

THE PARISH OF KILFERGUS.

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SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the western extremity of the Barony of Shanid and is bounded on the north by the River Shannon, on the east by the Parishes of Loughel and Kilmoylan and Nantenan, and on the west by the County of Kerry.

NAME. The name of this Parish is in Irish Cill Fearghasa (pronounced Kill-Farreesa) which signifies the Church of Saint Fergus, but there is no monument or recollection of such a Saint at present in the Parish.

The old Church of this Parish was forty two feet in length by twenty two in breadth; its west gable and north wall are destroyed

down to the foundations, but the south wall and east gable are in good preservation. The window on the east gable forms a flat arch constructed of thin flags on the inside, and measures six feet ten inches in height and four feet in width. On the outside it is rectangular at top and covered with a small lintel, and measures in height four feet ten inches and in width seven inches at top and eight inches at bottom. It is placed six feet from the present level of the ground on the outside and constructed thus: (No drawing in Manuscript).

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The two lower stones on each side of this window on the outside are of a brownish hue and chiselled; the others are greenish and hammered. The lower ones would appear to be by far older.

At the distance of two feet from the east gable there is a rectangular window on the south wall, measuring on the inside four feet six inches in height and three feet in width and on the outside three feet five inches in height and eight inches in width. It is built of hammered stones. The doorway was on the same wall at the distance of nine feet from the west gable, but its top is totally destroyed, so that its height cannot be determined but three feet of the height of its sides remain from which it appears that it was rudely constructed of unhammered stones, and measured four feet six inches on the outside and four feet ten inches on the inside.

This south wall is twelve feet high from the east gable to the doorway, but thence to the west gable it is only three feet high. It is three feet thick and built of large and some remarkably small stones, irregularly laid and cemented with lime and sand mortar. There is a large grave yard attached to it now much used.

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This Church is situated on high ground in the Townland of Kilfergus and about half a mile to the east of the Village of Glynn.

The famous old Castle of Glynn, called by the Irish Annalists Cloch Gleanna and by O'Sullivan Beare Vallirupes, is about two hundred yards to the east of the Village of Glynn and a quarter of a mile to the east of the Knight of Glynn's house. It is situated in a valley anciently called Gleann Corbraighe and is washed at the south west corner by the River of Glynn, now swollen to a considerable height by floods from the mountains. The annexed view of this Castle as it stood when stormed by Sir George on the 7th of July 1600 will convey a pretty good idea of its form and extent. It is described in the Pacata Hibernia as one hundred and two feet in length and ninety two in breadth. Only its tower now remains, measuring on the inside twenty one feet eight inches in length and nineteen feet in breadth and about forty five feet in height, but the people assert that it was thirty feet higher. The walls are eight feet thick and exhibit windows for four stories. Two of the floors were arched, but these are now broken. It has no cut

stone and none of its windows are perfect. It is built of thin flag stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. 151

The River Shannon is about three hundred yards to the north of this Castle and spring tides flow up to its very walls.

Sir George Carew's description of the storming and taking of this Castle in 1600 is curious and should be here inserted. I insert all the references to this Castle to be found in the Annals of the Four Masters as translated by me from the autograph original.

The antiquities of this Parish were examined
by Mr. A. Curry.

