

More Irish than the Irish Themselves: The Hiberno-Norman Families

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Anglo & Cambro-Norman Invasion of Ireland

Reasons for the Invasion

- Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster
“Perhaps the most reviled Irishman in their turbulent history is Dermot MacMurrough, King of Leinster, who in the mid-12th century brought the Normans to Ireland, and so opened the gateway to English domination for almost 800 years.”
Raymond Reagan Butler, *Warriors of the Pale: An Irish Saga*, xiii.
- Initial invasion in 1169, followed by a larger one in 1170

Immediate Results of the Invasion

- Gaels displaced
The result of the invasion was “a vast transfer of property, perhaps the largest in recorded Irish history, for virtually a whole upper caste was now displaced.”
Raymond Reagan Butler, *Warriors of the Pale: An Irish Saga*, 47.
- The Pale
- The Irish Marches (Beyond the Pale)
The Irish “Marches” were “lands not yet fully conquered by the Butlers, Burkes, Roches, Geraldines and other ‘Chiefs of the English lineage’...”
Sir Micharl O’Dwyer, *Fusion of Anglo-Norman and Gael*, 1.
“Ireland outside The Pale would remain an embattled country...”
Raymond Reagan Butler, *Warriors of the Pale: An Irish Saga*, xix.
- Pax Normantica

Hiberno-Normans

The Ebb and Flow of Norman Territories

Intra-Norman Conflicts

There seemed to be permanent sparring between the Hiberno-Normans and sporadic domestic conflicts.
Raymond Reagan Butler, *Warriors of the Pale: An Irish Saga*, 116.

Intermarriage and Alliances

- Marriages between Normans and the Irish

There were times when “only marriage could united the warring clans, with the Burkes, FitzGerald, Bermynghams, fitzThomases and Butlers being...all interrelated by marriage to dangerous degrees.”
Raymond Reagan Butler, *Warriors of the Pale: An Irish Saga*, 68.

- Gaelicisation of Normans

“...from the first Norman invasion there arose a steady and growing amalgamation of the two races, through intermarriage, fosterage, the Norman adoption of Irish speech, dress, mode of riding, Brehon law, clan organization for military service, etc.”

Sir Micharl O'Dwyer, *Fusion of Anglo-Norman and Gael*, 1.

“Nearly all these early Norman invaders or adventurers came from South Wales...they had intermarried with the leading Welsh families, had acquired some knowledge of the Celtic language, culture and tribal system...”

Sir Micharl O'Dwyer, *Fusion of Anglo-Norman and Gael*, 1.

Regarding the “Gaelicisation of the Normans” we must remember that these were the “sons of native Irish mothers” and they “belonged by birth as much to one race as to the other.”

Kenneth Nicholls, *Gaelic and Gaelicised Ireland in the Middle Ages*, 16-17.

Degeneracy was what the British government called the process of becoming Gaelicised and it “was feared by the government and regularly condemned.” Many of the early settlers had married Irish women, so that their children were half Gaelic... The habit of intermarriage persisted at every level of society...”

James Lydon, *Ireland in the Later Middle Ages*, 57.

Edmund MacRichard [Butler]’s rejection of the Norman fitz (or ‘fils’) and his adoption of the Gaelic ‘Mac’ is one of the earliest signs of that side of the Butler family’s long-postponed surrender to the seduction of their host country. The Gaelicisation would come to play a great part in the story of their immediate future, and these ‘Celtic’ cousins, beginning with Richard, would marry Irish wives in defiance of the Statutes of Kilkenny, in the process becoming great patrons of Irish culture.”

Raymond Reagan Butler, *Warriors of the Pale: An Irish Saga*, 166.

By the 1600s, the ‘Old English,’ as they were known, were in a position of “betwixt and between, since they were considered to be ‘Irish’ in England but almost entirely English in their homeland.”

Raymond Reagan Butler, *Warriors of the Pale: An Irish Saga*, 246.

- Irish language and customs

“Norman lords had married daughters of Irish chiefs all over the country, and made combinations and treaties with every province. Their children went to be fostered in kindly houses of the Irish. Into their own palisaded forts, lifted on great mounds of earth, with three-fold entrenchments, came Irish poets singing the traditions, the love-songs, the prayers and hymns of the Gaels. A Norman shrine of gold for St. Patrick’s tooth shows how the Norman lord of Athenry had adopted the national saint.”

