

TRINITY COLLEGE - GALL HM/19/4

(From) "THE ANNALS OF IRELAND".

Three fragments, copied from ancient sources.

1. O'Cobhthaigh son of Muireadhacha, Abbot of Cill Dara, a sage doctor of whom it is said:-

"Cobhthaigh of Cuirrech (Kildare) of Races, heir apparant of the King of Liffe of Tunics, alas for the great son of Muireadhach, ah, grief - the descendants of the fair Ceallach, Chief of scholastic Leinster, A perfect, comely, prudent sage was Cobhthaigh, the successor of Conlath.

2. Extracts from "THE ANNALS OF THE FOUR MASTERS".

1030 Domhnall Gott, King of Meath, was slain by Cucaratt UA Cobhthaigh, one of his own soldiers. The name is still common in Meath.

1094 Gilla Na Meughean, son of Cobhthaigh, Lord of Umhall died.

1173 Murray Coffey, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, a son of chastity, a precious stone, a transparent gem, a brilliant star, a treasury of wisdom and a fruitful branch of the Canon after bestowing food, education, and assistance to the poor, after ordaining many priests, deacons and men of every ecclesiastical rank, rebuilt many churches, founded many monasteries and abbeys, resigned his spirit on the 10th February, 1173.

1193 Mulpatrick Coffey died

1213 Ainmire Coffey, a noble ecclesiastical died

1415 The Classach Coffey died, a man of poetry

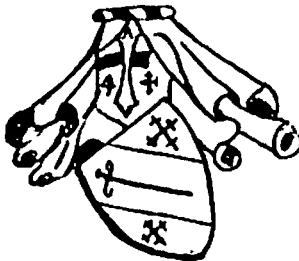
1429 Melaghlín, the son of Classach Coffey was slain by Edmund the son of Hubert Dalton. (The Coffeys are still numerous in the Barony of Rathconrath, which was Daltons country, WestMeath).

1446 Domhnall Coffey, a good captain, with his two sons were slain on an Island in Lough Imell, Westmeath.

1452 Hugh Mc An Classach, a learned poet, who kept a hospitable house, died of the plague at Tertullagh, Westmeath.

- 1464 Murtagh, the son of Art O'Melaghlin and his wife, a daughter of Coffey, and three others died of the plague.
- 1465 Thomas, the son of Donnell Coffey died.
- 1478 Murtagh Bacagh Coffey died
- 1546 Coffey, preceptor of the schools of Ireland in Poetry was taken prisoner by the English and confined for eighteen weeks in the king's castle for his attachment to the Irish. It was intended to put him to death but he escaped at length.
- 1554 Teige Coffey son of Hugh Chief preceptor of poetry and learning died.
- 1566 Owny the son of William Coffey the most learned in Ireland, was treacherously slain at night, three miles north of the town of Meath.

Histories,  
Genealogies,  
Heraldic Products.



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## Family Heritage.

Trinity College, Dublin. "COENTHAIGH". Call-HM- 19-4.

The name Coffey has given rise to various conjectures as to it's origin, for the benefit of the descendants of the grand old clan, who, at one time were Lord's of nearly all the south of Ireland, descended from Ith, of the Royal family of Spain, and through the female line from the Royal family of Gaul.(France).

The first mention of the name in Irish history is " Coffey the Slender", of Bregia, from the time of this Monarch downwards there are frequent references to poets and sages bearing this name.

John O'Hart, Irish Pedigrees, Dublin, 1887

Mrs. Mary Anderson Everett already mentioned John O'Hart's Irish Pedigrees in 1915 (p238).

Sexton also gave an abstract in her work, The Coffeys of Wayne County. I requested a copy of the pages referring to the Coffey name from the National Library of Ireland, which I received. "The line of Ithe" began from No. 35. Who were the numbers 34 to 1? I also requested page 50, which gave me the ancestors as far back as No. 25.

