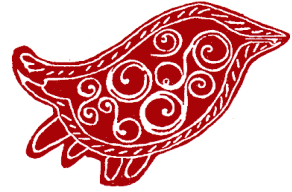


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DUNDAREIRKE CASTLE.



DUNDAREIRKE CASTLE.
Showing Mound and Fossa.
(Photos by Dr. P. G. Lee, September, 1910.)

Journal of the Cork Historical and Archæological Society.

Notes on Some Castles of Mid-Cork.

(Continued from page 131, Vol. XIII., July-September, 1910).

By Dr. PHILIP G. LEE, M.R.S.A.I.

II.



THE first section of my "Notes on some Castles of Mid-Cork" dealt chiefly with Cloghphilip, Carrigaphuca, and Garrycloyne Castles, and formed to some extent a continuation of the late Mr. H. W. Gillman's series of monographs on Carrignamuck or Dripsey, Castlemore by Moviddy, Castle-Dermot Oge, and Mashanaglas Castle, which appeared in the early volumes of this *Journal*. The present section treats mainly of the castles standing to the westward of the latter group, viz., those in Iveleary, or the O'Leary's country, near Macroom; and it also includes notices of some remote and little known castles in the north-western extremity of the County Cork.

I have again to acknowledge the kind assistance of Mr. James Coleman, more especially in the genealogical parts of this paper.

DUNDAREIRKE CASTLE.

In Smith's day, writes Windele, in his "Cork and its Vicinity," 1846, page 278, the road between Macroom and Inchigeela was not, at least to the antiquary and probably to the painter, so uninteresting as at present. Dr. Smith enumerates together with the castle of Carrignafooky and its Druid's altar, Dundareirke, Carrignaneelagh, Drumcarragh, and Carrignacurragh—all except Dundareirke formerly the property of the O'Learys—as objects of curiosity along this line of country. But the abandonment of old roads for new has thrown most of these castles out of the course of a modern traveller.

"Of Dundareirke a remnant, however, may yet be seen topping the neighbouring eminence within a few miles of Macroom. Dundareirke signifies the 'Fortress of the two Prospects' (Dun-da-radharc), and the name is very suitable; for, as Dr. Smith says, it commands a vast extended view to the west, as far as the bounds of Kerry; to the east, almost to Cork; and a great tract to the south. It has the Lee on one side and the Sullane on the other. In Smith's time it was a high square building having

70 stone-steps to the battlements. Now it is but a low and shattered relic of what it once was. It has been greatly injured by the greater part of it having fallen down. It was built by the McCarthys; and was a most important fortress guarding the passes of West Cork. It was very strongly built, and remained nearly entire until 1833, when a great part fell, since when further destruction has occurred. Dermot McCarthy forfeited this castle in the rebellion of 1641. It is situated in the parish of Kilnamartery; and once was surrounded by large gardens and orchards.

"Our course now," continues Windele, "lies through the rugged territory of the O'Learys, or as they have been called, the Ui Laogaire Ruis (Ross), as their original country is supposed to be Rosscarbery, from which they were driven in early times. They gave the name Iveleary to the country which extended westward to the mountains which give birth to the Lee. Of the Ithian race the O'Learys are identified (according to Vallancey) with those Laogharians who remained in possession of one corner of England after the rest of the Atta-cotti, or Scots, were driven to Ireland. Despite all the wars and revolutions of which this family were the repeated victims, its lineal representative, The O'Leary, until lately supported the antique style of the "Biadhtaigh," or profuse hospitality of his ancestors."

Of this last-named O'Leary there is an earlier and rather interesting notice given in the Rev. H. Townsend's "Survey of Cork," Vol. II., page 144 (Cork, 1815) as follows:—

"The mention of Milstreet (sic) brings to my recollection a remarkable personage once well known in its vicinity. . .

"As the head of a respectable old Irish family, he was known only by the name of 'O'Leary,' and was one of the last of that description who affected the ancient style of hospitable living. This, too, he was enabled to accomplish on a moderate fortune, as his hospitality was unencumbered with equipage or parade. He lived in a small house, the lower part consisting of little more than a parlour and kitchen, the former of which, properly supplied with every article of good cheer, was open to every guest and at every season, and this profusion was accompanied with perfect cleanliness and decorum. His cellar, well stocked with good liquors, never knew the protection of a lock and key, for, as he said himself, nobody had occasion to steal what anyone might have for asking. It derived security, however, from other causes, from deference to his sway and respect for his person, both of which were universally felt and acknowledged within the circle of his influence. He was also a Justice of the Peace for the county.

"The appearance of O'Leary was always sufficient to maintain order in fairs and meetings, and to suppress any spirit of disturbance without the aid of soldier or constable. He possessed indeed some admirable requisitions for a maintenance of the peace, for he was a very athletic man, and always carried a long pole, of which the unruly knew he was no churl. To these qualities O'Leary added an inexhaustible fund of original humour and good-natured cheerfulness, and being very fond of the bottle himself, it was impossible to be long in his company sad or sober.

