

Inniscarra Parish

Some Notes on its Antiquities

Compiled from field-notes, kindly lent by Mr PJ Hartnett, MA, (the leading authority on the antiquities of East Muskerry), from references to the Parish in the Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological 1945—Society, and other publications, local traditions, etc.

Compiled by Daniel J O'Sullivan, RIP, GP, Cloghroe 1961

Townlands of Parish in which Antiquities were found

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Spelling of place-names as in the Ordnance Survey Maps

The present day parish of Inniscarra is made up of the three ancient parishes of Inniscarra, Matehy and Carrigrohanebeg, except for a few townlands now included in neighbouring Parishes, (Courtbrack, Loughane, etc).

(Some updating and editing, where expedient, undertaken by John Lane and Pat O'Callaghan – 2020/1)

Irish National Grid Coordinates have been added to older reference locators for ease of reference, e.g. AGHARINAGH (W 510 739)

Positions of antiquities are measured in centimetres from the most convenient borders (NSE or W) on the Ordnance Survey (OS) six-inch sheets

INNISCARRA PARISH (ANCIENT)

AGHARINAGH:

- (a) Holy Well: “Sunday’s Well”: (W 510 739) OS 72 (E 20.6, N 13.5); Rounds made in conjunction with “Lady’s Well” on the other side of the stream in the townland of Magooly.
- (b) Tradition that Mass was celebrated here in Penal Days.
- (c) **Fulacht Fiadh**: (Site of): (W 488 745) OS 72 (E 41.2, N 8.2).

Fulachta Fiadh: Cooking places of Fianna, mentioned by Keating in his Foras Feasa. He described them as being used by the Fianna in their hunting expeditions during the summer months (Bealtaine until Samhain) for the cooking of the meat procured during the chase. In translation the passage continues:- “It was their custom.....” to dig two pits in the yellow clay of the moorland, and put some of the meat on spits to roast before the fire, and to bind another portion of it in dry bundles and set it to boil in the larger of the two pits, and keep plying them with stones that were in the fire, making them soften until they were cooked. And those fires were so large that their sites are to-day burnt to blackness, and these are now called Fulach Fian by the country people”. Fullachta Fiadh (or Fian) are extremely numerous in South Munster.

(Prof. Seán P Ó’Riordáin; “Antiquities of the Irish Countryside”.)

- (d) Megalithic Tomb:
(Remains of?). (W 493 744) OS 72 (E 36.0, E 8.5);
(On Michael Ryan’s land).

Megalithic Tombs are great tombs of stone used for collective burial, introduced in the early Bronze Age. Most of those in Munster are of Gallery Grave type (e.g. Labbacallee)

ARDRUM:

Ringfort (W 549 734) OS 73 (W 15.8, N 18.0), Known locally as “Lios”.

Ringforts: (lios, ráth, cathair, caiseal, dún): large majority were protective structures around early farmsteads; some very large ones probably had a military significance (Headquarters of Chieftains, etc.) Dating: late Bronze Age to early Christian and later times.

BALLYANLY:

- (a) Ringfort: (W 538 753) OS 62 (W 5.8, S 0.1); levelled; Diameter – 110 feet.

BALLYMACOO:

(a) Ringforts:

- (1) (W 520 785) OS 61 (E 11.8, S 30.7); North of Regan's farm, enclosed by modern dry stone fence, forest trees planted in it. Diameter – 100 feet.* (Not mentioned in Mr Hartnett's Notes)

- (11). (W 516 784) OS 61 (E 15.2, S 29.0). A modern fence built on track of rampart in Southern half. To south has been levelled. Diameter – 118 feet.

(b) "Saint's Grave" OS 61 (E 16.8, S 24.0).

Across the river from "Tobairín Beannuighthe" – "coffin-shaped" enclosure surrounded by low mound in North, East and West.

? Site of early monastery or hermitage. ? Mochua Findchua of Donoughmore, one of Finbarr's Company at Loch Irce (Gúgán Barra)

Fulacht Fiadh (Possible)

Mound of burned/blackened sandstones - observed adjacent to above site (b), during recent farm works. (P O'C 2020)

BALLYSHONEEN:

(a) Ringforts:

- (I) (W 525 774) OS 61 (E 6.6, S 19.5). Single rampart, 15 feet high, deep waterlogged fosse, entrance to south – Diameter – 175 feet.
(II) (W 530 770) OS 61 (E 2.3, S 15.9). Levelled and tilled; Diameter 150 feet.
(III) (W 523 781) OS 61 (E 8.5, S 26.2) Overgrown, single rampart, entrance to east, Diameter 150 feet.
(IV) (W 538 765) OS 62 (W 5.3, S 11.4). Double rampart, defective; Diameter 170 feet.
(V) (W 535 776) OS 62 (W 3.0, S 22.0). Semi-circular arc. Diameter 160 feet – "Pairc a Leasa"

(b) Fulacht Fiadh: On Stephen O'Sullivan's land. (Current owners - Murphy family)

(c) "Carraig an Aifrinn". (W 540 762) OS 62 (W 7.3, S 8.9). 150 yards west of Bealnaballagh Cross Roads (near Yellow House).

