

BRYAN

1. Paper titled, The Bryan Family; 6 pages.

THE BRYAN FAMILY
[Mary Bryan - The Mother of William (Capt. Billy) Bush]

Several accounts of the Bryan ancestry have been published. This writer feels that the articles produced by Edward Bryan of Eldorado Springs, Colorado seem to be the most authentic. While his articles rely heavily upon the descendants of Morgan Bryan, the information appears relevant to the ancestry of Morgan's brother, William, who was the ancestor of Mary Bryan Bush.

The first article cited was found in the genealogical vertical file at the Orlando Public Library. It was dated 1933:

Much has been written concerning the history of the Bryan Family in Kentucky. It is believed however, that little is generally known of the ancient heroic tribe known as the Dalcassians, from which this family is descended, and it is hoped that these following notes may serve as a guide and bibliography for those who may be disposed to make investigation of the subject.

Obviously, we have no way of knowing for a certainty how Erin was first peopled, but it is recognized as one of the most ancient civilized countries known to history.

It was known to the Phoenicians, and Greek writers refer to it under the names of Iernis an Ierne. The Greek geographer Ptolemy, drawing his information from the Phoenician sources, gives a description of the island, and that Erin carried on a considerable trade with foreign countries, we learn from the Roman historian - Tacitus.

Though the movements of the earliest colonists are beyond the reach of history, we have at hand an abundance of legends concerning them; stories handed down by word of mouth for many generations, and eventually committed to writing.

These legends relate in great detail how five successive colonies invaded the island many centuries prior to the Christian Era. The fifth and last of them made their appearance during the Bronze Age or about 1300 B.C.

They were the Milesians, so called from their leader Milesius, and tradition has it that they came from Spain. In time, the Milesians furnished Erin with thirty kings and sixty-one saints.

It is to Milesius, and his son Eber, that Brian Boru, the great stem of the O'Brian family, traces back his pedigree.

From a very early time the island was divided into provinces, over each of which was a "ri" or king, and over these provincial kings, an Ard-ri or monarch.

Of the Dalcassian line we find that Cormac Cas was King of Munster about A.D.

290; Conall of the Fleet Steeds, in 366; Cairthinn Finn, in 439; Aedh Caemh, from 571 to 601; Lorcan, in 910; Kennedy, in 954; and Brian Boru from 975 to the year 1002, at which time he became King of all Erin, and as such reigned until his death, at the Battle of Clontarf, in 1014.

Conall of the Fleet Steeds, King of Munster in 366, had a son Cas, and it is from Cas that the Dalcassians derive their distinctive name. The line is sometimes mentioned as "the house of Tal", from another of Brian's ancestors who had the surname of Mac Tail, meaning Son of the Adze.

In 1878 Prof. Eugene O'Curry's "Lectures on the Mss. Materials of Ancient Irish History;" were done into book form (Wm.A.Hinch, Dublin). Prof. O'Curry occupied the Chair of Irish History and Archaeology at the National University; he was himself a Dalcassian and a distinguished authority on Irish manuscripts and antiquities.

In his lecture dealing with the sources of Irish genealogies and pedigrees, he uses the Dalcassian line as illustrative material, and the student will here find Brian Boru's family tree, traced in an unbroken line from Oilioll Oluim, who died A.D. 234, to Henry, seventh earl of Thomond - 1664, - a matter of some fourteen centuries.

Prof. O'Curry states that the succession to the kingship of Munster was alternate between the Eugenians (descendants of Eoghan, a son of Oilioll Oluim) and the Dalcassians; but the former being the more powerful in numbers, monopolized the provincial rule as far as they were able. The line of the Dalcassians were, however, always kings or chiefs of Thomond in succession, and kings of the province as often as they had strength to assert their alternate right.

