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Ordnance Survey of Ireland: Letters, King's county (Vol.1)

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; O'Connor, Thomas

Assorted letters, extracts and maps, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of King's County, with particular reference to its early churches, holy wells, burial grounds, abbeys, castles and the origins of their place names.

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containing information relative
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of the
Kings County
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progress of the
Ordnance Survey
in
1834
Vol I

Kings County Letters, Vol. I.

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- Warrenstown Bar?, 44, 138 — see Trath Muighe under Offaly —

Wheery or Killagally Ph., 161-2 — Identified by Archdial with Kill-Colgan,
 161 — Kincora — The celebrated castle, which stood there, ment^d by the W Mast.
 161 (see also 200 & 202) — Its erection ascribed by them to Torlogh, son of Felim
 Mac Coghlan, Lord of Delvin Cathra, whose death is recorded at the year 1520, —
 A castle & Mill placed upon Kincora by the Down Survey, 200 — Kilcoghlan
 old grave y^d, in Kincora, 162 — Old Church in Wheery (pronounced Fuidhre
 or Faoighre), seemingly the orig^l parish church, 162 — Fuire (Wheery) Ph.
 & Church ment^d in Will of Sir John Coghlan (Dated 1590), who bequeathed two
 cows to the latter, 225-6 — Kill-Colgan placed by Coghlan (Achd.) in
 territory of Dealbha Mac Coghlan, 228 — The house of Kilcoghlanmore &
 Coole Castle said by tradition to have belonged to the great Mac Coghlan — the
 latter inhabited by Sir John Coghlan in 1590, — 224 —

Maps.

Maps.

(Traces)

- Territories in the ancient Lordship of Ui Failghe (O'Leonor Faly's country) 28.
- Old Map of Leam & Ophaly (preserved in Trin. Col. Dub.) 29.
- Diocese of Kildare from Bearfort's Ecclesiastical Map. 50.

END

14 D 14/2

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Portarlinton, Co. Laois, concerning the history and antiquities of Portarlinton, with particular reference to its castle, holy well and church.

18 December 1837

2p.

25 cm

RIA

1
Portarlington December 18th 1837.

Dear Sir,

We are suffering most awfully from the rain; but no matter, I will not leave this County till I examine it minutely. It is of great importance, as ~~some~~ ^{but very few} of our writers have pointed out ~~any~~ of its pagan and primitive Christian localities. We are now investigating the territory of Clannahère, and have made several discoveries, but we have not sufficient data to illustrate them satisfactorily.

I wrote for a passage in the Four Masters about the Bell of St. Evin, which was preserved in the country of the O'Dempsey, but it has not been sent me. It is to be found as sure as I exist, and I beg that it will be sent.

Does the name Cluain thorc or Cluain-da-thorc occur in the Annals? (It does)

Does Baile Ui Chein, or any thing like it, occur as the ^{name of the} principal seat of O'Dempsey? It is pointed out at this day about 6 miles N. or N. and by W. of
14/10/14/24)

* others say that O'Flannery was here
who, when he was wounded & left alone
climbed over the trench and was
seen since.

Portarlington as a town and containing a
small church in ruins, a Castle nearly
ruined with the exception of 6 feet of one
round tower, and parts of the walls of a
Bawn, - said to have been the Castle of Lord
O'Dempsey Viscount Clannahire, who lost
his property during the last war of Ireland.
Not far from this Castle on the verge of a
hill is shewn a curious entrenchment called
"the Sconce" resembling the site of Fehin O'Flannery's
palace at Clonfree near Drogheda, and said
to be the fortification ^{sunk} thrown up to defend
O'Dempsey's wooden ^{house} ("locally "frame house")
It is probable that this was the site of the
house of the Chiefs of Clannahire before they
erected the adjoining Bawn in comparatively
modern times. In the same town and is
shewn O'Dempsey's Ring, resembling ^{one of} the Bull
rings in Westmeath, but larger, at which
this nobleman is said to have trained
his horses; and from this ring to the
Castle is shewn the track of an old

road, but much (I may say, almost entirely) effaced, by which he led his horses to the Castle.

Not far from the old church is pointed out a spring spot, which formerly contained three holy wells sacred to St. Fiannán, at which crowds of pilgrims were accustomed to perform stations about three generations back, but now entirely neglected & forgotten. Do any of our Hagiologists make mention of these wells of St. Fiannán?

The village of Clonygawn, lying about 3 miles to the N.W. of Portarlino, ^{in the parish of Ballykane} contained a residence of a branch of the O'Dempsey's, but as there are no ruins of a castle there, I suppose that it was only a wooden house surrounded by "a fence". The place is a chain.

The Four Masters refer to this at the year 1576, "Deaney, the son of Hugh O'Dempsey was treacherously slain in his own residence of Chain "na ngamhan".

There are the ruins of another castle of the same family

4
family in the townland of Bakeen (near the
road side). Is this mentioned by the Annalists?

My I want ^{the description} the boundaries of Ely O'Carroll as given
in the English Records. I have inserted it
in a note to the Annals, but it has not been
copied. Why? I shall be only groping in
the dark without those lights.

Are there any descriptions given of the the limits
of Delvin Mac Coghlan or ^{of Fennell} Farcoll in any
of the early Inquisitions or ^{other} English do-
cuments?

B, The Extracts from Colgan should be sent
as immediately. We are now about to separ-
-ate: O'Connor goes to Edenderry, and
I go to Tullamore, where he joins me
as soon as possible.

It is horrible weather, and the name books
are as bad.

Your obedient servant

J. O'Donoghue

END

14 D 14/3

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Portarlinton, Co. Laois, concerning the topography and history of the ancient territories of Clanmaliere, Ui Failge, Leighe and Tuathmighe.

20 December 1837

20p.

25 cm

ill; maps of Clanmaliere, indicating its main settlements and residences of the O'Dempsey family, and of the territories of the ancient lordship of Ui Failge and Tuath Muighe.

Included are related extracts concerning the ancient territories of Offaly, notably those from the poetry of O'Heerin, and pedigrees of the O'Dunne, Colgan and O'Dempsey families.

(1)
5

Finished this letter ^{at Tullamore} on the 29th of December 37
after having visited that part of Ogalia
lying in the Queen's Co. Portarlington Decr. 20th 1837.

Dear Sir, Having finished that part of Clann-
malire lying on the Philipstown side of the
Barrow, and having ^{since the year 1830} an intimate acquaintance
with ^{that} portion of it lying in the Queen's County,
on the Maryborough side of the same River, I
shall now - lest I might not live to do the Queen's
County - point out the limits of that famous
Country of the O'Dempseys.

The Abbé Mageoghegan describes the extent of Clann-
malire thus:

"Clann-Malugra, autrement Clannmalire s'étend
à de deux côtés de la rivière Barrow, dans le deux comtés
de Roi & de Meine, & embrasse les baronnies de
Geashill & Portnechinch. Ce territoire étoit possédé
par différentes branches des O'Dempseys de la race de
Heremon, par le monarque Cahire-more & Roppa
& Tailge sons fils." *Tome Premier, p. 212.* 14/D/14/3(1)

This description is from mere conjecture, and is very incor-
rect, for Clannmalire never comprehended any part of
* It will the Barony of Geashill, and we shall see presently that
exactly the barony of Portnechinch will not embrace that part
* of it which lay on the other side of the Barrow.

(4.) I shall first give the act of Parliament by which Leix and Offaly were formed into Counties and then proceed to point ^{out} the Cantreds or Tirocha Cheds into which Offaly was subdivided in the early Irish times. This can be done by the assistance of the old map of Leix and Offaly already mentioned, illustrated by the Topographical poem of O Huidhrin, and the notices in the Irish Annals, without the aid of both which the map could not now be well understood. This is the true mode of illustrating the ancient Topography of Ireland, and ^{not} by bold assertions and vague references to MSS, by which the writers of Irish history and Topography have rendered their subject so ridiculous, that ^{they} learned look upon them and their subject with indifference or contempt.

It is probable that many ^{similar} maps of ancient Irish territories are still extant in public and private libraries in England; I mean maps of territories ^{made} previously to their being distributed into hundreds or Baronies. Such maps would, like the present much facilitate my topographical researches and save me much time, thought and labour.

If you sent me a description of Mageoghegan's Country of Kinel-Tiach to Westmeath, which would be of use here. Are there any similar descriptions of territories in the same volume?

Irish Statutes. 3, 4 Phil. & Mar.

Chap. 1.

An Act for the Disposition of Leix and Offalie.

Rot. Parl. cap. 7.

(5)
9

A.D.
1556

The counties
of Leix &c.
late wholly
in possession
of rebels,
subdued by
the earl
of Sussex,
lord deputy,

Where^{as} the countries of Leix, Newmarche,
Offalie, Irie, and Glynnmalice, which belong
of right to the King and Queen's most
excellent majesties, were of late wholly
possessed by the Moores, the Connors,
the DEMPSEYES, and other rebels, and now
by the industrious travaile of the earle of
Sussex, now lord deputy of Ireland, he brought
again to be in the possession of their Majesties,
and so remaine, to be disposed as to their
Highnesses shall be thought good: forasmuch
as the well disposing of the foresaid countries,
and planting of good men there, shall not
onely be a great strength to those quarters,
but also a wonderfull assurance of quiet
to all the rest of the English countries,
and a great terror to all Irish countries
bordering upon the same: therefore at the
humble request of the lords spirituall and
temporall and the commons of this realm be it enacted

14/10/14/3(11)

by our sovereign lord and lady the King and Queen's majesties, the lords spiritual and temporal and the commons in this present

Parliament assembled, and by the authorities

of the same, That the foresaid earle of
Suffex, now lord deputy, shall have by
virtue of this act full power and
authorities, during the time he shall

who shall
have full
power by
this act
to grant
estates
in fee, &c.
thereout.

be lord deputy there, to give and graunt
to all and everie their Majesties subjects,
English or Irish, borne within this realme,
or within the realme of England, at his
election and pleasure such several estates
in fee simple, fee taile, leases for
terme of yeares, life or lives, of all
and every the lordships, manours,
castles, patronages of benefices, landes,
tenementes, and all other hereditamentes
temporal, with their appurtenances, parcel
of any the said countries, or to any of
the said countries of right appertaining
or belonging, as for the more sure
planting and strength of the countries.

with good subjects shall be thought unto
his wisdom and discretion meet and
convenient, and that the said earle of

And may
command
the lord
chancellor
to set the
great seal
thereto.

Shropes, now lord deputy, may by vertue
of this act command the lord chancellor
or Keeper of the great seal of this realm,
for the time being, to set their Majesties
great seal of his realme to every such
graunt of estate in fee simple, fee taile,
lease for yeares, life or lives, so by him
graunted or demised, and that every such
commandement of the said lord deputy,
by warrant signed with his hand and seal,
shall be to the same lord chancellor, or
the Keeper of the great seal for the time
being, a sufficient warrant or discharge
for the sealing of every such graunt so by
him graunted, which graunt so by him
graunted, and sealed with the said broad
seal, shall be good and vailable in the law
to every person that hopefeth any of the said

grants, according to the tenor of the grant
against our said sovereign lord and lady the
King and Queen's majesties, her heyres and
successours, and against any other person
or persons, bodies politique or corporate,
their heyres and successours, and the heyres and
successors of every of them: any law, statute,
or other order heretofore made to the contrary
in any wise notwithstanding.

Provided
such yearly
rents, &c.
reserved
as by said
deputy
thought
expedient.

II. Provided alwaies, that upon every such
estate of fee simple, fee taile, lease for
terme of yeares, life or lives, so by the
said deputy to be granted or demised,
as before, there be such yearly rents,
services, conditions and covenants reserved
to the King and Queen's majesties, her
heyres and successours, as by the said
said deputy, upon the said grant or grants,
shall be thought expedient and necessary
for the better advancement of their Majesties,
and the sure planting strength and suretie
of the said Countries.

III. Provided also, that this act, or any matter therein conteyned, shall not extend to any landes or inheritances, spirituall or temporall of any person or persons, their heyres and successours, which are excepted by provisoes in the act passed, intituling the King and Queen's majesties, her Grace's heyres and successours, in and to the said countries of Leix, Offayly, Shewmarge, Irry, and Glimmaliry, but that they the same person and persons, their heyres and successours, and the heyres and successours of every of them shall and may have, enjoy, possess, and dispose his and their said several landes, inheritances and interests, according to the said provisoes in the other act, at their will and pleasure: any matter or thing in this act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Chap. II.

An Act whereby the King and Queen's Majesties, and the Heires and Successors of the Queen, be entituled to the Countries of Leix, Slewmarge, Iry, Glinmaliry, and Offaily, and for making the same Countries Shire Grounds. Rot. Parl. cap. 8.

Prayer the commons in this present Parliament assembled, that forasmuch as the Omores, Odempdies, Oconnors, and others of the Irishry, ^{the King and Queen, during life of the Queen, and her heirs and successors shall have for ever, as in right of the crown, the Counties of Leix, &c.} lately inhabiting the countries of Leix, Slewmarge, Iry, Glinmaliry and Offaily, and by their sundry manifest treasons after many pardons granted to them, and sundry benefits shewed to them, yet often rebelled, committing great hurts to the King and Queen's Majesties most loving subjects, by the which they provoked the most worthy prince King Edward the sixth, brother to our said sovereign lady the Queen's majesty, to use his power against them, who at length to his great charge did subdue and repress

the said Irish enemies or rebellles, bringing into
his possession the countries aforesaid, sithence
which time the said Omores, Odempsies,
Oconnors, and others of the said Irishry have
trayterously, contrary to their bounden duties,
by force entered the said countries, and then
so did hold against the King and Queen's ma-
jesties, unto such time as their Majesties,
by the diligent and painefull travaile and
labour of the right honourable the earl of
Sussex, their majesties lord deputy in Ireland,
by the sword evicted and reduced the said
countries out of and from the wrongfull
and usurped possession of the said Irish
enemies or rebels, to their Majesties former
possession as of right appertayneth, and for
that, that neyther of the said countries
is knowne to be within the limites of any
shires or counties of this realme, no title
could be found either to the said late King,
or to their Majesties, for and in the said

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countries and the hereditaments of them, as by
their Grace's law is appointed to bee in like
case, by default whereof, their Majesties might
not take order for the disposition of the
said countries by their graunts, as they now
intend to doe. Bee it therefore ordeyned, ^{enacting}
enacted and established by our said sovereign ^{part.}
lord and lady the King and Queen's majesties,
the lords spirituall and temporall, and
the commons in this present Parliament
assembled, and by authoritie of the same,
That the said King and Queen's majesties,
during the life of the said Queen, and
the heires and successors of the said
Queen shall have, hold and possesse for ever
as in the right of the crown of England
and Ireland, the said countries of Leixce,
Slewmarke, Irye, Glimnalyric and Offailly,
and all and singular seignories, honours,
mannours, castels, fortresses, mesuages, landes,
tenementes, woods, moores, pastures, mountaines,
marshes, waters, rivers, loghes, churches, chappels,

advowsons, patronages, townes, fields, rentes, services,
and all and singular other the hereditamentes
spirituall and temporall, of what name, nature,
kind or quality so ever they bee of in the
said countries, and everie of them according
to the auncient limits, meares, and boundes
of the same countries, and everie of them,
except all and singular such parsonages
and vicarages as now have cure there,
the patronages whereof shall be likewise
given to their Majesties, and to the heires
and successors of the said Queen's Ma-
jestic for ever.

II. And to the end the said countries may be
from henceforth the better conserved, and kept
in civill government; bee it enacted by the
The new said authoritie, That the new fort in Leix,
fort in Leix,
called
Mary Burgh be from henceforth for ever called and named,
Mary Burgh, and that the said countries of
Leix, Slewmarge, Iry, and such portion of
Glimnalyre, as standeth and is situate of

that side of the river of Barrow, whereupon the
said Mary Burgh standeth and is scituated,
and all the seignories, honours, manours,
landes, tenementes, and hereditamentes of the
same countries and portions, and other of them,
bee from the first day of this Parliament one
shire or countie, named, knowne, and called <sup>And
countries
of Leix,
be called
the Queen's
County,
the name
sheriff,
v. as
other
shires.</sup>
the Queen's County, and shall from the
said day be taken reputed, and used as a
countie or shire to all purposes for ever,
and that there shall be appointed, ordayned,
and made within the said shire or countie,
for the rule thereof, and execution of
things there, sherife, coroners, escheator,
clerke of the market, and other officers
and ministers of justice yearly, as in
other the shires or counties in this realm
of Ireland bee and should bee.

^{the new} III. And bee it also enacted by authoritie aforesaid,
^{fort in} That the new fort in Offaly, bee from henceforth
^{called} Philipstown for ever called and named Philippeston and that
the said country of Offaly, and such portion
of the said Glinmalry as standeth, and is
scituated of that side of the river of Barrow,
whereupon the said Philippeston standeth and
is scituated, and all the seigniories, honours,
mannours, landes, tenementes and hereditamentes
of the same country and portion, and every
of them, bee from the feast of Saint Michael
tharchangel, next coming after the first
day of this present Parliament, one shire
or county, named, knowne, and called the
Kings County, and shall from the said
feast be taken, reputed, and used as a
County or shire to all purposes for ever,
and that there shall be appointed, ordeyned,
and made within the said County or shire, for
the rule thereof, and execution of things there, shirife,
coroners, escheter, clerke of the market, and other
officers and ministers of justice yearly, as in
other the shires or counties of this realm of Ireland be ordeyned.

^{the Kings}
^{county}
^{named.}
^{to have}
^{shiriff}
^{and other}
^{officers.}

IV. And be it likewise enacted and ordeyned
by the said authority, that a commission
be made forth by the lord chancellor, for
the time being, to certain of the counsaill
and others, after his discretion, as well for
the dividing of the bounds and limits of
the said severall Counties or shires from
other counties and places, and to either of them adjoining,
and also possessions and hereditamentes of the said counties or shires of
Kings countie and Queens countie, into severall baronies or hundreds, as
also the towne or place where the
prison, gaile or gaole in every of the
said Counties or shires shall be, and
what order and appointment shall be
so taken and made by the said com-
missioners in that behalfe, and returned
into the King and Queen's majesties
chauncerie of this realm, be it by
authority of this present Parliament
ratified, confirmed and established
for ever.

*A commission
by the lord
chancellor
for dividing
the bounds
of said
counties,
and into
baronies
or hundreds.*

*Place the
where a
gaol
for each
shall be.*

Not to
prejudice
the grants
to the earl
of Kildare.

V. Provided alwayes, that this act, or any thing therein conteyned, shall not in any wise be prejudicial, ^{nor} hurtfull to any letters patents made and graunted unto Gerald, now earle of Kildare, and to his heyres, by our said sovereign lady the Queen, or by her Highness late brother, King Edward the sixth, of any honours, manours, lands, tenementes, preheminences, dignities, privileges, jurisdictions, and other hereditaments whatsoever, within this realm of Ireland, but that the said Gerald earle of Kildare, and his heyres, shall and may enjoy and hold all and singular the said honours, ^{good!!} preheminences, dignities, privileges, jurisdictions, manours, lands, tenements, and all other hereditaments, to him and his heyres given and graunted by our said sovereign lady the Queen, or by her Highness said late brother King Edward the sixth, or by either of them, according to the tenor,

poll.

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forme, and effect of the said severall letters patents, and as the said earle and his heires, should or ought to have and enjoy the said honours, manours, and other the premises by force of the said severall letters patents, or any of them, as if this act had not been made; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

VI. Provided also, that this act, nor any thing therein conteyned, doth not extend to the archbishop of Dublin, the bishop of Kildare, the bishop of Leighlin, or any other ecclesiasticall person or persons, and their successors, of any right, title, interest, preheminence, authorities, advowsons, presentations, by laps or otherwise, or any other thing or things, that they or their predecessors have had, enjoyed or possessed within the said countrey of Leice and Offaily, but that the same shall be in their and every of them, and their successors, in as large and ample

Nor any rights of the bishops, or other ecclesiastical persons.

manner as any their predecessors had enjoyed,
manured, occupied and possessed the same
at any time before the making of the
said act; any law, use or custom
in this act to the contrary in any
wise notwithstanding.

[Dunigra though referred to in the Index to the Stone Catalogue
is not to be found at the page so referred to.]

[St Mosenor is not to be found in Colgan's Ind. Top.
to A.A.S. I looked to all the Senari referred to
but none of them seem to agree with our Moskenoy
a quo —

There is no reference to the Carragh (campus) of
Aildare in Colgan's Ind. Top. to Fr. Th.
the copy in the R.I. Academy has been looked to.

Keating or O'Leaherty do not give the situation of Almhain.
There is no mention of bluman of Carrick C. in the ^[E.W. Keating] Cat.

(20)

Nov of the Holy Pilgrim Verges -

We can find no reference to any place like
Kilmeage in any of the ancient records.

Nurney in Mildam is not mentioned in Colgan
or the Calendar.

The Repertorium Viride gives only the churches
in the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

season (21)

We next give O'Heering's account of the territories 24
in ancient O'falia, a curious record.

Tír at o'bpailge an fúin ealaig, —
ní hambrúir é d'pneasairb
O' Concobairn cuing an cláir
Ar gormtularig cuing Cnuacháin
Fogean críes an cláir leatáin
Teagán tap a dtaoirreachairb
Dá pluas ar ruidbire ina roim
Ar chuan o'bpailge b'pódglain.
Ar uib Ríagáin ná pluas d'trom,
Dárraí meirí inuiseair comilón
O'duigí taoirreach ná toglá
Cuing na ceiraoirreach ceatóirda
Taoirreach oile ar aitéir d'ain
O'háengupa ar cláir colgan
Glán a dúicair tap péin páil
Do slúicair le cúb éruacháin
Ar tuach da nuigé an mairgíil
O'maoilcéin éroide ruidbire
Aoirbín tuait mím an nuigé
A bpuach mar tír tairnguire.
Do gab tuait Geirille geal
Taoirreach do leatbóirid laigean
Teirid a táirín na táirín teirínir
Ar do ar ainm O'háimigíin
Or mág aoirpe na leatg dte
O maircháin taoirreach tuaité
An fear im píd gairble glay
Ar cion gar daingne dúicair
Clann maoil uigra or gac fearáin
Náiralcéim a geineada
Clairmín an éirín do cóirín
Tír ar dual d'O' Diomoirig.

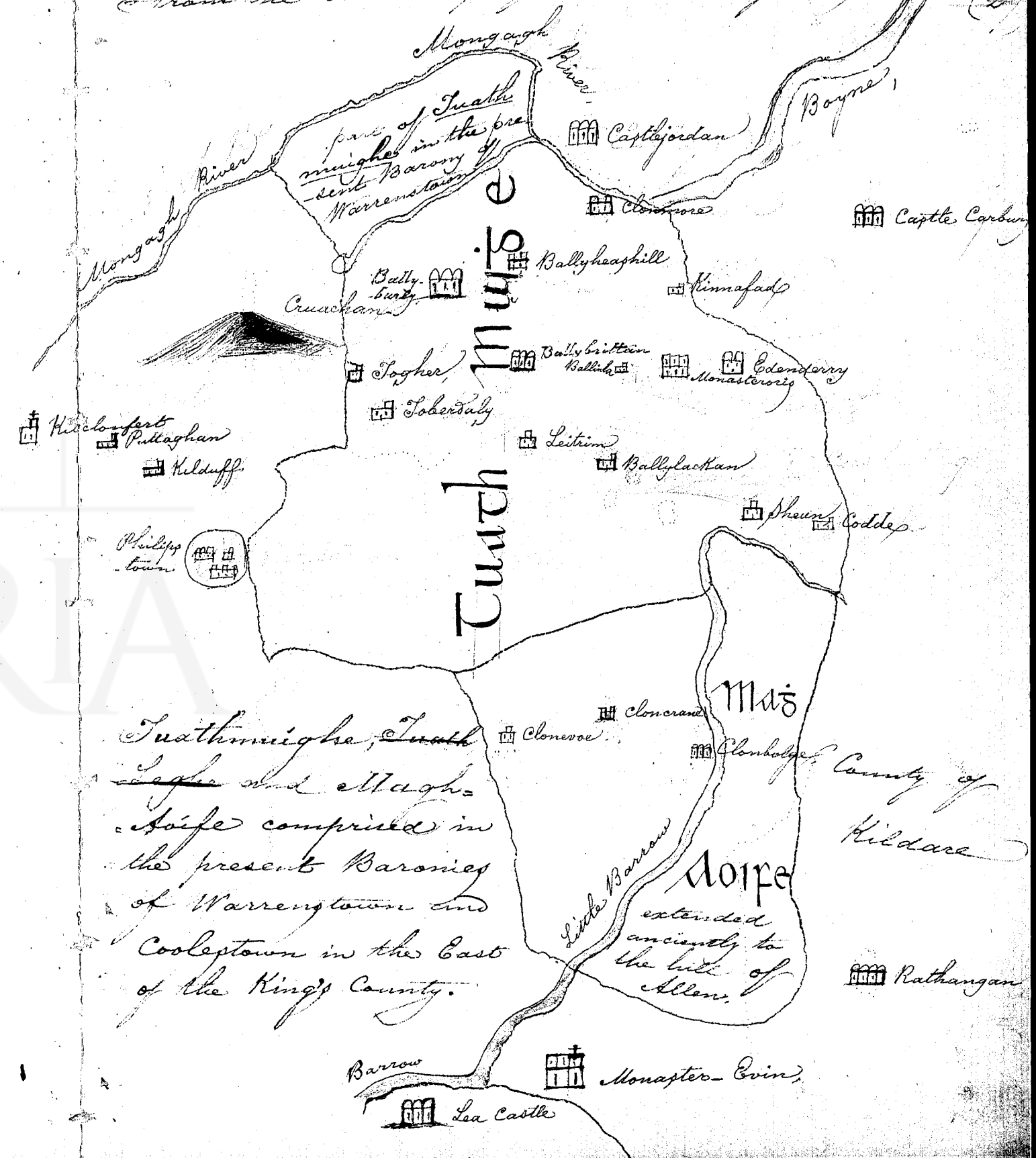
Uaibh an eirach ean no clop
Tuaith leige na leas polop
O' Ceallag leige on tras ean
Ceile an clapp eangas jubragh.
Deir o' bparlge na bpoñ rean
Druideam ne laoghr laigean.

+ O'faly is
the level
- est plain
in all Ire.
- land.

The lord of O'falia, land of cattle,
A fact not unknown to poets —
Is O'honor, hero of the plain⁺
Around the green hill of Cruachan.⁽¹⁾
Of the people of this wide plain
Let me treat of the chiefs;
What host is richer than they
Over the fair lands of O'falia?
Over the Hy Regam of the heavy onslaught
A vigorous band who rout in battle
Ruile O'Dunn, chief of demolition⁽²⁾
Hero of the golden battle-spears^{*}.
Another chief to me well known^{*}
O'Kennedy, ruler o'er Glar Colgan
Fair his country beyond, Ireland's territories
Which borders on the grass⁽³⁾ of Cruachan.
O'er Tuath da moy of the beautiful bulwarks
Reigns O'Mulhene of the rich heart,
Delightful his smooth Tuath of Moy⁽⁴⁾
Its borders like the Land of Promise.

* General
Dunn is the
present head

from the old map of Leas and O'faly.



25.
(22)

Uolbín an éiríoch crán nio clor
 Tuath leige ná leapt polop
 O' Ceallag leige on tráig tair
 Ceile an cláir eangais iubraig.
 Deir o' bairge ná lipon rean
 Druideam ne laogáir laigean.

The lord of Ogalia, land of cattle—

A fact not unknown to poets—

Is O'honor, hero of the plain⁺

Around the green hill of Cruachan⁽¹⁾.

Of the people of this wide plain

Let me treat of the chiefs;

What host is richer than they

Over the fair lands of Ogalia?

Over the Hy-Negam of the heavy onslaughts

A vigorous band who rout in battle

Óluf I'Dunn, chief of demolition⁽²⁾

Hero of the golden battle-spears^{*}.

Another chief to me well known

O'hennep, ruler o'er Glar Colgan

Fair his country beyond, Ireland's territories

Which borders on the grass⁽³⁾ of Cruachan.

O'er Tuath-da-moy of the beautiful bulwark

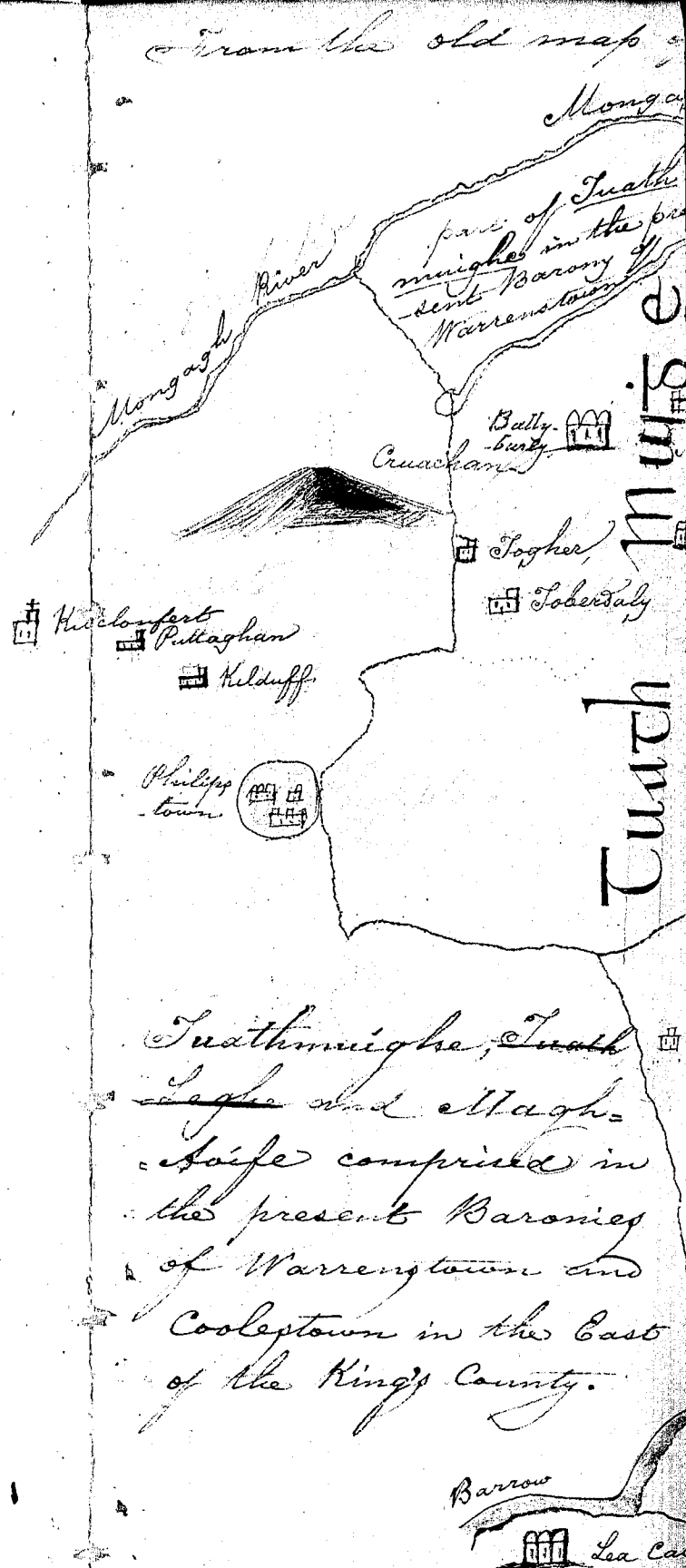
Reigns O'hulkere of the rich heart,

Delightful his smooth Tuath of alloy⁽⁴⁾

Its borders like the "Land of Promise".

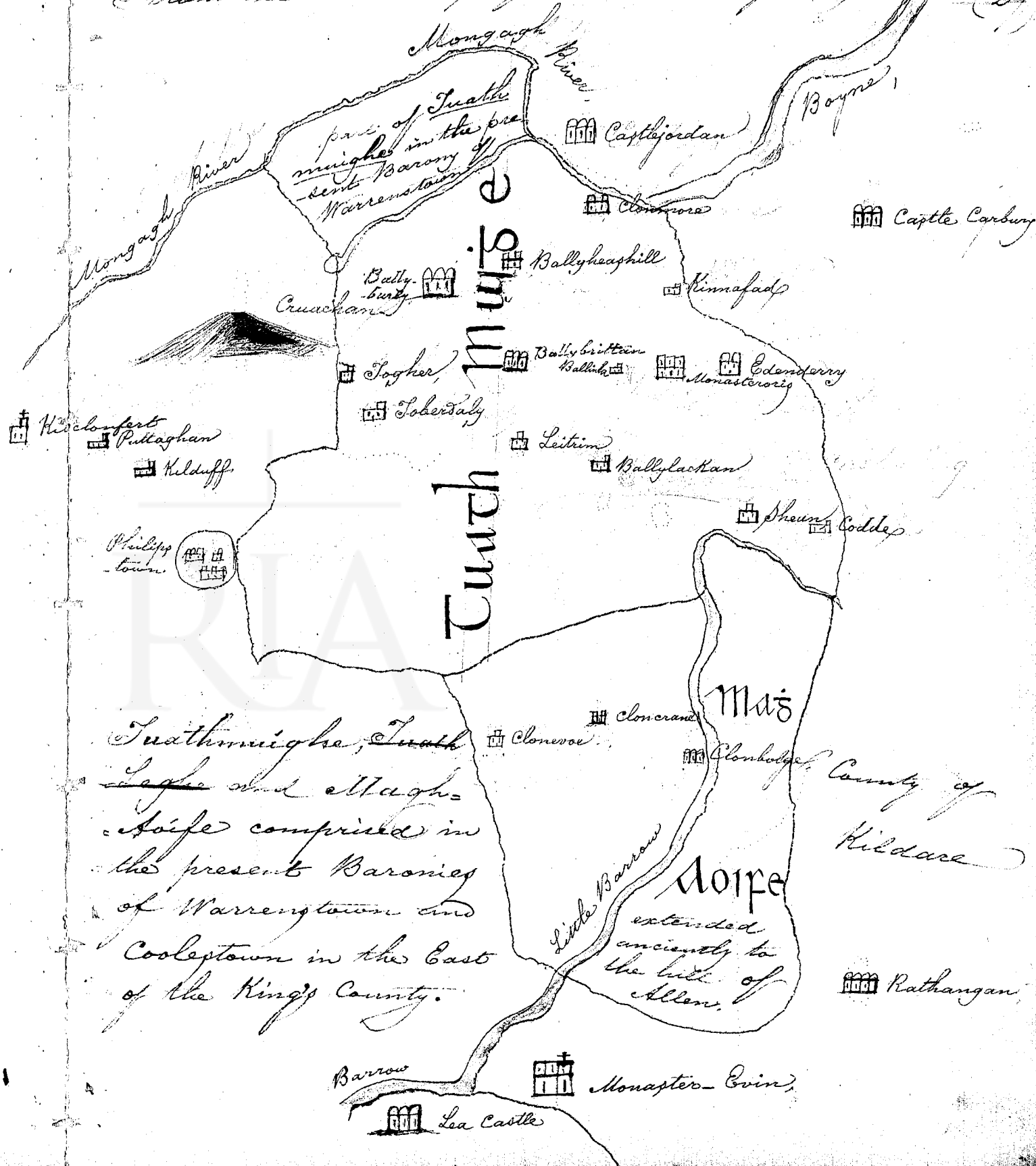
+ Ogalia is
 the level
 - est plain
 in all the
 - land.

