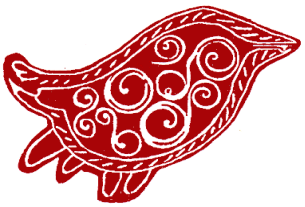
Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

www.corkhist.ie



Title: The settlement of Imokilly and the formation and descent of the Manor of Inchiquin, Co. Cork

Author: O'Brien, A. F.

Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society, 1982, Vol. 87, No 245, page(s) 21-26

Published by the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

Digital file created: December 9, 2016

Your use of the JCHAS digital archive indicates that you accept the Terms and Conditions of Use, available at http://corkhist.ie/terms-and-conditions/

The Cork Historical and Archaeological Society (IE-148166, incorporated 1989) was founded in 1891, for the collection, preservation and diffusion of all available information regarding the past of the City and County of Cork, and South of Ireland generally. This archive of content of JCHAS (from 1892 up to ten years preceding current publication) continues the original aims of the founders in 1891. For more information visit www.corkhist.ie.

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie

All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions

Digital content (c) CHAS 2016

The Settlement of Imokilly and the Formation and Descent of the Manor of Inchiquin, Co. Cork

By A.F. O'BRIEN
(*Dept. of Medieval History, U.C.C.*)

The territory of Imokilly, sometimes referred to as Oglassyn, consisted of the southern portion of the Uí Liatháin territory. The lands which it comprised included Inchiquin, Clonpriest, Killeagh and Kilcredan. At the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion of Munster the territory was ruled by the family of Ó Mic Thíre, described in the annals as kings of Uí Meic Caille or of Uí Glaisín. These two were not entirely synonymous, and the former name of the territory was derived from an earlier ruling family — the Uí Meic Caille — whom the Uí Meic Thíre had superseded as kings.[1] Internecine strife between members of this ruling family of Ó Mic Thíre facilitated the invader in his conquest of the area. 'In 1211 Diarmaid Mac Carthaigh was taken prisoner by the Sheriff in Cork and Donnchadh Ua Meic Thíre was slain "by the same foreigners". This effectively ended the era of the Gaelic chieftains in East Cork, which soon became, and remained, a thoroughly Norman-dominated area. One of the chief castles to be erected there was named Caisleán Ua Liatháin (Castlelyons) while Castlemartyr was sometimes referred to as Imokilly Castle.'[2]

In the course of the conquest, Henry II enfeoffed[3] Miles de Cogan and Robert fitz Stephen of his whole demesne of Desmond, except the city of Cork and the lands of the Ostmen adjacent to it, and both de Cogan and fitz Stephen began the process of sub-infeudation of the territories granted to them. However, the precise details of that process are obscure.[4] 'It is not possible to give a full account of the early sub-infeudation of the "kingdom of Cork", or even to be sure how far it was carried in the lifetime of the original grantees. In the case of Fitz Stephen, at any rate, it is pretty plain that, besides making large grants out of the three cantreds to the east of Cork originally . . . allotted to him, he made what we may call "speculative grants" of lands far removed from these cantreds . . . . To Alexander, son of Maurice Fitz Gerald,[5] Fitz Stephen [who seems to have been Alexander's uncle] seems to have made a grant in Imokilly which was the origin of the Fitz Gerald property there.'[6] After Alexander's death the lands appear to have passed to his brother Gerald,[7] 'who held the land of Oglassin in this district . . . and from him to his son Maurice, who may be regarded as the founder of Youghal'.[8] As feoffees of Robert fitz Stephen the fitz Geralds and Carews ranked among the early settlers of east Cork. Together with the Carews they were the principal tenants of fitz Stephen in Imokilly.[9]

By the early thirteenth century the manor of Inchiquin, which included Youghal and Killeagh, was held of the bishop of Cloyne by the service of six knights' fees together with suit at the castle of Cloyne and a rent of 2s., 3 pounds of wax and 2 pounds of cummin yearly.[10] The precise title whereby the bishop claimed right to possession is obscure, but it appears to have been strongly resisted by Maurice fitz Gerald II, the second baron of Offaly. This Maurice fitz Gerald had obtained seisin of the lands of his father, which included Imokilly, in 1215. Both the bishop of Cloyne and Maurice fitz Gerald II appear to have engaged in a protracted dispute concerning various lands in east Cork. The dispute, however, appears to have been settled when, on 6 April 1244, Alan O'Sullivan, bishop of

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie
All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions
Digital content (c) CHAS 2016

