

# MIGRANCY IN MEDIEVAL IRELAND

merchants, monks, miscreants and mercenaries

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# Medieval migrancy

is often tied into history of surnames as a result of Y-DNA studies of genetic origins and early migrations.

Dunkeld,  
Scotland



Taoiseach Enda Kenny



Taoiseach Enda Kenny's blue-blooded Fine Gael genealogy has long been confirmed but now a major study by National Geographic has revealed he may have a much more complex royal lineage.

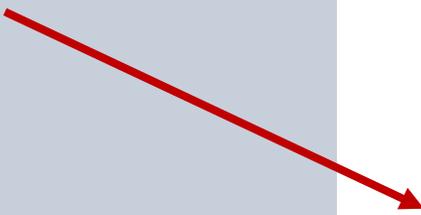


Not only is the Castlebar native possibly descended from Niall of the Nine Hostages, Mr Kenny may also be related to Queen Medb of Connacht.

The Taoiseach was among a small group of famous Mayo people the National Geographic Genographic Project tested recently, ahead of a more comprehensive swabbing of Mayo people, carried out yesterday at the National Museum of Country Life, Castlebar.

This was the first time the project came to northern Europe as part of its study of ancient migratory trends to understand the genetic roots of global populations.

Irish Times, June  
24<sup>th</sup> 2013



# Surnames in England

- By era of poll tax returns of late 1370s, most of population hold surnames.
- Many of these relate to location and many confined to individual counties before 16<sup>th</sup> C although

“locative surnames that can be identified with a single place of origin sometimes turn up in far away places even in the Middle Ages for men and women occasionally travelled very long distances to find new homes and work...some locative names were formed when people moved to a new place; men were named after their native town or village in the form of John of Doncaster, William of Buxton etc. But many others took the name of their residence as their surname while they were actually living there.”

*D. Hey Family History and Local History in England (London 1987), 27*

# Hey's categorisation of English surnames (widely accepted by others)

- Those derived from personal names
- Those derived from occupations
- Topographical names derived from features of the landscape
- Locative names derived from a specific place-name or localities
- Nicknames
- Terms of relationship.

“The locative names are particularly rewarding to study for they are relatively easy to use when assessing mobility. They, more than any other type have a single origin.”

# Historiographical situation in Ireland; far heavier emphasis on ancestry

- The Formation of Gaelic surnames in Ireland: choosing the eponyms' by Diarmuid Ó Murchadha, *Nomina* 22 (1999), 25-44

There is an old couplet

*By Mac and O you'll always know true Irishmen they say,  
But if they lack both O and Mac, no Irishmen are they*

but this ignores Gaelic adjectival surnames such as *Caomhánach* (Kavanagh), *Déiseach* (Deasy) or *Cinnsealach* (Kinsella).

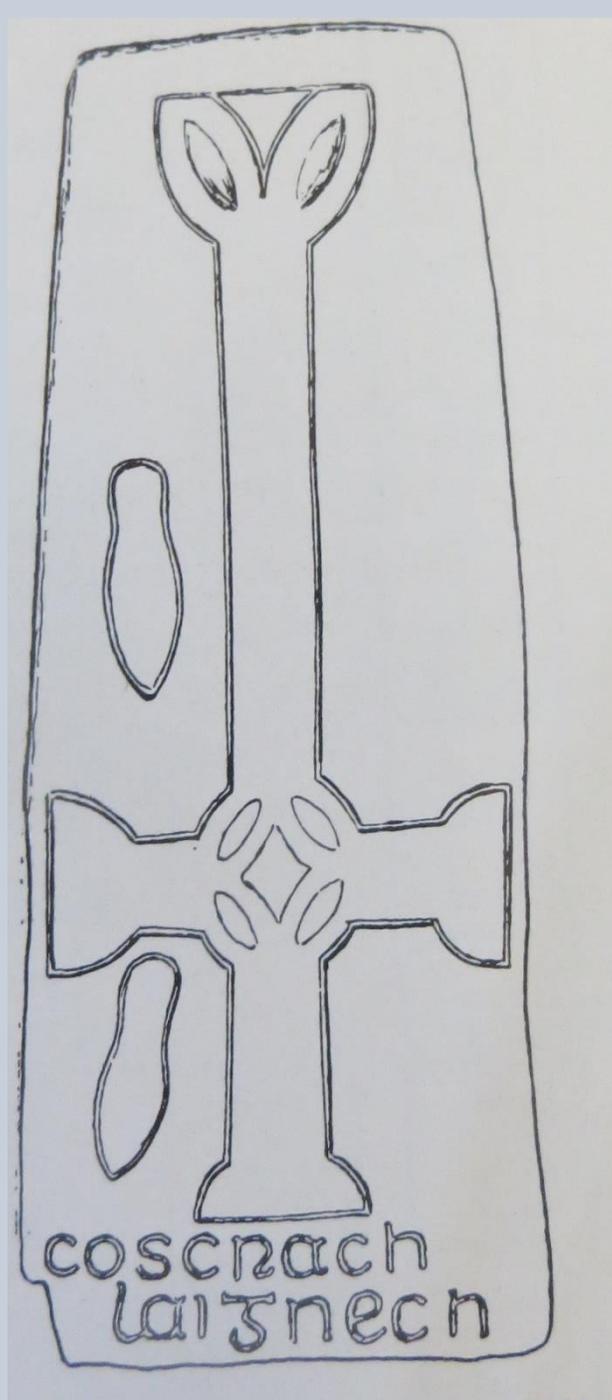
Other Irish surnames relate to occupations.

[Examples = Troy < *traigthech* foot-soldier;

Travers < *trebaire* "house-holder" ]



Slab associated with Domnall Mór  
Ua Briain at end of 12<sup>th</sup> C



INIS CEALTRA / HOLY  
ISLAND in Lough Derg

## Coscrach the Leinsterman

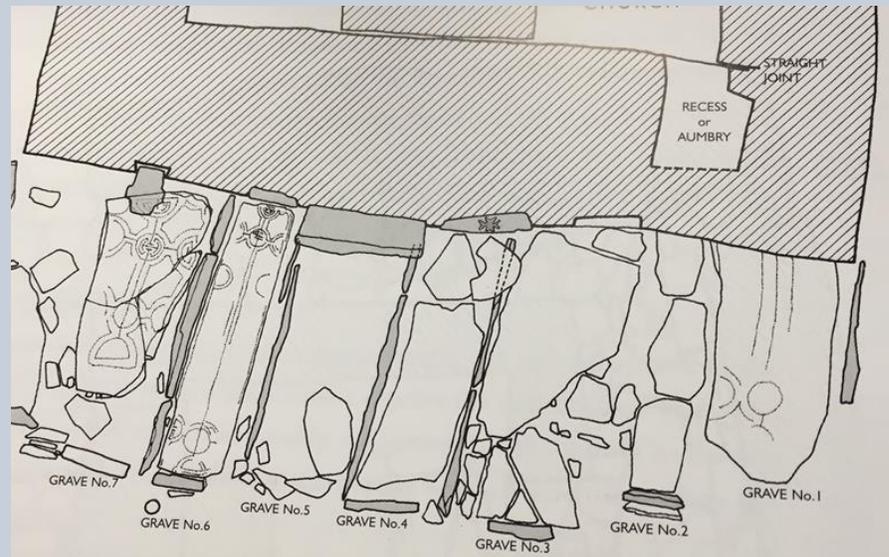
Date of slab is ?  
Possibly re-used judging  
from position of  
inscription. Dimensions  
may indicate late  
Romanesque



