

The multilingual origins of medieval Irish surnames

Catherine Swift
Mary Immaculate College
University of Limerick



‘The Formation of Gaelic surnames in Ireland: choosing the eponyms’ by Diarmuid Ó Murchadha, *Nomina* 22 (1999), 25-44

There is an old couplet

*By Mac and O you'll always know true Irishmen they say,
But if they lack both O and Mac, no Irishmen are they*

but this ignores Gaelic adjectival surnames such as *Caomhánach* (Kavanagh), *Déiseach* (Deasy) or *Cinnsealach* (Kinsella).

- *Cléirech* (clerical) is one of the candidates for patronymic behind the earliest Ó name in the annals (Ua Cléirig in 923 > O'Cleary) and this particular family of O'Clearys/Clearys arises in south Co. Galway – why these should be some of the first Europeans to have their personal and family name recorded is unclear.
- Importance is key to identifying choice of ancestor for commemoration in a surname but, paradoxically, the more politically powerful a dynasty, the later a surname is assumed; an example are the descendants of Brian Bórama (Boru) do not start using the surname O'Brien till the era of his great grandsons.
- The names prominent in the annals and genealogies are the aristocrats of early Ireland, It is far harder to identify ancestors of minor importance though they can occasionally be found – see Ó Dreada/Draddy in east Cork who first appear in late thirteenth century and is still current in that region today.
- Some lesser known family names originate with ecclesiastical families in eleventh and twelfth centuries and may have been fashioned to suit the bearer e.g. Ua Mancháin (from *manchán* – young monk) > Monaghan.
- “To summarize my theories on the surname eponyms, some were chosen for reflected glory, others related to occupations and, in the case of a few ecclesiastical families appear to have been specially formed.” (p.40)

Irish surnames through time: T. Ó Canann: Aspects of an Early Irish Surname: "Ua Canannáin"; Studia Hibernica, No. 27 (1993), pp. 113-144

- The first documentation of this family name (in an inflected form) is recorded in the *Chronicum Scotorum* for the year 942 (= 943): *re. h. Canannain, la Ruaidri*.

“Professor Brian Ó Cuiv has questioned whether this occurrence of the name-form represents an ephemeral patronymic rather than a hereditary family name. However, correlating the relevant annals and genealogies, our primary sources for the study of medieval Irish society, enables us to identify the correct typology of this *ua* name form. If the individual named in the annals is the grandson of the family's eponymous ancestor, then a patronym is indicated; on the other hand, if the named individual is the great-grandson (or further degree of kinship), then *ua* loses its literal meaning of 'grand son' and a hereditary surname is indicated.”

“the pedigree of Ruaidri Ua Canannain is preserved in a number of genealogical manuscripts, the earliest being NLI MS G 2 (the 'O Cianain Miscellany'), written about 1344:7[this] pedigree clearly establishes the relationship of great-grandson. Therefore, by correlating the entry from the *Chronicum Scotorum* with Ruaidri's pedigree in NLI MS G 2, we have unequivocal evidence of the use of Ua Canannain as a surname as early as 943.”

“Over a century ago, Professor W. K. Sullivan remarked that medieval Irish 'orthography has never been fixed, so that there is often considerable difference in the spelling of the same name in different manuscripts even of the same age.”

“the Book of Fenagh (written between 1258 and 1281 with a strong Tír Conaill influence) gives the form Clann Chanann in reference to the Ó Canannáin dynasty. A poem preserved in NLI MS G 3, fol. 46 (written c. 1344) makes reference to a fourteenth-century poet from this Cenél Conaill family surnamed *Ó Canand* and his celebrated metrical glossary bearing the title *Forus Focal Í Chanand*. In the fifteenth century, another learned member of the same family gives his name as *Somhairle Séimh Ó Canann*”

“The surname Ó Canannáin, Ó Canann was anglicised in one of two ways, either by phonetic rendering or by assimilation to an existing English surname...Three significant changes in the anglicised form of this Donegal surname occurred towards the very end of the eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth centuries as evidenced by the flax grower's premium list (1796), the petition for union (1799), the Tithe Applotment Books (1824-38), and Griffith's Primary Valuation (1857-58)...”

The second major change in the anglicised form of the surname was the standardisation of a single form, Cannon, by assimilation to the English surname Cannon...The third change which occurred in the nineteenth century was the adoption of another surname, Canning..

In addition to names formed from *Ua*, Canann is also present as an element in two Mac-type surnames, i.e. Mac Canann, a well known Oriel name and Mag Canann, a family attested in West Clare... This name is anglicised Gannon.

Freya Verstraten, 'Naming practices among the Irish secular nobility in the high middle ages', *Journal of Medieval History*, 32.1 (2006), 43-53

“With the introduction of surnames, an individual’s name usually consisted of two or three components: the surname, the first or baptismal name, and often a nickname. Nicknames were used throughout the middle ages and were regularly taken from the place or area where the person in question was reared. For example, Donnchadh Cairbreach Ua Briain was so named for being fostered in Carbury. Other possible derivatives included physical attributes or character traits. Cathal Croibhdhearg Ua Conchobhair, or Cathal ‘Redhand’ for instance, was called thus because he had a large crimson birthmark on his left hand, while Aodh Reamhar Ua Néill, or Aodh the Fat, had a self-explanatory appellation, although nicknames were sometimes ironic. These epithets were often indispensable, as many first names occurred in families on so regular a basis that it could be difficult to distinguish one Aodh from the other were it not for nicknames.”

“..different layers of society displayed different patterns. For instance, while I hope to show that Irish nobles on many an occasion received a name in imitation of a foreign neighbour, this is probably not true for members of the learned class such as lawyers and historians, who were named after their patron(that is, the nobility) and not (directly) after colonists. With regard to non-secular members of Irish society, it is often impossible to discover the individual’s original name, as baptismal names were frequently changed on entering into the service of the church .Earlier colonists, the Norsemen, had made use of Irish names for their own children when they settled in Ireland. Similarly, the Irish had borrowed names from the Norse as well. But the Anglo-Normans when they arrived in Ireland did not make use of Irish names for their offspring. In the later middle ages Irish forms of Anglo-Norman names among the descendants of the invaders were relatively common and intermarriages and alliances between the Irish and the colonists had their effect on the naming of children. However, Irish names for children with an Anglo-Norman father and therefore an Anglo-Norman surname were very rare. This is in contrast with the situation in Scotland, where immigrant families did use Gaelic personal names. The late Brian Ó Cuív thought the fact that the descendants of Anglo-Norman settlers so rarely took Gaelic names ‘remarkable’, and one could perhaps argue, but this is well beyond the scope of this article, that this is to be placed in a context of social exclusion.”

