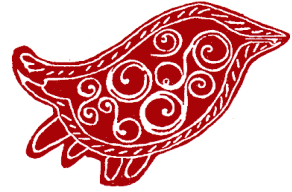


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Author: Flood, William H. Grattan

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discovered by Harvey not many years before, but not immediately accepted as true by his contemporaries.

He made inquiries also into the minerals that were found in Ireland, and his statement that no country in Europe was so rich in mines as Ireland may have helped to produce the somewhat exaggerated idea which many hold as to the mineral wealth of this island.

On his return to England he went to reside at Oxford, where he had converse with many kindred spirits at the University, and where he was able to prosecute his experimental enquiries into the secrets of nature. Here it was that he improved the airpump, discovered a short time previously by Otto von Guericke of Magdeburg. In this he was materially helped by his assistant, Robert Hooke, whose law of stress is as well known to students of mechanics as Boyle's Law is to physicists. With this "engine," as he calls it, he made many experiments supporting his theory of the constitution of the atmosphere, which he described in his famous paper entitled, "New Experiments Physico-Mechanical Touching the Spring of the Air, and its Effects."

I will not attempt to give an account of the distinguished litterateurs and scientists who were friends and correspondents of Boyle at this period. Two references, however, may throw additional light on his personal character.

Mr. John Evelyn, writing about a Philosophical College which he desired him to join, says he was in himself "a society of all that were desirable to a consummate felicity," and in a later letter in reference to Boyle's essay on "Seraphic Love" he writes, "You have at once by this incomparable piece taken off the reproach that lay upon piety and the enquiries into nature, that the one was too early for young persons, and the other the ready way to atheism."

In the year 1759, having heard that the learned Rev. Dr. Sanderson, afterwards Bishop of Lincoln, had lost all his preferments on account of his attachment to the royal party, he gave him an annual grant of £50 a year—thus enabling him to complete his famous book on "Cases of Conscience."

(To be continued.)

## The Augustinian Priory of Bridgetown, Co. Cork.

By W. H. GRATTAN FLOOD, Mus. Doc., K.S.G.



THE Augustinian Priory of Bridgetown is picturesquely situated at the confluence of the rivers Awbeg and Blackwater, about a mile and a quarter south from Castletownroche, Co. Cork, and midway between Mallow and Fermoy. Its name is a translation of the Irish *Baile an droiched*, which is also Latinised as *Villa Pontis* (the town of the bridge). This place-name was given to it from the fact of a bridge having been built there called the "Bridge of Fermoy," which does not now exist.

Authorities differ as to the date of its foundation and as to the family of its founder; but from the *Inspeximus* to the Original Charter, which is quoted in Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum* (vol. vi. p. 1,146), it is certain that the founder was Alexander Fitz Hugh, about the year 1216. All previous writers regard this Fitz Hugh as Alexander Roche (de Rupe); but it would appear from Gerald Barry (Giraldus Cambrensis) that Alexander and his brother Raymond were members of the Barry family. From the *Register of St. Thomas's Abbey, Dublin*, edited by Sir John T. Gilbert (1889), it appears that both Alexander and Raymond Fitz Hugh held lands in the barony of Fermoy at the close of the 12th century, circa 1195, while the former founded the Priory *de Ponte* (Bridgetown).<sup>1</sup>

From the Charter it is evident that Alexander Fitz Hugh "granted and confirmed to the Priory of St. Mary of the Bridge of Fermoy, and to the Augustinian Canons of said house, *founded for the soul of King John*,<sup>2</sup> his ancestor and successors, and for the souls of himself, his father and mother and wife, and of *his brother Griffin*, the site of the monastery, the village of Bridgetown, the castle and the bridge itself, and 8 carucates of land between the water of Awbeg and the land of Robert Keating, and between the demesne of the founder *near his stone castle* and the Awmore,<sup>3</sup> etc. In the case of the Canons not being able to decide in Chapter on the election of a Prior, they were to elect a Canon from either the house of SS. Peter and Paul, Newtown (Co. Meath), or from St. Thomas the Martyr, Dublin), whence the Priory of Bridgetown was founded.

Alexander Fitz Hugh was one of the magnates of Ireland in 1212,<sup>4</sup> but his name disappears after the year 1219. It is probable that his lands and the patronage of the Church of Bridgetown then passed to the Roches of Castletownroche.

