

Filan Family History Sketch

Ua Fíaláin for the Clan Gathering 13th Auust 2022

Ollamh: is a member of the highest rank of filí (Poets)

Ádhamh Ó Fialán, penned a complex poem in praise of his Lord and Patron, Tomás Magauran, (d. **1343**, lord of Tullyhaw, Co. Cavan), of 57 intricate tricky quatrains.

“Geabh do mhúnudh, a mheic bhaoith”

seanfhocul glan glóir bhionnghaoith

sdiuraidh fear láimh re lochtaibh;

cáir seadh is na seanfhoclaibh.

Ollamh: Ádhamh Ó Fialán

“Listen to instruction, foolish boy”.
This famous old saw of wisdom
can lead a man to avoid sin; old
saws are to be remembered.



Ua Fialáin: Before the 17th Century

Learned people: Poets, scribes and chroniclers, Ollamhs to Irish kings and lords. Associated with the Monasteries which were hubs of civilization, law, learning, technology and religion.

Many references in Annals:

1362: Adam Ua Fialáin died

1373: John Ua Fialáin, namely, a good ollam in poetry, died this year.

1431: Eogan Ua Fialáin, an eminent poet, died

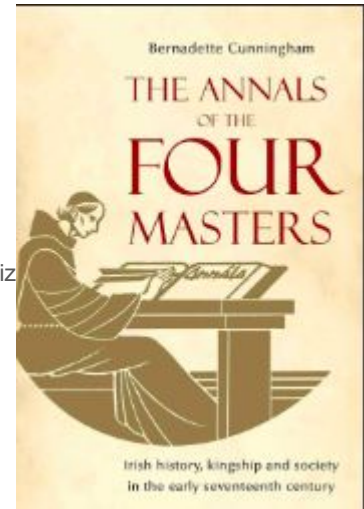
1452: Cuconnaught Ua Fialáin and Gilla-Isa Ua Fialáin

1454: **Lasairfina**, daughter of **Mac Maghnusa**, namely, daughter of Cathal junior, son of Cathal Mor, wife of Ua Fialáin, that is, of John, son of Eogan Ua Fialáin, to wit, a charitable, well-mannered woman, died on the 6th of the Ides 8th of June.

1478: Barrdubh, daughter of Eogan Ua Fialáin, wife of Concobur Ua **Breislen**, died this year

1483: Ua Fialáin, namely, John O'Fialáin, died this year: to wit, the ollam in poetry of the sons of Philip Mag Uidhir and herenagh of Botha was the same man

1501: The daughter of Mac Maghnusa died this year: to wit, Mor, daughter of Cathal junior, son of Cathal Mor Mac Maghnusa, namely, wife of Ua Fialáin, that is, of Ferghal; an eminent woman without dispute



Ua Fíaláin: From Poets to Erenachs...

Erenachs: Managed ecclesiastical landholdings, a core part of the administration of medieval Gaelic Ireland. Brother to brother inheritance. Hereditary stewards of church land. Funding, pastoral etc.

Ua Fíaláin: a sept (or clan) who were Erenachs in the Boho region, west of Enniskillen, under the Maguire lordship.

Ua Fíaláins were the only post-norman-reform poetic and learned family to become Erenachs (as most of these were new families or septs who moved into the region)

Ua Fíaláin: Before the 17th Century

Ollamhs in poetry to the Mheig Uidhir (Maguire) and Erenachs of Boho

Intermarried with leading families in the region, eg. Cathal óg Maguire (1438-98), the compiler of the Annals of Ulster and bishop's vicar from 1483 to 1498, had a sister who married the chief of the Ua Fíaláin sept. While a sister of that clan chief married a chief from the he Uí Breasláin sept (another ancient learned family)

It is likely that through one of these marriages the Ua Fíaláins were granted in the Erenachship in the late 1400s (received from the Flanagans, granted to the bishop and then regranted back to the Ua Fíaláins; by 1473 when John Filan died, the family was already the Boho Erenach).



