

The name McCaffrey originates from Gadfraidh the second son of Donn Mor Maguire - (1260 AD to 1302 AD). Gadfraidh is noted as the 'equivalent' of the English Godfrey German or Saxon Got frei.

The McCaffreys are magraidfraidh's - (mag is another usage of Mac) - "son of gadfraidh, godfrey, ".



The motto on the McCaffrey coat of arms is

"Justia Et Fortituda Invincibilia Sunt" - "Justice And Fortitude Are Invincible"

It is the Motto of the Maguires.

The Maguires.

The Maguires (mag son of guire - in Irish - Mhig Uidhir) appear in the records from about A.D. 1264, when they supplanted the former Chieftains of Fermanagh (O'Daimhin, or Devin).

The Maguires are reputed to descend from Cormac MacArt King of Tara (226-268-A.D.).

"A brave warrior, and the most learned and wisest of the Pagan Kings of Ireland"

A seventh century poem in Irish is part of a poetic discussion between King Guire and his hermit brother Marbahn.

There are few references in modern Fermanagh to their existence. Maguiresbridge in Co. Fermanagh, in Gaelic Droichead Mhig Uidhir, takes its name from the clan.

Fermanagh is the land of monks and there were extensive monasteries throughout the Kingdom. The Irish monasteries were tied to the clan.

From Donn Morr Maguire onward the Maguires are the Kings and Princes of Fermanagh and Fermanagh is a Maguire possession. Each King in turn was inaugurated on the summit of Cuilcagh, a mountain near Swanlinbar, on the borders of Cavan and Fermanagh and also at the hill of Cornashee, near Lisnaskea.

The line of Maguire Kings continue to September 14, 1607 when the last King Maguire Cuchonnacht sailed with great northern chieftains of northern Ireland the O'Neills, and O'Donnells from Lough Swilly in the "Flight of the Earls". He died in obscurity in Italy never to returning to Ireland.

But we are getting ahead of ourselves - back to 13th century and the reign of Donn Mor Maguire.

Donn Mor Maguire's reign and that of his sons, was marked by poets and historians for its devotion to culture, the church, and learning. He consolidated and expanded the Maguire estates in eastern Fermanagh.

Fermanagh was beset by wars and competing claims of title. It sits wedged between two powerful neighboring clans, O'Donnells in Donegal to the west and the O'Neills in Tyrone to the north.

The McCaffreys

Donn Mor Maguire's sons were Donn Og, Gafraidh, and Lochlainn. As noted above it is the second son, Gafraigh who is the first 'caffrey'.

Gadfraidh moved to the east of Lisnaskea to the Townland of Ballymacaffrey in the western Clogher Valley. around 1302, the year old King Donn Mor died. It is still there is near Fivemiletown now across in Tyrone.

The lands of the McCaffreys considered under the clan's control correspond to the most of the Barony of Magherastephana. on this map of the Baronies of Fermanagh.



Civil parishes of Magherastephana

1. Aghalurcher
2. Aghavea
3. Derrybrusk



I have a notion it is the area that I have outline in green.

The McCaffreys and the Maguires from 1302 AD until the Flight of the Earls in 1607

For four hundred years the clan Mac Caffraigh were known as 'Valiant' and performed in many battles as the standard bearers of the Maguire Kings of Fermanagh. The clan jealously protected the small kingdom's eastern borders from the powerful O'Neills. The O'Neills invaded five times during Fermanagh's formative years (1319, 1327, 1355, and 1358)

By 1395 the Maguires finally had established hegemony over the entire county under the fifth Maguire king, Pilib (Philip of the Battle Axe) with the royal town being Lisnaskea. Philip was able to keep the competing neighbors out of the county through his ability in wartime on land and with his white-sailed ships on the waterways of Lough Erne. This is a period of stability and peace in Fermanagh.

The next Maguire king was Thomas, Philip's son.

His reign benefited from his father's ability and he enjoyed peace.

