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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.

ISBN 0 9501687 8 5

Printed by  
BOETHIUS PRESS  
Kilkenny

## 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.

the Stuaic (a pinnacle) of Rathealy. There is a church in ruins eighty yards eastwards and Bóthar Chiaráin, St. Ciaran's Road, ran past the church where tradition says the saint's horse was stolen, the district thus incurring his malediction of "toiseach chuir, deirc bhaint"—first to plant, last to reap, which doesn't seem to make sense. This fine rath is now under the care of the National Monuments Commissioners. There is a small double rath three fields westwards and three more further south-west, while the two fine Newengland raths are on the adjoining border. The Breacán is a field here probably meaning speckled land and another called "the room" field, from ruaim, the elder tree.

**Rathmacan, Rath MacCanna, MacCanns' rath.** Area 656 acres.

This is an upland area rising to a height of 750'. There is an infants' burial ground called Cill na nGárlach in the middle of the townland and there are headstones in Maher's field. The Glaiseán, a streamlet, rises here and flows westwards to Munster River.

**Remeen, Rëidh mhín dhubh,** a smooth dark-soiled high flat. Area 277 acres.

It is recorded as Reimynduffe in an Inquisition of 1623. The Remeen bush at Walton's is also known as the Monument bush. Fields here are the big beitin and the small beitin; Branar, fallow land; Clais báinín, the little bawn hollow; Cruachán; Garraí Kervick; Garraí na buaile, the booley garden; Garraí Ualláin, Holland's garden; Gort na gcruachán, field of the hill-oaks; Lochán, a little pond, and Páirc na rátha, which may refer to the border rath in Mountgale.

**Trenchardstown, Baile an Trínsigh,** Trench's or Trenchard's home-  
stead. Area 431 acres.

In Carrigan's Notes he records a "Mass pit in Gorman's valley." There is a small rath in a field called Ráithín a crooka, but the meaning is not clear.

**Tullaroan, Tulach Ruáin** or Rowan's hill. Area 442 acres.

Tullaroan ruined church, churchyard, the monks' walk, and Lady's well are in the same field south of the village, and the Tullaroan Cross is by the roadside in the village. There is a double rath in the northern angle and a small rath west of the road at the church. Fields here are the Arda bán, white heights; Clais an uisce; Garraí beag; the Flax field; Páircín; Páirc na gloch, field of the stones; Páirc na píse, and Portach na lao, the calves' bog.

### FASSIDINAN BARONY

Fásach an Dianin, the pasture lands of the swift river, defines the English phonetic rendering of the barony name. This territory of 68,174 acres forming the north-east of the county extends from the

river Nore to the Carlow border and northwards from Bán Ó nDuach to the Laois border. The Dinan river flows southwards through the middle of a wide valley which rises gradually in the east and west to roughly 1000'. In this area, geographically termed the Castlecomer Plateau, lies the centre of the Leinster Coal-fields. The rock formation is shale covering the coal seams in the valley and conglomerate sandstone in the higher elevations. Most of the area is good arable land.

This was the territory of the O Duach tribe until the 10th century and later of the O Brennan sept who forfeited their lands under the Strafford Plantation, 1637. Richard Wandsford who was secretary to the Earl of Strafford, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, got this territory and the Wandsford family has wrought the coal-fields from then until the present day. All the district is dotted with disused mines and according to Tithe's Statistical Observations published in 1802 there were then 16 mines working in the area.

Megalithic remains and raths are few. Ruined castles are scattered in the western and lower portions but there are not many ancient churches and little evidence of communal habitation of the old village fashion.

#### **ABBEYLAOIS PARISH (Part of)**

**Rathgarry, Ráth gharbh**, a rough rath. Area 249 acres.

#### **ATTANAGH PARISH (Part of)**

**Ballyoskill**. Area 1,537 acres.

The meaning is in doubt. It is given as Bollyoskall in Inquisition Lagenia (1635) and twice in Calendar of Ormonde Deeds as Ballyoskrin. Cromwell's Road runs through the area from the Seven Cross-roads in Byrnesgrove direct to Loughill townland and into Laois. The Rosconnell or Ballyoskill pilgrimage is held from the third week in August to the 5th of September and the pattern at Lady's Well on Our Lady's Feast-day, August 15th. The Glaise geal, the bright stream, rises here and joins the Nore at Russelstown. There is one rath and a castle site in the old castle field. Other fields are Bán an ráithín, the little rath bawn; Caiseal, a stone fortress; Clais mhóinín, the bogland trench; Cluain, a meadow; the Cumar, a glen; Eanach, a marsh; Leaca bhúí, a yellow slope; Old court, and Poll Doimhin, a deep hollow.

**Earlsgarden, Garraí Iarla**, Earl's or Earley's garden. Area 256 acres.

The Abha bheag, the little river, marks the border between Kilkenny and Laois for a short distance. St. Mary's R.C. Church is near the east border. In Carrigan's Notes he records the Closh (Clais) as the site of an old chapel.

## CASTLECOMER PARISH

**Aghamucky, Achadh muice**, the pig's field (Onom.) Area 1,065 acres.

The disused Rock colliery is in the northern portion and the highest point in the area is 809'. An aerial railway for coal delivery ran from the rock to the Deerpark colliery until the early thirties of this century.

**Ardra, Ard riach**, a grey heigh. Area 892 acres.

The name is recorded as Ardrea in early 18th century documents. The Castle of Ardra, in ruins, is in a wood formerly known as the Twelve Views wood. Tobar na Croiche Naoi i.e. Tobar na Croiche Naofa, well of the holy cross, is now known as Cruckney well. Ardra House is below Copley's bridge. A monument erected by local public subscription some years ago to honour the memory of the 1798 men who fell in the battle of Castlecomer and who were interred here is in this townland.

**Aughatubrid (now Chatsworth) Achadh tiobraide**, field of the spring. Area 1,682 acres.

This townland is the most northerly in the county. The ancient church was in the Church Hill field and Carrigan in his Notes states that the Tiobraid beside the church was a holy well; also that there was another holy well called Bruach dearg, the red bank well. Fields are Foithreamhail, lowlying thickets, and Tulach riach, a grey hill or mound. The highest point is 817'.

**Ballylinnan, Baile Lonáin**, Lonnin's homestead. Area 525 acres.

Fields are the Bán; the Buaile, and Sean-mhóinéar.

**Castlecomer, Caislean an Chumair**, the castle of the confluence. Area 84 acres.

The town is recorded as an Comar in Osraighibh, in Onamsticon Gaedelicum by Revd. Edmund Hogan, S.J., published in 1910, and also recorded as Caisleán idir dhá chumair in medieval documents. It is a thriving town due to its proximity to the coal-mining centre, and its limetree-lined square is an attractive shopping and residential area. This square was a resting and re-loading centre for the hardy colliery carters who delivered their loads within a thirty mile radius, travelling late and early. After delivering their loads and enjoying convivial company they faced the return journey with their mules and jennets. These animals were so well trained that they wended their way home safely, unguided occasionally but keeping strictly to the correct side of the road. Particular families engaged in coal selling and delivery and many tales are told of their journeying, their double tracing on steep roads and battling with the elements. All this is now past history as carts and carters have disappeared off the roads within the past twenty years. "I've a heart as big as Kilmacow," the late Ned Kelly, a Clogh carter, used to say, landing back on a wet and windy night with his whip looped over his shoulder and the thirst of the road on

him. Castlecomer was the birthplace of Mrs. Laracy (nee Kenny) who wrote in support of the Sinn Féin movement in the early years of this century under the pen-name "The Stormy Petrel". The town figured prominently in Gaelic League circles, the local promoters being Matty Whelan, Jer. Kelly, Paddy Mulhall and the Quinn and Kenny brothers.

