

CEALLACH.

The earliest mention of the name is in Irish history, A. D. 254. Ceallach Mac Cormac was a son of the Monarch Cormac Ulfadha. The king of Connaught had a son called Ceallach, A. D. 528.

It is a word of many meanings. One writer says it is Gaelic, from coille, a wood. Another says war, debate, strife; and another Cealleach originally meant a devotee, one living in a cell, and was once, perhaps, a druidess, but she was afterwards a female disciple, a nun, and finally, in Scotland, has become only an old woman.

McLeod and Dewar's Dictionary of the Gaelic Language, has the word spelled Ceallach and Ceallaich (an obsolete Gaelic word) meaning a Celt, Gaul, war, a churchman, a monk. Also provincially, a peat cart, or creel placed upon a sledge to carry peat, etc. Another dictionary has contention, only, and another a grove of hazel.

In the year 1843 the Irish Archæological Society published the "Tribes and Customs of Hymany," from the Book of Lecan, from which it can be learned that a chief of Hymany, who lived in A. D. 874, bore the name of Ceallaigh; his grandson, Murchadh O'Ceallaigh, the first to use the surname, died A. D. 960. Brian Boromhe, the most celebrated of native Irish kings, born about A. D. 927, made an ordinance that prescribed that everyone should adopt as a surname the name of his father, and thenceforth surnames became permanent in Irish families. The name appears to have been Anglicised about the year 1014, as O'Kelly; Tadhg Mor O'Kelly having been slain in the battle of Clontarf.

And Colla O'Kelly rejected the O' from his name at the