be Queen Elizabeth's policy. Later, however, the Scots grew more powerful, and became stronger and stronger. Then the English Government policy changed. This Government was ever on the alert to determine where the greater strength lay, and they soon learned that it was on the side of the Scots in this particular struggle. And, without doubt, opportunism played a leading role, diplomatically, in shaping the events for the culmination of the struggle in Antrim. James MacDonnell, the eldest of the brothers, used his position to influence the Queen to sustain the cause of the Scots, but the actual fighting was left to the respective clans in the field. It was also England's policy to refrain from active warfare as long as others were willing to do the fighting for her, when diplomacy would solve the problem. The plan was no longer one to keep the Scots out, but to weaken them by interclan wars, so that later the English could take over for themselves. And for the time being shrewd diplomacy was being used to great advantage for them.

To further strengthen the Scots, politically, in June 1559, Queen Elizabeth wrote a complimentary letter to James MacDonnell, in which she refers to his fidelity, and instructed Deputy (Viceroy) Sussex to accept in "good part the suit" of his brother Sorley Boy. This "suit" had direct reference to his struggle with the MacQuillins, which was now shaping up for the final act. Only a brief lapse of time prior to this, the English Government was waging an active campaign, politically, to expel the Scots, MacDonnells in particular, who were then getting control of and making settlements in the Route and Clannaboy, the MacQuillin and O'Neill countries.

Edmund Curtis, in his history of Ireland, says that there were at this time about ten thousand Hebridean Scots ready to spread

westward against the MacQuillins, Lords of the Route, and Southward against the O'Neills of Clan-de-boy. These Galloglasses were brave fighters, and war was their business, consequently, it appeared expedient at the time for the English to sanction their move.

Such a common danger had a tendency to bring together two of Ireland's oldest native clans, the MacQuillins and O'Neills, for the purpose of presenting an united front against a common enemy, the MacDonnells, who had now determined to invade Antrim in force.

There are no English State Papers giving the main features of this, as there were in the long struggle between the Mag Uyllens (Mag Uillins, Mac Quillins) and the O'Cahans (O'Kanes), which was brought to a close through the intervention of King Henry VIII. Three different dates, by as many authorities, have been given as the final year of battles between the MacDonnells and the MacQuillins, 1559, 1563, and 1569. The actual events did transpire in the summer season. On this point all of the authorities do agree.

Sodey Boy MacDonnell, who had accepted the active leadership of their clan in the field, spent the spring months of the year in which the final battles were fought, collecting fresh troops in Scotland, with which to invade County Antrim, and the Route. On his return from Scotland the landing was made on the Irish coast the first week of July, at a place called Margietown or Marketon, as the English called it. It is situated at the head of Ballycastle Bay. Following this, his soldiers encamped about the Convent of Bunna-Mairgie, which had been built and kept in repair by the Mac Quillins.

It was there on the 4th of July that Sodey Boy was attacked by the Clan Quillin, which had for its leaders Conway MacQuillin, and young Edward, the son of the Elder Edward, the Chieftain of Dunluce Castle, but too advanced in years to be active. The account referring to the leaders does not appear always clear relative to those who led the forces of the Quillin clan. One account says that Conway was in command, while another source says that young Edward led the clan forces, up until the last two battles, in which the MacQuillins were joined by a branch of the O'Neills. At Ardagh, Conway MacQuillin's tomb is pointed out to tourists, which no doubt gives the facts of his death. Although having toured in Ireland, this writer did not go there.

The O'Neills brought aid to the MacQuillins, after which one of their number took over the Chief command by virtue of his long experience in military affairs. The one referred to here was Shane

O'Dennis O'Neill, who was a much older man than young Edward MacQuillin. In the first battle prior to the coming of the O'Neill reinforcement, the MacQuillin forces were repulsed, and sustained heavy losses. Rory, the youngest of the three brothers, all sons of the old Chieftain Edward of Dunluce, was slain. The remainder of the forces engaged retreated southward up to the Glenshesk, selecting what was believed to be a much stronger position on the eastern bank of the Shesk River, where they were soon assailed by their enemy, the Scots. In this battle, however, the MacDonnells were repulsed, after heavy losses on both sides. Among the slain bodies on the MacQuillin side was found that of Charles, another son of the old Chieftain, and the second brother engaged.

During the lull in the fighting, a new position was chosen for the final battle. Young Edward MacQuillin, with the remnant of his forces, withdrew towards the River Aura, and there he was joined by Shane O'Dennis O'Neill, an experienced General, who was soon given the position of Commander-in-Chief of all the forces of the Irish engaged against the MacDonnell Scots and their allies.

Meanwhile, the MacDonnells, too, had been reinforced, and were determined to wage battle at the first opportunity. They were led into battle by the shrill sounds of four Highland Pipers, and, naturally, presented a colorful front to the

combined forces of the MacQuillin and O'Neill clans. In this the third running battle, the Scots were defeated and sustained heavy losses, among whom were nineteen officers of the line, including two of high rank, together with many enlisted personnel.

