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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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O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

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Letters
containing information relative
to the
Antiquities
of the
Kings County
collected during the
progress of the
Ordnance Survey
in
1837-8
Vol II

Vol. 2

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King's County Letters, Vol. II.

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RIA

Maps

Maps.

(Process)

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209.

Hand Sketch, with territorial marks upon it by Mr. O'Donovan.

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See Maps V. in Vol. I.

RIA

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END

14 D 13/2

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, in which he outlines the progress of his survey work in the county and writes of St. Carthagh's connection with the modern parish Rahen (Rahan).

20 January 1838

1p.

23 cm

RIA

Mr A Larcum Esq

Banagher January 20th 1838

Dear Sir,

We have finished in this neighbourhood
and shall move to ~~Kiss~~ ^{i.e. alias} or Parsonstown on Monday
morning. The weather is dreadful here, but we
hope that we are anticipating some of the pains
of purgatory, as we learn from the spirit of
Malacty I, that the soul is purified by cold
as well as by prayers and fire.

Archdall places Rathen in Westmeath, and he
has mispled Lanigan, who places it in the
same County in the Barony of Fertullagh;
but Usher, who knew its situation better
than either of them, places it in the Territory
of Feara Ceall within eight miles of Durrow.
Now the territory of Feara Ceall, as I shall
prove in my next letter never extended far-
ther to the north than the southern boundary
of the Baronies of Kilcoursey and Moy-
caphel, and therefore the Church of Rathen
which was in it, could not be in the
County of Westmeath. Rathen then, the
14/12/13/2

2 the celebrated monastic city, from which St. Carthagh, afterwards of Lismore, was expelled, is no other than the Raken in the Barony of Ballycowan, which is a part of the territory of Feara Ceall.
(Civitas Rathen)

Tomorrow I shall send you a long dissertation on the territories of Delvin Mac Coghlan and Feara Ceall, in which I will prove that the Abbé Mageoghegan and Archdall were but childish investigators. It has cost me much thought and research and more time than any one could imagine from the quantity of work produced for I sat up till 3 o'clock for three nights in succession. I have now done with ancient Meath, ^{and it} ~~which~~ affords much satisfaction that I have weathered it out so long.

Your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

END

14 D 13/3

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, religious traditions, antiquities and topography of the parishes of Rinagh and Eglish, with particular reference to their early churches, castles, burial grounds, holy wells and the origins of their place names.

21 January 1838

10p.

23 cm

Included are extracts from Sir Charles Coote's 'General view of the agriculture and manufactures of the King's county', Colgan's 'Acta Sanctorum' and related Inquisitions.

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Streamstowne
Cloghorne
Stonestowne } Castles of - noticed in the same document.

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Bealach an fhothair — mentioned at ^{A.D.} 1548 in
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Baile-an-dunov. Castle of.
Annals - A.D. 1532.

Baile ~~an-dunov~~ now Ballindown
townland in this parish.
the Castle - demolished.

2 Several Inquisitions — Townlands
mentioned in -
identified with townlands
now existing - most
of which lie in Pearacall.

Banagher January 21st 1838

Sir,

Down

Rinagh, which is written in the Survey, Reinagh, is known only as the name of a parish, and not as the name of a denomination of land, by the people. The Down Survey in describing this parish, states that 'The improvements thereon is on Bunagher at Fortfallkland, a church, upon Garrycastle, Streamstowne, Cloghane & Stonestowne on each a Castle?'

There is a church in ruins, to the West side of the town of Banagher, and not far from the Market Square, which appears to have been in use at no long period back. In Garrycastle townland, are the ruins of an old Castle, from which the barony has taken its name. Garrycastle is called Garrad an Cille in the Annals - Let an extract of what is relative to it in this document, be made. A castle stands in ruins in Streamstown - townland, which is said to have been occupied by 'the Great Mac Coghlan?' contracted in Common Conversation into 'the Great Maw?'

There are no townlands given under the names of Cloghan & Stonestown in the Namebooks of the parish of Rinagh. But both are

8
Laid down in the list of names in the parish of Gillen.
Stonestown is called Baile na cloiche in the Annals
of the Four Masters at the year 1548 where it
is recorded that 'The Lieutenant (- Cosby) and
the English at the instance of Edmond a Baid, made
an incursion into Delvin, in revenge of his expulsion
and burned and plundered from Bealach an
fhothair to the Causeway, of beann-mona, and
also Baile-Mheg-Mlachair in Lus-mhagh.
They remained encamped for one night at
Baile-na-cloiche, and on the morrow
returned with booty, and spoil, without en-
gaging in battle, or meeting opposition?

Bannagher is written Beandchor at the
following years in the Annals, which record at
the latter year, the re-erection of its Castle by
Teige Baach O'Carroll.

A.D.
1559 Mac Coghlan (Felim, the son of Meryler)
was slain at Beandchor by the sons of O'Madden,
(Melaghlin God, &c) after mass on Sunday,
the second of the nones of July?

A.D. 1544 The Castle of Beandchor was re-erected by O'Barroll (Seige Caech) in despite of the Clan Colman and the O'Maddens, who were at enmity with each other.

Sir Charles Coote's Statistical Survey of the King's County, notices that 'the old Castle of Garrycastle, from whence the barony is named, has very rich feeding-ground in its neighbourhood, and at Buba, a seat of Dennis Bowes Daly Esq^r, the parks are rich and luxuriant. But this engaging scene is soon lost; when you pass Managher, all is a wild, barren, and uncultivated waste; under this description, Nor Mill is very conspicuous. Managher is a good town and well inhabited; it is situate on the banks of the Shannon, and is the western extremity of this County, and also of the province of Leinster; as here beyond the river is that of Connaught. At this side of the bridge are the barracks, for two Companies of foot, and at the other side is a Castle, which commands the town, with the adjacent Country towards Connaught, and was well situated to defend this important pass; it is distant sixty six miles from Dublin, and formerly sent two members to parliament; the Holmes family had a

patronage of the borough. * * * * *

Cloghan is a village of middling appearance four miles to the East of Banagher, and sixty-two from Dublin; it is on the Estate of Denis Bowes Daly Esq., and is remarkable for an excellent inn. At some distance are the ruins of a Church, and near Moystown, the seat of Colonel Lestrang, are those of Streamstown Castle.

The ruins (alluded to in this description, must be those) of ^{the} Killowry old church, which lie in Killowrybeg townland to the Right of the road leading from Cloghan to Banagher, and about one mile distant from the former. (It is strange that Streamstown Castle is described as lying near Moystown, since the Castle stands in Streamstown townland to the Right of the road leading from Banagher to Cloghan, and about 1 mile distant from the former; and Moystown (Demesne) lies in the parish of Cidarn, ~~there~~ more than 4 miles N. by W. from Banagher.

This town, right, one should think, from the Contiguity of Streamstown Castle to it, to be used as the object defining the situation of the old ruins, rather than a place which is ^{comparatively} so far distant from them.

11
In Cloughan, Stonestown and Banagher, are found no Castles existing at present: nor could I as yet procure any information as to where the Castle stood at the town of Banagher, whether it was on the Leinster or Connaught side of the Shannon. It appears from the words of Sir Charles Coote, ^{about} cited, that, there was in his time a Castle on the Connaught side of this river, where he says 'At this side of the bridge, are the barracks, for two Companies of foot, and at the other side is a Castle, which commands the town, with the adjacent Country towards Connaught.'

By this side of the bridge, is meant here the Leinster side, and by the other side - the Connaught side. It is likely the Castle mentioned by this writer, stood on the neck of land, on which the fort, now a police barrack stands on the Connaught side of the bridge: but whether that was the Castle noticed in the Annals above referred to, is not as yet ascertained.

12
The walls of a comparatively modern Church stand in ruins in the South part of Garrycastle townland, and at the N.E. side of it are portions of ruined walls, apparently of more ancient date. On the same side, is at a short distance from the Church yard, 'All Saints well.' Tobay nandoin lying at the foot of a large tree, which inclines Southwards; a few yards to the North of this well, is 'Lady's well' - and a few yards to the East of Lady well, are small wells, called 'eye wells'. They are ^{three} ~~four~~ in number. These small wells are called 'eye wells', and 'head wells', from the Circumstance of their waters being applied to sore eyes, and used as a remedy for head-aches.

+ there
were
four
but one
remains.

A patron was held here on ~~the~~ St. Peter and Paul's day, ~~on~~ and on the Sunday previous to the first of August: but it has been discontinued those three years back.

Bealach an fhothair mentioned in the Annals at the year 1548 referred to, above, is now Anglicised Ballahanoker, which is the name of a townland in this parish.

It appears from Note 25 to Chapter 21. of the Life of S. Finnian or Fenner, Abbot of Cluain-
eraird (Clonard), given at the 23^d of February in A.D. 1188 page 395, that Rinayke parish retains this name from Kilbrignaigne & which was formerly a monastery denominated from S. Regnach, sister of S. Finnian, and which became afterwards a parochial Church in the diocese of Clonmacnoise in Meath, as Colgan expressly states in these words of the Note just referred to -

25. 'Gloria sua, Regnach nomine C. 20. Of S. Regnachia
'or (which is the same) Regina, Marian and Abugessius
'auct. treat at the 18. December. But the margin
'(i.e. a notice in the margin) of Marian, calls her the
'daughter of Peredach; but corruptly instead of
'Pindach, (~~I think~~) or Pintan (I think), since two
'Latin Manuscripts, and a third, an old Irish
'manuscript consenting. say that she was the
'sister of S. Finnian, and by consequence, the
'daughter of Pintan, particularly when from
'this Chapter and the Irish Manuscript, it can be col-
'lected that, Salacia, their mother, became a nun.
'The Irish manuscript mentions also another
'sister of S. Finnian, a nun, who was named

44
Richenna, and lived together with her mother
and her sister Regnacia in the Monastery of
Killrignaighe, which is a parish church in
the diocese of Cluannmacnoise in Meath.

This is corroborated by these words in Chapter
III of the Appendix to the Life of S. Finnian,
A. A. S. S. p. 405 — * * * * *

'S. Regnacia, sister of S. Finnian, Abbess of
Kill-rignaighe'. V. Finnicani C. 20. - vide 18 Dec.

'S. Richenna or Richilla sister of Saint Finnian
'in the Church of Kill-rignaighe'. V. Hibernica
S. Finnicani et Nata supra n. 25.

* * * * *
'S. Talacia, mother of S. Finnian & Abbess
of Kill-rignaighe'. V. Finnic. C. ?. Vide 11 Aug.

Rinagh is easily formed from Kill-rignaighe, by
rejecting Kill, signifying church, and restoring rignaighe
(prognaishe) the name of the Saint, to its nominative state
viz- Rignach; the g being in the mean time aspirated
into gh which has the sound of y - was expunged finally
in every shape of sound, as the long sound of i suffices
in the English pronunciation of the name.

15

There is a parish called Kilbriny in the County of Kildare, which would agree in orthography with the Kill-rignaighe here mentioned by Colgan. But Kilbriny in Kildare could not be Kill-rignaighe, as the former was in the Diocese of Kildare, and the latter was in the Diocese of Clonmacnoise, according to Colgan in Note 25. above cited. Let an extract be made of the account of the extent of the Diocese of Clonmacnoise as taken by Keating from the Annals of Clonenagh. It will appear from this account, if Kill-rignaighe ^{now Keenagh} be a parish ^{within the limits of} ~~in~~ that Diocese.

The monastery of Kill-rignaighe must be supposed to have its situation, where the old church at Banagher, lies in ruins, - as there is no certain traditional information to be had respecting its exact locality; and Colgan states it became a parochial Church.

14 (D) 13/3 (VIII)

English Parish.

The Annals at the year 1532, record that 'Fergan-
'-aimm O'Carroll proceeded to the assistance of his
'son-in-law, the Earl of Kildare, the then Lord
'Chief Justice of Ireland, to oppose the sons of
'John, and they took the Castle of Kill-uirine,
'the Castle of Baglais, and the Castle of
'Baile-an-duna?'

To the West side of English parochial Church,
is English Castle, which is now occupied by
Captain English. It is said that the former
Church of English stood somewhere Convenient
to the present one: that [†]'Lady Loftus' a resident of
old, of the Castle of English, caused, in order
to remove annoyance, or perhaps out of some
other fanciful intention, the burial ground
within which, the present Church stands, to
be consecrated, having procured from England,
a bishop, who performed this Ceremony of Con-
secration, whereupon the former Church falling
into ruin, became totally effaced: as ~~also~~ likewise
did ~~the~~ ^{the} Cemetery belonging to it, fall into utter disuse.

It is said that the place where it stood remains
free from Cultivation to the present time. Tradition

communicates all this information, which is of no

great importance; but may merit to be thus put together.

† See on Inquisition [Lawrence Parsons Knight being seized, died on the 8th of Sept. in the year of the reign of the King. That is more, 4. - 'What? Parsons is his name here, and was aged 79 years at the time of his death of 17th Nov. 1791. Lawrence, my young married to Anne Loftus, daughter of William Loftus of Rathparham in the County of Wick. Knight, in his father's life time.] (i.e. Car. I.), is found that statement is: - the aforesaid

* See Ballinacorney. infra

* The Inquisition from which the Marginal notice is taken was not in my hands, when I wrote this account, only by tradition, which receives consideration from the evidence of a woman who was

17
Seven wells are described in the Name book as lying in the S. West side of English townland. The name set down for them is Eilberna bearly which is pronounced by some, cobap na beapla, and by others cobap na bpeapla signifying 'well (not wells) of the pearls'. The former of these names, is ~~is~~ corruptedly pronounced; in both pronunciations - cobap a well (not wells), presents itself.

The persons, who have a knowledge of these wells, state that there were formerly seven in number, but that there are only five now. I think the one bearing the name of cobap na b-peapla, ought to be marked with the name attached to it on the plan, if not already done.

Baile-an-duna mentioned in the Annals cited above, as having a Castle in it, is now Anglicised Ballindown, which is the name of a townland in the Parish of English. The Castle was entirely demolished. Its site is described in the Name book as lying in the S. West side of Ballindown townland about 6 chains S. West of the road 'from Birr to Cloghan.'

Inquisition

44?
(54 Car. I.) finds that

* * Laurence Parsons Knight, on the day on which he died, was seized of the town and lands of Carriagedmond and Cargindonnell, al' Carriagedonnell with the appurtenances, in the barony of Eglishe in the King's County, and of 135 acres of arable and pasture, and 250 acres of wood and moor in Ballinlogg, Shillogg and Ballynear al' Ballynear next adjacent to the town and land of Port and Doorus, and of $2\frac{1}{4}$ of the wood and moor of Drynagh, and of all the wood and moor of Derryfadola al' Dearadola & Cargins in the barony and County aforesaid.

He held Carriagedmond and Cargindonnell and the rest of the premises of the King in free and Common soccage 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 Ardgogg, with the appurtenances in the barony of Eglishe aforesaid, and of the towns and lands of Shanvolly, Derrinloghy and Bally Kelly al' Bally Kelly, and of 500 acres of wood and moor in the barony of Eglishe aforesaid. — He held the aforesaid town and land of Ardgogg 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 Newtown in the territory of Ely O'Carroll, and the town and lands of Newtown and Ballinegowne with the appurtenances, and of 126 acres arable and pasture, 10 acres of wood and moor and 80

1 acres of Mountain in Tullagh, Ballymacmorroghe
 1 Ballywilliam & Blonyn, 105 acres arable and
 1 pasture and 50 acres of mountain in Roscomroe
 1 and Clashroe next adjacent to the town of New-
 1 town aforesaid, and a Court Leet and Court Baron
 1 within the manor aforesaid. — He held the
 1 aforesaid manor of Newtown and the other
 1 premises of the King, by Knights' Service. —
 1 The aforesaid Laurence was also seized of the Castle
 1 town and land of Ballybritt with the appur-
 1 tenances in the King's County from the feoffment
 1 of John Carroll of Blonliske, and he held them
 1 of the King by Knights' Service; and of the
 1 Castle, town and lands of Ballindowne &
 1 Ballywilliam with the appurtenances in the
 1 territory of Herall; and he held on the
 1 day on which, he died, the aforesaid Castles,
 1 towns and lands of the King, by fealty only,
 1 in free and Common Socage.

1 — the aforesaid Laurence Parsons Knight
 1 being so seized, died on the 8th of September
 1 in the year of the reign of the King, that is
 1 now, 4. —

1 Richard. Parsons is his son and heir, and was
 1 aged 17 years at the time of the death of the
 1 aforesaid Laurence, and was married to Anne
 1 Loftus, Daughter of Adam Loftus of Rathfarnham
 1 in the Co. Dublin Knight, in his father's life time.

- 1 Carriggedmond
- 2 Bargindonell al' barriggedonell
- 3 Ballinlogg,
- 4 Shillogg
- 5 Ballynea al' Ballymea
- 6 Port
- 7 Doorus ————— Now Douras townland
in English Parish.
- 8 Drynagh ————— now Drynagh townland
in said parish.
- 9 Derryfadda al' Derrada ————— now Derryfadd townland
in said Parish.
- 10 le Bargins ————— now Corrageen townland
in said Parish.
- 11 Ardgoogy ————— now Argooga } townland.
Ardhgorge }
- in English Parish.
- 12 Shanvoly —————
- 13 Derrinloghy ————— now Derrinlough townland
in said Parish.
- 14 Ballykelly al' Ballykeely — now Ballykeely
townland in said parish.
- 15 Newtown ^{the territory of} in Ely & Carroll. Now either Newtown
townland in Killcommon parish —
or Newtown townland in Ros-
comroe parish both which lie
in the territory of Ely & Carroll.

21
16 Ballinegonne

17 Tullagh ——— now Tulla townland
in Kinnetty parish. In this
townland, stood Tulla Castle,
the site of which is said to have
lie in the W. part of ~~the~~ it.

18 Ballymacmorroghe ——— now Ballic Kmurragha
townland in said parish.

19 Ballywilliam ——— There are 4 townlands of
this name — lying in the
parishes of Ballyboy, Eglish,
Killcommon, and Roscomroe,
one in each parish.

*Obs: Ballywilliam - in English
must be meant here, as this
Laird Parsons had seized of
the Castle ~~the~~ of Ballindowne
and Ballywilliam, in the territory
of Perceall, by which name Eglish
parish is now frequently called, Ballindowne, in connection with which it
is now frequently called, Ballindowne, in connection with which it*
20 Clonyn ——— now Clooneen townland in
Eglish parish.

21 Roscomroe ——— now Roscomroe townland
in Roscomroe parish.

22 Clashrae ——— now Clasrae townland
in Roscomroe parish.

23 Ballybritt - Castle, town and land of.
now Ballybrit townland in Sghamcon
parish. Ballybrit Castle lies in it.

24 Clonliske ——— now Clonlisk townland
in Killcommon Parish.

22

25 Castle, town and lands of Ballinadowne
and Ballywilliam &c in the territory of
Pearcalle.

Ballinadown and Ballywilliam townlands
lie in English parish.

The Inquisition just quoted, tho' later in time, than
the following one, got the first place here, because
it is more connected with the local tradition re-
specting English.

This Inquisition dated 'Castlegeshill 23 Oct. 1612.
(8. Jac. I.)
' finds that 'Gerald late earl of Kildare &c
' by an indenture dated the 8th of May 1607,
' demised to John, alias Shane oge Mc. Geige,
' 'Collopy of Durrys in Pearcalle in the King's
' County and Annabella my Moran of Le Porte
' in the County aforesaid widow, all that the
' Castle, lands &c of Eglis, Durrys, Portlogh,
' & Sidgoige in the County aforesaid, to hold
' for the term of 41 years, as by the same in-
' denture doth appear, the tenor of which
' follows in the original.

* * * * * The aforesaid Gerald late earl and
 Richard Talbott, by an indenture dated
 the last of May 1609, gave to one Neile Moore
 & Annabella my Kieran his wife, the Castle,
 town and hamlet of Downes, le Porte alias
Inchloughcurry with 1 Cartron in le English
de Moyanny called Ballynegullyne al'
Ballynenarge, with their appurtenances
 in Tomnyanny in the territory of Percall
 in the King's 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 Gerald late earl & by in-
 denture dated 1 May 1610, demised to
 Maurice Custace of Blongowswood, the
 Castle, town and lands of Doughill,
Ballincurre, Ballynconnoe, Ballincharde
Aradglafar in Percall in the King's 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 Service.

- 1 Dwyys in Pearkeale - See 7. above. * This townland belonged to John alias Shane Oge McTeige O'Malley See Angus.
- 2 le Porte
- 3 Castle, lands &c of Eglis.
- 4 Portlogh
- 5 Ardgoige ——— Now Argooga } townland
Ardhgoigie } in English parish
- 6 The Castle, town and hamlet of Downes,
qu? - Ballindown townland in English parish
See description of it above, and See 25. after that.
- 7 le Porte alias Inchloughcurry.
qu? - Castle Island, which lies in
Loughcoura, and has a Circular Castle
in ruins on it. Loughcoura is in the
S. W. part of English parish.
- 8 in le English de Moyanny called Bally-
negullryne al' Ballymenarge with their
apurtenances in Moyanny.
Ballycollin and Boollinamarkig Big & little
are townlands in English parish.
- 9 Doughill ——— now Doughill townland
in Drumcullen parish.
- 10 Ballincurre ——— now Ballinecurra
townland in English parish

11 Ballincharde - now Ballincard townland
in English parish.

12 Ardglasse -

Tradition says that the lands contained under the denomination of Mount Henry in this parish, were in the possession of John O'Molloy, who is dead now nearly thirty years. He and his brother lived in a thatched house on the premises, which house as yet remains undestroyed; he never married; and always entertained the ~~most~~ highest aristocratic notions; and on every occasion exhibited himself as a nobly descended personage. Out of peculiarity of taste in military dress, looking upon himself as the descendant of warriors he always wore a three cocked hat with a ^{Pugon} Boogon of hair tied around it, and carried about, a sword suspended from a ~~sin~~ Boogon of the same ^{material} kind, which encircled the middle of his body, and served instead of a belt.

26

The sword, which he ~~raised~~, was a long one and curved towards the point.

Another interesting anecdote is related about this O'ogan Chief and a Mr. Berry, who came in for a farm adjoining his landed property. As O'Molloy, was one day, amusing himself, cutting off the heads of thistles, with his sword, whilst walking through his fields; he was observed in the progress of this act, by his new Neighbour, who, on addressing himself to O'Molloy, in a style, strain, and tone indicative of self-importance; and of apparent contempt for 'the Chief', was replied to in the commanding interrogative - 'who are you - Sir?'. The Chief, receiving the answer - My name's Berry, returned - 'and I believe a better berry, too.'

— Berry being surprised by such an answer from a person, upon whom, he looked as insane from his peculiar dress, mien and questioned his Irish labourers, who, that eccentric character was, who was cutting off the heads of the thistles, with his sword; telling them at the same time the impudent reply, he ^{himself} received from him.

An', Sir, is that all he did to you, was
the general cry — with, you are
very safe, when he did not cut off
your head with his sword — he is
John O'Molloy, the proprietor of the next
estate, whose family were so very
respectable heretofore. The labourers
going on, relating the importance of the
man, were reproached by Berry, with
you ruffians, why did you not
tell me who he was, before I incurred
his censure by treating him, ^{so disrespectfully} as I did.

Berry returned immediately and excused
himself with Molloy, saying that he did
not know him, first; that, he begged his
pardon for addressing a gentleman of his
responsibility in such language as he had
done; adding that if it were not convenient
to O'Molloy, to give assistance in renewing a
broken down fence, which ran as a mearing
between both their properties; he should get
the whole of it repaired himself without any
trouble or expense to O'Molloy. Which kind
proffer was responded to, in this unsubmitive, ~~and~~
as well as contemptuous manner — I don't
want any assistance from you, Sir — I'll
take care to have my fences properly made up.
J. A. Larcom Esq. J. A. Larcom Esq.

