

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

URLAUR ABBEY

Situate in Urlaur by the shore of Urlaur Lake. Land of George Shaskey. There is, however, a road leading to the abbey to which there is a right-of-way. The Abbey is not in the care of the office of Public Works but efforts are being made to have it so preserved.

The ruins consist of the nave with remains of northern aisle, and the domestic portion of the building running at right angles to the south wall of the church at its eastern end. Also a part of buildings which were apparently attached to the south wall as far as the domestic range.

The church is internally 90' long by 24' wide. The west gable, which is intact and has a steep pitch is possibly 40/45 feet high. It is 14" thick. The gable extends north to form the west gable of the north aisle. This west gable has the main doorway which has a pointed head and with the jambs is of sandstone finely wrought. Part of the south jamb is missing. The jambs and head are worked in a series of chamferings. The doorway is at present 7' high and 40" wide (at each springing). The inner doorway has slightly rounded plain veined lead and slight jamb splay.

About 10' west the west door is the west window - intact except that a partition between the lights is built-up, for no apparent reason. The window is of two lights, each cusped round-headed, chamfered and rebated and with pointed enclosing arch having a pointed moulding with plain terminals. Each light is perhaps 5' high by 1' wide. The window has a nice internal splay and has ~~at the head~~ internally a head of dressed stone, slightly rounded forew.

Off the northern side of the church was an aisle. This was 10' wide but little of the aisle wall that now remains is obscured in a thick ivy coat. The aisle ran for perhaps 50' along the north side. Access to it from the church was through the columned arches separating church and aisle. These are not now here. The buttress holding the arch springing next the west gable still stands. It is 38" wide and some 3' in depth. It is approx. 56' from the western end of the nave wall - which end held the springing of the easternmost arch between aisle and nave. Both corbels have leaf ornamentation - the west corbel having a head face springing from the stem.

The north nave wall has a fine doorway of

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two lights but the mullion of each window has disappeared, the lights are chamfered and rebated and with trifoliate pointed heads. Each light about 4' high by 9" wide. The windows have short head moulds - the terminal of the mould over the window nearest the east gable has a single face, carved in relief. The face is a good human one. At the north-east angle is a recess (but trees, nettles, etc. in the interior of the church at east end render survey impossible).

x The east gable has the remains of a three light window which had tracery over. Chamfered and rebated. The small portions of mullion remaining show hollow chamfers with rubbed surfaces and plain steps. The jambs remain and the ends of the overhead tracery. The window was pointed arched with exterior moulding - one of whose terminals ends plainly and the other ending in a face. The window is perhaps 12' x 5'.

The south wall contains, near the east gable, a recess 4' wide by 5' high by 19 1/2" deep, round-headed, chamfered, containing two piscines of four-leaf shallow design.

Near the recess is a built-up, pointed head, chamfered doorway leading into a vaulted apartment abutting the south wall.

Center way in the south wall is a pointed head, chamfered doorway, 6' high and 31" wide, with two stone steps from the exterior. There is a small figure (seemingly of a monk in meditation) carved in relief on the under side of the arch head. Over this doorway is a built-up window which has a rounded head internally, similar to the west window. The south wall is 40" thick.

x [The east gable is intact - 40 ft. high. N. + S. walls perhaps 25 ft. high.

of the range which apparently abutted the exterior south wall through which the pointed doorway gave access, only a portion of a vaulted apartment, weed-clad and with a surviving loop opening, remains.

The built-up doorway in the south wall near the south-east angle gave access to a vaulted apartment

which is almost intact. This was perhaps the sacristy. It is 19½' long by 13' 4" wide and from floor to vault top is about 12' in height. A plain rectangular doorway led out at the S.W. corner of the west wall. The east wall has a plain splayed rectangular apex somewhat broken.

Next to this are the scanty remains of a similar chamber, the whole vaulted roof still exists except for one sizable hole.