Cloyne, renounced for himself and his successors, in favour of Maurice and his heirs, all right in and claim to certain lands in Oglassyn, including Inchiquin, Clonpriest and Killeagh. In return Maurice undertook to pay to the bishop a yearly rent of one pound of wax and to surrender other lands to him.[11]

Maurice fitz Gerald II died in 1257 leaving three sons viz. Gerald, Maurice and Thomas fitz Maurice. He was ultimately succeeded by his grandson Maurice fitz Gerald III who had one son, Gerald fitz Maurice III, who died without issue. This resulted in succession by Amabil and Juliana, Maurice fitz Maurice's daughters and co-heiresses.[12] On 21 February 1288 and on 3 February 1289, Amabil gave to John fitz Thomas, her cousin and the future first earl of Kildare, the lands of her inheritance, that is to say both those lands which had actually descended to her and those to which she might have had a claim. These latter consisted of Inchiquin and Youghal.[13] Similarly, on 22 July 1293, Juliana, niece of Maurice fitz Maurice and widow of John de Cogan II, quit claimed, likewise in favour of John fitz Thomas, her rights in the lands of her inheritance including any right in or claim to the manors of Inchiquin and Oglassyn.[14] However, neither Amabil nor Juliana de Cogan was possessed of the manor of Inchiquin which, in consequence of a marriage settlement made by Maurice fitz Maurice, was in process of passing out of Geraldine hands into those of the heirs of Thomas de Clare, second son of Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford,[15] lord of Thomond, who was son-in-law of Maurice fitz Maurice and who died in 1287.[16]

In 1275, Maurice fitz Maurice settled the manor of Inchiquin and the town of Youghal jointly on his daughter, Juliana, and her husband, Thomas de Clare, on condition that they would regrant the manor to Maurice and his heirs male with remainder to Thomas and his heirs by Juliana. Presumably the litigation on which Maurice, on the one hand, and Thomas de Clare and Juliana, on the other, embarked before the justices in eyre in co. Cork in February 1275 was designed merely to secure this settlement. In the event, however, the settlement was subsequently to be challenged. In 1286, following Maurice fitz Maurice's death, Gerald fitz Maurice claimed the manor of Inchiquin, but nothing further is heard of this. However, a more serious difficulty developed in 1292. By that time, Thomas de Clare's widow, Juliana, had married Adam de Creting.[17] The manor of Inchiquin, however, was seized into the king's hand and Juliana was ejected by the royal escheator who maintained that custody of it properly pertained to the king, and that for two reasons: firstly, because of the fine levied in the king's court in 1275 when the jointure was created — this seems to have been the escheator's principal reason for seizure — and, secondly, because of the minority of the heir of Thomas de Clare. Adam de Creting and Juliana petitioned Edward I for recovery of the manor on the grounds that it had been held in jointure by Juliana and her late husband, Thomas de Clare, by feoffment of Maurice fitz Maurice. Their contention was ultimately upheld and the manor was restored to Juliana.

From Juliana the manor passed, in the de Clare line of succession, to Thomas's son Richard, who died in 1318, and then to Richard's son, Thomas, who died a minor in the king's wardship in 1321.[18] Following Thomas's death without issue the manor descended to his aunt and co-heiress, Margaret, wife of Bartholomew de Badlesmere, who together with her husband incurred forfeiture in 1322. This forfeiture greatly facilitated, though it did not inspire, the seizure and occupation of the manor by Maurice fitz Thomas, first earl of Desmond. The manor was thus occupied by Desmond, almost without interruption, from 1321 to 1346. Thus, neither Margaret de Badlesmere, who had her lands restored to her by Edward III, nor her son and heir, Giles, succeeded in recovering Inchiquin from fitz Thomas. After

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie
All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions
Digital content (c) CHAS 2016

Giles's death without issue, the manor descended to his sisters and co-heiresses, Elizabeth, wife of William de Bohun, earl of Northampton, Maud, wife of John de Vere, earl of Oxford, Margery, wife of William, lord Roos of Helmsley, and Margaret, wife of John, lord Tiptoft. Because of the rebellious activities of Maurice fitz Thomas, first earl of Desmond, neither they nor their heirs succeeded in obtaining possession of their inheritance until 1351. Between 1348 and 1351 the lands of the Badlesmere inheritance, which included the manor of Inchiquin and the town of Youghal, were partitioned between the above co-heiresses. The partition — which involved also the lands held in dower by Joan, widow of Richard de Clare, and Elizabeth, widow of Giles de Badlesmere, in addition to those which had been held in fee simple by Giles — was finally made on various dates between 20 September and 12 December 1351. It involved various lands, rents (including burgage rents accruing from tenements held by burgesses in the towns of Youghal, Kinsalebeg and Inchiquin) and services in the manor of Inchiquin, cos. Cork and Waterford, Mahoonagh (or Castlemahon), co. Limerick, and in Connacht together with knights' fees and advowsons. The following, broadly stated, were the lands assigned to the co-heiresses in the manor of Inchiquin:

(a) to John de Vere, earl of Oxford, and Maud, his wife: part of the manor of Inchiquin together with rents and services of free tenants, services and rents of two burgesses in the borough of Inchiquin, 84s.1d. in burgage rent yearly from the town of Youghal, and the reversion of lands held in dower by both Joan de Clare and Elizabeth, widow of Giles de Badlesmere

(b) to William de Bohun, earl of Northampton, and Elizabeth, his wife:
part of the manor of Inchiquin, including the castle, which was worth nothing, rents and services of free tenants, rents and services of two burgesses who held divers burgages in the borough of Inchiquin, 24s.1d. in burgage rent yearly from the town of Youghal, and the reversion of lands held in dower by Joan de Clare and Elizabeth

(c) to John son and heir of Margaret, late wife of John, lord Tiptoft, a minor in the king's wardship: part of the manor of Inchiquin together with rents and services of free tenants, rents of burgesses in the borough of Inchiquin, 24s.1d. in burgage rent yearly from the town of Youghal, burgages in Kinsalebeg which used to yield 2s. yearly in rent, but now yielded nothing because waste, and the reversion of lands held in dower by both Joan de Clare and Elizabeth.

However, little more than fifteen years after the making of that partition, ownership of Inchiquin was again affected because of action taken by the government against absentee Irish landowners. This pressure on the absentees intensified after the ordinance proclaimed at Guildford in 1368. In this way half of the manor passed to William of Windsor and half to James Butler, second earl of Ormond. Ironically, in view of Windsor's activity against the absentees, similar action subsequently was taken against his heirs. Consequently, the Windsor portion of Inchiquin was acquired by James Butler, fourth earl of Ormond, who thus obtained an exclusive interest. However, Ormond seems to have found it difficult to defend the barony and, accordingly, he appointed the earl of Desmond custodian of it in 1422. Finally, the entire manor of Inchiquin, including Youghal, was acquired from Ormond by either the sixth or seventh earl of Desmond, perhaps as early as 1429 — by way of a proposed marriage settlement between the sixth earl of Desmond's son Thomas fitz James fitz Gerald and Ormond's daughter, Anne Butler — but certainly by 1462, and it remained in the possession of successive earls of Desmond until the Desmond collapse in the sixteenth century.