**Clogh, Cloch**, a castellated stone building. Area 533 acres.

The name is recorded as Cloch Māgh Leithid on Petty's map, 1655. Carrigan states in his Notes that Coolthach (coillteach, woodlands) castle was in the Castle field and that a pond beside the present R.C. church was called Loch na ngé, pond of the geese. Massford and Boneyarra, probably Bán an ghearrtha, bawn of the (river) cutting, are two subdivisions. There is a disused coal pit north of Clogh village, and this mining village is transformed from rows of old thatched houses to modern slated dwellings within the last 40 years. Suí ard, a rise, is a field name here.

**Cloneen, Cluainín**, a little meadow. Area 809 acres.

**Coolbawn, Cúl bán**, a fair hill-back. Area 680 acres.

Upperhills, anciently called Drom Sheáin Mhic Amhlaobh, Seán Mac Cauliffe's hill, is a subdivision. Another district name here is Glenmullan from the main road to the stream of that name. There is a Clais an Eyesin, a Mass pit here, the second element conforming with the rendering of R slender in the Ossory dialect. In an ambush here in 1920 two I.R.A. flying-column men, Seán Hartley of Glenmore and Nicholas Mullins of Thomastown lost their lives. A wayside shrine marks the spot on the main 'Comer/Athy road. Coolbawn House is the Comerford home.

**Coolnaleen**. Area 428 acres.

O'Donovan gives Cúl na lion, hill-back of the nets as a translation, and Carrigan gives Cúl an lín, hill of the flax. It is difficult to know which should be applied. According to Tighe's statistical survey flax cultivation in the county was then "trifling and local". In support of O'Donovan's translation we quote the following from the Ormonde Deeds, Vol. IV:- "John White, John Cott and Maurice Haolan, all of the same, who hold no lands or tenements, yet all and each of them hold and exercise harriers, greyhound bitches and scenting-hounds on leash for taking hares, rabbits, pheasants and partridges. . . . Deed . . . Dated November 10, 1514". In the same volume is a Deed dated March 20, 1544, stating that "Walter Cowley of Kilkenny grants to James Sweetman of Castlelleff and Leonard Blanchvill of Dunmore half of all his messauges and lands with half the rabbit-warren in Krynkill . . ." A well here is called Cnocán bán well.



**Croghtenclogh, Croichtin cloch**, little croft of the stones. Area 3,486 acres.

This is the largest townland in the county and borders Co. Carlow. Part of the district was called Caoracht, sheep land, according to Carrigan. Two streams join at Kelly's Bridge with a tributary flowing from the Three Counties Bridge on the Carlow border from the Dinan in its upper reaches. There is a small rath near Kelly's Bridge and a disused coal mine in the extreme northern angle. Fields are Cúil an tobair, angle of the well (accounted holy); Gort na gcloch, and Mongore, probably Móin gabhar, the goats' bog, where Castlecomer residents cut turf during the fuel scarcity in World War II years. The highest point is 830'.

**Crutt, Croit**, a (hill) hump. Area 2,459 acres.

It is recorded in Hogan's Onom. as Crota. All the area belonged to the O'Brennans in pre-Reformation times. Turlogh O'Brennan was attainted in 1694 ending the power of this great family in the north county. Cappagh; Coolade i.e. Cúl leithead, a broad hill, and Sráid an Ultaigh, the Ulsterman's village, a small community with Ulster surnames, are subdivisions. Poll an phúca is a waterfall and swimming pool on the stream rising in Coolade and joining the Deen river at Loon townland. The highest point is 965' and fields are Achadh dara, field of the oak; Bán Dhonnchadha; Caitheamh siar and Croicín. There is one disused coal-mine site.

**Donaguile, Dún an ghaill**, fort of the foreigner. Area 782 acres.

Ellinor Brennan forfeited "Dunagile-oughtarach", Upper Donaguile, in 1694. Grant's Wood, also known as Cloudmount, is here and a depression known as Gleann doimhin.

**Drumagoole**, Drom an ghuail, hill of the coal. Area 368 acres.

There is a holy well near St. Mary's church and a spa well in Sawney's wood. Cromwell's pit is in Wandesford's wood and Tulach riach, a grey hill, is a field name.

**Firoda (Upper), Fioghar ó nDuach**, border lands of O'Duach. Area 1,187 acres.

Leicean na raithighe, slope of the ferns, is a subdivision. Firoda castle, east of the Ballyragget road, and Grace's old castle were both destroyed in the beginning of the 19th century. There is a large moat called Mount Firoda near the highest point 981'. Tobar na leac, well of the flags, in Lower Firoda, Nanny's well or St. Anne's, and Tobar an chinrfhionn, well of the white-faced cow, are three wells here. There is a disused coal shaft near the Laois border and fields are Bánóg an bhainne, little bawn of the milk; Cnocán na muc, and Gleann Ó nDuach.

**Glebe, Gléib**, glebe land. Area 20 acres.

This small area adjoins Barrack Street on the north-west.

**Glenmagoo or Firoda Lower, Gleann Magha gabha**, glen of the Smith's valley. Area 1,049 acres.

The name indicates ancient smithing and it is recorded that iron goods were produced here and at Ironmills, Ballinakill by the Wandesfords in the first half of the 17th century. Cillín Moygowe is recorded in documents of 1621, according to Carrigan, but there is no trace of the little church. In his Notes he mentioned that human bones were found at the rath. Fields are Cnocán an Eysing (Aifrinn), hillock of the Mass; Cnocán, (said to be chambered); Croichtín carrach, a barren little croft; Fearann na saileog, osierland; Gleann mór; Mullán na móna (as given in Canon Carrigan's Notes); Ráithín, and Tinaoil, a lime-kiln.

**Gorteen, Goirtín**, a small field. Area 683 acres.

The term Goirtin is applied to a district of small fields as in Ballygorteen in Shankill Parish, Gowran Barony. Mointeen old colliery is south of the cross-roads. Stang is a field name here. A stang or estang is an Anglo-Norman land measurement term said to be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  statute acres.

**Kiltown, Baile na cille**, place of the church. Area 628 acres.

The ancient name was Cill Dhonnchadha na coille, church of Donagh of the wood, according to Carrigan who states in his Notes that Owen Brennan was attainted of Kiltown in 1694. There is a small graveyard for still-born children and a Mass pit which gives its name to a field. There are three wells—Tobar Philib at which a pattern was held formerly; Tobar Eibhlín and Tobar cuill, probably the hazel wood well. Besides the Mass-pit field there is also the grave field; Cloichreán, stony land; Cros Eibhlín; Leacht Sheáin, and the Lyracha (O) an area of roughly 100 acres.