Another battle was momentarily expected, and speedy preparation was being made for it. Both MacQuillin and O'Neill, the leaders in the conflict were anxiously expecting further reinforcements, which, had they quickly arrived, would have insured a final victory for the Irish. Such hope, however, faded because of two betrayals in their camp. They were betrayed by a piper named O'Cahan (O'Kane); and through the desertion of the powerful MacAulays, a Sept that dwelt in the Middle Glens. Piper O'Cahan went to the MacDonnells and conveyed important information relative to the strength and positions of the MacQuillin and O'Neill forces. He suggested to the Scots to make attack on the Irish before their reinforcements could arrive. And Hugh Macaulay decided to desert the Irish and take his force over to the aid of the MacDonnells, which virtually insured victory to them.

On the night before the final battle, Sorley Boy MacDonnell,

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the Chief of the Donnell clan, and Commander of all the forces of the Scots, ordered rushes to be strewn on a perilous swamp which put in jeopardy all who undertook to cross it. The officers in charge of the MacQuillin and the O'Neill camp were led to believe that Sorley Boy's road across the swamp was secure, and therefore took the offensive with their cavalry the next morning, before the MacDonnells made a move. They soon discovered that their horses were sinking helplessly in the mire, and their riders immediately became sitting ducks for the infantry of the Scots, who were soon using their arrows and lochaber axes most effectively, consequently, the Irish were soon defeated.

After nearly four centuries, the traditions of the district represent the struggle at the Battle of Aura as fierce, furious and bloody almost beyond description. It ended decisively in favor of the MacDonnell clan, as one could have predicted at the time of the MacAulay Sept's desertion of the Irish in favor of the Scots.

Young Edward MacQuillin, the last remaining son of the Elder Chieftain of Dunluce Castle, was killed, making a total of three sons to go in nine days.

"MacQuillin, MacDonnell have ceased from the fight –

The Shesk at Dun Rainey ran red with their gore,

But in grey Bun-na-Mairgie their ashes unite,

And the Valley resounds with their war-cries no more."

At the close of the struggle between these old clans, climaxed by the Battle of Aura, it was generally accepted that the Mac Uillins (MacQuillins) had been annihilated. And for several generations this was the common belief. It came to light, however, that the clan had some living representatives left. A foot-note in a volume of the Ulster Journal of Archaeology gives the name MacQuilkin, which appears to be the same name as MacQuillin, though changed by one letter only, evidently represents the same family and clan. The constant wars of suppression and extermination called for such alteration for any who might wish to survive. Some were forced to drop any native clan sign, like the prefixes, "Mac" and "O." And still others were forbidden to use their old names in any form.

A search of the old records reveals that there were still left after the Battle of Aura, three members of the old Quillin clan, and according to the same information, Dunluce Castle was not taken over immediately by the MacDonnells. They still had the English in strength to deal with, and the O'Neill power had not been broken.

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The O'Neills, under the leadership of Shane, perhaps the greatest Chieftain the clan ever had, if not the greatest O'Neill

the old Gaelic order ever produced, won a great victory over the MacDonnell Scots at Glen Taisi, in the vicinity of Ballycastle. He there routed them, one account says, killing seven hundred, and took prisoners two of the famous brothers, James and Sorley Boy, plus many others. James later died of his wounds, while Sorley Boy remained a prisoner for over a year. It is a certainty that Sorley Boy MacDonnell was not occupying Dunluce Castle during the time he was Shane O'Neill's prisoner. The date of the battle in which Sorley Boy was made a prisoner was May 2nd, 1565.

In 1568, however, the records definitely show that Chief Edward MacQuillin, formerly lord of the Route and Head of the House of Dunluce had quit that fortress, and was then dwelling at Ballybeg, or Bally-loughbeg, the modern name of the town-land adjoining the ancient Castle of Baile-an-Locha (Bally-laugh) near the present site of the town of Bushmills, where in a saddened state of mind he was meditating upon the wrongs which had been inflicted on the Irish.

Also during this memorable year, it appears from the records that his son or nephew, Rory Oge MacQuillin, although having left only a few members of the clan, distantly related, had joined the Northern League, an organization actively opposed to the intrusion of the English. That the remaining active head of a remnant of the once powerful clan, was now in alliance with the MacDonnells, approaches a miracle, but nevertheless it is a historical fact. Only their old re-appearing enemy, the English, could bring this to pass.

In May 1568, according to the most reliable sources, Lord Justice Fitzwilliams and Marshall Bagenall left Carrickfergus with a large force headed North, with the purpose of preventing a junction of the forces of Turlough Luinech O'Neill (cousin and successor to Shane) and Sorley Boy MacDonnell. But the two leaders had very cleverly eluded the English. When the latter arrived at Marketon, at the head of Ballycastle Bay, no Scots or Irish were to be found. The English expected to make contact and capture some spoils. This failure, however, changed their plans because they lacked subsistence. Owing to this lack, the English were forced to march on to Dunluce, where, in former times, they had found supplies. "On their way they called on old MacQuillin at Ballynbeg, but found his house empty! This fact bespoke a sad change in the circumstances of the aged Chieftain. He now occupied simply a house in the vicinity of one of his minor castles, and even that

domicile contained nothing that could be turned to account by the hungry soldiers."

These facts are given in a letter written by Sir Nicholas Begenall at Carrickfergus, May 3rd. 1568, and addressed to the Lord Justice. On former occasions, when the English stopped at Dunluce Castle, they had always found plenty of provision to supply their soldiers, and now to find nothing was a shock, indeed.