(d)

Locals believe that a priest was beheaded here - as well as his altar server who lived in nearby hamlet - as he celebrated Mass during Penal Laws in early eighteenth century.

Above tragic event, recently, erroneously conflated with the murder of a second priest as he celebrated Mass in the old Penal Church in Matehy. (Adjacent to existing R.C. Church). Captain Fox was responsible for this unconnected murder. He subsequently met his death at 'Foxes Bridge' and was buried in nearby Loughane Burial Ground – which was in a division of old Matehy Parish known as Cloherkin.

There is also a tradition in the parish that a Blacksmith (Seán Magee) was hanged for making pikes and was buried in North Kilmurray. Some pikes were discovered near Carrigan Aifreann during reclamation work in the Mid 50s.

Alexander O'Sullivan, Kilblaffer, got the following ballad from the late Denis Batten (Composed by Tim McCarthy, Kilclough, Vicarstown)

"THE BLACKSMITH OF CLOGHROE".

Oh, loudly rings the anvil in the forge of Seán Magee,
Where the fires are blazing brightly, and songs ring merrily,
There all the neighbours gather in, where mirth and laughter flow,
In that pleasant hall of Meeting in the forge of Sweet Cloghroe.

How we longed for Ireland's freedom, and our young hearts throbbed with pride,
For the hour is fast approaching when upon the mountain side
There'll be brave hearts there, to lead us on, to march against the foe,
And we'll plant our country's banner on the green hills of Cloghroe.

Beneath the hob, where brightly blazed the fires,
We safely laid, full many a polished rifle, and many a steely blade,
Our plans were made while flew the sparks beneath the sledge's blow,
And, 'twas there we learned a soldier's trade in the forge of Sweet Cloghroe.

Oh, where, oh, where are now the friends I long again to see.
And to hear the anvil ringing in the forge of Seán Magee,
That old thatched forge with it's dusty walls and the sledge's heavy blow,
With a merry chaff, and a ringing laugh in the forge of Sweet Cloghroe.

But the tale is sad, where the smithy stood, the grass is now growing free,
And a grave in lone Kilmurray, holds the bones of Seán Magee,
No more we'll hear his anvil ring or his sledge's heavy blow,
For Ireland lost a gallant son, in the blacksmith of Sweet Cloghroe.

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The site of the forge is said to be next to John MacSweeney's house in Cloghroe, or near Daniel Twomey's in Ardrum. (C.100 metres east of Blairs Inn, on the southern side of the 579 Regional road)

(N.B. Above poem composed by Tim McCarthy, native of Kilclough, Vicarstown, – Editor, 'Irish News', Catholic daily newspaper, still extant. Tim, great uncle to Pat O'C - died Dec 1928 and was in interred Milltown Cemetery, Belfast, Jan 1929)

BERRINGS:

(a) Ringforts:

(I) (W 521 760) OS 61 (E 10.0, S 6.8). Double rampart (outer levelled); Diameter – 192 feet, planted with firs. (On John O'Brien's land).

(b) Souterrain: in centre, single chamber. 12 feet x 3 ½ feet x 5 feet, now closed.

Souterrains; are artificially built caves (? cellars, places of refuge) generally found in Ringforts. Finds therein have been mostly of early Christian date, but some also of Bronze Age.

(II) (W 509 764) OS 61 (E 21.5, S 10.9). Single rampart; Diameter – 137 feet, interior planted. Ancient (Church?) bell found here.

(III) (W 511 760) OS 61 (E 19.4, S 6.9); incomplete; hoard of 'Roman' coins found in it about 1880, replaced.

(a) Standing Stone: between fort II and III. Standing Stone known to archaeology as a monolith or menhir, and in Irish as gallán, callán or liagán. Generally a gravestone, but may be a boundary mark, or erected to celebrate some great event. In early Christian times

Standing Stones began to have crosses and other designs inscribed on them; on later slabs the extraneous material is cut away so that crosses of stone are formed, and ultimately these give place to the more elaborate high crosses of the Middle - Ages. (No Ogham stones have been found in the Parish).

- (b) "Rocking Stone": (W 518 767) OS 61 (E 12.8, S 13.3):?
- (c) Fulachta Fiadh: 6 in townland.
- (d) Mass Path: through Timothy Lane's Land.
- (e) Tradition: that 'Fenian' guns buried on O'Reilly's farm within 100 yards of house – Connection with Captain Mackey.

BRIDGESTOWN:

- (a) Ancient Wall – "Tobar na Coille" – not a Holy Well: (W 560 736) OS 73 (W 7.1, N 15.9).
- (b) Cup-marked Boulder: in field south of Mrs Cooney's cottage, near roadside – an example of Irish Rock scribing, called "Galician Art" because of its similarity to the Rock Art of Galicia in North-Western Spain. ? Introduced by prehistoric copper-miners. (Now in grounds of Ann & Ml O'Mahony)

CALLAS:

- (a) Ringforts:
 - (I). (W 533 761) OS 62 (W 1.0, S 7.6), incomplete and overgrown.
 - (II). (W 536 759) OS 62 (W 3.6, S 5.8), Diameter – 135 feet; originally double rampart.

