

# Hospital

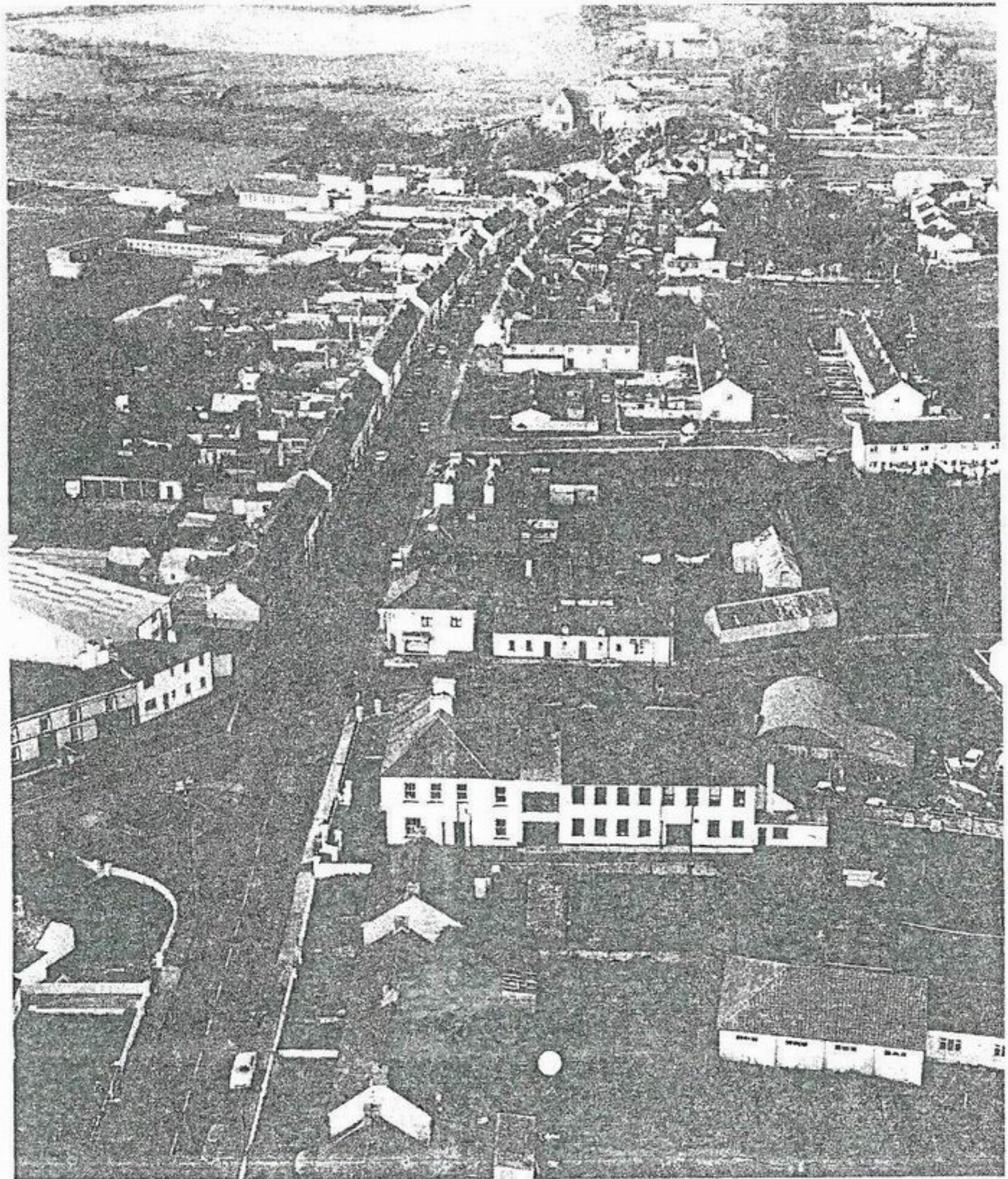
## Knockainy

**H**OSPITAL, or Hospital of Anye, derives its name from a preceptory of St. John the Baptist which was founded here, in the Glen of Anye, by Geoffrey de Marisco. The Glen of Anye, like the nearby Hill of Anye, predates the arrival of the Anglo-Normans.

