

THE PRENDERGAST FAMILY

( A Survey )

by

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## INTRODUCTION

The vicissitudes of great families form a curious chapter in the general history of mankind; in fact, the interest attaching to individual fortunes is of a more human character and excites more of human sympathy than that which belongs to the fate of Kingdoms.<sup>1</sup> So says Sir Bernard Burke, and I am readily prepared to endorse his sentiments here, having studied the vicissitudes of the Prendergast family - not indeed because I consider that family of very great importance and worthy of inclusion among those which Burke had in mind, but because the Prendergast family is 'great' in its own right, and being perhaps a lesser family than those titled or of the gentry, it might better illustrate the vicissitudes of a greater number of families in Ireland.

We do not learn of these vicissitudes, however, without toil and difficulty, and Burke continues: "But such details are seldom to be found close at hand. They are, for the most part, scattered about in private papers, and in chronicles seldom read, buried under a mass of dry and unattractive materials, from which they must be disinterred and have the dust swept off, before they can be fitly presented to the public at large."<sup>2</sup> I might add here that I have handled volumes, in the preparation of this work, which were, apparently, previously unused, the leaves themselves very often not even being guillotined. I am reminded of an incident which John P. Prendergast recorded when he first undertook the study of old records - he did not find a corner free of dust whereon to lay his coat.<sup>3</sup> However, most of the same old records have since been introduced to day-light, thanks to the efforts of John P. Prendergast and his associates, and modern historians should be thankful to their manly predecessors.

In endeavouring to present a comprehensible survey of the Prendergast family, I have traversed a period of some nine hundred years, and while one cannot hope to offer a complete family history within a short essay such as this, yet one hopes that a faithful survey of the various family fortunes in varying ages will be satisfactorily accomplished. The work will embrace all the great movements in Irish history since the Norman Invasion of 1169, the changes and eruptions in society which took place will be illustrated, while the principal concern will be that section of history which perhaps is not so carefully studied as it might be - domestic history. Many and varied difficulties have been encountered on the way, but while one might often wince at apparent contradictions in various sources, problems of dating and identification, unfamiliar terms - be they feudal, legal or local, topographical puzzles, problems of editing, etc., and while one might easily be over-awed by the very scope and nature of the work itself, yet at its completion the work is best remembered as an occupation and an amusement, a challenge and an enjoyment, with satisfactory results, I trust.

There is perhaps no part of the world which has suffered such violent and almost incessant convulsions as Ireland, with the resultant disorganised and upset nature of social happiness and prosperity. "The attentive student of Irish history is wearied with the record of perpetual wars ... and there is scarcely a family or a seat that has not shared deeply in these feverish changes and calamities."<sup>4</sup> One might often wonder that whereas after the wars of the Roses in England, whereby many a whole house fell and many a noble race was utterly crushed, very few of those who suffered left the country, the very opposite is true in Ireland. Here the dispossessed chieftains and the attainted lords had too much spirit and pride to remain passively at home under the new order of things. Catholic Europe beckoned to them with a longing hand, offering noble wars and glorious honours. English policy favoured and encouraged the exodus. Many a well born gentleman, torn from his patrimony, sought and found, on the hospitable shores of America and Australia, the shelter and happiness denied him in the land of his forefathers. Some who stayed at home, in the vain hope of retrieving the past, or who were too old to enter on a new career either at home or abroad, ended their days in the poor-house.

In Ireland family history and national history can scarcely be separated: the vicissitudes of one are the vicissitudes of the other.<sup>5</sup> One is incomplete without the other. There is an inter-relationship between both: family history is important both as a reflection of historical environment and as an aid to the historian. Without such an aid the historian might well be unable to explain fully social, political, religious or even economical attitudes. This is the value of family history and this is its justification.

In conclusion, I will allow Sir Bernard Burke to divulge his views on the moral value of family history: "That spirit of emulation and perseverance, which so mainly contributes to success, may be awakened by the example of greatness built up from the lowest grounds by the well-directed energy, while pride may derive a no less useful lesson from seeing how little stability there is in the highest gifts of fortune."<sup>6</sup>

## Chapter One

### THE NAME AND ITS FIRST APPEARANCE IN ENGLAND

'Whilst we have no difficulty in connecting all the Irish Prendergasts with the famous companion of Earl Strongbow, we not only find a parish of that name in Pembrokeshire, from whence he took his title and sailed on his expedition, but also a district and family similarly named in Berwickshire.'<sup>7</sup> Standish Prendergast, 4th Viscount Gort, whose illuminating manuscript on the Prendergast family I shall often hereafter have occasion to quote, immediately discusses whether the families took their names from the lands or the lands from the families. However, let us first consider the form of the name itself and its origin.

John Patrick Prendergast thinks the name Flemish.<sup>8</sup> The termination 'gast', he says, signifies 'lord', and is found in the names 'Windogast', 'Sadogast', 'Bodogast' - the supposed founders of the Salic Law, and is retained to this day in Holland, where the name Brontegeest is perhaps the name of Prendergast in Dutch. In confirmation of this viewpoint, Standish Prendergast records how Monsieur Ogilvie told him that there was a place called Prentegest near Ghent, as well as a Prendergast in Normandy. The army of William the Conqueror, whose wife was a Flemish princess, included many of her countrymen, of whom the 'Prelindergast' on some copies of the Roll of Battle Abbey may have been one. Horenden, Florence of Worcester and others tell us that Henry I planted many of that nation in Northumberland in 1111, when they fled to England from the inundations in Flanders.<sup>9</sup> However, they came in such numbers, we are told, that they became a burden to that part of England, and so Henry had some removed to Rhos in Pembrokeshire. As Prendergasts are found in both of these localities, which were thus colonised by the Flemings, and with the Christian name Adam common to both, this seems to point to identity of origin. However, Standish Prendergast does not consider this so, and a brief look at each of these families in turn might now help to identify them.

No mention, to my knowledge, is made of the Prendergast family in Northumberland or Berwickshire before the year 1235, although we find that a territory called Prendergast was granted to the Abbey of Berwick by King Edgar, who died in 1107 - prior to the inundations of Flanders.<sup>10</sup> In 1235 Adam de Prendergast held Prendergast, Co Berwick, and half a carucate of land in Coldingham from that priory.<sup>11</sup> He held lands in Northumberland in 1236 and he may have been the 'Adam Flandrensis' who was Governor of Berwick about this time. In 1298 Henry de Prendergast held Prendergast under the Abbey of Berwick, paying for it 60 shillings at Martinmas and Pentecost, and 16 shillings at Easter. He also held lands in Berwickshire from John de Prendergast in 1296. Earlier, in 1265

Henry de Prendergast had obtained leave to have a private chapel within his court at Prendergast. Piers de Prendergast signed the treaty of peace with Edward I in 1306, he being on the side of John Comyne of Badinock, and at this time also Monsieur Henri de Prendergast petitioned for lands in Scotland. This Henry held lands in Northumberland, which, on 5 August 1316,<sup>12</sup> were granted to Robert de Felton, having been taken into the King's custody by reason of Henry's adherence to the Scots. On 12 May 1330, we learn that restitution was made to Henry, a Scot, of his lands in Akill and Yenre in Co. Northumberland.<sup>13</sup> Henry died possessed of these lands in 1333 and he was succeeded by Adam, who had Scottish loyalties also. On 1 February 1335, the town of Akild was granted to Thomas de Heton, having been taken from Adam on account of what we might call his 'rebellious nature'.<sup>14</sup> Adam, however, was Seneschal of Colindgham in 1341, and he left a son Robert at his death, who had a grant of Sheriff-biggings near Berwick in compensation for forfeitures incurred by him in 1374. Nine years later Thomas Prendergast was similarly compensated.<sup>15</sup> These Prendergasts were henceforth allied with the Scottish party in Border warfare, and when Henry IV entered Berwick as a conqueror and displayed his power by ordering seven attainted knights to be beheaded by the seashore, Hasting's quaint chronicle tells us that among them "Prendergast ran on the sea also."

One of the name had served the English well in 1337, just after Akild (or Akill) had been restored to the family, but even he could not win the confidence of his hereditary enemies. Fordun's first-hand account of the story is sufficiently rare to justify inclusion here, as translated by John Patrick Prendergast:<sup>16</sup> de juperdia Roberti Prendergast, A.D. 1337.

"This Robert Prendergast, a bold and able Scot, was assisting the English, and went out one day with the garrison of Edinburg and by his skill enabled them to bring back a large body of cattle levied off the poor farmers of the neighbourhood of Caldermore. The same evening, however, at supper, notwithstanding his services, they placed him among the varlets. Ill-brooking this indignity, he refused his meat, though he had eaten none that day, when the Marshal, Thomas Knatown by name, observing his sullenness, said: "Why, Sir, do you not eat when there is plenty of food before you?" "I thought," replied Robert, "that I had deserved better by my deeds this day than to be set among the pages." "You are proud," rejoined the Marshal, "you Scots need to be humbled," and with that the Marshal struck him over the head with a cudgel he carried in his hand, which made the blood splurt over those that sat at meat with him. Robert, dissembling his wrath, waited until next day for the hour when the Marshal was wont to take a walk in the town for pleasure, and lying hid in an entry, rushed out as the Marshal, in the midst of a large body of English companions, passed by; and with a slight salutation drawing a skean from under his cloak, stabbed the Marshal to the heart.

The Marshal's companions rushed upon Robert to seize him, but, fighting as he flew, he mortally wounded three of his pursuers, and getting out at the north gate of the town, he barred it behind him (as he had pre-arranged?) and made for Holyrood Abbey Church, which he reached in safety; and here he claimed sanctuary by ringing, as is customary, a stroke on the bell. The chancel not being open for him, he entered the chapel of St. Austin where he knelt down in prayer - in which posture he was found by the English who, for fear of God, dared not follow him further. However, they fastened up his place of custody and forbade food to be brought to him; and at night they kept poking him with long sticks to prevent his sleeping, and so to bring him to a miserable end. In this manner he passed twelve days, but at midnight when the brethren began the Matin prayers, the Sexton secretly got up over the vaulted roof of the chapel and by means of a rope let some victuals down to him.

At length the Sexton one night got four of the monks to help, and letting down a stronger rope, the prisoner fastened it round his body and was quickly drawn up by the monks, who clothed him in the habit of the brotherhood, and next morning at the break of day they took him out of the monastery with them at the Salisbury gate, as if they were going for a walk, and there they left him at liberty; and he, rejoicing like a giant to run his course, sped away and stopped not until he reached William of Douglas, then lying in the Pentland Hills watching the English and their men. The following night Robert persuaded the Douglas to make an attack upon Edinburgh, into which he got with his troops before the English garrison had any notice of his approach, so that he surprised and slew about eighty of them as they were dispersed in houses about the town."<sup>17</sup>

And so ended the revenge of Robert Prendergast. As Fordun died about 1386 perhaps he was personally acquainted with this adventurous hero, and he certainly reports with the assurance of an eye-witness. However, we must now take leave of our Northumberland namesakes, but before moving Southwards it is well to recall that, although there is no mention made of the family of Prendergast in Northumberland or Berwickshire before 1235, yet we find there a territory so called in 1107. Standish Prendergast thinks it probable that the Prendergasts of the Border took their name from the territory, and would hardly fancy them related to the Prendergasts of South Wales. Perhaps it is better, however, to associate the Prendergasts of the Border with a member of the army of William the Conqueror, the locality in Berwickshire taking its name from that member, who would already have been called 'de Prendergast' at the time of the Norman Invasion of England. In that way the origin of the name and family would accord with what is generally believed to have happened in Pembrokeshire.

The small parish of Prendergast, close to Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire, adjoined the estates held by the Roches and Carews before these chieftains assisted their Earl to conquer Ireland. A manuscript belonging to Harris Prendergast,

Q.C., says that Philip de Prendergast - whose father was called a Marshal to William the Conqueror - accompanied Gerald de Windsor on his expedition into Wales (c. 1100), obtained a large grant of land there, married a De Clare and was father of that Maurice, who first came to Ireland.<sup>18</sup> If this is true, and I find little reason to suspect it, Philip gave his name to the Castle and parish of which he became seized; the parish is still called Prendergast today. We have seen already that there was a place called Prentegest near Ghent and also a Prendergast in Normandy. An invader from either of these places would naturally be called 'de Prendergast', and Woulfe informs us that, at the time of the Norman invasion of England, many of the great Norman heroes already bore surnames, sometimes patronymic, sometimes territorial.<sup>19</sup> This would tend to confirm the view that the name Prendergast was introduced to England at the time of the Norman Conquest, and it would furthermore account for the Prendergast denominations in Northumberland and Pembrokeshire, which denominations would have taken their names from the chiefs who occupied them. This, too, would point to identity of origin, and I have no hesitation in believing that both the Prendergasts of the Border and those of Pembrokeshire are sprung from a young Flemish adventurer, who joined the army of William the Conqueror and helped in the Norman Conquest of England.

Our story now converges on the grandson of that adventurer, Maurice, son of Philip de Prendergast, who was a man of good position when he determined to accompany Richard de Clare, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, on his famous expedition to Ireland. Vir probus et strenuus says Giraldus Cambrensis of him, 'a lustie and hardie man, borne about Milford in West Wales in or about the province of Pembroke.' 'A right valiant captain and a gentleman born and bred in South Wales' says Holinshed in his reference to Maurice de Prendergast, who, leaving Milford Haven at the head of 10 knights and 60 archers landed in Ireland on 2nd May, 1169, one day after the first detachment of Norman invaders had troubled its shores.



