

planned what came to be known as the Jacobean plantation of Ulster, to include Fermanagh. In 1603 they met at Devenish, an ancient island in Lower Lough Erne 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 McCafferys. 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 McCafferys were successful in preventing the planters from taking Magerstephana, the area of McCaffery control [25]. In November, 1612, Ballymacafry 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. [26] This area is unusual in that the natives maintained the land and the McCafferys kept much of their traditional areas and were allowed to stay.

## THE IRISH RISING OF 1641 AND THE ENGLISH PLANTATION

The McCafferys do not reappear until 1641 when the Irish again rebelled. The great revolt was started by the McCafferys at the village of Lisnarick:

"Rory (Maguire) himself took Necharney (or Irvinestown). His brother-in-law, Richard Nugent, with the McCaffreys, took Archdalestown" [27]

In this revolt, the Maguires were able to rid Fermanagh of the English entirely and the greatest English rallying cry for revenge was born. The Maguires had besieged and taken the Castle Monea, killing 15 men and 60 women. The actual transcript of Brian Maguire of Tempo's informing of his kinsman's revolt reads as follows.

"...upon the same day (Oct 10) Richard Nugent, ...Patrick McCaffrey and Phelim McCafferie, by the appointment of the said Rorie (Maguire), took possession of Mr. Hugh Dairs, his house and Town in the said countie of ffermanagh-called Archdalestowne and pillaged the said house & Towne, and afterwards placed a ward therein..." [28]

The Maguire success across Fermanagh prompted the mighty O'Neill and O'Donnell clans in Ulster to again join the growing fight. Eventually most of Ireland joined the revolt, including the old Norman-English planters who were still Catholics. These men were left over from the Norman invasion by Strongbow but defied the Tudor, Henry VIII, when he embraced the Protestant faith.

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

## CROMWELL'S INVASION

In the wake of purported reports of Catholic massacres of Protestants in Ireland (including the Maguires/McCafferys at Castle Monea), Elizabeth I and the English Parliament decided to send Ireland it's greatest oppressor, Oliver Cromwell. Cromwell arrived at Dublin in the

summer of 1649. His men commenced on a tour of slaughter unseen in the British Isles. According to an Oxford Historian, Arthur Wood, whose brother served with Cromwell, the soldiers held children in their arms as protection while in the attack. They slaughtered 3000 at Drogheda and an additional 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." [29]

The McCafferys almost certainly 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 Letterkenney, and the other half at Enniskillen in Fermanagh (thanks in part to Brian Maguire's treachery), thereby ending resistance to Cromwell in the North. [30]

## THE WILLIAMITE WARS AND THE BATTLE OF THE BOYNE

The victory of Cromwell began thirty years of depression, famine, and repression of the Irish. The first measure taken by the victorious English was to banish the entire native Catholic populace of Ireland to the rough lands along the west coast, in Connaught. Parliament declared a penalty of death on any Irish man, woman, or child 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. [31]

Many of the laws and regulations instituted by the Cromwellians proved unenforcable as the new landlords needed the natives to do the work which made them rich landlords. In Fermanagh, the remaining McCafferys preferred to stay and become serfs to provide critical labor to the incoming landlords. Eventually the repressions were eased. When, in 1660, King Charles II, himself a secret Catholic, succeeded the Tudors religious freedom again prevailed.

The last great rising of Catholic Ireland occurred under the reign of 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 the Glorious Revolution of William and Mary. William of Orange came from the Netherlands and the significance of that color remains today in Ireland. 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. [32]

The leader of the Fermanagh contingent of the Irish was Cunnought Mor Maguire. Giolla Padraig Modartha McCaffrey was the chief of the McCaffery Clan and led his men in Maguire's regiment [33]. Cunnought Mor was one of the few Irish to own lands in Fermanagh. He owed his holdings near Tempo in Magersteffana, Fermanagh to his grandfather, Brian who

alerted the English to the Irish risin in 1641, fifty years earlier. Now the son was breaking with his grandfather to make war on the English.

The war went well at first with the Earl of Tyrconnell and the French marquis of St. Ruth leading the Irish-French. The English Catholic King James began the war to tumultuous support from the Irish but until he ran up against William of Orange at the Battle of the Boyne on July 1, 1690. Although the English victory was not decisive, King James fled back to France that day. This is the event which is still commemorated throughout Northern Ireland by Protestants with politically charged marches and parades every year.