* General
 Dunn is the
 present head



the Land of Promise.

30
(24)



"The Bright Tuath Geipill is possessed
 " By a chief on the half border of Leinster (* 5)
 " Whose ^{troop} tairm goes as a fierce strong tairm
 " His name is O'Hamirgin. (Mergin)
 " Over Moy-Aoise of the warm plains
 " O'Murraghan, is ^{as} lord of a tuath. (6)
 " The ^(hero, viz) man who lives near Green Fiddh Gaibhle
 " What country is faster against incursions?
 " Clann Malura over every tribe
 " Noble the ^{step} doings of their septs
 " Their land a smooth plain - protection of the harbor (7)
 " A land hereditary to O'Dempsey.
 " Delicious the land, as heard ^{fold} afar
 " The tuath of Leighe of the bright ^{fields} plains
 " O'Kelly of Leige on the east of the strand ^{sp. 473} (8)
 " In the shrouse of this plain of ^{+ of dells and yews.} the knotty yews.
 " From O'Galila of ancient lands
 " We next approach Leix in Leinster."

Notes

- (1) or over the green hill of Cruachan. Honor is lord of the vast plain of O'Galila, and of the hill of Cruachan. The hill of Cruachan is the most remarkable feature of O'Galila. It gives the title of Marquis to the family of Moore.
- (2) Trospeach na togha, i.e. able to batter walls and knock down castles and houses - a very noble qualification in offering time.

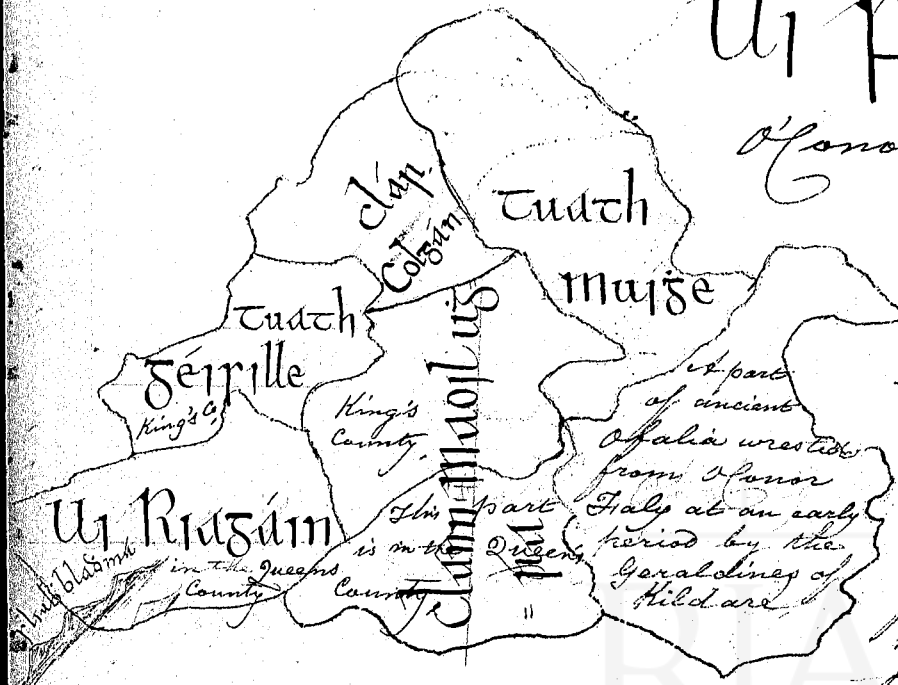
14/10/14/3(X)

- (24)
27/ (3) grass of Cruachan, literally the hair of Cruachan
- (4) Land of Promise, i.e. overflowing with milk and honey, like the Land of Promise mentioned in the old Testament.
- (*5) Half Border of Leinster. Keating says that the boundary of ancient Meath passed through Geisill. The Meath or centre of Geisill was then partly in Leinster originally. No; it was only on the borders of it.
- (6) Fidh Gaibhle, a famous wood in Leinster, the mast of a ship taken from which created a dispute which ended in the battle of Clontarf. The situation of this wood can now be pointed out.
- (7) He must allude to some small ^{country} harbors on the Barrow.
- (8) By opis, which is generally ^{and properly} applied to the strand or sea shore, he must, by his usual mode of amplification, mean the brink of the river Barrow. This will appear clearer hereafter.

Territories in the ancient
Lordship of

Uí Failge

Honor Ialy's country.



The east part of an-
cient Ogalia, now the
Barony of Ophaly in
the County of Kildare
has been in the possession
of the Fitzgeralds of
Kildare from almost
the year 1172.

of the extent of ancient
Offaly,

The territory of *Mi Failghe* or *Ophaley* comprized the following Baronies beyond any shade of doubt.

1. *Gephill* in the King's Co
2. *Upper Philipstown*, in the King's Co
3. *Lower Philipstown*, *ibid*,
4. *Warrenstown*, in the same County.
5. *Cooléstown* in the same.
6. *Ophaley* or *Offaley* in the Co. of Kildare
7. *Portmahinch* in the Queen's County.
8. *Tinahinch* in the Queen's County.

This is the true extent, and it will be seen that not even the one half of it is comprized in the King's County.

It was the principality of *O'Conor Failghe*, the senior representative of *Rossa Failghe* (the son of the monarch *Cahir More*), who is said to have made an attempt at murdering *St. Patrick* because he thought that his object was to establish

toleration and democratic principles, but he was very much mistaken.

Of the subdivisions of Ofaley.

Like Leix, the principality of Ofaley was originally subdivided into seven cantreds which were ruled by seven petty chiefs of the noble blood of Rogga Tailghe (these were).

I.

Trath Geisille. The name and extent of this trath are retained in the present Barony of Geaphill. It was the patrimonial inheritance of O'Amargin, now anglicised Mergin and Bergin, now the name of a numerous and warlike ^{tribe} family. Bergin, Geaphill and the sky over it! They know right well ^{that} they are the only aristocratic blood of the district, and one should be very diffident in asking one of them if he ever heard that any of the Amergins are nearly turned into walves. It is said that Geaphill has produced more and better ^{British} soldiers than any Barony in Ireland

14/D/14/3(XI)

* Geaphill and O'Amargin or Mergin are nearly synonymous terms here. How long tradition preserves those recollections of ancient power!

I have no pedigree of this family. Does Mac
Firlisse give any account of them among
the families of the Faircloughs?

II.

Hy Regan, now popularly called Dooregan, and
in Irish *Dúarda Uí Rágháin*. This territory was
erected into the Barony of Tineahinch and
lies in the Queen's County, as can be demonstra-
ted from the old map of Leax and Opaly,
from the tradition in the country and from
the Liber Regalis visitationis of 1615, which
states: "*Dua sunt Rectorie in patria vocata*
"*O'Dun's Country*" *detente in possessione Doctoris*
"*Dun. Ipse recipit decimas, sed nullus comparuit*
"*curatus ad respondendum pro servicio Ecclesie.*
"*Idcirco fructus sequestrantur.*" These ^{two} Rectories are
set down in the margin as "*O'Regan et Rognolis.*"
This is conclusive.

at the foot of Shew Bloom
General *Dun* of *Brittas* is the present heir,
of *caoirnach na tóla*. His property, like ^{those} ~~that~~ of
most Irish chieftains, is much incumbered.
Joseph Dun of Killamoon near the Great Heath

of Maryborough is the next to him in point
of seniority and respectability. He was in office
in the French service and a man of chief-
tain size - viz magna quantitas - being 6-6 ^{feet incl}
in height and ^{stone 12} 9-9 in weight. His house
of Killowen ^{which is in the possession of the family since temp. Edz} is marked on the Down Survey.

Shoet M Duff o Dúda M Ríagáin are exceedingly numerous
in every part of this country. Their pedigree is
thus traced by MacFirbispe:

"Pedigree of O'Don of Hy-Regan."

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Donagh, son of | 15. Malfinn |
| 2. ¹ Shuley | 16. <u>Regan</u> , a quo <u>Hy-Regan</u> |
| 3. ¹ Shuley | 17. ¹ Kineth |
| 4. ¹ Teige | 18. ¹ Flaunt da Congal |
| 5. ¹ Shuley | 19. ¹ Diamapach |
| 6. ¹ Coaey | 20. ¹ Congalach |
| 7. ¹ Danpleay | 21. ¹ Forannan |
| 8. ¹ Coaey | 22. ¹ Maoloo |
| 9. ¹ Carroll | 23. ¹ Cathal |
| 10. ¹ <u>Cu-Bladma</u> ^{Greyhound & these Bladma} | 24. ¹ Eogan of Breen-da-Choga |
| 11. ¹ Connells | 25. ¹ Nathi |
| 12. ¹ Fihully | 26. ¹ Rossa, Faulgha |
| 13. ¹ Down, a quo O'Don | 27. ¹ Cathaoir Mor, R. H. |
| 14. ¹ Burgiolla | |

14/10/14/3(XII)

Clann-Maolbhuir anglice Clannmaliers and
corruptly Glannalir. This territory certainly
comprized the present Barony of Upper Phi-
lipstown in the King's County, and the Baro-
ny of Portmahinch in the Queen's County.
It contained the castles of Leighes, Morette,
^{Stone} Clonygowan and Ballykened, and was divided
nearly into two equal parts by the river
Barrow. This was the country of O'Dempsey,
a name which would sound in the English
^{I superbia!} Proud! But their pride and glory are
now eclipsed, there being not one independent
or scarcely respectable man of the name
on either side of the Barrow, ^{and} Cahir ^{has been} na
gcapall seems to be the last respectable man
of the name in Clannmaliers. Vae victis!

O'Dempsey was viscount Clannmaliers during
the war of 1641, but he lost all in the
struggle and left his race a helpless people
unworthy of their name - Superbi progenies.

Mac Firdise traces the pedigree of this proud
family up to Cahir more than.

"The Clann Masilughra"

"Pedigree of O'Dempsey."

1. "Sir Christopher, son of

2 — Bony

3 — Farlagh

4 — Dermot

5 — Hugh

6 — Cahis

7 — Malmore

8 — Dermot

9 — Fin

10. Melaghlin

11. Fin

12. Dermot

13. Melaghlin

14. Fin

see Annals, 15. Coilen

16. Hugh

17. Dermot

18. Eubrogha who defended
the tower of
Leath Laigheam

19. Hugh

20. Flann

21. Malronev

22. Corcoran

23. Flann

24. Diomasach a quo O'Dempsey

25. Logartach

26. Hughron

27. Flann-da-Congals

28. Diomasach

29. Hugh

30. Dermot

31. Corcoran

32. Masilughra a quo
Clann-Masil-

33. Conar

34. Hugh

35. Lamaltagh

36. Flann-da-Congals

37. Diomasach

38. Congalach- &c.

See pedigree of
O'Dun, No. 20.

14/0/14/3 (XIII)

There was another family in Clannahere of the name Mac Conduligh - which is now probably the name anglicised Connelly.

About the year 1164 Dermot O'Dempsey became chief of all Offaley, and erected the Abbey of Monaster-Evins in that part of Offaley now lying in the county of Kildare. No other of the name ever became prince of Offaley, but ^{shortly} after Honor Faly's downfall O'Dempsey was created Viscount Clannahere, through what intercept I know not; but it would appear that O'Dempsey assisted the Cophys and other ferocious families to murder the Irish at Mullamaght, and this is perhaps sufficient to account for his exaltation. But a reaction is sure to follow such massacres. See Extracts from the Annals under the heads Uil-Failghe and Clann Maolughra.

IV.

Clar Bolgair alias Blann Bolgair. From many evidences now before me I have inferred the O'Hennessys were lords here so late as the year 1414. See ^{annals & masters}

that Clann Colgan is the present Barony
of Lower Philipstown. 1st From O'Heering
psen, which states, that the chief of Clan
Colgan bordered on the grass of Cruachan,
Do Shúairg Le cúb Crúacáin. The other evidences shall
appear presently under Tuathmaighe.

The O'Hallahans and O'Heneffys were the
ancient chiefs of this cantred. Their pe-
digrees are thus given by Mac Firlisse.

"Pedigree of the clan Colgan."

Mac-Tire O'Hallahan

Guilen

Conor

Mac-tire (Wolf)

Wallachan

Fogartach

Cumascach

Colgan, a quo the

Clann Colgan

Mughron

See Pedigrees of
O'Hempsey, No. 26,

Donnell O'Heneffsy, son of

Lough

Wallachan

Teige

Wallachan

Teige

Donnell

Saugus, a quo O'Haeughusag

Cumascach

Colgan, a quo the Clan-
Colgan? 14/D/14/3(XIV)

Inath-Muighe called in English Tuomy and Tethmay. We have many clues to the situation and extent of this ancient territory. Ware writes that Sir John de Birmingham, Earl of Louth, founded in the year 1325, a monastery for Conventual Franciscans ⁱⁿ at Tetmay or Thetmay in Offaly; and that it was called from his own name in the Irish tongue Monaster-
-feoris or the Monastery of Mac Feoris. This is the present Monasteroris near Edenderry.

The old Map of "Leax and Ophaly" shows the following places as in the territory of Tuomy, which it divides into Upper and Nether.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Ballyburley | on the west side |
| 2. Togher | |
| 3. Tobersaly | |

4. Castlejordan immediately outside its north eastern boundary.

5. Clonmore

6. Ballyheashill

7. Ballybritton

8. Ballinla

9. Leitrim

10. Kinnafade

11. Edenderry

12. Monasteroris

13. Ballylacken

14. Cuphalin

15. Sheane

16. Coddle.

And it shews Inomay as extending from the River Mangagh which divides it from the County of Westmeath to the boundary of Clannahire in ^{the} one direction, and from Edenderry to Philipstown in the other direction. From these evidences it can be safely

14/10/14/3 (XV)

(38) ⁴¹ inferred that Inathmigha Nether and Upper were formed into the Bar-
-nies of Coolestown and Warrentown.

This being established it will be seen at
once that ^{the triocha ched of} Clancolgan, which lay at
the hill of Cuachan could be no other
than the Barony of Lower Philipstown,
for you cannot place it in Gepill, which was
itself a distinct Triocha ched, nor in
North Clannahere, which was another,
nor in Inathmigha, which was another.
Then by double false position, where can
we place this Cantred or Centuilliariun?

No room remaining for it but the Barony of
Lower Philipstown, which will perfectly
agree with its position at the hill of
Cuachan.

At the time of making the old map of
Leax and Oshaly now before me this
Triocha ched ^{of Clancolgan} was divided into three

Tudé Ráda Dromáin, Tudé na ⁴²39

parts called Touo-Radrummon, Touana-Coille, chilys and Tauocroghan, but these were subdivisions made in comparatively recent times.

The territory of Inathmúighe was anciently the patrimonial inheritance of ^{the} O'Mulkenes now Keane, but I have no pedigree nor record of them but O'Sheering poem. 9. vide supra.

VI.

The sixth Cantred in ancient Ogalia was Magh Raife, the ancient inheritance of ^{O'murcharáin} O'Murraghan, now anglicised into Murray. This is shewn on the old map of "Leax and Ophaly, as ^{peapán uí murcharáin} Feranomurghan i.e. O'Murchan's land, and extending from near Monaster-Evin to near Rathangan, and the town-land of Shane, but this cannot be any thing like its original extent, as we learn from O'Shughrims that O'Murchan's

14/D/14/3(xvii)

43
40 ~~was an~~ ^{was an} important and beautiful country.

It is highly probable that before the Geraldines encroached on ofalia, that O'Murrough's territory of Magh Roife extended eastwards to the foot of the hill of Allen, and so as to embrace the northern half of the Barony of Ophaley in the County of Kildare, in which the famous woods of Fiodh Gaibhle seem to have been situated.

VII.

The last of the seven territories of ofalia mentioned by O'Sheerin is Inath-Leighe, the paradise of O'Kelly! Where is this lovely land? I have ~~not~~ ^{no} clue to it but one name; which is not perhaps a bad guide to the discovery of at least its whereabouts, and one passage in Magenghegan's Annals of Clonmacnoise. This is Caisleán Leighe, i.e. the Castle of Leighe now Lea Castle, mentioned by the Four Masters at the year 1452. This was certainly in O'Kelly's country, and it will appear from it that ~~the~~ a considerable part of the country of Leighe fell into the hands

of the O'Dempseys of Clannachie in whose country Lea castle is placed on the old map of "Lea and Ophaly".

It would also appear that O'Kelly's beautiful territory of Leigh was divided between the Geraldines and O'Dempseys after the O'Kellys were put down. The following passage in the Annals of Clannachaise as translated by Connell Mageoghagan will give some idea of the period at which the O'Kellys had possession of this territory.

A. D. 1389. Morishe the Bald O'honor of Offalie was killed with an arrow by one of the O'Kellys of Lea in Clannachaise.

I have no pedigree of the O'Kelly of Leigh. Does Mac Firbishe or the writers of the Books of Lecan or Ballymote mention him. Does he descend from Rossa Tailghe?

The conclusion then I must draw, in the absence of direct evidence no doubt, is that the territory of Leighe contained the ^{parish} Castle of Leighe which fell afterwards into the hands of the O'Dempsey, and that it extended from some boundary near that Castle so far into the County of Kildare ~~so~~ as to embrace the southern half of the Barony of Ophaley in that County, for we have room for it no where else. The situation of ^{Tudh} Gesille, the Country of O'Meargin is certain as its name and extent ^{are} ~~is~~ preserved by the Barony of Geaphill; the extent of Doohy-Rogan is beyond any doubt as tradition ^{minutely} remembers its name and extent to this day; the extent of Clannahire, at least in modern times, is preserved by the map of Leax and Ophaley and by tradition;

the extent of Tuath-da-muighe is certainly preserved by the map, and that of Clam Colgan is clearly obtained by induction. Two territories still remain to complete the seven placed by O'Heerin in ancient Ogalia; The map preserves a fragment of one of them, and nothing of the other. Where then can we place them but in that part of Ogalia which the Geraldines, at an early period, wrested from the race of Rospa Failghe? If ever we discover any direct evidence to prove the exact situation of these two latter triocha cheol, I am almost confident that Magh Roife will turn out to be the plain lying between Allen and the Red Hills of Kildare and the Country of Clannachere, and Tuath Leigh the remaining portion of the Barony of Ophaley

14/6/14/3 (XVIII)

(44) 47

lying on the East side of the River Barrow.

amena huc terra, ut antiquitus auditum est.

Doibhín an éiríoc, crán na clóir

tuat léige na leapáí rólor

O' ceallais léige ón tráig éar ^{east bank?}

Céile an cláir eanáis iúipais.

An ^{inspection} examination of the beauty of the district would go far to prove this assumption, if assumption it be.

That part of the King's County comprised in Ofalia, was in Leinster; the remaining part was in Meath and Munster. The following Baronies in the King's County were never any part of ancient Ofalia.

1. Kilcoursey, (a part of Leffia)
2. Ballycuman,
3. Ballybay,
4. Garrycastle
5. Eglisk
6. Ballybritt
7. Clonlick

Who will now say that Ophalia comprised all the King's County?

At the time the old map of "Leax and Ophaly" was made, O'Garroll who possessed that portion of the King's County which was anciently in Munster, was not conquered; for we find the following words written across the map to the south west of the Shive Bloom mountains:

"O'Garroll's Country is no Shire ground."

Is there any account of the period at which Ely O'Garroll was added to the King's County?

Let me have, as soon as possible, Sir William Betham's account of Ely O'Garroll, that I may, if ^{it is possible} possible, point out its exact boundaries.

Betham says if I remember rightly that O'Garroll passed into America and obtained a settlement there which he called Ely O'Garroll.

14/10/14/3 (XX)

Of the extent of the Diocese of Kildare.

It is very curious to find that the Diocese of Kildare, comprises exactly that part of the Kings and Queens Counties which lay in ancient ofalia, and no more.

The extent of this diocese is thus described by Dr. Ross Mageoghegan, R. C. Bishop of Kildare in the time of Colgan (1649)

- " The Diocese of Kildare extends in length from
- " the town of ^(a) Keon, which lies within ^{rectly} seven
- " English miles of Dublin as far as the
- " ^{Road} way, which is called Bealach Garbhain
- " on the mountain named Sliabh Bladhma
- " (Shine Bloom) a distance of 34 miles or
- " thereabouts. This ^{road} way divides Leinster on that
- " side from Munster. The breadth of the same
- " diocese is protracted beyond twelve or four-
- " teen miles from the ^{ie. near} limits of the towns of
- " Bally-Sionain ^(b) and Kilrush ^(c) with Norrack mor

and Buile lies on the south side to the river
 which divides it from the Diocese of Meath.
 "Boyne on the north side; and so this diocese is
 "bounded entirely on the north side by the Diocese
 "of Meath; on the East and partly on the south
 "side it is bounded by the Diocese of Dublin
 "and it forms a confine with the Diocese of
 "Loughlin on the south side; finally it is partly
 "joined by the Diocese of ^{Diocese Lagenensis} Laon, and by that
 "of Meath on the western side.

"This Diocese is divided into four deaneries
 "viz. Kildare, Naas, Killith and ^{see Keonensis} Clon. The deanery
 "of Kildare is situated in the middle of the Dio-
 "cese and encircles the City of Kildare itself
 "on every side. That of Naas lies partly
 "to the eastern and partly to the southern side
 "of the same City. The deanery of ^{now Killigh} Killith
 "extends ^{indirectly} to the western and partly also to the
 "northern side of the same City. And in every
 "one of those deaneries there were anciently se-
 "veral parochial Churches, Monasteries, very
 "many chapels; and ^{also} Cemeteries ^(now the Reticence) consecrated
 "without

(48) ⁵² without chapels or churches, which are partly approximating an ruin, and ^{some} have been entirely destroyed." Triad. Thom. Kildare Notes.

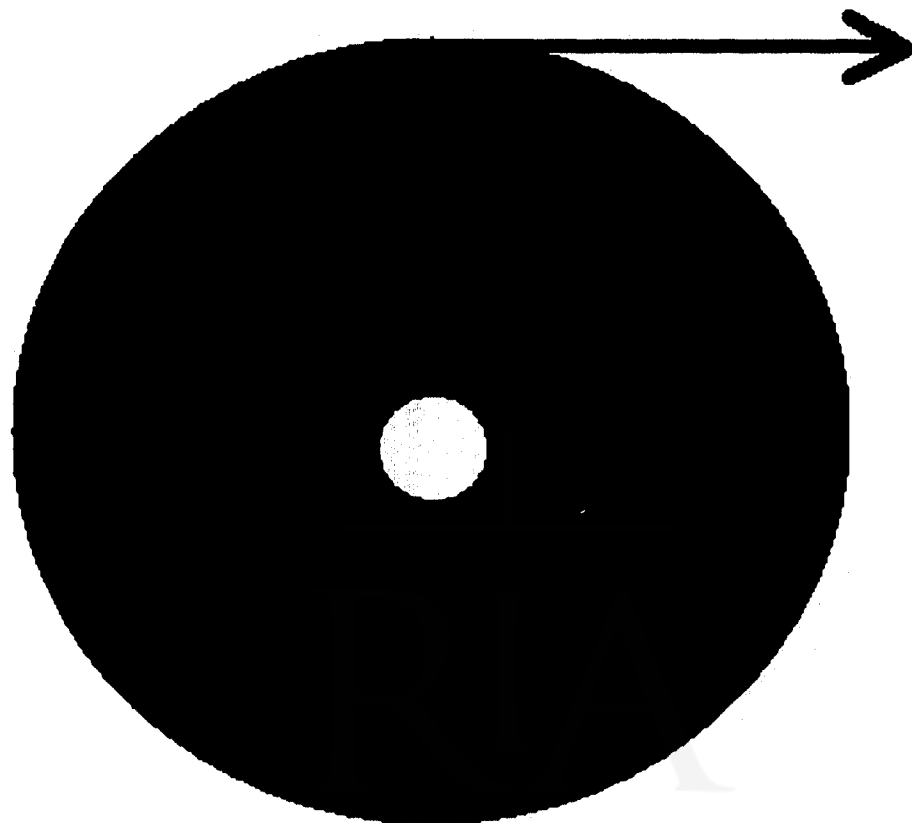
(a) This stands much in need of my scholia, as it is so very badly printed by Colgan. Keonensis is here a misprint for Clonensis by which the Bishop meant the town of Clonadh now Clane; and seven English miles is demonstrably a mistake for "seventeen English miles". Draw a line from Bealach Gabhrain in the Slieve Bloom mountain to Clane; and you will find it measures 24 miles of the these English ^{measures} miles (7 yards to a perch). Besides, ^{adds,} from Bealach Gabhrain to Clane will form the exact length of the Diocese of Kildare?

(b) Now Ballyshannon not far from Kicullen.

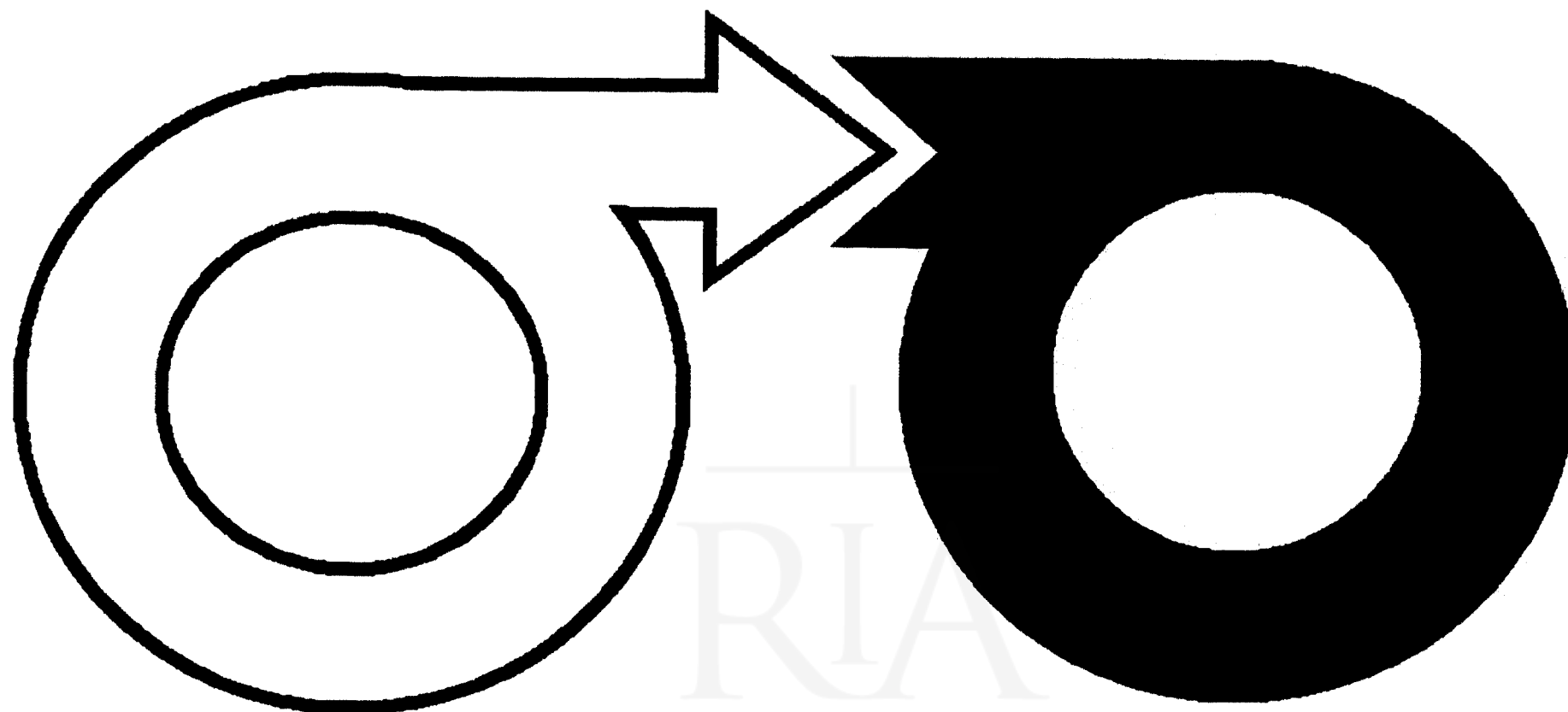
(c) Now Kilruoh: this description is perfectly correct.

(d) now the Diocese of Killaloe, which is always Latinized. Diocesis Laonensis. O'Keeffe made this the Diocese of Leix!! but Leix does not lie to the west of the Diocese of Kildare: Killaloe or Laon does & contains Birr &c.

END



START OF REEL



CONTINUED FROM
PREVIOUS REEL

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November 2006

REEL N 4023

THIS REEL CONTAINS

14 D 14/4 – 14 D 13/25

Letters;

King's County (Offaly)(Vol. 1) – (Vol. 2)

14 D 14

Ordnance Survey of Ireland: Letters, King's county (Vol.1)

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; O'Connor, Thomas

Assorted letters, extracts and maps, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of King's County, with particular reference to its early churches, holy wells, burial grounds, abbeys, castles and the origins of their place names.

ill. 1837-1838; 157p.

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14 D 13

Ordnance Survey of Ireland: Letters, King's county (Vol.2)

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; O'Connor, Thomas

Assorted letters, extracts and maps, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of King's County, with particular reference to its early churches, holy wells, burial grounds, abbeys, castles and the origins of their place names.

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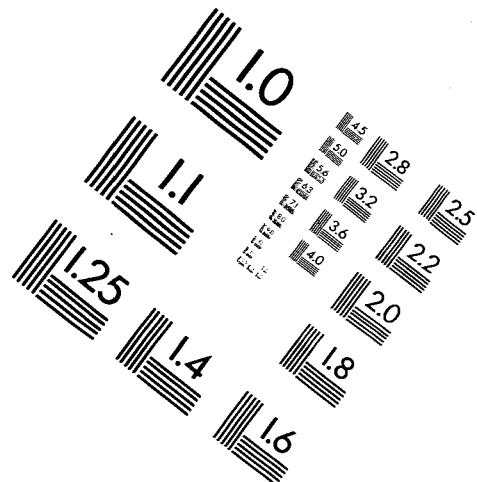
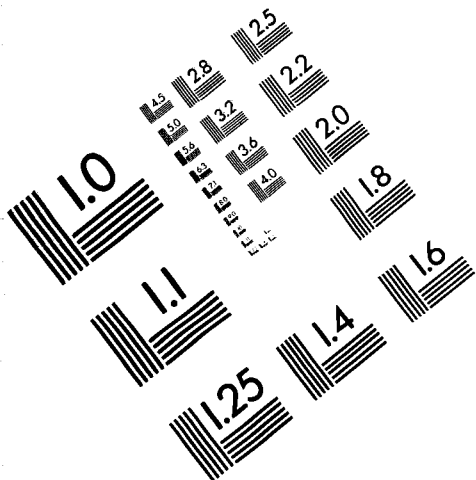
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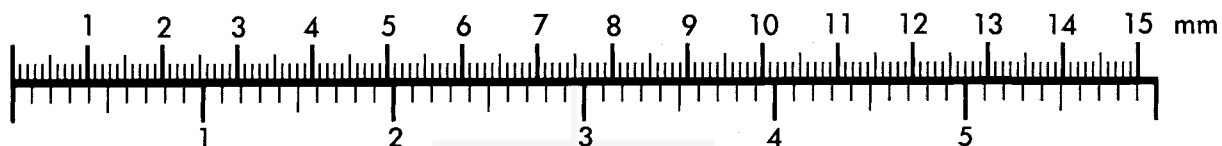
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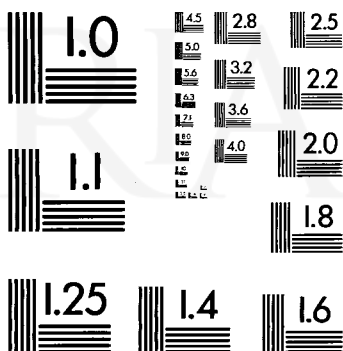
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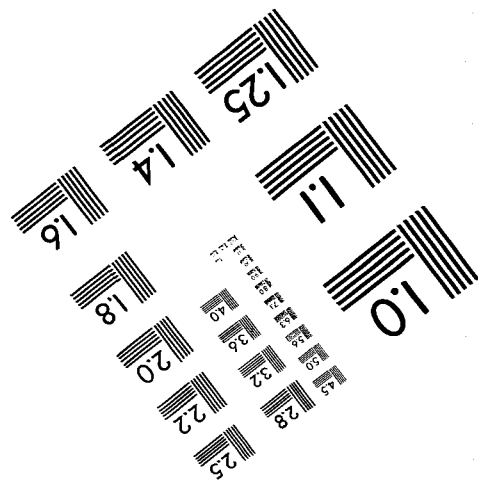
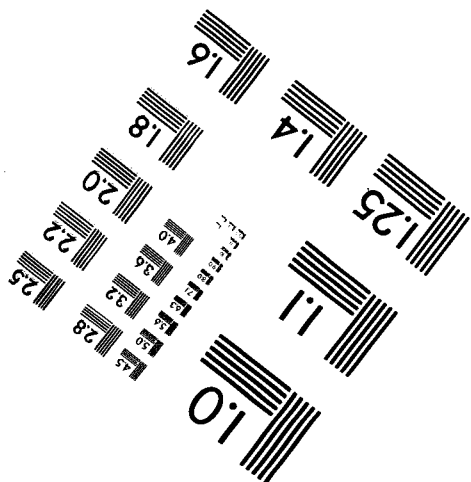


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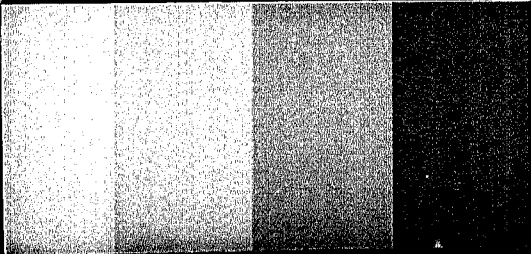
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RIA

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14 D 14/4

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Portarlinton, Co. Laois, concerning the history, antiquities, religious traditions and topography of the parish of Clonsast, with particular reference to its early church, holy well and associations with St. Brachan.