It must be apparent that no such ancient pedigree would have come down to us were we not concerned with provincial kings and tribal chieftains. The laws of Erin prescribed that each ruler keep a complete family record, to be checked against the record at Tara - the seat of the High Kings. In turn the Ollamh (or doctor, who kept the records pertaining to the descent of lands and titles) was required to make periodical visits to the provincial courts and mansions of the chieftains, to inspect their books of family history, to enter the names of the eldest branches of the family, and on his return to Tara, to write these matters into what was of old called the "Monarch's Book", and in modern times - the Saltair of Tara.

The outstanding figure of this venerable tribe is, of course, Brian Boru, the well-beloved hero of the songs and stories of posterity. The historians refer to him variously as King Brian, Bryan Borowe and Brian Boroimhe. His career was similar to that of Alfred the Great, in that he was the champion of his people against the assaults of the Scandinavian barbarians who harried the coasts of Europe from the eighth to eleventh centuries.

These daring pirates from the coasts and islands of the Baltic made their

first appearance in Ireland toward the close of the eighth century. They came at first in small companies with intent to raid, but in time they began to establish colonies, and by the middle of the ninth century were permanently settled and fortified in Limerick, Waterford and Dublin. Their depredations continued for two hundred years and it was not until the early part of the eleventh century, and the reign of Brian, that their power in the island was finally broken.

When Brian was a young man his brother Mahon was King of Munster. Mahon had been forced to make a truce with the Norsemen, but Brian persuaded him to renew his energies. Collecting their forces, the two brothers attacked near Sulcoit, routed and pursued the enemy the twenty miles to Limerick, and recovered the city.

This success was followed by seven successive victories, whereupon Mahon was invited to a conference at which he was set upon, and murdered by two Irish chiefs, aided by the Norse king - Ivar.

Succeeding Mahon, Brian now became king of Munster, and it was among his first concerns to defeat and slay, one after the other, the three assassins. From this time forward his life was for many years one of incessant warfare, - directed chiefly against the Vikings. For a full account of this movement see: Kendrick - "A History of the Vikings" (N.Y. 1930).

In 1002 he became Ardri, or King of all Erin. By this time he had had forty years of conflict, and now felt disposed to devote himself to works of peace. Monasteries destroyed by the invaders were rebuilt. schools were established and the laws enforced. There ensued a renaissance of art and learning which extended into the twelfth century - a period known as Ireland's "Golden Age".

In 1014 occurred the Battle of Clontarf, the last major struggle between the Irish and the pagans from the North. For an account of the events leading to this encounter the reader is referred to: "An Illustrated History of Ireland" by P.W. Joyce (N.Y. 1920).

Clontarf was one of the bloodiest battles in Irish annals. There were some twenty thousand men on each side, and the two armies fought without intermission from early morning till sunset. It was simply hand to hand combat with the sword and battle axe, and the carnage was frightful.

According to the annals of Ulster seven thousand fell on the Viking side, against four thousand Irish. All of the leaders on both sides were slain, including King Brian and his son Murrogh. Their remains were conveyed to Armagh, where they were interred in the cathedral, and the obsequies celebrated for twelve days.

Between the death of Brian and the anglo-Norman invasion about a century and a half elapsed, and this was a period of great disorder and confusion. During this period there were eight provincial kings reckoned as Kings of Ireland, but none of them made any pretense to rule the entire country. The struggle for the kingship lay between the O'Lochlins of Ulster and the descendants of Brian Boru. These

dissensions so weakened the country that the Anglo-Norman invaders met but a feeble resistance. This point marks the beginning of Ireland's 800-year struggle to free herself of English dominion. During the wars which followed many of Brian's descendants were killed in battle, banished or executed. Others came to America, among them Morgan Bryan, the great stem of the Bryans in Kentucky. He settled in Chester County Pennsylvania, whence he moved to Virginia, and finally in 1748 to the forks of the Yadkin river in North Carolina. (*Morgan's brother, William is the ancestor of Mary Bryan who married Philip Bush.*)

Here his son William married Mary Boone, and his daughter Rebecca married the great pioneer - Daniel Boone. The story of how the Boones and Bryans moved on to what is now Kentucky and settled at Boone's Borough and Bryan's Station is too well known to require repetition.

