

The great wood of Aughty

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extracted from

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...Hugh Brigdall, in his description of Co. Clare, about 1695, notes that yew and juniper abounded in Burren.[1] On the shore of Galway Bay we have Rossalia, if the 'Ross' be not a point rather than a wood. Some writers mention the wood of Siudaine on the same shore, about Muckinish ; but the old writers call it a camp or a place. The "Cathreim Thoirdhealbhaigh," a fourteenth-century history, shows that there were thick woods at more than one spot in the Turlough valley, to the south-east of the last. We hear twice of Dubh Gleann wood, or Coillanair, the wood of slaughter, at Doolin, in this glen, mentioned in a poem of about 1281, cited in the "Cathreim." Round Slieve Elva, we find evidence of an oak-forest at Derrynavahagh, near Lisdoonvarna, and of an ash-wood at Ballinshenmore, on which that village is built ; while another ash-name occurs at Gleninshin, in Kilcorney. The names Feenagh and Caherfeenagh show that the deep valley behind Rathborney was wooded ; indeed, large ash-trees still grow in it near the great crescent of the stone fort of Lismacshedy ; while at the head of the pass above it is the ancient ring-wall of Caheranardurrish, which O'Donovan derives from "Ardross," the high wood. In 1094, when the Siol Muiredagh wasted Corcomroe and East Connaught, they slew many of their enemies in a desperate battle against Tadgh, son of Ruaidri O'Connor at Fidnagh.[2] This implies a forest, for the rocks near it are named Furreera, not Fuireesha. More inland, Ballyculleeny implies "holly-trees" and Ardnacullia 'a wood' ; the English form of the latter, "Woodmount," is found near Ennistymon ; Derrynakeilla is found in Kiltoraght. Caheraderry is named as Cahiridarum in 1189 in the charter, granted by King Donald O'Brien to Clare Abbey.[3] The subsequent allusions are merely incidental, the most striking being that where the Four Masters tell us in 1573 how "the wolves of the forest" to the south of Lehinch rejoiced over the bodies of the O'Briens slain there in the frontal attack on the hill near Beal an chip.

In 1655 good timber was found— in Clooney 247 acres, and Kilmanaheen 62 acres. Round Kilfenora lay abundant dwarf wood (557 acres), which also was found in Kilmanaheen (119 acres) and Kilshanny (162 acres), but only 10 acres lay in Kilmacreehy, and 65 acres of shrubbery in Clooney. About 309 acres of timber trees, and 900 of dwarf trees and shrubs, or 1220 acres in all. Most of the land was in pasture, and some in tillage. In the low ground at Kilmanaheen "Currough pastures, full of rushes and overgrown gutters,"[4] were then, as now, a characteristic.

Little is recorded of the eighteenth century ; but, in 1808, Hely Dutton's inquiries for the Statistical Survey inform us that[5], in Burren, a small farmer named Ready had about twenty years before brought seedling ash-trees and quickens from Dublin. These trees had greatly

improved, though in bare, craggy ground. The country about Ennistymon was entirely stripped of trees by 1808. But Michael Daly, a reputed centenarian, who died in 1796, remembered woods of full-grown oak and ash covering that district. Since then the MacNamaras have planted the pretty glen round their house along the cascades of the Inagh river. Similarly, the O'Briens, despite its exposed site, have planted the ridge on which Ballinalacken Castle stands, with much success ; and the late Dr. W. H. Stacpoole Westropp planted the glen near the Spectacle Bridge, and other spots at Lisdoonvarna. A neglected plantation on the eastern slope of Slieve Elva and abundant flourishing woods at Gragans, Ballyallaban, and Ballyvaughan, in Glenaraga, with abundance of hawthorn woods behind Ballinalacken, and tall hazel thickets at Poulacarran and Kilcorney, show that much might be done to afforest even the apparently most hopeless part of Clare.

SOUTH WESTERN CLARE.

(6) ISLANDS. — We now go southward to the west of the River Fergus. Beginning at that river, we find, in the barony of Islands, oak-names at Derrygarve in Kilmaley and Derrynacragga, and Darragh in Killone, and traces of osieries in the names of Willowbank and Drumcliffe, the Dromleb of the Papal Taxation of 1302. Mac Grath mentions the woods of Forbair, now Furroor, and "the green-oaked, spreading-boughed, clear-streamed Drumgrencha," the ridge of Edenvale and Rockmount, in which lurked the clan Turlough, till destiny gave their foes Mahon and his army into their hands at Clare Abbey, followed by the sack of Ennis and the fearful massacre of the captives in the bog of Moinnasaed, in 1278. These woods were, however, nearly cleared away by 1655. Killone had then 60 acres of shrubs, probably at Edenvale[6] ; Clare Abbey parish had 17 acres of dwarf wood ; Drumcliffe had 103 acres of good timber, much shrubby crag and dwarf timber, covering 1,220 acres ; while, further south, Clondegad had only 2 acres of wood and 165 of shrubbery. If we are not pressing too far the formal phraseology of King Donald's charter to Clare Abbey in 1189, Kellonia, Kilbreakin, Dromore, and Inchicronan, in central Clare, were granted with their woods to the monks — "campis et nemoribus."