22 December 1837

3p.

24 cm

RIA

nor is there any thing to attract the notice of the antiquarian, but the primitive appearance of the featureless walls, and the melancholy beauty of the spot — Deceppus quietis —

To the S.E. of the old church, about 20 perches, and separated from the hard spot, by a brook, now swollen to a rapid flood, there is a remarkable stone in which the saint is said to have stamped the impression of his head, and which was resorted to for the purpose of procuring relief from the head ache. Near the stone grows a small hoary thorn evidently of great age, and close to the thorn is a small cairn of stones. These three objects are on a small hillock, which is now inundated by so deep a current that I could not visit them, though I made every effort for two reasons, viz to get rid of a head ache and to view some hieroglyphics, said to be indented in the stone, but the day was too cold to strip.

St. Brachan's well lies in the townland of Clonsannon about 60 perches to the N.W. of his church. It was a large and vigorous spring until fifteen years ago, when drains were sunk

55

were sunk in the bog near it, which have weakened its vigor, and left its waters quite muddy and black. It is nevertheless never seen dry, and is still visited by a few pilgrims, who have left some devoted rags on the bushes that grow over it.

Until a very late period a numerous pattern was held on the field adjoining this well and Church on St. John's day, and on St. Peter and St. Paul's, but in consequence of the bad effects of whiskey, the Clergy have thought proper to abolish it.

This parish, was according to tradition anciently called Fermann Brachan, which is evidently a corruption of Lerron Brachan. I find mention made of a poor church called Cluain posta in the Calendar of Donegal, but it cannot be this, as it is stated to lie in the County of Kildare and to belong to a Saint Kieran.

30. April. Crapán Cluain posta a 5 contae Cille Dara.

If there any mention of St. Brachan of Cluain posta
14/10/14/4(v)

in Tuath Muighe in Uibh Tailghe at the
3rd of December?

I have made every exertion to ascertain the limits
of Clannaliere, and Tuath Muighe, and
you will find that I have succeeded. I
was principally guided by the old map of
Leix and Ophaly, and by the situation of
the castles and seats of the O'Dempseys. I
think I shall be now able to ascertain the
exact situation of the famous wood of
Tiodh Gaibhle in Leinster, which has per-
-plexed me these seven years

Ór mág doir na leas de	Super Campagna toifa agrorum Callidona
O' murchán tairioo tuite	O'Murchan est dominus Cantre
an fear m fíó garble glap	Vir circa sylvam Gaibhle viridem
Ar cion bap dainne ducay!	Contra prædatores quæ patria est
O'Heerin	magis munita?

I am invited to spend Christmas day on the frontiers
of Clannaliere, and have made up my mind to
go, that I may have a confab with old Laurence
Byrner the Ultimus Hibernorum, in the territory
of Leix.

your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

Dec 27/57

Some notices of Clannahere
and Doohy-Kegan

Visit to Laurence Byrne, (the
senior representative of Fielin
the son of Fiach O'Byrne) now
living in the 84th year of his
age at Tallybeg in Leix

Map mac Rónáin déir na b'fian!

14/10/14/4(m)

END

14 D 14/5

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Tullamore, Co. Offaly, in which he outlines the topographical features he noted while travelling around Co. Offaly.

27 December 1837

3p.

25 cm

Included are references to his having collaborated with a local man, Laurence Byrne, of Tallybeg, concerning the history and place names of Co. Offaly.

O'Donovan also provides an account of the thief Cathair na gCapall O'Dempsey, who was thought to have lived in the vaults of Castle Leige.

Tullamore Dec^r 27th 1837,

Dear Sir,

I have travelled much since I wrote last: on Saturday I went to Mount-Mellick and to the foot of the Slieve Bloom mountains to ascertain the situation of Doohy-Regan, O'Dunne's country, and succeeded to my utmost satisfaction. Doohy-Regan is the present Barony of Finchinch, and General Dunne of Brittas is the senior of the tribe of the Hy-Regan of Ofaley. On Sunday I traced the southern boundary of Clannaliera: it was divided from O'Shore's Country by the great Heath of Maryborough and a stream ^{which} rising in a well near the Castle of Morette ^{flowing thro a bog in an east direction} and falls into the Barrow near the foot of Dunsally within about 5 miles of Monaster-Evin. From the Castle of Morette the boundary of Clannaliera

14/12/14/5 (1)

extended through a valley in a westerly direc-
 tion so as to embrace the Church of Cool-
 banagher and a small portion of the lands
 of Shanes; thence it ran in the direction of
 the present Mountmellick where it met
 the country of Daohy-Regan, or O'Dunne's
 Country. From ^{this} it appears that the part
 of Clannahere lying south of the Barrow
 is exactly coextensive with the present
 barony of Portlincish in the Queen's
 County. (Mageoghegan is correct in this instance.)
 It is generally ^{said} believed by the writers of
 Irish history that Ophaley was coextensive
 with the present King's County, but there
 is as much of ancient Ophaley in the
 Queen's County; and it does not embrace
 the $\frac{1}{4}$ part of the King's County! But this
 I shall shew clearly before I have done.

60

on Monday (Christmas day) I went to Tally-
beg within 7 miles of Athy and saw old
Laurence Byrne, a worthy old Milegian
who is 7 or 8 generations back in ^{history!} ~~times~~.
but now on the verge of the grave. He
knows more about the history of Leix
and Ofaley than all the men now living,
and I was very sorry that I had not
the Book of the Queen's County ready,
as he will never get through another
winter.

I proposed him several questions about
Leix and Ofaley, but it being Christmas
day I did not wish to intrude upon
his time. The following are well worth
preserving

1. Monasterivan was always called mainistir
^{Queen} Eimín while Irish was spoken in the district.
2. The Stradbally River was always called
Abhainn O'geathais, because it rises in O'Kellys
territory.

14/10/14/5 (n)

3. O'Kelly's territory is the best tract in Leix and extends from Aí báireóige near Timoge, to Aí fuisceóige near Cooper hill. O'Kelly came to Leix from Connaught. The tradition about the manner in which he obtained this beautiful tract from O'More is very well worth preserving. This extent of his country ~~perfectly~~ ^{pretty well} agrees with the old map of Leix and Galley now before me.

4. The 3 sugar loaf hills rising over the great heath had 3 distinct names now forgotten in that neighbourhood, viz

1. Carraig-fhinn, now Killamen hill.
It contains a cave called poll a fcoir,
i.e. treasure or stores hole.
2. Carraig-Bisim, now ^{Cill phinn} Killing hill
3. Carraig-Óliam, now Raheen hill
^{O'liam}
Cappas Óliam a pus a geall.
O'p 1 r doirde cnoc. p'p 1 rle glean.

5. The great heath was always called An fhuaoic moor, which is the name given ^{it} on the old maps.

6. O'More's head residence was ^{at} Abbey-
Leix not at Dunamase - which was
an English castle.
7. The great Meath was the demesne
lands of Dunamase.
8. The ^{Deuys} Devays, ~~are~~ one of the seven septs
of Leix, are not, as Hardiman says -
the same as the Macarays; the former
are O'Drobinde, the latter me3 Stalla birde.
9. The general tradition among the peo-
ple of Leix about 50 years ago was
that Cathaoir na gCapull O'Dempsey
the celebrated robber, was the senior
of the family of Clannaliere, and
that he occupied the Castle of ^{Leix} Leix
in the subterranean vaults of which
he hid his horses. Caher was of high
blood, and related to the Fitzgeralds, and

and many other families of distinction, and when brought to the scaffold he exclaimed loudly that he knew the Fitzgeralds to be traitors.

10. Donnell age O'Dunne was the head of the Hy-Regan during the rebellion or War of 1641, and though he took active part with the Catholics and was impeached it is said that he did not forfeit all, but retained Brittas, and the estate now possessed by General Dunne.

Is this Donnell age O'Dunne mentioned in the book of Survey and distribution?

Charles O'Honor has committed a curious blunder in Outehis Improved by making the Hy-Regan, which was the true name of the O'Dunnes, the O'Regan family.

Can Mr. Petrie inform me where the celebrated Sir Feige O'Regan was located? In the Co. of Carlow? O'Honor is certainly wrong.

Please to send me the rest of the name-books of this County, your obedient servant
J. O'Donovan

END

14 D 14/6

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Tullamore, Co. Offaly, concerning the history and antiquities of the townland of Killeigh, with particular reference to its abbey, holy wells and graveyard.

28 December 1837

4p.

25 cm

Included are references to a medieval nunnery in Killeigh, a declining interest towards holy wells demonstrated by the local population and a transcription taken the tombstone of O'Connor of Faly found in Killeigh graveyard.

64

Killeigh, Primordia de,

Tullamore Decembth 28, 1837.

Dear Sir,

Today I visited Killeigh with a view to identify it with the bill-acha Drama foda ^{in the Bar. of Geshill} of the Annals. It lies about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the south of Tullamore.

An ancient abbey was erected here in the sixth century by St. Dincheal, the son of Caenannan who died in the year 548, but of this ancient abbey there are now no remains - not a vestige.

In 1393 O'honor Faly erected a monastery at ^{Kill-achaidh} Kill-achaidh for friars of the order of St. Francis (4 Masters) ~~The ruins of~~ A part of one wall of this modern abbey is still standing, but one could form no idea from it of the form or extent of the house. Tradition says that it was very extensive and that the friars when placed in a rank with their hands joined would extend one mile; but this is a story of the old stories

14/10/14/6 (i)

of Ireland, of which we may believe as much as we like. It is added that the Monastery of Killeaghe was the "third largest" in Ireland, which is hardly true.

According to Allemand (who is a very bad authority) a nunnery was founded here by the family of Warren soon after the arrival of the English for nuns of the order of St. Augustine. This may be true, for the Four Masters record at the year 1447 that two famous and beautiful ladies, Finola, the daughter of O'Conor Faly, and Margaret, the daughter of O'Garroll "retired from this transitory ^{life} world to prepare for life eternal & assumed "the yoke" of piety and devotion "in the monastery of Kill-achaidh."

The ruins of this nunnery are now pointed out at the protestant Church, but I am of opinion that they are the ruins of the

66

abbey Church, (to which perhaps the monastery was attached) as the cemetery of the noble families of the district are to be seen adjoining them.

1. The Burial place of the O'Dung, chiefs of Doohy-Regan, lies very near the old wall, with a grave stone exhibiting elaborately sculptured their arms, and an inscription so effaced that I could not read it.

2. The tomb of Honor Faly with a rough marble slab exhibiting a long inscription in Latin, but so injured that I could not spare time to decipher the entire of it. It begins thus:

"Hic jacet heroum claro de stemmate natus
^{Donici}
"Donatus patria cura dolorque pua."

(their arms here)

14/10/14/6 (11)

Uno sepulta jacet tumulo Donati parentum, casta, pudica, pia, hae conjux materque Johannis, necnon Donati mater." &c.

I could not discover any date. Perhaps Mr. Petrie has a perfect copy of this inscription. I was told that several had copied it before the stone was injured.

Honour of Mount Pleasant was buried under this flag, and I am told that he died without male issue, and that a distant relation of his ~~heir~~^{will} come in for all this property, which he left.

3. The tomb of the Lords of Clannahere with this very short and modest inscription.

"Here lyeth the body of Maximilian
" O'Dampsey, Lord Viscount Clan-
" -malceere who departed the 30th
" of November Anno Domini 1690."

My opinion is that this inscription
was written by Maximilian's poor
relatives after they had lost all
their ^{domes} pride and property.

4. The burial place of O'Malley
with a long and foolish epitaph
in English in praise of John
O'Malley (Mac Philip) who deceased
"on the ninth day of May 1676."

There are no tombs or grave yard
attached to the ruin of the old
abbey of Killeagh, and it is
highly probable that the abbey
14/5/14/6 (m) church

69 Church and the nunnery ^{both} stood within the present church yard. The oldest man in the village told me that the old wall adjoining the modern church is believed to be a part of the Nunnery.

Nine holy wells are to be seen near the village of Killeagh, but their names are lost. The oldest men of the neighbourhood told me that they bore the name of the patron Saint only. If this can be depended upon we should style them "St. Sincheally's wells". but they are now always locally called Killeagh holy wells. They were, not long since, resorted to for the cure of various diseases, but the natives ^{becoming} are now getting too sensible. &c.

14/10

of the signification of Kill-achaidh
Droma foda.

Two places of the name Kill-achaidh
are mentioned by the Irish Annalists
as Ecclesiastical establishments, of
which one, according to Colgan, is
situate in the Eastern Breifny, the
other in Ofalia. The latter is sacred
to St. Dincheall, and ^{is} always distin-
guished from the former by the
addition Droma foda, i.e. of the
long ridge. Achadh Droma foda
signifies, the field of the long
ridge, and Kill was prefixed
after St. Dincheall had ^{placed} ~~fixed~~
his church ~~there~~. Kill-achaidh
Droma foda signifies "the church
14/10/14/6(IV)

of the field of the long ridge - a
name truly description of the lo-
-cality, for a remarkably long low
Drum or rising ground runs to the
south west immediately over the village.

The entire of Ofalia from Shieve Bloom
to the hill of Allen, and from
Cruachain, to the Sugar loaves near
the Great Heath, is a plain nearly
as level as the surface of a tranquil
lake, and this Drum-foda, though
not high, becomes a very remark-
able ^{feature} ~~object~~ in it such a plain.

That part of Ofalia lying to the north
of Mount Mellick is now deluged by
the Barrow for miles in every direction
and it is now impossible to pass through
some parts of the Bog of Allen.

Your obedient servant
John O'Sullivan

END

14 D 14/7

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Tullamore, Co. Offaly, concerning the ancient territories within the county.

29 December 1837

2p.

25 cm



72
Tullamore December 29th 1837.

Dear Sir,

I have now got over a great part of my labors here, having finished that part of Ofalia lying in the King's County. I send you an account of the extent and subdivisions of Ofalia, which cost ^{me} much thought and serious investigation; please to read it through, and say how far you think I am right. I am positively certain of the entire extent of Ofalia, but I have not decided the exact limits of two of its seven Counties which were anciently celebrated for their beauty. The Geraldines of Kildare shortly after their arrival wrested from Olanor that portion of Ofalia lying in the present

14/D/14/7(i)

County of Kildare and now called the Barony of Ophaly. This dismembered the two territories in question, as the Geraldines erected the part of Offaly containing these ^{two} Cantreds into the Barony of Ophaly after the formation of the County of Kildare. There were then two Offalys formed out of the ancient principality of O'hanor Talg viz The English Offaly in the County of Kildare giving the title of Baron of Offaly to a branch of the Fitz-Gerald, and the Irish Offaly extending into the present King's and Queen's Counties, and giving the Irish title of King of Offaly to O'hanor, the Senior representative of Rassa Tailge.

74
I will now attack O'Malley's country of
Feara-Beall, and hope to get finished
in a short time. O'Monr is at
present at Edenderry, but he will
join me perhaps tomorrow

Your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

I went from the Lifford to St. Patrick's
travel through Ely, Dealbina Cathra
and Feara Beall.

END

14 D 14/8

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Tullamore, Co. Offaly, in which he writes of the battle fought between the early Irish kings at the plain of Moylena, in County Offaly.

30 December 1837

5p.

25 cm

Included are extracts from Terence O'Toole's 'Tour of Connaught', relating to the Esker Riada.

Tullamore (Decemb. 30th 1837.

Dear Sir, Please to send me some square paper and vouchers.

I have discovered the situation and limits of Moylena, which Mac Pheron attempted to waft over to Scotland, and which the proprietor of Moylinny in the County of Strutin attempted to fix in his own neighbourhood; but such fooleries can be received no longer, as ancient Irish topography will now be placed on such a basis that no fabricator can disturb it. I remember that the proprietor of Moylinny was much displeased because we would not engrave that name on the Ordnance map as Moilena to agree with Mac Pheron's fabrication and his own most learned Commentary upon it.

I have known these ten years that Moylena is situated in O'Mulloy's country of Feara Beall but I never could find it the exact place until I visited the neighbourhood: Now to prove its situation:

14/10/14/8(1)

76
1. Colgan informs us that Durrow is in ^{the plain} May-leana

2. Tigernach informs us that - - - - -
was taken prisoner in the Daimhliag of Durrow
and conveyed to May-leana where he
was killed. This passage is not to be
found among the extracts sent me, but
it certainly occurs.

3. In the year 902, Cormac Mac Cullenan, and
Flahertach the warlike abbot of Inis Cathy
defeated the monarch on May-leana.

4. In the year 1090. A dreadful battle was
fought on May-leana between Murtagh
O'Brien, King of the South, and Donnell
King of Meath, in which O'Brien was
defeated with great slaughter.

The struggle ^{for power} between the chiefs of the north and
south of Ireland generally took place on this
plain, because it was the scene of the memor-
able struggle between their great ancestors Con
of the hundred battles and Mogha Nuadh at, after
they had divided Ireland between them into two

equal parts, which were separated by a line of
hills called Coker Riada extending from Dublin
to Galway and passing through Clay-leana.

O'Flaherty speaks on this subject as follows.

" This division into two parts was observed no
" more than one year, when Eugening (surnamed Mogha
" Madhat) began to concert new measures. The only pretext
" for this rupture was, he represented to them that the
" northern Bay of Dublin, and the harbor that belonged
" to Conn was infinitely more advantageous with re-
" gard to the profits arising from ship duties, fisheries
" and other commercial emoluments, in consequence of
" which he demanded half the revenue. Their pristine
" animosities are renewed; they are determined to decide
" the controversy by the more powerful argument of
" the sword; and accordingly both armies encamp
" in the plain of Moylena in Ferakell in the
" King's County. Conn, being inferior in point of
" forces, had recourse to stratagem; having attacked
" the improvident enemy very early in the morning
" he obtained a signal victory. Gall, the son of
" Morna, of the race of Sanch (Belgic King of Con-
" naught) a distinguished champion, killed Eugening
" on his bed.
" who, not apprehending any attack from the enemy
" was asleep. There are yet to be seen at this
" place two hills, in one of which we are informed

the body of Eugenius was interred, and in the
other the body of Froech, who was also slain in
this battle."

Ogygia. Transl. vol. II. p. 211. 212.

6. The situation of Moy-leana is most distinctly
pointed out in the old Irish account of
this battle of Moylena, which took place between
^{our ancestor} Eogan, and Conn in the year 192. I translate from
it that part which bears directly on the sub-
ject.

"Then did the chiefs and all the heraes of Munster
and ^{the} two thousand spaniards assemble at the Long
-phost of Eogan, and then were there nine ^{large} battalions
together at Dun Coffey, which is at this day called
^(the Limerick) Bruree. Then did they march forward to cross
the boundary ridge between them and Conn, and
to contend with him for the sovereignty of all
Ireland, until they reached Moy-meen; thence
they passed to Brith Eile, and on to Druim
Foraggair in the east of Coill-na-g-cram; and
they beheld a very level heathy mountainous
plain stretching before them. What is the name
of this plain, said Eogan? It is the Plain of
Leana, replied they. On what side of it is the
boundary ridge with Conn? asked he. On that

side next, replied all. We will make a road ^{thru} ~~across~~
it, said Eogan, and we will erect a camp in
Conn's half, as he has not left our own half
to us. Then did Eogan, the splendid advance
to the wide plain of May-leana. &c. &c.

Eogan then crosses the Esker Riada which extended
across May-leana, and erects an extensive camp
on the north side of it, to wit, ^{the very verge of} in Conn's portion
of Ireland (ap. Chippaun's Conn.)

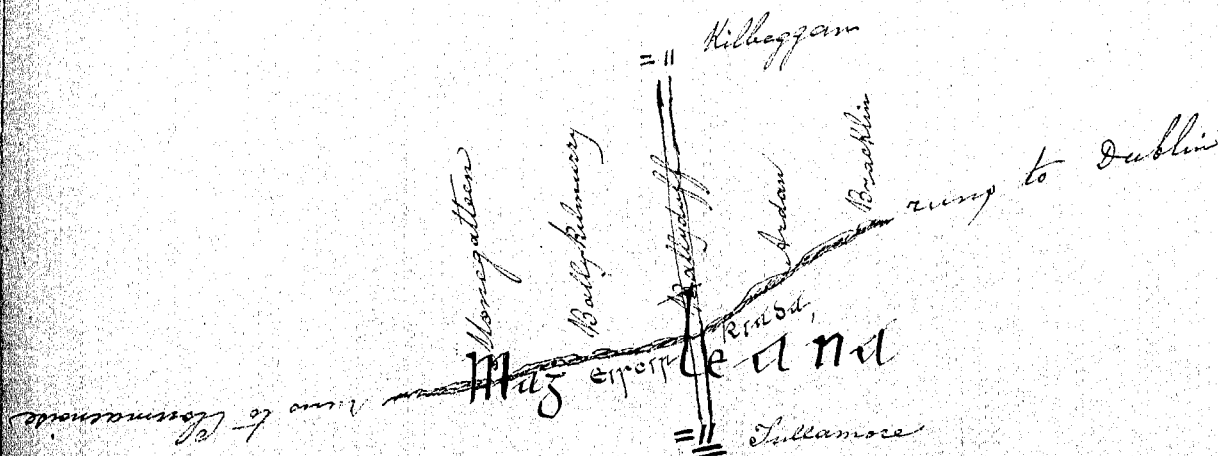
Now the Esker Riada passes through the district which
is at this day called Molcan, between Tullamore
and Durrrow, about 15 miles to the north of the
former, and through the following townlands:

Bracklin, Timmycross, Ardara, Ballyduff, Bally-
-Kilmurry, Monegatteen, (where the road from Bally-
-cowan to Clara crosses it) Ballynaprah, Tullagh,
Tullaghbeg, and so, ^{passes} through the Barony of
Garrycastle in a very distinct line, and strikes
the Shannon somewhere about Clonmacnoise.

Molcan is now the name of a Roman Catho-
-lic parish, which is coextensive with the Protes-
-tant parish of Kilbrides, - a fact fully borne
out by an Inquisition taken in the reign of

14/10/14/8 (m)

80 Charles I, which calls the parish of Kilbride by the alias name of Maylena, which is as near the Irish name as could be expected.



I have traversed a great portion of Maylena to-day, but could not identify the site of the camp of Egan. There are various field works to the north of the Esker but as tradition remembers no names, it is impossible to be certain. However I will not give ^{it} up yet as the account of the battle of Maylena is remarkably definite as to its situation "immediately on the north side of the Esker". If I had a correct map of the parish of Maylena ^{or} Kilbride, I could make the search with greater facility. I had not time to-day; as the land is so flooded I found it very difficult to make my way to some remarkable features, which attracted my notice.

81
Mr. Curry has not copied enough of the Irish
account of the battle. It is stated that Eogan
the Antagonist of Conn, and his ally Fraech
the Spaniards, were killed in the battle, and
buried in two hills near the scene of the con-
test. Are not the names of these hills given?

The hand of cultivation has ^{almost} entirely removed
the heath from this plain of Moylena, and it
exhibits no more of that shrub at present than
the Great Heath of Dunmoye.

I want that part of O'Dugan's poem which re-
lates to Dealbina ^BGathra and Feara Gall,
and that part of O'Heerin's or O'Dugan's relating
to Eile and Mi Cairin, and the adjoining
territories.

Does the Book of Survey and Distribution mention
the lands forfeited by the O'Mulloy's, Mac-
Caghlan's and O'Farrell's? If so let me have
them. I have the descriptions of the parishes
in this County as given in the Down Survey
but no names of those ^{of the Irish} who forfeited, which

14/D/14/8(IV)

would guide me in finding out the extent and situation of the ancient territories. It is however now too late to get them copied; but I shall be able to fix the remaining territories in this County without them.

O'Connor has not joined me yet, but I expect him tomorrow.

your obedient servant
John O'Donovan

Eiscir Riada

(From Gerence O'Tool's Tour to Connought, Letter III.
Dublin Penny Journal vol I. p. 151.

Proceeding onwards, ^{for} a mile or two from Clonard, the road reaches along continuous line of gravel hills, a long which it runs for a considerable distance, and which is, perhaps, one of the oldest lines of road in Europe. These long lines of gravel hills, are all through Ireland called aigirs or properly eiscirs: this one, is that which formed, in ancient times, the grand division of Ireland. I think I could trace this eiscir from Dublin bay by the green hills of Crumlin and so along by the Es. Mir of Lucan, then south of the Liffey near Belbridge and so across the river near Clane, onwards by Donadea, untill it strikes the line of road we are now travelling - then trending southwards of the hill Cloghan, untill near Philipstown, another ~~and~~ ^{the} line of road takes advantage of its elevation, to run between two bogs; then passing through the barony of Garrycastle in the Kings county, in a very distinct line, it strikes the Shannon, in the exact centre of the

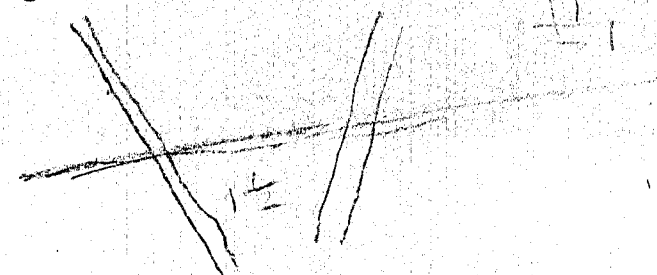
14/10/14/8(v)

Island of Clonmacnois. This very curious natural
Vallum, just as distinct as the great Roman wall
 dividing South Britain from Caledonia, was
 adopted as the dividing line between the two
 parts of Ireland, and was called Eiscir Riada,
 extending from Dublin to Galway, the
 northern portion being called Leath con.
 and the Southern, Leath Mhogha.

4 1/2 of Kels

Adam

Clara



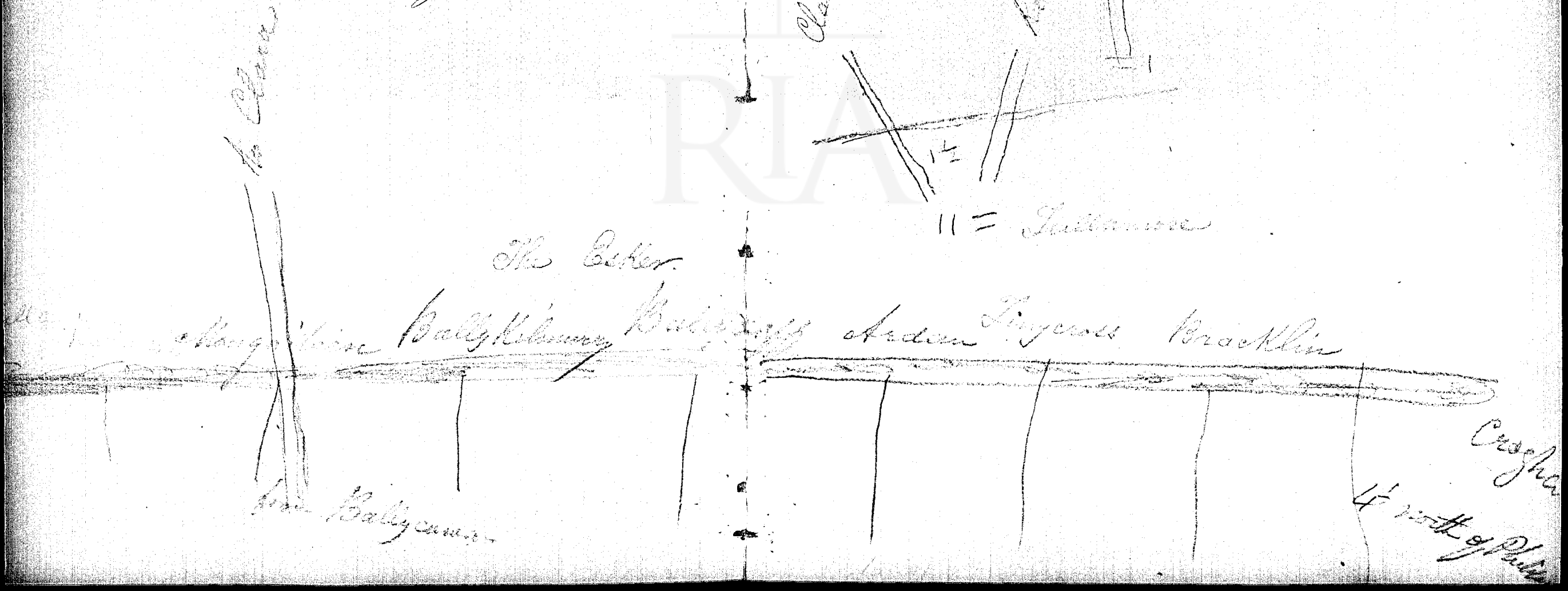
11 = Lillanore

The Baker

From Ballycan to Clara
 Ballycan Ballykenny Ballycroy Adam Lillanore Bracklin

From Ballycan

Island of Clonmacnois. This very curious natural
allum, just as distinct as the great Roman wall
dividing South Britain from Caledonia, was
sloped as the dividing line between the two
parts of Ireland, and was called Eiscir Riada,
extending from Dublin to Galway, the
northern portion being called Leath con.
and the Southern, Leath Mhogha.



END

14 D 14/9

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from T[homas] O'Connor, written from Tullamore, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of Monasteroris and Edenderry, with particular reference to their early church, burial grounds, castles and the origins of their place names.

1 January 1838

1p.

25 cm

RIA

Near the North boundary of the townland of Monasterois and within an English mile of the town of Edenderry is Monasterois Church yard with the ruins of an old Church within it which ^(chancel) fell into disuse at some period earlier than fifty years back, as tradition says. A short distance from this church to the East, are ruins, which are in common, said to be the ruins of a Castle, but which may with more probability be those of the Monastery.

Edenderry town is said to have been originally named Arclanderry, of the first name of which, the signification is 'the front
or face of the wood', and of the latter, 'the
height of the wood' - The town is not situated on a height, but there is a high ground adjacent to it, on which stand the Church of Edenderry, and ~~and~~ the ruins of an old castle, which belongs to the ancestor of the Blundell family, of whom the present Marquis of Downshire is descended.

88

In Drumcooly townland in this Parish is a burial ground, ~~and~~ within which there is not a vestige of a Church ruin. And in Shean townland is a burial ground of the same description.

In *Teangamhainn Mac Eochadha's* poem celebrating the victories of Hugh O'Byrne, among other places plundered by him, Monasteries is mentioned thus -

'Mammy'e oppoc feorusp, do cneach. &c.'

'He plundered the Noble Monastery of Feorus.'

The territory of Totmoy or Thetmoy, in Irish tuath da mairge, was coextensive with the Baronies of Coolestown and Warrenstown, ~~upper~~ upper Tuathmairge with Coolestown, and lower Tuathmairge with Warrenstown.

This fact is borne out from the circumstance of Castles, which appear on an old map of Six and Ophaly, ^{within the district of Totmoy} being found partly to exist in ruins, and partly by tradition to have existed within the present baronies just made mention of.

Of these castles, I enumerate the ruins, limiting myself at present to the number of them, I have seen.

- 1stly. Edenderry castle, ^{in ruins} in Monasteroris Parish, in Coolestown Barony.
- 2ndly. Ballyleakin Castle in ruins in the townland of Ballyleakin in the Parish of Ballina-kill and Barony of Coolestown.
- 3rdly. Ballybrittan Castle in ruins in the townland of Ballybrittan in the Parish of Ballymacwilliam and Barony of Warrenstown.
- Black Castle in ruins in Ballyheasall townland, in the same Parish and Barony.
- 4thly. Kinnafad Castle in ruins, in the townland of Kinnafad, in the same Parish and Barony.
- 5thly. The Castle of Clonmore in ruins in Clonmore townland in which is described in the Namebook of Castlefordem Parish, as situated on the East Boundary of the Parish and County, joining the Parish of 'Carberry County Kildare' —

your obedient
Servant

J. A. Larcom Esq. J. O'Connor
J. O'Connor

END

14 D 14/10

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to John O'Donovan, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Tullamore, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, religious traditions and antiquities of the parishes of Rahan and Lynally, with particular reference to their early churches.

2 January 1838

4p.

25 cm

RIA

Bathain, the place whence the
celebrated St Carthagh was expelled -
old church of - ancient,

Lynally - ring at.

Moat of - built of lime and stone

Bel atha-glaisi, identified with
Glash Bridge -

Tullamore January 2nd 1838,

Dear Sir, I visited Lynally and Rathain to-day, but having no ^{historical} references to them, I did not know what to enquire for. I remember that Rathain is the place whence the celebrated St. Carthagh ^{who afterwards} settled at Lismore was expelled by the chief of the district; but I have no account of the erection of any church there after him. There is at present a beautiful old church at Raham, measuring 36 feet in length and 24 in breadth. It resembles St. Fechin's church at Fore in every particular excepting that its door ^{way} is much more beautifully ornamented. This door-way is formed of chiselled stones, which are richly ornamented. It forms a semicircular arch at the top, and measures about ^{but nicely} 7' 9" in height inside, and 7 feet on the outside, and ~~about~~ about 2½ feet in breadth, which looks remarkable

14/10/14/10(11) a

92
-ably narrow in proportion to the height. It has four windows; one in each gable, and one in each side wall. These windows are in the round ^{lancet} style and appear to me to be very ancient, but I suspect that the richly ornamented stones in the doorway are modern insertions. The stones of the whole building are remarkable large, and the style of the masonry resembles that of many churches of the primitive ages I have seen in other places. I dare say Mr. Petrie has already ascertained the age of this beautiful little church.