Historical explanations offered by DNA publicists can occasionally be romantic rather than statistical (or even historical?) : the 2011 case of the Scottish comedian, Fred Macaulay in *The British: a genetic journey* .

IN 2011 researchers found Fred Macaulay not Norse as assumed (Mac Aulaidh = son of Olaf) – when his results were analysed, he had R1b Eoganacht the genetic signal of a royal family who ruled the province of Munster in the ninth and tenth centuries. The slave market in Dublin would have put high price on a royal slave.

“Once he was put up for sale, Fred’s ancestor was almost certainly bought by a Viking lord from the Hebrides who was probably called Olaf or was from the household of Olaf. He then sailed back north with his new and prestigious acquisition. At some point the Irish slave had sex with a Macaulay woman and his DNA marker, Rib Eoganacht was insinuated into their lineage that way. It is the most plausible explanation and it appears to fit the facts. Fred Macaulay was delighted.” (Moffat 2013, 210)

Amlaoibh (Irish version of Scottish Aulaidh) < Norse *Ólafr* as ancestral name amongst Irish families

- Of the most numerous personal names in Mac Fhirbisigh's 17th C *Great Book of Irish genealogies*, Amlaoibh is 61st most common with 74 examples (Ó Muraíle 2004 iv, 46)

Location of ***Meic Amhlaoibh*** as given by Giolla na Naomh ÓhUidhrín (who died in AD 1420):

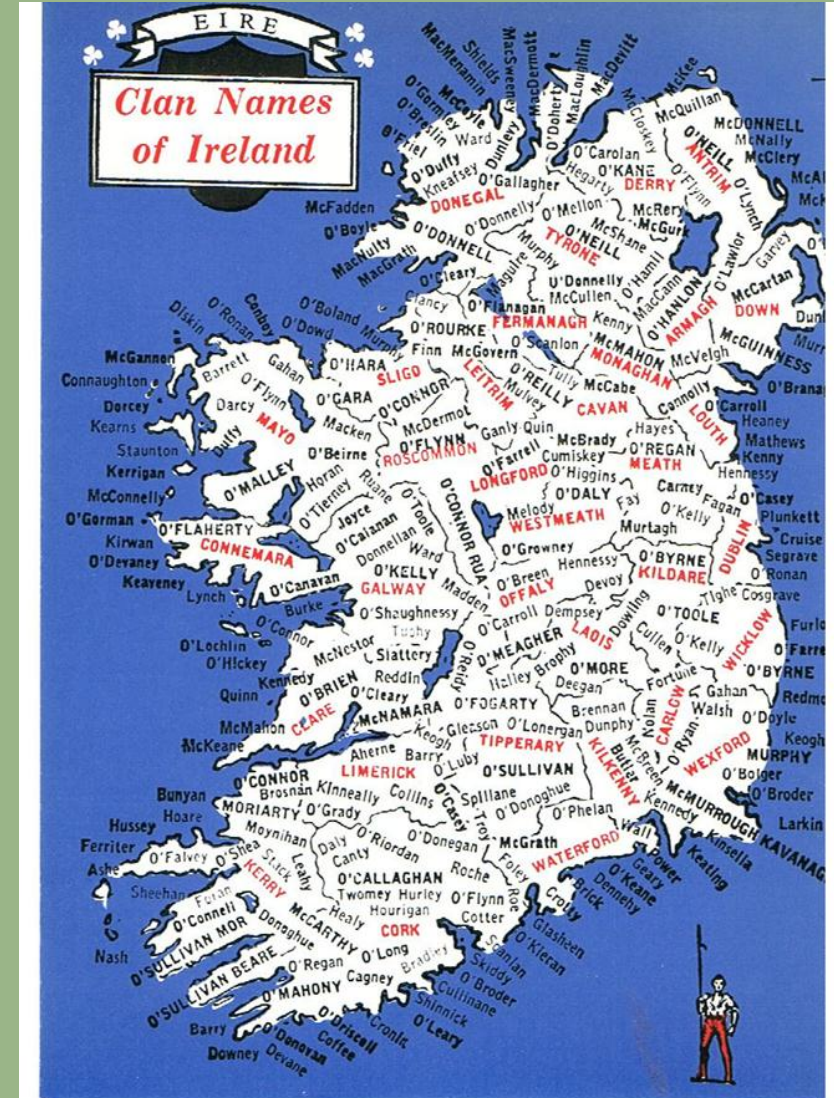
“Far from generous Abhainn Ealla, westwards over smooth-wattled Gleann Salcháin, is a bright fair-clustered land without concealment, the land of the noble **Meic Amhlaoibh.**”

Gleann Salcháin lies in barony of Duhallow, **Co. Cork** in the ancestral territory of Eoganachta and **MacAuliffe** (alternative Anglicisation to Macaulay) is a common name in north Cork.



According to postcards sold in Dublin "Ireland was the first country in Europe to adopt hereditary surnames."

Point 1: Surname usage apparently begins as dynastic phenomenon in Ireland in the tenth century but surname formation is quickly influenced by immigrant groups such as Norse, French-speaking Norman, Welsh and English-language settlers



Limerick city names 1200-1250 using data set provided
by Brian Hodkinson:

<http://www.limerickcity.ie/media/Who%20was%20who%20in%20medieval%20Limerick.pdf>

Limerick royal (Angevin) officials

Godeberto **de** Rupe – constable of castle

Gallard **de** Solariis – pays farm of Limerick to exchequer

Peter **de** Rivall – custody of castle and city

Reginald **de** St Jacob – seneschal of Limerick

Philip **de** Hynterberyn – to deliver castle

Richard **de** la Lowe – bailiff of Limerick

Hugh **de** Barry – sheriff of Limerick

Walter **de** Appetot – sejeant of Limerick

Radolfo **de** Balyganeran – constable of castle

Walter **de** Adare – *prepositus* of Limerick



Names of high-ranking Limerick cathedral officials in our records 1200 – 1250

Bishop Geoffrey 1207

Bishop Edmund c. 1215-22 (canon of Holy Trinity Aldgate)

Bishop Hubert **de** Burgh 1223-50

P. Pre 1207, dean of (choir?) Limerick

J. dean of Limerick 1217-22

W. dean of Limerick 1222-?

T, master. , dean of Limerick.c. 1240

Thomas **de** Woodford, dean of Limerick 1249-78

M. archdeacon of Limerick pre 1207

Nicholas de Bretteville – archdeacon of Emly gives income from tenements in Limerick city to Hospital 1240

H. Master, treasurer of Limerick 1222-?

M.T. treasurer of Limerick c1225-30

William de Cardiff, treasurer of cathedral of St Marys – 1225

R., treasurer of Limerick c. 1222-50

Roger. C1230-40, sub treasurer of Limerick c. 1230-40

Guy, Chancellor of Limerick c. 1222-50

P., master. chancellor of Limerick c. 1222-50

M. precentor of Limerick, c. 1222-50

Limerick priests, chaplains and canons in our records AD 1200-1250

John, 1224, priest of Limerick. intruded into see of Ardfert

Paul chaplain receiving portion of church pre 1207

David the chaplain. 1222-50

T.,chaplain, 1222-50

W., chaplain, canon of Limerick, 1222-50

W.T., Master, chaplain, 1222-50

Malachi, rector of Ardpatrick. canon of Limerick, c. 1215-22

R. 1222-50, canon and clerk

W.R. Master. 1222-50, canon of Limerick

Thomas de Cardiff canon of Limerick holding Askeaton, 1222-50

Thomas Neyrun C1240-60 canon of Limerick c. 1240-60

Richard Lyst canon of Limerick c. 1249-72

Macreanachain, T. canon of Limerick, pre 1207 (= ? Ua Rebacháin?)

