

The Towey Lecture Focusing on the Toweys and Irish History

By Máire Nic Domhnaill Gairbhi
11 August 2007

Gaeilge

A cháirde go léir atá anseo anocht ó beagnach gach tír sa domhan. Tá fáilte an domhan róimhaibh go Bealach a Dóirín, an áit (is Dóigh liom) in ar rugadh bhur sinsear. Cé nach bhfuil eolas cruinn agam i dtaobh na "Toweys" beidh mé indon cur síos ar an gceantar thar timceall na háike agus dul siar go dtí 1260. Tá obair thagartha san leacht chun cabhair a thabhairt d'einne a bhfuil ag déanamh taighde ar stair na "Toweys". Tá an tádhdh ag na daoine a bhí indon teacht anseo thar lear, mar tá na mílte daoine I gcéin nach bhfuil indon teacht thar n-ais. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitheamh as na saoire. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Máire Nic Domhnaill Gairbhi
11/8/2007

Introduction

My coverage of the history of the Towey Family consists of the wider area of the lands extending from Sliabh Luga where all our ancestors came from. The study of this vast area would take a lifetime of dedicated labour.

Many people in Connacht have scant knowledge of ancient history or early history. In schools long ago we barely scratched the surface. Mythology our teachers called it and it was not relevant. But anyone who does an in-depth study of the writings of the ancient monks in the monasteries of old will know that these men wrote from a local knowledge and not from imagination.



Máire McDonnell Garvey with Musicians

All these Manuscripts were written in Latin and old Irish. It takes highly skilled men and women to come to terms with pre-Christian times. When we reached 1636 with the publication of the Annals of Ireland, history became easier to follow and many historians have written from then to the present day.

I know the Toweys need to know the connection to the O'Neill's. In my last few pages I do my best. The O'Neill's were in Connacht before 400 A.D.

I begin my lecture with Traditional Irish Music. *Bán Chnoic Éireann Óigh*. It is symbolic of the Towey situation, a longing to come back to their native place and learn more. This air is 350 years old. Words and history of the air are in the following pages.

As I continue through the Dillon era, we play *Lady Dillon* by Turlough Carolan. Lady Dillon lived around 1734. Carolan composed many airs for the Landed Gentry. Our last piece to play here is *Úir Chile an Chreágelin*. The story is at the end of this lecture.

Traditional musicians taking part are; Dónal Ó Héalaí on Concert Flute, Ciárlín Ó Raghallaigh on Violin and Máire McDonnell Garvey on Violin.

Bán-Chnoic Éireann Óigh,
le
Donnchadha Rua Mac Connamara
The fair Hills of Holy Ireland.

This poem was published in the Gaelic Journal, Vol. II, p165, by John Fleming. It was from a transcript by one of Macnamaras's pupils called Laurence Foran. It can be found in Dr. Joyce's *Irish Music and Song* and also in *Eachtra Ghiolla an Amhráin* and other poems by Red Donough Macnamara with a *Life of Donnchadha* by John Fleming. Donnchadha was born in Cratloe, Co. Clare, early in the 18th century. He was intended for the priesthood and went to the Irish College in Rome. He did not take Holy Orders but returned to Ireland and taught in Sliabh gCua, and later in Kilmacthomas. He went to Newfoundland for more than a year and travelled in various parts of Europe. While he was abroad he wrote this sad air. The original is in *Hardiman's Irish Minstrelsy*. He probably wrote it between 1730 -1740.

There are six verses in Irish in the poem. Writing from abroad and longing for the fair hills of holy Ireland he delights in praising the glories and the beauty of his native land.

To those who have emigrated and left their dear native land, not through choice but from necessity, down through the years, the longing to visit ancestral sites and areas, is bound to be emotional and satisfying. I felt that love and aching in the Towey's, who wrote to me from abroad. After our talk and Irish music here tonight we hope all will be happy and content.

I would like to congratulate the Towey Clann for the part they played in the history of our area. I wish to thank them for their interest and their search for more knowledge. Your thirst for information fired me again with more enthusiasm and I think of poor Thomas Towey of Barnaboy lying in gaol awaiting a sentence (just like the Rossport 5) for standing up for his rights.