On July 20, 1226, King Henry III. assented to the appointment of William, Prior of Fermoy, as Bishop of Cloyne, and a formal licence to elect was issued on August 31st, "provided that they elect an Englishman."<sup>5</sup> This William was duly elected and consecrated Bishop, and ruled from 1226 to 1235, when he resigned in extreme old age. We are fairly safe in assuming that William was the first Prior of Bridgetown, or "Prior of the Bridge of Fermoy."<sup>6</sup>

In the Close Rolls of Henry III., under date of September 26th, 1255 (Close 39, Hen. III., p. 1, m. 5), the King wrote to Richard de la Rochelle, Vice-Justiciary of Ireland, to the effect that the "Prior of St. Mary's of the Bridge of Fermoy," *founded for the soul of King John*, should be restored the two acres of land in Finnon (*Magh femhin*), regarding which the said Prior had called to warranty the son and heir of Nicholas de Ponte, deceased.

In the Roll of Receipt of Michaelmas term, 1280, there is an entry: "From the Prior *de Villa Pontis*, for licence to obtain an amended writ—

<sup>1</sup> See "Calendar of the Charter Rolls," II., p. 341.

<sup>2</sup> King John died in 1216.

<sup>3</sup> See *Inspeximus*, dated Feb. 11th, 1290 (Sweetman, No. 587).

<sup>4</sup> Sweetman's "Calendar of Documents," No. 448.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Nos. 1432, 1433, 1442.

<sup>6</sup> Most authors give this William as Prior of the Cistercian Abbey of the place name of Fermoy, but his identity as such is based on the designation of Fermoy. He was in reality the Augustinian Prior of Bridgetown in the Barony of Fermoy.

half a mark." From the same Roll of the years 1285 and 1286 we learn that the Prior paid a fine of twenty shillings for trespass, and a similar sum in 1287. On November 4th, 1288, the Prior paid a fine of 102s. 6d. for trespass.

King Edward I., on February 11th, 1290, confirmed the Charter of Alexander Fitz Hugh, as previously summarised. The glen near the Priory is styled "Glenbride." Among the possessions are: "1 knight's fee in Olethan, 1 knight's fee in Ibawn, a vill of land near Carrig, namely, that which fell to the donor by hereditary right from Raymond his brother."

In the Papal Taxation of 1306 the Priory of the Bridge of Fermoy is valued at £40 15s., the tenth being given of 6 marks and 18 pence. In a Taxation of the Diocese of Cloyne of a slightly later day the Priory is valued at 40 marks, the tenth being 4 marks.<sup>7</sup>

On September 8th, 1312, Pope Clement V. issued a mandate to the Prior *de Ponte*, in the diocese of Cloyne, to arrest and imprison a certain William O'Tarpey, perpetual Vicar of Brigown, "alleged to have forged Papal letters."<sup>8</sup>

From the Papal Registers<sup>9</sup> it would appear that Thomas, Prior of Bridgetown, had been excommunicated for some unnamed offence, and yet had been confirmed in his Priory by the Archbishop of Cashel. The existing documents afford no clue as to the succession of Priors of Bridgetown in the first half of the 14th century. The only item forthcoming is that under date of 1369, when there was litigation regarding a yearly cess to the Bishop of Emly, which was referred for arbitration to William, Prior of Bridgetown.<sup>10</sup>

Quoting from Ayloff's *Calendar of Ancient Charters* (p. 482), Archdall gives the information that in 1375, when King Edward III. "directed his writ to the Bishops and Commons to elect chosen persons, who were immediately to repair to England, there to treat, consult and agree with his Majesty and Council, as well touching the government of this Kingdom as for the aid and support of the war his Majesty was then engaged in. Thomas, Prior of Bridgetown, was one of the persons appointed on this important business."<sup>11</sup>

The next item recorded in connection with Bridgetown Priory is a Papal Mandate under date of March 4th, 1397, to collate and assign the Augustinian Priory of Killaha (*de Belle Loco*), in the diocese of Ardferf, to a certain Canon of Killaha.<sup>12</sup>

The Pipe Roll of Cloyne has fortunately preserved for us a document in which, under date of April 17th, 1403, Gerald, Bishop of Cloyne, records a covenant made in the Priory of the Blessed Mary of Bridgetown between himself and Maurice Roche, Lord of Fermoy, in which *inter alia*, Lord Roche undertook not to levy any cess on the said Priory and vill of Glenore. This indenture was witnessed by Brother John Lange, Prior of the Priory of St. Thomas the Martyr, near Buttevant, and others, and the Bishop used the seal of Brother Bartholomew, Prior of Bridgetown.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Sweetman's "Calendar," 1302-1307, p. 275, and p. 311.

