

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Raths, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

Hag's Castle on a small island in Lough Muckish. Easily arrived at by boat from mainland or from Bushloma where resides John Bunker, island caretaker.

In the 16th cent. when the castle was taken by Bingham who breasted much of its eastern circumference, this was the strongest fortress in Lough Muckish - even said by some e.g. O'Donovan. to have been the stoutest structure in Ireland.

The fortress was circular, 92' in diameter. Wall 8 1/2' thick remains in varying heights to 30'. Much of the masonry has fallen in and there is a considerable depth of debris attached to the inner face of the wall - perhaps first floor height. In a circular chamber some 8' in diameter, with a pointed doorway and a conchelled roof.

History: Existed in the 12th century - in 1195 owned by the O'Connors from whom it was wrested by the O'Donovans. Recaptured in 1293 by the O'Connors who refortified it. Later, with the rise to power of the Norman clan of De Burgo or Bunker, the castle fell to his family and in 1574 was owned by Walter Bunker. Sir Richard Bingham, Lough Muckish Governor, took the stronghold in 1586. In doing so he razed the eastern wall portion. The Bunkers escaped in their boats to the western shore of the lake but as a result - the lesser Bunker chiefs gave submission and hostages to Bingham. In the same year however, the Bunkers of Kilmine, Lerna, and Loughbar rebelled - a parley was held at Ballinacree which amounted to nothing and the hostages were hanged. They were three boys aged 14, 9, and 7.

After varying short-lived periods of rebellion, the Bunkers were beaten to total submission and such of their lands as were retained by Bingham were held by him and his descendants for almost 300 years.

Loonagashel Castle: In Loonagashel. Land of Patrick Walsh.

no right-of-way. but in charge of O.P. rd.

A rectangular, base-battered building approx. 46' x 33' externally. Entered through the north curtain near east gable by a cut limestone, pointed-arch doorway 7' high by 4 1/2" wide. To the right is another pointed doorway at the foot of the stairs through the north wall. Stairway 2 1/2' wide - doorway 6' x 28 1/2". Opposite the main entrance a pointed doorway (7' by 4 1/2") gives into the castle's ground floor apartment which is 32' x 16' and which has a wide loop embrasure in the east, south and west walls - that to the west being 10' high. There is a 33" square by 33" deep recess in the south wall beside east curtain.

Between the apartment doorway and the main entrance, at first floor height, is a square opening 20" "murdering hole".

First floor was about 12' from ground floor level - a vaulted roof over both, yet intact. West is an embrasured ogee loop. In south wall is an embrasured loop and a mural running west from embrasure jamb. South wall is 7 1/2' thick. - In north curtain at west gable a doorway goes to first floor from the stairs. There is a central embrasured loop, and near it at east gable an embrasure-like recess with a tiny loop north and a smallish rectangular doorway into east gable mural which would appear to be ogee-like since the gable is 3' thicker at first floor height than at ground floor - the projection extending inwards.

From first floor doorway to stairway is spiral, in N.E. corner and is not accessible but goes upwards to the upper storey on the vault roof. This storey's walls remain to some height on the north and east sides - having plain wide apses - (void). From ground to tops of these walls is perhaps 45'. South wall and part of west have their upper storey portions much destroyed.

History: Built by the Burkes who were ousted by Richard Bingham whose brother Captain John Bingham, acquired it. In 1592 the local Burkes united to retake the castle but suffered heavy defeat. Apropos of this battle there is near the castle a spot known as "Ball na mairne" (Ball of the dead) or "The grave of the twelve Mary Burkes". Bingham is said to have slaughtered 12 women (some say 15) - each named Mary Burke, and buried

Rem in this spot (also in P. Walsh's).

In 1608 John Bingham of Cleangastel was knighted and granted the castle and 14 quarters of land. His nephew was knighted in 1632 and his descendant was Sir Charles Bingham, Capt of Inver (1776). The Bingham, although the castle was long vacant, held the lands up to the present century.

