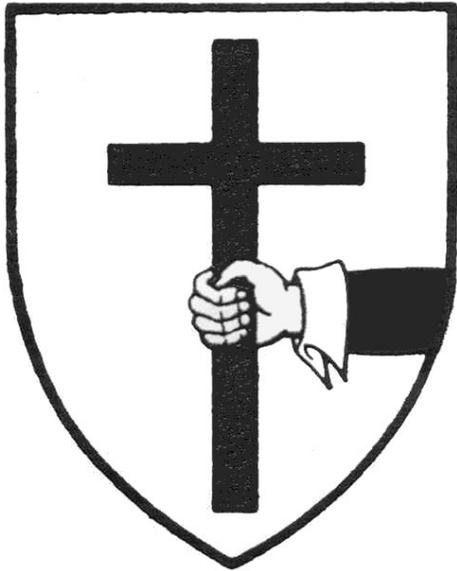


# *Ó Domhnaill Abú*



*O'Donnell Clan*

*Newsletter No. 33*

*Spring 2005*



General Leopoldo O'Donnell leading his army into battle during the African Campaign 1860.

# Camp O'Donnell

by  
Brendan O'Donnell, Fairfax, Virginia, US

Vincent,

One of your readers asked for the origin of the name of Camp O'Donnell in the Philippines, destination of the 'Bataan Death March' in 1942. In 1997, I asked this same question of the US Army's Chief of Military History and of the National Archives and, while neither office could provide the answer, I did find a book in the Library of Congress that offered some information: O'Donnell - Andersonville of the Pacific by Colonel John E. Olson, US Army (Retired). Colonel Olson served with the Philippine Scouts, was captured on Bataan, survived the Death March, and was confined at Camp O'Donnell. The title's reference to Andersonville is to an American Civil War prison camp for Union Army soldiers that was so notorious for its high death rate that the Confederate commandant was court-martialed and executed after the war. The following describes the information I have obtained on Camp O'Donnell.

1. The Army Chief of Military History provided a form with pertinent historical data that lists Camp O'Donnell as a sub-post of Fort Stotsenberg but does not include the source of the name nor the date when the Camp was established. The earliest entry is for 8-31 December 1941.

2. The National Archives at College Park, Maryland sent a letter on 24 October 1997 that stated:

"Despite examining several secondary sources as well as a variety of archival material in our custody, I have been unable to determine the source of the name of the camp. Prior to December 8, 1941, there had been a Camp O'Donnell which was a Philippine Army installation that housed, in part, the 71st Division of the Philippine Army. Also in that vicinity (ca., 10 miles north of Clark Field, Luzon) was an O'Donnell Field, under construction as an

auxiliary airfield for US Army Air Corps units. A Major Emmitt O'Donnell (US Army Air Corps) led the first flight of B-17s from Hawaii to the Philippines (September 5-12, 1941) to reinforce the air strength of the islands. Unfortunately, I have been unable to determine if there is any connection between these several facts."

3. Colonel Olson identifies the probable source of the camp's name as a barrio or neighborhood named O'Donnell that was only five kilometers away. He found several historical references to the barrio including:

- a night raid during the Philippine Insurrection as described in "The History of the Twenty-Fifth Regiment, United States Infantry, 1869-1926"

- maps in Harper's 1900 "History of the War in the Philippines"

- the official history of Clark Air Force Base (AFB). Clark Field was originally part of Fort Stotsenberg but "Clark" eventually replaced "Stotsenberg" as the name for the entire military complex.

According to Colonel Olson, Fort Stotsenberg was established in 1902 or 1903 and was designated a permanent post in 1919 while the O'Donnell area of the fort was a bombing and artillery zone until construction began in September 1941 to house the 71st Philippine Infantry Division which arrived in late November 1941.

