

## Chapter 16 - Historical Aspects of the North of Ireland and the Search for James P. McLean

**Introduction:** In previous chapters, I have provided a great deal of information on the Ancient Kingdom of Dal Riada. The chapters in regards to our Scotland roots show how we descend from Celtic people who were firmly rooted in the Kingdom of Dal Riada. In particular the surnames of McLean and McDonald readily trace back to ancestors who lived in this ancient kingdom. In Scotland, the inheritors of this kingdom were the McDonalds as the Scotland portion of the kingdom would come under the influence of the Lords of the Isles. But there is a southern portion of the kingdom that existed in ancient times in the North of Ireland or the Irish province of Ulster. In this chapter I will use the terms “North of Ireland” and “Ulster” so as not to cause any confusion over the proper political subdivision of Great Britain called “Northern Ireland.”

I had remained stuck in my research as to the origins of my father’s Great Grandfather James P. McLane (McLean). All I could learn from my research was that he came from Ireland, but the records I found did not indicate a more precise location. I began to get some DNA matches that were clues as to the location where James P. McLean came from. Because I had found a record in Quebec in which our oldest known paternal ancestor James P. McLean, signed his name as “McLean,” when discussing our paternal surname in this chapter, I will use that spelling.

**Travel to Ulster:** As described in an earlier chapter, we took a trip in 2019 to both the Isles of Scotland and Ulster. For our Ulster visit we staged in Belfast and there were several standard tours available to see some of Ulster. We took a bus tour of the Antrim Coast and the first stop was Carrickfergus Castle. Carrickfergus was the powerbase of the Anglo-Norman Earldom of Ulster. It was built by John de Courcy in about 1177. The Anglo-Normans were a threat to the O’Neills (our ancestors from the Ancient Scottish Pedigree) who had controlled much of the Antrim coast from the time of the Kingdom of Dal Riada. The tour took us past the nine “Glens of Antrim.” These are lush valleys that were part of the Kingdom of Dal Riada. It was one of these glens near Ballycastle that our ancestors who went by the surname Lavery came from.

The tour passed by Dunluce Castle. Dunluce Castle was built by Richard de Burgh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Ulster (our 22<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather in the Ancient Scottish Pedigree) in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The story of Dunluce involves two families. The MacQuillans were a local Irish family, founded around the 1490s. The heart of their lordship was a territory centered on the north Antrim coastline, known as “the Route.” The MacDonnells were descendants of the powerful Scottish Clan MacDonald, medieval Lords of the Isles. During the 1540s they were employed by the MacQuillans as their Scottish redshank mercenaries. However, the MacDonnells were ambitious to carve out their own territory and went on to take Dunluce in the 1550s and usurp the MacQuillans from “the Route.”

The Route was a medieval territory in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, consisting of the

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baronies of Dunluce Upper, Dunluce Lower, Toome Lower, and the North East Liberties of Coleraine (in County Londonderry). It also formed part of the more ancient kingdoms of Dal Riada, as well as part of the Earldom of Ulster.

The tour also stopped at the Bushmills distillery. The Village of Bushmills dates from Norman times (1150-1520). The first license for the Bushmills Distillery was granted by King James I of England (James VI of Scotland) in 1608. It was here at the visitor center that my choice to plan my trip centered around the Ancient Kingdom of Dal Riada was confirmed. There on the wall was a large map of the Kingdom of Dal Riada showing the north coast of County Antrim and the Western Isles of Scotland as one Country.

## **The Search for James P. McLean**

We were always told that our father's paternal ancestors came from Ireland. When I began my research, sure enough I traced my Grandfather Miles McLane's ancestry back to an Irish community in Frampton, Quebec. I had determined that his mother was Elizabeth Murphy who descends from several families that came to Quebec from County Wexford, Ireland. Generally in Quebec Catholic church records, the priests would enter the names of parents into the marriage record which makes it fairly easily to progress through the generations. Miles' father's parents were James McLean and Anastasia O'Connor. They were married on August 29, 1837 at the Frampton Catholic church. However, because this was James McLean's second marriage, his parents and where they lived in Ireland were not listed, rather the record merely provided the name of his first wife, Bridget Smith. His bride Anastasia O'Connor's parents were Matthew O'Connor and Catherine O'Brien and later I determined that Anastasia was born in County Wexford. Information about all our ancestors from County Wexford will be provided in the following Chapter.

I found James McLean and his family in the 1861 Canada Census as born in Ireland and he was shown as age 52 (birth year 1809). I found him in the 1871 Canada Census as born in Ireland and he was shown as age 70 (birth year 1801). I found him in the 1881 Canada Census as born in Ireland and he was shown as age 78 (birth year 1803). James McLean died on April 3, 1882. His burial record indicated he was 82 years of age (birth year 1800). None of these records can be counted on for birth year accuracy but merely provide an estimate. I settled for a sort of average around 1803. So from these records, I determined that James McLean was born about 1803 in Ireland. Unfortunately these census records do not provide the specific place in Ireland where he was born. There was also a heads of household census available for Frampton, Quebec taken in 1825 and 1831. A James McLean was not found in either of these, so I concluded that he may have arrived in Quebec after 1831.

Next would be a further search involving church records and notary records. The earliest church records for him was the birth/burial of an infant son of his and his first wife Bridget Smith. The child was born/buried on January 5, 1836 at the Catholic parish of St. Foye on the outskirts of Quebec City. Then about a year later on January 9, 1837, his first wife Bridget Smith died and was buried at a Catholic Church in Quebec City. This was seven months before his marriage to Anastasia O'Connor at Frampton. In a notary record dated July 23, 1834, he

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purchased some land in Ste. Marguerite (next to Frampton) from a Hugh McDonough who was identified as his cousin in that record. In a later land purchase on December 30, 1846, he signed his name as “James P. McLean.” The 1834 notary record would be the earliest record I ever found for him in Quebec. So from these records, it can be seen that he most likely arrived in Quebec between the 1831 Lower Canada Census and the 1834 notary record. So I would put his arrival year to be around 1832. The records also indicate that he most likely was of the Catholic faith in Ireland. I would find out later that during the time between 1831 and 1834 most of Irish emigrants to Canada were coming from the North of Ireland.

As covered in previous chapters, the surname “McLean” had its origins in County Argyll, Scotland. The paper trail of James McLean indicates that he came from Ireland and he was a Catholic. The question in my mind was: how did my Catholic ancestor with a Scottish surname end up coming from Ireland? Because the surname originates from Scotland, when the surname is found in Ireland it is predominately located in the North of Ireland because of its proximity to Scotland. In Ireland, the surname McLean is also known as a “Gallowglass surname.” The Gallowglass men were Highlanders from Scotland who migrated to Ireland in the early days to serve Irish clan chief’s as a mercenary army. So these were some historical clues that seem to point to an origin in the North of Ireland.

I became intrigued with the Irish community of Frampton, Quebec, and long story short, I spent over 20 years extracting records and studying this community and ended up publishing a three volume set of books about the community. In that research I had discovered many other Irish families that did have records that pointed to their Irish origins. After awhile I began to see a pattern. The Irish emigrants that came to the township prior to 1830 were primarily from the South of Ireland, specifically County Wexford and its surrounding counties. The Irish emigrants that arrived after 1831 were generally from the North of Ireland. I also found another McLean in Frampton Township. This was a Margaret McLean who was married to a James Coyle and they arrived in the township shortly before 1830. She was born about 1792. After contact with one of her descendants, I found out that their family lore was that she was from County Antrim or County Donegal. While I found no proof that James and Margaret were related, they were the only McLeans in the township and they were both Catholic. So this was another indication that James McLean “might” have been from the North of Ireland.

As noted above, James McLean purchased some land on July 23, 1834. He bought the land from a Hugh McDonough who was identified in that record as James’ cousin. So I searched for a marriage record in a Catholic register for his cousin Hugh McDonough in Quebec and that record told me that Hugh’s parents were Phillip McDonough and Elizabeth McCafferdy, but their Ireland origins was not listed in the record. This would mean that James McLean's mother's maiden name was either McDonough or McCafferdy. So now I had four surnames to work with: McLean, McDonough, McCafferdy, and Smith (not much help!). One source indicated that the surname McDonough is found in great numbers in Counties Sligo, Roscommon, and Galway. McCafferdy was apparently grossly mis-spelled from maybe McLafferty which is a variant of Lafferty or Laverty. *The Book of Scots-Irish Family Names* said that Lafferty is exclusively an Ulster name. It further said that in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the Antrim Lavertys were found almost exclusively in the Barony of Upper Dunluce. The book amply pointed out the origins of the

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surname McLean and its association with Clan McLean and McLean of Duart. The book stated: “Though well known in every province of Ireland, they are most common in Ulster where they are found mainly in counties Antrim and Derry.” It goes on to say that they represent descendants of Clan Maclean gallowglasses who were brought to Ulster in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century.

So my first impression was that maybe James McLean came from County Antrim. At first I thought maybe his ancestor came from the territory of Clan MacLean in County Argyll and migrated to Ireland in recent history, maybe 18<sup>th</sup> century, since County Argyll and the coast of Ulster are so close. Or that was my theory. Then after becoming familiar with the history of the “Scotch-Irish” in America, I started thinking that maybe his ancestor was part of the “Plantation of Ulster.” But most of what I read about the “Scotch-Irish” was that they were Protestants with Scottish surnames who migrated to the United States in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. My ancestor was Catholic and migrated to Canada in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. So something didn’t quite fit there.

So I paid for some research to be done by the Ulster Historical Foundation. The initial research didn’t turn up any substantial clues or indicators and I was hesitant to spend anymore money on the chance of receiving the same results.

I then obtained an autosomal DNA test through AncestryDNA. I got numerous matches on the surname McLean which were, I think, mostly associated with my mother’s line. I needed a way to try to differentiate between the two McLean lines of my family. Fortunately, AncestryDNA is the most commonly used DNA service and has quite a few participants who post full family trees on the public member tree section of Ancestry.com. I used these trees to figure out how I was related to some of the matches. I was able to determine my relationship with over 90 confirmed matches on my “McLane” line and over 84 confirmed matches on my “McLean” line. Having done this now allowed me to determine whether an “unknown” match is related to my father’s “McLane” line or my mother’s “McLean” line. However, Ancestry does not provide the “shared matches” data for distant cousins beyond the 5<sup>th</sup> cousin level. For quite some time, no matches were showing up for any “McLeans” coming from Ireland, but plenty for Scotland which were most likely related to my mother’s side. Eventually AncestryDNA developed a feature that would classify matches as either “Paternal” or “Maternal.” Once this feature was up and running it confirmed my previous method of determining which matches were to my father’s (paternal) McLane line and my mother’s (maternal) McLean line.

So then I had a Y-DNA67 test done with Family Tree DNA. I wasn’t so naive that I thought that I would get a lot of matches on the surname “McLean” with an earliest known ancestor coming from Ireland, but it was my hope that I would get a few. However, my results include absolutely no matches with people with the surname McLean or any of its spellings. Then I read on the “MacLean/MacLaine” group information that the two SNPs closely associated with known descendants of the McLean Clan chiefs were A1067 and A1075. So I paid to have my kit tested for those and it came back negative for both. So at that point, I assumed that meant that my ancient ancestor had perhaps merely taken the surname “McLean” but was not a DNA descendant. I didn’t know if that assumption was true, because I just didn’t understand my results all that well. My only takeaways from that was that my haplogroup was RM269 and that I might not be related by Y-DNA to Clan McLean. I did learn from another book that a survey indicated that 81% of males living in County Argyll, Scotland are haplogroup RM269. I was then hesitant

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on spending anymore money on further testing because I didn't know if there would be any value to me in the results. Or at least results that I could understand.

In early 2018 I found the most promising DNA match so far. It was from my AncestryDNA autosomal test. It shows a match to be a distant cousin in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> cousin range with moderate confidence. The match person's great grandmother was shown as a Susan Laverty who was born in the Townland of Breen, Civil Parish of Armoy, County Antrim, Ireland. There are records attached that indicate the family was Catholic. Susan Laverty was the daughter of Michael Laverty and Jane McAlane. Jane McAlane was the daughter of a Patrick McAlane born about 1800. The attached tree shows two matching surnames, "McAlane" and "Laverty." The surname "McAlane" is shown as a variant of "McLean" in *The Book of Scots-Irish Family Names*. The attached records also indicated spellings of "McLean" and "McLaine." For the most part, the attached tree had all Antrim locations and incidentally the Townland of Breen just happens to be next to the Barony of Cary which is next to the Barony of Upper Duluca that was identified as a Laverty location in *The Book of Scots-Irish Family Names*. So this provided a match on two surnames, religion, and suspected location. So, I was willing to say at that point that our oldest known ancestor James McLean has some connection to relatives in County Antrim, but I don't have an actual primary record to prove it. Further, when AncestryDNA began classifying matches as either "paternal" or "maternal", this match was determined to be "paternal," so the persons in this Laverty PMT were relatives of my James P. McLean.

I was beginning to think that maybe my McLean ancestor either came to Ireland during the Plantation Period or he may have come to Ireland even earlier as a Gallowglass. Further, the proximity of the Armoy Civil Parish to the environs around Dunluce Castle caused me to think that my ancient ancestor may have been Gallowglass for Clan McDonnell.

I received an invitation to join the Gallowglass Project on Family Tree DNA. Then I read some of Project Administrator Chris McLain's materials that mention the McLean surname in Ulster. Right there in his August 30, 2019 posting I found mention of Shane Uí Niall receiving a large number of McLeans as a dowry in 1560. Also he mentioned that the MacDonnells of the Glens of Antrim had a large settlement of Highland Scots and that these McLeans in Antrim were concentrated around Dunluce & Cary. Which is the precise area that the above mentioned Autosomal DNA match (McAlane/Laverty) was located.

So I joined the Gallowglass Project. Chris McLain seemed to have a great deal of knowledge about potential connections to McLean Gallowglass. So in correspondence with him, I arranged for him to examine my Y-DNA results to provide me his opinion as to my McLean origins. Here is what he said:

Looking at your kit and matches, your close and distant matches are not only not MacLeans, they aren't of highland/western isles origin. . . the families you are matched with are predominately English. . . I believe your McLane surname is a result of what is called a Non-Paternal Event, and not all that distant as your Y-67 match to (Floyd) Biglane has a 95% chance of a Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor at eight generations.

So we clearly were not descendants of Clan McLean from a Y-DNA standpoint. Further,

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the absence of a lot of known gallowglass surnames among my matches indicated that I had no Y-DNA gallowglass heritage. He noted that my paternal line most likely was English and the surnames that were closely matching me were Biglane and Vincent. It seems that our James McLean's ancestors most likely descend from a non-paternal event (NPE). Examples of an NPE are such things as an illegitimate birth where the mother may have concealed the identity of the biological father, or it could be an adoption, or a case where a man gives his step-child his last name. It could also merely be a situation where a man chooses a different surname to use. Worse, it could be a "master/servant" sexual abuse situation. Exactly what our NPE was is unknown. Chris suggested that I should get the "Big Y-DNA" analysis to further refine my results.

