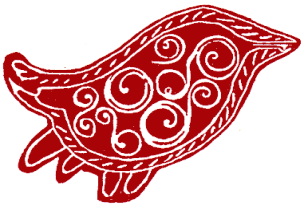
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Dermod Moyle McCarthy of Carbery

By JOHN T. COLLINS

In the article on Donogh Moyle McCarthy of Phale, published in the last issue of this *Journal*,[1] I stated that I hoped to give a sketch of the career of his first cousin, Dermod Moyle McCarthy, and herewith redeem my promise.

The death of Donogh McCarthy Reagh is noted in the *A.F.M.*, as having taken place A.D. 1576. He was interred in the burial place of his father and grandfather in Timoleague Abbey, and his brother Owen was inaugurated as McCarthy Reagh. The deceased chief had been married to Johanna, daughter of Maurice Fitz John of Carrigaline Castle. She was sister to James Fitz Maurice, the noted Catholic leader of that generation and first cousin to Gerald, the ill-fated earl of Desmond. There were two sons of the marriage, Florence and Dermod Moyle. An inquisition held at the Guildhall, Cork, in June 1577, found that Donatus or Donogh McCarthy had died at Kilbrittain castle on 24 January 1577. He was seized of certain lands in Carbery and his son and heir was Florentius or Fineen, then aged about 15 years.[2]

Florence McCarthy as a young man seems to have served the queen against the earl of Desmond. Pardons granted in July 1584, to Randal oge Hurley of Ballinacarriga castle and various Hurleys, Cartys, Crowleys, Collinses, Kehillys, Murphys, Driscolls, etc., in Carbery describe them as 'Florence Carthie's men' (Fiants Eliz. 4488, 4493). Later on Florence went to London and was received with favour at Elizabeth's court. He lost that favour when he returned to Ireland and married Ellen, daughter and heiress to McCarthy Mór, earl of Clancare. His motives were looked upon with suspicion, so he was summoned to Cork, arrested there and despatched a prisoner to the Tower of London. In 1593 he was allowed to return to Ireland. His father-in-law died, and during the subsequent years he made

[1] *J.C.H.A.S.*, LV (1950), 116.

[2] *Life and Letters of Florence McCarthy Mor.* By Daniel McCarthy Glas. Published 1867. The names of the jurors who held the inquisition are given. They are described as gentlemen, and are recognisable as follows:—

(1) James Barry of Donboige (Dunbogey, parish of Nohoval).
(2) William Mallefunt of Courteston (perhaps Mellifontstown, Kinsale).
(3) David McShane of Midestowne (Meade or Meadestown).
(4) James Hoare of Money (Monees or Monegourney, near Carrigaline).
(5) Florentius O Mahowny of O Mahownes castle (the modern Castle Bernard).
(6) John Skiddie of Frissell castle (somewhere in the South Liberties of Cork).
(7) Donaldi McOwen of Drisshane (McCarthy of Drishane Castle).
(8) Daniel O Herlihie of Ballyworny (O'Herlihy, chief of Ballyvourney).
(9) James Roche of Knyure (Roche of Kinure near Oysterhaven).
(10) Peter Cogan of Ballenecourty (?)
(11) Fynen McCormac of Bellemclashy (?)

The lands mentioned include Ballyvolane, Cloghane, Killinetig, Knocknagappul Raharoon and Rathrought in Ballinadee parish, Curranure in Innishannon, Garranreagh in Ringrone, Baurleigh and Knockbroune in Kilbrittain, Currycrowley in Ballymoney and Castle Iwer (which I suspect was the former name of Castletown Kinneigh).

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several journeys to the queen's court, claiming grants of the McCarthy Mór lands in Cork and Kerry.[3]

In the beginning of 1599 a party of Connachtmen invaded Carbery. They acted under the orders of James Fitz Thomas who had been proclaimed earl of Desmond and as such recognised by Hugh O'Neill as the head of the Anglo-Irish of Munster.

His sister was married to Donal ni Pipi, who had succeeded his uncle Owen as McCarthy Reagh in 1593. Donal informed Sir Thomas Norreys (who commanded for the queen in Cork) that William Burke, a Connachtman, had come with 400 men into Carbery to force himself and the other gentlemen and freeholders into rebellion. They had resisted them and in the conflict his own son and Dermod Moyle McCarthy had been taken prisoners. Another message sent to the mayor of Cork stated that McCarthy Reagh's son was slain, and that Dermod Moyle McCarthy, Teige Norse McCarthy (of Togher and Dunmanway) and his son, O'Donovan (of Castle Donovan) and Sir Fineen O'Driscoll's son, had been taken by the Connachtmen.

