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**November 2006**

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**Ordnance Survey of Ireland: Letters, Limerick (Vol.1)**

**O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; O'Connor, Thomas; O'Keefe, Patrick.**

**Assorted notes, extracts, maps and sketches relating to the history, topography and antiquities of County Limerick, with particular reference to its churches, holy wells, abbeys, forts, castles and place names.**

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Letters

Containing information relative  
to the

Antiquities  
of the

County of Simmerick  
collected during the  
progress of the  
Ordnance Survey  
in

1840

Vol. I

14/2 / 18/1 (i)

Simerick Letters, Vol. I.

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Tracing of the Castle of the Glin, from Pacata Hibernia. . . . . 150.

**END**

14 D 18/2

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes relating to the antiquities, topography and history of the parish of Stradbally, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to its early church, castle, holy well, the origins of its place name and the bridge at Portcrusha.

7 July 1840

11p.

24 cm

ill; ink sketch of the doorway of the old church of Castleconnell or Stradbally. Included are related extracts from the 'Annals of the Four Masters' and the topographical poetry of O'Heerin.



of the parish of Stradbally  
or Castleconnell.

Limerick

Vol 1

Situation.

This parish is situated partly in the liberties of the City of Limerick, and partly in the barony of Glanwilliam, the former portion is bounded on the north by the Shannon, on the east by the barony of Glanwilliam, on the south by the parish of Killinagarriff, and on the west by that of Kilmurry; and the latter is bounded on the North and N.W. by the River Shannon, which divides it from the County of Clare, on the east by the county of Tipperary, on the south by Killinagarriff, and on the south-west by the Liberties of Limerick.

Name. The first name of this parish is in Irish Spíard-baile signifying street-town; the second name is written by the Irish Annalists Caisleán Uí Chonmáing meaning O'Conaing's Castle, but it is now always called by the natives Caisleán Uí Chonmáill and supposed to mean O'Connell's Castle\*. It will however appear from the history of this place that the present name is a corruption.

The old Castle called Castleconnell is situated near the west end of the townland of Poolbawn <sup>about 100 yards</sup> and to the south of the village of Castleconnell. It is now a mere ruin situated on a lofty rock about one hundred yards to the south of the Shannon. From the present ruins it would appear that it had four <sup>round</sup> towers at the four corners, but only two of them are now distinctly visible. It was about 160 feet in length and 100 in breadth, but

\*I thought it is confidently asserted that none of the O'Connell family ever possessed it.

14/D/18/2(1)

(2) <sup>2</sup> the portions of the walls remaining are very trifling.

Tradition says that this castle was built by the O'Briens in whose possession it remained till the year 1690. when it was destroyed by General Ginkle. But it is very much to be suspected that this castle was erected by the O'Briens; <sup>and it is certain that they did not retain it till Ginkle's time.</sup> for we have the authority of Camden for ascribing its erection to the celebrated Richard De Burgo commonly called the Red Earl of Ulster. The following are Camden's words as translated by Gough:

"More to the East (i.e. than Limerick) is Glanwilliam which  
"has its name from Glan William of the family of Burgh  
"(or as the Irish call it Bourke) who live there, and of  
"whom William who slew James Fitz Maurice that disturber  
"of his Country, was by Queen Elizabeth advanced to the  
"rank of Baron Castle Connell (where Richard Rufus,  
"earl of Ulster built a castle) with an annual pension  
"in reward of his bravery and for the loss of his children  
"slain in that battle."

It will appear however from the following extracts from the Irish annals that the O'Briens got possession of this place shortly after the death of the Red Earl, and it is also very likely that they had a residence here before the arrival of the English, but the great castle of this place was erected originally by the Red Earl.



[Annals of Masters]

Caislean Ni Chonaing (Castleconnell).

A.D.

[Comp'd  
OK]

1176. Dermott, the son of Feige O'Brien, and Mahon, the son of Torlogh O'Brien, were deprived of sight in their own residences; at Caislean-ni-Chonaing (now Castleconnell) by Donnell O'Brien: Dermott died in consequence of this punishment

1200. Charles the Red-handed O'Connor made a predatory incursion into Munster, and plundered Caislean-ni-Chonaing (Castleconnell) and Caislean Uilein, and led Uilein and his wife captive, after having <sup>killed</sup>

(\*) "Aos-Graine, the small County of Limerick from the hill called "Knock-graine to Limerick, the ancient patrimony of the O'Bearings whose principal Castle near Limerick was called Caislean-ni-Chonaing or Castleconnell; Aos-tri-maighe from Awng to Limerick."

O'Brien's Dist.  
14/D/18/2 (11)

4  
170. (4)

Killed 13 Knights and many others of  
inferior rank.

A.D.

1265. Brian Roe O'Brien burned and demolished  
Caislen-ue Chomaign (Castlecennet), and

Killed all those who were in it.

E.  
170.

1599. (During the days that the Earl of Essex  
was storming Cahir, Sir Thomas Norris,  
the president of the two provinces of Munster  
came to Kilmallock to meet the Earl on  
his way to Limerick. He remained nearly  
a fortnight in this town awaiting the coming  
of the Earl across the Suir, and was daily  
in the practice of scouring the Mountains of  
the County of Limerick to see if he could  
wound  
injure or capture any of the Ducer's enemies.

One

One day that he went to the eastern extremity of the County of Limerick he unexpectedly met Thomas Burke (the son of Theobald, who was son of William, who was son of Edmond, from Castleconnell).

Thomas alone was on horseback of all his people; he had near one hundred Irish foot soldiers with him. As soon as the president had perceived him he made a furious and determined attack upon him and slew about 20 of his people, and would have slain more were it not he himself was soon wounded by a violent thrust of a Spear (in the place) where the jaw joins the upper part of the Neck. When his people saw him wounded they.

14/10/18/2 (iii)

6  
~~172~~ (6)  
they collected around him, and carried him back to Kilmallock, where he remained a week on his bed under the care of Physicians, and died in the month of July.

8  
1725  
1600. A nobleman of the house of O'Conor Don, (Dermott, the son of Dudley, who was son of Toole) who had been the commander of a large party of Irish Soldiers employed in the service of the Earl of Desmond in Munster during the last year, went in the beginning of December on a visit to O'Neill (on business) and was kindly received by him. Having finished his negotiations with O'Neill, he took his leave of him in the beginning of January this year and proceeded to Munster.

O'Neill



O'neil desired him to mention it in the territories through which he should pass that he himself <sup>O'neil</sup> would soon march after him with an army to visit Meath, Leinster and Munster and the South of Ireland to know which of them were his friends and which his opposers. Dermott marched with his troops through the East of Munster and directed his course by the shortest way to the Earl of (Desmond, viz. by <sup>(Quincy)</sup> Waltham and Clanwilliam on the borders of the Shannon. When the baron of Castleconnell (Richard, the son Theobald, who was son of William, who was son of Edmond Burke) heard of Dermott's arrival in those parts, he and his brother Thomas mustered all the forces they were

able

14/10/18/2 (IV)

(8) 174

able both horse and foot of their own and  
the Pucco's people, and they continued to  
fire on Dermott and his people while  
passing from the monastery of Maithe to  
the Bridge of Bunbriste in the County  
County of Limerick. During this time many  
of Dermott's officers and common soldiers  
were slain. As Dermott and his people were  
crossing the bridge above mentioned, these two  
Sons of Theobald Burke (the Baron and Thomas)  
advanced with pride and haughtings  
in front of their own forces and towards the  
borders of Dermott's Army. But they were  
not able to return back in safety, - they were  
immediately surrounded and unopposingly  
prostrated and put to the sword by their enemies.  
The

(9) 175  
9.

The deaths of the Baron and Thomas were  
generally <sup>much</sup> lamented, for though they were  
young in years, they were brave and  
magnanimous in deeds of arms.

[Annals Conn. 1175]

A.D.

1175. Mahon son of Torlough, son of Muirchutach  
son of Connor na Cokarack, & Dermot  
son of Seig O'Brien viz. Seig Ghae Mac Dermot  
had his eyes put out by Donell more at Castle-  
Conung in his own house.

1315. The Scots under the command of Edward  
Bruce were quartered in Caisteau M. Chonraig and  
engaged with the O'Briens on the margin of  
the Shannon.

See the Wars of Torlough at the  
years 1315 and 1317. Edinbane copy  
pp. 385 and 563.

14/10/18/2(V)

10  
~~176~~ (10.)  
" "  
Opocit = Bun briste<sup>(\*)</sup>

A.D.

1600. See Castleconnell at this year, P. 174.

(\*) It lies near Grange in the Co. of Limerick, and about  
8 miles south of Limerick.



(Hughes Landin)

(11)  
~~177~~  
11

## Castle Connel

Castle Connel Spa six miles north  
from Limerick on the river Shannon  
is a chalybeate of considerable strength  
and excellent in all scorbutic  
disorders; bilious complaints, obstructions  
in the liver, the jaundice, and  
against worms. Dr. Rutty compares  
it with the Pouhow spa, and that  
of Kilroraw in the county of Ros-  
common. The ancient castle was  
the seat of O'Brien King of Munster.  
The grandson of Brian Boru was  
murdered here by the prince of  
Thomond. The English granted  
it

14/10/18/2(vi)

178

it to Richard de Burgh earl of  
Ulster. William de Burgh in the reign  
of Elizabeth was created baron of Castle  
Connell; his heirs were attainted 1688,  
when general Ginkle took the castle  
and plundered it<sup>(b)</sup>

Two miles beyond Adair are the  
ruins of <sup>Gra-an-naic</sup> ~~Gra-an-naic~~ castle.<sup>(c)</sup>

(b) Farnes 467. 478. Wilson 160. (c) Wilson 164.

The original proprietors of Castleconnell and the adjoining territory of Aes Greine were the O'Bonaings now called Gunnings. This appears from the topographical poem of O'Heerin.

Fuair Aep Gréine an tshin-puinn síl  
O' Conaing críche Sainzil  
ba leir poimenn im Gréin glom  
O perrm oipe d'á Eógán.

ie. O'Bonaing "Aes Greine" of the beautiful bright land  
received  
Aes Greine "Received O'Bonaing of the land of Singland  
" He owned the country about fair Grian  
" By right of his descent from illustrious Eogan."

O'Brian in his Irish Dictionary states that the territory of Aep-Greine, the patrimonial inheritance of O'Bonaing (now Gunning) "is the district called the small county of Limerick extending from the hills called Knock Greine to the City of Limerick, and that its principal Castle was Gaislean. Mi Chonaing or Castle Connell."

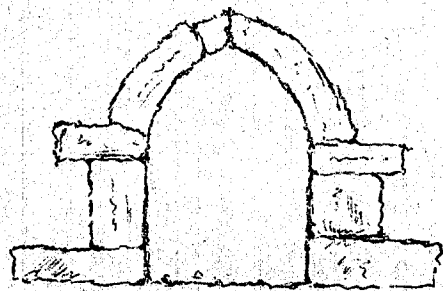
From the name Gaislean Mi Chonaing i.e. the Castle of O'Gunning it would appear <sup>that</sup> there was a castle here erected by and occupied by O'Gunning chief of Singland and Aes Greine, but we have no historical reference to this Castle as belonging to this chieftain, nor have we any document to fix the period at which he sunk under the O'Brians. All we know for certainty about it is that it first belonged to O'Bonaing or Gunning, next to the O'Brians

and



and after them to the Glen William De Burgo who retained it till the year 1688 when they were attainted, and when the Castle was destroyed by <sup>Genl</sup> De Ginkle.

The <sup>ruin of the</sup> old church of Castleconnell or Stradbally ~~is situated~~ is situated in the townland of Stradbally from which it receives its latter name. This church has all disappeared except a portion of the south wall <sup>ft in</sup> 18.6 in length 3 ft in thickness and 9 ft in height, built of small field stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. The doorway remains on this portion of the wall. It is in the pointed style and constructed of cut lime stone. It is disfigured on the inside but in tolerable preservation on the outside, where it measures <sup>ft in</sup> 2.8 in breadth and <sup>ft in</sup> 4.2 in height from the present level of the ground which is much raised. The other three walls of this church are destroyed down to the very foundations. There is a large grave yard attached, which is much used.



Doorway of the old church of Castleconnell or Stradbally



In the North west end of this parish is situated the townlands of Port Enniscy or Port-cruska where O'Brien erected a wooden bridge across the Shannon in the year 1507. The exact situation of this bridge cannot now be pointed out, but the natives assert that it was very near O'Brien's Bridge

I insert here the notices <sup>of this place</sup> which the Four Masters have collected.

[Annals of Munster]

Port-croisi (\*).[Compt'd  
OK.]

A.D.

(now Porterskas)

1507. The Bridge of Port-croisi upon  
the Shannon was erected by O'Brien  
(Torlogh, the Son of Seige, who was Son of  
Torlogh) Donall his brother, the Bishop  
of Killaloe, and the Bishop of Kilfenora  
1510. Torlogh, the Son of Seige O'Brien, Lord  
of Thomond, assembled all his forces,  
[assembled]  
and Macnamara, the Gíol-Adha, and  
Clanrickard mustered numerous troops  
to oppose them. The Earl led his army  
through

(\*) Droicet pupit croisi, the name is still retained on the

Limerick  
Co. ~~Limerick~~ side of the Shannon near O'Brien's Bridge: J. O'D.  
14/10/18/2 (viii)

(18) 17  
656

through Bealach na fadbaighe and  
Bealach na n Gamhna until he  
arrived at Port-croisi<sup>\*</sup>, a wooden  
Bridge which O'Brien had constructed  
over the Shannon, which bridge he  
broke down, and during the night he  
remained encamped in that country,  
and O'Brien pitched his own Camp so near  
him that they used to hear each other's voices  
during the night. On the morrow the Lord  
Chief Justice marshalled his army, placing  
the English and Irish of Munster in the  
van, and the English of Meath and Dublin  
in the rear, and O'Donnell and his small  
body

(\*) Port-croisi is a place on the Shannon one mile below O'Brien's Bridge  
The name is now Anglicised Portcunpha E. C.  
J. O. D.

(19)  
657/18

body of troops having joined the English  
of Meath and Dublin in the rear, they  
all marched through Moin-na-m-Brathar<sup>\*</sup>  
(the Bog of the Friars) which was the shortest  
route from Port-Croisi to Limerick.

O'Brien's army charged the English,  
and slew the Baron of Kent, and Barnwall  
Kircustown, and many other nobles  
whose names are not <sup>mentioned</sup> enumerated.

The English army took <sup>to</sup> Glicht and  
O'Brien's army returned home in triumph  
and loaded with spoils. There was not in  
either army on that day a man who  
acquired more fame for bravery and  
prowess than O'Donnell in leading off

(\*) <sup>in the parish of Killealy</sup> Antownland, within half a mile of Thomond Bridge on the north.  
It is now Anglicised Monabrahker. L.D.  
the 14/10/18/2(x)  
E. C.



near of the English army.  
A.D.

1597. John age, the Son of Richard, who  
was Son of John of the Hermon was slain  
in a nocturnal aggression by a part of the  
Clan Donnell on an island in Linnock in  
Carragh, called *Rilen-na-n-ennigh*.

At the time that the baron of Inchiquin  
was slain in Linnock \* \* \*  
he had in his possession (as his ancestors  
had before him) lands on the other side of  
(now Portersha)  
the Shannon called the lands of Porters.

As soon as the Burkes who resided on  
the borders of the Shannon and the Clann-  
(now the Barony of Clanwilliam)  
William of *Aes tri-maighe* had heard

of the death of the baron, they were resolved  
on the authority of their ancient charter\* to prevent  
his people and his mother (Margaret, the daughter of  
Thomas Cusack) from further tilling these lands.

\* The Burkes claimed this townland as a part of their territory of *Aes tri-maighe*  
now the Barony of Clanwilliam, &c.

(the Olds) (21)  
~~659~~ 20

A party of the inhabitants of Kinel-Tearmaic, the  
baron's territory  
went to aid and assist Margaret,  
(Portersha),  
and she set out with them to Portersha,  
where her working people were.

When the aforesaid Burkes, viz Thomas,  
the Son of Theobald, who was Son of  
William, who was Son of Edmond,  
and Ulick the Son of William, who was  
Son of Edmond) had heard of this, they  
assembled as many as they were able  
and attacked Margaret and the baron's  
people. A battle was bravely fought  
between them, and though the baron's people  
were few in number they exerted them-  
selves bravely in their own defense.

Several men of distinction were slain on

both  
14/10/18/2(x)

21<sup>660</sup>

both sides, namely Ulick, the Son  
of William, who was Son of Edmond  
Burke, and three or four other Gentlemen  
on the side of the Burkes, and Hugh  
O'Hogan, by no means the least distin-  
guished for goodness and wealth in the  
County of Clare, with another good man,  
namely Morogh, the Son of Donogh, who  
was Son of Morogh Roe, <sup>se</sup> O'Brien, and the  
Son of Cruise (Thomas the Son of Christopher)  
on the other side.

(23)  
In the west end of the townland of Ruane in 22  
this parish there is a stone called bloch ruadh  
na peiste, said to have taken its name from  
a serpent which lived under it in the time of  
St. Patrick, but which was expelled thence by  
the saint who compelled it to take up its  
abode in a bog-hole near the Shannon called  
Roll na peiste ruaidhe, <sup>i.e.</sup> the hole of the red worm  
or serpent. For an ~~account~~ account of St.  
Patrick's visit to this district see <sup>Saingéal</sup> Singland in  
the parish of St. Patrick's.

*Antiquities ascertained by W. A. Barry,*

J. O'Donovan

Limerick

July 7<sup>th</sup> 1840.



**END**

**14 D 18/3**

**O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; O'Keefe, Patrick**

**Notes, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of Kilmurry, Derrygalvan (Derrygalvin), Mungret, St. Patrick's, Killinagarrieff (Killeenagarrieff), and Killeely and Limerick city, with particular reference to their graveyards, holy well, castles, early church and the origins of their place names.**

**9-13 July 1840**

**19p.**

**23 cm**

**ill; ink sketches of window and belfry at Killeenagarrieff church and doorway and window of Mungret church, drawn by Patrick O'Keefe.**

**Included are related extracts from 'The Annals of the Four Masters', Lanigan's 'An Ecclesiastical History of Ireland' and Archdall's 'Monasticum Hibernicum'.**

## Of the parish of Kilmurry.

Situation. This parish is bounded on the north by the County of Clare, on the East by the parish of Killinagarriff, on the south by those of Derrygalin and Carrickparson, and on the west by St. Patrick's.

Name. This is the name of many parishes and old churches in Ireland. It signifies the church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is written in Irish *Cill murna*, i.e. *ecclesia Mariae*.

The site of the original church of Kilmurry, <sup>which is in the Glebe</sup> is occupied by the protestant church which was built about 40 years ago. There is an old grave yard attached which is still much used.

There is another grave yard in the townland of Killonan (*Bella Adamnani*) in which children and strangers are interred. It is now called Killeen i.e. the little church, but it should be given as Killonan grave yard on the Ordnance Map.

In the townland of Kilbane there is a holy well dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, which is still resorted by pilgrims for the cure of sore eyes and other complaints.

In the townland of Castle Troy on the southern bank of the Shannon there is a castle which gave

14/D/18/3(i)

name

name to the townlands. Its east and north sides are in tolerable preservation, but the other two are nearly destroyed, only 10 ft. of the west and 6 ft. of the south wall remaining. It measures on the inside  $31.6$  <sup>ft</sup> by  $21.2$  <sup>ft</sup>, and the walls are  $7.6$  <sup>ft</sup> thick, and the sides which are perfect about 70 ft. in height and contain windows for five <sup>stories</sup> floors.

On the townlands of Newcastle stands, <sup>on a rock</sup> a castle of the same name. It is all perfect except the west wall which is entirely destroyed. It is  $57.4$  <sup>ft</sup> by  $21.8$  <sup>ft</sup>, and the people assert that it had a square tower at the south west corner which fell with the west side about forty years since. The remaining walls are 50 feet high and  $5.6$  <sup>ft</sup> in thickness, and have windows and apertures for five stories.

No tradition exists as to the period at which or the family by whom these castles were erected. Some suppose that Castle Troy was erected by a family of the O'Tree's or Troys, but this is very questionable.

There is nothing else of antiquarian interest in this parish.

Antiquities examined by  
Mr. A. Curry.  
J. G. Barrowman,

July 9<sup>th</sup> 1840.



*The parish of Killinagariff*

(29)  
25

Situation.

This parish is situated partly in the Liberties of Limerick and partly in the <sup>Borough</sup> Liberties of Clanwilliam, and is from 3 to seven miles east of the City of Limerick.

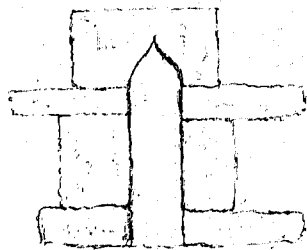
Name. The name of this parish is in Irish *Cillín na n-garb* which means the little church of the rough people - *cellula asperorum*, but it is a puzzle to explain the reason why it originally received such an ugly appellation. 9. Is it a corruption of *Cillín Mízgarb*?

The old church of this name is <sup>ft in</sup> 36.6 in length and <sup>ft in</sup> 22.6 in breadth, and its walls are in tolerable preservation except the East gable which is destroyed except a <sup>small</sup> portion attached to the north wall. (of 5 ft.)

There <sup>is a</sup> doorway is on the south wall touching the west gable; it is <sup>ft in</sup> 6.8 high and 4 ft wide on the inside where it is arched at top, and ~~on the outside~~ <sup>ft in</sup> 5.9 high and <sup>ft in</sup> 2.11 wide on the outside where it is pointed at top, and constructed of cut lime stone, but its west side is a good deal injured.

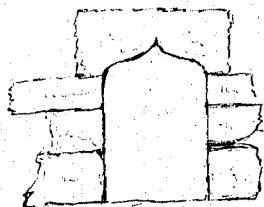
At the distance of 6 feet from the east gable the south wall contains a window which is square on the inside and measures <sup>ft in</sup> 3.6 by <sup>ft in</sup> 3.4. <sup>on this side</sup> It is constructed of chiselled red stone which presents an ancient aspect, but on the outside (where it is <sup>ft in</sup> 5.6 from the present level of the ground) it is pointed and constructed of cut lime stone. On this side it is only <sup>ft in</sup> 2.11 in height. 14/10/18/3(11) and

and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width. It is constructed thus:



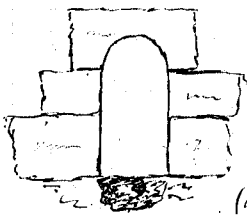
(P. 106)

The west gable has a small belfry of the annexed form constructed of cut lime stone.



(P. 106)

It has also a small window placed at the height of 14 feet from the ground and measuring on the inside about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in height and 2 ft in width, and on the outside 2 ft in height and <sup>only</sup> 7 inches in width. It is of this form <sup>annexed</sup> and constructed of chiselled lime stone.



(P. 106)

(31)  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
The north wall contains a doorway placed directly opposite the one in the south wall, but now built up with mason work. This is constructed of chiselled lime stone and quadrangular inside and outside, on the inside, where the gable forms one side of it the height is  $5\text{ ft } 8\text{ in}$  and the breadth  $2\text{ ft } 8\text{ in}$ , and on the outside the height is  $4\text{ ft } 11\text{ in}$  and the breadth only  $1\text{ ft } 10\text{ in}$ . The lintel is a thin <sup>limestone</sup> flag inside and outside. At the distance of  $18\text{ ft } 9\text{ in}$  from this doorway there is a <sup>quad</sup> square window measuring on the inside  $3\text{ ft } 6\text{ in}$  in height and  $2\text{ ft } 8\text{ in}$  in width, and on the outside  $2\text{ ft } 0\text{ in}$  in height and only 4 inches in width. On the inside it is constructed of brown stone, and on the outside of chiselled lime stone.

The walls of this church are about 16 ft in height of which 4 ft is a parapet, and 3 ft in thickness & constructed of small and large stones cemented with lime and sand mortar.

This church has a small grave yard attached. It is situated on the <sup>north</sup> bank of the River Annacotty, which is here called Killinagarreff river.

At the distance of 8 yards from the south-west corner of the church there is a remarkable old ash tree measuring  $14\text{ ft } 6\text{ in}$  in girth at the base. It is fast decaying but still exhibits some symptoms of 'a green old age'. Its age must be very great.

Antiquities examined by Mr. A. Barry.  
J. O'Donovan. July, 13<sup>th</sup>, 1840.

14/D/18/3(W)

## The parish of Derrygalvan.

### Situation.

This parish is in the Liberties of Limerick and is in two parts, of which one is bounded on the North by the parish of Kilmurry, on the east by Carrickparson and Kilmurry, on the South by Baker-narry, and on the west by the parishes of St. Nicholas and Donaghmore; the other is bounded on the E. and S. by the parish of Abbingdon, on the north by Killinagarraiff, and on the west by Kilmurry.

Name. The name of this parish is in the original Irish form *Dorpe uí Gearbáin*, which signifies the Derry or oak grove of O'Galvan, a family name still in existence in this part of the country. It was the name of the townland on which the original church was built.

There is no remain of the <sup>now much used</sup> "olden time" in this parish, but a small burial ground <sup>now much used</sup> lying to the east of the road from Limerick to Tipperary in the townland of Ballysimon. Small fragments of



(33) 29

of the walls of a church are visible among the luxuriant weeds in this burial ground but they are not so distinct as to give one any idea of the extent or characteristics of the building.

Antiquities examined by Mr.  
A. Curry. 1830

The parish of Mungrett.

Situation. This parish is situated partly in the barony of Cobblebrien and partly in the Liberties of Limerick, and is bounded on the north by the Shannon, on the east by St. Nicholas's, on the south by Breccora and Knocknagaul, and on the west by Kilkeedy.

Name. The name of this parish is written Munzarpit in the Annals of the Four Masters and in the older Irish Chronicles, but its meaning is not given in any of them. We must therefore have recourse to conjecture, and try what meaning the name would produce when decomposed. Let us try mun zarpit, g. d. mune zarpit, g. d. mune zarpit, i. e. the short hill, but as this derivation savours of the Tight-hard (Feathard) of the Ulster King of 1644, and of the Cantabri, heads high above,  
1480/18/3 (IV) of

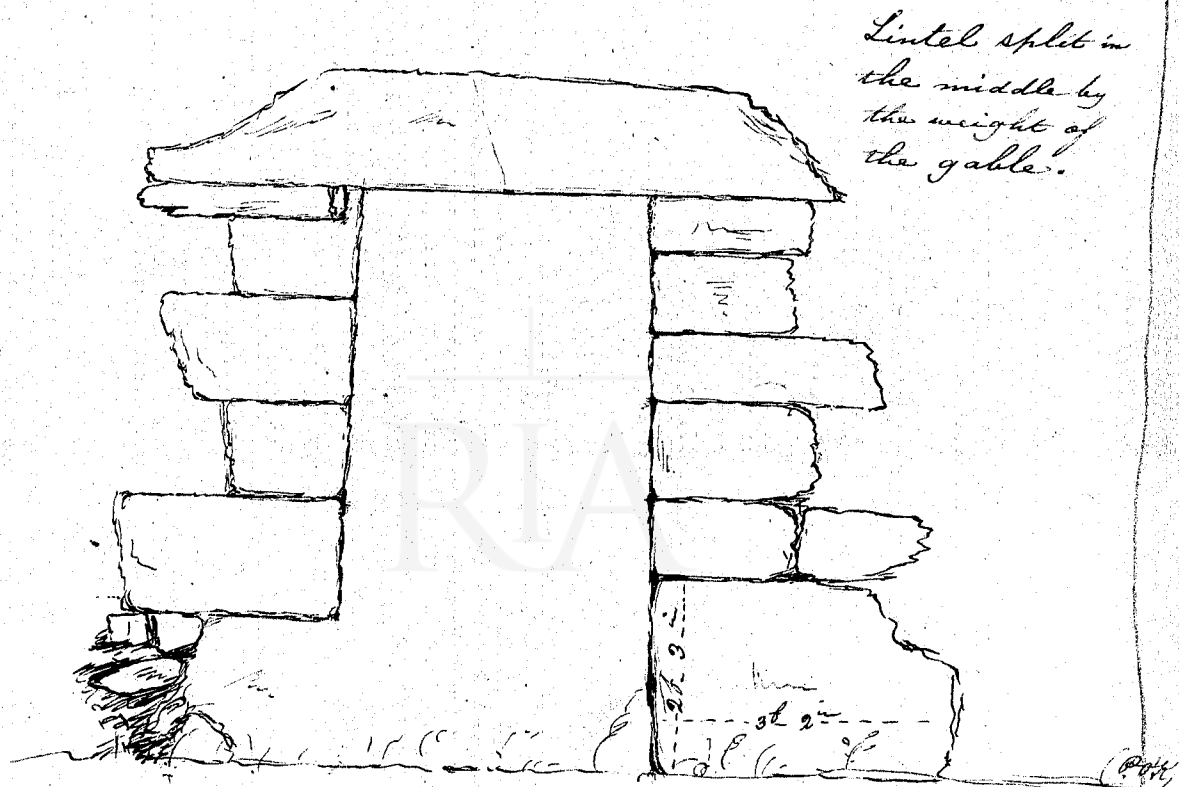
(34)  
36 of the Ulster of 1840, we must state that it is a  
mere etymological <sup>guess</sup> which is as apt to be wrong  
as right; and, express our opinion that before  
we finally pronounce upon it, it will be necessary  
for us to discover what the early Irish etymolo-  
-gists made of it: *mung garret*? *mong arpt*?

away with etymology unsupported by history authentic,  
or by the features of the 'locality'! O'Flanigan in  
his very bad translation of the Annals of Irish  
-fallen anglicises *Mungairt* to *Maunt-Garrett*  
which is wrong in every point of view.

The ecclesiastical remains now to be seen at *ellung-  
ret* are very inconsiderable. They consist of,  
1. An old church in the Irish style of the tenth  
century. This is situated immediately to the left of  
the road as you approach it from Limerick.  
It measures on the inside 41 feet in length and  
23 ft in breadth. Its walls are in good preserva-  
-tion considering its age. The side walls are <sup>2" 10"</sup> ~~4"~~  
in thickness, and 14 ft in height and built of good  
stones cemented with excellent lime and sand  
mortar. The west gable is remarkably high and  
sharp at the point, but the east one is rendered  
obtuse by the storms of ages. The doorway, as is  
usually the case with <sup>old</sup> Irish churches, is in the west  
gable, and in the Semi Cyclopean style. It is <sup>ft in</sup> 6" 8 in  
height

(35)

height, and in breadth  $3\frac{1}{4}$  ft in at top and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  ft in at the bottom. It is traversed at the top with a large lintel measuring  $7\frac{1}{10}$  ft in length,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ft in depth, and extends  $1\frac{1}{9}$  ft into the thickness of the wall. The annexed sketch of this doorway will convey a pretty accurate idea of its form and characteristics.



There is a large breach in the south wall extending from the ground to the top of a round-headed window which (window) has all disappeared except its round top.

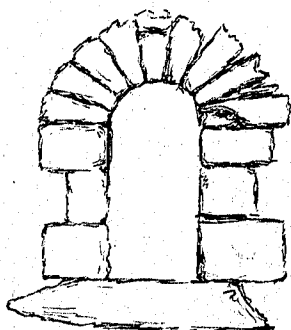
The east gable contains a rude round-headed little window placed at the height from the ground

14/D/18/3(V) <sup>gus</sup>

(36)

32

and measuring on the inside about 5<sup>ft</sup> 10 in in height and 2<sup>ft</sup> 8 in in width, and on the outside about 3<sup>ft</sup> 10 in in height and 1<sup>ft</sup> 6 in in width. The following sketch <sup>will</sup> ~~give~~ convey a pretty correct idea of its construction on the outside:



The north wall is in very good preservation but featureless; the south wall is a good deal injured; it contained besides the window already referred to, another which is now reduced to a formless breach.

Not far from this ancient church are the ruins of what is called the abbey of Elmgret which bespeak neither magnificence nor antiquity. For a description of this see p. infra.

What I deem worthy of remark in this modern little abbey is its square doorways covered with horizontal lintels, of which there is one on the south wall of the nave, another on the west wall of a small apartment attached to the west end of the nave, and ~~was~~ the third leading from the nave into



Castlemungret

into the tower.

A short distance to the east of this modern abbey is the ruin of a small church which looks old being built of large square stones and cemented with excellent lime and sand mortar. It is 14 ft in breadth on the inside, but its length cannot be ascertained as the original west gable has disappeared, and in its place a modern wall has been erected. The greatest height of the side walls is 11 ft. The thickness ft 2.6. The east gable contains a narrow window about 6 feet in height and 8 inches in breadth, but so <sup>encompassing</sup> <sup>in</sup> clothed with ivy, that I could not by any convenient exertion ascertain whether it is round or lancet headed.

The south wall contained two windows both of which are now disfigured.

This church is not as old as the one first described, but it is much older than the abbey.

Still further to the east are the walls of an old house said to have belonged to the abbey, and to the west about  $\frac{1}{4}$  are the ruins of a small castle called Castlemungret, - only the ~~lower~~ <sup>over the ground floor</sup> arch, and one wall of it remaining.  
14/D/18/3(V)

(38.)  
628 I here insert what the Irish writers have  
34 collected of the history of Munghair.

## Munghairit [Annals of the Masters] Comm. p. 641.

4. 5. 752. Boobgal mē p̄ḡzale abb munghairde do mairb̄.  
762. Aylill mē c̄p̄osbecham abb munghair. [decc]  
843. Iorē munghairde, a ap̄ale cealla m̄mum leo [le gallaib] om.  
909. An t̄p̄r bt̄ t̄oat̄ do flano. S. l̄theach abb cluana herant̄  
a m̄colcarr̄l abb munghairde decc.  
965. Cono mē c̄q̄er̄am abb munghairde, a cl̄ro m̄m̄an ȳle decc.  
993. M̄p̄p̄r̄ mē m̄p̄r̄c̄h̄ abb munghair. Fozairtach mē d̄ap̄m̄ada  
m̄r̄at̄m̄am̄ t̄ḡeap̄na cor̄ca p̄p̄ t̄p̄ con̄ach̄t̄ do mairb̄ do ḡal̄l̄n̄ḡ c̄ap̄m̄o.  
994. Rebac̄an mē don̄cha a p̄p̄c̄n̄each munghair decc.  
1006. Caeir̄ mē m̄p̄on̄aigh abb munghair decc.  
1014. N̄all mē d̄ap̄ḡam̄ a p̄p̄c̄n̄each munghair do m̄ḡb̄āo.  
1028. Uir̄t̄ ūa d̄unc̄āda a p̄p̄c̄n̄each munghair decc  
1033. Con̄ra m̄p̄ōl̄p̄āz̄ce a p̄p̄c̄n̄each munghair a d̄p̄p̄t̄ ōl̄n̄za decc.  
1070. Caeir̄ach mē Caeir̄e abb munghairde cl̄ro cl̄est̄ p̄p̄ m̄m̄ decc.  
1100. Cono mē ḡille b̄ȳde abb munghairde s̄ȳ ēḡn̄, a s̄p̄ȳt̄ s̄l̄nōp̄ m̄m̄ decc.  
1107. Munghairt̄ do ōḡam̄ do m̄p̄p̄c̄l̄it̄ach ra b̄ȳam̄.

14/D/8/3(VII)

St. S. 752. Borgal, son of Fergal, abbot of Mungret was killed.

762. Kilill, son of Breeraghan, abbot of Mungret, died.

843. The Danes burned Mungret, and other churches in Ormond.

909. The 33<sup>rd</sup> year of Filann. St. Lillaach, abbot of Clonenagh and Mulcassel, abbot of Mungret, died.

965. Conrthe son of Corcran, abbot of Mungret and head of all Munster, died.

993. Murges, son of Muredach (was) abbot of Mungret.

994. Rebachan, son of Donagh Erenach of Mungret died.

1006. Gaicher, son of Maonach, abbot of Mungret, died.

1014. Niall, son of Beargan, Erenach of Mungret was killed.

1033. Donn O' Mulpatrick, Erenach of Mungret and Dysart Enos, died.

1079. Casey son of Carby, abbot of Mungret, head of the clergy of Munster, died.

1100. Donn, son of Gillabor, abbot of Mungret, a wise doctor and chief senior of Munster, died.

1107. Mungret was plundered by Morthogh O'Brien.



(Goughs Camden)

(41)  
~~634~~ 36

Mungret  
→

Mungret, three miles south of  
Limerick, was of antient erection.  
The Butler of Cashed says, it  
had within its walls six churches,  
and contained, exclusive of scholars,  
1600 religious. The remains of its  
church bespeak neither magnificence  
or antiquity; the east end is 47 feet  
by 16; the nave 38 feet by 20; on  
its north side a small porch;  
the west end 12 feet by 22, having  
on the north side a small square tower.

(9) note

Sl. 434. 435. & Wilson, 162.

14/2/18/3 (viii)



37 (42)  
~~632~~

Edmond Henry Perry, second Lord  
Glentworth was created Earl and  
Viscount Simerick, February 11. 1803.

(Archdall's. Mon. Hist. U. T. R. I. 64.) <sup>38</sup>

I. 434

County  
of  
LimerickMungret; (a)  
← — — — →

So situated near three miles south  
of Limerick, where an abbey  
was said to have been erected in  
the fourth century, before the arrival  
of St. Patrick in Munster (b). It  
is however indubitable, that St.  
Patrick placed St. Neeson here, who  
died A. D. 531. (c)

St. Clanchin, son of Seachna, grandson  
of bas, and great grandson of Conall  
of

(a) Was called anciently Imungren, &amp; Mungairid.

(b) O'Halloran, vol. 2. p. 44 (c) H. th. p. 158. 186. 14/D/18/3(12)

the Dalgaís race, and nephew to  
Blaid, King of Thomond, was  
abbot here; for his unexampled  
piety, and extensive learning, he  
was ordered by St. Patrick. to undertake  
the instruction of his new converts  
in the province of Conaught,  
and afterwards became the first  
bishop. of Limerick. (d).

A. D. 460. Died the abbot Ciliac,  
the son of Breabachain. (e)

820. This abbey was plundered and  
destroyed by the Danes. (f)

834. This year the abbey, together with  
several other churches in Munster,  
was

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(d) Act. S. p. 332. O'Hallan, vol. 2. p. 95. O'Donn & Madden.  
(f) Hist. of Limerick p. 13, 14.

(47)  
637  
40

was burnt and destroyed by the Danes (3) 40  
840. The Danes repeated their depredations. (b)

908. Cormac McBullenaw, archbishop  
of Cashel, and King of Munster,  
died, by his last will, bequeath  
to this abbey three ounces of  
gold, an embroidered vest, and  
his blessing. (i)

909. Died the abbot Maolcaisil. (f)

934. The abbey was again con-  
sumed by fire (K)

993. Died the abbot Muirgeas  
Mc Muireadhy. (KK)

994. Died Rebachan Mc Dunchada,  
the ~~monk~~ (KK) archbishop  
1006. Died

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(g) Ann. 4. Masters. (b) O'Halloran, vol. 2. p. 158.

(d) Mc Curtin, p. 193. & 194. (TT) Ann. 4. Mart. (H)

(K) Fr. Fl. p. 633. (KK) Ann 4. Mart (KKK) id. 14/10/18/3(X)



1006. Died the abbot Bailher, M<sup>c</sup> Maony (KKKK)

M. & 1014. Died Niall M<sup>c</sup> Deargan, the archdeacon (K5)

1020. Died Cest O'Donauke, Deacon of  
 End  
 this. this abbey & mast.  
 archdeacon

1033. Died Canstano, he was arch-  
 dean of this abbey, and also  
 of the abbey of Disert Enyuis (1)

M. 1070. Died the abbot Cathusach M<sup>c</sup>-  
 Cairpre, he was the chief of the  
 clergy of Munster & mast

End  
 this 1000. The abbey suffered much this  
 year from a general conflagration. (m)

1000. Donal M<sup>c</sup> Lochlain, with  
 the force of Ulster, destroyed this  
 abbey. (n)

1100. died

Mungast

(49) ~~659~~

45

1100. died the abbot Cennus m<sup>o</sup> Giall-

abridke, a philosopher of repute & mast.

1102. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of October,

died in this abbey the Blessed

Virgin Maryam O'Morgair, principal

professor of divinity at Armagh,

and in all the west of

Europe. (o)

1107. The abbey was plundered

and sacked this year. (n)

The Batten of Cashel gives

an incredible account of

this abbey; that it had within

its walls six churches, which

contained

(o) Fr. Th. p. 279. (n) id. p. 633.

~~642~~ (50)  
43

which contained, exclusive of  
scholars, 1500 religious; 500  
of whom were learned preachers,  
500 Poalmists, and the remain-  
ing 500 wholly applied  
themselves to spiritual exercises. (97)

The ruins of this abbey may  
still be seen, consisting of  
the walls of a church, which  
by no means bespeak either  
antiquity, or its former splendour;  
the east end is forty-seven feet  
long by sixteen broad, with  
a

(51) ~~677~~  
44

A plain narrow window; the  
centre, or nave, is thirty-three feet  
by twenty-eight and an half, and  
the communication from this  
with the east end is by a small  
arch; and the north side of the  
nave is a small porch or  
entrance; the west end is twelve  
feet by twenty-two, and the north  
side whereof is a small square  
tower, with ruined battlements;  
there are no old tombs to be found  
here, but at a small distance

north-east  
14/10/18/3 (xii)



45  
~~642~~ (52)

north-east, are the walls of an  
old house, which probably  
made a part of the abbey.

## Mungret.

§. VI. Another distinguished saint of the South of Ireland, contemporary with Senan, and partly with Carthage, [p 103] was Nellan abbot, and most probably founder of the monastery of Mungret near Limerick. (54) The early history of this saint is involved in obscurity; for we cannot admit the story of his having become a disciple of St. Patrick, when in Munster; as if Nellan could have been a grown up young man about the year 450. He may at least in part, be said to have been a disciple of St. Colman of Emly, with whom he used to converse upon theological subjects and questions, the solution of which he was anxious to learn. At the time of these conversations he could not have been very young; and it may fairly be inferred that he was born

born before the beginning of 6th century.  
It is also probable that he was <sup>born</sup> there, or  
at least before <sup>St. Columba's</sup> death, at Clun-  
gret. He never rose higher in the  
church than to the rank of Deacon,  
by which title he was known not only  
during his life-time, but likewise  
ever since. yet his reputation was so  
great, that he has been considered as  
one of the fathers of the Irish church;  
(60) and therefore it can scarcely be  
doubted that <sup>he</sup> was the <sup>St.</sup> Nelson named  
in the second class of Saints. He died  
in the year 552; and his festival was  
celebrated at Clungret on the 25th of July.  
This monastery became very eminent,  
and is said to have contained at one  
<sup>time</sup> a prodigious number of monks. (64) Not  
long after the death of St. Nelson we  
find



find marked that of some other distinguished person, concerning whom, however, very little is known.

(54) We have already shown (Vol. 79. to Chap. 26) [p. 104] the absurdity of the opinion that St. Patrick founded this monastery for Neeson. Nor is there any reason to think that there was any such monastery established there either by St. Patrick, as Harris states, or by any one else before the times of Neeson, who ought, I believe, be considered as the founder of it.

(60) In Cummián's Paschal Epistle Neeson is joined with Silbe, Kieran of Clonmacnois, &c. That this was Neeson of Mungret, cannot be called in question, whereas Cummián alludes to saints who left great establishments after them, and particularly in places not far distant from the Shannon, & now there was no other Neeson in those parts of Ireland, to whom these circumstances could apply.

(64) See Archdale at Mungret. It is strange [p. 105] that Ware has not made mention of this monastery.



§. XI. The Northmen still continued to plunder and destroy various religious establishments. In 926 Kildare was despoiled first by those of Waterford, and afterwards by those of Dublin. This town was a great object of their cupidity; for it was plundered again in 927 by the Danes of Waterford commanded by a son of Godfred, and afterwards in 928 on St. Patrick's day by Godfred himself. Leinster was not as well defended as some other parts of Ireland. Auliff, a son of Godfred, I suppose the same as the one just mentioned, was defeated in 926 by Murtoagh Mac-Naill (a son of the king Naill Glundubh) and his Ulster men, who killed 800 Northmen, among whom were three of their chiefs Abdean, Cufer, and Harold: yet they afterwards

# Mungret

(57)  
64750

wards penetrated into that province, and the same Suliffe, assisted by the North-men of Lochcuain (Strangford lough) plundered Armagh about St. Martin's festival 932. A party of them pillaged [p. 374] Clonmacnois in 935; and in the same year they burned the monastery of Mungret.

The antiquities of the parish of Mungret were examined by Messrs. P. Kezffe and J. O'Donovan and the notes arranged by the latter.

14/D/18/3(XV)

57 (58)  
648

## The parish of St. Patrick's

Situation. This parish is situated on the east side of the city of Limerick, and is bounded on the north by the River Shannon, on the east by Kilmurry, and the same river, and on the west by Killeely, St. Edmund's and St. John's.

Name. The original church of this parish was dedicated to St. Patrick, unde nomen.

No part of the ancient church of this parish now remains, but its <sup>on high ground</sup> grave yard is much used. It is situated in the townland of Gyleha. About 300 paces to the east of it, but in the townland of Singlands there is a holy well called after St. Patrick, which is still reported to for the cure of sore eyes.

The townland in which this holy well is situated is now called by the native Irish Sainisil, which is the name by which it is <sup>also</sup> called in the Irish Annals and in the most ancient lives of St. Patrick. I abstract the following account of St. Patrick's visit to this place from his Tripartite life.

"After the Saint had left the territory of Ara  
" bliach, he directed his course to the territory of  
" Ely-Figeinte, where he was entertained by Donan  
" King of that Country. Here he met with a youth  
" of the name Nefsan, whom after some time he  
placed



"placed over the monastery of Mungret which  
 "he himself (Patrick) had founded. Some in-  
 "habitants of Thomond having heard of St.  
 "Patrick's visit to those parts, crossed the Shan-  
 "non for the purpose of seeing him, and  
 "when instructed in the Christian religion  
 "were baptized in a field called Tir-glaip.  
 "He was also waited on here by barthen  
 "son of <sup>Blood</sup> Blod, prince of Thomond, who  
 "was converted and baptized by the saints  
 "at Saingéal", [now Singland or podpán Singl]  
 "St. Patrick did not cross the Shannon on this  
 "occasion, but having ascended the hill of  
 "Fintine lying to the south-west of Donagh-  
 "more, and, looking over the country of  
 "Thomond, blessed it and foretold the  
 "birth after some years of the great St.  
 "Senan of Scattery islands."

The same story is given in the life of St.  
 Patrick preserved in the Book of Lismore  
 from which I <sup>here</sup> translate that part of it  
 relating to Saingéal and Fintine.

"Patrick afterwards gave a blessing to Neppan and  
 "conferred the degree of deacon upon him. This  
 11/12/18/3(24)



650 "is the Massan that lies interred at Blunghairit.  
 " Patrick went after this to Pindine, a hill  
 " to the south west of Donaghmore, from which  
 " the country to the north of Limerick is seen,  
 " and he pronounced a blessing on Thomond  
 " in consequence of the goodness <sup>of the inhabitants</sup> in coming to  
 " him with many presents. On this occasion  
 " Carthen, the son of Blood, the progenitor  
 " of the Clann-Torlogh (O'Briens) believed  
 " in the true God, and Patrick baptized him  
 " at a place called Saingil (so called from  
 " an angel who appeared there to St. Patrick  
 " and who was not his own guardian angel  
 " Victor) It was then Eochy Balldarg  
 " was born for Carthen; he was disfigured  
 " and Patrick miraculously formed into a  
 " symmetric figure; but a red spot remained  
 " on his body as a memorial of the miracle.  
 " Patrick himself did not proceed into Tho-  
 " mond on this occasion, but he viewed it  
 " from Limerick to the west and north  
 " and blessed it as far as he saw it; et pro-  
 " phetavit de sanctis qui meis ferant nominibus  
 " et

*et tempore quo pervenissent.* 'The green island (61)  
"to the west," said Patrick "in the mouth of 54  
"the sea (recte Shannon) shall be inhabited  
"by a luminary of the people of God, who will  
"be the patron of this country, viz Senan of  
"Iris Cathaigh." Lismore, fol. 47 b. b.

of St Patrick

The well, above mentioned as in the townland  
of Singil, or Singland is the one at which  
Barthene, prince of Thomond was baptized.  
The name Findine is not now preserved in the  
country but from the description of its si-  
-tuation in the Book of Lismore, it appears  
to be no other than the hill of Caker-  
-narry.

The only other historical reference to this  
place is found in the Irish Annals at the  
year 1088. The following is a literal transla-  
-tion of it from the Four Masters:

"A. D. 1088. Donnell, the son of Mac Loughlin,  
"King of Aileach marched with an army composed

14/D/18/3 (XVII) of

55 " of the inhabitants of the north of Ireland into  
 " Connaught, and Roderic O'Conor King of Con-  
 " naught gave him the hostages of that pro-  
 " vince. He was also joined by Roderic and both  
 " marched with their united forces into Munster,  
 " and they burned Limerick and plundered the  
 " plain of Munster as far as Emly on the one  
 " side, and Lough-gur, Bruce, Dun-Ached<sup>(Dunathip)</sup> and  
 " Drim<sup>=in</sup>-O'clerken on the other. They carried  
 " away the head of the son of Gallus O'Rourke  
 " from the hills of Saingeal, destroyed the  
 " walls of Kincora, and led one hundred and  
 " sixty heroes of the Danes and Irish into  
 " Captivity and as hostages, and then returned  
 " home. The following are the <sup>most distinguished</sup> "choicest" of  
 " these hostages, viz the son of Madigan O'Kennedy,  
 " the son of Congalach O'Hogan, and the son  
 " of Eochy O'Linchy. But Mortagh O'Brien  
 " gave cows, horses, gold, silver and <sup>and</sup> flesh  
 " meat in their redemption."

Nearly the same translation of this passage is

given



given in O'Flanigan's translation of the 56<sup>(63)</sup>  
Annals of Inisfallen, but he renders cápn,  
which really <sup>is cupin</sup> fleshmeat as if it were written Copna cups.

of the City of Limerick. -

Antiquities examined by  
Mr. A. Barry, Esq.

The City of Limerick comprises several parishes, but it contains but very few antiquarian remains at present, and these have been so minutely described already by Ferrar, Brewer and Fitzgerald, that I think it needless to add one word to their labors. The antiquities to be marked on the map are the following.

