

Opposition of O'Neill Septs to the Earl of Tyrone in 1600 as Evidenced in Genealogical, Y-DNA and Archival Sources

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This research study examines the opposition to the Earl of Tyrone from within the O'Neill kindred. A full accounting of O'Neill septs is provided, showing complete opposition to the earl from outside his immediate family. Historical evidence from royal pardons, land grants, and manuscript sources is evaluated against genealogical and Y-DNA data. The source of this evidence is primarily the Royal O'Neill genealogy by Desmond O'Neill, Cenél Eóghain FamilyTree DNA project, pardon rolls in Calendar of State Papers of Ireland, Carew Manuscripts, and Hill's Plantation History. In Part I, a document from 1608 in which the sheriff of Tyrone identifies O'Neill political factions is compared to O'Neill genealogy. In Part II, land grant data from 1611 is presented in light of a 1585 document by Queen Elizabeth outlining the strategy for seizing O'Neill land. In Part III, Y DNA testing is described and the 38 O'Neill men who received land grants are identified by their sept, genealogical lineage, Y-DNA lineage and political relationship to the earl. More generally, the research results show how closely O'Neill politics aligned with Y-DNA.

Part I

The political alignment of O'Neill septs in 1600, during the Nine Years' War of 1593 to 1603, was evidenced in English archival documents. After the Flight of the Earls in 1607, and in the aftermath of O'Doherty's Rebellion in 1608, the Crown issued pardons and then a series of land grants to O'Neill leaders. While the pardons were intended to provide legal assurances to individuals who participated in the war, the land grants were intended to preempt claimants to the land of Tyrone.

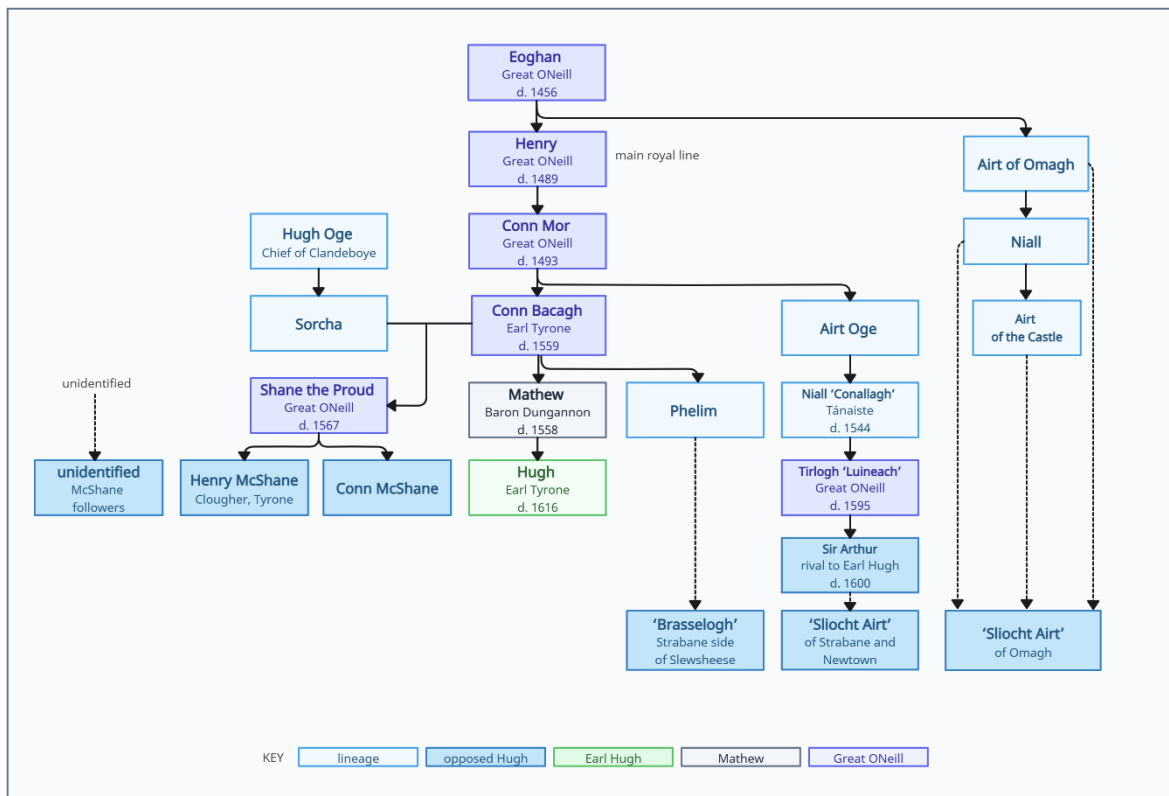
The king pardoned certain factions of the O'Neill family viewed "friendly to the interests of the English party" in 1609. These factions had opposed the succession of Hugh O'Neill's father Mathew to the title of *The O'Neill*, and continued their opposition to Earl Hugh after he gained this title and despite his engagement of all-out war with the English government. However, the intentions of the those pardoned had little to do with English interests and much to do with internal politics over the succession to *The O'Neill* (Hill, p. 161). The Irish manner that encouraged succession alternating between cousin branches clashed with the English manner of transmitting the earldom of Tyrone from father to eldest son. Rightful claims under Irish law became disinherited under English law. These circumstances were aggravated when the first O'Neill to accept the title *Earl of Tyrone*, Conn, named Ferdorcha, or 'Mathew', his successor, over the rights of Shane 'the Proud' who was the eldest legitimate son. Each was ultimately assassinated by rival factions.

In 1608, the Tyrone sheriff John Leigh assessed O'Neill politics and identified four distinct septs that had opposed Hugh during the course of the war (Carew VI, p. 30). These were the Sliocht Art from Strabane, the Sliocht Art from Omagh, the sons of Shane 'the Proud', and a sept identified only as followers of Shane.

