

Ballinasmula Abbey ruins: In Ballinasmula. By road
A which is gate to graveyard wherein the ruins lie. Not in charge
of office of P. W.

The ruins comprise the of - the church with off it a
vaulted chamber; near the church a single vaulted chamber, and
beside this, another vaulted room with a narrow passage
flanking two sides of it and having remnants of stairways to
upper regions now destroyed; a portion of building some 60
ft. west of the church.

The church (nave only) is approx. 55' by 17 1/2' internally.
Its southern gable is perhaps 30' high, steeply pitched, almost 4'
thick, and contains the entrance which is pointed headed, of rough
picked, chamfered, freestone. The doorway is 4 1/2' wide and at
present almost 6' high. Inside it, to its left, is a cut-stone projection
perhaps used to support the font. Inside, at ceiling height are also
two dressed stone corbels.

The north gable is similar to the south in height, and
thickness, and pitch. It has a pointed lead window whose
lead stones are set to form the pointed mould and whose
jambs are chamfered. The window is a reconstructed one - the
lead being inserted subsequent to the jambs - here give a
width of 27 1/2" while the width at the opening of pointed arch
lead is 34". The opening is 6' high. Inside, under this window
is the altar - a flat slab resting on two low thin walls.

Much of the west curtain is missing - the part remaining has
a broken, splayed, plain-featured, round-headed window.

The east curtain remains to a height of some 12/14 ft. From it a plain rectangular doorway, now built up, gave access to a vaulted compartment at right angles to the church. The chamber is approx. 15' x 9' by 15' high and has a plain, round headed open in its east gable. Inset in the south wall of this chamber is a stone plaque 36" x 24", bearing the inscription:

SUBHOLLAPIDEIAIETDNAMARIAMO
REALIASBURKFIARICARDISAXANAG
HCOMITISCLANRICARDEVEDICESSIT
1624, CVMFRIBVSSEIUSFILIIIOANNEGE
RARDQ, & IACOBO PER IOANNEM MORE ARM
IGERVM, ALIIS P' HVL TISEXIPADRTIS
INCIVIS NEG RAMROC ERIGIFECIT GERA
LOYS MORE COLLVS BC. 1690. CARLIVS
LECTORENIXEROGACVR PROIPSIS
ORARE

Free translation: "Under this stone lies lady Mary Moore otherwise Burke, daughter of Neiland the second Earl of Clansickarde; ~~also~~ also; she died in 1624 -- with three of her sons, John, Gerard and Jacob -- by John Moore, husband; and many others of the same blood (his line) -- in whose memory Geraldus Moore erected this 1690. The Catholic reader is exhorted to pray for them."

The words run into one another as given.

A short distance from the church doorway is a vaulted chamber 20 1/2' x 11 1/2' by about 10' high (debris on floor). The sidewalls are almost 4' thick, the gables 26". South gable has a rough-picked pointed head open some 3' high, and 25" wide. There is a plain rectangular doorway 5' high (debris) and 33" wide, in the south wall near north gable.

Near this chamber is a second similar one at right angles to the first but flanked on north ^{west} and south sides by the remains of narrow passages, each of which holds part of a stairway which led to the upper quarters, now destroyed. A doorway (broken) led from chamber to passage. A kiln, full grown, at the south-west corner carries within it some of the stone slabs and stones from the walls. Some 20 yds. west of the church is a piece of wall which

Parish of Kilsclunan. Barony of Clannorris. Co. Mayo

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one framed part of a building.

History: Not a lot is known of this abbey. It is supposed to have been founded for the Carmelites in the 13th century by the Princes of (or the Macs) who ruled over the barony of Clannorris after the Norman conquest. It was under the invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was suppressed and at the Dissolution was granted to Sir John King. Its last prior is said to have been called Gormally.

Monks apparently continued to live in or near the abbey after its suppression - up to an hundred years ago there is tradition of a few monks in residence there.

Legend says that the abbey site was originally chosen when monks from Kilsclunan church a few miles away, set out to found a church, carrying a rush light. At Ballinacaula the light was extinguished by root - hence "bald as a root".

Kilsclunan Church ruins: In Kilsclunan. In graveyard by lane-way. Consist of the featureless remnants of the gables of a building which was perhaps 40 x 18. This was the parish church in former days. Although the parish derives its name from St. Colman who, tradition says, established a church here - the same tradition ascribes the foundation to a saint who preceded his namesake Colman, founder of Mayo Abbey.

Castle ruins in Murrenstownland. Michael Kearney's.
to right of way.

All that remains is a ground floor vaulted chamber internally
14' x 10 1/2' by 7' high with a broken apex in its one remaining
gable which is 9' high. One sidewall is, externally 12' high: it
is 7' high. The high gable end of the vault is continued to a
length of perhaps 35' to form one wall of the castle - the
wall averages 10' in height.

History: Said to have been a de Burgo castle. It was, in
all probability once owned by the Mac Morris' (or Pendergast)
who fought many times with the Burgo clan who eventually
gained the upper hand.

Maurice Pendergast alias Fitzgerald got, in Fitzgalek's
time grants of land of which Murrenstown was one - Borge (in
Mayo Abbey parish) another, also Castlebar in this parish.
It is said that the bascony derives its name from this. Prior
to the Norman invasion the bascony was known as the
bascony. Inquisition of 1532 first records the Mac Morris
family under the name of Pendergast.

What appears to be a single passage (debris) subterranean
beside St. Michael's Convent a short distance from
Clannorris.

Brensoni
aug 11 1945

Dear Mr. Faulman,

Please find some
details of Ballinasmalla
(or Ballinasmalla) Abbey
in accompanying sheet

with food notes

Yours faithfully

W. J. Daly P.P.

The abbey of Ballinamala
passed in 1585 from its
ancient owners to one Francis
Barkley, Provost Marshal
for Connaught, Thence it
passed into the hands
of the Moores of Louth
who settled at Brize and
had in Ballinamala a
vaulted tomb. Ballinamala
passed finally to Hugh Bloss
of Balla (Dalton's History).

Blaremorin

Ballinmalla Abbey (AD 1340)

was a Carmelite Abbey.

It was founded in the 14th century; The Carmelites were dispossessed during the reign of James I, but returned in 1710. They kept up residence till about 1850. Fr Jarvis according to local tradition was the last friar to officiate there.

A tablet in a mortuary chapel asks prayers for repose of soul of Dame or lady Mary Moore & her three sons who died in 1624. The tablet was erected in 1690.

All
overleaf