

Meaning of Irish Names

A Dictionary of Surnames¹ has no entry for Hayde, Hade, Heide, or Haide. It only has the following:

“Hayden

- 1) *English: Habitation name from any of the places called Hayden or Haydon.*
- 2) *Irish: Anglicized form of Gael, O hEideain and O hEidin.*

MacLysaght’s “Supplement to Irish Families” has the following entry:

“Haide

This name is also spelt Hade and Hayde. It is not an English name and is probably an Anglicised form of some Gaelic Irish surname. Richard Foley (Fiachra Eilgeach) considered that it is an abbreviation of O hEidin. This is the only opinion on the origin of the name that I have heard. I give it without comment, beyond saying that it certainly belongs to the same parts of the country as Hayden viz south Leinster and Tipperary. It is also found in Kildare (actually Carlow), where there is a place-name Ballyhade². It is not numerous anywhere: there were 8 births registered for the name in 1866 and less than 5 in 1890.

The English family of Head, associated with Tipperary since the end of the 17th century is not, I think, to be confused with Hade.”

“Head(e)

This is occasionally a surname of the nickname type, but usually it is a locative name denoting a dweller at the head of a river. It appears as a principal name in the 1659 census in Meath and Tipperary and in that century was of some note in Waterford and Cork. Though of English origin, families of this name were largely Catholic and transplantation as papists under Cromwell accounts for their presence today in east Galway. References in 17th century documents to Ballyhead in Kildare (now Ballyhade) have no relation to the surname Head.

A book called “Sloinnte Gaedheal agus Gall” by Patrick Wolfe pre-dates McLysaght by some 50 years and forms the standard reference for many researchers into the origins of Irish names. It however has no references for Hade, Haide, Hayde, Head or Heade. This implies that the name does not have a long or extensive Irish history.

¹ By Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges and published by Oxford

² Ballyhade is 2 kms north of Burton Hall, Co Carlow. Burton Hall was the residence of a Hayde/Hade family in the 1860s.

The Ua hEidin clan

In records of the history of Ireland, it appears that by 1100 AD, in pre-Norman times, there was a clan called Ua hEidin in the Galway area – around Galway City. These records refer to this clan as the Gaelic version of O'Heyne and O'Headon.

This is consistent with what is mentioned on the previous page however it dates from a time long before Cromwell and the transplantation. It therefore shows a potential origin of this family.

I am however yet to be convinced that there is a link between the Hayden/Headon families and our Hayde/Haide/Heade family. The reasons for this are:

- Firstly, there is as yet no proven DNA linkage, and
- Secondly, there is quite a different enunciation between the two sets of names. Even in the times of illiteracy and reliance upon sounds there is quite a difference.

I am also unsure as to how or why they would have moved from Galway to where they seemed to be in 1667 – Tipperary.

Gaelic Name

Hayde spelt in Gaelic is ĒIDEAD.

There is no obvious early record of this name.

The Old Irish Naming Patterns

The Irish traditionally named their children as follows:

Sons

- 1st, after father's father
- 2nd, after mother's father
- 3rd, after father
- 4th, after father's eldest brother
- 5th, after mother's elder brother

Daughters

- 1st, after mother's mother
- 2nd, after father's mother
- 3rd, after mother
- 4th, after mother's eldest sister
- 5th, after father's eldest sister