Abstract from page 50

35. Bilé was king of those countries after his father's death; and his son Galamh or Milesius succeeded him. This Bilé had a brother named Ithe.

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 34. Breoghan (or Brigus) | 29. Nuadhad         |
| 33. Brath                | 28. Nenuall         |
| 32. Deag                 | 27. Febric Glas     |
| 31. Arcadh               | 26. Agnan Fionn     |
| 30. Alladh               | 25. Heber Glunfionn |

While I was in The British Library in London I could find the other ancestors. They are:

- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 24. Lamhfionn          | 12. Magog     |
| 23. Agnon              | 11. Japhet    |
| 22. Tait               | 10. Noah      |
| 21. Ogaman             | 9. Lameh      |
| 20. Beoman             | 8. Methusalah |
| 19. Heber Sait         | 7. Enoch      |
| 18. Sruth              | 6. Jared      |
| 17. Asruth             | 5. Mahalaleel |
| 16. Goadhal            | 4. Cainan     |
| 15. Niul               | 3. Enos       |
| 14. Phoeniusa Farsaidh | 2. Seth       |
| 13. Baoth              | 1. Adam       |

(From 24 to 1 can be some spelling errors)

For the pages I and II from the Glendarragh manuscript we can find back most of the names mentioned by O'Hart (an example of similarity is given for page III). If this manuscript is written by H.A. Coffey, it could not be based on O'Hart's work, because the first edition of John O'Hart's Irish Pedigrees was published in 1876.

H.A. Coffey's pamphlet is dated anno 1863!

## CHAPTER II.

### THE LINE OF ITHE.

ITHU (or Ith), brother of BÉÉ who is No. 35, page 59, was the ancestor of the *Ithians*. This Ithe was uncle of Milesius of Spain; and his descendants settled mostly in Munster.

#### THE STEM OF THE "LINE OF ITHE."

The Stem of the Irish Nation, from Ithe down to (No. 73) Cobthach Fionn, a quo *O'Coſſey*,\* of Munster.

35. Ithe: son of Breoghan, King of Spain.

36. Lughaidh [Luy]: his son; a quo the Ithians were called *Lugadians*.

37. Mal: his son.

38. Blaman: his son.

39. Logha: his son.

40. Mathsin: his son.

41. Sin: his son.

42. Gossaman: his son.

43. Adaman: his son.

44. Heremon: his son.

45. Logha Feile: his son.

46. Lachtuan: his son.

47. Nuaclad Argui: his son.

48. Deargthine: his son.

49. Deagha Derg: his son.

50. Deagha Ambra: his son.

51. Ferulnigh: his son.

52. Sithbolg: his son.

53. Daire (or Darius) Diomdhach: his son.

54. Each-Bolg: his son; had a brother named Luy, who was the ancestor of *Clancy* of Dartry, in Leitrim; and some say, of *Macaulay* or *MacGawley* of Calry, in Westmeath.

55. Ferulnigh (2): his son.

56. Daire (2): his son; from whom the Ithians were called *Darinians*.

57. Luy: his son.

58. MacNiadh: his son. Sabina, daughter of Conn of the Hundred Battles, was married to this Mac Niadh [Nia], by whom she had a son named Luy Mac con (*cu*; Irish, gen. *con*, *cuin*, or *cuin*, a *greyhound*, also a *champion*; Gr. *ku-on*), to whom the *soubriquet* "Mac con" was affixed, because in his youth he was wont to suckle the teat of a favourite *greyhound*. After Mac Niadh's death, Sabina got married to Olioll Olum, king of Munster, as already mentioned. (See p. 67.)

