The surname O'Hanlon has a long association with the County Armagh area. Up until the time of the Plantation the O'Hanlons were among the most notable Gaelic clans of Ulster. From around the 12th Century until the early 17th Century the chief of the O'Hanlons, 'The O'Hanlon', was Lord of Orier. Orier was then much bigger than the barony that exists in Co. Armagh today and covered most of eastern Co. Armagh stretching into north Louth where the surname is also common to this day. However, over a period of about 90 years, roughly 1560-1650, the status of the O'Hanlon dynasty was drastically reduced. Through stages of confiscation during this period, the ancestral lands of the O'Hanlons were lost to the English crown and the former rulers were replaced by English and Scottish settlers or 'planters'. The O'Hanlon headquarters at Tandragee was lost to the incoming St. John family by 1610 and by 1653 the last of the O'Hanlon landowners in Co. Armagh was dispossessed during the Cromwellian confiscation. It is against this backdrop that we see by the 1670s the most notable O'Hanlon of his time, Redmond, not playing the role of a Gaelic chieftain but leading a life of crime as an outlaw [known in Ireland at this time as a Tory and later Rapparee] on the highways and byways of County Armagh and beyond.

**CHRONOLOGY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1111</td>
<td>The O'Hanlon chief is described as Lord of Oneilland (north Armagh).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1246</td>
<td>By this time the O'Hanlone have moved south. Murrough O'Hanlon is described as Lord of Orier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1442</td>
<td>O'Hanlon chiefman submits to English Viceroy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1566</td>
<td>The O'Hanlone side with the O'Neill clan in an insurgency against the crown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1569</td>
<td>The first Act of Confiscation. Much of O'Hanlon land is granted to a Thomas Chatterton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1571</td>
<td>Chatterton is given a royal commission to 'subdue the natives' in O'Hanlon territory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1570</td>
<td>Chatterton is unsuccessful in Orier. He forfeits the land back to the crown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1580</td>
<td>Sir Escaidh O'Hanlon, head of the O'Hanlons, makes a series of submissions to the crown and is regranted his lands on condition of loyalty. From this time Escaidh alternately sides with the crown or with the O'Neill insurgency as best suits O'Hanlon interests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1588</td>
<td>Sir Escaidh fights with Hugh O'Neill against the English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1604</td>
<td>Sir Escaidh is in financial difficulty. He sells 2 town lands near Newry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1606</td>
<td>Sir Escaidh's son Escaidh O'Hanlon joins the O'Doherty rebellion. Because of this he forfeits his right to succeed his father as 'The O'Hanlon - Lord of Orier' and is exiled to Sweden. Escaidh senior will be the last O'Hanlon Lord of Orier. Escaidh is forced to leave the Tandragee headquarters and is given a pension of £50 per year for life. He receives the last in 1623.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1608</td>
<td>Sir John family move into Tandragee castle, the former O'Hanlon seat of power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1610</td>
<td>St. John family move into Tandragee castle, the former O'Hanlon seat of power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1643</td>
<td>Redmond O'Hanlon leads an uprising to save his O'Neill kin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1644</td>
<td>Redmond O'Hanlon joins the rebellion lead by Phelim O'Neill and recaptures Tandragee briefly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1653</td>
<td>Act of satisfaction [Cromwellian confiscation] the last of the O'Hanlon landowners in Co. Armagh is dispossessed in on going retribution for the 1641 Rebellion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1662</td>
<td>One Hugh O'Hanlon is unable to recover his lands in the Act of Settlement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1669</td>
<td>A Loughlin O'Hanlon of Killeavy is sentenced to death for stealing a horse [but is pardoned].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1674</td>
<td>First appearance of Redmond O'Hanlon in history. He is proclaimed an outlaw [Tory] and a reward of £50 is offered for his capture.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THE O’HANLON’S**

lose their lands and status

The family tree of Redmond O'Hanlon cannot now be traced, but it is not unreasonable to assume that he was descended from one of the many brothers or sons of Sir Escaidh O'Hanlon the last Lord of Orier 3. As such he may have viewed himself as the rightful ruler of Orier and embarked on a life of crime to "seek redress for the wrongs done to his family and clan." 4. Historical evidence about Redmond O’Hanlon is scant indeed, and largely written by those who were trying to catch him. They had little interest in his motives, which cannot now be determined. However, as Joseph Canning asserts, the link between land settlement and the phenomenon of Toryism in Ireland is generally accepted by historians 5. Oral tradition has preserved the memory of Redmond O’Hanlon as a type of ‘Robin Hood’ figure who only robbed from the rich and who helped the poor. Below are some of the facts that can be gleaned from historical sources.

