

## The Origins of the McShanes

### *The Family Name*

McShane, Mac Seain, Johnson, son of John: What is this name all about? Who are these McShanes we read about in the history of Ulster and the new world? Historians often base the common origin stemming from the sons of Shane an Diomais O'Neill, (where many English officials and historians term them collectively as "the MacShanes").<sup>1</sup> While these sons did battle for their rightful position in Ulster over the last half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and their sons continued into the 17<sup>th</sup>, and eventually held large estates in Tyrone, Fermanagh, and Armagh with many family members and retainers. And while I believe these groups originated some McShane families today, I do not believe they are the founders of the clan.

The true origins are the McShanes of Glenconkeyn and Killetra. This band was established long before the sons of Shane started their group families. While the two groups are closely related, as all founders were either brothers or first cousins, the McShanes, Lords of Killetragh were not sons of Shane Diomais. The McShanes of Loughinsholin seem to have existed as an independent entity as early as 1425, and the modern clan emanates from their last known chief, Hugh McShane O'Neill, son of Turlough Brassileach, son of Felim Caoch, (Philip the Blind) son of Conn Bacach. They are the focus of this chapter.

### *The Land Itself*

The center of the ancestral lands was grouped into the mysterious forests surrounding the slopes of the mountain Slieve Gallion in the south, the Sperrins in the north and west, the Moyola River in the center, the Bann River in the east and the NW shore of Lough Neagh. This region was called Killetra and Glenconkeyne or Gleann-Concadhain and Coill-iochtarach or "lower wood" in Gaelic.<sup>2</sup> They were dark oak forests, hills and bogs, known as the most inaccessible part of Ireland at the time. The two are separated by the Moyola River. It is referred to as a deep and dark forest with "wild men" who had been driven into the woods by Norman incursions perhaps a century before occupying the land.<sup>3</sup>

The [Glenconkeyne] woodkerne were a race of outlaws driven from their miserable dwellings by the Norman invaders, rarely emerging from their retreats in the impenetrable forests except in pursuit of plunder.<sup>4</sup> And in 1600 Glenconkeyne was an enormous virgin forest. And where the most formidable enemies with which the first planters in Ulster had to contend.

Bagnell described the area as "then the most inaccessible corner of mountains, woods and bogs in Ulster, formed the main O'Neill stronghold for cattle and other possessions in time of danger, and an ultimate refuge for Ulster rebels."<sup>5</sup> And Bagwell later attributed the most inaccessible forest "to be about Draperstown in Londonderry."<sup>6</sup> Killetra was the area around Lough Insholiny in the Desertmartin parish area (where the county got its name) and Glenconkeyne is the area connecting to it and just to the northwest and contains the present Draperstown. The valley itself then goes north to Coleraine, but our area ends at the Bann River near Castle Toome. These two regions are the exact locations of our family ancestral farms, which our own records show our existence in 1659. Glenconkeyn originally was composed of the parishes of Ballinascreen, Desertmartin and Kilcronaghan.<sup>7</sup>

Sir Arthur Chichester in his account of the state of Ulster in the early 1600s associated the entire region now known as Loughinsholin as being the small area near the lake giving the county its name. He determined that there needed to be a fort at that lake and it needed to be garrisoned by the King's forces, otherwise the locals would continue to rebel. That castle was manned for a short while by Sir Thomas Phillips and some men, but they could never quite live with the local population. The village of Desertmartin came to be outside of that castle. Our people were the locals Chichester was referring to as needing a garrison to contain.<sup>8</sup>

One English account described the area and the people therein during their war with Earl Hugh in the late 1500s, "Hugh O'Neill used Killetra to connect him to O'Neill Clanaboy in Antrim during the Rebellion and War 1593-1602."<sup>9</sup> Another English planter source states that "Glenconkeyne and Killetra are two key parts of the barony of Loughinsholin and a stronghold of (Earl) O'Neill, as well as the district of Clandonnell. It is estimated he can have 200 well-armed men out in 24 hours in Killetra alone". McShanes are listed as one of the main 6 families inhabiting this region 1591.<sup>10</sup> Carew

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<sup>1</sup> Colm Lennon, Sixteenth Century Ireland pg. 274 & 284. Bagwell Ireland through Stewart Eyes, Vol. III pg. 9, 149, 219. Morgan, Tyrone's Rebellion pg. 92. Mountjoy to Sir George Carew, 2 July 1602 Calendar SPIre, pg. 263 & 315.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. George Hill The Plantation in Ulster pg. 167, from Annals of the Four Masters 1526 & 1584, and the Survey of 1591. These wild men are listed as Neales, Haggans, Mullhallans and McCahirs. The McShanes are included on this list as being one of the key clans The Londonderry Plantation 1609-41 By T. W. Moody, from the Survey of 1591.