## Chapter Two

### THE FAITHFUL NORMAN

'There crossed over a baron  
With seven companies,  
Maurice de Prendergast was his name  
As the song tells us . . .  
At Bannow they landed  
With all their men . . . ' (l. 453 f.)

These lines are taken from The Song of Dermot and the Earl, an old French poem, edited with text, literal translation and notes by Goddard Henry Orpen. In an historical criticism of the poem,<sup>20</sup> Rev J. F. O'Doherty concluded that this chanson de geste was composed in the second quarter of the thirteenth century and that it was based partly on oral tradition and partly on a pre-existing poem. It is a laudatory poem concerning itself only with the leading men on the Norman side at the Invasion of Ireland. Orpen thought the poem to be 'an entirely independent authority for the facts it relates' and as Fr O'Doherty has failed to discover any inconsistency between the facts as recorded in the poem and those recorded elsewhere concerning Maurice de Prendergast, I feel completely justified in following the narrative of the poem in so far as it concerns the present story. However, we will do well to remember that the Song is essentially a laudatory poem and that we are likely to get a more heightened and enthusiastic description therein than one might expect from the plain prosaic records and bald statements of the native annals or even from the fuller writings of Giraldus Cambrensis.

Shortly after his arrival at Bannow Strand, we find Maurice with his subjects stationed in Ossory, where in accompaniment with King Dermot McMurrough, he decided to strike manfully against the men of Ossory. Maurice directed the attack, but his foreign band was as yet inexperienced, and it was stoutly resisted by the Ossorians. However, when Dermot takes Maurice fully into his confidence, Prendergast 'shouts and invokes St David', and with new-found zeal the foreigners overcome the natives. Emboldened by this early success the Norman barons decided to plunder Offelan, the territory of MacKelan, whom they defeated, and they returned to Ossory laden with spoils. Eventually King Dermot, with the help of these foreigners, subdued the whole territory about Ossory and he wished to retain Maurice de Prendergast with his company of soldiers. However, apparently longing to return to Wales -

'This man departed from King Dermot  
Full 200 he brought away with him . . .  
Towards Wexford he set out  
He wished to cross the sea to Wales' (l.1066 ff)

Dermot was annoyed and sent word to the mariners of Wexford to obstruct Prendergast's passage, 'so that he could not cross the sea.' Maurice was afraid of these men, but he so parleyed with them that the men of Wexford city also turned against King Dermot, and Prendergast sent word immediately to the King of Ossory, stating that he would come to him without deceit, if he so wished. MacDonnchadh, King of Ossory -

' . . . was rejoiced at the news  
And leaped to his feet with joy.  
To the baron he straightway sent word  
That he should certainly come to him;  
And he would give him  
Very rich and ample.' (1.1096 ff.)

So Maurice de Prendergast with a bigger force than before sets off back to Ossory, and forcing his way past Donnell Kavanagh, who, with 500 men, had opposed his passage, he reached Timolin<sup>22</sup> in safety. There MacDonnchadh awaited him and his band of supporters, and thence all proceeded joyfully to Ossory. Having thus ingratiated himself with the men of Ossory, Prendergast -

' . . . received  
The name of "Maurice of Ossory."  
Thus the Irish of this country  
Always called him,  
In that he had come to Ossory  
And remained with the King.' (1.1146 ff.)

The King of Ossory, with Maurice's aid, advanced into O'More's territory in Leix. Maurice forced O'More to submit and five hostages, but afterwards he was himself obliged to retire out of Leix on the arrival of Dermot MacMurrough and the English, whose assistance O'More had secretly implored. The men of Ossory were much discontented at this, having to hire and pay these foreigners, apparently to no advantage. As a result, among them were found traitors, who -

' . . . accordingly began to plot  
One in front, another behind;  
They resolve to betray Maurice  
And to part his treasure among them:  
For their gold and silver  
They resolved to murder these men.  
Thus they had plotted  
Treachery all in secret.' (1.1211 ff.)

The traitors went to MacDonnchadh and disclosed their plan. But he was adverse.

Meanwhile, Maurice had come unawares to MacDonnchadh asking for licence to return to Wales. MacDonnchadh realised the imminent danger to Maurice's life and regretfully gave his

consent, beseeching him nonetheless to remain a while longer. But Maurice and his companions decided to set off immediately 'to visit their friends'. On hearing this MacDonnchadh himself went in league with the traitors and revived their embitterness. They planned to waylay Maurice on his journey to Waterford. But Maurice was forewarned, and he told MacDonnchadh that he would stay with him another half year or so. The King of Ossory was satisfied and ordered the traitors to return home. But -

'In the night when they were asleep,  
Maurice then sent word  
By a private page  
That all the barons should take horse  
Archers, squires and serjeants,  
Both small and great . . . ' (1.1356 ff.)

-and by means of the resultant midnight march they all escaped safely to Waterford whence they embarked for Wales, 'safe and sound, joyous and glad.'

However, Maurice de Prendergast returned again to Ireland, presumably with Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, who landed at Waterford on 23rd August 1170. Orpen says that 'At Haveford Strongbow appears to have persuaded Maurice to try his fortunes in Ireland once more,<sup>23</sup> and as Maurice is found again on Irish soil early in 1171, we may reasonably conclude that he had returned with the Earl of Pembroke himself.

Dermot MacMurrough died on 1 May 1171 and shortly afterwards the Norsemen, led by Hasculf, made an assault on Dublin, which had been taken from them by the Normans less than a year previously. Rory O'Connor, the High King of Ireland, advanced to their aid with a large army, as did many of the Irish chiefs. The Normans were surrounded and grew desperate for want of provisions. Strongbow sends Maurice de Prendergast with Lawrence O'Toole to Rory, offering terms. But Rory is quite confident and replies boldly, in the negative. The Normans are annoyed, and decide secretly to make a sudden attack. O'Connor is totally unprepared for this and his troops are quickly disbanded. Dublin is successfully defended by the Normans and Strongbow duly declares himself King of Leinster.

It was about this time that the incident 'well calculated to win our admiration' presented itself, the same incident which has won for Sir Maurice de Prendergast the immortal title of 'The Faithful Norman'. I can do no better than relate the incident as recorded by A. M. Sullivan in The Story of Ireland.<sup>24</sup>

'Maurice de Prendergast was deputed by Earl Strongbow as envoy to Mac Giolla Padraig, Prince of Ossory (i.e. MacDonnchadh), charged to invite him to a conference in the Norman camp. Prendergast undertook to prevail upon the Ossorian Prince to comply, on receiving from Strongbow a solemn pledge, that good faith would be observed towards the Irish chief, and that he should be free and safe coming and return-

ing. Relying on this pledge, Prendergast bore the invitation to Mac Giolla Patrick and prevailed upon him to accompany him to the Earl. Understanding, however, during the conference that treachery was about to be used towards Mac Giolla Patrick, he rushed into Strongbow's presence and swore by the cross of his shield that no man there that day should dare lay hands on the King of Ossory. And well kept he his word. Out of the camp, when the conference ended, rode the Irish chief, and by his side, good sword in hand, that glorious type of honour and chivalry, Prendergast, ever since named in Irish tradition and history as 'The Faithful Norman' - faithful among the faithless we might truly say! Scrupulously did he redeem his word to the Irish Prince. He not only conducted him safely back to his own camp, but encountering on the way a force belonging to Strongbow's ally, O'Brien, returning from a foray in Ossory, he attacked and defeated them. That night the Faithful Norman remained, as the old chronicler has it, "in the woods", the guest of the Irish chief, and next day returned to the Irish lines. This truly pleasing episode - this little oasis of chivalrous honour in the midst of a trackless expanse of treacherous and ruthless warfare, has been made the subject of a short poem by Mr. Aubrey de Vere, in his Lyrical Chronicle of Ireland:

#### THE FAITHFUL NORMAN

Praise to the valiant and faithful foe!  
Give us noble foes, not the friend who lies!  
We dread the drugged cup, not the open blow;  
We dread the old hate in the new disguise.

To Ossory's King they had pledged their word;  
He stood in their camp, and their pledge they broke;  
Then Maurice the Norman upraised his sword;  
The cross on its hilt he kiss'd, and spoke:

"So long as this sword or this arm hath might,  
I swear by the cross which is lord of all,  
By the faith and honour of noble and knight  
Who touches you, Prince, by this hand shall fall!"

So side by side through the throng they pass'd;  
And Eire gave praise to the just and true.  
Brave foe! the past truth heals at last;  
There is room in the great heart of Eire for you.

It is nigh 700 years since "The Faithful Norman" linked the name of Prendergast to honour and chivalry on Irish soil. Those who have read that truly remarkable work, Prendergast's Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland will conclude that the spirit of Maurice is still to be found amongst some of those who bear his name.'

We shall have more to say about the author of the Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland later on in this essay, but

at the moment let us return to the immediate fortunes of Maurice de Prendergast and his further exploits before his death in 1205.

As regards the subinfeudation of Leinster, we read in the Song of Dermot and the Earl as follows: -

'To Maurice de Prendergast  
The valiant earl Richard  
Had already given Fernegenal  
And in the Council confirmed it . . .  
Ten fiefs he gave him on this condition  
For the service of ten knights' (l. 3070 ff.)

This territory, which seemingly had been promised to Maurice by the Earl even before the infeudation - perhaps it was by means of this promise that Maurice was enticed back to Ireland - this territory called Fernegenal was a portion of Dermot MacMurrrough's own Kingdom, separated from the town of Wexford by the river Slaney. Orpen tells us in a note<sup>25</sup> that Fernegenal (Fearann-na-Glenel) was a territory in the barony of Skelmaliere East, adjoining the territory of Earl Richard's seat in Wexford. Here Maurice de Prendergast and his dependents made their first settlement on Irish soil.

Our 'Faithful Norman' was not left unmolested, however, having received his due share of land at the sub-infeudation of Leinster. In 1175 he, with other Anglo-Norman barons, was ordered by King Henry II to come and aid him against Robert, Earl of Essex, who was then in rebellion.<sup>26</sup> Standish Prendergast says that he had a note which stated that Maurice, with Robert Fitzstephen, brought the factious Earl a prisoner to the King in Normandy. About this time, too, Maurice granted his castle and estate in Pembrokeshire to the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, and soon after his return to Ireland in 1177 he joined that Order himself, becoming Master of the Hospital of Kilmainham, their chief house in Ireland.<sup>27</sup> It is probably that he died, holding that distinguished knightly office, in 1205.

We do not know who was the wife of Sir Maurice, but it is probably that he was married before the Invasion of Ireland, at which date he was possibly forty years old. His eldest son was Philip, and another son, Gerald, was ancestor to the Mac Maurices in Co Mayo. Whether Sir Maurice had any other children is not known, though it too is quite likely, and indeed there are so many persons bearing the name 'Prendergast' at the beginning of the thirteenth century in Ireland, and holding positions above those of mere retainers (who would, after the Irish manner, have called themselves Prendergasts), that we must suppose the ten knights who had accompanied Maurice from Wales to have included persons of his own name - a supposition which is partially confirmed when we remember that Maurice granted his estate in Pembrokeshire to the Knights of St John of Jerusalem in 1177. On 8 November 1207, Henry, Maurice, Eneas and Audoenus fitz Philip (de Prendergast) were granted lands in the cantred in which Dunleth is situated.<sup>28</sup>

This Philip would have been a contemporary of Sir Maurice and possibly a younger brother - remembering that Maurice's father was Philip. Bertram and Elias de Prendergast witnessed, with Maurice de Prendergast, the Roche charter of the Island of Begerin in Fernegenal, l. 1182, and before 1212 (the date of the Pope's confirmation) the church of St John on the land of Helyas de Prendergast was given to the Hospitallers.<sup>29</sup>

Without endeavouring to identify these Prendergasts as yet, as we shall speak of the junior members of the family later in the essay, let us return now to the eldest son and heir of the Faithful Norman, Philip de Prendergast, and to Philip's eldest son Gerald.

### Chapter Three

#### PHILIP AND GERALD

We are very fortunate in having a record of Philip de Prendergast's character, preserved in enthusiastic manner by the author of the old Norman French poem. As translated by Orpen<sup>30</sup> it reads as follows: -

'Philip a free born baron  
de Prendergast he was called  
An illustrious liege baron  
This man was such, know ye all,  
That in the morning he was peevish and irritable,  
But, after eating, generous and good-tempered,  
Courteous and liberal to all.  
As soon as he had put on his cloak  
He was every day swoln with anger  
But once he had dined in the morning<sup>31</sup>  
There was not a merrier soul under heaven.  
This man for a long time  
Held the constableness according to the people  
Very renowned he was  
And loved by everybody;  
Very courteous he was  
And of very great prowess.' (l. 3041 ff.)

