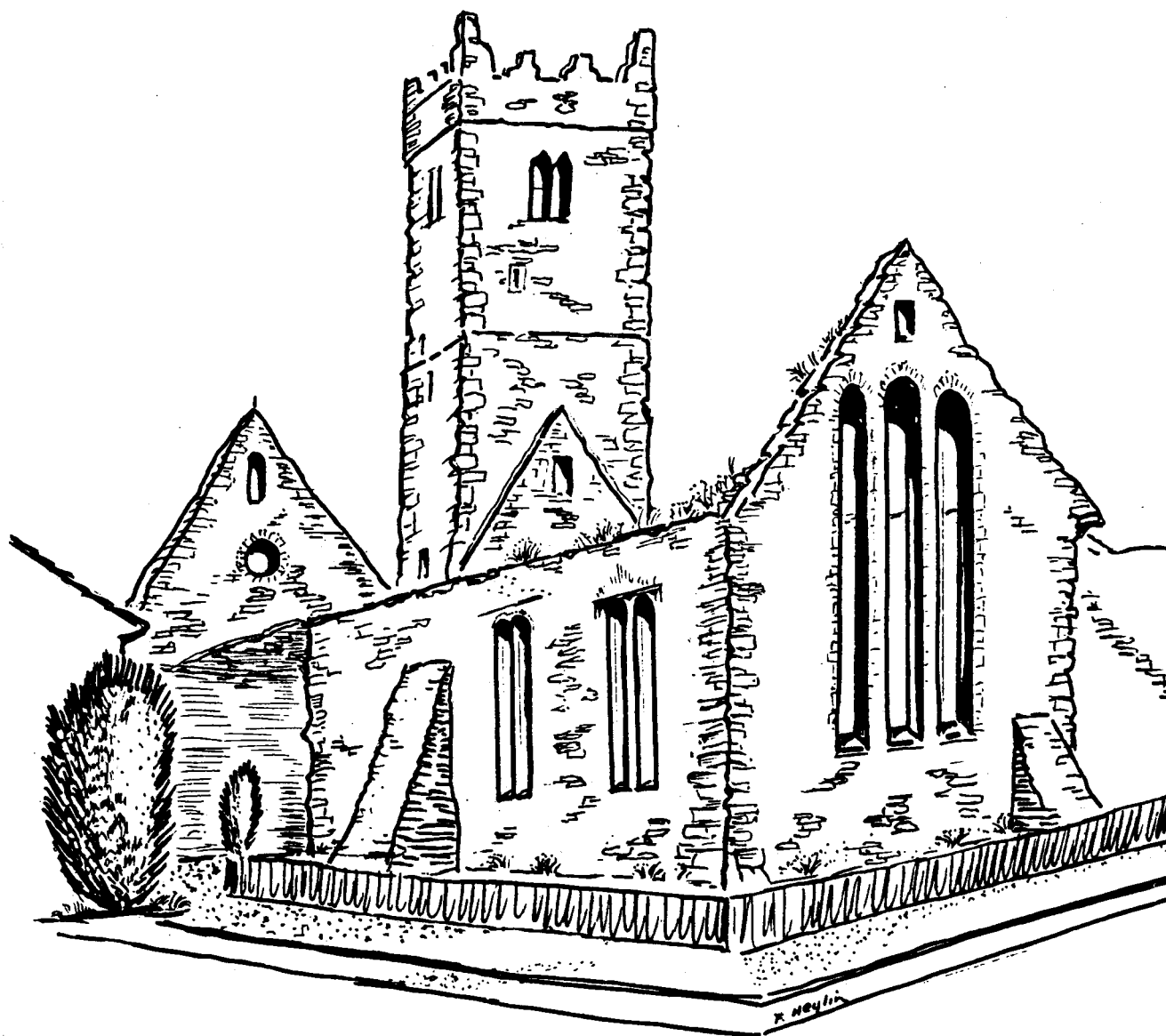


*Old Waterford Society*

# DECIES

XXIX

SUMMER 1985



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## DECIES

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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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## Editorial

Nineteen Eighty-five is proving to be a year of remarkable activity in the realms of local history and archaeology, and of great promise for the future of these interests. Already we see archaeological excavation in progress in no fewer than three city sites - all under professional supervision. Two of our wall towers are being investigated, also, and fresh light is being shed on aspects of the Norman walls in general. A professional archivist has been installed in the City Hall and a beginning has been made in what is certain to be a more thorough investigation of the Charters and other city archives than has ever been undertaken before. This will include recommendations for the future safe-keeping of these documents.

In the realm of history a very important event is due to take place at the end of June. This is a symposium on the 18th-19th century connection between Newfoundland and the south-eastern counties of Ireland, centred on Waterford. It is to be known as "Confluence '85". Elsewhere in this issue we publish a copy of the programme.

In preparation for this symposium a most valuable "Heritage Survey" has been undertaken by AnCo. This involves, in the first instance, a correlation of the Parochial Registers of St. Patrick's, St. John's, and the Cathedral, dating from 1702. Later, the Survey will be expanded to cover the whole diocese of Waterford and Lismore and, with episcopal approval, those of Ferns and Ossory also. The whole will be computerised in order to facilitate quick identification and cross-referencing. As a permanent source of research for social historians the value of this Survey needs no emphasis.

J.S. Carroll.

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Friday, March 29th, at the Garter Lane Arts Centre.

After the minutes of the last A.G.M. had been read and signed, the Chairman, Mr. Dillon addressed the meeting, at which there were 29 members present. He said he was happy to look back on a very satisfactory year and thanked the Committee for their generous support. In particular he thanked the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer for their dedicated service to the Society. Mr. Dillon also expressed the thanks of the Society to all those who helped in the assembly and distribution of the magazine "Decies".

The Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer's reports were read and adopted on the proposition of Mr. N. Cassidy seconded by Mr. Frank Heylin and Mrs. Gallagher seconded by Mr. F. Dillon respectively.

The election of officers for 1984/85 was as follows: -

Chairman	:	Mr. Fergus Dillon.
Vice Chairperson	:	Mrs. Lisa Gallagher.
Hon. Secretary	:	Mrs. Nellie Croke.
Hon. Treasurer	:	Mrs. Renee Lumley.
Hon. Editor	:	Mr. Stan Carroll.
P.R.O.	:	Mr. P. J. Kenneally.

### COMMITTEE:

Mrs. M. Power and Messrs. N. Cassidy,	J. O'Meara
T. Cooney	P. Kennedy
J. Hodge	A. Thornton.
F. Heylin	

# The Déci and Others

Benedict O'Sullivan O.P.

The term "Deiseac", with its plural form "Déisig" or "Dési", appears to be connected with the word "Deas" = "South", so that it might mean something like "Southerners". It meant originally, therefore, a race or clan and, thence, by natural process, came to signify the territory occupied by them. Today the half-English form "Decies" is employed in this latter sense.

And, now, we must deal with the question - "Who were the Dési? Where did they originally come from and when and how did they settle in their present habitat?" It is a mistake, by the way, to limit this to the County Waterford. The Dési, in the days of their power, occupied, in addition to this county, South Tipperary, East Cork, East Limerick and East Clare. Those who held Waterford, South Tipperary and East Cork were known as the "Dési Múman" while those who dwelt in Limerick and Clare were known as the "Dési Beag" - it being implied thereby that these were a migratory branch of the former who had separated from the parent stock and sought their fortune in North Munster.

When surnames came into use in the 11th century, two families emerged from the Dési Múman who appear to have shared between them, the principality of the Decies. They were the O'Phelans and the O'Brics. The centre of the power of the O'Phelans seems to have been South-West Tipperary and West Waterford. The O'Brics were located on the coast from Ardmore to Bunmahon. In addition to these, the O'Flanagans held the area of Kilsheelan and Carrick and the O'Keanes appear to have been located east of the O'Brics as the name "Islandikane" testifies. Lesser families - the Crotty's and the Flavins, with many others, were subordinate to the O'Phelans or O'Brics. In the 14th century, a branch of the O'Briens was planted by the Earl of Desmond in the Comeragh district - whence the name "Leamybrien", and the Mc Graths from Clare seem to have been planted near Dungarvan about the same time.

But all this does not answer the question - Where did the Dési come from? To do so will necessitate an excursion into the general Irish historical background, especially of the early period which preceded the coming of St. Patrick.

Modern scholars hold that the narratives which occur in the various annalistic collections dealing with these early times are practically all legends wherein a few grains of truth may be mingled with a vast amount of the chaff of fiction. This is particularly true of practically all the personalities who figure in the story either as leaders of invasion groups or as "Kings" of various parts of the country. It is held that these are simply disguised pagan gods - ancestor deities as they are styled. For instance, everybody knows about the King of Tara - "Conn of the Hundred Battles" - who is supposed to have flourished from about 125 A.D. to 145 A.D. He is simply the divine ancestor of the great families of the north and of the Midlands - O'Neill, O'Donnell, O'Doherty, O'Gallagher, O'Kane, O'Melaghlin and others who are grouped together under the general title of "Connachta". His great opponent was the King of Munster - Eogan Mor or Mogh Nuadat who overcame his rival in several battles and compelled him to divide Ireland between them. This Eogan (or perhaps, his "grandson" who bore the same name) was the ancestor deity of the Eoganachta, the group of great families who ruled Munster for long centuries - the Mc Carthys, the O'Sullivans, O'Donovans, O'Keefes, O'Donoghues, O'Mahony's etc.

## The Dēci and Others

Now, the legends trace the descent of the Dēsi, not from the Southern family group as one might expect, but from the Connachta. According to the story, Conn had a "brother" - Fiachaidhe Suidhe who fathered a "Son" who figures as a mighty warrior in the story and was named Angus. He was contemporary with his "cousin" - Cormac Mc Art, King of Tara and grandson of Conn. It happened that a certain nobleman incurred Cormac's displeasure and, fearing for his life, he placed himself under the protection of Angus. Now, Cormac, the wisest of Kings, had such respect for the prowess of his cousin, Angus, that he willingly accepted the invitation. Like many a wise man, however, he had a fool of a son - Kellach - who, resenting the treatment his father had received from Angus, sought out the nobleman and killed him. This, naturally, roused the wrath of Angus. He made his way into the royal dwelling at Tara, where he found the murderer standing beside his father, Cormac. He instantly struck him down, and in doing so, happened to knock out one of the king's eyes. War was thereupon declared against the whole race of Angus with his father and brothers and followers. They held broad lands in Meath which, to this present day, are known as the Barony of Deece - a name sufficiently close to that of "Desi" to suggest that there is some connection between them, and, in fact, the legend declares roundly that the race of the Dēsi trace their descent from Fiachaidhe Suidhe.

The upshot of the trouble between Angus and Cormac was that all the descendants and followers of Fiachaidhe Suidhe were expelled from Meath. They made their way South to the King of Munster - Olioll Olum - who granted them the territory which has ever since been called after them - Decies. In muddled fashion, the narrator insists that they did not derive from the Connachta; that they were Firbolgs of the Ernai of Munster, or of the Musgraihe - a cognate group who have given their name to the baronies of Muskerry in Cork and Tipperary. It is, in fact, stated, that it was the leader of this last-mentioned group, Cairbre Múse (really their ancestor deity) who was responsible for bringing the Dēsi from Meath to Munster.

Now, this account, while mainly legendary, does seem to have some elements of fact included in it. In the Dēsi genealogies published by Eoin Mc Neill in the Journal of The Waterford and South-East Ireland Archaeological Society in 1910, there are several entries which clearly link the Dēsi with various well known Firbolg clans. In the half-legendary and unreliable story of pre-Patrician Ireland, it is related that these clans staged a bloody insurrection against their Gaelic overlords under whose tyranny they had long suffered. The rebellion succeeded only too well. The royal line of Tara was massacred in style resembling that which overtook the Russian royal family at the hands of the Bolsheviks, but, fortunately, one of the royal ladies with her unborn infant managed to escape to Scotland. The child was born and grew up there in safety while in Ireland the Firbolg leader, Cairbre Cat-head, misgoverned the country bringing it to the verge of ruin. Things became so bad that the leaders of the people sent to Scotland inviting the rightful heir, Tuathal, to return and resume the sovereignty, just like the English people in 1660, having endured more than enough of Cromwell's tyranny, invited Charles II to return home.

Now, this story strikes the reader as being inherently of fair probability. One can easily admit, that, about the beginning of the Christian Era, the subject clans, groaning under the tyranny of their masters, staged a successful revolt on the lines set forth in the above narrative. In fact, there were many revolts. It is almost certain that the initial Gaelic conquest was far from complete. The invading body was comparatively small in number, and their subjugation of the country, like that effected by the Normans 1500 years later, was piecemeal and protracted, continuing over a long period of time. In fact, it was not until the 5th century that the process was complete and Ireland became a Gaelic country in the sense that all the Firbolg clans accepted the Supremacy of their Gaelic overlords and adopted the Gaelic language in place of their own Iberian speech.

## The Dēci and Others.

Very probably, therefore, the real background to the expulsion of the Dēsi from Meath and their retreat to Munster, with their occupation of the territory ever since held, by their descendants, was an unsuccessful revolt of the vassal Firbolg or Attacotti clans against the monarch of Tara. The Dēsii spearheaded the insurrection, but, relying on the hints given in the genealogies and elsewhere, we feel we can say with a fair amount of confidence, that they were assisted by the people of Ely, i.e. North Tipperary and Offaly, by the Earnai of Cork, by the Mugdornai of Monaghan, and by the Dal Fiutach also of Ely. The date would be roughly 250 A.D.

In one account of the episode it is stated, that not all the Dēsii and their allies retreated to Munster. A portion of the defeated clans sailed over to Wales and took part in the free-for-all then being enacted there. At this juncture, the Roman Empire was in an advanced state of decay, and though it held together for a further 150 years, it became progressively unable to cope with the attacks of barbarian tribes from beyond its borders. Britain, i.e. England and Wales and Southern Scotland, became increasingly exposed to the attacks of the nations known to the Roman historians as the Picts and the Scots. The former were of the same race as the Irish Firbolgs; the others may have been the Gaelic aristocracy. Or would the term Scot be a distortion in speech of "Aitheadh Tuatha" or "Attacotti". Its origin is a complete mystery. The Gaels of Ireland and Scotland never called themselves by this name: The word does not, in fact, occur in the Irish language. That is by the bye: The important point in our inquiry is that the Dēsii were implicated in the attacks made on Roman Britain by the Picts and the Scots from the late 3rd century onwards. Down to the end of the 4th century, they contented themselves with piratical raids against Wales and South-West Britain, and it was in the course of one of these attacks that St. Patrick was captured and brought to Ireland as a slave A.D.385.

At length, the Romans withdrew their army from Britain - it was needed to defend Rome itself against the increasing threat from the German barbarians beyond the Rhine. The people of Britain defended themselves as well as they could against their enemies from across the Irish sea and from beyond the Roman Wall, but they were unable to prevent the Scots (among whom the Dēsii were included) from effecting permanent settlements in Wales. Two separate Gaelic principalities were established there - one in N. Wales and the other in the South. The northern colony comprised the Isle of Man, Anglesey and the adjoining mainland - the fact that Gaelic has been spoken in Man down to this century illustrates the truth of this story. The other principality came into being in S. Wales and proved to be much more durable than the one in N. Wales. The southern colony was reconquered from the Irish Gaels in the 6th century by the Britons of Strathclyde, i.e. the territory which extended from Glasgow to Liverpool, while the Irish princes of South Wales managed to maintain a precarious foothold there till the 10th century. Their genealogies have been carefully recorded by the Welsh Annalists. A very interesting feature of this account is that the colonists are referred to as Ui Liathain - Dēsii from E. Cork.