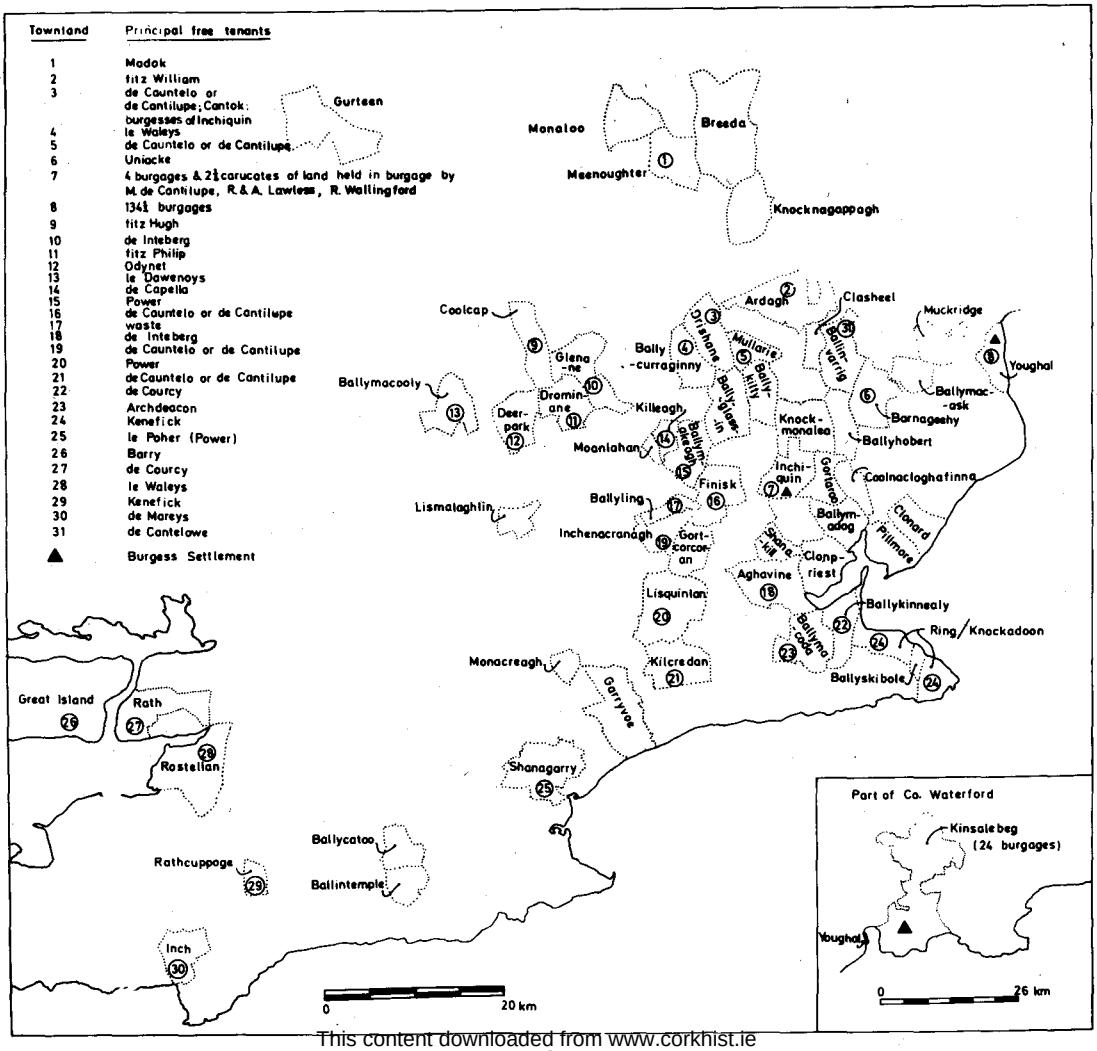
APPENDIX

THE MANOR OF INCHIQUIN *c.* 1350

The accompanying map indicates broadly the structure and extent of the manor of Inchiquin in the

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie
All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions
Digital content (c) CHAS 2016

mid-fourteenth century. The names of the various parts of the manor are to be found in the several inquisitions and extents of it made between 1288 and 1604.[19] Most of these placenames have been ascertained by reference to (1) the appropriate Ordnance Survey of Ireland six inch scale sheets (townland index) and (2) L. Ó Buachalla, 'An Early Fourteenth-Century Placename List for Anglo-Norman Cork' in *Dinnseanchas*, ii, no. 2 (Dec. 1966), pp. 39-50. The map indicates principally the present townlands or other identifiable places in which parts of the manor were. These parts, of course, varied from full knights' fees to quite small portions of land. Inevitably, it has not been possible to establish the location of a (small) number of places, but the majority have been located, and from them the broad spread of the manor and its structure as it was in the mid-fourteenth century can be seen. Where such information is available, the names of the principal free tenants — who owed rents, military service, and attendance at the lord's court — are given (indicated by way of encircled numbers) in relation to the areas in which they were located. These lands were held either by knight's fee, or part knight's fee, or in burgage. The remaining lands, of those identified on the map, of course, ither pertained to the lord's demesne or were in the hands of betaghs or unfree tenants. Attention also is directed to areas of waste.[20] Finally, it will be observed that the lands of the manor of Inchiquin, or lands closely associated with it, were widely diffused through much of the cantred of Imokilly.[21]



Manor of Inchiquin

(Based on the Ordnance Survey by permission of the Government, Permit No. 3854)

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie
All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions
Digital content (c) CHAS 2016

REFERENCES

1 D. Ó Murchadha, 'The Uí Meic Thíre of Imokilly', *JCHAS* lxxxii (1977) pp. 98-101.

2 *Ibid.* In this connection attention also is directed to H. Jefferies, 'Gaelic Desmond and Anglo-Norman Cork in the Reign of Diarmaid McCarthy 1151-1185' B.A. Dissertation (UCC 1982), written under the supervision of Mr. K.W. Nicholls. I would like to thank Mr. Jefferies for his advice regarding aspects of the settlement of east Cork.

3 Henry II's charter, probably dated 1177, will be found in J. Ware, *The Antiquities and History of Ireland* (Dublin, 1705) pp. 119-20.