In 1172, the district of the Duffy<sup>32</sup> had been given by Strongbow to Robert de Quenci, together with the hand of Strongbow's daughter - by some union other than Eva Mac-Murrough - and the Constableness of Leinster. Later in the same year Robert was slain, and shortly afterwards his wife gave birth to a daughter Matilda, or as she was generally called, Maud. Raymond le Gros now had Strongbow's sister Basilia to wife and with her he received the Constableness of Leinster and the custody of the Duffy until the young Maud de Quenci should come of age. Maud was later given to Philip de Prendergast, and their marriage probably took place about 1190, when Maud would have been in her eighteenth year: -

And she was afterwards given to a baron,  
Philip de Prendergast was his name,  
The son of Maurice of Ossory,  
Who afterwards lived in Hy Kinsellagh.<sup>33</sup> (l. 2824 ff.)

We see, thus that not only did Philip succeed Maurice at Fernegenal, but also that there accrued to him the rights of his wife to the Duffy and even to the Constableness of Leinster. On the 8 November 1207,<sup>34</sup> Philip got a further grant of 40 Knight's Fees from the King, 15 between the ports of Cork and Insorenach and 25 elsewhere, to be assigned to him by

counsel of Meyler FitzHenry, Justiciar, of Ireland and John Marshal. These he was to hold of the King by the service of 4 knights, saying to the King the ports aforesaid. On 28 October 1226,<sup>35</sup> John de St. John, Bishop of Ferns, came to an agreement with Philip and Maud concerning disputed lands near Enniscorthy, the Bishop claiming them for the Church of Ferns. The agreement was ratified some 4 years later. In his History of the Town and County of Wexford, Hare writes of it as follows: This document throws so much light on the early history of Enniscorthy and its vicinity that we make no apology for setting it out in full. I, too, give it in full here, our knowledge of it being derived from its enrolment at the request of Sir Henry Wallop on 4 November 1595: -

'Be it known to all present and to come, that whereas John, Bishop of Ferns and his Chapter brought a suit against Philip de Prendergast and Matilda de Quency, his wife, and their tenants in freehold, for various lands in various places as belonging of right to his Church of Ferns, the said Philip and Matilda, at length, in pursuance of the decree of the Eccliaistical Court, and compelled by the authority of the Apostolic See, resigned into the hands of the said Bishop for peace' sake, for themselves and their heirs, 16 carucates of land at Senebothe (Templeshambo) and Killalethan (Killaligan in Monart Parish, barony of Scarawalsh) and 12 carucates of land at Clon close to Ferns (Clone, between Enniscorthy and Ferns) and Lishote (not identified) according as the same were measured and perambulated by the assent of both parties; also one carucate of land near the church of Kilanegy as a sanctuary of the said Church; also 1 carucate of land near the church of Crosspatrick as a sanctuary of the said church and for themselves and their heirs have quit claimed the same to the said Bishop and his successors for ever; while the Bishop and his Chapter of Ferns in the name of the peace aforesaid, have quit claimed for ever for themselves and their successors whatever right they alleged to have in all the rest of the lands of the said Philip and Matilda and their tenants in freehold, that is to say in all the tenements they hold from the said Philip and Matilda and their heirs. Furthermore in respect of the town of Inscordy on the St Sonan's side (i.e. on the left bank of the Slaney) it was agreed between them as follows: That the aforesaid Philip and Matilda have given to the aforesaid Bishop and his Chapter 6 carucates of land forever in exchange for the aforesaid town of Enniscorthy, that is to say, 5 carucates of land in Ballyrigan (in Kilbride Parish) and 1 carucate of land which Fitz-Henrius (one of the FitzHenries of whom we have no record) held near Clon, in consideration that the said Philip and Matilda his wife and their heirs shall hold the said town of Enniscorthy as a lay fee in future for ever to them and their heirs. And the said Bishop and his successors shall hold the 6 carucates of land aforesaid as a pure and perpetual Sanctuary of his Church of Ferns, quit of the aforesaid Philip and Matilda and their heirs.



In witness and for security whereof this written instrument was made in the form of a chirograph between the said Bishop and Chapter of Ferns of the one part and Gerald de Prendergast, son and heir of the said Philip and Matilda of the other part, approving and confirming the said compromise after the death of the said father and mother: one part of which (said instrument) remains in the hands of the said Bishop with the seal of the said Gerald de Prendergast and the other part in the hands of the said Gerald with the seal of the said Bishop and his Chapter of Ferns. The said agreement was made in the 11th year of King Henry III, 1226, and confirmed by the said Gerald in the 15th year, 1230.'

Commenting on this valuable document, Hare continues: 'It is evident that, as regards the town of Enniscorthy, the portion in dispute and now surrendered by the Bishop was on the Templeshannon side, east of the river, where the church and manor claimed by the Bishop lay; and the necessary implication is that the portion of the town on the west side, where the Castle now stands, was already in Philip's uncontested possession.' He goes on to discuss the origin of the said Castle, little doubting that it was erected by Philip in his long possession of the Duffry. Grattan Flood<sup>36</sup> confirms this viewpoint, saying that it was commenced during Maurice's lifetime and finished in the early years of Philip's succession. It was walled and entrenched by Gerald de Prendergast, he says, between the years 1225-1228. It later became the property of Maurice de Rochford, by reason of his marriage to Matilda de Prendergast, and it remained in Rochford possession from 1252 to 1327. In 1328 the McMurroughs regained much of their lost possessions, including those at Enniscorthy, though the possession of Enniscorthy Castle was hotly contested by the surviving Rochfords. It passed from the McMurroughs to the English Crown in 1552.

How this change-over from Prendergast to Rochford was effected we shall consider presently, but first let us return to Philip's eldest son Gerald. Philip and Matilda de Quency were married c.1190 and we may suppose their eldest son was born within a year or two. We last find mention of Philip in the Calendar of Documents of Ireland on 18th August 1226 concerning agreements between the prior of Cork and himself, touching the vills of Culmore and Ballifolech. St John Brooks records an interesting charter of Philip immediately before his death in 1229, whereby he granted to Walter de Barri 1 knight's fee in which Crosspatrick is situated.<sup>37</sup> Gerald thus succeeded Philip in 1229 and both in 1235 and 1244 he is thanked for his loyalty and service to the King. On 7 July 1244, the King writes to him explaining how Alexander, King of Scots, has made peace with him, and so he may return home to his own country. However, the King prayed him be ready for service the following summer.<sup>38</sup>

Gerald Prendergast married twice. His first wife, Matilda, daughter of Theobald de Botiller, 1st Chief Butler

of Ireland, died before 1240, leaving a daughter who later married John de Cogan and by him had a son John, in 1243. Matilda, daughter of Richard de Burgh, Lord of Connaught was Gerald's second wife and she gave birth to an only daughter, Matilda, born in 1241, who with John de Cogan, was joint heir to Gerald's possessions.<sup>39</sup>

While ratifying his father's agreement with John de St John, Bishop of Ferns, in 1230, as we have already seen, it is likely that Gerald also made the following agreements with the said Bishop.<sup>40</sup> To the abbot and convent of St Thomas in Dublin, he granted full and free disposition and ordinance of the house of St John at Inscordy (Enniscorthy) so that the said house might be subject to the monastery for ever. He also granted the churches of St Seamus and St Brigid to the See of Ferns, with their appurtenances (in or about Enniscorthy). The translation of the third charter reads as follows: -

'Be it known to all present and to come that I Gerald de Prendergast, have given and granted and by this charter do confirm it, to God and the Canons of St Thomas Dublin, those 2 carucates of land called Dernach (unidentified) near the house of St John of Hynscordy which Donenald Ohelall held in exchange for these 2 carucates which Philip de Barry and Philip de Prendergast gave to the said Canons in the town of Sendun (Shandon), near the Bridge of Corch (Cork) saving to the said Canons the chapel of St Katherine situated there, the tithes and one burgage in the same tenement.'

Gerald de Prendergast died in 1251 and an Inquisition was taken as to his lands between 28 October 1251 and 17 March 1252.<sup>41</sup> The more valuable portion of his lands lay in Munster where, besides the lands which he held of the King in capite, he also held extensive lands from David de Barry. The Munster property was valued at L230 - 18s - 0d while that in Wexford was valued at L195 - 8s - 1d. In Bencer and Dufflas (Beauver and Douglas) he held of the King in capite, 11 fees, 8 carucates and 13 acres - quite a sizeable domain, while at Balacha he held of Sir David de Barry 14 fees, 4 carucates and 16 acres. We are also told that Sir William de Valence had custody of the lands of Gerald de Prendergast in Wexford at the time of the Inquisition.

On 20 April 1252,<sup>42</sup> the King granted to his groom, Maurice de Rochford, the custody of the daughter and co-heir of Gerald de Prendergast with her portion of her father's possessions. The following year, although his ward was only 11 years old, Maurice married Matilda and thus became entitled to her rights at Enniscorthy and the Duffry. John de Cogan, son of Gerald's first daughter, was the other joint heir, and he succeeded to most of Gerald's lands in Munster. We thus see that the chief inheritance of the Prendergasts in Wexford and Munster was alienated to the Rochfords and Cogans respectively, shortly after the death of Gerald de Prendergast. We will now take a brief look at each succession in turn,

making note of the fortunes of the cadets of the Prendergast family who held land under Gerald at the time of the Inquisition.

## Chapter Five

## THE PRENDERGASTS OF COUNTY MAYO

Although all commentators would not have it so, and although there are a bristling and confusing array of contradictory references to the old barony of Crossboyne<sup>60</sup>, yet I feel completely justified in agreeing with Standish Prendergast when he says that it was Gerald son of Maurice Prendergast - 'The Faithful Norman' - who was ancestor to the Mayo Prendergasts, a family who flourish even at the present time.<sup>61</sup> In his description of Connaught in 1614, Sir Oliver St John has the following to say: 'At the first conquest during the reigns of King Henry II and King John, the English had but little footing in Connaught. In the reign of King Henry III (as it may be supposed) during the prosperity of Hubert de Burgo, Earl of Kent and principal governor under the King, John de Burgo and Richard de Burgo, his sons, made an entry and conquest (by all likelihood), making the first attempt in the bay of Galway and conquering the native chieftains. All this conquered land Richard de Burgo held as a sovereign lordship, allotting great portions of land to those that assisted him in his conquest, which ever since have continued in their prosperity, and some of them were reputed barons of the counties.'<sup>62</sup> Included among those who assisted de Burgo is 'Prendergast, baron of Crosboglin', now Clanmaurice and the Gerald Prendergast who witnessed the bond by the Prior and Canons of St John the Baptist of Nenagh to observe the terms of a charter in 1200<sup>63</sup> was probably the same Gerald Prendergast who assisted de Burgo in the conquest of Connaught. In return for his assistance, Gerald acquired an extensive territory in the fertile area known as 'The Plain of Mayo' - according to Standish Prendergast - which included Ballagh, Corbally, Crossboyne, Kilcoleman, and some adjoining parishes which formed part of the barony of Crossboyne - which later came to be styled Clanmaurice, from the Prendergast or Mac-Maurice family who were chiefs therein.

Gerald Prendergast, who had a long and fruitful possession of his Western estate, was surnamed Sugach, 'the merry one', by his Irish admirers.<sup>64</sup> His death is recorded in the Annals of Loch Ce in the year 1251. We will remember that Gerald, son of Philip de Prendergast and Maud de Quency, died in the same year, and one might well wonder whether there was but one Gerald, or whether the Annalists have made a mistake. In the Inquisition as to Gerald's lands in Munster - which Inquisition is carefully exhaustive - we find no reference at all to Connaught, or lands held therein by the same Gerald, and we should wonder if a far-distant Gerald should have earned the endearing term Sugach for himself in Connaught. It is far more reasonable to believe that Gerald Sugach was the founder of the Prendergast branch in Co Mayo, a son of

Maurice, living to be an old man and becoming renowned in local Mayo tradition, thus endearing himself with the native Irish who applied to him the adjective Sugach. This belief is further strengthened when we remember that the Prendergasts in Mayo soon changed their name to MacMaurice, or rather soon became known to the native Irish in Connaught as MacMaruices, sons of Maurice, in accordance with the Irish custom. Gerald was, of course, the first MacMaurice, and those natives who, later on, didn't know the MacMaurice genealogy correctly, often made the mistake and called the Prendergasts FitzGerals instead, thus leading the renowned Dubhaltach MacFirthisigh and others astray.<sup>65</sup> It is the family of MacMaurice Prendergast which has given its name to both the barony of Clanmaurice and the town of Claremorris in Co Mayo, and the family still flourishes in the same county.

