

SM7. / TMR 59:6

GORT (Erzigt heerogwe)

Church, graveyard and cross [sic]

SM.2 ✓



REVISION OF 1936.

ERRIGAL TD

GORT TD

12. ERRIGAL D.E.D.

GLENCHUL TD



The ~~sites are~~ ^{complex site is} situated on the summit of a low drumlin with fine views to the E and S over the Blackwater Valley, but they are elsewhere overlooked by higher ground.

The site was originally a pre-Norman monastic site founded by either Dachiarag or Ciaran. The Annals of Ulster refer to the site in the obits of a scribe (810) and an abbot (838). The Medieval parish church, which had a high valuation, was destroyed with other churches in 1380. It is the remains of this church which is now visible. These consist of a plain rectangular building which measures 18 m EW by 6 m NS internally with walls that are 1 m thick. The NE corner stands to the height of the gable and the slight remains of the E window exhibit no carved details. The W wall and adjoining N wall each survive to a height of some 2 m with the S wall standing about 1.2 m high. There are no traces of windows in these walls and some stones are clearly modern additions. There was perhaps a door towards the E end of the N wall where a 0.9 m gap in the foundations exists. There is a corresponding gap in the S wall defined by dressed stone. The threshold consists of a set of crude steps which lead down into the church and there appears to be a bolt socket carved in one of the dressed stones on the W side of the doorway.

Cross. (after Roe 1956). This 'primitive' style sandstone cross is situated to the W of the church. It stands some 2 m tall and consists of a slightly tapering shaft which is almost square in section measuring 0.30 m wide 0.32 m thick. The shaft is surmounted by a circular head 0.7 m in diameter. Above this head the shaft projects some 0.2 m and at each side the arms, which are short, protrude 0.04 m (4 cm). It is clear that the carving of the cross was never completed possibly on account of a flaw in the stone which can be seen extending through the thickness of the block and is clearly visible on the W side extending from above one arm onto the field of the head. The W side is marked out with the carvers guide lines and the boss in the centre has been just begun. On the E side the lightly incised lines of a ring headed cross may be seen, with curved angles at the intersections of the arms. The surfaces of the N and S sides and the ends of the arms are plain.

Roe. H. "S. Ard" (1956) p 88.

TYRONE SURVEY

GORT
CS 59 ; IG

CHURCH, GRAVEYARD and CROSS.

300ft + OD
NGR

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Roe. H, "S. Ard" (1956) p 88.

SMR 59:6

28:06:89 EH

A Small Excavation at Errigal Keerogue Church, Co. Tyrone

In Spring 1980 a series of small trenches were excavated at Errigal Keerogue church (O.S. 6 in. Tyrone sheet 59; grid reference H585570; P.S.A.M.N.1 254)

as a complement to conservation work conducted by the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch, D.O.E.(N.I.). The work was intended to partially examine the footings of all walls, to test for doorways and to examine the theory of an E. extension of the church building. Results were inconclusive and are summarized below (detailed site records are lodged with the Branch).

A long history of burial, continued to the present day, had effectively destroyed any soil stratigraphy. Graves had been cut throughout the interior and adjacent to walls, and finds, apart from quern stones (see below) were confined to a few sherds of everted rim cooking pottery and coffin furniture, plus skeletal remains (reburied).

Construction of wall foundations varied greatly, from 3-4 courses of well-faced masonry to a total absence. It was frequently noted that a thin soil horizon, between 2-20 cm. thick, obtruded between the top of footings and wall base. Similarly, in a number of instances, it was noted that massive stones, laid in the nature of footings, projected so far out from the wall alignment that they could serve no structural function. This occurred particularly on the E. and W. walls; in the latter instance stones were further displaced by burial disturbance which had caused a slight slumping of the gable above and erroneously suggested the presence of a W. door.

Variations in style of footings were also seen to occur on opposite sides of walls. At the N. wall, where its height was least, part of the masonry was removed in an attempt to explain these inconsistencies. It was shown in this instance that the irregularities were due to the presence of an underlying earlier wall, on the same alignment. However, it was not possible to extend this explanation throughout the church structure, and the overall irregularities must remain unresolved.

Gaps in the N. and S. walls were examined for traces of formal entrances. Although in both instances ~~the arrangement of stones~~ ^{there was,} on one side of each gap, indicated a degree of formalization (carved or shaped stone), accurate dimensions for doors could not be obtained. The line of the N. wall was found to continue under the N. door whilst under the S. door the footings appeared to break.

No evidence was found to confirm the theory of an E. extension to the church. An arrangement of three foundation stones adjacent to the S. door was suggestive of a N.-S. wall, but this was not corroborated elsewhere and the presence of the ^{earlier} ~~early~~ wall masonry under the N. wall does not ^{easily} fit such a theory.

