

Table B - Early royal precursors (continued from Table A)

(Key personages in bold; sources in brackets)

Descent from Kings of Ireland, Kings of Leath Cuinnⁱ, Kings of Cenel Chonaillⁱⁱ, & Kings, Princes, & Lords of Tír Chonaillⁱⁱⁱ, Lords of Lower Connaught^{iv}, Earls of Tyrconnell, Barons of Donegal, Lords of Boylagh and Banagh^v

KINGS OF TIR CHONAILL

|
Hugh Roe I, 19th O'Donnell
King of Tír Chonaill
(d. 1505)

|
Sir Hugh Dubh, 20th O'Donnell
King of Tír Chonaill
(b.pre-1480-d.1537) Prince of Ulster^{vi}

|
Manus^{vii}, 21st O'Donnell (see Table C)
King of Tír Chonaill^{viii}
(1490-1563), “*King of the Fishes*”^{ix}

ⁱ *Leath Cuinn*, meaning Conn’s half, after Conn Céadcathach, ancestor of the *Connachta* and *Ui Néill*. Hugh Roe O’Donnell (Red Hugh II), 24th O’Donnell was also considered to have achieved status as “*Lord of nigh half of Ireland*”, by Sir Thomas Stafford. [Source: Stafford, Sir Thomas. *Pacata Hibernia*, edition by Standish O’Grady with his introduction and explanatory footnotes, published by Downey & Co. Ltd., Covent Garden, London, 1896 (Chapter XIV describes Red Hugh’s march to Kinsale, and lists the Gaelic Lords who accompanied him; pages 373-379 in the 1810 edition)].

ⁱⁱ This title was used by the progenitor of the O’Donnells, Donal Mór, who ruled Ulster, Connaught, and Meath, hence also the title King of *Leath Cuinn*. [Source: Ó Cléirigh, Cú Choigcríche. *Book of Genealogies*, written c. 1642 (from Ms. 23 D 17 Royal Irish Academy, 1951; also featured in *Analecta Hibernica*, no. 18; editor: Seamus Pender)].

ⁱⁱⁱ Whereas County Donegal comprises the baronies of **Kilmacrenan** (the original epicenter of O'Donnell ascendancy), east and west **Inishowen**, north and south **Raphoe**, **Banagh**, **Boylagh**, and **Tirhugh**, the geographic spread of Tyrconnell covered an area beyond Donegal, and including the Baronies of Carbury (Cairbre) in County Sligo, **Rosclogher (Dartrighe)** in County Leitrim, and **Magheraboy** (mainly Toorah or Tuath Ratha) and **Firlurg** in County Fermanagh in northern Ireland [see entry for **Tír Chonaill** in the Index compiled by the Rev. Patrick S. Dineen, MA, in Volume IV of his edition of "*The History of Ireland*" by Geoffrey Keating, D.D. (1580-1644), written in the years prior to 1640, and known in the original Gaelic as *Foras Feasa ar Éirinn* (le Seathrun Ceitinn), published by the Irish Texts Society, London, 1914]. Although its distant borders were never fixed for any great length of time, Tyrconnell also occasionally managed to exact tribute from **Moylurg** in north Roscommon, and **Tirawley** in north-east Mayo. [See: Meehan, Helen. *The Early 17th Century and Rory O'Donnell*, article in the Donegal Annual – 2006, published by the County Donegal Historical Society, Donegal, 2006. Meehan makes reference to these territories in the context of lands excluded from Rory O'Donnell's patent as Earl of Tyrconnell, although they represented, as she puts it, "*long accustomed tributes*" (p.54)].

Mention of O'Donnell as *King of Tyrconnell* appears under Henry in the Close Roll, T.L. 28 Hen. 3m.7 [the text of which is transcribed on page 299 of "*A view of the Legal Institutions, Honorary Hereditary Offices, and Feudal Baronies*" by William Lynch, Esq., Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green, London, 1830]. In 1244, King Henry III of England solicited help by a letter addressed "*Donaldo, Regi de Tirconnell*", not only a recognition of the Kingdom of Tyrconnell, but an indication of trust, alliance, and dependency on the part of the King of England [*Vicissitudes of Families*, 2nd series, by Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms, published by Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts, Paternoster Row, London, 1861 (page 126)]. For example, in 1241, King Domhnall Mór died and his obituary tributes described him as King of Tyrconnell, Fermanagh, Carbury, and Oirgialla from Monaghan northwards [Source: *Donegal History and Society – Interdisciplinary Essays etc.* edited by Nolan, Ronayne, & Donleavy, Geography Publications, Dublin, 1995. See *Chapter 6 – Late Medieval Donegal* by Katherine Simms (page 184)].