His brother Aedh or Hugh the Hospitable overshadowed Thomas as a wise and generous lord.

Hugh was the next in line for the throne but lived amiably with his brother the king until his death in 1428. Hugh had established a castle in Enniskillen which began to rival the traditional Maguire seat of power in Lisnaskea.

Thomas' son, Thomas the Younger's reign experienced many squabbles and internal fights by rival branches of the Maguire clan. The Maguires split during this period between Thomas and his brother Philip and the Annals reflect numerous Maguire raids and killings over land and booty.

Hugh the Hospitable's sons and grandsons were active in securing significant territory for themselves.

The McCaffreys apparently remained loyal to Thomas, the Maguire king of the old line at Lisnaskea. The family got caught up in the feuds of the Maguires and did not fare well during this period as the Annals shows.

The next mention of the MacGafradh is 1468 when the MacGafradh chief, Donnchadh (son of Donnchadh the Luckless), his son Feidhlime and brother John and his son, John, Diarmait, along with three others are slain by Aedh, the grandson of King Philip the Battle Axe MagUidhir (Maguire)

This decimation of the McCaffrey hierarchy results in the diminishment of the McCaffrey power in their stronghold of south-east Fermanagh, which was taken by Donall Ballach and Turlach Maguire.

The killing of Maguires by their kinsman, the warrior Mac Gafraidhs, takes its toll on the county and perhaps because they were weakened by this fratricidal strife in the 1470s and 80s the entire kingdom is plundered by the MacMahons from neighboring Monaghan.

In 1471 Eamonn, son of Thomas, became the King at Lisnaskea but was so unpopular that Eamonn's son, Giolla Patrick, is slain at the Maguire Royal church at Aghalurcher in 1484. A portion of the church still stands just south of Lisnaskea.

The church and its sponsors the Maguires of Lisnaskea were diminished at this point and John Maguire of Enniskillen and the descendants of Hugh Maguire the Hospitable take the mantle of King of Fermanagh in the newer castle in Enniskillen.

The McCaffreys seem to make the transition from the 'old line' of Maguires at Lisnaskea to the 'new line' at Enniskillen.

The Annals mention William MacGafradh passing away on the 5th of March in 1474. William is counsel to the tribal assembly of the sons of Philip Maguire.

By 1486 the Maguires are reunited under John, when the son of the inept Eamonn agrees to acknowledge and pledge loyalty to John as king in order in exchange for the release of his sons, who had been taken hostage by the new line of Maguires. The peace was not all inclusive, however, as the Annals show.

In 1495 Maghnus the Bald Maguire was slain 'treachorously' by another Philip Maguire and the freckled Gillie McCaffrey, son of Cu-Cunnacht McCaffrey.

In 1505 a Maguire prince, Toirdelbach, son of John of Enniskillen, was boating on Lough Erne with two sons of Tadhg Mc Caffrey and sixteen others who were all drowned in a storm when their cot sank.

Family ties often meant less to the people of that period than relationships of convenience. The Annals relate that in 1518 a son of Aodh Mac Gafraidh was sent by Philip Maguire to the island of Clabach to deal with Henry O'Neill on a business transaction. The Mac Gafraidh and another O'Neill, Aodh the Stammerer, Henry's own uncle, were taken hostage on the trip. Philip was enraged and came to the island to fight. He did not gain back the hostages but was able to slay his nephew, Cathal, a friend of Henry. The hostages were released and Aodh O'Neill died a free man at the end of the year.

By 1532 tensions with the O'Neills to the north were at their height when a major skirmish erupted. The Maguire king sent his cavalry under his son, Cormac, into battle with the O'Neills. A sharp battle ensued where many O'Neill princes, including the heir Feidhlimidh, were mortally wounded.

Cormac was taken hostage and two captains of the Maguire host, namely William (son of Diarmaid) and freckled Gillie (son of Henry) Mac Gafraidh were slain in battle.

