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Author: Ó Murchadha, Diarmuid

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# Kinnatalloon: its original Irish name

By DIARMUID Ó MURCHADHA

The little barony of Kinnatalloon in east Cork, while not the smallest of Cork county's score of baronies, is certainly the least celebrated in the pages of this *Journal*. Recently, when I had occasion to seek information on the area, I searched the *Journal* indexes, beginning with the most recent one (1996–2005), and was dismayed to find no mention of the barony name until I reached the earliest one (1892–1940), where a lone (misspelt) entry directed me to vol. viii (1907) 157. Here, a four-line entry supplied the interesting information that 'Kilnataloon' denoted 'the church across the river'. On further investigation, I discovered that both spelling and translation were taken directly from Smith's *History of Cork* (1750).<sup>1</sup>

As it happens, the modern official spelling, Kinnatalloon, is itself a misleading anglicisation of the name, and one which led to Risteárd Ó Foghludha's Irish reconstruction as *Cine Tolamhan*.<sup>2</sup> His first element, *cine* (O. Ir. *ciniud* / *cined*), 'offspring or race', generally found in phrases such as *an cine daonna*, 'the human race', is hardly ever used as part of a tribal placename. Though there is no occurrence of an Irish version of the name in the older literature, early documentary forms make it clear that 'Kinna-' almost certainly represents *ceinéal* / *cinéal* (O. Ir. *cenél*). This word is similar in meaning to *cine*, but much more frequently found in tribal placenames, as for example in two other barony names in Co. Cork, Kinalea (*Ceinéal Aodha*) and Kinalmeaky (*Ceinéal mBéice*). This was noticed by east Cork's celebrated historian, the late Liam Ó Buachalla

who, in this *Journal* in 1939, in the final (unindexed!) footnote to his article on 'The Uí Liatháin and their septlands', wrote of Kinnatalloon: 'It may be a corruption of Cineal Tolamanach'.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, Paul MacCotter and Kenneth Nicholls refer to it as *Cineal Talamhain*.<sup>4</sup>

Ó Buachalla's footnote makes reference to a king of Uí Liatháin who was slain in the battle of Carn Conaill in AD 649: *Tolamhnach, toisech Ua Liathain*.<sup>5</sup> As there is none other with that unusual personal name recorded anywhere, it is more than likely that this man was the eponym of Kinnatalloon, and that the original Irish form was *Ceinéal Tolamhnaigh* or *Talamhnaigh*.<sup>6</sup> The Uí Liatháin, descendants, according to the genealogists,<sup>7</sup> of Eochaidh Liathán, were in pre-Norman times lords of all east Cork south of the Blackwater. In modern terms, this consists of the baronies of Imokilly (*Uí Meic Caille*, named after the descendants of Mac Caille, a grandson of Eochaidh), Kinnatalloon, and the principal section, Barrymore (formerly Olethan), which, after the Barry family settled there, had one of its chief strongholds at *Caisleán Ua Liatháin* (Castlelyons).

Yet, though *Ceinéal Talamhnaigh* is obviously an early name, perhaps of the seventh or eighth century, there is no record of its being used to designate a specific area until much later. Kinnatalloon today consists of the civil parishes of Aghern, Ballynoe, Mogeely,<sup>8</sup> and most of Knockmourne, with small parts of Britway and Clonmult. But in the earliest lists,

c. 1300, these parishes are found in the deanery of Olethan.<sup>9</sup> Similarly, in a list of Norman holdings dated 1301, almost all of the first dozen parish and townland names in 'Olethan' are today those which comprise the barony of Kinnatalloon.<sup>10</sup> The origins of the modern barony are traced by Kenneth Nicholls to a territorial dispute between the Barrys and the Desmond Fitzgeralds in the mid-fourteenth century:

By the time that David (V) de Barry came of age in 1356 the eastern manors of Knockmourne and Ballynoe (the Newtown of Olethan), which had belonged to the de Freyne family, had come into the hands of the first earl of Desmond and in the following period this area was to be subtracted from the Barry lordship, developing into the later barony of Kinnatalloon.<sup>11</sup>

A century later, in 1459, William Lord Barry released Conna and Cooladurragh in Knockmourne parish, along with other lands, to Thomas, Earl of Desmond, on the occasion of his marriage to Lord Barry's daughter, Ellice.<sup>12</sup> The earliest known occurrence of the barony name is in the charters of the Terry family, copies of which were preserved among the Sarsfield papers at Doughcloyne. One deed, dated 17 Henry VII (1503), names a number of townlands in east Cork granted by James Wache [*recte* Walche], chaplain, to Philip son of Thomas Tyrry, as follows:

in d[omi]nio de Belachochyll, Ardnichwlyn, Balychorrygeny, Balychochlayn, Balydawgpadyg, Balynamony, Balynaraha, Balyglassayn, et Balynacaylly in d[omi]nio de Kynealtalwn, una cum advocacione p[re]dicte eccl[esi]e de Ardnichwlyn.<sup>13</sup>

In a later document, of 9 Henry VIII (1521), the overlord, John Barry *Mór*, released, on a pledge of twelve marks English money, all his rights and interests in the same lands to Edmond Tyrry, apparently a son of Philip.<sup>14</sup> The two lists of lands match almost exactly, apart from some slight spelling variations and the addition of 'Balyintley' to the second list.

