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The Place-Names  
of County Kilkenny

*Acknowledgement*  
*The Kilkenny Archaeological Society*  
*is grateful to Mrs Sheila O'Kelly for*  
*permission to re-issue this book.*

## Notice

On mature reflection the Committee of the Society has decided to change the title of Owen O'Kelly's book from *A History of County Kilkenny* to *The Place-Names of the County of Kilkenny*. The new title is thought more exactly to describe the book. An alphabetical index has been added. Within the new material, Owen O'Kelly's book is reproduced complete and unaltered.

The map on the cover (also reproduced inside) is made from a Grand Jury map. The Grand Juries were the forerunners of the County Councils. They commissioned maps which are now extremely rare. The Grand Jury maps predate the first edition of the Ordnance Survey maps and are of great interest because of the different spellings of place names. Thus they can be used to locate changes that have occurred.

# The Place-Names of the COUNTY of KILKENNY



The Kilkenny Archaeological Society  
Rothe House  
Kilkenny

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and Mrs Sheila O'Kelly, 1985.

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## FOREWORD

The publication of my late husband's history of the place-names of Kilkenny is a re-issue of a work that was originally published in 1969 but has long since gone out of print and is very difficult to obtain.

Many years of painstaking research and dedication went into the compilation of the original. But the task was of compelling interest to him and he would have been deeply gratified and proud that his book on the place-names is being republished by the Kilkenny Archaeological Society. He was Honorary Secretary from 1953 to 1963.

This republication is in response to the demand for the book especially by the people of the county that he loved so well.

Sheila O'Kelly



Barony Map from Ordnance Survey Letters (O'Donovan and others) Vol I County of Kilkenny 1839

Owen O'Kelly's Book

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Contents, comprising baronies and their location, rock formation and minerals, elevations, civil parishes, townlands with their acreages and subdivisions, river and stream names, ancient churches, holy wells and castles, raths, forts, ancient landmarks, archaeological discoveries, hamlets, field names with their English equivalents and items of folklore and individual beliefs recorded from local inhabitants.

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*A History*  
*of*  
*County Kilkenny*

by

**OWEN O'KELLY**

(Published by Kilkenny Archaeological Society).

# FOREWORD

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**A** PART from a desire to record the volume of information extant in Irish in the nomenclature of subdivisions and field names this effort at writing a comprehensive county history was prompted by noting the various articles of topographical interest in literary journals unobtainable in any one volume since the publication in 1905 of the *History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory* by William Canon Carrigan. Much historical data and many archaeological discoveries have come to light since then, due in recent years very principally to the enthusiasm and scholarship of members of Kilkenny Archaeological Society.

The layout is alphabetically arranged according to baronies, civil parishes and townlands. Remains from earlier times including cromlachs, monoliths, raths, forts, churches, holy wells, castles and old villages are recorded in their relevant setting. An index of the civil parishes is appended. These earlier-church benefices, recognised as units for local government administration, do not coincide with present-day parishes but their location can be found without difficulty in the different baronies. The acreage in all townlands is Statute Measure, with acreages over two roods odd in individual areas recorded in the next higher digit.

Revd. T. J. Clohessy, P.P. (by permission of the Reverend President of St. Kieran's College) very kindly allowed me access to the unpublished Notes of Canon Carrigan which are housed in the college archives. The Notes treat largely of field names in the few parishes in which the canon was pastor. Reference to these are acknowledged in this volume and locations verified in most instances. Appreciation is also due to everyone, young and old, who supplied items of folklore and information on local landmarks and field names; to the pupils of the different vocational schools for lists of field names confirmed by me in field-work from time to time; to Mr. Gerard Doyle, Thomastown, for his research on the hillridge extending from Dungarven village to Inistioge, anciently known as Ogenti territory; to Mr. Sean Maher, Milepost, Slieverue, who tramped the baronies of Ida and Iverk with me on week-ends and to the staff of the Land Project, Kilkenny, who supplied information on fulachta fia uncovered and on raths protected by Preservation Orders.

Date: June, 1969.

OWEN O'KELLY.

# BARONIES

The barony is the territorial division determined by the Anglo-Norman invaders from the 13th century onwards denoting the lordship of a baron. The names of the nine baronies within the county are phonetic renderings in English of Irish land terms which existed prior to the British usurpation. In more ancient times the Kingdom of Ossory was divided under the Brehon Laws into Magha, signifying plains, of which seven are recorded in early documents, though not all of these are conterminous with the present county boundaries. The names of these, now doubtful of interpretation and no longer in popular usage, were Magh Airgead Rois, northwards from Kilkenny city; Magh Airbh, continuing further north-westwards to the Laois border; Magh Chearbhaill, on a broad front from the Nore to the Barrow rivers, now comprising Gowran Barony; Magh Ghabhar Laighean, northwards from the Johnswell Hills into Laois; Magh Lacha, west of Kilkenny city to Callan; Magh Feimhin, west of Callan to Slievenaman, and Magh Roighne, comprising most of Shillelogher Barony.

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The geological divisions of Co. Kilkenny are as follows:- In the North rocks are mainly sandstones and shales of the Upper Carboniferous Series with coal seams; in the North-West and Central Kilkenny limestone; in the South sandstones and conglomerates of the old Red Sandstone Series; in the South-east slates and flaggy sandstones of the Ordovician age. Small areas of granite extend westward from the main Leinster Granite to Graiguenamanagh and Mullinavat.

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## CRANNAGH BARONY

Crannagh, which means abounding in trees, is the accepted derivation of the barony name. This area of 58,075 acres lies in the mid-west of the county and extends from the valley of the Nore westwards to the borders of Tipperary. The rock formation is sandstone resting on the limestone substratum of the central plain of the county. The soil is good for cropping and grazing but owing to its elevation, rising to 1126' at Clomantagh Hill, it lacks the rich loam of the mid-county low lands.

There are few megalithic remains but the whole area abounds in raths, revealing an early human settlement of which little is known. This and Galmony Barony on the north are pre-eminently the rath country. Ruined ancient churches and Norman castles are scattered throughout the area and there are eight hamlets described as old villages.

## BALLINAMARA PARISH

“In Clashacrow they were lamented,  
In Ballinamara they were slain.”

**T**HUS runs a well-remembered couplet referring to a local deadly conflict of unrecorded date in by-gone days between north-county plunderers and local inhabitants. The couplet is traditionally believed to refer to the Battle of Ballinamara justifying this Old Civil Parish name—Béal Átha na Marbh, the ford-mouth of the slain, a ford in the townland of Ballycannon on the Arigna river which rises in the Gaulstown hills and joins the Nuenna river at Bauntanameenagh.

This large rural district, the greater part of which is now included in the parish of Freshford, does not give its name to any townland within the area but is of interest historically for its ancient church, holy well and parish pattern. The townlands in the parish are as follows:—

**Ballycannon, Baile Uí Chanáin**, O’Cannon’s homestead. Area 363 acres.

Ballinamara Holy Trinity Church site on which a Protestant church, closed to Divine Service since 1945, was erected is on the northern border. Holy Trinity well at which a pattern is still held on the second Sunday in July is 400 yards south-east of the church. There is a Mass bush, a reminder of fugitive open-air worship in Penal days, beside the well. The custom of trimming and flower-decoration of graves in the churchyard is observed during the pattern week which ends with platform dancing at the cross-roads. A small rath in the south-east angle was levelled a few years ago. A small area of land here is called the Glebe which usually denotes church lands throughout Ireland.

**Ballydowel, Baile Uí Dhubhghaill**, O’Dowel’s homestead. This town-

land is recorded on the relevant Ordnance Survey sheet as Ballydowel and Ballydowel Little with a total area of 717 acres. In all such-like recording each division is a separate townland for local government administrative purposes. Tobar an Smí-tigh, Smithwick’s well, of which there is no known local history, is here and two fields are named Baile an locha, the place of the pond, where there is a swimming pool on the Arigna river, and Páirc na mbricí, the brick field.

**Ballynolan, Baile Uí Nualláin**, O’Nolan’s homestead. Area 87 acres.

**Bootstown, Baile na mBarróg**, Boates’ homestead. This townland is recorded on the Index of Townlands and on the O.S. sheet as Bootstown Cox and Bootstown Connor, with a total area of 386 acres.

Fields here are Cúinne cam, a crooked corner, and Whitehall in which are the remains of old houses. The highest point is 500’.

**Gaulstown, Baile na nGall**, Gauls' homestead, divided into upper and Lower Gaulstown with total area of 706 acres.

The highest point is 700'. Gaulstown ruined castle is in the Castle field immediately west of the road from Ballinamara cross-roads. There are five townlands of this name in the county.

**Knockroe, Cnoc rua**, a red hill. Area 84 acres.

There is a fox covert on this hill and an area of rough land rising to 746'.

**Rathelty, Ráth eilite**, rath of the doe. Area 297 acres.

The rath is east of the Ballinamara road.

