

Domhnall na bpiob (*b.* 1535 - *d.* 10 Oct 1612)^{1,2}
 17th Prince of Carbery, Chief-of-the-Name MacCarthy Reagh
 ♂ Margaret FitzGerald, dau. of Thomas, son of James FitzGerald, 14th Earl of Desmond
 |
 Cormac MacCarthy Reagh (*d.* 1602)^{1,2}
 ♂ Eleanor Fitzgibbon, dau. of Edmond Fitzgibbon, 11th White Knight
 |
 Domhnall MacCarthy Reagh (*d.* 1 Aug 1636)^{1,2}
 Chief-of-the-Name MacCarthy Reagh
 ♂ Lady Ellen Roche of Fermoy, dau. of David Roche, 7th Viscount Fermoy
 |
 Fínghin MacCarthy Reagh (*b.* 1625 - *d.* 1676)^{1,3,4,5,6,7}
 Le comte de Mac Carthy-Reagh
 ♂ Lady Mary (of France)
 |
 Dermot MacCarthy Reagh (*b.* 1658 - *d.* 1728)^{1,8,9}
 Le comte de Mac Carthy-Reagh
 |
 Donal I MacCarthy (*b.* 1690 - *d.* 1758)^{1,8,9,10,11}
 ♂ Kate O'Driscoll
 |
 Donal II McCarthy (*b.* 1730)^{1,10,12,13,14}
 ♂ Anna McCarthy Reagh, 9 April 1761
 |
 Daniel McCarthy (*b.* 1762 - *d.* July 1825)^{13,14,15,16}
 ♂ Catherine O'Hurley, 8 Jan 1785, dau. of Randal O'Hurley, Lord of Ballinacarriga
 |
 Charles McCarthy (*b.* circa 1785)^{17,18,19}
 ♂ Honora McCarthy Reagh of Gortnascreeny
 |
 James McCarthy (*b.* circa 1813)^{20,21}
 ♂ Mary Ross of Dromcorragh, 12 Feb 1839
 |
 Daniel James McCarthy^{22,23}
 (*b.* 18 Dec 1852 - *d.* 25 Mar 1915)
 ♂ Mary Regan (*b.* 1855 - *d.* 1939)
 |
 George Patrick McCarthy^{24,25}
 (*b.* 25 Mar 1895 - *d.* 27 Mar 1983)
 ♂ Katherine Anne Cleary
 (*b.* 1896 - *d.* 6 Dec 1978)
 |
 Daniel George McCarthy^{26,27}
 (*b.* 26 Nov 1920 - *d.* 3 Dec 1990)
 ♂ Mabel Frances Champney, 26 June 1948
 (*b.* 9 Oct 1924 - *d.* 19 Sept 2017)

Facts Recently Learned from a Visit to Ireland

Y-DNA testing has confirmed MacCarthy Reagh origins for the McCarthy family of Cashloura, but also a relatively close relation to a line of wealthy Dubliners which has a purported MacCarthy Reagh lineage. However, that testing has also confirmed that the Cashloura McCarthys are a unique branch of the currently known McCarthy Reagh sept, not closely related to other well-known branches of the family (Teige Ilen, Downy, Forsa, Rabagh, Farshing, Glas, etc.). There has been a member of the McCarthy residing in Cashloura until the middle of the 1950s when the Hurley family bought what remained of their farm. Speaking to Mr. Tim Hurley of Cashloura, who currently owns the old family property, he remembers that the McCarthys were the local landlords, apparently even back to the Famine. Interestingly, a descendant of Daniel James' eldest son recalls that there was a family feud around the turn of the century and that Daniel James was wealthy and held a large estate in Drinagh.