From the preceding, we can state as facts that a barrio named O'Donnell was near the site of the camp and in existence before 1900; that US Army forces had been stationed in the vicinity of the camp for about forty years before World War II; and that Camp O'Donnell had been established before the Japanese invasion. However, we do not know the origin of the name of the barrio; when the name "O'Donnell" was first applied to that part of the fort; or if there

were any considerations besides the name of the barrio in choosing the name "O'Donnell" for the camp.

**Barrio Name.** The history of Clark AFB speculates that the name of the barrio may have come from a member of the British engineering team that built a nearby railroad in the 19th century. Alternatively, since Spain ruled the Philippines in the 19th century, the barrio of O'Donnell may have been named for a prominent Spanish figure such as Leopoldo O'Donnell who served as Spanish premier in the 1850s and 1860s.

**First Military Use of the Name.** Camp O'Donnell was not built until the fall of 1941 and there is no information on whether that part of Fort Stotsenberg was called "O'Donnell" at an earlier date.

**Other Considerations.** The Clark AFB history rejects the possibility that the camp was named for Major Emmitt [Emmett] O'Donnell who commanded B-17s in the area beginning in September 1941 but does not provide an explanation of that verdict. Major O'Donnell's late arrival makes it unlikely he was the source of the camp's name although O'Donnell Field (mentioned by the National Archives) may have been named, in part, for him. Major O'Donnell compiled a distinguished combat record in World War II and Korea and retired in 1963 as a four-star general.

There is one other possibility in the choice of the name for that part of the fort which is what led to my initial research. One of my great-grandfather's younger brothers, Dominick O'Donnell, emigrated to the US in 1885 and joined the US Army in 1887 where he served five years in artillery and twenty years in the Army Engineers. From 1899 to 1900, he spent thirteen months in the Philippines as a Sergeant with Company B of the Army Engineers but four of those months were on detached service to the staff of General Arthur MacArthur, who later took command of American forces in the Philippines. In 1904 and 1905, he returned to the Philippines for nineteen months as a First

Sergeant (the senior enlisted rank) with Company L of the Army Engineers.

In the 1940s, as Dominick's health declined and after Camp O'Donnell had become notorious, he was visited by former Army comrades who told his family that Camp O'Donnell had, in fact, been named for Dominick. The US Army was not in the habit of naming forts and camps after enlisted personnel but, given Dominick's multiple tours of duty in the Philippines, seniority, and temporary service on the commanding general's staff, an appreciative leadership may have taken advantage of the coincidence of his name and that of the barrio to choose the name O'Donnell for a sub-post of the larger Fort Stotsenberg. Much depends on when "O'Donnell" was first applied to that part of the fort. If the name had been in use for many years, then this story gains credence; if the name did not appear until shortly before the Japanese invasion, then the story is apocryphal.

In any event, it seems certain that Camp O'Donnell was named for a nearby barrio of that name. Whether there was a simultaneous intent to honor a respected Army engineer or an Air Corps squadron commander is lost to history.

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### **Subscription**

As I intend to cease publishing this newsletter with issue no. 36, I do not wish any more subscriptions being paid to me from here on. My website will be a platform for posting news, queries, bits of history etc. as was 'Ó Domhnaill Abú' since its beginning in 1985. V.O'D.

#### **Ó Domhnaill Abú**

is published by V. O'Donnell, Inver, Co. Donegal, Ireland. Tel.: +353 74 9736059  
e-mail: [vodonnell@eircom.net](mailto:vodonnell@eircom.net)  
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## Leopoldo O'Donnell, Duke of Tetuan R.I.P.



Don Leopoldo O'Donnell, Duke of Tetuan, Marques of Las Salinas, died at his residence in Madrid on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at the age of 89.

Leopoldo was the 11<sup>th</sup> in lineal descent from Manus O'Donnell 21<sup>st</sup> Lord of Tír Chonaill (1537-63) and the same Manus was grandfather to the famous Aodh Rua who died in Spain in 1602.

Leopoldo, who was quite well known in Ireland was the most senior of the Spanish branch of the O'Donnells. In 1956 he was conferred with a Doctorate of Law, *honoris causa*, degree by the National University of Ireland. Eamonn De Valera was then Chancellor.