**Rathmoyle, Ráth mhaoí**, a bare rath. Area 374 acres.

Fields here are the arda buí, yellow (soil) heights; Beitin, burnt land; Caislín, a streamlet; Currach an tobair, marsh of the well; Garraí Shéamuis, Séamus's garden; Moinín and Tomhaisín, a small land-measure. The term garradha or garraí in field and townland names denotes a garden, an enclosure or a tillage field and will be recorded as a garden in future translations.

**Sart, Suí ard**, a high mound. Area 379 acres.

The highest point at Sart cross-roads is 560'. Sart castle stood in the Ceálar field, so named from the castle cellar still remaining. A field adjoining is called the Forge field but smith and forge are long gone. Pollach, meaning hollows, is another field here.

**Wallstown, Baile de Bhál**, Wall's homestead. Area 393 acres.

Cnoc an leasa, hill of the lios or fort at 700' is the highest point on Wallstown hill. There are two small double raths north and south of the road from Ballinamara.

## BALLYCALLAN PARISH

**Balleven, Baile Aoibhin**, Evan's homestead. Area 294 acres.

The Evans supplanted the Desmonds here after the Cromwellian Settlement when Thomas Evans got this grant of lands. Joseph Evans of Balleven endowed an alms house in Kilkenny city in 1818 called Evan's Asylum which still continues in its purpose for men and women of declining years. Fields here are the Bán, a bawn or dry pasture land, sometimes an enclosure adjoining a castle and also a cattle enclosure, and will be referred in future translations as a bawn; Cruachán, a little hill, and the Scaith, lea land.

**Ballycallan, Baile Uí Chaoláin**, O'Keelan's homestead. Area 334 acres.

The ancient church, dedicated to St. Brigid, stood within the old churchyard beside the village. Áth an Chláirin, ford of the little stick, was a foot-bridge which gave its name to the Black-stick stream flowing past Ballyfrunk creamery from the Ballycuidihy hills.

**Ballydun, Baile donn**, a place of brown soil. Area 201 acres.

There is a rath and spring at 570' immediately north of the road from Kilkenny to Liss cross-roads. Fields here are the béitin, burnt land; Caitheamh siar, literally a throw back, that is land left fallow for a season after being reclaimed by digging, grafting or ploughing for cropping; Clais bhúí, a yellow trench; Cúil dhearg, a red-soil angle; the Faiche, a sporting green, and tnil, a limekiln. The two land terms, caitheamh siar and beitin are very general throughout the county. The béitin, burnt land; Caitheamh siar, literally a throw back, that bacon" was land dug or ploughed for reclamation, the top soil with weeds and brushwood being collected in heaps, burned and spread over the area as manure. The story has been told to the writer of a priest in Ballycallan asking the congregation to pray for rain during a dry season. "Wait, Father," spoke up an old man, "I have a baiten to burn." Both terms will be referred to as caitheamh siar (causheer) and beitin, without translation in future references.

**Ballyfrunk, Baile Frainc**, the Frenchman's or foreigner's homestead. Area 283 acres.

North of this district is a range of sparsely populated hills extending east and west from Oldtownhill to Baungarriv. Over the wide area extending from Cloranshea in St. Canice's parish through this hill district and south-west to Kilbraghan on the Tipperary border, there exists among the people a stronger belief in the supernatural and in folklore than obtains in most parts of the county. The old superstitious and pernicious custom of well-visiting on May morning, planting of eggs in corn and potato fields and in meadow lands, are not forgotten, nor belief in the dread consequences of interfering with raths and lone sceach bushes. Ghost stories are fairly plentiful and fairy fiddle music was often heard on Doorath hill, according to the late Johnny Murphy, a local seanchaí. Fields here are Cúl rua, a red hill; Fearann, farm land; Garraí Frainc, Frank's garden; Móinin crann, small bog of the bushes; Maolán, a bare hill; Páirc mhór; Páirc, and Scair na coille, rough woodland.

**Ballyhack, Baile Sheaic**, Jackman's homestead. Area 60 acres.

**Ballyhendrican, Baile Uí Annracháin**, O'Hanrahan's homestead. Area 494 acres.

There is a small rath on the southern border.

**Barrackhill, Cnoc na beairice**, the hill of the barracks, divided into Barrackhill Cransborough and Barton. Area 165 acres.

A former Royal Irish Constabulary barracks by the roadside here is a 6-roomed building, now the residence of Mick Manogue, farmer. The name refers to the steep hill-road going past the barracks and the whole area would seem to have been



carved out of the adjoining townland of Curraghkehoc. Bóithrin an tSanaigh, the Englishman's boreen, passes through here from Booleyshea old castle and southwards through Curraghkehoe. Garraí uaine, a green garden, is a field here, and the highest hill-point is 550'.

**Baugariff, Bán garbh**, a rough bawn. Area 162 acres.

**Baunaraha, Bán na rátha**, bawn of the rath. Area 223 acres.

The highest point, on which there is a circular rath 38 yards in diameter with a lone sceaich in the centre, a deep fosse and a spring in the west corner, is 700'. There are two small raths to the east of this. Fields here are the Cúinne, an angle, and Páircin.

**Bigbog, Móin mhór**. Area 137 acres.

**Clohogue, Clochóg**, a stony place. Area 282 acres.

**Clonard, Cluain ard**, high meadow-land. Area 69 acres.

**Corstown, Baile Uí Chorra**, Ó Corr's homestead. Area 314 acres.

This area borders Curraghkehoe on the west. Baile an Curraigh, place of the marshy land, is believed to have been the old name. The Castle field is the site of a castle long destroyed. Seanbhaile bóirthrin, the old-town boreen here indicates a hamlet formerly. Monument Bush, a lone sceaich is a landmark at which according to local information passers-by used to recite the De Profundis. In different parts of Ireland a monument bush indicates the burial place of unbaptised children. There are five small raths in the district and fields here are the Bán, Bán fada; Cruachán; a little hill; Fásach, waste land; Móin Róiste, Roche's bogland; Scaith, lea-land; Seanbhaile, old town or hamlet, and Tobar, the well field.

**Curragh, Currach**, marshy land. Area 189 acres.

There are many townlands throughout the county incorporating the name Currach which appears to be a very old term denoting marshy land and scrub. This term could not be applied nowadays to many of these areas where extensive drainage and subsequent cultivation have been carried out under the Land Project Scheme during the last twenty years.

**CurraghKehoe, Currach Mhic Eochú**, Kehoe's marshy land. Area 261 acres.

A more ancient name was Cnoc an churraigh. There is a rath in Dillon's land and the ground of four old houses in a field called the Garraithe, gardens. Other fields are the Easca, a slough; Beitin; Caitheamb siar; Garraí na gclaiseach, garden of the trenches; Garraí na habhann, the river (Breaghach) garden; Garraí na leanbh, the children's garden; Páircin an Páirc na gcraon, field of the trees. A large rough area called the Páirc bhán is now reclaimed.

**Dairy hill, Cnoc an doire**, hill of the oak grove. Area 99 acres.

**Damma, Dá mhágh**, two plains, divided into Upper and Lower Damma. Total area 757 acres.

The Smyths of Damma House and lands came to Ireland circa 1630 according to Canon Carrigan's History. William Smyth was secretary to the Duke of Ormonde of that period. Lucas Smyth of Damma was an Irish scholar and author of the British Museum MS. Egerton 167 compiled 1709-1710. There is a rath in a field called the Ráithín. A hundred acre area here is called the Tulach, an assembly hill, now divided into fields. Other fields are the Bán; Bealach an easca, the slough pathway, and the Kyles, the meaning of which is in doubt. Field names of doubtful meaning will remain untranslated and will be followed by the sign O (obscure) throughout this work.

**Doorath, Dá ráth**, two raths. Area 495 acres.

The old name was Gleann an dá ráth, the valley of the two raths. It is also recorded as Glanvicloris, i.e. Gleann Mhic Labhrais, Laurrenson's valley, in an Inquisition at Thomastown in 1623. There is no rath marked on the O.S. sheet but there are two hamlets marked, one each in Upper and Lower Doorath. The location of the rath was on the now wooded hill-point at 550' overlooking BallyKeeffe Hill quarry, where Johnnie Murphy maintained he used to hear the fairy fiddle music. Fields here are the Caitheamh siar; Cúil-ráth, rath of the angle; Cúil Thaidhg, Tadhg's angle; Garraí Treasa, Teresa's garden; Gráig, a hamlet; Páircín an gheata, little field of the gate, and Ráth rua, a red rath.

**Dreelingstown, Baile Uí Dhraoileáin**, O'Dreeling's homestead. Area 289 acres.

An old road called Closheen, i.e. Cloichrín, little stony road, runs through the townland. There is one rath and fields here are Gort an tobair, the well field, and Garraí Lochlainn, Loughlin's garden. The Breaghach river rises in the high lands here to join the Nore at Kilkenny City and is a most unwelcome and destructive visitor when in flood.

**Goldenfield, Currach**, marshy land. Area 220 acres.

Goldenfield hamlet is marked on the O.S. sheet. An area of furze here is called the Fearann, farm land.

