

## ANTIQUITIES

*Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, 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.*

### Church at Glass Island.

At the south western extremity of Lough Conn is Glass Island (Illaun-aglashy), where the slight remains of an ancient church may still be seen. Bishop Ceallach who is said to have been murdered by the four Maols (students and foster brothers) at a spot on the lake shore near Drummin Wood, dwelt on the island for a time and thus has this old church been traced back to the early sixth century.

Another bishop, Bale Fadh, is mentioned as having taken refuge here during a period of persecution and probably at a later date. He and some others are stated to have been buried on the island.

Knockmore Bay or Pontoon are the most convenient places from which to reach the island on which five families reside. Distance from Ballina is about nine miles.

### Cloghans Castle.

Cloghans Castle stands within one hundred yards of the eastern shore of Lough Conn at Cloghans, about five miles from Ballina. Said to have been erected by the Barretts in the twelfth century, nothing further is known of the history of the old castle which is still a remarkably solid stone structure, complete with arched stone roof. The building measures approximately <sup>(53)</sup> fifteen feet square and is about thirty feet high.

Situated in the farm yard of Mr J. MacKenna, the castle is used as an outhouse or stable by the proprietor who stated his willingness to allow visitors to inspect the ruin.

### Castle Kelly.

On the land of Mr Michael Reape, near Garracloone and on the very edge of Lough Conn at the north eastern shore, is a large mound around which will be seen some traces of crumbled and fallen walls; this is all that remains of Castle Kelly. Though the indications of the one time existence of a castle are indeed few, local records, tradition, or even legend, are less plentiful and I have been unable to trace any information whatever in connection with the old castle. More than that the castle was probably built by some member of the Kelly clan at a very early date, nobody around the district knows, nor have I succeeded otherwise in determining it's origin.

The distance from Ballina is between four and five miles.

### Forts.

There are numerous forts throughout the parish and in some old books reference is made to a "peculiar cave" in the district. After considerable searchings and enquiries, I eventually located this at Gortnadreha, a townland adjoining Knockmore, six miles south of Ballina. I am unable to describe the cave for the reason that in recent years the landowner, Mr John Clarke, having filled in the entrance and covered this with a thin layer of soil, has tilled the entire field, at the same time clearing away another fort which was nearby.

In reality the cave appears to have been a very well constructed fort comprising a large underground chamber supported by huge stone slabs. It is believed that a tunnel leads from here to another fort about a half mile distant and others maintain that the tunnel extends for over a mile and under the river Moy.

### Group of stones at Cooloronan.

At Cooloronan demesne, about five miles from Ballina on the Foxford road, is a group of large stones, referred to as "Diarmuid and Graiáne's Bed" and as "the Cromlech". The latter description is at present applicable or the stones may be those of a tumbled cromlech. This is within a hundred yards of the main gate, on the borders of a new plantation and permission to inspect the stones may be obtained from the steward, Mr P. Moylett.

*(Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information).*