

TOWNLAND NAMES OF THE COUNTY OF CLARE.

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SECOND PART.

UPPER BUNRATTY BARONY.

Upper Bunratty mainly consists of a limestone soil. In the townland names of the district many places are described as rough and rocky, and the numbers of Cahirs and Dangers occurring in the territory indicate the plentitude of building materials that existed. Many more of these structures than are named on the Ordnance Maps occur through the region now under consideration, and upon these Mr. Westropp has thrown a flood of light in the well-considered and carefully-written articles which he has recently contributed to the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy and to the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland. The country in former days appears to have been well wooded, as is proved by the numerous appellations of places derived from oak woods and plantations of other kinds of timber. The arbutus, which seems to have been a rare tree at all times in Ireland, grew in this district, as is proved by the names Quin and Feaghquin, which, in the Irish language, mean arbutus and arbutus woods. Several fine lakes embellish the district.

The oak woods were—Derrygarriff, the rough wood; Derrymore, the great wood; Derrynaglenagh, the monks' wood; Derryvet, Drumumna, the oak-covered ridges; Knockaderry, Durra and Derry, meaning simply the woods; and Carrowderry. Woods consisting of other timber were described as Ballycraghan, from the aspen tree; Cranagher, covered with trees; Choillawinna (*beine*), the herb sanicle; Bearnafunchin, the gap of the little ash trees; Roslevan, the elm wood; Carrahil, the rough

wood ; Monanoe, the place of yew trees ; Cullinagh and Cullane, holly woods ; Creevagh, trees simply ; Kildrum, the wooded hill ; Kilnacrandy, gnarled trees ; and Fuarchoill, the cold wood, incorrectly Anglicised Spencil hill, that is, *Cnoc rucaill* (a spencil), from its similarity of sound to *Cnoc Fuarchoill*, its real name. (See "*Four Masters*," A.D. 1559).

Stone fortalices, designated Cahirs and Dangan, are found scattered over all parts of Upper Bunratty. There was a Cahir in Inchicronan Parish, a Dangan and a Danganbrack (grey), as well as a Shandangan, in the Parish of Quin, meaning the old fortress ; there were Cahiraphuka, Cahirlogan, the hollow ground ; Cahirnalough, of the lakes ; and Cahircalla, O'Kelly's Cahir. Homesteads (Bally), belonging in the olden times to the following families, are situate in the district :—Hannen, MacCahill, MacConna, O'Hogan, O'Kilty, Markahan, MacCloon, Roughan, Mulcane, O'Hally, O'Carroll, O'Curry, O'Shea, O'Malley, MacQuiggin, Mulqueeny, and a townland called Craggaunowen, situate on a charming little lake in the Parish of Quin.

Names of places descriptive of hills, hillocks, and low ridges, abound in Upper Bunratty. They are usually described by the terms Drum (which means back), Knock, Ard, and Tulla. There is Drim, the hillside simply ; Drumdoolaghty, O'Doolaghty's hillside ; Drumbonniv, blasts ; Drumcore, rough ; Drummaneen, the little ridge ; Drumminaknew, the ridge of the hazel nuts ; Drumsallagh, of the shallows ; Drumquin, sunny ; Drumgloon, of the calf ; Dromconora, of the golden nut ; Knockaskibole, of the barn ; Knockogan, O'Hogan's hill ; Knockaloughaun, of the pool ; Knockmeal, bald ; Knockreddan, of the worm (*rudán*), Knockaclara, division ; Knockanoura, of the fringe (*fabhra*) ; Knocknagong, of quarrels ; Ardcarney, hill of victory ; Corebeg, the little hill ; Lehardan, having the same meaning ; and Tullyvaghan, a cabin-crowned hill.

Forests and marshy lands, so frequently met with in other parts of Clare, are rarely referred to in this barony. We find only Feaghquin, the arbutus forest, and Feenagh, meaning a forest merely. The marshes are Curraghmoghaun, which Joyce interprets as the smothered marsh ; Finanagh, the white marsh ; Sraheen, the little holme by the river ; Moyriesk and Reaskaun, the marshy land ; and Parkalough, the lake field.