In speaking with Mr. Dennis O'Donovan (who currently resides in Skibbereen but farms the Cashloura dairy cattle), he wasn't even aware that there was ever any McCarthy presence in Cashloura! Rather, he knew that the Barry family resided in the farmhouse (initially believed to have been the McCarthy house) for as long as he and his family could remember, and so that the McCarthys didn't reside on the farm proper. This confirms the notion that the McCarthys were landlords whose tenant farmers worked the estate, while they simply had the financial means (at least initially) to lease the farm in Cashloura — consistent with affluence which ought to accompany a descent from a once royal Irish family.

A diary from the Regan family of Aghaville from the early 20th century records that their maternal "cousins McCarthy Reaghs from Drinagh would come visiting Aghaville, related through [great-grandfather] Cornelius's wife Catherine."²⁸ As the McCarthy family of Cashloura was the *only* McCarthy family residing in Drinagh by the time of the diary entry, we now know the family is not only genetically verified to be McCarthy Reagh, but they were *known* to be McCarthy Reagh up until their emigration. Speaking with Mr. Hurley, he recalled that they were also known (at least recently) in Drinagh as 'Mawnings' — although the precise meaning of this agnomen has not yet been determined.

The Recent History of the McCarthy Family of Cashloura

In 2019 I had concluded that we stem from the last recorded progeny of Donal MacCarthy Reagh and Kate O'Driscoll of Dunmanway. Given the destruction and total loss of vital records for the 18th century, this was deduced from dozens of other sources and Bayesian and Markovian analyses performed on the facts and available evidences. What was unclear and unknown was how the family connected to the Ross family of Caheragh parish, the O'Hurley family of Ballinacarriga, who the Honora McCarthy was that married Charles, and whether or not there was an alternative descent from the McCarthy family of Gortnascreeny as an alternative to the otherwise out-of-place Dunmanway family. To further complicate matters, the family still had connections to some McCarthy family in Dunmanway in 1801²⁹ and the Drinagh McCarthy's descendants today still remember them being wealthy and having substantial property. The marriage between James McCarthy and Mary Ross implies that the McCarthys already knew the Ross family, that the McCarthys were also likely gentrified, and that (as Margaret of the Skibbereen Heritage Centre adeptly independently noted) they "probably weren't from Cashloura originally but simply had the financial means to afford a lease"³⁰ for the farm in Cashloura — which is precisely what the 1791 deed memorial documents. This pattern was very atypical for a rural Catholic Irish family of the 18th and 19th centuries and required better explanation. Although a pedigree showing descent from Donal McCarthy and Kate O'Driscoll had been proposed and determined very likely, there was still the possibility that the McCarthys of Cashloura somehow descended from the McCarthy family of Gortnascreeny.

Part of the evidence considered in that determination was submitted to me in 2018 by Dr. Patrick Joseph McCarthy, M.D., who is a distant Y-DNA relative. We have a 95% likelihood that our common McCarthy ancestor lived in the 14th century and so we should not anticipate our McCarthy families to be closely related at all. Dr. McCarthy shared that his mother had a diary documenting that her grandfather, Cornelius O'Regan of Aghaville, married Catherine McCarthy who was descended from Finghin of Benduff. Dr McCarthy's mother also noted in that passage that her cousins were the McCarthy Reaghs from Drinagh who would visit the Regans of Aghaville. Critically, around the time of the diary being written, there was only one McCarthy family in Drinagh³¹ — namely, our family, who owned the Cashloura estate, the townland of Antmount, and 68 acres in nearby Kilbarry.³² Therefore, knowing there is only one spouse surnamed McCarthy in the family, Charles' wife Honora, it stands that Honora McCarthy must have been Catherine McCarthy's sister. Dr. McCarthy confirmed this, as he wrote to me saying:

*"I think there are two separate lines — the Gornascreeny line from Fineen of Benduff, grandson of Donal naPipi. My great grandmother Catherine was of this line. To make it more involved, one of her family married one of the Drinagh line — I think it was Catherine's sister who married a McCarthy of Drinagh."*³³