My first Y-DNA analysis stopped only at my major haplogroup level. I am haplogroup R-M269, which is also expressed as R1b1a1a2. My Big Y-DNA test takes it "downstream" further to certain subclades. My most downstream subclade that has been described is U106. U106 is the subclade for Netherlands, England, Norway, and Germanic Europe. The Frisians and Anglo-Saxons disseminated this subclade to England and the Scottish Lowlands.

So our paternal (Y-DNA) DNA is Anglo-Saxon or English! However, evidence found in my autosomnal analysis indicated that James McLean's father most likely had the surname McLean and his mother had the surname Lavery. The DNA match was to a person who had Lavery ancestors who lived in the early 1800s in County Antrim, Ireland. The match showed an ethnicity of 100% Celtic. So it follows that our supposed English ancestor most likely married into Celtic families in Ireland.

So our paternal surname McLean does not come to us through DNA, but only by a NPE. So our paternal line ancestor was neither a Gallowglass or had come from Scotland. My Y-DNA "tip report" indicates that there was a 95% chance that a match named Floyd Biglane and I share a common ancestor at eight generations. This would mean that we share a 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather. This generation would have lived around 1740 to 1790. So the NPE most likely occurred somewhere in the 2 generations between 1740 and 1810.

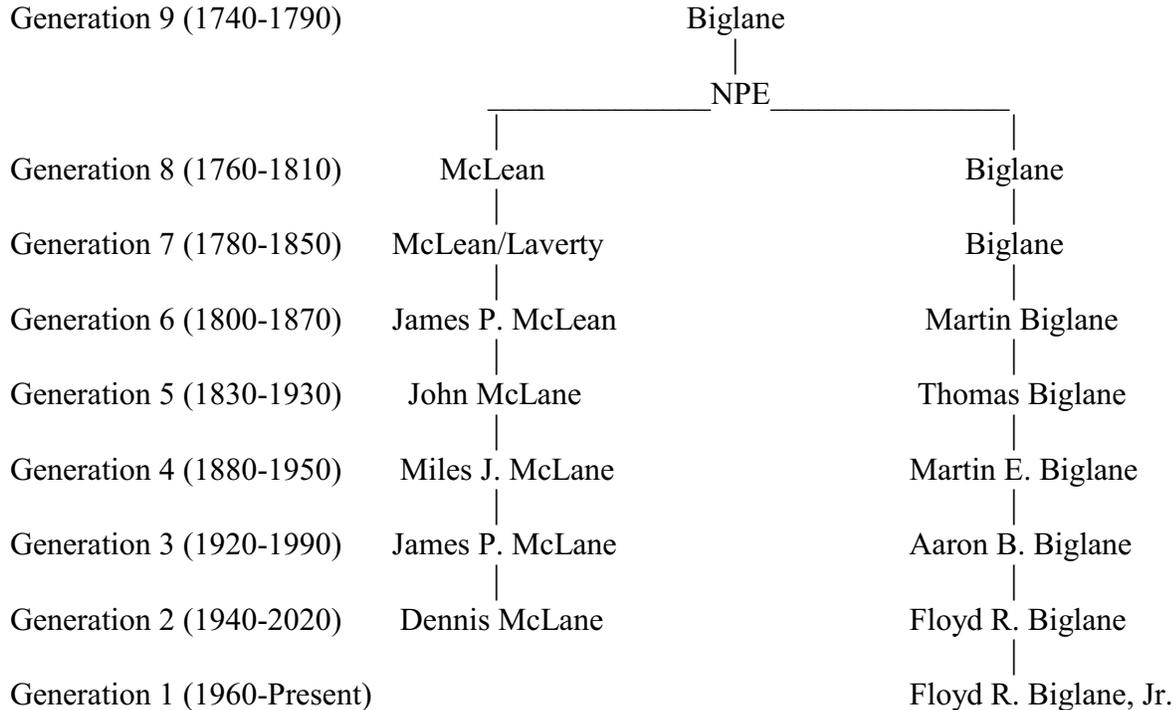
I then discovered several autosomnal DNA paternal matches to the surname McLean that seemed to point to the same location in Ireland. Four of these matches traced to ancestors who lived in Easky, County Sligo, Ireland. Two of the matches traced to an ancestor who lived in Dromore West, County Sligo, Ireland. Four of the matches traced to ancestors who lived in County Sligo, Ireland. Four of the matches were to the same ancestor named Patrick McLean, born at Easky in about 1804. One match was to a James Beglane born about 1873 at Easky. Then there was a Thomas Beglane, born about 1828 at Sligo, but died in December 1898 at Dromore West, County Sligo, Ireland.

I then reviewed some data on the frequency of surnames in the Ireland *Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-37*. These records revealed that there were three McLean families in County Sligo and 13 Biglane families in County Sligo. Then remembering that James McLean had a cousin named Hugh McDonough, I looked at the number of McDonough families in Sligo and they were too numerous to count. So the one place in Ireland where the surnames McLean, Biglane, and McDonough come together was County Sligo. One of the three McLean families found in the *Tithe Applotment Books* was a James McLean found in 1824 in the Townland of Carrowerin & Doolagerin in the Parish of Kilmacowen.

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Another very interesting DNA match was to a person who descends from another Frampton Irish family. The match was in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> cousin range. Her ancestor was a man named Andrew Skillen. This Andrew Skillen was from Ireland and had settled on a farm in Quebec very near to Frampton. I found this to be somewhat outside the odds of just coincidental. This Andrew Skillen was reportedly born in the Killinchy Parish in County Down about 10 miles southeast of Belfast. Another indicator of a North of Ireland origin for James McLean.

I attempted to make contact three times with the Floyd Biglane who I am such a close Y-DNA match to, but I never received a reply. So I searched for a Floyd Biglane family that might be a possibility. What I discovered is nothing short of remarkable. But please note that the Floyd Biglane shown in the diagram below has not been confirmed to be the actual Floyd Biglane that I am a match to. The diagram below is meant to illustrate the relationship between our paternal McLean ancestor and a hypothetical Biglane family where the odds of I and Floyd Biglane having a shared ancestors at 8 generations are about 95% .



The remarkable part of this is that the Thomas Biglane described in this diagram was born about 1836 in Dromore West in County Sligo, Ireland. Dromore West is only 4 miles from Easky, Ireland where another autosomnal DNA matched relative Patrick McLean was born in 1804.

So from my analysis, I have determined our ancestor James P. McLean's Irish origins are from the North of Ireland and specifically from County Sligo. In review, I have autosomnal DNA matches to the Sligo McLean family and to Biglane families and then I have a Y-DNA match to the Biglane family. The logic appears to point to a scenario in which we descend from a Biglane

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male who had a conjugal relationship with a McLean female. So the good news is that we still descend from a McLean family, but through a McLean female ancestor who gave her biologically “Biglane” child her maiden surname of McLean. So in the ancestral background of this McLean family we may still have heritage of ancestors who migrated to Ireland from Scotland and crossed the several counties of Ulster to settle in County Sligo. So James McLean’s Lavery mother was probably from County Antrim and she may have married a McLean who had possibly resided in County Sligo and may have been related to a Patrick McLean born about 1804 in County Sligo.

### History of Ulster:

Ulster is one of the four Irish provinces. The province's early story extends further back than written records and survives mainly in legends such as the Ulster Cycle. The archaeology of Ulster, formerly called Ulandia, gives examples of "ritual enclosures," such as the "Giant's Ring" near Belfast, which is an earth bank about 590 feet in diameter and 15 feet high, in the center of which there is a dolmen.

The Boyne River and its tributary the Blackwater were the traditional southern boundary of the province of Ulster and appear as such in the *Táin Bó Cúailnge*. According to historian Francis John Byrne the Ulaid 'possibly still ruled directly in Louth as far as the Boyne in the early 7<sup>th</sup> century when Congal Cáech made a bid for the kingship of Tara. In 637, the Battle of Moira, known archaically as the Battle of Magh Rath, was fought by the Gaelic High King of Ireland Domhnall II against his foster son King Congal Cáech of Ulster, supported by his ally Domhnall the Freckled (Domhnall Brecc) of Dal Riada. The battle was fought near the Woods of Killultagh, just outside the village of Moira in what would become County Down. It was allegedly the largest battle ever fought on the island of Ireland, and resulted in the death of Congal and the retreat of Domhnall Brecc.

In ancient times, Antrim was inhabited by a Celtic people called the Darini. In the early Middle Ages, southern County Antrim was part of the Kingdom of Ulidia, ruled by the Dal Fiatach clans Keenan and MacDonlevy/McDunlavey; the north was part of Dal Riada, which stretched into what is now western Scotland over the Irish Sea. Dal Riada was ruled by the O'Lynch clan, who were vassals of the Ulidians. Besides the Ulidians and Dal Riada, there were the Dal nAraide of lower County Antrim, and the Cruthin, who were pre-Gaelic Celts and probably related to the Picts of Britain. Between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries Antrim was exposed to the inroads of the Vikings.

Historically, Ulster included the Kingdom of Tyrconnell. Tyrconnell lays in the area now more commonly referred to as County Donegal, although the kingdom and later principality of Tyrconnell was larger than that, including parts of Sligo, Leitrim, Tyrone, Fermanagh and a southern part of Londonderry. According to Geoffrey Keating, it included the baronies of Carbury in County Sligo, Dartrighe in County Leitrim, and Magheraboy in County Fermanagh.

In early medieval Ireland, a branch of the Northern Uí Néill, the Cenél nEógain of the province of Ailech, gradually eroded the territory of the province of Ulaidh until it lay east of the River Bann. The Cenél nEógain would make Tír Eóghain (most of which forms modern County

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Tyrone) their base. Among the High Kings of Ireland were Áed Findliath (died 879), Niall Glúndub (died 919), and Domnall ua Néill (died 980), all of the Cenél nEógain. The province of Ulaidh would survive restricted to the east of modern Ulster until the Norman invasion in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. It would only once more become a province of Ireland in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century after the collapse of the Norman Earldom of Ulster, when the O'Neills who had come to dominate the Northern Uí Néill stepped into the power vacuum and staked a claim for the first time the title of "king of Ulster" along with the Red Hand of Ulster symbol. It was then that the provinces of Ailech, Airgialla, and Ulaidh would all merge largely into what would become the modern province of Ulster.

Domnall Ua Lochlainn (died 1121) and Muirchertach Mac Lochlainn (died 1166) were of this dynasty. The Meic Lochlainn were in 1241 overthrown by their kin, the clan Ó Néill. The Ó Néill's were from then on established as Ulster's most powerful Gaelic family.

The Ó Domhnaill (O'Donnell) dynasty were Ulster's second most powerful clan from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century through to the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The O'Donnells ruled over Tír Chonaill (most of modern County Donegal) in West Ulster.

After the Norman invasion of Ireland in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the east of the province fell by conquest to Norman barons, first De Courcy (died 1219), then Hugh de Lacy (1176–1243)(son of our ancestor), who founded the Earldom of Ulster based on the modern counties of Antrim and Down.

In the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, Antrim became part of the Earldom of Ulster, conquered by Anglo-Norman invaders. A revival of Gaelic power followed the campaign of Edward Bruce in 1315, leaving Carrickfergus as the only significant English stronghold. In the late Middle Ages, Antrim was divided into three parts: northern Clondeboye, the Glynnnes and the Route. The Cambro-Norman MacQuillans were powerful in the Route. A branch of the O'Neills of Tyrone migrated to Clondeboye in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, and ruled it for a time. Their family was called O'Neill Clannaboy. A Gallowglass sept, the MacDonnells, became the most powerful in the Glens of Antrim in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. Gallowglass McLeans were also known to have come to County Sligo in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, some of whom later migrated into Ulster.

In 1521, Hugh O'Donnell had hired a great number of Scottish Islanders or redshanks. Donald, Lord of the Isles was granted a commission on July 28, 1545 with the consent of his Barons and Council of the Isles. Among these barons was Clan Chief Hector MacLean, Lord of Duart. On August 5, 1545, these barons were at Knockfergus (Carrickfergus) with four thousand men and a hundred and eighty galleys. It is assumed since Clan Chief Hector MacLean was there and that he brought a contingent of Clan MacLean men with him. There is also mention of Manus O'Donnell procuring a body of troops from "Gilespick MacCalain" in 1565.

The MacDonnell claim to the Glens of Antrim dated from the marriage of Margery Bysset (our 18<sup>th</sup> great grandmother in the Ancient Scottish Pedigree), a daughter of the Mac Eoin, to John Mór MacDonald, the second son of John of Islay, Lord of the Isles, in the 1390s. From the date of this marriage, or soon after, he and their descendants, the Clan MacDonald of Dunnyveg, considered the Lordship of the Glens to be theirs and styled themselves lords of "Dunnyveg and the Glens", first found in a document dating to 1403.

Alexander Carragh MacDonald's (our 14<sup>th</sup> great grandfather in the Ancient Scottish

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Pedigree) son was Sorley Boy McDonnell (we descend from his sister Mary). Sorley Boy McDonnell was finally allowed by Elizabeth I in 1560 to be a tenant of the lands he claimed "by inheritance," but the MacDonnells continued to struggle to gain a foothold because of Ulster's leading prince, Shane O'Neill, who continually harassed them. In 1573, six years after O'Neill's death, Sorley Boy re-petitioned, and this time for "a portion of the Glynnns claimed by him by inheritance from the Bissetts", with the government thinking it a good idea to grant because they could use him against the Irish who were still refusing to submit. However, he himself soon became involved in a major conflict with the English, and ended up settling in The Route in the old MacQuillan lordship to the west of the Glens.

The migration of the Scottish from the Isles and the Highlands to Ulster reaches back as far as the 13<sup>th</sup> Century when the gallowglass from the Isles crossed over, drawn by the Irish chiefs who wished to bolster their military strength. There was a Catherine McLean who had two sons with Shane O'Neill between 1561 and 1567 and that allowed her to make a claim for leadership of the O'Neills.

It said that at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century that someone remarked that Barony of Glenarm was populated mainly by "Irish and Papists (Catholics)." This was "MacDonnell territory" and was excluded from the Plantation of Ulster. The area identified as MacDonnell territory was the Baronies of Dunluce, Kilconway, Cary, and Glenarm.

During the Tudor era (16<sup>th</sup> Century) numerous adventurers from Britain attempted to colonize the region; many Scots settled in Antrim around this time. In 1588 the Antrim coast was the scene of one of the 24 wrecks of the Spanish Armada in Ireland. The Spanish vessel La Girona was wrecked off Lacana Point, Giant's Causeway in 1588 with the loss of nearly 1,300 lives.