(7) IBRICKAN. — lying along the Atlantic, has more tree-names than might be expected. The country at Quilty must have been wooded when the name was first established ; the bogs are full of stumps ; but we can hardly suppose our nomenclature goes so far back. There were also oak-woods, as at Derreen, Knockdarragh (oak-hill), and Derryard (high oak-wood), near Doonbeg. Emlagh, though the name may mean "boundary," may, like its more southern namesake, imply the former existence of a "bili," an ancient and venerated tree. We have, however, no documentary evidence of any early form of the name. The places on the northern border named Freagh and Freaghavalleen show that then, as now, it was covered with heathery moors. In 1655 Killard was devoid of woods ; shrubberies were found in Kilfarboy (32 acres) and Kilmurry Ibrickan (158 acres) : to this day the barony is equally bare, save at a few of the houses of the gentry, where trees grow behind the shelter of walls or in stream glens. Indeed, for nearly twenty miles inland, trees, and even the sturdy hawthorns, bend eastward, "turning their backs on the sea."

MOYARTA, This barony is nearly treeless ; but Bellia suggests a "bili" or venerated tree,[7] while Emlagh is called "mbili" an evident tree-name, not a "border," in the "1390" O'Brien's rental. Furroor, Garraun, and Kilclogher are found, if indeed the latter be "coill" (a wood) not "cil" (a church), "of the shelter." [8] It is Oillin Clochair and Kilbaha. Cill Beiteh in "1390," Kilbeagh, 1655, and Killbehagh in "1676" suggest a birch-name. In the 1655 Survey

we only find 178 acres of shrubs in the seaward parishes, and 1 acre of dwarf trees at Kilrush, In Kilmacduan there were 197 acres of wood, 27 of old trees, and 30 of shrubs.

(8) CLONDERLAW. — Turning back we go up the banks of the Shannon and Fergus, We might expect more tree-names ; but they are as scarce as along the sea. We have a Durha, Knockerra (Cnoc Doire, 1599, in the Annals of the Four Masters) near Kilrush, suggesting ancient oaks ; but no other evidence till, in the names Derrybrick, Derreen, Derrynalecka, and Knockaderreen, in Kilmurry MacMahon parish, and Derryshaan in Kilfiddane, we find ourselves on the site of an old forest.[9] Kilmihil gives us Derycrossaun, and the parishes up the Fergus Derrylea alone. But Hugh Brigdall, about 1695, alludes to "fir-trees on the Islands of the Shannon"[10] The district above Killadysert was called Tuathnafarna (Toanefeorny, in Perrott's deed, 1585), from the alder, and there was a Derrygeeha in the barony, held by Sir Teige Mac Mahon of Clonderlaw in 1629.[11] In fact, the barony was only slightly wooded in 1655 ; it had 701 acres of timber trees, 341 of old trees, and 304 of new plantations, with 324 of shrubbery — in all 1670 acres, Kilfeddan parish, despite its wood-suggesting name, had hardly 200 acres of plantations. Of the lesser "trees" there was a Trummer (elder) Island in the Fergus, belonging to the last parish. This completes the western and larger portion of Clare ; and we cross the Fergus into the eastern "half."

EASTERN CLARE.

(9) When we examine the eastern half of Clare we get abundant evidence of the forests that once covered its surface, and that despite of its having been an important centre of civilization and population in early times. Here and in Inchiquin we find crowds of dolmens and forts, including some of the most important of the latter, several early monasteries of note, and abundance of churches and castles.