"Of this I recollect one remarkable instance. A good many years ago some friends of mine arrived in the evening at Milstreet, and being fatigued from a long journey, wished to retire early to rest. O'Leary, who was in the town, happening to be a little acquainted with one of the party, after many entreaties prevailed on them to take supper at his house. Thither they proceeded with rather ungracious reluctance and a fixed determination neither to drink nor to remain longer than was barely necessary. But such was O'Leary's power of pleasing that they willingly prolonged their stay till near morning, and were imperceptibly led from bottle to bottle, till it became a task of some difficulty to regain their lodging.

"In this way O'Leary lived many years, impairing, though he did not exhaust, his property. He left one daughter, since married to Mr. McCarthy, who has built a very neat and fashionable house near the site of the old mansion."

The name O'Leary, as stated by Windele, is still frequent here amongst the peasantry, but a sod of the fee-simple property belongs not to one of the clan. The Governor and Company for making Hollow Sword Blades in England long since disposed of that. Fame, however, has been more partial to individuals of this race, such as the Rev. Arthur O'Leary, born in the year 1729 in the parish of Fanlobus, near Dunmanway (an interesting account of whose memorable life appeared in the first volume of our *Journal*, page 183, from the pen of our lamented first Hon. Secretary, J. O'Mahony, B.L.). There was also another Arthur O'Leary, whose epitaph in Kilcrea Abbey has the following inscription:—

"Lo: Arthur O'Leary, generous, handsome, brave,
Slain in his bloom, lies in this humble grave.
Died May 4, 1773, aged 26 years."

This recalls the well-known story of this brave and honourable gentleman. He was hunting with the Muskerry Hunt, and after outstripping all the others on his beautiful horse, got the brush. This raised the envy of a Mr. Morris, a magistrate, who offered O'Leary £5 for the horse. To wipe out the insult O'Leary horse-whipped Morris, for which trivial offence he was proclaimed an outlaw, and soon after this was shot by a common trooper. So perished a gallant man, victim to the intolerant laws of his country at the time. Morris was tried, but acquitted.

MacCarthy of Muskerry was the Lord paramount of the O'Learys, but his authority ceased at the Revolution, when he himself became an exile in a foreign land. The O'Learys were troublesome subjects and neighbours to the MacCarthys, as we read of battles between them, and in one fierce encounter over some stolen cattle The O'Leary himself was slain. A small portion of the south wall and the whole west wall, containing two narrow windows, are now all that remain of the once formidable castle of Dundareirke.

Some interesting references to this castle appeared in Mr. Conor Murphy's valuable paper on the Parish of Kilnamatra, which was published in the *Journal* for January-March, 1908. Mr. Murphy, however, states that Dundareirke was built by the O'Flynnns, and was the last stronghold occupied by them in Muskerry, being in their possession until 1578. Mr. Murphy adds that about the year 1820 a great portion of Dun-da-Radharc Castle, as he names it, collapsed in the night-time, making a tremendous noise that was heard for a considerable distance, and that, it was said, when the Protestant Church close by was built a great deal of the stone used in its construction was taken from this old castle, leaving it in a very shattered condition. Mr. Murphy's statement that no trace of it was left through its having been torn down a short time previously in order to use its stones for building purposes and repairing roads is, happily, not strictly accurate so far, as our illustration of Dundareirke shows from the photograph of it taken by me in 1910, though Mr. Murphy is doubtless correct in speaking of the complete obliteration of the ancient "dun" in whose interior this castle was built, and from which it has partly derived its name.

KILREDAGH CASTLE.

It may here be mentioned that Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* also records, under Kilnamartera Parish, to the south-west of Macroom, the Castle of Kilredagh, "standing on a lofty hill and commanding the passes of both rivers which flow through the parish. It was very strongly built, and remained tolerably entire until 1833, when a considerable part fell."

A mere fragment, we believe, is all that now remains of Kilredagh Castle, of whose founders or owners nothing seems to be known.

CARRIGNACURRA CASTLE.

Windele writes of Carrignacurra Castle as follows:—"A slight eminence on the road brings one in view of Inchigeela, near which stands the Castle of Carrignacurra, i.e., the Rock of the Weir. Smith states that there was an eel-weir of considerable profit on the River Lee near this castle." The late Canon Lyons, however, in his *Notes on the Parish of Inchigeela* in the second volume of the *Journal*, page 78, gives a different origin of the name. When the O'Learys were driven out of Ross in 1192 by the O'Donovans and the O'Collinses, they settled in three colonies around this district. The third colony settled on the south bank of the river, and built their largest castle on this rock, hence called "Carraig-na-curad" (the Rock of the Homestead).

