

## ADARE PARISH.

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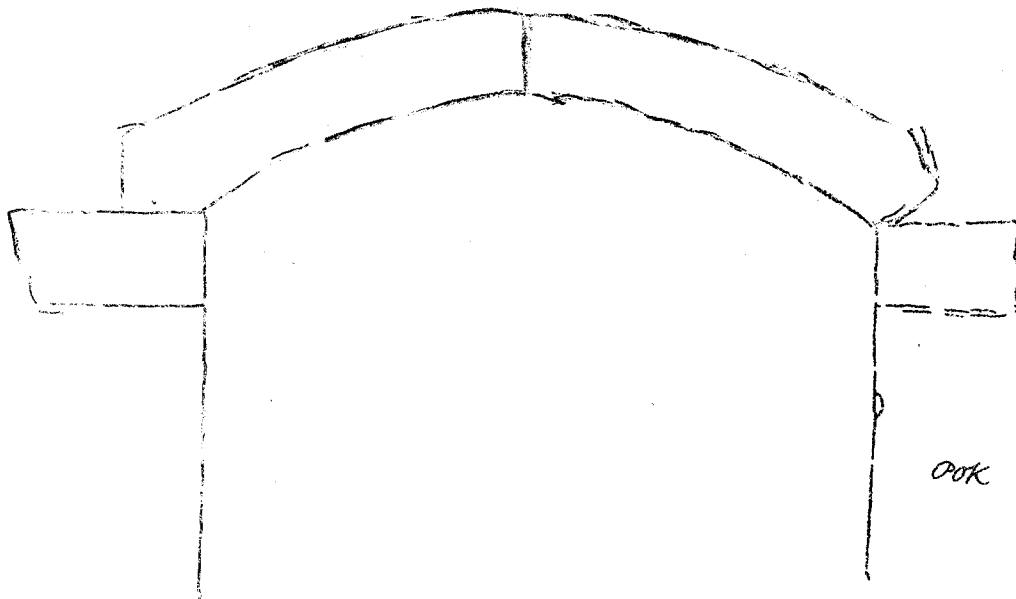
**SITUATION.** This Parish is situated in the Baronies of Coshma, Connello Upper and Kenry, and is bounded on the \*\*\*

**NAME.** Adare is called in Irish Áth Dara, that is the Ford of the Oak, Vadum Quercus.

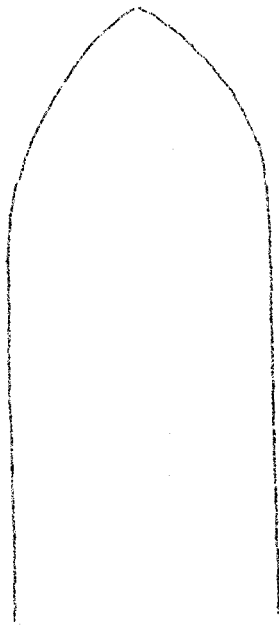
The Church called Adare old Church stands in ruins at the distance of about one hundred and fifty yards to the northeast of Desmond old Castle. The walls remain perfect; it has three apartments and four gables. The whole length of the building is one hundred feet. The east part is sixteen feet broad; the next or middle part is twenty one feet broad; the third or west one is twenty three feet broad. All the windows are modern excepting probably the one on the east gable, which is round at top, is five and a half feet by six inches and built with chiselled brown sand stone. The side walls are about fourteen feet high and three and a half feet thick. Materials are lime stones of large and small size, irregularly laid with lime and sand mortar. 194

At the distance of twenty three yards to the north of this building stand the walls of another Church, in perfect condition, which measure thirty six feet by twenty feet on the outside. The window on the east gable measures nine feet by one and a half feet; is constructed with chiselled lime stones and pointed at top. There were two windows on the side walls, one on each, at the distance of five feet from the east gable, which are now defaced. On the south side wall, at the distance of six feet from the west gable, is a pointed doorway built with chiselled lime-stone, which is eight feet in height by five feet two inches in breadth on the inside; and seven feet two inches in height by three feet eleven inches in breadth on the outside. The arch is formed of two stones. 195

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Doorway of old Church  
Adare.



*Arch on Cloister, Grey Friars Abbey*

The walls of this building are about fifteen feet high and four feet thick. Regular sized stones and cement of lime and sand mortar are the materials of the edifice.