Oconyng, M. canon of Limerick, pre 1207 (= Ua Conaing)

Olonnergan, Doncuan. canon of Limerick, pre 1207 (= Uí Longargáin)

Omali D. canon of Limerick pre 1207 (= Ua Máille?)

Omelinum, M. cantor of Limerick (= ? Ua Maíl Fhinn?)

Limerick professions in our records, 1200-1250

John Cambitor (money-changer = Cammer),
citizen of Limerick 1200-1240

Roger Parmenter, (tailor = Taylor), 1224

Radulph Carpenter holds tenement in Limerick
1230-40

William **le** Parmeter, property owner in city, c.
1230-40

Hugh Piscator (Fisher) tenement holder in city c.
1220

Adam Molindarii (of the mill= Miller/Millar)
former tenant of Nicholas de Bretteville c. 1240

Henry Scissoris (cutter, shearer =
Shearin/Shearing), householder in Limerick c.
1240

David Molindario (at the mill = Miller), tenant of
Nicholas de Bretteville c. 1240

Siward Minetor (coin-maker = Minter/Miniter)
named as a citizen of Limerick c. 1216

Wace – moneyer on coins

William (Willem) - moneyer on coins

Donald **le** Palmer (pilgrim = Palmer) c. 1200

Limerick householders, tenants and citizens in our records, 1200-1250

Syward, provost of Limerick, 1200-01

Philip Wallense, tenant of Nicholas de Bretteville, c. 1240
Godefridus **de** Colonia, tenant of Nicholas de Bretteville . C. 1240

Simon Herward,/Hereford mayor of Limerick c. 1230-40

Reginald **de** Limerick. 1199, holds houses held in Limerick

Maurice Blund (= Blount) *prepositus* of Limerick 1230—40

* Sibille. Rys 1230-40, tenement holder in Limerick

Hugh Rycolf. 1230-40, one of bailiffs of Limerick c. 1230-40

Walter Brun (=Brown/Browne) property owner in Limerick 1268

David Long, citizen of Limerick receives property in city from Monasternenagh Abbey c. 1230-40

Philip Maleden. charter granting 12d a year to cathedral out of property in Limerick, c. 1220

Archibald le Minor, tenant of Nicholas de Bretteville c. 1240

Roger Map/Mey (=May/Mee), citizen of Limerick 1216

Robert, le Minor, tenant of Nicholas de Bretteville c. 1240

Thomas Peytenin., tenement holder in Limerick c. 1230-40

Lord William Edecus. C 1220, house owner in Limerick, c. 1220

Robert Albus (=White/Finn), citizen of Limerick 1216

Richard **de** Cassel (Cashel) tenant of burgage of Radulf le Bret in Limerick c. 1200

G. Ruffus (=Ruddy/Roe), official of Limerick 1224

Galfrid **de**. Ory gives homage for lands in city of Limerick 1220-40

Rys Wallensis (senior) = Walsh/Breatnach, former tenement holder in Limerick, 1230-40

*Alice **de** Hanketoun, former tenement holder in city c. 1240

Laurence **de** Kachepoll. C 1240, tenant of Nicholas de Bretteville c 1240

Point 2: Naming formulae in the early thirteenth century at the ex-Viking port-town and Angevin stronghold of Limerick

- Nobles involved with the royal Angevin castle had names marked by *de* and indicating origins both in England and elsewhere – including Spain?
- Lower ranks involved with the castle had names marked by *de* and indicating origins in Ireland
- Leading churchmen had single names at the beginning of the thirteenth century but began using the *de* formula towards 1250 as members of more prestigious Norman families took church office within Limerick diocese.
- Lower ranks of clergy normally just used single names although Irish-language clerics had both personal names and name of local dynasty (two were sub-branches of O'Briens, a third from Clare – one from Galway?)
- Townspeople could have an adjective marking hair colour or ethnic origins, a description of profession or of age. Women would bear their husband's name.
- There is some evidence for hierarchical naming formulae – owners of multiple houses tended to use *de* whereas owners of single houses or tenements used “craftsman” type surnames.
- Only one clear example of a Norse language official (without a surname) though an inquisition of c. 1200-1204 indicates strong Ostmen presence in the city.

East coast Irish towns: The Old French poem on the walling of New Ross AD 1265



To their council one day they went
And the whole commons assembled.
They made a resolution thus
That a wall of stone and mortar
They would build round the town

And when they had the wall marked,
They summoned labourers directly
A hundred or more each day
Go and work there in fine style.
The townsfolk went around the fosse
But the hired men got little done.



A leading citizen stood up
And outlined the plan to them:
On Monday to begin with
The vintners would go to the fosse
Mercers, merchants and drapers
Along with the vintners.

From daybreak till the stroke of three
They were to work at the fosse
And so they do quite readily
They go to work there with good men;
A thousand and more I tell you truly
Go to work there every Monday
With fine banners and insignia
And flutes and tabors.
And as soon as it strikes three
The citizens return home and their
banners go ahead of them.



The young folk singing loudly
Carolling up and down the town
Joyfully go to labour.
And the priests when they have sung mass
Go to work at the fosse
And apply themselves energetically,
More so than other people
For they are young and eager,
Big and strong, ready for the task.
The seamen, when they are at home
In fine manner go to the fosse;
Their banner goes before them,
A ship painted in the middle.
And after the banner follow
Six hundred or more fine men.
And if they were all at home,
Every vessel and boat
There would be more than eleven hundred
Good men, you may well believe.



On Tuesday then following
Go tailors and robe-trimmers
Dyers, fullers and saddlers
Good men they are at their trades.
They go to work there, as I have said
But they are not so numerous
Even so, they make up a good four hundred
Fine men, believe me.

