MISCELLANEA

A STONE-LAID TRACKWAY AND WOODEN TROUGHS, TIMONEY, CO. TIPPERARY: A FURTHER NOTE

In an article under the above title in vol. 17 of this Journal the writer conjectured that the troughs dated to “somewhere in the Early Christian Period” (p. 17) and that it was improbable that the trackway was in use later than the close of that period (p. 19). The site can, in fact, be more closely dated. A yew-stump bearing axe-cuts, which was found in its growing position at a depth of 150 cm. below the surface adjacent to the area with traces of human occupation, yielded a radiocarbon date of 550±120 b.p. [Radiocarbon, 3 (1961), p. 31, D-27]. It would appear, therefore, that the trackway was constructed at some time between about 1280 and 1520 A.D. The troughs, which lay below the trackway, cannot be of later date: they may be coeval with it or, perhaps, appreciably earlier. When preparing the original article, the writer was unaware of this radiocarbon date and he is grateful to Professor G. F. Mitchell, F.R.S., for subsequently drawing his attention to it.

A. T. Lucas

INSCRIBED SLAB (1635) IN QUINSPool BRIDGE

Near the south-eastern corner of what is now the Limerick city dump at Long-pavement, built into the western parapet of Quinpool Bridge, locally sometimes referred to as “The Captain’s Bridge”, is a large limestone slab bearing a Latin inscription which has never, apparently, been illustrated or entirely accurately recorded. Although built by the Mayor of Limerick (see below) and so close to Limerick City that it has for over three hundred years been considered Limerick “property”, the bridge is in Co. Clare, near Parteen. It is in the townland of Quinpool South and is indicated on O.S. 6-inch sheet 63 for Co. Clare, at a point 18.4 cm. from the northern margin and 25.8 cm. from the western margin.

The slab (Fig. 1; Plate V, 3) is almost at ground level and measures 1.21 m. by 61 cm. (1.47 m. by 72 cm. with its frame) The inscription is executed by slightly sinking the background, thus leaving the lettering in low relief. It reads as follows:

HUNC . PONTEM . AC . VIAM . STR
ATAM . FIERI . FECIT . PETRVS
CREAGH . FILIUS . ANDREÆ
MAIOR . CIVITATIS . LIMERICENSIS .
SVMPTIBUS . EIVSDEM CIVITATIS .
ANNO . DNI . 1635

This can be translated as “Peter Creagh, son of Andrew [Creagh], Mayor of Limerick, had this bridge and street made at the expense of the City of Limerick, the year of the Lord 1635”. Peter (or Pierce) Creagh FitzAndrew was Mayor in 1634, not 1635 (when Thomas FitzMartin Arthur was Mayor), so clearly the date in the inscription refers to the year of the bridge’s completion and official inauguration rather than that of its building.

69
John Ferrar, in his *The History of Limerick* ... , published in Limerick 1787, refers to the bridge when, on page 113, he writes:

1634. PIERSE CREAGH FITZANDREW, Mayor.

A man from Dublin came, 'twas said a Scot,
A patent for a ferry he had got
'Twixt Limerick and Parteen;—he did demand
So much in money to be paid in hand,
That the city with him refuses to deal,
Resolved a causeway to make for public weal,
Thro' Monabraher bog; 'twas this year done,
And so the man away with his patent run,
The disappointment operated so,
He died by the way, no more of him I know.

The causeway was finished the year following, as appears by the following inscription on the bridge, near Whitehall, the seat of Benjamin White, esq; formerly called Mile-end. [Then follows the inscription.]

Ferrar acknowledges the verses to what he calls The Davis Mss., which on page x of this Preface he describes as "Another manuscript of some antiquity, relating chiefly to Limerick, was found in the possession of the late Mr. Robert Davis, burgess. It is written in verse, and brought down no farther than the year 1680; it confirms Mr. White's in many places, and on the whole was deemed so curious, that several passages of it
have been brought into the annals of this History." He did not see the actual manuscript but tells us that he used a copy made by Ralph Ousley, esq., M.R.I.A.—it would be interesting to learn if either Davis' original manuscripts or Ousley's copies survive; likewise Mr. White's.