END

14 D 13/4

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letters, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Birr, Co. Offaly, concerning accounts relating to St. Patrick's connection with the county and the family of O'Connor Faly.

23-24 January 1838

2p.

23 cm

Included are references to sources which give the village of Franford's original place name as Cill Chormaic. O'Donovan's attempts to determine the extent of the ancient lordship of Ely O'Carroll.

Birr, January 25th 1838,

Dear Sir,

I find that the village of Frankfort was anciently called hill Chormaic, and I recollect that that name occurs in the annals of the Four Masters under two or three years. Let the annals be searched and all the references to hill Chormaic be sent me.

^{Beaufort}
Does Deward, or Carlisle give the situation of Claufertmulloe? I think it must now go under another name, as we can meet no one that ever heard of it.

I find that Bridambh near which the field of the tunneli lay, is a mountain or rather hill in offaly near Gephill. I inclined to think it the name of a River, for reasons which I have mentioned in a former letter, but

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29 I am now convinced that it is the name of a hill (Bri i.e. Bræ) in Offaly near Geshill.

The following story is told in the Tripartite life of St Patrick about that apostle and the ^{brother of the} great ancestor of Honorius.

" He (St. Patrick) betook himself to that region
of Leinster, called Leic-Failgi. At that time two
powerful men governed that district, of whom
one was called Failege Berraid, and the other
Failege Rap. These had been for a long time
differently minded towards the man of God:
the former hating him with implacable hatred,
and the latter treating him with affection and
honor. For from the day that St. Patrick had
destroyed ^{Failege Berraid's,} the idol called
Brom Cruach, which that man of
Belial had worshipped with the highest ve-
neration, due to a god, did not only de-
test the man of God, but ^{and} ~~also~~ persecute him on
every occasion, but also swore that he would
kill him. This malignant intention reached the
ears of Patrick's disciples, and particularly of St.

" Odrannus, who was the man of God's charioteer.
 " Therefore when they were passing through the
 " region in which that tyrant reigned, fearing
 " for the life of the holy prelate, and that if
 " so great a lamp were extinguished, all Ire-
 " land would suffer an irreparable loss, he
 " resolved to expose his own life to danger for
 " his sake. Wherefore imposing on the holy
 " father with holy ^{stratagem} guile, he obtained from
 " him by entreaty, that he as being wearied, might
 " sit in the principal part of the chariot, which
 " the holy prelate ignorant of the intention
 " willingly granted him. When therefore they
 " were passing on in this manner, the aforesaid
 " Satellite of Satan, meeting ^{with} and coming forward
 " to them, he pierced St. Odrannus ~~thru~~ whom he
 " took to be Patrick, through with a lance.
 " And when St. Patrick observing this, wished
 " to pronounce a malediction against the
 " tyrant; and when he had commenced the words
 " of his imprecations in this manner " May a curse

31
"descend ———→ St. Odramus, ^(gasping in death) an example of true
"charity, ^{anticipated} ~~averted~~ the remainder of the sentence
"which by piously interceding he wished to avert
"from his enemy and slayer, humbly seeking
"and imploring, that the curse might not fall
"on Failge and his descendants, but upon a
"a certain large tree on the neighbouring mount
"(hill) of Brigh damh. To which pious re-
"quest although the holy father assented,
"the nefarious Failge, however, received a present
"and sudden death, as a just punishment of
"the sacrilege, which he had committed, and
"his seed and government perished in a bad
"radix. But Patrick blessed the offspring of
"Failge Ross, who to this very day hold the
"government of that region.

This is a curious piece of forgery to flatter and
terrify O'Flannery's: but tho' we do not be-
lieve it, we may safely conclude that the
writer knew Brigh damh to be a conspicuous
hill in O'Flannery's country.

your obedient servant
Robinson

32
th
Birr, January 24th 1838.

Dear Sir, I will find it very difficult to determine the limits of Ely O'parroll, without the assistance of more English Irish documents than I have at present. There are several documents extant from which its exact extent could be easily determined, but I do not know where they could be found. Sir William Betham has written a good deal about this territory which I ought to have.

Have you got Cooke's history of the town of Birr? I am told it is curious and that it defines the limits of Ely O'parroll. Mr. Cooke is an attorney at present living at Birr, but I do not

14/D/13/4(11)

33
like to call upon him, as I was told that he is
one of those self-sufficient people, who wishes
to be considered the only antiquarian oracle
now living. A friend of mine called upon
him to see if he could or would give me
any information, but, ^{he said that} he has already com-
municated to Lieut. Wilkinson all he
knows about the neighbourhood. I should
like to see his book if you could spare
me a copy of it. Mr. Cooke wrote some
articles for the Penny Journal under
the signature B. He seems to be of
the Parsons and Wallancey school, and
would be apt to laugh at my common
place ideas of Irish topography and
history. I'll not trouble him.

Honor is working very hard but I, unfortu-
nately, am in the hands of the Doctor, and
not able to venture out. I have absorbed
too much maigre.

I am anxious to hear how I stand with respects
to Car hire; the expences of this town
are more than we can bear.

Your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

END

14 D 13/5

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Birr, Co. Offaly, concerning his speculations regarding the meaning and origin of the 'Irish nomenclature Beannchair'.

26 January 1838

6p.

23 cm

Included are extracts from the 'Book of Lecan', the 'Annals of the Four Masters' concerning the Moyston and the 'Dinnseanchus' concerning Lusmagh, located in the ancient lordship of Delvin Eahra.

Bth
Birm January 26th 1838,

Dear Sir,
Of all the words which enter into
Irish nomenclature Beannchair seems the most
difficult of explanation. It is the name of
several places in Ireland in its simple form,
and enters into the composition of several names,
as Beannchair in Derry; Beannchair, now
Bangor in Down; Beannchair in the
King's County; Magh Beannchair now
Movinagher in Derry; Guil Beannchair, now
Coolbanagher in the Queen's County.
This name "beats the Devil". The word Beannchair
is not referable to the natural features of any of
the places in Ireland which I have seen, bearing
the name; neither is it of ecclesiastical origin
nor is Bán-chór, white choir, the analysis given
14/D/13/50

(2)³⁶ of it by Sir James Ware any more than an ignorant and childish conjecture, for Bán has nothing to do with bean. Báwn-chöre is not Bënn-chair!

Keating gives a historical explanation of the name of the Beannchair in the County of Down, but as his story is about a pagan monarch and long head and horn it will not be believed now, whether it be true or false. Tradition remembers a legend at Beannchair in Derry about the horn of a deer which accounts for the name; and the name Magh Beannchair in the same County is locally explained "plain of the Beann or pointed hills".

It is believed in the vicinity of the Beannchair in the King's County, that the name was applied to the ford on the Shannon only and that it signifies Bean-ath-chuir, which is attempted to be explained woman ford so called it is alleged because a nunnery.

stood opposite the ford on the Maw's
side of the River. That there is some glim-
-mering of truth in this, will appear from
a historical tale entitled Battle of Kenabrad
which gives the following derivation for the
~~name of~~
the ford on the Shannon called Ath
Beannchair.

Then did the nine thousand men who were
under the command of the (three) Carbrys
^{rise up}
with anger impetuosity and rage, and all
the champions ^{put} ~~placed~~ their helmets on
their heads, and in this manner proceed-
ed to the ford where the conference
was held. When it was heard throughout
the camp that the Carbrys had ^{risen} ~~rose~~ up
to battle, all the forces rose up and
Carbry Muc marched at their head

14/10/13/5(11) to

(47)³⁸

"to the ford, and all the heroes threw their
" Beanna, and their helmets off their heads
" into the ford, which from that circumstance
" is ever since called Bth Beannchair, that
" is, in consequence of the Beanna, ^{conical caps, crests?} which
" the heroes threw ^{cast} into it."

Lib. Lec. fol. 182.

I cannot however be positive that this is the
ford of Beannchair in the King's County,
as Camm abhrad, the site of the battle is
one of the Galtee mountains.

Peter Connell explaining Beannchair in his
Dictionary as follows:

" Beannchair, hills, mountains, rocks, cliffs;
" also comp horn, any horn."

This explanation however will not agree with
the localities of Beannchair in the King's Co
which is built on a hill too gentle to be

called a Beann. We have no other then
to draw upon, but conjectures! The present
^{new} church of Birr might well be called a
Beannchair church (teampall beannic Bropach) from
the number of its Bens or horns. Was the
name Beannchair originally applied to
a similar church at Banagher? I fear
not. Was it originally applied to a castle
with ^{battlements} tall chimnies? I think not, for I am
of opinion that the name is more an-
cient than the period at which castles
or even churches were built in Ireland.
What then does the name owe its origin
to? I do not know, neither does any one
for the name "heaty the Devil"

Another derivation for it is bean & curp, it
was a woman who laid the first stone
in the building: (But what the building was
whether Castle or church, is not remembered.)
14/10/13/5 (Jii)

(6) 40

ni fear ó n-ár zic bendúir
mo mear náí fear náí ben éir.
benda éirre ar éind a fír
ó d'ís an z-áinn ben a éir.

The Dinneanchus derivation of Lus-magh, the name of the most western parish in the territory of Delvin Eghra, runs as follows

" Lus-magh whence named? N. D. It was from it
" Dianceacht (the physician) brought all the
" ^{healing} panacea herbs which he pounded (and squeezed)
" ^{the well of} into Tipraid plangi in Achadh abhlá on the
" plain of Moy Tuiré, when the great battle was
" fought there between the Tuatha de Danann &
" Fomorians. Each of the Tuatha de Danann
" who immersed himself in this herb-tinged well
" came out of it well, and healed of his wounds.
" Under Lus-magh, dicitur."

" Know ye the cause from which Lymaw is named?
" That plain of rughe grey at first was called
" ^{But} The plain of Murray Munchy. Since the time

"The famous battle of Moy. Tuir north
 Was fought, its name has ever been. Lus-magh
 or plain of herbs. 'Twas here Diancraacht, the sage
 And learned Esculapian of this Isle
 Found all the herbs, which to the battle field
 He brought, and with whose healing juice he tinged
 The spring called Tober Slany at this day,
 Which lies in Acha abhla, blood-stained field.
 The wounded soldiers in the Danaan lines
 Retired to this fair spring, and in it laved
 Their wounds, and some, who withered with the pang
 Received from poisoned arrows, plunged themselves
 Into its medicated waters, and
 Returned ^{soon} healed of all the dreadful wounds
 Inflicted on them by Fomorian ^{arms} swords.
 This is the reason why that famous plain
 Received the name of Lus-magh - plain of herbs. -
 For since the day that Dian craacht sought the place
 Physicians know the virtue of its herbs
 And use them as the best in this our isle.

10
(8) For here, observe, in rich luxuriance grow
All sorts of herbs which moor or meadow know
Which fairies love, and into which they breathe
~~Poison~~
Poison or balm to serve ^{or} injure men!

Captain Portlock should examine this plain
of herbs in Spring or Summer; in our time
(January) it was covered with snow.

The Magh Isteau mentioned in the annals
of the Four Masters at the year 1548. is now
called Moynton and Moystown (nearly as bad
as Portain into Port. town)

"A.D. 1548. The Castles of Ely and (Delvin were
demolished through fear of the English, viz
Banagher, the castle of Magh Isteau and
Clochan na gceapach."

Magh Isteau is the present Moystown lying ^{on the River Brosnagh} to the
north of Banagher; and Clochan na gceapan is the town
of Clochan lying 4 miles to the east of Banagher.
None of the castles mentioned are in Ely.

Your obedient Servant
John O'Donovan

u dny p me con q na deapad uatad do acalt aitta uq polh a pun
 aitta mghad me d oia cestz apod me d noba tny lery coqz mze
 daby. nny facalt plyn t do luyt me d da plog pnullac pleth
 cy abrad co pasclo caic apocm p puto m tplyh p anorm t
 do luyt plog 7 aitt 7 loco. p. pua ngt me p hnt p hnt

De luyt me d nny don facalt

dy papuzat amupm t ppe lny tame. un. c. catm t 7 tlyp
 pcorate p cly nny dy 7 namt nny noba m plog uq q pweh t
 cly tlychlo do dnyam at t aitt p me d bly plyn do blyt
 acc ol me d. p. m bel puz m nsublyt pmenatlo m bel. c. na
 mtrub ol aitt latra m blym m q pny 7 bly m mlyt acc ol
 me d p madayl moqy dnyara mlyneac don tya ma dozonay
 mo m emeac nny acc ol aitt m tlyh pny mlyt do me d p a
 pny plyn p dno nny tuc me d nny pcam bnyatpab cestz aitta
 7 tba cyot palya tly dnyady. v. dona coqz p dno do dnyam
 do aitt p me d pacya 7 po hnt p m dnyt 7 p dny uq nat
 .x. c. noba na coqz co plyn 7 lony dnyt 7 co mboypad la
 deachpao na plyn p dny 7 zabpao na tano uq a catbny
 p a clyat 7 tlyat p dny cyot nny do m aca oca mba m
 facalt aitt at eloy nny lonyt uq comhnt na coqz don
 cat po hnt p uq m plog 7 po pnt coqz mze nny na plogab
 do m aca 7 po lery na tano uq dlyt da catbnyat dny
 clyat nny at dnt aay cynt pte at mblm. p. pobyt
 na mblm po lery na tano dny at t me d oz dny m
 catz 7 na cata cynt 7 do cyat dnyat aplog co tanynt
 pny m cat po meabao pny me d uq aitt pny pny
 bnt pny me d plyn aitt p dny tame a dny ap amz
 me d. p. dny me dnyat 7 at t pny zab mo mnta

poa cfo 7 curu do mto puz doo cfo plm do ponar pamlaro uih azz
sabaro mth mto me d po a clno 7 clte ap pite mterleth papi 7
lhuar corpo mze e aphet me d 7 blnar a clno de 7 m de ara
cyn me dambylch a cfo abo aduats corpo mze aigne d arbe
me d ole eche ol corpo mto puz p cfo dno mto Soam corpo sig
pym do tarractau me d corpar lhter cfo abaro 7 m
tappo m plos 7 dpecharo uao booh p maz pemm 7 azei
m mburoy mbuy me d. dpaaro of. a colpta eeyu ba dochu
hul on ol corpo. eapcat puz fe pluatayb puzur. do lhta
uricor don hato do dohmaro mbela eapcaro dte apud fe a
glun 7 a colpta s de mao lopolno a chohpcha 7 teta corpo
popula co amyo. luy me d corpar porach puao tra
lhtear pym 7 ofm amae mto atreab me d m lht t zora
hab puz nht papram. pmt am. ffect o cutolr 7 pbbp.

Ibid. fol. 257. b. a. dprojeanchap.

Lurmas canz po ham. m. JS ar tuc dian cice caclur
mci con meste ap tppo plamz anacao abla p muz tteo antan
pta an cati map. p. t. d. d. 7 pomopats 7 ca. de. do. t. d. d. do lhtear
pon lpro luyratorp ahtear pleamam plan cpeatpach ar papram.
un. luy mas di.

Ha eol darp m dia pui. luy mas corpn lath luachap
pua cath muz tteo te, ba mas meao muncar.
O cath muz tteo thuarz, ap do luy mas co lte buap
an do bean dian clp can cap. luy mas can ep dia cobq.

Com-

(12) 46

Combleth each luy lachamngle. a pur a tppro planze
anachad abla purle. ba cabngs po sumle

Cach lach do luygead pon lmo. a dgead pur so planzno
cit oncan a jmea ole. porapead na porapo a corpo.

Seao sin po deapa than, luyng na lga lab,
do sumngad dan ch na ceol, dgech connggwo porap ed. H.

END

14 D 13/6

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from T[homas] O'Connor, written from Birr, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, religious traditions, topography and antiquities of the parish of Drumcullen, with particular reference to its holy well, castle and Killyon Abbey.

26 January 1838

3p.

23 cm

RIA

Drumcullen parish

Drum Chulinn — B^h. f. — Irish Calendar

———— Monastery of — Colgan A.D.
Drum Chulinn B^h. f. — Colgan. A.D. 99. p. 123

Drum Cuilinn — Four Masters. A.D.
 721. & 740.

Drumcullen old Church, ruins of —
 N. side of Walk River.

St. Bairfionn (Barrindus) — not now
 known as the patron Saint of the
 place.

St. John's day — patron day of the
 Parish.

St. John's Holy Well — in Knockharrou
 T.L.

St. John's Rock — in same T.L.

Knockharrou — quarry — from St.
Bairfionn.

14/5/13/6(i)

Killyon abbey - ruins of -

Killyon - all Ludom - Church of Liodan.

—— Killiachuin by Freshall.

Tobar na hie } two wells in Knockharrou
Tobar taidheach } townland.

Killadrown townland - Old Castle in
ruins in.

Birr January 26th 1838.

Sir, The name of Drumcullen parish in the barony of English, is in the Irish Calendar written Drum Chulinn, where we read 'Bairffion eapre o'orm enlmy & o'ell
Bairffm fm harruaidh a tuaid. do emell conall gullban
me Neill doye. 21 May.

which words translated are — Bairffion Bishop from Drum Chulinn, and from Killbarfion near Eas-ruidh to the North. he was of the race of Conall Gullban, who was son of Niall &c. —

Croghan in A.A.S.I. p. 193, citing Usher, says, A.D. 91. 'I. Barrindens, Abbot of the monastery of Drum-Chulinn, flourished: —

And in page 451 of the same work, in Note 76 he gives these words 'Barrindum drum Cognatum Capite 91. — The genealogy of this Saint, as it is here set forth, is given in the genealogy of Saints, Chapter 1. He is venerated on the 21st of May in Drum-chulinn in Meath, and in Killbarfion in Conall, as Marian Gorman gives at the same day. Barrindus, he says, Bishop of Drum-chulinn & of Kill-Bairfion near Eas-ruidh to the North; sprung from the race of Conall Gullban.

14/10/13/6(ii).

50 The Martyrology of Samlact, the Martyrology of Donegal, Maguire treat of him at the same day.

The Annals of the Four Masters, record at ^{A.D.} 721 that 'St. Brendan of Druim Cuilinn, died' and at 740. that 'Beaífaola, Comharb of Druim Cuilinn, died'—

On the North side of the Walk river, and in the South part of Knockbarron townland, the old Church of Drummculen is in ruins within a grave yard. There is within the ^{Church} at the West end, an apartment with a ~~arched~~ roof of stone work.

St. Bairfionn (Barrindus) is not now known here, ^{as the Patron Saint of the place} nor is even the day on which he was venerated, remembered.

St. John's day is the patron day of the parish — whose holy well is on the top of Knockbarron hill about the Centre of Knockbarron townland. The well lies a short distance to the S.W. of a rock called St. John's rock.

Knockbarron - gu ? - cnoc barrfionn collis S. Barrindii.

The ruins of Killyon abbey are in this parish, to the South of the road leading from Birr to Kinnitty. Killyon is the name of a townland and village - It signifies according to the Irish Orthography of it, Cl. Gasam, the Church of Liadan, who was Mother of St. Kieran of Saiger.

Archdall under the heading 'Killiachuin' writes: 'All we can learn ~~about~~ relating to this priory, is, that about the beginning of the 5th Century St. Kieran of Saiger founded the nunnery of Killiachuin near to his own Abbey for his mother Liadana'; and refers to A.A.G. p. 464. Let an extract be made, of what relates to this abbey, from Bolgan and Usher.

There are two wells in Knockharrou townland - the one of ^{which} is called to bap na hce 'well of the flag' - and the other to bap doideach.

14/10/13/6 (iii)

In old Castle lies in ruins in
the West part of Killaadown town-
-land.

Your obedient
humble Servt^t

RIA

C. A. Larcom Esq^r
14c 7c

J. A. Connor

END

14 D 13/7

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Birr, Co. Offaly, concerning the source material which relates to St. Kieran of Saigir.

28 January 1838

2p.

23 cm

RIA

Birr January 28th 1838,

Dear Sir, I want Usher's and Colgan's account of St. Kieran, the elder, commonly called Kieran of Daigir, who is said to have preached Christianity in Ireland thirty years before the arrival of St. Patrick.

Mr. Smyth of College Green has a MS. Irish life of this old soldier of Christ but it is so fabulous that I fear it will be but of little use for our topographical purposes. It states that when this Saint retired to the wilderness, he had daily visits from the fox and the Badger, ^{which?} who prayed to be admitted as monks into his establishment.

14/D/13 (7(i))

54
curious accounts are given of the birth of
this Saint ^{and} of the conduct of his foster-son
St. Carthach (my old friend at Kilcar) and
Lough Sheelin, which reflect no very great
honor upon them, but we will leave these
narrations to Colgan, who was acquainted
with the theological rules by which such
conduct was regulated.

Usher introduces St. Kieran, the elder, and
St. Patrick, as converging together on
the Continent, when Patrick desires his
fellow labourer to settle in Ireland near
its centre at a fountain called Mar.
The Speckled Book has the same.

"Thirty years before Patrick's arrival Kieran
settled at Daigir, as Patrick himself said:

"Approach Mar -

"Build a city on its brink

"At end of thirty years

"I and thou shall there meet."

"St. Kieran of Daigir was an illustrious person
 "age; numerous were his cattle; for there were
 "ten doors on the house of his camp; ten encls.
 "stalls or Crows for each door, ten lying places for each
 "Cro, and ten cows in each lying place."

10 doors
10 enclosures
100 enclosures
10
1000 lying places
10
10,000 Camp! a rich hermit.

"But Kieran never ^{during his life} tasted of even the smallest
 "quantity of their great produce, but divided
 "it among the poor and needy of God. He
 "had besides fifty horses for plowing and till-
 "ing the earth. His supper each night, was a
 "small piece of barley bread, and two roots
 "of Murattach and spring water. The skin of
 "the wild fawn formed his raiment, and he always
 "slept in a stone bed covered outside with wet
 "Guilche (bed-clothes)

" Cairneach Mael was the scribe of Kieran.
 " It was he wrote the celebrated ^{book} manuscript
 " entitled the Emigration and wanderings of
 " Kieran, and this Book is still extant at
 " Daigir, and let whoever reads it give a
 " blessing on the soul of Cairneach Mael."

Leabhar Breac, fol. 32.

Colgan must have given a life of this saint
 as he was; and is still venerated at Daigir
 on the 5th of March. The Calendar of
 the O'Learys speaks of him:

" March, 5. Kieran of Daigir, Bishop and
 " Confessor. Innumerable were the miracles
 " and prodigies wrought ^{thru} by him, on the earth.
 " He caused the stones to light to a flame, by
 " a blowing his breath on them. He was used
 " to visit a rock situated far out in the sea
 " to visit his nurse Coca, and return again with
 " out boat or vessel."

your obedient Servant
 J. O'Donovan

ora yrl co hiaeth. ar eptgū epwri oocu qez 7 q'cst ēgarn.
 do corē oocu. ba ampa tpa pten nōēchapan puzje. uq
 ba hlapoa aqōle. upibatz. x. noorap por har a bō. oez x. epw
 cē doorap. oez x. loz m cē epw. oez x. mbar m cē loz. Hpro iō
 maql 2 ciapan nā hūagl mbyc dapan iōpao m hēln ba beap
 a pōdahl do bōctarb 7 dardlgnarb m choimdeo. l. each pataala
 ciapan blor ppy har 7 zpebaō m talā. oez ba h a pōpōt cē
 nozche dib ppy. bām bee do bapzgm lojma 7 da mecon do
 mupāthatz 7 up ppythpōt. Epocm loz nalt ba he a etuch
 oez cūlche pluch tpyb jmuiz adapz cloche ppyam dāylo
 dozr. cānech moel pēbmo ciapan ppyde pōpōb m pcybōm
 am. i. hmpche ciapan da hlzīpab 7 mapao blor m le bapm
 ppyzgm. 7 tabpao cē olh lozpar bendōu pāmmam ^{capmle moel p} chān. moel.

pno

END

14 D 13/8

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from T[homas] O'Connor, concerning the history, religious traditions, topography and antiquities of the parish of Seirkieran, Co. Offaly, with particular reference to its early church, holy well and castles.

