

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

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BARONY OF CARRATOWN OR VILLAGE BALLYVARY PARISH KEELOGUES COUNTY MAYO

TOPOGRAPHY

Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

Various derivations are given for "keellogues" - amongst the most popular are "laid yod" - slender sod - and "laid luygues" (ancient Irish plural of) - narrow valleys. Either of the two expresses accurately the configuration of the area. Originally the parish was called "Kildalonnage" - said locally to mean "the church (of the name) of the two washed feet."

There is nothing of outstanding scenic beauty in the district which is chiefly one of low rolling terrain; green and tilled fields and small homesteads. To the south is a bleak bog stretch broken here and there by hills and reclaimed land and visible from the high road that ascends

GEOLOGY

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.

With the exception of a few scattered peat tracks, the parish is completely a drift-topped limestone area. Thus the district is fully agricultural. Excellent potato growing is carried on here - the "keellogues" potato being well-known and usually given market preference by buyers.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

*Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?**Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?*

Yurlough Park: Beside Yurlough village but in Gortafella townland. Present owners is Mrs. Desmond Gerald Fitzgerald.

The residence, which is not of a very imposing character and can hardly be termed a mansion, is nevertheless one showing much ornamentation for its size. [PHOTO] It was built in 1865 and was designed by Sir Thomas Owen who incorporated into it an Italian style (according to present owners). The house is rectangular (about 100' x 80') with a low wing attached to S.E. gable. It is a high two-story structure with roof or attic story - the roof having very steep pitch with dormer windows. Building of cut limestone. Entrance has an Italian portico, columned with ornamented capitals. Above the arch and facing north. Over the portico is window of 3 lights with beautiful painted leads. Two small rose lights over. Flanking entrance are two small round lights. Other windows are sixable, rectangular - columned with decorated capitals.

History: The Fitzgeralds of Yurlough originally came from Waterford. Thomas Fitzgerald married the daughter and heiress of John Chief of Kilkenny and assumed the name of Chief until the 16th century. In 1653 John Fitzgerald of Kilkenny was ordered to Yurlough where Walter de Burgo held sway. Half of the de Burgo estate was granted

Cromwell

To Fitzgerald who resided at Moyenna when the castle ruins yet remain. He died at Moyenna and was succeeded by Thomas Fitzgerald who conformed in 1717 and who died in 1747. Most likely it was he who changed residence from Moyenna by building his house near the present seat. Much of the former still remains. Succeeded by George, a Captain in the Austrian service. Died 1782. His wife was alive in 1815 as far as has been ascertained.

Charles Lionel Fitzgerald - next successor, died 1805. His second son, ^{Edward Thomas} ~~Charles~~ Henry, had ~~two~~ sons who achieved distinction: Lionel Charles Henry, served in Portugal under Don Pedro and (1832) assisted Donna Maria to the throne.

His son, Desmond Fitzgerald C.E. of Brooklyn, U.S.A. was successful in the drainage of Mailla - a difficult engineering feat due to low levels. Was also consulted by American government on the rebuilding of San Francisco after the earthquake.

Charles Lionel, born 1833, built the present residence. Succeeded by his cousin Charles Lionel Wingfield (born 1841) who was succeeded (1905) by the present owner - former J.P., D.L.

Mrs. Fitzgerald's wife, who died on Tues. day, 1944, was Hilda Claire Willoughby (Hemans) daughter of Col. Hemans. She was the great grand-daughter of Mrs. Felicia Hemans, American poetess - authoress of "Pilgrim Fathers" her best-known - "Better Land" and the poem known to every school-boy "The Bay stood on the burning deck....."

Family motto is - Honor probataque virtus.

Crest: On a mount above, a bear passant.

Arms: Erm. on a saltire gules a mullet argent.

INFORMATION: from Mrs. Fitzgerald, present owner - verification lineage "Kearney's Heritage" → "The Fitzgeralds of Yurlough".