ANYE OR AINE is remembered as the daughter of a *Tuatha de Danann* chieftain; a Celtic sun-goddess; and the banshee whose appearance, and keening heralded the imminent death of a Fitzgerald of Desmond. She is still commemorated in the place-names of this part of the county; *Ospideál, Aíne*, Hospital of Anye; *Rath Aíne*, the Fort of Anye; *Cnoc Aíne*, the Hill of Anye; *Clochán Aíne*, the Valley of Anye; and *Aíne Cliach*, which is generally translated as the Territory of Anye.

KNOCKAINY derives its name from *Cnoc Aíne*. Anye is believed to have had her fairy palace on the summit of this hill, which was named after her. Michael Mitchell, whose new house is located on what was originally Knockainy Fair Green, showed me Aine's Throne, a rock formation located on the upper section of a field north-west of his house. *Carn Aíne*, Anye's Cairn, on the highest summit of Knockainy Hill has an ordnance survey marker placed on it. There is a large rath, or earth-fort, on the western summit which is simply known as the Fort. Mid-way between these two summits, on a lower level north of Aíne's Throne, is an area known as *Mullach an Triúir*, the Summit of the Three, but I was able to find only two of the three ring-barrows from which it took its name. A circular enclosure with a small cairn in its centre, north of *Mullach an Triúir*, and last noted in 1967, also seems to have disappeared.

**THE FAIR OF ANYE**, *Aonach Aíne*, was held here in ancient times, at the beginning of the harvest, probably to coincide with the feast of *Lughnasa* on 1 August. This fair was probably a religious occasion as well as a public assembly, because the custom of bringing burning bundles of hay or straw to the summit of Knockainy Hill, on poles, was continued into the nineteenth century, until 1879. The men who carried these flaming burdens to the top of the hill made a circuit of



*Aerial view of Hospital.*

*Mullach an Triúir* before returning downhill to visit the village, fields and animal herds in order to wish them good luck.

**THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM** was founded in the early twelfth century to care for pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. This establishment later extended its activities to care for the sick and provide armed escorts for visitors on pilgrimage. The Knights Hospitallers, an army of mounted knights, evolved from this function almost as an early form of security service. This new order, like that of the Knights

Templars, was divided into three sections: the armed and mounted knights formed a highly-trained military wing; the chaplains catered for the spiritual welfare of the order and all those associated with it; and the infirmarians tended to the sick. The order was international, and funded by the Christian kingdoms of Europe who donated grants of land to it. These estates were farmed and managed by communities of Knights Hospitallers which were generally called preceptories in Ireland, and commanderies elsewhere. Each community was run by a preceptor, or commander,

usually a knight seasoned in warfare, who ruled the community with the aid of one, or more, of his military companions and chaplains. The preceptories were used as recruiting and training centres; were built as fortified manor houses or castles rather than as monasteries; and were grouped together under the care of a priory. The Knights Hospitallers established a preceptory in Wexford in 1172, and one in Kilmainham was founded as the Priory of the Hospital in Ireland in 1174. When the Knights Templars were suppressed in 1312 a portion of their possessions passed to the Knights Hospitallers. After the Black Death ravaged the country, from August 1348, several preceptories were leased to lay farmers, and their holdings were diverted by some of the Kilmainham priors.

**THE PRECEPTORY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST** was founded by Geoffrey de Marisco. After Kilmainham, this was the most important house of the Knights Hospitallers in Ireland. The knights of *Gleann Aíne*, the Vale of Anye, obtained royal privileges in 1215, so the preceptory had obviously been established before this date. A preceptory could be defined as an estate or a community of the Knights Hospitallers, containing all the appurtenances necessary to the smooth functioning of such an enterprise, including castles, churches, hospitals, farms, houses, villages, mills, weirs and fisheries. The foundation here must have been quite an extensive one because of its importance.