Maurice Lenihan, in his *Limerick, Its History and Antiquities* . . . , published in Limerick in 1866, also refers to the bridge and its inscription when, in a footnote on page 152, he writes about Pierce Creagh FitzAndrew (whom he seems to confuse with the Piers Creagh whom he gives as Mayor in 1642 and—incorrectly—1643, but who was a FitzPierce Creagh, not a Creagh FitzAndrew):

It was in his mayoralty that the causeway was finished through the Friar's bog (Monabrah), and the bridge over the causeway built, as appears by the inscription raised on a stone in the bridge in black letters. [Then follows the inscription and reference to the Davis Mss. verses.]

While Lenihan's reference adds nothing to what we know of the actual bridge—his description of the lettering as being in Black Letters is incorrect—he does, however, let us know that the bog between Limerick and the bridge was known in the late nineteenth century by an approximate English translation of its Irish name; nowadays Monabrah is the townland name, though Longpavement is that generally used for the area.

* * * * *

I am grateful to Mr. Paddy Lysaght for help in writing this note.

ETIENNE RYNNE.

“ROBERT PRINCE OF CASHELL”

In 1664 Robert Prince, of Cashel, Vo. Tipperary, issued his penny tokens. Of the six Cashel merchants who issued tokens in the seventeenth century, he is the only one to date his pieces (Plate VI, 1 and 2).

*Obverse* : ROBERT . PRI[NCE .] a star of five points, all contained within a border of circular dots and surrounding a castle enclosed within a plain circle.

*Reverse* : OF . CASH[ELL .] 1664, surrounding a plain circle enclosing the digit 1 surmounted by D and flanked by two five-pointed stars.

The specimen illustrated is weakly struck across approximately one-third of the flan, and not worn down as might be assumed from the illustration. In the seventeenth century virtually all the tokens were home-produced by the issuer concerned. The dies from which they were struck were produced to order by a master engraver—most of them in fact being produced in London. These were supplied to the merchant concerned with a number of copper blanks, and he struck the tokens himself, using a screw press of some sort—a cider press was the most common type used. If the dies were not properly fixed on the press a weak striking usually ensued, and unless the striking was so weak as to make the piece unidentifiable it was used.
John Davis White, a solicitor from Cashel, published some interesting notes in 1863 on Prince and the other merchants from Cashel who issued tokens in the seventeenth century (J. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland, 7 (1862-63), 404-412). The following excerpt relates to Prince:

Robert Prince was City Treasurer; there are several entries in the old Corporation Books in which his name is mentioned: in 1672, Mr. Robert Prince to pay £5 to the Town Clerk. The following order was made May 3rd, 1673, and is interesting of itself: "A tanack of the value of £10 voted to Richard Melsam, later Maior, as a signall and remarkable token of the Citties thanks for his good service in his Maiorality, more particularly for his strong opposing of the seditious rabell pretending right to the King’s sword, and to the Maiorall Jurisdiction and government of the sd Citty;" and it was ordered "that Mr. Robert Prince forthwith pay unto Mr. Joseph Demors hand the sum of ten pounds ster. aforesd for the sd use," this was no doubt "Damer" of whose riches fabulous stories are told, and who built the Court at Shronell; he was a common councilman of Cashel, and lent money to the Corporation.

June 12, 1677—"Ordered that Mr. Robert Prince should have a lease of that stone slated house, situate in the middle row in Cannafee street, opposite the water pype."

28th Sept., 1678—"Ordered that Mr. Robert Prince doe pay out of his hal years rent, ending at Michaelmas 1781, to ye Ld Lieutenants Serjeants at Mace, the sum of fifteen pounds sixteen shillings and eightsence, and seven shillgs and sixpence to Thomas Robinson, Esqr., Mayor of this Citty, for money expended by him for their treatment."

7th May, 1680—Thomas Meagher was at a former meeting ordered to be paid by Mr. Robert Prince the sum of £1. 10. 0. "which said sume the sd Mr. Prince upon some reasons best known to himself hath hitherto delayed to pay," ordered "that it be paid without any further delay or pretence whatsoever".

15th December, 1683—"£50 to be raised in order to the renewing of the Charter". Robert Prince, Alderman, lent the amount to the Corporation.