The McCaffreys seem to be a tightly knit clan.

They acted as a group and they could be vengeful when necessary. In 1533 Redmond Maguire insulted the wife of Cormac Mc Caffrey. The Annals tell us that the Clann McCaffrey refused to let the insult pass and hunted down and slew Redmond. The killing of Redmond did not create lasting animosity between the MacGafraidhs and the royal Maguires.

Just two years later, in 1535, Cu-Connacht Maguire and the McCaffrey men went on a raid of O'Neill country in Tyrone's Clogher Valley. The Fermanagh men got away with quite a bit of booty that day but that night a raiding party sent by the O'Neills to punish the Maguires and Mac Gafraidhs came upon Feidhlime McCaffrey on the slopes of Slieve Beagh getting ready to feast upon some of the stolen beef. Caught red-handed and virtually alone, Feidhlime did not stand a chance and was killed on the spot.

Also in 1535 Cormac, son of Donnchadh McCaffrey, was slain by the sons of Eogan O'Neill the Red and Giolla-Padruig, his brother, died that year. This event was one which led up to a general feud between a faction of the O'Neills and the Maguires. On January 5th, 1536 the three sons of Maguire (Cormac, Brian, and Donal, along with the descendants of John and James and Ruaidhri Blind-eye Maguire joined Niall O'Neill of Tyrone in a war on King Maguire.

The McCaffreys remained loyal to their king and fought the rebel Maguire and O'Neill invaders. The rebel Maguires with their O'Neill friends invaded Fermanagh and carried off many spoils from the McCaffrey lands - Cuil-Mic-Tigharnan McCaffery lands in eastern Tirkennedy between the Tempo River and it's tributary in Co. Tyrone. Cormac Maguire slew many of his Maguire kin in a great battle. Many on both sides died and in the end the McCaffreys stopped the invasion. This is the last of the major Irish wars in the area.

The Wars with Henry the VIII.

When Henry VIII broke with the Church of Rome he had the Irish Parliament name him the head of the Church of Ireland. The Irish rebelled again in a short-lived war in which they were defeated in 1539 at Ballyhoe.

At this point most of the Irish chieftains submitted to Henry VIII and surrendered their lands to the English monarch in exchange for his granting them back as royal, and taxable, land grants.

The Maguires, with the McCaffreys refused to submit. As a result, the O'Neills invaded Fermanagh in 1566 in order to win the tribute of the Maguires for the Ui Neill clan. After fending off the O'Neills, King Cuchonnacht II of the Maguires kept the peace in Fermanagh.

The price of that peace was to allow the English to divide the county into shires using the English system in 1585 after he finally, formally surrendered Fermanagh to the English.

King Cuchonnacht received the county back, minus sizable church lands, in 1586 "for himself and his descendants to hold forever as long as they did not rebel." Note well that phrase "**as long as they did not rebel**".

Cuchonnacht died in 1589 and was succeeded by his son, Hugh, who was crowned the fifteenth king of Fermanagh at Lisnaskea in 1589.

The McCaffreys, Maguires, O'Neills, and O'Donnells of Donegal united against the English as the Nine Years War approaches.

This war was the first major revolt by the Irish against the English. The revolt was begun by the Maguires and the McCaffreys.

The Nine Years War

The English appointed a sheriff to look after their interests and enforce the king's peace in Fermanagh. In 1593 the sheriff killed unarmed men, women and children in the county.

Hugh immediately took up arms. With McCaffreys at the front, the Maguires attacked the English beginning the Nine-Years War. Hugh was so successful that he was able to send men south to Connaught where they surprised the English at Tulsk and earned a great victory for the Irish.

The chief of the McCaffreys was slain. The McCaffrey chief was succeeded and they continued to alongside the Maguires as the revolt spread. A large English force invaded Fermanagh and Hugh fled, under the orders of his secret ally, the Hugh O'Neill from Tyrone. Eventually, Hugh was driven out of Enniskillen in 1593 but he was back in 1594 to besiege the invaders.

