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**November 2006**

**14 D 10**

**Ordnance Survey of Ireland: Letters, Kilkenny (Vol.2)**

**O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; O'Curry, Eugene**

**Assorted letters, extracts, sketches and maps, relating to the history, antiquities and topography of the Co. Kilkenny, with particular reference to its abbeys, churches, burial grounds, place names and ancient lordships.**

**ill. 1838-1839; 250p.**

**Disbound, conserved and boxed by the Delmas Conservation Bindery. Conservation funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, January 2005.**

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**Includes outsize material.**

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14 D 9/1

[Unknown]

Title page and index to the Ordnance Survey letters, relating to Co. Kilkenny.

1839

2p.

25 cm (i); 23 cm (ii)

RIA

1839

R.R.  
14

89

Letters

containing information relative  
to the

Antiquities  
of the

County of Kilkenny

collected during the

progress of the

Ordnance Survey

in

1839

Vol I

14/10/9/10



# Kilkenney Letters Volumes 1 & 2

Curry	Castlecumber	Aug 15	to 6. 1st. 18	Aug - 17
Ext	"	✓	" 18	" 20
OK	"	✓	" 19	" 22
"	"	✓	" "	" 22
Curry	"	✓	" "	" 22
"	B. ragget	✓	" 20	" 24
"	"	✓	" 22	" "
"	"	✓	" 22	" 27
"	Johnstown	✓	" 25	" 26
"	"	✓	" 28	" 31
"	"	✓	" 28	" 2 Sept
"	Freshford	Sept 1	Clonanta Garmamagh	} 6 Sept 29
"	"	"	Tubrid Kilshy Kilcooley	
OK	Kilkenney	✓ 6	Wanting Wakenen &	9
"	"	Re 29	" Extracts	9
Ext	Freshford	✓ 1	Freshford P	10
"	Curry Kilkenney	✓ 6	Ballylacken Odagh	} 10
"	"	"	Clashy Crow Ballinamara	
"	OK	"	✓ 7 Tiscoffin Pa	10
"	Curry	"	✓ 9 Ballycullen, Kilmunagh	12
"	OK	"	✓ 9 Blykrath, Clara & Marting	} 14
"	"	"	Kilberry, Kilkerrin, Shankill	
OK	Thomastown	✓ 11	Tullowhills	13
"	"	"	✓ 14 Kilmun, Gargues Kilfenora	18
"	"	"	Powerstown	10/10

2  
 Eat Curry Tho town 14 Sept Outrath Castleinch Grange } To Chas Lr  
 Wanesfort Emionay Heastown } Sept 18  
 Grove Stone curtry }

" " " 15 Sept Burnchurch — " 18

" O W " 15 " Kilnacahill Grange Sylva " 18

" Curry " 15 " Callan, Killaloo Tullamaine } " 20  
 Earlstown — }

" O W " 16 " Kilree, Kells, — " 20

" Curry Pitttown 23 " Ballytohir Mallardstown }  
 Bonamuggin Coolagh. Kilmanny } " 24  
 Kilmagary — }

" " " 24 Knocktopher aghaviller — 28

- O W Limerick 24. Wuntong, Clare Baccant

- Curry " 28 Kilcassay Kellahy. Kilbeacon } 2 Oct  
 Rossinan. Lisnateige — }

Eat O W Do 2 Sept Bawer, Desertmoon, Shanboagh }  
 Ballygarra, Kilbride Kilmatavoge } 7 "  
 Kilcolum — }

Eat Curry Tho town 15<sup>th</sup> St Canice, John, Patrick P. - 9 "

" " Limerick 1 Oct. Castlane, Owning, Monkeely - 9 "  
 Fiddown —

O W " 1 Oct Rathpatrick Wuntitt Kilcullcheen 9 "

" " 14 " Clonamery, St Columbkille 9 "

Exp. W. Limerick 3 Oct. Tybroughney Kilnacore } 9 Oct.  
Clonmore Tahirid Ullid. &c.

"Cory " 3 " The House Suckage; Famine 11 "

RIA

**END**

14 D 9/2

O'Curry, Eugene

Letters, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, concerning his arrival, with Patrick O'Keefe, in the county to begin the field work for the Ordnance Survey.

13-14 August 1839

3p.

23 cm

O'Curry refers to the 'fine Irish' spoken in Castlecomer.

RIA



4  
Castletown Ireland.

13<sup>th</sup> August 1839.

T. A. Lacom Esq. R. E.

Sir,

We arrived here from Fallow on yesterday evening, and on this morning commenced operations, as far as we could do in the absence of a map and diagram. Mr. St. went through this parish, Anthony Leary, through Abbeyfeix and myself thro' Muckles, as you shall hear more at large in a day or two.

I date this letter from Ireland, and I am certain with great propriety, as well as with much gratification to myself, for I do feel that I am now on Irish ground, not so when at the east side of the Barron where they have nothing but Bad English, White Frize, good potatoes, and the girls all wearing shaw, stockings and bonnets, but here, glory to them, they all speak fine Irish, and English, wear blue frize, drink Whiskey, dance and fight, the girls all going barefooted

W/L 19/2 (1)

5 and bareheaded; in short here is every good manner and custom, that ought to distinguish a decent country town in Ireland.

If we can survive this month here, no there is no fear that any real Irishman will ever die of eating the oldest and worst Connacht Lumper Potatoes that ever any country produced.

We want as soon as possible that portion of O'Riadh's topographical poems which relates to all places from the Barrow to Cashel. As well as I remembered it being on the fourth page of O'Leary's copy in the Royal Irish Academy, and commences with Ossory.

We also want every reference <sup>to</sup> Saint Fintan's Church of Leamhchoill, in Leix, whose Church has been made out by Mr. K. Let the Leabhar Breac be closely examined for this, and particular notice taken of any note that may happen



to be at the bottom of the page.

6

If it is usual to furnish out Carpenter's  
rules for the measurement of ancient  
buildings on this business, we will thank  
you for two, one for Mr. Skeffe and  
another for myself, there <sup>is</sup> no such thing  
to be got here, nor until we go to the  
fair town of Kilkenny.

I remain Sir your very obedient servant

Eugene Curry

2 / 7  
Cartles comes 14<sup>th</sup> August 1839

J. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

Sir

I regret to find that the maps &c for this County have been sent to Tullow. I did not leave any order for redirection with the postmaster there, because in the first place I had reason to think that he would not act on such order, and secondly as I had given sufficient notice of my intention to leave Tullow on Monday for this place.

I wrote however this <sup>day</sup> requesting the parcel to be forwarded to me, but do not expect that my letter will be answered, so that I think it would <sup>be</sup> better you should write at once on the subject.

It has rained incessantly and heavily here since 8 o'clock yesterday evening up to this so that we have not been able to go out of doors this day.

O'Keefe has no longer any complaint

14/0/9/2 (m)

8 but his usual debility, his appetite is pretty good, and I think that as much may be expected from him now as at any former period, considering the general cold temperament of his body & mind.

I cannot give any opinion of the meaning of "Brusana Var," which you were pleased to refer to me, until I be told the County in which it lies, that I may judge from the local idioms what the pronunciation may be, but as far as I may venture now I would take it to be crop and more, Bros Ana mhoir. is Great or big Anna's Croft.

I wish to know if there is any reference in the Irish Calendar or other authority to the Church of Mucallee, or Macalighe or any other form of it, or to the Church of Disert Munn or Munna or anything bordering on that name.

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Henry Lewis

**END**

14 D 9/3

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, in which he writes of his slow progress in survey in neighbouring towns and parishes, owing to the continuing bad weather.

16 August 1839

1p.

24 cm

Included are references to his thoughts regarding the origin of the place name Crus an Var.



9  
Castle corner 16<sup>th</sup> August 1839

J. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

Sir,

~~The name Crus-an-a-Bar which you referred to me for explanation, <sup>does</sup> ~~did~~ not occur in the district of the County of Wicklow, which I have investigated; however I think that the orthography and meaning which I have already sent you may be depended on as correct, viz. Crop and mair, Crus Ana mair, i.e. Big Anna's crops. There are several croproads in Ireland called after the persons or persons who at the time of their formation happened to be living nearest them.~~

We received the parcels from Tullow by this morning's post, as well as the other parcel from the O.S. office, of yesterday's date.

I am sorry, indeed, and almost ashamed to say how slowly we are getting on here, not

14/10/9/3

10  
However to disinclination or inability to work can the  
delay be excused, but to the incessant and heavy fall  
of rain, since Tuesday evening last up to this  
evening.

Two ~~few~~ dry days would see us clear out of  
the Barmy, by enabling us to traverse the remainder  
of it and perfect our notes of the parts we have  
already partially investigated.

We made sallies out this day to Coolcullen  
and Donoghmore parish, but gained very little  
except a thorough wetting.

We want any references that may be found to  
the following places, from the Irish Calendar:

Donoghmore, — Billmochara, — Billmodiomog, —  
Billbhullan, — Rosbhonnail, — Billbhuan, —  
Bill Mionan, — <sup>Bill na Sintain</sup>, — and from the Annals of the  
Four Masters all references to the River Coir (Coir,  
and Beal athragadh.

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Engineer



**END**

14 D 9/4

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history and antiquities of the townland of Coolcullen and parishes of Muckalee, Mayne, Kilmacar, Coolcraheen and Dysart, with particular reference to their early churches, burial grounds and the origins of their place names.

18 August 1839

10p.

Please measure.

ill; ink sketches of a window from Muckalee old church and the doorway of Coolcraheen old church.

Included are extracts from O'Huidhrin's topographical poetry concerning the ancient territory of Hy Duach.



T. A. Lecom. Esq. P. E.

Sir,

The Barony of Fassadinan in this County (Wick) appears to be coextensive with the ancient territory of Ríge Duach, the patrimony of the family of O'Braonain now anglicised Brennan, and who still continue a very numerous, though not wealthy, Clan in this barony.

Giuliana Maria O'Beidrin, in his topographical poem on Limerick and Munster has the following reference to this district:

Іакоже не бліска ані бралаго твѣ. Яко на сьмѣе азъ євалобати  
єли да єомѣюга оръ маїа маїл, ѡдощекѣ зломъ та брала.

huy ouac opie an fuy te. ptonclay pampin na ptonpe  
ni padakta pto an clay. pti a bapanta o bponam.

Near Barrow of the productive banks,

The King of that Country you have heard,

A man selected over the plain of Mail,

The bright o'Donoghue of Gabhran.

14/0/9/4(5)

Ry-Duach of ossoy of the warm soil  
 The extensive plain of the Nore  
 The woods of the plain are not weak  
 The man who uphold it is O'Braonain.

From this we can see that Ry-Duach was bounded  
 on the south by Gowran, O'Donoghue's country, on  
 the west by the Nore (River) on the north by  
 Leix or Abbeys Leix and on the east by some  
 district in the Queen's County, which in the  
 absence of a map I cannot more accurately  
 refer to.

From O'Keefe's description we have the southern  
 and western boundaries of Ry-Duach clearly  
 enough pointed out, and from the Festiology  
 of Genyus the builder of Fallagh we have  
 it that the church of Fiontan Corach at  
 Lowhill (Seamshill) in the parish of Abbeys-  
 leix in this Barony, was situated between  
 Ry-Duach and Leix or Laoighis. It would  
 appear however that Ry-Duach extended  
 to the west of the River Nore, towards the  
 north, as we find that the church of Durnow  
 in this county, which is always mentioned

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as Darnhaigh or Durnow I'ndinagh, is situated on the western bank of that river.

The barony of Passadinan appears to have taken its name from the source of the river Dinan which runs down from the <sup>by Muckalee</sup> Queen's County, & meets the little river Dian which runs thro' Castlecomer, near the old burial ground of Disart, about a mile from Castlecomer, from which they united, under the name of the Dinan, fall into the Nore at Durnmore.

The name of the barony then is made up of Pasach, a wilderness, and Dinan, rather Dianan, the fast or rapid (river), hence Pasach a dianan, anglicised Passadinan is the wilderness of the Dinan or Dianan.

### Of the parish of Coolcullen East.

The parish of Coolcullen East in the Barony of Passadinan and County of Wick, is bounded on the north by the parish of Dysart, on the east and a portion of the south by Follow-reen and Old Seighlin Barony of Idone West County of Galway; on the south by Tiscoffin

14/10/9/4 (11)



144  
and on the West by Muckalee and Rathcoole  
Barony of Gowran. See. Name, Book.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin; for it means nothing more than the recess or nook of the Ballytree.

No remain of Antiquity has been discovered in this parish, but one little burial place of still born infants, called Beilig na ngarlach or the burial place of the infants; which lies in the townland of Coolcullen. (There is one Rath in the townland of Beilicran here in this parish.)

### Of the parish Coolcullen West.

The parish of Coolcullen West is bounded on the north by the parish of Kilmacan; on the East by the parishes of Dysart & Muckalee Barony of Fassadinan; on the South by the parishes of Kilmadrum and Kilmadinnoge, and on the West by the parishes of Grange McComb and Mayne barony of Fassadinan.

The name of this parish is of the

15  
5

same origin with that immediately preceding it.

There is a small obsolete burial ground, called r-geach na n-geaplach (I-geach na n-gearlagh), i.e. the Burial of the Infants, in the townland of Lios-na-fuinneoin in this parish, no trace of a church can be discovered about it.

There is an ancient Rath in Esker T. L., and another in Madleen T. L. in same parish.

### of the parish of Muckalee.

The parish of Muckalee in the Barony of Nassadun, County of Kilkenny, is bounded on the North by the parish of Dysart, on the East by the parish of Coolcullen; on the South by the parishes of Rathcoole, Muckalee & Kilmadam, and on the West by Coolcullen. See Name Book.

The origin of the name of this parish is rather obscure and must stand over, for further investigation, to a future time.

The old Church of Muckalee stands in ruins

4/10/9/4 (m)



in the townland of the same name. It was 62 feet long and 18 broad. The north wall is completely levelled, but 42 feet of the south wall remains joining the western gable. Both the gables remain in good preservation. The west gable has a square perforated bellpy at top; ~~with~~ <sup>and</sup> a pointed doorway in the middle, six feet six inches high, <sup>and</sup> four feet six inches wide.

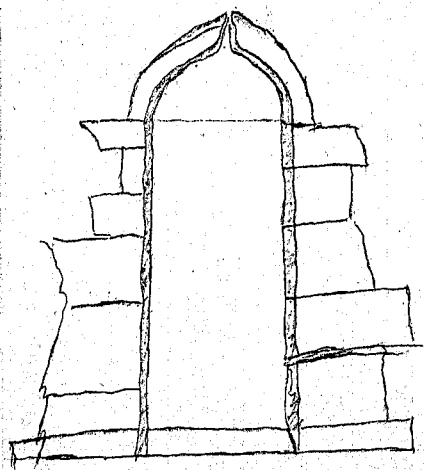
The arch is low, composed of thin flag stones, or turned on hurdles, the marks of which remain in the mortar at top. The wall at this door is four feet thick at four feet from the ground, and diminishes upwards. There is a Loophole in the south side (low) at this ~~an~~ gable eighteen inches in breadth inside, and outside three inches wide in the middle, and three feet high.

The stones are not remarkably large, nor laid in regular courses; portions of strong mortar remain attached to the walls on the inside and outside.

There is a window in the East gable, with inclined sides and pointed top, on the outside, but perpendicular sides & square at top on the

inside, where it measures three feet three inches in breadth, and six feet in height.

The following will give you some idea of the front of this window.



This window is four feet six inches high in front, one foot wide at bottom and 10 inches wide at the springing of the arch.

Although this ruin has some features of considerable antiquity about <sup>it</sup>, still I don't think it a very old church.

There is a headstone standing against the east gable inside, inscribed to the memory of the Rev<sup>d</sup> James Cornerford, and dated 1749.

There was a Patron held here on the eighth day of September, till about the year 1830.

Portion of an old castle, of no great

14/5/9/4(10)

strength, are to be seen in the townland of Cloughrinka, in this parish. This Castle was built, if tradition be true, by Dermot O'Leary (swarthy), O'Brennan, several generations ago, and got its name of Cloch a Roinnte cloch aponnte is the dividing stone, or Castle, and not Clough a Raintee or the Dancing Stone, from a division of territory made by the above Dermot among his children, all the divisions diverging from this Castle.

There is a large Moot and a Rath in the townland of Gallstown in this parish, near the fumes of which some military weapons of great antiquity were dug up, many years ago, but none of them can be found at present.

Lighe in his Statistical Survey of the County Kilkenny made in the year 1802, says, page 633, that there was, then, a place in this parish, called in Irish Reiligna lugh deigh, or the burying place of the black Conghs,



where stood about twenty upright stones, placed like grave stones, at the head and feet of bodies in which he believed, from Keatings description, to be the scene of the battle of Magh Ailbhe which was fought in the year 913, between between Domnall Mac Gillinan, King & Arch bishop of Cashel, and the King of Leinster, in which the former was killed. I doubt that this place, which we have sought for in vain, was the scene of the battle above referred to.

### of the parish of Dysart.

The parish of Dysart in the Barony of Passadinan, County of Kilkenny, is bounded on the West by the parishes of Kilmacar and Coolcullen; on the south by the parishes of Muckalee and Coolcullen, Barony of Passadinan, and Tullowreen Barony of Idroone West, Co. of Carlow; on the East and North-east by the parish of Castlecomer, and

14/10/9/4(V)

on the North by the parish of Kilmacaw, Bar-  
of Fossadinan. See Name book.

The name of this parish appears to be of eccle-  
siastical origin, Disert, meaning a solitary,  
secluded habitation, a retreat &c, but generally  
prefixed to a persons name as Disert Martin  
&c. This place too is joined to a name, but  
whether of man, woman, beast or locality  
we cannot at present decide. Locally  
it is called Disert, only, but in Archdalls  
Monasticon, under the head of Kilcleeheen,  
we find it called Dissertmon and  
Dissertmoan. [Dysertmoan a different Parish. See it  
described in Vol. II. pp. 162-3.]

The old church of Dysert was situated  
on the north bank of the River Diaran,  
near its confluence with the Dran, about  
a mile south of Bartlecorner; the ruins  
with the greater part of the burial ground  
were swept away by one of the frequent  
torrents, to which that river is liable, several  
years ago; a small portion only of the burial  
ground now remaining, protected by a stone  
wall on the river side.

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On the townland of Boon in this parish, they  
show the foundation of an old Castle, in the  
centre of a piece of ground 45 Yards square,  
surrounded by a trench eight feet deep and  
twelve in breadth. This castle according  
to tradition was called Caistein Chruain  
Theidhlinn M'Keill i.e. The Castle of the  
Whelps of Feilim M'Keill, and stood  
to a considerable height till about twelve  
years ago. Nobody remembering why it got  
the above name.

There is a small grave yard called bill  
Chruain, on the same townland. It is  
no longer sought as a place of sepulture,  
since the new Catholic Church was  
built in its neighbourhood, where all the  
people prefer to take up ~~the~~ last abode.

This custom is spreading fast over  
the province of Leinster, more especially  
since that wise law called the "Bogymen"

14/10/9/4(VI)



of "Burial Bill", was passed by the collective folly and stupid intellect of the empire.

## Of the parish of Mayne.

The parish of Mayne is bounded on the North by the parishes of Coolcraheen & Grange M., Combs, on the East by the parish of Coolcullen, on the South by the parishes of Kilmadimoge and Dunmore in the Barony of Fowran & Fassadinian, and on the West by a portion of Coolcraheen, Barony of Cranagh and Odagh, Barony of Fassadinian & Cranagh, See Kancoborth.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin. Its proper orthography is *Maighin*, i.e. the Little Plain, and yet the people call the old churchyard of Lenkeytown in this parish, *Teampall maon*, *Teampall Maon*, i.e. the Temple or Church of Maon, but I don't remember ever having heard any



person, saint or sinner, of this name but the famous  
 Eabhradh Doingsreach King of Leinster. If the  
 name should be found in it among the  
 Irish Saints, it would of course alter the  
 derivation of the name of the parish.

The East gate of Teampall <sup>Mam</sup> Flood on the  
 northern bank of the Dinan river in the  
 Townland of Jenkinstown (alias Cor-  
 calagh) until 4 years ago, it was swept  
 away, with a large portion of the grave  
 yard by the force of <sup>one of the</sup> ~~that~~ mountain  
 torrents of the above river. It contained  
 one square window. This <sup>group of</sup> and an old  
 Rath on Gragar townland, are the only  
 remainings of antiquity in the parish.

### Of the parish of Coolcrakeen.

The parish of Coolcrakeen in the barony  
 of Passadinan, county of Kilkenny, is bounded  
 on the North by the parishes of Rathboy and  
 Grange McComb, on the East by and a

14/10/9/4 (viii)

portion of the south by the parish of Mayne  
Barony of Massadiman, on the south and west  
by Oagh and Freshford Barony of Lannagh,  
see Name Book.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin. It appears to be a mismame for leuit araheen (ie the recess of the Raiheen) in which form it appears in all the old maps.

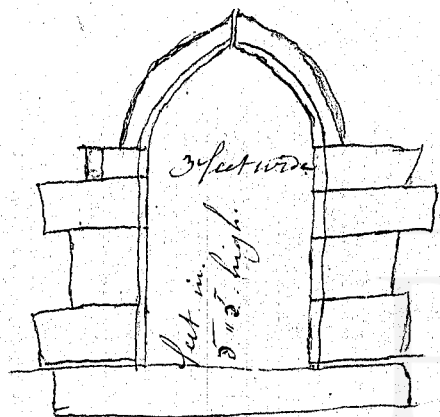
The old church of Coolcraheen stands in the townland of Phanganny. It measures 61 feet in length; <sup>wall</sup> and having a gable running across it at 36 feet from west gable. It is 18 feet wide in this division, and 16 in the other.

Both the side walls remain standing; the east gable is a little dilapidated; ~~the~~ the middle gable nearly sunk with the ground, the west gable nearly so too; excepting a small portion of it that joins the south wall.

Fifteen feet from the west end, on the south side there is a pointed arched

doorway, 4 feet wide on the inside, and 6 feet 6 inches high; three feet wide on the outside, and five feet five inches high of which the arch makes one foot ten inches.

The following will give you an idea of the front of this door.

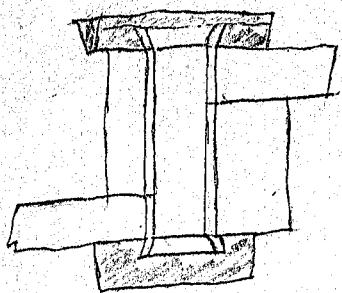


Doorway built of cut stone.

At the distance of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the door, on the same side, is a square window, four feet wide, and five high, on the inside; three feet four inches high, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide on the outside. This handsome little window is built of well cut stone, like those in the doorway. The following representation will give some idea of its appearance in front.

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The stones on the inside  
are not chiseled.

There is a broken window in the east  
gable and another in the north wall  
three feet from that gable.

The western wall of Shangany  
castle, to the length of 26 feet and  
height of twenty feet, remains in the  
same towerland.

### Of the parish of Kilmacar.

The parish of Kilmacar in the barony  
of Fassadenian and County of Wick  
is bounded on the northwest & north  
by the parish of Donoghmore, also  
Ballyragget, on the east by Castlecomer,  
and Dyrrut; on the south by Coolcullen



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and on the west by Grange MacComb.

The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin, and derived from some one of the old Irish Saints, named Mochara or Mocheara, but of whom I have not been able as yet to discover any account.

The ruined old Church of Kilinocan lies in the townland of the same name, measuring 56 feet in length, and 19½ in breadth. The ~~two~~ West gable remaining to the full height, (having a public house built up against it on the outside, the door of which is within one foot of the gable,) the sidewalls remain to the height of seven feet, ~~for~~ and to the distance of twelve feet from West gable, where a doorway appears in either side; that on the north, ~~being~~ remaining (except a few stones) to the springing of the arch, to which it measures five feet 8 inches in height, and two feet nine

14/10/9/4(x)

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nches wide in front, with a deep reveal  
in the stone for a door, rounded, the out-  
side, and mortices in either side for  
a <sup>small iron</sup> bar. <sup>the</sup> doorway is built of well cut  
stone, the angles cut deeply off, on the  
inside and outside. The first stone  
of the arch remaining at top on either side,  
of this door. The cut stones of the doorway  
on the south side have disappeared ex-  
cepting a few in the inside jamb on  
the left as you go in. The walls from  
the doors to the east end are <sup>about</sup> ~~four~~ five  
feet high, and built up in some places  
loosely without order or mortar, I suppose  
by the peasantry. The east gable is gone  
nearly to the foundation. The stones  
in the original walls are small & square,  
and laid in regular courses in good mor-  
tar. I don't think any part of this  
church is of seven hundred years standing.

There is a Patron held till on the 29th  
June at Lady's well, about half a mile

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east of the church, but this well is  
no longer to be seen.

The burying ground at the church is  
large and much frequented. There  
is a Moat on the other side of the  
road on the west, with the site of an  
old Castle; this place is popularly  
called the Banack.

There is a Rath in every townland  
of this parish, ~~and~~ two in a few of them.

We will be able to leave this  
for Ballyragget on the 20<sup>th</sup> to enter  
on the Barrony of Galinoy from  
that side, as it has no central  
post town, so that all communications  
from tomorrow evening out would better  
be sent there.

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Eugene Leamy

14/10/9/4(x)

**END**



14 D 9/5

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O']Curry, written from Castlecomer, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parishes of Kilmadum, Dunmore, Grange McComb (Grangemaccomb) and Kilmademoge, Co. Kilkenny, with particular reference to their early churches, burial grounds and the origins of their place names.

19 August 1839

6p.

23 cm



39  
Castletown 19<sup>th</sup> August 1839

J. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

Sir,

The parish of Kilmadum is bounded on the north and east by the parishes of Coolcullen and Muckalee Barony of Fassadinan, on the south by the parishes of Muckalee Kilderry and Rathcoole in the Barony of Gowran, and on the west by the parish of Kilmadinoge in the Barony of Fassadinan; all in the County of Kilkenny. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is derived from the founder or patron of it, who is remembered here under the name of Mothoma, Modhoma, hence Kil Modhoma is the Cell or Church of Modhoma. Nothing more than the name of this saint is remembered in the parish.

4/10/9/5(1)

The site of the Church of Kilmodurn lies in the townland of that name. The foundation is distinct enough, and bits of the angles at the east end remain to the height of seven feet; wall two feet nine inches thick; built of small square quarry stones, and apparently of great antiquity.

The original building was 48 feet long and some eighteen wide. There remain no appearance of graves about it, and no body has been buried there within many memory. There is a small enclosure like a low Rath a little to the south of the old church in the ~~town~~<sup>of Ballyfoyle</sup> townland, which the people call Bill Killebogues (or the Cell of Mardhoge) there remains no appearance of a building, but they make it the place of sepulture of still born or very young infants.

The butt of a fine old Castle remains in the townland of Ballyfoyle in this parish. It is 36 feet square on the outside.



32

(I could not get into it) about 30 feet high, the walls at bottom eight feet thick.

Each side of it containing <sup>three</sup> round topped loop holes built of finely cut black lime stone, and each of the angles containing a very narrow loop hole at considerable height. There is a square window high up on the south side.

This castle is supposed by Figue in his statistical survey of the County of Kilkenny, page 637, to have belonged to the Pincel family.

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*Of the parish of Kilnademooge*

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The parish of Kilnademooge is bounded on the east by the parish of Kilmadrum, on the west by Dummone, on the north by the parishes of Mayne and Coolcullen and on the south by Saint John & Kilderry, Barony of Gowran. See Name & Book.

14/10/19/5 (11)



The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin and derived from Diomagog i.e. Dioma the little or the younger; the prefix Mo, being nothing but a term of endearment often found attached to the names of Irish saints, as Maodhogs, Mochaomhogs &c. I have no historical reference to this saint, but I remember that there is mention made in ~~the~~ some of the Irish accounts of saints, that several of the children of Dioma had religious establishments in this district, and from this I would suppose that Modiomoge, <sup>and</sup> Modhuima, of Kilmodun, ~~were~~ were of his sons, and that Mochole his daughter, whose festival is set down in the Irish Calendar, at the 25 May, 1004 the patroness of the Church of Tuakalee in the same neighbourhood.

Of the Church of Modiomoge a small part only remaining. It appears to have been originally about 40 feet long, divided

34

by a gable at 24 feet from west end, this part being about 16 feet wide, nothing remaining of it now, but the bare outline of the foundation.

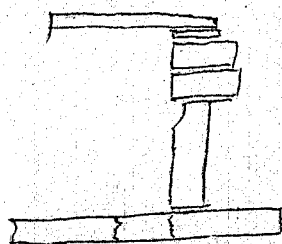
The eastern division measures 12 feet in length by  $13\frac{1}{10}$  <sup>feet in</sup> in breadth.

The south side of a <sup>flat</sup> pointed doorway remaining in the middle gable (this & the east gable remain to their full height) five feet high to the springing of the arch. This side is built up of small square thin stones, well chipped, with a recess for the door and a mortice for a bar. There is a little loop hole (square) near the door in the same side of this gable, 2 feet one inch wide and 1 foot  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches high on the inside; one foot  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches high and five inches wide on the outside. This little window which looked from the quire into the other portion of the church is formed in an <sup>pointed</sup> arched recess four feet wide, three feet ten inches high, part of a similar window and recess appear at the other side of the door.

14/5/9/5 (in)

35  
There is a broken window in the south wall two feet seven inches from east gable, measuring two feet seven inches in breadth inside, outside broken; built in same manner as the doorway. There is a square recess in the wall under it 2 feet high, 1 foot 10 wide and 7 inches deep. There is a similarly broken window in the north wall at the same distance from gable.

There is a square window in the east gable, four feet eight inches high, two feet six inches wide on the inside, covered at top with a flag three feet six inches long, one foot broad and three inches thick; two feet high on the outside, and through the front of it on the south side is broken away, it can be easily seen that its breadth was about five inches. The following will give you some idea of its form.



1 foot 9 1/2 long 3 inches thick



36

The walls are built of very small square stones, and good lime mortar, but not a cut stone to be seen in the whole building.

The stones are evenly laid, but not in regular courses. It looks on the whole a very ancient little place, ~~now~~ standing on the summit of a pretty hillock, with a small burying ground on the south.

The ruined Church of Mothall, proper, Mothail, stands in the townland of that name in this parish, and within a few perches of the far famed house of Dunmore. The walls of this old church remain to their full height, but there is a large breach in the middle of the east gable, which has carried away the window, except its flat pointed top and a bit of its north side, which are built of thin square chipped stones.

There is a window in the middle of the south side extending from the top of the wall to within 2 1/2 feet of the ground

14/12/9/5 (W)



(the wall is nine feet high, and two feet & ~~xxviii~~ thick) and three feet & inches wide on the inside, and two feet six inches wide on the outside.

There are two windows of the same size and form in the north wall, all broken at top.

There is a pointed doorway in the west gable, seven feet four inches high, of which the arch measures one foot seven inches, and ~~but~~ five feet two inches wide. It is well built of small thin square, chipped stones, but the arch is very rude. This doorway is closed up from the outside for the purpose of a Ball alley. There is a Belfry with one sharp pointed hole on this gable.