The Brigal Keelogue site is notable for the large numbers of rotary quern stones found there. Some are known to have been removed, and are presumably 'lost', but fragments of over 100 have been recorded. The majority are without archaeological context but some are

known to have been incorporated in the building fabric. It has been suggested that the site was a focal point for the breaking-up of querns in the creation of a milling monopoly, but such a theory would tend to imply a late date: this in turn would throw some doubt on the dating of the building fabric. An ~~alternative~~ ^{alternative} explanation could be that the quernstones represent the most durable survival of the pre-Viking monastic establishment, incidentally made use of. Also of interest was a large fragment of a shankensly-carved medieval tomb cover. Originally at Errigal Keerogue, this was located at a local residence and is to be restored to the site.

N. F. Brannon
Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch
Department of the Environment (N.I.)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS, ERRIGAL KEEROGUE CHURCH, CO TYRONE INTERIM SUMMARY

Work undertaken 3 March-3 April 1980; Beaghmore team. Objectives - to make a full record of previous conservation work; to complete photographic coverage of masonry; to examine foundations of all walls; to examine evidence for N and S doors; to test for a W door; to examine fully the N wall; to test for evidence that the E end of the church might be a later extension. To consider these factors for future conservation.

Trenches were opened at various points inside and outside the church. Due to intensive burial, soil stratigraphy was absent. Numerous human bones, coffin fragments and furniture were uncovered but reburied. A few sherds of everted rim coarse pottery were excavated and retained. More than one type of foundation structure was noted, varying from complete absence through to well faced coursed footings. In numerous instances foundations on one side of a wall differed in type from those on the other. Detailed drawings and photographs made. No floor levels inside the church were noted.

The N and S doors were previously presented as gaps within those walls. In the N door, one side (W) was defined by a large 'foundation' slab upon which the wall stood. Excavations found that the wall in fact ran beneath the door area and that traces of a formal opening were not surviving. The S door was previously defined by two steps. On the W side a large 'foundation' stone formed an apparent edge. The slabs forming the steps were shown to rest on soil as opposed to being part of a masonry build. This would suggest a late date, possibly a 'formalisation' of a gap in the wall. Inside the doorway excavations found a break in footings but the reasons for this were not clear. Complete excavation would have necessitated destruction of the present doorway and was therefore avoided.

Refacing of the W gable, central section interior face, gave the impression of a blocked W door. Excavations within the church noted that slippage of footings beneath this area (caused by burial) had weakened facing support. There was no evidence (change in footings, worked stone, density of occupation material) to indicate a W door. No work was done outside the W gable.

The N wall appeared to be one place where evidence for an E extension to the church might be obtained. There was a noticeable contrast between footings from W to E on the outer face of the wall. However, there was a similar contrast between inner and outer faces, confusing interpretation.

On the W side of the N door this distinction between inner and outer face was marked, but could not be used to indicate constructional phases. As well as this feature, it was frequently noted that a thin soil horizon intruded between base of wall and footings. In an attempt to resolve these inconsistencies, part of the N wall was demolished to obtain a section through it. However, this revealed traces of an earlier wall, and as such failed to answer this question.

Future Conservation

No evidence was recovered to date the surviving building. No evidence was found to date or accurately gauge the size or authenticity of N and S doors. As such, it would seem that the best approach would be to present them as they have previously been presented, although with a certain amount of tidying up.

A length of the W section of the S wall has been incorrectly restored. This should be demolished and realigned between the inner SW corner and the W edge of the S door.

Much of the inner face of the E half of the N wall has been disturbed by burial. A line may be established from the inner NE corner to the surviving inner facing adjacent to the N door. Facing should not be continued to a height greater than just above ground level. The N door can be presented as previously. Facing lines exist for the W half of the N wall and conservation in this area should be straightforward, although certain peculiarities of the inner face should be examined closely.

NFB
14.4.80.

rd

FIELD RECORD

FIELD NO.	Td.	TYPE	ALT.
OS. 6" TYR 59:6	GORT	Church, graveyard + cross.	300 +

PREVIOUS ACCOUNTS see also 59:4 (Gort),
 Errigal kerogue. 59:5 (Errigal).
 GRID REF.
 2 - Norman monastic site, patron Ciaran or Dachiarog.
 V. crit. of scribe (810) + abbot (838).
 medieval parish church. Destroyed 1380 (MIA).
 Cross W. of church ruin is probably unfinished.
 Ruined 'round tower' eg PSAMNI is NOT AT THIS SITE. see
 Malynasaggart 59:13. Many Querns. Carved stones.
 Sheela-na-gig in Ulster Museum. (Possible confusion with
 59:13).