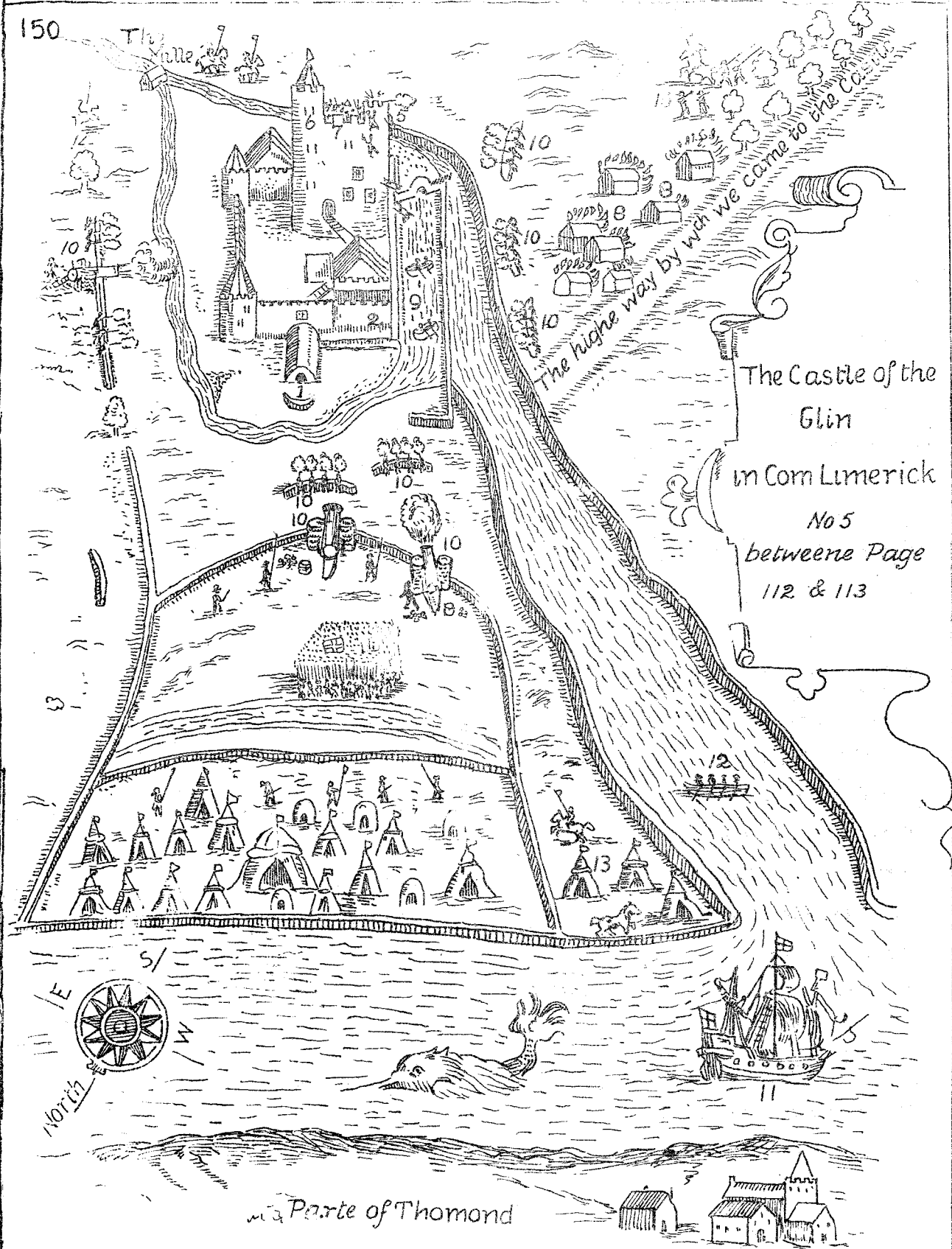
J. O'Donovan.

Cloch Gleanna (Cloich-Ghleanna, Baile Fil for Chruach na Sionna). 152
- Annals 4 Masters.

"A.D. 1600. In the beginning of July the President and the Earl of Thomond set out from Limerick with a fine body (muster) of soldiers and marched westwards along the northern side of the Shannon through the County of Clare until they arrived at Baile Meg-Colman in the Territory of East Corca Baiscinn; from this they ferried themselves across the Shannon to Cloch-Gleanna (the Lock of Glynn) a Castle on the southern bank of the Shannon. The Castle* at which this army then (thus) arrived was one of the Castles of the Knight of Glynn; it is situated in Gleann-Corbraighe from which it received the name of Cloch-Gleanna+ and the Knight the appellation of Ridire an Ghleanna, or the Knight of the Valley. Heavy ordnance was sent in ships from Limerick to meet the Earl and the President there. They laid siege to it (the Castle) for two days and made a breach in it with the heavy ordnance. They then rushed into it from every side and slew a score or two of nobles and plebeians of the Knight's people who were guarding the Castle, together with some women and children. Some of the President's men were also slain by the warders, and it would not have been easy to take the Castle were it not that the Earl of Desmond's people had been previously dispersed." See Gleann Corbraighe at this year. 153 154

* This Castle of Glynn was ninety two feet in breadth and one hundred and two in length. A plan of it as then besieged is given in the Pacata Hibernia, page 112.

+ Cloch-Gleanna, i.e., the Stone or Stone Edifice of the Valley. The ancient Irish called a stone building frequently by the name of cloch, a stone.



