

HISTORIC SITES

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

Some 500 yds. north of the village of Inishtown is the site of the first Land League meeting. The meeting was held in a haek of land known as "the liellu acres" - the assembled being overflown into fields adjacent. The "liellu acres" has since been divided - the place on which the platform was erected is now part of a small field owned by Mrs. T. Conannon.

In March 1879, Michael Davitt paid a visit to Claremorris while there he learned of the land evictions in the neighbourhood of Inishtown - the landlord being a man called Bauske.

HISTORIC HOUSES ; BURIAL PLACES (contd.) (see page 7)

(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.

(*) Tradition has it that Neidhin, sister to St. Patrick lies buried in the old cemetery in Kilmine.

Dr. Anthony Blake, born at Doonmacella (in the residence whose ruins yet exist) somewhere about the years 1702/14. Educated at St. Omers in Picardy and in Louvain University. On his return to Meath archdiocese he was appointed to a district near Athlone and later was elected by the Corporate Body of the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas to the incumbency of Galway (1749). In 1755 was made Bishop of Ardagh and in 1761 became Primate. He held synods at Oundells in 1761 and 1764 - at which many rules were laid down for the archdiocese. One rule prohibited the giving of drink at wakes or funerals, another forbade priests more than a raggin of whiskey. Also that no mass was to be said after 1 p.m. Dr. Blake was retired in 1781 on pension (140 gns) as a result of complaints regarding his administration. He died Nov. 29th, 1787 - at Doonmacella

Buried in St. Nicholas' Church, Galway

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS according to some - at Galway according to others.

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.

Davitt suggested that a protest meeting be held and promised to obtain speakers for it.

On Sunday, April 20th, 1879 - a large concourse assembled at the 12 acres. Estimates place the numbers of people in the region of 15000. Five hundred horsemen with green emblems, attended. (This feature of land league meetings was afterwards adhered to).

Davitt himself did not attend this meeting - due, it is said, to being unable to arrive in time. Speakers were John Ferguson of Glasgow, who ably discoursed on the rent and land act's issues; J. V. Killeen B.L., Dublin; J. O'Connell Powers M.P.; James Daly, Castlebar; J. J. Lander, Westport; Michael O'Sullivan, M. P. Boylan and J. Brennan.

The meeting was a huge success. The threatened evictions were also stayed off.

Although Dooish town is always given as the site of the meeting it was not held in the village. The reason given is that the parish priest of the time, Rev. Fr. Keeney, was a relation of the landlord and out of deference to his fact - it was decided not to hold the meeting in the village itself - where normally its location on the Sunday would be near the church.

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In April 1891, Charles Stewart Parnell addressed a large gathering at Trillicktown in the field which lies beside the curate's residence and adjoins the main road. This the platform was erected between two trees which still stand.

The meeting was a sort of anniversary of the great Land League gathering twelve years previous. Parnell's power was however, on the wane. It is said that this was one of his last public appearances.

Tradition of St. Patrick and St. Meidhin at Kilvine.

Tradition says that St. Patrick visited Kilvine, was unexpectably received and withdrew to Kilmaine. There, however, he was visited by the repentant Kilvine people who besought him to return. The apostle did so. His carriage broke down while travelling through the district and the inhabitants repaired it. The name "gleam an carabac" still survives. St. Patrick blessed the ~~land~~^{people} and prayed that "a plague should never scatter" in the area. The blessing held good although the Kilvine (lowland) portion of the parish was most congested.

Meidhin was Patrick's sister (in religion). Local account goes on to state that on her way to Kilvine she had a vision that wherever she obtained sleep should be the site chosen for her church after spending a sleepless night where the "Pigeon House" now stands she came to Kilvine. Here she obtained sleep. On the site she founded a nunnery - died and was buried there - i.e. the old graveyard in Kilvine lowland. (no written account of above. Tradition of

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"Zearca na Sgeara" - The gate of the screams. Its site is in Clonsilla, at the old church ruin here. So called because of the tradition that a fierce battle was fought here against the Danish invaders.