

## HISTORIC SITES

*Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.  
Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.*

~~It appears that in ancient times, the Irish gained a victory over the Danes in a battle which most probably took place near Kilcummin Head or at Lacken Strand.~~

~~A number of graves which may be seen on Kilcummin Head may be connected with this battle and a Standing Stone on the lands of Mr John Walsh at Banagher has been described by O'Donevan as possibly having been erected to commemorate this victory.~~

The French army under General Humbert, landed at Kilcummin on August 22nd, 1798. It is believed that the ships anchored at a spot a couple of hundred yards to the north of the pier. The sites of several camps made by the French are still pointed out by local people near Kilcummin Head. A large stone, on which it is said General Humbert first put feet on landing, is now to be seen at the residence of Mrs Loftus at Banagher (HEALONS).

*Continued Page 2.*

## HISTORIC HOUSES; BURIAL PLACES

*(a) Birth places or one-time residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities. Location and description. Present owner or occupant. (b) Burial places of distinguished personalities.*

~~That St. Cummin was washed ashore in a little wooden box as a child and that close to here he established a church, is a fixed tradition amongst the people of Kilcummin. A few yards to the north of the ruined church which stands in the old graveyard at Ballinlena, Kilcummin, are two tall stones which mark the grave of St. Cummin. It is said that other saints or disciples of Cummin are also interred in this grave.~~

~~The date of erection of the church has been established as earlier than the eighth century.~~

*Grave of St. Cummin (see "Antiquities")*

## SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

*Spas formerly in use. Location and present condition. Access. Right of way to public?  
Mineral content and curative properties so far as known locally.*

None Known

TOPOGRAPHY. Cent'd.

This strand is two miles to the north of the Post Office at Carrowmore (~~the only post office in the district~~) and the waters of Lacken Bay offer very good and safe swimming for children ~~as well as~~ *and* ~~for~~ adults.

Benwee, or Kilcummin Head which shelters Lacken Bay on the east, is another very beautiful spot on a clear, sunny day. The prospect here, of massive rocky crags overhanging the sea which foams and rears beneath, also embraces broad Killala Bay for many miles around. ~~Lacken Strand, as seen from here at the mouth of Lacken Bay, presents a gorgeous sight of golden and silver sands.~~

→ Kilcummin Head is best reached by the tarred road which branches to the right at Carrowmore. At the end of about two miles the road becomes rough and before reaching Kilcummin pier, the surface is very rough and stony. ~~This little fishing harbour is most interesting in scenery and historic background. Here, in bygone ages, St. Cummin erected his little stone church, the ruin of which may still be seen and alongside it, the grave of St. Cummin himself. Within a few hundred yards of the pier, it is believed, General Humbert's little fleet carrying the French forces who were to assist the United Irishmen, anchored in August 1798.~~

→ At Park, about a quarter mile beyond St. Cummin's Church at Ballinlena, a narrow passage leads to the Head, the Eire Coast Watchers' Hut being passed on the way.

~~The west side of Lacken Bay offers less in the way of scenic beauty but nevertheless, the coast is quite attractive and from an eminence of grass-covered rock about a hundred yards past Creevagh National School, a splendid view of the Bay is obtainable. From here, as from most elevated sites in the district, the mountains of Sligo and Donegal are plainly discernible on a clear day. Historic Knecknarea and the cairn atop are clearly distinguishable.~~

The many hills to the west and north-west are ideal for the purpose of viewing the surrounding scenery. Perhaps the most notable viewpoint is the hill behind the ruin of Castlelacken. This hill, on which the peculiar structure of rough stones known as the "Gazebo" stands sentinel over the bay, overlooks sea and land for many miles in all directions. The mountains of Killybegs in Donegal are conspicuous on a clear day and ~~following that line of vision~~ to the east, Ben Bulbin and Knecknarea may be seen, the Méascán of Maeve being clearly discerned on the summit of the latter.

HISTORIC SITES Cent'd.