AUGHTY — We first must disregard the modern baronies in order to note the enormous oak forest that, even in the fourteenth century and certainly down to Tudor times,[12] ran round the flanks of Aughty, and covered the lower slopes of its hills from Crusheen and Inchicronan lake eastward. The districts in which the "Derry" names are crowded are as a rule devoid of forts, dolmens, castles, and churches, and so were probably from the earliest times to the fifteenth century uninhabited woodland. We record some fifty such names : Derrynagleera, Derrynacrogg, Derryvet, Deryvinnaun, Derrygoul, Derryhumma, Derryskeagh, Derryfadda, Derrynacaheny, Derrymore, Derrybeg, and Durra lie in Inchicronan ; which parish, in 1655, had 500 acres of timber and 200 of young plantations. In Clooney all the large timber had then vanished, but 200 acres of dwarf wood still subsisted ; the parish has the names of Derrycaliff, Derryvoagh, Derryheena, Derryboy, Derrynagullion, Derrynalane, Derrynaskeagh, Derrylush, and Derrycrannagh, besides such names as Cnocfuarcoill (cold wood hill, now wrongly "Spancel Hill"),[13] and Cranagher (branchy spot). The oak-names continue in Tulla barony and parish. We find there three Derryulks, Derrynabrone, Derrynacloghy, Derrykeadgran, Derrinterriff, Derrymore, and Derrybeg, besides Kylemore and the wood of Kyleduff.[14] Feakle parish, the ancient Tuath Eachtge, must also have been thickly wooded : Derryfadda, Derrynaveagh, Denycanna, Derreendooagh, Derricnaw, Killaneena (ivy wood). Cloonagro (hazel field), Knoekbeha (birch hill), Ross and Roseanure, Crossderry, two Derrynagittaghs, Derryabbert, Deryvinna, Derryeaghra, Derrynaneal, Derrybehagh (of the birch), Derrygravaun, Derrynaheila, Derrywillin, and a fourth Derryulk, remain to attest this.[15] The Cathreim mentions these woods several times, as, in 1277, when the MacNamaras hide from King Brian Ruadh in "Echtge's dense woods of lofty foliage pleasant and fresh" ; while "Echtge's woody deep-valled fastnesses" are named in 1318. They were, on

several other occasions, places of refuge during the long and precarious civil wars, as fortune turned the scale against either side, and both parties of combatants found a friend in the great wood of Aughty. There is a long reach in the more eastern parishes nearly free from such names. Kilnoe, in fact, had hardly 100 acres of shrubs in 1655 ; and the hills near Coolreagh were then boggy and bare ; while Tulla had 1150 acres of woods and 34 of shrubs ; Feakle, 1400 acres of timber woods, and Tomgraney 700 of timber and 300 of shrubs, the last lying along Lough Derg and the River Graney. Mac Grath, in the "Cathreim." with his keen-eyed perception of nature and scenery, did not forget the shrubs on the shores of "Lough Derg, deep-fringed with bush and bough" in his account of King Torlough's raid into Limerick and Tipperary in about 1286. Oak-names occur in Tomgraney, at Gortaderry (Gurtadurra locally), Derrymore, and Derrywalter ; two Derrorans and Derrycon, in Iniscaltra, and Derryany and Derrain in Clonrush ; the demesne of Derrymore, in Kilnoe, lies at a considerable distance from the hills. In 1655 there were some 700 acres of plantation in Iniscaltra, but none (nor any shrubby lands) are named as in Moynoe, while Kilnoe, as we stated, had no timber and but little shrubbery. A birch-name, Corbeagh, is found in Feakle.

(10) BUNRATTY UPPER.— Having disposed of the northern part of the Upper Barony of Bunratty, we can examine the rest of its evidence more briefly. Some interesting names of lesser plants occur, like Drominacknew (the little ridge of garlick), Gortapisheen, or Peafield, and Gortnamearacaun, wrongly translated Thimble town, but really the field of the fairies' thimbles, or foxgloves, "which spread their purple banners" on every fence and fort. But turning to our subject of the trees, we find not a few represented — a venerated tree may have grown at Kilvilly, near Inchicronan Lake. Knocksalla is from the shallows, the two Cullenaghs from the holly, a Cullenagh fort, near Quin, is named in 1543, in one of the Hardiman Deeds [16] the rarer arbutus is commemorated at Feaghquin (Faywhinny locally), the well-known Quin (Cuinche in 1112, Quinhy locally), with its fine convent and Norman castle, its church and peel-tower. Mr. M. J. McEnery[17] first unearthed from the Desmond Survey a most interesting notice of this most beautiful shrub, under the name "Crankany" (crainn Caithne). Though not referring to the actual Shannon valley, we cannot refrain from giving the extract to a wider circle of readers. The entry in 1584 relates to Killarney and other lands of Rory the "O'Douougho moore, a rebel and of high-treason attainted," and, after enumerating the well-known Rosse or Rosidonough, Kyllarny, Ennesfallen, Mockeruss, &c., it turns to the wood of Kyllonaughte : " A great part of these woods consist of oak-trees great & small : but there are other woods and underwoods in the island of Loghleane & elsewhere in the islands, where grow certain trees called *Crankany*, which bear fruit every month throughout the entire year. This fruit is sweet, the size of a small damson, & of little value, except for its beautiful appearance, & there also grow there many yew-trees otherwise "ewe-trees," good for making bows, as is said." [18] As we see, all three trees were found in ancient Clare.

