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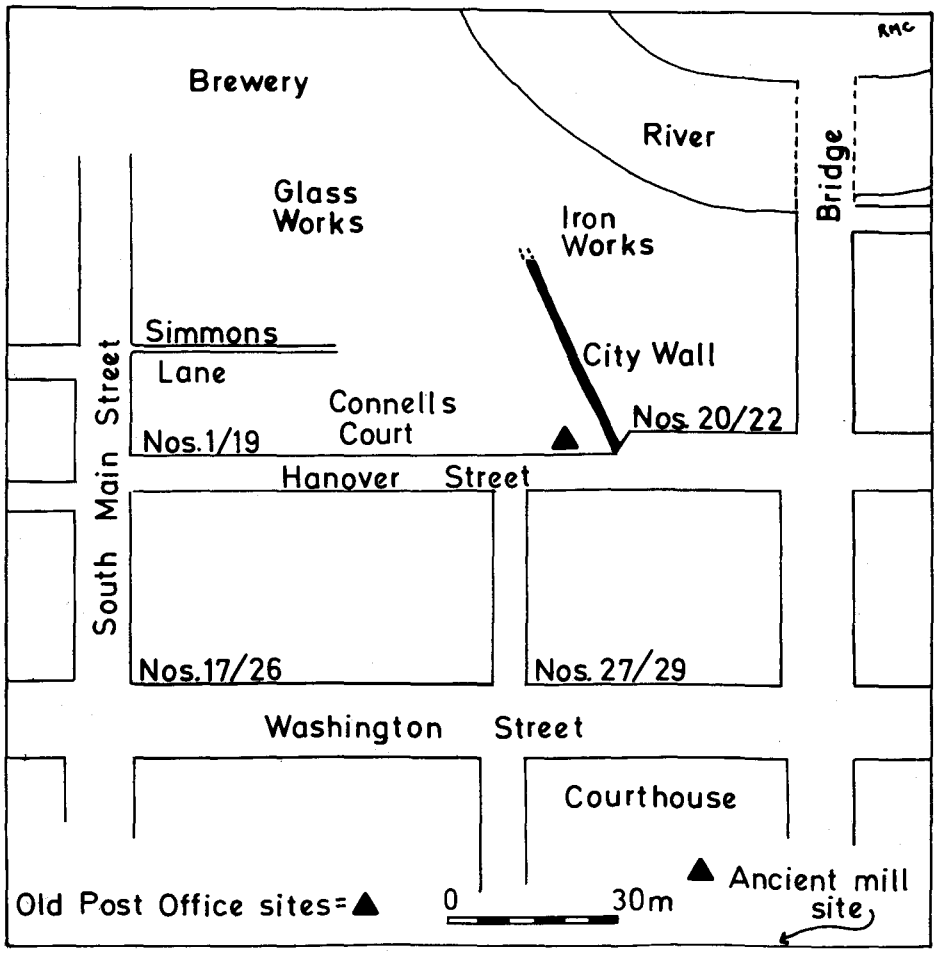
An Antiquary's Note Book 3

By C.J.F. MacCARTHY

THE OLD TOWN WALL

The mural defences of old Cork are of great interest to the man in the street and this interest is shared by medievalists and archaeologists.

The present Hanover street, from its junction with Cross street to South Main street, was formerly known as Watergate Lane. Hereabouts the west wall of old Cork was pierced by a watergate; substantial fragments of the wall still exist and were first mapped in 1869 by the Ordnance Survey.[1] On 23 December 1882, a letter signed 'CCW'[2] appeared in the *Cork Constitution* regarding the Hanover street remains of the old town wall in particular:



Map showing site of wall section
(Based on the Ordnance Survey by permission of the Government, Permit No. 3860)

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A few months since, Mr. William Perrott kindly showed me in Connell's court, off Hanover street, a veritable piece of the city wall, evidently of the same date as the part near the Grand Parade;[3] and subsequently Mr. Perrott, Dr. [Richard] Caulfield and myself examined it at both sides. It is fully 50 yards long, about 4 feet thick, and six or eight feet high (when perfect it rose probably 30 feet above the level of high tide); portion of it forms the lower part of the end wall of one of the houses in Connell's court [now built over], and for a large portion of its length it bounds Mr. Foley's iron foundry on the north east.[4]