1. The town or city wall. An accurate idea may be formed of the extent of this wall from a plan of the City of Limerick published in the <sup>Pacata</sup> Hibernia. Some fragments of it are still visible, but the greater part is levelled. It extends <sup>(interrupted by various chasms)</sup> south-east from the Thomond gate, along part of the Island road and across the ~~Island~~ <sup>Abbey</sup> river to Clare Street from which it turns south by Vauxhall to Pennywell Street, thence to John's Gate and Mungret gate, and <sup>extends</sup> ~~runs~~ by the Corn market to the Shannon.

(2) St. Mary's Abbey. See Fitzgerald's history of Limerick, where this is described.

14/D/18/3 (xviii)



3. The Castle. See Fitzgerald's History of Limerick for the description and history of this magnificent fortress:

For a description of the old church of Kilrush in the parish of St. Munchin's, see letters on the County of Clare.

There is an old burial place in the townland of Cluain Chonáin (Cloonconan) about two miles to the north of the city of Limerick, <sup>in the parish of St. Munchin</sup> but only children are now interred in it.

In the same parish in the townland of Ballygenán there was ~~formerly~~ a castle, but it ~~is~~ was converted into a dwelling house by Mr. Delmage the present proprietor, who remodelled all its original features.

The Castle of Rathurde is <sup>really</sup> situated in the parish of St. Nicholas, but it has been described in the letter on that of Donaghmore in which a part of the townland of Rathurde is situated.

In the townland of Killakee in the south end of the parish of St. John, there is a small graveyard, which is much used at present, but it contains no ruins of a church.

In the parish of St. Mary's near its south east extremity is shown the site of the Franciscan

Abbey

Abbey, but nothing of the ruins to be seen but fragments of featureless walls.

I do not find any other remain or trace of the olden time at Limerick or in its immediate vicinity. I have a good deal to say about its history, but Askeaton is not the place to enter into historical disputes with Ferrar, O'Halloran and Fitzgerald.

The parish of Killeely.

Situation. This parish is situated <sup>partly</sup> in the North east corner of the Liberties of Limerick, and in the S.E. part of the County of Clare. It is bounded on the east by the parish of St. Munchin, on the north by part of the same and by Kilfintona in Clare, and on the South by the River Shannon.

Name This is called in Irish Cill Fíadaile, which seems to signify the church of St. Fiadhal, whose name is mentioned in the Irish Calendar at the 24<sup>th</sup> of December.

For an account of the site of the original church of this parish see letter on the part of this parish lying in the County of Clare.

In the townland of Coonagh west in this parish and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the north of the Shannon are the ruins of a castle called Corrin. All the walls are destroyed except a part of the west wall

14/D/18/3(XIX) which

(66) 59  
is 18 feet in height, and only 2.5 in thickness.

The extent of the foundations of this castle cannot now be determined as no trace of the other walls is visible, and potatoes now grow on the space occupied by their foundations.

Near the East boundary of the detached portion of this parish is situated the townland of Moin na m-bráthar (Monabraham) the bog of the friars which is mentioned in the annals of the Four Masters at the year 1510. See the entire passage quoted in my notice of the parish of Stradbally or Castleconnell.

Antiquities examined by  
Mr A. Curry

John O'Donovan  
Askeaton July 13<sup>th</sup> 1840.

**END**



14 D 18/4

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes relating to the history, topography, traditions and antiquities of the parishes of Kildimo and Kilcornan, with particular reference to their early churches, castles, holy wells and the origins of their place names.

13-14 July 1840

5p.

23 cm

Included are related extracts from Archdall's 'Monasticum.

RIA

The parish of Kildimo.

Situation. This parish is situated in the East of the Barony of Henry and is bounded on the north by the parishes of Ardara and Chapel Russel, on the east by the parish of Kilkeedy, on the south by that of Ardara and on the west by Kilcorman.

Name. The name of this parish is pronounced by the native Irish Cill Díoma, which signifies the church of St. Dima, but nothing can be gathered on the spot to prove which of the saints of that name he was.

O'Halloran, a very bad authority no doubt, states that Dima who erected the original church of this parish was the Tutor of St. Declan of Lismore, ~~but~~ and this has been copied by Archdall and from him by Gough, but we must not believe O'Halloran nor either of his humble followers till we discover some original authentic evidence to prove it.

The site of the original church of this parish is occupied by a small rude protestant church and there is nothing in the church yard to attract the notice of the antiquarian on a rising ground.

In the North-east of the townland of Glenna-meade there is a small church called Cill Olta, i.e.

i.e. the church of the Ultorian. It is the most ancient church I have yet seen in the county, and there cannot be a doubt of its being one of the primitive ages of the Irish church. It measures on the inside 16 feet in length and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  ft in breadth. The side walls are 9 feet high and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft thick and built of large stones cemented with excellent lime and sand mortar.

The east gable contains a small rude window in the primitive rectilineally pointed style. It measures on the inside 4 feet to the vertex of the triangle and 2 feet in width, and on the outside, 15 inches in height and from 7 to 8 inches in width. The doorway was in the west gable, and covered at top with a lintel, but it is now so disfigured that its dimensions cannot be ascertained.

Ferrar in his history of Limerick asserts that this church was built by the pious St. Dima, but I do not know where he found evidence for this. The people have no tradition connected with the origin of this church, and were it not for its name Gill Olta, they would not believe that it is a church at all.

The other ruins in this parish are those of castles, of which there are three, one in the townland of Ballyculhann, a second in the townland of Court

Count to which it has given name, and <sup>the</sup> third which is called Cullam Castle in the same townland, and the fourth in the townland of Beolawn.

In the townland of Tobermurry in this parish there is a holy well called by the same name which signifies Lady's well. Stations are occasionally performed at it.

*Antiquities examined by me.*

John O'Donovan

July 13<sup>th</sup> 1840.

I insert what Archdall and his humble follower Gough have written about this church, which is not however worth a pinch of snuff, as they quote no <sup>older</sup> ~~original~~ authority than O'Halloran, who is no authority.



~~200~~

In this parish is situated the townland  
of Baile <sup>(anglicised of Ballyculhaun)</sup> Bhatlain, which is mentioned  
in the Annals of the Four Masters  
at the year 1581. From the notice of  
it given by the annalists it appears that  
the old Castle in that townland belonged  
to the family of Purcell. For the  
entire of this passage see letter on the  
parishes of Adair.

J. O.

(71) 289  
64  
Anch. Mon. Hib. V. II R. d. 65

L423

County  
of  
Limerick

Kildimma;



A monastery was founded here  
some time before the arrival of  
St. Patrick in Munster, by Dimma.  
a priest, who instructed and educated  
St. Declan; this house is situated near  
Adaire, and at this day retains its  
ancient name. (f)

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(f) O'Halloran, Vol. p. 44.

14/10/18/4 (iii)

(75)

65

1885

(Goughs Camden)

Kildimma



At Kildimma near Adaine was  
a monastery before the arrival of

St Patrick. Another at Kilfiachna.

RIA

note

(X) Arch. 423.

14/12/18/4(IV)

(76)  
286  
66

The parish of Kilcornan.

Situation. This parish is in the Barony of Henry, and is bounded on the north by the River Shannon, on the east by the parishes of Kildimo, Chapel Ruffel and Ardcanmy, on the south by those of Nanteman, Broagh and Adare and on the west by Bueruss and Askeaton.

Name. The name of this parish is pronounced by the native Irish in their own language Cill Chornáin, which they understand to signify the church of St. Cornan, but nothing could be gathered in the locality to prove which of the two saints of that name he was. one of them was abbot of Bangor and his festival was celebrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, the other was abbot of Lismore, and his festival was kept on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. The latter was probably the patron of this parish.

The old church of Kilcornan was situated in the Glebe of Moig East, but it was pulled down in the year 1831, when the present church was erected on its site.



In the townland of Cowpark in this parish there is an old church called Killeen in good preservation, but not of such antiquity as to merit minute description. It is about 44 feet in length and 24 in breadth, and has a <sup>pointed</sup> doorway constructed of cut lime stone in the south wall, the usual position in which the doorways of the churches of the 14<sup>th</sup> century are found.

The other antiquities in this parish are two Castles, one in the townland of Derreen and the other, which is called <sup>Carrickania</sup> Garraig an fhaigh in the townland of Ballyshonickbaun. The former was of considerable extent measuring about 50 feet from east to west, and 20 ft in the other direction. The side walls are nearly destroyed but the gables are in good preservation. The latter castle is a mere ruin. It stands on a limestone rock which is surrounded by a bog which rendered it not easy of access. Parts of its north and south walls to the height of about 18 feet are standing, but even the foundations of the other walls cannot be traced which renders it impossible to determine its original extent, which however was not very considerable as the distance between the

14/10/18/4(V) walls

(78) 68

walls remaining is only 16 feet.

In the townland of Kilbreedy (Cill Bhrighde) in this parish there is a small grave yard in which children only are now interred.

A small chapel dedicated to Saint Bridget formerly stood in this grave yard but even its foundations are not now traceable.

I find no other remain of the "olden time" in this parish except a holy well called after St. Bridget in the south of the townland of Stonehall.

John O'Donovan

Bar. G. G. G. G.

July 14<sup>th</sup> 1840

**END**

14 D 18/5

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the history, topography, traditions and antiquities of the parishes of Ardagh and Kilcolman, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to their early churches, graveyards, holy wells and the origins of their place names.

[1840]

2p.

23 cm

RIA



79  
69

of the parish of Ardagh.

Situation.

This parish lies to the north and west of the town of Newcastle but I have no document that defines its exact boundaries.

Name. The name of this place is in Irish Ard-ach which signifies high field. See my letter on Ardagh in the County of Longford.

The old church of Ardagh was 20 feet in breadth but its length cannot be ascertained as the west gable has totally disappeared. It appears however from what remains that it was a church of considerable length for 72 feet of the south wall still remain. The north wall is destroyed except a portion <sup>near the east gable</sup> 27 feet in length, and the east gable is all down except 4 feet of its height.

At the distance of 4 feet from the east gable the south wall has on it a broken window of which only the top stone in which its pointed head is formed and a stone of each of its sides remain.

At the distance of 20 ft to the west of this <sup>on the same wall</sup> there is another window in good preservation and constructed, as was the former, of cut lime stone. On the inside its top forms a flat arch and it measures 6 feet in height and <sup>4 ft in</sup> 4 ft 3 in in width, and on the outside <sup>where it is pointed it is</sup> 4 feet in height and 7 inches in width.

14/10/18/5 (1) The

70 The doorway <sup>which was on this wall also</sup> is just destroyed. The side walls of this church are about 13 feet in height <sup>ft in</sup> 3" 8" thick and built of stones of a good size irregularly laid and cemented with lime and coarse sand mortar. It is situated on <sup>level ground in</sup> the townland of Ministers Land, and close to the village of Stradagh. There is a large graveyard attached which is much in use, but contains no monument worthy the attention of the antiquarian.

About 150 paces to the south west of this church there is a holy well dedicated to St. Molua, the patron of the parish, over which well grows an aged ash tree which measures <sup>ft in</sup> 14" 6" in girth at the base. This day is still resorted to <sup>the Eve of the Festival of the saint</sup> on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August for the cure of various diseases. This shews that the St. Molua of this church was the saint of that name <sup>whose</sup> principal church was at <sup>Clonua</sup> Cluain Isearta near Ballaghmore in Offory whose festival was celebrated according to all the Irish Calendars on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August.

In the townland of Kibrodawn about a mile to the south of the village of Stradagh there was a little church and burial ground dedicated to

to St. Rodan, but both have been destroyed and the spot which they occupied is now part of a meadow.

There is no other remain of antiquity in this parish though the names of the townlands of Killard and Kilreish suggest that there was a church in each of them.

Antiquities examined by  
Mr. A. Barry. Esq.

## of the parish of Kilcolman.

Situation. This parish is situated in the barony of Shanid and is bounded on the north and west by the parish of Dummoylin and part of Shanagolden, on the east by the parish of Kilbrannigan and on the south by the second division of Rathronan.

Name. The name of this parish is of ecclesiastical origin being derived from kill, a church or cell and the gen. case of colman, the name of a saint. There were several hundred saints of this name according to a list of saints given in the Book of Ballymote, but I could not determine exactly which of them gave name to this parish. St. Colman of Temple Shanbo at the first of Mount Leinster seems to me to be the patron

14/D/1815 (11) of



(82)  
of this place also as his day comes the nearest  
to the patron day of this parish, as I shall  
presently <sup>remark</sup>, when treating of St. Colman's well.

The old church of this parish was 45 feet long  
and 18<sup>ft</sup> <sup>6 in</sup> broad, but its east and west gables are  
destroyed to the very foundations. The south wall  
is all up except 9 feet of a breach extending from the  
east jamb of the doorway towards the west gable  
and 30 feet of the north wall remain. The south  
wall contains a window placed within 14 feet of  
the east end, but it is destroyed except <sup>chiselled limb</sup> four stones  
of its east side. There was another window on the  
north wall placed 4 feet from the west gable  
but it is now reduced to a shapeless breach.  
The walls of this building are <sup>about</sup> 10 feet in height  
and 4 ft. in thickness and built of hammered  
limer stones of a regular size and regularly laid  
in courses and cemented with lime and sand mortar.

At the distance of about one furlong to the  
north of this church there is a holy well dedicated  
to St. Colman at which stations are still performed  
in honor of the saint on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October which  
is kept <sup>a holiday</sup> ~~fast~~ in this parish. I do not however find  
any St. Colman who was revered on that day in the  
Irish Calendar; the nearest to it is St. Colman of  
Shanbotha (Templeshanbo) at the foot of Mount  
Leinster whose festival was celebrated on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
of October.

Antiquities examined by Mr.  
A. Curry. 658



**END**

**14 D 18/6**

**O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.**

**Notes, relating to the history, antiquities and topography of the parishes of Rathronan and Killeedy, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to their early churches, castles, graveyards, religious traditions and the origins of their place names.**

**[1840]**

**37p.**

**23 cm**

**Included are extracts from Colgan's 'Acta Sanctorum', Lanigan's 'Ecclesiastical History of Ireland', Archdall's 'Monasticum Hibernicum' and the 'Annals of the Four Masters' with particular reference to St. Ita and her association with Co. Limerick.**

## The parish of Rathronan.

Situation. This parish is in <sup>separately</sup> two detached divisions, of which one is in the barony of Shand, and bounded on the north by the parishes of Nantenan and Kilmoylan, on the east by Ardagh and Monagay on the south by Abbeyfeale and on the west by the parishes of Knock-amure and Dooagh in the County of Kerry. The second division is in the same barony and is bounded on the north by the parish of Kilcolman, on the east by the parish of Kilbradran, Cloonagh and Kilsannell on the south by Ardagh and Newcastle and on the west by Dummoylan.

Name. The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, <sup>the parish is</sup> but called after the townland in which the original parish church was built, which took its name from an earthen fort called probably from a pagan of the name Ronan. Rath Ronain signifies the Rath or earthen fort of Ronan, but who this Ronan was it is now perhaps in vain to enquire.

The ancient church of Rathronan has long since disappeared and its site is occupied by a modern protestant church which was erected about 14 years ago; but the original church did not survive to this period, for the one

14/10/18/6(i) which

which was then pulled was not many half centuries old. There is a large grave yard attached to the modern church, but not much used at present as a cemetery.

In the townland of Ballyroughan (Baile Uí Bhruadhacháin) about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the east of the church, there is a castle which goes by the name of the townland. It measures on the inside 24 ft by 19<sup>ft in</sup> 6, and ~~what remains~~ of its walls are 25 ft in height and 5<sup>ft in</sup> 8 in thickness, but they were originally much higher. The arch over the ground floor of this castle still remains.

In the townland of Ballyegan in the same division of the parish there is another fragment of a castle of nearly the same size with the former and in the same state of preservation.

In the townland of Tempull a Blihbh (Templebea) are the ruins of a church in a large burial ground, but all its features are destroyed. The name signifies "the church of the mountain, though they are now beginning to Anglicise it Templeton!"

Antiquities examined by  
Mr. A. Barry

Lab.



The parish of Killeedy.

(85)

175

Situation.

This parish is situated in the Barony of Glenguin and is bounded on the north by Managay, on the east by those of Mabeonagh, Killohollahan and Drumculloher, on the south by the County of Cork and on the west by the County of Kerry.

Names. The name of this parish was originally Glavin Chroadhail, the religious retirement, but in latter ages it has taken the name of Kill-Ida from the virgin St. Ida the St. Bridget of Munster, who founded an abbey here about the year 569. Gough in his foolish additions to Camden supposes that the Abbey of Glavin Chroadhail or Kill-Ida was at Castletown Mac Eniry but in this he was misled by Archdall who had been misled by O'Hallaran. All these writers supposed that the territory of Fhy-Conaill Gabhra was only a part of the present barony of Conello, but in this they were entirely mistaken, for we have the most satisfactory evidence to prove that that territory, in the west of which the church of Kill-Ida is described to be comprised not only the modern baronies of that name but also the entire of the Barony of Glenguin; but <sup>as</sup> I shall speak more at large on this

14/D/18/6 (ii) subject

If subject when treating of the ancient territories of which the County of Limerick consists, I shall adduce only one quotation from the topographical poem of O'Keerin, which will settle the question. After mentioning the territories of O'Keeffe and Magawley he gives notice of his moving out of these territories over Slia bh Luachra into Clonoughlais in the country of the Hy-Conells. Now what clearer evidence could be required than this? Clonoughlais is in the parish of Killeedy <sup>and</sup> in the barony of Glenquin; and the church of Killeedy is described in all the ancient authorities as at the foot of Slia bh Luachra.

Ticcem cap luachair ale  
 imeice ir omeep d'écre  
 Sur an g-claonglaip b-puair b-pleadair  
 an cuim bpaonglaip bpleadair  
 hui Conaill cata muman  
 Toiptedmaíl an t-omrúgá  
 Rataiglach nír nach dual oírém  
 Sluag cartréonach o' gcuilein.

Let us pass over Luachair onwards  
 ( — an emigration which is meet for the learned — )  
 unto Clonoughlais, the cold, the festive  
 of the green irriguous woody lands.

The old church of Killybeg, at which the memory of the virgin St. Ida is still held in the highest veneration, is a curious remnant of antiquity, though much injured and partly remodelled. It consists, as it stands at present, of nave and choir, the one ~~now~~ measuring <sup>feet in</sup> 47.3 in length and <sup>feet in</sup> 29.2 in breadth on the inside and the other <sup>feet in</sup> 37.0 by <sup>feet in</sup> 18.0. The choir was modernized and used as a protestant church till about 40 years since, from which period there has been no service in the parish. Its walls are in tolerable preservation, and measure <sup>feet in</sup> 10.6 in height and <sup>feet in</sup> 2.6 in thickness. The choir arch is in very good preservation, but contains no part of the ancient work. It is <sup>constructed of chiselled limestone</sup> in the pointed style and measures <sup>feet in</sup> 10.9 in width and about 13 ft from the present level of the floor to the vertex. This choir contains three modern windows, one in the middle of the south wall, another opposite it in the north wall, and the third in the east gable, but these, not being more than a century old, are not worth the attention of the antiquarian.

The nave of this church is in the primitive Irish style and in all probability a part of the original church of St. Ida. The west gable is now destroyed down to the very foundation, but there are people living who saw a part of it standing, and these assert that it contained a doorway consisting of concentric arches (like the doorway in the west gable of the church of Clonfert in the Co. Galway)

14/D/18/6(III)

(88) 78  
Of the north wall of this nave, only a fragment  
is connected with the middle gable and  
remains which measures 18.6 in length and about  
<sup>ft in</sup> 19.4 in height, but nearly the entire of the south wall  
is standing to its original height (<sup>ft in</sup> 19.6). It con-  
tained two beautiful round-headed windows, but  
unfortunately one of them is disfigured on the  
inside and outside by the unenlightened veneration  
of St. Ida who are in the habit of pulling  
out the cut stones of this building to place  
them at the heads of the graves of their  
departed friends. The window above referred to as  
destroyed is placed at the distance of <sup>ft in</sup> 5.3½ from the  
middle gable but its dimensions cannot be determined  
though it is probable that it was exactly of the  
same size with the other which is in better preser-  
vation. This is placed at the distance of <sup>ft in</sup> 31.10  
from the middle gable; it is constructed of beautifully  
chiselled free stone and round headed inside and  
outside. On the inside it is placed at the height of  
<sup>ft in</sup> 4.9 from the present level of the ground and  
measures <sup>ft in</sup> 6.2 in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 2.9½ in width. On the  
outside it is placed at the height of <sup>ft in</sup> 6.7 from the  
level of the ground but destroyed except four cut  
stones near its head.

The side walls of the nave are both of the original  
work; they are <sup>ft in</sup> 3.1½ in thickness and very well built  
of large stones cemented with excellent mortar.

The middle gable is surmounted with a small  
modern belfry placed directly over the choir arch  
back



both of which were erected when the choir of this <sup>(89)</sup> building was fitted up for a protestant church. 79

At a short distance from the church to the N. W. in the church yard is St. Ida's well now dried up. The festival of the Saint is still observed <sup>at it</sup> on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, and the well is celebrated for curing the small pox in children and other diseases.

Immediately to the N. W. of the church is situated on a small hillock, which is nearly insulated by a <sup>a fragment of</sup> stream, the Castle of Killeady, which looks very conspicuous from every direction you approach it though it consists of only a fragment of the south wall. Tradition ascribes its erection to King John.

About one mile to the west of this castle <sup>in the townland of Glenquin north</sup> is the lofty castle of Glenquin from which the barony has taken its name. It is now beautifully repaired by Mr. Furlong of Newcastle, the Earl of Devon's agent. It is 30 feet by 40 ft and the highest part of it is 7 stories high. It is now in such a state of preservation as will preserve it for several centuries more.

At a short distance from this castle is an old church called Teampull na h-Inghine Basilic <sup>the</sup> <sub>14/D/18/6(IV)</sub>

the church of St. Limerboy, the patroness of the Dalca-  
 -siang. It measures by feet in length, <sup>on the outside</sup> and 18.6 in  
 breadth on the inside. The north wall is destroyed ex-  
 -cept a fragment at the north west corner 11 ft  
 in length and 11 ft in height. A considerable portion  
 of it together with a white thorn which grew out of it  
 was blown down by a <sup>recent</sup> late storm.

The south wall is in tolerable preservation but all  
 its features are destroyed or disfigured. The door-  
 -way is on it at the distance of 15 ft from the  
 west gable; it is destroyed at the top on the  
 outside, but on the inside it forms a flat arch  
 at the top and measures <sup>ft in</sup> 6.10 in height and  
<sup>ft in</sup> 3.6 in width. On the outside it is <sup>ft in</sup> 2.2 in width  
 but its height cannot be ascertained. It is  
 constructed of of hammered red free stone.  
 Besides this doorway the south wall contained two  
 windows which are now reduced to shapeless  
 breaches. The east gable is nearly destroyed  
 but the west gable is in good preservation and  
 clothed in ivy, but it contains no feature.  
 The walls are <sup>ft in</sup> 3.2 in thickness and constructed  
 of hammered red stones cemented with lime  
 and sand mortar.

This church is about 5 centuries old, but it is  
 probably that it occupies the site of primi-  
 -tive Irish church built by the patroness of  
 Killinaloy in the County of Clare.

I here insert what the Irish writers have  
 collected

[Irish Calendar]

*Cluain Creadhoil* #

15 January. 17<sup>e</sup> oʒ o cluain episcop. mro. an  
oile di; ap po fulang map mētra q dpa. dol do by  
aga dūl zan pīor do neoc zo hāmīrīr mīcīrīn ʒ bo  
mīoīʒtīor opic nobanb zo po clor allē vīe 7<sup>e</sup>  
deipore a cīoamīn. 1<sup>o</sup>. d. 569.

17 bez nac  
n' de apna si  
ide si fen  
Liv

15. January. The virgin of Cluain Credhoil. Mide  
was another name for her. It was she who suf-  
fered great tortures for the love of God; she  
permitted a daol to suck her, unknown to  
all for a long time until it grew to a size  
greater than that of a sucking pig, so that  
all her side was weakened. &c. Deirdre  
was her first name. Anna Dni. 569.

(poor Lily was an Idiot!)

2nd

# Now Kilmuddy near Glenduff. County Limerick  
No; but Killeedy in the ~~County~~ barony of Glen-  
-guinn 4 miles to the south of Newcastle Road. E. G. Wray

This insect called the dool or Dool Dool is well known and universally detested by the Irish people, because they believe that he feeds on human flesh in the church yards.

Bluain Breadháil

A.D.

569. S. íte ogh ocluan císáil decc an. 15. ianúary. ar d. bá  
hámm myde.

"A.D. 569. St. Íte (Idy) virgin of Bluain Breadháil  
"died on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January. She was  
"also called Midey."



1 Historical sketch of the  
family of Saint Ita  
A.A. S.S. p. 66. col: I. Cap. (99) 83

1. vit: S. Ita Alia Mida Virginis  
et Abbat.

Ex codice Kilkeniensis.

Concerning the life and  
miracles of the most blessed of her  
Virgin Ita<sup>(2)</sup>, we wish briefly Country  
to relate some <sup>commendation</sup> ~~commendation~~ and  
family  
For, much with respect to her miracles,  
lies concealed of us, because she  
herself, always hid them; and  
what happened to herself alone,  
she related to nobody: but  
others which we know, we omit  
for brevity's sake. Indeed, the  
most holy Virgin Ita was sprung  
from the most noble family  
in Ireland; from the seed of  
Feidhlim Reachtmhair<sup>(3)</sup>  
by whom, all Ireland was,  
for many years, ruled

in Monarchical power in the  
Town of royal Thernoria.  
But, he had three sons, that  
is, Fiacha, Conn, Dochaich.  
Fiacha, indeed, having three  
sons, died without [enjoying]  
the government, or before  
that his paternal Kingdom  
descended to him. But Conn  
surviving his brother, power-  
fully ruled in greatest  
felicity the whole of  
Ireland: and he (O woe!)

*Constantinus*  
*Res Hibernice*  
*occisus* was slain in battle, which  
*à Tipradia,*  
*Rege* of Co. h. h. (4) by the King  
*Ultonia* of the Ultonians, who  
was called Tybraide Treach.

85  
(101)

3

(6)  
Those three sons of his  
brother Piacha with great  
numbers of people, and a  
great army, Came from  
Themoria to the country  
of the Munomians, and  
seized there on a very  
large territory, nobly  
and bravely by their  
swords, which is now  
a day called Nandes (7)  
from which tribe the  
most Noble Virgin, I. She  
Ita has descended; <sup>was sprung</sup> from  
who from the font of baptism, <sup>royal</sup> blood  
was filled with the Holy  
Ghost: for all admired  
the continence and  
morals of her infancy;

14/2/18/6(viii)

and her abstinence on  
days, on which, the servant  
of God ought to fast.  
And many miracles  
seemed to be performed  
through her, when she  
was a little infant: and  
when she was able to  
talk, and to walk, she  
appeared prudent in her  
discourse, and work, sweet  
in <sup>(or) conversation</sup> address, and constant  
in mind, setting forth al-  
ways most chaste words  
from her mouth: mild  
towards all, very generous,  
fearing and loving God,  
prohibiting always evil,  
persuading good: so  
she lived in the house  
of her parents during  
her girlish years



5

87  
(103.)

Notes. p. 71. col:

1. 2.

Note 1. speaks of  
the Book of Kilkeny  
from which the life published  
has been taken, and of  
the <sup>codex</sup> Book of the island  
of All Saints, in which  
there is another life  
given of the Virgin Sta.

Note 2. speaks of her  
Name &c.

Note 3. remarks on  
the origin of the various  
modes of writing some  
(Irish) Names &c.

Note 4. Feidhlim Rechtmar.  
This King of most celebrated  
name in our histories,

14/D/18/6(X)

obtained the cognomen  
Rechtmur, i. Legifer vel  
Legislator, that is, Legislator,  
because he augmented  
his name and fame, by  
the severity of justice and  
laws: as the most learned  
Heuten testifies in book. 2.  
about the Kings of Ireland,  
"Fedhlimius Rechtmur", he  
says, "has this appellation  
"from the excellence of the  
"laws passed in his time  
"throughout Ireland."  
He died in the ninth year  
of his reign according to  
the same (author), and  
the Author of the life  
of S. Declan, and the  
Four Masters in the Annals

89  
(105)

who add that he died  
in the year of Christ  
119.

5. In campo Cobha 1. In the  
copy which I use, is read  
lootha, but erroneously.

For the Codex Insulensis, the  
and others have loabha, of the  
which is a celebrated plain <sup>MS.</sup> ~~land~~  
in Ulster, commonly called <sup>of the</sup> ~~of the~~ <sup>hunts.</sup> ~~hunts.~~

*Italics* Mag Cobha from a King  
of the Ultonians, who  
was called Typraide  
Tireach . c. I. The Four

Masters and Peter (already)  
cited, agree, who write  
that this Conn or Constantine,  
a most celebrated King  
of Ireland, was slain  
in the year of his reign

14/10/18/6(X)

35<sup>th</sup> - and of Christ 157<sup>th</sup>,  
by the aforesaid Tipraid,  
King of Ulster, who is  
here called King of the Ulster.

\* Ulltorum Ulltonii; although the author  
E. Ulltoni-  
-orum. of the life of S. Declan,  
does not attribute to him  
but twenty years' reign.

6 Tres autem illi filii fratris  
sui Fiacha &c. These three  
sons were Ross, Engulf, and  
Eugene, as is found in the  
life of Saint Declan c. I.  
and 3; or according to the  
"Menologium Genealogicum"  
c. 16., Ross, Eugene, and  
Artcorle. See concerning  
the Saints sprung from  
the seed of these brothers,  
below in Appendix c. 2.  
7 Inae gens hodie Kandesi  
vocatur. c. I. The Irish word  
Kandesi signifies the same  
as Dessiorum in Latin, for  
that tribe (was) then, and is at  
+ illa gens. this day called the tribe of  
the Dessi



# Chainbrethuil or Kilita

A. A. S. S. p. 66. by. col. 1.

Cap. VI. Vit. S. Ita. Alix  
Mida Virginis et Aleat.

(Ex Codice Kilkeniensis.)  
(XV. Januarii)

The Virgin, Ita, afterwards, 66  
prayed to the Lord to show her 67  
a place in which she might serve  
him: and behold! the Angel  
of the Lord came to her, saying; <sup>vows</sup> She  
leave this country, and go to that <sup>virginity</sup> publicly  
territory, which is called <sup>in a</sup> Bry-  
-conail, and you shall remain <sup>Church.</sup>  
in the western part of the same. An Angel  
territory at the foot of the <sup>shows her</sup> the place  
Mountain of Luachra (70) <sup>in which</sup> she might  
serve God.

and the Angel of the Lord  
will come to you there, and  
will show you the place, in  
which will be your city, in  
which you will emigrate to  
the Lord. For, you shall be the  
Patroness of the <sup>(or) tribe</sup> people <sup>+ gentis</sup>  
of Anaconail, <sup>que</sup> which <sup>gens</sup> tribe

---

has been given to you and  
Saint Senan (11) by the Lord.  
Bearing these words of the  
Angel, S. Ita proceeded with  
her companions to that territory;  
and remained at the foot  
of the Mountain of Luachra,  
as he told her: and the An-  
gel of the Lord, immediately  
came to her, and pointed out  
to her a place, in which she  
might serve God. And

instantly, the fame of the  
most holy Virgin, was spread  
throughout the whole of  
that territory: and many  
virgins came<sup>+</sup> from every quarter  
to Saint Hwa to serve God  
under her care: and she  
piously and with a cheerful  
mind received them all.

thine  
8  
inde

hine  
inde  
on every  
side,  
here and  
there. Plin.

Notes p. 71. Col: 2.

9 Quae vocatur Hyoconaille  
c. 6. [This] is a territory,  
situated at the Southern  
bank of the River Shannon,  
[and] is, at this day, called  
Conalleha

Aisworth's  
Dictionary.

10 Ad radices Montis Luachra  
4. Cap. 6. At the foot of this  
Mountain in the Diocese

14/2/18/6(XII)

of Limerick was the very  
famous Monastery of S. Ita,  
which is called Cluain—  
Creedhail: as our Martyr-  
ologies state at this day  
and Annals at the  
year 569.

*Ina gens tibi & S. Senano*  
*-data est &c c. 6. S. Senan*  
*of Inis-Catahig), and S. Ita*  
*are the two Patrons of*  
*the whole territory of*  
*Abnaconail, near Limerick.*  
*See the Life of S. Senan*  
*at 8<sup>th</sup> March and our*  
*notes to it.*



13

(111) 95  
5

A. A. S. P. p. 72. col. 2.  
vit: S. Ita &c

Note  
29. Virgo Sancta Ita 18.  
Calend. Februarii migravit  
c. 33. Marian, August,  
the Martyrology, of Sancta  
and August Auctus agree.  
This Virgin formerly was  
and always continues in  
great veneration among  
the Irish on account of  
her own, and the excellent  
sanctity of her disciples.  
For, besides her own sister  
S. Fina, and other holy  
Virgins, among the numerous  
holy confessors, whom she  
nurtured in the beginning  
of their youth and imbued

in holy studies, were  
 that most famous Brendan,  
<sup>Septennis</sup> ~~Septennial~~ <sup>Marigator</sup> Sailor of the  
 Ocean: I. Cummin, Archbishop;  
 and I. Pulcherius, of whom  
 above. She is venerated  
not only in the Church of  
Bluani - bredhail, and  
in the whole territory of  
Abua - bonail with solemn  
 feast, but also in the  
 territory of the Desii in  
 a place, which is called  
Rosmide. She is <sup>very</sup> often  
 spoken of in the Lives of  
 Saints Kieran 16<sup>th</sup> May;  
 Pulcherius 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Cumminius  
 12 November. I. Cumminius

15

(113) 797

of Bonner in his book on  
the Chief Saints of Ireland,  
S. Engulf and S. Marian  
at 15<sup>th</sup> January, speak  
of her also. In like  
manner, — Martyrol.  
Liben & Jamlacten at  
the same day &c.

Cap. III. Append: Vit;  
S. Ita &c.

Divers eulogies and testi-  
monies with respect to S.  
Ita.

Marian Gorman, S. Engulf  
and other domestic and foreign  
festilogies place the festival  
of this Virgin on this 15<sup>th</sup> January  
at which they recount some of her  
eulogies and miracles. The

14/0/18/6 (814)

(114)

16

Martyrology of Tamlact  
 [says]; "<sup>Domitatis</sup> the sleeping of S.  
 Ita and of the daughters of  
 "barbarians." The Calendar of  
 Cashel [says]; "S. Ita or Mida,  
 "the daughter of Kennfoeladine,  
 "who was the son of Conchorbuis,  
 "who was the son of Comorburius,  
 "who was the son of Conall,  
 "who was the son of Aengus,  
 "who was the son of Artcorb,  
 "who was the son of Fiach  
 "Anigde, who was the son  
 "of Telemius, The Law-maker.  
 "Ita, first, Dearthra or Dorothea.  
 "and [she] is venerated in  
 "Cluin - chredhuil in the  
 "territory of Conallia Gaura  
 "in Munster." S. Aengus  
 in his Festilogy [says]



(115) 99

" S. Ita of blidani - credhuil, 99

" having suffered continually  
" many tortures, having made  
" use of much abstinence,  
" the burning lamp of the  
" women of Munster". The  
" Martyrology of Donegal [says]

" S. Ita of blidain credhuil, other  
" - wise called Uida: her first  
" and proper name was Derthrea,  
" or Dorothea, continually suf-  
" fered for the Lord, a rare and  
" and living martyrdom, permitting  
" her flesh to be corroded by a  
" certain kind of a <sup>venereous</sup> poisonous  
" <sup>vermis</sup> vermin, for a long space  
" of time, so that the vermin  
" thus by degrees, wasting and

"consuming her sides, grew to  
 "the size of a young <sup>porcine fetus</sup> pig, she  
 "died in the year 569." Saint  
 Augustin in his Scholia to his  
 festiloggy, or another ancient  
 Scholiast of the same [days]  
 "I. Ita of Chainchredhail. Chredhail  
 "Chredhail is the name of  
 "the place <sup>loci sine recessus</sup> or retreat, in which  
 "is her Cell in the territory of  
 "Conallia. But she is called  
 "Ita from [her] thirst of divine  
 "love: Dorothea was her first  
 "name: her alumnus first called  
 "her Ita, that is Thirst (Sitim).  
 "and hence the name of Ita  
 "adhered to her. A vermin  
 "called Daol was wont to suck

"out her blood and thus  
 "emaciated her side for  
 "a long time, all being ignorant  
 "[of it], until at length it  
 "(the vermin) grew to the size  
 "of a young <sup>sucking pig</sup> pig. Whilst her-  
 "self went out on a certain  
 "day, that vermin coming <sup>caverna</sup> out of its hole, as usual thus  
 "approached, her disciples  
 "saw it, and killed it. But  
 "she having returned home  
 "inquired who was the cause  
 "of the extinction of her  
 "alumnus. The Sisters asking  
 "pardon replied that themselves  
 "killed it, thinking that it

St Ida  
 should  
 have been  
 put under  
 the care  
 of such  
 a person  
 as Mr  
 Jackson  
 at Limerick  
 Lodge

"was a noxious and  
"venomous scorpion.

"(Says the handmaid of Christ)  
"the rule of this monastery

"after me (God so disposing  
"it) will not be in the

"power of women. And turning  
"herself to God; she says; I

"will not be content, until

"the Lord who has taken that

"<sup>(or) murdering</sup>  
"alumnus from me, gives

"himself to be carried and

"<sup>+recolendum</sup>  
"nursed in the form of an

"<sup>recolo</sup>  
"infant. Then the Angel, who  
signifies "was wont to appear to her,

(3) to "appearing says to her; what  
cultivate,  
exercise, "you have asked, you will  
polish. "receive. Then Christ appeared

It might  
be trans-  
lated,  
"attended  
to" the present  
instant.



"to her in the form of a  
"beautiful boy". In like  
manner, the Mart. Salis-  
burienne, at the same  
day, 15 January [says]  
"In Ireland the festival  
"of S. Dorothea, who was  
"also called by another name  
" Sithe, who was sprung  
"from high blood: and  
"when she was espoused  
"to a man, she fled off  
"to a nunnery: where  
"the devil appeared to her,  
"and when he could not  
"persuade her or obtain  
"that she would relinquish  
"her purpose, he began  
"severely to threaten her,  
"but she contemning all  
"his wiles received the

104 (120)

22  
"habit on the following  
"day, and <sup>having</sup> afterwards  
"became an abbess of  
"holy life, and many  
"miracles, she singularly  
"loved poverty, so that  
"when gold or riches were  
"offered her, she threw them  
"away with displeasure, and  
"asked for water for washing  
"her hands because she  
"touched earthly filth and  
"dirt." These have been  
taken from the Martyrologies.  
In the Lives also of other Saints  
of our Country, there is  
frequent and celebrated  
mention of her found and  
some of her encomiums and  
miracles are recorded in

the Life of Saint. Mochoemoc  
 [who was] both her nephew by her sister,  
 and [was] her alumnus c. 283.

On a certain time, Beoanus  
 a builder <sup>artifex</sup> erected a certain  
 noble edifice in the monastery  
 of Saint Ita. Which being  
 finished, Saint Ita says to  
 him, <sup>pete pretium</sup> ask a recompense,  
 Master, what do you wish  
 for the labor of your <sup>(or trade)</sup> art?  
 He says, promise me in  
 Christ, holy mother, what  
 I will ask. And the  
 Virgin promised him whatever  
 he would ask. Then, Beoanus  
 says to the saint ~~XXXX~~ of God;  
 you yourself know, pious  
 mother, that your sister,  
 my wife is barren,

(122)  
106

24

and we have no heir: there-  
fore, ask God for us that  
we may have a son; the  
holy Virgin says to him;  
<sup>Thaheflitis Japen</sup>  
you will, ere long, have  
a son, chosen <sup>in the presence of</sup> before God  
and men. Which prophecy  
was, after a time, completed.  
A certain cruel King, by  
name Crummhoel from  
the Southern part of Alua-  
-bonaile much offended  
the <sup>gentem quae</sup> tribe which is called  
Corco-bhaccinn, and came  
one time, with a numerous  
army, to plunder <sup>ipsum plebem</sup> the people,  
and made a great slaughter  
of the soldiers resisting  
him; <sup>inter quos</sup> and among whom  
Beoanus the <sup>artifex</sup> builder was



beheaded. But his wife  
<sup>as yet</sup> in as ~~still~~ barren and had  
 not an heir; who, came  
<sup>ad stragem</sup> to the slaughter together with <sup>crum</sup> + <sup>qua.</sup> who  
<sup>Strages</sup> <sup>Strages</sup> her [people] to search for <sup>crum</sup> (the wife)  
<sup>means</sup> the <sup>cadaver</sup> dead body of her  
<sup>a miltie</sup> husband. Now, finding the  
<sup>-tude</sup> head, she could not, re-  
<sup>of men</sup> cognise the body. Which  
<sup>slain</sup> she brought with her and  
 showed to Saint Ota her  
 sister, weeping and saying;  
Not this, dear sister, you  
 have promised, saying,  
 that he would leave a  
 son after him: and behold  
 my womb remains closed.  
 with barrenness, whilst  
 he has been slain. To <sup>crum</sup> when  
<sup>crum</sup> may be  
 used.

+ Compone  
signifies  
also  
to join  
close together

whom, Saint Ita says; Do  
not weep, sister, God is  
powerful to assist us and  
fulfill my promise. Go,  
then, and <sup>prospere</sup> put the head  
on his body. Nessa, her sister  
replied to Saint Ita; indeed  
we cannot recognise his  
body, among the <sup>great</sup> multitude  
of the slain by reason of  
the excessive quantity of  
blood spilt. The holy Virgin  
says, call him by his name  
three times in memory  
of the most holy Trinity  
and he will rise and come  
to you; you will put the  
head on him, and he will  
say to you; O woman

27 (125) 109  
why have you called <sup>happy</sup> me; for I was well. And  
the woman did according  
to this instruction, and he  
strong in soul and sound and  
entire body, the power of  
God perfecting [him] says  
to his wife what the holy  
Prophetess Ita had said. Then  
he and his wife proceeded  
together and came to Saint  
Ita, giving thanks and  
bending their knees. Blessed  
Ita says do you wish to remain,  
friend in this life, or do  
you now go to heaven? Beoamus  
replies to her, saying, As nothing,  
do I reckon the whole world

14/10/18/6(xx)

136  
110

28

and as if it were dung in  
comparison of eternal  
Joy. Then, Saint Ita says  
to him; it is good, however,  
that the recompense, which  
I have promised you, should  
be given you. Then, Saint  
Ita washed him with water,  
and afterwards, there was  
no wound found on him, and  
[she] blessed him, and consecrated  
and sent him with his wife  
to his house. And Beoramus  
himself slept with his wife,  
and the Lord opening her  
womb, she conceived a  
son full of the grace of  
God and venerable.



Also in the Life of Saint  
 Brendan of Cluanfert, who  
 was another alumnus of her,  
 much is found concerning  
 her. 3. 4. 44. 46. 47 & 56. of  
 which <sup>(or) receive</sup> hear the following  
 " And the pious boy, Brendan  
 " was nurtured for one year  
 " in the house of his Parents  
 " and at the end of the Year,  
 " the holy Bishop Ersk \* came  
 " <sup>post</sup> after Saint Brandan, and  
 " brought him then with  
 " him to be nurtured with  
 " the most holy Ita, dwelling  
 " in her famous Monastery  
 " formerly Called Cluain  
 " - chredhuil, but now Kill-it  
 " that is, the cell of Ita near

\* *Epistopus sancti claudis Christophus Ersk post claudium*  
*Brandanum, & dicit ite. inquit be. venerat d*  
*perhaps more correctly \* \* \* Bishop Ersk came*  
*of Cluanfert*  
*being brought to Ita*  
*Brandan &*

of post  
 be taken  
 as a pre-  
 position;  
 as it be-  
 to be, by  
 the text,  
 the  
 trans-  
 -lation  
 would  
 run as  
 on this  
 page.  
 all  
 which  
 -acceptat  
 however  
 does not  
 strong

the foot of the <sup>30</sup> Mountain  
of Luachra in the territory  
of Kura - Conaill Gabhra  
and S. Ita <sup>with great joy</sup> received the holy  
infant and nurtured him  
5 years and loved him very  
much, and the glorious Virgin  
Ita seeing him frequently of  
a cheerful mind, interrogated  
him, saying; O holy infant;  
What gladdens you, Saint? the  
little one said in puerile speech;  
because I see you speak to me,  
and the other holy Virgins  
like you, and they always  
make me glad, holding  
me in their arms; the Saints  
said to him, let there be  
joy in heaven, my Son, about  
you. Now, after 5 years

the above mentioned S. Eric (129)<sup>5</sup>  
 the Bishop, came, and  
 brought S. Brendan  
 with him to read: and  
 S. Ita was sad about the  
 absence of her Alumnus.

" In the mean time, S. Brendan

" proceeded to S. Ita, his nurse:

" which holy Virgin of God,

" with piety, embraced him

" in her bosom: whose mind,

" the holy man refreshed

" with the miracles, which

" he saw in the Ocean. And in Italica

" below. But, on a certain day,

" S. Brendan sailed to the

" aforesaid Island of Truma,

" alias Grumma. And he

" left one youth on the

" shore to take care of the

" vessel. An overflowing of the tide

114  
(F30)  
22

having occurred, <sup>germanus illius</sup>  
fratris, says to S. Brendan, O Holy Father,  
the tide roughly over blows, and carries off the  
vessel, and will over. To whom Saint  
Phelim, my brother, and  
Brendan moved with anger,  
"says; Do you love him more  
"than <sup>me</sup> I? If, then, you wish  
"to compassionate him more  
"go to him, and die for him.  
"Now, the brother obeying,  
"went off speedily, to the  
"place, and the sea instantly  
"surrounded him on every  
"side, and he was drowned.  
"But to the former youth,  
"who was his <sup>germanus</sup>, the sea  
"was as a wall, as even  
"to Moses. Then, S. Brendan  
"feared the Lord, with regard  
"to the death of his brother,  
"deeming himself the killer  
"of him. And he asked



"holy men, on that <sup>\* literally</sup> <sup>the word of</sup> <sup>penance</sup>  
 "account, the <sup>\* verbum</sup> <sup>peni-</sup> The (Y. Sta)

"Who said to him; go to the prescribes  
 "holy Prophetess of God, to S. Brendan  
 "Ha, who was his nurse?  
 "and she will tell you, a mode  
 "what it behoves you to do, of doing  
 "And Saint Ha said to him, penance,  
 "perform, at some time, a  
 "pilgrimage, because you  
 "are guilty in his death.  
 "And preach to <sup>people</sup> men, that  
 "you may lead other souls  
 "to the Lord. Afterwards,  
 "S. Brendan sailed on a  
 "pilgrimage to Britain.

<sup>in Italy</sup> "And below. At length, the  
 "Most Blessed Virgin, the  
 "above mentioned Ha, the

per aëra  
elevata  
venit  
cluan.  
-fertam  
ibique  
communicat.

" nurse of S. Brendan,  
" said in her own heart, on  
" the night of the Nativity  
" of our Lord, I wish to re-  
" ceive, on this holy night,  
" the body of the Lord, from  
" the hand of my alumnus,  
" the most holy, Brendan.  
" And, the most faithful  
" Virgin rising on that  
" night to celebrate the  
" vigils in her own Monastery,  
" was taken up by an Angel  
" ~~secundum simili~~ <sup>supra</sup> S. Abacuch  
" as far as the city of  
" S. Brendan, <sup>[viz]</sup> Cluainferta.  
" And S. Brendan foreseeing  
" the arrival of S. Ita, went  
" to meet her, out of his  
" own church, with the

"Communion of the  
 "Lord abroad in the  
 "yard. And the <sup>atrio</sup> <sup>+</sup> ~~Saints~~ <sup>+ Dimittat</sup>  
 "of God, humbled to the earth <sup>que</sup>  
 "received the body of the <sup>Sancta</sup>  
 "Lord from the hand of <sup>Dei in</sup>  
 "S. Brendan, giving thanks <sup>terram.</sup>  
 "to Christ. And the <sup>Dimittat</sup> <sup>significat</sup> <sup>(3) bent</sup> <sup>down</sup>  
 "blessing each other, down,  
 "the Virgin of God was <sup>dropped</sup>  
 "again taken up by the <sup>orthrown</sup> <sup>down</sup>  
 "Angel to her own Monastery.  
 "That there is a journey  
 "of three days between  
 "the Monastery of Saint  
 "Ista, [viz] Cluain-credhail  
 "in the <sup>in regione</sup> <sup>country</sup> of the  
 "Munimians, and the

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"city of S. Brendan,  
 "viz] *Cluainferta* in the  
 "provincia *gloungachtorum*  
 "province of the Connacians,  
 "is evident, through which,  
 "the Sainthood of God  
 "was conducted and  
 "brought back by the  
 "Angel in one hour."

See more about her in  
 the Life of her third alumnus,  
 Saint <sup>S. Columine</sup> Columin, Bishop of  
 Cluainfert, at 12<sup>th</sup> November,  
 and with Saint Columine of  
 Conner in his book <sup>de</sup> "de  
<sup>etlogiis principum sanctorum</sup> eulogies of the Chief Saints  
 of <sup>Hibernia</sup> Ireland, where among  
 other things he relates of  
 her that she was so much  
 "given to reflections, and  
 "vigils without intermission,  
 "that she never inclined



3<sup>4</sup>  
"her head to her pillow?"  
and with I. Alchimus Placcus,  
in a certain poem of his  
on the very numerous holy  
virgins of our Country,  
which in the last edition of  
<sup>it</sup>, is erroneously read  
thus.

of  
him?  
the  
author.

"Virginibus sacris presens hec ara dicata est  
"Quarum clara fuit Scotorum fama per arches  
"Brigidae Sancta femina, Christo <sup>Ita fideles</sup> ~~Christo~~ <sup>minis</sup> ~~trinit.~~  
"Hae nobis saltem suffragia Sancta

for the penultimate verse is,  
seemingly, to be thus restored.

"Brigida, Sancta, Feme, Chrone,  
Schire, Ita, Fidelis.

For, that it ought to be thus  
restored, is obvious, Firstly  
because otherwise the

(136)  
120. 278

38

verse would be deficient  
in its numbers, and <sup>in</sup> sense.

Secondly, because the fame  
of these virgins was truly  
+ noble throughout the cities  
+ clara of the Scots in Ireland, in  
clear the time of Alchinnus;  
bright, evident in which, their festivals are  
The two with solemnity celebrated,  
last (the festival) of Brigid on the  
meanings first of February; (that) of  
~~seen~~ the more Samtna, or Samthanna on  
applicable the 19<sup>th</sup> of December: of  
Femea on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September  
of Echiria on the 24<sup>th</sup> of  
March: of Chronia on the  
7<sup>th</sup> of July: of Ita on the  
15<sup>th</sup> of January: of Fidelis,  
who is also called Fedelim,  
on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December.