David Prendergast succeeded Gerald and in the Annals of Loch Ce we are told that he was killed by the O'Briens in 1260 - into whose territory the MacMaurices had made a hosting the same year.<sup>66</sup> David was father of Gerald whose son John appears to have been the chief of the branch about 1311. Throughout the fourteenth century we find them defending their possessions in Clanmaurice and fighting spasmodically against the O'Flynnns, de Burgos, O'Connors, MacDermots, O'Concannons and so on, in an age when each clan in Connaught at some time or other was up in arms against its nearest neighbours. In 1335 a conflict arose between the O'Conor and MacMaurice clans. Donnell O'Conor invaded and looted Clanmaurice, killing MacMaurice himself - Maurice Sugach. The MacMaurice clan quickly retaliated and made a rapid and successful counter-raid on Donnell O'Conor's territory.<sup>67</sup>

About this time too we get evidence of Sir Edmund Burke's bitter antagonism towards the MacMaurice clan. The Annals of Loch Ce, record in 1341, a great defeat inflicted by MacWilliam Burke on them, on which occasion Thomas MacMaurice and Maurice, son of Seonach Ruadh, with seven score others,<sup>68</sup> were slain. In 1366 Sir Edmund Burke again clashed with the clan Maurice, who declined combat this time against a vastly superior army. They fled to Clanrickarde in order to sustain their cause.<sup>69</sup> Their lands were constantly crossed and recrossed by the MacCostelloes, MacJordans, MacDonaghs, MacDermots, O'Hares and others in their constant conflicts with the de Burgos. In 1382 the Clan Maurice ventured far afield in plundering Concannon territory about Corcamoe and Kilkerin, and in their retreat they slew O'Concannon himself, who sought to retrieve his livestock. Conor og MacDermot invaded ClanMaurice, but little availed against vigilant neighbours. Later the same MacDermot penetrated to their stronghold at Brize Castle, where he burned the buildings and the corn and slew many of the MacMaurice clan.<sup>70</sup>

In 1420 the descendants of Sean O hEgra went on a hosting against the sons of the Eastern O hEgras, taking the sons of MacMuiris na mBri (of Brize Castle) with them. They took large preys and killed some people. It happened, however, at that time that Eoghan, son of Domhnall O'Conchobair was keeping a watch on his son-in-law, Sean Buidhe, son of

Tadhg O hEgra. He followed up the raiders and overtook them, asking for the preys. They refused. 'But by heaven it had been better for them to give them up, for before long they gave their heads and their spoils and their preys at once. Emann MacMuiris was killed, the choicest young noble of the Connaught Galls of his own time for form and feature, geniality and eloquence, beauty and bravery. MacMaurice himself c. William, was captured, and Sean son of Richard MacMaurice and William son of Sean og O hEgra were killed, as well as many others gentle and simple (et ali multi nobiles et ignobiles)::71 MacMaurice was taken to Sligo and O hEgra to O'Ruairc's territory. But peace was soon restored and the prisoners allowed home.

Perhaps it was about this time too that the incident recorded by J.F. Quinn took place, or it may have been later in the 15th century.<sup>72</sup> Whether the incident, as recorded by Quinn, is a dramatised version of that just related or another independent encounter, I do not know, but in itself it is worthy of inclusion here. The MacMaurices lodged an objection with MacWilliam Burke concerning his attitude towards Shane O'Hara of a neighbouring barony and his attack on O'Hara's two sons, who were seeking the hands of MacMaurice's sisters from Murneen in marriage. The entire Prendergast clan took the field with the O'Haras in the resultant conflict. But the Burkes had waxed strong by this time and they overcame the allied opposition with little difficulty. MacMaurice himself was then taken by the Burkes, treated as a gallant prisoner of war and was later given safe conduct home. Two months after the Burkes killed the two sons of Shane O'Hara, and five years later the two Prendergast sisters took the veil in the Convent of Athenry.

It was in this setting that the Prendergasts had to maintain their position in Co Mayo, an easy matter by no means between 1300 and 1600 when inter-tribal warfare was everywhere engaged in. Despite all, however, they expanded their territory, mostly by way of crown grant, and in the 16th century their lordship extended over the parishes of Mayo, Rosslea and Ballagh - they had a castle near Mayo at Barrell, but their most important holdings were at Brize and Murneen, having castles or strongholds at Derowel, Akena, CastlemacGarrett, Castlekill, Crossboyne, Gortnedin, Kilvine and elsewhere.<sup>73</sup> This being true, nevertheless, the Prendergasts might be said to have found more in adversity than in prosperity in Connaught and by 1576 the Lord Deputy, Sir Henry Sidney, could report the following to the Privy Council from Galway: 'At this instant were also with me McPhaetan Barrett, McIlvilge Staunton, McJordan Dexter, McCostelo Nangle, and McMaurice Prendergast, and these five show matter of some record and credit, that they have not only been English, which every man confesseth, but also lords and barons in Parliament, but now they have not three hackneys to carry them and their train home.'<sup>74</sup>

Towards the close of the 16th Century, the Prendergasts, like most of the 'foreigners' in Connaught, entrenched them-

selves by perfecting their title in the manner then common. In 1585, Richard Prendergast or MacMaurice of Brize, chief of his nation, surrendered all his lands to the crown, simultaneously getting a royal grant of those lands in the barony of Claremorris - a transaction which made little change in the Prendergast lordship in Co Mayo. The indenture<sup>75</sup> sets out that Crossboyne barony consisted of 200 quarters of land, of which 5 belonged to the Queen, 24 to the Archbishop of Tuam, 8 to Nicholas Fitzsimons and the rest to 'the said MacMoris otherwise surnamed Fitzgerald or Prendergast, for the settlement of the chief lord of the said barony of Crossboyne'.

From the Composition Book of Connaught we learn the names of the townlands and demesne lands of the Prendergasts within their baronial domain.<sup>76</sup> Certain lands appertaining to the Episcopal See, Mayo Abbey and Ballinsmala Abbey - founded by the Prendergasts in 1356<sup>77</sup> - are enumerated, and furthermore, lands of the family of Richard Flynn, of the Cullenans, Howleys, MacRickards, MacAdams and others are all computed as being under the jurisdiction of MacMaurice of Brize - comprising in all some 2,000 quarters. Thus, we see that in 1585 the Prendergasts had quite a sizeable estate in Clanmaurice, Co Mayo. We should expect the family to have prospered in a more settled age when clan rivalry was somewhat quelled. But such was not the case. Richard, chief of the clan, parted with much of his inheritance to John Moore of Mellick, following the example of the Jordan, Mac Costello and others. 'In these sales', says Knox, 'they may have been influenced by consideration of the difficulty of securing the succession to their own heirs, who would have found themselves in conflict with those who would have succeeded to the chieftainship estate under the abolished customs. It would also have been hard for one of the clan to enforce those new rights against his fellow, whereas cash could be invested elsewhere, and a stranger could enforce his rights unhampered by family feelings.'<sup>78</sup> With these and other considerations in mind, Richard Prendergast sold his inheritance to John Moore, a transaction which must have taken place before 1585, in which year Red Hugh O'Donnell stayed at Brize Castle for a short while, his host being O'Moore, and not Prendergast.<sup>79</sup> This explains how the O'Moores came to own Brize Castle, the chief seat of the MacMaurice clan in Mayo. Less than a century later, the second chief seat of the Prendergast family in Mayo passed into alien hands also. This was CastlemacGarrett which passed into the Browne family through the marriage of Mary Prendergast, daughter of David, the owner of the great estate, with Geoffrey Browne, born in 1664 and destined to be ancestor to the lords of Oranmore and Browne.<sup>80</sup> In 1694 Geoffrey Browne built a new home at CastlemacGarrett when the original Prendergast Castle in which he had lived after his marriage with Mary became unsafe. The home built by Geoffrey was occupied for several generations until it was destroyed by fire in 1811. 'The part of the present baronial residence', says Gearoid MacGowan, 'was built by Dominick Browne, born in May 1787 and died in Jan-

uary 1860. He was 1st Lord Oranmore and Browne, the title Oranmore being taken in view of the family lands and property at Oranmore in Galway.<sup>81</sup>

We have now seen that the two chief seats of the Prendergasts in Mayo had passed into other families before the end of the 17th century. By that time also the Cromwellian Settlement had taken place, and, as we shall see in a later chapter, Prendergasts from Tipperary and perhaps Wexford had been transplanted into the same county. The history of the cadets of the MacMaurice family, as also the fortunes of those transplanted into Connaught at the Cromwellian Settlement, is a very complicated question, and scanty records leave one very much in the dark concerning them. We cannot hope to solve all the problems in a short survey as this, and perhaps it will suffice to mention here that the Prendergasts still flourish in Co Mayo, as in other counties in Connaught where those transplanted families became the ancestors of new branches, and in Co Mayo itself many Prendergasts are to this day proud of descent from their brave and battling MacMaurice ancestors.

In giving the origin of a street name in Claremorris, Conor Maguire records a reminiscence as follows: 'There were two powerful factions who fought each other on fair and festival days - the Claremorris Prendergasts and the people from Knock and Began. A shout went out from some hero on the site of the present railway bridge, and immediately the factions assembled and fought with sticks, until exhaustion or defeat made them retire.' 'In my own time', he continues, and we will remember he was writing in 1938, 'there was an old man Matty Prendergast who lived in a thatched cottage where the Bank of Ireland now stands, who had charge of the armoury or implements of war. To him all the fighters of the town and outside flocked for sticks, which he always kept carefully in a bundle. He kept this bundle of sticks until death, long after the faction fights had ceased. At the time the Prendergasts were such a powerful clan that several people, Duffys, Dohertys, etc. changed their names to Prendergast, in order to have the support of the Prendergasts.'<sup>82</sup>

About the middle of the last century, I have that the most famous athlete about Claremorris was one John Prendergast, better known locally as Sean na Baintrighe. Among his many feats and valorous achievements, he is said to have jumped the canal at Kilcock while on his way to Dublin.

And before we move away from Mayo, perhaps the following incident will suffice to underline the fact that in the 19th century, as even today, the Prendergasts were a family yet to be reckoned with in Co Mayo. Archbishop McHale was examining young Claremorris children, in preparation for first Holy Communion, when he put the following questions to members of one particular class. To the first child he asked: 'Who is God?' There was no particular difficulty with the answer to that question. The second child was no less perturbed when asked how many persons there are in the one God. But when the third young boy was asked who the Holy Ghost was,



he was completely baffled. After much hesitation, however, he courageously offered his answer: 'I don't know, unless he is one of the Prendergasts.'

## Chapter Six

## THE PRENDERGASTS OF NEWCASTLE, CO. TIPPERARY

In the Preface to his Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland, John Patrick Prendergast relates the following legend concerning the large Prendergast holdings in South Tipperary and North Waterford - a legend no doubt emanating from the rich imagination of Irish country people. The founder of the family, resting on the range of hills which lies about twelve miles South of Clonmel on the right bank of the river Suir and viewing the mountain, the river and the surrounding plain, is said to have lit a fire on the hill-top so that he might follow and conquer with the smoke. However, it was a calm summer day and the smoke rose high in a white cloud and spread in all directions. In like manner so also did the conquests and acquisitions of the Prendergast family, which family as a result, came to be famed locally as the Clan a'Gothag, the 'clan of the smoke.'

William Prendergast, the founder of this branch, was a younger son of Philip and Maud de Quency. His brother David took the place of Gerald - their eldest brother - as a hostage in 1214,<sup>83</sup> so it may be supposed William was younger than David and probably born about 1200, his sons being old enough to hold lands under him in 1251. William himself died about 1260. In 1238 William had lands at Typerdely, in the area south of Clonmel, and sometime later he exchanged lands at Mattaveni in Ottonil (unidentified) for lands belonging to Geoffrey de Marisco at Eskertenan which lands Marisco had got from William de Wygornia (Worcester).<sup>84</sup> These transactions led to bitter quarrelling and to complicated litigation, which did not end till 1311. William's eldest son John by Alienore de Bermingham, succeeded to the Prendergast estates in South Tipperary and he further acquired tenure of lands at Ardneshillagh, which tenure also led to a long Inquisition in 1280, when John's brother and successor, Jeffry, pleaded for restoration of these lands. The jurors saw fit that they be restored.<sup>85</sup> Jeffry now had possession of lands at Eskertenan and Ardneshillagh, and also vills in Faycarkehill, Kilterkane and Lisnegoll which he had secured in 1275, but which Meylor and Basilia de Bermingham were now claiming.<sup>86</sup> It was about this time, too, that Richard le Fleming, Baron of Slane, was fined for burning a Prendergast castle, and when a new castle was erected, Eskertenan came to be known as Newcastle, and therein the Prendergasts flourished for the next four centuries.

Sir Philip de Prendergast succeeded his father Jeffry in 1289, while in the early years of the fourteenth century Sir Philip's eldest son, Jeffry, was found under age. Young Jeffry was given in wardship to Piers Lord Bermingham,

and when he later married Isolda, daughter of the same Piers, the quarrels between the Prendergasts and the Berminghams came to an end. At the same time, however, Baldwin le Fleming, Lord Slane, was claiming a portion of the Prendergast estates in Tipperary. The Berminghams now stood firmly with the Prendergasts and eventually Baldwin accepted a sum of money in lieu of his claims to the lands.<sup>88</sup> Henceforth, until they were dispossessed by Cromwell, the Prendergasts held uncontested Lordship of Newcastle.