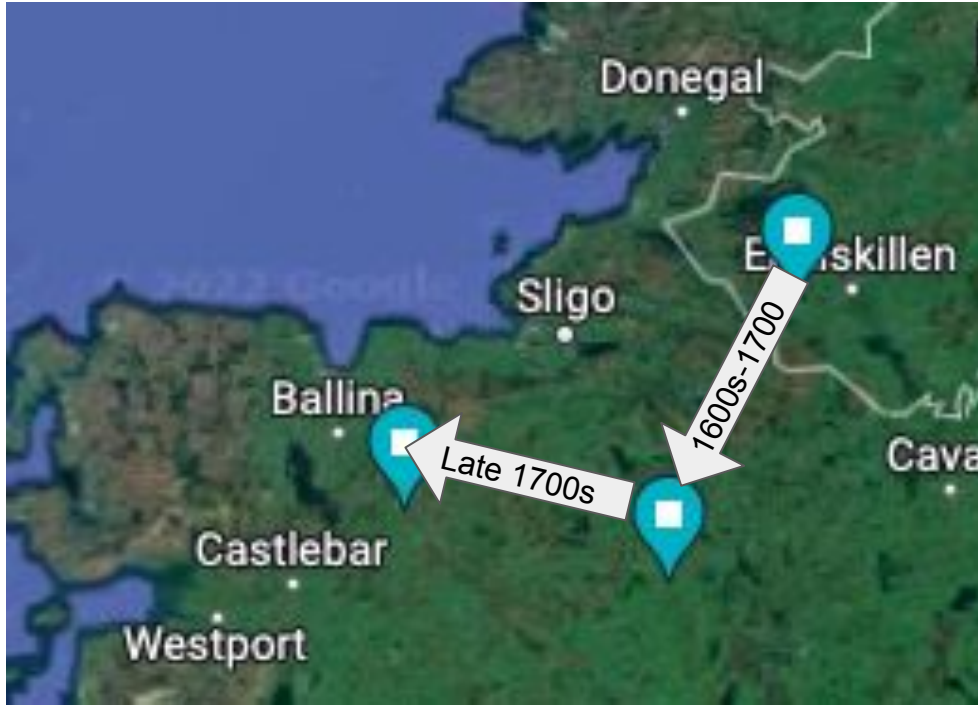
On the move

Boho, near Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh,
to 1600s

Elphin, Co Roscommon, 1600s-1700s

Killasser, Co Mayo, from 1800s

History and migration



1607: The Flight of the Earls: The departure from Ireland of Hugh O'Neill, Rory O'Donnell,

1609: Ulster Plantation by Scots

1641: Rebellion by Pheilim O'Neill

1649: Cromwell

1690: Battle of the Boyne

1695: Penal Laws

1776: American Revolution

1789: French Revolution

1798: Year of the French (United Irishmen)

1801: Act of Union

1829: Catholic Emancipation

Education, learning and Religion in the Penal Times

James Filan: 1775 - 1830

Scholar

Matriculated 1795

Appointed on ordination as Professor of Humanities (Latin, Greek, 3 years)

Started boys school in Sligo ()

