

TOWNLAND NAMES OF THE COUNTY OF CLARE.

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THIRD PART.

CLONDERALAW BARONY.

This barony, in its geological aspect consists, for the most part, of the sandstone formation. A great part of it is marshy, and there is a considerable extent of bog. On the eastern side lies a number of islands in the Fergus, all of which, as well as most of the neighbouring parish of Kilchreest, are of limestone.

In ancient times, judging from its place names, it contained extensive plantations of oak (*Daire*) and other kinds of woods. There are Derryniddeen, so called from its birds' nests; Derrygeehy, from its storms; Derrynalicka, from a flag stone; Derrybrick, from its colonies of badgers; Derryshane, from a man named John; Derrylough, from its neighbouring lake; Pouladerreen and Knockaderreen, from their vicinity to oak woods; Derryleigh, the withered wood; and Crossderry, from a terminal cross, and Derreen a little wood.

Of other species of woods and plantations we have in Clonderalaw Cappanafarnoge in Killadysert, which parish, from the extent of alder plantations anciently found in it, was sometimes called *Tuaithe na Farnan*; Cloondrinagh, meaning a place which abounds in black thorns; Cullinagh, holly brakes; Crinish, a wooded island; Kilmore and Lakyle, the great and the little woods, respectively; Kiltumper (*coille tuimpe*), a wood growing upon a hill; Effernane, which testifies of alder trees, or possibly it may signify cultivated land, from *ithear* (corn producing).

As is the case throughout Ireland generally, the barony under consideration has a very large proportion of its localities named after their characteristic features of aspect, uses, soil, situation, colour, etc.

We find there—Clonderalaw, a place between two streams (*lódh*); Carrownakilla and Cloonakilla, wooded lands; Tonlegee and Tona-voher, places the one of which is turned towards the west, and the other towards a road; Slievedooly, the dark rough pasture; Aillroe, the red cliff; Carrowreagh, the brown land; Cloonkerry, from *ciar*, also signifying brown; Coolmen, the smooth corner, and Shanacool, the old corner; Gurtnanaha, from its lime kilns; Ballyna, from *ath*, (a ford); Ballynacalley, so called because it belonged to the nuns of the Killone convent; Eerribul, the tail; Moyfadda, the long plain; Blean, signifying an undulation, and Bleanmore, a wide creek; Gurtnacurra, from an adjoining marsh; Inishdadrum, from its two peaks; Inishtubrid, from its wells; Inishcorcar, from its purple flowers; Inishnacánac, from the Augustinian monks or canons who were for such a length of time its owners; Burrane, the summit, and Lisheendeen, lying in the hollow; Carrowdotia, burned land; Tarmon, church land; Leitrim, marshy ground; Knocknahoo, from its caves; Teerbarna, from a pass; Cloonarass, lying alongside a waterfall; Ballydooneen, from its little doon or *dún*; Corraige, from its rocks; Kinlea (*ceinnliath*), greyheaded; Shanakea (*caoi*), an old road; Cloonsnaghta, snow; Cloonulla, an ancient burial place; (the word *nualladh* also signifies roaring); Cooga, the fifth part; Low island comes from *luaig*, (pleasant); Shessive, a ploughland; Ballyodaun, from its clods; Crossbeg, Crossmore, and Knockacross, from their terminal crosses indicating the boundaries of church lands; Cassarnagh has its name from *casar* (a pathway); Rossclieve, a field on which stood a house constructed of wickerwork; Rusheen, the little meadow; and Poulaphooce, a well-known name requiring no explanation.

Names derived from hills are not numerous in this district. The following comprise the whole number—Knockmore, Knockalough, Knock, Knocksaggart, requiring no explanation; Lavally, a sloping hill side; Ballyvrohane, from the word *bruach*, (a mound); Crovrog:an (*cro bruachan*), a house by the hill side. In O'Brien's Rental of A.D. 1370, the place is called Curbhreachan, the meaning of which would be *curr* (a homestead), and Buachan, the name of a family. We find also Sheeaun, a hillock, and Drumdigus, from *digas*, (a high hill); and Tullycreeen, the hill plantation.

