

In 1798 the church passed by an road to + from the Races  
of Castellan through the parish.

**HISTORIC SITES**

ITA/3/23(1)B

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.  
Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

Field owned by Ed. Gallagher at Strade. Site of Mr. Davitt's  
home from which he was evicted at the age of 4 years.

Here, standing on a plot fence erected over the site of  
his home, Davitt addressed a huge meeting on Feb. 1st  
1880. Amongst his words were these: "What wonder that such laws  
should become hateful ..... and that a life of unreconcilable enmity to  
them should follow, and that, standing here on the spot where I first  
drew breath, in sight of a levelled home, with memories of persecution  
and tortures crowding upon my mind, I should swear to devote the  
remainder of that life to the destruction of what has reared my early years."

**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.

(a) Michael Davitt - born at Strade in 1846, of respected  
parents of the farming class. The site of his home is in the field  
by the main road just beyond Strade P.O. and it is owned by  
Edward Gallagher of Strade.

(b) Burial place of Michael Davitt. The cemetery of Strade  
Abbey. A Celtic cross heads his grave. At the base of the cross  
the inscription: *Y beannógta uo-san a mbóicéam aosa oíche*  
*agus tair na céas áis beannógta uo so cáuigá.*

*nao cúigéigá Zéatáinúel*  
*ao*  
*micéal nao Dáivít*  
*a yuáir tair*

*ao. cáuigá 30 ao beannógta 1906*  
*nao níúit beannógta tair.*  
*R. I. P.*

*So tair naos a beann*

(contd).

**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*

Paschal of Templewood. Barney of Galen.

ITA/3/23(24)  
Co. Mayo.

Historic Houses. Burial Places.

Page 13 (Michael Davitt.)

It is a pity that the names of the men who were  
concerned in the case are not better known to the public.  
"p. 5.

At the age of four, Michael Davitt was, with his parents,  
evicted by the notorious "Crawthorn Brigade". After the eviction  
the Davitts left Ireland, and Davitt grew up in Haslingden, an  
industrial town near Manchester. Here, while working in a  
factory he lost his right arm in an accident. He attended,  
for 5 years, the Wesleyan school, and, at 15 years, obtained  
a job in the post office printing house. In 1868 he became  
a commercial traveller in Fife.

For helping in the movement after the attempt on Clontarf  
Castle, Davitt was arrested in London on May 14th 1870 for  
"feloniously conspiring to depose the Queen and to levy war  
against her". A gunsmith named John Wilson also stood in  
dock with Davitt. Due to the projected evidence of the  
informers John J. Cooney, Davitt was sentenced to 15  
years penal servitude. He was released after seven years  
and seven months on ticket-of-leave, Dec. 19th 1877. The  
sufferings he endured in prison are narrated in a pamphlet  
by himself. The sentence was served, part in Dartmoor,  
part in Portsmouth prison.

In January 5th 1878, Davitt, with Sergeant McCarty,  
Marine John P. O'Brien and Corporal Thomas Chambers, who  
were also just out of prison, arrived in Dublin where they  
were given a great reception - amongst the members of the  
Reception Committee were Charles S. Parnell M.P., Mayor  
O'Connell M.P., John Power M.P., and Richard Power M.P.  
J. C. Biggan M.P. and John Dillon.

McCarty died soon after and Davitt went to his native Mayo where he was given a great welcome. He returned to London with Chambers and Bowen and <sup>they</sup> were received as honored visitors in the House of Commons by Parnell and Kiggan.

Davitt then toured Scotland and England and gave lectures - his first was on the 9th March in St. James's Hall, Piccadilly. He lectured on the treatment of Irish political prisoners in England.

In August 1878, Davitt went to America to bring home to Ireland his mother who was living in Maryland, Pa. In America he delivered many lectures and it was in that country that the seed of the Irish National Land League was prepared amongst the exiled Irish and fostered by Davitt. From this came the desire which swept Ireland for the abolition of landlordism.

Davitt came back to Ireland in December 1879 and began immediately the work of the Land League in his native county. On Sunday April 20th, 1879, he held his first great meeting at Inish-town near Clacrossis. There were 20,000 people present. Soon meetings were being held every Sunday in every parish in Mayo. The movement spread to other counties and some of the Catholic clergy embraced the principles of the League. Soon the agitation was in full swing.

The first national convention since 1793, when the Convention Act was passed, was held on August 16th 1879 by the Mayo farmers. The object was to form a national Land League in concrete form, the rules were drawn up by Davitt. The movement became widespread, Parnell was now over to it and in 1879, October 21st, in the Imperial Hotel, Dublin, the Irish National Land League was formed. Parnell was first president,

Devitt, Kettle and Brennan were hon. sec. of it.

