

## History And Topography

of

## The County Of Clare

James Frost, M.R.I. A.

Topography of Thomond

### Ui Cashin

Cas, the king of North Munster shortly before the time of St Patrick, gave name to this district. It had previously borne the name of Magh Adhair, signifying the plain of Adhar, an appellation which it received from Adhar the Firbolg, who possessed it in the first century of the Christian era. He was the son of Umor, the brother of Aengus, who built the cyclopean fort of Dun Aengus in the great Island of Arran. Afterwards Magh Adhar became the patrimony of the O'Hehirs, but they in turn were driven westwards to the present barony of Islands by the MacNamaras. Magh Adhar proper, now called Moyry Park, is situate in the townland of Toonagh, parish of Clooney. The tree stood there beneath which the O'Briens were inaugurated as kings of Thomond. The descendants of Cas comprised the O'Briens, MacNamaras, O'Deas, and various other families whose possessions constituted what are now designated the baronies of Upper and Lower Bunratty, Upper and Lower Tulla, and Inchiquin. To the MacNamaras the section of Thomond called Ui Caisin belonged, and their ownership extended from the beginning of the fifth to the beginning of the fourteenth century. About the year 1318, after the destruction of De Clare and the Ui Bloids his partizans, who sought to establish the English power in Thomond, the victorious MacNamaras drove out of the county all that remained of them, and took possession of their lands. Their own territory of Ui Caisin originally consisted of the following parishes : — Inchicronan, Kilraghtis, Templemaley, Doora, Clooney, Quin, Tulla, and Kilmurry-na-gaul ; but after 1318 it included besides these the following parishes : Killaloe, AGLISH, Killuran, Kilnoe, Killokennedy, Tulla, Moynoe, Kilseely, Feakle, Kilfinaghty, Iniscaltragh, Tomgrancy, in short the whole of Upper and Lower Tulla. [1] To defend themselves against any attempts to recover their possessions by the former owners, the MacNamaras proceeded to build castles for protection, and in 1580 no less than forty-two of these belonged to members of the family. As soon as they had acquired almost the entire eastern division of the county of Clare, as here described, they changed the names of the districts and called their territory east and west Clanculein, the first named being assigned to a chief called MacNamara Fionn, and the other to a kindred chief designated as MacNamara Reagh. The two districts here named absorbed the following denominations which had existed under their various tribe names from remote times till 1318 : Tuath Eachtao, Ui Dongailé, Ui Congailé, Ui Rongailé, Ui Bloid, Ui Floinn, Ui Cearnaigh, [2] Tradraighe, Gleann Omra, Ui Toirdhealbhaigh, and Ui Ainmire. Of each of these a more particular account will be found in this work. Shortly after the acquisition of the new territory, the chief of the MacNamaras proceeded to place a rent or tribute upon the several townlands of which it was composed, and the document in which he describes the tax has come down to us. Although it bears no date, yet it may be safely referred to the beginning of the fourteenth century. It is as follows, as translated from the Irish original by Mr. Hardiman the historian of Galway. [3]

“ This is the aggregate of the lordship of MacNamara, that is of Maccon the son of Cumedha, the grandson of Con, the son of Loghlen, the son of Cumedha More, according to

the testimony of the stewards of the Rodan family, and of the Marshal of the country, and to the will of their father and grandfather out of Tuathmore ; and the said stewards are Philip O’Rodan and Conor O’Rodan, descendants of the red stewards : [4]

“ This is the first part of the same, viz. : fourteen ounces to MacConmara and his servants in the Rath (?) exclusive of royalties. The lady (that is MacNamara’s consort) has an ounce of gold out of Cloonmony (in the parish of Inchicronan), exclusive of the lord’s rights ; three ounces of ladies’ rent yearly in the quarter of Ballynakill (?), and Ballyokeileghter (?) ; thirteen ounces in the quarter of Drumdyelan (?) ; fourteen ounces in the quarter of Dura ; fourteen ounces in the east half townland of Toonagh ; exclusive of the lord’s rights ; half a mark in Ballyvroghaun ; fourteen ounces of the lord’s rent in Ballymacloon, exclusive as above ; fourteen ounces yearly in the half townland of Ballyslattery (Newgrove) ; fourteen ounces in the half townland of Ballymoylin (Milltown) ; fourteen ounces yearly of lord’s debts in the half townland of Rosscarthy (Roslara) ; fourteen ounces in the quarter of Glandree ; fourteen ounces of lord’s rent in Fourtanebeg ; fourteen ounces in Lismehan (Maryfort), Garruragh, and Ballyubrane, exclusive as above ; fourteen ounces in Ballykelly ; fourteen ounces in Ballyoughtra ; fourteen ounces in Liscullaun ; fourteen ounces in the five half quarters of O’Bloid (Ballyblood) ; and fourteen ounces in Ballyrossroe (Rosroe). He has moreover, food in the free lands of that territory, and MacConmara has fourteen ounces in the quarter of Tannaghbeg.

“ This is the rental of MacNamara in Tuath-na-havon (*Tuatha na hamhan*), (the river district, that is the country adjoining the O’Garney river) viz. : fourteen ounces in Cappagh ; fourteen ounces in Ballyfarrell (Mount Ievers, Ieverstown) ; fourteen ounces in Bally-nevin ; fourteen ounces in Ballyiosine (Ballysheen) ; and food once a year in the free lands of that district. These are the stewards, who have been accustomed to receive said rents, namely the posterity of Mahone Fionn O’Rodain.