Clonderalaw has the names of only two forests, Dysert and Killadysert. These require no explanation. Of marshy lands there are only four denominations, namely, Bolooghera the rushy, and Boolydoolan the black, hill sides to which milch kine were transferred in the summer season; Ballylean, the marshy place, but called in O'Brien's Rental of 1370 *baile ni Leathain*, which would mean the home of the family of O'Lehane; and Gurtacurra, that is to say, cultivated land lying beside a marsh.

A small number of places are called after animals—these are, Breaghva, the wolf's plain, compounded of *breagh* (a wolf), and *magh* (a plain); Cloonkett, from *cata* (a sheepfold); Lackanashinnagh, from foxes; Ballygeery, from *graidh* (a herd of horses); Knockaphuteen, derived from *putain* (a hare); Ballinamweel, from *miöl*, the generic name for every kind of animal; and Cloonteengowan, heifers.

A few places get their names from plants, roots, and fruit. These are Ballycurraun, and Doonnagurroge, which are so called from the Irish word *currán*, meaning any kind of tap-rooted plant; Gortnavreaghau, from its whortleberries; Ballyartney, from *airne* (sloes); Ilaunatoo, from sorrel; and Cloonsuppeene, from wisps of rushes or hay.

There are not, in this barony, many townlands whose names indicate rocky ground, *lios*es or *cahers*. They comprise Ardnagla, from *clach* (stones); Burrin and Burrinfadda, rocky; Knappoge, rough, stony land; Craghera, Ballinacragga, Corraige, all of which imply rocks; Lack and Lacken, flag stones (these, in O'Brien's Rental of 1370, are designated *leaca na beithighe*, from the birch trees which grew about them). We find Caheracon, of the two dogs; Cahercannavaun, meaning the white bog-cotton plant; Cahermurphy, the home for many years of the family of O'Gorman, or more properly, MacGorman; Siosnafaha, of the field; Lissyvurriheen, so called from *murghin* (soft clay); and Clooneylissane, of the small *lios*.

Of family residences we find but few named in this district. They are the following:—Liscormack, Cormac's home; Dunneille, O'Neill's *dún*; Binvoran, O'Moran's hill-top; Colmanstown, Ballymacrennan, Glenconau, and Ballyvohane, called in O'Brien's Rental of A.D. 1370, Ballybuadhacain.

Only two localities seem, by their designation, to have obtained

their names from fighting. These are Cloonfurrhis, from *furachas* (watching) ; and Ahaga, the ford of the fight.

There are two place names in Clonderalaw the meaning of which I cannot interpret, viz. :—Leamnaleaha, in the parish of Kilchreest, and Conaban in Kilmihil.

BARONY OF CORCOMROE.

In the barony of Corcomroe an unusually large number of place names is derived from the physical aspect of the country. Certain parts of the district are of limestone formation, while in other neighbourhoods we find sandstone and whinstone prevailing. This variety of geological structure is the occasion of descriptive epithets, referring more particularly to colours, aspect, situation, uses, and other characteristics of the different localities constituting the barony. We have Illaunbaun and Ballybaun, from their whiteness ; Boherboy, the yellow road ; Pouliskaboy, the pond of the yellow water ; Carrowduff, the black quarter ; Gortkeel, the narrow tillage field ; Lavarreen, from the Irish word *bairighean* (a small plot of ground) ; Spaug, a long, narrow strip of townland, so called from a long, ugly foot ; Teerleheen, signifying a little field near at hand ; Ballagh, meaning a pathway ; Ballykeele, the narrow ; and Ballykinvaraga, so designated, no doubt, from a fair or market held there in former days, but of which no further record has come down to our times. We find Clogher, a stone enclosure ; Clooneen, a little flat ; Cloonomra, the pleasant field ; Cohy, from *cathagadh* (a battle-ground) ; Fanta, slopes ; Kilfenora, the fair slope, from *fin abraoidh* (light-coloured eyebrows) ; Laraghakea and Ballysallagh, muddy places ; Roughan, from a beacon fire lighted to warn the inhabitants against the incursions of the Connaughtmen or other invaders ; Ballyellery, from *eilair* (a path) ; Carrowduff and Curraghadoo, from *dubha*, the plural of *dubh* (black).