TREATS AND/OR CHECKS	FURTHER ACTION
1609 map. Roofed church in Td called "Tanmagurruag"	

REPORT The site of the church and cross is situated on the summit of a
 low mound with the ruins to the E and S but elsewhere the site is
 covered by higher ground.
 St Kieran's Church
 The remains of this site consist of a plain rectangular building which
 measures 18m E-W by 6m N-S internally with walls that are 1m thick.
 The NE corner stands to the light of the gable but there are no
 carved remains of the E window. The W wall and adjoining N wall survive to
 a height of c. 2m with the S wall standing about 1.2m high. There are no
 traces of windows in these walls and some modern stone has clearly been
 added. There was perhaps a door towards the E end of the N wall where a
 1.2m wide gap in the foundation exists. There is a corresponding gap in the
 S wall defined by dressed stone on either side. Beside this is a set of
 steps associated with the door, and one of the dressed stones has a bolt socket
 carved in it.

Cross* The stone cross is situated immediately to the W of the church.
 It stands some 2m tall and consists of a shaft which is 30cm square
 surmounted by a circular head 0.7m in diameter. Above this head
 the shaft projects some 20cm out at each side the arms, which are
 extremely short, protrude c. 4cm.

Td.
 Co.
 PAR.
 G.R.
 OS. 6"
 I.G.

it is clear that the cutting of this moment was never completed possibly, an account of a flaw in the stone which can be seen extending through the thickness of the shaft, and is clearly visible on the W side entirely from above and even onto the near field of the head.

The W side is marked out ~~with~~^{with} the rollers guide line and a boss in the centre of the head has just been begun.

On the E side may be seen slightly marked lines of a rig-head cross with curved ~~lines~~ angles at the intersections of the arms.

The ridges of N + S sides and the ends of the arms are plain.

(# after Roe 1956)

28/6/84 DJH

THE PRAYERS

Minister — The Lord be with you.
People — And also with you.
Kneel
 Let us pray.
 Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy.

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done on earth
 as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Now thank we all our God,
 With hearts and hands and voices,
 Who wondrous things hath done,
 In whom his world rejoices;
 Who, from our mother's arms
 Hath blessed us on our way
 With countless gifts of love,
 And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
 Through all our life be near us,
 With ever joyful hearts
 And blessed peace to cheer us;
 And keep us in his grace,
 And guide us when perplexed,
 And free us from all ills
 In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God—
 The Father now be given,
 The Son, and him who reigns—
 With them in highest heaven;
 The one eternal God,
 Whom earth and heaven adore;
 For thus it was, is now,
 And shall be evermore.

All remain standing

The Churchwardens shall say:
 "Your Grace, on behalf of the rector, Select Vestry and People of this parish, we request you to sanction the opening of this church following extensive renovations and to dedicate it and other gifts to the glory of God."

The Archbishop shall say:
 "Let the church be opened in the name of the Lord."

Mrs. I.J. Ingram shall say:
 In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I open this church and pray that it may be used for God's glory and the welfare of the people of this parish, now and always. Amen."

THE DEDICATION — Our Archbishop

HYMN 471

Word of the living God,
 Lighting the souls of men,
 With heavenly wisdom from on high
 Inspiring lips and pen!
 Their hearts athirst for truth
 With truth did God inspire;
 In words of men God spake the word,
 His word a burning fire.

Ages and empires passed;
 The word was still the same;
 Still from the ancient beacon-fires
 Men caught the living flame;
 Unchanged his truth of God,
 His hand stretched out to judge the world,
 His arms outstretched to bless.

Still burns the fire of God,
 From age to following age;
 New mornings break, new light is thrown—
 Upon the hallowed page;
 Still sounds the trumpet-call,
 Still speaks the living word;
 Rings out, as in the ancient days,
 The cry, "Thus saith the Lord."

THE COLLECTS

THANKSGIVING

Said by all
 Almighty God and merciful Father, we give you hearty thanks for all you goodness and loving kindness to us and to all people.
 We bless you for our creation and preservation and for all the blessings of this life; but above all for your love in redeeming the world by our Lord Jesus Christ for the means of grace and for the hope of glory.
 Give us a due sense of your mercy that our hearts may be thankful, and that we may praise you not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERMON — The Most Rev. R. H. A. Eames, Ph.D.
 Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland

OFFERTORY

HYMN 677

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables
strain,
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul,
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.*

When our eyes behold, through the morning
light,
The city of gold, our harbour bright,
We shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
With the storms all past for evermore.