**Loon, Leamhan**, elm land. Area 811 acres.

**Moneenroe, Móinín rua**, a little red moor. Area 1,313 acres.

The old Jarrow colliery and one other was in this district. Fields are the Cruachán bán; Croicín; Currach; Sceach and the Three sceachs.

**Moyhora, Mágh thorthach**, a fertile plain. Area 1,250 acres.

It is recorded in Onom. as "Magh thorthach in Ossory". There was a deer park here which would seem to have given its name to the centre of mining called the Deerpark Colliery closed in 1968 marking the end of an era. Ryefield is a subdivision and fields are Croicín bán; Cnoc a buggy (O), and the Pollachs, the hollows.

**Skehane, Sceachánach**, a place of sceach bushes. Area 939 acres.

Skehana mine produced the finest anthracite coal but was destroyed by underground fire in 1929. Fields are the Beitin, Cúl Pheigi, Peggy's hill; Croicín; Gleann dorcha, a dark glen; the Leicean, a slope, and Móin an ghúta, miry bogland.

**Slade, Slaod**, a glen. Area 157 acres.

This term is now obsolete except in place names.

### COOLCRAHEEN PARISH

(O'Donovan gives the name if this parish as Cúil Craithín, Craheen's angle, but the name of the old parish church in Shanganny townland is recorded as Coolaraheen, i.e. Cúil an raithín, angle of the little rath).

**Clintstown, Baile Chlinn**, Clynn or Clints' homestead. Area 447 acres.

It is thought that Friar Clynn who survived and recorded the great plague or Black Death in Kilkenny in 1348-'49 had some connection with this place but there is no historical proof. Fields are the Castle field which is said to be the site of an ancient church and Cnocán na ceardcha, little hill of the forge. There is one small rath near the Nore.

**Folksrath, Ráth Fhuile**, Fule or Folco's rath. Area 357 acres.

The castle (now An Oige hostel) and lands belonged to the De La Freney's in the 15th century. A pattern was held formerly at a well called Sruth na ceardcha and a ford on the stream was called Áth na ceardcha. There are two wells called Tobar an chrainn and Tobar na gcardálaí, well of the gossips. Chatting at the well was always a custom in Ireland. George's Tree at the south-west extremity is a well-known landmark.

**Lismaine, Lios Mhugháin**, Mughan's liss. Area 317 acres.

It is recorded that Mughan, daughter of Cucraigh, King of Munster, circa 520 A.D. is buried here, though the name may simply be Lios Meán, the middle liss. Lissmaine ruined Purcell castle stands overlooking the Nore on the east bank. The Móineen is the name of the road from Lismaine bridge to Three-castles. There is one rath and two others destroyed in 1860 according to Carrigan's Notes. Fields are Gleann a rí (O) and Páirc an fhásaigh, field of the lush grass.

**Shanganny, Seanganach**, abounding in ants. Area 420 acres.

This townland is also recorded in the Petty Sessions District lists (1896) in both Grangemacomb and Mayne parishes. The derivation is doubtful. Coolaraheen church ruins is south-west of Shanganny castle site on the opposite side of the road. The base of the old church baptismal font was removed to Conahy chapel yard. Móintín is field here.

**Swifts Heath, Bán Róibín**, Robin's bawn. Area 593 acres.

It is also recorded as Bán Róibínéid, little Robin's bawn. An ancient graveyard site is still called the Reilig field, and human bones have been unearthed here. Fields are Bán Róibín; Currach; Garraí Dhiarmada; Gleann an mhuilinn, valley of the mill and Gort phúicín, field of the little sprite, recorded in Carrigan's Notes.

## DONAGHMORE PARISH

**Ballymartin, Baile Mhártain**, Martin's homestead. Area 875 acres.

It is recorded also as Ráth Mhártain. Carrigan states that the ancient church called Killoonagh (probably Cill Úna, Winifred's church) and the churchyard were levelled in 1840. Only green mounds mark the castle site and these are in the castle field. Other fields are Bearna dhearg, a red gap; Cnoc bán; Cnoc beag; Móinteán and Poll Phiarais, Pierce's hollow.

**Ballynalacken, Baile na leicean**, place of the hill-slopes. Area 938 acres.

Ballinvalla is a subdivision and Cromwell's Road runs through the townland at height of 1,027'. Caisleán Ó Míodhcháin is given by Carrigan, and fields are Currach; Gleann doimhin; Gleann na ceardcha, and Móineán.

**Ballyragget, Béal Átha Ragad, Ragget's ford-mouth**. Area 724 acres with 24 ac. in Ballyragget town.

The surname Ragget is listed among the ten Civic Families in Kilkenny, prominent in medieval times as recorded in the following couplet:-

"Archdekin, Archer, Cowley, Langton, Lea,  
Knaresborough, Lawless, Ragget, Rothe and Shea."

The ancient name was Tullabarry, translating Tulach Ó mBairrche, mound of the O Bairrche tribe, which is located in Moatpark townland. The Raggets were early settlers here after the Anglo-Norman invasion and their stronghold is recorded as Ballyragget as early as 1220. It was a Doctor Patrick Ragget who was deputed by William Petty to undertake the surveying and mapping of North Kilkenny and Ormonde for the Down Survey in 1639 "as he was already conversant with these parts." Ballyragget castle with rounded turrets complete with wishing chair and sunken bawn was built in 1495 and is ascribed to Maighréad Ní Ghearóid, the turbulent countess of the Mountgarret family according to legend. Dr. James Butler (died 1791) was author of Butler's catechism. His brother, Robert Butler, built Butler House, now the business premises on the Square of Messrs. Cantwell and Holohan. He also built the old R.C. chapel in 1774 and Ballyragget Lodge which is now a Sisters of Mercy convent.

Very Rev. Edmond Cavanagh was parish priest of the parish from 1729 to 1761 and on his death Father Seamus Lawlor wrote a lament entitled Marbhna an Athar Eamoinn Caomhánaigh in the 18th century Aisling style. In 1775 the Whiteboy Society siege of the village occurred. There is one rath and a well called Tobar an Mhóinín. Fields are Cnocán; Cnoc breac; Móinín leathan and Tuairín, a green.

**Coole, Cúil**, a land angle. Area 145 acres.

Dhá chath Cúile, the two battles of Cúil, is recorded under date 3656 B.C. by the Four Masters; also referred to as Cath na bpunann, the battle of the sheaves (of arrows). Carrigan states that cists containing urns were unearthed in a field near Coole bóisin.

**Donaghmore, Domhnach mór**, a great church. Area 864 acres.

The ruined church, churchyard and St. Patrick's well east of the church are beside the railway. A stag antlers was unearthed in Madame Brennan's field during land reclamation operations in 1958. There is a large rath in the western portion and a small rath on the southern border. Carrigan in his Notes gives the following field-names: Cnoc MacAodha, Mackey's hill; Ráithín bhaile Phádraig, Ballypatrick's little rath; Móin na troda, bog of the fight, and the Shuch (sruth), a brook. Other fields are Maoilín, a little bare hill, and Easca, a slough.