29 January 1838

3p.

23 cm

Included are extracts from the 'Annals of the Four Masters' concerning the abbots of Saighir.

Sir

Rec^d at 850 29 Aug 38
59

The only remains of a Church at Seir Kieran consist of one piece of a wall lying to the N.W. of the parish Church; and between both, stands a round building, which is commonly called turret by the people. This turret does not exceed 17 feet in height on the outside, there is an entrance on the N.W. side, which is 2 yards wide at the ground, and runs the whole height of the building: the walls on each side of it, are at least 4 feet thick. The diameter inside ^{of the building} is about 12 feet. There are 5 openings within a few feet of the top of ^{the} wall, which are confined to the extent of a few inches every way outside, and are widened ^{on the inside} ~~inwardly~~. It appears to have had a stone roof, small portions of which remain as yet attached to the inside of the wall, and to have never been higher. What, the use of this edifice was, is not now well known in the Country. Some think it was a vestry, or sacristy belonging to the ancient Church, that was there: ⁺ others who are more inclined for fire worship, conjecture, it was a fire temple (a round tower in other words) on a minor scale.

14/10/13/8 (11)
+ Those are persons, who read some opinions on fire temples.

Perhaps it may be found on examination, that there were minor round towers attached to the old Churches. The one, which is our present subject, is noticed, and called by the name of 'small tower', in an Inquisition 27th December ~~XI~~ Elizabeth, cited by Archdall speaking of Seir Keran. The Inquisition states that: 'the prior was found seized of the site of the priory containing one acre, in which were the walls of a church, a small tower, a great stone house covered with thatch, now used as the parish Church, and two other houses then the residence of the Canons worth excluding repairs 3¹/₂ 4 yearly'.

Around the Church yard, in some places are earthen works, thrown up, as some think, for fortifications, at the time of the late disturbances in this Country. And outside the Church yard wall at the South East Corner, are traceable the vestiges of some edifices of stone work.

14/D/13/8(ii)

60

The existence of these vestiges, indicative of the extent of the buildings ^{that had been} in this place, and the identity of the name of its Patron Saint, with that of St. Kieran of Clonmacnoise has given origin to the popular tradition that St. Kieran was first going to build the 'Seven Churches' here; but some occurrence taking place, which prevented him from executing his design, he removed to Clonmacnoise, where he built his churches.

This tradition confounds St. Kieran of Saigir, with St. Kieran, surnamed Mac an t-saoir, i.e. the son of the Carpenter, who erected Clonmacnoise; notwithstanding that St. Kieran of Saigir, born in A.D. 352 according to Archdall, citing Usher as authority, founded ~~the~~ his monastery in A.D. 402: according to Colgan in A.D. 99. p. 429, also referred to by this writer; whilst St. Kieran of Clonmacnoise, born in 516, erected his Monastery in 548. (Archdall)

Q. - what authorities are referred to by him for the latter dates

These supposed modern fortifications may, probably, be the sites of the houses of the old ecclesiastical City of Saigin Kierain.

The Inquisition 27th December ~~15~~ Elizabeth, quoted above, finds that - 'The villa of Shyre belonged to the Canons, in which were six cottages and forty acres of arable and pasture lands, of the annual value of 6-8-⁰ -

St Kierain's day, 5th of March, is still held a holiday in this parish. His well lies about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the Churchyard to the South, at the foot of a tree in a low flat of ground. St Kierain's bush, is a white thorn standing in the middle of the road running between Roscrea and Kinnitty; and to the S.W. of the Churchyard. At this bush, is a stone having in it, the impression of the Saint's hand, that of the fingers and thumb being distinctly visible. These are the objects about the place, having the name of St Kierain, annexed to them. There is in the same field in which the Churchyard is, and to the North of the latter, a bush with some stones around its foot, at which, the prayers of some persons, who make voluntary vows, when invoking Divine assistance through the intercession of St Kierain, are offered.

The deaths of the Abbots of Saighir, are recorded in the Annals, at the following Years - viz - 739, 771, 783, 788, 807, 809, 809, 801, 826, 832, - At 841 - it is recorded that 'Bir and Saighir were plundered by the 'Danes' -

846, 'Anluan, Abbot of Saighir, died.

867 - 'Corbmac, the son of Cladhnaigh, Abbot of Saighir, a Bishop ~~and~~ and Scribe, died'.

868 'Guan, the son of Dichascha, Abbot of Saighir, died'

885. 'Hoghadach O'Raidhnen, Abbot of Saighir, died

907 - 'Corbmac, Bishop of Saighir, died.

919 'Fergall, the son of Maolmordha, Abbot of Saighir, died.

920 - 'Aodh O'Raidhnen, ^(now Ferns) sage of Saighir, and Senr professor of Ireland, died.

937 ' Beallach O'Kelly, Prior of ~~Kelly~~, died.

944 ' Fogartach, Abbot of Saighir, died.

951 ' Cenfaola, the son of Tuibhne, Abbot
' of Saighir, died in pilgrimage at Glen-
' daloch.

961 ' Berghal, the son of Beallaigh, died at
' Saighir, after performing his pilgrimage.

1004 ' Fogartach, Abbot of Leighlin & Saighir,
' died.

1012 ' The Prior of Saighir, was killed.

1048. ' Dunchad O'Kelechnir, Comhark
' of Ciarain Saighre, died.

1079 ' Beallach (the lusty) Comhark of
' Ciarain Saighre, and of Brenain,
' Bierra, died.

1548 ' Saighir, Ciarain and Kilcormac ^(near Frankford)
' were burned and destroyed by
' the English and O'Barroll.

We find in the Down Survey 'Upon the
'lands of Ballimorin stands a Castle'.

This Castle, now called Ballymorny Castle,
stands in ruins near the Centre of
Oakly Park townland in this parish.
Tradition says it belonged to O'Carroll
who had a castle also in Kilmain
townland, of which, I was informed
there are some remains as yet.

I give here a list of some Castles, which
belonged to O'Carroll, and are in
this neighbourhood.

1 Leap - Castle

2 Ballymorny Castle

3 Kilmain Castle

4 Fortill Castle

5 Rathmore Castle.

Caisleán Leim ri Bhanain
(in Ely). 4 M.R.S.
A.D.
1537.

There is a tradition connected with the Turret above spoken of, the circumstance related by which, suggests to some, the idea of its being a penitentiary, or a ^{place} receptacle for leading a life of retirement. There is hardly any truth in the account itself, but if it be divested of the additional garb of fiction, which it very likely received, there may be some feature found ⁱⁿ it, which would lead to a discovery of the truth.

It is said that three sisters lead a life of retirement from worldly bustle in this little edifice, who were, perhaps, on account of their very great age, to which they are said to have attained, called Babes of the wood. This tradition may, perhaps, have taken its origin from the circumstance of persons having shut themselves up for some time here to perform either an enjoined or voluntary penance; and, ^{possibly} in this manner, may have some truth in it.

J. A. Larcom Esq. & Co. Young, Obedient, Servant

66
As this tradition, I have laid down, merely to preserve it, and viewing it as of no great importance, made remarks to show to what circumstance it is preferable.

END

14 D 13/9

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Birr, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Birr, with particular reference to its castle and the origins of its place name.

29 January 1838

3p.

23 cm

Included is O'Donovan's assessment of Thomas Lalor Cooke, author of 'The Early history of the town of Birr', who he describes as 'a good attorney and consequently a good rogue and a sound historian' and the efforts to rename the town Parsonstown - 'an ugly name and sounds so like tythes that the men of Ely and Ormond prefer the nice old name of Birra'.

Birr, January 29th 1838,

Dear Sir, I have got a copy of Cooke's "Picture of Birr"
and I incline to think it well ^{drawn} done. Mr. Cooke
is a R. Catholic attorney, which is sufficient to show
that he could not be such a fool as Vallancey, Sir
Charles Coste or Rampon. In order to be a good
historian it is necessary for a man to be a rogue*
himself, that he may the more easily enter into the
mistings of men, especially of adventurers, who are most
generally rogues and murderers. Now Cooke is a good
attorney and consequently a good rogue and a sound
historian. He has however fallen into several errors
which should be corrected, and his flattery of the
^{not parsons} Parson is so gross that one can hardly doubt that
he was on the look out for fees. He has however,
overshot the mark, and has, like Crotty, lost the
favor of both sides.

*as a very
sound
lawyer
told me!

14/D/13/9(i)

He states on page 9 that "the River of Birr is called Comcor in the old leases and in General Vallancey's copy of the Map of Ballybritt Barony made in 1657."

I very much suspect that comcor is a mistake for Avon-Cor as Vallancey's copy of the Baronial maps of the Down Survey is full of errors in orthography. It is however certain that the ancient Irish name of this river is Avon-Cor (Abarn Chrip) "the river of the weirs" for Keating in giving the boundary of ancient Meath, states that it extended from Gephill to Drumcullen, from Drumcullen to Birr, and that the Abarn Chapa. formed it, thence to the Shannon. Is not com a mis-transcript for avon?

The name of this River is now locally forgotten. The Inquisition and all our other authorities should be consulted for its true name.

In page 33, he states that Offaly was part of Glenmallery! If this be right I am wrong in all my speculation about Offaly.
In page 158, he gives the following odd quotation from Usher, which I wish to have examined.

"It should have been remarked elsewhere, that long (perhaps a century) previous to the period now being treated of, (1754) this town was reckoned to lie nearly in the

(3)

69
" centre of the Kingdom, and it seems that there then
" was a large hollow stone, somewhere here, which
" used to be pointed out as that which Cambrensis
" in *Topographia Hibernia*, distinct 3. c. 4. calls the
" Navel of Ireland. Archbishop Usher mentions that
" it was shown here in his time. His words (in
" speaking of the long stones near Naas in the County of
" Kildare) are " *Ubi lapidem quendam suo tempore Giraldus*
" *-dus extitisse notat quod Umbilicus Hibernia decoratur*
" *(quasi in medio et medietate terre positus) pro quo*
" *tamen umbilicus Birra in Comitatu Regis alius quidam*
" *excavatus Lapis hodie ostenditur.*" *Primordia. p. 453.*

Does Usher write that Cambrensis places the Umbilicus Hiberniae near Naas? Does ubi, the first word in this quotation refer to Naas?

Let me have all Usher's words and also the Chapter in Cambrensis to which he refers.

He speaks of the origin and derivation of the name Birra as follows:

14/10/13/9(11)

(4) (Parsonstown)
" It seems that this place, had been in remote
" ages called Tulach Brenayd "which signifies, ac-
" cording to Hammer's Chronicle "Collis Brendani or
" Brendanphill. It was also known by the name of
" Birr, Birra or the Burre, from the Irish word
" bypa, a standing water or marshy field as Mr.
" O'Reilly testifies in his Dictionary. Others say that
" the appellation Birr arose from a crooked
" stick that formerly lay across the River here
" resembling a spit, which in the Irish language
" is denominated byp. Upon the grant of the town
" and surrounding lands to the family of Parsons
" in the reign of King James the First, it ac-
" quired the name of Parsonstown, having been
" then erected into a manor by that name.
" It was sometimes called Birra to give it a
" Latin termination:

To this he appends the following note:

" A noble member of the Royal Irish Academy informs
" me that Birr took its name from the Irish Bior,
" a spring well. He likewise remarks that Birr also

" signifies as well in Hebrew, but I find that ~~the~~ Bior "
" in the Irish tongue likewise means the brink of
" a river, and, as the ancient town was situate upon the
" river, it might from that circumstance have been
" denominated Bior. At all events O'Reilly must be
" wrong in his derivation of the name, as there certainly
" does not appear to have been any standing water near
" the town. Perhaps the true cause of the appellation
" is from Bir, a spit, as the author of another Dictio-
" nary remarks, and I am the more inclined to this opinion
" in consequence of the river here taking its name
" from a crooked weir, which might have resembled
" a spit." p. 10.

All this is very fine, and shews how hard it is to have the right knowledge! I have the following objections to make to his text and notes

" Mr. O'Reilly testifies in his Irish Dictionary that Birra
" means standing water or marshy field." What does the attorney mean by testifies? O'Reilly knew nothing about the localities of Birr or of the meaning of the word except what he copied from O'Leary's Glossary. How then is the word testifies applicable?

6. Bir does not mean a spring well, but water in general.
3. Bior does not mean the brink of a river.
4. Bir or Bior meaning a spit, but the village or town of Birr was never called Bir or Bior in Irish. It was anglicised to that.
5. It was not called Biorra to give it a Latin termination, for all the most ancient and modern Irish writings have written it Bioppa in the nominative form.

What then is the meaning of the name? If we don't agree with O'Leary and the more ancient glossographers from whom he copied, that Bioppa or Bioppa was an ancient Irish word to express "watery field" we must reduce it to "horn" like Banagher, and we shall then find ourselves between the horns of a difficulty. But it would be audacious to reject the testimony of the old Glossographers in explaining an old word in their own language, for that of Mr. Cooke. How does he know whether there was any standing water near the town in the time of St. Brendan, or how does he know what features was originally called Bioppa? How does he know but his Carr Chor River has by constant running deepened its channel? I think that by Bioppa the ancient Irish meant, a marsh, ppa, Callow, or field ^{occasionally} sometimes flooded by a river. of this more hereafter.

(7)
The Irish Calendar of the O'Learys has the following ⁷³
reference to St. Brendan, the patron of Birr.

"Nov. 30. St. Brendan of Birra, the son of Neman of
" the Clanna Rury race. He was a contemporary
" and companion of St. Brendan of ~~the~~ Clon-
" fert, and the founder and (first) abbot of
" Birrath. He died on the 29th of November
" 572. Sir James Ware calls him Brendan, the son
" of Luaghne, abbot of Birr, but he was mis-
" taken here and in many other instances."

The Annals of the Four Masters have the follow-
- ing extraordinary passage relative to this saint.

"A.D. 553 St. Brennan of Biorra ascended in his
" chariot to the skies this year. (If they saw Saddle?)

" 571. St. Brennan of Biorra, died on the 9²⁹ of November.

Then he remained a living man (composed of body & soul)
for 18 years after his ascension into heaven.

If Crotty could do this he would have no need of
telling the presbyterians that the church of England
is the oldest daughter of the scarlet whore.
14/D/13/9 (III)

(8) 74
The Four Masters then give merely a list of the abbots of Biorra, and nothing interesting occurs till the year 825, when they copy that

"A royal convocation took place between Conor, King of Ireland, and Felim, King of Munster at Biorra. I have frequently observed before that Birr was on the boundary of ancient Meath and Munster.

A.D. 1213. The Castle of Biorra was erected by the English this year.

1532. The Castle of Biorra was taken by a branch of the O'Farrells from another sept of the same family.

Mr. Cooke has collected a good deal of history connected with this town. The chief object of his undertaking the work was to flatter the pride of the Parsons and to establish Parsonstown as the name of the town, which neither he, nor the family themselves will ever succeed in establishing!

Parsonstown is such an ugly name and sounds so like tythes, that the men of Ely and Ormond prefer the nice old name of Birra to it?

your obedient servant
John O'Donovan

END

14 D 13/10

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Birr, Co. Offaly, in which he refers to the location of site of historical or antiquarian interest located in Kilmanaghan, Kilcumreragh, Lusmagh, Wherry, Tissaran (Tisaran) and Clonyhurk, Co. Offaly.

30 January 1838

1p.

23 cm



75
Birr January 30th 1838,

Dear Sir,

I want any notice that may occur in the Annals to Magh Eille, a place for which I made many a search in the County of Westmeath, but which I find to be in the Kings County in the parish of Kilmanaghan.

Is Faithche Chiarain to be found either in the Annals or Calendar? It is the name of a townland in that part of the parish of Kilcumreragh which lies in the Kings County, and which contains the ruins of a small. My memory is very treacherous if this ^{name} is not to be found in the Annals of the Four Masters.

Does Mac Firbisce give any pedigree of the family of Mac Uileachain of Lupmagh, and from whom the townland of Baile mhic Uileachain in that territory is called? Two of the name, Daniel

14/12/13/10

76 and Thomas Coulaghams Esquires retain property.

Lanigan states (vol. III, p. p. 24 and 29) that Liathmor, the monastery of St. Mochaemog or Pulcherius "was exactly" four miles distant from Bishop Colman's monastery, of "Daire mor" (now Milcolman)

But he does not tell whether it was north, south, east or west of it. What authority had he for this?

Usher or Colgan? Let me have Usher's notice of Liath-mochaemog as soon as possible. No such name is now remembered in Ely O'Farrell. There is a Liath-more and Liath-bee in the parish of Wheery in Delvin-mac Coghlan, but neither of them can possibly be identified with Liath-mochaemog, which was certainly situated to the south of the Avon-Cor river, in the territory of Ely-O'Farrell in ancient Munster. There are many clues to the discovery of this church, but I think that Usher, who saw it - is the best authority.

Is the church of Leagh in Ely O'Farrell mentioned in the Inquisition?

It appears from the Annals of the Four Masters that the Castle of Lixcloony in the west of the parish of Tisparan in the Barony of Garry Castle or territory of Delvin-mac Coghlan, was erected

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by O'Dalachain. Does Mac Turbise give a
Pedigree of this family? They seem to be a
branch of the Delving Cathra. Two or three of
the name are mentioned in the Will of Sir John
Coghlan made in 1590. Was not Denis Bames
Daly, who succeeded the last Mac Coghlan,
descended from this family of O'Dalachain
and not from the O'Dalrights of Corca Ree
or Dunpandel?

The Church of Cluain-da-thore mentioned by
the Four Masters at the year 1387 is the church
of Clonyhuck near Portarlinton.

"A.D. 1387. Maunio Maol Eonora Daly was slain by
the single shot of an arrow at the church of
" Cluain-da-thore by one of the O'Kelleys of Leghe."
Mugeshegan's translation of the annals of Clon-
macnoise states that Eonora was slain in Clon-
macnoise - hence Clonyhuck was in Clannacnoise
as I have already proved.

Is the Castle of Liop-dearg mentioned in the
annals of the Four Masters? It was one of
Mac Coghlan's castles situated in the parish of
Tiparan. The place is now generally called Bellmount.

I now send you the following name books

1. Clonyhurch - 1. book
2. Ballykean - 1.
3. Clonsast - 1.
4. Ballynashill - 1.
5. Seltonapterorig - 1.
6. Ballymacwilliam - 1.
7. Castlejordan - 1.
8. Ballyburley - 1.
9. Croghan, - 1.
10. Kilclonfert - 1.
11. Killaderry - 1.
12. Ballycommont - 1.
13. Gephill - 2. books

which 13 parishes ^{were} comprised ⁱⁿ that part of ancient Offaly lying in the present King's County. I also send the book of

1. Kilcumraagh
2. Horseleap
3. Kilmonaghan
4. Kilbride

Which are comprised in the Barony of Kilcoursey, alias Munster Bagan or Foxe's country.

your obedient servant
John O'Meara

END

14 D 13/11

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from T[homas] O'Connor, written from Birr, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Kilcolman, with particular reference to its early churches, holy well, abbey and the origins of its place name.

1 February 1838

4p.

23 cm

RIA

{ Binn Feb 1st } 79

Index

Kilcolman parish -

Old Church in
ruins in.

ruins of old Chapel in
the Church yard.

Kilcolman ~~Ch~~

Called so after St. Colman

Kilcolman — signification of -

———— Doire-mor ancient name of -
as is collected from the situation
of it, laid down by Colgan, and from
other circumstances.

Doire mor —

in the Calendar

———— in the Annals

Clonbeg townland — remains of a
Castle in -

Rathmore townland — ruins of a Castle
in -

14/D/13/11(i)

Birr February 1st 1838

+ Colonel Oxburgh, was further in law of O'Carroll (Lieut. Col. Owen) (book 2)

Sir, In Kilcolman townland in Kilcolman parish, is a Church in ruins, and within the Church-yard, is also a Chapel of ease, in ruins, said to have been built by, Colonel Oxburgh, who, as tradition says was brother-in-law, to — O'Carroll, and was Colonel in his army. C. Oxburgh was beheaded in Dublin, and his head was conveyed to England. He — resided at Boveen in this parish, for a more particular account of his see the work entitled 'Picture of Parsonstown' by Mr. Cooke.

There is a stone representing a human head, fixed over an entrance, in the South side wall of the old church. The tradition in the place, is, that St. Colman founded a monastery here, from ^{whom} the parochial name ^{ecclesiast. Colmani} Kilcolman is formed. — St. Colman's story is not now celebrated here; there was a well called after him, which lay close to the old Roman Catholic Chapel of Kilcolman, and is now shut up.

It is said the old Abbey founded by this Saint, stood near Mr. Dillon's Cottage
14/10/13/11 (11)

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+ There is some unaccountable derangement in the application of 'Insula vitæ' to this place, as it appears to be a translation of 'mynd m beo'. The name of an island, which lies in the neighbourhood of the mouth of the river, and of which, so much is said in the 'Geographical Dictionary'.

in Kilcolman townland, where a road runs by it; and that some of the stones of the building remain on the original site, now composing partly the fence along the road side. The spot is known to Mr. Dillon, who calls his own Cottage by the name of 'Insula Vitæ', which was, he says, the name given by St. Colman to the place, where first he fixed his establishment in it.

Kilcolman signifies 'the Church of St. Colman'. It appears that, the ancient name of this place, was Doire-mor, which signifies literally 'the great oak wood' (roboretum magnum), and is rendered Nemus magnum by Colgan, in the 16th Chapter of the Life of Pulcherius.

Dr. Lanigan, who certainly adhered strictly to the signification of nemus magnum, citing the words of Colgan as given in the above mentioned Chapter, translates Doire-mor into 'great grove'.

The words of this 16th Chapter, relating to Doire mor, are - For (he St. Colman) was in his own monastery, which is in Irish (Scottish), called Doire mor, that is great grove (nemus magnum), and is situated on the confines

82

of ^{the} Momonians and ^{the} Lagenians: but it, however, lies
in the Country of the Momonians, viz. in the
district of Cile.

Koolgan in his 20th note to the Chapter just
referred to, places Dore-mor between Helia,
and Assoria: and in Note, 10th to Chapter
2nd of the Life of St. Natalis, A. A. S. p. 174.
says: "I. Colmanus, called from his mother,
Macdarene, that is, the son of Darenia, Bish.
of Dore-mor on the Confines of Assoria
and Elia &c."

According to our present idea of the bound-
ary between Assory and Ely O'Barrol, Kil-
colman lies at least 6 miles, West of any
point of it. But it is curious that a part
of the Diocese of Assory, which touches the
boundary of the parish of Kilcolman, is
insulated in the harony of Ballybritt, ^{in the Diocese} ^{of Kilcaloe} so
that if the ancient Kingdom of Assory
was Co-extensive with the present

14/D/13/11 (iii)

Diocese of Ossory, the description of the situation of Doire mor, given by Colgan from the ancient authorities would agree with the situation of the present Kilcolman. It is probable, however, that, by 'in confinio Munnicensium et Lageniensium' — 'inter Meliam, et Ossoricum' — 'in Confinitibus Ossarie et Elice' — Colgan did not mean exactly on the confines of — but rather in the neighbourhood of — i.e. in one of the districts and in the Neighbourhood of the other.

Lanigan, it seems, translated the passage relating to Doire mor, in this sense, when he says 'Colman resided in a Monastery, founded by himself at Doire mor (great grove) in the district of Eile, and Province of Munster, near the borders of Leinster.' — It must, however, be admitted, that, he translated the words defining the situation, according to his knowledge of the locality of the present

Kilcolman with respect to the ancient boundary in his idea, of Leinster.

He lays down the original of his translation thus 'Ipse enim (Colmanus) erat in suo monasterio quod Scotice dicitur Doire mor, id est nemus magnum, et est positum in Confinio Munimuniensium et Lageniensium; sed tamen positum est in regione Munimuniensium, in regione scilicet Eile'. - Life of Pulcherius, Cap. 16.

