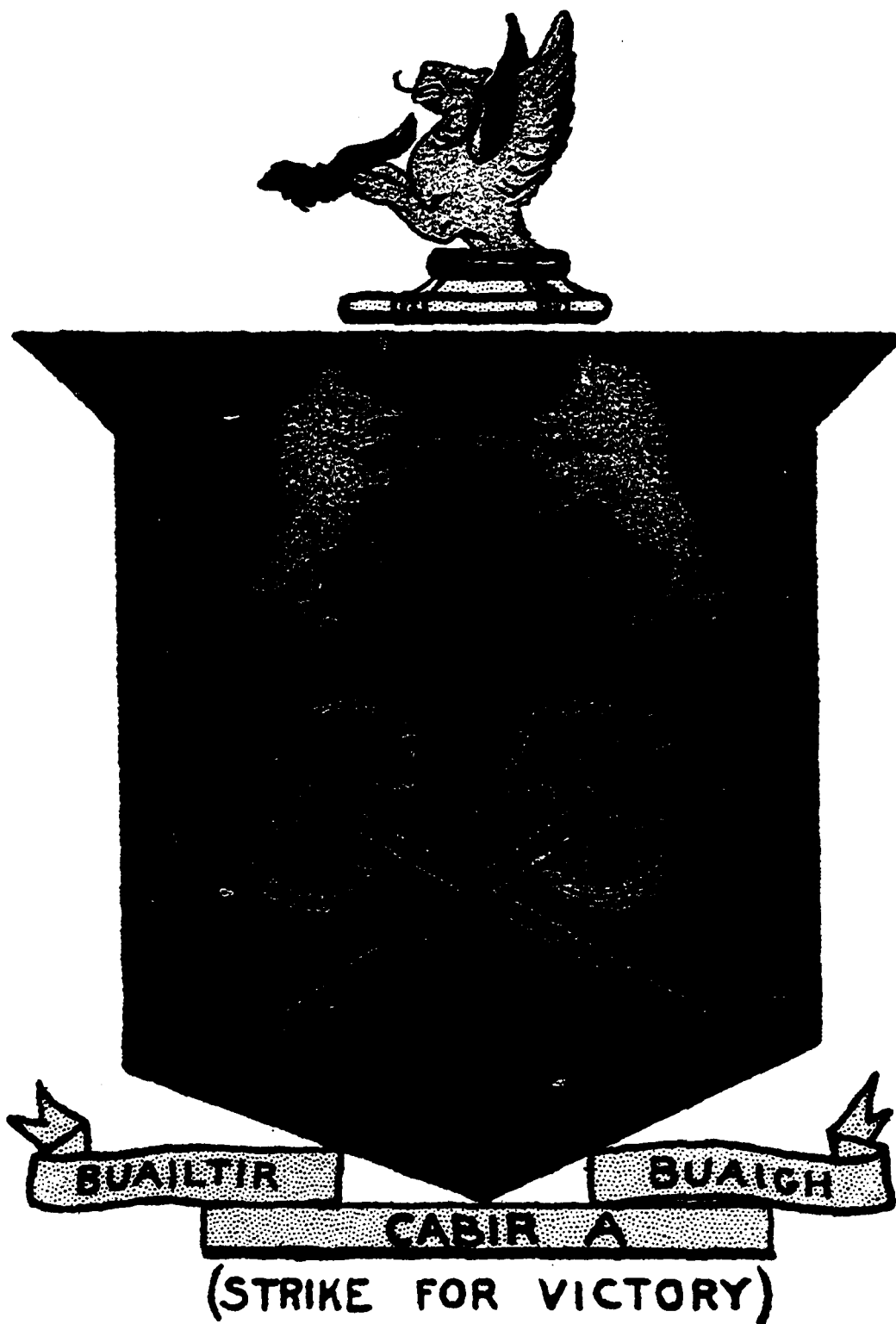


Genealogy
of
The MacSweeney Family



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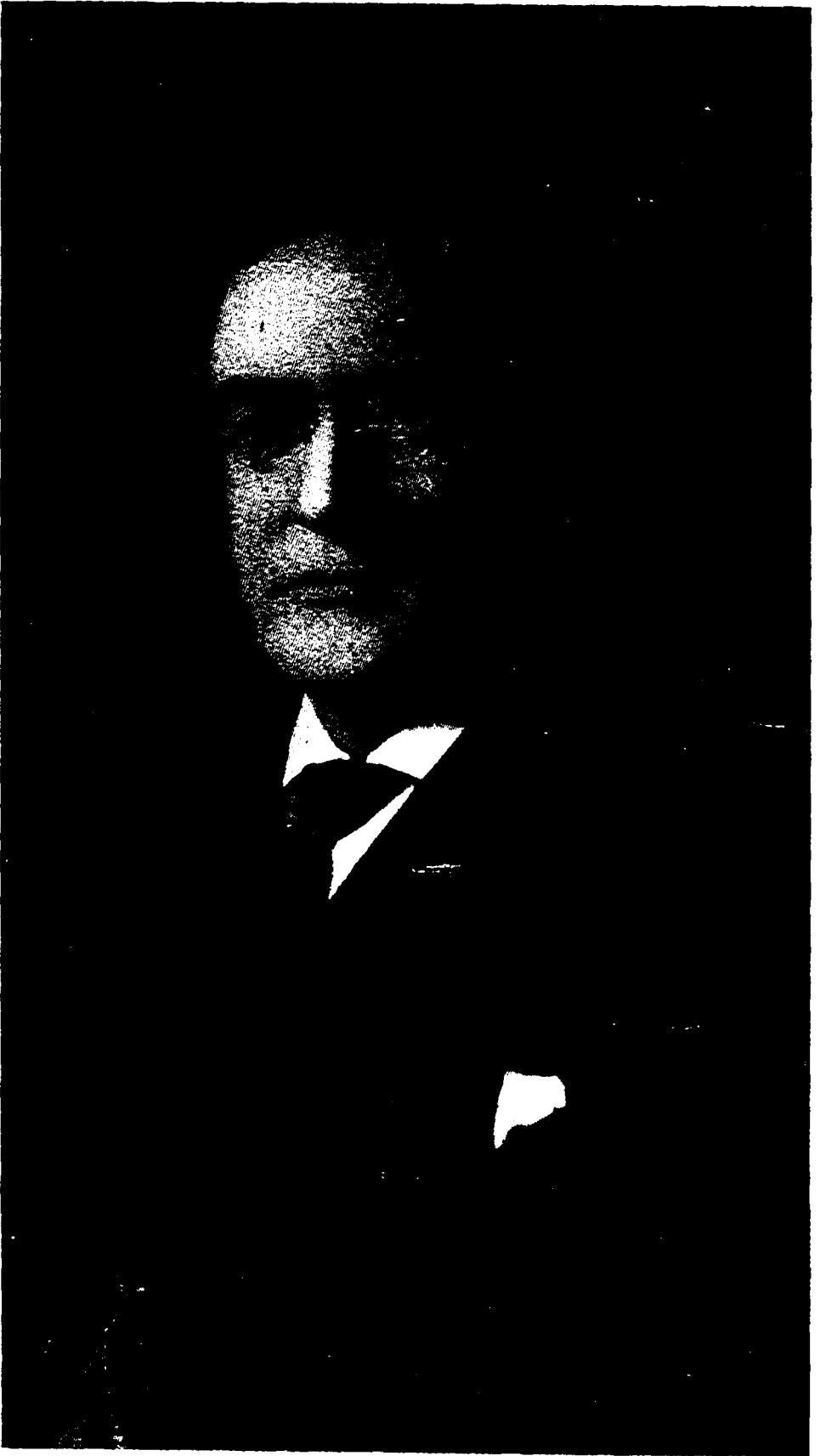


The Arms of the MacSweeneys

Arms: or, on a fess vert betw. three boars pass. sa. a lizard ar.
Crest: An arm in armour embowed, holding a battle-axe all ppr.



