

Miscellanea

CRANNOGS IN LOUGH ATEDAUN, COROFIN, CO. CLARE

In October, 1972, members of the Clare Archaeological and Historical Society informed me of two crannogs that drainage, allied to the Summer's unusual dryness, had recently revealed in Lough Atedaun, just east of Corofin, Co. Clare (Fig. 1). Three days later, accompanied by Father Thomas MacNamara (then in Corofin now in Mountshannon) who had discovered the sites, I inspected them.

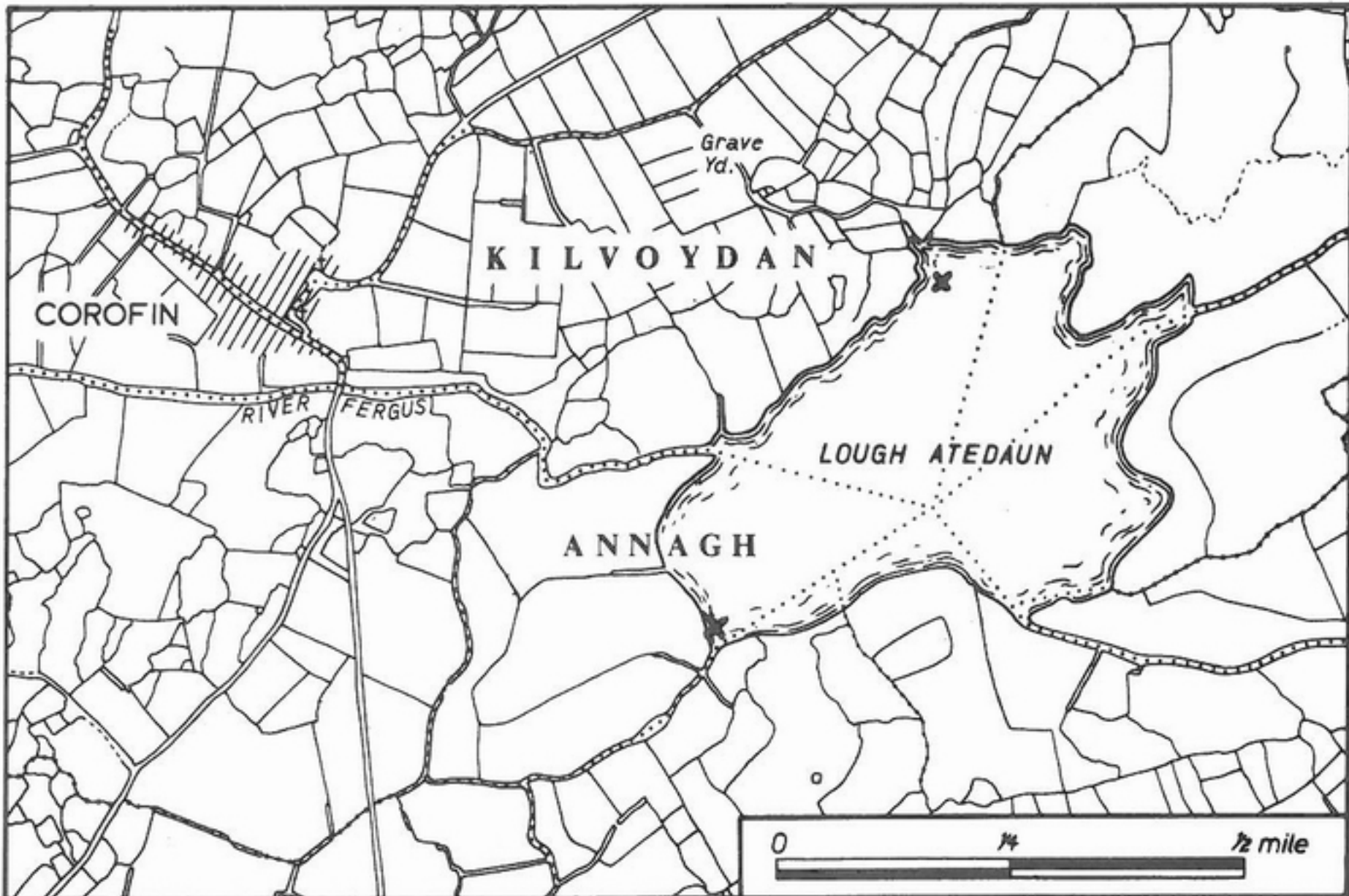


Fig. 1. Crannogs (marked by Xs) in Lough Atedaun.

