

FOREWORD

I have had difficulty in deciding which of the numerous branches of the O'Connell family to set down in Tract No. 3. Every amateur genealogist must be tempted to withhold publication of his researches in the hope that to-morrow will bring some important clue, which will enable him to make his records more complete. Thanks to the help offered to me in 1946 by Donal J. M. O'Connell, of Killeena, I have now, in 1950, found time to consult the records of the Ballinablown branch lodged at the Irish Land Commission office and from these it has been possible to obtain a very complete account of that Branch. However, to publish a full account of that family and all its sub Branches from 1696 would mean a cumbersome publication. It is better to divide up the material and deal only with a small, but very distinguished branch of that House—The O'Connells of Riverstown, of Foilnageragh in Iveragh, and of Tarmons, Wooloomaloo, Sydney, N.S.W.

I have decided to follow the spelling of name places as they appear in the document under quotation. This has advantages even though it is most confusing. Ballinablown is spelt at various times in some six different ways.

Confusion also arises between the spelling Connell and O'Connell. From about 1650-1780 both forms were used. From 1750 those of the family abroad used the O and from 1793 those in Ireland did so.

BASIL MORGAN O'CONNELL,
of the Lakeview Branch.

THE O'CONNELLS OF THE GLEN (1696-1950)

As the detailed history of this Branch will be dealt with in full in later Tracts I will state briefly part of their history, so that the position of the junior branch—the O'Connells of Riverstown—may be understood.

After the Confiscations of the 1641-1691 period, the wars, rebellions and disturbances—the Barons Shelborne (Charles and his brother, Henry Petty) were granted vast areas in Co. Kerry: as the only practicable way of utilising this hostile and unintimidated area he handed over the large baronies of Iveragh and Dunkerron to John Mahony, of Dunloe, under a lease renewable for ever. John Mahony, being himself one of the native Irish, did what he could to right the wrongs suffered by the Irish of Kerry in the seventeenth century, and he gave leases to many of the original owners of the soil, whose grandparents had been banished to Clare and other places. 120 townlands are mentioned in a deed of transfer of 22 March, 1696, to which James Waller, of Kinsale, Power of Attorney for Henry Petty, was a party.

John Mahony's mother, Honora, was the daughter of Maurice O'Connell, of Caherbarnagh in Iveragh, so it was only natural that he made certain that the O'Connells got their proper share of the lands which were their ancient patrimony. Therefore, we find in the Irish Land Commission at reference (EC)CD8915, a lease of large areas of Iveragh, dated 4 May, 1697, from John Mahony, of Dunloe, to John Connell, of Ballymacgullynavlaune.

And we find, at Book 316, page 147, No. 210401, in the Record Office, a memorial of 13 Sept., 1776, reciting a lease of 15 Jan., 1698, to Geoffrey Connell from John Mahony of large areas of Dromod.

We find also, at reference (EC)CD8915, a lease of 30 June, 1699, from James Waller, of Kinsale, to Charles Connell and John Connell, of Ballymacgullynavlaune, a lease of Canuig, Maulin, Dromeragh, Bunaderreen, Foildrenagh, Inchboy, Kealefreaghane (West) and Coonastow. Now this Charles was clearly the father of John, and these lands were, at this date, in their actual possession. Ballymacgullynavlaune contains within its area the present townland of Ballinablown and Ballinahow, and also Glanearagh, the modern name of Ballynaclearagh.

In the will of John Connell, of Ashtown, dated 17 Jan., 1680, we find—"Item: I will and my will is that my brother Charles Connell shall hold and enjoy all the lands by him now possessed during his life and his wives lives and the longer lives of them and after them the land of Ballynaclearagh and Canburren to come to my said heir being the patrimony of his ancestors." In the census of 1659 the Titulado (or squireen) of the Parish of Killimleigh is shown as Charles Connell.

We have good grounds, therefore, for the belief that one Charles Connell, of Ballynaclearagh, was a powerful landholder in Iveragh from 1659 down to 1699 (when he died) and that he had a son and heir, John Connell, of Ballymacgullynavlaune, doubtless called after his rich and powerful Uncle John, who lived in Dublin, at Ashtown, and that John was of full age in 1697.

Tradition makes John marry Mary O'Sullivan, probably Mary O'Sullivan Beare.

In the Registry of Deeds we find, at 57.232.38200, a memorial of Indenture, dated 18 March, 1725, in which John Connell, of "Ballyvicgullanarlaun," lets a large area of land, including Ballyvicgullanarlaun and Ballynegeragh, to Daniel and Geoffrey Connell, of the same place, for 31 years.

As in memorial 43.82.27450, of 7 Jan., 1724, John Connell of "Ballynablan," devises Bunagoe and Bunadroen to Daniel Connell of Darrinane, for 31 years, so one gets a feeling (a stronger term would be unjustified) that John is getting old and that his sons may well be still young, and that he is dividing up his estate and putting it into safe hands before he dies. This is borne out by a letter