There was an Abbey here formerly called "Black Friar's Abbey". The only remains of it are the nave and part of the choir of the Church, which after the Dissolution have been fitted into a Roman Catholic Chapel, now the Parish Chapel of Adare, and a tower which is in the centre of the building, about forty feet high. 197

About half a furlong to the north of this Abbey, and a short distance to the south of the Bridge of Adare, stood "White Friar's Abbey" the remains of which, namely the nave and part of the conventual Church have been after the Dissolution fitted up for a Protestant Church, now the parochial one. A square tower stands on the middle of this building. 198

This establishment was it appears very extensive; the walls of many unroofed edifices are to be seen around the place. About half a furlong to the east of the latter Abbey and at the east side of the river, within the Demesne of Adare Castle, stand the ruins of "The Poor or Grey Friar's Abbey" which consist of the nave, choir and south transept of the Church in tolerable preservation with a square tower rising to the height of sixty feet. And the cloisters, offices, refectory and several other buildings still remain. 199

There is a large yew tree standing in the middle of this cloister which measures eight feet in girth and is in full bloom. Here follows the several references to the place found in the documents in our hands:- 200

#### Athadara (Adare).

A.D. 1465. A Franciscan Monastery was founded at Athadara\* in Munster, in the Diocese of Limerick, on the banks of the River Maigh, by Thomas, Earl of Kildare and (his wife) Judith, the daughter of James, Earl of Desmond who erected a tomb for themselves in it.

\* Athdara, now Adaire, a small town on the River Maige in the Barony of Kenry nine miles west of the City of Limerick.

A.D. 1502. Donogh O'Brien died. He was son of Brian, who was son of Conor, who was son of Mahon, who was son of Mortogh, who was son of Torlogh, who was son of Teige, who was son of Connor na Suidaine, who was son of Donogh Cairbreach etc. This Donogh was the fountain of the prosperity and affluence of Munster; he was Lord of the district extending from Adair to Limerick and from Baile Nua to the Monastery of Nenagh and was Lord of Aharlagh and Kill-Beithne. 201

A.D. 1579. The Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, Sir William Drury, was at this time in Cork and with him also were the Earl of Kildare and Sir Nicholas Maulby. These (noblemen) set out towards the County of Limerick and pitched their camp in the neighbourhood of Kilmallock. Hither the Earl of Desmond came to meet them and endeavoured to impress it upon their minds that he himself had not participated in the proceedings of James Mac-Maurice and had not been instrumental in drawing him into the country or in the crimes committed by his relatives; and he delivered up to the Chief Justice his only son and heir as a hostage to ensure his fidelity to the Crown of England. A promise was thereupon made to the Earl that his territory should not be plundered in future, but although this promise was made it was never adhered to, for his people were slain, his cattle destroyed and his corn and edifices burned.

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The Chief Justice afterwards set out from the Camp of Kilmallock attended by three or four captains and four hundred English and Irish soldiers to search the woods of Coili-Mor and try whether they could discover any of their enemies in them. They fell in with the young sons of the Earl of Desmond viz., John and James Oge at Gort-na-Tiobrat, Field of the Spring, and here a furious engagement took place in which the people of the Lord Chief Justice were defeated and three of their captains slain, viz., Captain Herbert, Captain Eustace and Captain Spris, together with three hundred of their men. Many made their escape to the camp by flight. The Chief Justice then removed his camp to Bel-Atha-na nDeise, which is situated in the very centre of Cliu-Mail-Mic-Ughaine, and here he contracted a disease which subsequently brought on his death. Captain Maulby was left to maintain (carry on) the war against the Geraldines and the Lord Justice was conveyed in a chariot to Waterford, where he died. A nobleman, one of the Queen's people, Sir William Pelham by name, who had come from England that very week was solicited by the Court of Dublin to succeed him in the office and to protect Ulster, Meath and Fingal against the ravages of Hy-Niall and the Irish of Leath Chuinn (as the Chief Justice lately deceased had done) while Captain Malby should reduce the Momonians to subjection.