One episode of great interest which figures in the more generalised story of the Irish conquest of South Wales, appears to have a bearing on the history of the Decies, and may, therefore, be set down here. It concerns the doings of Bracan, an Irish prince who in the 5th century ruled over the district called by the Welsh "Brychiniog" and by the English "Brecknock", an inland county in South Wales. It is fairly clear that he gave his name to the territory ruled by him. So far, the story bears an air of praiseworthy rationality, but now, myth and legend force their way into the narrative. The chroniclers have endowed him with an excessively long family, the number of his sons ranging from 12 to 24, and of his daughters from

### The Deci and Others.

7 to 25. I will not inflict on you an enumeration of their names and must restrict myself to reference to two of them. One, Dabeoc, we are told, came to Ireland, and established himself in a hermitage on an island in Lough Derg in Donegal. Those interested in horticulture will recall the beautiful variety of heather to which he has given his name. His brother "Dubharm", also came to Ireland as did indeed, most of their brothers and sisters and settled on the spot which is nowadays known as the Peninsula of the Hook.

The derivation of this name presents a fascinating problem to the philologist. The locality came in the course of the early Middle Ages, to be known by the name of Rinn Dubhain after the saintly Cambro - Irish pilgrim. It means simply The Point of Dubhan - Rinn meaning a Point in Irish. The word is often pronounced Ring by English speakers, hence the name Ring for the Irish-speaking parish near Dungarvan. At the mouth of Cork Harbour there is a place called Ringabelle, i.e. the Point at the Harbour Mouth.

In English documents of the medieval period, the Peninsula of the Hook is invariably referred to as Rindouan - a very close approximation to the pronunciation of the Irish name. The mouth of Waterford Harbour is always described as the "Water between Rindouan and Ruddybank" - this latter place being so called from the outcrops of Old Red Sandstone which mark the coast at this point. The term Rindouan continued in official use till the 16th century.

There is no reason to be surprised over the fact that these saintly brothers left their native land to embark on a life of penitential austerity in Ireland. That was quite a usual thing in those days. Many of the disciples of St. Patrick were Welshmen, and the great Apostle of Wales St. David, spent some time in Ireland. It might be noted also that the name of the father of Dubharm, (Bracan) was a widely used praenomen in Ireland at that time. It occurs in the Decies genealogies, and an individual bearing it has immortalized himself by attaching it to the renowned Ballybricken i.e. Baile-Ui-Bracain = The Homestead of O'Braike or O'Bricken of Waterford, Limerick and Clare. Breac (O'Bric), Breacan, Brocan, Bercan of Rosbercon. The modern English form, obviously, Bracken.

Another point comes to mind here. The principality ruled by Bracan was Brecknock or Brychinniog, the vernacular pronunciation of which sounds like Brennock or Brannock. Now, when the Normans came to Ireland, amongst the Welsh families who accompanied them and settled here, were the "Brannocks" or Brennock's. This name is frequently and wrongly equated with the name "Breatnac", the Irish translation of the name "Welsh". The two are totally dissimilar. The latter is a purely Gaelic word - the translation of the English form Welsh. The other is Norman - French - Welsh in form - its full structure including the French preposition "de" which, put before the name of a place, constitutes it a personal name. Thus - John de Londres; John d'Exeter etc. Hence, also, the name John de Brennock = John from Brecknock. Any man bearing this name and finding himself among the followers of Strongbow, or Fitz Henry or Raymond, back in 1170, would be entitled to say that as a descendant of Bracan, Prince of Brynniog, he was not a foreign invader of the Decies but a long lost brother coming back to rejoin his own kindred once more.



## The Deci and Others.

One curious class of ancient monuments still survives to prove, if proof were needed, that the Irish took possession of parts of Wales in the 4th century. I refer to the Ogham inscriptions, so many of which may still be found in the Decie, and a brief account of which may prove interesting and profitable.

The Ogham Script is very simple - the letters being represented by notches or strokes indented on, or on either side of, a central stone line, - usually the edge of a standing pillar stone. The letter A is defined by a notch on the edge of the stone, O by two notches, U by three, E by four and I by five. Similarly, H is depicted by one stroke to the left of the edge, D by two strokes, T by three, C (or K) by four, and Q by five. Likewise, B is represented by one stroke to the right of the edge, L by two strokes, F by three, S by four and N by five. Lastly, M is depicted by one slanting stroke across the edge - G by two strokes, NG by three, V by four and R by five. Translation is a simple process, provided the inscription has not been injured by weather or ordinary wear and tear or sabotage. Most of them unfortunately exist in anything but a perfect condition and much ingenuity has been employed by our paleographers in the endeavour to elucidate their hidden mysteries. When it is remembered that every inscription is constructed according to the formula: - (The monument) of A son of B of the tribe of So and So - one can see that it should be in a very damaged condition indeed to defeat the efforts of the trained paleographer.

And now for a look at a few of our Decies Oghams. Canon Power, in a most interesting article in the volume of the Journal of the Waterford Archaeological Society for 1896, tells of his discovery at Dunhill (that treasure-house of the prehistoric) or rather on the hill above Reiske nearby, on the lands of Ballywilliam, back in 1895, of an Ogham epitaph inscribed on a pillar stone - one of many there. After describing his efforts to decipher the epitaph viewing it from various angles and under various conditions of sun and shade, ekeing out his sense of sight by that of touch, and finally calling on the assistance of a celebrated Oghamist - Father Edmund Barry, of Cork, - he managed to produce the following text: - "(The Monument) of Cummos, Son of Fugnfos or rather "Son of him who is a member of the clan of Fugnfos" The personal names are in the genitive case depending on the unexpressed governing noun - 'Monument', and the names in question have not been previously encountered in any other inscription. The first, "Cummos", would probably equate with the modern Cummins or Coan - a fairly common family name in Kerry. I cannot recall a modern equivalent for the other, granted, that (what is by no means certain) Canon Power has translated it correctly from the Ogham text. The name Coman occurs in the Dési genealogies.

Three miles South-West of Kilmacthomas, in the Parish of Kilrossanty and townland of Garraanwilliam Upper, three Ogham stones were discovered about 1895, in an area which appears to have been anciently a Kileen or pagan cemetery. The Rector of Gowran seems to have made the discovery but the decipherment of the inscriptions was done by Father Barry. Omitting the embroidered account of the affair I will give the transliterated texts in order.

(1) "(The Monument) of the Son of Gosoctos of the clan of Corbos". Both these names are of common occurrence in Old and Middle Irish texts - the former in the style of Guasacht and the latter mostly in combination with other linguistic elements, thus - Mes Corb: Art Corb. Both these forms, as well as the simple name Corb, occur in the Dési genealogies.

(2) "(The Monument) of Maelagnoṣ Son of Ercanos of the clan of Rotaggos". Of these names, the first is easily equated to the common name - Maela or Mullan. The second is that frequently met with in early Irish records - Erc or Ercan meaning speckled and the third is the unusual Rothnigh.

The Deci and Others.

(3) The third stone has been removed from its original location at Garraanwilliam and re-erected at Comeragh Lodge - four miles west of Kilmacthomas. The inscription as deciphered by Fr. Barry reads: - "(The Monument) of Lugudos son of Logadichas of the Clan of Tona". The first name is very common being a derivative from the name of the Celtic god of Light - Lug - and is used in modern Irish as the equivalent of Louis. The second name would be of similar derivation. Both occur in the *Désii* genealogies. I know no modern equivalent for the third name, but it occurs in another epitaph in Seskinan in the Parish of Touraneena.

It would be tempting to continue our study of these fascinating relics of antiquity but time and space forbid it. Suffice it to say that an epitaph of Ercan occurs at Seemochuida near Lismore while another in the parish of Newcastle on the borders of Waterford and Tipperary has yielded the magnificent name Sutacunas.

Now, as I have already said, Ogham epitaphs have been discovered in Wales, in the areas said to have been occupied by the Irish in the 5th century. The most celebrated is that found at St. Dogmells in Pembrokeshire in which the Latin translation of the Ogham text is carved on the stone, thus demonstrating the validity of the methods employed by Irish Scholars in deciphering these inscriptions. Could a more telling proof be advanced of the reliability of the ancient Irish and Walsh annals which have preserved for us the story of the Irish settlements in Wales in the 5th century? Thus does historical evidence slowly accumulate and justify the theories of the devotees of the science.

Once the *Désii* were settled in the South, they quickly acclimatized to their new surroundings. They proved firmly loyal to the King of Munster and they had their reward when, in the 5th century, Angus Natfraoich awarded them the territory then known as Magh Féimin - that extensive and beautiful tract of South Tipperary containing the modern baronies of Iffa and Offa, East and West, along with Middlethird. Up to the time of Aengus it had formed part of Ossory, but he, like the general run of Munster kings, anxious to extend the bounds of his territory, awarded Magh Féimin to his faithful *Désii*. It does not appear to have proved for them a task of too great difficulty to expel the Ossorians from the area. They settled there and gave the place their name; - it is still known as Northern Decies.

It is entirely right that the Decian should steep his soul in the poetic pageantry of legend and myth which hang around his native hills. What an inspiration should he not draw for instance from the story of the Watcher of Sliabh Gua - one of the seven appointed by St. Patrick to maintain watch and ward over his Irish flock from various strategic centres throughout Ireland. Why should he not revel in that old tale coming from the Dawn of Antiquity which narrates how the two mythical brother kings - Heber and Eremon, - quarrelled and fought for the possession of Drum Feine the most beautiful hill in Ireland. It still stands, one of the Drum Hills, west of Dungarvan to this day. And why should not his imagination people every glen, every river crossing, every ancient ruin, with the hosts of fairies, ghosts, and other denizens of the spirit world - pale shades of the pagan gods and goddesses who once ruled there. When will an Irish Wagner arise to take in hand and mould to the purposes of high art, the magnificent material lying ready to hand here?

## Waterford Shipping News

John Hodge.

Thursday, 10th March 1831, a fine new schooner, the "Victoria" was launched from the dockyard of our spirited fellow citizen, William White, Esq., at the northern side of the river. She took the water in capital style amidst the acclamations of thousands of spectators.

When we consider the numerous and substantial advantages which this dockyard confers upon Waterford by employing a large number of hands, and by using Irish timber, we are particularly delighted to find that the "Victoria" is eminently calculated to add to the well established reputation of Mr. Stephen Smith, the principal ship-builder in the yard.

The "Victoria" is intended for the London trade and is to be commanded by Captain John Hodge, late of the "Waterford". She registers 145 tons. She is beyond all doubt the finest schooner that has ever been built in the yard.

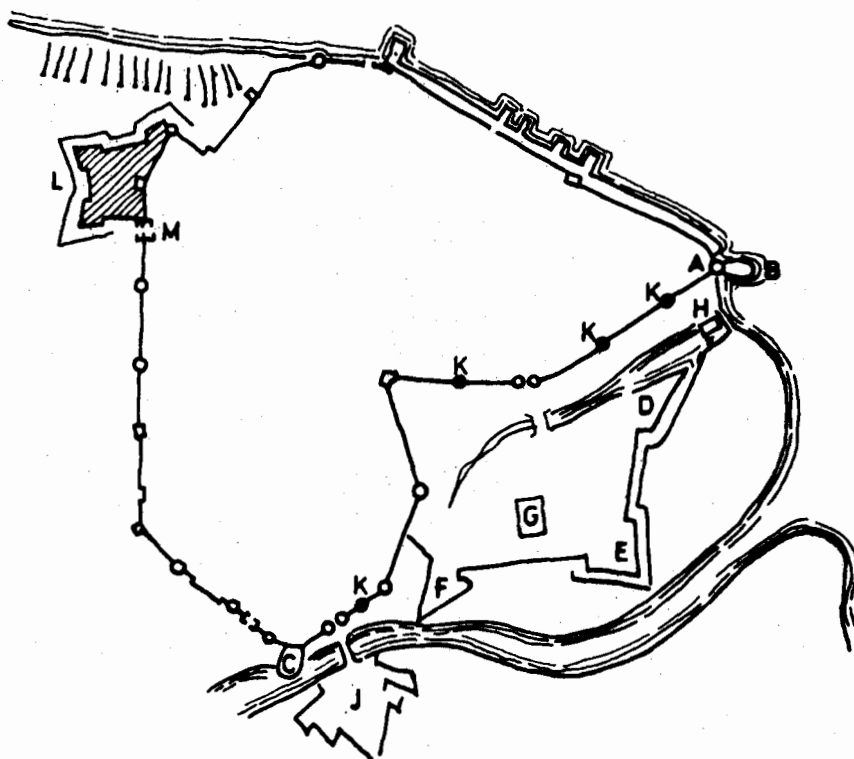
Another vessel, of large dimensions, is, we understand, to be laid down forthwith.

Waterford Mirror, 12th March, 1831.

( Captain John Hodge was my great-grandfather.)

(Mr. Hodge is to be congratulated on the happy outcome of his research into the career of his great-grandfather, but, apart from its personal interest for him, the contribution is valuable in that it shows that William White had a dockyard on the north side as early as 1831 and apparently earlier. The standard work on Irish sailing ships (Anderson) gives the first of White's vessels as a small schooner of 60 tons built in 1843. This author gives details of several fine ships, including one of 846 tons, built by Albert White & Co. from 1850 onward but makes no mention of any of the Whyte's activities before 1843. - Ed. )

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Sketch map of Waterford (based on map of c.1700 reproduced in Edmund Downey 'The Story of Waterford', 1914 )

- A. Reginald's Tower.
- B. Blockhouse or battery at Reginald's Tower.
- C. Blockhouse similar to B; approximate position.
- Earthwork defences 1590: approximate positions,
- D. Demi Bastion.
- E. Bastion.
- F. Demi-bastion.
- G. Abbey.
- H. Water-mill.
- J. Tenaille trace outer defence to bridge - earthwork defence 1590.
- K. Towers indicated on John Hunt map but not shown on 1700 map.
- L. The Citadel or St. Patrick's Fort, 1624-26.
- M. St. Patrick's Gate.

C, D, E, F, G, H and J are based on the John Hunt Map; size and location approximate only.

# The Fortifications of Waterford, Passage and Duncannon 1495 to 1690

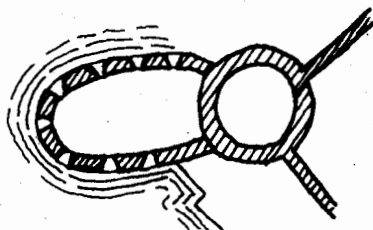
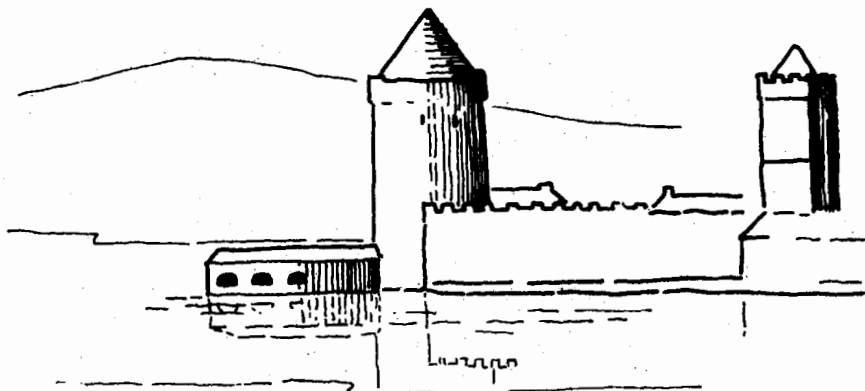
Paul M. Kerrigan.

In the closing years of the fifteenth century fortifications in Ireland consisted of the larger Norman castles such as those at Carrickfergus, Roscommon, Athlone and Limerick, several continuing in their original role as royal garrisons: a variety of later castles many of considerable size such as the Butler castle at Cahir: the defences of the walled towns, and the tower-house castles, subsequently to be the most numerous type of castle in Ireland.