Let me have the references to this place given by Colgan, Usher, and ^{also} Keating, who tells a wonderful story about black ravens, which appeared chanting hymns over the grave of a King who was interred in the grave yard*. There is no appearance of a grave yard at present, it being removed to the modern church.

The tradition in the country states that Raham is the oldest church in the county, but there is no recollection of St. Carthach or Mochuda. Is there any account in our Annals or hagiologies

* The same story is told by Mac Firbis

93

of the time at which, or the person by whom
an ecclesiastical establishment was founded
at Rathwin after the expulsion of Saint
Mochuda?

Not far from this old church is the ruin
of some building, which is probably that of
a more modern church.

Lynally containing the ruins of ~~an old~~^a church
which are decidedly not ~~ancient~~^{old}, but the
wall which encloses the grave yard appears
very ancient. To the south of the church stands
a moat said to contain vaults built of lime
and stone. One of them has been broken in to
from the top, and the masonry is exposed.
This is one of those moats, which tradition states
to have ^{been} places of retreat in times of danger,
and which as being found in the neighbourhood
of English castles, I consider to be of Anglo-
Norman erection.

Has Mr. Petrie during his antiquarian researches
met any evidence from which he could infer
14/0/14/10 (iii) that

94
that the ancient Irish ever formed ^{vaults} arches of
lime and stone within any of their moats? New-
Grange is in the Cyclopean style; Lismard is
not; Moat-Farrell is not; Lynamally is not; What
conclusion then are we to draw? Are moats of
this latter description to be met with in England
Wales or Scotland?

Let me have the notices of Lann Elo and St
Colman Elo, to be found in Misher, Colgan, &c.
If I remember rightly, the place at which St
Colman erected his Lann or church was in
pagan times called Fiodh Elo or Elo wood
which is said to lie in Feara Beall in the
Country of the Southern Hy Neall.

I was disappointed at not finding a well
here bearing the name of St. Colman, the
patron. The only well is named after a blessed
priest of the name O'Hara, whose clay (i.e.
the clay over whose grave) is used for the cure
of diseases, and who is about 30 years dead.
This well is called St O'Hara's well. but this
is ridiculous, and we must call it Father
O'Hara's well, or not give it at all.

called 31471

There is a stream, rising in the townland of Derrybeg in Gessill and flowing into the Glash Bridge into Lord Charleville's demesne lake, which is mentioned by the Four Masters at the year 1567.

" The Treasurer marched an army into Feara
 " Beall to revenge upon O'Malley (abt) his
 " protection of the Wood-Kerns, and other rebels
 " and on this occasion the whole country from
 " the wood eastwardly was ravaged. Baile mic
 " - abhain (now Ballycavan) and Laim-Elas
 " both houses and churches were burned, and
 " Calvagh, the son of O'Malley was killed at
 " Bel atha glaisi, by the treasurer and his
 " army."

mouth of the ford of Glash

This Bel-atha-glaisi is certainly the ford over which the Glash Bridge stands.

Within the Church of Lynally is a tombstone of the O'Malleys with this inscription:

Hic jacet corpus Domini
Constantini O'Molloy de
Bully qui me fieri fecit
Anno Domini

1683.

Con Molloy of Ballykilmurry in the parish of Kilbride within 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Tullamore is the senior representative of the O'Molloy of Ballycowan. He is only a respectable farmer holding about 100 acres of land.

I wish you could let me have Sir Charles Coote's account of the King's County. I am working very much in the dark for want of records.

Your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

END

14 D 14/11

[O'Connor, Thomas]

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from [Thomas O'Connor], written from Tullamore, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parishes of Ballynakill and Ballymacwilliam, with particular reference to their castles and the origins of their place names.

2 January 1838

2p.

23 cm

Included is a note, relating to the hill of Croghan, as mentioned in Spencer's 'Fairy Queen'.

97
Cullamore January 2nd 1838.

Sir,

Ballinakill parish lying in the barony of Crookstown, signifies as to name 'the town of the church' basle-na-cille - i.e. villa cellae. Within Ballinakill townland, there is a church in ruins in a grave-yard. And there is a tradition that at Mr. Watson's house near this old church, there was a Castle Blundell. In Ballyleakin townland, is an old Castle in ruins at Mr. Lee's house, of which Castle a man of the name of Peter Payne, who lived in Dublin, was proprietor.

This Castle is marked on the old map of Leix and Offaly, under the name of Ballylakerne, and placed within the territory of Inath-Maigha. (nachtrach).

In Ballykillan townland in this parish, there is a moat, which was planted about twelve years ago, by the Marquis of Downshire, to whom a small moat, 12 yards = 36 ft. by 8 yards = 24 ft. in extent, being of an oblong form, and lying made in the foss on the West side of the ~~last~~ large Moat, owes its erection. On the sum,

14/D/14/11(i)

- mit of this small moat, is a cavity made by ~~by~~ persons, who were digging into its centre for treasure, of which, they are said to have dreamed: and in this cavity ~~are~~ lie some stones thrown up during the process of digging, which circumstance indicates the ~~moat~~ moat to be composed of stones and earth. How preposterous to go search for treasure in a monument erected merely for curiosity at so late a period!

The large moat is about 40 yards = 120 ft. in diameter, and is surrounded with a ditch 4 yards = 12 ft. wide at bottom, and with a foss 230, or 240 yards = 690 ft. or 720 ft. in circumference.

Not far from this moat to the West, is another of small size, which is likewise under plantation.

In the Down Survey, we find that these townlands in this Parish - viz- Ballyleakin¹, Ballymorane², Ballyhugh³ (now ~~the~~ ^{otherwise} called Springfield), ~~and~~ Eskerbegg⁴ and Dromcau⁵ (now otherwise called Mount Lucas), were forfeited townlands: which are given in that document under this orthography — viz- Ballibakin¹, Balli-² -morane, Ballickhugh³, Eskerbegg⁴, Dromcau⁵.

Ballymacwilliam Parish.

There is an old church in ruins in the townland of Ballymacwilliam.

In the Annals of the Four Masters, it is recorded that, 'Teige ^{the son of} & Conor Maigeoghagan, and Mac Teorais (Birmingham) committed innumerable depredations in Magh Teathbha, and plundered the Country from Imper to Baile Mac William.'

An old Castle in ruins, stands in the townland of Ballybrittan in this Parish. In the East Corner of the townland of Ballyheashill, is 'Black-castle in ruins'. And in Kinnefad townland, is a ruin of a notable Castle.

These castles appear on the old map of Leix and Ophaly, and are placed within the territory of Inath-Maighe (iachtrach).

In Pergenamin M^r. Doehad's poem on the victories of Hugh O'Byrne, these words occur: 'gohorna b'fiod, capla acall,
'ap bernfabail William.'

i.e. To Lisnabelfiodh, their march was directed, having touched upon Ballywilliam.

14/D/14/11(ii)

In the Down Survey, within the Parish of Bally-
-macwilliam lying in the Barony of Warrenstown,
the following townlands are set down as fol-
-lowed - viz - Ballybrittan, Ballymac²william,
Thomastown³, ~~Ballyheashill~~ Ballyheashill⁴, Rath⁵,
- cobrick ⁱⁿ Lennam^{na}marrin.

The names of these townlands, are
written now, 'Ballybrittan, Ballymac²,
william, Thomastown³, Ballyheashill⁴, Rath⁵,
-cobrick, Lennamamarrin.

It appears that the in. intervening between
Rathcobrick and Lennamamarrin of the
Down Survey - is a terminational part
of Rathcobrickin, in which manner it
ought to be written, in the Survey-copy.

The Hill of Croghan is celebrated in Spencer's
Fairy Queen: please to let us have his words.
It is a fairy place as containing the mo-
numents of ancient heroes of distinction.
We have thought it prudent to defer
the examination of it till all the his-
torical extracts are collected.

Lo'd

END

14 D 14/12

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Tullamore, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of Killoughy.

3 January 1838

2p.

23 cm

O'Donovan refers to the total decline of spoken Irish in the county.

RIA

Tullamore January 3rd 1838,

Dear Sir,

I visited the parish of Killoughy, but found nothing curious in it but a rude old church of no great antiquity. I have no reference to this church from any of the Irish writers, nor does tradition remember any thing about its history. It lies in the territory of Fera Beall, and seems to have been called in Irish Bill Cachadha, i.e. Coshy's church, but I have nothing to corroborate this, as the Irish language is not spoken in any parish in the County. ^{as far we have gone?} There is no holy well from which the name of the patron saint might be inferred, nor ^{any} ~~any~~ ancient tomb-stone, to throw any light upon its history. I had thought that this Killoughy might be

14/2/14/12(i) the

Bill Achaidh Droma foda of the Irish writers, but I now see plainly that it is not, but an insignificant old parish church. The bill achaidh Droma foda of the Irish writers is described as in O'falia in Leinster, but this is in Teara Beall in Meath. Is there any reference in the Calendar or Colgan to bill Achadha, or any thing like it ^{Togarda} lying in O'Molloy's Country of Teara Beall?

In this parish lies Pailis, a townland which formerly contained a mansion seat of a branch of the O'Molloy's, but of which there are now no remains. It is mentioned in the "Victories of Hugh O'Byrne" as plundered by him.

Cion o pailis in Maolmhuir
 Taimis ne diuim deaig pluidis go.

See this quoted at full length in the letter about Ballyboy. Do the Four Masters make any mention of Pailis in Teara Beall?

103

Let me have the description of the territories
of Ely O'Farroll, ^{Herodall. pth} Feara Ceall, and Delwin
Cathra or Beathra, as given by Archdall
in his Nomenclat. Hib. I think he places
the Barony of Egligh in Ely O'Farroll.?

Let me have Colgan's account of Liath-Man
chain. I now want very badly the Map
and description of Mageoghegan's, which
you sent me to Westmeath, as I have to shew
where Kinel Triacha met the territory of Feara
Ceall.

I return the Kildare letters.

your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

14/10/14/12(11)

END

14 D 14/13

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Tullamore, Co. Offaly, concerning his examination of and research into the 'ancient places' of the county, with particular reference to the hill of Bri Eile and the history and antiquities of the parish of Killaderry.

4 January 1838

8p.

23 cm

Included are extracts from relevant texts, notably the 'Annals of the Four Masters'.

Bri Eile identified for the first time.

(1)

1044

Philipstown, called Daingean by the Irish
Killeaderry - parish of

Port of Taly, site of Tullamore January 4th 1838,

Dear Sir,

We have travelled about 32 miles to-day
in search of ancient places, and found several.

I shall now make an original effort to identify

Bri Eile, - a famous hill in Offaly, but in doing
this I have to refute the assertions of two of
our clearest topographers - Colgan and Lanigan
which is not easily done, and when done it is hard
to convince others of its being done satisfactorily.

I must therefore set to work very cautiously; if
I succeed I establish a grand topographical point,
and if I do not, let me be censured for presumption!

Dr. Lanigan speaking of Bishop Macaleus, whose church
was at this place, supposes that Bri Eile must have
been on the confines of Ely O'Garroll, from which
he supposes the addition Eile was derived. I shall
give his very words:

" Macaleus, the same in all probability as Macaleus
" whose name has become memorable in consequence
" of his having been the bishop from whom Saint
14/10/14/13 (1) Bridget

" Brigid received the veil, about, as some writers have
 " calculated A. D. 407. His church, that is, as
 " now usually expressed, his see, was at Cruachan
 " Bri Eile in Hy-Falgia, - a place somewhere in
 " the King's County; but his jurisdiction seems
 " to have extended over a considerable tract of
 " Country."

To this he appends the following note:

" In a passage from Tirechan quoted by Usher
 " (p. 1031) it is said that St. Brigid got the veil
 " from the son of Cuille or Caille i.e. Mac Caille
 " in Migninch Mide (Moneagh in Westmeath). yet
 " he might have happened to be in that place,
 " although it was not his usual residence; and
 " it was probably comprised within the district, or
 " as we now call it, the diocese assigned to him.
 " Cruachan Bri Eile in Hy-Falgia is expressly
 " mentioned in the Calendar of Caphel and
 " other documents (Triad. Shan. p. 525) as the
 " place where his church was. Colgan says (in
 " p. 231) that it was on the confines of Leinster
 " and Munster, by which he meant, I suppose

" Munster according to its former extent, before
" a part of it was added to the King's County.
" The Eile with which the name of that place
" terminates, was perhaps the district called
" Ely O'Farrell." Vol II. pp. 395, 397.

Q Does Colgan say really that Brachan Bri Eile was on the confines of Leinster and Munster? Does any of the authorities quoted by him place it on the confines of Munster? I would venture to say no —! The fact will be found to be that neither Colgan nor Linnigan knew exactly where it was.

The following passage in the Book of Lecon (folio 175. p. a, col. b,) will shew that Eile O'Farrell has nothing to do with it:

" That King Eochy Heileach had a distinguished
" illegitimate daughter of the name Eili, from
" whom Bri Eili in Leinster is called. She was
" the wife of Fergal, the son of Magach, and after
" his death, of Dravinn, the son of Niul one
" of the Bradaung."

14/D/14/13 (ii)

(4) 107
Ely O'Farrell ~~has~~ received that name from
Eile, one of the distinguished ancestors of
O'Farrell.

The next argument, but certainly not the strongest
to refute Dr. Lanigan's opinion is the fact that
that part of the Bog of Allen lying in the
King's County is called Main Eile, ^{from a famous hill} just as that
part of it lying in the County of Kildare is
styled Main Sluohain from the celebrated hill
of Sluohain. Now the Bog of ^{Eile's bog} Allen has no
connexion with Ely O'Farrell nor has it de-
rived that name from it; but it must follow
by argumentum a pari, that it derived it from
the hill of Bri Eile - a hill of equal ce-
lebrity with Sluohain, as being the most
remarkable feature in O'Falia, and as
having at the foot of it the head residence
of the Prince of O'Falia.

These two arguments are sufficient to shew
that Bri Eile has no connexion with
the territory of Ely O'Farrell; and I shall

^{now} put the argument in another form.

Craachan Bri Cile is the present hill of Croghan lying in the parish of Croghan and in the Barony of Lower Philipstown, and in the territory of Ofalia. It is on the confines of ancient Meath and Leinster and about 20 miles north of the boundary of Leinster and ancient Munster.

This I prove by the following positive and negative arguments.

1. Craachan Bri Cile is described in the Calendar of Cashel and other ancient documents as in the country of Hy-Failgia and as having on it the church of Bishop Mac Baille. So far it agrees with the hill of Croghan, which is in Hy-Failgia and has on it a burial ground, which was attached to a church, said by tradition to be as old as the time of St
14/0/14/13(10) Patrick.

(6)¹⁰⁹ No part of this church now remaining: but the old natives state that they saw twelve feet of its walls standing.

2, The next positive argument is derived from the following passages in the Annals of the Four Masters.

"A. D. 1385. Morogh O'Conor, lord of Mi Tailghe
" and the Kinel-Triacha (i.e. the Mageoghegan)
" defeated the English of Meath at the
" Lochar (Causway) of Cruachan Bri Cile.
" Nugent of Meath, Chambers and his son
" and a countless number of the nobles and
" plebeians of the English were slain."

"A. D. 1546. O'Conor Taly and O'More took up
" arms against the Saxons. As soon as the
" Lord Chief Justice - Anthony St. Leger had
" received intelligence of this, he marched into
" Mi Tailghe and plundered and burned the
" country as far as the Lochar of Cruachan,
" where he remained two nights. O'Conor and
" O'More were declared outlaws throughout Ireland

and their countries were transferred to the King."

This tochar or pass through the Bog still remains, bearing its name of tochar, and tradition says that there was a castle at it, which (tradition) is borne out by the old maps of Leix and Ophaly, which shews a castle at Lagher near the hill of Croghan. It lies immediately to the South-east of the hill of Croghan.

3. The next corroborative proof of their identity is from a poem called Laidir na leacht the poem of the monument, which states that the monument of ^{Longal} ~~Lengal~~ is on the hill of Bri Eile. There is a ^{small} ~~moat~~ or sepulchral tumulus on the very apex of the hill of Croghan, which must be the leacht alluded to in this poem.

— Leacht Congarle,
Pop bpr Eile no poente.

14/10/14/13 (10)

(8) 111

Hence the hill of Croghan agrees with Cuachan Bri Eile, as to its situation in Mi Failghe O'Connor's Italy's Country; as to its church; as to its leacht, or sepulchral tumulus, and finally as to its tochar.

4 The negative argument is that there is no other feature in Ogalia, which will agree with Cuachan Bri Eile, in name or localities - which is very strong against Lanigan.

It could not be on the confines of Leinster and ^{ancient} Munster, as the Sheue Bloom mountain formed the boundary between them.

This and many other instances have convinced me that Colgan's knowledge of the topography of Leinster was very imperfect.

I shall now give all the references to this hill, which I can glean from the rags and rhymes before me.

25th April 1913

112 (9)

Mac Caille Bp. "Dun n d Cruachán b'is Eile n ta n coull. A.D. 489."

"Mac Caille Bishop. In Croghan B'igh Eile his church is
A.D. 489."

Irish Calendar

Tuá O' b'ailge an p'ar ealaí

Ní h'amb'ir é d'p'ileáib

O' Concobair Cuing an cláir

Ar dom'ulaí cuip' Cruacháin, O'Huairin.

Lord of Ogalia - Lord of flocks

(It is not unknown to poets)

Is O'Anor hero of the plain

On the green, ^{coppy} uneven hill of Croghan.

* it is now smooth
from cultivation, but it
abounds in gley and
hills of irregular
shape.

you can survey at a glance
Standing on the moat of Croghan, the Clav or
level plain of Ogalia and its natural boundaries.
It stretches, nearly as level as a lake, southwards
to the foot of the Slieve Bloom mountain, and to
the Sugar loaf hills ^{at Killowen} in the Queen's County, and
eastwards to the hill of Allen in the County of
Kildare. At the very foot of this hill ^{to the S. of} in the
townland of Old Croghan you see the ruins
of O'Anor Tal's Castle, which is marked on the
old map of Leax and Ogalia as Croghan Castle,
and to the S. E. the Causeway of Tochar Cruacháin.
I never enjoyed a finer prospect than that commands

14/10/14/13 (V) by

10) ¹¹³
by this hill, which may be called Honor & Talys Can-
-casus or Mount Atlas, and from which he
was able to see the whole extent of his territory
to the north, south, east and west. The dis-
-tance between it and the Sheue Bloom range is
at least 20 miles, and still one standing on
the moat of Croghan, could, when excited by the
sublimity of the prospect, imagine himself ^{like Tim the Coil} able
to leap a cress to the mountain of Bladma, so
much is the eye deceived by the flatness of the
interjacent plains!

I examined this hill most carefully, ^{but} was much
disappointed at not finding a ^{sun} rath upon it, or
the inauguration stone of the chiefs of Ofalrag.
It is the best land in the County, and was cul-
-tivated to the very top, ^{it is now a sheep walk} and nothing remaining
upon it but the grave yard which belonged
to Bishop Mac Caille's (Mac Hale's) church, which
lies on its S. E. shoulder, but at a considerable
distance from the summit, and a ^{small} moat or
sepulchral tumulus, which occupies its very caumen
and which has been much injured by the Sappers
when erecting a Trig. station upon it. At the
base of Croghan are three wells, two to ^{at} the south
and one at the north in a splendid hollow

114 (11)

called Gleann mor, but the natives, who are all Anglicised, have forgotten their names, if ever they bore any, and it is probable that the two Southern wells were sacred as venerable ash trees, one of which is nearly decayed, grow over them & sure indications of former sanctity.

This is a noble hill consecrated to enable and sub-
-line the soul of the prince of Offaly!
In the townland of Old Craghnam already referred to,
stands a church in ruins, but it is not of the
primitive age and seems to have been erected
when Mac Cailley church on the hill fell to
ruin. It lies near the ruins of O'Rourke's
Castle.

Up Carrbne laisean na leas
O Cragha na scots phriscas
plac Allian san taia tarp
len hasnas caia jm chruacain, O'Heerin.

Over ^{the} Leinster barbury of plains
Is O'Heery of red bladed ^{scots} swords
The twig of Allen

By whose battles were kindled around Craghnam.

I cannot comment on this passage here, but will defer
it till I take a view of the territories in the County
of Kildare.

14/5/14/13(vi)

(12) 115
I have no other notice of this hill but one passage
in the battle of Moylena, in which it is stated
that the Munster forces on their way to the
Esker Riada, passed by this hill.

The text
of this
copy is
corrupt,
Do ġludir naime do sol tar clao comraa ar Conn agur do copmair
Epreu uile ppur do pūmīs māg mīn; ar pīn dōlō do bneiz mīn Eile
agur do drom pōpāzō a n-ōpīcēdē ġlle na ġōpān. &c.

Of the parish of Kildarey and
Philipstown.

This parish is called by the Town Masters Gill O'Duirk
in an Inquisition quoted by Mr. Chadall Kildarey
and in the Down Survey Kildarey. The name
signifies the Church of the O'Duirk, and seems
to have been, like Lipp o. nduffy, and several
other churches, originally, a chapel of ease
erected by a private family for their own
use, but which on the increase of population
was raised to a parochial church. Several
instances of this kind are to be met with in
the County of Kildare, where small chapels
originally
belonging to private families, are now called

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rectories and vicarages. No part of the ^{old} church of Kildeserry is now to be seen. It was pulled down in the year 1546 to erect the Castle of Dangan, now Philipstown, as we learn from the Annals of the Four Masters.

c. A. D. 1546, The English erected the Castle of Daingean, having torn down the church of Bill-O' Duirthe to procure building materials ^{from} ~~for~~ it. They also killed the parson of Crnachán (i.e. the P.O. of the parish of Craighan.)

I have no references to the existence of a Castle at Daingean or Philipstown previously to the year 1546, but it is highly probable that O'Conor Faly had some kind of a fortress there from which the appellation Daingean Munitio was derived. I never met any authority for proving that Daingean Uí Fialgha is Philipstown, but Morison, who, if I remember rightly (perhaps I do not) states that Philips-

- town
14/6/14/13 (VII)

(4) 117

This is called Dangan by the Irish. I wish to have his very words, if they can be found.

The Four Masters have only two other references to this Castle of Daingean.

"A. D. 1548, O'Conor and O'More went to England
"with the Lieutenant ^{Cesby?} to solicit the King's gra-
"cious favor; but the King rejected their solicita-
"tion, and gave their patrimonial inheritances -
"Leix and Offaly - to the Lieutenant and
"his brother, who erected two large Courts
"in these territories, viz Campa in Leix
"and Daingean in Offaly; and proceeded
"to let these lands at rents to the English
"and Irish, as if they were their own law-
"ful inheritances; and this after having ba-
"nished the rightful ^{and original} heirs, O'Conor & O'More
"with all their adherents and dependants."

"A. D. 1600, The O'Conors & O'Mores, viz the dependants
"of Brian (son of Cahir, son of Con, son of Calvagh)
"were ^{now} for three or four years on the
"Irish side, and during this time they took

18 (15)

" and destroyed all the castles of Offaly
" excepting Dainsean, and a few others.

The fortress at Philipstown is called the
"Fort of Offaly" in the old map which describes
Magraghegan's country, and in the Act of
Parliament, 3, and 4, Philip and Mary, it
is ordained that the Fort in Offaly be
henceforth called Philipstown.

The site of this fort is now occupied by Mr.
Blackers (formerly Mr. Smith's) house lying at
the extremity of the town nearest to Tulla-
more, and to the left of the road as one
goes to Tullamore. Inerted in the wall
on either side of the hall door
are two stones exhibiting the arms of
England; the one to the left shews a crown
and the date 1566 and that to the right two
Crozzes, which indicates a Roman Catholic
reign.

14/10/14/13 (VIII)

Some of the ^{anter} walls of the fort are still standing
and Mr. Blacker believes that his house, ^{which is} called
the fort, is the very fabric built in the reign

(10)¹¹⁹ of Queen Mary. "If it be, it was ^{his fight} a bad for-
tress to ^{withstand} stand against the fierce attacks
of the Glorious Italy!

We shall move to Banagher on Monday. Please
to direct all communications thither, and to ask
Mr. Petrie what I am to look for at Clon-
macnoise. O'Keefe told me that he had
got a copy of the will of Terence Caghlan
in which several places in his territory of
Delvin are mentioned. This would be useful to
me in that neighbourhood.

This County will be more tedious than I had thought

your obedient servant

John O'Donovan.

END

14 D 14/14

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Tullamore, Co. Offaly, concerning the early history and topography of the plains of Offaly, and the antiquities and topography of the parish of Kilbride, with particular reference to its castles.

5 January 1838

7p.

23 cm (i-v), (vii); 6 x 17 cm (vi)

Included are references to the castles located in the Killurin and Geashill.

May Do, whereabouts
Kilburin, site of Castle of
Kilbride parish of
Ballycanon and Bush Castles of
Sir Charles Caste, censured for his unparalleled ignorance
of English and Irish documents.

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(1)
14/D/14/14(i)

Tullamore January 5th 1838,
the

Dear Sir,

I am now tired of Bogg and plains of
Offaly, and intend to move westwards towards
the Shannon in search of something like
hard ground. The plain of Offaly is thus
most remarkably described in the Dinmearnach:

Máð gur móin, móin is fíð
fíð gur móin, móin is máð.

Plain and Bog, Bog and Wood
Wood and Bog, Bog and Plain!

The Bard here manages his lively description by
the figure Permutation! But by whatever figures
he rendered such composition tolerable, he describes
the surface of the country to my entire satis-
faction, The Tree is ^{now} nearly all removed.

I have attempted in vain to determine the si-
- tuation of Magh Dumbach in this weather
of floods in this country of Bogg; but if I
had the dog-days to dry the Bogg, I would not

* These are the Monumens and Remains
of Irish history.

give it so easily, for I have more antiquarian perseverance than any one could believe. Should any one after me attempt to look for this field of the tumuli, the following instructions may guide him to the spot.

A battle was fought on this field of the tumuli in the year of the world 3501 between ^{two brothers} the two great ancestors of the northern and southern Milesians, Iheremon and Heber, (or as the names are now modernized ^{Erwine} Irwine and ^{Ever} Ivor,) in which Heber, the elder, was conquered and slain. All our old Irish authorities agree in placing the site of this battle on the brink of Bri damh at the causeway between the two plains in Leigill.

We are informed by the writers of the Dinsean that the site of this battle was called Magh nDumhach, campus tumulorum, from the mounds which were raised on it, over the bodies of the heroes slain. I translate it here new-batin:

"Magh nDumhach whence named? Non
" difficile. A battle was fought there
between

Heber and

* Heber and Drunm Fergan being in Heber's portion

" between Heremon, the two sons of Milesius
 " about the possession of the three best hills in
 " Ireland, viz Druim Breapach and Druim
 " Beithach in Heremon's portion*. Heber
 " was not pleased that one only of these Druims
 " should be placed in the southern division
 " while two were in the northern; but Heremon
 " said that he would not ^{give} grant him one of
 " his two. A battle was fought between them
 " in which Heber was defeated, and himself
 " slain, as was on the other side Palap, the son
 " of Heremon by Conmael, the son of Heber.
 " Tumuli were raised over the heroes there; ^{slain} under
 " Magh nDumbach. Magh Nerupa was its
 " first name." Book of Ballymote fol. 193.

The prose account says no more on the subject, but
 the poem which follows is much more diffuse
 and states that the battle took place at
 the tochar between the two plaining at the
 brink of Bri-damb, in Géisill in thi Tailghe
 " that many were slain between the two plaining
 " and that Heber was interred in the pyram
 14/D/14/14(1)

4) 123

to the east of the road and that his mon-
ument is there." And it adds moreover -
what strengthens the prose account to be very im-
perfect - that "many an earthen mound was
raised there over the hosts that were slain."

All the battles fought between the northern
and southern Irish any took place some where
near the Eider-River: Slagha Macabhat struggles
with Con of the Muns Battle near it, as did
also Cormac Mac Cullenan, the representative
of Heber with the northern kings, who were the
kings of Heremon.

Topéur mór í rí da mág;
ra éas fíu bóirí anáir
Éber mac mliú ríu mbeairt
í da leat ríu ríu éair.
Shíu pláta lúac lán
mág ndúmach ná ndám dár ndual
ad rmda and dúnd a nup
ná múp ar mairtú ná rluag.

Between two plains here countless heroes fell!
Among the rest proud Heber lost his life,
And was interred ^{beneath} in that fair grassy mound
Which eastward lies of Gephille royal road.
May-Doo on which now heavy oxen feed,
Lay many a green, round grassy mound of earth -
The tomb of heroes slaughtered in this fight,
Between the ^{two great fathers} ~~great ancestors~~ of the Scots.

The Four Masters give the account as follows:

"A. D. 3501. This was the year in which Heremon and
Heber assumed the joint sovereignty of Ireland

" and they divided the island in two equal parts;
 " but towards the end of the year a dispute
 " arose between them, about the three most beauti-
 " ful hills in Ireland, viz Drum Clapagh in
 " Tir-Maine, Drum Beithe in Mainmoy, and
 " Drum Fingin in Munster. A battle was
 " fought between them, in consequence, on the
 " brink of Bridamh at Tochar-idev-da-mhaigh
 " (the tochar or causeway between the two plains)
 " This was called the battle of Geisill. "

I am of opinion that ^{the} Bridamh here mentioned, is
 the name of a River, and that it is the one which
 rises in the Barony of Geisill and passes thro'
 Tullamore; but this is not very certain, as the
 name Bri Damh may signify, "hill of oxen".
 The only reason for my supposing ^{it} the name of
 a river is that the Annalists place the word
bpu before it, which means generally the bank
 of a river, or margin of a lake.

The next clue to the site of this battle is the
tochar of Baile an tochar now Ballintogher

10/10/14/14 (in)

6) 125
in the parish of Geshill. I see no other features in the barony of Geshill ^{but this} which would at all agree with the tochar between the two plains mentioned by the Irish writers.

Perhaps Tuath-da-mhuighes - the territory of the two plains, which I have proved to have been the name of the district now comprizing the Baronies of Coolestown and Warrenstown, has some connexion with this tochar between the two plains, and that the field of the tumuli lies on the East or North east boundary of the Barony of Geshill.

Perhaps the officer who surveyed Geshill could, by the assistance of the plans examine this neighbourhood of ^{town of the Causeway} Ballinstagher before the names are engrained. It would go very far to prove the authenticity of the early Irish history - so long considered fabulous, - if the sepulchral mounds on the plain of the Doo's or tumuli were found to exist at the present day. I have not the power to examine all ^{the ancient features of} Geshill in

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this very wet weather, in which the land is so much
flooded, and, in many instances, impassable.
Is Geisill or Bridamh, or Bri Eile given in the
Divineanabur?

In the townland of Killurin in the west of the
Barony of Gephill, are the ruins of the old church
of Cill Iúráin, and the entrenchments which surround
an ancient castle which stood there in the year
1532. This castle is mentioned by the 4 Masters, at
that year; but I must see more about it before
I give their words. It is also shown on the old
map of "Leak and Ophaly."
Is Cill Iúráin mentioned in the Calendar or by
Colgan?

at Gephill village

There is an old castle, of which I have no record
whatever. I think it was built by the Fitzge-
ralds, as Lady Offaly, ^{who is said to have been a Fitzgerald,} is the principal person-
-age, whom tradition recollects in connexion with
it. Can any record of the erection or subse-
-quent history of this castle be found?

Lanigan states that Clonfertmullac is the name
of a parish in the Kings County; but I have
no such parish on any map of the King's Co,
now before me. The Liber Regalis Visitations
14/10/14/14 (11)

627
places it in the Deanery of Ely - from which
I infer ^{either} that it must be an alias name of
some parish in the King's County, or that it
may lie either in Tipperary or the Queen's
County close to the Slieve Bloom range of
Mountains. It appears from a passage quoted
by Wether that Clonfert Molua was on the
Conterraneous boundaries of Oppory, Ely and
Leix, from which it appears at once that
it must lie somewhere about in the Slieve
Bloom mountains. I always took for gran-
ted that Clonfertmulla was well known,
but I cannot meet any one here that
ever heard of it. (It is well known see farther on
20d. Ap. 25th. 58)

Of the parish of Kilbride in the Barony
of Ballycowan

This parish is locally called Moylena, which pre-
serves the name of a plain of ancient celebrity,
and of which I have spoken in a former letter
as the site of a famous struggle between Con-
of the hundred Battles, and Mogha Nuadh.
It hath the name of Kilbride from the old

church of that name, which was originally either erected by or dedicated to Saint Brigit of Kildare; but the present ruin is certainly not so old as her period. It lies in the townland of Kilbride, but exhibits nothing of antiquarian interest." Daep Colgan, in his list of the churches of St. Brigit mentions this and the not far distant church of Kilbride in the Barony of Kilcoursey or Munter-Thadhgain?

In this parish stands the castle of Ballycowan and Drake, of which Sir Charles Coote gives the following account:

"The ruins of Drake castle are near to Charleville on the eastern side, and on the western is Ballycawant Castle from whence the Barony takes its name. This castle has yet the vestiges of great magnificence; over the entrance is the following inscription. "This house was built by Sir Jasper Herbert, Mary Dean Finglas in the year 1626; under this inscription is the family arms with this motto:

that's the talk!
"By God of might
"I'll hold my right."

14/D/14/14(4)

(129)
"This country (that is the Barony of Ballycowan) was
" originally the property of the O'Dempseys, a famous
" Irish Clan, and no other matter on record relative to
" its history, but ^{and that's very little, P.O.D.} ~~what is given~~ ^{& that little wrong!} in the introduction."

p. 182.

He is right about the modern castles of Drish and
Ballycowan, but his assertion that the Barony
of Ballycowan was the country of the O'Dempseys
shews that he knew nothing at all about the
English documents relating to either. The follow-
ing base blunder of his is worth laughing at:

"Offaly lay on the western borders of the Pale,
" and in 1557 in the fifth of Philip and Mary,
" during the administration of Thomas Earl
" of Sussex, was confiscated to the crown under
" the title of Western Glenmallery; at the same
" time was the Queen's County forfeited under
" the title of Eastern Glenmallery*."

Poor blockhead! Glenmallery consisted but of
one barony in the King's County and another in
the Queen's County. What writers we have had
in this great country of the learned! After all
the old Bards are the true authorities, for they are

* He cannot have seen the act of 3. and 4. Philip and Mary

I have also given granted & confirmed to them
"The Commonage" (wherever it exists) in all the Woods
& my Lordship for the use of their flock & swine, with
the Liberty of passage (?) and for all future ^{other} Building
and necessary uses. H. E. O. B.