<sup>3</sup> The Great O'Neill (Shane) Edward J. Barrett. Hale Cushman and Flint, 1939, Clinton, MA. P 149.

<sup>4</sup> From the History of County Down Dr. Knox.

<sup>5</sup> Bagnell, Descriptions of Ireland, 1586. From Moody, pg 51

<sup>6</sup> Bagwell, pg. 443.

<sup>7</sup> Annals of the Four Masters, Vol. V 1526.

<sup>8</sup> Plantation in Ulster by Hill, pg. 96.

<sup>9</sup> T.W. Moody The Londonderry Plantation, 1609-41, Belfast, William Mullin and Son, 1939. p 58.

<sup>10</sup> Moody, p 51. & CSP-Ire 1589-1600 Carew, p 31

makes mention of the same and refers to it as part of the barony of the Glynnes, which is more a term used for the Glynnes of Antrim, perhaps a common thought at the time. And in a reference to the seizure of Shane Carragh O'Cahan, Chichester in 1608 describes the raiders as "Hugh McShane O'Neale and others, the inhabitants of the Glynnes of Glanconkeyn."<sup>11</sup> In the rebellion of 1641, Chichester wrote that the "jungles of Glenconkein, Killet(r)eagh, and Kilwarlin and other thickly wooded districts" was the home of the rebellious wood-kerne.<sup>12</sup> I think the Tyrone location came from using 16<sup>th</sup> century sources evaluating geography in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

MacLysaght refers to McShane as being a modern Tyrone clan, as does Captain Patrick Kelly.<sup>13</sup> I think this is true but in the 16<sup>th</sup> century version of Tyrone. The barony of Loughinsholin did not become a part of County Derry until 1613, it was part of Tyrone prior. During the plantation, numerous but related septs sprung up further west in Tyrone, Fermanagh, Armagh and later in Mayo due to land grants and then expulsion.

The 9 Years War

#### **Family Origins: the sons of Shane & Tirlough O'Neill vs Earl Hugh**

If there were a central person to pin the origins of most McShanes on, it would be Conn Baccach O'Neill, King of Tir Eoghan until 1542, then Earl of Tir Owen until his death in 1559. The recent history of our family historically to begins in 1542.

In that year, Felim Caoch O'Neill was killed "by a single thrust of a javelin from a McDonnell galloglass" in the vicinity of the Bann river, near the border of Antrim and Derry.<sup>14</sup> This Felim was the eldest born son of Conn Baccach and died in the same year that Conn submitted his title of "The O'Neill Mor" for the Earldom of Tir Owen. If he had not died, it is presumed that he, not Shane would not have assumed the Chiefship upon the death of their father Conn Baccach. Felim Caoch was the father of Tirlough Brassilagh O'Neill, with whose sons we will deal with later. Also in that year, the Four Masters show that The McShane or "son of MacShane" is killed in a raid on O'Cahan, led by The MacQuillen.

It is clear by this reference which predates any modern McShane personages, that the McShanes were an independent entity prior to 1542, albeit a small tribe probably also known as the Clan-Shanes centered in Killetra. The fact that they were raiding O'Cahan and the close proximity to the Clan Shanes established territory, and the death place, the Bann River, of the son of The McShane makes it even more likely that they were based in Killetragh.

There is question since both Felim Caoch and The McShane (or son of) were killed in the same year and in the same place, and later the Chiefly connection between the Clan Shanes and the grandson of Felim Caoch, Hugh McShane, that these two were the same person. But that remains to be investigated.

The next major year was 1567. In that year Shane "An Diomas" O'Neill, The O'Neill Mor and sometimes Earl of Tir Owen was killed by the McDonnells of the Glynns in Antrim. He left more than ten children, and it is possible that a number of modern McShanes in Armagh, Fermanagh, and Tyrone may descend from those children. There is little known about the children of Shane immediately after their death, as Catherine, Countess of Duart took as many of them as she could to the Scottish isles for security. Others were fostered secretly out to the O'Donnelly's, hereditary Marshals of Ulster. This family had fostered Shane himself and was the strongest ally of these MacShanes in time to come.