The most obvious of the crannogs was about 50-80m. from the north-western shore of the lake, in the townland of Kilvoydan (O.S. 6-inch scale sheet 17, 10cm. from the southern margin and 37cm. from the western margin). It showed as a small conical pile of stones rising above the surface of the lake, but without a flat-bottomed boat it was not possible to visit the site. We were informed locally, however, that the "island" was last visible about 25-30 years ago when it was visited by boat, and that four large wooden stakes, apparently arranged in some form of square, were noticed near its centre. Some animal bones were also found in the crannog.

The other crannog (Fig. 2) was sited in the south-western corner of the lake, in the townland of Annagh (same O.S. map, 4.3cm. from the southern margin and 33.2cm. from the western margin). It is now no longer surrounded by water, though the surrounding area is still very swampy. The crannog consists of a roughly oval mound of stones which is 13.50m. NW-SE by 9.50m. SW-NE by about 1.20m. in height.



Fig. 2. Crannog in Annagh, Lough Atedaun. (Photo: E. Rynne)

Generally speaking, most Irish crannogs can be dated to some time within the first millenium after Christ, though there is little doubt but that some are earlier and others much later.¹ Due to the richness of the material often associated with them, it has sometimes been suggested that they may have been the whole- or part-time residences of a sort of 'warrior aristocracy', though this apparent richness may be to some extent due to the preservative qualities of such waterlogged sites.

About one thousand crannogs are known in Ireland, though relatively few from the southern half of the country. Indeed, only about ten or twelve have previously been recorded in Co. Clare, something which adds importance to the two new discoveries in Lough Atedaun. The other Co. Clare crannogs include the apparently Late Bronze Age lakeside structure at Knocknalappa, in Rosroe Lough, between Newmarket-on-Fergus and Sixmilebridge,² those at Knockroe, near Kilfenora,³ in Effernan Lough, near Killadysert,⁴ at Drumcliff,⁵ Ballyallia and Ballymaley (with submerged causeway), in Ballyallia Lough just 2½ miles north of Ennis,⁶ at Claureen, immediately north-west of Ennis,⁷ and at the northern end of Inchiquin Island, in Inchiquin Lough, near Corofin.⁸

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¹ See S. P. Ó Ríordáin, *Antiquities of the Irish Countryside* (5th edition, revised by R. de Valera), London 1979, pp. 89-99, for a good general account of crannogs in Ireland.

² J. Raftery, *Nth. Munster Antiq. J.*, 3 (1942-43), 53-72.

³ A. B. Ó Ríordáin, *Nth. Munster Antiq. J.*, 10 (1966-67), 71.

⁴ W. F. Wakeman, *J. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland*, 15 (1879-82), 336-339; this is the only Co. Clare crannog recorded in W. G. Wood-Martin, *The Lake Dwellings of Ireland*, Dublin 1886, pp. 219-220.

⁵ "Excavated" in 1904; see Miss D. Parkinson, *J. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland*, 35 (1905), 391-398.

⁶ For the crannogs in Ballyallia Lough see S. Spellissy, *The Other Clare*, 5 (1981), 10-11.

⁷ "Excavated" in 1904; see Parkinson, *op. cit.*, pp. 398-400.

⁸ Marked "Crannoge" on the 1913-14 edition of O.S. 6-inch scale sheet 17.

'OUR LORD'S PITY'—CORRIGENDUM ET ADDENDUM

Miss Helen M. Roe, doyenne of Irish medieval art studies, has brought to my attention a minor error in my article concerning the tablet showing 'Our Lord's Pity', in Ennis Friary, published in last year's number of this *Journal* [vol. 22 (1980), 33-37]. In it I



erroniously stated (p. 37) that Malchus, who had his ear severed by St. Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane, was the servant of Pilate—Malchus was, in fact, the servant of the High Priest, not of Pilate.

As pointed out in the above article, the ear symbol is often represented on the blade of a scimitar—the Ennis weapon is, in fact, the only true sword known to me in such a context. The reason why the ear is represented on the scimitar's blade is very graphically explained by one of the early fifteenth century carved wooden bosses in Winchester Cathedral, that over the north-eastern window in the choir (cf. C. J. P. Cave, *The Roof Bosses of Winchester Cathedral*, Winchester 1976, from which the accompanying illustration is copied).

FERGUS O'FARRELL

PROJECTED RAILWAYS TO LIMERICK, 1825-1827

In Maurice Lenihan's *Limerick: Its History and Antiquities* (Limerick 1866), it is mentioned that in 1826 an Act was passed to make possible a railroad from Limerick to Carrick-on-Suir. Nothing was done at the time, however, and the first section of the railway to be completed was that between Limerick and Tipperary (opened in 1848); the line was later extended to Waterford, in 1854 (Lenihan, pp. 469 and 477). A few stray references in the *Clare Journal* (abbreviated to *C.J.* in references below) give a little more information about possible railway developments from Limerick in the mid-1820s, nearly ten years before the opening of the first line in Ireland, Dublin to Kingstown, in December 1834.