On Wednesday then following
Goes another group of people:
Leather-workers, tanners, butchers
There are many young men among them.
Their banners are painted
As befits their trade.
There are three hundred of them I would say

On Thursday go the bakers
And the small traders all
That sell corn and fish;
Their flags are varied.
Taking part that day are a good
Four hundred in grand array



The porters go on a Friday
There are a good three hundred and fifty.
Their banners are in front standing
At the edge of the fosse.
The carpenters go on Saturday
And smiths and masons also.
These are fine people, I can tell you
There are a good three hundred and fifty of them.



On Sundays the ladies go
And in truth they do good work.
I cannot say for sure how many there were
No-one could possibly count them.
They all go to heave the stone
And carry it out of the fosse.
Had you been there to witness
You would have seen
Many a lovely lady
Many a mantle of scarlet
Green and dark brown,
Many a good well-smocked gown
Many a fair-skinned rosy wife
Never in any land where I have been
Did I see so many fine ladies in a fosse....



Dublin and Wexford: professions of the medieval Irish towns

New Ross

vineters, mercers, marchans, drapers, mariners; taillurs, parmenters, tenturers, fulrurs, celers; cordiwaners, tannors, macecrers; pesturs, regratur, waynpayns; parturs; carpenters, fevers, masuns

Overlap with Dublin City roll of 1200

Vineter, mercer, mercator, draper, piscator, taillurs, parmentarius, tinctor, fullo, seler, cordauaner, tannator, macerer, pistor, chareter, carpentarius, faber,

Also in Dublin city roll:

bindre, furber, lorimer, gaimer, saumer, pelliparius, molendinarius, clater, telarius, pentr, cirotecarius, poluerius, mareschal, scutarius, carbus, archer, gardiner and aurifaber

Bakers of Dublin: *pistor*

- Walterus pistor
- **Toki** pistor
- Nicholaus Pistor
- Simon Pistor de Oxonia - **Oxford**
- Geruasius pistor
- Walterus pistur
- *Edric* pistor
- Willielmus frater Ricardi pistoris
- Gillafinean pistor
- Rogerus filius Willielmi pistoris
- Rogerus pistor de Trum - **Trim**
- Reginaldus pistor
- Gillibertus pestor
- Willielmus le pestur de Wiricestra - **Worcester**



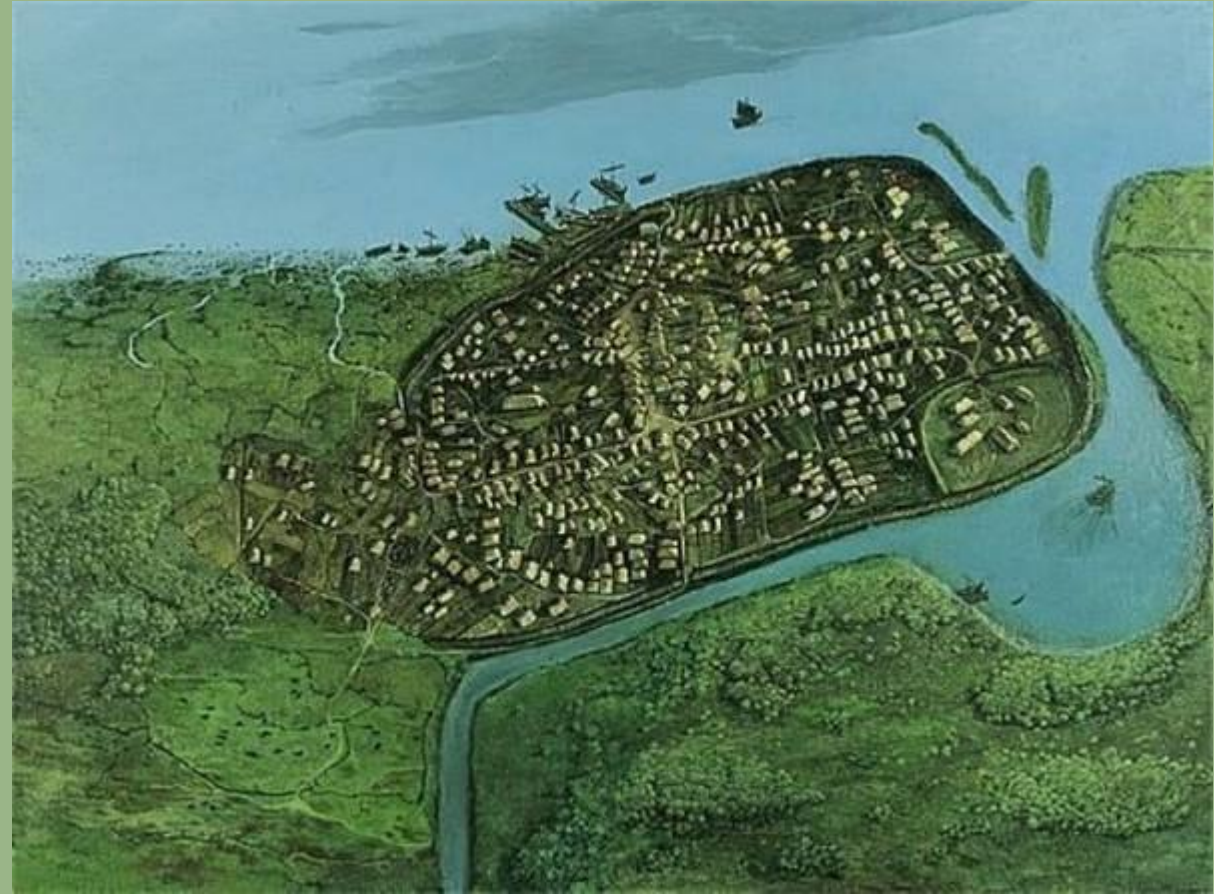
Mercers of Dublin c. 1200: merchants in cloth

- Ricardus le mercer –
- Walterus mercer del Nas (Naas)
- Ailwardus mercer
- Robertus le mercer
- Robertus mercer niger
- Dauit mercer de Cardif
- Willielmus mercer de Okinton - Oakington, Cambridgeshire
- Walterus mercer de Couintro = Coventry
- Adam frater Alewi le mercer
- Iohannes mercer de Bristollo= Bristol
- Iohannes albus mercer
- Salomon frater Rogeri merceri
- Willielmus mercer de Weseford =Wexford
- Turstinus draper cloth seller
-
- Osbertus Mercator - merchant
- Gillibertus Mercator de Wintonia =Winchester
- Henricus Mercator
- Ricardus Mercator
- Gillebertus Mercator
- Radulfus Mercator



Point 3: We can see development of professional and craftsmen surnames in Viking port towns which become Angevin bases in multilingual contexts certainly from the beginning of the thirteenth century throughout Ireland.