The principal walled towns were Dublin, Galway, Limerick, Kilkenny, Cork and Waterford; all except Kilkenny were important ports. Other defended port towns were Dundalk, Drogheda, Wexford and New Ross, enclosed like the other settlements with curtain walls, towers and gatehouses: Youghal and Kinsale were also walled towns with good harbours and by the mid-sixteenth century artillery defences were being proposed to protect these harbours and other southern ports against attack from France. The strategic position of Ireland in the Tudor age, an age of exploration and colonial expansion overseas, must be taken into account when considering the plans for coastal settlements or inland plantations by English colonists: the possible occupation of the country or of the principal ports by enemy forces in alliance with the Irish constituted a threat to England. Scotland, France and later Spain were involved in varying degrees in Irish affairs during the Tudor period and at times posed a threat to English rule in Ireland.

Defence against external aggression was one major factor in the development and location of new artillery fortifications in Ireland from the mid-sixteenth century onwards; the other factor was the conquest of Irish-held territory - principally the midlands and Ulster - which had to be subsequently garrisoned against the threat of insurrection. In many instances these two factors combined to produce fortifications with a dual role of coastal defence and colonial garrison.

By the end of the fifteenth century there had been important improvements in artillery. The increasing effectiveness of siege guns was bringing about a change in the design and construction of fortifications: the tall medieval walls and towers of towns and castles were unable to resist well-placed siege batteries. Castles and town defences were modified to mount artillery on new platforms or behind embrasures in walls or towers, but these alterations were largely ineffective in countering the fire of the besieging force. Defences were strengthened with earthworks, either behind existing walls in the form of a rampart or as a protective earth embankment on the exterior. Gun platforms were placed outside gateways and at salient angles of the defences. These outworks were low earth and timber structures mounting artillery. However, these modifications to medieval defences were soon to give way to a new scientific approach to the design of fortifications which evolved in the late fifteenth century in Italy, becoming well established by the early decades of the following century. By the mid-sixteenth century the Italian system using the angular bastion as its main component had spread to other European countries: with further elaborations by the Dutch and French, this system of low broad bastions and ramparts, with triangular outworks, was to last some three hundred years until the close of the eighteenth century. During these three



B

Sketch and sketch plan of blockhouse at Reginald's Tower, based on late 17th century view of Waterford by Francis Place and Phillips' map of Waterford, 1685.

An early gun-loop, probably of 15th century date, survives in Reginald's Tower (see Decies No.26). There are two similar loops, each with a semi-circular opening and a vertical slot above, at first floor level in the Watch Tower at Railway Square. These loops were for small cannon or handguns.

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centuries the weapons which determined this defensive system remained essentially unchanged in range and effectiveness: the muzzle loading smooth-bore cannon and the musket of the infantryman. The development of the square-rigged sailing warship carrying a broadside armament of heavy cannon in the early years of the sixteenth century emphasised the importance of artillery fortifications to defend ports and anchorages.

In 1494 Charles VIII of France invaded Italy with a mobile train of siege artillery. The French successes in taking fortresses with their cannon had such impact that the campaign may be considered as a turning point in military history. In 1495 large guns were used at the siege of Waterford when the city was attacked by the forces of the Earl of Desmond and Perkin Warbeck: ships' guns fired on the city for eleven days and were answered by guns on Reginald's Tower, a prominent corner tower at the waterside, sinking one ship and driving off the others.<sup>1</sup> This was the first use of artillery in the attack and defence of an Irish town; the first record we have of the use of siege artillery in Ireland is the taking in 1488 of Balrath Castle in Westmeath by the 8th Earl of Kildare,<sup>2</sup> who continued to use the royal artillery in his role as Lord Deputy of Ireland. His son the 9th Earl, and subsequent Lord Deputies were to demonstrate the effectiveness of artillery in attacking castles in Ireland during the following century.

At some time in the sixteenth century, perhaps resulting from defence proposals of 1548-'51, a gun battery was constructed below Reginald's Tower, projecting out into the river. It is depicted on one late sixteenth century map of Waterford,<sup>3</sup> and in seventeenth century plans and views.<sup>4</sup> The battery was a low semi-circular ended structure, some eighty feet long by fifty feet wide. There were eight gun-embrasures arranged to give a field of fire upstream, across the river and downstream. The character of the work with its semi-circular headed gun-embrasures with external splays suggests a date about the time of Henry VIII's coastal forts and blockhouses built around the coast of England between 1539 and 1541. In 1548 Lord Deputy Bellingham was concerned about coastal defence in Ireland; in 1551 the southern ports of Ireland were to be fortified, followed by some of those in Ulster, as a defence against the French and the Scots. In 1550 instructions to Lord Deputy St. Leger included the holding of discussions with the port towns and any cities and towns near harbours on the means of fortifying them,<sup>5</sup> and the Deputy and his Council were to advise on 'setting out bulwarks'. Bulwark was a contemporary term for bastion or gun battery. Articles for the expedition into Ireland of January 1551, for fortifying the havens of the south and north-east coasts specify the harbours of Baltimore, Berehaven, Olderfleet and the Bann(Coleraigne): later that month the Lord Deputy was informed of these plans and was instructed to have surveys made of Cork, Kinsale, Baltimore and Berehaven. There was a fear of a French landing in Ireland and the south coast was considered particularly vulnerable. Sir James Croft was put in charge of the expedition<sup>6</sup> which was to carry out the proposed fortification of the ports: two ships and a pinnace were to be sent to Ireland carrying ordnance and munitions, to Waterford and Cork. Croft was ordered to inspect the towns and harbours of Cork and Kinsale and select sites for fortifications: Baltimore and Berehaven were to be inspected and plans made of them and other harbours along the coast to Kinsale. He was also to consider what was necessary for the defence of other ports along the south coast including Youghal and Waterford. It seems probable that the situation at Dungarvan was to be investigated, where the castle - for much of the sixteenth century a royal garrison - overlooks the harbour. In March 1551 St. Leger was complaining that he had not been provided with funds for the proposed works at Cork and Kinsale. Croft replaced St. Leger as Lord Deputy three months later, and was instructed to give special consideration to the southern ports of Waterford, Cork, Kinsale

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Baltimore and Berehaven, and also the northern ports of Strangford, Olderfleet (Larne), Carrickfergus and the Bann estuary.<sup>7</sup> An English military engineer John Rogers was in Ireland at this time, and prepared plans of Cork, Kinsale and Baltimore, and of Olderfleet, but there is little evidence that the defence proposals were carried out, with the possible exception of the battery or blockhouse at Reginald's Tower, Waterford, and circular towers at the harbours at Youghal and Kinsale. However, it is highly probable that the fort of Corkbeg, at the eastern side of the entrance to Cork Harbour - Carlisle Fort of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries stands on the site today - dates from the 1551 defence scheme.<sup>8</sup>

At Youghal a blockhouse or low tower, with three gun embrasures on the side overlooking the harbour, is depicted at the end of the quay, in seventeenth century views of the town.<sup>9</sup> A circular tower projecting out from the town wall of Kinsale into the harbour was under repair in 1576: it is shown on Elizabethan and seventeenth century maps.<sup>10</sup> These artillery towers at Youghal and Kinsale may date from the 1551 proposals. In 1560 a blockhouse was to be built at Waterford for the 'safety of haven and town'. This is possibly a reference to the structure at Reginald's Tower, or perhaps more likely, the first proposal for the circular tower at Passage which was built by 1568. Included in the instructions for the Lord Deputy, the Earl of Sussex in May 1560, was this proposal to construct a blockhouse at Waterford.<sup>11</sup>

The circular tower at Passage is depicted on sixteenth and seventeenth century maps and views.<sup>12</sup> There is a similarity here with the harbour defence towers at Youghal and Kinsale, although at Youghal the tower was on a quay projecting out from the town wall, and at Kinsale the tower appears to have been at a corner of the town wall overlooking the anchorage. Circular artillery towers were a typical form of harbour defence in the early sixteenth century, a design which was to reappear in a much modified form and on a smaller scale in the Martello Towers of the Napoleonic period.

In the years leading up to the Spanish Armada, as regular sea warfare developed between England and Spain, there was the increasing risk of a large scale Spanish landing in Ireland. Waterford was considered a likely place for an invasion: in October 1587 commissioners were appointed to muster the able men in the city to be trained under suitable captains; the commissioners were also to construct fortifications in appropriate places. Work must have started almost immediately on the construction of the fort at Duncannon which enclosed an earlier castle, sited on a promontory at the eastern side of the estuary. By December work had been in progress for seven or eight weeks; two sconces were completed, with positions for four culverins at the seaward end of the rocky promontory near water level, backed by an emplacement for four more guns at a higher level.<sup>13</sup> On the landward front was a glacis, covered way, dry ditch and ramparts in the form of a tenaille trace, while entrance was by means of a drawbridge across the ditch. Work was continuing in 1589, a year after the Spanish Armada had been defeated by the English fleet and greatly reduced by loss of ships on the Scottish and Irish coasts. Lord Deputy Fitzwilliam writing to the Privy Council in London was against plans to complete the fort<sup>14</sup> "as it is commanded by a hill lying over it from which the enemy may at his pleasure throw stones into it..." This criticism of the fort being badly sited, overlooked by high ground inland, was repeated on several occasions in the following centuries. In the same year it was reported that demi-culverins and demi-cannons at Limerick were available as armament for the fort, or some of the guns recovered from the wrecks of the Spanish Armada on the Irish coast.



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In January 1590 the order was given for Waterford, Limerick, Cork and Galway to be strengthened with entrenched fortifications or outworks, outside the town walls. In the following month Edmund Yorke arrived at Waterford<sup>15</sup> to supervise the works there; he had been sent to Ireland in December 1589 when he was to meet Sir Richard Bingham to plan fortifications at Limerick.<sup>16</sup>

In the Armada year of 1588 Yorke had advised on the defences of the Norfolk and Suffolk coasts and prepared plans for the strengthening of Yarmouth.<sup>17</sup> Waterford city was to provide 150 labourers a day as long as the construction of the fortifications continued, and Yorke asked for 200 or 300 more to be levied. In March 1590 the Privy Council writing to the Vice-President of Munster and Edmund Yorke approved the plots and designs for the works at Waterford; the fortifications were to go forward 'with all diligence'. In May Yorke gave an account with measurements of the fortifications of Waterford and Duncannon to the Privy Council; in the same month he was writing that the works at Waterford were almost finished, and he requested to be put in charge of Duncannon Fort and the 'Fort of the Rock' situated on high ground across the river from Waterford.<sup>18</sup> The fort at the Rock is depicted on a contemporary pictorial map of 1591<sup>19</sup> which also shows the works outside Waterford on the south, at Passage and Duncannon. The work at the Rock is shown as a low broad circular tower, not unlike the tower at Passage, surrounded by a tenaille trace outer work. The tower or blockhouse at Passage is depicted with a similar outer line of defence which was built at this time. The Fort of the Rock had been started in 1589.

Outside the walls of Waterford on the south-east side and surrounding the venerable St. Catherine's Abbey (believed to have been founded in 1191) earthworks were erected, reinforced with timber palisades, and a separate work protected St. John's Gate near the southern end of the eastern wall. The detailed plan of Waterford<sup>20</sup> noted above, which depicts the artillery blockhouse below Reginald's Tower, may date from 1590, as it shows in detail these south-eastern outworks (see illustration). There is a bastion facing south-east flanked by two demi-bastions - one to the north-east, the other to the south-west.

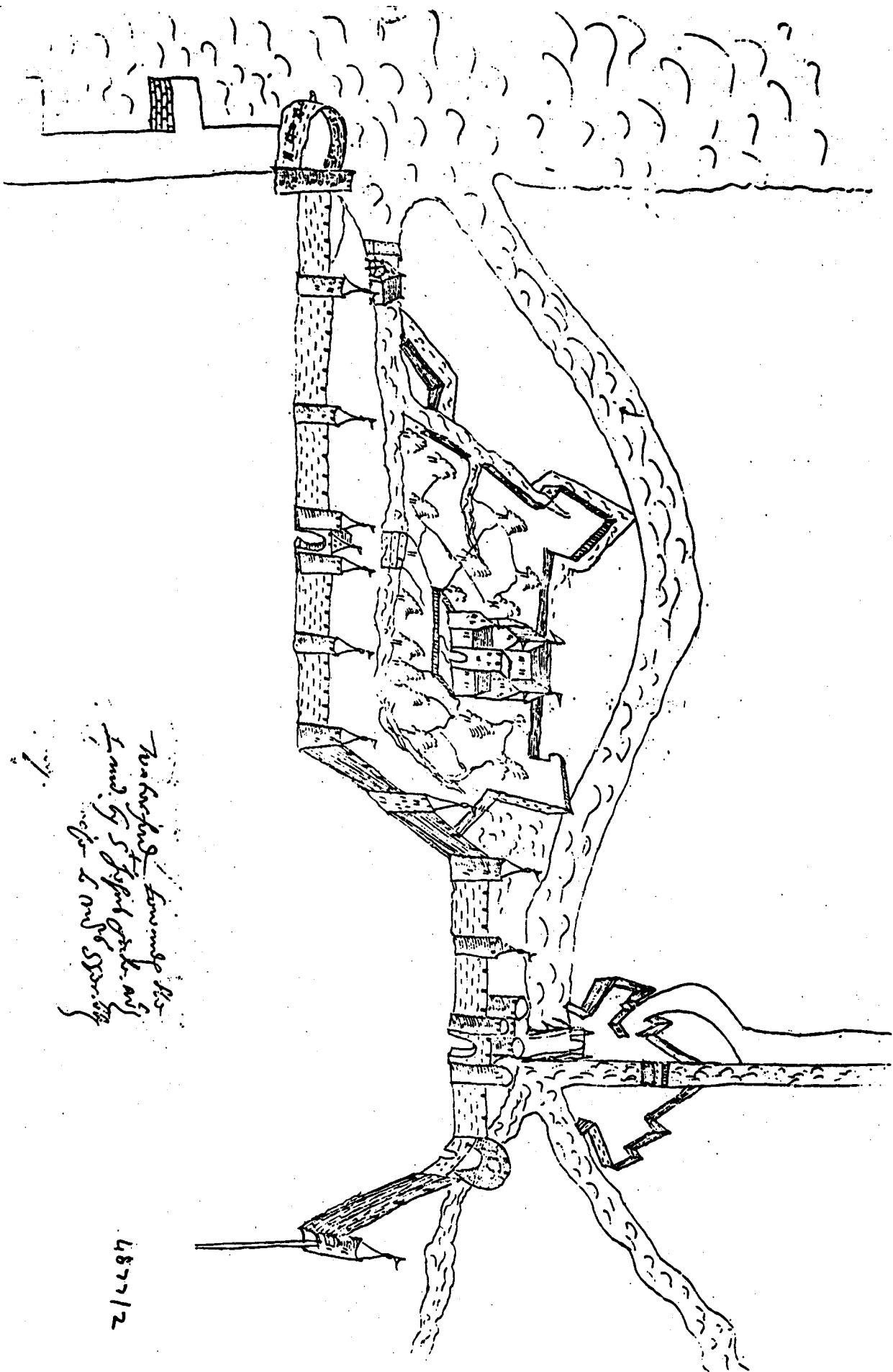
In front of St. John's Gate is an elaborate tenaille trace outwork. A short distance south-westward of St. John's Gate is a semicircular-ended battery at the corner of the town wall similar to the work at Reginald's Tower. In October 1590

Opposite:

Plan of Waterford, from 1590 or shortly afterwards, which shows the extensive earthworks to the south of the town in 1590. The blockhouse at Reginald's Tower is shown, possibly dating from 1548-'51 or 1560, and a similar structure at the south-west corner of the town walls. It is possible that this plan is by Edmund Yorke, the engineer who supervised the works at Waterford in 1590.

The map is titled 'Waterford towards the land by St. John's gate with the marche (? to) Mrs. Sherloks abbey.' After the suppression of St. Catherine's Abbey it was granted to the Sherlock family. The 'marche' may refer to Lombard's marsh or it may indicate a boundary, i.e., a march.

(T.C.D. Ms 4877(2). Reproduced by permission of the Board of Trinity College, Dublin).