Norreys left Cork with fifty horsemen and seven companies of foot. He augmented his forces at Kinsale and went westward through Carbery until he came to the ancient town of Ross. From Ross he sent a letter dated (4 March) to Sir Robert Cecil in London to the effect that the late proceedings in Carbery were entirely due to Dermod Moyle McCarthy and that he was a voluntary prisoner. He hoped that Florence, his brother, would be detained in London until things got quieter here.

Back in Cork on 26 March, he recounted how he remained at Ross until the 16th, endeavouring to obtain pledges of loyalty from the gentlemen of Carbery. O'Donovan, Fineen McOwen and Dermod Moyle McCarthy had not come to him and had given their pledges to the traitors. Therefore he had caused their cattle and homes to be razed and their people and lands spoiled. On his way to Cork he had passed through Kinalmeaky where the O'Mahony's dwelt and had burned all their corn. He had heard that Dermod Moyle did nothing without Florence's consent, and again prayed that he be kept in England.[4]

The queen drafted a memorandum in her own handwriting describing how the situation should be dealt with. She required that Viscount Barry and her ancient servitor, John Fitz Edmond of Cloyne, should

[3] Sir Richard Cox, writing in 1687 states that in Carbery Florence inherited from his father: (*a*) the tuath of Carriganassig containing 32 ploughlands and names Dromkeen, Cremore (Curranure), Ballylangly, Clashafree, Tullyland, Rathrouts and Carriganass. This tuath lay along the Carbery side of the Bandon river opposite Innishannon and contained the castle of Carriganass situated on the site of the present Rock-house. (*b*) the tuath of Mounteen, 7 ploughlands including Maulrour, Aghalusky, Clogagh and Mounteen castle near Ballinascarthy. (*c*) the tuath ni kelly (na coille), 8 ploughlands which environed the present town of Clonakilty of which Skartagh, the Youghals, Lisbarnard (obsolete) Miles, and Templebrian are named. (*d*) The tuath of Inniskeane including Teadies and Inniskeane.

It is likely that Dermod Moyle resided in Carbery and managed those lands for his brother who now had wider interests.

[4] *Life and Letters of F. McCarthy* and *Calendar of State Papers*, 1599. Unless otherwise stated the events of the next few years are taken from those sources.

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serve against James Fitz Thomas and John McRedmond of Ballycrenane (the pretended seneschal of Imokilly); that Cormac McDermod (of Blarney) should attack Dermod Moyle and O'Donovan from the Muskery side, while Donal McCarthy Reagh, Barry óge and Sir Fineen O'Driscoll should attack them in Carbery.

Despite Sir Thomas Norrey's recommendation, Sir Robert Cecil allowed Florence McCarthy to return to Ireland, charged with a letter to the earl of Essex, allowing him to do his utmost to reclaim his lands from the rebels now in possession. Florence spent the remainder of that year in this pursuit, temporising between the Connachtmen on one hand, and the queen's government in Cork on the other. In the spring of next year Hugh O'Neill came into Munster and Florence came to his camp at Inniscarra. After a few days O'Neill moved in the direction of Carbery and encamped on the bank of the Bandon river. Florence McCarthy was with him and records how they went to view the fortified town of Kinsale. All the Munstermen present urged O'Neill to take that town but Florence told O'Neill that even if he had there all the Irish armies then in Ireland, he could not take Kinsale. O'Neill took his advice and later departed in the direction of Cork.[5] Word was conveyed to Cork when O'Neill had departed that Florence McCarthy had given him two hostages for his fidelity ; one being his brother Dermod Moyle and the other a freeholder, Fineen McDonnell McCarthy.[6]

In a letter to Sir Robert Cecil endeavouring to justify his action in parleying with O'Neill, Florence admitted that he did give his brother as a 'pledge, and another gentleman of good estimation bearing my own name who was with him.' O'Neill informed Florence that he did not need Dermod Moyle 'who ever took his part,' so he released him and gave the other gentleman over to Dermod O'Connor, who commanded the Connacht 'buonies,' whom O'Neill left behind. Florence bitterly complained that when O'Neill had departed, the captains of the Kinsale garrison (which he had saved) plundered his country. Captain Bostock took his castle of Dunmacpatrick in the Old Head and all the cattle and goods therein while Captain Flower burned two of his castles, killed men, women and children, burned villages, houses and corn, as far as Ross and over 'the Leap.'