From stony land the following places are designated :—Cragga-weelcross, of the low cross, possibly a cross marking the termon lands of a religious house ; Cragataska, of the task ; Carrownacloghy, the

stony townland ; Cragard, the high cragg ; Dulick, the black flag stone ; Licknaun, the surface of flag stones ; and Creggaun, the stony hillock.

Churches are not numerous as names of localities in Upper Bunratty. We find there Kilgobban, a church dedicated to St. Gobán ; Kilbricken, the church of St. Brecán of Aran ; Kilfeilim, Inchicronan, commemorating St. Cronan of Roscrea ; Kilvoydan and Kilraghtis, the church of the counsel.

A certain number of townlands derive their names from horses, dogs, swine, as well as from other animals and birds. We have Derrycalliff from boars ; Gawrus, the horses' meadow ; Ballyvanna, from the fox, (*banach*) ; Muckinish and Knocknamucky, the pigs' island and hill ; Cappanapeasta, the cultivated land abounding in wire worms ; Scalpnagown, the calves' shed ; Sunnagh, a milking place ; Knockapreaghau, the crow's hill ; Knockanean, the bird's hill ; and Sranagalloon, the sparrows' river-side meadow.

Fighting and sport are represented by only two names of townlands: these are Rylane, a place for amusement and exercise, and Faunrooska, named from fighting, or perhaps from wetness. There are two places deriving their designation from pagan cemeteries—namely, Calluragh and Killian.

But by far the greater number of localities in this, as in all other parts of Ireland, bear names bestowed upon them as descriptive of their characteristic features, such as aspect, colour, soil, and situation. In most cases the designations applied to them have been felicitous and most descriptive of their peculiarities. With these we shall now deal as far as the barony under consideration is concerned. We notice there Ballaghboy, the yellow way ; Carrowwee, Cloonawee, and Cragbwe, the yellow land, the yellow meadow, and the yellow crag ; Ballyglass, the green homestead ; Toonagh, a green field ; Ballyduff, the black place ; Ballinruan (reddish) ; Keevagh, the place of long marshy grass (*caebh*) ; Cappafean, full of weeds ; Clonmoney, covered with underwood ; Gurtnamearacan, the land of fox glove ; Knockaluskraun, the hill of the plant speedwell ; Ballygassaun, of shoots and stems ; Cloonteen, the little meadow ; Clooney, a plain ; and Maghera, a field. We find Ballyvergin signifying signals (*meirge*) ; Ballyvroghau, a mound ; Carrahan, rough ground ; Corbally, wrinkled land ; Rathclooney, fort of the plain ; Ballyvannavaun, of the little family (*bannamh*) ; Ballynagranagh and

Drumgranagh, of the gravel pits ; Cloonagowan, of the heifers ; Cloonawillin, of the tuck mill ; Gurtafika, of the pitchfork ; Gurtlurkaun, of the leg (*lurgan*) ; Ballyline, of the spear (*laigean*) ; Lissana, the plural of liss ; Carrowkeel and Carrowgar, the narrow and short townlands ; Athsollus, incorrectly called Ardsollus, from the light kept there by the friars of Quin Abbey to guide travellers across the ford ; Bunnow and Bunnahow, abutting upon the river ; Crusheen, the little cross, which indicated the boundary of the termon lands of the neighbouring religious community of Inchicronan ; Bealnafrivarnan is a name not intelligible to me, although it is easy enough to understand the separate syllables of which the word is composed. The word Cappagh signifies cultivated land. We have Cappaghbeg, Cappaghmore, and Cappaghard, names requiring no explanation. We note Carrowdotia, the burned land ; Cloonkerry, the black meadow ; Cloontymurphy, Murphy's meadow ; Cloonherna, of the sloes (*airne*) ; Coolshamroge, Noughaval, the new acquisition ; Tooreen, a cultivated little field ; Carnmallow, the heap of stones containing honey ; Coogaun, the poll of the head ; Cutteen, the little common ; Knopoge, rough land ; Rathluby, the sloping ground ; Rine, a division ; and Gurtluman, a shield.

These comprise all the townland names of the Barony of Upper Bunratty except one. That one is Ballyortla, and ortla is a word that has baffled all my endeavours to render it into English. Derryvet also has proved too much for me.

BARONY OF BURREN.