The children are not forgotten in London either. Queen Elizabeth continued to play with the politics of the land and in a letter to Sir John Perrot in 1585, referencing the claim of Hugh, son of Ferdochea, on his grandfather's Earldom, the Queen withholds some of the lands from Hugh in his newly gained Earldom for "the sons of Shane O'Neill and Henry McShane O'Neill (son of said Shane)."<sup>15</sup>

In the 1580s, the O'Neill Lord of Killetra was Phelim MacTurlough. I do not know if he was the son of Turlough Brassilagh or not. It seems likely, as Hugh MacShane O'Neill was years later leading in the same region with his family the "Clan Shanes". Hugh O'Neill, son of Ferdochea O'Neill the Baron Dungannon, coveted Killetra. He eventually killed Phelim and took over his territory.<sup>16</sup> So after the murder of Phelim MacTurlough, Earl Hugh took over as Lord of Killetra and Glenconkeyne.

It would seem that the loyalties of the family shifted depending on the politics of the day. But it is important to remember that at the start of the last great O'Neill rebellion in 1590-91, there were four major factions within O'Neill lands vying for power:

- a. Hugh O'Neill, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Tir Owen, later named as The O'Neill Mor, son of Mathew, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Dungannon, grandson of Con Baccach.
- b. Sir Turlough Lineach O'Neill, sometime Chief of the O'Neills, one time Earl of Clanconnel, nephew of Con Baccach. Of the Sleight Arte O'Neills of southwest Tir Owen with his castle and holdings in far west, Strabane.
- c. The sons of Shane O'Neill, *named as The O'Neill Mor, then named 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Tir Owen, son of Con Baccach, slayer of half-brother Mathew Baron Dungannon.* These sons number according to the source from 6-10<sup>17</sup> and come from three different wives.

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<sup>11</sup> Hill, pg 65.

<sup>12</sup> Hamilton Rebellion pg. 47.

<sup>13</sup> Irish Family Names CPT Patrick Kelly, 1939, p 88.

<sup>14</sup> Annals of Ireland, vol. 5, 1542. Prior to 1542, a Morbough McShane led a raid into Meath in 1425.

<sup>15</sup> Hill, p 28.

<sup>16</sup> Sean O'Faolain, The Great O'Neill, (Earl Hugh) p 156-7. Killed by henchmen at Toome.

<sup>17</sup> From Carew Manuscripts, translated to the National Manuscripts, pg. 125-6, O'Hart, & Morgan, p 86-92. The sons are listed as Sean Og, Henry, Hugh Gimleach, Brian, Conn, Art, Turlough, Edmond, Cormac, Niall, Rose, Margaret, Rose and Ellen. Also see Tyrone's Rebellion by Morgan for an excellent history of the feud between the cousins and grandsons of Conn Bacach. Or Royal O'Neill pg 36.

- d. Turlough Brassileagh O'Neill makes his own attempt to become "The O'Neill" in 1583 when everyone thought Sir Turlough Lineach was dead. He stays interested in the title, but is kept at bay by Earl Hugh. His sons were active throughout this period.

There was bad blood between all four groups. Each was vying for power within Ulster and from the English. Earl Hugh O'Neill had disrupted the rise of the sons of Shane O'Neill with his move from Baron Dungannon to Earl Tir Owen, and bumped Sir Turlough from the Chiefship, both at the instigation of the English. Further he had proven a poor relative to the sons of Shane by either imprisoning or killing a number of them.

These brothers and their cousin Sir Turlough felt animosity toward their upstart cousin Earl Hugh, especially since his line was as a bastard line. However, these MacShanes helped Earl Hugh in Killetra during the war to communicate to Clondeboye. This shows that the MacShanes, as they were called by the English, were providing support to Hugh and helping him to pass supplies and information between himself and his allies, despite all the animosity between the factions.

It is a curious fact that the Clan Shanes and the sons of Shane Diomais fought for Earl Hugh, as he had just murdered their leader, Phelim Mac Turlough O'Neill at the beginning of the war in 1593.<sup>18</sup> Their loyalty is a testimony to the feeling they had for whomever was the anointed O'Neill, regardless of what nastiness he perpetrated.

