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The Place Names and Antiquities of the Barony of Kerrycurrihy, Co. Cork.

By K. V. O'LEARY, M.A.

To anyone interested in the history of his country the subject of its place-names should prove a fascinating study. Here he has history in detail. Here he may learn how his forefathers lived, fought, and died; what their customs were and their beliefs; what the theme of their fireside song and story. But on this subject the writer must beware of dogmatising. Archaic forms, terms peculiar to localities, words corrupted in the passing of centuries, names shrouded in myth and legend, must all be reckoned with. And the simplest method is the surest. A people simple of mind and speech did not employ subtle or vague terms in everyday conversation. A farmer did not probe the deeps of magic and imagination when he chose a name for a field. Indeed such choice can rarely have been a deliberate one. Thus we find, for example, *páirc* (a field) qualified by words which indicate for what purpose the field was used, or its natural formation, or character of its soil, or some such determining feature.. At times, it is true, we do get flashes of fairy light, as *crann an phúca* (the hobgoblin's tree), and of ghostly visitants, as *pairc an spioraide* (the field of the ghost), but we must bear in mind that all this that is hidden from our eyes was part of life, article of belief, and matter for rhyme of bard and tale of seanchuidhe in earlier Ireland.

The interpretation of Irish place-names, as it is attempted by popular writers, compilers of guide books, etc., is, to say the least, most misleading. In most cases we may suppose that the writer is ignorant of Irish. Of this the distorted forms in which many names are recorded is abundant proof. Unless his ear is peculiarly precise and alert he will not distinguish the shades of sound, or value the consequent shades of meaning, as frequent in Irish as they are rare in English. Less important guides and laws, for example, the distinction between the feminine and the masculine article in the genitive case, or the operation of the rules for aspiration and eclipse, are disregarded. The resulting interpretation is often ridiculous, at times impossible. How incensed an Englishman would be if a foreigner, with small or no knowledge of the English language, took it upon himself to interpret the place-names of England! And how ludicrous would be the literal derivation of Sudbury, or Oldham, or Blackburn, or Cheapside! In addition to the laws already alluded to, attention must be strictly given to the changes brought about by declension, that is, the use of different forms for different cases. A few examples of these changes will suffice to show how important these points are. The word *caorach* (a sheep) when eclipsed in the genitive plural becomes *gcaorach*. *Púca* (a hobgoblin), when aspirated, becomes *phúca* (pronounced *fûca*). *Fear* (a man), in its aspirated form of *fhear,* is pronounced *ar*.

The great and seldom-failing guide is the pronunciation of the name by a local Gaelic speaker, and, if possible, its corroboration. In addition, old records and ancient inscriptions are valuable. The fate of Vallancey and his school should serve to warn us of the pitfalls that surround surmise, and the inevitable coming to earth of him who takes flights of fancy. The danger in the lure of poetical explanation is a very imminent one, because the peasant mind loves to dally with the mythical in history rather than with the practical, and regards him who thinks otherwise but as one who has come to scoff.

To be patient and withal wary is often the only method that will succeed in gleaning from the chaff of "romancing" the golden grains of truth.

Washed on the east by the waters of Cork Harbour, and bounded by the "Liberties of Cork and Kingsale," the Barony of Kerrycurrihy has had a goodly share in the history of Cork. Kerrycurrihy is now chiefly noted for the Passage Dockyards and for the seaside resort of Crosshaven, but the waters that break on its shore have borne many a strange visitor to the Harbour of Cork—Algerian Corsair, as well as Englishman, no whit less a marauder for all his finer airs. Hither the crafty ships of "Drake and his merry, merry men" fled from the arrogant Spaniard, to take safe anchorage behind Currabinny Hill, in the inlet thence named Drake's Pool. Here the roads have rung to tramping feet, as O'Neill's men marched to the victory that was never theirs. Here Englishman met Irishman in bloody fight, and the hills echoed back the war-cry of the coveteous invader. Here in the dim dawn of Christianity, Carthage came to teach the faith. Here in the mist-veiled time of myth the Bo Riabhach wended her troubled way, and here, it is said, Diarmuid and Grainne, weary in their flight towards far and fatal Ben Bulben, took their rest.