There is a well frequented burying ground near it.

I have no historical reference to this old church, which measures 47½ feet in length, and 19½ in breadth, built all of small thin square stones, but none of them cut.

of the parish of Dunmore.

---

The parish of Dunmore is bounded on the north by the parishes of Grange McGarrick and Mayne, Barony of Fassaracan, on the west by Odagh parish, Granna Barony and parish of Saint Larcia Barony of Grouan, and on the south by the parish of Saint John Liberty of Kilkenny, barony of Grouan, and on the east by the parish of Kilmodemage. See Parish Book.

The present name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, Dunmore, meaning only the great Dun or Fort. It is marked on Sir William Pott's map under the name of Donnrachmore or Donoghmore, which would mean the great Church; but which is right or wrong I cannot say.

There is a modern Protestant Church

14/10/9/5(V)

and a burying ground attached to it in the townland of Dunmore, on the eastern bank of the River Noe; this burying place and two ancient Rath, in the Deer Park, are the only antiquities that have been discovered in this parish.

---

*Granges*

### Of the parish of Grange Macnab.

The parish of Grange Macnab is bounded on the north by the parish of Sharnock Barony of Galway, and Ballyragget alias Donoughmore, on the east by Kilmacar and Coolcullers, on the south by the parishes of Mayne and Coolcraheen Barony of Fassadinan, and on the west by the parish of Rathbarney, Barony of Galway and Fassadinan.

The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin, so far as that every Grange in Ireland is found attached to a Church; but as the word Grange has occupied the attention



49

of clearer heads than mine, I shall say no more about it now than that the present parish is called the frange of MacComb, but who this MacComb was I have no means of ascertaining.

The peasantry call this place (*Sprymyde* *glochru*), Grainsuch *glochru*.

The western gable, only, remains of the Church of frange *glochru*; the <sup>foundation</sup> site may be traced to 40 feet in length and 18 feet in breadth.

The wall is three feet six inches thick. There are two ancient Rath's on this T. land.

The place occupied by the old catholic Chapel of Bonahy in this parish is called by the inhabitants *Kill Cholmain*. Kill or church of Colman. They point out the ancient burying ground, but no graves appear on it now.

There is a large Rath at Bonahy, and another in the T. land of old town.

MS. A. 9. 5 (vi)



There remain now but three parishes of  
this Bann to be described, and these  
I must defer until I go to Ballyragget  
for which I am setting out now 12 o'clock.

You must be aware that only two per-  
sons are at work here.

I remain in your obedient servant

Engage Lewis.

A piece of the north end of an old Castle,  
and part of the walls of a house stand at  
the very point of junction of the River Dinan  
and Kone, on the north of the former, in the  
parish of Mayne.

The people call this place the church of  
c'd' d' d' d', but it has no appearance of a church.

My dear Sir, I have to inform you that  
the same person who has been  
employed in the same manner  
as before, is now at work here.

Edw.

**END**

14 D 9/6

O'Keefe, Patrick

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from P[atrack] O'Keefe, written from Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history, traditions, antiquities and topography of the parish of Castlecomer, with particular reference to its burial grounds, holy well, castle and the origins of its place name.

19 August 1839

3p.

24 cm

ill; ink sketches of the chimney which forms part of the ruin of the Brennan mansion in Kiltown, Co. Kilkenny.

42  
142  
Castlecomer Augt 19<sup>th</sup> 1839

My dear Sir,

The Parish of Castlecomer, in which is the town of the same name, is situated in the Barony of Fassadinan, and is bounded on the N. by the Parishes of Abbeyleix and Ballinacill alias Dysertgallen, Barony of Cullough Queen's County, on the East by Rathasbuck Baronies of Stieve-marique & Fassadinan Queen's County and Co. Kilkeny, and Killabin Queen's Co., on the S. by the P<sup>ar</sup> of Tullowreen Co. Carlow, and Dysart and Kilmacar, B<sup>ar</sup> of Fassadinan Co. Kilkeny, and on the West by the Parishes of Abbeyleix, Borroughmore, Attanna, Ballyragget and Kilmacar Barony of Fassadinan Co. Kilkeny.

The Irish pronunciation of the name is Cairléan a' cumair, i.e. the Castle of the Cumair or meeting of streams; though cumair is said by the inhabitants to signify a hollow.

14/10/9/6(i)



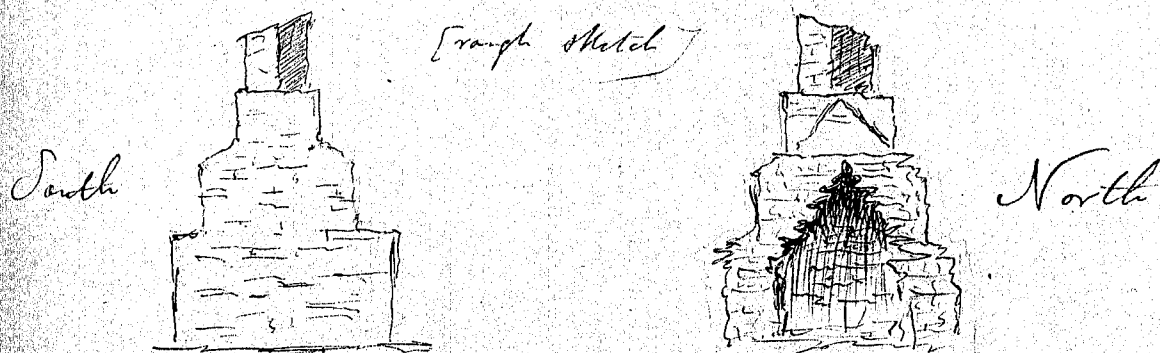
The inhabitants also say that the old name was canlean <sup>cadu</sup> eadip da cumap, i.e. the Castle between the two cumars. This would agree well with the situation, for, <sup>part of</sup> the town lies ~~between~~ between the meetings of the streams called blochog and Anghamucky (so called from the townland through which it passes, - called also the glean a duman river, as I have been informed) with the River Dian; the former to the N. E. the latter to the S. E. of the town.

There are, however no ruins of a castle, in the town or townland of Castle corner, nor is the site of the building which gave name to the place, well remembered traditionally. Some would seem to suppose that it stood near the spot now occupied by the seat of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> E. Wandesford towards the East of the town, at the meeting of the Dian and Anghamucky R.

At the entrance to the demesne belonging to Mr. W.'s house, is a <sup>large</sup> earthen work of an elliptic form, with some stone-work at the top, called by the people "the garrison". To the E. of the House in the middle of a thick plantation on elevated ground is what is called by the inhabitants "Cromwell's pit"; it is an apparently artificial hollow, and it is said that Cromwell from this besieged the "garrison".

There is a tradition that a battle was fought at a place called <sup>Boghill</sup> <sup>via</sup> <sup>Sylvia</sup> boan coll in the townland of Miltown in this parish, between the earl of Ermond, and Breeman the ancient chief of this district, in consequence of the latter refusing to pay the earl his tributary rents. It is said that the place was originally a wood. (whence the name). A road in Miltown T.L. retains the name to this day. This engagement is supposed to have taken place shortly previous to the forfeitures in 1640, when the lands of the Breemans fell to the Wandersford family.

In the same townland of Kiltown there is the ruin of the chimney of an ancient mansion said to have belonged to the Breunans.



It has the appearance of some antiquity; - and it is said that portion of the adjoining walls existed in the memory of man.

In Kiltown T. L. is likewise a small burial-ground used only for still-born children; and about  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a mile N.W. of this is a holy well called <sup>St. Patrick's</sup> Tobur Philip, where there was a 'patron' held until about 60 years ago. It was discontinued in consequence of a man named Byrne having been killed there.



46

In the townland of Adra is one square tower (and part of an external wall) of a ruined castle. Great part of the tower is of brick; inside it measures  $11\frac{1}{2}$  by  $10\frac{1}{2}$ , and is about 30 ft. high. The windows are shaped thus: —



There is a large Moat in Tiroda Upper T.L.; it is not perfect, a part having been removed for manure.

Your obedient &  
Servant

P. O. Keefe

J. A. Larcom Esq.

14/10/96 (111)

**END**

**14 D 9/7**

**O'Keefe, Patrick**

**Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from P[atrack] O'Keefe, written from Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the townland of Lowhill, Co. Kilkenny, with particular reference to its early church and the origins of its place name.**

**19 August 1839**

**8p.**

**24 cm**

**ill; ink sketch of the window found on the east gable of Lowhill old church. Included are related extracts from the Irish Calendar, Langian's 'Ecclesiastical History of Ireland' and Colgan's 'Acta Sanctorum' concerning St. Fintan's association with Lowhill.**



44  
Castlecumber 19/37

73  
My dear Sir,  
The townland of Lowhill which belongs to the Parish of Abbeyleix Queens Co. is situated in the Co. of Kilkenny, Barony of Tassadinan; and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Dysertgallen alias Ballynakill, On the East by Abbeyleix P. Barony of Cullinagh Queens Co. on the West by the P. of Attarna & Roscunnell B. of Tassadinan Co. Kilkenny.

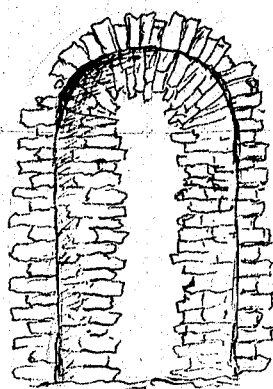
"In this townland are the ruins of an old Church," which was originally about 56 ft. long & 21½ ft. in breadth. There is a breach in the North wall where it met to E. gable, extending to the foundation; the part remaining is 38 ft. long, and about 12 ft. high. On the East gable, which stands to its full height, (about 22 ft.) is a window, <sup>rather curvilinear</sup> semicircular above, the outside <sup>having</sup> been considerably narrower than the inside, but at present in a battered condition.

14/10/9/76

The following sketch will give some idea of it -

(inside view.)

Height above the  
ground 3. 6.



Height to arch	abt. 8. 6
of arch	1. 6
Entire height	10. 0.
Breadth	6. 0

The South wall runs from this gable, where it is perfect, to the length of about 26 feet, being about 12 ft. high; on this wall, at the distance of 9 ft. from the E. gable, there is a broken window. Merely the foundation of the West gable is visible; and it is said that the doorway was on it.

The ground attached is not now used as a burial-place. About 80 yards S.E. of the Church is a well which belonged to it, but it is not frequented at present.

About 100 yards West of the Church is a small portion of an old wall believed by the people to be a part of an Abbey, and it is said by them that the Church belonged to it. There is no appearance of cut stone in either of these buildings.

49

Lowhill is pronounced Leacholl by the inhabitants, and is evidently the place called in the calendars Leamchoill, and which is said by the local of Cashel and other authorities (accompanying <sup>this letter</sup>) to have been between Ay-Deach [Kaspading] and Leix [the southern part of the Queen's Co in which Abbeyfeix is situated]. These authorities make Leamchoill one of the Churches of Kintan corach, whose festival fell on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February; but the patron-day <sup>or Saint</sup> of Lowhill is not remembered at present, as far as we could learn.

See appended Extracts.

Yours obedient &c  
Servant

P. O'Keeffe

W. A. Larcom Esq.

14/10/97 (n)



Die XXI. Februarii De S. Sintono  
Abbate et Episcopo Cluainfertiensi.

[Act. S. S. p. 385. col. a]

Comp. Ep. S. S.

Sancti Sintoni cognomento Borach  
meminuerunt domestici passim hagiogra-  
phi: Et licet nullus, quæ licuit videre,  
ejus produxerit acta; ea tamen multi  
paucis tradunt de ipso, quæ cum, vir-  
tutis gravibus functionibus, & eximia vite  
sanctitate celeberrimæ, satis indicant.

[Text printed  
in Statutes]

Non solum enim in Abbatis officio, sed  
in Pontificali dignitate annis multis  
curam gessisse animarum, pluresque  
successivè legitur rexisse Ecclesias. Pri-  
ma fuit Ecclesia de Leamchull in  
Lagenia (1) in confinibus regionum Laigisia

✓

14/D/9/7/111



~ & Qui duach dita. Secunda, mobile Monasterium (2) de Cluain-edneck in praedicta Lagisia regione jacens; in quo vel in vita egisse, vel post mortem jacuisse constat; licet & plures alii (3) ejusdem nominis, non dissimilis sanctitatis praelati illud floruisse constet. Tertia, Ecclesia de Cluainferta in Connacia; in qua duo erant diversa, à prima loci (4) fundatione, munita, Abbatibus nempe & Episcopis: quae ambo ipse legitur obuisse.

Non solum enim legitur post S. e. Moenendum (5) sedem Episcopalem illius loci administrasse; sed & post S. Brendanum (6) mobile adjunctum rexisse monasterium in quo munere legitur ipsi successisse

cessisse Senachus, cognomento Garch;  
 Senacho, S. Colmanus (7) Congelli fi-  
 lius. Quartam etiam Ecclesiam, nem-  
 pe de (8) Bludinaithchir in Lagisia  
 ab eo fundatam vel administratam  
 alii indicant. Creditur vel abdicata  
 illa cura, ad Monasterium de (9) ex  
 Bludain-edhnech juxta sua promissa  
 reversus; vel saltem illi defunctus. Per-  
 tur enim, dum prius in Connacia  
 peregrinaretur, fratribus, ejus discessum  
 agere ferentibus, confidenter in Domino  
 spondisse (10), vel sponsorem dedisse,  
 quod vivus vel mortuus ad eos rever-  
 teretur.

Et ex his causis putatur cognomen-

tum  
 14/10/9/7(V)

tum illud Clorach sortitus. Vox enim  
Clorach in patrio idiomate, duobus diversis  
 rationibus plura denotat, nunc volubilem,  
 nunc sponforem, nunc melodum seu  
 modulatorem significans. Unde quia  
 vel locum mansionis Regiminiis de-  
 spiciis mutavit, vel quia dicto jam mo-  
 do spondit se ad pristinum locum  
 reverturum; vel quia modum psal-  
 lendi seu laudes divinas persolvendi  
 praeceptis Monachis consuetum mutavit,  
 novumque canendi introduxit modum, <sup>(11)</sup>  
 illud sortitus censetur cognomentum.  
 Et sua enim speciali diligentia & devo-  
 tione in Divinis laudibus, singulariter  
 laudatur



laudatur. Et inter has pias functiones,  
fertur annis (12) centum triginta quin-  
que vixisse. Annum obitus observatum  
non reperio: floruisse tamen videtur  
sub finem saeculi (13) sexti: ejusque na-  
talis secundum omnia (14) domestica  
festilogia celebratur hac 21. Febr.

### Nota.

1. 2. — Seamchull in Lagônia in confinibus V. Mo-  
napt; de Cluain-edhnech. Pta de prima, Calenda-  
rium Casselense; de secunda Marianus Germanus;  
de utraque Martyrolog, Tamlectense & Maguir, n. 13. citandi.

3. — Licet plures alii ejusdem nominis. Primus enim  
Abbas de Cluainoidhnech fuit S. Fintanus Galbhreni fi-  
lius, cujus vitam dedimus 17. Februarii, V. qui obiit ante  
annum 590. ut constat ex notis ad ejus vitam n. 26. [col. 6.]

Appendice ad eandem c. 4. Secundus S. Fintanus dictus  
Moeldabh, ut habetur in eadem vita cap. 24. quem Quat.

Magistri  
14/10/9/7 (1)



Magistri in Annalibus referunt obisse anno 625. du-  
 bium tamen mihi, an hic sit diversus à S. Fintano  
 Corachi, de quo hic agimus; cum idem locus, idem nomen,  
 idemque tempus, eundem satis indicent. Sed cum cogno-  
 mentum sit diversum, dieque cultus diversus (nam Fintan-  
 us Maeldubh, colitur 20. Octobr.) non audeo quidquam  
 definire. Si credimus etiam vita Hibernica S. Finchuani,  
 sive Finchuonis, fuit filius tertius S. Fintani filius, et  
 Sennuadhat Regis Lagena a primo & secundo longe di-  
 versus. sed de hoc alibi.

4. — Et prima loci funditione duo munia. Nam ante  
 mortem S. Brendani anno 576. mortui, qui fuit  
 illius Ecclesie rector & primus Abbas, & Moennennius  
 fuit ejusdem Ecclesie Episcopus, obiitque anno 570.  
 juxta Annales Albanenses & Dungallenses.

5. — Post S. Moennennium, sedem Episcopalem illius loci.  
 Marianus Formanus & Martyrolog. Dungallens. infra vocant  
 ipsum Episcopum Albanfentem: sed non offero quod im-  
 mediate successerit S. Moennennio.

6. — Post S. Brendanum. Nec definio an immediate  
 successerit S. Brandano; successisse tamen constat, cum S.  
 Angulfus juxta mox dicenda n. 7. dicat, ipsi S. Colmanum  
 filium

filium Congalli, & S. Senachum in ejusdem Monasterii  
regimina suscepisse: S. autem Senachus, fuit ejusdem  
Monasterii Abbas, ut Annales Quat. Magister. his ver-  
bis testantur; Anno 620. Senachus, cognomento Garbh Ab-  
bas de Chuanferta Brenaind, obiit.

7. — Papa suscepisse S. Senachum, S. Senacho S. Colmanus.  
Ita Scholiastes S. Angustii, vel verius ipse Angustinus  
in scholiis ad suum festilogium ad 21. Februarii dicens;  
Sintanus Corach, Senachus Garbh, & Colmanus amicalibus  
filius Congalli erant tres nigri Domini, successive unus  
post alterum, in eadem Abbatia succedentes. Ubi obiter  
advertit quod author insinuat eos fuisse ordinis sive habitus  
nigri & per consequens Benedictini: cum aliis eo aeo non  
legatur extitisse ordo nigrorum Monachorum.

8. — De Chuan-aithekin in Lagisia. Ita indicant Ma-  
guir & Calendar Casselense infra num. 14.

9. — Ad Monasterium de Chuanneidhnech reversus. Ita  
indicant Cathachus, Maguir, & Marian. Gorm. infra num. 14.

10. — In Domino spondisse, vel sponsos dedisse. Ita idem  
Maguir, & Calendarium Casselense infra.

11. — Novumque introduxit canendi modum. Ita sub dubio  
indicat Maguir ad 21. Februarii.

57  
12. — Annis centum triginta quinque. Ita Engulfius  
ad 21. Februarii, dicens; Annis centum triginta quinque  
vixit Tintanus Corach psalmos continuo cantando iuxta  
fontis marginem.

13. — Floruisse iuxta saeculi seculi finem. Nam S. Le-  
machus, ejus immediatus successor, obiit anno 620. juxta dicta  
num. 6.

14. — Secundum omnia domestica festitia 21. Febr. Ita  
ad eundem diem S. Engulfius. Solemnitas (inquit) Tin-  
tani Corach, post contemptum mundi. Martyrologium  
Tamlachtense; Tintani Corach in Lemchuill vel Cluain-  
sidhnech. Calendarium Caspelense; Tintanus Corach qui-  
escit in Lemchuill, inter Hy duach & Laighis, vel in  
Cluainaithechin, vel in Cluainferta Brendani. Dicitur  
autem Corach, quia peregrinaturus, spondores dedit, de  
aut vivum aut mortuum reverendum. Marianus Gori-  
anus; Tintanus Corach, Episcopus de Cluainferta Brendani;  
est etiam in Cluaineidhnech. Martyrol. Dungall. iidem  
utitur verbis, & Othaldus sub disjunctione dicit ipsum esse  
in Lemchuill, <sup>vel in Cluainaithechin in Legisia,</sup> vel in Cluainferta, vel verius (inquit)  
in Cluaineidhnech. Addit etiam cognomentum illud  
ei appositum esse ob aliquam ex causis supra adductis;  
vel insuper quia Scrima in quibus ejus jacent reliquia, videntur  
sunt miraculose se movere.



17<sup>th</sup> February. Fiontáin ább éluana heioneac sláisir  
ba móir abrámenr an tí naoin fiontáin ainuyl ar  
fóllz nín páipr.

Fiontáin fial ní ró zomarl pé aile nán  
acht gán eorua fíoa 7 nísze creada éad.

21<sup>st</sup> Feb. Fiontáin corac Crp éluana fliza bpeunán  
7 a cclraín aioneac atá beor atcorac peirí loir. me  
peirí me lna do laiznib.

16<sup>th</sup> Nov. Fiontáin lea micoile.

RIA

Ang 1975



Saint Tintan, surnamed Corach, bishop of Clonfert, is said to have flourished in this period. [Sixth century] (15) He had presided over a church at a place called Learchuill (16) in Leinster, and, according to some accounts, even over the monastery of Clonenagh. (17) It is stated that he either founded or governed a church also at Cluainmaithechin (18) in Leix. He became afterwards bishop and abbot at Clonfert, (19) and died on a 21<sup>st</sup> of February, but whether at Clonfert or elsewhere is uncertain (20)

#### Notes

(15) Ware says, (Bishops at Clonfert) "about the end of the sixth century." He borrowed this from Colgan, who speaks rather

doubtfully of it at 21<sup>st</sup> Lib. where he treats of  
 Hinton Corach. Yet the matter is not improbable,  
 if it be true that he was succeeded, either  
 as bishop and abbot, or as abbot only, by Se-  
 nach Garbh, who, according to the 4 Masters,  
 died in 620 (621). There are, however, some  
 difficulties in the way, of which I lower down.

(16) Archdall has it in the Queen's county,  
 where it borders on the barony of Passaghoining,  
 Co. Kilkenny.

(17) If this be true, and there are divers autho-  
 rities for it, Hinton Corach must have lived  
 later than the time mentioned by Ware. For  
 the Hinton who was abbot of Clonenagh  
 in the latter end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, and  
 until 626, Maeldubh. (See Vol. 174 to Chap. III.)  
 Nor can it be said that perhaps they were not  
 different persons; for without enlarging on  
 other arguments, it is sufficient to observe,  
 that H. Maeldubh's name is <sup>in</sup> the calendars  
 at 20 October, while H. Corach's is placed

at 21 Feb. If we may suppose, that he was not abbot of Clonenagh but a simple monk there, this difficulty may be got over; but the whole business is ~~so~~ confused and clogged with other difficulties, that I am not able to unravel it.

(18) I strongly suspect, that Cluainaithechin has been mistaken for Cluainachnagh (Clonenagh). The Calendar of Cashel, which mentions it, has not H. Corach at Clonenagh; and vice versa in most of those, that have Clonenagh, we do not find Cluainaithechin. In this hypothesis the difficulty arising from placing him at Clonenagh will disappear.

(19) Marian Gorman says of him; Episcopus de Cluanferta Brendani. Others speak of him as abbot.

(20) We read of him in the calendar of Cashel; "Hilarus corach quiescit in Scanchulet inter Hy-duach at Saighis, vel in Cluainaithechin, vel in Cluanferta Brendani. Dicitur autem Corach, quia peregrinaturus sponsors dedit, se aut vivum aut mortuum reversurum."



Tozmad fintan copac.

post contemptum mundi

hi feil eam collaunde

Urruh iucund

Tozmad, al: tozgm. Fintan copac .i. dia oisire do  
 cuaró 1 d'asb cup zabaoq naca de ga beo t q mqb do  
 riasat do msiu illemchall 1211 hif drac 7 laizir  
 ata p. copac t acclvam aizen 1 laizir t iccluat  
 peria bren ata fintan copac .i. cori zabq 1 calize 7 m  
 haille 7 inde di copac t capac ga beo t ga mqb do  
 miam qir.

Mr. Purdy

**END**



**14 D 9/8**

**O'Curry, Eugene**

**Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parishes of Donoghmore, Rosconnell (Rosconnell) and Attanna (Attanagh), with particular reference to their early churches, holy wells, burial grounds, castles and the origins of their place names.**

**20 August 1839**

**11p.**

**24 cm (i), (iii-x); 25 cm (ii)**

**ill; ink sketches of the east gable windows of Donoghmore old church, the west gable window of Attanagh old church and the doorway and window of the old church at Rosconnell.**

**Included are annotations made by John O'Donovan and extracts from the 'Annals of the Four Masters' concerning Ballyragget Castle.**

Ballyragget 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1839

J. A. Lucan Esq. R. E.

Sir

The parish of Donoghmore, alias Ballyragget, is bounded on the north by the parish of Attanna, Fassadinan Barony, on the east by the parish of Castlecomer Barony of Fassadinan and Kilmacaw Barony of Fassadinan, on the south by the parish of Frangoch Comb Barony of Fassadinan, and on the west by the parish of Charney Barony of Galway County of Kilkenny, and Attanna Barony of Upper Ossory, Queens County. See Name Book.

The first name of this parish, Donoghmore, is of ecclesiastical origin, and has been already on several occasions explained; the alias name, Ballyragget, proper beal áta reaghaid, Beal-atha-Reaghaid, is the mouth

14/10/9/8(i)

or acco to the ford of Reaghad. What the meaning of the word Reaghad is I know not; but it occurs in the Annals of the Four Masters at the year under that name and all the people here know it still by that as its Irish name.

The old church of Donoghmore stands in ruins in the townland of that name about a quarter of a mile south east of the town of Ballyrobert. It measures 54 feet in length, and has a middle gable at 30 feet from the west end, this division of it is 18 feet broad; the eastern division is but 14 feet broad.

The western gable has a Belfry perforated for two bells, the perforations sharp pointed.

A square doorway, now closed up, and apparently so for ages, may be seen in the middle of this gable, measuring four feet in height and three feet in breadth, covered at the top by a lintel stone, six feet long and five inches thick. The middle part of the gable from the doorway up to the top appears to be of



Raggett was the name of one of the English Burglers, who driven from his native town  
built a castle here, & a large ford - hence the name Bal-atha-Raggett

RIA

14/10/9/8 (ii)

65

a much more recent erection than the under part.

There is a round headed doorway in the south side, four feet from the west gable, five feet nine inches high, three feet six inches wide, and built up of well cut stone.

There is a half water font projecting from the wall on the right hand as one goes in the door.

There is a pointed doorway, now closed up, in the north side, at the distance of eight feet from the west gable, it is six feet high, two feet ten inches wide and built up of the same kind of Cut Stone as that on the south side. The stones in this side of the Church are very large.

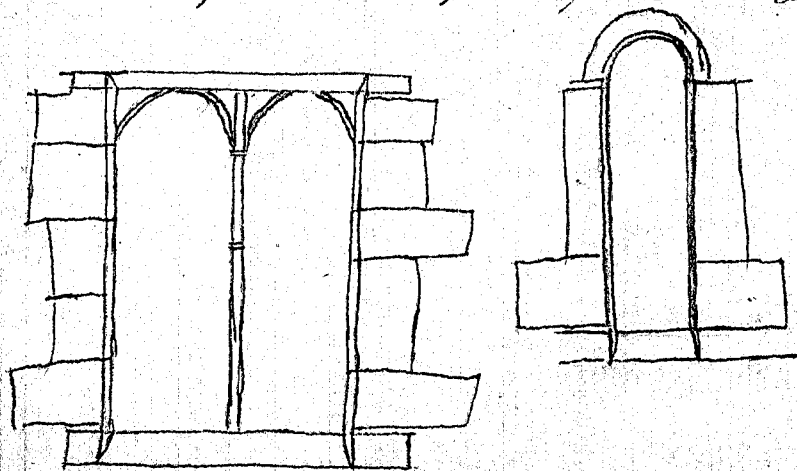
There is a square hole in the south side, in the same division, but if it has had any Cut Stone they have been removed.

There is a round headed arch in the middle aisle, ten feet high, seven feet wide, built of well cut stone. There is a square window

14/10/9/8(m)

66 in the east gable, <sup>right</sup> ~~four~~ feet high, 4 wide inside, five feet high, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  wide outside, and divided in the middle by a mullion of well cut stone which is perforated for three horizontal iron bars, and each of the two compartments perforated (the sill), for one wrought bar.

There is a small round topped window in either of the side walls, at the distance of three feet from the east gable, measuring four feet in height and three in breadth on the inside, square at top and covered by a flag stone, and measuring three feet in height and six inches in breadth on the outside. The following will give you some idea of the shape of these windows.



with 3 inches  
high.



63

The whole of the interior <sup>surface</sup> of the wall retains nothing of a strong plaster of lime and sand, and the place would appear not to be one hundred years deserted.

There is a breach in the north side wall, western division, near middle gable.

There are several monumental slabs inserted in the walls inside & outside.

There is a well called Donoghmore, well about a furlong east of the Church, but it is not held in any veneration.

The Castle of Ballynagget is a ponderous pile of building, in full preservation, but not inhabited. The ascent to the top is by a flight of stone steps, each eight inches high. It contains five floors all unbroken.

There is a wooden tower on the north east angle, which is called Margaret Fitzgarret's chair after a former Countess of Ormond, see Lige page 636. There is a date, and

14/10/9/8 (W)

some letters on a chimney piece here, but the room was so full of lumber that I could not see them.

This building measures 24 feet from east to west and fifteen from north to south, inside. It stands in the centre of a square court, the walls of which are 4 feet thick (to the height of nine feet) and fifteen feet high, having several port holes, and a round tower at each of the four angles. There are two massive gate ways east and west, having a port hole at each side of either.

I here subjoin some account of this place from the Annals of the four Martyrs.

(1) ed. 4. cl. 11.

Ballyragget

The Earls of Ormonde and Thomond set out from Limerick along the Suire, in pursuit of O'Neill, but finding that he had passed without receiving battle or opposition the Earl of Thomond set fire to all the corn and houses in the territory of Clan Gibbon and the country of the White Knight. The two Earls then proceeded to the Country of the Butlers, and to Milkeny where they stopped during Easter. When the Solemnities of Easter were over they repaired to Dublin to welcome and pay their respects to the new officers who had arrived in Ireland, viz Lord Mountjoy as Chief Justice and Sir George Carey as president of the

## note

(1) Bal-zathur Hoaghat, is now Anglicized Ballyragget. It is stated in the Pecula Hib. vol 4, p, 48, that it was a house belonging to the Lord Mountgarrett.

14/0/9/8(V)



70  
the two provinces of Munster. Shortly  
after having paid this visit to Dublin,  
the Earls returned to to Kilkenny accom-  
panied by the president.

Not long after this a day  
was appointed between the Earl of  
Ormond, Owing the son of Peary oge  
O'More, to come to a conference. Both  
were attended by a number of armed  
men at this conference, and the  
Earl of Ormond induced the president  
and the Earl of Thomond to be present  
at it. When they came to the appointed  
place, which was near Belatha-  
Roaghad (Ballyraggatt) they began  
to state their mutual covenants and  
their demands on each other, but  
one of the nobles of Owing's people  
put his hand on the reins of the bridle  
of the Earl of Ormond's horse, and  
succeeded in taking him prisoner.  
When the president and the Earl  
of Thomond perceived this, they  
returned

14

returned on horse back to Melkeny.  
The Earl of Thomond however was  
wounded in the Skirmish,

Quinn the son of Rory then brought  
the Earl into the fastnesses of his  
Country, and it was reported all over  
Ireland as wonderful news that he  
was thus taken.