This writer states that 'The district of Eile or Ely A'barroll, is now comprised in the King's County, and Doire-mor is called Kilcolman a place in the Barony of Ballybrit, and Diocese ^{not} of Meath as Archdall says, but of Killaloe'.

Vol: 2: p. 310. 312. .

Doire mor, is here identified with Kilcolman, from the circumstance of the latter name ~~for~~ having Colman entering into it, which was the name of the Saint, who was founder of Doire mor, monastery, described as lying in Eile in Munster, and from the supposition that the latter name Kilcolman (i.e. the church of S. Colman as is said before) has been substituted for the former.

14/10/13/11/14

as also because Eile in Munster, is identified with Ely O'Carrol, a district in which, Kilcolman is situated.

There need be no doubt, that Daire mor is Kilcolman; the only thing to be lamented is that those, who furnished Colgan with a description of the situation of Dairemor, did not define it with more precision, as lying immediately, ^{at} or at so much distance from the boundary of one district, with another, and within some particular district, country, or Kingdom &c.

We learn from the Calendar that, Colman was venerated on the 20th of May.

Colmán doire mhór 20th May.
(Colman of Daire mhór).

In the Annals of the Four Masters, the death of the blot of Daire mor is recorded

at the year 1014. at which it is said
that 'Conaing, the son of Find, abbot of
Doire mor, died.' -

There are remains of a Castle in
Clonbeg townland in this parish, which
is said to have belonged to the O'Carrols.
and in Rathmore townland, there
lies in ruins, a castle, which be-
longed to the same family.

Your Obedient
Servant

J. A. Connor

J. L. Larcom Esq.
&c. &c.

END

14 D 13/12

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from T[homas] O'Connor, written from Birr, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Kinnetty (Kinnitty), with particular reference to its monastery, castle, association with St. Finan and the origins of its place name.

2 February 1838

4p.

23 cm



Kinnetty Parish.

[Birn Keb 21]

Kinnetty — formerly, the Name of a Monastery.
Founded by St. Finianus P.
situated on the Confines of Caly and
Pearaceall, according to Colgom,
who in the Appendix to the
Life of St. Finianus, Bishop, places
it at Sliaabh Bladhma (montem
Bladma). now Slieve Blome.

———— on the Confines of Heli and
Fercell — (Speckled Book)

Kinnetty — No remains of a religious
edifice at.

St. Finian's Monastery — parish Church said
to be on site of.

———— day — not remembered.

———— well — now closed up.

Castle of Beann eitigh —

4 Mrs.
A.E. - 1213 -

Castle of Kinnetty — Mageoghan's
Annals - A.D.
1209.

———— No remains of
at present.

14/10/13/1209

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Dinn February 2nd 1838.

Sir, Kinnetty, now the name of a parish in the Barony of Ballybritt, was formerly the name of a Monastery, and signifies the head of Citteach, being in Irish, ceann Citeis.

Let an extract of the legend, be made, which accounts for this name, and is found in the Dinn-
-Seanchus, under the head Feathbha.

The monastery of Kinnetty was situated on the confines of Elia (Ely) and Perrikellia (Pearaceall) according to Colgan in Note 103 to Chapter XXXIX of Lib. I. of Adamnan's Life of St. Columbkille, Triad: Han: p. 349. The Note is given in page 380, in which Colgan observes the circumstances of the Lives of four Saints of the name (Finanus) in order to identify one of them with the Finanus mentioned by Adamnan in the Life above referred to. In the enumeration, he states that, 'the third was St. Finanus, surnamed 'Coam, Abbot of Kennetigh on the Confines of 'Elia and Perrikellia, as appears from his Life 'which we will give at the 7th of April. Since, 'then, that monastery is on the Confines of Elia and 'Perrikellia, on which is also the monastery of 'the plain of the oak wood, or Dar-magh, the 'circumstance of time sufficiently affords to deem

14/10/13/12(11)

him the same St. Finanus, who (according to Adamnan here) led the Life of an Anchorite for many years near the monastery of the plain of the oak wood; unless a calculation of time would oppose (this conclusion,) by which (calculation) this Finanus is shown to have lived in the time of S. Adamnan, and by consequence about, or after the year 660. For St. Finanus of Kennetigh was disciple of St. Brendan of Clonfert, as is read in Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 of his Life (already) cited. When, therefore St. Brendan died in the year 576; it does not appear (probable) that, his disciple, who in his (Brendan's) lifetime, presided over the aforesaid Monastery of Kennetigh (as is read in Chapter 8, already cited) lived afterwards down to the time of S. Adamnan about, or after the year 660?

In the Life of Mochoemoc at XIII of March A.D. 99. p. 593 - it is said in Note 23 to Chapter 18 'That S. Finanus^{*} was at that time in the monastery of Liath^{vi} (which was in Helia) here Colgan observes that Finanus ought to be read Finamus. For at the same time and in the

* There is a misprint here in Colgan's note.

'Vicinity in the Country of Helia, flourished St.
'Finanus of Kennetigh, whose Life you have
'at the 7th of April' -

^{as given in Note 23}
The words in Chapter 18, are 'Et S. Finanus tunc erat
'in Monasterio Liath' &c. - By tunc here is meant
the time, when a certain scribe came to the
Monastery of S. Pulcherius, as is read in the
Chapter here given; and by eodem tempore
in these words of the Note. viz. 'Floruit enim
'eodem tempore & in vicinia in regione Helia S.
'Finanus de Kennetigh,
'7. Aprilis'. - is meant that S. Finanus flourished
in Kennetigh Monastery at the same time, that
S. Pulcherius was in Liath Monastery. Thus
we see, they were Cotemporary.

Kinnetty is placed at Shieve Bloom, in
the Appendix to the Life of St. Finanus, Bishop,
IX Jan; - A. A. S. p. 46. - where it is said that,
'S. Finan, surnamed cam, of Kennetigh (Ken-
'(-netigh) at Mount Bladma, sprung from
'the tribe of Corcoquillagh, ^{Conaquinagh in Kerry.} (is venerated) on 7. April.'

The calendar has Finan Cam o' emeiri 7 o' Shab
'Bladma. 7. April'. - That is, Finan cam
(the stooped) of Kinnetigh, and of Shiabh Bladhma

v. 7th April. is his festival.

14/D/13/12 (III)

* Kinnetty may be said properly enough to be at
the foot of Shieve Bloom, which way called
Shieve Bloom by the Irish.

† Shab Bladma must be an error in Tipper's Copy for a Shab Bladma, which latter accords with the words of Colgan, viz ad montem 'Bladma' - The 7 (aguy) was introduced through an entire misunderstanding of what was meant by the original.

In the Leabhar Breac, or Speckled Book of the Mac egans, Folio 9. 6. is read —

'fman camm chro etcris me crsedris. 7c. — that is.

Piuan Camm (the stooped) of bind etlig (Kinnetty) the son of bind edig (Kennedy).

And in Folio. 10. d. 'fman camm chro etcris '7 ecoroch heli 7 ppercell'. that is — Piuan Camm (the stooped) of bind Etlig (Kinnetty) on the boundaries confines of Heli and Percell.

From all the authorities adduced, we see that Kinnetty is placed on the Confines of Ely and Pearaceall; whence it is evident that, Ely a'barroll extended Northwards at least as far as Kinnetty, where it was met by the Southern boundary of Pearaceall. —

No remains of any religious edifice exist at present at Kinnetty: it is thought the parish Church occupies the site of St. Piuan's Monastery. In the churchyard there is found no ancient inscription; which might

* Man which : 7 ecompoisib always means in the neighbourhood of

indicate the antiquity of the place. There is one head stone in it, which bears some ornamental lines indented on it, and is looked upon by the people, as being of remote date. St. Pinan's day is not remembered: there was a well within the village of Kinnetty, which, (some say) through faint recollection) was called Pinan's well: but it is now closed up.

The Annals of the Four Masters record at the Year 1213 that 'The English of Ireland led a great army to Droichet fine, against Cormac the son of Art, where a battle was fought, in which, the son of Art was defeated, and Roderick O'Kierdha killed. The son of Art was banished from Dealbhna, and his people were plundered. The English went to St. Thlone, and erected a Castle there: they also erected the Castle of beam eitigh; the Castle of Birr and the Castle of Durmagh.' -

Mageoghegan's Annals record that in the year 1209, the Castle of Kinnetty, the Castle of Byrre, and the Castle of Othra, were broken down and quite destroyed by Matorgh O'Brien.

This is an unaccountable for, difference of date; it is strange that the latter Annals record the ~~exact~~ destruction of a Castle which was not erected till 4 years afterwards according to the former Annals.

There is not a vestige of a castle to be seen now at Kinnetty. The site of a castle lies in the townland of Tulla, where a small portion of the walls is said to remain.

It is said in Mageoghegan's Annals that in the year 871. Colga Mac Connagan abbot of Kinnetty, the best and elegantest poet in the Kingdom, and their Chiefest Chronicler, died.

This passage ought to have been inserted immediately after what has been said of the Monastery of Kinnetty; but as it was not laid down there, it was found necessary to introduce it here. Your obedient Servt.
J. O'Connor

END

14 D 13/13

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Birr, Co. Offaly, concerning his efforts to locate the ancient church of Leagh, church of St. Mochoevoge, and the antiquities and folklore associated with the parish of Seirkieran.

3 February 1838

4p.

23 cm

ill; ink drawn map of the ancient territories of Feara Ceall and Ossory, indicating the location of the settlements at Birr, Kinnitty, Kilcolman and Seirkieran and church of Leagh.

Included are related extracts from Colgan's 'Acta Sanctorum'.

Birr February 3rd 1838,

Dear Sir,

I travelled yesterday to discover the ancient church called Liath mor or Liath-Mo-chreanog, the church of St. Mochreanog or Pulcherius, but found that both the church and the name are blotted off the earth. But notwithstanding the disappearance of the name and the object, its locality can still be pointed out with considerable accuracy.

The life of St. Pulcherius published by Colgan states that the chief of Ely gave the saint a place for building a church in a thick forest near the Grunna (Bag) of Astagui Lurgan, where he erected a church which he called Liath (grey) from a large grey boar which appeared he met at the place, and which on seeing the saint, laid aside his native ferocity, and stood before him as mild as a lamb!

14/D/13/13(1)

(Cap XV)

(2) 95-

Feara Beall

Doohyregan



6 miles

from Birr to Kinnitty 6 miles
from Hillcolman to Leagh. 4 miles

The Leagh shewn on the Aughran County map of the Town Survey will exactly correspond with the distance between Liath-mor and Daire mor now Hillcolman, for the life of Pulcherius states that the distance between them was 4 miles and not more.

In cap. xvi of the same life it is added that the distance between Liath mor. and Bishop Colman's church of ^(now Kilskeady) Doire mor. was four miles and, not more

" Insunt enim quatuor milliaria inter
" ista loca et non plus."

Now the Down Survey Engraved County maps show a church of Leagh on the northern boundary of the townland of ^{in Kinnitty Parish} Derrykeil, about 5 miles to the east of Birr, and midway between Sherkieran and Kinnitty.

I walked to the very spot where the Down Survey shows this church of Leagh, and found nothing but a ^{flat} square mound of earth resembling the site of the nunnery of Kinnard near Street in the County of Westmeath. But it is strange that the natives have no recollection of the name Leagh, or of a church ~~or church~~ or church yard ever having existed ^{there or} any where between Derrykieran and Kinnitty! I am satisfied however that the square mound ^{*} of earth already

* Colgan describes Liath mochoenog as in the vicinity of Kinnitty.
cap. 18, note 23.

(4) ^{9th} referred to is the site of a church yard from the appearance it presents. But I wish to have the matter further investigated. Does the Down Survey townland map of the parish of Kinnitty exist? I believe that it is partly burned, but does that part of it remaining show the townlands of Derrykyle, Kilconcoose, and Ballyshane? If so look at the northern part of the townland of Derrykyle, and see if it shows a church on or near its boundary. If the townland map of the parish of Kinnitty should be altogether burned, send me a trace of the parish of Kinnitty from Vallancey's copy of the Baronial maps of the Down Survey, compared as much as it can be done, with the fragments of the original that have escaped the fire. Does the name Comcor or Arvon-Cor occur in any of the original townland maps, as the name of the River of Birr.

I want the account given by Mac Firbisse of
the building of the wall around the church
of Saighes Chiarain ^{and the Ravens}. The present wall
is exceedingly ancient.

There are two round towers on a small scale standing
in the church yards of SeirKieran, and Killyan -
the establishments of St. Kieran and his mother
Liedania. They seem to have been attached to
other buildings and to have been used as
Pacristy^{ies} or Dearthachs. Has Mr. Petrie seen
any towers of this description attached to any
churches in the west or south of Ireland?

They are about 17 feet high and rather of rude
masonry.

Bell Hill opposite the church of SeirKieran to the
north, is said to be the hill on which St.
Kieran ~~rang his~~ bell rang divino nutu to point
out unto him where the fountain was at
which St. Patrick ^{told him} to erect his church.

— Saig na g.
cúindais cheap for a bpi.

14/0/13/13(mi)

There is a bush on the top of this hill which is believed

(6) 99 to have negotiated since the time of St. Kieran!
The legend about the bell is told by ^{the author of the life of Kieran as published by} Colgan thus;
which is not very different from the one preserved
by oral tradition. St. Patrick and Kieran are represented
as having met in Italy.

" And St. Patrick said unto St. Kieran go to Ireland
" before me and approach the fountain which is
" situated in the middle of Ireland on the con-
" finer of the northern and southern Irish, and
" called Fuaran, and there erect a monastery, be-
" cause it is there thy honor and thy resurrection
" shall be. To whom St. Kieran said: the place where
" that fountain ^{lies} ~~is~~, is unknown to me. St. Patrick
" replied: dearest brother, ~~go~~ thou wilt go secure,
" and the Lord shall be with thee, take this
" Bell as the companion of thy journey; it will
" remain mute until thou arrivest at the aforesaid
" fountain, but when thou shalt have arrived
" there, the bell then shall emit a clear sound
" and it will ^{shall} sound sweetly. ^{to} After the expira-
" tion of thirty years I shall go to thee thither.
" And the servants of God mutually kissing &
" blessing each other, ^{St.} Kieran directed his course

* "the Bell rang in his pocket" traditions

to Ireland. But St. Patrick remained in Italy.
 From that day the Bell of St. Kieran was
 made without any sound until he came to
 the fountain Fuaran as St. Patrick
 had predicted. St. Kieran coming into
 Ireland, the Lord directed him to the
 fountain Fuaran, and there the Bell of
 the man of God, sounded with a clear and
 sweet sound. This Bell is called Bardan^{+ Bodhran}
Ciarain and is held in great honor in the
 city (Saighis), and throughout the whole
 province of St. Kieran. For it is carried
 through the ^{regions} districts, to be sworn upon
 by princes for the defence of the poor, and
 for the exaction of the tributes of the
 monastery of St. Kieran. This Bell was
 made for St. Germanus, the Bishop and
 master of St. Patrick; and the fountain,
 as has been said above, lies on the confine

(8) 101 ^{parts}
of the provinces of Ireland; but it is in the
southern ^{half} ^{province} ~~part~~, in the region of ~~abmonia~~
and in the ^{plebe} territory of Lebe. And the blessed
Pontifex Kieran began to dwell there as
an Eremitic; for there was a wide forest
there of thick woods in every direction; and
he commenced the erection of a cell with rude
materials; and afterwards a monastery
and a city sprang up there by the gift
of God through the favour of St. Kieran;
all which are called Dayghis."

Acta. S.S. p. 458.

I think Satiss means Satiss nap. approach the
fountain." if not ^{Sutso.} Satiss nap. the seat of
the fountain."

I am anxious to have the trace from the Down
Survey about Leagh Church, Arvon-Cor, &c. as
soon as possible. We move to Roscrea on
Monday.
your obedient servant
John Adonovan.

END

14 D 13/14

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Birr, Co. Offaly, in which he refers to assess source material concerning Clonllyn Castle and the Back River, Co. Offaly.

4 February 1838

1p.

23 cm



Birr February 4th 1838,

Dear Sir, I now send you the name Books of the parishes which were comprized in the ancient territory of Feara Beall, O'Molloy's principality, viz.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|---------|
| ✓ 1. Durrow | _____ | 1 Book |
| ✓ 2. Kilbride or Moylena, | _____ | 2 Books |
| ✓ 3. Raham, | _____ | 1 Book |
| ✓ 4. Lymally, | _____ | 1 _____ |
| ✓ 5. Kibboughy | _____ | 1 _____ |
| ✓ 6. Ballyboy | _____ | 2 _____ |
| ✓ 7. Eglish | _____ | 3 _____ |
| ✓ 8. Drumcullen. | _____ | 3 _____ |

Also the Books of all the parishes comprized in the ancient territory of Deabhna Cathra, in latter ages called Devin Maw Coghlan, viz:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------|
| ✓ 1. Lemanaghan | _____ 1 - | 6. Reynagh | _____ 3 - |
| ✓ 2. Clonmacnoise | _____ 3 - | 7. Lupmagh, | _____ 2 - books. |
| ✓ 3. Wheery | _____ 1 - | | |
| ✓ 4. Tisparan | _____ 2 - | | |
| ✓ 5. Gallen | _____ 3 - | | |

4/0/13/14

* I have ascertained this river: the Dubh abhainn is
 the Blackwater - and Back River is but a different
 name for the Blackwater.

Is there any reference to Clonlough Castle in the
 annals of the 4 Masters. 9: Chain lighans? It
 is one of many Caghlanig Castles, situated in a
 townland of the same name in the southern
 extremity of the parish of Clonmacnoise.

There is a river in the Barony of Garrycastle
 called in the name Book of Clonmacnoise Back
river; but which I think should be Black
River. The 4 Masters mention the River
Dubh Abhainn in Delvin, at the year
 1548, and I do not see what river it
 could be but this*. I wish you would
 ask St. Lamey what authority he has
 for calling this Back River? It rises
 in the Bog of Allen a short distance to
 the north of the townland of Clongawny
 and falls into the Shannon at Timolin.

Perhaps Back river is but a tributary stream
 to the Duon Owen or Black water.

your obedient servant
 L. O'Donovan

Panstown Educ Rept 1826

RIA

END

14 D 13/15

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Birr, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, religious traditions, antiquities and topography of the parish of Ballyboy, with particular reference to its early churches, holy well and castles.

4 February 1838

4p.

23 cm

RIA

104
Birr February 4th 1838

Sir,

Ballyboy, now the name of a town, parish and barony, is written *baile uia bríde* in Mac Locháin's poem celebrating the victories of Hugh O'Byrne, and signifies 'the town of the yellow ford' - *Villa vadi fulvi*. We learn from the passage in which it occurs, that it was situated in Fearaceall.

'*of ruid ceall n' oisáid de, apd baile uia bríde.*
that is. Of Fearaceall, the great town of Atha buidhe
did not escape him.

In Mageoghegan's Annals it is written
Athboy at the years 1260, 1268. —

^{A.D.}
1260 'Barbrí O'Ullaghlín worthy prince
'for manhood, bounty, and many other good
'parts, was treacherously killed by David
'Roche in Athboy in the territory of
'Fearkeall'. —

1268 'Fercall O'Ullóye prince of Ferkeall
'was deceitfully and treacherously slain
'by the English of Athboy'. —

14/10/13/15 (1)

The Down Survey, in the description of the parish of Ballyboy, says, 'In it are scituate one ruined Church at Balliboy, one ruined Abbey at Kilharmicke, one ruined Castle at Broholloe, another Castle on a mount at Balliboy with a dwelling house and some Irish Caliburs, another house there is at Ballicollane and a Mill at Ballineargie'.

There are no ruins of a Church now at Balliboy, the tradition is that the parish Church is built on the site of a Roman Catholic Chapel; nor is it remembered in the country that there was ever a castle at it. The Abbey of Kilharmicke was situated at Frankford; the references to it in our documents will be given immediately.

Broholloe is now written Paroughals, which is a townland containing a Castle the residence of ~~Kilhol~~ Fitzsimon Esq. M. P.

Tradition says this Castle is old, that it originally belonged to O'Molloy.

Ballicollane is now Ballicollin townland in this parish; and Ballineargie, is Ballineargie townland also in this parish.

Kilcormuck was the name of a monastery founded according to Archdall, who refers to War: Mon: as authority, for Carmelites or 'White Friars, under the invocation of the Virgin Mary, by Odo, the son of Kellan 'O'Molloy' head of his Sept.' The same writer referring to *Calendar eussdam missal* in *Bibliotheca coll. Dubl.* Wing p. 247. says that in 1454 'Odo (the founder) died on the feast of St. Remigius: he was interred in the abbey before the high altar.'

Kilcormuck was situated at Frankford town, where the Roman Catholic Chapel now stands. "When the chapel was going to be built, all the bones in Kilcormuck old grave yard were dug up, and being collected into one heap, were enclosed with a circular wall. This is now called moat, and on its wall, on the North. W. side, is a stone exhibiting in relief a representation of the Crucifixion.

It is well remembered in the Country that Frankford was formerly called Kilcormuck: and the tradition is that Frank Magawley, who lived abroad for some

14/0/13/15 (m)

time in a place called Frankford, substituted it for Kilcornuck, as the name of the town, after he returned home. It is said he was proprietor of the town, or at least of part of it. -

In an Inquisition of the time of Elizabeth, quoted by Archdall, we find Frankford al' Kilcornuck.

There is a well called St. Cormack's well, which lies (according to the Name book, 10 Chains) N. W. of the Brewery at Frankford; and another well called after him in Scarry townland.

Tradition says there were many wells called after him in the neighbourhood, and accounts for the circumstance in this manner. -

The Saint of prophesied that St. Cormack was to be killed by wolves. - Cormack in order to guard himself against so terrible a death, erected an edifice, on which there was no entrance excepting one little opening ~~through~~ near the top, through which the necessaries of life were handed into him. He expected thus to evade the fatal death, that awaited him.

But on one evening, as he sat ~~up~~ in this tower of defence, meditating on something, he looked out from the opening on it, and saw two black snails creeping up the wall towards where he was. They ascended putting on another form as they approached him. Terrified at the sight, he threw himself out of the tower, and ran through the

Country, pursued by two wolves, which from being apparently snails at first, grew up to such fierce animals. They followed the Saint, with ferocity and finally tore him in pieces. In every place he fell during his flight, there sprang up a fountain of clear water. All the fountains that issued forth at the time were called after the Saint. This tradition was suggested by the great number of springs in that part of the Country, and by the circumstance of having more than one well, being dedicated to St Cormack.

The patron day of this parish is Lady day, — St Cormack's day is not remembered. Is there any mention of him in the Calendar or in *bolgom*. The tradition above given, makes him contemporary with St Colman Bp of Lynally. —

14/10/13/15 (m)

+ now Palace, the name of a townland in the parish of Killybegs.

The Annals of the Four Masters record
at 1548. that ^{A.D.} Laighir. Chiarain and Kil-
Chormaic were burned and destroyed
by the English and O'Barrol. —

Barnaboy, now a townland in this
parish, is written brúna bríde, signifying
the yellow gap, in Mac Coisíoch's
poem just referred to.

'Cion a pháirí mór imúide;
'Táimís se d'ym d'g' lúaid;
'má can yon brúna bríde;
'do éasó prómá ar n' do d'ime?

that is —

Plunder from [†] Raile of Cill Mollay,
came with countless number of good hosts;
And also from Bearna bríde;
Through the valor of our Hugh.

And Knockhill in this parish
is probably the cnoc leat éasó, occurring
in the same poem. —

'm enac leat cloc hē teapc tu5,
'or5eot n5p5c ananad.'

that is—

From Enoc leath chasch,

He came off, having defeated his powerful enemies.

Tradition says there were five O'Molloyes, who had Castles in Peara ceall. One of them had Broughal Castle, the other Loughcove castle in English parish, and now in ruins. The third Loughal Castle, which is now totally destroyed. It stood on a square fort, with a deep ditch, drawn around it.

