KILKEE (CO. CLARE) AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

PART IV.

DUNBEG TO KILKEE—Part II.

By THOMAS JOHNSON WESTROPP, M.A., M.R.I.A.

(Continued from Page 123.)

We see on the ridge the nearly effaced ring of the Cathair of Cahirleane. Mr. J. Blackall, of Killadaysert, tells me that some cists with human remains were found in the townland about fifty years ago. The splendid precipices at Beltard lie not far from the road where it turns towards Kilkee. They are a perpendicular wall of black friable rock cut at right angles into the land. As so usual, the lower layers have survived the looser upper portion, and the waves, breaking on their edges, a little outside the cliffs, add to the gloom of the darkly impressive scene. An outstanding rock, where the coast again trends eastward, is called Carrignageera, "the rock of the clergy"; I never heard any legend, but similar names elsewhere imply that hunted priests found refuge on such rocks, usually in Cromwellian times. The old signal tower on the loftiest summit of the cliff is usually called "Beltard Castle," but no early building stood there. The name itself is really Bealárd, the high gap or mouth supposed to be the Horseshoe Bay. The latter deserves its name, and has in its recess two noble caves eating far back into the land. They can be reached by a canoe, and are well worthy the visit; besides, from facing north, the waves are less likely to break in unexpectedly than in caves facing west, as in those near Bishop's Island. The sides, white, or like burnished copper from iron water oozing through the clefts; the pink, satin-like coralline and green fringes of sea-grass; phosphores-
cent water and sea weeds, and shadowy fish below the boat, make a scene of rare beauty and interest. Sometimes a seal is startled at the end to rush foaming past the boat with echoes like thunder. Even outside, the journey beneath the sky-scaling rocks, in the deep shadow, is beautiful and awe-inspiring. The end of this peninsula is deeply indented by a beautiful bay called Bealnalicka (or Hautbois Bay, as I learn from Dr. George Fogerty). At some distance from the end of the bay, out on the headland, we reach a long rampart. Most who have written on the promontory forts have never considered how far the rock structure affected their plan. Owing to this we have had theories that the straight forts were less ancient than the curved ones, where in many cases (perhaps in most) the builders followed the cleavage of the rock or the contour of the ground.

As we have seen, the lines lie at right angles, and one line of cleavage crossed the peninsula; along this caverns were formed, and, as the rock is nearly horizontal, where these got widened the roof fell in layer by layer. Accordingly, to the north of the bay we see the point cut into an island (the former arch having fallen) and the slopes up from it, to either side, and while in line with this,
DOONECALL FORT—SHOWING CORRESPONDING CLIFF AND HOLLOW
TO NORTH OF THE BAY.

on the southern head, a longer cavern, still partly roofed, remains with a hollow above it.

The fort builders deepened and banked up this hollow into a long, very efficient, fosse and rampart. Long afterwards the middle of the fosse fell in and, as the rock still fell away, the middle of the mound was also destroyed. It is called Doonegall, the foreigners’ fort, an instructive name like the other Donegalls (one the promontory fort on Beare Island) and Dunabrat in (the British, or Welsh, fort) in Co. Waterford. Whether it was built by “the savage Dane,” when Corcovaskin was ravaged in 850 and later, and he—

“High on the beach his galleys drew
And feasted all his pirate crew”

in Farighy Bay below, or whether it was merely found, ages old, and adopted by the “strangers” we cannot tell. It is one of the largest of its type. Works similar to it occur at Porth in Mayo, at Bonafahy in Achill;¹ at Dundoillroe farther south in Co. Clare; at Brumore, Doon, Dunsheane and elsewhere² in Kerry. The works were possibly once 2,150 feet long, the present width of the head at the tunnel. The latter was first noted by Mrs. Knott in 1835.³ Like many another visitor to Kilkee she was rowed through it; she describes it as “a remarkable tunnel or passage of 320 feet long through the rock, which forms the headland, from this bay into the next Oobawn” (compare “Hautbois”) bay. The centre of the roof has fallen in for 200 feet, but the ends remain, like natural bridges, one 210 feet, the other 110 feet. The sides of this extraordinary place are of perpendicular rock, 102 feet high; the breadth at the bottom, only sufficient for a boat to be pushed through by placing the poles against the sides, and even this cannot be done at low water. It can only be passed at a limited height of the tide, in very calm weather, owing to fallen rocks in the narrow passage.⁴ I first visited the headland in