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Now the Gaelic is seldom heard in the Barony, and its people little care what glory, if sorrow, the past has held. Far better to know that mine-layers and other death-dealers are in dock at Passage than to tell to the eager children how Florence MacCarthy fought and Milo de Cogan died. Better far to know that a field is good for the growing of grain than to keep safe its lios, deathless monument to the dead past. More useful the pillar-stone to prop a gate than to mark the fight and fall of a hero ancestor whose name is now forgotten. For Modernity is fast laying its blight on a people quick to learn and ready to receive impression.

In my examination of the Barony of Kerrycurrihy I have used the 6-inch maps of the Down Survey of 1842. Under the townlands which constitute the Barony I have grouped the names which it was possible by question, suggestion, and subterfuge to obtain from the few Gaelic speakers that remain, or from the descendants of Gaelic speakers. These latter, though speaking the English tongue, retain the hereditary "blas," and often with it something of the traditional lore.

Kerrycurrihy with Barrymore formed the ancient principality of Hy Liathan or O'Lehane, a sept descended from Olum, King of Munster. It was in Carrigaline of this Barony that Dermot MacCarthy, the last King of Munster, had his royal residence. After the conquest the territory passed, by grant of King Henry, to Richard de Cogan, and it was probably about this time that the Barony received the name which Smith tells us is to be found in old manuscripts—Long-a-Gowganig (i.e., Cogan's ship). In the Taxation (1291) of Pope Nicholas the name is written "Kyrricurith." By 1438 the Barony had come into the possession of the Desmonds, and history relates that James, the 15th earl of the name, granted it early in the 16th century to his brother Maurice. In 1579, because of the Desmonds' share in the rebellion, it became forfeit to the Crown by Act of Parliament (28 Eliz., cap. vii.), as we may read in a document penned by St. Leger to the Queen, and entitled *"The original and true commencement of the Earl of Desmond's title concerning the lands of Kirrywhirry, with the manor of great Cogan's decay, the banishment of his kinsmen, and the beginning of the pretended freeholders' interest in these lands."* (See papers of the Cork Cuvierian and Archæological Society, 1867-68). From St. Leger the lands of Carrigaline and Ballinrea were demised to one Stephen Golding, who sold them to the Earl of Cork, then Sir Richard Boyle, from whom they passed to the Viscount Shannon, whose demesne, Shannon Park, still bears his name.

I.

Abbreviations used :—

a.—acre.
f.—field.
D.S.—Down Survey.
F.B.O.S.—The Field Books of the Ordnance Survey.
Inq.—Inquisition.
O.M.—Ordnance Map (1842; 6′′).
S.D.—Sub-Denomination.
S.Div.—Sub-Division.

II.

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THE PARISHES AND FURTHER DIVISIONS OF THE BARONY OF KERRYCURRIHY.

Kerrycurrihy, Ciarraighe cuirce, the descendants of Ciar and of Corc.

The Parish of Marmullane.

Marmullane is probably Múr Maoláin, i.e., the Mount (or Rampart) of Maolain. This Maolain is said to be identical with the dignitary after whom Killaspugmullane (the church of Bishop Mullane) is named, but it is worthy of notice that the Barony of Kerrycurrihy was anciently part of *Muskery Millane,* and this may be a clue to the origin of the name of our parish. Some writers on place names have translated Marmullane as "the Shrine of Mary," and even one interpreter asserts that Kilaspugmullane means "the shrine of the Bishop's bell"!

The ancient name of the parish was Cill Muire, i.e., *the church of (the Blessed Virgin) Mary,* from which we can deduce the dedication. The Inquisition of William and Mary mentions "Kilmurrymalane," and Caulfield quotes a form "Kilvoryomillane."

The Townland of Ardmore.

Ardmore, Ard Mór, *the great height.*

Sub-Denominations—

Páirc an Dallán, *the field of the pillar-stone.* This is also called Páirc na cloiche báine, *the field of the white stone.* The pillar-stone in question, which is on Lane's farm, is of limestone and measures about 6 ft. x 4 ft. x 1½ ft.

Dán ard, *the high meadow.*

Páirc na Radaire, *the field of the view.*

Páirc na Sliob: slob = mud flat covered at high water; the place has been reclaimed long since.