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In the same week the Earl of Ormond returned to Ireland, having been three years in England. With regard to Captain Maulby, he, after the death of the Lord Chief Justice, proceeded to Limerick to obtain a new supply of artillery and to procure provisions for his soldiers. From thence he marched to Eas-Gebhtene (Askeaton). On the same day the young sons of the Earl of Desmond came to look for arms or spoils in the County of Limerick and they and the Captain met each other face to face although they had sought to avoid instead of to meet him. A battle was bravely fought between both parties in which the

Irish army were so resolutely pressed by the Captain's forces that they were finally defeated with the loss of Thomas, the son of John Oge, who was son of John, who was son of Thomas, who was son of the Earl, and Owen the son of Edmond Oge, who was son of Edmond, who was son of Torlogh Mc Sheehy and a great number of the constables of the Clan Sheehy as well as a great many of the forces of the sons of the Earl.

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Considerable spoils, consisting of weapons and military accoutrements, were left on this occasion to the Captain's people. This battle was fought at Aonach-Beag. The Captain after this remained almost a whole week at Askeaton, the Geraldines threatening every day to give him battle although they did not. The Captain destroyed the Monastery of that town and then proceeded to Adaire where he remained subjugating the people of that neighbourhood until the New Justice, Sir William Pelham, the Earl of Kildare, and the Earl of Ormond came and joined him. They all encamped together in Hy-Conillo. The Earl of Desmond did not proceed to meet them on this occasion because his territory had been ravaged and his people destroyed contrary to their promise to him that these should not be molested. The English seeing that the Earl had joined his relatives, consulted together and resolved to station their warders in his towns, viz., in Lough-Gur, Rath-Mor, Castle-Morrisson, Adaire and Kilmallock and depart themselves for their respective homes. In consequence of this the whole country from Luchair Deaghaidh to the Suire and from Kinfibrat to the Shannon was rendered miserable.

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A.D. 1581. Upon one occasion (it happened) a fierce and merciless body of the soldiers of Adaire, having been divided into two parties went forth one by land and the other by water to traverse Kenry (and the lands lying) along the side of the Maig (Coshma Barony) and to engage with the rebels or force booty from them.

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These two parties met together at a short distance from Baile-Ui-Chathlain where they were encountered by David Oge (the son of David of the Lake, who was son of Thomas, who was son of John, who was son of Thomas, who was son of Philip, who was son of the Knight) and his forces who made a fierce attack upon them, and having surrounded them, fell upon them so violently that they soon left them but a heap of blood stained trunks and mutilated and mangled carcasses. Very few of them escaped, the greater number being slaughtered on that spot by David and his people.

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As soon as this was heard at Adaire the Captain of that town assembled the soldiers of Kilmallock and set out at the head of a cruel and vigorous body of men to traverse Kenry

with a view to see whether he could find man or men upon whom to wreak his vengeance for the killing of his soldiers. He arrived at Baile-Ui-Chathlain one of the Towns of Purcell who had always assisted the Crown from the very commencement of the War between the English and the Geraldines to that time. The Captain slew one hundred and fifty women and children and all sort of persons he found inside and outside the town.

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A.D. 1583. John Carrach the son of William, who was son of Theobald Burke, heir of the Suir (i.e., of the district lying along the Suire) who had hitherto been implicated in the Insurrection gave himself up on "protection". After the death of the Earl of Desmond he went into the Territory of the Geraldines in search of booty and made no delay, not until he arrived at Adaire where he seized upon all the cattle. The warders of the town rose up in pursuit of him. John with his small body of horsemen turned round upon them but a mus-quet was directly levelled at his helmet and the ball entered his head, so that he was thrown from his horse. His people carried off the plunder but left John behind who was afterwards carried to Limerick where he was hanged by the Commissioners of that town.

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A.D. 1599.

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When the Earl of Essex had taken Cahir he, accompanied by the Earl of Ormond and the other chiefs, proceeded with their army to Limerick and pitched his camp outside the town. Here he was visited by Sir Coniers Clifford, Governor of Connaught; by the Earl of Clanrickard (Ulick the son of Richard Saxonach) and by the Earl of Thomond (Donogh the son of Conor O'Brien). When these nobles had advised with one another for some time and had come to fixed resolutions, the Governor and the Earl of Clanrickard returned back to Connaught and the Earl of Essex, the Earl of Ormond and the Earl of Thomond proceeded into Munster to see whether they could invade (subdue) the Geraldines. On the first night after having left Limerick, in the month of June, they encamped upon the banks of the River of Adaire and as they advanced on the next day, Saturday, through Robhair, the soldiers and youths of the Earl of Desmond and the Geraldine troops met them face to face. The reception which they (the Geraldines) gave to the representative of their Sovereign on his first visit to them was a very fierce and disagreeable one; for they discharged into the eyes of him and his army the fire and black smoke of powder, and showers of balls from straightly pointed (aimed) guns and he heard the fierce and outrageous shouts of soldiers and champions eager for battle, instead of the mild language of courtesy, obedience and submission with which he should have been addressed. The result of this attack was that great

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numbers of the Earl of Essex's men were slain and that he was not suffered to pass much further on that day.