"Another tradition," Windele asserts, "variously assigns its erection to the McCarthy family, and also to the O'Carrolls. It was, however, one of the chief strongholds of the O'Learys; and we find that Dermot oge O'Leary was in possession of it in 1588, but joining in the wars of Desmond and Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, he was attainted and his estates forfeited. However, the castle seems to have remained in the possession of the family, as it is mentioned by Dr. Smith that Carrignacurragh was forfeited by Conogher O'Leary for joining in the rebellion of 1641. From this time it seems to have completely passed out of the hands of the O'Learys. A large portion of the estate had been granted in 1608 to Mr. Francis Gofton, one of the Auditors of the Imprests in England. In 1846 this castle was the property of Mr. Jasper Pyne, who, although a non-resident, attended to its repairs and preservation."

Smith merely says of this building that "it is a lofty pile, being above 100 feet high, standing on the south bank of the river Lee."

"The castle," continues Windele, "consists of one lofty tower, dimly lit by a few loopholes and narrow lancet-windows. It has two stone-arched floors remaining, but the intermediate ones have disappeared. It has been used as a cowhouse and a granary—no infrequent form of conversion of the dwellings of the old chivalry. Time has given the walls some of its own mossy tints, and surrounded as the castle is with thick plantations, it forms as a picture a relief to the monotony of the scene around it."

An old man informed me, when I photographed Carrignacurra in September, 1910, that the castle had originally three chimney stacks, but that one fell in a recent gale, doing a considerable amount of damage to the interior. It stands a little to the east of Inchigeela village.



DRUMCARRAGH CASTLE.

August, 1913.
(From Pen and Ink Sketch by Mr. M. Holland.)



CARRIGNACURRA CASTLE.

(Photos by Dr. P. G. Lee, September, 1910.)

Bryan A. Cody's *River Lee, Cork, and the Corkonians*' (1859) states that Carrignacurragh was also called Castle Masters, after a modern proprietor of it. "It rises boldly from a cliff over the river, and is still (1859) in tolerably good preservation, surrounded by trees, which bring it out in agreeable relief from the bare country around, and consists of a high square tower without any discernible outworks. It is said to have been built by Sabina O'Carroll, wife of one of the O'Learys, whose principal stronghold it remained for years. In the troubles of 1641 Carrignacurra was forfeited, and it was garrisoned (later) by Cromwell's troops."

Carrignacurra Castle is mentioned in R. F. Cronnelly's *Irish Family History* (1865) in connection with his account of the O'Donovans, one of whose famous chieftains, being in danger of his life whilst still a child from rival claimants to the chieftaincy, was taken by his mother to this castle, where he remained till he came of age, married O'Leary's daughter, and finally fought successfully, aided by his father-in-law, for the O'Donovan chieftainship. By him was built Castle Donovan, whose remains yet exist in Drimoleague Parish.

DRUMCARRAGH AND CARRIGNANEELA CASTLES.

It is disappointing to find that neither Dr. Smith, Lewis, Windele, nor Dr. Caulfield has left any record or description of these two O'Leary Castles, the three former writers merely mentioning their names and their situation near Macroom.

Drumcarragh is barely alluded to by a later local writer than Windele, viz., Bryan A. Cody, who, in his *River Lee, Cork, and the Corkonians*, says:—"From Carrignacurra the Lee winds through a flat uninteresting country until it reaches Drumcarragh Castle, the ancient fortalice of the O'Learys, now (1859) in the possession of a Mr. Brown. As we are not aware of any historical associations connected with this ruin, and as it possesses no picturesque attractions, we shall pass on to Toon Bridge, above which on a steep hill rises the Castle of Dundarierke."

The accompanying illustration from a recent sketch by our Council member, Mr. M. Holland, shows, however, that Drumcarragh Castle is still in a fair state of preservation and of rather attractive appearance.

The Castle of Drumcarragh stands about midway between Macroom and Inchigeela.

Of Carrignaneela Castle, which stood nearer than Drumcarragh to Macroom, no remains now exist. There is a local tradition that on account of its last occupants (who were not O'Learys) having somehow made themselves obnoxious to the people about them, the latter ultimately pulled this old castle to pieces.¹

There is but a brief reference to the O'Learys in D'Alton's *King James's Army List* (1855). It states (page 704) that "The Sept of O'Leary was territorially settled in Muskerry, Co. Cork, between Macroom and Inchigeela, where there are still the ruins of several of their castles. They

¹ Marked on the Ordnance Map about a mile to the south of Drumcarra is Carrigaboy Castle, which Lewis's Dictionary names as the seat (1837) of Mr. E. Barrett. But though possessing a partly castellated appearance, Dr. Harding, its present owner and occupier, states that it was never a real castle.

suffered much in the Desmond war, and on the defeat of Juan de Aquila at Kinsale Mahon Mac Donough O'Leary passed over with him out of Ireland to Spain.