**Finan, Fionnán**, a place of long whitish grass. Area 567 acres.

Teampall Fhionnán stood between the old and the new roads to Castlecomer and was uprooted to make a water-course. Tobar Fhionnán now known as Monastery well to which pilgrimages were made for headache cures up to 1800 was near the old church. The site of Finan castle is in the Currach field where a massive iron gate was dug up in 1820. The Monastery 30 acre field was drained under the Land Project Scheme in 1961-'62. Other fields are Cúileog, a little angle; Garraí Costigan; Gort na scéithe, field of the scéach bush, and Neill's hill. There is a fine view from Finan hill at height of 700'.

**Garranaguilly, Garrán na ngiollaí**, shrubbery of the giollaí or manservants. Area 386 acres.

Carrigan gives a church site and a rath, both long destroyed. A field here is called the Church field, formerly called Seanchill and must have been the site of the church. Other fields are Coinicéar, a rabbit-warren and Croicín Mhaitis. Bóthar na gcleoch runs here.

**Moatpark, Tulach O mBairrche**, mound of the O Bairrche tribe. Area 219 acres.

This tribe settled here in the 11th century. There is a large moat on the east bank of the Nore, also a castle and chapel site.

**Rathduff, Ráth Dhubh**, a dark rath. Area 149 acres.

**Shraleagh, Srath lia**, a grey holm. Area 116 acres.

The foundation of a church called Cillín Chormaic and a small graveyard are recorded in the Ordnance Survey Letters. The church is mentioned in the Red Book of Ossory as belonging to the Canons of Inistioge Priory in 1232 as recorded by Carrigan. There is a large circular rath south of the church.

**Tinnalintan, Tigh na líontán**, house of the nets. Area 292 acres.

O'Donovan gives this derivation without any note. There are two townlands of this name in the barony; the other being in Kilmocar parish. The Ghlaise geal, the clear stream, flows through the townland from the high lands of Rathkyle. It joins the Gloishe (glaise) also recorded as the Clochnach, the stony river, in its lower reaches and flows into the Dinan river at Somerton. Fields are Bealach, a pathway; Crocán; Páirc gharbh; Páirc an mharla, the marl field, and Páirc na haitinne, the furry field.

### DUNMORE PARISH

(Domhnach Mór seems to have been the ancient name of this parish as recorded on Petty's Map 1655/57).

**Ballyrafton, Baile Ní Reachtúir**, Rafter's homestead. Area 284 acres.

Carrigan records Trinity Well in this townland. Fields are Cúinní, angles, and Páircnabrennan, probably Brennan's land.

**Dunmore.** Area 259 acres.

There are five divisions, all adjoining and comprising five townlands with a total area of 2,079 acres. They are Dunmore, Dunmore East and West, Dunmore Park (all in this parish) and part of Dunmore and a division of Dunmore Park in St. John's parish, Gowran Barony. The site of the ancient parish church recorded as Domhnach Mór na Tríonóide Naomhtha i.e. great church of the Holy Trinity is west of Dunmore Cottage, a Butler house built by the Duchess of Ormonde in 1660 and now owned by J. Dowling. Dunmore House, locally known as the Pheasantry is now the property of J. Gibbons, T.D., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. There is a small rath at 300' north of Dunmore House and also one in the southern portion of Dunmore Park. Fields in different parts are Bán mór; Capall gort, probably gort na gcapall in reverse; Clais; Coill ruam, an alder-wood; Inse, holms; Móinteán and the Rá field. Turnpike House, a reminder of stage coach days, is at the angle of the main Kilkenny/Castlecomer road with the connecting road to the Dinan bridge.

**Kirvan's Inch, Inse Uí Chiardubháin**, O'Kiervan's holm. Area 149 acres.

### DYSART PARISH

**Ballycomay, Baile an Chomaigh**, Comey's homestead. Area 280 acres.

**Clashduff, Clais dhubh**, a dark-soil hollow. There are three divisions, Clashduff and Clashduff Upper and Lower with a total area of 411 acres.

There is a small rath in Clashduff at 680'. Castlecomer golf course is in Clashduff Upper at a height of 750'.

**Coon, Cuan, a river winding**. Divided into Coon East and Coon West with a total area of 3,223 acres.

A small sub-district near Coon village embracing three holdings, Kinchella's, Power's and Haughney's is called Coolrinchy. The site of Castle Quan or Caisleán Chuain Fheidhlim Uí Néill and Kilquain graveyard are near the R.C. church. The location of a well called Tobar Mhuire, the Virgin's well, is now unknown but there is a field locally known as Coolnatobar, probably Cúil an tobair which may refer to its location. The Black bridge on the Dinan river is in the south-eastern angle of the townland on the Carlow border. Coon was an active centre in the early days of the Gaelic League. The second Feis organised in the county was held here in 1906 and attended by Dr. Douglas Hyde. Mrs. Pat Coogan of Green St., Kilkenny recalls taking part in the competitions.

**Damerstown, Baile Dómair**, Damer or d'Omar's homestead. Divided into Damerstown East and West with a total area of 874 acres. Philip d'Omar, an Anglo-Norman, held these lands in 1247. There are two small raths.

**Dysart, a hermitage**. Area 145 acres.

It is recorded in 17th century documents as Discart O nDuach and Discart Uí Loscáin. The ancient church, dedicated to St. Brendan of Birr, stood at the confluence of the rivers draining the Castlecomer Plateau immediately east of Dinan Bridge on the Kilkenny/Comer main road. The church and part of the churchyard were swept away by floods over the years. Banse, i.e. Bannsa, glebe land, is a subdivision.

**Julianstown, Baile na nGilleannach**, O Gillans' homestead. Area 94 acres.

**Knocknadoge, Cnocán Ó nDuach**, hill of the Ó nDuach tribe. Area 1,162 acres.

The local rendering of the name is Knocknadoge. Cnoc na bhfideog would correspond closely in sound in both elements. Cruachán is a subdivision. There is a rath in Crennan's land and Crochoore's rath is by the well-known pathway called the Rock of Foyle near Castlecomer. Located here also is the ancient Rathcally, another small subdivision; also Clais an Eyesin (Aifrin), the Mass hollow, and an ancient Leaba Dhiarmada

is Gráinne. Feilds are Barr na ratha, top of the rath; Bearna dhearg; the Curraichíns; Móin dhubh; Móintin Riagain, by the site of an uprooted rath near White's and Sceach an Eyesin, Mass bush field.

**Scanlansland, Fearann Ui Scanláin**, O'Scanlan's land. Area 173 acres.

There is one small rath and fields are An easca; the Buaile; Caitheamh siar; Coill Phaorach, Power's wood, and Ráithín.

**Smithstown, Baile an ghabhann**, homestead of the smith. Area 631 acres.

The old, unused Catholic chapel is beside Smithstown national school. Bán an aitinn, a furry bawn, is a field name, and the highest point in the district is 800. There are six townlands of this name in the county and it is difficult to know whether the word smith or the surname Smith should be applied.

