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SURNAME REPORT # 2 - JOHN MCGING - DECEMBER 2, 2000

The research reported on here was as agreed in the first report. The thrust of this was to try to establish the presence of a native sept of MacFhinn in Connacht.

Calendars of Papal Letters and Registers:

These were searched for the period 1417-1512, i.e. vols. 7-18. The earlier volumes contain little of Irish interest.

8/3: In 1428 Donatus Machayn, priest, was vicar of Kilsiorach in Killaloe diocese (Clare and north Tipperary).

13/612: In 1477 the vicarage of Kilkoys in Killaloe diocese was being detained by Dermot Mackayn, a priest, for 6 or 7 years past.

13/196: In 1483 Odo Maegayn was appointed to the vicarage of Killursa in Annaghdown diocese (east Co. Galway) and was dispensed on account of his illegitimacy as the son of a priest and a married woman. Just before this the vicarage had been resigned by Cornelious Magayn and had earlier been detained since about 1469 by one Maurice Macgayn, a priest.

10/729: In 1454 Thady Magyn was a priest in Kilmore diocese (Co. Cavan).

16/356: In 1494 Cornelius Macghin was detaining the vicarage of Kilmaceyayn in Annaghdown diocese. (This is probably the later Kilmacregan, now Cummer, near Killursa).

Apart from these references there were numerous mentions of Mackeans, etc., in Dromore, i.e. Co. Down, and these are the northern Maginns.

Commentary:

You will note immediately the references to MacFhinns in east Co. Galway, the actual territory of the Sogain. These represent a minor clerical lineage here and show the surname well established in the area in the second half of the 15th century. The branch further to the south, in Killaloe is also of some interest.

Calendars of State Papers Ireland:

This series runs from 1509 to 1670 and all volumes were done apart from those dealing with the period 1598-1601, which tends to deal mostly with Ulster. Additionally the Calendars of State Papers, Carew, apart from those around 1600 were also done, bringing the total number of volumes to about 25.

1589-92/240: Henry M'Gin of Connacht noted in 1589.

Those calendars for the period 1665-1670 contain numerous references to one Father Patrick McGinn, but in a maddeningly offhand way which tell us very little about him. In 24/6/1670 he was granted ten townlands in the barony of Ballintubber, Co. Roscommon. Earlier, in 1666, McGinn was to have a grant of the farm of the excise (tax collecting) in Co. Down. It is unclear whether he was a Connacht or a Down McGinn.

Sodhain/Sogain genealogies:

In light of the above findings in east Galway my suspicion that the reference you sent me about the McGing's being one of the chief lines of the east Galway tribe of the Sodhain may be correct. Accordingly I deviated from my own recommendations and examined this source. I traced and read on microfilm all recorded Sodhain genealogies in the large collection of the Royal Irish Academy. Unfortunately these all seem to have been early and do not extend down to the time when surnames were adopted. These occur in MSS nos. 536, 790, 836 and 1233. Another is published in O'Brien's *Corpus Genealogorum Hibernicorum*.

Journal of the Galway Historical and Archaeological Society:

This journal begun publishing around 1900 and continues an annual edition to the present day. The only index ever published that I am aware of was of the first seven volumes and this does contain an article on the Sodhain, in vol. 3, p. 137ff. As luck would have it my local university has the entire set apart from the first four volumes. I did note from the index that this article named the O'Mannin family as the chiefs of the Sodhain. I have sent to Galway for a copy of this article but this will take some weeks to arrive. This will be sent on to you in due course. I did not examine the remainder of this periodical in view of the work done above on the genealogies.

Summary:

It looks increasingly to me that the material you sent me regarding McGing and the Sogain was correct, but I am not yet certain of this. Note that the Sodhain were an important tribe later eclipsed, whose ancient territory is preserved in that of the outline of the barony of Tiaquin in east Galway. Traditionally there were six branches of this tribe, and it would appear that the McGinn were descended from the chiefs of one of these branches. I am certain that the Connacht McGinns and McGings descend from the 15th century east Galway MacFhinns as recorded above. If we can tie them in with the Sogain this will extend the pedigree back another thousand years, for the Sogain were located here at the start of recorded history, about 500 AD. I am not exactly sure where to go with this. If you leave it with me at present I may come up with some further work to firmly establish my suspected link. I will also be asking colleagues for opinions on this one.