In the Annals of Connacht in 1336, when the De Angulos bore the name of Jocelyn, it was Gallicised as Mac Costello and eventually Costello. Before this, that vast area of Sliabh Lughá was owned by the O'Gara Chieftains. When the Norman invader Myles De Angulo obtained the territory, the rule of the O'Gara's was at an end and they were pushed eastwards in 1260 into the territory of Coolavin on the northern shores of the lake. Lough Tetchet was the ancient name of the lake and it now became Lough Gara.

O'Gara's had a castle at Castlemore. Its location was not indicated in any research I did. Costellos built the great castle and the place became known as Caislen Mór Mac Goisdelbh. Gilbert Costello lived in Castlemore. Gilbert's son Shane or John MacCostello and Walter Costello who were living in Tullaghanmore or Edmondstown Castle in 1585 were two of the magnates named in the Office of Mayo taken at Dunemona in 1585. Down through the years the Costellos had built five castles. Kilcolman Castle was situated on the road to Edmondstown. Not a vestige of it remains today. Rory MacCostello manned this castle in his lifetime. Tullaghan rock Castle is where Dudley the Rapparee had lived and lost his lands when he went to help the Stuarts abroad. The old castle at Edmondstown or Tullaghanmore has also gone but the remains of the old house there is now in ruins. Some say the fifth was a Crinnane. I found no record of it.

From the time of Henry VIII the right of the Crown to Connacht was legally beyond a doubt. Henry entered into indentures with most of the Connacht Lords, both Irish and Anglo Irish. In this he received them as subjects and recognised their claim to land. In 1585 under Sir John Perrot the Lord Deputy, the Commission made a settlement known as the 'Composition of Connacht'. This was called 'Surrender and Regrant'. It was due to the neglect of the clerks of the Court of Chancery that these surrenders were not finalised. So later, Strafford enters the scene prepared with a strict programme for taking over the land. This is called Strafford's Survey and it was seen to include all divisions. Strafford's barony map of Athlone confirms this. From the Strafford Survey 1636-1637 there are nine baronies of Mayo, and the collection of the 'Books of Survey and Distribution's' descriptions of lands and proprietors names are notable features.

I will try to give a short account of the history of this particular area from 1585, the year of the "Composition of Connacht" to the present day. But for a Ms. loaned by Mrs. Pakenham Mahon of Strokestown Park, Co. Roscommon, at the beginning of this century, our knowledge would be scant. Her Ms. showed general agreement with the Roscommon text of the Book of Survey and Distribution. In the Specification of this we are indebted to the Ordinance Survey Department, for lands, acreages and other details.

(reference) (*Mayo book of Survey and Distribution introduction P XXXVI*)

The barony of Clancostilleo (Costello) was at this time omitted from the Composition Book in assessing the 'cess' to be paid to the President of Connacht for Queen Elizabeth. A note to that effect by the commissioners is added to the statement of proceedings 'The Barony of Clancostilleo is not yet presented'. The Commissioners claimed they "could not conveniently assess this area, because of the hard passage and travel thither by means of the great bogs, moors, woods and mountains and other evil ways into the said barony" The Survey was postponed to the 10th September 1587 and was held at Athleague Co. Roscommon. Viscount Theobald Dillon insisted in the assessment going ahead. The committee came to the conclusion that only 83 'Quarters' could be charged with rent. The quantity of land in Costello comprised 255 'Quarters' and each 'quarter' was 120 acres. The survey describes the area as "*barren amongst the most barren, and a verde resceptacle of Scotts and a harbour other douse and evil people, through the strength and fastnesse thereof.*"

(*W F T Butler; The Confiscation of Connacht*)

Theobald Dillon commanded an independent troop during the reign of Queen Elizabeth and was appointed collector and receiver of composition money for the province of Connacht. (*Composician Booke of Connacht transcribed by A Martin Freeman, and Index to Composicion Booke of Connacht (Hayes McCoy G.A.)*). His family owned extensive estates in Meath and Westmeath. He appears to have put his legal education to good use, acting as a mediator between the Connacht rebels and the Crown. In doing so he antagonised the controversial President of Connacht, Sir Richard Bingham, who referred to Dillon as "a great extortioner, a favourer of rebels and malefactors".

