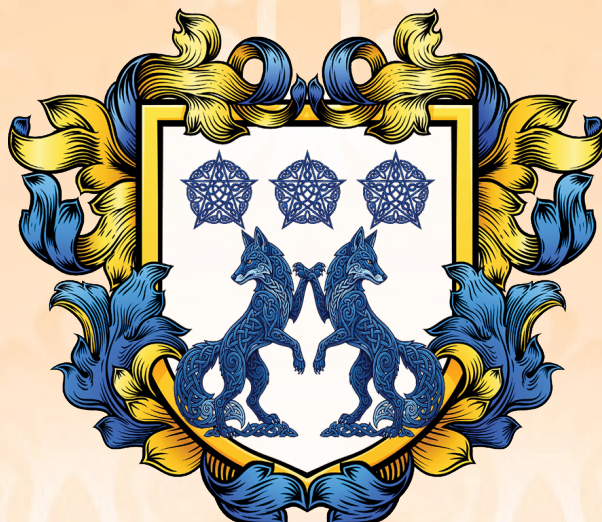


Ó SEANACHÁIN



SHANAHAN

Shanahan

The surname Shanahan is a very old one indeed. The Shanahan's were a Dalcassian sept, that is to say, the Dál gCais tribe who were based in Thomond. The Irish Pedigrees state that the Dalcassians are the race of Cas, the sixth in descent from Cormac Cas, son of Oilioll Olum, King of Munster in the 3rd century. The Shanahan's were of sufficient importance enough to have their own Chief "Uí Bloid". Uí Bloid means descendants of Blod, son of Cas, a branch of the Dál gCais. This clan includes the O'Kennedy, O'Shanahan, O'Durack and O'Ahern families of eastern Co. Clare.

The Shanahan's were a bardic clan - in Celtic cultures, a bard was a professional story teller, verse-maker, music composer, oral historian and genealogist, employed by a patron (such as a monarch or chieftain) to commemorate one or more of the patron's ancestors and to praise the patron's own activities. The Shanahan's were the bards to the Dál cGais/O'Brien's. The territory held by the Shanahan Clan lay between Bodyke and Feakle in Co. Clare, where the name still survives. In the year 1318 Uí Bloid and his followers were dispossessed by the MacNamaras, and during the 14th Century they became dispersed to all of Munster.

The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of O'Shanahan, Chief of the Clan Uí Bloid, which was dated 1318, in the "Early Irish Records Register", during the reign of King Edward 11 of England, known as "Edward of Caernafon", 1307 - 1327. Family folklore says that the Shanahan's were banished to The Long Stone, of Baurne/Bawn in the parish of Toomevara in 1318.

In modern times Shanahan's are numerous in the County Tipperary parishes of Boherlahan-Dualla, Borrisoleigh, Carrick-On-Suir, Holycross-Ballycahill, Loughmore-Castleiney, Moycarkey-Borris, Templederry, Toomevara, Upperchurch-Drombane and many more! 50 pages in the 1911 census! The Shanahan's are also numerous in the Irish Counties of Clare, Cork, Dublin, Kerry, Kilkenny and Waterford.

Variants: O' Shanahan, Shannon, Shanaghan, Shannahan.

Sometimes Anglicised as Fox {Sionnach}. Irish Frequency (1911): 2,362.

Irish Locations (1911): Tipperary, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Waterford, Dublin.

Current Irish frequency: 2,477. Current British frequency: 1,609.

Current Frequency United States of America: 8,616.