NB! Limerick records are official documentation of colony and NOT a citizen roll (such as Dublin has) – the fact that we are missing bakers and other craftsmen in Limerick is probably due to nature of the surviving records. There is a remarkable lack of masons though given the construction of the castle in this period.



Thomas Smyth, Dublin apothecary, in 1561 on *seanchaidh* who keep pedigrees

- Their is in Irland four shepts in maner all Rimers.... The seconde sorte is the Shankee (*seanchaidh*), which is to saye in English, the petigrer. They have also great plaintye of cattell, wherewithall they do sucker the rebells. They make the ignoraunt men of the country to belyve that they be discended of Alexander the Great or of Darius or of Caesar, or of some other notable prince, which makes the ignorant people to run madde and cerieth not what they do; the which is very hurtfull to the realme.

H.F. Hore, 'Irish bardism in 1561', *UJA* 6 1858:166

Sir John Davies 1607 (re Fermanagh)

“We called unto us the inhabitants of every barony severally..and so, ..we had present certain of the clerks or scholars of the country who knew all the septs and families and their branches and the dignity of one sept above another and what families or persons were chiefs of every sept and who were next and who were of third rank and so forth, till they descended to the most inferior man in all the barony; moreover they took upon them to tell what quantity of land every man ought to have by the custom of their country”

J. Davies, ‘A letter from Sir John Davis [sic] to the Earl of Salisbury’,
Collectanea de Rebus Hibernicis 1 (1774), 130-74.

An Leabhar Muimneach – comments by Eugene O'Curry in *Lectures on the Manuscript Materials of Ancient Irish history* (Dublin 1861, 237-8)

- “The *Book of Munster* is an independent compilation but of uncertain date as we happen to have no ancient copy of it but as its leading points are to be found in the Books of Leinster (12th C), Ballymote (14th C) and Lecan (15th C), we may believe they must have taken their abstracts from this ancient book in its original form. There are two copies of it on paper in the Royal Irish Academy, both made at the beginning of the last (i.e. 18th C) but neither of them giving us any account of the originals from which they were transcribed.
- The book (as is usual in all the very ancient compilations of this kind) begins with a record of the creation (taken, of course, from the Book of Genesis) and this merely for the purpose of carrying down the pedigrees of the sons of Noah and particularly of Japhet, from whom the Milesians of Erin descend.
- The history of the Eberians [e.g. Clann Ebeir] or southern branch of the Milesian line is then carried down from *Eber* to Brian Boróimhe [Brian Boru] and the time of the battle of Clontarf [AD 1014].

Tadhg Ó Donnchadha – editor of *An Leabhar Muimhneach*

- Published Manuscripts Commission of Ireland in Dublin 1940

The text is identified in manuscript 23 N 30 as *an Seanchadha Muimhneach* = “Munster traditions” but named *An Leabhar Muimhneach* by O’Curry.

The manuscripts discussed by O’Curry are 23 E 26 written in 1717 and 23 Q 4 which have notes in his hand but Ó Donnchadha lists 13 manuscripts in which extracts of greater or lesser length are made of the compilation although only the two mentioned by O’Curry have the full text. The list of manuscripts indicates the text was popular in Cork circles in the early 18th C –no manuscripts cited are said to have come from Clare.

The text is, in Ó Donnchadha’s opinion, made up of two original tracts e.g

- **From beginning of world to Mathgamain mac Cinnéide (Brian Boru’s brother) = “*Seanchas Dáil gCais.*”**
- Tract beginning with Eoghan Mór mac Oilola Óluim = “*Seanchas na hEoghanacht*”

The compilation uses the medieval tradition that the Dál Cais and the Eoghanachta link at the figure of Ailill Óluim – whose sons are said to include Eoghan Mór and Cormac Cas. This tradition is embedded in *Cogadh Gaedhel re Gallaib* written c. 1100 as well as in genealogies whose date is less clear-cut.

- Who put these two texts together to form *An Leabhar Muimhneach*? Richard Tiber the scribe of 23 E 26 suggests that it is put together by Domnall Uí Dhuinnín and Tadhg mac Dáire mac Bruaideadha.
- Muintir Dhuinnín were the *ollamhain* patronised by the Meic Carthaigh
- Clann Bhruaideadha were *ollamhain* patronised by the Dál Cais.
- Luke McInerney “Lettermoylan of Clann Bhruaideadha” *North Munster Antiquarian Journal* 52 (2012), esp 93-9; **Tadhg mac Dáire Mhic Bhruaideadha** was apparently writing poems to the sons of the Earl of Clanrickard (who died in 1582) and was famously involved in *Iomharbhágh na bhfileadh - Contention of the Bards* c. 1616 . He may have been born as early as c. 1550 and had died by 1626. He owned five quarters of land rent free in Ibrickan and his principal residence was at Knockanalban (he also had access to lands around Ennis) and his sister Finola (married to Mac Fhlannchadha, master at Ennis) fostered the O'Brien Earl of Thomond. His own wife was Áine, daughter of Tadhg Mac Mathghamhna.

The twelve sons of Cas – the 12th C version of Cas's descendants published by M.A. O'Brien

- Blat from whom are the Uí Blait.
- Casséne from whom are the Uí Cassín
- Lugaid from whom are the Uí Mael-Baetáin
- Sétna from whom (St) Munchin and the girls who are in Cell na nIngen
- Óengus Snake-head from whom are the kindred of Fermac and the kindred of Báéth and the kindred of Collachtach and the kindred of Failbe
- Óengus Gorze-head from whom are the family of Iffernan and Nechtan and Ingen Báeth and the daughters of Gunnu son of Ailill
- Cormac –extinguished
- **Cairthenn from whom are the Dál Cais *Leithet Lachtmaige* (Leadmore, parish of Kilrush?)**
- Cainnech from whom is Bishop Meic Laisse only
- Áed from whom are the Uí Áeda
- Nóe from whom is Bec mac Dé
- Loiscenn – extinguished

Twelve sons of Cas – Tadhg mac Dáire Mhic Bhruaideadha's 17th C account of Cas' descendants

- From Aonghus Cennathrach come the Ó Deaghaidh, Cenél Fearmaic, Cenél mBaoi, Cenél Cuallachtaigh.
- From Aonghus Cennaitinn come the Muinnter Ifernáin and the Muinnter Nechtain.
- From Aodh son of Cas comes the Muinnter Aodha.
- From Dealbhaoth son of Cas comes the Muinnter Cochláin.
- From Lughaidh son of Cas come Muinnter Dobharchon, Muinnter Caonraoi, Muinnter Cearnaigh, Muinnter Aonghusa and Muinnter Dubthaigh.