“ This is the yearly rent of MacNamara in the territory of the O’Flinn (*Tuath O’b’Floinn*) viz : fourteen ounces in the three half quarters of the Clan Cusack, *i.e.* the Coolagh and Bal-linacliach (Hurdlestown), and Drumsillagh ; fourteen ounces in the three Snatys ; fourteen ounces in Enaghmorogh-brick (Enagh) ; fourteen ounces in the Cloonshidas (?) ; fourteen ounces in the half townland of the posterity of Donogh MacCusack ; fourteen ounces in Mount Tallon (*Modhma Talmhuin* anglicé Landslip) ; fourteen ounces in the country of O’Hea (*Tir O’n’Aodha*), (Teeronea) exclusive of the royalties of the lord out of them all ; an ounce of gold of lady’s rent on Gorteongalagh (?), and food once a year in the free lands of said territory ; and a groat and seven ounces unto MacCommara in Ballymurrigan (Ballyrorgal) (*Múintir labhvil Maoir na Tuatha roin*). The family of Lavelle were the stewards of that territory.

“ The rental of MacNamara in the territory of Glen (Glanomera), viz : fourteen ounces in the townland of the red earl (?) ; fourteen ounces in Ballyquin ; fourteen ounces in Bally-muldowny ; (Ballymoloney, *baile ui Maoldomhnaigh* [5]) and the share of the two-third from said places is charged upon the quarter of Drynaghbeg (Aharinaghbeg) ; fourteen ounces in Crean ; fourteen ounces in Cloonyconry ; fourteen ounces in Formoyle ; fourteen ounces in Cloontragh ; fourteen ounces in Ardskeagh ; fourteen ounces in Cloongaheen ; and food once a year in the free lands of that place.

“ The rental of MacNamara in the territory of Ui Congalaigh (the present parish of O’Gonnelloe), viz : fourteen ounces in Bealkelly (*A m’Beil Coille*, the entrance of the wood) ; fourteen ounces in Ballybrogheran ; fourteen ounces in Ballyloghnan ; fourteen ounces in the quarter of Ballyoheefa [Ballyheefy] ; fourteen ounces in Ballybran ; fourteen

ounces in Carrowcore [the odd quarter] ; and Carrowgar [the short quarter] ; fourteen ounces in Ballynaglearagh ; fourteen ounces in Carrowena (*Eidhne*, ivy) ; food between Christmas and Shrovetide in the the two Rahenas, in Island Cosgary, Ballyhurly, and Aughinish ; and food once a year in the free quarters of that territory. The Rodanes were the stewards of that country.

“ The rental of MacNamara in the territory of O’Rongailé, viz., fourteen ounces in Upper Clogher ; and fourteen in Lower or Small Clogher in Clooncool ; fourteen ounces in Clonmoher ; fourteen in Coolriedy ; fourteen in Dromart (Drummod) ; fourteen ounces in Drumsgamur ; and fourteen ounces in Caherhurly, of the Clan Hasneisis (*Cloine Haisneisis*). MacNamara has food between Christmas and Shrovetide in the three Coolreavaghs (Coolreagh) ; fourteen ounces in Upper Ross (Rosneillan ?) ; food in Ballymacdonnell, and in Killuvran (Killuran), between Christmas and Shrovetide, and also in Ballymacon-finn (?) ; and food once a year in the free lands of said territory.

“ The rental of MacNamara in the country of the Eactaoi (*Tuath Eachtao*) viz : fourteen ounces in Annagh ; fourteen ounces in Bawn-a-cullane ; fourteen ounces in Rathneeane (?) ; an ounce of gold of Lady’s rent (*Cios baintirrain*) in Fiacal (Feakle) ; fourteen ounces in the three quarters Coologory ; fourteen ounces in Cooracloon ; fourteen ounces in Leaghort ; fourteen ounces in Gurtadoon (?) ; fourteen ounces in Enagh (!) fourteen ounces in Knockbehy ; fourteen ounces in the green of O’Halloran (*A b’Fatha ui Allmhfaín*) ; and the O’Rodan family are the stewards therein, and food between Shrovetide and Easter.”

Next to the O’Briens the MacNamaras became the most powerful family in Thomond. At the time it was made into a county by the English in the reign of Elizabeth, almost all that part which lies at the east of the Fergus, and of a line continued from Ennis to Ballyline, belonged to them. When an account was taken of all the ancient owners of the lands of the county in 1640, it was found that no less than two hundred members of the clan Mac Namara were owners in fee simple. Of these only six obtained a grant of part of their possessions, under the Cromwellian settlement, so complete was the ruin brought upon a race who for a space of thirteen hundred years were the powerful and prosperous owners of the land of their inheritance. [6] Even at this day, though fallen to the rank of the peasantry, an air of gentility and breeding is observable in many members of this ancient family.

The following notices of the territories of Ui Caisin and Clan Culein occur in the *Annals of the Four Masters* and in the *Annals of Innisfallen*. We also copy all the references made in these Annals to the inhabitants of the district.

A.D. 1014. Meanma, the son of the Lord of Ui Caisin, died. (He was the son of Aodh, and grandfather of Cumara, from whom the family name of Mac Con Mara or MacNamara is derived.)

A.D. 1018. MacCatharnaigh, son of Aodh, one of the Ui Caisin, made an attack on Donogh, the son of Brian Boroimhe, and gave him a blow of a sword on the head, and cut off his right hand.

A.D. 1099. The son of Cumara, who was the son of Donald, lord of Ui Caisin, died.

A.D. 1135. Cumara, son of Cumara, son of Donald, lord of Ui Caisin, fell in a battle with the men of Thomond.

A.D. 1142. Donogh O’Connor, lord of Ciarraigh Luachra, was killed by Cumara beg, lord of Ui Caisin.

A.D. 1170. Lorcan O'Ahern was killed by the sons of MacNamara and the Ui Caisin.

A.D. 1300. The O'Gradys, assisted by the O'Deas, give their support to Donald, son of MacCon, in his endeavour to get a part of Ui Caisin from his relative, Donogh, son of Cuvea. They plundered the country and defeated him in a bloody battle, in which most of his followers were slain, including Hugh, son of Cuvea ; Conor and Mahone, sons of Maloney ; Maoel-saghlen, son of Sheeda ; O'Halloran, and Conor, son of Conduv O'Healy. [7]

A.D. 1309. Donogh, son of Cuvea More MacNamara, ruler of Ui Caisin, was treacherously killed by his own people, and by Donald O'Grady, chief of Cinel Dongaile. His brother, Loghlen Laidir, was elected chief in his stead.