59. Luy Mac con: his son; the 113th Monarch of Ireland.

60. Aongus (or *Aencas*): his son; had four brothers:—1. Fothach Argthach, the 118th Monarch of Ireland jointly with his brother Fothach Cairpeach, by whom, A.D. 285, he was slain; 2. the said Fothach Cairpeach, the 119th Monarch; 3. Duach, ancestor of *Conall*, *O'Hennessy*, *McEirc*, etc.; 4. Fothach Canaan, ancestor of *Mac-Aim*

\* *O'Coſſey*: There were other families of this name in ancient Meath and in Connaught, but not of the same stock as this family.

CHAP. II.] ANT.

ITHE GENEALOGIES.

DAR. 275

or *MacCalum*, Earls of Argyle, etc. From one of these brothers also descended *O'Hallinan*, etc.

61. Fergus: son of *Aencas*.

62. Luigheach: his son.

63. *Aencas* Bolg: his son.

64. Gearan: his son; had a brother named Trean.

65. Conall Claon ("claon": Irish, *pa* *cl*; Gr. "klin-o"): his son.

66. Ceann Reithe ("reithe": Irish, *of a* *reim*; "ceann" a *head*): his son; a quo *O'Reithe*.\*

67. Olioll: his son; had a bro-

ther named Trean, from whom descended St. Beoardh (8 March) of Ardcarne.

68. Fergus: son of Olioll.

69. Connacille: his son.

70. Maccon: his son.

71. Olioll (2): his son.

72. Dungal: his son.

73. Cobthach Fionn ("cobthach": Irish, *victorious*; "fionn," *fair*, meaning "the fairhaired victor"): his son; a quo *O'Cobthach*, anglicised *O'Coſſey*, *O'Coſhig*, *Coſſey*, *Coſſy*, and *Coſſee*.

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IRISH PEDIGREES.

COF. [PART III.]

## COFFEY.

*Of Munster.*

THIS family were dynasts or chief lords of that portion of the ancient territory of *Corca Luighe*,\* now called Barryroe-east, and Barryroe-west, in the county Cork. In Irish the family name is *O'Coibhthaigh*; anglicised *O'Coibey*, *O'Coibig*, and, more lately, *Coffey*, *Coffy*, and *Coffee*.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 74. Donoch Mór; son of Cobthach Fíonn, who is No. 73 on "The Line of Ithe," <i>ante</i> .   | 99. Ceannfaolla: his son.   |
| 75. Donall Mór: his son.  | 100. Aodh (2): his son.   |
| 76. Maccraith: his son.   | 101. Cunnunhan: his son.  |
| 77. Conchobar (or Conor): his son.  | 102. Muireadach: his son.   |
| 78. Maghnus (or Maighneas): his son.  | 103. Cathal (or Charles): his son.  |
| 79. Conor (2): his son.   | 104. Donall (3): his son.   |
| 80. Maithan Dall: his son.  | 105. Brian: his son.  |
| 81. Cobthach (2): his son.  | 106. Murtoch: his son.  |
| 82. Dermot: his son.  | 107. Crimthann: his son.  |
| 83. Fergal: his son.  | 108. Saotuille: his son.  |
| 84. Donoch: his son.  | 109. Niochall: his son.   |
| 85. Aodh (or Hugh): his son.  | 110. Aodh (3): his son.   |
| 86. Maghnus (2): his son.   | 111. Cathal (2): his son.   |
| 87. Conor (3): his son.   | 112. Donoch (2): his son.   |
| 88. Niocholl: his son.  | 113. Felim: his son.  |
| 89. Walter: his son.  | 114. Teige (2): his son.  |
| 90. Cobthach (3): his son.  | 115. Cathal (3): his son.   |
| 91. Teige: his son; had a brother named Niocholl, who was the ancestor of <i>MacLicol</i> . | 116. Donall (4): his son.   |
| 92. Olioll (3): son of Teige.   | 117. Aodh (4): his son.   |
| 93. Dermot (2): his son.  | 118. Cormac: his son.   |
| 94. Donall (2): his son.  | 119. Aodh (or Hugh): his son.   |
| 95. Maghnus (3): his son.   | 120. Cathal (4): his son.   |
| 96. Cobthach (4): his son.  | 121. Teige (3): his son; living in 1657.  |
| 97. Conor (4): his son.   | 122. Shane: his son; living in 1701; held the lands of Muckross* (at Killarney) under Charles Mac Carthy Mór, from A.D. 1693. |
| 98. Maolpadraic: his son.   | 123. Dermot (or Darby): his son; buried in Muckross Abbey, where his tomb exists.   |

