

THE PARISH OF GLENOGRA.

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Small County and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Feddamor; on the east by those of Tullybracca and Monasteranenagh; on the south by Athlackagh and on the west by Monasteranenagh and Croom.

NAME. The name of this Parish is pronounced in Irish Gleann Ogra, which signifies the Valley of Ogra, the latter part being the name of an old Chieftain who flourished here in the times of Paganism, but to whom we have not as yet discovered any historical reference.

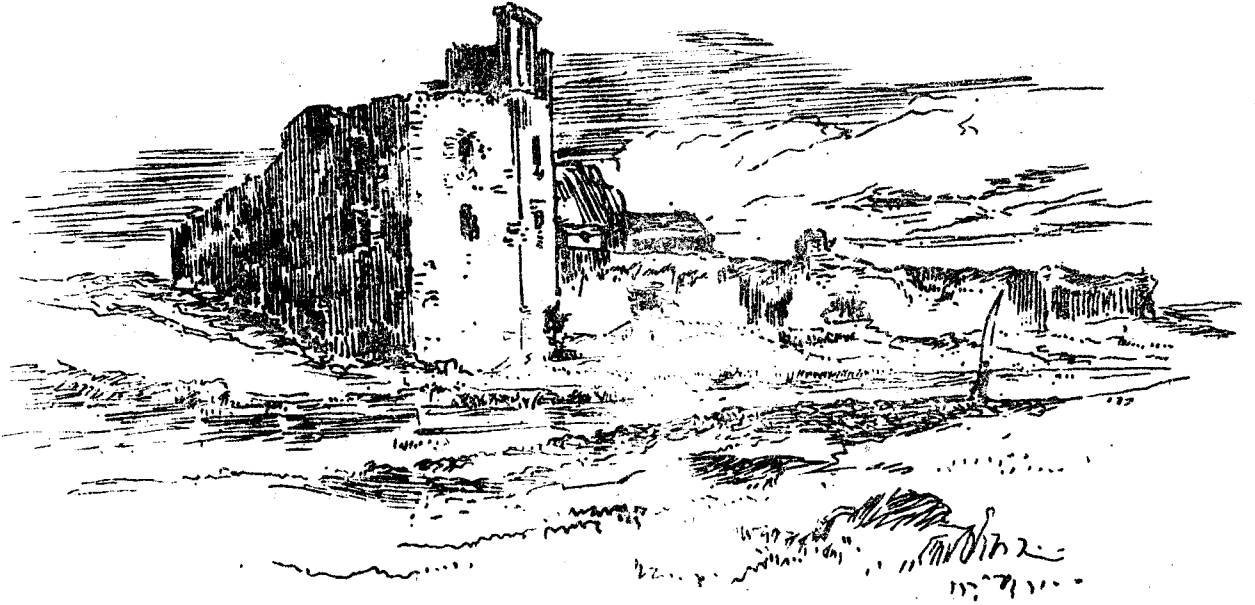
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The old Church of Glenogra is a rude building of considerable extent, measuring on the inside sixty nine feet in length and twenty one feet six inches in breadth on the inside. There are two doorways on it opposite each other, one on the south side at the distance of twenty feet from the west gable and the other on the north wall. The west gable has a breach on it at the ground and contains a narrow little window placed at the height of about twelve feet from the level of the ground and measuring on the outside about three feet six inches in height and seven inches in width.

The east gable contains three windows nearly round at the head, of which the most southern is by far the smallest, and now built up with rough mason work; the middle one is the highest, being nine feet high and one foot four and a half inches in width on the outside. These three windows are constructed on the outside of cut lime stone. There were two windows placed directly opposite each other on the side walls at the distance of five feet six inches from the east gable, but they are now both disfigured.

A lateral house or Iardom extended from the south wall of this Church; of this the south gable remains and contains a large Gothic window now much disfigured. This lateral apartment was twenty nine feet six inches in length and eighteen

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The Castle of Glenogra near Bruff.

*C^o Limerick W F Walker del^d
1820*

feet in breadth. Its side walls are destroyed down to the very foundations. The side walls of the Church are three feet four inches in thickness and about twelve feet in height.

A short distance to the west of this old Church is the Castle of Glenogra, situated on the bank of the Camoge River. It is a very extensive fortress, consisting of a large bawn fortified with towers. The east side of this bawn is exactly one hundred and fifty feet in length and the south side is one hundred and eighty feet. The greatest height of the outer wall (which is at the east side) is twenty five feet and the general thickness five feet. It is very well built of square blocks of lime stone cemented with excellent lime and sand mortar.

On the north east corner stands an octagonal tower of curious construction measuring on the inside nineteen feet six inches in diameter. It consists of four stories, of which the second is a stone arch of very strange construction; the other floors were of wood and each was lighted by three quadrangular windows of considerable size. On the south west side of this octagon stands a small square tower, to the top of which a spiral stair case leads, and near this tower on the west side of the octagon is a very tall chimney in good preservation. The walls of this octagon are six feet nine inches in thickness. 380

There are several vaults (four in number) of curious construction in the north wall of this fortress, over which towers originally stood, but the towers are now entirely destroyed. This bawn was entered on the south side by a pointed gateway measuring eight feet six inches in height to the vertex of the arch and six feet six inches where the arch springs. The country people have disfigured the walls of this bawn by picking the out stone out of its face.

This fortress was built, according to tradition, by the Earl of Desmond about the year 1400, but I do not believe that the octagonal tower above mentioned is near so old.

In this Parish is situated the Townland of Rockbarton, anciently called Cathair A'Ghiolla Mhóir, from which Lord Gillamore (O'Grady) took his title.

This Parish was examined by me and Mr. A. Curry.

J. O'Donovan.