

began to decline. The Waterford Brick, was manufactured from the crushed rock of the Bilberry Quarries, which was puddled, machine pressed and fired. It was a high density brick, practically impervious to moisture, but surprisingly enough, it's high quality, subsequently contributed to its own demise. The Bilberry Brick Factory, closed in 1916, and I am told authoritatively, that one of the major factors for the closure, were the high costs involved in transporting this heavy brick.

All that remains to-day, to remind one that brick was once made on the Glenmore Marshes, are the little mounds of brick debris which were the clamp sites, and the mud holes, now transformed into tiny lakes surrounded by reeds.

In compiling this article, I am deeply indebted and grateful to Nicholas Fornistal of GRAIGUENAKILL, and Thomas and Richard Dunphy of Ballyverneen, for their assistance, and expert knowledge of the methods employed in the Glenmore Brick-making.



The Forgotten Market House

By Joseph O'Carroll

IT can be said that one could not walk through Kilkenny without hearing or meeting with some little item of history. Perhaps it might be a stone from some medieval building, or a piece of timber from an ancient house, or a tale from the long ago. A chance encounter led me to the discovery of an old plaque; my informant was the Rev. Fr. Robert, O.F.M. Cap. On a dark night in January, as I was anxious to see this plaque, we both went to the Friary garden, the one which is south of Pennyfeather Lane, and there with match light we read the following :

“This market was established by Buckley Butler Anno Domini 1732.”

I was also informed by Fr. Robert that the market house and land were purchased some 40 years ago by the Community and when the market house was being demolished by Messrs. P. Cantwell & Sons the late Fr. Bonaventure gave instructions for the plaque to be reset in the wall.

The strange thing is, though this market was in existence for over 200 years, it was never mentioned by any of the Kilkenny Guide Books.