The MacSweeney Family



John M. Sweeney

Genealogy of The MacSweeney Family



There are no families in Europe who can trace their pedigree back as far as the Milesian Irish. The old genealogists kept careful family annals and there seems to be no break in the royal descent of the House of Milesius (who reigned as King of Spain when Solomon was building his temple in Jerusalem, 1699 years before the time of Christ), down through 184 Monarchs to Roderick O'Connor, the last recognized King of Ireland and who occupied the throne in 1186 A. D. Thus, with but very few short intermissions we can trace the lines of Heber and Heremon (sons of Milesius) for 2,885 years, a record that makes the royal families of Europe look like newcomers by comparison:

Milesius was the son of Bile, who was King of Galicia, Andelusia, Mursia, Castile, and Portugal, which countries afterwards comprised the Kingdom of Spain.

Milesius, in his youth, seems to have been a great warrior, or what we would call now, a soldier of fortune, as it seems that he fought in Sythia and also was in the service of Pharoah, Nectonibus of Egypt, who was so pleased with the exploits of Milesius that he gave him his daughter, "Scota," in marriage and kept him eight years in Egypt, where he became thoroughly instructed in the various trades, arts and sciences used in Egypt, in order to have them taught to the rest of his people upon his return to ascend the throne of Spain.

As Milesius and his Queen, Scota, were undoubtedly the progenitors of all the great Milesian Irish families of the Macs and O's in Ireland, it would appear that the bulk of the Irish race had some Egyptian blood in their veins.

It seems that Milesius had all preparations made to invade Ireland, but he died before the actual invasion and he left the work to his eight sons, all of whom landed with the expedition and conquered Ireland and Scotland and parts of England and Wales. Six of the sons were slain in various ways, leaving Heber and Heremon, who resigned jointly over Ireland for a time, but who finally quarreled over some trouble between their wives and fought a battle in which Heber was slain, leaving Heremon, the only remaining son of Milesius, as sole Monarch of Ireland and Scotland. From Heremon, the youngest of the brothers, were descended 114 sole Monarchs of Ireland; the provincial Kings and Heremonian nobility and gentry of Leinster, Connaught, Meath, Orgiall, Tyrone, Tirconnel, Clan-na-boy; the Kings of Dalrida; all of the Kings of Scotland, from Fergus Mor Mac Earca, down to the Stuarts and the Kings and Queens of England from Henry II down to the present time.

Heremon was the seventh son of Milesius of Spain, and writes, "O'Callaghan" from the number of its Princes or great families it was regarded as the most illustrious family in Ireland. Heremon began to reign, A. M. 3500, or before Christ 1699.

II.—ROLL OF THE MONARCHS OF IRELAND.

Since the Milesian Conquest.

Names of the one hundred and eighty-four Kings or Monarchs of Ireland, from the conquest thereof by the Milesian Scottish nation, Anno Mundi, 3500, down to Roderick O'Connor, the Monarch of Ireland, A. D. 1186, a period which embraces two thousand eight hundred and eighty-five years. As the Kings descended from Heber, Ir and Heremon, as well as those descended from their relative Lughaidh, the son of Ithe, were all eligible for the Monarchy, the letter H, E, I or L is employed in the foregoing Roll of the Monarchs of Ireland, before the name of each Monarch there given, to distinguish his lineal descent. The date opposite each name tells the year in which the Monarch began to reign:

	Before Christ
1. H. Heber and Heremon, jointly began to reign A. M. 3500; or	1699
2. E. Heremon, alone	1698
3. E. Muimne	
4. E. Luighne	
5. E. Laighean	
Three Brothers	1683
6. H. Er	
7. H. Orba	
8. H. Feron	
9. H. Fergna	
Four Brothers	1680

Then follows in regular succession, ninety-one Monarchs of the House of Heremon, until in the seventh year of the reign of Crimthann Niadh Nar, No. 100; our Lord Jesus Christ was born. From No. 101 to 127 in A. D. 405 all of the Monarchs seem to have been pagans, but some authors are of the opinion that Nos. 112, 115 and 126 had some knowledge of the truth of Christianity. Others are of the opinion that the Monarch Leighaire, son of Niall Mor and who is No. 128 of this line, died a pagan, although reigning at the time of the advent of St. Patrick in Ireland. From No. 128 to the reign of Aodh Ornigh, No. 164, who ascended the throne in A. D. 792, there is again an unbroken line of the House of Heremon.

In this Monarch's reign the Danes invaded Ireland. "Ten years with four score and seven hundred, was the age of Christ when the pagans went to Ireland. "The Vikings (or Danes) having been defeated in Glamorganshire in Wales, invaded Ireland, in the reign of the monarch Aodh Ornigh. In A. D. 798 they ravaged the Isle of Man, and the Hebrides in Scotland; in 802 they burned "Hi Colum Cille"; in 807, for the first time in Ireland, they marched in land; in 812 and 813 they made raids in Connaught and Munster. After thirty years of this predatory warfare had continued, Turgesius, a Norwegian Prince, established himself as sovereign of the Vikings and made Armagh his headquarters, A. D. 830. Sometimes the Danish Chiefs mustered all their forces and left the island for a brief period to ravage the shores of England or Scotland; but, wild, brave and cruel, they soon returned to inflict new barbarities on the unfortunate Irish. Turgesius appropriated the

abbeys and churches of the country, and placed an abbot of his own in every monastery. A Danish captain was placed in charge of each village; and each family was obliged to maintain a soldier of that nation, who made himself master of the house, using and wasting the food, for lack of which the children of the lawful owners were often dying of hunger. All education was strictly forbidden; books and manuscripts were burned and "drowned"; and the poets, historians and musicians were imprisoned and driven to the woods and mountains. Martial sports were interdicted, from the lowest to the highest rank; even nobles and princes were forbidden to wear their usual habilaments, the cast-off clothes of the Danes being considered sufficiently good for slaves. In A. D. 948 the Danes were converted to Christianity; and at that time possessed many of the sea-coast towns of Ireland, including Dublin, Limerick, Wexford and Waterford.

From 165 to 174 on the direct line of Heremon, 161 years elapse, or from 817 A. D. to 978 A. D.

Malachi II, who was No. 174, commenced his reign in 978 and was the last absolute Monarch of Ireland. He reigned as Monarch twenty-four years before the accession to the Monarchy of Brian Boromhe (Boru), and again after Brian's death, which took place A. D. 1014, at the Battle of Clontarf.

Malachi II was one of the ablest as well as one of the most patriotic Kings of Ireland. The annals of history does not record a nobler act than his voluntary surrender of his throne to a rival whom he thought better fitted to conduct the government at that critical period. The tyranny of the Danes had become so unbearable that Malachi realized that a strong hand was necessary to unite the warring princes into one solid army of defence if Ireland was to be saved. He therefore called Brian Borau to the throne, and that able monarch justified his selection by inaugurating a determined war of extermination against the common enemy, and finally, in A. D. 1014, he administered such a crushing defeat to their armies at the Battle of Clontarf that their power was permanently broken. Brian—then 88 years of age—led his forces in person. He lost his life in the engagement, as did also his sons. Brian was the progenitor of the O'Briens. It was customary for the sons to assume the prefix Mac after some celebrated sire, and the grandsons prefixed their names with an O. Brian's sons being dead, his grandchildren assumed the name of O'Brien.

175 H. Brian Boromhe (ancestor of O'Brien), 1001 Brian Boru reigned sixty-six years, twelve of which as Monarch; he was eighty-eight years of age when slain at the Battle of Clontarf.

After Brian's death—

Malachi II was restored to the Monarchy, 1014. After nine years' reign, Malachi died a penitent at Cro Inis (or the "Cell on the Island"), upon Loch Annih, in Westmeath, A. D. 1023; being the forty-eighth Christian King of Ireland, and accounted the last absolute Monarch of the Milesian or Scottish line; "the provincial Kings and Princes always after contesting, fighting and quarreling for the sovereignty, until they put all into confusion and that the King of Leinster brought in King Henry the Second to assist him against his enemies," according to O'Harts.

(About this time the Danish power all over Europe had made considerable advances. In France it had fastened itself upon Normandy, and in England it had once more become victorious, the Danish Prince, Sweyne, having been proclaimed King of England in 1013, though it was not until the time of his successor, Canute, that the Danish line were undisputed Monarchs of England.)

From 175 to 183 those such as our histories mention assumed the name and title of Monarchs of Ireland, without the general consent of the major part of the Kingdom.