Soiscél Molaise – dated by inscription to **AD 1001-1011.**,  
Ragnall Ó Floinn, *Clogher Record* 13.2 (1989)

On High Island, this design appears on both recumbent and erect stones...Radiocarbon dates of the burials [run] from the late ninth to the first quarter of the eleventh century.. 167, 169

Cross no. 18 – size 1.62m long, 0.36 wide, lying on top of grave no.6 “central roundel containing remains of fretwork in the centre and three D-shaped terminals also containing fretwork. (**AD 980 to 1025**), 114.

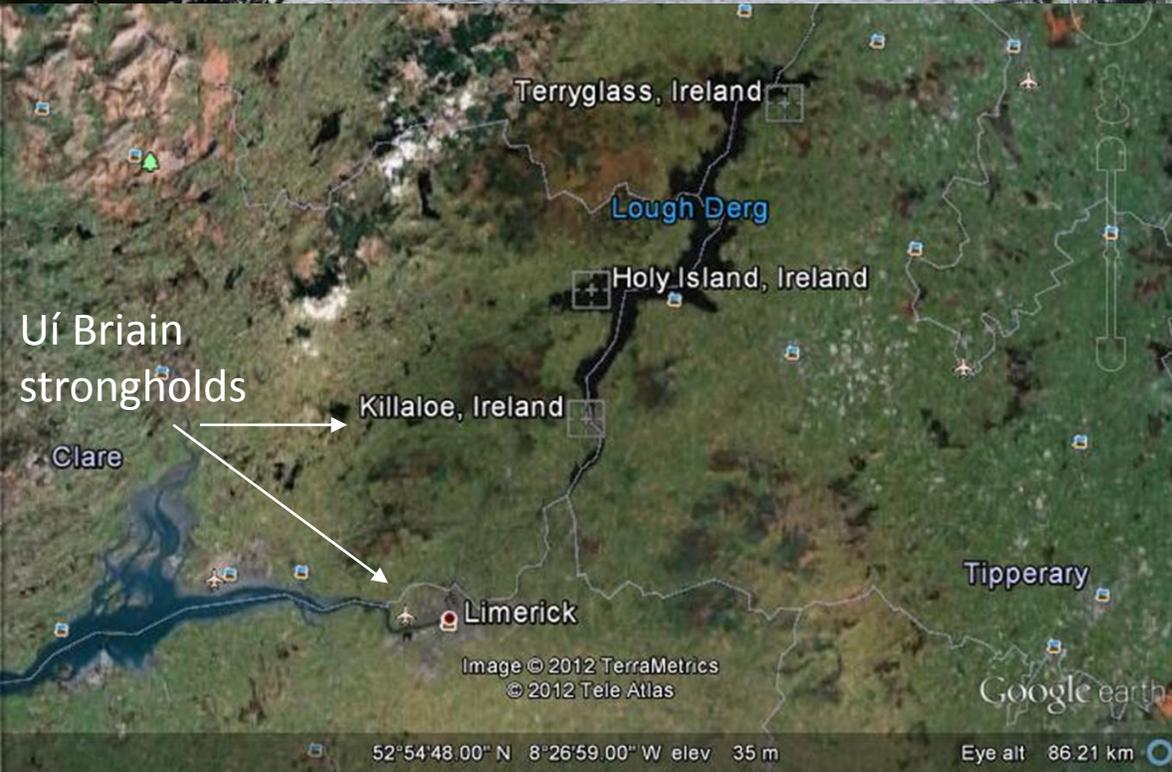


Plan G.D. Rourke,  
p.104 in *High Island  
– an Irish Monastery  
in the Atlantic ed.  
J.White Marshall &  
G.D. Rourke* (Dublin  
2000)

