

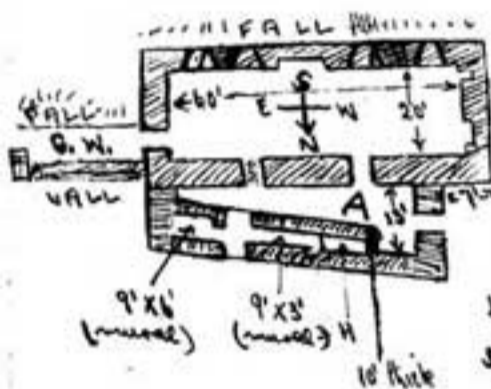
## ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, 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.

Kanturck Castle: In Kanturck. Ballykean district. John Gibbons. No right-of-way. Not in charge of Office of P.W.

The castle stood about cent's way on the <sup>southern</sup> ~~western~~ side of a walled rectangular lawn. Much of the <sup>lawn</sup> walls remain - also a corner tower and the remains of another. Beside the castle are the ruins of another residence - perhaps contemporaneous.

The castle itself was originally a rectangular, 2 storey <sup>with attic floor.</sup> structure, measuring internally some 60' x 20'. An unusually <sup>with</sup> sloped addition was made - A in rough ground plan below:



The main structure has its side walls 25' high to the south and its north wall and west gable except near the west gable. Gables to chimney tops perhaps 40'. West gable has: ground floor:- a broken exit and access. The exit gives on to a walk which is now grass grown but which has wall on left and steep fall to the right and led to the lawn's south-eastern corner tower which still stands.

The walk (G.W.) is known as Grainne's Walk - this being Grainne's Maids.

East gable - 1st floor: a plain fireplace and a broken window.

East gable - 2nd or attic floor: part of gable gone. Other has square cut window - mullion missing. Chimney is plain.

West gable - ground floor: a plain fireplace near north wall and what seems like a garden opening near south wall. - 1st floor: a central plain fireplace flanked by open-arch of two lights, dressed stone, rectangular, chamfered and abated, originally. One has lost its mullion - the other is built up loosely. Attic floor: two rectangular cut stone windows of which one is intact. Rectangular lights, chamfered and abated. Both windows carry external lead moulds. The chimney is plain. West wing.

South curtain: ground floor:- central broken fireplace flanked by two plain rectangular windows. 1st floor: 3 similar-sized chamfered and abated windows, each of two rectangular lights - mullions gone. Also, next to west gable, a similarly dressed window but of two lights - mullion gone. And a central plain fireplace. Attic floor: 4 small rectangular open-arched.

North curtain: a broken entrance near west gable - a few recesses and a built-up abutment. Blocked doorway near east gable. Over the first entrance and 1st floor is a point-lead, chamfered doorway which gave access to 1st floor in the added structure (A). Lintel between the doorways is gone.

The addition A is 13' at its west end, and only about 18" at east (internally).

(Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information).

(Contd. on Page 4)

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Much of its north wall is gone in upper storeys - except towards its thinner end at west gable. The latter has a broken entrance and inside it a nest of ramfaced slot with a wide, outward silt spile. First floor has also a heap.

Thin end of north wall has a wide broken window on first floor and over is an iron two-light window.

The rest of the north wall is 10' high and contains near east end, a 9' x 6' vaulted chamber with a small entrance. Outside it a doorway gave to the room A and a 3' wide passage runs west for about 9' - the mural H in plan being on a higher level. It is broken at top.

The building nearby is also in ruinous condition. A rectangular structure - about 45' x 15' internally with a squarish addition to its south-west corner. Its east curtain is gone - its north + south gables are perhaps 40' to chimney top - its west sidewall is about 20' high. Plain featured except that its south gable has a ground floor fireplace with behind it a rectangular loop - 1st floor has also a fireplace - smallish but with large flue. There is also a kind of mural passage at 1st floor height.

A plain corner entrance gives into the annex - behind the entrance is a small, roughly round-shaped chamber or recess just big enough to crawl in to.

The corner watch-tower is about 20' high and 14' square - 2 storeys <sup>with attic floor</sup> plain apex + fireplace.

11:15:1041 - Not a lot is known of Kenturks. Its associations are closely allied with Castlecane in adjoining parish of Curriscauna and Ballintober.