As may be expected, the Barony of Burren, from its extremely rocky character, offers many new names of localities. There is almost a total absence of oak woods, only one being found. Forests are also wanting, and there is no pagan burial-place indicated in the Ordnance Maps of the barony. Curiously enough, spots renowned for fighting exist in one instance only, and such things as fords, orchards, or landing-places, are unknown. On the other hand, there is a very large number of caves, fissures in cliffs, and pits in which the rain-water is swallowed up into the limestone rock. These are designated by the words clab, a mouth, and poul, a pit. The following is a list of them, and their names will be found very descriptive :—Poulacarran, of the heap of stones ; Pouluphuca, the pooka's cave ; Poulawack, of the bend or turning ; Poulcarragharush, of the stony part of the meadow ; Pullagh, full of pits ;

Poulanine, of the ivy ; Poulbane and Pouigorm, white and blue caves ; Poulabrone, of querns ; Pournaskagh, of the hawthorns ; Poulacapple and Poulabrucky, the caves of the horse and badger respectively.

We find a very plentiful list of place names called after families. We have Ballyhehan, Ballyconry, Cappaghkennedy, Faunyalavan, Galvan's hill slope ; Glencolumbkille, Sheshadonnell, Ballycahill, Ballyvaghan (Beaghan) ; Ballymihil, Ballyconnoe, Magheraweelen, Moalin's field ; Cooleamore, and Cooleabeg (Aodh, a man's name) ; Ballyneillan (O'Neylan) ; Ballyteige, Lisheenea, Hugh's little homestead ; Lismorahaun, called in O'Brien's Rental of the year 1300 Lismoran, O'Moran's home ; Ballygannor, Ballymahony, Ballymurphy, Ballyconoal, a name yet surviving in the Barony ; Knockycallinan, Doonyvarden, O'Bardan's fortified home ; Lismacsheedy and Lismacteige.

From the extremely rocky character of Burren, it may be inferred that there were but few woods or plantations. We meet only groves of holly, hawthorn, willow, yew, and birch. We have Cullaun, holly ; Iskancullin, fountain of the hollybreak ; Creevagh, whitethorn ; Keelhilla, willow wood ; Kiltan, the little wood ; Behagh, birch plantation ; and Killoghil, the yew wood. It must be remarked, however, that there is one solitary oak wood, the name of which is Derreen.

Animals furnish the designation of a small number of townlands in this Barony. We find Moygowna, the heifer's land ; Muckinish, island of swine ; Balliny, from *oi*, a sheep ; Ballyelly, herds and flocks ; Ballyhenna, a fox ; and Knockaunwickteera (*mactire*, a wolf) ; Aghavinnane, kid's ford ; Aughinish, horse's island ; Boloona, a pasture for lambs ; Cloonmarteen, of the little ox.

Names of places derived from plants or herbs are rare. There is Rannagh, ferny ground ; Gleninagh, ivy valley ; Slieve-na-billoge, from coltsfoot or woodsorrel ; and Cragnarooan, the rue plant.

Scattered over the Barony are great numbers of stone structures called cahers. These, being solidly built of stone, are to a certain extent in a state of preservation. On the Ordnance Survey Maps many of them are set down, and with these we shall deal, because they form part of the names of places. At the same time it must be noted that many more have escaped the notice of the surveyors, and all of them, with great diligence and accuracy, have been observed and described by Mr. Westropp in the publications above mentioned. We note

Cahergrillaun, so named from an old rusty sword; Cahermacirilla, the residence of the grandson of Irial O'Connor; Caherconnell, Cahermaan, the middle; Caherbarnagh, the gapped; Caherbullog, an ox; Caherloggaun, vetches; and Cahermacnaghten. Of Macnaghten no account remains, but this Caher long continued to be the residence of the family of O'Davoren, hereditary teachers of law and science in Clare. Several treatises and commentaries of the O'Davorens on the Brehon Laws have come down to our time; and Duaid MacFirbis, the greatest of Irish scholars in modern times, received part of his education here. The structure is in a good state of preservation, and is one of the finest of its kind in Ireland. In addition to these there is Cahermacon, almost entirely ruined.