In January 1825 it was announced that a company had been formed to build a railroad between Limerick and Carrick-on-Suir, to run through Tipperary, Cahir and Clonmel (*C.J.*, 20/1/1825). The commercial advantage offered was that merchandise from Limerick could easily be conveyed from Carrick to Waterford, and from there by steam packets to Bristol. This would, according to the sponsors, be a much more satisfactory way of getting merchandise from Limerick to London than by the dangerous sea route through the lower Shannon and round Land's End (*C.J.*, 10/1/1825). However, the Limerick merchants took a different view. The *Clare Journal* of 3 February 1825 announced:

We have learned with surprise, that the Merchants of the Chamber of Commerce of Limerick, have declared themselves hostile to the project of a Rail Road from Waterford to Limerick. This narrow and short-sighted policy, strikes us as not only unworthy of the age in which we live, but highly inimical

to their own welfare....It is notorious, that there exists more vexatious extortion in the markets of Limerick, than in those of Clonmel, Waterford and Cork. Will the Landed Proprietors of the County Limerick allow their interests to be sacrificed to the monopoly thus sought?

Despite the Limerick opposition the sponsors of the project went ahead with their plans and in October it was announced that the estimated expenses was £165,000 (*C.J.*, 6/10/1825). In 1826, as Lenihan has pointed out, parliamentary approval was obtained. In 1827 the directors of what was now the *Limerick & Waterford Railway Company* issued an optimistic report (*C.J.*, 21/5/1827). This optimism was without much foundation. A meeting in Limerick in early September, chaired by the Mayor, was attended by less than twenty people (*C.J.*, 10/9/1827). The representatives of the directors explained that their plans for the Clonmel-Waterford section of the line had been abandoned and that it was proposed to begin with a line from Clonmel to Cashel. Clearly this plan also fell through and nothing concrete happened for another twenty years.

When the possibility of a railway from Limerick to Carrick-on-Suir/Waterford was first raised, there were also proposals for a line from Limerick to Cork (*C.J.*, 3/2/1825). A meeting was held in Cork in late February 1825 and a committee formed. Again, the Limerick Chamber of Commerce refused to co-operate, fearing, probably on good grounds, that the trade of Limerick port would be damaged (*C.J.*, 28/2/1825). At a meeting of the committee in Cork, in August 1825, it was presented with a report by an engineer, Mr. Griffiths. The report not only dealt with the use of steam locomotives on the line but also pointed out that the transport of goods by horse-drawn carriages on a railroad was considerably more economical than road transport. The line was planned to pass near the towns of Mallow, Buttevant, Charleville and Bruree on its way to Limerick (*C.J.*, 18/8/1825). There appear to be no further references to the Cork-Limerick line in the *Clare Journal*, probably because of lack of interest at the Limerick end.

IGNATIUS MURPHY

KILRUSH DOCUMENTS

In the Public Records Office of Ireland is a collection of documents from the Leconfield Estate Office, Ennis, acquired in August 1976 through the good offices of Críostóir Ó Floinn, Gleann na gCaorach, Co. Átha Cliath. It includes leases of the Vandeleur family of Kilrush dating from 1816 until 1929 and rentals of the estates of Lord Leconfield dating from 1846 until 1917.

The Vandeleur leases are divided according to the lessor. Four members of the family are involved—John Ormsby, Crofton Moore, Hector Stewart and Alexander Moore.

Apart from leases, there are also proposals to lease (which often include coloured location sketches), agreements to caretake property (at a wage of one penny a week as a servant) and deeds of purchase. Other items cover dealings with the Irish Land Commission (including the fixing of judicial rents) and the Inland Revenue, while about fifteen items cover timber planting, timber felling and the grazing of livestock on the Vandeleur estate. There is also a large selection of correspondence.

In all, thirty-five leases are involved (including two which are for shooting rights). Most

of the property is in Kilrush and the street names often betray the family connection. Apart from Hector Street, Moore Street, Stewart Street, Vandeleur Road and Vandeleur Street, other street-names mentioned are Back Street, Burton Street, Chapel Lane and Chapel Street, Frances Street, Henry Street, High Street, Main Street, Malt House Lane, Market Square, Pound Street and Toler Street. Little property outside the town is mentioned, but land at Ballynote and West Cappa in the parish of Kilrush and barony of Moyarta, and land at Carrowdotia and Cloneylessane in the parish of Killimer and barony of Clonderalaw, is referred to.