Antrim is divided into sixteen baronies. Lower Antrim, part of Lower Clandeboye, was settled by the sept O'Flynn/O'Lynn. Upper Antrim, part of Lower Clandeboye, was the home of the O'Kelevans. Belfast was part of Lower Clandeboye and was held by the O'Neill-Clannaboys. Lower Belfast, Upper Belfast, and Carrickfergus were also part of Lower Clandeboye. Cary was part of the Glynnnes; ruled originally by the O'Quinn sept, the MacDonnell galloglasses from Scotland took power here in the late Middle Ages and some of the O'Haras also migrated from Connaught. Upper and Lower Dunluce were part of the Route, and were ruled by the MacQuillans. Upper and Lower Glenarm was ruled by the O'Flynn/O'Lynn sept, considered part of the Glynnns. In addition to that sept and that of O'Quinn, both of which were native, the Scottish Gallowglass septs of MacKeown, MacAlister, and MacGee, are found there. Kilconway was originally O'Flynn/O'Lynn territory, but was held by the MacQuillans as part of the Route, and later by the gallowglass sept of MacNeill. Lower Massereene was part of Lower Clandeboye and was ruled by the O'Flynnns and the O'Heircs. Upper Massereene was part of Lower Clandeboye, ruled by the O'Heircs. Upper and Lower Toome, part of the Route, were O'Flynn/O'Lynn territory. This was first ruled by the MacQuillans. Later, the Scottish Gallowglass MacDonnells and MacAlisters invaded. The MacDonnells were a branch of the Scottish Clan MacDonald; the MacAlisters traced their origin back to the Irish Colla Uais, eldest of the Three Collas.

In the 1600s, Ulster was the last redoubt of the traditional Gaelic way of life, and

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following the defeat of the Irish forces in the Nine Years War (1594–1603) at the battle of Kinsale (1601), Elizabeth I's English forces succeeded in subjugating Ulster and all of Ireland. One by one, strongholds in Munster, Leinster, and Connaught held by the Irish fell to the English commanders. Fifteen months were to pass after the Battle of Kinsale before Mountjoy could bring the war to an end in Ulster. He set about laying waste to the countryside and destroying cattle and stores of food to starve the Irish into submission.

The Gaelic leaders of Ulster, the O'Neills and O'Donnells, finding their power under English suzerainty limited, decamped en masse in 1607 (the Flight of the Earls) to Roman Catholic Europe. This allowed the English Crown to plant Ulster with more loyal English and Scottish planters, a process which began in earnest in 1610.

The Plantation of Ulster was the organized colonization (or plantation) of Ulster by people from Great Britain (especially Presbyterians from Scotland). Private plantation by wealthy landowners began in 1606, while the official plantation controlled by King James I of England (who was also King James VI of Scots) began in 1609. The English Lord Lieutenant, Sir Arthur Chichester, and the Attorney General, Sir John Davies, were the instruments, under King James to carry out the great Plantation. The lands of the six counties of Donegal, Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Cavan and Armagh – four million acres – were confiscated. The lands of the three remaining counties, Antrim, Down and Monaghan had already been confiscated and bestowed upon the Britons at other times. The true owners, the natives, were driven like wild fowl or beasts, from the rich and fertile valleys of Ulster, which had been theirs from time immemorial, to the bogs and the moors and the barren crags – where it was hoped that they might starve and perish. English and Scottish Undertakers, and Servitors of the Crown, scrambled for the fertile lands. The Catholic Church lands were bestowed upon the Protestant bishops.

The plantation in Connaught would be under the auspices of the Bourks and Geraldines. All land owned by Irish chieftains, the Ó Neills and Ó Donnells (along with those of their supporters), who fought against the English Crown in the Nine Years War, were confiscated and used to settle the colonists. The Counties Tyrconnell, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Cavan, Coleraine and Armagh comprised the official Colony. However, most of the counties, including the most heavily colonized Counties Antrim and Down, were privately colonized. These counties, though not officially designated as subject to Plantation, had suffered violent depopulation during the previous wars and proved attractive to Private Colonialists from nearby Britain. The efforts to attract colonists from England and Scotland to the Ulster Plantation were considerably affected by the existence of British colonies in the Americas, which served as a more attractive destination for many potential emigrants.

By 1630, it was reported that there were at least 16,000 adult English males in Ulster. In 1636, it was observed that many Lancashire (ancestral home of the Biglanes) and Cheshire men had been planted to Ulster. It was also well known that English families in Munster, Connacht and Ulster were “either extinguished or utterly degenerated” as a result of living side by side with the Irish. In other words, in just a few generations the English families would take on all the characteristics (including Catholicism) of the native Irish and would no longer seem to be a separate people.

The Plantation of Ulster continued well into the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, interrupted only by the Irish

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Rebellion of 1641. The Rebellion was an uprising by Catholics in Ireland, whose demands included an end to anti-Catholic discrimination, greater Irish self-governance, and return of confiscated Catholic lands. The Rebellion was initially led by Sir Phelim O'Neill, and was intended to overthrow British rule rapidly, but quickly degenerated into attacks on colonists, in which dispossessed Irish slaughtered thousands of the colonists. In the ensuing wars (1641–1653), Ulster became a battleground between the Colonialists and the native Irish. In 1646, an Irish army under command by Owen Roe O'Neill inflicted a defeat on a Scottish Covenanter army at Benburb in County Tyrone, but the native Irish forces failed to follow up their victory and the war lapsed into stalemate. The war in Ulster ended with the defeat of the native army at the Battle of Scarrifholis, near Newmills on the western outskirts of Letterkenny, County Donegal, in 1650, as part of the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland conducted by Oliver Cromwell and the New Model Army, the aim of which was to expel all native Irish to the Province of Connaught (including Sligo).

Forty years later, in 1688–1691, the Williamite War was fought, the belligerents of which were the Williamites and Jacobites. The war was partly due to a dispute over who was the rightful claimant to the British Throne, and thus the supreme monarch of the nascent British Empire. However, the war was also a part of the greater War of the Grand Alliance, fought between King Louis XIV of France and his allies, and a European-wide coalition, the Grand Alliance, led by Prince William of Orange and Emperor Leopold I of the Holy Roman Empire, supported by the Vatican and many other states. The Grand Alliance was a cross-denominational alliance designed to stop French eastward colonialist expansion under Louis XIV, with whom King James II was allied.

The majority of Irish people were "Jacobites" and supported James II due to his 1687 Declaration of Indulgence or, as it is also known, The Declaration for the Liberty of Conscience, that granted religious freedom to all denominations in England and Scotland and also due to James II's promise to the Irish Parliament of an eventual right to self-determination. However, James II was deposed in the Glorious Revolution, and the majority of Ulster Colonialists (Williamites) backed William of Orange. It is of note that both the Williamite and Jacobite armies were religiously mixed; William of Orange's own elite forces, the Dutch Blue Guards had a papal banner with them during the invasion, many of them being Dutch Roman Catholics.

At the start of the war, Irish Jacobites controlled most of Ireland for James II, with the exception of the Williamite strongholds at Derry and at Enniskillen in Ulster. The Jacobites besieged Derry from December 1688 to July 1689, ending when a Williamite army from Britain relieved the city. The Williamites based in Enniskillen defeated another Jacobite army at the battle of Newtownbutler on July 28, 1689. Thereafter, Ulster remained firmly under Williamite control and William's forces completed their conquest of the rest of Ireland in the next two years. The war provided Protestant loyalists with the iconic victories of the Siege of Derry, the Battle of the Boyne (July 1, 1690) and the Battle of Aughrim (12 July 1691), all of which the Orange Order commemorates each year.

The Williamites' victory in this war ensured British rule in Ireland for over 200 years. The Protestant Ascendancy in Ireland excluded most of Ulster's population from having any Civil power on religious grounds. Roman Catholics (descended from the indigenous Irish) and

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Presbyterians (mainly descended from Scottish colonists) both suffered discrimination under the Penal Laws, which gave full political rights only to Anglican Protestants (mostly descended from English settlers). In the 1690s, Scottish Presbyterians became a majority in Ulster, due to a large influx of them into the Province.

There was severe famine in 1728-29. Out of a population of 2.4 million, between 310,000 and 480,000 died as a direct result of famine and fever that year throughout the whole island. A greater proportion of the population died in this one year than during the six years of the Great Famine of the 1840s.

Most of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century saw a calming of sectarian tensions in Ulster. After the recovery from the severe famine, the economy of Ulster improved, as small producers exported linen and other goods. Belfast developed from a village into a bustling provincial town. However, this did not stop many thousands of Ulster people from emigrating to British North America in this period, where they became known as "Scots Irish" or "Scotch-Irish".

Political tensions resurfaced, albeit in a new form, towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1790s many Roman Catholics and Presbyterians, in opposition to Anglican domination and inspired by the American and French revolutions joined together in the United Irishmen movement. This group (founded in Belfast) dedicated itself to founding a non-sectarian and independent Irish republic. The United Irishmen had particular strength in Belfast, Antrim and Down. Paradoxically however, this period also saw much sectarian violence between Roman Catholics and Protestants, principally members of the Church of Ireland, notably the "Battle of the Diamond" in 1795, a faction fight between the rival "Defenders" (Roman Catholic) and "Peep O'Day Boys" (Anglican), which led to over 100 deaths and to the founding of the Orange Order. This event, and many others like it, came about with the relaxation of the Penal Laws and Roman Catholics began to be allowed to purchase land and involve themselves in the linen trade. Protestants, including some Presbyterians, who in some parts of the province had come to identify with the Roman Catholic community, used violence to intimidate Roman Catholics who tried to enter the linen trade. Estimates suggest that up to 7,000 Roman Catholics suffered expulsion from Ulster during this violence. Many of them settled in northern Connaught (including Sligo). These refugees' linguistic influence still survives in the dialects of Irish spoken in Mayo, which have many similarities to Ulster Irish not found elsewhere in Connaught. Loyalist militias, primarily Anglicans, also used violence against the United Irishmen and against Roman Catholic and Protestant republicans throughout the province.

In 1798 the United Irishmen, led by Henry Joy McCracken, launched a rebellion in Ulster, mostly supported by Presbyterians. But the British authorities swiftly put down the rebellion and employed severe repression after the fighting had ended. In the wake of the failure of this rebellion, and following the gradual abolition of official religious discrimination after the Act of Union in 1800, Presbyterians came to identify more with the State and with their Anglican neighbors, due to their civil rights now being respected by both the state and their Anglican neighbors.

Ulster is and always has been the center of sectarian conflicts and violence. It is not unreasonable to assume that in Ulster the great majority of Catholics are descended from the native Gaelic Irish and the great majority of Protestants are descended from 17<sup>th</sup> century English

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colonists. However, there is much evidence that planters and their descendants did not separate themselves from the native Irish population as much as was formerly assumed. Settlers in western Ulster (adjacent to Connaught) sometimes married local women, and within a generation their descendants could well be Catholics speaking Irish.

### History of Connaught and County Sligo

Connacht or Connaught, is one of the provinces of Ireland, in the west of Ireland. Until the 9<sup>th</sup> century it consisted of several independent major Gaelic kingdoms. Between the reigns of Conchobar mac Taidg Mór (died 882) and his descendant, Aedh mac Ruaidri Ó Conchobair (reigned 1228–33), it became a kingdom under the rule of the Uí Briúin Aí dynasty, whose ruling sept adopted the surname Ua Conchobair. At its greatest extent, it incorporated the often independent Kingdom of Breifne, as well as vassalage from the lordships of western Mide and west Leinster. Two of its greatest kings, Tairrdelbach Ua Conchobair (1088–1156) and his son Ruaidri Ua Conchobair (c. 1115–1198) greatly expanded the kingdom's dominance, so much so that both became Kings of Ireland.

The Kingdom of Connaught collapsed in the 1230s because of civil war within the royal dynasty, which enabled widespread Hiberno-Norman settlement under Richard Mór de Burgh (our 23<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather in the Ancient Scottish Pedigree), 1st Baron of Connaught, and his successors.

Richard Mór de Burgh, was born towards the end of the year in 1193 (and came of age in 1214). He was the eldest son and heir of William de Burgh and his wife (daughter of Domnall Mór Ua Briain, King of Thomond). Richard's principal estate was in the barony of Loughrea where he built a castle in 1236 and a town was founded. He also founded Galway town and Ballinasloe. The islands on Lough Mask and Lough Orben were also part of his domain.

In 1224, Richard claimed Connaught (which had been granted to his father but never, in fact, conquered by him). Richard had the favor of his uncle, Hubert, Justiciar of England, and was later awarded Connaught (May 1227). Having been given custody of the counties of Cork and Waterford and all the crown lands of Decies and Desmond, he was appointed Justiciar of Ireland (1228–32).

Richard Óg de Burgh (our 22<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather in the Ancient Scottish Pedigree), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Ulster and 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron of Connaught, was called The Red Earl. He was the grandson of Richard Mór de Burgh. Richard Óg was the most powerful of the de Burgh Earls of Ulster, succeeding his father Walter de Burgh in Ulster and Connaught upon reaching his majority in 1280. He was a friend of King Edward I of England, who summoned him repeatedly to attend him in person in the Scottish wars, and ranked first among the Earls of Ireland. Richard married Margaret, the daughter of his cousin John de Burgh (also spelled de Borough) and Cecily Baillol.

Richard Óg de Burgh's daughter Elizabeth was to become the second wife of King Robert the Bruce of Scotland. However, this did not stop him leading his forces from Ireland to support England's King Edward I in his Scottish campaigns; Edward captured Elizabeth in 1306, but in order to gain the support of Richard, Edward only put Elizabeth under house arrest. When the

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forces of Edward Bruce invaded Ulster in 1315, the Earl led a force against him, but was beaten at Connor in Antrim. The invasion of Bruce and the uprising of Phelim McHugh O'Connor in Connaught left him virtually without authority in his lands, but O'Connor was killed in 1316 at the Second Battle of Athenry, and he was able to recover Ulster after the defeat of Bruce at Faughart.

The Norman colony in Connaught shrank from 1300 to 1360, with events such as the 1307 battle of Ahascragh, the 1316 Second Battle of Athenry and the murder in June 1333 of William Donn de Burgh, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Ulster, all leading to Gaelic resurgence and colonial withdrawal to towns such as Ballinrobe, Loughrea, Athenry, and Galway. Well into the 16<sup>th</sup> century, kingdoms such as Uí Maine and Tír Fhíacrach Múaidhe remained beyond English control, while many Norman families such as de Burgh, de Bermingham, de Exeter, de Staunton, became entirely Gaelicized. Only in the late 1500s, during the Tudor conquest of Ireland, was Connaught divided into its present counties.

British cultural imperialism was weaker in the west of Ireland, and Connaught today has the highest number of Irish language speakers among the four Irish provinces.