"In the attainders of 1642 occur the names of Connor O'Leary of Carrignycorr, Auliff O'Leary of Ccnnowley, with further other O'Learys, all located in the County Cork. In those of 1691 William O'Leary of Aghare, County of Cork, stands alone. Lieutenant Kedagh Leary was one of the officers in King James the Second's army in 1689."²

BALLYBODAN AND COURTBRACK CASTLES.

Situated much nearer to Cork City than the O'Leary Castles, just described, are the ruins of Ballybodan and Courtbrack Castles, whose names even are not mentioned by any of the local writers above specified.

The writer of the recent account of Drishane Castle, quoted from further on, speaks of them as MacCarthy Castles, and but little else seemingly is known respecting them.

Cronnelly's *Irish Family History*, Part II., page 193, includes in its list of the MacCarthy's who took part in the rising of 1641, Callaghan of Dundereirke, Cormac MacDonogh of Courtbreac, and Finin MacCarthy of Ballyvodan.

In the *Journal* for June, 1894, page 131, an inquiry was made as to the history of Courtbrack Castle, which elicited no reply. Its writer then stated that its ruins lay close to Fox's Bridge, a station on the railway to Donoughmore, and that some of the walls of the demesne and garden were then left, and also that some of the castle was blown down sixty years previously on a very stormy night. "It was said to have been occupied a hundred years back by a Mr. Butler, who had a prison in the castle, and was a very influential magistrate. In his time the Blarney weavers would not allow a prisoner to be taken to Cork Jail, except for some serious offence. Desiring to punish a man for theft, but fearing a rescue passing through Blarney, this Mr. Butler wrote a letter to the Cork jailor, and sent it by this man, with a warrant enclosed for his committal. The man took it, and was rather amazed when he was asked by the jailor to walk inside."

²The names of the O'Learys indicted of treason by the Earl of Cork at Youghal on August 2nd, 1642, and outlawed in the King's Bench, are given in Dr. Caulfield's "Council Book of Kinsale," page 337, as follows:—Auliffe of Currowhy, Onogher of Gortivashy, Art of Tyngegeagh, Dermod Oge of Tyraneasye, Onogher of Gortinechonebully, Cornelius MacDonogh and Donell of Grange, Lisagh of Inshuorane, Teige of Tirremspiddogy, Teige McDermody of Comenyhabilly, Art of Mullinevarrodigy, Donell and Teige Donell and Dermod of Carrignecorry (Carrignacurra), Art O'Leary of Carrignegillagh (Carrignaneela?), and Dermott O'Lemy (O'Leary) of Kileraskowe, all of whom were described as "gentlemen."

A recent worthy representative of the O'Learys was the late Mr. Denis A. O'Leary, of Kilbolane Cottage, Newtown, Charleville. Not claiming to be more than "a working farmer," he was, besides that, an ardent and able archæologist, who took the keenest interest in the history and antiquities of his native country and county. He contributed to the "Journal" of the R.S.A.I., and almost from its beginning to this "Journal," in which his most notable paper, "The Folk Lore of the Months," appeared under the pseudonym of "Manaan Mac Lir." Mr. O'Leary died on the 19th of March, 1906, in his 60th year, and was interred in the burial ground of the O'Learys at Drumcollogher.



THE LATE MR. D. A. O'LEARY.



BALLYBODAN CASTLE.

(Photo by Dr. P. G. Lee.)

The MacCarthys of Courtbreac or Courtbrack, were descended, as stated in Cronnelly's *Irish Family History*, Part III., page 177, from Donogh MacCarthy-na-mona, so-called from the Preceptory of Mourne (Mourne Abbey), the lands around which he had become possessed of. He was the son of Cormac and grandson of the Tadg MacCarthy, Lord Muskerry, who was born in 1447. He left a son, Dermot MacCarthy-na-mona, who lived and died at Courtbreac, the family residence, leaving a son, Eoghan (Owen), called of Courtbreac, who, dying in 1790, was interred in Kilcrea Abbey. This Eoghan MacCarthy left a son, Charles, who became a General in the service of the King of Portugal, in which country he died in 1792, leaving an only daughter, who died issueless in Cork in 1832, and was interred, pursuant to her dying request, in Kilcrea Abbey."

In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1790 appeared the following obituary notice of this Eoghan MacCarthy of Courtbreac:—"Near Blarney, County Cork, aged 84 years (died), Owen MacCarthy, commonly called Master-na-mona. He has left an only son, now Governor of Miranda, and Colonel of a Regiment of Horse in the Portuguese service. The deceased had 15 brothers, 13 of whom emigrated for bread, after losing their estates in that kingdom, and were promoted to officers of high position in the armies of France, Spain, Portugal and Germany."

From Mr. James Buckley's Note in the *Journal* for October-December, 1901, in reference to the grand-daughter of this Owen MacCarthy, it appears that he upheld at Courtbrack a feudal state and profuse hospitality, little consistent with the altered fortunes of the family. This Owen MacCarthy had remained an alien in his father's land, incapacitated and fettered by its laws, the hopes and visions of his youth blighted, and at his death leaving nothing but a name and the memory of bygone years to his descendants, of whom the sole survivor seems to have been his grand-daughter, the Miss Anne MacCarthy above referred to, whose death occurred at Kyril's Quay, Cork, on the 13th of August, 1832, in the 76th year of her age.

