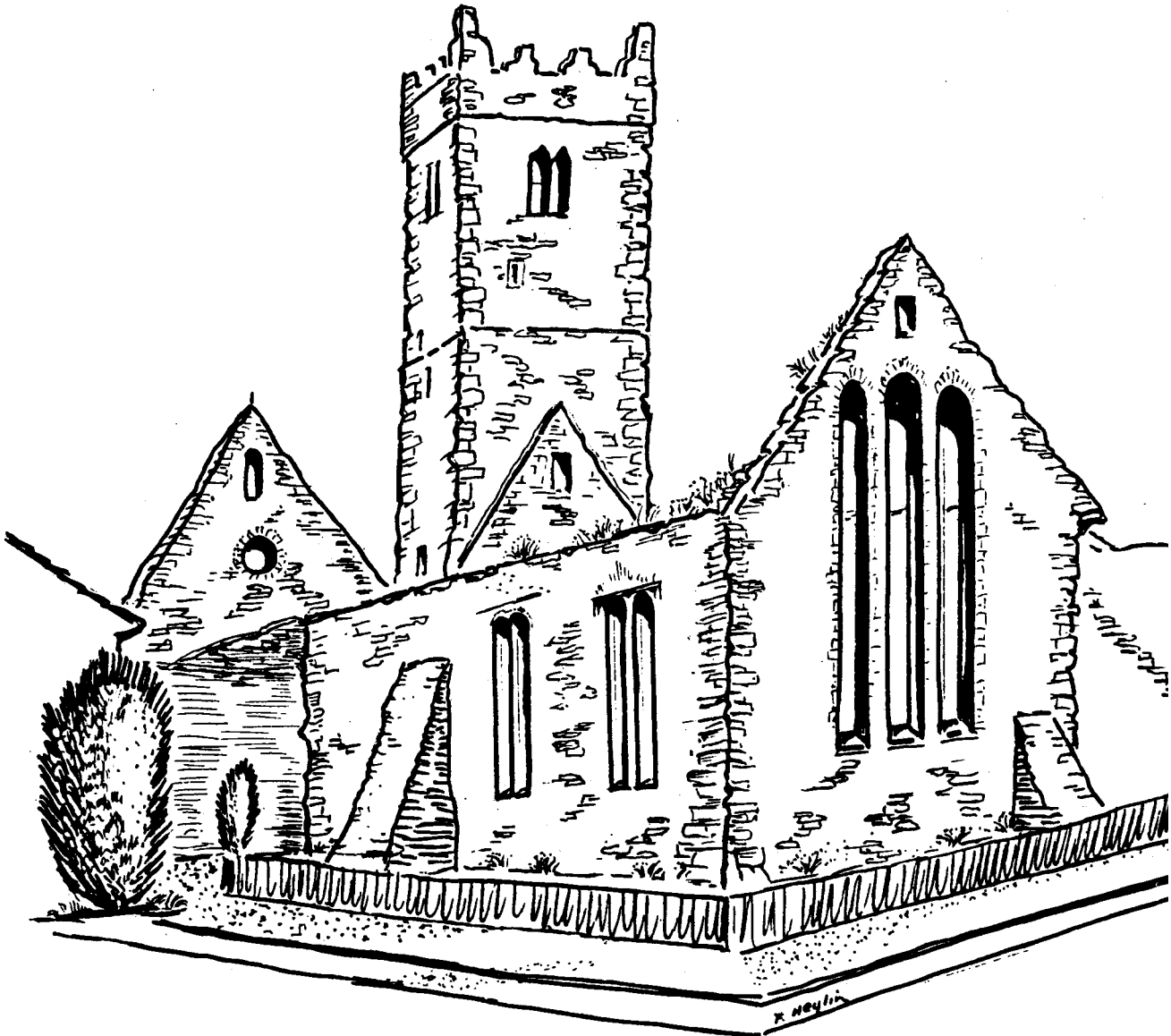


Old Waterford Society

DECIES

XXIX

SUMMER 1985



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FRONT COVER: Greyfriars (Franciscan) Abbey, Bailey's New Street).

This fine old ruin, known locally as the "French" Church, was originally a Franciscan Friary, founded by an Anglo-Irish knight, Sir Hugh Purcell in 1240. The South transept or Lady Chapel was added by the Powers of Dunhill.

At its dissolution in 1540 the Friary, with all its properties, was seized by the Crown. In 1544, however, the church building (though not the land) was granted to Henry Walsh for the purpose of converting it to use as an almshouse for the accommodation of sixty of the sick and infirm poor of both sexes. In this form and known as the "Hospital of the Holy Ghost of Waterford" it survived until 1844, though confined always to two floors formed over the nave and the Lady Chapel.

From 1693 to 1815 the Huguenot refugees who had settled in Waterford were allowed to use the choir as their place of worship. Hence the name "French".

The old church was possessed of a spacious hall, 12 rooms, a bakehouse and 4 cellars, as well as its own landing stage on the Quay.

Richard Power, 4th Lord of Curraghmore, was interred here in 1607.

(Illustration by Frank Heylin).

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