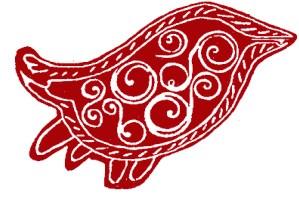


Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society



www.corkhist.ie

Title: The place names and antiquities of Kinalmeaky barony, Co. Cork (contd)

Author: Ó Ríordáin, Seán P.

Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society, 1933, Vol. 38, No. 147,
page(s) 16-19

Published by the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

Digital file created: March 13, 2015

Your use of the JCHAS digital archive indicates that you accept the Terms and Conditions of Use,
available at <http://www.corkhist.ie/info/tandc.pdf>

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 all 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.

The Place Names and Antiquities of Kinalmeaky Barony, Co. Cork.

By SEÁN P. Ó RÍORDÁIN, M.A., H. Dip. in Ed.

(Continued.)

PARISH OF KILBROGAN.

Kilbeg—CILL ŪEΔS, *Little Church*.

There are two townlands of this name, Kilbeg North (216 A) and Kilbeg South (182 A). The latter lies along the bank of the River Bandon. These townlands were formerly the property of the Bishops of Cork. Because of the fact that the district along the river bank was early settled by the English Planters, and has since in most cases changed ownership at least once, tradition is very unreliable here and the old names of sub-denominations and fields have almost entirely disappeared. For this reason neither local tradition nor local pronunciation can be called to our aid in deciding whether Kilbeg is from CILL ŪEΔS, or CILL ŪEΔS. I incline to the latter interpretation because :—

(1) Of the ownership of the townland by the See of Cork and the fact that Kilbeg Castle is said to have been the dwelling-place of one of the Bishops of Cork ; this may indicate the early ecclesiastical connections of this place, and the continuance of these as indicated by the ecclesiastical ownership to a late date.

(2) The name Kilmore is applied to another townland a comparatively short distance north of this one, and since Kilmore certainly contains the site of a *Cill*, it is probable that the latter name signifies *Big Church*, whence I would suggest that the adjectives ŪEΔS and MÓR in the two cases were applied to distinguish the one townland from the other when both contained churches.

One cannot, however, be dogmatic on the point, and it has been suggested that the name may be CILL ŪIS (ŪIS—genitive of personal name ŪEΔS).

Canon Lyons writes this name CILL ŪEΔS and John O'Donovan writes it CILL ŪEΔS, but neither give any reason for so doing.

Kilbeg Castle. This castle stands in Walsh's farm. Windele writes thus with regard to it (MS. in R.I.A., 12. I. 9.) :—

Kilbeg Castle is “. . . in a terrible state of ruin. It is said to have been the dwelling-place of some of the old Bishops of Cork—a moated House. It stands in a square bawn surrounded by a deep fosse. The building is oblong, 40 or 50 feet in length, 14 or 15 in breadth. The south wall has totally disappeared. In the north is a capacious chimney. The N.W. angle forms a small square turret with slit for shot-hole. The walls are two feet thick. The era was probably that of James I. or Charles I.”



KILBEG CASTLE—Present Time.

(Photo by Sean P. O Riordain, M.A.)



KILBEG CASTLE.

From Sketch by Wakeman, 1841,
in Royal Irish Academy.

The circular mound on which the castle stands, and around which was the moat referred to by Windele, may still be noticed. It is about 30 yards in diameter.

Spenser's daughter, Catherine, who married William Wiseman of Bandonbridge,⁴ lived and died here. She is buried in Kilbrogan Churchyard

Sub-Denominations—

Ρύικίν Lane. May be the lane of the "Little Pooka," or Ρύικίν may mean gloomy or small.

Priest's Hole. A hole in the river, below the castle.

Spratts' Stream. Applied to a part of the river.

Field Name—

Ράηρσ αν τσαιξουίρησ, the *Field of the Soldier.*

Curryclough—Coρρησ Cloc, *Stone Hillock.*

This townland contains 365 acres.

There are the remains of two lioses (unrecorded), both of which are now levelled, but the sites may be distinguished.

(1) In Bradfield's land was a lios, part of which extended beyond the boundary fence into Cahill's farm.

(2) In MacNamara's farm the site of a demolished lios may be noted by the bend in the fence where the lios formerly stood. Judging from the size of this arc, the lios would appear to have been about 40 yards in diameter.

Sub-Denomination—

Cutlers' Town. This name is applied to a part of Bradfield's farm where a colony of cutlers lived formerly.

Field Names—

Ράηρσ να Cρηαιίσε, the *Field of the Rick.*

Ράηρσ να Mot, the *Field of the Heaps.*

Shinagh. Seανσς. This word is a common element in place-names, though its signification is uncertain. It may be from Seαν-ρησς=Seαν-μας (Old Plain), as Professor O'Donoghue suggests.

This townland lies to the north of the Bandon River and contains 471 acres.

In Desmond's farm is a large stone known as *The White Lady*, on which, it is said, it was customary to post a scout while Mass was being said near-by during Penal times.

Sub-Denomination—

Foxes' Bridge.

Laragh—Λάιρσσς, *Ruin.*

This townland lies on the north of the Bandon River and contains 609 acres.

