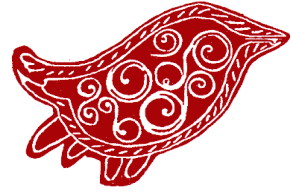


Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society



www.corkhist.ie

Title: Notes and queries: Kilbrittain Castle

Author: Butler, W. F.

Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society, 1920, Vol. 26, No. 124,
page(s) 81

Published by the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

Digital file created: November 3, 2014

Your use of the JCHAS digital archive indicates that you accept the Terms and Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.corkhist.ie/info/tandc.pdf>

The Cork Historical and Archaeological Society (IE-148166, incorporated 1989) was founded in 1891, for the collection, preservation and diffusion of all available information regarding the past of the City and County of Cork, and South of Ireland generally. This archive of all content of JCHAS (from 1892 up to ten years preceding current publication) continues the original aims of the founders in 1891. For more information visit www.corkhist.ie.

The Legal Succession of James FitzJohn, 14th Earl of Desmond (by G. O'Connell Redmond).—"The Complete Peerage" calls James FitzMaurice FitzThomas the twelfth Earl, but I do not know on what grounds. As to his daughter "Judith," her death in 1645, i.e., 105 years after the death of her father, is rather a tall order to swallow. The Annals of the Four Masters record the death, in 1577, of Honora, wife of Piers Butler "na Buille" of Grallagh, and daughter of James, son of Maurice, son of Thomas, son of the Earl, i.e. of this same James. So that "Judith" was not the only child, unless we are to take it that "Judith" is an absurd attempt at "anglicising" Honora, just as Gyles seems to be an attempt at "anglicising" the Irish Sile.

Kilbrittain Castle (by Rev. E. Coakley).—There is a good deal of evidence to show that the Blessed Thaddeus was not a McCarthy, but an O'Meagher of Ikerrin, in Co. Tipperary. If so, there would be nothing very remarkable in his having friendly relationships with the De Courceys.

The Grant of Kilbrittain, etc. to Sir Patrick Semple in 1616, was in trust to re-convey it to MacCarthy Reagh. This was a favourite method with James I of rewarding court favourites. An Irish lord surrendered his estate in order to obtain a re-grant with a valid title. The King was approached through one of his favourites, and a bargain was struck. The grant was made out to the favourite, who then transferred it to the real owner, obtaining from him a sum of money for his pains. See for such transactions the Miscellany of the Celtic Society, and the Patent Rolls of James I.

W. F. BUTLER.

The Marten.—A marten was caught in my wood here on Nov. 17th. The capture may be worth recording, as I have never heard of a marten within many miles of this place. Fifty or sixty years ago martens were, I believe, not uncommon in such places as the hilly wooded districts of West Cork and of Kerry, but now I fear they are becoming rare, and possibly not far from extinction. The Marten (*Mustela Martes*, Linn.) is very like a Sable. My specimen was a male, weighed 3lbs. 10z., and measured 2ft. 5ins. from the nose to the tip of the tail.

Longueville, Mallow, Dec. 17, 1920.

R. E. LONGFIELD.

The Great O'Mahony Family of Brosna.—On Sunday, the 11th August, 1914, the inhabitants of Brosna met in public to express their sympathy to The O'Mahony of Kerry, D.L., M.P. for North Meath from 1886 to 1892, on the sad and lamented accident that caused the death of his dear son, Pierce Gun O'Mahony, Esq., B.L., Cork Herald of Arms from 1905 to 1910. Mr. B. O'Connor, a Brosna man, now residing in Dublin, addressed the meeting, and in words of sympathy mingled with feelings of the deepest admiration for The O'Mahony, recalled the noble work he has been doing for close on half a century on behalf of his native land, and his more than generous subscriptions to the Home Rule fund, and to every patriotic movement as well. He pointed out how fitting it was that the people of Brosna should come together that day, to give expression to their sorrow over the sad event that brought grief to the hearts of the ancient Clan O'Mahony. Hundreds of years ago, Brosna was the ancestral home of one branch of this powerful sept; and our old graveyard here beside where we stand holds inscribed testimony on their mausoleum dating back to 1741, and which pays a fitting tribute to their memory, and that the princely O'Mahonys held sway in Brosna and surrounding districts, when Brosna was known as the O'Mahony country. In the course of his other touching remarks bearing on the sterling worth of The O'Mahony, and his gallant fight side by side with brave Parnell, he brought his speech to a close by proposing the following vote of condolence:—"That we, the inhabitants of Brosna, at public meeting assembled, express our deepest and heartfelt sympathy to The O'Mahony of Kerry (whose illustrious ancestors once lived here) over the sad accident that caused the death of his dear son, and to his bereaved widow, and also to his uncle, Sir Arthur E. Vicars, K.C.V.O., and late Ulster King of Arms, and the other members of the family.

History of Brosna.—The writer seeks information as to the origin and derivation of the name of this little town on the Clydagh, in Co. Kerry; and also the date of the existence of the monastery, and the name of the order of monks (or, as they were sometimes called, "the harpers and bards") who dwelt there. It was within the territory of the Earls of Desmond. Cusack's History of Kerry states that Brosna is situated on the Brusna (signifying brushwood), which rises in a mountainous district, and flows through brushwood, and joins the river Feale. Sir Walter Scott visited Kerry in 1825, in commemoration of which, it is said, the river was named Clydagh, the Gaelic for the Clyde. Some say it derives its name from one Brosnan, who dwelt here ages ago; others that the proper name should be Faightie Moling (? exercise ground