The territory of lanes was for centuries ruled by the O'Connors. They were ousted and their power finally broken in 1236 by Richard de Bingham. Lanes was then apportioned into two areas - lanes, and Clancuan. Adam Staunton, a Kildare baron, got lanes. The Staunton family held the area aroundough lanes for generations. Their chief strongholds were Castlecane and Kenturks. In the 14th century the Stauntons changed their name to MacEvilly and were henceforth known by this title. They were however subject to the (CONT'D. P.)  
(OVER)

Burke's overlordship. MacEwilly held Kanturck Castle until 1592. Castlebarra and Castlebarke (in Bunsicassa and Ballintober) were also in the family up to 1609 years. (Becker's "Archdiocese of Tuam" and Knox's "Notes on Diocese of Tuam" - "History of Mayo")

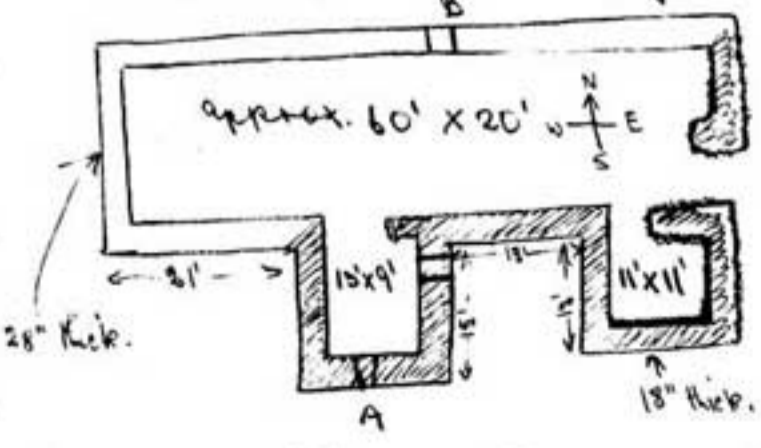
Tradition has it that the famous Grainne Maile lived in Kanturck. Her son was "Libet na Lang" or "Isle of the Ship" so called because he was born on board his mother's ship on one of her raiding expeditions.

Donovan's Mayo Letters (100/102) relates the tradition of Grainne's schemes to obtain Castlebarke and Kanturck Castles for herself and Libet.

Freeman Stanton or McEwilly owned Kanturck - Myles McEwilly owned Castlebarke. Jealousy - fostered by Grainne arose between the brothers. Myles killed Freeman and took Kanturck Castle immediately. Grainne then banished Freeman and his family out of Castlebarke - then called Kibonnel - by a trick. Her son Libet who became 1st Viscount Mayo - resided in Castlebarke. Grainne obtained Kanturck.

Blackfoot Castle ruins: On the bank of Lough Lennagh near Castlebar. Land of Messrs McDonnell, Linnhall Dairy. No right-of-way but a laneway leads to within 20 yards of the ruin.

The building which was not a castle proper but rather a residence. The little of interest remaining. Rough ground plan:-



Facts denoted by wavy lines are completely gone - only foundations remain.  
 - - - walls line are 20/25" high.  
 - - - " " " 4/5" high.  
 A two story residence. - - a plain wooden door at A and a similar one over at B is plain with doorway - debris. much iron on high parts.

As is noted: Said to have been the residence of Burkes - Viscount's Mayo. (Historic houses - note also on east side) This Viscountcy dormant since 1767 - 8th Viscount.

at, Ballyheane, and Breeaghry. Basing of Lona. Co. Mayo.

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Remains in Ballyheane graveyard. Ballyheane village. Beside road.

Remains of church which was about 35' x 18'. walls are now only 5/6' high except for a portion of the south face which has a plain arched entrance. - There is a vault under the church - steps lead down to it. Some coffin remains rest in it.

Near the church - in corner of graveyard, a Bell about 18' x 12' with barrel vault roof - broken east apex and a recess. West wall broken and almost completely missing. Bell is about 8' high internally.

If either ruin nothing is known. D. Moran calls the church - "Temple na Zaulleas Dubh". The site is said to be Patrician.

Here are also some slight remains of a chapel in Ballynew of which there is no account. nearby is a well called Tobac & Tan (off Castlebar/Gurlough main road)

In Ballyheane, in James Keenan's are the roofless and windowless walls of a Protestant church built, according to a plaque, in 1812.

consists of nave and tower to gable. here about 45' x 20'. whitish painted windows. Small square, plain, cut-stone fireplace. - tower had plain painted entrance.