I observed that there are certain kindreds or septs of the Neales [O'Neills], in divers parts of Tyrone, which ever did, and still do, as much as in them lieth, oppose both against Tyrone and all those of his proper sept and party, namely, in the barony of Strabane, Tyrloghe Oge O'Neale, son to Sir Arthur O'Neale, and all his followers and dependents, as well of the Neales as of the Quinnes, and likewise of divers other septs on that [Strabane] side of Slewseese. Also, in the barony of O'Meaghe [Omagh] all that sept of the Neales, called the Sleughte Artes, do deadly hate Tyrone's sept. And likewise in the barony of Clougher, are two other distinct septs of the Neales who hate Tyrone and his septs; one of which septs are the sons of Shan O'Neale and their followers.

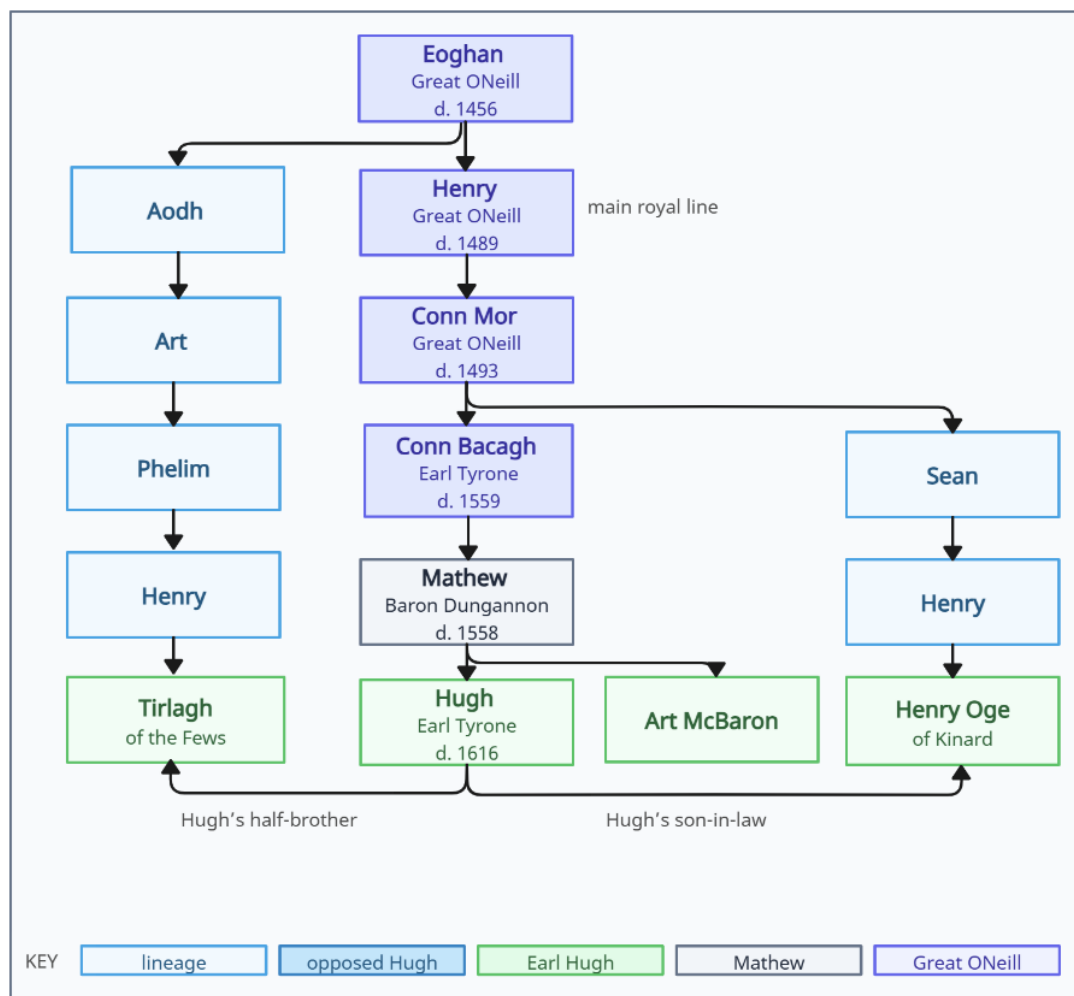
The political alignment of O'Neill septs is evidenced from archives of administrative records of the English government in Ireland (State Papers of Ireland, Carew Manuscript) and Hill's history of the Ulster Plantation. The opponents of Earl Hugh at the height of the Nine Years' War, in 1600, and their genealogical relationships, are shown in Figure 1. A view of septs, both those opposing and supporting Hugh, is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 1.



In *Figure 1* beginning at left (blue), there was a distinct sept who were politically aligned to Shane ‘the Proud’, yet whose origins were not recorded by English sources. This sept is possibly one of the three that could not be accounted for when comparing English sources to the genealogy of the Royal O’Neill by Desmond O’Neill (1995). Next, the sons of Shane ‘the Proud’, called McShane, were grandsons of Conn ‘Bacagh’ the first earl and held rights to the title *The O’Neill* through their father Shane. After Hugh, in the middle, septs to the right side include those described by the Tyrone sheriff in 1608. Tirlagh ‘Luineach’ (purple) had succeeded Shane as *The O’Neill* and preceded Hugh. Two of these septs were called Sliocht Art, or family of Art. At the far right, is the Omagh family that descended from Eóghan, and one over is the sliocht from Strabane and Newtown that descended from Conn Mor. The family of Shane the Proud’s brother Phelim were known as Brasselagh.

