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SURNAME REPORT #3, JOHN MCGING, JANUARY 28, 2001

This report is in response to your recent e-mail detailing a reference to the sept of O'Maigin in Galway.

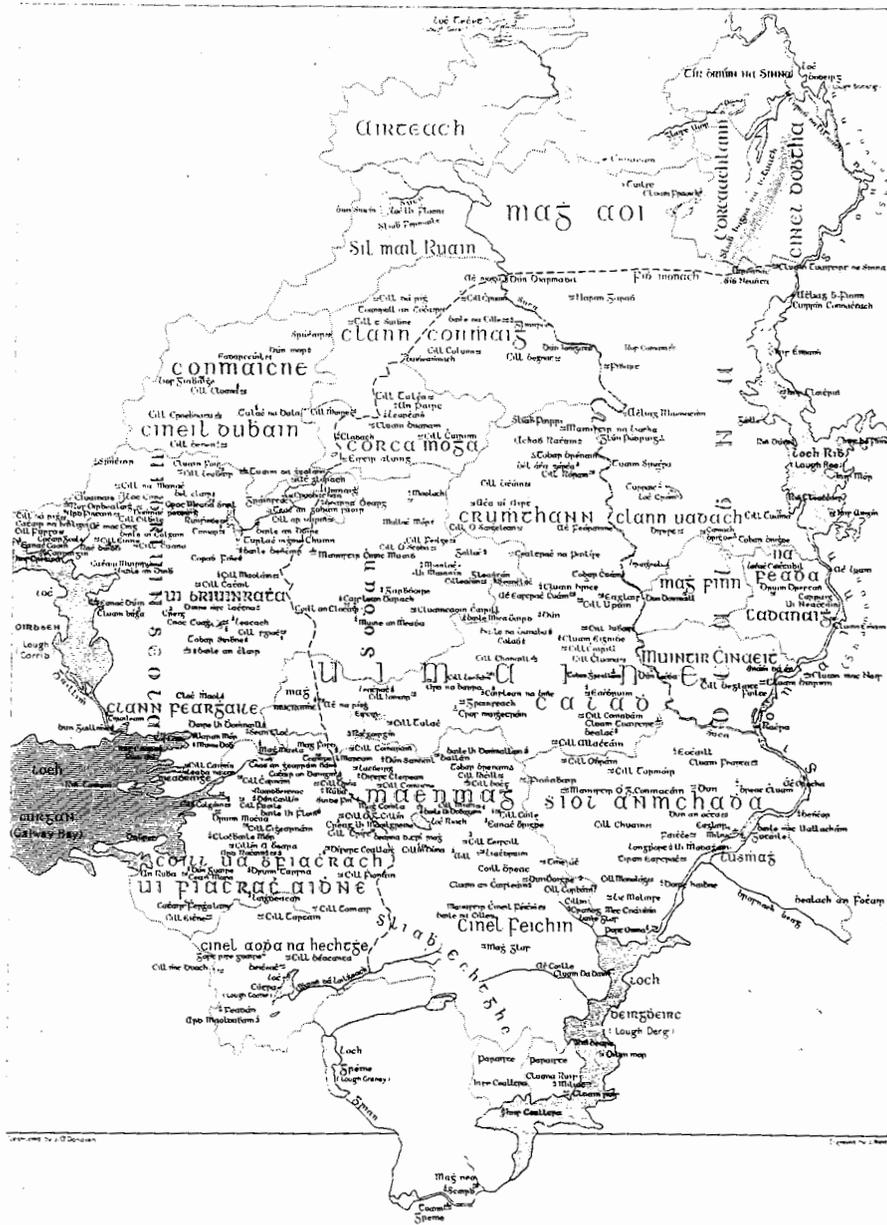
Please find enclosed a map and pages from O'Donovans *Tribes and Customs of Hy Many*. Note the reference on p. 159 to the O'Maigin and other septs connected with the Soghain. If you read this carefully you will note that O'Donovan gives no source for this statement, which renders it well-nigh useless. While this looks somewhat authentic O'Donovan was a very early scholar and is regarded as being far from infallible.

O'Brien's *Corpus Gen. Hib.* (p. 318) shows that the original form of this christian name was Moicain, becoming Maigin later. It is derived from the root 'Mac', son, and seems to mean 'little son'. The name occurs only once in the early genealogies, in a pedigree of a branch of the Conmaicne people. These were principally located in Co.s Galway and Mayo.