14/2/1976

Note on bottom
of this page is
inserted on
MSS page 38

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to state any the Barony of Upper Marrow, but which
and the land is a large part of the Queen's Co
will be largely or less

never wrong except about miracles and prodigies.
The same most learned writer informs us in page 2,
of his Introduction, which is a master piece of
human research, that the County of My Laoighis
comprized the King's County, the Queen's County,
the County of Dublin and the County of Mildare
an assertion so outrageous that I sicken at the
idea of the state to which Wollaney brought
our Irish literature. Laoighis^{really} contained about half
the Queen's Co* _____

The present Castle of Ballycowan is not the one from
which the Barony was named, but a far more
ancient one, whose site, there is every reason to
suppose, is occupied by the house erected in 1626.
This more ancient castle belonged to O'Malley, chief
of Fercallia, and not to the O'Dempseys as Sir
Charles Foster says without authority. It is men-
tioned by the Four Masters at the year 1567.

" The Treasurer marched with an army into
a Feara-Beall, to revenge upon O'Malley (abt)
his protection of the Wood-Kerns and other rebels;
" and on this occasion the entire country from the
" wood eastwards was ravaged; Ballycowan and Lynally
" both houses and churches were burned, and Calmagh, the
" ^{Bailie-mc Abain}
14/10/14/14 (14)

the son of O'Malley was killed at the ford of Glaise
(now Glash Bridge).

"He made a second incursion into the same country, burned
it, and cut down its woods, and refused to come to
a terms of peace, or agree to come to an armistice
with O'Malley but expelled and banished him
from the country and gave his Lordship (i.e. the
command of his principality to Theobald O'Malley."

Ballycowan is also mentioned in the poem called the
Victories of Hugh O'Byrne, from which it appears
that it was plundered and burned by that warrior
in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Maibias an Calbhais i mairmuais
Fip ceall da dnuim pa drombuais
Ni pagaim m'aire don toirce
Baisle cobair do creac-toirce.

The killing of Calbhach O'Malley
Left the Feara Ceall ^{defeated} without victory
I withdraw not my attention from the expedition
Bally-Cowan, he plundered - burned."

This is sufficient to shew that Ballycowan was
in O'Malley's country of Feara Ceall, and not
in O'Dempsey's of Clann Maol-ughra. The former
was in Meath, and the latter in Leinster.

Your obedient servant
John O'Donovan

END

14 D 14/15

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from T[homas] O'Connor, written from Tullamore, Co. Offay, concerning the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of Kilbride, Killclonfert (Kilclonfert) and Ballyburly, with particular reference to their castles, graveyards, and the origins of their place names.

5 January 1838

5p.

24 cm

RIA

Index.

Kilcoursey townland, old grave yard & old Castle in.
 Kilcoursey, (as an estate) — ^{sub tradition says never to be} Foxes, former proprietors of.
 Baggots, afterwards proprietors of.

Foxes — Three branches of —
 the one occupying Ballymalady;
 the other — block at Slonmough;
 the third — the amstown.

Greenstown — Mac Aodhagans, after the
 Foxes — proprietors of.

Killbride Parish — dedicated to Saint Bridgid.
 Saint Bridgid's well in.

Killbride and Kilcoursey — noticed in the
 Down Survey.

Down Survey describing the Parish of Killbride,
 several townlands mentioned in — are
 identified.

Ballyburly Parish

Fahy townland — old Castle in

Togher townland — Castle formerly in.

Toberdaly townland in the parish of Castlefordham —
^{none now.}

Castle formerly in —

of which there are ^{as yet} some remains

———— formerly forfeited — ('down Survey')

Coolcor — Kilcor on map —

a castle formerly in.

———— No remains of it, now, in.

Mongagh river — description of — as
 to its rise and fall.

Kilclonfert Parish.

Kilclonfert — ^{Ruins of a church & of a castle in.} not Clonfert-Molua.

Barnaboy (townland) — Beagna Bríde in
 Mac Cochoadhi's poem.

Kilclonfert — Rectory of — (Lib: Regalis Visitationis)

Ballycommon Parish.

Ballycommon townlands - Ruins of a Castle in.

Ballecoman - Rectory of - (Lit. Regalis) Visitacionis.

KilKye - now - Kilkea - name of a Parish.
in Barony ~~and~~ in Co. Kildare. and
of a Deanery in Diocese of Kildare.

the tradition about the site of the castle is that it was built by the Normans in the 12th century.

Dullamore January 5th 1838.

Sir,

In Millcoursey townland, which is an Irish called Al Cuppar's, and lies in the parish of Killbride, in the Barony of Millcoursey, there is an old grave-yard, and an old Castle, Tradition does not decide, whether this Castle was built by the family of the Doxes, who are said to be the former proprietors of Millcoursey; or by the family of the Baggots, from whom, the present proprietor, Mr. Baggot is descended.

There were three branches of the Doxes, of which, one branch possessed as an estate, Ballymalady, lying between Horseleap and Clara, and in the County of Westmeath; another held as an estate Clochatstownaigh, which has become the name of a ^{townland} ~~Parish~~, in ^{County of Westmeath} ~~County of W.~~, and is commonly called Clock; the terminational part being omitted; the third possessed Streamstown in the County of Westmeath. ^{the two last estates} were Confiscated (in ^{s.d.} 1641 ^{90?}), and the first, — Ballymalady was sold about 40, or 50 years ago by Charles Fox, who was the last of the family, that possessed this estate. 14/10/14/15 (111)

Tradition does not decide whether the two estates of Clochatstownaigh & Streamstown, were confiscated or not. For, it appears, as we shall see, from this very tradition, that Streamstown was taken by forcible possession from Doxes, its proprietors.

It is said that in Streamstown, there were two Castles, of which, one was erected by Fox, the proprietor of that estate, and the other by Mac Adhagan (whose name it is said to be now made Keegan). Fox gave Mac Adhagan permission to build a Castle on any part of his (Fox's) estate, that suited his wish. Mac Adhagan built his Castle up against Fox's, and succeeded finally in depriving Fox of the estate, which was according to tradition, afterwards possessed by his ^(Mac Adhagan's) descendants, who were, according to the same tradition, called in English, 'Keegans'.

Killbride Parish was dedicated to Saint Bridgid, Abbess of Kildare, after whom, a holy well in this parish, was called 'St. Bridgid's well'.

In the description of the Parish of Killbride in the 'Down Survey', are noticed the ruins of two churches at Killbride, and of a ^(castle) at Kilcourse. And in it, is stated that 'In this Parrish are situate the Townes of Ballykilcrosse, Loghan, Ballicknehey, Kilbride,

* appeared
or burned
in orig.

⁵Killicolline, ⁶Lekensy, ⁷Keilmocklone, ⁸Kilnebin,
⁹Kilcoursey, ¹⁰Cloragh, ¹¹Lisneastry, ¹²Ballyhenroy-
¹³ler, ¹⁴Rathin, ¹⁵Bealahocklone & ¹⁶Currie belonging
to the Earl of Cavan a protestant, and
¹⁷Curraghboy w^{ch} by some is said to be part
of the ~~town~~ lands of Gwartin in the Parish of
Kilmanagham hereafter described -

These townlands are now written - ¹Ballykileross,
²_____, ³Ballicknakee, ⁴Kilbride, ⁵Kilcollin,
⁶Lehinch, ⁷Kilmucklin, ⁸Kilnebinee, ⁹Kilcoursey,
¹⁰Lolara, ¹¹Lisniskia, ¹²Ballickmiller, ¹³Rakeen,
¹⁴Ballyhoughlin, & ¹⁵Curry, - And ¹⁶Curragh-
boy goes by the alias name of Woodfield.

Ballyburly Parish

Notice

In Tahy townland in this Parish, there is an old Castle in ruins.

W. H. H. H.
 Togher townland had, as appears from an old map of Leix and Offaly, formerly a Castle in it, of which there appear no remains at this time. The same map places a Castle at Toberdaly townland in that part of the Parish of Castlejordan in the King's County. There are as yet some remains of this Castle. It is stated in the Down Survey in the Description of the 'Baronie of Warrenstowne', that Toberdalagh, was a forfeited townland. On the map above mentioned, there appears a castle marked at Kilcor, now Coolcor townland in the Parish of Ballyburly, in which townland, it is not remembered that, there ever existed a Castle.

The river Mongagh, which divided according to this old map, the ancient territory of Tathmaighe (Tethmoy) from Westmeath, has its source in a lough, lying in a bog, at Garr (townland) and not far from Knockdrin hill, ^{both which lie in} and ^{Castlejordan Parish} joins the yellow river at Clonmore and Castlejordan townlands, from which the united waters of both rivers, flowing mix themselves with those of the Boyne somewhere near Carbury in Co: Kildare.

This description, which is the most accurate I could obtain from any person consulted on this head, is had from a native of Castle-Jordan Parish, who travelled with the surveyors through the neighbouring part of the Country, ^{along} of Castle-Jordan. This river is of interest to the topographer, as it formed the northern boundary of Tuath-da-mhuigha, and the southern mere of ancient ~~the~~ ^{cella latibula mirabilis} Killclonfert Parish.

In Killclonfert townland, are the ruins of a church, and of a Castle.

This Killclonfert is not Clonfert Molua, which had its situation at the very boundary of Leinster and (the ancient) Munster between Ossory, Mele (Ely O'Carroll formerly in Munster) and Leix. See Lanigan's Ecclesiastical History, where it notices the Monastery of ^{St. Molua}, which also states that Clonfert Molua was in Thiabh-bloom, and that according to the modern division (i.e. of Munster and Leinster) Clonfert Mulloe is in the King's County, and is now a parish.

In this Parish is a townland bearing the name of Barnaboy, which is written in Pergaminum Mac Dochoa's poem celebrating the victories of Hugh O'Byrne; bhina bride, and signifies the yellow gap. The passage runs thus;

This is the blunin fearta bhunaboy's mention of the Thieir clonfert as in the O'Carroll's, &c.

'Ciom óparlly 1 mághuaid, tairghe ne díghm dís flúad
 . mághuaid óm bíuna buide, do taob' fíomá ap'n'áodime?
 which literally translated, is,

Plunder from Pailis Billohoy, come with a countless brave host;
 As also from Beanna buidhe, through the bravery of our Hugh.

In lib: Regalis Visitationis, under the heading 'Decanatus
 de Kilkye' — Kilclonfert is set down as a rectory —

Kilclonfert { Rector Neale Billohoy students in Collegio
 Rec. non residens valor 15th Vicarius Edwardus Tracy Minister
 vic residens legens valor 10th. Ecclesia et Cancellaria bene reparantur
 cum communione Hibernice.

Ballycommon Parish.

Ballycommon townland contains no
 other ruins than an old Castle. Nor have
 I got information of any other notable object
 within this parish.

Ballecomon is in the same Visitation book
 above referred to,
 set down as a rectory, and under the same
 heading 'Decanatus de Kilkye' —

Ballecoman { Rector ~~id est~~ ibid Johannes Durance
 residens minister legens, residens inservit
 cure cum libro communione
 Hibernice.

Kilkye is now written Kilkea, which is the name
 as well of a parish and ($\frac{1}{2}$) Barony in the County
 of Kildare, as of a deanery in the diocese of
 Kildare.

Your obedient,
 humble servant
 J. O'Connor

J. S. Larcom Esq.
 He 9/10.

END

14 D 14/16

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letters, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Tullamore and Banagher, Co. Offaly, concerning the historical sources which provide accounts of the murder of Hugh de Lacy.

6-17 January 1838

12p.

23 cm

Included are references the history and topography of Geashill, Co. Offaly, the application of Gothic style architecture in 12th century Ireland, and extracts from the Book of Kilronan and the writings of Sir Charles Coote.

Tullamore January 6th 1838.

Dear Sir,

I now translate the account of the murder
of Sir Hugh de Lacy given in the Annals of
Kilroman, from which the Four Masters copy
their account of it in a very imperfect manner.
"A. D. 1186, Uga de Laci (goes) to Durrow Columbkille
"to erect a castle ^{there} in it, accompanied by a count-
"less host of Englishmen. For he was the king
"of Meath, Breifny, and Oriel; and it was to
"him the tribute of Connaught was paid.
"He won all Ireland for the English.
"All Meath from the Shannon to the sea
"was full of (his) castles and Englishmen.
"After having ^{resolved} offered to accomplish this
"work labor, i.e. to erect the Castle of Durrow,
"he came out with three Englishmen to
"view the castle (resting to view the progress
"of the work) But one youth of the men
"of Meath, came to him, with ^{word} an axe con-
"cealed under his garment. His name
14/D/14/16 (1). was

"Giolla-gan-isnathar & Meeyey, and he was the
 " ^{fallen} foster son of Fox himself. He gave De Laci
 " one blow, and cut off his head, so that
 " he fell both head and body into the
 " ditch of the Castle." This seems the true ac-
 " count.

The following remark of Moore is unwarranted.
 " Geoffrey Keating with that love of dull
 " invention which distinguished him, de-
 " scribes the assassin as a young gen-
 " tleman in disguise.*"

And Keating had respectable authority for
 this description, ^{for} the foster son of Fox
 chief of Teffia was certainly entitled
 to that name. ^{Druid Nassal} Moore should have ~~known~~
 known that Keating himself has not
 fabricated or invented one word, and
 that the only thing he can be accused
 of is want of judgment in distinguishing
 the genuine historical records of Ireland
 from the historical tales and Romances.
 His translator has interpolated Keating's original, which
 Moore knew or ought to know.

* How does Moore know what authority
 Keating had for this assertion?

1143
(37)

[Annals of Innisfallen]

1186. Hugo De Lacy the powerful Lord of Meath was treacherously slain by an Englishman, as he was building a Castle near the Church of Colum. Cill, he left two sons viz. Walter King of Meath and Hugo who was Earl of Ulster.

[Moore's Hist. of Ireland vol. II p321]

A.D. 1186. De Lacy met his death this year, from a hand so obscure that not even a name remains associated with the deed.†

He had been engaged for some time erecting a castle at a place called Darmraight, in the southern part of Ancient Meath, upon a spot hallowed in the eyes of the natives, as being the site of a monastery founded by their great Saint

† Gulielm. Neubrig. ut supra. Several names have been assigned to the perpetrator of this act, but all differing so much from each other as to show that the real name was unknown. Geoffrey Keating, with that love of dull invention which distinguished him, describes the assassin as a young gentleman in disguise.

14/14/16(ii)

Columba. Being in the habit of attending personally to the building, De Lacy had gone forth to inspect the outworks, attended by three English soldiers, and an Irish labourer; and just as he was in the act, we are told, of stooping down to mark out the line of some wall or trench, the Irish workman[†] drew forth a battle-axe which he had brought concealed beneath his mantle for the purpose, and at one blow smote off the ^{Earl's #} baron's head. The assassin escaped to a neighbouring wood, and being doubtless favored in his flight by the country people, contrived to elude all pursuit *

He was more than a Baron: Nugent of Delvin was one of his Barons. I. O. D.
He was an Earl and a most powerful Earl.

* Guliel. Neubrig. ut supra. Ware's Annals, Ad Ann. 1186.

From the Book of Kilronan. Library I. b. D.

A. D. 1186 u^{ba} de la^{ba} do o^{ba}ma^{ba} cot. c. do
 o^{ba}ma^{ba} ca^{ba}st m^{ba}te. 7 pt o^{ba}ma^{ba} do salt la^{ba}
 r^{ba}g^{ba}re p^{ba}a p^{ba}u^{ba} m^{ba}de 7 b^{ba}le^{ba}m 7 g^{ba}all 7 r^{ba}
 do b^{ba}ea^{ba}er o^{ba}nt 7 p^{ba}o^{ba} g^{ba}u^{ba} h^{ba}i r^{ba}le do salt.
 p^{ba}o^{ba}la^{ba} do m^{ba}de o^{ba}ma^{ba} co p^{ba}g^{ba}i do ca^{ba}ra^{ba}
 7 do salt; 14 t^{ba}g^{ba}er do m^{ba}te^{ba} p^{ba}i. ca^{ba}
 o^{ba}ma^{ba}ge do o^{ba}ma^{ba}. t^{ba}me a^{ba}mach do p^{ba}le^{ba}
 an ca^{ba}st o^{ba}ce^{ba} t^{ba}ap do salt la^{ba}. t^{ba}me do
 en o^{ba}ce^{ba} do p^{ba}u^{ba} m^{ba}de d^{ba}a m^{ba}ge 7 a
 t^{ba}uagh p^{ba}a co^{ba} 1. g^{ba}lt g^{ba}an m^{ba}ach. h. m^{ba}a^{ba}=
 a^{ba}g^{ba} d^{ba}ata an t^{ba}ma^{ba} p^{ba}h^{ba}m. 7 t^{ba}uc en
 p^{ba}u^{ba}le do t^{ba}e b^{ba}h a c^{ba}h de g^{ba} t^{ba}ut h^{ba}e c^{ba}h
 7 cot a clo^{ba}ch an ca^{ba}st.

he gave
 him one
 & below
 below.

The story given by Mr. Fisher about the Ravens searching
 over ~~the~~ the ~~king~~ king refers to Saighin Kieran — The
 king was ~~don't~~ don't ~~prince~~ prince ~~ceallaig~~ ceallaig ~~his~~ his ~~opposite~~ opposite — the
 time in the reign of Dinogh M. Moim M. Melaglin
Don M. Donmair, who died ann. 942 —

Extract from King's Temon

14/10/14/16

1186. Uga de lue^{do} Supma^{do} Colum chille do dénaim cairléin ind^{do}
occur phia^{do} d'áir^{do} do Gallar^{do} larp. uair ippe pa p^{do} m^{do}de occur b^{do}pep^{do}
occur áir^{do}gall, occur ip do beap^{do}ta eir Condaet, occur po gar^{do} Epe uile
do Gallar^{do}. Ro po lán, don, m^{do}í^{do} ó S^{do}na^{do} co pá^{do}pe^{do} do charle^{do}nair^{do}
occur do Gallar^{do}. Iar d^{do}air^{do}ep^{do}in do in é^{do}p^{do}o^{do}ta^{do} p^{do}in q. Cairlen Dú^{do}ma^{do}ge
do dénaim, tá^{do}me amach do pé^{do}chain an charléin occur ep^{do}rap do Gal-
lar^{do} larp. Tá^{do}me, don, én ó^{do}clá^{do}ch d^{do}peru^{do}p^{do}ó m^{do}ide dá ind^{do}pa^{do}ge occur
a tuagh pá na é^{do}orm q. Gilla san ina^{do}ep^{do} hua m^{do}ad^{do}u^{do}g^{do}. oalta an
τ S^{do}na^{do}ó pé^{do}pp^{do}in, occur tue én p^{do}uille do, sup be^{do}an a ce^{do}n^{do} de, sup
tue ep^{do}ep^{do} ce^{do}and occur é^{do}ol^{do}and a cladh an charléin.

Ex Codice Romanensi.

It is remarkable that the writers of this party, almost
in every instance, p^{do} for b^{do}. ~~and~~ not only in termina-
tions but also at the beginning of radical words
as po, for bo, and puille for burle, just as if one would
write in English, a plow, for a blow. The lan-
guage is decidedly ancient, as appears from the
orthography and the cast of the phraseology.
The O'Miadhaighs (O'Meeveys) are still very nu-
merous in Caffia ~~still~~, but none of them, as
far as I could learn are gentlemen according
to the general application of that word in this
country, i.e., a man who has an estate, and
who has not to earn his bread by any pro-
fession, trade or calling. The O'Meevy who
murdered the Earl de Lacy, was evidently one

of that description else he would not have been fostered by the chiefs of Teffia. 7/14

It is necessary to remark here that the Four Masters must have had other authorities besides the Annals of Kilronan for this account of the murder of De Lacy; for they add that O'Meegy after having despatched the Earl, fled to Killinclare (which was a wood on the borders of Munster-Hagan) where he met Fox and O'Brien, at whose ^{desire} instigation he had achieved this glorious action.

Henry II. rejoiced at the news, for he dreaded De Lacy's power in Ireland, as it was generally rumored that De Lacy aimed at the sovereignty of all Ireland, and wished to shake off Henry's controul altogether.

The Four Masters in transcribing the original Annals of Ireland have frequently abstracted and condensed passages, ^{as in the present instance} and thus omitted many curious phrases, which to their ideas were quite redundant, but which in reality throw great light on history. I ascertained
14/5/14/16 (IV)

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(8) ship to be a fact by comparing their Annals with the Copy of the Annals off Ulster in the College Library. It shews that although the compilation of the Four Masters is exceedingly valuable to the Irish Scholar as modernizing and explaining ~~to~~ many obscure passages in the original Annals, still the historian should not rest content with their transcript, as long as the originals are extant; but should procure the very words of the various original authorities in examining every doubtful or disputed point.

It is stated in the Annals of Inisfallen as translated by Peter Connell and improved by O'Flanigan and O'Heilly, that Sir Hugo de Lacy was treacherously slain by an Englishman. How is this stated in the original Irish?

The Annals of Inisfallen however, cannot vie as an authority on this subject, with those of Kilmacanogue, and it is to be

(10) 500
done, we are doing literally nothing.

Here I must attack Sir Charles Coote again, as I do not wish to let any false history pass unnoticed. He writes of the Barony of Geshill as follows:

"Geshill ^{is?} has been a place of great antiquity
"and here are the ruins of a lofty and
"spacious castle; its derivation alludes to
"the song of the forest, and it was the
"noted residence of the O'Malloys or
"the chiefs of Tby. Fulgia. An en-
"gagement was here fought by two sons
"of Milesius, King of Ireland, who jointly
"reigned over the kingdom for a short
"period; but by the disagreement of their
"wives, they fought in the village, where
"one of them was slain. The castle was
"battered by Cromwell, and was remarkable
"for standing a long siege: the garrison
"was

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" was commanded by a woman; she was
" called the lady Ophelia. The parish church
" adjoining is recorded in history to have existed
" twelve hundred years." p. 141.

I never read any thing so childish as this: How
is it known that Gephall signifies the song of
the forest? I think it could be more easily
interpreted the song of the goose, g. d. zé-pil, from
zé a goose, and pil, seed, progeny &c. but a more
sublime derivation could be given from zé, the
earth and pil, seed, the same as the γερναι of the
Greeks! But all this is like O'Brien's bod zé.

Gephall was not the noted residence of the O'
Molloys, for they never possessed a sod of it,
and the O'Molloys were not the chiefs of
Hy-Falgia. All Hy-Falgia, consisting of
the Baronies of Gephall, upper and lower
Philipstown, Coolestown, Warrenstown, ^{in Kildare} Ophaley,
Portnashinch and Tinalinch belonged to Honor
Faly and his ^{sub-chiefs} Urriahs, and was in Leinster, but
O'Molloy's country was in ancient Meath, as the
Irish and English monuments will prove. The
14/D/14/16 (vi)

two sons of Milesing did not fight in the village of Geshill, for there was no village there at the time. No one ever said that Milesing was King of Ireland, nor that he was ever in Ireland. What history records that the old ^{parish} church of Geshill has existed these twelve hundred years?

I think that the Castle of Geshill was built by a branch of the Fitzgeralds. ^{no, but by Honorah Lady - see further on} A very old man of the name Kelly, ^{who lives near Geshill} told me that his own ancestor who lived originally near Dysart in the Queen's county settled under Lady of Alia after the "Condition of Limerick", and that it is the constant tradition in his family that ^{she was a Fitzgerald, but the wife of Honorah Lady} her name was Fitzgerald. He also adds that Geshill passed from the Fitzgeralds to the ^{ancestor of the} present proprietor by intermarriage with the family of Fitzgerald, but he could not explain to me, when or how.

Mr Charles Cote, Rawson, Beauford, and all those who were guided by Vallancey's Collection, have spoiled our Irish history, but we have ^{not} only Irish but also English records still extant to correct them.

your obedient servant
John O'Donovan

Dear Sir,

Banagher, Jan. 14th 1838,

I expressed a doubt in a former letter as to the accuracy of the translation of the annals of Inishfallen by Peter Connell, O'Hanigan, and O'Reilly. The passage relative to the death of Hugh de Lacy betrays the grossest ignorance of Irish history. It D. 118. Hugo de Lacy, a powerful lord of Meath ^{treacherously} "was killed by an Englishman" &c.

It stands in the original thus: (MS. Trin. Col.)

1186 hugo de Lacy ^{abpeall} ~~na mbe do~~ ^{le} Galloglach 7 e ag déanam caplean a ndupmairg colum cille,

Which when correctly translated "will exhibit this sense"

"1186. Hugo de Lacy, the powerful Lord of Meath, ^{MS} "was treacherously killed by "a Galloglach" while "erecting a castle at Durrus-Columbkille."

no spoidin 148! The poor Summachaw thought that Gall-oglach meant an Englishman! Spencer says
14/10/14/16 (v)

* The family name Gallaghy, which prevails so much in terms
- mark is derived from this word. The people so called were originally
- the name of the people who were called the Gallaghy people.

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a good deal about the Gallaghy of Ireland, and
inclined to think that they were not the aboriginal
Irish soldiers, but introduced by the early English,
whence he thinks the name Gall o'glach or
^{foreign} English youth was derived. In this he
may be right, or he may be wrong; but whatever
be the derivation of the term Gall o'glach,
it is certain that it was applied to a kind
of soldiers (among the Irish) who were armed
with battle axes &c. (See Spencer on Kerns & Gallaghy
- glach.)
Does old Charles O'Conor avoid this error in his
translation of the Annals of Irishmen? Mr.
Curry will know at once the err. I allude to.
It is in the handwriting of Mr. Brannon, who was
for many years employed as a scribe by Ch.
O'Conor at Bealach Coille, and who is now a
^(a classical teacher)
very old man, living in the town of Galway.

Mr. I have asked for many extracts which have
not been sent me, viz the account given in
Nomenclat. Hib. of the territories of ^{Delium} Beathna
Beathra, Feara, beall, and Ely O'garroll;

Spencer's reference to the hill of Croghan
and other things, which I now forget.

We are now coming to a close here and want
the Books of Ely & Carroll as soon as pos-
sible.

Your obedient servant.

John J. Donovan.

What is the original Irish of the following passage:

"A. D. 899 Coirpre Crom, Bishop of Clonmacnoise
" died. It was he that struck the spirit of Maol-
" seachlain, the son of Maolmana on the head!"

Annals. 4 Masters.

Is there any reference to Tobar Finghin at Clonmac-
noise in the 4 Masters? There is certainly in
Fingernach.

of J. J. Larcom - 1899

R. C. Eng.

Banagher January 17th 1838.

Dear Sir, I am glad to see that Charles O'Conor has avoided the gross blunder which had escaped the ken of O'Flannigan and O'Reilly. It shews what a superior man Charles O'Conor was in comparison with them, and how very valuable his translation of the Annals of Inishfallen is to the Irish historian. The Academy should purchase this MS.

I think that Campion's account of the murder of Sir Hugh de Lacy has been in a great measure drawn from his own fancy. But be this as it may, Campion cannot be considered an original authority. and as he does not state whence he derived his informations, he cannot be con-

14/D/14/16(IX)

(2)²¹¹ presented as an English authority with the original Irish annals. Cambrensis is the only coeval English authority on the subject, but his words are so vague that nothing satisfactory can be inferred from them. He states that De Lacy, a securing male securing, lost his life by the treachery of his Irish people. But by his Irish (Hibernensium suorum) he might have meant the Irish of the country of Meath, of which he was Lord; or by dolo Hibernensium suorum he could have meant the treachery of his Irish labourers or artisans, who suffered him to be assassinated by one, who was not in his employment. I see ^{as yet} nothing to nullify the testimony of the Annals of Kilroman, which record that De Lacy was murdered by Gillaganinaker O'Meeyey, the foster-son of Fox, prince of Toffia. Perhaps O'Meeyey, might, at the request of his foster-father Fox, ^{prayed to be set on} have enlisted in the ^{work for him} service of the Earl as a laborer in order to watch an opportunity of despatching him. We find that Fitz-Patrick of Ossory sometimes went around as a Carpenter, Venturer, &c. to explore the state of English garrisons.

A. D. 1186. hugo de Lacy tṛaṣarṇa comāctae
na ḡrāe do marbāo a ḡeall le ḡall oḡlāe 7 e
aḡ deanain caplean undurimāḡe coluṃ cille
ṛ om mac leir. i. barcear tṛaṣarṇa na ḡrāe
7 hugo do bṛ na iart ulāo.

Hugo de Lacy, the powerful Lord of Meath,
was treacherously slain by a Galloglass - being
then building a Castle in Durmach Colum-Cille.

He left issue two sons, viz. Walter who succeeded
him as Lord of Meath, and Hugo who was Earl
of Ulster.

/ ḡalēae a churcharṇa /

From Annals of Inisfallen, translated by
Charles O'Donoghue of Belanagare -

/ Mr. Smith's collection /

A. D. 899. comṛe cṛom ep̄s cluana m̄c nom. (do
ecc) ar̄ tṛuḡe sp̄ae ḡrāil sk̄t m̄c mōhṛuān cl̄nā

From M.S. annals 4 Marten. R. I. A.

The name of the person who was killed is not given.
The name of the person who killed him is not given.

Ita Quatuor Magistri in annalibus ad eundem annum (899)
dicentes: S. Corporeus Curios Episcopus de Cluani me nō obit.
Cui apparetur spiritus Malachiae filij Macbrucei. ^{noted p. 599}

Cluany
14/10/14/16 (*)

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(4)

Finghin's Well.

A.D. 613. This year came in Pilgrimage to Clonmac-
nois one Gorman, and remained there a year and
fasted that space on bread and ^{the} water of Fyrin's
Well*. He is ancestor to Mick Conn ne mboght
and moynter Gorman, and died in Clone
aforesaid.

From Annals of Clonmacnois

Translated by Mageochegan

* 2^d. The water of that well at Clonmacnois, which is
now called after Fyrin Mac Carthy?

A. D. 1015. Gabt moir nrm pozmur do na pt sed na
pamast nrm amrmrm da a topcam dam moir rezlera fpmrm
mcluan me nrm. Chron. Scotm

1015 A great wind storm happened in the autumn of this
year, (a storm like or similar to which had not
occurred in this age) by which the large oak of
Rezler Finghin ^{at Clonmacnois} was prostrated:
Loe

[Campion's Historie of Ireland p. 99.]

Lacy the rather for these whisperings, did erect and edifie a number of Castles, well and substantially, provided in convenient places, one at Derwath, where diverse Irish prayed to be set on worke, for hyre. Sundry times came Lacy to quicken his labourers, full glad to see them fall in ure with any such exercise, wherein, might they once be grounded & taste the sweetnesse of a true man's life, he thought it no small token of reformation to be hoped, for which cause he visited them often, and merrily would command his Gentlemen to give the labourers example in taking paines, to take their instruments in hand, and to worke a season, the ^{*}poore soules looking on and resting. But this game ended Tragically, while each man was busied to try his cunning: some lading, some plaistering, some heaving, some carving; the Generall also himselfe, digging with a pykeaxe, a desperate villaine of them, he whose toole the Generall used, spying both his hands occupied and his body, with all force inclining to the blow, watched his stoop, and clove his head with an axe, little esteeming the torments that ensued.^k

* Where did you read this?

Stephen Campione has thickened the aged scale from his own conceits

They have no other phrase to express the rising of a ghost but
tógbáil cinn. And skeletons rose up from the dim
depths of the Charneol house and glared on him.

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The passage in the annals of the Four Masters
at the year 899. I translate thus:

899. Coirpre Crom Ep̃ Cluana m̃e noir̃ décc. Ar do
túarcc sp̃ir̃at Maoilreachloir̃ mic Maoilruana, cend.

"Carbury Crom Bishop of Cluana-na-noir̃ died. It
"was to him the spirit of Maelseachlainn, the
"son of Malrony, ^{rose!} showed itself."

In the north of Ireland to this day, this phrase
is in common use*, "ta pé ag tógbáil cinn" "he is appearing"
is generally applied to one, who, having died, makes
his appearance again. cread pá nár̃ ^{túarcc} tóg tu ceann doo deap̃.

-brúcar̃ Seán, a tá na fear̃ lár̃d̃ir̃ m̃ir̃neam̃aí, agur̃ gan ceann
do tógbáil daíra a tá an fear̃nóir̃ c̃uon, gan m̃ir̃neach, said a
man to the spirit of his brother in law ^{where I belong in the fairies} in my time.

ta pé ag tógbáil cinn is tantamount to the English phrase
"he is rising". thós re ceann do phádp̃r̃. He (the spirit) showed
himself to Patrick. The literal meaning is that
the dead man lifted his head from the grave.

Cá aca, t'ánam no do cholair̃ aca an ro ar mo chomair̃? ol pádp̃r̃.
ca ñp̃uīl ceitar̃ aca an ro, ol an p̃p̃iopaí.
Cad eile, ol pádp̃r̃.

Collair̃ o'n sp̃ir̃it̃, a cur̃ead̃ a proic̃t mo c̃olna do tógbáil cinn d̃h̃eip̃e.

216 (17)

It is ^{thus} translated by Colgan, who knew the heart and soul of the Irish language:

"Ita Quatuor Magistri in annalibus ad eundem
annum (899) dicentes: S: Corpreus Curvus Episcopus
de Cluain mic noig, obiit. Cui apparuit spiritus
Malachias filii Maelduacii."
Acta SS. p. 509.

It is difficult to ascertain who the Fingim was from whom toip Fingim, at Clonmacnoise, was named so early as the year 610 or 613.

The present tradition is that the Finghin, from whom Finghin's church and tower were named, was Finghin (pron. Feeneen) Mac Carthy More Prince of Desmond.

Has Mr. Petrie ascertained when this ^{Florence} Finghin Mac Carthy flourished? There were many of the family of Mac Carthy, who bore the name Finghin or Florence, but the Finghin, who erected this church, must have lived at a very early period, as the ^{would seem to} style prose. But a curious objection could be raised against arguments
14/10/14/16 (X)

(8)^{21th} of antiquity derived from the style of such churches. It is
this: The Anglo-Normans introduced the Gothic or pointed
style of architecture into Ireland about the year 1172.
There is no evidence that the Irish had any building
in the pointed style previously to that period. Did
not the Irish continue to build in their own primitive
round styles for ^{one or two at least} some centuries after the arrival
of the Anglo-Normans? and will it not be found
that while the Anglo-Normans erected churches
in the Gothic style at Dublin, Drogheda, Cork &c,
the Irish built churches in the ancient round style
at Clonmacnoise, and other places where the Anglo-
Normans had no power to introduce their inno-
-vations?