Cill. In Con Ryan's farm is a field known as the *Cill Field*. It lies westward of the road and immediately north of the lane giving entrance to the farmhouse. This field is a large one, but the higher level portion

⁴ See Henley : " *Spenser in Ireland*, p. 204, and Bennett : *History of Bandon*, p. 95.

(at the south side) was formerly cut off from the remainder by a fence which has been levelled. This southern part was evidently the site of the Cill, and though no traces of it now remain, local tradition holds that a graveyard formerly existed here.

Sub-Denominations—

Tobernamalla (O.M.).—Τοβαρι να ματα, *the Well of the Hill-Brow.*

Tinker's Cross-Roads—Cpoy an Tinncéara. Said to be so named because a tinker was killed here.

Folkes' Jump. A name applied to a part of the road where a gentleman named Folkes jumped across.

Field Names—

Ράριε αν Ḳnocáin, *the Field of the Hillock.*

Τυαίριν, *Little Cattle-Field.*

Caol, *Narrow.* This name is applied to a field (in Laragh townland) through which a stream runs. Among the meanings given by Dinneen for the noun caol, are: "a marshy stream: a marsh."

Ράριε Caib, *Cob's Field* (probably). Cob may be a personal name or nickname.

Coolfadda—Cút ραβα, *Long Back (of Hill).*

This townland of 380 acres lies along the north bank of the River Bandon and includes part of the western portion of the town.

Kilbrogan Protestant Church, built in 1610 and the first church erected for Protestant worship in Ireland, stands at the eastern end of this townland. Both Smith and Bennett note that it was erected on a Danish entrenchment or fort (probably a ring-fort), and the latter authority states that the site was formerly known as *Badger's Hill*. There is corroboration of the statement that a fort formerly existed here in the cutting from the *Cork Examiner* (1848) to be found in the Windele MSS. (12. C. 10., R.I.A.). This is a letter to the editor which states that while repairs were being carried out to the walls of the church an "old entrenchment" was discovered at a depth of about 16 feet.

A stone on the south wall of the church bears the inscription "1625. Memento Mori," but this was placed here during alterations to the church in that year and does not commemorate its building.

Several curious tomb-stone inscriptions of Kilbrogan graveyard are mentioned by Smith and Bennett, but it is not necessary to quote them here.

A recently erected memorial plate is of interest because of its historical associations. It commemorates the Teulon family, and the members of this family are traced back to Pierre Teulon, of Mont Pelier, Languedoc, a Huguenot refugee in 1690. These Huguenots were important in the history of Bandon town (where many of them settled), because they helped by their skill as artizans to found several local industries.

On the wall near the southern door is a badge of the Bandon Yeomanry on which is a representation of William of Orange with the inscription "Bandon Boyne Yeomanry. Glorious Memory" and the date 1690.

A chalice and two patens in Kilbrogan Church are the work of Goble the Huguenot silversmith (see also Ballymodan). One of the patens is

the gift of Mrs. Maria Bull of Bandon (1688) (Day : J.R.S.A.I., Vol. XVII., 344).

Outside the church have recently been placed wooden stocks which were formerly kept in Bandon Courthouse.

The story is told that two farm-houses (Twomey's and Collins's) which are a short distance north of the hill-brow were being built originally to the south on the slope above the river but the builders were ordered by Lord Bandon to change the site out of view of the Castle.

In Twomey's farm are quarries from whence the stone was got for the town-walls of Bandon.

Two lioses (unrecorded) formerly existed in this townland but both are now levelled :—

(1) In Twomey's farm (in *Ῥάιησ αν Ἐερα*) the site of one may be noticed by the plainly-marked sunken circular area which is about 36 yards in diameter. There is a tradition of an opening here to a souterrain.

(2) In Buckley's the ring in the surface of the field plainly marks the position of the lios, which was about 30 yards in diameter.

Sub-Denomination—

Κνοικίη, Little Hill.

Field Names—

Ῥάιησ αν Ἴμ' εἴσῦρ αν Ὀδίνη, the Butter and Milk Field. (A similar name—*Κυαρ ἄρδην εἴσῦρ Κάιη,*—is found in Carbery).

Ἐερα, Hill-Slope.

The Oatencake Field. (There is a *Ὀότδην Oatencake* near Midleton).

Fullers' Field. A name reminiscent of a colony of fullers who lived here.

Carhoon—*Κεατρημάθ, Quarter.*

There are two townlands of this name, Carhoon East (273 acres) and Carhoon West (530 acres). The English form of the name is derived from the dative *Κεατρημάθην*, but local pronunciation favours the nominative.

In Bateman's farm there is said to have been a lios, now cleared away. (It was not recorded on the O.M.).

In Richard Bradfield's (Carhoon West) is a *Cill Field*. The traces in the field consist of an elongated hollow about 45 yards in length and varying in breadth from 9 yards to 5 yards.

At the lower end is a large stone which is now lying on the ground but which formerly stood perpendicular.

A large block of stone in Ahern's farm was shown me because of the peculiar markings on it. These were shaped like the human foot, but I do not know that any folklore or tradition attaches to them.