On 7 Sept 2021, Noreen McCarthy (who's McCarthy line is unrelated) contacted me asking about the connection between her Regan relatives and my McCarthy relatives, but shared the following:

*"we go back quite aways in the family history. ... My grandfather's brother would be Denis Mccarthy. He married Mary Hourihane. They had Julia McCarthy... Julia McCarthy and Timothy Regan had Sheila Regan then Sheila and Dan had Patrick."*³⁴

So we established that her grandfather's brother, Denis McCarthy, was Dr. McCarthy's matrilineal great-grandfather. Noreen descends from the brother of Denis McCarthy of Glenaphuca (b. 21 Dec 1846, d. Mar 1928) and his wife Mary Hourihane. Denis and Mary had a daughter, Julia. Julia married Timothy Regan (also O'Regan). Timothy was the son of Morgan O'Regan (and Margaret Donoghue), who was himself the son of Cornelius O'Regan of Aghaville and Catherine McCarthy (Reagh) of Gortnascreeny. Dr. Patrick Joseph McCarthy (b. 1935 and now living in Florida) is the grandson of that same Timothy O'Regan and Julia. Dr. Patrick McCarthy and Noreen are therefore second-cousins, once removed.

I notified Dr. McCarthy of Noreen and her relationship to him, and then put them in contact with each other. They realized that Dr. McCarthy had visited her family often as a child, and indeed, their family had retained substantial knowledge of the McCarthys. They worked together to compile what they knew, and Dr. McCarthy relayed the following:

*I contacted Noreen. I know several of her relations that as a child I visited with my mother. As your genealogy: Donal born 1690 died 1758 married Catherine O'Driscoll [and] they rented land [with a] lease of 3 lives³⁵ [in] Gortsowna³⁶ near Dunmanway. Donal born 1730 married Anna McCarthy Reagh of Gortnascreeny, 9 April 1761. Daniel born 1762 died 1826 married Catherine O'Hurley, daughter of Randal O'Hurley of Ballinacarriga Castle 8 Jan 1785. This was the end of the lease of lives in 1826. I suspect that this is when they moved to Drinagh. Next there is Daniel born 1793 died 1859 married to Julia Deasy 5 June 1820. He paid tithes 1826 [but] I have no record of where he died in 1859. The Deasys were a very prominent family called 'the six pennies' this was [because] the bribe, the ancestor mother, paid to escape from Waterford under siege by Cromwell 1665. In the 1800s they owned a distillery in Clonakilty. I hope this will fit in with your Drinagh information."*³⁷

This information provided was otherwise perfectly consistent with the pedigree I had assembled, save for two exceptions. Firstly, I had suspected that Daniel McCarthy, a brother of Charles, had married a Julia Deasy, but a deed memorial records his birth year as 1781, not 1793 as mentioned above. The Daniel who married Julia Deasy is the ancestor of Dr. Patrick McCarthy, but I am not recently descended from a common Y-DNA ancestor as Patrick, so it is consistent that Daniel (d. 1793) doesn't fit into the pedigree given here. Secondly, whereas I had originally suspected the father of Daniel McCarthy (who married Catherine O'Hurley) to have been Cormac, the eldest son of Donal and Kate O'Driscoll, the Regan family had retained knowledge that it was in fact Cormac's younger brother, Donal. With the collaboration of Dr. McCarthy and Noreen, we were finally able to align the Regan family of Aghaville with the McCarthys of Cashloura, and then the connection to Caheragh emerged — it was maternal! Charles married Honora, a sister of Catherine who married the O'Regans. It appears that it was through this maternal connection that the McCarthys came to know the Ross family of Dromcorragh, Corraganive, etc.

