

## ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Raths, 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.

Keith Castle ruins:— Lowland of Keith. Land of grassed garden. No right-of-way. Not in charge of office of P. W.

Altogether there are the ruins of the main structure, <sup>the</sup> a long single-story building a few yards away, and, a little distance off, the scant remains of a building said to have been the tower house.

Of the main edifice, there remain the north section with a 14 ft long by 15' high portion of the west gable, and a part of the east gable containing the doorway. The building has an internal length of 33 ft. Its width may have been perhaps 20/25 ft. as well as the ground floor there were, judging by remaining wall corbels, three upper floors. The first was 6 ft. above present floor level, the second about 11' above the first, and the top floor 10' higher.

The west gable, broken at its southern end, is 14' wide now (internal). It is 5' thick and has a slight base batter. At present ground level is an plain vaulted embrasure, 5' wide. Three loops, each 15" x 9" internally, surround the western approach from the embrasure.

At a height of perhaps 18 ft. is a passage about 2' wide and 6' high through the wall's length. About a 10' length of the passage exists now 10' below this passage, and on exterior of the gable, is a small opening with a slightly projecting drip-stone. The passage probably served as garderobe or such. At a height of 20' is a square, plain fireplace whose lintel is gone, leaving only the corbel which carried it.

The north wall has, on ground floor, the broken remains of a 6 ft. wide embrasure with a partially destroyed apex and a slotted opening running eastward through the wall. On second floor, is a wide, broken fireplace. Towards the N.W. angle is a square window 25½" wide and 30" high, of chamfered cut limestone. Window had two lights but the mullion is missing. Outside is a plain lead mould. Inside the window is a stone shelf 35" high and 21" deep. North wall is 5½' thick.

The bit of east wall remaining has a plain pointed doorway 45" wide and scarcely 5' high. Pointed arch of rough picked stone. 6' over entrance is a well, rectangular,

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cut-stone chamfered loop. This east wall has a slight base batter, is 2 1/2' thick at ground level but at second floor height is almost 5' thick, which thickness is continued to the north-east angle; the wall here however is too broken to discover the full purpose of the upper wall thickness.

Of the machicolations which existed on the north east angle and the S.W. one, only the crenels now remain; (five at N.E. corner and one at the south-western).

The two main rooms was apparently the cooking and dining hall. Internally 45' x 25'. East gable 10' high. Has one slated loop. North wall 10' high. It has three broken spaces and held the fireplace - featureless now except for a pair of crenels. The south window has a plain broken surround and three broken spaces. The walls are 4 1/2" thick.

50 yds. from the castle is a bit of a wall containing portion of a chimney. Said to have been the castle's bake-house.

History: - that a lot seems to be known concerning the castle of Rath. It is said to have been built <sup>in</sup> about 1268 by Philip the son of Costello. Also known as "Rath na Zupani" "Rath of the cups" - from a story which relates that the soldiers of Lamhull left the castle unharmed because its owner was able to keep their cups filled with wine throughout the day. This was the condition imposed on him for the castle's safety.

The Rath castle chieftain of the period is also said to have fought with Red Hugh at the "Battle of the Cuckers".

An inscription on a stone in the ruined market house in Aghamore gives 1623 as date of erection. (1842)

Church Ruins at Aghamore: A few hundred yards from village. Road leads past ruins in cemetery. Gate..... right-of-way. Not under B.P.V.

Ruins consist of east gable with attached to it a negligible portion of the north wall and an appreciable amount of the south. Gable about 20' high, and is 4' thick. Contains a rectangular space

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40" high and 10" wide. Overred sandstone (rough-picked) set and joints unknown lined. Chamfered edges. Small half-oval shaped hole in set near joint. Window has wide internal splay - plain-featured.

South window is 40' long and 33" high. Averages 11' in height. It has a <sup>plain</sup> broken apex with inward splay of 40" in width.

Through the external south wall of the church runs a smooth cylindrical hole - approx. 20" deep into wall: hole is 3" wide. This is the well-known location of the legendary "Lair of gold." (Please see Curiousities.)

Nothing seems to be known of the church's history. There is however some tradition of its site having held a Patrician foundation: St. Patrick was intimately associated with the parish.

Ancient Cross: In field beside above church. (The inscription is too vague to obtain without expert cutting - photo beneath).

The cross is 5' 7 1/2" high - 4 1/2" thick - span width 18 1/2" - span height 16": width of stem is 11" - small knot remaining span is 2 1/2" x 2 1/2".

The stem is upheld by being set (without mortar) in an arranged pile of flags at its base.


