Some Further Place-Names of Coshma

THE PARISH OF BANOUGUE.

By DAVID CANTWELL

Banogue has been raised to the status of a parish only within the last hundred years. During the 17th and 18th centuries and up to the year 1861, when it became an independent unit of diocesan administration, the area which is now embraced in it—the townlands which constitute it—had formed an integral part of the ancient parish of Croom. Its place-names, therefore, form the natural and historical complement of those of that Parish published in this Journal in its 1952 issue. There is a remarkable dearth of historical record not only of the county at large but of this district in particular, alike during the periods of Irish and of Norman influence; this absence of authority provides no help towards a definite recognition of the ancient or original forms of the place-names. These, however, are pretty generously treated in the Civil Survey of Limerick, and as given there, supply the foundation and authority for the majority of the forms set out in the list below.

This Civil Survey of Limerick, made to the order of the Cromwellian Government in 1654, refers in its findings to the boundaries of baronies, parishes and townlands, and to their areas, as well as to the names, religion, and political tendencies of the land-holders as these conditions obtained in the year 1640. It sets out as having been in the parish of Croom all the townlands which make up the present Parish of Banogue, with the possible exception of one or two which will be noted below as they arise. Tradition, so often and so generously associated with place-names, gilding or glooming the distant reality, is, like the historical authority, singularly absent here, and where it does exist is of so nebulous and uncertain a variety as to be of little help towards the explanation of the origin of the names.

In the year 1704, Rev. John Cantillon was granted a licence under the Catholic Relief Act of 1702 to act as Parish Priest of the amalgamated parishes of Anhid, Croom, Disert and Killonahan. He administered this large area from Anhid, which he made his headquarters. These conditions persisted until the year 1861, when under diocesan adjustments Banogue emerged as an individual parish.

The penal-day mass-house which served this part of the 18th century parish was built, or which is more likely, adapted as a chapel probably about the 1720s and continued to function until the present parish church, since much renovated, improved and enlarged, was built about 1825 by Father Harnett, Parish Priest of the united parishes taken over by Father Cantillon at the beginning of the previous century. The original mass-house was in the townland of Ballynamanogue, which name in its contracted form, and because of the place being so long associated with the old chapel became the name of the future parish of Banogue.

In "The Place-names of the Parish of Croom," which appeared in this Journal for 1952 some errors occurred. In expressing my regret for these errors I propose with the kind permission of the Editor to correct them briefly here, Ballygrennan should have been in its Irish form Baile Dhroineánaigh, Thornton's residence, and not as given. The word
Garán, a shrubbery, etc., is incorrectly spelled in the three place-names in which it arises, and An Mháigh the general and authoritative name for the River Maigue was not included in the list, from which also were omitted the name: “The Hovel,” with its Irish form Nua-Chongháill, meaning an ecclesiastical residence, a graveyard, etc., and as well Shan-avan, Shean-Bhean, a field name in Caherass. In the note on Croom, page 138, the sentence “Croom lay entirely on the western bank . . .” should read “Much of Croom was on the western bank . . .,” and three lines lower down in the same note “. . . the present site of the townlands” should read “. . . the present site of the town.” In the final note on page 142 Lon na n-Each is inadvertently spelled with an “h” instead of an “ne” before “Each.”

**Ballinfreera**

*Baile an Phrioraigh:* The residence of (the man called) Prior.

**Ballinta**

*Baile an tSámlha:* The townland of the sorrel.

**Ballintab**

**Ballyculeen**

Probably *Baile Cuilín:* The townland of the little wood, or possibly *Baile Cuilinn:* The place of holly.

**Ballymacrory**

*Baile mac Ruairí:* The residence of the sons of Rory. Who Rory was or why his sons are perpetuated in this place-name must remain a mystery. The shape of the name which parallels that of Cluain-mac-Nois, Cill-mac-Duaich, and many others of the early centuries of Christianity suggests a high antiquity.

**Ballynabangogue**

*Baile na Bánóige:* The townland of the small green-field. The field in question is considered to be on the farm of Mr. Noonan beside the Glasha stream. In it is a double-ringed fort with unusually low walls.

(1) **Ballyphilip**
(2) ** Fearanphilip**

**Banogue**

*Bánóg:* A small green field, a smooth grassy lawn. This is the same name and townland as Ballynabangogue above. It provided the Parish name also because of having been the site of the original Mass-house.

**Boherard**

*Bothar Ard:* The high road. There is a large graveyard about a Church ruin in this townland. The “high road” of the name comes from a carriage-wide track on top of a high earthen bank, still locally remembered as the “double ditch.” When pigs were “walked” from this district to the market in Limerick their journey began with the “double ditch,” where by arrangement, they were collected by the farmers and driven as a flock.

**Bohernaganny**

*Bothar na Gaínnehe:* The road of the sand at Rostemple.

**The Caher**

*An Chatair:* The strong or stone fort. This is in Ballinfreera townland but only a short portion of a great earthen bank is now standing.

**Clorane**

*Cloicheán:* The Stony place.

**Cherrygrove**

This is a purely English name and though recognised as a townland by Father Harnett in 1520, was then, as it is now, only a part of the townland of Ballynabangogue. Fitzgerald (History of Limerick) names it as being the residence of Mr. Harding (1826). This gentleman later changed his residence to Rockhill parish and called it Harding-grove which name still persists. It is not unlikely that he is also responsible for the name Cherry-grove.
Probably (1) Corn na Craoihe; or (2) Corrán na Craoihe: (1) The burial mound of the tree, and (2) the round-topped hill of the tree. The configuration of the land endorses the second form as a very likely explanation but at the same time does not exclude the possibility of the first suggestion.