CARHUE:

- (a) Ringforts: (W 506 782) OS 61 (E 24.9, S 27.7) – Diameter 155 feet.
- (b) Holy Well: "Tobairín Beannuighthe" (across the stream from 'Saint's Grave'). Collapse of Stonework of old well and fall of part of ancient whitethorn tree nearby. Rounds no longer made. ? Dedicated to, or used by, St. Mochua.

CURRALEIGH:

- (a) Ringfort: (W 541 727) OS 73 (W 9.0, N 25.0); only site remains.
- (b) Collapsed Souterrain ? to North East.
- (c) Fulacht Fiadh.

DROMGOWNAGH:

Ringfort: (W 504 745) OS 72 (E 26.3, N9.0): Trees in interior; Diameter – 138 feet.

GARRAVAGH:

Ruined Church: (Inniscarra Graveyard): built on the site of the 6th Century Monastery of St Senan, patron Saint of Inniscarra. Old Parish Church mentioned in the Taxation Roll of Pope Nicholas IV, AD 1291, and in the Pipe Roll of Cloyne, (begun in AD 1364 in the time of the then Bishop of Cloyne, John Swaffham, consists of a series of entries relating to, or affecting, the temporalities of the Seas of Cloyne, many as of an earlier date than 1364). (W 566 709)

INNISCARRA – Entry in Pipe Roll

"item dominus habet in Inscara V Carucatas bosci, V Carucatas bruariae cum dominio ibidem. Et betagi qui solebant reddere V Marcas modo reddunt 11 marcas et dimidiam".

English Translation by Cannon O'Riordan:-

"Item the Lord (ie the Bishop) has in Inscara 5 carucates of woodland, 5 carucates of scrub land with

demesne in the same place. And the betagi, who used to pay 5 marks, now pay 2 ½ marks". (A carucate was a ploughland of from 60 to 120 acres).

Another Entry (Translation):

"Tenants of Inskar who are bound to cart fuel (Firewood)
Cornelius Ohellohy holds one messuage, 5 acres near Church,
Patrick Ohony, one messuage, 5 acres.
Donald Odogyn, one messuage, 5 acres.
Donald Rufus Omahan, Donat Odownedy,
Gille Mychyn Omarran, William Odownedy,
Donat Offyn, Marck Inybando (on their oath).

The place of Meeting of the Chieftains of Munster with Aodh O'Neill in 1600 was near the Church, according to local tradition.

SAINT SENAN:

Born AD 488, studied at Iarros (Clare), proceeded to Cill Manach, thence to Wexford, and founded a Church at Enniscorthy. Afterwards he visited Rome, tarrying at Tours on return journey. From Tours he came to Wales, and thence to Cornwall. Leaving Cornwall he crossed to Cork and founded a Monastery at Inniscarra, c 520AD. Here, he was visited by 50 Romans who wished to become his disciples. He kept 8 or 10 at Inniscarra, sent 10 to St Brendan, and the others to other Monastic Schools. Subsequently he laboured on several Islands off the coast of Kerry and Clare, before establishing his great Monastery at Inis Cathaigh (Scattery Island) about AD 534. Feast Day March 8th, celebrated in the Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe. His work, in Inniscarra, was continued and consolidated later by Finbarr who built 12 Churches at intervals North and South of the Lee before settling in Cork. (Finbarr died at Cill na Cluaine, now believed to have been situated in the townland of Ballineadig on the south side of the River opposite Cronody.)

GORTATRAY:

- (a) Ringfort: (W 523 768) OS 61 (E 8.5, S 14.0).
- (b) Souterrain: Southern side of above, on William Casey's land.

INNISHLEENA:

- (a) Abbey Ruin: (W 517 727) OS 72 (E 13.4, N 25.3 ?) Another foundation of St. Senan; knocked down in 1716 and its stones carried in panniers on horses' backs across the Dripsey River to build houses and other structures at Cronodymore. Up to recently enclosure was private graveyard of a Fitzgibbon family. (Now submerged in Inniscarra lake, north of hydroelectric dam)
Excavation of site by Mr Fahy only showed foundations of a 17th Century house- "a folly" ?
Bullán only evidence of possible early Christian foundation. (See Journal, December 1957)

Bullán: "The Christening Stone" (Found in graveyard).

? Baptismal Font or Holy Water Stoup of early Christian Church. Removed to Cloghroe in June 1956 with some pieces of querns and cut stones before flooding of valley by the E.S.B. (Now located at eastern wall of St Senan's RC Church, Cloghroe – with explanatory plaque)

- (b) Holy Well: "St. Senan's Well" – north of the Abbey. (Now submerged in Inniscarra Lake)

KILBLAFFER:

- (a) Ringforts:
 - (I) (W 501 758) OS 61 (E 28.7, S 4.4)
 - (II) (W 496 759) OS 61 (E 33.6, S 5.7)
- (b) Souterrain: to North East

(c) Cillín: (W 498 763) OS 61 (E 32.4, S 8.8)

Early Christian burial ground for children (stillborn, unbaptized, and sometimes baptized first-born who died in childhood). On John Hennessy's land. (Rounds paid here to 1960s)

(d) Fulacht Fiadh.