**A LEPER HOSPITAL** was also founded here in 1467. This was dedicated to St. Brigid, and was probably administered by the Knights Hospitallers.

**GEOFFREY DE MARISCO** (c. 1171-1248), the son of Robert de Marisco of Huntspill, Somerset, and the Island of Lundy, England, received a grant of the castle and lands of St. Nemas, Hollywood, County Wicklow, in 1192 from his uncle, John Comyn, Archbishop of Dublin. He later received half of the barony of *Coillacht*, in Dublin, a forest region stretching from the Dodder to Tallagh, which he exchanged for the lands of Anye in 1200. In 1208 he led an uprising against Hugues de Lasce, Earl of Ulster and Justiciar, or Viceroy, of Ireland, defeating his forces at Thurles. By 1210 Geoffrey was pardoned and fighting his king's enemies in Mayo. In 1213 he headed the administration while the Justiciar, de Grey, went to England. He ruled the country until Henry of London arrived as Justiciar. Geoffrey served as Justiciar himself from 1215 to 1221. Geoffrey de Marisco was the most powerful magnate in Ireland at this time. "He was a tenant-in-chief in Limerick and in

Kerry ... he held part of Offaly in right of his wife, Eva de Bermingham ... and had ... a special interest in the great Butler property in Munster, which was still in wardship, and therefore under the justiciar's control". During the wars of the rival MacCarthys in 1214, the Anglo-Normans "overran the whole of Munster in every direction, from the Shannon to the sea". Geoffrey's reign as Justiciar appears to have been a peaceful one except for "a hosting" into Desmond, which seems to have been confined to West Cork, in 1220 or 1221. Geoffrey used his influence to have his nephew, Robert Travers, consecrated Bishop of Killaloe in January 1217. Geoffrey was then in receipt of two mandates from the king, instructing him not to permit any Irishman to be elected or appointed to any cathedral church in Ireland, or allow one to be elected or promoted to any Irish see. Robert Travers was deposed as bishop when Geoffrey's reign as justiciar ended. In 1220 an attempt to unravel Geoffrey's financial management of the state revealed that peculation rather than incompetence was the reason for such confusion.

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Earl Richard Marshal arrived in Ireland, after quarreling with the king, to claim his Irish estates. The Irish barons conspired against the Earl; Geoffrey abandoned him on the field of battle; and the Earl was killed by Geoffrey's fellow-conspirators. In 1242 Geoffrey de Marisco was expelled from Ireland. His relatives in Scotland, the Comyns, refused to shelter him, and he was forced to flee to France where he died six years later.

**WILLIAM DE MARISCO** was outlawed for killing a priest who had been sent to England, with complaints against William, by Maurice Fitzgerald. The killing took place at the King's Gate, Westminster. William de Marisco later employed an assassin to attempt to kill the king. The would-be killer was discovered hiding under Henry III's bed and William was forced to flee to the Island of Lundy. He maintained a crew of pirates on this island, until he was captured, with 16 of his men, and hanged.

**THE HOUSE OF ANYE** continued as a preceptory until 1541 when Sir John Rawson, the Prior of Kilmainham, pensioned off its preceptor, Aeneas O'Hernan, who was then living in Kilmainham. John le Mareschal was preceptor of Anye from at least 1326 until he was replaced by John de la Battail in 1338 or 1339. In 1335 a man named Richard was hired as a cook. Under the terms of his employment he was granted, "during his life, his entertainment in this house at the table of the free servants; with clothes the same as theirs", and an allowance of 33½ new pence for shoes. In the event of illness confining him to his chamber, he "was then to have a daily allowance of a white loaf, and one of the second kind, a flaggon of the best ale and one of an inferior kind, and a dish of meat from the kitchen". In 1348 Richard was still employed on the same terms, but was given the choice of wearing clothes the same as the other servants or having an allowance of 50 pence a year to purchase his own. In 1349 Meyler, the son of Hubert de Burgo, was allowed "entertainment for himself during life, and for a chamberlain, a servant, and two horses, in this house; and if should be confined to his chamber, then to have the daily allowance of three white loaves and one of the coarser kind, three flaggons of the best ale, and one of the second kind, with a sufficiency from the kitchen". In 1541 all the buildings of the preceptory were standing, as well as a water-mill, twelve cottages, seventeen rectories, and 280 acres of land leased to various tenants, the total valued at £41.89 annually. This low valuation was partly because of recent wars, and did not include all of the preceptory holdings. The last preceptor, Aeneas O'Hernan, was created Bishop of