183. E. Roderick O'Connor, King of Connaught, was the last undoubted Monarch of Ireland from his predecessor's death, A. D. 1166, for twenty years, to the year 1186; within which time by the invitation of Dermod-na-n-Gall, King of Leinster, the English first invaded Ireland, A. D. 1169. The Monarch Roderick, seeing his subjects flinch and his own sons turn against him, hearkened to and accepted the conditions offered him by King Henry II, which being ratified on both sides, A. D. 1175; Roderick continued in the government (at least the name of it), until A. D. 1186, when, weary of the world and its troubles, he forsook it and all its pomp, and retired to a monastery, where he finished his course religiously, A. D. 1198.

Thus it was that through the suicidal wars of the Irish provinces the English were first introduced into Ireland. Without a shadow of right, they gradually wormed their way into the various provinces, and by first aiding one faction, then another, they at last brought the whole of Ireland under their sway.

184. (E. Brian O'Neill, No. 113 on the O'Neill) pedigree, 1166. It is worthy of remark that at A. D. 1258, the Four Masters mentioned that "Hugh, the son of Felim O'Connor, and Teige O'Brien, marched with a great force to Caol Uisge (near Newry), to hold a conference with Brian O'Neill, to whom the foregoing chiefs, after making peace with each other, granted the sovereignty over the Irish." And two years later, at the Battle of Down, this Brian gallantly laid down his life in defense of the Kingdom of Ireland, which he claimed to govern. Again, the Four Masters, as A. D. 1260, in giving the names of the killed at the Battle of Drom Deirg, mention Brian O'Neill as "Chief Ruler of Ireland." In his letter to Pope John XXII, Donal, the son of the said Brian, says he is "Donald O'Neill, King of Ulster, and by hereditary right lawful heir to the throne of Ireland.

O'NEILL.

Monarchs of Ireland, Kings of Ulster, and Princes of Tyrone.

84. Fiacha Srabhteine: king of Conacht, and the 120th Monarch of Ireland; was son of Cairbre-Liffechar, and reigned for 37 years as Monarch of Ireland. His successors from No. 85 to 88, on the direct line, reigned with varying fortunes until the accession to the throne of Niall Glundubh, who was the 100th on the direct line and the 170th Monarch of Ireland. From this Monarch the surname "O'Neill," or "Clan-na-Neil," is derived.

105. Aodh Athlamh O'Neill: his son; Prince of Tyrone; had two sons; I. Donald Togdhamh; and II. Aodh Anrachan, who was ancestor of MacSweeney, Aodh died in 1033.

THE CLAN "MacSWEENEY."

It was not until five generations later that Maolmuire, who was No. 110 on the O'Neill pedigree and son of Suibhneach, first assumed the surname of MacSuibhne, or as it is anglicized, MacSweeney. There is no exact date fixed for the commencement of this Prince's chieftainship but he was living A. D. 1267.

Some writers attempt to prove the MacSweeneys of Scottish origin but after careful investigation we have come to the conclusion that they were of purely Gaelic origin, and that the following pedigrees are substantially correct. It seems that the MacSweeneys as a family, were professional soldiers, and we find from time to time that different members of the family branched off and took service under various Irish Princes where they became what is known as, Gallowglasses, which is a Norse word signifying, "Commander of Troops." In other words they seemed to have been soldiers of Fortune. The MacSweeneys of Fanad was marshal and standard bearer to the O'Donnells, Prince of Tirconnell, and for several generations they were the chosen foster father to the heir apparent of the Prince of Tirconnell. It was MacSweeney, the lord of Rathmullan Castle, county Donegal, who was foster father to the famous Hugh Roe O'Donnell, (Red Hugh), and it was to his foster brother, MacSweeney, that the O'Sullivan Beare entrusted his wife and his youngest child, after the siege of Glengarriffe and before the fall of Dunboy the ancestral home of the O'Sullivan Beare, while he collected the remnants of his broken army and the women and children in an attempt to cut his way through to Ulster to join forces with O'Donnell, Prince of Tirconnell and O'Neill, Prince of Tyrone. MacSweeney successfully concealed them until the chief's return, nearly eight months subsequently in an almost inaccessible spot at the foot of an immense precipice in Glengarriffe, Mountains—now known as, "The Eagle's Nest."—A. M. Sullivan's History of Ireland.

Another branch of this MacSweeney was marshal—or military commander, under the MacCartheys, who in the thirteenth century, brought a body of them from Tirconnell to Donegal. In Munster, the MacSweeneys had the parish of Kilmurry, in the barony of Muskerry and had their chief castle of Clough, and Macroom, and had also Castlemore in the parish of Noviddy.

From O'Hart's pedigrees, Vol. I., we learn that, "MacSweeney Nad-Tuath, signifying "MacSweeney of the Territories," His districts were also called "Tuatha Toraighe" or the districts of Tory Island. This MacSweeney's possessions lay in the barony of Kilmacrenan. According to O'Brien, he was called "MacSweeney Na-d-Tuath, "signifying MacSweeney of the Battle-axes—a title said to be derived from their being chiefs of gallowglasses, and from their being standard bears and marshals to the O'Donnells, Princes of Tirconnell. A branch of these MacSweeneys, who were distinguished military leaders settled in Munster in the county Cork, in the thirteenth century; and became commanders under the MacCarthys, princes of Desmond."

This title was Englished, "MacSwine ne Doe," "MacSwine Doe" etc. It gave name to Castle Doe or Doe Castle. It is commonly and erroneously understood as MacSuibhne na d-Tuagh, "MacSweeney of

the Battle-axes, partly because as O'Grady says, "by these implements, all MacSweeneys lived and most of them perhaps died."

"No family in Irish history presented a more united and unbroken front to the foes of Ireland than the clan "MacSweeney." They were a fierce warlike race, though displaying many of the virtues that would make them pre-eminent at the present day. FAITHFULNESS was undoubtedly their dominant characteristic as evidenced by the fact that their services were in great demand as lieutenants, or marshals and standard bearers among the princes of Ireland."—O'Harts.

Whenever we find detailed the history of a desperate case among the MacCarthy Mor, Prince of Kerry, the O'Sullivan Beare, Prince of Cork; or The O'Donnell, Prince of Tirconnell, calling for reckless bravery and unquestioning loyalty there we find the MacSweeneys of one or other branch of the family being chosen to undertake the task.

All authorities agree in describing the Fanad branch of the MacSweeneys, as the principal representatives of the family. It was Eoin, grandson of Moalmhuire, who flourished in 1262, was the first of the name of MacSuibhne that settled in Fanad. He is said to have driven out the ancient lords of the place, the O'Breisleins, a statement which is supported by the evidence of the Irish annals, as O'Breisleins connections with Fanad ceases after the year of 1261.

The barony of Fanad comprised a rocky mountainous peninsula interspersed with fertile valleys and glens and nearly surrounded by Lough Swilly on the north and east, by the Atlantic ocean on the north, and the Mulroy Bay on the west. Here the MacSweeneys of Fanad built the Castle of Rathmullan at the entrance to and overlooking the beautiful Lough Swilly, and here the family held princely sway for over four hundred years, while following their over-lords, the O'Donnells, princes of Tirconnell, as standard bearers and faithful lieutenants through all the desperate wars waged by the different members of that princely house. Indeed, at times, the family grew so powerful and arrogant, that they even questioned the authority of the O'Donnells and refused for generations at a time, to pay the customary tribute. But there is no instance on record where the MacSweeney of Fanad ever failed the O'Donnell of Tirconnell in his hour of need.

THE RAMIFICATIONS OF CLAN MacSUIBHNE.

In the year of 1513, the Princess Mary MacSuibhne of Fanad, ordered her scribes to write a history of the MacSuibhne and that volume under title of "Leabhar Chlainne Suibhne," has recently been published in Dublin, and a careful perusal of that work satisfied the writer that the origin of the family was Gaelic, and that one branch went to Scotland where they arose to great distinction and power and later returned to Ireland where they established the clan, MacSuibhne of Fanad.

Though the book should be considered authentic as a genealogic record, still the writer displays a childlike simplicity in Chronicling some of the superstitious beliefs of the day. The following few extracts from the work will give an idea of its main contents.

THE BOOK OF THE MacSWEENEYS.