KILLMURRAY (NORTH): (W 494 765)

(a) Ruined Church – centre of graveyard, formerly Chapel of Ease to Inniscarra.

(b) Burial place of Parish Priests of the Penal days.

(1) Probably here was buried Teige Donohue, residing at Lahane (Loughane?) registered 1704, PP of Matehy. Inniscarra, and Carrigrohanebeg: Ordained in 1673 at Cashel by Bishop Burgott.

(2) Rev Charles McCarthy: Monument to South of Church near South Eastern corner:-

Hic jacet Carolus McCarthy Carbriensis hujus parochiae
Pastor
qui in diebus suis
placuit Deo
Obiit die 27th Feb Ann 1726
Aetatis Sue 60.

Rev Dr Nicholas Kirby: (Monument a little west of the above.) Lived at Carhue - ('Kirby's wood', Carhue, Berrings) Dwelling/Lands subsequently occupied by Ruby family and then McCarthy Family "Denny Jerome's Wood".

Under this stone are deposited ye remains of the Rev Dr Nicholas Kirby, who departed this life Feb 1770 aged 67 years, also ye body of his nephew Nicholas Kirby who departed this life 1790 aged 52 years.
Requiescant in Pace. Amen.

(3) Rev James Sheehy: Ob July 1800. Stone at west end of Church near South West Corner facing west: Here lyeth the body of the Rev James Sheehy who departed this life July the Third 1800 aged 54 years. May the Lord have mercy on his soul. Amen.

(4) Rev Patrick Dilworth: Ob Jan 1833, aged 56 years. "Rounds" made at his grave on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday (and other days). Transfer of custom from a deserted Holy Well (as in the case of Fr. John O'Callaghan at Aghinagh graveyard, where similar Rounds are now made, instead of, as formerly, at Tobar a Teampaill nearby.).

(5) Another Monument was erected by Rev Daniel McCarthy to his brother, murdered in 1799 in his house at Currabeha. Slab much weathered and difficult to decipher. This is just inside entrance from Road to the right. Tomb to immediate right of steps.

(Pat O'Cs, parents, with his maternal McCarthy family, interred here. Mr Rd Henchion has recorded/deciphered inscription on slab of above chest tomb).

"The Rev Daniel McCarthy has erected this monument to the memory of his much lamented brother Mr John McCarthy who was inhumanely murdered in his dwelling house at Currabehy on the night of the 19th of January 1799, the 31st year of his age. Requiescat in Pace, Amen".

State of "Popery" in Cloyne Diocese in 1731 Document, discovered in Dublin Castle by Rev. Patrick Hurley, PP., Inchigeela, and published by him in the Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society, 1893:

Dublin, Dec 14th. 1731.

"My Lord – In obedience to your Grace's commands by order of the Lord's Committee appointed to

enquire into the present state of Popery in this Kingdom bearing date Nov 6th:-

"I humbly beg leave to lay before your Grace and their Lordships the state of Popery in my Dioceses, as it appears from the Returns of the respective Protestant Ministers of the Dioceses of Cloyne, an abstract of which Return is annexed to the Paper, together with the number of Protestant Churches now in repair, the number of the Clergy of the Established Church to attend the duties of these Churches, the number of Popish Priests, with the total number of the Protestant and Popish Souls in the Diocese of Cloyne.

"It appears than, from the Returns made by the Clergy, that there are seventy Masshouses in the Diocese of Cloyne.

"These Masshouses are generally mean thatched cabins, many, or most of them, open at one end, and very few of them built since the first of the reign of King George the First.

"The reputed Popish Priests officiating in these Masshouses are reckoned to be ninety-two.

"Some new Masshouses have been attempted to be raised about three years ago, particularly at Cloyne and Charleville, within view of the Churches of these towns, and where no Masshouses were before. But the finishing of same has been hitherto prevented by the care of the respective Magistrates of these places.

"There is but one reputed Convent of Friars in the whole Diocese, viz. the Abbey of Buttrvant, near Mallow, joining to which old Abbey there is a thatched house in which two old Friars formerly dwelt, and begged about the country. One of these Friars being lately dead, there is at present but one Friar in the house.

"But the strolling vagabond Friars from the Monasteries of Aglish, in the County of Waterford, near Youghal, the Friars from the Monastery of Kinsale, and those from the Abbey of Kilcrea, near Cork with many other vagrant Friars from Killarney, in the County of Kerry, do much mischief.

"For these Friars creep into the houses of the weak and ignorant people, they confirm the Papists in their superstition and errors; they marry Protestants to Papists contrary to law; they jaunt the sick beds, even of Protestants; they endeavor to pervert them from our Holy Religion, and by daily devouring the substance of the poorer sort of Papists, they become greatly obnoxious even to the Papists themselves, who complain of the irregularities of those Friars, and do at least pretend to wish they were removed.

"There is but one reputed Nunnery in the Diocese, and but seventeen reputed Popish Schools; the poorer sort of Irish natives making no scruple to send their children to learn the English tongue in the Protestant Schools where they read the Holy Scriptures, are carefully instructed in the Church Catechism, and many of them attend their Parish Ministers to give an account of the same in their respective Parish Churches, which their parents do allow of, provided their children are thought gratis.

