

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, 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.

Doonamona Castle; In Doonamona. Miss K. Madden's. No right of way. Not in charge of O. P. W.

Ruins consist of most of the east face with attached portion of the south curtain.

Internally the castle appears to have been only about 30' x 15'. Its height, judging by present ruins, was at least 50'. Lower house stage.

The north wall (remains) is almost 6' thick. On ground floor centre is an embrasured loop. The latter is of ramped limestone with notched round head. The loop is 3' 9" high by 2½" wide. The embrasure is 5½' wide; its sill is broken but it was perhaps 7½' high. Embrasured head is slightly round arched. On its eastern side is a recess 15" x 15" x 15" - on its western is a somewhat larger broken recess.

Further up in north wall see the remnants of a cut stone embrasured eyes.

The east curtain is 7' thick. On its ground floor near the north-east angle, it has an embrasure (similar to that of the north wall) whose loop eyes is broken. Over this is a smaller embrasure with the remains of a cut limestone loop with sge head. On the same level as the latter and beside it, in N.E. angle, is a corner embrasure whose loop is lost. On the embrasure head is what may be an opening running upwards through the wall junction - a flag lameness conceals the eyes.

Through the east wall runs a mural passage about 15' long; its broken (stages) present entrance is to the south - the passage floor is about 15' over present inner ground floor. From the mural compartment a small rectangular loop looks out east. A similar loop is visible from the exterior, at a height of somewhat over 40'. At what would have been the junction of east and south walls - at a height of 30/35 ft are the remnants of the staircase - four wrought stone, rounded bottom steps which project from the broken edged east curtain.

The first-floor corbels are situated at about 10' above present ground level. Approx. 12' above that are those of the second floor - this second storey having been vaulted over - fragments of the vaulting are visible.

The walls have a slight base batter - exterior surface shows hatched stonework with good quoins.

ADDENDUM: The sge headed loop has slight exterior ornamentation & is ramped. (Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information).

Doonamona Castle contd. — History. of this castle's account but isolated items are known. A Henry Kiegh, Kiegh originally settled in or near Doonamona. He is said to have been ninth in descent from King Donald now who died in 1284 A.D.

The castle is said to have been built by an O'Kelly about 1450/60. Nearby are the remains of a cross which according to Knox (History of Mayo) had an inscription saying that it was made in 1633 by David Kelly and Catherine Burke, his wife, for the soul of his father Maylor Kelly who died on Oct. 28th 1627 and "for whom let all men pray". Knox adds that on the cross were depicted the instruments of the Passion and that it was one of the best of its kind in the country.

From the O'Kelly sept the castle came to the de Burgo family, descendants of the de Burgo who came to Ireland after the Strongbow. ~~(see)~~ This was William Fitz-Aldhelm, first cousin to Hubert de Burgo, Chief Justice of England, and, like Fitz-Aldhelm, descended from Anletta, mother of William the Conqueror, by Haselover de Burgo, her first husband. From him have descended the noble family of de Burgo, or Burkes, so conspicuous in the after annals of our island (his) obituary was the date of 1204. He had obtained large grants from King John of lands in Connaught - if he could conquer them - which his vigorous descendants, the Burkes of Clansickande, did their best to accomplish." (O'Casey & Weger's History of Ireland, pages 179 and 192 Vol. 1)

Of Doonamona Castle's history under de Burgo little is known. An Edmund Burke was hanged here in 1588 by Sir Richard Bingham, Governor of Connaught for Elizabeth and founder of the castle of Lellan. Sir John Perrott was then in his fourth and final year as Lord Deputy. Sir Richard Bingham held his first sessions at Doonamona. It was here that the "Indenture of Compositions" was finally settled. According to O'Casey & Weger (History of Ireland page 33 Vol II), ^{who} says that in carrying out Elizabeth's policy of the pacification of Connaught a royal commission was issued whose chief duties were "to fix a money rental for all lands, free and unfree, in Ulster and Connaught; to assess the taxation fairly due to the Crown, also in money; and to substitute generally the English law of succession for the ancient customs of Tanistry and gavelkind." This was one of the "most important events which marked the ~~four~~ four years administration of Perrott." Weger gives the persons of the royal commission - Sir Richard Bingham, the Earl of Desmond and Clansickande, Sir Murlough O'Brien, Sir Richard Burke (in William), O'Connor Sligo, Sir Brian O'Ruairc, and Sir Murragh O'Harearty.

Knox (History of Mayo) says that Sir Nicolas Malby, on Feb. 15th 1579, took the castle of Doonamona from Shane in Hubert, called the "Parson of Doonamona"; chief counsellor to Richard in Connaught

and put the sword to the sword "whereupon all other castles were given without resistance."