Local tradition affirms that Sorley Boy MacDonnell maneuvered to get possession of Dunluce, because it was not an easy fortress to take, a few guards could then hold it against a whole company, or perhaps a battalion. It was considered by able military men of that period as impregnable. Even as late as 1584-88, even after improved weapons of war had been invented, it was still put in that category by Sir John Perrot, the then Lord Deputy (Viceroy) to the Queen. He regarded the taking of Dunluce as well-nigh impossible. Following are his words relating to the strength of it:

"Myself and the rest of my Company are encamped before Dunluce, the strongest piece of this realme, situated upon a rocke hanging over the sea, divided from the main land by a broad, rocky ditch, natural and not artificial, and having no way to it but by a small necke of the same rocke, which is also cut off very deep."

A poem on Dunluce Castle has been written by Edward Quillinan, a descendant of Edward MacQuillin, the last Chieftain of Dunluce and lord of the Route. Mr. Quillinan was a direct descendant of this Edward, although his name has a somewhat different ending, but carries the same meaning as the prefix form. The "an" ending appears to be only the feminine form, meaning the daughter of, just as the prefix "Mac" means the son of. Mr. Quillinan was an officer in the Third Dragoon Guards, and became well known as a scholar throughout the British Isles, as well as on the Continent during the Nineteenth Century. He was a specialist in Portuguese literature. He was also a contemporary and friend of the pastoral poet, William Wordsworth. His regiment was stationed at Penrith in 1820, in the Lake Country of England. This gave him an opportunity to become well acquainted with Mr. Wordsworth, of whom he became fond,

which no doubt influenced him to later settle at the village of Rydal, chiefly to be near so able a poet and cultured a gentleman. No doubt it was more than the poet's influence which caused him to locate there, for he later married Dorothy Wordsworth, not the celebrated sister who was such an inspiration to her more famous brother, but the daughter who bore the same name.

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The poem "Dunluce Castle" is an imaginative reconstruction, and like all such poems, does not adhere strictly to the historical facts. That the MacQuillins were most surely the occupants of Dunluce for a long period of time is a historic fact. Just as:

"Through many an age by lineal right,

Its blessings and its boast,

MacQuillins were the fostering light

Of Antrim's feudal coast."

But the statement that they waited in their Castle to be butchered at the midnight hour does not accord with the facts of history, which plainly say they met their foe in the open fields of Antrim, as previously stated, and fought them to extremity. History records that there were only three survivors of the MacQuillin clan left, one an old man, another a mere lad, and one in between these extremes, whose surviving of the Battle of Aura, still remains a mystery, to later meet a sadder fate at the hands of the English. And just now the English were complaining that the middle one, named Rory Oge, and "Old MacQuillin," the senior, had become tardy in the payment of certain dues, for which the English officials held them responsible.

It may be difficult for the average reader to understand why an Irish Chieftain should be required to pay an assessment on lands which he and his ancestors had possessed and governed for centuries. The English policy of "Surrender and Regrant," however, demanded many things of the Irish which is not clear to us. It must be borne in mind that the English authorities were attempting to build a whole new culture pattern for Ireland, which had from the beginning the purpose of land confiscation, religious proscription, and name mutilations. Such a policy called for taxes to defray the expenses of administering the same.

In the meantime, some of the Irish Chieftains were cooperating with the English in a half-hearted manner to enforce such regulations, - but not for long.

On the 24th of November, 1567, Turlough Luinech O'Neill, the most powerful leader of that old and famous clan, wrote to the Lord Justice and Council of the English, stating that he had sent messengers to the Earl of Argyle in Scotland for the purpose of urging that Chieftain to attack the Scots of Clan Donnell, "but that Rory Oge MacQuillin had spoiled his messengers."

On the 19th of December of the same year, 1567, Malbie wrote to the Lord Justices, saying that Rory Oge had aided the Scots

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under the guidance of Sorley Boy MacDonnell, in taking possession of Monery and Carey, two districts, including the present Parishes of Ramoan and Culfeightrin.

Marshall Bagenall wrote from Dundalk to the Lord Justices, informing them that Rory Oge MacQuillin had made peace with the Scots, and married the daughter of Turlough Luinech O'Neill. From this information, one readily concludes that Rory Oge had become a member of the Northern League, which was composed of clan members in active opposition to the English.

On the 22nd of January, 1568, Marshall Bagenall wrote again to the Lord Justices, declaring that Sorley Boy MacDonnell had gone into Scotland, leaving his forces in charge of Brian Carrach MacDonnell and Rory Oge MacQuillin, all under the supreme command of Turlough Luinech O'Neill, who was cousin and successor to Shane that had been killed in Alexander MacDonnell's tent at Cushendun, in the summer of 1567. Turlough was not only the Chieftain of the O'Neill Clan, but was the Commander in Chief of the Northern League.

On the 13th of February 1568, Captain Malbie wrote to the Lord Deputy, who was Sir Henri Sidney, the father of Sir Phillip Sidney of literary fame, stating that Rory Oge MacQuillin was one of the "naughtiest boys in this land." Ten days later, Captains Piera and Malbie wrote to the Lord Justices saying that "no rebel leaders were out but Rory Oge MacQuillin." Later, April 16th, 1568, the Lord Justice Fitzwilliam and the Council, "denounced Rory Oge for not having made known his complaint to them, instead of rebelliously withdrawing from his native place to join other insurgent Chiefs west of the Bann." On the first day of May of that same year, Fitzwilliam and Bagenall wrote to Queen Elizabeth from Carrickfergus that Captain Malbie was in the act of bringing into Glenarm 500 head of cattle from the MacQuillins.

