NOTES ON PLACE NAMES
IN NORTH-EAST OF
COUNTY LIMERICK.

PART II. CONTINUED.

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Continued from page 266.

TUBBERMOLUG.—The townland of Tubbermolug contained several forts, and in one of them some swords were found several years ago; the name means "well of my Lug." The well is now dry, to account for which is told the usual tale of the desecration of the well, which is in the middle of a field, and not far from it is a large sunken fort. About three years ago a gravelled walk was found encircling the well; and at the same were found three quern stones; but a small, much dilapidated ulaidh, or altar, was destroyed, being supposed to be a heap of old stones. A Pattern was held here and attended by people from distant places, but the date is not now known. Two saints of the same name are connected with places in the County of Limerick—Molua of Emly-Grennan, and Finnlug of Doon.

A life of the former is given by O'Hanlon at August 4th, and in the Cal of Oengus, he is termed the holy, kingly, champion, Molua Mac Oíche, which does not mean that he was son of Oíche, but that he was son of Oíche, of Limerick, a branch of the Mairtine, who held the Tullylease district. According to Keating, Molua was son of Aimhirgin, son of Eirnin, son of Duach, son of Brian, son of Eochaidh Mogh. The Corca Oíche, of Munster, are mentioned by Keating in the "Chronicum Scotorum," and also in O'Hanlon's Life of St. Ita, of Killeedy.

DOON.—The life of St. Finnlug, of Doon, will be found in O'Hanlon's Lives, at January 3rd, and connected with Doon were also St. Finnian and St. Colman Mac Finnchadh, the latter is also in the Calendar of Oengus, at November 1st, connected with Cluain Bruices, and Dun Flesce, which in the Calendar of Oengus, according to the Gloss at January 3rd, is given as an alternative name Dun Blesce, the
fort of the Blasc, stated to be the name of the Doon stream, thus, Blasc and Flesc are variants of the same old word, the origin of which is bal, fal, or bhal, "bright." For words containing the letters "sc," see Windisch, Irish Grammar, and for the roots, bal and fal, see Whitley Stokes' "Lismore Lives of Saints," and Rhys' "Hilbert Lectures."

The mound of the old dun is near the village of Doon, and this dun was at first one of the royal forts of the Ui Cuanach who held Cullen and Pallasgreen. According to the Leabhar Oiris (Eriu, vol. I.), Aodh Mac Lochlainn, King of Ui Cuanach, fought at Clontarf in 1014, and according to the same authority, Dunghal O Donnchadha, King of Eoghanacht Locha Lein (Killarney) was slain in 1015 at Grian Cliach, while plundering that district, by Finn Mac Ruadraighern Donnagain, King of Ara. Grian Cliach and Ara are the Pallasgreen and Birdhill districts respectively. The O'Briens succeeded the O'Donnagans in the district of Cnocan an ein fhinn, the hill of the white bird (a species of eagle), now Birdhill in the County Tipperary. I have given the legend of Birdhill in the Cork Arch. Journal.

In the Calendar of Oengus, in the Gloss at January 3, it is stated that the dun of the Blasc was bestowed on Finntan, the delta or pupil of Comgall of Bangor, the rampart of the dun is termed mur, and it is stated that the dun became the cathair or "monastery" of Finntan. Mur and dun have vanished, but the mound of this old dun, this royal fort, which was presented to the Church as a site for a monastery by the King of Ui Cuanach, still remains. I have been informed that there was at Doon a grave in the burial ground, where the old people said the son of the King of France was buried. This is not impossible, for a torch which was once the light of Europe, was held aloft in the land of Erin, and many distinguished foreigners sought and found a culture in the Irish monasteries, which at the time they could find nowhere else throughout the length and breadth of Europe.

In Adamnan's "Life of Columcille" will be found some particulars of the fair-haired Lug of Doon. In the "Book of Rights" it is not stated by O'Donovan who the Ui Cuanach of Limerick were, but the name means race of Cuan, a name equivalent to Cian, and hence for this and other reasons, I take the Ui Cuanach to be identical with the Cianachta, or race of Cian, son of Tadg, son of Oilioll Olom. This is
the reason why Findlug of Dun Bleisce in Uí Cuanach was also, according to the Calendar of Oengus, a saint in Tamlachta Findlogain in Cianachta of Glenn Gemin, now Glengiven.

MOUNT (2) BRUIS.—In Joyce’s “Irish Names of Places,” the Bruis of Mount Bruis is referred to the term Brugh, and the old name is Cluain Bruices. In this place there was also an old fort which was passed over to the Church when Colman Mac Finnchadha founded his monastery there. In O’Hanlon’s “Life of St. Brendan, the Navigator,” there is a curious legend concerning a visit paid by St. Brendan to Mount Bruis. It appears from the genealogy of the Dal gCais that Brendan was a favourite patron of the Dal gCais of Deise Beg (Small County).

LINFIELD ROCK.—Several of the disciples of Columb Cille belonged to the Cianachta of Glen Gemin, and hence it is interesting that the only old church in the Co. Limerick dedicated to Columb Cille is in the territory of Uí Cuanach. I refer to the old church site on the top of Linfield Rock, the old name of which, according to local tradition, is Cill Coluim Cille, the rock being called Carraig Coluim Cille, and the well being termed Tobar a’ rioghchearaidh, the well of the royal champion, or Columb Cille, which appears to be the well named Tober-narnghilia on the O. S. map.

