

Gaelic Naming Customs

BIFHSGO

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Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

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(Slide) Outline:

- Introduction to Gaelic – grammar and spelling conventions
- Why? What's the point of knowing about Gaelic? What would you like from this talk?
- Gaelic names – place, personal, family names. Student, out of practice – mistakes in spelling, grammar, accents

Opener: Why learn about Gaelic?

How many have Irish ancestors? Scottish? Manx? The ancestors of a third of Canadians hailed from Ireland and Scotland, where they were part of a Gaelic-speaking civilisation that extended throughout Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man. This Gaelic heritage is reflected in names which start with Mac, Mc, O', Mul or Kil – and many that don't, including many that seem to be English.

If you are doing family history, you may never have to deal with Gaelic documents (as its use was banned for all official purposes in recent centuries) but you will miss a lot if you don't have some understanding of the language and of the historical context. There is a lot of bad information out there – more nonsense per line of type written about Scottish and Irish names than names in any other language – **because too many writers don't know Gaelic language and history.**

As education in Gaelic was discouraged or banned in the past, most Gaelic speakers were illiterate in their own language. Their names were recorded in anglicized versions and their meaning is not always apparent. In addition, antipathy and discrimination were so strong against Gaelic-speakers in times past that many changed their names to disguise their origin – dropping the Mac or O prefixes or 'translating' their names into English. Some adopted common English names like Smith or Brown. Your name may appear to be English, but if you are of Scottish or Irish origin, there may well be a Gaelic name hidden behind it.

(Slide 2) **A Gaelic Lesson:** *Gàidhlig albanach* = Scottish Gaelic, 'the Gallic')

Mochthrath mhath! Good morning (Perthshire Gaelic; *Madainn mhath* is standard).

Ciamar a tha sibh / thu? How are you (*sibh* is plural or formal, *thu* singular or familiar).

Tha mi gu math, tapadh leibh /leat. I am fine, thank you (singular/plural).

Meadhanach math. Fair, so-so (Fair to middling, as my father used to say).

A bheil gàidhlig agad/agaibh? Do you have the Gallic? (Literally: Is Gallic at you?)

Chan eil Gàidhlig agam gu leòr! I don't have much Gallic. (Is not Gallic at me a lot)

Tha mi ga dh'ionnsachadh. I am learning it. (Am I at its learning)

Dè an t'ainm a th'ort/oirbh? What is your name? (What is the name that is on you?)

Is mise Raibeart MacDhòmhnail. I am Robert McDonald. (*C'est moi*, Robert McDonald)

Tha mi toilichte gad/gur fhaicinn. I am pleased to see you. (I am pleased at your seeing)

First Gaelic heard? I will explain some of the characteristics or peculiarities of the language:

- word order – noun / adjective; verb / subject / object
- 2 forms of the verb to “to be” – *tha* describe a temporary condition; *is* describes a permanent state and is often used for emphasis, like *c'est* in French
- familiar and formal forms of 2nd person pronouns – like *tu* and *vous* in French
- fusion of prepositions and pronouns (as in Latin or Russian) – *agad/agaibh* mean ‘to you’ (singular/plural); *ort/oirbh* mean ‘on you’; *gad/gur* mean ‘at your’
- N.B. consonant mutation – indicated by insertion of h (ch, dh, mh, etc.); occurs in no other Indo-European/Aryan language

(Slide 3) **Consonant mutation** (lenition – ‘thinning’)

- Math/mhath = good (masculine/feminine)
- màthair/mo mhàthair = mother/my mother
- dùin an uinneag = close the door (command)
- dhùin mi an uinneag = I closed the door – note word order as well
- More common in Scottish (Gàidhlig) than in Irish (Gaeilge):
 - *Ciamar a tha thu?* vrs *Conas atá tú?*
 - *Mac Dhòmhnail* vrs *Mac Domhnail*