**REDMOND O’HANLON**

villain or hero?

The family tree of Redmond O’Hanlon cannot now be traced, but it is not unreasonable to assume that he was descended from one of the many brothers or sons of Sir Escaidh O’Hanlon the last Lord of Orier. As such he may have viewed himself as the rightful ruler of Orier and embarked on a life of crime to "seek redress for the wrongs done to his family and clan." Historical evidence about Redmond O’Hanlon is scant indeed, and largely written by those who were trying to catch him. They had little interest in his motives, which cannot now be determined. However, as Joseph Canning asserts, the link between land settlement and the phenomenon of Toryism in Ireland is generally accepted by historians. Oral tradition has preserved the memory of Redmond O’Hanlon as a type of ‘Robin Hood’ figure who only robbed from the rich and who helped the poor. Below are some of the facts that can be gleaned from historical sources.

**THE O’HANLONS**

notorious outlaw of SOUTH ARMAGH

Photograph 'Tandragee Castle' Courtesy of Tayto [NI] Ltd
Redmond O’Hanlon

AT LARGE

“earned unequal notoriety as highwayman”

8. Glen
11. Ballynabeck
5. Slieve Gullion
2. ...
IN THIS AREA

1674 - Redmond O’Hanlon along with several others [including O’Hanlon] is proclaimed an outlaw and a reward of £50 is offered for his capture. Redmond is again “proclaimed.” An award is offered for his capture, this time dead or alive! landlords of Armagh, Down & Meath now take joint action. They hire 100 mercenaries at 30 p per day for 5 months to hunt down the O’Hanlon gang. The reward is £30 for Redmond and £50 for others. Although Redmond is not there, gang members murder Harry St. John, landlord and committed ‘Tory-hunter’ at Tandragee. [St. John’s son earlier died from a fever incurred whilst hunting the gang] Letters tell how ArmaghO’Hanlon operates as “a kind of separate sovereignty in three or four counties” and how he raises more in protection money than the King raises in taxes in the area.

1679 - Redmond O’Hanlon mentioned in London press as having “earned unequal notoriety as a highwayman in Ireland.” [Letter from a Sir Francis Bremer.]

Jan - A proclamation that the families of the outlaws would be ‘confiscated’ unless they are captured or killed, is issued. Jan

Jan - Victory Ormond takes notice. He offers £10 for the head of Redmond O’Hanlon and £5 for his brother Laughlin. June - Seven outlaws are killed but again Redmond escapes.

July - March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

1680 - Redmond O’Hanlon mentioned in London press as having “earned unequal notoriety as a highwayman in Ireland.” [Letter from a Sir Francis Bremer.]

Jan - A proclamation that the families of the outlaws would be ‘confiscated’ unless they are captured or killed, is issued. Jan

Jan - Victory Ormond takes notice. He offers £10 for the head of Redmond O’Hanlon and £5 for his brother Laughlin. June - Seven outlaws are killed but again Redmond escapes.

July - March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

1680, the head of Redmond O’Hanlon and £50 for his capture.

1680 the head of Redmond O’Hanlon and £50 for his capture.

Jan - A proclamation that the families of the outlaws would be ‘confiscated’ unless they are captured or killed, is issued. Jan

1680 - Redmond O’Hanlon mentioned in London press as having “earned unequal notoriety as a highwayman in Ireland.” [Letter from a Sir Francis Bremer.]

Jan - A proclamation that the families of the outlaws would be ‘confiscated’ unless they are captured or killed, is issued. Jan

Jan - Victory Ormond takes notice. He offers £10 for the head of Redmond O’Hanlon and £5 for his brother Laughlin. June - Seven outlaws are killed but again Redmond escapes.

July - March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

1680, the head of Redmond O’Hanlon and £50 for his capture.

1680, the head of Redmond O’Hanlon and £50 for his capture.

Jan - A proclamation that the families of the outlaws would be ‘confiscated’ unless they are captured or killed, is issued. Jan

Jan - Victory Ormond takes notice. He offers £10 for the head of Redmond O’Hanlon and £5 for his brother Laughlin. June - Seven outlaws are killed but again Redmond escapes.

July - March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.

March - Lucas of Dromantine is given the command against Redmond O’Hanlon. Lucas enlisted help of Redmond O’Hanlon. The bounty for Redmond is raised to £200.