The English found the  
 camp by 5 high peaks and  
 water & mud springs

4877/2

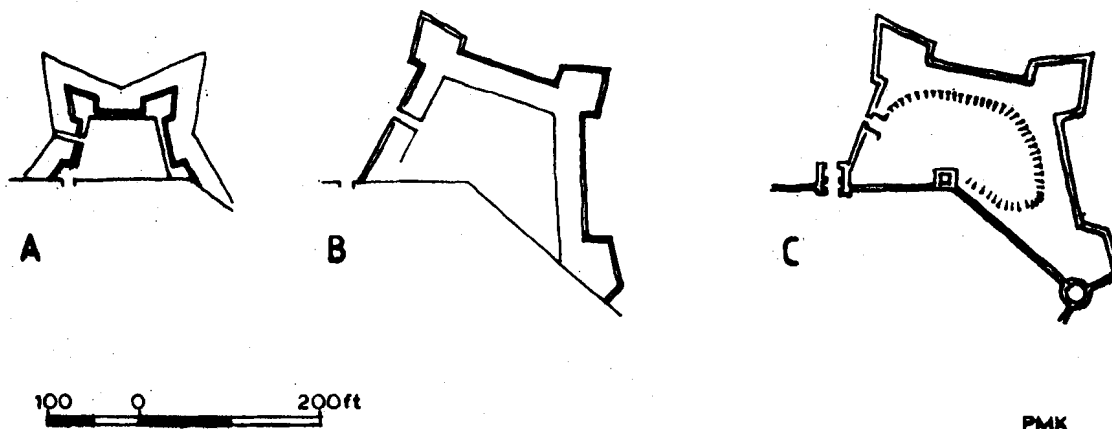
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the earthwork defences were described by Nicholas Lombard, a citizen of Waterford, in a letter to his son. He also noted the work at the Rock and the outer wall built in the form of a tenaille trace or 'star fort' around the blockhouse at Passage.

The Carew Manuscripts give some additional information on the works at Waterford: in February 1590 Sir George Carew writing to Sir Francis Walsingham stressed that a landing of the Spaniards was daily expected, and that men, munitions and money were urgently required: he feared a general revolt of the Irish if the Spanish effected a landing. 200 baskets were to be made in March, at Waterford, Cork and Limerick, as required by Mr. Yorke, and each town was also to have 200 ordinary baskets made in addition, as they were necessary for the fortifications, presumably for carrying soil for the earthwork defences.

In 1595 Carew predicted that if the Spaniards invaded Ireland they would make their landing in Munster, with Waterford or Cork likely landing places: 3,000 Spaniards would be sufficient to capture and hold Waterford.<sup>23</sup> In 1601 a force of somewhat less than 3,500 Spanish soldiers was to land at Kinsale and hold the walled town and outposts at Castle Park and Ringcurran: they held Kinsale for over three months against the forces of the Lord Deputy Mountjoy until the defeat of their Irish allies outside the town.

The war continued in Ulster for a further year until the surrender of O'Neill early in 1603. Forts were constructed at Castle Park, Kinsale, (later known as James Fort), at Haulbowline Island in Cork Harbour, a fort was built outside the walls of Cork on the south side, a citadel was built at Galway and various works at Limerick. In Ulster some of the temporary earthwork campaign forts were made into permanent masonry structures, forming the nucleus of plantation settlements, while larger scale towns were established at Coleraine and Derry with defences of ramparts and bastions. No additional defence works appear to have been constructed at Waterford in the early years of the seventeenth century. At Duncannon Sir Josias Bodley reported in 1611<sup>24</sup> on works he had carried out there: he doubled the thickness of the rampart on the landward side of the fort and raised it in height in an attempt to overcome its weakness in being overlooked by the high ground inland. He constructed a new drawbridge and gate and placed a palisade on the counterscarp or outer side of the ditch. On the side overlooking the estuary he enlarged the gun-platforms and carried out other works. A plan of Duncannon in the Trinity College Dublin manuscript collection appears to show the fort after these improvements, drawn by Bodley.<sup>25</sup> Another plan by Bodley dating from 1605 or 1613 in the same collection is of 'The forte as it is to be made at Waterford'.<sup>26</sup> This proposal for a fort or citadel built outside the city wall at St. Patrick's Gate on the west side was evidently not acted upon until 1624. In that year war with Spain appeared likely, and citadels were to be constructed at Waterford, Cork and Galway, under the supervision of Sir Thomas Rotherham and Captain Nicholas Pynnar. Apparently Captain Edmund Yorke had earlier - presumably in 1590 - begun a defence work here at St. Patrick's Gate. By March 1626 building work was underway, and in December that year the work was evidently largely completed. A later plan of the citadel,<sup>27</sup> known as St. Patrick's Fort, shows certain variations when compared with the earlier plan attributed to Bodley which depicts a symmetrical layout of two bastions linked by ramparts to each other and to two demi-bastions which are joined to the city wall. Bodley's plan shows the town gate, St. Patrick's Gate, entering the fort, whereas the later plan depicts it to one side of the fort. Both plans have a gun-platform on which artillery could be placed to command the town, evidently formed by widening the town wall where it forms the rear wall of the citadel. The plan by Bodley depicts the bastions and demi-bastions some fifty feet apart, while the later plan depicts a more ambitious scheme with distances between the bastions and



Comparative sketch plans of St. Patrick's Fort or Citadel, Waterford.

- A. Plan based on drawing by Sir Josias Bodley, 1605 or 1613. (T.C.D. Ms 1209(65) ).
- B. Plan based on drawing by Captain Nicholas Pymnar, December 1626. (T.C.D. Ms 1209(66) )
- C. Plan based on the fort as depicted on Phillips' plan of Waterford, 1685 (N.L.I. Ms 3137 (13) )

No attempt has been made to show the city wall towers on A or B as the drawings by Bodley and Pymnar do not agree in their details of these. The outline of the dry ditch or moat proposed by Bodley is indicated on A.

Pymnar's notes with his drawing of December 1626 include the following: -

The gatehouse to the fort was completed; the walls of the fort were six feet thick, with ramparts of earth backing the walls twenty-five feet thick, and the bastions had an earth infill. His earlier report of 1624 (B.L. Add. Ms 24,200) indicates that the fort was in an incomplete state at that time, the house or barrack was built but not roofed and in a bad condition.

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the demi-bastion to the north at 130 feet or more; the second demi-bastion is omitted as the rampart of the fort joins with the city wall immediately to the north of St. Patrick's Gate. According to Pymnar the long building shown within the fort was a barrack 100 feet long by 28 feet wide, timber framed but with gable ends of stone, to house 120 men. Three towers of the city wall formed part of the fort, including that over St. Patrick's Gate. Similar citadels were to be constructed in the Cromwellian period, but inside rather than outside the town walls at Limerick and at Galway. Part of the citadel close to St. John's Gate at the south side of the Irish Town at Limerick still survives; the Waterford citadel was dismantled in 1711, as was the artillery blockhouse outside Reginald's Tower. The citadel and the blockhouse are depicted on plans of Waterford by Phillips in 1685 and by Goubet in 1690-'91; the view of Waterford from the north drawn by Francis Place in the late seventeenth century also shows these defence works.<sup>28</sup>

The defences of Waterford, essentially medieval in character, with the addition of the blockhouse and citadel, proved too strong for Cromwell in his attempt on the city in 1649.<sup>29</sup> It seems that the temporary works built in 1590 to the south of the city survived only a short time, while a continuing factor in the strength of Waterford was the broad river forming a natural defence to the north. In 1645 Duncannon Fort had come under attack by the Confederates under General Preston, who conducted regular siege operations, supervised by the French engineer Lalue, to capture the fort.<sup>30</sup> It was defended by Colonel Henry Wogan in 1649 against the forces of the English Parliament: Duncannon and Waterford were still holding out in the summer of 1650 when they surrendered on terms to Ireton; Passage had been taken by the Parliamentary forces in November 1649.

During the Cromwellian period a garrison of 100 men is recorded at Waterford, most likely accommodated at the citadel.<sup>31</sup> In 1685 Captain Thomas Phillips, an engineer officer, was sent to Ireland to carry out a detailed survey of fortifications: his report submitted in March 1686<sup>32</sup> details the state of the defences at the principal harbours, towns and forts. With the exception of Athlone and Charlemont Fort, seaports and harbours liable to attack constitute the major part of his submission, with detailed maps and plans including Waterford, Duncannon,<sup>33</sup> Passage, Waterford Harbour and with a view of Passage with Duncannon Fort in the distance. The report is a primary source of information not only on fortifications, but provides accurate town plans of places such as Cork, Galway and Limerick, as well as Waterford.

He recommended building a new work at Passage, on the high ground to the west; he was critical of Duncannon as it was overlooked by high ground inland, and did not recommend any works to be carried out at Waterford, partly because of the distance from the coast and the difficulty of relief by sea. He suggested fortifying six principal places in Ireland, including the high ground at Passage; the other five fortifications advocated were a large citadel at Dublin, works at Kinsale, Limerick, near Charlemont Fort in Co. Armagh, and at Culmore Fort on the Foyle near Derry.

The report by Phillips includes an 'Abstract of all the Ordnance in His Majesty's Kingdom of Ireland' in which the artillery at Waterford, Duncannon and Passage is listed. The guns at Waterford were mostly of small calibre, the largest being demi-culverins firing a nine-pound iron shot. At Duncannon there was one 24-pounder, two culverins (18-pounders), two 12-pounders, three demi-culverins, twenty two sakers and various smaller pieces. This was considerably less than the

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new Charles Fort at Kinsale - also badly sited like Duncannon, overlooked by high ground inland - where there were five demi-cannon (32-pounders), three 24-pounders, twenty-one culverins, three 12-pounders, sixteen demi-culverins and many smaller pieces. Charles Fort was the best equipped fort or town in Ireland. At Passage the guns listed by Phillips were two demi-culverins, three sakers and two falcons, a small armament for such an important position to defend the estuary, a short distance from Duncannon on the opposite shore. Both Passage and Duncannon should have been provided with batteries of culverins or 24-pounders, which had a range of somewhat over a mile; with Passage and Duncannon some two miles apart the estuary between them and the deep-water channel off Duncannon would then have been adequately covered, making it difficult for enemy warships to sail upstream. The neglect of the Waterford Harbour forts was matched by a similar situation at other coastal forts such as those of the south-west - Valentia, Bantry, Sherkin Island and Crookhaven, where contemporary records show that much of the ordnance was of small calibre and unmounted. Little appears to have been done to improve the situation unless there was the expectation of war; by this time Holland and France had replaced Spain as the major maritime powers, with navies which challenged that of England.

After the Battle of the Boyne in July 1690 William of Orange marched on Waterford while part of his forces advanced on Athlone; Waterford surrendered to the Williamites having a garrison of some 1,300 men, badly clothed and poorly equipped. According to a Danish account (there were Danish troops in the Williamite army) Duncannon was provided with fifty guns, and should have been able to hold out for ten days, but with the arrival of English warships in the estuary the fort surrendered.<sup>34</sup>

Duncannon and Passage, like most of the other forts in Ireland, were neglected for most of the eighteenth century; there was some activity during the American War of Independence and during the Napoleonic period, when the artillery was increased at Duncannon, and the two Martello Towers were built on the landward side of the fort;<sup>35</sup> other modifications were made during the later nineteenth century here. While the circular blockhouse at Passage and its enclosing wall of 1590 have disappeared,<sup>36</sup> Duncannon remains, awaiting a detailed study and survey of its defences and buildings. For Waterford the evidence for defence works of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is based on the documents and maps which survive from that time. This evidence, will, perhaps, be added to as a result of archaeological work in the future.

### NOTES:

1. G. A. Hayes McCoy, 'The Early history of guns in Ireland', Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society, XVIII (1938), 50.
2. ibid., 47  
See also: Siobhan de hOir, 'Guns in Medieval and Tudor Ireland' Irish Sword, XV (1982), 76-88.
3. A plan of Waterford, c.1590, originally in the possession of the late John Hunt. The photocopy of this in Trinity College, Dublin, is Ms 4877(2). The John Hunt Museum, N.I.H.E., Limerick, has no record of this plan, but it was photocopied some years ago by the manuscript department of Trinity College Library with a plan of Limerick, also probably of 1590, which the Hunt Museum has on display.
4. The report by Captain Thomas Phillips on Irish fortifications in 1685 includes a detailed plan of Waterford, showing the blockhouse; N.L.I. Ms 3137 (13). It is also depicted on a plan by Goubet of 1690-'91; N.L.I. Ms 2742, and on a late 17th century view of Waterford by Francis Place; (National Gallery of Ireland No. 7533.)

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NOTES (contd.)

5. Calender of Carew Mss., 1515-'74, 229: Instructions for Sir Anthony St. Leger July 1550.
6. ibid., 230: Instructions to Sir James Croft, February 1551.
7. ibid., 231.
8. A plan of this fort in the Public Record Office, London (P.R.O. MPF 85) by Robert Lythe, probably drawn in 1569, is remarkably similar in the shape of its bastions and other details to forts built by the English in Scotland between 1548 and 1550.
9. P. Harbison, 'P. Burke's Painting of Youghal' Journal of Cork Historical and Archaeological Society, LXXXVIII (1973), 66-79.
10. G.A. Hayes-McCoy, Ulster and other Irish Maps c.1600, Irish Manuscripts Commission, (1964), plate XIII. It is shown on later maps by Phillips (N.L.I. Ms 3137(20) ), and by Goubet (N.L.I. Ms 2742).
11. Calender of Carew Mss., 1515-'74; Instructions to Earl of Sussex, May 1560: Item 25.
12. It is shown on a map by Francis Jobson of 1591, T.C.D. Ms 1209(64) reproduced in an amended version in Julian C. Walton, 'Aspects of Passage East' in Decies No.10 (January 1979), which gives a detailed description of Passage up to 1663, with many references to the fort.
13. P.H. Hore, History of the Town and County of Wexford IV, (1906), 8. Chapters I to XIV, 3 - 356, detail the history of Duncannon Fort up to the mid-19th century.
14. Ibid., 13.
15. Calender of State Papers, Ireland, 1588-'92, 307.
16. Ibid., 284.
17. H.M. Colvin (Ed.) History of the Kings Works IV, 1485-1660 Part II, H.M.S.O. (1982) H.M.S.O. (1982), 411-12.
18. Calender of State Papers, Ireland, 1588-'92, 311, 319, 347, 348.
19. T.C.D. Ms 1209(64); see Note 12 above.
20. See Note 3 above.
21. Calender of State Papers, Ireland, 1588-'92, 369.
22. Calender of Carew Mss., 1589-1600; February and March 1590.
23. Ibid., 128-31.
24. Calender of Carew Mss., 1603-24, 214-15.
25. T.C.D. Ms 1209(11). Reproduced in Hore, Wexford IV.
26. T.C.D. Ms 1209(65).
27. G.A. Hayes-McCoy, Ulster and other Irish Maps c.1600, plate XVII. A detailed description of this plan, which with the other maps and plans in this publication, has the N.L.I. Ms No. 2656, is given on p.28. It is compared with another plan of Waterford fort, of 1624, by Nicholas Pymnar, B.L. Add Ms 24,200. A plan by Pymnar, similar to Ms.2565, dated December 1626, is T.C.D. Ms 1209(66).
28. See Note 4 above.
29. J.G. Simms, 'Cromwell's Siege of Waterford, 1649', Irish Sword, IV 1960, 171-9.
30. J.R. Powell, 'Operations of the parliamentary squadron at the siege of Duncannon in 1645', Irish Sword, II (1954), 17-21.
31. Calender of State Papers, Ireland, 1647-'60, 687-8.
32. N.L.I. Ms 3137.
33. The plan of Duncannon Fort, N.L.I. Ms 3137(7) is reproduced in Paul M. Kerrigan, 'Seventeenth Century fortifications, forts and garrisons in Ireland: a preliminary list', Irish Sword XIV (1980), plate 18 facing p.153.
34. K. Danaher and J.G. Simms, The Danish Force in Ireland, Irish Manuscript Commission, (1962), 49, 50.
35. Paul M. Kerrigan, 'The defences of the South-Eastern Coast of Ireland, 1803-'4' Decies No.10 (January 1979), 29-31.
36. For the history of Passage Fort, after 1660, see Julian C. Walton 'Aspects of Passage East, Part II', Decies No.11, (May 1979). This has Phillips' plan for the proposed fort at Passage and his perspective views. Copies of early 19th century views in this article indicate that the round tower at Passage survived until then.