What I can gather is that Dillon's main objective was his own self advancement and he lost no time in extending his holdings in the barony of Costello. Within a short time Clan Costello had been virtually dispossessed of the lands for which they had fought so long and so hard over the previous three and a half centuries. Before the end of the 1580s they had begun to realise the implications of Dillon's arrival but it was too late. In 1587 Sir John Perrot's report on the barony of Costello (alias Ballyhaunis) in connection with the 'Composition of Connacht' said "Theobald Dillon inhabited the said barony, and had by his industry brought the people there to obedience". There is no clear indication of how Dillon took over the Costello estate. All I know is that when I was studying in the Registry of Deeds Office, in Henrietta Street, some years ago, I came across Folio no 2099: A memorial of a deed of Conveyance of George A. Costello 20th August 1885. This stated that Costello

paid a fixed rent to Viscount Dillon for nearly 300 years, of £31/6/10 which was Composition rent. Then Dillon was created the first Viscount Dillon after 1660. Let it be noted that Arthur Georges Costello kept the Home Farm. This contained 315 acres 3 roods and 13 perches. Costello got no return of any of his own lands which were confiscated from him in 1660.

Throughout this time there is no individual mention of tenant's names. History was written as if tenants did not count. Even in the Survey and Distribution Books, there were only the names of the Proprietors, the number of acres profitable, the number of acres unprofitable and the names of the areas. No rent was charged on unprofitable lands or uninhabited lands, so the landlords wealth apparently lay in the tenants who lived on his property and the herds they attended. There is a list of names of the leaseholders on the Costello Estate from 1885 and on the Dillon Estate from 1805.

Arthur Georges Costello was J.P. in the counties of Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo and late Captain in the Seventh Dragoon Guards and was living at Edmondstown, Ballaghaderreen. His acreage in Mayo was 7,513 acres, and 1038 in Roscommon. (*Records are in the National Archives in Bishop Street*). Down through the years many of the Costellos resented the manner in which they had become tenants on what had been for so long their own lands. When Captain Dudley Costello returned from exile with King Charles II at the time of the 'Restoration' he had high hopes of regaining the property which his ancestors almost a century previously had allowed to slip from their grasp into the hands of Theobald Dillon. His hopes were to be cruelly dashed. The 'Cromwellian Settlement' and previous confiscations were not to be overturned. Dudley gathered a party of followers calling themselves 'Rapparees' and they carried on raids and burnings against Dillon in the baronies of Costello and Gallen. Proclaimed a Tory and a rebel in 1666, Dudley was shot dead on the slopes of Barnalyra beside the new Connacht airport.

Tomás Láidir Costello according to tradition was a brother of Dudley the Rapparee. Tullaghanrock had been their home. The borders of the Costello lands ran along Magheraboy and Tobracken beside the present graveyard at Kilcolman. Dr. Douglas Hyde claimed that Tomás Láidir had fought bravely against the Cromwellians in a fierce battle on the Curlew Mountains. There are many versions of his love affair with Una MacDermot, which would take too long to relate here. According to records in the Genealogical Office in Dublin, Dudley Costello was the son of Jordan Boy Costello of Tullaghanrock. His sister married William Costello of Castlemore. Their son Charles married Giles, daughter of James Farrell of Clooneyquinn, Co. Roscommon. Their son Edmond Costello of Edmondstown was a Dublin Counsellor at Law. He married Mary the third daughter of Francis Birmingham the 21st Baron of Athenry. Margaret Louise married Arthur French, son and heir of Arthur French of Frenchpark. There is no doubt but the landlord class made good matches with their own kind. We also note that the families of the Irish Clans have survived to the present day such as The MacDermots of Coolavin and the O'Conors of Clonalis, Castlereagh. Mrs Pakenham Mahon of Strokestown House lived in dire poverty in her last few years and she sold to a local garage owner before leaving to live with her son in England.