An Leaca, *the Hillside.* A lios which stood here has been demolished.

Páirc na Pire, *the field of the vetches.*

Bóthairín an Teampuill, *the church road.*

Páirc an tSéipéil, *the chapel field.* Mr. Webster states that the old inhabitants remember the time when their parents went to Mass in a chapel which stood here, and that an ancient bell was unearthed in the field.

Reilig Muire, *the graveyard dedicated to Mary.*

The old church of the parish stood in this cemetery. Some slight remains survive, scil: the foundations, to a height of about 2 feet, of the east gable, together with some fragments (also a E. end) of both side walls.[1] The remains, slight as they are, show that the church was about 17 feet wide internally; from analogy we may deduce that it was about 40 feet in internal length. The present cemetery is some three or four times the size of the original church enclosure, which did not measure quite half an acre. The older portion is densely crowded, especially the space which was once the church interior. There are many inscribed stones almost buried in the earth, to read which would require excavation,

[1] Of the church, the ecclesiastical records of 1637 state "desunt omnia."

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which was not possible at the time when the place was visited. The following inscriptions were noted as amongst the most interesting and oldest :—

1. On a small standing stone not far from E. boundary fence :—

THE BURIAL
PLACE OF
JOHN OULISH
AND HIS FA
MILY 1760.

2. On a larger standing stone, close to last :—

THE BURIAL PLACE OF
DAVID HIGGINS AND FAMILY
A.D. 1758.

3. On a smaller stone slightly to E. of 2 :—

This is the
Burying Place
of John Hill and Family
Also Here lieth the
Bodies of John Ack
and Nancy Hill, who
Died February the 16th,
1787.

4. On a small standing stone (reversed), within the former church circuit :—

This is
the Burying
Place of the Revd.
Redmond Connell,
Who departed this
Life the 18 of Augst,
In the year of our Lord
1779, Aged 86 years.

Other 18th century inscriptions commemorate Hennessy (1781), John Linard (1765), etc., etc.

There is an interesting monument to Lieutenant R. Roberts, who commanded the "Sirius," the first steam-boat to cross the Atlantic. He was lost at sea in the "President" in 1841.

Windele, in his "South of Ireland," mentions Ardmore House, then occupied by Mr. J. Roberts (and now by descendants of the same name), as the second oldest house to be found in the locality. It dates from Queen Anne's reign.

The Townland of Pembroke.

If, as is probable, there is an old name for this townland, I was unable to discover it. Pembroke was granted by Henry III. to the Parsons family, who came from Pembroke in Wales. In the Inquisition of King James it is called "Pembrokestown."

Mr. Webster records that the chamber of an old cannon was found on this land, and presented by the Earl of Londesborough to the Tower of London, where it is to be seen.

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Sub-Denominations.

Passage, An Pasáiste, *the Ford or Ferry.* Dr. Caulfield, on the authority of an old record, states that the name was first applied to the Carrigaloe side of the ferry, and Mr. Webster, quoting from Burke's *Family Romances,* notes that William III. granted "Donegall, otherwise called Passage" to Colonel James Roche. Donegal is the townland on the opposite side.

Toureen Terrace (F.B.O.S.) in Passage. Whether this place has any connection with the existence of an ancient Túirín or bleaching-ground, I was unable to discover. A large fair used to be held formerly in this part of the town.

Páirc a tSéipéil, *the Chapel Field.* Here stood the 18th century predecessor of the present Catholic Church.

The Foreigners' Field. Here two foreigners fought to the death with knives.

Windele says that at Passage, in the possession of the Rev. S. England, was a silver chalice of the North Abbey, Cork, dated 1627. This he states to be the gift of Donna Marguerite Sarsfield.

The Parish of Monkstown.