Note. By Col. W. O. Donovan

In the *Pacata Hibernia*, vol. <sup>7</sup> p. 42, is given  
a detailed account of the manner in  
which the Earl of Ormond was taken,  
in a joint letter from the Lord President  
and the Earl of Thomond to the Lords of  
the Council, and also a Plate showing the  
dress and relative position of both parties.

There is a picture of the same in Trinity  
College described by Ledwich in his *Antiquities*  
of Ireland.

14/5/9/8(VI)

There is a small burying ground  
and the foundation of a church in  
the townland of Strathleigh in this  
parish. The foundation or site is  
34 feet in length by 18 in breadth,  
and it is called *leill Bhormair*,  
Kill Cormac, by the peasantry.

RIA  
Strathleigh



# Of the parish of Attanna.

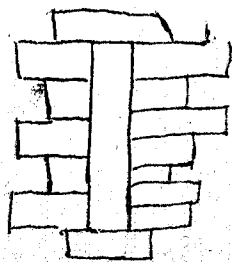
The parish of Attanna is bounded on the north by the parish of Rosconnell, on the East by the parishes of Abbeyleix and Cartlicomer, on the south by the parish of Donoghmore, and on the west by the parishes of Rosconnell & Attanna in the Queen's County, and on a portion of the west by Donoghmore at Ballyragget. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, nor is that given in the Name Book the name by which it is best known by the Irish speaking people here, but Rath Fanna is the Rath of Fanna, which I suppose must have been the name of its ancient owner.

In Gortanara, a subdivision of Newcastle town  
 townland in this parish on the ruins of a  
 Church called by the peasantry *St. Pionain*,  
*St. Pionain* is the Church of *St. Pionain*.

The part of this church now standing  
 measures 37 feet from west to east, and 17½  
 feet in breadth. The top of the east  
 gable is off to the level of the top of the  
 side walls.

There is a window in the west gable,  
 five from the ground upwards, about nine  
 feet high and five feet wide, with a  
 round head inside; seven feet from the  
 ground, four feet high, and 6 inches wide  
 at bottom and 5½ at top, square head,  
 and of the following appearance, on  
 the outside:



There is a doorway in the north wall, 13½ feet from west gable, having a round head, and measuring about 10 feet in height inside, and 21 feet in breadth; Seven feet high and of which the arch makes 2 feet, and 4 feet wide, on the outside.

This doorway is all built of handsomely chipped and hammered three square stone.

There is a broken window in the same side four feet from the east gable.

There is a doorway in the south side fifteen feet from the west gable, round headed like that on the north, with the sides broken down, of the same height with the other. There is a round window in the same side, three feet from the east gable, about eight feet high and four wide on the inside, but the outside is broken, and I am inclined to think that it, as well as the one on the north, had a square top, like the

14/10/9/8 (viii)



window in the west gable.

There is a broken topped arch way in the east gable, measuring 6 feet in height, to the springing of the arch, and nine feet ten inches in height. This evident-ly opened into another portion of the original building, of which no vestige now remains but the broken appearance of the extremity of the gable as if walls at projected in that direction.

The side walls are about 16 feet high, built partly of very large stones.

There is a small graveyard attached to it. (a private burial ground of the Bertrams of Eden Hall & Nicholson?)

There is a holy well on the south side called "Saint Fionan's well", and at which a patron wa, held some day in August till about thirty years ago.

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## Of the parish Rosconnell

*May 1846* The parish of Rosconnell is bounded on the north by the parishes of Abbey Leix and Rosconnell, Barony of Cullenagh, on the east by Dysart Gallen and Abbey Leix, on the south by Ottama Barony of Cullenagh and Fassadun, and on the west by the parish of Rosconnell, Canonry of Cullinagh, County of Wick.

If local tradition may be credited this ~~parish~~ <sup>parish</sup> has its name from an old Chief of the name of Connell O'More, and they still call it by the name of Ros Connail Uí Mhordha i.e. the Ross of Connell O'More. I believe they are right.

The ruined Church of Ros Connail stands in the townland; measuring eighty eight feet in length, of which the part erected in the year 1646 makes

14/10/9/8(x)

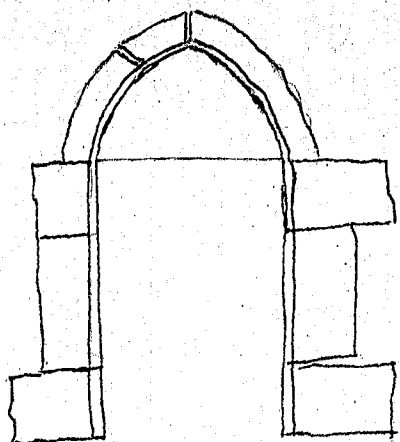
75  
36 feet. The <sup>or old</sup> western part is twenty feet wide, the eastern are new part, as it is called, 18½ feet wide, they are divided by a standing gable.

The west gable is level with the ground.

At the distance of 38 feet from the west end in the south wall is a pointed doorway five feet ten <sup>inches</sup> high and three feet 6 feet inches wide on the inside; five feet three inches high. of which the arch which is round and flat & makes six inches, and four feet <sup>4 inches</sup> wide, on the outside.

The inside is built up of well cut stone, extending to about 7 inches into the wall, the heads of these stones forming a reveal for the door to fit into, but strange, it is on the outside, not on the inside the door hung. The stones in the front are plain chipped ones. The following will give an idea of the internal appearance of this door.





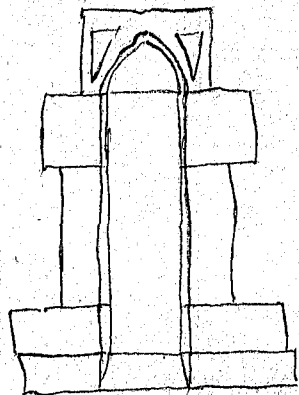
There is an arched doorway, now closed up between this door and West gable.

There is a broken topped window in the north wall,  $\frac{2}{3}$  feet 4 inches from middle gable. The sides built up of well cut stone.

There is another window 13 feet from this in the same side, four feet four inches from the ground, two feet eight inches wide and five feet three inches high on the inside; square topped; four feet high, of which the arch makes five inches, and eight inches wide.

14/10/9/8(x)

The following will give an idea of the external appearance of this division.



There are but thirty two feet in length of this side wall standing, joining the middle gable.

There is an arch way in the middle gable 11 feet wide and about eleven high of which the arch ~~arch~~ is 4<sup>ft</sup> makes five feet; all built of well cut stone.

This does not look as old, the other parts of this western division.

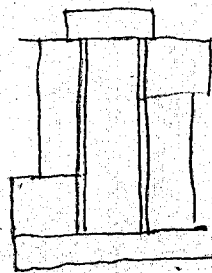
The eastern division which measures thirty six feet in length by ~~the~~ eighteen feet

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six inches in breadth, was built in the year 1546, as an inscription on a stone which is inserted in the front of the south wall, <sup>over</sup> near the door, and bearing the above date. This door is in the pointed style like the last described door.

This door stands four feet from the middle gable, is four feet two inches wide and six feet three inches high, of which the arch makes one foot six inches.

There is a window in the same side fourteen feet from the east gable, four feet <sup>high</sup> high and three feet eight high, on the inside, two feet high and thirteen inches wide on the outside, and of the following form:



14/p/9/8(XI)



There is another window like this in the north wall, directly opposite.

There is a broken sided window in the east gable, which is divided into 3 compartments by two mullions. These compartments are sharp pointed like several of the modern churches.

There is a well on Gattlemarket town land, called Lady's well, at which a Patron was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August till about twenty years ago, & also on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. The well lies about a quarter of a mile north east of the Church, and is still resorted for the cure of sore eyes &c.

They shew the site of an old Castle on this townland, a moat stands near it.

We go on with Galway now.

Your obedient servant

Engelmayr.

**END**

14 D 9/9

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of Rathbay (Rathbeagh), Balleen and Sheffin, Co. Kilkenny, with particular reference to their early churches, holy wells, castles and the origins of their place names.

22 August 1839

6p.

24 cm

ill: ink and pencil sketch map of the rath at Rathbeagh and ink sketches of the hermits cell at Sheffin and Balleen old church.



83/  
Ballynagget 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1839.

J. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

Sir

Anthony Gung and myself attacked the  
Barony of Galmy yesterday morning, and  
made away good days work of it; if the weat-  
her holds up like the last three days we will  
get on rapidly.

Of the parish of Rathbar.

The parish of Rathbar in the Baronies of Galmy  
and Passadunaw, County of Kilkenny, is bounded  
on the north east and east by the parishes of  
Sharny and Grange Mac Comb, on the south  
by those of Coolcoston and Freshford and on  
the west by part of Freshford and the parish  
of Sheffin. See Name Book

The name of this parish, though of very great  
antiquity is not of ecclesiastical origin. The

14/10/9/9(1)

origin of the name will be found in the  
Annals of the Four Masters, <sup>at</sup> Anno Mundi 3501.

The following is a translation of this passage:

" A. M. 3501. This was the year in which Heber  
" and Heremon assumed the joint sovereignty  
" of Ireland, on which occasion they divided  
" the country equally between them. It was  
" in this year also that the following actions  
" were performed by Heremon and Heber, with  
" their chiefs. Rath beócharsh, Rath Beothaigh,  
" over the Nore in Argatws, and Rath  
" <sup>(Rathdown)</sup> ~~down~~ in the territory of Cualann were  
" built by Heremon, &c.

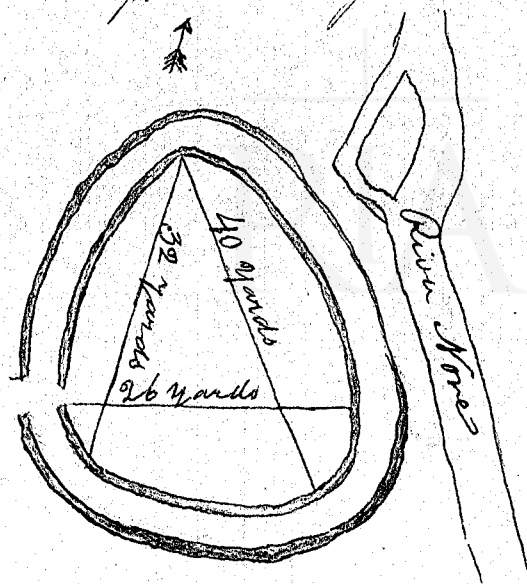
Anno Mundi 3516. " The fifteenth year of  
" Heremon in the sovereignty; his death  
" took place at the end of that term, in  
" Rath Beothaigh, on the Nore in Argat.  
" Rob. "

Whether Heremon built this Rath for  
his own use, or that of one of his chiefs  
whose name it might bear, I have

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no means at present of ascertaining, but that the name is as old as the conquest (some will have this a fictitious conquest) of Ireland by the Milesians, there can be but little doubt.

The existing remains of Rath Bealbhagh present a singular and interesting monument of very ancient architecture, as you will be better able to see from the following figure, better than from any ~~verbal~~ description of mine.



This Rath is quite level at the top, and elevated about fourteen feet over the neighbouring field; The outer mound is about seven feet high (except on the river side, where it is low; the trench is about 12 feet wide.

14/10/9/9(1)



The ruined church of Rathbay is 34 feet long and 20 wide. The side of an old castle forming its west gable. There is a window in the east gable about ten feet high and seven wide on the inside, nine high and 6 wide on the outside, the wall here three feet thick. This window is round at top and built of hammered stones. There are two windows on each of the side walls round headed and measuring 4 feet in height and 2 feet seven in breadth on the inside, same height and one foot nine inches wide on the outside. There is a pointed doorway in the south side near the west end seven feet eight inches high on the inside, of which the arch makes 1 foot 6 inches; four feet two wide; 4 feet ten inches high on the outside, the arch not so pointed as inside. The side walls are about thirteen feet high and four feet seven inches thick.

The church stands against the side of a



very old Castle, and communicating with it by a low, pointed door, immediately inside the Church door; from this door a flight of <sup>19</sup>broken stone steps leads to the only floor of the Castle now remaining (the steps ten inches high), from this the Church side of it rises to the height of about 5 feet, the south side to seven, containing a dilapidated window. Inside it measures  $20\frac{1}{2}$  feet from north to south and  $14\frac{1}{2}$  the other way. It is divided in the middle, in the latter direction by a wall through the middle, three feet 6 inches thick having a pointed doorway 6 feet high, & 4 feet 8 inches wide. The vault in each division is very sharp pointed. The north west angle is completely gone, and the walls are but three feet thick. There are three loop holes in the south side.

This Castle appears to me to be three hundred years older than the Church

14/5/99 (m)

They say here that a Nunnery under the patronage of Saint Catherine stood here long ago, and I am disposed to believe them, from the number of well cut stones to be seen up and down in the walls of the present ruin, evidently belonging to an older and more respectable building.

There a very old piece of a tombstone lying against the east gable, inside, having a part of an old inscription in Latin, but I could make no hand of it, and as the person's name is broken away I did not think it worth the time to set in copying it.

There was a well between the Church and the Nave, called Saint Catherine's well at which a patron was held till within the last ten years on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, and the 6<sup>th</sup> of December was kept a holy day in the parish in honour of Saint Catherine.

About half a mile north west of the Church of Rathbay, on the south side of the road is a heap of stones, and seven old white thorn trees, growing round it; they they call teach dubluins, i.e. Dubhluin's heap or monument; but they know nothing of its origin. { It is the burial place of Dubhluin, a son of Dubhluin, a son of Dubhluin, a son of Dubhluin. He died in 1554. (7. Mo. 1554.)

One strongly groined vault of the old Castle of Bloone, stands in the T.L. of that name in the parish of Rathbay.

This Castle belonged to the Purcell family.

## Of the parish of Sheffin.

The parish of Sheffin lies in the Barrenies of Cerramagh and Galway; and is bounded on the north east by the parish of Atharney, on the ~~west~~ east by that of Rathbay, on the south by Freshford, on the <sup>South</sup> west by Balleen on the west by Bostcarren, and on the north west by Cullahill.

11/10/9/9(10)



From a small obsolete buying ground, now covered with ~~grass~~ <sup>grass</sup> and furze, in the townland of Blontubrid and call, <sup>the</sup> bill Sheppin, it would appear that the name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin, but on that head I have no further evidence.

In the same townland (Blontubrid) and at the east end of the Catholic Chapel, stands a little pile of stone building, <sup>stone-roofed</sup> measuring 10 feet from East to West, and eight from North to South, <sup>& 10 high</sup>. The external stones of this little pile, which were, it appears, all cut & were carried away by a Mr. Caulfield of Brest of Bloom, many years ago, to build gates to, a few only being left in the western end (but these are now gone, and only kept in their places by the veneration of the neighbouring peasants) & form at the doorway.

It has a very sharp pointed doorway in the east end, five feet high, of which the arch makes seven inches, and one foot one inch wide, the bottom of the door nearly two feet from



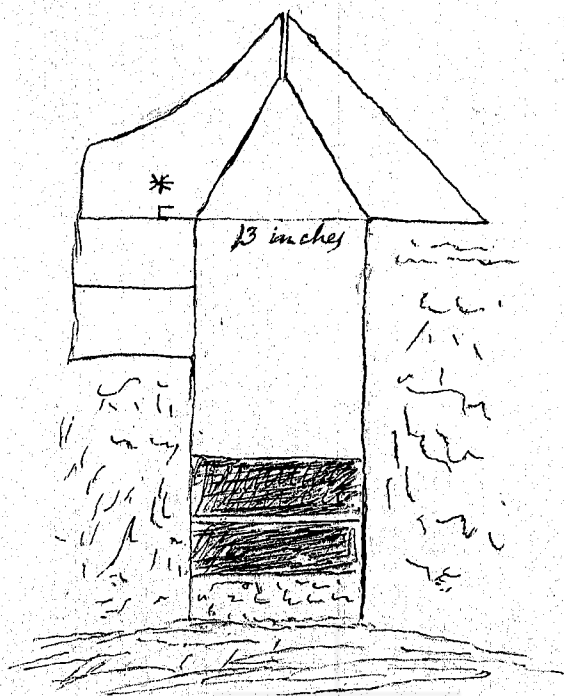
91

from the ground, and consisting of two stones  
crossways; by this door you enter a very narrow  
chamber, seven feet nine inches long, two  
feet seven inches wide, nine feet three  
inches high and shaped like a hatchet,  
the arch very sharp. The floor, which is a foot  
and a half below the sill, is composed of 2  
rough flags, a third having been taken  
away at the entrance discovers a square  
hole full of water underneath, running back  
under the other flags and about five feet  
in depth. The chamber is roughly plastered,  
having several initial letters scratched  
on it, and here & there the dates 1700,  
1752, 1770, 1774. The point of the arch ~~inside~~  
of the chamber is three feet over the door  
arch. They say that this was a hermit's cell,  
and that it was occupied as such 60 years  
ago, and yet its popular name is Tobur a  
spun, Tobar a Driedh, i.e. The Drieds Well.

The following will give you some idea  
of the doorway of this little cell.

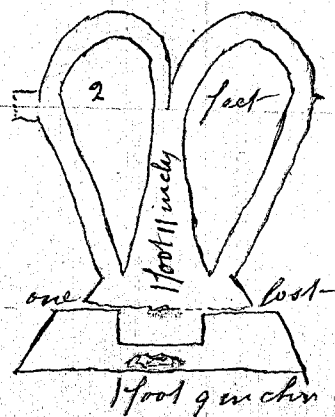
14/10/99(V)

\* part of an iron  
hook for the  
door, which  
was outside.



The remaining stones of the arch above are  
very well cut.

There is a rude cross standing on the  
pedestal lying against the wall on the South  
side, of which the following is a rude sketch.



Mortice  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches  
long, 5 broad &  
4 deep.

Iron broken off

The people here say and I believe them that the cell terminated in a sharp ridge at top, like all crypts, but the ridge stones have been removed, and the whole fabric is covered with strong old ivy.

The burying ground of Fighiashua lies in the townland of that name in this parish, but no vestige of a church remaining. It is a respectable, popular looking place.

They show the site of an old castle in the townland of Lodge park in this parish.

See

### Of the parish of Balleen.

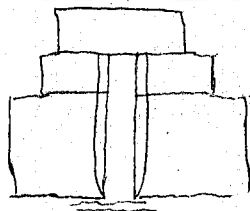
The parish of Balleen is bounded on the north east by the parishes of Drogheda and Sligo, on the south east and south by those of Freshford, Delmona, Burremore & Hartagh, and on the west by the parishes of Portlough and that of Garmanna.

14/12/99(vi)



The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, and the Irish speaking people say that it means nothing more than, the little town or village, *bajyn Balleen*, diminutive of *bajle*. *Trail*, is a village town or residence.

The old Church of Balleen is 48 feet long 18 broad, the walls 10 high, and 3 thick. There is a breach in the ~~east~~ north wall, where the door must have stood, or there is no doorway to be seen any where else. There is a breach in the ~~east~~ <sup>east</sup> gable which has carried away the window if any there was. There is a small window, high up in west gable, about 3 feet high & 2 1/2 feet wide, covered with a flag inside, about 1 foot ten inches high & 3 inches wide outside, formed of 5 cut stones long.



I don't think that this was a church at all.

Five Square towers, partially broken, and one corner & part of side walls of Balleen castle stand near the old Church, surrounded with walls of defence & are exhibiting in their ruin the prime and splendor of the Balleen of other days. Several five square windows with solid stone larches remain in the square towers. I am in your obedient

Eugene Curry



**END**

14 D 9/10

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parishes of Aharney and Coolcashen (Coolcashin), with particular reference to their early churches, raths and the origins of their place names.

22 August 1839

4p.

24 cm

ill; ink sketches of windows from Ballyconra old church, Aharney.

92  
Ballynagget 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1839. 95

J. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

Sir

The parish of Atharney, in the Barony of Galinoy and upper Issory, is bounded on the north by the parishes of Aghmacort and Durnow, on the east by those of Durnow, Athama and Donoghmore in the Counties of Queen's and Kilkenny on the south and south west and west by those of Lranga McComb Rathboy, Sheffin and Gleskare, and on the north west by that of Aghmacort. See Namebook.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin; the inhabitants, who speak good Irish, call it Acháirna, which I believe to be a contraction of achair feapna, Achadh h'fearna i.e. the field of the Quicken trees.

The old Church of Athcharna <sup>is said</sup> lies in the townland of the same name.

14/p/9/10(c)



The western gable, half the eastern gable, and a small portion of the south wall remain standing, neither door or window remaining. It measures 35 feet in length by 16½ in breadth, built up of moderately sized stones, but none of them cut; three feet in thickness, and of a very antiquated appearance. There is a large burial ground near it, and a spring south of it a well called after Saint Bridget at which a station was held, till the year '98, on the first day of February.

They show the site of a Castle in Tiskin Mountgarret townland, encompassed by a half closed up breach; the people here call it Castle Mountgarret. There is an ancient Rath in the same townland. There is an ancient Rath in Sisdorney townland, and another in Parkgrave T. L.

94

The ruins of an old church called Barony Church, (and in Irish Teampall bairiuntacht,) Teampall Bairiuntacht, i.e. Barony Church, stand in the townland of Ballycorra, in this parish.

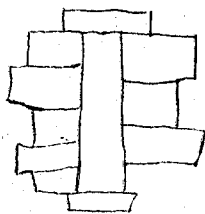
This church is called Saint Bernard's church, in the Namebook, which says that that is the name by which it is known to the inhabitants, but we have not been able to find any person to call it by that name.

The walls remain entire, excepting a gap about five feet wide descending to within a foot of the ground, in the south wall near the western gable. It measures 78 feet in length, ~~being~~ having a gable across it at 55 feet from west end; this part is 24 feet wide, the eastern division 16 feet. There is a handsome bellry on the west gable with a place for one bell, the top round and formed of two pretty cut stones. There is a broken doorway 18 feet from this gable, in the north wall

14/10/9/10 (ii)

One side of this door stands to the height of four feet six inches, the other to three feet six inch, being 6 feet wide inside, and three feet ten inches outside, the front built up with cut stone, the inside of hammered stones. There is a reveal five inches deep for the door, and mortices at either side for a bar.

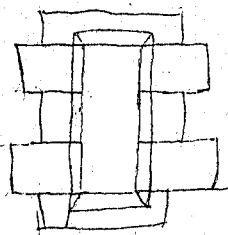
There is a handsome round headed window in the same side, nineteen feet six inches from the door, three feet from the ground inside, seven feet high five feet six inches wide. Five feet from the ground outside, three feet four inches high ~~xxv~~ eight inches wide at bottom and six inches at top. The following will give you a notion of the appearance of this window outside:



There is a broken window in south side near mid. gable.

There is an archway in the middle gable eight feet six inches high, of which the round arch makes 4 feet eight inches. It is eight feet seven wide, built with thin, cut stones. There is a door and lock to this which prevents one from going into the eastern division, which <sup>division</sup> has been lately repaired, roofed in and sealed by the Butler family as their own place of sepulture.

There is a small window in the north wall of this division of which the following is a sketch from the outside.



2 feet 2 inches high.  
6 1/4 inches wide at bottom  
6 1/4 at top.

There is another window like this, but newly built in the south side, and a pretty large new window in the east gable. There is a large burying ground, still in use, attached to this Church.

14/10/9/10 (1817)



G. Shaw

## Of the parish of Coolcasken.

The parish of Coolcasken is north of the Centre of the Barony of Galmy, and bounded on the South west by the parish of Partagh, on the North east by that of Gleshare and on the east by Theffin. See NameBook.

The inhabitants assert that this parish derives its name from Saint Caishin hence Coolcaishin or the reaps of Caskin. I have no reference to this Saint if such a person there was.

The Church of Coolcasken lies in ruins in the townland of that name; small portions of the western gable and south side only remain. It was about thirty feet long and 20 wide, the walls three feet thick, the stones large and set in a strong bed of lime & gravel.

107

The well belonging to this Church  
lay twenty yards to the west of it  
but it is now closed up.

There is a large ancient Rath  
in this townland, and another in  
Ballygooney Townland.

I think it would be better to  
send us the name books of the barony  
of Grannagh to Johnstown, that we  
may get through it in our way to  
Kilkenny.

Shall I send back the books of  
the Barony of Ossadinian.

I remain your obedient servant

Eugene Cunningham

14/2/9/10 (iv)

**END**

14 D 9/11

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of Urlingford and Burrismore (Borrismore), with particular reference to their early churches, burial grounds, holy wells and the origins of their place names.

25 August 1839

5p.

24 cm

ill; ink sketches of the west gable windows in Urlingford old church.



Johnstown 25<sup>th</sup> August 1839

J. A. Lincoln Esq. M. C.

Sir,

We arrived here on Friday evening from Ballyvaughan, but our old enemy, the rain took possession of the ground on yesterday morning, and kept us at bay until noon. The day was spent

Of the parish of Urlingford.

The parish of Urlingford is in the western side of the barony of Galmay, and is bounded on the east by the parishes of Portage, Barmore and Clonanta, on the south by Clonanta and Tubrid, on the west by that of Finnes, County Tipperary, and on the north by that of Erke. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin. Local tradition

14/10/9/11(1)

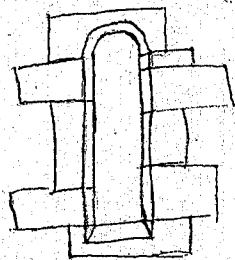
gives it a very appropriately fine Irish descriptive Irish name, viz. *Uchnamptajoe* or *Uchma Kurlaidhe* i.e. the Ford of Bedgings, that is to say, the ford at which the Old Irish and the Cheiving Dames did sledge each others heads long ago, on which occasion the latter, had *cephotum*, were drove into the neighbouring Bog of Allen and drowned every mother's son of them that way not before recently killed. I have no authority to either affirm or contradict this piece of Irish history, but if any reference to this place can be found in the Annals of the four Masteries - I wish it to be sent me.

The ruins of <sup>the</sup> ~~an~~ old church of Ullingford stand a little way north of the tower, measuring 82 feet in length, divided at the distance of 48 feet from the western gable, by a wall running across; this

104

part is  $21\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, the eastern part  
 $16\frac{1}{2}$ . The walls remain perfect  
excepting a small breach in the south  
side <sup>in</sup> ~~near~~ the eastern division.

There is a broken gable on the west-  
ern gable; there is also a small window  
in it at about 12 feet from the ground  
measuring  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in  
breadth on the inside, with a square  
top covered by a lintel, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet  
in length,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet broad and six inches  
thick. Twelve feet six inches from  
the ground; <sup>of height of arch 93</sup> 2 feet ten inches high, six  
inches wide at bottom and five and  
an half inches at top and of the fol-  
lowing form in front, which is of cut stone.



The original is.  
Straight!

There is <sup>pointed</sup> ~~an~~ arched doorway in the north.

14/10/94 (ii)



wall at the distance of 21 feet from the western gable, closed up with stonework, apparently as old as any other part of the wall; there is no cut stone in this arch. There is a ~~XXXX~~ doorway in the south side at 19½ feet from the west gable, pointed and broken sided, 6 feet ten inches high of which the arch makes 10 inches, built of rough untempered stones. There is a broken window between this door and the west gable and another broken window between it and the middle gable.

There is a pointed archway in the latter gable, 8½ feet of which the arch makes 3; eight feet eight inches wide ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ the wall here to the height of ten feet being eight feet ten inches thick. There is a pointed recess at each side of this door, on the western side, four feet six inches in breadth, six feet ten inches in depth, and of the same height with the archway.

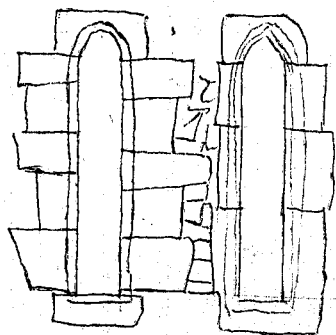
There <sup>are</sup> three recesses like these just



mentioned, in each of the side walls of the eastern division, something higher and wider, and but 1 foot 6 inches deep.

There is a broken window in the one nearest the east gable, on the south.

There are two windows in the east gable, broken on the inside, <sup>where</sup> the distance between them is one foot three inches, and on the outside two feet. They are each 4 feet eleven inches high <sup>and</sup> five and an half inches wide on the outside, the one on the south round, the other pointed, the arch of the first three inches high and the second five inches high. They are of an equal breadth, viz. 5 1/2 inches, and of the following form.



14/2/9/10 (m)

These windows are built up of cut  
Pine stones, ~~and~~ and present a very  
ancient appearance. There is a large  
and much frequented burying place  
here. The ford which gives name  
to the Church and the town lies 3 or  
4 yards south west of the tower.

About one hundred yards south of  
the church stands one square tower  
of the old castle of Athman Wlaidhe  
or Wellingford, which the people here  
say belonged to the Butlers. This tow-  
er has three narrow pointed windows in  
the north side, three in the south and  
two in the west.

Have

of the parish of Birrismore.

The parish of Berrismore in the western part of the Barony of Galway, is bounded by the parish of Urtlingford on the south east, south and south west, and by those of Fartagh and Belmonta on the north and east. See NAME BOOK.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin; the inhabitants call this place *Burghes mung*, *Burghias Althar* is the Great Burghes. The word *Burgh*, of which this is a mere *Hibernicism* is so well understood that I need not stop to say more about it.

In the townland of Berrigmore they  
 show the western doorstep, window ~~left~~, gable  
 of what the people take to have been an  
 old church, whose foundation may be traced  
 fifty-two feet in length and eighteen in  
 breadth. They call it by the name of  
 "An phiona, An an Phiona, i. e. "art of the  
 wine", but I don't understand the word  
 An.

14/0/9/11(W)



There is a large springwell about a furlong to the west of Art an fhuona, in the same townland, which the people know as Tobar Patraig or Patrick's well. It has no character for sanctity, nor is it held in more veneration than other springs.

They show ~~and~~ piece of an old road in the same townland extending about a quarter of a mile in length and ~~about~~ two feet in breadth, and say that it was made by Saint Kieran from the Church of Heartagh to Callan. There are four large ancient Rath's in this townland, one of them having chambers or passages covered over with large flags, but the opening to them is choked up with earth, which prevents minute inspection. Some of those passages have been explored and some not.

I want to have any reference that may be found <sup>to</sup> the Churches of Earca or <sup>Figonygall</sup> Bill Earca; Hearta or Heartagh Charain



or Fearlach na g-leasach or na g-leasach; Team-  
 hall Geal; Rathlochain; Elais an Aiv;  
 Clach Meannla; Aos Chinn Chaille; Maigh  
 Gairle; Clann in Cheathail; Maigh  
 Seadna; Maigh Sacka; Maigh Siobh;  
 Gallainn; Uí Bearchon; Uíbh Éine;  
 Gabhrann; Gabhal Achair or Maigh Gabha;  
 Raith Uisgeir; Raith Sinin; and Rath  
 Phadraig.

A Hindkins' topographical piece need  
 not be consulted for any of the above  
 places, as I have already, every thing, that  
 I want at present, from that source.

Let me have the reference, if any, to Hartog, with  
 the least possible delay.