The De Freynes sold their land to the Land Commission who divided it among the tenants. It was also mainly due to misfortune that the landlord class lost their lands.

Arthur Georges Costello's home farm was mortgaged as he was unable to keep his finances in order. His house at Edmondstown, built in 1867, stands there in all its glory, surrounded by large trees and amazing gardens. It was bought by the Ballaghaderreen Church authorities with help from the Congested Districts Board.

Down through the years the head of the Dillon household was a Viscount. Thomas the 4th Viscount was born in 1615 and was Governor of Malta in 1641. Following Cromwell's victory he was deprived of his estates by the Commonwealth. At the Restoration however, having returned from continental exile in 1663, he was re granted these lands, 64,185 plantation acres in Counties Mayo and Roscommon. Is it any wonder Costello, his next door neighbour, was aggrieved and angry because he was not given any of the land that was his?

Towards the end of the eighteenth century Dillon implored the Government to send Cavalry to Loughglynn. It was a rough time for the tenants. `Ribbonmen' were gathered in groups and were threatening all the landlords. William, Earl of Camden was now Lord Lieutenant and it appears Dillon had fallen out of favour in Government circles. He got the reinforcements in 1797.

It appeared that Dillon believed he had been promised by Westmoreland that he was recommended to be made a Knight of the Garter. But he was passed over. Now the Golden Collar of the most notable Order of the Garter was one of the most principal heirlooms of the House of Stuart. It was presented to James VI of Scotland by Queen Elizabeth, when she created him a Knight of that Order. The badge was made for him at the same time. Prince Charles Edward, who died in Rome in 1788, presented them to George IV. He also gave King George a ruby ring encircled with diamonds, and two other precious, historic and ancient jewels.

Dillon must have been very annoyed. He decided to go to England to live and he did just that. He had an agent, a Mr. Watt but was not happy about him. So in 1818 Jarrard Edward Strickland came to Ireland as agent to the estates of Viscount Dillon in Mayo and Roscommon. The Stricklands remained agents for Dillon and when the estate was sold in 1899, the 93,321 acres were sold for £29,000.

In 1902 Mr George Wyndham had appointed Sir Anthony McDonnell as his Under Secretary to Ireland. He had been administrator in India. His family originated in Palmfield near Carrycastle.

Charles Strickland continued as agent after his father's death. In 1844 his mother Ann died at Loughglynn and is buried in a vault in the old cemetery in Ballaghaderreen. The descendents of the Strickland family now live in Malta. They visited Ballaghaderreen some years ago. Charles was known to be a fair man. During the famine 1847 he saved many tenants from starvation. The population of the area increased in the second half of the 19th century.

Schools were needed. Mr Strickland succeeded in getting a site from Viscount Dillon at Cnocán na mBráthhair, Friars Hill, near Castlemore. This became the School of the Sisters of Charity and opened on 1877. Rents were collected for Dillon and for 40 years Strickland managed the estate well. There were five brothers. Two of them became Jesuits. Thomas was born at Loughglynn in 1826. (*Life and Study of Strickland Family in Malta*, by Walter George Strickland) Walter George was born in 1850. Gerard was born at Brooklawn on the edge of Kilmovee on the 9th November 1852. The Bishop of Achonry lived there in the beginning of the nineteenth century.

It was probably Thomas Strickland who operated a flax mill at Castlemore. There were sectarian troubles in the north of Ireland at end of the eighteenth century. By 1780 a new pitch of ferocity emerged never equalled before. It was fought out at the Battle of the Diamond at the Crossroads near Loughgall. Many Catholics were killed and many were pushed out from the north. About 2000 were taken as refugees in Mayo. There is a long list of names available in the State Paper Office in Dublin. Captain James Cuffe of Deel Castle, Crossmolina, sent the revelant information. *Patrick Tuba and Patrick Hoban (both historians) had their findings published in Seanchas Árd Mhaca (1958 and 1979)*. Most of these were weavers. The Flax mills at Castlemore were

strengthened by all this. From Griffiths Survey we see that Thomas Strickland set up a corn mill. After his death it continued under a local magistrate, William Blake and later under another magistrate William Clarke. There were other mills. Tonroe Mill was owned and conducted by Michael McDonnell from 1895. His father had a mill in Creggane but moved to Tonroe.

