

## Names of Fields in the Townland of Atateemore, Co. Kilkenny

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**A**MONG the manuscripts of the original survey, still remaining in the Ordnance Survey Office, Phoenix Park, Dublin, is one entitled: **Names of Fields in the Townland of Attateemore (1) in the Parish of Kilcollam, (2) Barony of Ida, Co. Kilkenny.** It consists of four quarto pages, slightly over two of which are covered by the text. It is unsigned and undated. The handwriting is, however, clearly recognisable as that of the celebrated Gaelic scholar, John O'Donovan, LL.D., who was born at Atateemore in 1806 and died in Dublin in 1861. We cannot say when he compiled the list of field-names but we can be reasonably certain that it was while he was on the staff of the Ordnance Survey, 1830-42 (3). As the Letters (4) dealing with his native parish of Kilcolumb were written by him from Limerick and are dated September 30th, 1839, he may have written down the field names about the same time.

The entry *Tiobar an Chriathadóra*, followed by the note "insert reason" seems to suggest that the list is not in the final form intended by the compiler. One may well regret that the reason has not been inserted as it may throw some light on the craft of the sieve-maker. The note "insert tradition," between *Con bhuidhe an An sliadh* which most probably refers to the former may also be regarded as evidence of incompleteness.

In dealing with the name Atateemore, the author introduces a story in which are a number of manuscript abbreviations as well as some deliberate archaisms such as *scéó*, a form which had gone out of use probably by the middle of the 8th century.

I have extended the manuscript abbreviations showing such extensions in black. The symbol 3 closely hugging the preceding consonant appears here to represent s preceded by a broad vowel, and I have so expanded it (5). The h is supplied in square brackets, thus [h], where lenition is

not shown in the manuscript. Other editorial additions are also shown in square brackets. I have inserted length marks over vowels where these are lacking in the manuscript. I have omitted the length mark over the *i* in *struidh*, *buidhe* and *linn*. Other points are explained in footnotes.

1. The Ordnance Survey form now is Atateemore or Blackneys, 6" map 43.
2. Now Kilcolumb.
3. From the Monthly Return for December, 1861, it is clear that O'Donovan continued at least part-time on the Ordnance Survey staff up to 1861.
4. Now in the Royal Irish Academy.
5. In **A Grammar of the Irish Language**, by John O'Donovan (1845), the author states at page 432 that 3 is a special symbol in manuscripts for —us or —as. Up to the end of the 13th century this symbol represented —us, —us, and —et. See **English Court Hand** by Johnson and Jenkinson pp. 60-61. After the letter *q* the combination represented *que*, *quod*, *quia*, *quam*. In some Latin words such as *posset* and *scilicet* this symbol stood for the letters *osset* and *cilicet*. Our *viz.* (= *videlicet*) is a remnant of this usage. See **The Handwriting of the Renaissance** by S. A. Tannenbaum.

### The Manuscript

Names of fields in the Townland of Attateemore, in the Parish of Kilcollam, Barony of Ida, Co. Kilkenny.

Attateemore, Ait a' tighé móir, i.e., locus domus magna, from some Gentleman's House that formerly stood upon it of which there is at present no vestige. I have, however, heard that a part of the old walls were standing at a very late period; what brings it to my recollection is the following story which I have often heard related to my surprise and that of the illiterate group who religiously believed it:

Lá n'aen dá raibh sean Seán Soinc na shuidhe ós comhair sean-bhalla a sheasuigh anns an n-áit a bhfuil sean-tigh Eamoinn anois chonfaic luch a' teacht amach as poll a bhí aici anns a mhalla agus píosa airgid aici 'na béal, agus leag sí é air leic a bhí amach tamall o'n bpoll agus d'imthigh tar a h-ais [a]steach san bpoll arís agus tug léi amach píosa eile do'n tsórt cédna agus leag é air an leic ós cionn an chéd píosa (píosad[h] a leath-choróinne iat-suidhe) agus triallas agus an bpoll arís, scéo rug léi píosa bán sgillingi scéo shocruig[h] ós cionn na coda eile. Ad-imchair in luch dó

nó trí phiosadha sgillingí amach as a poll, scéo din tosuigheas air iad d'ime [h]ar asteach arís ceann ar chionn.