1. Here beginneth a short account of the conquests and victories of Clann Suibhne, and of their ramifications. Aodh Athlamhan, son of Faithbheartach of the Pilgrim Staff, son of Muirheartach of Meath, son of Domhnall of Armagh, had two sons, namely, Domhnall, who is called ant Ogdhamh 'the young ox,' and Anradhan. Now of these Domhnall was senior to Anradhan, put in power and authority Anradhan, excelled Domhnall. When Aodh Athlamhan, their father, died, all the countries approached Anradhan, and they wished to set him up as King in his father's place; and Domhnall came to them, and he said: "It is before your senior you are going, Anradhan," said he. "Yea, verily," said Anradhan's people, "for he is the nobler and more distinguished, and hath the greater power and authority." "Then my curse upon ye," quoted Domhnall, "since I have no power else over ye." We shall not accept that from you," said Anradhan, "but we shall surrender the kingship to you, and we shall not remain in Ireland while you are king." And Domhnall said: "We are content that you hold the kingship rather than that you depart from Ireland." But Anradhan would not accept it, and he installed Domhnall as King, and enjoined on all the territories to acknowledge him.

Then Anradhan himself, in anger and haughtiness proceeded with a troop in his company to the place where his ships and galleys were. We shall not here speak of the extent of their wanderings on the seas, for it is more appropriate to aim at brevity of narration. In a word they rested not till they reached the beautiful bright country of Scotland, more than half of which they brought by violence under their sway, and there they increased in strength, and power, and great expansiveness. And when they had spent some time in Scotland, they enjoyed great prosperity, and wealth, and wide conquests in all the country. They made peace and marriage alliance with the King of Scotland then in this way, namely, the daughter of the King was given in marriage to Anradhan, and she bore him children; and descended from these two are the whole Clann Suibhne from that time to now. That is the first conquest Clann Suibhne ever made in Scotland.

Now a son of Anradhan was Aodh Aluinn mac Anradhain, and a son of Aodh Aluinn was Donnsleighe, and Donnseleighe's son was Suibhne, from whom Clann Suibhne derive their name. Suibhne was the most distinguished of the twelve sons of Donnseleibhe. It was he who built Castle Sween in Scotland. A son of that Suibhne was Maolmhuire an Sparain 'Maolmhuire of the Purse,' and that Maolmhuire is the ancestor of the three Clanna Suibhne. He had a fairy lover, that is, a fairy woman was his wife, and it was she who bestowed on him the famous purse above mentioned. Of that purse this was a property; every time it would be opened a small penny and a shilling would be found within it. And for a long time Maolmhuire lived thus; but at length his kinsfolk wished to give him another wife, and the one they chose was Beanmidhe, daughter of Toirrdhealbach Mor O Conchubhair. And a great fleet set out for Ireland, and they who brought it rested not until they reached Sligo. They spent two nights in the town, and they carried away the lade with them.

One night, after that, Maolmhuire was in Castle Sween, and the fairy woman aforementioned had promised to bring him her child and

had told him to remain awake to receive her; but when she came, there was no one awake in the house except the daughter of O Conchubhair. And she seated herself by the fire, and asked if MacSubihne was awake. O Conchubhairs daughter said he was not, and she offered clothes to her to put about the child. And she would not accept them, but said that that sleep would bring destruction on Mac Suibhne, and on his children after him. And she departed in anger then, and has never since been seen. Neither has anyone ever seen her son, that is, Fearfeadha, except whenever he came to render help to Clann Suibhne in battle or necessity.

One day Maolmhuire was on the green at his house, and there came to him a trio of poets, and the only poem they offered him was of three verses, namely, a verse by each. And these are the three verses:

Maolmhuire, son of Suibhne,
for a purse we have come,
what thou refuseth to us
thou wouldst bestow on a company of mimics.

Heir of Donnsluibhe's son,
inheritor of generosity and noblesse,
the blessing of every poet on thee;
fail not to bestow on us.

Why wouldst thou refuse us,
yellow-haired descendant of Buirrche,
for thou has ne'er refused any,
O Maolmhuire, son of Suibhne.

Then he gave to them the purse, and all say that they who had come there were the brothers of the fairy woman.

* * * * *

In order to understand the descent of the MacSuibhne on the peninsula of Fanad and the driving out or extermination of the O'Breisleins, it must be remembered in justification that the mosaic law of "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," held full sway in those early ages. It must also be remembered that the relation of foster-father or foster-brother was held nearly as sacred as the ties that bound the real parents or relatives. Hence it is but natural that the MacSuibhne should feel his honor involved to avenge the death of his foster-father, as the following adventure will explain.

* * * * *

Of vision of the wife of O Breislein now: on a certain night, when he and his wife were in bed in O Breislein's dun in Fanad the wife saw a strange vision. She fancied that there came over the sea horrible monsters, and that they overpowered all the country. Everybody considered that a strange vision, and they despatched a messenger to describe it to the Monk of the Visions, and the interpretation he put upon it was, that a great fleet would come from overseas, and would make a conquest of all their lands. Wherefore, they adopted a plan as follows:

whatever expedition would first come to them, that they would billet it over all their territory, and afterwards slay each household of them, so that none of them might escape with his life.

Thereafter Eoin MacSuibhne and his foster-father, MacGofradha of the Isles, came to Ireland on a trip of youth's pleasure and amusement, and they put in to Ceann Maghair Atha 'Kinnaweer' to cut timber, the makings of ships. And they sought food from everyone on all sides and they got from all except the O Breisleins. The answer they got from these was that they would give no entertainment to anyone save to those who would come to them to their own houses. The reason they spake so was that they intended to murder all who were on the expedition. The others, having no such evil intentions towards the country as the country had towards them, replied that they thought the offer very generous. Then they came, and they were billeted over all the land, and Eoin and his foster-father, Mac Gofradha, were brought to Duñ an Chairbrigh to O Breislein's own house. When they had been some time in the house, and the hour for eating had come, they saw O Breislein and his sons entering in a body with shields and swords, while as Eoin and his party were entering a little before, the attendants of the house approached them and deprived them of all their weapons. And it is said it was on that very day that Eoin had first taken arms and he refused to surrender them; and they so despised him for his youth that they considered it no harm that he should retain his weapons. When O Breislein and his family came in, as has been described, he rushed towards them with a fierce onset, and piled on them a rough injurious smiting of the burnished broad keen sword he held in his hand. The end of their engagement was that O Breislein, and his sons and all his people, were slain by them. And by the other side Mac Gofradha was killed without Eoin's knowing it. Then Eoin departed bringing all his followers with him out of every place they were, and he proceeded to make his way to Scotland. Now as (on setting forth for O Breislein's house) they left the above-mentional timber behind them, Mac Gofradha cast a magic mist over it, so that no one might discover it till they came back to it again. But since he was slain that timber was never found from that day to this. And it is the famous wood wherein Clann Suibhne are fated to sail to Scotland at some future day.

After that, on another occasion, this Eoin we speak of was with the King of Scotland, and he and another foster-child of the King, the son of the Great Steward of Marr, chanced to play together. And out of the playing there arose a dispute between Eoin and the Great Steward's son, in which the Great Steward's son fell at the hands of Eoin. Whereupon the King became enraged exceedingly, and when Eoin observed his anger, he submitted himself to whatever judgment he would pass upon him. The judgment the King passed was that he should leave Scotland, and not return till the end of a year. And Eoin then set out for Ireland with a great, immense fleet. The spot where he landed in Ireland was in Fanad, for he meant to avenge the insult to himself and his foster-father, MacGofradha, on the O Breisleins. The O Breisleins set about opposing him with their people, but he, with fierce attack, furiously, courageously, and with spirited forces, came to land in spite of them, and commenced with great effect to mutilate and slaughter them. It were impossible to describe it in full, but for certain O Breis-

lein and his people were put to flight. It was there their ruin was effected, so that from then till now they have remained submerged. That was the rout of Crann Cuillmin in Fanad, after which Eoin seized all the country and dwelt there ever after, and he was the first MacSuibhne who made a settlement in Fanad.