A.D. 1311. Sheeda MacNamara died.

A.D. 1312. A few of the tribe of O'Coiléan going to prey upon Ui Floinn, one of them was killed.

A.D. 1328. In a contest against Brien Bane O'Brien, the son of Cumana MacNamara, was slain.

A.D. 1334. A great army both of English and Irish was led by the Connaughtmen into Munster against the Mac Namaras. They burned a church in which were one hundred and eighty persons and two priests, none of whom escaped.

A.D. 1357. Donogh MacNamara, the best son of a chieftain in Leth Mogha, in his time was slain by the O'Briens.

A.D. 1369. The MacNamaras, under the command of Brien Catha an Eanaigh O'Brien, obtained a signal victory over the English and captured Limerick. Sheeda Cam MacNamara, son of Loghlen Laidir, and of the daughter of O'Dwyer was placed as warden of the town. The English rose upon him and treacherously slew him.

A.D. 1370. Joanna Cam (the crooked), daughter of Mac Carthy and wife of MacNamara, of Quin, died.[8]

A.D. 1377. The Burkes of Galway invaded Clan Culein. The MacNamaras, under the leadership of Hugh (son of the daughter of O'Daly of Corcomroe), opposed and routed them. Theobald, son of Ulick, head of the kernes, the three sons of O'Heyne, and many others of the Clan Ricard were slain. [9]

A.D. 1378. Teige, the son of Loghlen MacNamara, was slain by Hugh, son of the daughter of O'Daly.

A.D. 1378. Mahone, the son of John MacNamara, died.

A.D. 1380. Cumara Gearr (the short), *i.e.*, the Mac Namara, was treacherously slain by his own kinsmen.

A.D. 1381. Philip O'Kennedy, lord of Ormond, and his wife, Ainé, the daughter of MacNamara, died.

A.D. 1407. MacNamara, chief of Clan Culein, died.

A.D. 1428. MacNamara, chief of Clan Culein, a charitable and truly hospitable man, who had repressed robbery and established peace in his territory, died.

A.D. 1432. Melaghin Maineach MacNamara, chief of Clan Culein, died.

A.D. 1433. Maccon Ceanmore (of the big head) Mac Namara, chief of Clan Culein, died.

A.D. 1486. Cumara MacNamara was exultingly (gohaith-easach), slain by the sons of Donogh MacNamara.

A.D. 1486. Ragnailt, daughter of John MacNamara and wife of Turlogh O'Brien, lord of Ormond, died.

A.D. 1487. Hugh, the son of Philip Roe MacNamara, a brave and warlike man, died.

A.D. 1490. Finola, the daughter of Rory MacNamara, and wife of Turlogh, the son of Murrough O'Brien, died.

A.D. 1492. Cuvea, the son of John MacNamara, died.

A.D. 1498. Slainé, the daughter of Sheeda Cam Mac Namara, and wife of Mac William, *i.e.*, Ulick of Clanricard, died.

A.D. 1542. Maccon, son of Cuvea, son of Donogh, son of Rory, son of Maccon Ceanmore, was unbecomingly slain by his kinsman, Maccon, son of Rory, son of Maccon, son of Rory, son of Maccon Ceanmore.

A.D. 1570. John MacNamara, son of Sheeda, son of Maccon, son of Sheeda, son of Teige, son of Loghlen, lord of East Clan Culein, died. He was a noble and majestic man, and the favourite of women and damsels by reason of his gaiety and pleasantries. Donald Reigh, the son of Cuvea, son of Donogh, succeeded.

A.D. 1571. MacNamara, *i.e.*, Teige, son of Cuvea, son of Cumara, son of John, died, and his son John took his place.

A.D. 1578. Sheeda, son of Maccon, son of Sheeda, son of Maccon, Tanist of East Clan Culein, was slain on Slieve Eachtao, while in pursuit of a party of the kernes of Clanricard who were carrying off plunder.

A.D. 1584. Donogh, the son of MacNamara, of West Clan Culein, died. He was the son of Teige, son of Cuvea, son of Cumara, son of John. Of all the Clan Culein he was the most redoubtable to his enemies on the field of battle. He was succeeded by his brother John.

A.D. 1585. An ordinance was enacted at a session held at the monastery of Ennis, by which it was ordained that the chief of every sept should be stripped of his titles and tributes except John MacNamara, lord of West Clan Culein, who refused to subscribe his signature to these regulations.

A.D. 1587. Cuvea, son of the above-named John, died.

A.D. 1588. Teige, son of Donald Reigh, son of Cuvea, son of Donogh, son of Rory, lord of West Clan Culein, was hanged at Galway.

A.D. 1592. Donald Reigh, son of Cuvea, son of Donogh, son of Rory, son of Maccon Ceanmore, called the Mac Namar Reigh, lord of West Clan Culein, died on the 23rd of February of this year. He was a sumptuous, festive, bounteous and humane man.

It is not easy to determine the reasons which actuated MacNamara to enter into the obligations set forth in the subjoined covenant with the Earl of Thomond. Its date being unknown, we are left to conjecture that the object of the deed was to place MacNamara and his sept in a formal manner under the protection of the O'Briens. The deed is found in the Irish language in the fifteenth volume of the *Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy*, and the translation is from the pen of Mr. Hardiman.