¹ Described in a paper intended to be published by the R. Soc. Antt. of Ireland.
² Dunmore, near Slea Head, has works 1,570 ft. long.
³ “Two Months at Kilkee,” p. 84.
⁴ A large fall took place since I was last through it, and I am told it is nearly impassable.
October, 1875, and saw the great hollows and mounds. I passed through the tunnel three years later; and the year after that, the Stacpooles, doing the same, found a group of people standing in the water, their canoe having been wrecked. Only for the newcomers all might have been drowned when the tide turned, like the unhappy people in the Poulashantana, at Downpatrick, in Mayo, during the yeomanry raid of 1798."

The inner mound of Doonegall rises 7 feet to 15 feet above the field inside, and 15 feet to 23 feet over the fosse. It is 42 feet thick at the base and 8 feet on top. The fosse is 16 feet wide below, and 8 feet to 10 feet deep, save at the gangway; the works are still over 640 feet long. The gangway is about 100 feet from the north cliff, the break from 207 feet to 336 feet from it, but little of the mound remains up to 429 feet. I saw no huts or foundations inside, but there are certain shallow ponds of fantastic shapes, which may be ancient.

As to Leimchaite, Leimchotta, or Leimconor, as it is variantly called, it is very noteworthy how often "Leaps" occur near promontory forts; we have the Leap of the Giant Geodruisge to Dunbriste Rock, at Downpatrick Head; the Leap of the Sea Horse at Dun Fiachrach, and the Leaps of the Priest and of Eanir and Darrig at Dunnamo, Dunaneanir and Dunadearg, all in North Mayo; besides the Leam an (fh)irmore, or "Big Man's Leap," east from the first. In Co. Clare, besides Leimconor, we have O'Brien's Leap at Dunlicka, and Cuchullin's at Loop Head. In Co. Kerry is the Leap of Ballingarry; in Co. Cork, the Hound's Leap at Leamcon Castle, and in Co. Waterford the Heir's Leap at Ardmore. O'Donovan attempts to account for these as from the "leaping" of the sea, but we have many inland "Leaps," like the original "Leap of Cuchullin" up the Shannon, the Leimaneighs in Co. Clare and elsewhere, and the Horse Leap at Ard-murcher Castle. The legend of Cuchullin's Leap once attached to a spot far inland on the Shannon.

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As this name occurs in Co. Clare at an inland "thunder hole" at Lismuinga, near Ruan, with water in the bottom, I very much doubt the received translation, "Hole of the old wave," The Ruan hole is locally pronounced Powlnashountinny and Poolnashountanka.

The view from the Horseshoe Cliff (which is nearly 250 feet high, the water below it 48 feet deep) sweeps up Malbay to Hag's Head, and Aran: Liscanor Castle, the spire of Miltown Malbay, and the dark speck of Tromra opposite Mutton Island, are all visible, while southwards we see far towards Loop Head, and from certain points the Shannon and even Scattery Round Tower are visible. Hautbois Bay often abounds in gulls and seals, and is full of interest to the naturalist, whilst to students of folk lore the lake behind the shingle beach has an interesting legend, like Lough Neagh, Inchiquin Lake, Cullaunyheeda and many another Irish Lough. Folk told in 1836 how a city and tower in the then unflooded valley had been submerged through the fault of a woman. A magic well lay near the city, its guardian being Noulle, the king's daughter. A strangely handsome youth fascinated her by his love songs and she forgot her charge till the well burst out and covered the city and its inhabitants.