(Slide 4) **Pronunciation**

- lenited consonants – sound varies by dialect; often silent in the middle or end of a word:
 - bh, mh = v, w (mh is nasal)
 - ch = German ch
 - dh/gh = gh (like a Greek or Dutch g), y beside l or e
 - fh = silent
 - ph = f
 - sh, th = h
- other:
 - s beside i or e = sh
 - t beside i or e = ch
 - d beside i or e = j
 - ao = French eu

(slide 5) **Scottish Gàidhlig and Irish Gaeilge**

- Some differences in grammar

- Vocabulary almost identical, but differences in pronunciation / accent, and shifts in meaning:
 - Five is *còig* in Scottish, *cúig* in Irish
 - Dog means *cù* in Scottish; *cú* means hound in Irish
 - Dog in Irish is *madra*, but Scottish has *madadh-ruadh* for fox (also *sionnach*) and *madadh-allaidh* for wolf (also *faol*).
 - Tree is usually *craobh* in Scottish and *crann* in Irish, but *crann* means shrub or timber/beam in Scottish, while *craobh* means twig or branch in Irish.

(Slide 6) **Celtic (or is it Keltic?) Languages**

- Gaelic is a Celtic language, a branch of the Indo-European (Aryan) language family
- Some pronounce it 'Keltic'. There is some justification for this – it's from the Greek 'keltos', Latin 'celtus'— 'c' pronounced 'hard' in Latin, as in Gaelic or Old English; in modern English, due to French influence, 'c' is pronounced 's' before front vowels (e, i, y).
- There are 4 Celtic languages nowadays :
 - Irish Gaelic (*Gaeilge*) – c. 355 000 native (mother tongue) or fluent speakers; but 1,860,000 claim to know it more or less well
 - Scottish Gaelic (*Gàidhlig*) – only 60 000 native speakers left
 - Welsh (*Cymraeg*) – 750 000
 - Breton (*Brezhoneg*) – c. 300 000 now; 1.3 million in 1930's.
- There were others not so long ago:
 - Manx Gaelic or Manx (*Gailck*) spoken on Isle of Man; last native speaker died in 1974
 - Cornish (*Kernewek*), spoken in Cornwall (SW England) ; last native speaker is said to have died in 1777
 - Revival movements, but no longer living languages used in real communities.

(Slide 7) **Watch your P's and Q's**

- Modern Celtic languages divided into 2 categories – P and Q languages. The Q languages (Gaelic or Goidelic) have a 'k' sound where the P languages (British or Brythonic) have a 'p' sound (slides) :
 - *pen /ceann* = head
 - *pemp /còig* = five
 - *pasg /càisg* = Easter
 - *Pritani /Cruithni* – an historical example; *Pritani* is what the old British called themselves; *Cruithni* is the old Irish word for British or Picts
- Other differences – Gaelic is more conservative – e.g.,
 - nouns are declined, as in Latin or Russian – to be discussed later
 - people still count in twenties (scores) as in French but moreso – e.g, twenty and 14 for 34; 4 twenties and 10 for 90
 - no words for "yes" or "no" – *A bheil thu sgith? Tha.* (Are you tired? I am).

(Slide 8) **A Little Grammar** – needed to study place and family names

- Noun Cases – nominative/accusative (subject/object); genitive (possessive); dative (used after prepositions); vocative (used to address someone/something by name)
- Example – singular nouns without articles

	<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>
Nominative / Accusative	bàrd (a poet)	bròg (a shoe)
Genitive	bàird (of a poet)	bròige (of a shoe)
Dative	(air) bàrd (on a poet)	(air) bròig (on a shoe)
Vocative	a bhàird (O poet!)	a bhròg (O shoe!)

