

## *“the mode of sepulture, according to the tradition<sup>1</sup> of the country”*



12<sup>th</sup> century tomb-shrine covering the shallow grave of the body/relic of St. Tighernach, Clones, county Monaghan, “Airghialla”, Ulster, Ireland, originally near the High Altar of the *Great Church of Clones*.

- *“the bones found in the stone coffin, when a fresh interment is made, are carefully removed, and, afterwards placed in a wooden coffin wherein the recent body was brought to the graveyard, and are buried near the stone sepulchre.”*

Before raising the body of his father, without aid (from the ‘catafalque’) :

- *“It was considered the duty of the heir of the latterly deceased person, after having cleared out the tomb by removing the bones, to raise the body of his relative, and, without any aid from others, to deposit it in its **temporary resting-place**” .....*

.....and turning to face the noble assembly : *“His **full noble body** was buried with befitting **pomp and solemnity in the tomb of his ancestors** on the south side of Teampull Odhrain; the **sacred storehouse of his predecessors and guardian of their bones.**”*

*“Brian, the son of Hugh MacMahon, assumed the lordship of Oriel (Airghialla). He sued for an alliance by marriage with Sorley, son of Owen Duv Macdonnell, heir to the Lordship of the Insi-Gall, and High Constable of the province of Ulster.”* Sorely : *“the noble, well-born offspring, to wit, **one who was to be King of Insi-Gall.**”* (Annals of Four Masters 1365.8 (recte 1362). **Sorely is the 1<sup>st</sup> cousin, once removed, of Iona Abbot John MacAlasandair/Allister**)

n.1. **TRADITION:** The burials, *depositio ad sanctos*, and worn inscriptions include as verified “by several intelligent persons,” the Tyrone Macdonnells -“*Clann Alaxandair*”, were **Macdonnell Galloglaigh High Constables of Ulster.** “*They were the noble sons of a valiant father, scions of a noble line*”, that is, of none other than the undeposed Lord of The Isles, MacDonald Chief III, Alaxandair OG (k.1299).