



O'Sullivan's March

March

Trad.

O'Sullivan's March

Donal Cam O'Sullivan undertook this famous and epic march to Leitrim through the Counties of Cork, Limerick, Tipperary, Offaly, Galway, Roscommon, Sligo and eventually Leitrim, as a result of the Irish and the Spanish defeat by the English at the Battle of Kinsale (1601). Four Spanish-Ally-defended castles along the South West Coast of Ireland surrendered, so Donal Cam, chieftain of the O'Sullivan Clan rushed back to Dunboy and began to fortify the castle against attack. In 1602, Crown forces stormed the castle and bombarded it with cannon-fire. O'Sullivan fled the Beara peninsula and began the long march to Leitrim to meet the O'Rourkes. Accompanying him were 1,000 men, women and children representing the first large-scale exodus of people from Beara peninsula region. In the middle of January 1603, they finally reached their destination with only 35 people remaining, many settling along the route and known since then in these localities as the Bearas.



Donal Cam O'Sullivan Beare, Prince of Beara, (1561–1618)