(Slide 9) **Vocative Case**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Nominative</i>	<i>Vocative</i>
James	Seamus	a Sheumais (Hamish)
Donald	Dòmhnall	a Dhòmhnall
Mary	Màiri	a Mhàiri
Jean, Jane	Sine	a Shine

Use of cases in names – the genitive is used in:

- patronymics (*Mac Leòid* = *MacLeod*, son of *Leod*, from Norse *Ljotr*); however, because of lenition in Scottish and some Irish dialect forms, it may look like the vocative (*Mac Fhearghais* = Ferguson / MacKerras, son of *Fearghas*)
- locative names (Blair = a person from a *Blàr* (battlefield); Kinnaird = a person from *Ceann Àrd* (high headland). English versions of place names may show influence of the genitive – e.g., Kenmore from *Cinn mhoir* (genitive), versus Canmore from *Ceann mòr* (nominative).

Gaelic place names in Eastern Ontario

(Slide 10) Map of Eastern Ontario counties

(Slide 11) Counties:

- Glengarry = *Gleann Garaidh* (valley of the garden) – Scottish home of the MacDonald settlers
- Stormont = *Stairmhonaidh* (meaning 'mountain crossing' or 'path over the moors') – named for the 1st Viscount Stormont, Sir David Murray of Perth, Scotland; the Murrays' Stormont estate includes Scone, where the kings of Scotland were installed.
- Dundas = *Dùn Deas* (south fortress) – named after Henry Dundas, 1st Viscount Melville, a Scottish advocate and Tory politician. Dundas is a place near Edinburgh.
- Russell = *Ruiseal*, a family name from Norman French *Roussel* (standard *Rousseau*), meaning red-headed – Russell County was named after Peter Russell, administrator of Upper Canada, 1796-99.

- Lanark = *Lannraig*, former Scottish county which included Glasgow (Brythonic = place in the glade?)
- Renfrew = *Rinn Friù*, town and former Scottish county, west of Glasgow (Brythonic - point of the current?)
- Lennox = *Leamhnachd*, ancient earldom in the southern highlands, including what is now Dunbartonshire – named for the River Leven (*Uisge Leamhna*). *Leamhan* means elm tree.

(Slides 12, 13) Local Place Names

- Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry United Counties
 - Alexandria = *Muileann an t-Sagairt* (Priest's Mill)
 - Appin = *An Apainn* (abbey lands) is a village and district on the west coast of Scotland
 - Avonmore = *An Abhainn Mhór* (the big river) – named for a river in Co. Wicklow, Ireland
 - Berwick = *Abaruig* – *the northernmost town in England, on the Scottish border*
 - Breadalbane = *Bràghad Albainn* (neck of Scotland, from *bràghad* = neck, throat)
 - Cornwall = *Coraghall*
 - Cannamore (variant of Kenmore or Canmore?)
 - Colquhoun = *Cùil chumhang* (tight spot), lands in Dunbartonshire, Scotland
 - Dalkeith = *Dail-che/ Dail Cheith*, town in Midlothian, Scotland, birthplace of Henry Dundas
 - Dunvegan = *Dùn bheagain* (fort of Beccán) – town on the Isle of Skye in Scotland, seat of the MacLeods
 - Lochiel = *Loch Iall* – a sea loch in Lochaber, Scotland, home of the Camerons
 - Ormond = *Urmhumhan* (East Munster), former Earldom of the Butlers in Co. Kilkenny, Ireland
- Ottawa
 - Antrim = *Aontroim*, Irish county
 - Dalmeny = *Dail Mheinidh* or *Dail M'Eithne* (meadow of Saint Eithne?) – village near Edinburgh
 - Dunrobin = *Dùn-robain* – named after Dunrobin Castle, seat of the Earl of Sutherland
 - Enniskerry = *Áth na Sceire* (rugged ford) – place near Dublin
 - Glen Cairn = *Gleann a' chuirn*
 - Kenmore = *A' Cheann mhòr / An Ceann mòr* (the big head) – a village on Loch Tay, Perthshire, Scotland)
 - Leitrim = *Liatroim* (Irish county)
 - Munster = *Mumhan* (Irish province)
 - Navan = *An Uaimh* (the cave), Irish county
 - Sarsfield = *Sáirséil*, Irish family name)
- Renfrew County

