

Niall Glundubh and Anrothan O'Neill

CFIS, pg. 102-103

The Ui Neill were the great royal tribal dynasty of the North Gaels. Having separated from the royal kinsmen, the Connachta, shortly after the career of their illustrious fifth century ancestor Niall of the Nine Hostages, they set out from a base in Sligo and soon (by the beginning of the sixth century) monopolized the Sacral High-Kingship of Tara, which for hundreds of years they alternated between their own two illustrious branches, the Northern Ui Neill and the Southern Ui Neill.

The Cineal Eoghan (a clan of the Northern Ui Neill) were the Royal Clan of the North Gaels, associated with the High-Kingship of Tara. Their original patrimony included the modern baronies of Raphoe and Irishowen in Donegal, but from their center at the great fort of *Ailech* in Irishowen, they soon spread through Derry and much Tyrone as well. (Tyrone, Gaelic "Tir Eoghain", the land of Eoghain, is named for them.)

The great O'Neills (O'Neill) themselves descend from Niall Glundubh, High-King of Ireland, who fell fighting against the Vikings near Dublin in 919. (Note: Niall Glundubh was the son of [Aed Finlaith](#) and [Mael Muire](#), daughter of Kenneth mac Alpin of Scotland). His grandson, Domhanall was the first to bear the dynastic name of O'Neill. They were the chief family of the Cineal Eoghain.

The MacLachlan, Lamonts, and MacSweens descend from Niall Glundubh, High-King of Ireland (thus descend from Aed Finlaith, King of Ireland and Kenneth mac Alpin, King of Scots, through his daughter, Mael Muire). The MacSweens descend from Suibhne, son of Dunsleve O'Neill, Lord of Knapdale. They descend from *Anrothan O'Neill*, the Ulster prince who in the first half of the eleventh century married the joint heiress of the Cineal Comhgall (after whom Cowall is named) and their collateral kinsmen the Cineal nGabran of Knapdale. His two grandsons, Donnshleibhe (Dunsleve) and Domhnall (Donald) O'Neill are the ancestors of the branches of the clan. From Dunsleve, lord of Knapdale, are descended the MacLachlans, Lamonts, MacSorleys, MacSweeneys, MacQueens or MacSweens and the MacEwens.

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