FARIGHY. Several forts lie round the lake near the village of Bealáha. Lisroe, the red fort, to the south, is the smallest. To the north of the stream in Glascloon lie Cahergal (white fort), Caherduff (black fort), and Doonbeg, the first is about 100 feet across; Bealaha Liss somewhat larger and the others smaller; the banks are high and steep, nearly all their stone facing is removed for building and road metal. Bealaha Liss has mounds 9 feet to 12 feet higher than the ditch, and well preserved. On the road to Hautbois Bay is Bealard Liss with mounds 6 feet to 8 feet high, and little if any trace of a fosse. The group is alluded to by a deed of about 1550[7] by which Edmond Roe son of Gilladuff MacSweeney of Kilkee (cill caoidh) conveyed the place to (Donchadh O'Brien) the Earl of Thomond, with "the rath and quarter of Dunbeg, meared by the pool of Gaethbuidhe to the south, and by Loch Margraighe to the north, by the foot of Creeduff at the entrance of Island Mac Ulga to the east, and Cammanafeany to the west." Most of these names are lost. Gaethbuidhe (yellow breezy pool) is evidently Farighy Lake; Lough Margraighe may be Pullen Bay, on the bounds of Cahirleane; Cammanafeany, "the little crooked

stream,” now a mere ditch, running down from Baltard. Caherduff and Cahermoyle forts in Upper Glascloon, appear in a grant of 1623.⁸ The 1675 Survey gives the Earl’s properties as Farrihy, Caherleane, Ballyard, and Glascloon. The manorial court was at Lisdeen, just over the edge of Killard Parish in Moyarta Barony, the Lis Duibhín of the 1390 rental of the O’Brien chiefs.

The headland of Farighy Point was formerly fortified (as so frequently) by two earthworks and hollows, the former capped by dry stone walls, nearly removed, even when I first saw it, in 1875. The earthworks are now much levelled to the south, the stones almost entirely gone. The first work lies about 180 feet from the end of the drift cap, which is rapidly falling away. The inner (western) mound is over 4 ft. high and about 10 ft. thick. At 33 ft. farther eastward is the fosse. This slight hollow is between two mounds; each of the three is 15 feet wide at the field; the fosse is 9 ft. in the bottom. The arrangement is similar to the Kerry Headforts, or the outworks at Doon Canuig in Kerry, and Reen Point near Castlehaven, in Co. Cork.⁹ About 30 feet farther landward is a bank 10 feet thick and 4 feet 6 inches high, and a shallow ditch 9 feet wide. At 450 feet from the end is the trace of a curved fence 10 feet thick, too strong to be modern. The ends of the works abut on steep sloping rocks unbroken by the sea for probably many centuries, though the end of the head is so wave cut. The total length to the present field fence is 490 feet. At least 20 feet have been cut away from the drift bank at the end since I made my former plan in 1906. The headland represents the head and body of a great crested bird dipping its beak in the waves. Out to sea lie the two Biraghta (Spit) Rocks. When I was a boy (in 1870 and 1872) I was told they were called Balka and Sea Foam from two alleged wrecks. The headland has a fine view of Doonegall and its ramparts across the Bay.

On a ridge, running towards Bealaha, are several forts and a little graveyard. The earthworks are of small interest, being usually low and defaced, mere house rings; only one has a name, Liscon-

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⁸ Cited in the Earl of Thomond’s Inquisition, P.R.O.I.
Photo by

ST. BRENDAN'S HOLY WELL,
Farighy.

[George Fogarty, R.N.]
noll, another near some houses has fairly high mounds. To the N.E., on a parallel ridge, is a little graveyard. It has no old tombs, and but one late slab of interest:—"In loving remembrance of Captain Arthur Webb, aged 41 years, who was lost at sea, 31 Jan., 1886, at the time of the total loss of the ss. Fulmar; found Feb. 4th, and buried at Farrhy." A holy well, dedicated to St. Brendan, lies near the shore and village; the modern chapel is dedicated to St. Senan.

KILTINNAUN.

Kiltinnaun lies some three miles eastward from Kilkee and, to judge from its name and position, was one of the churches founded by (or dedicated to) the Apostle of Corcavaskin, St. Senan. On the rising ground to the south of it, beside the road leading to Kilrush, the saint's bell (the Mediæval Lives tell us) descended, ringing sweetly, from Heaven, where a rude wayside altar and a popular tradition fix the spot. The bell, or rather its shrine, is that preserved in the Keane family, and I must thank Mr. Marcus Keane, of Beechpark, for bringing over the bell to Edenvale, in 1900, for me to sketch, and supplying much of the legendary material embodied in a paper that year. The church stood on an early earthwork of the low mote type, like the church of Moyarta, near Carrigaholt. This was beside a little stream full of rushes and flaggers in a long shallow valley. The earthwork was a platform five or six feet higher than the field, circular and surrounded to the east and south by a wet fosse fed by the stream, and to the north by a deep dry fosse through a low spur from which it was separated. There seems to have been an outer ring, but the modern wall runs round it. The platform is revetted with vaults, and the oldest graves lie thick on top. There may be traces of the church in fragments of flag stone walls on the platform. No building is marked on the 1839 maps. It is interesting to note how a fashion prevails in tombstones here as elsewhere. A single tombstone takes the popular fancy, and is recopied many times in an increasingly degraded form. Everywhere we see rude carvings of the instruments of the Passion, the 30