“ These are the conditions and covenants entered into by Conor O'Brien Earl of Thomond, and MacNamara, to wit, Teige son of Cuvea, son of Cumara, who is the MacNamara. [10] That he and his heirs for ever shall conduct themselves faithfully and without malice towards the Earl and his heirs for ever, not only himself and his heirs, but that no one on their part shall act contrary to these conditions ; and particularly that he or his descendants shall never wage war against the Earl or his heirs for ever. Moreover, MacNamara and his heirs shall be loyal and faithful to the country of Clan Culein, and not encroach upon them beyond the bounds of justice for ever. His father and grandfather to give as guarantees the four principal persons as well as the chief steward and marshal of MacNamara. The sureties for the performance of said covenant are : God and his angels, and MacNamara to swear by every oath the most sacred before the Chief Justice of Ireland, in the presence of the English and Irish of Ireland. Furthermore, MacNamara and his heirs shall be bound in a certain sum to be specified for the performance of those obligations. These are the conditions and penalty upon which the Earl of Thomond liberated MacNamara, together with the guarantees and other hostages required viz. : O'Shaughnessy, under the penalty of twenty marks ; the son of O'Brien, forty marks, William O'Mulryan and his son forty marks ; and Donogh, son of Mahone O'Brien twenty marks, that neither MacNamara or his posterity shall be guilty of defection from the Earl or his descendants for ever. These are the Earl's witnesses to said penalty : Daniel, son of Murrough MacSweeney ; Thomas MacCubag, Rory O'Fahy, and Gilla Breeda MacBrody.

“ These are the conditions upon which the son of O'Brien became surety for MacNamara : That if he should be liberated within a fortnight from this time he would become bail for him, and be subject to the penalty, and these are the witnesses thereto, viz. : Teige More son of Carroll O'Mulgeehey, and Eugene O'Kennedy. And if he shall not be set at liberty within the said period, that the son of O'Brien shall not be subject to the penalty namely, forty marks.

“ These are the conditions upon which William O'Mulryan became surety for MacNamara : That if he should be set at liberty within a fortnight, the said William in conjunction with the Earl, should punish MacNamara unless he be found to perform his engagements to the Earl. These are the witnesses present at the agreement viz. : the two sons of Daniel O'Kennedy, *i.e.*, Philip and Hugh ; and the priest, son of Rory, son of Donogh ; and Eugene (O'Kennedy), and Justin O'Davoren.

“ Donogh, son of Mahone O'Brien, binds himself under the penalty of twenty marks for MacNamara, in presence of the son of Flinn M'Grath, and of the son of John O'Mulconry. Conor, son of Rory MacNamara binds himself in ten marks ; the three sons of Loghlen, son of Donogh, bind themselves in fifteen marks ; the four sons of Sheeda, son of John namely, Donogh, Cuvea, Cumara, and Sheeda Oge in fifteen marks more ; Fineen (son of Loghlen), and his son, in fifteen marks ; Turlogh, son of Donald Roe, in five marks ; the son of Teige, son of Mahone, that is to say, the priest ; the two sons of Loghlen, son of Mahone ; and the son of Moloney in twenty marks. In case any dispute should arise among the parties, it is to be settled by the son of O'Loghlen [by . . . ] by McGrath, by MacGorman, and by MacGilla Riaba.”

## KILRAGHTIS PARISH.

Very few words are required to describe the antiquities of this parish. Its old church is in a state of considerable dilapidation. Who was its patron cannot be discovered. The name itself is ambiguous, for it may either signify a man or an attribute. In either case nothing intelligible can be discovered in connection with it. No holy well or castle is seen in the parish, and the raths or forts found there are unworthy of description. In a curious work, designated *Pro-pugnaculum Catliolicæ Veritatis* by Father Anthony MacBrody, a copy of which is in the library of the Franciscan Friars at Dublin, an account is given of one of the priests of this parish in these words : — “ Donogh Neylan was parish priest of Kilraghtis for many years. He afterwards became a Franciscan, and was sent to France. Returning to Ireland in 1642, he resided at the monastery of Ennis. Cromwell’s forces captured him in 1651 in the house of his relative Laurence MacInerney. Having bound him on the back of a horse, they carried him to their stronghold at Inchicronan, and there hanged him.” In the same year, and presumably at the same place, was hanged Teige Carrigge, another friar of the Ennis convent. MacBrody further says that at the time of writing his book, in 1668, his father, Maoilín MacBrody, lived at Ballyogan, near Kilvoydane ; that his age was 81 ; that his mother, Margaret Moloney sister of the Catholic Bishop of Killaloe had died in the year 1658. He also mentions that the following persons perished at the hands of the Cromwellians although they had safe conducts viz.: Donogh O’Brien, of Newtown, who was burned to death in his old age ; James O’Brien, nephew of this Donogh, who was hanged at Nenagh ; Daniel Clancy, of Glenvane, was likewise put to death ; as also Father Owen O’Cahane, a friar of the Ennis convent, who had a school at Quin to which no less than eight hundred scholars had flocked in 1644, among whom was Brody himself together with eighteen other youths of the same name. In 1651 the school was broken up and O’Cahane hanged. A man called “ Rogerius Ormillius” who had been thirty years parish priest of Brentire was hung in October, 1652. About the same time were also hanged Hugh Carrige a parish priest, Roger M’Namara, Daniel Clancy, and Jeremiah M’Inerney, friars of Quin convent who were born in Tradaree. Dermot Brody of Moynoe, with six other Catholics, were burned in a house at Scariff, and at other places were murdered Teige O’Connell an Augustinian monk, and John O’Cullín, a Dominican, born near Ballynahinch. [11]

## TEMPLEMALEY PARISH.

There is every reason to believe that the patron of Templemaley is the saint after whom the parish of Kilmaley is called, but who this holyman was, or what his history, no means now exist of ascertaining. His church is intolerable preservation, is of very plain architecture, and offers no feature of interest as regards its structure or surroundings. No other ancient ecclesiastical building is found in Templemaley parish, but in the townland of Cill-Fiodhain is an old baptismal font, said to have belonged to a church now no longer existing on the spot. Just near the lunatic asylum is a holy well — the only one in the parish — dedicated to Ingean Baoth, the patroness of Killanaboy parish : Three old castles stood in Templemaley, one at Ballyallia now wholly demolished,, another at Drumeen, and a third at Ballycarroll. In 1580 Ballyallia belonged to Dr. James Neylan, Ballycarroll to Conor M’Clancy, but no account remains of the owner of Drummeen in that year, assuming that it had then been erected. The *Annals of the Four Masters* contain a reference to this James Neylan in these words : “ A.D. 1599. Professor O’Niallian viz. James, the son of Donald, who was the son of Auliffe, son of Donogh O’Niallain, who had kept a house of open hospitality, died in the month of October at Baille-*ui-Aillé*, in the barony of Quincé, in the county of Clare.” In Sir John Perrott’s composition deed of 17th August 1585, he is mentioned as a man of constant good intentions towards the English, and on that account is to have the castle of Ballyallia and two quarters of land free as well from Crown rent, as from the Earl of Thomond’s rent.