Maurice, the younger son of Sir Philip, succeeded Jeffry, and Maurice in turn was succeeded by his eldest son, John, who was blind from his youth 'so that he found not a wife worthy of him.' However, John turned his affections to his guardain, a woman of the O'Hartigan family, and he later married her, irrespective of her Irish birth and humble origin. She gave birth to Elias, who succeeded his blind father, and he, in turn, left two sons. Thomas was the heir, while Walter became ancestor to the castle and estates at Freghins, which estates he and his heirs held until they, too, were dispossessed at the time of the Cromwellian Settlement. From this branch at Freghins, as it is generally spelt, descended the Prendergasts of Raheen, Kearnue, Tullolargy, Poulecarrigy and elsewhere, all apparently under the lordship of Newcastle, and all situated in South Tipperary.<sup>89</sup>

Of Thomas, son and heir of Elias of Newcastle, we know very little. He was succeeded by Jeffry, who was presumably his eldest son. Jeffry was succeeded in turn by his eldest son, Thomas, but he seems to have had another son who settled at Rathogally (Rathokelly), to which estate Kildonaghy also belonged, which lands remained in Prendergast hands until the Cromwellian Settlement. Thomas, son of Jeffry, was Lord of Newcastle from about 1520 to 1545, his father being yet alive on 28th April 1519, when he pledged to observe the terms of a Butler Deed.<sup>90</sup> Thomas had sons, James, his heir, John and possibly Philip, who held land at Ballybeg. John seems to have been of a felonious nature, as he repeatedly appears in the Inquisitions of the time.<sup>91</sup> John also seems to have had two sons, Robert of Kilmineen and Farran (in the parish of Neddans) and John of Croane. Thomas, son of John of Croane was dispossessed by Cromwell of his estates at Croane and Ardfinan, but Croane was later to be the residence of Thomas, father of the 1st Baronet, of whom we shall speak later.

James, the heir to Newcastle, married a member of the renowned family of Grace, barons of Courtstown, Co. Kilkenny. He died on 3 February 1576, seized of very considerable lands in Tipperary and Waterford.<sup>92</sup> At his death James left at least two sons, Jeffry his heir, and Edmund founder of that branch seated at Tullymelan, who was M.P. for Tipperary in 1585.<sup>93</sup> Edmund died before 1614 and left Edmund Duffe, Richard and Maurice, the latter holding the estate of Kilnecarrigy and Lacken (near Ardfinan). The lands at Lacken were forfeited to Sir Oliver Lambert in 1605, while Edmund son of Richard was dispossessed of Kilnecarrigy and transplanted

to Connaught, where he was granted 150 acres later in the century.<sup>94</sup> Edmund Duffe succeeded his father at Tullymelan and was succeeded by Pierce Prendergast. The estates later passed to James, brother of Pierce, and when James died on 9 January 1660, he was possessed of Tullymelan, Mullough and Curraghnemoney. By his wife, Anne White, he left Edmund, his heir, and Patrick, who succeeded Edmund to the estate.<sup>95</sup>

While James was yet in possession of Tullymelan in 1650, Cromwell crossed the Suir at Cahir and, sending a detachment towards the Prendergast estates, he himself headed straight for Clonmel.<sup>96</sup> The estates about Newcastle were surrendered without resistance, and some few soldiers were left to see that the defences were taken down. The rest of the detachment had not proceeded very far when they heard confused noises behind and, hurrying back, they thought that the Prendergast tenants were murdering their comrades. But it was only the noise of a pack of backhounds, kept in the bawn or fortified curtilage belonging to James. So they brought off James and his hounds to Cromwell, who was now on his way to Kilkeeny. Good sport was had by all for the remainder of the march, Cromwell himself enjoying the diversion. The backhounds, moreover, would seem to have been able mediators, for James so ingratiated himself with Cromwell during the peculiar hunting bout, that the stern general promised him a sparse favour - requesting that James might be spared from transplantation. However, when Edmund and Patrick Prendergast, sons of James, pleaded for reconfirmation of this favour in 1665 they were overlooked, and Tullymelan was lost to the Adventurers.

Patrick Prendergast removed to Mullough, after the loss of Tullymelan, and he dwelt there in a cabin. He married Mary, daughter of Jeffry Prendergast of Newcastle, in 1682, and by her had a son Jeffry. When Patrick died, Mary married secondly John McCaffrey, 'a stranger from Limerick', and by him left issue, all of whom assumed the name Prendergast, and from whom sprung that family which, until of late, was in possession of Ardfinan Castle.<sup>97</sup> Jeffry of Mullough depended much on his cousin, Sir Thomas Prendergast, for his fortunes, as did many others of the Prendergast family in Tipperary. Besides recovering much of the Prendergast estates about Newcastle and leasing them to his cousins, Sir Thomas placed Jeffry of Mullough in his own regiment in the royal army. Young Jeffry distinguished himself at the siege of Airds in Flanders in 1710 earning for himself the public thanks of the great Duke of Marlborough.<sup>98</sup> He was married twice, leaving by his second wife, Lucy Levers, three daughters. Ellinor married Thomas Clutterbuck, Lucy married Nicholas Gyles and Marianne inherited the Prendergast lands and titles at Tullymelan. She married Thomas Garde of Ballinacurra, and by him left two sons, John and Henry. John married a daughter of Sir Christopher Musgrave but by her had no issue. Henry married Catherine Hoare and left a son, Thomas, who inherited Mullough.<sup>99</sup>

Leaving Mullough and Tullymelan aside, we recall that

Jeffry Prendergast succeeded his father James at Newcastle on 3 February 1576. He married Joan Butler, daughter of the 1st Lord Cahir and Ellen Fitzgerald, Lord Cahir's second wife, who was sister and heiress of James, 13th Earl of Desmond - thus vesting the Barony of Cahir in the heirs general of the Prendergast family. But in a release, dated 14 July 1585, Eleanor Butler, one of the daughters and heirs general of Sir Thomas Butler, and Sir Thomas Prendergast, son and heir of Joan Butler Prendergast, are recorded as having granted, bargained, sold, confirmed, released and remitted to Sir Theobald Butler of Cahir the name, dignity, estate etc. of the Lord Baron of Cahir, to be held by the said Sir Theobald, his heirs and assigns for ever.<sup>100</sup>

By his marriage with Joan Butler, McFirbis says that Jeffry had four sons, Thomas, whom we have mentioned already, James, Robert and Richard. Robert got the estate of Ballybeg and married Ellice Lonergan in a second marriage, his first wife having died childless. Ellice gave birth to Walter, who succeeded to Ballybeg in 1635, married Eleanor Butler of Knockgraffon, and was later transplanted to Connaught.<sup>101</sup>

Thomas Prendergast, eldest son of Jeffry and Joan Butler, succeeded to Newcastle on 20 March 1616. He married Eleanor Butler of Kilcash, a sister of Walter, 11 Earl of Ormond, and by her had three sons who successively held Newcastle. His only daughter married Roger Magrath. When Eleanor Butler died, Thomas Prendergast remarried Ellen Whyte, by whom he left a young daughter at his death, shortly afterwards (ante 1627). James, his eldest son, was first to succeed to Newcastle, but he was slain by Edmund Butler, 13th Baron of Dunboyne, on 16 January 1628, as a result of a serious family dispute.<sup>102</sup> Robert was next to succeed, but he was of weak mind, and within two years he had handed over the estate to Edmund, the third son of Thomas, who was fated to be the last Lord of Newcastle. Edmund had two sons, Jeffry and Thomas, and at the time of the transplantations to Connaught, these succeeded to an already occupied inheritance.<sup>103</sup>

We have now arrived at the Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland, at which time only detached portions of the Newcastle Lordship were retained, and at which time a new chapter begins in Irish family history, with serious repercussions not only on the Prendergast, but on almost every Irish family. Little distinction was now made between the old Irish and the Anglo-Irish, both suffering the same ill-fate at the hands of English Adventurers who were too eager to occupy Irish homesteads. In some cases the native Irish - and it is no misnomer to call the Anglo-Normans native Irish by this time - lost their holdings only for a short while. In most cases holdings changed hands forever.



## Chapter Seven

CROMWELL AND AFTER

'Terrible was the ruin about Newcastle when this Down Survey was being made', comments Standish Prendergast, who, by the way, was more fortunate than we in having the Down Survey at hand, and he goes on to record that the Prendergast Castles at Newcastle, Kildonaghy, Curragclooney, Frehans, Curraghnemoney and elsewhere were now in ruins, with only the bare walls left standing. The owners were in no better position, being as bare and ruined as the castles themselves. There is no need here to describe the sad plight of the Irish at the time of the Cromwellian Settlement. Their terror in the face of treacherous ferocity, their fond hope immediately before the Restoration, their bitter disappointment immediately afterwards, are already too well known to justify description here. The curious reader can do none better than read Prendergast's Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland for a full account of the proceedings of that age. Tipperary was one of the counties which suffered most at the confiscations, and three entire Prendergast estates passed into the hands of the Adventurers. John Patrick Prendergast recounts: 'Whole families of the name were transplanted to Connaught. Thence some of them petitioned to be allowed to come back, merely to get in their last harvest; but they were refused; they were only allowed to send some servants. Soon after they sold their assignments in Connaught for a trifle to the offices of the transplantation and fled in horror and aversion from the scene, and embarked for Spain. At the Restoration, the heir, who had served under the King's ensigns abroad, returned and expecting to be restored to his estates, complained to the Council that he found the Adventurer who was in possession of the family estate, cutting down all the timber, endeavouring evidently to make the most of his time, in case he should lose his lands by this new Revolution. As the timber on all forfeited lands was, by Cromwell's Acts, reserved to the State, the Council had issued a proclamation on the Restitution to prevent the cutting down of trees. The affidavit of the heir still remains, informing the Council that when he showed the proclamation to the Adventurer, he and his men answered that they did not value the said proclamation and that they would not leave a tree standing of all the wood, but one, whereon he himself should hang.' 104

Deprived of their estates, different branches of the family became mere tenants under the Adventurers, on those same lands of which they had once been lords. Some of them, still adhering to the Crown, forfeited their leases after the Battle of the Boyne, and became exiles. Others held on in the vicinity of their one time homestead, eagerly awaiting a

chance of restoration. Others were outlawed as Tories. On 13 October 1712, Michael Roe Prendergast and Morris Boy Prendergast, both of Curraghmoney, among many others, were declared to be 'tories, robbers, rapparees in arms and out upon their keeping' by the Grand Jury for the County and Cross of Tipperary at the Assizes in Clonmel.<sup>105</sup> The Jury issued a proclamation to the effect that any loyal subject, on meeting anyone of these outlaws, might forthwith shoot him, if the outlaw did not shoot the other first.

Another cause of embitterment was the question of religion. At the election for Tipperary, consequent on the death of George II, the opposing conducting agents were Thomas Prendergast of Ballylomasna and Daniel Gahan of Coolquil. Feelings ran high and Gahan challenged Prendergast's right to act or even to vote at all, on the grounds that his wife was a Papist, being a member of the Keating family. Prendergast resented the insult. Both parties adjourned to the green behind the Courthouse. The place was marked by skittle-holes. While proceeding to fire, Prendergast tripped over one of the holes, and was shot dead by Gahan while falling. So great was the indignation of the crowd at this unsporting gesture that Gahan was unable to escape except by having recourse to the river Suir which flowed by the green. As he plunged in, clothes and all, a butcher caught him by the skirt of his coat. However, being of very fine material we are told, it slipped through his fingers, and Gahan made away. His servant came to the rescue with his horse and Gahan rode off to safety.<sup>106</sup>

Such incidents as these will serve as a momentary backward look at the social state of Ireland subsequent to the Cromwellian Settlement and the Restoration, with the resultant unsettled nature of Irish life. We must now try to reconstruct the scene in so far as it concerned the family of Prendergast, a reconstruction which is made very difficult by scanty source material, and the 'itinerant' nature of so many families at that time. As we have already seen, families were granted new lands in Connaught at the time of the Settlement. Some of these betook themselves reluctantly to their new assignments. Others never did. Some returned shortly to their old estates and gradually regained possession. Some families went abroad. Other families were apparently dispossessed without receiving any compensatory grant beyond the Shannon. Some were ordered to remove but somehow bypassed that order and never lost possession at all. From such a background as this it is well nigh impossible to disentangle such skeleton records as have yet been uncovered. Most of the valuable records have been lost by fire. To identify those members of whom we still have record is an unenviable task, and we must content ourselves with what little information as is, as yet, available.

We have seen earlier how Edmund Prendergast was the last Lord of Newcastle. At the time of the transplantations he had been succeeded by his two sons Jeffry and Thomas. Jeffry was now the rightful heir, but he was dispossessed and given a fraction of his rightful acreage far beyond the Shannon. In the Barony of Tirawley, Co Mayo, he got 108 acres at



Clonaghmore, 60 acres at Rosgagh, 158 acres at Breaghway, 121 acres at Ratheskin, 91 acres at Killbride and 144 acres at Ballyndow - all of which add up to 682 acres, which, with a further grant in Co Galway, might make 800 acres, the number given him by Standish Prendergast in his Notes.<sup>107</sup> Jeffry is elsewhere stated to have had a confirmatory grant of 1,104 acres in Mayo in 1677, as had Walter Prendergast a confirmation of Kirkelly Castle with 136 acres in the same county.<sup>108</sup> At Carrowmore, again in Tirawley Barony, Richard Prendergast got 150 acres, Kathrine and Margaret got 100 acres and Robert Prendergast got a further 100 acres.<sup>109</sup> Of the estates of the Earl of Clanrickard, John Prendergast got 328 acres at Rathmore and a certain 'Mr. Prendergast' got 231 acres at Killeen and Ballynaheeragh.<sup>110</sup> Earlier in this essay we have mentioned how Edmond Prendergast of Kilnecarri-  
gy was given 150 acres in Connaught. The Walter Prendergast in question above was apparently heir of Ballybeg, while the others somehow defy identification. We may probably assume that they were all under-tenants of the last Lord of Newcastle, and that at least some of them founded new Prendergast branches in Connaught.