In 1651, Ludlow passed by the woods near Inchicronan on his advance to Limerick ; finding his way stopped by Conor O'Brien of Lemeneagh "in a pass leading to some woods," he routed the Irish, mortally wounding their leader.[19] The oak was found at Curraderra in Kilraghtis, Derry in Templemaley, and Durra in Inchicronan ; wood-names at Knocknacullia in Clooney, Creevagh near Quin (so called at least as early as 1543), and Ballykilty, the Ballyquilty of the grant of 1666, under the Act of Settlement The district once contained a "bili," or sacred tree, used as a place of inauguration of the Dalcassian princes of Thomond. Perhaps from the time of their conquest of the district by A.D. 377, at least from before 877, when Flan Sunagh, king of Cashel, invaded Thomond and played in bravado a game of chess on the green of Magh Adhair, the very place of inauguration[20] — a game unfinished by the assault of the indignant local king Lorcan and his ally Sioda, ancestor of the MacNamaras. The "bili" was cut down by Malachy, the Ard High of Ireland, in 982, and "its roots dug out

of the earth," an act remembered and avenged by king Brian Boru when he deposed Malachy. The succeeding tree was destroyed in 1051 by Aed, king of Connaught, and, in its turn, avenged by the destruction of Grianan Aileach by king Donald, at the dawn of the Norman conquest. We hear of no other tree ; but the place was used for inaugurations down to Tudor times ; and the old name "Moyri" retained in 1655, is still found as "Moyar's Park" near the mound and pillar.[21] A well, sheltered by ash-trees, as we so often find in Clare, was named Tobernafhuinsion, and formed the northern bound of the lands of the Norman colony in 1276 ; it was a place of conference with the O'Briens, and is named also in the Norman documents. Macgrath calls it "pasturegirt Tiobra na huinsean" ; the Pipe Roll of 1299[22] names Tobernafonch and Letton (Latoon) as adjoining lands : so it probably lay near Castlefergus : the only ash-name now known to me in the parish is Bearnafunshin.

An order was made. September 20th, 1653, ordering "Capt Stearne to cut from any adjacent woods timber to repair certain "castles in this district, such as Ralahine, Cloghenabeg, Danginnybracke, Bryan's Castle, and Inchicronan, besides those of Inchiquin, Dysert, and Smithstown (the last perhaps in Corcomroe).[23]

In 1655, the barony had in all 1042 acres of wood, 260 of new plantations, 548 of dwarf trees, and 954 of shrubs ; of these, besides the parishes already given, we add Templemaley, 95 acres of wood ; Kilraghtis, 235 ; and Tomfinlough, 112 acres ; Doora had 165 of dwarf wood ; Tomfinlough, 178; while Quin had 488 of shrubbery and no large timber recorded.

(11) BUNRATTY LOWER. — The names are fewer in this barony and the history very meagre : the oldest recorded wood-name is Feenish Island, the Fidh Inis of the Life of St. Senan, about 540. There is also a Dernish (Oak Island) near the last. Clonmoney is Cluan munighi in a deed of the Mac Shanes in 1573 ; but in other documents of equal age it is Cluainmuineach or Shrubbery-plain, Rossmagner, the old msidence of the D'Esterres, was probably a wood, Feenagh and Ard Kyle are the Fudach of 1302, and Ardchill of 1287, and Ardcoil in a deed of the Muleonrys in 1548[24] and mark the sites of ancient woods ; there were 248 acres of wood in the former in 1655.

The well-known Cratloe Wood still lives in Kilfintinan. It was of old renown : the army of King Murchad "of the Leather Coats" in 940, found it Cretshallach, the worst pass during their "circuit of Ireland." It is alleged that its timber was used for the roof of Westminster Hall because spiders did not make their webs on Irish timber : our Science section reports differently. We have grants of oaks from Cratellauch to Godfrey Luttrell in 1215 ; and it was sold to Philip Marc, four years later for 20 ounces of gold. Prince Murchad O'Brien, after his useless conference with Richard de Clare at Limerick in 1318, traversed "the Cratalachs — thick, sheltering, fruitful-branched, mast-abounding woods" ; and his remote descendant Conor O'Brien, Prince of Thomond, in 1536 (alarmed by the taking of Carrigogunnell Castle, and the threatened advance of Lord Grey), felled its trees across the passes to stop the English, or at least their cannon, from entering his domains. Mac Grath, in the above-cited passage of 1318, mentions "hazel woody Ballymulcashel," as appropriate after six centuries at that time. [25] In 1420, O'Huidhrin speaks of the "yewy plain" of the Ui Bloid, which possibly extended into this barony. We will notice the corroborative name Killuran later in this paper.