Turning next to two pages from McLysaght's *More Irish Families*, note the entry concerning the sept O'Macken. Here is the correct derivation of the earlier O'Maigin sept, as will be seen by carefully reading this. Note from the map the proximity of the territories of a branch of the Sodhain and of the Conmaicne in Galway. The O'Maigin's were Conmaicne, not Sodhain, and descended as Macken, not Maging. The references to MacFhinns as derived from the *Papal Registers* in my last report clearly do not have the O' attached, and thus are not Mackens, as the use of Mac and O at this early period was universal. These were definitely the early Magings, etc.

I note your comments regarding my remaining vigilant for traces of early MacFhinns in Connacht, and this will be done.

MAP OF THE KINGDOM
 WITH SOME OF THE ADJACENT TERRITORIES IN THE COUNTIES OF
 WESTMIDLAND AND SHROPSHIRE



FOR THE IRISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 1843

county of Armagh, Esq., M. P., and had issue one son, his successor (No. 9), and four daughters, Jane, Anne, Elizabeth, and Sarah.

9. *Colonel Samuel Madden, of Maddenton*, now Hilton, county of Monaghan.—He was born in June, 1756, and died on the 11th of June, 1814, and was buried at Clones, in the county of Monaghan. He married Catherine, daughter of the Rev. Charles Dudley Ryder, son of the Most Reverend John Ryder, Lord Archbishop of Tuam, and had issue two sons; 1, Colonel John Madden, of Hilton, county of Monaghan, the present head of the family; 2, Charles Dudley Madden, of Spring Grove, county of Fermanagh, and four daughters, Catherine, Anne, Charlotte, and Maria Alicia.

10. *Colonel John Madden, of Hilton and Manor Waterhouse, Esq.*—He was born on the 11th of December, 1782. He married on the 8th October, 1835, Sydney Anne, daughter of Admiral William Wolseley, of Rosstrevor, county of Down, and has issue John Madden, born 26th August, 1836; Charles Dudley Ryder Madden, born 3rd May, 1839; and William Wolseley Madden, born 26th July, 1840. This Colonel Madden is now the senior representative of Premium Madden; and the Manor Waterhouse estate has descended to him through the said Premium Madden, so that it is ridiculous to suppose that the "Madains" of France went to law for the family property, or that Premium Madden died without issue.

NOTE C.

PEDIGREE OF O'MAINNIN.

The O'Mainnins were the ancient chieftains of the cantred of Sodhan, and resided at Clogher, in the barony of Tiaquin, until about the year 1352, when O'Kelly hanged O'Mainnin and took possession of his castle of Clogher. After this the chief of the name settled at Menlagh-O'Mainnin, in the parish of Killascobe, barony of Tiaquin, and county of Galway, and about three miles and a half south-west of Castle-Blakeney, where the ruins of his castle are still to be seen. The O'Mainnins are one of the few families of Hy-Many who are not of the same race with O'Kelly; they descend from Sodhan Salbuidhe, son of Fiacha Araidhe, king of Ulster, about the year of Christ 236; and it is highly probable that Sodhan settled in Connaught earlier than the ancestor of the O'Kellys, but the exact period of the settlement of either is not entered in the authentic Irish Annals. The other families of the race of Sodhan Salbuidhe seated in this territory were the Mac Wards, O'Scurrys, O'Lennans, O'Casans, O'Giallas, O'Maigins, and O'Duvegans, now called Dugans and Duggans, but though several notices of these families are found in the authentic Irish Annals, no line of pedigree of any of them has yet been discovered in any of our genealogical MSS., which is very strange, as both the latter families were professors of poetry and history, as we learn
from

from the notices of them in the Irish Annals, and from O'Flaherty, who writes:—"De his antiquariæ et poeticiæ facultatis Wardæorum et O'Duveganorum familiæ prodierunt."—*Ogygia*, p. 327. See also page 72. Note ^d, *suprà*.

The earliest notice of the family of O'Mainnin, or Mannion, as the name is now generally written, is found in the Chronicon Scotorum at the year 1135:

"A. D. 1135.—The battle of Mongach was gained by the Sil-Muireddaigh over the Hy-Many, ubi multi ceciderunt, together with Conor O'Kelly and O'Mainnin, KING of Soghan."