So how were Catherine (who married Cornelius O'Regan of Aghaville) and Honora McCarthy (who married Charles McCarthy of Cashloura) descended from Finghin of Benduff? Trusting Louis Lainé (the court genealogist to Kings Louis XVIII and Charles X of France) to be thorough, and the work of the College of Arms³⁸ to be exacting, then we know that the only female descendants from Finghin of Benduff were Anne and Hellen, (the two daughters of Daniel McCarthy and Helena O'Donovan, and likely born around the 1750s) and the unnamed three daughters born to Donogh McCarthy (b. 1731) and his wife, Eleanor O'Brien of Clash.³⁹ Since we know the names of the spouses of Cornelius O'Regan and Charles McCarthy (and they're not Anne and Hellen) we are left with one possibility — that Donogh and Eleanor must have been the parents of Catherine and Honora. It is important to note though that there was another gentrified McCarthy family of Gortnascreeny⁴⁰ which does not appear to fit into Lainé's pedigree, and so they must descend from some other McCarthy family (probably Clan Teige Ilen, Clan Dermot, or Clan Teige Roe who had held the lands in Caheragh parish for centuries prior to the Cromwellian confiscations).

This descent from Finghin of Benduff is important because it also explains the atypical marriage and migration patterns noted at the beginning of this essay by Margaret of the Skibbereen Heritage Centre. It was

unclear how or why the McCarthy family of Cashloura connected to the Ross family and the O’Hurley family, whilst retaining connections to a McCarthy family in Dunmanway, but now the family’s story now begins to emerge!

The Royal Origins of the Cashloura McCarthys

The Princes of Carbery lorded over West Cork for four centuries until the 17th Prince of Carbery, Donal na Pípi, surrendered the territory to King James I in July 1606 — expecting the Crown to grant the territory back to him and create him Earl of Carbery, in accordance with the Tudor era policy known as ‘Surrender and Regrant.’ However, this did not happen exactly as planned. Records suggest he was granted most of the territory to hold from the Crown, but was not elevated to the Peerage. However, by the middle of the 17th century religious persecution was rampant and as a Catholic-Irish lords, the MacCarthy Reagh family was threatened. Although no longer ‘Princes of Carbery,’ the senior bloodline of the MacCarthy Reagh did continue its practice of electing the Chief of the Name MacCarthy Reagh. Eventually the chiefship passed to Alexander, Donal na Pípi’s great-great-grandson. However, having supported the failed attempt of James II to regain the English Throne in 1691, the family began its descent down the social hierarchy. As we read in Louis Lainé’s work:

*“Alexander, who succeeded to the title of Mac-Carthy-Reagh, by the death of his uncle Daniel. Accused of high treason in 1691, for having embraced the cause of James II, went first to Spain, then to the service of France at the head of a regiment of his name. (See the Mercure de France, January and February 1731, pp. 178 and 403). He died without issue; his title passed to his cousin Florence, son of Donall.”*⁴¹

When Alexander died is unclear, but his successor was none other than his second-cousin, twice removed — Florence (also known in Irish as Finghin) of Benduff! Lainé’s work continues:

*“Florence MacCarthy of Benduff, who was a lieutenant-colonel of the infantry regiment commanded by Daniel MacCarthy-Reagh, in the service of James II. He succeeded Alexander in the title of MacCarthy-Reagh, Florence died in 1754, at the age of 96, and was buried in the church of Caheragh in Carbery, the parish where he had gone to live after William III had confiscated his goods. He had married Ellen O’Donovan, daughter of Daniel O’Donovan, and Julienne O’Shagnassy, daughter of the knight Dermot O’Shaughnessy of Goitinshogouragh, County Galway.”*⁴²

