Excavation near Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry

(Interim Report)

This wedge-shaped megalithic tomb, in Coom townland (O.S. 6-inch sheet 97), was first noted by P. J. Lynch who wrote an account of its discovery in JRSAI, 32 (1902), 341-2. A short time before this tomb had been uncovered during peat-cutting.

Excavation was undertaken in September and October, 1965. Traces of the original cairn of the tomb were found, but this cairn appears to have been removed at some time before the peat which eventually covered the site began to grow. The outer edges of this cairn were revetted by a row of small upright stones; its axial length was 12 m., and it narrowed from 10 m. wide at the west end to 2 m. wide at the east. The tomb enclosed in this cairn was also wedge-shaped, with a single large capstone covering the chamber at the east end. At the west, frontal, end was a short ante-chamber which had no roof.

The chamber deposit was covered in peat. Immediately under the peat was a layer of small stones interpreted as cairn-stones which had fallen in from the cairn. No certain traces of burials or grave-goods were found.

At the end of the excavation, the chamber capstone was replaced and the fallen orthostats at the west end of the tomb were erected again.

MICHAEL HERITY

A Hoard of Bronze Objects from Booltiaghadine, Co. Clare

This small hoard consists of three bronze objects, a socketed axehead, a tanged chisel and a razor. Information concerning the exact place of discovery of the circumstances is not available, except that the three objects were found together, in 1895, in Booltiaghadine townland, Co. Clare (O.S. 6-inch Sheet 16). Dr. George U. Mac Namara exhibited the hoard at the General Meeting of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland held at Lisdoonvarna in 1900, when he reported that the chisel and razor were found inside the socket of the axehead (JRSAI, 30 (1900), 265), and in the following year the objects were illustrated in his paper on Inchiquin, Co. Clare (JRSAI, 31 (1901), 358, nos. 1-3). The group has not, however, been published in detail. The hoard is now preserved in the National Museum of Ireland (Reg. Nos. r942 : 75-76a), and I wish to record my thanks to the authorities for permission to publish it.
Fig. 1. The Booltiaghadine Hoard.

1. Looped socketed axehead (Fig. 1: 1). This is bag-shaped. The surface is not particularly smooth. On one face a small portion of the wall has been broken away and the cutting-edge is now blunt. The lip is slightly bevelled and a collar surrounds the neck. On each side a casting-seam occurs and internally, at midpoint on each face, a thick ridge extends from the base to the mouth. (1942: 75),

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>84 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width of cutting-edge</td>
<td>61 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External diameters of mouth</td>
<td>43 × 40 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal diameters of mouth</td>
<td>36 × 33 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Razor (Fig. 1: 2). One of the tips of the blade is missing and the other is slightly bent. The edges have suffered slight damage and on one side the edge terminates near the tang in a short barb. (1942: 76)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>64 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of tang</td>
<td>17 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max. width of blade</td>
<td>24 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Tanged chisel (Fig. 1: 3). The tang is square in cross-section and its present length is due to a portion having been broken off in antiquity. The lateral projections that demarcate the blade from the tang are not very pronounced. The blade shank is rectangular in cross-section and the cutting-edge has been slightly damaged. (1942: 76a)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>65 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of tang</td>
<td>17 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width of cutting-edge</td>
<td>32 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion

This group of bronzes from Booltiaghadine can be classed as a personal hoard—the possession of an individual lost or buried at some time for a reason or reasons now unknown. If, in fact, the chisel and razor were really found inserted into the socket of the axehead, it would indicate that when the objects were lost or buried the axehead was not hafted, and it would also suggest that all three objects were being carried around at the time of loss with a view to consigning them to the crucible.

The components have good parallels amongst the material of the Irish Late Bronze Age or, more specifically, during its final phase which started in the course of the 8th century B.C. This is especially shown by the bag-shaped axehead, the most characteristic type of axehead of that phase. The bifid razor can be assigned to C. M. Piggott’s Class II (PPS, 12 (1946), 126-8) and while this type of razor was coming into use, at least in Britain, during the 12th century B.C., the type remained current down to the end of the Irish Late Bronze Age (cf. PPS, 30 (1964), 283). Tanged chisels are also a common Late Bronze Age tool and the period during which they came into use in Britain and Ireland was again the final phase of the Late Bronze Age. Two principal forms can be recognised. The Booltiaghadine chisel with its kite-shaped blade is typical of the first class; in the other class the blade has a ‘waisted’ outline. Apart from Ireland and Britain, chisels with a kite-shaped blade are also known on the Continent and in contexts of an earlier date than found in these islands (cf. PPS. 30 (1964), 298). Tanged chisels with kite-shaped blades may, therefore, be the primary form and, on that account, the Booltiaghadine Hoard can hardly be dated later than 7th century B.C.

George Eogan

Ridge-and-Furrow Cultivation at Cush, Co. Limerick

The complex of raths and other earthworks at Cush¹ is of particular interest to the student of early farming for its rare associated remains of contemporary fields. This note, by one unversed in the subtleties of Irish field archaeology, remarks on some apparently unnoted remains related to the field system at Cush, in the hope that further attention will be given to it.