**Uskerty, Easc scartaigh**, marsh land of the shrubbery. Area 1,222 acres.

Carrigan states that it is recorded in 17th century documents as Kildergan, i.e. St. Dergan's church, but that there is no tradition handed down. On the Kilkenny Archaeological Journal (1849) Doctor Anderson, Revanagh Dispensary, reported the finding of cists containing burnt human bones at Uskerty bridge. Fields are Bealach, a pathway and Ráithín. The Salmon Pool public-house here and Kane's Bridge premises further along the New Line road in Revanagh were popular halting places for long lines of carts on their way to and from the Colliery until the advent of coal lorries.

## GRANGEMACOMB PARISH

**Ardaloo, Ard leamhach**, height of the marsh mallows or elms, is given by Canon Carrigan, and Ard Dalua, Dalua's height, according to O'Donovan. Area 399 acres.

The lands of Ardaloo were granted in 1208 by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke to the Priory of Kells. Teampall Glaisín, church of the streamlet, was the name of the old church removed in 1847 to make way for the Stannard family vault. Ardaloo ruined castle is north of the church at the angle called "the Shot" where the Nore and Dinan rivers meet. There is one rath and fields are Bán mór; Caitheamh siar; Church quarter; Cnoicín; Cnoc Sheáin Bháin; Cnoc na saileog, osier hill; Gort Larry; Inse; Lochán dearg; Loch na lestar, pond of the small boats; Páirc lín; Páirc na gé, field of the geese, and Páirc seabhac, hawk-weed field.

**Conahy, Coin-achadh**, field of the hounds. Area 1,521 acres. It is known locally as Upper and Lower Conahy. James's Bog is



a subdivision of the upper portion and Conahy Rocks a subdivision of the lower portion. The ancient church dedicated to Saint Colman stood 150 yards west of the present parish church and the churchyard at the disused national school, now a Macra na Feirme hall. An Ormonde castle stood in Conahy Rocks but nothing now remains on the site. There is a well reputed to be holy a little north of the parish church and the road here is called Bóthar an chluainín. There is a large rath in the south-west and another called Ráth rua in the northern portion. Fields are Baile Curráin (O) said to be the site of an old village; Bán riach; Bearna tsleibhe, hill land gap; Bothóg, a hut; Brocach, dirty land; Buaille capall; Buaille muc; Cúl rua; Faiche; Gort an bhóthair; Gort an choirce (site of the large rath); Gort an droma, the hill-ridge field; Gort eorna; Leamhach-choill, elm wood; Páirc bhog; Páirc aoil, the lime field; Páirc ghabha, the smith's field; Poll an uisce; Tuar buí, yellow paddock, and Tulán na ngiorraithe, the hares' knoll.

**Grange, Gráinseach, a grange.** Area 676 acres.

Grangemacomb church in ruins and churchyard are beside the Nore on the west bank. There is a large double rath by the river north of the church.

**Lisduff, Lios dubh, a dark liss.** Area 70 acres.

**Oldtown, Seanhaile.** Area 554 acres.

There is a Mass rock in a field called Cnocán an Aifrinn and another field is called the Old street, evidently an old village site. There is a large rath in Cnocán na gcon, little hill of the hounds, and other fields are Cluain uisce; Gleann an easca, the slough hollow, and Leacrach, a flaggy place.

## KILMADEMOGE PARISH

**Bullockhill, Cnoc na mbullóg.** Area 197 acres.

Fields here are Cúinne beag; Garraí Dick; Móin bheag; Páirc na seabhac, field of the hawk weed, and Seanghort.

**Kilmademoge, Cill Mo Dhíomóg,** church of Modíom, the younger. Area 195 acres.

The ancient church, in ruins, is in the church field. There is a Blanchville castle site a hundred yards south of the church, and fields ar Cruachán; Croichtín, a little croft; Garraí caol, and Gurtyhallas (O).

**Knocknew, Cnoc Dhonnchadha,** Donogh's hill. Area 504 acres.

The derivation of this townland name formerly given as Cnoc tnú, hill of contention, was discovered recently by Tom Hoyne, Webbsborough House, in old parish records. The highest

point is 500'. A rath here was levelled by bulldozer some years ago. Fields are Bárr lín, hilltop of the flax; Caitheamh siar; Clais; Cnocán bán; Currach; Garraí; Garraí Mhaitis; Garraí Néill; Garraí Oiste; Hosty's graden; Gorta Mhuiris, Maurice's fields; Páirc and Páircín luachra, a rushy field.

**Leapstown, Baile an Liopaigh**, Lapp's homestead. Area 187 acres.

Fields are Gort an chnoic; Páirc Conners; Páircíns and the Scairt.

**Mohil, Maothail**, spongy land. Area 295 acres.

The ancient ruined church dedicated to St. Nicholas, and its churchyard were sited on a rath. The church was used for Protestant divine service until 1800 and abandoned when Coolcullen church was open. There are two raths and a ringed fort in Mulhall's field. Dearc Fhearna, the alder tree cave, so well known as the Caves of Dunmore is in Mohil. Fields are Cluainín; Croichtín; Cabhaltachs, house remains; Fallow, perhaps Fulach, a cooking pit site and Laught (O).

**Ruthstown, Baile Sheáin Rúth**, John Rothe's homestead. Area 505 acres.

It is also recorded in Kilmadun parish. David Rothe is returned as proprietor in 1653 in Rothe family documents. Ancient subdivisions were Biorracha, hill peaks; Lios Clevan and Rathmónan. William Canon Carrigan, M.R.I.A., author of the History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory, published in 1905, whose name is revered by all students interested in the local topography was born here in 1860. A memorial limestone plaque, inscribed in Irish, was erected in the house wall of his birthplace by the Kilkenny Archaeological Society in September, 1958. It reads:—"San aras seo in A.D. 1860 saolaíodh An Canónach Liam Ó Caragáin, D.D., M.R.I.A., staraí. I mbliain 1923 d'éag sé agus é ina shagart paróiste ar an Darmhágh. Cumann Seandálaíochta Chill Chainnigh a thóg an leachtan seo." There is one rath and fields are Bán na hulla—of the apples probably; Caitheamh siar; Clais an Aifrinn (beside the Ballyfoyle road); Garraí; Garraí leacán, a flaggy garden; Garraí gabhann, the smith's garden; Inse an ghabhann; Muine bheag, a little brake; An easca and Tóchar, a bog roadway.

## KILMADUM PARISH

(There are four townlands in this parish in Gowran Barony).

**Drumerin, Drom fhiorthain**, hill-back of the wheat-grass. Area 388 acres.

The Drumerin hill-ridge at 600' is separated from Slievemargy by the Glens of Ballyfoyle. There was a castle in the old meadow field and other fields are Bân an ráithín; Drom-rua, and Móin an tsíoda, the bog-cotton bog.

**Kilmadam, Cill Mho Dhíom**, church of Modhíom. Area 358 acres.

The ancient church in ruins stands in the middle of the churchyard. Modhíom was founder and patron according to O'Donovan. Carrigan gives St. Andrew's Well a couple of hundred yards south of the church. Fields are the Banse, i.e. Bannsa, glebe lands; Bân; Cnoicín; Cumar, and Páire bháin. The highest point is 700'.