When the rebellion finally came to an end, our family was still there with the Earl. In the winter of 1602-1603, Earl Hugh "abandoned his capital town of Dungannon and retreated to Glenconkeyne."<sup>19</sup> Hugh made his final refuge in the forests of Glenconkeyne and Killetra. He emerged that spring and surrendered in April to the Lord Lieutenant. The rebellion was over, but he was still Earl of all O'Neill land, which included these two districts and the McShanes.<sup>20</sup>

What also seems peculiar is the relationship between Earl Hugh, his first cousin Henry McShane and Henry's son, Sir Henry Og. Hugh and Henry battled each other for supremacy for two decades, including long periods of imprisonment of Henry by Hugh. Yet history tells us that Henry's son married Hugh's daughter, and both Henry and Henry Og fought for Earl Hugh in the 9 Years War, even holding positions of leadership.<sup>21</sup>

After the rebellion, Earl Hugh was allowed to return to his holdings and keep the title of Earl. However, over time he began to feel as though the English government was conspiring against him. Thus in 1607, he and many members of his family and the Earl of Tirconnell, The O'Donnell family left Ireland for the European continent in what is known as the "Flight of the Earls".

After their departure, the English had all of their lands declared forfeited and began a plantation of their former holdings by Scots and English adventurers. Because of the size of the region, a reward for service during the rebellion, there were many Irishmen also given lands at the start of the plantation. The following group took part in a kind of trial to decide whether or not Earl Hugh had indeed forfeited his lands. In truth the jury was purposely stacked against the missing Earl, and the sons of his Irish enemies made up the majority of the jury, even though many were his close cousins.

#### **The Jury of Earl Hugh O'Neill and others 1609.**

The English decided to let the Irish decide on how to divide up the goods of the Earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnell after their flight to the Continent. They ensured however, that they got an acceptable result. Thus, a jury of Earl Hugh's enemies was convened that summer of 1608. On a jury of 24, there were two sons of Shane O'Neill and one grandson present.

#### **Jury Members**

(Sir)<sup>22</sup> Henry McShane O'Neale (listed as Shane's son)

Cormocke McShane boy O'Neale (assumed to be grandson of Shane or possibly the son of Turlough Brassileagh?)

Hugh McShane McOwen O'Neale<sup>23</sup> (the son of Turlough Brassileach) *See reference to Hugh McShane as leader of Clan Shanes.*

#### **Results**

Henry and Con McShane O'Neale were given rents that year after the flight of their cousin Earl Hugh for perceived help. Henry was the son of Shane and Mary McDonnell/O'Donnell. Con was the son of his second wife, Catherine, Countess of Argyle.<sup>24</sup> (as was Hugh Gaveloc)<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Morgan, p 18. (Calendar of State Papers, Ireland. 107-09)

<sup>19</sup> Moody, pg. 56.

<sup>20</sup> Moody, pg. 51.

<sup>21</sup> See accounts of O'Neill forces by Carew. Both Henrys were in command of sizable forces in Armagh.

<sup>22</sup> History of Ireland, The Rev. E.A. D'Alton, vol III pg 192. Gresham Pub. Co, Dublin and Belfast. This knighthood reference may be to Henry's son, Sir Henry Og.

<sup>23</sup> The Plantation in Ulster, Hill, p 161.

<sup>24</sup> Hill, 250.

<sup>25</sup> Hill, p 34. And many other accounts including O'Hart.

## The Genealogy of Hugh McShane O'Neill from line of O'Neill Kings

Eoghan<sup>26</sup>  
Henry  
Conn Mor  
Conn Baccach  
Felim Caoch  
Turlough Brassiliach<sup>27</sup>  
Hugh McShane, Conn McTirlough, Phelim McCormac, Tirlough Og & Shane (poss)<sup>28</sup>

### The Sons of Turlough Brassilagh O'Neill. Claimant to the O'Neill Chiefship<sup>29</sup>

Turlough Brassileach, grandson of Conn Mor, had the strongest claim to the O'Neill Chiefship by Celtic law, as he was descended from the eldest of the house of Conn Bacach.<sup>30</sup> When Sir Turlough was thought to be dead in 1583, Turlough Brassileach came to the great stone to stand for election. Prior to the rise of Earl Hugh, in 1568, Turlough B. had been granted his lands south of Lough Neagh amongst the McCans his foster clan, by Sir Henry Sidney.<sup>31</sup> This territory was called "ClanBrassilagh", hence his nickname. Turlough had many sons.<sup>32</sup> Three of them plundered Maguire in 1573<sup>33</sup> as well, they were active in the 9 Years War. Seemingly they are Conn McTurlough, Hugh McShane, Phelim (McCormac/McTurlough), Neill, Cormac, Art Og', Eamon Gearr, Brian Og', Canand, Ever, a daughter, Turlough Og', and possibly a son named Sean.<sup>34</sup> Turlough Brassileach later received lands from Earl Hugh, called Glenaule in Armagh and paid rents and knights fees.<sup>35</sup>

