

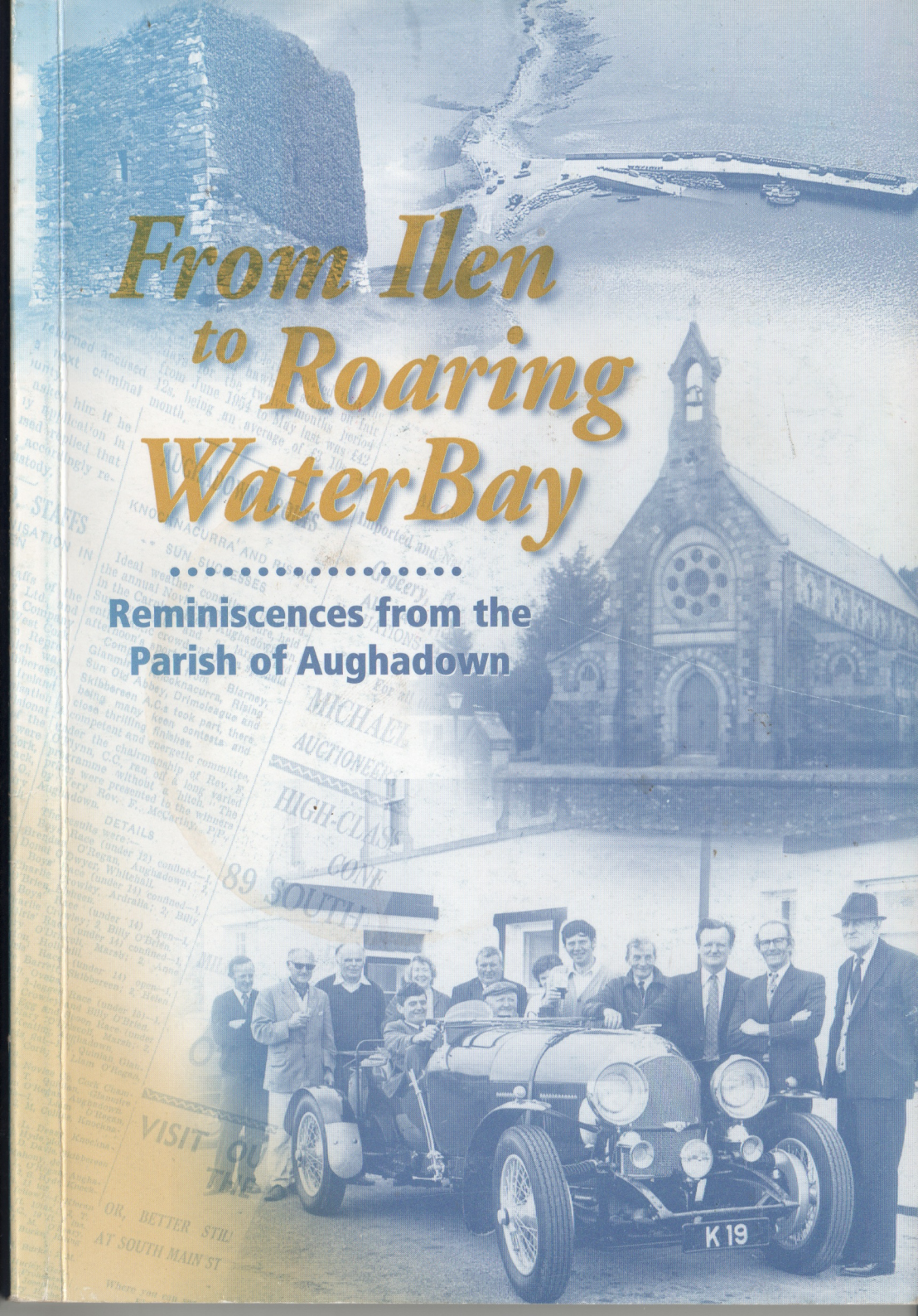
Lapped by the waters of the famed Roaring Water Bay, Aughadow is a sprawling parish comprising 66 townlands.

To mark its 21st anniversary, members of Aughadow I.C.A. guild have compiled a memoir of this noble and ancient parish.

In this collection of stories and records they have sought to portray some of the events and personalities who have shaped the fortunes of this rural and coastal parish.