- Arnprior = *Earrann a' Phriair* (priory lands). The original Arnprior is a village miles west of Stirling, Scotland – from *earrann*, a division of land).
- Calabogie = *Caladh bogaidh* (swampy harbour)
- Prescott and Russell United Counties
 - Connaught = *Connacht* (Irish province)
 - Curran – Irish family name *Ó Corráin* from *corra(dh)* = spear
 - Hammond – Irish family name *Mac Ámoinn*
- Lanark County:
 - Perth = *Peairt*, former capital of Scotland
 - Drummond = Scottish family name *Druimein, Druiminn*

Personal Names

Use of Gaelic was forbidden for official purposes for centuries (in Ireland since the Statutes de Kilkenny, 1367; in Scotland after the union of the crowns in 1603). The Church of Scotland, the Church of Ireland (Episcopal), and the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland after its re-establishment, were ambivalent at best and discouraged its use for the most part. Therefore, little or no Gaelic was used in records – church (birth/baptism, cemeteries) or government (censuses, deeds, etc.)

(Slide 14) Pairing of Names

Identification of Gaelic with non-Gaelic names seems to have begun with conversion to Christianity; reinforced by interdiction of Gaelic for official purposes. Children had to be baptized with non-Gaelic names, and the Gaelic 'equivalents' would be used with Gaelic speakers. There are different sorts of paired names:

- True Gaelic versions of 'Christian' names : Màiri/Moire, Anna, Iain/Eòin/Seán, Sine, Seamus/Seamas, Daibhidh, Iosag, Adhamh (Adam)
- False pairs – old Gaelic names passed off as 'translations' of English, classical or other non-Gaelic names : *Aodh* – Hugh; *Aonghuis* – Aeneas; *Gilleasbuig* – Archibald; *Eoghan* – Eugene; *Eachann* – Hector; *Mòr* – Sarah; *Siobhan* – Joan; *Parlan* – Bartholomew; *Maolsheachlan* – Malachy; *Diarmaid* – Dennis; *Feardorcha* – Frederick
- Confused names – *Peadar* and *Padruig*; Donald and Daniel; *Giorsal* /Grizzel (Griselda) and Grace – unrelated but used interchangeably.

(Slide 15) Gaelic family Names

There are basically four sources of family names – from patronymics, occupational or trade names, place names and nicknames. Gaelic family names are no exception, although patronyms dominate.

(Slide 16) Patronymics

- Mac and Ó (from ogha = grandson); the corresponding feminine forms are Nic and Ní, e.g.
 - *Mac Dhòmhnaill* or Irish *Mac Dòmhnaill* (son of *Dòmhnall*)
 - *Nic an Tòisich* (daughter of the *Tòiseach* = thane, chief, leader – the President of Ireland is called the *Taoiseach*)
 - *Ò Ceallaigh* or *Ní Ceallaigh* (descendant of *Ceallach*)
- Gille, giolla and maol
Gille and *giolla* in Irish mean ‘boy’ and by extension ‘servant’ – used to indicate dedication or devotion to a particularly saint; *maol* means bald and by extension ‘tonsured’ like a monk – used like *gille/giolla* – e.g.,
 - *Mac’ill Eathain* from *Gille Sheathain* (devotee of St John) = MacLean
 - *Ò Maoil Eoin* also means devotee of St. John = Malone
 - *Mac’Ill Fhaolain* from *Gille Fhaolain* (devotee of ‘Little Wolf’) = MacLennan, MacClelland, Gilliland, Cleland
 - *Mac Giolla Rua* = Gilroy, Kilroy (rua or ruadh = red)
 - *Ò Maoilruanaidh, Ó Maolruanaidh* (servant of ‘Rooney’ – perhaps from *Ruadhán*, red-haired) = Mulroney, Mulrooney, Moroney, Rooney.