Robert Prince died in 1686; the following entry of his burial is taken from the Parish Registry:

"Robert Prince was buried at St. John’s, May 10th, 1686."

White also includes a line-drawing of Prince’s tombstone which was still in existence in 1863, the inscription on which reads: HERE . LIES . THE . BODY . OF . ROBART . PRINCE . WHOE . DIED . THE . SEAVENITH . DAY . OF . MAY . ANNO . DOMMINI . 1686. This inscription runs continuously around the stone, the central portion bearing the dates of the deaths of Prince’s wife and son.

Unfortunately White does not quote his sources, but for anyone who is interested in the seventeenth century history of Cashel, or indeed in Irish tokens from this period, he does provide some invaluable information, accompanied by line-drawings of all the Cashel tokens issued.

PAUL DUFFY
AN ENNIS MERCHANT'S TOKEN

During the period 1653-1679 the shortage of official coinage became so acute that many hundreds of traders and merchants throughout the country took to issuing their own small change, namely tokens. Altogether, over eight hundred different tokens are recorded from one hundred and seventy locations throughout Ireland.

The first tokens appeared in 1653 and were mainly pennies. In 1660 Thomas Armstrong was granted a monopoly to issue royal farthings. In 1661 tokens were prohibited, but nevertheless reappeared in 1663. In 1673 they were again prohibited. This second prohibition, coupled with the first issue of official coinage since 1660, seems to mark the beginning of the end for tokens. Only twenty-three differing dated specimens are recorded from 1673 to 1679. The issuing of tokens was finally prohibited in 1680 when there was a considerable striking of official half-pennies at the mint for circulation.

The only known issuer of tokens in Co. Clare was one David White who issued his token in 1679. There are three varieties of his token known. Two are recorded in Macalister's invaluable Catalogue, and examples of them are to be seen in the National Museum. The third variety is here illustrated (Plate VI, 3 and 4).

Obverse: D [ ] WHITE OF + ENNIS [rose] contained within two rope circles, surrounding a cross pattee with roses in three quarters and a dove in the fourth. The stop between D and WHITE has been effaced, but would appear to have been a rose similar to that elsewhere.

Reverse: MARC [rose] HIS [rose] HALFPENNY [ ] contained within two rope circles surrounding a crowned harp flanked by the digits 7 and 9. The stop between HALFPENNY and MARC has been effaced, but would probably have been a rose similar to that elsewhere. The digits 7 and 9 refer to the date 1679. MARC is an abbreviation for MERCHANT or MERCHANT. The piece has a rather crudely engraved edge, which is unusual as most of the tokens from this period have a plain edge. Diameter of the token is 19 mm.

I have been unable to trace any information on this David White, although a number of years ago a fellow-collector told me that he was a butcher. The device (arms?) on the obverse are certainly not those of the Butchers' Guild—a Winged Griffin (as displayed on Thomas Linch's halfpenny of Limerick City from 1679; Linch was a butcher). The dove in the fourth quarter may indicate that White was a Tallow Chandler, amongst other things, as the symbol on a number of Tallow Chandlers' tokens is a dove with an olive branch. Whoever White was, he has certainly left us with a rather beautiful memento of his sojourn in Ennis.

I am grateful to Paul Walsh, B.A., Assistant Curator of Galway City Museum for photographing the token, and to Mr. C. J. Denton, of Orpington, Kent, England, for first bringing it to my attention.

PAUL DUFFY

COASTGUARDS AT KILKEE

Visitors to Kilkeea cannot fail to notice the fine steep slipway opposite the West End Stores although they probably rarely ask why it was originally built. A coastguard detachment was stationed at Kilkeea for about 100 years and the West End Stores was originally the Coastguard Boathouse. I have been unable to trace when the coastguards first came to Kilkeea. The earliest reference I have found is in the Clare Journal for the 15th of July 1822 when they gave one day’s pay for famine relief in Clare. The boathouse was undoubtedly built about this time. The slipway was built during the late 1840s when the sea wall was constructed. Another reminder of the coastguards at the west side of Kilkeea is Look Out Hill which got its name because the coastguards regularly visited it to look out to sea from there, as it was the highest point in the area.