The site as a whole lies between 700 ft. and 800 ft. above O.D., on a westerly slope dropping to the Limerick Plain. Immediately west of and downhill from the ‘Enclosure’ attached to the ‘Southern Group’ of raths is a small, relatively open area of rough grazing inside one of the ‘ancient fields.’ Immediately south-west are the remains of rath ‘B,’ also apparently inside the field, which is bounded on the west by marshy ground. In the open area² are several low parallel ridges, apparently forming a block of ridge-and-furrow, i.e. undulations in the surface of the ground

¹ Ó Riordáin, S.P., “Excavations at Cush, Co. Limerick,” PRIA, 45(C1940), 83-181, especially fig. 2 to which the description here is related.
² O.S. 6” Sheet 48 (20.3 cm. from E.; 23.5 cm. from S.); Nat. Grid Ref. R.685.244.
formed by cultivation, by implication with a plough. Perhaps there are many such examples in Ireland unknown to the author, but the relationship at Cush to ancient fields appears to give the fields an added interest, especially as the ridge-and-furrow is the closest analogy the author has yet seen to the otherwise unique ridge-and-furrow at Gwithian, Cornwall, dating to c. 1000 A.D.

The ridges at Cush run approximately north-south, lying across the slope and along the contours. To the south, they end in marshy ground beside the main stream; on the north, they disappear into the thick vegetation which was general over the whole site at the time of my visit (September, 1966). No ridges were noted outside the boundaries of the 'ancient field' lying between the 'Enclosure' and rath 'B'; but the vegetation prevented a thorough check. It was clear, however, that whatever the extent of the ridges, they were aligned roughly with the eastern and western sides of the 'ancient field.' The ridges themselves were rather irregular in width, mostly varying between 6 ft. and 10 ft.; their height above the bottom of the furrows was nowhere more than a few inches, and it is but fair to say that they were only noticed when walking down from the raths into the setting sun, the oblique light of which was casting a slight shadow on the uphill side of each ridge.

Ridge-and-furrow is, of course, a phenomenon that can be produced in various forms and at will, provided a suitable plough is available. Its survival as earthworks indicates therefore, a technique of cultivation and, by implication, something about the plough; but while much of the ridge-and-furrow in Midland and Southern England carries with it overtones of 'open-field' farming and a certain form of social organisation, this is not true of all examples. The Gwithian field XXI is a case in point; here, the earliest dated example of ridge-and-furrow in Britain, the earthworks simply indicate that ridges were deliberately created, presumably to make a viable seed-bed on a very shallow soil, but they carry the implication that a fixed mould-board plough was in use. Other evidence from the same site suggests that such a plough was known in western Cornwall before the Saxon conquest of that area, so its use elsewhere in the Celtic West during the 1st millennium A.D. is not impossible.

When the Gwithian early medieval fields were published, no convincing parallel for the ridge-and-furrow there was known to the authors, and herein lies much of the interest of the Cush example. The similarity of the two is striking: the narrow but irregular ridges, the low relief, the relatively short length and the apparently small size of the cultivated area. Both examples lie on sloping ground, though at Gwithian, the ridges run up and down the slope, not across it; both blocks of ridge-and-furrow lie immediately above marshy ground though this is probably irrelevant since the Cush example is on a hill-side and that at Gwithian is beside a former tidal estuary. Both are, however, adjacent to a contemporary settlement, the relevant level of the post-Roman settlement at Gwithian dating c. 850 to 1050 A.D. The date of the Cush raths, and, therefore, of the field system, seems to be in dispute, but some of the smaller finds would suggest occupation in the Early Christian Period.

While the Cush ridge-and-furrow could be of any date in our era, it is apparently confined within an 'ancient field' and its direction is related to the sides of that field.

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3 Ó Riordáin op. cit., pp. 139-145.
The existence of the ridge-and-furrow inside one of the ‘ancient fields’ at Cush, cannot, however, prove contemporaneity, whatever the date of the field system: a field originally intended as a cattle enclosure could easily, for example, be subsequently ploughed.

The above tentative notes arose from a brief holiday visit. Clearly further work is required: points to check at Cush (during Winter/early Spring for obvious reasons) are whether ridge-and-furrow occurs elsewhere in the area and if so how it relates to ancient and modern field boundaries. Limited excavation, as at Gwithian, might produce dating evidence for the ridge-and-furrow if the fields were manured; and if the ridges really were built up by the type of cultivation envisaged, the clayey bedrock might then still bear plough-marks. The study of the remains of early agriculture and its technology has now reached an interesting stage in Britain, and, for the Early Christian Period especially, relevant earthworks from both sides of the Irish Sea are as important as the more publicised art mobilier.

P. J. Fowler

(University of Bristol)

Crannog at Knockroe, near Kilfenora, Co. Clare

The presence of a possible crannog in the townland of Knockroe, Co. Clare, was reported to the National Museum by Mr. G. D. Mulroney, c/o Bank of Ireland, Shannon Airport, in September 1964. The site was subsequently visited by the writer and although no formal excavation was undertaken, the monument, by reason of its location and other features, seems to be a crannog. It is sited in a marshy valley which appears to have been a fairly extensive lake in former times; it is now dried up and turf-cutting has taken place in various parts of the valley in recent years. The monument (Plate II, r) is a round, raised mound, 18.50 m. in diameter and approximately 1.50 m high; it is grass-covered but at a few points along its perimeter stones are visible. Following the curve of the mound, along its southern side, are three spaced wooden posts, 20-30 cm. high and 10 cm. in diameter; they probably represent the remains of a row of piles surrounding the crannog.

Portion of the upper stone of a rotary quern which was found on the crannog some years ago has been acquired by the National Museum (Reg. No. 1964 : 93). A wooden vessel containing bog-butter which was found on or near the site many years ago was, unfortunately, allowed to dry out and disintegrate. This site can be plotted on the O.S. 6-inch sheet 16 for Co. Clare, 26.2 cm. from N. and 32.5 cm. from E. (Nat. Grid Ref. R.221.913).

Some 70 m. to the east of this monument there is another raised mound, 24.50 m. in diameter and approximately 2 m. high. It is much overgrown with briars and other vegetation but it may be another crannog.