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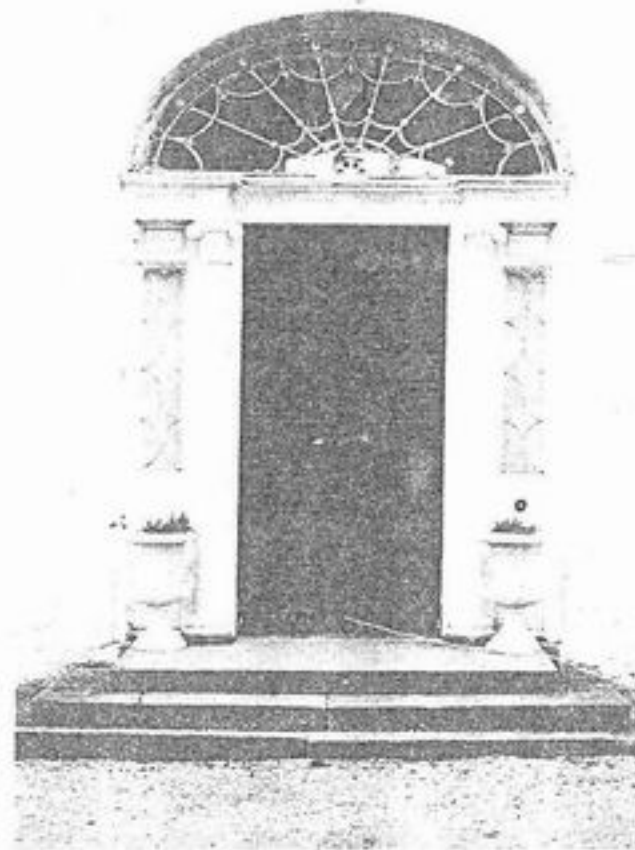
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Emly in 1543, after the Dissolution. The Crown leased the preceptory of Anye for £53.331/2 to Sir John Browne who, later, became known as the Master of Awney. Browne's eldest daughter and co-heir, Annabella, married Captain William Apsley of Pullborough, Sussex. They had three children, Edward, Mary and Joan.

**SIR VALENTINE BROWNE** of Totteridge, Herts., Crofts in Lincoln and Hoggsden, Middlesex, was constable-warden, victualler, and treasurer of Berwick. His experiences as a revenue officer helped him when he was appointed Auditor-General of Ireland during the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1558-1603). In 1583 he surveyed several escheated lands, jointly, with Sir Henry Wallop, and was subsequently sworn onto the privy council. In 1588 he represented County Sligo in Parliament and, later that year, obtained a grant from his Queen, which gave him all of the estates of the MacCarthy More Donald, Earl of Glenclare.

When Edward Apsley committed suicide, it would have been Sir Valentine's duty as surveyor of escheated lands, lands forfeited to the Crown for lack of an heir, to investigate the matter. He probably saw this as an opportunity to establish his youngest son, Thomas, in a comfortable estate. Thomas married Mary Apsley, and her sister, Joan, married John Boyle, the Bishop of Cork and Ross.