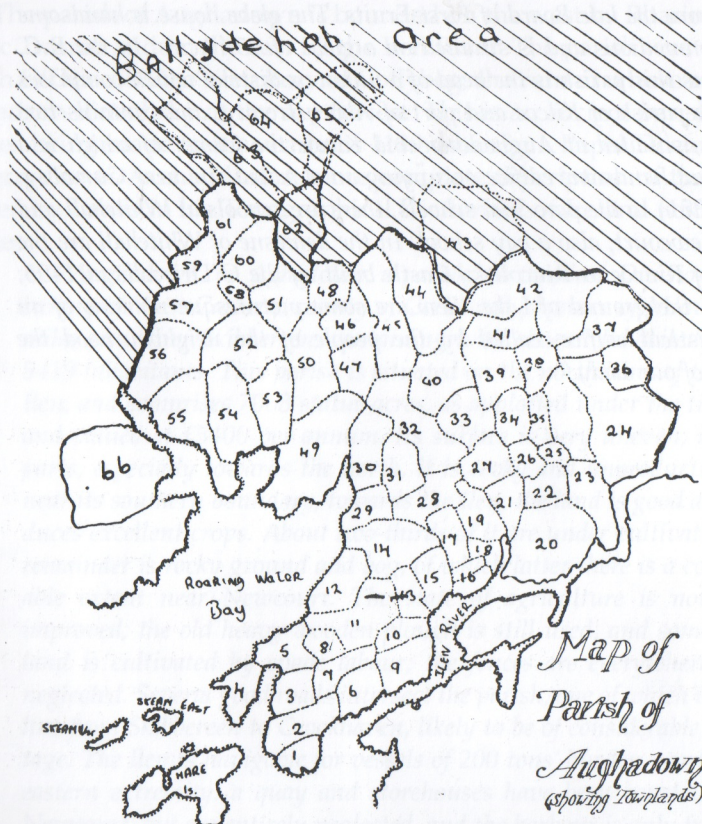
# From Ilen to Roaring Water Bay

Reminiscences from the  
Parish of Aughadow





## Townlands of Aughadown Parish



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|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Turk Head      | 13. Bawngare       | 25. Gneevs          |
| 2. Ardagh         | 14. Kilsarlaught   | 26. Letterscanlon   |
| 3. Fasagh         | 15. Dromnacaheragh | 27. Knockeen        |
| 4. Cunnamore      | 16. Glebe marsh    | 28. Aughadown       |
| 5. Whitehall      | 17. Lough Marsh    | 29. Laheratanavally |
| 6. Poulacallee    | 18. Goleen Marsh   | 30. Leighloon       |
| 7. Lissaree       | 19. Big Marsh      | 31. Paddock         |
| 8. Currabeg       | 20. Ardralla       | 32. Hollyhill       |
| 9. Collatrom More | 21. Knocknaraha    | 33. Munname         |
| 10. Collatrom Beg | 22. Gurteenroe     | 34. Rahine          |
| 11. Lisheen       | 23. Reenmurrage    | 35. Knocknamohalagh |
| 12. Kilkillen     | 24. Mohonagh       | 36. Barnagowlane    |

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|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 37. Reencorren       | 48. Morahin          | 59. Gurteenulla     |
| 38. Toormore         | 49. Kilcoe           | 60. Gleanna         |
| 39. Foherlagh        | 50. Corrovolley      | Killeenagh          |
| 40. Prohoness        | 51. Lisheenacreagh   | 61. Oughtohig       |
| 41. Lyre             | 52. Ardura More      | 62. Dereenard       |
| 42. Skeagh           | 53. Ardura Beg       | 63. Ballybane West  |
| 43. Cooranuller      | 54. Skeaghanore East | 64. Ballybane East  |
| 44. Lissaclarig East | 55. Skeaghanore West | 65. Scarteenakillin |
| 45. Lissaclarig West | 56. Knockroe         | 66. Greenmount      |
| 46. Morahin North    | 57. Boleagh          |                     |
| 47. Morahin South    | 58. Rossard          |                     |

**Turkhead (90 acres)** Ceann Tuirc - Boars head. Off east coast is Inishleigh (Grey island) 13 acres.

**Ardagh (213 acres)** Ard Achadh - High field. Here is site of an O'Driscoll castle. The ruins have since disappeared.

**Fasagh (136 acres)** Fasach - Wilderness. At east is a children's burial ground. In the townland was discovered in 1896 a three chambered souterrain.

**Cunnamore (137 acres)** Conamar Place of fragments or broken seaweed.

**Whitehall (145 acres)** Rinn Cuil Uisce - Headland of the back water. It might read Rinn Caoil-Uisce - Headland of the narrow water. The name 'Whitehall' is supposed to have been given to the townland by one of the Audley family, some of whom were Earls of Castlehaven in the 17th century, Here are ruins of Rincolisky or Rinkoe Castle of the O'Driscolls, which were built in 1495. It afterwards passed to the Coppingers who knocked portion of it to build Whitehall House. The Townsends later had possession. Here at one time was a fishing village. At north side is a children's burial ground.

**Poulacallee (149 acres)** Poll na Callighe - Hags hollow.

**Lissaree (140 acres)** Lios a 'Raigh - Kings lis. It is written Lishyree in 1659 Census.

**Currabeg (60 acres)** Corra Beg - Small enclosure. Curragh Beag - Little marsh, according to J. M. Burke.

**Ardnagroherly (91 acres)** Ard na gCrochaire - Height of the hangmen or traitors. A gallows had been erected here. Here is a children's burial ground and an old disused burial ground called the Bonnavau; no doubt identical with Cill na Manach Bhan (Church of the white friars). It is written 'Kilnymanavane' in a McCarthy Reagh Inquisition of 1636. The whole townland was at one time termed Carrowmanagh - Ceathramha Manach (Monks quarter).