SKEHARD.—Adjoining the townland of Carrigoreelly is the one now named Skehard, or high whitethorn bush, since in this townland the whitethorn bushes, according to local tradition, grew to a great height. It appears, however, from the Down Survey, that the old name of Skehard is Dunmona, a name not now remembered in the district. Dunmona means the fort of the bog, and the name of the bog, now good pasture land, is well known as Monagael, which appears to mean bog of the marshy stream, which separates Skehard from Inch St. Lawrence. The bog lay between the stream and the mound close to Mr. Laffan’s house. The mound is surrounded by what look like the remains of three stone circles, but which only represent the murs or ramparts, the earth and smaller stones having disappeared, and only

(2) In Mount Bruis, the mount is the present term for the mound of the dun. In the mount were found, many years ago, human bones when an attempt was made to remove the mound for top-dressing, but when it was found that the mount was a burial mound it was left as it is at present.
some of the larger stones being left. Hence, FitzGerald, in his article on Isert Lawrence, says that there are some remains of an ancient rath at Scaghard. From time to time large portions of the mound of the dun have been removed, and about a hundred years ago the skeleton of a man, buried in standing position, was found in the mound. We read that King Laoghaire Mac Neill was buried in standing position in Raith Laoghaire, at Tara, and so also was Boghan Bel, the great Connaught warrior king. According to Keating, Slaingehe, the Firbolg king, was buried (3) in the dumha, or mound of Dumnha Slaingehe, also called Dinn Righ, the old capital of Leinster.

A short distance from Dunmona, and close to the road, stand two whitethorn bushes which mark the site of Cill a' bhothair, the church of the road. There was a well here, but it has long been covered in, and the exact site is not known. Unbaptised children were buried here; but some years ago, when the road was repaired, the bones of adults were found. This is a very ancient Christian Church site and burial ground, but having been long disused, the bodies of unbaptised children were interred here.

HIGH PARK or ARD GORT.—Adjoining Skehard is the hill of Knock Fleming, in the townland of High Park or Ard Gort, on which stands an immense pillar stone. According to Fitzgerald there is a stone circle, near High Park, where a number of stones are to be seen, some lying in confusion, others in circles, or direct lines. It is remarkable that they are all round, and one large stone, detached from the rest, stands erect, which measures nine feet in height, nearly the same in breadth, and is four feet thick on one side.” All these stones of Knock Fleming, save the large one, were removed over sixty years ago. The cross roads here are called Keating’s Cross, and here also is the glebe of Kilcoolen, the church of the little angle, here are the sites of a church and a castle termed Shanawally, i.e., Sean bhaile, the old baile, or enclosure, and close to the stream at Bohermore is a large stone named Art, which is an old word for stone. According to a local tale, when

(3) O'Curry (MS. Lect., p. 447), says that Eremon died at Raith Beothaigh, in Argat Ross, in which he was buried, and that this ancient fort beside the Nore is still in existence. It is of irregular, oblong and very unusual form, with a deep fosse on one side and the river on the other. O'Curry says that there is good reason to believe that the floor is hollow, and that probably the tomb of Eremon himself still remains in it. Raith Beothaigh, the rath of Beothach, is now named Rathbeagh, and is in the parish of Rathbeagh, barony of Galmoy, Co. Kilkenny.
the monks were expelled from Ludden Abbey, they buried their valuables near the site of Kilcoolen Church, and no snow will remain on the site, being melted by the gold. The gold is supposed to send forth rays of light and waves of heat. This is a very old notion; thus, in Goethe's "Faust," a flame glimmers above the place where gold is concealed, the flame arising from the buried gold.

KNOCKATANACASHLANE townland included, according to the Down Survey Map, portion of the present village of Caherconlish, and the name means hill of the old castle, of which nothing is left save portions of the bawn walls and small towers. Professor Hull, in his Physical Geology and Geography of Ireland, refers to this hill and Knockroe as illustrations of submarine volcanic eruptions. On the river Groody, near the hill, is the site of a mill, and a field near the site is called the mill field, the second mill of Caherconlish was near the R.I.C. Barracks. Both mills are marked on the Down Survey Map. A solitary mounted sentry is stated by the old people to be still on duty at Knockatanacashlane, and this is all that is left to record from local sources of one of the proudest castles of the Burkes of Clanwilliam. Some interesting particulars concerning Caherconlish Church are given by Dimley, and in Mr. Grene Barry's "Burkes of Clanwilliam" will be found the names of the last Burke owners of some of the castles mentioned in these notes. The History of Limerick by Lenihan and Fitzgerald also contain some items which need not be repeated here.

BALLYHODANE.—In a State Paper, dated 1243, is a list of the Manors in Munster, which belonged to Richard de Burgh, and in this list occurs the Manor of Ballyhodane and Tristelawran, now Isert Lawrence, tristel being a corrupted form of Disert, and Lawran being for Lawrence.

Balihodane is a townland in Isert Lawrence parish, and in this townland are several forts and a number of small mounds, which the people regard as sepulchral, and say that a great battle was one time fought in Ballyhoodane, whether Ballyhoodane is named from these mounds, or contains some old family name, I do not know, and I could obtain no local explanation of the name.

CASTLE ERKIN.—In the list of manors is also mentioned the Manor of Castle Wilikin, which is equivalent to the Irish Caislean
Uilcin, regarded by O’Donovan, in the Annals of the Four Masters, and in his Supplement to O’Reilly’s Dict. as the origin of Castle Erkin, the name of a townland in Caherconlish parish. The site of the castle is a little north of the burial ground of Kilmurry, on the farm of Mr. Bateman, and close to Kilmurry is an earthwork, locally called moat. Close to this in Sparrowsfield is a second earthwork also called moat. Castle Erkin is locally explained Castle of Erkin, “a man who lived long ago in the castle,” and this is all that is known about him in the place where he built his castle (4).

(4) In 1237, a Scotch merchant, named Erkin, got license to trade in Ireland. (See Civil Survey, 1657, Public Record Office, Ireland, and “Castles of County Limerick,” by T. J. Westropp, M.A.) Trans. R.I.A.—Ed.