

**McCarthy Surname Study
Reading List**

A list of books and manuscripts which may be of interest to those with McCarthy ancestry.

Last updated: 05 June 2021

General notes:

1. Almost all books and articles referring to first millenium origins of the eponymous Cárthach place him among the progeny of Ailill Ólom (aka Oilioll Olum), as a decendant of Conall Corc, purportedly the first king of Cashel. Our Y-DNA Study has shown this cannot be correct, and although it has validated his great grandfather as Ceallchán of Cashel, at some stage before Ceallchán the paternal lineage is of a very different provenance.
2. A further useful bibliography of works relating to the history and genealogies of the peoples of our region of interest is provided by the Kingdom of Desmond Association at <https://desmondasn.webs.com/>.

SECTION 1 - BOOKS

Note: Books which are out of copyright (more than 70 years old) may be available in digital format for download free of charge from the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>) or as scanned and bound hard copies from other sources. (Some versions may have been OCR'd, but faithful scans from original prints will avoid inaccuracies OCR procedures may produce, and are thus preferred).

| Author | Title | Publisher | Publication date | Description and notes |
|--|---|---|------------------|---|
| 1a. Books wholly or substantially devoted to McCarthy history | | | | |
| Samuel Trant McCarthy | The MacCarthys of Munster: The story of a great Irish sept. | The Dundalgan press | 1922 | The most comprehensive study of MacCarthys drawn from both Irish and English record sources, including ancient manuscripts. Extensively provisionally used as a basis for Fig. 2 on this website unless Y-DNA testing or other literature should favour alternative genealogies. A 1997 revision by the 'false', discredited, MacCarthy Mór (Terence Francis McCarthy) is also available. While arranged to support his claim to the courtesy title, later exposed as invalid, it may contain some useful updates to earlier material (Beware, though, the review by one of his entourage). |
| William F T Butler | Gleanings from Irish history | Longmans, Green and Co., London | 1925 | Complements <i>The Macarthy's of Munster</i> with a strong MacCarthy content and a particular emphasis on land holdings up to the end of the 16th century. |
| Daniel MacCarthy Glas | A Historical Pedigree of the Sliochd Feidhlimidh, the Mac Carthys of Gleannacroim, from Carthach, Twenty-fourth in Descent from Oilioll Olum, to this Day. | William Pollard, Exeter | 1880 | An update on an earlier (1865?) edition. Again rich in research into MacCarthy ancestry but with a focus on the author's own family, the owners of Togher and Dunmanway Castles. |
| Daniel MacCarthy Glas | The Life and Letters of Florence Maccarthy Reagh, Tanist of Carbery, Maccarthy Mor | London: Longmans, Green, Reader, and Dyer; Dublin: Hodges and Smith | 1867 | Refers to the Florence born about 1561 and died in London in 1640, having spent his last 40 years there, in the Tower or out of it but effectively under house arrest. The letters have also been arranged in a chronological order in the <i>Letter Book of Florence Mac Carthy Reagh, Tanist of Carbery, Mac Carthy Mór</i> at https://celt.ucc.ie/published/E600000/index.html . |
| Michael J O'Brien | The MacCarthys in early American history | Dodd, Mead & Co., New York | 1921 | Has been criticised for apparent inaccuracies but we have not studied it so our judgement is reserved. |
| William Mason McCarty and Kathleen Much | The McCartys of the Northern Neck: 350 years of a Virginia family | Amsterdam University Press | 2005 | An impressive 550 page tome detailing the progeny of Denis McCarty and his son Capt. Daniel McCart(hy) born ca. 1679 in Virginia. Family silver which disappeared in 1900 indicates a MacCarthy of Muskerry origin but this not supported by tests on three of the progeny listed in the genealogies. (This may be because of later NPEs; corruption of McArthur (of Argyllshire, Scotland) is suspected in two cases). |

1b. Books / manuscripts with content which includes McCarthy history or genealogies