**THOMAS BROWNE** received a grant of: "The entire manor, Lordship and Preceptory or Hospital of Anye, with all its appurtenances and all its castles, forts, lands and hereditaments in Anye, Ballinelough, Limerick, Kilmallocke, Adare, Crogh, Burgage, Asketton, Rathkeeyle, Ardagh, Cashell, Carrick, Ardarry, Ratow, Dingle, Bullen, Carrintubber, and Knockgraston, being the temporal estate of the said hospital, the church, the rectory and chapel of the said hospital with the tithes thereof and the glebes", on 16 May 1604. His son, and heir, Sir John Browne of Hospital was killed in a duel, but John's only daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, married her kinsman, Captain Thomas Browne. This second Thomas served in the Duke of York's regiment and attended Charles II in exile. After the Restoration he was rewarded, in 1670, by having his quitrent reduced from £212.60 a year to £16.67. In 1684 the marriage of Helen Browne, the daughter of Thomas Browne of Hospital, to



Doorway of Kenmare Castle.

Nicholas Browne, later Second Viscount Kenmare, united the Hospital and Kerry estates, making this one of the largest estates in Ireland, over 130,000 acres. The title Viscount Kenmare was bestowed on Nicholas's father, another Sir Valentine, by James II in 1689. This first Viscount Kenmare was taken prisoner at Aughrim; his family were driven into exile; and his estates forfeited to the Crown. Sir Valentine died in 1690 but the estates were still forfeited to the Crown during his son's lifetime.

**SIR VALENTINE BROWNE** (1694-1736), claimed the estate from the Chichester House Trustees, who dealt in forfeited estates, when he came of age in 1716. His brother-in-law, John Asgill (1658-1738), had so mismanaged the property that it took Sir Valentine almost thirteen years to make it profitable. By 1729 he was in receipt of an income of £1,200 a year. By the time he died it was bringing in £3,000 annually. His grandson, Valentine, was created Baron of Castlecrosse and Viscount Kenmare on 12 February 1798, as the honours bestowed by James II, over a century earlier, were never recognised in law. On 3 January 1801, Valentine (1754-1812) was also created Viscount Castlerosse and First Earl of Kenmare. Thomas, the Third Earl of Kenmare (1789-1871), was created Baron of the United Kingdom on 12 March 1856. Samuel Lewis wrote that the Brownes derived their title

from Kenmare in Kerry, although local folklore claims the title was derived from the Browne seat in Hospital.

**KENMARE CASTLE** may have derived its name from the time of Sir Valentine Browne's (1637-1694) elevation to the peerage as 1st Viscount Kenmare, by James II. His ancestor, Sir Valentine Browne, had acquired vast tracts of land in the counties of Cork and Kerry in 1588. As joint-surveyor of escheated lands, with Sir Henry Wallop, Sir Valentine may have come into control of the Anye estate while acting as a guardian to the Apsley sisters. His eldest son, Valentine, remained in England and was the ancestor of the Brownes of Crofts; his second son, Nicholas, succeeded to the Irish estates; his third son, by his second wife, also named Valentine, died at an early age; and his fourth son, Thomas, through his marriage to Mary Apsley, came into possession of the lands of Anye. The

first Sir Valentine is generally credited with the erection of Kenmare Castle on the site of the original house, or hospital, of Anye. Whichever of the Sir Valentine Brownes was responsible for the erection of Kenmare Castle, he must have incorporated part of the original building of the Knights Hospitallers within his later building. In 1837 Samuel Lewis stated that "a very pretty cottage" had been erected on the site by J. Gubbins, and in 1840 John O'Donovan commented on the ruins of the formerly magnificent castle behind it. Both buildings constitute the present Kenmare Castle, part of which, to the south-east, resembles Old Court, near Ferry Bridge. The house is now owned, and occupied, by Roy and Patricia Shireby.