#### 1. *Hugh McShane O'Neal* "and their kinsmen".....(Hill pg. 250)

-The same Hugh McShane is mentioned as Hugh McShane O'Neill (probable son of Turlough Brassilagh) listed as "a desperate fellow dwelling on the Londoners' land and well able to raise store of men", all this in County Derry, Barony Loughinsholin. From chapter, "The Native Conspiracy 1615".<sup>36</sup> This was the same Hugh who is listed as the leader of the Clan Shanes in 1608. His genealogy seems to be: Eoghan-Henry-Conn Mor- Conn Bac.- Felim Caoch- Turlough Brassileach-Hugh McShane. See reference in Brown's History, pg 250.

-Hugh McShane (McOwen??) O'Neale and others, the inhabitants of the Glynnnes of Glan Conkeyn." Took Shane Carragh O'Cahan 1608.<sup>37</sup> (along with Phelim McCormac Toole O'Neill all **Sons of Tirlagh Brassileach** See Hill, pg. 250 reference.)

-Hugh McShane (McTurlough) listed as enemy of Earl Hugh along with Henry MacShane, 1610. Says Sleight Arte O'Neills, Sir Turlough, Omagh, and Clogher O'Neills all dislike Earl Hugh.<sup>38</sup>

-Is on the jury on the confiscation of land and properties of his cousin Earl Hugh in 1608.

- May be the Hugh O'Neill granted 120 acres in Dungannon, Tyrone in 1613 of Moyterbirne, Inisdroine, Tolleremonie with Knights Fee.<sup>39</sup>

- Identified as the leader of the band who brought in Shane O'Cahan, who then "received a pardon for himself and the promised reward."<sup>40</sup> That band is called "**The MacShane O'Neills**" in June 1608, by Ramsay Colles.<sup>41</sup> Bagwell also uses "McShane O'Neills" as the name of Hugh McShane O'Neill and his band when they brought in Shane Carragh.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Annals of the Four Masters, Vol III 1542

<sup>27</sup> Tyrone's Rebellion pg. 18.

<sup>28</sup> Hill, p 250.

<sup>29</sup> Colles, pg. 2.

<sup>30</sup> Hamilton, pg. 7. Bagwell wrote that he had perhaps "the best right" to the Chiefship. Vol III pg. 220.

<sup>31</sup> Sidney, Memoir pg. 93. (1855)

<sup>32</sup> Bagwell, vol I, pg. 220.

<sup>33</sup> Bagwell Ireland Under the Tudors, vol II pg. 284.

<sup>34</sup> O'Neill, Desmond, pg 110-112, & official clan genealogies.

<sup>35</sup> Hill pg. 95. Morgan pg. 95

<sup>36</sup> Moody, p 166. From Calendar of the State Papers of Ireland, 1615-25. pg 52-3.

<sup>37</sup> Hill, p 65

<sup>38</sup> Hill, p 161.

<sup>39</sup> Hill, pg. 319, December 14, 1613. Taken from the Grants to Servitors, Undertakers and Natives.

<sup>40</sup> McClain, pg. 64. Taken from Case Against Sir Donnell O'Cahan, Davy's Account, Aug 15, 1608. Pg.15.

<sup>41</sup> Colles, pg. 173.

<sup>42</sup> Richard Bagwell, Ireland Under the Stuarts pg. 58.

-The identifying name "McShane" is probably due to the fact that he was fostered by the Clann Shanes, who he later led. Such was the case for nearly all O'Neill noblemen. (Brassileach, Lineach)

2. *Con McTirlagh O'Neal "and his brother"...* (Hill pg. 250)

- Con(n) McTurlough is listed as getting 60 acres in 1611 in Dungannon, Tyrone.<sup>43</sup> Also granted 120 acres at Lismeige, Armagh.<sup>44</sup>
- The same Con MacTirlugh (Brassileach?) was also given lands in Dungannon area, Corboy.<sup>45</sup> 1608
- May possibly be the Con McTirlough listed as having 10 Horse and 40 foot at Tynan River in 1598.<sup>46</sup>

3. *Phelim McCormac Toole O'Neal and his kinsmen.....* (Ibid)

- in 1608 are given tax credits for the year for getting Shane O'Cahan in 1607.<sup>47</sup> (son or grandson of Turlough Brasseloch?)