Cushlough Castle ruins. In Cushlough on the shore of Long Lough. Peter's Bunker's but open to roadway leading to the lake.

Of this there remain only an east gate and attached to it, a portion of the north & south walls — all to a height of some 10' and are 7' thick. A plain arched doorway (built up) in east gate. Internally 30' x 25' i.e. as it stands.

History: Originally there was a Bunker stronghold in Cushlough — either this ruin is built on its site or has incorporated some of the Bunker castle — probably the former.

The building is associated with Lord Tyrone's i.e. the first of the title (1681) — whose name was James O'Neil.

Going back, briefly in the associations of Ballinacree and Cushlough — after much dissension and strife between the Norman de Burgo clans themselves and between them and various other families — Edmund Bunker possessed himself of Mayo lands and became Mac William Oughter or the Mac William — with his castle and chief centre at Ballinacree. This around the year 1340. His brother, Ulick Bunker, at the same time seized Galway lands and became Mac William Ulick.

Edmund Bunker thus became an Irish chieftain — while also being an Anglo-Norman feudal lord. At Ballinacree he held court and ruled the lesser chiefs. As the Mac William he was supreme chieftain. His successors continued at Ballinacree. In 1576 the Mac William went to Galway and paid his respects to Sir Henry Sidney, Viceroy. Terms arranged included the admission by the Mac William of sheriffs into Mayo. He was knighted in return and thus held an Irish and an English title. So also Richard Bunker or "Leon Dick"

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husband of Grainne Mair and who died in 1583. and Richard Burke who died in 1584.

Sir Edward Fitten and Sir Nicholas Malby had up to this year been amicable with the MacWilliam chiefs but in 1585 Sir Richard Bingham came as Connaught Governor and in view, taking to Burkes and their Catholicity, ousted them from their power and estates.

In 1595 dissension was further caused amongst the Burke chieftains by the appointment by Hugh Roe O'Donnell, the Tyrconnell chief, of the MacWilliam at Ransakeera in Kilmaine Parish. There had been no MacWilliam for some years previous, O'Donnell elected Richard Burke, son of Walter. An unsuccessful candidate was Tibbott ne long an "Yehy of the stripes" son of Grainne Mair.

The election was unpopular - and as a result some of the clan went to the English side. Others to Spain. Tibbott ne long who changed sides, was later made Viscount Mayo - first of the title. Generally however the Burke powers and lands were taken away. An English planter called Nolan was given Cuslough and Lads. His settlers later acquired most, if not all of the MacWilliam property at Ballinrobe - this in 1617. Nolan died in 1628 and his son, Gregory inherited - to be dispossessed in 1665 under the Cromwellian regime. The castle and lands were given to James Cuff who was knighted in 1661. This man held the lands of Ballinrobe, Cragh, and Cuslough and for a time, at any rate, resided in Cuslough Castle. He died in 1678 and the title with him. He had married in 1665, Miss Dunger, a sister to the Earl of Longford. Indirectly the estates passed to a Michael Cuff and from him to his cousin James Cuff of Rathell in the parish of Balla and Manulla. James transferred to Ballinrobe in 1744 and in 1752 restored the old Burke castle there. A stone on a wall of the ruined military barracks has a long Latin inscription dealing with the restoration and the date 1752. James died in 1762. He had married in 1731, Elizabeth, dau. sister of the Earl of Arundel. Succeeded by the Rt. Hon. James Cuff, whom the peerage was bestowed as Baron Tyrone of Ballinrobe (1797). He was

M. P. in Grattan's Parliament and was also a Privy Councillor. He had many Mayo residences but lived chiefly at Castlebar (there is the Barony of Eyrewilly). In 1821 he sold his Ballinacree castle to the War Office and a military barracks was built in and around it. He was Barrack Master General of Ireland and died 15th June 1821. He is buried in the cemetery around the present Protestant Church in Ballinacree. Baroness Eyrewilly predeceased him by a year and her tombstone is beside his. He killed her with him.