THE ENDING — Our Archbishop

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn—
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming.
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path
illumining.

HYMN 403

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings
weeps with loathing.

Ans so the yearning strong
With which the soul will long
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he becomes the place—
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his
dwelling.

YOU ARE INVITED TO REMAIN IN YOUR SEATS FOR TEA

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Stand

Minister — O Lord, open our lips:

People — and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

Minister — O God, make speed to save us:

People — O Lord, make haste to help us.

Minister — Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

People — as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Minister — Praise the Lord:

People — the Lord's name be praised.

PSALM 150

O praise God in his sanctuary:

Praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Praise Him for His mighty acts:

Praise Him according to His abundant goodness.

Praise Him in the blast of the ram's horn:

Praise Him upon the lute and harp.

Praise Him with the timbrel and dances:
Praise Him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise Him on the high-sounding cymbals:
Praise Him upon the loud cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord:
O praise the Lord!

THE LESSON 1 Peter Ch. 2, verses 4 - 12

NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation: which you have prepared in the sight of every people
A light to reveal you to the nations: and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning is now: and shall be for ever. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into Heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the everlasting. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN 322

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou me breast-plate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my armour, and be thou my might;
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance through all my days;
Thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasurer thou art!

High King of heaven, when the battle is done,
Grant Heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's sun,
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The minister says
Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
Kneel

After a short pause for self-examination all say
Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
We have sinned against you
and against our fellow-men
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ
who died for us,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

The Minister pronounces the absolution:
Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RECTOR : The Rev. R. C. McCartney

CHURCHWARDENS :

J. Patton (Rectors), L. Domer (Peoples)

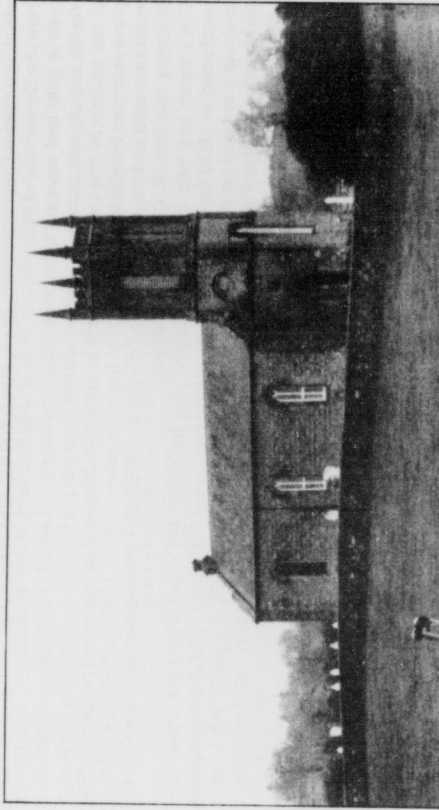
GLEBE WARDENS :

M. Little (Rectors), R. McKeown (Peoples)

SELECT VESTRY :

A. Barratt	Mrs. A. Lynd
Miss Burton	J. McDonald
Mrs. G. Finlay	W. McKeown
(Hon. Treasurer)	J. Moore
R. Kilpatrick	(Hon. Secretary)
Miss H. Little	Miss M. Smitton
Mrs. V. Little	T.S. Stockdale

Sexton - T. Finlay Organist - Miss R. Barratt



In the centre of Ulster, 2 miles south-west of Ballygawley we find the ancient parish of Kerog. At present we are using the 5th building in this area. Our name originates from the founder of the first church which was situated on the western slope of Clonally near Errigal Old Graveyard. Dachiarag founded the church between 450 - 500 A.D. and it was

from the gaelic version of his name that we obtained our present title — "Al...jal Dachiarog" which means "the church of Saint Dachiarog". Over the years the name changed many times to become "Keerogue" in 1837, however we now use the much earlier form dating from 827 A.D. spelt "Kerog".

The legend of Kerog's Cow depicted in the Burton window came into being when the first building was being erected in 827 A.D., this was destroyed in 1380 by Earl Mortimer. However it was again in use as a place of worship in 1390 after it was rebuilt. Remains of church No. 2 can be seen in Errigal Old Grave Yard.

The 3rd church, a friary, was situated in the townland of Ballinasaggart or "Baile na Sasarz" which means the "Home of the Priests". The priests were of the 2nd Order of Franciscans, started in 1489 by Con O'Neill and they worshipped in Ballinasaggart for 120 years up to 1610. The wall at the end of the graveyard is all that remains of the abbey. The next church was built by the foster brother of James I in 1622. It's founder members were from Fife and Aberdeen. It was the only church between Killeshil and Clogher up to the 1800's. This church had a thatched roof, but was demolished in 1832 to erect the present church. The old foundations are buried in the lower front half of our present graveyard of the present church was erected on a different site.