In Smith's Collections for Limerick (MSS. R.I.A.) are the following references to this place:- 216

"Religious Houses in Limerick" (From Sir James Ware).

"Fryery of Athdare or Adaire, an Abbey founded for Friars of the Order of the Blessed Trinity for the redemption of captives, in the reign of Edward I."

Adaire is mentioned in nine places in Smith's Miscellaneous Limerick Papers.

(Gough's Camden):-

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#### Adaire.

Adaire, for Trinitarians, in the reign of Edward I, by John, Earl of Kildare, in a small ancient town eight miles from Limerick in the Barony of Coshma on the River Mage now consisting of a few wretched cabins; some large and very perfect ruins remain (Archd. 414-415; Farrar 431). John, Earl of Kildare, son of Earl Thomas, who died 1315 founded here a house of Austin Friars; great part of which also remain in good preservation (Archd. 414-416). Thomas, Earl of Kildare, founded here also 1465 a house of Grey Friars, of which the steeple remains (Archd. 416-417).

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This place gives title to Sir Richard Quin, Bart., who was created Baron Adouré of Adaire, July 30 1800.

(Archdall's Mon. Hib. R.I.A.) Vol. 2, p.414:-

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A small town situated in the Barony of Kennery and on the River Mage, which now consists of a few wretched cabins though it was formerly a place of note.

#### Trinitarian Friary.

A house was founded here on the south side of the town for Friars of the Order of the Holy Trinity, for the redemption of Christian captives, in the reign of King Edward I (War. Mon.) by John, Earl of Kildare (Lodge's Kildare). One writer alone gives this foundation to the family of Clangibbon (Allamande).

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A.D. 1319. Peter was Prior, for in the same year we find that Friar John Seys and Friar Gilbert de Clare, together with Master John Croyne were accused of taking by force and violence



goods and chattels of the said Prior Peter, to the amount and value of one hundred shillings; they gave bail for their appearance to answer to the said charge (King p.256).

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A.D. 1326. This year, on the 12th July, a license was granted to Peter, then head of this Order in Ireland, that he and his Convent might acquire from William Northen in pure and perpetual alms, three acres of land in Adaire, which he held in capite from John, the son of John, Earl of Kildare (Id). Inquisition taken on the morrow of St. Martin XX Q. Elizabeth finds that 4th October and of her reign she demised to Sir Warham St. Leger this house, also the Abbey of Nenanghe and the Nunnery of Saint Catherine both in the County of Limerick with all their possessions at the annual rent of £22. 17s. 8d. Irish money. Inquisition 8th March XX Q. Elizabeth finds that the Rectory of Adaire appropriated to the Prior of this Friary was of the annual value of 20s. and the presentation of the Vicarage belonged to the Earl of Kildare (Chief Rem. MS.).

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Inquisition on the morrow of St. Martin. Inquisition taken on the morrow of the Holy Trinity XXVI Q. Elizabeth finds that 16th March 25 of her reign she demised to James Goulde, Gent, the Monastery of Nenagh and the Nunnery of St. Catherine, otherwise the Nunnery of Kailaghe alias Negilaghe in this County with all their possessions for the term of 40 years at the annual rent of £22. 17s. 8d.

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Nov. 4th XXXVII Q. Elizabeth, this Friary with all the houses on the site of the same and certain gardens containing about forty acres in the burgage of Adaire, and twenty acres, one small park and one carve of land in the fields of Adaire, together with the possessions of the Grey Friars, the Preaching Friars and the Augustin Friars of the same; the Abbey of Monasteranenagh and the Nunnery of St. Catherine, alias Monaster-Ni-Calliagh were granted to Sir Henry Wallop, Knight, for ever, by fealty only, in free common soccage and not in capite, nor by Knights service, at the annual rent of £26. 17s. 8d., Irish money, he maintaining two able horsemen on the premises, provided also that no part whatsoever of the same should be alienated to the Irish or forfeited (Auditor General).