(Slide 17) Occupational or Trade Names

Names like Gow (from Gaelic *Gobhan*) indicate an ancestor who was a smith or a metal-worker of some kind. In Gaelic, trade names often form part of a patronym, e.g. (with English derivatives):

- *Mac a’ Bhaird* = Baird, Ward
- *Mac a’ Ghobhainn* = MacGowan, Gowan, Gow, Smith
- *Mac Cruiteir* (son of the harper) = Crowder, McQuarter, MacWhirter
- *Mac an t-Saoir* (son of the carpenter) = MacIntyre, Joyner
- *Mac an Fhucadair* (waulker or fuller of cloth) = Walker, Fuller
- *Mac an Iasgair* = Fisher
- *Mac an Tàilleir* = Taylor

(Slide 18) Placenames

Family names derived from placenames are often in the genitive case (of, from), e.g.:

- Blair indicates an ancestor living near a *blàr* (battlefield) – *blàir* is the genitive)
- Boyd – from the island of Bute (*Bod*, genitive *Boid*)
- Buchanan – *Bochanan* (buth chàinain – seat or house of a canon)
- Cinnamon – from *Ceann Fhinnmhonaidh* (head/end of the white moor)
- Kinnaird = *Cinnàird* – from *Ceann Àrd* (high headland)
- Arbuthnot – from *Obar Bhuadhnaid*
- Moffatt is a town in the Scotland, from *Am Magh Fada* (the long plain)

(Slide 19) Nicknames – People could be blunt in the old days – in English, we have Proudfoot (swollen foot) and I once met a man called Stillborn.

- Campbell – *Caimbeul* (wry mouth)
- Cameron – *Camshron* (crooked nose)
- Kavanagh – *O Caomhanach* (handsome)
- Kennedy – *O Cinnéide* (ugly head – may refer to a helmet)
- Galbraith, Walsh, Brannagh – *Mac a' Bhreitnaich*, *Breathnach* (Welsh)
- Scott is a name from the border country, indicating a Gaelic-speaking family in an anglophone area – until the 1600's, Scots meant Gaelic and what is now called Scots was 'English'.

(Slide 20) Foreign names:

- English :
 - Chisholm = *Siosal*,
 - Stewart = *Stiùbhart*
 - Sarsfield = *Sáirséil*
 - Graham (Grantham) = *Greum*
- French :
 - Fraser/Frizzel (*de la Freselière?*) = *Friseal*
 - Cumming (*de Commingues / Comminges?*) = *Cuimean*
 - Menzies / Manners (*de Mesnière?*) = *Meinn*
 - Bruce (*de Brieux?*) = *Brus*
 - Russell = *Ruiseal* (from Norman French 'rousseau' meaning 'red-headed' (Rousseau in standard French))
 - Grant = *Grannd*

Fitz (from Norman *fiz / filz*, pronounced 'fits') is a prefix used in many Irish names of Norman origin. Such surnames were later created for illegitimate children of kings and princes and the particle acquired a connotation of nobility. In Gaelic versions, the Fitz was simply translated into Mac, e.g.: Fitzgerald – *Mac Gerailt*; Fitzsimmons – *Mac Síomóin*

In French names, 'de' without a capital is the 'particle of nobility' and is followed by a place name. Gaelic has a similar preposition, and the 'de' of French names was often retained in Irish (*de Búrca* = Burke / de Burgh; *de Bhosc* = Fox, from *de Foix*); sometimes a 'de' was added where it shouldn't have been – e.g., *de Butléir* (Butler) from the Norman French *Le Boteler*. The 'de' was not retained in Scotland, where *de Brieux* became *Brus* in Gaelic and Bruce in English.

Hiding Gaelic origin by changing your name:

- By dropping of Mac or O, *Mac Ghille Fhaolain* (MacLellan) becomes Cleland or Gilliland, *Mac Gille Dhuibh* becomes Dow; Mac Thómais becomes Holmes. (In recent times, many Irish have brought back these particles, sometimes using O when the original was Mac).