"Most of the School-masters of the English Schools receive voluntary annual Salaries from Forty Shillings to Three Pounds per Annum from respective incumbents of the several Parishes. This affords the Masters a little aid, but is in no way sufficient for their support, for the Popish parents who send their children to these schools, being miserable poor, are not able to pay for their childrens' learning, and there being few other Benefactions to the English Schools, the Protestant Masters of the same do make a hard shift to live.

"There are Forty Churches in repair in the Diocese, in which Divine Service is constantly performed; Incumbents or their licensed Curates, forty-seven.

"There are eight Parsonage Houses raised by the Incumbents since the First of King George the First, in which the respective Parish Ministers, or their Curates, reside. More buildings of this kind would have been carried on had the Clergy Glebes fit and convenient to improve upon.

Total of Mass-houses in the Diocese of Cloyne	...	70
Total of reputed Popish Priests with their		
Curates or Assistants	...	92
Total of reputed Convents of Fryars	...	1
Nunneries	...	0
Total of Friars	...	1
Total of Popish Schools	...	17

Total Clergy of the Established Church in Diocese of Cloyne, including Curates	...	47
Total of Churches in repair	...	44
Total of English Protestant Schools	...	53
Total of Irish Popish children educated in such Protestant Schools, reckoning by a moderate computation, ten poor children to each school	...	530
Total of Protestant Souls in the Dioceses of Cloyne, reckoning six to a family	...	14200
Total of Popish Souls, reckoning six to a family	...	80500

"All of which is humbly submitted to your Grace and their Lordships by your
"Grace's and their Lordships'

"Most obedient Servant,
(Signed) Hon, Sec. Cloyne
(Henry Maule)

(Relevant part of) Abstract of the state of Popery in Diocese of Cloyne 1731.

-----Parish of				
Masshouses	Reputed Officiating Popish Priests	Convents of Friars or Nuns	Popish Schools and School- masters	

Carrigrohanebeg	No Masshouse	No Popish Priest	No Fryary or Nunnery	No Popish Schools

Union of Innis- Carra, which Consists of ye Parishes of Innscarra, Garrycloyne, Matea and Grenagh.	A Mass house to each particular Parish. namely, Four in all.	A reputed Popish Priest to Each Parish, namely Four In all.	No Convents of Fryars or Nuns.	Three reputed Popish Schools.

KNOCKANE:

- (a) Ringfort: (W 492 771) OS 61 (E 37.5, S 16.4); Levelled, now only raised circular platform – Diameter – 100 feet.
- (b) Fulachta Fiadh: - 3.
- (c) Standing Stone: - 1.

KNOCKNAMARRIFFE:

- (a) Fulachta Fiadh: - 2
- (1). (W 540 750) OS 73 (W 8.1, N 3.0).
- (2). (W 540 750) OS 73 (W 8.7, N 3.4).

LISLADEEN:

- (a) Ringforts:
- (1) (W 499 773) OS 61 (E 31.2, S 18.1); Single Rampart – Diameter – 136 feet.

(b) Site of Souterrain: (on Timothy Murphy's land).

(II) (W 497 771) OS 61 (E 32.2, S 16.8); Interior planted, overgrown.

(a) Standing Stones: - 2

(b) Fulachta Fiadh: - 3

LISMAHANE:

Ringfort: (W 493 754) OS 61 (E 37.1, S 0.2); Double Rampart – Diameter – 182 feet. Souterrain: Inside inner Rampart to South.

LISNASHANDRUM: (EAST):

(a) Ringfort: (W 508 774) OS 61 (E 23.0, S 19.3): Diameter – 300 feet; Double Rampart; Outer Rampart pushed back from edge of fosse, leaving concentric inner causeway – 'berm'. Entrance at N E which (foundation of) a crescentic earthen bank commands from inside. This is the largest and finest Fort in the Parish. ? Headquarters of ruling Chieftain before coming of MacCarthys. ? O'Flainns and their ancestors. (On Batt. O'Sullivan's land).

* Liosnashandrum (West). Rea (a) Standing Stone. (b) Fulacht Fiadh

MAGOOLY:

(a) Holy Well: "Lady's Well" (See Agharinagh).

(b) This townland identified by Risteárd O'Foghludha (vide Irish Ecclesiastical Record of September 1952) as one of the Magaloids, mentioned in Pope Innocent's (III) Brief to Reginald, Norman Bishop of Cork, when he placed the Sea of Ross under Reginald's Administration in A.D. 1199.

REAGRELLAGH:

(a) Standing Stones: (Pair of); (W 495 793) OS 61 (E 35.0, N 23.6); W..... 56 inches high; E.....55 inches high. ? Remains of Megalithic Tomb.

(b) Ringforts:

(I) (W 497 789) OS 61 (E 33.3, N 27.0); Rampart – 14 feet high – Diameter- 260 feet.

(II) (W 494 790) OS 61 (E 35.7, N 25.5); Defective.

(III) (W 497 798) OS 61 (E 33.4, N 18.3); Interior planted; north of Kerry Road.