**HOSPITAL CHURCH**, or the Abbey, contains three effigy tombs, one of which "is a rudely shaped statue of a knight ... with sword and buckler, which is supposed to be that of the founder", Geoffrey de Marisco. This de Marisco tomb with its high-relief effigies of a knight and his lady on another de Marisco tomb date from about 1260; the effigies of a knight and his lady on another de Marisco tomb date from later in the same century; while a third slab, with a low-relief effigy, dates from the fourteenth century. The living-quarters of the clergy were located in the square two-storey tower, the east wall of which formed the western gable of the church. This may have been built initially as a



*The Abbey and the Catholic Church at Hospital.*

belfry-tower but the top part of it now houses a grotto. The ruin of the original church still stands, and contains lancet windows and a door in the south wall. After the Dissolution the church was leased to John Cockerhan in 1566. By 1578 William Apsley was in possession.

**THE TOWN OF HOSPITAL** was about half a mile long and contained 179 houses in 1831. Most of these houses were demolished shortly afterwards because, six years later, the sites on which they stood had become a large cultivated field. In 1837 it contained a population of 1121; possessed a constabulary police station; and the Catholic population were in the process of rebuilding their church, "a large plain structure". Cattle fairs were held on 10 May, 9 July, 8 September and 30 October. Sir Thomas Browne was given a licence on 24 September, 1608, to hold a Saturday market and a fair on the feast of St. Peter the Apostle, 29 June, and the day after "at the Hospital". The Mahore River flows to the north of Kenmare Castle and Hospital Church, from east to west.

**THE STEPPING-STONES OF ANYE**, *Clochán Aíne*, spanned the Camoge River near Knockainy. These were large blocks of stone, placed across the ford at regular intervals, with flagstones laid from one block to another to provide a continuous pathway. According to folklore Aíne brought the stones here in her silken apron. Brian Boru is also credited with its construction, as he built

many bridges, roads, and causeways during his reign. A modern bridge was built over the ford in 1929, but the stepping-stones were left intact until 1932 when they were destroyed during the implementation of a minor drainage scheme.

**KNOCKAINY CHURCH** or the Church of Anye, is supposed to have been an Augustinian foundation, established in 1349, according to Lewis. John FitzRobert Fitzgerald may have been one of its founders. In a fourteenth-century record Walter Wogan accounted for 19 pence in rent and issues from this church, which he claimed the Augustinians took from John FitzRobert Fitzgerald without licence. During the seventeenth century the Austin friars may have acquired possession, but nothing now remains of this particular building which later became a Protestant parish church. The present Church of Ireland church on this site was erected in 1861 and enlarged in 1867. The tower standing beside it contains a 1592 O'Grady slab, fixed to its base, in its interior. This octagonal spire belonged to an older church described in 1837 as a neat edifice on which the Ecclesiastical Commissioners had sanctioned payment of £183 to carry out some repairs. In 1941 there was another slab stored in the base of the tower. This depicted a Crucifixion scene, and may have dated from the seventeenth century. There is a modern Catholic church to the south.

**KNOCKAINY CASTLE** may have been

erected by John Fitzgerald, John of Callan, in 1248. This was believed to have been an important, spacious and "very strong fortress" of which only some "very inconsiderable fragments" remained, on the western bank of the Camoge River, in 1837. The present tower house seems to be of a later date, but I did not enter it as it appeared to be in use as a store.

**THE KNOCKAINY STUD** was established by John Gubbins of Bruree House who reared a Derby winner, *Galtymore*, here. Two other horses, *Ardpatrick* and *Linwell*, were later associated with the stud which is now owned by a man who rode a Grand National winner to victory.

**ST. AILBE**, Ailbhe or Albeus, was a fifth century Irish saint, a contemporary of St. Patrick, and the first Bishop of Emly. He is believed to have been born in Knockainy. Another Ailbe, Fr. Ailbe Hanley, was born here in 1738. He composed a song called *A n Chúileann* which was written in praise of Nellie O'Grady, a local girl. This song is also known as the *Coolin* or *Coulin* and is considered to be an unofficial national anthem. Fr. Hanley died in 1805 or 1806 and was buried here in Knockainy.

#### **SOURCE REFERENCE NUMBERS**

9 12 20 28 39 47 76 86 108 120 158 162 163  
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192 209 210 213 218 233 234 264