By way of bringing the line down to the present time (with reference to my own forbears): Morgan Bryan had a son Joseph, who had a son George, who had a son Woodson, who had a son William Woodson, who had a son Roger, who was my father.

It is apparent from the foregoing lore that the descendants of Cas may be permitted a pardonable pride in the great antiquity of their pedigree. Prof. O'Curry, in the lectures heretofore mentioned explains how the genealogies of the tribal chieftains were preserved, how they have come down to us, and the reasons for trusting the Gaedhlic records from which they are taken. The story of the method of interpreting and using these hoary manuscripts is scarcely less interesting than the pedigree itself. the reader is again referred to this interesting and instructive volume.

The ruins of Cashel, ancient seat of the Munster kings, may be seen by the traveler fourteen miles north-east of Tipperary. The summit of a vast rock is circled by a wall which encloses the castle, chapel, cathedral and round tower.

During the nine centuries which have elapsed since Brian rid Erin of the Norse, his offspring have been dispersed to the four corners of the earth. Many of them have continued to distinguish themselves while perpetuating the traditions of their time-honored line; notably those intrepid pioneers who, together with Col. Boone, founded a great commonwealth "at the head of the river".

Another of these articles, "The Bryan Lineage and Alliances", published in Genealogies of Kentucky Families from The Filson Club History Quarterly, gives a concise summary of the lineage:

Francis Bryan, son of Thomas Bryan of Chedington, Bucks, grandson of Sir Thomas Bryan and his wife Margaret (daughter of Sir John Bowsey, Lord Barnes), and great-great-great-grandfather of the founders of Bryan's Station, was born in Buckinghamshire about 1490. His father was knighted by the seventh Henry in 1497, and his grandfather served as Chief Justice of the Common Pleas from 1471 until his death in 1500. The Latin will of the elder Sir Thomas throws no light on his

ancestry, nor did a search made by The Society of Genealogist of London, but there is heraldic evidence at the College of Arms which indicates that he was connected with the family of Bryans which was settled at Tor Bryan in Devon, from very early times. Most notable of the Devonshire family was Guy, Lord Bryan, who bore arms - or, three piles in point, azure, at the siege of Calais.

He was summoned to Parliament in 1350, and in 1369 the third Edward conferred the Garter. Various works of genealogy and local history ascribe his ancestry to the ancient Counts de Brienne, some of whose offspring came in with the Conqueror. Thus the patronym appears to be a place-name, derived from Brienne-le-Chateau, which, during the times of Hugh Capet was the capital of a countship.

Sir Francis' forebears on the distaff side were no less worthy of note. His mother, Lady Margaret Bryan, was the daughter of Sir Humphrey Bourchier and his wife, Elizabeth Tylney, and granddaughter of Sir William Bourchier who married the Lady Anne Plantagenet, granddaughter of King Edward III. Her brother John, Lord Berners, was made K.G., and her father, slain at the battle of Barnet, was buried(sic) in Westminster. Following the tragic death of Anne Boleyn she was selected foster-mother to the princess Elizabeth, and for this service she was made a baroness. Her son, Francis, was educated at Oxford, was a personal friend of the sovereign, and a member of the privy council until the close of Henry's reign. An account of his career is contained in The Dictionary of National Biography. Sir Francis married (1548) Joan, dowager Duchess of Ormond, daughter and heiress of James Fitz-John Fitz-Gerald, eleventh Earl of Desmond.

Lady Joan was of the family of Geraldines, one of the prominent lines of Anglo-Irish lords who settled in Ireland in the time of the second Henry. Her mother, Amy, was the daughter of Turlogh, of the clan of the Mac-I-Brien-Ara, descendants of the ancient Dalcassians, and of the mighty Brian Boru. Shortly after his marriage, Sir Francis was named Lord Marshal of Ireland, and sent to Dublin. He died February 2, 1550, at Clonmel and was buried at Waterford.