<sup>8</sup> "Cal. Papal Registers," Vol. II., p. 101.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* II., 228.

<sup>10</sup> "Cal. Papal Reg.," Vol. IV., p. 86.

<sup>11</sup> Archdall's "Monast. Hib.," Cardinal Moran's ed., Vol. I., p. 99.

<sup>12</sup> "Cal. Papal Reg.," Vol V., p. 156.

<sup>13</sup> "Historical and Topographical Notes," by Colonel Grove White, II., 314.

On April 9th, 1440, Pope Eugenius IV. issued a Mandate to the Prior of Buttevant (Ballybeg), on the petition of the Prior of Bridgetown, to see carried out an arrangement by which the Prior of Bridgetown was to have the advowson or right of presentation to the rectory of the parish church of St. Lachtain, Ballyhea, in the diocese of Cloyne—a right given to the Prior by Maurice Fitz John Roche, “Lord of Fermoy and Baron of Muskerygh-trog,” reserving a portion for a perpetual Vicar to be presented by the said Baron and his successors.<sup>14</sup>

On Feb. 7th, 1450, Pope Nicholas V. issued a Mandate to the Prior of Bridgetown, relative to John Stack, Rector of Dungarvan and Prebendary of Lismore.<sup>15</sup> Three months later, on May 21st, the same Pope wrote another Mandate to the Prior of Bridgetown relative to the same John Stack, collating him to certain benefices vacant by the election of Maurice Stack as Bishop of Ardfert.<sup>16</sup>

Nothing of any special importance has been chronicled from 1451 to 1470, and we can only presume that the lives of the Bridgetown Canons passed uneventfully. However, on December 28th, 1470, Pope Paul II. issued a mandate to the Prior of Bridgetown to collate William Picoyd, perpetual vicar of the parish church of Kyldaryry (Kildorrery) to the Chancellorship of Cloyne, but with a stipulation that the then union of the perpetual vicarages of Kildorrery and Nathlash was to be dissolved.<sup>17</sup>

Bridgetown Priory was well endowed, and held at this time and until the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the churches of Templebodan, Rahan, Carrigleamleary, Clenor, Monanimy, Carrigidownane, Templeroan (Sounagh), Wallstown (Ballygregin), Castletownroche, and Bridgetown.

In 1540 the Priory was dissolved, and on July 11th, 1548, William Walsh, late Prior of Ballydrohid (Bridgetown) was nominally granted a pension of £6 13s. 4d. a year.<sup>18</sup> I say “nominally” because in most cases these pensions—small as they were—do not seem to have been paid. They were promised as a *solatium* for giving up “voluntary” surrender. More than a year previous to this date the Priory had been leased by the Crown to a certain “Robert Browne, soldier,” on February 4th, 1544. It is doubtful if ever Robert Browne got possession of the Priory and its Rectories, because the Canons were enabled, through the influence of Lord Roche, to remain as tenants, awaiting better days, and, as a matter of fact, they remained on during the reigns of Edward VI. and Queen Mary. It is most probable that the Bridgetown Canons remained undisturbed till the year 1565 or 1566, as Lord Roche was then in favour with the Queen, Elizabeth. But by Commission of October 8th, 1565, a lease of the Priory and the Rectories of Bridgetown, Temple-Robin (near Queenstown), and Castletownroche was granted to William Bassenet and Richard Hunt, to hold for 21 years, at an annual rent of £10 16s. 8d., with the proviso that one English horseman was to be maintained in the Priory. This lease appears among the Fiants of Elizabeth, No. 1107 (900), and is dated July 29th, 1567.

Nor is it improbable that the Canons were left in possession even in 1567, inasmuch as the lessees almost immediately sub-let the Priory and possessions to Roger Pope, of Grangegorman. Pope must not have found the

<sup>14</sup> “Cal. Pap. Reg.,” Vol. IX., p. 74.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X., p. 452.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X., p. 456.

<sup>17</sup> “Vatican Register,” Vol. cxxxvii., f. 182.