In addition to these we notice Moymore, the large field ; Aughavinna, the hilly ground, from *binn* (a hill) ; Aughiskamore and Aughiskabeg, from fords over a certain stream ; Ballaghaline (*beal atha an line*), mouth of the ford of Doolin (in English, the black pool) ; Ballinahown, from the caves found there under the cliff ; Ballynacken, hillsides ; Ballyvoe, from a cowherd's hut ; Carnaun, a heap of stones ; Carrownacleary, belonging to clerics ; Cloghaun, stepping-stones across a ford ; Coogyulla, signifying the province of Ulster, a

most unaccountable name for a place in the County of Clare ; Creggy-curridan, from the Irish word for parsnips ; Cronagort, a homestead by the cultivated lands ; Glasha, a streamlet ; Gortaclob, where water is swallowed into the ground, as it frequently happens to be in the neighbourhood of Lisdoonvarna ; Lurraga, a place having some real or imaginary resemblance to the human leg ; Poulmagun, the hound's pond or cavern ; Teerganean, a district without birds, as if such a state of things could exist in the County of Clare ; Toomullin, field of the mill ; Toornahoon, the cultivated land situate near the caves. We find further a townland named Ardnacra, from *cra* (griet) ; Ballycutteen, common land ; Ballyvorda (*bord uisge*), being the Irish word for a floodgate. In O'Brien's Rental of 1370, this place is given as *Baile ui Bhorda* (a family name), and that designation is more likely to be the true one, seeing that no stream or any necessity for a floodgate existed in the townland.

In this barony of Corcomroe we have, furthermore, the large district lying on the south-west, known to Irish-speaking people as *tuaith an rana*, which means the promontory, from the fact that it is bounded on two sides by the sea : we have Cloghaundine, deeply lying stepping stones across a brook ; Dough, sand hills ; Kineilty, from *eill* (a precipice) ; Laghcloon and Laghvally, meaning, one a small field, the other a small townland ; Tiraghbeg, the little colony, so called from the word *tireacas* (colonization) ; Carrowgar, the short townland ; Carrowkeel, the narrow, and Carrowantedaun, the windy ; Carroweragh, which means the tail, from the Irish word *err* (the end) ; Carrowmanagh, belonging in past days to the Cistercian monks of the neighbouring monastery of Kilshanny ; Carrownahoon, from its caves ; Cloonaveige, from *beiceach* (roaring) ; Cloonybreen (*bre*), a hill or headland ; Fahanlunaghta, a milking place ; Furraglan, a meeting place ; Rinneen, the little headland ; Shanbally, the old town ; Sroohill, a streamlet ; Tullygarvan, the rough hill ; Ballyalla, from its rock or cliff ; Ballydealy, a place subject to inundations ; Ballytarsna, lying overhead ; Cloongarve, a rough plain ; Crosscarnaun, meaning a cross on top of a mound of stones, doubtless a cross indicating the boundary of lands belonging to the Abbey of Kilshanny ; Drominagran, from its gravel ; Fanaleen, hill slope of the flax ; Gortnaboul, from its hollows ; Knocknaskea, from a whitethorn tree growing on

its hill top ; Porsoon, priests' land ; Smithstown, called by the IV. Masters, A.D. 1599, *bél-atha-an-gobhan* (mouth of the blacksmith's ford) ; Toormore and Tooreen, the large and small cultivated fields respectively.

In Corcomroe a considerable number of places are called after hills. For example, Knockacorn, from a heap of stones on top ; Knockaguilla, from a servant ; Dromevin, the beautiful hill ridge ; Knockanedan, from *edan* (the forehead) ; Knockaraha, from running away ; Ardmore, the great hill ; Knockroe, the red hill ; Knockanulta, burial places ; Knockatullaghaun, from the Irish word for a gimlet, but it is more likely that its name comes from the embers of a fire ; Knockdrummagh, back like ; Knockacullea, from a hind ; Knocknagraigue, a herd of horses ; Knocknappy, from *neep* (a turnip) ; Tullagroe, from *crí* (a fold for cattle) ; Tullamore, the high hill ; Coolpeekaun, a sharp point ; Clooneybreen, from *bre* (a hill) ; and Ballyvarra, from *bearradh* (hill tops).