Piers and Malbie, in a joint letter to the Queen, written at Carrickfergus, July 7th, 1568, stated that Rory Oge MacQuillin and Alexander Oge MacAllister, cousins, "had been driven clean out of their properties in the Route and Glynnes, and that no less than 40,000 head of cattle had been collected from the rebels in various parts of their territory, and placed at her Majesty's disposal."

Events were now moving rapidly, and conditions in County Antrim were growing increasingly worse for the Irish. In 1573, Queen Elizabeth made a formal agreement with one of her favorites, Sir Walter Devereux, the Earl of Essex, to plant colonies in the Northeast of Ireland. She made him a grant of all the country

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between Coleraine and Belfast, "she to bear half of the expenses and get half of the dividends." Sir Henri Sidney sharply criticized this "mean and shameful bargain," saying that the conquest of Ireland should not be "private subject's enterprise, but at the Queen's purse." The enterprise failed, however, because of strong clan resistance.

It is appropos here, however, to mention two black records against Essex prior to his withdrawal from the Irish project. One was the massacre of the Scots on Rathlin Island, which included women and children. And the other one was the seizure and butchery of guests attending the O'Neill banquet at Belfast.

Rory Oge MacQuillin played a prominent role in the latter event by having formed an alliance with his half brother, Sir Brian MacFelim O'Neill, who gave him an invitation to the banquet. The alliance with O'Neill was for the purpose of implementing plans to hold lands which were his by the law of inheritance, "thinking by this means to get restored to at least a portion of his lands in the Route."

Sir Brian MacFelim O'Neill was in great danger also of losing his own lands at this time. In 1572, Sir Thomas Smith obtained an over-riding grant to some of the best O'Neill lands, through a grant of the Peninsula of Ardes in County Down to the Queen's Secretary, Sir Thomas Smith, whose son was sent over from London with orders to plant a colony there. His attempt at plantation, however, failed because the Clannaboy O'Neills refused to surrender their homes without a struggle, which resulted in the death of the young undertaker Smith.

As one of Sir Brian's faithful friends, Rory Oge MacQuillin was present at the banquet given by O'Neill to the Earl of Essex, whose undercover plan no doubt was to aid young Smith.

One account says that the banquet was held at Belfast, and another one states that it was at Carrickfergus in 1573. Regardless of the place, a terrible massacre took place. Rory Oge MacQuillin, and some thirty-nine others, including Sir Brian MacFelim O'Neill and his wife, were treacherously seized and executed in Dublin in October 1574. This is in accord with the record of the Annals of the Four Masters.

The only crime with which Rory Oge MacQuillin could have been legally charged was rebellion, since he had been in

alliance with Sorley Boy MacDonnell and the O'Neills.

Therefore, "in order to justify their arrest at Belfast, Essex thought it necessary to issue a proclamation, in which murder and

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treachery are charged against Sir Brian MacFelim O'Neill, but nothing more serious than simple rebellion against Rory Oge MacQuillin." This proclamation is enclosed in a dispatch to the Privy Council, London, dated December 24th 1574.

For several years prior to the aforementioned tragedy, Rory Oge MacQuillin, the native claimant to the lands in the Route, had become to all appearances an active foe to the English. He performed several acts which were in direct opposition to the English. He became an active member of the Northern League. He married the daughter of Turlough O'Neill, the Commander in Chief of said League. He aided Sorley Boy MacDonnell in taking possession of Monery and Carey. All of these things were observed by the English and put down against Rory Oge, and no doubt were influential in his seizure at the O'Neill banquet and subsequent execution along with Sir Brian MacFelim O'Neill.

Rory Oge MacQuillin was succeeded in name, if not in power and prestige. There is an account in a volume of the Ulster Journal of Archaeology which states that he had a son bearing his full name, who in the year 1606-08 was granted a tract of land identified as a sub-territory, which means, of course, far less in extent than what his ancestors formerly owned and controlled.

How did the family come to such a status during the latter half of the Sixteenth Century, after having controlled so vast a region, comprising sixteen toughes or territories, and wielded so powerful an influence? Perhaps this can never be fully understood. It can be understood only, if at all, through a correct interpretation of Irish-English relationship as revealed in history. Politics and favoritism played a leading role here, as elsewhere among nations and peoples. It may be that Cosmic law meted out justice in a stern manner to the clan leaders whose ancestors in ancient times conquered by the sword. But did this give the English the right to exploit the Irish on such a vast scale?

The policy of "Surrender and Regrant," however, continued unabated in spite of Queen Elizabeth's ailing health. Sir Arthur Chichester, the English Governor of Upper and Lower Clan-de-boy had done all he could toward the clearing process for the plantations, so much that he was recognized as a maker of the Ulster Plantation Policy.

One of the main features of this policy was the use he made of famine and pestilence to exterminate the masses of the Irish. Following are his own words: Quote,

"I spare neither house, corne, nor creatur - sparing none of what

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quality, age, or sex-soever; besides many burned to death, we kill man, woman, child, horse, beast, and whatsoever we find."