Your obedient servant

John O'Donovan.

END

14 D 14/17

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Banagher, Co. Offaly, concerning the history and antiquities of Geashill, Co. Offaly, with particular reference to its castle.

9 January 1838

2p.

23 cm

RIA

Dear Sir,

Bonnaghoe, January 9th 1838.

In reading over Hampden's account of Kildare, I find that the Lady Ofalia so much talked of about Geshill, was the sister of Gerald, the 11th Earl of Kildare, and the wife of Honor Faly.

"Gerald, the 11th Earl, born in February
"1525, was about ten years of age, at the
"execution of his brother and uncle, sick
"of the small pox at Donore near Naas,
"and by his nurse carefully concealed, and
"conveyed to his sister, Lady Mary Ofonor
"in Offaley." Introduction p. xxxii.

The Castle of Geshill, then, must have been erected by Honor Faly himself, as he was not conquered till the reign of Philip and Mary. We shall now attack the country lying between this and Athlone, and hope that Mr. Petrie will give his directions as soon as possible, about

14/5/14/170)

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his favourite spot, Clonmacnoise and the parish
churches connected with it. Has he made himself
certain of the names of the different churches
there existing, or does he think that their names
are now recoverable? Who is the best guide to con-
-sult for pointing out the remains at this place?
What is the name of the Chapel in which the shrine
of St. Manchan is preserved? Whether is in the
parish of Liamanaghan or Kilmanaghan? Is there
any town, in which one could stop, nearer to Clonmac-
-noise than Bonagher or Athlone?

The weather is now assuming a fierce and terrible aspect,
and we must hasten to a close, for this is not the
season for antiquarian investigation especially
in this country of boggs and morasses.

I want all notices from the annals &c. to
^{Irish, Saxon,} Sagharan, Liathmor, ^{English} Clochan, and any other do-
-cuments that can be found relating to Mac
Caghlan's country.

Your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

RIA

14/0/14/1701)

Wm A. Larcom Esq.

P. Long,

Phoenix Park

END

14 D 14/18

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Banagher, Co. Offaly, concerning the varying historical accounts which relate to the location and history of Rathain (Rathan) parish.

10 January 1838

2p.

23 cm

Included are references to the decline of the Irish language and folk traditions in the county.

Banagher, January 10th, 1838.

Dear Sir,

If Dr. Laming is right about the situation of Rathain, I have been very much mistaken in my idea of the locality whence St. Carthagh of Lismore was expelled. I shall give his text and note on the subject.

" Next we find him (St. Carthagh or Moehuda) visiting
 " Molua of Clonfert-Molua, and afterwards Colman
 " Elo with whom he wished to remain at Land
 " -Elo. But this saint advised him to form an
 " establishment for himself, at a place not
 " far distant, called Raithin or Rathen.

" Carthagh acted according ^{to} his directions, and
 " there erected a monastery, which soon became
 " very celebrated &c. &c.

" While at Rathen, where he remained forty years
 " Carthagh was consecrated Bishop. Notwithstanding
 " his great sanctity, and the extraordinary esteem
 14/D/14/18(1) in

" in which he was generally held; he had, as has been
 " the case with many illustrious and holy men, to
 " encounter the envy of some clergymen, or monks
 " of a neighbouring district, who, at length, induced
 " Blathmac, son of Aidus Slaine, and prince of that
 " country, to expel him and his monks from Rathen
 " in the year 639." vol. II, p 352 & sequen.

In note (186) he says Raithin "is now called Rathine
 " and is situated in the Barony of Fastulagh, Co.
 " of Westmeath."

I believe he states this on the authority of
 Usher, Ware, and Archdall. Let me have
 their words as soon as possible, as I incline to
 doubt the truth of their assertions. Is there
 any place in the Barony of Fastulagh in the
 County of Westmeath called Rathin, Rahin
 or Rahin? I have no recollection of any,
 but I think Usher mentions a place of the
 name in that Barony. What does he say?

Does the name Rathin O'Suanagh occur in
 the Calendar or in Colgan? Who was Suanagh?

This church of Matham O'Suanaigh has puzzled me this many a day, and I am not yet able to unravel the mystery. Was O'Suanaigh the Heremach family of the place like O'Mady¹¹⁰⁰ at Lennagh? Can any evidence be found to shew who succeeded Carthach at Matham?

Can any reference be found to Rag cam or Rag cam mach?

I have been travelling all day through the south of the ancient Kingdom of me ^{mid} where, I am sorry to say, the old language is just dead, and the people remarkably ignorant of their old history and traditions.

Where does Archdall in Nomenclat. Hib. place the ancient territory of Crioch na gCédach? It ^{certainly} occurs in the Inquisition, but I have searched for it in vain among the extracts before me. It was the country of the Leingter O'Fallons. and I have certainly been in the territory but totally forgot it

14/10/14/18(u)

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it till this very moment. If I miss it I will
never forgive myself!

I am knocked up again from having slept in a
damp room.

your obedient servant,

J. P. Donovan

Does Tom Clavin O'Subiam occur in the annals of the
Four Masters? ^{no} It is now called Lumploone!
and lies in Mac Coghlan's Country.

END

14 D 14/19

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from T[homas] O'Connor, written from Banagher, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parishes of Tisarn (Tisaran), with particular reference to their early churches, holy wells, castles and the origins of their place names.

10 January 1838

1p.

23 cm

RIA

Lissarn Parish — Signification of name of.

Lissarn — old church of in Moystown
Demesne

2 Tobar-Saran — in Moystown Demesne.

1 Lissaran — queries about.

St. Saran's Festival — not remembered.

Fort in Lissarn (townland). Old Castle formerly on.

Lischoony townland — old Castle in ruins in.

Paddenmore townland — foundation of a castle partly

Bellmount Castle — site of in ^{traceable in} Bellmount alias
Lisdarri (townld).

Banagher January 10th 1835.

Sir,

Lissarn, the name of a parish in the Barony
of Garrycastle, signifies the house of S. Saran —

The Irish name would be teach (te) Sáran.

Oratorium Sancti Sarani. Let the passage relative
to Stigh-Saran in the Annals, be extracted and
sent. There is no one reference made to it in any

documents we have. Let bolgan and the Calendar
be also referred to. In the Centre of Moystown De-
mesne, and 1750 links W. of the River Brosna, Sti-

Saran. old church lies in ruins: and Tobar Saran

tobar Sáran — Pons S. Sarani. lies 500 links S.
W. of the Stables belonging to Moystown House?

At this well, stations were performed some time
back: St. Saran's festival day is not remembered.

There is a fort, lying in Eism (townland) according to the people, on which, a castle formerly stood.

In Lisclonny townland, there is a Castle in ruins. This popularly called Castle might have been a Mansion house. And in Paddenmore townland, the foundation of a Castle, is partly traceable.

Site of Bellmount Castle lies '600 links' South of Bellmount House, in Bellmount alias Lisdavig (townland). Of the Castle there is not a vestige to be seen.

Is there any reference in the Annals to the Castle of Lis cluaine?

Is there any reference in them to the Castle of Lis-dearg?

Let every document be looked into for bill - Cluaine, and let an extract ^{if what is} relative to it ^{be} made.

Does Cluain - gabhna, or any similar name to which Clon - ony is referable, occur in the Annals? Ma Geoghegan calls it blondownie.

J. A. Larcom Esq.

✓ Name-book

Yours Obedient
Servant
J. O'Connor

END

14 D 14/20

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Banagher, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of Killegally (Killagally) parish, with particular reference to its early church, graveyard and castle.

11 January 1838

1p.

23 cm

RIA

Banagher January 11th 1838,

Dear Sir,

Yesterday I visited the parish of Wherry
alias Killagally, which Archdall identifies with
Hill-Calgan. ^{or the 4 Masters} Does Calgan make any mention of
Hill-calgan?

^{of Killagally}
This parish containing the townland of Kincora, in which
stood formerly a celebrated castle, the site of which
should be marked on the map. It is mentioned in the
compilation of the Four Masters at the year 1548.

" A. D. 1548, O'Melaghlin (Teige Roe) brought Edmund
" A Fiai (Fay, I think.) and his Leinster forces into
" Delvin to plunder the territory. ^{on this occasion} It happened that
" Edmund A Fiai made a prisoner of Melaghlin, the
" son of Act O'Melaghlin, who had come along with
" him (Edmund), by order of the King's Council, and sent
" him and sent him to Dublin.
" The castle of Caann Coraidh and the monastery
" of Caillinne were taken on this occasion by O'Mel-
" aghlin and Edmund. O'Melaghlin returned home sorrow-
" fully without having obtained submission or hostages
" and Edmund continued to conquer Delvin in the King's name."

14/12/20

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There is an old grave yard in the ^{townland} "of
Kincorā" called Kileaghan, of which I have no
record. Can any reference to it be found in the
Calendar or in Colgan? bill Riachain?

There is an old church in the townland of Wheery in
this parish, which seems the original parish church
but I have no historical reference to it. Can any
be found? The name is pronounced by the old
people, as if it were written *phioire* or *phoioire*.

We go to Clonmacnoise now

your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

END

14 D 14/21

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, written from Banagher, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, topography and antiquities of Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly, with particular reference to its cathedral, churches, round towers, holy well, castle and the origins of its place name.

15 January 1838

16p.

23 cm

Included are notes and related extracts concerning inscriptions at Clonmacnoise.

Banagher, January 15th 1838.

Dear Sir,

I visited Clonmacnoise, and examined its localities. I do not believe that there is any church or tower there so old as the time of St. Kieran, the patron, nor older than the tenth century, but Mr. Petrie is the true judge of their age. I would venture to assert that there is no church at Clonmacnoise so old as St. Fechin's church at Fore, or Bishop's Hall church at Stradagh, or any of the seven churches on Inis Clathran in Lough Ree, nor as old as the church of Banagher in the Co. of Derry. The following are the names of the churches and towers of Clonmacnoise as told me by Patrick Mallory, a native of ^{the place} Clonmacnoise, on whose authority I can scarcely rely though he is very positive in his assertions.

1. The Cathedral. This is now popularly called Coghlan's Church, because it was repaired by Charles Coghlan, the Vicar, at his own expence, in 1647.

Mallory says it is the church anciently called Temple Mac Dermot, but why, he does not know. It would appear, however, from a passage in Macgeoghegan's translation of the Annals of Clonmacnoise that "the great church of Clonmacnoise" (the Cathedral)

14/10/14/21(1)

* Most Map of the County of Clonmacnoise must be carefully compared with the

(2) ¹⁶⁷of course) "was called by some, M^r. (Dermot's church."
"A.D. 1100 The shingles and the lower end of the
" wall of the "great church" called by some, Mac
" (Dermot's church, which had been begun by Cormac
" Mac Donnaboght, were this year repaired
" and completed by Flathuirtagh O'Loynsy."
Malloy says that this church was probably called
Mac (Dermot's church because a family of that
name had purchased a burial place within it.
He says that M^r. Petrie has ascertained this to be
a fact, but it sounds odd to me that the Catho-
-dral church of Clumacnoise should be called
after the Mac (Dermot's of Mayburg!

(3) Should we call this church "Cathedral or Macdermot's
Church" on the map?

Malloy looks upon this as the oldest church at
Clumacnoise, but I think ^{is} every part of it modern, with
the exception of one ^{may be round window} ~~small~~ window and a stone-roofed
chamber which it lights. Was this a ^{Peristyle} ~~dear~~ ^{theatre}?

2. Temple Ri or O'Melaghlin's church. I do not
understand how this is described in the field
Name Book:

"Temple Ri. It is the most northerly of the
" group of ruins commonly called the seven churches
" and

168 (3)

"and has the round tower called Mac Carthy's
"tower lying on its south side." II. p. 45.

This description was not obtained on the spot,
and Malloy says it is decidedly wrong. Temple-
-ree, according to him, lies immediately to the S.E.
of the Cathedral, and has the round tower called
Mac Carthy's tower lying on its north side
i.e. lying between it and Athlone.

This is decidedly the oldest church of the group, it
having been erected before the introduction of the
pointed or Gothic style. Archdall ^{takes it} to be the
church erected in 904 by Flann Siomna, King
of Meath, whence ^{he thinks} it was called Temple Ree.

~~Archdall~~ ^{he} speaks of it thus: "904. This year Flann
"Siomna, King, of Meath, and the abbot Colman
"Mac Aillealla founded a church of stone (Darmtraig)
"here, which was called the church of the
"Kings."

"904, On the 7th of February, the sage Doctor &
"abbot Colman Mac Aillealla, died full of
"years and honor; he erected the great church
"where the patron Saint lies interred."

14/10/14/21(11)

Chageagh, Citante Archdallo

(4) ¹⁰⁹ But I do not find any authority for calling this church Temple Ree but Archdall himself who probably inferred it from the circumstance of the church having been erected by the King Flannsianna.

The Four Masters record its erection thus:

"A.D. 904, The Daimhliag of Clonmacnoise, was
"built by the King Flann Sienna and by (the abbot)
"Colman Conailleach."

"A.D. 924. Colman, abbot of Clonmacnoise and
"of Clonard a bishop and sage doctor, died
"The Daimhliag of Clonmacnoise was built
"by him."

The 4 Masters do not say that this Daimhliag
"was called Temple Ree, and I fear that that
name is Archdall's own invention. Does
Connell, ^{Mageoghegan} say that the church erected by Colman
and Flann Sienna ^{in 904} was called Temple Ree?
I fear that the Daimhliag is still the
Cathedral. (N^o. I.)

170 (5)

Mr. Petrie has no objection. I would call this
Templee or O'Melaghlin's church.

3. Temple Kelly, lies ^{and by S.} East of the Cathedral, and is
now level with the ground. This was the house-
hold of the O'Kellys of Hy-Many.

Archdall states - upon what authority I know not -
that Connor O'Kelly, and the sept of Hy-Many
erected a church here in the stead of the
Hospital (Tear naíod) in the year 1167. Does he
take this from Magesoghegan?

4. Temple Kieran lies immediately to the East of the
site of Temple Kelly. It is a remarkably small
church. Molloy differs entirely from the name
Book as to the situation of this church: it is
described in the name Book thus: II. p. 44.

"Temple Kieran. It forms one of the group of ruins
commonly called the seven churches, and lies
" north of, and attached to the protestant church
" of the parish."

Who furnished this information? Molloy calls the
ruin attached to the protestant church of the
parish, Temple Honor!

14/D/14/21(m)

* testament church of the period
in Ardall's time

5. Temple Sauling is the most modern of the group. It lies to the south of the Cathedral. Molloy says that this was anciently called Temple Surpin, but why, he does not know. It was built or rebuilt ^{in the seventeenth century} and may be used as they please. I do not understand how the name books have been manufactured as far as regards these churches, but am confident that the descriptions were not written by one who had examined the place. G? Were not these descriptions taken from Ware's map of the Cemetery of Clonmacnoise, the north being, in every instance, mistaken for south?

6. ^{Resty Finghin} Fineen's church lies to the north of the Cathedral and at the boundary wall which envelopes the Cemetery. It has a round tower attached to it which, Molloy says, was erected by Finghin MacCarthy, prince of Desmond. Can there be any truth in this? If there be, what is the meaning of the following passage which occurs in the Annals of the Four Masters, and of Tigernach at the year 610
"a German, who had spent one year over Loch Finghin & died on his pilgrimage at Clonmacnoise, this year."

172 (7)

The well of Tobar-Finghin is still in existence, near
the tower, on the brink of the Shannon, but
now covered by its ^(the Shannon's) waters. This well is believed
to have taken its name from the same Fincen
from whom the church and tower have been
named. If he be Fincen Mac Carthy, why
should the well be mentioned under the name
of Tobar Finghin so early as the year 670?

It ^{may} be answered, that the Four Masters would
have given it that name by prolepsis; but
^{then} Tigernach would not. Did not Tigernach
flourish before Mac Carthy (Finghin) was
born?

Who was the Finghin from whom the well had
the name of Tobar-Finghin so early as the
year 670?

This church is mentioned in the Chronicon Scotorum
at the year ?

" A great storm happened in this year, (the greatest
" ^{donn fásicap fés na fámh} that had occurred in those times) by which the
" great Oak of Regles Finghin at Clonmac

14/10/14/21 (14)

8) 173
noise was prostrated."

I have no record whatever of Finghin Mac Carthy from any of our Irish annals. I believe the Registry of Clonmacnoise says something about him but this Registry is ^(15th century) modern and evidently a fine specimen of monkish imposture.

This church, of which one beautiful arch remains, I would judge, to be an erection of the 11th or beginning of the 12th century, and the round tower attached to it, not older. They are evidently coeval, and adapted to each other.

7. O'Rourke's tower. This is the large tower of Clonmacnoise and lies ^{immediately} outside the wall which encloses the cemetery to the N. W. of the Cathedral. I have no historical record to show why tradition calls this after O'Rourke ^{Mr. Richard Monck}. A very sound scholar - an old friend of mine now living at Banagher, who has seen the greater part of the round towers of Ireland, does not believe this tower to be older than the 11th century. it being, in his opinion, four centuries more ^{younger} modern than the tower of Raperea. O'Brien might call him the champion of modernization in earnest!

174 (9)

I find no reference to the existence of a round tower at Clonmacnoise - nor is there any reason for supposing that there ^{ever} had been any - previously to the year 1124, when O'Malone, the Coarb of St. Kieran finished the erection of the Cloictheach.

1124, Forbas cloicthe Cluana mac nosp pp, O'maoileoin comfba
Crapuin,

"The ^{completion} finishing of the Cloictheach of Cluanaensis
"by O'Malone, Coarb of Kieran."

"1135 The cap (Benn-coner) of the Cloictheach
"of Clonmacnoise was knocked off by lightning"
Dr. O'Sullivan thinks that O'Malone only repaired the
cap of the tower this year; but the verb forbas
forbas signifies to complete, finish, end and not to repair as in
these instances rap b'forbas a paogal - after ^{i.e. spending} finishing his
life; rap b'forbas na hoibne, after finishing the work."

No argument can be brought forward to ^{show} prove that
this tower is older than 1124. but it is probable
that it was often repaired since the year 1135,
when its cap was struck off by lightning.

14/10/14/25 (v)

175
(12) Does not the Registry of Clonmacnoise state that this tower ("Castlelike steeple") was erected by or at the expence of O'Rourke, prince of the Breifnyg?

There is extant ^{a nice little} a poem composed by Erard Mac Coisi in lamentation of the death of Fergal O'Rourke who was killed in the battle of Clontarf ^{in 1014}. Mac Coisi represents himself as prostrate on the royal tomb - "the flag of the Kings" on which gold was glittering. If there be any historical truth in this poem, the O'Rourkes must have had a tomb at Clonmacnoise long before the round tower was erected by O'Malone

(13) Does Mr. Petrie believe that the larger tower of Clonmacnoise is the one which was ^{ed} popb^{ed} by O'Malone in 1124? If it be, why, does he think it was popularly called after the O'Rourkes?

- 8. The Eighth ruin is called Temple sponsor. It is attached to the modern Protestant church, and does not appear ^{very} ancient.

176 (1)

I have no record whatever of the history of this church - but I believe it is mentioned in the registry of Clannacraige, of which Mr. Petrie has an abstract. This is called St. Kieran's church in the name Books, but Patrick Malloy, the local historian, who has got a good sound head ^{of his own}, and who seems to be a man of veracity, calls it Temple Óláin.

Ware shows ten churches on his map of the Cemetery of Clannacraige, but eight only remain ^{to this day} - that is seven churches, and O'Mahony's tower, to which, it is probable, a church was anciently, and, probably, to a comparatively recent period, attached.

At the years 947 and 977 reference is made in the annals of the Four Masters to a church called Cachais Beg, i.e. the little church, but I have not been able to identify it.

At the year 1080, reference is made to Crois na Sreaptra, the Cross of the Scriptures, which seems to have been a church in the form of a cross. Not identified. Malloy never heard of it.

14/10/14/21 (VI)

(12) 177

At the year 1026 reference is made to a causeway or Pavement extending from the garden of the Abbeys to the carn of the three crosses.

This can still be traced; the carn has disappeared, ^{but} the three crosses remain, two in good preservation, but one mutilated.

At the year 1087 Mageoghegan (citante Archdall) records that "the abbot Connor mac Connambagh" did purchase for ever Isill Cieran or the "hospital of St. Kieran from Donnell mac Flayn O'Melaghlin, King of Meath."

Molloy never heard of a place at Clannacnoise called Isill Chiarain. Is it possible that

Mageoghegan is right in making Isill Cieran the hospital (the Teach naoidheadh) of Clannacnoise? It is stated in the Book of Lecan that the great grandson of Maine prince of Teffia (in which territory Clannacnoise was situated before the Dalcassians tribe afterwards called Mac Coghlan established the territory of Deluin Cathra,) granted Isil Chiarain for ever to God and Saint Kieran.

178 (13)

And I always thought, and do still think, that Isil Chiarain was a tract of ¹⁷⁹⁰Low lying country belonging to Clonmacnoise. What could be the meaning of the abbot of Clonmacnoise purchasing the Hospital of Clonmacnoise from the King of Meath? If the Book of Lecan be right, Isil Chiarain was maine to the abbey since the time of ⁶⁰⁰great grandson of maine; how then could the King of Meath have any claim on it? We have already seen that O'Kelly's church, occupied the site of the Teach n. aoidheadh or Hospital of Clonmacnoise; but I do suspect that ^{it} is a blunder of Archdall's or Mageoghagan's, to make Isil Chiarain the same as the hospital ^{house} of Clonmacnoise. Perhaps Mageoghagan wrote or intended to have written, Isill Bieran or the hospital lands of Clonmacnoise?

‘I am wearied with conjectures.’

14/10/14/21 (vii)

(14) 179

At the years 1135 and 1205 reference is made in the
annals to Tron an Abbard, the Fort of the abbot. This
is most probably the fort within which the old Cas-
tle of Clonmacnoise stands; ^{at least} I do not see any
other feature with which it could be ^{at all} identified.

A. D. 1135 On Easter day in this year, the town
of Clonmacnoise with the Church of Mo-
nagh O'Diuffie, and the place called Liscam-
^{both} abbey were all consumed by an accidental fire.

A. D. 1205, This year forty seven houses ^{Chageoghagan,} were destroyed
by an accidental fire in the place called
Liscam-abbey in Clonmacnoise."

Chageoghagan.

Archdall states on the authority of the
Annals of the Island of all Saints that
a Castle was erected by the English at
Clonmacnoise in 1214. This Castle is now
to be seen in ruins within a kind of Dun
or Rath, which I take to be the Tron an Abbard.

of the Annals.

It would appear from passages in the annals of the Four Masters, and Mageoghagan's translation of the Annals of Clonmacnoise that a nunnery was established here at an early period:

"A. D. 1026. The causeway from the Garden of
"the abbess to the Carm of the three crosses
"in Clonmacnoise, was made by (the abbot)
"Breasal Conaille." 4 Masters.

1190 "A. D. 1170. Derworgilla, the daughter of Moragh
"O' Melaghlin, King of Meath, and wife of
"Siernan O'Rairke repaired the church of the
"Nunnery of Clonmacnoise." Mageoghagan

some
blunder
here by
Archdall!!

1180 "A. D. 1180. The church of the Nunnery of
"of Clonmacnoise together with the houses
"in the ^{Refectory castle} Church yard were consumed by an
"accidental fire." Mageoghagan.

Molloy points out the ^{ruins} ~~site~~ of this nunnery to the
14/15/14/21 (VIII) the

(16) 1871
The N. East of the Cathedral; the Clackan or
paved way can be traced from the one to the
other, which is a curious corroborations of the
Annals.

The other features, which ought to be marked
on the map, are the ^{two} wells, Tober-Kieran
and Tober-Fineen; the ^{one} ~~former~~ lying in
a field to the left of the road, as one goes
from Shannon Bridge to Clumacraise,
within about 1/2 mile of the latter, and the
other lying on the brink of the Shannon
or opposite Fineen's tower and Church.

The Castle of Kachra, which is mentioned
by the Four Masters at the year ?
was situated on the east side of the
Shannon, near the Bridge of Shannon
Bridge, but not a trace ^{visible} of it ^{is} now visi-
-ble.

182 (17)

The other names of ancient features in this parish will be found in the field name book

Of the signification of the name Clannacrois

Valancey, and the other Triumviri of Irish history have asserted that Clannacrois signifies "the resting place of the sons of the chiefs" and Dr Charles O'Flaherty, who has procured immortal honor, fame and glory for his ridiculous translation of the first part of the Irish Annals of Ireland, has subscribed to the same derivation. Are we then to believe that this Church had not ^{the} name till ~~the~~ it became a celebrated burial place long after the death of St. Kieran*? The first name of the place was ^{dorsum Tibradi} Drum Tibraide, from Tibrad, King of Connaught, A. D. ? and according to the Annals of Inishfallen it received the name of Clannacrois from Crois Maccaidh, King of Connaught. The oldest form of the name, 14/10/14/21 (ix)

* May it not be called Clannacrois long before St. Kieran built his little Church in it? Surely it may.

(18) 183
However to be met with is cluin mao noip, (which seems
the true name) and signifies the Cluin of the
Duine of Nois. Now to refute the Triumviri, whom
I call the broadskins: Cluin does not mean a resting
place, in the sense of tomb, grave or burial place
nor in any other sense, unless one wishes to rea-
son away every meaning of the word. by saying that
the stork rests upon the stern! Cluin is simply,
and in a compound state, the name of ten thou-
-sand places in Ireland, but most certainly
these are not resting places, grave yards, or
or tombs, but insulated spots, or Bog islands,
sometimes, no doubt, by chance containing
churches and grave yards, but not in
one instance out of six hundred. There are
24 Cluain in but each in Roscommon, and, if
one of them happens to have a church yard
upon it (which is really the case by chance)
are we to infer from this that Cluin means
a Church yard, practically "a resting place"
i.e. a place where one rests when he has

1844 19
got tired of his life! There are twenty four
Chuains in Inath-minghe, ^{kings country} none of which
contains a church yard, or place of rest
for the faithful departed; whence then
have they all gotten the name Chuin or
resting place? ^{may prop. open} They are all ^{fertile} Bog islands
and may ^{perhaps} have received the name of Chuin
or resting place from the lazy inhabitants
of offaly, who rested upon them, after
having been tired from the toils of pre-
-datory excursions! But all this is to no purpose.
Chuin is not a resting place; muc is not
a son, and nois is not "of the chiefs! What
then did the Triumviri mean? They meant to
humbug! Chuin muc noises signifies the
Chuin or Bog island of the pigs of Nois
and this will be believed as soon as men are
able to lay aside their romance, and think
soberly upon the real nature of names &
history. Chuin-muc-nois and its waddy
14/D/14/21(X)

20 May 1855

had many a herd of pigs before Saint Kieran
or his cemetery ~~had~~ existed, and the name has
nothing to do with church or resting place

Resting place of the sons of the chiefs, sounds
a very fine explanation of the name of this
place, ^{and is, therefore, sure to be wrong.}
~~but~~ when one ^{looks} into it, what
does it mean? Was ^{this place} ~~it~~ not the resting place
of the chiefs themselves as well as their
sons?

The name is now pronounced on the ^{the resting place of the son of Rosa} Carranagh
side of the River Cluan no Róip - a form which it
would puzzle the devil himself to account for;
but one who is acquainted with the dialects
^{i.e. the Celtic} of the Irish, will at once see the process of the
change, thus

Cluan muc nóip
Cluan uc nóip, by aspirating the m, and sinking it then
Cluan u-c nóip

Let ^{n. after c. being always pronounced like} ing in Conn's half in deals.

your obedient servant
John O'Donovan

Of the Inscriptions at Clonmacnoise

Archdall writes: "There are several old monuments
 " in this church on which are inscriptions said
 " to be partly in Hebrew, and partly in Irish."
 And again: "Before the west door stands a large
 & old cross of one entire stone, much defaced by
 " time, on which was some rude carving, and an
 " inscription in antique and unknown characters."

Sir Charles Coote improves on this, and writes: "Many
 " stones are found (meaning at Clonmacnoise) with cha-
 " racters of various workmanship, and bear inscrip-
 " tions of the Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Irish tongues."

Journey of the King's Co. p. 115.

Nearly the same words are repeated by Seward, Carlisle
 and all the rest of the minor fry of Irish scribblers
 who are all to be excused as they only copied the
 account from Archdall: but it is astonishing to
 find the Registry of Clonmacnoise, as translated
 by Mac Firdibbes referring to similar inscriptions.
 It states that ^{an account of} the tributes due to St. Kieran was
 to be found inscribed on the stones in the Cemetery
 of the church in Hebrew ~~Greek~~ characters! 14/D/14/21(XV)

(22)¹⁸⁷ I think that this reference to an account of dues, written in ~~Greek~~^{Hebrew} characters, is a piece of imposition on the part of the ecclesiastic who enlarged and remodelled the life of St Kieran in the 14th or 15th century, for the purpose of throwing dust into the eyes of the chiefs, who perhaps wanted to have the history of those dues investigated. How far the monks of Clonmacnoise may have forged documents of this description for the purpose of terrifying the Irish chiefs, I cannot take upon myself to assert, but I can state upon the evidence of an original MS. that the monks of Fenagh in the Co. of Leitrim, had recourse to the most audacious fabrications to frighten ^{like Mac Rannall, O'Farrell &c.} the Conmaicnians, to obedience, ⁱⁿ The following story about Carbery Brow, and the spirits of King Maelseachlainn I, will go far towards proving that the ecclesiastics of Clonmacnoise were not backward in inventing stories to touch the minds of Kings with an idea

of the importance of their own prayers
and of the advantages, which Kings derived
from being interred at Clonmacnoise. It
is translated by Colgan from the Scholiast
of Kenney.

" There flourished, at Clonmacnoise a renowned
" bishop named Garbry ^{Crom} Curragh, who was the head
" of religion almost of all the Irish in his time.
" It happened ~~one time~~ ^{at prayer time} as he was ~~engaged~~ ^{one day},
" in his church after Vespers, that he saw a certain
" figure appearing and standing before him, in the
" blackest ^{species} form; and that in this form he had a
" a bright circle around his neck, and that he
" was clad with his ^{shirt?} indusium only, which wanted
" one sleeve.
" To whom the holy man said; who art thou? I
" know thee not. He replied; I am a spirit. What,
" said the Bishop, hath blackened thee thus.
" The multitude of my sins, and the severity of
" my pains. Were not, - said the Bishop, prayers
" offered for thee? And hadst thou not ^{spiritual} friends
" among the clergy while living? It would,

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replied he, have profited me more to have
been interred at Cluain-mic-nopia, than
what they have done for me; for I will appear
at the day of Judgment according to the in-
tercession of St. Kieran. It is wretched, said
the Bishop, if thou hadst not a confessor, or
spiritual director, by whose ^{guidance} direction, thou couldst
have done good works! I had, said the spirit,
a confessor, a priest of the clergy of Cluain.
but I have not complied much with his direction,
excepting that I took care to have a gold
ring made, which I bestowed upon him. But
what has this availed when I am now tormen-
ted with excruciating tortures. Wo to the man,
who has put on flesh, and who has not a spiri-
tual director to guide him to do good works! To
what purpose these words said the Bishop (i.e.
what dost thou mean by all this?) Is it that
thou hadst the means to do good works? Ah!
wo, wo to me, my Lord Bishop, said the spirit, I
am Malachy (grandson of Dunchadh, by his son
Malromy.

"a Maloney) King of Ireland, who wanted not
 "the means to do good works. Oh, 'wretchedness'
 "said the Bishop, in what state is the priest,
 "who was thy confessor? have ~~not~~ ^{not} also profited
 "nothing? He, said the King, is punished with
 "great torments, and the ring which I bestowed
 "him, surrounds his neck like ^{as} a circle of fire.
 "He can, alas! be of no succour to me, being himself
 "in the above state. And why hast thou also, says
 "the bishop, that bright circle around thy neck?
 "This, he said, is the reward and pledge of the
 "ring, which I gave unto the priest. But why, said
 "he, art thou clad ^{with} ~~in~~ such a garment? The
 "King replied; On one occasion, certain scholars
 "of this church came unto me, suppliantly requesting
 "that I should provide a certain poor and half
 "naked student, whom they brought unto me, with
 "a covering of his nakedness; and I (not having
 "at hand aught else wherewith to succour him),
 "ordered the Queen that she should take care that
 "a certain precious garment of my garments should be
 "given him. And this is the cause of my being covered
 "with ~~thy~~ such a garment as this. But what is

14/10/14/21 (XIII)

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"the cause of thy appearing in this manner, said
"the holy man. The King answered; when a short time
"since I was tortured in the air among the Demons
"who were flagellating me on every side, I heard the
"sound of your psalmody, praising the Lord of Lords
"by which the demons were hence dispersed and ban-
"ished through the air, for the malignant ^{evil} spirits
"cannot remain in any place, whether on the earth,
"or in the air, where they hear your psalmodies.
"After this colloquy, the King said; Oh! wo, wo, unto
"me! I must now return to the same tormentors!
"But I would return ~~thee~~ some remuneration for so
"a ^{short} small a relief, shouldst thou be pleased to ac-
"cept of it. On one occasion, when I went to
"Dublin to engage the Norwegian enemies, I re-
"ceived among the spoils, one hundred suncaps
"of gold, and one thousand suncaps of silver,
"which I hid in a certain place in the earth
"and I ^{afterwards} caused one of my servants, who was then pre-
"sent, to be put to death, lest he might reveal unto
"others where this treasure was, or take it away
"himself. This money lies there to this day, no one
"living knowing where; but I will point out the
"place

192 (27)

"place unto thee, and dispose of the money as thou
"likest. I protest, says the holy man, that I will
"not accept a ^{large} gift from one, to whom a
"minor one, which he granted during his life, has
"profited nothing; and therefore I absolutely re-
"fuse to accept of thy treasure. The spirit then
"evanished, ^{moving} hawking and saying; wo, wo unto him,
"who doth not good works, while the time of doing
"good is granted him.