A. B. Ó Ríordáin

71
Earthworks around Ballydoyle Castle, Co. Tipperary

Ballydoyle Castle (Pl. III, 1) stands in the middle of a large field near Rosegreen, Co. Tipperary, about 4½ miles south of Cashel, on lands belonging to the celebrated racehorse trainer, Mr. M. V. O'Brien. It is a castle of the tower house type which can be dated to the 15th and 16th centuries (see H. G. Leask, Irish Castles, Dundalk 1951 edition, chapters IX and XI for the type, and page 160 for listing of Ballydoyle Castle as of that date). About half of the castle, the western and northern sides, is in good condition, but the other half, the eastern and southern sides, is much delapidated. The entrance is centrally placed in the western side, the corners are rounded, the walls have a slight batter for some distance above the ground, and in plan it is rectangular, 11.5 m. E-W and 9 m. N-S at ground level. It stands on a low rectangular platform which may have been artificially raised but which might also have been produced by scarping around it, and which extends on average about 5 or 6 metres all around. Ballydoyle Castle is marked on the 1⁄4-inch Ordnance Survey map, sheet 18 (Nat. Grid Ref. S.112.336), and is also indicated on 6-inch sheet 69 (26.5 cm. from S.; 39.9 cm. from W.).

A considerable area around the castle shows signs of human activity in the form of linear and rectilinary ridges and hollows. As these constituted a danger to the valuable horses which Mr. O'Brien wished to keep in this field, it was decided that they should be bulldozed. Bulldozing was started in the southern portion of the field where the irregularities were natural or of recent vintage, but before attacking the area around the castle the National Museum was informed, through Mrs. E. de Trafford, of Pallasgrean, Co. Limerick, a friend of the O'Briens and a member of the Thomond Archaeological Society.

With the assistance of Mrs. de Trafford and also, to some extent, of the O'Brien children, David and Susan, the earthworks around the castle were surveyed by the writer. Unfortunately time did not allow of a detailed contour-survey and the mapping of the earthworks, therefore, consisted of making a linear plan (Fig. 2) showing the ridges and ignoring the hollows. The hollows, however, were generally large areas such as the enigmatic feature at the back of the castle marked “Avenue” on the plan and some of the smaller rectangular ‘enclosures’ to the north-west of the castle. Some bulldozing had taken place fairly close to the south and south-west of the castle, but nothing of real significance appeared to have been destroyed before the survey was undertaken. Even after planning, none of the earthworks presented a recognisable or meaningful picture and it is doubtful if any represented the last traces of outhouses surrounding the castle as one might have expected, although some of the rectangular ‘enclosures’ to the north-west of the castle seemed too small to be regarded as fields.

A small iron javelin-head was found during bulldozing in the area some 200 to 250 metres south of the castle (O.S. 6” sheet 69, about 25.5 cm. from S. and 41.5 cm. from W.). Lent to the National Museum for examination and recording, this badly
Fig. 2. Earthworks around Ballydoyle Castle, Co. Tipperary.
corroded object was cleaned (Fig. 3). When cleaned, the socket was found to be blocked by an almost conical stone which had got wedged very tightly into it, almost as if deliberately forced into it in antiquity. The blade is leaf-shaped, with its widest part rather close to the base, and has a pointed oval cross-section. Its edges are ragged and originally its point may have been a little longer and sharper. The socket was made by folding around the metal until the two edges overlapped. Most of the basal portion of the socket has corroded away and, therefore, no traces of rivet-holes can now be seen. At present it is 11.3 cm. long; the blade is 6.8 cm. long and has a maximum width of 2.15 cm. Unfortunately it is impossible to date this specimen closely as it does not seem to fit into any of the more readily recognisable types, but it may well belong to a late type and possibly be contemporary with the castle, although no connection with the castle other than its relative proximity can be shown.

Etienne Rynne

Fig. 3. Iron javelin-head found near Ballydoyle Castle, Co. Tipperary.
(Full Size)

Inscribed Stone Plaque from Lisdoonvarna Castle

Built into a stone wall beside the shop belonging to Mr. Frank O’Connor, P.C., Bridge Street, Ennistymon, Co. Clare, is an interesting stone plaque bearing a Latin inscription (Fig. 4). It measures 58 cm. in width and 54 cm. in height, and the letters and surrounding border are carved in low relief. The letters are in the Late Gothic style of script known as Black Letter, a style commonly used during the 15th and 16th centuries, but which was still sometimes used in Ireland and Scotland, generally in a debased or “blundered” form, well into the 17th century.
This plaque was originally in Lisdoonvarna Castle, of which nothing now remains except half of a low circular bank (Pl. II, 2), about 2 m. wide (at top) and 15 cm. in internal diameter (measurements gauged from pacing). The site of the castle is on the lands of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Carroll, in the northernmost part of the townland of Lisdoonvarna, but about one mile north-east of the town of that name. It is marked on Ordnance Survey 6-inch sheet 8 for Co. Clare, 10.7 cm. from the eastern margin and 14.7 cm. from the northern margin (Nat. Grid Ref. R.150.990). The slab was salvaged when the castle was finally destroyed, probably during the late 18th century, and built into the wall of a granary in a farmhouse nearby; it was only removed to Ennistymon within relatively recent years.