Captain Flower confirms Florence's complaint. In an account (which has survived) he states how he marched out from Kinsale, crossed the Bandon river and skirmished with Florence McCarthy's men, burned Carriganass Castle, then garrisoned by him, together with a great store of corn belonging to Dermod Moyle McCarthy—now a rebel. He burned Mounteen Castle then belonging to a foster-father (brother ?) of Florence McCarthy, who was then a pledge with O'Neill. Thence to Ross where

[5] O'Neill and Florence McCarthy on this occasion may have ridden along the Carbery and Courcie's side of the Bandon river beyond Ringrone from which there is a good view of the town across the river estuary.

[6] He was a McCarthy Rábaghe holding Mounteen Castle. It has been held that Blessed Thaddeus was one of those McCarthys.

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they rested two days and then over ' the Leape ' into O'Donovan's country where they killed all the poor people. They captured 500 cows which they drowned or killed so they could be of no benefit to the rebels. They ravaged the Clan Dermod lands (Kilcoe and Aughadown) and were marching into the territory of O'Mahony Fionn when news came that Florence McCarthy had organised the Connachtmen to intercept them. They returned safely to Kinsale but were later attacked by the Connachtmen at a ford on the Ownabuee river (probably at Ballinhassig) on the way to Cork where an inconclusive conflict took place.[7]

Sir George Carew, the newly appointed president of Munster, now came to Cork and on 14 May 1600 Florence wrote to him from Enniskeane, stating that despite all that occurred, he desired to be loyal and to drive the Connachtmen out of Carbery.[8]

In August 1600 Dermod Moyle was sent by Florence to Castleishen on the Cork–Limerick border where their brother-in-law, O'Sullivan Mór of Dunkerron, was a hostage in Dermod O'Connor's hands. He took part in the rescue from the castle of James FitzThomas whom Dermod O'Connor had held a prisoner there. Dermod had been bribed by Carew and was now contemplating a change of front.

A Spanish invasion was deemed imminent and Carew recommended that pardons for their previous offences be granted to the Munster chiefs and their followers. Florence McCarthy was pardoned in March 1601 with a multitude of his Kerry dependants. (Fiant Eliz. 6469). In May, Moelmoe O'Mahowny of Castle Mahowny, Donell O'Donovan of Castle Donovan, Donel McCarthy Reagh of Kilbrittain and Dermod Moyle McCarthy were pardoned with hosts of their West Cork followers [9] (Fiants 6514–15–16 and 6540).

The conditions of these pardons were—that they appear and submit to the authorities within three months, be sufficiently bound with sureties, and if they failed to do this or to find sufficient surety for their good behaviour the pardons were to be void. Florence McCarthy came to Cork under a safe conduct in June and was there arrested and despatched to the Tower of London where he remained until his death over 40 years later.

Carew wrote to Cecil: ' With James FitzThomas I propose to send him to England and then I have sent you two earls of their own making and the most powerful rebels that ever lived in Munster . . . when it shall

[7] Captain Flower's descendants settled at Durrow and became ennobled as Viscounts Ashbrook. The castle gates are opposite Durrow village on the main road from Cork to Dublin. The castle is now occupied by a community of nuns.

[8] He writes Enniskean, ' Iniskayne ' and in another letter Timoleague as ' Tymolaige ' just as the names are locally pronounced to-day.

[9] Dermod Moyle is styled Dermod McDonogh McCartie alias Dermod Moell of Murraghie (Murragh near Enniskeane). With him were pardoned Donogh oge—his step-brother, O'Donovans McAneslis of Letter, Crowleys of Burrane, O'Regans of Ballinacloghe near Ross, McCarthys of Toileagh (Drinagh), Swineys of Ardkitt, O'Cullanes or Collinses of Baurleigh, Murrihys, Sheehy's, Desmonds, Dalys, Coughanes (Keohanes), Hurleys, O'Learys, etc.