-*Phelim McTurlough Braselagh* is listed as sharing 540 acres in Oriel, 1611.<sup>48</sup>

The townlands are Towlorgan, Clontegoragh, Killinemory, Carrickecoan, Ardey.<sup>49</sup>

I believe that despite the differenced middle names, these two men are the same.

All three are listed as brothers and the sons of Turlough "Brasselach" O'Neal. "These O'Neills were the leaders of the wild sept known as the Clan Shanes of Killetragh." <sup>50</sup>

Additionally, in 1611, the fourth brother seems to be revealed as:

4. *Turlough Og' McTurlough Braselagh* 60 acres in Oriel, 1611, (SPI Carew pg 236).

The acres granted him were known as Creanmore in Armagh.<sup>51</sup>

**Others of the same name listed as receiving lands after the fall of Earl Hugh are as follows: Shane McTurlough, Donn McTurlough, Art McTurlough & Neale McTurlough. All are listed as McTurloughs, but not as clear sons of McTurlough Braselagh. All of these men received lands in Oriel, Armagh.** (See pg 11)

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And Donill McShane (surname) "Mallatas, gent. Shraghcrow, Dungannon, Tyrone, 1611. Unknown relation to O'Neills. <sup>52</sup> (which means "accursed" or "mean")

Another grant, probably the same, Donell McShane is listed as "Backagh" and given 200 acres in Tullaghah (Tyrone?Cavan?) in 1611. <sup>53</sup>

Edmond McBrian McShane is granted 140 acres in 1611 at Clinawly, Fermanagh.<sup>54</sup>

The same Edmond is in 1611 granted at Clinawly: Lisdawericke, Megin, Cnoghán, Tollohiny Dirrilgha, Knockmcgallcrum, & Gortnesillagh.<sup>55</sup>

There is a good possibility that this Edmond was the son of Brian McShane, and a grandson of Shane O'Neill. His connection to the same area as Conn McShane, the shared surname, and the fact that Brian McShane was alive, sued for peace before the end of the war (1596), was granted lands after the war, and might have set his son up for a land grant afterwards is quite possible.<sup>56</sup>

It seems very likely that the last inaugurated Chief of the McShanes of Killetra in modern southern County Derry was Hugh McShane O'Neill, son of Turlough Brassileach, son of Felim Caoch, son of Conn Bacach, King of Tir Owen. The events surrounding the capture of Shane Carragh O'Cahan in 1608 have multiple sources that list him as:

- 1591, the McShanes of Glenconkeyn and Killetra are listed as a key clan of the Earl.<sup>57</sup>
- 1608, Hugh McShane, the leader of the "wild Clan-Shanes of Killetragh"<sup>58</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Calendar of the State Papers of Ireland 1603-1624, Carew. p 236.

<sup>44</sup> Hill, pg. 314.

<sup>45</sup> Hill, p 321.

<sup>46</sup> Carew, Calendar 1589-1600 pg. 287.

<sup>47</sup> Hill, p 250

<sup>48</sup> State Papers of Ireland, 1603-24, Carew 1611. p 236.

<sup>49</sup> Hill, pg. 314.

<sup>50</sup> Hill, pg. 250.

<sup>51</sup> Hill, pg. 314.

<sup>52</sup> Hill. p 312 & 320.

<sup>53</sup> Calendar of State Papers of Ireland, 1603-1624. Carew, p 242.

<sup>54</sup> CSP-I, Carew pg 240

<sup>55</sup> Hill, p 320.

<sup>56</sup> Calendar of the Carew Manuscripts 1589-1600, on March 11, 1596, p 167-170

<sup>57</sup> Moody, pg. 51.

<sup>58</sup> Hill, 250.

- c. - the leader of the "MacShane O'Neills"<sup>59</sup>
- d. -"Hugh McShane and his brothers who were a wild strong sept of people dwelling in the woods and glens of Tyrone." <sup>60</sup>
- e. -"Hugh McShane O'Neale and others, the inhabitants of the Glynnes of Glanconkeyn."<sup>61</sup>
- f. - the McShanes of Glenconkein<sup>62</sup>
- g. 1615, Hugh McShane is listed as "a desperate fellow dwelling on the Londoners' land and well able to raise a store of men" in County Derry, Barony Loughinsholin. From chapter, "The Native Conspiracy 1615".<sup>63</sup>
- h. 1641, Chichester writes about the rebellious woodkerne in the jungles of Killetragh and Glenconkeyn.<sup>64</sup>
- i. In 1643, Col. James Clotworthy reported that he was fighting a large group of rebels from Derry near Tullahogue, it including "the Neills of Killetra."<sup>65</sup> I think Clotworthy has dropped the "McShane" as well as the "O" in O'Neill, as he did with (O')Quin and (O')Mullen. The fact that he lists them as the Neills of Killetra is the telling piece of information.