Jeffry Prendergast soon recovered part of his estate at Newcastle and, strengthening his position gradually, eventually sold his estate in Connaught, arriving back to settle near Newcastle once more.<sup>111</sup> Of his endeavours to regain his rightful inheritance we know very little. He seems to have died about 1691, and if he was married, nothing is known of his wife, sons or daughters, if he had issue. For the survival of this senior line of the Prendergast family we must turn our attention to Jeffry's younger brother Thomas, who seems to have had accompanied Jeffry on his travels. This man is often credited as living to the venerable old age of 111 years. However, he is generally, and mistakenly, called a brother of the last Lord of Newcastle, whereas in fact he was his son.<sup>112</sup> Thomas died in 1725, and would probably then have been almost 100 years old, not indeed an uncommendable old age.

'Old Thomas', as we shall call him for the sake of distinction, married Eleanor, daughter and co-heir of David Condon, and by her had issue, two sons and three daughters.<sup>113</sup> Mary and Jane did not marry while Catherine married Pierce Butler of Murroe, leaving by him a son, Thomas, who succeeded his father but who died without issue. Of the two sons of 'Old Thomas', we will concern ourselves here with the younger, Jeffry, while waiting until the next chapter to discuss Thomas, who was fated to refound much of the Prendergast inheritance about Newcastle, while he himself made happy abode in the picturesque estate of Gortinchigorie. 'Old Thomas' obtained Croane from his son, Sir Thomas, and he lived there for the last 20 years of his long life. Dying on 11 June 1725, he was succeeded at Croane by Jeffry who had been found on King James' side at the Battle of the Boyne.<sup>114</sup> It was Jeffry who managed the Newcastle property after it had been recovered by his brother, Sir Thomas, and perhaps Jeffry had

also the management of Gortinchigerie when Sir Thomas was not at home. The townlands of Frehans, Kilmeneen, Curraghnemoney, Mullough, Lacken and so on were all recovered before Jeffry's death in 1735 and the Prendergasts were re-established once again in their old homesteads.

Jeffry married Margaret Daniel of Glonmel and by her had issue four sons and three daughters.<sup>115</sup> Of the latter, Penelope, married Thomas Green of Kilmanham Castle, Ellen married Valentine Browning of Affane and Katherine married Valentine Prendergast of Hollymount - all of whom were gentlemen and of good position. Edmond Prendergast was the eldest son of Jeffry and he dwelt at Clashganny. His wife was Helen Uriacke of Co Waterford and at his death in 1739, he left both male and female issue. His male heirs died without issue and the descent continued through Jeffry's second son Thomas. Jeffry's third son, Jeffry, died young, while his fourth son, James, was seated at Lacken and married Mary Magrath of Redmondstown in 1732. Upon him his father placed the greater part of the property about Newcastle. However, James did not make good, and his eldest son, Jeffry, sold his interest in these properties to a certain Mr Fitzgerald for £17,000.<sup>116</sup> A brother of Jeffry, Terence was married to Lady Prendergast, the widow of the 2nd Baronet. She had been a Miss Anne Williams from Conway Castle in Wales, and her interest in that Castle was now transferred to Terence Prendergast, who in turn transferred it to his brother Jeffry.<sup>117</sup> However, it would seem to have passed quickly out of the family. Thomas was a third son of James of Lacken and he entered the Indian army in 1770, dying the following year without issue. A further three sons died young, two daughters died unmarried and Mary was both blind and unmarried.

Jeffry Prendergast of Croane died, as we have said, in 1735, and we follow the succession through his second son, Thomas, who was born in 1702, married in 1728 and was shot dead by Daniel Gahan in 1761. Thomas married Mary Keating, daughter and heiress of John Keating, baron of the Exchequer, and a Catholic by religion. He was himself a prominent politician and was for many years sub-sheriff for Tipperary. The incident which led to his death has already been recorded. He left three sons and three daughters. Margaret married Francis Ryan of Killaloe, Catherine married Philip Ryan of Killaloe, a double wedding! - and Mary married Charles Prendergast.<sup>118</sup> Jeffry was the eldest son of Thomas and he married Elizabeth Hobson, his cousin, she being a granddaughter of Sir Thomas Prendergast. Jeffry lived at Ballylomasna and at his death on 19 September 1816, he left Thomas, a major in the Tipperary Militia, Anne, and Elizabeth who married Rev Wm Walker of Sligo.<sup>119</sup> The second son of Thomas was another Thomas and his issue represent the senior branch of the Prendergast family. A third son, John, inherited Ballylomasna and married Susan French, a daughter and co-heir of Thomas French of Youghal. By her he had issue Jeffry, whose son John, a lieutenant in the Royal navy, was killed on 2 Nov 1814, Thomas, a major who served

in the Burmese war, and Richard, clerk of the Sessions at Ardfinan, whose son Jeffry resided there in 1860.<sup>120</sup>

Thomas, second son of Thomas Prendergast of Croane, carried on the male descent. He married Jane, daughter of Samuel Gordon of Spring Garden in Waterford, and by her had a very large family.<sup>121</sup> He died on 6 January 1803. We can only make very brief mention of his family here, and, while commenting that the line still flourishes both at home and abroad, we must make haste to take a quick glance at the fortunes of other families of the same name. Of his seven daughters, Jane married Joseph Tyndal of Dublin; Ann married a certain Mr Disney from Madras; Euphemia married Rev. Mr. Walsh; Margaret married General Sir William Clarke, Baronet; Isabella remained unmarried; Sarah married Sir Alexander Anstruther, Knight, apparently of Bombay; and lastly, Catherine married John Rothwell of Cannonstown. Besides his many daughters Thomas also left a very distinguished family of sons. The eldest was Thomas, who was born on the 21 July 1764. He was one time M.P. for Clonakilty in the Irish Parliament. He married Charlotte O'Neill in May 1792 and by her had three sons, all dying unmarried. Jeffry Samuel, the youngest, was the last surviving general officer from Waterloo. Samuel was born in 1765 and died unmarried in 1823. Francis was born in 1768 and he became Registrar of the Court of Chancery in Ireland. He was married twice. Maria Reynolds left a son Jeffry Francis and two daughters at her death in 1805. Scarcely six months after Maria's death, Francis married secondly Esther Patrick of 27, Palace Row, Dublin. By her he had sons John Patrick, Joseph Samuel - a Doctor of medicine, long in the British Army, Francis - a Barrister and William also a member of the Irish Bar. Francis died on 31 May 1846, Esther outliving him by scarcely six months. Of their sons, John Patrick Prendergast was the most noteworthy, and I can do him scant justice here by briefly commenting on his life and achievements. He was born in Dublin in 1808, educated at Reading School under the celebrated Dr Valpy and graduated at T.C.D. in 1825. He was called to the Irish Bar in 1830. He had belonged to the Leinster Circuit for about 10 years when, in 1846, he was commissioned from England to make some pedigree researches in Tipperary. He became so interested in this new field of activity that he devoted much time to studying old records. His researches were highly successful and he is now renowned for The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland. Unfortunately, much of his work is still unpublished. His contribution to Irish History in such works as the Account of the Carte Collection of Historical Papers, Ireland from the Restoration to the Revolution, Notice on the life of Charles Halliday, The Tory War of Ulster, not to mention The Cromwellian Settlement itself, has earned for him an immortal name in Irish historical circles.

In 1838 John Patrick Prendergast married Caroline Ensor, second daughter of George Ensor of Ardress, Co Armagh, by whom he had one son. By his will, he bequeathed to the

King's Inns Library in Dublin, where his historical studies first began, a score or more volumes of manuscripts concerning the period of history in which he was particularly interested, besides various other books and invaluable maps.

Before his death in 1894, he wrote his own autobiography. Like so much else of his work, it, too, is as yet unpublished.

Returning to the sons of Thomas Prendergast and Jane Gordon we learn that their fourth son was Jeffry, born in 1769 and dying in 1856. He was appointed Ensign in the Indian army on 3 January 1796 and advanced to important posts in his profession, being for many years military Auditor General of the Madras Presidency. He later became a Major General and ended his days as General in the army. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Hew Dalrymple of Nunrow in Scotland, on 3 October 1804. By her he had issue Harris, Thomas, John and William, of whom Thomas was most noteworthy, and being one of the four Prendergasts who have, as yet, merited inclusion in the Dictionary of National Biography perhaps he deserves special comment here. He was born in 1806 and was nominated a writer in the East Indian Company's service on 23 June 1826, from which time he, like his father Jeffry, progressed rapidly in his profession. He retired from the Company's service in 1859 and, returning to England, settled at Cheltenham. Though he soon became totally blind, he devoted his retirement to literary work and invented what is called the 'Mastery System' of learning languages, he himself being multi-lingual. His success was considerable and the various manuals in which he practically expounded his views went through numerous editions. He had published 'Mastery Series' for French, Spanish, German, Hebrew and Latin as well as The Mastery of Languages or the Art of Speaking Foreign Languages Idiomatically which might be called the basic text-book.

Thomas died at Meldon Cottage, The Park, Cheltenham, on 14 November 1886. His son, Sir Henry, was Commander in British Bermuda in 1883 - but that is another story.

Returning for the second time to the family of Sir Thomas Prendergast and Jane Gordon we find that Guy Lennox was their fifth son. He spent many years in the Indian Civil Service and was M.P. for Lymington in 1827. He was married twice, first to Dorothy Christian Lushington and secondly to a certain Miss Grieve. He had issue by both and he died in 1845.

Stephen was the sixth and last son of Thomas. He was a Major in the Army, married a member of the Lushington family also and left issue by her. The date of his death has somehow escaped me.

With Stephen's death we must end our survey of the Prendergasts of Newcastle, Co Tipperary, remembering that of the thirteen children of Thomas Prendergast and Jane Gordon, only one did not marry and all the others left large families at their deaths. Our story has brought us to the middle of the nineteenth century, and the story of the present day

Prendergasts must await a fuller telling. The history of those Prendergasts who found themselves beyond the Shannon at the time of the Restoration, not finding it possible to regain their old homesteads about Newcastle or elsewhere, must also await another telling. These founded families in Mayo, Galway, Clare and possible elsewhere in the West of Ireland, For the remainder of this essay I propose to devote one chapter to the Prendergast family at the Gort estate in Co Galway, and perhaps the final chapter, on the Prendergast family of Gowran barony, Co Kilkenny, will serve to illustrate the growth, development, fate and fortunes of a landed Irish family in modern times. With such we must satisfy ourselves here, and even at such we must be content with a mere outline.

## Chapter Eight

THE STORY OF AN IRISH PROPERTY

At the time of the Cromwellian seizures, as we have already seen, Edmund, the last Lord of Newcastle, had been succeeded by his two sons, Jeffry and Thomas. 'Old Thomas', as he was styled, had two sons by his wife Ellen Condon, the younger of which we have already spoken of. We must now turn our attention to the firstborn son of 'Old Thomas', Thomas Prendergast, whose fortunes initiated a new era in Prendergast family history. It was he who re-instated the Prendergasts at Newcastle, and his descendants of the noble family of Gort represent in the female line the Lords of Newcastle, the direct male line having become extinct in the 18th century.<sup>123</sup>

Young Thomas Prendergast, born probably about the date of the Restoration, was given a commission in the army of King James II, in accordance with the Declaration of Indulgence. At the Revolution, his Roman Catholicism involved the revocation of his commission, and he joined the army of King James in Ireland, becoming associated with a large number of fellow Jacobites, including a certain Captain Porter. After the defeat of King James' forces he seems to have obtained a pardon, for at the beginning of 1696 he was living peacefully in Hampshire as the guest of a well-known Jacobite family, the Byerleys. It was in the same year that the turning point in his career occurred.<sup>124</sup> In the month of February he and his host were summoned to London by Captain Porter, who revealed to them details of the famous Assassination Plot. King William III was in the habit of going every Saturday from Kensington to hunt in Richmond Park. Sir George Barclay conceived the idea of waylaying him, and selecting forty recognised Jacobites, planned King William's assassination. Among the chosen forty was Prendergast. Also in the company was one Fisher, who, even before the time and place had been definitely decided, had already unfolded the Plot to the Earl of Portland, who immediately informed the King. However, Fisher's character was not such as entitled him to much credit.<sup>125</sup> But in the evening of 14 February, Portland received a visit from one whose testimony he could not treat lightly. This was none other than Thomas Prendergast himself, who had learned with horror that he was expected to bear a part in such 'a wicked and shameful deed.' Macaulay writes of him: 'He found himself in one of those situations which most cruelly torture noble and sensitive natures.' Prendergast was in a predicament. Could he conspire to save William's life while yet not betraying his friends, especially Captain Porter, who had been more than kind to him? He determined to make the attempt and informed Portland of the Plot, while yet not disclosing any names. Portland acted instantly and the hunting tour arranged for the following day, Saturday 15th

was cancelled.