# Some Charitable Institutions of Old Waterford

Richard Lahert

(Continued from Decies XXVIII)

## THE FREE SCHOOL OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL:

The School was attached to the Protestant Cathedral, being situate in an adjoining yard. It was in existence, however, long before the Reformation, serving numerous scholars from the city and surrounding areas. The Corporation provided funds for the school and its teachers. Candles for the use of the scholars had to be manufactured by themselves, and local suppliers were forbidden to supply candles to them. Among its more notable teachers were Mr. Fagan, B.A., and the famous "jolly schoolmaster" Peter White, who was forced to leave the school for refusing to conform to the new religion. It continued in operation as a Protestant school supported by the Corporation.

## THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY SCHOOL:

Situate in Stephen Street, at the corner of Bachelor's Walk, it was a Protestant Grammar School known as Price's School when acquired by Bishop Dominic O'Brien in 1665. It then became the Catholic University School under the guidance of the great Cardinal Newman, and was opened by Rev. Monsignor Woodlock of Dublin, with Mr. Erskine, M.A., one of Cardinal Newman's supporters in the Oxford Movement, as its first principal. Rev. James A. Phelan was President of the institution about the year 1880, when it was called St. John's College. In 1887 Fr. Phelan was President of St. John's College and it was he who invited the De La Salle Brothers to take over the school. This was the institution of which the Governors of Bishop Foy School complained in 1712, that "10 poor children had been seduced from the school to go into another school". The Catholic School then had 80 pupils as against 60 in the Foy School - despite the fact that a law had been passed in 1709 prohibiting Catholics from teaching.

## THE FORTIN CHARITY:

In her will of 3rd January, 1782, Mrs. Anne Fortin bequeathed lands and monies to Trinity and St. Patrick's Parishes for the relief of poor Protestant gentlemen.

## THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL:

This seemingly public school was assigned to two members of the Jesuit Order by Mayor William Dobbyn, in 1629. In 1658, a Jesuit Father, Rev. Andrew Fitzbennet, then in Waterford, was captured by the Cromwellians. The Dominican Fathers later conducted a school at William Street.

## THE PENITENTIARY:

The Penitentiary at Hennessy's Road, was erected in 1820 at a cost of £4,990. Between June 1821 and April 1824, the number of prisoners received was 269, while the average expense of the institution was £260. Male prisoners were sometimes exercised at the treadmill.



## Some Charitable Institutions of Old Waterford.

The House of Correction had functioned previous to the Penitentiary, but neither can hardly be classed as charitable institutions. In 1702 Thomas Adamson was allowed a sum of £2 annually for keeping the House of Correction. Among his duties was the apprehension and arrest of vagrants who were then brought before the Mayor "that they might receive due punishment". Adamson could add to his income since he was allowed sixpence for every person flogged by him at the Mayor's request, so he lost no time in rounding up likely sixpence-worths ! It was common to see male malefactors, boys as well as grown-ups, being whipped through the streets on market days. An account in writing was kept, giving details of arrest, sentence, name, and date of punishment.

In 1839, a description of the House reads as follows:  
 "An exterior wall surrounds a quadrangular space of considerable extent, at one extremity of which is the Governor's house, having the cells ranged in a semi-circle round it. At the rere of the cells, and within the walls, are gardens and grounds, where the prisoners are regularly employed. There are in all 41 cells and airing yards, in one of which is a treadmill adapted to four distinct classes. The whole prison is under a regular system of discipline and employment, and a school is maintained for the instruction of the prisoners".

### THE LATIN SCHOOL:

Situate in Lady Lane, about the site of the tower of the present Franciscan Church, or where the old Lady Chapel that gave its name to the Lane had once existed. The resolution to build this Latin school was adopted in August 1742. In later times it was known as the Infant School.

### ST. OTTERAN'S MENTAL HOSPITAL:

This Hospital, at John's Hill, was opened in 1835, and some inmates of the old House of Industry were transferred there. It was originally built to house 50 males and 50 females, but was later enlarged for 200 persons of either sex.

### WATERFORD UNION OR WORKHOUSE:

Now St. Patrick's Hospital, it was erected in 1838, after the introduction of the Poor Laws, in the same dreary design and plan as poorhouses all over Ireland.

The workhouse idea was designed as an antidote for Irish poverty, and is of more ancient origin than is generally realised. In 1703 an Act was passed enjoining the erection of a Workhouse in Dublin. According to a statement of the year 1731, there were no less than 34,000 strolling beggars in the country. Waterford Corporation, on the suggestion of Dean Alcock, decided to apply for a workhouse in October, 1736, provided that the cost of promotion of the necessary Bill would be small.

### BELMONT PARK:

Although situate in Co. Kilkenny, this fine building, destroyed by fire in 1951, has many close connections with the city. It was more anciently known as Baile an Ghraig, the Homestead of the Cawing Crows. Belmont House was the residence of Sir William Newport of the famous Newport's Waterford Bank, 1770 - 1820, at 91, The Quay. The house was later occupied by Sir Henry Winston Barron, M.P., and at his death passed on to Pierce Marcus Barron. Sir John Keane (1781 - 1844) is reputed to have been born there. It was finally taken over by the Brothers of Charity and named St. Patrick's Hospital.

## Some Charitable Institutions of Old Waterford.

### THE FANNING INSTITUTE:

The family of James Fanning - founder of the Fanning House, as it is popularly called, which is situate in the Glen on the site of the old House of Industry - the family were farmers in easy circumstances who seemingly lived at Rochestown, near Mullinavat. James was born and educated in Waterford, and early in life went to Spain and set up in business in Cadiz as a general merchant, until the year 1763 when, having realised three or four thousand pounds, he retired from trade and returned to Waterford. By his daughter Frances, widow of Redmond Grace and daughter and heiress of Richard Butler of Luffany in Iverk, he became possessed of a huge personal fortune and considerable landed estate in the Barony of Iverk. A Bill was filed against Fanning in the Court of Chancery in 1770 by one Windis for a discovery of the real value of his property. To defeat this object the Fannings disposed of their property and retired to France with their two children in 1775. There James Fanning obtained letters of naturalisation on 12th December, 1788, under the title of Sir Jacques de Fanning. Their French property was confiscated in 1791 on their flight to England during the French Revolution. His two children died in England, and his wife shortly after. On his return to France he failed to obtain possession of his property but by a will of 1804 he bequeathed one-third of his possessions in dispute to charitable uses for the relief of the poor in Waterford, except one-tenth thereof, to be paid for the relief of the poor in the parishes of Luffany, Ballygorey, Windyhouse, Castlebanny, and Rochestown. He died in Paris in 1806 in very straitened circumstances.

Fanning's will had no effect until 1814, and a further award was made in 1820 of £1,500 yearly, but still no effort was made to apply the bequest for the purpose of helping the poor of Waterford - not until that advocate of the poor, the Rt.Hon. Sir John Newport received an anonymous letter suggesting the propriety of prompt action being taken to secure and utilise the legacy. Newport began proceedings in July, 1822, and legal arguments continued until 1841, when it was agreed that the Board of Charitable Donations and Bequests should receive £34,000 and the institution be called the James Fanning Charitable Institution.

It was designed to receive well-conducted persons of both sexes, who had seen better days, and should not be forced to seek refuge in the Union Workhouse. A Code of Regulations was framed, and the Corporation granted a lease in perpetuity of the ground and premises occupied by the House of Industry, the inmates of which were transferred to the Union Workhouse, and Mental Hospital. In the Spring of 1843, the House was opened and 82 persons, 34 men and 48 women, were received there. The bequest of James Fanning amounted to £31,514.10.0.

Numerous other bequests of sums ranging up to £1,885 were made, and some other bequests used in the old House of Correction transferred to the new Fanning House.

The building itself is a quaint old three-storeyed structure, the front being designed in two spacious bays, one on either side of the main entrance. It has its own private chapel also, but the institution is now only half full, and many of its fine, spacious rooms, recreation halls, and compartments are fast falling into decay.

Some Charitable Institutions of Old Waterford.

THE LEPER HOSPITAL AND COUNTY AND CITY INFIRMARY:

According to Dr. Charles Smith, the Leper Hospital, now represented by the County and City Infirmary, was originally founded by the Powers of Dunhill. Ryland states that King John was the founder of the Hospital in 1211, a fact which is generally accepted but it is probable that the Powers made the first grant, which was later augmented by this King's bounty. It was attached to the church of St. Stephen, or, more correctly, the church was attached to the hospital, as the latter probably preceded the church.

The endowments consisted of 825 acres in Leperstown, house-property in St. Stephen's Parish, and a small but valuable parcel of land denominated Ballymacedulane in St. John's, or more correctly, St. Stephen's Without. The story goes that the King's two sons developed a skin-disease, not unlike leprosy, from excessive eating of Blackwater salmon, and drinking of Lismore cider, and that their father founded the Hospital in thanksgiving for their cure, but it appears more likely that this particular institution was founded in Lismore where such a hospital did exist. In fact it is not certain that the disease then prevalent and known as leprosy was one and the same as the dread disease we know it to be.

At the Reformation, the Hospital passed to the Corporation, which body used the funds for other purposes than those intended. £150 from the Leper Hospital Fund was used for the relief of the poor in 1738.

By 1641, the House seems to have fallen into ruin, much of its timbers and other materials having been removed by Ensign Smarte, Robert Woods, Roger Coats, Walter Cantwell, Edmond Leamy, and one Mason. Grave-stones from St. Stephen's Church nearby were removed in 1650 by Capt. Coleman to floor his kitchen.

From an inquisition taken on 26th September, 1661, before the Sheriff of Co. Waterford, Major William Halsey, Richard Power and James Bryvors, immediately after the Restoration, we learn that "the Lazar or Leper House in the suburbs of Waterford, in St. Stephen's Parish, was erected and founded by King John who hath given the said house immunities and a charter to a Master, Brethren and Sisters of the said House for the maintenance of the Lepers for ever, of which immunities they had a liberty that if any assault, battery, or bloodshed was committed within the precincts of the said Lazar House, the Baron or Master of the said House were sole judges of any such facts. We doe also find that it is further part of the immunities of the said House, that if any man or woman in the City or County of Waterford be infected with the Leprosie, and not taking their licence and freedom of members of the house to live abroad, and soe dying their estate is forfeited to the said Leper House. And we also find that there appertains to the House aforesaid as part of the perquisites thereunto belonging, the oblation of St. Mary Maudlin's Chapel, and the oblation of St. Stephen's Church, together with all the christenings, marriages and burials within the said Parish of St. Stephen's Church, the House allowing to the Vicar of the said Parish a competent annuity in consideration thereof, and the Mayor of Waterford did appoint a trusty man to oversee and receive the revenues and part out leases, by the name of Seneschall in these better edges, by what authority we know not".

It was also found that there were two unenclosed lepers in the Barony of Gaultier, Darby O'Flyne at Ballinakill, and Juan McNicholas at Ballinvolla, 'who would not obey', and further, 'we find and present that Juan Murphy sent unto the Widow Bennett, was enfected with Leprosie, and in the time of usurped power was presented to the Commissioners of Revenue, who denyed to give her any releefe, whereof she miscarried, and died in a miserable condition'.

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In November of 1670, the Corporation considered replies to seven questions put in connection with the Leper House. The replies were given by Capt. Thomas Bolton, Edward May, Paul Aylward, and Nicholas Lee, and state that there were then three lepresses there and two male lepers in the house - Philip Walsh, Philip McGrath, Ellen Grant, Joan Garven, Joany Shea and Margaret Walsh, a servant.

At a Corporation meeting on 14th November, 1670, it was decided that the Hospital was for lepers only. Thomas Bolton was then Master, nominated by the Corporation, and Paul Aylward was Clerk, in receipt of £6.13.4. per annum and, in his own words, "nothing but trouble". Despite this ruling of the Corporation, surgical cases were admitted to the Hospital. A man with a broken leg is supposed to have been refused admission since he was not a leper, but his reply 'oh bedad, this is the greatest leper in the country; he has leapt into the river and broken his leg' earned him a bed in the Hospital.

St. Maudlin's, or Mary Magdalen's Chapel, was situate somewhere on John's Hill, possibly a little west of the present Infirmary. In 1661 it was in possession of John Hevens who "yielded a considerable profit to the said Leaper House by the oblation thereof, and turned and converted by John Hevens to a house". In the same area was the "Leaper's Meadow", part of Ballymacadulane, and above the present Fever Hospital was Butler's Windmill, which gave its name to Windmill Park, also owned by the Leper Hospital. In 1661, the owner of this mill was Samuel Browne at an annual rent of 30/-, while John Hevens paid 20/- . Ballycadelan is explained as "a parcell of land.... leading from the bridge of St. John upon the right hand to the meare of Ballytruckle". Several houses in St. Stephen's Parish brought in an annual sum of £10 in 1641. What the lands at Leperstown brought in annually at this period I do not know, but in 1896 they were worth £700.

In 1707 the case of a leperess named Margaret Slattery was reported, and that of Richard Francis, "lame and afflicted with leprosy", in 1713, when he was admitted to the Hospital, then in a very bad state of repair. In 1723, Mary Tobin was ordered to the Leper House by Doctors Reynet and Dougan and, we are told, the last leper in Ireland was an inmate of the institution in 1775, despite the fact that Dr. Boates, c.1650, stated that leprosy was then extinct in Ireland for many years.

The skeleton of the notorious Crotty, the highwayman, is said to have been displayed in the Leper House, as a show-piece and curiosity.

By 1785, and probably long before this date, the Lazar House had ceased to function and, but for the action of a Protestant clergyman, the Rev. Dr. Downes, it would have remained in abeyance. He succeeded in establishing the rights of the citizens to a charitable institution by taking legal action against the Corporation. The latter body was forced to devote the monies to a hospital, and for this purpose, secured two vacant houses in Stephen Street, sufficient for 40 beds.

A Master was still being appointed by the Corporation in November 1786, whilst at the same time Terence Shaw and Thomas Anthony were appointed architects to draw up plans for a new hospital.

John Roberts is said to have been instructed to build a new hospital at Leper's Meadow, but could not have done so since the present Infirmary was not erected until 1824. After the erection had been completed, the funds were very low, and few patients were admitted, and so it continued until 1896 when two large, spacious wards were tenantless and unfurnished while the wards of the Union Workhouse were overcrowded. In that year (1896), by legal arrangements between the Charity Commissioners, the County Council, and the Corporation,

## Some Charitable Institutions of Old Waterford.

the County and City Infirmary was founded and its funds supplemented by grants from the two local bodies. The early 19th century building was converted into a modern hospital, with accommodation for 54 patients and a nursing and medical staff of 25. Sir William Goff had used his influence in no small way to accomplish these ends.

### SOME NOTABLE BEQUESTS:

Through the passage of centuries we find many records of bequests made for the purpose of helping the poverty-stricken, a few of which are worthy of mention.

#### THE MILES BEQUEST:

of Ald. Thomas Miles, Mayor in 1775 and 1763, was made under his will of 19th June, 1776. He bequeathed £1,040 to the Corporation, the money to be divided into 52 equal shares of £20 each. One of these was to be distributed in bread at Christ Church Cathedral to poor Protestants of the city every Monday morning forever. The bequest was accepted by the Corporation.

#### THE CHRISTIAN BEQUEST:

A £100 was bequeathed by Minard Christian in his will of 29th July, 1704, the interest arising therefrom, £5.10.9. p.a., to be used in clothing six poor men and women of Waterford once a year at Christmas. Minard Christian's name still lives on in Christendom, his residence.