Some of the Tuffys of Mayo have a tradition that they were originally descended from the four O'Neill brothers driven out from Dungannon. Many Donegal families moved into Mayo; Gallaghers, Tolans, O'Boyles, Devanneys etc., because of the close proximity across the bay. Desmond O'Neill, the Historian, wrote about the Ulster Migration to Mayo from 1795-1796. Most of these northern refugees were weavers, and moved into Castiebar, Westport, Ballaghaderreen and Newport. Here is a list of some of those who left and settled in Crossmolina.

Hugh Gettings, James Hendrick, Jn McDeatt, Jn O'Neill, Hy O'Neill, Samuel Fall, Charles Toal, Charles Toal Junior, Frances Toal, William Toal, Francis Quinn, Myles McDonnell, Junior Kain, Robert Mynagh, James McQuort and James Rafferty.

Settlers in Foxford;

Charles McConville, Paul McConville, Junior Devlin, Ned Ryan, McConville Junior, Charles McCann, Ed Whitelock, James Fox, Thomas Cunningham, Pat McCann, Francis McCann, Hy McNeas, Junior McNeas, Patt McNeas, Junior Brannigan, Pat Brannigan, William Smith, Phil Toher.

Nollaig Ó Muralle, has a list based on *Sir Robert Matheson – Special report on surnames in Ireland* (1909)

Walsh–Breathnach, Kelly–Ceallaigh, O'Malley–ÓMáille, Moran–Ó Moráin, Gallagher–Ó Gallchóir, Duffy–Ó Dufaigh, MacHale–MacHéil, Gibbons –Mac Giobúin, Joyce–Seoige, Connor O'Connor–C Ó Conchuir, Conway– Ó Conbuí, Higgins– Ó hUlginn, Murphy– Ó Murchú, Burke–De Búrcha, O'Reilly– Ó Raghailigh, Durkan– Mac Duarcáin, Doherty– Ó Dochartaigh, Mc Hugh–Mac Aodha, Sweney–Mac Suibhne, Lyons–O Laighin.

Five Fiths of Ireland.

Historical tradition was that Ireland, in the time of Cú Chulainn, was divided into five co-ordinated chief kingdoms, whose kings were equal in rank and were not subordinate to a central monarchy. The period was called "The time of the Pentarchs" - its origin was pre-historic. To this day in Irish literature, the word 'cuigeadh' (a fifth) is found in every age and generation of our ancient written literature. But it is also clear that the Five Fiths were only a memory of the past. In the time of St. Patrick hostile relations *between* Ulster and Connacht were bad but Connacht grew gradually more powerful. They started to acquire a primacy over all Ireland. Tuathal flourished in the third quarter of the second century (between A.D. 150 and A.D. 175). To look into this try the Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland.

King Cormac who is 4th in descent from Tuathal, resided at Tara. There was continued hostility of the Ulstermen to King Cormac's line. This was the Connacht dynasty. Cormac had forced Ulster to give him hostages. The reign of Cormac is regarded in our earliest histories as an epoch in Irish history which means a particular period of history.

The Connacht kings continued to extend their conquests and their power. A grandson of Muiredach Tireach was king of Tara at the beginning of the 5th century 400 A.D. – Niall of the Nine Hostages. Three sons of Niall took possession of western Ulster in the county of Donegal. Their

names were Eoghan, Conall and Enda. Another son of Niall obtained a piece of Leinster, now the barony of Carbury in Co. Kildare.

Pre history has been recorded in Latin writings so perhaps much of what we thought was mythology is ancient history. The death of Niall of the Nine Hostages is said to have taken place in the year 404. He was at the head of an expedition in the English Channel when he was slain on board ship by a Leinster prince. He was succeeded by his brother's son Nath-I.