The inscription apparently read as follows:

FININFICTE
PATRICKE . ME
FECIT. 1619
DENIS . CLOCHE

This can be translated as: “Finin FitzPatrick made me [referring to the castle] 1619 Denis Cloche [Cloghesy ?].” Some of the letters present slight problems, notably the A and R of PATRICKE, while only a close examination of the stone itself revealed that some had been damaged giving them a false appearance, notably the C of FECIT which on first sight and on photographs appears as S or R. The date is more doubtful than the rest, however, as it presents the appearance of a word spelt 1619, a fact which is due to the stone-carver trying to “Gothicise” Arabic numerals—Arabic numerals were not generally used before about 1540 and are most unusual in combination with a Gothic script (I am grateful to Dr. W. O’Sullivan, Keeper, Art and Industrial Division, National Museum of Ireland, for this information).
In 1839 John O'Donovan visited the site of Lisdoonvarna Castle in connection with his work for the Ordnance Survey, and reported on it as follows:

"In the same townland of Lisdoonvarna is shewn the site of a castle which belonged to the family of O'Davoren, but no part of it remains. The last of the O'Davorenors who resided here was called Donoghe but it is not remembered when he died. Near the castle is also shewn the site of a dwelling-house belonging to the same family at a later period."

—Letter dated 28th October, 1839.

The following are the only published references to Lisdoonvarna Castle known to the writer:

"The Castle at Lisdoonvarna, now destroyed, was built in 1613 by Finit Florence Fitz-Patrick."

—J. F. Shearm, JRSAI, 14(1876-78), 397.

"In the townland of Lisdoonvarna existed a castle now utterly ruined, which, according to an inscription on a stone built into the corner of a farmhouse in the vicinity was built by Denis Cloghessy in 1619 for Finit FitzPatrick. In the Book of Distributions and Forfeitures this F finite or Florence FitzPatrick is set down as the owner of Lisdoonvarna and Ballyteige in 1641."

—J. Frost, The History and Topography of the County of Clare, Dublin 1883, p. 31.

"Little is left, and as little known about the castle of Lisdoonvarna. Of the ruins, we only find reaches of low, unpicturesque walls round its outer enclosures. It was confirmed in 1621, to Boetius Clancy, (Pat R) a relation and namesake of the famous Spanish-hanging sheriff. The castle was subsequently occupied by the O'Davoren, the Fitzpatricks, 1641, and the Creaghs, 1679. 1723, a lease of Richard Connell, of Ruscagh, to William, Earl of Inchiquin, grants Lisdoonvarna. The last O'Davoren of Lisdoonvarna, was Donagh, a haughty and tyrannical man. It passed to the Hogans, and from them to the Stapoolies. Reg. Deeds, Dublin, b. 41 p. 280."

—T. J. Westropp, JLFC, 3:10(1905-08), 41-42.

ETIENNE RYNNE

Stone Head from near Newcastle West

Recently deposited in the Limerick Museum is a fishlike human (?) head carved out of a large fossil (Fig. 5). It was presented to the Museum (after being fully recorded in the National Museum of Ireland) by Mr. William Murphy, Assumpta Park, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, through the good offices of Mr. Robert Cussen, of Newcastle West, a vice-president of the Thomond Archaeological Society. Mr. Murphy had discovered the head under the staircase of a house on The Old Turnpike (now Church Street), in Newcastle West. This house was formerly the property of the late Thomas Hurley, a former chairman of the Limerick County Council. Mr. Hurley died about forty years ago, but the head was already in the house before it was occupied by the succeeding owner. Dr. Cussen is of the opinion that this head probably came into Mr. Hurley's possession some time in the late 19th or early 20th century, and that it is almost certainly of relatively local origin. It measures 20.6 cm. in length by 19.3 cm. in height and is at present 16.7 cm., but probably was originally about 17.5 cm., in maximum width (portion of its right side is now missing). The cleanly cut eyes, ears and hair indicate that the carving was executed with a sharp metal chisel, and it is unlikely to be more than a few centuries old.

The head is carved from the aseptate, oral portion of the fossil coiled nautiloid, *Solenoceras dorsalis* J. Phillips, corresponding to the ultimate part of the body chamber. This animal is a Carboniferous fossil cephalopod related to the pearly nautilus and the argonaut of the present day. Other than the stylised hair, ears, eyes,
nose and mouth and a small cylindrical depression on the ventral surface, the specimen is non-artifact. The curved ventral margin of the 'cheek' corresponds to the umbilical edge. The specimen is virtually decorticated but fragments of outer shell are preserved as small patches, particularly at the oral extremity of the shell, i.e., at the back of the 'head.' The dimensions are as follows: maximum height of body chamber, measured ventro-dorsally from umbilical edge to median line of venter, is 183.5 mm.; width of body chamber, measured transversely at the umbilical edge, is impossible to measure accurately due to the damaged nature of the specimen but appears to be about 175 mm. The height is, therefore, 105% of the width. In a smaller, but virtually complete, specimen of Solenocheilus dorsalis J. Phillips preserved in the geological collections of the National Museum of Ireland, the corresponding dimensions are: height 133 mm.; width 150 mm. Height represents 88% of width. This specimen was collected by A. H. Foord from Clane quarries in 1894 and is figured by him in his "Carboniferous Cephalopoda of Ireland" (Palaeontographical Society Monograph, 1891), Pl. xxxiii and pp. 127-128). Referring to specimens of Solenocheilus dorsalis, Foord remarks (op. cit., p. 127) that "the largest I have met with is now in the British Museum: it was found in the quarries at Clane." This is specimen number C.4626 (B.M. (N.H.)) and the dimensions are quoted by Crick as: height (not given); width: 160 mm. It will be seen therefore that the carved specimen under discussion is an exceptionally large representative of this species with a whorl width of approximately 175 mm.

Foord (op. cit., p. 128), quotes the following Irish localities for Solenocheilus dorsalis: J. Phillips: St. Doolaghs, Co. Dublin; Clane, Co. Kildare; Rathkeale Co. Limerick; Blackrock and Little Island, Co. Cork; Kilcommanock, Co. Longford. It can be seen that the distribution is general. The fossil is associated with the Mid-Dinantian (Lower Carboniferous) reef limestone development in Ireland, being present in the knoll reefs of Counties Dublin, Kildare and Longford and in the "Waulsortian" mud bank complex of Counties Limerick and Cork. The presence of such a fossil in the vicinity of Newcastle West could, therefore, be expected and its relative proximity to Rathkeale, a locality from which the species is already recorded, (supra), is of interest.