"After this the holy man assembled the priests
"of his church, who were twelve in number, and
"deplored the misfortunes related unto them the
"whole story, and he requested that they would
"cooperate with him in prayers and intercession
"that the King and his confessor might be
"liberated from such great torment. They an-
"swered that the Bishop should undertake to
"release the King, and the priests their fellow
"priest, from pain. This was agreed upon; and
"to this end prayers and fasts were enjoined.
"After they had persevered in this for half a year,
"the King appeared unto the Bishop again, pre-
"sented a figure, bright and splendid from the
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“but the other half dark and black. And when
“the holy man asked him what state he was
“then in, he replied that he was better; but still
“that he was inflicted with such punishments, as
“to be placed on the top of a certain tree over
“the horrid precipice of a subjected abyss, with-
“out quiet or intermission from the blasts &
“colds of the winds; and that it is wonderful
“that there should be any one among those, who
“were sent to suffer (Purgatorial) punishments
“(be they ever so small) in the other world, who
“would not imagine himself tortured in hell.
“Having spoken these words he disappeared.

“But the holy man persevered in his prayers, and
“fasts to the end of the year. And when the year
“was completed, while he was praying alone in the
“same place, the same spirit appeared to him the
“third time, ^{now} in a bright and beautiful form; and
“knowing that he was the King just mentioned
“who appeared thus, he asked him what state
“he was then in. He answered that he was now
“in the best form state, and would presently
ascend

" ascend to Heaven in a beautiful and brilliant
 " form, and that the priest, his Confessor,
 " would follow him on the next day. And
 " when the man of God asked, why he should
 " not rather accompany him, he answered: that
 " that the excellency of his merits and prayers
 " above the merits and prayers of the priests
 " who interceded for this Confessor, was the
 " cause of this anticipation. Then the King
 " returning him thanks, and blessing him, ascend-
 " ed to Heaven before his eyes.

This Carbury Crom died on the 6th of March in
 the year 889. This story - which was Gospel in its
 day - was evidently written in comparatively mo-
 -dern times to draw the attention of the nobles
 of Ireland upon Clonmacnoise; for the King
 says, or is made to say, "it would have profited
 " me more to have been interred at Clonmacnoise.
 " &c. for I will appear on the last day according
 " to the intercession of St. Kieran". It was, no doubt,
 much in favor St. Kieran's favor to have this ac-
 14/D/14/21(XV) Know

(30) 195

acknowledgment from the spirit of Malachy I, who drowned Turgesius and freed the Irish from the thralldom of the Danes. It is heresy in me to attempt to impugn the veracity of this narration, which gained so much honor and profit for the Burial ground of St. Kieran, and I therefore do not attempt to pronounce it a pure fabrication. It might have been a dream of holy Carby, which was enlarged and put in the shape of a real occurrence in after ages.

But the Registry of Clonmacnoise as translated by Dudley Mac Firbisse for the use of Sir James Ware states that St. Kieran obtained from God that no soul that had inhabited any body interred at Clonmacnoise should be damned! and this is believed by the untaught peasantry of the neighbourhood at this day. This ^{belief} raised the value of ^{the} Church yard to any price the ecclesiastics thought proper to demand, for as it ensured a post-mortem salvation, its clay was more valuable than gold itself,

This audacious assertion of the remodeller of the life of St. Kieran, induces me to think that his reference to ^{Hebrew} ~~Greek~~ characters on a stone in

196 (31)
the church, ^{yard} is a fabrication also. There is no
ancient ~~Greek~~ ^{Hebrew} inscription to be found any
where in Ireland, and there is no probability
that the dues of St. Kieran. such as the prices
of graves according to the dignity of the body
to be interred, &c. would be registered in the
~~Greek~~ ^{Hebrew} language. Mulloy says that Mr. Petrie
has left no ancient inscription in this cemetery
unexamined, except one which has been thrown
up lately, and of which Mr. Petrie has got a
fac simile from Dr. ? But among Mr. Petrie's
collection, no Hebrew or Greek inscription is to
be found.

Mr. Monck, now of Banagher, the first who taught
me Irish, does not believe that the inscriptions
at Clonmacnoise are ancient, because they all
begin with OR DO, i.e. pray for. He thinks that
the ancient Irish did not pray for the dead, and
that therefore these stones must have been in-
scribed since the introduction of Papery by the
early English settlers. This I acknowledge is a
sound protestant argument; but it is no argument
to me, who have every evidence for proving that
the ancient Irish did believe in Purgatory, and

14/6/14/21 (XV)

(32) 19th as well as the Jews ^{we} did offer prayers for the dead. There, two flags in the church yard, one inscribed Suibne and the other Maolbrigde. Now Suibne was abbot of Clonmacnoise and died in 811, and Maolbrigde, was abbot of the same monastery, and died in 888. But Mr. Monck argues that it is not certain that the Suibne and Maolbrigde for whom these stones were inscribed were these abbots, or abbots at all; and he would argue from the nature of the stones that they could not have retained the letters from so remote a period. How would Mr. Petrie convert this sceptic in antiquities?

Your obedient servant
John O'Donovan,

END

14 D 14/22

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from T[homas] O'Connor, written from Banagher, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of Lusmagh parish, with particular reference to early church, castle and the origins of its place name.

16 January 1838

3p.

23 cm



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(1) 18 Jan 10

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Lusmagh Parish — Name of explained
Killmochonna townland — Old Church in
Killmochonna — Signification of
Lusmagh and Lurgan — Lusmagh — Mention of
by the Annalists at A.D. 1548 & 1557

Baile Mheg Ullachain of the Annals —
now Ballymacoulahan townland
in this parish

Castle of Beadan mentioned in the Annals —
Site of pointed out in Newtown
Village.

Bealach an fhothair occurring in the Annals —
now Ballahanaher — a townland
in the parish of Rinagh.

Bloghan townland — a Castle in.

Bloghanbeg townland — burying place
for children in —

The hillock (rising ground) on which it is,
is called Cnoc an drinabarn — Colis mortui.

(1) 22/4/22 (1)
14/4/22 (1)

Banagher January 16th / 38.

Sir, Lussnagh, which is now the name of a parish in the barony of Lifford castle, signifies 'the plain of the herbage' - *Carnpus herbicus* - (Lus. may signify a leek or any luxuriant herb with the Irish.) It is said by the people that Lussnagh is but latterly used as a parochial name; that Killmochonna was the former name of the parish. An old Church lies in ruins within a grave yard in the townland of Killmochonna in this parish. The name Killmochonna signifies 'the Church of St. Mochonna' - *Cella Sancti Mochonna*. This Saint may probably be noticed in Colgan, and must certainly be spoken of in the Calendar. Let these documents be searched, as I have no extract from them, relative to him or his Church, at present.

The Annals of the Four Masters at the Year 1548, record that 'Edmond a Páid pitched his Camp around the Castle of Peadan and remained there for eight days. Cormac Mac Loughlan, who was during this time within ~~and~~ the Castle was obliged to give hostages, and he and a Páid formed a Gossipred with each other. Not long after this, Edmond a Páid requested

14/D/14/22 (ii)

Mac Boghlan and the inhabitants of Delvin
 to accompany him on a plundering excursion
 into Ely; but this they refused to do, and
 Edmond became highly enraged and irritated,
 so that hostilities broke out between them,
 and O'Carroll and Mac Boghlan banished
 Edmond on account of his despotie and
 tyrannous Conduct towards them. They
 took the Castle of Bill-Comair, and
Ceann-Coraidh from him, and thus was
 he deprived of Delvin, after it had
 been for half a year, subject to his
 Command.

Now
Kincora
 a townland
 in Spheery
 alias
Killegally
 Parish.
 The Down
 Runway places
 a Castle &
 a mill upon
Kincora
 in Killegally
 Parish.

(-Cosby)

The Lieutenant and the English, at
 the instance of Edmond a Pair, made
 an incursion into Delvin, in revenge
 of his expulsion and burned and plun-
 dered from Bealach-an-fhothair
 to the Causeway of Ceann-mona, and
 also Baile-Mheg-Ullachain in Lus-
 -mhagh. And the same writers state
 at the year 1557. that 'The Lord Justice
 having heard the O'Conors of Ophaly, were
 at Meelick, he mustered an army to

banish them from it, and Conveyed Cannon
 to Athlone, and from thence to Meelick, while
 he himself led his army through Bealach-
 - an fhothair, and by Lurgan-Lus-mhagh.
 He afterwards took Meelick, and Breac-
 - Chlainn, slew Donogh, the son of Colla,
 together with others of the warders, and
 then ravaged and destroyed the en-
 -tire Country?

Baile-Mheg-Ullachain in Lus-
 -mhagh, above mentioned, is now Anglicised ^{obs: in the Down Survey, this is written}
Ballymacoulahan, which is the name ^{Ballin^c - Coolaghan}
 of a townland in the Western part of the
 parish of Lusmagh. The Castle of Peadan
 was entirely demolished. The Irish name
 Canlean an Peadam is as yet retained, and
 is commonly called in English
the Castle of Peaddan: ^{the site of which is pointed out}
 in the village of
 Newtown in this parish.

The erection of this Castle is ascribed ^{to Torlogh son of} ~~to~~ ^{Félin} Mac boghlan, Lord of Delvin Cathra, according to the Annals at the year 1520, where they record, that, 'Torlogh, the son of Félin Mac boghlan, Lord of Delvin Cathra, a sage in wisdom and learning, a man of prosperity and great affluence, and who had erected Caislen, an fheadain, and the Castle of Ceann-Coradh, died after having spent a virtuous life.' At the year 1540 it is related that James Age, the son of the prior Mac boghlan, was treacherously beheaded by Gedach A'Melaghlin in his own Castle viz. the Castle of Feadan, in consequence of which event, great mischief was done to the Country. Félin A'Melaghlin brought the Treasures and the English with him to Delvin, but did not take Feadan, and they returned to their respective homes, after having destroyed a great portion of the Country.

A.D.
 1548 - See what is said above at this year.

1557 The Castle of Peadan in Delvin Ethra was taken by a prisoner ~~and~~ who was confined there, and given up to Mac boghlan, and the descendants of Fergal, were expelled and their hostages hanged on Shrove Monday, being the first day of March.

Bealach an fhothair occurring at the year 1548 above cited, is now Anglicised Balla hanohar, which is the name of a townland in the Parish of Rineagh. It will be taken notice of, in the description of that Parish.

In the description of Lismagh Parish, in the Down Survey, it is stated that 'The improvement thereon is on the lands of Bloghan Gragh & Glanduff a Castle, and on Newtowne part of Corator another Castle'.

There is a Castle in Bloghan townland in this parish, which was, according to ~~trad~~ tradition, erected by — O'Madden, and is now occupied by Garrett O'Moore Esq^r.

14/12/14/22(111)

It is said there was a Castle in Glanduff townland; but there are no remains of it now. As to the Castle in Newtown, it is not known that there ever was a Castle there, other than that, ^{the site} of which, is above described as lying in Newtown village.

It is Curious to observe that among the several denominations of lands in the just mentioned description, there is that of Pedan, which does not exist now as to name, and also that of Newtowne, now the name of a townland. That on Newtowne, it is said in the description there was a Castle. That there is found within the townland of Newtown, the site of a castle called - the Castle of Pedan - by the people. From this it appears that Pedan was a subdenomination of the present Newtown: but Pedan is applied now only to the Castle, that was there.

It appears also that, as it is said in the Down Survey, there was a castle on Newtowne, and no Castle placed in Pedan which was a denomination of land at the time of the Survey being made, and as the castle found to have existed in Newtown, is called the Castle of Pedan,

it must be the Castle of Pedan, that the Down Survey notices, as standing on the lands of Newtowne, which name might have been formed from Wpcedon, Caislan being being omitted and the st. of the an being respected. Thus Mcadon (the st aspirated is not sounded in my form) the Mcadon might be made Newton & Newtowne, a very commonly used name, as pointing to the town in Glanduff.

In Bloghan beg townland in this parish, there is a burying place for Children. The hillock on which it is, ^{is} ~~is~~ Called Cnocan a mairtiam i.e. 'the hill of the dead'. Collis mortui

There was the Lus-mhagh, of which Purcell was baron, situated? Loeaghmore
G. Sheehy
Purcell was Baron of Luach-mhagh. Lac

Your obedient
Servant

J. O'Connor

J. A. Larcom Esq.
Jc Jc

END

14 D 14/23

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Banagher, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, topography and antiquities of the parish of Gallen, with particular reference to its monastery and churches.

17 January 1838

2p.

23 cm

RIA

Banagher January 17th 1838

Dear Sir,

I visited the old Monastery of Gallen now corruptly called Gillen and passed through the parish in various directions.

Colgan informs us (in Actis Sanctorum, p. 312) that the monastery of Gaillinn in Dealbhu Mac Lochlain, was created by St Canoc or Mochanoc in the year 492.

but of this original monastery of St. Mochanoc there is now no remain. At the year 49 the Annals of the Four Masters record that the Daimhliag of Gaillinn was burned. There are no remains of this Daimhliag either, for the present ruins of the abbey are in the pointed style which was not introduced into Ireland previously to the 12th century.

In the year 1003 the same Annals make mention of a Dearthach, or penitentiary, at Gaillinn, but I could not find any building now remaining with which it could be identified.

14/0/14/23(1)

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In the year 1519 the same annals record that a great war broke out in Delvin between the descendants of Fergal Mac Coghlan and the descendants of Donnell Mac Coghlan, during which James Mac Coghlan, ^{who was} the Prior of Gaillinn and the heir apparent of Delvin Cathra was killed by a ball shot from the castle of Chuin Damha. They also record that Murtagh, the son of Conor Mac Coghlan, who was prior of Gaillinn and Vicar of Liath-Manchain (now Leamanaghan) was treacherously slain by Torlogh Oge and Rory O'Melaghlin. In 1548, according to the same Annals, O'Melaghlin and Edmund Faye took the castle of Cann Coradh, and the Monastery of Gaillinn.

Sir John Coghlan in his last will and Testament, ^{dated 1590} granted to the Churches of Gaillinn Fuire (now Fuirne, Anglice Wheery) Tichparayn (Tisaran) and Raonach (now Reynagh) two Camps.

Archdall writes "Some emigrants from Wales founded a celebrated school here, from whence it acquired its present name." For this he

Mageoghegan. Which Mageoghegan does he mean? Connell or the Abbe? Can any authority be found for this, earlier than Mageoghegan?

In the parish of Gallem, in the townland of Clonowry, about 4 miles to the north of Banagher, stands the Castle of Clonowry the Clondownie of Mageoghegan. See his translation of the Annals of Clonmacnoise, note under the year 1289. Tradition says that this Castle was built by the English family of Bullen which is much to be questioned, as Mageoghegan makes it the seat of the Slight Ross Mac Loghlan. It is now in excellent preservation, and dwelt in by Captain Mullowney, who has an Observatory on the top of it.

In the townland of Killowry in this parish are the ruins of a church of considerable antiquity, but I have no record of it, nor is there a well or other monument at it to throw any light upon its patron saint or subsequent history.

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In this parish near the River Broyna is situated
the townland of Baila Mí Siadhail (Ballysheil)
which contained the residence of O'Sheil, the
hereditary physician of Delvin Eathra. In
the year 1548, as the Four Masters record
Cormac Mac Coghlan "plene the only son
of O'Sheil, the best physician of his age in
the territory;" and Niall O'Sheil and Hugh
O'Sheil were subscribing witnesses to the
Will of Sir John Coghlan in 1590.

Mry Niall O'raib

Mry dos O'ragail pranze,

Your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

END

14 D 14/24

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Banagher, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Leamanaghan (Lemanaghan), with particular reference to its church and the shrine dedicated to St. Manchan.

18 January 1838

2p.

23 cm

Included are related extracts from the Annals of the Four Masters.

Banagher January 18th 1838.

Dear Sir, This weather is very unfavourable to our researches, and we find it very hard to get on to our satisfaction. The next ^{season's} ~~year's~~ work will be dreadful (Mayo!) but more than two must take the field.

of the parish of Leamanaghan

The following passage in the annals of the Four Masters at the year 645 is the only record of the origin of this parish. I have yet seen.

"A. D. 645. The battle of Carn Conaill was gained by
 "Dermot, the son of (King) Aodh Slaine, over Guaire
 "(King of Canaught) in which the two Guan were
 "killed, viz Guan, the son of Euda, King of Mun-
 "ster, and Guan, the son of Connell, chief of Hy-
 "Fingint, and also Talamach, chief of Hy-
 "Liathain. Guaire was routed from the battle field.
 "On marching to this battle King Dermot passed thro'
 "Clonmacnaisse, and the congregation of St. Kieran

14/10/14/24(1)

(This parish, as also Kieran and others are mentioned in the Registry of Clonmacnaisse, of which I should have a copy in order to identify the lands mentioned.)

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** is all the lands included under that name.

"prayed to God for his success, and through their
"prayers he returned safe.
"After the King's return, he granted Tuaim n-airc, i.e.
" Liath Manchain, with its divisions of land ^{**} ~~to~~ as
" altar land to God and St. Kieran, and he pronounced
" three curses on any (future) King of Meath, if
" any of his people should take even so much as
" a drink of water ^{*} in it. And Dermot ordered
" that he himself should be interred there?"

Maegoghagan translates much the same account
from the annals of Clonmacnoise. It is thus
abstracted by Archdall:

"642, Dermot Mac Hugh Slaney King of Meath
" granted to this abbey in honor of God and
" St. Kieran the lands of Toymneriske now called
" Lyavanchan ^{lat. manichan} and to hold the same rent-free for
" ever."

* Should they attempt to take the slightest respec-
-tion there. The ^{Kings} chiefs when they set out on
their ^{congregat} Caphering excursions ^{often} compelled the monks
as well as the laity to prepare feasts for them.

We learn from a charter preserved in the book of Kells
that O'Melaghlin ^{had} three days Caigny annually in the
church of Sidraecan which he held for 20 ounces of gold.

At the year 664, the Four Masters record the death of St. Manchán of Liath, but the annals of Clonmacnoise, which are generally two and three years, and sometimes five earlier in their dates, place his death in 661.

Archdall after placing the death of St. Manchan, the patron of Lemanaghan under the year 661 which he took from Mageoghegan, adds under the year 694

"We find another St. Manchan of Leth, who lived after this year"! For this he refers to Colgan Acta, SS. p. 382. but the 694 there is only a misprint for 664, which is the date of the Four Masters, from whom Colgan had translated the passage. Archdall's mind was a remarkably blunt one (Archdall.)

"In 851 Flann, the son of Neachtathrat, abbot of Liath Manchain, died, (4 Masters)

"In 1205 Gillebrengyn O'Kochelly, abbot of Liathmanchain, died"
(Mageoghegan)
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In 1531 Murtagh, the son of Connor Mac Coghlan, Prior of Gaillim, and vicar of Liath-Manchain, was treacherously slain by Torlogh oge O'Melaghlin. (4 Masters)

The Annals also make mention of the shrine of St. Manchain, at the year:

This shrine is now preserved in the chapel of Meeldane in this parish, but they would not sell it for any money. ^{£400!} Mr. Petrie has a drawing of it, as I was informed.

The Liber viridis Midenpiz states that the old church of Lemanaghan was surrounded by a bog, ¹⁶¹⁵ then impassable.

The townland of Togher in this parish is the Tóchar Cinn Móna, mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters at the year 1548,

(1548) The Lieutenant, and the English, at the instance of Edmond Bage, made an incursion into Delvin, and burned, and plundered the Country from "Bealach an fhothair to Tóchar Cinn Móna (the causeway at the head of the bog)"

Dooy Delgan gives a life of St. Manchain? It is stated in the Book of Fenagh that Manchain was an intimate friend of St. Caillin, the executor of his Will, and his successor in the Abbey of Fenagh. He was the son of Ennasai, and his festival was celebrated at Liath-Manchain on the 24th of January. Tradition makes him a brother of St. Kieran, but this is not true. His well is still in existence (bearing the name of Tóchar-Manchain) in the townland of Liath-Manchain.

Your obedient Servant
John O'Donovan.

END

14 D 14/25

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Banagher, Co. Offaly, concerning the location and topography of the ancient territories of Dealbhan Eathra, Feara Ceall.

18 January 1838

25p.

23 cm

ill; map of the ancient territorial divisions of Munster Thadhgain, Dealbhna Eathra and Feara Ceall in Co. Offaly, indicating their churches, castles and settlements. Included are related extracts, notably from the 'Archivis Hospitiorum jurisconsultorum', the 'Annals of Clonmacnoise', the poetry of Seaán Mór Ó Dubhagáin and assorted Inquisitions.

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(1)

Tmállam tsméall ná póla.

Dear Sir,

Baragher, January 18th 1838,

My next task is to prove the extent of Dealbina Cathra, Mac Coghlan's country, which I trust I can do with considerable facility, because, as the Mac Cogh-
-lans retained a great portion of till so late as thirty years back, tradition is vivid and distinct as to the Castles which belonged to them. But I shall first collect all the written evidences which bear upon the subject.

1. Shane O'Dugan, who died in 1372 informs us that Mac Coghlan was chief of Dealbina Cathra

Máe Cochlán briedá de é a éloinn,
Rí Dealbina Cathra a loinn

(The Commentary on

2. The Etymology of Chengus Seide De places Ráthm Mochuda (now Rahen) in Dealbina Cathra. (p. 51.) But this is an error as I shall show presently.
3. The Annals of the Four Masters at the year 1548. place the Castles at Cann Coradh, ^{Headan} and the Monastery of Gaillinn in this territory; and state that the English

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plundered that part of it extending from Bealach
an fhothair to the Eagher of Cearn Mona, from which
it appears at once that the territory comprised at least
the tract from the townland of Ballaugh an oher in
the parish of Reynagh to that of Eagher in the
parish of Lemanaghan.

4. Cornell Maeghegan places Lomcolne ^{clone} O'Fyllathine, now
Lom-cluarn - Lumpclone in the parish of Gallen ^{in this territory} - he also places
septs of the Mac Coghlan at Leackagh (in the parish
of Lemanaghan) Clondownie (now Clonawney) and
Boynear.

5. Inquisition taken at Castle-gehill 23rd October 1612
places Esler Castle in the country or territory of
Delain Mac Coghlan,

6. Inquisition taken at Kilcormuck in 1617 finds that the
townland of Clongawry (now in the parish of
Reynagh) lies in the territory of Delain Mac-
Coghlan.

7. Colgan in Acta S.S. p. 382. places Kill-Colgain (now
a townland in the parish of Wheery) in the territory
of Deabhna Mac Cochlain; and in the life of St
Canoc he places the Monastery of Gailline in the dis-
trict called Delbhna Cathra by the ancients, now com-
monly Delbhna mhic Cochlain. See Acta S.S. p. 311. & sequen.

The tradition in the Country states that the following
~~following~~ Castles ^{&c} belonged to the great Maw Coghlan

1. The Castles of Cloulgan and Clammaoise in the parish of Clammaoise
2. The Castle of Lackaghmore in the parish of Lemanaghan
3. The Castle of Lemanaghan, *ibid.*
4. The Castle of Clonsung in the parish of Galen.
5. The house of Kilcolganmore in Wheery Parish.
6. Lischoony castle in Tiparan Parish.
7. Coole Castle near Ferbane village. Sir John Coghlan lived here in 1590.
8. Garrycastle, in Reynagh Parish, near Banagher.
9. Streamstown Castle in the same. The last Maw kept his mistresses here.
10. Fadden Castle in Lupmagh parish

From the situation of these Castles - and many other evidences it will be seen that Delvin-Eathra or Maw Coghlan's Country comprised the entire Barony of Garrycastle; but its exact extent will appear more clearly when I shew where it met Feara Beall or O'Molloy's country

The following Will of Sir John Coghlan who lived in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, will give one

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an
same idea of the Churches &c. in his territory.
It was drawn up by the curate of his Parish.

" In the name of God, amen! To all about to inspect
" the present writing the ^{Pastor} Curate of the parish of Tuire (Wherry)
" greeting in the Lord. We make known that, in the presence
" of us and of the undersigned witnesses, for this purpose
" specially called and requested, and for this purpose
" personally appointed, an ^{honourable} ~~honest~~ man, John Coghlan
" Knight, my parishioner, lying in the bed of sickness, infirm
" of body but sound of mind, weighing and considering,
" that the life of man is short upon earth, - that nothing
" is more certain than death, but nothing more uncertain
" than the hour, desiring to provide for the salvation of
" his soul and to arrive at the joys of eternal bliss, has
" made his will and last testament and arranged it in
" manner and form following.

" Imprimis he commends his soul to the Most High
" God his Creator, when it shall depart from his body,
" and his body to the worms of the earth, wishing it to be
" inhumed in the Church of the Blessed Virgin of Rao-
" nach (Reynaghs) Next he has willed and ordained all
" his debts to be paid formally, and discharged to the
" persons to whom they are due. Item, the said Testator
" has bequeathed,
" of the goods conferred on him by God, to the church of
" Cluain-mic-naig, for the health of his soul, a Cow. Item,
" to John, the son of Hugh, the priest, a Cow. Item to the
" churches

" churches of Galina (Gillens), Tuire (Wherry) Sackaragyn
 " (Tigaran) and Raonach (Reynagh) he has bequeathed
 " two cows. Item to the church of Lea manachayn (Lea-
 " managhan) a young cow. Item ^{he has bequeathed} to Margaret Donadi
 " four large cows, and four small ones. Item he has ordered
 " that Solomon Mac Egan should not be disturbed as long
 " as he lives in the half quarter of Cuil (Coole), thus
 " left him by his father Arthur. Item, he leaves the
 " Castle ^(of Coole) and the rest of the same village to the Lady
 " Margaret his wife as long as she lives unmarried, but
 " should she marry let it be restored to John Coghlan,
 " the son of Sabina ^{Saboin} (Sabbi) the daughter of Dalachan, as
 " is just according to the tenor of the intention of the
 " feoffment of all other feudal tenures. Item, he has granted
 " long since to the said John all his unbroken horses, steeds,
 " horses, plate, coats of mail, pots, and all his arms, flasks
 " and icepti, and all his other utensils made of tin, and
 " the great patena which he lately got by hereditary right from
 " his mother; which donations he now confirms to him.
 " Finally he has ordered that ^{these} his horses he gives to the
 " Lady Unina (Una or Winn) to wit, ^{G.} Falfrida, ^{gr. Sab} Negra, and
 " Runda. ^{Don} Item he has ordered that whatever ^{other} of
 " moveable goods, corn ^{in the blade}, cattle, and furniture he may have,
 " he divided into three equal parts, and given one part
 " to the Lady his wife, the other to his daughters ^{Róipín, Roscy} Ropina
 " and Dorema (^{Dorpeánn} ^{Don} Dolly) and the third part to John
 " son of the aforesaid, with six silver vases which are called
 " 14/14/25 (iii)

This John
 was his
 nephew
 Is it not
 strange
 that he
 would not
 mention
 his father's
 name?

names of
 the horses

+ get used
 in Donaghadee

6/22nd

^{turn dishes?}

^{silver cups}

in English ^{turn dishes?} Tonna, and with two ^{silver cups} Cyphe purchased and made in
his (the Testator's) own name; which eight vessels are not com-
puted in the division. Item, he has ordered that the profits
of four quarters tythes, which he lately had in farm
for five years, should be divided and given, the third part
to the aforesaid Lady (his wife) and the remainder to
the said John and his mother, and this with the usual
incumbrances. And for the ^{observance} performance of all and singular
the premises, the said Testator has nominated as his Execu-
tors Patrick Nagay, archdeacon of ^{Laonansen} Killaloe, John Cogh-
lan, the son of Sabina Dalachan, and Hugh Daly.
To which executors, for fulfilling all and singular the
premises, the said Testator has made over all ^{disposable} ~~and~~ ^{disposable}
his goods ~~where~~ ^{whats} ~~wherever~~ ^{wherever}, and wheresoever, revoking
every other will, if any has been by him made, and wishing
that this his will should receive confirmation in the
best way, made, and form ~~possibly~~ ^{possible} in which
it could and ought to prevail. In testimony of which
I Cormac Dalachan, ^{the} aforesaid Curate have affixed my
sign manual to the present Will. It was made in
the house of Solomon Mac Egan in the village of
Cuil (Coole) in the year of our Lord 1590. 10th July.

These underwritten were the witnesses at
the time of making this will

Cormac Dalachan, Curate
witness

Johannes Douis, a priest, Witness
I am Mall O' Shull, - I am Hugh O' Shull, a witness

It was proved by the oath of Hugh Dalachan. K K

Testamentum Joannis Cochlan militis.

[Ex Archivis Hospitiorum jurisconsultorum.]

[Contractions lengthened]

torum, con-
taining.
Not positively
Not in the
Copy a quo
too, you, ef, banus tum mente,
too as plan
as a pike staff
D.R.K.

In Dei nomine amen universis presentes
litteras inspectoris Curatus parochit de Guire, sa-
luten in domino notum facimus quod in nostra
presencia ac testium infrascriptorum ad hoc
specialiter vocatorum & rogatorum propter hoc
personaliter, constitutus ^{*onemo} honestus vir Joannes
Cochlan miles dominus et parochianus
murus joceus in lecto egritudinis ^(m) firmus corpore,
tuo, you, ef, banus tum mente, attendens et considerans quod
est certius morte nihil vero incertius ejus hora
cupiens providere saluti anime sue et ad
gaudia felicitatis eterne pervenire testamentum
suum ac suam ultimam voluntatem fecit
et disposuit in modum et formam sequentem.
In primis enim animam suam commendavit
altissimo Deo creatori suo dum de corpore exierit
corpus vero suum terre vermibus volens illud
inhumari in ecclesia beate Marie de Randa,
deinde voluit et ordinavit omnia sua debita
solvi formaliter, et restitui personis quibus fuerit
faciendum. Item dictus testator de bonis sibi a
Deo collatis ob remedium anime sue legavit
ecclesie de Cluain m^o mois vacam Item Joannis filio
Hugonis sacrifici vacam Item ecclesie de Galine

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Fuire, Techsarayn et Raonach, legavit duas
 vacas. Item ecclesia de Lea manchayn vacam
 juvenem. Item legavit Margareta Donadi 4 vacas
 magnas & 4 parvas. Item dixit Salamone Mc
 Rodagair non inquietari, quamdiu vixerit in
 semi^{tera}quarta de Cuil sibi sic relecta per ejus
 patrem Arturum. Item castrum et reliquam partem
 ville ejusdem quamdiu vixerit innupta Domine
 uxor sue reliquit et si nupta esset restitueretur
 Joanni Lochlayn filio Sabine ^{ingen Dalmachayn}
 ut justum est secundum tenorem intencionis
 fefamenti aliorum omnium feudorum. Item
 donavit quondam dicto Joanni omnes indomitos
 suos ^(L. d. d. d.) caballos ^(Costs of mail) equos ^(p. 10) des ^(p. 10) cos ^(p. 10) loricis ^(p. 10) ollas et
 omnia arma omnesque ^(p. 10) flascones et ceptos
 et cetera utencilia facta de ^(p. 10) stanno et magnam
^(p. 10) patenam quam habuit nuper ex hereditate
 matris quam donacionem nunc confirmavit
 suam. Tandem dixit suos equos dari Domine
 uxori. S. falfridam nigram & ^(p. 10) brundam
 Item dixit quidquid bonorum mobilium ^(p. 10) cladorum
 cattallorum et supellectilium ultra habuit dividi
 in tres partes equales et dari una pars Domine
 uxori alia filiabus suis. ^(p. 10) Gosene & Dorene
 tertia vero Joanni filio prænominato cum
 sex vasis argenteis que vocantur anglie
 tonna et cum duobus ciphis emptis et factis
 nomine ipsius que octo vasa non computantur in divisione.

* This John cannot have been his own son as he speaks of his mother as then living, and different from the Lady Coghlan, his father's wife. 9. was John a Bostons son?

Item dixit fructus & quartarum decimarum quas nuper habuit in firmam quingue annorum dividi et darii tertiā partem dictae Domine et reliquas dicto Joanni et ejus matris et hoc cum suis oneribus conductis et ad præmissa omnia & singula tenenda dictus testator nominavit executores suos Patricium Mogay archidiaconum Laonensem Joannem Cochlayn filium Sabine Dalachayn et Hugonem Dalen quibus executoribus pro præmissis omnibus et singulis adimplendis dictus testator obligavit omnia bona sua quaecunque & ubicunque revocando omnia alia testamenta si qua sunt per eum facta volens hoc suum robur obtinere firmitatis melioribus via modo et forma quibus valere potest & debet. In cujus rei testimonium signum meum manuale ego Cormacus Dalachayn prefatus parochus apposui huic presenti testamento. Acta fuerunt in domo Salomonis m^{ic} Adagayn in villa de Guil Anno Domini 1590 die vero 10 Julii

Cormacus Dalachayn parochus testis.

† wishing that this [first] present testament should obtain the strength of former
14/10/14/25 (J)

Hi infrascripti testes fuerunt presentes
tempore conditi testamenti huius.

Johannes as Douis. sacerdos testis est
M^r Mall o gal. M^r Ad opazail kranze
M^r ^[*] rot

Probatum de per juramentum Meyonis Dalz
unius executorum de comp^o q² est ejus
executionis testi Johanni filio dicti Johannis
M^r Bogham Rillo juve ^{re} p^ron.

[* i.e. Solomon M^r Adhagan]

Solomon Mac Egan was the Bishop of the district. Lod

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I have no document to shew when the Dalcassian tribe of Mac Coghlan, anciently called Dealbna Cathra, established themselves here. The first notice of Delvin Cathra occurring in the Annals of the Four Masters is at the year 890, when Scul, the son of Mac an was lord of Delvin. The first notice of the O'Slahillys, afterwards Mac Coghlan, in the same Annals is so late as the year 1134.

Does Mac Firbisse give any historical account of how and when the descendants of Fiacha Dealbhaadh obtained a settlement for themselves here to the East of the Shannon? Does he give Pedigrees of the different branches of the Mac Coghlan, or mention the names of their seats or Lands? Let the Books of Lecan and Ballymote be also consulted for any historical notices of the tribes of Dealbna Cathra.

Before this Dalcassian tribe had deprived the sons of Mainé, the son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, of a part of their principality, Tir-Mainé or Teffia extended Southwardly as far as the River Brosna, and before the Royal family of the O'Melaghlin were driven into a corner of Westmeath, that part of the Barony of Garrycastle lying north of the River Brosnagh or Brosna, and

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Brasnagh was cut off it.