#### CHENEVIX BEQUEST:

In his will of 13th August, 1799, Bishop Richard Chenevix bequeathed a sum of money to buy bread for poor persons residing in the city.

#### ADAMS BEQUEST:

John Adams, of Lacken, in his will of 21st October, 1850, bequeathed certain properties to Robert Daly, Bishop of Cashel and Waterford, in trust, for the sick poor, and any charitable institution approved by the Bishop.

#### GORE BEQUEST:

Dr. Hugh Gore willed that £20 be divided among the poor of Waterford. It was he who founded and endowed the Widows' Apartments.

#### MASON BEQUEST:

Early in 1721, Alderman John Mason offered to pay the Council a sum of £300 bequeathed by his father, Sir John Mason (who built the Widows' Apartments), for the clothing and education of ten poor Protestant girls of the city, on the understanding that the Corporation would agree to convert the bequest into an

Some Charitable Institutions of Old Waterford.

annuity of £20 to be paid for ever. The Council agreed to pay out the money. John Mason was also indirectly connected with the foundation of the Mason School, Lady Lane, now amalgamated with the contemporary Boys' Blue School.

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A charitable loan system was instituted and operated in the city by Archdeacon Henry on 5th January, 1768. No less than 14,173 persons took advantage of this loan system, and monies paid out amounted to £32,669.15.1. . I have been unable to obtain further details of this system of loaning money.

On the 16th January, 1776, the prisoners confined in the Waterford City Jails implored the help and charity of the citizens to alleviate their distress in that inclement season. Donations were received by Richard Kearney, Esq., Rev. Francis Phelan, C.C. Trinity Without (later P.P. of St. Michael's), Rev. John St. Leger of St. Patrick's, and Rev. Mr. John Roberts.

On the 29th March, 1787, it was resolved that the Mayor be empowered to spend £10 annually out of the Municipal Fund to help foreigners to get back to their own countries.

These examples suffice to show the extent of the charities that existed two centuries ago. Numerous other charitable institutions were also founded. The Court of Orphans, presided over by the Mayor, Sheriff, and citizens of Waterford, was empowered to allocate a sum of £6 p.a. for the maintenance and education of each child entrusted to its charge. The Protestant Orphanage Asylum grew out of this enactment and today exists as the Foy School. The Strangers' Friend Society was designed to relieve temporarily distressed persons, and give them loans sufficient to carry them back to their homes.

In this survey of charitable institutions, I have not dealt with the Bishop Foy School, the Mason School, the old Blue Schools, Newtown School, the Sisters of Charity, the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Charter School, the Ragged School, the Sisters of St. John of God, the old Grammar Schools, the Irish Christian Brothers, the De La Salle Brothers, the nuclei schools of the present St. John's College, and other institutions, religious and secular, which were more or less devoted to charitable ends.

( Of the 40 institutions mentioned by Mr. Lahert, 9 are still in operation, namely, the Holy Ghost Hospital, the Widows' Apartments, the Michael Walsh Asylum, the Langton - Carew Charity, the Shea Charity, the Burtchall Asylum, St. Otteran's Mental Hospital, Belmont Park and the County & City Infirmary. In the case of the Holy Ghost Hospital the residents are now accommodated in chalets at the rear of the old building and Belmont Park is now located in a new building near the original.

St. Patrick's Hospital occupies what were the former premises of the Waterford Union. The Trinitarian Orphanage building still stands, though in altered form, and houses an amusement centre. The Sailors' Poorhouse still stands also but is unoccupied.

## Some Charitable Institutions of Old Waterford.

Apart from those that had already long since gone when Mr. Lahert wrote his paper, a great many of the 18th & early 19th century charities - especially the smaller ones - have been demolished to make way for re-development. These would include the various charities in the Butcher's Lane/Kneeffe's Lane area as well as those in Newgate Street. The Fever Hospital has been demolished and its site still remains undeveloped. The Fanning Institute has also been demolished but its site is now occupied by a large block of Government offices. The Penitentiary at Hennessy's Road was demolished to make way for the Roanmore Park development.

Editor ).

The Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement announce the forthcoming publication of Irish Settlement Studies, No.1

Anglo-Norman Settlement in Ireland

by Dr. Brian Graham,  
New University of Ulster.

With a foreward by Dr. R. Glasscock, Cambridge University.

This printed monograph draws on the widely dispersed results of research over the last two decades to provide an interim perspective on the forms and functions of Anglo-Norman settlement in Ireland. There are sections on sources, background, early stages of settlement, mottes and later fortifications, rural settlement, field systems and agriculture, monastic settlement, and towns and socio-economic organisation. There is an extensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

Approximately 40 printed pages, 4 black-and-white plates and several in-text figures. The monograph costs £3 and is obtainable from booksellers.

## New Geneva

Daniel Dowling.

Over two hundred years have elapsed since New Geneva first began to take shape on the east-Waterford landscape overlooking Waterford Harbour, and the County of Wexford. A bold and courageous experiment at the time, it was doomed to failure before its fruition, thus dashing the hopes and inspirations of those who gave birth to the idea of a new City, where men and women could live and worship, and be able to go about their daily pursuits without fear or persecution. The bicentenary of its foundation has passed without notice, and even the place itself, along with the personalities involved in the venture, have all long since passed into the silence of history. Even the present folk memory of the area possesses but the vaguest notions of its original purpose, and as for the actors involved in the drama, hardly a memory of even a name now exists.

The story of New Geneva had its origins in the mother city in Switzerland, then a small independent Republic since 1512. It was one of the first communities in Europe which manifested a spirit of independence for self-rule. During medieval times, it was factions within the church, which held the reins of power often in unstable conditions due to wrangling and intrigue. In time the control of affairs passed from the Bishops and the Counts to the House of Savoy.

The actions of the new rulers, and the withdrawal of certain freedoms long enjoyed by the populace, led to internal disturbances and rebellion. The citizens, forming an alliance with those of Berne and Fribourg, succeeded in depriving the Duke of Savoy of his authority and power over Geneva. A republican form of government was established which adopted the principles of the Reformation. A number of attempts, however, to regain possession of Geneva, by the House of Savoy, ended in failure, the last attempt being in 1602. It was from that time onwards, that the little territory grew in prosperity, and became the resort of people of learning. Unlike the other Swiss towns of the period, it adopted the policy of admitting skilled immigrant artificers from the neighbouring States, and allowing them to become citizens. By this policy, it developed a highly skilled workforce, which in time enabled Geneva to become one of the most prosperous cities in Europe. The development of the clock and watch-making industry, for which it became famous, was mainly due to the expertise and technology which the Huguenot Refugees brought with them on their flight to Geneva following the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572 and the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685.

In the final decades of the 18th century, the population of Geneva, had reached 40,000, which was divided into four different classes. The governing body was composed of the citizens and burghers, with the inhabitants and natives forming the majority of the population. The inhabitants were immigrants or strangers, who had become part of the urban population, while the natives were the sons and daughters of the inhabitants, and as such were vested with greater privileges.



### New Geneva

Despite the prosperity of the people, differences of opinion led to serious rifts between the political factions - the "Negatives" representing the aristocrats, and the "Representants", - the democratic middle classes. By 1780, social and political unrest had hit Geneva. The prosperous middle classes imbued with the new liberalism of the period as expounded by Rousseau and Voltaire, demanded greater political and social freedom. These demands led to violence and insurrection following which, in 1782, it was decided by the followers of Rousseau, to take heed of his earlier advice given in 1768, at a time of similar disturbances when he stated : -

"There is a last course left for you to take. Instead of staining your hands with the blood of your compatriots, you can abandon these walls, which should have been the refuge of liberty, and now are to become the resort of tyrants. All, all together, in the broad daylight, you may leave the town, your wives and your children in your midst, and since men must wear chains, you can go and wear the chains of a great Prince, rather than the hateful and unbearable yoke of your equals".

Those 1782 troubles ended in the bloodless overthrow and imprisonment of the aristocratic ruling Council, by the middle class "Representants". In a short time, however, a joint invasion by the armies of France, Savoy, and Berne, reversed the order of things and restored the Council. This action finally compelled the disciples of Rousseau to quit their homeland, and seek refuge in more hospitable areas.

When the decision to emigrate was agreed upon, they decided to leave in a body, bringing with them the watch- and clock-makers, and other craftspeople. It was upon these craftspeople, principally the watchmakers, that the prosperity of Geneva depended. When the news of their decision to emigrate became known, several of the European Rulers of the day, including the Grand Duke of Tuscany, the Elector Palatine, the Landgrave of Hesse-Homburg, anxious to avail of their craftsmanship and technology, offered them sanctuary, with full provision and assistance to enable them pursue and develop their skills as they formerly did.

It was through the influence of Lord Mahon, a great admirer of the Genevans, that King George the Third gave permission to allow some of the refugees to come and settle in England. That arrangement, however, was not to their complete satisfaction as they feared that there would be rivalry and antipathy from the English watchmakers, and that the Royalist Refugees from America, following the War of Independence, had prior claim on English sympathies at the time.

Instead their attention was directed to Ireland, where the prospects appeared much better. Great things were happening at this time, it was the period of Grattan, the Volunteers, and Free Trade, and an independent Irish Parliament had just been established. Industry and business were expanding, and it was also the age of the building of the canals, which linked a lot of the inland towns with the major maritime ports, by a water carriage system capable of transporting large quantities of merchandise, at cheap and efficient rates, which

New Geneva

enhanced the trade and commerce of the inland Counties. Some of our great public buildings owe their origin to this period, and most of the great mansions of the rich were built at this time. Religious impediments and restrictions were also being lifted, the commencement of the road which eventually led to Catholic Emancipation in 1829.

It was probably with that in mind that over a thousand of the Genevan Refugees signed a Memorial requesting permission to be allowed come and settle in Ireland, where a Colony of them could be established, which would enable them without hindrance or restriction to set up and develop anew their own trades and manufactures. That Memorial was presented to Lord Temple, the Viceroy, who was himself favourable and receptive to the proposal. Offers of land were received from a number of Landlords including the Duke of Leinster, who offered them two thousand acres, with temporary accommodation for one hundred of them in Leinster Lodge, until their new accommodation was ready. The Marquis of Ely, who had his seat at Loftus Hall, on the Wexford side of Waterford Harbour, below Duncannon, also responded to the occasion, and offered the Refugees land in County Wexford. In making this offer, he said he wished to benefit the most enlightened people in the universe.

The Memorial which was formally submitted received Royal approval, and a Bill was drafted in order to permit their immigration and resettlement on lands provided by the Crown ....

"And whereas your Majesty hath been graciously pleased to express your Royal intention of encouraging certain citizens of Geneva, to settle in this, your Majesty's Kingdom of Ireland, by incorporating the said citizens, and by granting to them a sufficient quantity of land for their settlement; and whereas the aforesaid lands, or a part of them by their nature and situation are well adapted for the establishment of a Corporation designed for the advancement of commerce and manufacturers, and whereas it will be conducive to the interests of this Kingdom, that your Majesty should be enabled to grant the same, or a part of them to the said citizens of Geneva ....." The Bill was debated and passed in the 1783-84 Parliamentary Session, and became law. Under the title "An Act for the Vesting of the Lands of Knockroe and Other Lands in the County of Waterford in His Majesty - his Heirs and Successors to the uses therein expressed and for other purposes."

The Act expressed the Royal wish to see certain citizens of Geneva settled in Ireland by granting them sufficient land for their settlement, on which they would establish a Corporation designed for the advancement of commerce and manufactures. It went on to identify the specific lands in question, which were then vested in Philip Savage, Esq., Thomas Broderick, Esq., Colonel William Ponsonby, Sir John Mason and Allen Broderick, Esq. After the envisaged incorporation "the aforesaid citizens of Geneva or other Protestant foreigners" were to be deemed to be natural born subjects of the Kingdom of Ireland, entitled to enjoy all the rights, privileges and immunities of natural born subjects. They were to be debarred, however, from becoming Members of Parliament.

The property selected for allocation to the Genevan Refugees for the foundation of their new town and settlement, was located in the Civil Parish of Crooke in the Barony of Gaultier. The site of the proposed new Town was situated about a mile and a half south of the maritime village of Passage, which was then within the Liberties of the City of Waterford, and under the control and jurisdiction of the Waterford Corporation. The earmarked lands had been the property of Sir Peter Ayleward of Faithlegg, Knight and Irish Papist, but in 1653, during the Commonwealth Period the Cromwellians seized and dispossessed Ayleward's son and heir of all his landed property.

### New Geneva

Following the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, an Act of Parliament known as the 14th and 15th of Charles the Second was passed during the Parliamentary Session of 1662-1663. It was entitled, -"An Act for the better Execution of His Majesty's gracious declaration for the Settlement of his Majesty's Kingdom of Ireland, and satisfaction of the several interests of Adventurers, Soldiers, and other his subjects there". It enacted and provided for the following;-

"That the Commissioners for Execution of the said Act, should set out or cause to be set out so much of the forfeited lands as should amount unto the clear yearly value of Three Hundred Pounds per annum, and as should be nearest adjacent to and lie most contiguous unto the Fort of Duncannon which lands so as aforesaid to be set out should be reserved unto his said Majesty, his Heirs, and successors, to the intent that the rents, issues, and profits thereof may for ever be employed for and towards the better support and maintenance of the fort aforesaid, and all and every the Adventurers, and Soldiers, and other Reprizable persons to whom any of the said lands so as aforesaid to be set out, had been theretofore allotted or disposed, should be forthwith reprized out of some other forfeited lands of an estate of equal value, worth, and purchase, anything in the said Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding."

In the Parliamentary Session of 1665-66, an amending Act was passed in order to dispel some legal doubts which had arisen from the original Act of 1662/63. This piece of legislation, amongst other things, enacted and provided, - "That the Commissioners therein mentioned, should set out so many acres of profitable land as might be of the yearly value of Three Hundred Pounds, or might be sufficient to answer and secure a yearly rent charge of Three Hundred Pounds per annum, to be issuing out of the same, to the intent that the same might be a perpetual revenue for and towards the support and maintenance of the Fort at Duncannon, and be settled for that purpose in such way and manner as the Lord Lieutenant, or other chief governor or governors, and council for the time being should direct, And that in the setting out of the said lands, the Commissioners should not be obliged to proceed by any rules of contiguity, but only to take care that the value intended be secured."

In accordance with the provisions of these Acts, Commissioners were appointed who defined the lands which were to yield the stipulated annual charges for the support of Duncannon Fort. Those lands amounting to 1138 Acres, comprised the following areas; - Knockroe and Passage containing 159 acres, Crook containing 279 acres, Newtown containing 256 acres, Knocknegaple containing 82 acres, Rahine containing 94 acres, and Faithlegg containing 272 acres which was retrenched by Captain Bolton.

By Letters Patent dated the 21st May 1669, the lands thus defined were granted to Richard Earl of Arran, Marcus Lord Viscount Duncannon, Sir John Temple, Knight, the Master of the Irish Rolls; Sir Robert Byrane, and Sir Theophilus Jones, and the heirs of the survivor of them, in trust for and to answer the uses, intents, and purposes aforesaid, and not any way for the use benefit or behoof of the said patentees, or any of them, or any of their heirs.

New Geneva.

Richard Earl of Arran survived all the other Patentees, and on his decease the responsibilities for the Crown Lands devolved upon his only daughter and heiress Lady Charlotte Butler. As she was under age, and usually resident in England, it was held that the trusts and responsibilities involved in the administration of this property could not be executed in the manner which the public service required. To overcome this difficulty, further legislation was enacted in 1698, in the reign of King William the Third, which was known as "An Act for the better Management and Disposal of the lands set apart for the support of the Fort of Duncannon". Under this Act the said lands were vested in the following persons;- Philip Savage, Esquire, Thomas Broderick, Esquire, Colonel William Ponsonby, Sir John Mason, and Allen Broderick, Esquire; their heirs and assigns in trust for and to answer the uses, intents and purposes aforesaid, and to no other use, trust, or purpose whatsoever.