^{iv} The O'Donnell domains during various periods included much of lower Connaught. Hugh Roe O'Donnell (Red Hugh II)'s eponymous great-great-grandfather, Red Hugh I, had surrendered part of Connaught to King Henry VII when he made peace with him. The Composition of Connaught introduced by Sir John Perrot in 1584 definitively excluded the O'Donnells from overlordship there, but the titular overlordship continued to be claimed until the death of Hugh *Albert* O'Donnell, 2nd Earl of Tyrconnell. The O'Donnells, along with O'Conors and O'Murrays, also held sway in parts of south County Derry up to 1607 [*Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, by Samuel Lewis, Volume II, London, 1837 (page 291)].

^v **Sir Donal O'Donnell** held "*under his power and jurisdiction that part of Tirconnell from the mountain westwards, i.e. from Bearnas (Tir Hugh) to the Drowes, and also the people of Boylagh (O'Boyles) and Banagh (McSweeneys of Banagh)*" [Four Masters' *Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland (Annala Ríoghachta Éireann)* (from the earliest period to the year 1616, compiled during the period 1632-1636 by Brother Michael O'Clery et al., and translated and edited by John O'Donovan, in 1856, republished in 1998 by De Burca, Dublin); i.e. "AFM", vol. VI, p.1891]. In addition to their descent from the O'Donnell Princes of Tyrconnell, the *de la Ponce* manuscripts in the Royal Irish Academy also attribute the *Lordship of Boylagh and Banagh* to the French O'Donnell counts. [Source: de la Ponce, Amédée (compiler). *Manuscript materials relating to the history of the Irish regiments in France, arranged by families and including original documents of the 18th century*. Manuscript references: volume I: 12 N 13; volume II: 12 N 14, Royal Irish Academy, Dublin. See pages 406-415 in Volume II for the "*O'Donnell, Princes de Tirconnell*".] By early 1590 Sir Donal O'Donnell firmly held Tirhugh, Boylagh (O'Boyle) and Banagh (MacSweeney), and had the rest of Tyrconnell under his influence. [See Morgan, Hiram. *Tyrone's Rebellion – The outbreak of the Nine Years War in Tudor Ireland*, published by the Boydell Press for the Royal Historical Society, Suffolk, 1993 [ISBN 0 85115 683 5], pp. 130-131].

^{vi} **Sir Hugh Dubh O'Donnell**, *Prince of Ulster*, visited King James IV of Scotland in 1513, and signed a treaty in Edinburgh on 25 June 1513. He had been knighted by King Henry VIII in 1511 during a visit to England en route to Rome on pilgrimage [See *Red Hugh O'Donnell – and the Nine Years War*, by Darren McGettigan, published by Four Courts Press, Dublin, 2005 [ISBN 1-85182-887-7], page 20]. He spent thirty-two weeks at the court of Henry VIII.

^{vii} **Manus, son of Sir Hugh Dubh O'Donnell, 20th O'Donnell**, was apparently married at least five times, and left nineteen children. He was described as a Renaissance prince, and was a literary figure in his own right, with poetry and verse to his credit. [See *Erin's Blood Royal – The Gaelic Noble Dynasties of Ireland*, by Peter Berresford Ellis, published by Constable, London, 1999 (ISBN 0 09 478600 3), page 253].

^{viii} O'Ferrall, Roger. *Linea Antiqua, Volume I, Part II*. Manuscripts Dept., National Library of Ireland, Dublin. (NLI Ms. 145; copy no. 483; original dates from 1709). Page 455, citing Sir James Ware.

^{ix} **Manus O'Donnell** was “*the best Lorde of fyshe in Ireland, and exchangeth fyshe alwaies with foreign merchants for wine; by which his call in other countries is King of the Fische*”, as he controlled the lion's share in the Irish fish trade, and also could lay claim to the cocket of the port of Sligo [Carew Mss. No. 614]. He died on 9 February, 1563, at his seat in Lifford, and was buried in the Franciscan monastery in Donegal, and his obituary recorded him as *Lord of Tirconnell, Inishowen, Kinel Moen, Fermanagh, and Lower Connaught*, etc. [AFM, Vol. V, pp. 1595-1596].

N.B.

In addition to the Annals of the Four Masters, and other mentioned sources, some details are also gleaned from the *Annals of Tyrconnell*, manuscript MS H. i. 19, f. 140, Trinity College Dublin, published under edition by Pól Breathnach (Paul Walsh), as *Short Annals of Tirconail*, in Irish Book Lover volume 22, published by Three Candles, Dublin, 1934. Electronic edition by Benjamin Hazard and Eoin P. Kelleher, CELT online: <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/published/G100019/index.html>.