In 1980 the Duke, along with his son, Hugh Count of Lucena, was present at the O'Donnell Clan Gathering in Donegal. He was always proud of his Irish, Donegal and O'Donnell background. His four brothers and one sister predecease him. The last of his brothers, José Luis, died 22 February, 2004.

He is survived by his son, Hugh, Count of Lucena, Hugh's wife, Maria, sons, Carlos, Hugo, Alfonso, and daughter Maria and grand daughter Maria.  
*Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.*

## P.D. O'Donnell R.I.P.

It is with great sadness we learn of the passing at age 82 of Patrick Denis O'Donnell, former Irish Army officer and UN peace-keeper. P.D. had had a long association with the O'Donnell Clan and its activities. My earliest memory of him was in 1983 when he attended a special presentation function held in Donegal Town to honour the late Rupert Coughlan (see ODA No. 5). In 1985 when I launched this newsletter, *Ó Domhnaill Abu*, he was one of the first to subscribe to it and down through the years has commented on many of the articles published in it. P.D. himself was a prolific writer, publishing many articles in many publications along with a few books, the best known is *Irish Faction Fighters of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*, (published by Anvil Books, Dublin, 1975).



who in many ways is following in his father's footsteps.

*Go ndéanaidh Dia trócaire ar a anam uasal.*

## Flight of the Earls Commemoration

We, the O'Donnell Clan Association, intend commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Flight of the Earls in September 2008 as it was in 1608 they travelled through Europe to Rome and it was in that year that Rory and his brother Caffar died. Both are buried in San Pedro de Montorio. Our plan, though not yet finalised, is something like this –

Assemble at Louvain, Belgium (Irish College preferably) early September 2008. After a day and a half experiencing Louvain and its Irish connections we travel south by coach visiting places mentioned in Tadhg Ó Cianáin's diary and stopping overnight in some of them e.g. Nancy, Bale, Lucerne, St. Gothard Pass, Como, Milan, Parma, Rimini, Loreto, Rome.

We intend spending 3 to 4 days in Rome seeing and doing what was seen and done by the Earls. We hope to have Mass in San Pedro de Montorio, visit the Irish College and other places of Irish interest. We finish up with a banquet on the last night. Then we fly home. We expect all that to take ten days.

# O'Donnell Clan Gathering '05

Red Hugh O'Donnell, 19<sup>th</sup> Lord of Tyrconnel died on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 1505 in Donegal Castle at the age of 78 and 44<sup>th</sup> year of his reign. This was the man who in 1474 had the castle and Abbey built in Donegal Town and to a great extent was responsible for establishing the town of Donegal.

We, the O'Donnell Clan Association, intend commemorating this event with a Clan Gathering (in order to qualify for financial aid it must be called 'O'Donnell Clan Festival') in Donegal Town commencing on the 2nd of July 2005.

The itinerary has not yet been finalised by our committee but it's quite likely to follow the pattern of previous Clan Gatherings.

Day 1: Opening (about 7.00 pm) in the castle or hotel with finger food, harps, pipes, flag raising ceremony (in the Diamond), speeches, some music, display of O'Donnell photos and genealogical charts, finishing about midnight with '*O'Donnell Abu*' and our 'National Anthem.'

Day 2: Tour of the county, visiting places with O'Donnell connections – Conwal Graveyard, Lifford Centre, Gartan, Doon Rock, Kilmacrennan Abbey, Ramelton Genealogical Centre where there will be people to talk about tracing ancestry and returning to Donegal Town by nightfall.

Day 3: Tour of south Donegal - Killybegs, Kilcar, Carrick, Bunglas, Glencolmcille and home via Ardara. Talk on some aspect of O'Donnell history in Donegal Town

Day 4: Visit castle and abbey. Trip on waterbus. Meet in hotel for 'Open Forum.' Banquet.