The Townland of Monkstown. This townland was anciently subdivided into :—

Baile na Manaig, *The Monks Town,* and

Baile Tón(a) Aband, *The Homestead at the End of the River.*

The Monks after whom the townland and parish are called were Benedictines from St. John's Priory, Waterford, to whom the McCarthys (of whose Manor of Marmullane Monkstown was part) made a grant of the land whereon Legan Priory was established near the present Monkstown Castle. The Taxation of Pope Nicholas (1291) includes the "Priory of Lyegan," and we are told by Archdall that John de Compton was prior in 1301. In 1383 (see Brady) "the King committed to John Horsymgton, proctor of the house of St. Peter and St. Paul of Bath in England the custody of the rectorial churches of Kinsale, St. John the Evangelist in Carragh near Cork, and of Legan in the county of Cork." The Abbey was anciently called *Temple Oen Bryn,* which possibly means Teampull an Dhuine, *the church of the Fairy palace.* (The word Dhuibean occurs frequently in place-names).

The 17th century ruined church is a plain building of local sandstone slate, 35 feet in internal length, and about 16 feet wide. In the E. gable is a narrow ogee-headed window of dressed stone; this is about 3 feet high and splays widely inwards. In addition there is in the S. side wall a small ope about 1½ feet high, and very narrow, to light the altar. The gables and side walls are nearly their original height. Although there is complete absence of architectural pretence, detail, or ornament, the church is extremely interesting as illustrating Catholic activity during a lull in the penal storm.

At the W. end of the church, and attached to the building, is the uninteresting vault of the Goold family of Cork. Inset is a slab with armorial bearings and the following inscription :—

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This Monument
is erected to the Memory of
George Goold
of the City of Cork,
who died the 29th of March, 1789.

Within the church ruin, near the N.E. corner is a standing stone bearing in raised Roman capitals the following :—

THIS IS THE BURIAL PLACE
OF JOHN CALLAHANE
ALIAS BRIDAH AND HIS
FAMILY WHO DEPART
ED THIS LIFE THE 24 OF
9BER 1710.
GOD REST HIS SOUL AMEN.

A small stone of the same style as the last-mentioned stands by the W. gable, and bears an inscription, also in raised Roman capitals :—

THIS IS THE BURIAL
PLACE OF [ ]ARMOD
AHAERON AND HIS
FAMILY, ALSO MARY
AHAERON. SHE DE
PARTED JUNE THE 10TH, 1730, AGED 17
YEARS.

A square slab set in the W. gable bears the following :—

HERE LIETH THE BODY
OF JOHN AHERN,
WHO DEPARTED THIS
LIFE THE 17TH OF
FEBRUARY, 1719.

A large table tomb near external S.W. angle of the ruin is inscribed :—

THIS TOMB
WAS ERECTED BY ELIZABETH
Foott for her husband, Elias
Foott, who died at Passage,
April the 20th, 1751, in the 62nd
Year of his age.
&c.

By the S. side wall, outside, stand two massive table-tombs of the Archdeacons, builders of Monkstown Castle. One is inscribed (on its side) :—

HERE LIETH THE BODY
OF WILLIAM ARCHDEACON,
DECEASED THE 14 DAY OF
AUGUST, 1676.

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The second bears an inscription on top and side. On top :—

Hic jacet Domina Anastatia Gould
uxor Domini Johannis Archdeacon
quae obiit Die 23 Mensis Martiis Anno 1689.
Requiescat in Pace. Amen.

Hic Jacet Majorum in Tumulo vir nobilis
Gulielmus Archdeacon
Qui Pietate et Moribus Clarus
Obiit Die 3 Mensis Anno 1692.
Requiescat in Pace. Amen.

Hic jacet Domina Anastatia Skiddy
Uxor Dmni Gulielmi Archdeacon
Quae obiit Die 28 Maii
Anno 1729.
Requiescat in Pace. Amen.

Epitaphium.
In Honorem Archdeaconorum Familiae.

" Sic saltus, sic transit honor. Eu ! Aula Superba
Non potuit dominos hic retinere Suos
Corpora marmor habent, animas celestia regna
Proh ! Dolor ut tantos haec habet Urna Viros."