Twelve sons of Cas – 17th C version (with anglicised surnames)

- From Aonghus Cennnathrach come the **O'Deas** , Cenél Fearmaic, Cenél mBaoi, **Golden/Goulding???**
- From Aonghus Cennaitinn come the **Heffernans** and the **Naughtons**
- From Aodh son of Cas comes the **Hayes, O'Heas**
- From Dealbhaoth son of Cas comes the **Coughlans**
- From Lughaidh son of Cas come **Maccotters ?**, **Conroys**, **Kearney/Carney**, **Hennesseys/Henchys** and **O'Duffy/Duhig** .

NB! Note that these Dál Cais ancestors are said to belong to last years of Roman Britain and the era of St Patrick – the claim that 17th C families originate that far back cannot be proven in our documentary records.

O'Dea, Bishop Cornelius see Limerick.

O'Dea, Cornelius. 1427, vicar of of Kilmoylan, standing first fruits for Gilbert Yleayn (A 11). 1428 bull for as vicar of Kilmoylan (A 18).

O'Dea, Cornelius. C1483, husband of Margaret FitzGibbon (W1, 70).

O'Dea, Cornelius (Ydeayd). 1460 seeks to have the rectorial tithes belonging to Keynsham within parishes of Ballingarry and Askeaton (CPR12, p. 101).

O'Dea, Denis (Odeaigh, Donald). 1421, precentor of L & elect of Ossory (CPR 7. pp 160, 175, 190). 1421, first fruits of precentorship (A 2). 1424, as bishop (CPR 7, pp 357 & 434). 1427, sucessor elected on death of Denis (CPR 7, p. 493). 1439, mentioned as ex chancellor CPR 9, pp. 54-5). 1451, named as a deceased former chancellor (CPR 10, p. 522).

O'Dea, Dermot (Oday). 1306, deforced Walter Maunsell in Oconnell (CJR2, p. 208).

O'Dea, Donal. Late 15th, paid for part of Franciscans in Adare (W1, 70).

O'Dea, Loghlin. 1306, deforced Walter Maunsell in Oconnell (CJR2, p. 208).

O'Dea, Robert. (Oday). 1306, deforced Walter Maunsell in Oconnell (CJR2, p. 208).

O'Dea, Rory. Late 15th, paid for part of Franciscans in Adare (W1, 70).

O'Dea, Rory Keth (Oday). 1306, deforced Walter Maunsell in Oconnell (CJR2, p.208).

O'Dea, Rory Oglassagh (Oday). 1306, deforced Walter Maunsell in Oconnell (CJR2, p. 208).

***O'Dea, Sabina.** Late 15th, paid for part of Franciscans in Adare (W1, 70).

O'Dea, Thomas don (Oday). 1306, deforced Walter Maunsell in Oconnell (CJR2, p.208).

O'Dea, Thomas fyn (Oday). 1306, deforced Walter Maunsell in Oconnell (CJR2, p.208).

O Deghe, Dermot. 1425, owed money in will of John Arthur (AM p.11).

O Dea, Connor. 1652, Mentioned in depositions (DEP 331)

O Dea, Cornelius. Bishop of Limerick (WEBB, 415)

O Dea, Dermot. 1586, tenant of Earl (DP, 601).

17th C – families who are said by Tadhg mac Dáire to derive from ultimate ancestors of Dál Cais (sons and grandsons of Cas)

- Sons of Carthainn Finn son of Blod
- True brothers of that Blód are Caisín from whom come the Síl Aedha that is the Clann Mhic Con Mara – MACNAMARAS and it is from those noble men come the Síl gClannchadha - CLANCYS.
- A son of that same Blód is Breanainn Bán from whom come the Muinnter Urthaile - HURLEYS,
the Muinnter MhaolDomnaigh = MULDOWNEYS/MOLONEYS
the Muinnter Ghráda = O'GRADYS
and the Clann Chaisín = CASHINS/KISSANES

17TH C – FAMILIES DESCENDED FROM (slightly!) MORE RECENT MEMBERS OF DÁL CAIS

- Sons of Aed Caoimh son of Conall son of Eochaid Ballderg [son of Cairthenn Find son of Blod son of Cas] – a true brother of Eochaidh Ballderg is Fergal from whom come the Muinnter Íceadha - HICKEYS.
- Another true brother of that Eochaidh Baldearg is Aonghus from whom are the following divisions –
- Muinnter Loingsigh = LYNCH
- Muinnter Uaithnidhe = GREENE
- Muinnter Bhreachtgha
- Muinnter Sheasnáin = SEXTON
- Muinnter Riada = REIDY
- Muinnter Shamradh = SOMERS
- and Muinnter Chormacán = CORMICAN

Methodology used here is to check suggestions about Anglicised forms of Irish surnames against Hodkinson's lists of Limerick names from English and Latin documentation .

17th C *Leabhar Muimneach* also gives Dál Cais/O'Brien origins for other local families with English names

- Another son of that Toirdelbach [ancestor of Brian Boru five generations previously] is Ailgeinén from whom come the Ó Meara. And the son of Ailgeinén is Eochaidh from whom is Arthur from when come the Arthurs – that is Arthur son of Braoin son of Cearbhaill son of Sgannlán son of Eochaid son of Ailgeinén.

There are extensive records of the Arthurs as a great merchant family of Limerick city who frequently appear among the lists of medieval mayors. Local folklore identifies them as being of Norse extraction although there is no documentary proof of this.

Arthur, Alice. See Vele

Arthur, Christopher. 1524-25, taking case in Galway (CPCR, Henry 8 p. 169).

***Arthur, Elicia.** 1501, mentioned in indenture (SA, 115).

***Arthur, Elena.** 1541, tenant of St Peter’s Cell at dissolution (EIMP, p. 209).

Arthur, Eustace. 1481 canon of L mandate to (CPR 13, p. 793). 1476, missing bull for provision of canonry to (CPR 13, p. 895).1487 first fruits for canonry; St Mary’s Ho (A 101). 1487, sometime prior of St Mary’s House, holding prebend of St Munchin (CPR 14, 199). 1488, canon of, papal mandate to (CPR 14, 309). 1489, canon of L, mandate to (CPR 15, 396). Undated mention (CPR 15, 1210). 1494, canon of , mandate to (CPR 16, 322). 1496 mentioned in retelling of events at St Mary’s House (CPR 16, 695). 1496, gets vicarage to unite with canonry (CPR 16, 1246).