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pieces of silver, the cock standing on the pot, and the sun and moon. A holy well of St. Senan lies among the graves to the S.E. of the earthwork. The mound is surrounded, at least round the east and west segments, with primitive old vaults, small, with sodded roofs and half-buried in the ground. The old aspect of the cemetery is much spoiled by several ugly modern vaults outside the circle, in one of which bees have established a nest. I found no tombstone earlier than 1811; the oldest are Quealy, 1811 and 1812; MacNamara, 1812 and 1852; Quinlan, 1812; Mahony, 1813; MacInerney and Kean, 1817, 1818; Kelleher and Shanaghan, 1818; Purcell, 1824; Griffith, 1825; Mahony, 1826; Foley and MacGrath, 1828; Conway, 1829; Haragan and Quinlan, 1832; Lynch, 1834; Kett, 1835; Murphy and Kinerk, 1836. From the reign of William IV. down monuments are numerous, but, so many being of visitors to Kilkee, they are less than the other graveyards connected with local history. I may note Carey, Clancy, Delohery, Fitzgerald, Foreham, Green, Haugh, Huohan, Kelliher, MacDonnell, Meloher, O’Brien, O’Neill, Quinlan, Sullivan and Stapleton. St. Senan’s altar is a nearly shapeless grassy mound, 5 feet to 6 feet high, and about 12 feet each way, with large slabs of stone projecting. It stands on the summit of the low hill and beside the steep road not far to the south of the graveyard. The bell legend is vaguely remembered, and Mrs. Pat Welsh, of Farighly Cross, tells me that the Mass was celebrated at the altar of St. Senan when it was unsafe to celebrate it elsewhere. Standing on the end of a ridge, with the low large bog beyond, it overlooks a wide extent of country off to the low hills towards Drumellihy and Kilmihil.

LISNALEAGAUN FORT.

We again return to Kilkee and find, behind the “east end” of the town, in the fields, not far from the station, a noteworthy earthwork named Lisnaleagaun, “the fort of the pillar stone.” No pillar stone remains near it. The fort must have been familiar to visitors from the first, but Mrs. Knott seems to be the first who noted it and gave it thereby a place in the compilations of guide book makers, who rarely see what no predecessor has “written up.” “A fine old Danish fort . . . . It lies behind
ST. SENAN'S HOLY WELL,
Kiltinnaun.
the town upon a little hill, and has a thick bank thrown up all round it; about 700 feet circumference; the moat, or ditch, is about 25 feet wide, the centre gradually rises from 16 to 20 feet, the summit is about 300 feet in circumference and nearly level. On the south side are two rather small openings which lead to subterranean chambers and occupy the interior of the second elevation; they are said to be extensive. The neighbourhood was thrown into consternation some time since by a ventriloquist, who caused sounds of distress and anguish apparently to proceed from these vaults.”

She suggests that the apertures should be enlarged to enable “the curious to descend and explore the probable storehouse of the Northern depredators. The lads of the village are now the chief visitors of this antique circle.” They told how the ghosts kept clothes from being stolen while being dried on the forts, and how no labourer would help the landlord to level it. Almost at the same date, Eugene O’Curry examined it. He writes in 1835. He calls the fort Lios an chairn; 9 feet high from floor level to the top of the wall. About 1818, a farmer, seeing a cow motionless on top found that its leg was fixed between two stones. Digging and raising one slab they found the passage with walled sides and roof slabs; shells and bones lying about, and other passages running “in all directions.”

John Windele, in 1834, visited the fort; he describes it as 100 feet across, and the ditch 25 feet wide (C. C. “Supplement,” MSS. R.I. Acad., 12 K. 27, Vol. I., p. 7.).