### KILMENAN PARISH

(This parish which translates Cill Mo Fhionnáin, Fionnan's church, with pet name Mo (my) prefixed, does not give its name to any townland in the parish).

**Gorteenara, Goirtín arbha**, little field of the corn. Area 83 acres.

The Ordnance Survey Letters give this area as a subdivision of Nicholastown adjoining on the north. Kilfinan ruined church and churchyard are near the Glaisegeal river, and St. Finan's Well is beside Glaisegeal bridge in Tinnalintan townland. There was a pattern held formerly in August.

**Nicholastown, Baile Nioclais**, Nicholas's homestead. Area 113 acres.

**Russelstown, Baile Ruiséal**, Russel's homestead. Area 331 acres.

The Owveg rising in Laois, flows on the western border and joins the Glaisegeal river at Coole townland. There is a ruined castle in the "old castle" field and a rath in the Rath field. Carrigan in his Notes gives Cúl doire stating that a battle was fought there but gives no date. Tradition holds that this district was the Valley of the Black Pig.

### KILMOCAR PARISH

**Ballyhimmin, Baile Thóimín**, Tomín's or little Tom's homestead. Area 341 acres.

Dún Eigill in Uí Dhuach is the ancient name as given in Onom. Closean i.e. Cloichreán, stepping stones over the stream is a subdivision. There were brick kilns in the district formerly. There is a rath in the Rath field and the Currach is another field.

**Byrnesgrove, Baile na gcnámh**, place of the bones. Area 740 acres.

Crocán adhlacain is a hill here translating the burial hill, of which there is a living tradition according to Martin Grace, a local farmer. It may be from this place that the townland name sprang. The present name dates from the middle of the 18th century when the O'Byrne family occupied the castle here and the accepted translation is Garrán Uí Bhroin. Barnaleen was the old name for the Seven cross-roads and a laneway here is called Bóithrín na ceardchan, the forge lane. Byrnesgrove castle was uprooted in 1820 according to Carrigan. Fields are Easka; Caitheamh siar; Coinicéar, a rabbit warren; Droighean beag, little place of the blackthorn; Garraí an ghrianáin, garden of the sunny bower; Gort na móna, said to be the site of an old village; Móin leathan; Maolán; Páirc; Páircín; Poll an chabhais, hollow of the stepping stones; Ráithín; Seanachadh, an old field, and a well beside the national school is called Tobar Cháitlín.

**Commons, Cimíneacht**, commonage. Area 51 acres.

This small area seems to have been part of Ballymartin townland.

**Coolnambrisklawn**

(Cúl na mbriosclán, hill of the wild tansy weed)

or

Area 131 acres.

**Coolnacoppog**

(Cúl na gcupóg, hill of the dockweed)

Cnocán is a hill here locally believed to be the site of an old village.

**Kilmocar, Cill Mochara (St.) Mochara's church.** Area 314 acres.

The ruins of the ancient church stands in the churchyard near the crossroads and bordering the road leading to Castlecomer through Maudlin townland. Seanseipéal is an old chapel site left of the road leading to the Seven Cross-roads through Toormore. Tobar Mhuire, Lady's well, was widely known for its pattern formerly. There is a castle site in a field called the Caisleán and a large and small rath. Barrack village is at the cross-roads where stood an R.I.C. barracks formerly. The river Clocharnach meaning stony-bedded, flowing from Toormore and Rathkyle is known in this district as the Glousha, i.e. glaise, a stream. Fields are Crocán buí; Gort an tsagairt; Poll an torainn, probably Poll an tsúghaire, a quagmire or swallow hole, and seanteampall.

**Maudlin, Magdalan**, a lazar house dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. Part of the townland is listed in the Electoral Division of Muckalee. This portion is 86 acres and the total area is 411 acres.

These lazar houses were erected as hospitals in medieval times for victims of a skin disease plague resembling leprosy. A townland in St. John's parish, Kilkenny, is called Maudlinsland and

there is a Maudlin Street in the city, another in Thomastown and one formerly in Gowran. Maudlin moat is a well-known landmark once surmounted by a castle of which there is now no trace. There are two wells called Tobar an úcaire, the fuller's well, and Tobar an eich, well of the steed. An eminence here is called Barrack hill and fields are Garraí Mhaitis; Clais an Cheannabhánaigh, Canavan's trench and Páirc munóg (O).

**Moyné, Maighean, a message.** Area 143 acres.

The highest point is 700' and fields are Gort rua; Móinín garbh, and Páircín an bhóthair.

**Rathkyle, Ráth chuill,** rath of the hazel. Area 758 acres.

There is a large rectangular rath of almost half a rood at 650' with eight blackthorn bushes in the centre, each 20' high. Fields are the Curragh; the Insí and Loch na móna riach, the grey bogland pond.

**Sleeven,** a little mountain. Area 132 acres.

This is an upland district at 650' but not mountainous. There are two raths located in the north and south areas.

**Tinalintan, Tigh na líontán,** house of the nets (O'Donovan). Area 257 acres.

Carrigan's Notes give Cruit na gloch, a stony eminence, and other fields are Cúinne beag, a little angle; Seanbhaile, indicating an old village site, and Seangharraí.

**Tomakeany, Tom an chaonaigh,** knoll of the moss. Area 192 acres.

There is a rectangular elevation similar to a moat on the north-western border. A field here is called Móinín dóite, a burnt bog.

**Toorbeg, Tuar beag,** pasture land. Area 387 acres.

This area was probably described as beag as it adjoins the larger townland of Toormore on the south.

**Toormore,** Big pasture land. Area 429 acres.

The term tuar has a variety of meanings including a pasture field, lea or fallow land, a sheep-walk, a night-field for cattle, or a bleach green. This townland runs north to the Seven Cross-roads which is locally known as Barnaleen and may translate Bearna lín, the gapway of the flax. There is no record that the townland name is derived from tuar, a bleach-green. Carn dubh or Carn Ó nDuach which is in the northern angular point of the townland at 826' by the Seven Cross-roads is reputed to be the burial place of Lughaidh Mac Con slain by Conall Cearnach circa the advent of the Christian era. Calcined bones have been unearthed hereabouts from time to time and Carrigan states there may have been a plague cemetery here. A laneway here is called Bóithrín na nGall, foreigners' boreen, which is part of Cromwell's Road. Fields are Clais an bhean dhubh, the dark woman's hollow; Garraí Chormaic; Móin bhog; Páirc Dhomhnaill, and the Naska, i.e. an easca, a slough.

## MAYNE PARISH

(Canon Carrigan states that Mayne church was prebendal).

**Brackin, Breacán**, a streaky-soiled district. Area 102 acres.

**Gragara, Gráig na rátha**, hamlet of the rath. Area 594 acres.

There is one rath, denoting the townland name, and the castle meadow would indicate a castle here long ago unless it was part of Foulksrath Castle lands. Other fields are the Léana mín, the smooth meadow, and Páircín.