What prompted Finghin of Benduff to move to Caheragh parish is unknown, but there is a document showing a Donogh McCarthy Reagh residing in Dromcorragh at his death in 1663.⁴³ In 1641 and 1658 Dromcorragh was owned by the Coppinger family, but in 1658 a Donogh appears listed as Donogh *McDaniell* Carty, owning the townlands of Bohernabredagh (also held by him in 1641), Moyny, and Kilmore⁴⁴ which lay only a couple of miles from Dromcorragh. It could be that he resided in Dromcorragh, and leased out his properties to farm. If so, then it’s possible that this Donogh was Finghin’s second cousin and one of the “other sons” of Donal MacCarthy Reagh and Lady Hellen Roche. But while Finghin and Donogh’s precise relation is unknown, it could be that the move to Caheragh parish was decided on by a wish to reside with family. Whatever the reason, the subsequent generations resided in Caheragh parish and would have come to know the landed and gentrified Ross family rather well. So Finghin’s great-granddaughters, Honora and Catherine, would have certainly been well acquainted with the Ross family. This then laid the foundation for the Ross family connection which would be seen in the next generation.

Now, moving over to Dunmanway, it is currently unknown who Anne McCarthy Reagh was (Daniel McCarthy’s mother) and what her role was — if any — in moving the family from Dunmanway. It could be that she was a distant cousin linked to Caheragh (or neighboring Drimoleague and Drinagh) parish, perhaps a descendant of the aforementioned Donogh McCarthy Reagh of Dromcorragh; or maybe a descendant of some MacCarthy Reagh who had married a daughter of the nearby O’Hurley family a few generations prior. Regardless, her son, Daniel McCarthy, married Catherine O’Hurley of Ballinacarriga Castle in 1785. Indeed, members of the Hurley family, both then and now, reside in Cashloura and so it could be that Daniel met Catherine, and moved to Cashloura to establish a presence closer to her family. Whatever the reason, Daniel and Catherine were married and appear to be living in Cashloura by 1791, when he then took the 36 year lease⁴⁵ (listed as Dan Carty of Cashloura) from Mr. John Taylor for the farmlands in Cashloura. There is a deed for Cashloura in 1777⁴⁶ which testifies to the fact that there was no McCarthy presence in the townland at that time — confirming the 1791 deed’s evidence that Daniel McCarthy (recorded as Dan Carty) was the first McCarthy to establish a presence in the townland. Now residing in Cashloura, Daniel would have still

retained his old friendships and family relations and this explains his witnessing the 1801 deed between Jeremiah and Denis McCarthy of Dunmanway.⁴⁷ He then died in 1825 and so the lease of 3 lives in Gurteennasowna expired, with him being the grandson of Donal who took the lease in 1728.⁴⁸

Indeed, there is even a strong (and otherwise still unexplained) connection between this Daniel McCarthy and Gortnascreeny. Knowing “Dan Carty” was alive in 1791 and deceased by 1833 (else he would have been listed in the Cashloura Tithe records), and assuming the probate indices are complete, there is only one Daniel McCarthy (including searches for Carty, Carthy, Mac Carthy, MacCarthy, McCarthy, McCarty, Cartie, McCartie, MacCartie, and Carthie) who’s estate went to probate between 1791 and 1833 in the Diocese of Cork & Ross – Daniel McCarthy of Gortnascreeny in 1826.⁴⁹ As there is no record of a Daniel S. McCarthy Esq. of Gortnascreeny (or any of its variant spellings; namely Gortnascreena, Gortnascreeny, and Garnascreeny) in 1825, we must necessarily conclude that this is the same Daniel McCarthy and his estate simply didn’t go to probate until at least 6 months after his death in July 1825. Furthermore, since we know the McCarthys of Cashloura to have had a large estate, which would have gone to probate, we then know that Daniel McCarthy of Cashloura (who Dr. McCarthy recorded as dying in 1826) is in fact the same as the Daniel S. McCarthy who died in Gortnascreeny in July 1825. Given the close family ties in Gortnascreeny, he was likely visiting relatives, or possibly resided in Gortnascreeny in his older years while leasing the farm in Cashloura. He was listed as Dan Carty, farmer, of Cashloura in the 1791 deed, but by 1825 it is evident that he elevated his social rank to “Esq.” when his family then inherited (at least) the 243 acres of Cashloura in 1826.