Translation according to the  
Correction.

"This present altar has  
"been dedicated to holy  
"Virgins whose fame  
"shone bright through  
"out the cities of the  
"Scoti. Brigid, Samtra,  
"Ferne, Chrone, Schire,  
"Ita, Fidelis. May these  
"afford to us, at least  
"their suffrages."

A. S. G. p. 334. col: 2.  
Note 7 to the Life of Saint  
Cellacus or Kellacus  
(14. Feb.)

At this Note the Annals  
of the 4 Masters are  
quoted, from which the  
following quotation is given  
thus.

Anno 833. "Cellachus Finnachta  
"Abbas de Kill - ithe, obiit. filius.



(139) 317  
Archdall's New Hist. V. II. P. 264  
723

P419

County  
of  
Limerick

Clavin Chreduil, or Kiltita;

Situated at the foot of the mountain Luachra, in Anac-naid-galla.  
(a). We are told that an abbey (high in repute) was founded here by St. Ita, alias Mida, a descendant of the blood royal of Munster, who died 15th January, 569. She is said to have wrought many miracles, and her festival is still solemnized. (c)

(a) A territory, in the south of the barony of Conillo  
(c) Act. SS. p. 67, 73, 74, and Index.

14/10/18/6 (xxvii)

~~318~~ (140)

RIA

In  
2a  
7

(141) 124  
319

Gough's Camden R.D.  
Chlain chredail  
Castle Mac Enery.

In the barony of Conillo at  
Castle Mac Enery, formerly the seat  
of Mac Enery, are the ruins of a  
very large monastery, and some other  
buildings, which sufficiently evince the  
piety, dignity and splendour of that an-  
cient family (p) St Ita or Mida  
of the blood royal of Munster, is  
said to have founded a famous abbey  
at Chlain chredail or Pilita, at the  
foot of the mountain Luacra (p)

Note

(h) \* Ante 435. Ib. ex O'Malloran

(g) Ib.

\*  
sic in  
exemplar  
quo presens

## Cluain-credhail

\* \* \* \* \* To atone for the death of a person who had been drowned in the sea, and to which Brendan feared <sup>had</sup> he involuntarily contributed, he is said to have gone, by the advice of St. Ita, (101) to Britain, by which is to be understood not Great Britain, but Britanny.

### Notes

(101) This celebrated virgin, of whom more will be seen [p. 32] hereafter, was greatly attached to St. Brendan, and seems to have been a relation of his. Her nunnery [p. 33] of Cluain-credhail, in the west of the county of Limerick, was near the place where Brendan was born. It is said that, when he was a year old, bishop Ercus placed him under her care, and that he was reared by her for five years. If there be any truth in this narrative, it must be understood of some time when St. Ita was still young and before she was old enough to preside over a nunnery. For, if we were to suppose that she was governing it, when St. Brendan was only a year old, viz. in the year 405,

it  
14/D/18/6 (XXXIX)



(144)  
326  
126

it will follow that she must have been born as far back as, at least, 468; whereas it will be admitted that, as abbess, she could not have been less than 25 years of age. Now, as St. Ita died in 570, it would follow, that she lived to the extraordinary age 100, for which we have no authority. Accordingly what ~~has~~ is ~~been~~ said of the infant Brendan having been reared in her nunnery cannot stand, and indeed the whole matter, however explained, is very doubtful, although it is certain that a great intimacy existed between those two saints.

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### Page 313

St. Ita, who may justly be called the St. Brigid of Munster, was of the princely house of the Desii or Sandesi, in the now county of Waterford. Her father's name was Kennfoelad, her mother's Necta. They were Christians, as appears from St. Ita having been baptized in her childhood. The time of her birth is not recorded; but it must have been some

145 127  
327

Some years prior to A.D. 484, if it be true that she had for some time under her care Brendan of Clonfert when an infant. Yet, unless we are <sup>to</sup> suppose that she lived to an extraordinary <sup>great</sup> age, [p. 82] only a few years can be allowed for this priority of birth, and on the whole it may be laid down that she was born about the year 400. From her earliest year she appeared animated with the ~~holy~~ Spirit, observing, besides other religious duties, even the fasts prescribed by the church, and displayed an extraordinary degree of modesty, sedateness, and suavity of temper. It is related that, while she was still very young, a room, in which she was asleep, seemed to be all in a blaze, and that some persons, who hastened to extinguish what they thought to be fire, found it uninjured, and observed Ita, on awaking, to exhibit an angelical form of exquisite beauty.

Having  
14/2/18/6 (XXX)

Having reached the age fit for choosing a permanent state of life she applied to her mother, and, after expatiating on the divine commandments, requested of her to procure her father's permission to consecrate herself to Christ. The mother acted according to her request, but the father obstinately refused to comply with her wish, particularly as a noble and powerful young man had just made him a proposal of obtaining her in marriage. She then said to some people about her; "let my father have his own way for a while; I tell you that he will soon not only permit but order me to give myself up to Christ, and will allow me to go whithersoever I please for the purpose of serving God." Not long after she fasted for three days and nights, during which time she was assailed with constant attacks of the

of the



of the enemy of mankind, which she resisted with invincible firmness. On the third night her father was admonished in a vision not to oppose her inclination any longer; and accordingly without loss of time, after informing her of what had occurred to him, he advised her to take the veil immediately. Matters being thus settled she repaired to the church, and was there in due form clothed with the veil and enrolled in the list of consecrated virgins (5). Some time after she prayed the Almighty to direct her in what place she might best serve him, and was instructed in a vision to proceed to the territory of Hy-Connail and to remain in the western part of it at the foot of the mountain Luachra (5). Thither she went and fixed her residence in a retired spot, called Cluain-Craethail, where she was soon visited by a number of pious maidens



maisons, who flocked from all parts of the territory to place themselves under her direction. Thus her nunnery was established in a short time <sup>and it was most</sup> probably the first in that part of Ireland. (7)

### Notes

(5) Life, cap. 5. It is not improbable that St. Declan of Ardmore, was the bishop from whom she received the veil. The time of her receiving it seems to have been <sup>in</sup> the early part of the sixth century, and when Declan presided over the Sannesi country.

(6) Luachra was rather a name of the district, in which that mountain is, than of the mountain itself. (See Not. 84 to Chap. VI.)

[p. 84] A part of Hy-Conaill was so called apparently from its abounding in rushes. The barony of Connello or Connillo, in the county of Limerick, is the ancient Hy-Conaill or, at least part of it. The southern division of this barony, or Upper Connello, was distinguished by the additional name Gaura, being called Hy-Conaill Gaura, and in a western part of this tract St. Ita formed her establishment.

(149) <sup>151</sup>  
~~334~~  
(7) We may be allowed to suppose; that the want of a similar institution in those western parts was, in the order of providence, the cause of St. Ita having been directed to settle there. Sunneries and establishments for the education of females had in all appearance, been formed already in her own country, particularly as St. Brigide had been there for some time.

§. II. The chieftain and other principal persons of Hy-Conaill, on being informed of the extraordinary Sanctity of St. Ita, waited upon her and offered to her a large tract of land around the house for the support of her establishment. She refused to accept of more than a small spot sufficient for a garden. As another instance of her disinterestedness it is related that, a wealthy man having laid before her, as an offering, a considerable sum of money, which he could not induce her to receive, she happened to touch it and then called for water to wash the hand, which had been defiled as

14/D/18/6 (XXII)

defiled as it were by the contact of corruptible silver. She carried a continence and fasting to such a pitch that it is said she was cautioned by an angel to be less abstemious for the future, and not exhaust her frame by such excessive austerity. Several miracles, some of which are of an extraordinary kind, have been attributed to her. One of them is said to have been performed on a man called Tearchus, whom she delivered by her prayers from excruciating pains in his eyes and whole body, which had brought him almost to the last extremity. She was favoured with the gift of prophecy, and with the knowledge of persons, whom she had never seen, and of distant and secret occurrences. When Columbanus, a Leinster bishop, was on his way to pay her a visit without his having given her any previous notice of it, she ordered an entertainment to be prepared, and on his arrival sent to ask for his episcopal benediction, before she could have known in an ordinary manner that



that he was a bishop, and mentioned other circumstances, which she could not have been apprized of except by supernatural means. A theft had been committed in a nunnery at a place called Direo-Chuisgrigh. (10) One of the nuns was unjustly accused of it; but, as the matter was very obscure, the abbess and the whole community waited upon St. Ita to consult her. She immediately declared that the nun charged with the theft was innocent, and told them who was the guilty one.

Note

[p. 86] (10) This place, of which no further account occurs, must have been, as appears from the narrative, not far from Cluain-Credhail. The nunnery there was, in all probability, a branch of St. Ita's institution.



~~284~~ (152)

134

In the south west of this parish is situated  
the Commons of Blaenghlyris which is  
celebrated in our annals as the woody  
fastness of the Geraldines during the  
reign of Elizabeth. It is now  
generally called in the anglicised  
form Blaenglass.

[Annals of Masters]

# Blaenglaise.

[Compared  
OK]

AD

1155. Cwlen na Claonglwydd a'i deyrna a'u Cconayll gabra  
do eiddym la hua cynopaolas, 7 a mayb. pom po  
chedom la mynē chwlen.

1155. builen of blaenglais, lord of  
Fby. bonail gabhra fell by the  
Okinnealy, who was immediately killed  
(in revenge) by the people of builen.

Mahon

136  
~~266~~ (154)  
A.D.

1266. Mithon O'Cuilcin, Lord of Clamglais,  
was killed by his own wife by one  
wound from a knife inflicted through  
jealousy.

1535. Mac Suley gained a great battle in  
which were slain the Lord of Clamglais,  
(then a Fitzgerald)  
and Fitzgibbon, besides a large battalion  
of the Clann Ghech. Maolmurry, the son  
of Brian Mac Sweeney was also slain in  
front of the battalion and in the rage of  
the conflict.

1579. James, the son of Maurice Duff,  
who was son of John, who was son of  
Thomas, who was son of the Earl, returned  
from France; and it was reported that he  
had brought with him a greater number  
of

of Ships there was really the case. He landed  
at Kelen an island contiguous to Quingean-  
michis in Kerry. At this time the Earl of  
Desmond was encamped at Guillean-  
My Cuarrack where he had commenced to  
erect a Castle and having heard of the  
arrival of this fleet in Kerry he went to see it.

The <sup>chief</sup> Marshal of the two provinces of Munster  
Arthur Carter by name, Master David and all  
the Queen's people in Munster set out to meet  
the same fleet, as did also the Kinsmen of the  
Earl of Desmond, viz: the two young sons  
of James, the Son of John, who was Son of Thomas,  
viz. John and James age. These had formed  
a conspiracy with James, the Son of Maurice,  
and they had made an attack by Night upon

14/10/18/60 (xxxv)



~~268~~ (156)

The Marshall and Master David at Tralee  
 and had beheaded them while asleep on  
 their beds. They had then brought James  
 & Shree and both repaired to the woods  
 of Cluonlaire and Coillmoe. James soon  
 after landing set out from these woods  
 upon his first expedition accompanied by all  
 his Cavalry and infantry through the middle  
 of O. Conaill Gabhra and Clan William, and  
 his army proceeded to plunder the Country  
 as they passed along. [See Limerick at this year,  
 p458, for the conclusion of this article.]

<sup>6</sup>  
 Aug  
 1580.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

[See Limerick at this year, p465 for the  
 whole of this article.]

The Lord Chief Justice proceeded with his  
 forces to Limerick, and although it was cold  
 Spring weather at the time, he delayed only  
 one week in that town arranging his military  
 Ordnance

advance and procuring provisions for his soldiers. Thence he proceeded south-west by Deisbeag and Magh Maighreach, and <sup>at</sup> length pitched his camp in By Corille. He sent forth loose marauding parties into Gill-mor, into the woods of Clamplaine, and into the wilds of Delge. These marauders wheresoever they passed shewed mercy to neither the strong nor the weak. It was not wonderful that they killed people able to bear arms, but they killed blind and decrepid men, women, boys and girls, sick persons idiots and old people. They carried their property to the chief Justice's Camp, many Englishmen having been

14/18/6 (xxxvi).

~~270~~ (158)

been left by these blunders to convey  
them.

A.D.

1581. John, the son of Sumner, who was son  
of John, marched <sup>with an army</sup> in the month of May  
eastwards across the Suire, and totally de-  
stroyed the towns lying east of that river,  
viz. Admaile and the Monastery of Ath-  
adul: he then returned across the  
Suire with great spoils and booty, but was  
overtaken by a very strong and numerous  
body of forces. He continued resolutely  
carrying away the spoils as long as he  
was able, but was afterwards obliged to stand  
and come to an engagement, in which  
he destroyed more than three hundred of  
his

his pursues both by drouing & slaying.

John (then) carried off the spoil  
in triumph to the haunts in the woods  
(bleanglass),  
of Clanglais, and Coile mor, where  
he was wont to abide.



~~272~~ (160)

[Annals Innisfallen]

A.D.

[now Lough Gur]

1178.

Loch gair<sup>\*</sup> was plundered by Óláideán  
of Clonglais.

The name O'baileáin is now anglicised  
Collins in the neighbourhood of New-  
castle and Abbey<sup>P=feale</sup> where they are  
still very numerous.

Loe

The antiquities of the parish  
of Killeedy were examined  
and described by me,

J. Donovan

**END**

**14 D 18/7**

**O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.**

**Notes, relating to the history, antiquities and topography of the parishes of Abbeyfeale, Kilfergus, Kilscannel (Kilscannell) and Loughel (Loughill), Co. Limerick, with particular reference to their castles, early churches, religious foundations and the origins of their place names.**

**[1840]**

**11p.**

**23 cm**

**Included are related extracts from Archdall's 'Monasticum Hibernicum' and the 'Annals of the Four Masters'.**

## The parish of Abbeyfeale.

Situation. This parish is situated in the south west part of the barony of Glenguin and is bounded on the north by the parish of Rathronan, on the east by those of Monagay and Killeedy, and on the south and west by the County of Kerry.

Name. The name of this parish is in Irish *maimreagh na féile*, which signifies the Monastery or Abbey at the river Feale, and the river has taken its name according to the Leabhar Gabhala from the Lady Fíal, who was drowned in it, or rather died through *féile oop náipe* for having been seen by her husband while she was bathing in it. For similar legends see my letters on the rivers Galway and Lury.

Allemande, and after him Archdale, and after Archdale his humble follower Gough state that an abbey for Cistercians was founded here in the year 1188, which was afterwards made a cell to the abbey of Monasternenagh, but they do not give the name of the founder, nor add a word on its subsequent history.

I insert what they have said, but as the whole of the evidence rests on Allemande it is worth

14/D/18/7(i) Int.



but little of the abbey from which this parish and village of Abbeyfeale have taken name. Not a stone now remaining, but its site is shown in the graveyard near the new R. G. chapel. There are old men still living who remember to have seen some fragments of its walls. It does not appear to have been extensive.

The only remain of antiquity in this parish is the castle of Port sometimes called Portanard, which is situated near the bank of the River Feale about one Irish mile to the North west of Abbeyfeale village. It is 40 feet by 30 <sup>feet</sup> <sup>10</sup> on the outside and its walls are 6 feet thick, but its architecture is very rough and mean. The arch over the ground floor remains; it is pointed and 15 ft. in height from the level of the floor. This building is about 20 ft. in height in its present state, but it seems to have been much higher. No tradition about its original founder or occupier can now be found in the country.

For the correct names of small burial places and other features in this parish see the field name books.

(163) ~~111~~ 45

(Archdale Man. Vol. 2. p. 4  
N. 2. P. 414)

Abbey Feal;

(County  
of  
Lincoln.

Near the river Coshin, in the  
barony of Connello.

An abbey for Cisterrians  
was erected here A. D. 1188(X),  
which was afterwards made  
a cell to the abbey of Monas-  
ternagh in this county.  
Which see.

(X) Allemande.

14/2/18/7(ii)

(Gaugh's Camden R. I. A.)

146  
(165)

Abbey Seal

← river →

Abbey Seal, of the same order, on the  
river Seal, in the barony of Conilla  
1188; afterwards made a cell to  
Monaster<sup>ne</sup>nagh<sup>(d)</sup> a mile from  
the ruins of Port castle<sup>(e)</sup>

The antiquities &c of the  
parish of Abbey Seal were  
examined by me.

J. A. Donnan.

note

(d) Archdale, 414.

(e) Wilson, 165.

14/D/18/7(ii)

## The parish of Kilfergus.

Situation. This parish is situated in the western extremity of the barony of Shanid, and is bounded on the north by the River Shannon, on the east by the parishes of Loughel and Kilmoylan, on the south by those of Kilmoylan and Nantenan, and on the west by the County of Kerry.

Name. The name of this parish is in Irish Cill Fearghasa (pronounced Kill-Farreaga) which signifies the church of St. Ferigus, but there is no monument or recollection of such a saint at present in the parish.

The old church of this parish was 42 feet in length by 22 in breadth; its west gable and north wall are destroyed down to the foundations but the south wall and east gable are in good preservation.

The window on the east gable forms a flat arch constructed of thin flays on the inside and measures 6.10 in height and 4 feet in width. On the outside it is rectangular at top and covered with a small lintel and measures in height 4.10<sup>ft. in</sup>, and in width 7 inches at top and 8 inches at bottom. It is placed 6 feet from the present level of the ground on the outside and constructed thus:



The two lower stones on each side of this window on the outside are of <sup>a</sup> brownish hue <sup>and chiselled,</sup> the others are greenish and hammered. The lower ones would appear to be by far older.

At the distance of 2 feet from the east gable there is a rectangular window on the south wall measuring on the inside <sup>ft in</sup> 4" 6 in height and 3 ft in width, and on the outside <sup>ft in</sup> 3" 5 in height and 8 inches in width. It is built of hammered stones. The doorway was on the same wall at the distance of 9 feet from the west gable but its top is totally destroyed so that its height cannot be determined; but 3 feet of the height of its sides remain from which it appears that it was rudely constructed of <sup>un</sup>hammered stones, and measured <sup>ft in</sup> 4" 6 on the outside and <sup>ft in</sup> 4" 10 on the inside.

This south wall is 12 feet high from the east gable to the doorway but thence to the west gable it is only 3 feet high. It is 3 feet thick and built of large and some remarkably small stones irregularly laid and cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is a large grave yard

14/10/18/7 (14) attached

149 (168)

to it now much used.

This church is situated <sup>on high ground</sup> in the townland of Kilfergus and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the east of the village of Glynm.

The famous old castle of Glynm called by the Irish Annalists loch gleanna and by O'Sullivan Beare Vallirupes, is about 200 yards to the east of the village of Glynm and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the east of the Knight of Glynm's house. It is situated in a valley anciently called Gleann Corbraghe and is washed at the south west corner by the river of Glynm now swollen to a considerable height by floods from the mountains. The annexed view of this Castle as it stood when stormed by Sir George in the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1600 will convey a pretty good idea of its form and extent. It is described in the Pacata Hibernia as 102 ft. in length and 42 ft. in breadth. Only its tower now remains measuring on the inside <sup>ft. in</sup> 21.8 in length and 19 ft. in breadth, and about 45 ft. in height, but the people assert that it was 30 feet higher. The walls are 8 ft. thick and exhibit windows for four stories. Two of the floors were arched, but these are now broken. It has no cut stone, and none of its windows are perfect. It is built of thin flag stones ce-

cemented with lime and sand mortar.

(169) ~~112~~  
151

The River Shannon is about 300 yards to the north of this castle and spring tides flow up to its very walls.

Sir George Carew's description of the storming and taking of this castle in 1600 is curious and should be here inserted. I insert all the references to this castle to be found in the annals of the Four Masters as translated by me from the autograph original.

The antiquities of this parish were examined by Mr. A. Curry Esq. and Dr. Johnson.

14/12/18/7 (v)

[Cannon's  
O.H.]

[Cannon's O.H.]

(171)

152  
293

## Cloch Gleanna<sup>(1)</sup>

A.D.

1600. In the beginning of July the president

and the Earl of Thomond set out from  
Limerick with a fine <sup>muster</sup> body of soldiers

and marched westwards along the  
northern side of the Shannon through  
the County of Clare until they arrived  
at Baile-Meg-bolman in the territory  
of East Corca Raiscinn; from this  
they ferried themselves across the  
Shannon to Cloch Gleanna (the lock  
of Glyn) a castle on the southern bank  
of the Shannon.

The

(1) Cloch-Ghleanna, baile fil fa thruach na Sionna.

14/D/18/7(VI)



The Castle <sup>(1)</sup> at which this army then <sup>thus</sup> arrived was one of the castles of the Knight of Glynn, it is situated in Gleann-Cabraigh from which it received the name of Cloch-Gleanna <sup>(2)</sup>, and the Knight the appellation of Ridire an Ghleanna, or the Knight of the valley. Heavy ordnance was sent <sup>in ships</sup> from Limerick to meet the Earl and the President there. They laid siege to it (the castle) for two days and made a breach in it with the heavy ordnance  
They

- (1) This castle of Glynn was 92 feet in breadth and 102 in length. A plan of it as then besieged is given in the Dicata Heb. <sup>p. 112</sup>
- (2) Cloch-Gleanna, i.e. the Stone or Stone Edifice of the valley. The ancient Irish called a "stone building" frequently by the name of Cloch, a stone.

They then rushed into it from every side  
and slew a score or two of Nobles and  
plebeians of the Knights people, who  
were guarding the Castle, together with  
some women and children. Some of the  
principal men were also slain by the  
wardens, and it would not have been  
easy to take the Castle were it not  
that the Earl of Desmond's people  
had been previously dispersed.

See Gleann Corbraighe at this year  
P.

[Comp'd  
OK]

[Annals 4 Masters]

153  
(175)  
~~417~~

## Gleann-Corbraighe<sup>(1)</sup>

A.D.

1562. The Earl of Thomond went upon  
a cuairt Ceannais feadhna (visitation  
of a chief leader) into the territory of O'Connor,  
and into Gleann-Corbraighe, on which  
occasion, <sup>he killed with one shot out of Glynn Castle,</sup> the son of O'Loughlin, viz. Melaghtlin,  
the son of Owney, who was son of Melaghtlin,  
who was son of Rory, who was son of Anra  
Bacach. The same Earl made a similar  
excursion into Caenraighe (Henry) about the same  
time, and slew on that occasion Dowell, the  
son of Gilduff, who was son of Connor Mac Sweeney.

In

(1) O'p h'annm'g'ead. Roppe an Gleanna. <sup>as</sup> a g'us Equep vall's nomi-  
-natus est.

14/10/18/7 (viii)

(1776)

~~415~~

156

181

A.D.

1598. In the beginning of <sup>the summer</sup> this year, O'Neill

sent Letters to Linstoe ordering Edmond Burke Owen Omore and Captain Tyrrell to place proper leaders over those who were leagued with them, and to proceed themselves to make new conquests and to cause the opposing inhabitants of territories by solicitation or terror to join them.

He particularly requested them to go to Munster to solicit the sons of Thomas Roe, who was son of James, who was son of John, who was son of the Earl. \* \* \* \*

Among those who joined them were, O'Dwyer of Kilnamanagh, \* \* \*; the son of Mac Brian O'g Cuanaich, \* \* \*; the Ryans, \* \*, and the descendants of Brian O'g of Duharra.

When



When these chiefs had joined O'Neill's people, and all the neighbouring territories had been leagued with them they marched with all their forces, at the instance of the sons of Thomas Roe, the son of the Earl (of Desmond) into the country of the Fitzgeralds.

They first went to the County of Limerick. The president, Sir Thomas Norris was at this time at Kilmallock, and when he understood that he was not <sup>cap</sup>able of engaging <sup>copying</sup> with them he avoided meeting them and went to Cork. The Irish then proceeded westwards across the River Maug to Donille and the borders of Hiabh Suachra and Gleann-Corbraighe.\*

[See Limerick at the year, 1473 for the conclusion of this article]

(\*) Glencorbery is the valley from which the Knight of Glynn takes his name. It lies near the Shannon in the Bar. of <sup>Shanid</sup>Donille & Co. of Limerick

(178)  
420  
158

1600. In the beginning of July the president  
and the Earl of Thomond set out from  
Limbrick with a fine <sup>muster</sup> body of soldiers and  
marched westwards along the northern side  
of the Shannon through the County of Clare  
until they arrived at Baile Meg Colman  
(now Ballymacolman)  
in the territory of east Corca Baiscinn; from  
this they ferried themselves across the Shannon  
to Block Gleanna (the Rock of the Glynn) a  
Castle on the southern bank of the Shannon.  
The Castle at which this army thus arrived  
was one of the Castles of the Knight of Glynn;  
it is situated in Gleann Corbraighe from  
which

- (1) In old English Records this place is always called Glyncoibry.  
This valley is situated in the Bar. of <sup>Glanid</sup> ~~Comilla~~ on the Shannon  
The village of Glynn and Glynn-House, the seat of John Francis  
Fitzgerald the present Knight of Glynn, are situated in this valley.  
Vide Betham's Antiquarian Researches, Vol. I. pp. 232-233.

which it received the name of Cloch Gleanna,  
and the Knight the appellation of Ridire.  
an Ghlanna, or the Knight of the valley.

Heavy Ordnance was sent in Ships  
from Limerick to meet the Earl and the pre-  
sident here. They laid siege to it (the castle)  
for two days and made a breach in it  
with the heavy ordnance. They then rushed  
into it from every side and slew a score or  
two of <sup>gentlemen</sup> ~~nobles~~ or plebeians of the Knight's  
people, who were guarding the Castle,  
together with some women and children.

## The parish of Loughel.

Situation. This parish is situated in the barony of Shanid and is bounded on the north by the River Shannon, on the east by the parishes of Shanagolden and Robertstown, on the south by Kilmoyley and part of Shanagolden, and on the west by the parish of Kilfergus.

Name. This name is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from the townland in which the original church was built, which townland took its name from a wood of Elms. —  
The name occurs very frequently in the north and west of Ireland, and we have the authority of Augustin Mac Raidin for spelling it Learnhchoill. See my letter on the Great Island of Aran.

The old church of this parish is situated on the brink of a valley in the townland of Loughel and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of the River Shannon. This is a primitive Irish church but the antiquary for ever  
to



to lament that all its features are destroyed. It was divided into nave and choir but both are nearly destroyed; only fragments of the east and middle gables, and 13 ft. of the south wall of the nave remaining. The length of the nave cannot be ascertained, but its breadth was 15 feet. The choir arch is all destroyed. The choir is <sup>ft in</sup> 7-10 from west to east and <sup>ft in</sup> 9-8 from north to south, but no window or fragment of one is observable on it. The fragment remaining of the south wall is 8 feet high and 3 feet thick and built of large long stones cemented with lime and sand mortar.

About 100 yards to the north of this church there is a holy well called St. Colmog's well which is still resorted for the cure of sore eyes, but St. Colmog's day is not remembered.

There is nothing else of antiquarian interest in this parish.

14/5/18/7 (xi)

The antiquities of this parish were examined by  
W. A. Curry, Liddesdale

The parish of Kilcannel.

Situation. This parish is situated in the Barony of Lower Conello and is bounded on the north and north-east by the parish of Doondonnell, on the east by Rathkeale, on the south-east and south by Grange and on the West and north-west by Cloonagh.

Name. The name of this parish is in Irish Gill Seannail, which signifies the cell or church of St. Seandalus, but every recollection of this saint is blotted from the memory of tradition.

The site of the ancient church is now occupied by a small modern protestant one, and there is nothing of interest to the antiquarian in the church yard.

There was another old church in the townland of Coolanoran called Kilnurry <sup>(ecclesia parialis)</sup> but it was totally destroyed about 12 months ago and its stones carried away to build a house in the neighbourhood.

This parish was examined  
by me L. Donovan

**END**

14 D 18/8

O'Sullivan, J.

Copy map of Glin (Glynn) Castle and surrounding country, as traced from 'Pacata Hibernica' by J. O'Sullivan.

1840

1p.

49 x 32 cm

RIA



**14 D 18/8**

**Outsize map**

**Filmed at the end of this reel**

**END**

14 D 18/9

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of the parish of Cloonagh (Clonagh), Co. Limerick, with particular reference to its early church, holy well, castles and the origins of its place name.

[1840]

2p.

23 cm

RIA

## The parish of Cloonagh.

Situation. This parish is in the barony of Lower Conello, and is bounded on the north by the parishes of Kilmoylan and Dummoylin, on the east by those of Dundonnell and Rathkeale, on the south by Kilcannel and on the west by Rathronan.

Name. The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from that of the townland on which the old church was built, which townland is called in Irish Cluain each i.e. the insulated meadow of the horses, an appellation which it truly merits, though now it might be with more propriety called Cluain bo from the very great number of milch cows which it feeds.

The old church stands on the townland about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the north of the town of Newcastle. It consisted of nave and choir, but it is now in so ruinous a state as not to merit minute description. All its features are destroyed except the choir arch which shews that the building is not very old though a part of the north wall of the nave seems to indicate considerable antiquity. The west gable is destroyed down to

14/2/18/96



(184)

164

to the foundation but the east and middle gables are in good preservation.

In the same townland is situated a holy well called after St. Kieran of Blomacnoise in honor of whom a 'pattern' was annually held here on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September.

In the townland of Lignacullia and about 5 Irish miles north of Newcastle and about 2 miles <sup>north</sup> west of Rathkeale are the ruins of a very fine castle called after the townland, and sometimes Woodfort which is a translation of its original Irish name of Iop na coille.

This castle is said to have been built by the Mac Sheehys who were brought into this County as professional gallows by James Fitzgerald's seventh Earl of Desmond in the year 1420. It is a large rectangular building three stories high with a square tower at the south east angle to the top of which a spiral staircase leads. I could not measure this castle on the <sup>in consequence of a house built up against it</sup> outside, but I examined and measured the extent of it on the inside. The first floor is destroyed, but the second which is arched and 17 feet above the level of the first, is in good preservation. The room over this floor is 35 ft in length and 20 <sup>ft in</sup> 9 in breadth, and lighted by 3 windows

(185)

windows, one in the North wall and two in the south 165  
one. Its walls are <sup>ft in</sup> 4" 8 thick as I have ascertained  
at the north window. There is another small room off  
this in the square tower already referred to; it measures 13 ft  
in length and 8 in breadth and is lighted by two win-  
dows, <sup>a large</sup> one in the east side which looks as if modernized  
and, another narrow shamrock headed one in the  
south side which is <sup>ft in</sup> 4" 4 high and 6½ inches wide  
and constructed of cut lime stone. The spiral stair  
is lighted at appropriate distances by narrow loop-  
holes, one of which opposite the landing <sup>place</sup> to the se-  
cond floor is <sup>ft in</sup> 3" 3 in height 5 inches in width  
and <sup>beautifully</sup> constructed of cut freestone.

You descend from the highest floor to the  
land<sup>ing</sup> to the first (first over the ground)  
by 26 <sup>stone</sup> steps which are <sup>each</sup> 8 inches in height, but  
when you arrive at the landing place you  
find the floor destroyed, but you can turn  
into a small room in the square tower  
of the same dimensions with the one above  
it already described. This is lighted by  
a large window on the east side, which is  
much disfigured, and by a beautiful nar-  
row <sup>lancet headed</sup> window or loophole on the south  
side, which is 4 ft in height and 6½ inches  
in width.

|| To the south of this castle stands  
14/D/18/9(ii) a

166, 86)

a lesser building two stories high, and to the west is a part of a wall which surrounded both buildings.

In the townland of Ballyegnybeg in this parish there is another castle of a rectangular form, the walls of which are about 25 feet high. A spiral stair-case leads to the top, which is in a good state of preservation.

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The antiquities &c. of this parish  
were examined and described by me,

J. O'Donovan,

**END**



14 D 18/10

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of Cloonelty (Clonelty), Castletown and Clooncagh (Cloncagh), Co. Limerick, with particular reference to their early churches, burial grounds, castles and the origins of their place names.

25-26 July 1840

14p.

23 cm

ill; ink sketch of the doorway at Clonelty church.

Included are transcriptions from the tombstones found in Cloncagh old church and related extracts from Lanigan's 'Ecclesiastical History of Ireland' and Colgan's 'Acta Sanctorum'.

(187)  
16/1

The parish of Cloonelly.

Situation. This parish is situated in the barony of Glenguin and is bounded on the north by the parish of Rathkeale, on the east by Clooncagh, on the south by Mahonagh and on the west by Grange.

Name. The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from that of the townland in which the original church was placed, which townland derived its name from *cluan* an insulated meadow or bog island, and *ette*, the gen. case of *elte*, a doe. See my letter on Annahilt in the Co. of Down. *cluan ette*, i.e., pratum cervæ.

The old of Cloonelly which is situated in a cluan in the townland of Ballynac and about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles westwards of Ballingarry. It is an ancient building which was partly modernized and fitted up for a protestant church after the Reformation. It was never divided into nave and choir but forms one oblong little building measuring on the inside <sup>ft inchs</sup> 33.5 in length and <sup>ft inchs</sup> 21.0 in breadth. Its side walls are 13 feet in height and 3 feet in thickness. The east gable is destroyed except

14/D/18/10(?) a

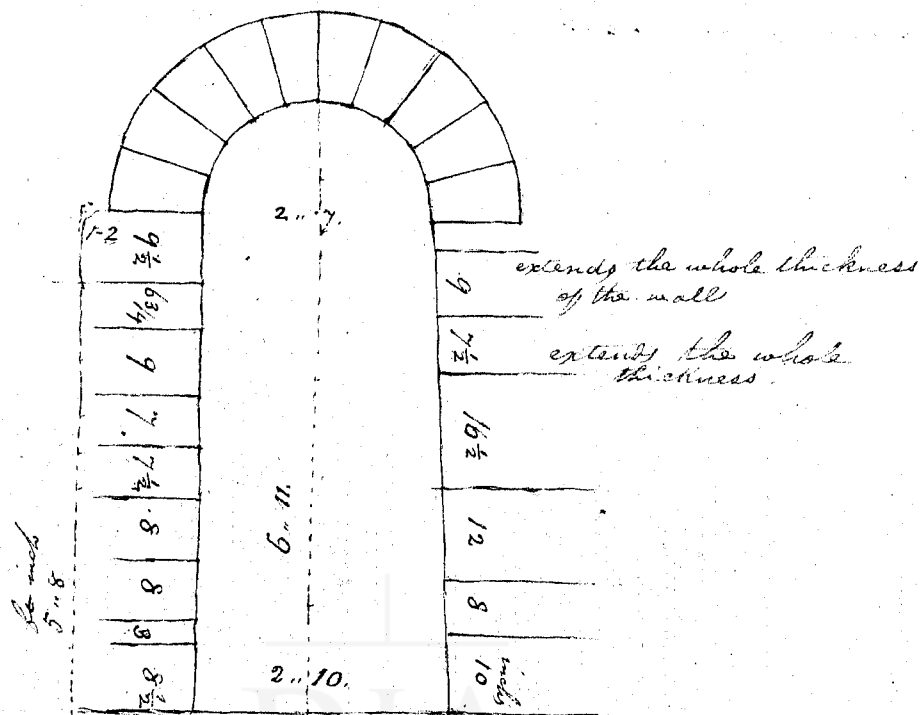
(188)  
168 a few feet of its base, and a small fragment at the south-east corner six or seven feet higher than the south side wall, but the side walls and west gable are in good preservation, and the west gable is clothed with strong ivy which will soon tumble it by catching the storms and separating the stones by the insertion of its roots.

At the distance of 3 feet from the east end there is on the south wall a small window which measures on the inside <sup>ft in</sup> 4"6 in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 1"2 in width; and on the outside (where it is placed at the height of <sup>ft in</sup> 5"5 from the present level of the ground) 3 feet in height and only  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width. On the inside it forms a flat arch <sup>at top</sup> and its sides are built of cut freestone, but on the outside it is rectangular and constructed of cut lime stone.

The west gable contains a semicircular headed doorway measuring <sup>ft inch</sup> 6"11 in height and in width <sup>ft in</sup> 2"7 where the arch springs and <sup>ft in</sup> 2"10 at the bottom. It is built of fine blocks of chiselled sand stone and looks very ancient.

The west gable was surmounted with a small belfry the top of which is now destroyed. There is a fragment of a wall extending southwards from the west gable which would seem a part of a lateral building, and another extending northwards from the east gable.

The doorway in the west gable is constructed thus on the outside. (189)  
169



This doorway appears very old, but I would not say that it is as old as the time of St. Maidoc<sup>or Columbkille</sup>. It is however a very curious specimen of ancient architecture and well worthy of preservation.

14/p/18/10(ii)



(190)

170 In the townland of Ballynoe, - the same in which this church is situated, there is a fragment of a castle lately much destroyed, but I could learn nothing of its history on the spot.

In the townland of Lissaniska in this parish there is a holy well dedicated to St. Ida or Ida, who was probably the patroness of the old church above described. For her history see Parish of Killeedy. This parish examined by me  
L. Donovan July 25<sup>th</sup>

1840

### The parish of Clooncagh.

Situation. This parish is in the barony of upper Conello, and is bounded on the north by the parish of Rathkeale, on the east by the parish of Ballyngarry, on the south by Killeedy, and on the west by Mahoonagh and Cloonelly.

Name. This is supposed by Archdal and his followers to be the Cluain Claidach<sup>Cluain Claidach</sup> of the ancient Irish authorities as quoted by Colgan; and I can very easily believe that it is as the natives assert that St. Maidoc is still remembered as the parish. The name, however, is now pro-

=nounced by the natives as if written Chain Cath (191)  
which, if correct would signify Battlefield. 17/1

The old church of Gloomah is in a great state of dilapidation, but from what remains it appears to be a ruin of great antiquity. Its choir is entirely destroyed, as is also the south wall of the nave except a very small fragment near the south-west corner from which it appears that the wall was <sup>ft in</sup> 2"11 thick. The choir arch is much injured in its sides but its semi-circular head remains which is <sup>ft in</sup> 11"0 from the present level of the ground.

The north wall is in good preservation; it is <sup>ft in</sup> 9"7 in height and built of large stones cemented with very good mortar.

The west gable is up, but its little belfry is nearly destroyed as well as its semi-Cyclopean doorway which is now reduced to a formless breach.

The nave is 37 ft in length and 16 feet in breadth but the dimensions of the choir cannot be determined.

The following inscription is on a <sup>line</sup> stone flag inserted in the north wall on the outside within about 12 feet of the north-west corner:

Here  
14/10/18/10 (11)

(192)  
172<sup>50</sup> Here lyeth<sup>!!</sup> the bodies of Daniel Sullivan who  
" died año Dñi 1682, Margaret his wife who  
" died año Dñi 1690, Derby his son who died  
" the 22. day of July 1708 and Joane his wife  
" who died the 28 of March 1693 +  
" Mathew Sullivan who died the 7 April  
" 1716.

I here insert what the Irish writers have col-  
- lected of the history of Bluain Blaidheach  
which is very little.

This parish was examined by me.

J. O'Donovan

Ballingarry.

July 25<sup>th</sup> 1840.

At the distance of 11 feet from the north wall stands an ecclesiastical Round Tower of great antiquity called by the old people *Clogar d' Diapic*, i.e. the heltry of *Dysart*. It is built of large field granite stones <sup>the larger ones of</sup> which were hammered into segments of circles. The planes of this tower are very large towards the bottom and gradually decrease in size towards the top.

|| This tower is 70"8 in circumference at the base and

feet in height. Its doorway is on the east side at the height of 14"9 <sup>ft in</sup> from the present level of the ground which is not much raised; it is semi-circular at top but now a good deal injured, and its sides slope like all the old Irish doorways in the Semi-Cyclopean style.

The first <sup>or ground</sup> floor of this tower was not lighted by any window or aperture in the walls; the second was lighted by the doorway already described; the third floor was lighted by a triangular-headed window placed on the west side, the fourth by a roundhead one on the south side, and the fifth by a quadrangular little window on the N.E. side. It would appear that this tower had another

14/2/18/10 (W) window \*



260. on the east side over the doorway besides the 4 placed immediately under the cap but these are now gone.

The people believe that this steeple was never finished, and that it was built by a woman who intended to raise it up to the sky! but &c. &c. See a similar legend in my letter on St. Tierney's Clacker at Glanes in the County of Monaghan.

Examined by me,  
La Dorovan

### The parish of Croon.

Situation. This parish is situated in three baronies viz. Coshma, upper Connello and Pubblebrien, but the greater part of it is in the Barony of Coshma.

Name. The name of this parish is written cpomá in the Chronicon Scotorum, and cpomá in the annals of the Four Masters, but I have never met any authority for proving its meaning. Cpom means stooped and cpomá stooping, but it is not easy to determine why a word with such a meaning should become the name of a place. See my letter on Crum Castle in Lough Erne.

Chlainclaidheach

A.A. S.P. p. 212 . c. 38.

Nt: S. Maidoc (XXXI.  
Lamurix)

At another time, Saint  
Modoc hearing that some  
of his own family, were the  
captives among the Mononians, (S.  
namely in that territory, Maidoc)  
which is called Boy Conall <sup>restored</sup> the  
Gabhra, proceeded to liberate <sup>dead</sup>  
them from their captivity. <sup>daughter</sup>  
And when the man of <sup>of</sup> the  
God had arrived there <sup>to life</sup>  
the chief of that territory <sup>illings</sup> <sup>terrace</sup>  
was unwilling to

(194)  
174

42  
give him audience.  
nor did he leave him  
in <sup>sup</sup> castles  
to remain in his fort.  
Before the entrance  
of that fort, the man  
of God fasted, three  
days. The fast being ended,  
the daughter of the Chief,  
whom he very much  
loved, died suddenly.  
The wife of the Chief  
knowing that this fact  
was the cause of a miracle,  
brought the lifeless  
body to Saint Moedoc.

170  
(195)

43

And the servant of  
God being requested  
by her mother and  
by her (own) attendants,  
resuscitated her from  
death. But, the hard  
(hearted) Chief <sup>(or) as yet</sup> still <sup>by</sup>  
resisted S. Moedoc, with <sup>his</sup> <sup>impe</sup>  
harsh words. And <sup>(S. Moedoc)</sup>  
when Saint Moedoc <sup>split</sup> the  
began to curse <sup>rock</sup>  
the Chief, a certain <sup>and thus</sup>  
boy who stood hard <sup>connected</sup>  
by, said; holy Senior <sup>they</sup>  
[W] sire, may your male <sup>start</sup>  
<sup>to penance</sup>

14/D/18/10(V)



176  
(196)

44

-diction he upon this  
rock: and when he had  
said upon this rock,  
he the curse. Instantly  
was that rock divided  
into two parts. That  
Chief seeing this now,  
-did penance, and <sup>(or)</sup> free  
<sup>up let</sup> left his relatives liberated  
to S. Moedoc: and offered  
him the place, which  
is called bluainchladh.  
bluain claidblaim bhaithe (37); and the  
holy man erected  
a Monastery there  
and blessing the

place itself, and  
the chief who gave  
it, retired from  
thence.

Note 37

Et obtulit ei locum,  
qui dicitur Blairin  
Blaidhaich. Cap. 39. <sup>recte</sup> ~~XXXVIII~~.  
More properly Blaidheach  
as it is found in the Irish  
(U.S.) is in the Diocese  
of Limerick in the  
Territory of Bona  
Conaill. 14/10/18/10 (vii)

There is a Parish of Blunecagh in the Barony of <sup>super Connello</sup> ~~Connello~~ <sup>parish</sup>

178  
(198)

46  
A. d. S. J. p. 223.

col: I. ~~St. Madoe~~  
Append: ~~St. Madoe~~ St. Madoe,  
the

Of the Churches  
founded by Saint Madoe,  
and the places in which  
he is held as patrons.

In the Life of S. Madoe,  
which we have given above,  
and in another more copious  
Irish Life of him, are  
mentioned some (Churches)  
founded by this holy  
man in ~~some~~ every province  
of Ireland, and several  
in some. In the Country  
of Ulster, which is called

(199)  
179

Herrmannach, the  
Church of Kella-  
-begga <sup>(Killybegs)</sup>, where also there  
is a miraculous stone,  
which is from his name  
called Lac-Maodhoc,  
that is the <sup>Lapis</sup> stone; or  
<sup>Saxum</sup> rock of Maedoc. In  
Munster, in the country  
of the Desii, the Church  
of Disert Kairbre,  
and in Conallia, the  
Monastery of Gluain  
Claidhech: &c.



(Goughs Camden R. S. & (201) 180  
249

bluancagh

At bluancagh near Rathkeale  
was a religious house. founded  
in the 7th century by St. Mardoc  
of Kernes(?) broagh church in  
the same neighbourhood is said  
to have been collegiate(?) as was  
that of Greany(?)

note

(?) 26. 420. Harrow 455.

(?) 420. H.

(?) 420. 420. Harrow 455 (t) H.

14/D/18/10 (ix)

187  
(205) 255

(Archaeol. Mon. Hib. V. 77. R. 2. 103)  
(L 420)

County  
of Limerick.

## Cluainclaidheach;

---

A religious house in Hua-conail,  
which was built by St. Madoe  
of Ferns, who died A. D. 624 (B); this  
is now a parish church in the diocese  
of Limerick, not far from Beathkeale,  
and is called Cluancagh. (B)

---

(f) Act. SS. p. 215. (g) Visitation Book.

14/12/18/10(x)

1877  
(205) 255

(Archaeall's. Mon. Hib. V. TT. R. D. O. B.)  
L 420

County  
Limerick.

## Cluainclaidheach;

A religious house in Hua-conail,  
which was built by St. Madoe  
of Ferns, who died A. D. 624 (B); this  
is now a parish church in the diocese  
of Limerick, not far from Beathale,  
and is called Cluancagh. (B)

---

(f) Act. SS. p. 215. (g) Visitation Book.

14/12/18/10(x)

## Cluain-claidheach

\* \* \* \* \*  
Maíoc was remarkable for his hospitality and benevolence. On being informed that some relatives of his were prisoners in Hy Conall Gabhra, (141) he went to that country, although far distant from Ferns, for the purpose of delivering them, and did not desist, until he induced the chieftain, otherwise very harsh on this point, to give them up. It is ~~also~~ added, that this chieftain was so affected by the saint's [p. 339] conduct, that he granted him a place called Cluain-claidheach, in which he erected a monastery (142)

- Notes [p. 341]  
(141) Now Upper Connellae in the county of Wick.  
(142) Life, cap. 22. Archdall says, that this place is not far from Rathkeale and now called Cluncagh.



St

# The parish of Castletown. - or Corcomohide

Barony of Kilmacneil

Situation. This parish is situated in the barony of Upper Conello and is bounded on the north by the parish of Ballingarry, on the east by Holman's well and Baurer, on the south by Killaghohane, and on the west by the parish of Kilmeeedy.

Name. The name of this parish was originally Corcomohide, the name of Mac Eniry's territory, but latterly it is called Castletown Mac Eniry ~~so called~~ from the family of Mac Eniry the ancient chiefs of Corea Muiceat who were dispossessed by Cromwell about the year 1650, at which period the family of Coniers obtained possession of this place from whom it is now sometimes called Castletown Coniers.

Gough in his silly additions to Camden asserts that Chaim Chreadhail <sup>or Killeedy</sup> is the same as Castletown Mac Eniry, but in this he mistakes the words of Archdal who knew nothing at all about it, but what he learned from O'Halloran, who is a very stultified authority. I here insert what they have said on this subject: \*

Gaughs Camden R. I. & A. 1844

Bluain Chredail

Castle Mac Eneiry



In the barony of Conillo at Castle.  
Mac Eneiry, formerly the seat of  
 Mac Eneiry, are ruins of a very  
 large monastery, and some  
 other buildings, which suffici-  
 ently evince the piety, dignity and  
 splendour of that antient family.<sup>(1)</sup>  
 A Ita or Uida of the blood royal  
 of Munster, is said to have founded  
 a famous abbey at Bluain Chredail  
 or Kilita, at the <sup>foot</sup> fountain of the mountain  
Luacra.<sup>(2)</sup>

Note

~~(1) & (2)~~ 485. See Halloran.

(2) L.

14/D/18/10 (XII)

(213) 327  
(Archd. Mon. Hib. C. T. R. I. 185)

P. 119

Barth  
of  
Limerick

Castletown (M<sup>c</sup>. ENERY; M<sup>c</sup>.)

In the barony of Conillo, and  
formerly the seat of Mac En<sup>ry</sup>; <sup>ii</sup>  
here we find the ruins of a  
very large monastery<sup>†</sup> and some  
other public buildings, which  
sufficiently evince the piety, -  
dignity and splendour of that  
ancient family. (c)

† [Colum Crecail]

(c) O'Halloran.

14/D/18/10 (XIII)

The church of Castletown, which is "the very large monastery" mentioned by O'Halloran, is a very long church, but certainly not a very extensive nor anything bordering on a splendid monastery. It is 127 ft in length <sup>ft in</sup> on the outside and 26.9 in breadth on the inside. Its walls are 14 feet high and <sup>ft in</sup> 3.6 thick, and well built.

The east window <sup>is</sup> in tolerable preservation, but not so gorgeous as one might be inclined to infer from the words of O'Halloran, as copied by Archdall. It forms a flat point on the inside and measures about <sup>ft in</sup> 11.5 in height and 7.6 in width; on the outside it is divided into two compartments which are round headed, and constructed of reddish sandstone, both <sup>together</sup> are <sup>ft in</sup> 2.7 in width, each is 10 inches, and the mullion between them which consists of seven separate stones is 9 inches in width; They are <sup>ft in</sup> 8.5 in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 8.2 from the level of the ground on the outside. Near this window and between it and the N.E. corner there is <sup>another</sup> small window <sup>at a considerable height from the ground</sup> which is rectangular inside, and outside; it is covered on both sides with small lintels and is about 3 ft by 2 on the inside and <sup>ft in</sup> 2.6 by 3 inches on the outside.

At the distance of <sup>ft in</sup> 12.4 from the east gable there was a pointed doorway on the north wall.



187  
375  
215

wall leading into an Lardom or Sacristy  
but the Lardom is destroyed and the  
doorway is <sup>nearly</sup> reduced to a breach.

At the distance of 5 feet from the east gable  
the south wall contains a window which is  
in tolerable preservation and measures on  
the inside (where its head is a flat pointed  
arch) <sup>ft in</sup> 7.6 in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 4.11 in width.

On the outside it is placed at the height  
of 6 feet from the present level of the  
ground and divided into two compartments  
which are painted at top in the Gothic  
style; both these compartments <sup>taken</sup> together mea-  
sure in width <sup>ft in</sup> 1.7½, and the mullion between  
them is 7 inches wide and 6 inches thick. They  
are 4 ft in height.