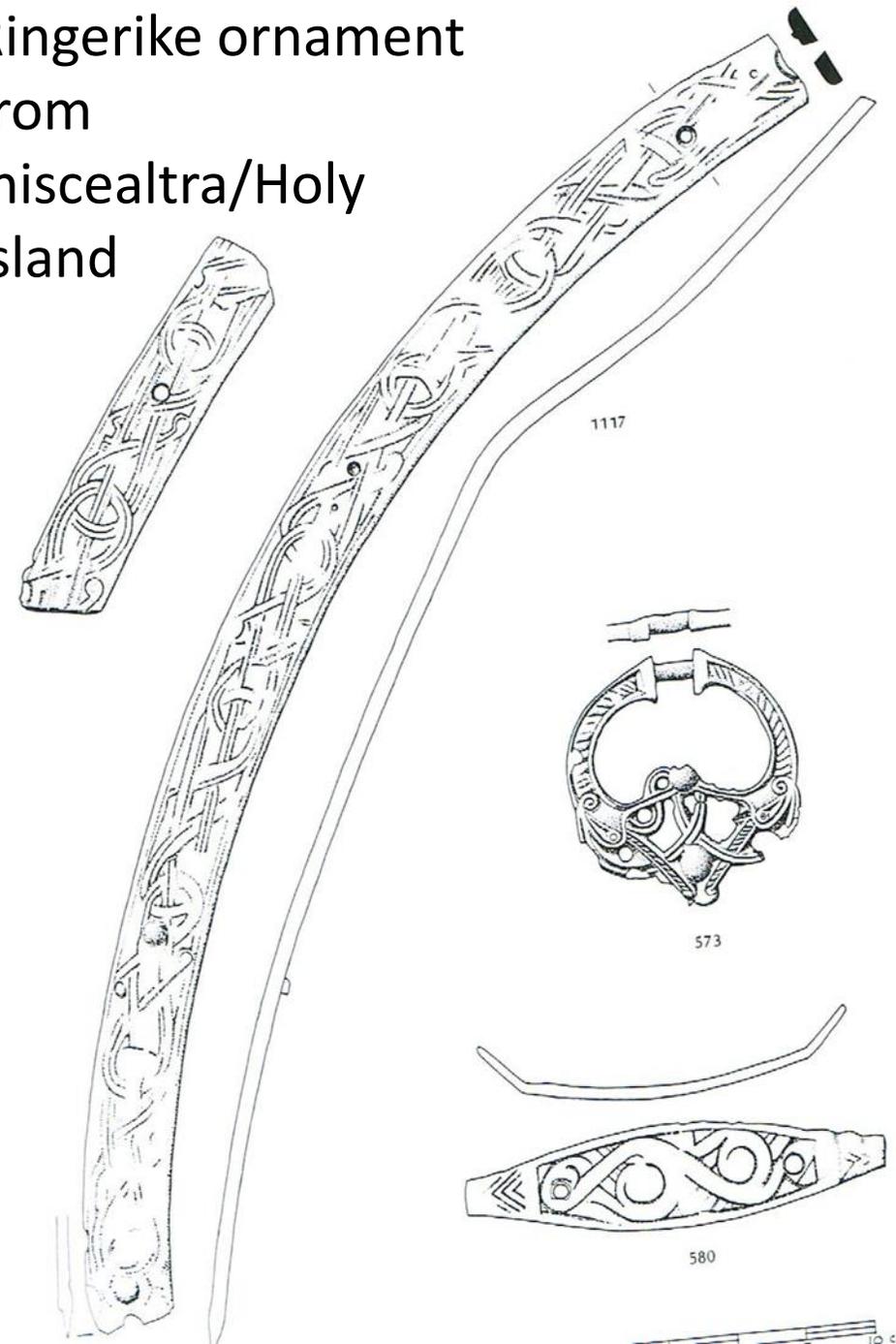


Clonmacnoise slabs –cross forms (of debated date) show some parallels with *Laignech* slab





Ringerike ornament  
from  
Iniscealtra/Holy  
Island



North  
Munster  
Antiquarian  
Journal 53  
(2013), 64  
Illus 21

# Context for migrancy from Leinster? Ancient or modern?

- Ailbhe Mac Shamhrain, *Church and polity in pre-Norman Ireland: the case of Glendalough* (Maynooth 1996), 209-210: “Clerics of Leinster origin held abbatial office at several foundations on the Connacht and Munster marches..[including Terryglass] which in turn had close associations with Glendalough from as early as the seventh century.”

## Alternatively

Related to pilgrimage habits of eleventh and twelfth-century of high ranking churchmen:

**1033:** Conn Ua Sinnaig [Clann Sínaig/Uí Sínaig of Armagh], anchorite of Ireland, rested in Inis Celtra

*Annals of Inisfallen*

# Other Armagh leaders on pilgrimage/political trips to Uí Briain territories



**1102** Mugrón ua Morghair, *aird-fher leighind* of Armagh and of all western Europe ended his life happily in the presence of many witnesses on the third of the Nones of October ie at Mungairit [Mungret Co. Limerick]

*Annals of Ulster*

**1129** Cellach, successor of Patrick, a virgin and the chief bishop of western Europe, and the only head whom Irish and foreigners, lay and clergy, obeyed.... sent forth his soul to the bosom of angels and archangels in Ard Pátraic in Mumu [Ardpatrick, Co. Limerick].

*Annals of Ulster*

SO....

Was *COSCRACH LAIGNECH* a longterm inhabitant of  
Munster OR a migrant from Leinster?

# *Laignech* as surname: Kilmallock – October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1291

The king's writ to William de Vescy, justiciary of Ireland. Had been informed by the **Dominican friars** of Ireland that, having by grant of the king, so far as he could grant and by protection of the sheriff of Limerick, entered a piece of land in the vill of Kilmallock given to them by a burgess of that vill to dwell in, they were ejected therefrom and **their house destroyed by the clerks and servants of the Bishop of Limerick**, chief lord of that vill and by his orders. The king therefore commands the justiciary to inquire by the oath of 12 men of that vill and its neighbourhood, by whom and by whose authority the friars had been expelled.

CDI 3 §967



# Result: Inquisition taken at Cashel 31<sup>st</sup> December 1291

[Jurors] upon their oath, say that the friars had, by the grant of the king, so far as he could grant, purchased in Kilmallock by John Bluet senior, burgess of that vill, a piece of land. That, having remained in seisin of it for 7 weeks, **they were by order of Gerald, bishop of Limerick, ejected therefrom** and their houses levelled by Reymond, dean, Roger Blund, archdeacon and Simon Fitz John, canon of Limerick, Thomas Ketyng, Walter de Caherhussoc, Walter de la Roche, chaplain, **William Leynach, chaplain**, Gregory Chaplain, Roger Young, chaplain, Walter Cook, seneschal of the Bishop of Limerick, John Dullard, John Caher, Geoffrey de Caher, Richard le Blund, cousin of the archdeacon aforesaid, Alan Gyllefides, Reymund le Croutur, cousin of the dean aforesaid, Henry Baggheboscher, and Geoffrey the doctor.

[Inq. P.M., 20 Edw.I., No. 114.]

# Chaplains of the Chapter of Limerick

*Black Book of Limerick*

CXLII: “Ricoluus capellanus canonicum ecclesiam Sancti Manchini cum pertinenciis in prebendam.. Paulinus, capellanus canonicus – porcionem de communi” -

CXLII

(Foundation charter 1204-6)

Function of chaplains – to act as liaisons with local populace? Low on totem pole within cathedral hierarchy but at least one chaplain held prebend of St Muchins immediately beside secular base of King John’s Castle



# *Laignech* as surname also found in Rental of episcopal manor of Mungret, Limerick AD 1337

(*Black Book of Limerick* p.155)

Galfridus Coke who held 340 acres..

Free land of tenants ..

**Johannes Laynagh** holds 25 acres in the same demesne, rendering thence at year's end 11 shillings, 11 pence

**Geraldus Laynagh** holds 1 acre, rendering at year's end 3 pence

Episcopal CONFIRMATION CHARTER concerning Mungret (*Black Book* §CI pre AD 1272)

Witness list: **Walter Laynach,**  
**Thomas Laynach**



# Other examples of “Laynach” in Limerick (drawn from B. Hodkinson’s on-line prosopography: “Who was who in medieval Limerick”)

\***Laynagh, Isolda. 1313**, rape victim, of Miltoun (CJR3, p. 268). **Leynagh, Robert. 1311**, juror (CJR3, p. 206). 1313, juror (CJR3, p. 312)

**Laynagh, John. 1313**, juror (CJR3, p. 267).

**Laynagh, Philip (Laynath, Laynauch). 1313**, juror (CJR3, p. 306). 1299, juror for inquisition into Newcastlewest and Shanid (CDI 4, 551).