\* *Corca Luighe*: This was a territory in Carbery, in the west of the county Cork; and was so called because principally inhabited by families of the Lugdian Race, descendants of Luighaidh, son of Ithe, uncle of Milesius of Spain, and the first Milesian discoverer of Ireland. *Corcaluighe* ("corcach:" Irish, *swampy ground*) extended from Bandon to Crookhaven and to the river of Kenmare; and was anciently possessed by the O'Baires (O'Barrys), O'Coibheys, O'Deas, O'Driscolls, O'Filibillys, O'Faius, O'Fecas, O'Henegans, O'Learys, etc.

The city of "Cork" is by some derived from the Irish word *corcach*, above mentioned; because it is built on a low marsh island, formed by the branches of the river Lee

CHR. II.] COF.

THE GENEALOGIES.

NEE. 281

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 114. Edmond: his son; living in 1807.   | 126. Edward Lees Coffey: son of Edmond (2); living in America in 1881, and had a family. This Edward had four brothers—1. James-Charles of Dublin, d. 1880; 2. John-William; 3. David; 4. Henry. |
| 125. Edmond (2): his son; died in 1811. This Edmond had an elder brother named William, and a younger brother named John—both of whom died unmarried. |  |

been all dispossessed long since of their very ancient and large properties; which, indeed, is the case of many other Irish families not less illustrious in former times, who are now either quite extinct, or reduced to a state of perfect obscurity, for the reason now mentioned.

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## MISCELLANY OF THE CELTIC SOCIETY, AND OTHER MSS.

[Edited by JOHN O'DONOVAN, LL.D., M.R.I.A.; Dublin, 1849.]

[The Mearings of the middle cantred, viz., O'Coibthaigh's Territory.]