John S. Jackson
Leather Objects of Interest in the Limerick Museum

Perhaps to an outsider, the most interesting of the leather objects in the Museum is the pair of Limerick 'chicken-skin' gloves which were contained in a walnut shell. One of the gloves, the left one, is on display while the other is still neatly folded in its half of the shell (Plate IV, 1). In the early years of the 19th century these gloves were widely famed, particularly because owing to their extreme fineness a pair could be packed into such a nutshell to make a dainty present for a young lady. It was this excessive thinness which gave rise to the term 'chicken-skin,' but it is more than doubtful whether such material was ever used for this purpose, although chicken-skin was used for reinforcing paper fans. S. J. Beck, the historian of gloves, suggests that such gloves were made from the skins of unborn calf, and this appears to be confirmed by a recent scientific analysis: microscopic examination of the skin structure of one of these gloves revealed that it was foetal or stillborn calf from which the whole of the grain layer had been removed. The earliest reference to these gloves known to the writer occurs about 1768, at which date there was a glover called Lyons who made the celebrated 'Limerick gloves.' A reference to the sale of gloves in Limerick in 1698 might, however, also refer to them: 'Gloves generally sold for 6d. per pair, and some were dyed cloth colour.' All the gloves of this type seen by the writer are a light buff colour, similar to that of undyed fabric.

A large flask (Plate IV, 2:1) has an almost exact counterpart in the Museum of Leathercraft, London. From the manner in which it is made (it has no 'lining' of pitch or resin and the four loops for a carrying cord are set into slots in the seam) it is clear that it was not intended to carry liquid. The most likely explanation is that it was made to carry gunpowder—perhaps the bulk supply for a shooting party. It has a pleasant bulbous shape which results from the moulding process called, in medieval times, cuir bouilli, a term which has given rise to many conjectures but which, in fact, consisted in nothing more than soaking vegetable-tanned hide in water until it was quite plastic, shaping it in a mould or over a former—which could be of wet sand or clay that could be picked out when dry—and then 'setting' it by drying in moderate heat. This process has been used without break from Neolithic times, and is still employed today.

Another article employing the same shaping process is a leather 'bottle' which is not of the upright shape most familiar today but of keg shape (Plate IV, 2:2). It is made of only three pieces of vegetable-tanned hide, the body of the-vessel and the two ends, which were sewn together whilst wet and, when dry and 'set,' swilled out with molten pitch or resin to prevent liquor soaking into the leather and softening it again. The earliest known specific documentation of such a bottle occurs in a stone sculpture on the porch of Inkberrow Church, Worcestershire, dating from about 1430, but such

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1 R. Herbert, 'The City of Limerick Public Library and Museum,' *NMAJ*, 2(1940-41), 99.
3 Examination carried out by The British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association.
bottles were almost certainly made long before then. These bottles were evolved in England and have no counterpart elsewhere.

A related item is a large leather jug or 'black jack' (Plate IV, 2:3), also called a 'bombard' because of some resemblance to a cannon of that name. These, and the smaller examples used for drinking, were made from only two pieces of leather (apart from some scraps used to thicken the handle); the body of the vessel and the flanged base. They were sewn, whilst wet, with waxed thread and then moulded into shape over three-piece wooden blocks. When dry they were 'lined' with pitch. From the 17th century aristocratic users frequently had them lined with pewter or silver and often ornamented with engraved silver edgings and medallions. The 'jacks' can be dated back to the early 14th century by comparison with a carving on a misericord in Malvern Priory Church, Worcestershire, but their history no doubt extends farther back than this. Another and different type of 'black jack' (Plate IV, 2:4) is also in the Museum. The decoratively shaped handle is of one piece with the rest. Originally it had an ornate metal (presumably silver) mounting around its lip and a shield-shaped medallion on its front.

The latest leather object of note in the Limerick Museum is a small leather flask with brass fittings (Plate IV, 2:5) which is a well-known type of container for carrying lead shot. The brass fittings are such that standard quantities of shot can be poured from the flask at a time. It dates from the 19th century and is more likely to have been used by a huntsman rather than by a soldier.

John W. Waterer
(Museum of Leathercraft, London)

'98 Prisoners in Limerick Goal

The full story of the United Irishmen of Limerick and of their participation in the events of 1798 has yet to be written—the various Limerick historians have only very briefly and superficially touched on the period. While there is no evidence for big, important battles such as took place in Wexford, the accounts which have to date been published indicate that there was, in fact, considerable activity in the Limerick area at that time.

The late Dr. Richard Hayes, writing in this Journal in 1942 (vol. III, pp. 118-120), refers to a list of one hundred and six men who were held prisoners in Limerick Gaol in 1798. He gives the names of twenty-one and, as a further small contribution to the history of the period, the complete list is now offered; this being a jubilee year it may be well to recall the names of some of those through whom the torch was passed to the men of 1916. The list, and its accompanying petition, are among the State Papers (Box 620/3) kept in the State Paper Office, Dublin Castle.

