

DINNEEN GENEALOGY

Line of Heremon
1699 B.C.

Arms: ar, on a Mount in base vert, an oak tree, the stem entwined with two serpents enterwoven and erect, respecting each other all ppr, crest, an owl gaze ppr.

Origin of name Doighnan, brother of Biece who is number ninety on the "Fox" pedigree was the ancestor of O'Doighnain anglicised O'Dugenan: Dinan, Dinneen, Dogan and Hope Doignan (doigh, Irish for hope, do **Keo** to think), Son of Fagan a guo-O prefix, son of hence O'Doighnain, the full Irish name. The original of the Dinneen coat of arms is preserved in the Herald office of the Alster coat of arms, Dublin Castle, Ireland. In the list of the Territory occupied by the ancient Irish families in Limerick and Clare the O'Dinneens appear as chiefs of "Uaithne" now the Barony of Owney County, Limerick and also in the Tipperary records of the same period this fact is corroborated. Also in the list of the principal families in Ireland from the 11th to the end of the sixteenth century the O'Dinneens appear in the Tipperary records of Limerick and Cork: about that time Queen Elizabeth, her father, Henry the 8th, and Cromwell disposed as many of them. All that escaped being murdered and robbed and evidently the O'Dinneens were among them. The Anglo Saxons never could spell, read or write the Irish language and very little of their own. Hence the havoc that ensued when they tried to write or pronounce the Irish names. The O'Dinneens were among the ancient celebrated families in Ireland. One branch of the family was located at Kelronan and North Roscommon and afterwards were land proprietors in the Parish of Drumleas, Barony of Drumahair County, Leitrim down to the Cromwell Confiscations; they are especially celebrated in the Irish Annals for their devotion to the history and literature of their country. In 1339 the Church of Kilronan was begun by Ferrall Muinach O'Dinneen. It stood over Lough Mulagh and has a deep National Interest, as in a vault close to the ruins erected for the family of Mac Dermot Roe were deposited the earthly remains of the celebrated, Carlan; at the close of the 14th Century Manus O'Dinneen was engaged in drawing up a considerable portion of the Book of Ballymate. Subsequently a chronicle was compiled which derives its title from the locality of this family. It was called the "Book of Kilronan" or sometimes the "Book of the O'Dinneens". This book was one of the chronicles from which the Four Masters, one of whom was Cucoigeriche (or Paregrine) O'Dinneen collected their great work in 1632. The four masters records as might be expected numerous of the O'Dinneen family, for each of whom is commemorated as a learned historian or philosopher. In 1588 Daffy O'Dinneen wrote a history of the Sept. of the O'Dinneens.

Patrick O'Dinneen, L.L.D. who was a member of parliament for the Borough of the Old Leighlin in the Irish Parliament in 1797 was a member of the family. He was also one of the Kings Council, advocate general of the admiralty, Judge of the Prerogative Court, Professor of the Common law, in Dublin University, Vicar General of Dublin, A Doctor of Laws, Vicar General of the Diocese of Meath and Leighlin and Ferns and Advocate in the Ecclesiastical courts, etc.

In O'LLerys genealogies the pedigree of this family is recorded down to Jon Ballock O'Dinneen who was chief of his name when the family was dispossessed of their Kilronan patrimony, but from this time down to the Cromwellian confiscations the family genealogy is not forthcoming. We have therefore been able to trace only one branch of the family, namely that descended from:

John Dinneen of Ardagh County Longford, who had John (who was Master of grammar school at Walsal Staffordshire, England) died in 1845 leaving an ~~son~~ only son and three daughters:

1. Henry Dinnen
2. Mary, Married Thomas Franklin Walsall
3. Emma " William Folley, "
4. Anne " William Holden, "

Henry Dinneen, son of John Died at Walsall 1873, issue William Henry living 1883 at Rushall Hall near Walsall who was twice married; first in 1850 to Mary, daughter of Wm. Miners, Fisherwick Staffordshire, and by her hand had three children.

Florence Mary, Wife of George Rose, M.A. living in 1883 and Drnest Henry. This Dr. Patrick O'Dinneen above referred to was twice married—first to Mary Cusick; his second wife was a Miss Heppenstal whose brother was the famous Col. Heppenstal who acquired his sermon of the 'Walking Gallows' on account of his exploits during and after the rebellion of 1793. Heppenstal was a remarkably tall robust man and had a habit of expertly executing strangling rebels when he happened to meet them by twisting his own cravat or drum cords round their necks, then throwing it over his own brawny shoulders and so trotting round at a smart pace with his rebel dangling at his back being slowly choked to death.

This occurred many times in the countries of West Meath and Longford in the year 1799 and 1800 during the period of martial law and was regarded by the English government more as a joke than an act of unhuman brutality. The memory of this and other acts of savagery will never die in Ireland.

The O'Dinneens were one of the principal Bardie families in Ireland as well as historians. It is well to remember that all historians as well as other books were written in manuscript form until printing came into use. Sometime in the 15th century O'Dinneen of Kelronan were bards and historians in McDermet of Roseomon and McDonagh of Sligs and the works they turned out with the material available was marvelous even at the present day. Such illuminating book such as the book of "Kello" and the book of "Armagh" are the wonders of the present age, and priceless as well.

The O'Dinneens ranked high amongst the principal historians, bards and poets as their contributions to the famous Amals of the Four Masters Shows.

THE BOOK OF BALLY MATE

Beautifully written on Vellum is deposited in the library of the Royal Academy, Dublin. In most of the tracts in that wonderful volume are many valuable poems given in their entirety proof of or to illustrate the facts which they record. The book has never been fully illustrated or translated. There are 37 books in the one volume and when fully translated into English what a flower

found among my records Oct 7 1914

of Ancient Irish History and genealogy it will give to the world. The Book of Bally Mate, so called from having been in the possession of the McDoughs at their castle at Bally Mate in the county of Sligo, was composed in the latter part of the 14th Century chiefly by Salamb and Dooma and Solamon O'Dinneen and Manus O'Dinneen, learned antaguaries and historian. Tomalthagt McDonough, Lord of Tirerril and corran in Sligo was the Patron of these learned men and the McDonaghs kept this book in their family for many years but was purchased from them in 1522, by one of the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ O'Donnells of Ulster. The price paid being 140 milk cows. The book is a large folio M.S. on Vellum. It contains the ancient history of Ireland from the earliest period down to the end of the authority of the 14th century and is considered authentic to the final letter and of great authority. The original is in the library of the Royal Academy and a copy of Comellan by order of Queen Victoria is in the Palace library of Wendsor Castle, London.

Hundreds of perhaps thousands of such valuable M.S. were wantenly destroyed by the invaders of Henry the Eight, Elizabeth, and Cromwell and Williams. The Houses of the chiefs ravaged and their lands confiscated. The libraries of Oxford and Cambridge are filled with them and even the German universities contain many priceless manuscripts in the Irish language awaiting translation.

At the St. Louis World fair the University of Dublin, Trinity and the Royal Irish Academy exhibited several including the Book of Bally Mate, the Book of Kells, Amals of the Four Masters and some were more than surprised.

Many people of Irish descent learned for the first **time** that their own ancestors had produced such wonderful books as early as the 14th century and even the book of Law which existed before St. Patrick introduced Christianity ~~x~~ into Pagan Ireland.