The O'Neills are descendents of Niall of the Nine Hostages. It is impossible to do justice to this great sept in a lecture like this. The O'Neills were the chief family of the Cinel Eoghan, their territory being Tir Eoghan. In the 14th century a branch of the Tir Eoghan O'Neills moved to Antrim, and were known as Clann Aodha Bhuidhe, eventually known as Clandeboy O'Neills.

The 16th and 17th centuries produced the most famous of the O'Neills, among them

Con Bacach O'Neill (1485-1559), the first Earl of Tyrone

Shane O'Neill (1530-1567)

Hugh O'Neill (1540-1616)

Owen Roe O'Neill (1590-1649)

Sir Phelim O'Neill (1640-1653)

Hugh O'Neill (d.1660).

There are several branches, or Septs of the O'Neill Clan; The O'Neills Of Ulster (The Senior Branch) comprising; The O'Neill Men of Tyrone, Chiefs of the name and the O'Neills of the Fews, i.e, Carlos O'Neill, 12th Marquis De La Granja, 5th Marquis De La Norte, Conde De La Benagiar, Heir apparent to the title The O'Neill Mór – Chief of his name.

The Irish language was the strong especially the corner of Ulster where the Gaelic poets wrote their poetry about the O'Neill Clann. Poems like 'Marbhna Eoghain Ruaidh', 'Ráidthe an Eagnaighe ar Bhás Eoghraín Ruaidhe' and 'Cúmha Eoghan Ruaidh', Eoghan Ruaidh's life is truly summed up in one of these poems "Hand of great deeds who never deserted the just cause for a price"

If you visit Sliabh Gullion you will realise you are at the edge of the world. History, mythology, language, dreams, landscape, mountains and valleys all come together and overwhelm you. The 'Draiocht' of the area lasts forever. This area had to be the beginning of time in our country. It has been said it goes back in time to six million years.

Climb the Mullaghbán Mountain and look towards Forkhill, and Glasdrummond where the last Castle O'Neill Clann stood. Creggan is there waiting to be visited. The graveyard is regarded as a shrine to the Celtic poets of the North and it is the most historic graveyard in Ulster. It is the burial place of many of the eighteenth century poets. The greatest of them is Art Mac Cubhthaigh (1715-1773) His greatest poem is 'Úir Chille an *Chreagáin*. Art had a great love for the O'Neill clan. His family had been Bards to the O'Neill' for generations. St. Oliver Plunkett spent much of his time hiding here when he was Primate of all Ireland (1670-1680). In the seventeenth century this valley was the valley of the O'Neills. They traced their history to Niall Frasach, a high king of Ireland in the eight century.

(continued next page)

Don Carlos was invited by Cardinal Ó Fiaich to visit the graveyard. There were great preparations. The Reverend M. Kingston urged all religions to help out with this. In the midst of the flurry of preparations a man driving a small tractor hit a stone and got bogged down. On examination the stone was found to be a slate that cracked under the weight, - exposing -the long lost vault of The O'Neill's. This is how it was discovered.

Cardinal Ó Fiaich was sent for and he brought a torch and both he and the tractor driver went carefully down the steps into the vault. To their great surprise they discovered about seventy skulls of the O'Neill Clann.

We will now play for you that lovely sean-nós song by Mac Ctimhaigh. He was 'on the run' and being hunted by the 'Powers that be', he hid for a night in the O'Neill vault in Creggan graveyard. The opening line is true when he says he slept the previous night in Creggan Churchyard. The epitaph on his headstone is the last line of the poem.

`Gurbh ag Gaeil chúmhra an Chreagáin a leagfar mé faoin fhód'
'That with the fragrant Gaels of Creggan I will be in clay under the sod.'

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir. (Mike McDonnell Garvey)

Reference.

Irish Chieftains 'A Struggle for the Crown' By Charles FFrench Blake-Forster. Published in 1897 by M Gill, Dublin.