History: none. Tradition however has it that the cross falls before the outbreak of world war - said to have done so in 1914. (People not so clear about 1939). Not in charge of B.P.W.

Dresser bypass: In barony. Land of Tim Henagan. Not under B.P.W. no right-of-way. The ruins of the church here are now but a mound of stones. Church said to have been of the 12th century - Dominican foundation. Of it nothing else is known. The name Bypass is however preserved.... Giesler's account (~~mentions it~~) says... "He (St. Patrick) went to Drumore Cavanagh and found two men, the sons of one man, fighting together after the death of the father, a cooper-smith of the race of Cavanagh... and they wished to divide the inheritance and the wood of contention which is called Cuan amongst the Deatlen Red here placed, and then drew their two-edged swords, their hands raised and feet apart, and neither ready to strike the other - all which was done on the ground after the usage of the soil...."

The two sons were Ripers and Cavanagh according to Trip. Vite. There is a Bullam nearby the church site.

Remains of Mannin Castle. In Mannin. Mrs. Grogan's land.  
No right-of-way. Not in charge of O.P.W.

Main feature of the ruins is a tower about 15' high - circular and stone and mortar built. Internal diameter of 11' - wall 2' thick.

Looking eastward is a plain apex about 2 1/2' wide. The plaster remains on the inside wall to a height of about 6' except for several stripped and broken spots. The plastering is covered with small designs roughly sketched out in the time.  These and several others.

As the old tower is said to have been used as a pigeon house by a former landlord the plastering possibly dates only from then.

The tower stands slightly apart from the security remnants of the remainder of the ruin which seems to have been a roughly circular building 18' in internal diameter with a wall thick in one part is 5 1/2' thick. Highest bit of wall now standing is about 8 ft. Projecting from the circular foundation is a 4' high now-or-less circular stone construction of access with an opening 18" square running downwards through its center for 6'. (Not unlike an old-time bake-oven)

Of the history of this ruin nothing is known.

NOTEBOOK: The ruin is situated at the northern edge of Mannin lake.

Derryneel Fort: Townland of Oasgasy. Dominic Heneghan's. No right-of-way. Not in charge of Office of Public Works. This is a double-ringed fort. The central path is approx 30 yds. in diameter and about 9' over fosse level. The middle vallum averages 9' in height and 18' wide (at base). The inner fosse is from 11' to 15' broad. Outer vallum 6' high and 20' broad thick (base). Outer fosse 10' broad. Parts of this outer vallum broken and destroyed. Portion of vallum due to hill slope is 15' to 20' high.

Once used, said to have been a brother to Bally, last pagan king

Castle remnants in Castle's townland. P. Johnson's. No right-of-way. Scant-remained foundations only. Closed courtyard (30 yds. diameter).

A similar one in Inel. Fain's - also of Castle's. Remnants only. Souterrain in Star's Fort in Carroneedan. William Lyons. No right-of-way. Debris. Passage (usual type) leads into a low chamber at right angles to which runs another passage to a second chamber.

Souterrain in Carron mas. James Kennedy's. said to have eight or nine compartments. no right-of-way.

Souterrain in Caruleg. J. Bourke's. debris etc. but there is a roughy oval chamber and possibly others adjacent. no right-of-way.

Souterrain in Lannelea. P. Glaney's. (J. Henegay) in a hos. single passage type. no right-of-way.

Souterrain in J. Henegay's of Liscolker. single-passage usual type. no right-of-way.

Souterrain in Killybeg. J. Kenny's. in top. usual. no right-of-way.

Keigh's on Killylannin Club's golf course. Stone is 2½' high and 1" Rib and has on it the marking X.

In Lannelea both in Tom Johnson's are a Bullans and a long disused well - "tobar buirragia". also can be traced to "Parce an t-Serpent".

There is a "Cloc an t-Serpent" in Mrs. Glaney's of Aghness. and a "Poll an t-Serpent" in P. Jordan's of Aghness.

The ruin of the small rectangular market house in the centre of Aghness village dates from 1838 and was built by none other than a land-owner in the district.

Most interesting feature of this ruin is an inscription on a stone in the sidewall of the building. Some letters are erased and others vague but members of the Killylannin Arch. Society arrive at this reading and state that it commemorates the erection of Keith Castle in 1623 by P. Constantine Jordan and his wife Sabina. Local tradition says the stone was taken from Keith Castle and placed in the market House wall in 1838.

DIFS. GILEM  
DOMV SADLECTOR  
P. CONSTANV IORDA  
SOVBINA MARITA  
EST) PFKIOREINOS  
VIOICEVIGEDE 9  
ANNO 1623.