Both begin in the demesne (*dominium*) of Belachochyll, which, judging by its name, was in the vicinity of Youghal. *Bealach Eochaille* ('Way of Eochaille') is twice mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters, at AD 872 when plundering of the Déise by Cearbhall, king of Osraighe extended as far as Bealach Eochaille, and again in AD 1123 when a great army was led by Toirdhealbhadh, king of Connacht, into Desmond, all the way to Bealach Eochaille.<sup>15</sup> As it happens, two of the places listed above, Balychorrygeny and Balyglassayn, are probably two adjoining townlands, Ballycurraginny<sup>16</sup> and Ballyglassin, in the parish of Killeagh, which has an old-established settlement on the road from Cork to Youghal.

Adjacent though the two townlands may be, they are not so placed in the list, but intermixed with others. Following Belachochyll is Ardnichwlyn (Ardcelyn in 1521), named separately as a church site. This seems to be an anglicisation of *\*Ard Inse Cuilinn*, an early parish name comprising most of what is now the parish of Gortroe in the barony of Barrymore. There is no townland of Gortroe; the old parish church and graveyard are sited, rather appropriately, in the townland of Ballinterry,<sup>17</sup> but the name of the townland to the south, Hollyhill, may derive from an earlier *\*Ard Cuilinn*. It appears as 'Inchecolyn' in the ecclesiastical taxation lists of c. 1300,<sup>18</sup> and the equivalence is confirmed in later parochial records, e.g. 'R. de Gortrow als Inchicullin' in 1591.<sup>19</sup> At that time it formed, along with 'Disert', the corps of the archdeaconry;<sup>20</sup> the latter parish was later merged with Gortroe, where the townland of Desert contains the ruins of its old parish church.<sup>21</sup>

While 'Ardnichwlyn' (Gortroe) is placed directly after the *dominium* of Belachochyll, the list ends with 'Balynacaylly' ('Balynacoilly', 1521) in the *dominium* of Kynealtalwyn, and the only *\*Baile na Coille* in that region is Ballynakilla townland in the parish of Gortroe, indicating that the order of the list is not to be

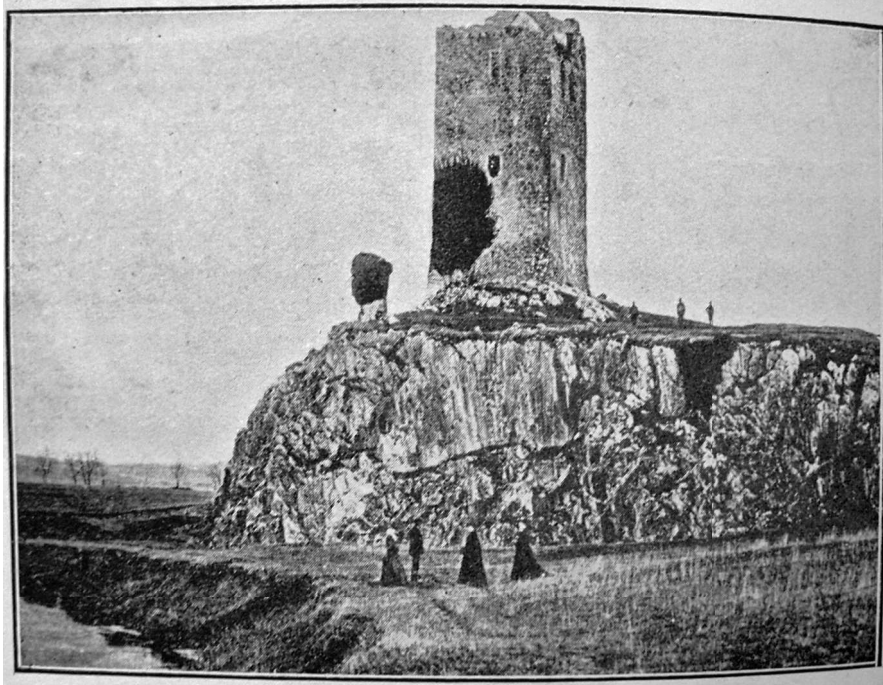


Fig. 1. Conna Castle (from *JCHAS XXI* (1915), facing p. 129)

relied on for location purposes. However, some of the remaining places in it are also likely to belong to Gortroe parish. ‘Balydawgpadyr’ (‘Balydawpatryd’, 1521) is probably Ballyda, while ‘Balynaraha’ and ‘Balynamony’ may be equivalent to the modern Rathaneague and Monananig, all townlands in Gortroe parish. Today this parish is in the barony of Barrymore, but then formed part of the *dominium* of Kynealtalwn, a name which, as Nicholls notes, had formerly a wider significance.<sup>22</sup>