No reason has ever been found for the 4th church being abandoned for the present church. The builder of our church is unknown but he used the stones from the 1622 building and it cost £1,000. It is called St. Matthews as it was opened on the 7th September 1832 and the nearest saint's day was St. Matthews on 21st September.

Up to 1923 the Moutray's used their privilege of appointing rectors and the minister was in charge of just one church, however in 1924 Rev. Maltby was also appointed rector of Ballygawley and Killeshil was added 10 years later making Kerog the first parish in the present group. Some of the most important events in our church over the past 30 years were selling Richmond Rectory and joining with the other churches to build the present rectory. In 1972 we celebrated 450 years of Worship at Kerog. The "Olaf Organ" which is a manual pipe organ with pedal board and a useful set of draw stops was brought from the Danish city of Waterford in 1975 and dedicated in September 1976. This organ's case is gold leaf covered by a black laquer paint part of which has been removed. The friends society was started in 1980 when the shield above the gallery arch was presented to the church by the late Rev. Ingram to celebrate 20 years as rector of the parish. The graveyard was levelled and sown out in lawns between 1984 - 1986. In 1987 the church was renovated and the front arch was rebuilt and 1988 saw the ordination of 41st Rector of Kerog, the Rev. R. Charles McCartney.

The church has two bells in the tower, one from the 4th church and the other was purchased in 1833 for £20.00 The base of the baptismal font was found at Sesskilgreen and has a sundial on the side. However the bowl is younger and has a celtic design on it and was found near Favour Royal in the last century. The stained glass window on the left side of the church was installed in 1933 by Robert Scott the manager of Robinson and Cleaver's in memory of his parents from the townland of Lisnawearry and the window on the other side is in memory of Kathleen Sproule who died when she was 17 in 1912 and her face is the one used in the window. The stained glass window at the front was erected by one of our present parishioners Miss Burton in memory of her parents and brother. Our church has the only black pulpit in Ireland so called as the pulpit was presented by the Royal Black Chapter in memory of Rev. Sir Knight John Maxwell Moutray L.L.D. who died on 19th July 1908 in recognition of his 36 years as Grand Registrar.

Other items of interest are the Windsor Oak Aisle, laid in 1953 by the Barrett family, Crossbouy and church furniture mostly presented by the Moutray families including the replica of the "Book of Kells", which is appropriate as the church has flourished from the time Ireland was famous as an "Island of Saints and Scholars".

DIOCESE OF ARMAGH

A Service of Thanksgiving

in ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, ERRIGLE-KEROG

Opening Ceremony

by MRS. I.J. INGRAM, J.P.

and

Dedication

by THE MOST REV. R. H. A. EAMES, Ph.D.
Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland

at 8.00 p.m.

on FRIDAY 27th MAY 1988

TyR Sq: 6 + 13

GR 8/11/88

Notes

The SM files identify two sites;

- 1). Sq: 6 Gort / ERRIGAL Keerogue
(td) (parish)
- 2). Sq: 13 Ballynasaggart (td.)

These sites are very badly confused in the literature with the result that the artefacts associated with each site may be mixed up and not now found in their original location.

The first point to note is trouble over the names; the SM 7 site Sq: 6 of Gort is referred to in the literature as Errigal Keerogue. On the O.S. 6" sheet this is marked as St. Hieranus church with other associated features — not as Errigal Keerogue. Unfortunately Errigal Keerogue is also a Parish name including the site of Ballynasaggart (Sq: 13). In the Visitation Books the parish was also called Ballynasaggart — 'the town^{ION} of the priests.'

The main objects associated with both sites are

- a) sheela-na-gig
- b) Cross
- c) Fort
- d) hullaun
- e) round tower

The first problem is over the location of the round tower. This is frequently confused in the literature, especially in Leslie (1911: 300); Gwynn + Hadcock (1970: 384). The round tower and Franciscan foundations are at Ballynasaggart (Sq: 13).

The cross is associated with Gort / Errigal Keerogue, as is

the hullaun and sheela-na-gig.

The crucial problem relates now to the font. This font is located in St. Matthews church, Ballynasaggart. The font along with Sheela-na-gig was located for a while at Favour Royal. As the Sheela-na-gig is associated with the site of Errigal herogue it may be that the font was from here as well although it is possible that the collection of material at Favour Royal came from diverse sources.

Gort/Errigal herogue sq:13⁶

- 1). Sheela-na-gig.
- 2). Cross.
- 3). St. Kierans stone (nearby sq:5) - hullaun.
- 4). St. Kierans well (separate site sq:4).

