

3 July 2024

Dear kin, friends, and colleagues,

We're still aiming to have our first clan meeting on Zoom on 13 July! But it will, sadly, not be to interview various candidates to the Chiefship as was hoped. It may instead be the first joint conversation in centuries to ratify a Chief.

After having received a good deal of interest and support from representatives of nine different branches of the clan, and with the endorsements of The O'Sullivan Mór (who has traditionally always ratified the elections of MacCarthy chiefs) and The Mac Aodhagáin (the hereditary Brehon — i.e. judge — to the MacCarthy Clan), our Ad Hoc Derbhfine process was started. On March 5th we formally announced the Ad Hoc Derbhfine for the election of a new Chief of the Name.

An advertisement went out in the Skibbereen Eagle, notices were sent to the contacts for each participant of the McCarthy Surname Y-DNA Study who have been identified as descendants of the MacCarthy Reagh, and personal invitations were sent to other senior living descendants of the once chiefly family.

It is now well documented that the senior branches of the clan stem from Finghin MacCarthy who was born in 1625 and died in France in 1676. He had two sons, Dermot and Cormac, from which three principle extant branches of the family descended:

- McCarthy of Cashloura (descendants of Dermot), who are also descended from the last Chief of the Name, Finghin of Benduff, through his great-granddaughter.
- McCarthy of Bend, Oregon (descendants of Cormac)
- MacCarthy of Vancouver (descendants of Cormac)

Unfortunately, the birth order of Cormac and Dermot is unknown, so genealogical seniority cannot be determined, and for this reason an Ad Hoc Derbhfine is required to elect a chief descended from one of these two respective families. However, as Dermot appears to have inherited the family's French estate, it could be presumed he was the eldest of the siblings.

Over the last month of dialogue, the MacCarthys of Vancouver have declined accepting any nomination to the Chiefship, and the MacCarthys of Bend, having been directly invited to participate, have declined any further discourse. As such, the Ad Hoc Derbhfine (while open to any nominations until the election in August), will begin to consider ratification of the McCarthy family of Cashloura as the senior representatives of the clan, rendering their Derbhfine the new Chiefly Derbhfine from which a Chief is to be elected in accordance with Brehon Law.

NOTES

This letter is to notify all the participants in the upcoming Ad Hoc Derbhfine that **at present there is only one nominee** from the McCarthy family of Cashloura for the chiefship.

Such being the present situation, and although previous attempts over the years have proven unsuccessful, final renewed efforts are being made to contact representatives of the other senior McCarthy families to solicit their participation in the election. However, if no response is received, then *qui tacet consentit*, they must be believed to bear no objection to the ratification of the McCarthy's of Cashloura as the newly elected chiefly derbhfine (kin group).

Only one successful contact in January 2017 was made with one member of the McCarthy of Bend family. This Mr. McCarthy conveyed that neither he nor his family had ever researched their family's ancestry or history. Five more attempts to discuss more about his family and their seniority within the clan went unanswered between February and July 2017, four more attempts between March and May 2024 were made to communicate, and all were disregarded. *De non apparentibus et non existentibus eadem est ratio*, the family has provided no claimant to the chiefship.

Francis Leader MacCarthy-Willis-Bund had asserted himself to the chiefship in the 1940s. This claim however appears predicated on the false belief that primogenitor entitled his right to his claim, however the McCarthy of Bend family was, and still is, senior to his. Primogenitor is an English legal system of inheritance, to which Gaelic-Irish succession laws for chiefships are not subordinate. Tanistry, and election by the family, determine Irish chiefly succession and so, *ignorantia juris non excusat*, Mr. MacCarthy-Willis-Bund was never legally Chief of the Name. We have successfully contacted the senior (and only known) living descendant of the MacCarthy family of Vancouver. He was extended the invitation to participate in the Ad Hoc Derbhfine and on 19 June 2024 he and his father have declined the offer to be nominated for the chiefship.