

May 30, 2006

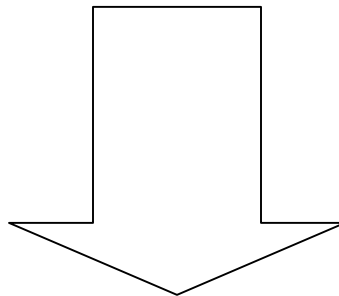
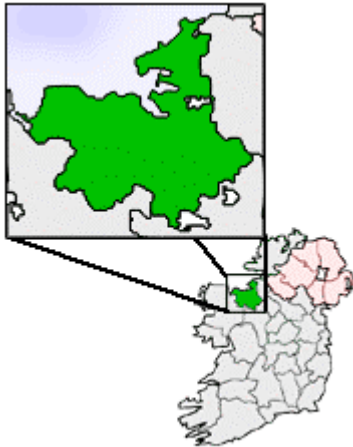
While browsing through Bishop O'Rorke's "History of Sligo," written in the 1880s, I found a list of Ballymote (Co. Sligo) residents pardoned by James I in 1603. O'Rorke described them as making up almost the whole population of the town.

I doubt that many of them came from that area. Ballymote Castle was the departure point for Red Hugh O'Donnell when he led his army south to its defeat at Kinsale in 1601. The military types on O'Rorke's list, plus the pypers, rymers, and harper, most likely were a garrison he left to guard the castle. They probably became prisoners of the English or perhaps were released on local parole until pardons came through.

There are six O'Birne on the list--one labourer, two galloglas, and three shot (musketeers). The galloglas are the most puzzling since they usually were Scots mercenaries, though I have never heard of a Scottish Burns galloglas. Hayes-McCoy did write in his "Scots Mercenaries in Ireland" (I think that was the title) that sometimes Irish recruits were taken into the Scots galloglas contingents.

My guess is that these were Donegal O'Birnes.

Paul Burns



From Bishop O'Rorke's History of Sligo

The population of Ballymote and its outskirts is pretty mixed at present in regard both to race and creed. Up to the beginning of the seventeenth century it was almost exclusively Celtic; and with the exception of George Goodman, Queen Elizabeth's constable of the castle, and perhaps a retainer of two, who may have come over with him, the following list of inhabitants of Ballymote, to whom James I granted a general pardon in 1603, may be taken practically for a list of all the adult male inhabitants of the place:- Hugh Boy O'Connor, gent.; Thadeus Boy McDonnell Chrono, gent.; Cormac Mergach McDonnell Chrome, horseman; Gilleduffe McRory, horseman; Conogher Grany, kerne; Donnell Oge McDonnell Chrome, kerne; Rory McHugh Boy, gent.; Gillepatrick Cam McEward, rymer; Donald McEward, rymer; Geotfry McEward, rymer; Moilmoy McEward, rymer; Conogher McDonnough Reogh, labourer; Donald Cam O'Coman, labourer; Mark McDonnell, student; Donatus McSheaffne Morrey, kerne; Thadeus Oge McRory, kerne; Brian Buy O'Clabby, pyper; Carbrie O'Brien, labourer; Conagher Oge O'Brien, galloglass; Phelim O'Birne, galloglass; Thadeus O'Birne, shot; Brian O'Birne, galloglass; Shane O'Birne, shot; Moraisse O'Birne, shot; Thadeus McDonnough, kerne; Tirlagh McEparson, student; Shane O'Cahane, messenger; Rory O'Gillegan, labourer; William Culkeen, labourer; Ed. McCulkeen, labourer; Gilleduffe McEvrehune, horse-keeper; Gillegroma McGworine, kerne; Gillepatrick McGworine, kerne; Conillagh McGworine, kerne; Brian McRory McGowane, priest; Connor McDermot O'Harte, husbandman; Will McShane McDermot O'Harte, kerne; Gillepatrick McConnor O'Harte, labourer; Farrell McGloyne, kerne; Shane McDermot O'Conillan, labourer; Brian Oge McHugh, labourer; Oyne McDonnough, labourer; Conor Reogh O'Lauderne, labourer; Hugh Ballagh McConbany, tucker; Gillepatrick Reogh O'Callilen, labourer; Owen O'Mowrigan, harper; Shane Roe O'Clably, husbandman; Moellony O'Daly; harper; Rory McGloyne, shot; Donatus Cwaghane, shot; Brian O'Clwaine, labourer; Hubert McPhillip, labourer; Rorie Duff McEnily, labourer; Shane O'Lavine, labourer; Shane McMoriertagh Reogh, labourer; Thadeus O'Creavoynne, labourer; Thomas Bentfield, serving man; Tomoltagh McGolrick, kerne; Gillepartick O'Birne, labourer; Dermot McHugh O'Hart, labourer; Donald O'Helly, keard; Owen O'Helly, labourer; Owen Duff McTomoltagh, husbandman; Thadeus Boy McTomoltagh, husbandman; Donald McTomoltagh, husbandman; Phelim Reogh McTeige Boy, husbandman; Hugh O'Coane, husbandman; Tomoltagh McCormack, kerne.