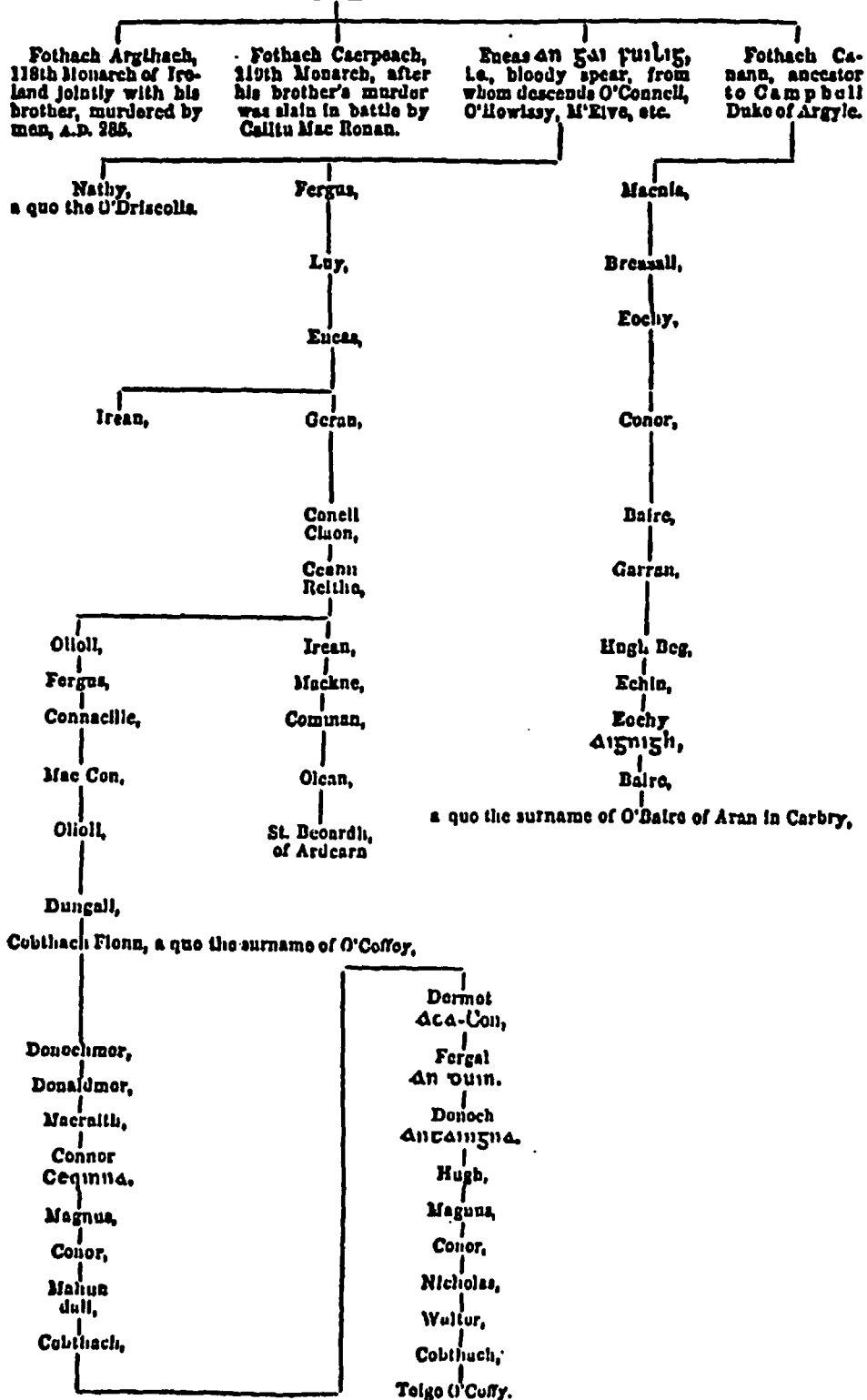
*O'Dubhdalcithe*, now Dowdall; D. MacFirbisigh, makes O'Coibthaighs O'Cowhig, the chief of this territory, which he designates by the *alias* name of *Triocha Meadhonaigh*, i.e. the central cantred, extending from Beal-atha-na-h-Uidhre to Beal-atha-buidhe, and from Gort-na-daibhche to Loch-an-tairbh.

### GENEALOGY OF UA COIBHTHAIGH.

[Taigh Coffey,	son of Donnchadh Mor,
son of Cobhthach,	son of Cobhthach Finn,
son of Walter,	son of Dunghalach,
son of Nichol,	son of Ailill,
son of Conchobhar,	son of Maecon,
son of Maghnus,	son of Connad of Cillen,
son of Hugh,	son of Fearghus,
son of Donnchadh of Daingean,	son of Ailill,
son of Ferghal of Dun, [inlaic,	son of Macrcithe,
son of Diarmaid of Achadh-con-	son of Gearan,
son of Conchobhar,	son of Duach,
son of Mathghamhain,	son of Maicniadh,
son of Conchobhar Cearmna,	son of Maecon,
son of Macraith,	son of Lughaidh,
son of Domhnall,	son of Ith].

*Ua Coibhthaigh*, now O'Cowhig and Coffey. This line of pedigree inserted in brackets is taken from the Book of Ballymote. This family was seated in the Barony of Ballyroe, anciently called *Tricha chead Meadhonaigh*, or the middle or central cantred—See O'Brien's Irish-English Dictionary in *voca* *Courmacu*, and *Cambrensis Eversus*, edited by the Rev. M. Kelly, p. 208, note x. Dr. Smith in his History of Cork, book 11, c. 3, says, "Almost on every headland of this barony were castles erected by the Irish, seven of which belonged to the sept of O'Cowhig, as Dundedy, Duuowen, Duoro, Duoen, Duocowhig, Dunworley, and Dungorley".