From about 1663 onwards these lands were administered by Crown Commissioners. The Lands amounting to 1138 acres, were let out to Leaseholders who in turn rented to tenants. In 1783, it was computed that over a ten year period, the rents yielded £3180 to the Crown for the upkeep and maintenance of Duncannon Fort, and £12400 in profits to the Lessees. The Lettings existing at the time of the intended Genevan Settlement are recorded in the following RENTAL of those Crown Lands which was drawn up in 1784; -

## RENTAL OF THE CROWN LANDS IN THE BARONY OF GAULTIER, AND COUNTY OF WATERFORD

Names	PASSAGE	Rent $\frac{1}{2}$ Year	Names	PASSAGE	Rent $\frac{1}{2}$ Year
Reps. Thomas Phelan		11-4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Maurice Power		17-0
Ed. Goff's Daughters		11-6	Reps. John Butler		10-0
Ed. Nugent		3-10-0	William Welsh		14-0
Maurice Hearn		2- 3-4 $\frac{1}{2}$	The Popish Chapel		1- 0-0
Mary Ailworth		1-15-0	Light Infantry Barrack		5- 0-0
Thos. Connors		1-14-1 $\frac{1}{2}$	James Griffin		10-0
Widow Scurlock		10-0	Reps. Mrs. Handford		10-0
Widow Keoughs		7-0	Barthw. Redmond		2- 0-0
John Kavanagh		7-0	Richd. Lyne		14-6
Richd. Holmes's Daughter		1- 5-0	John Foar & Thos. Dunford		1-14-1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Widow Durcan		12-6	Exrs. of Adm. Rogers -Ferry	20- 0-0	
			of Passage		
John Daly		6- 0-0	Mrs. Vavasor		10-0
Richard Delany		5-0	Patk. Kavanagh's Daughter		1- 5-0
James Hearn		5-8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Reps. of Wm. Oldfield		10-0
Rudolphus Green (Lease in trust (for Crown. (Tide Surveyors (House		8- 0-0	Widow of Barthw. Murray		1- 7-6
Thomas Jones		1-17-6	Maurice Hally		16-6
Richd. Breen		1- 7-6	Alexdr. Doyle		5-0
Widow of Samuel Hyde		2- 0-0	Thomas Creugh		8-6
Rep. of Michael Moran		14-0	Brien Connors		1-17-6
Rep. of Michael Fling		15-0	John Power		1- 6-4 $\frac{1}{2}$
John Dowsley		4- 5-0	Reps. of Darby Doyle		2- 0-0
Widow of John Power		2-17-6	Reps. of Robt. Sealy		2- 0-0
Widow of Thomas Murray		18-6	James Welsh		15-0

New GenevaRENTAL OF THE CROWN LANDS IN THE BARONY OF GAULTIER, AND COUNTY OF WATERFORD.

Names	PASSAGE	Rent $\frac{1}{2}$ Year	Names	PASSAGE	Rent $\frac{1}{2}$ Year
Widow of Saml. Hyde		10-0	Peter Street		15-0
James Merchant's Daughter		1- 5-0	Felix Neal		19-10 $\frac{1}{2}$
James Grant		11-4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Reps. Wm. Johnson		15-0
Peter Martin		10-0	John Fleming		1-10-0
Thomas Dunford		11-4 $\frac{1}{2}$	John Daly		5-8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mary Murphy		12-6	Widow Galvin & Patk. Power		17-6
Reps. Richard Street		2- 0-0	John Boggan		1- 2-9
Reps. Lawce. Stafford		15-0	Widow Keily		1- 0-0
John Conn		1-15-0	Mary Keorish		6-0
Edward Manning		4-15-0	Rep. of Adm. Horden		1- 3-0
			Wm. Street		4-10-0

PASSAGE AND CROOK

Reps. of Thomas Welsh	3-10-0	Thomas Welsh	7-0
Peter & Patk. Meade	9- 0-0	Jeffrey Power	6-0
John Hart & Thomas Tobin	10-0	Widow of Darby Kennedy	5-8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Widow of John Fowler	7-0	John Dunavan	5-0
Moses Redmond	9-6	John Phelan	6-0
Rep. Timothy Fling	1-11-7	Widow of Boyd Allen	2- 5-6
John Hearn & Darby Cummins	9-0	Wm. Fitzgerald	6-0
William Kennedy's daughter	7-0		

KNOCKROE

John Hearn	1- 5-0	Darby Curren	1- 0-0
Widow of John Kennedy	1- 0-0	James Mc Daniel	2-17-6
William Dun	17-10-0	Martin Welsh	1- 0-0
Edmd. Welsh & Widow Delany	5- 0-0	John Johnson	1- 2-9
Nicholas Hayes	2-17-9	Patrick Meade	1-10-0
John Quigley	1- 2-9	John Daly	1- 0-0
Edmd. Delany	1-19-6	Widow of Wm. Hogan	1- 5-0
James Nevil	1-10-0	Patrick Butler	1- 0-0
Edmd. Kennedy	1-16-0	Patrick Kelly	16-4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Owen Power	3-10-0	James Griffin & Weir	3- 5-0
John Neagle	5- 5-0	Adm. Rogers Esqr.	20- 0-0

CROOK

Walter Power	3- 8-8	John Welsh	24-13-0
Widow of Rchd. Power	1-11-8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Reps. of Garret Meade	31-11-2
Michael Power	1- 6-4	Patk. Kidney	1-15-0
Reps. Ed. Hearn	14-9	William Power	1-15-0
Edmd. Nugent	10-6	Robt. Foran	17-6
Terence Tool	17-6	John Power	1- 6-3
Michael Kavanagh	18-3	Paul Welsh	1-15-0
Rodolphus Green	2-16-10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Matthew Wyse	1- 6-3
Widow of Robert Power	3- 2-11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rep. Michael Moran	17-6
Thomas Organ	1- 2-3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Widow of Wm. Kearsey	2- 3-9
Widow Kerwan	19-3	Mary Power	1-15-0
Reps. Thomas Fling	15-2 $\frac{1}{4}$	James Sullivan	1- 2-9

New Geneva

## CROOK (Contd.)

Names	Rent $\frac{1}{2}$ Year	Names	Rent $\frac{1}{2}$ Year
Widow of Maurice Wyse	1- 5-0	Terrence Tool	27- 6-3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Richd. Galgey	9-0	Patk. & James Hayes	21-10-0
Edmd. Nugent	6- 9-6	John Boggan	2-10-0
Patk. Purcell	1-12-8	Michael Kavanagh	5-0
Michael Welsh & Edmund Spencer	1- 3-3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nichs. Hayes	8- 5-9
Michl. Barron & Widow Power	1- 0-0	Mauce.Power, & Mauce.Dobbyn	4- 7-2
Exrs. of Nichs. Power	5- 0-11	John Hearn & Wm. Fling	4- 0-0
Pierce Dobbyn & Cors.Fling	35- 7-3		
Reps. Richd. Toler	6- 0-0	James Power	6-0
James Griffin	9- 2-0	Maurice Lyne	4-0
James Griffin	13- 8-8		
Rob.Sheehan	8- 9-6		
John Dun	15- 9-9		

RAHEEN

Mr. Timothy Hearn	3- 2-6	Maur. Foar & Robt. Pottle	20-13-2
Wm. Power	27- 4-8 $\frac{1}{2}$		

CARRICKSAGART

Rep. of James Goff	53- 0-0	Felix Tool	23- 3-8
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KNOCKNACAUPLE

James Butler	22-15-0
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UPPER KILCULLEN

John & Thos. Meade	27-10-0
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LOWER KILCULLEN

Wm. Power	29- 0-0	Widow of Wm. Cheasty	15-0
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The portions lately held by Wm. Hearn, John & Edward Fling, Rep. of Garret Meade, Maurice Hayes, Thomas Power, Wm. Sheehan, Exs. of Darby Tool, are inside the lines of New Geneva.

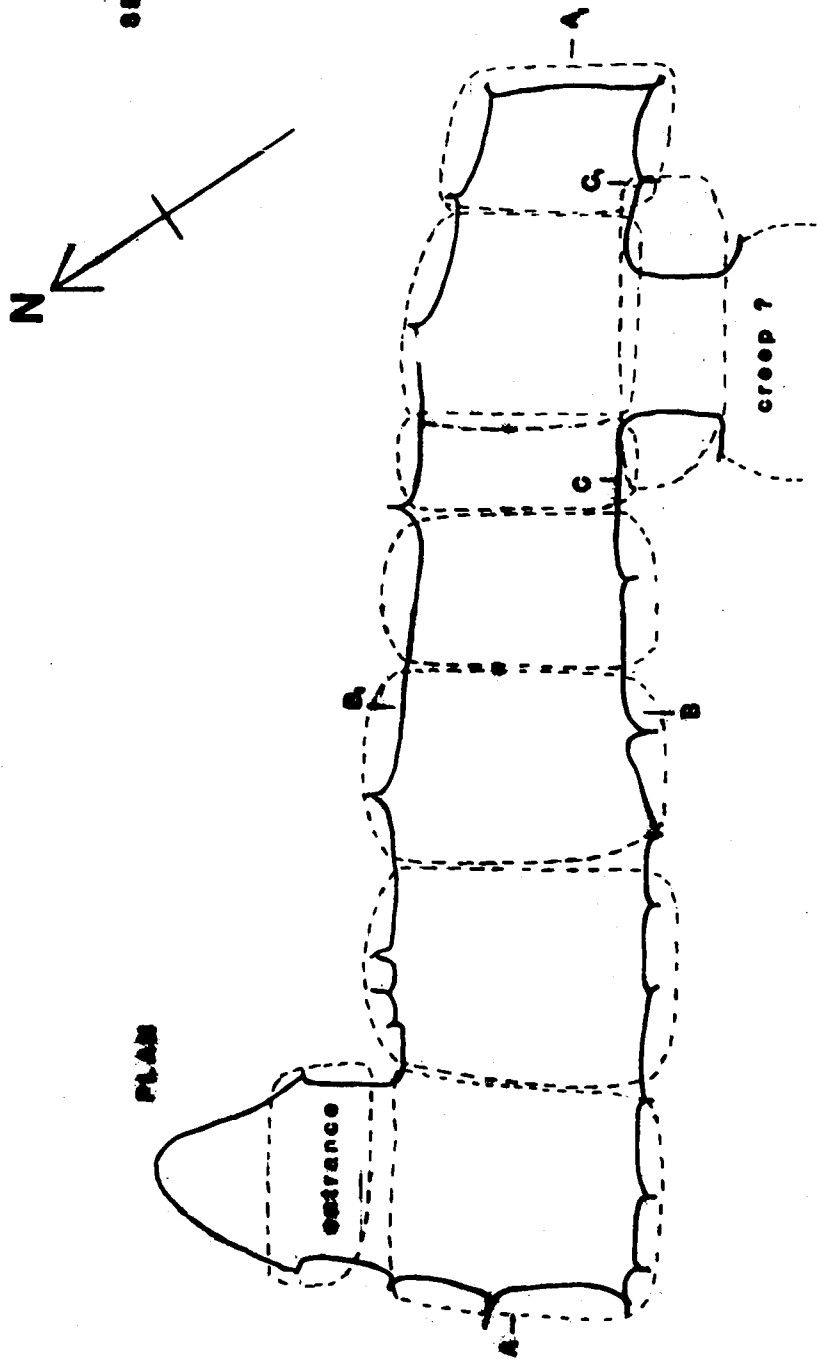
Parliament voted £50,000 towards defraying the expenses of the Refugees, and towards the cost of building a new town, along with the grant of the Crown Lands which included the fishing town of Passage. Twenty-seven acres of land was provided for the new colony at a cost

### New Geneva

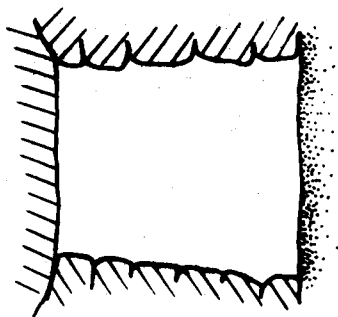
of about £8,000. Of this, fifteen acres in the centre of the area were selected as the site of the new Town. Located in County Waterford, on the West bank of Waterford Harbour, overlooking the military fort of Duncannon, on the opposite side of the harbour. It was an ideal location from a commercial point of view, especially on account of its proximity to a good navigable harbour, with five rivers capable of accommodating large ocean-going ships as far inland as Ross, on the Barrow, and Waterford, on the Suir, with smaller navigation as far as Carrick. Waterford was eight miles inland from the proposed site, and in between lay a good farming country in the Barony of Gaultier.

To be continued.

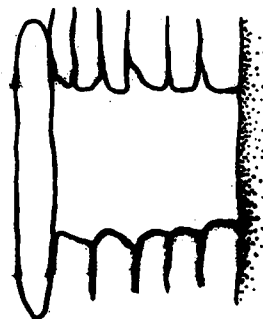
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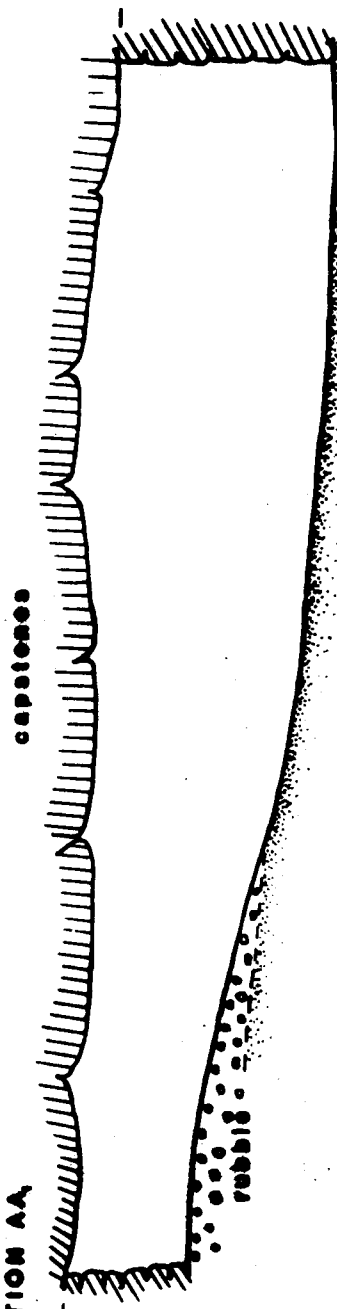
SECTION BA



cd



SECTION AA





# A Souterrain at Cornaveigh, near Youghal, Co. Cork.

Catryn Power and Martin Doody.

The souterrain was discovered on March 25th 1985 during ploughing by the landowner Mr. Tom Gibbons when debris over a lintelled capstone collapsed into the souterrain (Plate I). This discovery was reported to the Department of Archaeology, U.C.C. and was subsequently surveyed by the authors. The souterrain is situated on a south facing slope at an altitude of 200' O.D. overlooking the Tourig River, to the north west of Youghal. Two ringforts are situated nearby, one .20 km. to the north and the second .54km. to the north west. Kilnatoora Castle built by the Fitzgeralds in the 14th century is 1km. to the south east. Cornaveigh Castle is 4km. to the south.

## Construction

The souterrain is made of uncut stones and large roughly squared blocks. The stones of the basal layer are rather large and measured approximately 1m. The walls of the gallery were constructed on these and were made up of between five and six courses of stones. A profile across the gallery (see section BB,) indicates that the side walls were not vertical but were constructed with a slight inward tilt towards the roof. The passages are roofed by large lintels, the largest of which is 1.4m in length (see Plan).

The souterrain consists of a short entrance chamber 1m in length, which lies on a north-east to south-west orientation ( see Profile CC). It widens from 67cm. at the entrance to 70 cm. at the junction of the two chambers.

This chamber lies at right angles to a gallery 5m in length (see Section AA). The gallery lies on a north-west to south-east axis. The gallery narrows from 86cm wide at the entrance to 60cm wide at the end. The floor rises from 84cm at the end of the gallery to 67cm at the point where the collapsed material is present. The rubble then rises to 43cm below the roofing.