Arthur, Geoffrey. 1480, canon of, mandate to (CPR 13, p. 89). 1481 canon of L mandate to (CPR 13, p. 793). 1482, canon of L about 23 yrs, to get treasurership; also gets vicarage of Killeely (CPR 13, p. 113). 1482, gets vicarage of Abbeyfeale Kyllfycyll (CPR 13, p. 759).1484, treasurer of cathedral, in receipt of counterfeit sealed document. (COD3, 261). 1484 treasurer, first fruits for priory (A 96). 1486, treasurer of L and vicar of Abbeyfeale, becomes prior of St Mary’s House (CPR 14, p. 130). 1487, detainer of treasurership (CPR 15, 227). 1494, had resigned Killeely vicarage (A 114). 1496 retelling of story re St Mary’s House (CPR 16, 695). 1496, treasurer of L detaining Killeely (CPR 16, 563). 1496, detaining vicarage of Kilmurphy (CPR 16, 723). 1519, treasurer, grave slab St. Mary’s.

NB, it is possible that Abbeyfeale is a misreading for Killeely, according to indexes

Arthur, Gibun (alias Gillibertus). 1458 detaining canonry and prebend of Donaghmore (CPR 12, p. 7). 1462 still detaining same (CPR 12, p. 157). 1464 & 1466, canon of L. mandate to (CPR12, pp 409 & 547). 1469, treasurer of L (CPR 12, p. 681). 1471, accusations against prior of St Mary’s House (CPR 13, p. 318). 1474, death of mentioned (CPR 13, p. 379; A 61). 1475, the late Gilbert (CPR 13, p. 420). 1494 ref to late treasurer (CPR 16, 359).

***Arthur, John Martin and Alice.** Born c 1350, life of; 3 sons Thomas, William and Richard (AMs, 248/339).

Arthur, John. 1400, supervisor of repairs of city walls and bridges (PR 1399-1401, p. 318).

Arthur, John. c 1415, witness to indenture (SA, 115).

***Arthur, John & Joan Muryagh.** 15th name on arms in St Mary’s.

Arthur, John. 1426, father of Nicholas (AM p. 3). 1376, son of Martin, co-executor of will (AM p. 7). 1380, m. to Alice, executor of mother’s will (AM p. 9). 1425, will of, m. to Alice Vele, three sons, Thomas, William and Richard. (AM pp 9-11).

Arthur, John. 1426, son of Nicholas (AM p. 3).

Arthur, John FitzLeonard. 1533, named as tenement holder (Tumbling Lane) in will of Nicholas FitzJohn Arthur (AMs 236/303).

***Arthur, Margaret.** 1426, left tenement in Limerick in father Thomas Arthur’s will. (AM p. 17)

Arthur, Martin. 1376. Will of (AM p.3). Married to Gelian Beaufort (AM p.7).

Arthur, Michael. 1426, son of Richard, mentioned in Thomas Arthur’s will (AM p. 17).

Arthur, Nicholas. 1426, will of, citizen and alderman, leaves all to son John, to be buried in Cathedral (AM p. 3). 1380, receives bequest in will of Gillian Beaufort (AM p. 9).

Arthur, Nicholas. In 1428 Nicholas Arthur sailed from Limerick for England in a ship belonging to a Londoner. Breton pirates took the ship and sold both the goods and the ship. Arthur was detained for over two years until he was ransomed for 400 marks. On his release he got letters patent from the King allowing him to take reprisals against the property of the Duke of Brittany and successfully recovered the amount he had lost (Lenihan, *History of Limerick*. pp. 367-9, quoting the Arthur Manuscript). 1441-62?), constable of castle (PR 1436-41, p. 529; 1446-52, p. 4). 1437, mayor, witness to grant (NLI Ms. 41,673/3). 1434 excommunicated by bishop (CPR 8, p. 488). 1462, ref. to fees of Nicholas (PR 1461-67, p. 196).

Arthur, Nicholas. 1524-25, taking case in Galway (CPCR, Henry 8 p. 169).

Arthur, Nicholas FitzJohn. 1533, will of (AMs, 236/303).

Arthur, Peter, 1475, deceased, m. to Margaret Budston, citizen and burgess (AM p. 13).

Arthur, Peter. 1541, juror for extent of Earl of Kildare’s Manors in L (CS, p. 177).

Arthur, Richard. Late 14th, son of John Martin Arthur (AMs 248/339).

Arthur, Richard. 1425, owed money in will of his father John Arthur (AM p.11). 1426, debt owing to in his brother Thomas Arthur’s will (AM p. 15). 1426, son Michael (AM p. 17). 1434 excommunicated by bishop (CPR 8, p. 488).

Arthur, Robert. 1401, bequest in Thomas Balbein’s will (AM).

Arthur, Roger. 1486 & 1487, canon of L , mandate to (CPR 15, 202 & 234). 1488, canon of L, preb of Ballycane to be dean (CPR 14, pp 227 & 310; A 103).1488, mandate to (CPR 14, p. 227). No date, mandate to (CPR 15, 228). 1492 note he had been mandated to hand vicarage of Kilcornan to Miler Rodol (CPR 16, 25). 1497 detaining canonry and preb of St. Muchins (CPR 16, 735).

Arthur, Thomas. 1426, named as grandfather of Nicholas (AM p. 3). Father of Martin (AM p. 3).

Arthur, Bishop Thomas see Limerick.

Arthur, Thomas. 1380, receives bequest in will of Gillian Beaufort (AM p. 9). 1426, will of (AM 11-19). Son Nicholas, wife Joan Muryagh, daughter Margaret.

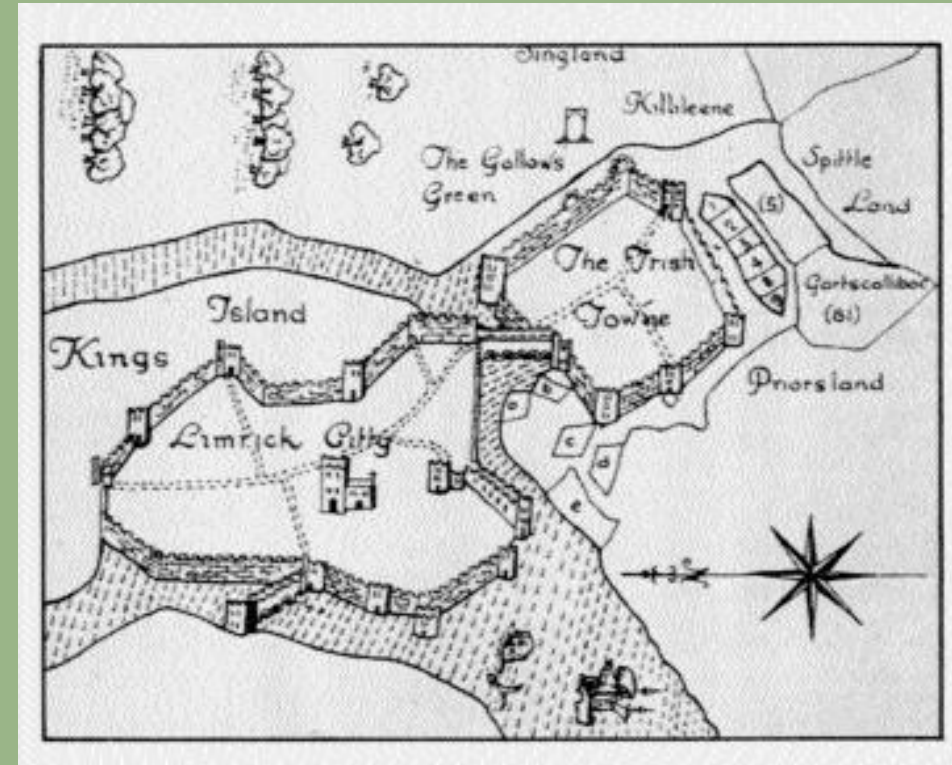
Arthur, Thomas John. Born 1378, life of (AMs 249/340).

