

ANTIQUITIES

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.

Meelick Round Tower. This, which is a noted landmark, stands in Meelick graveyard which lies beside the road. There is a gate (unlocked) and steps over wall. Right-of-way. It is in the care of the Office of Public Works. The caretaker is Mrs. Laurence Goswami, Meelick.

The tower is solidly built, tapering somewhat to its top which is headless. It is reckoned to be 72' in height. Its entire basal circumference is 56', the tower base resting on a circular stone foundation which projects 4 to 6 inches all round and 10" above ground level. In the east face, at a height of about 14' is the doorway which is round-headed and keyed, without ornamentation. The doorway is 26½" wide and 5½' high. The tower wall as measured from the door jambs, is 46" thick at this height. Below it, the wall is 50" thick, the inward projection of the wall was used to support the floor just inside the doorway. This floor is now missing and there is a deep of 10' to the debris strewn tower ground floor. Inside the entrance is a projecting held stone apparently for the door bar.

Ten feet up from the door sill is a slightly vaulted floor of stones laid side to side and grouted in mortar. On the floor is a broken opening giving access to the tower above. The opening however is impossible to negotiate without the aid of very long ladders and assistance, as it is situated on the west tower side opposite doorway. [According to one or two people who have gained access to the floor - further ascent is impossible].

Near the entrance is a small opening perhaps 2' by 1½'. Facing west is a rectangular opening about half-way up which is about 18" by 12". A similar one looks north. The north face has two eyes, one rectangular about 14" x 15" and the other angle-headed, about the same size.

Tradition is strong on the point that a monastery existed beside the tower. Some flags used as burial stones are said to have been from the floor of the church that stood beside the tower. A field close by is called 'Parse an' Cackney - the Bishop's field. Tradition goes on to say that Meelick was a famous ecclesiastical centre, one legend says that the church was pillaged and destroyed by Kossick's men, the last high king. Concerning the fact that the tower is headless, legend says that the spirits were angry at the closure of the tower and allowed the work to go as far as the head, when they intervened. It is said that the finger marks of the angels are on the top stones of the tower. Another legend relates that the tower was built overnight by a witch with three pockets of stones, but having been surprised ~~at~~ early morn by a farmer on his way to work, she flew from the tower top and fell into the way, leaving the tower without a head.

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

Attached (recently) by Office Public Works to the tower wall is a sandstone flag of width 25" and narrowing to 12"; 59" high and perhaps 7" thick. On the stone is carved a cross and the edges of the stone are also carved. The whole is represented by a hatched pattern of intersecting lines and is painted.

Cashed souterrain in Castlebarrough (Midfield).
lands of J. P. Sloyan and Mrs. M. Mulloy - a meaing
fence runs through interior of cashel.

The single circular wall encloses a space of about
40/45 yds. diameters. The cashel wall for about 80' of
its circumference averages 7' high and 12" thick - the wall
having for its base and upwards for a few feet, large
boulders, uncemented - the wall being capped with a collection
of small stones.

Elsewhere the wall varies in height and is tressed
for a proportion of its circumference. The entrance
was to the north-west and the wall here is $4\frac{3}{4}$ ' high
and 9" thick. A lintel of the entrance lies close to wall.
The lintel is 7' long, 19" wide and 7" thick.

The souterrain inside the enclosed space appears
to be single-passage type. It is 5' wide and 2' high
at the mouth and internally 3' high increasing to 4'.
Stones are fallen after a distance of 15'.

no right-of-way. Not in charge of B.P.W.

Cashed in Castlebarrough. land of James Foley.
This is oval shaped - the single wall enclosing an
interior of about 30 yds. by 22.

The wall for about 40' of its length is 7' high externally
and 5/6 ft. internally. It is 5' wide. of uncemented stones.

The rest of the wall is thrown for the most part to
heights of 2/4 ft.

There does not appear to be any souterrain.

no right-of-way.

Not in charge of B.P.W.

Fort of rather diameter about 27 yds. and then, low vallum, in J. Dunskin's in Castlebaragh.

This is an ordinary bar. A single stone near north edge is 41" wide, 32" high and 22" thick. A smaller stone embedded in vallum is 26" wide, 16" high and 5" thick.