Sources: From notes taken from "A Short History of Ballinacree Parish" (Barony of Kilmacine) by the late Right Rev. Monaghan D'Arcy U.D. M.R.I.A. - and from notes supplied by Rev. Fr. Mangon C.C., Belconn (Parish of Kells Manilla) on the Giff family history.

Liskillen Castle Ruins. In Liskillen James McKel. No R. of Way. Only a few pieces of wall survive of the courtyard wall and fragments and debris of the castle which stood within.

The castle was an O'Ruane stronghold up to the 15th century when the Barkers took it. In 1586 it was cured by the Staunton clan who sold it to a Captain Bowen. (From "A Short History of Ballinacree Parish")

Only some well fragments remain at Abbey St. Ballinacree, of either the ancient Augustinian Abbey or of a later church on its site. Lewis (Top. Dict.) says that the Augustinian monastery was founded prior to 1337 as in his year it is mentioned as the "monastery of de koba" in the Registry of the Dominican Friary of Athenry.

The Ballinacree monastery was suppressed in the 17th century and the friars disappeared. There is as yet however a "Friars Quarter" in Ballinacree - the name having remained.

The Knights Hospitallers of Kilmacine also had a house + church at Ballinacree - long ago destroyed.

Church Ruins beside Ballinacree town. One in graveyard by High St. and the other with gate off Chapel Rd.

The former ruin is that of nave only, some 90' x 18'. Its walls remain to a height of 12' 1/4" - all its apses which appear to have been plain featured, are broken. Of its history there is no account except that it was probably a parish or secular church.

The Chapel Road ruin is that of a church completed for service in 1819 and which was the parish church for some 35 years when it was vacated for the initial construction on the site of St. Mary's, the present parish church.

The building has nave, transepts and tower. The walls and tower yet stand. The tower is perhaps 60' high - disproportionately high for the height of nave and transepts whose walls are about 15' and gables 25'. Nave is 80' x 20' and each transept approx. 30' x 25'. The apses are wide, plain pointed. Tower has 4 crosses at its top.

"Templeneleeka" = a ruin of a church (nave only) which is much overgrown but about 40' x 18' with walls 10' high and gables 20' about five fields to the west of Peter Bank's of Cusclough (near Cusclough Castle). There is a pointed, chamfered doorway 6' high by 4' 3" wide in the south curtain. (no e. of way).

Nothing of history except that it was possibly a secular church. The island of Inishleah lies not far distant in Lough Mask and in the 14th century there was a separate parish called Inishleah - with secular clergy. On the island itself are the featureless remains of a church perhaps 25' x 14' - a small building.

In Rosbarro townland, in Peter Maye's are the ruins of a small church 35' x 14' internally. There remain a 14' long by 8' high portion of the north wall, an 11' long by 12' high portion of west gable, and a bit of the south wall and east gable.

of the history of the church that existed on Devenish Island in Lough Mask nothing is known. Only some wall fragments remain. caretaker of the island is John Burke of Irishdressa.

At Killoshine in an old graveyard are the remnants of a church which is thought to have been a secular one. (in Kilnam. rec.)

on the hill of Keland townland is a cairn - some 20' in diameter and about 15' high - unexcavated.

Chees is stone-fort in Chees townland. P. Moran's. Some 35 yds. diameter. giving its name to the townland.

Double-ring Fort in Myles Burke's in Lisken. Both diameter of 35 yds. (approx.) with its vallum 4/5 ft. high. The two fosses are each about 8' wide and ~~the~~ each enter vallum 5/6 ft. high.

St. Patrick's Well in Cavan Quarter. Unused.

Yellow Hill, a ^{district} ~~townland~~ near Ballinaclo which is referred to in the well-known rhyme "shake hands - broken, for you see a rope and I'm another... I'll be hanged at Ballinaclo and you'll be hanged in Ballintober."

Ruins of old military Barracks in Ballinaclo: The barracks were burned in 1922. Lewis (top. dict.) says that there were barracks for cavalry and infantry, the former had accommodation for eight officers and 106 non-com. officers and privates - the latter for 6 officers and 96 privates. There was a hospital to hold 20 patients.