



BOOK REVIEW

Miler Magrath - The Enigma of Cashel

In this edition of THE TERMONER we review Fr. Patrick Ryan's new book on our infamous ancestor and we report from the Dublin book launch where our Ceann Fine, Seán Alexander McGrath was in attendance with other representatives of the Clan McGrath of Ulster.



IN HISTORY.....

Hugh Jocelyn McGrath (6 April 1856 - 7 November 1899) was a

THE TERMONER

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Failte - Welcome to the first edition of the Clan McGrath of Ulster newsletter, THE TERMONER. It is our aim to bring to you a wide range of news stories and information relevant to our Clan and to our search for our roots and our history. Membership of the Clan McGrath is a right by birth (ancestry), adoption or marriage. It is our aim to build a strong Clan society under the leadership of our Ceann Fine (Chieftain). We would strongly encourage you to become a member of the Clan and details of how to do this can be found in this newsletter and on our website: www.clanmcgrath.org. Our members receive regular updates on Clan activities and a copy of THE TERMONER. Members may also stand for election to the Executive Council of The Clan McGrath Society and will have full voting rights at council elections. If you are not already a member please register as soon as possible and encourage others to consider registering for membership.

In this edition of THE TERMONER we have a book review of Fr. Patrick Ryan's new book on the life of our infamous ancestor Miler Magrath and a report from the official book launch in Dublin. We also have the latest news on the 2016 Clan Gathering in Co, Waterford being hosted by the Clan McGrath of Thomond. We are also beginning a series of articles on notable McGraths, those that have earned recognition in their field and have had an impact on society during their lifetime. We begin our series with the amazing story of Captain Hugh Jocelyn McGrath of the United States Army who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour for his actions in the Philippine-American War. We conclude this edition of THE TERMONER with a message from our Ceann Fine and his hopes for the development of our Clan society and building of our global Clan network.

We hope you enjoy this first edition of THE TERMONER and would encourage you to make suggestions for articles you would like to

Captain in the US Army and a Congressional Medal of Honour recipient for his actions in the Philippine-American War. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1880. Captain McGrath was a member of the 4th Cavalry Regiment. He died from wounds he received in battle at the age of 43 years. His citation reads "Swam the San Juan River in the face of the enemy's fire and drove him from his entrenchments". Captain McGrath was posthumously promoted to the rank of Major. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



THE CLAN McGRATH SOCIETY Membership -

By birth, adoption or marriage you are already a member of the Clan McGrath as a right of your heritage.

However, we are obliged by the Executive Council of Clans of Ireland to maintain a list of registered members, not to mention that our membership list is a great way for us to continue to develop and promote our Clan connections.

Registered membership is **FREE** and will result in you receiving email newsletters from the Clan McGrath Society. The information you provide will not be used for any other purposes.

To register as a member of the

see or if you would like to submit an article of your own for publication please email your article for consideration to: info@clanmcgrath.org



SURVIVING IN POWER

Miler Magrath - The Enigma of Cashel

A review by Joe Carroll, The Irish Catholic, www.irishcatholic.ie

Archbishop Miler Magrath died aged 100 years in 1622. To have lived that long in those tumultuous times would already be an achievement but what he packed into those years is even more amazing.

He was born near Pettigo into an aristocratic Gaelic clan whose territory included Lough Derg in Co. Donegal already a place of pilgrimage. At an early age he joined the Conventual Franciscans and was further educated in Rome during the period the Council of Trent was trying to counter the effects of the Protestant Reformation.

After spending time in Spain and the Netherlands, Miler was appointed Bishop of Down and Connor by Pope Pius IV in 1565. This was a very confused time in Ireland with many dioceses having both Catholic and Protestant bishops with the former in permanent danger of arrest for "heresy" or treason.

Transfer refused

Miler played it safe and took the Oath of Allegiance to Queen Elizabeth but not the Oath of Supremacy. He then sought to be transferred to Clogher and lobbied for himself in Rome but was refused. On his way back from Rome he was arrested and held in London.

While there he took the Oath of Supremacy, probably

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provide the following information:

1. Your name

2. Your mailing address

3. Your email address

4. Location and date of your earliest known McGrath ancestor.



Clans of Ireland 2015 Registration

The Clan McGrath of Ulster has renewed its membership of Clans of Ireland for the year 2015. Clans of Ireland (Finte na hEireann) is an independent permanent authority established in 1989 to:

- Authenticate and register Irish Clans and historical families
- promote the interests of Irish Clans and historical families
- provide authentic and scholarly information related to Irish Clans and historical families.