The Irish and St. Ruth continued the war with some success until the battle of Augrim on July 12, 1691. There the Fermanagh forces of Maguire, to include the McCafferys under Giolla Padraig, were so decimated that "no correct list of the officers of this regiment can now be made. They were nearly all cut to pieces at the Battle of Augrim, and, besides, their brave colonel being slain (Cunnought Mor Maguire), their Lieutenant-Colonel was taken prisoner." [34] At Augrim 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 men stood and fought, losing both Cunnought and Giolla Padraig McCaffrey in the process [35]. The battle was decisive in the war and the effective end of the last organized Irish resistance for the next 250 years.

The defeat of the Irish forces 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. Many of these Scots composed the first migration of Irish to America as Scots-Irish. They included the parents of President Andrew Jackson and the ancestors of President Wilson. McCaffery lands were subject to the local imported landlord at Cranbrooke Manor just outside Fivemiletown. The manorhouse and grounds still exists just off the Fivemiletown-Enniskillen road.

## THE PENAL LAWS

The victorious English, with their Protestant allies, commenced to impress loyalty to the crown on all Irish via the Penal Laws of the early 18th century. The purpose of the laws, according to one Professor Lecky, "to make them poor and keep them poor, to crush in them every germ of enterprise and degrade them in to a servile race who could never hope to rise to the level of their oppressor." [36]

Native Irish Catholics were subject to the following laws in their own country by the Protestant minority:

they could not receive an education, enter a profession, hold public office, engage in a trade, live within five miles of a corporation (Protestant) town, vote, keep or bear arms, buy life insurance, inherit anything from a Protestant, or educate a child. In an effort to divorce the people from their faith, the Protestants legislated that Catholics had to attend Protestant

worship. Catholic clergy was banned in the entire country after a set date. Catholic clergy found after that date would be banished. If they returned the state would "draw, quarter, then hang the papist criminal".<sup>37</sup>

To ensure the Catholics could never amass wealth the following prohibitions were installed. Catholics could not purchase land, lease land, inherit land, accept a mortgage on land as security for a loan, own a horse worth more than five pounds, rent land worth more than thirty shillings a year, or reap profit from land worth more than one-third of his rent.<sup>38</sup> If any Catholic was found to have wealth in excess of one-third of his rent the 'finder' would reap the excess as personal gain.

The Catholic family was also a target. Wives who were unfaithful could convert to Protestantism and expect an annuity from the cuckolded husband. If a child converted, he/she would be the sole beneficiary of his family's inheritance regardless of other or older children. [39]

This English-Scottish effort to destroy the Irish Catholic identity again failed to extinguish the Irish spirit. The cumulative effect of the laws was to drive a wedge permanently between English and Irish people. Although there was widespread flouting of the laws, sometimes with dire consequences, most of these acts remained the law of the land for the entire 18th Century. The laws were maintained by an Irish Parliament in Dublin which represented the Protestant landlord class.

## IRISH RISINGS

The Irish refused to submit to many of the English laws. The Irish resorted to 'hedge schools' and 'midnight masses' to clandestinely keep the faith alive and pass on some of the Irish culture from generation to generation. The McCafferys stayed in Fermanagh and figure prominently in the abortive efforts to overthrow the English establishment.

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 center of the revolt in Fermanagh was Roslea, a nationalist town to this day. One Felix McCaffrey was among the United Irishmen who were informed upon by one William Whiteside. Felix escaped arrest and fled Fermanagh. [40]

In 1801 the British Prime Minister William Pitt, with an eye towards Catholic Emancipation, enticed the heavily oppressive Irish Parliament to vote itself out of existence and thus create the United Kingdom, with direct rule of Ireland from Westminster. The strategy failed when the English monarch, George III, refused any new rights for Irish Catholics.

In the early 1800s secret societies sprang up across Ireland, to include Fermanagh. The Ribbonmen were a group dedicated to the eventual overthrow of the Protestant rule. They

pledged to 'be true to fellow Roman Catholics until death and to be ready, at five minutes' notice, to wade knee deep in Protestant blood' [41] The original Molly Maguires were a group that defended a catholic widow from Tyrone who was evicted. Their success led them to form a secret society which defended Catholics against eviction. The Ribbonmen eventually became the Feinians, the precursors to the modern Sinn Fein. One James McCaffrey of Lisnaskea was the leader of the Feinians in Manorhamilton. [42]

The Penal Laws were eventually repealed, many through the efforts of Daniel O'Connell (the liberator). He managed to get Catholics the vote, then was the first Catholic to win a seat in Parliament from County Clare. This breakthrough led to a reassessment of Irish law and a new attitude towards Catholics in Ireland and England.

## THE FAMINE

The famine lasted four years and ruined the potato crop from 1845 through 1847. The initial English reaction was to 'let the natural economy take it's course'. One problem with the situation was that the potato was the most important staple of the Irish worker. It was estimated that the average Irish worker ate fourteen pounds of potatoes daily (with cabbage and salt. [43] With the Irish population on the rise, the potato was the only vegetable with enough starch to support the peasantry on small plots of land.