PP of Curry

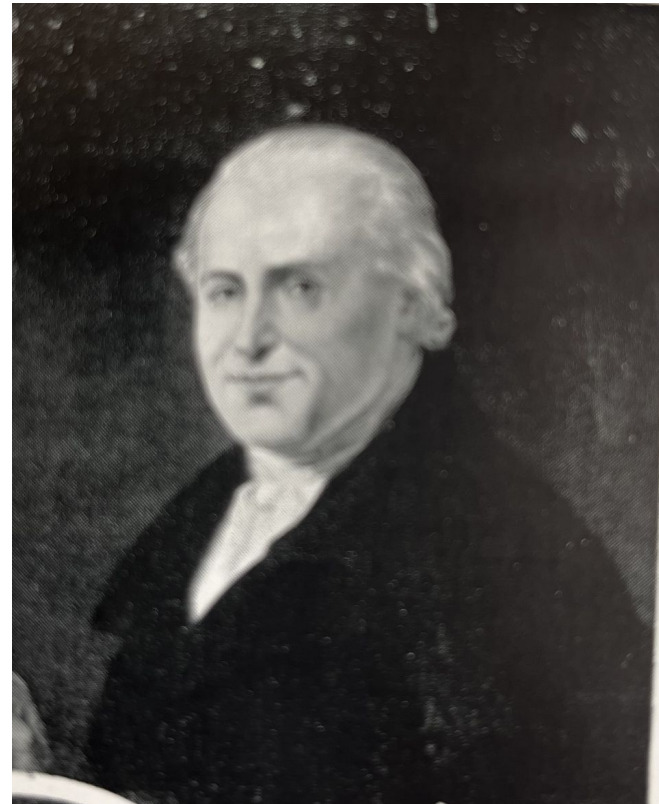
Senior position in Dioceses

Contest and rivalry for Bishopric: 1817 after death of O'Flynn

Insulting the Papacy and suspended from duties; 1822

Reconciliation and death

He died in 1830 and was buried in Drumahillian graveyard

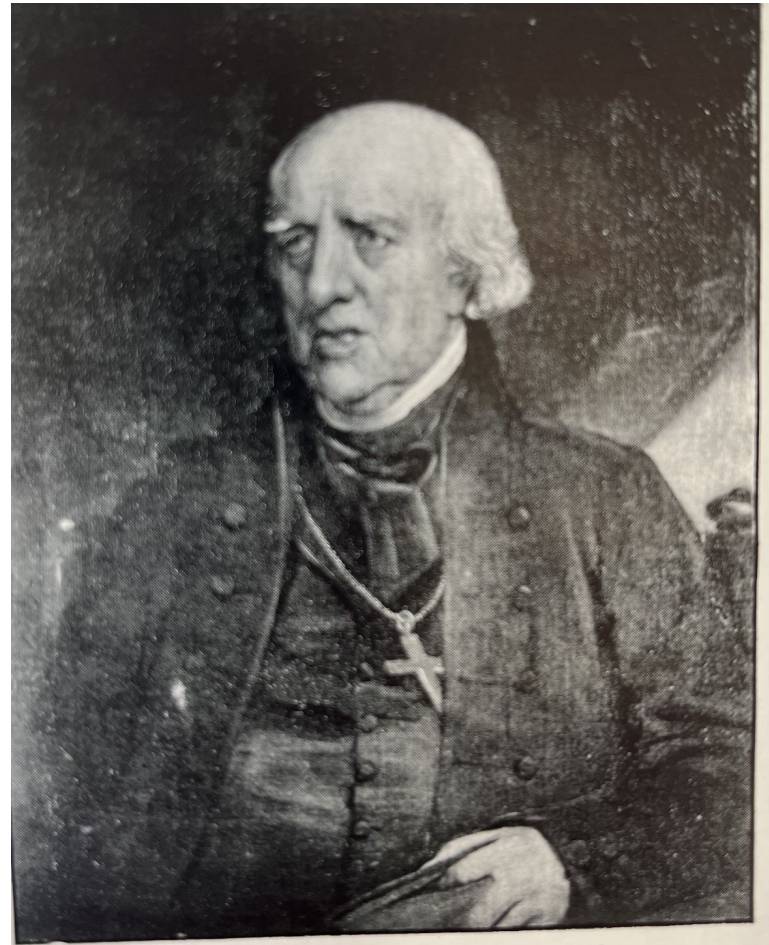


Mixed reviews

Fr James was a ready writer, an educationalist and until that time, the greatest pulpit orator ever heard in Sligo town

Henry described Filan as “an ambitious, giddy, and petulant character” and Dublin’s archbishop Troy described Filan as the Capo brigante (chief trouble maker) among the achonry clergy. Eventually Rome selected McNicholas.

On his gravestone: Matchless in talent, unrivalled in erudition, parent to the orphan and a helper to the distressed and a solace to the afflicted



MOST REV. DR. TROY, ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN.

Other priests

James's younger brother, Michael, PP Kilbeagh, died in 1828 (7th of January aged 42 years), buried Temple

James's nephews: Fr Michael Filan and his brother Fr A D Filan, who were Pastors in Philadelphia

And his great nephews: Fr Michael who went to Mobile Alabama

and Fr P A Filan, CC in Gurteen (William's brother), PA Filan died apparently on a sick call, falling from his horse and drowning while crossing a river. (he was a brother of Margaret Henry

JD Filan (d. 2002)



Assassination 1882 Killasser

The next chapter!