The Donegal Community Chamber are planning further events along these lines–

- concert with Irish flavour (we had a great one in 1980)
- play with an O'Donnell theme
- unveiling a memorial to Red Hugh
- traditional Irish music in pubs ( this has been requested several times but never happened)
- battle re-enactment
- exhibition of art with an O'Donnell theme
- fireworks display
- visit Donegal Historical Society's museum
- and several other events are being discussed

At present (10<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2005) about 70 people have said they will be present and 10 of those have already booked accommodation. The Abbey and Central Hotels have quoted us the following rates for B&B per person sharing - €60 a night but for anyone staying more than 3 nights the rate is €50. There is a €20 single supplement. Traditional B&B houses generally charge something between €30 and €40. Here is a list of accommodation near the centre of the town.

Hotels	Address	Telephone	Web/e.mail
Abbey Hotel	The Diamond, Donegal Town	074 97 21014	<a href="mailto:abbeyhoteldonegal@eircom.net">abbeyhoteldonegal@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.whites-hotelsireland.com/abbey.html">http://www.whites-hotelsireland.com/abbey.html</a>
Mill Park Hotel	The Mullins, Donegal Town	074 97 22899	<a href="mailto:info@millparkhotel.com">info@millparkhotel.com</a>
Central Hotel	The Diamond, Donegal Town	074 97 21027	<a href="mailto:centralhotel@eircom.net">centralhotel@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.whites-hotelsireland.com/centralhotel.html">http://www.whites-hotelsireland.com/centralhotel.html</a>
Guesthouses			
Atlantic The	Main Street, Donegal	074 97 21187	

Bed & Breakfast	Address	Telephone	Web/e-mail
Ballinderg B&B	The Glebe, Donegal Town	074 9721460	<a href="mailto:ballinderg@hotmail.com">ballinderg@hotmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.ballinderg.com">www.ballinderg.com</a>
Cranaford B&B	Ardeskin, Donegal Town	074 97 21455	<a href="mailto:cranaford@ireland.com">cranaford@ireland.com</a>
Cullen Beg House	Sligo Road, Donegal	074 9723343	
Diamond Lodgings	The Diamond, Donegal Town	074 97 22027	<a href="mailto:diamondldg@eircom.net">diamondldg@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.diamondlodgings.com">www.diamondlodgings.com</a>
Eske Villa	Marian Villas, Donegal Town	074 97 22071	<a href="mailto:ian@donegalnet.com">ian@donegalnet.com</a> <a href="http://www.eskevillas.com">www.eskevillas.com</a>
Fisherman's Catch	Waterloo Place, Donegal Town	074 9722507	
Lismolin House	Drumcliff Tce, Donegal Town	074 97 21865	
Maranatha	The Glebe, Donegal Town	074 97 22671  086 8904440	<a href="mailto:marantha04@eircom.net">marantha04@eircom.net</a> <a href="http://www.travel.to/marantha">www.travel.to/marantha</a>
Milltown House	Ardlenagh, Sligo Rd	074 9721985	
Riverside House	Waterloo Place, Donegal Town	074 97 21083	<a href="mailto:kay@eircom.net">kay@eircom.net</a>
Coach House	Upper Main St. Donegal Town	074 97 22855	<a href="mailto:Junethomas@eircom.net">Junethomas@eircom.net</a>
Fresh Winds	Ardeskin, Donegal Town	074 97 22587	
Pine View - self catering holiday home	Edrim Glebe, Donegal Town	074 97 22354	<a href="mailto:janemcelhinney@hotmail.com">janemcelhinney@hotmail.com</a>
Water Edge B&B	Glebe, Donegal Town	074 97 21523	<a href="mailto:thewatersebb2000@hotmail.com">thewatersebb2000@hotmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.thewatersedge.ws">www.thewatersedge.ws</a>
Donegal Manor	Letterkenny Road	074 97 25222	<a href="mailto:info@donegalmanor.com">info@donegalmanor.com</a> <a href="http://www.donegalmanor.com">www.donegalmanor.com</a>

### Travel

It has recently been announced that Continental Airlines intend providing a service between Belfast and Newark this summer.