Another account states: "he slew all four-footed animals in thier farm-yards, burned the stacks of grain, and in the spring-time mowed down the growing crops."

All during this period wholesale confiscations were the order of the day. Such as the national and daily routine following the Elizabethan wars in Ulster.

During this time of general suppression and confiscation of Monastic lands and other property, Glenarm and the lands belonging to it, were granted in English legal form by the Queen's letter patent to Alexander MacDonnell. He was not one of the famous war-like brothers, but belonged to another family of the same name. This grant gave him a legal footing in that region. The old MacQuillin manuscript refers to this as having been the first section of all Dalriada to be

given away without the consent, and beyond the control of the MacQuillin Clan.

The MacDonnells made a claim on this land by the marriage of one of the MacDonnell daughters to a member of the Bisset family. To offset this, the MacQuillins claim that the Bissets gained a foothold there through the former's aid, when the latter was hard-pressed to find a place of refuge after fleeing Scotland on account of having been linked with the murder of the Duke of Athol. The MacQuillin Chieftain furnished land to said Bisset on which the Monastery of Glenarm was built, and also sufficient land with which to endow the institution. The assumption is that the property was not to be transferred.

This transaction seemed to give an impetus to the English in Ulster, and especially in County Antrim. Even the Scots became more numerous there as well.

On the 5th of February, 1584, Sorley Boy MacDonnell wrote a letter to Sir John Perrot, the then Lord Deputy of Ireland, setting forth his terms for peace with the English. He stated that he only wanted peaceful possession originally granted by Sussex, and afterwards confirmed by Sidney; that he was willing for the sake of peace to accept the Lower or third part of the Glynnnes, provided he would get the whole of the Route known as MacQuillin's country, including the three great districts between the Bush and Bann rivers, "as an equivalent for giving up the two-thirds of the Glynnnes to his Nephew, Donnell Gorme." For this grant he was willing to pay the same rent as for the former, "which was twenty shillings Irish for each plow land Irish, supplying 20 furnished

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horsemen, and 80 able footmen in her Majesty's service at his own expense, at any time required and at any place throughout the North, from Newry to Lough Foyle."

Whether or not these terms were put into contract form is not clear, or if they ever became effective in Sorley Boy MacDonnell's life time is not certain. Some very good authorities claim that his residence in Ireland was not made permanent until 1586, and even then Dunluce Castle was not occupied for long by him, if at all, because of trouble with the English. His eldest son James, dwelt there until 1601, during which year he died of poison, administered, supposedly, by a spy named Douglas in the pay of the English Government. Sorley Boy dwelt at Dunaneany, a castle which formerly belonged to the MacQuillin clan, and died there in 1590. His ashes repose in Bun-na-mairgie, where so many other MacDonnells were buried.

The English Government Agents were now pressing the Irish landowners to surrender their lands and receive them back, if possible, by regrants from the Crown. They held out on this, however, until the closing days of the Queen's life, and at whose death the whole aspect of the Irish land subject changed. Queen Elizabeth's successor, King James I, the first of the House of Stuarts to become the ruler of England, required all the wisdom at his command to meet the emergency of his office.

The Irish were hesitating to accept him as their king. Therefore, to avoid trouble from this angle, James hastily proclaimed a full pardon and promise of regrant of lands to any Irish subjects who had been at war with the English during the preceding seven years. While he was still only King James VI of Scotland, he had then encouraged the Ulster lords to resist Queen Elizabeth's policies toward them. Indeed, this policy had for its basis a treaty of friendship and peace between the lords and himself, from the very time of his accession to the throne of Scotland.

Later, King James I was accused of duplicity in his dealings with the Ulster lords, a charge which the record sustains. He is also said to have practiced a double-dealing policy toward both friend and foe. Suffice it to say that he was drawing a pension from Queen Elizabeth's Government at the very same time he was urging the Irish landed proprietors to resist her policies. And he later withdrew grants made to the Irish for no good reason at all.

The pardon which he proclaimed to the Irish proved worthless, not even worth the paper on which it was written, and the restoration to their estates was nominal. Political unrest and general

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discontent soon caused him to reverse his policy altogether. This was hastily brought about through the choice of his new Lord Deputy, Sir Arthur Chichester, the well-known champion of the Ulster Plantation Policy.

Matters now had almost reached an impasse. Conditions were in a general state of upheaval. Before her death, Queen Elizabeth had concluded a treaty of peace with the Earls of Tyrone and Tirconnell (an O'Neill and an O'Donnell) confirming them in their positions and possessions, and making a general good impression on other large landed proprietors. This however, did not please the English Officers of the Army, who had expected big returns from these sources by means of confiscations. This left quite a problem for King James to try to find a solution.

The historic account tells us that James long had been anxiously expecting to hear of Queen Elizabeth's death, and of course was preparing himself to succeed her as ruler of England, and Ireland as well. There were some misgivings respecting the latter, hence the importance for him to have some loyal friends among the Irish leaders, who would support him as their sovereign. Chief among these friends was Randal MacDonnell, who later was made Earl of Antrim by James. He was the third son of Sorley Boy.