**Collatrum More (173 acres)** Caladh Truim - Haven or landing place of the alder tree.



*Collatrum Beg* (104 acres)

*Lisheen Upper* (187 acres) Lisin Uachtrach - Upper little fort. There had been an earlier post-penal church west of the present church.

*Kilkilleen* (242 acres) Cill Cillín - St Cilleen's Church. The name Cilleen, appears several times in the lists of Irish saints. In a Papal Document of 1199 reference is made of the parish of 'Celcileen' between Aughadown and Kilcoe. The name is preserved in this townland of Kilkilleen where there is site of a ruined friary and a children's burial ground.

*Bawngare* (139 acres) Ban Gearr - Short field or pasture land.

*Kilsarlaght* (283 acres) Cill Sarlachta - St. Sarlaght's Church. Cill sair Shleachta - Church of the noble race, according to J. M. Burke. Here is Lisbara Fort and a children's burial ground at south side.

*Dromnacara* (113 acres) Drom na Cathrach - Ridge of the stone fort. At the west is Lisachaun ring fort with sutterain, while on the east coast is Rinn a Duan - (Headland of the fortified residence).

*Glebe Marsh* (47 acres) Currach Fhorba - Marsh of the glebe land. At the north side is Corpse Cross-roads - Cros na gCorp.

*Glebe* (45 acres) Gleidbh - church land. Here is site of Aghadown parish church with Protestant church ruins and graveyard at east end. This church was built in 1814 and allowed to go into decay on the opening of the new church at Knocknaraha in 1872. At north east is Toberconnell - Conall's well. St. Connall is supposed to have succeeded St. Fachtna as Bishop of Ross.

*Lough Marsh* (112 acres) Muine a 'Locha - Marsh or thicket of the lake. The actual marsh is at the west side between this townland and Aughadown.

*Goleen Marsh* (75 acres) Currach a 'Ghaighlinn - Marsh of the little fork or sea inlet.

*Big Marsh* (177 acres) Muing Mor - Big marsh or swamp.

*Ard rally* (480 acres) Ard Ralach - Oak hill. At west side is site of Kilnamorawaun - Cill na Marbhan (Mortuary church) as well as a dis-used Methodist church. At west side also is the site of an old flour mill.

*Knocknaraha* (165 acres) Cnoc na Ratha - Hill of the fort. The rath has disappeared. In the centre of the townland is Knockauannakilla - Cnocan n a Cille (Hillock of the church) suggestive of an early church. The surrounding district is termed Church Cross and derives its name from the local Protestant church.

*Gurteenroe* (130 acres) Guirtin Ruadh - Little red field.

*Reenmurragha* (502 acres) Rinn Muribheach - Headland of the low sea board with coarse grass growth. It could read Rinn Murchadha -

Murrough's headland. The southern part of this townland is termed Newcourt while Knockgorm is applied to the north. Newcourt House has been demolished and the quay and landing place are now unused.

*Mohanagh* (677 acres) Mongach - Place having underwood growth, place of coarse grass. At east end is Cathair na gCnamh (Fort of the bones) while the small surrounding area is called Claisin na gCnamh (little hollow of the bones) probably indicative of a battle. A third part is called the Cill which contains the site of an old parish church. A children's burial ground is in the vicinity. Another is at the northern end of the townland.

*Gneeves* (38 acres) Gniomh - Land measure equal to one-twelfth of a plowland or ten acres.

*Letterscanlon* (98 acres) Leitir Scanlan - Scanlon's hillside. The name appears in the 'Genealogy of Corcalee'. A ring fort is at the south side.

*Knockeen* (160 acres) Cnuicin - Little hill.

*Laheratanavally* (125 acres) Laithair an t'Seana-Bhaile - Site of old habitation or settlement.

*Leighcloon* (206 acres) Liath Chluain - Grey plain or meadow. Here is a dis-used slate quarry. Site of Mass rock.

*Paddock* (194 acres) Tuar - Bawn green grassy patch. This townland was formerly part of Hollyhill and the name was altered by Beecher, owner of Aughadown House.

*Hollyhill* (356 acres) Cnoc a'Chuilinn - Holly hill. At south side is a children's burial ground and a ring fort.

*Munnane* (211 acres) Muinean - Little brake or thicket. An older spelling was Monynifarna - Muine na Fearn (Shrubbery of the alder trees) in a Coppinger Grant of 1615. At the south east are two children's burial grounds.

*Rahine* (159 acres) Rath Chaoin - Smooth or bare fort. Rath Chadhain - Fort of the barnacle goose. Rath Chadhain - Kynes's fort. A large ring fort in the centre.