There is a townland named Loughal in Drummullen Parish; and a portion of Land, called North Loughill in Ballyboy Parish. I cannot determine in which, the Castle stood; though I was standing on the site of it, which lies opposite Hugh Mulrony's house near Loughill bridge, under which runs the river said to divide Ely O'Carroll from Peara ceall in that part of the Country. The want of ascertaining the certainty of the locality, is owing to the general idea of land divisions among the people, who very

14/D/14/15 (IV)

111
seldom are acquainted with the North,
South, East, West divisions of townlands, ex-
cept such persons as have the opportunity
of seeing a parish list &c. of townlands.
The other two Castles remain to be as-
certained.

Your Obedient-
humble Servant

J. A. Larcom Esq. &c. &c.

J. O'Connor

END

14 D 13/16

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from T[homas] O'Connor, written from Roscrea, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and traditions associated with the parish of Aghancon, Co. Offaly, with particular reference to its castles, early churches and the origins of its place name.

6 February 1838

3p.

23 cm

O'Donovan refers to the difficulties he experienced in getting the local population to assist him in his survey work.

RIA

Roscrea February 6th 1838.

Sir,

In the townland of Ballybrit in the parish of Aghancon there is a castle in ruins, which is said to have belonged to O'Carroll. A short distance to the South of this Castle, are some portions of the walls of a Church; and to the N. ^{W.} of it, is shown the site of a Roman Catholic Chapel. There is a tradition in the Country, that, a priest of the name of Conell (whether this was his Christian Name, or Surname is not known), who used to officiate in this Chapel, was inhibited from doing duty for some misconduct on his part. When he found he was on the eve of being silenced, he requested that the denunciation should be deferred for a few days. In the interim, he turned Minister, and preached thenceforth in the Church, which stood close by the Chapel; so that as the tradition observes it was curious to see the one man officiate as priest in the Chapel and afterwards as Minister in the Church just by it.

14/2/13/16(1)

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If there be any truth in the circumstances related by this tradition, it can be collected from it, that the old church of Ballybrit was in use at rather a modern period.

Leap Castle is in the townland of Leap in this parish. It is said to have formerly belonged to - O'Carroll - it is now occupied by - Darby Esq:-

The ancient name of it is not remembered by any one in the neighbourhood. The people there are not willing to communicate any information; from what Cause, I know not. I was introduced today to one of the oldest men in the parish of Aghamcon. He is a perfect oddity, and, if he were out in the time of the Cynic philosophers, might be sure to graduate in their College. With an expression of face, indicating duplicity of mind,

he made fabricated answers to every question put to him, relative to the original names of some places in the parish, and neighbourhood.

When I told him that what he related was trifling, and evidently made up by some persons who were in the habit of framing stories, and giving them to swallow, to others, who had no means of discovering the untruth of them: he was afterwards wholly intent on giving negative answers, and giving no information whatever about what was enquired after. Returning him thanks with words, though not at all feeling thankful, I came off. I wished that fate might not furnish me with another such character, and going on, I found that the amount of information to be had in general in that part of ^{the} Country, is but very little.

14/10/13/16 (v)

Leap is a translation of Leim, in the ancient name Leim ui Bhanain, Leim ui Bhanain, the Castle of which is placed in Ely, at the year 1557, by the 4 Mrs. where it is recorded that 'The Lord Chief Justice marched with an army, into Pearaceall to expel the plunderers from it, for he had heard that they were in the woods of Pearaceall; He took Theobald O'Kollon and others prisoners, and proceeded from Pearaceall into Ely, where he took the Castle of Leim ui Bhanain, and O'Carroll escaped him, only by means of the swiftness of his steed.'

Leim ui Bhanain signifies O'Banan's leap, i.e. Gallus Obanani. This leap was the name of some feature about the place, previously to the erection of a Castle there; but the spot so called is pointed out by no one in the country; nor is the circumstance that gave origin to the name, remembered. O'Banan was one of the eight Septis of Ely, under O'Carroll, who was the Sovereign; and we learn from O'Riaghain's Poem, Olden's M.S. R. S. A. that he was Chief of Nair Decu.

116
14/D/13/16 (in)
'hii déci an dagh tuat dnuymneach,
'an fonn fáymas fionn bhríon;
'tu tré do dluib dár,
'drt binn n bairm.'

that is.

Hii Deci the goodly Country of hills
The extensive, white, incensed land,
A fertile country, closely adhered to by them, (the H. Decii)
The hereditary estate of O'Banan.

In the description of Aghacon parish
in the Down Survey, it is said, that upon
'the lands of Ballibritt stands a Castle
'and a Church.' - See what is said above,
of Ballybrit Castle and Church in ruins,

Aghancon, is in Irish scáid na g-con,
ager Canum, that is 'the field of the hounds.'

Let Colgan, the Calendar, the Four
Masters, be searched for any reference
to Schadhma-g-con; and the
Inquisitions for Leim ni Bhanain.

No local evidence could be obtained to prove
that the Leap Castle is the Leim ni Bhanain
of the Annals. The Inquisitions will prove
their identity.

J. S. Larcom Esq. 14/12/16.

Your Obedient Servt.
J. O'Connor

Index.

Aghamcon Parish.

Ballybrit townland - Old Castle
Church ruins in.

Leap townland - Leap Castle in.

Leap Castle - ancient name of
not remembered.

_____ called Leim Mí Bhamain
at 1557 - in the Annals.

Leim Mí Bhamain - Signification of.

Bormann - Chief of Kneissi
in Ely.

(Kneidhrin's Poem)
M.S. B. 1. 1. 1.

Ballybritt (lands of) - a castle and Church on
(Down Survey)

Aghamcon - Signification of -

END

14 D 13/17

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from T[homas] O'Connor, written from Roscrea, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Killoughy, with particular reference to its castles and churches.

5 February 1838

2p.

23 cm



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Rathlilin in Killybeggy Parish - old church in ruins in

Rathlin Mount - to South of the old church
 Lady well - $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile to S. of site.
 Castle in ruins - to S. by E. of it.

Rathlin - written Rathlilbhten in ^{the} Calendar
 Tollaachan (St.) - not remembered here

Lady Long - Patron of Killybeggy
 Rathlilbhten (Abbey of St. Illand in) - Archd.

Statue of St. Illand mentions by Archd.
 No information to be had respecting it.

Ballyfarrel townland - old Church in ruins in
 No burial at it.

Ballycanta townland - Holy well - in -
 Name of - ?

Kill-huailleach - in the Southern County of
 Meath called Pepra Keall, &
 in it St. Loman venerated in ^{the} Calendar

Killooly (townland name) - identifiable with it.
 Triethan p. 131. C. 11.
 Notes 35. 36. p. 174.

Kill-huailleach, or Parish name in Westmeath near
 Castlestown, Dublin -
 No ruins now here.

Killooly townland - a church destroyed by
 St. Loman Portion of it.

Rathlilin townland - in the parish of St. John
 in the parish of St. John

Roscrea February 5th 1838

Sir,

The ruins of an old Church lie in the townland of Kallihin in Milloughy parish, at the Western gable of which on the inside there is an apartment with a stone roof, extending the whole breadth of the edifice. Immediately to the South of the Church yard there is a moat, and about a quarter of a mile to the same side of it, is Lady's well. To the East by South of the Church, stands on ^{an eminence} a Castle in ruins, which, tradition says, was built by - O'Molloy, to whom also the erection of the Church is ascribed.

We find Kallihin written Rathlibhten (are Libhten) in the Irish Calendar, which places it in Pearae Ceall in Meath.

Colladán ua Eadair fpp o'pait libten
1664th Ceall mbe - volume.
that is

Colladán the grandson of Eadair, Bishop of Rathlibhten in Pearae Ceall in Meath.

Dollardham is altogether forgotten,
 Lady day is the patron day of the
 parish of Killough.

Archdall says, Rathlibthen is situated
 in the ~~territory~~ Barony of Parcall - Here
 we find the Abbey of St. Illand who flourished
 A.D. 540. The Statue of the Saint is still
 to be seen in this Church with his
 Episcopal mitre and a crosier in his
 hand, the head was broken off some time
 since by sacrilegious hands (d). St. Illand's
 festival is observed on the 10th of June. (e).

Wry (d) - a reference is made to A.D. P.
 p. 191 and Ward: p. 422, and by (e) to
 Ward: p. 160. Ward was the predecessor of Colgan in
 Irish Hagiology. What does ^{he} say about Rath Libthen?

About the statue here mentioned
 I could obtain no information.
 Let an extract from the A.D. P. be
 made, - let the Annals also be
 searched for Rathlibthen. —

There is a church in ruins in Ballyfarrell
townland, but there is no burial in it now.
It is said there is a holy well in Bally-
-Canta townland, the name of which
I could not learn from my in-
formant.

Colgan says in Notes 35, 36 to Chapter 11
of Lib. 2 of the Tripartite Life of St. Patrick,
Irish. Shaw: p. 131, that the Church of Kill-
-huilleach is in the Southern Country of
Meath, called Para-Keall, and in it, this
St. Loman is venerated on 12th of November
according to Marian Gorman and the Martyrology
of Donegal. -

The only name we find in the district
of Para-Keall that could be identified
with Kill-huilleach is Killooly, the
name of a townland in the above mentioned
parish of Killoughy. But there are no vestiges
of any religious establishment found in it
now, nor does tradition state that there ever
was a monastery, or church in it. It
is said there was a castle in it which be-
longed to - O'Molloy, but there is not
a trace of it at present to be seen. There
is a church in ruins, called Kill-huilleach in
the County of Westmeath near Castle town delvin.
It gives name to a parish, of which St. Loman is
patron, as he is the patron. It is probable there was
a church in the townland of Killooly, also dedicated
to St. Loman.

END

14 D 13/18

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Roscrea, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Rathain and the extent of the ancient lordship of Ely O'Carroll.

7 February 1838

21p.

23 cm

ill; map of the lordship of Ely O'Carroll.

Included are related extracts from Sir William Betham's 'Antiquarian Researches' and Seaán Mór Ó Dubhagáin's and O'Heerin's poetry on the lordship of Ely O'Carroll, and extracts from O'Flaherty's 'Indexes of Ogygia' concerning Clonfertmulloe, Co. Laois.

Ms.
(1)

Ragcrea, February 7th 1838,

Dear Sir Please to send up the name Books of
the Barony of Clonliffe as soon as possible
and also the County name Book, as we shall now
get finished here in a few days.

We want the historical references to Ragcrea and
Trig na mbea (Trincha vivarium). They are not within
the limits of the Kings County but the references
to them may throw light upon the extent of the territory of
Ely O'Carroll.

Clonfertmulla for which I have been so long
on the look out, is not in the Kings County but
lies in the Queens County a short distance to
the east of this town. This was well known
to O'Flaherty, as we learn from the following
words in his Ogygia:

"St. Molua, a famous disciple of St. Columba,
founded the noble monastery of Clonfertmulla."

" in the Queen's County at the foot of the
 " mountain Smal, which is likewise called
 " Bladmas. Transl. vol II. p. 303.

It is astonishing how accurate O'Flaherty's know-
 ledge was upon the subject of Irish topography.

Some notices of Rathain

As Archdall and Lanigan have entirely mistaken
 the situation of this curious place, I deem it necessary
 as a further proof of its real situation
 to translate here a most curious notice of it
 given in the Leabhar Breac or Speckled Book
 of the Mac Egan. It appears that cer-
 tain Bards had satirized the Kinel Fiach, i.e.
 the O'Malley and Mageoghegan, and that
 O'Suany, the Coarb of Rathain, undertook
 to protect them against their rage, but that
 the Kinel Fiach, whose pedigree was attempted
 to be ^{impaired} stained by barefaced forgery, violated
 the protection of the Coarb, ^{and} murdered the lam-
 psoners; that the matter was referred by the

MS. B. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.

Coarb to the King, who refused pronouncing a
decision, but left it to the Coarb himself.
What appears very curious in this account is that
although St. Mochuda was entirely banished from
Rathain, O'Suamy is called his Coarb.

" A Chonol Fiachach, slo po bap neppy
" Fiachu mie Fiachach, mie moirbneppy.

" Oh Kind Fiach, this is your lineage
" Fiacha, the son of Fiach, son of Macelbreppy.

" This is a quadrant of the ^{native} lamp, which was con-
" posed by the lampmen, who were murdered
" while under the protection of O'Suamy at Roy Carr.
" The Kind Fiach say that they themselves are
" descended from Fiach, the son of Macel
" of the Nine Hostages, but they are not
" according to this Rann, ^{quadrant} but from Fiach,
" the son of Macelbreppy; et noxio forastera!

" It was in consequence of this violation that O'Suamy
" received Roy Carr, and had the persons who committed
" it delivered up to him, viz ^{one of the 9} Macelbreppy, the son of
" a Flann Penae, a plunderer (Barrister), one of the

MS. B. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.

123.
"plundering acts of violence way to profane the cross
"of O'Duany and ^{his} protector at Fidd-Elle together
"with the clergy of the artisans. ~~hence~~ It ~~was~~ ^{is}
"for this reason it ~~was~~ ^{is} called Cro na cainte.
"This happened in the reign of Donnell, the son
"of Murchadh, who proclaimed all the
"Hy-Cailchin for the enormity of the crime,
"and refused to pronounce any decision on
"the eric to be given ^{for it} in it, but left it to
"O'Duany's own ^{conscience} conscience. O'Duany's award
"was that Rap-Corr†, the land on which the
"crime was committed should become motmain
"to Mochuda and O'Duany, and that the
"persons who committed the crime viz Gille
"Duany, O' Kearney and O'Gairin, should lose
"their liberty, and be never permitted to return
"to their tribe." Leabhar Breac fol 35. b.

"I should not doubt him! the first object was to make
something by it; the next perjury! Humm nature is
with the

cd B Raithin in Shianaigh.

740. The laws and constitutions of O'Swayne of Rahyne were established by the King and Subjects.

744. The Rules of O'Swamy of Rahin were established in Leigh-Coyn in Doals. (Co's halfe in deals)

751. Luanus ab Finoyne O'Swanage of Rahin, died.

1136. Soirveach O'Kelly Cowarb of Rahin O'Swanage died.

1205. Moyle Kieran O'Kelly of Rahin, died.

1227. Symon Clifford founded and built The Castle of Rahin O'Swanis this year.

This Man gave an annuity to The Prior of Durrow and Convent.

I think that the old vault standing near the old church of Rathain is a part off Partes this Castle! Lod

14/12/13/18(m)

These places are in the Counties of
 Westmeath and Longford.
Pailis.

1496.

The English of Meath made an incursion into
Magh Breaghmaine, during which they demolished
Rathriathack^{*}, took possession of Pailis, and
 burned the monastery of Lundham, and the fields
 and corn of the country, after which they returned
 without having made peace.

* Rathriathack now Rathreeagh, a Parish in the Barony
 of Chidagh and Co. of Longford, adjoining the
 Co. of Westmeath. The Castle of Rathreeagh and the
 old church from which the Parish derived its
 name St. Andrew^{St. Andrew?} in the Diocese of Foxhall.

1142. Rathain in Shuannaigh.

1141. Donnell, the Son of ^{Rory} O'Mallmuaidh, Lord of
Ferrell was killed by Muirne Luainnebh
in Rathain in Shuainnagh.

1153. Torlogh O'Brien was banished to the North of Ireland
by Torlogh O'Connor who divided Munster in two
between Tighe O'Brien and Dermot son of Conner, son
of Muircathach MacCarthy - Murtagh the son of Maile
Mac Loughlin and the Men of the North of Ireland
marched with an Army to the relief of Torlogh
O'Brien and to reinstate ^{him} in his Kingdom ~~in~~ of Munster,
till they had reached to Craichtheine. Torlogh O'Connor
collected his forces and marched to Magh Lici's Patain
against the Northmen. Tighe O'Brien came with his forces
to Rathain in Shuannaigh to the relief of the Connachians
and advanced to Magh Cici. In the mean time M.
Loughlin with two chosen bands of his Army marched
12/11/18(15)

(8) 129

^{over}
~~over~~ Ath Maighne leaving the remainder of his Army
at Craibhteine, and with this small force went to
destroy the Camp of Teige O'Brien whom he defeated
with a great slaughter of his people. He also defeated
the Leinster Cavalry. He afterwards returned to his
own Camp to Craibhteine with a great spoil of Kine
after plundering a party of the Men of Teppia. He went
from that to meet the Connacians until he had reached
Isleal Kieran. Torlagh O'Connor passed near Abhlone
to the west. Rory O'Connor with the battalions of West
Connacht and the Glaslaiths of Iol Muireadhaide marched
to Lodruim, when they were getting up their Camp.
Then the heroes of the North poured in on them without
notice and killed a great number of the Connacians
together with Giolla Ceallaigh O'Heidhin Lord of
Bidhnet, and his son Keogh; Brian O'Dowd Lord of
the northern My-Tiachra, Mortogh the son of Torlagh,
the son of Conor O'Connor, Donnell O'Byrne,
Donnell son of Cathal O'Connor and Sitring

the son of Mac Dubhgaill - O'Loughlin
afterwards came with his forces to Lough
Aininn and O'Melaghlin came into his house
and left hostages with him, and he (O'Loughlin)
gave him all Meath from the Shannon to
the sea, and Offaly and Ui Maclan &c

in the County of Wicklow and the
banks of the River

Rathbethaidh. nil ad rem omnino

Sm.

3501. Rathbethaidh on the banks of Eidir
(Now) in Argeoras was built by Arcemon.

3576. Arcemon died at Rathbethaidh on the
Eoir in Argatros.

of the extent of Ely O'Carroll.

The exact extent of this celebrated territory has never yet been pointed out though several have attempted to do so. That the Abbe Mageoghagan and Archdall were wrong in making the Barony of Eghoh a part of it I have already shown from ^{ancient and modern} evidences of the most satisfactory nature. I have also proved that its northern ^{mere} boundary is defined by the boundary of ancient Meath, by the boundary of the Diocese of Meath, by the River Avon-Cor or Cam-cor, and by the situation of Birr, Drumcullen and Kinnitty, which are all described by very ancient writers as on the boundary of ancient Meath and Munster, or, what was the same thing, on the confines of Feara Ceall and Ely. Its northern boundary is therefore certain. But its Southern, Eastern and Western boundaries remain to be proved.

That the ridge of the Slieve Bloom range of mountains divided Ely from Ossory we have several direct and circumstantial evidences to prove: 1st the poem of O' Dugan giving the limits of Ossory

" Ó Bláoma binn go párla
 ar cur do'n binná ir no áine.

that is,

Ossory extends — Blymō
 "From the soft Blawma to the sea, (i.e. Ireland)
 "The most beautiful part by far of Banna".

2nd O'Heering's poem describing the tribes of Ely

" Tighernaáda o'á g-cromáis cna,
 " Muintir ceapbail cláir Biorra
 " Rí Éle co Bláoma binn
 " An áobá ar féile o' Eirinn."

" Lords to whom stoop the nuts

" Are the O'Carrolls of the plain of Birra

" (Their head is) King of Ely to sweet Blyma;
 " ^{The} Most hospitable habitation in Ireland."

3rd Inquisition taken in 1621 found that "the territory
 " of Ely O'Carroll consisted of the pasture lands of
 " Ballycrinapp, Roppcullenagh, and Drumcan extend
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"ing to the lake of Leghagh commonly Laghaghiri.
"allies and bounded on the west by the lands called
"Laghenagarken, and on the east joining or near
"Clenarokin; was always called Ely O'Farroll
"and had never been measured or surveyed.
"The mountain land was found to extend from
"the lake of ^{Lochna na Scaopach} Laghanagarak to a hole called
"Polle Dowa, ^(poll dub in Roscommon) and from thence in a south
"easterly direction to the Sheue Bloom mountains
"which are the limits between Ely O'Farroll
"and Upper Ossory, and meet at a village
"called Garryroe or Scully's Land."

Betham Antiquarian Researches
vol. I, p. 95.

Q. Could a perfect copy of this Inscription
be procured? It can't be possible that all
the lands in Ely O'Farroll are mentioned
in this abstract published by Betham.

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There is then every evidence that the boundary of
Ely O'Farrell and Osory, extended along the ridge
of Slieve Bloom from the most western point
of Doohy Regan or the Barony of Timahinch
in the Queen's County to the north western point
of the parish of Kyle or Clonfertmulla near
Rogreah. This is corroborated by the fact that
that Terminus has left the impress of his authority
and antiquity on this boundary line from the
one point above mentioned to the other, is
proved by the fact that it has been adopted
as the common boundary of townlands, parishes,
baronies, counties and Dioceses. ^{Slieve Bloom,} The summit
of the Slieve Bloom ridge to the extent above
described divides the Queen's County from
the King's County, and the Dioceses of
Kildare and Osory from that of Killaloe.
It is therefore an ancient fixed boundary
between ancient Munster and Leinster, and
therefore between Doohy Regan and Osory
on the one side and Ely O'Farrell on the
other, Doohy Regan and Osory lying on

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the East side of it, on Leinster, and Ely O'Garra on the west in ancient Munster.

I have now, I trust, with sufficient satisfaction, traced the northern and eastern boundaries of Ely O'Garra from Burr to near Rogera, but there a startling difficulty presents itself, and two important questions must be answered before we can advance one step farther in the enquiry, viz. ^{1.} ~~Was~~ Ely O'Garra entirely included in the present Kings County? 2.

If not, how much of it is comprised in the present County of Tipperary?

We learn from O'Mahony, who lived very near the time when this territory was reduced to a shire and who seems to have held the proper English authority before him, ground, that the entire of it was not placed in

the Kings County. "This Ely (O'Garra's country) is a the Queens (rectius Kings) County, formerly belonged to Munster as did the natives of it, being situated on the confines of Ormond; but in the last century a part of it was formed into a County in Leinster, a by the King, and a part annexed to Ormond in the County of Tipperary, in Munster."

...the name of the ...
...the name of the ...
...the name of the ...

I think that this passage is translated incorrectly by
that silly minghammer Healy, the greatest ass
that ever undertook the translation of an author.
Whether it be translated rightly or wrongly, it is
sufficient to show that ^{the learned} O'Flaherty was persuaded
that the entire of Ely O'Carroll was not placed
in the King's County. This is corroborated by the fact that
the valley of the mountain is called in Irish Beannán Eile.
The next authority evidence for showing that a considerable
part of Ely O'Carroll is comprised in the King's County, is
O'Heerin's Topographical poem, which places
the ^{counties} sight Tuathas following in Ely O'Carroll:

Tigheannada d'a gcomart end
Muintir Ceapbaill cláir biopra
Rí Éle coblaoma bhr
An ábha ar fóis d' Éirind.
Ocht tuatha, oet tóiríoch tair
Pá n' Éle an farrd ealúg
Calma an tóiríoch de ag tuar cneach
An pluas foltúirde, páirdeach.
1. O'plannacáin laomda a lán
An chenal arda iomlán
Do ríol tairg mic Chéin Cúinda
Ó ándlic péil osholla.
Claid Ruande na nód ríoch
Cúioch milt. nés mioníochach
2. Mág Concáin o'n tuar tpeabáis
An bpuar ochebáin ríochach.

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3. O h-aedagán epíche cón
 ar éileann sonmairéir fóidneis
 Tuath do bhuíct cloasa ar gach ponn
 Co ndruíche meala ar gach mósóil.
 Mór chuath cloinne Maenais mór,
 4. S'ó dublaíse ar dú an tír rin,
 Cpoá an lúet feadma an fine
 Rehuéit Uadma bhuaisnéis.
 Tadóreach dár enoigeala cpoim
 ar éileann choimleceáin enuaircpoim
 Slat bpoim do'n pón élis
 5. Mac Gíolla íohail doine Gíeil
 Hui doer an daga chuath dnuimneach
 An ponn púipins pionbpuisneach
 Tír tuid do dluatús dail
 6. Duchaid bunús Uí Dairín.
 Do lionat co tpoim an tír
 7. Uí Meachair cpoich o' S Cairín
 Spóam ba bun beánnáin éle
 Neáinnár eua a scáiréime.
 Tuatha papale na bpois páis
 8. Duchaid Uí Míche ppoim
 Clár ppoim-bpuisneach tpoim a tpoim
 Map pón tpoimabneach Tairlteán.

a very odd expression. Lords to whom stoop the mutes
The O'Barrells of the plain of Biscra,
King of Ely to the ancient Klogma,
Most hospitable mansion in Ireland,

Centred

Eight tuathas, eight chiefs there are
Under the King of Ely-land of Cattle
Brave the host in ^{their} threatening an incursion
That yellow-waving-haired army.