In addition to the soldiers, in particular the officers who had served in the late Queen's Irish armies, there were many other personal favorites to look after and provide for through princely gifts. The first of these would-be recipients, was Randal MacDonnell. To meet such a crisis, the King's royal advisers suggested the "seizure and dismemberment of Dalriada," now known as the Route, the MacQuillin territory. This territory was overrun to some extent by the MacDonnell clan and their hired followers after the Battle of Aura, but in the process of regrant no title had as yet been conferred on any member of that clan by the English. And therefore, the remnant of the MacQuillin clan still expected to get their lands back by regrant from the English. And chief among these was the Elder Edward who was patiently waiting an opportunity to present his case. He was still living in a modest house near the town of Bushmills. The old Chieftain, Edward McQuillin, no longer possessed the power in military strength to defend against illegal seizure, consequently, the taking of his former estates was now made easy. And, be it known that the MacDonnell clan as a unit was still an enemy of the English Government. Even Randal, the son of Sorley Boy, who had been in rebellion against that Government, had not yet ceased to support the Earl of Tyrone.

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In the Autumn of 1602, however, Randal MacDonnell switched from the rebel ranks to the side of Sir Arthur Chichester, and then immediately offered to serve against the Earl of Tyrone, with 500 foot soldiers and 40 horses at his own expense.

At Tulloughoge, in the vicinity of Dungannon where lived the O'Hagans, justiciars of Tyrone, king-makers to the O'Neills, "Randal MacDonnell was introduced by Chichester to Lord Mountjoy (Charles Blount), the then Lord Deputy, from whom he forthwith received the honour of knighthood. Thus recommended to the forth-coming new king, Sir Randal was among the very first under the new order of things, to experience the sweets of royal favour."

At this point it becomes necessary to bring into focus the status of the remnant of the MacQuillin clan, who, as previously mentioned, were still expecting to come in for their share of the regrants by the English. Roderick MacQuillin, appears to have been regarded as the elected Tanist; that is, the elected heir and successor to the aged Chieftain. And according to the English law of reckoning descent and conferring inheritance, he was the lineal heir of the ancestral estates, notwithstanding the fact that Edward was still living, but at too advanced an age for active leadership. After the execution, however, of Rory Oge MacQuillin by the English at Dublin, the overall picture was changed. According to the Rev. George Hill, the Head Librarian of Queen's College, now Queen's University, Belfast, Ireland:

"The only Chiefs of the family at this time were old Edward and his grandson Rory Oge."

Another record, gives the date of a Richard MacQuillen as born in 1594, and he too, was a grandson of the Elder Edward, and of course was a mere lad at the time of the accession of King James I to the throne of England, in the year 1603.

In the spring of that year James left Scotland, April 5th, for London, arriving there a month later. And he made a plenary grant of the Rout and Glynnnes, the Castle of Olderfleet, and the Island of Raglin or Rathlin, to Randal MacDonnell, a territory extending from Larne to Coleraine, comprising 354,000 acres, according to one account; 334,000 as per another one.

Some writers have left the impression that the Randal MacDonnell who received the lion's share of the MacQuillin estates was a grandson of the old Chieftain Edward but this is not true. Chief Edward had a grandson named Randal MacDonnell, the son of his daughter Eva, or Eleanore, and Colla MacDonnell. The Randal

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MacDonnell, however, who received the handsome grant from King James I, was the son of Elly O'Neill and Sorley Boy MacDonnell. Edward MacQuillin "heard with dismay" the shocking news of his disinheritance by King James I. Instead of receiving news of the division and bestowal of his paternal estates on Randal MacDonnell, he was patiently waiting and earnestly expecting the regrant of his own lands by the English letter patent, in compliance with the King's promises to the Irish land-owners. On the contrary, Edward MacQuillin, and such of his descendants (perhaps half dozen left, three of whom are the sons of Eleanore MacQuillin, and Colla MacDonnell, her husband) as bore the ancestral name, were left without an acre.

Following the plenary grant made to Randal MacDonnell, there still remained a vast residue of the MacQuillin territories which was given to English and Scottish expectants, such as the Chichesters, Skeffingtons, Seymours, Conways and other favorites.

Edward MacQuillin, the Elder Chieftain of Dunluce, now fully realized that no Irish land owner could expect to receive any relief from wrongful seizure in his native land, where the old Brehon laws were no longer in force, and the English laws had not yet become effective. Therefore, he concluded, after much meditation, that the only legal remedy left was to try to get an audience with the King in London. He finally decided to go to the King in person, a risky thing to do. But regardless of the outcome, almost the entire span of his life had been lived, for he was then 102 years old. A journey from Bushmills, Ireland, to London, England in 1605 was an arduous one for a young man, and a super-human one for a man past the century mark. And, furthermore, rare courage was required for such a trip and visit in the English metropolis. Had not other countrymen of his tried similar missions and failed? Many of them had been thrown into the Tower of London, and later executed at Tyburn. But for the sake of others, especially his grandson, Rory Oge, the grandfather resolved to go and see the English ruler, and to plead a "remission of the tyrannical sentence." The record says that Edward MacQuillin saw the King, who was visibly touched by the sincerity and sympathetic appeal of the venerable Chieftain, so much so, that he promised to "furnish Roderick, the grandson, with a handsome estate," which he did, but not until after Edward MacQuillin's death, in the year 1605.