By the tradition still active in the northern townland of Peirson, in this parish - Toby Burke, or as he was generally called "Tibbot na h-éim" - son of Grainne Maile by Richard Burke - is said to have resided, for a time at any rate, at Doonamona. As Toby sided with Bingham and assisted in his designs - this is reasonable.

INFORMATION: apart from stated works - from Rev. Mr. Mangan C.C., Belconnan.

Queeshadan Castle ruins. (pronounced 'queesth'yan)

Townland of Queeshadan. near roadway. no right-of-way. Not in charge of O.P.W. land of James Luffy.

The ruins, on a slight eminence, consists of the remains of an arched gate tower to an hexagonal tower of which a little over half the walls yet stand to an average internal height of 7'.

The gate tower has its vaulted entrance facing south - its tower being to the north. The arch is perhaps 25' high and 14' wide. About a 20' long portion of the north wall (4' thick) and south wall, remains. There is a broken splayed loop in the former, near ground level. The overhead features are too damaged for any survey.

If its history there is hardly anything. By one tradition it was a doonagh castle - by another a Bingham construction. It may have been the former - later seized by the Connaught government in his "purification of Connaught" regime.

Manulla Castle ruins. at Manulla village. land of Mrs. Moran. no right-of-way. Not in charge of O.P.W.

All that remains of this building are the crumbling foundations with portions of detached walling.

No tradition, and of its history but an item which says that a Mr. Evilly owned this castle until 1592. (Rev. Mr. Mangan C.C., Belconnan).

Round Towers of Balla. Situate in the town of Balla in the old cemetery just off the 'Square'. Right-of-way-gate, unlocked, to road. This antiquity is under the care of office of Public Works.

Miss Stokes places it in the kind period 1170/1238.

About 35' high, the tower is soundly constructed of good sized stones, mortared. Its entire basal circumference is 54' - its inner ground floor diameter may be taken as 9' (measurement gave 9' x 8' 9"). The wall at base is 5' 1" (at door-jamb). The ^{ground} floor ended at a height of about 8' above present inner ground level: the tower wall to this height was thicker than the upper storey - its inward projection carried to first floor joisting. Second floor was some 10 or 11 ft. above the first.

The ground floor has the doorway, facing north. Its partially broken threshold is some 2½' above outer ground level - it is 5' 10" in height and 2' 9" in width. The entrance is round-headed, of wrought sandstone and rough picked outer chamfering. A part of the lower eastern jamb is of undressed stone.

Some few feet above the first floor level and to S.W. is an opening approx 18" wide by 12" high \square which narrows to a small outlet to exterior and was possibly a slop pipe.

About 2½' above the 2nd floor level is a rectangular window looking east. Some 7' high, it is over 2' wide.

Approx. 30' up is a small "peep hole" covering the southern approach.

The tower is locally said to have been much higher - however that may be, its present well top is level all the way around - the top layer of stones are of ones much smaller than those employed in the rest of the tower's layers - a half-indication that its full height had been reached.

[NOTE RE 2ND STOREY EASTERN WINDOW: local teacher remarked that Petrie says that this window is most unusual & only one of its kind in the country - ? I have no means of obtaining Petrie's Round Towers at present.

No traditions.

CHURCH RUINS.

In Coona near Fourland. Listed of under Historic Sites. Please see.

Church ruins in Ulmhall townland. In cemetery by road. Right-of-way by unlocked gate. Not far from Belcarra village.

Remains include the north wall, the east gable, a 15' long portion of the south curtain, and foundation only of the rest of the building.

Internally approx. 60' x 25' — have only. Curtains 20' high; gable has a shallow pitch. No eyes to north face. In east gable was a wide window of cut limestone but only the head exists now — skewed thus —

The church is not, it would appear, of early date. It is said to have secured the tithes of Ulmhall i.e. Lord Tyrone's family name and was probably built to their order as also to accommodate the many Protestant families in the area.

The graveyard is now a Catholic place of interment. It was so reconsecrated in or around the middle of the last century. Apparently what caused the change was that a woman of Protestant faith was married to a Catholic and the latter, after much discussion and sparring and litigation, was allowed burial in the graveyard beside his wife. Upon which the Protestant element changed their mode of burial there and it in time became wholly Catholic.

The comparatively modern ruins of the cruciform building in the village of Belcarra are those of the former parish church. This is said to have been erected for the Catholic laity with the initial encouragement of the Protestant section of Belcarra, in the days when the village was very much larger than at present, with much business done and many trades represented — the Protestant section having a strong majority of the latter. Inducement by them said to have been motivated by the increased trade resulting from transferring the church to Belcarra from its former location some miles from the village.

Ruins of Ulmhall — one the residence of Lord Tyrone. In Ulmhall townland. Malachy Daly's. No right-of-way.

Of the building, which appears to have been a two storey, rectangular structure, only a portion of gable and crumbled remains strewn around, remain. The walls marking the gardens of the residence now form field boundaries. The drive-way is well marked.