There are two small airports within an hour's travel from Donegal Town. Sligo is to the south and Donegal International is to the north. But be warned, connections between these airports and Donegal Town are poor or non-existent.

Cars can be rented at both airports.

More information will appear on my website [www.odonnellclan.com](http://www.odonnellclan.com) so keep an eye on it.

## Books worth reading

*The Flight of the Earls* by John McCavitt, pub. by Gill & Macmillan ISBN 0 7171 3047 9

John McCavitt has studied this era of history more than anyone I know. He is at present very much involved with preparations in Ireland and abroad for the four hundredth anniversary commemorations of the Flight. This book deals in depth with the circumstances that brought about that event.

Visit [www.gillmacmillan.ie](http://www.gillmacmillan.ie) and [www.theflightoftheearls.net](http://www.theflightoftheearls.net)

*Swords around the Cross* by Timothy O'Donnell, pub. by Christendom Press, ISBN 0 931888 78 6  
a factual account of the Nine Years War and aftermath, Ireland's defence of Faith and Fatherland 1594 – 1603 put together from original sources by Timothy T. O'Donnell, President of Christendom College.

Visit [www.christendom.edu/press/](http://www.christendom.edu/press/)

*ULSTER IS MINE* by P.L. Henry ([patricklhenry@eircom.net](mailto:patricklhenry@eircom.net)), pub. by Benbulbin Books, 4 Moyola Park, Newcastle, Galway. ISBN 0 9543987 In this historic novel 'Shane O'Neill (c.1525-1567) last great provincial king of pre-Conquest Ulster, fights against the odds to survive at home, while Daphne Fleming seeks military aid for him in France of Mary Queen of Scots and Catherine de Medici and in Spain of the Inquisition.'

## Rose O'Donel of Kirkheaton

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The O'Donnells of Larkfield (see ODA No. 4) descended from Aodh Buí who died 1649. His son, John, the first of the race to join the Spanish Service died in 1655 leaving a son, Connal who had a son, Hugh of Larkfield. This Hugh died in 1754 and was buried in Creevelea Abbey, Dromahair, Co. Leitrim where his headstone can be seen till this day. His son, Conn, had two sons, Conn and Hugh. From the former descended the present O'Donels of Larkfield, i.e. Fr. Hugh O.F.M.(Chief of the Clan), Nuala and Siobhan. Hugh married Honora Lyons and they lived at Greyfield, Co. Roscommon. Hugh died in 1848 leaving a son, Conn who married a protestant named Mary Napier Phibbs from Co. Sligo. They had a son, Constantine who was six when his father died in 1825.

Constantine was taken to England by his mother and brought up in her faith. He entered the ministry and became Rector of Kirkheaton, Northumberland. He married a Sligo lady and had the following family, Constantine, Hugh Roe, Rose Hannah and Mary.

Rupert Coughlan who spent over 40 years researching O'Donnell history, especially the main line from 1600 AD till the present, corresponded with people in the north of England re the last mentioned family. Some of what he turned up fascinates me and I wish to share it.

An excerpt from a letter by Catherine in 1946, recalling her memories as a housemaid in "The Vicarage", Kirkheaton in 1886 -

"The two sisters, Mary and Rose Hannah and the son, Hugh Roe, rarely spoke to me except an order – "My boots, Catherine," the young gent would demand. Mary at times was a bit genial but Rose, "Sweet Rose," as two sisters term her, would flisk through the kitchen with her head held high. Of course it may have been shyness but I was 16½, she a year older.

Mrs. O'Donel I always think of as a "canny body," if you know what "canny" means. One might think she had an illiterate mind, as she encouraged, or didn't discourage tramps and such at the Back Door. She had all the cold tea, left over broth, and scraps from the table saved for them. "He that giveth to the poor length to the Lord," was a text oft repeated. If any Irish, of which there were many in those days, were among them she would chatter away in what to me seemed like a strange language. Her people didn't like it and would call her away."