**Laynagh, Robert. 1313**, juror (CJR3, pp 309, 310)

**Leynach, Patrick. 1295**, cows taken from (CJR1, p. 40)

**Leynach, Richard de. 1275**, juror at inquisition into charter of L (CDI 2, 1181).

**Leynach, Thomas. 1295**, stands pledge (CJR1 p. 17).

**Leynagh, John. 1313**, juror (CJR3, p. 304 bis). 1313, stands pledge (CJR3, p. 309).

**Leynagh, Ralph. 1313**, juror but also listed as absent (CJR3, p. 307).

**Leyns, Adam de (Leynz) c. 1270-80**, witness list (BBL p. 39). 1294, parson of Athlacca (CDI 4, 16). 1295, complaint against sheriff (CJR1 p. 18). 1297, to receive payment (CJR1, p. 98). 1297, received money from bishop Gerald (CJR1, p. 117). 1297, received money he should not have (CJR1, p. 127). 1299, complain v, as dean of L (CJR1, p. 297). 1300, owes debt (CJR1, p. 338). 1295 sitting on bench at L. in place for sheriff (CJR1, p. 22).

**Leynz, James de. 1295**, stands pledge (CJR1 p. 18).

**Leyns, Walter. 1346**, Commissioner of peace, Adare and Croom cantred (Frame, AH 35, p. 19).

**Leynz, William de. 1313**, juror (CJR3, pp 309, 310)

**Leynz/Leyns = laignigh + English “s” i.e. plural of Laignech ?**

# Other episcopal tenants at Loghill, Shanagolden Co. Limerick 1337

Row **Connatach** had 2 tenements..

Johannes **Connachtach** had 1 tenement and because he was of the burgesses, he gave an annual render for it of 4 shillings 1 penny

Thomas son of Henry **Connachtach** from 1 tenement, 2 shillings

Thomas **Connachtach** from 3 tenements, 6 shillings in annual render

Maurice **Connachtach** from 1 tenement, 2 shillings in annual render

David **Connachtach** from 1 tenement which Ocoscri holds, 2 shillings...

Son of Tomkyn from 1 tenement which the executor of Johannes **Connachtach** holds, 2 shillings



# And still others, also at Loghill

Ellug **Ultach** from his three tenements                      8 shillings, 2 pence  
.. Magister Thomas **Ultach** from 1 “vastus” tenement      2 shillings  
... Item concerning the heirs of Walter **Ultach**              4 shillings, 1 penny  
*Black Book*, pp. 159-60

**Ultagh**, Maurice. 1348, juror for inquisition into Mahoonagh [Co. Limerick]

*Inquisitions and Extents of Medieval Ireland*, ed. Dryburgh & Smith  
(2007), no. 292

# SO...

**Do these adjectival names represent DESCRIPTORS of actual origin?**

Why would tenants on episcopal estates within fourteenth century Limerick be populated by

[Irish-speaking] people from Ulster, Connacht and Leinster?

Does this represent attempt to provide new tenants for manors devastated by war?

“And they say that certain *betagii* hold in Kynaletth two ploughlands and twenty-six acres of land and two parts of one acre of land and they were accustomed to render thirteen pounds fifteen shillings and nine pence in the time of peace but they do not [now] render more than six pounds, thirteen pence for that as a result of war because **the land is destroyed by Irish and felons.**”

1331 rental of Adare & Castlerobert in *The Red Book of the Earls of Kildare* ed. G. Mac Niocaill (Dublin 1964), p.123

**But maybe they are simple surnames and NOT DESCRIPTORS of origin?**

# Adjectival surnames in *Annals of Ulster*

1159: Brian **Mainech** mac Conchobair son of Toirdelbach Ua Conchobair

1167: Donnchadh Ua Duib Dirma and the **Bretach** killed the king of Fordruim in centre of Magbile

1170: Donnchadh **Ceinselach** Ua Cellaigh killed by Leinstermen

1179: Tuathal Ua **Connachtaigh**, bishop of Tir Briuin (Annaghdown) rested

1184: Donnchadh mac Domnaill **Midig** slain

1184: Brian **Breifnech** mac Toirdelbaigh hUi Conchobair dies

1200: Donnchadh **Uaithneach** mac Ruaidhri h-Ui Chonchubhair was killed by the Saxons who were in Limerick

1225: a large force of Foreigners and of Momonians made towards [Aedh Ua Neill], under Donnchadh **Cairbrech** Ua Briain and under Geoffrey Mares De Marisco, led by Aedh Ua Conchobair and by Mac Diarmata

Freya Verstraten, 'Naming practices among the Irish secular nobility in the high middle ages', *Journal of Medieval History*, 32.1 (2006), 43-53:

"Donnchadh Cairbreach Ua Briain was so named for being fostered in Carbury."

# Adjectival surnames in *Scandinavian personal names in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire* by Gillian Fellows Jensen (Copenhagen 1968)

- **Finnr** – c. 1155 “An original national name ‘Laplander’. This name is very common in Wscand from the earliest times” (p.82)
- **Flæmingr** – 1338. “An original name “Fleming”. Fairly common as a by.n. in Norw.” (p.83)
- **Gauti, Gautr** – 1195-6. “an orig by.n. meaning “man from Gautland” (p.98).
- **Hjalti** – 1180-95 “An orig by.n. indicating a man from Hjaltland .i.e. Shetland” (p.142).
- **\*Skeiðmann** – c. 1150 “An orig by.n. cf.the Scan loan-word in OE *sceiðman* “Viking”.. An Anglo-Scand formation? (p.247)
- **Skotr** – 12<sup>th</sup> C “An orig by.n. meaning in WScand “the Scot”, probably a Viking who had been in Scotland or Ireland (p.252)