**Gorteenteen, Gortín tinn**, a little sore field, as recorded by John O'Donovan in his Field Name Books. Area 221 acres.

Ballycallan Catholic church is by the roadside and there is a rath south of the church. The Leicean, a slope, is a steep hill here and fields are the Croichtín, the little croft; Páirc na gcapall and Páirc na muc. The highest point is 550'.

1. Future quotes from this history will be as from Carrigan.

**KilballyKeeffe, Cill Bhaile Uí Chaoimh**, BallyKeeffe church. Area 397 acres.

The ruined church and churchyard are here and Tobar Nioclais, St. Nicholas's Well, is west of the church. The surname O'Keeffe gives title to five townlands, all adjoining in the Ballycallan district. They are listed in Killaloe, Kilmanagh and Tullaghanbrogue Civil Parishes and also listed in the two Electoral Divisions of Kilmanagh and Tullaghanbrogue.

**Kylebeg, Cill bheag**, a little church. Area 211 acres.

It was formerly known as Baile na Cille, place of the church, according to Carrigan, but there is no trace of a church.

**Kylenasaggart, Coill na sagart**, the priests' wood. Area 61 acres.

This was church land belonging to the Black Abbey, Kilkenny.

**Michaelschurch, Teampall Mhicíil**, the church dedicated to St. Michael who is patron saint of Ballycallan parish. Area 278 acres.

St. Michael's ruined church is mentioned by Archdal, circa 1777 as belonging to Jerpoint Abbey. A pattern was held on Michaelmas Day, according to O'Donovan.

**Mountgale, Baile Bhunsa**, Bounce's homestead. Area 455 acres.

The Gale referred to in the present name was a local landowner circa 1690. Carrigan states that there was a church and village here long uprooted. Old house foundations were uncovered by an excavator in Dunphy's land in 1955, probably the old village site, and stone steps leading underground were also uncovered in Dunne's land in the same year. There is a large rath on the western border. The Kyle i.e. Cill, a church, is a field here and Faiche na manách, the monks' green, is a field adjoining. The field names and the recent field finds go to prove the existence of a church and village long ago. Poll Madóg, Madock's pond, is in a 14 ac. field and Garraí leathan, the broad garden, is another field. There is a large double rath at 650'.

**Redeen, Roidín**, a place of red myrtle. Area 69 acres.

**Reisc, Riasec**, sedgy land. Area 190 acres.

Fields here are Bán beag; Caitheamh siar; Garraí na sceithe, the whitethorn-bush garden; Goirtín; Maolán an cheapaigh, hill of the tillage plot; Páircín; Poll na gcapall, horse hollow, and Seanmhóinéar, old meadow.

**Rosdama, Ros dá mhágh**, land point of the two plains. Area 247 acres.

There are twelve townlands within the county with Ros or Ross as the first syllable. Ros translates to English as a land-point or a wood, and lacking documentary guidance it is difficult to know which definition to apply.

**Tobarbreedia, Tobar Bride**, (St.) Brigid's well. Area 201 acres.

The well is not visited for devotional purposes nowadays.

## BALLYLARKIN PARISH

**Ballylarkin, Baile Uí Lorcaín**, O'Larkin's homestead, divided into Upper and Lower Ballylarkin with a total area of 910 acres.

The ancient 15th century abbey in ruins is by the roadside in the Church field in the upper portion. There is a ruined Shortal castle on the opposite side of the road and a very small rath north of this. There are three other raths in this portion. Ballylarkin House is the Gibbons' home; the late Seán Gibbons was chairman of Seanaid Éireann and chairman of County Kilkenny G.A.A. over a long period.

**Ballyphilip, Baile Philib**, Philip's homestead. Area 247 acres.

Crummy's wood, which seems to have been an extension of Upperwood Demesne lands, is on the northern border. Two caves are marked on the O.S. sheet in this area which rises to a height of 735'.

**Monabrogue, Móin na mBarróg**, Boates' bogland. Area 237 acres.

There is a rath at 700'. Fields here are Garraí glas, the Heighteens, and the Pound.

## CLAISACROW PARISH

**Brownstown, Baile an Bhrúnaigh**, Brown's homestead. Area 83 acres.

The northern portion adjoining Knockown is old woodlands.

**Clashacrow, Clais an chró**, trench of the gore, traditionally believed to refer to the Battle of Ballinamara mentioned in the opening chapter on Ballinamara. Area 559 acres.

Clashacrow 13th century church in ruins with square tower attached standing on the east bank of the Arigna river is an example of union of church and castle. The Closh (Clais) field is in Mr. MacShane's land and according to Eugene O'Curry was the scene of the battle. There are two wells—Tobar leamhnachta, new milk well, and Tobar F'hearnáin, Farnan's well, in the Shortal castle field as recorded by Carrigan, who states that there was another long demolished castle nearby. There is a beehive-shaped dove-cot still intact north-east of the church. A well-established printing works known as the Wellbrook Press and owned by the MacShane family, Wellbrook House, is producing fine work and giving good local employment.

## CLOMANTAGH PARISH

**Balief, Baile Aoidh**, Hugh's town, according to Eugene O'Curry in the Ordnance Survey Letters, is divided into Upper and Lower Balief with a total area of 485 acres.

A Shortal castle in ruins is adjacent to Balief House. The Lochans, little pools, an area liable to flooding, is a subdivision. There is a large rath in the Upper portions where the highest point is 560'.

**Barna, Bearna**, a hill gap. Area 282 acres.

**Clomatagh, Cloch mhanntach**, a clefted rock, divided into Upper and Lower and also Clomantagh Mount Garrett, with a total area of 1,728 acres.

Clomantagh church, circa 1200, in ruins in the churchyard but in a fair state of preservation with double belfry is on the road to Johnstown and not far from Clomanagh turreted castle occupied by the Shortal family whose ancestors probably built it. Tobar Mhuire, Our Lady's well, is near the derelict flour mills on the Nuenna river. There is a large broken cairn called Sui Fhinn, Fionn's seat, on Clomantagh hill at height of 600'; also a double circular rath north of the castle and three other small raths in the district. A glen on the hill slope is called Gleann F'hionnain, Fionan's glen. The highest point is 1126'.

**Darbyshill, Cnoc Dhiarmada**. Area 75 acres.

Woodsgift post office is at the north-west point.

**Forehill, Fuarchoill**, a bleak wood. Area 168 acres.

There are three raths in the southern portion.

**Kilrush, Cill rois**, church of the land-point. Area 425 acres.

The church, long destroyed, stood in front of Kilrush House according to Carrigan. A Shortal castle in ruins is also beside this house with Kilrush old corn-mills on the Nuenna river. Fields here, reminders of "the big house" are the Deerpark, Nurseries and the Kennels.

**Newtown, Baile nua**, a new homestead. Area 130 acres.

The term Newtown appears in the names of 13 townlands throughout the county and of these only two—Newtown Baker and Newtown Shea, in Earlstown parish, Shillelogher barony, record surnames at present. All these must have been carved out of adjoining townlands in order to perpetuate the names of resident landlords. This Newtown appears to have been part of the old townland of Garranamanagh.

**Woodsgift, Baile na lochan**, place of the pools. Area 491 acres.

Lieutenant Edward Woods bestowed this tract of land on his nephew George St. George, ancestor of the St. George family of Kilrush House; hence the name.

### COOLCRAHEEN PARISH

(O'Donovan gives the translation of the parish name as Cúil Craithín, Craheen's angle, but the name of the old church in Shanganny, Fassidin barony, is recorded as Coolaraheen. There are five townlands east of the Nore in this parish in Fassidin barony).

**Inchbeg, Inse bheag**, a little holm. Area 253 acres.

The townland belonged to the Anglo-Norman Grace family prior to the 17th century confiscations.

**Inchmore, Inse mhòr**, a big holm. Area 353 acres.

This was also Grace property. The site of the Grace castle and the still remaining bawn walls are on the west bank of the Nore. An old roadway is known as the Mòinín leathan, a broad bogland. All the holms along the Nore are called Inches, i.e. Insí, river meadows.

**Islands, Insí**, holms. Area 141 acres.

This townland, partly liable to flooding, lies on the east bank of the Nore opposite Inchmore.

## FERTAGH PARISH

**Kiloshulan, Teampall Uí Shiubhláin**, O'Shulan's church, also given as Teampall clais Uí Shiúiláin, the church of O'Shulan's trench or hollow. Area 1,182 acres.

Only the site of the ancient church remains with a burial ground for still-born children, usually described as reilig na mgárlacá, nearby. Kiloshulan ruined castle is on the opposite side of the church site on the by-road. There are three raths within the area.

## FRESHFORD PARISH

**Ballyroe, Baile rua**, a place of red soil. Area 171 acres

The highest point is 600'.

**Baunaniska, Bán an uisce**, a watery bawn. Area 244 acres.

The Tifeaghna river rising in Laois flows through the middle of the townland.