The dimensions are 105 feet across, north and south, 120 feet east and west, and 14 feet to 16 feet high above the ditch, which is 20 feet to 25 feet wide, and 3 feet to 5 feet deep. The outer ring is usually levelled, save for about 70 feet to the north and north-west; it rises 10 feet over the fosse, and is 14 feet to 20 feet thick. The sides are very steep and may have been revetted with dry stonework and capped with a dry stone rampart, but no trace remains. The main mound has been injured to the east, but only

11 “Two Months at Kilkee,” p. 40.
12 The letter has been recently added to the Co. Clare Ordnance Survey Letters in R. I. Acad. For O’Curry’s life see supra Journal Lim. Field Club, vol. i., part 3, and vol. ii., p. 177. At that time he signed “Curry,” or more formally “Ua Chomraidhe.”
slightly. The souterrain lies to the south, a small oval cell, 5 feet 4 inches by 8 feet 8 inches, with a slab roof, thence a small ope, some feet above the floor, gives admission to the main passage, and thence, by a second doorway with a small ope, to the west and another oblong cell beyond. The whole lies east-north-east and west-south-west, and is about 36 feet long. The roofs are now nearly all taken for sills and flags, and the rooms are filled with brambles and nearly inaccessible.\textsuperscript{13}

The fort is of the low-mote type, rare in Co. Clare; similar earthworks occur at Lugalassa, near Bodyke, and Lisnaagree, up the high pass of Formoyle, in the eastern hills near Broadford. The inauguration mound of Magh Adhair is similar, whatever be its origin, and, despite dogmatic contradiction, was certainly residential with its fosse and strong outer ring and traces of the common dry stone wall on top. This last may have been “a king’s grave” (like other low forts), a marsh fort and an inauguration mound, but narrow views should be excluded (especially in our present ignorance) from theories of Irish “forts.”

GEORGE’S HEAD.

The local belief in Kilkee is that the Irish name was Ceann Foirchig (Dark Head), which was corrupted to Ceann Scorsais or George’s Head. Dr. G. Fogerty procured this information from Mr. Halloran of Kilkee. I give it on the sole authority of the latter.

It were indeed strange if this bold promontory\textsuperscript{14} were unfortified. All round the coast from Sligo down the west and south coasts, and up to Belfast, I have not found more than a couple of suitable headlands without promontory forts; of these only one, Nanhe, in Aran, occurs on the west coast. Even in its case, a dry stone wall may have been carried away, leaving no trace on the bare crag, though I do not see any reason to believe that this occurred.

The remains at George’s Head are certainly uncommon, and perhaps their object is disputable, but when I describe them I think

\textsuperscript{13} See my paper on Ring Forts of Moyarta Barony, R.S.A.I., vol xxxix., pp. 116, 119.

\textsuperscript{14} It seems to have no recorded early Irish name; it was “Cream Point,” from the constant churned foam round it, in 1835.
GEORGE'S HEAD, KILKEE, CO. CLARE.
many (still more any that have seen the traces) will allow that they are remains of no field-fence, but of a large promontory fort. First the mound is over 20 to 25 feet thick, the local fences are rarely 6 feet thick. The cattle tracks through the mounds are so deeply worn as to be evidently of great antiquity; no trace of the mound shows in these passes, which, if it were a fence to control cattle on the Head, must have been carefully closed. The objection as to the irregular line of the work applies equally to Dunmore Head in Kerry (the nature of its even slighter, though better preserved works is undoubted), or the deep bold fosse and massive works at Ferriter's Castle on Doon Point in the same county. The following of irregular natural contours is a commonplace in the greater ring forts. As to the worn condition, anyone who has given the least attention to forts has seen hundreds of undoubted works equally time worn, reaching their culmination in the faint line across Dooega Head in Achill. There only at the fallen end do we see how deep its fosse and strong the mounds were before the ages of rain and storm filled up the one and wore down the other. The mound begins at Burne's Hole, a favourite bathing cove. Thence it runs in a waving line somewhat northward or slightly east of north (being, as I said, some 20 feet to 26 feet wide) with a capping of stones buried under the sward, but probably once a wall, or rather the small filling of one. It has a shallow ditch in front and no outer mound, it extends to the edge of the steep crag slopes above the low rocks at the northern bay, ending in Lackglass rock and once known as 'the Great Horseshoe.'