It’s important to remember there does appear to be the other aforementioned McCarthy family of Gortnascreeny, represented by a ‘Florence McCarty, Gent.’ who died in 1789.⁵⁰ It’s unclear who exactly this family is, but Florence could have been a sibling of Daniel, a member of the Anna’s family, or possibly (although unlikely) a member of Finghin of Benduff’s descendants. Knowing there is no room for a male named Florence in Lainé’s pedigree of the descendants of Finghin of Benduff, and knowing the region to have been historically inhabited by descendants of the Clan Dermot sept,⁵¹ it seems most likely that this other family descended from that family — the descendants of Clan Dermot — and so possibly retained a lower social status than the more recent descendants of the chiefly family. Indeed, this could be consistent with the records labelling that family as “gent.” Up until the 1820s “an abbreviation of either Gentleman or Gentlewoman [was] used as a designation of status, generally higher than Yeoman but lower than Esq. In most cases those who aspired to this level of society would have been addressed as Mr. or Mrs.”⁵² Daniel McCarthy was listed as Esq. denoting a higher social rank than that of the other family, and consistent with his more recent descent from a chiefly/noble family.

Daniel and Catherine had at least three sons; Charles (who ultimately inherited Cashloura),⁵³ Daniel, and Owen.⁵⁴ Charles appears to have inherited 120 acres of the Cashloura estate and is living there in 1833.⁵⁵ Charles married Honora McCarthy,⁵⁶ but now we must return to the family of Finghin of Benduff — and here the Dunmanway McCarthy Reagh and the Gortnascreeny McCarthy Reagh family’s finally unite in Cashloura.

Since it was the social norm throughout the 18th and 19th centuries to arrange marriages,⁵⁷ it appears that the two neighborly MacCarthy Reagh families of Caheragh and Drinagh arranged the marriage between Charles and his cousin Honora — Anne (Charles’ grandmother) probably already being close to Finghin of Benduff’s family, her cousins. The marriage between Charles and Honora united the two branches of the MacCarthy Reagh clan, and Honora (now being well acquainted with the Ross family) would have “then arranged the marriage between their son, James, and Mary Ross.”⁵⁸ This patrilineal descent from Donal and Kate, and this matrilineal descent from Finghin of Benduff provides the solution to the mystery of the family’s dispersed and relations.

The Lost Chiefship and Devolution of the Family’s Status to Modern Memory

The family clearly retained the ‘Reagh’ agnomen into the 1900s, and appears to have only been totally lost when the family emigrated in 1911. But we can ask a crucial question: why? What happened to any memory or pretense to the Chiefship of the Name? The answer is simple, though perhaps counterintuitive — it died out. Looking through the line of succession to the Chiefship of the family over four centuries it appears that it was typical for the family to follow a strict practice of tanistry. Under tanistic succession, the royal family elected from amongst the derbhfine a qualified successor, and the derbhfine was the kin-group descended from a common great-grandfather (i.e. males up to second-cousins of the current Chief). When Alexander became Chief, the ancestor of the Cashloura McCarthys was not only on the very fringe of the derbhfine, but was actually living in France. Traditionally, a chief had to reside in the country over which he was lord — so our ancestor (s) were effectively removed from the line of succession! So faced with no other male within the immediate derbhfine, the chiefship passed to the next closest surviving relative — Alexander’s second cousin (once removed) — Finghin of Benduff.

Finghin died in 1754, and he had only one surviving male descendant, who lived in Portugal. Finghin's situation was now bleak. By 1754 he was left with no surviving *derbhfine* residing in Carbery, no knowledge about the Dunmanway family who could otherwise have been restored to the succession, the confiscation of all his estates by the Crown, the Protestant Ascendancy being the dominant socio-economic force in the nation, the Penal Laws in full effect, and a 'royal' title that now lay economically worthless, politically dangerous, and otherwise meaningless with utterly no power or political influence. All that his descendants had was a prominent name and whatever remained of the family's personal wealth (which was not, by all accounts, wholly inconsiderable).