Discussing the location of the wall in other places the correspondent continued:

I believe that the foundation of the city wall has been removed in very few places, its wonderful solidity rendered the breaking up extremely expensive. The eastern wall of No. 50 Gt. Georges [Washington] street [now Finn's] is built upon it, it was come upon in the building of the western side of the Courthouse [in 1835], it runs back from the City Clubhouse [now I.C.C. House] at about 30 feet from the river, and it is said, I think truly, that it comes to the surface in Mr. Haughton's [now Cork Timber, Slate & Cement Co. (Parkers) and Dunnes Stores Ltd.] timber yard, Kyrll's Street.[5]

The town wall sites adjacent to Hanover street and Kyrl's street are listed No. B 105 in the Schedule of Structures of Architectural or Historical interest attached to the Cork City Development Plan of 1979 and will be referred to again by me.

WILLIAM PENN, QUAKER LEADER

In August 1682 William Penn and his adherents sailed westward from Deal in Kent, a voyage whose tercentenary is this year being marked by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

William Penn brought the Great Law to an infant colony which is now a great American state. Penn's father, Admiral Sir William Penn, brought his son to spend some childhood years at Macroom castle. The

William Penn (From *JCHAS* 1908, p. 105)

admiral ceased to hold the Macroom lands after the Restoration — his loss was recouped by a Patent[1] conferring on him title to other lands, notably Shanagarry castle near Cloyne.

William Penn (1644-1718) had much more than a passing connection with Cork; he knew Richard Pike of Kilcrea who played a part in his religious thoughts and he became convinced as a Quaker in Cork. In Cork too he and other Quakers were imprisoned, while quite a number of his addresses and tracts bear a Cork imprint. He has left journals of his travels in late 17th century Cork, one of which has been published in book form.[2]

This Society's *Journal* has featured a number of useful articles on Penn, the most notable being that of James Coleman: *Admiral Penn, William Penn and their descendants in Co. Cork.*[3]

Dundanion castle, an old tower house of the Galweys, passed after the mid-17th century to

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the Roches and then to the Nagles by whom it was held until 1731. Below the castle, which was on the pre-1850 river bank, was the 'Kea of Dundanion' from which the ship anchorage stretched downstream to Blackrock castle. The 'Kea' would be a usual landing place and it is not unlikely that William Penn landed there during his journeys to and from Ireland

Coleman,[4] whilst careful to point out that 'none of the works relating to Penn afford any information on this point', goes on to say that Penn 'is said, in fact to have on one occasion sailed direct from Cork to America, making Dundanion Castle[5] his starting point'. There would be nothing specially noteworthy in this, as Dundanion Kea was probably the usual point of departure for voyages to America.

Many writers, without citing any manuscript or contemporary printed source, imply that the August voyage of the *Welcom* either took place from Dundanion or else the *Welcom* called there.

The *Welcom*, with fever on board, is unlikely to have entered the haven of Cork, let alone to have proceeded up river to the Kea of Dundanion.

The Shell Guide to Ireland (1967) p. 189, is quite obviously in error when it said that Penn set out (from Dundanion) for America in 1669.

The authors of the *Guide* at p. 343 join with other writers in stating 'William Penn of Pennsylvania was Clerk of the Admiralty at James Fort, his father[6] being Governor of the Town and Fortress of Kinsale and Victualler of the Royal Navy'.

An Ensign William Penn (who died in 1676) was Clerk of the Cheque at Kinsale; he was the Admiral's first cousin and not his son.[7]

William Penn exerted a strong influence on both religious and practical matters, many from Ireland (including Cork county) joining him in the New World. Among his colonists from Ireland there were not a few with old Gaelic names.[8]

Denis Rochford, the sole Irishman on the *Welcom's* 1682 voyage, had been quite some time in England before he boarded the *Welcom* at Deal.

The Cork connection with Pennsylvania continued after Penn's death. Thomas Griffiths who came from Cork was thrice mayor of Philadelphia: 1729/30, 1733.[9] Griffiths came to Philadelphia via Jamaica in 1716 and engaged initially in land affairs of the Penn family. The Cork-Philadelphia Quaker connection remained until well into the last century with ties of faith, business, politics and social affairs.[10]

The exploits of Major-General George Meade, of Cork descent, during the Civil War, is marked by a fine equestrian statue in Fairmount Park in the city of Philadelphia.