*Knocknamohalagh* (93 acres) Knock Cnoc na Muclagh - Hill of swine droves or piggeries. Cnoc na mBachlach - Hill of the shepherds, according to Dr. Joyce (Irish Names of Places). It is written 'Knocknamahalagh'.

*Toormore* (142 acres) Tuar Mor - Big paddock or night field for cattle. Here is a stone alignment consisting of two large standing stones.

*Foherlagh* (212 acres) Fotharlach - Place abounding in woods or swamps. It could be Fuarlach - A sedgy place.

*Prohonus* (292 acres) Bruadhnas - Place abounding in rushes. At south side is a children's burial ground. At east is a ring fort.



*Lyre (213 acres)* Ladhar - Fork, land between converging hills or rivers.

*Lissaclarig East (361 acres)* Lios a Chlaraigh. Fort of the level land, or fort of the plank entrance over dykes. A large ring fort with sutterain is in the centre.

*Lissaclarig West (390 acres)*

*Murrahin North (214 acres)* Muigh Raithin - Plain of ferns. It is Muirithin - Swampy ground, according to Joyce. At south is a children's burial ground.

*Murrahin South (162 acres)* At north side is a ring fort.

*Kilcoe* - Cill Coiche - Church of St. Coch, a nun who was supposed to have been a friend of St. Kieran of Cape Clear. Cellcohi was the spelling in a Decretal Letter of 1199. Ruins of the old parish church and graveyard are at the west end of the townland. There are also ruins of a later parish church further east. This was the parish church until the building of the present church in 1905. Off the coast at the extreme south are the remains of Kilcoe Castle of the Clan Dermot McCarthy, built about 1450. It was the last in West Cork to surrender to Carew in 1603. At the west side is the site of Toberclashnarinaght - Tobar Clais na Raithneach (Well of the rushy vale). Further north on the west boundary is Bealaclare Bridge - Beal Ath a'Chlair (plank ford crossing). Off the south west coast is Mannin Island (15 acres) - Oilean Ui Mhainchin (Mannin's Island). This is an old Corca Laidhe surname.

*Corravoley (342 acres)*. Corra Bhaile - Jutting out place, enclosed home stead. A ring fort is at the north side.

*Lisheenacrehig (195 acres)* Lisin na Creiche - Little fort of the cattle spoil. Lisin a'Chrochaigh - Little fort of the gallow according to Joyce.

*Ardura Mor (311 acres)* Ard Odhardha - Brown or yellow height. Or possibly Ard Ordha - Golden height, from a furze covering probably, a children's burial ground is at the north side, and further south is Lisnacula ring fort.

*Ardura Beg (233 acres)*

*Skeaghanore East (334 acres)* Golden bush or bush of golden colour. Off the headland in Poulgorm are Oilean Ruadh Mor (14 acres) and Oilean Ruadh Beag (4 acres) - Red Islands.

*Skeaghanore West (381 acres)* At south side are remains of an old graveyard called Kilnaranna-Cill na Reanna (church of the headland), while at the extreme south is a large rock called Carraigh a 'Teampuill (rock of the church). A road leads to the cill farther inland, and the rock may have been the landing place for the church or cemetery from across the bay.

*Knockroe (433 acres)* Cnoc Ruadh - Red hill. At the north side are traces of

an old corn mill.

*Boleagh (250 acres)* Baile Aodha - Aodh's homestead.

*Rosard (65 acres)* Ros Ard - High copse.

*Gurteenulla (151 acres)* Goirtin Ulaidh - Field of the tomb or altar stone, place of devotion.

*Glannakilleenagh (291 acres)* Gleann na gCillineach - Glen of burial places for unbaptised children. No traces remain. It is written Glankillan in Petty's map -

*Oughtohig (182 acres)* Ucht Tuathaigh - Bank or hill breast of the lord of the tuath. It might read Ucht Eochaidh - Eochy's bank or hill breast. Eochy MacCon of the Corcalee reigned about the middle of the 8th century and figured in the battle of Murrahin.

*Greenmount (357 acres)* Ard Glas - Greenheight or hillock.

*Lisheen Lower (62 acres)* Lisin Lochtrach - Lower little fort.

*Rossnagoose (87 acres)* *Ros na gCabhas* - Point of the stepping stones or causeway used for crossing the Ilen River.

*Drisheen (239 acres)* *Drisin* - Place of small briars.

*Skeam Island East (50 Acres)* Inis Ceim, but Ceim seems to have been a copyists error here as it was formerly written "Inis Cein" (Cian's Island) from some Cian of the Ivagha sept or Western O'Mahonys. It is written Innyskaine' in Carew papers of 1599. Inniskean in ancient Rolls of the Diocese of Cork, Innyskaine in a McCarthy Reagh Inquisition of 1636, while Canon O'Mahony in his 'History of the O'Mahony Septs' wrote "the islands now called the Skeams were anciently named East and West Inniskean. They belonged to Ivagha". It is written Inishcame' in Coppingers Grants of 1615 and 1665.