**Bauntanameenagh, Bánta na Muimhneach**, the Munstermen's bawns. Area 111 acres.

All the area is lowlying along the Nore side.

**Blackwood, Coill dhubh**, a dark wood. Area 374 acres.

A rough area here is called the Luachairs, the rushes. The letter s added to field names denotes the English plural.

**Boharkyle, Bóthar caol**, a narrow road. Area 44 acres.

Three other roads retaining their original names in the vicinity of Freshford town are Bóthar croise, road of the cross; Bóthar glas, a green road, and Bóthar an mhargaidh, road of the market.

**Clintstown, Baile Chloinn**, Clyn's homestead. Area 233 acres.

There is another townland of this name in Coolraheen parish roughly a mile distant from here, locally known as Clintstown.

**Crowhill, Creamh-choill**, wood of wild garlic. Area 216 acres.

This townland with Inchmore and Inchbeg townlands belonged to the great Grace family. All three were confiscated in the 17th century.

**Curraghduff, Currach dubh** dark-soiled marshy land. Area 78 acres.  
There is a tract of rough land in this district.

**Freshford, Achadh úr**, a fresh green field. Area 97 acres.

Freshford church dated back to circa 1100 and was built on the site of St. Lachtan's early christian church. The beautiful workmanship of its Hiberno-Romanesque limestone porch and recessed doorway surrounds, with engraved Irish inscription are acknowledged to be among the finest examples of ancient Celtic art in Ireland. The inscription, which is in Irish characters, reads—

Or do Neim ingin Cuirc agus do Mathgamhain Ua  
Chiarmaie las in dernad i termpulsa  
Or do Gilla Mocholmoc Ua Cencucain do rigni

Translation—

A prayer for Niam, daughter of Corc and for Mathgamhain  
O'Ciarmain, by whom was made this church.

A prayer for Gille Mocholmoc O'Cencucain who built it.

The church, then in ruins, was rebuilt for Protestant worship in 1730 incorporating the doorway which is still intact. St. Lachtin, mentioned in the Book of Leinster and the Annals of Freshford was patron, and died 622. Tobar Lachtain, St. Lachtain's well at which stations were held until banned by Bishop Marum, See of Ossory 1814-1828, much opposed to patterns on the ground of drink and brawling is a quarter of a mile south on the Freshford - Kilkenny road in the townland of Moat. Freshford wayside cross was erected to the memory of Lucas Shee and his wife, Eileen Butler, and was originally at the entrance gate to Upperwood demesne. It was removed at the end of the 18th century by Sir William Morris to Freshford Square where the base still stands.

**Freshford lots, Ceapacha Achaidh Úir.** Area 66 acres.

This townland is immediately north of the town.

**Inchmore, Inse mhór**, a big holm. Area 20 acres.

**Knockown, Cnoc Eoghain**, Owen's hill. Area 96 acres.

All the northern portion was old woodlands at height of 400'.

**Moat, Móta.** Area 142 acres.

The moat, a double circular rath, is in the south-west corner adjoining the Clashacrow road. St. Lachtan's well is by the road-side leading to Kilkenny.

**Monabrika, Moin na mbricí**, the brick bog. Area 150 acres.

There is no tradition of brick-making now known.

**Tobarnapeiste, Tobar na peiste**, well of the pest or worm. Area 221 acres.

There is no local tradition nor documentary evidence as to the origin of the name. Almost all Freshford town is in this townland.

**Upperwood Demesne, Coill uachtarach**, upperwood. Area 282 acres.

This is now known locally as Uppercourt. The court was an episcopal pre-Reformation residence called "the Castle"; it was levelled in the early 19th century. There is a large area, part of the old Demesne, marked Brown's Wood and Crummy Wood on the O.S. sheet. The quarter portion of it has been cleared of timber and partly reclaimed. There is a rath in the north-west angle with an old ice-house east of it in the same field. Pollagadee i.e. Poll an ghadáí, the thief's hole or hollow, is a field name.

### GARRANAMANAGH PARISH

**Bellville**. This is a modern English name. Area 171 acres.

It would appear from its location that the area was carved out of the southern portion of Garranamanagh townland. There is a rath in the lower half.

**Garranamanagh, Garrán na manáich**, the monks' shrubbery. Area 357 acres.

This townland and all the Civil parish anciently belonged to Jerpoint Abbey. Carrigan states that the monastery site, covering half an acre, is at Healy's. The Monastery House site is marked on the O.S. sheet. The Baubeen (derivation in doubt) on Dowling's hill is the highest point at 750'. Fields here are the Clais, trench or hollow; the Cloichreán, stony place, and the Monastery Well field. There is one rath.

### KILLAHY PARISH

**Blackbottom, Tón dubh**, dark bottom land. Area 118 acres.

Strangely enough this is a hill area, the highest point being 700'. The townland is uninhabited now, though it is good pasture land. There is a rath in the eastern portion.

**Coldbarbour**, O'Donovan gives no translation. Area 223 acres.

This was probably part of Killahy townland and the name may indicate its windy and cold aspect at height of 1000'. The term Fuar is incorporated in the townland of Forchill in Clomantagh parish, meaning a cold or bleak wood, and the adjoining plain was anciently called Cold Mágh-airbh.

**Greenhill, Cnoc glas**. Area 259 acres.

Killahy ruined church is in the south-west angle of Killahy cross-roads and the churchyard is vested in the Kilkenny County Council, the public body responsible for the preservation of graveyards.

**Hilland, Cnoc na gcapall**, the horses' hill. Area 139 acres.

The highest point is 853'.



**Killahy, Cill achaidh**, the church of the field. Area 466 acres.

The church dedicated to St. Brigid, belonged to the Abbey of St. Thomas, Dublin, from 1200 to the Reformation. Killahy castle in ruins belonged to the Graces and is in the middle of the townland. There are two wells—Tobar an chrainn, the tree well, and Tobar an té, the tea well, as given by Carrigan. Drom Sheáin hill is here but part of it is in Greenhill divided by the road.

**Lughinny, An fhliuchaine**, wet or springy land. Area 384 acres.

This area in the northern portion borders the Nuenna river, an Uaine, the green-banked river. There are two raths here.

### KILLALOE PARISH

(There are twenty-four townlands in this parish in Shillelogher barony).

**Ballykeeffe Bog, Moin Bhaile Uí Chaoimh**, O'Keefe's bogland. Area 306 acres.

The bog is now reclaimed and producing rich crops. An elk's antlers unearthed here in 1958 on Tom Regan's land during reclamation operations under the Land Project Scheme was forwarded to the National Museum.

**Big Meadow, Cluain mhór**. Area 138 acres.

This area seems to be a subdivision of Ballykeeffe Bog townland.

**Cooleshal, Cúil iséal**, a lowlying angle. Area 145 acres.

There is a church site in the south-east angle. Páirc an chrainn is a field here.

### KILCOOLEY PARISH

**Newtown, Baile nua**. Area 903 acres.

This townland is on the Tipperary border.

### KILMANAGH PARISH

**Ballagh, Bealach**, an ancient pathway. Area 98 acres.

There are three raths in Walshe's land here but two were levelled in 1961.

**Ballykeeffe, Baile Uí Chaoimh**, O'Keefe's homestead. Area 228 acres.

Kyleballykeeffe ruined church with Tobar Niochláis, St. Nicholas's Well nearby, is here. Ballykeeffe castle is in ruins and fields are Gort fairsing, a wide field; Páirc na gcapall; Páirc seabhac, field of the hawk-feed, and Sceithín, the little sceach. Seabhac as a field name, appearing in many districts, is pronounced shouc and shog. It could hardly be descriptive of an seabhac, the hawk, and we take it as a place abounding in hawk-weed.

**Banse Glebe, Bansa**, a glebe. Area 324 acres.

The old Rectory is marked on the O.S. sheet. There is a rath west of this residence.

**Brittasdryland, Britas Uí Dhraioileáin**, O'Dreeling's bretescha. Area 612 acres.

The bretasche, an Old French term, was a medieval wooden-roofed structure used for military purposes. In Carrigan's unpublished Notes he states that there is an ancient church site on the brink of a stream here. A Mass pit on the hill side was levelled by the land-owner, Mr. Sullivan, who erected a limestone cross on the site reading as follows:— "1916 — This cross marks the spot on which Mass was said in Penal times." His act in recording this is worthy of appreciation. There is a castle site of which only an earthen rampart remains. Fields here are Clais cluain, probably Clais cluana, the meadow trench or hollow. This is the site of the Mass pit referred to. Cruachán, a little hill; Páirc an chrainn, field of the tree, and Páirc an tobair.

**Graigue, Gráig**, a village or hamlet, divided into Graigue Hatford and Graigue Hayden with total area of 404 acres.

Edward Fennelly's forge, in which the stone-built, wheel-shoeing structure 6' in diameter and knee-high is in the middle of the floor, stands at the cross-roads. Fields here are Bán an fhalla, the wall bawn; Bán gearr, the short bawn; Garraí coirce, the oats bawn, and Páirc bhán. There are 13 townlands within the county incorporating the name Graigue and Graig.