Adjoining this is a vaulted room which is entered from outside by a doorway 35½" wide presently and about 8½' high. Only the head remains of the low framework: it is a clasped pointed arch. This apartment is 22' long and 14½' wide and is about 15' high. The west wall is 30½" thick. The east wall (as gable) is 3' thick and has a rectangular loop 35" high by 8½" wide internally splayed to 45" by 5' 4". Rough picked sandstone.

Leading upwards (in southerly direction) off this room is the stairway to the upper storey. Beside the stairway is a broken doorway leading into a vaulted chamber which is 18' 6" by 14' 9" and which has a plain broken doorway leading out through the east wall at N.E. angle. The east wall has a rectangular loop with broken sill. The south-east corner has a chimney - plain featured. Chamber is about 15' high.

The stairway is 33" wide and has 18 steps with 8" ^{risers} ~~bread.~~ It leads to the apartments that were second-storey. The second floor ran the whole length of the domestic portion of the abbey. Now however the upper sidewalls are missing and only the southern gable with a high window, framework missing, remains. The window has a nicely cut lead mould. It was apparently of two lights. This upper storey floor is locally called the "cathedral sub."

Attached to the south gable towards the eastern end is a squinch (about 5') tower. This had an apex from the second storey domestic portion. Beside the opening is a square recess. The tower has an inner base-batter. It evidently served as garderobe and waste exit as the lake edge is but a few yards from the south tower wall which has an outlet at the base.

Melrose Abbey. History:— Founded a short time before 1134 with the assistance of the Hangle family. The Hangles or De-Angulo's were a Norman family who afterwards changed their name to Costello - the present barony name.

The foundation, however, was irregular as no permission had been obtained from the Holy See. A brief of foundation was later obtained from Eugene IV, dated March 18th, 1134. Melrose escaped suppression until the 17th century and up to then had sheltered many refuge friars. An inquisition of May 12th, 1608, found the Abbey possessed of 12 acres of arable land. A further inquisition of May 24th, 1610, found the Prior to have 24 acres. The Abbey was a Dominican foundation.

On March 12th, 1612, the King granted Sir Edward Yelverton the Abbey and lands. Soon after, however, it was granted to Lord Dillon who was a Catholic and who allowed the Friars to remain on. In 1629, the Abbey held five Fathers and four or five clerics. In 1654 eleven Fathers convened to hold the Provincial Chapter in Melrose. It was vacant for a time after 1698. In 1705 there were five Fathers there. In 1750 there were nine and seven in 1767.

From 1770 the Abbey declined. In 1835 a Father Hayden was at Melrose - probably living nearby. After his death Father Patrick Shanley lived near the ruins until 1846.

{ ABOVE ACCOUNT CULLED FROM A PAMPHLET (GILL & SON, DUBLIN) WHICH
RETAILS A LECTURE GIVEN AT THE PATTERNS REVIVAL IN URLAIR
BY FR. AMBROSE COLEMAN ON AUGUST 4th 1914. }

Remnants of church in Kilbally. Beside street. Gate into grave-
yard which is divided and heavily overgrown.

The remnants consist of a single length of wall, about 15' long
and 8' high. The wall was part of a vaulted structure.

Tradition associates a St. Claus, Bishop, with this place.
It is said that he founded a church here - having been led
hence by a vision in which he saw an open grave which he
found in Kilbally after such journeying. Tradition says
that he was buried here and that a crossless thorn bush
grew over his grave. Kilbally is from "lil' ballay" - church
of Claus.

church ruins in Rushens West. Right-of-way. Gate from road.

This is a small edifice, being internally only 15' square.
The west gable has a plain semi-pointed arch doorway which
is 5' high, 5 1/2" wide at the ground level and 6 3/4" wide at
arch springings. The gable is much broken but is at least
10' high.

The east gable is 20" thick. Only a portion of cut stone window
jamb remains of its apex. The gable is in part 10' high.

North wall is only 3 ft. high. The south wall is perhaps
4' high. It has a recess 11 1/2" deep by 20 1/2" x 18 1/2" close to south
east angle.