- By translation: Mac Iain to Johnson, Mac Enruig to Henderson, Mac Alasdair to Saunders, Mac Ghobhan to Smith, Mac Gille Dhuibh to Black or Blackie; often erroneous, as with King for MacAree (similar in sound to *righ* = king) from *Mac Fhearadhaigh*.
- Others adopted unrelated English names with a similar sound – Caulfield for *Mac Cathmhaoil*; Cochrane for *Ó Corcráin* – or took common English names like Smith and Brown. There is also an apparent case of reversal – MacCall to Almac.

(Slides 21 – 30) **Family Names in the Ottawa Valley**

- **Boyd = Boid** in Scottish Gaelic, **de Búit** in Irish. It is generally accepted that the name is from genitive of *Bod*, the Gaelic name for the island of Bute. Early bearers of the Boyd name used the Norman prefix *de* – e.g., Robertus de Boyde. Some claim it comes from the nickname of one of the early Stewarts, Robert Fitzsimon, known as *Buidhe* because of his yellow hair.
- **Cameron = Camshron, Camran** – *cam shron* means "crooked nose", but may refer to a landform; in Ireland, also from **Ó Cumaráin**.
- **Campbell = Caimbeul** (crooked mouth). The name comes from one Gillespie Campbell, who may have had some form of facial paralysis; in the 1200's he became chief of the *O' Duibhne* family, who traced their pedigree to Dermot O'Dooney (a hero of Irish mythology) and are referred to as "*sliochd Dhiarmaid O'Dhuibhne*" = seed of Dermot O'Dooney. Many use the name **MacDiarmid**. Campbell is the 7th most common name in Scotland. They were a very successful clan and traditional rivals of the MacDonalds. In Ireland, the name is usually of Scottish origin, but may also come from **Mac Cathmhaoil**. *Mac Cathmhaoil* (*Cathmhaol* = battle-champion?) also appears as **Mc Call, Cawfield** and **Caulfield**. The name is sometimes pronounced "camel", as in Campbell County in Tennessee.
- **Cassidy = Ó Caiside** – the "cas" element means curly-haired and appears in many names.
- **Cochrane, Coughran** is from the lands of Cochrane in Renfrewshire, near Glasgow – perhaps from Cumbric (Brythonic) "red brook"; also a Lowland adaptation of the **Mac Eachrain**; in Ireland, used for **Ó Corcráin** (also source of **Corcoran**).
- **Cowan, McCowan, McCone = Mac Comhainn**, Irish **Ó Comhain** from earlier **Ó Comhdhain, Mac Comhdhain** from a rare early personal name *Comhghan*.
- **Crerar = Criathrar** (place name)
- **Croskery, Cosgrave = Mac Coscraigh, Ó Coscraigh** (*Coscraich* = victorious)
- **Cumming, Cummings, Comyn = Cuimein, Cuimeanach**. The name was brought into Scotland by Norman nobles whose ancestral lands were at Comines in Normandy or Commingues in Belgium.
- **Curry, Currie = Mac'Uirrich, MacMhuirich** in Scotland; also Irish **Mac Gothraidh** (Godfrey), **Ó Comhraidhe**.
- **Carrey, Carry, McCarry, Meharry, MacAree = Mac Fhearadhaigh**, modern **Mac Fhearaigh**, from the personal name *Fearadhagh* (manly) – also appears as **King** (similarity to *righ* = king).
- **Dempsey = Ó Diomasaigh** (*diomasach* = proud)
- **Dewar = Déoir, Déoireach** is from *deoradh* = pilgrim, sojourner, custodian of saint's relics; also source of **McGeorge** and **MacClure (Mac Dheoradha, Mac Gille Dheoradha)**
- **Doran = Ó Deoráin, Ó Deoradháin** (Same root as above – means foreigner or exile in Irish).