In 1377, O'Mainnin is mentioned in the Annals of Clonmacnoise and of the Four Masters, as chief of Sodhan, and styled in the former "a good house-keeper." He joined Melaghlin O'Kelly and Mac William Burke, of Clanrickard, against Rory O'Conor, king of Connaught.

The following curious deed was drawn up in the year 1583, between two parties of this tribe by the Brehon of Hy-Many, Baathghalach [Boethius], son of Flaithgheal Mac Egan: The original, which is on parchment, and in the hand-writing of Mac Egan, is in the possession of James Hardiman, Esq., author of the History of Galway. The orthography is in many instances corrupt, the words being written as they are pronounced at the present day in the district; but the Editor is unwilling to correct it, as any alteration of the original would impair the authenticity of the document, which should be scrupulously preserved. It is probable that the Brehon adopted the words and pronunciation of the district to render the deed perfectly intelligible to the parties concerned, most, if not all, of whom would appear to have been illiterate, as none subscribed his name in writing.

"Ihċ,

"Iḡ é aóðar in rēribinn ro, .i. o'á foillriugáð zo zangaoar clann Diarmada I Mainnín, agur mac Aoða, mic Iriail, agur clann Uilliam, mic Domhnall, mic Iriail, agur rlicē Giolla Aoḡa [recte Giolla Iora] Ruaid, oo laḡair Taoḡ I Ceallaiḡ, agur Concaḡair I Ceallaiḡ, a ḡ-cár fearann oo bi ag in rlicē rin o rlicē Giolla Aoḡa, agur atair in rlicē rin o'á ēreie oo roḡann in fearann oo ligin oib, agur a tabairt oo rlicē Giolla Aoḡa; agur ar e acḡ ar a b-fuilir riat o'á tabairt oib, a n-

"IHS.

"The purport of this writing is to make manifest that the sons of Diarmaid O'Mainnin and the son of Aodh, son of Irial, and the sons of William, son of Domhnall, son of Irial, and the descendants of Giolla-Iosa Ruadh, came before Tadhg O'Kelly and Conchobhar O'Kelly, on a question of land which the former tribe had from the descendants of Giolla-Iosa Ruadh, and this tribe have consented to surrender the land to the posterity of Giolla Iosa; and the condition on which they surrender it to them is as follows, viz., that they shall have

geall ar r
Iora] oo
ouine oá
agur a n
agur láim
cúnum ail
leob na l
cúnum di
plécala ai
masa, agi
agur ar cl
mic Iriail;
num re rli
oa ma tri
Aoḡa. A
oo tabairt
ḡ-cuir oo
riugaoar r
cúr ar rlic
ann oo ligi
oo ceangm
Giolla Ao
acu iat ná
Taoḡ I
Ceallaiḡ:
ceangailte
n-oiaḡ zo l
oa cuirpea
beir'na m-ē
oo reir mu
ni eile, oá
ni'l cumar
molum Tao
bair I Ce
Aoḡagair
rin oo r-rl
acu oo cleir

IRISH AR.

now chiefly associated with Offaly and other midland Leinster counties, appears in its Gaelic-Irish form (Ó Laigheanáin) very early as that of the erenaghs of Ferns: there are eight references to them in the Four Masters, all prior to 1100: Bishop O'Lynan was founder of the Church of St. Peter at Ferns in 1055. The family were also at one time erenaghs of St. Mullins, Co. Carlow. In the Middle Ages they appear frequently in Co. Kildare and Co. Meath, usually in respectable though not prominent positions. By the end of the sixteenth century they were to be found among the leading gentry of that county, being established in the barony of Moyferath, which adjoins Co. Westmeath. In 1659 Petty's "census" lists Lynan among the more numerous Irish names in Moycashel, Co. Westmeath. Thirty years later we meet one of the same family as an officer of Dillon's regiment in King James's army, and two spelt Lynham. Two Lynhams of Co. Meath were outlawed for Jacobite activities.

