

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge

ST. CUMMIN'S CHURCH (my). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

In the townland of Ballinlena at Kilcummin, four and a half miles from Carrowmore-Lacken, is the ruin of the church established by St. Cummin prior to the eighth century. The very strong walls of the church are in a fair state of preservation but for the top of the west gable which appears on the point of collapse. The approximate inside measurements are thirty eight feet by twenty two, and outstanding features ~~of the architecture of the church~~ are the arched doorway in the west gable, a small arched window in the east gable and in the south wall, a small pointed window.

The church is in an old graveyard and is not under the care of the O.P.W. The graveyard is cared by Mr John Kelly, Ballinlena.

The grave of St. Cummin, a few yards to the north of the church and in the graveyard, is marked by two tall flag stones one of which is seven feet in height and the other under six feet. It is believed that other saints or disciples of Cummin are also buried in this grave.

Between these stones is another small flat stone which carries the inscription of a cross. Other stones carrying inscriptions, and strange indents have been covered by the high grass and weeds. ^{of crosses}

A few yards further north is St. Cummin's Well which is looked upon as a holy well, stations being performed here on Garland Sunday.

~~St. Cummin's Clay is taken from a small cavity alongside the grave. (See "Gustens etc")~~

CARN.

In Carn townland, three and a half miles from Killala on the Ballycastle road and about half a mile past the cross roads where the road to the right leads to Lacken, are two mounds which have been classed as burial grounds for unbaptized children. It is possible that in elden times a church stood here.

On the larger is a pile of stones in round shape and on top of these is a stone of about twenty seven inches in length and cut in the form of a cross. A rough cross has been cut on the face of this stone which faces north east. The origin of the cross is unknown unless it was placed here on account of the spot being a burial ground; the cairn (5 feet high) and cross were certainly here over a century ago.

On the north side of the mound is the opening to a cave which may be entered with ease and in which a man may stand upright. This artificial cave is considered to extend at least to the centre of the carn.

The carns are on the lands of Mr Jas. Massey, Carn and may be inspected.

SUIDHE FINN.

Athleague Hill or Slate Hill as it is now known to the people of Lacken, is surmounted by a heap of large sized rough stones. This is traditionally known as "Suidhe Finn", the Seat of Finn. The hill lies between Carrowmore-Lacken and Ballycastle and is almost five miles from the former.

PILLAR STONES.

In Mr Martin Murphy's land at Feghill, on the verge of Lacken Strand, is a narrow stone standing almost twelve feet over the level of the field. The purpose of the stone is unknown; a local tradition maintains that it

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(Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information).

ANTIQUITIES Continued.PILLAR STONES.

commemorates the baptizing of King Awley, his sons and nine hundred followers by St. Patrick but it has been established as more probable that that ceremony took place at Mullaghfarry, in Ballysakeery .

Another smaller pillar stone in Mr John Walsh's lands at Banagher may have been erected to mark a victory of the Irish over the Danes near here but this is not certain.

SCUTERRAIN(?) AT FOGHILL.

A mound measuring approximately fifteen feet square on Mr Thos. Lynn's land at Foghill appears to be an artificial cave and has an entrance on the north side. There is no information to be obtained of this but the underground chamber seems to be as large as the mound. This is within a couple of fields and to the south east of the Pillar St Stone in the same townland.

The entrance to a similar underground chamber will be found on the lands of Mr Nealen at Banagher townland nearby.

CASTLENAGEEHY.

The ruin of this old castle stand on a rocky crag on the eastern boundary of the parish; Killala Bay bounds the parish at this side.

Little remains of the original building excepting for some of the walls which are so thick and strong that taking into consideration the site on which it is located and the fact that the entire Bay would be visible from the upper storey, it is probable that this was a fortress designed for protection from the danger of invasion from the sea.

The castle is believed to have been erected by the Burkes and the ruin is on the lands of Mr John Loughney. Castlenageehy, (Caisleain na Gaeithe, i.e., Castle of the Wind) has been corrupted to Castlemagee and is now generally known by the latter name.

The castle is about four miles to the east of Carrowmore and is not in the charge of the O.P.W. The different roads leading to this townland are very rough, the best approach being via Mullaghnacrusa, turn right when half a mile north and to the right again at the end of a further two miles.

*Copied
1/6/43.*

Tirawley Boreny - Locken Parish - Moye (Berth).

Addendum - Form A - Antiquities.

On the left hand side of the road, in a field almost opposite the school at Heathfield (Correwoilleen) and about two miles from Ballycastle, a roughly shaped stone stands about fifty yards in from the road.

The stone is about seven feet high, about seven feet broad at the base and narrowing at the right hand side as though a piece had been broken off, until at the top it measures about two feet across. The stone is only a few inches thick in the deepest part and on the left hand edge, rough incisions have the appearance of Ogham inscription. I am told that Mr Macallister viewed this stone and translated the inscription but my informant could not remember the wording.

C. O'Brien,

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Surveyor.

30/6/43.