## INCHICRONAN PARISH.

Until some further information relating to the lives of the various saints of the name of Cronán shall be obtained it is impossible to say which of them is the patron of this parish. A probable conjecture is that he is the same person venerated at Roscrea and Tomgraney.[12] His church was situate on a neck of land between two arms of the lake of Inchicronin, but it was removed in the end of the twelfth century to give place to a monastery of Regular Canons, built by Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick. The latter is now very much injured by time, but the site was chosen with an eye to the picturesque, and the view of the ruined building from the opposite side of the lake is full of beauty.[13] Another church and burial-ground exists in the parish called Kilvoydane, the church being dedicated to the same saint as that near Corofin. Nothing has come down to us touching the history of this holy man. His church is situate at the extreme end of the parish near Spencil Hill. Kiltolagh church and graveyard stands in the townland of Carrowmore. St. Tolagh was also the patron of the parish of Dysert, and in the part of this work describing the place all that is known of him will be found. Two other ruined churches exist in the parish, namely, Kilvakee and Kilvilly ; of the patrons of these nothing can be ascertained. At Doonmulvihill also there is a graveyard but no remains of an edifice. Of holy wells no less than five are seen in the parish of Inchicronan. These are Tobarmacduach, Toberineenboy, Tober-naneeve, Toberbreeda, and Kilvoydan. Near the lake stand the remains of the castle of Inchicronan, not included in the list of those made about the year 1580, while at Doonmulvihill is one belonging in that year to Owen MacSweeney. Some other objects of antiquity not requiring particular attention are found in Inchicronan. The chief among these are Knocknaculla fort, and a structure called the Giant's Grave, both situate in the angle of the parish which reaches to Spencil-hill.

## DOORA PARISH.

In O'Reilly's *Dictionary* the word *Dúr* signifies water. The genitive is *Duire*, and this parish is always so called in Irish, meaning the parish of the water or bog. [14]

In the history of St Breccan of Arran it is stated that he founded a church in Dalcais called after his name.[15] In Doora parish there is a townland called Kilbreckan, and in that townland stands a ruined church named Carrantemple. Now, the old edifice in question must be the church founded by St Breccan. Its characteristics are those of a building of very great antiquity. The patron saint of Doora must have been one whose history is partially forgotten, but the claim of St. Breccan is proved by the fact that two holy wells are found in this parish dedicated to him. His church is in good preservation, and is seen from the railway station at Ennis. In one of its walls is a window believed by O'Donovan to be of a very remote period, and some parts of the walls he also thought were coeval with this window. Another ruined church called Kellavella exists in this parish. Besides the two wells above mentioned, another holy well named in honour of St Michael is found there. Doora contains the remains of two castles, Ballyhannan now called Castlefergus, in good preservation, and that of Clonmore utterly ruined. In 1580 Ballyhannan belonged to William Neylan, while the castle of Clonmore is not mentioned in the list so often referred to.

## CLOONEY PARISH.

St. Ricín, according to tradition, is the patron of this parish. The word Clooney is not a word of ecclesiastical origin. It simply signifies a plain or meadow, and the church is called in Irish the church of the meadow. The building is in good preservation and presents no characteristic requiring description here. Two other burial grounds are found in the parish, the one named Killoghan, concerning the patron of which no information has come down to us ;

the second has no name, and is used as a place of sepulture. Besides these, there is a graveyard in which unbaptised children only are interred. Three holy wells are in the parish, viz. : Tober-cill near Killoghan church, Tober-buran, and St. Patrick's well. The wholly ruined castle of Toonagh is situate in Clooney. It belonged in 1580 to a MacNamara. Castletown castle is also in the parish. In the same year it was the property of Bryan O'Brien, while the castle of Corbally belonged to Shane son of Mahone MacNamara, and that of Clooney to Donogh O'Grady. In this parish is the townland of Ballyhickey, so called from the O'Hickeys, hereditary physicians of the O'Briens. The name in Irish is O'h Icidhe, which signifies the Descendant of the Healer from the root *ic* to heal. [16]

#### QUIN PARISH.

In O'Donovan's edition of the *Annals of the Four Masters*, he states in a note [17] that St. Finghin was the patron of this parish. In the same work [18] we read that in 1005 died St. Finghin, Abbot of Roscrea. In O'Hanlon's *Lives of the Irish Saints*, at the fifth of February, the life of St. Finghin, Bishop of Metz, is given, and Father O'Hanlon hazards a conjecture that the Abbot of Roscrea and the Bishop of Metz are one and the same person. Only one saint named Finghin is mentioned in the Irish calendars. [19] St. Finghin's original church at Quin, it need scarcely be said was several centuries older than the great Franciscan Monastery of the same place. It is situated on the other side of the little river Rine, and its remains are in a tolerable state of preservation. From its size, it is evident that it was the church of a large and very thickly populated parish in former days. The derivation of the word Quin, pronounced in Irish Cuinché, is from the arbutus — which in Irish is Cuinché — and it signifies arbutus producing land. [20] In Quin parish there is another church and graveyard, called Shankill, situated near Dangan. The parish abounds in holy wells, no less than six being within its ambit. Their names are as follows : — Tubber-na-neeve, Tober-brassil, Toberagee, Toberfineen, Toberandillane, and Toberceeghan. It likewise includes in its limits the remains of seven castles, two of them namely, Creganeowen and Knoppogue being in perfect repair and inhabited, but the others either wholly ruined or in various stages of decay. I subjoin a list of them, with the names of their owners in 1580.