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The name of this territory is still preserved in the Barony of Fercall, which sometimes goes by the alias name of Eglisk from a castle of that name; and though its retaining the name is sufficient to prove that this Barony was a part of the ancient territory of Feara Ceall, still the Abbe Mageoghagan does not place the Barony of Fercall in the territory of Feara Ceall but in that of Ely O'Carroll! and Archdall, who was able to decide nothing, places this Barony one time in Ely O'Carroll and another time in Feara Ceall. I shall copy his words:

" Ely O'Carroll, was first called Ely-riagh-dearg
" i.e. Ely the Royal, comprehending the Baronies of
" Clonlisk and Ballybritt and perhaps Eglisk,
" King's County. It formerly belonged to Munster
" and was O'Carroll's country." Nomen: Hile:
and again.

" Feara Ceall } O'Malley's country; King's Co.
" Fear Ceall } Baronies of Ballycanan and
" Ballyboy; perhaps also y.^e b. of Fercall, al:
" Eglisk." Nomencl: Hile.

Is it not curious ~~th~~ if the Barony which retaining the name of the territory should not be in the territory whose name it retaining? (vii)
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* Ely formerly belonged to Clunister
and Fearall to Meath.
See O'Flann, p. 349.

But how shall we prove that the Barony of Fearall
alias Eglisk was not in Ely of Carroll? Very
easily, thus: Fearall was in Meath, but
Ely of Carroll was in Clunister^{*}; ancient Meath
extended southwards to the River of Birr

Ó loc bódeirg go Droppa

O'n t-Sionnain roir go pairge. Keating

Therefore, as no part of Ely of Carroll was in
Meath, it comprised no part of the barony of
Eglisk, which lies to the north of the river
of Birr, and therefore within the limits of
ancient Meath.

2. The church of Drummullen was in Fearall,
(Usher) and on the very boundary of
ancient Meath (Keating). Now the church
of Drummullen is near the southern boundary
of the Barony of Eglisk; therefore the
Barony of Eglisk is not in Ely of Carroll.

3. The Leabhar Breac of the Mac Egan places
Kintty on the frontiers of Ely and Fearall.
Now Kintty is near the south boundary of the
Barony of Eglisk, (but in the Barony of Ballisbrit)

The two territories then met near Kinnity, and therefore the Barony of Eglisk could not have been in Ely O'Barroll. (See Sketch, p.p. 24, 25)

Finán cam cind Eogais ^{in confinis} 1 ccoicmch h e h 7
Percell, Leabhar Breac. fol. 9.

4. Another very curious corroboration of this is afforded by the extent of the Diocese of Meath, which is exactly that of the ancient Kingdom of Meath in this direction; that is, the Diocese of Meath comprehends that part of the King's County which was included in the ancient Kingdom of Meath. It runs southwards to the abhaime Chara or River of Birr, and so as to include the entire of the parish of Drumcullen, which was on the boundary of ^{ancient} South Meath and Munster.

Another exceedingly curious fact is that that part of the King's County lying south of Birr, which was anciently in Ely O'Barroll and in Munster is now in the Diocese of Killaloe. Hence we see that the ancient territorial boundaries are preserved by the ecclesiastical divisions. Thus, the boundary of the Diocese of Kildare with
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(6) ²³⁷ That of Meath preserves the boundary of Offaly with Feara Beall, and the boundary of the Diocese of Meath with that of Killaloe (Laonensis) preserves the boundary of ancient Meath with Munster and of Feara Beall - which was the most southern territory in ancient Meath) with Ely of Arrall, which was the most northern territory in ancient Munster.

5. But the most irrefragable argument to prove that the Barony of Eglisk was in Feara Beall is that Dr. Molloy holds a part of it to this day as a remnant of the principality of his ancestors, and John O'Malley, the Sugan Chief held Mount Henry in the parish of Eglisk till about 30 years since. We have now seen that O'Malley's Country of Feara Beall extended southwards to near Kinnity, to Drumcullen, and to the River of Birr, where it met Ely of Arrall, and that therefore it included the Barony of Eglisk or Fercall. It now remains to be proved how far it extended to the north, east, and west.

Colgan informs us that the monastery of Durrow lies in that district of of Meath commonly called Fera Keall

He tells us elsewhere ^{however} that Durrow was on the confines of Fera Kellia and Ely (Tr. Shan, p. 349) but this is so outrageous a blunder that it must be attributed to a mere slip of his memory or to an error of the press

see Triad Shan, p. 505.

In note (26) on the 3rd Cap. of Lib. I of Adamnan's life of Columbkille (Irish, Th. p. 339) he tells us that Dair-mag, or Darrow "lies in the southern district of Meath commonly called Fera-Keall."

Colgan, O'Flaherty and the Annals of Tighernach place the plain of Moylena in Fera-Keall.

See Ogygia, Transl. II. ^{211, and} p. 212,

See also Mageoghgan's translation of the Annals of Clonmacnoise at the year 1019.

"A. D. 1013. Murtagh Barry Calma took Malloye O' Moylenoye, prince of Ferkall from out the Church of Darrow and killed him at Moylena adjoining to Darrowe."

I have shewn in a former letter that Moylena is the name of a district in the Barony of Ballycowan, coextensive with the parish of Kilbride, and that Offaly in Leinster met Fera-Keall in Meath ^{met} here, all the parish of Moylena being in Fera-Keall in Meath, and all the Barony of Lomar Philipstown being in Offaly in Leinster. I have also shewn that the Diocese of Kildare meets the Diocese of Meath here.

Let us trace the boundary farther to the south:

In an old life of St. Colman Elo quoted by Usher (Primordia, p.) and by Colgan it is stated that Fiodh Elo now Lynally was in Fera-Keall.

The following are the words of the old writer as translated by Lanigan, vol. II. p. 303.

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Colmán Eloc returning to his own country (Meath) he
found King Eadgar son of Airmirech and several
other persons assembled among whom, were Columbkille
and St. Caineach. This was most probably in the
year 590 after Columbkille had gone from Drumceat
to visit his monastery of Durragh. It was proposed
to the assembly by Columbkille that a spot of
ground should be given to their relative Colmán
where he might establish a monastery. Eadgar
Delaine, who was present, said that there was a
large forest called Fidh elo in the district of
Fercall* in the southern part of his principality
where he might settle if he liked. Colmán accepted
of the offer, and said "there shall be my re-
surrection", and henceforth I shall be named
from that place". In fact he was surnamed
Eloc, and constantly called Colmán, elo, latinized
Colmanellus. To the monastery which he erected
there, and which became very famous, was given
the name Land-elo, that is the house or
Church of Eloc, now Linnally or Lynally in the
King's County (in the Barony of Ballycowan, and
4 miles south of Durragh").

I have already shewn that Offaly comprised all the Barony
of Geshill and that ~~the boundary of Leinster~~ Offaly
and the diocese of Kildare met the diocese ^{& Kingdom} of Meath here; and I now infer with certainty, that

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i.e. the boundary between the Co. Wick and Co. Dub.
the boundary of the parish of Lynally with the
Barony of Geshill was the Boundary of Feara Beall
with Offaly.

I have also shewn in a former letter that Pailis ni Maolmárad,
now Pailis (and Lough Pailis) on the mearing of the parish
of Killaughy and the Barony of Geshill, was in Feara,
- Beall.

The following passage in the Annals of Clanmac-
- nois as translated by Cornell Mageoghagan
will shew the extent of Feara Beall in this
direction.

"A.D. 1210, The King of England's deputy came
to Lynster and sent for the forces of Munster, who
came accordingly with Dannagh Carbreagh
O'Brien and marched with all their forces
to Killmagrann* in Feara, now called Kill-

* This is
the castle
and square
of the Battle
of Moylena.

- more, where they were met by Cormac Mac
Art O'Melaghlyn who discomfitted them,
where they left all their camp, horses, gold,
silver and other things to the said Cormac."

This Kill-more or great Wood of Feara Beall is referred
to in two Inquisitions, one taken at Philipstown on
the 3rd of Sept. 1632, and the other at Ilford on
the 26th of May 1632. and in another Inquisition
taken at Killigh on the 31st May 1664, the "Great
14/0/14/25 (x) was

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wood of Fercall is described as lying in the parish of Killaghy, barony of Ballybeg and King's County."

The name of this wood is yet retained in the town-lands of Coill mor (Kilmore) ^{and great wood} in the parish of Killaghy.

Hence it appears that the territory of Feara Beall was contemporaneous with Geshill in Offaly in Leinster as far as the South-Eastern boundary of the parish of Killaghy, where the three territories of Geshill, Doohy-Rogan and Feara Beall met, or ~~be~~ were contemporaneous. (see pp. 24, 25.)

To trace the boundary further to the South:

It appears from the Annals of Clannacnoise that the Castle of Ballybeg was in Feara Beall

"A. D. 1260, Carby O'Melaghlyn worthy prince for
"manhood, bounty and many other good parts was
"treacherously killed by David Roche in ^{at bridge & battle-stone bridge} Athboy
"in the territory of Feara Beall."

The Inquisition will also shew that all the parish and even Barony of Ballybeg was in Feara Beall.

The following passage in the Annals of the Four Masters will also give one a clear idea of the extent of Feara Beall in this direction.

1601 "O'Neill (after having crossed the Shannon at Ath Croch)
"marched forward through Delvin Mac Caghlán and

Feara Ceall ^{and} until he crossed the main chain (ridge) of Slieve Bloom into My-Cairin (Skerrin)

I have shewn in a former letter that ancient offaly in Leinster met the kingdom of ancient Meath and Munster in the mountain of Slieve Bloom at the western extremity of the Barony of Tinalinagh in the Queen's County, and that the diocese of Kildare meets the dioceses of Meath and Kildare at the same point. Hence I infer with perfect certainty that the territory of Feara Ceall which was the most southern part of ancient Meath, ^{also} met offaly and Ely O'Farrell at this very point. *

I have now traced the eastern boundary of Feara Ceall, and found that the east side of that territory comprehended the parishes of Burrow, Moylena (or Kilbride) Lynally, Killaghy, and Ballyboy, and I have also shewn in pointing out its southern boundary that it comprised the parish of Drumcullen, and that Kinitty was near its southern mearing. It now remains to be proved how far this territory extended to the north and West.

I have shewn in a letter from Westmeath that Kinelgiach or Magheaghegan's country bounded

14/10/14/25 (xi) its

* The old map of Feara Ceall and Offaly shewing
Feara Ceall and Offaly country immediately to the west
 of Gerhill.

it on the north east and that Mageoghagan's Country was exactly coextensive with the Barony of Mageaphel in the County of Westmeath; therefore Feara Beall extended northwards to the verge of the County of Westmeath. I have also shewn in a letter from Westmeath that Muintir Thadhgain, or Fox's Country, was coextensive with the Barony of Kilcoursey. Hence Feara Beall could not have extended farther northwards than the southern boundary of the Barony of Kilcoursey.

We learn from the Annals of Clonmacnoise, the very best authority on the subject, that the Church of Rahen was in Feara Beall.

"1131 Morthagh O'Molloye that succeeded as King of Ferkall was burnt by the family of Muntys & Lwaryn in the church of Rahen."

"1212 Donnell Mac Donnell breaghagh O'Molagh-lyn next in succession of Meath and Irish of Ireland, made a journey to take a prey from Meyler, was overtaken by Meyler himself, and great forces of both English and Irishmen, who killed the said Donnell with many others with him at the River of Rahen in ffercall."

Mageoghagan's translation

The Leabhar Breac or Speckled Book of the Mac
Egans places Nathain in the Territory of Delvin
Eathra, but the Annals of Clannacrossa are
a better authority and must be received & in pre-
-ference to the former. The Church of Nathin
however is close to the boundary of both
territories and may have been at one time
in the possession of the Mac Caghlan, but there
is every appearance, if not certainty that the
River Brosnagh was originally the boundary be-
-tween them in this direction. *

From the foregoing evidences, and from the follow-
-ing inquiries, it will appear that the ter-
-ritory of Feara Ceall, since the encroachment
of the Dalcaisian tribe of Deabhlua Eathra
comprized only the Baronies of Ballycowan,
Ballyboy and Farcall or Egligh.

14/D/14/25 (xii)

The Inquiries will shew that many townlands
lying in the present Barony of Egligh are in
the territory of Feara Ceall. Indeed the
O'Mallays seem to have retained property in
that Barony later than any of the others. John
O'Malley, the celebrated Sugaun chief not thirty years
dead, possessed ~~in Egligh~~ ^{in Egligh} in Egligh parish.

5000
* "Crotas Mathews posita est in media Hibernia in regione illi in Plate
a "Dicet. Feara Ceall." Vita Carthaci, quoted by Usher. Ann. p. 910, 911.
This agreeing with the Annals of Clannacrossa is decisive in the
subject. Both the Leabhar Breac is wrong!

[illegible]

The map is a hand-drawn representation of Ireland, divided into several regions. The regions are labeled with names in Irish and English. The regions include: 'Muintir Tadhán' (Muintir Tadhán), 'Muintir Tadhán' (Muintir Tadhán), 'Muintir Tadhán' (Muintir Tadhán), 'Muintir Tadhán' (Muintir Tadhán), 'Muintir Tadhán' (Muintir Tadhán), 'Muintir Tadhán' (Muintir Tadhán), 'Muintir Tadhán' (Muintir Tadhán), 'Muintir Tadhán' (Muintir Tadhán), 'Muintir Tadhán' (Muintir Tadhán), 'Muintir Tadhán' (Muintir Tadhán). The map also shows various rivers, lakes, and other geographical features. The text is written in a cursive script, and the map is drawn with simple lines and shading.

- [illegible]

O' McLaughlin's Country

Taogán

Kinel

Dealbna

am capleán Eirpéarach

Before the coming of the Saxons, the Saxons here, the part of the barony of Garrycastle lying north of the River Brosmagh belonged to the O'Garra.

Teaffia:

Caithne

Before the formation of the territory of Caithne, the territory of Caithne was part of the barony of Garrycastle and south of the River Brosmagh.

Caithne was part of the barony of Garrycastle and south of the River Brosmagh.

Caithne was part of the barony of Garrycastle and south of the River Brosmagh.

Caithne was part of the barony of Garrycastle and south of the River Brosmagh.

Caithne was part of the barony of Garrycastle and south of the River Brosmagh.

Ely O'Garra

in the country

The southern boundary of ancient Meath extended from Dublin to the Abhainn Rígha (Rye) and from the Abhainn Rígha westwards to Cluain a Coraich (Clancurey) and from Cluain a Coraich to the ford of the French Mill and to the confluence of the Boyne and Blackwater at Cluain Soraid (Clonard) and from thence to the Causeway of Carbury, and from the Causeway of Carbury to Craonach Geisille; thence to Drim Chuilin and to Birr, and to the River called Abhainn Chara, and thence to the Shannon.

Meath.

O'loc bo deirg 50 boppa, O'n 250ndm 70p 50 fapige, old part,

Caithne was part of the barony of Garrycastle and south of the River Brosmagh.

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(25) 247

This sketch of Feara Ceall is manufactured from Petty's engraved map of the King's Co. All the remarkable places referred to in history as lying in Feara Ceall, are laid down, in order that the eye may see at a glance how far the territory extended in every direction. If Archdall, Beauford, and the Abbe Mageoghegan had done the same, they would not have exposed themselves to the ridicule of posterity.

Fercall;

[from the Inquisition]

Castlegeshill 23 Oct 1612. (8/act)

The aforesaid Gerald late earl of Kildare &c. by an indenture dated the 8th of May 1607, devised to John, alias Shane Age Mc. Geige O'Molloy of Dury in Fearkeale in the Kings County, and Annabella my Woman of le Porte in the county aforesaid widow, all that the castle, lands &c of Eglish, Dury, Portlogh, & Adgoige, in the county aforesaid, to hold for the term of 41 years, as by the same indenture doth appear, the tenor of which follows in the original.

* * * * The aforesaid Gerald late earl and Rich^d Talbott, by an indenture dated the last of May 1609, gave to one Neile Moore & Annabella my Woman his wife, the castle, town and hamlet of Downes, le Porte alias Inchloughcurry with 1 cartron in le English de Moyanny called Ballynegellyne al Ballymenarge, with their appurtenances in Tomyanny.

14/10/14/25 (XIII)

in the territory of Fercall in the Kings County,
to hold for the term of 41 years as by the
same indenture doth fully appear, the tenor
of which follows in the original. — the aforesaid
Gerard late earl &c by indenture dated
1 May 1610, demised to Maurice Eustace
of Clongowood, the castle, town and lands
of Doughill, Ballincurre, Ballynconroe,
Ballincharde & Adzlasse in Fercall in
the Kings County, containing 3 cartrons of
land with their appurtenances, to hold for the
term of 21 years, as by the same indenture
doth appear, the tenor of which also follows
in the original. the premises are holden
of the king in capite, by ^{knights} military service.

[see followingquisition which ought
to precede this]

Phillipstown 3 Sept 1632 — (20 Car.)

Patrick Baron of Dunsany was seized of
the town and lands of Ballynalloghena
in the Kings County, containing 100 acres of

arable and pasture, Clonagh 49 acres arable & pasture, and 250 acres arable and pasture in Clonagh aforesaid and Mucklagh, and 50 acres of moor and wood in the great wood commonly called "the great wood of Percall" in the County aforesaid. Being so seized, ^{thereof} without obtaining the licence of the late King, by his deed dated 8th of Feb^r 1622, he gave the premises, among other persons, to William Lyons, as by the said deed the tenor of which follows in the original, doth appear; by the virtue of which, the aforesaid William was seized of the premises and died on the 16th of April 1633. — Chas^r Lyons is his son and heir, was was aged 16 years at the time of the death of his father, and not married. — The premises are holden of the King in capite, by Knights' Service.

ought to go before the preceding

Held 26 May 1632 (19 Bar. I)

Patrick Baron of Dunsany was seized of the town and land of Ballynas at Boillyna in the barony of Ballycowne in the King's County, containing 100 acres of fertile land and 20 acres of wood and moor, Clonagh 49 acres fertile, and 258 acres arable and pasture; 256 acres wood and moor in Clonagh aforesaid, and Mucklaghe in the barony and county aforesaid, and 50 acres of wood and moor in the wood commonly called "the greates woode of Kercall" in the aforesaid County; and by his deed dated the 8th of Feb^r 1622, without obtaining the licence of the King, granted the premises to William Lyons of Dughill in the afores^d Co. — all the premises are holden of the King in capite, by Knights' service.

252
(51.)

Phillipstown 3 Sept^r 1633 (24 Car. I)

Theobald Molloy was seized of the town and land of Pallice, whereof the hamlet of Ballyduffe al' Killmogonoge is parcell, containing 4 mesuages and 249 acres of arable and pasture, Ballyduffe 1 mesuage and 99 acres arable & pasture, Ballycore 1 mes' & 35 acres arable & past: Curraghmeelagh 1 mes' & 28 acres arable & Ballyferall 3 mes' & 66 acres arable and pasture, all which lie in the territory of Kercall in the Kings Co. and contain in all 508 acres arable & pasture and 139 acres of wood and moor. — Being so seized thereof, he died on the 3rd of June 1633. — Neale Molloy is his son and heir, and was aged 35 years at the time of his father's death, & married. — the premises are holden of the King in free and common socage.

14/2/14/25 (xv)

[

] (54 Court)

* * Laurence Parsons Knight, on the day on which he died, was seized of the town and lands of Carriggedmond and Cargindonell at Carrigdonell with the appurtenances, in the barony of English in the Kings County, and of 135 acres of arable and pasture, and 250 acres of wood and moor in Ballinlogg, Shillogg and Ballynea at Ballynea next adjacent to the town and land of Port and Doorus in the barony and county aforesaid, and of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the wood and moor of Drynagh, and of all the wood and moor of Derryfadda at Derrada & le Bargins in the barony and county aforesaid. — He held Carriggedmond and Cargindonell and the rest [of] the premises of the King, in free and common socage and not in capite, nor by knight's service. —

the aforesaid Laurence also, on the day on which he died, was seized of the town and land of Ardgooy with the appurtenances, in the barony of Eglishe aforesaid, and of the towns and lands of Shanvoly, Derrinloghy and Ballykelly al^t Ballykeely, and of 500 acres of wood and moor in the barony of Eglishe aforesaid. — He held the aforesaid town and land of Ardgooy and the rest of the premises of the King in free and common soccage. — the aforesaid Laurence on the day on which he died, was also seized of the manor of Newton in the territory of Ely O'Carroll, and the towns and lands of Newton and Ballineagowne with the appurtenances, and of 126 acres arable and pasture, 10 acres of wood and moor and 80 acres of mountain in Tullagh, Ballymacmorroghe, Ballywilliam & Clouny, 105 acres arable and pasture and 50 acres mountain in Roscomroe & Clashroe

14/12/14/25 (XVI)

next adjacent to the town of Newton aforesaid, and a court leet and court baron within the manor aforesaid. — He held the aforesaid manor of Newton and the other premises of the King by Knights' service. — the aforesaid Laurence was also seized of the castle, town and land of Ballybritt with the appurtenances in the King's County, from the feoffment of John Carroll of Clonyke, and he held them of the King by Knights' service, and of the castle, towns and lands of Ballindowne & Ballywilliam with the appurtenances in the Territory of Kercall, and he held, on the day on which he died, the aforesaid castles, towns and lands of the King, by fealty only, in free and common socage. — the aforesaid Laur' Parsons Knight being so seized, died on the 8th of Sept. in the year of the reign of the King that is now H. — Rich^d. Parsons is his son and heir, and was aged 17 years at the time of the death of the aforesaid Laurence, and was married to Anne Loftus, daughter of Adam Loftus of Rathfarnham in the Co. Dublin Knight, in his father's life-time.

Milligh 31 May 1664 (2 Car II)

James Griffith and Dermot Drigin were lately the proprietors of part of the great wood of Fercale in the parish of Millaghie, barony of Beallaghboy & Kings County, containing 200 acres. forfeited to the now King Chas II. by the late act of settlement, and now given in custody to one Tho^t Bourke. —

257
(37)

Townlands in the above Inquisitions,
identified with those existing at present.

Inquisition dated Castlegeshill 23rd Oct^r 1612.
(8 Jac: I.)

- 1 Durys in Pear Keale in the King's County.
- 2 Douras townland ——— in English parish.
- 1 Eglis —
- 2 English townland ——— in English parish
- 1 Ardgoize ——— (2) Argooga } townland in said parish
Ardhgoize }
- 1 Portlogh
- 2 ?
- 1 Castle, town and Hamlet of Downes.
- 2 - qu ? Ballindown townland in which was formerly
a castle. ——— in said parish.
- 1 Le Porte alias Inchloughcurry
- 2 qu ? Castle island on Loughcoura, on which are
the ruins of a Circular Castle ——— in said parish.
- 4 with 1 Cartron in le Eglishe de Moyannry Called ^vBally-
-negullyne al' Ballynenange with the appurtenances
in Comynnry in the territory of Percall in the
King's County.

14/11/14/25 (xviii)

- 2 Ballycollin townland } lie in English parish.
 &
 Boolleenarrig Big townland }

Moyanny and Tomnyanny are names of districts,
 which are yet to be ascertained as to extent.

- 1 Doughill -
 2 Doughill townland in Drumcullen parish.
 1 Ballincurre
 2 Ballincurra townland in English parish.
 1 Ballynroe — m?
 1 Ballincharde
 2 Ballincard townland in said parish.
 1 Ardglass in Parcall in the King's County.
 2 Qu ?

Inquisition dated Philipston 3 Sept. 1632. (20. Can.)

- 1 Ballyna al boglena town and lands of.
- 2 maybe Ballina townland in Raham parish in Ballycowan Barony, or Ballyna townland in Geshill parish in Geshill Barony.

- 1 Clonagh 49 acres arable and pasture.
- 2 This may be Cloonagh ^{townland} in Lynally parish in Ballycowan Barony or Cloonagh townland in Killelonefert parish in Lower Philipstown Barony.

1 Mucklagh —

- 2 Mucklagh townland in Lynally parish in Ballycowan Bz.

1 "The great wood of Percall"

- 2 ^{Muck 2nd?} Mough, or Greatwood in Killoughy parish in Ballyhoy Bz. - See Inquisi dated Killigh 31 May 1664 (2. Can: II. infra), where the situation of this wood is clearly laid down.

260
(40)

Inquisition dated

And 26 May 1632 (19 Car: I)

1 Ballyna al' Boillyna

1 Clonagh

1 Mucklaghe

1 Doughill

See last Inquisition
for these names.

Inquisition dated Phillipstown 3rd Sept: 1663.
(24. Car: I.)

1 Pallice —

2 Pallace townland in Killoughy Parish.

1 Ballyduffe al' Killmoghonoge

2 Ballyduff townland in Durrow parish
or Ballyduff townland in in Geshill parish.

1 Ballycore —

2 Ballycore townland in Killoughy parish.

1 Curraghmeelagh.

2 Curameela townland in Killoughy parish.

1 Ballyferral —

2 Ballyfarrel townland in Said parish.

Inquisition. [

]

^{29m}
(54 Car: I.)

²⁶¹
(41.)

1 Carriggedmond

1 Bargindonxell al' barrigdonell

1 Ballinlogg,

1 Shillogg

1 Ballynea al' Ballymea

1 Port

1 Dourus —

2 Douras townland in English parish. See Inquis.
(8: Dec: I)
supra.

1 Drynagh

2 Drynagh townland in said parish.

1 Derryfadda al' Derrada

2 Derryadd townland in ^{said} English parish.

1 Le barrageens

2 Corrageen townland in said parish.

1 Ard gogy

2 Argooga } townland in said parish
Ardhgoige }
See above.

14/12/14/25 (xx)

²⁶²
(42) 1 Shanvoly.

1 Derrinloghy

2 Derrinlough townland in English parish.

1 Bally Kelly at Bally Keely

2 Bally Keely townland in said parish.

1 Newtown in the territory of Ely O'Carroll

2 either Newtown townland in Killcommon parish, or Newtown townland in Roscomroe parish both which lie in this territory.

1 Ballinegowne

1 Tullagh.

2 Tulla townland in Kimretty parish.
in this townland stood Tulla Castle,
the site of which is said to lie in
the W. part of it.

1 Ballymacmorroghe

2 Ballickmurrage townland in
said parish.

1 Ballywilliam

2 Ballywilliam townland in English parish
See Letter of English ^{ph}

1 Clonyn

2 Cloneen townland in English Parish.

1 Roscomroe

2 Roscomroe townland in Roscomroe ^{ph}

1 Clashroe

2 Clashroe townland in said parish.

1 Ballybritt - Castle, town and land of.

2 Ballybrit townland in Aghamcon ^{ph}
Ballybrit Castle lies in it.

1 Clonlisk

2 Clonlisk townland in Killcommon
Parish.

1 Castle, towns and lands of Ballin-
-down and Ballywilliam in the
territory of Percall.

2 Ballindown and Ballywilliam
townlands are in English parish.
14/P/14/25 (XXI)

264
(44)

Inquisition dated Killigh 31 May 1664 (2)
(2. Car. II.)

- 1 great wood of Fercale in the parish
of Killaughie barony of Beallaghboy
and King's County.
- 2 ^{Much?} Mough or Greatwood ⁱⁿ Killoughry parish.

* ~~I know one man of this name - a native of
the county of Westmeath, who is as regular
looking a geeseach as ever lived. The
name is now Anglicised Hallion.~~

263
(45)

Shane O'Ugan in his ^{metrical} list of the chieftains
of ancient Meath mentions O'Malley thus:

Rí b'pear ceall na gclóiseam sean
O' maolmuid - paor an ploindeas
Ro paoinas gac lañ leiréan
Ran na donar aigeiréan.

"King of Feara Ceall of ancient swordp

"O' Mulmoy - noble the surname

"Each sword was ^{conquered} bent by him.

"He has a share to himself apart."

How different from this is the Bard
Rae's character of the Feara Ceall!

Feara ceall ag déanam nóir
Iy cúir marla d'ur m'ionóir
Gnát fearas ag fearas ceall
Ais h'allasó sacha habann!

Kenqu na n. aér.

What
does he
mean?

"The Feara Ceall observing their customs

"Is cause of scandal and disgrace

^{fermes}
"Flaying is in use with the Feara Ceall

"On the banks of each river!"

14/5/14/25 (XXII)

46
266)

I confess I do not understand what Sen-gus
O'Dauly Finn means here by fearas, a cus-
tom upon which he looks as a míonóp or
Barbarity. Is it what he means that
the O'Molloys were in the habit of
flaying cattle alive? It may be, but
I do not ^{I fear} think that Sen-gus was Arabian
enough to think that a barbarity. Does
he mean flay^{ing} their prisoners alive?

It is wonderful to me that he has not
attempted to lessen the ^{historical} ~~the~~ fame of O'Mullays
by dwelling on the fact of their ancestor having
been slain by a ^{Geocach} Beggardman in 1110.

" Molloys may boast of ancient swords
" of guards and hosts of warlike men
" But let him tell where were his horses
" In that sad year 1110.
" When Geocach Hallion, who to sword
" Was not accustomed ^{nor} to strife,
" Ranacked the fortress: mark my words,
" And choaked Gilcolumb and his wife."

The first notice of the territory of Feara Ceall which occurs in the Annals of the Four Masters, is at the year 839 when it is recorded that it, and the adjoining one of Deluin Chra were plundered by the King Niall Guille; and henceforward we find it in the possession of the O'Mallays, the descendants of Fiacha, the son of Niall of the Nine hostages.

The most extraordinary entry in the Annals of this territory is under the year 1110, when it is recorded that Gilcolumb O'Malley, ~~and~~ Lord of Feara Ceall, and his wife, were

* now
anglicized
Halluin ^{chief} killed ~~by~~ by the geócach O'Sillen*!

A geócach, was a professional Beggar, who traversed a certain district, which he called his territory: The geócachy were often men of great muscular strength, and there are instances in the memory of tradition of

14/10/14/25 (XXII) their

48/268
their having performed extraordinary feats of strength, though they most generally if not always pretended to have some impediment in their limbs, for which, as being MS. Igneara an cóimide, they claimed, ~~by right of said im-~~
~~pediment~~, tributes from a certain district and from the minor geócaichs of the same, of whom by the right of lamb laidir, and superior talent in the profession, they often made ^{and willing tributaries} subalterns. This impediment of limbs was however, most generally a pretended one, and a story is still vividly remembered of one of them who kept the old women in the south of the County of Kilkenny in awe for several years, and often defied the strongest men to a contest of strength. On one occasion a geócaich entered a farmer's house not far from Waterford, and finding that the farmer's wife was boiling a piece of beef, he sat down and told her, that he would not go till the meat was boiled.

269. (49)

that he might eat the whole of it. That's not fair, says the woman, I am bairn's this meat for my husband, who has gone to a fair and he promised to be home by this hour; so you had better take care of yourself as he is the strongest man in this country.

I know that very well says the Geóeach, and it is for that very reason that I wish to insult him as much as I can. Will you wait till he comes home, says the woman, he will be here before the meat is done. Be for I will says the Geóeach, and if he is able to put me down, I will say that I am no longer able to command the district. He put down till the husband returned, and when the Geóeach saw him he eyed ^{him} from head to foot, and cried out: I have come to eat this meat in spite of you; but I will first give you the fair play of fighting you for it.

14/5/14/25 (XXV)

50)²⁷⁰ Upon my soul then, says the farmer, you have very little chance of a bit of it, if you seek for it on these conditions. I will wrestle you for it, says the geocach. Agreed says the farmer. They laid hold of each other (I am ipor ap I am ynay) and after some violent struggles, the geocach found that he was not able to cope with the farmer in consequence of the manner in which he was tied up to give himself a lame appearance. Allow me, says he to the farmer, to unloose a belt. To be sure says his antagonist. The geocach then unloosed a strap, by means of which he contrived to make himself artificially lame, and grappling with the farmer again, made no more of him than he would of a child! and the

271 (51)

farmer acknowledging that he never met
so good (i.e. strong) a man before, gave
up the meat to the geocach. The wife,
however had ~~never~~ ^{not} the same respect for
her husband ever after!

This is as true a story as any told by
Living! The geocach referred to is about 90 years
dead.

These geocachs were, at least in modern
times, great tapers, and one of them
composed a song in which he ordered
himself to be interred in the floor of a
public house that he might listen to
the drunken revels of jovial fellows

máir geócaoh a geócaoh báir mé
na trácaisíde ar nárí trom
cuiríde a deirín an tábóine me
'Smo cean páirde paor an bpuartha
mar a sclorphead puarm na carpa,
'Sa dár brí dá bualad
óir ir bíne trom an záir, rin
na pap áit na cuarce.

14/10/14/25 (XXV)

52) ²⁷² The history of geóeachs is of great importance to the general Irish historian, but as they are disappearing very fast, it is not easy now to recover much of their history, rights or privileges. It must have been a very curious state of society that tolerated such vagabonds.

The Annals mention another geóeach, ^{who} at the fair of Taillteann took a false oath, or rather swore falsely by the hand of St Kieran. ^{but} He was seized with a ^{sudden mortification} gangrene or putrefaction in the neck which caused his head to fall off in the presence of the assembly!

I am much interested in the history of this strange class of Irish vagabonds.

Your obedient servant
John O'Donovan

END

14 D 14/26

[Unknown]

Trace map of County Offaly.

[1838]

1p.

34 x 65 cm

Indicated are the main towns and settlements of the county.

RIA

14 D 14/26

Outsize map

Filmed at the end of this reel

END

14 D 14/27

[Unknown]

Trace map of the Diocese of Kildare, as taken from Beaufort's Ecclesiastical Map.

[1838]

1p.

16 x 21 cm

RIA

Kings Co. Letters Vol. 1

Page 50

KING'S

COUNTY

DARE



Map of Kings Co. from the first edition

END

END OF

14/D/14

START

OUTSIZE MAPS

Outsize maps

part of

14 D 14

King's County (Vol. 1)

Outsize map

14/D/14/26

34 x 65 cm

RIA



*a Map of
Leix and Offaly*

CO KILDARE

GLANTORES
as Carbury or Berrin
ghams countrye

*Part of the Coast
By Down*



KINALIEGH
M Goghagan

PARTOVLOGH
Trell

CO KILDARE

GLANTORES
at Carbury or Bannin
ghams countrey

Point of the Co. of
D. Glane

CATHER LOUGH