There are, of course, numerous old documents referring to woods in this part of Clare, but we only select the more explicit. Many grants of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries mention timber and shrubs ; but the mere citation would help us little in trying to get definite ideas on the Clare forests. The 1655 Survey shows little evidence of the Cratloe woods being then of importance. There were only 75 acres 2 roods of timber trees and 365 acres of dwarf wood in Kilfinaghty ; 65 acres of woody mountain with 114 of shrubs in Kilfintenan, and 212 in

Killeely ; while the mountains of Kilquane and St. Munchin's parishes were bare and heathy. In 1680 Thomas Dyneley's sketches show us, as we might expect, shrubbery, but rarely even detached trees of any size. In 1752 Dr. Poccoke noted the plantations of Mr. Burton and Sir Edward O'Brien, as he came through Quin from Moyreisk and past Sixmilebridge ; he writes : — " The ride from this place to Limerick is very delightful, being well wooded and in sight of the fine river Shannon." The O'Briens kept up the woodland character of their beautiful demesne of Dromoland ; Sir Edward O'Brien alone planted 30 acres in 1806, chiefly those larch "screens" that were so cruelly "reaped" by the great gale of 1903. Cratloe Wood covered 180 acres in the year 1808.[26]

(12) THE TULLA BARONIES. — We have dealt with the northern parts of Tulla Upper, and now turn to the more level country. A wood called Coilldruinge is mentioned in the Cathreim in 1279, as lying near Fortanne (Fertain), where Donall, brother of King Torlough, fell upon Thomas de Clare's army, and put them into fearful confusion. "They first converted their front into a hustling, pushing rear, and then faced about their rear and made a front of it, and so, before the unhappy wretches began to run, they were all turned end for end the wrong way " ; as Donall, like a hawk, swooped into their midst. Kilgorey, Coill ghuaire, Guary's Wood, was in 1311 the field of another fierce battle between Prince Murchad O'Brien and the Ui Bloid. Of other names we note Rosslara and Creevosheedy bog[27] as wood-sites, and Ardskeagh, the old name of Broadford, as commemorating a hawthorn. Lismeehan or Maryfort was well planted when, on March 25, 1788, it was leased by Ralph and John Westropp of Attyflin to Thomas Gabbett. "Whereas" (runs the lease)[28] "there is now standing, growing, and being on the said demesne and premises a large quantity of ash, oak, and other timber," Gabbett is empowered to cut down and dispose of the same ; the place was replanted by George O'Callaghan in the years about 1840 ; and no older timber seems to remain there. At Ballinahinch and Kilbarron, we have an early notice of destruction of trees in 1634 (1635). Therlagh O'Brien, High Sheriff of Clare, was found by Inquisition to have wasted the woods of Mauogullen, taking five great oaks in the same and Kilwarren[29] (Kilbaron) for making Irish hutches, and sold the same in Galway, also thirty pieces for rafters to Piers Creagh of Limerick, timber for Gilladuff Molony's house, forty ash trees and 100 young oak "saplings, cut down, lying on his ground, for what use we know not," in February, 1630. He let a kitchen, stable, bake-house, and four other structures, all of couples, fall down at Ballinahinch, and pulled down four timber houses at Kilwarren and Managullen, and let Donnell Mac Namara of Ballinahinch, the King's ward, go to Mass, having been appointed his guardian.

A bush-name attached to a fort, "Liskeheenandri," the fort of the little (thorn) bush of the sods, on the hill of Coolreaghbegg, is named in a partition deed of Matthew and Thady O'Brien of Coolreagh in 1736.[30] The trees and woods in the adjoining district of Cinel Dungaley were granted by Henry, son of Hugh O'Grady, to Conor O'Brien in 1586.[31]

(13) In the Lower Barony we again find evidence of extensive oak-forests— Derrynaveagh, Keelderry, two Killaderrys near Broadford, Derryvinnaun, Coolderry, Knockaderreen, and Barnanderreen, the last in Ross ; Oakfield (if old), and Derryfadda, lying in nearly every case on the slopes of the Slieve Bernagh hills. There is a yew-tree name at Killuran, the Kelldu-birayn of the Papal Taxation of 1302, Kilhurayn in 1407, and Kyleibaran in 1405 in the Calendars of Papal documents. A "greenwood" named Kyleglas is found in Killokennedy. Even in 1655 there remained 2976 acres of forest, and 1650 of dwarf woods ; but the upper parts of Craglea and the hills over Killaloe were open and heathy ; and slate quarries had already been opened in them. There were woods round Clonlara and shubberies in Doonass. Killokennedy parish, in the wildest recess of Slieve Bemagh, had about 700 acres of wood, the rest being mountain pasture ; the oak wood of Derryarget had been all cut away, but there

were 5 acres in Killuran newly planted, Keilderry, in Kilseily, retained 45 acres of the wood from which it derived its name. The woods of Doon, near Broadford, were planted by Captain Massy, and those of Caher by Mr. O'Hara before 1808.

