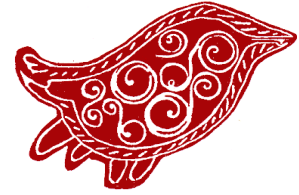


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These references merely show how much there still is to be discovered in connection with Stone Circles, and of what great interest any new feature, whether above-ground in the stones themselves, or below-ground as "finds," will be.

Investigators may look not for any dull uniformity in Stone Circles. On the contrary, regarding only the five described in this paper, it will be noticed that there is considerable diversity in the arrangement of each Circle, though the main design may be the same.

That is to say, while in each case there is a (roughly) circular ring of stones about 32 feet in diameter, with a Recumbent stone in the SW. segment, faced with two pillar stones, beyond these fundamentals there is considerable variety in (1) the number of stones forming the Circle; (2) in their height; (3) in the shape of the Pillar stones and the manner in which they are planted in the ground, and (4) in the azimuth of the Line of Entrance.

We may compare this with churches of the present day; all of which have the same general outlay of nave and chancel; yet, beyond this, no two are exactly similar in size, ground-plan, or details of construction.

It is probable that, when sufficient Stone Circles have been thus closely examined, classifications among them will be possible, according to one or other of the peculiarities of construction enumerated above. Each individual Circle has its own interest, and it is certain that those who undertake the work of examination will be rewarded by discoveries which will add considerably to our knowledge of Irish life in times of which no other record remains.

Bank Holiday Visit to Muskerry.

By JOHN J. FITZGERALD, M.D., F.R.S.A.I.



ON August Bank Holiday, the following members of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society visited some of the antiquities of Muskerry:—Mr. Cors. Cremen, Mr. M. J. Lavallin (Hon. Treas.), Dr. Philip G. Lee (Hon. Sec.), Mr. Michael Holland, Dr. John J. Fitzgerald, Mr. O. W. Fitzgerald, Mr. Charles McCarthy, Mr. McPherson, Mr. F. C. Long, Mr. R. R. Cogan, Mr. M. F. Cogan.

A short stop was made at Dripsey to inspect the castle of Carrignamuck, formerly owned by the McCarthys, the local tradition (in the days when Gaelic was spoken generally in the district) was that the proper name of Carrignamuck was Carrig Cormac (pronounced Carrig-coramuck), and that the castle was so called after Cormac Laidher McCarthy, the builder of Blarney Castle and founder of Kilcrea Abbey. Cormac Laidher was killed by his brother Owen. In consequence of this crime, Owen McCarthy was deprived

of his right of succession to the chieftainship of the McCarthys of Muskerry, but was granted the Tuath of Cloghroe and was ancestor of the Cloghroe family. The Tuath of Cloghroe lay between the Shournagh river and the stream which runs through the Muskerry golf links and joins the Shournagh at Coachford Junction.

The party next moved on to view the ruins of Mashanaglas Castle. This castle was built shortly before 1585. A tiant of 1585 mentions Mashanaglas Castle as "the post of Donal MacOwen MacSwiney and his men." Its remains show a rectangular tower 40 feet from east to west and nearly 30 feet from north to south. The east wall containing the stairs and entrance was blown up with gunpowder in 1865 "by someone who wanted stones for building purposes or else was seeking treasure."

Donal MacOwen MacSwiney was succeeded at Mashanaglas by his son Neil, but Neil apparently did not live long, as in 1600 Neil's brother Owen was returned as the owner of the castle (Carew says Owen purchased it). Owen Oge MacSwiney, son of the last-mentioned Owen, was outlawed in 1641, but the Mashanaglas estate was returned to the MacSwineys by Charles II. after his restoration.

"On the 11th September, 1663, Daniel MacOwen MacSwiney, eldest son of Owen Oge, who was outlawed in 1641, released, transferred, and conveyed by way or exchange to Donagh McCarthy, Earl of Clancarty and his heirs for ever, Mashanaglas Castle and lands, containing three ploughlands, large Irish measure, formerly the inheritance of the said Daniel MacSwiney which descended to him from his ancestors, and the said Earl of Clancarty did convey by way of exchange unto the said Daniel MacOwen MacSwiney, and the heirs male of his body, the lands of Garrane-reagh, Lackerragh and Killeglasse (Parish of Kilmichael) and Knocknaneirke (Parish of Kilmurphy), containing by estimation three ploughlands of large Irish measure in the Barony of Muskerry."

Daniel MacOwen MacSwiney died at Knocknaneirke, Kilmurphy, in 1667, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Owen MacDonal MacSwiney, who died in 1686 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Daniel MacSwiney.

Samuel Sweete, an attorney and a tenant of Daniel MacSwiney, ousted the MacSwineys from Killeglasse and changed the name to Greenville in the Penal times. A son of the last mentioned Daniel MacSwiney was living in 1733. His name was Owen MacSwiney.

The late Mr. H. W. Gillman of Clonteadmore, writing in the *this Journal* in 1892, in ignorance of the exchange effected between the MacSwineys and the Earl of Clancarty in 1663, quotes a document of 1666 in which Lord Clancarty is mentioned as owner of Mashanaglas, and says that the MacSwineys must have been let back into Mashanaglas as "tenants" of Lord Clancarty "subject now to a rent in money."

Mr. Gillman was wrong, as the MacSwineys were owners of Mashanaglas up to the date of the exchange with the Earl in 1663. They paid the feudal fees to MacCarthy as overlord of half an eyrie of great hawks, with free ingress and egress to the Lord of Muskerry and his wife, with continuance



MASHANAGLAS CASTLE
MacSwiney.



“STONE OF HOSPITALITY”
Of MacSwineys in Dooniskey Parish.

Photos by Dr. P. G. Lee.