**Kilbraghan, Cill Bhearcháin**, St. Bearchain's church. Area 411 acres.

The church site and Tobar Bhearcháin are at the cross-roads. A field here called Páirc na sráide, the street field, is evidence of an old hamlet. Claiseán dubh, the little dark hollow, is another field. This townland borders the Munster river, known in Irish as Glaise an ionathair, stream of the entrails, referring to an undated deadly conflict between Ossorians and Munstermen also borders Co. Tipperary. The local pronunciation is Kilbroun.

**Killeen, Cillín**, a little church. Area 847 acres.

There is an old graveyard in a field called Seanchill and also Sean-sráid, the old street. This latter name denotes an old village everywhere throughout the county. Gort na gcúpog, field of the dockweed, is here. There are eight small raths (if all still remain intact) and also a fox-covert. A lycopod (club-moss) fossil was unearthed on Calbeck's farm in 1959 during reclamation operations and presented to the Kilkenny Archaeological Society.

**Kilmanagh, Cill manach**, the monks' church. Area 369 acres.

The more ancient name was Cill-manach an droichid — of the bridge. The founding of the monastery here is attributed to St.

Natal, son of Aongus Mac Nadfraoich, King of Cashel. Carrigan states that the old church in the churchyard in which there are many inscribed monuments was Prebendal to the Reformation. A pattern was held formerly on La Fheile Nadáil at Tobar Nadáil which is over the border in Pottlesrath townland and the stream from the well is called Sruth Nadáil. St. Nadal's wooden statue was found under a boarded floor here in 1865 and is now preserved in St. Kieran's college museum. There is a fort called Murray's Fort, and two raths which were destroyed a few years ago. Fields are Bóithrín na gcat, the cats' boreen; Clais an bhaile, the village trench, now filled up, and Páirc na gcapall. A mill and mill-race stood here formerly on the Kilmanagh river which rises in Ballybeagh.

**Knockeenbaun, Cnoicín bán,** a fair little hill. Area 539 acres.

Carrigan lists a castle here in his Notes. There is a rath on the hillside called the Ráithín of which the late Thomas Hogan, farmer, had many stories of good luck in cow-calving at the rath, and who was determined it would remain untouched. This hill at 550' overlooks the wide plain south-westwards to Slieve-naman commanding a splendid view.

**Knockeenglas, Cnoicín glas,** a green little hill. Area 285 acres.

Fields here are Gort broc, the badgers' field, and the Harbour bóithrín. The highest point is 700'.

**Pollagh, Pollach,** hollow land. Area 598 acres.

This area borders a long stretch of the Munster river. Fields are Croichtín, a little croft; Garraí caol, a narrow garden or field; Garraí rua; Páirc an locha, the pond field, and Páirc chúl, the back field.

**Pottlesrath, Rath an photaire,** the potter's rath, or perhaps Potter's rath. Area 1,016 acres. It was anciently known as Dun Aongusa Mhic Nadfraoich, referred to under Kilmanagh townland. In 1453 a copy of the Psalter of Cashel compiled by Cormac Mac Cullenan circa 900 now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, was transcribed here on the instructions of Richard Butler of the Ormonde family who was then resident in the castle here. Edward, his son, built a church near the castle which was called Teampall na Rátha. The castle, fifty yards from Pottlesrath House, was levelled circa 1800. The old church lands belong to the Thompson family now and there is a disused dove-cot by the side of the house avenue. There are two raths and two fields called Bán buí, the yellow bawn, and Bealach, an old pathway.

**Sheepstown, Baile na gcaorach,** place of the sheep is now known as Shipton. Area 95 acres.

Shipton House is the home of the Teelan family.

## ODAGH PARISH

**Ballycarran, Baile Uí Charráin**, O'Carran's homestead, as given by Joyce in *Irish Names of Places*, is divided into Ballycarran and Ballycarran Little with a total area of 418 acres.

The old church of Odagh is on the north-east border. Fields here are the Caitheamh siar; Buailtín, a little booley, and Páirc seabhac, field of the hawk-weed. The term "buaile" is general throughout the county meaning a field or farmyard where cattle are kept for milking, and will in any future reference be given as booley. Originally the booley was a mountain shieling where herds and their tenders spent the summer months. It is sometimes described as an upland dairy.

**Ballydaniel, Baile Uí Dhónaill**, O'Donnel's homestead. Area 375 acres. Barnaglasánach, the hill-top of the green bushes, an eminence of 534', is a subdivision and a popular venue for the opening meet of the Kilkenny Hunt. Bóithrín Grása, Grace's boreen, is the hill road towards Knockgrace townland. Fields here are Bán Grása, Grace's bawn; Beitín; Cabhaltaigh, old house remains—still traceable; Goirtín; Páirc Bhán and Páirc no mbó.

**Bishopsmeadows, Cluainte an easboig**, the bishop's meadows. Area 51 acres.

Evidently this was church land long ago. There is a townland of the same name along the Nore in St. Canice's parish and a total of twelve townlands in the county incorporating the name Bishop in the Possessive Case.

**Borris, Burghéis**, a burbage or borough, divided into Borris Big and Little with total area 37 acres.

These two small rectangular areas seem to have been carved out of Ballycarran Little, probably to augment parliamentary voting power under the landlord system.

**Carrigeen, Carraigín**, a little rocky place. Area 454 acres.

This is to a large extent very rough land.

**Cooleshal, Cúil íseal**, a lowlying angle between the Nore and Arigna rivers, divided into Cooleshal Mór and Beag with a total area of 280 acres.

There is one other townland of this name in Killaloe parish in this barony.

**Earlsbog, Móin Iarla**, Earl's or de Earley's bogland. Area 195 acres.

There are eight townlands in the county incorporating the name Earl in the Possessive Case and it is difficult to know whether the surname or the title Earl should be applied. Fields here are Bán an locha, the pool bawn; Garraí beag and Gort na gcrann.

**Killaree, Cill Laithrigh**, church of Laithreach. Area 656 acres.

The church site is in a field called the Kyle. The Black Castle is here in ruins and there is a large rath to the west of it. Other fields are Móinín beag; Poll gabhar, the goats' hollow, and the Seangharraí.

**Knockgrace, Cnoc an Ghrásaigh**, Grace's hill. Area 70 acres.

The highest point is 550'.

**Leugh, Leamhach**, Elm Land. Area 419 acres.

Dick Grace, champion hurler of the thirties and owner of Leugh House and lands, states that elm trees "always grew up at the old rath." The site of St. Nicholas's church is south-east of Leugh House. The Tulach, a hill, is a field here and Tullow (Tulach) R.C. chapel is in this townland.

**Luskinagh, Loiscneach**, burnt land. Area 161 acres.

**Monafrica**, The meaning is in doubt. It may be a corrupt form of Móin na mbricí, the brick bog, as in Monabrica townland in Freshford Parish. This is a long strip of land bordering the Nore and subject to flooding. Area 40 acres.

**Naglesland, Fearann deNógla**, Nagle's land. Area 64 acres.

The Rock here is a prominent landmark overlooking the Nore opposite "the Shot" where the Dinan river joins the Nore. Mount Eagle distillery, in ruins, is beside the river and "the Rock" public house is by the roadside.

**Purcellsgarden, Garraí Phuirseál**. Area 193 acres.

**Simonsland, Fearann Shiomúin**, Simon's land. Area 87 acres.

**Springhill, Cnoc an fhuaráin**, hill of the spring. Area 79 acres.

**Suttonsrath, Ráth Sutúin**. Area 224 acres.

A subdivision in the middle of the townland is called Darver, i.e. Dairbhre, a place of oak trees. In 1909 Mr. Corbett Wilson rented Darver House and lands, and in April, 1912, he was the first aviator to pilot a plane over the Irish Channel taking off from Fishguard and landing in a field near Enniscorthy. For some months afterwards he used the Polo Grounds in Ardaloo as a flying field, afterwards known as the Aeroplane field. He joined the R.A.F. on the outbreak of war in 1914 and was killed in France shortly afterwards. His pioneering achievement and subsequent flights in Ireland are described in an article in the Old Kilkenny Review, issue 1958, by J. L. Mc Adams, hon. treasurer of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society.

**Threecastle, Bán Ó nDuach**, bawn of Ó Duach, so named from the ancient O'Duach tribe. Area 459 acres.

This district with the adjoining Threecastle Demesne townland

separated as a benefice attached to the Rectory. A small portion of Purcellsgarden townland covering 1ac. 2r. 2p. is inside the border of Threecastles. Fields here are the Acra, acre; the Gáirdín; Gáirdín gaise, the stream garden; Páirc an ean-agh, the marsh field; Poll buí, the yellow hollow; Striocán, a strip of land and Tobar, the well field. A lycopod fossil was discovered here circa thirty-five years ago in a limestone quarry and forwarded to the National Museum.