Arthur, Thomas. Late 14th, son of John Martin Arthur (AMs 248/339).

Arthur, William. Late 14th, son of John Martin Arthur (AMs 248/339).

Arthur, William. 1425, owed money in will of his father John Arthur (AM p. 11). c 1415, witness to indenture (SA, 115).

Point 4: From sixteenth century, external observers are arguing that professional genealogists are providing pedigrees for all classes in Irish society. This is not obvious in contemporary Irish language sources although it is clear that some (richer merchant) families with English names are being recorded in Limerick area by Irish language *seanchaidh* in the 17th C



Where are our medieval Irish women?



An Leabhar Muimnech includes later medieval versions of *Banshenchas* or “lore of women”

Clann an Chonchubhair Mhóir sin, mic Muirchertaigh mic Toirdhealbhaigh Óig .i. Muirchertach mac Conchubhair ro bhí ‘na Mhac Briain Ó gCuanach; Fionnghuala, inghean Tighearna Uaithne Í Mhaoil Riain máthair an Mhuircheartaigh sin; Cinnéidigh, mac basdard eisdhe agus ro bhí in Eascop Imle; Toirdhealbhadh an treas mhac, ro bhí in Fhaircinnach Imligh; Conchubhar Óg an ceathramhadh mac (inghean Mheic Piarais a mháthair .i. Oiléan Buitléar)

The family of Conchobhar the Great, son of Muirchertach son of Toirdealbach the young that is Muirchertach son of Conchobhair who was in [charge of] Mac Brians of Coonagh; **Fionnghuala, daughter of the Lord of Uaithne (the Mulryan) was the mother of that Muirchertach**; Cennéidigh, a bastard son of that Conchobhar was the bishop of Emly, Toirdhealbach, the third son was in *Faircinnach* of Emly; Conchobhar the young was the fourth son (the daughter of Mac Piarais was his mother, that is **Oiléan Butler**).

Toirdhealbhadh Odhar aonmhac lais .i. Murchadh. Síle Fainin máthair an Mhurchadha sin, mic Toirdhealbhaigh Odhair

Toirdhealbach Odhar “the dark-skinned” had one son that is Murchad. was the mother of this Murchad son of Toirdhealbhadh Odhair. **Síle Fanning**



Fannings castle, late medieval burgage dwelling, Limerick city

Limerick Fannings in Hodkinson lists from third quarter of 13th C

- Fanning, Clement (Fanyn).** 1311, accused of abetting (CJR3, p. 203). 1311, plaintiff (CJR3, p. 206). 1313, juror (CJR3, p. 267). 1313, stands pledge (CJR3, p. 268) 1313, coroner (CJR3, p. 304). 1313, stands pledge (CJR3, p. 305). 1313, coroner (CJR3, p. 305). 1313, no case to answer (CJR3, p. 309).
- Fanning, Davit (Fanyn).** 1341, free tenant in Lickadoon (GR, p. 114).
- Fanning, George.** 1541, juror for extent of Earl of Kildare's Manors in L (CS, p. 177).
- Fanning, Ger.** 1317, to present parson to Tullabracky (W1, 284).
- Fanning, Henry.** 1297, attorney (CJR1, p. 104 bis). 1311, juror (CJR3, p. 207).
- Fanning, John (Fanyn),** 1313, accused of robbery, refuses to answer, sent back to gaol "to the diet". (CJR3, p. 267). 1313, accused of robbery (CJR3, p. 309).
- Fanning, John (Fanyn).** 1346, supervisor of keepers of peace (Frame, AH 35, p.19).
- Fanning, John (Fanyn).** 1341, free tenant in Lickadoon (GR, p. 114).
- Fanning, John (Fangni, Fangyn).** 1514, canon of L, mandate to (CPR 20, 260, 263 & 264).
- Fanning, Philip (Fannyng).** 1541, juror at dissolution of monasteries in L and Any (EIMP, pp 116, 209). 1541, juror for extent of Earl of Kildare's Manors in L (CS, p.177).
- Fanning, Richard (Fannyn).** C1270-77, witness to charter (BBL p. 102). 1275, juror at inquisition into charter of L (CDI 2, 1181).
- Fanning, Richard (Fanyn).** 1328-29, rent for Balynennan (RDKPRI (Pipe) 43 p. 15).
- *Fanning, Roesia (Fanyn).** 1297, respondent (CJR1 p.129).
- Fanning, Thomas (Fanyn).** 1341 free tenant of manor of Aherlow (GR, p. 111).
- Fanning, Thomas (Phanyn).** 1295, stands pledge (CJR1 p. 18 bis). 1313, accused of receiving (CJR3, pp 309, 310).
- Fanning, Thomas.** 1541, juror for extent of Earl of Kildare's Manors in L (CS, p. 177).
- Fanning, William.** 1313, accused and acquitted of robbery (CJR3, p. 309 bis, 310).
- Fanning, William FitzSimon ,** Connautagh (Fanyn). 1313, thief (CJR3, p. 310).

Conclusions: the importance of genetic genealogy

- **The work of citizen scientists on genetic genealogy is highlighting the need for increased study of surname formation within Ireland.**
- **Genetic surname studies which look at Irish surnames within a monolingual context ignore the complexities of surname adoption within a mixed ethnic and multicultural society.**
- Inherited dynastic formulae (which are later recorded as Irish surnames) appear in native annals before surnames are used in English and French sources from western Europe.
- In contrast, craftsmen and urban Irish surnames appear to develop from end of the twelfth century in a manner which parallels surname formation in England and probably should be seen as originating in similar contexts.
- Increased study of Irish language sources such as *An Leabhar Muimnech* from later medieval and early modern Ireland have the potential to massively increase the length of pedigree available for many Irish surnames which have only survived in Anglicised forms. This information will then be available to feed into analysis of DNA linkages between different surnames and methodologies for calculating mutation rates of Y chromosomes.