The ruins of the rectangular, seemingly plainly constructed, former Fitzgerald residence stand near the entrance to Yurlough Park. Changes have been made, however, in the original building.

Antiquities — — — Personalities

Historical notes on the Bouske family of Yurlough, the remnants of whose castle stands in Yurlough Park demesne and who also had castle at Mayhemna -

Notes taken from Galway Arch. Society's Journal, Vol. V, Part II, pages 243 to 245 - Author Martin J. Blake.

Most of the map Bouskes derive descent from Sir Edward Albanach Bouske who died in 1375, his son was Sir Thomas Bouske, "nee William Lighter" from 1375 to 1401. Sir Thomas' & the surviving son was Richard Bouske, "nee William Lighter" title coming to him in 1460.

Richard resided at Yurlough where he held the title of "nee William". He was the founder of Bussistock Dominican monastery.

Succeeded at Yurlough by his grandson, Edmund Bouske whose son succeeded and is given as the castle owner in 1574.

Richard succeeded by his son Theobald Bouske who was attainted for rebellion in 1591/92 but whose son, Walter Bouske, who was pardoned in 1598, obtained from King James a grant by patent (June 10th, 1607) of the castle and lands of Yurlough, where was erected the "manor of Mayhemna".

Theobald died soon after 1636 and was succeeded by his eldest son Theobald who took part with the Irish Catholic rebels in the civil wars, 1641/1652. His property was, as a result, confiscated in 1655/6 by the Cromwellian Commissioners and was allotted to Fitzgerald of

Received

18/6/45.

Justices, Co. Kilkenny.

Richard Bourke married Margaret, third daughter of
 Richard Bourke, 1st Viscount Mayo. Their son Richard
 Bourke married Eliza, daughter of Sir Oranout O'Shaughnessy
 and this was of his marriage, seven sons.

Richard tried to regain the family lands at Inlough
 but failed — and in 1677 his property was confiscated
 to Fitzgerald.

In 1689 (King James II) Richard's son Walter regained
 Inlough and was elected M.P. for Mayo in the Dublin
 Parliament of that year. Walter was a Colonel in the
 army of King James and his regiment took part in
 the siege of Athlone and the Battle of Aughrim. Col
 Bourke was taken prisoner. He elected to go
 to France & his property was again confiscated and
 returned to Fitzgerald.

In 1693 Colonel Bourke was commanding an Irish
 regiment in the Irish Brigade of France. The regiment
 was called the "Regiment of Athlone" and was abolished in
 1698 but in 1699 Col. Bourke was given command of a
 regiment known after him as the "Regiment de Bourke"
 which fought in many battles of the Italian campaign 1701/1706 —
 when it was sent to Spain. In 1709 Col. Bourke was made
 a Marshal of the French Army. He died at Barcelona in
 March 1715. His wife was Catherine, daughter of John Nolan
 of the Emiscon, Co. Sligo. They was one son who was
 living in 1762.

HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.
Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

Loughkeeran pilgrimage place. (Duns. Hynd). Tradition associates this with St. Cianan—who seems to be the famous saint of Clonmacnoise. Legend says that St. Cianan wrought a miracle for a family who were being forced to leave their cows because of water shortage. The saint caused a spring to burst forth. There is no historical evidence to show that this is the Cianan of Clonmacnoise—but two coins afford some proof. The place was famed as having the cure of sick livestock and of preventing sickness in animals—so yet it is frequented for that purpose. St. Cianan was a lover of animals and well known in this area is the legend of St. Cianan and the cow that followed him to Clonmacnoise—and whose hide later formed the cover for the "Book of the Dun Cow". Secondly the pilgrimage + pattern was held on Sept. 9th - the feast HISTORIC HOUSES; BURIAL PLACES day of St. Cianan.

(a) Birth places or one-time residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities. Location and description. Present owner or occupant. (b) Burial places of distinguished personalities.

(a) none

(b) none

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

Spas formerly in use. Location and present condition. Access. Right of way to public?
Mineral content and curative properties so far as known locally.

none.