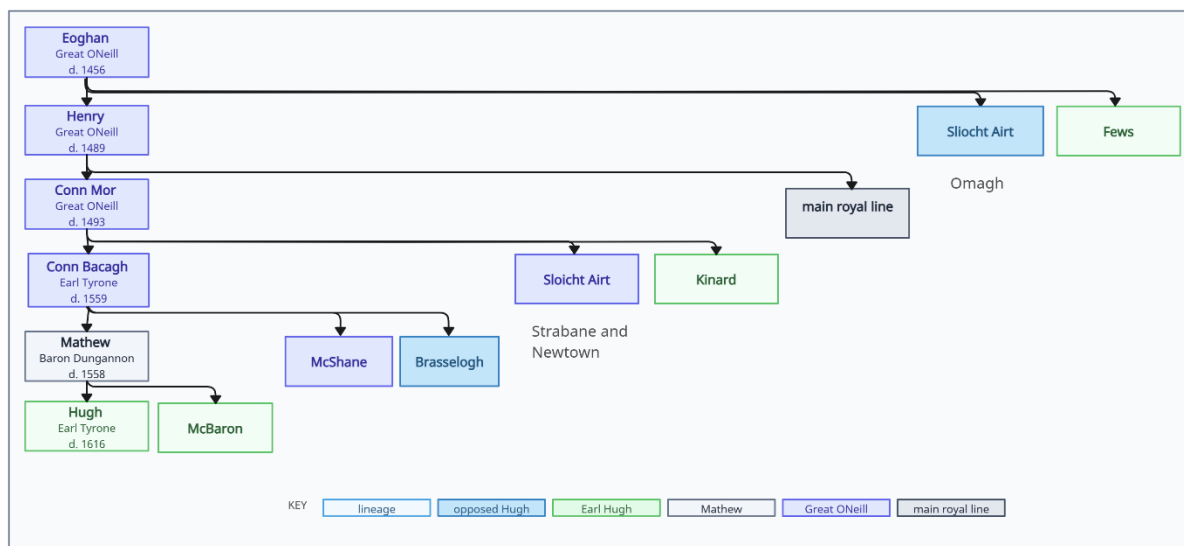
Figure 2.



In *Figure 2* are the septs that supported Earl Hugh, namely, O'Neill of the Fews and O'Neill of Kinard. They were also members of Earl Hugh's immediate family through marriage. Mathew's widow married secondly to Henry of the Fews, thereby creating the relationship of half-brother to Hugh. Doing so brought the most distant branch into the center of power, to the benefit of both. Hugh continued this ancient strategy of building his political base through well placed marriage, with his own marriages and those of his children.

The main royal line of O'Neill is evident in *Figure 2*, in purple, descending from Eóghan, *The Great O'Neill*, who died in 1456. Conn Bacagh was the first to hold both the Irish title *The Great O'Neill* and the English title, *Earl of Tyrone*. Mathew, the source of dynastic conflict, is shown in gray. He was *Baron Dungannon*, and though assassinated in 1558 the English legal rights to the earldom carried to Hugh as opposed to the Gaelic tradition of succession. Taken together, the two figures show how the earl relied on the support of O'Neill septs through marriage and the extent to which the earl lacked support from his extended O'Neill kindred.

Figure 3.



Part II

O'Neill land in Ulster had long been coveted by the English crown, and its conquest began in earnest in 1542 with the Crown of Ireland Act under King Henry VIII. In 1585, Queen Elizabeth laid out the strategy to her deputy in Ireland for the eventual seizure of O'Neill land, that was ultimately executed in 1611 by redistributing ownership. The English strategy was to keep the best land for themselves, retain a portion for the earldom (to conform with English law), mollify the heirs of Shane 'the Proud' and Tirlagh Luineach who lost their Gaelic rights of inheritance under the English earldom, and to identify all possible claimants to O'Neill political power, in its English and Irish forms, thereby swapping small parcels of land for rights of inheritance.

Queen Elizabeth wrote:

I., what parts of them should, for their strength, be kept in our possession; II., what portions are meet for him [Earl of Tyrone] to have; and III., what portions may be kept by us limited in some special state tail for the sons of Tirlough Lenough, and the sons of Shane O'Neale, and of Henry M'Shane, and such others as have any colour of competitorship to the signority of the title of O'Neale (Hill, p. 28).

The English government's scheme for relocation from native places and strongholds to unfamiliar locales shows the English were as knowledgeable of the lineages and land rights as the O'Neill themselves. The English administrators attention to details of both personal political power and genealogical distance from the main royal lineage is evident in the land grants shown in Table 1 that are grants as large as thousands of acres and as granular as sixty acres of land. The sept for each grantee was determined using Desmond O'Neill's comprehensive genealogy of the Royal O'Neills.

Table 1. O'Neill land by sept and acres, 1611

#	Sept	Acres		Remain	Relocate	Largest	Smallest	Political Relationship to Hugh
1	Fews	10,300	36.6%	9,900	400	9,900	80	immediate & distant family
2	Kinard	4,900	17.4%	-	4,900	4,900	4,900	immediate & distant family
3	Sliocht Art of Strabane and Newtown	4,680	16.6%	-	4,680	4,500	60	predecessor Tirlagh Luineach
4	McBaron	3,120	11.1%	-	3,120	2,000	120	immediate family
5	McShane	3,000	10.7%	-	3,000	2,000	1,000	predecessor Shane the Proud
6	Brasselagh, south of Slewseese	1,005	3.6%	-	1,005	360	60	predecessor Tirlagh Luineach
7	Sliocht Art of Omagh ('of the Castle')	300	1.1%	-	300	120	60	descendants of The Great O'Neill
8	main royal branch	60	0.2%	-	60	60	60	descendants of The Great O'Neill
	Subtotal from Aodh's son Niall Ruadh	27,365	97.3%	9,900	17,465			
9	Clandeboyne, from Aodh's son Aodh Meith	120	0.4%	-	120	60	60	under-lord in Tyrone
	Subtotal from Aodh 'an Macaoimh Toinleasg'	27,485	97.7%	9,900	17,585			
	unidentified individuals	400	1.4%	-	400	240	80	
	unidentified Sept #1	120	0.4%	-	120	60	60	undetermined
	unidentified Sept #2	60	0.2%	-	60	60	60	undetermined
	unidentified Sept #3	60	0.2%	-	60	60	60	allies of McShane
	Subtotal unidentified septs	240	0.9%		240			
	Total O'Neill land	28,125	100%	9,900	17,825			