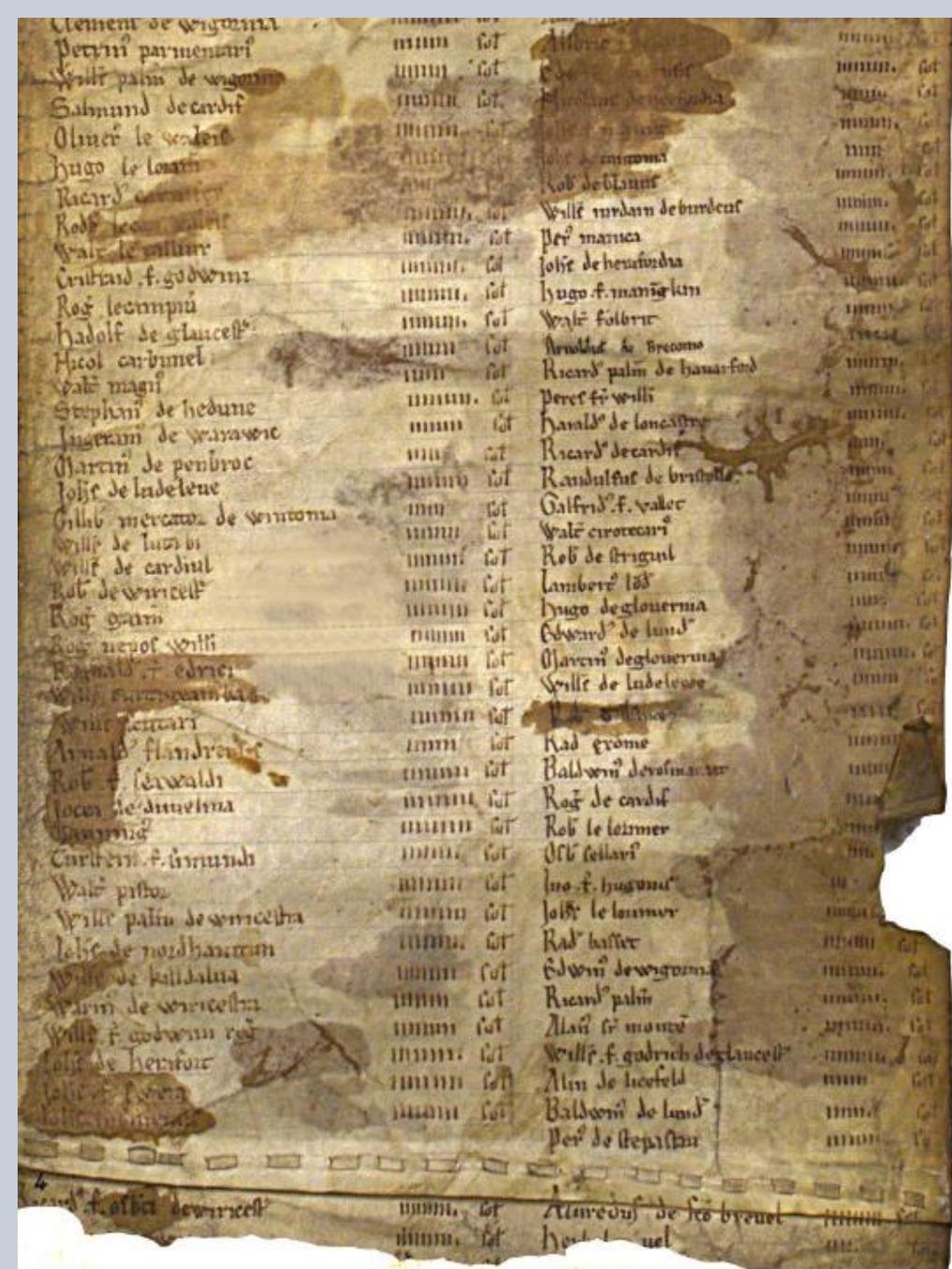
# Dublin Guild Merchant Roll:

<http://www.dublincity.ie/story/dublin-guild-merchant-roll-1190-1265>

“A unique survivor in western Europe, both for its early date and for the insight it gives into the society of a medieval city. The Roll consists of forty-three parchment membranes inscribed with the names of those admitted annually to the merchant guild of Dublin with, for the early years, a record of fines paid on entry.

- The guild members numbered some 8,400 men (and three women) and came primarily from settlements in Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland but also from towns throughout western Europe.”

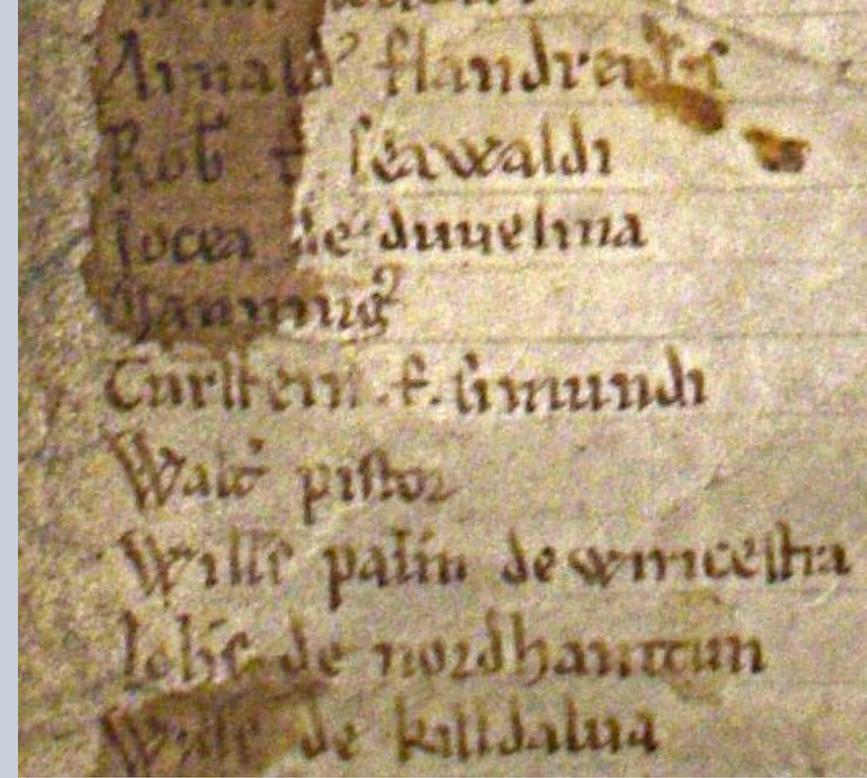
***The Dublin Guild Merchant roll, c. 1190-1265.***  
Edited by Philomena Connolly and Geoffrey Martin. Pp xxiv, 159, illus. Dublin: Dublin Corporation. 1992.



# Naming formulae used in Guild Roll

- names with no other element
- names with origins marked: *X de .....* (French)
- names with origins marked: *X of .....* (English)
- **names with origins marked by adjective: *X ..us/is***
- names with profession
- names with other descriptive noun:
- names with adjective specific to individual's appearance or habits
- names with patronymic marked: *X filius Y*
- names with brother marked: *X frater Y*
- names with descent marked: *X nepos Y*
- names with relative marked: *X cognatus Y*
- names with relative marked: *X gener Y*
- names with patronymic and grandfather: *X filius Y filius Z*
- names with Irish patronymic marked: *X mac Y*
- names with Welsh patronymic marked: *X ap Y*
- names with English/Norse patronymic marked: *Xson*

# Adjectival/locational surnames from *The Dublin merchant roll ?1190-1222*



- 31 ***Cornubiensis*** ( 8 *Corwalensis*, 7 *Corwaleis* 1 *Cornwaleis*)
- 22 ***Walensis*** (2 *Waleis*, 2 *Wale*, 1 *Britton*, 1 *Brittun*, 1 *Britun*, 1 *Bretun*, 1 *Brit*,
- 20 ***Flandrensis*** (*Flamang*, *Flemeng*)
- 17 ***Norensis*** (6 *Norrensis*, 3 *Noreis*, 1 *Norreis*)
- 14 ***Francigena*** (4 *Franceis*, 1 *Francus*)
- 5 ***Deveneis***
- 4 ***Scot***
- 2 ***Peitivin***
- 2 ***Champanais***
- 2 ***Colonicensis***
- 1 ***Burgensis*** (+ 1 *Burgeis*)
- 1 ***Gascoin***
- 1 ***Angevin***
- 1 ***Sureis***
- 1 ***Suis***
- 1 ***Anglicus***
- 1 ***Hiberniensis***