The plainland had very little timber ; Clonlea and Kilmurry only 26 acres of timber at Mountallon, and 430 acres of shrubs, usually "stony ground, with little thickets of brush-wood intermixed" ; there was a dwarf wood near Ballycullen Castle, on the east slope of Slieve Bernagh, and other woods in the rough mountain uplands.

In the eastern part of Clare, the Dalcassians often found refuge from the Danes before 904 ; "they dispersed themselves over the forests and woods of the three tribes" Ui Bloid, Ui Caisin, and Ui Thoirdhealbhaigh ; "the woods, solitudes, deserts, and caves of Ui Blait," "on the hard, knotty, wet roots of the trees," says the book of " The Wars of the Gaedhil with the Gaill" Far later, in 1646, when Admiral Penn, the father of the great Quaker of Pennsylvania, endeavoured to hold Bunratty for the Parliament, he chased the Irish army out of the camp at Sixmilebridge into the woods and hills, killing Captain MacGrath, their leader.

The "Cathreim" gives a picturesque description of Prince Murchad O'Brien's attempt to bring off the Ui Bloid cattle spoil, along the Shannon bank, in 1314, which ended in the disastrous battle of the Callow and the extermination of nearly all his baud, he only escaping in a corrach, across the river, leading his swimming horse. The terrified cattle, when not swept away by streams, stampeded and got lost in the woods, through which the raiders passed. The "Callow" probably lay near O'Brien's Bridge — certainly below Killaloe.

O'Huidhrin, before 1420, alludes to the woods in Hy Torlough, "near unto Flannan's Cell-dalua, their lands and woods extend to the Shannon."

As to the names between Slieve Bernagh and the Shannon, we find Garraun (thicket) to the south of Clonlara ; and a now-forgotten Derryanlangfort was held by Doiiogh Mac Namara in 1633, apparently near Trough. The Four Masters record the pondering hands of O'Briens as hiding in the woods and hills near Killaloe in 1602, when the country was evidently thickly wooded.

The elaborate confirmation of estates to Donogh, "the Great Earl" of Thomond in 1620, grants in each barony "the castles, messnauges, tofts, mills, gardens, orchards, crofts, lands, meadows, pastures, woods, underwoods, furze, briars, rushes, marshes, alder groves, fisheries, lakes, wells," &c. It is strange that the alder, which figures but little in local names, should be singled out for mention alone among trees.

(14) Dyneley, in 1680, shows in his views the flanks of Slieve Bernagh and the country from Mount Ievers out to Bunratty, in the valley of the Owennagarna, thickly covered by woods and thickets. One wood, that of the Oil Mills, near Sixmilebridge ; alone is named. These mills subsisted and were leasetl to Dean Bindon by Henry Earl of Thomond in 1730.[32] The other sketches show a very bare country in 1680 ; only a few trees round Ralahine and Clare Castles and shrubberies at Ballinagard (or Paradise) Hill across the Fergus are shown. He names orchards round Rossroe Castle ; and those of the district out to Sixmilebridge were famed for their choice cider even after 1820 ; indeed, even some thirty years ago, I remember very good cider made in the neighbourhood, Mac Grath names an "apple-fruit-ful" district between Quin and the Fergus in 1318.

The old orchard "Sean-abhallghort," near Clonmoney, appears with lands in a covenant between William Mac Shane O'Fearghal and Con Mac Namara of Aillveg in 1573 ; and orchards are named in various deeds of the seventeenth century.

With numerous occasional allusions to the apples of this district, I find and may give as an example a lease of Norcott D'Esterra to Frederick Loyd, 17th January, 1798, Carruane, except the wood of Bunratty, reserving two backloads of keeping apples yearly and 200 good apples per week.[33]