The force sent by the English to relieve the siege under Sir Henry Duke was defeated and such was the plunder that the battle was called the "ford of the Biscuits". Hugh Maguire raised the siege and now had the O'Donnells and the mighty O'Neills on his side. In May 1595, he retook his castle at Enniskillen

The year 1596 was spent by both sides in negotiating peace to buy time. The English were reorganizing their forces while the Irish were waiting for help from Spain.

Early in 1597 the English sent two parallel invading forces into rebellious Ulster. The one in the east was defeated by O'Neill. In the west, the McCaffreys and Maguires helped Red Hugh O'Donnell defeat the army under Sir Conyard Clifford.

Later that year the McCaffreys and Maguires (who led the Irish cavalry) were involved in the greatest Irish victory on Irish soil, the Battle of the Yellow Fords. The victory was such that the Ulster Chiefs again advanced as far south as Clare. The great chieftain Hugh Maguire, with his standard bearer McCaffrey, was killed on a raid in Munster.

"The Lament for Hugh Maguire" by the Maguire bard O'Hussey

The O'Donnells successfully nominated Cuchonnacht, Hugh's half brother, to the Fermanagh throne. Meanwhile, the Spanish arrived at Kinsale - Cork - with 4,000 infantry to help the Irish. The battle of Kinsale ensued in 1602 with terrible losses for the Irish.

Later that year, the O'Neills and O'Donnells gave in to the English. Cuchonnacht Maguire was the last to surrender. Cuchonnacht found he was unable to live with the English exercising ownership over his lands.

The Flight of the Earls

He helped organize the famous 'Flight of the Earls' on September 14, 1607.

The great northern chieftains of the Maguires, O'Neills, and O'Donnells left Ireland forever from Lough Swilly, Derry. They were to die in obscurity in various countries on the continent of Europe.

Cuchonnacht was the last Maguire king of Fermanagh. Thereafter, Fermanagh and Ireland would be ruled either directly by the invaders or through English sponsored chiefs. The chief of the McCaffreys did not leave with the Flight of the Earls.

The Plantations of Ulster

The plantation of Ulster commenced in 1602 and gained pace following the departure of the Irish Earls. Remember that phrase in their surrender to Henry the Eight. They held their lands under the Crown so long as they did not rebel. Rebellion is only rewarded if it is successful. It must succeed. Failure does not return you to the position you were in before the rebellion.

Upon the departure of the O'Neill, Maguire and O'Donnell, James the First confiscated their lands. Armagh, Colrairie (Derry), Tyrconnell (Donegal), Tyrone, Fermanagh and Cavan were escheated to the Crown.

"Of the 3,800,000 confiscated acres just 1,500,000 of poor infertile land were restored to the native Irish.

Substantial grants were made to royal schools, the established church, the Anglican church, ie the Church of Ireland, military forts and towns."

The plantation in Fermanagh began with a meeting of a Crown commission at Devenish, an ancient island in Lower Lough Erne in 1603. The commission met with the local Irish lords who remained to parcel out the county. Included in the Irish commission to divide the county was the chieftain of the McCaffreys. This commission was unsuccessful in planning the English division of Fermanagh, it took three more commissions to complete the plantation of Ulster.

The chief of the McCaffery clan never again attended the meeting but the McCaffreys were successful in preventing the planters from taking Magerstephana, the area of McCaffrey control

In November, 1612, Ballymacaffrey and much of the barony of Magerstephana, was incorrectly listed as a part of Tyrone and parceled to Conn O'Neill. O'Neill was made a servitor of the loyalist, Conor Roe Maguire. Unusually the McCaffreys kept much of their traditional areas and were allowed to stay.

The main plantation of Ulster takes place under James the First of England - Sixth of Scotland. James the First was a Presbyterian. Cannily he did nothing to disturb the established Anglican church of England. More cannily he did not allow the reconversion of the Presbyterians of Scotland. The Calvinistic Scots settlers of Ulster, got more of a share of the land than the English settlers.