Coshma

Cosh Maighe: The district beside the Maigue. This name “Coshma” seems to have completely displaced and replaced the old tribal nomenclature, Ul Cairebre Aofs, Ul Conaili Gabhra, by the end of the fifteenth century. It became then or later the name of the barony in which is the Parish of Banogue.

Creanessa

Probably Croidhean Beag. Croidhean is a personal name but it is difficult to explain its application here. In the mid-seventeenth century this was an area of some fifty acres lying between Inchinchale and Ballyphilip. The name is lost.

Creibsveeg

Crabthan Beag: The small tree. This tree which occurs in three place-names here must have had some unusual or interesting associations which tradition has lost sight of. It is worth noting that this townland had only one land-holder in 1640, one Dundon who is among those who were transported across the Shannon after the war. It has but one land-holder to-day whose farm is the entire townland and is the same area as that of the transplanted Dundon of 1640.

Dohora

Dubh-churchoch: The black marsh. This is a rather extensive townland in which is situated the parish Church. The authority for the Irish form of the name is Father Noonan’s Parish Register (Croom), 1770-1790.

Dohora Hill

Cnoc Baile mhic Fheorais: The hill of the residence of Mac Feorais. Mac Feorais is the Irish equivalent of BERMINGHAM and is generally shortened to Ceorish or Corish, a not uncommon name in Tipperary and Wexford. Feorais is the Irish name of the spindle-tree, but how its son came to be equated with Bermingham I do not know.

Dunkip

(1) Dún Aicead, (2) Dún Ceiphe and (3) Dún Cip: These three forms of the name are placed in the order of their seniority; I make no attempt to explain them beyond suggesting that Aicead and Ceiphe are personal names. In this townland in a curve of the Camogue River was a church belonging to Croom. Slight mounds in the grassy corcass lands still indicate its site. Here also was a fort garrisoned by Brian Boruimhe.

The Glosse

An Ghlaise: The spring-water (transparent) stream, a very general name for Irish streams with waters of highly transparent qualities. It comes from the south-western slopes of Cnoc Firinne and enters the Maigue at Röstempe. Traditionally it is a spawning rendezvous of salmon and it continues to live up to its reputation as such.

Glenbevan

An Gleann: The Glen. The “bevan” here is an intrusion of the cognomen of a Dutchman, Simon Bevan or Van Bevan who lived here for some time upwards of eighty years ago. The Irish and Dutch names combined so smoothly, that the combination which lasted, led local folk interested in such matters, to believe that the “bevan” was BEIBHEANN, the name of the wife and daughter of Brian Boru, who in his campaigns had placed garrisons in the neighbourhood.
Possibly Gort na Sodán: The garden of the easy-going workmen, the garden having been badly tilled or badly harvested. The "d" of "sodane" is distinctly slender in the local pronunciation, suggesting the spelling "soideal", which is beyond me.

(1) Inse an Cheirigh; (2) Inse Ui Cheirigh: Both forms have the same meaning, Clery's or O'Clery's river-meadow. This Clery may well be the same name as that in adjacent and ancient Drumin Ui Cheirigh, the Drommin of the present day.

Kinada

?Cinn Bhada: The long ones. This is a field name in Ballinfreera townland and the English rendering—from the suggested Irish formation—seems to suit the fact that the field which is a long one was ridged on its length.

Kyle

Coill, a wood; or possibly Cill, a disused burial ground. Owing to similarity of pronunciation, it is difficult sometimes, in the absence of external evidence like tradition, to distinguish between the two words.

Knockaunicer

Crocan na Croibhe: The little hill of the tree. This townland is in Rockhill Parish but is introduced here as being beside Croadh Beag and Carra na Croibhe above, thus further calling attention to the local importance to which the tree in question sometime attained.

Lynevore (1)

(1) Linn Mhor: The big pool;

Lyneveg (2)

(2) Linn Bheag: The little pool;

Lynealthulun (3)

(3) Linn na Taghain: The pool in the land. (1) and (2) are in Glenbevan, (3) in Ballinfreera. All are noted salmon haunts on the Maigue.

Moreenuine

Most probably Boirneán: The rocky place. Bornane is the form used in the Civil Survey, where "the two Borenanes" are said to be in the Parish of Granagh (O'Connell's Barony) but are "claimed to be part of the Parish of Moreaneous." Moreanneer was, however, in the 18th century Parish of Croom.

Mountain (1)
Mountane (2)

(1) and (2) Moointean: A coarse boggy field. Both are field names.

The Mullanes

Either Na Mulláin: The little summits or Na Moidain: The bare heights. This is a small area between Ballymacrory and Dohora; the name is now lost.

Powlanina

Poll na nDoimhne: The pool of the (great) depths, in the townland of Pollough.

Pollough

Pollach: The place of the pools. Poll na Carraighe: The rock pool on the Maigue at Ballinfreera.

Rostemple

Ros (an) Teampail: The march of the Church.

Tobarnavaneen

Tobar na bhFiann: The well of the Fianna, in Moreaneen.

Tulloyvin

Tulach Finn: Fionn's Hill.

Yielding's Court
and Belview

owe their name to a Scotchman named Yielding who settled there within the past century. The former name passed out with the settler but the latter still survives, an imposition on Ballinfreera.