D'f[h] éach Seán co dairíreach air imtheachtaibh na luiche—ach do mheas sé gan buaid[h]irt do chur uirri a n-dóich go dtib[h]radh sí mór chuid eile amach—agus d'f[h]an sé go riabh an t-airgead uile imchurt[h]a t[h]ar nais ag an luich acht amháin an chéd phiosa; acht

*Names of fields in the townland of Allacrombie in the Parish of Nilsutton Barony of Wick Co. Kilkenny*

A statement, etc. of the map of the townland of Allacrombie from some gentleman's house that some good man of which there is at present no notice. It seems however that a part of the old fields were standing as late as the period when there was some settlement in the townland which I have often heard related by my father and other of the Allacrombie group who subsequently

... la mheas sé gan buaid[h]irt do chur uirri a n-dóich go dtib[h]radh sí mór chuid eile amach—agus d'f[h]an sé go riabh an t-airgead uile imchurt[h]a t[h]ar nais ag an luich acht amháin an chéd phiosa; acht

S'páid Seán co d'airgead air imcheacht na luiche. etc. do mheas sé gan buaid[h]irt do chur uirri a n-dóich go dtib[h]radh sí mór chuid eile amach—agus d'f[h]an sé go riabh an t-airgead uile imchurt[h]a t[h]ar nais ag an luich acht amháin an chéd phiosa; acht

... in the townland of Allacrombie in the Parish of Nilsutton Barony of Wick Co. Kilkenny

... D'f[h]an sé go riabh an t-airgead uile imchurt[h]a t[h]ar nais ag an luich acht amháin an chéd phiosa; acht

Reproduction of Page One of the Manuscript mentioned in Text

mhionuig[h] sé ó bhí 'na amadán cómh mór agus gur leig sé aen p[h]áirt de'n nairgead leis an luich nach léigfed[h] an píosa sin léi air chor air bith. Scéo érges—scéo tógbhas an píosa airgid 'na láimh.

Filles **iomorro** in luch acht iar faicsin di nach raibh an píosa airgid air in leic, caith sí í féin air a drom agus ghear[a] a bolg le na fiachaibh inas gor ba marbh fo c[h]édóir.

D'inis Seán an scél so co minic agus ba fer é bhí ós cionn bréige d'insinn.

An t-Ard, the height—a rising ground just over the village.

Garraidh[e] an tigh[e], the Garden of the House.

Garraidh[e] na bpiast, field or Garden of worms.

Poll Donnabhán, Donovan's hole.

An bán ó thuath, the northern field, i.e. North of the village.

An bán ó dheas, the Sourthern (sic) field, i.e., South of the village.

Gort na tin-aoileach, Garden of (i.e. at) the Limekiln.

Gort láir, the middle garden (middle field between vill. and highroad).

Bárr a' bháin ó thuath, the top or upper part of the northern field.

Con bhuidhe, yellow hound.

An sliadh (for sliabh) (insert tradition), the mountain covered with furze and heath.

Gort a' t-sléidh (6), the Garden or field of the Mountain.

Tiobar an t-sléigh (6), the Spring gushing from the mountain, fons Montis.

Tiobar an chloidhe, the Well of the Ditch, or Mound.

Tiobar an chriathadóira, the well of the Sieve-maker (insert reason).

Tiobar na lachan, the Duck's well.

Móin bhog, Soft Bog.

Móinteán, a Boggish place.

Móin láir, the Middle Boggy field.

Tóin na móna, the bottom of the Bog.

Tuille Thóin na móna, the stream running at the bottom of the Bog.

Bán na rátha, field of the Fort or Rath (a Rath on it).

Cnoicín (7) Gaodhlach, the Irish little knock (the Irish have furze (8) comprised in their notion of Knock) (9).

Crochtín Philip' Philip's little garden.

Móinéar or Móin-achaidh na bhfraochán, the Boggy field of bilberries.

Tóin mhóin-achaidh na bhfraochán, the bottom of the Boggy field of bilberries.