<sup>18</sup> Fiants of Henry VIII., No. 462 (148).

lease of any great value, for on May 5th, 1576, he surrendered it to Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy of Ireland.<sup>19</sup> In the following year, under Commission of May 22nd, 1576, Queen Elizabeth granted a lease of the Priory and possessions to Sir David Lord Roche, to hold for 30 years.<sup>20</sup> This lease appears among the Fiants of Elizabeth, dated October 18th, 1577. Lord Roche's son, Theobald, was about the same time given a lease of the Abbey of Fermoy and of other lands. His son and heir, Maurice Roche, of Caherduggan, was pardoned on May 9th, 1581, as was also his wife, Ellen Butler, on August 18th of same year.

It is likely that upon the death of David Lord Roche in 1585 the Canons finally left Bridgetown. A discharge of £200, arrears due for the rent of the Abbeys of Bridgetown, Fermoy, and Glanore (Glanworth) was given to Maurice Lord Roche, Viscount of Fermoy, on account of the loyalty of his father and in consideration of the fact that his brother Theobald, who died without issue, "was slain in the late rebellion," as were also his other four brothers. This discharge, as well as a fee farm grant of the lands of Downemaghell and Johnstown, is dated January 19th, 1587.<sup>21</sup>

There is an inkling in the Visitation Book of 1591 that even then the Canons had not wholly deserted their old Priory, for it is stated that at that date the Prebend of Ballyhay was usurped by the Prior of Bridgetown: "R. de Bealaghathay usurpatur per Priorem Pontis; Vicarius, William Carney, laicus qui propter defectum sacrorum ordinum et manifestam contumaciam est deprivatus." (MS., T.C.D., E 3, 14.) In the same Visitation Book the Prior of Bridgetown is given as Rector of Bridgetown—"particula de Legane locus vastus."

Ludovick Briskett was granted the Priory, "with all houses and buildings within the site, with the rectories of Bridgetown, Templeroabin in Barrymore, Great Island, and Castletownroche," to hold for 50 years, "to commence from determination of the existing leases," on December 13th, 1595. This grant was of very little avail to Briskett, as Lord Roche managed to hold these possessions till his death in August, 1600. His successor, David Lord Roche, is given as Rector of Bridgetown in 1633, and we find him as receiving the fruits of the Prebend of Ballyhay in 1634, worth £3 a year.

Under the Commonwealth the Bridgetown property was sequestered from Lord Roche and given to John Hodder, from whom it passed to William Hodder, who died in 1686. Maurice Lord Roche entered the Spanish service in 1652, and lent Charles II. most of his pay, thus almost beggaring his family. Yet when, after the Restoration, he claimed to be restored to his honours and estates, the King refused him a hearing. In a letter from the Earl of Orrery to Secretary Arlington, dated April 6th, 1666, the following significant paragraph occurs:—"As soon as I get a cipher I shall write those things which I do not write otherwise. *I hope you will secure O'Sullivan Beare and one Colonel David Roche, son to Lord Roche, for I find a storm abrewing from such sort of people in this Kingdom, as well as from the phanatticks.*"<sup>22</sup> Twelve years previously

<sup>19</sup> "Cal. of the Patent and Clan Rolls," Vol. II., p. 1.

<sup>20</sup> Fiants of Elizabeth., No. 3124.

<sup>21</sup> Morrin's "Cal. Pat. Rolls," II., 158.

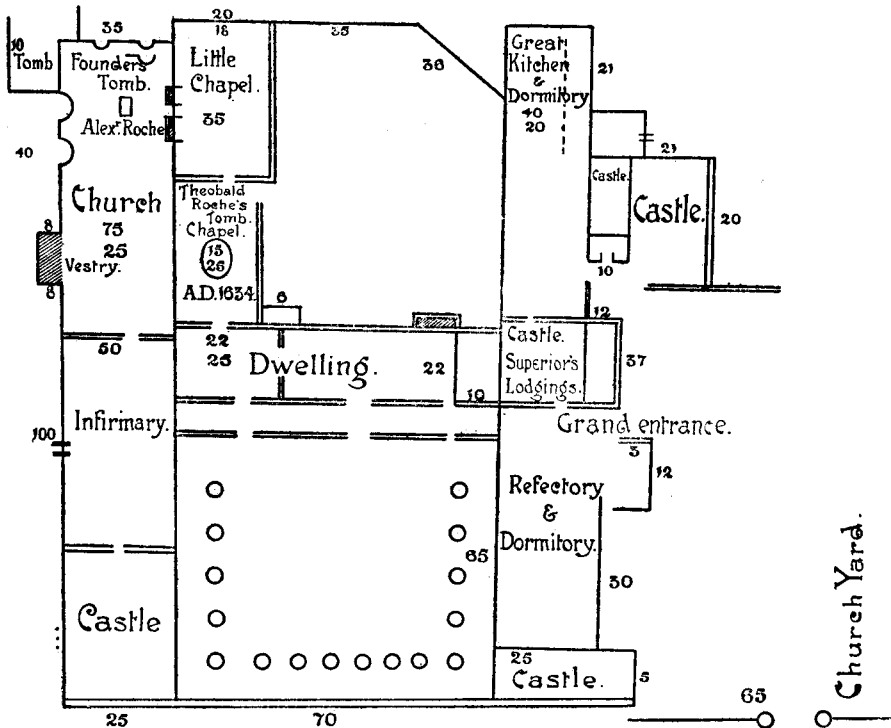
<sup>22</sup> "Cal. State Papers Irelande, Charles II., 1666-1669," p. 87.