Setting context is important before delving into Table 1 and corresponding details found in Table 2. In Ulster there is over five million acres of land. While not all this land was directly controlled by O'Neill, even halving that amount means 99% of O'Neill land was lost as a result of conquest. In Table 1, an estimated 28,125 acres remained in O'Neill hands, across its septs, less than one percent.

In Table 1 columns, total acreage mirrors the esteem in which the English held each sept's political position in 1611. A distinction is made between acres that remained in family hands and land that was swapped for a new locale in forced relocation, with two-thirds of acreage involving relocation. The only exception was O'Neill of the Fews who retained their land, in part from suppressing O'Doherty's Rebellion in 1608 in which the father and son leaders of this sept were killed in action. The largest and smallest grants are shown for each sept, indicating the range of grants.

The rows in Table 1 show nine distinct septs, from the English perspective for their purpose at hand. The first eight rows represent lineages of Eóghan, *The Great O'Neill* (found at the top of figures) who descended from Niall Ruadh, son of Aodh an Macáimh Tóinleasg, died 1177. The ninth row, Clandeboye, descended from Niall Ruadh's brother Aodh Dubh, and are the two Royal O'Neill branches. Key data points show the largest grant was 4,900 acres, in Kinard, while the smallest was 60 acres. Fewes and Kinard are highlighted in green since taken together they represented over half of O'Neill land and foretold the emerging center of gravity of residual O'Neill political power. The two Clandeboye branches receiving sixty-acre grants held lands in Tyrone, outside their native territory and with the earl as their overlord, were the most distantly related to the earl.

The sixty-acre grants, besides the Clandeboye's, in which the sept and ancestry of the grantee is unidentified are of particular interest. These grantees represent septs the English concluded could hold a claim to all of Tyrone (at least under English inheritance law) yet have not been reconciled to Desmond O'Neill's genealogy. Such a grant of sixty-acres could infer genealogical distance to the earl, a minor sept, or a particular accommodation for a son whose sept had a larger grant.

Some, or all, of the unidentified grants could for be septs of Eóghan, *The Great O'Neill* (found at the top of figures) that simply could not be matched to the genealogy. Four hundred acres involving individuals receiving grants of 240 acres and 80 acres are likely in this category (see third gray row). The three unidentified septs at the bottom of Table 1 and detailed in Table 2 have unknown ancestry for which there could be multiple potential explanations. They could be from a minor sept of Eóghan found in a source elsewhere in the genealogical record, from a branch between Niall Ruadh and Eóghan, or from a collateral branch of Aodh an Macáimh Tóinleasg that would not be in the genealogical record but could be discoverable. Another possible explanation is the Cenél Eóghain O'Neill, whether or not this lineage was from the royal one that preceded Aodh an Macáimh Tóinleasg. In 1600, there was one Cenél Eóghain sept of O'Neill, and it had nine surviving male branches representing grandsons of a prolific O'Neill born about 1500. This sept is from Loughinsolin barony in Tyrone, which since 1613 has been included in County Derry. All these scenarios would fit the English intention of including "such others as have any colour of competitorship to the signority of the title of O'Neale."

Further research into one of these three unidentified septs produced insights into the 1600 political alignment, but not an identifiable genealogy.¹ Bryan McMelaghlin McArte O'Neale received pardons in 1609 in both Tyrone and Fermanagh and a land grant in 1611 in Oriel barony of Armagh. Bryan's presence in Fermanagh aligns with the location of Con McShane, indicating this could be 'the followers' of Shane referred to above by the sheriff of Tyrone in 1608. That Bryan represented a sept distinct from McShane and is indicated by the various figures presented herein in which there is no near kindred of Shane.

¹ While no genealogical conclusions could be made, the genealogical paper trail for the Neill family of the author ends in Fermanagh and the description of Bryan's sept as followers of Shane aligns to the Neill oral tradition.

Part III

DNA testing in the past few years has been used by individuals to explore their family connections. Many have completed autosomal testing through Ancestry DNA, myHeritage and Family Tree DNA which can identify matches of up to fifth cousins in all of one's family lines.

A portion of these male testers also have completed Y DNA testing through FamilyTree DNA (FT DNA) to explore their parental line. SNP testing is offered by FT DNA through their Big Y700 test. SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphisms) are associated with the male Y chromosome and are a stable genetic variation that is passed down from father to son. A haplogroup for a tester is a SNP that is the most recently formed and shared with a second tester. SNPs that were formed earlier are part of a SNP crumb trail and the SNP crumb trail for all testers can form a haplotree.

FT DNA has projects that kits may join to explore these connections. Many O'Neill surname kits are members of the FT DNA O'Neill Project and there is also an O'Neill surname clade in the FT DNA Cenél Eóghain Y-DNA Project. There are about a total of 300 kits with the O'Neill/O'Neal/Neil surname in the FT DNA O'Neill. There are about 20 O'Neill/Neill/Neal surname Big Y kits in the FT DNA Cenél Eóghain Y-DNA Project with most of these kits in the R-S588 > FGC80436 > BY35717 clade.