- 1- O'Flanigan of the snowy hand
Ruler over all the Kinel-Arge ⁽¹⁾
of the race of Teige, son of Nean of Crinna ^(1*)
He dwells at hospitable Adollick-Oilill.

Over the Clan Rooney of the flowery roads
That sweet, cleared, smooth-streamed country
That populous fair bordered, wine-festive cantred

- 2. Ruler Mag-Corcan of the numerous tribe.

- 3. O'Hagan of Cioch chain

So over the Clan Lomhainin of smooth land
it cantred, which promises a feast on every spot ⁽²⁾
And a dew ^{pod.} of honey on every clupster

The great cantred of ^{the vigorous} Clan Maonaigh

- 4. Is hereditary to O'Dooley ⁽³⁾

This tribe are brave retainers
Placed now at the breast of the clear-streamed
Blayma

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A chief whose trees bear white nuts
Is Over the Clan-Comlegan of heavy fruit
Twig of Biarra of Elyan trees (4)

5 Mac Guilfoyle of the fair white mansion.

Fly-Deki, the goodly cantred of hills

The wide, fair manjioned land—

A fruitful land which adhered to them
as strength & salt.

6, Ex O'Banion ^{ancestral} patrimonial inheritance. (5)

Their country has been mightily peopled

7 - By the O'Meaghers of Ciocho-Kerrin (6)

Tribe of the foot of Bedman Eile ⁽⁷⁾

No shame to recount their exploits.

Truth Faralt⁽⁸⁾ of the cleared woods

8, To the inheritance of O'Hailchen

A fair-mansioned plain of populous tribe,
Like the land of Tairtlearn, dry, tho' streamy.

He next describes Corca-Tine and Ely the southern
which is the present Barony of Elyogarty in the
County of Tipperary.

Let me have the pedigrees of these eight families of Ely, as well as that of their sovereign Oarrill.

(1) Kinel-Argar: this is called Kinel-Fhearga by the Franc Masters (at the year 1548) who placed the ^{limits} the Castle of Bally Mac Adam near Cadamstown in the parish of Litter. It is probable that Kinel-Fhearga comprised the parish of Litter, and a part of Kinty. See Remarks on the parish of Litter Crancha.

(1*) "Teige, the son of Kian of Brinda". Teige was so called ^{from} his having assisted King Cormac Mac Art in the battle of Crinna near the Liffey, where they gained the victory. See Battle of Crinna. This is the fourth O'Flanigan whose location I have identified: In Fermanagh I met O'Flanigan of Tooria; in Roscommon O'Flanigan of Clancabill; in Wexmouth O'Flanigan of Teffia; and in Ely O'Farrell O'Flanigan of Kinel-Fhearga. Does Mac Firbissee trace the pedigree of O'Flanigan of Kinel-Fhearga in Ely O'Farrell to Teige, the son of Kian?

(2) He alludes to the great fertility of the district?

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- (3) O'Booley was originally chief of Fartullagh in Westmeath, but he and his tribe having assassinated the King — O'Melaghlin, they were banished from their original inheritance, after which they placed themselves under the protection of O'Barroll, King of Ely, who settled them in the cantred of Clan Mooney in the Slieve Bloom mountain. See what has been said about this family under Fartullagh in my account of the territories of Westmeath. The name is now very numerous in Ely O'Barroll.
- (4) Mac Giolla phoil, now anglicised Guilfoyle. The name is common here. Their cantred, as can be gathered from O'Sceirine's place Droghda — was that part of Ely adjoining Birr.
- (5) The position of this territory is evident from Leim Mhí Bhanain, O'Banan's leap, a castle in the parish of Aghacree about 4 miles to the north of Ragcrea.
- (6) Crioch Cairin: this is called by the Four Masters Mí Cairin and now anglicised Marin.

(7) Beaman Esk, near the Devil's But mountain.

This name proves that Ikerrin O'Meara's Country, is a part of Ely.

(8) Trath-Farall; the situation of this is as yet unknown to me.



It is curious that Ikerrin does not set down O'Delany as one of the sub-chiefs of Ely. Charles Honor in Ortaling Improved, Cooke in his Picture of Berr, and all the little writers, who were incapable of making any original researches, speak of O'Delany only, as under O'Farrell in Ely.

Ch

Where does Ikerrin or O'Dugan place O'Dubhghlaine?
+ substituted.

From this poem of Ikerrin it appears that, before the Irish principalities were disturbed or dismembered by the Anglo-Normans, in the 12th century, Ely, the Kingdom of O'Farrell, extended from Berr to Ely-O'Fogarty in the County of Tipperary, and that it

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comprised the present Barony of Bally-
britt, Clonlisk and Skerri.

This is further corroborated by the Liber
Regalis Visitationis of 1618 which places
the following parishes in the Deanery
of Ely.

1. Rossera, now Poyera, in Skerri
2. Castleton ——— Castleton Ely in Clonlisk
3. Ramaseoge ——— Rathmaseoge in Skerri
4. Ffinglag ——— Finglag in Clonlisk
5. Dunkerin ——— Dunkerin in Clonlisk
6. Templehary ——— Templeharry in Clonlisk
7. Burin ——— Burry-na-faney in Clonlisk
8. Shinnroan ——— Shinnroan — in Clonlisk
9. Kilmurry ——— Kilmurry — in Clonlisk
10. Bertha ——— Birr in Ballybritt
11. Kilcolman ——— Kilcolman in Clonlisk
12. Aghancon ——— Aghancon in Ballybritt
13. Etagh ——— Etagh in Clonlisk

14. Roxconroe —————

Roxconroe in Ballybritt

15. Clonfertimulley —————

Clonfertimulley or Kyle
in the Barony of upper
Oserry in the Queen's Co.

I do not believe that this ever belonged to the
principality of Ely, but that it was placed
in the Deanery of Ely by some, perhaps, com-
paratively modern, ecclesiastical arrangements.

It is now in the Diocese of Kilkallee, though
situated at the east side of the Slieve Blawna
range, and in the Queen's County. On the other
hand the parish of Sirkieran, which was certainly
in the ancient territory of Ely and in all respects,
is placed in the Diocese of Ossory, though in-
cluded in that of Kilkallee. These irregularities
must have originated in some regulations
connected with the monasteries of Daighis and
Clonfert-Molua, and not in any regulation
of the temporal divisions of territories. It
must be, however, acknowledged that the eccle-
siastical divisions were generally regulated by
the temporal divisions, as I have already often
shown. Exceptions of this kind will, no doubt,

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not unfrequently occur, but it will be found that they are all referable to Monastic grants, &c.

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 16 | Kennity | now | Kinnitty in Ballydrish |
| 17 | Litterlina | | Litter in Ballydrish |
| 18 | Kilkinny | | Kilcummin in Clontarf |
| 19 | Quillanoan | | Cullenwain in Clontarf |
| 20 | Inchinamesh | | Inchinames in Ikerin |
| | ^{alias}
Carbally | } | |

At the time that Ely of Carroll was reduced to Shire ground, it is very probable that the Barony of Ikerin ^{-Blenburgh's country-} in Tipperary, was not considered a part of it. I see no evidence to prove what O'Sullivan asserts, that any part of Ely of Carroll was placed annexed to Ormond in the County of Tipperary ^{no parish mentioned in} for the list of parishes above given as in the Deanery of Ely, has any connexion with Ormond.

The northern, eastern and southern boundaries of Ely of Carroll are now shown, but ^{its} the western ~~the~~ western boundary with Magrey Waters afterwards created into the Barony of Ormond, cannot be placed until we come to examine the limits of that territory.

Edward O'Keilly in his account of Ely O'Connell published by Sir William Betham, refers to an ancient ~~Welsh~~ Welsh MS, in his possession in the handwriting of Adam O'Keenan, as authority for the derivation ~~of the derivation~~ of the name Ely. This MS. is probably in the Library of the R. I. Academy. If so, I wish Mr. Curry would look over it, and extract the passage about Eile, the daughter of Eochy, King of Munster, from whom (Eile) it is stated the northern and southern Ely's originally took ^{their} name. He says that the author describes these districts as lying east of the Shannon, and stretching from north to south. O'Keilly adds that O'More's territory of Leix was called Eile Uí Mhordha, of which I don't believe a word, and I would venture to say that O'Keilly received this information from Beauford only.

These matters however cannot be finally settled till we shall have collected all the ancient and modern historical references to the territories in Tipperary and the Queen's County.

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Ely O'Carroll was often called North Ely to distinguish it from Ely O'Fogarty (Elyogarty) which was called South Ely, as we learn from these ~~two~~ ^{two} passages in the Annals:

"A. D. 1163, The son of Finn O'Carroll, lord of North Ely, was killed by Donnell, the son of Toilagh O'Brien." 4 masters.

"A. D. 1171. Donnell O'Fogarty, lord of South Ely was killed by Donnell the son of Donogh of Ossory, who also at the same time slaughtered the people of the two Elys to the number of three hundred and twenty." 4 masters.

We expect to get finished on Saturday, and God knows it is time.

your obedient servant

John O'Donovan

O'Carroll.

(continued
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The following brief sketch of this distinguished sept will be found useful to illustrate the history of Dinnia's Box and cld. as will also an account of the territory of Helia, or Ely, afterwards called Ely O'Carroll.

The family of O'Carroll, according to the Irish Antiquaries, are descended from Kean, the third son of Míolb Blann, King of Munster. Feig, the eldest son of this Kean, was a distinguished warrior, who, by killing in battle his three rivals, procured for Cormac Mac Art, King of Ulster, the Marquis of Ireland. Cormac rewarded him with a grant of land in Connacht, called Lurgny, Gallen, and Culavin, he paying to the King of Connacht, and his successors, 150 Milch Cows in May, 100 Bees, and 100 Barrels of Mead or Mithglin, at Athallontide yearly for ever.

He had two sons, Donla and Cormac Galeng, to the latter he gave the lands of Lurgny Gallen, now called the Barony of Gallen, in the County of Mayo, and Culavin,
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which were possessed by his descendants the O'Haras and O'Garas:

Conla the eldest Son, possessed the lands afterwards called Durke-
-Eile, i.e. the state of Eile, from Eile Richearge, of which
his descendants were styled Kings, there being no other title of
honour in use in Ireland before the coming of the English.

Bearbhail, the twelfth, according to some, and the
sixteenth, in descent according to other authorities, from the
above Eile, gave name to the Sept of the O'Carrolls, i.e. the
descendants of Bearbhail. The tenth in descent from him
was Tighe, or Thadhew, O'Bearbhail Boy, King of Eile, who
caused the Box of Dinma to be built, died about the middle
of the twelfth Century, and was succeeded by his Son.

Maolroona O'Carroll, or O'Bearbhail, King of Eile, was
succeeded by his Brother.

Donald O'Carroll, who was King of Ely at the coming
of the English under Strongbow, and from him are descended
the principal houses of this Family.

Maolroona O'Carroll, whose daughter, Grace, or Grania,
was married to Mlick Burke, Lord of Blarickard, and was Mother
of Richard Tapanagh Burke, the first Earl, joined with O'Brien,
and others, against the English Government and gave them much trouble.

He died A.D. 1532. His Son, Ferganamuin, or Ferdinando, O'Carroll, who

who succeeded his father as O'Carroll, concluded a treaty with Leonard Lord Gray, Lord deputy of Ireland, 12th June, 1538, by which he consented for himself and his successors, The O'Carrolls, Capitaneis de Ely O'Carroll, to pay the King 12 for every Caruante of Land in Ely O'Carroll, one hundred and twenty Marks on the nomination of the Chief, and, on general hostings, to supply the chief Governor of Ireland with twelve Horsemen, and twenty-four Foot Men, all well equipped for war, with provisions for forty days, at the expence of O'Carroll; that on all jounies to those parts, they should supply the Lord deputy and suite with provisions for three days; that the Lord deputy should be supplied with provisions by O'Carroll, for eighty gallogglafes, for three Months every year, and be permitted to make a Road or Roads, through Ely O'Carroll at his pleasure. In 1548, Feige Caroch O'Carroll, Son of Ferdinando, called by Sir James Ware, petty King of Ely, counted the English out of his Country, but afterwards submitted, and was created Baron of Ely in 1532*, which he did not long enjoy, having been slain by his own Sept, headed by his Kinsman and competitor, Cahir O'Carroll, who was afterwards slain by William Adhar O'Carroll, younger brother of Feige, who was knighted, 30th March, 1567, and made Governor of Ely, and Captain of his nation by Sir

(*) I have not been able to find the record of this patent. 14/10/13/18(xv)

Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Justice of Ireland. Sir William died 28th April, 1579. His natural Son, Sir John, or Charles, O'Carroll was knighted by Sir John Perrott, Lord deputy in 1584.

Sir Mulrooney O'Carroll, Son of Sir William, was knighted by Sir George Carew, Lord deputy of Ireland, at Dublin Castle, St. James' day, 1st March, 1603, being the day of the Coronation of King James I.

Roger O'Carroll, Son and heir of Sir Mulrooney, was ousted out of his Estate by Cromwell, he having attached himself to the King's party, under the Duke of Ormond; but his eldest Son and heir, Charles O'Carroll was in great favour with Kings Charles II. and James the 2^d. who were not able to restore him to his paternal Estate; the latter made him grants of large tracts of Land, on the Monocacy river in the Province of Maryland in the North America, which was divided into three Manors of 20,000 acres each, and called after the possession he had lost in Ireland, viz. Ely O'Carroll, and Doughoregan. The third was called Carrolston.

This Gentleman was also made Attorney general of the

The Province, and his Estates are still in the possession of his grandson, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esq. aged 90 years, whose father and himself have been members of the Senate of that State.

Mary, the daughter of the last mentioned Charles, was married to Richard Eaton, Esq. of the State of Maryland, by whom she was mother to her excellency Marianne, the present Marchioness of Wellesley, and three other Daughters, Elizabeth, Louisa-Catharine, (Lady Harvey) and Emily.

Sir James Carroll, who was Mayor of Dublin, was knighted by Sir Arthur Chichester, Lord deputy at Loughree, the 30th of Sept. 1609. His father Thomas Carroll, being oppressed by the Chief of the ^{his} Family, came to live in Dublin.

Sir James Carroll had a grant of the Abbey of Baltinglass, and was ancestor to the present high Sheriff of the County of Wicklow, Henry Griffiths (Carroll), of Ballymore, Esq.

Donagh, or Dennis Carroll, descended from Donagh Carroll, brother to Mulrooney Carroll, chief of his name, who died in 1532, was possessed of the Estates of Moderenny and Budybrack, in Tipperary, and was ousted by Cromwell. He married O'Kennedy's daughter.

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daughter, and had thirty sons, who he formed into a troop of Horse, and presented to The Duke of Ormond, for the service of King Charles I. On the restoration, John, his son, had a grant of his Lands at Hillury, in the County of Galway, where he married the daughter of O'Brian, by Margarette, the daughter of Lord Sherrin. His eldest son, James Carroll, was ancestor to the Family of Hillury; Daniel, his second son, entered into the Military service of the King of Spain, and was made a Knight of the order of St. Jago. He was afterwards, through the interest of the Duke of Ormond, made a Lieutenant-Colonel in the British Service, by Queen Anne, in which he rose to the rank of Lt. General, obtained permission to bear the insignia of the order of St. Jago in England, had also the Style of Sir Daniel, and was Colonel of a Regiment of Horse. His grandson, John Whitley Carroll, was British Resident at Saxe-Weimar, in 1804.

Spind Three other Carrolls, John, Donagh, and Kedagh, obtained grants of lands in Connacht, from King Charles II. in Compensation for their losses in Leinster.

From them are descended the Families of Springhill, Tirlogh, Adagh, Carragh, and Dunmore in the County of

Galway; Forthill, in the County of Mayo; & Doraville, in the County of Clare. The other principal families now existing are those of Emmell, in the Kings County; Shurles, Ballingarry, Nenagh, Littlefield, & Annemead, in Tipperary; Rockfield in the County of Wicklow; and Coolroe, in the County of Carlow. John Carroll of Stephen's Green, Esq^r, ^{Late} M. P. for New Ross, is the representative of this last family. Owen Carroll represented the Kings County, in King James' Parliament, in 1689.

Ely O'Carroll.

"Ely, or Helia, an extensive district comprehended in the present Kings County, and the ancient patrimony of the distinguished tribe of the O'Carrolls, from whom, as being Lords paramount of the District, it was called Eile-ni-Chearbhail (Ely O'Carroll) is generally supposed to derive its name from Eile Ríghchearg, (Ely red-arm) the eighth in descent from the celebrated Olioll Olum, King of Munster, who according to the annals of the Four Masters, died A.D. 234. and Gadhbh, (Gaw) daughter of Conn, of the Hundred battles, Monarch of Ireland. In this opinion concur almost

all our ancient genealogists, as does also the learned O'Hakerty, in his *Ogygia*; yet there is reason to believe that this opinion is not well founded. In an ancient vellum M.S. in my possession, in the handwriting of Adam O'Sianan, (O'Keenan), a celebrated Irish antiquarian, we are told that the districts of Ely and Dunoy were so named from Eli and Uaithne, (Ely and Dunoy) two Daughters of Eochaich, (Eochy) son of Luchta, King of Munster, one of our ancient lawgivers, who flourished about the time of the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The author describes these districts as lying east of the Shannon, stretching from North to South; and he tells us that he copied the Article "from the Book of his great Master, John O'Dugan." This John O'Dugan was the chief poet of the O'Kellys, of Hy Main, and a famous astronomer, topographer, and historian, who died A.D. 1372.

To those who know the works and reputation of O'Dugan, as an Irish Scholar and antiquary, little doubt will be entertained of his credibility, and Adam O'Keenan was a writer of nearly equal celebrity with his Master. The authority of these writers, even with those who do not know

Know their real merits, must have the more weight,
 when we consider that Ely O'Carroll comprehended
 but a small portion of the antient Ely. We find adjoining
 to Ely O'Carroll, on the South, the territory of the O'Fogarty's,
 now called Eile in Thogastraig, (Ely O'Fogarty) now comprises
 in the modern Baronies of Upper Ormond & Eloguerty, in
 the County of Tipperary, the latter of which Baronies still
 preserves the antient name. Again on the East of Ely O'Carroll,
 we find Eile in Mhordha, (Ely O'Morka) part of the antient
 inheritance of the eminent family of the O'Mores, princes
 of Leix, in the present Queens County. That the district
 of Ely was known by that name long before birth of
Eile Ridhearg, one of the O'Carroll's ancestors, from
 whom it is supposed, as above mentioned, the name of
Ely was derived, is further confirmed by the fact,
 that our antient historians, when treating of the reign
 of the Monarch Cormac Mac Art, tell us, that when that
 Prince applied to Seige, son of Cian, son of Olill Olum,
 for assistance against Fergus, black-tooth, the usurper of his throne,
 Seige was then in great power and authority, "in the territory
 of Ely." Now Eile Ridhearg was the sixth in descent
 from

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from Teige; therefore, the district in which Teige lived in such power, and which was then called Ely, could not be so called from Eile Ridhearg, who did ^{not} live for six generations after the time that Teige flourished.

As a further proof that O'Dugan and O'Keenan were right, with respect to the origin of the names and the situation of the districts of Eli and Uisne, (Ely & Curry) we see the latter name still preserved in the present Barony of Dunes, in the County of Tipperary, situate as described in O'Keenan's M.S. written long before Ireland was divided into Baronies. But whether the district of Ely derived its name from Eli, the daughter of Luchta, King of Munster, or from Eile Ridhearg, the prince of that district and ancestor of the family of the ^{not Leinster} Leinster O'Carrolls, is but of little consequence to that celebrated tribe. It is indisputable that they were, in very early ages, the supreme princes of the entire district; and in more modern times, when surnames became hereditary, gave their patronimic name to that part of the district which they then possessed, and which, from that circumstance, was called Ely O'Carroll. When they were Kings of the entire district, and even since they became Lords

Ely Carroll only, they had under them several very famous
tribes, of which the O'Leaghers, and the O'Delanys were
not the least eminent. Of the patriotism, piety, and prowess
of the chiefs of the Carrolls of Ely, the Annals of Ireland
teem with abundant proofs."

Such is the account given of the district of Ely,
by Edward O'Reilly, whose great learning, and valuable
Mss. in the Irish Language, eminently qualify him to give
us correct information on matters of Irish antiquities, in
addition to which, I have only to say, that 1621, the
territory of Ely Carrole was then found by inquisition,
to consist of the pasture lands of Ballycrinaw, Rossallenagh,
and Drumcan, extending to the Lake of Laghagh,
commonly called Laghaghirisallive, and bounded on
the west by the Lands called Laghengarten, and on the
east joining or near Glencrokin, was always called
Ely Carroll, and had never been measured or surveyed.

The Mountain land was found to extend from the Lake of
Laghengarten, to a hole called Polle Down, and from thence
in a south easterly direction, to Glive Bloom Mountains,
which are the limits between Ely Carrole and Upper Ossory,
and

And meet at a Village called Garryvoe, or Scully's land.

[Comp. O.K.] O'Harroll's treaty with Henry VIII.

" Concordia facta inter Regem et O'Harroll Capitaneum patrie Ely O'Harroll.

" Hec Indentura facta XI. die Junii, anno XXXmo Illustrissimis (Domini Regis Henrici Octavi, inter potentissimum et metuentissimum dominum nostrum Henricum octavum, ex una parte, et Fergonameuin O'Harroll nunc principalem Capitaneum patrie Ely O'Harroll, ex altera parte, testatur, concordatum, conceptum, et conventum fore inter dictum illusterrimum dominum regem nostrum et prefatum Fergonameuin O'Harroll, per presentes, et predictus Fergonameuin O'Harroll concedit, pro se et heredibus et successoribus suis, O'Harrolls, quod ipsi, et eorum quilibet, qui erunt Capitanei dictae patrie Ely O'Harroll, durantibus vitis suis naturalibus, solvant, aut solvi faciant, dicto serenissimo regi nostro, heredibus et successoribus suis, Anglia regibus, duodecim denarios de

de quâlibet, parvâ terra infra dictam patriam Ely O'Karoll,
et eosdem denarios solvendo esse subthesaurio, aut generali
receptoris dicti serenissimi regis nostris, infra hanc terram
Hibernia, vel talibus, quibus ille ordinabit pro receptione
eiusdem, ad usum dicti domini nostri potentissimi, heredum
et successorum suorum, simul in Anno ad festum sancti
Petri ad vincula.

"Præterea prefatus Fergusonamum O'Karoll, per
presentes, concedit prefato domino regi, pro se, heredibus et
successoribus suis O'Karollis, qui erunt Capitanei dictæ
patriæ Ely O'Karoll, deputato domino regi pro tempore existente,
quam saepe quotiescunque ipsi, et eorum quilibet, erunt facti,
sive nominati, Capitanei, aut facti The O'Karoll, solvent
pro prædictæ suæ nominationis ad eundem dominum
regem, ^{centum} et viginti bonas et legales marcas.

"Præterea idem Fergusonamum O'Karoll per presentes
concedit eidem domino regi, pro se heredibus et successoribus suis
O'Karollis, quod ipsi et eorum quilibet, qui erunt O'Karollis, et
Capitanei prædictæ patriæ Ely O'Karoll, invenire debent legis
deputato, pro tempore existente, ad omne commune viagium,
anglice vocatum a general hosting, quod erit constitutum
per
14/10/13/18(xx)

per Regis deputatum et concilium, duodecim bonos et legales equestres, et viginti quatuor bonos et legales ^{turbarios} ~~turbarios~~ bene ornatos, secundum formam belli, cum victualibus quodraginta dierum, pro dictis equestribus et turbariis, ac et sumptibus et expensis suis propriis, attenderent et inservirent domino deputato ad ejus mandatum et voluntatem.