BATHING AND BATHS

Newspaper notices give an insight into the pleasures and activities of our ancestors; the three items quoted here tell of bathing and baths in the early part of the last century.

On 30 April 1807, an advertiser informed the readers of *The Cork Advertiser:*

WARM AND COLD SEA BATHS
at Passage

The Public are informed THE HOT BATHS NOW ERECTING AT PASSAGE will be Ready for Their Accommodation on or before 1st June next. Convenient to the Baths will be attached separate Places for Sea Bathing neatly fitted up for the particular Use of Ladies, who will be so retired from Intrusion, either by Land or Water, as to make it truly DESIRABLE. Careful Attendants, with every Requisite, will be provided, which must prove very Agreeable to the Company frequenting Passage and its Neighbourhood.

* An excellent STAGE COACH will RUN THREE TIMES A DAY to the BATHS FROM CORK.

— PASSAGE, Apr 30 1807

These baths should not be confused with the later Glenbrook baths. Colmán Ó Mathúna informs me that the site of the Passage West

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View of Blackrock, by R.L. Stopford, 1857
(Courtesy National Library of Ireland)

(Baths in centre. The house behind (now known as 'Rosetta') was then the palalce of Rt. Rev. Wm. Delaney, Bishop of Cork, 1847-1886. To the right of the baths is the old Coastguard Station, vacated *c.* 1861.)

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baths is now occupied by the town's Garda Station.

The bath buildings at Blackrock were situated about 100 yards on the city side of Blackrock castle. They were for many years owned by James Beale and his family and until 40 years ago fairly considerable masonry remains of the baths could be seen. At one period the baths were a favourite resort of officers of the garrison for some of whom a 'night out' included an evening at the baths followed by a drinking session in a tavern of ill repute in Drawbridge street. Then 'home' in the early hours up the hill to Cork Barracks; all travel was by a variety of horsed transport.

The Mercantile Chronicle of 20 January 1809 announced:

BLACK ROCK BATHS
Are now and will continue Open
for the use of Bathers
As the fires are not kept constantly
lighting, and any person giving an
hour's notice can have a bath prepared
for them. Separate fires in each
apartment, without any additional
charge.

By near mid-century these baths were offering a 'package' as an advertisement in the *Cork Constitution* of 21 July 1838 reveals:

HOT BATHS
EXTRAORDINARY REDUCTION

Now that the WARM BATH is universally admitted to be a safe and valuable preservative of health, and instead of being dangerous by causing liability to cold, is, when well managed, so much the reverse that it is successfully used for the express purpose of diminishing such liability: the proprietor of the Blackrock Baths, anxious to meet the wishes of the Public, has reduced the price of Warm Baths to one shilling each, Four persons can have the bath and a car to and from Blackrock for 5/6d.

* Outside Bathers are respectfully informed that the Strand is in perfect Order.

Blackrock, July 3rd.

REFERENCES

THE OLD TOWN WALL

1 5′ Town Plan of Cork, 1869, plate lxxiv 55.

2 'C.C.W' — Cecil Crawford Woods, 7 Dyke Parade, died 1901; he was a founding council member of this Society. 'C.C.W's' great grandfather is reputed to have witnessed the death in action of the Duke of Grafton at the siege of 1690. His obituary by Robert Day appeared in *JCHAS*, vii, pp 190-1.

3 Then known to be 'at the rere of numbers 53/54 and running south'. This section again came to public gaze in 1896, and once more in 1981. Now known as 'the Stardust section' the owners plans to conserve and display the wall remains were warmly approved of by members of this Society who saw the site in June 1981. Hopewell tower guarded the east wall near the eastern end of the present Christ Church lane. Its site was carefully mapped in 1797; it was again mapped in 1843, fee paid by the Corporation for the latter map being fifty shillings! The Cork Public Museum holds the 1797 map; the Museum Curator would be glad to learn the whereabouts of the 1843 map.