(c) Fulacht Fiadh: No antiquities have been found in the Townlands of Carrigynaveen, Currabehea, Faha, Gurteen or Moneyflugh.

MATEHY PARISH

Matehy mentioned in the Pipe Roll of Cloyne; Copy of Agreement made on the 13th day of July, 1262, between the Bishop and John de Cogan, concerning right of patronage of Church.

CLOGHPHILIP:

(a) Castle: (W 582 761) OS 62 (W 47.2, S 8.2); Built by the Barretts; North wall and parts of East and West walls remain. South wall fell about 1848 (? due to digging for gold). Stone head reported found.

(b) Inscribed Stone: in upper embrasure of window in east wall. (DCK 1590) – DONOGH (MAC) CORMAC (MAC) KATHRAGH.

In 1488 "Symon de Rede Bared ceded to Eoghan McCarthy (brother of Cormac Laidir) his 'Vil of Cloghphilip'.

In 1600 "Cloghphilipe in the possession of Owen Loghie McSwyne, a free-holder, to his heirs forever".

"A branch of the MacSeeney of Fanaid settled in Desmond as Commanders of Gallowglasses under the MacCarthys. They had several Castles in the Barony of Muskerry, and were celebrated for their hospitality".

(Rev. Patrick Woulfe in "Irish Names and Surnames".)

Ellen, daughter of Donal M'Owen M'Loghie McSwyne, married Donogh of Courtbrack Castle, Maistir na Mona (son of Cormac MacTaidgh.)

(The site of Courtbrack Castle was where now stands the farmhouse of Mrs O'Sullivan, between Foxes Bridge and Courtbrack Church, and now, more recently- 2020 AD- adjacent to new residential development, "Tulach Rua").

- (c) "Fort Field": raised circular platform of Ringfort only now remains.
- (d) Fulacht Fiadh: On Peter Scanlan's land. (Presently, on this farm is sited a golf course and a Hotel, initially named 'The Ramada'.)
- (e) Here, on Scanlan's farm, a Mass Rock was destroyed during construction works referred to above. (C.2010)

CLOGHROE:

- (a) Ringforts: (Several in Townland have been levelled and erased.)

- (1) (W 555 749) OS 73 (W 8.0, N 3.5); part demolished in west, double rampart.
- (2) (W 563 753) OS 62 (W 29.7, S 0.4).

Site of Cloghroe Castle: Foundations of buildings within enclosure.

- (I) NW: Circular brick lined pit – 12 feet in diameter, 6 feet deep, steps leading into it,
 - (II) "Capel's Hole".
 - (III) SE: oblong vaults, steps.
 - (1) Centre:- "Judgement Seat".
- (b) Field North-West: - "Páirc na Croiche" – "Gallows Field"; "Croch inniu, cúirt, amárach", (Hang today, conduct trial tomorrow), – type of justice administered here according to tradition.
- Castle of Guines (or Gynes), alias Clorough or Cloghroe; "Shanaclogh", "Capel's Hole". Historical notes from an article by Mr. John T. Collins in the "Blarney Magazine":-
- "About 1300 one Ralph de Guines, in the District in which Blarney is situated, re- erected a Castle at Cloghroe, of which some remains still exist.
- "During the first half of the 14th Century there was an Irish resurgence led by the MacCarthys, and the English settlers fled into Cork City. An English feudal Army drove out the Irish and the settlers returned, but de Guines and his followers had enough and their lands remained vacant.
- "At that time families named Lombard were well known in mercantile circles in Cork. They came from Lombardy to aid the English King to assess and extract his Irish Revenues. One of these, John Lombard, undertook to replant the territory which de Guines had abandoned. He obtained custody of the Castle of Guines with 30 Carucates of land which included Blarney district. The boundaries were from the waters of the Lee near Magooly in the west to Coolowen (Whitechurch Parish) on the east, and from the lands of John Barrett on the north to Currakippane on the south, and so to the river Lee west of the City."**

"It was related in the grant how Dermot McDermot, and other Hibernici, enemies and rebels, had exterminated the Anglii until the English Justiciar came and drove out McDermot. Conditions for the defence of Guines Castle were attached to the grant. The Justiciar, Thomas de Rokeby, attested the grant at Cork in 1353, and it was confirmed at Westminster in 1356.

"But the Irish struck again, and Lionel, Duke of Clarence, with a great Army came to Cork and drove these out. The English feudal Lords were ordered to occupy the redeemed lands under pain of forfeiture for non-residence.

"An Assize was held at Cork in March 1368 presided over by Gerald Fitzmaurice, third Earl of Desmond. Barretts, Colls, Cogane and Lombards attended to prove Title by re-occupation.

Lombard produced the Grant of Edward III to him of the Castle of Guines with 30 carucates of land which had been wrested from Dermot MacDermot and taken into the King's hands.

"The heirs of the Lombard grantee had been again expelled from the Manor of Guines in 1448 when Cormac Laidir became Lord of Muskerry. Cormac died in Cork in 1494. His son, Cormac Og, died in Kilcrea Castle in 1536. Cormac Og's third son, Tadgh, became Lord, and died at Macroom Castle in 1565. His son, Cormac MacTaidhg (Cormac na Gall) became Lord in 1570.