When taken together and analyzed as a whole, it leaves little doubt as to his position. Further, the fact that he remained on this land and thus, in rebellion, well into the Plantation of Derry, in spite of his brothers all getting lands in Armagh, leads one to believe that Hugh was indeed the Chief of the McShanes and not likely to abandon his people. Over the 17<sup>th</sup> century, there are very few McShanes that appear in the census' or on the Church rolls, leaving one to also believe that the descendants of those few families were indeed descended from Hugh McShane himself. And thus, they are the McShane O'Neills of today.

### **O'Neill-McShane Lords of Killetra and the McShanes of Loughinsholin**

- 1425- Mourboy McShane leads raid into Meath<sup>66</sup>
- 1542- The McShane or his son killed along the Bann across from Killetra/Glenconkeyne.
- mid 1500s- Felim Caoch is also killed the same year by the McDonnell Galloglas.<sup>67</sup>
- 1591- Government lists McShanes as being one of the key clans in Killetra and Glencoykeyn.
- 1593- Phelim McTirlough, Lord of Killetra killed by Earl Hugh at Toome on the Bann.
- 1593-1607 Earl Hugh is Lord of Killetra, ousted in 1607.
- 1607-1615? Hugh McShane is leader of the MacShane O'Neills of Killetra/Glenconkeyn
  - Cullough McShane boy may well be Hugh's son, active rebel in 1614, Sir Thomas Phillips is ordered to pursue Cullough, in his capacity as commander of Castle Toome<sup>68</sup> and in charge of security in Killetra and Glenconkeyne.<sup>69</sup>
- 1641 Rebellion began on the property of Sir Phelim O'Neill called Caledon or Kinard in either Tyrone or Desertmartin, Loughinsholin, October 22, 1641.<sup>70</sup>
- 1643 The "Neills of Killetragh" take part in a battle in north Derry (See research items).
- 1659 Six MacShane families listed in all of Loughinsholin Barony.<sup>71</sup>
- 1740 Owen M'Shane is listed as head of household in Ballinascreen Parish. Additionally James, Cork, Francis and Neal McShane are listed as heads of households in Maghera parish.<sup>72</sup> (Owen b.@ 1699)
- 1763 Patrick McShane is born in Desertmartin Parish. Also uses Johnson.
- 1790 James (Mc)Shean holds a farm in Inniscarn, Desertmartin Parish. (b. @1730)<sup>73</sup>
- 1819 John McShane born in Desertmartin Parish, changes name upon immigration
  - 1839.<sup>74</sup> John and sister Sara, make way to Liverpool then America, they land in Baltimore in 1842.<sup>75</sup>
- 1845 John and Sara send back tombstone to Ireland from US.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>59</sup> Bagwell, Vol I, pg. 58. & Ramsey Colles pg. 173.

<sup>60</sup> Mullin pg. 120,

<sup>61</sup> Hill, pg 65.

<sup>62</sup> Hamilton, The Irish Rebellion of 1641 pg. 30. From "Chichester to Privy Council Aug 3, 1608." He writes that he was captured by the McShanes "in whose country he was hiding."

<sup>63</sup> Moody, p 166. From Calendar of the State Papers of Ireland, 1615-25. pg 52-3.

<sup>64</sup> Hamilton, Rebellion pg 47.

<sup>65</sup> Mullin The Ulster Clans pg. 208. Hamilton also talks about this battle, but does not give names.

<sup>66</sup> John Swayne, John Swayne, Primate of Armagh. Pg. 42

<sup>67</sup> Annals, 1542.

<sup>68</sup> Hamilton, Elizabethan pg. 345.

<sup>69</sup> Sir Thomas Phillips, Londonderry and the London Companies. Pg. 52.

<sup>70</sup> Bagwell, pg. 335. Mullin, pg. 131. Mullin states that Desertmartin and Moneymore were first seized.

<sup>71</sup> Census of Ireland, 1659

<sup>72</sup> 1740 List of Protestant Heads of Household, Loughinsholin Barony, Londonderry, County.

<sup>73</sup> 1790 Rent Roll PRONI ref # MIC/617/150

<sup>74</sup> Rents list, 1813-14 PRONI ref # MIC/617/150 Also Mormon records of birth.