After the Norman invasion of Connaught in 1235, Sligo was granted to Maurice Fitzgerald. Maurice Fitzgerald was the grandson of Maurice Fitzgerald who came to Ireland in 1169 to aid Dermot McMurrugh (Diarmait MacMurchada)(our 25<sup>th</sup> great grandfather in the Ancient Scottish Pedigree), and son of Gerald FitzMaurice, first baron of Offaly. Maurice Fitzgerald had acquired estates in Munster, Ulster, and Connaught. Passing through Sligo during his second viceroyalty, while in conflict with the O'Connors of Connaught and the O'Donnells of Tyrconnell, his experienced eye saw the fitness of the place for a castle, to serve at once as a garrison for English troops, and as a bar to the cooperation of his Connaught and northern enemies. The need for such a fortress was experienced by him in his warfare with the Gaelic chiefs as in 1236, when he sought to capture Phelim O'Connor, King of Connaught, and when the king escaped to O'Donnell.

The family of the Geraldines had entered into direct conflict with Walter de Burgh (our 21<sup>st</sup> great grandfather in the Ancient Scottish Pedigree), Earl of Ulster. The Geraldines proceeded so far as to seize, and imprison, Richard de Burgh (Walter's son)(our 22<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather in the Ancient Scottish Pedigree) in the castles of Lea and Dunamase. This was an action which threw the whole country into commotion, and which the Earl of Ulster avenged by carrying on a desolating war into Connaught possessions of the Geraldines, and taking to himself their Connaught castles and that of Sligo Castle as well. But who ever held this castle in 1265, it was demolished that year by Hugh O'Connor, son of Phelim O'Connor and Donnell Oge O'Donnell.

It was just as the Geraldines were losing their hold on Sligo that members of that branch of the O'Connors family which received, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the name of O'Connor of Sligo, were coming to the front of the transactions of County Sligo.

In about 1250, the province of Connaught was divided into two counties, the County of Connaught and the County of Roscommon. Further, County Sligo was officially formed in 1585, but did not come into effect until the chaos of the Nine Years' War ended, in 1603.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the English and the Scotch, on one title or another were slowly displacing the Old Irish, so that constant transference of lands from the natives to foreigners,

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became the most marked feature of the times. The Plantation of Ulster would spill over into the Sligo district. The Sligo plantation would begin with the appointment of Thomas Wentworth as Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1632. Wentworth's job was to raise revenue for Charles I and to cement Royal control over Ireland – which meant, among other things, more plantations, both to raise money and to break the political power of the Irish Catholic gentry. Wentworth confiscated land in Wicklow and planned a full-scale Plantation of Connaught— where all Catholic landowners would lose between a half and a quarter of their estates. The local juries were intimidated into accepting Wentworth's settlement; when a group of Connaught landowners complained to Charles I, Wentworth had them imprisoned. However, settlement proceeded only in County Sligo and County Roscommon. Sir John King got from the Crown tracts of land in all the baronies of Sligo. John Taafe, son of Sir William Taafe, held several quarters in the barony of Tirrerragh (where our ancestors had lived). Several English lords would acquire the old immemorial possessions of the O'Connors, McDonoughs, O'Hares, and O'Garas.

King James I issued The King's Proclamation of 1605 that commanded all Roman Catholic seminary priests and Jesuits to leave Ireland by December 10 and directed the laity to attend Church of Ireland services. Further, Lord Deputy Thomas Wentworth issued proceedings that found that the King now held title to all the lands in the counties of Connaught and thereby annulled all of the existing titles of owners and occupiers throughout the province. This was regarded as a preliminary to the banishing of the Irish, and the planting of English and Scotch on the land in their stead. Wentworth was regarded as the great enemy of the Catholic religion and to the property of the Irish. The people credited him with the intention of forcing, by pains and penalties, Catholics, and indeed, all who lived in the country, to join one great comprehensive State Church, which he meant to establish.

The Anglican religion (later known as the Church of Ireland) a branch of Protestantism, was the only approved form of worship. Practicing Catholicism in public could lead to arrest, and non-attendance at Protestant church services was punishable by recusant fines. Catholics could not hold senior offices of state, or serve above a certain rank in the army. The Irish privy council was dominated by English Protestants. The constituencies of the Irish House of Commons gave Protestants a majority.

Unrest in the region became rampant and it resulted in the Rebellion of 1641. The Irish Rebellion of 1641 was an uprising by Irish Catholics in the kingdom of Ireland, who wanted an end to anti-Catholic discrimination, greater Irish self-governance, and to partially or fully reverse the plantations of Ireland. They also wanted to prevent a possible invasion or takeover by anti-Catholic English Parliamentarians and Scottish Covenanters, who were defying the king, Charles I. It began as an attempted coup d'état by Catholic gentry and military officers, who tried to seize control of the English administration in Ireland.

Though the insurrection began on October 23 and had overrun the counties of Donegal, Tyrone, Derry, Fermanagh, and Cavan, it was only in the beginning of December that it showed itself in Sligo. Here, the first actions of the insurgents was to seize the strong places. The Sligo men flocked from all parts of the county, and from portions of the county Leitrim into Sligo Town, to secure the town and the two castles.

The Rebellion ended with the formation of a Confederation which eventually sided with

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the Royalists in return for the promise of self-government and full rights for Catholics after the war. But the Confederation was finally defeated by the English Parliament's (Cromwell's) New Model Army from 1649 through to 1653 and land ownership in Ireland passed largely to Protestant settlers.

The plantation of Connaught would continue under the Cromwellian era. Long story short, Oliver Cromwell was an English general and statesman who, first as a subordinate and later as Commander-in-Chief, led armies of the Parliament of England against King Charles I during the English Civil War and subsequently became the ruler of the British Isles as Lord Protector from 1653 until his death in 1658. He acted simultaneously as head of state and head of government of the new republican commonwealth.

Oliver Cromwell landed at Dublin to reconquer Ireland on behalf of the English Parliament. He went first to Drogheda. After a week-long siege, his forces breached the walls of the town and instructed his men to take no quarter. He bragged of putting to the sword 3,000 of the defenders. He then turned and swept southward to Wexford. Two thousand were butchered there and Wexford was abandoned to the assailants. Cromwell's soldiers disregarded the shrieks and prayers of three hundred females who had gathered round the great Cross in the market place. Cromwell had reduced the garrisons of Arklow, Enniscorthy and Ross on the way to Wexford.

Cromwell held all Irish Catholics responsible for the rebellion of 1641 and said he would deal with them according to their "respective de-merits" – meaning sanctions varying from execution in worst cases, to partial land confiscation even for those who had taken no part in the wars. Cromwell had once declared that the Catholics of Ireland could go "to Hell or Connaught." The Long Parliament had been committed to mass confiscation of land in Ireland since 1642, when it passed the Adventurers Act, which raised loans secured with the lands of Irish rebels' that it anticipated confiscating. The Act of Settlement (1652) stated that anyone who had held arms against Parliament was to forfeit their lands. Those who did not would lose only three-quarters of their lands – and were compensated with other land, in Connaught. The policy was to confine the remaining Catholic landowners into the peripheral province of Connaught, where they would no longer be a military threat.

During the Cromwellian Invasion, because by far the greater portion of the Irish who were able to bear arms had been killed off, few young men now remained in Ireland. And of those few remaining young men, and of the young women and boys and girls, numbers were, during the following years shipped into "slavery" to the American colonies and the West Indies. The number thus sent to "slavery" are variously estimated at between thirty thousand and eighty thousand. Some histories use the term "slavery" which may not be totally true, however, these Irish were certainly involuntarily transported to the New World and sold as property into a life that was more like an "indentured servant."

The effects of the Cromwellian ethnic cleansing cannot be understated as it reduced the Irish population by 2/3s between 1649 to 1654. The amount of orphaned children alone being raised by people who were not their natural parents was probably staggering. Adoption of the orphaned children resulted in Non-Paternal Events in which the adopted child was given the surname of the "foster parents." Hence, surnames really only indicate what our ancestors "ended

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up with"

In September 1653, the Parliament issued the order for the great transplanting. Then all the fertile fields of the Irish natives of Ireland were declared to be the property of the British soldiers who had won them by sword, and the English adventurers who had purchased the sword and financed this expedition into Ireland. Under penalty of death, all the ancient inhabitants were ordered to move from the ends of Ireland to the wastes of Connaught, where their lot was to be laid henceforth. Under penalty of death, no Irish man, woman, or child, was to let himself, herself, itself, be found east of the River Shannon, after May 1, 1654.

It is to be noted that even Connaught was not entirely left to English. For not satisfied with obtaining the three most fertile quarters of Ireland, the covetous eyes of the British followed these creatures even across the Shannon and the one fertile county of Connaught, Sligo, was filched from the Irish, as well as many fruitful patches that God had granted to those remaining in Connaught.

Over 12,000 English soldier veterans were awarded land in Ireland in place of their wages due, which the Commonwealth was unable to pay. Many of these soldiers sold their land grants to other Protestants rather than settle in war-ravaged Ireland, but 7,500 soldiers did settle in Ireland. They were required to keep their weapons to act as a reserve militia in case of future rebellions. Most of these were single men, however, and many of them married Irish women (although banned by law from doing so). Some of the Cromwellian soldiers thus began to be integrated into Irish Catholic society.

For the remainder of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Irish Catholics tried to get the Cromwellian Act of Settlement reversed. Before the introduction of the Cromwellian settlers, the Protestant population of County Sligo was only one hundred and forty souls, but after the settlement of the new comers throughout the county the number of Protestants had increases to 481. These Cromwellian settlers had been placed in Sligo with the dominant idea of securing the possession of the county, and to keep the Irish in subjection.

The Treaty of Limerick, signed on October 3, 1691, ended the 1689 to 1691 Williamite War in Ireland. Parliament began passing acts that would loosely be known as the "penal laws." A few month after that in 1691, an Act of Parliament excluded Catholics from Parliament, from municipal corporations, from civil and military offices, and for the most part, from the exercise of certain other professions. In 1695, another act banished all Papists exercising ecclesiastical jurisdiction under the penalty of high treason. Several more Parliamentary actions would lead up to an act in 1709 meant to "prevent the further growth of Popery," by imposing the oath of abjuration on the Catholic Priests who had already been required to register by an act in 1704. The oath of abjuration required them to denounce their Catholic faith. The clergy shrank with horror from the sacrilegious act prescribed, and the magistrates made it their chief business to force compliance. This resulted in the Catholic church in Ireland going "underground." The priest no longer kept registers of baptisms and marriages as such registers could be used as evidence against them. This created in Irish Catholic genealogy something known as the "silent century." This is why so few genealogical records can be found for our ancestors in the very distant past.

Several actions in regards to the Rebellion of 1798 occurred in County Sligo. The Irish

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Rebellion of 1798 was a major uprising against British rule in Ireland. The main organizing force was the Society of United Irishmen, a republican revolutionary group influenced by the ideas of the American and French revolutions: originally formed by Presbyterian radicals angry at being shut out of power by the Anglican establishment, they were joined by many from the majority Catholic population. As part of the rebellion plan, the French were invited by the insurgents to intervene and support the Irish cause against the English.

A long-anticipated French landing to assist the Irish rebellion took place on August 22, when almost 1,100 troops under the command of General Humbert landed at Cill Chuimín Strand (Kilcummin), Killala Bay, County Mayo. The eastern edge of Killala Bay is only about 10 miles west of Easky in County Sligo (the area in which our ancestors lived). Since the greater concentration of British soldiers were engaged in suppression of rebellion in the east in Leinster, the nearby town of Killala was quickly captured after a brief resistance by local yeomen and Ballina was also taken two days later, following the rout of a force of cavalry sent from the town to oppose their march. Irish volunteers began to trickle into the French camp from all over Mayo following the news of the French landing. However, the men of County Sligo were reluctant to join them, being held back by the advice of their priests. But about 300 young men from the parishes of Ballysadare and Kilvarnet in Sligo joined the French forces at Killasser in County Mayo.

General Humbert set out on August 26 with a large Irish contingent for the interior of the country. His first meeting with the English took place the following morning at Castlebar in County Mayo. Humbert and his forces easily overcame the British forces there. Abandoning Castlebar, Humbert moved towards Ulster via Sligo with the intention of igniting a rising there.

The combined Franco-Irish forces marched northeast towards Sligo on their way to County Donegal in Ulster. When they got to the village of Collooney in Sligo they were confronted by a unit of British troops from the garrison in Sligo, which is approximately five miles to the north of Collooney. A minor battle ensued at Carricknagat, a small townland to the immediate north of Collooney, hence the alternate name for the battle: the Battle of Carricknagat.

On September 5, 1798, the Franco-Irish troops pushed north through County Sligo but were halted by a cannon which the British forces had installed above Union Rock near Collooney. The cannon was eventually captured and the French and Irish advanced and the British retreated towards their barracks at Sligo, leaving 120 dead and 100 prisoners.

Humbert crossed the Shannon at Ballintra Bridge on September 7, destroying it behind them, and continued to Drumshanbo where they spent the night - halfway between his landing-point and Dublin. With Cornwallis' huge force blocking the road to Dublin, facing constant harassment of his rearguard and the pending arrival of General Lake's command, Humbert decided to make a stand the next day at the townland of Ballinamuck on the Longford/Leitrim border. Facing overwhelming forces and after just a short artillery duel followed by a dragoon charge on exposed Irish rebels, Humbert signaled his intention to surrender and his officers ordered their men to lay down their muskets.

Conditions in County Sligo in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century was a story of recovery from a violent rebellion, land tenure issues, famines and disease. These were the factors which would play a part in encouraging emigration to North America. For example, by the 1830s, "tenants in common" in

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County Sligo would resort to the habit of dividing their several farm proportions, casting lots on the divisions, and inclosing them. This practices created smaller and smaller plots of land where a single family would find it difficult to subsist on.

Although, emigration from Ireland would be best known in regards to “The Great Famine” in the 1840s. A series of potato crop failures would occur in the several years preceding. In thirteen of seventy years after 1828 there were partial failures of the potato crop. In some years including 1830 and 1831, the failure was so bad as to cause famine, which was particularly severe in Connaught.

North America was rapidly becoming an attractive place for emigrating. In 1831, the standard ship fare to Quebec was only thirty shillings. Wages for unskilled labor in Canada were high, four shillings a day or more in Quebec. In other words, eight days work in Quebec would make up for the ship fare. The unaided laborer found plenty of cause to emigrate, his earnings had not increased, and his subsistence grew steadily worse. The “curl” of potato blight was becoming increasingly visible in the fields as early as 1831. By 1831 emigrants from Connaught were contributing largely to the numbers going to Quebec.

The Cholera outbreak began in Sligo town on August 11, 1832, with the first official figures for Sligo town being released by Dublin Castle on August 18. These recorded 63 new cases, 22 deaths and no recoveries. From then until the end of the month the death toll averaged fifty a day. The Fever Hospital was used for the sick, but most of the orderlies fled through fear of the plague or the mob. Mr. Fausset, the Provost of the town, described the grounds of the Fever Hospital covered in corpses and no-one to bury them. He said he felt as if the "end of the world had come." Sligo was badly affected by the outbreak losing up to 2, 000 of its population.