Ballynasaggart sq:13¹³ - Franciscan foundation.

- 1). Font
- 2). Round Tower

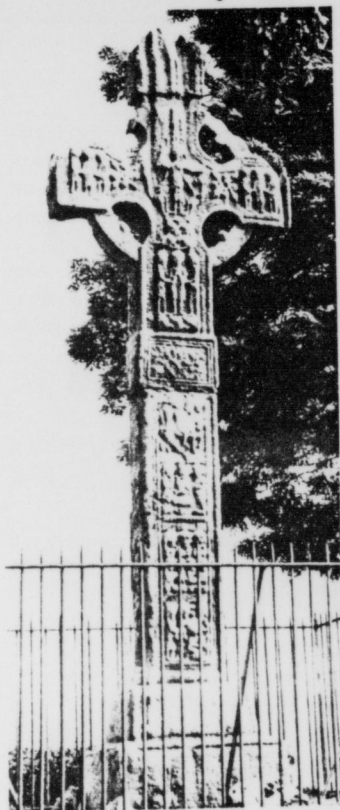
NUMENTS

of Coagh, reached by turning south of Lough Neagh. The tall cross with St Colman, founded perhaps in 1166 but later emerged as the finest of the Ulster figure-ring, with an exceptionally full (New Testament) side are Adam and Lions, the Children in the Fiery Slaughtered by people, and Christ in the (New Testament) side has the Multiplication of Loaves and the Crucifixion. On the west side the Lion, David killing Goliath, the Egyptian desert. The scenes at the Baptism, the anointing of Slaughter of the Innocents have is likely for the cross. Arboe N of the graveyard, overgrown church in the graveyard (not it is probably of the early 17th

chaol 4 (1897-8), 1-6; *PSAMNI* *acha* 2 no 1 (1956), 81-3.

near a busy road junction at the west end of the old graveyard. This sandstone cross is on or near its present site, tradition has it that the priest Colum was buried there with book of hours associated with Donaghmore. It is now in the National Museum, Dublin. The present cross is made up of parts of the original cross, dating from the 17th century and re-erected in 1897. It consists of a resting mixture of figure-carving and frame-work, with I-shaped and semicircular frames. The scenes include: Shepherds, the Adoration of the Virgin, the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes, the Crucifixion, the Fall of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, the Resurrection of St Colman, perhaps unfinished, on the

(1987).



130 Arboe Cross, west side.

west side of the base.

PSAMNI (1940), 245; H Roe in *Seanchas Ardmhacha* 2 no 1 (1956), 85-7.

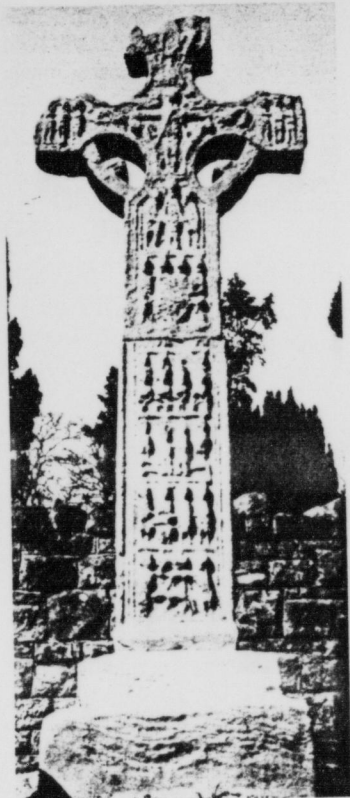
141 Dungororan Rath (H738693)

5½ miles (8.8 km) NW of Dungannon, NE of the B43 to Pomeroy, approached by narrow farm lanes, prominently sited on a glacial hilltop. The rath is circular, its interior considerably raised, with traces of a low bank and a wide wet surrounding ditch.

142 Errigal Keerogue Cross and Church (H585570)

In Gort townland, 2¾ miles (4.4 km) W of Ballygawley, reached by minor roads N and NW from the A4 Ballygawley-Clogher road. The ridge-top graveyard is beautifully sited overlooking the Clogher valley. An early

Am NZ



131 Donaghmore Cross, east side.

monastery associated with St Ciaran (Dachiarog) and the medieval parish church were here. The cross w of the church has been called 'archaic' and 'primitive', but it is clearly unfinished. On the f face a ringed cross is lightly tooled; on the w a flat boss was worked and straight lines marked, but the stone was not further cut back, perhaps because of the flaw visible on the s side. Until recently the church was densely overgrown, but clearance and conservation have revealed opposed doors to N and S and a base batter on the E wall. Numerous querns and quern fragments have been found in the graveyard and a few are built for display into the N wall, together with a cast of a medieval burial monument found in the graveyard. St Kieran's Well is across the road to the NE.