At the distance of <sup>ft in</sup> 36.6 from the west corner  
the doorway is placed; its internal part is  
destroyed at the top, but its internal sides  
remain which are <sup>ft in</sup> 5.5 asunder; its outer  
part forms a semicircle at top but its  
sides are destroyed; it is <sup>ft in</sup> 6.7 in height  
and 4 feet in width.

From this doorway across to the north wall  
there is a modern wall lately built to enclose  
the west end of the church as a burial place  
for the family of Boniers.

14/12/18/10 (XIV)

188 (2/6)  
324

At the distance of <sup>ft in</sup> 24.8 to the east of the doorway above described there is a breach in the south wall, where there was a window as appears from one side of it still remaining.

|| The side walls of this church are 14 feet in height.

The west gable contains a small rectangular window placed at the height of about ~~17~~ 17 feet from the ground. I could not get up to it to take its exact dimensions, but I would take it to be <sup>ft in</sup> 3.6 in height on the outside and 5 inches in width.

|| I could not learn from any tradition on the spot whether this was a parish church or a monastic one.

Examined by me,

John O'Donovan

Ballynary } July 26<sup>th</sup> 1840.

|| There is a small portion of Mac Eniry's castle standing near Mr. Corners' house; it should be shown on the Ordnance map.

For the names of wells &c. in this parish see Field name book.

**END**

**14 D 18/11**

**O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; Wakeman, William Frederick**

**Notes, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of Dysart (Dysert), Anhid and Croom, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to their old churches, castles and Dysert round tower, written from Ballingarry, Co. Limerick.**

**28 July 1840**

**6p.**

**23 cm**

**ill; ink sketch of the round tower at Dysert, Co. Limerick, [by William Fredrick Wakeman].**

**Included are related extracts from O'Heerin's topographical poetry and the Annals of the Four Masters.**



## The parish of Dysart. —

Situation. This parish is situated in the Barony of Coshma and is bounded on the north and east and west by the parish of Groom and on the south by that of Ballingarry.

Name. This is the place called *Díseart muirdeabhraig* of the ancient Irish calendar, where St. was held in veneration on the 3rd of November.

*Díseart Muirdeabhraig* is placed in the territory of *Hy-Conaill Gabh-ra*, and there can be little doubt that that territory embraced some of the western part of the barony of Coshma in which Dysart is now situated.

The old church of Dysart is one of the primitive ages, but the antiquarian has to lament that its features are nearly destroyed. It is 53<sup>ft in</sup> 6 in length and 17<sup>ft in</sup> 3 in breadth on the inside and its side walls are about 14 feet high and from 2<sup>ft in</sup> 10 to 3<sup>ft in</sup> 0 thick, and built of enormous blocks of lime stone laid in pretty

14/5/18/11 (i)

regular

regular eaves. The building was not divided into nave and choir.

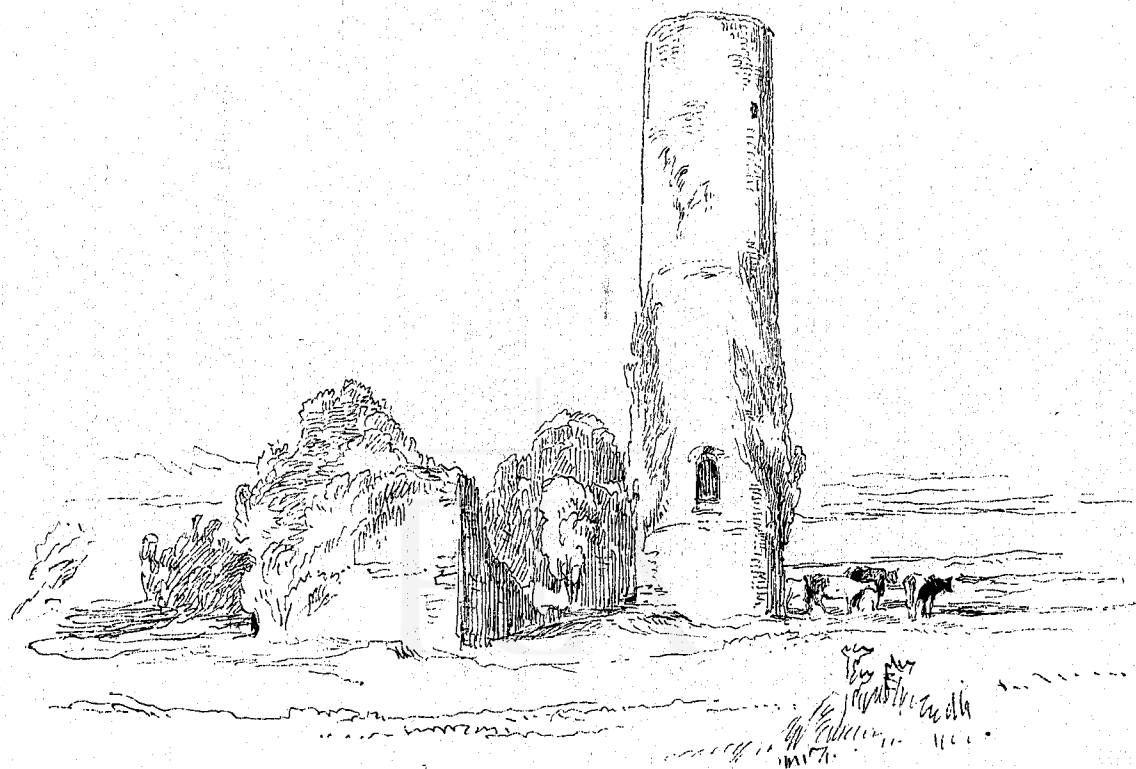
The east gable is in tolerably good preservation but so clothed with ivy that I could not see its window, if it have any, which is to be doubted. The west gable is also up, but contains no feature but a large quadrangular window nearly disfigured and its sides so covered with ivy that I could not see how <sup>(of what materials)</sup> it is built.

At the distance of  $11\text{ ft } 6\text{ in}$  from the east gable the south wall contained a window which is reduced to a formless breach. At the distance of  $21\text{ ft}$  from the west gable the east side of the doorway and a fragment of its lintel are to be seen but the rest of it is destroyed, there being a large breach in the wall here. The side of the doorway is built <sup>of blocks</sup> of red sand stone and is  $6\text{ ft } 3\frac{1}{2}\text{ in}$  in height. The fragment of the lintel is also a block of sand stone measuring  $1\text{ ft } 5\frac{1}{2}\text{ in}$  in depth and extending the entire thickness of the wall ( $2\text{ ft } 11\text{ in}$ ).

There is a large breach in the north wall nearly opposite the one in the south wall.

RIA

14/D/18/11(11)



Oysent - to Limerick -



Croom.

Goughs

193  
(221)  
169

Camden

Croom, 12 miles south-west of  
Limerick, a small town with  
four fairs and a castle founded  
by the Donovans; for many years  
the principal residence of a branch  
of the duke of Leinster's family;  
from whence the word Crom in his  
grace's motto is said to have been  
taken(!)

---

Note.

(1) O'Halloran. Farn 438.

14/2/18/11 (iii)

194

O'Halloran asserts that the old castle of Broom was originally built by O'Donovan chief of Cairbre Aodhda and he has been followed by Seward and Gough. but I have great doubts that any part of this <sup>present</sup> castle is as old as the period at which O'Donovan was chief of this territory. A part of one square tower of this castle still remains near the Minister's house, but it would appear not to be more than four or five centuries old; and there is every evidence to prove that O'Donovan was driven out of this territory <sup>shortly after</sup> ~~about~~ the year <sup>1200</sup> ~~1172~~ when there were few castles of this description in Munster. There is no doubt however that this place was in O'Donovan's territory, and it is highly probable that he had a residence here as well as at

Bruce  
14/10/18/11 (iv)

(224)  
956  
195

Bruce, but I ~~don't~~ <sup>am not ready to</sup> believe that these residences were stone castles, though I may be wrong in this instance.

Ó Meerin in treating of the territory of the Fy Bairbre Sobhdha thus speaks of the ancient chief of this country:

Dual d' Ó' Donnabáin Dúin Cuirc

An tír n' na tír longpúirt

Fa leir san éir po'n Máiz moill

Is na cláir ríor co Sionnoinn.

(Dunkirk)

Hereditary to O'Donovan of Dun Cuirc

Is this country a land of encampment

He owned without tribute the lands along  
the slowly flowing Maize.

And the plains down to the Shannon!

On this subject I shall treat more fully when I come to write of the territories comprised in the County of Limerick.

In the townland of Dunnaman  
[Dúin na m-beann, fort of the gables] are the ruins  
of a <sup>square</sup> castle of considerable height and extent.

It is about 70 ft in height, and near its south angle there is a chimney standing about 16 ft above the square. This is mentioned in the annals of the Four Masters at the year 1506.

Dun na m-beann.

A.D.

1506. Catherine, the daughter of the  
 Earl of Desmond (Thomas, the Son  
 of James) Lady of Hy-Clarbury, a  
 charitable and  
 truly ~~xxxx~~ hospitable woman, died.

It was by her that Beann-duth<sup>(1)</sup>  
 and Dun-na-m-beann<sup>(2)</sup> had been erected.

(1) Beann-duth i.e., the black Gable or pinnacle now commonly  
 called Castle Galem. It is a strong and picturesque building  
 situated one mile N. E. of Ross in the County of Cork.

(2) Dun-na-m-beann, i.e., the fortress of Gables or pinnacles,  
 now anglicized Deennaman, an old Castle between  
 Cron and Adair in the County of Limerick.



(226)  
354  
197

There is another castle in ruin in the Town-  
land of Pullagh <sup>but</sup> I have no historical  
reference to it) and another in the townland  
of Tullovin.

There are also two ruins of churches in this pa-  
rish, one in the townland of <sup>Caherapp</sup> ~~Caherapp~~ and  
the other in the townland of <sup>Churn dnu</sup> ~~Churn dnu~~  
but they are of no great antiquity and I  
have no historical reference whatever to them.

For the correct names of other features and  
localities in this parish see Field name books  
in which I have written them as pronounced  
by the natives of the parish.

Examined by me,  
John O'Donovan

Ballingarry July 28<sup>th</sup> 1840.

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## The parish of Anhid

Situation

This parish is in the <sup>Barri</sup> parish of Coshma, and bounded on all sides by the parish of Groom.

Name. The name of this parish is pronounced in Irish as if written *anid*, but its meaning is not obvious.

There are no remains of antiquity in this parish but a grave yard situated in the townland of Anhid East, in which the old parish church stood, but there is nothing remarkable to be seen about it.

L. P. O'Connell

Ballingarry July 28<sup>th</sup> 1840,

**END**

14 D 18/12

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of the parish of Kiflin (Kilflyn), Co. Limerick, with particular reference to its early churches and the origins of its place name.

28 July 1840

4p.

23 cm

Included are extracts from Archdall's 'Monasticum Hibernicum' and the 'Annals of the Four Masters' concerning the murder of Mahon, brother of Brian Boróimhe, in 976.



## The parish of Kilflin.

Situation.

This parish is situated in the barony of Coshlea and is bounded on the north by the parish of Kilfinnan, on the east by the parish of Darra, on the S. by the parish of Kildorrey in the County of Cork, and on the west by the parish of Particles.

Name.

The name of this parish is pronounced in Irish Bill Fhlainn which signifies the church of Fhlann, but I could gather nothing in the parish to prove which of the saints of that name this Fhlann was.

The site of the original church of this parish is occupied by a modern protestant church and there is no tradition of St. Fhlann in the parish.

In the townland of Abbey in this parish are the ruins of a small abbey called in Irish Mainistir na nGall, i.e. the abbey of the foreigners.

It is in tolerable preservation and measures in length <sup>ft in</sup> 71.8 and in breadth <sup>ft in</sup> 21.8. It has three walls 5.6 thick. It has three doorways 14/0/11/12(i).

(230) 200

doorways, one on the west gable and two on the south wall. The one on the west gable is in the pointed style and is <sup>ft in</sup> 3"5 in width but its height could not be easily ascertained. The more western doorway in the south wall is quadrangular, placed at the distance of 23 feet from the west gable and measures on the inside <sup>ft in</sup> 7"4 in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 4"4 in width but on the outside it is disfigured. The other forms a flat arch at top and is placed at the distance of <sup>ft in</sup> 11"6 from the east gable. The east window is semicircular at top on the inside where it is about <sup>ft in</sup> 11 feet in height, <sup>and 9"3 in width</sup> but on the outside it is entirely disfigured. The south wall contains a window which is round headed inside and outside and placed close to the east gable. It is placed at the height of <sup>ft in</sup> 7"4 from the present level of the ground on the outside where it is <sup>ft in</sup> 3"9 in height & <sup>ft in</sup> 1"0 in width; on the inside it is <sup>ft in</sup> 6"10 in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 5"0 in width. The north wall contains a semi-circular headed window placed at the distance of <sup>ft in</sup> 7"3 from the east gable and measuring on the inside <sup>ft in</sup> 8"7 in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 7"4 in width, and on the outside where it is <sup>ft in</sup> 5"6 from

from the present level of the ground, it measures <sup>201</sup> 5 ft in height and 10 inches in width. The same wall contains another semi-circular headed window placed at the distance of 16 feet to the west of the one already described. It is <sup>where it was divided into two compartments</sup> disfigured on the outside, but it can be ascertained that it was 2 ft. in width. On the inside it is <sup>ft in</sup> 8.7 in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 7.6 in width. Stone steps lead through the thickness of the west gable to the top of the south wall.

In the southern extremity of this parish is situated the famous gap or pass called Bearna Shearg. It is about one Irish mile to the south of this old abbey and on the boundary between the Counties of Cork and Limerick and the road from Kilmallock to Cork passes through it. This gap is well known to Irish historians as the place where Mahon the brother of Brian Boru was murdered by his Eugenician rivals in the year 976.

This murder is thus recorded in the Annals of Inisfallen as translated by the venerable Charles O'Connor of Belanagare:

14/10/18/12(ii)

"A.D. 976. Donovan son of Cathal, prince of  
 " Cairbre Tobhdha treacherously seized upon  
 " Mahon son of Kennedy in his own house  
 " [Donovan's own house] whither he went under  
 " the protection of Boluns son of Biaragan,  
 " Bishop of Cork (who guaranteed his safety)  
 " to make peace with Macmhughadh son  
 " of Bran, to whom (and to his brothers  
 " Seige and Brian) Donovan treacherously  
 " delivered Mahon, who was murdered by them  
 " without respect to the saint who had insured  
 " his safety.

"Some antiquaries say that it was at  
 " Bearna dhearg (Red Chair) on the moun-  
 " tain of Tearmaighe Feine this shocking  
 " murder of Mahon was committed. &c. See  
 " parish of Kruree.

This gap lies between the mountains of  
 Killcraig and Red chair, the former  
 lying on its east and the latter on its  
 west side.

I here insert what Archdall has  
 collected of the history of this place. —



(Archaeology. Mon. Hib. vol 7. P. 1. 64.)  
P. 418

County  
of  
Limerick.

## Ballynegall;

This was a tower of some  
note, and was built by the  
English; at present it is only  
a poor village, situated in the  
barony of Kilinacloa.

The family of Roche founded  
a monastery here for Dominican  
Friars (X) in the 14th century (Y);  
Donaghe & Dongane was the last [see P.]  
prior; Inquisition taken the Monday  
next after the feast of the circumcision  
and

(X) War. mon. (Y) Callemande

and Philip and Mary, finds, that  
he was seized of the site of this  
monastery, containing two acres and  
a church, annual value, besides  
reprises, 2*s*.; also a water mill, annual  
value, besides reprises, 5*s*. 4*d*.; and  
four acres of arable land and  
six of pasture, in Ballinacall, annual  
value, besides reprises, 3*s*. sterling. (9)

[end of  
Ms.]

Queen Elizabeth, in her 39<sup>th</sup> year  
granted the same (which in  
the patent is expressly called a  
carmelite priory) with half a  
carucate of land belonging thereto,  
to the university of Dublin. (3)

---

~~(9) calls name.~~  
(9) chief member, etc. (3) Auditor. General's Office

(235) 205  
2/7/94

Gaugh's Camden R.d. &

Ballynegal

Ballynegal in the barony of Kilmallock, a town of some note, built by the English though now only a poor village, had a Dominican Friary, founded in the 14th century by the family of Roche. This order had another house at Ballynecwillin in this county. (N)

The antiquities of this parish examined by me,  
R. O. Lanehan

note  
(N) Archd. 419. Farrer. 437

14/10/18/12 (N)

**END**



14 D 18/13

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of Kilfinnan (Kilfinnane), Glenbrohaun (Glenbrohane), Galbally, Ballyskadaun (Ballyscadden) and Emlygrynin (Emlygrennan) Co. Limerick, with particular reference to their early churches, holy wells, burial grounds, the origins of their place names and Galbally Abbey and Castle.

[1840]

11p.

23 cm

Included are inscriptions from the graveyard of Ballyscadden.

## The parish of Kilfinnan.

Situation. This parish is situated in the Barony of Boshlea and is bounded on the north by the parishes of Emlygrynn and Glenbrohawn, on the east by the parish of Darra, on the south by that of Kilflin and on the west by the parishes of Bulgadin and Particles.

Name. The name of this parish is in Irish Cill Fhionain, which signifies the cell or church of St. Finan whose festival was formerly kept in the parish, but it is so long retrenched that I could meet no one that remembered his day. His well is still in existence but no stations performed at it.

No part of the original church of St. Finan is now in existence its site being occupied by a small protestant church of no great antiquity.

14/D/18/13(i)

(242)  
207

On the south side of the little town of Kilfinnan stands a conspicuous green moat surrounded by three circumvallations. The moat is nearly flat at top and measures 16 paces in diameter. The ramparts are fully developed on the west side but they have been nearly effaced on the north and east sides. The ramparts are about 14 feet in height from the bottom of the trenches and about 30 feet asunder.

Dr. Lanigan asserts that <sup>this</sup> Kilfinnan is the Kilfintan of the Irish authorities but this is very doubtful. I cannot however speak with certainty on this subject until I shall have examined the barony of Boonagh. It is not impossible that this moat is the Dun Cinn abhra mentioned by Keat-  
-ing as having been erected by Brian Boru, but I have not data enough yet

yet enough to prove it.

(243)

208

This parish was examined  
by me. P. O'Donovan

The parish of Emlygrynin.

Situation. This parish is situated in the barony of Coshlea and is bounded on the north by the parish of Knockany, on the East by the parish of Knocklong, on the South by that of Kilfinnan and on the west by the parish of Béal átha na nDéise (Athneasy)

Name. The name of this parish is in Irish Bile Émryónín, which means Grynin's tree. The anglicised form Emlygrynin is a corruption.

The old church of this place is now destroyed to the very foundations, and even these are so indistinct that the dimensions of the building cannot be ascertained. It appears however that it was but small.

This church was dedicated to St. Molua, the great patron of the Hy. Frigeinte whose well lies near the site of the church. A pattern is annually held at this well on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August.  
14/D/18/13(ii)



(244) 209

In the townland of Baile an bhrighne (Ballinurena)  
in this parish is situated the well of Cethmog well  
is celebrated in Irish Romances about the Ma-  
gician Hugh Ruith or Magus rotie. vide Lib. Lecan  
fol. 133, p. a, col. b. It is situated near the road  
on the boundary between <sup>the parishes of</sup> Emlygreenan and  
Glenbroughan, and is the head of a stream  
called Druth Chuanamhair.

The mountain from <sup>the northern face of</sup> which this stream gushes  
is that called Beann <sup>Claire</sup> ~~abhrat~~ Sliabh ~~Cair~~  
in the Irish Annals as I shall prove  
when treating of the parish of Knock-  
any. Now this name is lost and the  
mountain is called Sliabh riach or  
the grey mountain.

For the Dinseanchus of the Mountain of  
Beann abhrat see Book of Lecan fol 237  
p. a, col. a. -

The antiquities of this  
parish were examined  
by me, J. S. Sonnan.

# The parish of Glenbrohanna..

## Situation.

This parish is bounded on the north by the parish of Knocklong, on the east by the parishes of Galbally and Ballylanders, on the south by those of Kilfinnan and Darra, and on the west by that of Enlygrynia.

Name. The name of this parish is in Irish Gleann bhuacháin the valley of Buachan  
nom: viri.

No part of the old church of this parish remains but the west gable <sup>but</sup> from this it may be inferred that it was a rude building not many centuries old. The foundations <sup>of the other walls</sup> are not traceable so that the length of this church cannot now be determined; but from the impression of the side walls in the gable remaining it can be ascertained that the church was <sup>to be in</sup> 20"3 in length on the inside and the walls 3 feet in thickness. There is a grave yard attached, still used.

One field to the north-west of this

14/10/18/13 (m) church

(246)  
211 church there is a flat moat 23 paces in  
diameter at the top and about 10 ft  
above the level of the field. It  
goes by no name but the moat of  
Gleann Bruachain. Anglice's Glen-  
-brohann.

The antiquities in this parish  
were examined by me.

L. A. Donnan

212  
(247)

## The parish of Galbally.

Situation. This parish is situated in the Barony <sup>of Cashla</sup>, and is bounded on the north by the parish of Emly in the County of Tipperary, on the east by the parish of Blonlag in the Co. of Tipperary on the South by Kilbeahanny, and on the west by the parishes of Ballyshadawn, Glenbrohawn and Ballylanders.

Name. The name of this parish is written in the annals of the Four Masters Gall-bhaile Eatharlach signifying the Englishtown of Aharlagh, so called from its situation immediately to the west of the celebrated Glen of Aharlagh in the County of Tipperary. It must have been called Gall-bhaile <sup>or Englishtown</sup> from the Fitzgeralds, who seem to have settled here before the O'Briens established themselves in this part of the Country.

The old church of Galbally is a remarkably long one, measuring 136 feet in length and 25.9 <sup>ft. in</sup> in breadth. The east <sup>gable</sup> which is

14/D/18/13(IV)<sup>in</sup>



in tolerable preservation containing a rude window which for the extent of the church is a remarkably small one. On the inside it forms a <sup>oblique</sup> flat arch at top and is rudely constructed but on the outside it is formed of cut lime stone and divided into two compartments each of which is shamrockheaded.

This church was lighted by three other windows placed on the south wall but they are so rude and <sup>obviously</sup> apparently so modern as to be unworthy of minute description.

The west gable is destroyed except a small fragment nor the south-west corner. A considerable part of the north wall is destroyed but more than 50 feet of it still remain.

There is a rude doorway on the south wall placed at the distance of 36 feet of the west gable; it forms a flat arch on the inside but on the outside it is dis-  
on the outside and not worth description.

The thickness of the side walls of this church is 4 feet and the greatest height 18 feet.

It is a rude church about four centuries old.

I here insert what the Irish writers have gathered of the history of this place.

Gallbhail Eatharlach.

Annals 4 Masters.

A.D 1471. A monastery was commenced  
for by Franciscan friars in Gallbhail  
Eatharlach in the Diocese of  
Emly in Munster but was destroyed  
the next year.

RIA

14/D/18/13(v)

(251) 345  
215  
(Ancha. Mon. Hil. V. 77. B. I. D.)

L. 420

County  
of  
Limerick.

Gabbally; (K)



Situated in the barony of Boshka.

One of the O'Brien family founded  
a considerable monastery here for  
Gray Friars (I); and the ruins of it,  
yet remaining, with those of several  
~~of several~~ other religious foundations,  
sufficiently show the ancient magnifi-  
cence of Gabbally. (m)

XX. January XXXV K. Henry VII. This  
monastery, with three gardens, six  
messuages, and six acres of arable land,  
was granted, in capite, to John of  
Desmond

(K) Collea. athenire cloutre (I) War. mon.

(m) O'Halloran.

14/2/18/13(VI)

216  
3476 (252)

Demand, for ever, at the yearly rent  
[u. l.] of 4d. Irish money; (2)

But inquisition taken 1 September,  
XXVII 2. Elizabeth, finds that James  
son of the said John forfeited the  
same by high Treason and was  
killed in that rebellion (u. l.)

Inquisition 14th October I. K. Charles  
finds that R. James being seized  
of this monastery and the whole  
territory of Atharloe with the appurte-  
nances belonging thereto in the counties  
of Limerick and Tipperary, did grant  
the same 30th march IX. of his reign  
to Thomas Cantwell and his heirs and  
assigns for ever, to be held as of his  
castle

---

(2) Auditor General (u. l. chief remembrancer)



castle of Dublin in common  
 socage; at the annual rent  
 of £ 90 Sterl; for the first 14 years  
 & afterwards at £ 00 sterl; annually End  
of  
Chur  
 (p 3)

### Holy - Cross;

Inquisition 8 march 1422. Elizabeth  
 finds that the prior of this house  
 in the county of Limerick, was  
 seized in fee of the rectory of  
 St. John in the suburbs of the  
 city of Limerick which was  
 annexed to this priory, and was  
 of the annual value of 204

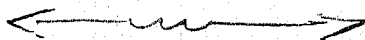
(p 3) Rot. Canon. Hib. m. 8.

14/0/18/13 (vii)

(Gaughes Camden)

(255) 218  
~~374~~

Gallally



At Gallally are ruins of a  
monastery of Grey friars, founded  
by one of the O'Briens<sup>(u)</sup>

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note  
(u) H. Harris, 440.

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219 (256)

~~3712~~

This as  
they belong  
to the County  
of Tipperary  
and this  
description  
should be  
transferred  
to the  
County,  
Dad

The old abbey of Galbally is situated about 1/2 mile to the east of the village. It looks more like a large church divided into nave and choir with a tower over the choir arch, than an abbey. Its choir measures on the inside <sup>ft in</sup> 38.10 in length and 23 ft in breadth. Its walls are in good preservation; they are <sup>ft in</sup> 3.10 thick and about 24 feet high.

The east gable contains a large Gothic window divided into three compartments and measuring <sup>ft in</sup> 6.2 in breadth and about 12 ft in height on the outside.

At the distance of 12 feet from the east gable there is another pointed window on the south wall, which was originally divided into three compartments but they are now broken. This window is on the outside about 7 feet in height and <sup>about</sup> half that in width.

Close to the Choir arch there is another window on the south wall there is another pointed window, the outer part of which is divided into two compartments and measures <sup>ft in</sup> 7.10 in height and

in

in width <sup>ft in</sup> 3.7.

(257)

220

There is a rude doorway on the north wall of the Choir placed at the distance of 13 feet from the east gable; it forms a flat arch at top on the inside but on the outside it is disfigured and not worth description.

The arches from which the tower springs look remarkably narrow for their height being about 27 feet in height and only <sup>ft in</sup> 8.4 in width. The lower part of the tower, (that is, the part extending from the ground to the tops of these arches,) is lighted by two small placed on the south side, the one is about 6 inches square and the other which is placed over it, is shamrock headed and measures about <sup>ft in</sup> 2.4 in height and 10 inches in width. The upper part of the tower was lighted by seven windows, two on the south side, two on the east ~~and~~ two on the west and one on the north side; some of them are now disfigured.

The Distance from the eastern face of the eastern arch to that of the western arch is <sup>ft in</sup> 17.4, and the thickness of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> walls, <sup>ft in</sup> 4.2.

14/10/18/13 (K)



(258)  
221 The nave of this abbey, measures <sup>ft</sup> 44 <sup>in</sup> 10 in length and <sup>ft</sup> 23 <sup>in</sup> 0 in breadth. Its doorway, which was on the south wall is reduced to a shapeless breach, and its west gable, which contained a large window and perhaps a doorway, also has a large breach in its <sup>middle</sup> extending from the ground to the top of its present height which is little more than that of the side walls.

There was a large window on the south wall of this nave close to the tower, but it is now much disfigured and built up with rough mason work. There is a spiral stair case <sup>consisting of 36 steps</sup> leading from the S.W. corner to the top of the south wall. It is lighted by three narrow apertures which are <sup>about</sup> 4 feet high and 4 inches in width.

To the south of Galbally are visible small traces of Galbally castle, but ~~it is~~ they are too indistinct to give any measurements of them.

In the townland of Duntyleague about <sup>3</sup> miles to the west of the village of Galbally are visible slight traces of the Doon which was built here by the famous Brian Boru; they are in the church yard and to the N. E. of the protestant church of Duntyleague, but they are so indistinct that no definite idea can now be formed of the extent or importance of the Doon.

On the hill lying to the east of this church of Duntyleague there is in the middle of the heath, a very remarkable sepulchral monument universally called Leabaidh Dhiarmada agus Ghraine i.e. Dermot and Grania's Bed.

It consists of a Cromlech formed of three flag stones standing on edge on the north side, two on the east side and three on the south side, covered over the ad with two masonry <sup>in</sup> flag stones, one towards the N. W. the other on the S. E. the south-east end of the former supporting the latter. The former measures <sup>ft in</sup> 6" 8 by <sup>ft in</sup> 5" 10 and the latter <sup>ft in</sup> 6" 10 by <sup>ft in</sup> 4" 5  
14/10/18(13x)

The greatest height of the first flag from the present level of the ground is <sup>50 in</sup> 5.10.

From this Cromlech standing stones extend in a north and north west direction, and there are two large flag stones displaced which they evidently supported.

This monument presents all the appearance of having been the burial place of a number of persons. The hill on which it stands commands <sup>a prospect</sup> a panoramic view of the Country in every direction: of Sleibhte Eibhlime to the north, of the Galtees which lie at no great distance to the south East, of Kenn febrat which lies to the south, and of a most beautiful and fertile tract of Country in every direction.

For the names of the wells and <sup>224</sup> other features of that description in this parish see field name books.

Examined by me  
D. Donovan

The parish of Ballyskaddan. —

### Situation.

This parish is situated in the Barony of Coshlea, and is bounded on the north by the parish of Emly in the County of Tipperary, on the east <sup>and south</sup> by the parish of Galbally and on the west by that of Knocklong.

Name. The name of this parish is pronounced in Irish Béal áith na sgadán which signifies the mouth of the ford of herrings, "hiccup a non lucendo" for there never was a living herring in the ford, unless some miraculous snap which St. Molua may have produced.

No part of the old church of Béalaskaddan is now in existence, nor could even its site be pointed out, but its graveyard re-



(262) 225

-main, and within it a pyramidal monument to the family of Ryves which exhibits the following inscription on its west side:

" This monument was erected by  
" William Ryves of Castlejane Esq.  
" Anno Domini 1779 in memory of  
" his <sup>grand</sup> father William who departed this  
" life Anno Domini 1705, and of  
" his father Nicholas deceased An-  
" no Domini 1714, (Descendants of an  
" ancient family in Dorsetshire  
" England's".

Examined by me

L. O'Donovan

**END**

14 D 18/14

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; O'Connor, Thomas; Wakeman, William Frederick  
Notes, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of  
Kilbehany (Kilbeheny) and Knockainy, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to  
their early churches, forts, castles, burial grounds and the origins of its place  
name.

5-6 August 1840

27p.

23 cm

ill; ink sketch of Baggotstown Castle, Co. Limerick, [by William Fredrick Wakeman].  
Included are related extracts from the 'Annals of the Four Masters', Archdalls'  
'Monasticum Hibernicum', the Royal Irish Academy's 'Transactions' and the  
'Annals of Innisfallen', annotated and signed by E[ugene] C[urry].

The parish of Kilbehany

(263)  
226

Antiquities examined  
by W. A. Curry, Esq.

Situation.

This parish is situated in the barony of Coshlea and is bounded on the north by the parish of Clonbeg in the County of Tipperary, on the east by the parish of Ballybreen in the same County, on the south by the parish of Mitchelstown in the County of Cork and on the west by the parishes of Galbally and Ballylanders in the Co. of Limerick and Charabulstown in the County of Cork.

Name. The name of this parish is written Gill Beithne in the annals of the Four Masters at the year 1502, where the following passage occurs:

"Donogh O'Brien died. [His character is then given] "He was lord of that district extending from A Lair to Limerick and from Baile ~~near to the Monasteranagh~~ <sup>[also]</sup> ~~to the Monasteranagh~~ and was lord of Aherlagh and Gill Beithne."

The name Gill Beithne probably signifies the church  
14/10/18/14 (1)



(264)  
22<sup>nd</sup> Church of the Birch trees.

The old church of this parish is in tolerable preservation. It measures on the inside 48 ft in length and <sup>ft in</sup> 21<sup>ft in</sup> 6 in breadth.

The east window<sup>s</sup> on the inside rectangular, but on the outside pointed and divided into two compartments; on the inside it is 6 feet in height and 5 ft in width; on the outside <sup>ft in</sup> 4<sup>ft in</sup> 7 in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 1<sup>ft in</sup> 5 in width; each compartment 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches.

At the distance of <sup>ft in</sup> 5<sup>ft in</sup> 3 from the east gable the south wall contains a quadrangular window measuring on the inside 5 ft in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 2<sup>ft in</sup> 10, and on the outside <sup>ft in</sup> 3<sup>ft in</sup> 6 in height and 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches in width.

At the distance of 16 feet from the west the south wall contains the doorway which is pointed on the outside and rectangular on the inside where it is covered with a lintel and measuring on the inside <sup>ft in</sup> 6<sup>ft in</sup> 3 by 4 ft and 6 ft by <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> on the outside. It is constructed of cut lime stone.

There was another doorway on the west gable but it is now nearly destroyed.

The north wall contains a round headed window placed at the distance of <sup>ft in</sup> 4<sup>ft in</sup> 6 from the east gable.

gable  
measuring on the inside 4 ft in height (265)  
and 3 ft in width and on the outside 3 ft 4 in 228  
in height and 5½ inches in width.

The walls of this church are 12 feet high and 3 feet thick, and built of small round brown stones. This church is situated on high ground and has a large burial ground attached to it.

About ½ mile to the west of this church there is a small burial ground in which the natives believe the original church, called Pill Beithne stood.

On the townland of <sup>to the west of this church</sup> castle quarter, there is a ruin of an old castle which was built, according to tradition, by Beithne O'Brien, who also built and gave name to the church of Kilbeahany. Its south and west walls are destroyed down to the very foundations excepting a small fragment of the south wall.

This castle measured on the inside 24 feet in length and 18 ft in breadth and consisted of five stories. Its walls are about 60 feet high and 4 ft 6 in thick.

14/10/18/14 (11)

## The parish of Knockainy.

Situation.

This parish is situated in the barony of Small County, and is bounded on the north by the parishes of Kilcorney and Monasteranenagh; on the ~~east~~<sup>west</sup> by those of Ballynagallagh, Bruff and Uregary, on the south by that of Athlucasy and on the east by those of Hospital Ballynamona and Kilkillaan.

Name. The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, but derived from that of the hill near which the original parish church was placed and this hill derived its name of Knoc Aine, i.e. Aine's hill from the Lady Aine, the daughter of Eógabhair, who is still believed to haunt the hill in the shape of a Banshee. She is the next most distinguished Banshee of Munster next after Beirne of

(267)  
230

of Bragla in Thomond and is very frequently alluded to in their elegies by the Munster bards of the last century. She is even mentioned in Cormac's Glossary as the person from whom the highest ground in the territory of Cliaich took its name of Knoc Aine.

The church of Knockainy, situated in the townland of Knockany west is still in good preservation. It is said to have been built in the year 1400. In the townland of Loughgur near the south margin of the lake of Loughgur there is an old church called Teampall Nua i.e. the new church; a name originally given in contradistinction from some older church in its vicinity. It is well built and measures on the inside <sup>ft in</sup> 56" 6 in length and <sup>ft in</sup> 27" 6 in breadth. The

14/2/18/14 (11)



(268)  
231 The window in the east gable is semi-circular at top and measures <sup>on</sup> the inside 10 feet in height and  $5\text{ ft } 6\text{ in}$  in width, and on the outside  $7\text{ ft } 11\text{ in}$  in height and  $2\text{ ft } 2\frac{1}{2}\text{ in}$  in width; on the outside it is divided into two compartments, (each division being <sup>painted at top, and</sup> 11 inches in width) is placed at the height of 8 feet from the ground. All this window is built of cut lime stones.

At the distance of 3 feet from the east gable the south wall contains a window which is rectangular on the inside and pointed on the outside. On the inside it measures 5 feet in height and 3 ft in width and on the outside  $3\text{ ft } 5\text{ in}$  in height and 6 inches in width. It is constructed of cut lime stone on the outside.

At the distance of  $7\text{ ft } 4\text{ in}$  from this

(269)  
this window the same wall contains <sup>232</sup>  
another window of much larger  
dimensions; it is disfigured on  
the inside but in tolerable pre-  
-servation on the outside, where  
it is of a <sup>an oblong</sup> quadrangular form  
measuring <sup>ft in</sup> 5"7 by <sup>ft in</sup> 4"6. It is di-  
-vided into six compartments, each mea-  
-suring 1.4 in width.

The doorway is placed on the same  
[South] wall at the distance of  
<sup>ft in</sup> 21"7 from the west gable. It mea-  
-sures on the inside <sup>ft in</sup> 7"2 in height  
and <sup>ft in</sup> 4"3 in width, and on the  
outside <sup>ft in</sup> 6"4 in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 3"5  
in width; on the inside this  
doorway forms a flat arch and  
on the outside a round one, and  
is built of cut lime stone on  
both sides. Between this doorway  
14/D/18/14(W) and

and the west gable and placed within 8 feet of the latter there was a large window, but it is now reduced to a formless breach in the wall.

The west gable is surmounted with a round Belfry, consisting of one round arch, and also a small <sup>quadrangular</sup> window placed at the height of 10 feet from the ground and measuring on the outside about 4 feet in height and 7 inches in width. It is quadrangular on the inside and round-headed on the outside.

The walls of this church are about 12 feet high and exactly 4 feet thick, and built of stones

stones of a regular size cement-  
ed with lime and sand mortar.

*This chapel, according to Fitzgerald's History of Limerick, was built by the Councils of Bath - Dec. p. 811.*

There is a large grave yard  
attached to this church but  
not much in use at present.

In this parish at the foot of Knockadoon  
hill at the south side of Lough Gur lake  
are the ruins of a castle called "Black Castle".  
It is a mere ruin but it can be ascertained  
that it was a square tower on a strong wall  
which fortified this hill and rendered ac-  
cess to Lough Gur castle on this side al-  
most impossible. This tower measures on  
the inside 25 ft by 13.4 <sup>ft m</sup>. The arch over  
the ground floor remains and the part  
of the south wall now standing is about  
35 feet in height; the other walls are  
destroyed down to about 12 feet. The  
walls of this castle are 7.6 <sup>ft m</sup> thick.  
There is a gateway on the strong wall  
above alluded to a short distance

14/D/18/14(V) to



(272) to the east of this tower, and through this  
235 gateway the road to the great Castle of  
Lough Gur leads.

The great Castle of Lough Gur is  
situated at the foot of the same hill  
of Knockadoon at the N. E. side. It  
is a square Castle of great strength  
measuring on the outside 49 feet by  
33<sup>ft m</sup> 6. Its walls are about 75 feet high  
and seem to have been higher, and  
it consists at present of five stories.

Fitzgerald in his history of Limerick conjectures  
that this castle was built in the reign of  
Elizabeth by Sir George Bauchier, son to the  
second Earl of Bath, to whom an Desmond's  
forfeiture Lough Gur was granted. This is very  
likely for Carew mentions but one Castle at  
Lough Gur and this is doubtless the one  
now called the Black Castle.

(273) 385

RIA

14/0/18/14 (vi)

# Dunached *[Annals of the 4 Mts.]* *Cont. 16. 17.*

ed. 2.

1088. **S**loicé la domnall m mpe lochlaín la rúg úilg co tuarceyr efi mme h  
ceonachtaib co aqr Krayóy ra Concobair y Conáche galla cōmáche rle do.

Do deoicé dīblmīb da rochruaīa īssyn mu-  
niān do po loipepte lymneach a po mōpāipe -  
mācāipe na mrmān. i. co mleach rubair, a loch  
zair, a bzuīpūg, a dūnācēo, a co dūym ra  
clepcēn, a pucepat clno mē cashech y Kraype  
oēnoeāib Samceyll, a <sup>no</sup>toceāillpe, a po muppat  
clno corāo a po zāipat ocht bpeit lēc eē galla  
a gēoīeāla mēgallm, a ānāīte, a tānzaīte dīa  
aiīgīb iapām āīāo poīgne na nāīte īssyn īpāc  
īpāoāīān y Cyn deīā mē dīāt īoēcān a īpāc  
eachdach īlomzīpōch Do pād, bā, ech, oī, āīpūg y  
cāpnatī ācenel o īpūpēīrāc ra bīpām māīpūpācācō.

1090. Krayóy ra Concobair do loicē dīne āīcē.

1008. For the only notice of *Brughvigh* see *Dunached*.

*Lough Gair.* see *Dunached*.

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(275)  
387

See this passage as translated from  
the annals of Iniofallen (by Ch.  
O'Conor,) in the notice of Bruree pa-  
rish.

14/0/18/14 (vii)



# Lough Gair now Loch Gair

[Compared *OK*]

A.D.

1088. See Dunached at this year, p. 386.

Donnell Mac Loughlin and Roderic O'honor plundered the plain of Munster as far as Emly, Lough Gur Bruce and Dun Aiched.

The Dun Aiched here mentioned is in all probability the fort now called Dunkip situated in the south of the parish of Dysart not far from Kroom. Dunkip is one of the highest forts in the County.

Dr. Walsby Ph.D.

1516. A quarrel broke out between the Fitzgibbon  
and James Fitz-Maurice, the heir to  
the Earldom, who resided on the borders of  
Lough-Gur, and the chiefs of whose army  
were the following; viz. MacCarthy Cairbreach  
(Donall, the son of Fingim) Cormac age, the son  
of Cormac, who was son of Seige, Cormac;  
the son of Donogh age MacCarthy, Lord  
of Calla (Duhallow) the white Knight, the  
Knight of Glyn, the Knight of Kerry,  
Fitz-Maurice, O'Conor and the (all)-  
sustaining tower of the battle MacCarthy  
more Cormac Ladhrae.

John, the son of The Earl, went to complain  
of his distress to the Dalcaissians, they were  
united

14/12/18/14 (viii)

Friendship and  
united by marriage, Moe, the daughter  
of Donogh (O'Brien) the son of Brian Duff  
being wife to this John; and O'Brien from  
friendship and respect rose and assembled  
the Thomonians, and was joined by Pierce,  
the son of James Butler and others of  
his adherents; all of whom advanced to  
meet the Geraldine army. As soon as the  
Son of the Earl perceived the nobles of  
the great army of the O'Briens approaching  
he took counsel of his people who ad-  
vised him not to come to a meeting with  
them, but to leave the town without hazard-  
ing an engagement; and thus they parted  
from each other.

With

A.D.

Lough Gur

(279)  
244

1579.

\*

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\*

\*

\*

[See Limerick at this year, -394  
P455 for the whole of this article.]

With regard ~~referred~~ to Captain Mauley,  
 he after the death of the Lord Chief Justice  
 proceeded to Limerick to obtain a new  
 supply of Artillery and to procure provisions  
 for his Soldiers. From thence he marched  
 to Askeaton. On the same day the young  
 Sons of the Earl of Desmond came to look  
 for arms or spoils in the County of Limerick  
 and they and the Captain met each  
 other face to face although they had sought  
 to avoid instead of to meet him. A battle  
 was bravely fought between both parties  
 in which the Irish Army were so resolutely  
 opposed by the Captain's forces that they  
 were

14/2/18/14 (18)



were finally defeated, with the loss of  
Thomas, the Son of John Age, who was  
son of John, who was Son of Thomas,  
who was Son of the Earl, and even  
the Son of Edmond age who was Son of  
Edmond, who was Son of Torlogh M<sup>c</sup>-  
Sheehy, <sup>and</sup> with a great number of the Constables  
of the Clan Sheehy, as well as a great many  
of the forces of the Sons of the Earl.

Considerable spoils consisting of weapons  
and military accoutrements were  
left on this occasion to the Captains people.

This battle was fought at Donagh-beag <sup>(now Monasteranenagh)</sup>

The Captain after this remained almost  
a whole week at Asricaton The Geraldines  
threatening

threatening every day to give him battle,  
although they did not. The Captain destroyed  
the monastery of that town and then proceeded  
to Adaire where he remained subjugating  
the people of that neighbourhood until  
the new Chief Justice Sir William Bellan,  
the Earl of Kildare, and the Earl of  
Armond came and joined him. They  
all encamped together in Hy-Gonillo.  
The Earl of Desmond did not proceed  
to meet them on this occasion, because his  
territory had been ravaged and his people  
destroyed contrary to their promise to him  
that there should not be molestation.

The English seeing, that the Earl had joined  
his relatives consulted together and resolved  
to

14/12/18/14(x)

244  
394 (282.)

to station their wardens in his towns,  
viz. in Lough-Gur, Rathmore, Castle morisson,  
Adaire, and Kilmallock, and depart  
themselves for their respective homes.

In consequence of this the whole Country  
from Liachair Deaghaidh to the Liire,  
(now the mountain of Shene Riach)  
and from Kenfebrat to the Shannon  
was rendered miserable.

[i.e. recovered.]

1544. The Earl of Desmond took Lough\*  
Gur from the Queen's people.

\* 'Hec' (the president of Munster) founde it to be a place of  
"exceedinge strength by reason that it was an Island encompassed  
"with a deep Lough the breadth thereof being in the narrowest  
"place a Calivers shot over. Upon one side thereof standeth a  
"verie strong Castle, which at this time was manned  
"with a good garrison."

Pacata Hibernia vol. I. p. 80.

- (1) Still known by that name. There are the ruins of a very strong castle on a point of land running into the ~~Laugh furr~~ Lake - the remains of some very remarkable Druidic circles at the same place attract much of the attention of the curious.

E.C.

14/0/18/14(xi)



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396  
246  
L. 114

1088. <sup>all. D</sup> Starting with Donal Mac Leolin together with  
 the men of Doonall and of Ross plundering & pressing  
 Conraght to perform his promise to Murchintach  
 O'Brian L. of Munster, but Murchintach did  
 not fulfil his engagements then Donal with  
 his host ~~repaired~~ repaired to Rath Bluschan  
 where Roderic O'Connor paid him homage and  
 obedience and entertained Donal for a fortnight,  
 then both with their hosts marched to Munster &  
 pressed and wasted all Munster to <sup>[Emily]</sup> ~~Inleachshahar~~  
 and to <sup>[Lough Gur]</sup> ~~Loch gair~~ <sup>[Bunree]</sup> to Brughie and <sup>[Drummin]</sup> ~~Droman~~ <sup>[recte Mungret Lod]</sup> ~~Uic-~~  
~~clerican~~ and ~~Mountgarret~~ <sup>Conelled</sup>  
~~Limric~~, and they brought the head <sup>of</sup> Art Uallach  
 O'Ruark from the hillocks of <sup>[Singland at Limerick]</sup> ~~Saingile~~ & destroyed  
<sup>[Kincora at Killaloe]</sup> ~~Clam Corann~~ and they took one hundred & eighty  
 soldiers of the Gales and of the Irish, and  
 they brought hostages, viz. Mac Mahon ~~Mac~~  
 O'Binney & Congalach O'Hogan, and the son of  
 Eochy

Cochy O'Leary; until great deal of King,  
Gold, Ribs and Cups, & Silver was given  
by Murtach O'Brien for their redemption.

For Murchantach was in Leinster at  
this time. It was by the direction of  
Dermot Son of Toirdhealbach O'Dwyer  
these actions were committed.

1144. Donough Son of Murrough Mac Eathra  
repaired to O'Brien's Bridge to main-  
tain the sovereignty, where he slew  
Donough Son of Kennedy O'Brien and  
repaired from thence <sup>to</sup> Luachair westward,  
and returned again into the Deiry's,  
where he was betrayed by O'Flannagan,  
and delivered up a prisoner to be kept  
in confinement in Lough Goir & died there.

248  
~~398~~  
286

A.D.

[Lough Gur]

1178.

Loch gur was plundered by Coilean<sup>\*</sup>  
of blaonglais. (Aenglas now bla-  
-glass near Abbeyfeale)

\* Now anglicised Colliu. &c.

Lough Gur is still frequented by that  
famous Earl of Desmond, called by the  
Irish gearoid Parla, who is believed to  
have been carried away by the fairies  
among whom he <sup>now</sup> enjoys a hybrid<sup>kind of</sup> existence  
being still a man but partaking of the  
imperishability of the fairies. He  
is frequently seen by the peasantry  
riding over the surface of Lough Gur  
at the head of a body of cavalry!

L.D. Donovan

Highgate

(287)

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[Transaction of the B. I. A.  
Antiquities Vol. XV. p. 138.]

At Grange, half a mile from Lough Gur, near Rillballyowen, County of Limerick, there are still remaining, in good preservation, three circles of different dimensions, which stand so <sup>near</sup> each other, that they probably were employed at the same time in the celebration of of the mysteries. On the north east stands the smallest, forty-five in diameter. A perfect circle, formed of stones of large size, placed at intervals, all from four to five feet high, and several of them with squared flat tops. Fifty feet <sup>to</sup> west of this circle there is a second, measuring an hundred and sixty feet in diameter. Sixty stones <sup>are</sup> only left, in some parts standing quite close together, in others a wide gap between. These stones are all about three feet in height, and the ground around and within the circle is perfectly level.

About twenty feet south-east stands an irregular

conical

14/D/18/14(XII)



conical stone four feet high; and at forty-five feet due east of this, another oblong stone lies prostrate, seeming to have fallen. It is worthy of observation, that the situation in which the conical stone and the pillar-stone are here placed, is much the same as that in which some remarkable stones of corresponding character are found at a circular temple called Temple Brian, in the County of Cork.\*

\* \* \* \* \*

An hundred and twenty feet due south of this circle a third presents itself, an hundred and thirty feet across. Only forty-three stones of various dimensions remain, forming a perfect circle; some of them are very small, while one in the north-east part of the circle is seven feet and a half high by five in breadth; nearly opposite to it stands another very little smaller. Many of the intermediate stones have been removed,

(\*) Smith's History of Cork, II. p. 418.

252  
257  
405  
(289)

and a part of the north side of the circumference has been much disturbed by a ditch lately made close to it. The whole of this southern circle is surrounded by a mound about fifteen feet broad and about four feet high, which skirts along the outside edge of the stones, enclosing the area within them as a pit of three or four feet deep. (1)

(1) The Revd W. L. Beaufort, who measured the whole, and made a plan of the ground.

Lough Gur.

Near Lough Gur the seat of —  
 Henry Baylie, Esq; are remains of  
 a druidical temple (?) three circles  
 of stones, the principal about 150 feet  
 diameter, consisting of 60 stones, of  
 which the largest is 16 feet long, 6 broad  
 and 4 thick. Near them on a hill  
 is a small cromlech (h)

note

g. ~~Steele~~, 112-115. (3) Wilson 358. Trif. 314.

h. Wilson, 358.