Often the leases are of parchment and in most cases a colour location sketch of the property is included. The earliest lease is for a plot of ground in Chapel Lane, Kilrush, and was drawn up in 1816; in 1843 the tenant was evicted for the non payment of rent. Usually the occupation of the lessee is given: most are shopkeepers, but a police constable, victualler, innkeeper, tanner, cornbuyer, merchant, blacksmith, carpenter, as well as farmers, also figure. One lease notes that the lessee had erected a mill on the property. The duration of the leases varies: it may be for lives or for years. The amount of annual rent also varies. In a series of leases from Hector Stewart Vandeleur to John Cavanagh Mahony covering the period from 1886 until 1901, the original rents in all cases were reduced in 1909.

Of the victims of the "Vandeleur Evictions—Kilrush 1888" mentioned by Ignatius Murphy [*The Other Clare*, 4 (1980), 37-41], only one appears in the leases in this collection. If it is the same John Clancy who is in question, he held a lease for 999 years from Colonel Crofton Moore Vandeleur for a plot of ground in Henry Street at the yearly rent of £8.8.0 sterling. His occupation is returned as shopkeeper. Naturally no mention is made of his association with the National League.

Under the proposals to lease, it is not only plots of ground which are specified but also cutaway wood. In one case, a lease of a house in Moore Street/Stewart Street, the rent is specified at five shillings per foot, the "frontage rate of that street". Among several unexecuted leases one which would have used the front room of the Market House for "Cinematograph Entertainments"; that was in 1918—in February 1929 the Ennis Men's Confraternity wrote to the Bishop of Killaloe requesting the closure of the cinema during their Monday devotions, according to a letter also in the collection. One proposal was to act as caretaker at the Ballyerra lime kilns at one penny per week with permission "to remove some culm and unsold lime and manure which are at present in the Lime Kiln premises".

The rentals of the estates of Lord Leconfield in Ireland cover rent books and rent ledgers. The lessors are Henry and Charles Henry Leconfield. The rent ledgers include pertinent comments on the increase or reduction of rents, on the fixture of rents and on the state of the lessor or the family. Comments on age, poverty, health and family situation reveal great hardship. In one case all arrears were cancelled and in others notes were kept of the meal supplied.

Also included in the Leconfield estate papers is a book of expenditure of tolls and customs for the town of Ennis which covers the years 1846-1873. Account is kept of the expenditure incurred in paying for labour, in stocking model farms, in the drainage of farms, in building houses and schools, in lowering river beds, and in building roads.

A turbary book is also included, in which the tenants, their rents and their holdings on the seven Leconfield bogs are listed.

The accession number of the collection is 1074, and approximately four hundred items are involved. Miss Anne Marie Carruthers is to be thanked for arranging the listing the collection, copies of which lists have been deposited in the County Library, Ennis.

AIDEEN IRELAND

FACTION FIGHTING IN CO. LIMERICK, 1875

The 1830s saw the end of the great faction fights in Limerick and Tipperary, but the decline was a gradual one.¹ and incidents of faction fighting were recorded down to 1887.² The Three Year Olds and the Four Year Olds, perhaps the best known factions of all, were still in existence near the end of the century.³

On Monday, the 7th of June 1875, the *Freeman's Journal* carried an account of a serious incident, involving Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds, which had taken place at Dromkeen on the previous Thursday. Maurice Lenihan's newspaper, the *Limerick Reporter and Tipperary Vindicator*, on the 8th of June also reported the affair. Local sensibilities were obviously upset, and an anonymous writer denied the reports, although in his letter, published in the latter newspaper on the 15th of June, he implicitly admitted that the area had been disturbed. The local curate, Fr. Duggan, also wrote to the same paper on the same date, accusing the writer in the *Freeman's Journal* of imaginative reporting, and chiding Lenihan for repeating the story in his newspaper. The latter explained that "all this comes of a bad system of getting 'news' too quickly".

There were other indications of factionist activity in the area at the time. At the Limerick County Petty Sessions, some days previously, Thomas Mulcahy from New Pallas, a member of the Three Year Old faction, had been charged with having committed a savage assault upon James Tivey, who was associated with the Four Year Olds (*Limerick Reporter*, 11/6/1875). In the same edition of the *Limerick Reporter* (15/6/1875) which carried Fr. Duggan's letter the following item appeared:

FACTIONS RECONCILED

During the past fortnight a mission of the Oblate Fathers has been conducted in the district of Doon, one of the objects of which was to promote the reconciliation of the factions which still exist in the neighbourhood. It is stated that the heads of the parties were brought together and induced to enter into a treaty of peace for the future.

SEAN MARRINAN

¹ Caoimhín Ó Danachair, "Faction Fighting in County Limerick", *Nth. Munster Antiq. J.*, 10 (1966-67), 53.

² Patrick O'Donnell, *The Irish Faction Fighters of the 19th Century*, Dublin 1975, p. 79.

³ W. R. Le Fanu, *Seventy Years of Irish Life*, London 1893, p. 31.