The dispossessed Irish of County Sligo began to board the ships and emigrate to Canada. But disease outbreaks were already being felt in Canada. In 1830, there were so many immigrants inflicted with fever and smallpox that they were housed in army tents. Hospitals and pest houses were built, and were often overflowing. In June 1832, cholera broke out in Quebec City, where it would sweep away one tenth of the population.

The Ships List Website identifies a total of 15 ships sailing direct from Sligo Town to Quebec City in 1832, transporting a total of about 2,680 “settlers.” This sudden influx and the related outbreaks of disease would result in Canada opening the Grosse Isle quarantine station in the Spring of 1832.

Prior to “The Great Famine”, the population of County Sligo was 187,000 people, making it one of the densest populated areas in Ireland. Sligo was a major transit port for emigration during “The Great Famine.” In 1846, 11,000 emigrated through the port. Some of the worst coffin ships on record left from Sligo port. On August 9, 1847 the vessel Bark *Larch* arrived at the quarantine station at Grosse Isle, Canada from Sligo with 440 on board, of these, 150 were sick and 108 were dead, this was by far the worst ship at the port that day. Lord Palmerston, who held large estates in the county, achieved notoriety with his Assisted Emigrants scheme.

In the 1861 Ireland Census, Sligo’s population was 90% Catholic, 8% Presbyterian, and 1 % Protestant. So it could be said that Catholicism clearly suppressed all the English government’s efforts to “prevent the further growth of Popery” in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In 1871 between 25% to 50% of the county still spoke Irish as a first language, the county

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remained rural in character with over 70% involved in agriculture. Landlords controlled almost all aspects of life.

### Our People from the North of Ireland

The story of our ancient Y-DNA ancestry starts on continental Europe and not on the British Isles. As identified above, my Y-DNA test determined that I am haplogroup R-M269. My specific haplogroup is R-FGC31306 with a downstream subclade that has been described as U106. U106 is the subclade for Netherlands, England, Norway, and Germanic Europe. The Frisians and Anglo-Saxons disseminated this subclade to England and the Scottish Lowlands. Note that Anglo-Saxon ethnicity is synonymous with English ethnicity.

One of my frequently identified surname matches is Vincent. In all testing levels I had a total of 6 matches to persons with the surname Vincent. At the Y-111 level I had close matches to Sheridan Eugene Vincent and Donald G. Vincent. These close Vincent matches are R-FGC21300 with a downstream subclade as U106. Since these closest Vincent matches were Haplogroup R-FGC1300 and I was R-FGC1306, it seems that can't be totally ignored. Sheridan Eugene Vincent and I are estimated to have a common ancestor at about 12 generations ago (between 1200 and 1750). So it appears to me that my Biglane line is a branch of the Vincents. My study of the Vincent family in England indicates that they were of the Landowner Class (Landed Gentry) residing since about the Norman Conquest of England (1066) at a place called Swinford in Leicestershire.

My autosomal DNA test through AncestryDNA did show a detection of English Anglo-Saxon ethnicity at 4%. I also had my autosomal DNA test done on Family Tree DNA which had done my Y-DNA test. They showed me to have 97% ethnicity from "England, Wales, and Scotland." However, they seemed to lump together a great deal of Celtic ethnicity into that category. Also their data set is much smaller than AncestryDNA. Based upon verification through my paper trail research, it appears that the AncestryDNA ethnicity estimate is the more accurate.

Anglo-Saxon or English ethnicity derives from a region of continental Europe once known in the 5<sup>th</sup> century as Frisii, Saxon, and Anglia. Today this region is in the area of Schleswig/Holstein of Germany; Lower Saxony in Germany; the Netherlands; and it stretches south into Belgium.

At this point it is important to review my closest Y-DNA matches as follows:

- Floyd Biglane – common ancestor at about 8 generations.
- Sheridan Eugene Vincent – common ancestor at about 12 generations.
- Donald Vincent – common ancestor at about 16 generations.
- Richard Vincent – common ancestor at about 16 generations.
- Greg Vincent – common ancestor at about 16 generations.
- Robert Begley – common ancestor at about 16 generations.

In my estimate of generation time frames, I have chosen to use a span of eighty years with

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a forty years difference between each generation's birth and death years. So the oldest estimated common ancestor most likely lived in about 1380 to 1460. I will make reference to this person as "male U106." After 1066, the Anglo-Normans introduced the practice of using surnames into England, and the practice gradually spread. Initially, the identifying names were changed or dropped at will, but eventually they began to stick and to get passed on. That being said, I will use "Biglane line," "Vincent line," and "Begley line" as reference terms.

Sheridan Eugene Vincent provided that his earliest known ancestor was Charles Vincent, born about 1675 at Lower Yonkers, NY. Donald Vincent provided that his earliest known ancestor was Charles Vincent, born about 1657 in England. Richard Vincent did not provide an earliest known ancestor. Greg Vincent provided an entire family tree in which he provided that his earliest known ancestor was Charles Vincent, born about 1651 and died in about 1801.

I found about 205 public member trees (PMT) on Ancestry.com that matched up with an ancestor named Charles Vincent who was mostly identified as being born in 1657 in England and died in about 1720 in Yonkers, NY. One of these PMTs called "the Vincent Family Tree" was posted by a Greg Vincent, who I believe is the same person that I have the Y-DNA match to. Further I found another PMT called "Davis Family Tree" posted by a RCD1947 that takes the Vincent line back even further. Finally, an extensive Vincent tree was found on the Familysearch family tree features that takes the Vincent line back to antiquity. That being said, I will use these trees to tell the story of our very ancient line of Vincent ancestry.

### The Vincent Line

So the good news is that although we do not descend from Clan MacLean from a Y-DNA standpoint, we have a very prominent line of descent through the Vincent surname. Male U106 probably lived in the vicinity of the Netherlands, Saxony, and Belgium significantly prior to the year 1000. His descendants would migrate to the area of Normandy around the year 1000, give or take a few hundred years!

The word Normandy or Norman derives from the word "Northman" or "Norseman." The progenitor of the Normans was Rollo "Rolf the Ganger" Rognvaldsson, (our 28<sup>th</sup> great grandfather in the Ancient Icelandic Pedigree). Rollo and his Viking invaders would colonize the area known as Normandy. They readily intermarried with the persons of the Anglo-Saxon ethnicity. This would result in the creation of an ethnicity that would be known as the Anglo-Normans.

Rollo "Rolf the Ganger" Rognvaldsson's 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandson was William the Conqueror, (our 26<sup>th</sup> great grandfather in the Ancient Scottish Pedigree). In 1066, William the Conqueror did battle with both the Anglo-Saxon forces and the Viking forces who were ruling England at that time. He bested them at the Battle of Hastings. He was then coronated as the King of England.

William the Conqueror would usher in a significant migration of Anglo-Normans into England. Vincent is a name of ancient Norman origin and it arrived in England with the Norman Conquest of 1066.

The Vincent family lived in Leicestershire, England. Their name, however, is a reference to St. Vincent-de-Cramenil, Normandy, the family's place of residence prior to the Norman

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Conquest of England in 1066. The surname Vincent was first found in Leicestershire where they held a family seat from early times at Swinford. Today, Swinford is a village and civil parish in the Harborough district.

The book, *The Noble and Gentlemen of England; or Notes Touching the Arms and Descents of the Ancient Knightly and Gentle Houses of England*, provides the following on the Vincent family. The family of Vincent descends from Miles Vincent, owner of lands at Swinford in the county of Leicester, in the tenth year (1318) of Edward II. Early in the 15<sup>th</sup> century the Vincent family removed to Bernack, in the county of Northampton, on marriage with the heiress of Sir John Bernack, of that place. Here they continued to reside, until David Vincent, Esq. seventh in descent from that marriage, settled at Long-Ditton, in Surrey, in the reign of Henry VIII. His son, Sir Thomas Vincent, by marriage with the heiress of Lyfield, removed to Stoke d'Abernon, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, which was sold shortly after 1809, when the family removed to the present seat in this county.

In order to determine the oldest known ancestor of our Vincent line, I first used the PMT of Greg Vincent which could be followed 12 generations to Charles Vincent (b. 1657). Then I found Charles Vincent in the PMT of “William\_Vaught” and followed it for another four generations to Edward Vincent. I then found a family tree on FamilySearch.org that extended this line another ten generations to the oldest known ancestor. This takes us back a total of 26 generations on our male Y-DNA line.

The oldest known ancestor in this line is Roger Vincent who was born about 1215 in Swinford, Leicestershire, England. His son was Peter Vincent who was born about 1240 in Swinford and died in Leicestershire in about 1330. Peter's son was Miles Vincent who was born about 1265 at Swinford and died in about 1316. Miles' son was John Vincent who was born about 1285 and would be named the “Receiver of Rents” for Swinford.

Our first significant ancestor in this line was the son of John Vincent and he was Sir Thomas Vincent who was born about 1315 at Swinford and died about 1409 at Swinford. He was married to Joan Bernake, born about 1315 at Barnack in Northamptonshire and died about 1420. Joan was the heiress daughter of John Bernack (b. 1295). John Barnack was the Lord of the estate at Barnack, Cambridgeshire, previously Northamptonshire. When first married the couple settled at Swinford and remained there until they moved to Barnack.

Sir Thomas Vincent and Joan Bernake had a son named John who was born at Barnack in about 1332. John married Margaret Drayton who was born about 1335 at Crawford in Northamptonshire.

John Vincent and Margaret Drayton's son was Baron Sir Richard Vincent born about 1356 at Barnack and died about 1434 at Barnack. He married Elizabeth Mallory who was born about 1358 at Peckleton, Leicestershire, England and died about 1388 at Mashbury in Essex. John and Margaret were known to have had five children born at Barnack: John (b.1379), Robert (b.1382), Richard (b.1384), William (b.1386), and Agnes.

John Vincent and Margaret Drayton's son John was born about 1379 at Barnack and died about 1425. He married Margaret Jordaine who was born about 1385 at Barnack and died about 1425. They were known to have had two children born at Barnack: Robert (b.1403) and Richard (b.1425).

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John and Margaret Jordaine's son Richard was born about 1425 at Barnack and died about 1505 at Messingham in Lincolnshire. He married Ann Grimsby (b.1455). She was the daughter and heiress not only of her father (William Grimsby of Lincolnshire) after her brother's death, but also co-heir through her mother to the Motons of Peckleton (an important Leicestershire family). Richard Vincent and Ann Grimsby were known to have had four children probably all born at Peckleton, Leicestershire: David (b.1479), Anthony (b.1486), Ann (b.1489), and George (b.1493).

Richard Vincent and Ann Grimsby's son George Vincent was a member of the English landed gentry from Peckleton in Leicestershire, who served one term as a "knight of the shire" (i.e., MP) for Leicestershire in 1558. George Vincent was born in 1493 and was educated in the Inner Temple being admitted in 1519. By 1517, he had married Anne Jane Story, daughter of William Story of Sleaford, by whom he had seven sons and two daughters. by 1542, he married one Anne (Radcliffe) Lache, a widow of Daventry in Northants; and he finally married Amy Colles of Preston Capes, by whom he had two more sons and one daughter. He succeeded his father some time before 1515. Vincent served as a local magnate in various offices (he was a justice of the peace from 1538 to his death). He was a political ally and beneficiary of Richard Sacheverell (whose niece Anne Jane Story was Vincent's first wife) and thus allied with the Hastings family against the Greys of Ruthin. He led a Leicestershire contingent in the vanguard against France in England's French campaign of 1544. In 1558 he was returned to Parliament for the first and only time, succeeding William Faunt in that office; Faunt would later marry one of his daughters by his first wife Anne Jane. It is speculated that he owed this position in part to patronage from Sir Edward Hastings, who had recently been elevated to the peerage and was Lord Chamberlain of the Royal Household. In 1559, his seat in the Commons went to Adrian Stokes, the new husband of Frances Grey, Duchess of Suffolk. Richard Vincent died on January 3, 1566, leaving his third wife Amy still alive. He made provisions in his will for sons Edward [the eldest], Clement, Gilbert, Robert (these four were to serve as his executors), Peter and Philip; and daughter Jane. The will also provided "for that I have been a justice of peace and a meddler in the hundred of Sparkenho" 20 shillings for "each great town and parish within the said hundred", and 20 pence for the "least" [towns] would be paid from the proceeds of his holdings in Marston.

George Vincent and Anne Jane Story's oldest son Edward Vincent was born about 1510 at Peckleton, Leicestershire. In about 1536, he married Margaret Babington who was born about 1518 at Cossington of Leicestershire. They were known to have eight children all born at Peckleton: William (b.1539), Nicholas (b.1541), Michael (b.1541), Sir Thomas (b.1543), Francis (b.1545), Elizabeth (b.1547), Eleanor (b.1549), and Joan (b.1551). A commission was later issued to compel Edward to administer the estate of his father George Vincent, "because the executors refused the burden of the execution of the same." Edward died on February 23, 1573 at Cossington. Margaret died on January 17, 1597 at Temple in Cornwall, England.

Edward Vincent is 16 generations above the Y-DNA matches to me with Donald Vincent, Richard Vincent, Greg Vincent, and Robert Begley. But 16 generations is the minimum of the range of generations where our common ancestor may be found. There is also a possibility that the common ancestor might be found up to 24 generations. But this is at the point at which the

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Biglane line most likely branches off. The DNA match Robert Begley is probably also a descendant of the Biglane line since his surname is so similar in spelling to Biglane.

Bigland is the root surname of Biglane. Bigland is also the name of a significant land estate called Bigland in Lancashire, England. It was not uncommon in England for a person who became the Lord of a named estate to begin to be referred to by the name of the estate. So it is likely that a Male Vincent may have acquired, through marriage or otherwise, a grant of the estate called Bigland and began using that as his surname from thence forward.

The Y-DNA matches for Donald, Richard, Greg, and Sheridan Eugene Vincent all appear to be descendants of Charles Vincent (b. 1657 at Peckleton, Leicestershire, England, d. 1701 Yonkers, NY). This Charles is the great great grandson of Edward Vincent and Margaret Babington. There are 11 more generations of Male Vincents to reach Y-DNA match Greg Vincent.

### Biglane line

Biglane is a variant of Ó Beigléighinn (from beag & leighin: "small learning"), a medical family from County Longford who was also in County Sligo. Most common variants are Beglin and Biglan, and also erroneously anglicized to Bagenall. In the 1659 Ireland Census, there are seven families of the "Beglin" name in Granard of County Longford. This is the earliest record of the surname Biglane in Ireland.

The "House of Names" website provides that in ancient Anglo-Saxon England, the ancestors of the Biglane surname lived in an estate called Bigland, in the parish of Cartmell, North Lancashire. The surname Biglane was first found in Lancashire, where they were a very ancient family seated at Bigland Hall from the time of the Norman Conquest.