*the area is now*

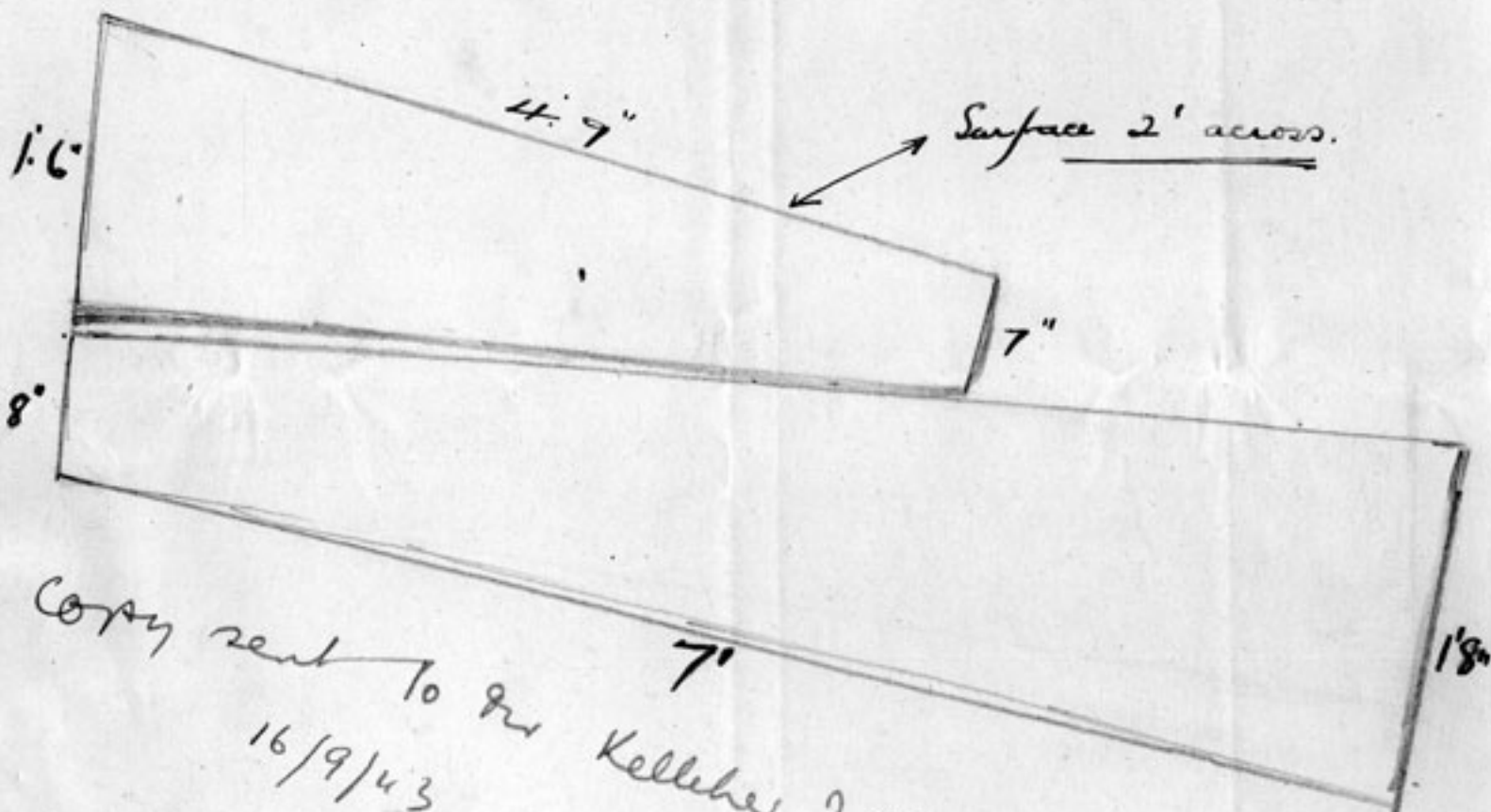
We are told how St. Patrick, when he had returned to his native land, after his period of slavery in Ireland, beheld in ~~his~~ dreams the maidens of Caille Fechlut beseeching him with outstretched arms to come to their assistance.

Caille Fechlut, or the Wood of Fechlut was a tract of thickly weeded land extending from Lacken Bay in the west to Cross Patrick in the east. ~~and~~ The name is retained in a townland in Lacken parish though now corrupted to Feghill; ~~and~~ almost completely bared of trees.

St. Patrick returned to convert the Irish to Christianity and his many acts in these regions are firmly fixed in local tradition to this day. ~~It is believed that he built a church at Feghill but there is no trace of this building nor is the site known.~~

*DoBrien  
1/6/43*

Number 1 Stone at Kilcummin (Bunagher), ITA/2/15 (4)



Copy sent to Mr Kelleher J. T.A.  
16/9/43  
H.S. over.

17A 12 113(25)  
Healens Hotel,  
Belmullet.  
18.8.1935.

M. J. Kelly Esq.  
Irish Inuit Association.

Dear Mr O'Kelly,

I have received your letter of August  
14<sup>th</sup> and carefully noted the instructions therein regarding  
Casthar. I shall attend closely to these matters when in that  
town.

\* The lumber stone at Loftus's, Anaghier,  
Kilcummin (Lacken Parish) is, or was originally a huge slab,  
measuring roughly, six feet in length and about three or  
four feet in thickness. I did not pay very particular  
attention to the stone as it had been split into two parts  
in order to facilitate its removal from the shore and it is  
now lying very unimposingly in the open passage at the side  
of the bank.

The idea in removing the stone from the  
shore was that it was thought it might be used in the  
monument being constructed to commemorate the trench

I shall procure more detailed particulars at the very earliest opportunity and will photograph the stone as desired. This will not call for a special trip as I shall be travelling to Ballina en route for Belfast in a couple of weeks time and can then arrange to fit in this task.

Will you please send me on some photographs  
with proofs.

Yours faithfully,  
Copple

Sent per Mr Fitzpatrick

20/8/43

EXTRACT FROM LETTER OF G.O'BRIEN, SURVEYOR IN CHARGERE HUBBART STONE.

This letter is not an accurate sketch, nor does it give a true representation of the appearance of the stone but it will give an idea of shape and measurements, allowing for irregularities in the stone itself. As may be seen, the slab has been broken into two sections. It appears that in the early stages, following the removal of the stone from the sea-shore, Mr. Mallon, who salvaged it, made a charge of sixpence for viewing same. A photograph of the stone is included in the roll of films enclosed.