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INITIAL SURNAME REPORT ON MCGING FOR JOHN MCGING OCTOBER 3, 2000

Much material was provided from McLysaght, Griffith's, ect., and the aim was to examine the origins of the Connacht McGings. Several possible origins were suggested in the material provided.

Ulster Origins:

One suggestion was that the surname originated with the well known Ulster settlement in Mayo of expelled Catholics fleeing sectarian violence in the late 18th century. Two sources were provided to prove this contention, both being from *Seanchas Ardmhacha* (3/1 and 9/2). Only the first of these contained material relating to this exodus (3/1, 17 ff.) and the names listed here included no Maginn's. There were, however, McCanns ("McKen") listed, but this is a distinct surname, (MacAnna) and is not related to the Ulster Maginns. Another source for the same exodus, B. O'Hara's *Mayo*, 87, lists McKan families as settling in Crossmolina, Co. Mayo but no Maginns. I therefore conclude that the Ulster origin here suggested is incorrect.

In order to be fully assured of this, however, I should have uncovered some earlier reference to McGing, McGinn, ect. in Connacht, but this proved difficult. The main part of the research was taken up with this search, and the following sources were consulted.

1. O'Harts *Irish Pedigrees*.
2. O'Harts *Irish Gentry When Cromwell Came to Ireland*.
3. O'Flahertys *Iar Chonnacht*.
4. O'Donovans *Genealogy and Customs of Hy Fhiachrach*.
5. *Topographical Poems of O'Duggan and O'Heerin*.
6. *Strafford Inquisitions, Co. Mayo*, 1635.
7. *The Composicion Booke of Connaught* (1585).

8. *Annals of Loch Ce.*
9. *Annals of Connacht.*
10. *Annals of the Four Masters.*
11. *Books of Survey and Distribution* for Cos. Galway, Mayo and Roscommon (1641-1680).
12. *The Irish Fiant of the Tudor Sovereigns* (1515-1601).
13. Knox's *History of Mayo.*
14. M.D. O'Sullivan, *Old Galway.*
15. J.F. Quin's *History of Mayo.*
16. *Ros Comain County History* (in Irish, no author).
17. Hardiman's *History of Galway.*
18. Unindexed pardons for Cos. Galway, Mayo and Roscommon for the early 17th century in *Calendar of Irish Patent Rolls of James I.* (Pages 1-100).

The above sources form about 60% of the principal sources for Connacht surnames, and include all of the principal annals, fiant collections, county histories and ancient tribal genealogies. In all of this I found only one reference of interest, that from no. 10: "1031 AD, death of MacFinn, erenagh of the guest house of Clonmacnoise". This monk was an important official in this very important early Celtic monastery just across the Shannon from east Galway.

The Sodhain:

This reference as provided by you intrigued me. This tribe were a very ancient tribe who lived in east central Co. Galway and early divided into six sections, each of whom would have come to be led by kings with a given surname. Your source is suggesting that one of these sections was led by McGinn's. I next tried to trace this down. I examined Byrne's *Irish Kings and High Kings*, O'Briens *Corpus Genealogorum Hibernicorum* (early Irish genealogies) and *Analecta Hibernica* 1951, which contains the main O'Cleary genealogies (some early but more a little later). These sources did not reveal any of the surnames associated with the Sodhain (pronounced Sogain) although O'Cleary has, on page 146, a pedigree of the Sodhain kings which includes one Maighninn, perhaps an error for MacFhinn.

Further Work:

At this stage your fee had run out. Bear in mind that the initial report is just that. In this case I was only able to go so far. I think at this stage that the McGing/McGinn of Connacht are certainly native to that province and have no connection with the Ulster sept. The one early reference I have uncovered may or may not be of this family but more research is needed to fill out the picture here. There remain several major sources which may well yield direct evidence of early Connacht McGings, especially the *Papal Registers*, *State Papers*, and other sources,

while the Sodhain connection remains to be fully examined. Again, there are sources here which remain unexamined. As you will appreciate, there is a very large amount of material which must be searched in a case such as this. One further valuable source is the *Journal of the Galway Historical and Archaeological Society*, published over many years. Unfortunately this seems to have no general index and will have to be searched by examination of likely articles and papers.

One final intriguing area concerned surname distribution in Griffiths Valuation (CD edition; this was in addition to your Mayo data). This revealed one Maginn in Roscommon and two in Galway. Of more interest was the 350 or so King families in Galway, 100 plus in Mayo and 43 in Roscommon. While many of these may be Mac Anraighe's and others in disguise, given Woulfe's assertion regarding McKing in Connacht it remains possible that many of these are really MacFhinns.

My price for searching the above sources is \$80. If this search does not show results I cannot think of additional sources to be examined of relevance.