

against incursion from the O Donnells of Tyrconnell. Their main influence, however, was in ecclesiastical matters and as churchmen many achieved fame in the medieval Irish church. The *Mac Cathmhaols / Campbells* provided bishops to Clogher, Derry and Armagh and their role in church affairs brought many of them to Armagh. The most noted of the name was *Hugh Mac Cawell*, consecrated Archbishop of Armagh in 1626, but who died before he could occupy his episcopal see. The family name, in a much truncated form, is preserved in the townland name *Clonmakate* in north Armagh adjacent to Maghery; the original form was *Cluain Mhic Cathmhaoil* 'Mac Cathmhaoil's meadow'.¹²

Before leaving the *Mac Cathmhaols* or rather, the *Campbells*, I should mention another family with strong links to Co. Armagh and descended from the same line. In the 14th century a certain *Maelsheachlainn mac an ghirr Mhic Cathmhaoil* ('Malachy, son of the short Mac Cathmhaoil') established his own line now known as *Mac an Ghirr* ('son

of the short fellow') and subsequently anglicised *Mac Girr*, and by translation, *Short*. *Short* can also be of English origin, first recorded in Dorset in 1176, but Irish versions often appear with final *-tt*, as in *Shortt*.¹³

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Footnotes

- ¹ Bell, R: *the Book of Ulster Surnames*, 28
- ² Cameron Gillies, H: *The Place-Names of Argyll*, 3
- ³ Glover, J. R: *The Story of Scotland*, 33
- ⁴ Black, G. F: *The Surnames of Scotland*, 129
- ⁵ *ibid.*, 130
- ⁶ Clan House Publications: *Scots Kith and Kin*, 51-2, 61
- ⁷ Mac Lysaght, E: *More Irish Families*, 46
- ⁸ Bell, R: *obit*, 140
- ⁹ Mac Giolla Domhnaigh, P: *Some Ulster surnames*, 11
- ¹⁰ Mac Lysaght, E: *obit*, 53
- ¹¹ Donnelly, J/Dillon, C: *Gravestone Inscriptions: St. Jarlath's, Confeakle* (Dúiche Néill 4, 60)
- ¹² MacKay, P/Muhr, K: *Lough Neagh Places*, 82
- ¹³ De Bhulbh, S: *Sloinnte Uile Éireann*, 429 / Reaney, P. H: *A Dictionary of British Surnames*, 318

Memories of Mr. Holden

by Madeline Devlin

A memorable person, who lived in Armagh, was Mr. T.W. Holden, the organist in St. Patrick's Cathedral. He was tall, thin, stooped and had fly-away sparse grey hair. He had a gracious manner; a perfect gentleman in every way and was known affectionately as 'Dicky'.

Dicky taught music in St. Patrick's College, singing in the Sacred Heart Convent Secondary School and he trained the Cathedral choir. He also gave private music lessons in his home. My friend Eilish went to him for piano lessons and she learned to play beautiful pieces like 'Minuet in G' and 'Humoresque' while my music teacher had me plodding along with Etudes and Scales. If I had been lucky enough to have gone to Dicky for lessons I would have had more pleasure practising.

The Armagh people were privileged to hear him play beautiful light classical pieces every Sunday on the Cathedral bells. In later years, when he was unable to climb the steep stairs to perform this task, he used to sit on each stair and go up backwards. That's dedication!

He came from an old English family and he had an ancestor beatified - 'Blessed Philip Holden'. Once, at a choir party in the Charlemont Arms Hotel, he told the men a wonderful story. In England, when the monasteries were being sacked by marauding armies, a monk had taken a ciborium filled with sacred Hosts and buried it in the garden near a row of beans. Some time later when the beans were harvested the print of a monsternace was found on each bean. As he said this Dicky put his hand in his waistcoat pocket; took out a little velvet bag, and produced one of the beans.

Canon Pentony and Mr. Holden composed the beautiful hymn 'Hail Christ our King'. I am sure his place in heaven is assured.