I had an index made to the Irish  
 Calendar, for my own use at the Royal  
 Irish Academy &c, and if I had it here  
 it would save a great deal of trouble  
 and delay. It is at the Academy.

I remain in your obedient servant

Eugene Barry

14/12/9/0 (4)

\* This Pierce was usually called *piapay a piand*  
*pa n-geanais*. He forfeited in 1691. His eldest son  
 Patrick afterwards lived at *Tigh n' h-uaghe* near  
 Kilmacow. The writer of this note descends from  
 him as follows:—

Pierce Archdeacon who was "Mac Odo".

Patrick, the Robust of Tinahua.

John of Glenmore

Mary, married in 1750, Edmund O'Donovan  
 commonly called Sean Eamon.

Edmond, died 1807. born 1760

John O'Donovan April 5<sup>th</sup> 1842.

**END**

14 D 9/12

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Erke, with particular reference to its castles, early church, holy well, raths, burial ground and the origins of its place names.

28 August 1839

4p.

24 cm

ill; ink sketch of the rath located in the townland of Rathosheen.



10/

Johnstown 22 August 1839. 112

J. A. Goreau Esq. R. E.

Sir,

The parish of Erke in the north-west part of the Barony of Gallogh, County of Kilkenny, is bounded on the northwest by the parish of Erke or Gallogh which bounds it also on the northeast; on the east and southeast by the parishes of Glesmore and Partagh, on the south by that of Uringford County of Kilkenny, and that of Finera in Tipperary, and on the west by those of Moyne and Templemore in the Co. Tipperary. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, if the native or traditional chronicles are to be believed, and as yet I have met with nothing to contradict them.

They say that Pierce Mac Cady\* got from Cromwell, in lieu of some services rendered, as much land as he could see from a certain place and position, that the spot from which he

14/10/9/12(J)

113  
look his view is the little eminence on which  
the present new Protestant Church of Erke stands,  
that the district which he then saw  
got the popular name of *radharc ma coda*,  
*Radharc Mha Coda* i.e. Mac Boddy's see or  
view. They support ~~only~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~accuracy~~ <sup>accuracy</sup> of their version of the name by a quotation  
from an old Irish elegiac poem of the  
early part of the last century, written on the  
death of a Mr Bryan of Bawnmore in  
this parish, into whose family Mac Boddy's  
possession had come, at some far back  
period. The poet enumerates the possessions  
of Mr Bryan, and among the others places,  
"bailé ghráap na mbriatúibh góda  
'*radharc ma coda a góbal na góite*."

"Ballybrass of the lilted streamers  
& Radharc Mac Boddy the windy eminence

Ballybrass is the name of a townland  
bordering on Erke but in the Queen's Co.

There is a ruined castle <sup>with</sup> ~~and~~ three sides of  
one of its square towers, stands in the town-  
land of Rathpatrick, two miles south  
west of Erke Church; this castle is called

Caister Phiarais Mhic Eodais, Pierceck Eodais  
Barter. 1164

There is a small burying ground in Bally-  
phillips, a sub denomination of Whites Wall town-  
land in this parish, with ~~found~~ indistinct  
traces of a building, they have no name for it  
but 'Ballyphillips Church.

The ruin of Deampall Gaelic White Church  
stand in the townland of Muine na Muck  
Stafford. The western gable end about ten  
feet in length of the side walls attached, remain  
to the height of eight feet six inches. The  
Church was 57 feet long and 19 feet three  
inches wide, walls three feet thick. A  
small unfrequented graveyard attached.

There is a Moat in the adjoining T.L. of  
Coolculla. There is a little angle of the  
river Gabhat or Goll, in the same townland  
popularly called Muine William & Bridhe  
is Lworthy Williams angle from a man  
bearing that name having leaped  
over it long ago.

14/10/9/12(ii)

There is a ruined castle in the townland of  
 Castletown, called Leody's Castle. A portion of  
 the north wall only remains. It stood in  
 middle of a square enclosure 62 yards by 44  
 surrounded by a fosse 12 feet deep 14 wide  
 and lined with stonework on the inside.  
 The castle wall is seven feet thick.

They have no recollection of an old church  
 at Erke, tho' there is an old burying ground;

There was a patron held at an old Moat  
 near the church, on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, until  
 about ten years ago, on which occasion those  
 who attended performed devotions at a  
 Holy well called Bayowell, in the  
 townland of that name, a little to  
 the west of Erke. This well remains  
 still, in sanctified esteem, enclosed in  
 Mr Bulley's kitchen garden.

I find in the Irish Calendar a Bishop  
 Eorc venerated at Donoghmore of Moigh Da-  
 maine on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, and a  
 Priest Eorc venerated on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, but I  
 cannot connect them nor <sup>any</sup> other person  
 of the name with this place.



There is an ancient Rath of an elliptical form in the townland of Baysnole, called *na p<sup>te</sup> Enn<sup>te</sup> Rath*, Rath *Enn<sup>te</sup> Rath*, i.e. the Rath of the angle or recess of the gods. Its greatest length is from ~~west~~ west to east, and it is divided by a bank and mound running across in the centre, enclosing the southern end on which the foundation of a small square stone building is faintly traceable. There is a ruined church a few perches to the east of it, called *Teampall na p<sup>te</sup> Rath*, *Teampall na Rath*, i.e. Church of the Rath.

It measures 46 feet in length, by 19 in breadth; side walls and west gable ten feet high; the east gable has its top only broken off. There is a broken doorway in the south side, 10 feet from western gable; there is a window in each side at eight feet 6 inches from east gable, three feet three inches wide inside, broken at top and outside. There is a broken topped window in the east gable, five feet wide, 10 feet high to the springing of the arch inside; eight feet high and nine inches ~~wide~~ wide on the outside. The arch has disappeared excepting the first stone. There is not a cut stone in the whole of it; it is roughly built, tho the stones, which are those of the round are laid.

14/5/9/12 (iii)

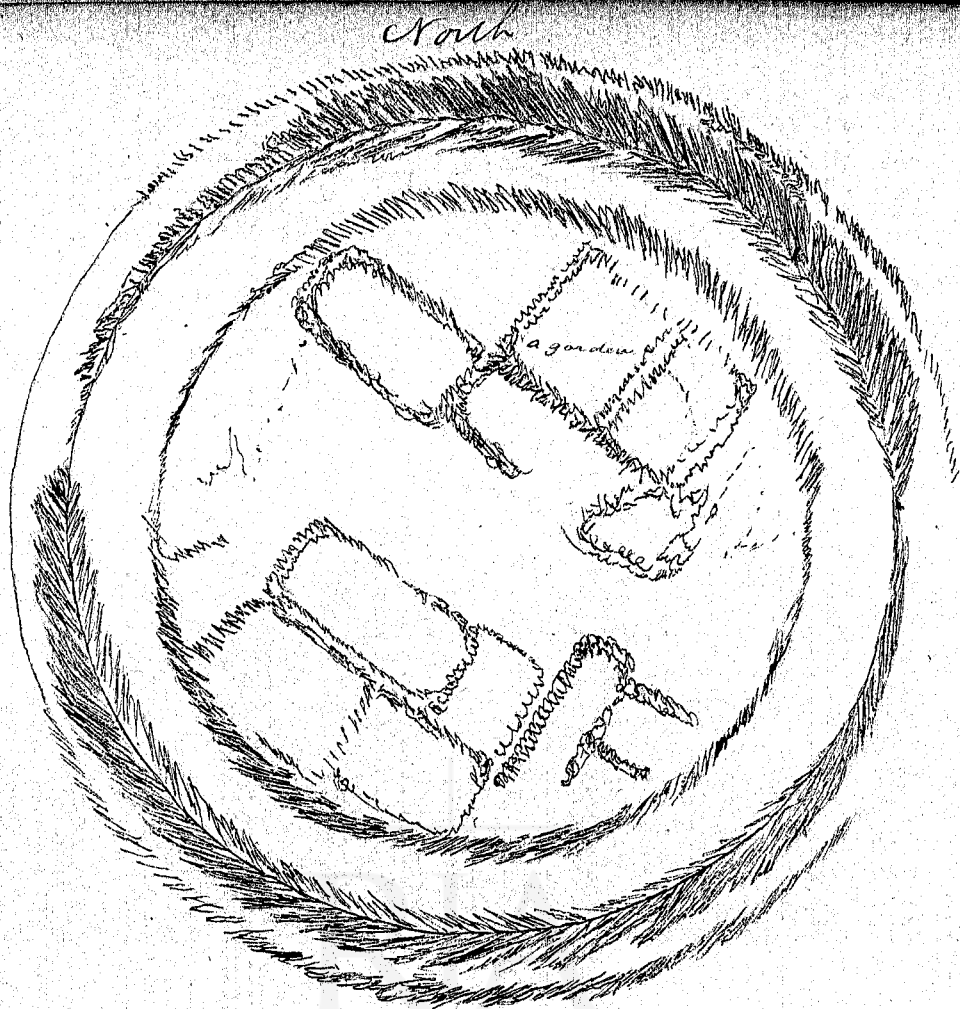
117  
in good, tho' not old mortar, and in regular  
courses. It cannot be older than the 13<sup>th</sup>  
Century. "There is a Rath near it, called  
raíthín na mbodach, Raithin na mbodach is  
Raithen of the Chiefs."

There is an ancient Rath in the townland  
of Rath Oisín, (Ossian) ~~monument~~ which the  
people there believe to have been the  
palace of that celebrated Chief. It has  
three concentric mounds, the inner  
circle 44 yards diameter, the area be-  
tween into several uneven and unequal  
compartments, resembling the sites of oblong  
buildings, rounded at the angles like those  
at Glencullen in the County of Dublin.

The first or outer rampart is varies from  
the level of the field or rather hillock, to 5  
feet in height, the second at about ten feet  
distance, is from twelve to fourteen feet high,  
excepting at the entrances, east & west. The  
third or inner, stands 24 feet from the  
latter, varying to seven feet in height.

The following figure will give some  
idea of the appearance of this place.

West



East

There is another handsome Rath a furlong or so to the south of this, which is also called Rath Oisín, or is said to have been the burial place of that Hero-Bard. His grave was marked in it by two upright stones at several yards distance, but the place was dug up several years ago by rooney-dreamy, and the stones carried away.

14/10/9/12 (14)



119  
by some wicked man who had not the  
fear of disim or the fairies before his  
eyes, but he died since, tho' not very old.  
<sup>fairies</sup> Irish he had gone before he disturbed  
my old friends bones. Nothing remains  
now to mark the grave but a circular  
hollow in the south eastern part of the  
Rath. See Parish, Part 4 for Rath Uggair

I have picked up the following lo-  
cal names not to be found in the name-  
book of this parish. Doryn burde, Doidin  
Buidhe, is the yellow little oak grove,  
in the Bog of Allen and townland of  
Strawnmore. Cuyach odan, Curach Odhar,  
is the dark marsh, bordering on Bog  
of Allen same townland; piltim na  
mbodach, Rakken na mBodach, is Rakken of  
the Churls, in same townland.  
We have this Barony traversed now.

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Eng. ne Curry.

I got the mail this morning.



**END**

14 D 9/13

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O']Curry, written from Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parishes of Fartagh (Fertagh), Rathlogan and Gleshare (Glashare), with particular reference to their burial grounds, early churches, castles, place names and the rath and round tower at Fertagh.

28 August 1839

22p.

24 cm

ill; ink sketches of part of the sculpted stone figure located in Killpatrick's tomb, in Fertagh old church and the doorway in Rathlogan old church. Pencil sketch of Fertagh round tower.

Included are related extracts from Archdall's 'Monasticum Hibernicum' and the 'Anthologica Hibernica'

120  
Johnstown 28<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1839

J. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

Sir

The parish of Partagh in the Barony of Holmoy and Craannagh is bounded by the parishes of Gleshare Ballin, Clonanta, Tubbrid, Burrismore, and Wellingford on the north and east, south east & south, and by the parish of Erke on the west. See Name Book.

The origin of the name of this parish is somewhat obscure; it does not occur in the Irish Calendar but it does in the Annals of the Four Masters under the name of *peptana ceaprech*, *Peptana gleairech*, i.e. the Tombs or sepulchres of the sheep. This is rather a strange name for so respectable and important an ecclesiastical establishment as this must have been.

Has Doctor Parrigan any account of this place or its founders?

14/10/9/13(G)

The following is from the Annals of the  
4 centuries:

Anno Dom. 861. *in q̄b na n̄gall 1 p̄p̄ta na  
ccap̄ech le cap̄ball co p̄p̄z̄ab̄ret. xl. c̄em  
7 3̄up̄po m̄n̄ap̄b ap̄a c̄p̄ch 1̄a.*

"The slaughter of the Danes at Ferta  
na ḡhair̄ech, by Carroll [King of Leinster]  
where they left xl. heads with him, and  
that he banished them out of his  
Country."

Anno. 1156. *Daup̄m̄aṣ̄ na n̄duach, achap̄  
m̄c̄ ap̄t, culcaip̄m, 7 p̄p̄ta-caep̄ach do loȳc̄c̄.*

"Dunow of Dy-Duach, Schadh mac  
Airt, Culcaissin, and Ferta-Caeroch  
were burned."

There can be no doubt but that this  
is the Ferta mentioned above, as all  
the places described as burned are  
<sup>here</sup> on the same line from East to West <sup>and in the same district.</sup>

I may observe here, that before this  
extract reached me, I had discovered  
the <sup>effect of the</sup> action of fire on the Stones of



122

of the Church here mentioned, of which  
see more hereafter.

Tearta is at present occupied by a large and  
much venerated graveyard; the walls of  
<sup>comparatively</sup> two modern churches; portion of the wall  
of an older building; and a fine Round  
Tower.

The first or most modern of ~~church~~ <sup>church ruins</sup> is si-  
tuated south of the next in order, and  
built from east to west in the usual  
manner. It measures  $57\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length,  
and 24 feet ten inches in breadth, the  
east gable level with the ground, a  
breach in the west gable reaching half  
up, a window near it in the north wall,  
built ~~up~~ of Cut Stone, divided into two divi-  
sions by a mullion, each division pointed,  
in the Vacuum, but the top square. There  
is a large pointed window, built of chipped  
stones, in the ~~east~~ south side, near the  
same gable. There is a pointed doorway  
in the middle of the same side, now  
closed up, which opened into a small

14/10/9/13 (11)

Square building resembling a sacristy, the foundation of which is distinct enough yet.

From the middle of this church to the north projects another building 33 feet long, 22½ wide. The walls about eleven feet high, and 2 feet 6 inches thick. The north gable had <sup>either</sup> a very large window <sup>or door</sup> built up on the inside with fine cut stone a few only of which remain in one side. There is a broken window in the east side near the gable, the stones of which and a very rude representation of the Crucifixion in black marble, have been lately carried to the New Catholic Chapel at Johnstown [together with the baptismal font and the window from the <sup>south</sup> ~~west~~ side of the church first mentioned, the large window from the East gable having been previously carried off to the Protestant Church of the same place, both of which will be easily discerned in those respective buildings] This last mentioned church which I shall call

124

Vitzpatrick's Church, appears to me to have been built at least 150 years before the other. In the middle of it close together of the same height and dimensions are two tombstones covering one grave, and bearing the effigies of an Irish Chief and his Lady, in full relief. The Chief is dressed in military costume or rather armor having the Bairead or pointed cap on his head; the Sgabhal or Pelisse? on his neck and shoulders, and a jacket of mail, <sup>reaching to his knells</sup> with gauntlets, his feet resting on a crouched dog whose head is now broken off, and an inscription running from head to foot on the right <sup>side</sup> ~~edge~~ or margin of the flag.

The lady is in full costume, covered with full mantle all over except the face and the tips of the feet which appear covered with shoes, small and neat. The headpiece forms several thin circles on the forehead and ends in two pinacles at the sides, but flat in the middle, ~~there~~ is an inscription at both sides of the head & just between the pinacles of which as well as the other inscription the following is I think a good copy.

14/10/9/12 (m)

something of the following form



There is an inscription in three tiers,  
a cross the head of this flag, the space  
between the points of the head  
are occupied by a portion of it.

If both these inscriptions seem  
I think very fair copies, tho' if I  
don't mistake Mr. O'Brien has them  
already.

This tomb is popularly called  
Killpatrick's tomb - the female  
figure and flag are broken across  
the middle, and a portion of the  
figure thrown about in the grave  
yard; this was done by a mad man.

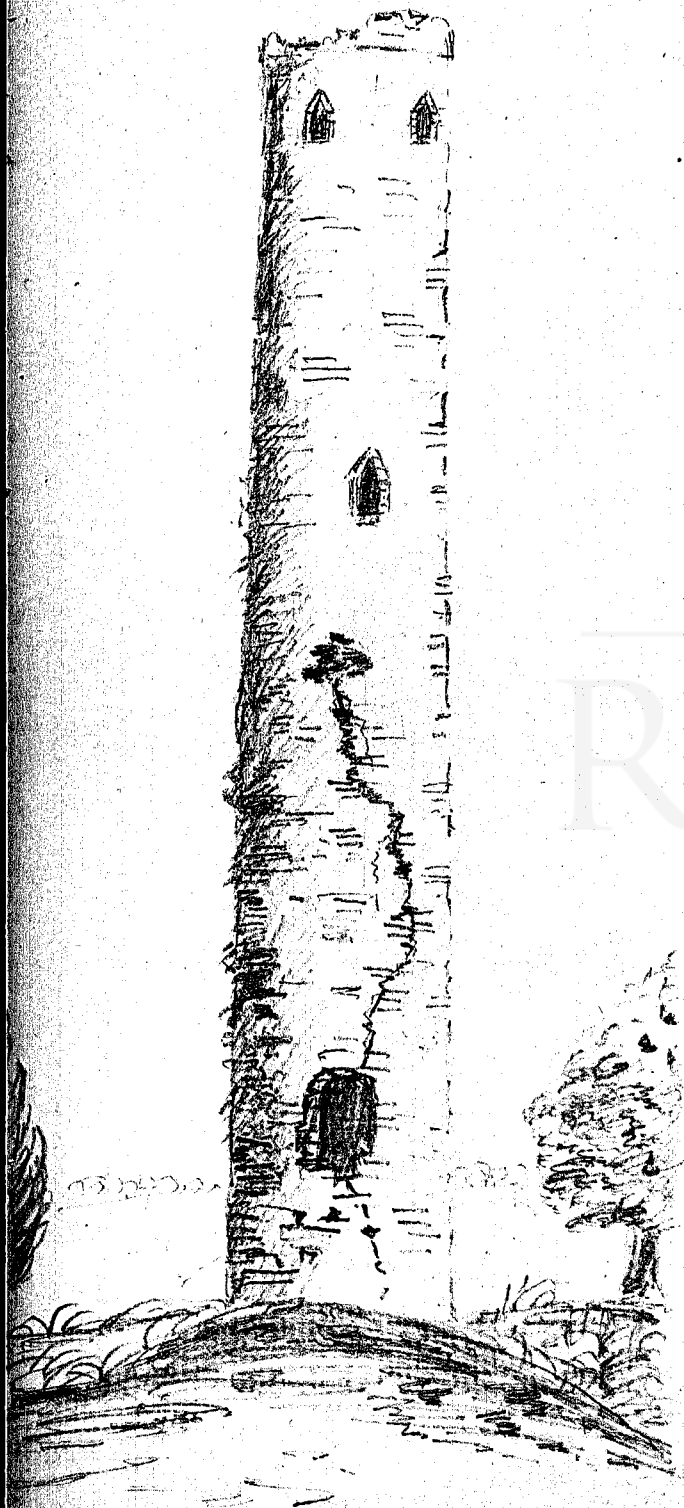




8. Sec. 4. 1876

14/5/9/13 (12)

N. 8



10

LIBRARY

14/0/9/13 (v)



At the distance of sixteen feet from the north gable of Fitzpatrick's Church, and at right angles with it, runs an old much dilapidated wall. It projects considerably beyond the gable to the east and west, measuring ninety feet in length, varying from six to eleven feet high; and three feet four inches thick. The surface stones of this wall have been nearly all carried away.

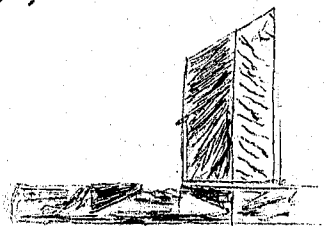
There are some however remaining at the western end and about the middle. Some of them on the outside are large, but generally they are of moderate size and well shaped, imbedded in good mortar of sand and gravel, but not in regular courses. This was the north wall of the church.

There is a broken window at 7 feet from the western end, and five feet from the ground, the sill and <sup>part of</sup> one of the side stones only remaining in part.

The sill is twenty inches long, and five thick; the side stone one foot high,

14/D/9/13(vi)

and one foot thick, the angle or awing taken off to the head of seven inches, & three on the sill. It (the window) is three inches wide in the front, presenting the following appearance:



This window is 3 feet eight inches wide on the inside, and built up of rather small ~~stones~~ chipped stones, very simply.

There is another similar window 9 feet from the above, but totally effaced on the outside.

There is <sup>a</sup> doorway (evidenced only by an old breach in the wall, but now closed up, and having <sup>3 feet</sup> hole running through the wall in a parallel direction, for about the distance of nine feet eight inches from the last window.

A piece of the wall on the inside, between the two windows remains an-

unbroken at the surface, built of small round stones, with little or no appearance of chipping or hammering, and presenting a very smooth uneven surface, the stones ~~have~~ bearing strong evidence of having been cooled upon by fire.

This, then is the north side of the Church that was burned here in the year 1156; according to the Annals of the Four Masters, and neither Camden, or Chute or the writer in the *Conthologia* Hibern. vol. 2. p. 353 seem to have seen or heard anything about it. The latter writer appears to me to have mistaken, and considerably misdated the date of the inscription above given. (<sup>the wall</sup> It is covered with living thorns &c.)

The old church did not extend farther to the west than the end of the wall, and a hollow at that part marks the old floor to the extent of about fifty feet, but encroached upon in breadth by the neighbouring soils. The gable of Fitzpatrick's church must have stood within the walls of this.

14/D/9/13(VN)

A few yards south west of the end of the old wall stands the Round Tower of Forta, measuring 100 feet eight inches in height, and 49 feet four inches in circumference [at 18 inches from bottom] according to the name book.

This is a fine built tower, but I think, not of very great antiquity, I mean of Pagan antiquity. It is built up of fine square lime stones, well chipped and hammered, bedded in mortar composed of lime and gravel, and in regular levels of unequal heights.

The stones are from 1 to two feet in length, and from 6 inches to a foot in thickness, <sup>all</sup> the stones in <sup>the same</sup> ~~every~~ course being ~~all~~ of the same thickness, with very few exceptions. These stones reach, if not all through, very deeply into the wall, which at the door is three feet thick. The door is eleven feet three inches from

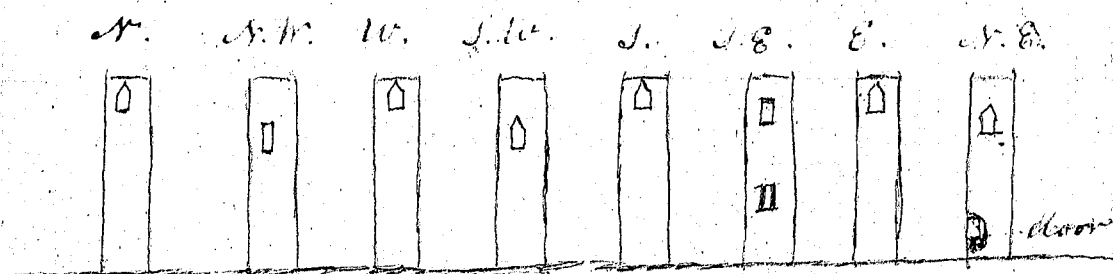


the ground, looking more like a breach in the wall than a regular doorway. It was originally built up with a brown grit stone, of which no specimen can, they say, be met with in this country. All these stones were carried away some few years ago by a neighbouring farmer of the name of Switzer, who told me himself that he thought they were fire proof and that for that purpose he placed them at the back of his kitchen fire, where they soon flew to pieces.

The door is in the north east side of it, and over it, at about half the height of the tower, there are some few stones knocked out, and a rift extending from that to the ground, as you may observe in the rough draught which I send herewith. There is another, <sup>but</sup> smaller, crack in the west side, at about the same height, both probably produced by thunder bolts.

14/10/9/13 (V.M.)

It contains nine windows disposed in the following manner and shape:



Gambier and Archdale have described the internal structure of this tower accurately, namely that there are five rests for stone.

I have had little difficulty in convincing myself that this tower and the old wall above described are of the same age.

The stones, the mortar, the character of the masonry on the outside of the wall and of this one, with the exception of levels, are in my mind the same, and thus I could not let the old church doors at an earlier date than the ~~seventh~~ <sup>tenth</sup> century.

The people here ascribe the erection of this church and tower to Saint

134

Kieran whose day, the 8<sup>th</sup> of March,  
they observed here by holding a patron,  
like within the last few years.

They speak on the authority of Keating  
that a large lawn stood here, in which  
there were at one time 140 wine  
tacos. What does Keating say  
of this place?

If this account of the founding of  
Ferta be correct, Kieran Saighis must  
have been the founder or more probably  
the patron, as the 8<sup>th</sup> of March is the  
day on which his festival is given  
in the Irish Calendar and Catholic  
Prayer Book. There are several  
persons bearing the name of Kieran  
in this parish, as Kieran Fitzpatrick,  
Kieran Ryan &c — There is a well  
situated to the north of Ferta called  
(Tobur (Johnyem), Tobur a Phucain i.e

re/p/9/13(ix)

138  
The little Puck (or the hoodwinked) cove,  
at which Saint Kieran was in the  
habit of watering his cow.

They show the site of an old road  
which they call <sup>Bolga Siarain</sup> Bolgar Chiarain,  
i.e. Kieran's Road, leading out from  
the tower to the South. I traced  
this old road through corn fields,  
meadows & more than four miles  
from Ferta, and they tell me here  
that it is known all the way  
to Gallain, over hills and valleys.

It would be easy to put this ancient  
road on the plan if deemed worth  
doing so.

The Irish speaking people here, all  
call the tower, Belvigtheach, and say  
that its bells are buried in a swamp  
a little to the West, since the time  
of Cromwell. See Archdall, Camden, & the  
notes in the Anthologia Bib. on this place.



# Fertaghe<sup>(r)</sup>

A priory under the invocation of St  
Kieran. was founded here in the 13<sup>th</sup>  
century. by the family of Blanchfield<sup>(s)</sup>  
for regular canons following the rule of  
St Augustine<sup>(t)</sup>

A. D. 1396. The priory held the churches of  
Fertaghe and Donaghmore in the diocese  
of Ossory.

1566. The townlands of Fertnegeraghe. with  
the site &c. of the priory. and the lands of  
Donaghmore. in the county of Wick.  
were held by Sir Edwards Butler. of  
Longrange in the said county

together  
(r) Called anciently. and in the time of Queen Eliza-  
beth. Fertaghnegeraghe. (s) Allmandes (t) War mon.

14/2/9/13 (2)

together with divers other Lands, at the  
20<sup>th</sup> part of a Knights fee (w).

This priory paid annually to the bishop  
11 s. 7 d for temporalties and £2 for prosois (w)

Oct 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of 2. Eliz. this monastery  
with the appurtenances thereof. one stang  
of lands five cottages and one hundred and  
one acres of land in the town and lands of  
Terinagera. with the rectory of the same was  
granted for ever in capite to James Butler  
junior at the yearly rent of £12. 13. 3 (x)

There still remains here a small ancient  
chapel in which is a large raised tomb  
with the figure of a man in armour

\* in alto  
relievo <sup>see in orig</sup> ~~rudely engraving~~ <sup>see in orig</sup> ~~there~~ his hands in  
a praying posture. and a dog at his feet

+

(w) Rang p. 244. (w) id. (x) Audo. General.

\* The above marginal note is not in the hand writing of the  
author.

+ by his side was originally the figure of  
 his wife\* with an inscription on the  
 cushion which lay under her head but  
 this part of the tomb now going to decay  
 is broken in two pieces. This tomb is said  
 to belong to the family of Fitzpatrick  
 Near to it is another tomb which  
 appears to be a woman's\* with a singular head-  
 dress rising up on each side. as bishop  
 Pococke describes it in two horns\* in the  
 east wall is a small figure of our Saviour  
 very elegantly executed + and a few yards  
 west of the chapel stands a round tower  
 much decayed. being cracked quite up  
 from the door. and wanting the top it is about  
 48 feet in circumference and the wall is three feet

+ Since removed to the popish chapel of Johnstown

the lines struck out are done in  
 original

This note together with all the  
 marginal notes are a different hand  
 from the author

14/P/9/3(XI)

+ with  
 an  
 inscription  
 on the  
 effigie

\* no 2nd  
 Female  
 figure

the sun  
 -gular  
 heads  
 dress

relates  
 to that  
 1st. month

[These notes are all in original]

feet eight inches thick the door which is  
 six feet by two and ten from the ground  
 faces the east the inside is divided into  
 5 stories at each of which is a resting  
 place formed by the wall sufficient to  
 support a floor and diminishing upwards.  
 the neighbouring inhabitants say this tower  
 is 112 feet high but it seems not to exceed

90.

Not far from Fertagh is a ruin called  
 Baun-richow which is said to have been  
 part of the ancient monastery of Fertagh  
 and probably was the farm house belonging  
 to it.



County  
of  
Kilkenny

## Tertaghe

At Tertaghe was a priory of canons regular, founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century by the family of Blanchfield. Here still remains a small ancient Chapel in which is a large raised tomb with the figure of a man in armour rudely engraved on it with a dog at his feet the figure of his wife lies by his side and an Inscription<sup>d</sup> defaced on the cushion under his head. This tomb is said to belong to the Fitz Patricks another Tomb with the figure of a Lady with the mitred head dress. In the east wall

a rude figure of our Saviour and a few yards west from the Chapel stands a round Tower much decayed cracked up from the door and wanting the top. It is 48 feet in circumference and the wall 3 feet 8 inches thick the door 6 feet by 3 and 10 feet from the ground faces to the east. the inside is divided into 5 stories at each of which is a resting place formed by the wall sufficient to support a floor and diminishing upwards the neighbouring inhabitants say the tower is 112 feet high but it seems not to exceed 90. Not far from Fertagh is a ruin called Bannrichin which is said to have been part of the ancient monastery and

and probably was the family farms  
house belonging to it.<sup>46</sup>

Siddons one the river Swire had a  
monastery. so had Trushford. the latter  
church now parochial in the diocese of  
Oxford and called the friends of agham  
has a curious inscription over the door.

---

{b Auch<sup>ts</sup> 350. 351.} {c Auch<sup>ts</sup> 351.} {d Wilson 333.}

14/10/9/13(xiii)

Anthologia Hib. vol 2 p 353.

County  
of  
Kilkenny  
1851

\* \* \* \* \*

Fig 11 is an inscription on the tomb  
of Mac Gille Patrick, in the old church  
of Pentycost, in the County of Kilkenny.  
it is much defaced but may be thus  
interpreted.