Whilst they were non-conformists and also suffered under the English rule they loathed the Catholic Irish for doctrinal reasons. Not to mention their cultural antipathy to Gaelic culture in general.

Charles the First ascended the Throne in 1625.

He added to the difficulties of Ulster by attempting to make all in the Kingdom pay taxes to the Anglican church. He was defeated by Scottish covenanting armies and agreed to the continuation of the Presbyterian church in Scotland and under sufferance to leave it alone in Ireland. Charles had provocative ideas on the divine right of Kings and led England into civil war. Northern Ireland fell under the control of the Puritan parliamentary side. As in most English civil wars the Irish paid a terrible price for selecting the losers in the War.

The Revolt of 1641.

The English Civil war has broken out. Sir Phelim O Neill starts the rebellion on behalf of Charles I as a loyal subject of the Crown. Sir Phelim declared his loyalty to Charles. He proclaimed he would hurt no English or Scots. He was intent on defeating the Parliamentary party in Ireland and upholding the rights of the native Irish. Sir Phelim could not contain his followers.

Some 12,000 Protestants, men women and children died by hunger, sword, fire, hanging or drowning. The Irish ignoring orders to leave the Scots planters alone attacked every settler they could find. The revolt was started by the McCaffreys at the village of Lisnarick.

One source has it *"What is stated to have occurred at Crevenish Castle before the Rebellion of 1641 was that the flames of the village now called Lisnarick (Lisnarogg) were to have been the signal for the rising in the district.*

Also that it was Brian Maguire of Tempo House who gave the warning to Sir William Cole and other gentlemen at Crevenish, as to the Rebellion."

"Rory (Maguire) himself took Necharney (or Irvinestown). His brother-in-law, Richard Nugent, with the McCaffreys, took Archdalestown" The success of the revolt and the death of the 12,000 settlers fomented the religious hatred and bitterness that scars Ulster to this day. Nationality is still a future concept. Wars of succession and ownership of land become matters of revenge and religion.

The Maguire success across Fermanagh prompted the O'Neill and O'Donnell clans in Ulster to again join the growing fight.

Eventually most of Ireland joined the revolt. In 1642 the Irish bishops endorsed the revolt and appointed a lawyer, Patrick D'Arcy to draw up a constitution.

There were four forces in Ireland.

General Munro at the head of a scottish army. He was defeated at Benburb by O'Neill in 1646.

The Catholic confederacy really the forces of Charles 1 who were in Ireland.

O Neill at the behest of the Papal Nuncio and his desire that there be one established Catholic church in Ireland moves south against these forces and defeats them.

In January 1649 Charles the I is executed and Cromwell takes charge.

He lands in Ireland with the very recent memories of the slaughter of the Protestant settlers ringing in the ears of his troops. Cromwell considered the Irish rebellious heretics and commenced a premeditated, considered slaughter. The massacres included 3000 of all ages and sexes at Drogheda. A further 2000 at Wexford, including 300 defenseless women begging for their lives.

Cromwell himself sanctioned the killing of defenseless citizens as he attests, *"I thought it not right or good to restrain off the soldiers from their right of pillage, or from doing execution on the enemy."*

Divided Ireland remembers this in its different ways. The Protestants remember the surprise destruction of their ancestors, the 12,000 who perished and consider Cromwell their saviour. The Irish remember the cruelty of Cromwell.

The McCaffreys fought along side the Maguires in the Army of Eoghan Rua O'Neill and his nephew, Rory Maguire, king of Fermanagh.

When both of these generals died, the Ulster Army was led, at first successfully, by Heber MacMahon.

Unfortunately for the Irish, MacMahon was no general and he lost half his army at Letterkenny, and the other half at Enniskillen in Fermanagh thereby ending resistance to Cromwell in the North.