Dangan and Danganbrack, owned by John MacNamara, chief of West Clanculein and head of the Fionn branch of his family ; Knoppogue, by Turlogh O'Brien ; Quin, by Cumeadha MacNamara ; Creganeowen, by Cumeadha, son of John MacNamara ; Cullane, by the same owner ; and Ballymarkahan, by John MacNamara.

It is much to be regretted that the materials for the history of the ancient Franciscan Abbey at Quin are so scanty. It stands just by the little stream, and is in such excellent preservation that it requires only a roof and other renovations to make the structure fit for the reception of the Friars once more. When it existed in a complete state, it must have been a very fine building. Its beautiful tower, cloisters, and great east and south windows, show that it was constructed in accordance with the best principles of Irish church architecture. It was founded in 1402 by Sheda Cam MacNamara, lord of Clanculein. [21] In 1433, Pope Eugenius IV. granted to Mahone Dall MacNamara, the then chief of the family, a licence to place friars of the Strict Observance in the monastery. Quin was thus the first convent in Ireland in which that reformation of the Franciscan Order was admitted. [22] MacNamara, in the course of the same year added to the building, and in succeeding generations votive altars were built by other members of the same ancient family. [23] In truth the whole edifice form a monument of the munificence and piety of that once powerful race. Previously to the foundation of the Abbey of Quin, their place of sepulture was at Ennis. Their bounty was not confined to the mere building, because they endowed the friars with lands, fisheries, and other kinds of property. [24] When the monasteries of Clare were suppressed in the beginning of the reign of

Elizabeth the brethren were expelled, and Quin Abbey was converted into a barrack by the English garrison. The building was soon burned over their heads by Donogh O'Brien. [25] By the munificence of the MacNamaras and of the other families of the district, it was soon roofed over again, the walls, by their firmness, having remained uninjured. [26] In 1626 it was again occupied, under the authority of Father Francis Matthew the then Provincial of the Franciscan Order in Ireland, and Father Teige (called Bonaventure) MacGorman, a preacher of the Order, was placed over it as superior. In the previous years the friars had often visited the place, and accorded their ministrations to the people of the surrounding country. [27] One of them was Rory MacNamara son of Donald and Mary MacMahon. He was taken and shot by Cromwell's followers near Clare Castle in 1651. Daniel Clancy of a respectable family of Tradraigh was a lay-brother. He shared the same fate in that year. Jeremiah M'Inerney the son of wealthy parents was also a lay-brother. He entered the Order in 1640 while Father Teige MacGorman was still guardian, and suffered death at the hands of the English in 1651. [28] Bishop Pocock thus describes it as it stood in his time (1740) : " Quin is one of the finest and most entire monasteries in Ireland. It has an ascent of several steps to the church. At the entrance one is surprised with the view of the high altar. On each side of the arch of the chancel is a chapel, that at the south containing three or four altars and a Gothic figure of some saint in relief. The other on the north contains a monument of the family of MacNamara of Ranna. On a stone by the high altar appears the name of Kennedy in large letters." At the north side of the high altar is a handsome tomb, with an inscription round the edge in these words : " Hic jacent Oidh filius Laurentii filii Mathei MacConmara, et Constina ni MacNamara, uxor ejus, qui me fieri fecerunt." Above this inscription on the same tomb is a coat of arms, a lion rampant, crest a hand with a javelin, the motto " Firmitas in Cœlo," and this inscription : " This monument was erected by Mahon Dall MacNamara, and repaired by Captain Teige MacNamara, of Ranna, A.D. 1714." [29] In the south chapel of the abbey is a tomb with the following epitaph : " I.H.S. This tomb was erected by Mathew Macnamara of Moohane, in ye year 1500, and repaired by his great grandson, Mathew Macnamara, of Summerhill, in the year 1768, in memory of his father Teige, and his brother James Rowe M'Namara. R.I.P." Another tomb in the same chapel has this inscription : " Here lies the body of Edmond Macnamara grandson to Hugh Macnamara, of Corbally, deceased this life May the 17th, 1761, aged 21 years." Under the tower in a recess, is found a broken flag stone part of which is wanting and upon which can be traced the following words : " Hie jacet Johannes Capi[ta]nus MacNemara [Ju]nii 1601. More ni M[ac-n]amara me fieri fe[c]it." On a tomb partly buried in the wall of the sacristy are these words, the rest being covered by the mason work :

" Here lies the I . . . .  
 McNamara, of .... Dyed the 18th of  
 Cap. Teige Mc . . . Ranna, aged 82  
 ye 27 July, 1741 . . . McNamara of Ba . . . .  
 who died in ye ... . his age ye 10th ....

In another part of the abbey is found a tomb thus inscribed : " Here lyeth the body of Mary Creagh, otherwise MacNamara, wife of Andrew Creagh of the city of Limerick merchant and eldest daughter of Daniel MacNamara of Ardcluny in the county of Clare, Esq. and Mary Mac Namara, otherwise O'Callaghan his wife, daughter and heiress of Thady O'Callaghan of Mountallon in said county, deceased, who died the 23rd of June, 1756."

In the course of the excavations made by the Irish Board of Works in 1882, it was found that the abbey had been built on the site of a Norman castle. The castle had round towers at the four angles forming a square, with curtain walls of the thickness of ten feet connecting them. In the construction of the church the builders utilized two of these curtain walls, forming of them the south and east walls of the chancel.