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be bruited in Spain that these grandees are prisoners it will divert their purpose, for upon these two and in particular Florence, the Spaniards did found their hopes in the west [south] of Ireland.' Carew summoned the freeholders of the county to attend as jurors at a general jail-delivery in Cork on 28 July. Dermod Moyle, though summoned did not attend but remained aloof in Carbery. In August, Carew wrote :—' Dermod Moyle has not come near me . . . His malice to the state and to our nation is not less than his brothers . . . He is much valianter and wiser than Florence. If he were at hand there is not a man in the province I would like more to restrain . . . He has gone to Ulster on the advice of his brother, Florence, to draw the Ulster men into Munster.'

Don Juan De Aquila landed at Kinsale on 21 September and was shortly beseiged within the town by the armies led by Mountjoy and Carew. In November an intelligence report sent to Sir Robert Cecil alleged that an emissary had come from Hugh O'Neill and had delivered a message to Don Juan. He was a servant to Dermod Moyle McCarthy, described as a land owner near Kinsale. Dermod sent the messenger from Ulster to Mountjoy, asking for a safe conduct for himself and in return he offered to do some good service. Mountjoy gave the protection but the messenger at night crept up to the walls of Kinsale, was admitted by the Spanish sentry and gave O'Neill's message to Don Juan. Don Juan replied urging O'Neill to hasten to Munster and with this the messenger returned through Mountjoy's camp and departed for Ulster.[10]

On 13 December Carew wrote to Cecil from the camp before Kinsale that O'Neill and O'Donnell were in the O'Mahony country six miles away, they had been joined there by the Spaniards who had landed at Castlehaven and the gentlemen of Carbery had joined them, principally by the persuasion of Dermod Moyle McCarthy, who had come with the Ulster forces.

It is probable that Dermod Moyle participated in the disastrous rout near Kinsale twelve days later and was present at the council of war held at Innishannon, where it was decided that Red Hugh O'Donnell should go to Spain and seek further aid. He is mentioned in the instructions given to the earl of Thomond in March 1602 by Carew. ' Do all your endeavour to burn the rebels corn in Carbery, Bere and Bantry, take their cows . . . Those that are lately protected as O'Driscoll, O'Donovan and Sir Owen McCarthy's sons, afford them all kind and mild usage. . . . . Dermod Moyle McCarthy is most assisted by the O'Crowleys, have a special care to prosecute and plague him and his assistants and if you can find any good means to work upon him spare not your endeavour. Sir Owen McCarthy's sons if they be well handled will prove the best means, knowing as you do that he stands between them and the lord [-ship] of their country ' (*Pacata Hibernia*).

On 13 April Carew wrote to Cecil ' Dermod Moyle McCarthy sent to

[10] He seems to have been an O'Donovan of the Clan Mac Aneslis of Kilmeen, for amongst those stated to have gone to Spain with Don Juan in March 1602 appears the name of ' Donogh Moel Mac Enessis, Dermod Moel McCarthy's man.' (*Pacata Hibernia*, vol. II, p. 66—O'Grady's edition).

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the (Protestant) bishop of Cork begging to be received into the Queen's mercy by me. The Queen can get nothing by him for I think he had no inheritance . . . To take or kill him will be difficult . . . '

On that day month Dermod Moyle was slain and Carew wrote to Cecil from the camp near Bantry Abbey a few days later :—' On the 13th of this month Dermod Moyle McCarthy was slain by some of O'Donovan's men, commanded by Fynin McCarthy, his cousin-german. McCarthy Reagh came in also at the end of the fight. The cause of the dispute is that some cows were taken from McCarthy Reagh's tenants. They were followed by Fynin, one of Sir Owen McCarthy's sons . . .Dermod Moyle was shot, whereupon his men fled . . . Now that he is dead every one strives to have thanks for it . . . Really they were sorry for they hid his body and swear they do not know where he is buried fearing I would send his head to Cork . . . He had a far better wit, was more valiant and of loose men better beloved and followed than Florence.' And again, ' The burial place of Dermod Moyle is being concealed by the country people and the priests.'

In *Pacata Hibernia* it is stated that his death bred as much astonishment in one party as in the other, all the country being equally grieved for the loss of such a pillar of the Catholic cause. They conveyed his corpse to the abbey of Timoleague where it was interred by a friar with great solemnity.

