

# Menlough native launches Anglicizing Tudor Connacht

By David Burke

THE bloody and treacherous history of this region was recalled in Claregalway Castle on Friday night at the launch of a new book on the conquest of Connacht by the English.

The castle was a most appropriate venue for the launch. Its owner and restorer, Dr Eamonn O'Donoghue, commented that it would have been known to many of the personalities in the book.

One example was Ulick Burke, who gathered his forces here in 1504 before heading out to fight the Earl of Kildare at the Battle of Knockdoe, a disaster for him.

While Claregalway and its castle feature prominently, a host of local place names pepper the book: Abbert, Ahascragh, Athenry to Dunmore, Kilkerrin, Killasolan and Tuam.

The book, *Anglicizing Tudor*



**ARCHAEOLOGIST** Dr Mags Mannion from Tuam, with Dr Joe Mannion. The book is published by Four Courts Press.

*Connacht*, is the result of almost 20 years of research by its author, Dr Joe Mannion, a retired primary school principal, originally from Menlough.

The subtitle explains the scope of the book: The expansion of English rule in the lordships of Clanrickard and

Hy Many.

To put it simply, the Burkes, descended from the Anglo-Normans, ruled Clanrickard and the O'Kellys, native Irish, held Hy Many. The objective of the English was to bring them both under the authority of the Crown.



**SPEAKERS** at the official launch of *Anglicizing Tudor Connacht* in Claregalway Castle on Friday evening: Joe Kelly, President of the Kelly Clans Association; Donal Burke, Manager of the Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna; Dr Joe Mannion, author; Professor Emeritus Steven G. Ellis, Dr Eamonn O'Donoghue, and Marie Mannion, Galway County Heritage Officer.

However, as Donal Burke, Herald of Arms, pointed out at the launch, there were many local strong men who would do anything expedient to hold on to or increase their power and one-time allies could be

mortal enemies years later. The launch was performed by Prof Steven Ellis. He praised the depth of research, going beyond the State Paper to delve into user rolls, inquisitions, and financial accounts

to reach its conclusions. This is the period during which the county of Galway was created, and the English forms of administration were gradually introduced to supplant the old Gaelic system.



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