There is a well-constructed lintelled entrance, 27cm from the end of the gallery in the south-west wall. It measures 66cm in height. It marks the entrance to a creepway which does not appear to continue. However the stone-built construction does not continue

## A Souterrain at Cornaveigh.

beyond the facade. Considerable collapse prevented investigation of this area. The function of the creepway in the south-west wall must be entirely speculative since the degree of collapse prevented investigation beyond the entrance. However we can be fairly certain that the chamber, if there was one, was not stone built. It may have been an entrance or exit. The entrance chamber (the present point of entry) may, in fact, be a second gallery which extends further north-eastwards.

One fragment of iron slag was found on the floor at the end of the gallery.

### Discussion

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This type of souterrain belongs to the McCarthy<sup>2</sup> A2, i.e. souterrains with two chambers or galleries and having an L-shaped plan. The nearby souterrains of Ballyknock<sup>3</sup> and Rath<sup>4</sup> are of similar type. Souterrains are found all over Ireland. It is generally thought that they were used as places of refuge. Some souterrains may have served for storage (grain, dairy products) or hiding valuables or a combination of these.



PLATE I. Discovery of lintelled capstone  
of souterrain at Cornaveigh, Co.  
Cork.

A Souterrain at Cornaveigh.

N O T E S:

1. Exact location: O.S. 6" scale sheet No.67, Co. Cork. 29cm from west margin, 3.7cm from north margin. By: Imokilly, Ph:Ardagh, Td. Cornaveigh.
2. J.P. McCarthy, 1983, "Summary of a study of County Cork Souterrains", J.C.H.A.S., Vol. LXXXVIII, pp.100-106.
3. By: Coshmore and Coshbride; Ph: Templemichael; Td. Ballyknock. In Power, C., O'Donnabhain, B. and O'Donnell, M.G., Decies No.26, Summer 1984.
4. By: Imokilly; Ph: Ardagh; Td: Rath. In McCarthy, J.P., op.cit.

Acknowledgements:

The Department of Archaeology, U.C.C., wishes to thank Mr. Tom Gibbons for reporting the souterrain and permitting investigation of the site.

## Review

"Gentlemen, Priests and Faction-Fighters -  
The Letters of Bishops O'Donel, Lambert,  
Scallan and other Irish Missionaries"

By Dr. Cyril Byrne.

Reviewed by Dr. Kevin Whelan.

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The connections between Waterford, South Kilkenny and Newfoundland are fairly well known in a general kind of way. Over 2/5ths of the Irish population of Talamh an Eisc originated in these two counties and the Newfoundland Irish retain a strong sense of their ancestral homeland. More detailed studies are now being researched and these should strengthen the links between the south-east corner of Ireland and the maritime coast of Canada. One of these studies is being undertaken by Jack Burtchaell, a native of Ferrybank, and now a Ph.D. student in U.C.D., who is immersed in a painstaking study of eighteenth century South Kilkenny. A major study has also appeared in Newfoundland, authored by Dr. Cyril Byrne. It is entitled "Gentlemen Priests and faction-fighters: the letters of Bishop O'Donel, Lambert, Scallan and other Irish Missionaries". It is superbly edited with a running commentary by Dr. Byrne, and the book runs to over 400 pages. The bulk of the book centres on the lives and times of the first three bishops of Newfoundland - James Louis O'Donel, (from Knocklofty, Clonmel), Patrick Lambert and Thomas Scallan of Wexford. It is an appropriate time for the book to appear as O'Donel, the first accredited missionary to St. John's, went there in 1784, and in 1984 Pope John Paul II went there to celebrate the bicentenary of this event. Interestingly, it was a group of Waterford merchants who petitioned for O'Donel's appointment. Before 1784, Newfoundlanders made the long trek back to Waterford and Kilkenny and accordingly their letters make many references to these two counties. O'Donel's own mother was a Crosby from the Kilronan area, and both his parents are buried in this sadly neglected graveyard, their graves marked by a fine slab erected by O'Donel himself, which is still fairly legible. Many of O'Donel's letters are to Waterford men - including some to Bishop William Egan (the betrayer of Fr. Sheehy, the Whiteboy priest), and some to Fr. John Phelan, a Waterford Franciscan. Some of the earliest priests in Newfoundland were Kilkenny men - Fr. Nicholas Bourke of Rosbercon, Fr. William Dollard (1789 - 1857) of Mooncoin, Fr. Ambrose Fitzpatrick, Fr. Thomas Grace (1771 - 1827) of Knocktopher and Fr. William Phelan (1711 - 1795) of Kilmacshane, Inistioge.

The clergy of Newfoundland had continuous trouble trying to subdue the faction-fights which erupted frequently in St. John's. The Waterford "Wheybellies", the Cork "Dadyeens", the Wexford "Yellabellies", the Tipperary "Clear-Airs" and the Kilkenny "Doornanes" flaked hell out of one another in many a severe battle on the barrens outside St. Johns. The Kilkenny "Doornanes" got their name from one of the agricultural cluster-villages in Mooncoin parish, which was a prolific source of Newfoundlanders. Some of

the fights were based on county loyalty, some on provincial, (Leinster v Munster - a kind of "Railway Cup" of faction-fighting??), some on language boundaries (Irish speaking vs. English speaking). One of the many reasons for spleen between Wexford and Kilkenny immigrants was the fact that the Kilkenny immigrants were to a man Irish speakers. Remarkably too, some of the fights were fomented by priests to suit their own ends.

The new world was a convenient dumping ground for recalcitrant priests, especially those with a drink or women problem. O'Donel had severe difficulties with two of these "strolling priests" as he termed them. One of them, Patrick Londregan, a Tipperary man, "publically revealed the people's confessions and lived in a sinful relationship with the wife of a Protestant doctor" according to O'Donel. Londregan eventually died in a drunken stupor in a kip in Fogo Island. O'Donel's other main clerical foe was a resourceful character from Ballyhale, called Fr. Patrick Power. Power contended that O'Donel was anxious to have only Munster men on the mission and that he was indulging in nepotism in bringing his nephew, Michael, to enrich himself on the Newfoundland mission. O'Donel tried to bribe Power to leave for Spain and then had him suspended. Power produced recommendations from his superiors in Ireland (who were probably delighted to see the back of him) and concluded "that the only objection to a man like himself & so well recommended is that I am a County Kilkenny man". Power also charged O'Donel with being a money grabber and a snob. In retaliation, O'Donel accused Power of being "a low mean fellow with no more address than a cowboy", while at the same time he feared Power's popularity with the poorer people "He'll throw the place into confusion as he is a great encourager of county factions among the lower set of people". Power was indeed ready and willing to stir up anti-Tipperary bias amongst the Kilkenny men, so much so that, after one of his harangues, a large group, "headed by one Fogarty from Callan, paraded up and down challenging Munster men to fight them". Eventually, after very considerable bother, O'Donel was able to get rid of Power to Spain.

O'Donel's letters provide some intriguing insights into the extent to which old world practices were transported to a new world setting. For example, he provides documentary evidence of the existence of hurling in Newfoundland in 1788. These hurling matches, generally played as now along county lines, were a major cause of faction-fights. O'Donel tried very hard to suppress them. It is not sufficiently well known that the Catholic clergy were one of the main agents involved in suppressing hurling in 19th century Ireland, before it emerged in a different form under the G.A.A. O'Donel's letter of 1788 is instructive :

"There have been riots here and there on the island these 40 years past, for there is a deep-rooted malice in the hearts of the lower class of Irishman to each other, from the great abuse and horrid manglings they have received from time to time in the provincial quarrels. These quarrels partially originated from drinking and idleness, but chiefly for the want of instruction. This is evident from the check given these quarrels in every part since his Majesty hath most graciously pleased to tolerate Roman priests in it. As for my own part, it can be well attested that I have been lucky enough to prevent these disputes everywhere my voice could reach these four years past, for I left no means untried to

level the distinctions of provinces, and to prevent my flock from attending hurlings in the spring of the year which were generally productive of these riots" (pp. 70-71)."

My own research in Newfoundland has convinced me that ice hockey in its Canadian form is originally derived from hurling, as this game adapted itself to the ice. Both games have the same mixture of speed, skill and physical force. Not for nothing is the ball in ice-hockey still called "a puc". The goal in ice hockey is exactly the same size and shape as the pre-G.A.A. hurling goal, which was called "the bow". Even more persuasively, the ice hockey stick is exactly the same shape as the old-style hurl. At a time when we have re-established contact with Australian-rules football, Cyril Byrne's book is timely in providing a tantalising glimpse of the possible Irish origins of yet another of the world's great games.

There are many other snippets of this type interspersed in the book. It is highly readable, interesting and excellently edited. For someone without a knowledge of the period and personalities, Byrne's excellent notes provide all the relevant information in easily digested form. In this sense, the book will help to reforge the links between maritime Canada and the South-east. Even now, a major conference in June 1985 is being organised for Waterford, which will bring back many Newfoundlanders, New Brunswickers, Nova Scotians and Prince Edward Islanders to their South-eastern homeland. Among the speakers at that conference will be Dr. Cyril Byrne. In the meantime, his book is required reading for local historians with an interest in the Irish overseas. It is available for 17 Canadian dollars from

Jespersion Press,  
26A, Flavin Street,  
St. Johns,  
Newfoundland, Canada,  
AIC 3R9.

Get it !

## Confluence '85

The Old Waterford Society would like to express its thanks to all those who have made it possible for this event to take place - to the Canadian Government and the Association of Canadian Students in Ireland, to the Irish Cultural Relations Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs and to the Sun Life of Canada.

Any movement which promises to expand our knowledge of the 18th - 19th century migration to Newfoundland of people from the south-eastern counties of Ireland must be good news for members of the Society, though they are by no means uninformed about the matter, having had the benefit of Professor John Mannion's researches over the past decade. Dr. Mannion first addressed the Society in 1975. He contributed to "Decies" in 1977 and most of his published work on the subject is in the Waterford City Library. More recently the Society enjoyed a video presentation by Mr. Aidan O'Hara.

Confluence '85 will be the opportunity of a lifetime for those whose ancestors emigrated from these parts (including those who moved on to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island) to make contact with their present-day Irish cousins and vice versa - a task that will be made incomparably easier than it would otherwise have been by the Heritage Survey, a comprehensive and indexed compilation of parochial registers.

As will be seen in the following pages the programme is rich in variety. The names of those participating in the symposium, the field leaders and the outdoor lecturers should guarantee a week of keen and sustained interest for all amateur historians and especially for members of our Society.

For further details contact either of the following : -

Aidan O'Hara, Press Officer, Dublin. 944510/887311

Martin Quigley, Co-ordinating Secretary, Waterford 051 - 74446.

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CONFLUENCE '85

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

23 - 29 June '85.


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<u>SUNDAY, 23 June</u>	10.00 a.m.	Registration.
Ardree Hotel, Waterford.		Reception and Official Opening by Thomas Kinsella, poet.
Ph. (051)32111		Dinner.
 <u>MONDAY, 24 June</u>	 10.00 a.m.	 Symposium: "Migration between
Ardree Hotel	to 1.00 p.m.	Southeastern Ireland and Atlantic Canada - the economic, social and cultural linkages," Chairman, W.J. Smyth (Maynooth). Participants will include L.M.Cullen, Cyril Byrne, George Casey and Kevin Whelan.
 Ardree Hotel	 3.00 p.m.	 Film Session " Westford Ho from Waterford" - The Newfoundland Irish, and "In the Wake of St. Brendan" - The Catholic Church in Newfoundland.  Evening of traditional music arranged in co-operation with Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann.
 Holy Trinity Cathedral	 5.40 p.m.	 Unveiling of plaque commemorating the appointment of James Louis O'Donell, first Bishop of Newfoundland, 1784, followed by Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Michael Russell, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.
 <u>TUESDAY, 25 June</u>	 10.00 a.m.	 Field Excursion by coach, taking in South Wexford, The Hook, Wexford Town. Field leaders Kevin Whelan and Billy Colfer.
	 5.00 p.m.	 Lecture by L.M. Cullen at Johnstown Castle: "Social and Economic Structure of Southeast Ireland - 1700 - 1800."
		 Photographic Exhibition, Johnstown Castle
		 Traditional Singing and instrumental music, Wexford Town.

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CONFLUENCE '85.

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

23 - 29 June '85.

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- WEDNESDAY, 26 June      10.00 a.m.      Boat Excursion (restaurant on board):  
Waterford, Glenmore, New Ross to  
6.00 p.m.      St. Mullins on the River Barrow.  
Historians will speak at selected spots.  
  
Evening events in Waterford.
- THURSDAY, 27 June      10.00 a.m.      Field Excursion by coach, including the  
Norman farming villages at Mooncoin;  
Callan; South Tipperary. Field trip  
leaders: Jack Burtchaell and  
W.J. Smyth (Cork).  
  
5.00 p.m.      Walking Tour of Kilkenny City and  
Lecture in Kilkenny Castle by Liam de  
Paor: "Southeast Ireland in Early and  
Medieval Times."  
  
Homeward stage will take in Thomastown,  
Graignamanach and St. Mullins.  
  
Evening events in Waterford.
- FRIDAY, 28 June      10.00 a.m.      Symposium (Part 2): "Migration between  
South-eastern Ireland and Atlantic  
Canada - the economic, social and  
cultural linkages", Chairman, W.J. Smyth  
(Maynooth). Participants will include,  
Donal Begley, Aly O'Brien, Marian  
O'Gallagher, Kevin Whelan and Brendan  
O'Grady.  
  
3.00 p.m.      Film Session: "The Forgotten Irish" -  
The Newfoundland Irish of the Cape  
Shore, Placentia Bay; and "Talamh an  
Eisc" - a CBC Land and Sea film  
featuring Dr. Aly O'Brien tracing the  
Newfoundland-Irish connections in the  
southeast.  
  
7.00 p.m.      Banquet.
- SATURDAY 29 June      10.00 a.m.      Workshop in which genealogists, including  
Mr. Donal Begley, Chief Herald of  
Ireland, will discuss problems in  
genealogy and family history.  
  
Evening of traditional music, song  
and dance in co-operation with  
Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann.
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# *Old Waterford Society*

## PROGRAMME

SUMMER - AUTUMN 1985

Indoor meetings will be held in Garter Lane Art Centre, O'Connell Street, Waterford, commencing at 8 p.m. All outings will depart from City Hall at 2.30 p.m. Evening visits will commence at 7.30 p.m. at venue.

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June 9th	<u>Outing to St. Mullins</u> conducted by Mr. Dan Dowling, Member.
June 20th	<u>Evening Visit to Railway Square</u> , conducted by Mr. Ben Murtagh, Member.
June 30th	<u>Outing to Great Island</u> , conducted by Mr. Billy Colfer.
July 14th	<u>Outing to Cappoquin</u> , conducted by Rt. Rev. Mons. Michael Olden, P.P.
July 28th	<u>Outing to Carrickbeg</u> , conducted by Rev. Fr. Michael Mullins, St. John's College.
Aug. 25th	<u>Outing to Slate Quarries</u> , conducted by Mr. John Maher, Member.
Sept. 27th	<u>Lecture: Warfare and Fortification in Anglo-Norman Ireland</u> , Dr. Randall Rogers: U.C.D.
Oct. 18th	<u>Lecture: Irish Workhouses</u> , Dr. F. Finnegan. W.R.T.C.
Nov. 1st	<u>Lecture: Waterford and the Royal Favour 1540 - 1640</u> , Mr. Julian Walton, Member.
Dec. 8th	<u>Annual Lunch</u> . Separate Notice will be sent to Members.

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Enquiries regarding 'DECIES to :

Mr. Fergus Dillon,  
"Trespan",  
The Folly,  
Waterford.

Membership of the Old Waterford Society is open to all. Subscription for 1985 is £6.00 and may be sent to:

Mrs. R. Lumley,  
28, Daisy Terrace,  
Waterford.

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The Society is not responsible for damage or injury suffered or sustained on outings.