*Skeam Island West (31 acres)* At west side are ruins of Skeam church.

*Hare Island (381 acres)* *Inis W Drisceoil* - O'Driscoll's island. Inis an Oidhre - Heir Island is the basis for the present name, and it was probably the patrimony of the Tanist of Collybeg. In the centre is a children's burial ground. The population in 1837, according to Lewis (Topographical Dictionary of Ireland) was 267. At the north side are Illaungawna (8 acres) - Oilean Gamhna (island of the calves) and Illaunkearagh (2 acres) - Oilean Caorach (island of the sheep).

*Calf Island East (77 acres)* An Laogh Thoir

*Innisbeg Island (375 acres)* *Inis Beag* - Small island. This was written 'Inis Beag Cleire' (Little island of the clergy) probably to distinguish it from the large Inis Cleire (Clear Island). Bishop Dive Downes in 1700 wrote it 'Inishbegclary' while Smith in his 'History of Cork' wrote it Clare



Island. At north is site of Lissaghaun Fort. On the island stood a castle of the O'Driscolls of which there is no trace. It is supposed to have been destroyed by Waterford raiders in 1537. The population prior to 1837 according to Lewis (Topographical Dictionary) was 109.

### *Population in Townlands of Aughadow North & South*

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1991	1996
Aughadow North	109	65	53	63	19	31
Ardagh	121	61	60	66	25	23
Ardnagrohera	77	31	21	15	6	8
Ardaly	438	260	206	204		
Bawngare	57	24	15	19	14	13
Big Marsh	195	96	106	105	33	22
Collatrum Beg	83	50	50	67	10	12
Collatrum More	70	48	53	36	1	6
Cunnamore	134	52	64	72	11	20
Curragbeg	37	17	19	13	8	8
Drisheen	143	120	68	54		
Dromnacaheragh	54	41	48	39	22	20
Fasagh	97	53	45	44	2	9
Foherlagh	54	52	40	39		
Glebe	21	30	32	18	2	2
Glebe Marsh	41	29	24	6	7	20
Gneevs	18	7	7	11		
Gleen Marsh	48	38	28	39	7	9
Gurteenroe	67	49	56	52	1	1
Hollyhill	186	98	89	106	50	53
Kilkilleen	161	162	138	115	57	56
Kilsarlaught	234	143	101	105	36	25
Knockeen	94	72	55	51	27	22
Knocknamohalagh	22	14	16	14		
Knocknaraha	102	66	47	40	23	25
Laheratanvalley	135	36	38	35	41	41
Leighcloon	226	103	73	61	12	11
Letterscanlan	60	35	30	35	4	4
Lisheen Lower	83	27	22	12	5	12
Lisheen Upper	132	87	49	55	20	22
Lissaree	73	58	38	39	15	13
Lough Marsh	47	36	20	17	11	12

Lyre	37	25	22	20		
Mallvonea	77	38	34	34		
Mohonagh	381	164	145	147		
Munnane	88	42	24	26	16	12
Paddock	203	146	118	92	31	32
Poulnacallee	82	29	33	23	15	15
	1841	1851	1861	1871	1991	1996
Prohonesh	123	62	75	95		
Rahine	88	49	41	38		
Reenmurragea	274	140	102	114		
Rossnagoose	52	30	37	26		
Toormore	22	19	16	13		
Turkhead	45	35	28	25	2	8
Whitehall	103	61	30	44	17	18

### *Population in Townlands of Kilcoe*

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1991	1996
Ardura Beg	150	68	53	52	9	26
Ardura Mor	138	80	94	78	24	20
Bolagh	136	41	23	39	10	18
Carravoley	119	79	77	68	21	18
Glanakilleenagh	70	46	52	57	6	11
Greenmount	193	75	45	45	9	13
Gurteenulla	47	23	25	19	3	3
Kilcoe	324	173	157	160	44	34
Knockroe	259	145	128	104	55	58
Lisheenacrehig	47	44	31	29	4	2
Lissaclarig East	119	59	76	86	17	15
Lissaclarig West	177	80	54	63	16	14
Murrahin North	46	30	43	35	4	4
Murrahin South	77	38	49	37	18	17
Oughtoughig	65	27	30	22	3	3
Rossard	16	13	9	9	5	5
Skeaghmore East	158	100	91	110	33	34
Skeaghmore West	203	117	112	84	43	45
Mannin Island	4	0	0	0	0	



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## Places of Interest

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### *Kilcoe's Ancient Church and Castle*

*This paper, concerning the ancient church and castle of Kilcoe, which are situated together on a promontory and small island at the edge of Roaringwater Bay on the western side was written by Breffini O'Regan who is a grandniece of the late Bernard O'Regan, Sea View, Aughadowan and from whom she received much valuable information. The paper was written in late 1989 and was then entered for the 'Irish Times' Young Historian of the Year competition. It was declared the winner of the Munster section of the competition and Breffini received an inscribed plaque which was handed over to her at a ceremony in the County Library in Cork by Mr. Tim Cadogan, Cork County Executive Librarian. Kilcoe Castle is now owned by the actor Jeremy Irons and is currently being restored.*

### *Kilcoe Church*

"The Diocese of Ross, though comparatively small in area, is not without considerable interest for the Church historian, the architect and the archaeologist". So wrote Dr. Charles A. Webster in a paper to the Royal Irish Academy in 1932 and in which he discussed the early Christian remains of this beautiful island-laced West Cork region and in particular the evidence for the existence of pre-Patrician Christianity.