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Some large and very perfect ruins of this Friary still remain. The steeple resembles a Castle and is supported by a plain arch with four diagonal ogives meeting in the centre and stairs leading to the battlements. The nave and choir are small and plain, without anything remarkable; in the rere are several other ruins; the entrance into the Friary was by a low gate on the west side, which is still standing.

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#### Augustinian Friary.

Was founded on the south side of the river by John, Earl

of Kildare, son to Earl Thomas, who died in the year 1315; he gave to this Friary the Village of Modollegghy and certain lands and tenements in the Town of Adaire (Survey of the Manor of Adaire made 1559. War MSS. Vol.34) consisting of a place, two burgages and a half (King p.422). The King, Edward II, confirmed these grants 13th December A.D. 1317 (Lodge's Kildare p.40). At the suppression of Monasteries, this Friary, then called the Black Abbey, was seized by a burgage containing a fourth part of a ploughland in and near the Town of Adaire and half a ploughland in Modullyhy, a salmon-leap on the River Mage and the tithes of the same (King p.421). This friary with its possessions, containing by estimation, two acres of land, sixteen cottages and seven gardens, in the site thereof with the appurtenances, tenements, etc, belonging to the same containing thirty five acres of land, eighteen of arable and three of pasture in Adaire; a parcel of land in the Parish called Modully alias Modallahie containing half a carve and the tithes of the same with the tithes of the aforesaid twenty one acres, the appurtenances thereof and the fishing wier on the River Mage, were granted to Sir Henry Wallop, Knight. See the Trinitarian Friary. 226 227 228

A great part of this Friary still remains in good preservation; the steeple, similar to that of the Trinitarians, is supported on an arch; the choir is large, with stalls, etc., and the nave answerable thereto, with a lateral aisle on the the south side; to the north of the steeple are some beautiful cloisters with Gothic windows, within which on three sides of the square, are corridors and on most of these windows are escutcheons with the English and saltire crosses, generally ranged alternately; the workmanship is simply elegant, the principal parts being of hewn lime which appears so fresh as to give it, on the whole, a modern yet venerable appearance. Adjoining the cloisters are several apartments which seem to be much more ancient than the other parts of the building. 229 230

This description of these Friaries was taken in the month of May 1781.

#### Grey Friary.

Was founded in the east part of the town in the year 1464 by Thomas, Earl of Kildare, and Judith, his wife, daughter of James, Earl of Desmond; the Church of this Friary, built at the sole expense of the Earl and Countess, was consecrated 29th September 1464 (Ann. 4 Mast.) when the noble founders presented it with two silver chalices and a bell which cost £10. The Earl also made a grant of the ground whereon the Friary was erected, with a garden, an orchard and a certain large enclosure, together with eight messuages, seven acres of small measure and convenient pastureage. Thomas, the Earl, died the 25th March 1478. And his Countess lived to the year 231 232

1486, when she was interred in the choir (Survey ut Supra & War MSS. Vol.34, p.162). Raymond de Burgh, who died on the 29th of July in the year 1562, chose this Friary for the place of his sepulture (War ut Supra).

At the general suppression, the Prior of this house was found seized of the same, with a pigeon house, seventy acres of land within the precincts, also of the tithes thereof and two ploughlands adjoining the Friary, one called Upland or Bernard and the other the Castle and half ploughland of Robertstown; the village and half ploughland of Kilkereely alias Kilcoyle, alias Kilbride; the field of Gormore near Adaire and sixteen acres adjoining; the meadow or marsh of Corkinminister lying on the south side of the Friary; the mill and water-course of Castle Roberts; a mill and water-course in Adaire; two salmon weirs on the River Mage and an eel-weir in the Parish of Adaire; the meadow of Nonyshaghagharees situated on the south of the Friary and a garden plot near to the same; the Rectory and Vicarage of the Town and Parish of Adaire together with all the tithes issuing from the following towns, viz., Adaire; Finittstown; Lissemarry; Choro; Toagh; Kilnookane; Lisskcalla; Graige; Derryvenane; Knockane; Ballylongford; Currawe; Kilrogan; Comyns; Boalbally; Castle Robert; Reynroe; Cloghrane; Killivaraghe; Rower; Fannignstown; Liscollybehly; Gowlane; Ballymacclery; Glanenoë; half of Ballygeill and from all the lands in the Parish of Adaire (King p.318). This Friary with its possessions containing sixteen acres of land, a Church, etc., three parks, a water mill and water course, with a fishing weir on the River Mage, was granted to Sir Henry Wallop, Knight, 4th November XXXVII Q. Elizabeth together with twenty acres, one small park and one carve of land in the fields of Adaire, two messuages, twelve acres and half a carve of land in Castle Roberts and a ruinous castle; three messuages, two cottages, twenty four acres of arable and six of pasture, a water mill and a water course and half a carve of land in Kilcoile, alias Kilcrill, with the tithes of the Rectories of Adare, Ballifuitter, Choro, Cloghran, Twoth, Curragh, Killnage, Roer, Killcrill, Ballyrobert, Ballyfanyng and half of Balligoell, all in this country and within the Parish of Adaire (alterages excepted) and a fishing weir on the River Mage, parallel of the possessions of the Monastery of the Preaching or Dominican Friars of Adaire. Thus it is mentioned in the records but no traces of this Friary can now be found, save a lofty square steeple. See the Trinitarian Friary in this town.