**Threecastles Demesne.** Area 200 acres.

There is a church site with a ruined castle adjoining and a moat south of these. Three castles, guarding the fording point on the Nore stood here formerly. One of the two demolished is believed to have been in Hennessy's farmyard and the other on the site of the present Rectory which was built in 1800. The Pattern of the Dinan is observed on the last Sunday of July and was anciently known as Domhnach Chromdú, Cromdu's Sunday, believed to have been a pagan festival. Dancing on "the board" from early afternoon to sun-down is the form of the pattern nowadays.

## ST. CANICE'S PARISH

(The parish name commemorates our 6th century patron saint and his church, Tobar Chainnigh, now called Kenny's Well, dates back to the lifetime of the saint, the stone-roofed structure over it being erected in the 17th century. St. Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower, the Dominican Black Abbey and the ruined St. Francis Abbey, all so well known, are near in the Irishtown area of the city).

**Ardboy, Ard buí,** a yellow eminence. Area 44 acres.

**Ayresfield, Banta larsaigh,** Ayre's bawns. Area 43 acres.

St. Canice's parish chapel locally called the Butts chapel, so named from the butts where archery was anciently practised, was built on a piece of land here called the Cúinne reidh, the level angle. Ayresfield House is the home of P. J. Crotty, T.D.

**Bishops Demesne, Fearainn an easboig.** Area 54 acres.

This townland lies between Kilcreen and Ayresfield. In the late 14th century Bishop Richard de Ledrede obtained permission to take down and remove three churches — St. Nicholas's, St. James's and St. Brigid's, within the city walls to provide building material for a new episcopal palace which he named Nova Curia or New Court. St. James's church was probably in the vicinity of the present James's Street, now the site of St. Mary's R.C. Cathedral, but the location of the other two is in doubt. This palace has been the residence of the Protestant bishops of Ossory since the Reformation. Additions and

renovations were carried out to 1741 and further renovations under the present bishop, Right Rev. Doctor H. R. MacAdoo in 1963 revealed a male skeleton.

**Bishopsfurze, Aitinn an easboig**, the bishop's furry lands. Area 73 acres.

**Bishopsmeadows, Cluainte an easboig**. Area 32 acres.

The Nore-bank pathway here leading from the city to Talbots-inch is a favourite walk. The row of modern dwellings known as Banim Terrace is in this townland. The meadows stretch along the river side as far as Smithwick's Brewery in the city.

**Bonnettstown, Baile Bhóinéis**, Boness's homestead. Area 577 acres.

It was anciently called Crónóg, a little hill slope. Bonnettstown Hall, now the Marascaux home, was built in 1737 by Samuel Matthews. A castle in ruins in the Hall stable-yard belonged to Robert Shee in 1559, but was Ormonde property previously. There are two raths and a ráithín, and the name of the passing stream is the Cloichreán, the stony stream. Fields are Caithcamh siar, Cúilín, a little angle; Gort Shinnic (Shinnick was owner of the Hall and lands in 1670); Páirc an tobair and Scairt, a thicket.

**Booleyshea, Buaille Uí Shéaghdha**, O'Shea's booley. Area 168 acres.

The O'Shea (Shee) family, originally from Co. Kerry, figured largely in Kilkenny City and adjoining districts in medieval times and is recorded as one of the seven leading merchant families in the city then. Booleyshea ruined castle is beside the Cloran stream referred to. One field is called Páirc na píse, field of pease or vetches.

**Burntfurze, Aitinn dóite**, a place of burnt furze. Area 33 acres.

**Cappagh, Ceapach na gcaorach**, the sheep plot. Area 64 acres.

Ceapach means a tillage plot of land on a dry hillside. There is a slugaise, i.e. slugaire, a swallow hole, on the Cloran stream in Martin Butler's land.

**Cloranshea, Cloichreán Uí Shéaghdha**, O'Shea's stony place. Area 355 acres.

Cloranshea ruined castle adjoins the Rafter homestead which has been the home of this family for over 200 years. Mrs. Gaffney, a Rafter born here who died aged 92 years in 1964, was well versed in local history and pisreoga. There is a ráithín here and fields are Bán ard; Bán na coille, the wood bawn; Cró beag, a small enclosure; Garraí Hogan; Gleann an bhóthair; Gort na muc; Gort an bhaile (at the old village here); Móintín; Páirc na gcapaillíní, little field of the ponies; Páirc na gcloch, field of the stones; Páirc na lao, the calves' field; Páirc an raithe, the ram's field; Riase, sedgy land, and Tigh

faill, house of the slope. Descriptive field names show that land-owners in by-gone days had what is termed "a pet name" for every subdivision of their holdings.

**Coolgrange, Cúl na gráinsighe,** hill of the Grange. Area 154 acres.

The term "grange" gives its name to five townlands in the county and is incorporated in six others. From the French, meaning "barn" these denote monastery lands and seem to have been almost entirely confined to the Cistercian Order out-farms. At 4 a.m. on a Sunday morning over 100 years ago a body of 800 men and 200 women marched into Kilkenny from Callan, Mullinahone and Ballingarry districts carrying reaping hooks to save the corn of Patrick Mansfield awaiting trial for complicity in the Phoenix conspiracy. They reaped Mansfield's corn in Coolgrange and Burntfurze in two hours. "Up Carrigshock!" was the cry passing through Kilkenny city.

**Crokershill, Cnoc an Chroicigh,** Croke's or Croker's hill. Area 25 acres.

**Deerpark, Páirc na bhfiadh.** Area 531 acres.

Mrs. Shiela Leahy, whose extensive farm is here, states that the deer-park comprised 600 ac. and belonged to the Ormonde family. There is a ráithin on the western border and the highest point above Deerpark House is 352'. Fields are the Bán mór; Beitin (locally called "the Bacon"); Caitheamh siar; Cnoc an iarla, the earl's hill; Curraichin, a little marsh; the Monument field, perhaps a corruption of muine bhocht, poor brake-land, and muine beitheach, a birch brake.

**Dickborough, Fearann Dic,** Dick's land. Area 137 acres.

Its local fame rests on the old Dicksboro hurling team of the thirties of this century.

**Dunningstown, Baile Uí Dhuinnín,** O'Dunning's homestead. Area 468 acres.

The highest point above Dunningstown House is 500'. The Castle hill may indicate a castle formerly. There is a rath in the Rath field and other fields are Aoibhdhearc, a pleasant view; Cnoicín; Cnoc Neary; Garraí Campion; Garraí Molaga; Gort na ngiollaí, the servants' field, Mullán na n-úll, the apple (tree) hill; Páirc na sceithe, field of the whitethorn, and Taxman's field, an English term for fields in several parts of the county.

**Holdensrath, Rath Uí Ualláin.** Area 322 acres.

This was also known as Fowling's rath with similar meaning. Holdensrath castle in ruins stands at the highest point 300', and adjoins the Duggan homestead. There is one rath and a fine limestone quarry operated by Messrs. Hearne of Waterford for church and monumental stone-work. A large specimen of stalactite was uncovered here in a seam in 1958 and presented to the Kilkenny Archaeological Society.



**James's Green, Faiche Shéamais.** Area 33 acres.

**James's Park, Páirc Shéamais.** Area 41 acres.

The park was popular as a G.A.A. pitch and circular cycling track in the twenties of this century and is now the venue of the Kilkenny Horticultural Show and Kilkenny Greyhound Race-track. The annual Kilkenny Féis was held here from the early twenties to 1967. The housing estate known as Greenfields is in this townland.

**Keatingstown, Baile Chéitinn,** Keating's homestead. Area 732 acres.

A field here is called "the Brandy", which is a corruption of branar, a fallow field. The surface soil was dug, graffed or ploughed, similar to the old wasteful method of beitin, and the ashes spread as manure. Other fields are Bán mór; crocán; Páirc seabhac, a hawk-weed field; the Ráth field and Seangharraí. The highest point is 442'.

**Kilcreen, Coill chrion,** an old or withered wood. Area 160 acres.

A Rothe castle stood on the site of Kilcreen House which was built in 1716. Sepulchral cists with calcined bones were unearthed near here in a gravel pit in 1854. There is no documentary record of a church ever being in this townland. Seanchill is the accepted Irish term for an old church, as in Shankill in the Paulstown district in Gowran barony. The modern Orthopaedic Hospital is located here; also Kilcreen Lodge, the Smithwick family residence.

**Kingsland, Fearann Uí Chionga,** King's land. Divided into Kingsland East and West with a total area of 180 acres.

**Lacken, Leicean,** a hill slope. Area 340 acres.

There is a castle site in the castle field. The base of Grace's Cross, known anciently as Cros Eamoinn de Grás is by the roadside at White's gate. It is recorded that the cross was erected on a base on this spot in 1619 to the memory of Edmond Grace of Courtstown and Catherine Archer, a newly-married couple, where Edmond was killed by his wife's former lover. The inscription, partly obliterated, is in raised Gothic characters. The base, showing neglect, was set in concrete in 1962 through the good offices of Mr. Coffey, County Surveyor, at the request of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society.