The works run unbrokenly for 230 feet. There is some difficulty in fixing the actual commencement at the broken cliff. They are concave to the land for 43 feet, then a shallow cattle track crosses them and is probably not very ancient; at 48 feet farther is a deep slanting path up the slope and a deep cattle gap in the mound 142 feet from the cliff. At 195 feet the convex bend sweeps round once more; about 200 feet the works are obliterated; at 250 is the great hollow way; there a break occurs 15 feet wide at a hollow. North of it they rise abruptly. They are well marked to the inside and outside of the line, and run for 330 feet to the edge of the slope. They are about 650 feet long. Two small house rings lie outside the mound; this again favours the antiquity, for such ancient outlying houses
are found outside the walls of promontory forts at Downpatrick, Duncartan, and Dúnamo in North Mayo, Dúnnacurogh on Achillbeg, Dunmore on Bófin, Dúnnachappul on Cliara (Clare Island), Dubh Cathair in Aran, Bishop's Island and Dúndoillbróe in this county; Pookenee in Kerry, Old Head and Reen Point in Co. Cork, and elsewhere. The ring on George's head is 48 feet inside E. and W and 41 N. and S., with a shallow fosse 10 feet wide, and an outer ring 10 feet thick. In all 70 to 80 feet across. A circular pit is in the centre. The more northern site, about 30 feet from the last, is easily passed by, but distinctly marked on the field. It is about 27 feet across inside, with a fosse 9 to 10 feet wide, and no existing outer ring—46 feet over all E. and W and 43 feet N. and S. Inside on the head I noted two regularly semi-circular bands of coarse grass, which resemble the circles elsewhere, marking otherwise vanished hut sites. I suppose the clay and wicker walls made a richer soil (maintained by its decaying vegetation) on the poorer soil of the Head, with close sea-pinked sward. So the ancient cattle tracks called "Dane's Ditches" at Achill and elsewhere make green lines through the brown ling from fort to fort and dolmen to dolmen. Antiquaries here have much to learn from their brethren in Great Britain, who do not shut their eyes to the ancient tracks round the forts. I have noted these in Mayo, Co. Clare, Kerry Head, Lough Gur, Co. Limerick; Dunworley and the Old Head, Co. Cork; and at Tara, but fear I have overlooked many elsewhere.

The view from the wave-bared extremity of the headland is very fine, but it is excelled by that from the summit of the hill in Corbally, at the end of Lacklass Bay. The first outlook extends northward along the promontories to Doonegall, and even Aran, and southward down the coast over the foaming reefs of Duggerna, past Bishop's Island, to Loop Head; while, up the Bay, is a panoramic view of the little town and its crescent strand. On clear days the higher view is extended to the giant peaks of Bunnabeola in Conna- mara, and those of Slieve Mish, Caherconree and Mount Brandon in Kerry.

In the fields up the stream valley towards the new reservoir is another ring fort, 90 feet inside, with an earthen ring, stone capped and faced in parts, 16 feet thick and 7 feet high. The facing commenced at 3 feet above the fosse, which is 4 feet deep and 12 to 15
feet wide. No outer ring or inner house sites remain, but there are traces of a stone gateway to the east. It looks down the valley to Bishop's Island and the entrenchments on George's Head.

CONCLUSION.

Little remains for me to add in closing the long series of antiquarian papers on the pleasure resorts of Co. Clare, from 1903, in this Journal (then of the Limerick Field Club). In trying to give more than dry facts on the one hand, and more than tourist-guide-book-matter on the other, I may have failed in my design. I had the reward from the first in finding how many that never "professed or called themselves antiquaries" were interested in the brief history and notes, and went to study for themselves the remains they otherwise might have missed.

A few points require notes and additions:—

KILKEE FISHPOND (supra. p. 222). The dimensions of this got printed wrongly. They were intended to be "350 feet by 110 feet." I can now give a careful plan. It may be seen that the pond is bounded to the north and south by parallel earthworks, but it is not easy to fix the actual length. The north mound is almost
exactly 300 feet long, the south about 340 feet to 350 feet. The actual basin was 21 feet to 24 feet wide, but when full it must have been from 56 feet to 54 feet wide. The plan however gives a clearer notion of the arrangement. In all it is about 370 feet by 110 feet. About a quarter of a century ago it was called "Lady Isabella's Pond." She was said to have been an O'Brien.