"Here lieth at rest entombed the  
chief Mac Gille Patrick who died  
May 1525 and God have mercy  
on his soul

This was most probably that Mac  
Gille Patrick, who in 1522 sent an  
express messenger to King Henry 8th,  
to complain of Pierce Butler, earl  
of Ormond L. D. which messenger  
taking an opportunity to meet the  
King

MS/P/9/13 (rev)



King in going to Chapel, delivered his  
embassy in these words;

*Sta pedibus, Domine Rex, Dominus  
meus Gillpatrickus me misit ad te, et  
jussit dicere, quod si non vis castigare  
Solum Regem, ipse faciet Bellum  
contra te.*

Now, master King, my master  
Gill Patrick has sent me to thee, and  
commands me to say, if thou wilt not  
chastise Red Peter, he will make  
war against thee.

Fartagh or the cemetery, was the  
burying place of the City Patricks,  
chiefs of upper Ossory several ages.

Fig 5. is an inscription over the  
door of the old church of Rosconnel.

in

in the county of Kilkenney. being

Have ecclesiae p<sup>re</sup>sent cura H<sup>on</sup> Wilson <sup>Wilson</sup> Eastmure

est 19 Aug Anno D<sup>ni</sup> 1646. That is

This church, by the p<sup>re</sup>sent Hugh

Wilson, rector of this church, is repaired

the 19<sup>th</sup> of August A. D. 1646.

\* \* \* \* \*



149  
39

There is a large Moat, raised in the eastern end of a large elliptical Rath, about half a mile to the west of Hearta, called by the peasantry Mota na Hearta is the Moat of Hearta.

There is a large enclosure (circular) in the townland of Grange Hearta, which I think was the ancient Corn or Sythes yard of the old Church.

There is an ancient Rath ~~is~~ called Rath Osgar in the townland of the same name, having a piece of a strong Stone wall within it near the western side, measuring 25 feet in length and from two to five feet in height. It looks like part of an old castle, but I could discover no tradition about it from any person. The Rath is 32 yards in diameter, built of stones and earth, and unworthy of any particular notice except in its name. Osgar, the bravest of the Finian heroes in his day, and after whom this Rath is named, was the son of Osian, who was the son of Finn Mac Cool, and it is an interesting coincidence

14/10/9/1860



36  
to find Rath Bisian, Rath Osgar and  
Luidhe Finn or the seat of Finn in the  
same neighbourhood. Luidhe Finn, ~~was~~  
a large mound or moat of earth and  
stones, and having a chairlike seat near  
the top, stood on the hill immediately  
over Rath Osgar to the south, but it  
was levelled some years ago.

There is an old castle in the townland  
of Ballycundichy, called <sup>(castle in Gaelic is)</sup>  
Chruisic, i.e. Ballycundichy castle. It has three  
floors in it, which are still used for farm  
purposes.

There is a large and popular burying  
ground in the townland of Donagh-  
more, called by the people here <sup>campall</sup>  
<sup>Donaghmore</sup> Domhnach mhuir, Leampall Domhnach mhuir  
i.e. the church of Donaghmore.

There is a fine old castle, unroofed and  
gutted in the townland of Foukescourt,  
and known as Foukescourt castle. It measures  
25 feet five in the clear from west to east, &  
19 feet across. The western wall 7 feet nine



inches thick; the eastern 12 feet ten inches thick, but containing passages to the top.

The ascent to the top is by 78 stone steps, each 10 inches high, and running up in the south east angle. There are 24 loop-holes, some square some round; and nine square windows in the walls, all of fair cut <sup>lime</sup> stone. It stood at the east side of an extensive square court, having a round tower in each angle, and a square one over the great gate on the south side.

The ~~outer~~ inner side of this tower stands over the gate still. Large portions of the Court wall, very strong, and in some places 10 feet high remain still, having a deep trench full of water on the south and east sides, and on the other sides a deep and rapid stream.

Hyde in his Statistical Survey of this County says at page 637, that he supposes this Castle belonged to the family whose name it bears; this is a discovery worthy of an antiquary, as the Irish people here call it by the name

14/5/9/13 (xvii)

149  
34 of curru aphuca, Cuirt a Phuca, ie the Pook's  
Court, so that at last we have found  
a habitation and a home for the power-  
ful and terrible Irish family of the Pook's.

The ruins of a church called Fookycourt  
church, stand a quarter of a mile S. east of  
the castle, measuring 60 feet six inches in  
length, and 25 in breadth, the <sup>side</sup> walls 10 feet  
high and 2 feet ten inches thick.

There is a window in each side near the east  
gable, five feet high 3 feet wide & square at  
top inside; four feet high, seven inches wide  
and pointed on the outside, where it  
they are built up of good cut stone.

There is a window in the east gable seven  
feet high, and four feet three inches wide  
on the inside; four feet six inches high, one  
foot nine inches wide, and divided in the  
middle by a mullion 6 inches thick, on  
the outside. The door must have occupied  
the place of a breach in the south side  
near the western gable.

The whole of this has a modern appearance  
and must have been a Chapel of ease to the  
Pook's.

150  
35

Tighe in his statistical survey of this county page 625 mentions a stone at Ballyspellan in this parish, which was called <sup>Stone of blessing</sup> ~~Balogh~~ Bannagh, the name of the stone is remembered as Balogh Bannachair, but no body has seen or heard any thing about for forty years back: There are some large stones in a field near the Spa well, but they are not known by any names.

There is a bit of the wall of an old church in the townland of Killashulan, with a place a little to the north of it for the interment of still born infants.

The inhabitants call this place Teampall Chlais Shuibhne i.e. the church of Shulawn's trench, and know nothing more about it. The part remaining appears to have been of the western gable.

14/12/13 (XVIII)



151  
36  
There is a round castle on the same  
townland, 150 feet in circumference &  
about thirtyone in height, having a  
pointed doorway in the south  
eastern side and a few windows.

It is supposed to have belonged  
to the family of Shortall.



St. ...

## Of the parish of Gleshare

The parish of Gleshare in the Baronies of Galmy and Upper Ossory, County of Kilkenny & Queen's, is bounded on the northeast by the parish of Aghmacart, on the south east and south by those of Sharney, Sheffin and Boolcaghan, and on the west by those of Rathlogan, Partagh and Enke. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin. The oldest of the inhabitants call it by the more appropriate name of Glarpe an áir, Glaise an áir, i.e. The stream of slaughter; and they account for this name by shewing the stream on which bloody battle was fought long ago, between the king of Leinster and the Connaught men, in which the latter were defeated. They shew a field here in which was a trench into which all the dead bodies were thrown.

The stream here mentioned is very near Fearta, and it is probable that the battle

traditionally remembered as having been fought here between the Leinster and Connaught men, was that which was fought between the Laginny and the Dares in the year 861, already mentioned.

There is an old castle in good preservation and inhabited, in the townland of Gleshare, and an old small burying ground called (*campall glappe áir*,) *Leampoll Ghlaise áir*, i.e. Gleshare Church, in the same T. L.

## Of the parish of Rathlogar.

The parish and townland of Rathlogar, in the barony of Galmoy, is bounded by Bawnrickeen, Grange Hartagh, Barongorra, Rathraker, and Ballyspellan in parish of Hartagh, by Greenkilmore, and Fortanarnuck in the parish of Coolcoshin, and by Rathlogar and Gleshare, parish of Gleshare. See Name Book.

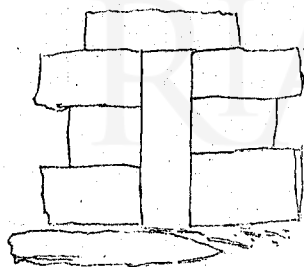
The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin. The inhabitants call it *parc lochan*, Rath Lochain, that is the Rath of Lochan, which appears to have been the name of a man in the older times.

The parish contains but the one townland that gives it name. The Rath of Lochan lies about a quarter of a mile east of the Rath of Oggar already mentioned in the parish of Bearta. It is 44 yards <sup>in</sup> diameter having a mound and trench running from west to east through it, nearer the northern side, and traces of stone work in the same side.

14/D/9/13 (xx)

The ruined church of Rathlogan stands a few yards to the east of the Rath, measuring 42 feet in length and 18 feet ten inches in breadth.

The western gable and about 25 feet of the sidewalls remain. There is a window in the ~~side~~ gable about four feet six inches high, and two feet six inches wide on the inside; square at top; about two feet six inches high and seven inches wide on the outside, & square at top also; built at the inside of clumsy roundish large stones. The following will give some idea of the front.



There is a doorway in the north wall, eleven feet from the gable, seven feet high and 4 wide, square topped, with a lintel inside 6 feet long, 8 inch high, and a foot broad. This door is broken on the outside. This is not a very old church; the walls 2 1/2 feet thick. There is a small burying ground near



near it, having a few modern graves.

There is a holy well called (cobapi  
na pul, <sup>Tobarna Sul</sup> Tolar na Sul, that is, the well of  
the eyes, at the distance of a quarter of a  
mile east of the Church.

This well, as may inferred from the name,  
was in great repute formerly for the cure  
of sore eyes; but now it is little frequented.

There is a very handsome moat a  
little to the north of the well,  
called by the inhabitants Rathlogan  
Moat. It has two concentric cir-  
cles around it, but it is not high.

### Of the Barony of Galmy.

I have been at some pains to disco-  
ver the origin of the name of this  
barony, and if I have not succeeded  
I have at least paved the way for fu-  
ture investigation.

14/D/9/13 (XXI)

A small stream runs into this barony near Worlingford, out of the Bag of Allen, separating the parishes of Erke and Feartagh, striking the Queen's County at Ballybrays, continuing from that to Newtown Butler, and uniting with the River Erkin above Dunrow, becomes one of the heads of the Nore. Some of the inhabitants here call this river by the name of Gabhal, Gabhal, that is the Branch, while others call it Gabhlaoise, Gabhlaidhe, of the Branches or Branchy.

The first name with the addition of Moy or Plain, would fully bear out the present name, thus Gabhal mhoise, Gabhalmhoighe, is the plain of the Gabhal or branch; and Ireland does not present a more level plain than that through which it takes its short course within this County.

Thus Gabhal Mhoighe, Anglice Galony would be very well borne out.

The <sup>second</sup> form of the name is also admirably <sup>sustained</sup> by the character of the stream, which from the dead level through which it passes is constantly branching off from its bed into innumerable channels, ~~which~~ as wide and as deep as the parent one, & which flowing on for a short distance again fall into the same channel, thus forming a series of channels and islands, that I never saw the like.

The name Gabhlaidhe, pronounced, as well as Gabhalmhoigh. Goll-wee, you will perceive is well ~~borne~~ borne out by the natural features just described, so that between these two names I am almost certain the original one of the Barony must be found, but I am inclined to adopt the Gablaghe Gabhlaidhe, i.e. the Branchy,

1594

from what reason I cannot well explain;  
probably from finding the locality ~~at~~  
particularly called Holmby, bordering  
on the part of this river the most conspic-  
uous for its branchings.

We have finished this barony &  
will remove to Freshford on Saturday  
the 31<sup>st</sup> where you will please di-  
rect any communications that  
may be sent out tomorrow.

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Eugene Perry



**END**

14 D 9/14

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of Clomanta (Clomantagh), Tubbrid, Killahy, Killcooley (Kilcooly) and Garnamanna (Garranamanagh), with particular reference to their early churches, burial grounds, castles and the origins of their place names.

1 September 1839

8p.

24 cm

Freshford 1<sup>st</sup> September 1839.

T. A. Larcom Esq R. E.

Y.  
Sir

The parish of Belmont forms the northwest point of the Barony of Lorrain in the County of Kilkenny, and is bounded on the northwest and west by the parishes of Fearta, Burrismore, Urlingford, and part of Tubrid, on the southwest by part of Tubrid, Ballylarkin and Freshford, and on the east by the parishes of Balkeen, Fearta and Garnamanna.

Lee. Tarnet Book

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, but is derived from a large stone, having a cleft or gap in it, which stood on the south side of the road, about thirty perches west of the Church of Blomanta.

This rock of which a small portion remains  
~~still~~<sup>and is still</sup> way, called cloch mhannach, bloch  
 Mhanntach, is the lapped or cleft stone, and  
 hence the name of the parish.

14/D/9/14(i)

The ruined church of blockmannstuch, or (as it is marked in Harnebooke) of Gleebe, is  $64\frac{1}{2}$  feet long & 21 feet 4 inches broad, having a pointed door in each side at the distance of fifteen feet from the western gable. They are five feet six inches in breadth, and about seven feet in height.

There are two pointed windows in each side near the eastern gable, measuring 4 feet eight inches in breadth and ten feet in height, on the inside; five feet nine inches in height, and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in breadth on the outside; two of them, one on each side, retaining the cut stone in front still. There are two windows in the east gable, of the same shape with the above; about 13 feet high and 4 feet seven inches wide on the inside; ten feet high and 10 inches wide on the outside; the front cut stones all remaining excepting those of the north side of the most northern window.

There is a large, much frequented burying ground attached to it. The western



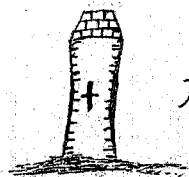
gable has a belfry for two bells, one of the arches broken away.

I would not take this church to be three hundred years old.

A few perches north of the church stands the Castle of Blochmannstsch, in full preservation and still inhabited by a comfortable farmer.

The principal door is on the north, and the ascent to the top ~~the~~ by a flight of 76 stone steps, in the northeast angle, each step eight inches high, and the walls 7 feet ten inches thick; has 14 loopholes & 6 windows.

It stands in the south side of an extensive square court, the strong walls of which, remain in good preservation, having several loop and port holes. There is a broken <sup>topped</sup> little round tower in the north west angle, about 6 feet in diameter, 18 in height, the cone built of handsome cut stone, something like this



Three loopholes.

There is a large Cairn on the top of the hill of *blomanta*, called by the peasantry *rúpe fínn*, *Suidhe Fínn* is *Fínn* (St. Coole), seat. Tighe in his statistical survey of Kilkenny, page 1623 says that in his time Anno. 1802, it measured eighty paces in circumference, it now measures but 67 paces.

After describing this Cairn he then, on the Vallancey principles, goes on to derive the name *blomanta*, as follows:

"The name of blagh-man-ta, the stone of  
 "God, or of the great God (of similar origin  
 "with that of Lliegh-na-man, the mountain  
 "of God, on which was an ancient altar of  
 "the Sun) is sufficient indication of the  
 "use of this enclosure. The name of Man,  
 "one of the most ancient appellations of  
 "the Divinity, and always connected  
 "with that primitive idolatry, which  
 "was spread to east and west by the  
 "Cuthite or Scythic branch of the Noachidae,  
 "is too interesting to be overlooked; but

"to illustrate their history properly, demands the  
 "abilities and knowledge of a Vallancey  
 "or <sup>a</sup> Bryant."

There is a batch of antiquarians for you,  
 to whom if we give credit, will prove  
 that the old Irish people were the most  
 godly creatures in the world, for where  
 ever you turn your face to, you will  
~~find~~ <sup>find</sup> according to these sagacious writers,  
~~great~~ <sup>find</sup> find lashings and lashings  
 of hills, mountains, rivers, rocks, caves,  
 Cairns &c dedicated to their gods,  
 their great gods or their?

It is strange how the Vallancey school,  
 without knowing anything of the  
 Irish language either natively or by  
 its affinity with other languages, for  
 without the first, the second could not  
 be made available, could know  
 the meaning of Irish words better

MSO/9/14(n)





An old man here told me that the proper name of Baleef was Bally-Hugh, in English, and baile sooh pronounced Ballee, was the old Irish name, which in English is Ballyhugh or Hughstown, and that the present name is a corruption <sup>of</sup> the Irish one. The same man told me that the place in this parish ~~now~~ called Woodsgift, was always by the Irish called baile na lochan, Baile na Lochán, is the town of the little lakes or pools, and anglicised Lochenstown.

Baleef castle contains nine loopholes and three small windows.

There is a house on the townland of Billeen, which some persons call by the name of "the castle," but it has no appearance of a castle now. There was a castle here however, for I find it on Pettys

14/10/9/14 (14)

168  
Map, and Tigh in his Statistical Survey  
says, page 637, that the Castles of Blogh-  
manta, Kilrush, Tubbric, Killeskurran,  
Balief belonged to the Shortalls.

The Shortalls are pretty numerous at  
present in this district, and one of them,  
a comfortable farmer, inhabits the Castle  
of Bloch Mantach, on which he prides  
himself not a little. He says that it  
was Cromwell that stripped his ancestors  
of their property. They are all Catholics.

There is a well near the mills of Blogh-  
manta, called by the inhabitants Tubber  
Muirie ie Lady's Well. It is held in no  
veneration at present.

Of the parish of Gannamanna.

The parish of Gannamanna in the north western part of the barony of Crannagh, and is bounded by the parish of Belmanta on the south west and west, and by the parish of Balleer on the North & east. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin to some extent. The present is a slight corruption of the proper name - Gannamanna, Gann-na-manach, ie the shrubbery of the Monks.

They have a tradition here that this place formerly had a religious <sup>house</sup> belonging to the neighbouring Abbey of Ballygloscar, now Ballyliskane. A small heap of stones and rubbish mark the site of this old house.

This place is marked, Terpoint, & Gannamanna on Pellys map.

14/10/9/14 (v)

## Of the parish of Tubbrid.

The parish of Tubbrid in the Barony of  
 Glennagh is bounded on the north east  
 by the parishes of Wrlingsford and Glomanta,  
 on the south by the parishes of Ballycarlin,  
 Tullaroan, and Killahy, and on the west  
 and north west by that of Tullaroan Co.  
 Kilkenny, and Killcooly in Co. of Kilkenny &  
 Co. of Tipperary. See name & root.

The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical  
 origin, but imperfectly given above; on  
 Beaufort's map it is marked Tisbraid  
 Briotain in Briotain's Well, and in the  
 Liber regalis visitationes it is called by  
 the same name. I have no reference  
 to the Briotan whose name this parish  
 bears, but I find in the Irish Calendar  
 a Saint Briotan of Rath venerated on  
 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May.



14/10/14

The ruins of the church of Tubbrid stand in the townland of that name, measuring 63 feet <sup>9 inches</sup> in length, divided by a cross wall at the distance of  $38\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the western gable; thus part 18 feet wide, the other 16.

The two extreme gables and the north wall remain to the full height, but the middle gable is down to the level of the sidewalls, and a breach in the south side, near the western gable marks the place of the door.

The entrance to the eastern part was through a door in the south side, of which part of the right hand side as you go in, only remains, built up of large chipped stones.

The place of a window appears, by a breach in the same side, near the east gable.

One side of an arched window remains in the eastern gable, built up of cut stones.

It might have been about 3 feet three inches high and seven inches wide. There is a small burying ground attached in which one stone is an old grave of one of the Shortalls.

14/10/14 (VI)

478  
There is a fine spring well a little to the southwest of the ruin, which the people call Tubber Patrick or Patrick's well, but hold it, <sup>in</sup> no veneration for sanctity. This well was probably the Priorean's well which gave name to the parish, but that name, which is a very un-Irish one, in the lapse of ages is very likely to have been forgotten, and the well called by its present more popular one.

The castle of Tubbrid stands a little to the south of the church, measuring 23 feet by 17. It is but three stories high, having a pointed door way in the south side. The walls are 8 feet five inches in thickness, containing 16 loopholes and 8 windows.

The ruined church of Kill dreena stands in the townland of that name in this parish, measuring 42 feet in length, and

23 in breadth. The walls remain entire excepting 13 feet of the northern sidewall near the western gable. This gable has a broken belfry.

A breach in the south side wall <sup>near W. gable</sup> marks the place of the door; there is a <sup>broken</sup> window in the same side near the east gable. There is a round window in the east gable, 8 feet high and five feet eight inches wide on the inside; three feet six inches high & 6 1/2 inches in breadth outside, built up with Cut Stone. I have no reference to this place, but suppose it to be of the same origin with Kile Draighneach of Idrome County Carlow.

14/0/9/14 (vii)

## Of the parish of Killahy.

The parish of Killahy in the Barony of Crannagh is bounded on the northwest and northeast by the parish of Tubbid, and on the south east and southwest by the parish of Tulloran. See name Book.

The name of this parish is ~~unknown~~ <sup>unknown</sup> of ecclesiastical origin, tho we have no direct reference to it. There is but one place of the name of Kille Achadh in the Irish Calendar, but whether this is the place or not I cannot say.

The ruins of the old church of Killahy stand in the townland of Greenhill, measuring 40 feet in length and 20 in breadth, a small portion of the western gable and 21 feet of the southern wall remain, built of very large stones irregularly laid. There



174  
is a small hill in the townland of  
Killahy, called *grym Seam*, *Drim Seain*  
i.e. John's Ridge or hill.

Now the old church of Killahy  
happens to be placed by the peasantry in  
the townland of Greenhills, and not in  
that of Killahy I cannot say.

175  
of the parish of Killcooley.

There is only one townland, or two, of this parish in the County of Kilkenny, the remaining part is in the County of Tipperary where it will be treated of.

We arrived here on yesterday morning from Johnstown, and never in my whole life did I experience such a storm and shower of rain as overtook us on the way. Though our bags & boots &c were stowed away in the boot or box of the Car, still they did not escape the wet, but I am glad to be able to say that tho they were wetted, they were not damaged. The weather is dreadful here, still. We leave this for Kilkenny on Tuesday morning, where you will please direct any commands for us.

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Eugene Barry

**END**

14 D 9/15

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Kilkenny, concerning his arrival in and intended survey of the county.

1 September 1839

2p.

24 cm

RIA



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Kilkenny Sept. 1. 1839.

Dear Sir, I arrived here yesterday evening at 5 o'clock  
but could <sup>not</sup> make out <sup>the</sup> Messrs Burry and O'Keeffe; I  
suppose they have not reached this city yet. Please  
to let me know where to find them as soon as you  
conveniently can, as I cannot get on with any  
satisfaction till I see the extracts for the County and  
the map of the parishes.

I now want paper, pens and sealing wax, having  
written out all <sup>the paper</sup> that you sent me to Lar Conn  
and 350 pages more, and worn all my pens to the  
stumps. Mr Wakeman wishes to have smooth paper  
on which he can draw with facility, and he says  
he cannot dry well on the square roughish paper  
which you sent us to Galway.

I am now enjoying the pure air of my natale solus  
14/10/9/15 (1)

What a contrast it affords to the barren mountains of Far Connaught! The contrast is too striking to my imagination, and I feel myself smothered in meadows and rich corn fields. I am glad to find that the weather has not as yet effected any very great injury to the crops.

Your obedient &c. Servant

John Donovan

I cannot get on to my satisfaction without Liges Statistical account of the County of Kilkenny. Please to send it to me by return of Post, if you have not already sent it to Mr. Furry.

Please to send my Dissertation on the Islands of Aran to Mr. Petrie as soon as he returns. I still maintain that there is no curvilinearly pointed arch on any of these islands older than the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is 15 years since Mr. Petrie was in Aran at which period he was a young antiquary; but if he were to examine those islands again with the experience he has since had I have little doubt but <sup>that</sup> he would pronounce those curvilinearly pointed arches modern, though he has struggled with great ingenuity and skill to maintain

their antiquity in his remarks upon my notice of Kilmac-  
-duagh. All the churches on <sup>the</sup> Aran isles were remodelled  
with the exception of Teampull Beannain and  
Kill-Cannonagh; and these, according to all the laws  
of true investigation, must be made the standard  
for comparison. As there is no perfect <sup>primitive</sup> Teampull  
<sup>or Damliag</sup> now on Aran, I brought in the Lady Church at  
Glendalough to assist in the comparison, and I found  
that this will argue strongly against the primitive  
existence of pointed choral arches in Ireland in the  
5<sup>th</sup> century.

I wish Mr Petrie would visit Lis Bodin before he  
returns as I am told it contains curious Cyclopean  
remains never examined. I met Mr Kildea and  
agent to Lord Sligo who lives on the island; he  
attempted a description of the sort of remains  
there are, from which I have come to the conclu-  
sion that they are exactly like those on Aran.

As Mr Petrie sketched Sal Roe near the  
Little Killary.

Mr. Wm. M. Austin, Service

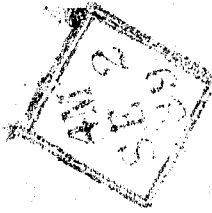


The Superintendent

Edna M. Turner

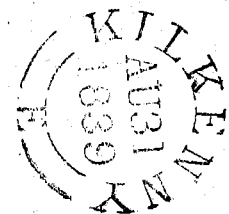
Phoenix Park

Dublin.



Richardson

Sept 1, 1889





**END**

14 D 9/16

O'Donovan, John; 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history, religious traditions, antiquities and topography of the parish of Freshford, with particular reference to its early church, holy wells and the origins of its place names.

1 September 1839

7p.

24 cm



13  
Messrs A. Larcom & Co.  
R. Engineers.

179  
Freshford Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> 1839  
Recd at Gal. Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1839

Dear Sir,

Having escaped from the province of the  
Olnegmact, where I sojourned for so long a period,  
I shall now turn my attention to the antiquities &  
history of my own native Country - the ancient Os-  
sory, - which, though long <sup>under</sup> cultivation, and in the  
centre of the English Pale, contains nevertheless  
much to interest the antiquarian and lover of  
historical research. Siger has already written  
much on this County but I shall prove that  
his knowledge was limited and imperfect, at least  
as far as history and antiquities are concerned.

Of the parish of Freshford  
Situation and name. ||

This parish lying in the North east part of the Barony of  
Crannagh is called Achas in the Labhar Breac fol. 10 p. 2  
with which all succeeding authorities agree. The present Irish  
name is Ach in, which is incorrectly translated Fresh-ford;  
because the word Ahas, a field is here obsolete, and because  
a river flows through the village the popular belief  
is that the first part of the name is from Aic, a ford  
which is here pronounced Ach. This mistake is in the  
14/D/9/16(i) trans

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\* The river which flows near this church is called the Mariner, i.e. the green river.

the translation of the name was committed so early as the reign James I, for an Inquisition taken at \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of his reign calls this parish Aghoor alias Freshford. That fresh-ford, however, is really an erroneous translation of Áicís úr will be at once evident to the Irish, and proved by the following passage in the life of St. \_\_\_\_\_ as published by Colgan:

"Achadh úr i.e. ager viridis seu mollis propter humi-  
-ditatem rivulorum \* qui transeunt ibi.

Acta. SS. p. 590. cap. 10.

This puts the meaning of the name beyond dispute. I have already often stated that Áicís is translated ager and campus by Adamnan, and that it is still a living word bearing the same signification in the Counties of Fermanagh, Cavan and Monaghan. I need only add here that the word is obsolete in Lath Mhogha, and hence the error in translating it in this instance. The word Áic, a ford, and almost all monosyllabic words terminating in Áic are pronounced <sup>here</sup> as if written with a final é as bráé, snáé, cráé, gnáé &c. and this favoured the disguise of the name in question.



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History. The following are all the historical notices of this place, that have been rescued from the tooth of envious time

Lachtain Achada úir 1 n-oerr Chind Chaille 1 n-Orraíib.

Lachtain of Aghoor in Des-Kincally in Ossory." L. Breac

Mart. 19. Lachtain, mac Torbern abb. Achad úir 1 n-Orraíib, a sup ó Bealach Feabrach, A. D. 622.

March, 19. Lachtain, son of Torbern, abbot of Aghoor in Ossory and of Bealach Feabrach. A. D. 622.

The life of this saint is given by Colgan at the 19<sup>th</sup> of March. from which Lanigan has extracted the following notice of him.

" St. Lachtain of Achadh ur was intimate with  
" <sup>mo coe mós</sup> Pulcherius, who had been his fellow student at  
" Bangor (69)

" (69) <sup>note</sup> Life Cap II. St. Lachtain alias Lachten or Lactan  
" is treated of by Colgan at 19 March. He was of the  
" illustrious house of Corpre. Musc of Muskerry (Cork)  
" one of the sons of Conary the second formerly king  
" of Ireland. He is called by some the son of  
" Torbern and by others of Corpre, the son of Nuachair  
" He founded a great monastery at Achadh ur i.e.  
" green field (not green ford as Archdall says) near  
" 14/10/9/16 (v) near

(4) near or at the place where Freshford now stands  
 in the County of Kilkenny. It is related in the life  
 of St. Carthag of Lismore that while the saint  
 was still at Rathen, Lactean moved by pity for  
 the distressed state of his community, brought him  
 a present of thirty cows, one bull, two herdsmen  
 and some utensils. He is called in various Martyro-  
 logies a bishop, but says Bolgan, whether at Achad  
ur or elsewhere is not sufficiently clear. If he was  
 a bishop, I believe Achad ur was his see, as I find  
 him constantly called Lactean of Achad ur. He  
 died on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, A.D. 622 (623). Harris  
 places this monastery of Achad ur in the Queen's  
 County, but Archdall, who has it in Kilkenny  
 at Freshford, is more correct, as appears from  
 the name Aghaur, by which a prebend in that  
 place is still called. Bolgan has confounded  
 this saint with the abbot Lactean, who was a  
 cotemporary and neighbour of St. Senan of Inis-  
 catthy. (See Acta SS. p. 525) But this Lactean cannot  
 be supposed to have lived down to 623. He was a  
 different person, and was, I am sure, the Lactean or  
 Lactin, from whom the church of Lis Lactin  
 in Kerry, not far from Eniscatthy, got its name.  
 Bolgan has also confounded him with Lactan,  
 who

183  
(5)

"who succeeded St. Molua at Clonfert-Molua.  
"For this he had no authority except the mere  
"similarity of name. There were Lactens or Lac  
"tans enough to succeed Molua without re-  
"moving the one at Achadh-ur to Clonfert  
"Molua, of which no mention occurs in the  
"Calendars, where treating of him."

Vol III. Chap XVII pp. 25, 26, 27.

The names of  
Very few of the successors of St. Lacten are pre-  
served by our annalists, though Achadh ur  
appears to have been a place of much im-  
portance down <sup>to</sup> a comparatively recent period.  
The following are all I find recorded

A.D. 809. Beolgaile of Achadh ur died

"899. Bennfaela Krenach of Achadh ur died."

"1018 O'Brodubhain (Abbot of Achadh ur was  
killed)." Four Masters.

Archdall has none of these in his Monasticon.

All the church of Achadh ur was modernized  
since the Reformation excepting a doorway in the  
west gable and a very small part of the walls  
around it. This doorway is a beautiful specimen  
of the architecture of the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> century and  
is therefore worthy of particular description. It is  
14/D/9/16 (iii)

1874  
(6) is very like the doorway of the church of Clonfert  
Rosperea, <sup>Killeeshin</sup> and Teampall na naomh on the island  
of Incha Gall, in Lough Corrib, with all which  
the antiquary should carefully compare it before he  
ventures on an opinion concerning its age. It is  
like the doorway of Clonfert, a semi-circular  
archway divided into three divisions, and of this  
form. (Here insert Mr. Wakeman's sketch)

[See vol. of Sketches]

The internal division, which may be properly called the  
doorway is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m high;  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m broad at the top and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m at  
the bottom. The second division of the arch is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  m high  
and the third or outermost division  $9\frac{1}{2}$ .