Following this event, in the year 1608, King James I, commissioned Sir Arthur Chichester, his Lord Deputy in Ireland, to inform

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Rory MacQuillin, that Inishowen, a property formerly belonging to Sir Cahir O'Doherty, should be transferred to him.

Crowned Heads of governments have always been generous with gifts so long as they did not come out of the Royal Treasury; and that was true in this case. The above-mentioned transfer was to be made without any semblance of justice as to its origin, or due process of English law relative to its disposition.

But Rory Oge MacQuillin had the integrity to refuse to accept Inishowen, the O'Doherty territory, even after solicitation on the part of the King's officials. His motive for refusal was good from an ethical standpoint, but from an economic viewpoint it represented quite a loss. His reason for declining this handsome gift was sustained on the ground of friendship, certainly one of the realities of life. The record says that Rory Oge MacQuillin refused to accept the offer from Chichester because Sir Cahir O'Doherty was a friend and fellow-sufferer of his, and to obtain possession of the O'Doherty estates was repulsive to his sense of justice and pride of nationality.

Sir Arthur Chichester, noting the deep disappointment of Rory Oge MacQuillin, offered him in exchange the territory known as Clanreaghkurkie, often spelled Clanaghartie, a section of the old Dalriadan lands, formerly belonging to Rory Oge's ancestors. Therefore, the refusal of the latter to accept Inishowen lands, played right into the hands of the artful Chichester, "since he had determined to have Inishowen for himself. He was very desirous to add this extensive and valuable holding to his other pickings, since he had already assigned to himself the lands of Clanaghartie," consequently, an exchange by him was an easy matter.

According to the record, Rory Oge MacQuillin, stated that he would not take 'lands belonging to another man; and, since he was not legally attainted, he still expected to get back his own through regrant from the Crown. This was to be fulfilled only in part, and that temporarily.

Therefore, pursuant to the promise of King James I, to Chief Edward MacQuillin, the grandfather of Rory Oge, there was granted to the grandson, the territory of Clanaghartie, situated in Clannaboy, County Antrim, comprising, as stated in the letter patent, "Twenty-one extensive town lands, with all hereditaments, advowsons, etc., of Churches formerly belonging to any religious houses therein." This grant was made in 1608 to Rory Oge MacQuillin whose wife was Marie O'Neill.

The Clanaghartie estates, situated in the environs of Ballymena,

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granted to the afore-mentioned claimant, was in lieu of the loss of his inheritance disposed of by King James to Randal MacDonnell, and other favorites. This grant, although comprising 60,000 acres, was a small portion of what formerly belonged to his ancestors.

Sir Arthur Chichester takes credit for being a wise and generous giver for granting this territory, or sub-territory of Clanaghartie to Rory Oge, "forgetting to add, however, that it was done in consideration of the latter giving up to him the larger and more valuable property of Inishowen."

Rory Oge MacQuillin did not have long in which to enjoy the ownership of this property. As formerly stated, it was granted to him by letter patent in 1608. Eleven years later, King James I, was induced by some mere pretext to issue another royal letter demanding the surrender of the property of MacQuillin's. Therefore, the Twenty-one townlands were taken back by Sir Arthur Chichester, only to be given to his nephew, Sir Faithful Fortescue.

Even after the passing of more than three centuries, one still wonders how such flagrant wrongs could have flourished under the famous English system of laws, the Anglo-Saxon law which has been the pride and boast of the English-speaking world for several centuries. This same law permitted the granting of almost the whole of County Antrim to Randal MacDonnell, the son of Sorley Boy, who after which, was made Earl of Antrim, and, as Professor Edmund Curtis, of the University of Dublin, says in his History of Ireland, "his vast estates covered the whole of the Glens and the Route, from which the unfortunate MacQuillins were ousted." In view of such injustice, one is bound to admit that the Anglo-Saxon law as applied to the Irish was depraved, dishonest and distressing to the extreme. The men of Erin were regarded as the "King's Irish enemies." This can be understood when first the Pale was established, but in the beginning of the Seventeenth Century, hardly.

Rory Oge MacQuillin, realizing the determination of Sir Arthur Chichester, the English Lord Deputy, to take his property, therefore, decided to accept reluctantly, the mere pittance of pay offered by the officials to salve their consciences in perpetuating such a deed. He well knew that this small sum would be all of the return from the property. It was the lands of his ancestors; they had lived there for several centuries, and it was his intention to pass the English regrant on to his descendants, being their only means of subsistence, but King James' latest letter patent requesting Rory Oge to surrender his last acre back to the Crown only to be

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regranted to their favorite Fortescue, removed from him the last vestige of ownership as well as the opportunity for

helping his own family.

A dozen years prior to this, the Earls of Tyrone and Tirconnell (O'Neill and O'Donnell) had already taken their flight to the continent. They were the strongest leaders of the Irish. And those left behind had no choice but to comply with the requests of the English officials, provided they still wished to live. Life without possessions is still sweet and much desired. It is understood that Rory Oge McQuillin still had the use of the land his lifetime. And even after the withdrawal of the King's grant, it appears that several leading families remained with Rory as tenants.

It also appears from the record that Rory Oge MacQuillin lived seventeen years after the disposal of his Clanaghartie property; or more correctly stated, after King James took it away from him by letter patent in 1619. And if the records have been correctly interpreted, Rory Oge died in 1636.

