

Dysart Moon Tomb

SEAN O'DOHERTY

“de Freyne and Fitzgerald impaled, in dexter party per fesse, in chief three bees, in base a sword or dagger pale wise point upwards, in sinister-ermine, a saltire gules.”

The above arms are from the now greatly ruined tomb of Robert de la Freyne in the ancient parish church of Dysartmoon. It was erected by his wife Eleonora Fitzgerald in 1643.

The de la Freyne owners of vast property in south Kilkenny (in what is now Rosbercon parish) gravitated thence from the Conahy Muckalee area. A XIV century ancestor build castle in, and gave his name to, the area now known as Foulksrath, and another was involved in the controversy between Alice Kyttler the Witch and Richard de Ledreade the formidable Bishop. Though one has the impression that anybody who was anybody in Kilkenny, in those days, was involved in that colourful squabble.

Our Robert de Freyne died in May, 1643, just after the establishment of the Confederation of Kilkenny. His grief stricken widow had prayers and offices chanted over her husband for nine weeks while the new tomb was being built, for his burial. Tradition says that in 1798 an old woman who burrowed into the tomb for shelter found the silver breastplate of the coffin and she sold it in Ross for a few shillings.

The Latin inscription reads:

To God the Best and Greatest

A Sacred monument of love and of death

Which **Eleanor** Fitzgerald daughter of the Baron of Brownsford,

Built to her most distinguished husband,

The nobly born Lord Robert Frayne

A man truly pious munificent and hospitable

Sprung from the ancient knightly family of de Frayne

Lord of Ballyreddy and Ballyknock

For herself her children and posterity.

COAT OF ARMS ON
FRAYNE TOMB
DYSARTMOON
KILKENNY