14/10/18/14 (xv)

406

I think <sup>that the</sup> <sup>belongs to this</sup> <sup>parish</sup> <sup>of Ballinacorney</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>near the</sup> south side of Lough Gur and not far from Blackcastle is a giant's grave of great size and divided into two parts, of which the first measures 14 feet in length and 5 in breadth. This division was originally covered over <sup>to</sup> with three ~~massy~~ flag stones, of which two are now displaced. The largest of these stones, <sup>which is in the middle</sup> measures 7 feet in length 4 ft in breadth and 1.6 in <sup>to</sup> thickness. The other division of this grave is on a line with the former and extends westward; it is 7 feet in length and 4 ft in breadth.

On the summit of Knockadoon are traces of a small circle of stones, in the centre of which there was a cairn of which a considerable part still remains.

On the south slope of the same hill, a short distance to the west of the above cairn ~~there~~ and about 60 yards from the water there is another circle of larger dimensions but now nearly destroyed.

According to Keating the Island of Lough Gur was fortified by Brian Boru. This is doubtlessly the hill of Knockadoon i.e. Collis arceps, i.e. the hill of the fort.



The grey rocks of Lough Gur are noticed <sup>407</sup> in the most ancient Irish Romances. Thus in the Book of Glendalough fol 105, a b is a description of the <sup>course</sup> march of a northern army into the south:

" They proceeded from the green of Dun  
da Cherron in Ulster by Cathair Aisrin, by  
Li tuagha, by Dun Rigaix, over the rivers  
Ollar and Allarix into the plain of Macha,  
by Sliabh Tuait, by Sth na faraire, by  
Port noth Concubair into the plain of Stuir-  
themne, into the country of Saithes, over  
Dubid, over the stream of Bayn into the plain  
of Bregia and alleath, into the old plain  
of Lena (Uloylena) over the Broinach of  
Bladhma keeping their left towards Bearna,  
Meara which is now called Bearnan Gile,  
(the Devil's Bit) and their right towards  
Sliabh Bibhlinne, over the clear stream called  
Abhainn Ua g Cathladha into the great plain  
of Munster, through the middle of Mairtine,  
and southwards to Smeastan, by the <sup>grey</sup> white  
rocks of Lough Gur, and over the stream

408 "of Maig into Clu Mail mhic Ugain in the  
 "territory of Deise beg in the province of  
 "Cusci Mac Dary."

On the summit of the western part of  
 Knockaine in this parish there is an  
 earthen fort or Doon, which, according  
 to Keating was erected by the famous  
 Brian Boru. In its present state it  
 has but one circular rampart of  
 earth measuring 41 paces in diameter.  
 It had a ditch and perhaps outer  
 circumvallations but these have been  
 destroyed. This fort is called Dun  
Aine Cliach by Keating in the reign  
 of the monarch Brian.

"Brian erected many bridges, causeways  
 and made many great roads, and erected  
 and repaired many Doons, fastnesses and  
 islands. He fortified Cashel of the Kings  
Beann abhradh Loch a be, the is-  
 land of Lough Gur, Dun Eochair  
Mhaighle otherwise called Brugh ri<sup>(Brugh)</sup>  
Dun Iasg (Caher bodie) Dun tri liag  
 Dun

256 (295)

<sup>senior?</sup>  
Dun gort, Dun Aine Cliaich, &c. &c. 405

On the top of the eastern part of Knockany there are two small mounds evidently of sepulchral origin.

The following passage in a historical tale preserved in the Book of Glendalough fol. 105. a. b. is exceedingly valuable to the Irish topographer for the light which it throws upon the ancient topography of this part of the County of Limerick:

It represents Cuichullin and his charioteers Lee, as standing on the summit of this hill, and the former telling the latter the names of the mountains <sup>&c.</sup> to the north and south:

"Tell me, my charioteer Lee, dost thou know in what Country we now are?"

"I know it not, indeed," <sup>Replied</sup> said the Charioteer.

"I know it well," said Cuichullin: The mountain lying to the south is peann  
"about Sleibhi Cain, those mountains  
"to the north are Sleibhte Eibhlinne;  
"that bright sheet of water which  
"thou seest is the <sup>lake</sup> pond of Limerick;  
"the hill on which we stand is ~~the~~

14/D/18/14 (XVII) called

(296)

257 ~~#574~~ " called Drum Colcaille (Hazlemount) <sup>it is situated in</sup>  
" which is also called Line Black the  
" territory <sup>of Deise bog</sup> ~~lying to the south of~~  
" ~~Deise bog~~ <sup>to the south of up</sup> The army is in Clie  
" Mail mhic Ugain in the province of  
" Burai Mac Dary."

I examined the hill of Knockany  
on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 1840 and I  
here transcribe my notes on the  
above passage.

" Gleann abharat Sleibhe Cain lying  
" due south of Knockany is now the  
" mountain called Slabh Riach ex-  
" tending from Gleann Bruachain in  
" the direction of the parish of Kilfin  
" in the Barony of Coshlea. Knock-  
" any commands a beautiful view  
" of this mountain. <sup>mountain</sup> Sleibhte Eibhlime  
" described as lying to the north  
" are now called Sleibhte Theidhim  
" They are distinctly visible from  
" Knockany to day but they lie ra-  
" ther to the North east than due  
" north



(297)  
north. What is called Linn Luimnigh in the 258  
above passage is that expansion of the  
Shannon opposite the old Castle of  
Carraigogennell; this linn or expansion  
of the Shannon cannot be seen to day  
in consequence of a fog generated by  
the heat, which envelopes the vale of  
the Shannon, but it can be seen at  
other times. The mountain of Gleann  
na g-Crois at the Clare side of the  
Shannon is distinctly visible through  
the fog. Deise Beg mentioned in the above  
passage <sup>comprises parts of</sup> is the Small County of Limerick  
and of the adjoining parishes,  
as is evident from many other references  
as well as this: the town of Bruff is  
called <sup>at this day</sup> Brugh na Deise, i.e. Burgum Desia  
and the parish of Glunasy is called  
by the Four Masters, and by the natives  
at this day Beal alba na n-Deiseach  
i.e. Os vadi Desiorum. It is the Country  
lying between Knockainy and Sliaoh Riach

14/D/18/14(XVIII) "for

" for the morning Star River which rises  
 " in Griston bog in the parish of Glen-  
 " - braham, passes through Alhenny  
 " and through Bruff on its way to  
 " the Maige is still called in  
 " Irish Abhainn na n-Deiseach i.e.  
 " the River of the (Dees).

" The situation of the tract called  
 " Clon Mail which again is evident  
 " from a passage in the annals of the  
 " Four Masters, which places Beal  
 " Abhainn na n-Deise, in the very centre  
 " of it."

L. O'Donovan, Aug 4<sup>th</sup> 1840.

Bruff na Deise Biger

229/260

Deile in Chetlani p. 86, 87

RIA

14/D/18/14(XIX)

# Aine

[Annals of the 4 Masters]  
comp. c. 1160.

a. d.

666. Cae aine ez quadoha, a ua proglinte du in po mapbas eo gan me Quindomast.

115. Dapunado ra bryam pi munan do epzabasl la quupelprach ra mbryam,

a quupelprach ra bryam do zabasl apzgh do prorr, a techt sloceao illazmb

a pmbzghab quupelprach ra Chapmase tizghna aine, Dominall ra doobam crappaze

quupch ra plamo me planocha tizghna mzecefe do mapb.

1123. Amz <sup>anazentid</sup> ~~anazentid~~ do zabamte por comarba aslie. i. ppolmopda me me

clozema .i. tech do zabasl papp por lap imleca pgh, a poru niac

ceapbasl r Chapmase tizghna aine clach a po mapbas mopp shsgu

ano tepnatap tpa namaste app tpa mpozbasle de, aslie, a na haccasr.

1167. Slraqe, a tocaptal pgh nesi immo ppozfi la Rraorj ra concolaj

Tamc an dapm me Corbme tizghna deapmum, quupelprach ra bryam

tizghna tuadomum, Dapunado ra ppolpraclapno pi mpe, Donch ra

clpbasll tizghna <sup>na</sup> ppozgall a mape laighn ap elna. Ranzax jaram hi tpe

eo gan, a po pamo ra doobam an tpe in do .i. tpe eoz o pteb po traro do mall

ra loclapno .i. dap elno da bpozao .i. ra caeam na coibe, a mac an gall r bryam

a cenel neoz opleb po deap do eo ra nesll dap elno da bpozao ope .i. ra ppolprach,

.i. oclapam



A.D. 666. The battle of Aine between the Hy-Figeinte in which Eogan son of Cruinnial was killed.  
 A.D. 1115. Dermot O'Brien, King of Munster was taken prisoner by Murtoagh O'Brien, and the latter assumed his kingdom again. He made an incursion into Leinster on which occasion Murtoagh O'Kerwick, lord of Aine, Donnell O'Conor Kerry, and Murrogh, the grandson of Flann Mac Blanche were slain.

1123 A strange attack was made on the successor of St. Silbke, Maslmordha, the son of Mac Blathnia, viz a house was taken on him and on the son of Carroll O'Kerwick, <sup>lord of Aine Cliaich</sup> in the middle of Emly, on which occasion six persons were killed, but the great men escaped through the miracle of God, St. Silbke and the church.

A.D. 1167. Roderic O'Conor assembled and mustered the men of Ireland with their chieftains. Thither repaired Dermot, the son of Cormac, <sup>Mac Gortly</sup> lord of Desmond, Murtoagh O'Brien, lord of Thomond, Dermot O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, Donogh O'Carroll, lord of Oriel, and all the chiefs of Leinster. They afterwards went to Tyrone and O'Conor divided the country into two parts between Niall Mac Loughlin and O'Neill, giving that part of Tyrone extending from the mountain of Sliaabh Callan northwards to Mac Loughlin from whom he received two hostages, viz O'Hane of Creeve and Mac an Ghaill O'Brain, and that part of Tyrone extending southwards of the same mountain to Hugh O'Neill, from whom he received

do cénel longz a hua hupcáste do hrib tchupre comatár y neill  
po deipn, lae fpi ep an corla po deap dapi phab fúat q pucpe  
tozapa a dail dapi eappuati pccopnde accobit mryyde a po pónaie ra  
concobápp tighma deapmuman a pccuapde dapi tuadomum po deap zohápe  
clíach zo pccuab, a mapi pómra leo.

1160. <sup>a la tighman ra Rrapp</sup> Sluag la Ruairi na cconcobá zo hápe clíach zo tapzpat  
bpaig de, a po pánopaz muma pmo eie me corbmaje meg Capraiz,  
a domnall me cccpccuab y bpaig, a do pae dá pccit decc bó po  
zpi pccneclano pccpccuab y bpaig la dghmum do Ruairi na dcoig.

received two other hostages, viz O'Maoilaocha, one  
of the Kinel-Aengus, and O'Murly, one of the  
Foy-Tuirtre, O'Neill's own foster brothers. The  
men of Ireland then returned southwards  
some over Slabh Fuaid, some through Ty-  
rone and others through Tyrconnell across  
Assrae (at Ballyshannon) to meet their  
marine fleet, and O'honor escorted the Lord  
of Desmond with his forces through Tho-  
mond and southwards as far as Aine  
Clíach giving them many jewels and pre-  
cious articles.

A.D. 1168, Roderic O'honor and Tiernan O'Rourke marched  
to Aine Clíach, where they obtained hostages & they  
(divided) Munster into two parts between the son of  
Cormac Mac Carthy and Donnell, the son of Lach-  
logh O'Brien, and Desmond rendered unto Roderic O'honor  
three times 240 cows as a mulct for the killing of  
Murtoch O'Brien.

(303)<sup>5</sup>  
(Goughs Candew R. I. A.) 26/4

Amy

→

Amy or Inscrany, a sorry village,  
on a broad and pleasant though  
shallow river in the barony of —  
small County, had a priory of  
Augustine Eremites, founded in  
the reign of Henry II. On the river  
is a noble castle and a smaller  
one in the village, both of which  
belonged to the antient family of  
Fitz-Gerald earl of Desmond. New  
Hospital or commandery of  
Temple is a mile north from

note  
K. Arch. 417. 418. Farrer. 402

The  
14/10/18/14 (XXI)

6 (304)

265

the tower (1) the walls of the  
church and monument of  
the founder remain.

note

(1) Arch. 420. Ferra, Ib.



(307) 266  
Achdalls. Man. Hib. V. 77. B. D. W.  
P. 117.

Arny,

County  
of  
Limerick.

Arny village, consisting of  
a few cabins; it is situated on  
a broad and pleasant, though  
a shallow river, in the barony of  
Inch. County, where a Priory  
for Eremites, following the rule  
of St. Augustine, was founded  
in the reign of King Henry II. by  
John, the son of Robert, and  
Sundry

14/D/18/14 (XII)

267  
12(308).

Sundry others. (m)

M. P. Inquisition 8th march xx 2 Elizabeth  
finds that the Master of  
(Any) was seized of the rectory  
of Buraughe alias Broffe & is  
of the annual value of 20s.

Areas O'Haffernan preceptor of Any was  
Ondas offeffuriam preceptor of Any was

[sic] promoted to the Wth of Emly)

1543 and died about 10 years

End of  
M. P. after - Ware Annals p. 109. & p. 492

20a June xxxi. 2. Elizabeth,

a lease was made to Edward  
(Aboley) and John and Mary  
(Aboley) of this priory for the  
term

(m) War. now.

term of forty years, at the  
annual rent of 49<sup>l</sup>. 7s. 6<sup>d</sup> in  
Irish money. (n)

The ruins of this building are  
still visible.

Here we find a noble castle  
on the river, and a smaller  
one in the village, both of  
which belonged to the ancient  
family of Fitzgeralds, Earls  
of Desmond.

Knockany, castle.

269  
(311)

This castle stands on the South side of the road between ~~Hospital~~ and Bruff, and on the South East side of the hill of Knockany. It measures 22 feet by 13 feet 7 inches in the clear. It retains at present but 3 floors; the one over the ground floor is arched. The walls are about 40 feet high and 7 feet thick.

The people say that this castle was built by one Mathew O'Grady, who was steward to the Earl of Desmond, and that he built it while the Earl was on the continent.

This account agrees with what Fitzgerald states in his history of Limerick, vol: I. p. 307, where speaking of Aney Village, he says:—  
"Here also are the noble ruins  
"of a Castle on the river, erected  
"by the Earl of Desmond; and  
"in the village, is situated a small

14/D/18/14 (xxiv)



(312.)  
270

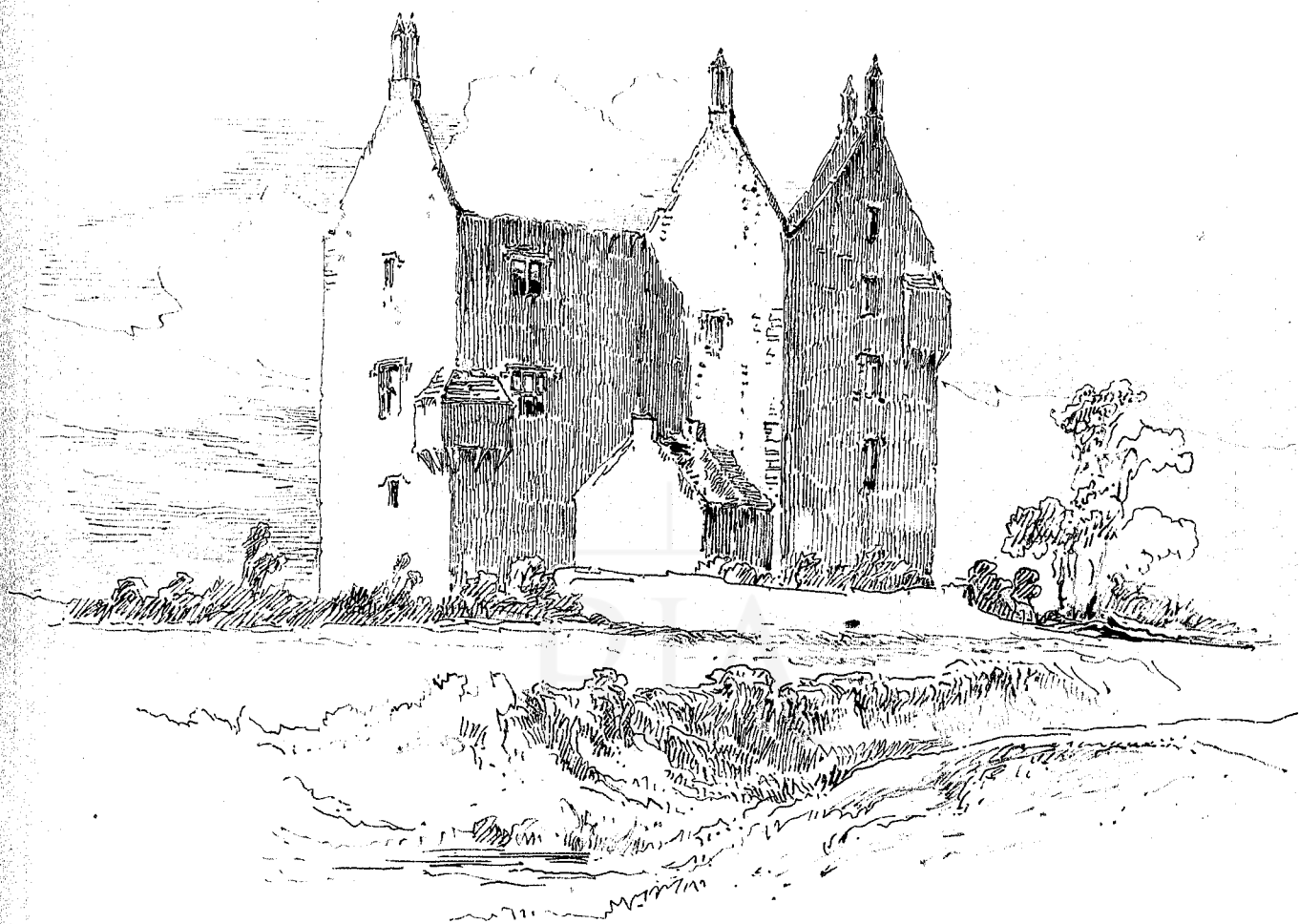
"Castle, built by the O'Grady's of  
"Kilballyowen."

In a note on this statement, he  
says; "The estate of Kilballyowen  
"is said to have been granted to Matt.  
"O'Grady, the first of that family who  
"came here from the county of Clare,  
"by the then Earl of Desmond, for  
"having performed with integrity, the  
"duties of a confidential situation in  
"which he placed him whilst absent on  
"state affairs in England.  
"O'Grady built at that time the Castle  
"in the village in which he placed all  
"Desmond's plate and valuable effects,  
"to protect them from the rapparees  
"who lurked in the woods and infested  
"that part of the county."

About 300 yards to the east of  
the above castle, are the ruins  
of an old Court of the Earl  
of Desmond. These are the ruins  
spoken of in the beginning of the  
above quotation from Fitzgerald.

RIA

14/D/18/14 (XXVI)



Baginbun Castle  
D. Limerick

271  
(313)

## Buggotstown Castle.

This castle now in ruins stands in the townland of Buggotstown in Knockany parish. The East and South walls remain, the North and West ones have been entirely destroyed. It was 33 feet by 23 feet; and at its North East Corner, stands a square tower, equal in height with the rest of the building, and measuring  $14\frac{1}{2}$  feet by  $13\frac{1}{2}$  feet. The first stone arch remains on this tower. This Castle was 5 stories high; the walls are about 60 feet high and 6 feet 8 inches thick. All the windows are quadrangular, built with well chiselled lime stones. This structure rested on oak beams, two of which are still seen.

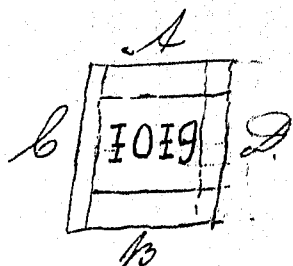
On the floor of the tower, lies a stone, <sup>I</sup> which was built in the West wall until it fell to utter ruin, having the date 1019 inscribed on it.

14/10/18/14 (xxvi)

I. Fitzgerald says, it belonged to one of the Chimnric  
~~see below.~~



(314)  
272



A. b. measures  
1 ft. 10 inches.  
C. D. 1 ft. 2 inches.  
The thickness is  
10 inches.

It is more than probable this date  
was intended for 1619.

Fitz-gerald in his history vol: I. p.  
307. - above referred to, gives the  
following account of this old Castle.  
He says; - "In the parish of Aney  
"are the ruins of the fine castle of Bag-  
"gotstown, built by the family of the  
"Baggots. It has 5 chimnies of polish-  
"ed stone in shape of an hexagon,  
"and the top of each is so formed  
"as to have the appearance of an  
"inverted Cone: this Castle formed two  
"sides of a square. It has no appearance  
"of having been defended by outworks.  
"but it was rendered almost inaccessi-  
-ble

(315)  
273

"ble by the marshy-grounds and  
"trenches by which it is surrounded. John  
"Baggot of this place, attended the  
"general assembly of Confederate  
"Catholics which met at Millkenny,  
"on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, 1647: he was  
"also one of the commissioners on  
"the side of the Irish, who signed  
"the Articles of Limerick with Ireton,  
"on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 1651. His son  
"Maurice Baggot of Baggots town,  
"was among those, who were ex-  
"cepted from general pardon on  
"the surrender of the city, at the  
"same time; and the Castle and  
"vast estate annexed to it, were  
"then forfeited.  
"On a square stone of one of those  
"chimnies, which has fallen, - are  
"the figures 1019 in alto relievo,  
"which some imagine to be the date  
"of the year in which the Castle  
"was built; but from every ap-

(316)  
27/4

"-pearance, it seems to have been  
"erected at a much later period.

On the townland of Rathany,  
parish of Carrigrohane, is situated, a green  
flat Moat 22 paces in diameter  
and about 10 feet high. There is  
no ditch around it, nor is there  
any appearance of an old  
building at it.

The antiquities in this parish were  
examined by me and Mr. A. Barry.

J. O'Connor

Aug, 6<sup>th</sup> 1840.

**END**



14 D 18/15

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

Notes, relating to the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Bruree,  
Co. Limerick, with particular reference to its forts and castles.

21 July 1840

16p.

23 cm

Included are related extracts from the 'Annals of Innisfallen' , the 'Book of Rights'  
and O'Heerin's topographical poetry.

RIA

2/5  
3/7

The parish of Breese.-

Situation. This parish is situated partly in the barony of Small county and partly in that of upper Connello; it is bounded on the north by the parish of Croom, on the east by Drummis and Tankardstown, on the south by Colman's well and Blackmeys, and on the west by Castle-town Mac Eniry and Ballingarry.

Name. The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, but derived from the fort in which the King of Ely-Figeinte resided near which fort the original parish church was placed; it is celebrated in all the ancient Irish histories as the <sup>chief</sup> seat of the senior representatives of Fiacha Figeinte, who, after the reign of Brian Boru, took the surname of O'Donovan. Burgh righ signifies the fort of the King; - Burgum regis.

I shall here transcribe what Gough and Fitzgerald have written about this

276 place and point out some errors into which they have fallen. Gough writes:

"The county of Limerick, before the arrival  
 " of the English was a kingdom or large  
 " principality of itself denominated by the  
 " Irish during the middle ages Aine Cliach<sup>\*</sup>  
 " or Eoganacht Aine Cliach; the chief or  
 " King of which O'Kierwick or Hy. Biaraigh  
 " descended from Feidhlim, son of Nadjry,  
 " King of Munster, who had several dynasts  
 " or subordinate chiefs of the several can-  
 " treds under him<sup>+</sup> that is Maithne, Carrig-  
 " oginniol, baibre, Aobhscha, Hy-bomuil  
 " gabhra and bonnalla.

\* All this <sup>vile</sup> stuff Gough collected from Vallancey's  
 Collectanea. The <sup>region comprised in the</sup> present county of Limerick was  
 never called Aine cliach or Eoganacht Aine  
 cliach for the territory so called comprised little  
 more than one barony! The country of the  
Hy-figinte embraced the greater and better  
 part of the County of Limerick; it extend-  
 ed from the Shannon to the middle of Shew  
 Loughra and from Kerry to Limerick.

+ This is false.

"Uaithne now the barony of Auney in the north (319)  
" part of the county, had O'Ryan for its chief. 277  
" <sup>(a)</sup> Carrigoginnial is now the barony of Pobal  
" Brien. Donagh Carbreach O'Brien in 1211  
" received from John, King of England patents  
" for the estate of Carrigoginnial in the County  
" of Limerick at the yearly rent of 60 marks.  
" The Earls of Desmond afterwards became  
" lords of this cantred. <sup>the settlement of</sup> Before the O'Briens  
" from Thomond in this district Carrigoginnial  
" was the hereditary cantred of the O'Rierwicks.

---

(a) This is certainly wrong, for Barraig O g-Cainneal  
was the name of the rock on which O'Brien's  
castle stood, and not the name of a territory,  
and the present barony of Pubblebrien is  
not the territory <sup>anciently</sup> called Eoganacht  
Aine. It is sickening to have to notice  
the base blunders perpetrated by the  
stupid articles on Irish topography  
in Vallancey's Collectanea, but if I do  
not point them out now the opportunity  
may never offer itself again.

14/D/18/15 (ii)



(320)

278

Cairbre Robhda now the barony of  
" Kery was also denominated Hy-  
" Dun n' amhain,<sup>(b)</sup> both of which names  
" signify the rocky district on the river  
" being situated on the Shannon; the  
" chiefs of which were the O'Donovans.

---

(b) So O'Donovan signifies the rocky dis-  
trict on the river! This is truly amusing  
but not altogether true, though I believe  
Donovan, the progenitor of the family  
was a rock in battle and as stubborn as  
a rock, but I do not believe that he was  
a rocky district. Is it not much more  
likely that this chief took his name  
from the color of his hair: Donn sig-  
nifies brown, and dubán means a dark-  
haired man. Beauford, from whom the  
above derivation of the name is taken, supposed  
it might be from Dún-na h-abáinn, i.e. the  
fort of the river, i.e. the hill of the river, i.e.  
the rocky hill of the river, and by a little stretch  
of the meaning "the rocky district of the River!"

" In this centred was situated Brughrigh <sup>(c) (321)</sup> 279  
" now Brury, an inconsiderable village  
" but in ancient times the seat of the  
" kings of Gairbre Tobhdha and proba-  
" bly the ἑτέρα Πύλα or Alterra Regia of Ptolemy  
" which, he says, was a city.

(c) This is very beautiful no doubt! If  
Bruree was in the barony of Kenry in  
Gough's time it has removed itself an aw-  
-ful distance out of it since, for at this  
day it is no less than 12 Irish miles outside  
the boundary of that barony. Is it not  
provoking to have to deal with writers of  
this description? The whole of this error  
originated with O'Halloran who wrote that  
O'Donovan's Country was co-extensive with the  
barony of Kenry and that his residence was  
at Bruree! Surely if his residence was  
at Bruree, and if his territory did not extend  
beyond the limits of the present barony  
of Kenry, he did not reside in his own terri-  
-tory! But O'Halloran is wrong in making  
his territory coextensive with the Barony  
of

14/D/18/15 (m)

(322)  
280. "Here Suliff More O'Donoghue, King of Gairbre  
Aobhroha<sup>(d)</sup> was slain by Mortogh O'Brien in  
 "1165. The prince of this contred with his sub-  
 "ordinate chiefs O'Leucine and O'Flannabhra  
 "were dispossessed by the Fitzgeralds now Knights of  
 "the Glinn."<sup>(e)</sup>

of Kerry for we are informed by O'Sheerin  
 that O'Donovan possessed free of tribute  
 "The lands along the River Maigue and  
 "all the plains down to the Shannon"

ba leir gan éir po'n maig moill  
 ir na cláir ríor co Stonarnn.  
 Ille regebat agrum quem lambit Magia segnis  
 Et campos protensus flumen ad usque Senanum."

(d) This is false: Suliff More O'Donoghue was chief of  
 Killarney not of Hy-Gairbre Aobhroha.

(e) This is false: The Knight of Glinn never possessed the  
 one tenth of this territory.

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Let us next examine Fitzgerald's account of Bruce.

" Bruce anciently called Brugh na riogh or  
" the seat of the Kings is a rectory and vicar-  
" age. A handsome church and glebe house  
" have been lately built here at a short dis-  
" tance from the site of the old church near  
" the River Maig, over which there is a good  
" bridge. Bruce now reduced to a village is  
" remarkable for the half yearly sessions w<sup>ch</sup>  
" were held there by the Irish bards, and w<sup>ch</sup>,  
" according to O'Halloran were continued down  
" to 1746.

" Above the bridge is the well improved resi-  
" dence of the Langton family, and below it  
" immediately over the river, a very strong and  
" lofty Rath surrounded with a deep fosse  
" outside of which are three others of smaller  
" dimensions. On an eminence in the vicinity  
" is a large mound in the shape of an in-  
" verted basin from which there is said to

14/D/18/15 (11) be



" be a subterranean passage to the forts. A  
" little farther down the river are the ruins  
" of a curious fortress consisting of three strong  
" castles, one of which is entirely dilapidated;  
" these are surrounded with a very lofty wall  
" with ramparts and battlements constructed  
" of large blocks of grit with which all the  
" castles and old churches on each side  
" of the Maig from this place to the Shan-  
" non have been constructed. The wall  
" is more 120 yards in circumference; one of  
" the castles is in high preservation; and  
" in it are shewn two strong cells, which,  
" according to tradition, were used as pri-  
" sons by O'Donovan, prince of Kerry  
" whose residence this is said to have been  
" but it is more probable that this fortress  
" was built by a branch of the house of  
" Lacy, who possessed an immense territory  
" around

(325)  
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" around Bruree; and that O' (Donovan)  
" lived in the great Dun or Rath before  
" mentioned surrounded by his followers in  
" the smaller ones."

To this he appends the following note:

" Doctor O'Halloran relates: that in the year  
" <sup>970?</sup> 965 Mahon, King of Thomond or North  
" Munster, who was brother to the cele-  
" brated Brian Borisimhe, agreed at the  
" interposition of the clergy, to meet  
" Maolmuaidh, his rival for the crown  
" of Munster with a few friends on  
" each side in order to settle their dif-  
" ferences amicably: the house of  
" O'Donovan near Bruree was ap-  
" pointed for the conference, and thither  
" Mahon repaired with only twelve no-  
" blemen and their attendants. Maolmuaidh,  
" who had previously prevailed on O'Donovan

14/D/18/15(V) to

" ~~to~~ betray his prince, came to the place  
 " with a strong body of horse and carried  
 " off the gallant Mahon to the County  
 " of Cork where he was basely murdered  
 " at Leachta Mhahuin near Macroom.

" After the completion of this act of trea-  
 " chery Maolmuadh was proclaimed  
 " King of Munster, but Brian avenged  
 " the murder of his brother by Killing  
 " <sup>(f)</sup> O'Donovan in a pitched battle shortly  
 " after, and totally routing his forces,  
 " among whom were 1500 heavy ~~a~~ armed  
 " Danes commanded by their General  
 " Alvalus. In 967 Maolmuadh was  
 " slain

(f) This is wrong: the chieftain who  
 opposed Brian on this occasion was  
 not O'Donovan, but Donovan, for  
 surnames were not established at this  
 time.

(327)  
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" slain in a fierce engagement at Bealach  
" Lachta by Murrough then a young man  
" who thus secured the crown of the two  
" Munsters to his father the gallant Brian.

" Our Annalists inform us that at this period  
" the Kings of Munster gave annual pre-  
" sents to their territorial chiefs, who, in  
" return were bound to furnish their quo-  
" -tas of men and horses when called  
" for. Thus O'Donovan, the chief of  
" Kenry<sup>(9)</sup> in the County of Limerick claimed  
" Seven Slaves, Seven freemen, Seven  
" Swords and Seven cups.

---

(9) O'Donovan was not chief of Kenry  
but of Hy-Fidhginte or Hy-Gairbre  
Aobhdha, a territory comprising more  
than 6 times the extent of the barony  
of Kenry.

14/D/18/15(VI)



(328)  
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A legend relates that a daughter of  
" O'Donovan standing one day on the  
" top of the castle near Bruree with  
" two officers of her fathers house  
" - hold with whom she was for some  
" cause highly offended, pushed them  
" off into the river by which one  
" of them was killed but the other  
" escaped. The people in the neigh-  
" bourhood pretend to shew a hol-  
" low in a stone which was made  
" by the unfortunate man having  
" <sup>struck</sup> against it with his knee." p. 375, -

I visited Bruree on Thursday the  
30<sup>th</sup> of July and examined all  
its antiquities with great attention.  
I here transcribe what I wrote on  
the

(329)  
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the spot as I never trust any facts  
to my memory. Liter a scripta manet.

The large fort over the River Maigue above mentioned by Fitzgerald lies to the west of the mills of Breure. It consists of an internal moat (raised to the height of about 18 feet from the bottom of its trench) and two external ramparts or circumvallations. The internal moat is level at the top and measures from north to south 63 feet and from east to west 66 feet; The distance from its base to the top of the first rampart on the south side is 43 feet, and the distance from the top of the first rampart to that of the second or outer one is 46 feet. These ramparts are fully developed on the south east side, but on the south west and west sides they are nearly levelled especially the outermost one. On the north west side the ~~first~~ <sup>outermost</sup> rampart again shows itself but it is not very high, and it is much closer to the internal rampart than on the south side. On the north and north-east sides it is traceable all along to the brink of the river where it totally disappears. The internal rampart is on this side not less than 27 feet in breadth. The external rampart when it turns off from

14/10/18/15 (VII) the

288 the river on the south side is remarkably high and its ditch or trench very deep.

This is the fort which the people call the Brugh righ or King's fort or seat, and it is said to be the site of the house in which Donovan, King of Hy-Figinte captured Mahon, the brother of Brian Boru in the year 976.

At the distance of 170 paces to the north of this fort there is <sup>over the same river</sup> another remarkable one in a much more elevated situation; it was evidently formed by cutting down a natural hill into the shape of a fort of two circumsallations and remarkably deep trenches. The internal part or keep of this fort is considerably elevated above the summits of its external ramparts and has itself a small <sup>[now much injured]</sup> claise or rampart of earth around its edge. It does not form a regular circle it being somewhat longer from east to west than it is from N. to S. It measures from N. to S. 30 paces and from E. to W. 33 paces. On the South  
and

and west sides its outer ramparts are <sup>(331)</sup> 289  
nearly destroyed but on the north they  
are strongly developed and their trenches  
very deep.

and  
Still further to the north in the townland  
of Lower Lattaragh there is another fort sur-  
rounded with two circular ramparts now so  
overgrown with white thorns and other bushes  
and shrubs that it would be difficult to  
measure them. The internal part of the  
fort is 26 paces in diameter from north to  
South and 33 paces from east to west.

This fort is now called Leop William which  
signifies the fort of William, but this cannot  
have been its original name as William was  
never a man's name among the Irish till  
after the arrival of the Anglo Normans  
among them.

Keating asserts in the reign of Brian  
Boru asserts that Brugh ri was anciently  
called Dún Eocair maige and that Brian erected  
or re-erected a fortress there. It is my opinion

14/P/18/15 (VIII) that



290 that the first fort above described is the original Brugheri and that the second is the one built by Brian Boru.

About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile westwards of the modern protest-  
-ant church of Bruree there is a large  
moat in the shape of "an inverted basin"  
from which there is said to be a subterra-  
-nean passage to the forts above described.

I now come to describe a class  
of antiquities <sup>at Bruree</sup> quite different from those  
already noticed, and which oral tradition  
refers to a period too remote for the anti-  
-quarian to believe. These are the stone  
Castles. The first of these is called the  
Castle of Upper Bruree and stands in  
the church yard close to the site of the  
old church. It is a square tower mea-  
-suring on the outside <sup>ft in</sup> 24.6 from North  
to South and 35 feet from east to west  
It is 5 stories high and its walls are  
<sup>ft in</sup> 5.4 thick. I do not believe that this  
Castle

castle is more than 4 centuries old <sup>1557</sup> though tradition ascribes its erection to Dávoran, the son of Óláol Óluam!

The Castle called Lower Breuree is situated in the townland of Lower Letteragh over the bank of the River Maigue and a short distance to the North of the second earthen fort above described. It is a very curious fortress consisting of a strong & high circular wall on which originally stood three towers of great height and strength. This wall is 150 feet in diameter and <sup>ft in</sup> 5.4 in thickness; its greatest height at present is 24 feet, which is on the east side over the river, but it is not near this height on the north side.

The tower which is on the east side of this circle is in tolerable preservation, but the one on the N.W. side is much injured & the one which stood at the south side is now totally destroyed. The tower

14/10/18/15 <sup>at</sup> (12)

at the east side is about 60 feet in height, 19 ft in breadth <sup>on the outside</sup> from east to west and 21.3 <sup>ft in</sup> from north to south. The circular wall forms its east side to the height of about 20 feet. It is entered from the outside opposite the river by a pointed doorway of great strength measuring <sup>ft in</sup> 7"10 in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 5"1 in width. When you enter the tower by this doorway you observe an arch very high over head between you and which there are projecting stones and rests in the wall for three wooden floors, so that the arch above mentioned forms the fourth floor. By viewing this tower on the outside you will perceive that it was at least five stories high.

The tower on the north west side is much injured, it is <sup>ft in</sup> 24"8 from N. to S. and <sup>ft in</sup> 16"4 in the other direction.

These towers are built of smaller stones than the circular wall on which they partly stand, and it is highly probable that they are much more modern than it.

Tradition says that this castle was originally built by O'Donovan, King of Bruree, and that he was driven out of it by the Lacy's who possessed large estates in the neighbourhood of Bruree till they were dispossessed by Cromwell. I would not take upon myself to assert that this circular wall was not built by O'Donovan who certainly retained possession of Bruree and the plains down to the Shannon until after the arrival of the English. This circular wall is so like the fortress called Caislean na Cailly in Lough Mask, <sup>which was built in 1197</sup> that I think it may be an erection of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and if so we have no right to deny without direct evidence that it was ~~not~~ erected by the Irish chieftain of the territory to defend himself against the assaults of the Anglo Normans who laid an envious eye upon the fertile plains of Hy-Figeinte. I have no historical documents to prove the exact period at which O'Donovan was driven out of this glorious country, but I am convinced that he did not retain it many centuries after the year 1178, when the Dal Cais compelled him and his people to fly out of the plains

14/10/18/15(x) southwards



29/4 Southwards beyond the mountain of Mangerton.

Smith in his history of the county of Cork states that the O'Donovan family "came into the county of Cork from a barony in the county of Limerick called Boshma where they built the famous castle of Broom, which afterwards fell to the Kildare family from which the motto Broom abso still used by that noble house was taken."

I do not know on what authority Smith asserts that the castle of Broom was built by the O'Donovans, but as he is a writer of considerable respectability, it is not fair to reject his testimony without great caution. He does not state when they removed into the County of Cork, nor do I find any historical monument to prove <sup>directly</sup> the period of this removal. The following extracts from the annals of Irish-fallen as translated by the venerable Charles O'Donovon of Belanagare will show how the progenitor of the family laid the foundation of the ruin of his race by attempting to struggle with the Dal gais.

\* This gap is still called by this name; it is situated on the borders of the Counties of Limerick and Cork in the Barony of Bachelors and parish of Kilflin.

Extracts from the Annals of Inisfallen<sup>(337) F</sup>  
as translated into English by C. O'Honor. (?)

D. 476.

Donovan son of Cathal prince of Quirke  
Soahbha treacherously seized upon Mahon  
son of Kennedy in his own house, whither  
he went under the protection of Colum  
son of <sup>Kerrigan</sup> Maragao Bishop of Portle\* (who  
guaranteed his safety) to make peace with  
Maolmhuadh, <sup>[Cathloy]</sup> son of <sup>Brian</sup> Broin, to whom (and  
to his brothers, Teige and Brian) Donovan  
treacherously delivered Mahon, who was  
murdered by them, without respect to the  
saint, who had insured his safety;

Some Antiquaries say that it was at  
Bearna dhearg\*<sup>#</sup> (<sup>right D. 40</sup> Red behair) on the Mount  
of Fearnaighe Feine, <sup>[Fermoy]</sup> this shocking murder  
of Mahon was committed; and others

14/12/18/15 (xi)

\* " In the original it is successor of Barn."

# " is Sliabh-bairn whereon Bealach-Abra. And also  
" Bearna-dhearg according to the Life of Lachtan  
" from Bealach-Abra. vide. Gen. of the saints of the  
" descendants of Conaire son of Mogha-Laimbe."

that it was at Seacht-Mhathgharhna (<sup>monument</sup> Mahon's heap) an Musire-na-monu, he was betrayed. The Bishop of Exeter maledicted all who were concerned in conspiring the murder of Mahon.

977 Brian son of Kennedy marched at the head of an army to Slu-Flighente where he was met by Donovan, Dynast of that Territory, in conjunction with Suliff King of the Danes of Munster; Brian gave them battle wherein Suliff and his Danes, and Donovan and his Irish forces were all cut off.

1014 Cathol son of Donovan, prince of Cairbre Sodhbha commanded in the battle of Contarf.

— Cairbre son of Ulearcan, <sup>(now Ubleireachain)</sup> Prince of Slu <sup>208</sup> Cairbre, was slain by Maolcholm prince of Kerry.

1027 Donogh son of Brian marched into Ossory, where a detachment of his forces was routed; Gadhra son of Donchadh prince of

(339) 5

Giul-Anmchadha, Donall son of Seanchan 29<sup>th</sup>  
apparent heir to the throne of Munster; Málseach-  
lín Óconor King of Concomroe; the two sons of  
Cuilen, son of Conor, the prince of Ibh-bonaile  
Gabhra, &c were slain in this action.

1088 Donall Mac-Lochlainn at the head of an  
army of the men of Tyrone and Tyrconnell  
marched to destroy Connaught according to a  
Treaty made by him with Matogh Ó Brié's  
King of Munster who was under a joint  
promise of doing the like, which he did  
not perform; then Donall with his forces  
marched to Raith-buachan, where Roderic  
Óconor submitted to him, and gave him  
a splendid Entertainment for a fortnight,  
then joining their numerous forces, they  
marched into Munster, and destroyed the  
country as far as Inleach-Subhair, Loch-gair,  
<sup>Brubegs</sup> Brughnigh, <sup>now Drummin</sup> Dromain - <sup>near Killynallock</sup> Chleircin & Mungret,  
they also demolished Limerick and

14/10/18/15 (xii)



298 brought away the head of Art Wallach  
O'Ruairc from the hills of Pearam-<sup>(near Singland)</sup> Singid. 7c

1136. Kildare was plundered by Dermot O'Brien  
and his brothers and <sup>#</sup>Leannfaola, King of  
Ibh-Conaill-Gabhra thought about a  
reconciliation of the parties concerned  
for that plunder.

1151. Cormac O'Cuilean burnt Ardparta-Bran-  
ain, in which were the favourites or secre-  
tarys of Dermot Sugach O'Conor.

# 1155. Collean O'Colleain King of Ibh Conaill  
Gabhra and O'Leinnfaola, another King of  
Ibh-Conaill-Gabhra, were killed by each  
other, in single combat.

1157. Suliff Mor son of Angus O'Donoghue  
marched to ravage Downey and Cairnsionach  
against the O'Briens, he committed great  
depredations in that country and slew  
Saffernan King of the Shore (ball side) with  
many others.

# This Leannfaola will be found in the Pedigree  
of O'Donovan. Elery

1158- The great Church of Aghadoe was finished <sup>299</sup>  
 by Suliff Mor-na-buinnionach son of  
 Congus O'Donoghoe, having obtained the  
 supreme government of Eganacht Lochar  
 (Kellarney) Lein, for his posterity.

1166- Suliff Mor-na-buinnionaidhe  
 O'Donoghue, was slain at <sup>Bruised</sup> Bury by  
 Morogh O'Brien, being then King of the  
 West of Munster. His song and friends  
 carried his corpse to Aghadoe, where it was  
 solemnly interred in the Church which  
 he himself had built in honour of the  
 Holy Trinity, with many Masses & Prayers.

1170. + + + Dermot son of Cormac  
 Mac Carthy with most of the Eugenic  
 nobility marched with their forces to  
 Waterford (to fight the English) where a  
 bloody battle ensued wherein great  
 slaughter was made of the English  
 and on the side of the Irish  
 14/A/18/15 (xiii)

# There can be no mistake here Ebury

were slain Cathal, son of Suliffie son of  
Donoghue, Artgail O'Riordanain, son  
son of Cathal, Coilleán O'Coileáin, Donogh  
O'Mahony, Maccon O'Driscoll and many  
others of the Euguinian nobility; nevertheless  
MacCarthy defeated the English three  
times successively

1177- Coilleán O'Coileáin had his eyes  
put out by MacCarthy's son, in revenge  
for his son Cormac.

(Lough Gur)

1178 Loch Gar, was plundered and destroyed  
by O'Coileáin-na-claon-glaire. (Clan-glass)

There was a very great war between the  
O'Briens and MacCarthy's which proceeded  
to such excess that they laid waste the  
country from Limerick to Cork and  
all along from the Plains of the <sup>Derrymore</sup> great grove  
(clap says more) of Waterford to Bore Breamain  
both churches and territories and the most  
of the Euguinians were forced to fly to the  
woods south of the See in Ibh-Eachach

and the people of Kerry - Leachra also fled to Desmond in like manner the people of Ibh - bonnide Galena and <sup>O'Donovan</sup> Ibh - Donovain were forced to fly south of Mangartara.

Donall Mor O'Brien marched at the head of his army as far as Ence - Breanain and all over Desmond which he entirely laid waste: Donall son of Auliff Mor O'Donoghue and Cuilean O'Cuileain joined by all the other principal Chiefs of Desmond destroyed the country, around Cashel by way of reprisal for the slaughter and havoc which Donall Mor O'Brien had made of them in Desmond.

1200 William de Burgo at the head of a great army, joined by Morigagh Miron, Cona Ruadh and Donogh Cairbreach, the three sons of Donall Mor O'Brien together with the English of Munster marched to Cork and all over the province of Munster they remained at ~~Lincoln~~ Cinneith

14/10/1815 (xiv)



F (344.)

202 a whole week and slew <sup>Amleaff</sup> Amhlaoibh

O'Donovan, King of Leitrim-Sadhba.

Many of the English were also slain  
on that expedition together with McGuire.

1254 Finghin Ramon-Roin son of small  
God (MacCarthy) assisted by O'Donovan,  
Hew Dermot O'Mahony in revenge for  
having slain the Crom in Iris-an-keil  
on account of a dispute <sup>shepherd</sup> he had with  
some of O'Mahony's <sup>shepherds</sup> cowboys.

N.B. — The pedigrees of Ry-Hidgin &  
of Ry-Barbry or O'Donovan have been  
already copiously collected, as well as  
every other notice that came within our  
reach, and all sent to the Ord. S. office  
for the purpose of being sent to  
Limerick, where it is hoped they  
have arrived long before this.

Eugene Perry

21 July 1840.

From the passage above given under the year 1200 it is evident that O'Donovan resumed the possession of his territory after he had been driven beyond Mangerton by the Dal-g-Cais. When he was finally driven to the south does not appear from any document yet discovered but it is evident that he was not in his original territory in 1420, when the poet O'Heerin flourished who speaks of him as the person to whom this territory was due; but it appears from his words that O'Donovan was not then in possession of Parbury Aeva. His words are:

Dual d' O' Donnabáin Dúin curpc  
An típ rí na típ longpúirpc  
Fa leir gan cíor fo'n Máis moill  
Ír na cláir ríor co Sionnóinn.

O' Donovanus qui quondam in Borci arce sedebat  
(Pro terra castrorum est hac regione potitus;  
Ille regebat agrum quem lambit Magia segnis  
Et campos protendens flumen ad usque Senanum).

In the Leabhar na g-Ceart or Book of Rights the chief of Ely-Figeinte is called King of Breuce and it is added that he was free of tribute, but he received annual

14/10/18/15 (XV) presents

(346) 30th

<sup>Ireland?</sup>  
presents from the king of Munster for  
his services in war. These presents are  
enumerated in the following quatrain in the  
book of Rights, which is ascribed to St.  
Berignus:

Tuairp tol riġ Ūroġa riġ,  
O riġ Ērīno cān imġnīm

Deic n-īnāp donna deapġa  
Iŕ deich n-ġoġll cān ġaedelġa.

The stipend of the king of Brures  
from the king of Erin without sorrow  
Ten tunics brown red <sup>tunics</sup> mantle  
And ten <sup>i.e. foreign slaves</sup> foreigners <sup>without</sup> Gaelic.

Brures is set down in the Book of Le-  
can as one of the Ports or fastnesses  
of the king of Cashel, by which is to  
be understood that it was one of the forts  
in his kingdom, but not inhabited by him-  
self.

I shall give some account of the present  
heads of this family in treating of the  
extent of the territory of Hy-Figeinte.

(Breure).

← w →  
Breure, a poor village in the midst  
of the richest country in Ireland.  
Breure, a handsome town, 15 miles  
south-west of Limerick, has four  
yearly fairs, and a good Bridge over  
the Maige, and is remarkable for  
the half-yearly sessions held there  
by the Irish Bards so late as 1748.\*

---

\* The songs, warrants &c. composed by  
the members of this Court are still ex-  
tant, and many of them are in the  
possession of a native of <sup>in the west of Clare</sup> Dun Aghaigh, and  
now living in Mud Island near Clontarf  
Dublin. L.D.

---

note

R. Walker, Hist. Mem. of the Irish Bards, 166.  
Farrar 438.

14/D/18/15 (XVI)



930

In the townland Haminstown in that part of this parish lying in the Bar: of Coshma there is an old church called after the townland Leampull Bhaile Hobaird. It is a mere ruin only fragments of its walls remaining. It is <sup>ft in</sup> 73.4 in length and <sup>ft in</sup> 22.3 in width on the inside. Its east gable is destroyed to the very foundations as is also the north wall with the exception of a small fragment near the east end. A good deal of the west gable remains but it contains no features.

A considerable part of the south wall remains but where the doorway was placed is reduced to a shapeless breach. The south wall is <sup>ft in</sup> 2.10 in thickness and the north one <sup>ft in</sup> 2.7.

The antiquities in this parish were examined by me

J. J. Donovan

**END**

**14 D 18/16**

**O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; O'Keefe, Patrick; Wakeman, William Frederick  
Notes, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of the parish of  
Kilmallock, with particular reference to its early church, round tower, town wall,  
monastery and the origins of its place name.**

**12 August 1840**

**37p.**

**23 cm**

**ill; ink sketches of the south gate of Kilmallock town wall, the parish church, with  
its attached round tower and the chancel of Kilmallock Abbey, by William Fredrick  
Wakeman.**

**Included are related extracts from Lanigan's 'Ecclesiastical History of Ireland',  
Archdall's 'Monasticum Hibernicum', O'Flaherty's 'Indexes of Ogygia', the 'Irish  
Calendar' and the 'Annals of the Four Masters'.**

The parish of Kilmallock.

