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VARIED ORIGINS OF THE IRISH PEOPLE.

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The study of genealogy is based on the investigation of surnames. Before the 12th century, as in Biblical times, people were known by one name only, which to the baptized was the Christian name. Thus, in very early times no pedigrees are recorded save those of Kings and Chieftains. Even now, Kings are usually known by a Christian name only. Napoleon Bonaparte at once dropped his surname the moment he attained sovereignty, but in the very old dynasties it is quite a difficult matter to find the surname. At the French Revolution Louis XVI was called Louis Capet, but his kinsman King Alfonso is said to favour the surname of De Bourbon.

In England the problem of the royal surname was not finally fixed till quite recent times, when it was decreed to be that of Windsor.

Surnames arose with the demands of civilization, as the expansion of families lead to the assumption of cognomens, or nick-names, whether deriving from trades or personal characteristics.

When property was vested in the tribe, or sept, nomadic customs prevailed, but once the individual came to have a residence then certain surnames grew from place names. This was particularly the case in England once the Normans had impressed their feudal system on the people. Again, in England every Cooper, Butler, Tanner, Dyer, Smith, Baker, may reasonably be supposed to have derived from an ancestor practising such a trade, while a Biddulph or a Dudley almost certainly got his name from a place bearing that name. In fact, there are certain cases, such as Saltmarshe of Saltmarshe in Yorkshire, and Roddam of Roddam, in Northumberland, besides instances in Cornwall, where families actually possess the very lands from which their ancestors derived their names. There are necessarily exceptions, since a family might derive a name from living for a generation on a certain estate, and then assume a new name owing to change of residence. If a man married an heiress in mediæval times, he frequently assumed his father-in-law's surname which was considered to go with the inheritance. This was the precursor of our modern system of double, that is, hyphenated, names.

But with names in Ireland the position is very different. A statute of Edward II ordained that Irishmen bearing unpronounceable surnames should assume names derived from English towns, colours, or trades; thus, we have Chesters, Whites, and Smiths whose Saxon names conceal Celtic origin. Other names, Norman in origin, have become corrupted, like Tobin in Kilkenny, originally St. Aubin. A purely Irish name like MacNamara tells its own tale, and the

origin of a " son of the sea " may naturally be sought for on the shores of Clare. Even with Irish names time has wrought changes. A Devine might possibly think that he derived from a Huguenot De Vigne, whereas in reality Devine is a corruption of Odevin, in its turn a cognomen of one of the Maguire family of Co. Fermanagh.

The well-known Connaught family of Blake also derived from a nick-name. Their ancestor was one Richard Caddell, who became tenant of lands near Galway under Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster in 1277; his swarthy complexion won him the appellation of Richard " Niger," or Black. As readers of Chaucer will remember, the spelling of Blake is an early rendering of Black, and, thus the name has since persisted.

In Irish genealogies the more one investigates the more one finds that our origins are wonderfully varied. To realize this one must trace down the ages the various incursions of foreigners, some warlike, some peaceful.

The mist surrounding the coming of the Milesians must leave us content to attempt no estimate, either as to their numbers, or as to the actual population of the country at the time of heir arrival. From the 8th to the 12th centuries this country was harrassed by the Danes. The term is a loose one though favoured by Irish historians, for these invaders came from the Norse countries in general rather than from Denmark.

Haliday rightly calls his remarkable volume " The Scandinavian Kingdom of Dublin." The Norsemen, or Ostmen, eventually segregated themselves on the north bank of the Liffey, in the district which came to be called Ostmentown, a name afterwards corrupted into Oxmantown, which comprised the land between Blackhall Place and the Four Courts.

During the period of the Danish incursions, at first merely predatory but afterwards colonizing, a fine stock planted themselves. As is well known, their settlements are to be found where the galleys of those warlike people sought a haven in the estuary of rivers, such as the Liffey and the Nore. Their chief establishments were at Dublin and Waterford. For many centuries the principal civic families of Dublin bore Danish names, such as the Harold's (whence the suburb of Harold's Cross), and the Segraves, progenitors of the late Sir Henry Segrave, " the speed king," a fearless Viking indeed! Nor is the name of Cosgrave unknown in this city. It was in 1168 that Dermot McMurrough, King of Leinster, invited Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, the renowned Strongbow, to assist him to regain his kingdom from the O'Connors. Strongbow, who had inherited from his father a large territory in Wales, accordingly raised an army, his captains including Maurice FitzGerald (ancestor of all the FitzGerald's and FitzMaurice's), De Courcy, De Lacy and De Riddlesford, crossed over to Ireland and eventually captured Dublin in 1170.