This notable surname is of Old Scandinavian origin, and is a locational name from the estate of Bigland in the parish of Cartmel, North Lancashire, which contains Bigland Hall or from the hamlet of Biglands. This latter place was recorded as "Bygland" in *Place Names of Cumberland*, dated 1490, and derives from the Old Norse "bygg," barley, with the Old Norse "land," district, estate, landed property; hence, "land where barley was grown." Locational surnames, such as this, were originally given to local land owners, and the lord of the manor, and especially as a means of identification to those who left their birthplace to settle elsewhere.

According to Volume I of the *Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland*, Edward Byglan, born about 1450, was the first progenitor of the Biglane line. If this Edward Byglan was actually a Vincent who acquired the Bigland estate, then he most likely came off the Vincent line at 18 generations and his parents would have been Sir Richard Vincent and Ann Grimsby. But this is speculation on my part without any direct evidence. The Biglane line may have also branched off at 16 generations which would make our Male Biglane a probable son of Edward Vincent and Margaret Babington.

The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Margaret Bigland, which was dated May 20, 1559, christened at Prior Church, Cartmel, Lancashire. The spelling variations of the surname would become: Bigland, Biglane, Beglane, Beglin, and Biglin.

The *Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland* also provides some

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information on some Bigland descendants who were associated with Long Whatton in Leicestershire which was very near to Peckleton, the homeland of the Vincents.

Never-the-less, there would be a gap of seven generations of unidentified Male Biglanes between the Bigland progenitor and the Male Biglane who would have a conjugal relationship with the Female McLean in County Sligo, Ireland.

It is interesting to note the Biglane surname arises in Lancashire which is directly across the Irish Sea from the Province of Ulster. Then during the Plantation of Ulster, English settlers, came mainly from the English counties closest to Ulster, such as Lancashire. The book *The Plantation of Ulster* by Jonathan Bardon provides that many Lancashire and Cheshire men became planted settlers in County Antrim.

There is now little doubt that we descend from persons of the Biglane surname who had migrated to County Sligo, Ireland. First recall that our Great Great Grandfather James P. McLean had a cousin in Quebec named Hugh McDonough. The McDonough surname is frequently found in County Sligo. Then recall that a Biglane Y-DNA link (Floyd Biglane) appears to tie to a Biglane family from County Sligo. Then I have about eight autosomnal DNA matches to oldest known ancestors in County Sligo using the surname spelling of Beglane, Biglane, Biglin, and Begline. Then there are 14 other autosomnal matches to County Sligo with four of those specifically matching to an oldest known ancestor named Patrick McLean from Easky, County Sligo.

So somewhere in the gap of seven generations of unidentified male Biglanes, at least one of them found their way from Lancashire, England to the North of Ireland. There are three ways this may have occurred: (1) this ancestor may have been invited and enticed to settle in the North of Ireland as a result of the Plantation of Ulster in which English persons were encouraged to take up land in Ulster; (2) this ancestor may have served in or financially supported the Cromwellian Army and may have been granted lands in Ireland as a result of that service; or (3) this ancestor may have merely chosen to migrate to the North of Ireland for better economic opportunity.

The plantation of Ulster began in the 1610s, during the reign of James I. At the time, the province was mainly Irish-speaking and Catholic, the new settlers were required to be English-speaking and Protestant, with most coming from England and Scotland. By the 1630s, there were 20,000 adult male English and Scottish settlers in Ulster, which meant that the total settler population could have been as high as 80,000 to 150,000.

The Cromwellian Wars resulted in the Act of Settlement (1652) which stated that anyone who had held arms against Parliament was to forfeit their lands. Those who did not would lose only three-quarters of their lands – and were compensated with other land, in Connaught (County Sligo is located in Connaught). The policy was to confine the remaining Catholic landowners into the peripheral province of Connaught, where they would no longer be a military threat. Over 12,000 veterans of Cromwell's Army were awarded land in Ireland in place of their wages due, which the Commonwealth was unable to pay. Probably over 10,000 English actually settled in Ireland after the Cromwellian Wars. Most of these were single men, however, and many of them married Irish women (although banned by law from doing so). Some of the Cromwellian soldiers thus began to be integrated into Irish Catholic society.

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The first mention of the Biglane surname in Ireland is in a 1659 Census of Ireland published as *A Census of Ireland, circa 1659* by Seamus Pender. This information is also found in the *History of the County of Longford* by James P. Farrell. That 1659 Census provides that there were seven Biglane families living in “The Corporation of St. John’s Towne” in Granard Barony of County Longford, Ireland. Andrew Adaire, Esq. was the proprietor.

The year 1659 is within the range of years in which the “plantations” were being made in Ireland through the settlement of English persons. The County Longford plantations were established by James I in 1619 and 1620. These seven Biglane families may have been attracted to Ireland through this opportunity. So it seems likely that our Biglane ancestors were among these families who emigrated from Lancashire, England and settled in St. John’s Towne (St. Johnstown) which today is the village of Balinalee. Balinalee is about 60 miles southeast of the places in County Sligo where later Biglane families were known to be residents.

So chances are, our Biglane ancestors were in the North of Ireland in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The several autosomal DNA matches yields a list of several oldest known ancestors from 10 different AncestryDNA PMTs. These persons are:

- Martin or Edward Biglane, b. 1786, Ireland; d. 25 Oct 1857, married to Anne or Nancy Rutledge.
- Nicholas Biglin, b. 1800, Sligo, d. 27 Nov 1890, Scranton, PA, married to Helen Rutledge or Bridget Mahon.
- Thomas Biglane, b. 1799, Easky, Sligo, d. Dec. 1903, Dromore West, Sligo, married to Ellen Feeny.
- Owen John Biglin, b. 1775, married to Bridget Jane Plunkett. Son is Henry Biglin, b. 1812, Sligo, d. 27 Nov 1890, Scranton, PA.
- Family finder DNA match: Michael Beglane, b. 27 Apr 1826, Kilglass, Sligo, parents were Patrick Beglane/ Kitty Cunnane.

These are just a few of the hundreds of PMTs found on Ancestry.com for Biglanes from County Sligo. The number of possible Biglane families is indicative that the family had most likely been in County Sligo for several generations.

The Tithe Applotment Books records the results of a unique land survey taken from 1805 to 1837 to determine the amount of tax payable by landholders to the Church of Ireland. They are known as the Tithe Applotment Books because the results of this land survey were originally compiled in nearly 2,000 hand-written books. This data set represents a virtual census (only heads of households) for pre-Famine Ireland. Since it covers all of Ireland it is immensely important in terms of constructing, not just an image of a particular family line, but of wider social conditions in the country.

Ten Biglane (Biglin) households are found in the County Sligo Tithe Applotment Books as follows:

- In 1824, a Bryan Biglane and Owen Biglane are found in the Townland of Oakfield, Parish of St. John’s.

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- In 1824, a Martin Biglane is found in the Townland of Culleens, Parish of Kilglass.
- In 1828 a John Biglane is found in the Townland of Caroward, Parish of Dromard.
- In 1833 a Patt Biglain is found in the Townland of Cuskernagh, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- In 1833 a Martin Biglain is found in the Townland of Carrowanreesh, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- In 1833 a John Biglain is found in the Townland of Cannaghanally, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- In 1833 an Arthur Biglain is found in the Townland of Faramfarrell, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- In 1833 an Owen Biglain is found in the Townland of Bellville, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- In 1833 a John Biglain is found in the Townland of Cannaghanally, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- In 1833 an Arthur Biglain is found in the Townland of Farranflaherty, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.

Griffith's Valuation is one of Ireland's premier genealogical resources, referencing approximately one million individuals who occupied property in Ireland between 1848 and 1864. Griffith's Valuation, or Primary Valuation of Ireland, was executed under the direction of Sir Richard Griffith to provide a basis for determining taxes. This involved establishing the value of all privately held lands and buildings in both rural and urban areas in order to figure a rental rate for each unit of property. The resulting survey was arranged by barony and civil parish, with an index to townlands appearing in each volume. Because it is the only detailed guide to where in Ireland people lived in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and what property they owned or leased, Griffith's Valuation serves as a census substitute for the years before, during, and after the Great Famine.

Fourteen Biglane (Biglin) households are found in the County Sligo Griffith's Valuation as follows:

- A John Beglin is found in the Townland of Culleens, Parish of Kilglass.
- A Martin Beglin is found in the Townland of Culleens, Parish of Kilglass.
- A Nicholas Beglin is found in the Townland of Culleens, Parish of Kilglass.
- A Thomas Beglin is found in the Townland of Culleens, Parish of Kilglass.
- A Bryan Beglin is found in the Townland of Culleens, Parish of Kilglass.
- A Patrick Biglane is found in the Townland of Cannaghanally, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- A Michael Biglane is found in the Townland of Cannaghanally, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- A John Biglane is found in the Townland of Dunneill, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- A John Biglane is found in the Townland of Cannaghanally, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- A Thomas Biglane is found in the Townland of Farranmacfarrell, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- A Mary Biglane is found in the Townland of Belville, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- A Patrick Biglane is found in the Townland of Lecarrow, Parish of Kilmacshalgan.
- A Bryan Beglan is found in the Townland of Carrownaboll, Parish of Skreen.
- A Patrick Beglain is found in the Townland of Leaffony, Parish of Kilglass.

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The Tithe Applotment Books and Griffith's Valuation serve to illustrate just how many Biglane households were located in County Sligo in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It seems from the Autosomal DNA matches that the four primary heads of household we are related to are Martin Biglane, Nicholas Biglane, Thomas Biglane, and Owen John Biglane. Three out of four of these heads of households are found in the Tithe Applotment Books and Griffith's Valuation associated with the Townland of Culleens in the Parish of Kilglass. Martin Biglane just happens to be found as the progenitor of a Biglane PMT that terminates with a Floyd Biglane which may be a Y-DNA match to me. So the following is the story of this Biglane family as described in the PMTs and a published family genealogy book that includes a branch of this family.

Based upon there being a 95% possibility of me and Floyd Biglane having a common ancestor at 8 generations means that Martin Biglane and our James P. McLean were at best 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins. Determining Martin Biglane's family required examining two primary PMTs, one is the Joyner Family Tree and the other is the Biglane Family Tree posted by JamesCannon23. JamesCannon23 just happens to be a Autosomal DNA match to me at the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> cousin level. The Joyner PMT yields a family with Martin Biglane married to Anne Rutledge with children: John, Jenny, Frances, and Thomas. The Biglane Family Tree yields a family with Martin Biglane married to a Nancy (a name equivalent of Anne) Rutledge with children: Nicholas, John, Anne, Jenny, and Fanny. The composite of these two PMTs would provide the children (with birth years in parenthesis) as follows: Nicholas (1823); John (1828); Jenny (1831); Fanny (Frances)(1833); Thomas (1836); and Anne (unknown). Martin Biglane was born about 1766, probably in County Sligo and lived at the Townland of Culleens in the Parish of Kilglass. The births of two of his children, (Jenny and Fanny) and his relationship with Anne or Nancy Rutledge is confirmed by baptisms for each of these children found respectively on February 10, 1831 and August 21, 1833 in the Kilglass Catholic Parish Register. Martin Biglane died at age 91 on October 25, 1857 while living at Culleens in Kilglass.

According to the book *Shadrack & Hopsy Rogers and Family* by William Morgan Brown, Thomas Biglane (son of Martin Biglane and Anne Rutledge) was born in December 1836 in West Dromore, County Sligo. Dromore West is about 5 miles northeast of the above mentioned Townland of Culleens. Thomas Biglane went to the area of Covington County, MS in about 1860 where he married Sarah Elizabeth Speed. They were known to have 16 children as follows (with birth year in parentheses): Sarah (1864); William (1866); George (1867); Josephine (1869); John (1870); Martha (1871); Timothy Edward (1874); Mary (1875); Rose Annie (1877); Michael (1878); Nannie (1880); and Martin E. (1882). Thomas' wife Sarah died on July 5, 1881 when giving birth to their son Martin. Thomas then married Elizabeth Williamson and they had the following children: Allie (1865); Annie (1890); Ella (1891); and Katie (1893).

Martin Emmitt Biglane was born on July 5, 1881 in Oakohay, MS. He married Dona Lee Walters in about 1904. They were known to have seven children (with birth year in parentheses): Sears (1904); Aaron B. (1906); Thomas (1907); Earmon (1910); James (1912); Weber (1917); and Mary (1919). Martin Biglane died on April 15, 1960 at Seminary, MS.

Aaron B. Biglane was born on April 5, 1906 in Jones County, MS. In about 1931, he married Elsie Leona Jordon. The 1940 U.S. Census for Jones County, MS shows Aaron and Elsie

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to have two children (with birth year in parentheses): A.B. Biglane, Jr. (1932) and Raymond (Floyd R.) Biglane (1934). Aaron Biglane died on May 9, 2001 in Ellisville, MS.

Floyd R. Biglane was born in March 1934 in Jones County, MS. This Floyd Biglane had been a resident of both the Ellisville, MS area and the Pascagoula, MS area. But information was found in an obituary index that this Floyd R. Biglane is most likely deceased. There is another Floyd R. Biglane who was born on July 26, 1961. A 1979 Moss Point, MS high school yearbook identified a Floyd Biglane. Counting 18 years backwards yields a possible birth year of 1961. Further, Moss Point is a community near Pascagoula, MS. This is circumstantial evidence that indicates that this may have been a Floyd R. Biglane, Jr. who was married to a Lisa Webb. This Floyd Biglane lives in Mathiston, MS and may indeed be the Floyd Biglane that is a Y-DNA match to me.

Some other Biglane (Biglin) autosomal DNA matches are to Biglane descendants that appear to have migrated to Scranton, PA. Some of their oldest known ancestors seem to match up with several Biglane heads of households found in the Tithe Applotment Books and Griffiths Valuation. I have plotted the townlands that these Biglanes lived in along with the townlands that are associated with the McLean line. This serves as a potential illustration of the closeness of the two County Sligo surnames of Biglane and McLean.

The Biglanes would've historically lived amongst the MacLeans in Sligo, as they were both of the "Lucht Tighe", or "people of the house." There was land apportioned for all of the lord's lucht tighe; his kern, galloglass/redshanks, harpers, smiths, carpenters, physicians, brehons, bards, etc, and these families would be in the same social class essentially and married amongst each other.

### McLean line

Although our Y-DNA shows that we actually descend in the male line from the Biglane surname, because there are several autosomal DNA links to a McLean family in County Sligo, we do descend from a female McLean who had a conjugal relationship with a male Biglane. So we connect to the McLean surname in Ireland in this way. So some background on how our McLean surname came to Ireland is called for.

Many of the families in the Hebrides (Western Isles of Scotland) have common ancestors that go back to the 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> century kingdom of Dal Riada, and beyond that, the Gaelic families of the isles are related to most of the Gaelic families of Connacht (includes County Sligo) and Ulster in Ireland via "Conn of the Hundred Battles" a 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Irish High King.