Clans of Ireland are regularly consulted by government agencies, embassies, historical and cultural groups, the media and members of

under threat of torture. He was now a heretic in Catholic eyes. The Queen's reward was to appoint him Protestant Bishop of Clogher but he technically remained Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor for 10 years until a successor was appointed.

It is not clear if Miler ever went to Clogher because the Protestant Archbishop of Cashel died suddenly and in 1571 the Queen appointed Miler to replace him. However, the only known portrait of Miler still hangs in the Clogher episcopal gallery and is on the cover of this book. He was to be described as "the handsomest man in Ireland in his day".

For 51 years Miler was to lead a turbulent life as Protestant Archbishop of Cashel to which was added later Waterford and Lismore dioceses and, towards the end of his life, Killala and Achonry. He became deeply involved in Anglo-Irish politics as he worked closely with the top British officials in Dublin and London to stamp out the Desmond rebellion in Munster and to undermine Hugh O'Neill's rebellion which ended at Kinsale.

In the meantime he enriched himself with diocesan benefices and property investment for his large family. He married Amy O'Meara from a Catholic family near Nenagh, by whom he had nine children.

Ambiguities

The author, who is a Spiritan priest and historian, has made an exhaustive study of the twists and turns in Miler's life delving deeply into contemporary archives. He points out the strongly opposing views of Miler who has been "reviled, demonised and scapegoated", but has also been "given accolades such as 'diplomat', 'great politician', 'a man of gravity and learning', and 'a good servant to her majesty' and to the state".

Fr Ryan devotes some space to the question as to whether Miler returned to the Catholic Church in his last years. He certainly made a discreet approach to Rome in 1608 when he was facing a possible trial for treason. Pope Paul V indicated readiness to absolve him on certain conditions. Miler was reluctant to accept these, and contacts continued through his former Franciscan colleagues. The Pope legitimised Miler's

the general public. They maintain a very strong and positive relationship with the

Standing Council of Irish Chiefs and Chieftains who represent the hereditary Chiefs.

Membership of Clans of Ireland is restricted to those Irish Clans and historical families who's surname is of Irish origin or who have a presence in Ireland prior to the Great Famine (1845-1862). You can view the [Clans of Ireland](#) website by following the link.



BOOK OF FAMOUS McGRATHS

Dan McGrath of the Clan McGrath of Thomond is working on a project to put a book of famous McGraths together, Dan is open to suggestions on who should be included. Such people as Glenn McGrath the cricketer (pictured above), is just a one example. It's not confined to people born in Ireland but to all McGraths who have left their mark in any country. You can send any suggestions by email: danmcgrathmedia@gmail.com

children in 1619, but whether there was a death-bed re-conversion is unclear.

The author points to the ambiguities in Miler's own Latin epitaph over his tomb in the cathedral on the Rock of Cashel, especially to the lines: "Here where I am placed I am not. I am not where I am not. Nor am I in both places, but I am in each."

The author surmises that this is "a very emphatic statement that Miler does not belong in the Protestant Church." Perhaps he is saying: "I am not in either Church although I have a foot in both."



