



April 14th 2025

To whom it may concern,

With reference to the MacCarthy Reagh clan's election of a chieftain:

Some time ago I was asked by the leaders of the MacCarthy Reagh clan (MacCárthaigh Riabhach) to act as its hereditary Brehon. A role held by members of my own clan for centuries. This was a tremendous honour.

The Clann MacAodhagáin were hereditary Ollamh and Brehon to a number of clans including the O'Conor, the Kennedy, the MacGeoghegan and the MacCarthy Reagh. Even after the end of the Brehon Law, in 1600 Owen MacAodhagáin, Bishop of Ross, acted as a representative of Florence MacCarthy Reagh in appealing to the King of Spain for help in the rebellion. In 1650 Boetius MacAodhagáin, Bishop of Ross was likewise allied with Sir Donough MacCarty.

I assumed the role of Ceann Fine MacAodhagáin of Tethbae (Chieftain of Keegan of Westmeath) when my father passed away and a *Derbhfine* was held. My grandfather was not only descended from the MacAodhagáin of Tethbae on the main agnatic line, he was also the nephew of a MacAodhagáin of Cork on his mother's side. This was the area ruled by the MacCarthy. My father passed to me a *Bata na Bachaille* (staff of office) that had been handed down in the Cork/Kerry branch of my clan.

Now the MacCarthy Reagh finds itself - as my branch of my clan did - in the situation of holding a *Derbhfine* election to appoint a new chieftain. The last hereditary chieftain died in 1734.

In my considered view the most suitable candidate is Sir Evan P. McCarthy (Éimhín Mac Cárthaigh Riabhach). Evan represents the McCarthy Reagh family of Drinagh, and descends agnatically (on the paternal line) from the son and heir of the 20th Chief of the Name, Finghin. It is also the only agnatic MacCarthy Reagh family also descended in the female line from the last Chief of the Name, Finghin of Banduff.

I would urge the MacCarthy Reagh to strongly consider not only his lineage but also his tireless work in documenting and promoting your great clan. Evan has been researching the MacCarthy Reagh history and lineages for many years, has published the first dedicated and comprehensive history of the family in a century, and is the organiser of the modern MacCarthy Reagh Clan. To my mind, he is the natural choice.

I officially back Evan McCarthy in this *Derbhfine*.



*Simon Keegan*

Ceann Fine (Chieftain)  
MacAodhagáin of Tethbae  
Council of Celtic Clans & Chiefs