4 It would, however, seem that 'Philip de Barry was granted the cantred of Olethan by his uncle Robert Fitz Stephen, and arrived in Cork in February, 1183, to undertake the governance of his cantred' (E. St. John Brooks, 'Unpublished Charters Relating to Ireland, 1177-82', *Proc. Roy. Irish Acad.*, xliii C (1936) p. 333). Olethan corresponds to the modern baronies of Barrymore and Kinnatalloon and the north liberties of Cork city (L. Ó Buachalla, 'An Early Fourteenth-Century Placename List for Anglo-Norman Cork', *Dinnseanchas*, ii 3 (June, 1967) pp. 61-5).

5 Maurice fitz Gerald was the head of the Geraldine clan (Orpen, *Normans*, ii, 7) who accompanied Strongbow and was enfeoffed by him in the middle cantred of Offelan and the cantred of Wicklow. Alexander, his son, was, therefore, brother of Gerald fitz Maurice, who became first baron of Offaly and who died in 1203-4. For the Geraldine pedigree see *ibid.*, i, 18; iv, 128-9.

6 *Ibid.* ii, 43-5.

7 J.T. Collins, 'Uí Mac Caille: A.D. 1177 to 1700', *JCHAS* l (1945) pp. 31-9. As already indicated Gerald became first baron of Offaly. He was enfeoffed in a moiety of Offelan, including Maynooth, by his brother William (fitz Maurice), son and heir of Maurice fitz Gerald, second baron of Naas, and he obtained Croom, co. Limerick, in addition to the lands in Imokilly (Orpen, *Normans*, iv, 128).

8 Orpen, *Normans*, ii, 44n. 3; iii, 113-4. There had been an earlier Viking settlement at Youghal, 'but its fleet was defeated in 866 and its *longphort* destroyed' (D. Ó Corráin, *Ireland before the Normans* (Dublin, 1972) p. 95).

9 Orpen, *Normans*, iii, 119-20. Imokilly, in which fitz Stephen made several enfeoffments, was one of his three cantreds. It is possible that his castle 'was at, or was proposed to be built at, Castlemartyr. He seems to have given Castlemartyr to the des Autirs (de Altaribus later Sawters) brothers, but he may have retained the site of the castle. Early in the thirteenth century Castlemartyr was acquired from the des Autirs brothers by Richard de Carew, apparently the first of the Carews who were heirs to Fitz Stephen's seignory of half the kingdom of Cork' (St. John Brooks, *op. cit.* 348-9).

10 Item tenent de domino totum manerium de Inchequyne cum quinque villis, viz. Kylle, Yoghill, et aliis villis, per servitium vi feodorum militum, et per homagium, fidelitatem, et communem sectam ad castrum de Clone, et per servitium iis. per annum, iii *li.* cerae, ii *li.* comyn (R. Caulfield, *Rotulus Pipae Clonensis* (Cork, 1859), p. 3).

11 *Ibid.* 43-5. Canon O'Riordan incorrectly gives the date of Alan O'Sullivan's renunciation as 1248 (J. O'Riordan, 'The Pipe Roll of Cloyne', *JCHAS* xxi (1915) p. 143). It is quite clear from the original text that the correct date is 1244. Moreover, Alan O'Sullivan was translated to Lismore in October 1246 (A.F. O'Brien, 'Episcopal Elections in Ireland, *c.* 1254-72', *Proc. Roy. Irish Acad.*, lxxiii C (1973) p.170).

12 Orpen, *Normans*, iv, 128-9.

13 G. Mac Niocaill (ed.), *The Red Book of the Earls of Kildare* (Dublin, 1964) nos. 85,87.

14 *Ibid.*, no. 73.

15 G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*, iii, 246-7.

16 For what follows see P.R.O. Chancery Miscellanea, C47/10/15/1; *Cal. doc. Ire., 1285-92*, no. 1142; R. Caulfield, *Council Book of the Corporation of Youghal* (Guildford, 1878) p. xli.