**Loughmacask, Loch Mhaolchaisc,** Mac Cask's pond. Area 55 acres.

The pond covers an area of one-sixth of an acre in the middle of a field. During the great frost of 1947 two young boys from the Butts district of the city were drowned here while skating.

**Lousybush, Sceach na míol,** white-thorn of the lice, as given by O'Donovan who states that this was a rendezvous for beggars. Area 108 acres.

**Lyons.** Area 40 acres.

This name, difficult of interpretation and now obsolete locally is recorded on the O.S. sheet as the area parallel to and east of Daly's Hill and includes all the houses and gardens west of Blackmill Street, Stephen's Street and Parnell Street, including the site of the County Jail demolished in 1953.

**Newtown, Baile nua,** a new land division. Area 903 acres.

Cúilin, a little angle, and Kyleneaboul i.e. Coill na bpoll, wood of the hollows, are well-known subdivisions. The district is recorded in the Red Book of Ossory, 14th century, now housed in St. Canice's Cathedral library, as Ecclesia Ballyfinan, anciently a small parish which was merged into St. Canice's circa 1510, according to Carrigan's Notes. In a field here called the Old gardens, are the remains of a church and churchyard long destroyed. Ballyfinan castle in this townland belonged to the Selingers or St. Ledgers. Poll an tsúghraidhe is a slugaise or swallow hole on the Clochog stream rising in the northern hills which disappears completely underground in Castleblunden townland. All the western portion is rough land and the highest point is 350'.

**Oldpark, Seanpháirc, old park lands.** Area 18 acres.

**Palmerstown, Baile Almaire,** Palmer's homestead. Area 220 acres.

The name could also translate Baile an phalmaire, the pilgrim's homestead. The fertilizer and grain stores of Messrs. Walsh, Irishtown, are sited here.

**Raheenagun, Ráithín na gcon,** little rath of the hounds. Area 46 acres.

There is a small partly-demolished rath at 210'.

**Robertshill, Cnoc Riobáird.** Area 68 acres.

This is known as Daly's Hill. Lanavaiteen, i.e. Lána Bhaitín, Little Batt's lane, or perhaps Lána baitín, lane of the cudgelling or rowdyism, runs from Kennyswell to Paulgour dividing Lyons from Daly's hill.

**Talbotsinch, Inse Talbóid,** Talbot's holm. Area 303 acres.

Talbotsinch village is well-known for its pretty Swiss chalet-type houses. It was built by the late Countess of Desert in 1906 for employees in her woodwork factory and woollen mills. The local ball-alley erected through her munificence has produced the finest ball-players in Ireland down the years. Auteven (Áit Aoibhinn, a pleasant place) Hospital, also built by her in 1915 and now under the charge of the Sisters of St. John of God, and St. Luke's County Hospital opened in 1941 are in this townland. The late Dr. William J. Phelan was the first county surgeon appointed to St. Luke's. He was a founder member of the revived Kilkenny Archaeological Society in 1946 and was president of the Society in succession to the late John O'Leary, Graugumanagh, from 1955 until his death in 1963.

**Troyswood, Coill an Treoigh.** Area 503 acres.

This townland is a union of two ancient districts namely Fearann broc, badger land, and Dún uabhar, a proud fort. Dún uabhar district belonged to the Black Abbey friars until 1540. Thornback, i.e. Drom deilgneach, is a subdivision in which there is a church, churchyard and castle nearby, both church and castle being in ruins. Tobar Bhreanáin, St. Brendan's well, latterly known as Tobar an chrainn, the tree well, and Tobar na Deirce, the cave or pit well are near the Nore and in a line between these is the fort at height of 400'. The Troy family came into possession of these lands in 1454. A pattern called Pátrún na gcailleach, was held anciently on the last Sunday in August.

### SHEFFIN PARISH

(This parish is recorded in the Red Book of Ossory as Stafethen, i.e. Teach Fheichín. It does not give its name to any townland).

**Clontubrid, Cluain tiobraide,** meadow of the spring. Area 386 acres.

Sheffin old church and churchyard were on a hill called Crois Bhaitéir, Walter's cross-roads, now known as the Cruis. We are told that St. Fiachra, patron of gardeners after whom Paris taxicabs were named and who died in France in 670, was the church patron. Tobar dri, recte Tobar an dithreabhaigh, the hermit's well, is in an angle north-east of the cross-roads. Fields here are Bán riach, a grey bawn; Barrack hill, and Gleann. The hill road northwards to the Cruis is steep and an advice to racegoers to Balleen point-to-point meetings years ago was — Come early and avoid the rush, Come by Freshford and dodge the Cruis. The highest point is 570'.

**Graigueswood, Coill Ghreig,** Gregg's wood. Area 290 acres.

The apostrophic spelling in the English name would indicate a surname.

**Lodge Demesne East, Fearann Bhaile Fhinn,** Balleen demesne. Area 162 acres.

Formerly called Balleen Park this townland with Lodge Demesne West is listed in Sheffin parish, Galmoy barony on the Index of Townlands and Lodge townland listed in Balleen parish, Galmoy barony.

### TUBRIDBRITAIN PARISH

**Ballynascarry, Baile na scairbhe,** place of the shallow ford, divided into Ballynascarry Gore and Butler with a total acreage of 259 acres. Part of Graine Hill called Cros na gréine, a cone-shaped eminence proverbially sunny is here on the Tipperary border marching the Munster river at an altitude of 528' from which there is a fine view.

**Blanchfieldsbog, Moin an Bhluinsiolaigh.** Area 168 acres.

There is a small rath on the northern border.

**Craddockstown, Baile Chradóg,** Craddock's homestead. Area 250 acres.

There is a large rath on the western border.

**Garranagle, Garrán na gcaol,** shrubbery of the slender trees. Area 245 acres.

There is a large rath adjoining the road in the east and a small rath near the Tipperary border.

**Garranconnell, Garrán Chonnell,** Connell's shrubbery. Area 155 acres.

**Garryhiggin, Garraí Uí Uigin,** O'Higgin's garden. Area 132 acres.

These lands were forfeited by John Grace in 1653 and granted to a Cromwellian captain named Charles Gore who named his portion Goresgrove. There is a ruined castle adjoining Goresgrove House and a well called Tobar an éin, the bird's well, according to Carrigan.

**Glenreagh, Gleann riach,** a grey valley. Area 157 acres.

Tón riach, grey bottom land, is a subdivision. A well here is called Tobar na hadhairce, well of the horn, according to Carrigan, but this could be a corruption of Tobar na deirce, well of the alms-giving which was a custom at patterns. There is a rath on the northern slope of Graine Hill and the Annals of the Four Masters record a battle here under date 891 A.D. Human remains were unearthed in 1890. The old district of Graine given as Gréin-Airbh in ancient documents was merged into this townland and Ballynascarry. An ancient highway from Munster crossed the hill-top (hence the Cross of Graine) and the hill was the boundary as set by the Synod of Rath Breasil in 1110 between the dioceses of Cashel and Ossory.

**Kildrinagh, Cill droighneach,** church of the blackthorn bushes. Area 474 acres.

The ruined church belonged to St. John's Abbey, Kilkenny, and with its patron St. Duartach is mentioned in the Book of Leinster, according to Carrigan. A graveyard south of the cross-roads contains a coffin-shaped 13th century monument with Lombardic lettering. Lady's Well is on the slope of Shragh hill and another well north-east of the church is called Bréagóg, deceptive, as it goes dry in summer. The old village is quaintly situated in the valley north of Dromshane Hill 700' and has been occupied by three families of Whelans for a very long period who jointly own one small field called "The devil's half-acre" of which there is a witty verse. This is a district of porous limestone with consequent scarcity of water. Kildrinagh hill and Tallyho Hill are local eminences. There is one rath and fields are Seachánach, abounding in whitethorn, and seanachadh, the old field, also called "the old street", where stood the old town of Kildrinagh.

**Kyleballynamoe, Cill bhéil atha na mbo**, church of the cows' ford-mouth. Area 596 acres.

Carrigan states that the church was demolished in 1830 to fill a great well and he gives Tobar cillin, well of the little church, in his Notes. Shortal's castle, almost demolished, was confiscated under Cromwell. On the summit of Kyle Hill, 750' there is a cavern in a field called Poll a toishín, probably Poll on tsúghairín, hole of the little cavern. The Bán buí is another field here. Part of the area is now under State forest.

**Monblanchameen, Móin an Bhláthaimhínigh**, Blanchameen's bogland. Area 152 acres.

There is one rath and a large area of rough land rising to 1000'.

**Parks, Páirceanna**, fields. Area 86 acres.

The terms Park and Parks are usually descriptive of pasture and woodlands surrounding a manor.

**Rathclevin, Ráth cléibhín**, rath of the crib or small basket (O'Donovan). Area 139 acres.

Gort breac is a field here.

**Skeaghcroum, Scheach chrom**, a bent lone sceach. Area 70 acres.

Our Lady's Well is on the hill slope. There is a rath in the middle of the townland and a rectangular rath on the east border.