Some time after that O Domhnaill came to avenge his kinsmen on MacSuibhne, and MacSuibhne collected all his followers, Scots and Irish. They gave battle to each other at Gort Cathlaighe (Gortcally) and the Scots put O Domhnaill to flight in the beginning. The rout continued till he came to Mulan na nAlbanach in Achadh Bunursann. There O Domhnaill threw them back, and many of the Scots were slain at that place, and that is why it is called Mulan na nAlbanach today.

After that defeat Eoin remained a long period without war or battle in the lordship of that country, when he had spent the rest of his life in peace and prosperity, his death-sickness overtook him in the islands of Ceann Maghair Atha. When O Domhnaill heard of that illness, he gathered his hosts and his forces, and summoned O'Neill to himself that the two might attack MacSuibhne. And having come together, they despatched messengers to MacSuibhne to discover how he was, and to conclude a peace with him if he was better; and if he were not, to proclaim war on him. When he heard that these emissaries were approaching, he asked that apples and milk should be brought to him. He arose from his bed and dressed himself in all his habiliments, and when the envoys came into his presence, he requested O'Neill's messenger to lay bare his shin before him. And he threw an apple at him, and it is affirmed that therewith he stripped a bone in the shin of the messenger. As the envoys considered that he was powerful and healthy, they made peace as they were ordered on behalf of O Damhnaill and O'Neill. On their return to the armies they announced that Mac Suibhne was well, and that they had concluded peace on behalf of their masters. And when the armies heard that they separated, and after that returned home.

As for MacSuibhne, he died the night following the departure of the envoys, and the above-mentioned cast was his last exploit.

The relations of neighbors in those days were such that one might be on a friendly footing with part of the family, and be at enmity with the rest. It will appear from the following narrative that there was trouble between O'Donnell, the Prince and the MacSweeney of Fanad, and it would also appear that O'Donnell was anxious to make a friend and follower out of his hardfisted neighbor as the following incident will illustrate.

On one occasion the descendants of Sean O Domhnaill and Mac Suibhne set out by sea for Derry, and they left Toirdhealbhadh Ruadh MacSuibhne's son, in camp at Dun Cionnfhaolaidh 'Dunkineely' as a guard over their creaght. Toirdhealbhadh an Fhiona fell upon the creaght, carrying away great spoils out of it; whereupon Toirdhealbhadh Ruadh and his people set out in pursuit of them. O Domhnaill turned to face his pursuers, defeated and routed them and there captured MacSuibhne's son. He was brought in custody to Murbhadh, and Toir-

rdhealbhach an Fhiona greatly extended his power to the east of the mountain (Bearnas Mor) after his capture.

Once, when Toirrdhealbach an Fhiona and MacSuibhne's son were carousing in Murbhach, they chanced to have a dispute, and Toirrdhealbhach Ruadh said that if he himself were at liberty, the other would not be so powerful as he was. Toirrdhealbhach an Fhiona became exceedingly angry thereat, and declared that he would set the prisoner free, that what he had said might be put to the test. He removed his fetters then. And O Domhnaill's people began to reproach him, for they feared that that which MacSuibhne's son has said might become true. But Toirrdhealbhach an Fhiona gave orders to him to set out for his own country, to which Toirrdhealbhach answered that he would not depart without getting the King's dress for himself, and his followers for a bodyguard; otherwise that he would go away furtively. His demands were granted in full. He departed then, and coming to his father and his own people, he narrated all the proceedings to them from beginning to end. When MacSuibhne heard them, through gladness he summoned his whole force and following, and then came towards Murbhach to meet Toirrdhealbhach and Fhiona. And as they approached the house, a certain person came to where O Domhnaill was, and told him that there was a goodly host coming to him to his house. O Domhnaill recognized them and said they were the Clann Suibhne coming to visit himself; and on their coming to him he showed great joy. After they had spent a night in the house they received great presents for undertaking that journey. The presents were, one hundred cows and O Domhnaill's own raiment. But MacSuibhne bestowed them on his own foster-father. Maolmithigh O Hoirealla "O Herrill." O Domhnaill asked of those who brought the presents was MacSuibhne grateful, and they answered that they did not observe that he was. After that he bestowed on them six scores of axes of buannacht bona (that is, axe-men to be maintained) out of Tir Chonaill itself, a gift in perpetuity from himself and his posterity after him; the making of a circuit of Tir Chonaill once in the year; the spending of three nights in each house in Tir Chonaill; the fishing of the Erne every Friday between Patrick's Day and the Feast of the Cross in Harvest, if they should happen to be encamped by the Erne to oppose the men of Connacht; two ballybetaghs of Tir Mic Caorthainn which are now called Braighid Fanad 'the Braid of Fanad'; and to it by the right side of O Domhnaill whenever MacSuibhne would visit him. Toirrdhealbhach an Fhiona then asked the same messengers was MacSuibhne grateful, but they said that they did not observe that he was. He next ordered them to bring a champion hound of his own to MacSuibhne, and to ask him was there in the house anything which he liked or desired. And MacSuibhne thanked him much when he saw the hound, but for nothing of all that he had until then received. And he declared there was one thing in the house he would wish to get, namely that he should have as a foster-son Niall O Domhnaill who was a youth in the house at that time. O Domhnaill replied that he would have him, and that he was glad that MacSuibhne had asked his son, and that, had he known that he would accept him, that foster-son was the first thing he would have offered him. And thereupon MacSuibhne took Niall O Domhnaill as a loving foster-child.

And it was then that a levy of gallow-glasses was made on Clann Suibhne, and this is how the levy was made: two gallow-glasses for each

quarter of land, and two cows for each gallow-glass deficient, that is, one cow for the man himself and one for his equipment. And Clann Suibhne say they are responsible for these as follows, that for each man equipped with a coat of mail and a breastplate, another should have a jack and a helmet; that there would be no forfeit for a helmet; that there should be no forfeit for a helmet deficient except the gallow-glass's brain (dashed out for want of it); and no fine for a missing axe except a shilling, nor for a spear, except a groat, which shilling and groat the Constable (captain) should get, and O Domhnaill had no claim to make for either. And previous to this arrangement no lord had a claim on them for a rising-out or a hosting, but they might serve whomsoever they wished. It was the Scottish habit (or military service) they had observed until that time, namely, each man according as he was employed.

We regret that time and space will not permit us to reproduce this quaint document in full. Its pages are replete with stirring narratives of adventure—of Clann wars—of bloody foreayes and fierce combats, as well as interesting side lights on the Clann customs of those early days. The fairy tales and folklore of our credulous forefathers would make it well worthy of reproduction.

But as our main object in quoting these few pages is to further our contention that the MacSuibhne were originally of Irish extraction we will let the case rest and turn to the recorded genaology of the different branches of the MacSweeney family. The marriage of the first MacSweeney of Fanad to the daughter of the King of Scotland does not alter the case as the Scottish King was himself of the same Milesian decent.

The following pedigrees were compiled by John O'Hart, after a careful search of all available records from all sources extant in Ireland and should be accepted as authentic.

MacSWEENEY (No. 1).

Of Fanad.

AODH ANRACHAN, a younger brother of Donal an Togdhamh who is No. 106, on the (No. 1) "O'Neill" (Princes of Tyrone) pedigree, was the ancestor of MacSuibhaneaighe; anglicised MacSweeney, McSwiney, MacSwiggan, Sweeney, Sweeny, Swiggan, Swiney, Swyney, Swayne, Swain, and Sweney.

106. Aodh (or Hugh) Anrachan: second son of Aadh Athlahm, Prince of Tyrone.

107. Aodh Alainn, (or Hugh the Beautiful): his son.

108. Dunsleibhe: his son; had a brother named Giollachriosd, who was the ancestor of MacLaghlan, MacLachlan, MacLaughlan, and other families in Scotland.

109. Suighneach ("suibh": Irish, a strawberry plant, Welsh, "syfi"; or "Subha," mirth; and "neach," some one, any one, a spirit or apparition): son of Dunsleibhe; a quo Mac Suibhaneaighe. This Suibhneach, had a brother named Fearchar, who had a son named Giollacolum, who was father of Ladhman, a quo O'Laidmain, anglicised, Layman.