The FT DNA O'Neill Project has identified at least six different O'Neill clades. The largest is the O'Neills of Tyrone, Fews and Clandeboy group of Ulster with about 45 O'Neill surname Big Y kits plus another 45 non-O'Neill surname kits. The haplogroup for this clade is R-DF27 > ZZ12_1 > FTT1 > FGC78762 > ZZ19_1 > Z31644 > Z37492 > PH2047 > FT32095 > Z1513. This haplogroup has about 50 DNA branches and subbranches. R-Z1513 is associated with Aodh an Macáoimh Tóinleasg, died 1177.

There is a second clade in the O'Neill Project that has most of the O'Neill/Neill/Neal surname Big Y kits in the FT DNA Cenél Eóghain Y-DNA Project. R-S588 is associated with Eóghan, died 465.

There are other O'Neill clades identified by the project including Leinster, Eoganachta, Thomond and Beara O'Neills of southern Ireland which are not associated with the Ulster O'Neills.

As shown in Table 2, The FT DNA O'Neill Project has worked on connecting specific O'Neill lineages to Y DNA haplogroup branches. The lineages of the O'Neills of Tyrone and Fews group are associated with the R-Z1513 > FT32273 branch, and further R-Z1513 > FT32273 > FT87694 > Z5254 to Eóghan *The Great O'Neill*, died 1456. In addition, the Clandeboy group are associated with another R-Z1513 branch, R-Z1513 > FGC49739 > BY3292.

Therefore, all of the individuals from #1 to #28, and #32, listed in Table 2 are under haplogroup R-Z1513 > FT32273 > FT87694 > Z5254. Individuals #1 to #5 (the Fews) are under the BY166723 branch of Z5254. Individuals #17 and #18 (the McShanes) are under the FT84193 branch of Z5254. Individuals #33 and #34 (the Clandeboy group) are haplogroup R-Z1513 > FGC49739 > BY3292 > BY2278 > FT218632.

Currently, the O'Neill/Neill/Neal surname Big Y kits in the FT DNA Cenél Eóghain Y-DNA Project in the R-S588 > FGC80436 > BY35717 clade are not associated with a specific Cenél Eóghain branch, however, it is possible that they could be the Ui Neill descendants of Niall Glundub, died 919.

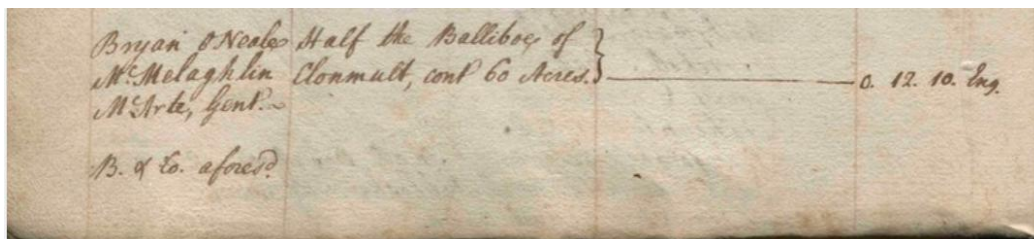
FGC80436 has three branches, BY35717, BY11432 and BY137484 with O'Neill/Neill, Megraw/McGrath, Trainer/Traynor, Devlin, Crossey/Cross and McAtee surnames. It is noteworthy that the Devlins were closely connected to the Ui Neill O'Neills and were the O'Neill predominant horsemen warriors.

Table 2 shows individuals grouped by their O'Neill sept. Its green and blue colors follow the figures in indicating support and opposition, respectively. A visual representation of this data with Table 2 line # is shown in *Figure 4*, below the table. In addition to the Y-DNA haplogroup, the genealogical lineage to Aodh an Macáoimh Tóinleasg is given, where identifiable. The genealogical lineages show the father-to-son descent from Aodh, such as #1 Tirlagh was the son of Henry, expressed as "Tirlagh < Henry". The Y-DNA lineages show the haplogroup breadcrumb trail from Aodh, such as #1 Tirlagh descended from Aodh (R-Z1513) as "R-Z1513 > FT32273 > FT87694 > Z5254 > BY166723".

Table 2 also includes various perspectives of individual relationships to Hugh, the earl of Tyrone, as he was the point of power that English and Irish records were focused. Multiple descriptions of relationships are used because complexities from intermarriages with other O'Neill lineages created immediate family who were also distant kindred. "Hugh's relationship" is from the perspective of the earl, using everyday terms. There were also differences in how the various sources typically referred to these individuals. More general terms like 'Hugh's family' and 'Slut Art' were common in English sources, without distinction to multiple Sliocht Airt or multiple types of relationships an individual had to Hugh. The Irish description is more sept oriented and is derived from the work of Desmond O'Neill. Lastly, the place of relocation is given together with acreage of land, as discussed in Table 1. Each sept's original location is given in header names.

An example of an original land grant record is shown in *Image 1*. This is to "Bryan O'Neale Half the Balliboe of McMelaghlin Clonmult, cont 60 Acres." o. 12. 10. 10.

Image 1.