"In 1577 he surrendered his lands and estates and obtained a re-grant. He died at Blarney Castle in 1583 AD."

"He made a will in which he left the Lordship of Muskerry to his brother, Callaghan, and in the final remainder to his son Cormac Og. He bequeathed the Castle and Tuath of Blarney to his wife in trust for Cormac Og, and to him he also left the Tuath of Cloghroe.

"In 1584 an inquisition found that the Manor of Guines had never belonged to the Lombards, who were but Constables of the Castle, and had usurped the lands, and now, under Acts relating to concealed ownership, the lands were declared forfeit to the Queen.

"In 1589 Cormac MacDermot, to whom Callaghan had handed over the Lordship, emulated his uncle and surrendered Muskerry to the Queen, getting re-grant.

"The Castle and Manor of Blarney and the lands of Cloghroe were again included despite the presumed forfeiture.

"Cormac Og, who had been expelled from his father's Castle of Blarney, now came of age. He was page to Sir Walter Raleigh, and sent in Petitions to the Queen and Privy Council demanding his rights. In these petitions he related how his ancestors had taken the Manor of Guines (of which Blarney was part) by force from a Lombard, heir to the patentee, who had obtained the lands in the time of Edward III. It had continued under MacCarthy Lords Lordship of Muskerry by tanistry, he found that his Title to the lands of Blarney rested only during three descents. When his father, the late Sir Cormac MacTaidhg, obtained the on the forcible Disseizin by his ancestors: That his father then sought out the lineal descendant of the original patentee, and found him in the person of James Lombard, a citizen of Cork, paid him a sum of money, and so, 'quit claimed' the Lombard Title. Having done so, his father looked upon Blarney and Cloghroe as his own property, apart from Muskerry and bequeathed them to the petitioner. Cormac MacDermot had ejected him from the Castle on the grounds that it was part of Muskerry, whereas the boundaries in the patent, and the lands named therein, proved it was part of the Manor of Guines"

"In 1595 an inquisition was held before the Protestant Bishop of Cork and Justice Sankey concerning the claims. They found that certain (Named) townlands including Blarney, Killard, Killisheal, Knocknasuff, Loughane, Dromasmole, etc, were contained in the Manor of Guines, and that Lombard's patent was void, and Blarney, etc, belonged to the Queen.

"Cormac MacDermot appealed to the Court of Chancery and won his case on a technical point. This was to the effect that the inquisition was held by virtue of a writ. Writs could only be addressed to, and acted upon, Commission. The Court decided in his favour, the inquisition was declared imperfect and its findings void. Cormac caused this finding to be enrolled, and a decree to this affect was given at 'Her Majesty's Castle of Dublin' on May 24th 1596.

"Cormac Og continued his fight but died at Kilcrea Castle on August 14th. 1600, leaving Cormac MacDermot in undisputed possession of Cloghroe (and Blarney).

"The MacCarthys held Cloghroe to 1737. Denis MacCarthy died at Ballea Castle in 1739, and was buried in Kilcrea. His daughters married a Captain Capel. One of their daughters married Sir Thomas Judkin Fitzgearld of Loskeen, Tipperary (the first Fitzgearld of Cloghroe). Their descendant, Sir Joseph Capel Fitzgerald, died 'Sine Prole' in 1840, and is buried in Inniscarra graveyard.

COOLFLUGH:

- (a) Fulacht Fiadh: (W 571 750) OS 73 (W 36.8, N 2.9).
- (b) Polly's Well: ?

DROMIN:

- (a) Standing Stones: In several fields on west side of Kerry Road.

GILCAGH:

- (a) Ringforts:
 - (I) (W 546 780) OS 62 (W 13.5, S 25.5); Single rampart, broken in parts.
 - (II) (W 547 784) OS 62 (W 13.8, S 29.7);
 - (III) (W 548 785) OS 62 (W 15.0, S 30.5); Oval, long N.S. Axis (158 feet)
 - (IV) (W 547 788) OS 62 (W 13.5, S 33.1); Horseshoe plan (ie. half erased).
- (b) Ruined Church: Matehy Graveyard: Old Parish Church of Matehy, alias Cloherkin:
Was in a ruinous state in AD 1615. Burial place of Denny Lane, Poet and Young Irishman, a founder Member of Cork Historical and Archaeological Society, and Vice-President in 1892. Inscription in Irish on his Tombstone.

GORTDONAGHMORE:

- (a) Ringforts:
 - (I) (W 562 769) OS 62 (W 28.5, S 15.1); Double rampart.
 - (II) (W 555 770) OS 62 (W 21.9, S 16.6); Modern fence.
 - (III) (W 556 774) OS 62 (W 22.4, S 20.1); two ramparts.
Entrance to East, and 58 feet North-West of this is a ?.
- (b) Souterrain: excavated and plan made by Mr J O Coleman; described in Journal of CH and AS (January-June, 1947).
- (c) Standing Stones: 2
- (d) "Carraig an Aifrinn": On Michael O'Riordan's land; nearby is site of house of Rev Edward Murphy, PP of Matehy, who died in 1649. Old hearth and quern found there.
- (e) Find: Stone axe-head found in a drain by William Hennessy, 1953, about 150 yds SE of residence and about 20 yds from Kerry Road.