What about the family in France — the Cashloura McCarthys' paternal ancestors? The family stems from Finghin MacCarthy Reagh (*b.* 1625, *d.* 1676), who has been reported as being a son of Cormac MacCarthy Reagh and Lady Eleanor MacCarthy of Muskerry. However, the Inquisition Post Mortem of Donal MacCarthy Reagh (husband of Lady Hellen Roche) proves Cormac was born in 1620 — making him 5 years of age at the birth of Finghin. Conceding that there is ample evidence to support the existence of Finghin and his membership in the family, it stands that Finghin was Cormac's brother and therefore was one of the "other sons"⁵⁹ of Donal recorded in the Funeral Entry of Viscount Muskerry. Having not succeeded to the Chiefship and lordship of Carbery, Finghin moved to France in 1647 and married Mary, the daughter of a French count,⁶⁰ and was subsequently regarded as "le comte de MacCarthy-Reagh."⁶¹ He appears to have sailed back to Ireland to support King Charles II during the Restoration in 1660 and was even granted a 100£ per year pension on 21 August 1671⁶² for having "greatly helped and succored the Protestants"⁶³ in Ireland. Finghin, then was (at least nominally) a Protestant, despite his father and mother (and whole family) being Catholic. But there is a familial consistency in this — he supported and fought for King Charles II, and when the Williamite War broke out, Finghin's family all supported Charles' brother and heir, James II.

Finghin went to France and married Mary — but it's unlikely that there would be no record of a French comital family (typically Catholics) marrying an Irish prince (who was a Catholic), unless they were in fact Huguenots! This makes sense then. Finghin moved to France and to marry Mary, the daughter of a secretly Huguenot family, and became a Protestant — or at least sympathized with the Protestant cause. So when he sees Charles II returning to England via Ireland, Finghin takes advantage of the opportunity to support his king. He must have been rather prominent in his services to have received a pension, and so could have served on an extended tour on behalf of King Charles II. It is otherwise unknown what happened between 1660 and 1676, when Finghin dies in France, but in 1670 King Charles II signed the Secret Treaty of Dover with King Louis XIV, promising to send troops to fight for Louis. It seems likely that Finghin then returned to France with those troops after war was declared against the Dutch on 7 April 1672. Once King Charles II signed the Treaty of Westminster in 1674 ending the war, Finghin likely then returned home in France, where he was killed in a duel two years later. Exactly how and why Finghin spent his 12 years away from France will likely never be known, but that is one possibility.

At some point, Finghin and Mary's eldest son, Cormac, moved to Ireland and settled his own family — who became the McCarthy family now residing in Colorado. The second son, Dermot, remained in France and had a son — Donal. There appears to have been a break in the family because Cormac went to Ireland, Dermot remained in France, but their mother, Mary, moved to England during the reign of Queen Anne. When Finghin was alive he was good friends with John Churchill, who would later become the Duke of Marlborough. So John, as duke, did what he could to aid Mary in her state of need — seemingly taking her in and supporting her. He petitioned Queen Anne to restore Finghin's pension to Mary and allow her to travel to Ireland.⁶⁴ This left their second son, Dermot, to inherit any French estate they may have had.