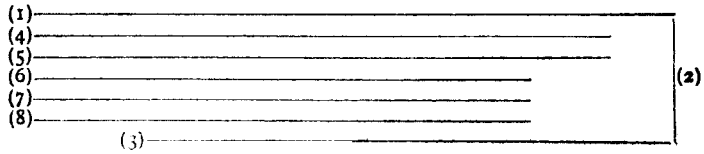
On side :—

A slab now set in the side of the tomb, but which seems to have originally belonged to another Archdeacon monument, has the following legend (in Roman capitals) :—

(1) "Hic Jacet corpus viri admodum nobilis Johannis Archdeaconis adjacent.
(2) Eo loci Domini castelli.
(3) Capella Hortique vicini fundatoris.
(4) Condidit haec Triadi templum divaeque parenti.
(5) Deliciis hortos hospitalibus que domum.
(6) Cujus sideres gaudet mens aequa sacello.
(7) Terra colit famam, marmora membra prem..nt."

R.T. ☙ J.P.

The lines of the above are arranged in this fashion :—



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There is also in the graveyard a tombstone inscribed :—

" Here Lyeth the Body
of the Revd. Timothy
Keefe, formerly
Parish Priest of Bally-
nabue, who Departed
Life March 25th, 1793."

Townland of Parkgarriff.

Páirc Garbh, *rough* (poor) *field.*

Sub-Denominations.

Páircín Árd, *little high field.*
Páirc na dTrí gCúinne, *three-cornered field* (2).
Páirc an Leara, *the lios field.* The lios has been levelled.
Páirc na gCaorach, *the sheep field.*
Páirc an Geata Dearg, *the field of the red gate.*

The Townland of Park.

Park, Páirc, i.e., *a field.*

Sub-Denominations.

Páirc na dTrí gCúinne, *the three-cornered field.*
Páirc an Coiréil, *the quarry field.*
The Upper Inch.
The Lower Inch. The word "inch" = inis, i.e., a field by a river.
Other fields in this townland have names of no special interest, as the Glebe, the Nine-Acre Field, etc.

The Townland of Lackaroe.

Lackaroe, Leaca Ruad, i.e., *the red glen-slope.*

All the names in this townland are modern and uninteresting, with the exception of *The Hospital Field;* there are no traces now of the building which gave the field its name.

The Townland of Ballymot.

Ballymot, Baile Adhmaid, *the homestead of the timber.*

In this townland is a pillar-stone over six feet in height, and of sandstone, on John Connell's farm.

The Townland of Maulban.

Maulban, Meall Bán, i.e., *the White Hillock.*

Sub-Denominations.

Bóthairín an Turrett, *the little road of the turret.*

None of the inhabitants could explain this name. There is no turret in the vicinity, nor do the natives remember the existence of one.

The Townland of Ballyfouloo.

Ballyfouloo, Baile Uí Fhoghlada, *Foley's homestead.*

Sub-Denominations.

An Cluain, *the meadow.*

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(f) Cnoicín na bFrainncaig, *the hillock of the Frenchmen.*

(O.M.) *Tobernadihy,* Tobar na Daibce, *the well of the vat.* This was a holy well formerly where "rounds" were made, and votive gifts offered. It was closed up some years ago.

The Hospital Field. Traces of an old hospital where negro sailors stricken with fever were received from a ship in the harbour still remain.

Páircín Ard, *the little high field.*

Strawhall is the modern name of a thatched hamlet.

Páirc an Leasa, *the lios field,* in which the lios is still standing (O.M.).

Cnapóigín, *the little hillock.*

Páirc an Aifrinn, *the Mass field.*

Casán an Aifrinn, *the Mass path.* This was an old short-cut through Callaghan's farm to the chapel at Ballyorban; hence the name and the name on the field through which the Mass path runs.

Tobar Vetty, *Betty's Well.*

Cnoc na nGaibne, *the Smith's Hill.* This is now called Callaghan's Hill (after the farm to which it leads). It was called Cnoc na nGaibne, because of two forges which stood at either end, at Strawhall and Hearne's Cross, respectively.

The Parish of Ballinaboy, Part of.

Portion of the Parish of Ballinaboy occupies the western side of the barony. Lewis, in his Topographical Dictionary, tells us that Ballinaboy, situated on the river Awnbuoy (i.e., Ownabuy, Abann Buide, or Yellow River), formerly belonged to the Abbey of St. Finbarr, and in 1582 was with other lands granted by Queen Elizabeth to Henry Davells, and subsequently became part of the estate of the first Earl of Cork, from whom the property descended to the first Earl of Shannon; that in 1600 Florence MacCarthy assembled here two thousand of his men and made a desperate attack on the English, whom he compelled to take refuge behind the walls of an old castle. During the retreat a party of English musketeers, having concealed themselves behind the bank of a ditch, fired upon the Irish forces, and the English cavalry charging them at the same time put them completely to flight.

