

Family Name History



SCAHILL

The Irish surname Scahill is an anglicized form of the Gaelic MacScaithghil. The prefix "mac" signifies "son of" and indicates the patronymic origin of the name while the first name is probably derived from "scaith gear", meaning bright flower. A variant of Scahill is Skihill.

The MacScahill sept was located in east Galway and the name is now found there and in Co. Mayo in small numbers. O'Dugan in his Topographical Poem written about 1365, refers to MacScaithghil as "of beautiful studs" and as "over Corca Mogha" (i.e. Corcamoe which may be equated with the present parish of Kilkerrin in east Galway), but it is recorded elsewhere that they were dispossessed of this territory by the Concannons before 1170.

The prefix "O" (i.e. grandson of or descendant) was sometimes used with this name but both prefixes have by now fallen into disuse. In general, Gaelic prefixes, which date from the tenth century, tended to be discarded from the seventeenth century, a time of religious and cultural persecution and of renewed colonization by England and, despite a revival of sorts in the late nineteenth century under the auspices of the Gaelic League, there are still, even today, a number of surnames where the prefix is rarely, if ever, seen.

To conclude, this surname has been equated, albeit wrongly, with Cahill from time to time so that it is possible that some Cahills were originally Scahills.

BLAZON OF ARMS: Argent, a whale sprouting in the sea proper.

CREST: An anchor erect, cable twined around the stock all proper.

MOTTO: In Domino confido.

Translation: I trust in the Lord.

ORIGIN: IRELAND

Verification of Authenticity, hereby affixed with the signature of our Researcher on this day

1985 at May 10 93

Registration Number