Around the circular head of the doorway or internal division of the arch way, are two inscriptions in the Irish language and character, but so effaced that it would require great skill, labour and patience to decypher them. If Mr. Petrie has not decyphered these already, I think they would be worth the labour and time which we should bestow on them, but if he has already done so to his satisfaction, it would be only loss of time to go through the same process again. The stones should be washed and the dirt removed out of the letters, and then the sun should be watched to shine on the letters, which are a good deal damaged.

A writer in the *Anthologia Hibernica* has attempted to decypher this inscription, but I never saw a more perfect specimen of blundering fabrication. His explanation of it runs as follows:

"No. 2 is an inscription over the door of the old church of Freshford, in the County of Kilkenny. It is in old Irish, engraven on several stones, and runs thus:

"Aodas M' Roen oas cuce cneabdocum doiamrac  
 "neibnisan cuirce, acos dor eacleag amarc mearg  
 "use acos elar sni deorpoich en argis.

In modern Irish.

"Aoda M' Roen agus coighe flath leampall ta  
 "lamb as dlighteach deaglais coisce agus dorais

14/10/9/16 (V)

ea

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(8)  
"ca cloch amaire fleas upa agus e fearann do  
"shin deirseach en archios.

"That is —

"The Priest M' Roen and chief gave to this  
"church the glebe of arable land, and over  
"the door placed this stone, as a true to-  
"ken; and with this favour the land  
"slaves and tribute."

"There being no date the time of this gift cannot be de-  
"termined. Freshford (in Irish Achadh ur or  
"Waterfield) was an ancient monastery of regu-  
"lar Canons in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, and at present  
"is called the prebend of Aghour."

Vol. I. p. 351.

seems to me

What ~~is~~ <sup>very</sup> extraordinary in this explication is the  
confidence with which it is given; ~~and~~ <sup>yea, a single letter</sup> but it is more  
extraordinary that there is not one single word of it  
correctly decyphered. The words given as the ori-  
ginal do not form language at all; and what  
is still worse, the modern Irish is not Irish nor lan-  
-guage; that is, it has no grammatical connection  
and the words do not coalesce according to any  
dialect of the Irish now or ever known.

The decypherer, whoever he was, must have been a  
very great fool; or a very finished antiquar-  
-ian imposter. Tradition says that his name was Byrne.

RIA

14/0/9/16(V)

184

In the square of Freshford is an inscribed stone raised on a monumental pile. This is said to have been removed from its original locality about the year 1802, as we are informed by Tighe.

"The manors of Freshford or  
"upper Court and of Castletewarren were  
"alienated from the See by Bishop  
"Thomery and disposed of to Sir R.  
"Shee, whose son Lucas erected, near  
"the gate of the (Demesne), a monu-  
"mental cross to his wife daughter,  
"which was removed by the present  
"proprietors to the square of Fresh-  
"ford: on this stone are the arms  
"of Shee and Butler, and the lady is  
"styled "Maria Butler, pernobilis uxor  
""Lucæ Shee."

Statistical Survey

p. 426.



About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the south of Freshford, to the left as you go to Kilkenny, is a large spring bubbling from the earth with considerable strength and rendered remarkable by a large aged ash tree which grows over it. It is dedicated to the patron saint, Achadhur, and called Tobar Laichtin, but it is no longer regarded as a holy well. About 50 years ago old people were in the habit of performing stations at it on every Saturday, but Dr. Marum R. C. Bishop of Ossory abolished all those customs throughout the Diocese.

There is another well in the townland of Tobar na peiste, to which it gave its name signifying the well of the worm; in which it is said people were accustomed to wash their hands to cure the worm. cum rubit peiste do leigear.

I find nothing else remarkable in this parish but a moat which gave name to the T. L. It is nearly of an oval form measuring 63 in length.

14/10/9/16 (vi)

189  
(107)

Does the name O' Cetneam, or any name like it, occur in the Index Familiarum to the Book of Lecan?

Where does O'Huidhin place the family of Chiarmhaic?

I want the list of the churches dedicated to the saints Columille and Brigit in the Diocese of Ossory, as published by Colgan. Does he not place a church of Brigit's in Magh-Lacha?

Is there no mention of the abbey of Gauran in Archdall? Let his account of it be copied, as soon as possible. I cannot conceive how it was omitted.

Can any historical reference be found to Telach Chiarain, or bill Righe?

Let me have all the references to be had about Telcha ard or Tealach ard.

Let me have the reference in the annals of the Four Masters to the origin of the

name Coimnán, and their notice of Uop dip glin in Ossory and my note on its <sup>the margin of</sup> all. Patric Copy of the 4 Masters

190 (11)  
I have traversed a good deal of the  
east of this County, but I do not wish  
to write about the parishes till the Drafts-  
man arrives. I wish you could let me  
have another besides Makeman,

your obedient Servt,

John O'Donovan

I want a faithful copy of that part of the  
Book of Survey and distribution relating to the  
County of Kilkenny. Mr. Mangan is the best person  
to copy this. The Down Survey of the County  
of Kilkenny should be also copied.

14/D/9/16 (VII)

**END**



14 D 9/17

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, concerning his interest in examining early references and sources regarding the 'topography of ancient Ossory'.

1 September 1839

2p.

24 cm

Referring to Patrick O'Keefe, and his apparent lack of enthusiasm for work, O'Donovan writes 'he has entirely disappointed my expectations'.

Freshford Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1839

(Dear Sir,

I find that we have not extracts enough to explain the topography of ancient Ossory and we want the following extracts as soon as possible.

1. Two maps of Ireland among the State papers lately published: we want only the parts comprising Leinster and Munster.
2. O'Dugan's poem on Ossory. It will be found in my Index to the Annals, voce Ossraighe.
3. The number of the University Magazine containing Mr. Ferguson's account of the Thaumaturgos. Mr. Petrie will have the goodness to send this as he has it. I shall take every care of it and return it in a few days.
4. Route of Muircheartaigh na g cockall g Croicean from Kileach to Munster written in the 9<sup>th</sup> century by Cormacan Egeas.

14/D/9/17 (1)

Russell will find this in the *offery*  
*Leabhar Gabhala* in the Library of  
 the Royal Irish Academy.

5. Keating's description of the boundaries of the  
 Dioceses of Ossory, Leighlin, Kildare, Cashel  
 and Ferns, as taken from the Annals  
 of Clonmacnoise.

6. Keating's account of the expulsion of  
 the ~~Irish~~ *Opsoians* out of Munster.

. See *mullac inneona* in Common-place Book B-  
 Index to O'Flaherty and Keating mixed.

I expected to meet O'Keefe here, but  
 it appears that he is gone home. The more  
 leniently he is treated the more stubborn he  
 will become: it is really too bad that a young  
 man in the flower of youth and health  
 should shrink from the business for which  
 he is paid. If Mr. Petrie takes him back  
 again he will never consent to go to the  
 country.

country, where ~~and~~ he can at present be<sup>193</sup>  
at all usefully employed. I shall never  
say another word about him; I only regret  
that as I was the person who recommend-  
ed him to you, he has entirely disappointed  
my expectations. If Mr. Petrie takes him  
in again he will become entirely unmanage-  
able; and let me suggest that if he be  
let alone for a few weeks that he will  
soon be out in full vigor at his country  
business.

Your obedient &c servant

J. A. Donovan.

Direct all to Kilkenny, whether we shall  
move on Tuesday morning.



Thos. A. Larcom Esq.

P. Esq.

Montjoy Barracks.

**END**

14 D 9/18

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey,  
written from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Kilkenny, concerning his requests for  
source material relating to the topography of the area.

6 September 1839

1p.

24 cm

RIA

194  
Kilkenny 6<sup>th</sup> September 1839.

J. A. Larcom Esq: R. E.

Sir,

With all the materials at our disposal here, we find ourselves at a loss to settle, to any extent the ancient Chieftainries of this County. We therefore want the entire of O'Huidhrins Topographical poem, but as this would be too great a delay to get copied, I wish you would send this note to John O'Sullivan, to Charles St, that he may get the Copy of this poem which I have at home, and which will be easily distinguished by him from the other Irish papers with which it is placed in my portfolio.

14/10/9/18



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He will send the entire of the manuscript, that is, Pagan's and O'Riordan's, and they must be very carefully handled, as they are only in sheets.

We are making the most of the very few favourable moments we can snatch from the constant wet weather, to traverse, reserving the writing to the wet days we are taught to expect.

Mr. Wakeman has not joined us yet.

I am, Sir your obedient servant

Engelbary

20  
From. augmented to

W. J. Sullivan -

W. J. Sullivan

Sept 29

**END**

14 D 9/19

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Kilkenny, concerning the history, traditions, antiquities and topography fo the parishes of Ballylarkin, Tullaroan, Clashycrow (Clashacrow), Ballenamarra (Ballinamore) and Odagh, with particular reference to their early churches, religious foundations, holy wells, castles and the origins of their place names.

6 September 1839

10p.

24 cm

ills; ground plan of Tullaroan old church, indicating Grace's Chapel, drawn in ink.

Kilkenny 6<sup>th</sup> September 1839

J. A. Larcom Esq. R.E.

Sir

The parish of Ballylarkin, in the north-east of, but contiguous to the centre of the barony of Grannagh, is bounded on the north-west by the parishes of Bloghmanta, and Tubbrid, on the west by Tubbrid, on the south by Fullaroon parish, on the south-east by part of Freshford and Blashtycrow parishes, & on the east and north-east by that of Freshford. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, and I have no historical reference to it excepting in the enumeration of the County parishes by Tighe.

14/10/9/1900



19<sup>th</sup>

The name as it stands at present would mean Larkinstown; Larkin being a family name to be met with in several parts of Ireland.

There is part of the walls of an old Abbey, as it is called here, standing in the townland of Ballylarkin, consisting of one oblong house 26<sup>feet</sup> in length and 19 in breadth, the walls perfect, those on the sides about 18 feet high.

The door is in the north side joining the western gable, but the top and greater part of the sides of it have been torn down.

There is a pointed window in the south wall, ten feet from the western gable, 6 feet high and 4 wide on the inside; three feet nine inches high, of which the arch makes 8 inches; nine inches wide at top and ten at bottom, on the outside; built up within and without of cut stone.

There are three recesses in the same wall near the east gable, all built up of cut stone.

There is a large pointed window built up of cut stone, in the eastern gable, measuring <sup>about</sup> 14 feet in height and 9 in breadth on the inside; but the front stones have been all carried away, so that its dimensions there cannot now be ascertained by measurement.

It would appear that another building projected from the western gable, as a bit of a wall projects from the southwest angle to the south, and the gable just mentioned was carried up higher by several feet than the ridge of the building first mentioned; but no trace of the direction <sup>of</sup> the wing, or projection, now remaining, as the ruin stands in the middle of a potatoe field, which is cultivated up to the very walls.

The people know nothing at all about its history, but call it the Abbey or Friary.

There is a moat, 16 yards in diameter <sup>at top,</sup> and about 10 feet high, standing near the ruin.

14/10/9/19(11)

Sheet

Of the parish of Odagh.

The parish of Odagh in the baronies of Brannagh and Fassadinan, is bounded on the Southeast and south by the Liberties of Kilkenny, on the west by the parishes of Ballinamorna, Blasycrow and Freshford, on the north by those of Coolcraheen & Mayne, and on the Northeast and east, by those of Mayne, Grange McComb and Dummone. The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, nor is it easy to discover its derivation. On Petty's map it is ~~the~~ put down under the name of Bannagh, and the townland of Three Castles in this parish is still called Bawn d'n Duach, i.e. the Bawn or Green of By-Duach, but why it got that name we have not at present any means of ascertaining.

And here I must correct an error into which I was led in a former letter,

respecting the ancient district of Ry-  
 Duach, (or Brennan's Country) by the  
 bungling and very imperfect manner  
 in which the index to the extracts for  
 this County was made up. I find  
 from an inquiry among the extracts,  
 but to which there is no reference in  
 the index, that the territory of Ry-  
 Duach did not <sup>reach</sup> ~~come~~ as far as the  
 shore to the west; consequently the  
 parish of O'Dagh or Bawn o'Duach  
 could not be a part of it, because  
 that parish is, with the exception of one  
 townland, on the west of that river.

I must make this matter the subject  
 of a distinct letter; and I beg you to  
see that the indexes to County extracts  
contain every name given, in Irish,  
English or Latin, in such extracts,  
and every page that they occur at.

14/D/9/19 (III)



The townland of Three Castles in the parish contains the stump of a Castle, about 24 feet high, (but so) covered with Ivy that the door and windows are quite invisible, but there is a forced door way in western side.

There is a ruined Church projecting from the eastern end of this Castle, measuring 38 feet in length and twenty in breadth.

The end of the Castle forms the western gable of this church. There is a pointed doorway in the north wall, 16 feet from the Castle, 7 feet high and four feet two inches in breadth, inside; 6 feet high and two feet eight inches in breadth on the outside;

There is an old holy water font fixed in the wall on the right hand as you go in.

There is a square window in the same side at 11 feet from the door, five feet high and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth inside; two feet five inches high and 8 inches wide outside.

There are two windows more in the south wall of the same size and shape. The east gable appears to have been lately built up for some farm purpose, and contains no window.

The ruins of an old church stand in the townland of Beilisiol; the east gable remaining to the full height, the south wall and west gable remain to the height of eight feet, but the north wall is level with the ground.

The door must have been in the north wall since it does not appear anywhere else. There is a broken window in the south wall; there is a pointed window in the east gable, 4 feet from the ground, 4 feet high and 2 feet wide on the inside; 6 feet from the ground, 3 feet  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, and 5 inches wide at top and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  at bottom on the outside.

They call it the church of Beilisiol, and it has no burying ground attached.

14/D/9/19(IV)

There is a Barge Rath in the townland of Killeree, from which the townland is said to have had its name. It is ninety yards in diameter, the mound about seven feet in height; it was surrounded by a trench, traces of which remain on the south east. The surface is nearly level with the top of the mound.

There are several little heaps of stones and thorns scattered over its surface, and the neighbours affirm that these heaps mark the sites of stone buildings, and say farther that there are three of the Kings of Ireland buried in it, whence the name Kilree or the Bell of the King.

There is a part of the east side of a castle called the Black Castle, in the same townland; the walls were nine feet thick.

Of the parish of blashecrow.

The parish of blashecrow in the barony of Lorrannagh is bounded ~~and~~ by the parish of Odagh on the east; on the north and north west by the parishes of Odagh, Freshford & Ballylarkin, on the southwest, by that of Freshford, and on the south by that of Ballynamara. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin. — clapp a chpo, blais a bho, i.e. the Pit of the Bovel or pen or fold, <sup>or of blood or death.</sup> must have derived its name from some such trifling feature. There are numbers of parishes and townlands whose names are not of any great ant.<sup>ated of less importance</sup>quity, for as there were but thirty Bally's or principals localities in a Tirochad Ceid or Barony, it must follow that the greater number of the myriads of little names of places



to be met with in Ireland are of derived from bustling circumstances, or unimportant topographical features, and of comparatively modern date.

There is an old church in the townland of Clashycrow, having a square tower attached to it on the west side, measuring 16 feet three inches by 23 feet. The Church part is 24 feet four inches long and of the same breadth with the Castle.

It is of comparatively modern times. The doorway leading into the Castle is in the pointed style and not worth description.

There is a chamber in the east wall of this tower, called the Bed, from a supposition that it was a hermit's cell.

It may be proper here to remark that this is the fourth church to which we find a Castle attached, along this side of the River shore, viz. Rathay, Bawn-on-Duach, Clashycrow and Drinn, Deilgneach or Thornback in St. Canice.

Of the parish of Ballinamara.

The parish of Ballinamara in the southern part of the barony of Lerragh, is bounded on the northeast and east by the parishes of Clashy-Crow, and Odagh, on the south east & south west by those of the Liberties of Kilkenny, Ballycallan, and part of Tullaroan, and on the west and north west, and north by those of Tullaroan and Freshford.

See Name Book.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin. The inhabitants say that it is derived from a battle fought here long ago, between some plunderers from the north of the county and the residents. <sup>Helmes</sup> The battle was fought at the ford of a small stream that passes here, and from the number of dead bodies with which it was choked, it was

14/0/9/19(VII)

called *beal ath na marbh*, <sup>*Beal a na marbh*</sup> *Beal ath na marbh*.  
 is the Mouth of the Ford of the dead,  
 now corrupted into *Ballinamarra*.

This corruption prevails to a great extent  
 in this county, for in every word ending  
 like the above in *apbh*, *arbh*, they reject  
 the *bh* and substitute *ra* as *marbh*, *marra*,  
*garbh* (coarse), *garra* &c. and in words  
 ending in *anbh* or *abhb*, they reject these  
 syllables and substitute *la*, as <sup>in</sup> *Falamhb*  
 (land), they say *Falla*; for *Banamhb*, they  
 say *Banra* &c. There may be some  
 exceptions to this rule, but it will be found  
 general enough.

There is a new Protestant church  
 built on the site of the old church,  
 which they say was called The church  
 of the Trinity. There is a large burying  
 ground attached to it.

There was a patron held here on  
 Trinity Sunday until twenty years ago.

288

There was a holy well, as well as to the east of the church, called Trinity well, but it was stopped up 6 years ago.

There is a piece of the south wall of a castle in Gaulstown townland; the walls  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick. They say it belonged originally to the Grace family.



Stone

## Of the parish Tullaroan

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The parish of Tullaroan lies in the western side of the Barony of Lrannagh and extends to its centre. It is bounded on the north east and east by the parishes of Ballylarkin, Freshford, and Ballinacorney, on the southeast and south by that of Ballycollin, on the south west by Belmanagh, on the west by Ballingarry and Kilscooly Co. Tipperary, and on the north west by those of Tubbrid, Killahy and Ballylarkin.

See Name Book

We have no authority at present to say that the name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin, tho it bears the names of one of the most celebrated of Irish saints, the curser of Tara, and defier of its King. Ruadhán Lóthra.

The name of this parish is tulach nua-cháin, Tullach Ruadháin, i.e. Ruadháin

Hill, but whether the hills and parish are called after the Ruadhan of Loraith we have not at present any means of ascertaining.

The ruined church of Tullarvan is not on the Tullach, but in the plain at the east side of ~~the~~ it.

The present ruins of the church of Tullarvan consist of a long house with one wing projecting to the south from the eastern end. The building from East to West is 90 feet in length and 20½ in breadth, divided at 43½ feet from the western gable, by a cross wall having a low pointed arch in the middle. The western gable, and south side of the western part, are level with the ground, as well as the north wall of the eastern division. There is a square window in the north side of the first part measuring 4 feet seven inches in height and 2 feet 7 in breadth on the inside

14/D/9/19 (viii)

two feet high and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide on the outside.

The choir arch, if I may so call it, is 6 feet two inches high and 6 feet six inches broad, having a small pointed window at each side. There is a square window in the east gable 3 feet six inches wide and about seven feet high on the inside, one foot eleven inches wide and about 4 feet ten inches wide on the outside, divided in the middle by a mullion. There is a square loophole near the top, over it. There are two pointed recesses in the wall near the east gable.

The wing called Grace's Chapel extends from this end to the south 38 feet and is 18 feet nine inches broad. It communicates with the other by means of a pointed doorway, 4 feet high, and 2 feet 9 inches wide.

It has also a <sup>pointed</sup> doorway in the west side near the point of junction, five feet ten inches high and 3 feet 9 inches wide, with

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with a Latin inscription and some armorial bearings over it in front. There is one window in this side, and two in the other, each measuring three feet six inches in breadth and about 8 feet in height on the inside, 7 inches in breadth and about 4 feet in height on the outside.

There is a <sup>circular</sup> window in the south gable, 5 feet wide and about eight feet high on the inside, 2 feet five inches wide and about five feet high on the outside, where it has two elliptical heads divided by a mullion, which however is not now in its place.

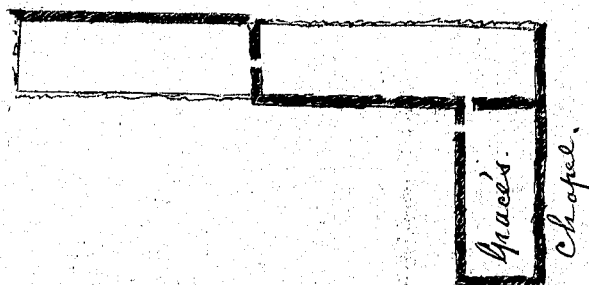
There is a tomb with a Latin inscription near this window inside, belonging to one of the Graces, but the torrents of rain that came down when I was examining it, prevented me from attempting to copy or examine it, as well as other tombs within the eastern part of the first mentioned place.

I think the entire of this building is of the close of the fourteenth century or so.

14/10/9/19 (18)



The following ground plan of Sugarvau Church will help to make my description of it intelligible.



The middle gable has a broken double Belfry.

There is a holy well called "Lady's Well" on the north side of the church, at which a patron was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August till within a few years. This patron was previously held at the old cross a little to the north side. This old cross remaining, but broken in two parts, each ~~is~~ standing <sup>on</sup> a pedestal, the lower part of the shaft measuring 2 feet 8 inches in height and 10 inches in thickness, the top part ~~measuring~~ measuring one foot eight

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inches in height and some thickness with  
the other. Part of one arm of the cross  
only remains. This portion of the cross  
has a rude and mutilated representation  
of the Crucifixion engraven in it.

They show a part of the gable of a house  
in the townland of Rathely in this  
parish, and assert that it was a  
Church, but nothing remaining to sup-  
port the assertion.

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Eugene Curry

We want the pedigree of O'Ciarmhaic  
from Mac Firis.

Ed.

14/10/9/19(x)

**END**

14 D 9/20

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Kilkenny, concerning the progress of the fieldwork in Co. Kilkenny. O'Donovan outlines his hopes that the artist William Fredrick Wakeman can join him.

6 September 1839

1p.

24 cm

O'Donovan refers to the 'extremely curious' inscription found over the doorway of Freshford old church.



Kilkenny, Sept<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1839,

Dear Sir,

Wakeman has not joined us yet, and I cannot conceive what he is doing. I fear we shall have this County finished before his arrival. This irregularity will never do. Kilmacdonagh might be done in one day or two at least, and to linger there so long might do very well if he had nothing else to do. He must now necessarily work separately from us or leave the most curious remains here untouched. Could you not spare another Craftsman? It is a pity not to sketch some <sup>of the</sup> remains we have met in this County.

Please to ask Mr. Petrie if he has decyphered or attempted to decypher the Inscription over the doorway of the Church of Freshford. It is exceedingly curious, and evidently anterior to the Anglo-Norman Invasion; but I fear

14/10/9/20 it

it will not be easy to decypher it. If I had Wakeman here I would get him to make a fac simile of it. I have got the stones washed for the purpose. This inscription was much more distinct in the memory of the old natives, and if it be not now decyphered by an honest investigator it will remain for ever a matter of doubt and uncertainty.

The importance of this inscription will be acknowledged by every lover of architectural antiquities, as it will go far towards pointing out the age of a very curious ornamented doorway in the Round style.

your obedient servant  
John O'Donovan,

I observe by Mr. Lavelle's note that they are copying printed books of little value in Great Charles Street. Fitzgerald's history of the ~~Q.~~ of Limerick is not worth copying because you could purchase the book for the price of copying 20 pages of it. Why not copy the Down Survey, the Book of Survey and Distribution, the Inquisition <sup>and other unpublished documents</sup> from the reign of Henry II, down to William III. I think that no printed book should be copied unless it be one that could not be easily purchased.

14/10/9/20

Thos. & Larcom & Egg,  
B. C.,

Wt. Jay Barracks.



**END**

14 D 9/21

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Kilkenny, concerning the history, topography and antiquities of the parish of Rathcoole, with particular reference to its early church, castle, holy well and the origins of its place name.

7 September 1835

8p.

24 cm

Included is an account of his findings regarding the old church at Killeishin, Co. Offaly and the area's association with St. Scoithin.

(1)  
218  
Kilkenny Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 1839.

4  
Dear Sir, you may remember that on the 17<sup>th</sup> (December 1838 I wrote from Carlow a letter in which I laboured to make it appear probable that the church of Killeshim near Carlow in the Queen's Co. was no other than the Seagh Scoithin of the Irish Martyrologies. This would have been a horrible mistake, and I rejoice exceedingly that I felt great diffidence in insisting upon the identification of Seagh Scoithin with Killeshim. I shall here quote my own words, and from this forth I shall glory in the name of sceptic, and insist that no one is fit to be an investigator of history or ancient topography but a very great sceptic.

" There is, however, no well or other feature  
" at Killeshim, which retains the name of St. Scoithin.  
" nor is there any one now living that ever heard  
" of any saints named in connexion with the place,  
" nor of stations having been, nor patterns held at  
" it. In short, every glimmering of tradition connected  
" with the original founder has been long since

14/6/9/21 (1) extinguished

219)  
"extinguished, and every sacred feature effaced or  
"forgotten. There remains therefore nothing to prove  
"the identity of Killeshim with the Teagh Scuithin  
"of antiquity but the possibility of the resolu-  
"tion of the latter into the former name,  
"and the striking fact that if Killeshim be not  
"a Teagh Scuithin, we have no historical reference  
"whatever to its origin<sup>\*</sup>; but it will appear  
"from our description of the place that it was  
"of great importance in ancient, and that it  
"is not very likely that the early writers would be  
"silent about its origin. It is also certain that  
"Scuithin was by far the most distinguished saint  
"of Sliabh Mairge, and as such it is more  
"than probable that his would be the most  
"remarkable church in the district

"Archdall quoting Colgan places the monas-  
"tery of Teagh Scuithin "in the Barony of Sher-  
"margie near to the mountain known by that  
"name," but does not identify it with any  
"church or locality known in his time; and indeed,  
"it would have been very difficult for him to

\* This I have found to be a false assumption, see infra



220 (3)

to identify it with Killeshim as he had little  
or no skill in the science of etymology, when I,  
who am up to all the rules of that all-erring  
art, "am put to the pin of my collar" to make  
such an identification appear at all probable.

"Do the balendars or Feilire's mention any  
St. Oisen of Sliabh Mairge? for if such  
were found, it would not be fair for any ety-  
mological necromancer to metamorphose Scuithin  
into Oisin, or a little flower into a little fawn.  
Let this, however, remain certain, probable or im-  
probable for the present, and let us turn to  
consider the ruins of the church of Killeshim,  
which, whatever saint it may have been dedi-  
cated to, is a curious specimen of the civili-  
zation <sup>of the Irish</sup> before the period of their invasion, when,  
if we believe Sir William Petty, they did not  
know how to put one stone over the other  
with any thing like the skill of a mason."

This was written by me when I was nearly con-  
vinced of the identity of Killeshim with Teagh Schothin, but  
I rejoice to find that I have put the evidences together  
14/10/9/21 (11) with

221  
(4)

with all the caution of a rational investigator. Mr. Petrie has been of the same opinion, as I learn from his letter written to me on Killeskin on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 1838. (of Killeskin)

"With respect to the name of the patron saint, I am  
"of opinion that it can be no other than St. Scothin  
"and I have so written in "Round Towers." The  
"name is still written by Beaufort Killeskin, which  
"comes nearer Scothin than as now pronounced Killeskin.  
"There is no Oisin in the Calendar that appears in  
"any way connected with this part of the Country."

It happens however that Killeskin is not  
Teagh Scothin, but a far more celebrated abbey  
which existed to a comparatively recent period, viz  
the abbey called by the ancient writers Glen  
Missen and placed by them in the territory  
of Hy-m. Bairche, which appears from many  
ancient authorities to be the country about  
Sletty extending to the west of the Barrow.  
Killeskin (written Killeskin by a gross mistake on  
Beaufort's map) is now pronounced in Irish  
by the old men of Sliabh Mairge, as if it  
were written Gill Missin (Kill-iss-in, the in like  
u in the English word pull) which is a substitution of

Kill for Glen; and the church is situated in a very remarkable Glen and in <sup>certainly</sup> the territory of "Hy-Mairche".

No one will for the future imagine for a moment that Killeshim is the Teagh Scoithin of the ancient Irish writers for "Tigh Scoithin", now distinctly pronounced in Irish Tigh Scuithin, is the name of a parish church at the foot of the Slieve Margey Mountain in the County of Kilkenny about 9 miles south and by west of the old church of Killeshim and 3 miles North and by west of the town of Gauran. The primitive church of St. Scoithin has been long since destroyed and a modern church erected near its site since the Reformation, but the Saint himself is <sup>still</sup> most vividly remembered by tradition. A Spring is called after his name near the Castle of Freynystown, and there is a room in the same Castle dedicated to him and called Seompa Scuithin.

The original grave yard of this original church is no longer used; in it are shewn seven flags (now partly covered with grass and earth,) under which seven bishops—the seven sons of Scoithin are said to be interred. The legend here told of Scoithin is exactly similar to the one told of the father of St.

(6) St. Kieran at Lemanaghan in the County of Westmeath, and scarcely worth attention.

According to this legend Scathin was a poor man (which is not true) living in a small house called Tigh Scathin, and having a few acres of the mountain for which he paid a high rent to the chief of Slieve Murgu; but though he was married to a delicate woman he found himself getting the childer very fast as is still usual with the Irish of the same class and means. He used to have a child born for him every Easter, and this oppressed him exceedingly because the wife was not able to nurse, having but one breast lactiferous, which was not enough to nurse the childer. Scathin therefore resolved to go away from the wife for the space of seven years, when he hoped she would arrive at the period of sterility, or at least become less prolific; for he was a prudent little man and he did not wish to be bringing people into the world for the purpose of enjoying poverty and head aches; So off he went over seas to try and earn something for the little creatures whom he had called from the other world, (where they would



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remain in the quiet enjoyment of non-existence) leaving a friend to take care of the little mountain farm, and promising to return to his wife at the expiration of seven years. Where he went to no one now knows nor cares, but it is agreed on that he returned after being absent for seven years and a day, bringing home some money which he put together by hard earning during this long period. After his return he found to his satisfaction that his children were grown up and his wife in flourishing health.

He then resumed the cultivation of his mountain farm, and attended to all the duties of those who are joined in the tiresome but hallowed bands of matrimony, <sup>made by mine. Vallance</sup> and at the expiration of nine lunar months found to his horror, that his wife had brought forth seven beautiful boys at a birth! God, who gave the order of "Crescite et multiplicamini" to father Adam, having wreaked his vengeance on him in this manner for his having shrunk from the procreation of his species! An Irish proverb says that God never made a month

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without a bit to be put into it, and Milton the great advocate for divorces, exclaims in a fit of rage against the popish clergy:

"Our maker bids increase; who bids abstain"  
"But our destroyer, foe to God and man!"

What a lesson to priests and old bachelors!