It was probably subsequent to her grandfather's death that Courtbrack Castle passed into the possession of the Mr. Butler named above.

The accompanying illustration of Ballybodane or Ballyvodane Castle, from a photograph of it taken by me a few years back, shows that little is now left of this castle. Its remains lie at a short distance to the north of Courtbrack.

Besides the still imposing ruins of Castle MacDonogh, otherwise Kanturk Castle, already described and illustrated in this *Journal*, built by one of the MacCarthys, they had also, Dr. Smith states, another castle called Curragh a little to the north of Kanturk.

KILMEEDY, DRISHANE, DROUMSICANE AND DROMAGH CASTLES.

Away to the north-west of the Iveleary country, and in the immediate vicinity of Millstreet, stand the ruined castle of Kilmeedy and Drishane Castle, which has been restored. Both are in the parish of Drishane, and situated on the confines of the baronies of Magonihy, West Muskerry, and Duhallow.

Kilmeedy Castle, as stated by Cronnelly, was erected by Dermot Mac-

Carthy in 1436, and Drishane by his son in 1445, which latter date does not appear, however, to be quite correct.

Drishane Castle and Millstreet Town, whose original name was Coomlegane, lie quite close to the northern boundary of the Barony of West Muskerry, which forms the western portion of the broad middle zone of the County Cork—that lying between the line of railway connecting Killarney with Lismore on the north, and that linking Youghal with Macroom on the south. The first-named line of railway might, in fact, be said to form the dividing line between the Barony of West Muskerry and that of Duhallow, which latter barony constitutes the north-western extremity of the County Cork, with Kerry on its western and Limerick on its northern side.

In this Duhallow district are, or rather were, several castles, of which scarcely any mention has heretofore been made in this *Journal*. These Duhallow castles were chiefly owned by the O'Keeffes and the MacAuliffs, two once important septs, now long fallen from their former greatness and renown, whose history will be, to some extent, recalled further on in this paper.

Dr. Smith speaks of Kilmeedy as a small castle of the O'Donaghues (sic), now (circa 1750) in ruins, near which was a redoubt for half a company. But Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary* records it as having been built by one of the MacCarthys in 1445 "to command the wild mountain pass from Macroom to Killarney," and adds that its ruins are near the old mail-coach road.

Our illustration shows that Kilmeedy Castle is still in a fair state of preservation, minus, however, the stone work of its doorway and windows, which a neighbouring farmer, we have been informed, tore away from it some years ago.

The only episode in the history of Kilmeedy Castle that we have been able to discover is the following tragic one from Earl Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in Ireland*," London, 1721, as reproduced in Michael Davitt's *Speech before the Special Commission*," London, 1890, page 387:—"Anno 51 (1651). Charles MacCarthy, of Killmydy, being in a party with Colonel Phayre at the grate (sic) of his castle, Colonel Ingoldsby rides up to the grate with a span'd pistol and shot him dead, at which action the said Phayre was much dissatisfied, being commander-in-chief of that party."

Drishane Castle having become the property in 1908 of the "Dames de St. Maur," a French Catholic teaching sisterhood, known also as the "Congregation of the Holy Child Jesus," an interesting account of Drishane Castle appeared in the *Cork Examiner* of November 30th of that year, from which is extracted the following notice of this MacCarthy Castle:—

"From Dermot MacCarthy, King of Cork, who surrendered Cork to the English in the 12th century, was descended Dermot More, ancestor of the branches of the MacCarthys of Clanfadda, Drishane, Carrignamuck (or Dripsey), Courtbrack, Cloghroe, and Carrignavar.

"In 1450 Dermot MacCarthy built the Castle of Drishane, as shown by a monument in the ancient burial-ground in its demesne, on which is the inscription: 'Sacred to the memory of Donogh MacCarthy, whose great grandfather, Dermot MacCarthy, second son of Tadgh MacCarthy, Lord of Muskerry, built the Castle of Drishane, 1450.'



KILMEEDY CASTLE.
(By permission of Mr. J. O'Mahony.)



DRISHANE CASTLE FROM N.W.
(Photo by Dr. P. G. Lee, September, 1910.)

"This Donogh died a few years before the sequestration of his estate at the great age of 122, having been born in 1517, and died in 1639.

"The same monument also further records: 'His son, Dermot MacCarthy, of Drishane Castle, and his grandson, Donogh MacCarthy, of Dromeen, who forfeited the family estate of Drishane, 1641, and died the 1st of October, 1725, aged 106 years.