Nothing seems to be known of this little ruin. In its
vicinity is an almost indecipherable piece of inscribed stone
on what appears to be a somewhat uniform gravel which is
8" long in stem and 8" in span. The span has a stone
which is 80" long, 38" high and 20" to 9" thick.

Close by (20 yds away) is a single stone 45" wide, 38" high
and 12" thick.

Somewhat further away is a Bullaun.

The Bullaun on which the grave lies is called "Cassán na Caspa"
Townland of Ballinsumpa - land of Patrick Coffey.

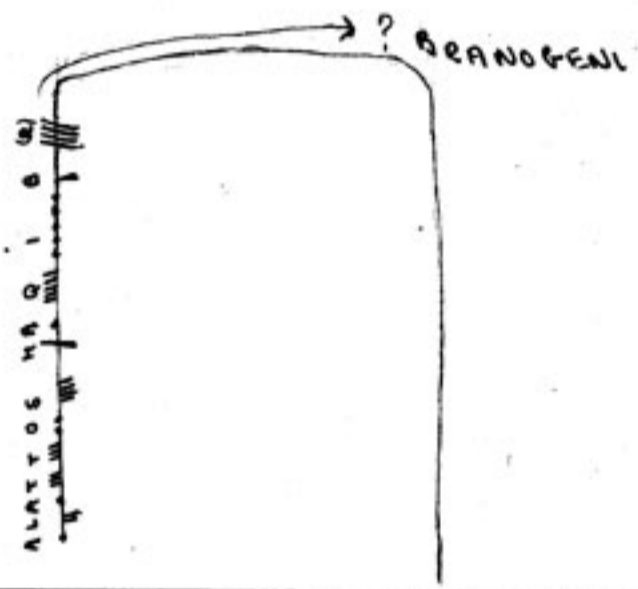
No right of way.

Agham Stone in Keshens West. Land of Mrs. Green.
No right-of-way. Set in charge of office of P.W.

The stone, lying at an angle of about 70° with ground, is
49 inches high, 18" wide and 12" thick. It is set in a flat,
circular, stone construction which is 10' wide and 2' high.

The stone was visited by Prof. W. A. Miles accompanied
by Mrs. Jordan N.T., Aghamore - from whom the inscription
below was courteously obtained.

ALATTOS MAQI BRANOGENI - Prof. W. A. Miles surmised the
word BRANOGENI. Stone is broken.



Castle and Conterrains. In Keshel - locally called
'Ceshel'. Land of Mrs. P. Duffy. No right-of-way.

This is a fine structure and well worth visiting. Except for
a few stones displaced - the castle is beautifully intact.
Entrance is through the single, (circular) wall by an eastern
doorway 6 ft. high and 55" wide, having a lintel 3 ft wide and
10 inches thick. The enclosure is approx. 32 yds. (approx. 100 ft) diameter.
(slightly oval) There is a sloped-up souterrain entrance and
a covered one a short distance away.

The wall, roughly built, is 13 ft. thick. It averages about 14 ft.
high externally and about 10 ft. internally. The wall has two
tiers - the first about 7 ft. up from inside ground level and
the second, or wall-top, 3 ft. above the first. Thus there is a
broadish wall-walk all around the enclosure which perhaps
served for defence and observation. In the western wall part
are two mural passages at ground level with small apertures, each 2 1/2' x 16".

Carbel in Kilcashel. Land of Martin Inain. No right-of-way.

Single slightly oval wall enclosing a space roughly 25 by 28 yds. The wall is broken in parts but averages 6 ft. thick at base and tapering slightly to 5 ft. Two about three fifths of its circumference, the wall is, internally, about 7 ft high. About one fourth of its external face is 9 ft. high.

There is a well with built-up sides (3) in the carbel enclosure and it appears to be ancient.

A somewhat similar carbel to above is in Mr. James Connell's in Castleblenny. No right-of-way.

Only the foundation stones remain of Carbelgal - a carbel in ~~Thomas~~ Patrick Hatley's in Kenigsseam. The single circular wall was 10' thick. No right-of-way.