Also Fitzgerald in his History of Limerick describes the Abbeys at Adaire, but his words are a mere repetition of Archdall's descriptions of them given above.

## Castles.

There was a Castle in Finnitterstown, some remains of which are still visible. The east and south walls are still standing and six feet of the height of the west one. The dimensions could not be taken. It had four stories, the two lower of which were arched underneath. Finnitterstown is called in Irish by some persons Baile an Fhirtéara and by others Baile Fhliteara. This, it is highly probable, is Baile an Eletearaigh mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters at the year 1599. (It may be stated for certain).

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Baile an Eletearaigh - Annals 4 Masters.

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A.D. 1599. When the Earl of Essex had taken Cahir, he, accompanied by the Earl of Ormond and the other Chiefs, proceeded with their army to Limerick and pitched his camp outside the town. Here he was visited by Sir Conyers Clifford, Governor of Connaught, by the Earl of Clanrickard (Ulick, the son of Richard Saxonach) and by the Earl of Thomond (Donogh, the son of Conor O'Brien). When these nobles had advised with one another for some time and had come to fixed resolutions, the Governor and the Earl of Clanrickard returned back to Connaught and the Earl of Essex, the Earl of Ormond and the Earl of Thomond proceeded into Munster to see whether they could invade (subdue) the Geraldines. On the first night after having left Limerick in the month of June they encamped upon the banks of the River Adaire and as they advanced on the next day Saturday, through Robhair, the soldiers and youths of the Earl of Desmond and the Geraldine troops met them face to face. The reception which they (the Geraldines) gave to the representative of their sovereign on his first visit to them was a very fierce and disagreeable one for they discharged into the eyes of him and his army the fire and black smoke of powder and showers of balls from straightly aimed (pointed) guns and he heard the fierce and outrageous shouts of soldiers and champions eager for battle instead of the mild language of courtesy, obedience and submission with (in) which he should have been addressed. The result of this attack was that great numbers of the Earl of Essex's men were slain and that he was not suffered to pass much further on that day. He pitched his camp a short distance to the east of Askeyton and on the next day, Sunday, he and the Earls of Ormond and Thomond resolved to send a party (body) of cavalry to lay (place) up ammunition in Askeaton and not to pass themselves any farther westwards into Munster on that occasion. On the next day, Monday, they returned eastwards and upon arriving close to Baile-an-Eletearaigh, they received fierce and resolute fighting and a furious and dangerous battle from the Geraldines, in which the Earl lost many of his people and among the rest an illustrious Knight of great honour and renown, by name Henry Norris.

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The Earl of Essex then proceeded to Kilmallock, etc. See Limerick at this year, p.480, for the conclusion of this article.

The ruins of Desmond's Castle lie between "White Friars" and "Grey Friars Abbeys". It is now impossible to measure its length or breadth. Its walls and apartments are nearly as extensive as the largest of the Abbeys. It is on the east side of the river. The east wall retains still a height of fifty feet and is seven feet in thickness.

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Rowermore and Rowerbeg are names of two townlands in this Parish. Rower is pronounced Robhar in Irish and is the same with Robhair mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters at the year 1599. See extract just now inserted above.

Adaire Parish was traversed by A. Curry and his notes and other references arranged by T. O'Connor.