"In 1641 Drishane Castle was garrisoned in support of Charles I., and it was also garrisoned during the Fenian outbreak in 1867. A great oak door, heavily sheeted with iron, situated in the lower tower, and facing west, has several rents in it, as if torn by bullets. About 1643 additions were made to this castle, several fire-places in which bear that date, with the monogram 'W,' thus marking the time of its occupation by the Wallises—whose motto, 'Fortis et fidelis,' is also to be seen in several places in it—a family who continued the owners of Drishane Castle till the close of the 19th century.

"The late Lady Beaumont, whose first husband was a Wallis, put this castle into perfect repair, and it was well maintained by the late Mr. William Wallis, who was a noted agriculturist and cattle breeder.

"In or about 1882 the Drishane estate went into the Court of Chancery on the application of some Insurance Companies, where it remained until June 4th, 1912, when the property was sold before Judge Ross to Mr. Stack, of Fermoy, from whom, through Mr. Cornelius Duggan of Cork, Drishane Castle was purchased by its present possessors, the Dames of St. Maur."

The original writer of the article in the *Cork Examiner* on Drishane Castle fell into an error in stating that the Pope's Nuncio, Rinuccini, visited Drishane Castle, just as others have done of late in dubbing him Cardinal, a title he never attained to. The castle which that Papal Nuncio actually visited in this neighbourhood in 1645, as stated in the late Rev. C. P. Meehan's *Confederation of Kilkenny* (Duffy, Dublin, 1882, p. 137) was Dromsicane, not Drishane.

"Having passed four days in Macroom, the Nunzio, accompanied by the Bishop of Ardferd and Egan, Bishop of Ross, set out for Dromsicane, the residence of Dermot MacCarthy, a junior branch of that princely house. Here he was met by Richard Butler, brother of Lord Ormond, at the head of two troops of horse. The lord of Dromsicane, MacDonogh, surnamed Donogh MacCarthy, then a widower, and Donogh, his son, whose wife was Lord Muskerry's sister, entertained the Nunzio and all who came with him splendidly. From Dromsicane they proceeded to Clonmeen, the castle of Donogh O'Callaghan, chief of his name, who entertained with rare magnificence the crowd of nobles and gentry that flocked thither to do homage to the representative of the Holy See."

From Clonmeen the Nuncio proceeded to Kilmallock, and thence by slow stages to Kilkenny.

Dromsicane or Droumsicane Castle is situated, according to Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary*, in Cullen, a parish $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (Irish) north of Millstreet. "On the banks of the Blackwater at Droumsicane are the picturesque ruins of an extensive square fortification, flanked by a round tower at each angle. It had formerly a lofty square tower in the centre."

Dr. Smith calls this castle Drumshicane, and describes it as a fortified castle of the O'Kiefs (sic), with turrets and high square tower in the centre, all lately demolished (i.e., before the middle of the 18th century). The walls, Smith adds, were built of flat stones or flags, exceedingly well cemented.

Our illustration of Dromsicane Castle shows that its turrets and connecting wall are all that are now left of it. It is now used as a farmyard.

Cronnelly, in his *Irish Family History*, mentions rather vaguely this castle in his account of the O'Keeffes, whose territory in this part of the County Cork was known, he states, as "Pobble O'Keeffe.

"The chief residences of the lords of this country were," Cronnelly writes, "Drumsicane Castle, which stood on the northern bank of the Blackwater; Dromagh Castle, the Castle of Du-Aragill, Drumtariffe Castle, and the castellated mansions of Ahane, Cullen, and Ballymacquirk."

Of these last-named six structures, Dr. Smith only mentions Dromagh Castle, situated, he says, south-west of Kanturk, well walled, flanked with turrets, and inhabited by Mr. Philpot, and the ruined Castle of Du-Aragill, west of Dromagh, in the parish of Cullen, both of which castles, Smith further states, were built by the O'Kiefs. Dromagh Castle is also mentioned in Lewis's *Dictionary* as having been once the residence of the O'Keeffes, "a square enclosure, flanked by four circular towers, one of which, with part of the enclosure, has been (1837) converted into offices."

Judging by the illustration of Dromagh Castle in O'Flanagan's *Blackwater in Munster* (1844), Dromagh Castle greatly resembled Drumsicane, with its central tower, as in the case of the latter castle also gone.

Dromagh Castle has lately been described and illustrated by Colonel Grove White in his section of this *Journal*.

Of the three castellated mansions of the O'Keeffes named by Cronnelly, viz., Ahane, Cullen and Ballymacquirk, no trace or recollection appears to exist at present in Millstreet, though these buildings must have survived till comparatively recent times, if Cronnelly was correct in his reference to them.

The present structure known as Duarrigle Castle is a very pretty modern building in castellated style, erected doubtless on the site of the old castle whose name it bears. In Gibson's *History of Cork* (1861), vol ii., p. 482, it is stated that Duarragil Castle had been greatly improved by Doctor Justice of Mallow, whose family had been in possession of the property for nearly two hundred years. The same work describes Dromagh Castle as the property of Nicholas Philpot Leader, lying about four miles south-west of Kanturk, from which castle (i.e., Dromagh) Lord Muskerry marched out in 1652 to encounter Lord Broghill at the famous battle of Knocknaclashy, near Clonmeen.