- **Donnelly** = **Ó Donnghaile** (donn = brown; gal = valour).
- **Dow, Duff, Dove** is from *dubh* = *black*; originally *Mac Gille Dhuidh* in Scotland, *Mac Giolla Dhuidh* in Ireland; Dove also from *MacCalman*
- **Duffy, O'Duffy, Dowey, Doohey** = **O' Dufaigh**, older **O' Dubhthaigh** ('dark man' or from *dubhach* = *gloomy*); sometimes from Scottish **Mac Dhuibhshith**, modern **Mac a', Phi** (dark fairy?), also source of **McPhee, McFee, McAfee, Mahaffy**
- **Duncan, McConnachie** = **Mac Dhonnchaidh** from *Donnchadh* (brown warrior) in Scotland and Ulster; also from **O' Duinnchinn** (ceann donn = brown head) in North Connaught; for some reason the Duncan clan took the name Robertson in English.
- **Ferguson, Ferris, MacKerras** = **Mac Fhearghais, Fearghasdan** (son of *Fearghas*)
- **Flaherty, O'Flaherty** = **Ó Flatharta, Ó Flaithertaigh**, earlier **Ó Flaithbheartaigh** – hospitable or generous, literally "behaving like a prince", from *flaitheamh* (see Flahiff) = prince, ruler and *beartach* = bearing; also **Lafferty, Laverty**
- **Graham** (from Grantham) = **Greum, Mac Gille Mheàrnaig (Warnock)**
- **Henderson, Mac Kendry** = **Mac Eanruig**
- **Holmes, Hume**. Hume/Home is Scottish variant of Holmes, from *holm*, a Norse word for an island in a river or swamp; in Ireland, Holmes is often from **Mac Thómais**, which also becomes **MacComish, MacCombie, Thom, Thompson**. See also **Mac Thamhais** (MacTavish).
- **Johnson, Johnston, MacKeen** – English or from **Mac Iain**, Irish **Mac Seáin**
- **Kelly, O'Kelly** = **Ó Ceallach** or **Mac Ceallaich**, the 2nd most common name in Ireland. *Ceallach* means war or strife, but was nevertheless the name of a Scottish abbot and number of bishops; sometimes the name could also be from *cill* (church) or *coille* (wood).
- **Kenny, Kenney** = **Ó Cionaoith** or variant of **MacKenna** = **Mac Cionaoith**, a form of *Cinéad* (fire-sprung?) one of the sources of Kenneth – see also **MacKenzie**
- **McAuley, McAuliffe, Cauley** has two distinct sources:
 - **Mac Amhlaigh, Mac Amhlaidh**, Irish **Mac Amhlaoibh** (son of Olaf, from Old Norse *Oláfr* 'relic of the gods').
 - **Mac Amhalghaidh** in the South of Ireland – from an old Irish personal name.
- **McDiarmid/McDermot** = **Mac Diarmaid, Mac Diarmuid** in Scotland, **Mac Diarmada** in Irish (freeman?)
- **McDonald, MacDonnell, McConnell, McDaniel** = **Mac Dhòmhnail** (Scottish) or **Mac Domhnail** (Irish) – son of Donald (*Dòmhnall*), an old Gaelic name from *domhan* (world) and gal (worthy). (Honest, I didn't make that up!). Irish **O'Donnel** has a similar meaning, but the old landed families were not related; Donnelly is not from the same root at all. Lowland McDonalds often took the name **McConnell**; the pronunciation is quite similar in Gaelic. The names Donald and Daniel were used interchangeably in Gaelic, hence McDaniel or Daniels. Of mixed Norse and Gaelic background, the McDonalds ruled over the northwest of Scotland for centuries almost as independent monarchs. In spite of later misfortunes, McDonald is still the third most common name in Scotland, after Smith and Brown. They were not always liked; there is a Gaelic expression *spagada-gliog dòmhnullach* which translates as 'the MacDonald swagger'.