A central figure was St. Fachtna whose famed monastery was at Ross Ailithur, of "Ross of Pilgrims" but without going into the complex story of the clergyman's life of that early saint and his ancient establishment, I have selected instead a lesser known ancient church and castle called Kilcoe on the shores of the beautiful Roaring Water Bay, within the sight of Cape Clear island, the Fastnet Rock and the unknown number of islands known as "Carbery's Hundred Isles". Before I refer to Kilcoe Castle, one of the finest remaining on the Cork coast, and the last to fall to the English after the Battle of Kinsale and the Siege of Dunboy, I will treat first of its accompanying ancient church which is situated close by. Kilcoe is a church which could be compared to Myross church, another old church just around the bay. It is of the same plain oblong plan but much more ornate in detail and more interesting to view. Both churches are entered by a door in the south wall and in both churches there are only two windows, one in the east wall and one in the east end of the south wall. Both these windows are very strange but fascinating. In the "Cork Journal" there was an article written

and published in 1926 by Claude Chavassee. Chavassee states that both these windows were 9.5 inches wide and both had long trefoil heads terminating in a long, sharp, ogee point which would have been difficult to glaze, if glazed at all as there appeared to be no mark in the stonework where glazing might have occurred.

Chavassee also wrote that "in support of the theory that the windows were unglazed there is in the embrasure a pair of short slots or sockets running parallel with the wall and above the top of the window opening which could have held a bar from which might have hung a curtain or shutter in case of rainfall. There are also beneath the windows, both of the church and castle, small round holes, about an inch in diameter, level with the bottom of the embrasure and running out under the mullion. These must have been to allow rain which entered by the window to leave the building without causing further damage".

Inside the east window there is a heap of loose stones but under it there is a construction which could easily have been a stone altar. Chavassee also noticed this and then went on to describe a rectangular hole which he thought seemed to fit the description of an ambry, a cupboard used in medieval times for holding the consecrated elements of the Host. He also mentioned that in the south wall east of the window there was a simple piscina, with a single hollow and drain - a piscina being a perforated stone basin in a church for carrying away water used in rinsing chalices etc. On visiting the church I saw little traces of the piscina the hole seemed to be blocked up, but the detail in which Chavassee had described the east window was so descriptive and precise, it left little doubt in my mind that the piscina was actually there. The stones under the east window which Chavassee mentioned had been moved and the stone construction that lay there most certainly seemed to be a stone altar. I also noticed the rectangular hole which Chavassee seemed to think fitted the description of the ambry. In 1932, just six years after Chavassee wrote that article, a paper was brought out published by the Royal Irish Society. It was entitled "The Diocese of Ross and its Ancient Churches". It proved all of Chavassee's theories correct. It firstly gave O.S. details and then said that Kilcoe meant "The Church of the Sed". It then said "Appropriate to the Archdeaconary of Ross and the priory of Ross. Lord Castlehaven impropriator, 1634.

Fabric - A ruin, 1615. Its walls are almost perfect. 63 feet by 26 feet, 4 inches. The east window, richly moulded, has a trefoil head and a flat hood; the south window has also a trefoil headed light. Has a pointed south door; a stoup on the north side opposite the entrance, a piscina on the south side, and an ambry in the east gable. A new church was built in the townland of Carrovolley, 1830. Eighteen islands in Roaring Water Bay belong to this



parish". In 1270 Pope Innocent III wrote out a list of all the churches in the diocese of Ross. Kilcoe was on the list written partly in Irish as Cell Cohi. Kilkilleen was also included on this list but also partly written in Irish as Cell cillin. Kilkilleen also being referred to in the paper published by the Royal Irish Society saying that it was a friary and that slight traces of the building are still to be seen. Also published in the same paper after Kilcoe was: - "Cellcohi, 1199: Kylcody, 1302-6".