MAUSOLEUM OF BEAMISH FAMILY
Near Dooniskey Station, C. & M. Railway.



LARGE RATH AT SLIEVEOWEN
Parish of Kilmichael.

Photos by Dr. P. G. Lee.

of residence there during pleasure and a money tribute of £4, but they were not tenants of Mashanaglas but owners in fee.

The party next went through the parish of Cannaway. Before 1641 the greater portion of this parish was the property of the O'Long family. Their property comprised the townlands of Lehenagh, Cooldrum, Coolnasoon, Monallig, Innishmore and Killinardorish. They also held the small townland of Gurrane I. Long, in the parish of Moviddy, and extensive lands in the Barony of Kinelea where the ruins of their Castle Mountlong still exists near Oysterhaven Bay. Darby O'Long in 1688 got a lease of portion of what had been his own property, viz., Lehenagh, Monallig and Killinardorish. Some of the O'Long lands were granted by Cromwell to Peircy Freke.

The party next moved on to Dooniskey to visit the remains of Castle Dermot Oge, a MacCarthy fortress, which was garrisoned by the MacSwineys. Hardly any trace of the castle now remains except the foundations. It was built some time between 1465 and 1500. A fine view of the surrounding country can be had from its site. Absolutely no trace of the ruins of the parish church of Dooniskey, or of an ancient graveyard, which was near it, could be discovered. The late Canon Lyons, P.P., Monkstown, said the ruins of the old church still existed in 1860. A late owner, we were told on the day of our visit, destroyed all traces of the church and graveyard.

The church was known as "Teampul Aghadoe." Canon Lyons says the name means "the church of the two yew trees." A field near the site of Castle Dermot Oge was known to the old Irish speaking people as "mointean na gloigionn" (the boggy meadow of the skulls). It may have been the scene of a long-forgotten battle. Another field is known as "Slaunlaun" (the healing). A holy well is said to have existed in this field. We could find no trace of the well; perhaps the person who removed the ruins of the church and graveyard filled it up.

This well was reputed to have great healing powers. A small stream at the south side of the townland is known as the Buingea. A souterrain was accidentally discovered lately near a mausoleum built by one of the Beamish family. Unfortunately owing to the shortness of time at the members' disposal and their programme of sight-seeing being so extensive, they had not time to investigate it.

Owen MacTirelagh MacSwiney, captain of Gallowglasses, was in charge of Carrig Dermot Oge Castle in 1573. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Edmund MacSwiney, who was there in 1619. Edmund Oge MacSwiney succeeded Edmund MacSwiney.

After 1641 we hear no more of Carrig Dermot Oge, and the MacSwiney family who lived there were reduced to the position of tenant farmers. The MacSwineys were famous for hospitality, and Smith, writing in 1752 in his *History of Cork*, says: "On the west side of the high road near Dooniskey, there was a stone set up with an Irish inscription, signifying to all passengers to repair to the house of Mr. Edmund MacSwiney for entertainment. This stone still lies in a ditch, and the Irish say that the

person of this family who overthrew it never throve afterwards." Windele, the Cork antiquary, says : "The stone is a mere boundary stone, forming, at the time of my visit, part of the road fence and inscribed 1614 E.O.S." Mr. H. W. Gillman, writing in 1892, said "that even this is not correct, that the inscription is "1619 E.M.S." and that there is no sign of any further inscription. The date is certainly 1619, and the central letter is an M of old formation, which might easily be mistaken for an O, as happened with Windele. The letters, of course, stand for Edmund MacSwiney. The stone stands within a field of the remains of Castle Dermot Oge, the stronghold of the said MacSwiney."

The party next went on to Kilmichael parish and inspected the large rath at Slieve Owen and took many photographs of same.

The next place visited was Ahakeera, to see the ruined castle of the O'Crowleys. The castle stands on the farm of Mr. Thomas Buttimer, who kindly gave full facilities to the members to inspect and photograph the interesting remains of the stronghold of the once famous sept of the O'Crowleys. The country of the O'Crowleys in former times was known as Kilshallogh. It comprised the east part of Fanlobbus and the west of Kinneigh parishes, the small river known as the Blackwater running through its centre. The O'Crowleys held 32 ploughlands and paid a tribute yearly to MacCarthy Reagh of £9 4s. 4d. In a fiant dated May 29th, 1601 (Elizabeth), a pardon is granted to Teig MacDermot O'Crowley, alias O'Crowley (*i.e.*, chief of his name), his son Dermot MacTeig O'Crowley and, among others, to Donal and Teig MacRandal O'Crowley (Reagh), all of Kilshallogh. In 1641, Dermot O'Crowley (Baccagh), gentleman, of Behagullane, was outlawed, and a whole lot of O'Crowleys shared his fate. The will of Teig O'Crowley, of Behagullane, dated 1683, was amongst the documents destroyed at the burning of the Four Courts in 1922.

The three chief families of the O'Crowley sept were the O'Crowleys (buidhe), the O'Crowleys (baccagh) and the O'Crowleys (reagh).

The party next moved on to Inchigeela and stopped at Droumcarra to photograph the Castle there. The proprietor of Droumcarra Castle in 1641 was Aulive MacDonagh O'Leary. The remains of the castle are in a fairly good state of preservation. In 1641, the head of the O'Leary sept was Conougher O'Leary. He lived at Carrignacurra Castle. Donal MacArt O'Leary lived in the same year at Carrignaneelagh Castle. The lands of the O'Learys amounted to 30 ploughlands.

This ended a most interesting day's excursion. It is to be hoped that the visit will stimulate the rising generation in the districts visited by the Society to take an interest and pride in local history.



AHAKEERA CASTLE
Built by the O'Crowley's.



DROUMCARRA CASTLE
Built by O'Leary's.

Photos by Dr. P. G. Lee.