"Both girls were clever needle women. Mary did beautiful embroidery for under linen etc. and Rose used to embroider bead panels for their dresses, which they made themselves. They had a wee sewing machine between them."

A Mr. Garret in 1948 wrote the following (excerpt) –

"When I was a young man about 22 (I am now 82) and was working in the drawing office of the Wallsend Shipping and Engineering Co., Ltd., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, I used to go out on my bicycle on Saturday afternoons and return the following Sunday evening. On one of these expeditions I discovered Kirkheaton. While I was gazing at the view which is considerable, Arthur O'Donel came out from the vicarage and asked me into tea. I thus made the acquaintance of the O'Donels and found them most interesting people."

"Rose was an exceptionally beautiful girl. She played the piano like an expert, and sang during with a rich contralto voice. I was also a pianist and am still, the result was we promptly fell in love with one another and were very happy!

About 18 months later I was sent to Italy to do some work for the Italian Government. While I was there Rose, who was generally a very healthy girl, caught bad chill, which developed into pneumonia and she died! This was a terrible blow to me. When I returned to England I could only visit her grave and a friend planted a red rose tree there."

Mr. Garret, in the same letter, goes on about the rest of his life – worked until his retirement at 61, after some years had problems with his legs and ended up in a wheel chair. In 1943 he suffered a stroke and was in bed for 3 weeks. "On the night of December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> I was dying, my blood pressure dangerously high, my heart was collapsing and my temperature was 4° below normal. Suddenly I saw Rose. The room was dark but she shon like an angel, with her own light, and she said: "My darling, you are not going to die. God has sent me to save you. I have always loved you and you have always loved me. When you get up you will have that you are perfectly well." And I was!"

CLÁR DON ÉAD MÓR-TIONÓL  
DE CLANNAIB DÚN NA nGALL

*Programme of First Rally of  
Clans of Donegal.*



Rally of the O'Donnells



Left is artwork featured on front of the 1954 brochure for the first ever O'Donnell Clan Gathering which took place all over Co. Donegal during Easter week of that year. This event was run under the auspices of An Tóstal, a movemnet attempting to revive old traditions and customs.

Here is a quote from an inside page –  
 “Upwards of 300 years ago an ancient civilization was almost swept into oblivion and was driven into hiding amongst the barren mountains and desolate moorlands of Ireland. When its natural leaders, the Chieftains of the great Gaelic Clans, were banished or suppressed, County Donegal became a sanctuary which preserved the close family ties and territorial loyalties, that were such a marked feature of this old world culture. Its people clung tenaciously to its scanty soil long after religious, economic and social laws decreed their extinction. The O'Donnell family was one which preserved a glimmer of this age-old heritage.  
 At Ballyshannon, Donegal Town and other centres throughout the county, during An Tóstal, this glimmer will be fanned into a flame which will consume the bitter memories of three centuries of degradation. From its embers, Phoenix-like, will rise a cultural inspiration to help us resuscitate a distinctive Irish way of life.”

The O'Donnell Clan Gathering of 1954 was a big event and involved many people from inside and outside the County. There was an O'Donnell Clan badge specially designed for the occasion, many photos taken, etc. If anyone knows of any such memorabilia in existence I would very much like to know about it. V.O'D.



“Sweet Rose” O'Donel of Kirkheaton. This photo hung on the wall in the Vicarage and at some time long after her death the following was noticed written on the back of the picture, all in capital letters.

ROSE H.P.I. O'DONEL, WAS BORN AT SLIGO, IRELAND, I LIVED MAINLY AT THE VICARAGE, KIRKHEATON, NORTHUMBERLAND. I PASSED AWAY MAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> 1888 AGED 22 I, RETURNED TO LIFE IN THIS WORLD, AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup> 1865  
 AFTER I DIED, I RETURNED TO LIFE IN THIS WORLD, DEC 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup> 1943, AS A 'DUAL PERSONALITY' WITH MY GREAT FRIEND AND LOVER, HERBERT ALFRED GARRET.  
 GOD IS LOVE