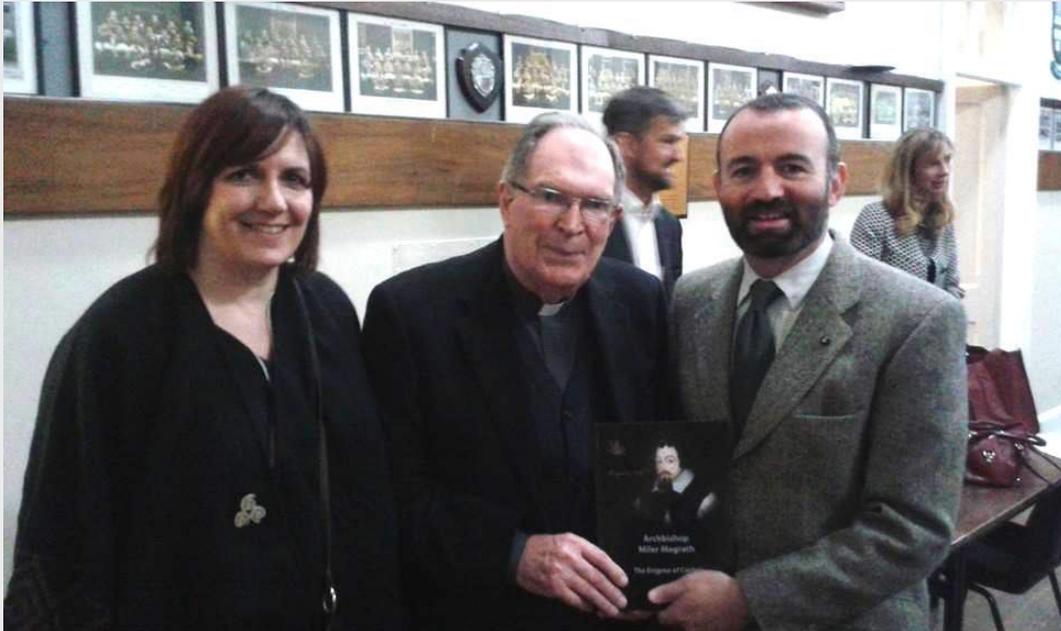
The 2016 Clan Gathering is being organised by the Clan McGrath of Thomond. Keep up to date by visiting their website at www.mcgrathclangathering.com



[Clan McGrath of Ulster](#)



[Clan McGrath of Ulster](#)



Louise McGrath (Ard-Rúnaí), Fr. Patrick Ryan (Author) and Seán Alexander McGrath (Ceann Fine)

BOOK LAUNCH: MILER MAGRATH - THE ENIGMA OF CASHEL

The Clan McGrath of Ulster was well represented at the launch of Fr. Patrick Ryan's wonderful new study of the life of our ancestor and Clansman Archbishop Miler McGrath. The launch took place at St. Mary's College, Rathmines, Dublin on Tuesday 7 October 2014. In attendance from our Clan Society was our Ceann Fine, Seán Alexander McGrath, Ard-Rúnaí Louise McGrath and Gareth McGrath. The keynote speaker for the evening was Professor William Nolan who provided the large gathering with a history of Miler and the importance of Fr. Ryan's new work. Professor Nolan was followed by our Ceann Fine, Seán Alexander McGrath who delivered a personal reflection on the life of Miler Magrath and how the publication of the book addresses some of the misrepresentations of Miler's life and places him in his rightful place as one of the most influential historical figures of 15th and early 16th century Ireland.

Fr. Patrick Ryan delivered the last talk of the evening and informed us how the concept for the book came about and the voyage of discovery he made during his research that included the discovery of new historically significant documents. The evening ended with refreshments and the opportunity to talk with Clan members from across Ireland.

A CLOSING MESSAGE FROM OUR CEANN FINE.....

I sincerely hope you have enjoyed this first edition of THE TERMONER. This newsletter has been compiled to keep members of the Clan McGrath and other Clans up to date with our activities and help our members stay in touch with each other. In the last two years our Clan had come on a long way and we now have an active website and a very active Facebook page. Links to both can be found above this text. Currently our Facebook page is being followed by over 450 people and continues to grow. That's 450 people who are regularly receiving updates on the activities of our Clan.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be your Ceann Fine since the establishment of the Clan McGrath Society and I hope to continue in this role in the future. The success of our Clan society is only possible with the hard work of our Executive Council. Elections to the Council are due in May 2015 and we hope to have a wide pool of experience and professionalism to choose from. In order to stand for election you must be a registered member of our Clan society. May I take this opportunity to draw your attention to the information in this newsletter regarding membership. May I also appeal to you to encourage your relations and any other people you believe may be eligible for membership to make an application to join.

The year 2014 was a very productive year for the Clan McGrath, with the publication of Fr. Patrick Ryan's book on Miler Magrath - The Enigma of Cashel and the development of links with a wide range of Irish Clans and with historical and genealogical research groups. I look forward to continuing this work and especially to working closely with Clans of Ireland - Finte na hEireann during the 2015 registration year and celebrating their 25th anniversary since their establishment.

Seán Alexander McGrath KM
Ceann Fine

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The Clan McGrath of Ulster is a registered Clan of Clans of Ireland - Finte na hEireann 2015.

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info@clanmcgrath.org