PSAMNI (1940), 254; H Roe in *Seanchas Ardmhacha* 2 no 1 (1956), 88; N F Brannon in *Ulster J Archaeol* 44-45 (1981-2), 200-202.

143 Killyliss Rath (H757606)

2¾ miles (4.4 km) wsw of Dungannon, approached from the N by minor roads from the A4 (old main road). The rath has a very substantial bank, flanked by inner and outer ditches. Small-scale excavation done in 1965 is not yet published.

132 144 Tullaghoge Fort (H825743)

In Ballymully Glebe townland, 2½ miles (4.0 km) SSE of Cookstown, E of the B162 Cookstown to Stewartstown road. The entrance is on a difficult corner, with a small carpark at the foot of the hill, from which an uphill path leads to the site. This magnificent hilltop enclosure commands wide views and, planted with trees, is visible from miles around. The site comes into



132 Tullaghoge Fort, air view with Donaghrisk graveyard visible towards top right.

historical prominence in the 11th century as the inauguration place of the Cenannach, the residence of the O'Hagans who were the inauguration ceremony. The O'Hagans walled graveyard at the foot of the hill in classic rath form. An inner polygonal bank by a wide, flat outer bank by a wide, flat pictorial map with two gateway openings. An inauguration chair on the hillsides. English Lord Deputy Mountjoy visited in 1605. The work of clearing and preservation was done with help from Mr J Tullyhogue C. *Ulster J Archaeol* 5 (1857), 23

MEDIEVAL MONUMENTS

145 Harry Avery's Castle (H757606)

¾ mile (1.2 km) sw of Newtown Stewart, on a minor road to Rakelly. On a path leading to the castle. The castle is named in 1392, but it is not certain whether it is an unusual and interesting natural feature or an artificially scarped natural mound. The castle is surrounded by a polygonal curtain wall. The end is a tower which looks like a tower, but the only way into the castle is through the hall at first floor level. The tower-house rather than a true tower. The main door, latrine chute and vaults.

E M and H M Jope and E A Jope in *J Roy Soc Ant* 1957, 100; S G Rees-Jones and D M Watson in *J Roy Soc Ant* 1957, 100.

146 Magheraglass Church (H757606)

4¼ miles (6.8 km) wsw of Cookstown, on the B162. Overgrown remains of a ruined pre-Norman church, its w wall and tower. Signposted or presented (1982).

H B Carter in *J Roy Soc Ant* 1982, 239.

— (1955). 'Excavations at Seafin castle and Ballyronney motte and bailey', *Ulster J. Archaeol.*, 18 (1955), 83-104.

— (1958A). 'Excavations at Ballyfounder rath, Co. Down', *Ulster J. Archaeol.*, 21 (1958), 39-61.

— (1958B). 'A note on Dundrum castle, Co. Down', *Ulster J. Archaeol.*, 21 (1958), 63-66.

— (1959). 'Excavations at Lismahon, Co. Down', *Medieval Archaeology*, 3 (1959), 139-76.

— (1963). 'Excavations at Duneight, Co. Down', *Ulster J. Archaeol.*, 26 (1963), 55-78.

A MEDIEVAL CARVED STONE FROM ERRIGAL KEEROGUE CHURCH, COUNTY TYRONE

Early in 1980 Dr Peter Harbison, archaeologist with Bord Fáilte, drew the writer's attention to the existence of an unusual 'tombstone', formerly located at Errigal Keerogue church, Gort townland (O.S. 6 in. Tyrone, sheet 59; grid reference H 585570). Though seen at the site some years previously, the stone was no longer at this State Care monument and was feared stolen. Local enquiries, however, revealed that the stone had been removed for safekeeping by the parish priest, and, following his death, had been stored by a local teacher. The stone (Fig. 1) has been returned to the care of the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch, Department of the Environment (N.I.) and a replica has been placed at the church.

The stone, approximately 46 cm. wide, 9 cm. deep and with a surviving length of 91 cm., depicts on one face a three-quarter length human figure carved in a very low relief, indeed almost incised (Pl. 1a). On both long sides are carved two shallow lines which run the full surviving length (Pl. 1b). There is no corresponding decoration on the probably original (though partly damaged) lower end, whilst the upper end is damaged. The rear face is entirely rough, without dressing. In one corner of the carved face, against the head outline, is a small rectangular depression, 8 cm. by 3 cm., 0.75 cm. deep. This is not repeated elsewhere on the stone and may not be contemporary with the figure carving. No firm interpretation can be offered for it, though its regular shape suggests a socket for an iron bar, which would have risen perpendicularly from the stone.

