

ANTIQUITIES

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

"CIARRA "Abbey": The "Abbey" was a baselike cell dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and in later days attached to the bistercian House of Knockmoy or "De Colle Victoria". It is stated to have been built by the O'Haras in 1224. Very little is known of the history of the Abbey. In 1295, the Annals of the Four Masters are the Annals of Loch Ce note "The two sons of Muirchadh O'Harra, Donnhall and Muirchertach, were slain by Donnhall, son of Macanus, son of Muirchertach O'Conchobhair, and by Niell Ruadh, son of Cathal O'Conchobhair, in Ulster, where they were interred also. The Annals of the Four Masters date this in 1273. Donnhall Darius, son of Harus, who was son of Mustagh Muirchreach O'Conchobhair, was expelled from Ulster and Drogheda. The church is stated to have been restored about 1480 the ceiling painted, an elaborate tomb made in the north wall, and two windows inserted in the chancel. It is stated to have been dissolved with Knockmoy in 1572. The Second Exchequer Inquisition of County Mayo, June 2nd, 1682, before (Continued on page 2.).

molluscan shells, crinoid stems, indistinct corals,
and plant impressions.

Igneous Rocks - a very interesting band of
igneous rocks runs along the line of the Great
fault or north of Loughmore and Knockree.
The rocks contain, in places, small quantities
of the minerals malachite and copper pyrites. The
great variety of rock-types, which includes serpentine,
dolerite, brotite lamprophyre, dolerite,
olivine-basalt etc., occurring here is attributable
to successive intrusions of igneous material into
the zone of the fracture.

The only other igneous rocks in the Island are
a few masses of epidiorite exposed in the
neighbourhood of Hill, some minor basic
intrusions in the townland of Ballytohy
Fore and Ballytohy Beg, and a small basic
dike, south of Loughmore, in the townland
of Bunnablaun.

Antiquities

Blisna Abbey (Continued from Form a.). Thomas Dillon,
Chief Justice, 1585, states that "the Dyalance of
Blisna contains a great part of land and divers Pris

appurtenances of the Abbey of Knockmay, and to
work per annum, besides reprises, 138. 4d.

Douning mentions "Clergy, about 2 leagues from
the main land, a small Abbey of St. Bernard;
Demetrius Caladus O'Maley and Morte O'Connor
were these bishops. HAREW MSS. of March 1574,
states of the Islands as: - "Dystrucke; Dyshourke,
(Bark), Blyea, and Ankiler, held by O'Maley
- abbey - blyea possessed by priors, or
rebels, so as Her Majesty has no commodity
by the same.

The Abbey consists of a nave 36 feet 6 inches long,
and 15 feet 9 inches wide, a chancel 19 feet long
inside, and 13 feet 2 inches wide, over which is
a room reached by several stair cases up the side
walls. Beside this, in the west the eastern
face, a northern wing of two stories projects
with a stair case in its western wall. The
north doorway of the chancel would seem to
suggest that another building ran along the
north wall of the nave, but its function is
not traceable. The nave has a slightly

rounded pointed door by the west end; the South
 wall has a defaced window near the east end,
 and a mark of another break or opening of
 no definite shape now built up at three bays
 from the west end, where probably there was once
 another window. In the north wall is also a plain
 pointed door; its wall face was encased by
 mouldings in plaster. Another defaced doorway
 lies to the west of the last. The apse was entered
 by a large pointed arch of five plain recesses,
 the stone-work roughly dressed and once smooth
 plastered, and possibly painted; the sketches for
 a wood-beam or screen remain in the sides.
 Just within the chancel is the closed slab of
 a small grave from a curious little cell in
 the north wall. Beside it is the O'Neil's
 later monument, a well cut unadorned slab
 and frame of black stone. It is frequently
 attributed to Francis O'Neil, but the tradition
 and design suggest a much later date. The
 crest is a rearing stallion, with a horse's tail,
 on a wreath above a helmet and a

curious carved ornament. The Shield is of
 irregular design, a wide base tripartite in
 the middle between three bows bent with
 arrows pointed at sin, while a ~~galle~~ galley
 appears at the bottom right corner. The mantling
 ends in large tassels, and below all in large,
 raised letters is the name O' Maille; above
 this, between the tassels, in smaller raised
 Capitals, are the words of the motto "TERRA
 MARIS POTENS." The "NS" termination
 running up the side are not conspicuous.
 To the north, and close beside the tablet, is
 a fine and ^{perfect} finely a Latin perpendicular design
 and recess, on which the Crucifixion appeared
 inscribed. It probably was used as the
 funeral tomb and "Easter Sepulchre." The
 interior of the cancel is now at least 4 feet
 above its original level, as the top of
 the recess is covered. The tracery rests on a
 segmental arch, with bold cusps, and is
 enclosed in an open frame with side piers
 ending in three finials, the Lincolnshire being
 (see page 13)

set askew. A defaced doorway leads into a
 a vaulted sacristy. The east end is recessed,
 with a small east window which has two trefoil-
 leaded lights, with trefoils in the outer
 spandrels, under a bold angular frame
 outside; they had iron frames for the glass
 held by four little tongues into each pane,
 one at the top and one in the side, some of
 the iron plugs remain. The spines are 4 feet
 2 inches high up to the side, or 4 feet 9 inches
 in all, and are 8 inches wide. The altar,
 which is nearly circular, has an east outer
 corner an attached octagonal step, and
 is covered with slabs heavily beveled on the
 edge, one with a slot for a pillar or
 candlestick. To the south was a small
 tabernacle with a leaf of a cinquefoil
 leaf in the left jamb of a deep window
 recess, the light of which is single. West
 from it is a wide, plain, pointed recess,
 or niche. Its arch was turned over a
 wicker center; a small carving of a human
 face projects from it. See page 8