Woulfe states that Lynam has also been used in Offaly as the anglicized form of a different surname, viz. Laighneach, properly Lynagh or Leynagh in English. This is, no doubt, one of those descriptive agnomina which superseded an older surname, the meaning of the word in this case being simply "Leinsterman"; this implies that it was acquired by a Leinsterman outside that province, and the place-name Gorteenlynagh in Co. Mayo has presumably a similar origin. This was probably the case in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries: the name Leynagh is of frequent occurrence in the Justiciary Rolls in Co. Tipperary and Co. Limerick. John Leynagh was Bishop of Lismore from 1323 to 1354. The same source has occasional references to it in Leinster. Later we seldom meet it outside that province, and the fact that the great majority of the many Leynaghs, Lynaghs etc., to be found in the Tudor Fiants from 1550 are located in counties Kildare and Meath and that a century later Leynagh was one of the principal Irish surnames in the barony of Carbery, Co. Kildare (which adjoins Moyferath), particularly as Lynagh or Linagh is still found there, suggests that the usually accepted derivation given above may be misleading, and that the name is in fact, at least in many cases, a corruption of O'Lynan (Lynam). This theory is corroborated by the fact that individual titulados in the barony of Carbery are called Lynham in the same document. Moreover the name with the prefix O occurs in the fifteenth century Statute Rolls (temp. Edward IV), where O'Leynaghs are described as "villeins of the Duke of York in Meath".

Although it is improbable that any descendants of the Norman de Lynhams remain today it should nevertheless be mentioned that such a family did exist in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries in Co. Kildare.

Two men of the name have been prominent in recent times: Major William Francis Lynam (d. 1894), the creator of the humorous character Mick McQuaid; and Edward William Lynam (d. 1950), the distinguished superintendent of the department of maps in the British Museum, whose family belongs to Co. Carlow.

LYNESS Lyness, with its variant spellings, Lynas, Lynass, Lynis, is a numerous name in counties Antrim

and Down today. It appears in the Co. Armagh Hearth Money Rolls of 1664 in three parishes. Strange though it seems Lynas or Lyness has been recorded in recent times as in use in the Newry area as a synonym of MacAleenan.

LYNNOTT The Lynnotts were one of the powerful Cambro-Norman families which became established in Connacht in the thirteenth century. In 1585 "the lands of the Lynnotts" were of sufficient extent and importance to be mentioned as such in the Composition Book of Connacht with such well-known families as the Burkes and the Barretts, and fifty years later at the time of Strafford's Inquisition of Co. Mayo, five Lynotts are mentioned as landowners, mainly in the barony of Tirawley. But from that on they declined in prosperity and influence. Not one is listed among the "titulados" of Co. Mayo in the "census" of 1659 and only one in the eighteenth century appears in the list of Prerogative Wills. Numerically, too, the name has diminished.

It should be added that Livott and Lyvet are sometimes found, at various dates, as corrupt synonyms of Lynnott. Lyvet, however, is a distinct Anglo-Norman name in Leinster (not in Mayo) since the thirteenth century.

(O) **MACKEN** (Mac) MACKEN, Macklin O'Macken (Ó Maicín and sometimes Ó Macáin) and Mac-Macken (Mac Maicín) are the names of two and possibly three quite distinct septs. In that part of the Book of Lecan which deals with Corca Laoidhe Ua Meiccon is given as one of the hereditary proprietors of that region, and O'Donovan in his notes on the text equates this old form with the modern name Macken. It occurs in Munster as O'Makan, O'Mackane, O'Mackine etc., at various dates from 1314 in the Justiciary Rolls (e.g. a "notorious felon", which usually means a native Irishman persona non grata to the Anglo-Norman government) to 1600 in the Fiants (when two of the name from the Corca Laoidhe country received "pardons"). O'Macken, however, is not confined in mediaeval records to the southern province: Leighlin Omakin is mentioned in an official report of 1360 as one of the Leinster enemies of the English king; in Connacht the Four Masters record the death of Thomas O'Maicin, Bishop of Leyney (i.e. Achonry), in 1265; the Annals of Loch Cé mention a Maeilbrighde O'Maicin, Abbot of Ballintubber in 1225; and the early connexion with Co. Mayo thus indicated is still to be seen in modern birth registration statistics. Neither the Cork nor the Mayo O'Mackens can be regarded as akin to the Mackens of Ulster who are properly MacMacken. In their ancient homeland, the present Co. Monaghan, the name is now usually written Mackin not Macken. John Macken (1784-1823) the Ulster poet, of Co. Fermanagh, was no doubt one of these; but the discarding of the prefix leaves it uncertain from which sept persons of the name found in other parts of the country belonged — one wonders for example was James Macken, who was murdered at Hoggen Gate "in the purlieu of Dublin" in 1567, a Mac or an O. One can be sure he was a "hibernicus" since the official record tells us

that his murderer was pardoned, though found guilty of the crime.