I used to believe that our Irish McLean ancestor may have come to Ireland as part of the Plantation of Ulster in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. I learned from initial readings of this history that the English King and Parliament created this plantation initiative with the goal of Anglicizing the North of Ireland and they hoped to do this by expelling the native Irish from the lands and replacing them with settlers invited from Scotland and England. But their goal included bringing about a change to convert this part of Ireland to the English language by bringing in English speakers and to convert the territory to Protestantism by bringing in those who were of Protestant stock. In further readings of this history I came to learn that there was a qualifier in regards to the



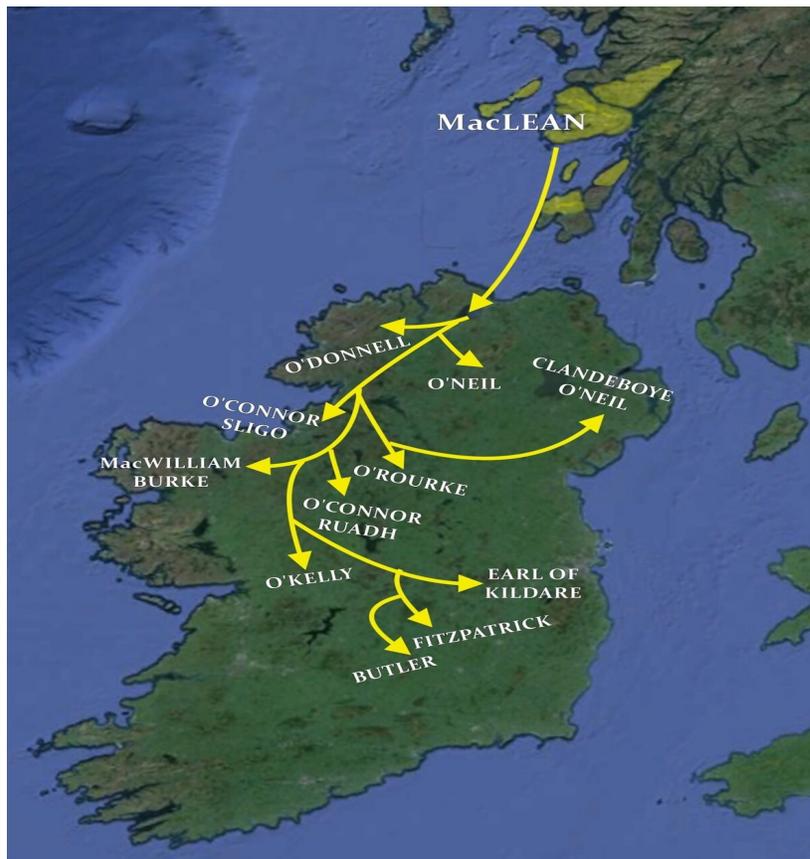
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bare-legged through rivers in the coldest weather. Many redshanks came from the clans of the Hebrides. Other than the Clan Donald, who had furnished Irish lords with soldiers in earlier times under the gallowglass system, the redshanks men were mostly drawn from the clans of MacLeod, MacQuarrie, McLean, Campbell, and MacKay, and were often drawn to contract themselves out due to poverty and overpopulation in their home areas.

There was a known gallowglass settlement in the 16<sup>th</sup> century in County Sligo, Ireland. It was long thought by scholars that the Irish population merely absorbed the gallowglass over time, it being impossible to tell them apart by the end of Gaelic Ireland. It is more than likely that the opposite had occurred more often: the mercenary families absorbed the native Irish. Chris McLain of the Gallowglass Project intends to prove or disprove this theory using genetic genealogy of participants who have highland mercenary surnames, and genealogical paper trails to Ireland, specifically Catholic lines that may pre-date the end of Gaelic Ireland circa 1600. He has reported that the project is still maintaining 80%+ Irish DNA with Scottish surnames. He has determined that 4,000 to 5,000 Maclean "redshanks" came into Ireland from 1569 to 1584 and were employed by various lordships. The kindreds of redshanks in question all came into Lough Foyle in groups of hundreds and sometimes close to 2,000 in dozens of galleys, and were a part of the population now known as "The Laggan Redshanks" which also included large numbers of Campbells, who were "sometimes" close allies of the McLeans.

The image to the right shows the flow, employment, and settlement of "redshanks" from the Clann Gilleathain from 1485 to 1585. Based on historical data of their purveying by O'Donnell (c 1486-1569) and O'Neill (c 1569-1584), their alliances and political factions, as well as the 19<sup>th</sup> century population of McLeans in Ireland.

About 50% of Irish/Scottish men are not actually paternally descended from the progenitor of the surname. Surnames were very fluid until the 17<sup>th</sup> century and "stabilized" names didn't really begin until the coming of the English language, law and customs. Most people had no lineage to any clans, they were simply tenants of clans. Also social status played a part in marriages and surnames. For



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example, if a woman who descended from a lord of some territory married a tenant farmer with no status, her husband and children would be given her surname. Add in the possibility of adoption and fosterage for all these generations and you have many possibilities of what we call "Non Paternal Events." Hereditary occupations of higher social status (like the gallowglass) were absorbing men of all different surnames while recruiting and they were taking the name of the band of mercenaries.

Many native Irish served as knaves or armor-bearers to gallowglass and eventually were trained to become gallowglass themselves. Irish descendants with gallowglass surnames has to do more with the social status of gallowglass among medieval Irish society. The gallowglass were billeted among the native population and essentially lived off of them, and looked down upon the class of feudal peasant farmers. However, they were also marrying Irish women and not only were they having sons who would enter the hereditary trade, but they were also having daughters. These daughters often passed on their gallowglass surnames to their children. So it is not uncommon that the connection to a gallowglass surname may well be through a paternal ancestor's mother, who married an Irishman.

An entry in the 1304 Annals of Connaught notes that gallowglass had served the King of Breifne at Aghnacor (County Cavan, 40 miles from Sligo). These gallowglass were most likely McCabes, but also in the service of the King of Breifne in medieval Ireland was MacIntyre, MacDonald, MacConnell, MacNicholl, McLean and Campbell.

Scottish gallowglass started being used as heavy infantry by Irish chieftains in the 13<sup>th</sup> century after the Norman invasion. By the 15<sup>th</sup> century the type of military kindreds that had emerged in Gaelic territories were the gallowglass families, many with Scottish origins, settled on the mensal land of their lordly patrons. There they comprised a lord's chief followers, and they were put in charge of castles and the lord's household troops. Like other professional classes in Gaelic society such as the hereditary poets, lawyers, historians, superior craftsmen and physicians, the gallowglass kindreds were enchartered on the estates of Gaelic lords and were endowed with lands, often which they held under favorable tenurial conditions.

McLeans in the ancient territory Breifne (later the Province of Connault) first appear serving the O'Rourke in the Ulster Annals in 1486. It appears that the O'Rourke probably billeted them around the drumlins south of present-day Killeshandra (County Cavan, 40 miles from Sligo). Some of the Leitrim/Cavan McLeans may have come from County Down in the Mourne Mountains adjacent to a gallowglass settlement of McLeans.

Sorley Boy MacDonnell had allied himself with the Campbells and Clandonnells and returned with "800 pycked men" in 1567, landing in Ballycastle Bay. There was a great mix of warriors from the Western Isles and probably had McLeans, as they were an allied family of the Lord of the Isles. There was a war going on in Ulster between Shane O'Neil and James MacDonnell of Dunnyveg. Shane also had McLeans at his disposal because he married Catherine MacLean of Duart and her dowry included 160 gallowglass. These gallowglass would have fought against the MacDonnell in the Battle of Glentaisie in 1565, which was very close to Ballycastle in County Antrim. Gallowglass settlers were known in the vicinity of the Glens of Antrim, a settlement under the MacDonnells. Gallowglass companies were also known to recruit native Irish farm boys in their travels who would be their armor-bearers and essentially train to

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be gallowglass themselves.

The 1659 Census for Leitrim shows "McGleoin, 14 families in ye baronies of Mohill, Carrigallen & Leitrim" (Leitrim is adjacent to County Sligo) in the Ancient Territory of Breifne. The bulk of McLean gallowglass in this territory may have originally served the O'Connor. Breifne under the O'Rourke also stretched to the sea and encompassed Sligo. We know McLeans served the Burkes as well in the same time frame.

So regardless of how our McLean surname came to the North of Ireland, it appears that our surname had been in Ireland for about three centuries prior to their known presence in County Sligo. It seems like the earliest McLean settlements were in Donegal and Sligo, as mercenaries came to serve under the O'Donnell and O'Connor. The family clusters here spread very wide and numerous and they were perhaps present here as early as the 1200s. McLeans were certainly numerous in Sligo (probably more of the McGlone/Magloin variant) and they were



redshanks who were brought in by O'Donnell beginning abt. 1480. O'Donnell (of Tyrconnell) was overlord of the O'Connor Sligo, who would have billeted the lord's redshanks on the populace as a form of tribute or tax, which used to be called the "coigne and livery" system. O'Donnell was the "importer and purveyor" of McLeans for close to a hundred years until they had a disagreement in 1569. In 1495 Hugh Roe O'Donnell was in the court of James IV in Glasgow and formally requested "4,000 Scots led by Alexander MacLean" for the next fighting season. McLeans first appear in the Ulster Annals in 1486 slain in battle under employ of O'Rourke (Redshank captains Alan and Ruaidhri Mac Gille Eoin). So they were certainly in the Sligo area at this time as well. Thousands of McLeans came into Lough Foyle on Aug 4, 1569 and encamped there, to be employed by O'Donnell.

The image above shows the distribution of clusters of householders with the surname MacLean in 1693. Note the cluster in County Sligo just above the word "Oconnor."

It's also important to note that gallowglass moved around, many were freelance axe-men who would fight for whichever chieftain paid them more. It's not inconceivable that all of the

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McLean gallowglass in south Ulster could have branched off from McLeans who came into Sligo as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The absorption of gallowglass and redshanks into the Irish culture was rapid. But unlike the later "redshanks" who were largely transient and only coming to Ireland for a fighting season, the gallowglass came en masse and permanently settled, mostly by 1350. By the time that surnames became into use in the 1700s, 400 years would pass and the descendants of the gallowglass and redshanks would be considered "fully Irish."

There are some other locational indicators in the form of DNA matches. Recalling that our James P. McLean had a cousin in Quebec named Hugh McDonough. Hugh McDonough's parents were Phillip McDonough and Elizabeth McCafferdy. McCafferdy is a name equivalent of Lavery. There are over 200 McDonough households found in the Tithe Applotment Books in County Sligo, many in the same parishes where McLean households are found. Further, as James McLean and Hugh McDonough were cousins, it implies that James McLean's parents were a male McLean and a female Lavery.

One of my Autosomnal DNA matches was to a person who had Lavery ancestors who lived in the early 1800s in County Antrim, Ireland. The match showed an ethnicity of 100% Celtic. This Lavery family lived around Armoy and Ballycastle in County Antrim. The Lavery surname originates in the Province of Connaught. However, the surname is most frequent in Eastern Ulster. This name is also common in Donegal, Tyrone and Derry. Another interesting autosomnal DNA match was to an oldest known ancestor named Andrew Skillen. Andrew Skillen was an early settler in Levis in Quebec very near to Ste. Marguerite where our James McLean had settled. A DNA match to a person who lived nearby in Quebec is just too coincidentally to disregard. Andrew Skillen was born in Ballybunden (a townland southeast of Belfast) in County Down in 1803. These two matches are illustrative of our connection to Irish families probably going back several centuries and residing in various parts of the North of Ireland. So our James McLean was definitely more "Irish" than he was "English."

I have four autosomnal DNA matches to a McLean family in County, Sligo. The PMTs for these matches all seem to identify the same oldest known ancestor. That ancestor is a Patrick McLean, according to two matches, he was born about 1804 in Easky, County Sligo and according to the other matches, he was born about 1814 in Easky, County Sligo. His parents were a Michael or Arthur McLean and Mary McLean. Not counting the Biglane matches, there are 11 other DNA matches to various surnames in County Sligo. These matches serve as evidence that we match up with a McLean line through a female McLean and that our James McLean ancestor was most likely from some of the townlands and parishes that surround the town of Easky.

It is not certain who the female McLean was that had a conjugal relationship with a male Biglane. She most likely lived in the second half of the 1700s and was probably the grandmother of our James McLean and the great aunt of the above mentioned Patrick McLean. Her son took the surname McLean rather than Biglane and married a female Lavery. James P. McLean was born of this union in about 1804 somewhere in County Sligo.

Many of the extant Catholic parish register records for the area do not start until after the time period in which our McLean family resided in Sligo. However a general idea of the families residential locations can be derived from the Tithe Applotment Books and Griffith's Valuation. There were far more McLean households in the 19<sup>th</sup> century than might be expected.

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There are 14 (McLean, McLane) households found in the County Sligo Tithe Applotment Books as follows:

- In 1821 a Jas. McLean is found in the Townlands of Carnowerin and Doolagan, Parish of Kilmacowen.
- In 1824 a Barney McClean is found in the Townland of Knappabeg, Parish of St. John's.
- In 1824 a Martin McLane is found in the Townland of Barnashray, Parish of Killaspugbrone.
- In 1824 a Michl McClane is found in the Townland of Druimasciblolle, Parish of St. John's.
- In 1824 a Bartw McClane is found in the Townland of Carrownamoddow, Parish of St. John's.
- In 1824 a Thos McClane is found in the Townland of Carrownamoddow, Parish of St. John's.
- In 1826 a James McLean is found in the Townland of Ardnaglass, Parish of Ahamlish.
- In 1826 a James McClean is found in the Townland of Claragh, Parish of Ahamlish.
- In 1826 a James McClean is found in the Townland of Ardnaglass, Parish of Ahamlish.
- In 1828 a James McClain is found in the Townland of Bunafedda, Parish of Dromard.
- In 1828 a Patt McClain is found in the Townland of Bunnine, Parish of Dromard.
- In 1834 a Jas McClean is found in the Townland of Ardnaglass, Parish of Ahamlish.
- In 1834 a Jas McClean is found in the Townland of Claragh, Parish of Ahamlish.
- In 1834 an Owen McClain is found in the Townland of Gurtneleck, Parish of Ahamlish.

Our James McLean certainly could have been of age by 1825 to be a tenant farmer. So it is entirely possible that one of the James McLean's listed above could have indeed been him. But then again anyone of these persons could have been his father as well. Note that the Parish of Dromard is the one that is closest to Easky and there was a Patrick McLean living in that parish in 1828.