17 G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*, iii, 246.

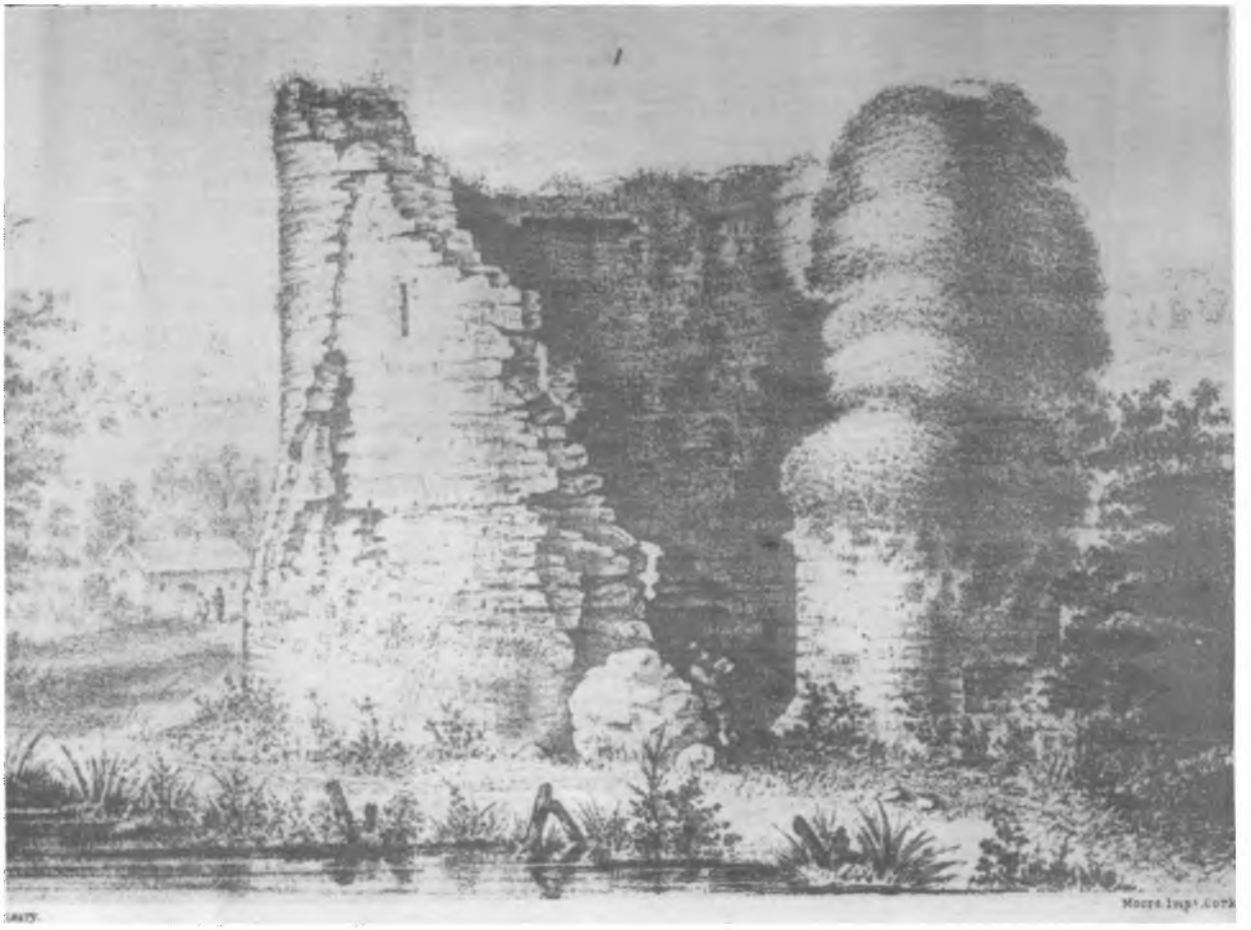
18 For what follows see A.F. O'Brien, 'The Territorial Ambitions of Maurice fitz Thomas, First Earl of Desmond, with Particular Reference to the Barony and Manor of Inchiquin, co. Cork', *Proc. Roy. Irish Acad.* lxxxii C (1982) pp. 59-88.

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie
All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions
Digital content (c) CHAS 2016

19 *Cal. doc. Ire., 1285-92*, no. 459; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, no. 275; viii, no. 185; ix, no. 119; Public Record Office, London, C135/93/1-4 and C147/9/28 (My thanks are due both to Miss Mary Lyons of TCD and to Mr. K.W. Nicholls for permitting me to consult their respective transcripts of these inquisitions); *Pat. rolls Ire., Jas I*, pp. 41-2.

20 For a discussion of this question see O'Brien, 'The Territorial Ambitions of Maurice fitz Thomas, First Earl of Desmond', cited above.

21 A map of the cantred of Imokilly will be found in Ó Buachalla, *loc. cit.*



Inchiquin Castle, 1863

This content downloaded from www.corkhist.ie
All use subject to CHAS Terms and Conditions
Digital content (c) CHAS 2016