## Adjectival surnames in Guild Roll from 1222-1264

	Cornubiensis	Walensis	Flandrensis	Norensis	Francigena	Scottus	Hibernicus	Deveneis	
1222-1231	2	2 (Bretun)	2	3	3	1	1		14
1232-1241	3	3	1	8	3	1	1	2	22
1242-1251	5	8		7	2	2		1	25
1252-1264	3	9	2	7	6	3		2 (Anglicus)	33
<i>Sloinnte Uile Éireann</i> _by Seán de Bhulbh	Cornish	Walsh	Fleming	Norris	Francis	Scott	Irish	Devenish (English)	

**NB! This is NOT a table of merchant origins living within Dublin but only a guide to the distribution of the adjectival/locational naming formula within the Guild Roll.**

In *Guild Roll* the adjectival surname is not necessarily a descriptor determining original (previous?) location

Merchant Roll ?1190 – 1222

- Johannes Franceis de Wikingelo (Wicklow)
- David Walensis de Dundalc (Dundalk) & Hugo Walensis de Dunboin (Dunboyne)
- Radulfus Norrensis de Kilkenni (Kilkenny)
- Alanus Normannus de Kenles (Kells)
- Stephanus Cornubiensis de Chilkenni (Kilkenny) & Johannes Corwaleis de Haverford (Wales) & Johannes Cornubiensis de Gloc' (Gloucester)

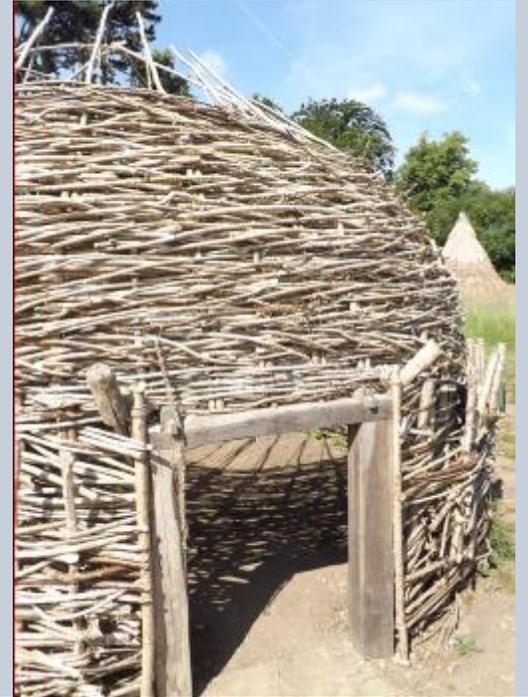
**i.e. in this text, the adjectival surname has ceased to be an [automatic] descriptor of immediate origins pre 1222.**

# Merchants of diverse background: Johannes Flandrensis le Riddire (the Rider)

*Lebor na hUidre* folios 93a1-95a5: Hand H1 as identified by Elizabeth Duncan (Dublin 2015), 51 – interpolation into *Togail Bruidne dá Derga*

*Imda na ritired: Atconnarc triar n-aili. Téora máela foraiþ. Tri lenti impu 7 tri broit hi forcepul. Sraigell i llaim cach ae. Rusfetursa sin, ol sé .i. Echdruim, Echriud, Echrúathar, trí marcaig ind rig sin. i. a thrí ritiri.*

I saw three others. Three bald heads on them. Three tunics around them and three cloaks in a fastening. A whip in the hand of each of them. “I know them then”, he says, i.e., Echdruim, Echruid, Echruathar, the three horsemen of that king, that is his three riders.



*Imda na muccidi, imda na n-arad n-airegda, imda Chuscraid meic Conchobair, imda na foarad, imda na Saxanach, imda na ritired, imda na mbreteman, imdaí na crutiri, imdai na clessamnach, imdai tri anmed ind rig, imdai na mBadb, imda na fulachtori, imda na filed, imda na foschometaidi*

The compartment of the swineherds, the compartment of the excellent charioteers, the compartment of Cuscra mac Conchobair, the compartment of apprentice charioteers, compartment of the Saxons, compartment of the riders, compartment of the brehons, compartment of the harpers, compartment of the feat-performers, compartment of the three lampooners of the king, compartment of the witches, compartment of the *fulacht*-cooks, compartment of the poets, compartment of the sub-guards (who sit over the head of the king).

Connecting theme in this list is ?

Suggested answer: these are all people who are quasi-permanent migrants due to their professional roles. Some people travelled constantly due to the way they made their living.

# Johannes Flandrensis le Riddire – complicated and changing life of a migrant

“One day a large sea-going vessel happened to come sailing in and cast anchor in the harbour beneath the castle. It carried a large cargo and Norwegian traders who had been driven there by long-lasting, northerly storms.

There were lots of gray and white pelts, beaver skins and black stables, walrus tusks and bear skins, goshawks, grey falcons, and lots of white falcons, wax, skins of cattle and goats, dried fish, tar, whale oil, sulphur and all kinds of Norwegian goods.

Translated at degree and behest of King Hakon when 1226 years had passed since the death of Christ.”



“Tristrams saga ok Ísondar” ed. & translated Peter Jorgensen in Norse Romance Volume I: The Tristan Legend ed. Marianne E Kalinke (Cambridge 1999), p. 51 ¶18

*Gunnlaugs Saga Ormstungu: the saga of Gunnlaug Serpent-Tongue* eds. P.G. Foote and R. Quirk (London 1957)

[The Icelander] Gunnlaug then sailed with some *kaupmonnum* –“merchants” northwards from England to Dublin. At that time Ireland was ruled by King Sigtrygg Silkiskegg, the son of Ólaf Kváran and Queen Kormlaðar ...

The king thanked him for the poem and called his treasurer to him and said, “How should I reward the poem?...how would it be rewarded” asked the king “if I gave him a couple of *knorru* [merchant ships] ?..

The king gave him his own clothes made of new and precious cloth, an embroidered tunic, a cloak lined with precious furs and a gold bracelet weighing half a pound

[Gunnlaug sailed onto Orkney and with other *kaupmonnum* to Norway]



Adjectival surnames, coined  
in 12<sup>th</sup> C Ireland and possibly  
earlier, continued to evolve  
in multi-lingual and  
multicultural colonial  
contexts

# Pleas of the Crown and delivery of gaol at Cork before William de Thornbury, Chancellor of Ireland and William Alysandre 6<sup>th</sup> August 1313

- Thomas son of Simon Trevedyn, charged that he, together with other villains, murdered **Richard Leynagh** and Adam Moor, **Englishmen**, by night in the house of Richard and that he robbed the house of Richard of afers, oxen and other chattels to the value of 100 shillings and that he is a common thief, burglar and robber and also that he, together with certain other felons, feloniously murdered Henry Cadewely, merchant [of the town of Cork as he was going to the fair at Kilmehallock], near Botavant and robbed him of ten marks of silver, a horse worth a mark and of his stuffs.. He comes and says he is a clerk and neither can nor ought to answer here. And thereupon comes Richard O Cona, canon of Cloyne, with letters patent of Nicholas bishop of Cloyne and demanded that Thomas be delivered to him as a clerk.

