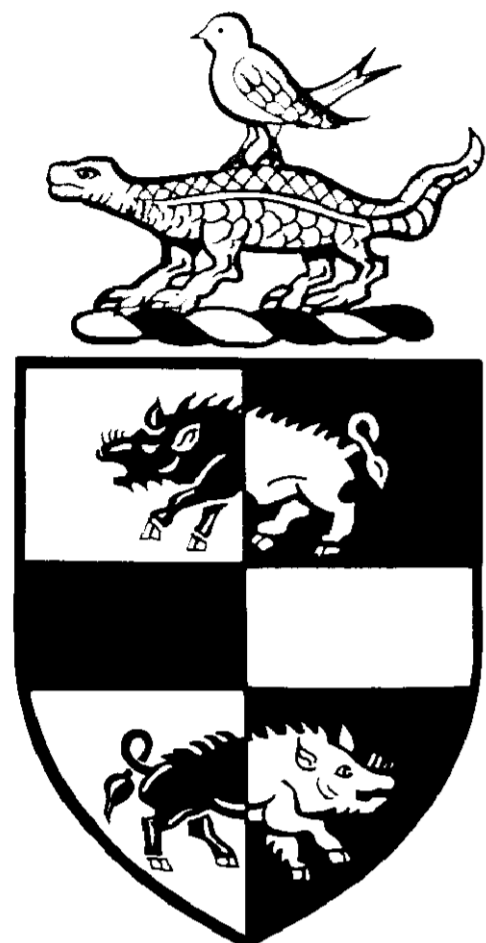


O'SULLIVAN BEARE

CASTLETOWNBERE

Beara-Breifne Way
Slí Bhéara-Breifne



O'Sullivan is the anglicised version of the Irish name Ó Súileabháin. There is some dispute as to the exact origin of the name; *súil* means 'eye', but whether the full name translates as 'one-eyed' or 'hawk-eyed' is uncertain.

The O'Sullivan Clan had their homelands in Tipperary but was driven out by the Anglo-Normans to West Cork and South Kerry.

The Clan divided into three distinct branches: the O'Sullivan Mór were lords of Dunkerron, and possessed the barony of Dunkerron near Kenmare; O'Sullivan of Croc Raffan were chiefs of Knockgraffan in Tipperary and O'Sullivan Beare controlled the baronies of Beare and Bantry in West Cork.

The seat of the Chief of the O'Sullivan Beare clan was at Dunboy Castle.

Donal Cam was to be the last independent ruler of the O'Sullivan Beare clan in the wake of English attempts to secure rule over the whole of Ireland and has been called the "Last Prince of Ireland."

Following the Irish defeat at the Battle of Kinsale and the subsequent attacks on his castles and people, Donal Cam O'Sullivan Beare made the decision to withdraw from his ravaged kingdom and undertake an epic march to Breifne, Co. Leitrim.

On being refused a formal pardon and the restoration of his lands by James I, O'Sullivan Beare and his family sailed for Spain in 1604, where he lived in exile. He was killed by a servant in 1618 and is buried in Coruna in northern Spain.

The motto translates as "The Steady Hand to Victory"