There is a shed-up souterrain in a fact in Joseph Geady's in Kilmore. No right-of-way.

There is a fact, which was used as a burial ground, in P. Cribben's land in Carrakeg. No right-of-way.

There is a roughly shaped stone 7' 3" x 17" x 15" in hill. Walsh's in Yarraun. It is lying on the ground. A legend says it was flung from Aughamee, some miles away but the stone may have been used as a gate pillar or such by former owners of Yarraun House and thus is not an antiquity.

Mass Rock: In Patrick Stennis's in Yarraun (or Yarraun). This is a boulder roughly 7' x 6 1/2' by 3' high. On it mass was exhibited in Penal days and the tradition of it is very strong in the locality. A story tells of one small Geady, living in Yarraun House nearby, who was the fleetest

runners in the area. On Sunday when the priest was celebrating mass, a soldier spy on horseback came to the top of a nearby hill, and having seen the secret refuge of the priest, rode at speed for Kallaghadeen to send out the soldiers.

Squadry, by running as never before, managed to catch up with and slay the spy near Malans Lake.

Other legends of the Parish.

Best known legend is that of Mrs. Douglas Hyde in her "Legends of Saints and Sinners" (page 127).

It relates how the friars of Malans were one day astonished and fear-stricken on seeing a black bear on a rock chain in Malans Lake, 20 ft. from the bank. Its screeching could be heard for seven miles. As it leapt into the water a storm swept off the roof from over the friars house and all the roofs for seven miles around. The friars prayed on seeing the bear again but the animal screeched and opened a litter of barhamas. The Abbot went in a cunagh to the rock and sprinkled holy water but failed to banish the beast.

The Bishop, on being apprised of the monster, came and said that the abbey harboured a devil in friar's form. A bot with the cross and friar Lucas, with hair all over his body, fled out into the lake and kept company with the bear.

An attempt was made to capture the evil spirit

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but they set up such a screaming that the friars were stricken deaf. This gave rise to the expression - "as deaf as a friar of Melane".

A holy man called Gerald was asked by the bishop to come and banish the devils - but Gerald lay ill.

A sick friar dreamt of a woman in white linen who said to him that Donagh Sgrady of Yarraun could banish the evil spirits. Sgrady was a piper.

Sgrady was summoned. He piped by the lake side and finally a dove appeared and shot lightning at the boars and its riders and killed them.

The friars gave forty ten-penny pieces to the piper and told him to throw the bodies into a hole.

N.B. The hole into which the bodies were supposed to be thrown is a boat-shaped depression in the ground near the home of Mrs. Robinson Co.C., ~~Clonfeighera~~ Clonfeighera.

Legend of the "Broken Swan".

On his way home after a late night of card-playing, Jimmy - encountered three horsemen with a lady on a white steed. He paused, and heard a man say, "watch the lady on the white horse". Jimmy pulled the lady from the horse and forced her from her ghostly company. As he led her away, he overheard the man say again, "as long as he doesn't know about the broken swan it's all right." Jimmy led the girl to

his own home. She could not give any account of herself and lived in his home for twelve months until one day Jimmy thought about the remark concerning the "broken woman". Happening to see the pin that the girl always wore in her hair he pulled it out and recollection came back to the girl. She was Ellen Donovan. Jimmy took her to her home a long distance off - where she and her family were reunited. She had been spirited away and the "broken woman" caused her to forget the past.

Lough Melane and Lough Mangan: Two of the seven lakes traditionally supposed to have been the magically changed daughters of Manannan Mac Lir. The lakes are, with district:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Ullswater | — | Kilmore |
| Orge = L. Mangan | — | " |
| Swyre = Mannin C. | — | Aughmonee |
| Ruad = L. Roe | — | " |
| Glynn = Lough Glynn | — | Loughglynn |
| Leesow = L. Leers | — | Annagh |
| Ullswater = Evers C. | — | some miles from Leers C. but in Co. Roscommon |