

## **Abstract**

One of the most successful and infamous networks credited with playing a direct part in sixteenth century revolt against English colonisation was headed by Lady Agnes Campbell and her daughter Fionnuala O'Donnell. Lady Agnes was the sister of the Scottish Earl of Argyle. Lady Agnes' first marriage had been to James MacDonnell, Lord of the Scottish Isles, an act that united the previously warring clans of MacDonald and Campbell. After widowhood, Agnes and her daughter took their military dowries, in the form of 1,200 troops each, and selected marriages to two Irish rebel leaders. From Ireland they networked and fought against English colonial forces. This paper will explore the issue of female resistance to colonial authority, and the fact that Agnes was credited with being the ruler of these clans, directing resistance, and 'making herself strong in Ireland'. This is a study of both female resistance to colonisation, and the military role of gaelic women in borderland warfare during the sixteenth century.