Howbeit Scuthin was so horrified at seeing all his designs baffled <sup>that he</sup> was resolved still to be even with the author of human souls; he took the seven boys in a basket down to the stream of Tigh Scuthin with a fixed determination of drowning the cubs except one, who should prove himself the hardiest by his dexterity at swimming. But on his way to the stream he was met by one of the primitive Irish Saints who was a Bishop (St. Kieran or Patrick) who questioned him as to what he had in the basket; to whom Scuthin replied that he had a litter of whelps! Shew them to me, said the bishop; perhaps I might <sup>take</sup> a fancy to rear one of them. They are not worth looking at answered Scuthin; they are all <sup>lucky</sup> pearted, not worth looking at, much less rearing. With this the bishop who saw Scuthin's wicked designs by inspiration took

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took the basket from him, and on opening it found seven beautiful boys with glories around their heads. Cursed wretch said the bishop what wouldst thou? I saw thy wicked intentions in a vision and I came to prevent ~~them~~ <sup>thee</sup> from committing sacrilegious murders. These boys shall be seven saints and they shall illumine Ireland with their virtues and preaching. Take them home Scythian thy sin of design shall be forgiven thee; thou hast obeyed an impulse of thy nature which was ingrafted in thy heart through the operation of an evil spirit at the time of thy conception; thy feelings shall henceforth be changed through an infusion of the grace of God into thy soul through my intercession, and thou wilt rear these boys in such a manner <sup>the present race and</sup> that posterity may see how good springs from evil. After this St Scythian suddenly became a new man; he saw the goodness of God who made this world <sup>and fertile</sup> wide enough for all the beings that could possibly depend from Adam; and resolved for the future never to run away from his wife, let her be ever so prolific. After some years however his wife died and he, being forsaken by his sons who set out to preach the word of God throughout Ireland, built a little cell for himself in which he led the life of a hermit for many years. The names of his seven sons are now forgotten.

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and

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(10)

and all that is remembered about them is that they were all raised to the episcopal dignity and though they died in different parts of Ireland they were buried along with their father at Tigh Scoilhin now Tiscoheen in Shieve Margy on the frontiers of the diocese of Leighlin & Ossory. Shieve Margie is the name of a Barony lying west of the Barrow in the south <sup>East</sup> of the Queen's County, and also of a range of low mountains forming the north part of the Barony of Gauern and extending from St. John's well or Agha <sup>which is</sup> north of Kilkenny to near old Leighlin in the County of Carlow. This name is not at present known to the natives but it is marked on a map now before, and there is little or no doubt of its correctness, as Tigh Scoheen is situated in the district to which it is applied.

The above <sup>ridiculous little</sup> legend is of no value whatever excepting that it certainly points out the locality



(11)  
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locality of St. Scoithin, who was no doubt a very distinguished saint of the primitive Irish church.

The life of St. Scoithin is given by Colgan at the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, where he gathers that this saint was of noble extraction being <sup>is closely</sup> nearly related to the celebrated St. Fibre, bishop of the Momonians. He <sup>flourished in the sixth century and</sup> studied in Britain under the celebrated St. David, with him St. Aidan of Ferns and St. Modomnoc of Tiberagh were studying at the same time. After his return to his native country he built in the province of Leinster near the mountain called in Irish Sliabh Maige a cell in which he led a heavenly life, and which the people call from his name Tegh Scoithin, <sup>is</sup> the House of Scoithin.

This saint was particularly distinguished by his power of being able to walk on the water with dry feet, a power which proves the fallacy of what philosophers call specific gravity. One story is told of his power in this way which is truly wonderful, if true, but whether it be true or false we of this century won't believe it, because we see no such things happening in our times, when people cannot walk on the water without cork shoes of great magnitude.

as once upon a time when passing into Britain Scoithin <sup>was</sup>

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(12) was walking on the sea, he met a ship in  
"which" was St. Bara Bishop (of Cork) who  
"beholding and recognising the man of God Scathin,  
"asked him why he walked on the sea. Scathin  
"answered that it was a flowery field on  
"which he was walking; and immediately stretch-  
"ing out his hand to the waters took from  
"the middle of the ocean a handful of  
"purple red flowers, which, in testimony of his asser-  
"tion, he threw into the bosom of the holy  
"bishop: and the bishop, on the other  
"hand, in assurance of the contrary truth  
"flung to St. Scathin a fish which he  
"had taken out of the waves. And  
"magnifying God in his wonders, they de-  
"parted from each other with their bless-  
"ing."

These old Saints it appears from all that  
we read of them were able to change the  
laws of nature and the natures of truth  
whenever they pleased. Nothing would  
go down at this period, <sup>in which they flourished</sup> but the wonder-  
ful, the wild, the unintelligible; <sup>but</sup> now

nothing will be believed that is contrary to the known laws of nature. the only stand-ard men have to be guided by in their pursuit after truth. These laws appear to me to be immutable, and I do not believe that the author of them condescended to change <sup>them</sup> at the whim of silly saints and crazy do-ctards such as the <sup>Irish</sup> saints of the <sup>sixth</sup> seventh & centuries, seem to have been.

Not far from the parish church of Tipcoheen (or as it is now Anglicised Tis-coffin) is the castle of Freneystown which was lately repaired by Martin Byrne, a respectable farmer, for a dwelling house. It is a square tower measuring at the top <sup>ft in</sup> 22.6 by <sup>ft in</sup> 16.0, and about 40 feet in height. It consists of three stories.

The Freneys who built this Castle were a very respectable family of Anglo Norman origin, who possessed a great tract of country from this Castle to New Ross, un-til they were dispossessed by Cromwell, that magnificent rebel who trampled under foot all the loyal old families of the Pale. 14/12/91/21 (viii)

(4) 281

The last member of this family who rendered himself notorious, not illustrious, in his native territory was James Freney a highway robber whose life was written <sup>by himself & published</sup> shortly after his death, which occurred about 40 years ago.

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Tamisk of the parish of Rathcoole

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This small parish lying immediately outside the Liberties of Kilkenny to the North east, is called in Irish Ráit cúil, are anguli, a name not of ecclesiastical origin, but derived from an earthen fort which originally gave name to the townland.

The old church of the parish is very much ruined only fragments of the two sidewalls remaining, from which the antiquarian must infer that it is a church of no antiquity. Not a single feature of this church remains, nor is there a holy well or other mark of antiquity at it or near it, from which it might be inferred that Rath Cool was an ancient parish.



In this parish about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles to the Northeast of Kilkenny stands Cantwells Court now generally called Sandford's Court, a castle said to have belonged to the Cantwells a very respectable old family of the Pale of Anglo Norman descent dispossessed by Cromwell. It is a square tower like Treney's tower Castle already mentioned.

(Here insert Wakeman's sketch of this Castle.)

Your obedient Servant

John O'Donovan

**END**

14 D 9/22

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, in which he notifies Larcom of his intended move to Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny and requests source material relating to the county be sent to him.

9 September 1839

1p.

24 cm

RIA

2  
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Rec<sup>d</sup> 9 Sept 39

Dear Sir,

We shall move to Thomaplow in two days, please to direct all letters, papers &c for me thither. I hope you will be able to get that part of the Book of Survey and Distribution relating to the Co. of Kilkenny copied for me. as it will throw great light upon the History of this County. I want all the notices of Gaulskill to be found in the Inquisition, Down Survey and the other documents published by the Commissioners of the Public Records.

your obedient Servt

John O'Donovan

14/10/9/22



Oct 11, 1899

R.C.

Prudence Barnes

**END**

14 D 9/23

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Kilkenny, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parishes of Ballycallen and Kilmanagh, with particular reference to their early churches, burial grounds and the origins of their place names.

9 September 1839

6p.

24 cm

Included are related extracts from Lanigan's 'Ecclesiastical History of Ireland'.

Kilkenny 9<sup>th</sup> September 1839

J. A. Larcum Esq R.E.

Broughton

Sir,

The parish of Ballycollen in the barony of Grannagh and County of Kilkenny is bounded on the north and north east by the parish of Ballynamarra, in the barony of Grannagh, on the east by the Liberties of Kilkenny, south by the parish of Grange in the barony of Shelilagher; south, ~~east~~ south west, and west by the parish of Grove, in the baronies of Grannagh and Shelilagher; West and north west by the parishes of Kilmanagh and Tullamore in the barony of Grannagh. See Name Book

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin. It is derived from a family of the name of O'Caolain, O'Caolain, now anglicised Keelan, in the north and west of Ireland, where they are pretty numerous,



hence Baile uí Chadáin, Baile uí Chadaín,  
i.e. O'Keelan's town, the present name of the  
parish.

There is a large and popular burying  
ground on the townland of Ballycally,  
but no remains of an old church. It is  
probable that the present Protestant Church,  
which may be fifty years old occupies the  
site of the ancient one, but of this no  
body knows any thing in the neighbourhood.

#### # Church

In Michael's townland stand the  
ruins of Michael's Church, consisting of the  
western gable and a small portion of  
the south wall. It measures 38 feet  
in length and 19 in breadth, having a  
broken topped doorway <sup>in the west gable</sup> 6 feet wide;  
the sides remain to the height of 4 feet.  
Built of small roundish chipped stones.

There is a broken round headed window  
over the place of the door and a  
broken belfry at the top.

# <sup>parish</sup> This church is mentioned by Archdall, as a rectory belonging  
to Jerpoint. E.C.

There is a small square cut stone, at the head of a grave within the Church, with the following inscription in modern Character engraven on it:

"William Smyth Esq. of long Ashes  
 " near Bristol built this Church.  
 " and dyed the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April 1655.  
 " aged 65 years. Mary Smyth alias  
 " Kingsman, wife to said William dyed  
 " on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 1658; Laurence  
 " Smyth son to said William was  
 " killed at the siege of Drogheda  
 " the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 1649, aged  
 " 28 years; Anna Maria Smyth  
 " alias Orelitzer wife to said Laurence  
 " dyed at Bilboa on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of  
 " January 1676."

This stone formerly stood in the south wall near the east gable, on the inside. There was a patron held here on Michaelmas day 'till about ten years ago.

14/10/9/23(11)

In the townland of Kilballykeeffe are the ruins of a church "consisting of the gables; and the side walls to the height of about 7 feet."

There is a broken topped doorway in the west gable, and a belfry for two bells at top. There is a holy water font in the inside of the wall near the door.

There is a broken window in the south side; another, pointed window in the east gable 8 feet high and three feet wide inside; 4 feet high and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide on the outside, with holes in the sides for iron bars, built up of cut stone. The building was 37 feet four inches in length and  $18\frac{1}{2}$  feet in breadth, walls 2 feet nine inches thick.

There is a small burying ground attached, and a well called Nicholas's well, lies a little to the west of it. It is called cill baile na cearna, i.e. Kilballykeeffe.

In the townland of Causton they  
 show the site of a castle, marked only by  
 a small heap of rubbish.

Broughton

Of the parish of Kilmanagh.

The parish of Kilmanagh, (proper Kilnamanagh)  
 in the barony of Crannagh, is bounded on the  
 north and north east by the parish of Fulbarrow  
 in the barony of Crannagh; on the south  
 east and south by the parish of Grove in  
 the barony of Crannagh; south by Killaloe  
 parish in Shellogher barony; and on the  
 west by the parish of Ballingary in the  
 barony of Levenagh & County of Tipperary.

See Name Book.

The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical  
 origin, correctly written thus, cill namanach,  
bell na Manach, i.e. the bell or church  
 of the Monks.

14/0/9/23 (iii)



The old church of Kilmanagh is said to have been torn down about thirty years ago, to supply materials for building the parsonage house of the parish."

The following account of this church, from the Irish Calendar, Archdall & Lanigan:

Natal o cill na manac, 31<sup>st</sup> July.

Irish Calendar.

Kilmanagh in the barony of Brannagh and eight miles west of Kilkenny.

A. D. 563. Died. Saint Notalis the founder and abbot of Kilmanagh, or the chapel of the monks in Ossory (t)

842. Died the Abbot Breasal Mac Gaingne by some writers he is said to have been abbot of Kilmanagh in the County of Sligo. (u)

Archdall Mon.

(t) Act. ss. p 169. (u) idem & McGeog.

## Kilmanach

It is more probable, although far from being certain, that Natalis or Naal, Abbot of Kilmanagh, (50) who began to be distinguished about these times, was a son of King Aengus. (51) Little or nothing would be known concerning him, were he not highly praised in the lives of St. Senan of Iniscattly, who, when young, was a pupil of his, having been directed to his Monastery and School by the Abbot Cassidus. Senan's younger days belonged to the early part of the sixth Century, and accordingly this was the period, in which Natalis flourished. What time he died I cannot discover, unless we should apply to him what is said of a Naal of Inver-Naal

(in Donegal) whose death is assigned to A.D. 564.<sup>(53)</sup> His memory was revered at Kilmanagh on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July.<sup>(54)</sup>

Notes;

- (50) In Irish Killmanach Droichid,<sup>#</sup> about 8 miles to the West of Kilkenney and not far from the County of Tipperary.
- (51) Solgan has endeavored to give some act of Natalis at January 27 in consequence of his having thought he was the same as a St. Naal Abbot of Kill-naile in Breffny and afterwards of Devenish, and contemporary of St. Maidoc of Ferns. Some of the Irish Calendars make him a son of King Angus. This cannot stand; for Molingus founder of Devenish did not die until A.D. 564; and Maidoc belonged to the late part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. Who then will believe, that such dates & circumstances are applicable to the son of a prince, who was killed in 470? (Chap. III. §. 8.) Nor could that St. Naal,

# Killmanach Droichid is in the Queen's County. E. Lewis

be the same as Naal of Kilmanagh who certainly flourished about the Year 520. If any Abbot Naal was son of Aengus, this was the person. The times agree, and the place of his residence answers very well, as it was not many miles from Cashel.

(53) + + + I strongly suspect that the date 564 was originally marked for Naal or Natalis of Kilmanagh, and that through a confusion of names, it was referred to another, who lived at a later period.

Natalis of Kilmanagh, although well known about A.D. 520, might have lived until 564.

(54) Act. P.S. I. 174. This notation of the festival of Naal of Kilmanagh is an additional proof of his having been different from the Naal of Inver-Naal, &c. whose festival was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January.

Vol. I. Chap. IX. P. 444, 446, 447, 448.

The natalis mentioned here was

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he whom Cambridge mentions as  
having in a moment of irritation  
transformed some of the people  
of Ossong into wolves.

There is a ruined church in the townland of Rathpottle, measuring 34 feet in length by 21 in breadth. There is a pointed doorway in the west gable 6 feet high and three feet ten inches wide, built up of cut stone, in point. There is a double headed pointed window over the door, divided by a mullion,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet high and 10 inches wide in each division. This gable has a double bellpy.

There is a round headed window near the west gable, 5 feet high &  $2\frac{1}{2}$  wide, built of cut stone. There is a round headed door at twelve feet from the same gable, 6 feet high and 3 wide on the inside, 3 feet 8 inches high and nine inches wide on the outside.

There is another round headed window in the same side to the east of the

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door, and two more on the north side  
all of the same dimensions with the first.

There is a double <sup>round</sup> headed ~~portal~~ in the  
east gable,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet high  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide on the  
outside.

A cattle stood near the church  
but no vestige of it remaining now.

The Church is called Teampall na  
Ratha, Teampall na Ratha is the Church  
of the Rath, and stands in the middle  
of a kitchen garden, having several wall  
fruit trees growing against it.

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Eugene Curry

**END**



**14 D 9/24**

**O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.**

**Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Kilkenny, concerning the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of Blackrath, Clara, St. Martin's, Kilkieran, Kilderry and Shankill, with particular reference to their early churches, holy wells, castles and the origins of their place names.**

**9 September 1839**

**7p.**

**24 cm**

**Included are transcriptions from the Shorthall family tombstones in St. Martin's old church.**



(2) <sup>244<sup>u</sup></sup>  
any of them except some earthen forts which are not worth description. There is no old church in Black Rath but the churches of the other two are in existence in tolerable preservation, but of no antiquity. St. Martin's church, which is situated about 2 miles east of Kilkenny is 20 feet in breadth and seems to have been of considerable length, but it cannot now be ascertained, as both its gables are totally destroyed. It consisted of nave and choir and the choir arch remains which shews it to have been a very rude and modern building. It contained two doorways <sup>in the pointed style</sup> placed opposite each other, one in the south which is still nearly perfect, and the other in the north wall which was destroyed about 20 years ago by one who felt the effect of the vengeance of St. Martin.

Tradition says that this church belonged to the Vicars Choral of St. Kenny's church. The priest used to say mass in this ruin on every St. Martin's day till about 30 years ago.

A well dedicated to St. Martin is situated in a bog about 200 yards to the N. E. of the church. Stations are performed at it on St. Martin's day 11<sup>th</sup> of Nov.

Noí noíce agur oíce san áipem  
Ó oíce Shamna go hoidce perl Mártán.

248 (3)

This church is the burial place of the Shortalls formerly Lords Rathenmore but dispossessed by Cromwell. The following Castles in this neighbourhood belonged to them, viz the Castle of Lyrath, near Sir Wheeler Cuffe's house, the Castle Rathduff or Highrath, the Castle of Blifden anciently called Rathgarvan, <sup>the Castle of Clara</sup> and the Castle of Rathenmore, which was situated in a townland still retaining the name about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the south of the old church of St. Martin's. It stood near a fort, but both are now level with the field. All the people I consulted on this subject agree that Rathenmore is the name of a townland, and it is set down as such on the engraved map of the Down Survey, but there is no such name set down in the name book. This is one of the many instances of wrong subdivisions being furnished by the Boundary Surveyor, who alone <sup>can</sup> will be held responsible for errors of this description. But as I have said so much on the subject of wrong names and subdivisions already, ~~that~~ I shall drop the subject, well knowing that if Terminus himself, the tutelary Divinity of bounds, Landmarks and subdivisions were to descend from the clouds or from wherever he is, and point out the true boundaries of Irish townlands, he would not be believed. All I have to

14/10/9/24 (W)



(4) <sup>249</sup> to do with the townlands is to point out the proper syllables of which their names are to consist and to collect the history of each locality as well as I can from tradition and written monuments; the boundary surveyor alone is accountable for the proper position of these names on the maps and the extent of land which they are to embrace. "When (however) such an important name as this which gave the title of lord to an ancient family of the Pale, is omitted, I think it my duty to report it."

In the choir of the old church of St. Martin's are two tombstones belonging to the Shortalls which exhibit the following inscriptions in the Gothic characters.

Hic jacent Ricardus Shortale quondam Dñs de Rathenmore qui obiit año Dñi m. cccc. 84. et Elicia Purcell uxor ejus <sup>1. ae</sup> que obiit xxiii die mensis Decembris m. cccc. lxii.

and on another I decyphered the following inscription which I found very difficult

Hic jacent Patricius Shortall filius et heres Ricardi Shortall nuper de Rathenmore generosi <sup>us</sup> qui obiit xxiii. die mensis Maij Anno Dñi m. cccc. 92 et Helena Den uxor ejus q. obiit xii. die mensis Martii anno Dñi. m. cccc. xxv. quorum aīabg <sup>proprietar</sup> qiciez Deus. Amen.

(5)  
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*M: Dei miserere animabus quorum corpora in hoc  
tumulo jacent sepulta.*

The Shortalls are erroneously placed in the Barony  
of Inverke by Charles O'Connor on his map  
called *Ortelius improved*. They are still nu-  
merous about this neighbourhood but all  
dwindled to farmers or shopkeepers. Mrs.  
Ormsby of Watergate Kilkenny, who is descended  
from one of the most respectable branches of  
them has deeds belonging to them on parch-  
ment.

The church of Clara is an erection of the 14<sup>th</sup>  
or 15<sup>th</sup> century consisting of Nave and choir.  
All its features are destroyed except a win-  
dow in the east gable which is in the round  
narrow style, and a very rude doorway in the  
south side wall. The east gable appears much  
older than any other part. It was probably  
built by the Shortalls. (See Wakeman's sketch  
of this church and of the castle of Clara.)

14/10/9/24(111)

of the parishes of Kilderry and  
Kilkieran

These small parishes are to the N. E. of the City of Kilkenny and immediately outside the liberties of Kilkenny. "No traces of the churches or chapels of these little parishes remain; nor could I meet any one who could point out even their sites." <sup>St. Dome</sup> Kilderry means the church of (at or near) the grave, and Kilkieran, the church of St. Kieran. This saint was not the Kieran of Clonmacnoise, but old Kieran of Saiger, who is said to have preached Christianity in Ossory before the arrival of St. Patrick. They have a tradition at his church of Rath Kieran in Iwerk that when St. Patrick was passing that way he called to see St. Kieran, whom he met taking a walk in the fields near the church. Kieran recognizing him and not wishing to salute him, as he considered him an intruder who wished to claim superiority over himself, stooped his head and

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and suffered the great Apostle to pass by un-  
welcomed and unnoticed. Patrick became  
enraged at this, and according to his usual  
mode of taking revenge left a curse on the  
natives of the territory, which they never could shake  
off by any effort; they <sup>have been since and</sup> are to remain clowns  
and Bodaghs to the end of time, and distin-  
guished by the name of Dupnán's, a term sig-  
nifying sulky clowns. It is also a name for a  
kind of large brogue nails which the nailors  
of Waterford make for the heels of the  
Irish brogues. If <sup>merit</sup> marpa puill became an earl! <sup>and</sup>  
of this more when I come to treat of the race  
of Earc in Uibh Eirc.



Parish

## Of the parish of Shankill

Situation.

This small parish is bounded on the North east and East by the County of Carlow; on the South and South west by Granger Silvy and Kilmacahill; on the west by the parish of Tiscoheen, and on the north by an angle of the parish of Coolcullen.

Name. The name of this parish is pronounced in Irish by the natives as if it were written *feann cill* which is a local corruption of *fean-cill*, i.e. *vetus cella*, or old church, which is the name of many churches in Ireland. This, however, cannot have been the <sup>original</sup> name of any of them, for it could not have existed till new churches were erected in their vicinity.

The ancient church of Shankill is situated within Mr. <sup>Stylwinds</sup> Glward's demesne within about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  of the Royal Oak.

It is 66 feet long and 16 broad and not divided into nave and choir. Its doorway was in the south wall but now reduced to a formless breach. The window in the east gable is in the round modern style, as is also another in the south wall. See Mr. Wakeman's sketch.

In the south east corner there is a vault belonging to

to the family of Chylward dated 1719.

Immediately to the east of this church of Shankill, Mercator on his map of the Barony of Idrone shews a remarkable trenche, which he calls the Raduffe trenche extending from a hill on the boundary of Idough to the Barrow. "He shews Donze (now Duninga) and Court Fenour (now Finners Court) immediately to the east of this trenche and Shankill immediately to the west, and he makes it strike the Barrow opposite KilKute (now Kilerob) in the County of Carlow." From these data, and from the fact that he makes it the western boundary of the Barony of Idrone it is obvious <sup>that</sup> it formed the boundary between the Counties of Kilkenny and Carlow, and in ancient times between the territories of Idrone and Gabhran. (see map annexed)

Where Mercator <sup>who was never in Ireland</sup> found authority for placing this trenche here, I do not know. He compiled his maps from various rude maps of Ireland, <sup>many of</sup> ~~which~~ which must have <sup>been</sup> exceedingly incorrect, and I have ascertained that he tacks maps together in a very

14/2/9/24(V) in

incorrect manner, so as to put the name of one river  
 for another, as he does with the river Drawse  
 and Erne. But though he is generally wrong  
 I think he had some <sup>genuine</sup> authority for marking  
 this "trenche" between the baronies of Idrona  
 and Goweran and so as to extend from Idough  
 to the Barrow opposite Kilkute. Mr. Curry and  
 I went to the ground to-day and walked along  
 the boundary of the two Counties from the  
 point where this trenche <sup>struck</sup> strikes the Barrow  
 according to Mercator, to Shankill without be-  
 ing able to meet any trace of it or any thing  
 like it; but a tradition exists in the Country  
 that such a trenche existed (about one  
 hundred years ago) called the Gripe of  
the pig, <sup>a name well known in other parts of Ireland</sup> which satisfies me that it was  
 such a trench as the (Danes Cast in Ulster  
 and the race of the Black Pig on the Cur-  
 ragh of Kildare. John Nowlan aged 80  
 living

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living in "the County house" on the boundary of the two Counties, says, that when he was young, and to a considerable recent period a part of this trench a half a mile in length was to be seen at the place now called the mile Bush on the Commons of Kelly-mount, but (that) latterly the Commons have been enclosed and cultivated and the trench filled up and effaced excepting in some few spots, where it is still traceable." In the lower Country about Shankill and Duninga no part of it remained these 70 years, excepting the forts which were on it. These were the fort of Duninga near the point where it struck the Barrow and another now without a name not far distant to the north; the <sup>large</sup> fort of Rathduff in the townland of Wells, (but close to the County boundary) from which the trench took its name. Whitefield Rath, and



# Raheennagleragh in Kellymount.

The legend told to account for the origin of this "gripe" is that a poor widow <sup>living here in the old times</sup> had a pig which ran away from her into a subterraneous passage, and that all the neighbours came to dig her out, but that they did not catch her until they had dug down to the Barrow. The "gripe" they cut on this occasion, and the stuff they threw up were visible about 6 generations ago, but the progress of cultivation has effaced both except a small part at Kellymount, where the trench <sup>gripe</sup> is still faintly traceable.

This story is like that told in Ulster about the worm ditch, <sup>and</sup> the valley of the Black Pig, and in Leinster the Dun Chladh in Longford and the Race of the Pig on the Curragh of Kildare.

I fear that this trench of Raduffe cannot be shown on the Ordnance map as it is nearly blotted off the face of the land; but if <sup>the fragment of it which remains</sup> the forts which were on it be marked its outline will be well preserved.

It is hard to divine the reason why Mercator gave a distinct map on a large scale of the Barony of Idroone, while he gives only rude maps on a small scale of the other parts of Ireland. I can find no other <sup>written</sup> authority but his map for the existence of this trench.

We shall move to Thomastown tomorrow

your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

14/10/9/24 (vii)

**END**

14 D 9/25

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history, traditions, antiquities and topography of the parish of Tullowhirm (Tullahieran), with particular reference to its round tower, early church, holy well and the origins of its place name.

11 September 1839

3p.

24 cm





14/10/9/25(1)

Thomastown Septem<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1839

Dear Sir,

We want the name books of the remaining baronies of the County of Kilkenny as soon as possible.

I want Laignan's Critique on Ledwith's derivation of the name Kilkenny from "wooded head near the river" which he calls a wooden headed derivation. Also Charles O'Conor's observation <sup>or at least the reference to where they are</sup> on the same. Both will be found in Common Place Book A. under the head Kilkenny.

I want the pedigree of Mac Gilla Phadraig as given by Duaid Mac Firbis, in which he <sup>tells</sup> states what member of that family built the abbey of Jerpoint - Serripuin - for the friars.

I want Keating's account of the origin of the Abhainn Righ in Leinster. It is near Callainn, and I believe he says it was Niall Cailne that was drowned in it. See Index to Keating in Common Place Book B.

(2) 2500  
J. L. K.  
Of the parish of Tullowhirm.

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This parish lying about 3 miles to the north of Thomastown is called in the native Dialect called *tułwīg tīpm*, which is understood to mean dry hill; *tułwīg* signifying a gentle hill, the slope of a gently rising ground; and *tīpm*, dry.

The antiquarian remains in this parish are:

1. A round Tower, called in Irish *doigteic Thulwīg*, i. e. the Belfry of Tullow. It is <sup>ft in</sup> 50.6 in circumference at the base and " feet in height. It is built of small <sup>granite</sup> stones laid in horizontal courses, every stone being the same depth in each course. Its doorway is reduced to a formless breach, but it can be inferred from what remains <sup>that</sup> when perfect its lowest part was about <sup>ft in</sup> 10.8 from the present level of the <sup>ground</sup> floor. It consists of six stories above the doorway and perhaps there was one under it not lighted. The first floor opposite the doorway was lighted by the doorway; the second by a quadrangular window on the south side placed about 24 feet from the present level of the ground; the third by a quadrangular window on the west

(3)  
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west and by south side; the fourth by a quadrangular <sup>window</sup> on the north side; the fifth by a quadrangular little window nearly over the doorway, and the upper story ~~by~~ was originally lighted by eight windows. These eight windows were placed immediately under the Bencober, but four of them, as well ~~as well~~ as all the Bencober or conical cap are now destroyed.

This upper story is many centuries more modern than the rest of the tower, and is of the same age with the adjoining church, as can be proved from <sup>similarity</sup> ~~identity~~ of style and stones. The stones of the four windows remaining are chiselled and arabesque and in every particular like the windows in the adjoining church. The lower windows of the tower appear to me to be centuries older than those ~~at the top~~ at the top, and I have no doubt that they are so, if not more.

14/10/9/25(11)

The church adjoining this tower is clearly a modern structure, at least one not older than the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century, and some parts not older than the 17<sup>th</sup>. It consists of Nave and Choir, the nave measuring 65 feet in length and 24-4 <sup>ft</sup> in breadth, and the choir 32 <sup>ft</sup> by 19-6 <sup>ft</sup>. The walls of both are

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4)

are <sup>5 ft</sup> 2.8 in thickness. The choir is some centuries more modern than the nave; all its features are destroyed except a large rude window in the east gable which is not two centuries old. All the features of the nave are also destroyed except two small windows the stones of which are arrased. The original choir arch does not exist, but instead thereof, a small rude arch, with a rude window on each side of it.

The whole of this church is modern with the exception of a small portion of the <sup>lower parts</sup> north and south walls of the Nave, which are obviously of the same age with the Cloigtheach, as appears from the materials and masonry.

A pattern was held here not long since on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March in honor of St. Kieran the great patron of the Ossorians, who preached Christianity here before the arrival of the great Tailginn.

There is no well dedicated to St. Kieran in near this church but there is one called Lobar Chiarain in Castle garden <sup>Bog</sup> about 1½ mile from the Tower.

3 Let me have O'Phelan's account of this tower.



There are two castles in this parish, one in Bally-nabookia, and the other in Kilblina, where there are also some fragments of the walls of an old temple<sup>church</sup> but without a church yard.

Does Colgan in his life of Kieran Saiger mention Lulach thim or any place like it in Ofsay, as one of his churches?

Do the Four Masters mention this church?

your obedient servant,  
John O'Donovan,

14/10/9/25 (m)

**END**

14 D 9/26

O'Curry, Eugene

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Eugene [O'] Curry, written from Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, concerning the history, traditions, antiquities and topography of the parishes of Outrath, Grange, Danesfort, Ennisnag, Stonecarty (Stonecarthy) and Castleinch and townland of Sheastown and Grove, with particular reference to their early churches, castles, holy wells, burial grounds, standing stones and the origins of their place names.

14 September 1839

10p.

24 cm

Thomastown 14<sup>th</sup> September 1839

T. A. Larcom Esq. R. E.

Broughton

Sir,

The parish of Outrath in the barony of Shillelogher and County of Kilkenny, is bounded north and northeast by the parish of St. Patrick, west by Saint Canice and Grange parishes, south by Damesfort parish, Southeast by Theostown, all in the barony of Shillelogher and County of Kilkenny. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin. "Outrath is a corruption of (nachrapáta) Nachter Ratha, i.e. the top or hill with the Rath on it. This name was well borne out by the Rath <sup>having</sup> ~~being~~ on the top of the hill, but it is now destroyed.