Situation. This parish is bound on the north by the parishes of Drummin, Mrogan and Kilbreedy major, on the east by the parishes of Kilbreedy major, Kilquan and Ballingaddy, on the south by Kilbreedy minor and Effin, and on the west by the parishes of Lankardstown and Kilbreedy minor.

Name. The name of this parish is in the original Irish Cill mocheallóg, which signifies the cell or church of St Mochellóg, who was the original patron of the parish but ~~before~~ <sup>after</sup> the arrival of the Anglo-Normans it was placed under the patronage of St. Peter and Paul and old Mochellóg was laid aside.

Dr Lanigan and Moore have hesitated to assert that it is certain that the Cill Mocheallóc of the ancients is the present town of Kilmallock, but they can be no doubt of their identity, as every man in the province of Munster calls Kilmallock by no other name than <sup>Cill mocheallóg</sup> Kill Mochellóg when speaking Irish.

I shall first insert here what the Irish writers have collected of the History of Kilmallock, and 14/P (18/16C) then



(350) 308

then proceed to describe the remains to be seen  
there at present

44  
 +  
 Ad. Sig. mallock  
 Mochelloe <sup>Patrono.</sup> <sup>+ anciently</sup> Killroia  
 Both domestic, and foreign. <sup>and</sup> Killmo-  
 Martyrologists state that the <sup>chealoe</sup>  
 festival of Saint Mochelloe  
 (whom some [writers] erroneously  
 call (1. Mottellog) and others  
 more properly <sup>(2)</sup> Kellen, or  
Kellen), is celebrated on  
 this 26<sup>th</sup> March. And although  
 he was a man of most  
 approved Sanctity, and  
 his veneration is as yet  
 in flourishing observance  
 in the town commonly  
 denominated Killmochelloe  
 from his name, and called  
 in Latin, Kellocia, in which

14/0/18/16(w)

(352)

as Patron of the place, his festival is celebrated on this day; very little occurs to be observed about him, because we have not seen his acts.

He is said to have been the son of Inladhran (3) or as others think, of Olehn (4), (who was, I think, his grandfather, or great grandfather) of the noble and ancient stock<sup>15</sup> of Conaire the Second, King of Ireland. He flourished about the end of the sixth century, as is collected from the Life of S. Finian, Abbot

51  
of Kinneitich, who was  
his relative, and contemporary  
and disciple of S. Brendan  
Bishop of Cluanfert. For  
in that life (to be given at  
7<sup>th</sup> April) c. 24, these (notices)  
are read (by which, the great  
sanctity and wonderful  
<sup>(or) power</sup> virtue of both in performing  
miracles are shown); \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \* Quotation  
omitted.

This Saint discharged, it is  
read, the office not only of  
Abbot, but also of Bishop,  
and successively ruled divers  
Churches, in which he is also  
venerated: for he is venerated  
not only in Kellochia in  
the territory of Munster,



called Abi- Cairpre (6)  
 by the ancients; as patron  
 of that town, called by  
 ancient writers, "Cathair  
 mac bō chaigh"; <sup>+</sup> or Bonaigh (7)  
 lying in the territory of the <sup>+</sup> in  
Dessin, and the Martyrologies  
 says that he is venerated  
 also in the Church of  
Kill - odhrain (8) if it, per-  
 -chance, be different from  
 the last mentioned place.  
 S. Angustus relates that he  
 died in a place called  
Letha, which is, Maquir  
 in his Scholia to the Festilog  
 of Angustus, states, the

name of a wood in  
the Desii, in which is  
the said town of Cathair  
Conchaidh. But that he  
 died in the time of Conall  
 and Mellach, the sons  
 of Moelcobha, King,  
 who reigned with joint  
<sup>imperio</sup> power from the year  
 639 until the year 656,  
 in Ireland (9) Geoffrey  
 Keating states in book  
 second of his history  
 when treating of those  
 Kings: "At this time," he  
 says "died S. Furssan  
 " <sup>who took</sup> taking his origin from the  
 " race of Lugadus Laga,

Who was brother of  
Child Blom, King of  
Munster; and S. Mochelloc  
who erected the church  
of Hill Mochelloc.

But this Saint Mochelloc  
was descended from  
the race of Conarinos?  
His Festival is celebrated  
in the aforesaid churches  
on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March,  
according to the domestic  
Martyrologies: on which  
(or) also even foreign Hagiographers  
make mention of him.

55  
Notes p. 749. col. 2.

315  
(354.)

1.2. Mendose Mottelorum, alii  
rectius bellenum, sive Kellenum.

(whom some writers erroneously  
call Mottelog, and others  
more properly bellen or Kellen.  
Mart. Carthusian. Canisius,  
Ferrarius, and Fitzsimon call  
him Mottelog. Marian  
and others <sup>infra</sup> below, and  
more properly call him  
bellen, or Kellen: bellen,  
belloc, and mo being  
added for the sake of  
observance and love, Mo-  
chelloc is the same  
name diversely expressed.

14/10/18/16(V)



316  
(358)

Notes

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3.4. Patre Inlathran, vel  
ut alii Obleno. c. 1. The  
Genealogy of Saints. c. 18.  
& Selenacius c. 16. call him  
the son of Oblenus; but the  
Martyrologies to be hereafter  
cited call him the son  
of Inlathran.

5 De stirpe Bonarii Secundi  
c. 2. So with Ketten above,  
the Genealogy of Saints  
c. 18 and Selenacius c. 16  
[state].

6. 7. 8. Prisci Abi-bairpre,  
& in oppido bathuir mac  
bonchaidh &c.

So the Martyrologies  
to be hereafter cited.

9. In alio anno 639. usque  
ad annum 656. regnaverunt.

+ Ita Catalogus Hiberniae,  
Catalogus  
qui? & quatuor Magistri  
Regum  
Hc. ad hos annos.

10. 11. Hac 26 Martii, quo  
etiam externi. Go at  
the same day, the Martyrology  
of Jamlact [says] "Saint  
"Mochelloc, the son of  
"Iulodhran, of bathuir  
"mac Conaigh." Marian  
Gorman [says] "I. Kellan,  
"the son of Iuladhran,  
"in the territory, &c." And  
the Martyrology of  
Donegal [speaks] in the  
same words. I. Aengus  
in his Festilogy [says]

+ post  
multos  
vita  
dies.

"In Letha, died I. Mochellon  
"after many days of life."

+ regionem

+ (or) country

Where observed that Letha,  
frequent in our histories,  
denotes, one time, Latum,  
or Italia: another time,  
Lethana territory, in Britannia  
Armorica, and another  
time, a certain wood in  
the Desii, which was formerly  
called Fiodh Lethan, id  
est, sylva lata, that is,  
Broadwood. And that  
it is to be taken here  
in its third, or first  
acceptation, Cathald  
Maquir states in his Scholia  
to the afore said words  
of I. Aengus; "Letha",  
he says, "that is, Fiodh"

+ ad + (or) on

" Lethan at Lismore,  
 " the name of the place  
 " in which, he [S. Mochelloe]  
 " died, give nomen ubi obiit, or in + qn?  
 " Rome as others say; nemus  
 " or in Kill dachelloe the  
 " in Abi Cairpre in Munster trans-  
 " but it is <sup>(or) probable</sup> more true that then he  
 " he is beller, the son + verius  
 " of Tamlodhran in the  
 " Desii of Munster, of  
 " Cathur mac Bonchaidh.  
 " In Letha is said here, that  
 " is Letha, the name of  
 " a great wood in the  
 " Desii of Munster and  
 " in it was formerly, that  
 " City" (namely Cathur  
 " mac Bonchaidh.) These he.

or the wood where he died.



But the calendar of  
 Cashel seems to indicate  
 that the same place  
 is now called Killochrair,  
 saying; "S. Mocheleoc  
<sup>de</sup> of Killochrair, <sup>de</sup> of  
"Cathair mac Leorchuidh."  
 Of him, Fitzsimon in his  
 Catalogue also treats,  
 "S. Motalog"; he says,  
 "Abbot 26<sup>th</sup> March, Patron  
 of Kellovia". Petrus  
 Canissius, Ferrarius in  
Catalogo generali, read  
Mottellog, "In Ireland,  
 [Festival] of S. Mottellog,  
 "Abbot". Martyrol. Carthusianum  
 mistakenly distinguishes  
 him from S. Mocheleoc,  
 Bishop, saying; "Saint

" Mo Kelloch Episcopi,  
 " & Confessoris." And after-  
 -wards; " In Hilverniâ  
 " Mottelogi Abbatiss, &  
 " Confessoris." For, Mo Kelloch  
 Bishop, is the same  
 [person], whom others  
 call Mottelogy Abbot,  
 as is evident from what  
 has been now said.

Gill Mocheallocc & Gilledachcallocc.

A.D.

[Compared  
OK]

1028. Flaithnia O'Figmair, lecturer of

Gilledachcallocc (Kilmallock), died.

1050. Conall Uppendrech Gilleaspoecallocc 7 a fepleigín  
cedup, dece

1050. Connell Erenach of Kilmallock and its profes-  
sor first; died ?

1412. Eda Leis (Lacy) and the son of the

Earl of Kidare were slain by each other  
at Gill. Mocheallog (Kilmallock).

1564. The Earl of Desmond was taken  
prisoner at Kilmallock by the Lord  
Justice who conveyed him from thence to

Limerick

ref D/18/16(ix)

(368.)  
~~270~~  
323

Limerick, from Thence to Galway  
from Thence to Athlone, and finally  
to Dublin. His capture took place a  
short time after the festival of St Patrick.

<sup>4</sup>  
<sup>756</sup> A.D. 1571. James Mac Maurice (Shymaurice)  
took Kilmallock, having been induced  
to do so, not from a desire <sup>to seize</sup> of acquiring ~~it~~  
possession of its riches and wealth (although  
its riches were so abundant as to be a  
great inducement,) but because it had  
always been the rendezvous and rallying  
point of the English and Geraldines in their  
contests with him. In the morning before  
sunrise those who had gone to sleep  
happily and comfortably were aroused  
from



their slumber by a furious attack made by the warlike troops of the Mac Linceries and Mac Sheehies, who were in the Army of James Mac-Maurice. They took the town and proceeded to divide between them its Gold, Silver, various wealth and valuable Jewels, which the Father would not have acknowledged to his heir or the Mother to her daughter on the day before.

They were occupied three days and nights in carrying away the various kinds of wealth consisting of Cups, Goblets and other rich articles upon their horses

and

14/D/18/16(X)

(370)

~~212~~  
325

and steeds to the woods and forests  
of Catharlach, and sending more of  
them privately to their friends &  
wives. They then set fire to the town,  
which soon became enveloped in a heavy  
cloud and a black dense and gloomy  
mantle of smoke, so that Kilmallock  
became the receptacle and abode of  
wolves and carnivorous animals after  
all its other misfortunes.

A.D.

1579. James, the Son of Maurice duff,  
who was son of John, who was son of  
Thomas, who was son of the Earl Petreus  
from France; and it was reported that  
he had brought with him a greater number  
of

Kilmallock

(371) <sup>326</sup>  
213

of ships than was really the case.

\* \* \* \* \* [See Appendix at the year 1459, p. 459, for the entire of this article]

87] The Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, Sir William Murray, was at this time in Cork, and with <sup>him</sup> were also the Earl of Kildare and Sir Nicholas Mawbey. These gentlemen set out towards the County of Limerick and pitched their Camp in the neighbourhood of Kilmallock. Hither the Earl of Desmond came to meet them, and endeavoured to impress it <sup>up</sup> on their minds that he himself had not participated in the proceedings of James Mac-Maurice and had not been instrumental in drawing him into the Country, in the crimes committed by his relatives; and he delivered up to The Chief Justice

14/2/18/16 (xi)

Justice his only son and heir as a  
hostage to ensure his fidelity to the  
Crown of England &c &c .  
A.D.

1581. In Henry at this year p.

1598. \* \* \* \* \* [See Limerick at this year,  
p 473, for the whole of this Article]

When these chiefs had joined  
O'Neill's people, and all the neighbouring  
territories had been leagued with them  
they marched with all their forces, at  
the instance of the sons of Thomas Roe,  
the son of the Earl (of Desmond) into  
the Country of the Loggans. They first  
went to the County of Limerick. The  
president, Sir Thomas Norris was at this  
time at Kilmallock, and when he



understood that he was not ca-  
-pable of engaging <sup>coping</sup> with them, he  
avoided meeting them and went to  
Cork. The Irish then proceeded westwards  
across the River Mang to Connello &  
the borders of Sliaoh Luachra and Glean-  
Corbraighe (Glencorbery). Here James,  
the son of Thomas Roe came <sup>join</sup> to them. His  
brother James, the second son of Thomas  
Roe was along with them already upon  
their march, for he had gone to guide  
them into the Country. \* \* \*

[p. 184] When the Earl of Ormond had heard of [p. 184]  
the progress of these warlike troops, he  
set out with all his Cavalry and infantry  
to  
14/0/18/16(xii)

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to the County of Limerick to meet  
them, and sent a message to Cork  
ordering the president to meet him  
at Kilmallock. As soon as the Irish  
army, who were encamped in the west  
of Conillo had heard of this, they  
marched eastwards towards Kilmallock  
to shew themselves to these two Lords.  
Upon ~~xx~~ seeing them, the Lords (i. e. the  
Earl and president) agreed to avoid  
meeting them, and turned off to Maigh-Ealla.  
The Irish pursued them to the gates of  
Maigh-Ealla, and proceeded to defy  
provoke and dare them to battle, saying  
that

that they (the Earl &c.) could never  
 wreak their vengeance upon them better  
 than now when they were upon one  
 plain. These two great men however  
 declined giving battle, and the pre-  
 sident repaired to Cork, and the Earl  
 to his territory.

.4.D.

1599.

\* \* \* \* \*

During the days that the Earl of Essex  
 was storming Cahir, Sir Thomas Norris, the  
 president of the two provinces of Munster  
 came to Kilmallock to meet the Earl  
 on his way to Limerick. He  
 remained nearly a fortnight in this  
 town awaiting the coming of the Earl  
 across

14/D/18/16 (xiii)

across the Seine, and was daily in the practice of scouring the mountains of the County of Limerick to see if he could <sup>wound</sup> injure or Capture any of the Queen's enemies. One day that he went to the eastern extremity of the County of Limerick he unexpectedly met Thomas Burke (the Son of Theobald, who was Son of William, who was Son of Edmond) from Castleconnell. Thomas alone was on horseback, of all his people; he had near one hundred <sup>Irish</sup> foot soldiers with him. As soon as the president had perceived him he made a furious and determined attack upon him



him and slew about 20 of his people, and would have slain more were it not he himself was soon wounded by a violent thrust of a spear (in the place) where the jaw joins the upper part of the Neck. When his people saw him wounded they collected around him, and carried him back to Kilmallock, where he remained a week in his bed under the care of Physicians, and died in the month of July.

<sup>6</sup>  
1035 1600. Letters arrived <sup>came</sup> from England to Munster this year in the month of July, the purport of which was as follows: That the youngest

<sup>son</sup>  
14/10/18/16 (xw)

Son of the Earl of Desmond, (viz.  
James the son of Garrett, who was son  
of James who was son of John) whom  
the Queen had detained as a hostage, for  
his father's and brother's rebellion against  
her, had supplicated the Queen and  
was set at liberty. This was after he  
had been twenty one years in confine-  
ment. Orders were also given in these  
letters to proclaim throughout the assem-  
-blies and towns of Munster that this  
Young Son, James, the son of Garrett, was  
going to Ireland as an honourable Earl  
by the authority of the Sovereign, and  
that all his relatives and followers who  
were

were in rebellion, would now upon  
their return to the Sovereign and this  
Young Earl be restored to their dignity  
and honor, and their crimes forgotten.

This young Earl arrived in Ireland  
accompanied by a great army in the  
month of October following. Upon his  
arrival in Cork, the president and the  
Earl of Thomond repaired thither  
to welcome him, and they accompanied  
him through Magh-Ealla, and Kilmallock  
and from thence to Limerick. All  
the inhabitants of the Country of the

Geraldines

14/D/18/16 (XV)

General dines upon recognizing this young Earl to be the rightful heir immediately joined him, and those whom James, the Son of Thomas had placed as guards in Castlemaine, gave it up to the young Earl. The Earl then gave <sup>the</sup> possession of it to the President.



## Cill Mochéallog

7 March. 1<sup>st</sup> cellog o cill mocheállog m<sup>c</sup> ollán do ph<sup>o</sup>p  
 ym.

22. December. 11. mocheállog ab 7 p<sup>o</sup> leir do p<sup>o</sup>ice  
 4<sup>th</sup> cill mocheállog m<sup>c</sup> ob<sup>o</sup>l<sup>o</sup>n do ph<sup>o</sup>p c<sup>o</sup>m<sup>o</sup>de m<sup>o</sup>rr<sup>o</sup> f<sup>o</sup>p<sup>o</sup>s  
 e<sup>o</sup>p<sup>o</sup>on

## Cill Raith #

Rathnat cille p<sup>o</sup>ice 5<sup>th</sup> August

## cilltidhil

sl<sup>o</sup>n<sup>o</sup>pp cille t<sup>o</sup>p<sup>o</sup>l 1<sup>st</sup> December

14/D/18/16(xvii)

# Cill-na-Ratha - near Newport  
 E

# Kilmallock

Kilmallock, now reduced to one street, was formerly a town of great note, being walled, and the houses beautifully ~~and the houses beautifully~~ and elegantly built of hewn stone.

It is now in ruins, only one street entire, and pieces of the walls with castles at the angles, yet has so great a share of magnificence as to be called by Dr. Campbell the Balbec of Ireland. It still retained ~~the~~ the Union the privilege of a borough, having a charter from Edward VI. confirmed by Elizabeth, and gave name to  
an

an earl. The present parish church  
 belonged to an house of canons  
 regular, founded in the 14th  
 century. The Dominicans had a  
 house here, whose ruins within  
 the town bespeak it to have  
 been an elegant building. About  
 three miles from it are ruins of  
Crugane castle

---

Note

N. Archd. 810.

(C) H. Barror. 441-449. Campbell's Phil. Surv.  
 of Ireland, 213. Where see a view of its ruins.

# Killmallock

Achy e Mogmedon, King of Connaught, did not suffer the assassination of his father King Eumach Siry, to be long unrevenged, for he deposed and killed King Coellud, and ascended the throne.

Enny Hennagalach, from whom the Achy Kenn-salians are sprung, King of Leinster, was a constant enemy to King Achy, whom he conquered in thirteen engagements. They <sup>say</sup> Lauread, the great grandson of Cathir, monarch of Ireland, was his father; but I should think he was at least his great grandfather, and that Cathir, his ancestor, in the sixth generation, died about two hundred years before this era; as Conn of the hundred battles, <sup>the</sup> successor of Cathir, was <sup>p. 292</sup> the sixth lineal ancestor to Achy, contemporary with Enny.

At this time, we are told, a priest was sent from Rome to Ireland, to propagate the Christian religion. By him St. Achy was baptized when aboy.

At 14/D/18/16 (xviii)



At the same time St. Dimma, a religious wise man, flourished in Ireland, who is said to have educated St. Declan, patron of the Desies, and St. Carbery, who were afterwards promoted to the mitre.

Eucharius, bishop of Molaise, and Eliphigius his brother, with their sisters Libaria and Susanna, fellow-citizens of St. Mansuetus, the first from Ireland, who had been bishop of Tolen, had suffered martyrdom in Lorrain, in the Julian persecution. The memory of another of their sisters, the virgin St. Menna, is held in the highest veneration here in the church de. Porto Suari.

St. Mochelloc, after whom the town of Killmallock in Munster is so called, St. Bean, St. Colman, St. Lachnin, St. Mollig, St. Simlag, and St. Caminan, flourished in the plains of Scutum, in the county of the Desies, not far from Lymoe.

Dr Burgo *Hibernia Dominicana*

(395)

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Chap. ix XXXIV Pag 283

Of The Monastery of St. Saviour at Killm-  
alloe in the County of Limerick in Munster in  
in the Year 1291. and of the Vicaria House  
of Ballingall. *(Burgo Anglorum)* in said County

### Summary

I Nomenclature & Description of the Town of  
Killoak otherwise Killmalloe

II. A Monastery erected there by the Friars

Preachers the Ruins of which as yet remain

showing the greatness & Magnificence of  
the Work. Its <sup>Founder</sup> Gilbert a Geraldine (in Irish Gibbon)

from whom the Family of Irish Gibbon is named

III. The Actual Possessor of the Estates. The only  
Bishop of Limerick of Dominican order.

14/10/18/16 (XIX)

Some

Some distinguished Members of this Monastery  
 W of the Episcopal House of Bangor, Loughrea,  
 which was Conventual otherwise conventual at  
 least doubtful.

V Three Fathers of this Monastery in the year 1756  
 1 Killoia otherwise Killmalloia (as in Irish) Killm  
caloe (that is the Church of Mallo) in English Killm  
alloe is <sup>the</sup> a Head Town of a Barony of the same Name in  
 the County & Diocese of Limerick under the Arch-  
 Bishop of Cashel (formerly indeed very beautiful  
 built of Stone. [vivo Saxo] but now disfigured by the  
 Devastations of War almost obliterated, nevertheless very  
 many of the Walls of the splendid Apartment & the Stone  
 Walls entirely remaining as I myself have lately seen.

It gives the Title of Viscount to the Family of Sarsfield.

(a) Utroque nomine vocatur in antiquo catalogo Canonicorum

Hibernia

It is a Town Corporate the Chief Magistrate of which is  
called in English Lovain. It is also a Borough <sup>Town</sup> & it is  
distant from Dublin, one Hundred & three Miles from  
Lincoln, Eighteen, from Cashel, Twenty six, from  
Cork, Thirty two, from Galway, Fifty eight, from  
London, Dorey, Sixty Three.

¶ That the Friars Preachers had a Monastery in this  
Place & indeed founded in the Year 1291 can be a Doubt to  
no Person the unanimous Consent of ~~Consent~~ of Writers &  
proving that even to an Evidence. And Surely the Ruins  
of the Building itself inside the Walls of the Town suffici-  
ently & more than sufficiently show to the eye its remark-  
able Magnificence. But who ought to be considered the Found-  
er is not so certain for Waied after him  
(Melland)

Taberna Dominicana, at Cap. II. Num. VI. Pag. 38. vide poteris

(3) Leges Cap. I. Num. XII. Pag. 18. 14/18/16 (XX)



Monard & Harris totally pass him over in Silence.

O' Heym however asserts (c) that he was the most illustrious Lord Fitzgerald Earl of Desmond which is certainly altogether true as far as to the Race of Ferald but not as to the Earl of Desmond, as is clearly evident even from this thing, that the first Earl of Desmond was Maurice Fitzgerald Son of Thomas (s) Simiaus [of the Mpes] who died in the Year 1295 thus created by King Edward III.<sup>rd</sup> (s) on the 27.<sup>th</sup> Day of August 1329 as you can read from Lodge elsewhere mentioned (h).

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(c) Consilendum Cap. I. Num. XIX. Pag. 31

(d) Anonymus Scriptor Antiqui Catalogi mox citati;

Waricus de Antiquitatibus Hibern. Cap. XXVI, Pag. 203;

Harrisius Vol. 2.<sup>a</sup> Pag. 277. Monard, Pag. 232. O' Heym

Pag. 17. Lichardus. Tom. II.<sup>a</sup> Pag. XIII.<sup>a</sup>

(e) Pag. 17.

(f) Consilendum X. Sec. Cap. I. Num. III.<sup>a</sup> Pag. 238

But the Convent of Lillach most certainly  
was founded in the year 1291 as is evident from what  
is just said. Therefore the approved Tradition of  
the Place is more consistent which shews that this  
Monastery was built by the Grand Uncle of the  
beforementioned Earl of Desmond that is Gilbert  
a Gualdine in Irish, Gibbon being the second of  
the four Sons of John of Callan Baron of Lophaly the  
Founder of our Convent at Tralee (j) Ancestor of the White  
Tenight (k) as they call him or of the blan Gibbon (l) and  
of the entire Family to which the Surname Fritter  
Gibbon is given. (m)

S; Adas Cap. II<sup>a</sup>. Num XVI. Lit i. Pag. 145.

(b) Cap. pres. IX. Num II<sup>a</sup>. Lit c. Pag. 237

(i) Dec. Simeon fuit. Cap. pres. IX. Pag. 237

(k) Tres Simul crant Gualdine Gentis Equites nompe

14/12/18/16 (XXI)

346 (400)

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The Estates formerly annexed to this Monastery are now possessed by the Chief Magistrate in Longlist, Sovereign as is said before & by the Corporation as we call them of the Town of Tilmalloe.

I pointed out above the only Bishop of the Dominican Order of the Diocese of Limerick in which as I have already said Tilmalloe is situated, when I was speaking of the Monastery at Limerick (n). But a Member of this Monastery James O'Hurly Provincial of Ireland was Bishop of Carmly whom Thomas Albert O'Brien immediately succeeded also of our Order & also Provincial

---

nomen Equus Albus Equus Niger a Pilaminis colore sic

dictis Equus de Glynn & Valley (Latone de Clivod Valley)

a propolis sicut Prædiorum Vornibus a pellatus, qui

Licium Familiarem Prædiorum orant ut liquet ex supari

us, dictis Cap. Prae. IX Num II. L. c. Pag. 237. ubi

Qualdiorum

of Ireland who received the Palm of Martyrdom, of  
whom individually mention will be more oppor-  
tunely made elsewhere (C).

There were many other renowned Members of  
this Monastery in the last Century distinguished  
either by Martyrdom or the public opinion of Virtue  
(besides Seven Friars with Two Priests driven into  
the Sea by Storms), that is Gerald FitzGerald  
David Ho+, William O'Garra, Henry Brugatt, Gerald  
FitzGilbon whose succinct History I am about to  
exhibit in their own Place (P).

W. Our O'Heary (Q) mentions a vicarial House sub-  
ject to this Convent in the Place the Irish Name of  
which is Ballingal that is a Town of the English in the  
same County of Limerick superadding these Words:

14/P/18/16 (XXII)

From the Year 1650 no Person of our Order lived there  
of



~~244~~

of which I expect the greatest care is to be taken in future  
 if at any time the Lord will favour us. But I have  
 demand I reckon this House among those that were  
 conventual although Harris passes it over in deep silence  
 when treating of the Dominican Houses, but elsewhere  
 showing it to be belonging to the Carmelites. Hence I  
 myself thinking that it should be justly reckoned  
 among our conventual Houses which are uncertain  
 will make mention of it again. 181

- *Geraldinum totius Genealogia*

(1) 6. Lan. Gibbon. idem donat ad. Steps. Gilberti regis

*Tevdoris* (nunc <sup>Agri</sup> *Baonia Coraciensis*) Longitudinis

est Migiudi Luator Wilkariun. Latitudinis vero

Duodecim, id advertit Sadgans, Vol. 1. Pag. 7

(m) Descendit quidem Fili Gibbon. a Geraldinis senus

non Mac Gibbon. qui senulus est Pragerum Gantiz

✓ There are three Agents in the District of this  
Monastery in the year 1756 that is R. P. Representatus

✓ Brother Imbrose Mac Gask Crath  
Prior, in the 54 year of his Age, and 27 of his Pro-  
- fession, Brother John O Duane, of the 67 of his Age,  
and of the 32 of his Profession, and R. P. Lector

✓ Brother Paul Scatterley of the 48 of his  
Age, and 27 of his Profession.

---

- ut liquet ex antea dictis Cap. pras. DXIV Num. III.<sup>a</sup>

Let 9. Pag 252

(m) Cap. pras. SV Num. VI. Pag. 213

(n) Cap. XIII. Num. IXIV Eleg.; ac Cap. XIV. Num. XII & Seq.

(p) Cap. XVI Num. II XXII. VI. XXXI & XCII. (q) Pag. 19.

(r) Waracus de Antiquitatibus Hibernicis Cap. XXVI, Pag

203, Memoirs, Pag. 230. (s) Cap. Seq. s. II 14/D/18/16 (XXIII)

(407) 249  
(Arch. Mew. Hib. V. 11. P. 1. 4) 350

P. 123  
County  
of  
Limerick.

## Kilmallock; (h)



Was formerly a town of great  
note, being walled, and the houses  
beautifully and elegantly built of  
hewn stone; it is now in ruins,  
yet has a greater share of magnificence,  
even in that miserable state, than  
any town in Ireland, and a learned  
and ingenious writer particularly  
calls it "The Balbec of Ireland;"  
it still retains the privilege of a  
borough, sending two members to  
parliament;

14/D/18/16 (XXIV)

(h) Was called anciently Killocta & Kilmochearney

parliament; and the corporation,  
in a petition to the House of  
Commons, in the session of  
1783, style themselves the ancient  
and loyal borough of Tilmallock.

### Regular Canons;

An abbey was founded here by  
St. Mocheallo (†), who died between  
the years 539 and 556. (10)

du. G.

End of  
M. G.

A. D. 1050 Died conall who was both  
archbishop & professor of this abbey. } Mrs.

This is now the parish church.

### Glacispaghe;

M. G. Inquisition 11th August XXIX 2 Elizabeth,  
finds, that there had been an abbey or  
religious



religious house in Kilmallock known  
by the name of Glacispagh, in which  
a stone house was erected by Geardueagh  
- Fitzpatrick of Kilmallock merchant  
and which house with an orchard  
and garden belonging thereto, was  
found of the annual value of 6000. *Endy*  
*lett of remem.* *u. d.*

### Dominican Friary;

The friars of the order of St. Dom-  
inick seated themselves here A. D.  
1291. (D); and the tradition of the  
place informs us, that the founder

[*(u) War*  
*(mon)*] of this friary was Gilbert, the second  
son of John of Callow, Lord Offaly. (D)  
A general chapter of the order was  
held here A. D. 1340. (D). Thomas

(D) Baurk. p. 284. (D) Kings p. 87. 14/15/16 (xxv)

Thomas the eldest son of James  
 Earl of Desmond, died of a wound  
 he received at Kilmallock. The  
 Earl survived the death of his son,  
 and died in the year 1536. (O)  
 April 24th XXXVI 2 Elizabeth, a  
 grant was made to Nicholas  
 Miagh sovereign, and to the kith and  
 kin commonly of this town, of  
 the Dominician priory of Kilmallock,  
 with, a church &c. and three small  
 gardens, within the precincts of  
 the same; eleven acres of land in  
 Kilmallock, and a water-mill,  
 parcel of the possessions of this  
 monastery

monastery; to hold the same forever,  
in free soccage, and not in capite,  
at the annual rent of 53. 0. said  
money. (W) But that said grant was  
forfeited by the non payment of the  
said rent. Inquisition 3a St. Hillary  
XXXI. Elizabeth.

The ruins of this monastery, which  
was situated within the town, may  
still be seen, and are sufficient to  
convince every observer, that this  
was and an elegant structure.

---

(W) and General.  
(W) (HP) chief remnant

14/D/18/16 (XXVI)

## Kilmallock

§. VI. St. Mochelloc, of whom I had occasion to make mention elsewhere, belonged to these times, having died very old in some year between 639 and 656. He is usually called Mochelloc of Bathur-mac-Conchaidh, once a town in the now county of Waterford. It is said that he was a relative of St. Finan of Kinnity. I find him honoured with the title of bishop, but, I suspect, on weak authority. (71)  
Besides some establishment at Bathur-mac-Conchaidh, the foundation of the church of Kilmallock is usually attributed to him, and the name Kilmallock is supposed to be a contraction of Mill-mochelloc. (72)  
(it is an absolute certainty) &c.

St. Manchan abbot of Meno-drochit died in 652. He was surnamed the wise, and [p. 30] enjoyed a great reputation. Some writers make him the same as Manchan abbot of Mohill in the now county of Leitrim; but there is reason



reason to think, that they were different persons. Manchan the wise was, I believe the same as the Manchan, or, as vulgarly called, Munchin, who is supposed to have been the first bishop of Limerick. For this supposition there is no sufficient authority; (84) and, as far as I can discover, it rests on no other foundation than that Manchan the wise founded, perhaps, a monastery where Limerick now stands, or that the first church in that place was dedicated in his name. Of the identity of Munchin of Limerick with Manchan the wise a stronger proof need not be required than that his festival is kept on the 2nd of January, the day assigned to the memory of Manchan the wise in all the Irish Calendars. (85) There is not the least hint in any old document relative to our Church history, of this Manchan having been raised to the episcopal rank; but the veneration in which he was held at Limerick, and the circumstance of its oldest church bearing his name, gave

(1117)  
~~259~~  
357

gave rise at a late period to the opinion of his having been a bishop. Mistakes of this kind have occurred not only in Ireland but likewise in other countries

### Notes

- (77) Mochelloc is not called bishop in any of the Irish calendars quoted by Colgan.
- (78) Keating says that Mochelloc erected the church of Kill-mochelloc. Colgan calls this place a town, "certainly" good meaning, it seems, Kilmallock. Hence Harris and Archdall ascribe a monastery at Kilmallock to St. Mochelloc.
- (84) Ware (Bishops at Limerick) says, that St. [p. 32] Manchin, son of Sedna, was the first bishop of that city. He does not refer to any authority, nor had any except a passage of <sup>a</sup> genealogical hagiology (ap. Act. S. p. 332.) in which among five Manchans is reckoned Manchinus Limmichensis filius Sednae. But this Manchin or Manchian is not called a bishop, although a Manchian mentioned just before him is marked by that title. I do not find either in the Irish Calendars or annals any Manchian bishop of Limerick, nor even one called of Limerick. It is very probable that Manchian the wise was son of Sedna,

who  
14/12/18/16 (XXVIII)

who is said to have been a descendant of Cormac Cas King of Munster, and the founder of the Dalcaopian line of princes. As Thomond, in which was comprised the country about Limerick, was the patrimony of this race, it is natural to suppose that Munchin son of Seona was greatly revered in that territory, of which he was probably a native. And thus it can be easily accounted for, why there was a church in Limerick called by his name, without recurring to the unauthorized hypothesis of his having been bishop there. We acknowledge, that he was not able to find any account of Munchin's successors at Limerick until about the beginning of the twelfth century, and elsewhere (Antiquities, cap. 29 at Limerick) says, that it is a very difficult point to ascertain who Munchin of Limerick was. He mentions the opinion of those, who make him the same as Manecus, who, according to Jocelin, was left in Tirawly by St. Patrick. We have already seen, (Chap. v. §. 12. and ib. Not. 110.) that this pretended Manecus of St. Patrick's times was no other than Manchan of Menn-drochit. But even if he were different, and if there was a Manchan in Tirawly at that early period



period, how has it come to pass, that neither in Joceline nor in the Tripartite is a word to be <sup>found</sup> ~~about~~ about said Maunchan having become a bishop of Limerick, although the latter work is particularly minute as to St. Patrick's proceedings in the now county of Limerick? The fact is, that in St. Patrick's days there was [p. 33] neither a town, nor, I dare say, a village, nor monastery in the place where Limerick is situated. Ware touches also on the opinion, that Chunchu was the same as Maunchan of Mene-drochit, which, strange to think, he supposes to be less probable than the other. But he assigns no reason for having thought so. O'Halloran pretends (*History*, &c. B. VIII. ch. 7.) not only that Maunchan was bishop of Limerick soon after the arrival of St. Patrick in Ireland, and that he had been employed in Connaught, but likewise that, before he became bishop, he was abbot, and the first, of Mungret (Mungret) near Limerick. O'Halloran confounded Mungret with Mene-drochit, notwithstanding their being most clearly distinguished by Colgan, Harris, &c. The first abbot of Mungret, at least on record, was Neffan, who died in 552.



P. 12.2 1261

RIA

14/0/12/16(XXX)



From Fitzgerald's history of  
Limerick. p. 341.

(423) 361

Kilmallock is a rectory and vicarage in the diocese of Limerick united at a period prior to any existing record to the rectories of <sup>conco murcand</sup> Bloneneah, Blonakilly, Borecomohide, Brecoragh, Kilfergus, Killgobbin, Killmoylan, Killtearney and Morgan.

An abbey was founded in this town by St. Mochellog who died between the years 639 and 656; this is now the parish church and is kept in good repair.

The friars of the order of St. Dominick seated themselves here, Anno Domini 1291, and we are informed that the founder of this friary was Gilbert, the second son of John of Callan, lord of Offaly; its ruins which may still be seen, give evidence that it was once an elegant structure.

In this church are the remains of a monument erected to the Verdon family + + + +  
Another monument of excellent workmanship contains the following inscription.

14/P/18/16 (XXXI)

(424)

" D. Walterius Coppinger, Eques Auratus  
 " Hoc funeris et amoris manumentum posuit.  
 " A.D. 1627; Domino Johannis Verdono  
 " ejusque relictæ D. Albonæ Haly conjugi sue.  
 " Dom. Verdon obiit Aug. 10, 1614 ætatis sue 63,  
 " D. Haly obiit October 20, 1626. ætatis sue 60."

" Surgite mortui, venite ad judicium!"

" Sir Walter Coppinger Bart. erected this manu-  
 a-ment in testimony of his affection to Mr.  
 " John Verdon and his widow Mrs Alice  
 " Haly in the year 1627. Mr. Verdon died  
 " Aug. 19. 1614 aged 63; Mr. Haly died Octo-  
 " ber 20. 1626.

" Rise ye dead and come to judgment."

On a tomb of the Fitzgeralds in the  
 same church is the following:

" Non fugiam prius experiam, non mors mihi terror."

" I will not fly, I'll fortune try;—death's to me no terror."

In this church is also a beautiful monument of white  
 marble belonging to the family of Lord Blakeney who  
 was



(425)  
was rendered famous by his defence of ellinorca; and in 363  
the church of St Peter and Paul is the following curious  
inscription to the memory of three relations named Burgate,  
who, it appears, fell fighting for their country

*Tertia lux casus memorat septemb. in anno  
Quem legis, Hec nondum - Tres tenet urnas  
Senes Marte, nepos fratriusque ruunt tria pignora iusto  
Jus patriæ causam, rexque fidesque  
Probant. Integer attritus reperitur  
Bandor. In extis virginis et veri  
Purpura Martirii. Lillia purpureos  
Inter. Ludentia, Fluctus tres Mervere.  
Trium Nomina Marmor habet.*

This is  
now  
much  
mutilated

Frates { George }  
          { Edward } Burgate  
Nepos. { Alexander }

Date 1642.

Reader, this year, it grieves my heart to tell  
In battle three relations nobly fell;  
Fighting for King, Religion, Country, Laws;  
Angels and men approve the glorious cause!  
Their mangled sides exhibiting to view  
The virgin's white and martyr's purple hue!  
Well may the herald's emblematic lore  
Their bright achievements blazon o'er and o'er;  
With dew dropt lilies in a purple stream  
Marble immortalize each hero's name.

Brothers { George }  
          { Edward } Burgate  
Nephew { Alexander }

14/10/18/16 (XXXII)

Fitzgerald, the White Knight, is buried in the Dominican abbey where is shewn a small hollow on his tomb which is pretended to have been formed by a continual drop of rain, called in Irish Braon Sinsior, that is the hereditary drop as a mark of displeasure from heaven for his great cruelties to his Catholic countrymen.

Kilmallock has, with great propriety been denominated the "Balbec of Ireland" The ancient walls, which, in many places, still remain, appear to have formed an oblong square with a castle at each angle and the houses were built of hewn stone. The principal entrance to the town was by a lofty turretted gateway, which led into a street uniformly built; once, no doubt, a scene of bustle and animation, but now exhibiting the stillness of a sacked and desolated city with magnificent ruins of ecclesiastical, military and civic edifices, scattered on every side, which remind the passenger of the grandeur & prosperity of their former owners. Of such a scene the following lines of Mr. Pope are peculiarly descriptive:

"The level'd town with weeds lies cover'd o'er  
 "The hollow winds thro' naked temples roar  
 "Round broken columns clasping ivy twined  
 "O'er heaps of ruins stalks the stately hind  
 "The fox obscene to gaping tombs retires  
 "And savage howlings fill the sacred quires."

RIA

14/D/18/16 (XXXIII)



The Parish Church at Kilmaleck  
with its Round tower.

October 17 1820.



(427)  
365

The Abbey of Kilmallock stands on the east side of the town outside the town wall. It is an extensive ruin, but nothing in point of magnificence to other abbeys we have seen in Ireland. It consists of several divisions of which the following are the principal.

1. A beautiful chapel extending to the east of the tower and measuring <sup>66.6</sup> ft in length on the inside, and 24 ft in breadth. It is lighted by 6 Gothic windows placed on the south wall and measuring about 12 ft in height and 5 ft in width, and by a very magnificent one <sup>placed</sup> on the east gable, and measuring about 20 feet in height and 16 ft in width on the outside and divided into five compartments painted at top.

Within this chapel is a monument to the White Knights now much mutilated and exhibiting the following inscription.

"Hic tumulus erectus fuit in memoriam  
"illius: stemmatis Geraldinorum qui vulgo  
"vocantur Equites albi.

"Johannes cum filio suo Edmundo et Mau-  
"ricio filio preffate Edmundi et multi  
"alii ejusdem familie hic tumulantur."

This is the tomb on which the Braon willae fell and formed a hole in the stone to mark the displeasure of heaven.

14/P/18/16 (XXXIV)

(428)  
366

The western chapel may be called the nave and the eastern the choir of the abbey church, but the choir arch is a miserable one.

The arches from which the lower springs are unusually narrow; they are  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ft in width and 24 feet in height.

Another chapel extends to the west of the tower and measures 87 feet in length and 24 ft in breadth. Its south wall is destroyed, but the north wall is perfect and contains three windows and two pointed doorways. Its west gable is in good preservation and contains one painted doorway and over it a large gothic window. The side walls of these chapels are about 28 feet in height and vary in thickness from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft; the south wall is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft but the north wall and west gable are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft in thickness.

North from the tower extends another long house measuring 90 feet in length and  $17\frac{1}{2}$  ft in breadth and lighted by eleven windows of various forms and sizes.

To the south of the tower there is another chapel or transept, on the north side of which there are two large pointed arches. It measures 38 ft in length and 36 in breadth, and is lighted by three windows, two of which are on the east wall, and <sup>a very large</sup> one on the south gable, which is divided into five compartments. There is another small window on the same gable near the S.W. corner.

The

(429)  
367

The western side of the tower was destroyed, according to tradition, by the great warrior Cromwell.

Between the north wall of the western chapel above described and another building called the refectory, is an open square of considerable extent, near the north western extremity of which is the monument to the three brothers of the name <sup>the inscription in which has been</sup> Burgals, above given by Fitzgerald. This monument is now much mutilated and the antiquary has to rejoice that its inscription has been preserved by the author of the history of Limerick.

"Tertia lux casar" &c, &c.

The refectory or, as the people call it "Dwelling house" of this abbey consists of a large kitchen arched over head, and over it a large dining room. The kitchen is 56 feet in length and 19 in breadth, and the height to the top of the vault is about 16 feet.

It had two apartments off it, one at the east end and the other off the south side. This kitchen has two large fire places and is lighted by five windows of which 4 are on the north wall and one on the west gable; and it <sup>was</sup> entered by 4 pointed doorways, one on the west gable, two on the south wall and one at the east end which is now just destroyed.

The dining room over this kitchen is a very spacious

14/D/18/16 (xxxv)

(430) 368

spacious one, being <sup>ft</sup> 67.6 in length and <sup>ft</sup> 32 in breadth. It is lighted by <sup>quadrangl</sup> 7 windows of which four are on the north wall and three on the east gables; but its south wall, which probably contained several windows, is destroyed.

"The church of St. Peter and Paul."

The chancel or Eastern portion of the old Church of St. Peter and Paul is now used as the Protestant Church of Kilmalloch. This portion is  $49\frac{1}{2}$  ft. long by  $25\frac{1}{2}$  ft. in breadth, the walls being 3 feet in thickness. The western portion or nave is 80 ft. long by 65 ft. in breadth; it contains 14 windows, which are all in the pointed style. There are <sup>on each side</sup> four lofty pointed arches, springing from large square pillars, dividing the centre from the side aisles. There were also ~~pointed~~ arches springing from these pillars in a lateral direction and terminated by the walls on each side; but they are now destroyed. The tower, situated at the N. W. corner, is round, and its style seems a modification of the ancient Irish *clozár*, and intermediate between it and the Norman tower of subsequent ages.



There is a small building at the S. E. corner, formed by the South wall projecting  $19\frac{1}{2}$  feet; the breadth of this building from E. to W. is 24 ft. It is separated from the main body of the church by a pointed arch. The walls of this church which are parapetted, are, including the parapet, about 40 feet in height.

### Of the Church of St. Mocheallois.

The foundation of the old church to which, according to tradition, the name Cill Mocheallois was originally given, still remains; it is situated on the South side of a hill, on rising ground, about a quarter of a mile N.W. of the town of Kilmallock. There are only about 2 ft. in height of the walls of this old church now remaining; and they are nearly covered with earth and grass. The length of St. Mocheallois' church is  $22\frac{1}{2}$  ft, its breadth 12 ft. 3 in and the thickness of its walls 3 feet. The few

14/0/18/16 (xxxvii)

(482)

370 stones of the foundation which can now be seen are large; and no lime mortar can be observed between them. There is a small grave yard attached to this ruin, but it is scarcely ever used at present.

Very considerable remains of the town wall of Kilmallock are still visible. One of the gates with its tower is in good preservation, and a square tower or castle stands in good preservation near the west end of the town. Many ancient houses are still to be seen in this ancient town of which the artists should make careful sketches, before the hand of improvement disfigures them all.

Ld'Donovan, Aug. 12. 1840.

RIA

14/0/18/16 (xxxvii)



*South Gate of Kilmallock*



**END**

**14 D 18/17**

**O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; Wakeman, William Frederick**

**Notes, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of  
Athlackagh (Athlacca), Glenogra (Glenogra) and Ballynagalliagh (Ballynagallagh),  
Co. Limerick, with particular reference to their early churches, castles and the  
origins of their place names.**

**1840**

**6p.**

**24 cm**

**ill; ink sketch of Glenogra Castle, Co. Limerick, by William Fredrick Wakeman.**

(437) <sup>371</sup>

## The parish of Mhlackagh.-

Situation. This parish is in the barony of Coshma and is bounded on the north by the parishes of Glenogra, Tullabracca and Monasteravenagh; on the east by the parish of Drummin, on the south by Bruce, and on the west by Broom.

Name. The name of this parish is in Irish An t-áth leacach, which signifies the flaggy ford so called from a ford on the Morning Star River over which a bridge stands.

The site of the ancient church of this parish is occupied by a protestant church which was burned down some years ago by Captain Rock but lately repaired. There is nothing about it to attract the notice of the antiquarian.

In the townland of Rathcannon on a lofty hill in this parish are the ruins of an extensive castle. It consists of an outer wall enclosing a great extent of ground, with a square tower and dwelling house now much ruined. The dwelling house is on the west side and is now thatched and inhabited

14/10/18/17(i) by

by a poor family. The square tower or castle is on the north west corner, but only its north wall and fragments of the west and east walls remain. Its north side measures on the outside <sup>80 in</sup> 33.7, and is at present about 30 feet in height. The walls of the tower are <sup>ft in</sup> 4.7 in thickness and well built.

The east side of the outer wall or bawn of this castle is 35 paces in length, and the north side 40 paces. The four walls form nearly a square, but they are now so ruined that it is difficult to ascertain their original height or whether they had more than one tower. They are <sup>ft in</sup> 4.3 thick and the north wall, which is in tolerable preservation, is not less than 17 feet high but no part of the south wall is more than 10 feet high.

At the north east corner there are two flights of stone steps leading to the top of the wall. Fitzgerald in his Hist. of Limerick says that this noble fortress was built by the family of O'Casey, but is it?

On the south-west end of the townland of Gullerboy is a nice little church called Kill Brucaine. It is a mere ruin but from what remains of it you may ascertain that it measured on the inside 45 feet in length and 20 ft in width. Its west gable is destroyed down to the very foundations, as is also the south wall except two small fragments. A considerable part of the east gable remains as also of the north



north wall from which it can be seen that <sup>(439)</sup>  
it was a very rude little building not more <sup>373</sup>  
than 400 years old. The east gable has  
a remarkably rude window which is now  
disfigured on the inside and outside. The  
north wall is 3 feet thick and about 11 ft  
high.

There is a holy well near this church  
called Bruidine's well. X For Croaghaga see field name book

### The parish of Ballynagallagh

Situation. This parish is situated in the barony  
of Small County, and is bounded on the north  
by the parish of Manasteranenagh, on the west  
by that of Tullybracca on the south by the  
parish of Breff and on the east by that  
of Knockainy.

Name. The name of this parish is locally <sup>pronounced</sup> called  
in Irish Baile na g-caillach, which signifies the town  
of the stumps.

The old church of Baile na g Caillach stood on  
the eastern slope of the hill of the same name, but  
it is now all destroyed except a fragment of the  
west gable measuring 14 feet in height and 9 feet  
in breadth and 3½ feet in thickness built of stones

14/D/18/17(ii)

(440)  
374 of regular size cemented with lime and sand mortar.  
All the other walls are destroyed and even their foundations are not now traceable. There is a small grave yard attached.

It is believed that a nunnery stood here formerly from which the place was called Baile na g-Caileach, or Nunstown.

About  $\frac{1}{2}$  furlong to the north of this old grave yard <sup>and</sup> on the northern summit of the same hill there is a giant's grave or cromlech which has often attracted the notice of the curious. It is now thrown down but the stones are on the ground and one may easily perceive how they were originally fixed. The flag supported by the gallans or uprights is nearly of the shape of an equilateral triangle measuring 7 ft in height <sup>3 ft</sup> 6 in at the base and <sup>1 ft</sup> 6 in in thickness. The upright stones measure one 4 ft in length  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft in height and 10 inches in thickness; the other 6 ft in length 3 ft in height and 1 ft in thickness.

For a description of Tempull na or New Church which is situated in this parish see Knockainy, where it was inserted through mistake, and the cromlech described as situated near the south margin of Lough Gur is also in this parish.

(441)

(544)

345

(Archdallis. Mon. Hib. V. 11. P. 1. 64.)

P 433

County

of  
Limerick

## Monasternicallagh;

Situated near Lough-Gor, in the  
barony of Small County; here was  
formerly a nunnery for Canonesses  
of the order of St. Augustine, dedicated  
to St. Catharine. (y)

We meet with no other account  
of this nunnery, save, that the rectories  
of the parishes of Drishane, Cullin,  
Aohavel, Kilmeeu, and Drumtariff,  
in the barony of Duhallow and  
county of Cork, did belong to it. (z)

(y) Mon. mov. (z) Smith's Cork &amp;c. 1. p. 90.