The victory of Cromwell began thirty years of depression, famine, and repression of the Irish. The first measure was to banish the entire native Catholic populace of Ireland to the rough lands in Connaught. Parliament declared a penalty of death on any Irish man, woman, or child alive east of the river Shannon after May 1, 1654. Catholic priests were killed on sight and any person turning them into authorities earned a bounty of five pounds. The land was turned over to the victorious Cromwellian soldiers and their benefactors. Many of the laws and regulations instituted by the Cromwellians proved unenforceable as the new landlords needed the natives to do the work which made them rich landlords.

In Fermanagh, the remaining McCaffreys preferred to stay and become serfs, providing labor to the incoming landlords. Eventually the repressions were eased. In 1660 England abandoned the Cromwellian protectorate.

Charles II with Catholic sympathies assumed the throne and some religious freedom prevailed. You can get a snapshot of the McCaffreys who have survived Cromwell, the Nine years war and their locations in the Census of 1659 and the records from the time. Few Catholics were pushed into Connaught.

James II.

James ascended to the throne in 1685 and appointed the Duke of Tyrconnell, a Catholic, as his Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Tyrconnell overturned many of the English measures and allowed Irish soldiers to form a separate army.

While Tyrconnell was busy rebuilding Catholic Ireland, James was deposed in 1688 in the **Glorious Revolution** of William and Mary.

William was of the House of Orange in the Netherlands and this is the beginning of the prominence of the word Orange in Ulster. James first fled to France. Then he brought a French army to Ireland where he was welcomed by his appointee Tyrconnell and his Irish army.

James swiftly mustered an Irish Parliament and prepared the Irish-French army to fight William, who landed in June 1690.

The leader of the Fermanagh contingent of the Irish who went into battle to decide who should rule England was Cunnought Mor Maguire. Giolla Padraig Modartha McCaffrey was the chief of the McCaffrey Clan and led his men in Maguire's regiment.

These armies of Ireland were loyalists to the core. Loyal to James the 11. Unfortunately being loyalists to the other English King was to prove the better bet.

Cunnought Mor was one of the few Irish to own lands in Fermanagh. He owed his holdings near Tempo in Magerstefana, Fermanagh to his grandfather, Brian. Brian Maguire had retained his land through a service rendered to the English when he alerted them to the Irish rising in 1641, fifty years earlier.

The war went well at first with the Earl of Tyrconnell and the French marquis of St. Ruth leading the Irish-French. The deposed English "Catholic" King James began the war to tumultuous support from the Irish.

He was defeated by William of Orange at the Battle of the Boyne on July 12, 1690.

King James fled back to France that day. If you like your politics ironic William of Orange had the backing of the Pope who was at contratemps with Louis King of France, James the Second's backer.

The Irish and St. Ruth continued the war with some success until the battle of Augrim on July 12, 1691.

Aughrim is the decisive battle of the war.

The Jacobean lost. The left side of the Irish line, held by Luttrell's Irish Cavalry, crumbled about the time St. Ruth was killed by an English cannonball to the head. This situation made the Irish position untenable and, without overall command from St. Ruth, lead to a rout. The Fermanagh forces of Maguire, including the McCaffreys under Giolla Padraig, were so decimated that "no correct list of the officers of this regiment can now be made".

The Fermanagh men stood and fought, losing both Cunnought and Giolla Padraig McCaffrey in the process. They were nearly all cut to pieces their brave colonel being slain (Cunnought Mor Maguire), their Lieutenant-Colonel was taken prisoner.

In the final battle at Limerick a surrender is agreed and the defeated Irish soldiers sail for the continent in the "**Flight of the wild Geese.**"

The defeat led to the third and final plantation of Ireland. In Fermanagh, the Protestants who held land, kept it. Most of the Catholics who still held land were supplanted by Protestants, in particular Presbyterians from Scotland.

The McCaffreys stayed in Fermanagh.