On looking at an article written by Jim Burke in 1930, published by "The Southern Star" I noticed the two names and one of the same dates. It seems that Pope Innocent III wrote a different letter in 1199 also calling Kilcoe, Cell Cohi. Burke also wrote that in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas it was designated Kilcody. Others he said, were different spelling - in the "Annals of Innisfallen" it was called Cill Chodh and in Speed's map it was called variously Kilcogh, Kilcow, or Kilcoa. The rest of the notes were mainly about the castle. Outside the church was a graveyard. There were a lot of recent graves but I saw that some of the graves dated back to 1808 and were surrounded by iron bars. In one tomb the door from where the coffin was put in was clearly seen. In other tombs these doors (hatches) seemed to be covered over in grass. The ground in the graveyard appeared very rough and unsmooth. This meant that quite obviously there were graves underneath me dating back further than I could see.

Overall the church was in a fairly good state of preservation. The four walls were standing and the east window was clearly visible, although outside the church was a bit disappointing as the old graves could not be seen. The inside of the church with all its stonework certainly made up for all that was not seen outside.

### *Kilcoe Castle*

Kilcoe castle, now owned by Mr. Jeremy Irons, is situated on a promontory at the edge of Roaring Water Bay. At one time, the castle was only reachable by boat or when the tide was low but now a little bridge has been built to ensure that anyone with interest can get a good look.

The castle itself has an interesting history. It was a McCarthy stronghold and was built in 1450. Owned by McCarthy Clan, or clan-dermot, it is most notably known to have been the last castle in Carbery to surrender to Carew. The *Pacata Hibernia* notes - "all the castles in Carbery had quickly surrendered to the much superior English forces with the exception of two-Cloghan and Kilcoe" Cloghan castle also belonged to the McCarthy clan. I decided to pay a visit to Mr. Bernard O'Regan, a well known historian who at 93 years of age recalls all the local history of the area. He told me a lot of interesting things and he also gave me articles on the castle. The articles

were written, again, by Mr. Jim Burke who seemed to know a lot about everything. Mr. O'Regan also gave me his own view of the stories and many of the facts, he presented me with were supported by articles. Most of the articles firstly established that Kilcoe Castle was held by the senior branch of the McCarthy's and Cloghan Castle by the junior branch. Mr. Burke mentioned an interesting thing, "the chieftain of Kilcoe was murdered in 1477, by his cousin the chieftain of Cloghan, in consequence of which the latter was executed and attainted and his castle and demesne lands were granted by Queen Elizabeth to the most loyal subject Sir Cormac MacTeige, Lord of Muskerry". Mr. O'Regan also pointed this out to me although nowadays, it isn't a very knowledgeable fact. By coincidence, my father had a copy of "*Pacata Hibernia*". It holds some interesting things and tells the tale of how the castle was captured. Amongst the many interesting things it says was the story of Captain George Flower.

George Flower captured Kilcoe Castle at the beginning of the month of September 1601. He says that Kilcoe and Cloghan were the only two castles which held out in rebellion and put up a bit of a fight. "*Pacata Hibernia*" - "About the beginning of the month of September (1601) the garrison of Kinsale was driven into the field and marched as far as Rosscarbery, being commanded by Sir Richard Percy and guided by Walter Coppinger of Cork, upon hope of doing service thereabouts, but being disappointed thereof they marched suddenly beyond the Leap and coming suddenly to Kilcoe, they took a prey of three hundred cows, which they brought to safety without any loss to Lettertinlis, and thence they returned to their garrison." Mr. Burke speculates on saying that maybe Walter Coppinger was the Sir. Walter Coppinger of Cork who acquired vast estates and built Coppingers Court near Glandore. After Captain Flower had taken Kilcoe it has been said that he took the defenders up to the top of the castle and threw them off the top of the castle although this has not been noted in "*Pacata Hibernia*" or any other notes, maybe it was preferred to keep it a secret so as to not give a ruthless appearance of Captain Flower. Mr. O'Regan also mentioned that the last chieftain after the Battle of Kinsale decided he had no business in Kilcoe so he left for the continent from Ardea in Kenmare Bay on the seventh of July, 1608. According to "*Pacata Hibernia*" - there were two brothers Dermond MacConnor and Dermond MacConnor Oge, of the Cartys of Kilcoe", but there were more likely father and son than brothers.

Mr. Bernard O'Regan also told me that the cheiftain of Kilcoe also brought his wife and children with him. However he ended up in Sicily and his wife and children were killed in an accident, probably drowned. Fifty years ago, their graves were accidentally found in Sicily. The Cork Journal gave the full inscription that the canvas bore and it was as follows: - "Sig D.



Anastatia de Fitzgobin, figlia di D. Florenzo de MacCarthy di Kilcoact, Sig. di Clann Dermot, delta provincia de Gorre (Cork?) di Regne Dirlanda, Hoglic del Digr. D. Guidlmo de Fitzgibon, tanente Colonnello Sig. de Miltan. Ballinatra, Kilnatourah, della provincia de Gorre del Regno Dirlanda, Madre de D. Tomaso, D. Anna, D. Eleonora, D. Catarina, di Fitzgibon, Obyt Syracusis, Di 18 Feb. An 1728".