14/2/18/17 (III)

~~the~~ 1020 Dies ~~at~~ O'Donoghue, Deacon  
of this abbey 4 march

[Ms.] Inquisition of the March xx 2 Elizabeth  
finds that the following rectories in  
the diocess of Limerick were appropriated  
to the abbey, viz. Novapraugia, annual  
value 20s. and Dunmoilne, annual  
value 20s. Note, the presentation to  
the vicarage of Dunmoilne belonged  
to the abbey. (w) (m) chip. remem.

This nunnery, with the lands and  
tenements thereunto belonging, was  
granted to Sir Henry Wallop, Knight.  
See the Trinitarian priory of Exeter

---

(w) chip. remem.



of these Cromlechs Fitzgerald writes as follows in his history of Limerick:

(445)

377

On Bilsna (mill-rack) hill in this neighbourhood (nempie of Lough Ferr) is a Cromleach, near which a stone coffin was found, a few years since, ~~a stone~~ with a human skeleton. At less than a half a mile <sup>north?</sup> south of this are two others, one of which has been lately broken down by a farmer, who had two of the stones taken away to make pillars for his gateway."

### The parish of Glenogra.

Situation. This parish is situated in the <sup>Bar:</sup> parish of Small County and is bounded on the north by the parish of Feddamos, on the east by those of Tullybracca and Monasteranenagh, on the south by Athlackagh, and on the west by Monasteranenagh and Croom.

Name. The name of this parish is pronounced in Irish Gleann Ogra, which signifies the valley of Ogra, the latter part being the name of an old chieftain, who flourished here in the times of paganism, but ~~of~~ <sup>to</sup> whom we have not as yet

14/2/18/17 (IV)

44

378. discovered any historical references.

The old church of Glenogra is a rude building, of considerable extent, measuring on the inside 69 ft in length and  $21\frac{1}{2}$  ft in breadth on the inside.

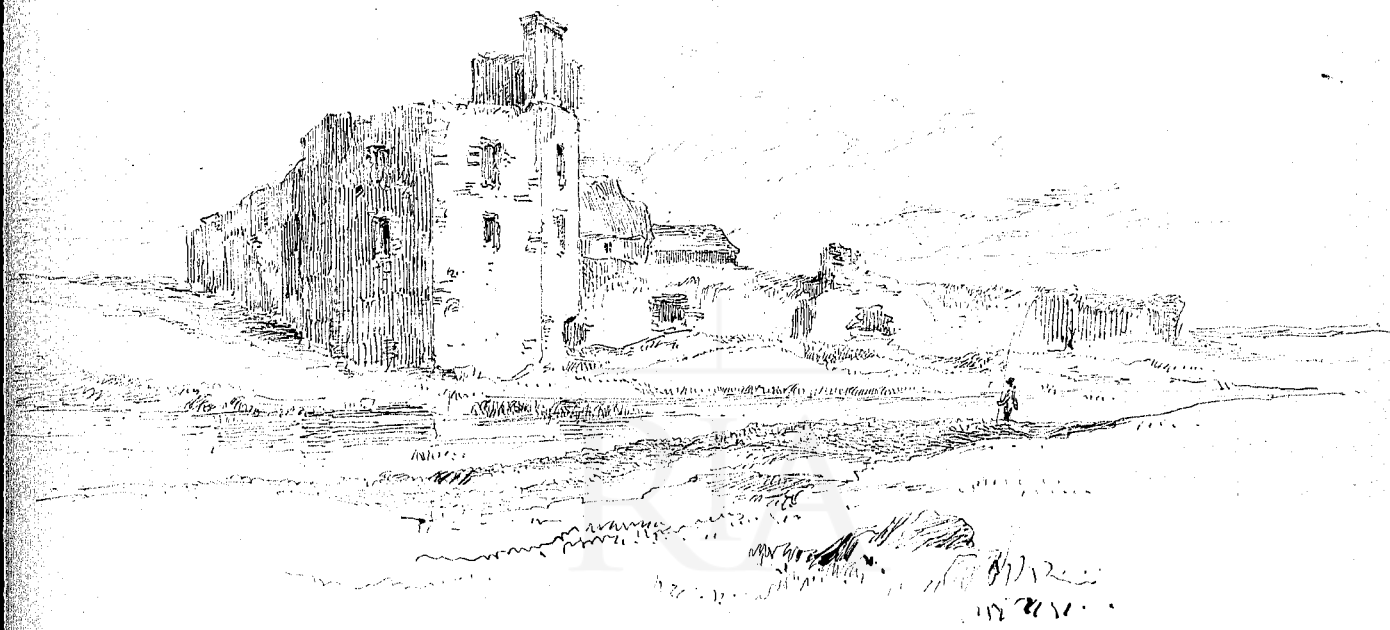
There are two doorways on it opposite each other, one on the south side at the distance of 20 feet from the west gable and the other on the north wall.

The west gable has a breach on it at the ground and contains a narrow little window placed at the height of about 12 feet from the level of the ground and measuring on the outside about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft in height and 7 inches in width.

The east gable contains three windows nearly round at the head, of which the most southern is by far the smallest and now built up with rough masonry work; the middle one is the highest being 9 feet high and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ft in width on the outside. These three windows are constructed on the outside of cut lime stone.

There were two windows placed directly opposite each other on the side walls at the distance of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  ft from the east gable, but they are now both disfigured.

A lateral house or Sarcophagus extended from the south wall of this church; of this the



the castle of Glenogra near Bruff  
Co. Limerick

W F W Mearns del  
1865

RIA

14/5/18/F(v)



(447)  
The south gable remains and contains a large<sup>379</sup> Gothic window now much disfigured. This lateral apartment was 29 feet 6 inches in length and 18 feet in breadth. Its side walls are decayed down to the very foundations. The side walls of the church are <sup>8 ft in</sup> 3.4 in thickness and about 12 feet in height.

A short distance to the west of this old church is the castle of Glenogra situated on the bank of the Camoge River. It is a very extensive fortress consisting of a large bailey fortified with towers. The east side of this bailey is exactly 150 feet in length, and the south side is 180 feet. The greatest height of the outer wall (which is at the east side) is 25 feet, and the general thickness 5 feet. It is very well built of square blocks of lime stone cemented with excellent lime and sand mortar.

On the N.E. corner stands an octagonal tower of curious construction measuring on the inside <sup>8 ft in</sup> 19.6 in diameter. It consists of four stories of which the second is a stone arch of very strange construction; the other floors were of wood, and each was lighted by three quadrangular windows of considerable size. On the S.W. side of this octagon stands a small square tower to the top of which a spiral stair case leads, and <sup>near</sup> opposite this tower on the

14/10/18/17(VI) the

The west side of the octagon is a very tall chimney in good preservation. The walls of this octagon are <sup>8 ft in</sup> 6 ft in thickness.

(4 in number) of curious construction. There are several vaults in the north wall of this fortress over which towers originally stood, but the towers are now entirely destroyed.

This bawn was entered on the south side by a <sup>pointed</sup> gateway measuring 8 ft in height to the vertex of the arch and 6 ft in where the arch springs. The country people have disfigured the walls of this bawn by picking the cut stone out of its face.

This fortress, v. built, according to tradition, by the Earl of Desmond about the year 1400, but I do not believe that the octagonal tower above mentioned is <sup>not</sup> near so old.

In this parish is situated the townland of Rockbarton, anciently called Chtirp & Giolla mór from which Lord Gylamore (O'Grady) took his title.

This parish was examined by me and Mr. A. Curry

J. O'Donovan

**END**

14 D 18/18

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Monasteranenagh, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to its abbey, forts, castle and the origins of its place name.

10 August 1840

13p.

23 cm

Included are related extracts from Archdall's 'Monasticum Hibernicum', the 'Annals of the Four Masters'.



# The parish of Monasteranenagh.

449  
381

## Situation

This parish is in three detached portions in three baronies, one portion lies in the barony of Coshma, another in that of Small County and the third in Pobblebrien.

Name. The original name of this parish was Monach beag, i.e. the small fair, but after the erection of the great abbey in the 12<sup>th</sup> century the place took name from it. Munimptip an donag signifies the abbey of the Fair i.e. the Abbey of Monach Beag. For a similar name the reader is referred to the parish of Tenagh in the County of Tipperary, which was originally called Donach Upmuman i.e. the Fair of Ormond.

Fitzgerald in his history of Limerick has taken some pains to describe this abbey. I shall insert his words here and correct him in some particulars.

" In that part of the parish which lies  
" in the barony of Pobblebrien is situated the  
" famous abbey of Many, on the banks of  
" the Camoge River. It is one of the most  
" remarkable monastic edifices in Munster  
" both for its structure and history. Its

14/D/18/18(i)

front

382" front to the river extends about 170 feet at <sup>(a)</sup>  
 which side is the entrance <sup>(b)</sup> by two beautiful arches  
 of polished mountain grit of a reddish colour.  
 These arches are separated by a handsome square  
 pillar of the same materials and they curve off  
 about <sup>(c)</sup> 7 feet of its perpendicular height.

- (a) Its front to the river is at least 179 feet. The nave being 90 feet in length and the chancel 81, and thickness of the walls <sup>ft in</sup> 4.6.
- (b) The present entrance is by these arches but certainly this was not the case originally, for these arches originally led into northern aisle, as is evident from fragments of walls still remaining. It is highly probable that this building originally extended to the very margin of the river Barnage.
- (c) This measurement is wrong, for I have ascertained by measuring the square pillar with a tape that these arches do not curve even at the height of 10 feet from the present level of the ground. The square pillar is <sup>ft in</sup> 10.11 $\frac{1}{4}$  from the present level of the ground to the points where the arches spring. It is shameful to give such incorrect measurements in printed books, but I have found that Fitzgerald has not seen half the places which he describes in this County.

The chancel is <sup>(d)</sup> 75 feet in length: the eastern part <sup>(e)</sup> being more elevated than the rest is formed by one of the finest arches in Ireland 30 feet in breadth; it is constructed of red grit and its shafts rise from the foundation of the walls of the abbey to an <sup>(f)</sup> immense height.

In the walls of the chancel on either hand two other arches of the same description were formed which are now nearly filled up and at the east end were the high altar and <sup>3</sup> beautiful Gothic windows of polished red grit rising from the floor to the roof. <sup>(g)</sup>

(d) The chancel is 85 feet in length and 28 <sup>ft</sup> in breadth on the inside.

(e) It is only 25 feet from one shaft to the other. This argues great carelessness in Fitzgerald

(f) The shafts of this arch are about 17 <sup>ft</sup> 6 high. The arch is <sup>pointed and</sup> about 35 feet in height from the present level of the floor to the vertex of the arch. It is doubtlessly a most magnificent arch and reflects honor on the race of Brian. I had no idea that the Irish had built such splendid arches before the arrival of the English.

(g) These windows are remarkably high and narrow; the middle which is the highest is about 27 feet high and only 2 feet in width. The other two are the same width but some feet lower.

14/D/18/18(11)

(452) 384

"The nave has lateral aisles separated from  
" the chancel by a low gothic arch; at the west  
" end stood the tower a noble square structure  
" of great height which has lately fallen. The  
" whole of this majestic edifice occupies more  
" ground than all the buildings on the celebrated  
" rock of Cashel.

"Tho' want and wildness reign around  
" Nor earth give soil, nor echo sound  
" An awe upon the heart will steal  
" 'Tis holy ground."

The nave of this abbey is <sup>80 ft</sup> 27.6 in breadth on the  
inside and 90 ft in length. There are two beautiful  
round headed windows in the west gable at the  
height of about 16 feet from the ground, and  
the same gable contains a semicircular headed  
doorway now much disfigured.

This abbey was evidently injured in the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>  
century and afterwards repaired, when the ori-  
ginal beautif~~ul~~ of the building suffered  
much from want of skill in the repairs.

A short distance to the north of this abbey  
are near the south bank of the Camoge river  
fragments of the walls of a small chapel  
and on the south side of it are outer walls

of



(453)  
385

of great extent, and to the south east of the channel the ruins of a chapel. The following is written to ridicule Fitzgerald!

The conspicuous hill of Knockfennell situated in that part of this parish belonging to the barony of Small County, is very well fortified in the Cyclopean style. On its north west pinnacle stands a very strong Cyclopean fort which is 360 feet in circumference. Its wall is 10 feet in thickness, and built of very large stones nearly 3 feet every way regularly fitted to each other and the interstices filled up with small ones, but no cement appears. From this fort down to the lake of Lough Gur walls of similar construction extend at about sixty paces asunder to the north side of the hill. These walls are connected by others of the same kind.

On the east point of the same hill which is very high there is a smaller fort, and along which lies between these two <sup>shoulders</sup> pinnacles of the hill the remains of walls can be traced terminating in like manner at the lake to the south and the deep grounds to the ~~of~~ north. On an eminence joining Lough Gur on the east similar fortifications are found

14/10/18/18 (iii) surrounded

(454.)

386 Surrounded with immense rough rocks the ascent to which from the lake side is very rugged, difficult and high. Such was one of the strong holds of Brian Boru, who, according to the Irish histories fortified Lough Gur, and who from being a provincial prince of a barren territory raised himself to the monarchy of Ireland!

There is nothing on ~~Lake~~ Knockfinnell, but a small mound on its east point.

In the townland of Rathmore in that part of this parish belonging to the barony of Small County are the lofty ruins of the Castle of Rathmore, which is mentioned in the annals of the Four Masters at the year 1549 as one of Desmond's Castles.

It is a square castle of remarkable height, and measuring <sup>ft in</sup> 30.6 on the outside from north to south, and <sup>ft in</sup> 36.4 from East to west. Its walls are <sup>ft in</sup> 6.9 thick and remarkably well built. There seem to have been outworks but they are not now traceable.

It is said <sup>traditionally</sup> that this castle was stormed by Cromwell, but I have no written historical account of it.

J. J. Donovan

Brough na Deise

Aug<sup>st</sup>. 10<sup>th</sup> 1840.

[Should be Masters]

Monach-beg; now Monasteradenagh[Comp'd  
P 12]

A.D.

1579. \* \* \* \* \* [See Limerick at this year, P. 455/12  
the whole of this article]

With regard to Captain Haubly, he after  
the death of the said Chief Justice proceeded  
to Limerick to obtain a new supply of  
Artillery and to procure provisions for his  
soldiers. From thence he marched to East-  
gebbtene (Askatoon). On the same day the  
Young Sons of the Earl of Desmond came to  
look for arms or spoils in the County of  
Limerick, and they and the Captain  
met each other face to face, although they  
had sought to avoid instead of to meet him.

14/2/18/18 (12)

A battle was bravely fought between both parties in which the Irish army were so resolutely pressed by the Captain's forces that they were finally defeated with the loss of Thomas, the son of John age who was son of John, who was son of Thomas, who was son of the Earl, and Owen, the son of Edmond age, who was son of Edmond, who was son of Corlogh McSheehy, & a great number of the Constables of the Clan Sheehy, as well as a great many of the forces of the Sons of the Earl. Considerable spoils, consisting of weapons and military accoutrements were left on this occasion to the Captain's people



people. This battle was fought at  
Hornach-beag. The Captain after this  
remained almost a whole week at  
Asicootoo, the Genseldine threatening  
every day to give him battle, although  
they did not. The Captain destroyed the  
Monastery of that town, and then proceeded  
to Adaire where he remained subjugating  
the people of that neighbourhood until  
the new Chief Justice Sir William Pelham,  
the Earl of Kildare, and the Earl of  
Ormond came and joined him.

14/10/18/18(V)

(Gaughe Camden)

(459) 391  
390  
333

At Monaster<sup>ne</sup>nagh in Poble O'Brien  
barony was a Cistercian abbey,  
founded 1148.

---

Note  
(f) Sh. 432. Wilson, 163.

14/10/18/18(VI)

(Archd. Mon. Hib. v. 11. P. I. A.)

P. 132 County  
of  
Limerick.

## Monasternenagh; (m)



In the barony of Poble O'Brien. An  
abbey was founded here to the honour  
of the virgin Mary, A. D. 1148 or 1151, by  
O'Brien, who furnished it with monks of  
the Cistercian order from the abbey of  
Mellifont, in the county of Louth, the  
cell of Feal, <sup>(abbeyfeale)</sup> was afterwards annexed to  
this house. (m)

A. D. 1174. Donatus, abbot of this house,  
was a subscribing witness to the grant made  
by Dermot King of Munster to Gill-abbey  
in Cork. (o)

1295. B.

(m) Called also ~~St. Mary's~~ <sup>St. Mary's</sup> ~~Mon.~~ <sup>Mon.</sup> (o) King. p. 336  
14/D/18/18 (vii)

(338) (1764)

1295. It appears that Adam de Derrmogho  
was abbot before this year, (P)

1304, Isaac was abbot; for we find that,  
on the 7th of March in this year,  
he granted to John Bathe, the  
son of Simon, the whole Grange of  
Grangenaw, for the space and term of  
thirty years, paying annually thereout  
forty Cronnogs of bread corn, twenty  
of peas and beans, and twenty of  
oats, all properly cleansed and  
winnowed; and also, that he should  
pay suit and service at their court  
of Mase twice in every year; and if  
the said John, his heirs or assigns, should  
at any time be amerced in the said  
court, the fine should not exceed sixpence. (Q)

1307. William



1307. William the abbot granted to Robert bishop of Limerick all the land which Laur. Osemyll held from him in Camysheg, for the term of twenty-one years, at the annual rent of fifty shillings.

It is recaded that Isaac was abbot the same year; and, that in 1311, he alienated several lands belonging to this abbey.

1313. In this year John the abbot petitioned the King to be restored to the lands which Isaac had alienated, and which had been seized into the King's hands, this abbey being a royal foundation. (rr)

1314. The abbot recovered the Grange of Mahunaw, in this county, from Maurice Fitz. Thomas. (rr)

1365. Henry was abbot some time before this year. (S)

1370. On

(rr) King. fo. 225 (rr) Id. (S) Id. fo. 340.

14/10/18/18 (viii)

1090. On the 10th of July in this year, Gerald Earl of Desmond, together with the Lord John Fitz Nicholas, the Lord Thomas Fitz-John, and several of the nobility, were taken prisoner near this monastery, where many other nobles were slain, by O'Brien and McConor of Thomond. (t)

1597. This year Marshal Malby, at the head of 100 horse, and 600 foot, defeated 2000 of the Irish; although they fought valiantly at first, yet were 260 of them slain, amongst whom we find D'allen, the Spanish legate (u) from the see of Rome. (w) The action happened near this monastery.

The abbot was a baron of parliament

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(t) Pembroke. ann. (u) War. mov. (w) Cox. p. 358

395  
(467) 341

At the general suppression, the abbot  
of this house was found in  
possession of the site of the same,  
together with five ploughlands, one  
adjoining the site, called the ploughland  
of the abbey; another called Bally-  
cu' Stradina, and Grange, alias Grange;  
two ploughlands called Barneaw,  
and one called Ballybood;  
Clophnamanagh, and with all the  
tithes, oblations &c. of the said  
ploughlands; the entire parish  
of Nenagh, belonging to the said  
abbey, and extending to the towns  
of Granshelath, Cammas, Carrana-  
managh, Knocknegrawly, Cahiraduff,  
Clophnamanagh

14/10/18/18(IX)

Clophmerragh, Kilkerby, Bowharany,  
and Lackangrenagh, with the  
presentation of the apsewaid  
rectory, a mill seat and water  
course, and wiers for eels and  
pittes on the river Comeage, six  
shillings rent issuing yearly from  
Garranannagh, and 1*l.* and 8*d.*  
arising from Gattencilleagh. (X)

[Chs.] Inquisition 8<sup>th</sup> march xx 2. Elizabeth  
finds that the Chappel of  
<sup>canis or</sup> Canis in *of* diocess of Limerick  
was appropriated to <sup>this</sup> *of* abbat, and  
was *of* annual value of 13: 4<sup>d.</sup> *of* <sup>Chemen</sup>  
This abbey, and its possessions, were  
granted

(X) King. p. 344.



(469) 397  
345

were granted to Sir Henry  
- Wallop, Knight. See the  
(Trinitarian priory, Adair,

14/D/18/18(x)

[Comp'd  
of.]

(471)

398  
663

[original & corrected]

# Rathmore.

A.D.

1579

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

[see also the entry p. 455,  
for the date of the battle.]

With regard to Captain Mauley, he after  
the death of the Lord Chief Justice proceeded  
to Limerick to obtain a new supply of  
artillery and to procure provisions for his  
soldiers. From thence he marched to Eas-  
Gobhline (Askeaton) On the same day the  
young sons of the Earl of Desmond came  
to look for arms or spoils in the country  
of Limerick and they and the Captain  
met each other face to face although

They  
14/10/18/18(xl)

they had sought to avoid instead of  
to meet him. A battle was bravely  
fought between both parties in which  
the Irish arms were completely overpowered  
by the Captains Forces that they were  
finally defeated with the loss of Thomas,  
the son of John Ege who was son of John,  
who was son of Thomas, who was son of  
the Earl, and Queen the son of Edmond  
Ege who was son of Edmond who was  
son of John Ege and a great  
number of the Constables of the Clan -  
Sheely, as well as a great many of the  
Forces of the sons of the Earl. Considerable  
spoils consisting of weapons and military  
recountments

the contrivances were left on this occasion  
to the Captain's people. This battle was  
fought at Scrack-beag. The Captain after  
this remained almost a whole week at Skeaton,  
the Geraldines threatening every night to  
give him battle, although they did not.

The Captain destroyed the Monastery of  
that town and then proceeded to Adair  
where he remained subjugating the  
people of that neighbourhood until  
the new Chief Justice Sir William Pelham,  
the Earl of Kildare and the Earl of  
Ormond came and joined him. They  
all encamped together in Sly-Conillo.

The Earl of Desmond did not proceed  
to

14/10/18/18(x11)



~~666~~ (4/4)

401

to meet them on this occasion because  
his territory had been ravaged and his  
people destroyed contrary to their promise  
to him that these should not be molested.

The English seeing that the Earl had  
joined his relatives consulted together  
and resolved to station warriors in his  
towns, viz. in Lough-Gur, Rath-mo, Castle-  
Morrison, Adair and Kilmallock,  
and depart themselves for their respective  
homes.

In the lowland of Grange which is situated in that part of Monasteranenagh belonging to the Barony of Small County, there are very curious stone circles, which seem to have been placed there in memorial of some remarkable battle, in which many chiefs had fallen.

The most perfect of these is 150 feet in diameter. It consists at present of 66 stones reckoning large and small ones, and of these 23 are remarkably large. On the north east side stands the largest, a <sup>mighty</sup> great stone measuring 8<sup>ft</sup> 4 in height, 7 feet in breadth and 4 feet in thickness.

About 40 paces due north of this in the next field now (Aug. 10, 1840) a field of wheat there is a larger circle, measuring 160 feet in diameter. Of this only 40 stones are now left (in <sup>the few</sup> Mr. Beaufort's time there were 60) in some parts standing very close together, in others a wide gap between. These stones are all about 3 feet in height, and the ground around and within the circle is perfectly level.

About 16 paces to the North-east of this stands a smaller circle than either of the

14/10/18/18 (XIII) Fluo

(476)  
403 two just described it being only 45 ft  
in diameter. It is a perfect circle formed  
of stones of large size placed at intervals  
all from four to five feet high and several  
of them with square flat tops.

outside this field at the base of a small  
hill is a hegan or standing stone of an ir-  
regular conical form about four feet  
in height and at the distance of about  
15 paces to the east of it there is another  
stone of an oblong form lying prostrate  
which seems to have once stood erect and  
to have belonged to the group of monu-  
ments above described.

In the field of wheat above mentioned there  
~~is~~ was a Cromlech which was destroyed some  
years since. There are people still living  
who often saw it and could point out  
the very spot where it stood. This group  
of monuments is about 2 miles <sup>Irish</sup> to the  
north of the town of Breff.

John O'Donovan

Breff Aug 10<sup>th</sup> 1840.

**END**



14 D 18/19

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Caherorney, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to its forts, abbey and the origins of its place name.

[1840]

3p.

23 cm

Included are related extracts from Archdall's 'Monasticum Hibernicum'.

404  
(477)

The parish of ~~Kilcanny~~ Caherconry.

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Situation.

This parish is situated in the Barony of Small County, and is bounded on the North by the parishes of Caherelly and Rochestown, on the east and South by R. Millane and Knocking, and on the west by Clonasternagh.

Name. The name of this parish is pronounced by those who speak Irish Cathar Córne, which signifies the cáher or stone fort of Cóirne, a man's name in pagan times in Ireland.

The site of the original church of this parish is occupied by a protestant church still in use.

In the townland of Hawleystown in this parish are the ruins of an extensive <sup>and respectable</sup> dwelling house said to have been built in the reign of James I. by the family of Hawley or Maligh and afterwards inhabited by the Crokers. Not far from these ruins <sup>to the east</sup> on the summit of a hill called by the natives Knockroe, are slight traces of the circle of a Cáher or Circular stone fort; but all the large stones were carried away and the circle

14/10/18/19 (J)self

(478)  
405 itself is so indistinct that I could not ascertain  
its diameter or the thickness of the wall.

Near the Mill of Ballingoola on the  
opposite side of the River Camoge are two  
fragments of walls said to be remnants of a  
small abbey called *mamorp na mbriac*.

Fitzgerald in his history of Limerick says that  
that this was called *Baile na m-brathar beag*  
or Little friarstown to distinguish it from  
Friarstown in the parish of *Steddamore*. It  
was founded for Conventual Franciscans in the  
13<sup>th</sup> century by the family of *Flungibon*. In  
the 35<sup>th</sup> Henry VIII. this friary with three acres  
of land a stang of <sup>arable</sup> land in *Baile na mbrathar*  
-*beag* was granted for ever in capite to Robert  
Browne at the yearly rent of twelve pence  
Irish money.

I here insert what Archdall has collected  
of the history of this house. -

(479) 406  
Gaugh's Camden R.D.A.

## Ballynebraker

Ballynebraker near Loughgar in  
the barony of Small County  
had a house of Conventual  
Franciscans, founded in the  
13th century by the family of  
Clangibhoun (m.)

---

note  
(m) Arch. 418.

14/10/18/19(ii)



(481) 407  
215

Archdells. Mon. Hil. Vol. II. P. 1. B

P. 418

County  
of  
Limerick

Ballynebraker;

Near Loughgurr, in the barony  
of small county. A priory was  
founded here for Conventual Fran-  
ciscians (S) in the 13th century, by  
the family of Clangibbow. (C)

February 4th XXXV H. Henry VIII, this  
priory, with three acres and a stang  
of arable land in Ballynebraker,  
was granted for ever, in capite, at  
the yearly rent of 12d. Irish money to  
Robert

(S) Now. mov. (C) Collemander

14/D/18/19(III)

Robert Braune (w); Lee Bally-  
niwillin

James Gaulea died 6th September,  
in the year 1600, seized of this priory  
and of one carucate of land, in  
free and common socage. (w)

[M.S.] Inquisition taken at Limerick  
23 august 1623 finds that James  
Gaulea late of Limerick was  
seized of the site of this priory and  
of 24 acres of land adjacent and  
of the castle tower and lands of  
Corbally (w)

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(w) Auditor's Office

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**END**

14 D 18/20

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the history, antiquities and topography of the parish of Ballinlough, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to its early church, holy well, moat and cromlechs.

17 August 1840

2p.

23 cm



## The parish of Ballinlough.

Situation. This parish is situated in the Barony of Small County, and is bounded on the north by the parish of Killealy, on the west by those of Ballynard and Ballynamona, and the south by Hospital and on the east by the County of Tipperary.

Name. The name of this parish is in Irish Baile an locha which signifies the town or townland of the lough. No lough is now however to be found in the neighbourhood, but from the low situation of the old church it is likely that there was a small lough near it originally.

The old church of Ballinlough is now nearly destroyed, only fragments of the walls containing no features remaining. The building was 55.6 long, and 21 feet broad, and its walls were 13 feet thick. There is nothing else worth description about it.

There is a holy well on the north side of the townland of Ballinlough called Tobar Brighde or St. Bridget's well from which it may be inferred that St. Bridget was the patron saint of this parish.

of beautiful slopes and valleys  
On a lofty hill in the townland of Crannall in this parish there is a conspicuous mountain



goes by the name of the townland, and this is said to have been derived from the circumstances of the great rebel Cromwell having encamped upon it; but this is scarcely possible as the name appears on the <sup>the engraved map of</sup> Down Survey as Crumlin, which seems to be the true original name.

There are two <sup>small</sup> tumuli near this moat, one towards the east and the other towards the west point of the hill. There is a trigonometrical station belonging to the Ordnance Survey on the latter tumulus.

Near the western extremity of the same hill and not far from the Trig. station above mentioned there is a large Cromlech in tolerable preservation, which is, as usual, called Leaba Dhiarmada agus Ighraine i.e. the Bed of Dermot and Ighraine. The lie of this bed is nearly N. E. and S. W.; its length is 20 feet and its breadth in the clear 5 ft; On the S. side there are 5 stones standing on edge, and the same number on the north side. The height of these standing stones is at an average 4 ft. but they differ in shape and size. They were originally covered at top by several large flags placed <sup>nearly in a</sup> horizontal <sup>position</sup>, but of these only one remains firm in its original position;

(485) 2115  
411  
it is a remarkably massive limestone flag nearly of the form of a diamond and measuring <sup>ft in</sup> 9" 5 in length ~~and~~ <sup>ft in</sup> 7" 0 in breadth and <sup>ft in</sup> 1" 2½ in thickness.

The stone which formed the west end of this bed has fallen, but its exact original position can be determined. It is 7 ft long and <sup>ft in</sup> 1" 2 thick. Between this and the larger horizontal flag above described there is a smaller flag which was originally placed in a horizontal position and covered the western end of the grave, but it has slipped off its south supporter and its southern head has fallen into the <sup>bed</sup> grave, its northern extremity still resting on its original supporter; it is <sup>ft in</sup> 5" 3 long <sup>ft in</sup> 3" 2 broad and <sup>ft in</sup> 1" 1 thick.

Near the North-west extremity of this grave there is a large rude stone laid prae-  
-terite measuring <sup>ft in</sup> 8" 4 in length and 4 ft in breadth. This stone probably stood erect originally in its present position. At the south-east corner of the bed there are three stones of rude shape standing erect.

The flag stone which formed the N. E. end of this bed is still in its original position; it is 5 ft in breadth, but the earth

14/10/18/20 (11) about

41486

712

about it is raised so that its height could not be easily determined.

I was of opinion that the moat above mentioned was the Dinn Eithirp of the Irish authorities and that the cromlech is the monument of an Ulster chieftain but this subject is still <sup>very</sup> obscure <sup>to me</sup> and will remain so till I see more of the localities of Munster.

Examined by me,

J. O'Donovan

Tipperary

Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> 1840.

of the Parish of Killeely.

I shall first insert here what the Irish writers have collected of the history of this place, or what they took to be this place, and then show the degree of probability which exists as to their being correct in the identification.

**END**

14 D 18/21

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

Notes, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of the parishes of Killeely and Ballynaclough, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to their early churches and the origins of their place names.

[1840]

9p.

23 cm

Included are related extracts from the 'Annals of the Four Masters', Archdall's 'Monasticum Hibernicum', Lanigan's 'Ecclesiastical History of Ireland' and Colgan's 'Trias Thaumaturga'.



Teidhil Mountain / 3 (487) 413  
 Kill-Teidhil.

Ir. Th. p. 157. col: 1. c. XLI.

Vit: Tripartit: S. Patricii - par: 3.

When Patrick wished to bid farewell  
 to the people of Ira, and came to the  
mountain of Teidhil, two of his disciples  
 who were following behind, made a  
 delay on the way, who, when the holy  
 man caused a careful search to be  
 made for them, were found <sup>domno indulgentes</sup> taking  
 a sleep under a shade <sup>sula umbra</sup> in a bush neigh-  
 bouring on the aforesaid mountain. Of  
 which when word was brought back  
 to the Saint, he says; that ~~place~~  
 will be the place of their present  
 and last rest and resurrection.  
 Which prophecy, it is evident, was  
 fulfilled, for Munis (72) and Longa  
 alias Lomchu the two disciples of  
 Saint Patrick obtained there the place  
 of their rest and sepulture, a Church  
 being erected and denominated  
 from the place, Kill-Teidhil. (73)

S. Munis  
 S. Longus

\* in quo obam nullo, praedictis monti vicino.  
 in or at a bush the  
 a bush the  
 the blackberry bush. Hor.  
 Munus. li. m. vol. f. a. b. v. m. l. l. e.  
 O'Young's Dictionary.

14/D/18/21(1)

(72) Munis & Longa duo discipuli Patricii cap. 47.  
 He, who in one Codex is called Longa is in  
 another, called Lomcheu, and more cor-  
 rectly, as I think. For Saint Lomcheu is  
 venerated on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January in the  
Church of Kill Lomchou, according  
 to Marianus, Gormanus, the Martyrology  
 of Lan. lact, and the Martyrology of  
 Donegal, and about a different Saint,  
 called Longa, I find nothing. Among  
 the disciples and nephews of Saint Patrick,  
 is enumerated by Jocelin cap. 50. Saint  
Munis the son of Cornis, and Munis is said  
 to be the son of Gollis by the author of  
 this life par. 2. cap. 2. : [So] that hence  
 arises a suspicion that Patrick had  
 two disciples, and nephews, <sup>cognomines</sup> who bore  
 the same name; of whom, the one was  
 the son of Cornis, and the other the son  
 of Gollis. Which suspicion two other  
 arguments encrease. The first, that Munis  
 disciple of Saint Patrick, was, it is read  
 in the same par. 2. cap. 23, - appointed by

\* Forgnaigh in Meath

+ ab  
eodem  
can be  
translated  
by him

Patrick over Forgnaigh in Meath, and  
the other, it is read, was left by the  
same in the Church of Kill-teidhil  
in the country of Etra in Munster, and  
died there. The second, that the festival  
of Saint Munis is placed on the 6<sup>th</sup> of  
February according to what will be  
said <sup>of him</sup> in the tome following at the same  
day; and another festival of S. Munis  
on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December according  
to Marianus Gormanus & Maquis; and  
in Kill-teidhil, it is read that seven  
holy Bishops do rest, according to  
what will be said in the number following,  
two of whom <sup>videri possunt</sup> may seem [to be] Saint  
Munis and Saint Lomchu, mentioned  
here.

73 Aloco Kill-teidhil. dicta cap. 41. Perhaps  
more properly Killteimhil, that is Cella  
umbræ, <sup>well quiet</sup> the Cell or Church of the Shade,  
or rest, since they are said to have rested  
under a shade here, and Saint Patrick  
is said to have predicted that, that  
would be the place of their rest, and  
(or) <sup>from this circumstance</sup> hence that Church seems to have taken

416  
490)

76

(or) denomination

name.

\* septem Sanctos Episcopos  
seven Saints, Bishops. Marianus Gormanus and Magnus  
state that seven Holy Bishops rest and  
are venerated on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November  
in that Church, among whom, the  
aforesaid two disciples of (Saint) Patrick  
seem to be numbered. The Genealogy  
of Saints cap. 34 numbers Saint Forche-  
-dalius Bishop, \* son of Tacius, among  
the Saints, who rest in that Church.

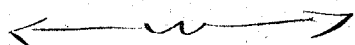
\* Tacii  
filium



(Archd. How. Hib. N. II B. I. 61) <sup>491</sup> ~~326~~ <sup>417</sup>

L425 County  
of  
Limerick

## Killeidhill. or Killeimhill;



In the territory of Ara. The saints  
Munio and Lomchuo, disciples of  
St. Patrick, rest here; where seven bishops  
were also interred. (a)

## Kynmethiu;

In Michaelmas term, 1300, a writ  
issued to the Sheriff to distrain - abbot  
of Kynmethiu, at the suit of Robert de-  
-Poland, for the sum of thirteen marks,  
an arrear due of an annual rent of  
forty shillings. (b)  
We find no other mention of this abbey.

(a) Tr. H. p. 186. (b) King. p. 103.

14/10/18/21 (11)



(Archd. Mon. Hib. N. II B. I. A.)

493 325 418  
1425

County  
of  
Limerick

Kilteel;

In the barony of Caunagh; the  
Knights Templars had a church  
here, which was erected on an  
eminence (13). We know no other  
particulars relating to it.

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(13). Smith's MSS

14/10/18/21 (NR)

(Gaugho bandew)

425  
1.577  
(499)

419

217

Kitteel

—

St. Kitteel a house of  
Knights Templar (b.)

RIA

note

(c) ~~William~~, 1850 (c) H.

14/10/18/21 (V)

423  
420  
(503)  
297

# Killteidhill.

Lanigan's Ecclesiastical Hist. vol. i. p. 287.

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§. VIII.

\*\*\*\*\* While St. Patrick

remained in Ara-clach, he foretold, [p. 205]  
if we are to believe the Tripartite, divers  
circumstances relative to future occurrences  
in that country, and among the others,  
the foundation of a monastery at Kill-  
rutha and of a church at Killteidhill.

(77) Next we find the saint in that tract,  
which lies to the east of Limerick, and  
we are told that he was there hospitably  
entertained by a chieftain named Lonan,  
(78) and that he met with young Vossan,  
whom after some time he placed over  
the monastery of Mungret, which  
he had founded. (79)

(77) Archdall has these places in the county of [p. 291]  
Limerick

14/10/18/21 (M)

Limerick. Kill-tidhill was, I dare say, the same as Killeel in the barony of Coonagh; although he has made them two distinct places. As to Kilkraith, it would be difficult to find it out at present. Archdale has no right to call Caeman, its founder, a disciple of St. Patrick. The Tripartite does not mention him as such.

(70) Jocelin (cap. 75.) and the third Life (cap. 61.) place these transactions in Ormond; the Tripartite in Hyfigente, a tract of country extending along the Shannon towards Kerry. Hence we see that the ancient Ormond was more extensive than the modern. (See Not. 74.) Concerning the entertainment prepared by Senan see Chap. IV. Not. 53.

(71) Here we have another of the Tripartite's anachronisms. c. Vespian, who is well known in our ecclesiastical history, and has been often called Deacon Vespian, belonged to the second order of Irish saints, which flourished after St. Patrick's time. (Usher Pr. p. 914.) He died. A. D. 552. (Ir. Th. p. 106.) How then could he have been placed over Chungret by St. Patrick,

423  
422  
(305)  
299

or how could St. Patrick have founded that  
monastery for him, unless we were to suppose  
that he lived about 140 years? (Archdall  
ought not to have said (at Kungret) that  
the fact is indubitable. O'Halloran's  
nonsense about the monastery of Kungret  
having existed in the fourth century, and  
referred to by Archdall, is not worth  
consideration. Almost equally ridiculous  
is the assertion of Ferrar, (History of Limerick,  
p. 4.) that it was founded by St. Patrick  
in the year 438.

14/10/18/21 (vii)



425  
(507)

The parish of Kiltully.

Situation. This parish is situated partly in the Barony of Coonagh and partly in that of Small County.

Name. Lanigan conjectures that the Kill Leidhill mentioned in the Tripartite life of St. Patrick as situated in the territory of Area Clach is the present Kiltel (or Kiltully) in the Barony of Coonagh. This may be true, but I fear there is some topographical mistake in the affair, as Kill Leidhill is said to be at the foot of a mountain, but Kiltully has no mountain nearer to it than the Galtees from which it is not less than 9 miles distant. Kiltully is at the foot of a conspicuous hill, but I do not believe that this was ever called a mountain, and I incline to think that Kiltully, Kilt rather than Area Clach, and other localities mentioned in the Tripartite will be found in the North-west of the County of Tipperary. Until this may be decided I cannot venture to say with any confidence whether Lanigan be right or wrong in making the Kill Leidhill of Lanigan the present Kiltully.

14/P/18/21(VII)

No part of the original church of Kiltlesly now remains, and its site is now occupied by the chapel in the village of Kiltlesly.

Near the east extremity of this parish in a townland of the same name is situated a remarkable rock called Carriack-Rital on which the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland erected a castle in the year 1510, as we learn from the annals of the Four Masters:

"A.D. 1510. Garrett, Earl of Kildare, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, attended by the chiefs of the English and Irish of Leinster, marched at the head of an army into Munster and erected a castle at Carriack-Rital in despite of the Irish." &c.

The castle of Carriack-Rital, <sup>in this parish</sup> is shown on the engraved map from the Down Survey, and the people have a tradition that

a Castle formerly stood on the summit  
of the Rock so called, but <sup>there is</sup> no part of  
it ~~is~~ now visible, nor are its founda-  
tions traceable. Examined by me,  
J. D. Donovan.

The parish of Ballynaclogh.

Examined by me,  
J. D. Donovan.

Situation.

This parish is situated in the  
bar: of Coonagh and in three separate  
parts. The first part is bounded on the  
<sup>and East</sup> north by the parish of Cola, on the south  
by the townland of Gortnacoolagh, and on the  
west by the townlands of Race, Garrisons and  
Kilduff. &c. See field name book. p. 1.

Name. The name of this parish is in Irish  
Baile na Cloice which signifies Stonetown. The name  
occurs in the Pedegree of the O'Brien's a MS.  
preserved in the Library of Trin. Col. as a  
seat of a branch of the family of Mac  
Brian O'g-Buanach.

of the old church of this parish  
only a fragment of one side wall remains  
14/10/18/31(1X) about

420  
(310)

about 12 feet in length and 4 feet in height. The foundations of the other walls are not traceable so that no idea can now be formed of the extent of the building. There is a small grave yard attached.

In the townland of Kilduff in this parish are the ruins of a castlelike house said to have been built by the O'Briens of Coonagh. Its east side is totally destroyed, as is also its north side nearly so but its west <sup>and south</sup> sides are in tolerable preservation. The west side of this building is 37 feet in length on the outside, and its south side which was originally something longer, is now 47 feet.

The walls of this building are <sup>ft in</sup> 6.7 in thick - neft at the base, and the two walls which remain perfect are surmounted with chimnies. There is a breach on the west wall extending from near the ground to the top of the window which lighted the second floor, but it is perfect from that to the top. This building was five stories high and its windows would indicate it ~~was~~ an erection of the reign of Jac. I.

**END**



14 D 18/22

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the history, antiquities and topography of the parishes of Oola, Castletown Coonagh (Castlecluggin) and Cluggin [Tuoghcluggin] Co. Limerick, with particular reference to churches, their burial ground, holy wells, castles and the origins of their place name.

18 August 1840

3p.

23 cm

RIA

427  
511  
The parish of Cola.

Examined by me  
J. B. G. G. G.

Situation. This parish is situated in the Barony of Coanagh and is bounded on the north by the parish of Doon, on the east and south by the County of Tipperary and on the west by the parishes of Leath Chluigín and Tempreáin.

Name. No ancient Irish authority has yet turned up to prove the original Irish form of the name of this parish. The people believe that it took its name from the quantity of apple trees formerly produced by the townland in which the original church was built. For a similar name see my letter on the parish of Achadh Abhlá now Aghowl in the Barony of Shilclagh and Co. Wicklow.

No part of the old church of this parish is now to be seen nor has been these many years, but its graveyard is still used as a cemetery. It lies at the village of Cola.

14/D/18/22(i)

The other remains of antiquity in this parish are those of <sup>two</sup> Castles which ~~are~~ appear to have been erected in the reign of Queen Elizabeth or James I.

One of these is in the townland of Aoda; <sup>a square structure</sup> it is in tolerable preservation measuring about 20 feet square and 60 feet high.

The other is in the townland of Longford but in bad preservation. It was originally of the same extent and height with the castle of Aoda but it is now destroyed down to the height of about 20 feet.

For the correct names of forts and other minor features in this parish see field Name book.

The village of Cullen called in Irish (i.e. Cullen in Coonagh)

Guilleann O'g-Cuanach is said to be partly in this parish, but its name is not set down in the field names from which I conclude that the Ordnance Survey looks upon it

it as entirely in the County of Tipperary. It will however be found that it belongs to the Barony of Coonagh and County of Limerick.

### The parish of Cluggin.

Examined by me

C. S. Donovan

Situation. This parish is situated in the Barony of Coonagh and in two separate parts, of which the first is bounded on the N. & E. by the parish of Doon, and on the W. by the parish of Oola; the second which is about 2 miles south of the first, is bounded on the N. by the parish of Doon, on the E. by that of Oola, on the W. by Pallisgreen, and on the S. by Templebradin.

Name. The name of this parish is in Irish Tuath an Chluigin, which is also the form of the name adopted on Beaufort's ecclesiastical map. It signifies the country or district of the little Bell, but no tradition is extant to throw any light upon the origin of the name.

14/10/18/22 (11)

No part of the old church of this parish is now to be seen, but its graveyard remains which is a large one enclosed by a stone wall.

A short distance to the east of this graveyard there is a holy well dedicated to the Holy Cross and called Tobair na eirice nuimta, fons sancta Crucis to which also the church seems to have been dedicated.

The site of a castle, said to have belonged first to Mac Brian O'Guinich and afterwards to the Earl of Thomond, is shown in the townland of Castle Bluggin. It is not noticed in the field name books but it should be shown on the Ordnance Map. It is mentioned in the MS. Pedigree of the O'Briens. Trin. Col. H. 1. 7.

### The parish of Castletown Coonagh.

Examined by me,

L. O'Donovan.

Situation. This parish is situated in the Barony of Coonagh and is bounded on the N. and W. by the parish of Moon, on the South by that of Oola and on the east by the County of Tipperary.

Name. This parish has borrowed its name from Mac Brian Coonagh's castle near which the old parish church is situated.



(515)  
431  
The old church of this parish is still in tolerable preservation but not more than 15 centuries old. It is 49 feet in length on the inside and 20 ft in breadth. The side walls are about 10 ft in height and 3 ft in thickness and well built.

The east gable contains a window which is pointed on the inside but square at the top on the outside where it measures about 6 ft in height and 18 inches in width. The south wall contains a narrow window placed at the distance of <sup>8 ft in</sup> 3.5 from the east gable and measuring on the outside <sup>8 ft in</sup> 4.4 in height and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width and widening to 3 feet on the inside.

The doorway, which was placed on the south wall at the distance of 10 ft from the west gable is destroyed except a small corner of its west side.

The west gable is destroyed down to the height of the side walls and there is a breach in the north wall, but all the rest are in very good preservation. This building was never divided into nave and choir.

A short distance to the west of this church on the brink of a stream called ~~St. Columba's~~ stand the ruins of the chief Castle of Mac Brian Coonagh now generally called Castleown Coonagh. It is a magnificent ruin consisting of a large Keep with a <sup>high</sup> square tower at its east side. This tower measures on the outside <sup>8 ft in</sup> 18.10 from North to South, and <sup>8 ft in</sup> 10.7 from east to west; a spiral stair case

14/10/18/22(III) leads

(516) Leads to its top; it is entered from the outside by  
432 <sup>round-headed</sup> a doorway, placed on the east side, and measuring  
7<sup>ft</sup> 7<sup>in</sup> in height, but its breadth could not be easily as-  
-certained as its east side is totally destroyed. It  
was constructed of cut lime stone.

The keep or house part of this castle measures  
on the inside 30<sup>ft</sup> 4<sup>in</sup> in breadth, but its length can  
- not now be ascertained as the west wall is totally  
destroyed. The part of the north wall now re-  
-maining is 50 feet long, but it was much longer  
originally. The tower above mentioned is not less  
than 80 feet in height, and the north wall of  
the keep is about 50 feet in height and 8<sup>ft</sup> 4<sup>in</sup>  
in thickness at the base.

Near the S. W. side of this fortress a gigantic frag-  
-ment of the South is laid prostrate, but the stones  
adhere as firmly as if the whole were a solid rock.

John O'Donovan.

Slippery, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> 1840.

**END**

14 D 18/23

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of the parish of Doon, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to its holy well, the origins of its place name and association with St. Fintan.

18 August 1840

2p.

23 cm

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

(577)  
1433

The parish of Doon.

Situation. This parish is situated partly in the Barony of Duncybeg, but mostly in that of Doonagh and is bounded on the N. E. and East by the County of Tipperary, on the South by Castle-town, and on the west by the parish of Suagh.

Name. The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from that of the townland in which the original parish church was placed, which townland derived its from an earthen dun which still remains.

It is absolutely certain that this is the Dun Blesce of the ancient Irish writers <sup>situated in the territory of Aenach ras</sup> which they describe as <sup>but this</sup> having taken its name from a celebrated harlot of the name Blesc. There is no other church in the Bar. of Doonagh of which the name begins with Doon, but every ambiguity is removed by the existence of the well of the patron saint to this day viz Tobar Fionntain. It is situated in a grove of Fir trees in the east corner of the townland

14/10/18/23 (1) of



(518)

434 of Kilmoyley Lower and west of the road which runs through the same townland.

Fintan, the patron of this parish is mentioned, in the Feilice Aengus at the side of January which is as the day on which his memory was celebrated in this parish. - This Fintan was a disciple of the celebrated St. Congall of Bangor and in the Leabhar Breac the following quatrain is given as a prophecy of St. Congall that his alumnus would settle at Dun Bleisce.

Téidís mo Sultán in mór  
Fintán lap páge b'neor dún  
Is í a cháitín comall n-ge  
Dún mór comall dún bleisce.

Literal translation

My little foster son shall obtain the fortress  
By whom the dun will be obtained,  
His city <sup>is</sup> of sacred protection shall be  
That which shall be called Dun-Bleisce."

Free translation

My Dalthe Fintan shall erect his fane  
At that old fort which now we Dun-Bleisce call  
And there immortal honors he will gain  
His city will a termion be to all.

or thus:

My dear alumnus Fintan shall erect  
His sacred city at the fort we call  
The dun of Bleisce; and there he shall protect  
The poor and weak and pray for mankind all.

I here insert what Lanigan has abstracted from Colgan on the history of this saint.

## Cuanach (Coonagh)

§. VII. Another Fintan, usually called Fintan of Dunblaise, flourished in those times. [Eighth century] He was of a noble family of Cra-lich, and is said to have studied for some time under Comgall of Bangor, on which occasion he became acquainted with Finnian of Magh Bile. He found him afterwards at a place called from his name, Kill-fintan, (119) somewhere in Munster. Thence he went to Dunblaise in the district of Cuanagh (now Coonagh; Limerick) where he seems to have spent with some companions of his, the greatest part of the remainder of his life. He died on a third of January.