**Tubbrid, Tiobraid Briotain**, Britain's spring, divided into Upper and Lower Tubbrid with a total area of 971 acres.

History tells how in 971 Muireartach O'Neill, Prince of Aileach, Donegal, in a circuit of Ireland with one thousand men camped in a field still known as Bán an champa. A record of this assembly translated from Irish runs "We were a night at cold Maigh Airbh at the wells of the long-lived Britan". These wells are five in number as follows:- Tobar Phádraig, at the foot of the Sliabh Ardachaidh hills; Tobar Mhuire; Tobar na caillighe—of the hag; Tobar chillín—of the little church. The three last with a pool or well called Loch Fhionnáin, Fionan's pool, or Loch uaithnin, pool of the little green, are the source of the Nuenna. And history repeats itself for we are told that Bán an champa was an I.R.A. pre-Truce drilling venue. Tubrid church, in ruins in churchyard dedicated to St. Patrick, belonged to St. John's Abbey, Kilkenny, and Tubrid castle, still in fair repair, was Shortal property.

### TULLAROAN PARISH

(This parish district was anciently known as Pobal an Ghrásaigh, Grace's Parish. This Anglo-Norman family who like the Walshes of the Mountains espoused the Irish cause at a very early date and suffered thereby the loss of their property by

confiscation under Cromwell had their chief stronghold in this area at Courtstown).

**Adamstown, Baile Adhaimh**, Adam's homestead. Divided into Upper and Lower Adamstown with a total area of 472 acres.

There are three raths in the Lower portion. The highest point is 942'.

**Ballaghcloneen, Bealach chluainín**, pass of the little meadow, or perhaps Bealach Uí Chluainín, O'Clunan's pass. Area 284 acres.

Michael Dollard of Courtstown states that the old village between Cloneen bridge and Courtstown is still known as Carroll's Street, from the number of Carroll families who once lived there, and that there were twenty houses there formerly. There are old culm pits on both sides of the road. A large rectangular rath and a smaller circular rath stand adjacent to each other in the southern portion and another on the Raheen border. Fields are Croichtín caol, narrow little croft; Gort feannóg, the grey-crow field; Páirc na claise, and Seanachadh.

**Ballybeagh, Baile beitheach**, place of the birch trees. Area 1,119 acres.

Fields here are Bréagán, a deceitful spot; Cnocán, Móinteán; Páirc chaol and Páirc na lao. The highest point is 800', commanding a fine view.

**Ballycuddihy, Baile Uí Chuidithe**, O'Cuddihy's homestead. Area 575 acres.

Ballycuddihy Hill and Ballykeeffe Hill to the south are the last two eminences of the north-west county high lands between this and the Slievenaman foot-hills. There is a rath at the highest point 750' and fields are Bán na rátha; Caitheamh siar; Clais an ghuail, the coal trench; Clais Chathail; Cúil na píse, angle of the pease; Cúl an mhí-ádh, hill of misfortune; Gort broc, the badger field; Gort na sceallóg, field of the stone splinters; Leicean, a slope; Páirc ard; Páircín donn; Páirc luachra, a rushy field; Páirc na claise; Páirc an ghuail, the coal field; Poll donn, the brown hollow; Riase, a sedgy place, and Bearna dhearg which is part of the hill leading to Kilmanagh village.

**Ballyroe, Baile rua**, a red soil district, is divided into Ballyroe Maher and Grace with a total area of 402 acres.

There is a small rath on the north-west border.

**Ballytarsna, Baile tarsna**, a cross-wise place. Area 129 acres.

**Boggan, Bogán**, soft soil (due to hill springs). Area 455 acres.

There is a fort or moat overlooking the Munster River which rises above this district, "pumping out of the ground," according to the late Thomas Breen, died 1966 at 82 years. There is a well called Tobar na Croiche Naoi (Naofa), holy cross well,

and local inhabitants say "there are three holy wells in Bogan". There is an old herb garden at Pat Comerford's, and fields are the Bán; Gleann ailpín, blackthorn glen, and the Caiseal.

**Brabstown, Baile Bhrabasúin**, Brabason's homestead. Area 201 acres. St. Margaret's Well is here and fields are Branar, a fallow field; Garbhóg, a rough little spot; Fail, a declivity; the Finistéir, probably Fionnaistair, a place of wild parsley; Machaire silín, cherry level-land; Páirc bheag; and an casca, the slough.

**Briskalagh, Brioslach**, friable land, or perhaps Brioslán, a place of silver-weed. Area 85 acres.  
There is a large rectangular rath here.

**Briotas, Briotás**, a bretesche (see Brittasdryland in Kilmanagh parish for definition). Area 553 acres.  
Páircíní is a field name here, indicating small fields formerly.

**Canvarstown, Baile Chanbhair**, Canver's homestead. Area 373 acres.  
Canverstown House is marked on the O.S. sheet. All the area lies between 500' and 700'. Fields here are Cnocán; Gort fearainn, field of the land measure, and Móinteán, little bog-land.

**Coolnapise, Cúil na píse**, angle of the pease. Area 38 acres.

**Courtstown, Baile na cúirte**, place of the court or mansion. Area 394 acres.

Courtstown castle, the seat of the Grace family already referred to, is long razed to the ground. Here at the home of Oliver Grace in 1578 Corc Óg Ó Cadhla transcribed, from an Irish translation by Cormac Mac Duinnshleibhe, the 3rd Particle of a treatise on medicine entitled Liliun Medicinae, written at Montpellier, France, circa 1303 by Bernardus de Gordon. Knocknagress, i.e. Cnoc na nGrás, Grace's hill at height of 800' is a subdivision. There is a large rectangular rath west of Courtstown House and a small one called Ráithín.

**Currachcarteen, Currach scairtín**, marshy land of the little thicket. Area 116 acres.

A rath here was investigated by Dr. Raftery of the National Museum in 1957. Timber baulks were unearthed and the rath was levelled by permission.

**Foyleatalura, Fail an táilliúra**, declivity of the tailor. Area 357 acres. The highest point is 900'. Fields are Buailé réidh, a level booley; Currach; Gort Néill; Log, a hollow; Páirc an gheata, the gate field; Páircín na lao, and Tiobraid, a spring — which is a very fine one.

**Gortnagap, Gort na gceap**, field of the tree stumps, but it is recorded in an Inquisition at Thomastown in 1623 as Gort na gcross, signifying the field of the crosses. Area 653 acres.

There was an R.I.C. barracks in this district circa 100 years ago.

**Hunstown, Baile Uí Fhiachra**, O'Hunt's homestead. Area 568 acres.  
There is a small rath at height of 450' and fields are Ard salach, a dirty height, and the Castle field.

- Knocknamuck, Cnoc na muc**, a swine hill. Area 257 acres.  
The highest point is 900'.
- Kyleballyoughter, Coill bhaile uachtair**, wood of the Upper place. Area 297 acres.
- Lates, Léataí**, lowlying land intersected by drains. Area 124 acres.  
This is lowlying fertile land bordering a stream with an old ford and a waterfall south of Lates House, the home of the Fitzgerald family.
- Lisballyfoot, Lios bhaile Phrúit**, Fort of Prout's homestead. Area 554 acres.  
The name is abbreviated locally to Liss. There is a double rath at height of 700' on Cnoc an leasa, hill of the rath, and three small raths — four according to the late Dick Holland.
- Lisnalea, Lios na lao**, fort of the calves. Area 285 acres.  
The highest point is 837' and fields are Clais; Coill bheag; Cruachán; Garraí beag; Gleann; Gort fear og; the young men's field, the moat; Páirc bheag; Páirc chaol; Páirc fhionn, the fair or whitish field and Páircín na rátha.
- Monavadaroe, Muine an mhadra rua**, brake of the fox. Area 190 acres.  
A stream rises here in bubbling springs in Richard Fleming's land to form a tributary of the Arigna river, an Argain, the destructive river. Fields here are Gorta Anna, Ann's fields; Páirc an ais (O).
- Nawengland, Baile na ngall**, homestead of the English. Area 308 acres.  
In an Inquisition at Thomastown in 1623 it is recorded as "Englishtown otherwise Ballynagoule." There are two large double raths here at height of 700'.
- Oldtown, Seanbhaile**, an old hamlet. Area 282 acres.  
There is a castle site in the north-east angle, and fields are Cúil na píse, angle of the pease; Goirtín; Páircín, and Páirc mhór.
- Oldtownhill, Cnoc seanbhaile**. Area 405 acres.  
This townland adjoins Oldtown on the east. A field here is called Cúl deirce. There is no local tradition of the derivation.
- Picketstown, Baile Phiocóid**, Picket's homestead. Area 114 acres.
- Raheen, Ráithín**, a little rath. Area 416 acres.  
The rath is on the southern border at height of 425'.
- Rathealy, Ráth Aolmhaigh**, Aolmhach's rath. Area 593 acres.  
The rath or fort, our finest in the county, standing at 810' and commanding a magnificent view on all sides is sixty yards in diameter with inner fosse twenty feet deep from the top level of the rath and outer double circumvallations. It is called