110. Maolmuire; son of Suibhneach: first assumed this surname. 111. Moroch Mor: his son; living A. D. 1267. 112. Maolmuire: his son. 113. Moroch Mir ("mir," a part or portion): his son. Had two sons: 1. Moroch, ancestor of MacSweeney of Fanad; 2. Maolmuire, who was the ancestor of MacSweeney na Doe, or MacSweeney na Tuaidh. Some annalists derive tuaidh from "tuagh": Irish, an axe; or from gr. "Tuo"; Fr. "tuer"; and some from "tuaith"; Irish, a territory. The territories of MacSweeney na Tuaighe (or, as some have it, "na d-Tuath," or na Doe) comprised the parishes of Menagh, Clondahorky, Raymunter, Doney, and Raytullaghobigly. And the names of the three Tuaths (or territories) contained in "MacSweeney's country," in the County of Donegal, are yet retained among the old inhabitants, namely, Ross-Guill (or Rossgul), Tuath-Tory, and Cloghaneely.

114. Moroch: elder son of Moroch Mir. 115. Maolmaire; his son. 116. Tirloch Mor Caoch: his son. 117. Tirloch Ruadh: his son. 118. Maolmuire: his son. 119. Ruadhri: his son. 120. Tirloch: his son. 121. Donal: his son. 122. Donal Gorm: his son. 123. Donal Oge: his son. 124. Donal Gorm (2): his son. 125. Hugh MacSweeney, of Fanad: his son; had a brother named Donal.

MacSWEENEY (No. 2).

Na-Tuaighe, or "Na Doe."

MAOLMUIRE, the second son of Moroch Mir, who is No. 113 on the (No. 1) "MacSweeney" pedigree, was the ancestor of MacSuibhaneighe na Tuaighe.

113. Moroch Mir: son of Maolmuire. 114. Maolmuire (or Myler): his younger son; had a brother named Moroch, who was the ancestor of MacSweeney, of Fanad. 115. Donoch (also called Daniel): his son; had two brothers—1. Dubhghall, 2. Tirloch. 116. Tirloch: son of Donoch; had a brother named Geoffrey. 117. Neal na Tuaighe: son of Tirloch; had a brother named Maolmuire MacSweeney, of Desmond. Branches of the "MacSweeney" family settled in Connaught, in Clanrickard, in Thomond, in Ormond, in Desmond, and other parts of Munster. 118. Daniel: son of Neal. 119. Donoch: his son. 120. Hugh Buidhe: his son. 121. Maolmuire: his son. 122. Owen Mor: his son. 123. Owen Oge: his son; living in 1587. It was with this Owen Oge MacSweeney, the lord of Rathmullan Castle, County Donegal, that Hugh Roe O'Donnell, then in his 15th year, with other nobles of the country were enjoying the far-famed hospitality of the said Owen Oge MacSweeney, and looking out on the beautiful bay before them. A ship was observed coming up the bay, with a deceptive ensign, under the pretext of being a Spanish vessel freighted with the choicest wines. The news of its arrival being immediately spread abroad, the young chieftain with some others incautiously went on board, where they were most graciously received by the captain, who invited them down to the saloon, where he gave them the most delicious wines. Whilst, however, they were enjoying his hospitality, the hatches were secured and O'Donnell was carried off to Dublin Castle, where he remained a prisoner for three years and three months, when he contrived to escape first in 1590. This Owen Oge MacSweeney was foster father to that Hugh O'Donnell, and he proffered other hostages and sureties in lieu of him,

but it was of no avail, for there was not a hostage in the Province of Ulster the English would take in his stead:

* * * * The generous Prince Red Hugh,

Unguarded, quits the fortress walls and stands amidst the crew,
Down with the hatches, set the sails, we've won the wished-for
prize,

Above the rebel's prison cell tomorrow's sun shall rise,
Untasted foams the Spanish wine, the board is spread in vain,
The hand that waved a welcome forth is shackled by a chain,
Yet faster, faster, through the deep the vessel glideth on,
Tirconnell's towers like phantoms fade, the last faint trace is
gone.

124. Neal Bearnach: his son. 125. Norogh (2): his son. 126. Sir Naolmuire (or Mulmurry): his son. 126. Donoch Mor: his son; had a brother Moroch. From this Moroch the descent was as follows:

127. Moroch: son of Sir Mulmurry. 128. Donoch Oge: his son. 128. Tirlogh: his son. 130. Emon: his son. 131. Donoch: his son. 132. Tirlogh MacSweeney: his son; living in September, 1835, in Dunfanaghy, County Donegal, when John O'Donovan, LL.D., then engaged on the Ordnance Survey in that district, met the said Tirlogh and his two sons, then "stalwart young men." 133. (These two sons).

128. Maolmuire: son of Donoch Mor. 129. Tirloch: his son; living in 1768. 130. Hugh: his son; married to Eleanor Scott. Had a brother Maolmordha (or Myles), and had a sister May, m. to James Dunlevy, of Ballygawley; d. aged 103 years and buried in Sligo Abbey. The issue of that marriage were six children.

131. Hugh (or "Hugh Smoke"): son of Hugh; m. in 1790 Ellen Dunevy. Had four brothers and four sisters; the brothers were—1. Doyle, m. to Elizabeth Stuart and had issued four daughters and two sons; 2. Morgan, whose son George m. Mary Gordon, no issue; 3. John, m. to Susan Fromberger, issue three daughters; 4. Nial. The sisters were—1. Rose, m. John Gaelrick; 2. Honora, m. to John Ormsby, grandfather of John Ormsby, of Ballina, County Mayo, living in 1878; 3. Nelly, m. to — Fitzgerald, no issue; 4. Margaret, m. to Morgan Dunlevy. This "Hugh Smoke" MacSweeney had three sons and two daughters; the sons were—1. Hugh MacSweeney, who d. s. p. in 1845, was the last of this family that retained the prefix Mac; 2. Frederick-Morgan Sweeney (No. 132 on this pedigree); 3. Charles (d. in India), m. — Shooks, and had a son Charles. Hugo's daughters were—1. Mary Sweeny, m. to Bartholomew Brennan, issue two sons and one daughter; 2. Alicia, m. to — Christy, issue two daughters—Mary-Ellen and Alicia (s. p.).

132. Frederick-Morgan Sweeny, second son of "Hugo Smoke"; born in Sligo, 1795, died 1845. Married to Rachel (b. in Philadelphia, Pa., and d. 1841), daughter of George Ormsby, of Sligo, son of John Ormsby by his wife Ellinor Morgan. This last mentioned John was the son of John Ormsby by his wife, Lady Anne Gore, all of the County of Sligo. This Frederick had four children—1. Emmet, d. in infancy in Philadelphia; 2. Robert Ormsby-Sweeney (No. 133 on this pedigree); 3. Mary

Alicia, m. to William Lowber Banning, issue seven children; 4. Catherine, m. to Jacob-Henry Stewart, M. D., issue three children—Ursula, Jacob-Henry and Robert.

133. Robert Ormsby Sweeny, of St. Paul, Minnesota, U. S. America; son of Frederick Morgan Sweeney; born in Philadelphia in 1831, and living in 1886; m. Helen Benezet, and had issue.

134. Robert Ormsby Sweeny, of St. Paul, Minn.; their son; born 1869 and living in 1886. Had a sister, Helen Benezet Sweeny, who died in infancy.

MacSWEENEY (No. 3)

Of Banagh.

DUBHGHALL, of Dun Usnaigh, brother of Donoch, who is No. 115 on the (No. 2) "MacSweeney" na Tuaight (or Na Doe) pedigree, was the ancestor of MacSweeney, of Tir Boghairne, now the barony of "Banagh," in the County Donegal.

115. Dubhghall: son of Maolmuire. 116. Owen Conachtach ("conachtach: 2 Irish, an inhabitant of Connaught): his son, a quo O'Conachtaigh (anglicised Conaty), of Cabra in the barony of Tireragh, County Sligo. 117. Owen na Lathaighe (or Owen of the Mire): his son; clain 1351 a quo O'Lathoighe, anglicised Lahy, and Myers. 118. Maolmuire: his son. 119. Eoghan: his son. 120. Niall (or Neal) Mor: his son; died 1524. Of this Niall, the Four Masters record, under the year 1524.