**LUY, alias MAC CON, MONARCH OF IRELAND.**



*The above Pedigree is faithfully extracted from the Books of Ulster's Office.*  
**ROBERT SMITH, Registrar, etc.**



**CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1659**

Westmeath co.

Majaskell & Magheredeman Barronies

Coffy - 6

Fertullagh Barrony

Coffy - 7

Maycashell Barrony, Castle Towne Parish, Gary Towneland

Edmond Coffy, gent.; Coffy - 6

Rathconrath Barrony, Parish: Churchstone, Towneland: Rogerstowne

Mortogh Coffy, John Coffey & Edmond Coffey his sonnes, gents.; Coffy 29

Roscommon co.

Athlone Barrony

Coffy - 6

Athlone Borrough

Coffie 5

**THE ANNALS OF CLONMACNOISE**

"The Septs of Lauthus, sonn of Ithus: .....O'Coffie....."

**THE FOUR MASTERS ANNALS OF THE KINGDOM OF IRELAND**

Various O'Coffey names mentioned 1173 to 1554, before that the name is O' or Ua Cobhthaigh. Also a number of earlier ones named Cobhthach.

Abstract of prerogative marriage licenses of Ireland, 1661-1750:

Philip Castleton, gent & Sarah Coffy of co. Westmeath, 21 Feby 1680

Dublin Diocesan wills: Coffee: Edward 1688, Elizabeth 1692, Thomas 1737, 1773, Nicholas, 1745, Peter 1749, Patrick 1772.

Prerogative wills: Thomas Coffy, Linally, Kings co., 1690; Casney Coffy, Linally, Kings co., 1691; Eugene Coffy, Tristernaugh, co. Westmeath, gent., 1692

Killucan Parish, Westmeath co., Baptisms:

Darby Coffee, son of Thomas Coffee of Grangebeg labourer & Katherine his wife, 17 Jun 1719; Mary Coffee (same as preceeding) 22 Jan 1720/21; John Coffee (same as above) Sept 1, 1723; Richard son of Richard Coffey of Knockervil; Aleseller, by Anne his wife, 14 Dec 1723; Elizabeth Coffey dau of Thomas Coffey of Grangebeg labourer & Catherine his wife Jul 27, 1728; James Coffey son of Thomas Coffey of Kinnegad labor., by Mary his wife 4 Dec 1737.

Thomas Coffey was clerk of Irish Privy Council, Kings co. 26 Feb 1763, will dated 22 Dec 1687, pr. 7 Mar 1695, wife Ann Hide, sister Ellis Coffy. Of Lisnally, Kings co. Casney Coffey, also of Lisnally, will dated 5 Jan 1690, pr. 6 Aug 1691, bro. John Coffy. Bartholomew Coffie of Lara, co. Westmeath, gent, will dated 7 Dec 1738, wife Maria Peirce, child.: Patrick, Thomas, Lawrence, Barnaby, Catharine, Ismay, Jane, Maria, Elizabeth, Bridget. Patrick Coffey of Dublin, gent, will dated 5 Jun 1717, wife Dorothy, children: Gilbert (received land of Kilclare), Amy, Anne, also had brother Gilbert. There were several others of spelling Coffie and Coffey in last half of 1700s, including Dublin, Westmeath co. & Kings co. These all came from "Burke's Collection of wills for forming Irish Pedigrees", Vol. 15.

**Betham's Genealogical Abstracts of Prerogative wills:**

John Coffey of Dublin, d. 1722, wife Mable; Owin (?) Coffy of Tristernagh, co. Westmeath, gent., Jan 1691; Thomas & Casney Coffy previously mentioned.  
*Coffe, James 1596*