"Insuper, dictus O'Karoll concedit, et admittit pro se, heredibus et successoribus suis O'Karoll, quod ipsi et eorum quilibet, pro tempore existente, cum tota suorum potentia, veniant ad Regis deputatum, pro tempore existente, ad quolibet viagium, aut parvum iter, quando ipsi et eorum omnes sic erunt requisiti, post rationabilem munitionem, cum victualibus trium dierum et eorum propriis sumptibus et expensis.

"Alterius prefatus O'Karoll concedit, pro se, heredibus et successoribus suis, O'Karoll, dictae patriae Ely O'Karoll, quod Regis deputatus pro tempore existente - habeat victualis in dicta patria Ely O'Karoll, per collectionem dicti O'Karoll, ibidem pro tempore existente octaginta sparorum, alias distorum, octaginta gelloglafes, quolibet anno, per spatium unius quaternii anni annuatim, durante vita eorum cujuslibet.

"Item, praeterea praedictus Fergonamiin O'Karoll, concedit

concedit^{et} admittit per presentes eidem serenissimo domino regi
quod Dominus Leonardus Gray, nunc Regis deputatus Hiberniae,
sciendet et sciendi mandabit, aliquam arctam viam,
vocatam a passe, in dicta patria Ely O'Karoll, ad ejus volun-
tatem.

"Praeterea praedictus Ferganamiu O'Karoll concedit
eidem domino regi facere viam infra dictam patriam ~
Ely O'Karoll, quam dictus dominus Leonardus Gray cogitabit
bonam pro faciliore passagio Regis bellicorum ac ceterorum
Regis bellicorum instrumentorum per totam patriam Ely O'Karoll,
ex sumptibus et expensis suis propriis.

"In cujus rei testimonium sigillum dicti Fer-
gonamiu O'Karoll praesentibus est appensum.
Datum die et anno suprascriptis."

END

14 D 13/19

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Thomas O'Connor, written from Roscrea, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Kilcolman, with particular reference to its early church, holy well, castle and association with St. Cuminin.

8 February 1838

4p.

23 cm

RIA

165
Roscrea February 3rd 1838

Sir,

Doctor Lanigan in Vol. II. p. 395, 397. of his Ecclesiastical History says, that, 'one of the principal abettors of the Roman Computation and promoters of its adoption by the Southern Irish, was Humminian, author of the celebrated Paschal Epistle to Eugenius, or I. I., abbot of Ky and others. He seems to have been a Columbian Monk, and was probably educated in the Monastery of Dunow which was subject to the Superintendence of the Abbot of Ky. At the time of the proceedings now related, he had apparently an establishment of his own, which was in all likelihood, that of Disert Chuimin (so called from his name) now Kilcolman or Kileummin in the King's County' (41).

In Note (41). the Doctor states that 'Colgan says (i.e. p. 411. and p. 438.) that Disert Chuimin was at the borders of Leinster and Munster (old Munster) and west of Roscrea. This agrees with the situation of Kilcomin, which is seven miles west of that town. (See Archdall at Kilcomin). -

Humminian placed some reliques of St. Peter and Paul in the Church of Disert Chuimin and we may justly suppose that it is to them he alludes in his Epistle. He represents his habitation as a sort of lurking place; "Hec clavi, not ut vos impugnavim, sed ut me ut mysticoracem in domibus latitantem defendere." This passage cannot be well understood as referring to the

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166 great Monastery of Durrogha, but it is very clear if applied to Disert-Chuimin.

When Lanigan says that Disert-Chuimin is now called Kilcolman or Kilcummin, I don't understand how Disert-Chuimin could analogically be called Kilcolman; if Kilcolman be intended as referable to Kilcolman, originally called Daire-mor, and now a parish partly in Ballybrit and Clonisk baronies, there appears a total aberration in such identity; but if it be intended as an Anglicised form of Gill-Chuimin, a name posterior to Disert-Chuimin, it is wrong in two ways. 1st analogically; for it is contrary to every analogy to introduce K in Kilcolman, if formed from Gill-Chuimin, as there is no K in the original; and in the next place in having no precedents for such a form; for Kilcomon, the name of a parish in Clonisk barony, with which, Disert-Chuimin, without the least doubt, is attempted, to be identified by Lanigan; is not found under the form Kilcolman in any document, of which I make use at present.

The situation of Kilcomon old church yard, agrees with that of Disert-Chuimin, with respect to its lying West of Roscrea, according to Colgan above cited by Lanigan. As to its being placed on the

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borders of Leinster and Munster by the former writers, it must be remarked that it gives no definite idea of its locality ^{exactly} with respect to the limits of those countries. For we find that the same writer places ^{on the confines of Munster & Leinster} Daire mor now Kilcolman, which is six miles from the nearest point of the now known boundary between these territories, as has been said in a former letter; and Dair magh (Dunrow), between which, and the boundary of Ancient Munster and Leinster, two baronies viz- Ballycowan and Balliboy intervene.

We may collect from what has been said, that Kilcolman, agreeing with the situation of Desert Churimin to the West of Roscrea, ~~as~~ according to Colgan, whose authority has been already referred to, does not disagree with its locality on the borders of Leinster and Munster, according to the instances adduced. It lies about nine miles from the limits just mentioned.

For sincerity's sake, it is but fair to acknowledge that Colgan described places in general, as he found them ^{defined} in the Irish MSS. furnished to him. And it is a fact that, the writers, who left those places described in the MSS. were in the habit of locating religious establishments, ~~and~~

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on the confines of two countries, when they actually
existed in one of the countries, and at some miles
distant from the limit common to both.

Now we find the situation of Desert Chuimin,
not disagreeing with Kilcomon with respect
to Roscrea and the Confines of Leinster and Munster.
The next feature that leads to the identification of
both, is the local pronunciation of Kilcomon,
which is Cill Curmin i.e. Cella. Cumini. Along
with this, — Tradition remembers St. Cumini as
connected with this place. Within the Church-
yard, in the North Corner was St. Cumini's seat.
The three flags, which composed it, lie now
separate in the very spot. It is said that he
was wont to frequent a well, which lies in
Cnocan Ruadh about 20 perches to the West
of the Church-yard. This well is not, however,
called after his name. Not far from
Mintland House, seat of George Minchin Esq.,
and ^{immediately} to the Right of a Road, that branches
at Poney's Bridge, to Dunkerin, from the Road
leading from Kilcomon to Roscrea, is a stone
with the impression of St. Cumini's Knees and
head, lying between four trees called Cumini's
trees, and in a field, which goes by the name
of Cumini's field. There is a circular cavity
in the stone, which contains water. St. Cumini's
well is a general name in the immediate neigh-
bourhood for it.

Curmin's field lies on the confines of Leinster and Munster, and is about 1/2 of a mile from the Roscrea road.

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A tradition exists that, St. Guimin of
Kilcomon, was contemporary with St. Cronan
of Roscrea. That an agreement was made
between them at one time to have the
limits of their jurisdiction marked out,
where they ^{themselves} should meet each other on
a certain morning, each having set out
from his own establishment, and having
gone in the direction of the other's. St.
Guimin being a very pious man, de-
termined not to go out, till he should
celebrate Mass in the Morning. When
he was after celebrating it, ^{as} he went through
the congregation, sprinkling them with
Holy water; St. Cronan was coming ^{up} ~~into~~
the very Church; and said, this will be the
limit of our jurisdictions. St. Guimin
explained to him the reason, why
he ^{himself} had not ~~not~~ gone out sooner,
and requested of him not to take
any advantage; but to let the

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limit be, wheresoever, the sparges,
which he held in his hand; should
fall, after being cast forth. Agreed,
said, St. Cronan. On this, St. Cumin
sent forth the sparges; and both Saints
walked together, watching its fall;
which happened in a stream at
Annerville near Glyduffs.

*to a trunk
in Dunkerm
Joh*
The two Saints found it there. St. Cumin
asked St. Cronan, whether he was satisfied,
or not, that the stream should be the
boundary. St. Cronan being a man
of hoisterous temper, got into a
desperate passion, and commenced
a violent attack on St. Cumin.
to avoid which, the pious St. Cumin
took to flight and running towards
his own establishment, turned off
the way, and concealing himself in
a field, under a bunch of briars in
a field let St. Cronan pass by;
and thus escaped his fury.

171

The field in which he sheltered himself is called Crimin's park, in which are the trees and stone above mentioned.

From what has been said on the authority of Golgon, cited by Lamigan; ~~and~~ ^{from} this tradition, and the features, to which St. Crimin's Name, remains as yet attached, and which are in existence, we may safely conclude that the present Kilcomon in Irish Gill. Chuimin, is the place formerly called Disert Chuimin.

In the Church yard of Kilcomon are some ruins of religious edifices. In the one, which was the most central, there appears to have been an apartment with a stone roof, exactly similar to the ones, in Drumcullen and Rahlin old Churches. —

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172
St. Quinins day is not remembered.
Michaelmas day was the patron day
of the parish.

The description of the parish of Kilcomine
in the Down Survey, says that there are
two small Rivoletts passing through it, on
which stands two Mills, one at Clonlisk,
and one at Kilcomin, where likewise
are the walls of a Church, and a Castle
at Clonliske with an Irish towne?

It is traditionally said, that the Castle
at Clonlisk in this parish, was erected
and afterwards inhabited by O'Barroll.
The Castle has been entirely demolished
with the exception of a very small but-
-ment - as I was informed,

Your obedient
humble Servant

J. A. Larcom Esq.
H. H.

Thomas O'Connor

END

14 D 13/20

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

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

9 February 1838

13p.

23 cm (i-iii), (v-xiii); 5 x 6 cm (iv)

Included are O'Donovan's findings regarding the extent of the Dioceses of Meath, Ossory, Kildare and Killaloe.

mitid' p'cup. Se an p'celuib.

(13)

Raperea, February 9th 1838.

Dear Sir,

After all my exertions to identify Liath mor or Mochsavage with the Leagh of the Dowen Survey, I fear I am wrong and very wrong! The Festology of Kenig places Liath mor the establishment of St. Mochsemag or Pulcherius in the Southern Ely, which is certainly not Ely of Arrall; and what is still more against me, the church of Leignotivoge is still in existence in the Southern Ely, to the east of Thurley, and on the borders of Leinster!

Mochsemóc, mac Beodha 7 Cuangus mac Dall; Óláth mór.
dóibrim 7 in Élib deirde. Kl. March.

"Mochsavage, the son of Beodha, and Cuangus
"mac Dall. These are of Liath mor in
"the Southern Ely."

14/11/2013

2) 1744

To this it may be opposed that Colgan places Liath mor, in the vicinity of Kimmitty, and the very ancient writer of the life of Pulcherinus states that it was only four miles distant from St. Colman's church of Doire mor, which Lanigan identifies with Kilcolman near Bisk, and which, it is curious to observe, lies exactly 4 miles N.E. of the place called Leagh on the Down Survey. This objection is clear, strong and striking, but still I think that there is a grand mistake in Colgan's assumptions, but the question cannot be finally settled till we come to examine the localities of the southern Ely, or Ely O'Fogarty in the County Tipperary. The following questions must be answered before we can come to any certain decision.

1. What was the exact situation and extent

1753

of Magh Nairbh, the plain or level district
in which Doire mor, the head church or
establishment of St. Colman, was situated?

2. Were there two places in Ely called Liath
Mochoemog; one in Ely O'Farrell or north
Ely near Kinnitty, and another in Ely
O'Fogarty or South Ely near Thurley?

3. Is there a church in the southern Ely called
Derrymore, and dedicated to St. Colman?

4. Is not Magh Nairbh in the southern Ely?

My present impression is that Kilcolman
is not Doire mor, but merely a church
dedicated to St. Colman; that Liath-Mo
choemhog is the church now called
Leighmokinog, and lying near Thurley
in the County of Tipperary, on the borders
of Leinster; and that Doire mor is a church
lying within 4 miles of it somewhere in the

14/10/13/20(11)

(4) The neighbourhood of Thurley.

I travelled yesterday through the southern angle of the King's County which runs into that of Tipperary but found nothing interesting, nor have I a single historical reference to any of the churches which I visited, neither does tradition preserve any thing about them. The old church of Finglas is level with the ground, and nothing remaining but a small church yard. The parish received the name of Fionn Ture (fair stream) from a little river which ^{flows} passes by the church yard. Is this church of Fionn glaise in Ely, the northern, mentioned in Colgan, the Calendar, Leabhar Breac or any other of the old books of Ireland to which we have access? Finglas, O.K.

The Down Survey states that this parish "com-
tains the townlands of Finglas and Laghlin
on which there stands the walls of a church
and stump of a Castle."

Is the site of the castle shown on the plan?

Finglas, O.K.

The old church of Cullenane is nearly destroyed, a small part of one gable only remaining, from which it appears to have been a modern and rude building. I could get no evidence to show what the original Irish form of this name was, as the Irish language is not spoken in the district. I have no historical reference to this parish except the following from the Down Survey: "At Coolenane in this parish stands the walls of a church, and is a Castle with some Irish cabins at Brangtown (now Brownestown)."

From the manner in which the people pronounce the name of this parish I would be inclined to suppose it means ^{an eallan bairn} Cuilleann bhair, white holly, but if the orthography given in the Down Survey be correct, it could mean cool from an cool leann - Does any such name occur in any of the old books of Ireland?

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I had a fine view of Beann Dubh, Beannan
Cule and Shiobh sighidh an Righ from
this old church. Beautiful scenery; but the rain spoiled
I have no ^{historical} reference to the parish of Dunkerrin
but the following from the Down Survey

" In which (ie townlands) are situate the Castles
" of Clonagenagh, Claspigad, Ballintamph, ^{now Behernagh}
" Emmell, and the stump of Bohernagh Castle
" like (recte likewise) the church of Dunkerrin
" and many Irish Cabbing in several places.

Are the sites of any of these Castles marked
on the plan?

The protestant church, which is not a very
modern one, occupies the site of the old
Church of Dunkerrin.

Is this church of Dunkerrin mentioned in
any of our old Irish authorities. It is not
~~so~~ easy to find out its original Irish
orthography

Try
Dun Cerpín
Dun Cerpín
Dun Cerpín

It is hardly a historical place.

25 April - Argentina
Phil Calcedo

14/12/13 10:10

If I live for a few years I will then have
Wylher way led astray. His argument is satisfactory.

Let search be made in the old books of Ireland for
historical references to Liter Lugluna, Eiteach,
Buirghes na feama, Ros cre. I have not a single notice
of ^{any} one of them in the extracts before me, and fear
that none are to be had, (excepting Roscrea.)

Before I conclude my topographical observations on
this County, I shall translate a few little stories
about the old saints of Ireland, which Mr. Curry
has found in that rich mine of hagiology the
Spickled Book of the Mac Egan. I don't insert
~~them~~ to laugh at them (God forbid that I should
ever become such a heretic) but to ask Usher
a few questions, about the Protestantism of
ancient Ireland. maignid his logic! maybe they didn't believe
in purgatory? comfort

A. The competition between St. Brendan of Birr
and St. Brigid for sanctity. The sunbeam story.

On one occasion St. Brendan came from the west of
Ireland to Moy-Liffey to visit St. Brigid, having
heard of, and wondered at her fame for miracles
and signs. Brigid went away from the sheep to
welcome Brendan, and as she entered the house
she hung her wet ^{cucullus} mantle on the sun beam, which

8) 186

(i. a line to hang clothes)
 "supported it like a droser ^{on}. Brendan told his servants
 "to place his mantle ^{cooholl} on the same sun-beam; the ser-
 "vant did so, but it fell down ^{twice}. Brendan ^{himself then} rose
 "up with rage and anger, and placed the mantle
 "on them the third time, and they supported it.
 "The Saints then communicated their consciences
 "to each other mutually: Brendan said, "I never
 "passed over seven furrows without having my
 "mind fixed on God." Brigid said "Since I placed
 "my mind on God, I have not diverted it from
 "him for one moment."

There are no features at Birr, bearing the name of
 St. Brendan but his mill which lies in the
 demesne. A curious stone was removed from
 the town by the celebrated Steele, which he
 placed in ^(a chapel dedicated to Donnell.) a small chapel in Clare!

This is probably the stone mentioned by Mosher.
 The following reference to the situation of Brendan's
 Church of Birr, bears me out in my idea of the
 extent of Fearsa Gall.

his cooholl ^{cell} cell cell cell cell cell cell cell cell cell
 "On the confines of Ely and Fearsa Gall Birr is."
 Felice Henquis

70) 182

33

"He was only thirty three years of age when
"he died. The three worst ^{acts} things which were
"ever done in Ireland by advice of the saints
"were:

1. The ^{destruction} shortening of the life of Kieran.
2. The banishment of Columbkille
3. The banishment of Maclindia from Kahan.

I know a worse thing.

Ma³ & do Saints. This was carrying pious envy far
enough. I guess? They frightened the life out of the
poor Carpenter's son!

III.

St. Congall renders a barren woman fruitful.

"Congall of Bangor goes to the house of the
"father of Colman (Duibhchuillim), whose wife
"was barren. St. Congall gives the barren woman
"a distigepstóirnd (i.e. dark, obscure or mystified ^{a gospel?} writing)
"Coitir, and Colman is conceived. Under Colman
"Duibhchuillim dictus est."

"Cuilend is the name of a mountain which
"is at Bealach Chonglais in Leinster."
This is the Kill Cullen hills, and Bealach Chonglais
is the track of the road across the Curragh.

IV.

St. Briget was consecrated ^a Bishop!

Briget was desirous that a ^{spirit's witness} degree of penance should be conferred upon her. Hearing that Bishop Mel was at Bris-Ele (Croghan old church) she repaired thither accompanied by seven Mung. But on their arrival the Bishop was not there, but had gone into the ^{"terra nepotum Neill."} Country of the Fay-Mall (Meath). On the morrow she passed ^{in search of him} in company with Mac Caille (the Bishop of Brig-Ele) who guided her over the bog of Monaidh Fathing which she converted into a flowery plain. When they had come close to the ^{gate} town where Bishop Mel was, Briget told ^{Mac Caille} Mac Caille to ^{place} put a veil on her head, that she did not wish to appear unveiled before the clergy. Upon her arrival a ^{column & glory?} pillar of fire sprung ^{rose} from her head ^{reaching every} to the roof of the church. When Bishop Mel had seen this, he asked "who are the Mung"? Mac Caille answered "This is Briget, the celebrated Nun of Limerick."

Father Blandy complains of the silliness of the writers of the lives of the Celtic Saints; and the Benedictines complain of the folly even of St Jerome and Augustine!

1844
2) " thy affection to her, said Bishop Mel,
" it was I who predicted her greatness even
" while she was in her mother's womb, and
" it is I who will confer orders on her.
" (^{I gloss} This alludes to one occasion that Bishop
" Mel came to the house of her father Dubh-
" thack; ~~when~~ he saw the wife of Dubhthack
" grieved and sorrowful; and he asked whence
" the cause of her sorrow. I have cause of
" sorrow said she. for Dubhthack ^{loves} admires
" the handmaid who attends. This is ^{meets} just ^(scribble)
" said Bishop Mel for thy seed shall
" ^{they} serve the seed of this handmaid, alluding
" to Brigit*)

" Wherefore have the nuns come, said Bishop
" Mel. To have orders of penance conferred
" on Brigit, said Mac Caille. Then he
" conferred orders on Brigit, and it
" was the ^{spaidá} ~~orders~~ ^{of} a Bishop that Bi-
" shop Mel conferred upon her!

* Brigit was illegitimate but not the wife
of Dubhthack and

Then Mac Caille placed a ^{castle} neil (Cowl) on the head of Brigit.

Wherefore from that day to this, the ^{successor} Coarb of St. Brigit (abbess of Kildare) is entitled to receive the ^{order} ^{dignity} grade of a Bishop!

While St. Brigit was being ordained, she held the foot of the altar, ^(the altar was like a little table) in her hands;

^(since that time) and seven churches were burned down in which this altar was, but it received no injury from the fire; sed servata

est per gratiam ^{bavor} Brigidas. Dicunt

alii that this church, to which Bishop

Mc had gone, is in Ferattullach. Ita
ut alii putant. (Ferattullagh is near Bri Ele)

Liber maculatus
Leabhar Breac fol. 31.

Colgan was ashamed of this. Cogitatus has not
 a word about it; ^{or} If he has, Colgan has
 suppressed it. I don't laugh at these stories, for I
 think they are very nice if they were well told. rule 13/20 (VII)

* Clumbilla intended to get himself made a bishop, but the canon
 -craft made him only a priest by mistake.
 The authors of the Irish Bibles begin with Brian Boru.

Extent of the Diocese of Meath

In the description of the Dioceses established in Ireland at the Synod of Rath Breasail no diocese of Meath or Clonmacnoise is mentioned, but the kingdom of Meath appears to have been divided into the Dioceses of Duleek and Clonard, the former extending from Shabh Breagh near Slane to the Carn of Duncuir (Rath Core, to the south of Trim) and from a small lough called Lochan na himire, eastward to the sea; and the latter from Clochan westward to the Shannon, and from Urchnille, where it met the diocese of Ardagh, to Cloncurry, where it joined that of Kildare.

Various changes however seem to have been since made, not in boundaries but in uniting ^{the} several small dioceses to form the present large one.

The diocese of Clonard which was generally called of Westmeath was annexed to Clannacnoise in 1174, from which period we find the ^{title of} Bishop of Clannacnoise hereditary in the family of O'Malony, of whose origin little is known. It is probable that the Diocese of Clannacnoise extended from Birr to the River Inny and comprised the whole of the County of Westmeath and that part of the King's County now included in the Diocese of Meath. It is likely also that the Diocese of Clonard was of the same extent, no change having in all probability, taken place, but a translation of the seat of the bishop from Clonard to Clannacnoise.

188 (16)
of the Diocese of Killaloe
called in Latin Diocesis Laonensis.

This diocese is described in the Book of Clonmacnoise as extending "from Slighe Dala to Leim Conchulainn, and from Cachtge to Shiabh oighi an Righ and from Shiabh oighi an Righ to gleann Casin".

These are its exact limits at this day: Slighe Dala, according to Keating and other Irish authorities, is Ballaghmore in Offory, which is at this day close to the eastern boundary of this diocese. Leim Chuchulainn is Lookhead at the mouth of the Shannon. Cachtge is a range of mountains which divides the Counties of Clare and Galway, and over which the boundary of the Diocese of Killaloe passes at this day. Shiabh oighi an Righ can be no other than Keeper hill, ^{in Tipperary Co} which is the boundary of this diocese. gleann Casin is the present Gleskeen in the Barony of Gleagh and Co. Tipperary, and which is near

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the eastern limit of the diocese of Killaloe (17)
of the diocese of Ossory

This is called the Diocese of Kilkenny, in the Book of Clonmacnoise and described as extending "from Sliaabh
" Bladhna to Mileadhach and from Grian
" airbh to Sliaabh Mairge".

It is so at this day: it meets the diocese of Killaloe in the Sheue Bloom range, a short distance to the N. E. of this town, and comprises the entire of the County of Kilkenny, and the Barony of upper Ossory (ie in comparatively modern times) latterly added to the Queen's County. Mileadhach is on the bank of the Barrow at the meeting of the Three Waters. Sliaabh Mairge now Clawmargy in the Queen's County is the boundary of the Diocese of Ossory at this day. Grian airbh, the situation of which is as yet unknown to me, must lie on the confines of Tipperary and Kilkenny Counties. The Cross of Grian airbh

14/10/13/20(x)

(98) divided the diocese of Ossory or Kilkenny from the Archdiocese of Cashel.

