

which had 91 inhabitants in 1841, had only eight persons left in 1851.

Kilkenny was not by any means the most severely stricken of Irish counties during the famine. The counties of Connacht and Munster suffered far greater hardships, but the fact that conditions were so bad in Kilkenny helps us to visualise how much worse they were in Schull and Skibbereen.

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## The “Moat of Ballyfoyle”

THE “Moat of Ballyfoyle” is an imposing fort or dún at the end of a projection of land commanding the entrance to the Glens of Ballyfoyle. Its great height and steep sides, the huge encircling bank and deep fosse (dyke) near the summit, would have made it a difficult place to take in times of attack. In addition to these defences, there is a further rampart which probably was pallisaded originally and which enclosed the circular platform on top. This central area is now saucer-shaped due to the inward collapse of the bank. Small houses and shelters would have been constructed within the enclosure. Such fortified structures as that at Ballyfoyle usually date to the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age (about 500 B.C.).

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