We occasionally come across evidence bearing on the destruction of the forests. In deepening the River Graney above Scariff in 1893, I noticed large quantities of iron slag in the bed of the stream. The only record that may bear on this is in the "Commonplace Book relating to Ireland," p. 239, where Hugh Brigdall's description, about 1695, says: "The River of Scariff, whose waters drive two iron Mills." Whether, however, this refers to the machinery or the materials worked in the mills, I do not attempt to assert. Dr. Bindon Blood Stoney informs me that he has seen a large mass of vitrified material and the remains of iron works between Tinneranna on the shore of Lough Derg, and Killaloe. Tradition seems to have forgotten such works ; but they account for the destruction of the trees between Scariff and lough O'Grady. In 1727 Thomas Baker had a tanyard at Rossroe, which probably was equally destructive to the surviving oak trees of the district. That same year Sir Edward O'Brien of Dromoland granted the timber and underwood of Crattelaghkeale for six years to John Scott. This possibly levelled the last old timber of the last remnant of this great forest.[34] On the other face of Slieve Bemagh, a bad custom prevailed (it is a striking fact that it falls almost exactly in the same decade of the eighteenth century) which cleared away the woods of the beautiful valley at the southern end of lough Derg, where that great lake narrows into the outflow of the Shannon.[35] When a son of the Purdon family was about to marry, his father settled the timber of certain townlands on the prospective wife and children. The woods were then cut, sold, and the money invested. I have met with two such deeds, of which unfortunately I seem to have kept no note. Another — perhaps one of those named — is cited by Simon Purdon of Tinneranna in his will in 1721. The settlement of his son George, by which Simon gave him £3,000 worth of timber on certain lands, reserving that on Island Coskora, is first named. Then the testator, by a codicil of the same date as his will,[36] 28th February, 1720 (1721), charges the lands and woods of Aghnish and Carhugare, giving them in mortgage for £500 to Richard Harrison, to whom Purdon had given also those of Ballyorly for £500, for the uses of the will ; but if his son George pays off both charges, the grants shall have no effect.

(16) Abstract of Acreage of Woods, 1655.

It only remains to give a table, compiled from the Book of Distribution, 1655, showing briefly the total amount in acres of trees and shrubbery in Clare in that year :—

BURREN— Oughtmama, W. 132, S, 272; Carran, W. 327, S. 166 ; Dromcreehy, W. 200, S. 350 ; Gleninagh, S. 225 ; Abbey, S, 357. Total, Wood, 659 ; Shrubs, 2,000.

CORCOMROE.— Kilfenora, D. 557 ; Clooney, W. 247; S, 65 ; Kibmanaheen. W. 62; D. 119 ; Kilshanny, D. 162 ; Kilmacreehy, 8, 10. Total, Wood, 309 ; Dwarf, 848 ; Shrubs, 65.

IBRICKAN.— Kilfarboy, S. 32 ; Kilmurry, S. 158. Total, Shrubs, 190.

MOTARTA.— Kilrush, W. 1, S. 47 ; Kilfieragh, S. 14; Moyferta. S. 107 : Kilmacduan, W. 197, O. 27. S. 30. Total, Wood, 198 ; Old 27 ; Shrubs, 198.

CLONDERALAW.— Kilchrist, W, 188, Y. 26, 8. 50 ; Killadysert, W, 257, Y. 233, O. 8, S. 166 ; Kilfiddane, W. 155, Y. 46, O. 46, S. 2 ; Kilmurry, W, 20, 8. 62, O. 106 ; Killoffin, W, 61, O. 29, 8. 28 ; Killmer, W. 61, O. 29, S, 16 ; Kilmihill O. 42. Total, Wood, 701 ; Young Wood, 304; Old, 361 Shrubs, 324,

ISLANDS.— Drumcliff, W. 104, D. 1220; Killone, S. 60; Clondegad, W. 2, 8, 165 ; Clare Abbey, D. 17. Total, Wood, 106; Dwarf, 1,237 ; Shrub, 225,

INCHIQUIN,— Kilkeedy, W. 2100; Kilnaboy, S. 711 ; Rath, 8, 23 ; Dysert, S. 433; Kilnamonagh, 8. 134, Total, Wood, 2,100; Shrub, 1,301.

BUNRATTY UPPER.— Inchicronan, W, 500, Y, 200 ; Clooney, D. 200 ; Kilraghtis, W. 235, Y.60 ; Templemaley, W. 95, S. 178; Doora, D, 165 ; Quin , S, 488 ; Tomfinlough, W. 112, D. 178. Total, Wood, 1,042; Young. 260 ; Dwarf, 548; Shrub, 954.

BUNRATTY LOWER. — Kilnasoola, D. 62 ; Clonloghan, 8. 143 ; Feenagb, S. 248 ; Kilfintinan, W. 65, S, 114 ; Kileely, W. 243 ; D. 495 N. 20 ; Kilfinaghta, W. 140, D. 365 ; Kilmurrynegall, D. 150. Total Wood, 448; Bwarf, 1072; Shrubs, 605; New Wood, 20.

TULLA UPPER.— Tulla, W. 1,150, D. 34 ; Kilnoe, D, 76, S. 39 ; Tomgraney, W, 700, S, 273 ; Feakle, W.. 1,222, D. 26 ; Iniskaltra, W. 570. Total, Wood 3,642 ; Dwarf, 136; Shrubs, 312.