KILFIERAGH. It may be interesting to people connected with Kilkee to do for Kilfieragh, their parish graveyard, what has been done for Kiltinnnaun, namely, give a fairly complete list of the families commemorated. As usual in this part of Clare, even fairly old tombs are absent, nor did I find any object of antiquity or even a tombstone older than 1790. The oldest date I found was on the slab of Francis, father of the Patrick O'Brien, who died 1792, his wife Joan in 1823; Arthur O'Keeffe 1800, John O'Keeffe 1806; the Cox family 1810, 1813, 1832; O'Keeffe 1815; Arthur O'Donnell, of Kildimo; MacMahon, 1832; MacInerney, 1832, 1835; and MacGrath, 1837. The tombs of the reign of Victoria are of Maria, daughter of Dr. Thomas Ryall, 1840; Halpin, 1840; O'Dea, 1843; Couny and Belson, 1844; McCarthy, 1848; Connellan, 1850; Thomas Conlan, of Nenagh, drowned at Kilkee, 1850; Denis Troy, of Dunaha, 1853; Kennedy, of Lisgarreen, 1855; Goulding, 1856; Doherty, 1859; Hough, of Kilfiera, 1867; Reid, of Querin, 1868; Keane, 1872 (aged 87). Few are of more than local interest. An undated one is of Hanah, daughter of Denis McMahon, of Carrigaholt, and niece of Captain D. H. O'Brien, R.N. The Hough vault is against the gable of the old church. The Connellan tomb has elaborate rude carvings of the crucifixion, the sun and moon, the instruments of the Passion, 30 pieces of silver, the cock in the pot. It is curious how the story from the apocryphal Acts of Pilate seized on popular favour in Ireland from the 15th century. The earliest example in Co. Clare is in the group of the Man of Sorrows, in Ennis Abbey, about 1460. The Troy tomb has a very curious carving of the Angel of Judgment,

15 Supra vol i., p. 223.
16 Journal R. Soc. Antt. Ir., vol. xxxv, p. 408, has a very interesting note by Rev. St. John Seymour, the first who traced the remote origin of this well known device in Ireland. He gives the text from the Acta Pilati and the Sahadic "Life of the Virgin."
clad in a tailed coat, with six large buttons, and blowing the trumpet.

"With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture deck’t
Demand the passing tribute of a sigh."

The forts to the west of the church, Lisheenagreany and a nameless one, are levelled, merely circular mounds a foot or two high. Lissyooolaghán to the east is about 4 feet high, and had a dry stone facing and wall now nearly all removed.

MOYARTA FORTS—LISSAGREENAUN. This fort, lying in Moyasta townland, deserves a brief description as of the less usual type of liss in this part of Co. Clare. It has no outer ring. The fosse is wet, 15 feet wide and 4 feet deep. The ring rises 12 feet above it, the garth being a raised platform, 78 feet across N. and S. and 120 feet E. and W. inside the rampart, which is about 16 feet wide. No stone-work remains, nor any trace of a gangway or gateway. It has a good distant view of Carrigaholt Castle and across the Shannon, the new wireless telegraph station near Ballybunion being clearly visible.

The other forts near it are of the more usual type. One between Bellia village and the main road to Kilkee has a high ring and shallow fosse. BELLIA LISS, to the S.E. of the road is finer, though the side road cuts through its southern segment in the fosse. The rings are 7 to 8 feet high, hidden in bushes, with a wet fosse and an outer ring 4 to 5 feet over the fosse. LISNAGREEVE is defaced and overgrown, but of similar construction. One small house ring, barely 60 feet across and 4 feet high, is N.E. of the road at Goleen, not far from the last; it is half levelled.

Another house ring, better preserved, but closely similar in size and arrangement, is in Carrownawalaun, whose fine two circled Liss I have previously described and planned. There is, however, an outer ring and a deeper fosse. Another small example, the garth 3 or 4 feet higher than the marshy field, lies nearer to Kilferagh cross. I merely give these as most accessible from Kilkee for those anxious to study the ring forts near that place for themselves. The whole country is full of similar remains, showing how dense a population dwelt in the Irrus of Clare in early and mediæval times.