There are small portions of the walls of a church to be seen here, which they say

14/10/9/26(i)



stood formerly within the Rath. The ground has been so much disturbed by grave digging, that the foundation cannot now be traced.

There is a large burying ground attached, and they call it *teampall naid nachtaiv*, the church of Rath Nachtaiv.

There is a small hill in this townland, called *Grooc Builliginu*, or the hill of the little belly, which I don't find in the Name book.

### Of the parish of Gartlinch

*alias Inchialloghan*

The parish of Gartlinch, in the barony of Shillelogher and Co. Kilkenny, is bounded north west by Ballycallen in the barony of Grannagh, north east by St. Patrick's parish, south east by Saint Canice, south + east by Grange parish, barony of Shillelogher; all in the County of Kilkenny. See Name Book

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin. Castle Inch, in Irish, Caisteán na h-Inse, means the Castle on the island, or on the bank of the river. Inse however is the Genitive of Inis an island, and the nominative case of the bank of a river.

This parish is also called Inse Uí Uallacháin i.e. Bolachans Inch, from a family of that name; but it is strange that neither Island nor Inch is remembered or known in this parish, nor is there a lake, river or bog in it.

There is a modern Protestant Church and Protestant buryingground in the T. L. of Castleinch, and a bit of an old Castle, which they believe is that which gave name to the parish, a little to the west of the Church.

In the townland of Knockaliagarin, in the hill of the Standing Stone, is a large

14/10/9/26(11)

rock reclining against a wall or ditch, measuring 7½ feet in height, over ground, 2 feet ten inches in breadth at bottom, ~~and~~ 1½ feet at top, and one foot in thickness.

A little to the east of the Liagan, on the N. side of the road from Kilkenny to Kells, is a stone called (Stump phatopats), <sup>van</sup> Glinn Phatnaig, i.e. "Patrick's Knee." There are two holes in the top of this stone, 6 inches deep, 6 inches in diameter and 6 inches asunder; part of one of these holes and of the stone is broken away.

We have been able to collect the following authentic little piece of the history of this stone from the local Scanachaidhe:

Finn Mac Cool sent to Saint Patrick for some certain request, which the Saint refused to grant, whereupon Finn took up this bit of a rock and flung it at

the saint's head. It fell short however, of the mark, whereupon the saint went over to it and kneeling on it, impressed it with the marks of his knees, while offering a fervent prayer to God for his delivery from so ponderous a visitant.

If this piece of history be found true, Of course Mr. O'Brien will have to retrace some of his wandering path in the life of the Patriarchs.

### Of the parish of Grange.

The parish of Grange in the barony of Shellelogher, bounded north and northeast by Carlininch parish, ~~for~~ barony of Shellelogher, northwest by Ballycallan parish, barony of Grannagh, west by the parish of Grove, barony of Shellelogher, south by Dromochurch and Saint Larnia parishes, barony of Shellelogher,

14/D/9/26 (ms)



and on the east by Outrath, Danesfort & Saint Carice parishes, barony of Shillelough. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical, tho' not of Irish, origin, and is so well known that it requires no explanation here.

There is a large burying ground in the town-land of Churchill in this parish, but scarcely any trace of a church, tho' a good part of the walls were up twelve years ago, when it was pulled down to build the R. C. Chapel with the materials.

There were patronage held here, till within the last twelve years, on the first Sunday in May, and the Sunday before Michaelmas day.

There is an old Castle in the town-land of Ballyburn, which it is said originally belonged to the Grace family. It is now inhabited by a farmer named Hogan. It consisted but of three stories; the upper

one vaulted with stone, the other <sup>floors</sup> composed of timbers, all remaining yet, tho the roof is off. - It measures 24 feet by nineteen, in the clear; the door which is a pointed one, being in the east side. It contains eleven windows and fourteen loopholes, all built with cut stone.

Broughton

## Of the parish of Danesfort.

The parish of Danesfort, in the barony of Shillilougher is bounded on the northeast by Freedingstown parish, east by Woolenrange; southeast by Ballylinch parish, south by Sheestown and Sutrath; west by Grange, Burnchurch & Kells, and south by Ennisnag parish. The latter six parishes are in the barony of Shillilougher, with the exception of Kells which is in the barony of Kells.

"The name of this parish is not of

27/18  
ecclesiastical origin. In its present form it is  
a corruption of the Irish name *Dun Feart*,  
Dunfeart is the Dun or Rath of the trench.

This Dun remains still, measuring 48  
yards in diameter; the mound 12 feet  
high from the bottom of the feart or  
trench which surrounds it; the trench  
is 8 feet wide, and the outer mound  
about 7 feet high.

"There is an old church in this townland,"  
the walls remaining to the full height and  
having a belfry for one bell on the west  
gable. There is a round headed door in  
the west gable, 7 feet high, 4½ wide, built  
up of well cut stone. There is a door  
with a strong lock here, put on by Colonel  
Wemyss, who has taken up the inside  
for the sepulture of his family; so that  
I could not see the inside.

There are two large double headed pointed  
windows in the south wall, and one

with four pointed heads in the east gable.

These windows remain perfect in sides tops, and mullions. It does not appear to be an old church, or long out of use.

There is a large burying ground attached. They call this *teampall* - our people, *Teampall Dhun-geart*, is the Church of Dunfer.

The ruins of an old church called *teampall Beal bairn*, *Teampall Beal-Barr*, is the Church of Bel-bar, lie in the townland of Athnamult is the Ford of the Wethers. The side walls remain, and the gables to the same height with them.

There is a round headed window in the west gable, 4 feet high and 4 feet wide on the inside; 2 feet nine inches high and five inches in breadth outside.

There is a doorway 12 feet from the west gable, in the south side, three feet 7 inches wide inside, and three only, outside.



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The top is broken away so that its height cannot be ascertained, and <sup>of the cut</sup> two stones only remain in each side. There is a broken window in the same side  $14\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the door. There is a broken doorway in the north wall, opposite to that on the south, and a broken window between it and the east gable. There is a round headed window in the east gable, 5 feet high & four feet four inches wide inside; three feet six inches high and 10 inches wide on the outside; the cutstone removed from its south side in front.

The walls are  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, well built with large square stones and strong lime sand mortar; the doors and windows built up with well cut brown grit stone. There is a small burying ground attached.

There is an old castle called the Friar's Castle about a furlong north of the church.

27A

in the same townland, 25 feet by 19, the first vaulted floor remaining. The door is on the east side, with the cutstones taken away. It has 13 windows and 16 loopholes, the cut stones of which <sup>have</sup> ~~are~~ all been carried away. The walls are 6 feet thick. "There is a ruin about 200 yards south of the castle, which they call the Friars Barn," <sup>the three gables of which only remain</sup> this ruin is 32 yards long and 13 yards wide, having several air holes through the wall, which is 2 1/2 feet thick.

"There is a holy well called Lady's well in the townland of Ballyda, much venerated still, and frequented on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August by great numbers of devotees.

14/0/9/26(68)

of the parish of Ennismag.

The parish Ennismag in the barony of  
Shelleigh, is bounded on the north and  
east by Danesfort parish, west by Kells parish,  
south by Stonecarty, Name Book says here.

The name of this parish is not of eccle-  
siastical origin, nor do I understand its  
meaning altogether. In Irish it is called  
innis-mag, Innis-mag, is the island of mag,  
but what mag means I don't know, as there  
is no such word in the Irish language,  
as far as I am acquainted with it.

The burying ground of Ennismag is situated  
on a point of land at the confluence of  
a small stream with the Kings River; but  
this point of land is not isolated. The  
old Church was pulled down about twenty  
years ago, to build the present Protestant church  
on its site. "There is a ruined corble in

the same townland, parts of the east and south walls only remaining, with the butt of a small round tower at its south west angle. "It is called Innisnag Castle, was 29 feet by 19, walls 6 feet thick."

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Bungstown Of Theastown parish.

The parish of Theastown in the barony of Shillilagher, is bounded on the north by the parish of Saint Patrick. northwest by the parish of Outrath, south & southwest by the parish of Danesfort, all in the barony of Shillilagher, southeast by parish of Blackrath, east by parish of Dunbell, southeast by Readingtown, the latter three parishes are in the barony of Gowran. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, and tho the people all call it by this



name in English, yet it is not an anglicising of their Irish name for it. They call the townland of Sheastown, in Irish, baile an páipis, Baile an Thasaigh, i.e. the town of the wilderness or of the high grass; and they call the parish páipis baile an páipis, Parish of Baile an Thasaigh, or of the town of the wilderness. &c.

It appears that Baile an Thasaigh was the ancient name, but that when it became the property of the O'Sheas, as it remains still, it was called after their family. This is the opinion of the inhabitants of Ballyshea or Sheastown.

The ruins of an old church lie in the townland of Sheastown, the walls remaining entire excepting the west gable which is reduced to the height of 5 feet.

It measured 62 feet in length, divided by a cross wall and gable at 50 feet from the west end. This part is 21 feet wide,

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the eastern twelve. It contains a round topped door in each side, at the distance of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the west end, 7 feet high and 4 feet 7 inches wide on the inside; five feet ten inches high and three feet ten wide on the outside. There is a holy water font in the south wall, on the right hand as one goes inside the door. There is a circular headed window  $19\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the door on the south,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide inside; 3 feet high and 7 inches wide outside.

There is a <sup>circular</sup> arch in the middle gable  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet high and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, closed up now to the dimensions of a narrow doorway. There is a square window in each side, close to the east gable.

There is a circular window in the east gable,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, and 10 inches wide on the outside; inside broken.

With the exception of the three east windows, which are built up of cut limestone,

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all the doors and windows are built up with handsomely cut brown gritstone.

There is a sculptured stone, in the window in the south side of choir, on the inside, with the following inscription

R. I.

"Ensignia Richardi Thee Militis. Div.  
"Hoc opus. Fecit. A. D. 1378."

There is another tombstone on the north side, within, with an inscription in raised gothic character, having the dates 1583, 1597. There is a large but not much frequented of late, burying ground attached.

There is a small burying ground in the townland of Kilpera (proper Killfiachrach) with a ~~well~~ <sup>well</sup> the foundation of a small edifice, 16 feet by nine, door in the S. side near the west end. One stone of the doorway remains on the right as you go in. three feet high, 14 inches thick, with an oval inside 2 inches deep.

"There is a holy well called after St. Fiachra,  
a little to the east of the little burying ground,  
at which a pation was held up to about  
60 years ago, but the day is not remembered.

"There a small portion of the walls of  
a Castle on Kilree townland."

Broughton

## of the parish of Grove.

The parish of Grove in the baronies  
of Crannagh and Shelliogher is bounded  
north and northwest by the parish of  
Kilmanagh in the barony of Crannagh,  
and north and northeast by the parish of  
Ballycollan in the barony of Crannagh;  
on the east and northeast by the parish  
of Frange in the barony of Shelliogher;  
on the south by the parish of Burnchurch  
in the barony of Shelliogher, and on the

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west and southwest by the parish of Killaloe in the baronies of Brannagh and Shillilogh. See Name Book

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, nor <sup>is</sup> it an anglicism or translation of the Irish name of the locality which is Tulachán, Tulachán, is the little Tulach or hill.

"The ruins of an old church lie in the townland of Grove," (Tulachán) consisting the west and east gables, the latter down to the height of the side walls, the south wall entire, and the north wall separated by large breaches from both ends.

The doorway is marked by a breach in the south wall, 18 feet from the west end. There are two broken windows in the south side and one in the east gable. It measures 64 feet by 20'2", the walls built of large square stones, laid in regular courses. There is a large and

much frequented burying ground  
attached. The people all call this  
place a tulacham, Boilig a tulacham, ie the  
burying ground of the Tulachan.

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### Of the parish of Stonecarty.

The parish of Stonecarty in the barony of Shellelogher,  
Kells and Knocktopher, is bounded on the north  
and northwest by the parish of Kells in the barony of  
Kells; on the north and northeast by the parish of  
Enniscorthy in the barony of Shellelogher, on the E.  
S. E. and S. by the parish of Serpentine in the  
barony of Knocktopher; and on the southwest  
by Knocktopher parish in Knocktopher barony;  
on the west by the parish of Kibber in the Bar.  
of Kells. See Name Book.

The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical  
origin, nor is it easy to say what its proper  
orthography or signification are. The Irish  
form of the name with the inhabitants  
is stun cappa, stun cartha, anglicised as above.

There is no such word as stun in the Irish

14/12/9/26(x)

language, but *leártha* means, of the rock, which is the origin of the Mac Carthy name.

"The old church of Stonecarthy stands in the townland of that name," and is called *poibh rún capra*. *Róidig Stua Cartha*. i.e. the burying ground of Stua Cartha. Both gables and portions of the side walls remain. It measures 32 feet by 20. There is a broken window in the south side 15 feet from west gable, and a pointed doorway 17 feet from east gable; the door 6 feet high & 3 feet 3 inches wide inside; 5 feet high & 3 wide outside. A pointed window in east gable 5 feet high & 5½ wide inside; broken away in front. An unfrequented burying ground attached.

There is a well a little to the south of the church, called <sup>Tobar beirain</sup> *Tobar beirain* i.e. Kieran's well, but it is held in no sanctified veneration at present.

The face of this fine country, as far as agriculture is concerned, presents nothing but one vast scene of desolation, from the incessant wet and cold weather.

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Eugene Curry

**END**



**14 D 9/27**

**O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.**

**Copy letters, to Francis Drewe, of Ringville, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny, from John O'Donovan, scholar, written from Upper Buckingham Street, Dublin, concerning genealogical and personal matters, with particular reference to the coat of arms of the Drewe family and the remaining members O'Donovan family of Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny.**

**15 December 1861-15 May 1861**

**17p.**

**25 cm**

**O'Donovan refers to his recent poor health, financial difficulties and ambitions for his children. Reference is also made to his continuing contribution of papers to scholarly journals.**

C O P Y of

8 Autograph Letters of JOHN O'DONOVAN, LL.D., M.R.I.A.

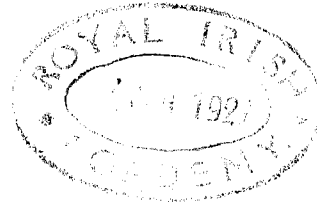
written to

FRANCIS DREWE N.T.

Ringville N.S., Slieverue, Co.Kilkenny.

between Dec.15th.1860

and May 15th .1861.



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( The originals are in the possession of Mr.Richard Grace,ex-N.T.  
who married Emma Drewe N.T.Ringville, daughter of Francis Drewe ):

(~~Jan. 1899~~).

(Copy)

Dublin,

36 Upper Buckingham Street.

Dec. 15th. 1860.

Sir,

I have received your kind letter, and have to say in reply that I had nine sons, six of whom are still living, and range in ages from eighteen down to four. I am striving to educate them well, but in consequence of the dearness of the price of food, I cannot spare one shilling for any of the numerous relatives who are constantly writing to me for money. I am also rather deep in debt - which hangs over me like an incubus - so that I am completely chained down to hard labour striving to pay it. My health broke down in the beginning of this month, and a cough has set in which seems to baffle the skill of the physicians. I have attained the age at which my two eldest brothers sunk under a similar cough.

My eldest son is a student in Trinity College, Dublin, now in his third year, and if I live for twelve months longer, he may be able to assist his brothers, but at present he is of no assistance to them, not even in directing their education. I have three other boys at the Jesuits' Seminary, 6 Great Denmark Street, Dublin, for whom I pay four pounds a quarter, and as I must keep them well-dressed, I find that I will come short of money soon.

While I was young and unmarried I was in the habit of assisting my relatives, but since my family became expensive I cannot spare a shilling a month for any one; and now that my health is broken down I am more helpless than the poorest of my relatives. This is a sad look out, but so it is. My brother William died in New York in 1857 about my age, so that I have no reason to complain if my term of life has come to its close.

I have found Dr. Sullivan exceedingly kind and attentive to all the lads I have introduced him to, but I never sent any of my boys to the

12/19/27 (A)

National School, believing that they might be able to get on better by getting a classical education; but I am beginning to feel that I have acted wrongly.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

John O'Donovan.

Mr. F. Drewe.

RIA

14/10/27 (10)



(Copy)

(2)

Dublin,  
36 Upper Buckingham Street.  
Dec. 29th. 1860.

Dear Sir,

I consequence of being on the hands of the doctors I cannot use any medicines except what they prescribe. I have got an elongation or relaxation of the uvula, and I am advised to get it cut (shortened); but I am unwilling to submit to this operation, as I hope it will cure itself as soon as the weather gets milder.

My second son Edmond (who is an enthusiastic herald!) searched for the armorial bearings of the family of Drewe at the Birmingham Tower and painted them for you. He desires me to forward them to you as a New Year's gift from him. You will find that they are executed according to the strictest rules of heraldry. He hopes you will get this picture framed and preserved for the use of posterity. He is all for gunnery just now.

The motto puzzles me; but I will get an explanation of it from the English heralds. I think the family is of Anglo-Norman descent, but they came to Ireland very early, for I find them fighting at Roscommon as early as 1307. I think the motto means Drogo gave him name, valour arms. Drogo has reference to the name Drewe, but whether it was the name of an ancestor or of a place I know not. If there was an et or a -que introduced before or after arma it might be rendered :Valour gave name and arms to Drogus.

I regret very much that the Miller is not getting his children educated. Low trades and ignorance keep families in the mud for ever. The late Edmond Donovan of Peter Street, Waterford, had given his children considerable opportunities in the way of education, but I have

14/10/7/27/14

not heard of them for a long time. The Miller's uncle (the Boy O'Neill of '98 celebrity) was the finest specimen of the old Irish race that ever was known in that part of Ireland, but he paid dearly for patriotism. I suppose they never like to mention his name in these loyal times!! I remember the Miller's mother well. She was the Boy's sister, and a huge tyrannical woman who ruled my uncle and her family with a rod of iron, but she was very fond of me, I was so little and so helpless!

Of all my father's children or race none got rich, except one who was the most worthless of the whole of us : I mean my brother William who died in New York in 1857. He never did any good in Ireland, but drank all his money. I sent him to America in 1841 when he had "to shift for himself", and he got on very well. His daughter is married to Mr. Thomas Francis Kerrigan, a young merchant who was left a large sum of money by his father, and who is now settled in New York. He got married at the age of 18 without his father's consent, went off to the gold-fields at California, and had actually realized a fortune before his father had left him a single dollar. He sent me a photograph of himself, wife, and child, from which I guess that they are regular go-ahead Americans. He is very like Jerry Donovan the Phoenix, and the same age. Excuse all this gossip; and believe me to be

Your obliged servant,

John O'Donovan.

You need not trouble yourself about answering this, for I have no right to expect any long epistle from you who have something better to attend to .

14/12/9/85

(Copy)

(3)

Dublin,

36 Upper Buckingham Street,

Jan. 7th. 1861.

Dear Sir,

I received your graphic description of old Poll Gaul, whom  
to request of you  
I remember well, and write without delay/to put her memory to the test!!  
I suppose she is now the oldest person living in Ireland.

You will exceedingly oblige me by asking her the following  
questions, and getting her answers as well as she can furnish such:-

1. How many generations of her ancestors does she remember? Could she  
tell when she was married? You will observe, in testing, that uneducated  
people remember dates. They remember the year of the Big Frost, the year  
of the Rebellion, the year when the men went to Derry, etc.

2. What was the name of her father, and her father's wife? Where did  
they reside and what branch of the Gauls were they of? Am I to under-  
stand that she is a Gaul herself, or only the wife of a Gaul?

3. Where did her grandfather live? and when did he die? Who was he  
married to? can she go further back in her genealogy?

~~xx~~ I conversed with old men in Ulster who could tell six generations  
on the father's and mother's side, and name the places where they all  
lived.

4. Does Poll remember the Rev. Edmond Donovan P.P. of Kilmacow?  
If so, when did he die? and how many brothers and sisters had he?

5. Does she remember Anna mór Donovan of Ferrybank, Waterford? Who  
was she married to? She was the daughter of John Donovan of Ballinearl  
near Kilmacow.

6. Does Poll remember any families of Gaul to whom she is related?

I was very glad to hear of the welfare of the family of my cousin

14/3/7/2 (v)

Edmond of Peter Street. I forget where I was when he died. I have spent the last seven years between Dublin and Belfast, London and Oxford; and have had so little time to spare that I have not attended many funerals.

I shall get the true meaning of the Drewe motto from the English heralds as soon as I see any of them. My namesake William John Donovan of the Wexford Sept is a very enlightened heraldic student, and ~~xxx~~ promised to call here on his way to London. If he does, I will ask him to translate it. Drogo should be the dative case of Drogus, which I take to be for Drewe.

Excuse this fresh trouble which the longevity of old Poll has brought upon you, and believe me to be

Yours very sincerely,

John O'Donovan.

Mr. Francis Drewe,

etc.

14/0/9/27(2)



(Copy) (4)

PRIVATE.

I have this day received a letter from Waterford stating that the family of the widow of the late Edmond Donovan of Peter Street were people of the most disreputable character, and expressing a kind of hope that I should make no more freedom with them, if I value my own character.

The letter mentions people on Arundel Square who are ~~x~~ laughing at my incredulity; but I never heard of any such square, or of any friends of mine living there, nor even if I did would I care for the opinion of such people; for whatever may be the character of the relatives of the widow of my first cousin, I would respect his children, as long as they themselves are well conducted. I do not care what a brother, or an uncle, or a cousin has been or is so long as the individual himself is well conducted.

I dare say it is very possible that the maternal uncle of this poor girl who visited me in April last was a man of low habits and disreputable character, but I never heard a word about him before or now, nor even if I had, would I even remember <sup>it</sup> to a poor girl who is herself perfectly honest, honourable, and industrious, who is altogether far above the vulgar herd who affect to despise her.

Hoping you will excuse this trouble,

I remain, yours ever truly,

John O'Donovan.

12/10/9/23 (101)

(Copy)

Dublin,

(5)  
36 Upper Buckingham Street.

Mr. F. Drewe,

January 27th. 1861.

Dear Sir,

I have received your kind letter, and hasten to thank you for your suggestions; but I am sorry to say that I am doomed to hard work as long as I am able, and then the sooner I go to ~~Dunkit~~ the better.

Have you seen my Papers on "The O'Donnells in Exile" published in Duffy's Hibernian? A very curious article on the O'Reillys At Home and Abroad will appear in the next number of the same periodical, and I wish you could send word by some of the boys to old Walter of Bally-rowragh to get it.

The next article will give a most appalling description of the execution of Sir Brian O'Rourke at Tyburn in 1591. He refused to trial by twelve men, and they hanged him and mangled his body in the most brutal manner. If you have no opportunity of seeing this periodical I must try and send you the next number, the writing and publishing of which will do me no service, I am quite convinced; but I am perfectly reckless of the consequences. They gave me access to the State Papers in 1855, and I intend to publish some old State secrets.

The song you allude to was composed for my aunt by a wandering bard named Edmond Grant, who was gifted with the poetic genius, though knowing nothing of the elements of criticism. He flourished about ~~seventy~~ seventy years since, and was vividly remembered in the country when I was a child. The woman for whom he composed it was Bridget daughter of Edmond, son of William, son of Cornelius (son of Edmond who fled from Bawnlahan in the Co. of Cork for having killed O'Sullivan Beare's son

14/2/9/27(18)

settled at Gaulstown in the County of Kilkenny). I remember her well when she was about seventy years old, and my recollection of her is that she was a very ugly old hag. She was the mother of Edmond Lannin of Dunbrody Abbey, who was murdered during some agrarian ebullition about thirty years ago. Old Poll knew him well: he used to cross the ferry so often coming over to see my father at Attamore.

There were two priests of the O'Donovan sept at Kilmacow: one, Edmond son of John, son of Cornelius of Bawnlahan. He was P.P. of Kilmacow, and lies buried at Dunkit. The other was a Friar of the Order of St Francis, and was living when I was a child, but I never saw him. This latter was the Thaumaturgist. I searched everywhere for his manuscripts, but could find no trace of them. It is said that his brother John carried them into France. He wrote a pedigree of the Rev. Edmond who was of a better sept than his own, being the grandson of Edmond who was the eldest son of the chief of our name in Munster. I would give all the money I could get for this production of Father Francis, but I fear it is irrevocably lost.

The woman of the name who died the other day was the Miller's eldest sister, a very clever woman, but with scarcely any intellectual cultivation. In fact there was no education in the country when she was young.

I was drinking in old Poll's house with the Miller's father in 1822. He could not drink in the County of Kilkenny, or Waterford, but he could in the Co. of Wexford. I went with him from Poll's across the ferry to the fair of Ballyhack, where he got very merry, and sang for me "The Girl I left behind me", and told me a

14/p/9/27(x)

long story about whom this girl was. She followed him from America to Waterford in her own ship accompanied by her mother, but she died in two days after her arrival at Waterford to marry him. He wept as he narrated this long tale, and showed me the wounds on his body which he received on her account.

Yours truly,

John O'Donovan.

RIA

14/D/9/2+(XI)



(Copy)

Dublin,

36 Upper Buckingham Street.

Jan. 30th. 1861.

I enclose you Count  
McDonnell's letter.  
He managed the Pope's  
Brigade rather badly.

Dear Sir,

I am very much obliged to you for the anxiety you evince for my future otium cum dignitate, but I can assure you that I left "no stone unturned" myself by working on my friends, who all advise me to work away till I reach seventy ! that the claims on the literary fund are so urgent that a man like me "able to work" should feel himself degraded by attempting to get what is due to those who are past their labour. I must try and get something to do for the elder boys, who will be qualified for any employment from the trade of smelting iron up to calculating the course of a comet, in a few years. In the meantime I will work as well as I can myself, and I have great work in me.

With respect to the execution of Brian O'Rourke, it is written "and faith I'll print it", if I were to be hanged and gutted myself the week after. I have a particular fancy for exposing the wickedness of men.

The song of "The Girl I left behind me" is much older than my uncle's time, but he was in the habit of singing it, and telling the tale about the Girl he had left behind him. I suppose he would not have condescended to tell it to his sons as long as their mother was living, as she never could bear to hear of this girl that followed him.

I would be very much obliged to you if you could find in the country any fragment of the writings of the late Father Francis Donovan of Kilmacow. He was not of my sept at all but of the Donovans

14/2/9/27(xii)

of the Glen of Aherlow in the south of the County of Tipperary; but he was related to us by his mother, and more closely to the Rev. Edmond Donovan P.P. of Kilmacow, of whose family he wrote a full ~~pedigree~~ genealogy. Some of these relatives of the P.P. are still extant in Austrian Poland, but in what state, rank, or condition I do not know, but I expect to be put in correspondence with them in the course of the next summer. I am exceedingly anxious to get from them ~~the~~ a copy of the pedigree which they took with them into the service of Poland. It is said that Father Francis had a copy of it, but I could find no trace of his writings when I visited that country about Kilmacow in 1840.

I send you by this post a copy of a paper written by me on the history of the Gall Burke family from which the Hy-Donovans are descended. The Uncle of the last Gall-Burke who owned the castle of Ballinlaw (this castle was mortgaged to a Waterford merchant. It now belongs to Faddy Henebery whose grandfather was a barefooted cowboy; but this entre nous ! His father was married to Catherine Reilly the sister of old Walter. His father never knew the letters of the alphabet) was a most illustrious man on the continent of Europe, and it is most extraordinary that no person living at Ballinlaw, or even at Gaulstown, ever heard a word about him. His poor kindred at home became too degraded to take any interest in the history of this illustrious warrior.

The armorial bearings in this pamphlet are drawn from a facsimile of those on his patent of nobility by my son Edmond, who has used the heraldic lines instead of the metals. The Ulster King

4/D/9/27(xiii)

at Arms has expressed his highest approbation of the style and manner in which they are executed.

The new number of Duffy's Hibernian will be out to-morrow. If you cannot find it in Waterford I must send it to you. Periodicals of this kind never live longer than about a year. Should the present Hibernian have the good fortune of attaining a more venerable age (which is not at all likely), I shall have an opportunity of giving a very extraordinary narrative of facts.

Yours truly,

John O'Donovan.

RIA

14/10/9/27 (107)

(Copy)

(7) Dublin,  
36 Upper Buckingham Street,  
April 30th 1861.

My dear Friend,

I have received your kind letter of the 29th inst., enclosing one pound note for which I thank you. I shall hand it to Edmond and desire him to paint the armorial bearings of the family of Devereux in his best style.

William John O'Donovan of the Inner Temple, London, promised to let me have the descent of the Wexford branch. If the Hibernian Magazine lives, I intend giving a memoir of them when I come to that part of Ireland. I began with the extreme North-West and am slowly progressing southwards. I fear however that I can do but very little for some months, as my time will be almost entirely occupied with other matters; and I will therefore tell Edmond to string together a short notice of the Devereux family of Wexford to send you along with the Coat of Arms.

I am always scribbling, and I send you by this post two antiquarian articles which I lately wrote for the Ulster Archaeological Journal, one on the anti-Christian notices of Ireland, and the other on the lost, or missing, Irish Manuscripts. Both have been severely criticised, but I enclose you the letter of a sincere old friend of mine whose view I value highly. He is the present head of the Clan-Donovan, and though a Protestant, retains a good deal of old Irish feeling. Several years ago, being childless, he made a sort of will in my favour; but since that time his brother has had a daughter and a son born to him, which has set aside the old will. Notwithstanding this however, I am convinced that if I survive him (which I must remark is

14/D/2/27(XV)



not very likely) he will leave me some money, for his friendship has been very steady; and though I annoyed him on one occasion by hinting that our fugitive Edmond was the senior of his race, still he has since forgiven me, and the will remained unchanged until his nephew was born.

I expect when in London to add considerably to my genealogical collections, and hope to see my friend Philip Evelyn Shirley Esq. M.P., who is the present representative of the Earl of Essex (who was a Devereux).

The daughter of the late Edmond Donovan of Peter Street is still in Dublin, but intends to return on Friday next. I think it however more satisfactory to forward these little papers by post than commit them to her charge, as she knows nothing about that side of the country.

I remain here till Sunday next, after which I shall be a wanderer for some time.

I remain ,dear Friend,

Yours ever sincerely,

John O'Donovan.

Mr. Francis Drewe.

(Copy)

(8)

Belfast,

Ulster Railway Hotel.

May 15th. 1861.

My dear Friend,

I have just received a note from my third son William, who is my Secretary, Librarian and Confidant, stating that Edmond had finished the Coat of Arms of Devereux, and forwarded it to you. I suppose he sent no sketch of the family history along with it, and that I shall have to write myself when in London or after my return.

It gives me a kind of pain to have to trouble you so often with matters of this kind, but I must freely and frankly tell you that you have to blame your own kindness and good nature for this trouble which I give you.

I enclose you three letters to show you the different kind of persons with whom I correspond : one from Sir Thomas Larcom, the Under-Secretary, a second from a member of the police force, and a third from my little Librarian, my cleverest classical and French scholar. Please to keep them for me till you hear of my whereabouts, and I shall be on the move for some time.

Accept my best thanks, and believe me to be, my dear Friend,

Yours ever thankfully and most sincerely,

John O'Donovan.

Mr Francis Drewe.

14/5/9/27 (xvii)