No right-of-way. Not in charge of B.P.W.

Castle in Greanlows. Land of Miss Ellen McGreel.

Oval shaped wall, 30 yds. x 20 yds interior. The wall is 7' thick in parts and 5' in others. It is tumbled in parts and has present heights of 3/5/6 feet.

No right-of-way. Not in charge of B.P.W.

Remnants of castle in Andrew McDonagh's in Castlebaraghane. Pieces of wall foundations left. Nothing worth seeing as obviously the stones are being carried away for other purposes.

No right-of-way.

Castle remains and souterrain in Castlebaragh (MORFIELD)

Land of Antony Hawley. No right-of-way.

Interior was of 35 yds. diameter. Remnants of wall 10' long, 2' high and 8' thick. The souterrain is of single-passage type - stones have fallen but it goes for at least 20'. Entrance is 2' x 2' - widens inside to 3/4 feet. Height 2 2/3 ft. Stones of walls at entrance are laid slightly corbel-fashion. Keoped by flags.

The townlands whose names begin with 'Castle'... seemingly take their titles from castles therein.

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"Fr. John's" grave in Castlebaragh. Beside main road and near Midfield church. Land of P. Green.

On the slope of a hillside called "Fr. John's" Hill are two turles. Between them and on side of the hill is a flag laid flat. It measures at longest ~~10~~ 7'. It is 43" wide at one end and 65" at the other. It averages, as far as can be ascertained, 10" thick.

According to tradition a penal day priest was shot here, the ambushers having hidden behind a boulder on the slope of a higher hill on the other side of the roadway. The priest was buried here. His name was Fr. John.

No right-of-way.

Land of Antony Gavin. Galena. No right-of-way.
A fort of 35 yds. diameter whose wall level is 6' above outer ground. There are some large boulders which appear to be the remnants of a cashel-like wall surrounding the fort.

Closed souterrain in hill Galena. Bracklow.
No right of way. This, judging by the entrances now temporarily closed, appears to have two single passages at right angles to each other - each being about 15/20 ft. long.

Fort and souterrain in Bracklow. Peter Devine's.
Fort 30 yds. diameter. Souterrain at least 15' long, 4' wide and 3/4 ft. high. Single passage type. No right-of-way.

Fort and souterrain in Midfield. John Berne's.
Similar to the last mentioned (Devine's).
No right-of-way.

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Foot of 60 yds. diameter in John Hurry's in Casnewanada.
much scrub. Excavation line for about 20' where there
may have been a souterrain. There are slight remains
of what may have been a circumscibing stone wall.
no right-of-way.

Foot and souterrain in Gullinacurra. Land of Michael
Kavanagh. Single passage 30' long - entrance is 2' high
by 18" wide. Inside it widens to 3 1/2' wide and is 3 1/2' high.
Debris on passage floor.

no right-of-way.

Souterrain in Gullinacurra. Land of Mrs. Dr. Brennan.
Similar to last mentioned (Kavanagh). Foot of 30 yds. diam.
no right-of-way.

Souterrain in Gullinacurra. Land of Mrs. Muldowney.
Similar to above. Foot of 30 yds. diameter.
no right-of-way.

{Cissarunera had souterrains which have all been dug away}

Souterrain in James Divalley's. Casteltawn.
The castle which perhaps existed here has disappeared.
The souterrain is the usual single passage type - debris
has accumulated on passage floor. no right-of-way.

Souterrain, single passage, as above. In pos. Campbell's in
Ballindelid. no right-of-way.

Cashe and souterrain in Rabawn. Mrs. Ann Regan's.
A low fort of diameter 35 yds. with remains of cashe wall. The wall is missing for a good portion of its circumference but one piece about 30' long is 8' wide and 5/6 ft. high. Large boulders form the base of the wall. The souterrain is 4' high and 2' wide at the mouth which is crammed with debris, broken crockery etc. The owner says that the passage opens out into a sizable rectangular chamber. The entrance is at the side of the fort and apparently went through the cashe wall. On the fort's edge is what remains of a standing stone. It is now approx. 5 ft. high, 45 inches broad at base and 28 at top and 16" thick. Part of the stone was broken off for building purposes.

no right-of-way.