In these early sixteenth-century documents, the first name-element, *cinéal* / *ceinéal*, is clearly evident, and is confirmed by later forms, as for example in a 1572 extent of ‘Desmond’s lands’, which includes the following:

Sir Thomas FitzGerald, another brother, holds the manor of Connehe, the castle of Aghcarrin, Newtown [and] Lissan, with all the lands of Keneall Callor, also Coghans great castle.<sup>23</sup>

Though ‘Callor’ is somewhat garbled, *Ceinéal* is apparent in the first element. (‘Coghan’s great castle’ is in a different area, at Castlemore (Barrett) near Mourne Abbey). Further versions of the name are found in 1600, namely: ‘Kynaltalown / Kynnaltalowne’.<sup>24</sup> These occur in documents which show that David Barry, Viscount Buttevant, was using his ‘ancient title’ in an effort to recover Conna and all Kinnatalloon:

that it may please Her Highness to grant unto me the castle of Conyhie and the lands thereto adjoining, called Kynaltalown, lately belonging to James FitzThomas the traitor, which lands contain thirty ploughlands. I have a good ancient title to the same ... If it shall please Her Majesty to grant the same, I will fortify the said castle, and put in a good garrison, that will offend such rebels as shall haunt Drumfinnin woods.

Barry Court (1600, June 18)

There was, however, a rival claimant, Edmond FitzGibbon, ‘the White Knight’, the one who joined in the hunt for FitzThomas in 1601 and, having located him near Skeheenaranky, Co. Tipperary, in one of the ‘Mitchelstown’ caves since known as ‘Desmond’s Cave’, promptly handed him over to Carew. His perfidy earned him £1,000,<sup>25</sup> but he hoped to be further rewarded with a grant of lands in what he called ‘Kinalcallow’:

As the lands of Kinelcallow, viz. Aghecarren, Ballymacsimon, Ballinatten, Ballynoe and Knockmorny, and the other lands forfeited by the attainder of James Fitzthomas border on petitioners lands, he prays that they may be passed to him at such rents as the lands may be extended to.<sup>26</sup>

Despite their expressions of loyalty, both claimants were outmanoeuvred by a third more devious landgrabber, Sir John FitzEdmond (Fitzgerald) of Cloyne, who in October 1602 acquired a 21-year lease of the manor and lands of ‘Conechie’ (including Ballymacsimon).<sup>27</sup>

Conna castle itself (see fig. 1) – apart from its site – was never a Barry possession. It was a tower-house built in the mid-sixteenth century in territory acquired by the Earls of Desmond in previous centuries. When the fifteenth earl disinherited his eldest son, Thomas *Ruadh*, he allowed him, by way of compensation, the barony of Kinnatalloon, where Thomas built his tower-house at Conna, probably in 1560–1.<sup>28</sup> Thomas took no part in the Desmond rebellions, but after his death his eldest son James, the ‘*Súgán* Earl’, did, and so incurred the penalty of attainder. In 1605 King James I, disregarding John FitzEdmond’s lease, gave a new one to Sir James Fullerton, who promptly passed his interest on to Sir Richard Boyle, then on his way to becoming the great landowning Earl of Cork. It may well have been Boyle who was responsible for the new form ‘Kinnatalloon’; spelling was not his forte, as may be noticed in the following extract from his diary:

(June 1631) I received Mr Burlymachies lettres to paie Capn Tho Mansfeild 50li. ster: which I mean to set owt in the arrears he owes me for my Mills at Kynatallooun.<sup>29</sup>

From then on, it seems that the new spelling became established. Conna, under the Boyles and later proprietors, remained its principal manor, replacing older castle-settlements such as Ballynoe and Mogeely, once the favourite residence of Thomas, 11th Earl of Desmond. Conna Castle survived dismantling by Essex in 1599, capture by Lord Castlehaven in 1645, bombarding by Cromwell in 1650, a burning in 1653 and later neglect, until a late nineteenth-century owner, Revd A.G.K. L’Estrange, partially restored it, and at his death bequeathed it to the nation (National Monument no. 240).<sup>30</sup>

By the time the next index to the *Journal* is compiled, it is to be hoped that this short article – whose main purpose is to establish the correct Irish form of Kinnatalloon – will be joined in the listings by the titles of further contributions from those with a more detailed local knowledge of a historic and picturesque barony.