We know from the State Papers that Finghin fought for Charles II and in so doing had Protestant sympathies, and O'Hart recorded his elder son, Cormac, returned to Ireland and having a son there,⁶⁵ who we know must have been born around 1690. From this we know Dermot was left in France, where his son was born. We also know from the State Papers that Finghin's wife, Mary, was in England about to travel to Ireland in 1704. Therefore Mary and Cormac were in Ireland prior to 1704, having forfeited any French estate in Dermot's favor, and in all this, a family disagreement begins to emerge. While Mary and Finghin were either Huguenots or at least Huguenot supporters, Dermot — now poised to inherit the comital estate in France — had ample reason to remain faithful not just to his MacCarthy Reagh clan's Catholic faith, but the faith of his allies King Charles II and James II, and most importantly, the Catholic faith protected and recognized by King Louis XIV. Indeed, there must have been such a division in the family, because Dermot was staunchly a Catholic Jacobite, fighting for James II in McElligott's Regiment during the Williamite War⁶⁶ and evidently allied with his first cousin, Donal, The MacCarthy Reagh, who sat in the Irish Parliament of King James II in 1689.⁶⁷ But Dermot's support for James II could have indeed come from his support for his father's allegiances. As his father was a friend of John Churchill, and Churchill initially supported James II, it seems that Dermot allied himself with his father's friend's support for James II. It's possible that word of Churchill's defection from James' camp hadn't reached Dermot in France by 1689 when he joined the French army to Ireland with James II, but even if word of Churchill's defection did reach Dermot, he well may have acted

understanding that his father would have supported Charles II's rightful successor — regardless of his religious faith. But Dermot, serving under McElligott, would have found himself at war with his father's old friend, as he faced off against Marlborough at the Siege of Cork in 1690.

Now, with his father dead and his mother and brother residing in Ireland, Dermot inherited his family estate in France as a veteran of the Catholic cause during the Williamite War. What prompted the move we may never know, but Dermot (probably only knowing that his grandfather once possessed the town and manor of Dunmanway in the 17th century) moved his family “to Dunmanway in 1715 as the Irish Brigade was reduced after the Treaty of Utrecht in 1714,”⁶⁸ bringing his son, Donal, with him. Not knowing anything of his cousin's (Finghin of Benduff's) succession crisis about to ensue in the next 40 years, and surely unaware, or possibly even simply unconcerned, that their family had any claim to the chiefship, the McCarthys of Dunmanway (and later Cashloura) likely would have found themselves in a similar position as Finghin of Benduff — forced to survive on the remnants of the comital wealth they had in France. So, like Finghin of Benduff's Gortnascreeny family, they opted to preserve their well-being, and sadly that meant deprioritizing any claim to, and eventually even any memory of, the chiefship.

They were however aware of their MacCarthy Reagh origins and agnomen, which was passed along through the family, who shared it with those closest to them, and even ventured (knowingly or unknowingly) to marry distant MacCarthy Reagh cousins (the Gortnascreeny family) — a mentality and practice perfectly consistent with the relicts of a dynastic family attempting to maintain some semblance of family structure. When even that came to a collapse and the economic and political situation in Ireland became too grave, they did as so many kinsmen and countrymen of their age did, and resettled in America in 1911.

Once in America, all that remained were vague memories from the descendants of tenant farmers that the McCarthys were once the local landlords, and a memory retained from an ancestral family feud that Daniel James McCarthy was wealthy and had owned a large estate. But from Prince to dispossessed Chief, to landlord, to laborer in Springfield — the family had eventually lost sight of what townland they even came from in Ireland, let alone any whisper that they were once a royal dynasty.

- ¹ O'Hart, John. *Irish Pedigrees, or, The Origin and Stem of the Irish Nation*. 5th ed. Dublin: M.H. Gill & Son, 1892.
- ² Moody, Terry W., et al. *A New History of Ireland. A Companion to Irish History, Part II*. Vol. 9, Oxford University Press, 2011, pp. 157, 168.
- ³ Ó Duinnín, Domhnall, and Tadhg Mac Bruaideadha. *The Book of Munster*. Translated by Rev. Eugene O'Keeffe, 1703.
- ⁴ *Pedigree of MacCarthy Reagh and MacCarthy Mor, Lords of Carbery, of Fyall, c.1500 -- 1687*, Dublin: National Library of Ireland, Genealogical Office: Ms. 156, pp.233-4.
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