

CLOONSHEER PARISH.

246

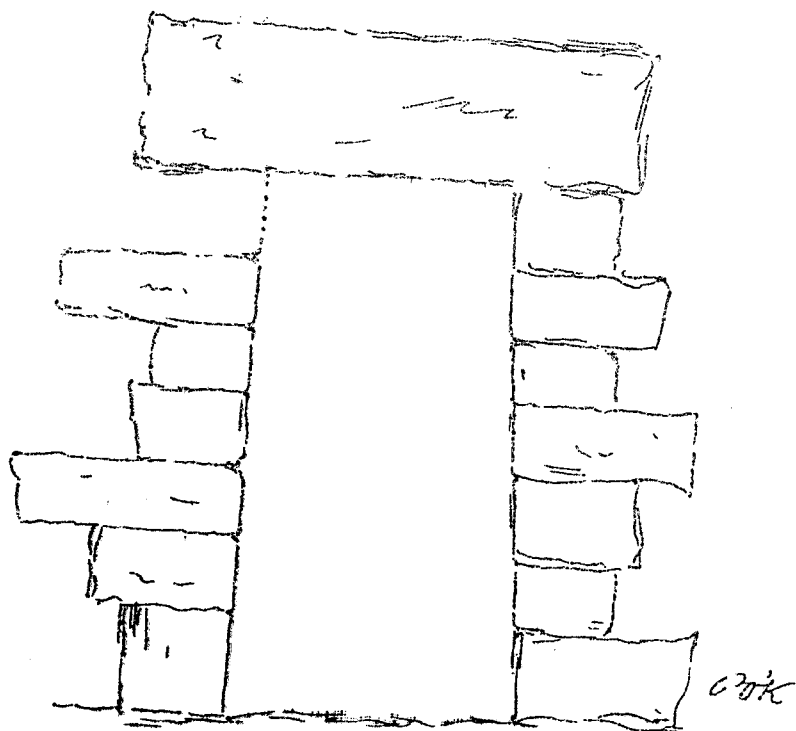
SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Connello Lower and is bounded on the north and east by Adare Parish and on the south and west by Croagh Parish.

NAME. The name of this Parish is pronounced Cluain Siar in Irish, which would mean pratum occidentale.

An old Church stands in ruins on the Glebe of Cloonsheer in this Parish. The walls are all perfect with the exception of seven feet in length of the south side wall, which was destroyed at the distance of twelve feet from the west gable. It is forty six feet in length and nineteen feet in breadth. There is a window on the east gable which is round at top, built with hammered stones and measures seven and a half feet by four feet nine inches inside. On the outside it is seven feet from the ground, is round at top, built with chiselled lime stone and measures three feet eight inches by six inches. At the distance of three feet from this gable on the south side wall is a window, quadrangular on the inside and measuring four feet eight inches by four feet and constructed with hammered stones. It measures two feet ten inches by six inches on the outside and is built with chiselled lime stone. There is a belfry for two small bells on the west gable, round at top and built with thin flag stones. On this gable is also a window, quadrangular both inside and outside, on the former side of which it measures four feet in height by two feet eight inches in breadth, and on the latter it is eight and a half feet from the present surface of the ground and measures two feet nine inches in height by nine and a half inches at top and ten and a half inches at bottom in breadth. It is constructed of chiselled lime stone.

247

248



*Door-way on the West gable of the
Church of Clonsheer.*

The doorway is on this gable too; is quadrangular, broken on the inside, five and a half feet high and two feet five inches broad at the sixth stone on the north side, the breadth at bottom being two feet seven and a half inches. The lintel, which is lime stone, enters the wall three and a half feet, is five feet long, one foot seven inches high at the north end and the same at the south end. The sides of the doorway are built with brown sand stone. There was a window on the north wall three and a half feet from the east gable; its characteristic features have been destroyed. The side walls are twelve feet high, three feet thick, built with very large stones (not quarried ones) cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is here an extensive grave yard much in use.

249

This old Church and burying ground are called by the plebeian name of Teampall na Cille the latter being understood as signifying the Church yard or burying ground whilst the former is taken to mean the Church.

In Garranboy (Garrán Buidhe) Townland in this Parish stands an old Castle in ruins about one furlong south east of Cloonsheer old Church, just now described. It stands on a plain. Cloonsheer old Castle is less than half a mile to the west of the old Church. It measures twenty four feet by fifteen and a half feet; had three stories, of which the one next above the ground floor was arched. The walls are forty feet high and four and a half feet thick. It has a square tower at the north end in which ascend the stairs. This has five stories and its walls are five feet thick. This Castle was a firm building and stands on low ground.

250

The "Liber Regalis Visitationis" places Cloonsheer in the Deanery of Ballingarry and says:-

251

Clonsheere residens - Rector Cancellarius, Vicarius ejusdem Richardus Hart Minis. legens Valor 30s.

The Parish of Cloonsheer was traversed by Mr. A. Curry and his notes and other references were put into the present form by Mr. T. O'Connor.

J.O'D.