TULLA LOWER.— Ogonello, W. 485; Killaloe, W, 814, D. 12; Killurau, W. 304, a 10; Kilseily, W. 350, D. 163 ; Clonlea, W. 26, D. 286; Killokenedy, W. 615, D, 109; Kiltinanlea, W. 408, D. 983, Total, Wood, 3002; Dwarf, 1,563.

Total of Clare— Wood, 12,200; Dwarf Wood, 5,404; Old Wood, 388 ; New; 584 ; Shrubs, 6,074. In all about 24,656 acres planted.

The early map 1590-1610, show large masses of forests about Feakle; north of Killaloe; at Cratloe ; from Kilmurry MacMahon up to Inagh and Kilnamona ; and between Corofin and Inchicronan (see Hardiman, No. 63 ; Speed, &c.).

[1]. "Commonplace Book relating to Ireland." (M88. Trinity College, Dublin, I. 1-2, p.235).

[2]. Annals of Ulster.

[3]. Journals Roy. Soc. Ant., vol. xxii., p 78 "Kandridarum" is evidently intended for Kaheridarum. We only have it in a poor Seventeenth Century copy, MSS, Trinity College Library, F. i.,15. The forests of the various places are given to the Abbey.

[4]. The Civil Survey of Clanmorris, Barony of Kerry, defines its usage of this term as a "gutter or running spring" (page2)

[5]. Statistical Survey of County Clare,p 269.

[6]. That townland was formed of portions of Killone, Killmorane, and Cahercalla, and got its present name around 1778 when purchased by the Stacpooles.

[7]. Dr. Joyce "Irish Names of Places," series i., p.483

[8]. See Mr.James Frost: "Place-names of Clare," p.42.

[9]. Shown on Elizabethan Maps, Hardiman Collection T.C.D.

[10]. "Commonplace book relating to Ireland," p 235.

- [11]. Inquisition, Charles I.
- [12]. See Hardiman, Maps, T.C.D., 2, 63, 82
- [13]. See Dr. Joyce "Irish Names of Places," part ii., p.247.
- [14]. Kilmore and Kilduff on the Ordnance Survey Maps.
- [15]. The Surveys of 1655 and 1675 hardly give us a "derry" name in the district. Mr. James Frost ("County Clare Irish Local Names" pp. 29, 30) gives the meanings ; but, as the names are there usually taken from local pronunciation, not from early records, we have little confidence in the results.
- [16]. Trans R.I.A., xv.
- [17]. He published a translation in Journal Roy. Soc. Antiquaries (Ireland), xxxvi., p.433.
- [18]. Desmond Roll, m. 76d
- [19]. Ludlow's Memoirs, vol. i., p.358.
- [20]. Proc. R.I.A., 3rd Ser. iv., p58.
- [21]. Tuanomoyre, 1584, Castle List. Tuanamoree, 1655, Down Survey Map.
- [22]. xxxvii. Ed I., No. 26.
- [23]. Diocese of Killaloe, Canon Philip Dwyer, p. 313.
- [24]. Hardiman, Deeds, xxiii. Trans R.I.A. Acad., xv., p.62. It mentions the woods, underwoods, and unreclaimed tracts of "Magherabelna aba," near Rossmuinch. The last is Rossmuinecar in the next deed (xxiv) of the same year.
- [25]. The apparent holly-name, Ballycullen, is shown by the same author to be a personal or family name Baile Ui Cuilen, in 1311.
- [26]. Pococke's "tour in Ireland in 1752" (Rev. Dr. G. T. Stokes), pp. 111, 112, "Statistical Survey of Clare" (Hely Dutton), pp. 272, 273. Lady Chatterton describes the Creatloe Woods in her "Rambles in the South of Ireland." (1839), pp. 170-173.
- [27]. From a Sioda or Sheeda Mac Namara, perhaps the chief who restores Quinn Abbey in 1402.
- [28]. Dublin Registry, B.408, p. 92.
- [29]. No. 129 of Inqs. Car. I.
- [30]. In Possession of George O'Callaghan Westropp, of Coolreagh, with a most interesting mass of papers of friendly "Protestant discoveries," made for the O'Briens by their trustees, the Drews and Westropp, to save the O'Brien's lands from less disinterested actions.
- [31]. Hardiman, Deed xxx.
- [32]. Dublin Registry, B. 65, p. 252.
- [33]. Dublin Registry, B. 492, p. 124.
- [34]. Dublin Registry, Book 51, p. 413, Book 81, No. 37049.
- [35]. De Latocneye in his "Promenade dans l'Irlande," 1797, names no woods on these hills, only stating that they were covered in turf at Glenomera.
- [36]. Prerogative Wills, P.R.O.I.

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