Considerable information as to the O'Keeffes and their connection with Glanworth in the north-east part of the County Cork was given by Coroner James Byrne, J.P., in his interesting paper on "Glanworth" in the Oct.-Dec., 1912, number of this *Journal*. But there is still much of their history to be told, as will be seen by the following extracts from Richard F. Cronnelly's *Irish Family History*, Part II. pp. 198-211, Dublin, 1864:—

"The O'Keeffes," writes Cronnelly, "are a senior family of the Eoganachts of the race of Heber, and derive their name and descent from Camh, called Art Caemh, or Art the Handsome, according to a pedigree in the possession of the late Sir William Betham, which shows Art Oge O'Keeffe (1547-1610) to have been of the 23rd generation in descent from Finghin, 27th from Cairbre Crom, and 31st in descent from Nadfrach, King of Munster. Another Irish manuscript makes him only 16th from Finghin, whilst the Genealogical Book of Duaid Mac Firbis, the Connaught Genealogist, makes this same Art O'Keeffe 29th in descent from the above-named Cairbre Crom. The Mac



DROUMSICANE CASTLE.
(Photo by Dr. P. G. Lee, September, 1910.)



DROMAGH CASTLE IN 1844.
(Sketched from O'Flanagan's "Blackwater in Munster," by Mr. M. Holland.)

Firbis Book gives the descent also of another branch of the O'Keefes, Beos (sic) David, Thomas Conor Corc, and Tadhg, as 10th in descent from the Hugh from whom the aforesaid Art O'Keefe was 13th in descent.

"The O'Keefes," Cronnelly further states, "were hereditary marshals of the forces of Desmond, and they found MacCarthy More in 12 horse and 100 kerne in time of war. By O'Heerin they are styled Chiefs of Glenamhan or Glanworth, and they also were styled Chiefs of Feara-Muighe, i.e., Fermoy, and of Irluachra in the Barony of Duhallow, of which latter O'Heerin wrote:—

"O'Keefe of the handsome brown brows is Chief of Irluachair of the fertile lands.³

"A.D. 994. Donogh O'Keefe, Marshal of the forces of Munster, defeated the Danes at Dundalk.

"A.D. 1063. Ceallach O'Keefe, an anchorite, died.

"A.D. 1135. Finghin O'Keefe, lord of Fermoy Feine, was slain. [D'Alton makes him lord of Glanworth, and states that in A.D. 1161 Hugh O'Keefe, lord of Fermoy, was slain.]

"A.D. 1582. Art, son of Donal O'Keefe, and father of the Art Oge O'Keefe, named above, died on the 21st of March this year, 'seized in the fee of the castle, town and lands of Dromagh, containing one quarter of land of Cullyne, of one quarter of land Dwangan, and one quarter of Claragh, all situate, lying and being in the barony of Duhallow, and held from the Queen in capite.' He had married Helena, daughter of Conor, son of Donogh MacTadg Roe O'Callaghan, by whom (who died 18th October, 1593) he left issue Manus (married to the daughter of Sir Donogh MacCarthy Reagh), Hugh, Donal, a daughter (married to Murrough Na Marte MacSweeny), and Art Oge O'Keefe, his successor."

The Art O'Keefe whose death Cronnelly records as having occurred in 1582 was, he says, chieftain in 1583, when the Earl of Desmond made a predatory incursion into Kerry at harvest-time this year, and sent a party of his kernes or foot soldiers to plunder Art O'Keefe in Luachair-Deadhaigh or Irluachar. But O'Keefe having pursued these depredators to the Desmond camp, a battle ensued, and he and his son, Hugh O'Keefe, were slain. Art Oge was liberated soon after, and inaugurated "The O'Keefe."

"Born in 1547, Art Oge O'Keefe, the new chieftain, married Honoria, daughter of Dermot Mac Donal Cartie of Iniskean (now Enniskean) by his wife Ellinor, daughter of Sir Cormac MacCarthy Reagh, and by her he left issue Daniel called of Ballymaquirk, Donogh of Crulbeggan (who died May 14th, 1614, leaving a son, Donal, born 1601), and Manus, his successor. On the death of Art Oge O'Keefe on May 31st, 1610,⁴ Manus O'Keefe of Dromagh, born in 1567, became "Chief of his Nation." He left two sons, Hugh and Donal, who was his successor.

"This Donal O'Keefe, of Dromagh, the son and successor of Manus, married first the daughter of his kinsman, Art O'Keefe, and, secondly, the daughter of Lord Viscount Roche, of Fermoy, by whom he had issue Hugh, Connor, Ellinor, Caemh, Arthur, and his successor, Donal, who was a member of the Catholic Convention of 1647, and obtained the command of a company of foot in the Catholic Confederate Army.