The first year Parliament authorized one hundred thousand pounds for famine relief. The same year double that amount was allocated to the refurbishment of Battersea Park in London. Parliament was preoccupied with maintaining Irish exports of beef and grains, which the landlords were able to do throughout the famine years. The British eventually set up poor houses and soup kitchens for the Irish. They also sponsored work programs but much of the work commissioned by the English work relief plan was purposely unproductive. This was to ensure that cheap, relief labor in Ireland did not compete directly with English companies.

Many of the landlords in Fermanagh acted in the absence of assistance from London.

## MODERN IRELAND

Modern history in Ireland has few references to the McCaffery clan. It seems clear that areas where McCafferys are still prevalent remain polarized between Gaelic Irish Catholic and Anglo-Saxon Irish Protestant. One Charlie McCaffrey, an IRA man, was killed in 1936 when a faulty mine exploded. The three men were planning to blow up a customs hut on the border to protest an impending visit by King George VI. Charlie lived with his injuries in the hospital for two days before passing away. Witnesses quoted McCaffrey as saying over and over, "stand back John Joe, there's a wee thing wrong" while in and out of a coma [44].

In recent years, Enniskillen, the hub of Fermanagh, has seen several IRA actions. In 1987, the IRA bombed the Cenotaph during a British Serviceman's memorial ceremony, killing and injuring scores of innocent bystanders. In 1992, they bombed a prominent hotel just outside town on the shores of Upper Lough Erne, this time with no injuries or loss of life but

thousands of pounds in damages.

The latest McCaffrey of note is Brian McCaffrey of Tempo, a Sinn Fein counselor and local activist.

## SOME NOTABLE McCAFFER/REYS

- Anne McCaffrey- Fiction writer whose 'Pern' series has been immensely successful.
- Gen. Barry McCaffrey- Famed US Army General who executed the 'left hook' during Desert Storm as commander of the 24th US Infantry Division. He later served as commander of the US Southern Command and, after retirement, as President Clinton's 'Czar' in the war on drugs.
- Hon. Bernard McCaffrey- State judge in Nassau County, New York.
- Bonnie McCaffery- Pennsylvania Quilter in cyberspace.
- Brian McCaffrey- Rosslea, Fermanagh counselor for the Sinn Fein Party in the 1970s.
- Charlie McCaffrey- Tyrone IRA man who, with his two comrades, blew themselves up in 1938 when trying to destroy a Northern Irish border outpost. This was during a Royal visit when the IRA executed it's 'bonfires on the border' campaign.
- Ed McCaffrey- Denver Broncos wide receiver who won the Super Bowl while with the New York Giants.
- Edward J. McCaffery- Professor and author of 'Taxing Women'.
- Monsignor James MacCaffrey- Ecclesiastical historian, author of four books and numerous articles about the Catholic Church in Ireland, president of Maynooth College, Ireland from 1918-1935, original member of the Irish Manuscripts Commission, born in Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone 1875, died 1935.
- Joe McCaffrey- State Legislature candidate for the 148th Pennsylvania district in 1996.
- John Martin McCaffery- Author, writer of a number of mathematics textbooks for Harcourt, Brace, Jovanitch.
- Larry McCaffery- Author. Wrote 'When Sleep Comes Down', and 'Gunpowder Come'.
- Lawrence J. McCaffrey- Editor, 'Irish Nationalism and the American Contribution'.
- Mary Quinlan McCaffery- Author of 'Irish Trivia' and Democratic candidate to a number of elected seats in New York State and Nassau County.
- Michael and Stephanie McCaffrey- Bed and Breakfast proprietors in Twain Harte, California.
- Michael J. McCaffrey- Rhode Island State Legislature from district 16. Democrat, first elected in 1994.
- Patrick McCaffery- Private in the 32nd Regiment of the British Army who, in 1861, shot two of his commanding officers at Fullham Barracks. The incident gave rise to the popular WWI song 'McCaffery'.
- Peter McCaffery- New Zealand native, author, and professor of Psychiatry at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- Peter McCaffrey- Noted chef of Wine Valley Catering, Napa, CA.
- Theresa McCaffrey- Jesuit Volunteer Corps member in Katmandu, Nepal.
- Terry McCaffrey- US Postal stamp designer. Designed the 'angel/love' stamps in 1996.
- Walter L. McCaffrey- New York City Democratic City Council member from Woodside, Queens. First elected in 1985.
- Brain McCaffrey, Donegal, Forensic Psychiatrist, Former President of the Irish Medical