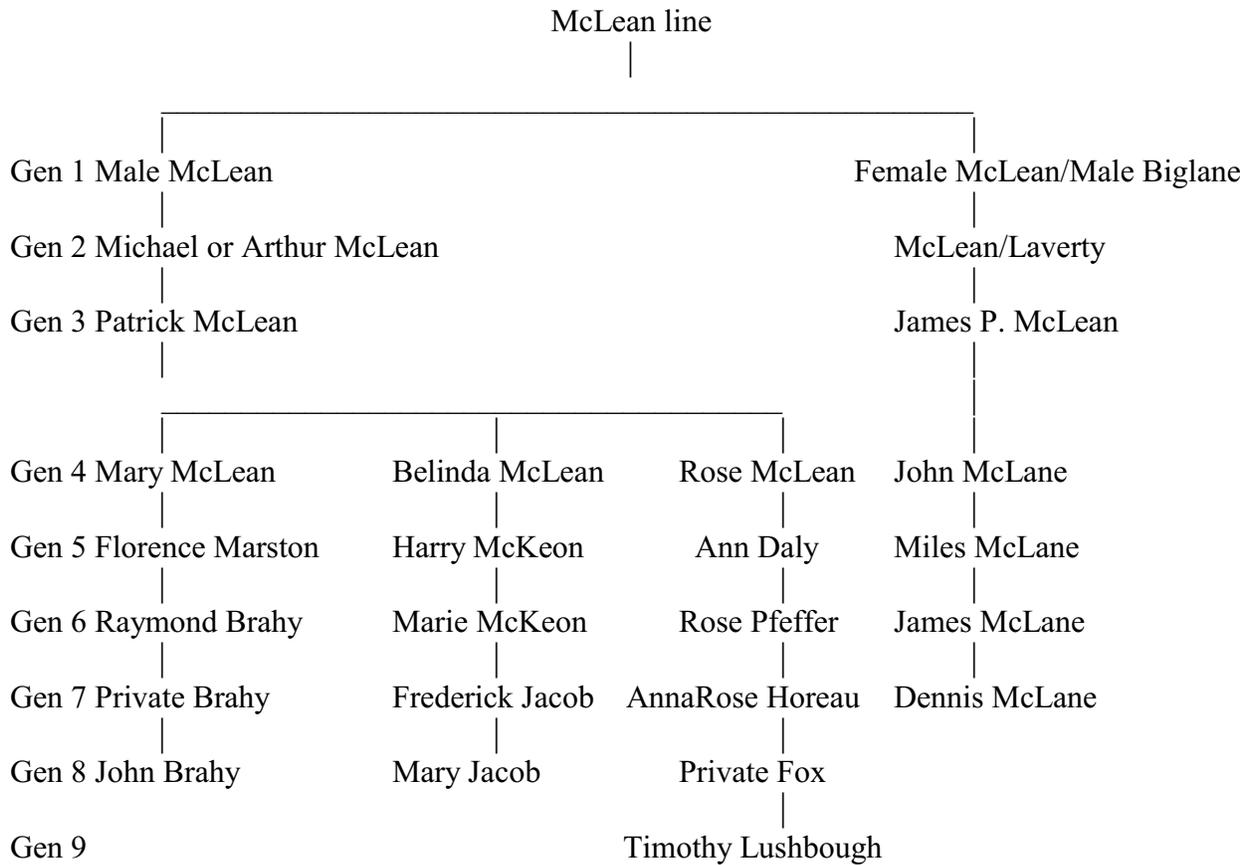
Although, creation of Griffith's Valuation records occurred after our James McLean went to Quebec in 1832, these records provide additional locational context to the presence of McLeans in County Sligo. Twenty McLean (McLane) households are found in the County Sligo Griffith's Valuation as follows:

- A Bridget Maclean is found in the Townland of Rathquarter, Parish of Calry.
- A Thomas Maclean is found in the Townland of Rathquarter, Parish of Calry.
- An Anne M'Clean is found in the Townland of Carney O'Beirne, Parish of Drumcliff.
- A James M'Clean is found in the Townland of Carney O'Beirne, Parish of Drumcliff.
- A Thomas M'Clean is found in the Townland of Lissadill, Parish of Drumcliff.
- A Martin M'Clean is found in the Townland of Lissadill, Parish of Drumcliff.
- A Hannah M'Clean is found in the Townland of Ardtrasna, Parish of Drumcliff.
- A Thomas M'Clean is found in the Townland of Barnaderg, Parish of Drumcliff.
- An Owen M'Clean is found in the Townland of Ballinphull, Parish of Drumcliff.

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- A John M'Clean is found in the Townland of Carney Jones, Parish of Drumcliff.
- A James M'Clean is found in the Townland of Carrownamaddoo, Parish of St. Johns.
- A Thomas M'Clean is found in the Townland of Carrownamaddoo, Parish of St. Johns.
- A John M'Clean is found in the Townland of Carrownamaddoo, Parish of St. Johns.
- A Hugh M'Clean is found in the Townland of Carrownamaddoo, Parish of St. Johns.
- A Patrick M'Clean is found in the Townland of Carrownamaddoo, Parish of St. Johns.
- A Thomas M'Clean is found in the Townland of Aghamore, Far, Parish of St. Johns.
- An Owen M'Clane is found in the Townland of Drumaskibbole, Parish of St. Johns.
- A Martin M'Clane is found in the Townland of Drumaskibbole, Parish of St. Johns.
- A Michael M'Clane is found in the Townland of Drumaskibbole, Parish of St. Johns.
- A Martin M'Clean is found in the Townland of Deenodes, Parish of Killoran.

Our James McLean's father was probably the son of the union between a female McLean and a male Biglane. This McLean son married a woman with the surname of Laverty and our James McLean was their child. Other children of this family remains unknown. A diagram to illustrate the relationship between our McLean ancestors and those of the above mentioned Patrick McLean is as follows:



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So our James McLean's closest McLean relative from Ireland was his second cousin Patrick McLean. Patrick McLean started his life in County Sligo most likely in the parishes near the town of Easky where he was probably born in about 1824. Not much is known of his life in Ireland. According to the obituary of his wife, Bridget Million, she and Patrick met on the eighty-one day voyage from Ireland via Newfoundland to New York and they married shortly after their arrival in the 1840s. The obituary reported that Patrick McLean was from the same town in Ireland. It would be her father Thomas Million's death certificate that would name Easky as that Irish town.

The PMT posted by John Braha provides some details of the life of Patrick McLean and Bridget Million. According to one PMT, Patrick McLean's parents were Michael McLean and Mary McLean. Reportedly, Michael McLean was born about 1804. If that is true then Patrick McLean was born about 1824. In addition to Patrick they were known to have the following children (with birth years in parentheses): James (1826); Thomas (1828); Peter A. (1832); and Michael (1833).

Patrick McLean married Bridget Million in about 1841 in Woodside, New York. They may have had as many as 14 children (with birth years in parentheses) as follows: Anne (1844); Mary F. (1845); Rose E. (1847); Thomas (1852); John Joseph (1854); Belinda (1854); Catherine (1856); Joseph (1857); Richard Stony (1865); James (1866); Jessica (1866); William (1867); Harry (1869); and Margaret (1871). All of these children were born in New York City, NY while the family was living there. Patrick McLean died on October 10, 1887 in Queens of New York City.

Like Patrick McLean, not much is known about our James McLean. Because a marriage record was not found in Quebec for he and his first wife Bridget Smith, it is thought that they were married in County Sligo. The Cholera outbreak that began in Sligo town on August 11, 1832 may have played a part in encouraging their emigration to Quebec. The cholera was worst amongst the poorer classes, and provided a very powerful stimulus to emigration. But by 1830, there were already so many immigrants from Ireland inflicted with fever and smallpox that they were housed in army tents. After a cholera outbreak in Quebec City in June 1832 a quarantine station was opened at Grosse Isle in the Spring of 1832.

Exactly why James McLean decided to leave County Sligo is not known. However, in recent history at the time, Sligo had already experienced the ravages of two rebellions, one in 1641 and the other in 1798 (just a few years before James McLean's birth). There were significant land tenure issues in that it may have been likely that James might not have been able to obtain a leasehold on which to farm and reside. The required tithes payable to the Church of Ireland were troublesome. Because the tithe proportion was higher in Connaught, it became a major issue in 1831. Popular hatred of this requirement coupled with raising rents were included in many statements of grievances and were cited as a cause of emigration.

It is nice to consider that James McLean emigrated to Canada prior to the Great Famine, avoiding the great hardship that eventually had brought so many of the Irish to North America. However, he may have had an experience with some earlier famines while living in Ireland. In thirteen of the seventeen years after 1828 there were partial failures of the potato crop. In some years, including 1830 and 1831, the failure was so bad as to cause famine, which was particularly

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severe in Connaught.

James McLean may have also been encouraged to emigrate by his cousin Hugh McDonough who may have been in Quebec already. Wages for unskilled labor in Canada were high, four shillings a day or more in Quebec. Hugh McDonough may have sent letters back to Sligo making James aware of these employment opportunities. The preponderance of laborers emigrating from Connaught to Canada made emigrants traveling in families decidedly more numerous than those from the other provinces. By 1831, Connaught was contributing largely to the numbers of emigrants going to Quebec.

The timber trade between Quebec and the British Isles provided an impetus for increased ship traffic. Further, because the timber ships needed a cargo for the return trip to Quebec, the fares to Quebec were much cheaper than those to the United States. Sligo Town was a major departure point for emigrant ships to Quebec. There was a total of 15 ships sailing direct from Sligo Town to Quebec City in 1832, transporting a total of about 2,680 “settlers.” James McLean and his young wife were most likely among these settlers. Little did James know that a decade later, Ireland would experience the Great Famine, so his timing for emigration couldn’t have been better.

### Grosse Isle

Much has been written and touted about the immigration station at Ellis Island in New York and the famed Statue of Liberty nearby. But in our family history, none of our ancestors who immigrated into North America had traveled through Ellis Island. The closest to that were our great grandparents Christoffer Jensen and Kirsten Hendricksdatter. They did arrive via New York but it was before Ellis Island was opened and they went through an immigration station called Castle Gardens. Our other three sets of great grandparents all came to Quebec City through the Grosse Isle immigration station. James McLean would arrive there from Ireland in 1832; John McLean would arrive there from Scotland in about 1848; Mary McKinnon would arrive there in about 1850; and Jonas Samson and Katrin Asmundsdottir and their family would arrive there from Iceland in 1889. Grosse Ile would be called the “Gateway to Canada” from 1832 to 1937. So Grosse Isle is to us what Ellis Island is to many other Americans.

Grosse Ile is a small island in the Saint Lawrence River about thirty miles downstream from Quebec City. In 1832, it became the focus of administrative attention as attempts were made to prevent entry of a cholera epidemic into North America. Grosse Ile had been chosen as the station that would provide a place for inspection of ships coming up the river, and a quarantine for any cholera victims, and thus, it was hoped, keep the dread disease out of the colony.

By the end of 1831, a cholera epidemic that started in India had spread across Europe and made its appearance in the British Isles. As stated above, an outbreak occurred in County Sligo on August 11, 1832. By the springtime of 1832, the ships leaving Liverpool and other ports of the British Isles were crowded: between a hundred and two hundred passengers were usually reported, and this exclusive of children. A voyage lasting from 36 to 80 days could be expected.

An Act passed on February 25, 1832 by the Assembly of Lower Canada established the

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quarantine station at Grosse Ile and the government rented the island from its owner. There followed a list of the regulations to be obeyed by all ships approaching Grosse Ile. They were obliged to stop for inspection at the place marked by buoys. If anyone on board had been in contact with contagion, the river pilots had to bring the ships to anchor, with “a blue flag flying at the fore top-gallant masthead.” All vessels had to have a certificate of health before sailing the last thirty miles upriver to Quebec City. Once at Quebec, the ships were to undergo yet another inspection by an official who would take note of the certificate given at Grosse Ile, again examine the passengers, the ships then proceeded a little further upriver to the coves at Diamond Harbor, Sillery Cove, and Sharples cove for loading timber for the return trip to the British Isles.

As spring turned to summer in 1832, the onslaught of the disease was so sudden and great that Grosse Ile was soon over-crowded with sick, dying, and dead. In order to triage this large volume of arriving ships, the authorities gave up their attempts to stop every ship and with a minimum of inspection and segregation, permitted all but the Irish ships to proceed upriver. Throughout the summer the ships kept coming. By September 30, the newspapers reported the “official burials” at Quebec City at 3,292 and more than that died at Grosse Ile.

Just exactly how our James McLean and his first wife Bridget Smith had to navigate through this myriad of inspections and illness is unknown. First, all the ships from Sligo to Quebec in 1832 had departed Sligo before the outbreak of the epidemic there on August 11, 1832. Only two ships from Sligo would arrive in May. But eight such ships would arrive within a five day period from June 1 to June 5. Only five other such ships would arrive in the summer months after that. So the chances are high that James McLean and Bridget Smith may have had to spend some time in quarantine prior to landing at Quebec City.

James McLean’s cousin Hugh McDonough may have arrived in Quebec perhaps a year before James. Hugh bought some land in the Seigneurie of Jolliet (near Frampton) on August 31, 1832. It is somewhat inconceivable that Hugh could have made such a purchase without first having established himself in Quebec with some form of employment. So Hugh McDonough may have been the person who persuaded James McLean to come to Quebec. This would be manifested in Hugh selling James his first piece of land in Quebec in 1834. So Hugh may have assisted James and his first wife Bridget in establishing themselves in Quebec. Being from County Sligo meant that James McLean was an Irish Catholic and it is highly likely he was a Gaelic speaker. While one might think that he was entering a strange land, there was already a burgeoning Irish community in the area of Lower Town at Quebec City. The Irish community was dominant in the timber milling, timber loading, and ship building industry there and laborer and unskilled employment was actually plentiful. Further, Quebec was the only place in the British Empire where the Catholic Church was allowed to exist without governmental harassment. James McLean had found a better place to prosper.

Grosse Ile today is a National Historic Site managed by Parks Canada. My wife and I had the occasion to tour the Grosse Ile site in 2015. We got to see some of the older buildings and churches. We were amazed at the fever sheds that once housed the sick and dying. There is also a place where a mass area of unmarked graves where thousands of Irish immigrants were buried mostly in the “famine year” of 1847 when typhus was raging through the immigrant community. We got up close to the giant Celtic Cross erected by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 1909. The

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cross was erected in memory of all the Irish that died here. The cross is highly visible from the St. Lawrence Seaway and in a way it marks the entrance to Canada in the same manner as the Statue of Liberty does in New York. We also got to see some of the later constructed buildings that served as dormitories and the medical inspection building. Park interpreters dressed in period costume provide presentations that tell the story of immigration to Canada.

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- The Gallowglass Project, Family Tree DNA, Chris McLain, Administrator, posts on the activity feed.
- Thomas Biglane (1836 - 1899), Wikitree Free Family Tree at <http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Biglane-2>
- Various Wikipedia articles. A few of the narratives are extractions from Wikipedia articles which I have abridged and edited.
- DNA matches for Dennis McLane in Ancestry.DNA.
- Information on the above named persons can also be found in The Public Members Trees on Ancestry.com.

## **Traces Through World History**