Kilkenny Archaeological Society

by him and by all the members of the Society. His tall, distinctive person and his Van Dyke beard were viewed with joy when he appeared amongst us. This was as often as he could manage for these were occasions of pleasure for him and profit for us. During the last few years when he was confined to bed he often wrote to us, inspired our policy and received the members in his own bedroom.

He was born in the O'Leary house in Graig Main Street and lived his 93 years in it and died in it, as kindly and as Christian, as Irish and as gifted a man as this land ever bred. May his children and grandchilden be comforted for their great loss and may his great and friendly soul rest in peace forever.

Sean-chill Chiaráin Naofa

INGLEANN álainn cé uaigneach cois Sruth na Saileog tuairim is dhá mhíle Gaelach soir ó thuaidh ó sráidbhaile Inis Teog atá forthrach na sean-chille seo. Mórthunpeall na cille atá reiligin ach nil fágtha ar an lathair anois ach carnán cloch garbh cé is moite de chloch mhór amháin ar a bhfuil lamh-obair le feiscint go soileir. Capella de Lassantana an t-ainm a tugtar ar an chill sa Red Book of Ossory fé dháta 1350 agus is beag colas eile atá ar fáil fé uair a bunaithe. Ceanntar-ainm a b'ea Lisnatana I Lios na Tana—the fort of the cattle spoils, inar airmhiodh bailte fearainn Chill Chiaráin, Briotás, Móin na Saileog, Cnoc na Diallaide agus Lios na mBeannacht.

Ba le Muintir Doibin an ceanntar seo uilig sa bhliain 1641. Clann dhilis thirgrách a b'ea iad seo a thóg páirt ghniofach in Eiri Amach na bliana sin ar thaobh na nGael, is deir an stair gur chailleadar seilbh a gcuid tailte fé thioránacht Cromwell sa bhliain 1653. Nil aon tuairisc chruinn ar chrioch na nDoibineach ina dhiaidh sin ach dheallródh an scéal gur bronnadh tiarnas an cheanntair is gach aon mhaoin a ghaibh leis ar an tiarna Clifden, de phór Gall, is gurbh iad seo na tiarnai talún sa limistear seo go theacht an Ghorta Mhóir.

Maireann cuimhne cruinn i mbéaloideas an cheanntair

ar an leirscrios a lean an Gorta Mór so dúiche seo. Ar nós morán ceanntar eile i ndeisceart an chontae seo ina mbiodh tithe is bothain na n-aitritheoiri cóngarch d'a cheile tugadh the village of Sallybog ar an chnuasach tithe seo. Toisc an bhochtanais a lean an Gorta ghlan 35 clann leo in aon mhaidin amháin ón ghleann is thug a n-agaidh siar ar a sli go dti meiricea, agus sé deir an scéal gurbh é an tiarna talún Clifden a d'ioc as na pasáisti dhóibh. D'fág an imirce seo an gleann bán go hiomlán cé is moite de teaghlach nó dhó. Direach ina dhiaidh sin ghlac fear darbh ainm O Grianna seilbh na ngabhltaisi a treigeadh, leag na tithe is claithe teorainn na ngarraithe, gur dhein páirceanna breatha cearnacha diobh. Is leir é seo d'aoinne a ghabhann an t-sli ó bhun theas Chnoic Bhreanndain treasna go barr Chnoic na Diallaide; ni casta cam aon chlai teorainn mórthimpeall na bpáirc amhail an t-seanleagain ach iad nilig direach dea-chumtha. D'reir gach chuntais ba tioránach cruthanta ar na tionontai an Grinnach. Tá sé curtha ina leith gurbh eisean a leag an sean-chill, gur thug na clocha as chun stablai is bóthithe a dhéanamh le cois tithe lucht oibre. Foirgneamh brea cloch, dhá stór fé cheann slinne den chead scoth a thóg sé, is tá sé ann igcónai i mhaile fearainn an Fheadáin, é leagtha amach i bhfiorm cearnach is macha brea leathan ina lár istigh. Ina theannta sin tá cloigtheach deas néata cuachta inairde ar chúinne amháin (gan aon chlog ann anois ach sin scéal eile) chun uair eirithe d'fógairt dona hiobrithe. Tá sciobol ann leis ina ndeinti an t-arúr a bhualadh le cumhacht uisce a thereoiriodh ó thaiscumar a leagadh treasna an t-sruthain a eirionn i dtobar ar sleasa theas Chnoíc na Diallaide. Tá an taiscumar ann i gcónai cé nach mbaintear aon úsáid as le fada an lá.

Ag dul siar airis ar scéal na sean-chille a scriosadh, deir an Canonach O Carragáin, stairi, go raibh tobar beannaithe Chiaráin lámh leis an reilig ach sé deir muintir na háite nach amhlaidh a bhi ach go bhfuil sé ar thaobh an bhothair a sniomhann tré Briotas idreo an Fheadáin, agus gur ar an lathair seo a bhiodh na turasanna lá phatruin Chiaráin le linn óige na seanóiri atá suas fós. Maidir le scriosadh na cille deirtear gur thóg duine stuama eigin an t-umar uisce-choisrichthe leis an t-am sin,

Kilkenny Archaeological Society

gur chuir i bhfolach fé chré is clocha é sa chlai ag bun gáirdin glasrai Mhuintir Ui nAnnracháin i mbaile fearainn an Cheapaigh are agla a mhillteanais. Fágadh i bhfolach annsin é go dti Lúnasa na bliana seo gur dhein Micheál O hAnnrachain (Inis Teog) agus mé fein cuardach is tochailt fán an chlai á thóir. Tógadh Micheál ar an Cheapach is ba chuimhin leis go riabh fonn air Geimhreadh amháin crann fuinseoige a leagadh le haghaidh connaidh. Duirt a athair leis, amhach, gan baint leis an chrann áirithe sin mar go raibh an t-umar folaithe i ngar dó. D'aimsiomar annsin é is nochtaiomar é. Nil ann ach mullán tuairim is dhá chloch deag meachan is stópa ann.

B'i Erbhlin de Grás, sean-mháthair Mhichil, duine den teaghlach nár imigh leis an slua maidin na h-imirce móire tareis an Ghorta, a d'inis scéal brónach ghleann Móin na Saileog dhó le linn a oige.

Cúpla bliain ó shoin bhuail Meiriceánach isteach go dti Micheál. Duirt an fear seo gur rugadh a shean-athair, Séan de Grás, i mbaile fearainn Chill Cros i ngleann Sruth na Saileog is gur imigh sé go dti Meiricea tareis an Ghorta is gan ann ach óganach. Thugadar araon cuairt ar an sean-áit is rug an cuairteoir piosa slinne de cheann an t-sean-ti leis anonn. Is buan cuimhne na nGael thar lear.

E. O CEALLAIGH