Source: Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland

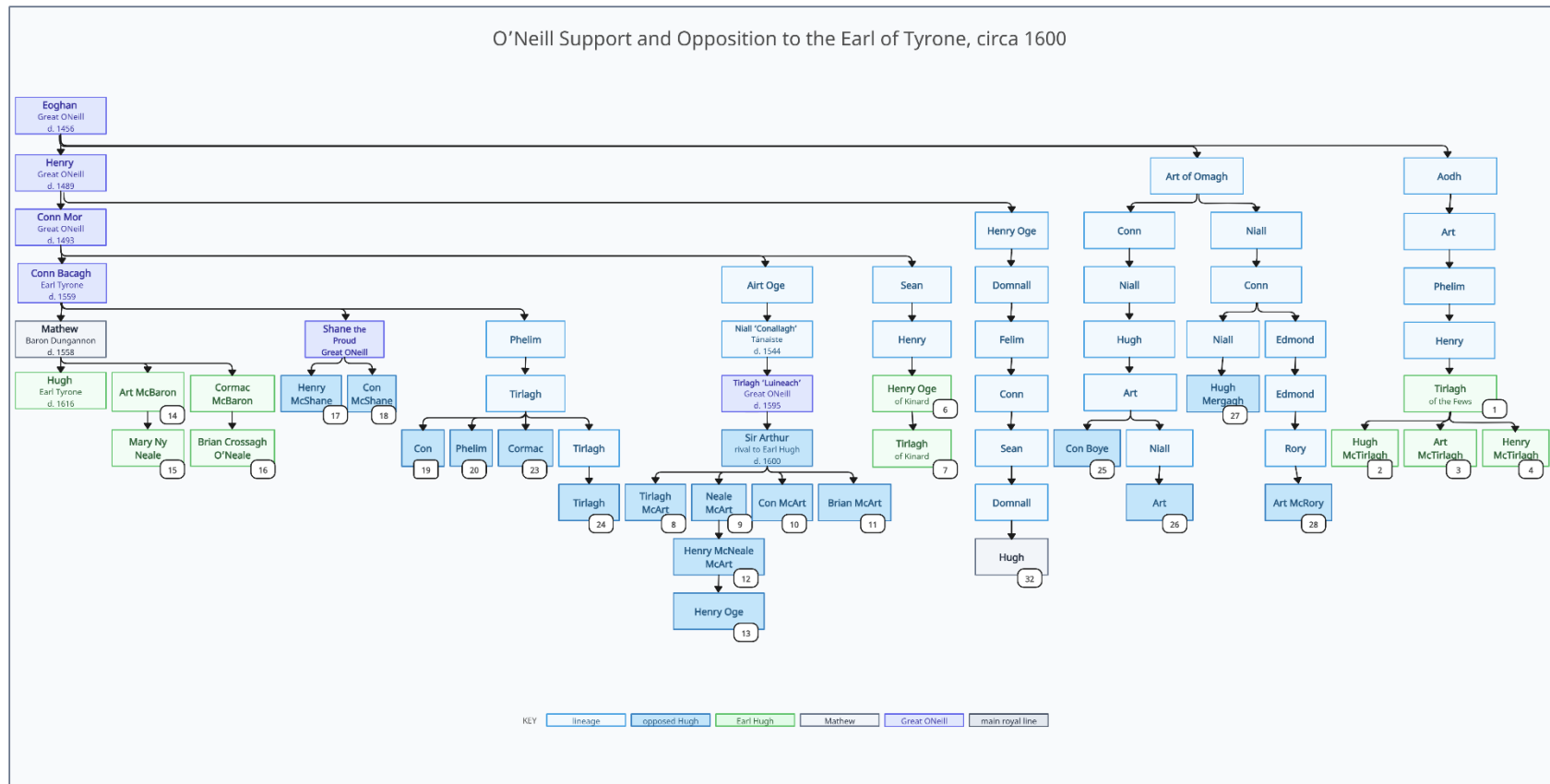
Table 2. O'Neill land by sept and acres, 1609, with genealogical and Y-DNA lineages

#	Name	Lineage to Aodh	Y-DNA lineage	Hugh's relationship	English description	Irish description	Relocation	Acres
O'Neill of the Fews, supporters of the earl								
1	Tirlagh McHenry O'Neill of the Fews	Tirlagh < Henry < Phelim < Art < Aodh < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh	R-Z1513 > FT32273 > FT87694 > Z5254 > BY166723	half-brother	Hugh's family	Fews, Owen's son Aodh	[remain] Fews, Armagh	9,900
2	Hugh McTirlagh O'Neale	Hugh < Tirlagh < Henry < Phelim < Art < Aodh < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh		nephew		Fews, Owen's son Aodh	Oriel, Armagh	80
*3	Art McTirlagh O'Neale	Art < Tirlagh < Henry < Phelim < Art < Aodh < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						80
4	Henry McTirlagh O'Neale	Henry < Tirlagh < Henry < Phelim < Art < Aodh < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						80
O'Neill of the Fews (identity unspecified in land grant)								
*3	Art McTirlagh O'Neale	Art < Tirlagh < Henry < Phelim < Art < Aodh < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh	R-Z1513 > FT32273 > FT87694 > Z5254 > BY166723	nephew	Hugh's family	Fews, Owen's son Aodh	Oriel, Armagh	80
5	Neale McTirlagh O'Neale	Neale < Tirlagh < Henry < Phelim < Art < Aodh < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						80
O'Neill of Kinard, supporters of the earl								
6	Henry Oge O'Neale	Henry < Henry < Sean < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh	R-Z1513 > FT32273 > FT87694 > Z5254	son-in-law	Hugh's family	Kinard, Conn's son Sean	Mointerbirne, Tyrone Towrany, Armagh	4,900
7	Tirlagh O'Neale	Tirlagh < Henry < Henry < Sean < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh	grandson					
Sliocht Art of Strabane and Newtown, opponents of the earl								
8	Tirlagh McArt O'Neale	Tirlagh < Arthur < Tirlagh < Niall < Art < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh	R-Z1513 > FT32273 > FT87694 > Z5254	kindred of immediate predecessor, Tirlagh Luineach and his Arthur	Slut Art	Sliocht Airt, Earl Conn's son Art	Dungannon, Tyrone	4,500
9	Neale McArt O'Neale	Neale < Arthur < Tirlagh < Niall < Art < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						
10	Con McArt O'Neale	Con < Arthur < Tirlagh < Niall < Art < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						
11	Brian McArt O'Neale	Brian < Arthur < Tirlagh < Niall < Art < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						
12	Henry McNeale McArt O'Neale	Henry < Niall < Arthur < Tirlagh < Niall < Art < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						
13	Henry Oge O'Neale	Henry < Henry < Conn < Arthur < Tirlagh < Niall < Art < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh					60	
McBaron of Tyrone, supporters of the earl								
14	Art McBaron O'Neale	Art < Mathew < Conn < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh	no test subjects	half-brother	Hugh's family	Hugh's family	Orier, Armagh	2,000
15	Mary Ny Neale	Mary < Art < Mathew < Conn < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh		niece			120	
16	Brian Crossagh O'Neale, and wife	Brian < Cormac < Mathew < Conn < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh		nephew			1,000	
		[daughter] < Sean < Conn < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh		daughter of predecessor, Shane				
McShane of Tyrone, opponents of the earl								
17	Henry McShane O'Neale	Henry < Sean < Conn < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh	R-Z1513 > FT32273 > FT87694 > Z5254 > FT84193	sons of predecessor, Shane	McShane	McShane	Orier, Armagh	1,500
18	Con McShane O'Neale	Con < Sean < Conn < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh					Coole and Tircannada, Fermanagh	500
								1,000