Riggan, Sullivan and Egan were treasurers.

After this Devitt launched a series of great meetings; Aughrane (Mayo) on October 26th; Killela on Oct. 31st and Gorteen, Co. Sligo on Sunday Nov. 2nd. etc. etc.

For alleged breaches of the peace at the last named meeting, Devitt was arrested in Dublin on Nov. 19th, 1879. With him was James B. Killeen. James Daly, editor of the "Connaught Telegraph" was also arrested in Castlebar.

On Nov. 22nd, while Devitt was in jail, a meeting was held at Balla. Parnell, Dillon, Hardin and Brennan spoke. Due to a message circulated by Parnell and Devitt (from prison) the meeting passed off quietly.

Devitt was released on bail from Sligo prison on Nov. 25th.

The agitation was now such that tenants refused to pay rent and reductions were being made.

Great meetings in aid of the League were then addressed by Devitt and Parnell in England.

Parnell and Dillon sailed to New York and then elsewhere addressed great meetings. 200,000 dollars was subscribed to the fund. On Monday, Feb. 2nd, 1880 Parnell addressed Congress on the state of things in Ireland. Meanwhile the famine in Ireland was causing untold suffering.

On Jan. 23rd Devitt was again arrested but the case was dropped.

Parnell left America on March 11th, 1880. As a result of his, Dillon's and Devitt's effort, an American branch of the Land League was founded.

Davitt sailed for the U.S.A. on May 10th to assist Dillon in the organization of the League in the U.S.A. He spoke at the first national convention in Gansevoort Hall, New York, on May 18th.

On Sunday, May 23rd, Davitt spoke at a reception in his honour at Jones' Wood, New York. Mrs. Parnell and her daughter Fanny Parnell, were present.

Large sums were then collected as the League was perfected by Davitt and the money did much to relieve poverty in the home country. A ship laden with food, the 'Constellation', arrived from the U.S.A. to Queenstown on April 20th.

In the meantime the elections had increased the power of the Land Leaguers in Parliament and Parnell was elected Irish parliamentary leader. Evictions began to decline in numbers.

On Oct. 15th Fanny Parnell and other ladies founded, at the New York Hotel, the "Ladies Land League of New York". Parnell's wife was first President.

Davitt gave his last address in New York at a great Ladies Land League meeting. He came to Ireland on Nov. 20th and on the 20th spoke at Malin.

Early in Nov. the word "boycott" had its origin by the isolation of Captain Boycott of Lough Mask, Donegal Co. Mayo.

In Nov. 2nd 1880, Parnell, Dillon, Kiggan and others were arrested. The trials began on Dec. 28th. All were acquitted. On Jan. 24th 1881 the Government passed the "Coercion Bill" to subdue the Leaguers. By it any person could be arrested and imprisoned until Sept. 30th 1882, on mere suspicion.

On Feb. 3rd 1881 Davitt was arrested under this

act. He was taken to London and transferred to  
Portland prison in strict secrecy.

On Feb. 3rd, thirty-four members of the House of Commons,  
all Irish, were expelled from the house for denouncing  
Davitt's arrest.

Davitt was released on May 6th 1882, the day of the  
Phoenix Park murders. He worked hard to prove false  
the assertions by English papers that the crimes  
were committed by the Land League.

This release was the outcome of a meeting of delegates  
from all over Ireland at the Land League Convention held  
in the Round Room of the Rotunda, April 21st.

On May 21st 1882 Davitt delivered a remarkable  
speech in the Hill Trade Hall, Manchester, and a  
second famous speech in Liverpool a few days after.

He then went to America for a great demonstration of  
the Land League in Boston on June 17th. He stayed  
in America for only a month and addressed great  
meetings in New York, Boston, Chicago, Albany, Rochester, Troy,  
Syracuse, Providence, New-Haven, Hartford, and many  
other towns. His 4th July speech at Troy, under  
the American flag, was much admired.

In the meantime a measure of practical success  
was obtained by Gladstone's "Arms Act". This, however  
was followed by the Coercion Bill which was a bill  
supposedly for prevention of outrages in Ireland but  
in reality a ruse to commit to prison all the Land  
League leaders. This it effected but the Ladies' Irish  
Land League stepped in under Fanny Parnell and the  
fight was carried on while the men lay in goal.

In 1885, Davitt's "Leaves from a Peasant Diary" was published.