The organisation of McCaffreys as a clan was rent asunder by the plantations, the flight of the Irish leadership in 1607 and the final defeat of Gaelic Ireland at Aughrim. From 1690 the clan ceases to act as a unit, and disintegrates into the actions of individuals and families.

Aughrim, Enniskillen and the Boyne are the Colloden of gaelic Ireland.

The language and culture continues under fierce pressure from the ascendancy. but no power, political or military is held by the original inhabitants of Ireland. They may not vote, own a horse, become priests or receive an education.

In 1796, the United Irishmen, founded by Theobald Wolfe Tone, began a rising which sputtered out when the ringleaders were identified through a network of spies and arrested beforehand. Wolfe Tone himself surrendered when he arrived on a French ship at Lough Swilly, too late to lead the French-Irish force.

The 1798 rebellion is a mixture of Catholics and Presbyterians and protestant nonconformists grieved at their loss of liberty as Irishmen. The center of the revolt in Fermanagh was Roslea.

One Felix McCaffrey was among the United Irishmen who were informed upon by one William Whiteside. Felix escaped arrest and fled Fermanagh. One James McCaffrey of Lisnaskea was the leader of the rebellion in Manorhamilton.

Modern history in Ireland has few references to the McCaffrey clan.

The Parliament of Ireland with and its ascendancy members is closed in 1800 with the Act of Union. There is a miracle in the rise of Daniel O'Connell and the fight for Catholic Emancipation 1829, the vote and some civil liberties for some. But O'Connell is defeated before the great meeting in Clontarf in 1842

Finally all is destroyed by the Famine in 1845-49. There is a minor rebellion in 1848 in the midst of the Famine. The effects of transportation to Australia, the mass death and emigration, the evictions of the famine years destroy Gaelic Ireland. The population in 1843 of 8 million is cut to 4 million by 1900.

The Fenians, land reform agitation attempts to pass a Home Rule Bill by Gladstone, Parnell, the Home Rule Bill of 1911 the Covenants of Ulster in 1912 all flow on. Finally a Home Rule Bill is passed in 1914 but suspended for the duration of the War. Ireland sweeps on as much part of Great Britain as Cornwall or Pembrokeshire until an Easter Sunday in 1916 when all changes utterly.

But as noted above the clan McCaffrey passed into history at Aughrim. After that remained were families and individuals. It is these families who last through dispossession, famine and war to the present time. In the period 1845 to 1850, thousands of family names disappear from Ireland through the death of over a million people in the Famine and the resulting emigration.

The McCaffreys survive.

Some left hard times and scattered all over the world to chance their fortune. Some were transported, others moved to the rest of Ireland. But some, a few, hung on tooth and nail to farms or at best a living in the bit of land between Fivemiletown and Lisnaskea.

They stayed in that small territory that their forebears had fought so hard to keep and call their own since time out of memory. Long long before there were written records in Ireland before Patrick came 1600 sixteen hundred years ago.

References

The best reference is a fine site constructed by Jim Maguire from Moreno Valley California.

This page was compiled with a great deal of material from Martin R. McCaffery

The best point of entry is through the site map and references to the Maguires are at the bottom of the page.

[Jims main Maguire History links are](#)

- History of the Maguires
- The Dawning
- 1 AD
- The later years.

They are all worth a browse.

Jim also has an excellent set of links.

Other References are:

- Maguire clan
- Clans of Ireland - They have a 'clan finder link'

The Goffs Macgoughs and magoughs
The Famine
Vassar College - Poughkeepsie, New York

Vassar has published on the internet a series of articles from The Illustrated London News related to the Irish tragedy of 1845 -51.

The articles include links to 72 engravings The sketches can also be found and viewed through the Index to Illustrations. There is more resources on the Famine at Vassar at

<http://vassun.vassar.edu/%7Estaylor/FAMINE/index.html>"

No one should review the history of Fermanagh and the plantations without reference to the book

"The Faithful Tribe" Ruth Dudley Edwards Harper Collins 1999.