A Description of the Plot of the Glin
taken by her Ma^{ties} forces under the Comand
of the Right honorable Sr George Carew Knight
Lord President of Mounster the 7 and 8: of July 1600

It Contayneth 92 foot in breadth & 102 in length
accordinge to w^{ch} Proportion the rest is Described

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| <p>1. The barricade before the gate</p> <p>2. The breach under the window of the Hall three houres after the Battry entred vpon the firinge of y^e gate Under the Comaund of Captaine Flower the Et of Thomonds Sr Hen. Powers Sr Gerret Harvles & Cap: Boslocks Coullers beinge displayed on the Battlement</p> <p>3. The entrance into the great Hall</p> <p>4. The entrance from y^e Hall into y^e Castle</p> <p>5. The flanker wher y^e Saker did batter</p> <p>6. The Second Battrie of the Canon y^e 8 day in the morninge</p> <p>7. the Battlement on the toppe of the castle wher Cap Geo Flower receaved His Hurtes and forced the Rebills to</p> | <p>leape into the water</p> <p>8. The Towne burnt by the Rebells at our approche</p> <p>9. The key wher the Boats did Lye</p> <p>10. our trenches</p> <p>11. Cap Gawen Harvles Shippe</p> <p>12. His fight wth y^e Rebells before our cominge and a pray he tooke in w^{ch} he slew two of there men</p> <p>13. The Horse quarter</p> <p>14. our Scoutes</p> <p>15. The knight of the Glin Standinge to behold our Battry</p> |
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Traced from the 1st Vol.
of the
Oacata Hibernia
by
J^W Sullivan 1840

Gleann-Corbraighe*.

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"A.D. 1562. The Earl of Thomond went upon a cuairt Ceannais fedhna (visitation of a Chief leader) into the Territory of O'Conor and into Gleann-Corbraighe, on which occasion he killed with one shot out of Glynn Castle, the son of O'Loughlin, viz., Melaghlin, the son of Owney, who was son of Melaghlin, who was son of Rery, who was son of Ana Bacach. The same Earl made a similar excursion into Caenraighe (Kenry) about the same time and slew on that occasion Dowell, the son of Gilduff, who was son of Conor Mac Sweeny."

"A.D. 1598. In the beginning of autumn in this year O'Neill 156 sent letters to Leinster ordering Edmond Burke, Owny O'More and Capt. Tyrrell to place proper leaders over those who were leagued with them and to proceed themselves to make new conquests and to cause the opposing inhabitants of Territories, by solicitation or terror, to join them. He particularly requested them to go to Munster to solicit the sons of Thomas Roe, who was son of James, who was son of John, who was son of the Earl ***. Among those who joined them were O'Dwyre of Kilnamanagh *** the son of Mac Brian O'gCuanach *** the Ryans *** and the descendants of Brian Oge of Duharra. When these Chiefs had joined O'Neill's people and 157 all the neighbouring territories had been leagued with them they marched with all their forces at the instance of the sons of Thomas Roe, the son of the Earl (of Desmond) into the Country of the Fitzgeralds. They first went to the Co. of Limerick. The President, Sir Thomas Norris, was at this time at Kilmallock, and when he understood that he was not capable of engaging (coping) with them he avoided meeting them and went to Cork. The Irish then proceeded westwards across the River Mang to Conillo and the borders of Sliabh Luachra and Gleann-Corbraighe." (See Limerick at this year page 473 for the conclusion of this article).

"A.D. 1600. In the beginning of July the President and the 158 Earl of Thomond set out from Limerick with a fine body (muster) of soldiers and marched westwards along the northern side of the Shannon through the Co. of Clare until they arrived at Baile Meg Colman (now Ballymacolman) in the Territory of East Corca Baiscinn; from this they ferried themselves across the Shannon to Cloch Gleanna (the Rock of Glynn) a Castle on the southern bank of the Shannon. The Castle at which this army thus arrived was one of the Castles of the Knight of Glynn; it is situated in Gleann-Corbraighe from which it received the name of Cloch Gleanna and the 159

* O'r h-ainmníghtheadh Ridire an Ghleanna, i.e., a quo Eques vallis nominatús est.

Glencorbery is the valley from which the Knight of Glynn takes his name. It lies near the Shannon in the Barony of Shanid and Co. of Limerick.

Knight the appellation of Ridire an Ghleanna, or the Knight of the Valley. Heavy ordnance was sent in ships from Limerick to meet the Earl and the President here. They laid seige to it (the Castle) for two days and made a breach in it with the heavy ordnance. They then rushed into it from every side and slew a score or two of gentlemen or plebeians of the Knight's people who were guarding the Castle, together with some women and children.

In old English records this place is always called Glyncorbry. This valley is situated in the Barony of Shanid on the Shannon. The Village of Glynn and Glynn-House, the seat of John Francis Fitzgerald, the present Knight of Glynn, are situate in this Valley. Vide Betham's Antiquarian Researches, Vol.1, pages 232, 233.