**Inchakill Glebe, Gleib Inse na Cille**, the church holm glebe. Area 170 acres.

**Jenkinstown, Corclach**, marshy or moory land. Area 71 8acres.

The name Jenkinstown dates from 1540 so called from Johnkin or little John, a member of the Rothe family. Jenkinstown House, partly removed within the last thirty years, was the home of the Bryan family since 1650. A private Catholic chapel attached is now a chapel-of-ease in Conahy parish. It is well known that Tom Moore, our national poet, composed the melody entitled *The Last Rose of Summer*, here while visiting during the Kilkenny Theatricals seasons from 1802 to 1819 in the Athenaeum Theatre. Augusta Margaret Bryan married Joseph Bellew in 1880 and there is much local history attached to the house and lands under the Rothe, Bryan and Bellew occupation. Lady Elaine Bellew, the last occupant, now resides in Kilkenny city. The old graveyard was called Teampall Maoin, which was evidently the site of Mayne church locally known as Mines church; there is much confusion between the names Mayne, the parish name and Moyne, a townland name in Kilmogar parish. A ford on the Dinan called Áth chinn an bhóthair is the site of the new bridge built in 1792 where formerly the pattern of the Dinan was held on the last Sunday of July. Jenkinstown House avenue gateway was re-erected at St. Kieran's College as the main entrance in 1940. There is one large rath near the Dinan river and fields are Cnoicín; Cúinnín bán; Coilltín (Jenkinstown old wood); Dairbhre, a place of oaks; Maothal, soft land; Páirc Liam Bháin, Fair William's field; Páirc na stoc, field of the tree trunks, and Seeach.

**Littlefield, Goirtín**, a little field. Area 73 acres.

A former R.I.C. barracks by the roadside is now the Horgan residence. The late Conchubhar Ó hArgáin was a leading Irish scholar and translator for an Gúm publications.

**Tullowglass, Tulach ghlas**, a green mound or hill. Area 259 acres.

Fields here are the Tulach, giving name to the townland; Poll an phúca, the sprite's hollow, and Seansrath, an old holm.

## MOTHELL PARISH

(Mohil townland, the name of which is similar in meaning to Mothell, is not in this parish but in Kilmademoge. There is one townland, Cassagh, in Gowran Barony).

**Coolcullen, Cúl chuilinn**, hill of the holly. Area 3,237 acres.

There is a disused burial ground called Roilig na lathaighe duibhe, graveyard of the dark swamp, west of Coolcullen Protestant church, and O'Donovan gives Reilig na ngárlach, a burial place for upbaptised children. The Leaca mhór is the name of Coolcullen hill-face, roughly 80 ac., the highest point being 920'. There is a Croppy's grave in Frank Cleere's field, a sad reminder of isolated killings in 1798. Another field is called Mon-gánach, a rough grass area. There was an R.I.C. barracks at the road angle north of the Protestant church. This townland, the second largest in the country, borders Co. Carlow extending northwards almost to the Black Bridge which takes its name from the Black river, the local name for the upper reaches of the Dinan which joins the Coolcullen river south of the bridge. Knockalane is a subdivision.

**Coolraheen North and South** with a total area of 1,098 acres. See Muckalee Parish for Coolraheen.

**Corbettstown, Baile Choirbéid**, Corbett's homestead. Area 504 acres.

The Douglas river, i.e. Dubhghlais, dark stream, from the colour of its water, forms the northern border and joins the Dinan on the western border. The Archer family are said to have owned a castle here. There is one small rath-like mound and fields are Acra cam, crooked acre or land; Garraí na locháin, the garden of the little ponds, and Páirc Philib.

**Esker, Eiscir**, a sand-ridge. Area 455 acres.

Carrigan states that a castle here, mentioned in the Down Survey 1657, was Purcell property. There is one rath and fields are Caitheamh siar; Inse an bhaile, the hamlet holm; Joe's seeach; Máire's garden; Páircín bán; Páirc Sheáin fada, long John's field, and the Scairt, the thicket.

**Inchabride, Inse Bhríde**, Bride's or Brigid's holm. Area 44 acres.

**Kilcollan, Cill Chulláin**, Cullán's church. Area 403 acres.

There is no trace of the church. There is a field called Bán an ráithín, and other fields are the Pigeon house; the Tochar, a causeway, and seaniothla, an old haggard.

**Lisnafunchin, Lios na bhfuinnseán**, fort of the ash trees. Area 423 acres.

Carrigan states that Lisnafunchin old church belonged to St.

Francis Abbey, Kilkenny, before the Reformation. There is a small graveyard called Sceach na ngárlach, as given by O'Donovan. Fields are the Bóithrin field; Currach; Garraí Bhairtle, Bartley's garden; Garraí Frank; Máire's old method; Móin fhuilich, wet boggy land; Páircín; Ráth, and Sceach.

**Neowtown, Baile nua**, a new land division. Area 295 acres.

**Webbsborough, Baile na rinnce**, place of the dancing. Area 269 acres.

Harry Webb got this grant of land under Cromwell in 1653. The old Webbsborough House is in ruins by the Dinan river. Geata na foithre, gate of the wooded hollow, is at Tom Hoyne's gate, owner of the present Webbsborough House and a student of local history who states that Cnoc bhaile na Nólach, hill of the homestead of the Nagles, is the rise east of the dwelling. Coill an Phaoraigh, Power's wood, is another field.

## MUCKALEE PARISH

**Clogharinka, Cloch an rinnce**, stone or stone building of the dancing.

Area 520 acres.

In the Ordnance Survey Letters 1832/'39 O'Donovan gives Cloch an Roinnte, a stone denoting a land division, from a division made by Diarmaid Reagh Mac Carthy. Carrigan disputes this comparing it with Webbsborough and thinks it is the stone of the dancing. Breacach, speckled land, and Coill an tsagairt, the priest's wood, are subdivisions. Cloghrinka castle, in ruins, is north of Muckalee R.C. church, national school and creamery, which are in this townland. Fields are Cnocán, Cnocán an Aif-rinn; Leaca rua, a red-soil slope, and Poll an tairbh, the bull's hollow.

**Coolraheen, Cúil ráithín**, angle of the little rath. Area 189 acres.

This townland adjoins Coolraheen North and South which are listed on the Index of Townlands in Mothell parish. Judge James Comerford, President of the Central Criminal Court, New York, and an I.R.A. veteran, is a native of this townland. Fields are the Cruachán; Droimín; Drom rua; Garraí Hickey; Gort na gráige, field of the hamlet; the Glaises which are two meadows by the stream, and Móin áilte, bogland of the ravine.

**Crossybrennan, Crosa Bhreanáin**, Brendan's crosses. Area 26 acres.

This name refers to St. Brendan of Birr (Offaly). In an article in the Ecclesiastical Record, 1950, the late Risteard Ó Foghlú, D.Litt., Director of the Folklore Commission, describes how St. Finbar remained here for some time on his journey from Munster to Baile Mac Lachtna, now Kellymount, Gowran barony, to receive his early education at the abbey there.