I was unable to identify the site of the "old castle" referred to.

The Taxation of Pope Nicholas in 1291 rated the "Ecclesia de Boys" at 12 marks. Brady notes that in 1676 a tax of £3/3 per ploughland was raised for walling the churchyard of Ballineboy parish. In 1699 Dive Downes notes that there was no church, and that many Protestants went to Ballimartel.

The Townland of Liskillea.

Liskillea, Lios Cille Aoda, i.e., *the lios of the church of Hugh.* This lios is near Smith's dwellinghouse, and, as the name implies, fixes the site of the ancient church or cill. The Ordnance Survey Field Books have: "Liskelegh —Some old graves found here lined with grey stones."

Sub-Denominations.

Lios Ata Diarmuda, *the lios of Dermot's Ford.* This lios still stands, occupying about half an acre. It has double ditches, which are roughly 8 to 9 feet in height, and a trench 5 to 6 feet deep. The lios is nearly quadrangular.

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(O.M.) *Lisard,* Lios Ard, *the high lois.* It occupies about one acre, and has double fences, which are 12 to 15 feet in height. The trench is 9 to 10 feet deep.

(O.M.) *Lisnabool,* Lios na bPoll, *the lios of the holes,* i.e., souterrains. Souterrains are a common feature in lioses, their presence often being unknown until a horse or other animal falls into them. In many cases these underground chambers are flag-lined. Lisnabool has double ditches 9 feet high, and a trench 5 feet in depth.

Áth á' Solais, *the ford of light.* This stream gets its name from the presence of the well-known Will o' the Wisp—an elusive light seen in marshy places at night. No chemical analysis of its origin satisfies the peasant, who has a superstitious fear of this supernatural manifestation, as he explains it.

(To be continued.)

Some West Cork Place Names.

By JAMES M. BURKE, B.L., J.P., M.C.C.

(Continued from page 30.)

THE PARISH OF CASTLEHAVEN—(*Continued*).

[In the *Cork Historical and Archæological Journal,* 2nd Series, vol xi., No. 65, pp. 11-19, Jany.-March, 1905, I wrote an article on the Parish of Castlehaven. The following paper consists of "Addenda and Corrigenda" to that article.]

The old name of Castlehaven, as I stated in the article mentioned supra, was Gleann Bearcáin (Bearchan's Glen). Some identify the patron of Castlehaven with the prophet Bearchan, of whom the Martyrology of Donegal records (Dec. 4th): "Bearchan, Bishop and prophet of God, of Cluain-sosta in Hy Failghe. He was of the race of Heremon. Ferdaleithe[1] was his other name. He spent half his life in Alba, and the other half in Erin. He was one of the four prophets of the Gael." I am, however, convinced that St. Berchan was a native of Corca Laidhe. Fr. Hogan's "Onomasticon" has an entry under Glenn Berchain, viz., "Berchan of Glenn Berchain, son of Man, of the race of Lugdach[2] Laidhe" (i.e., Lughaidh Laidhe, the progenitor of the Corca Laidhe. In the "Genealogy of Corca Laidhe" we find mentioned together the pedigrees of Fachtna, Conal, Bearchan and Ceallach, directly after which there is a allusion to the Bishops of Ross. Fachtna was the founder of the See and School of Ross; Conal is probably the St. Conal who is said to have succeeded St. Fachtna; the name Ceallach (churchman) suggests an ecclesiastic, so that it is not unreasonable to assume that Bearchan was also in holy orders. The "Genealogy" says Bearchan was "son of Fiachra, son of Eochaidh Ceann-Mairc[3] of the stories." Dr. John O'Donovan notes Eochaidh as unknown, but the

[1] Ferdaleithe, i.e., man of the two halves, because he spent half his life in Scotland and half in Ireland.

[2] Lugdach is genitive of Lugaid, as Eacac of Eocaid.

[3] Ceann-mairc, i.e., horse's head. Marc is same root as *mare mar*-shal, etc.

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