(119) <sup>c. 850</sup> probably Killfinaw in the county of Limerick. [p. 234]

(436.20)

24

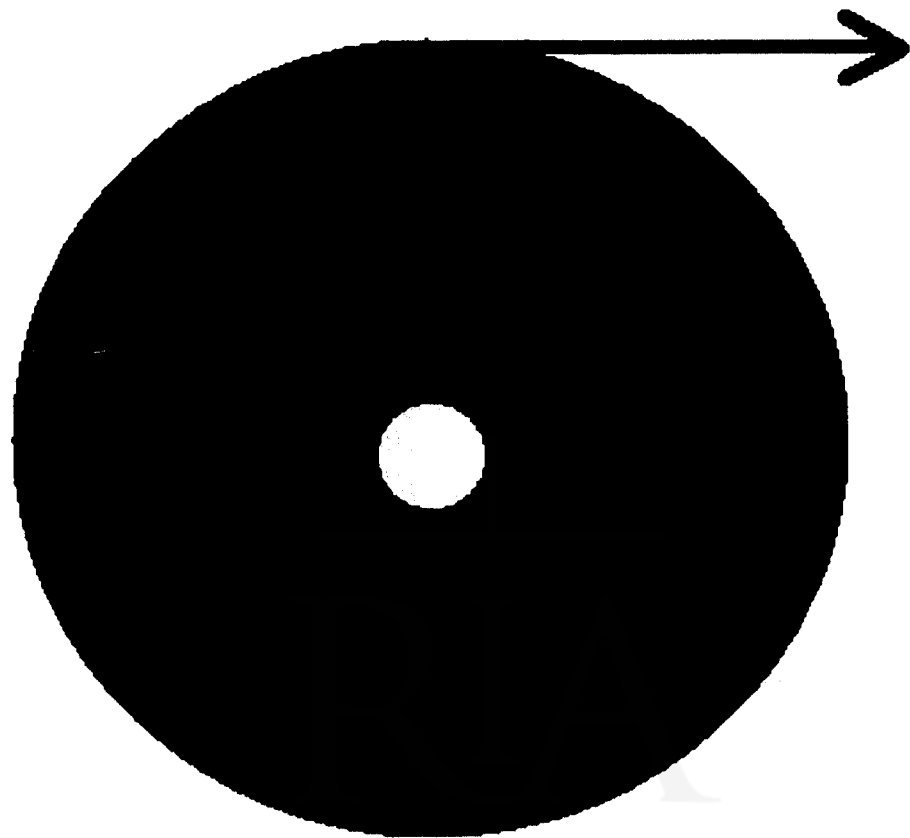
In the townland of Castleward in this parish is situated a castle of the same name said to have been erected by a branch of the Mac Brian O'gbuanach family. It was lately repaired by Walter O'Grady Esq. the proprietor of the townland, who has ~~made~~ built several beautiful towers near it. It is a small square castle five stories high. I have no historical reference to it.

For the correct names of forts and other objects in this parish see the field name book in which I have written them with great care.

John O'Donovan

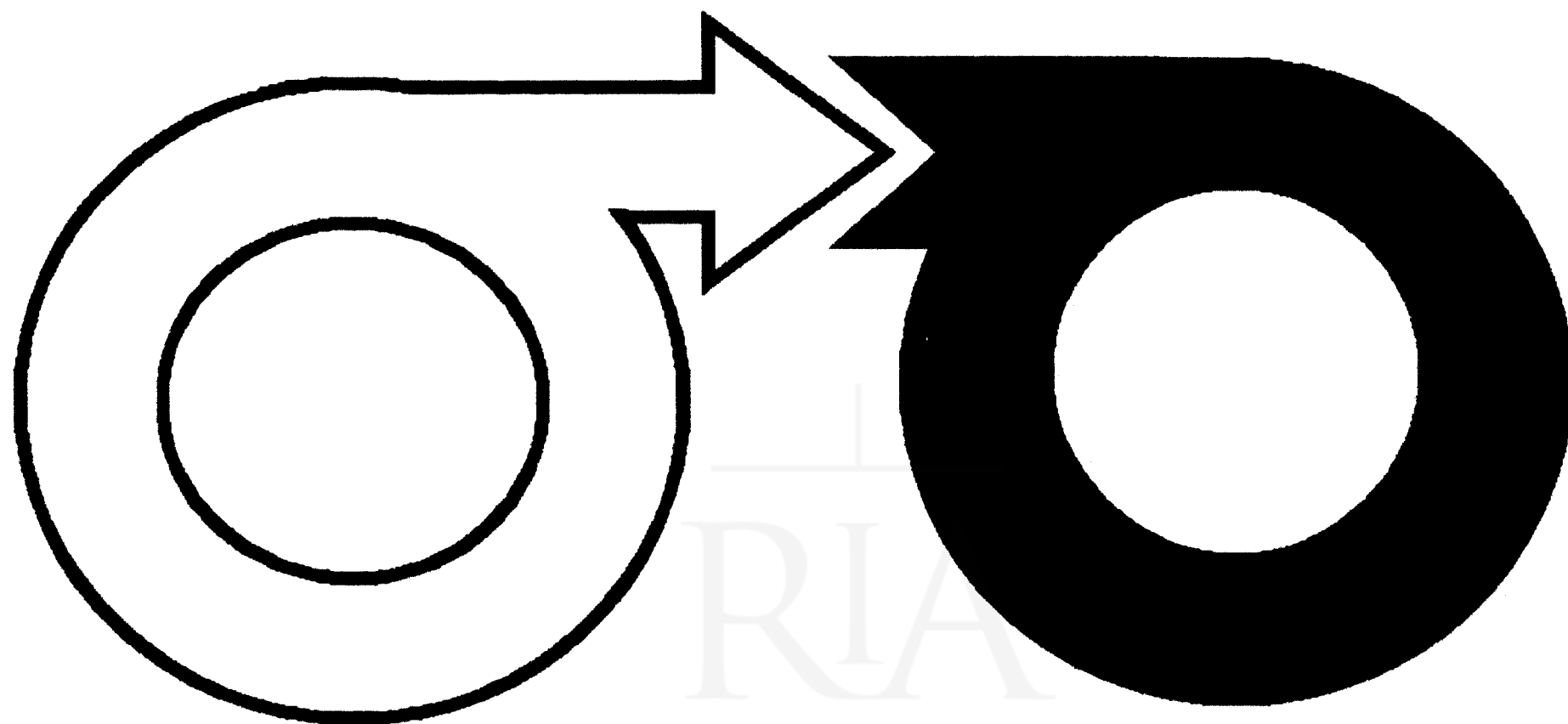
at Clipperry Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> 1840.

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START OF REEL





CONTINUED FROM  
PREVIOUS REEL

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**November 2006**

REEL N 4025

THIS REEL CONTAINS

14 D 18/24 – 14 D 17/28

Letters; Limerick (Vol. 1) - (Vol. 2)

**14 D 18**

**Ordnance Survey of Ireland: Letters, Limerick (Vol.1)**

**O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; O'Connor, Thomas; O'Keefe, Patrick.**

**Assorted notes, extracts, maps and sketches relating to the history, topography and antiquities of County Limerick, with particular reference to its churches, holy wells, abbeys, forts, castles and place names.**

**ill. 1837-1838; 281p.**

**Disbound, conserved and boxed by the Delmas Conservation Bindery. Conservation funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, September 2004.**

**23 cm (approx).**

**Includes outsize material.**

**Donated by the Ordnance Survey Office, 1861.**

14 D 17

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

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861; O'Connor, Thomas; O'Keefe, Patrick.

Assorted notes, extracts, maps and sketches relating to the history, topography and antiquities of County Limerick, with particular reference to its churches, holy wells, abbeys, forts, castles and place names.

ill. 1840; 255p.

Disbound, conserved and boxed by the Delmas Conservation Bindery. Conservation funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, September 2004.

23 cm (approx).

Includes outsize material.

Donated by the Ordnance Survey Office, 1861.



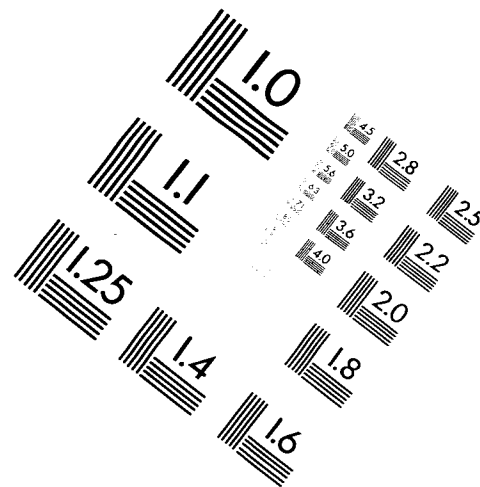
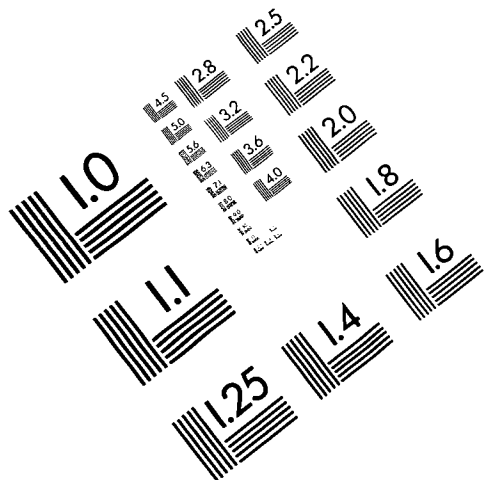
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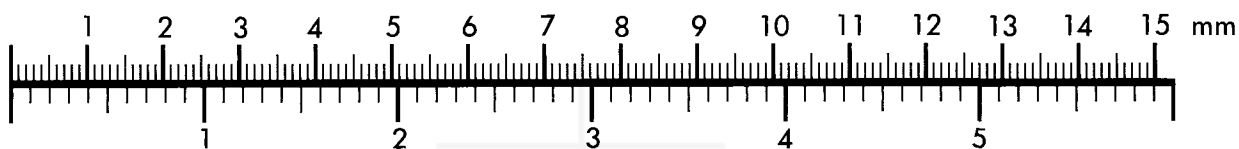
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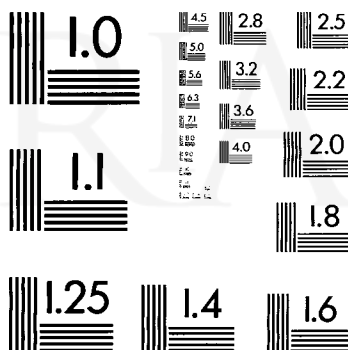
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**Centimeter**

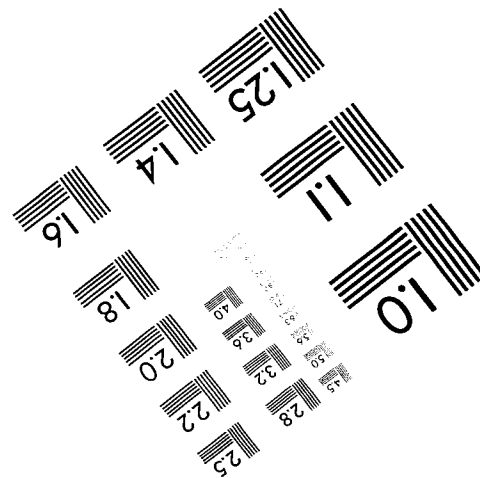
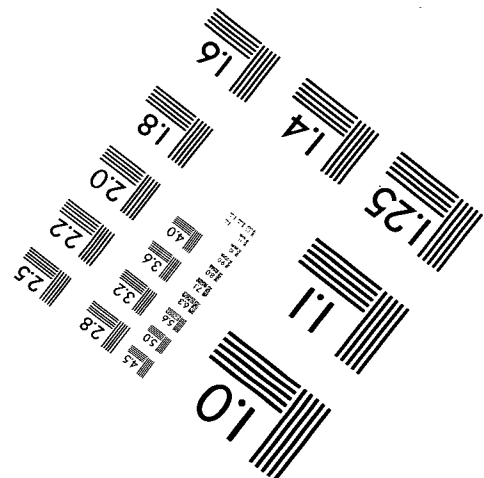


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14 D 18/24

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the history, antiquities, traditions and topography of the parishes of Croagh, Toomdeely (Tomdeely), Morgans and Cappagh, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to their early churches, holy wells, castles and the origins of their place names.

[1840]

6p.

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# The parish of Croagh.

*Antiquities described  
by Mr. G. G. G. G. G.*

Situation. This parish is situated in the barony of Lower Conello, and is bounded on the north by the parishes of Cappa and Cloonsheer, on the east by Adare, Cloonsheer and Kilfinny, on the south by Rathkeale and Ballingarry, and on the west by Rathkeale and Nantenan. There is another portion of it detached, lying to the north of the above.

Name. The name of this parish is an anglicising of the Irish word <sup>cróidic</sup> crúach, which signifies a round hill.

The old church of this parish was originally of the form of a cross, but it is now all in ruins except the choir or chancel which is roofed and still used as the protestant church of the parish. This part is 50 ft. in length. The nave is unroofed, and 50 ft in length by 30 in breadth.

There was a castle attached to this church at the west end, but only <sup>its</sup> east side, and

14/10/18/24(1) 4ft

4384 ft of the north and south walls to the height of about 30 ft remain.

This church is situated on level ground in the townland of Adamstown and south of the road from Limerick to Keshikéal. It has a large grave yard attached which is much used.

In the townland of Amagennmore are the ruins of a castle which measures 27 feet in length and 21 in breadth, and about 36 feet in height. Its walls vary in thickness from 5 to 7 feet. There is a spiral stair-case in the north wall leading to the top.

Tradition asserts that James II, after his defeat at the Boyne slept a night in this castle then the residence of ?

In the townland of Clogh East in this parish are the ruins of a castle which gave name to the townland (for the word cloic is frequently applied to a stone fortress) From what remains of it one can determine its breadth to be 22 feet, but its length cannot be ascertained. The east wall is in good preservation and fragments of the north

(527)  
439

north and south walls remain, but the west side is completely destroyed. There is a small edifice built up against the east side of it, measuring 20 ft in length and 12 in breadth. Its walls are in good preservation and <sup>even</sup> its chimney is perfect.

In the townland of Ballinreara there is a holy well called Tobar Righ an Domhnaigh, i.e. fons Regis Sabbathi, at which stations are still performed by the uneducated.

### The parish of Cappa or Cappagh.

#### Situation.

This parish is situated in the Barony of Lower Connello, and is bounded on the north by the parishes of Croagh and Nantenan, on the <sup>& south</sup> east by Croagh, and on the west by Nantenan.

Name. The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from that of the townland in which the original parish church was placed. The word Cappa or ceapach which is the name of hundreds of townlands in Ireland, is used in the Irish life of St. Kevin (Trin. Col. H. 4. 4) to signify a plot of ground laid out for tillage, and it is used in the same sense throughout the County of Roscommon.

14/10/18/24 (11)

The ruins of the old church are in tolerable preservation and situated on level ground in the townland of Cappa. This building is 53 ft in length and 14 ft in breadth. The east gable contains a window of considerable size which is semi-circular at top on the inside ~~and~~ constructed of chiselled stones and measuring 10 ft in height and  $4\frac{5}{6}$  in width. On the outside it is pointed, constructed of chiselled lime stones and measures  $4\frac{9}{10}$  in height and  $1\frac{1}{6}$  in width. It is 6 ft from the present level of the ground and divided into two <sup>lights</sup> parts.

At the distance of  $3\frac{1}{3}$  ft from the east gable there is on the south wall a window whose head on the inside is a flat arch & which measures 5 ft in height and 3 ft in width. On the outside it is pointed and measures  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft in height and only 6 inches in width.

At the distance of 13 feet from this window the same wall contains another <sup>window</sup> of the same form and dimensions.

At the distance of  $15\frac{1}{6}$  ft from the west gable the same (south) wall contains the doorway which is flat-arched at top on the inside and pointed on the outside; on the inside it is  $7\frac{9}{10}$  ft in height and

and <sup>ft in</sup> 3.10 in width, and on the outside <sup>ft in</sup> 6.3 in <sup>529)</sup>  
height and <sup>ft in</sup> 3.3 in width. Between this doorway <sup>1441</sup>  
and the west gable and at the distance of <sup>ft in</sup> 3.2  
from the south-west corner there are two quad:  
windows, <sup>of the same size</sup> one over the other, the lower being <sup>ft in</sup> 4.6 from  
the present level of the ground and the other  
<sup>ft in</sup> 2.6 over the first. They measure on the inside  
<sup>ft in</sup> 3.4 by <sup>ft in</sup> 2.7, and on the outside <sup>ft in</sup> 1.7 in height and  
6 inches in width, and are constructed of cut  
lime stone.

The west gable is surmounted <sup>by</sup> a small  
<sup>consisting of one semi-circular arch</sup> belfry constructed of cut lime stone. This gable  
also containing a window placed at the height of  
8 ft from the ground and measuring on  
the inside about 6 ft in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 3.6  
in width, and on the outside, where it is pointed  
and constructed of chiselled lime stone, <sup>ft in</sup> 3.6  
in height and 5 inches in width.

The north wall is featureless.

The sidewalls of this church are about 15 ft  
in height (of which 3 ft is a parapet) and  
<sup>ft in</sup> 2.10 in thickness, and all well built of ham-  
-mored stones cemented with lime and sand  
mortar. There is a large grave yard  
attached to this church, but it is not  
now much used as a cemetery.

About  
14/10/18/24 (iii)



About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the west of this church and in the same townland stands the ruins of the castle of Cappa, of which the north wall and 6 ft. of the west wall only remain. The wall remaining is about 70 ft high and 5 feet thick, and has windows and apertures for five floors. It is built on a low rock, on which parts of the walls of the "Court" attached to this castle remain to the height of about 30 feet. This was a truly magnificent structure when perfect and reflects honor on the noble family of Desmond by whom it was erected. It is thus described by Fitzgerald in his History of the County of Limerick:

" The parish of Cappa is situated to the north  
 " of Rathkeale: near the village is a handsome  
 " house and improvements belonging to Robert Peppard Esq. At some distance to  
 " the southward is Cappa castle once a noble  
 " structure, half of which only now remains  
 " to shew its former grandeur; it is at least  
 " 100 ft high including the mound on which  
 " it is built; the coigne stones are all square  
 " and polished; the windows are at various  
 " height according to the different loftings  
 " being

" being formed of carved stone and arched. The  
 " Castle is surrounded by an embattled wall en-  
 " -closing an area of thirty five yards by twenty  
 " four: it was built according to tradition, by  
 " the Fitzgeralds of which family there were  
 " two brothers, one of whom lived in Cappa  
 " Castle, and the other in a castle near  
 " Holly-park north of it to whom also be-  
 " -longed that of Cappa."

p. 359.

Antiquities examined by  
 Mr. A. Curry.

J. S. Donovan

### The parish of Toomdeely.

Situation. This parish is situated in the north of the barony of Shanid on the south bank of the river Shannon. It is bounded on the north by the said River of Shannon, on the east by the parish of Askeaton from which it is separated by the River Deel, on the south by Lismakeery and on the west by the parishes of Morgans and Robertstown.

Name. The name of this parish is pronounced by the natives as if it

14/10/18/24 (iv) were

(532) 444

were written Tom Oastle which signifies the Bush of the River Deel; but I am of opinion that it is a corruption of Tadm Oastle, i.e. the townland at or near the River Deel.

The old church of Toomdeely is situated in a townland of the same name about 2 miles northwestwards of Apperaton and not far from the mouth of the River Deel from which it takes its name. It was divided into nave and choir, the former measuring 34 ft in length and <sup>ft in</sup> 24"2 and the latter 21 ft by <sup>ft in</sup> 15"3 on the inside. The side walls of the choir are <sup>ft in</sup> 10"6 in height and those of the nave <sup>ft in</sup> 12"6.

All the features of this church are destroyed but one can clearly see from the breaches in the walls where its doorway and windows were placed. The west gable is in good preservation and remarkably sharp at the top, but the east gable is a good deal injured, and its east window which was of considerable size, entirely disfigured. The south wall of the choir contained two windows but they are so disfigured that no idea could be formed of their extent or characteristics. The choir arch is also completely destroyed.

1445 (733)

stroyed. The south wall of the nave contained the doorway which was placed near the west gable but it is now reduced to a formless breach. There was a small window <sup>on the same wall</sup> placed near the choir arch but the antiquarian has to lament that this also is entirely disfigured. The north wall and west gable are featureless. All the walls are built of lime stones of considerable size and cemented with lime and sand mortar of excellent quality.

The antiquarian has no guide to fix the date of the erection of this church but the appearance of the masonry from which it would appear that it is a church of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It may be older, but of one fact I am certain that it has no claim to an antiquity of more than five centuries.

Its grave yard was tilled and is now a part of a green field

A short distance to the south and by west of this church is situated the ruin of a castlelike house of a

14/10/15/24(V) rect.

(534) 446

rectangular form measuring about 72 feet in length, and 40<sup>ft</sup> in breadth. No tradition of its original founder or occupier. It does not appear to be old.

For the correct names &c. of the ancient earthen forts in this parish see the field name book.

*Antiquities examined by me assisted*

*by Mr. George S. Donovan*

### The parish of Murrage.

Situation. This parish is situated in the north of the Barony of Shanid, and lies along the south bank of the Shannon. It is bounded on the north by the said river, on the east by the parish of Toomeadeely, on the south by the parishes of Robertstown and Shanagolden, and on the west by the parish of Aughinish.

Name. The name of this parish is called in Irish *murigeadóin*, which signifies maritime spots, seemingly synonymous with the *murraghs* of the north and west of Ireland.

The old church of this place is evidently an erection of the 15<sup>th</sup> or beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It measures on the inside 49<sup>ft</sup> 9 in length and 21<sup>ft</sup> 7 in breadth; its side walls are 2<sup>ft</sup> 11½ in thick-  
ness, and 11.6 in height (at the highest part)

The west gable is down to the height of the side walls; it contains a doorway placed at the distance of 4.3<sup>ft</sup> from the south west corner, not  
in



447 (535)

in the middle as is usually the case; it is <sup>rect</sup> quadrangular on the inside being covered at the top with a lintel and measures  $6''3$  in height and  $3''4\frac{1}{2}$  in width; but on the outside it is semi-circular headed and measures  $5''6$  in height from the present level of the ground and  $2''4$  in width; its sides are destroyed up to where the little arch springs.

There is another doorway in the north wall placed at the distance of  $15''8$  from the west gable and measuring on the inside (where it is flat-arched at top)  $7''3$  in height and  $4''0$  in width, and on the outside  $6''7$  in height and  $3''4$  in width. The outer part of this doorway was pointed but it is now very much disfigured.

The south wall has a small window placed at the distance of  $4''4$  from the west gable and at the height of  $4''4\frac{1}{2}$  from the present level of the ground on the outside. Its top is destroyed on the inside, <sup>and outside</sup> so that its height on <sup>either</sup> side cannot be determined but its width is  $2''8$  on the inside and  $4''\frac{1}{2}$  inches on the outside.

There is another window on the same wall placed at the distance of  $4''4$  from the east gable and  $5''6$  from the level of the ground on the outside. Its top is destroyed on the inside so that its height on that side cannot be determined, but its width is  $3''5$ ; on the

14/10/18/24(vi) outside

outside it is rectangular and covered at top with a small lintel; it is  $2.6^{\text{ft}}$  in height and 7 inches in width.

The east gable is also destroyed down to the height of the side walls. It contains a remarkably small window, the top of which is destroyed on the inside, but which is perfect on the outside; it is  $3.11^{\text{ft}}$  in width on the inside, and on the outside  $3.4^{\text{ft}}$  in height and only 7 inches in width. It is placed at the height of <sup>about</sup> 4 feet from the level of the ground.

The north wall contains a window placed at the distance of  $3.2^{\text{ft}}$  from the east gable, and which is similar to the one placed opposite it in the south wall, but it is so enveloped in ivy that I could not ascertain its height without pulling off the ivy. It is placed at the height of  $5.6^{\text{ft}}$  from the level of the ground on the outside, where it is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width.

This church is built of small lime stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. It is said to have been built by two sisters, but neither their names nor surnames are remembered.

Antiquities examined  
by me assisted by  
Mr. Hooper. L.A.

**END**

**14 D 18/25**

**O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.**

**Notes, relating to history, topography and antiquities of the townland of Aughinish and parish of Lismakeery, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to their early churches, castles and the origins of their place names.**

**15 July 1840**

**2p.**

**23 cm**

RIA

Of the parish of Inghinich.

(337)

449

Situation. This parish is situated in the north of the barony of Athlone, and is bounded on the north by the River Shannon, on the east by the parish of <sup>and</sup> Margary, <sup>and west</sup> on the south by those of <sup>and</sup> Danganoo and Robertstown.

Name. The name of this parish is in Irish Eac-inip, which signifies horse island, a name which is very common throughout Ireland. The parish is also sometimes called, by the alias name of Shannamore in Irish Fannó mór, which signifies the great slope or declivity.

I could not meet a single ruin of a church in this parish nor even the site of it, nor could I meet any one that ever heard of the existence of a church or grave yard in any part of it.

John O'Donovan  
July 15<sup>th</sup> 1840.

This is St. Dunstan's day, which is remarkable for constant rain very injurious to the crops. I hope the proverb will not be fulfilled this year. God

It has not thank God. Sat. Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> 1840. 14/D/18/25(i)



## The parish of Lismakeery.

Examined by me  
J. O'Donovan.

Situation. This parish is in the barony of Slanid and is bounded on the north by the parish of Toomdeely, on the east by those of Askeaton and Nantewan, on the south by Dunmoylan and Kilbradran and on the west by Kilmoylan.

Name. The name of this parish is not of ecclesiastical origin, but derived from that of the townland in which the old parish church is situated, and which took its denomination from a large earthen fort lying immediately to the south of the church. It is compounded of Trop, an earthen fort and Makeery, a family name, but there is none of that name now living in the neighbourhood.

The old church of Lismakeery is in good preservation and about 4 centuries old. It was not divided into nave and choir. It measures 59 ft in length and 22 <sup>ft</sup> 6 in breadth. Its doorway is in the north wall within a few feet of the west gable; it is in the pointed style, but <sup>curious not</sup> old enough to merit minute description.

There

There is a window in the north wall placed at the distance of <sup>ft in</sup> 10.2 from the east gable. It is rectangular on the inside and covered at top with a lintel, but on the outside it is Shamrock headed; it measures on the inside <sup>ft in</sup> 5.6 in height and <sup>ft in</sup> 3.5 in width and on the outside 4 ft in height and 7 inches in width. Directly opposite this there is a similar window in the south wall, measuring on the outside <sup>ft in</sup> 4.6 in height and 9 inches in width. Its top on the inside is a flat arch.

The west gable was surmounted with a small belfry which is now nearly destroyed. There is in the same gable a small window the lower part of which is on a level with the top of the side walls.

The east window is entirely disfigured on the outside; on the inside it is 8 feet in height, <sup>ft in</sup> 4.10 in width and <sup>obtusely</sup> flat-arched at top.

The side walls of this church are 12 feet high and <sup>ft in</sup> 3.1 thick and very firmly built. All its features are constructed of chiselled lime stone in no mean style.

In the same townland of Lismaheery about 1/2 mile to the west of the church there is a part of an old castle called after the townland and said

14/10/18/25 (ii) to

(540) 452

to have been built by the family of Lacy by whom it was occupied till the time of Cromwell. It is a rectangular building; its south and west walls are remaining to the height of about 20 feet, but of its other two sides only 12 feet are now standing.

In the townland of Milltown in this parish are the ruins of another castle said to have belonged to the same family.

Ballycullen House the residence of Carroll Naigh Esq. is said to occupy the site of another castle which was destroyed in the year 1740 when the present house was built of its stones.

**END**

14 D 18/26

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the history, topography and antiquities of the parish of Askeaton, Co. Limerick, with particular reference to its early church, abbey, castles and the origins of its place name.

[1840]

13p.

23 cm

Included are transcriptions from the church of Askeaton Abbey and extracts, relating to Askeaton parish, from the 'Annals of the Four Masters'.



Situation. This parish is situated in the barony of Lower Connello and is bounded on the north by the River Shannon and the parish of Suross, on the east by the parish of Kilcornan, on the south by the parishes of Montenau and Lismakeery, and on the west by the parish of Lismacally.

Name. The names of this parish is written Eg Septene in the annals of the Four Masters and other authorities. It is not of ecclesiastical origin but derived from the name of the townland in which the original parish church was built which townland derived its from a small cataract on the River Deel a short distance to the south of the village of Askeaton. Eg Septene signifies the cataract of Septene, a man's proper name in pagan times. We could however point out in instance where St. Brendan turned the name of this place into a sentence just as the Ulster King made a sentence of Gedius Grandivocus! At these things we shall only laugh for the present but hereafter we shall make them tell.

Of the original parish church of Askeaton, which seems to have been a large one, only the tower <sup>and one gable</sup> remain; the site of the other part of it is occupied by a neat modern church.

The Abbey of Askeaton is a very extensive building, but it would take a more skilful architect than I to describe it scientifically. Its cloisters are still in beautiful preservation, and are of very curious workmanship. They form a square the sides of which are  $87^{\text{ft}}.6^{\text{in}}$  in length and each of which consists of 12 arches. Each of these arches is  $4^{\text{ft}}.9^{\text{in}}\frac{1}{4}$  in height and  $2^{\text{ft}}.7^{\text{in}}\frac{1}{8}$  in width, and constructed of a kind of dark marble said to have been brought from Canon Island (*Inis na g-cannach*) in the river Shannon. Their pedestals are in beautiful proportions and  $3^{\text{ft}}.4^{\text{in}}$  in height.

The pillar stones of two of the cloisters on the west side have disappeared, having been stolen by French antiquarians about 50 years since. The great church of this abbey is  $119^{\text{ft}}.8^{\text{in}}$  in length and only  $22^{\text{ft}}.9^{\text{in}}$  in breadth. Its east window which is <sup>on the inside</sup> pointed & divided into five rays or lights is about 20 feet in height and  $9^{\text{ft}}.5^{\text{in}}$  in width. The south wall contains three pointed windows of considerable size, and divided each into three rays or lights. There is another large window in the west gable but its divisions are broken except one mullion.

Inserted in the south wall of this church near the S.E. corner is a monument to the family of Stephenson now much mutilated. It exhibits the following inscription in very rude <sup>raised</sup> letters:

- " Maritis suis D: Richardo Stephenson ejusque filio  
 " Olinero Stephenson ac posteris suis hoc bustum  
 " fieri fecerunt D: Margarita Ni-Brien et D:  
 " Elinora Browne Ans. Dñi 1646."

Under the west window in the same church is the following inscription on a small stone inserted in the wall: the monument of a poor man of the name O'Driscoll. This inscription I would deem not worth copying, were it not that <sup>2</sup>part of it is Irish and that I fear it might be made the same use of as Thomas Moore made of an Irish inscription of the same age in the abbey of Mullaghfarnham.

" This monument was erected by John O'Driscoll  
 " in memory of his father Edmund <sup>O'Driscoll</sup> ~~who departed~~ who  
 " departed this <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1780 aged 45 years, and also  
 " Edmund O'Driscoll Junior who departed Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 1808,  
 " aged 36 years.

" Requiescant in pace, amen.

" Cut by Pat. K. Numan

Molárn a léic, is máir do céile <sup>cc</sup>gúind,  
 Dá éiríne f. go mbéid go raon na n-áir.  
 Níl t-áir ná plár an gáirg, léim ná lúir.  
 Sa t-Samhón fearg ó éirgíoc Éamón púir.

Will any one ever deny that I know the meaning of this verse, and if it be defective <sup>in its composition</sup> will any one ever be so great a fool as to say that I should have corrected this defect in my translation? The following is a literal translation of it:

" Alas! O'lag, good is thy treasured up companion! <sup>reconditus</sup>  
 " Though strong a man he must be one day weak in the clay;  
 " There is no lord or chief <sup>in the enjoyment of</sup> in action, leap, or agility,  
 " And the O'hannon is barren since Edmund was laid  
 " under thee."

These lines are decidedly <sup>but</sup> wrong, but I have not the slightest notion of representing them as poetical. They remind me of the following lines, which are truly poetical.

" yet even these bones from insult to protect  
 " Some frail memorial still erected high  
 " With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture decked  
 " Implore the passing tribute of a sigh."

(14/10/18/26(1))

(544) 456

The other divisions, (chambers, chapels, black holes &c) of this abbey are too numerous and complex for minute description. I leave them to the artist.

Huge fragments of its once magnificent tower and other parts lie scattered on the ground;

The Castle of Askeaton, which is situated on a rock of considerable height and extent, is in its ruins, a splendid specimen of a circular fortress. It was surrounded with a strong and high wall which was encompassed by the River Deel, the entrance being by a draw-bridge.

The part of this castle which still remains is at least 90 feet in height, <sup>and consisted of six storeys</sup> and presents a most magnificent appearance from every side you approach it. The east side is totally destroyed.

Parts of the two arches which formed the second and third floors remain; over the first of these arches is a small room commonly called <sup>to which the ascent is by many steps</sup> Desmond's Quail, which measures <sup>ft in</sup> 8" 2 by <sup>ft in</sup> 7" 1. You enter it by a semi-circular headed doorway formed of <sup>and measuring 5" 2 1/2 in height</sup> chiselled lime stone. The old oak door of this still remains hanging by iron cramps and entirely studded with broad headed nails; it is <sup>ft in</sup> 5" 8 high, <sup>ft in</sup> 2" 8 wide and 3 inches thick. The timber is nearly rotten.

The north wall of this castle is only 4 feet thick; it is built of stones of good size cemented with lime and sand mortar mixed with cockle shells and periwinkles.

[32 pages]

A short distance to the south west of the

Castle

(545)  
457

the lie of which is nearly north and south  
Castle is the Banqueting Hall, the walls of which  
are in tolerable preservation. This room is  $71\frac{1}{2}$  ft in  
length and 31 ft in breadth; there are 4 large go-  
thic windows on each side wall and 2 on  
the <sup>north</sup> gable. The two windows near the south gable  
are much larger than the rest being 12 feet in height  
and 5 <sup>feet</sup> 6 in width, while the others are only 10 feet in  
height and 8 ft in width. Of the two windows in  
the north gable one is in its middle and exactly  
of the same size and form with the smaller ones  
in the side walls, but the other which is placed  
between it and the north east corner is rectangular  
and measures about 5 ft in height and only  
8 inches in width. The walls of this house (the  
Teach Mhichnarta of Skeaton) are about 40 ft  
in height and 4 <sup>ft</sup> 10 in in thickness, and built of  
lime stones of good size cemented with the same  
kind of mortar as that with which the castle  
is cemented. Beneath the hall are vaults of  
great extent and are called locally "Desmond's wine Cellars."

Let us now return to the castle. Besides the tower above  
described as being 90 ft in height, there remains of  
that castle 30 feet of the west wall of a Court  
or dwelling house connected with the tower. This wall  
is about 50 feet in height and 5 feet in thickness  
and built of the same materials with the tower. It  
has windows for three floors and has a large  
chimney still remaining in good preservation.  
Over a fire place in the third story there is a chim-  
ney piece of black marble beautifully orna-  
mented.

At the distance of 27 paces from the high  
tower  
14/10/18/26 (iii)



458 ~~Lower~~ of the castle there is another strong dwelling house of which the north and west walls remain to the height of about 40 feet, but <sup>height of the</sup> of the other two walls only 8 feet remain.

This building is 23 ft 2 inches in length and 15 ft 9 in breadth. The first floor over the ground one was arched. The walls are 4 feet in thickness and built of the same kind of stone and mortar as the other buildings.

These buildings are said to have been erected by Gerald or Garrett Fitzgerald seventh Earl of Desmond. It is also said that Skelaton was enclosed by a wall of great ambit height and thickness, but I could not discover one fragment of it, nor meet any one that could point out its outline or the space it enclosed.

Besides the ruins already described which are all situated in the town or village of Skelaton there are two others in the rural parts of the parish, one in the townland of Ballyengland upper and the other in that of Court Brown; both are castles; the former is in good preservation and called Castle Newson; the other is a mere fragment (one conspicuous gable only remaining) and called Court Brown. It does not appear to be very ancient. I here insert what the Irish writers have collected of the history of Skelaton.

## Cass Gephthine Monastery.

[Comp'd  
@K]

1420.

The Monastery of St. Francis at  
Cass Gephthine in Munster on the  
Margin of the Shannon in the Diocese  
of Limerick was founded for Franciscan  
friars by the Earl of Desmond, who  
erected a tomb for himself and  
his family in it.

1549.

\*

\*

\*

\*

[See Appendix at the year, 1455,  
in the text of this article.]

M.H.

- (1) Cass Gephthine, now anglicized Cassington an ancient  
Borough town in the Bar. of Co. Limerick. It is  
now a village in the Diocese of Limerick situated <sup>near</sup> the River  
Shannon at the influx of the River Deel.

14/10/18/26(12)

(548)

~~358~~

460

With great expedition they left for  
the north side of the lake and  
to insure a supply of  
ammunition to pursue further his  
designs. Then they proceeded to  
Fort Belknap where on the same  
day the young son of the Earl of  
Arundel came to look for arms & fire  
in the County of Limerick, and then and  
the parties met each other face to  
face although they had sought to avoid  
instead of to meet him. A battle  
was a day of fight between both parties in  
which the Irish army were so completely defeated  
by the Captain's forces that they were  
finally

defeated with the Earl of Thomas the  
son of John, age, who son of John who  
was son of Thomas, who was son of the  
Earl, and son of the Earl of Edward,  
who was son of Edward, who was son of  
Torlogh MacSheehy, and a great number of  
the constables of the Clan Sheehy, as  
well as a great many of the sons of the  
~~the~~ sons of the Earl. Considerable spoils,  
consisting of weapons and military accou-  
trements were left on this occasion to  
the Captain's people. This battle was fought  
at Amack-beag. He stayed after this  
remained almost a whole week at  
Askeaton, the Geraldines threatening

every  
14/D/18/26(V)

every day to give him and to work  
 the land etc. The Pope's legate to  
 the monastery of that town & then  
 proceeded to Adair where he re-  
 mained subjugating the people of  
 that neighbourhood until the new  
 chief justice Sir William Pelham, the  
 Earl of Kildare, and the Earl of Desmond  
 came and joined him.

1580. The Lord Chief Justice, Sir William Pelham,  
 wrote to England after Christmas requesting  
 that the Queen would send her Admiral  
 and fleet with a sufficient quantity of  
 provisions and the great Ordnance to Ireland  
 for the purpose of taking from the Geraldines



all  
the towns in their possession. These were

Askeaton, Ballyvaughan, Ballyvaughan and  
Carrick-an-phuill. The great forces of  
Meath, Fingall and Limerick, and all those  
who were subject to the Laws of England  
from the Boyne to the meeting of the three  
waters were mustered by the Lord Chief  
Justice and the Earl of Armon on about  
the festival of St. Bridget, for the purpose  
of being marched into the territory of  
the Geraldines. The number of forces that  
accompanied the Earl of Armond on this  
occasion, <sup>was truly prodigious.</sup> He made no delay until he  
had reached Cork. The Lord Chief

Justice  
14/10/18/26 (vi)

362 (553)

464

Justice proceeded with his forces

to Limerick \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* [Limerick, 466]

The Lord Chief Justice then resolved upon  
passing into Kerry, and proceeded to

Seamhair Duachra, thence to Tralee and  
along the base of the mountains of Mts,

daughter of Muir<sup>ach</sup>adh, the son of Cairdeh.

The Earl of Desmond (also) marched from

Cork to Kerry to join the Lord Chief

Justice. \* \* \* \*

It was precisely at this time that the  
Dutch fleet reached the Coast of Ireland.

This fleet entered the harbour of the limpid

waves of Shannon, and cast anchor directly

opposite Carrig-an-phuille (the Cook of the

Cannon)

care). The Lord Chief Justice and the  
 Earl of Devon went by land to the town,  
 and the town was the same, and  
 by two camps, one land and the other on  
 sea. Sir Nicholas Russell, attended by the  
 chiefs of Council and a countless  
 number of Englishmen then set out for the town,  
 in order to prevent any attack either by  
 sea or land which it might be in contemplation  
 to make on the Chief Justice while he  
 should be preparing to storm the towns  
 of the Guadalupe. As to the Lord Chief

Justice he ordered the great admiral to  
 bring him to be conveyed on shore; and he placed  
 five great guns opposite the <sup>castles on the rock</sup> rock to play upon  
 it.

14/10/18/26 (vii)

466  
~~364~~ (554)

it without mercy. It was said that  
the least of these guns was half a  
cannon. He then began to storm the  
town; and there was not a solid tide or  
wilderness, a declivity or woody vale from  
the Carn of Brecas, the Son of Ealathan,  
who was Son of Ned, in the South-west of  
the province of Clann Deirghine, to  
Cnoc-Mheadha Siuil in Connacht which  
the sound of these unknown & wonderful  
Cannon was not heard in. The western  
side of Carric-an-phuil was covered with  
the earth, and the wondrous of the town  
were crushed to death under the ruins.

The

( 555 ) 46 365

The Lord Chief Justice then took the  
town and remained five days in it  
after having taken it, and at the end  
of that time he went to Askeaton.

As soon as the warden of Baile-ni-Gheir  
-Gheir and Askeaton heard the  
tremendous and terror awakening roars of  
those unknown guns, the like of which  
they had never heard before they  
proceeded to demolish their own castles  
and succeeded in destroying Baile-ni-  
-Gheir, but as they were not able  
to destroy Askeaton they left its gates  
open for the Lord Chief Justice upon which

14/10/18/26 (viii)



~~365~~ (556.)  
468

the Lord High Justice then  
proceeded to Lincoln where he remained  
forty days to rest after his fatigue and  
wound himself during which time his  
servants and houses were in safe quarters  
everywhere throughout the land. After  
the expiration of a fortnight afterwards  
he returned to Askepton where he spent  
a considerable part of the summer, by  
day and night constantly persecuting and  
dreadfully slaughtering the Geraldines.

\* \* \* \* \*

Countless and indiscriminate were the evils  
perpetrated by the English and Geraldines  
during

during this time. The Lieutenant Justice  
proceeded with his army to being making  
no delay until he had arrived at Gainsborough  
in which occurred he discovered  
a great portion of the territory of the Gouldies.  
He then pursued by a circuitous course through  
the intervening territories to Coke, came  
back to Ashton and from thence to  
Simcik.

1599.

\* \* \* \* \*

When the Earl of Essex had taken Coke,  
he, accompanied by the Earl of Arundel, and  
the other chiefs proceeded with their army  
to Simcik and pitched his camp outside  
the town. Here he was visited by Sir Conyers

14/10/18/26(IX)

Clifford, son-in-law of Connaught, by the Earl  
 of Clarrickland, (which, the son of Richard  
 Ingham) and by the Earl of Thomond,  
 (Gough, the Son of General G.B. Ingham). When  
 these nobles had advised with one another  
 for some time, and come to fixed re-  
 solutions, the Governor and the Earl of  
 Clarrickland returned back to Connaught,  
 and the Earl of Essex, the Earl of Arundel  
 and the Earl of Thomond proceeded into Munster  
 to see whether they could invade the <sup>sublime</sup> the  
 Gualdines. On the first night after having  
 left Limerick, in the Month of June, they  
 encamp'd upon the banks of the River of  
 Adair

Adair, and as they advanced on  
the next day, Saturday, through Robhair,  
the soldiers and youths of the Earl of  
Desmond and the Geraldine troops met them  
face to face. The reception which they (the  
Geraldines) gave to the representative of their  
sovereign on his first visit to them was a  
very fierce and disagreeable one; for they  
discharged into the eyes of him and his  
army the fire and black smoke of powder,  
and showers of balls from slightly <sup>aimed</sup> pointed  
guns; and he heard the fierce & outrageous  
shouts of soldiers and champions eager  
for

14/10/18/26(2)

(560)

~~370~~

472

for battle instead of the mild language  
of courtesy, obedience and submission  
with which he should have been <sup>in</sup>advised.

The result of the attack was that great  
numbers of the Earl of Essex's men were  
slain, and that he was not suffered  
to pass much farther on that day.

He pitched his Camp a short distance  
to the East of Askepton, and on the next  
day, Sunday, he and the Earls of Desmond  
and Thomond resolved to send a  
<sup>body</sup> party of Cavalry to lay <sup>place</sup> up ammunition  
in Askepton, and, <sup>not</sup> to <sup>put</sup> <sup>themselves</sup> <sup>into</sup> <sup>any</sup> further <sup>resistance</sup> into Munster.



(561)

4/

~~377~~

on that condition.

RIA

14/10/18 (26/10)

(Gough's name)

563

373

474

Askeaton

Askeaton on the river Deel in  
the barony of Conello, 16 miles  
south from Limerick, formerly  
a large walled town, <sup>and a borough</sup> now a depo-  
pulated village. ~~through a borough~~  
had a castle belonging to the  
earl of Desmond, partly blown  
up by the garrison retiring from  
St. George's. Boreu 1580. James the  
last earl, died 1608. His predecessor  
James, 7th earl, founded near it  
1420 an house of Conventual friars,  
which was reformed 1490 by the  
observantines. James, 10th earl died,

and  
14/10/18/26(xii)

374 (564)

475

and was buried here 1558. (provincial)  
chapter of the order was held here  
1564 (d.) it ceased to have any power  
at the union.

note

(d.) Archd. 418. Wilson 184. F. 524.

(567)

277

(Archaeol. New. Hil. Vol. 77. N. 1st.)

P. 118

476

County  
Limerick.

Arkeater;

Situated in the barony of  
Conillo, and on the river Deel.  
This was formerly a large walled  
town, but is now a small depo-  
pulated village; still however it  
retains the privilege of a borough,  
and sends representatives to parliament.  
There was a castle here in the  
last century, which had belonged  
to the Earls of Desmond; James,  
the last Earl, died in 1608, whose  
predecessor

14/12/18/26 (xiii)

predecessor James, the seventh Earl,  
 founded a monastery adjoining  
 this castle, in the year 1420,  
 for Conventual Franciscans (v)  
 which was reformed in 1490  
 by the Observantine Friars (v).  
 James, the fifteenth Earl, died  
 and was interred here in 1558. (v)

The monastery of Askeaton  
 was of such consequence,  
 that a provincial chapter of  
 the order was held there in the  
 year 1564. (v)

---

(v) War. mon. (p) Allemande. (q) Lodge, vol.  
 1. p. 17 (r) War. MSS. vol. 34. p. 165. —



**END**

14 D 18/27

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Notes, relating to the antiquities, topography and history of the parish of Killinaghty (Killeenoghty), Co. Limerick, with particular reference to its early church and the origins of its place name.

[1840]

1p.

23 cm



The parish of Killinaghly.

(573)  
4/18

Situation. This parish is situated in the barony of Pubblebrien and Coghina and is bounded on the N. by the parish of Precora on the South by Kroom, on the east by Ballycathann and on the west by Killinaghann.

Name. The name of this parish is in Irish Gill Fionachta which signifies the cell or church of Fionachta, who is believed to have been a saint but I do not find a saint of that name in the Irish calendar of the Four Masters. It is written Cell Fionachta in the MS. pedigree of the O'Briens. Trin. Col. H. 1. 7.

The old church of this parish is now generally called Teampull na Sceach i.e. the church of the bushes from a number of white thorns growing at it, but the true name is Killinaghly and this should be adopted on the Ordnance Map. The walls of this church are destroyed nearly to the very foundations, but it can be determined from what remains of them that the building was about 46 feet in length and 20 ft. in breadth.

14/10/18/27

**END**

14 D 18/28

O'Donovan, John, 1806-1861.

Letter, to Lieut. Thomas A. Larcom, Superintendent of the Ordnance Survey, from John O'Donovan, written from Askeaton, Co. Limerick, in which he requests transcriptions from source material relating to the ancient territory of Hy-Figinte.

15 July 1840

1p.

23 cm

RIA



Askeaton

July 15<sup>th</sup> 1840.

Capt. Lincoln, R. E.

Dear Sir,

We shall remove to Newcastle on Friday after the arrival of the stage car. It is ten Irish miles to the south west of this village and we must <sup>make</sup> it our head quarters while doing the south west part of the County.

I am now in the very heart of the territory of Hy-Figinte the territory of my ancestors before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans. Mr. Barry will be so good as to let me have all the passages relating to that territory in O'honors translation of the Annals of Inishfallen and also to Caenraighe, Brughugh, Lis Cobhthaigh, O'Donovan, O'Boileain and O'Slerken. Beauford in the 11<sup>th</sup> No. of Vallancey's Collectanea quotes a passage <sup>as if</sup> from the Irish Annals. which I cannot find in any of the

14/D/18/28

the extracts before

O'Donovan?

"Here (i.e. at Brugha), Muliff more O'Donoghue  
King of Cairbre Abb-dha was slain by those,  
"Loth O'Brien in 1165."

Is this passage to be found in any of the  
Irish annals? Try Irishfallen.

I also want the pedigrees of all the  
families of Hy. Tiginte. They were co-  
-pied for Clare from the various autho-  
-rities, and I think I left them with  
Mr. Curry, to be sent to me to the  
County of Limerick; if not I sent  
them to the Ordnance Survey Office.

Your obedient &c Servant

John O'Donovan

P.S. Honore's translation of the annals of  
Irishfallen Annals now referred to is  
in the possession of Messrs. Hodges and  
Smith. It is much better than O'Flanigan's  
translation.

**END**

**END OF**

**14/D/18**

**START**

**OUTSIZE MAPS**



# Outsize maps

part of

14 D 18

Limerick (Vol. 1)

# REDUCTION

13 ×

RIA

Filmed: October 2006  
Operator: Ms C. Waterloo  
Original: black & white

**Outsize map**

**14/D/18/8**

**49 x 32 cm**

RIA



The Castle of the Glin in Com Limerick



A Description of the Plot of the Castle  
The Castle of the Glin in Com Limerick  
The Castle of the Glin in Com Limerick  
The Castle of the Glin in Com Limerick

1 The barricade before the  
gate  
2 The breach under the  
window of the Hall three  
hours after the Battery  
opened  
3 The entrance into the  
great Hall  
4 The entrance from  
the Hall into the Castle  
5 The entrance into the  
great Hall  
6 The second Battery  
of the Cannon's day in the  
morning  
7 The Barracks on the  
Left of the castle where  
the Cannon were

8 The Hurdles and forced the  
Rebels to keep into the  
water  
9 The Barracks by the  
Rebels at our approach  
10 The key under the Beasts  
did go  
11 our trenches  
12 Cap. Garrahan's  
Shippo  
13 His fight with the Rebels  
before our coming and  
how he took in a  
second two of the men  
14 The Rebels' quarters  
15 our Scouts  
16 The Knight of the Glen  
standing at the head of our  
Battery

Traced from sheet 4 of the  
Pacata Hibernia  
by  
J. Sullivan 1840.

10/1/18/8