It is not altogether easy to determine all the descendants of Rory Oge MacQuillin, the last remaining member of the clan to hold land by letter grant from the King of England. There are reasons for this, namely, so many Irish records were destroyed by the representatives of the English Government operating in Ireland; there was an intensive campaign put on by said representatives to obliterate records, documents, and manuscripts of the various clans to destroy every vestige of their history. Fortunately, such efforts were not completely successful.

The Annals of the Irish Kingdom by the Four Masters which has furnished adequate information relative to the different clans, ends at the year 1616, and the period of history which now concerns us is a score of years beyond that. This primary source material has been most helpful in the preparation of this history, for which gratitude is expressed; in fact, the gratitude of posterity will ever be given to those four Franciscan Brothers, who spent their long lives collecting manuscripts and documents of Irish history, plus four intensive years of just copying it in legible form, 1632-1636. And posterity will never forget the endowment made by another great soul who made this work possible.

On July 4th, 1634 Rory Oge MacQuillin executed a legal paper granting the power of attorney to a friend of his by the name of Robert Adare, for the purpose of transacting some important business pertaining to his property respecting rental income. It appears that Sir Robert Adare of Ballymena was one of Rory Oge's tenants

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on some of the land which the latter had retained from the general upheaval of his property. Some documents preserved among the Adare papers at Ballymena Castle, "and kindly supplied by Lord Waveny, serve to show the cordial and confidential relation existing between the fallen native Chieftain, and the prosperous, kindhearted planter." One of the legal papers is in the form of a Bond given by Rory Oge MacQuillin to his friend Robert Adare. The bond is followed by the required acquittance and has three witnesses as follows:

Hugh O'Hara, Jenkin M'Quillin, and Richard Ferdoragh M'Quillin.

Richard MacQuillin, grandson of Edward, settled at Banbridge and subsequent events show that he and his descendants during the 17th century maintained an honorable, if not an aristocratic standing, though bereft of their ancestral estates and commanding position.

A Richard MacQuillin, according to the old records of the period, was living between Belfast and Carrickfergus, and whether or not he and Richard Ferdoragh were the same person, has not yet been determined.

Dubourdiou writing on this subject in his Survey of County Antrim, says: "A lineal descendant of the M'Quillin lives on the Royal Road between Belfast and Carrickfergus, near the Silver Stream, and probably enjoys more happiness as a farmer than his ancestors did as princes."

It is interesting to note that while some of the descendants of the old County Antrim Clan were engaged in the siege of Limerick, two brothers, Theodore and James Ross MacQuillin, were taking leave of their fellow officers in preparation to follow King James II to France when a cannon ball killed Theodore, but James Ross went on to France, together with 20,000 other Irish soldiers of the famous Irish Brigade, where they distinguished themselves for valor. James Ross

MacQuillin had a son Louis, who followed in his father's footsteps and after many years of service in the Irish Brigade, died in France, leaving a considerable fortune in the possession of the Jesuit Order.

The intermittent wars in Ireland tended to further scatter and deplete the already diminishing number of the once powerful forces of the Route and Glynnnes. At the time about which this statement applies there was left in the North, at Lurgan, a few miles south of Loug] Neagh, a representative family of Clan Quillin,

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Ephraim MacQuillin, who married a lady whose name was Hoope, belonging to the well-known Society of Friends, and engaged in the manufacturing of linen.

The record indicates that there were two sons of this Lurgan family; or maybe just descendants further removed, who in 1790, continued to transmit the name; one removed to America, the other one went to the Province of Leinster, and later, one member of it is found residing in County Wexford.

The noted Irish historian, Rooney, states that the prefixes "Mac" and "O" or any distinctly Irish surname was a sure mark for the stroke of persecution and that the contortion of native names was almost universal at this time.

The name of Rory MacQuillin, the last member of the old clan to own large areas of land in County Antrim, appears on two legal papers at Ballamena Castle as "M'Quillin" and "M'Quillane." The name was henceforth generally abbreviated to these forms, then to "Quillin" as was the case with the first member of the family to arrive in the New World, Teague Quillin, in 1635. This form of the name was also used by the Attorney General of the Isle of Man, John Quillin, Esq., whose daughter Elizabeth, married William Pownall, Esq., of Litherland in County of Lancaster (b. Nov. 18, 1754.)

It was Ephraim McQuillin's son, Edward, who recorded the lineage from the beginning of the 16th century to the latter part of the 18th as follows:

Joseph MacQuillin of County Wexford, born 1792, was the son of:

Edward MacQuillin, born 1760, who was the son of:

Ephraim MacQuillin, born 1726, who was the son of:

Richard MacQuillin, born 1670, who was the son of:

Charles MacQuillin, born 1630, who was the son of:

Richard MacQuillin, born 1594, who was the son of:

Roderick Oge MacQuillin, born 1567, who was the son of:

Edward MacQuillin, Jr., born 1535, who was the son of:

Edward MacQuillin, Sr., born 1503, who was either the son or brother of:

Roderick Macquillin, who was the son of:

Walter MacQuillin.

The November 1935 issue of Geographic Magazine, page 601, gave an interesting account of "Dunluce Castle" ancient home of the MacQuillin family in Ireland.

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