Mullán Joe, Joe's gently sloping little field.

Fé thóin tige Joe, Under Joe's House (a Road).

Reilig na ngadhar, Burial place of the Dogs.

Cloch an fhathaich, the Giant's stone.

An linn, the Pond.

An gabhlán, the forked little field, between two streams at their confluence.

Garraidh[e] nuaidh, New field.

Sean-g[h]arraidhe[e], old field.

Lóca (10) fada, the long strip of land.

Móinteán garbh, the rough Boggish field.

6. Recté tsléibhe.

7. Recte cnoicín.

8. The Gaodhlach very likely refers to Aiteann Gaodhlach (*Ulex Gallii*) which most probably grew on the hill. I am indebted to Miss Scannell, National Museum, for the botanical information.

9. Knock, the anglicised form of Cnoc=a hill: diminutive, Cnoicín.

10. A possible reading is 'laca.' Probably 'leaca' is intended.

### Translation of Story

One day as old Seán Soinc was sitting opposite an old wall which stood in the place in which Eamonn's old house is now, he saw a mouse coming out of a hole which she had in the wall and she had a silver piece (coin) in her mouth and she laid it on a flag stone which was a short distance out from the hole and went back into the hole again and brought out with her another piece of the same kind and laid it on the flagstone on top of the first piece (these were half-crown pieces) and went to the hole again. And carried with her a white shilling-piece. And settled it on top of the other portions (i.e. coins). The mouse carried two or three shilling pieces out of the hole. And, moreover, she commenced to carry them into the hole again one by one.

Seán studied earnestly the mouse's behaviour, but he

decided not to trouble her in the hope that she would bring out yet another large amount. And he waited until all the money except the first piece had been carried back by the mouse. But he swore since he was so great a fool as to let (as much as) one part of the money with the mouse that on no account would he let that piece with her. And he arose, and he took the piece of silver in his hand.

The mouse, moreover, returned and having seen that the piece of silver was not on the flagstone, she threw herself on her back and cut her belly with her teeth so that she was dead immediately.

Seán told this story often and he was a man who was above telling a lie.

### **Tradition regarding the Yellow Hound**

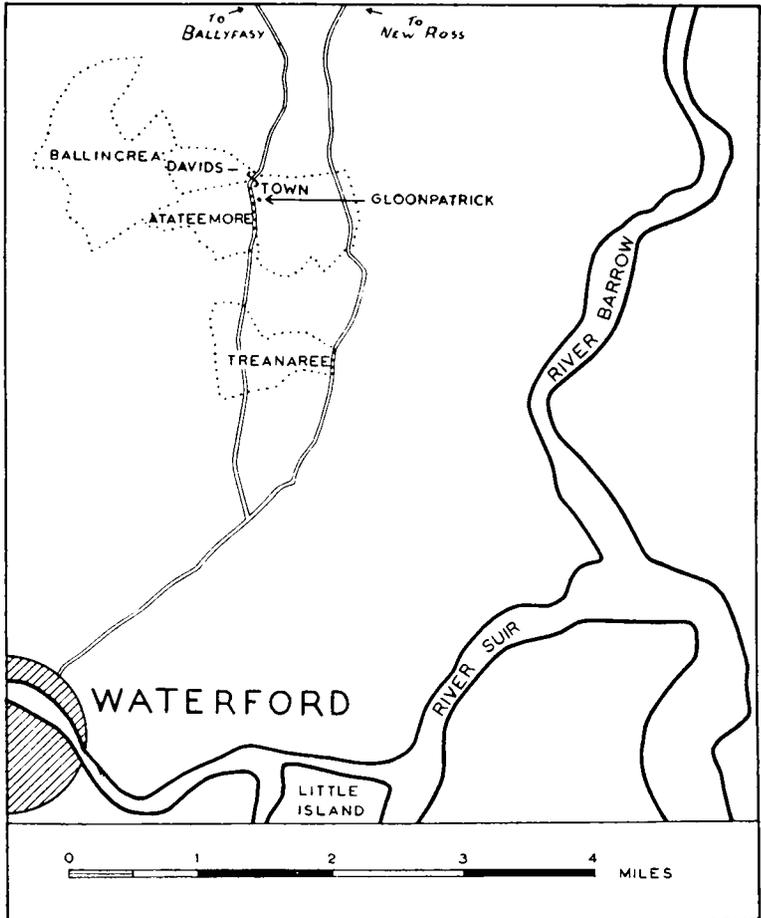
It may be well to insert here the tradition relating to that place as given in the Ordnance Survey letters as follows:—