This title takes us from 1689-1770. My interest lay in the O'Neills. The list of officers who served in the Irish army of King James II is to be found on page 611. The various regiments of Horse. There is also a list of those who accompanied King James from France. In the various regiments were Neil O'Neill, Owen O'Neill, Randal O'Neill, Colonel Gordon O'Neill, Turlough O'Neill, and John O'Neill, Arthur, Phelim, Owen Bhuigh, Owen from Dublin, Major Constantine O'Neill, Terence, Daniel, Henry and Hugh. Colonel Henry O'Neill, was the Grandson of the celebrated Patriot Sir Pheilm who was executed by the English in 1641.

In the O'Neill Regiment, The Reverend Hugh was Chaplain. Then there were Charles, Felix, Arthur, James, Henry, Brian, Constantine, Henry, Randell, Turlough, Author Capt. Brian, and Neill O'Neill.

Desmond O'Neill is writer of the following references.

Those who came to Mayo from the north after the 'Battle of the Diamond, 1795', were mostly weavers. They called themselves 'Orangemen'. Three hundred of them had wrecked havoc on Catholic families. It was easier to get out, sell and leave. An estimated 20,000 refugees went to Scotland, 5,000 to America, 1000 to Galway and 4000 to Mayo.

The names of most of the refugees who came to Mayo can be found in The State Paper Office in The National Archives, Tables 1 and 2 show two such lists.



References and sources are:

1. Patrick Tohall; "The Diamond Fight of 1795 and the resultant Expulsions"
2. Patrick Hogan; "The Migration of Ulster Catholics to Connaught" 1795-1796 in *Seanchas Ardmhaca* vol. 9 no. 2, 1979.

Lecky, W E H ; *The History of Ireland in the 19th Century*,
Keeper of State Papers, National Archives, Bishop street Dublin,
s.o.c. 3046/3, 12/9/1796. s.o.c. 1015/ 21, 27/6/1796.620/26/145. 22/12/1796.

Nollaig Ó Muraíle has also worked on the Principal Surnames of Mayo.

I have read and studied "The O'Neills of the Fews" by the late Cardinal Ó Fiaich. Cú Uladh Ó Neill 1494 was chief of The O'Neills of the Fews.

He was succeeded by his brother Art, and the future rulers of the Fews were all descended from Art. The Annals of Ulster relate that Art's house was in Toaghie, an area south west of Armagh City, as far as Keady and beyond it. The Barony map of Armagh in *the Maps of the Escheated Counties* shows that Toaghie was a long narrow strip of territory from Darkley to Killylea.

I tread with caution from this out, as one must have definite references when pursuing history. What we do know is that Viscount Dillon of Loughglynn was Viscount of the barony of Gallen and of Costello. The Costello barony was reduced. We know that Viscount Dillon had a hand in this. Arthur Robert Georges Costello lived at Edmondstown, Ballaghaderreen. His acreage was seven thousand five hundred and thirteen acres in Mayo and one thousand and thirty eight in Roscommon. (See Chapter 11 in `Mid-Connacht') Dillon held all the lands of both baronies. It is clearly a mistake to say that seven hefty sons of a nephew of the great Hugh O'Neill chose to settle in the wilderness of Barnaboy, (a mere townland in the parish of Kilcolman) because the land was so poor that no one would challenge his claim to reside on it. Dillon was the owner. Nobody went against his wishes. Those living on the land were leaseholders whether the land was profitable or unprofitable.

It has been stated in the second half of the 18th century, by Nicholas O'Kearney, that Art Mac Cúmhaigh was family bard to the O'Neills of Toprass. We first meet Niall O'Neill in 1740. He held a large farm in Toprass. His home was a notable haunt of Irish poets and musicians. Art Mac Cúmhaigh remembers the O'Neills in much of his beautiful poetry. His last wish in his last poem was "That with the fragrant Gaels of Creggan I will be put in the clay under the sod"

There are references on the pages of my lecture that the Towey family may wish to research further. Believe me this research is a lifetime occupation. I have included Toweys from the Griffith Valuation.

Máire McDonnell Garvey