Figures are wanting as to the exact number who came with Strongbow, but from this time on Englishmen of all classes kept coming over on one pretext or another; some to act as judges or crown officials, others as ecclesiastics, and again more as servants or artizans. Of the original band a goodly number came from South Wales, such as the Sherlocks, or Scurlogs, and the Punchards. The Sherlocks came from Pembroke and carved out a whole parish in Co. Kildare called Sherlocktown, where, wonderful to relate, a

family of the name still resides. These Punchards also settled in Co. Kildare, where, though their race is long extinct, the fame of Punchestown still keeps their memory green.

During the 13th Century the Anglo-Norman families of FitzGerald, Butler and De Burgh succeeded in dominating a great portion of Munster, Leinster and Connaught.

Our records have little to say of an invasion of settlers on a large scale till the end of the 16th Century. The confiscations of Elizabeth, following on the erection of the King's and Queen's counties enabled large grants of land to be made over to fighting Englishmen, like the Cosby family who supplanted the O'Moores in the territory of Leix, the Wingfields, and the Binghams. Sir Edward Denny and a number of other Englishmen appear as grantees of the vast estates amounting to 600,000 acres of the attainted Earl of Desmond, who died in 1583.

In the north, too, the uprooted septs of Donegal and Tyrone, O'Donnell, O'Docherty and O'Neill were to make way for Chichesters, Langfords, Rowleys and Uptons, families chiefly derived from Devon and Cornwall. The actual Plantation of Ulster, by which a vast number of caledonian squires with their retainers, were brought over was not carried out till after the Flight of the Earls of Tyrconnell and Tyrone in 1608. Meanwhile, Alva's persecutions in Flanders and the oppression of the Huguenots in France led to a number of foreigners, chiefly weavers and craftsmen, settling in Ireland in the period 1572 to 1600. Another batch of settlers came after the troubles of 1641, as the long list of grantees under Charles I can testify.

The most systematic attempt at colonization was yet to come. Cromwell brought his army in 1649 to subdue the country, but the eternal difficulty of paying his soldiers led him to issue debentures in order to wipe out what was owing to them by means of grants of land.

At the same time certificates in Irish land were allotted in respect of persons, chiefly London merchants, who advanced cash to the Commonwealth. They were known as Adventurers, and drew lots as to where their claims should be satisfied. Naturally numbers of people sold their allotments without even seeing them, others speculated and bought up debentures from the soldiers. In most cases the debenture of a private soldier was so small that the officers made a practice of buying them up. The matter is dealt with so fully in Prendergast's well-known volume that a detailed account becomes unnecessary. Quite a number of the Cromwellian grantees did not remain in Ireland, some returning to England in the disturbances of 1688 and others settling in Jamaica or Barbadoes. Many of their holdings, as well as a good many estates forfeited in the Williamite confiscations were bought up by a land jobbing company known as the Hollow Sword Blade Company. This corporation was originally engaged in the manufacture of sword blades, hollowed out to contain a quantity of mercury, which, falling to the inside of the point at every blow gave added force to the stroke. In 1651 the Government introduced a number of English and foreign artizans to assist in rebuilding Dublin. Early in the reign of Charles II an Act was passed to encourage Protestant strangers to settle in Ireland, with the result that many persons from the Continent, chiefly tradesmen and artificers, settled in our midst.

Quite a number of Huguenots came with them, and as early as 1666 they had become so numerous that a Committee of the Irish House of Commons was appointed to consider the question of building a French church. The project was found to be too costly, but as a result a chapel in St. Patrick's Cathedral was set apart for the purpose of holding services in the French language, and was used as such till 1816.

After the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes 6300 French Protestant families were provided for in England. An Irish Act of 1692 encouraged a considerable number to settle in Ireland. Of these, a few families were settled on Lord Blayney's estate at Castle Blayney, Co. Monaghan, and on Sir Richard Cox's property at Dunmanway, Co. Cork, but the bulk eventually became absorbed in the important colony at Portarlington. The favourite general of King William, Henry, Marquis de Roubigny, whose services at the battle of Aughrim had been rewarded with three Irish peerages and the grant of 36,000 acres, was the real founder of Portarlington, though the original settlement there on lands belonging to the attainted O'Dempsey, Viscount Clanmalier, had been formed by the grantee Lord Arlington, one of the celebrated "Cabal" Ministry of Charles II. Some time before 1692, in which year Roubigny was created Viscount Galway and Baron Portarlington the project of laying out the town had been begun, but probably few houses were actually occupied till after 1702, when the five French regiments in the British service were disbanded.