Between it and the Council arch a door leads
 to the South Stairs and was apparently the way
 to the pulpit. The stairs to the top by a defaced
 window at the foot, and runs straight up the
 wall eastward with thirteen steps; the passage
 is only 22 inches wide. On ascending the
 South Stairs a room over the Council may be
 reached. The heights of this portion are as
 follows: - 13 feet to the upper floor, 21 feet 10
 inches to the water table, and approximately
 22 feet to the top of the gable above the Council
 in the Church, and 5 feet 6 inches
 more in each case above the outer level.
 The upper room is fairly well preserved, and
 measured 15½ feet wide and 19 feet 9
 inches long east and west, the walls are
 3 feet thick, covered with slab gutters. The
 windows tho' not seen to have been glazed.
 The eastern one has a wide opening and an
 open-leaded light. The same wall has the
 lintelled doorway to the stairs and a deep
 window with broken light. In the west wall
 are an arched bay, a window with a small light
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and large of play looking into to have, and has
 the north-western corner a doorway. The
 north wall has a very small door to the
 sacristy stairs and an oblong window.

The most interesting feature of this abbey was
 the Stucco work throughout the building &
 of which only very slight traces remain in
 the ceiling of the choir. The remains are in
 a fairly good state of preservation. Not unlike
 the case of the Office of Public Works. Free
 right of way to public. No caretaker.

GRANIA VAILE'S CASTLE.

Situated beside the harbour on the South
 coast corner of the Island. It is a relic of
 architectural features and is a fine & modernised
 The Castle is of square outline irregularly
 oblong, with turret towers, projecting from
 the face of the angles to the north-east and
 the south-west on the level of the second floor.
 The face measures outside - to the north -
 35 feet; to the south 33 feet; to the east 26
 feet 6 inches, to the west 27 feet 6 inches.

and have a better for 9 feet up. The whole has been rough - cast. The defaced east door admits into a passage 14 feet long and two feet six inches wide leading to the staircase; another broken door leads into the basement room. The latter has deep windows recessed to the north and south; the lights are filled up with loose stones; there was a shot hole to the west, but it has been closed by one of the fireplaces. The outer passage turns westward, and has an arched, a small one to the south and a large one under the stair. There are traces of three broken stone steps, above which, is a fine flight turning westward up the wall, three steps to the next floor, sixteen more to the top one; they do not continue to the battlements. The ceiling of this passage forms inverted steps. The second story, first floor, like the basement is plain; it has a deep recess at the north window from which a narrow passage runs westward in the middle of the wall;

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at one time this has lit by a small
 west light, now closed, the north light is
 similar. At the north east corner is a door
 to the turret chamber; it is made of well-
 cut stone work. The little room is about 7
 feet square with a beehive-like, corbelled
 roof; it has a slit to the east, and
 rests on two double corbels to each side.
 The spaces between are closed by solid
 slabs. The corresponding turret chamber to
 the south-west is closely similar; its
 slit faces westward. The east window is
 large and oblong, with flag lintels and a
 small oblong light, beside it to the
 west is a high-arched recess. The stair
 leads up through the window. The east
 window has a large arched recess which
 was flagged above the entrance and
 possibly had open to command the catwalk,
 but the flags are now broken. On the west
 wall is a similar recessed oblong light;
 a passage runs to the south-west turret
 chamber; it is a few feet higher than
 the floor. The late flues cut into the
 west window recess, and ~~run~~ run up the walls
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the lintels are of wood, and the whole with chimneys apparently quite modern. The top room, besides having a modern fireplace to the east and a slight recess to the west, is notable only for its side passages roofed with slabs. The northern door into the east corner; most of its roof has been destroyed, it has a north window and an eastern recess. On the same level is a square north window in a deep recess. The south passage also runs to the east, having a light in the end and one to the south. The turret chambers are now weather-dated. This is supposed to have been erected by Grace O'Malley but was modernised by Dr. S. O'Malley in the early part of the eighteenth century. Not under the care of the Office of Public Works. Free right of way to public. The building is in poor state of preservation.

P.S. For a note on the life of Grace O'Malley I would suggest you see article by H. J. Blake, in Galway Archaeological Journal and some note may also be found in "Looney Papers" by H. P. Knox in the same journal.

Duns:— Dun of Oghagappul:— Situated on the land of Mr. Mc. O'Galley to the South-west of the Abbey. The fosse is cut across a deep mass of drift, about 50 feet thick, on low rocks protected to the north and west by the narrow creek of Oghagappul. The grassy slopes along the creek are intact, but the side to the South-east is badly damaged. The work consists of a nearly straight ditch 12 feet wide, and 75 feet long; there is no trace of an outer mound. Inside the fosse is a rampart reduced to approximately 5 feet high, and 10 feet thick; behind it was a palisade. Inside this to the west is a curved fosse slightly convex to the landward side. It is 56 feet long, 6 feet wide in the middle, and 9 feet wide at the ends, and is nearly 10 feet deep at the latter ~~ends~~ points. The inner defence is levelled; it was evidently a stone wall, nearly 50 feet long

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and 9 feet thick, many of the large foundation blocks still remain firmly set. The north end of the works are neatly rounded, curving into the face of the slope. The gate is approximately 85 feet long and about 60 wide; the gangway and entrance were not central, being about 20 feet from the western edge; the platform was surrounded by a fence of 10 feet thickness, which is now practically levelled. Inside there is a trace of a double circular mound, while outside, to the east, on the edge of the north slope, is also a faint trace of a ring, 30 feet north & south by about 24 feet.

There were also duns at Danaccia, Doonteenan, Ooghkeeg, Doon block, Doon Ooghanniska, some of these are still traceable. Not under of the Office of Public Works. Free right of way to public.

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