“In the townland of Baile Dhath or Davidstown in this parish (Kilcolumb) not far from the high road, which divides it from Blackney’s part or (sic) Attatemore, is a monument of great antiquity called Gluin Phadruig (11) (i.e. Genu Patricii). It consists of a blind well, and a heap of stones on which is placed a larger stone with two remarkable hollows said to be the impression of St. Patrick’s knees. The following legend is told to account for the origin of this monument:—

“When St. Patrick was travelling Ossory for the purpose of building churches, Congbhails and cities, he came to this beautiful elevation called Connabhuidhe, and being struck with the amenity of the place and the beauty of the prospect (for he was a great admirer of scenery) he came to the resolution of building there a cathedral and city, which he afterwards for reasons which will presently appear, placed at Waterford.

“He employed labouring men to dig the foundations of the Cathedral and houses, and masons to build them, and continued the work with cheerfulness and vigour for some days. At last a pagan woman out of Ballinchrea (whose

name is fortunately forgotten, but it is supposed that she was the ancestress of Nicholas Bacach, the Garsun Balbh and Sawny Ribby) came to him with an offering of a dish of roasted meat for his dinner, which Patrick received with many Grazagams, but when he uncovered the dish he did not like the aspect of the meat, but thought that he perceived the paw of an unclean animal. He was immediately



### South-East Kilkenny

(Based on the Ordnance Survey by permission of the Minister of Finance).

struck with nausea, and kneeling upon the next stone to him he laid his two hands over the roasted animal in the dish in the form of a cross and prayed to God to restore whatever animal it was to its original life and shape, and lo! he had no sooner finished his prayer, than a yellow hound (Coin bhuidhe) started into life, and leaping out of the dish ran in the direction of Waterford! Patrick was struck with disgust and horror at the sight, and turning to the working-man he said in a solemn voice 'pursue and kill that hound, for she will kill every man and beast which she will meet in her course.' The men pursued her with their spades, shovels, and pickaxes, and overtaking her on the lands of Treanarea about a mile to the east of the place whence she started, succeeded in killing her there. There they buried her and over her grave a small stunted little whitethorn bush is now to be seen and called Sceithín (sic) na con i.e. 'the little thorn of the hound.'

"The stones near this bush are impressed with the marks of a greyhound's feet and one of them exhibits the figure of a greyhound in miniature.

"In consequence of this ominous occurrence St. Patrick abandoned his project, but erected this heap of stones as a memorial of his intentions, on the top of which he placed the stone on which he knelt while he prayed which was stamped with the impression of his two knees. He called the place Connawee in memorial of the resuscitation of the hound and pronounced an awful malediction on the woman, who had thus profanely insulted him, and on her descendants and place of abode.

"Malluighim, malluighim, Baile an Chraedh, etc."

O.S. Letters, Kilkenny. Vol. 11 pp. 181-184.

11. This is marked Gloopatrick on the original O.S. 6" Sheet 43, 84.5cms. from W. and 44.3cms. from S.

### Grammatical Notes

Lé n-aen: Lá being a neuter noun was followed by nazalisation in the nominative and accusative case, singular.

Triallas, Tosnuigheas, Erges, Tógbhas, Filles: S-preterite 3rd sing., absolute. Note the non-palatal quality of the final consonants.

Scéo: This with the variant spelling scéu occurs in early poetry with the same meaning and construction as 'agus.' It lenites. It had gone out of use probably as early as the 8th century.

Din.: A shortened form of didiu (from di-shuidiu) meaning now, then, therefore.

go dtibradh: 3rd sing. secondary future, prototonic form of do-beir.

fo chédóir: at once, forthwith.