There are some Cahers and Lioses in the barony of Corcomroe. Cahersherkin ; *seirg* is the Irish for clover, but whether the name is derived from that word I cannot say ; Caherminnaun, so named from kids ; Caheraderry needs no explanation ; Caherkinalia comes from *aill* (a cliff) ; Caherbarnagh, from its broken walls ; Caherlooskaun, from a cradle, but how a cradle should form part of the name is a mystery ; Cahercoosaun, from *cuasan* (a hollow place) ; Lisroe, the red lios ; Lisdoony, of the *dún*, a name analogous to Lisdoonvarna ; Lisket, from *cata* (a sheep fold) ; and Lisatunna, from its vicinity to a milking place.

Only four oakwoods are found named in the barony. They are Derrymore, the great wood ; Derreen, the little wood ; Derrynahillia, the wood by the cliff ; Oughtdarra, which I am unable to translate for want of a word to represent the Irish *uchd*, which literally means the human breast or lap. Of other species of plantations there are several—namely, Ballyculleeny and Cullinagh, which signify holly woods ; Ardnahea, from *eadad* (the aspen tree) ; Clooncoul, from hazel ; Beaghy, from birch ; Feagreen, the withered wood ; Gurraun, a place overgrown by underwood ; Keelkyle, the narrow wood ; Killeinagh, the ivy wood ; Rossa, which mean woods simply ; Boghil, the cattle wood ; Kilcarragh, rough wooded ; Ardnacullia and Knocknacullia, the wooded hills ; Kilmore, the great wood ; and Ardrush, the high wood.

Of marsh lands there are comparatively few names in the barony now under consideration. We observe there Moananagh, called in O'Brien's Rental *Muige na naonach*, that is the plain upon which fairs were held. We also find Moonagh, marshes; Reanalicka, the marsh of the flag stone; and Ballylaan, the wet townland

Neither are stony lands numerous. Crag, Craggaun, Gortmacloghy, Carrownaclogh; Ballysteen, from its small stones; Lickeen, the little stone; and Ballynacarrhagh, standing stones, constitute the whole number named in Corcomroe.

Animals, birds, and insects supply names for only five denominations. They are Ballyvrauneeen, so named from *bran* (rooks); Ballygoonaun, from heifers; Slievenagry and Slievenageeragh, heathy pastures of horses and sheep respectively; and Shingaunagh, named from pismires.

Just the same number of places have their names from plants and herbs, viz.:—Knocknaranhy and Rannagh, from ferns; Luogh, from *leamh* (marsh mallows) [Joyce]; Ballyherragh, from *seirg* (clover); and Ballyvrislaun, from *briosglán* (tansy).

An unusual number of localities obtain their names from people who at one time or other owned or occupied them. Ballyculleeny; Gurteenmacnamara; Ballybreen; Ballyclancahill; Ballyhomulta, a family name amongst the O'Connors; Ballyshanny; Ballyphaudeen; Kilaspuglonan (Bishop Flannan of Killaloe); Ardeamush (*Seamus*), James' home; Ballycahane; Ballycullaun; Ballyreen; Cahermaclanchy, the home of MacClanchy, the hereditary brehon of Thomond; Cahermacrusheen; Doonmacfelim, another family name of the O'Connors; Lachtmurredach, the grave of Murredach; Ballyea (*Aodh*); Ballyheeaun; Ballymaclinaun; Caherycahill; Kilconnell (*coille*); Liscannor, the lios or home of O'Connor; *Leacht ui Concobhair*, the name by which Lehinch (the promontory) is known to Irish-speaking people, and which signifies the grave of O'Connor; Lislorkan; Attycristora, Christopher O'Brien's home; Ennistymon, the river meadow of Dimán, which was a common name for a man in olden times; Knockpatrick, Ballymacreevan, and Cahereamore.