Barclay, however, was adamant. Saturday 22nd was another day. But by then a third informer had presented himself at the Royal Palace, one De la Rue. King William was now quite anxious and was very glad when Prendergast arrived at the court late on the evening of Friday 21st. Thomas was quickly invited to the Royal closet where an unique interview took place. For more than half an hour the King entreated and Prendergast hesitated. At last Thomas succumbed and said he would give the information required, if he could be assured that it would only be used for the prevention of the crime, and not for the destruction of the criminals. King William gave his word of honour. 'It was long past midnight when Prendergast wrote down the names of the chief conspirators.'<sup>126</sup>

The next day the plans went ahead as arranged and Prendergast took his place among the forty. He was named as one of the eight specially chosen 'to do the business'. The King would definitely hunt that morning it was announced. The usual preparations had been made. All was ready. The muskets were loaded; the swords were sharpened. The assassins were having their last refreshments when a message came informing them that the King had changed his mind. Captain Porter was visibly shaken. He took up an orange and squeezed it. 'What cannot be done today must be done another day,' he said. 'Come, Gentlemen! before we part, let us have one glass to the squeezing of the rotten orange.' The squeezing of the rotten orange was drunk and the company dispersed.

Prendergast's conduct has received the approval of most, admittedly English, historians, and evidently Macaulay thought highly of his noble deed.<sup>127</sup> King William, too, looked gratefully upon his generous enemy, took him into his confidence, attached him to his own person, restored him to his rank in the army and, on 23 April 1697, granted him the estate of Gortinchigorie in Co Galway 'in consideration of the good and acceptable services performed unto us by our trusted and well-beloved Thomas Prendergast, Esq.'<sup>128</sup> The estrangement which the heated feelings of politicians had begun, as Standish Prendergast ably comments, the softer ones of lovers completed, and in order to secure the fair hand of Penelope Cadogan in marriage, Thomas Prendergast shook off the shackles of the Catholic religion and accepted Protestantism. Penelope was the only daughter of Henry Cadogan of Liscartan, Co Meath, and a sister of William, 1st Earl Cadogan. To the lands which Thomas Prendergast received at Gortinchigorie were added those at 'Tullemaine, Milltown, Lisgariff, Ronane, Fethard and its castle Roche-stown, the Spittal lands and commons of Ardfinan, with such other lands not yet disposed of as had been forfeited by any of his name.'<sup>129</sup> In this way Thomas Prendergast recovered much of the lost Prendergast possessions in Co Tipperary and he was almost totally responsible for the survival of that family in their ancient homesteads.

On 15 July 1699, Thomas Prendergast was created Baronet of Gort. In 1703 he was returned to the Irish Parliament for Monaghan, a county with which Lady Prendergast's family was connected.<sup>130</sup> His years spent in Ireland were occupied in negotiations for the settlement of the property he had been granted. With the Gort estate he had little difficulty, but those lands 'as not yet disposed of' caused him far greater trouble, as apparently much of the land he had been granted had in fact already been disposed of. In order to bypass complicated litigation, Thomas thought fit to purchase those lands which had been granted away, and in this way gained possession of most of those lands mentioned in the grant quoted above.

In the War of the Spanish Succession, Sir Thomas Prendergast played a considerable part, commanding the 22nd Regiment of foot, known as 'Prendergast's'. It was specially distinguished in the battle of Oudenarde (July 1708) and again at Malplaquet in September 1709, where its commander was killed. A peculiar interest attaches to Sir Thomas's death and perhaps it is worthy of inclusion here. On the night of 10 - 11 September 1708, he had a remarkable dream which compelled him to make the following entry in his notebook: -

'Being in bed with my wife last night in this my house in the city of London, I dreamt that James Cranmell, a native of Clonmel in Ireland, who died in my service three years ago, appeared in my livery and told me to prepare for death, for that I would die this day year.

Though having no superstition on the subject, I note this as a curious memorandum, if such an event should happen me.'

September 11, 1708

'Thomas Prendergast'

On 11 September 1709, Thomas fell fighting in the thick of the fight at Malplaquet.<sup>131</sup>

By his will, dated 15 September 1705, he left the bulk of his property in tail male to his son, Thomas, then a child of seven years, with a remainder to his brother Jeffry. His wife, Penelope, had an annuity of £200, charged upon the Galway estate, in the management of which she took great interest. Penelope died in June 1746, and by her will, dated 1 February 1745 among other items, she left £20 to purchase an annuity for her little dog 'Trow'. Besides her only son Thomas, Penelope left three daughters - about whom we shall speak presently.

At his father's death in 1709, young Thomas Prendergast was only seven years old. Coming of age in 1723, he succeeded to the Galway estates, worth in the estimation of the dispossessed O'Shaughnessys, £3,000 a year. The List of Absentees in Ireland in 1729 describes the Second Baronet as one of those 'who live generally abroad and visit Ireland now and then for a month or two'.<sup>132</sup> He was elected M.P. for Clon-



mel in 1733, and in the same year was returned for Chichester to the Parliament of Great Britain. He married, in 1740, Anne, daughter and heir of Sir Griffith Williams, 6th Baronet of Marle and Pantglas in Wales. She succeeded to her mother's property, the inheritance of the Vaughans of Pantglas in 1745, but as Sir Thomas died childless, the Welsh estates passed out of the family.<sup>133</sup>

Sir Thomas, the 2nd Baronet, was one time Post-Master General of Ireland and he played a considerable part in Irish politics. Perhaps he is now best remembered as the victim of some of Dean Swift's lampoons - Prendergast was a Whig, and in accordance with what Mr McLysaght has called 'his virulent anti-clericalism',<sup>134</sup> he strongly opposed the Tithe Agistment so dear to Swift's heart. Being a member of that clique in the Senate, which Swift termed The Legion Club, Thomas earned for himself the following biting satirisation: -

'Let Sir Tom, that rampant ass,  
Stuff his guts with flax and grass;  
But before the priest he fleeces,  
Tear the Bible all to pieces.  
At the Parsons, Tom, Halloo! boy,  
Worthy offspring of a shoeboy.  
Footman, Traytor, vile Seducer,  
Perjured rebel, brib'd accuser,  
Lay thy paltry privilege aside  
Sprung from Papists and a Regicide;  
Fall a working like a mole  
Raise the dust about your hole . . . '

-and so on, in like manner, for the other members of The Legion Club.<sup>135</sup>

In another of his satires<sup>136</sup> Swift paraphrases to perfection a passage which he quotes from Horace. Translated literally, it reads as follows: 'Whosoever promises (in the Senate) to take the City (of Rome) and the Citizens under his care, nay, the whole Empire, Italy and the Temple of the Gods, such a man compels all mortals curiously to enquire from what Father he sprung and whether his Mother was some obscure dishonourable Female. (The people would cry out) what thou! the Son of Cyrus or Damus or Dionysus (three slaves), dare thou cast our citizens down the Tarpeian Rock, or deliver thus prisoners to Cadmus.' And the paraphrase -

#### ON NOISY TOM

If noisy Tom should in the Senate prate,  
That he would answer both for Church and State;  
And, further, to demonstrate his Affection,  
Would take the Kingdom into his protection:  
All mortals must be curious to enquire  
Who could this Coxcomb be, and who his Sire?  
What, thou! the spawn of him who sham'd our Isle  
That Traitor, Assassin, Informer Vile,

Though by the female side you proudly bring  
 To mend your breed, the Murderer of a King.  
 What was thy grandsire but a Mountaineer,  
 Who held a cabbin for ten groats a year;  
 Whose Master Moore preserved him from the halter  
 For stealing cows, nor could he read the Psalter.  
 Durst thou, ungrateful, from the Senate chase  
 Thy founder's grandson, and usurp his place?  
 Just Heaven! to see the dunghill dastard Brood  
 Survive in thee, and make the proverb good.  
 Then vote a worthy citizen to Jail  
 In Spight to Justice, and refuse his Bail.

In a note we are told that the 'worthy citizen' was one Mr G - F - , a very honest and eminent printer in Dublin' who was voted to Newgate prison upon a ridiculous complaint of one Sergeant Bettsworth. The proverb referred to is, of course, the well-known 'Save a thief from the gallows and he will cut your throat.' The other allusions in the satire should be well known to us by now, except the reference to 'Master Moore.' The second Baronet's grandfather was, of course, 'Old Thomas' of Croane, who apparently had at one time been condemned to the gallows for stealing cows. However, his Master, the grandfather of Mr Guy Moore, procured him a pardon. Two generations later, 1733, Guy Moore himself was fairly elected member of Parliament for Clonmel, polling 140 votes as against 81 for Sir Thomas Prendergast. However, Prendergast petitioned against him, accusing him of bribery and intimidation (some say Moore merely paid his lawful debts) with the result that Moore was unseated and Prendergast took his place in Parliament.

The second Baronet had an eventful life on his Gort estates, his possession of which had been endangered by a suit brought against him in the interest of the O'Shaughnessys 'On the site of their old Castle' says Standish Prendergast, 'he founded the neat modern town of Rindifin, where the Gort river, leaving Lough Cooter, runs underground and overground in a most fantastic and picturesque fashion - a seat of which some remains of plantations and gardens still point out the situation; but which, when nearly completed, was burnt to the ground, whether intentionally or accidentally accounts do not agree.' Litigation concerning the Gort estate dragged on for many long years and finally, in 1753, Roebuck, the representative of the O'Shaughnessys, accepted a sum of money from Sir Thomas in lieu of all their claims to the old O'Shaughnessy estates at Gortinchigorie.<sup>137</sup> The lawsuit, the bargain with Roebuck O'Shaughnessy, political expenditure and many other outlets had drained the resources of the 2nd Baronet and he sold all his remaining estates in Tipperary. He died at Merrion Square, Dublin, on 23 September 1760, at which time a patent was actually in process about to grant him the Viscounty of Clonmel which 'was in ancient times deemed to belong to his ancestors.'<sup>138</sup> However, death snatched him from the threshold of glory.

The 2nd Baronet, as we mentioned earlier, had three sisters each of whom married, and upon one of whose offspring, the estates at Gort were now entailed. The eldest, Juliana, married Lord Chaworth, 6th Earl of Meath, but she died without issue on 30 December 1758. Elizabeth married Sir John Dixon Hamon of Woodhill, Co Cork, but he died on 26 January 1728. She remarried Charles Smith, son of Thomas Smyth, Bishop of Limerick from 1695 to 1725. For 45 years Charles Smyth was M.P. for Limerick, and he died on 18 August 1784. His wife long pre-deceased him, dying on 9 March 1746, but before her death she had given birth to three sons and two daughters. Our story is concerned with two of those children, the youngest son, John, and the eldest daughter Julia - who married her cousin, Thomas Vereker of Roxborough, Co Limerick, in 1759. The third sister of the second Baronet was Anne, who married Samuel Hobson and by him had Thomas, James and Elizabeth - who married Jeffry Prendergast of Ballylomasna, as mentioned previously in this essay.<sup>139</sup>

John Smyth was the youngest son of Charles Smyth and Elizabeth Prendergast (widow of Sir John Dixon Hamon). He began life as a soldier and in 1760 was gazetted Cornet in the 5th Royal Irish Regiment of Dragoons. Under the will of his uncle he succeeded to the estates of Gort. Changing his name to Prendergast, a condition of inheritance, he retired from the army and devoted himself to the management of his property and to local politics in Limerick. 'On the Gort estates' says Standish Prendergast, 'he made many improvements, especially in roads and in planting, as well around Lough Cutra as in the neighbourhood of the curious and picturesque Punchbowl River.' In Grattan's Parliament Mr Prendergast sat for Carlow and voted with the Grattan Party. In 1782 he became Colonel of the Limerick Independents, 'one of the first Volunteer Corps that was liberal enough to admit Roman Catholics into the ranks.'<sup>140</sup> In 1785 he succeeded his brother Thomas Smyth in the family estates, and thenceforth bore the name Prendergast-Smyth. He succeeded his brother also in the representation of the city of Limerick, and in 1790 he was able to obtain as his colleague his nephew Charles Vereker, second son of his sister Julia. On 18 May 1810, he was created Baron Kiltarton and in 1816 he became the 1st Viscount Gort. He was unmarried and in each title a remainder was given to his nephew, the Right Honourable Charles Vereker, who duly succeeded John Prendergast-Smyth on 23 May 1817.<sup>141</sup>

Thus the family of Vereker came to represent the families of Prendergast and Smyth in the Gort estates. The fortune of these and of the more modern holders of that estate has been already well treated by Robert S. Rait in The Story of an Irish Property. In accordance with his sentiments, and in conclusion of this chapter of the history of the Prendergast family, I, too, can justifiably say that 'the story of the severance between the Gort family and the Lough Cutra estate can best be told in the words of the 4th Viscount Gort

'and with no less justification do I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the same Standish Prendergast' whose learned and instructive manuscript, compiled with no less skill than care, we now quote for the last time,<sup>142</sup> : -

'It was expected that the 2nd Viscount Gort would also have inherited a large sum in ready money; instead of which it proved that the extravagant bachelor left upwards of £60,000 debt. And he had himself incurred heavy liabilities partly in the erection of his beautiful castle, partly in contested elections and other expenses connected with his position as a prominent political personage in Ireland, and the heir of a peer, believed to be extremely rich. His debt had grown up during the suspension of specie payments owing to the wars with France, and so, like prices and rentals in those days of paper money, was unduly inflated. The entirely unexpected position of his uncle's affairs threw Lord Gort at once into serious difficulty, and when Peel caused the resumption of payment in gold in 1819, and Irish rents - especially in poor lands like the barony of Kiltartan - rapidly fell by at least 40%, that difficulty became greater than he was able to conquer. He made a manly effort to do so. He vested his estates in trusts for the payment of incumbrances. But though all those in Cork, those in Limerick which were not in settlement and a large portion of those near Gort were sold, a considerable charge still remained on the property.'