Moher is a word confined almost exclusively to this country of rocks and stones. It is a walled enclosure, resembling a cahir, but on a much smaller scale, and was used as a sheepfold principally. We observe Mohermoylan (*maolan*), a little bald hill (Joyce); Mortyclogh (*motar ti cloch*), a stone-wall enclosure; Moheraroon (*ruain*), a plant used in dyeing a red colour; and Lismoher, the homestead.

Ancient churches are few in this district, but, owing to the isolated character of the country, they are in a comparatively good state of preservation. St. Cronan's, of Roscrea, designated Tarmon Cronan; Kilcorney, dedicated to St. Cornan; Kilcany, the eminent saint who lived so long in the Isles of Aran, and whose life has been written by Colgan; and Kilmoon, the patron of which, St. Muan, is not mentioned in any of our hagiologies.

It is curious that in so rocky a territory only three townlands are named after stones—viz., Craggagh, stony; Cragreagh, grey; Burrenwee, yellow rock; and Cregavockoge, from the broom which is found growing there.

Marshy land being scarce, we have only three places named in that connection—Rooska and Berneen, both having the same meaning of wet fields; and Deelin, land liable to be flooded in winter and made dry each season by the summer sun.

Hills and hillocks give names to several townlands in the Barony. We note Coolnatullagh, the back of the hill; Crughwill, *crocad*, a height, and *aill*, a cliff; Knockanes, the hillocks; Knocknagroagh and Eanty, both of which mean hills, simply; Knockaboarheen, of the bye-road; Slievecarran, a heap of stones; Croagh, a summit; and Drom brickaun, the little grey hill.

But, as usual, the great majority of places receive their appellations from aspect, situation, soil, colour, and other characteristics belonging to them. We have Sladoo, the black valley ; Dangan, a fortalice ; Lisnanard, the home on the heights ; Tonarussa, the back or western side of the meadow ; Aghaglinny, the valley ford ; Murrough, a sea marsh, sand hills, or a sea shore ; Baur, a summit ; Faherlaghroe, the red field by the lake ; Lisnanroum, of the hill ridges ; Lislarheenbeg, of the little place ; Coolmeen, the fertile corner ; Crumlin, the sloping valley ; Fanore, the sea coast ; Formoyle, a rocky meeting place (Joyce) ; Liscoonera, of the sea inlets ; Ballininsheenbeg and Gleninsheen, of the little island ; Gowlawn, forked, near the spa-well at Lisdoonvarna ; Knockaskeheen, of the thorn bush ; Lisdoonvarna, the fortalice by the gap ; Rathbane, the white homestead ; Noughaval, the recent acquisition ; Rusheen, the little meadow ; Sheshymore, the large ploughland ; Gortboyheen, the yellow little field ; Gortaclare, of the foot bridge ; Oughtmama, the breast of the hill pass ; Rine, a division ; Turlough, a lake which becomes dried up in summer ; Garracloon, a rough plain ; Gragan, a village ; Lisgoogan, a split or cavern in a cliff ; Lislarheenmore (*latair*), a place of meeting ; Lissylisheen, the homestead of the little liss ; Ballyallaban, possibly so named from some Scotch settler ; Aillwee, the yellow cliff ; Ballyvelaghan (*belach*), the little road ; Cartron, the fourth part ; Curranroo, the weir adjoining the rue producing land (there can be no doubt of the derivation of this name, because it is mentioned and accurately spelt by the Four Masters, A.D. 1599) ; Moneen, the little bog ; Munnia, from its growth of hawthorn and other bushes ; Rossalia, a meadow overflowed by sea water ; Sheshia, the area of ground ploughed by two horses ; Ballydoora, water ; Ballyline, with the same meaning as Ballyline in Upper Bunnallymore ; Cappagh, cultivated land ; Carran, a heap of stones ; Clooncoose, a cave ; Coskeam, a step or stride ; Fahee, a field ; Meggagh, the meaning of which is not easily discovered. In Irish *meagach* signifies earthy ; but there is very little earth indeed at Meggagh. There is another Irish word which, when spoken, resembles the name. It is *meigiodach*, the bleating of a goat, animals found in great herds wandering about the barony of Burren. Finally, there is Magouhy, a plain over which the wind blows without interruption.

The signification of some of the place names of this Barony has eluded all our inquiries. These are Acres, Loughrask, Ballygastell, near Lisdoonvarna, and Kilweelran.

(To be continued.)