In 1892 he was returned as M.P. to parliament, was unopposed but was immediately returned unopposed for north-east Cork. He resigned his seat in 1893. He was again returned unopposed, this time for Mayo south. In 1899 he withdrew from politics.

He travelled much then - the Continent, America, Egypt and South Africa.

His published works include: Defence of the Land League (1891); Life and Progress in Australia (1898); The Boers fight for Freedom (1902); Within the Pale (1903) and The Fall of Yendabun in Ireland (1904).

He died May 30th 1906.

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John Dillon M.P., contemporary of Davitt, has association with this parish in that, by his order, a memorial is erected in Strada Valley to "Anne Deane, wife of Ed. Deane, born Anne Duff of Kalleghadeen. She was a great friend of the poor and oppressed - a lover of Ireland and of Liberty. This memorial is erected by John Dillon, member of Parliament for East Mayo. To her he owes his life and all that he possesses...."

Dillon was her cousin.

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John Moore of Ashbrook, elected President of Connaught in 1898 after the "Races of Castlebar".

[Please see pages 2, 3, 4 - Ashbrook House associations]

(b) Beside Strachan Abbey is a vault with three slabs inset in the west wall. This is the O'Donnell vault. The family was of the famous O'Donnell's of Trecornell.

None of the family appears to have ever resided in the parish and nobody knows for what reason the abbey was selected. As all the people mentioned on the slabs are not buried here, it is more of a memorial.

Of history connected with the family hardly anything is to be gleaned in the parish but the slabs give a goodish portion of the history of the more famous family members. Over each slab is the family crest - a shield with a hand holding a cross and two crossed hands holding spears. and the motto "In hoc signo vinces".

Centre slab: Pray for the soul of Count Hanns O'Donnell, Major General in his Imperial Majesty's service, who departed this life, 21st December 1793, aged 80 years. Also for the souls of his father and mother. Erected by Peter Quin by order of Robert G. Rockwood Esq.

Slab on left: v. Downall. Calbach suadh mac na gceann na ceann na an Calbach Re Connell Connell 1566.  
Is the memory of Calbach Re O'Donnell of Newcastle died 1770, and of his sons, Hanns, Count of the Empire, Major General in the Austrian Service, born 1713, died 1793 (for whom this vault was first erected); and Lewis of Killen, Captain in the Austrian Service, born 1716, died 1822, aged 106 - and of the sons of Lewis, Charles, died (1800), Hanns, Captain in the British Service, died 1812. Dominick, also an officer in the British Service, he died in India; and Lewis of Rosslands who died and was buried at Oxford 1841, and of his wife, Judith O'Donnell (otherwise Bourke). She died at Kingstown and was buried in Marlborough St. Cathedral, Dublin, 1871, most sad survivors of eight children, all of whom died unmarried. In this vault lie the remains



of four of their children. Mary, baptised, born 1828, died 1847.  
Judith, born 1830, died 1849; Charles, born 1823, died 1853;  
Jane Louisa, born 1822, died 1855.

Requiescant in pace.

The head slab has the crest and motto and the Irish  
pedigree as before: To the memory of Colbach O'Connell  
Esq and of his wife Mary, daughter of Colonel Thomas  
O'Connell of Newport, and of their sons, Thomas of Wilford  
in the County of Mayo; Joseph, Lieut. General in the Spanish  
service, and Henry, Count of the Empire and Lieut. General  
in the service of the Empress Maria Theresa; and of the  
sons of Thomas; Joseph, a Captain in the Spanish service, died  
in Santa Cruz 1787; Hugh, who also died in the West Indies,  
and Charles, Count of the Empire and Major General in the  
Austrian service, died of wounds after the battle of Ulm,  
16th Oct. 1806. In this vault lie the remains of Mary  
O'Connell (otherwise O'Donnell), wife of Joseph O'Connell last mentioned,  
she died 1831; and of their only son Joseph Thomas O'Connell  
of Castlereagh, born 1780, died 1834; and of his wife Margaret  
(otherwise O'Donnell). She died 1849; and of their children  
Mary, born 1811, died 1843; Thomas Lewis, born 1812, died 1857,  
Lewis, born 1824, died 1861; Charles Joseph, born 1818, died 1861.

Requiescant in pace.

Inside the Abbey is a little cross with the coat-of-arms  
and the motto. Also the inscription O'Connell of Yincounell  
1818-1861. The cross is a modern one. It is evidently  
in memory of the Charles Joseph mentioned on the head slab.

The roof of the vault has fallen in.