



5 March 2024
The Feast of St. Ciarán the Elder

Dear family, cousins, and friends,

Over the years we have seen a tremendous interest in the reestablishment of the our clan and, especially more recently, the election of a new Chief of the Name. With some of you searching for your McCarthy ancestors and kin, some coming from a well documented lineage, and others simply knowing that the MacCarthy Reagh family was in your tree long ago, I want to say thank you all for your scholarship, passion, and support.

We've been soliciting interest from family and friends for a while, trying to determine the clan's predilection to elect a new Chief of the Name, and the responses we've received have been very positive from all over the world — and even from other clans of Carbery, eager to once again have a MacCarthy Reagh Chief! Therefore, now having re-certified the pedigrees of the senior branches of the family, we are pleased to announce the commencement of an Ad Hoc Dearbhfhine for the election of the Chief of the Name MacCarthy Reagh!

A determination by the most thorough efforts possible has established that the lineages of the agnatic descendants of Cormac (born in 1620, flourished in 1667), by his wife Lady Eleanor MacCarthy (daughter of the 1st Viscount Muskerry), and of Finghin MacCarthy Reagh of Benduff, the last Chief of the Name, are extinct.

Given the extinction of theses chiefly families, and the subsequent abeyance of the Chiefship, conditions have been met to warrant convening the clan to elect a new Chief. Such being the case, all known descendants of The MacCarthy Reagh are invited to attend this family convention — known as an Ad Hoc Dearbhfhine — to nominate any potential candidates, hear candidates cases, and vote to elect a new Chief.

Due to the vast geographic dispersion of clan members and to facilitate maximum participation of all our kin worldwide, the clan gathering and subsequent election will be digital — both hosted by secure online platforms. The attachment to this letter contains more detailed information about the convention and election process.

So many have worked so hard and diligently to renew our sense of MacCarthy clanship, and we wanted to thank all of you! So thank you to the McCarthy Surname Y-DNA Study, the Skibbereen Heritage Centre, the Kingdom of Desmond Association, and to all of our friends and colleagues who have worked to discover their own families' origins — whose stories have shaped the history and greater story of the MacCarthy clan!

Beir bua agus beannacht,
The MacCarthy Reagh Clan Organizing Committee

The Ad Hoc Dearbhfhine

The Kingdom of Desmond Association has published guidance about organizing an Ad Hoc Dearbhfhine (pronounced *der-i-fin-uh*, [d̪iːrʲə'vʲimʲə]), and as it is the guidance endorsed by The MacCarthy Mór, it is what we have adopted.

1) Identification of Nominees and Participants

In accordance with the Brehon laws and the published guidance of the Kingdom of Desmond Association, all nominees for the Chiefship must:

- have a claim predicated on agnatic descent (i.e. descent from father to son) from a previous Chief,
- be a male 18 years of age or older bearing the surname McCarthy (or a variant spelling),
- be armigerous, or otherwise have a right to Armorial Bearings with a petition for Grant, Matriculation, Confirmation, or Certification of Arms already submitted to their respective Heraldic Authority,
- be well versed in traditional Gaelic practices and have an understanding of the Gaelic order prior to the end of 17th century,
- be willing and able assume responsibility for the clan/family,
- willing and able to undertake projects which support the Clan.

Nominees must submit their certified pedigree, a short biography, CV, and Armorial Bearings to the secretary at info@maccarthyreagh.org. These materials will be published on the Clan website to allow participants the opportunity to review each candidate's qualifications.

Even if not qualified as a nominee, kinsmen are invited as participants in the Ad Hoc Dearbhfhine, but will be required to contact the Organizing Committee at info@maccarthyreagh.org and submit a valid email for each voting member, which will be used for further coordination (namely, for a Zoom invitation and to cast a vote in the election).

2) Clan Meeting

You and your family are invited to attend the initial assembly via Zoom at **13 July 2024, 6:00pm GMT**, where we will host a short Q&A for questions regarding the Ad Hoc Dearbhfhine process, and then introduce the final nominees who will be given the opportunity to address the assembly. This Zoom invitation will be sent only to the emails provided to the Organizing Committee, but will also be recorded and posted to the clan webpage to allow those who could not attend the opportunity to still hear the candidates.

3) Election

Due to the vast geographic dispersion of clan members, the election will be held via the secure online election platform, ElectionRunner.com, **13 August 2024, at 6:00pm GMT and will run through 14 August 2024 at 6:00pm GMT**. Voting participants will receive an email as soon as the election window opens and will have 24 hours to submit their vote. Each member will have a unique ID which will limit one vote per person and provide anonymity of the voter.

3) Certification

After the election window closes, the votes will be counted by the Secretary and a notice will be made with the results. There will then be a 42 day provisionary period (in accordance with the standard practice of Lord Lyon's Ad Hoc Dearbhfhines for Scottish clans), during which time challenges to the election can be lodged. After this 42 day period, the elected candidate will assume the role of hereditary Chief of the Name MacCarthy Reagh. The new chiefly family will be required to select a successor from within the new Dearbhfhine kin group.