"From the Italian inscription it appears that the deceased lady's maiden name was Anastatia MacCarthy, daughter of Florence MacCarthy of Kilcoe, Lord of Clandermot in County Cork and that her husband was Lieut. Colonel William Fitzgibbon of Millan (?) Ballinatrav and Kilnatoora. By Millan was possibly meant Molana not far from which are Ballinatrav on the Blackwater, and to the south-west Kilnatoora Castle. The last four names are those of their children, Thomas, Anna, Eleanor and Catherine, who, together with their mother so strangely met their death at Syracuse on February 18th, 1728. There was a William Fitzgibbon of Miltown (near Charleville) amongst the Co. Cork gentlemen outlawed in 1642, who may have been grandfather of the Colonel Fitzgibbon who lost his children so suddenly at Syracuse".

When the chieftain went to the continent, his father was too old to go

with him so a house was built for him on Mannin Island (a little island to the west of Kilcoe castle). However, the father wrote a letter to the chief of the O'Donovans asking for the loan of seven pounds as the father had no money. This letter is still in existence in Hollybrook House., Skibbereen, property of "The O'Donovan". I have not yet mentioned the names of the founder of Clandermot. The founder of Clandermot was Dermot Donn - stated in an article written by Mr. Jim Burke. Dermot Donn died at Misguisy in 1275. However Dermot Donn had a descendant Cormac of Cloghan and this Cormac was the man who murdered the chieftain of Kilcoe. There are many more relatives of Dermot Donn's a lot of them McCarthys but it is too extensive a story to tell here.

I will now move on to the remains of the castle and the interesting things that have been found and indeed that I have also seen. The castle, as I have previously mentioned, stands on the edge of Roaring Water Bay. It consists mainly of two towers, roughly square in shape which stand corner to corner. The tower to the north is higher and contains several rooms connected by staircases, including a dungeon on the lowest floor. The broad tower consists of a great hall and a gallery on a scale not to be found elsewhere along this part of the coast. Most of the staircases are standing and are climbable. But on entering the smaller tower you would find it almost impossible to ascend to the second level. Over the doorway there are a few loose rocks and I tried to get up there but I decided it was too hard to climb. However, in the larger tower there was an entrance, it looked like a chimney and was quite hard to climb. I firstly thought that maybe the entrance was blocked off because it was unsafe but I soon discovered it was probably just age.

The inside of the castle was fascinating. There was a dungeon which was impossible to reach and several great staircases. The gallery was amazingly built and there were windows with a breathtaking view of Roaring Water Bay. The dungeon was in a hidden place in the castle. it was in a little room and went down very far. Mr. Bernard O'Regan told me that he went down there once with a torch and a ladder and said it was a huge room and went down very far. Entrances and windows are dotted here and there and you could most certainly get lost easily. Mr. O'Regan said that the wicker work on the roof was still visible and when I looked the slight traces of it were still to be seen.

I could say a lot more about the castle but it would not capture its beauty and indeed the inside features. You would have to see it and, let me tell you, it would be a trip worth taking as it would almost take you back in time to relive that period of history.

(See poem *The Siege of Kilcoe* page 145)



## Rincolisky

Rinn Chuil Uisge: The Point with Water at the Rear, also known as Kincoe. Rincolisky is an O'Driscoll Castle at the eastern part of the mainland which surrounds Roaring Water Bay. It is said to have been built by the family in 1495, and what remains is the lower portion of the standard five storey tower house of that time. The basement is in good condition, but used by cows. The door is on the western side and there are traces of the fastening holes, as well as a suggestion of an overhead opening for either a portcullis or a murdering hole.

Entry to the residential part of the building on the first floor is through a nicely carved door above the basement entry. From this mural stairs on the left lead upwards, and the main hall has an arched ceiling which is in perfect condition; the floors above this are severely damaged, and the castle is truncated from the second floor. Corbel stones remain for these floors. Rincolisky is on a hillock near the shore, to which the grounds descend fairly steeply. It stands in the grounds of Whitehall (the castle is sometimes



known locally as Whitehall), which is now occupied by a German family. Following the battle of Kinsale the British forces, in their sweep of destruction along the south west coast and in this particular case on their way to the destruction of Dunboy, on 29 April 1602 'encamped on the mountain at a place called Recaranalagh, near Kilcoe, being a castle where the rebel Conogher, the son of Sir Fineen O'Driscoll, held a ward'.

It was one of the O'Driscoll properties which had been mortgaged to Sir Walter Coppinger and in 1628 he took it over, relying on the mortgage as a result of non-payment. In 1663 Kincoe Castle is mentioned in a decree of innocence for James Coppinger of Cloghan, which restored the castle to him with other property. The Coppingers lost their lands following 1660, when they supported James II, and by the time Smith wrote his History of Cork in 1750, it was known 'as Whitehall, formerly called Rincolisky, a good house of Samuel Townshend, pleasantly situated on an arm of the sea'. The house was undoubtedly large, built with stones from the old castle.

