

ANTIQUITIES

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

Remains of church. Inland of Holywell. Land of J. Thomas. To right of way.

A few fields distant is the holy well of St. Patrick - land of Mrs. Kearney. Customary right of way. The well is called "Tobac Kearney".

Of the church, only a portion of one side wall remains. 20' long, unless 12' high, 25' thick. The church was internally about 45' x 22'. In an adjoining field is an older holy well, but probably of the church, but said to be used by St. Patrick.

According to history or tradition the ruins stand on a Patrician site. The present ruins may be of a Franciscan church erected here St. Patrick built his church.

In 1140 A.D. St. Patrick founded his first church in Co. Mayo in a place parish some few miles from Holywell where he arrived soon after. "Maclean writes" and Patrick went to the well which is called "Kearney" and made the little cross which is so called, and "Maclean" was a spot under a leafy elm and the sign of the cross is cut into his clay. Near the well is a small stone cross.

Tradition says that St. Patrick wrote part of his "Confession" while in Holywell.

The territory was the ruled by the Macanoy (Macanoy) who gave welcome to St. Patrick. The title originally sprang from her who was an illegitimate son of "Maese, Queen of Connaught and King of Ulster. Her son to County Mayo, founded the Macanoy and a portion of the title was later divided from the north. They came to Mayo and came to be known as Macanoy Macanoy. There was a lake called "Lac na Maen" i.e. the lake of the Maen and the name was used to designate the territory ruled and the clan title. The district comprised the present parishes of Aghames, Meehan, Kesh, and Anagh.

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Church remnants in Church Park. Land of P. Harkin. No right-of-way.

The reputed burial ground beside the ruins is in the land of Mrs. W. Gans. No right-of-way.

Only a portion of wall remains of this church which was not large and which is thought to have been a Franciscan church. Tradition says that St. Patrick founded a church here for St. Mullin, a disciple of his. Of St. Mullin nothing more seems to be known.

It is thought that St. Patrick also visited Kilnashinnin townland and founded a church. No ruins now visible but there is an olden burial ground.

Island Castle: Situate in Island townland. Land of Mrs. Martin Gans. No right-of-way.

This structure hardly deserves the name of castle though it is locally designated. Said to have been built in the 17th century by a branch of the MacCostello, it is a plain featured residential house, T shaped, the main portion being internally 55' x 21' with walls 18' (approx) high and gables about 35' high. The house was two-story. No traces of floors now exist. The windows were plain rectangulars - so also the doorway and chimneys. The rear wing is short - also two-story. A stream ran under the floors and through the walls and evidently served to carry waste matter down to Island lake, a short distance away. [Cont. on page 5]

Ogham Stone, Townland of Blacklegboy. Land of Mrs. C. Feeley.
No right-of-way. (Not in charge of D.P.W.)

The stone, which is at an angle of 45° or thereabouts, is set in
a low flat-topped tumulus which surmounts a hill.

The stone is 5 1/2' long, 2 1/2' wide and averages 12" thick.

CUNOVANI AVI QUNCANOS

[CUNOVANI AVI QUNCANOS]

Inscription learnt by kind courtesy of Mrs. Jordan N.T., Athenase,
Cullinanus, who obtained Prof. W. O'Riordan's reading when he latter
visited the stone some years ago.

Megalithic structure in Galleagh. Land of Mrs. P. Walsh.

No right-of-way.

This is apparently a burial chamber approx. 20' x 15' cut into
by irregular flags—about a dozen in all—the largest at the east
end being a kind of portal chamber stone and some 4' high.

The grave may be compartmented—the cross slabs being observed.

Lios in Bangeriff. Land of John Boyle. No right-of-way.

The inner wall is about 35 yds. in diameter. The vallum is of an
average 6' above the bottom of its fosse. The latter averages 1 1/2'
in width and is circumscribed by an outer circular fence
which averages 4 1/5 feet in height.

Rudely growth in parts. The fosse is deeper towards the
south circumference.

(Contd. on page 6.)

Souterrain in Brackleen north east. end of N. Gais.
no right-of-way.

Single passage type. somewhat debris-choked but of usual construction.

Souterrain in f. Walden's in Carnawheel. Similar to above.

Fast in cave. f. Walden's. No visible opening but it is said that there are caves in it. [The townland name of cave suggests a souterrain or such.]

In cave townland. land of f. Walden. A small mound which is pointed out as the hill-side as being the grave of a woman victim of the great cholera epidemic of famine years. The woman was buried where she fell.
no right-of-way.