Alice Stopford Green, *Irish Nationality*, <http://www.libraryireland.com/irishnationality/second-irish-revival.php>

- Clans and Tribes

By the end of the thirteenth century, “such was the level of assimilation that many Anglo-Norman families were now seen as tribal groups to match those of the native Irish.”

Raymond Reagan Butler, *Warriors of the Pale: An Irish Saga*, 45.

Contemporary records refer constantly to the...great [Anglo-Norman] families...as if indeed they were clans.”

James Lydon, *Ireland in the Later Middle Ages*, 51.

Statutes of Kilkenny

- What the Statutes of Kilkenny said about Norman Ireland

“The Statutes of Kilkenny of 1366, declared by the English administration in Ireland, tried to abolish native Irish law and encroach on the authority of the Gaelic kings and princes.”

“Perhaps the most fascinating thing about the Statutes of Kilkenny was that they in effect recognised not only the continued existence of the Gaelic kingdoms but the existence of the ‘middle nation’, the Anglo-Irish who had merged themselves into Irish culture.”

Peter Berresford Ellis, *Erin's Royal Blood: The Gaelic Noble Dynasties of Ireland*, 28.

- Impact of the Statutes of Kilkenny

“The position of the Irish kings and aristocracy continued unchanged until the reign of Tudor King Henry VIII...”

Peter Berresford Ellis, *Erin's Royal Blood: The Gaelic Noble Dynasties of Ireland*, 29.

More Irish than the Irish Themselves

“Anglo-French civilization” eventually died throughout most of Ireland but “continued to flourish throughout the Butler territories, particularly around Kilkenny, the capital of the Ormonde earldom. It is probable that even from earliest times, the Butlers had spoken Gaelic, but they were still considered to be the most English of the ‘first families.’”

Raymond Reagan Butler, *Warriors of the Pale: An Irish Saga*, 220.

Later English Settlement and the Hiberno-Norman Legacy

Tudor Plantations

“What remained to be conquered...was nothing short of the Irish way of life, a culture that was always baffling to the English. Elizabethans were the first people to actually define the Irish as a ‘barbaric’ nation, and the first to decide to intentionally eliminate their national character.”

Raymond Reagan Butler, *Warriors of the Pale: An Irish Saga*, 245.

Cromwell's Soldiers

Later Landed Gentry

A good portion of the “Big Houses” and large estates of the Anglo-Irish were owned by descendants of the original Hiberno-Normans.

Terence Dooley, *The Decline of the Big House in Ireland: A Study of Irish Landed Families, 1860-1960*, 9.

Hiberno-Norman Families

Hiberno-Norman Surnames:

Archer	Cantwell
D'Arcy/Darcy	Carew
Aylward	Clare/de Clare
Barrett	Cogan/Goggin
Barron	Cruise
Barry/de Barry	Cullen
Beamish	Cusak
Bermingham	Dalton
Blake	Devereaux
Blanchfield	Deane
Bodkin	Dillon
Bonfield	Eustace
Browne	Fanning
Burke/Bourke/de Burgh/de Burgo	FitzGerald
Butler	FitzGibbons
Candon/Condon	FitzHarris/FitzHenry

FitzMaurice/Maurice/Morris
FitzRalph
FitzRichard
FitzRoy
FitzSimons
FitzStephen
FitzWilliam
French
Gibbons
Grace
Hackett
Hore/Hoare
Hussey
Jennings
Joyce
de Lacy/Lacy
Lambert/Lambart
Lawless
Mansell
Marmion/Merriman
Marren
Marshall
Martin/Martyn
Maunsell
Neville
Nicolas

Nugent
Pierce
Pigott
Plunkett
Power
Prendergast/Pendergast
Preston
Purcell/Pursell
Quilter
Redman/Redmon
Roche
Rossiter
Russell
St. Leger
Savage
Sinnott/Synnott
Stack
Stafford
Stapleton
Talbot
Tobin
Wade
Wall
Walsh/Walshe/Welsh
White
Woulfe

Research, Collections, and Websites

Research

Collections

Websites

Sources

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