The List

A Calendar of Prisoners disposed of since the Commencement of the Martial Law, by the General Court Martial whereof Colonel Darby of the 64th Regiment was President and Major General Morrison Commanding Officer—. The Joaler says that at the General Assizes and General Joal
Delivered he is Intitled to 13s. 4d. fees on each Man for such Crimes. The following is a list disposed of as underneat mentioned—

**Death, Executed**

No. 1 Mathew Kennedy  
 No. 2 John Moore  
 No. 3 Stephen Dundon  
 No. 4 Thomas Mullany  
 No. 5 John Hayes  
 No. 6 Thomas McNerney  
 No. 7 Thomas Kennedy  
 No. 8 William Ryan Stephens  
 No. 9 Patrick O Neill  
 No. 10 Patrick Wallace

**Persons discharged on Bail**

No. 1 Joseph O Loughlin  
 No. 2 John FitzGerald  
 No. 3 Daniel Bohan  
 No. 4 James Hillard  
 No. 5 Patrick Carroll  
 No. 6 Michael Callaghan  
 No. 7 Thomas Butler  
 No. 8 Denis Halloran  
 No. 9 Patrick Halloran  
 No. 10 John Ryan  
 No. 11 Darby Ward  
 No. 12 Mathew Hayes  
 No. 13 David Twyhey  
 No. 14 Michael Callaghan  
 No. 15 Thomas Ryan  
 No. 16 Michael Donegan  
 No. 17 James Dundon  
 No. 18 Martin Kelly  
 No. 19 George Murphy  
 No. 20 Wm. Gleeson  
 No. 21 John Flinn  
 No. 22 Hugh Dwyer  
 No. 23 James Crough  
 No. 24 George Hargrove  
 No. 25 Robert Cross  
 No. 26 Martin Howard  
 No. 27 Thomas Collpoy  
 No. 28 Wm. Tubbs  
 No. 29 Richard Welsh  
 No. 30 John Murphy  
 No. 31 John O Hogan  
 No. 32 Wm. Crowe  
 No. 33 Edmond Dunn  
 No. 34 Andrew Kennedy  
 No. 35 Michael Condine  
 No. 36 Mathew Dea  
 No. 37 John Twohy  
 No. 38 Thomas McKnight  
 No. 39 Theobald Barry  
 No. 40 Wm. Healy  
 No. 41 Thomas Dunn  
 No. 42 John Murphy  
 No. 43 Wm. Gorman  
 No. 44 James Grant  
 No. 45 David Callon  
 No. 46 Richard McElligott  
 No. 47 Wm. Hannabury  
 No. 48 John Sullivan  
 No. 49 Edward Riely  
 No. 50 Edmond Sheehan  
 No. 51 James Hackett  
 No. 52 Daniel O Brien  
 No. 53 Denis McNamara  
 No. 54 John Meade  
 No. 55 James Hayes

**Transported**

No. 1 Owen Ryan  
 No. 2 Thomas Gorman  
 No. 3 James Ryan  
 No. 4 Edmond Ryan  
 No. 5 James Keagh  
 No. 6 John Dwyer  
 No. 7 Thomas Dwyer  
 No. 8 Charles Nolan  
 No. 9 David Leahy  
 No. 10 James Kennedy  
 No. 11 John Moroney  
 No. 12 Richard Kelly  
 No. 13 Michael McNerney  
 No. 14 Owen Ryan  
 No. 15 James Brohane  
 No. 16 John Cunningham  
 No. 17 Wm. Higgins Enlisted in 54th Regt.

No. 18 Andrew Ryan  
 No. 19 Philip Hogan  
 No. 20 John Conwyne  
 No. 21 Daniel Carroll  
 No. 22 James Ryan Stephens  
 No. 23 Daniel Hayes  
 No. 24 James Kelly  
 No. 25 Thomas Frost  
 No. 26 John Connor  
 No. 27 John Mawn  
 No. 28 James Casey  
 No. 29 Maurice Shee  
 No. 30 Francis Arthur  
 No. 31 John Kerin  
 No. 32 Michael Conry  
 No. 33 Eliz. Allum  
 No. 34 John Abraham

**Prisoners discharged by the Court Martial**

No. 1 Peter O Kellie  
 No. 2 Denis Ryan  
 No. 3 John Claine  
 No. 4 Edmond Ryan  
 No. 5 Patrick Ryan  
 No. 6 James Conney  
 No. 7 Thomas Lane  
 No. 8 Charles Small  
 No. 9 Michael McCormack  
 No. 10 John Coraghan  
 No. 11 John Ryan  
 No. 12 Francis McNamara  
 No. 13 Martin Kelly  
 No. 14 Patrick Connor  
 No. 15 Barthw. Clancy  
 No. 16 Lieut. Harrass  
 No. 17 Lieut. Rice  
 No. 18 John Sullivan  
 No. 19 Quarter Master Holmes  
 No. 20 Thomas Doe  
 No. 21 John Burke  
 No. 22 Lieut. O Dwyer  
 No. 23 Thomas Madigan  
 No. 24 Chas. Strudgeon  
 No. 25 Timothy Tierney  
 No. 26 John Cloghessey  
 No. 27 Danl. Shaughnessy  
 No. 28 John McNerney  
 No. 29 Edward Hastings  
 No. 30 Michael Hastings  
 No. 31 John Garvey

**The Petition**

To his Excellency Lord Marquis of Cornwallis,  
Lieutenant General and General Governor & Commander in Chief of the Kingdom of Ireland—

80
The Humble Peti. of Richard Millward Goaler of the County and City of Limerick—

Humbly Sheweth—That Peti. did receive Prisoners into the County & City Joal of Limerick, also into the Cells of the New Joal not finished (under his Care) to a Great Expence to Peti. during the Martial Law. The Schedule annexed produces the names and Sentences—136 in Number—

That Peti. was refused any Consideration by the Grand Jury of the City and County of Limerick of fees for the expence of such Pris. as they had no power under the Martial Law—