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|----------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Roger O'Ferrall | Linea Antiqua | (manuscript) | 1709 | Vol. 1 pp. 22-52. With later updates by Sir William Betham, available at the National Library of Ireland, shelf mark GO145. |
| Richard F Cronnelly | A history of the Clan Eoghan, or Eoghanachts | Goodwin, Son, and Nethercott, Dublin | 1864 | Provides a concise history of the principal MacCarthy lineages but almost all material is covered in the top three books above. |
| John O'Hart | Irish Pedigrees, or, The Origin and Stem of the Irish Nation | James Duffy & Co., Dublin | 1892 (5 th edition) | Criticised for being unreliable in respect of copying or interpreting earlier manuscript collections listed here. Potentially useful for bridging from 17th century to O'Hart's time, but in at least two instances it is clear he has 'bolted' 18th and 19th century MacCarthy lineages to the wrong 17th century ones. |
| Rev. John Gleeson | Cashel Of The Kings. A History of the Ancient Capital of Munster from the date of its Foundation until the Present Day | J Duffy & Co., Dublin De Burca, Dublin | 1927 2001 | Facsimile reprint of the 1927 edition. |
| Tadhg Ó Donnchadha | An Leabhar Muimhneach (The Book of Munster) | Oifig Dóolta Foillseacháin Rialtais (Government Publications Office), Dublin | 1940 | Edited Irish language presentation of a 17th century compilation by Domhnall Ó Duinnín and Tadhg mac Dáire Mhic Bruaideadha of texts which were believed to have constituted one or more earlier manuscripts related to the Psalter of Cashel. Just as Ó Duinnín and Mac Bruaideadha updated the genealogy section(s), so later did Fr. Eugene O'Keeffe, bringing information up to date in 1703. An English version of 'Eoghanacht Genealogies from the Book of Munster' from an uncertain source (but attributing a provenance in Fr O'Keeffe) has appeared on the internet in the past but seems no longer to be available. (It is therefore incumbent on the McCarthy Surname Study to produce a translation of the genealogies pertinent to its interests!). |
| W. Holland | History of West Cork and the Diocese of Ross | Southern Star | 1949 | Chapters 14-16, pp 125-176 |
| Diarmuid Ó Murchadha | Family names of County Cork | The Collins Press | 1996 | pp 49-65 |
| Nollaig Ó Muraile | The Great Book of Irish Genealogies | De Búrca, Dublin | 2004 | Edited presentation of Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh's mammoth compilation, completed about 1666, <i>Leabhar na nGenealach</i> (Book of Genealogies). Ó Muraile's work runs to over 3,000 pages across five volumes (although two are dedicated to indices) and provides parallel English translation. We have yet to study this, but the Munster content (and therefore also that of McCarthy pedigrees, at pp 569-573 in Vol. II) is relatively lean. A review (Ó Canann, Tomás G. <i>The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland</i> , vol. 132, 2002, pp. 127-137. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/25549892) suggests McCarthy pedigree content is of equal depth (and perhaps much the same as) in <i>An Leabhar Muimhneach</i> , above. |

SECTION 2 - ANNALS

Most have frequent reference to McCarthys and thus were much-used by later authors (such as the first three in Section 1a). Usually compiled in monastic settings. With the exception of the Annals of Clonmacnoise, these have been transcribed (some with translation) and are freely available on the CELT website at <https://celt.ucc.ie/>.

| Abbreviation | Title | Coverage | Description and notes |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| AI | Annals of Innisfallen | 433 - 1450 | Munster-centric. |
| | Annals of Clonmacnoise | Prehistory, then 425 - 1408 | Translated into English in 1627, then edited by Rev Denis Murphy and published in 1896 at University Press, Dublin. Available on Internet Archive |
| (AF)M | Annals of the Four Masters | 2957 BCE - 1616 | 'Creative' dating of early years! Takes much from other annals, but not those of Innisfallen. |
| (A)T | Annals of Tigernach | 488 - 1178 | |
| LC | Annals of Loch Cé | 1014 - 1648 | |
| (A)U | Annals of Ulster | 431 - 1541 | |
| MCB | Mac Carthaigh's Book | 1114 - 1437 | Compiled by the above Finghin / Florence Mac Carthy (ca 1561-1640). Not to be confused with <i>The Book of Mac Carthaigh Riabach</i> (<i>Mac Carthy Reagh</i> , aka <i>The Book of Lismore</i>), written for an earlier Finghin MacCarthy (died 1505) and his wife Caitilín. |
| AC | Annals of Connacht | 1224 - 1562 | |