KILCLOGH:

- (a) Ringforts:
 - (I) (W 535 792) OS 62 (W 3.0, N 23.8); Most of rampart cut away by quarrying.
 - (II) (W 535 783) OS 62 (W 23.0, N 31.5); Levelled
 - (III) (W 527 784) OS 61 (E 5.1, S 29.0); Double rampart, oval shaped, some breaks, and modern fencing.
- (b) Holy Well: (W 537 796) OS 62 (W3.9, N 20.0); "Tobar na Mná Finne"; "defiled" and deserted because a woman was found drowned there. (While paying rounds in 18/19th Century)
- (c) Above Well also known locally as 'Tobar an Aifreann' as the belief is, that Mass was celebrated here during Penal Code.
- (d) Standing Stone: Across the road from the well in Mrs. O' Flynn's farm.

KILLEEN: Cillín Bharra ?, "Cell Vari" of Pope Innocent III's Brief. No trace of ancient Church found.

- (Remnants of religious settlement visible in Cogan -Kit and Mce- farmyard, inadvertently subsumed in reconstruction works, early 1970s)
- (a) Standing Stones: As in Dromin (in fields close to road).
- (b) Fullachta Fiadh: - 2. (One discovered while reclaiming bog in above holding, c. 200 yds. West of Cogan residence- near old well, with a very dependable flow.

- (c) Old ruin extant to 1970s – SW of Killeen crossroads - Used as local meeting place up to war of Independence. No trace of above visible from early 1970s)

KILNAMUCKEY:

- (a) St. Anne's Well: (W 587 759) OS 62 (S 6.5, E 39.9); should probably be "Santan's Well". Santan was a disciple of Finbarr and one of the company at Loch Irce (Gúgán Barra). Risteárd O'Foghludha identifies the 'Dissertanaeda' (Formal discourse) of Innocent III's Brief, as possibly situated in this townland, and having to do with "Foidhribh Aedha" which may have been given to Santan when declined by Finbarr.

P.W. Joyce in "Irish Names of Places" states that 'St. Ann(e)s' found in Irish place-names are a corruption of Santan or Santan (Latin – Sanctanus), the name given to several early Irish Saints.

VICARSTOWN:

- (a) Ringforts: (W 539 777) OS 62 (W 6.0, S 22.7); Almost completely levelled; in field behind dispensary to west. (100 yds. SW of present functioning Matehy RC Church. 2020 AD)
- (b) Finds:
- (I) Six flat Bronze Axes in 1923; One in Museum at Fitzgerald's Park. Described by Rev Dr Power in JRSAI (1923). One presented to the compiler of these notes by John O'Callaghan, Vicarstown.
- (II) (Re Bronze finds in Ireland; "The largest find is a hoard of six examples discovered under a pile of stones in a field at Vicarstown near Matehy, East Muskerry - Figure 96. The axeheads in the Vicarstown hoard are heavily worn and two are broken. This may have been a collection of scrap gathered for recycling which was a feature of metal production from the beginning. ('Iverni', Collins Press, 2012, P 96/7, Figure 96. P. O'C)
- (III) Find of hoard of Edward III Silver Pennies; found by woman "in the side of a ditch" on the old Kerry Road (Robert Day in the Journal of Cork Historical and Archaeological Society (1902) – 15 in number, as follows :-
- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 3 | Coined in London (Civitas London) |
| 8 | " in Canterbury (Civitas Cantor) |
| 1 | " in Bristol (Villa Bristollie) |
| 2 | " in Durham (Civitas Dunelm) |
| 1 | " in York (Civitas Eboraci) |

CARRIGROHANEbeg PARISH

CARRIGROHANEbeg:

- (a) Church: In Ruins; graveyard.
(W 605 719) OS 73 (e 22.5, S 29.2); 40 feet x 24 feet. Earliest burial 1755. In 1573 Charles Field is collated to V. Carrigrohanebeg. In 1700 Bishops Downes reports:- 'North wall down, rest standing, overgrown with ivy'.

COOLATUBRID:

- (a) Fulacht Fiadh: (W 576 733) OS 73 (W 42.5, N 18.3) on eastern bank of stream

COOLYDUFF:

- (a) Ancient limekiln: (W 578 718) OS 73 (W 48.1, N 32.7).

DROMASMOLE:

(a) Standing Stones:

(I) (W 592 738) OS 73 (E 38.6, N 12.8); Height 42 inches.

(II) (W 593 738) OS 73 (E 37.5, N 12.3); “ 45 “

(III) (W 593 738) OS 73 (E 36.1, N 11.9); “ 45 “

In alignment running North-East for about 320 yards, evenly spaced.

(IV) (W 593 738) OS 73 (E 27.3, n 11.1); Height 36 inches; stands to North of I, II, III.

WOODSIDE:

(a) Standing Stone: (W 597 736) OS 73 (E 30.7, N 14.3); Height – 42 inches. Similar to stones in Dromasmole.

Inniscarra Historical Society is grateful to the late Dr O Sullivan, who bequeathed so much information re. our Parish and its ancient history.

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