

History of the Talty family name according to family lore

The Talty name is purported to have originated in County Clare, Ireland, during the early 1600's. In the Gaelic divisions of Ireland, which preceded the seventeenth century, Cavan, along with Leitrim, was part of the kingdom of Bréifne. Leitrim became known as Bréifne O'Rourke, while Cavan was Bréifne O'Reilly. The O'Reillys of Cavan maintained their independence from English rule until the rebellions of the early 1600s. Cavan was then incorporated into the province of Ulster, having previously been considered part of Connacht, and was included in the plantation of Ulster from 1608. Many English and Scots settled in the county at that time and subsequently, although O'Reilly, along with its variants, remained the single most common name. Other surnames associated with the county include Brady, McGovern, Sheridan, Kiernan, McCabe, and Smith/McGowan.

Talty lore tells that two brothers Malachy, Hugh and a sister Ann O'Reilly migrated to Clare from Cavan. They ran from the British authorities after a bitter fight which resulted in the death of a British officer in retribution for an attack on the O'Reilly stronghold and the rape of Ann. (These attacks were a form of ethnic cleansing as we know it today) They migrated westwards and then south to Co Clare, to the strongest remaining area governed by the Gaelic Clan O'Brien's. In their travels through Clare they assisted a Gaelic Landlord who had suffered an accident with a horse and cart and were rewarded with land to settle on. This land was supposed to have extended from Mount Callan to within two miles from the sea on the Mid West Coast of Co Clare (Spanish Point). It is said that the word Talte (meaning land) and Taltaigh (walking people) was the way in which these settlers were referred to, and thus the O'Reilly name was dropped.

From "Origin and stem of the Irish Nation" by John Hart we see that in the history of the O'Connor clan - (Kings of Connaught in

Gaelic Ireland) "Cathal: son of Conchobhar, had a younger brother Maolclothach, who was the ancestor of O'Tomhailtaigh ("tomhailt:" Irish-wasting, consuming), anglicised Tomalty, and Talty; and of MacMorrissy." Edward MacLysaght (1985, p.283) says Talty, Ó Tailtigh, the name of a west Clare sept which has no connection with the Ulster sept of Tally, Tomalty though the names are probably etymologically cognate. The Talty name can be found in records from the 1600's onwards in Co Clare and even by the 1900's fewer than ten other instances of the name can be found in other areas of Ireland. During the 1700's and 1800's many of that name can be found emigrating from Ireland to the USA and Australia with some to Argentina.

One of the main aims of the project is to test the above theory about the O' Reilly origins, as it has been commonly held in the lore of many Talty families. I have collected the records of Taltys born in Clare from Church records in Co Clare for the 1800's. As of now I can only find four instances of this name in other parts of Ireland for later part of that period and into the 1900's, Cork (originated in South Clare), 1 Kildare (originated in Clare) and 1 Galway (Originated in Clare) and similarly 1 in Dublin. This would seem to confirm the story that the name originated in Co Clare and also that it was relatively new in Clare by 1800 as the migration patterns for the County of Clare shows for the 1800 period.

The next step is to find out if the migration of the original family members was from the Cavan area, or if there is a genetic link with the O'Rielly gene pool from that area.

1. Establish the main lines of Talty families, which existed in Co Clare and from which many emigrants are derived
2. Establish a DNA project which would compare the DNA samples of one male from each line to those of the O' Reilly families in Cavan
- 3 Try to establish the origins of the family line within Ireland and further afield.

I thank all the Talty relations and descendants who are participating in this project as we enter records on the database and establish the lines from which we are all derived. I hope that we can all help each other in our research and in putting the pieces of the Jigsaw together for future generations.

Mile Buiochas

Many Thanks

Brid Ni Thaltaigh

Brid Talty

Miltown Malbay

Co Clare