The second Viscount Gort died on 11 November 1842, and he was succeeded by his son John who then became 3rd Viscount Gort. His efforts to restore the fortunes of the estates were frustrated by the Great Famine of 1847 and by the Encumbered Estates Acts of 1849. His inheritance, valued at £150,000, was exposed for sale in 1851. The 'unsettled' lands were purchased by the Religious Order of Loreto, Dublin; the 'settled' lands were purchased chiefly by Mr Vicesimus Knox, with various portions passing into other hands. The area eventually passed into the family of Gough, who retain it to the present day.

The family of Sir Thomas Prendergast were thus severed from the estate of Gortinchigorie which they had held for over a century and a half. The district owes them much, for they had done much to develop its resources and they made a gallant effort to face a long series of misfortunes. To sum up, we might fittingly quote Robert S. Rait, who has done a fine job in describing the fate and fortunes of the Gortinchigories estate-holders: - 'The Prendergasts in the days of their prosperity proved themselves worthy of the heritage which had come their way by the accidents of political turmoil, and in the days of their adversity, when famine walked by noonday, their devotion was none the less genuine that it proved to be unsuccessful.'<sup>143</sup>

## EPILOGUE

It has been well said that a complete history of any family of distinction would be an epitome of the history of their country. In so far as the social condition of the family during the different ages in which the house flourished was described, the progress of civilisation would be illustrated, and such a history would thus contain far more than is comprehended in ordinary annals.<sup>163</sup> Although we cannot hope to have found in the foregoing pages a complete history of the Prendergast family, yet the different ages in which that family flourished have been, we hope, well represented by individual members thereof, and while the family, in toto, can scarcely be said to have reached very great heights of distinction, yet various members, as we have seen, were sufficiently distinguished as to epitomise their age. Such is the justification of a survey of this nature and we hope that, in general, the progress of Irish life and civilisation has been well illustrated thereby.

A simple interest in family history for its own sake is not surprising, since on reflection it can be recognised as a simple and obvious form of curiosity that nobody is likely to lack completely.<sup>164</sup> This is especially true in Ireland and, while differing from age to age and from individual to individual genealogy is deeprooted in Irish tradition. It was family ties which cemented society in aristocratic Gaelic Ireland, and genealogy survived as part of the heritage of the Irish aristocracy in the Irish countryside. Although this Gaelic Ireland was rudely disrupted by the Norman Invasion when a new society, radically different from that already in existence, implanted itself on Irish soil. The obligations which existed between lord and vassal were ties of law and service rather than ties of blood. But the rights and duties were hereditary on both sides and so, as Sir Anthony Wagner points out,<sup>165</sup> feudal society had a practical if more restricted interest in genealogy was preserved by both, professional genealogists flourishing as late as the nineteenth century. Whereas one might expect this interest to be almost non-existent in modern urban society, where the obligations which cement society are social and professional rather than the ties of kinship, the opposite is the case, and interest in family history has sharply risen during the past few years, as is the experience of genealogical societies.

As Professor Barry says,<sup>166</sup> the primary fascination of genealogy would seem to be for its own sake, our curiosity about our ancestors, na flatha fa raibh mo shean roimb eah do Chriost. However, our quest for the satisfaction of this curiosity will direct our attention to the social, economical, political, religious and, in fact, every aspect of civilisation in the ages under survey. This is the primary value of the study of family history and when a person knows his family background he is rightly proud of it. 'After all, a good

family stem is a sure basis of self-esteem, and self-esteem is the inspiration of nationalism.<sup>167</sup>

# FOOTNOTES

1. Burke: Vicissitudes of Families (Remodelled edition); London, 1869 p.1.
2. ibid, p. 1.
3. Prendergast: The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland; (second edition) p. XXX
4. Burke: op. cit, p.7.
5. cf. Barry: The Study of Family History in Ireland, p.32
6. Burke: op. cit, p.2.
7. Prendergast: Notes on the Prendergast Family, p.4
8. cf. The Journal of the Kilkenny and South East of Ireland Archaeological Society 1864 -66. pp. 143-7.
9. Noted by Standish Prendergast in Notes on the Prendergast Family, p.4
10. ibid. p.5.
11. For this and the following statements I depend much on Standish Prendergast who, in Notes on the Prendergast Family, p.5., gives Coldingham Records, Pipe Rolls and Palegrave's Documents as his sources. I have had neither time nor opportunity to certify his statements, but I cannot doubt their authenticity.
12. Calendar of Patent Rolls 1313 - 17, p.539.
13. ibid. 1327 - 30, p.522
14. ibid 1334 - 38, p. 77.
15. Standish Prendergast: Notes on the Prendergast Family, p.6.
16. Quoted by Standish Prendergast, pp. 6-8
17. Joannis de Fordun: Scotichronicon, Vol. II, p.327
18. Noted by Standish Prendergast, p.9
19. Woulfe: Irish Names and Surnames, p. XXI
20. Irish Historical Studies, Vol. 1, No.1 (March 1938)pp.4-20
21. Orpen: The Song of Dermot and the Earl, p. xxlv
22. Teach-Mholing, now St Mullins, Co. Carlow
23. Orpen: Ireland under the Normans, Vol. 1, p.189
24. Sullivan: The Story of Ireland, p. 119 ff.  
     cf also: Lord Lytteton: Notes on the Second and Third Books of the History of the Life of King Henry II, pp. 305-7 and  
     The Song of Dermot and the Earl, 1.2105 ff
25. Orpen: The Song of Dermot and the Earl, p.330
26. Standish Prendergast: Notes on the Prendergast Family, p.15
27. Rait: The Story of an Irish Property, ch.4
28. Calendar of Documents of Ireland 1171-1251, Article 344  
     (I am not sure where Dunleth was, possibly Dunlough in West Cork, but it would seem to have been in Munster at any rate, and most likely in Co Cork.)
29. St John Brooks: Knights Fees in Cos Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny, 13th - 15th Century, p. 141 ff
30. The Song of Dermot and the Earl, 1. 3041 ff.
31. cf. Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Vol. VIII, p.146. That 'dinner' meant our breakfast, and 'supper' our dinner in early times is plain from the early French proverb: -

lever a cinq  
diner a neuf  
Souper a cinq  
Coucher a neuf

Font vivre a quatre vingt dix neuf

(To rise at five, to dine at nine, to sup at five, to go to bed at nine, makes a man live to ninety nine).

32. Dubh-tir: Even as late as 1639 this area between Ferns and the Wicklow Hills was famous for its woods.
33. Ui Ceinnsellaigh: It included the whole of Co Wexford, the barony of Shillelagh, Co Wicklow, and the Northern extremities of Co Carlow.
34. C.D.I. 1171-1251, Art. 348
35. Hore: A History of the Town and County of Wexford, Vol. VI, Ch. XVI
36. Grattan Flood: History of Enniscorthy, p. 189.
37. St John Brooks: Knights Fees in Cos Wexford, Arklow and Kilkenny 13th - 15th Century, ;.129 ff.  
 also: Calendar of Ormond Deeds 1172 - 1350, Art. 111
38. C.D.I. 1171 - 1251, Art. 2716
39. C.D.I. 1171 - 1251, Art. 3203
40. Hore: A History of the Town and County of Wexford, Vol. VI. Ch. XVI
41. C.D.I. 1171 - 1251, Art. 3203
42. C.D.I. 1252 - 1284, Art. 15
55. Analecta Hibernica Vol. 15, p. 401
56. C.D.I. 1171 - 1251, Art. 3203
57. C.D.I. 1293 - 1301, Art. 206
58. Standish Prendergast: Notes on the Prendergast Family p.55
59. ibid. p.56
60. The Western People, 25 August 1935 (Article on 'History of Mayo' by J. F. Quinn).
61. cf. Standish Prendergast, Notes on the Prendergast Family pp. 16 - 21
62. Calendar of Carew Mss., 1603 - 1624, p. 293
63. Calendar of Ormond Deeds, Vol. 1 (1172 - 1350) Art. 22
64. Hennessey, Annals of Loch Ce, Vol. 1, p.397
65. cf. Ordnance Survey Letters for Co Mayo, Vol. 11, p.116
66. Hennessey, op. cit., p. 435
67. ibid. p. 621
68. also Freeman, The Annals of Connaught, 1366 A.D.
69. Hennessey, Annals of Loch Ce, 1366 A.D.
70. The Western People, 8 Sept 1934, J. F. Quinn 'The History of Mayo'.
71. Freeman, The Annals of Connaught, 1420 A.D.
72. The Western People, 1 Sept. 1934
73. ibid. 8 Sept 1934
74. Cal. of Carew Mss. 1575 - 88, p. 49
75. cf. Knox, The History of The Co of Mayo to the close of the 16th Century, p. 356 ff.
76. Freeman, The Compossicion Book of Connaught, p. 92 ff.
77. cf. Archdall, Monasticon Hibernicum, (London 1786) p. 94 ff.
78. Knox, op.cit. pp. 321 - 3



79. Conor Maguire, A Local History of Claremorris, Co Mayo  
p. 13. (note: the page reference is to the typed copy of  
Maguire's ms. in my possession.)
80. The Irish Tatler and Sketch, Aug. 1956. (article on  
CastlemacGarrett by Gearoid MacGowan)
81. ibid.
82. Conor Maguire, op.cit., p.1.
83. Standish Prendergast, Notes on the Prendergast Family, p.59
84. The Journal of the Kilkenny and S.E. of Ireland Arch.  
Society, 1864-66, p.143 ff.
85. ibid.
86. C.D.I. 1252-84, Art. 1163
87. Standish Prendergast, Notes, p.60
88. ibid., p.86
89. For the descent of the Prendergasts in Tipperary we de-  
pend much on McFirbis's Book of Genealogies, which des-  
cent is traced rather well by Standish Prendergast in  
his Notes on the Prendergast Family, pp. 95-106.
90. Calendar of Ormond Deeds, 1509 - 47, p. 55
91. e.g. ibid. 1547 - 84, p. 1 etc.
92. Calendar of Carew Mss 1517 - 74, p.403
93. D'Alton: Illustrations Historical and Genealogical of  
King James's Irish Army List
94. Standish Prendergast: Notes on the Prendergast Family, p.109
95. ibid., p.110
96. J. P. Prendergast: The Cromwellian Settlement of Ire-  
land, p. xxiv
97. Genealogical Office: Prendergast Loose Paper Collection.  
(being letters from the 4th Viscount Gort concerning  
various Prendergast pedigrees.)
98. J. P. Prendergast : The Cromwellian Settlement in Ire-  
land, p. xxix
99. Standish Prendergast: Notes, p.114
100. Calendar of Patent Rolls: Ireland, Elizabeth, Vol. 11, p.99
101. Standish Prendergast: Notes, pp. 123-4
102. cf. Old Kilkenny Review, 1966 and 1967 (Address on the  
Butlers given by Lord Dunboyne). See also: G.O. Ms 113,  
pp. 477-80, and Standish Prendergast: Notes, p.120
103. Standish Prendergast: Notes, p. 141, also G.O. Ms 113,  
pp. 477-80
104. Prendergast: The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland, p. xxv
105. Burke: History of Clonmel, p. 440
106. ibid. p. 154
107. Standish Prendergast, Notes on the Prendergast Family,  
p. 13. also: 15th Annual Report of the Commissioners,  
(Abstracts of lands and other Hereditaments under the  
Acts of Settlement and Explanation, A.D. 1666-84). p.238
108. D'Alton: Illustrations Historical and Genealogical of  
King James's Irish Army List (1689), p.235
109. Simington: Books of Survey and Distribution (1636-1703),  
Vol. II, Co. Mayo, p. 189
110. Analecta Hibernica Vol. 15, p. 401
111. Standish Prendergast: Notes, p. 141
112. ibid., p. 147

113. G.O. Ms. 113, pp. 477 - 480
114. Standish Prendergast: Notes, p. 152
115. G.O. Ms. 295, p. 185
116. Standish Prendergast: Notes, p. 157
117. G.O. Prendergast Loose Paper Collection.
118. ibid.
119. G.O. Ms. 295, p. 185
120. Standish Prendergast: Notes, p. 156
121. ibid., pp. 156-8
122. cf. Finegan, 'John Patrick Prendergast' in Studies, June 1949, pp. 218 ff.
123. This chapter is heavily indebted to Rait's The Story of an Irish Property, Ch. IV.
124. Lord Macaulay: The History of England from the Accession of James II, Vol II, p. 556 ff.
125. ibid.
126. ibid.
127. Dean Swift had other ideas, as we shall see.
128. Quoted by Rait from the Royal Confirmation of June 1698
129. Standish Prendergast: Notes, p. 170
130. Rait: The Story of an Irish Property, Chapter IV.  
See also: G.O. Ms. 113, pp. 477-80
131. Rait. op. cit.
132. ibid.
133. G.O. Ms. 113 pp. 477-80
134. McLysaght: Irish Families cf. 'Prendergast'
135. Swift: 'A Character, Panegyric and Description of the Legion Club'
136. ibid. , p. 355
137. Rait: op. cit.
138. ibid.
139. G.O. Ms 295, p. 185, also: G.O. Lord's Entries, Vol 1 p.19
140. Rait: op. cit.
141. G.O. Ms. 295, p.185
142. Rait: op.cit.
143. ibid.