Table 2. O'Neill land by sept and acres, 1609, with genealogical and Y-DNA lineages, continued

#	Name	Lineage to Aodh	Y-DNA lineage	Hugh's relationship	English description	Irish description	Relocation	Acres
Brasselogh, from the Strabane side of Slewsheese, opponents of the earl								
19	Con McTirlagh O'Neale	Con < Tirlagh < Phelim < Conn < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh	R-Z1513 > FT32273 > FT87694 > Z5254	kindred of immediate predecessor, Tirlagh Luineach	Slut Art, south of Shewsheese	Sliocht Airt, Earl Conn's son Art	Dungannon, Tyrone	60
20	Phelim McTirlagh Brasselogh O'Neale	Phelim < Tirlagh < Phelim < Conn < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						
21	Owen Ballagh O'Neale	[received grant jointly with Phelim McTirlagh Brasselogh O'Neale, but relationship not stated]						
22	Donell McHenry O'Neale	[received grant jointly with Phelim McTirlagh Brasselogh O'Neale, but relationship not stated]						
23	Cormack McTirlagh Brasselogh O'Neale	Cormack < Tirlagh < Phelim < Conn < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						
24	Tirlagh Oge McTirlagh Brasselogh O'Neale	Tirlagh < Tirlagh < Tirlagh < Phelim < Conn < Conn < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						
Sliocht Art of Omagh ('of the Castle'), opponents of the earl								
25	Con Boy O'Neale	Con Boy < Art < Hugh < Niall < Conn < Art < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh	R-Z1513 > FT32273 > FT87694 > Z5254	kindred beyond succession	Slut Art, 'of the castle'	Sliocht Airt, Owen's son Art	Dungannon, Tyrone	120
26	Art McNeale McArt O'Neale	Art < Niall < Art < Hugh < Niall < Conn < Niall < Arte < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						60
27	Hugh McNeale Murgagh O'Neale	Hugh < Niall < Conn < Niall < Art < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						60
28	Art McRory O'Neale	Art < Rory < Edmond < Conn < Niall < Art < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh						60
unidentified individuals, alignment not indicated								
29	Owen McHugh O'Neale	land grant indicates high importance of individual	likely R-Z1513	kindred	possible claimant	unidentified	Orier, Armagh	240
unidentified individuals, alignment not indicated								
30	Hugh Carbry O'Neale	land grant acreage, relocation, names indicate potentially Fewes	likely R-Z1513	kindred	possible claimant	unidentified	Orier, Armagh	80
31	Shane McTirlagh O'Neale							80
main royal lineage, alignment not indicated								
32	Hugh McDonell O'Neale	Hugh < Domnall < Sean < Conn < Felim < Domnall < Henry < Henry < Henry < Owen < Niall og < Niall Mor < Aodh Reamhar < Domnall < Brian < Niall Ruadh < Aodh	R-Z1513 > FT32273 > FT87694 > Z5254	kindred beyond succession	possible claimant	main royal lineage	Dungannon, Tyrone	60
Clandeboyne in Tyrone's territory, alignment not indicated								
33	Phelim Groome McPhelimy McNeale O'Neale	Phelim < Phelim < Niall < Phelim < Owen < Niall < Cu Uladh < Brian < Muiriertagh < Henry < Bryan < Aodh Buidhe < Donald < Aodh Dubh < Aodh	R-Z1513 > FGC49739 > BY3292 > BY2278 > FT218632	kindred beyond succession	possible claimant	Clandeboyne	Dungannon, Tyrone	60
34	Fardoragh McBrian Carragh O'Neale	Ferdoragh < Brian Carragh < Cormac < Sean Duff < Domnall Donn < Brian < Aodh Buidhe II < Brian < Muiriertagh < Henry < Bryan < Aodh Buidhe < Donald < Aodh Dubh < Aodh	R-Z1513 > FGC49739 > BY3292 > FGC49744	kindred beyond succession	possible claimant	Clandonnell	Dungannon, Tyrone	60
unidentified sept (1), alignment not indicated								
35	Brian McNeale Roe O'Neale	possibly Cenél Eóghain	possibly R-S588 or R-Z1513	kindred	possible claimant	unidentified	Dungannon, Tyrone	60
36	Shane Roe O'Neale							60
unidentified sept (2), alignment not indicated								
37	Tirlagh Oge McBrian O'Neale	possibly Cenél Eóghain	possibly R-S588 or R-Z1513	kindred	possible claimant	unidentified	Dungannon, Tyrone	60
unidentified sept (3) of Tyrone and Fermanagh, supporters of McShane, opponents of the earl								
38	Bryan McMelaghlin McArte O'Neale	possibly Cenél Eóghain, land grant relocation indicates sept is distinct from other two unidentified septs	possibly R-S588 or R-Z1513	kindred	possible claimant, McShane followers	unidentified	Oriel, Armagh	60

Figure 4.