His son, Francis, was born in 1549, and held large estates in County Clare which the crown had given to his father upon the dissolution of the monasteries. He married Ann, daughter of Sir William Smith of County Claire, by whom he had William Smith Bryan, immigrant ancestor of the Bryan families of Kentucky. William Smith Bryan, who bore the sobriquet "Prince William", married Catherine Morgan. For taking the part of Ireland during the Puritan Revolution, Cromwell exiled him to Virginia. He was accompanied by a shipload of chattels and the eleven sons and three daughters who settled Gloucester County. The eldest of these, Francis Bryan III, was born about 1630, and married Sarah Brinker. In 1667 he returned to Ireland and sought to recover his father's property, but being harassed by the government, he fled to Denmark. He was permitted to return to Ireland in 1683, and died at Belfast ten years later.

His two sons, William and Morgan came to America, the latter settling in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1695. Morgan Bryan was born in Denmark in 1671, and

married Martha Strode, whose Huguenot parents had fled the religious wars of the time. In 1710 he was granted land on Opequan Creek in the Shenandoah Valley, where he remained until 1740, when he removed to Rowan County (now Davidson Co.), North Carolina. . .

In yet another article by Edward Bryan, we find that "He (Francis Bryan III) had two sons, William, born in Ireland, and Morgan, born in Denmark. Both came to America." In this same commentary, it is also noted that "William was the first to settle at the present site of Roanoke, and he died there at the age of 104."

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Bryan Wills + Deeds
with
Genealogical notes
WILLIAM BRYAN SR.

Augusta County, Va. Records Chalkley

Vol. 2, p 223. Prior to 1771 William Bryan Sr. owned 400 acres on Roanoke River near Salem; divided it among his sons William and James, who entered 190 acres adjoining and patent issued in name of James, Feb. 6, 1771. James sold out all to Andrew Lewis, Mar. 28, 1763, who sold it to his brother William. James moved to Mason County, Virginia (Now West Virginia).

William Bryan Sr., brother of Morgan Bryan, was born in Ireland in 1685 and died near Salem, Va. in 1789, aged 104 years. His Church Certificate of membership in good standing, brought with him from Ireland, has been placed in the State Library, Richmond, Va. His wife was Margaret and his children as known are -

- 1-John, aged six years when parents came to Pennsylvania, married Mary Morrison. He died 1799 in Campbell County, Va.
 - 2-David, who died 1767 in Botetourt County; his widow Elizabeth married Col. John Bowman and removed to Kentucky.
 - 3-James, who died 1816 in Mason County, now West Virginia.
 - 4-William Jr. died 1806 in Botetourt County.
 - 5-Mary, married Philip Bush. Their sons went to Kentucky with the Bryans and Boones.
 - 6-Elizabeth, married James Love.
- Note - David died in Augusta County, not Botetourt.

Mason Co. West Virginia Deeds, Book A, p 102.

Indenture, July 28, 1792: "Know all men by these presents that I William Bryan Jr. of Botetourt County, State of Virginia have sold unto Joseph McBride of Kanawa County and State aforesaid a certain acre lot for the sum of thirty pounds paid in hand, it being in Kanawa County and State aforesaid, Point Pleasant, in the town of Lewisburg on the Ohio. It being the fifth lot from the Point and known by the name of Bryan lot and sd McBride is to have timber to build a house (where) he chooses in the Point o(f) survey that belongs to Col. Thomas Lewis, Andrew Lewis and Mr. William Lewis. Like wise for fencing or Felling sd lot and sd Bryan his heirs and assigns is to make sd McBride, his heirs and assigns a lawful title in fee simple for sd front lots and for the faithful performance of every of the above mentioned articles. I bind myself my heirs and assigns on the penalty of sixty pounds good and lawful money of the State aforesaid. Witness my hand and seal this 28th day of July 1792".

/s/ William Bryan Jr.
Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of William Lewis and Samuel Lewis.

In a deed William Bryan deeded 100 acres to Philip Bush for five shillings - Said deed was witnessed by James Madison (father of President).