Petitioner Saith that he always had at the General Assizes and General Joal delivery fees on Prisoners Disposed of under Treasonable Crimes, Thirteen shillings and four pence for each Indictment as mentioned in Peti. Schedule—

May it therefore please your Excellency to Grant unto your Peti. an Order for payment of the said sum of Ninety pounds thirteen shillings & four pence It to be paid out of his Majesty's Treasury or such other Order as to your Excellency shall seem Proper—And your Peti.' will—

Pray—

Richard Millward Goaler of the County and City of Limerick maketh Oath that the Prisoners named in the within Schedule were Committed and Given in to Deponents Custody as Joaler for said County and City of Limerick, and that the fees charged is the usual accustomed fees, for the Offences they were Committed for, and that he had not received any Consideration or part from the Grand Jury for either City or County or from the Sheriffs for either one or the other, or any one for Deponents use and that the said sum of ninety pounds thirteen Shillings and four pence is Justly by this Deponent in the usual accustomed fees as he believes and that the above Peti. and every part thereof is true in all Points—

Richard Millward Sworn before us this Seventh day of October 1798.

Magistrates

Wm. Corkell

Robert Unaick

I certify that the Prisoners in the Schedule were mostly confined by my orders and that the Petitioner Richd. Milward conducted himself with Zeal and attention.

Edw. Morrison

M Gen 1

* * * * *

Unfortunately the areas from which the prisoners came are not recorded in either the list or the petition. Lenihan (Limerick, its History and Antiquities, Dublin 1866, pp. 388-406) has, however, been able to give some details about the following:

Executed: Mathew Kennedy and his brother, Thomas, were from the Doon area, in East Limerick; John Hayes was probably from Bilboa, near Doon; William Ryan Stephens was probably from Caherconlish, also in East Limerick; Patrick Wallace was probably from Kilfinane, in South-East Limerick;

Transported: Francis Arthur was a merchant in Limerick City;

Discharged on Bail: Joseph O'Loughlin and John FitzGerald were both from Rathkeale, in West Limerick; John O'Hogan, William Crowe and William Hannabury were all from Limerick City;

Discharged by the Court Martial: Francis McNamara was from Ardclonay, in East Clare.
The gaoler was paid part of his salary by the Grand Jury, by way of fees for the custody and maintenance of each prisoner, but because the '98 prisoners were not held in custody by any action of the Grand Jury, but by the military authorities, the former refused to hold themselves responsible for the gaoler's fees in respect of these prisoners. The petition addressed to Lord Cornwallis was, therefore, necessary in order for the gaoler to receive payment—a fortunate state of affairs as it is only due to this that we are now in a position to know the names of those brave men.

EDWARD KEANE

The Order of Liberators

Members of Daniel O'Connell's Order of Liberators were often referred to pejoratively by members of the Brunswick Clubs as 'The Green Knights.' They are similarly described in the Journal of George Ross-Lewin, 1828-1830, which will appear in a forthcoming publication of this Society. They were, in fact, an organisation designed to protect and enlist the support of the newly enfranchised Catholic 40/-freeholders and to counteract the attraction of secret and illegal associations. This organisation did in fact contribute to a discipline and cohesion in the Catholic movement that surprised the hostile commentators of the period. With the loss of the vote to the 40/-freeholders after Catholic Emancipation, the Order of Liberators declined and it was dissolved in 1835.

In the Limerick Evening Post and Clare Sentinel for the 2nd and also for the 5th of September, 1828, there are long accounts of a meeting in Limerick held on the 1st of September at which new members were installed—some at the Treaty Stone—by Thomas Steele. The newspaper commented: "Protestant Liberality, in the person of Mr. Steele, was blotting out the stain indented... on that stone, by Protestant duplicity."

The Limerick Evening Post and Clare Sentinel had helped to prepare for this event, and in the following extract from its issue of the 29th of August, 1828, a detailed list of the aims and objects is given:

Installation of the
ORDER OF LIBERATORS

A CHAPTER of the Order of Liberators will be held on Monday next, at 12 o'clock, at Muncheon's Chapel, to instil such persons as prefer claims for the honour of being enrolled, among its Members, Thomas Steele, Esq. President of the Chapter.

The following are the Rules, and defined objects of the Order:

The Order of Liberators is a voluntary Association of Irishmen, for Purposes legal and useful to Ireland.
The Object of "THE ORDER", are these:

I. As a mode of expressing the gratitude and confidence of the People for past services.
II. To form a Society of Persons who will consider it a duty to their Country to effectuate
    the following purposes:

No. 1. To prevent the formation or continuance in respective vicinages, of any Secret
    Society or Confederacy whatsoever. The greatest evil in Ireland, and that which has tended
    most to prevent the success of her efforts to meliorate the condition of the People being
    Secret Societies. No person who is not deeply convinced of this truth, can belong to the
    Order of Liberators.

No. 2. To conciliate all classes of Irishmen in one bond of brotherhood and affection,
    so that all religious animosities may for ever cease among Irishmen.

No. 3. To bury in total and eternal oblivion all Ancient Animosities and Reproaches,
    no matter by whom inflicted, or who may be the sufferer.

No. 4. To prevent the future occurrence of feuds and riots at Markets, Fairs and Patrons,
    and to reconcile the Parties and Factions which have hitherto disgraced many parts of
    Ireland.

No. 5. To promote the collection of a National Fund for National Purposes, as far as
    that can be done consistently with law.

No. 6. To protect all persons possessed of the Elective Franchise, and especially the
    Forty Shilling Freeholders, from all vindictive proceedings on account of the free exercise
    of such Franchise.

No. 7. To promote the acquisition of such Franchise, and its due Registry, to ascertain
    the number of Votes in each County and City in Ireland, and the political bias of the Voters
    generally.

