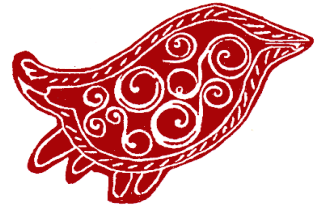


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The Lord Kilmallock in question is very probably Dominick Sarsfield of Duogh Cloyne, 4th Viscount Kilmallock and descendant of Sir Dominick first holder of the title which was patented in 1625. Biographical notices will be found in D'Alton, *King James's Army Lists*, Dublin, 1855, pp. 708 ff., and Dr Hayes, 'Dictionary of Irishmen in France,' *Studies*, 1946, p. 524. In the latter account Kilmallock's death is stated to have occurred at the battle of Chiari in 1701. D'Alton, however, quotes O'Connor (*Mil. Mem.* Vol. i, p. 218) as according that event to the Spanish campaign of 1710 (in this connection see also, J. C. O'Callaghan, *Irish Brigades*, Glasgow, 1885, p. 86). Further confusion is caused by the mention of a Lord Kilmallock among the 'considerable Irish Officers,' who fell at Aughrim (D'Alton, op. cit. p. 957), and also in the regimental lists of Williamite forces in Ireland in 1690 (cf. Hart, *Irish Pedigrees*, p. 636).

On the attainder of this nobleman in 1691, the portion of the Sarsfield patrimony which had been wrested from the Cromwellians, was seized into the hands of the rapacious Sir Robert Southwell.

The second bill, which is dated a century later, reads as follows:

|                                                    | £       | s. | d. |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|----|----|
| To making John Blackwell's shout <sup>1</sup> .... | 0       | 8  | 1½ |
| To thread, silk and hair ....                      | 0       | 1  | 11 |
| To canvas, buckram and tape ....                   | 0       | 1  | 11 |
| To 2 dozzen and 9 coat buttons @ 8d. per doz. .... | 0       | 1  | 10 |
| To 3 duzzen of brest buttons @ 4d. per doz. ....   | 0       | 1  | 0  |
| To pocketts for the coat and waist coat ....       | 0       | 0  | 7  |
| To linning and pocketts for the britches ....      | 0       | 0  | 2  |
| To making 2 great coats ....                       | 0       | 5  | 5  |
| To thread and hair and silk ....                   | 0       | 1  | 2  |
| To 4 duzzen of large buttons @ 10d. per doz. ....  | 0       | 3  | 4  |
| To ½ duzzin of brest buttons ....                  | 0       | 0  | 4  |
|                                                    | £1 7 10 |    |    |

<sup>1</sup> leg suit.

May 31st, 1761.

D. O'LEARY.

### THE BOOK OF LISMORE.

Standish H. O'Grady in his preface to *Silva Gadelica* (reproduced and published by Stationery Office, Dublin, 1935) describes the Irish MS known as the 'Book of Lismore' as a 15th century folio on vellum, written (partly) for the delectation of the McCarthy Reagh, who died in 1505. He continues:

In June, 1629, this fine codex was in the Franciscan monastery of Tigh Molaga when Michael O'Clery transcribed from it. In 1814, during alterations made in Lismore castle, the opening of a long built up passage or recess disclosed a wooden box containing this MS in loose staves, together with portion of a fine antique crozier.

The MS much damaged by rats, has ever since been known as the 'Book of Lismore.'

Professor W. F. Butler, in writing on 'The Lordship of the McCarthy Reagh' (*Gleanings from Irish History*, p. 165) refers to the destruction of such Irish manuscripts and states:—

Munster had its poets and annalists; there must have been in Cork and Kerry—probably one of the richest and most populous parts of the island—a wealth

of ancient record, but most of it has now perished. How this has happened we can make a fairly good guess. First there was the devastation of the three Desmond wars in Elizabeth's reign. But this fell chiefly on the men of Norman race. The Irish clans, mostly on the Government side, came through these troubles almost unscathed. But it is to the war of 1641 that we should probably attribute the loss of the greater part of these records. When in 1642 the men of Bandon took and plundered Kilbrittain, and when in 1647 the Puritans of Inchiquin stormed the Rock of Cashel and turned the interior of the Cathedral into a shambles, there must have perished a mass of material at whose extent we can only guess.

Having occasion lately to scrutinise *The Lismore Papers*, I found in vol. 5, second series, p. 79, a letter from Lord Kinalmeaky to his father, Richard, 1st Earl of Cork, dealing with the capture of Kilbrittain and Coolmain castles by the Bandonians under his command. It is dated from Bandon, June 3rd, 1642.

It seems the garrisons did not surrender the castles until he had erected a 'sowe,' or a movable house, which could be brought close to the walls. Under this protection the attackers could batter down the stonework. The castles were, however, unscathed.