"MacSweeney, of Tir Boghaine, i. e., Nial Mor, the son of Eoghan, the most renowned constable of his own noble tribe for action and heroism, for determination of mind and counsel, for arraying and attacking, for hospitality and generosity, for great troops and active warriors, by whom most dangerous passes were forced, died after extreme unction and repentance, in his own castle at Rathaine (Rahan, St. John's Point) on the 14th of December."

121. Maolmuire (2): his son; slain by his brother Niall in 1535; had a brother, Eoin Modardha (or John the Stern), who died 1543. 122. Maolmuire Miergeach ("Meirgeach"): Irish, rusty: his son. 123. Donogh: his son; living in 1588. 124. Neal Niergeach MacSweeney: his son; had four brothers—1. Maolmuire; 2. Oliver; 3. Henry; 4. Alexander.

MacSWEENEY (No. 4).

Of Castlemore, Moviddy, County Cork.

TIRLOCH, a younger brother of Donoch, who is No. 115 on the (No. 2) "MacSweeney" Na Tuaighe (or Na Doe) genealogy, was the ancestor of this branch of that family:

115. Tirloch: son of Maolmuire. 116. Dubhdara: his son. 117. Eoghan: his son. 118. Donall: his son. 119. Eoghan an Locha: his son. 120. Brian: his son. 121. Eoghan: his son. 122. Maolmuire: his son. 123. Murcadh: his son; had: I. Maolmuire; II. Eoghan; III. Eileen; IV. Murcadh. 124. Maolmuire: son of Murcadh; m. Kathleen O'Mahony, of Kilmurry, and had: I. Murcadh Beag; II. Tirlogh. 125.

Murcadh Beag: son of Maolmuire; born in Castlemore, Moviddy, and removed thence to Macroom; m. Mary, dau. of Bryan O'Sullivan, of Castleisland, County Kerry, and had: I. Murcadh; II. Maolmuire; III. Kathleen; IV. Eoghan; V. Eilleen; VI. Shane; VII. Mayr. 126. Murcadh (Patrick Morgan): son of Murcadh Beag; m. Margaret, dau. of Michael O'Donovan (whose son, Very Rev. Jeremiah O'Donovan, D. D., was the author of "Rome Ancient and Modern," and the translator of the Catechism of the Council of Trent, etc.), and had surviving issue: I. Diarmaid (Jeremiah) of Dublin; II. Grani, living in 1886. 127. Diarmaid (Jeremiah) of Dublin: son of Murcadh; living in 1887; m. Maria, eldest dau. of Joseph O'Longan, of the Royal Irish Academy, and has had: I. Murcadh; II. Diarmaid (Jeremiah Myles); III. Eoghan (Eugene-Joseph). 128. Murcadh (or Patrick Morgan) MacSweeney: son of Diarmaid (or Jeremiah), of Dublin, living in 1887.

MacSWEENEY (No. 5).

According to p. 118 of the Vol. F. 4, 18, in the MS. Lib. of Trin. Coll., Dublin, Maolmuire, who is No. 112 on the "MacSweeney" (No. 1) pedigree, had a brother, Moroch Oge, from whom the descent was as follows:

112. Moroch Oge: son of Moroch Mor. 113. Maolmuire: his son. 114. Tirloch Clogh: his son. 115. Tirloch Ruadh: his son. 116. Maolmuire: his son. 117. Rory: his son. 118. Tirloch: his son. 119. Donal: his son. 120. Donal Gorm: his son. 121. Donal: his son.

122. Donal Gem, "Dux Militum de Rynedevocharigy, Co. Donegal, Arm., ob. ib. 17th Feb., 1636, Sepultus in Clondawydoge: son of Donal; m. Honora, dau. of Owen MacSweeny na Tuaighe, de Castlenadaugh, Co. Donegal, Arm., "and had six sons and four daughters." The daughters were—1. Mary; 2. Grania; 3. Honora; 4. Alice; and the sons were—1. Hugh, s.p.; 2. Daniel; 3. Walter, m. to Mary, dau. of Walter, son of Lochlan MacSweeney, of Ray, Co. Donegal, Arm.; 4. Mal; 5. Hugh Buidhe; 6. Moroch.

123. Daniel: second son of Donal Gem; m. Ellen, dau. of Fachnach, O'Ferrall "de Moat, Co. Longford, Arm.," and had two sons and two daughters. The sons were—1. Richard; 2. John, who was a priest (sacerdos); and one of the daughters was the wife of a Mr. Kirwan (uxor Ciravan).

124. Richard MacSweeney: the son of Daniel; m. "Honestas filia Christr. Neterville, de Fethard, Co. Tip"; s.p.

MacSWEENEY (No. 6).

Of Desmond.

Maolmuire, a brother of Neal na Tuaighe, who is No. 117 on the (No. 2) "MacSweeney" (na Tuaighe) pedigree, was the ancestor of MacSweeney, of Desmond.

There is no question about the authenticity of these records, as they were gathered carefully from the Archives of the government preserved in Dublin. It would appear from the foregoing annals that the records of some branches of the clan were continued down to a later date than

others. But this is explainable by the fact that the MacSweeneys, as a whole, being hereditary marshals and standard bearers to the different houses whom they served, naturally followed their princes to the field and participated in all the great battles that were fought by the princes of the northern confederation against the English. After each of several sporadic attempts to throw off the British yoke collapsed, there followed a period of slaughter and rapine wherein all family records were destroyed, the leaders either imprisoned, banished or murdered, and the faithful members of their clans slaughtered or driven out of their country and in thousands of cases sold into slavery, as was particularly true after the infamous Cromwell invasions and confiscations. The descendants of the unfortunate inhabitants, those who were not starved, frozen to death, or foully murdered, were beggared and scattered over the face of the earth.

As for three hundred years the whole force and power of the English government was exercised in an attempt to stamp out the use of the Gaelic tongue, as Gaelic was not allowed to be spoken or taught in the schools, is it any wonder that our forefathers who fled to these hospitable shores were both illiterate and poverty stricken?

The last inaugurated chief of Fanad of the clan MacSuibhne was Domhnall MacSuibhne, who was inaugurated in 1570. Seventeen years later the celebrated Hugh Roe O'Donnell (Red Hugh) was captured by an English captain who moored his vessel opposite MacSuibhne, Castle at Rathmullan, MacSuibhne's son, Domhnall Gorm, was captured at the same time and, with Red Hugh, was imprisoned in Dublin Castle. In 1592 he supported Red Hugh's inauguration as "The O'Donnell," and in 1599 followed his chief on his first raid on Thomond, and from thence onward to the Yellow Ford Blackwater and all of the other glorious victories of the Irish arms that at one time gave great promise of Irish freedom and faithfully stood by their colors till the flight of the Earls in 1607, since which time the family disappeared from Irish history, though Domhnall was still alive in 1619.

"We have thus, says the Rev. Paul Walsh in his account of the MacSuibhne family, followed the fortunes of the main branch of the MacSweeneys during a period of more than four hundred years. No other family in Tirconnell, except only the O'Donnells, can present such an unbroken record.

Assuming that the reader is familiar with the history of Ireland of that period, we will allude only briefly to that glorious struggle of the two Hughs and their associates to drive the despoilers from their homes. Had these gallant princes been supported by all of the southern provinces there seems no doubt of the result. As it was, though joined only by the gallant O'Sullivan, Beare and MacCarthy mor, they defeated the English in nearly every pitched battle fought during that desperate war. The MacSweeney of Farrad, as commander of O'Donnell's troops, the MacSweeney banner bearer for O'Sullivan Beare, and another MacSweeney holding the same office under MacCarthy mor, were in the midst of the struggle on every hard fought field.

After the defeat and ruin of the confederated chieftains, the MacSweeneys of all branches, shared the fate of their princes. The power of the family as ruling chieftains passed with the loss of the war, and the

descendants of the clan were scattered broadcast, and those that were permitted to remain near the scenes of their former greatness were reduced to beggary.

As a fit ending to the glory of the house of MacSweeney we again refer to Sullivan's story of Ireland, wherein he describes the departure of the two Hughs, after the collapse of the northern confederacy and the ruin of Ireland's hopes for immediate freedom. The sad sequel furnishes a gloomy picture as a background to the fate of the faithful clans that had so loyally followed the banners of Red Hugh and O'Neill, the lion of the North, in defense of Ireland. A French ship had arrived in Lough Swilly opposite Rathmullan Castle, the ancestral home of the MacSweeneys of Fanad. It was from this spot, years before, that Red Hugh, then a lad of fifteen, together with his foster brother, Dominall Gorm, the son of MacSweeney, were treacherously kidnaped and thrown in Dublin Castle to be held as hostages in the vain hope of forestalling this very rebellion.