- **MacDougall, MacDowell, Doyle** = Scottish *Mac Dhùghaill*, Irish *Mac Dubhghaill* or *Ó Dubhghaill* – son of *Dùghall* (dark foreigner / Dane)
- **MacEachern, MacKechnie** = **MacEacharna, MacEachairn** – son of *Eichthighearn*, from *each* (horse) and *tighearna* (lord).
- **McGregor, Greer, Grierson, Gregory, Gruer, McGrewar, McRuer** = **Mac Griogair**, son of Gregor (or Giric, the name of several Pictish kings) descended from a brother of Kenneth MacAlpin, who established the Kingdom of Scotland (*Alpa*) in 844 – hence the slogan *Is rioghal mo dhream* (my race is royal); outlawed in 1603 by James VI and name was proscribed until 1774.
- **MacGuinty, Mac Ginty** = **Mag Fhinneachta** (white snow); sometimes from **Mac Entee** = **Mac an tSaoi** (saoi = scholar)
- **MacKay, MacKee, Magee, MacCoy, MacCue, MacHugh, Keays, Keyes** = **Mac Aoidh, MacAodha**, son of *Aodh* (Hugh); the MacKays of Inverness are *Mac Dhàì* (son of David); Keyes may also be English
- **MacKenzie, Macwhinney, MacKenney** = **Mac Coinnich, Mac Coinnigh** (son of Kenneth) – see Kenney; the name Kenneth has 2 sources – *Coinneach* (comely) or *Cinead* (fire-sprung?); the z in MacKenzie is from the old uncial form of g, but is pronounced y.
- **McKeown, Mc Ewen, McKeon** = **Mac Eoghainn** (son of Ewan – identified with Eugene)
- **MacKeracher, Farquharson, MacCargar** = **Mac Fhearchair**, son of *Fearchar* (*dear one*)
- **McLaren, MacLaurin** = **Mac Labhruin**, son of Lawrence
- **MacLeod** = **Mac Leòid**, son of *Leod* (from Norse *Ljotr*)
- **McNab** = **Mac an Aba**, son of the abbot.
- **MacNeely, Conneely** = **Mac Conghaile** (hound of strength?) ; but **Mac Neilly** = **Mac an Fhilibh** (son of the poet)
- **MacRae, MacCrea, MacCreath, MacRaith, MacGrath, McGraw** = **Mac Rath** (rath = grace, prosperity)
- **McVey, McVeigh** = **Mac Bheatha**, son of life – also source of MacBeth, sometimes Bethune, Beaton
- **Moffatt** is a town in Southern Scotland; from *magh fada* = long plain
- **Murray, Morrow, MacMorrow, MacMurray** = **Mac Muirí**, old from **Mac Muireadhaigh** (mariner).
- **Mulcair** = **Ó Maoilchéire** (devotee of St. Ciar)
- **Mulronev** = **Ó Maolruanaidh** (devotee of St. Rooney)
- **Murphy** = **Ó Murchadha, Mac Murchadha** (*murchadh* = sea warrior)
- **Robinson, Robertson** = **Robasdan, Mac Dhonnchaidh** (Duncan) in Scotland – for some reason the Duncan clan took the name Robertson in English; the name may also be of English origin
- **Rowan** may be an English name, from the rowan tree (mountain ash); sometimes a synonym of **Ruane / Royan** (from **Ó Ruadháin**) or **Rohan** (**Ó Robhacháin / Ó Ruadhacháin**) from *ruadhan*, a diminutive of *ruadh* = red.
- **Scott** – a nickname given to Gaelic speakers in border areas of northern England and southeast Scotland.
- **Sullivan** = **Ó Súilleabháin**, perhaps ‘little dark-eyed one’ (*suil* = eye, *dubh* = black, and diminutive ending -an) – 3rd most common name in Ireland.
- **Thompson, Thom, MacTavish, McComish** = **Mac Thamhais, Mac Thómais**
- **Tierney** = **Ó Tighearna** (lord).

- **Watson, MacQuaid, MacQuat, Quade, Wade = *Mac Uaid***, son of Wat (Walter); Wade may also be from ***Mac Mheadhacháin*** (*meadhach* = stallion) or English, from personal name Wada or meaning a person living near a ford.
- **Whelan, Phelan = Ó Faoláin** (little wolf)

(Slides 33,34) **Bibliography**

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