4 The wall fragment now abuts Hanover street (eastern end, south side) at the junction of numbers 19 and 20 Hanover street. The O.S. plan of 1869 shows the line of the wall, well above ground. Connell's court was on the east side of the wall. The 1869 Plan also shows the glass works, iron foundry and many other features including an industrial tramway.
My view is that the wall ran northward across the present Hanover street and through number 28 Washington street and across that street and lies under the roadway about one metre from the west gable of the courthouse.

5 Mr. John Cremin, learned in the lore of the North Main street area, accompanied me on a recent visit to the Kyrl's street site.

WILLIAM PENN, QUAKER LEADER

1 The Patent comprised 7,282 plantation acres in Imokilly barony (around Cloyne) with 4,859 acres in Ibaune barony (west of Clonakilty). The rent averaged a fraction over one penny per acre per year. Full details are given in *15th Annual Report, Commission for Public Records, Ireland,* 1825, p. 95. The Patent was issued by Charles II in 1667. The last male descendant of William Penn died in 1869. Early this century the remaining Penn Imokilly lands

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were sold to occupying tenants; the Ibaune lands were disposed of in the 18th century. The attack (a minor discharge of shots) on Shanagarry castle in October 1893 whilst of an agrarian nature did not involve the Penn-Gaskells.

2 Essential reading for all interested in Penn and his times: *My Irish Journal, 1669-1670,* edited by Isabel Grubb. An excellent review by J.T. Collins is in *JCHAS*, lvii, pp 128-9.

3 xiv, pp 105-14, 177-89. Henry Lorton has published a useful essay on the Penns in the *Evening Echo*, Cork, 24, 25 February 1978. William Penn by W.H. Dixon (1851) is an admirable study but like all early studies must be read in conjunction with Oliver Fogg's *Further Light on the Ancestry of William Penn (1964).*

4 *JCHAS* xiv, p. 184.

5 Dundanion castle is frequently confused with Barrington's Folly to the west in the townland of Ballintemple. On the east of Dundanion is Blackrock castle, in the townland of Mahon.

Dundanion Kea, later King's quay, is referred to by A. Nimmo in *Report on means of improving Harbour of Cork*, 1815.

A second King's quay was in Ballintemple townland to the west where now runs Monahan Road; s.f. *JCHAS* ii, p. 488. Marion Balderson in the Huntington Library Quarterly, U.S.A., (vol. xxvi, Nov. 1962) wrote on the *Welcom* Passengers: '30/8/1682, the *Welcom* then left Deal on the 30th or 31st (August 1682) and stopped somewhere along the Channel coast to take on more food and water, perhaps even to pick up some passengers, Penn wrote that it "was two weeks before they saw the last of England" '. Andrew Pike, writing to me on 7 November 1979 expressed the view that Penn in his note meant *Ireland* and not *England*. Mr. Pike went on to say 'I would think Cork (the last port for America) has a good claim to where they stopped, so there may be something in the Dundanion legend.' Andrew Pike, descendant of Richard and Joseph Pike (associates of William Penn in Cork) and now resident in Surrey, has been most helpful to me in gathering material relating to William Penn and the Pikes.

6 Admiral Sir William Penn by a Royal Patent dated 1660 is described as 'Governor or Captain of the King's Castle-parke Fort commonly called the Fort of Kinsale' — *Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniae*, 1152-1827, p. 15.

7 Oliver Fogg, *op. cit.*

8 J.C. Hotten, *The original lists of persons . . . who went from Great Britain to the American plantations, A.D. 1600-1700,* 1874; *Emigrants to Pennsylvania, 1641-1689,* ed. M. Tipper, Baltimore, U.S.A., 1977; A.C. Myers, *The immigration of Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania*, 1682-1750, Swarthmore, U.S.A., 1902.

9 D.N. Doyle, *Ireland, Irishmen and revolutionary America, 1760-1820,* Cork, 1981, p. 47. Balderson, *op. cit.*, cites the original bill of lading of the goods brought out on the *Welcom* by the Irishman Denis Rochford: window glass, shoes, saddles, dried peas, flitches of bacon, candles, copper, felt hats, cottons, serges, butter and cheese, etc. Rochford was well-equipped to go into trade in a general way.

10 s.f. *JCHAS* ii pp 88-9; *Friends Historical Society Journal*, London, 1926, pp 3-20; *Evening Echo,* Cork, 18 April 1979, p. 9.

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