Here, O'Neill of Tyrone with Red Hugh of Tirconnell embarked with their sad company on the vessel that bore them away from Ireland forever. With them, we are told, departed Catherina, daughter of Maginnis; his three sons, Hugh, Baron of Dungannon; John; and Brian; Art Oge, the son of his brother Cormac, and others of his relatives; Ruari, or Roderic O'Donnell, Earl of Tirconnell; Caffa or Cathbar, his brother, and his sister Nuala, who was married to Niall Garve O'Donnell, but who abandoned her husband when he became a traitor to his country; Hugh O'Donnell, the Earl's son, and other members of his family; Cuconnaught Maguire and Owen Roe MacWard, chief bard of Tirconnell. "It is certain," say the "Four Masters," "that the sea has not borne, and the wind has not wafted in modern times, a number of persons in one ship, more eminent, illustrious or noble in point of genealogy, heroic deeds, valor, feats of arms, and brave achievements, than they. Would that God had but permitted them," continued the old annalists, "to remain in their patrimonial inheritance until the children should arrive at the stage of manhood! Woe to the heart that meditated, woe to the mind that conceived, woe to the council that recommended the project of this expedition, without knowing whether they should to the end of their lives be able to return to their ancient principalities and patrimonies." "With gloomy looks and sad forebodings, the clansmen of Tirconnell gazed upon that fated ship, 'built in th' eclipse and rigged with curses dark,' as she dropped down Lough Swilly, and was hidden behind the cliffs of Fanad land. They never saw their chieftains more."

The MacSweeney elected to remain and share the fortunes of his faithful clan who had followed him behind the banners of O'Donnell to many a hard-fought field. With his ancient patrimony confiscated and given to strangers, there was little left for the MacSweeney but to remain and share the misery and privations of his beggared family and descendants. Sad, indeed, must have been the heart of the rugged old warrior as, leaning on his battle-axe, he watched gloomily the white-sailed ship hastening to the north and bearing away from his vision the last titular Prince of Tirconnell whose banners the MacSweeneys, father and son, for generations had borne on a thousand bloody battlefields.

Faithful to the last, faithful to his prince, and faithful to his clan.

The old annals state that as the gallant ship faded from view of the head of Fanad that the sun was sinking in the west. Not so, not so. In the providence of God, a sun was rising in the west, in the souls of millions of descendants of Ireland's sons and daughters, that is, destined in the future to rescue the sacred cause that seemed at that day lost forever.

Of the subsequent fate of the principal members of the family, after the defeat of the two Hughs—O'Donnell, prince of Tirconnell—Red Hugh—and O'Neill, Prince of Tyrone, the lion of the North, but little is known. But a pitiful side light is thrown on the condition of the majority of the old Irish chieftains, as a consequence of their sturdy defense of their native soil, is contained in the following item in O'Hart's pedigrees.

“Alexander Conyngham (or Cunningham), a scion of the House of Glencairn, Scotland, settled in Ireland, circa early in the sixteenth century. Possessing a love of wild and romantic scenery, the lake, the mountain and the ocean, he resided in Rossgul, in the county Donegal. Here, with a people whose language was Gaelic, he determined to pass the residue of his life; and here in a castle once dwelt MacSweeney, the Milesian chief of that district, but who was then the tenant of a neighbouring cabin, whilst the solitary Castle reminded him of the former wealth and power of his ancestors. The chief was beloved by the people; they saw in him the representative of an illustrious family, and paid him respect and reverence accordingly. Alexander Conyngham married his daughter. Sometimes ascending, with his son-in-law, the summit of the lofty Mackish, the Chief would point out the immense territory of which he had been deprived by the “Plantation of Ulster,” observing: “that Castle now deserted and covered with ivy will endure for ages, and oft recall the days of other years, while I, the last of its Chiefs, shall sleep in the tomb of my fathers.”

But although the different princes whose banners the chieftains of the MacSweeney clan had followed, were either banished, imprisoned or executed, and the heads of the clans deprived of their estates, the activities of members of the MacSweeney families did not cease. Those that remained of them were out in force in every “rising” that took place in the neighborhood. Step by step we get fleeting glimpses of the family—whose fighting blood could not be extinguished—down to the last struggle between catholicity and protestantism. We find their names mentioned in the army lists under James II at Athlone, at the siege of Limerick, and at the battle of the Boyne. The remnants following King James to France, where many of them joined the Irish Brigade while others scattered into the service of Spain and Austria. We find the name of Capt. Miles Sweeney as belonging to the Regt. de Lally and Capt. Sweeney killed at Laffeldt from the Regt. de Bulkley. We also have a Major MacSweeney belonging to the Regt. de Bulkley, wounded at Fontenoy. In the Regt. de Clancarthy we find Lieut. Eugene MacSweeney, Lieut. Rowland MacSweeney Capt. MacSweeney, commandt de Depot d'Invalides a Boulogne Sur Mer.; Maj. Bernard MacSweeney; Capt. Paul MacSweeney, Chevalier de St. Louis; Capt. Eugene MacSweeney, Chevalier de St. Louis; Capt. James Mac-

Sweeney, Chevalier de St. Louis; Capt. Francois MacSweeney, Chevalier de St. Louis, and Lieut. Edw. MacSweeney and Maj. John MacSweeney, all of the Regt. de Dillon and de Bulkley.

In the service of Spain in the same years we find Capt. Don Bernardo Suini of the Regt. de Hibernia, Cadet Don Eusebio, Capt. Don Milisio, Capt. Don Abmundo, Capt. Don Danielo MacSuini, all of the Regt. de Ultonia.

In addition to the army lists of officers especially mentioned for conspicuous gallantry in the field as the above, we have numerous mentions of Sweeney and MacSweeney in civil life of both France, Spain and Austria and, at a later period, in the United States, but we have no means of tracing the direct connection between these Sweeneys and the old parent stem. Sufficient to say that every MacSweeney, Sweeney, Swinney, Sweny, Sweney, or any other derivation of the name can trace their descent unerringly back to the parent stem through the record of the families outlined in these annals.

The question has been asked why so many Sweeneys have dropped the "Mac." The answer is that after the loss of their chieftains and their estates, which were bestowed on favorites of the English conquerors, overseers, or rackrenters, were sent across the channel by the new proprietors who mostly resided in England. These natives being unable to speak English or to write in any language were unable to spell their names for the rent collector. The only resource was for the collector to write the name as it sounded to his ears, which accounts for the number of different ways of spelling what was the original name. In thousands of cases they did not take the trouble to add on the prefix of "Mac," or "O," and in many other cases they slightly altered the spelling of the name to make a distinction between different families and the name as given in the rent returns after several generations became a fixture. No doubt many families since that time, for one reason or another, dropped the Mac, but of these we have no record. As for the writer, he wishes the Mac was back on his name. In the meantime it seemed to be a settled policy among the new proprietors to destroy all of the family records of the clans when they took possession of the Chieftain's castle, in order to, if possible, forestall any attempt in the future of the rightful owners to regain possession of their estates. In this way part of the records of every family among the old Irish clans in Ireland are missed.

There are a number of incidents recorded in these pages that are—apparently—repetitions, but in reality this was caused by quoting the writings of different authors on the same subject. The same is true in outlining some parts of the geneology of the different branches of the family. It happens that authorities differ on some subjects—but none of the differences are of vital importance.

We sincerely hope that after a perusal of this brief sketch of the clan, "MacSweeney," that every one of their descendants bearing any derivation of this name will be proud of their lineage. We are descended from a gallant and chivalrous race, and we should hold high our heads with the knowledge that no better blood flows in the veins of any family in the world. Let us hold up before our children the memory of our valiant and hardy forefathers who, through all the vicissitudes of their stormy careers were ever faithful to their trust, even unto death, and never forgot the motto of their family, "STRIKE FOR VICTORY."

Yours respectfully,

JOHN M. SWEENEY.