In 1862-63 a new coastguard station was built at the East End on the high ground behind where the Atlantic Hotel now stands (Limerick Chronicle, 24/5/1862), and the present boathouse was almost certainly built at the same time. During the Civil War the Irregulars were in control of Kilkeea and the surrounding area for about five weeks in June-July 1922. Then, on the 24th of July, as Free State troops were approaching the town, they set fire to the coastguard station, which had been their chief centre in West Clare. The building was damaged beyond repair (Clare Champion, 12/8/1922).

A group of the coastguards can be seen in number R.3897 from the Lawrence Collection of photographs, and there is also a distant view of their station in number R.11312 (Plate VII, 1 and 2 respectively).

Revd. Ignatius Murryhy

PROPHECY

After the Clare Election of 1828 the verse-makers got busy and several anti-O’Connell compositions appeared in the Ennis Chronicle and Clare Journal. The following, under the heading “Prophecy”, was published in the Clare Journal of 20th November 1828, having been copied from the Ennis Chronicle. It was written at a time when it seemed that O’Connell would never be allowed to take his seat and lists many impossible or unlikely happenings.

When Priests shall cease collecting pence
O’Brien¹ have wit, or Steele² have sense;
When Gorman Mahon³ modest grows,
And Clare forgets from whence he rose;
When loyal men come from Maynooth,
When Geary⁴ prints one word of truth;
When Mass is heard at Carrigoran⁵,
When Luggage is sent free by Bourn,⁶
When some great folks shall pay their debts,
And Vesey Fitz⁷ a friend forgets;

74
When with the Hawk, shall breed the Pigeon,
When Popery is true religion;
When Ennis Court-House walks to Clare,\(^8\)
And Thomond Bridge\(^9\) shall meet it there;
When Malbay's wave ascends Mountcallan,
When Shannon's streams run to Loughallen;
When Figs in Burren grow on thistle,
When Oysters dance, and Pigs can whistle;
When Time the Hill and Valley evens,
We'll hear O'Connell at St. Stephens.\(^10\)

**NOTES**

\(^1\) William Smith O'Brien (1803-64). M.P. for Ennis 1828-31; for Limerick County 1837-49. Young Ireland leader, transported 1849.

\(^2\) Thomas Steele (1788-1848). Born at Derrymore, Co. Clare, supporter of O'Connell who gave him the task of quelling faction fighting; hence he was given the title "Head Pacificator".


\(^4\) Daniel Geary, editor of the *Limerick Evening Post & Clare Sentinel* which strongly supported O'Connell.

\(^5\) Sir Augustine FitzGerald of Carrigoran, Newmarket-on-Fergus, was President of the Clare branch of the *Irish Society for Promoting the Education of the Native Irish through the medium of their own language*, a society which was accused of proselytising activities. The former FitzGerald house is now St. Michael's Convent.

\(^6\) A coach proprietor, whose vehicles provided a service between Ennis and Limerick—see Patrick F. Wallace, this *Journal*, 15 (1972), 44.

\(^7\) William V. FitzGerald, later Vesey-FitzGerald, became Lord FitzGerald and Vesey in 1832. M.P. for Ennis 1808-12, 1813-18, 1831-32; for Clare 1812, 1818-28. Was defeated by O'Connell in the famous Clare by-election (July 1828) occasioned by FitzGerald's appointment as President of the Board of Trade.

\(^8\) Clare is known as Clarecastle.

\(^9\) In Limerick City.

\(^10\) St. Stephen's Chapel in the Palace of Westminster was built in the 12th century during the reign of King Stephen. The House of Commons met there from 1547 until 1834, when most of the palace buildings were destroyed by fire.

**REVD. IGNATIUS MURPHY**

*The writer is indebted to Thomas P. O'Neill, Department of History, University College, Galway, for assistance with these notes.*
3. Inscribed slab (1635) in Quinspool Bridge, Co. Clare.

[Photo: E. Rynne]
1 and 2. Obverse and reverse of Robart Prince of Cashell’s 1664 token.

[Photos: Paul Walsh]

3 and 4. Obverse and reverse of David White of Ennis’ 1679 token.

[Photos: Paul Walsh]
1. Coastguards at Kilkee.

2. Coastguard station (on skyline) at Kilkee.

[Photos: Laurence Collection; courtesy of National Library of Ireland]