"Donal O'Keefe of Dromagh, the son and successor of Donal, married Johanna

³ Cronnelly gives also a literal translation by Michael O'Longan, of Carrignavar, of a genealogical poem in Irish composed for the O'Keefes by Tadhg, son of David McBruodin, historiographer and poet to the Dalcassians, which is too long for reproduction here.

⁴ Under 1610, Cronnelly records that Sir Edward Fitzgerald obtained a grant from King James I. of one of the castles of Tadhg O'Keefe, with the lands therewith appertaining. But he does not name the castle nor the branch of the O'Keefes to which it belonged. Two years later (i.e., 1612), as stated in D'Alton's "King James's Army List," Arthur O'Keefe of Dromagh passed patent for various castles, lands, &c., which were thereupon erected into the Manor of Dromagh, with markets, fairs, courts and tolls. In 1619 he had a further grant of the manor, castle and mill of Dunbullog, with various townlands, the advowson of the vicarage, and liberty to impark 200 acres, to create tenures, hold courts leet and baron, and enjoy all waifs and strays, &c.

On page 323 of Caulfield's "Council Book of Kinsale" occurs the following curious entry:—"1602. Apud Shandon, 4 Aug., 1602. Coram Will. Saxey, Armig. Dep. Jus. Momonia. David Dns. Viscount Fermoy recog. se debere Dnae. Reg. OCCs. sterling. Condition. Whereas, Art Oge O'Keefe, second son and pledg of Art O'Keefe, gent., for himself and such of his tenants and followers as he hath undertaken for, is, at the instance of David Lo: Fermoye, delivered out of the Gent. Porter's Ward of this province into the custody of his lordship for 15 days next ensuing. If the body of the said Art, at the expiration of the same, be re-delivered in Cork, &c., this recog. to be void. Will. Saxey."

Everett, alias Butler, by whom he left a son, Daniel O'Keeffe, of Dromagh, who commanded a company of foot under James the Second at Aughrim, where he was slain. Donal O'Keeffe married first Elizabeth Roche, and, secondly, Anne, daughter of Dominick Sarsfield of Cork, by whom he had a son, Donal Oge O'Keeffe, a distinguished ensign in Boiseleau's Infantry; Denis, Cæmh. called of Bandon; Mary Anne, and Arthur.

"This last Arthur married the daughter of Eoghan Mac Sweeny, by whom he had four sons, Keffe, Eoghan, Arthur, and Daniel O'Keeffe of Bandon, who married Mary, daughter of Cornelius O'Delany, by whom he had issue Arthur, who died November 5th, 1828; Keffe, Cornelius, William, Joseph, and Francis."

(To be Continued).

Some West Cork Place Names.

By J. M. BURKE, B.L.



THE following paper consists of various unconnected notes about some of the Place names of the Carberies. It deals mainly with words in which the Irish form has been corrupted or obscured, or in which the ancient name has been entirely extruded by an English one. The Abbreviation "O.S." stands for Ordnance Survey, and "G.C.L." for the ancient tract intitled the "Genealogy of Corca Laidhe."

The townland of Farranagilla is partly in the parish of Castlehaven and partly in the parish of Abbeystrewrey: the word is locally pronounced Farran-ee-yilla. Here old documents help us to elucidate its etymology. In the McCarthy Reagh Inquisition (1636 A.D.) it is written Farranmacgullymichael, and in the Coppinger grants Farrengilleevihil. Now, O'Gillamichael was a sub-chieftain of the Corca Laidhe, and his territory, according to G.C.L., extended from *Deann ífódáin* to *Uéat áta reamann*, and from *Ceanh maṛa* to *Tráig Omna*. *Deann ífódáin* (the peak of the fairy hillock) is the place that appears in the O.S. map as Beanteane (i.e., *Deann τ-ífódáin*), and now commonly called Bean Hill, in the townland of Farrenconnor, overlooking Toe Head, the most southerly point of Castlehaven parish. *Ceanh maṛa* (head of sea) is the most inland part of Castlehaven Bay at Rinneen, and is the eastern boundary of Castlehaven. The name is preserved in the bridge there, which is called *Uéat éinn maṛa*. *Tráig omna* (Oak strand) is Tragumina Bay at the western end of Castlehaven. I am unable to identify *Uéat áta reamann*, which was the northern boundary. There is a variant *Uéat áta renam*. Maybe it is the Owen-shingane (*áðamn na reanṣán*, or Pismire River) in parish of Caheragh. There is, I believe, a ford near Drimoleague called *át reanṣ* (slender ford). That may be the place. The G.C.L. records of the O'Gillamichaels: "Of this tribe was the man who for his means was the most bountiful that ever came to our knowledge, viz., the representative of Bearchan, the great Vicar O'Gillamichael, who on account of his hospitality was called *Spáran Ortaighe* (Open Purse)." The old name of the parish of Castlehaven was