Souterrain in Rabawn. Patrick Mulligan's.
In a mound 35 yds. diam diameter and 2' above ground. 2' x 2' at entrance. The souterrain being perhaps 25' long and of single passage type. There are slight remnants of a cashe wall around the souterrain.

no right-of-way.

Souterrain in Rabawn. Mrs. O'Hara's. no right-of-way.
Souterrain is excavated for most of its length. A bit of it 8' long, 2 1/2' wide and 10" high exists, and another portion 3' long. These parts are debris filled. There is a circumscinding earth and grass covered cashe-like wall averaging 4' high and 3 to 4' thick. The souterrain apparently led through the base of this wall.

Closed Souterrain in Rabawn. Mr. M'Donogh's.

In Kilsnuff graveyard there are a few foundation stones of an olden church. Also, resting on top of other stones a broken piece of stone 16" wide at bottom and 13½ at top; 9" thick and roughly 21" long. It seems to be the broken shaft of an inscribed stone or perhaps cross. The inscriptions are faint for the most part.

There is a right-of-way. Much debris covers the graveyard.

There are three closed souterrains - one each in Cleenava, Cleenaghboy and Carronvaul.

East and South Souterrain in Kathscaulow. John Rowley's tent of 20 yds. diameter. Souterrain is single passage type - at least 25' long, 4' wide and 5' high. of uncemented stones with flagged roof.
No right-of-way.

Kilsnuff graveyard. All that remains of a church is a piece of wall 3' high and 15' long.

The Krabays family vault is, in a sense, interesting. It is a structure about 20' long, walls only a few feet high and roof with long slope from a height of about 12/14 ft. to the side wall of this is an arch of hewn stone. The main structure is of ordinary ancient stone and mortar-cement roofed.

A tablet, above which is the Krabays crest with the deplorable words "Vata vita..."; bears the inscription "The family vault of the Krabays - repaired by Sir W. Krabays Bart. and this tablet erected 1829.

A feature of the vault is that a brown marble column is erected on top of the arch to a Patrick Corley - who is said to have been a descendant of Lord Krabays's agents. Column erected 1875. Olden vault and modern memorial are most incongruous.

Cairns on Milbride Hill: These, though usually said to be on Milbride Hill, are in Cullane townland. They are distant about 100 yds. from each other. One is the land of Patrick O'Brien and the other in Martin Bready's. No right-of-way. Not in charge of B.P.U.

Both cairns are earth and grass covered, standing out like small hillsides. One is approx. 18 yds. by 15 yds. by 12' high, the other is approx. 19 yds. by 13 yds. by 15/18 ft. high. Excavation (partially) of one is said to have been carried out some years ago; the mound being reconstructed where dug out.

These cairns or tumuli are always referred to as "the seats of Milbride" and are known thus to everyone in the parish as also the legend concerning them.

It is related that a king called Askilbann, living on the Deerynane side of Milbride Hill, suspected his wife of infidelity. Having caused a watch to be secretly kept, he had her guilt confirmed, and cutting off the breasts of his unfaithful spouse, he heaved them from Deerynane to the top of Milbride Hill.

Remnants of church in Ballintemple (north heilick area): Land of Patrick Conlan (absent in England). No right-of-way.

The townland takes its name from the church of which only the foundations of two walls, grass, earth and ivy covered, remain. They seem to be 3' thick. Church would perhaps have been 40' x 20' but this is merely a conjecture. There are a few largish boulders in foundation. The ground inside, now grass and little grown, was used up to recently as a burial place for unbaptised infants.

Caith in Caghtaraeduckan: Land of Ed. O'Keefe, Mulreey.

This appears to be a mound of stones but is so completely overgrown that nothing is discernible. The townland is said to have derived its name from it but as to the "Caith of the son of O'Keefe" there appears to be no tradition available.

Souteman in Deerynane. Incl. Bunker's. Single passage usual. Almost closed. Closed souteman in Carracnada in Martin Nolan's.

"Frenchman's grave" - a relic of 1798 - a small stone mound in Eskers and on a hillside. Land of Patrick Gallogly (absent in England). No right-of-way. Chain 40 yds. in length. In Tom Quincey's. Said to be habitat of principal chief in olden days.