Lady Roche was hanged in Cork, "having been falsely accused of murder by a certain ungrateful English maidservant whom she had taken into her house." <sup>23</sup>

In the 17th century Bridgetown parish formed part of the Union of Castletownroche. Father Donagh Callaghan was P.P. of Castletown, Ballyhooly, and Killathy from circa 1675 to 1716. He registered himself as P.P. in 1704, and is returned as Pastor on April 9th, 1714, and as having taken the Oath of Abjuration. In the Report on the State of Popery in 1731 the name of the Pastor is not given, but it is stated that in the union of Castletownroche there were "three Mass houses, one lately built."

Alas! that it must be recorded, 20th century vandalism, aided by the corroding tooth of Time, has rendered the ruins of the ancient Priory an object of pity to the antiquary. Between the years 1883 and 1905 the work of destruction and dilapidation progressed steadily, and in the latter year a beautiful arch of cut stone fell. The sad condition of the fabric in 1905 is given by the Very Rev. Michael Canon Higgins (who was P.P. of Castletownroche from March, 1901 to 1911, when he was transferred to Blarney), in the *Journal* of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland (Part I., vol.

<sup>23</sup> Morison's "Threnodia," p. 72.



GROUND PLAN OF BRIDGETOWN ABBEY.

The external wall of the whole building measures 691 feet.

xxxv., 31 March, 1905). Canon Higgins was then of opinion that "the existing remains would likely fall to pieces in a short time," and that "Bridgetown Priory will be but a memory."<sup>24</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Further information respecting Bridgetown Abbey appeared in Col. Grove-White's "Doneraile Notes," p. 307, which appeared in the "Journal" for Oct.-Dec., 1909. It was intended to build a Protestant Church on the ruins about 70 years ago, but the project fell through.

## Cork Worthies of the Last Century.

REV. DR. HINCKS.



HOUGH only for a time a resident of Cork, the Reverend Dr. Dix Hincks long left his mark in our City; for he was the founder of the Royal Cork Institution, whose extinction was brought about by the establishment of the Queen's College in 1849.

Dr. Hincks was born at Chester in June, 1767, and having early evinced a studious tendency, he entered the Dissenting College at Hackney. He there passed through his Collegiate course with credit, after which he settled as Minister of the Protestant Dissenting Congregation at Prince's Street, Cork, that named in the foregoing sketch of Richard Dowden (Richard)—an interesting paper on whose "Church Plate" by the late Mr. Robert Day appeared in the *Journal* for April-June, 1908.

Zealous, earnest, and indefatigable in his sacred calling, he directed his attention also to the mental culture of those around him, especially the young; and this led to his founding the Cork Institution, of which he became the Secretary, and in which for several years he gave courses in various branches of Natural Science.

His labours at this early period of his long and useful career were gratefully remembered in Cork, and his last days were gladdened by a highly complimentary Address from the Royal Cork Institution, which he received not long before his death.

From Cork Dr. Hincks removed to Fermoy, where he opened a classical school which soon attained distinction; but in 1821 he left Fermoy to join the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, in which he became Classical Headmaster and Professor of Hebrew, which latter position he held till not long before his decease.

A Member of the Royal Irish Academy, Dr. Hincks was also a Member of the Belfast Library Society and of the Belfast Natural History Society—his papers read at the meetings of the latter body being remarkable for their clearness and precision of detail, whilst in botanical subjects he was looked up to as an authority.

Notwithstanding the numerous calls on his attention, he found time for the production of many works of great merit, including several school-books, which were reckoned amongst the best of their day, particularly his