No. 8. To promote the system of dealing exclusively with the Friends of Civil and
    Religious Liberty, Protestant and Catholic, with a selection, when a choice can be made,
    of Protestant Friends, being the more disinterested of the two—and also to prevent, as much
    as possible, all dealing with the Enemies of Ireland, whether Protestant Orangemen, or
    Orange Catholics, the worst of all Orangists.

No. 9. To promote the exclusive use of Articles the growth and manufacture of Ireland.

No. 10. To form two distinct tribunals in every County, with branches in every town
    and village; the one for the purpose of getting parties to reconcile differences, and adjust
    their disputes amicably; and the other to decide by arbitration, litigations and disputes
    between parties who may resist a settlement without arbitration.

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

1. Every individual who has taken a Part in liberating the Counties of Waterford, Louth,
   Clare, &c. at the late Election, is entitled to be admitted "a Liberator."
2. Every person desirous of becoming "a Liberator" must apply for that purpose to the
   Catholic Rent Collectors, and obtain the signatures of seven of them.
3. No Collector to be entitled to sign a Certificate for "a Liberator," unless he has been for
   three months engaged in the Catholic Rent Collection.
4. Every Certificate must contain a statement of at least one Service rendered by the Applicant
   to Ireland.
5. A Book shall be kept at Dublin, containing the names of all the Liberators.
6. The Certificate of Admission, containing at full length the Acts of Services of the Individual
   so certified, and the names of the Collectors certifying, shall be entered in the Book, as a
   perpetual record.
7. Every Man who has done any act to evince an intention not to acquiesce in a bigotted
   or exclusive domination over his Country is entitled to have it considered as a Service to Ireland.

REGULATIONS

for the admission of members to the Order of "Liberators."
1. No person shall be admitted a Member of the Order, but in a Public Meeting of the Liber-
   ators or Collectors themselves.
2. Any Person who solicits admission into the Order, shall be required to hand in to the
   Chairman his claim, as annexed.
3. The newly-admitted Member is then to stand in front of the Chair, and to give his assent to the several Rules of the Institution, as read by the Chairman or Secretary.

4. He is lastly to receive his Installation at the hands of the Chairman, and when the Medal is suspended from his neck, he shall place his right hand on his breast, and avow his determination to obey the Laws of the Land, and his warm devotion to the Liberties of Ireland.

I hereby Claim the Honor of becoming a Member of the Order of "Liberators of Ireland," on account of having manifested a disposition to serve my Country, by (Here insert nature of Claim) and I hereby pledge myself that my Opinions and Sentiments are in unison with the "Institution of the Liberators."

Such written Claim to be authenticated by the Signatures of Seven Collectors of the Catholic Rent, (for at least three months,) in the following manner:

"We, Collectors of the Catholic Rent, know the above to be a true and correct statement, and We recommend the Applicant as a Person deserving the Honor of being admitted a Member of the Order of Liberators."

(This Certificate when signed, to be cut off and sent to Dublin, addressed to Mr. Dwyer, Register, Corn Exchange.)

The membership medals were die-struck by two well-known Dublin medallists, Isaac Parkes (1791-1870) and William Woodhouse (1805-1878). On display in the National Museum of Ireland are three medals by Woodhouse and four by Parkes. Two sizes (1.5" diam. and 1.3" diam.) were struck and three metals (silver, bronze and white metal) used. Woodhouse is represented in the display in the Museum by two 1.5" diam. medals—one in silver, the other in white metal—and one white metal medal of 1.3" diam. The Parkes strikings displayed are two 1.3" diam. bronze medals, a 1.5" diam. silver and a 1.5" diam. bronze medals. The variations marked the three grades of membership in the order, viz. Liberator, Knight Grand Cross, and Knight Companion. The design on both medals is similar but the execution of the Parkes medal, especially in clarity of letters and boldness of main design, is quite superior to that of the Woodhouse.

The only medal on display which is fitted with a suspension for the ribbon is the 1.5" diam. silver Woodhouse (reg. no. 535;1912) and is illustrated herewith (Pl. III, lower). It can be described as follows:

Obo : Hibernia standing looking to right with her left hand on a harp and a sword pointed to ground in her right hand. Behind the sword a wolfhound. Around above, THE ORDER OF LIBERATORS. In exergue, IRELAND AS SHE OUGHT TO BE. All within a wreath of shamrocks. Signed below, between wreath and rim, W. WOODHOUSE. FECIT.

Rev : A rayed cross rising from a mound of rocks with a liberty cap on a pole to right and three hands clasped to left. Around above, IN HOC SIGNO VINCES. In exergue επε σα vας All within a wreath of shamrocks. Signed below, between wreath and rim, WWF. With inner rim and raised flat milled border. Fitted with a swivelled loop for suspension on ribbon.

Finally it is of interest that the Woodhouse medal is not listed by W.G. Strickland in his list of that medallist’s work (A Dictionary of Irish Artists, vol. II, London 1913, pp. 560-562). It is not included either in the list published by W. Frazer in JRSAI, 17 (1885-'6), 609-619. It is however listed by L. Forrer on p. 551 of his Biographical Dictionary of Medallists, vol. VI, London, 1916. Forrer, strangely enough, states that his list is based on Frazer’s which, as I have noted, does not include this particular Woodhouse medal.

OLIVER SNOODDY
1. Crannog at Knockroe, Co. Clare. *(Photo: A. B. Ó Ríordáin).*

2. Site of Lisdoonvarna Castle. *(Photo: E. Rynne).*

2. Silver membership medal of The Order of Liberators. (Photo: Nat. Mus. Ire.).
1. Pair of leather gloves contained in a walnut-shell, Limerick Museum. (Photo: E. Rynne)