*Calendar of Justiciary Rolls I-VII years of Edward II ed. Wood, Langman & Griffith*

Pleas of the Crown and delivery of Gaol at same place, before same, day and year as above

- Hugh O Cuyrk charged that he burglariously entered the house of **Adam Leynagh, *hibernicus* of David Freisel** and therefrom stole a bacon worth 20d; he comes and defends etc. Patrick de Midia, Ger son of David de Midia, Walter Broun, John Pollard, Richard Brit, Richard Besevill, Ger Rys, Adam Dounyng, Robert Stakepol, John son of William, William Tancard, Adam Tancard, John Terry & Richard Tancard jurors say that Hugh Ocuyrk is not guilty and is not suspected, etc. Therefore he is quit.
- i.e. nature of surname and its linguistic origins has no apparent relationships with perceived ethnic/legal identity of holder.

# A wealthy *Laignech* of Tipperary in 1305

(*Calendar of Justiciary Rolls II*)

- p. 39 Thomas Leynagh of Tipperary is identified as the **chief serjeant** in 1295; He sold **wheat worth 40 marks** in complicated arrangement which ended up getting himself put in gaol; he acknowledges that he owes John de Fresingfeld **300 lambs for 13 mares of John**; in 1305 TSherriff determines that Thomas is to be distrained of **1 stack *tassus* of wheat & oats worth 40sh**. This is to be given to 2 men, one of whom is Adam Laynagh to guard. Sheriff was commanded to levy 4 marks of lands and chattels of Thomas Leynagh
- p. 40 Sheriff returns that he has taken 8 acres of lands of Thomas Leynagh, value 40d each. Thomas Leynagh looking after 8 oxen which had been distrained by the sheriff and given to him to look after –
- P. 52 – Of lands and chattels of Thomas Laynagh – sheriff is commanded to levy 10 marks. The **chief serjeant** declared he had offered **20 acres of wheat and oats**, each worth 40d ; these were given to 2 men to look after (including Rod Laynagh). Thomas Laynagh has other movable goods including **afers, oxen cows, sheep and 2 stacks of corn in haggard** when the writ was delivered.
- p.115 –though Thomas Laynagh has been levied 10 marks and 4 marks for damages and despite complainant getting all the paperwork done, and being awarded **40 acres of wheat** each valued at 4 shillings and **40 acres of oats** valued at ½ mark each, , Thomas Laynagh reaped the oats. Thomas Laynagh claimed he was entitled to reap oats ..
- p.117 Thomas Leynagh, **coroner of the king**...showed court that he had ordered serjeant to take chattels of villains but they had fled.

# The landowning Laignigh of Tipperary, Limerick & Cork 1295-1308

Elias Laynagh had land at Knocgraffon in 1295 – Ralph Laynagh has ?further lands at Knocgraffon in 1297; Nicholas Laynagh in Clonmel in 1300 – has 30 acres of wheat to be distrained whom John Leynagh gets benefit of; did Nicholas Laynagh have claim for lands in Tipperary - one messuage, one carucate and 6 acres of land in Ballylomasty? His ancestor IVO LEYNAGH had these lands.

In 1308, the assize came to recognise if Walter son of Thomas Leynagh, Ralph son of Thomas Leynagh, Robert son of James Ketyng, Milo Ketyng, Ralph son of William Leynagh, Thomas son of Thomas Ketyng of Dergeragh, William Falyagh McUbuth Beg and Alexander Broun had been unjustly disseised Thomas Laynagh of his free tenement in Alwyiston, Leynagheston and Marteleston – and he complains that they disseised him of two messuages and a hundred acres of land.

- ALEWEYESTOUN – not identified.
- **Leynagheston** - Ballylina? Barony of Lr Ormond Co. Tipp – also Ferann na Laignigh in barony of Middlethird.
- Marteleston - Mortlestown B. Iffa and Offa W Co. Tip, – also in civil parish of Particles, Coshlea, Limerick or in Cooleagh, barony of Middlethird.

# Leynagheston – *Baile Laignigh*

- Do large collection of individuals sharing same surname live together in single concentration?
- Or do more successful members acquire variety of land-units within various manors? ✓



Knockgraffon Motte – identified as *Cnoc Rafann* - home of ancestors of Mac Carthaigh/Ó Suilleabhain in *Forbais Droma Damhghaire*; also Anglo-Norman manor in *Ormond deeds*

# Extended family living together was not an exclusively lower class or [ethnically] Irish phenomenon

The list of armed & mounted men maintained by Sir Geoffrey de Vale (<Wall) in Johnstown in 1399:

Simon de Vale

Peter fitz Philip de Vale

Patrick de Vale

John de Vale

Oliver de Vale

Richard Oge de Vale

Walter de Vale

Richard de Vale

Edmond de Vale

Redmond Reynagh de Vale

Together with + 13 others whose surnames were Beaffon (3), Hamound (2), Bendeville, Beraway, Traherne, Pynnock, Mortok, Maghyn, Rochford and Crosse : also ‘many other horsemen and 24 armed foot soldiers’.

# The poor *Laignech* of Limerick

AUG 11<sup>TH</sup>, Rathkeele Limerick 1295  
(Cal. Justic. Rolls I p.40 )

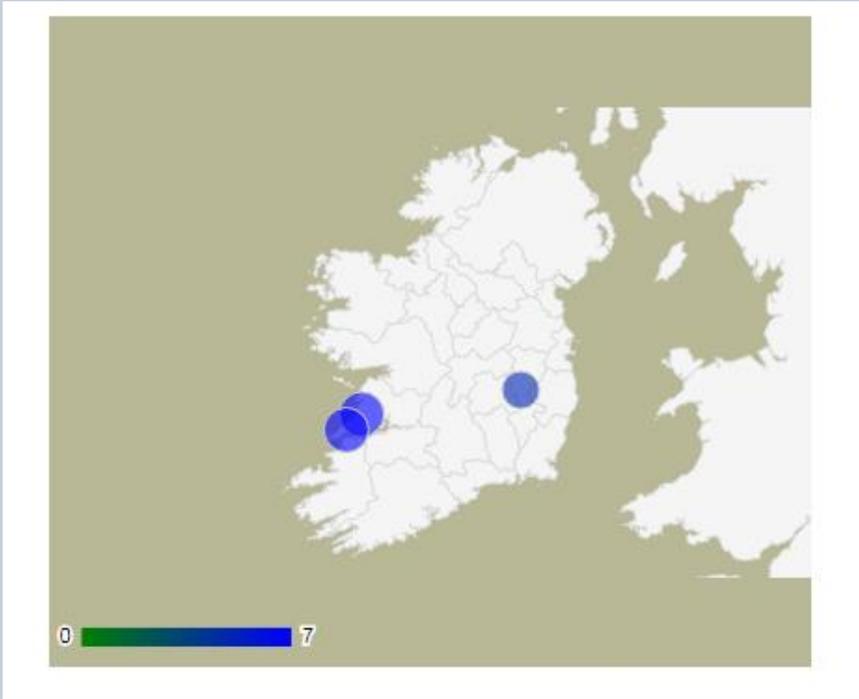
- John Dandon complains of Roger de Lesse sheriff of Limerick that he amerced his town of Balysward ..before he was received into the office of Sheriff, and that he amerced the same town for a certain causeway without any inquisition, and that **he took cows of Patrick Leynach, and Roger Dud for the same, so that those poor people and their families nearly died.**