The most interesting part of a further letter from Kinalmeaky to his father (dated from Bandon on the 25th of June) lies in this postscript:

*'I present your Lordship with a Manuscript found at Kilbritten.'*

The editor of the *Lismore Papers* here notes: 'MS not preserved.' I submit there is a reasonable possibility that the MS referred to is the Book of Lismore and that it is the one document preserved from the archives of Kilbrittain castle. ('Kilbritten' is, of course, Kilbrittain, the chief seat of the McCarthy Reagh, where the family muniments were deposited).

In all likelihood the MS was loaned in 1629 to the Franciscan friary of Timoleague (not far distant) for the benefit of Brother Michael O'Clery who was then in course of his itinerary throughout the various friaries of his order, recording the contents of such MSS.

The MS contained a folio of vital importance to McCarthy Reagh which was (I quote O'Grady)—

A poem by Mahoun McDonell McOwen O'Daly, hereditary rhymer to the McCarthy Reagh, in which he justifies the strong measures taken in 1478 by Finghin McCarthy Reagh and his brother Dermot to depose their cousin, Cormac McDonogh McCarthy, who had usurped the chieftancy from their father, Dermot an Duna. The verses were followed by a law opinion on the case in prose.

The McCarthy Reagh in 1629 was a direct descendant of Finghin of 1478, but the descendants of Cormac McDonogh still resided at Enniskeane and did not tamely acquiesce in being deprived of the chieftancy. Therefore I presume this MS was returned to Kilbrittain castle as soon as O'Clery had transcribed what he thought necessary and remained there until 1642.

The McCarthy Reagh was not at Kilbrittain castle when it was taken. He was encamped at Kilavarrig wood near Kilmalooda and so far as is known he never again re-entered his castle. In ransacking the archives, some member of the garrison came on this MS and sent it to Lord Kinalmeaky who presented it to his father, the Earl of Cork. Though

the Earl was then at Youghal, his family residence was at Lismore castle which at that time was occupied by his son, Lord Broghill, and in full communication with Youghal. It is likely the Earl sent the MS to be placed there with his other documents of title, deeds, etc. Then in July, 1643, Lismore castle in its turn was attacked by the Irish army under Lord Muskerry and General Purcell, but their attack was unsuccessful.

It may have been at that time the passage referred to was sealed up—perhaps for defence purposes. The Earl of Cork died on September 15th and the MS remained forgotten until the alterations of 1814 again brought it to the light of day.

I am aware that I have built up this theory from a single line, somewhat in the same manner as an archaeologist builds his from a bit of pottery, or an ethnologist from a single bone, and like them, I present my conclusions boldly as to the real manner in which the Book of the McCarthy Reagh came to Lismore castle.

J. T. COLLINS.

#### THE CHURCH OF LITTER.

In the Foreword to his useful edition of *Crichad an Chaoilli*<sup>1</sup> Canon Power has made it quite clear that in compiling the notes to this interesting tract he has by no means said the last word on the host of problems which the document suggests and he indicates that he will welcome additional information and correction in regard to the many points which he has raised.

In his notes on page 75 he deals with the church of Litter and of this building he says that no trace survives. It was with difficulty he recovered the exact site of the church which he gives as near 'the E. boundary of Templenoe townland, close to a pond ("Loch Liath") on the north side of the Mallow-Fermoy main road on the farm of Mr. Shinnick.'

It is doubtful, however, if this identification is correct. The eastern half of the lawn of the modern Cregg Castle is known locally as the 'Abbey Field'. At its south-east corner there are the remains of a building one wall of which is 4 feet thick, 8 feet high and about 10 feet long. This fragment contains a narrow slit window. The ruin overlooks a small lake about one acre in extent, now overgrown with reeds and brush. Traces of an old road are to be seen beside the ruin and lake and it is clear that this road passed on to a ford in the nearby river Blackwater. On the right of the old road is a well which is regarded locally as holy, though no saint's name is connected with it. The well has a carefully-built canopy of flagstones.

It seems reasonable to suppose that this ruin is in fact a fragment of the church of Litter, and the small lake may be Loch Liath. It is 1200 yards to the east of the site given by Canon Power and lies near the eastern boundary of the townland of Creggolympry North. Its exact location will be found on O.S. 6" sheet Cork, No. 35, N. 19.8; W. 41.5 cms.

P. J. O'SHEA.

<sup>1</sup> *Crichad an Chaoilli*, a tract on the topography of ancient Fermoy from the 'Book of Lismore', edited with Introduction and Notes by the Rev. P. Canon Power, D.Litt., M.R.I.A. Cork University Press (1932).