It is very curious that the parish of Seirkieran which is insulated in the diocese of Killaloe, ^{maps} ~~has been~~ referred to as in Ossory so early as the time of King Donagh, the son of Flann. ^{As throwing light on this subject} The following

story given by Mac Firbis is curious, though it gives up ^{an unfavourable} ~~and~~ ^{character of the} idea of the clergy of the day. Nothing should be suppressed that throws any light on the condition of man in any age - why suppress?

"Donagh, (the son of Flann, son of Macleach-

"-lann mor, son of Dammell) leads an

"army to erect a wall and sink a trench ^{church of}

"around (the Saighir Chiarain), at the re-

"quest of his wife, Sabia, the daughter of

"Donagh Ramor, the son of Kellach, King

"of Ossory. It created great envy in her

"mind that ^{every one of} ~~all~~ the distinguished churches

"of Ireland ~~had~~ were enclosed with a

"wall and ditch, while her ^{family} own church

according to climate, age, circumstance of education, prevailing opinion, prejudice, bigotry, superstition, man's modified; he is a boy of war, capable of any modification. He says so, it is and will be so until Mr. Butler shall make the pillars of Christianity decay and destroy itself.

"of Saighir was without wall or ditch.
 "All the men of Meath went with her to
 "Tullydanagh to the east of Saighir
 "and commenced the erection of the wall.
 "Shortly after the body of her father arrived
 "at the church yard for interment, having
 "been carried in a féam (a Car or Chariot ^{Cornish})
 "drawn by six horses, and he was interred
 "without delay. At nightfall nine long
 "haired, black Croppans (^{Mo! Mo!} Crouched friars)
 "came and commenced ^{chanting (Druidic)} ~~to officiate~~ over
 "the grave in the same manner that
 "what? Croppans are ever since in the habit
 "of doing. Their eyes ^{and teeth} were whiter than snow
 "but every other part of them was blacker
 "than the smith's Coal. They commenced
 "to repeat a poem ^{in a conjuring} for the King. Every
 "one who beheld them was sick from morn-
 "ing till night. This is the poem they re-
 "peated:

[A poem ~~they~~ is inserted ⁱⁿ which] ^{I find a contradictory} ~~has no meaning~~
 14/10 13/20(x)

(28)

These clergy continued from morning till night
 repeating this poem over the King's grave
 and all who beheld them, ^(as has been already said) were sick from morn-
 ing till night. At length a question arose
 among the laity and clergy on the subject, for
 they were surprised that demons (as these
 manifestly were) should frequent the grave of
 so ^{truly} pious a King, who had been accustomed to
 distribute food and drink among the poor
 of God ^{and among all the people} in all the chief churches in Ossory
 on the festival of the apostles, and whose conduct
 was under the control of Confession, and
 Confessional injunctions. The clergy abstained
 and fasted to God that it might be revealed
 to them why the demons followed him. And
 the angel of God came openly to ^{O'Caple} a Culdee
 of the kind Fiach mic-neill, then resident
 at Saighis, and said to him. It is well,
 ye have fasted, said the angel. These are
 nine of the clergy of O'Boingisidh, and
 this is the third time they have ^{come} to Ire-
 land from Hell. Not having been able

A sample of the handwriting of the original

* mo egnof ore a chrupin on yoid me o cleir coingead.

+ I thought that the devil had no power to come near the place in which the temple of a glorified soul was deposited

injure the King during his life time, they have come
 (i.e. his body, which had lost all its sensibility)
 to annoy him after death. Let masses be offered
 and let the consecrated waters of God be made (i.e.
 let holy water be made) to-morrow, and let it be
 sprinkled on the grave, and on ^{all} the Cemetery
 and on the plain of the church, and the demons
 shall then depart from you. This was accord-
 ingly done; and the clergy of O' Coinghesidh came
 fluttering in the air in the shapes of ^{very} black
 birds (not Blackbirds) for they durst not
 lie on the consecrated ground, and they
 said the fasting and the consecration are
 + have defeated our purpose
 not to no purpose, for we would haunt the
 body of the King in this world, as his soul
 is in heaven in the other world, and we
 have no power over it. And then they
 departed.

The Croppan Fionn Ókinga, and Mac Rionntach
 Óanodhrain were present on this occasion
 14/10/13/20(XII)

and it was they who ^{ie committed to memory} took the poem and the
 tune from the ~~same~~ clergy of Goingheoidh
 so that this is the practical composition which
 served them from that forth, and not only
 them but all the other ^{satirical Bards?} Croppan of Ireland
 in general."

<sup>A ndoss a máirín na n-áb déir n' Chorngeoidh!
 cé hé o' Corngeoidh? an rean bhuacail an m'ndam!</sup>
 This is a most strange story. What were
 the Croppan? The Irish family of
 Mac Croppan have taken name from the
 profession whatever it was.

<u>Mac an Fhílidh</u>	_____	Poet,
Mac an Bhaird	_____	Bard
Mac an Ollaimh	_____	clau
Mac an t-aoir	_____	Carpenter
Mac an Bhreithneamhaí	_____	Judge
Mac an Deoganaigh	_____	Deane
Mac an Isagairt	_____	Priest
Mac an Chrossain	_____	??!

I don't want to make use of this story to shew
 what vile, ^{and} low ignorant knaves the clergy
 of Saighir Kieran were; all I want to draw
 from it is that the church of Saighir was
 then the Burial place of the Kings of Ossory
 and that this accounts in some measure
 for its being placed in the diocese
 of Ossory.

of the Diocese of Kildare.

This Diocese is described in the Book of Clonenagh
 as extending "from Rapfionnghlaise to Naap-Laighean
 " and from Naap to the cumar or Confluence
 " of Clonard, and to the mountains of Glenas-
 " -dan loch."

The diocese of Kildare still extends from Rapfionnghlaise
 now Ropanalig at the Slieve Bloom range to Naap
 and from Naap to Clonard, but it does not
 extend as far eastward as the mountains of

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24
of Glendalough. We must therefore suppose
that a part of ^{the p. & c. of} this diocese had been added
to that of Glendalough which was afterwards
united to the archdiocese of Dublin, since
the Synod of Rathbreasail was held.
It is very curious, however, how well
the boundaries laid down at that sy-
-nod, have been, generally speaking, pre-
-served.

See the account of the diocese of Kil-
-dare which was furnished Colgan ^{in 1687}
by Dr. Mageoghegan, the then Roman
Catholic Bishop of that diocese.

See also my remarks on the misprints in
Colgan's edition of it. ^{m. p. 100 de la fol. 10}

Your obedient Servant,
John Donovan

END

14 D 13/21

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Thomas O'Connor, written from Roscrea, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Sinrone (Shinrone), Co. Offaly, with particular reference to its early church and castle.

9 February 1838

2p.

23 cm

RIA

Roscrea February 9th 1838 197

Sir,

We find recorded in the Annals of the Four Masters at the year 1533 that 'The Earl of Kildare went a second time to Ely to assist Pengan-aimm O'Carroll at Quidhe an-roin, and laid siege to the Castle where he had a good Constable of his people. He took the Castle and then returned home'. -

Quidhe an-roin signifies 'the sitting of the seal', and is now the name of a parish ^{& town} in the barony of Clonlisk. This parish is Anglicised Linnrone in the Down Survey, which in the description of the parish, says that 'in it stand the walls of a Church at Linnrone and a Castle, and a Mill in re-
-payre with some Irish Cabbins?'

The ruins of a church are remembered to have existed in the Church Yard near the present parish Church at Linnrone town.

14/10/13/21(i)

The Castle stood at the rear of Mr. Dancer's house in Shinnone town. The yard attached to the house is called the Castle yard, and some of the wall belonging to the Castle is said to be now used as a garden wall.

Tradition says, it was erected by O'Carroll, and we see from the Annals above cited that Lindhe an roim was in Ely.

Whence it can be deduced that Shinnone was situated in Ely O'Carroll on that side.

Castle of bill - cornain

At ^{A.D.} 1548. in the Annals, it is said that
 'Edmond a Faie banished Billelaghlin
 ' (Seige Roe) and all his ^{trile} out of Delvin.
 ' He afterwards styled Art the son of
 ' Cormac, the Mac Boghlan, and deprived
 ' Cormac of that portion of the Country
 ' which he had possessed, and banished
 ' him Westwards across the Shannon,
 ' after which, he repaired the Castle
 ' of bill Cornain and placed his own
 ' warders in it. -

This bill Cornain must be Killeumin
 in Lissarn Parish in the Barony of
 Garrycastle, which is coextensive
 with Delvin Cathra, afterwards
 called Delvin Mac Boghlan, being
 the territory of the family of Mac
 Boghlan.

Your obedient
 humble servant
 J. O'Connor

J. A. Larcom Esq.
 &c. &c.

14/10/13/21(11)

Index.

- Luiche-an-roin - castle at } D. M. A. D. 1533
 _____ significance of
 _____ now Shinrone, the name
 of a parish & town
 Shinrone. parish - Down Survey
 Shinrone the walls of a Church
 at _____ and a Castle.
 (Down Survey)
 Ruins of a church - remembered to have
 existed.
 Site of the Castle - pointed out
 Shinrone - situated in
 Ely O'Carroll.
Bill-Cormain - Castle of D. M.
 A. D. 1548.
 Billcormain - identified with
 Bullcormin in
 Tisarn Pth -
 Bay of Garry castle.

END

14 D 13/22

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Roscrea, Co. Offaly, in which he refers to the progress of his survey work in Co. Offaly and his own thoughts regarding the traditions and writings on Irish saints.

10 February 1838

2p.

23 cm

O'Donovan remarks on the effect the survey work has had on his health.

Dear Sir

Roscrea, Feb. 10th, 1838,

We shall finish to-morrow, and if I can get a seat on or in the Limerick Coach I shall go on to Dublin, if not I wait till Monday. We can hardly procure two seats on the same day as the Coach is generally crowded.

We shall want the name books of the next County as soon as possible in order that the extracts may be collected before we start for the County again. Mayo I suppose will be the next. Awful! My health is very much down, and I make no doubt but another winter's campaign would put an end to me, but I don't wish, as I have gone so far, to be killed, till I ^{shall} have examined all the old places of Ireland, and the stories connected with them. I have now traversed, since the 8th of May last, the whole County extending from Lough Ogara to Carlow, and from Lough Sheelin to the Devil's Bit, which is a vast district but I have injured my nerves by writing too much

14/D/13/32(i) and

and sitting up too late. This I could have avoided by not doing so much; but if I don't work now I shan't be able to work in a few years hence when I shall be an idle fellow without nerve or vigor. Of ^{however} the Saints of Ireland don't fast against me, I expect to live longer than Saint Kieran who, as he himself says, was ^{near} approaching his end at the age of 33. I have been very severe on the Saints all along, for no other reason to be sure, but because I am ^{not} a Saint myself, for if I were I would hide their faults as well as the pious Butler, who has omitted to ^{describe} relate the silly part of their conduct, and has holden up the heroic and noble part, as an example to the faithful. He has manufactured his lives of the Saints well & so as to suit the feelings of the pious believers of his own age. Jocelyn had done the same and so had our honest Colgan; but unfortunately the Saint of Jocelyn and the Saint of Colgan would not be Saints at all to the readers of Butler, and we must not therefore condemn that amiable Christian philosopher for rejecting those narrations which would offend the belief and religious feelings of the present day.

The principal fault which I reprehend in the writers of our Hagiology is, their making their Christian heroes too fond of duplicity & equivocation ~~bull~~ which, according to my cold ideas of piety, savour more of the tricks of the arch rebel than of the pure doctrine, which ought to emanate from the true faith; but as these have passed the crucible of doctors of divinity, I should be very timid in pronouncing any opinion with regard to them, further than this, that I believe them to be the productions of an ulterior age, and therefore rather to be considered as the ^{fabricated stories} ~~productions~~ of ignorant bards and ecclesiastics, than as containing the sentiments of the original teachers of Christianity in Ireland. ^{I could believe that} Pious frauds, sanctified chicanery, pretended visions, prophecies, visits from angels, are all fabrications of the middle ages when the minds of men were entirely diverted from real knowledge, and when the ecclesiastics made use of the lowest and basest cunning to terrify the ^{savage} ~~chief~~ to obedience and make them render the church its due support. This is the truth, and if any one

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204 denies it, let him examine the original documents and say that manky never forged prophecies, never invented stories, or never told lies, and call me a heretic. That is all I have to say.

I have now done with ^{this} County, and send all the Books of the Baronies of Clonsilla and Ballybrith, also all the extracts, Rawson's Kildare, and Coates King's County; also Beaumont's ecclesiastical map, and all the traces from old maps which were sent me.

Your obedient Servant
John P'Donovan

Morison in vol I, p. 208 states that Phillipstown was called Dyngen. This is of great value, as ^{it} connects the Irish with the English account of that formerly important ^{but} now degraded town.

I have to correct some hundreds of errors in the letters which I have written during this season's excursion - errors of ^{i.e. absence of knowledge} pure ignorance only, as I think, ^{but} and perhaps errors of judgment also.

END

14 D 13/23

O'Connor, Thomas

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from Thomas O'Connor, written from Roscrea, Co. Offaly, concerning the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Litter (Letter), with particular reference to its holy well, early church and the origins of its place name.

11 February 1837

2p.

23 cm

RIA

Roscrea Feb^y 11th 1837

Sir,

In the townland of Litter in Litter parish are the ruins of a Church. The stones composing part of its walls are exactly similar to those in O'Rourke's tower at Blonmacnoise.

Litter is the local name for the place, without any additional postfix, which would enable us to identify it with any of the Litters on record. There is, however, a ^{holy} well within a few yards of the old Church to the N. West, which is called tobap ligna —

Pons S. Lugna. This is a holy well, and was formerly frequented but on what day, I could not learn. Nor is St. Lugna's day remembered in the parish. Finding the name of St. Lugna annexed to this well here, is sufficient to establish the

In the West end of the Church, is an apartment, over which there is a stone floor of stone work, to another apartment over this floor, there is an ascent by winding stairs of stone, in the N. W. corner of the building. This apartment is built, is on the W. gable.

14/0/13/23(i)

the fact, that Leitir was called
 Iestyr Ligna i.e. Latibulum S. Ligna.

Let all our records be searched for
 the history of Ligna and, the locality
 of his Leitir. Colgan must have given
 his life, and the circumstances con-
 -nected with it. The ^{name of this} place probably
 occurs in the Annals of the Four
 Masters. We find it recorded at ^{s.d.} 1145
 by these writers, that Torlogh O'Brien led
 (an army) to Leitir Branca in Thene
Bloom for the purpose of going to
 meet O'Rourke in Meath.

Torlogh O'Connor fixed his Camp at
Rabbon and sent his son Donnell to
 the Meathian, and Maoilseachlain
 the son of Murogh O'Callaghan
 and Connor the son of Donnell
 O'Brien and Dermot the son of
 Cormac MacCarthy at the

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head of a numerous force
to guard Tea-ra ceall, that the
Men of Munster should not come
into it.

On a certain day the Momonians
went to the North to scour the
woods, where the other party
met them, who defeated and
slaughtered them. The Momonians
after that, went to their own
houses, without plunder, or
hostages, without peace, or
cessation.

Leitir branc might have been
an alias name for Leitir Bughna
and if so, is the same with Litter,
our present subject. No local
information to decide this; can be
had: More of the history of both those
ancient names must, therefore, be

14/12/13/23(n)

collected and a careful investigation made as to whether they were names denoting two places, or one and the same place.

Cadamstown townland in this parish is remembered to have been called Baile mhic adam - Baile mhic adam. The

Four Masters make mention of the Castle of Baile mhic adam, from which the place called Castlefield close by the West side of Cadamstown house, took its name. The spot on which the Castle stood is pointed out yet by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, who say that it belonged to O'Carroll.

Man. The passage in the Annals relating to Baile mhic adam remains to be inserted when the Letters be in the progress of being arranged.

We have no reference whatever to Roscomroe. Nor is there any local information to be had respecting it. The only feature to be remarked as connected with it, is Roscomroe Church in ruins, which is of no antiquity.

Your obedient
humble Servant,

J. A. Larcom Esq^r
17. 9. 94.

J. O'Connor

END

14 D 13/24

[Unknown]

Trace map of Kings County, as taken from an engraved map of the Down Survey.

[1838]

1p.

46 x 55 cm

Indicated are the baronies, parishes and townlands of the county.

RIA

14 D 13/24

Outsize map

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END

14 D 13/25

[Unknown]

Hand drawn map of Kings County.

February 1838

1p.

25 x 37 cm

Indicated are the baronial and parish boundaries and ancient lordship of the county. Included are related annotations made by John O'Donovan.

RIA

14 D 13/25

Outsize map

Filmed at the end of this reel

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END OF

14/D/13

Outsize maps

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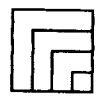
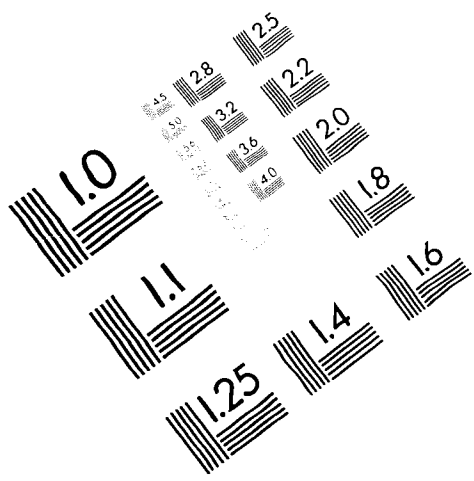
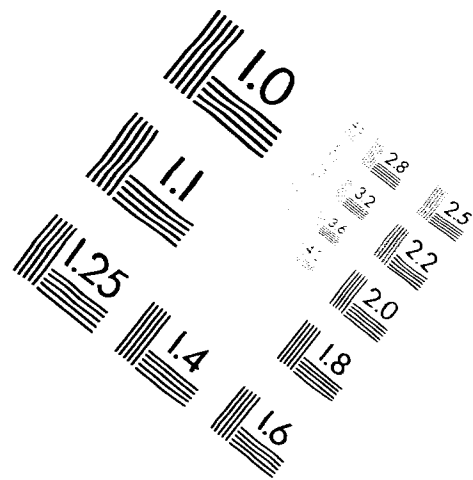
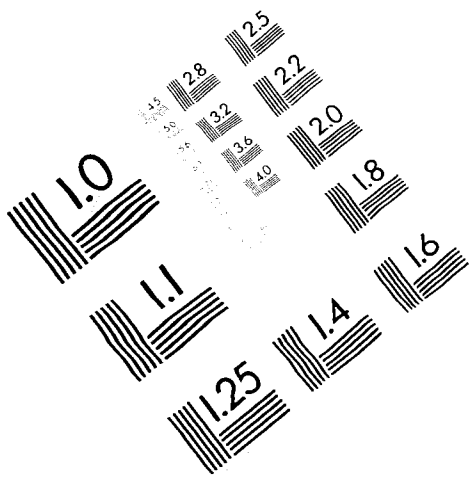
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King's County (Vol. 2)

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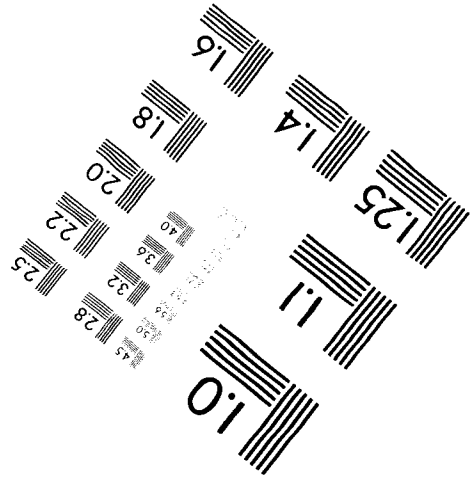
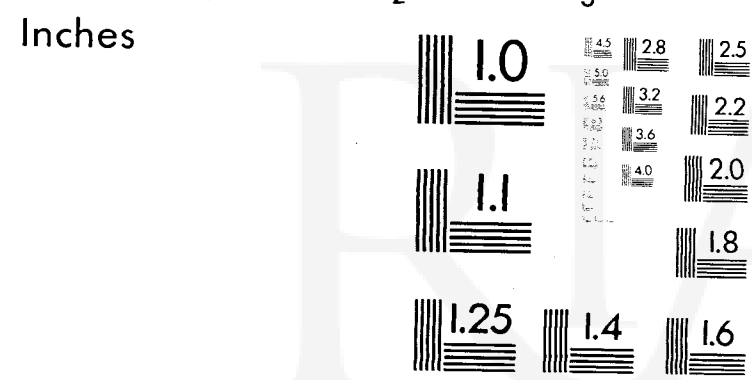
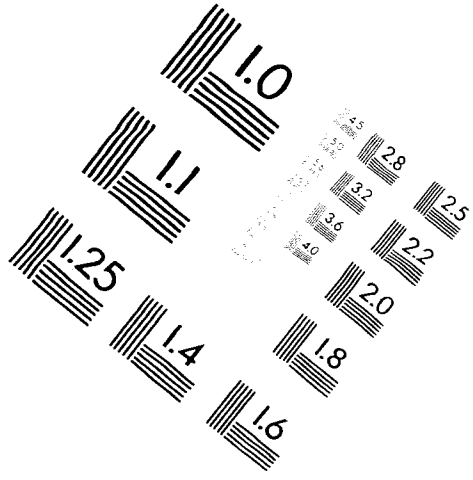
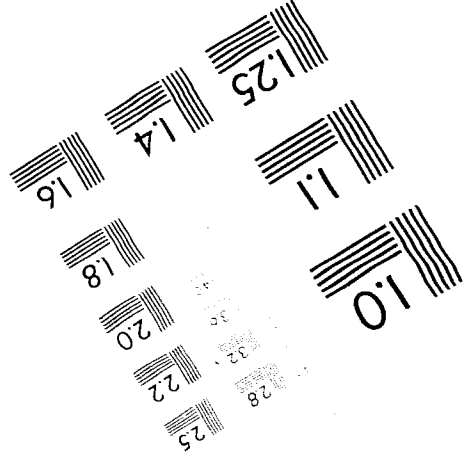
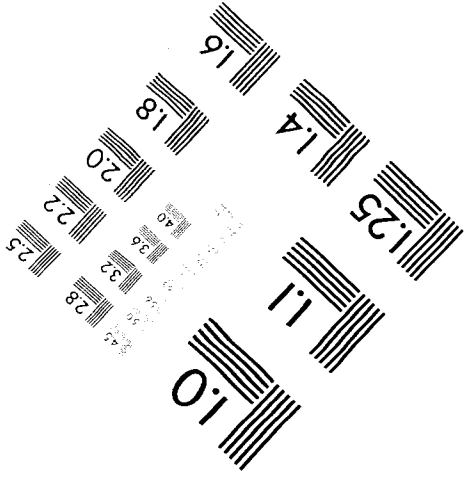
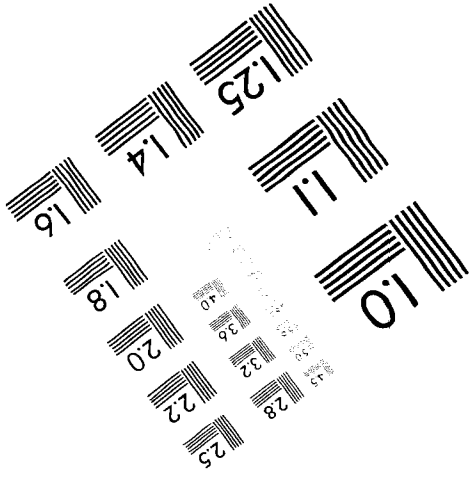


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Outsize map

14/D/13/25

25 x 37 cm

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KINGS CO.

ATHLONE

7-40
1-20



February 1838

Borrisnafemy
& Castle Town Ely
Two Parishes in the
South of the Barony
of Clonsilla. not
shown

Beaman's Isle

head of the Suir