We give here translations of some Irish Deeds relating to lands situate in Quin. “ Partition of Land, 1543 : The effect of this writing is as follows : A partition is made by Donogh O’Brien, and by Conor son of Donogh MacGluin, between Mahone son of Morogh MacGluin and his brother Donogh to wit, to Donogh the quartermeer of the half quarter nearest to the fort of the half quarter of Cullenagh in Ballymacloon, and the half quartermeer of Derreen in Carrowgar, the half quartermeer of Lisduff in Creevagh, and the half quartermeer Clonmore in Creevagh, comprising five half quartermeers. All the lands possessed by the said MacGluins over and above those heretofore mentioned are to be divided share and share alike between them. Written at Cuincé (Quin), the 11th of July, 1542. The witnesses present are God in the first place, Donogh O’Brien, Teige MacConmeadh MacNamara, Donogh son of John (M’Namara), of Kilkishen ; Teige Ultagh, of Ballymacashel ; Conor MacGluin, Richard Roe MacMaoilin, Conor Balv (the stammerer), O’Rodan the steward of O’Brien. I. Mahone MacGluin. [30]

*Purchase of Land, A.D. 1545.*

“ This is the amount of the mortgage which Murrogh, son of Donogh M’Gluin, paid for the half quarter of the Liss of Carnmallow for Donogh, the son of Conor O’Brien, [31] and also for Murrogh himself, viz. twenty milch cows with their calves, twenty in-calf cows, a dozen of heifers, and two strippers. This mortgage was given to John son of Loghlen MacNamara of Ballymarkahan, for the half quarter of Lisheennabunna, and for the half quartermeer of Ballyanerball. It is by the consent of Teige son of Loghlen his brother, that Mahone mortgaged the half quarter of the Liss and Knock in the first-mentioned lands. All other lands which the aforesaid race of MacGluin should acquire to be enjoyed, share and share alike, between themselves and their foster brother said Donogh O’Brien and

their heirs. At the expiration of five years afterwards Murrogh MacGluin gave sixty marks to said Mahone and Teige son of Loghlen, for the fee-simple of that land for ever, according to the form and covenant before mentioned. Anno Domini, 1545. In witness whereof we, Mahone, son of Loghlen of Ballymarkahan, and Teige son of Loghlen of the same place, do set our hands to this deed in presence

of witnesses here present — Mahone MacLoughlan, Teige Mac Loughlen. Murrogh O’Brien is the O’Brien at this time. ] (*Murchad O’Brian, na O’Brian an tan so*). These are the witnesses present, viz., Teige MacNamara and John MacNamara of Danganbrack ; Donald M’Rory of Caherscooby ; Flaherty O’Liddy of Shandangan ; Teige O’Brien of Quin ; Thomas Duff, son of Miler of Kilmahow ; Teige, son of Donogh, son of John, of Cloonlissan ; and many others not mentioned here.”

TULLA PARISH.

In Irish, the name of this parish is Tulach na napstoil, that is the Hill of the Apostles. Although in comparatively modern times the church of Tulla was thus designated, there is good reason to believe that the parish was originally dedicated to St. Mochuille in honour of whom several holy wells in the parish are called after his name. The ruined church on the top of the hill is of comparatively recent date, and it offers no subject for description here. An extensive graveyard surrounds it. [32] In the townland of Ballyblood in Tulla parish, is a small burial-ground for children called Liskenny ; in Craig is another, the name of which is Cill-Chuille ; a third in Lahardan, called Tober Mochuille, from the adjacent holy well ; and a fourth in Formoyle. The holy wells of the parish are these : *Tobar mic Seain*, that is the well of the son of John, in Uggoon ; three wells dedicated to St. Mochuille, situate respectively in Lahardaun, Knockdromleague, and Fortanebeg ; and St Bridget’s well in Kiltanon. Tulla abounds in castles, a list of which with their owners in 1580 we subjoin : Tulla, Donald Reagh MacNamara ; Fortane and Garruragh, Donagh and Rory MacNamara ; Lisofin and Lismeighan (now Maryfort), Rory MacNamara ; Fomorla and Tiredagh Turlogh O’Brien ; Milltown, Cuvea son of Mahone MacNamara.

The following Irish Deeds, translated from the original, deal with lands in this parish :

“ This is an agreement of the sept of MacShane (MacNamara) with the family of Slattery, viz. Teige

Oge, son of Teige, son of Curvea ; Teige, son of Loughlen, son of John ; Sabia, daughter of Teige, son of Donogh ; and Dermot, son of Loughlen ; namely, that the Slatterys are to obtain from the sept of MacShane an assignment in writing of the lands of Ballyslattery to those members of the family of Slattery now in being, viz. Donald son of Donogh, son of Donald, son of Dermot O'Slattery ; and Loughlen Roe, son of Donald, son of Donald, son of Loughlen O'Slattery. The sept of MacShane are bound to give their written guarantee to the Slatterys that they (the MacShanes) should go into court and council to make good their title to Ballyslattery. The Slattery's are to pay to the MacShanes at present twenty shillings, and two ounces yearly for two years from this date, and are bound to honour the sept of MacShane with suitable food and raiment according to their ability ; and the sept of MacShane are bound to protect that family. And if it should happen that both parties should preserve the land from those dealing unjustly towards them, then after the expiration of two or three years from this time, the treatment of the MacShanes by the Slatterys shall be regulated thenceforth according to the judgment of Teige MacClancy ; of Mahone, son of John, son of Donogh, and of Rory O'Hickey. A.D. 1493. Misi .. Misi Diarmaid MacLuchlain ; Misi Tadhg MacLuchlain ; Misi Sadhbh Ingin Tadhg MacDonchad.

The witnesses are Teige M'Clancy, Rory O'Hickey, Mahone, son of John, son of Donogh ; and the parties themselves, viz. the sept of MacShane, and the Slattery family, viz. Donald, Loughlen, and Teige."

