

HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.

THE INSURRECTION OF 1798.

Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

The French general, Humbert, with 1030 men and 70 officers, (or 1000 men as mentioned by Dr Richard Hayes in "The Last Invasion of Ireland") landed at Kilcummin, in Lacken parish on 22nd August 1798. Matthew Tone, brother of Wolfe Tone, Bartholomew Teeling and several other United Irishmen sailed from Rochelle with the French force which carried three small field guns, 3000 muskets and 1000 French uniforms for the Irish Insurgents; the three frigates conveying troops and equipment, were under the command of Captain Savary.

Humbert's intention had been to land, according to instructions, on the Donegal coast but adverse winds forced him to turn south and so it was by purely accidental circumstance that Killala figured so prominently in this fateful enterprise.

The French force proceeded to Killala, about seven miles from Kilcummin, to the south and they were accompanied by a small band of local men under their leader Neil Kerrigan; the approach at that time was via the Green Park Road and Mullaghcarn.

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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.

Moyné Abbey is the burial place of some of the noble families of the district. ~~but otherwise there seems to be nothing of importance under the above heading.~~

The infamous pluralist Myles (Myler) Magrath was Bishop of Killala for a period before being raised to a higher dignity in the Protestant Church.

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.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH AT KILROE cont'd.

"but seeing he was very much beloved by his parents, and that he durst not bring him to distant parts, he gave him over to be instructed by Bishop Bronius. He (MacErca) is the person who ruled the Church of Kilroe Mor in the Country of Amalgadia."

CROSSPATRICK - ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

The graveyard on the right of the main road from Ballina to Killala, and about one and a half miles from the latter, contains traces of the ruin of an ancient church, said to have been built by St. Patrick. The church appears to have been quite small but nothing remains but a small portion of the walls.

The Tripartite Life of St. Patrick tells us that Aengus, son of King Awley, attempted to murder his own nephew Conall and St. Patrick, at the instigation of the Ard Ri, Laoghaire.

With bodies of troops and two Magi, Rechet and Roen, (the latter promised to kill the saint with his evil eye) they lay in wait at Cill Phoirclinn, now Killybrone, to the west of Crosspatrick. St. Patrick who was at Crosspatrick about a mile away, realised in spirit their evil designs (this territory was at that time thickly wooded) and caused ~~the~~ the ground to swallow the two druids. Aengus repented and was baptised by Patrick who restored to life his sister Belimia who had just died.

There is free access to the graveyard which, with the ruin, is not in the care of the O.P.W.

~~Within a hundred yards of the graveyard, at the rear of the house occupied by Mr Molloy, are two stones said to be connected with St. Patrick.~~

~~One stone, measuring about fourteen inches by twelve, is inscribed with a cross and the other, about three feet long, is partly hollowed and tradition has it that St. Patrick sat on this stone. An incision, about three inches long in this latter stone, is said by O'Donovan to represent "imperfectly the form of the upper part of a crozier and is said to be the mark of St. Patrick's pipe". I do not think however that pipes were fashionable in those early days.~~

HISTORIC SITES ETC.

1798 - cont'd.

There was practically no opposition offered by the regular soldiers of the English garrison at Killala; the soldiers fled towards Ballina and the yeomanry barricaded themselves in the the Castle, residence of the Protestant Bishop Stock. Within twenty four hours, several hundred men had allied themselves to French army, headquarters being established at the castle which had been taken without difficulty. (It should be mentioned here that the castle made way in later years for the workhouse, now a derelict building at the commencement of the Ballina road).

With the minimum delay, Humbert pushed on and after some sharp engagements, captured Ballina and Killala. History tells us of the continued successes of the Franco-Irish army during the three weeks following the landing at Kilcummin and the sad tale of Ballinamuck in the County Longford. Here, opposed by 30,000 English soldiers under General Lake, the French surrendered and the Irish were given no quarter but mercilessly hounded until five hundred of them lay dead on the field of battle; many more of them were pursued and killed and of over a hundred taken prisoner, a great many were hanged. The French had suffered but little loss and were accorded full military honours and were then moved to Dublin and on to Liverpool.

News of the disaster was received with joy by the English sympathisers at Killala but the brave insurgents of Killala and Ballina, to the number of about 600 collected all available arms and worked feverishly until they had forged sufficient pikes and then set out to again attack Castlebar. The attack was made but proved abortive and the insurgents retreated to Killala.

Bishop Stock, by means of a wily ruse acquainted the English General Trench of the position at Killala and so on Sunday, September 23rd in the same year, 3000 English soldiers with a great many guns, attacked the insurgents at Killala and then commenced the final massacre of the Irish.

A month later, three more French ships carrying another army arrived in Killala Bay but hurriedly left on hearing the bad tidings.

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