**Gaulstown, Baile Gall**, Gaul's homestead. Area 483 acres.

The Moat of Gaulstown at 600', a fine earthen structure and prominent landmark, was levelled by a new land-owner in 1962, much to the disappointment of everyone interested in the preservation of relics of our ancient past. The site of Gaulstown castle is known as the Old street field. Other fields are Drom Chait, Cait's hill-back, and Drom Damh, hill-back of the oxen.

**Knockmajor, Cnoc an mhaigir**, the major's hill. Area 8/6 acres.

The major referred to was Major Tony Purcell, early 18th century. It is also known locally as Snow Hill and given in O'Donovan's Letters as Mileadhach without translation. Sui Fhinn, also called the Moat is the highest point at 960'. A field hollow east of Muckalee chapel called Gleann Fhionnain, Finan's hollow, is the site of a Mass flag. Other fields are Bán glas; the Clais; Cnocán; Drom rua; Gallach (O), Móin bheag; Páirc narn (O), and Páirc na himeartha, the sports field.

**Muckalee**. Area 1,125 acres.

The derivation of the name is in doubt and Irish phonetic spellings in documents are not helpful. Local topographers favour Magh-thulaighe, a hill plain. Magh is usually pronounced and written Moy in English but the first element is locally pronounced Muck. The old roadway running south from Muckalee is still known as Bóthar na muc, road of the swine, also a field called Gort na muc. The ancient ruined church of Muckalee and churchyard are south of the road junction near the Gaulstown border. There is a tumulus site near the present R.C. church and human bones were unearthed here. A Fulacht Fiadh was unearthed in 1955 in Tom Hoyne's farm in Webbsborough/Muckalee district during Land Project operations. Tobar cábún is a well name difficult of derivation. The reservoir for Kilkenny city water supply is located in this townland south of the Douglas river at height of 450'. Fields are the Easca; Bánóg; Beitin; Cabhailins, old house remains; Caiseal; Caitheamh siar; Ceasach, a bog roadway; Cnoc na madraí, dog or foxes' hill; the Cromán, a hill hump; Cruacha, peaks; Cúlóg, a back hill; Curragh; Faiche (the site of a holy well according to Carrigan's Notes); Gleann ard; Gort na muc; Leaca, a slope; Lionán, a place of the small flaxplant; Móin chaol; Mullán; Seanghort; Seán Rua's field, and Seisc, sedgy land.

**Tomascotha, Tuaim an scotha**, burial place of the land or field projection. Area 37 acres.

This small townland adjoins the equally small townland of Crossybrennan, both intersected by the main Kilkenny/Castlecomer road, north of Webbsborough. Both must have been a centre of religious importance in early Christian times, yet there are no historical records available other than St. Finbar's sojourn at Crossybrennan on his way to Kilmacahill.

**Wildfield, Mullán odhar**, a brown hill. Area 491 acres.

There are two townlands of Wildfield adjoining, one in this parish and the other listed on the Index of Townlands in Kilmadam parish, Gowran Barony. Rockbrook House with mill and mill race on the Dubhghlaise, the black stream, is on the Gaultstown border. Fields are the Caitheamh siar; Páirc bhán; Páirc na mbó; the Sugar field and the handkerchief field!

### RATHASPIC PARISH

(This parish does not give its name to any townland within the barony).

**Kill, Cill**, a church. Area 330 acres.

This townland is east of the Clogh river on the Laois border. There is no reference in Carrigan's History to this church. Local inhabitants could not give any information as to its location.

**Toortan, Tuartán**, a holm. Area 307 acres.

This townland also adjoins the Clogh river on the east bank.

### RATHBEAGH PARISH

**Knockroe, Cnoc rua**, a red-soil hill. Area 354 acres.

There is a rath in the middle of the townland and a pond west of the railway called Lough Fewer. In Carrigan's Notes he gives Cnocán an chúig mhíle, and Gleann an airm, the army hollow, traditionally held as where Owen Roe O'Neill's army bivouacked on its way to Kilkenny circa 1642. The hill may mean the hill of the five thousand men, if connected with the army encampment here.

### ROSCONNELL PARISH

(Ros Chonail Uí Mhórdha, Conall O Moore's land-point is the title given in the Ordnance Survey Letters. The parish does not give its name to any townland).

**Castlemarket, Caisleán an mhargaidh**, castle of the market. Area 670 acres.

Tobar Mhuire, Our Lady's well, at which a pattern is held on August 15th and well patronised during the octave is near the Laois border. Rosconnell ancient church in ruins, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, is near Rosconnell bridge on the Owveg river which joins the Nore at Russelstown. An Ormonde castle stood on a high moat in the Cruachán field. Both castle and moat were destroyed in 1800 according to Carrigan. Battle Stone bridge is mentioned in documents dated 1561 as Bearna Cloich Comhraic, battle stone gap, traditionally held as being the scene of a battle between the O'Brennan's and the

O'Moore's of Laois. A progressive high-school called Castle-market Academy was established in 1810 by a Mr. Jeremiah Brennan but only continued for a decade due to lack of finance. There is a rath in a field called the Ráithín lia, the little grey rath, where ancient silver coins were unearthed. Other fields are the Castle field; the Courthouse field; the Inse, a holm, Lady's well field; Poll na mbric, the brick hollow, and the Tulach.

**Earlsgarden**—Translation, area and landmarks are entered under Atanagh Parish in which it is recorded.

**Loughill, Leamhchoill**, an elm wood. Area 1,082 acres.

The following ecclesiastical ruins are within a few fields of each other south of the road running parallel to the Laois border:— St. Chadden's ancient church and churchyard; a nunnery, and Loughill monastery of which it is recorded that Finán Córach, i.e. Finan the Just, was abbot in the 6th century. There is a spa well near the nunnery ruins. Cromwell's Road coming directly from the Seven Cross-roads at Toormore meets this road at Loughill bridge. Fields are the Easca; Cùm an chaisil, hollow of the cashel; Poll and chapail, the horse's hollow; the Spa well field, and Tiobraid, a spring.

## GALMOY BARONY

The present name is a phonetic translation of Gabhal Magh, the plain of the Gabhal or branching river which flows south-westwards from Laois through the middle of the barony. The area comprises 40,236 acres and stretches from the west bank of the river Nore at Ballyconra townland to the Tipperary border and from Tincashel townland south of Urlingford to the Laois border. The eastern portion is hilly, rising to a height of 900' at Frankfort townland; the north-western portion is flat and partly marsh land. The rock formation is sandstone and roughly all the area is good tillage and pasture land.

There are few megalithic remains but numerous raths except in the flat western area. There is only one communal settlement site but other place-names known as "the old street" were most probably old village sites.

## AHARNEY PARISH

(Aharney parish is recorded in the Ordnance Survey Letters as Achadh Fhearna, field of the alder trees. It does not give its name to any townland).

**Ballyconra, Béal Atha Chonra**, Conra's ford-mouth. Area 1,153 acres.

The ford-mouth to the north of the townland was called Baile gabhail, the place of the river fork. The ancient ruined church, Teampall Barúntachta, Barony church, with its surrounding churchyard stands on rising ground in rich pasture land. In Carrigan's Notes he states it was so called because tithes for the whole barony were brought here for distribution. All the