History: Briefly its associations are as follows — of interest is the fact that from 1661 to 1797 only two members of the family held the English title.

In 1661 on March 12th James Cuffe, who had been given land

grants in Connacht, was knighted. In 1665 he married a sister of the Earl of Longford and died in 1678. The title died with him.

A son, Gerald, obtained from Colonel Brown of Westport, lands in Mayo, Clonall being a portion. Gerald founded the Clonall fortunes and built a residence there. His wife was one of the Wynnis of Hazelwood, Sligo.

Gerald's eldest son was James who in time became possessed of the various Mayo estates then in the Cuffe ownership. James changed his residence to Ballinakee, one of the estates being situated there. In 1731 he married a sister of the Earl of Anson and died in 1762 to be succeeded by the Hon. James Cuffe who changed to another residence on his estate at Castleblacken. This James Cuffe was an M.P. in Grattan's time - also Privy Councillor. In 1797 he was successful in reviving the expired title and became Lord Gynawley. Although Clonall is known as "Lord Gynawley's place" it is not so certain that he dwelt much there. He had many residences in the county.

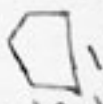
Lord Gynawley had married in 1770 (April 28th) Mary Levinge of Caluinstown. She died in 1808 - he in 1821 (June 15th). There being no legitimate issue the title died with him.

Clonall residence is said to have been burned in the 1798 insurrection.

Lord Gynawley left his estates - part to James a son (illegitimate) who died in London 1828, and the remainder by settlement. The property dwindled to nothing - the family is almost, if not quite, extinct.

INFORMATION: chiefly from Rev. Fr. Mangan C.C., Belcarra.

In Mrs. Canty's land beside Clonall ruins is a small house on the river bank. Locally called the "raggin House" or again the "Pleasure House" it was perhaps erected by the Clonall owner for the benefit of his family and guests for bathing. No right of way.

Negatives to the rear of C.C.'s (Mrs. Lanney) house near Balla town.
 Consists of a large boulder, five-sided, shaped thus , averages
 20" thick, is 13'3" at longest and 10'4" at widest, which is earth-embedded
 at its southern end and raised some 9" on its northern. Upheld by
 some small stones. May be a kind of degenerate dolmen.
 no right-of-way.

Ruins of olden prison. In Prison townland. Land of Patrick
 Kelly. no right-of-way.

The townland takes its name from the building. Its ruins consist
 of a north gable, south gable, and an eastern wall chimney
 lying midway between the gables. Internally the prison was 75'
 long by 28' wide. It is said to have had no ground floor windows.
 The gables with chimneys, also the east chimney, each is perhaps
 45' high. The fireplaces are wide, plain-featured in construction.
 The south gable has a window high up and a few recesses. A small
 sloping outlet goes through the north gable from the west side of the
 fireplace - perhaps a step outlet.

Walls 3' thick. Gable has steep pitch - there was probably only
 one storey proper with perhaps attic.

Local tradition says that this was the Mayo county jail in
 Elizabethan times. Later the jail was located in Castlebar by order
 of Sir Richard Bingham. It is said that 106 people were
 hanged here - the gallows site is nearby as is also the sentry's
 hill.

Tradition gives John Burke as prison governor for a time.
 Better known as "Libert re lung" or "John of the books" because of
 his birth on board ship, he was the son of Graine Mole
 by her second husband, Richard Burke, associated with
 Doonamona and its castle at the other end of the parish.

John, it is said, patronised the English rulers. His wife was
 of the O'Connors of Roscommon. She left him when he turned
 traitor. Some time after, her brother came to John who assumed
 that O'Connor's mission was one of mediation. When walking
 together one day, O'Connor slew John with a knife.

The langman attached to the prison was one William Brady. There
 is still to be seen the well in reference to the land

parish of Balla + Manulla. Barony of Clannassis

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granted to R. Langman for his services. There were twelve prison
guards - the site of their quarters is still pointed out.

Souterrains in Keshlan. John Mc Carris. No right-of-way.
There are four souterrain openings visible in the rock (which is
30 yds. in diameter) of a high solidly-constructed fort of stones
and earth. The fort's westernmost circumference is 20' high - there
is a wide fosse and a 10' high outer vallum. The rock itself
is enclosed by a six-foot high embankment.

The souterrains are not accessible.

Souterrain, single-passage type, in Knockmore. P. Casey's (owner
lives in Carrackell). No right-of-way.

Souterrain in Keshan. John Hunt's. Single-passage type but
debris-choked. No right-of-way.

Souterrain, single-passage type; debris. Andrew Cunningham's.
Carrackjames (near Keshan village).

Caltragh in T. Manion's in Drumadown. No right-of-way.
Semi-circular in shape. This is instance of the Irish term
being in use to denote a busy place for infants - kern is
now existent in many cases.