Deed of Agreement, A.D. 1502. — " This is the agreement made between Donald son of John, son of Conor (Mac Namara), and Donald son of Loughlen O'Slattery, and Donald O'Slattery, upon giving a mortgage to Donald, son of John (MacNamara) and his brothers, for their portion of Ballyslattery being three parts of the half quarter of Riaskamore, between the two parts of the half quarter of Knock. The amount of the mortgage given by O'Slattery to MacNamara is seven and a-half marks, [ 33] fifteen in-calf cows, and a bay horse. It shall not be in the power of anyone to redeem said land from O'Slatteiy. except MacNamara or his son or grandson. The green of Killeen is the place charged with this mortgage, as is attested by Sheeda and his children, by Fineen, by the son of Conor, and by Mora, the daughter of Brian, in like manner ; and by the children of Cuvea, son of Loughlen ; and by many others of their race who have given their consent at both sides. A.D. 1502. Witnesses Teige, Flathry, and Dermot M'Clancy ; Domnall Mac Seain ; Donchad MacSeain ; Cumeada MacSeain."

#### KILMURRY PARISH.

Although this parish is so called after the Blessed Virgin Mary, there is reason to suppose that it was originally dedicated to some Irish saint. A holy well a little way from the site of the church is called Tobar Faoile, after the virgin saint of that name who had a religious establishment at Atheliath Meadhraidhe in the county of Galway, and another near Limerick from which the parish of Killeely is designated. Of the church itself not a trace remains, but the graveyard surrounding it is greatly used by the people of the neighbouring country as a place of burial. In Kilmurry parish are found the castle of Rossroe, in good preservation belonging in 1580 to Fineen, son of Loughlen MacNamara ; and the castle of Drumullan, the property at that time of Covea son of Mahone Mac Namara.

- [1] See *Description of Clare* in Library of Trinity College, Dublin. According to this the O'Gradys of Tomganey, Scariff, and Moynoe, were tributary to the MacNamaras
- [2] In 1564 it is stated that the river Owenogarney is situate in the territory of Clan Cuilean.
- [3] *Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy*, Vol. xv., no. 15.
- [4] The O'Reddans were hereditary stewards of the eastern parts of Thomond. Their patrimony was situate in the parishes of Kilmurry and Kilfinaghty.
- [5] Maol Domnaigh signifies servant of the church.
- [6] See Index to Sir William Petty's map of the county of Clare, which index is designated the *Book of Distributions and Forfeitures*, and is preserved in the Record Office, Dublin.

- [7] *Ann, Innsf.*
- [8] *Cill Cainnigh* in the original text of the *Four Masters*.
- [9] This Hugh was the son of Loghlen Laider (the strong), by his second marriage with the daughter of O'Daly, of Corcomroe. His first wife was the daughter of O'Dwyer, of Kilnemanagh, co. Tipperary, and by her he had two sons.
- [10] This must be Conor, the third earl, who died in 1580, and Teige MacNamara (Fimi), whose death occurred in 1571.
- [11] Brody cites as authorities for these allegations the statements of Peter Conroy in the work designated *Threnodiæ*, His own very curious work was printed at Prague in 1669.
- [12] See at Tomgraney, in this work.
- [13] After the suppression of the abbey it was given, together with the tithes of the parish, to Donogh Earl of Thomond, Jan. 19th, 1620, and again granted in fee to Henry Earl of Thomond, Sept, 1st, 1661. — *Archdall Mon, Hib*, p. 27.
- [14] Joyce : *Irish Names of Places*, ii., 380.
- [15] “ May 1st. Breccan, bishop. Some think that this was Breccan of Arran, and of Kilbreccan in Thomond, and who was of the race of Cormac Cas, son of Oilill Olum.” — *Martyrology of Donegal*.
- [16] Joyce : *Irish Names of Places*, ii., 76.
- [17] *Four Masters*, A.D. 1278.
- [18] *Idem*, A.D. 1005.
- [19] *Martyrology of Donegal*, 5th February.
- [20] Joyce : *Irish Names of Places*, ii., 339.
- [21] *Monasticon Hibernicum*, Vol. i., p. 90.  
*Annals of the Four Masters*, A.D.1402.
- [22] Luke Wadding, apud Allemand.
- [23] Archdall's *Monast. Hib.* : *ibid*.
- [24] By an Inquisition taken on the 24th of April, 4th of King James I., (A.D. 1607) it was found that the lands of Keeva belonged to the abbey, as also the mill in the town of Quin. — *Inquisitions, Clare* ; Record Office, Dublin  
*Annales Minorum*, by Father Fonseca, Rome, 1733. Vol. 8, p. 46 Vol. 10, p. 218.
- [26] *Idem*.
- [27] See the compilation made by Father Francis Ward for the use of Luke Wadding in the library of the Franciscan Order, Dublin, and translated by Most Rev. Dr. Mullock, Bishop of Newfoundland, in Duffy's *Hibernian Magazine*, Vol. i, p. 190. See also *MacBroudin*, lib. iv. cap. 15.
- [28] This is the man for whom the *Wars of Turlogh* were transcribed by Andrew MacCurtin. The MS. is now in the Library of Trinity College.
- [29] The name of Clune is still well known in this district
- [30] This Donogh son of Conor was Donogh the Fat, second Earl of Thomond.
- [31] This Murrough O'Brien was Murrough the Tanist, created first Earl of Thomond in 1543.
- [32] Oct. 27th, 2nd of King James I. *Inquisition* of this date states that McNamara, of Dangan, had granted the quarter of land called Cahercutteen to the church of Tulla for masses, and that said grant was revoked as contrary to the statute of Mortmain.
- [33] The value of a mark was thirteen shillings and fourpence.

The history and topography of the county of Clare, from the earliest times to the beginning of the 18th century (1893)

Author : Frost, James

Publisher : Dublin, Printed for the author by Sealy, Bryers & Walker

Year: 1893

Language : English

Digitizing sponsor : Google  
Book from the collections of : University of Michigan  
Collection : americana

Source : Internet Archive  
<http://www.archive.org/details/historyandtopog00frosgoog>

Edited and uploaded to [www.aughty.org](http://www.aughty.org) on 22nd February 2010.