In course of time the little town acquired a great reputation for its school. One small academy is mentioned in 1714; but by 1801 boys were being sent to be educated there from every corner of Ireland and the number of schools had risen to sixteen.

If the Queen's County settlement was dominated by military veterans, that in Co. Antrim was purely commercial in character and doubtless less aristocratic. Louis Crommelin settled at Lisburn as the direct outcome of an Act passed by the Irish Parliament in 1697 to promote the growth of flax. He was a man of capital, with an expert knowledge of the linen business, and was appointed "Overseer of the Royal Linen Manufactory of Ireland." He established the linen industry in Ireland, investing £10,000 of his own money in the project and bringing over Huguenot weavers, some of whose descendants, such as Bonner and Pettigrew still linger in the district. A chaplain, Charles Lavalade, was appointed by the Crown, and though the actual number of weavers appears to have been comparatively small, a salary continued to be paid to the minister of the Lisburn Huguenots till 1819. The best known of these chaplains, Reverend Saumarez Dubourdien was widely known as the Master of Lisburn school, over which he presided for fifty-six years; one of his sons was the author of the "Statistical Survey of Co. Antrim," published in 1812.

The last regular attempt to plant settlers in Ireland was in 1709. In the previous year a fleet had been sent to Rotterdam by Queen Anne to fetch no less than 6,520 persons, who were duly brought to London. They were Germans from the Palatinate of the Rhine, whose homes had been devastated in the "Thirty Years War." The actual number of families amounted to 1278, most of whom were sent to Pennsylvania, Carolina and Ireland. The transportation of so many families, coupled with the expense of feeding them was most

costly; it was met by private subscriptions and collections in all the parish churches in Great Britain and Ireland, the total sum exceeding £300,000.

Acting on a Queen's Letter the Irish Parliament undertook to support the Palatines, and a number of prominent persons were appointed as commissioners to arrange for bringing over families and finding homes for them. Queen Anne allowed various sums, amounting in all to £24,000 to support the undertaking, in which the prime mover was Sir Thomas Southwell, a Limerick landowner, ancestor of Viscount Southwell.

We have fairly full statistics of the number of settlers. The migration began in September, 1709, and within three months 821 families were lodged, or rather huddled together, in the Royal Barracks at Dublin. They consisted of 3,073 persons, of whom 1,890 were over fourteen years of age and 1,175 under that age.

Sir Thomas Southwell immediately took charge of 130 families, whom he settled on his lands at Castle Mattress, Co. Limerick, giving each of them a farm of 7 acres, all necessary implements and supplies, and in fact, showing them the utmost consideration by providing money to meet their wants. The settlers are stated to have been chiefly employed in husbandry and the sowing and dressing of flax. In spite of the industry of the newcomers, things went badly for some years and by 1720 the number of families had dwindled to 103. Later on they made a name for thrifty habits and honesty, with the result that landlords in other parts wished to remove some of them, and we have a record that in 1746 a small colony were transferred to Colonel Blennerhassett who planted them near Tralee. Other groups of families were transferred to Adare and Castle Oliver in County Limerick.

The other Palatine settlements were at Gorey and New Ross, on lands belonging to Abel Ram on Major Randal Clayton's estate at Mallow, and at Muchridge and Ballyroshine, also in Co. Cork. There were still 35 families with Mr. Ram in Co. Wexford in 1720, 12 families with Mr. Edward Browne in Co. Cork, and 11 families still remaining in and about Dublin. The remnant of the settlers are in Counties Down, Louth, Londonderry and Roscommon.

We are fortunate in having names of all the families who actually landed. Switzer is the one which must be most familiar to us: the others included Bower, Crips, Fishell, Hoffman, Kough, Miller, Jacobus, Paul, Poole, Reynhard, Singer, Smeltzer, Steep, Stork, Slater, Teskey, Tyse and Walter. Of these, Kough runs a risk of being confused with the Irish Keough.

In conclusion, let us hope that our race, if somewhat mixed, will be allowed to assimilate without the addition of further ingredients.

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