<sup>75</sup> Immigration paperwork of John Johnson, Carbon County, PA.

1847 John Johnson II is born in Schullykill County, Pennsylvania.

		Conn Mor d. 1493		
		Conn Bacach d. 1559		
	Felim Caoch <sup>77</sup> d. 1542	Shane Diomas d.1567	Ferdoacha d. 1558	
Tirlough Brassileach d. 1595 <sup>78</sup>	Henry d. 1619/22		Earl Hugh Art McBaron d. 1616	d. 1618
Hugh McShane <sup>79</sup>	Sir Henry Og McShane <sup>80</sup> d. 1608 Con Boy McHenry <sup>82</sup>		Owen Roe <sup>81</sup>	d. 1649
	Sir Turlough Oge <sup>83</sup> d. 1608		Con Boy ? ? <sup>84</sup>	
	Sir Felim Roe <sup>85</sup> b. 1604	Turlough <sup>86</sup> d. 1653		
	Colonel Gordon <sup>87</sup> d. 1704 in France Con? Catherine –m- Lord Bourke			

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On the question of whether Hugh McShane O'Neill was the son or the Grandson of Turlough Brassilagh O'Neill, the following is included for research:

In 1611, a Shane McTurlough, Donn McTurlough, Art McTurlough, and Neale McTurlough were all granted a piece of land in Oreil, Armagh.<sup>88</sup> I do not know which Turlough these men descended from, but according to Mr.

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<sup>76</sup> Tombstone and monument in Ballinacreen cemetary, Moneyneana, County Derry. Patrick's dates are carved upon the tombstone, 1763-1839.

<sup>77</sup> Annals of the Four Masters, vol IV pg. 1497.

<sup>78</sup> Morgan, pg. 86.

<sup>79</sup> Hill, pg. 250.

<sup>80</sup> Hamilton, Elizabethan pg. 352. States that Sir Felim Roe was the grandson of Sir Henry Og McShane. Sir Henry was killed by O'Dougherty on May 6, during his rebellion in 1608 in Derry. He was married to one of the daughters of Earl Hugh named Cortine. See earlier CPR-I, Eliz 18-45, and McClain pg. 53 from Calendar of State Papers of Ireland 1606-08 pg. 518-19. Hill provides much detail on Henry McShane.

<sup>81</sup> Mullin, The Ulster Clans, pg. 147.

<sup>82</sup> Hamilton, Elizabethan Ulster pg. 40. Con Boy McHenry is listed as a grandson of Shane O'Neill and was in command of a raid in 1569 on the McMahan country by Tirlough Lineach. It gives question as to the birth date of Shane O'Neill as 1530.

<sup>83</sup> Hill, pg. 319. Tirlough died young and left a wife named Catherine Ny, who was the daughter of Sir Turlough McHenry of the Fewes, and a number of sons. Phelim was his youngest and named his heir. Chichester intervened with the King and had Sir Henry Og McShane's estate divided up amongst all his children instead of just to his one heir. This broke with English law, but was considered important to keep the peace by Chichester. Each heir received a grant of land in Tyrone and another in Armagh. Catherine and Phelim were granted large acreage based primarily in Tyrone. Another brother of Phelim was known as Turlough Oge, he received most of his lands in Armagh. Other brothers may be: Neal Roe, Bryan, Henry, Charles, Hugh and Con Boy. Also so pardon in 1602 in Calendar SPI and Hamilton.

<sup>84</sup> Hamilton Rebellion pg. 26. Four sons are listed with him when Henry Og is killed. Two escape and Turlough is mortally wounded. Also 250-260.

<sup>85</sup> Hamilton Elizabethan, states that he represents "the line of Shane O'Neill" pg. 339.

<sup>86</sup> Hamilton Rebellion, pg. 97 Lists Turlough Oge as brother to Sir Phelim and in debt.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid*, pg. 151. Colonel Gordon fought for King James and then accompanied him to France.

Desmond O'Neill's book, The Royal Family, O'Neill, pg 127, Turlough Brassilagh did have sons named Art and Neale along with his other known sons. And in the genealogy sent to me by the O'Neill Clan association, Turlough Brassilagh also had a son named Shane.

Thus, there it is possible that Turlough Brassilagh had a son named Shane, who then had a son named Hugh MacShane. English Regardless, we do know that this Hugh McShane was the named head of the "wild clan Shanes of Killetragh", regardless of whether he was the son or grandson of Turlough Brassilagh.