These are the remnants of a burial chamber on the top of a sand ridge in Gorteen which the Killybegs Historical and Arch. Society discovered in 1933. It forms a small grave about 6' x 2' half destroyed but with some of the side-wall stones still in situ. Some of the covering slabs are nearly half obscured in earth & grass.

Tradition says that in Kilmanin where there is a Celtic or children's burial ground, St. Patrick erected a church. afterwards, a Franciscan church was established but there are no remains now visible. The place is of note chiefly because here the Kilmanin Ogham Stone, now in the National Museum, was discovered.

The Augustinian Abbey, Kallifanias.

Presently the Abbey consists of the Abbey Church, a neat and impressively attractive building [Form D-descriptive], and a two-story building which is the dwelling place of the Friars.

The Abbey was founded in 1348 by Jordan Duff. Mac Costello one of the descendants of the De Anglo family that came with the Norman conquest - held sway for a time and then changed their name to Costello - becoming "more Irish than the Irish themselves." He next sold over what is now the modern barony of Costello.

Jordan Duff granted the Friary 150 acres. The Abbey was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. In 1570 it passed to the Earl of Clancarde but apparently was not suppressed. In 1586 Mac Costello surrendered his possessions at Kallifanias to Sir Richard Dillon, an officer of the queen. In 1608 the Friary had but 8 acres of land and was suppressed and dismantled. The Friars however continued their work as quietly as possible and probably sheltered near the Abbey. In 1641 the Abbey was rebuilt. In 1642 the Prior, Ven.
(contd on next p)

Helgatus Jordan, was taken out and ranged nearby and buried in the Abbey.

In 1649 the monastery was burned by Cromwellian soldiery from Downmal.

In 1739 Bernard O'gara, Archbishop of Tuam was resident in the Abbey. He erected the tomb over his father's vault.

In 1770, William Keeler, a monk of Mounks Abbey in Mayo, was living at Ballyhannis Abbey. He was the author of "The Lorent of Musicians".

In 1793, the Rev. Myles Pendergast, who fought with the rebels and suffered all their hardships, appears in the community.

In 1841, the Rev. J. O'Neill was Vicar. He is the supposed author of "Maire's Best a L'ingery".

In 1910 the Lady Chapel was restored by Rev. Fr. Fenan who himself executed most of the paintings now to be viewed in the church.

1937/38 - the Abbey Church restored as it now stands by Rev. Fr. Mansfield O.S.A.

It is said that when the Augustinians first came to the County they were led by the ringing of an angelic bell which finally guided them to the present site of the Abbey.

The erection of the monastery in the 14th century marked the beginning of Ballyhannis as a town.

attached to the pillar of the gate leading to the abbey cemetery is a stone 28½" high, 16½" wide and 7½" thick. Sandstone. On it is carved, in relief, the representation of the Crucifixion. The work is crudely fashioned - the figure is 16" high - the head is 7" high. The stone is, without doubt, ancient.

also beside the Abbey is a second stone with carving of the Crucifixion. It is 35½" high, 25½" span, 4½" thick and 5" wide. It has I.N.R.I. at the top. The stone is supposed to have been brought from Holywell - the Patrician site.

SURVEY NOTE.

Particulars re Augustinian Abbey from Rev. Fr. Mansfield O.S.A.
Inscription on Blackaghby Ogham Stone .. Mrs. P. Jordan N.T., Aghnacree.
Notes on Patrician sites and historical notes from Dr.
H. T. Waldron, Ballyvaunis, and Mrs. Jordan N.T., Aghnacree.
Other notes of antiquarian and other interest from Rev.
Chancellor Prendergast P.P., Mrs. W. Cleary T.D., Mrs. A. O'Leary (Chiff),
Mrs. W. McGeary (principal information sources).

ADDENDUM.

DUNMORE OR QUEALLY CHALICE. In Augustinian Abbey, Ballyvaunis.
Latin inscription reads: "Malachias Quaelus Archieps. Mamen me
fieri fecit pro conventu S. Aug. de Dunmore tempore prionatus Petri
Kedari Conaldi 1641."
On cup of chalice: "Quam preclarum est Calix meus iherosolymitanus."
Both Rev. Quaelly and Prior O'Connell were killed in the rebellion. The chalice
was lost and was found in 1890 in a Dublin pawnshop by Rev. Dr. Keell,
O.S.A. Keell in O.S.A. church, Horton, England. Given to Ballyvaunis Abbey in 1938.