When Owen McEgan, bishop of Ross, landed at Kilmakilloge creek in Kerry next month he bore a letter from the king of Spain to Dermod Moyle, but finding he was dead retained the letter. Within seven months he, too, was interred in Timoleague Abbey [11] and Carbery was wholly reduced into subjection, not one open traitor remaining therein (according to Carew).

On 20 November 1602, Cecil notified Carew that the queen had ordered that the children of Dermod Moyle—and others—who were at first restrained as security for their father's loyalty should be released on good sureties by the lords and chief gentlemen of the county, who would have power to restrain their insolence lest when they came of age they would follow in their father's footsteps.

' Elline ny Donogh, late wife of Dermod Moell McCartie brother to Florence ' is listed amongst those who had departed from Ardea in Kerry to Spain with Conor O'Driscoll and Father Archer on 7 July 1602. They arrived at Corunna on the 22nd according to an examination taken of Bernard White of Waterford, who mentions Dermod Moyle McCarthy's wife and daughter amongst the passengers. Information later received from Spain includes Dermod Moyle McCarthy's son and heir and Ellyne ny Donogh, wife to Dermod as being in receipt of pensions from the king of Spain.

His lands were placed in the custody of David Barry, viscount Buttevant, and on 25 September 1603 the new king, James I, directed that a lease of 31 years be given to Barry of the castles and lands of the

[11] See ' Donogh McCarthy of Phale," *J.C.H.A.S.*, LV (1950), 117–118.

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late Diermod McCartie, known by the names of Maraha (Murragh) and Burrane, and other lands of the said Dermod Meale slain in rebellion. In May 1604 this lease was granted. It included the castles, lands, etc. of Marragh, Castletown, Baurleigh, Knockbrowne, Burrane, Tullymurrihy, Bohonoght, Shanavagh-ierragh, Clonetybeggy, Kiltennihie, Downlighie, in Carbery, late in possession of Dermot Moel McCartie slain in rebellion.

In 1608 King James sent a letter to Sir Arthur Chichester his lord deputy in Ireland, desiring that a grant be made to Robert Carre for ever, in fee farm, without fine, of the castles and lands of Marraha and Burrane, lately possessed by Dermod Mael McCarthie, subject to the lease already granted to Lord Barry.[12] A few years later the lands were in possession of Richard Boyle, earl of Cork, through exchange with Lord Barry.

He leased Castletown to one Morgan Powlden. No trace of that castle now exists, but at Burrane near Timoleague the bawn wall of Dermod Moyle McCarthy's castle may still be seen, now surrounding the haggard of the Barry farmstead there.

The McCarthy Reagh tomb in the choir of Timoleague Abbey is still pointed out, but is now in a very delapidated condition. Owing to the necessity of concealing Dermod Moyle's body from his English enemies, it may be doubted whether he was at first interred with his own people, but it is likely that when things got quieter the pious monks, who re-assumed possession of the abbey, buried him with his father and grandfather in the ancestral tomb.

I understand that in the near future a plaque will be placed in the wall at the north-west angle of the cloister of Timoleague Abbey to mark the grave of Owen McEgan, bishop-elect of Ross, who travelled Europe seeking aid for the Catholic cause, and on his return roused the people of his diocese to renew the fight, until he was slain in January 1603.

[12] *Calendar Patent Rolls, James* 1.

NOTE

In his article in the December issue of your *Journal* (Vol. LV (1950), 111–21), Mr John T. Collins records the inauguration of Donal McCarthy Reagh, of Kilbrittain Castle, who was married to Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas of Desmond, and who was the only Carbery chieftain to take the queen's side in the events which culminated in the battle of Kinsale in 1602 (new style).

The names of both Donal and Margaret are also recorded in an inscription found on a block of stone at the entrance to Upton House, Upton, formerly the property of the Payne family and now of Mr and Mrs Denis Lynch. The legend reads : '*A.D.* 1596, *Donaldus Carti et Margareta Gerald fecerunt*'.

According to Mr Lynch's information, the stone came originally from Kilbrittain Castle. It would be interesting to know what work it was intended to commemorate.[1]

WILLIAM HAWKES, C.C.

[1] Mr John T. Collins informs me that there is no doubt that this inscribed stone belonged to the castle at Kilbrittain, erected by Donal and Margaret in 1596—Ed.

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