Survival of *Laighnech* surname into placenames of modern era

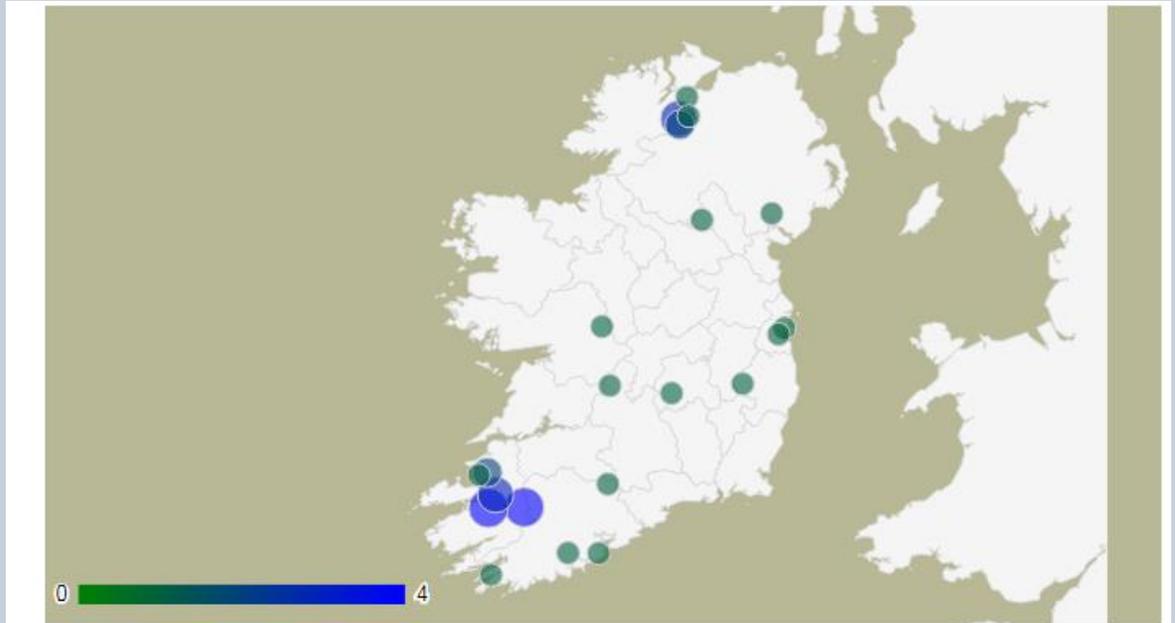




## Lyons in 1659 Census

Info mapped by John Grenham, *Irish ancestors*  
 [<https://www.johngrenham.com/surnames/>]

## Lyons in Griffith's mid 19<sup>th</sup> C valuation



Household numbers by county in [Griffith's \(1847-64\)](#), as on the map

Click on a county to see more detail

Cork:	4	Derry:	1	Down:	1	Dublin:	1
Dublin city:	1	Galway:	1	Kerry:	14	Laois:	1
Monaghan:	1	Tipperary:	1	Tyrone:	6	Wicklow:	1

# England's Immigrants 1330 – 1550

## Resident Aliens in the Late Middle Ages

- 2,028 Irish people listed including

**Thomas Leyns, Irish male, paid 10 shillings to remain 8<sup>th</sup> May 1439.**

- Ó names = Henry Oberan, Thomas Ocam, John Odyskn, Peter Ofmyhele, William Ogan, Thomas Okebourne, Walter Okebourne, Robert Olyere, David Olyver, Donald Omeleydy (10 exs)
- *MAC* names = Magouin Macdouchide
- Ireland (3 exs), Ireland (10 exs), Iresch (1 ex), Iresh (6 exs), Ireshe (1 ex), Iresheman (5) Ireshewoman (1), Ireshman (4), Iressh (7) Iressheman (2) Iresshewoman (3) Iresshman (15) Iresshwoman (2) Iriche (1) Irish (4) Irishe (1) Irishewoman (1) Irishman (6) Irissche (11) Irisschewan (3) Irissch (35), Irisshe (3) Irissheman (3), Irissman (31), Irisshwoman (7) Irissmane (1) Irland (7) Irlond (12) Irlonde (1) Irysch (2) Iryschewan (1) Iryschman (1) Irysh (130) Iryshe (6) Irysheman (10) Iryshman (19) Iryshwoman (1) Iryssch (1) Iryssh (104), Irysshe (13), Irysshewan (100) Irysshewoman (2) Irysshman (28) Irysshmon (1) Irysshwoman (5) Iryssman (1)

# Conclusions

- 1) Historiography of Irish surnames has been focussed on surnames deriving from ancestral eponyms.
- 2) Other forms of Irish surnames (such as profession nouns and locational adjectives) are formulae of the type found also in English and Norse environments.
- 3) Surnames derived from locational adjectives appear in Irish records of twelfth century (and possibly earlier) in both Irish and Latin language sources.
- 4) Even at that early date, it is not clear that they act as descriptors of immediate origin.
- 5) By early 14<sup>th</sup> C, locational adjectives (originally) coined in Irish can be tied to either Irish or English identity (Laignech/Laynagh case study).
- 6) Holders of such surnames (Laignech case study) could flourish in Irish colonial society, holding church and state offices and much land (and, conversely, could also live in poverty and be legally excluded).
- 7) Land units held by holders of such surnames could be located at places claimed by both Irish and English overlords.
- 8) Such surnames could give rise to settlement names indicating multiple occupancy by people sharing a single surname - of a type found in both native and incomer families.
- 9) Surnames common within Ireland can be quickly lost once their holders become migrants being replaced by locational adjective indicating origin.

# The Irish DNA Atlas: Revealing Fine-Scale Population Structure and History within Ireland, by Edmund Gilbert *et al.*

*Scientific Reports*  
7 (2017)

(<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-17124-4.pdf>)

Choice of people to be tested was based on a historical methodology developed for Britain that assumes that most people did not move prior to the Industrial Revolution –this methodology ignores the very different trajectory of the Irish history of migrancy up to and including the post-Famine era.