#### NOTES AND REFERENCES

- 1 C. Smith, *The Ancient and Present State of the County and City of Cork* (1893 ed., Cork) i, 103.
- 2 R. Ó Foghludha, *Log-ainmneacha .i. Dictionary of Irish Placenames* (Dublin, 1935) 46.
- 3 *JCHAS* 44 (1939) 36.
- 4 P. MacCotter, K.W. Nicholls, eds, *The Pipe Roll of Cloyne (Rotulus Pipae Clonensis)* (Cloyne, 1996) 228.
- 5 J. O’Donovan, ed., *Annala Rioghachta Eireann: Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland, by the Four Masters* (Dublin, 1856; repr. Dublin, 1990) i, 260 (s.a. 645).
- 6 See P.S. Dinneen, ed., *Foras Feasa ar Éirinn: the History of Ireland, by Geoffrey Keating, D.D.* (vol. 3, ITS, London, 1908) 134, where the name is written ‘Talamonach’. *Ceinéal Talamhnaigh* is the form of the name adopted in P. Ó Riain, D. Ó Murchadha,

- K. Murray, eds, *Historical Dictionary of Gaelic Placenames*, Fascicle 4 (ITS, London, 2011).
- 7 See, e.g., M.A. O'Brien, ed., *Corpus Genealogiarum Hiberniae*, vol. 1 (Dublin, 1962) 148a15.
- 8 Mogeely castle and parish in Kinnatalloon are separate from Mogeely village and parish near Castlemartyr. They are also listed separately in early fourteenth-century documents (see following notes).
- 9 *Calendar of Documents Relating to Ireland, 1302–1307* (London, 1886) 276 (see also p. 313).
- 10 L. Ó Buachalla, 'An early fourteenth-century placename list for Anglo-Norman Cork', (pt 3), *Dinnseanchas* 2 (1967) 61–67 (p. 61).
- 11 K.W. Nicholls, 'The development of lordship in County Cork 1300–1600', in P. O'Flanagan, C.G. Buttimer, eds, *Cork: History & Society* (Dublin, 1993) 157–212 (p. 176).
- 12 A.B. Grosart, *The Lismore Papers* (1st ser.) (5 vols, 1886) i, 132.
- 13 R. Caulfield, ed., 'Chartae Tyrryanae' in J. Gough, *Topographer and Genealogist* 3 (1858) 110–122 (p. 115).
- 14 *Ibid.*, 116.
- 15 O'Donovan, ed., *Annala Rioghachta Eireann*, i, 518; ii, 1016.
- 16 The eponym of this unusual townland name was probably Corgene le Waleys, one of several Welshmen named as landholders in Imokilly in an inquisition of 1288 (see R. Caulfield, ed., *The Council Book of the Corporation of Youghal* (Guildford, 1878) xxxiv–xxxv).
- 17 For a description of the site, see L. Ó Buachalla and R. Henchion, 'Gravestones of historical interest', *JCHAS* 71 (1966) 76–80 (pp. 79–80), and D. Power et al., *Archaeological Inventory of County Cork* (Dublin, 1994) ii, 257 (no. 5682). For long-established clerical connections of the Tyrry/Terry family in the dioceses of Cork and Cloyne (including Archdeacon David Tyrry in Gortroe and Desert in 1520), see K. Terry, 'Aspects of settlement of an hereditary clerical family in the medieval period: the Terrys of Cork', *JCHAS* 115 (2010) 23–30.
- 18 *Cal. Docs Ire., 1302–1307*, 275, 313.
- 19 W.M. Brady, *Clerical and Parochial Records of Cork, Cloyne and Ross* (London, 1864) ii, 221.
- 20 This connection continued into the nineteenth century; in 1834 Ballinterry House was the residence of Archdeacon William Ryder (of the Gortroe massacre fame).
- 21 Power, *Arch. Inventory, Co. Cork*, ii, 248 (no. 5626).
- 22 Nicholls, 'Lordship in Co. Cork', 204 (n. 134).
- 23 *Calendar of Carew Manuscripts, 1515–1574* (London, 1867) 417.
- 24 *Cal. Docs Ire.: 1600, March-October* (London, 1903) 251, 400.
- 25 S. O'Grady, ed., *Pacata Hibernia* [1st ed., 1633] (London, 1896) i, 208.
- 26 *Cal. Docs. Ire., 1601–1603*, 63.
- 27 *The Irish Fiants of the Tudor Sovereigns* (Dublin, 1994) iii, no. 6685.
- 28 See note by W.H. Grattan Flood in *JCHAS* 21 (1915) 195–7.
- 29 *The Lismore Papers* (1st ser.) iii, 86.
- 30 *The National Monuments of Ireland* (Dublin, 1964) 62.