The use of MacEvoy and Macken as synonyms in the Mullingar area is curious, and, since these names have nothing in common, must have arisen through ignorance. Map

(O) **MACKEY** Though sometimes used as a synonym of the Ulster surname MacKee, Mackey is properly the normal anglicized form of the Irish Ó Macdha, an Ormond sept whose territory lay in and around the parish of Ballymackey near Nenagh. Though the Co. Tipperary Hearth Money Rolls of 1666 show that there were then some 50 substantial families of the name in the county only one of these, strangely enough, was in the parish named after them. The Fiants of a century earlier prove that even then they had spread into neighbouring counties, particularly Limerick, Waterford, Kilkenny and Offaly. In this case the Fiants have to be used with particular care because in the sixteenth century, as at present, MacKee, with such variants as Mackey, MacKea, MacKehe etc., as well as the more obvious O'Maaky and O'Mackey, were already in use to denote O'Mackey and in some cases were identical with the form used to denote the northern MacKee. The Daniel Mackey who became Bishop of Down and Connor in 1671 was a MacKay. It should also be remembered that many Scottish families named MacKay settled in Ulster and some of these became Mackey.

If the Mackeys have not been very prominent in the political or cultural history of the country, their name is very well known in our own day in the sphere of sport, since the Mackey brothers of Co. Limerick were among the greatest exponents of the national game of hurling. Captain Mackey was one of the most prominent and active of the Fenian organization: this, however, is a pseudonym and his real name was William Lomasney. James Townsend Mackey (1777-1862), author of a standard work on Irish plants, was the creator of the Trinity College, Dublin, botanical gardens. Map

(O) **MACKLE**, Mackell I do not accept the statement that Mackle is a form of MacGill, though there is no doubt that the two have been used as synonyms in Co. Down: such usage frequently arises from ignorance and has little etymological value. There is in fact good reason to believe that Mackle is an O name, O'Mackell. The Hearth Money Rolls of the northern counties, particularly Co. Armagh, have a number of O'Mackells. It is true that MacKell also appears in them; and this form has become established in counties Armagh and Down as well as the more numerous Mackle. In this connexion we may compare the Limerick name O'Mackessy which similarly became MacKessy as well as Mackessy when the Ó was dropped. As MacKell the name is well-known in Australia.

Mackle is the spelling now almost invariably used in counties Armagh and Tyrone where the name is numer-



MacCahill (Mac Cathail). Woulfe says this is obsolete: it has in fact become McCole and MacCarvill.

MADDOCK, Vaddock Better examples than Ballymaddock of the rare place-names formed from English surnames combined with the Irish prefix Bally are Ballyarnott, Ballystokes and Ballytaylor. Maddock is Welsh not English. The change from M to V is normal, Mh being pronounced V. Vaddock (with its synonyms Waddock, Weddick etc., and also Maddox) is a distinct surname – Mac Mhadoc – being that of a family which claims descent from the MacMurrroughs and thus to be of Gaelic-Irish not Norman origin. There is good authority for this, including the Book of Leinster. They were formerly called MacVaddock in English, and mediaeval and early modern records contain many references to people of the name and to “MacVadog’s country” in Co. Wexford and Co. Kilkenny; and in his official report on the state of the country in 1579 Sir Nicholas Mally speaks of MacEvado, chief of his name. Richard Madock, gent, of Townhely (Tinahely) was a Co. Wicklow Jacobite outlawed under William III.

MAGEOWN Though Mageown is one of the recorded synonyms of MacGowan, it should be stated that it is also of another origin viz., Mag Eoin or Mag Eoghain, cognate with MacKeown. It is occasionally found in the abbreviated form Geon.

MAGNER This was originally Magnel. Castlemagner in Co. Cork was formerly Magnelstown. Many Magnels were in Co. Cork in the thirteenth century, as we know from the Justiciary Rolls and similar records; and it is with that county families of the name have been associated ever since. It had become Magner by the sixteenth century and is numerous in the Tudor Fiants. In the next century we find it listed in the “census” of 1659 as a principal Irish name in the Co. Cork barony of Kilmore and Orrery; and three years earlier two of the name were transplanted as Papists from Co. Cork to Connacht.

Maingnéir is used as the Irish form of this name.