Conclusion

While opposition to the Earl of Tyrone from his O'Neill kindred during the Nine Years' War is a repeated historical fact, this paper demonstrates political alignment by O'Neill sept, detailed by genealogies tied to Y-DNA data, and evidenced by the historical record. It is a complete accounting of the O'Neill septs, showing ubiquitous opposition to the earl from outside his immediate family. This gives insight into the Nine Years' War as a war of two concurrent fights, one by the earl against the English and one by O'Neill septs against the earl for their traditional rights under Gaelic law. Further, the leading men of these septs can be identified from the 38 individuals granted land by the English government in 1611. These grants culminated the policy of seizing O'Neill land and ending their rule in a manner justifiable under English law. The 1641 rebellion to restore O'Neill power ended the division, with only traces remaining. This research also opens a door to three potential septs and several individuals whose Y-DNA and genealogy are currently unidentified.

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Additional Research Materials

Please visit *PDF Library of Cenél Eóghain O'Neill R-BY76660*, by Jon Patraic Neill, <https://cenel-eoghain.blog/pdf-library/>. Additional details are found there in:

O'Neale in Fermanagh: Chronologies and Annotated Bibliography, by Jon Patraic Neill, 2025

Who Was Bryan McMelaghlin McArte O'Neale in Tyrone, Fermanagh, and Armagh?: Evidence from 1608—1611, by Jon Patraic Neill, 2025

Note of Appreciation

This research is the result of pardon roll transcriptions by Cenél Eóghain co-administrator Alan Milliken, and who provided insight into the context of these records and how the dots connected between Tyrone and Fermanagh. Thank you, Alan.

Table of Page Number References by Individuals in Land Grants in 1611 and Pardons from Tyrone and Fermanagh in 1609

#	Name	Desmond O'Neill	Hill's Plantation History	Carew MS	Pardon Roll
Land grants					
1	Tirlagh McHenry O'Neill	27, 55, 57, 58, 59	ii, 115, 156		
2	Hugh McTirlagh O'Neale		314	236	
3	Art McTirlagh O'Neale		313-314	236	152
4	Henry McTirlagh O'Neale		314	236	
5	Neale McTirlagh O'Neale		313	236	152
6	Henry Oge O'Neale	99	ii, 96, 115, 158, 197, 249, 318-319		
7	Tirlagh O'Neale	99	318-319		
8	Tirlagh McArt O'Neale	79	96, 131, 161, 249-251, 316-318	237	
9	Neale McArt O'Neale	79	96, 131, 161, 249-251, 316-318	237	
10	Con McArt O'Neale	79	96, 131, 161, 249-251, 316-318	237	
11	Brian McArt O'Neale	79	96, 131, 161, 249-251, 316-318	237	
12	Henry McNeale McArt O'Neale	95, [alternately, 105]	161, 320	237	152
13	Henry Oge O'Neale	96	161, 320	237	
14	Art McBaron O'Neale	33, 124, 126	218, 249-251, 311-312, 348	235	
15	Mary Ny Neale		60, 63-4, 96, 131, 179, 249-251, 322		
16	Brian Crossagh O'Neale, and wife	33, 124, 125	131, 249-251, 322	238	152
17	Henry McShane O'Neale	34	131, 161, 249-251, 312 (townlands), 334-336, 571-572	235, 418	
18	Con McShane O'Neale	35	34, 131, 249-251, 334-336, 492	241	147
19	Con McTirlagh O'Neale		156, 313, 249-251	236, 238	
20	Phelim McTirlagh Brasselagh O'Neale	110-111, 242	156, 249-251, 314	236	
21	Owen Ballagh O'Neale	110-111, 242	156, 249-251, 314	236	
22	Donell McHenry O'Neale	110-111, 242	156, 249-251, 314	236	
23	Cormack McTirlagh Brasselagh O'Neale	110-111	156, 249-251, 314		
24	Tirlagh Oge McTirlagh Brasselagh O'Neale		249-251, 314		
25	Con Boy O'Neale	79	320	237	
26	Art McNeale McArt O'Neale	81	161, 320	237	152
27	Hugh McNeale Murgagh O'Neale	81		238	
28	Art McRory O'Neale	80	320	238	
29	Owen McHugh O'Neale		314	236	
30	Hugh Carbry O'Neale		313	236	
31	Shane McTirlagh O'Neale		313	236	
32	Hugh McDonell O'Neale	27, 29, 91	161, 320	237	
33	Phelim Groome McPhelimy McNeale O'Neale	23, 180, 195	321	238	
34	Fardoragh McBrian Carragh O'Neale	187, 192	321, 543		
35	Brian McNeale Roe O'Neale		320	237	
36	Shane Roe O'Neale		161	237	152
37	Tirlagh Oge McBrian O'Neale		320		
38	Bryan McMelaghlín O'Neale	254	314	236	147, 152
Pardons, no land grants					
	Art McEdmond O'Neile	79			152
	Cormocke McShane boy O'Neale	97	161		
	Donel O'Neal				249-251
	Hugh boy McCone McArte O'Neale				147
	Hugh McHenry O'Neale		156		
	Hugh McShane McOwen O'Neale		69, 161, 249-251		
	John McNeile O'Neile				152
	McHugh O'Neile				152
	Neale McEver O'Neile				152
	Neile Came O'Neile				152
	Phelim Duffe McToole O'Neile	79			152
	Phelim McCormac Toole O'Neal		161, 249-251		
	Toole McPhelime Duffe O'Neale	79			152
	Turlagh O'Neile				152