The figure lies within a poorly-defined border found on the longer sides only, most clearly seen in the lower half of the slab, where it has a width of 8-9 cm. Its clarity here appears to be related to the definition of the lower arms, since around the upper arms and shoulders it is barely visible. The border is undecorated, and may have been intended to suggest the outline of a coffin.

An immediate impression of the figure within is that it is meant to portray a knight, but apart from

the general posture of the arms there are no features of clothing, armour or sword to support this. The area adjacent to the left arm was closely



Fig. 1.

examined parallel to the shaft such as The clothing marks an overgeneral such a mail, 'hard' across in place. The severe mail girdle delineate position mon f raised does an air expre age d the or junct irreg



(a)



(b)

Plate 1. A medieval carved stone from Errigal Keerogue church, Co. Tyrone.

examined for traces of a sword either under it or parallel to it, but no evidence was found, nor can the shape of the border on this side be taken as such a feature.

The very low relief might suggest that details of clothing have been abraded but, while damage marks are visible on the carving, abrasion on such an overall scale appears unlikely. Whilst the general smoothing out of 'soft' items of clothing, such as a surcoat or brigandine, or even chain-mail, might be possible, there are no traces of 'hard' items, such as buckles or plates. The line across the right shoulder is not a besagew (protecting plate) but damage to the stone.

The outline of the hands, expressed in quite a severe triangulated form, is suggestive of chain-mail gloves, but there is no accompanying mail delineation on hands or arms (Pl. 1). The passive position of the hands over the groin is not a common feature (the usual position is that of the hands raised in prayer over the chest). However, this does not appear to be a chronological feature or an aid to interpretation. The head of the figure is expressed as a sub-circular hollow, with an average diameter of 17 cm., and 2.5 cm. deep. Though the outline of this feature is fairly well defined, the junction with the shoulders, without a neck, is irregular. Since the feature appears original, it is

suggested that some facial representation, possibly in another medium (e.g., wood, brass, alabaster) was inserted. There are no dowel holes to aid attachment, but this form of embellishment, most commonly on incised figure carving of the 14th and 15th centuries, is not uncommon in a European context (Greenhill 1976, *passim*).

Taken in all, then, the absence of distinctive apparel, particularly a sword, suggests that although interpretation of the figure as a knight is the likely and conventional one, there is little detail to support this. Assuming such an interpretation for the sake of argument, however, the absence of plate armour (early 15th-century *floruit* (Greenhill 1976, 158)) and the low relief of the carving (later carving has fuller relief (Hunt 1974, *passim*)) suggests at the latest a 14th-century date for the work.

No close parallels have been found for the piece, and its context at Errigal Keerogue is unexplained. There is nothing in the surviving church fabric to indicate the presence of a tomb niche, and the stone, a dark reddish-grey sandstone, is not common at the site. Though a full account of the site has yet to be published (Brannon and Hamlin, forthcoming), and despite some historical confusions between it and the nearby Ballynagart church (*P.S.A.M.N.I.*, 254), there are no

known historical personages associated with the site with whom the carving can be linked.

N. F. BRANNON
*Historic Monuments and
Buildings Branch, Department
of the Environment (N.I.)*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks are due to Peter Harbison for preventing the stone's continued 'loss', and to Helen Roe for her comments on the piece.

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A SMALL EXCAVATION AT CASTLE LUG, GREENISLAND, COUNTY ANTRIM

Following planning proposals for redevelopment in the immediate vicinity of Castle Lug, a scheduled monument, a small excavation was conducted in November 1980 in an attempt to establish its ground plan and chronology. The site (O.S. 6 in. map, Antrim sheet 52; Carrickfergus West Division; grid reference J375844) consists of the remains of the N. wall and NE. corner of a probable tower-house, abutted on the N. and S. sides by modern sheds (Fig. 1). The monument appears today as it did in the early 19th century:—'. . . nothing now remains but a portion of the N. wall 27 ft long and 25 ft high—with a very small portion of the E. side attached to it. The walls which are 3 ft 6 in. in thickness are built of sharp undressed quarry stones well laid and closely and firmly cemented by grouting made from sea sand . . . those (stones) at the corners have been removed for modern purposes . . .' (Ordnance Survey Memoirs). Similar descriptions are found in O'Lavery (1884, 78) and M'Skimmin (1909, 371).

An unusual feature of the surviving N. wall is a break which rises for the entire height of the masonry (illustrated in M'Skimmin 1909, 370). The break is faced on either side by jambs which narrow outwards from the interior, and is at present blocked by later masonry and the remains of a forge which occupied the S. shed. While it is assumed that this must represent the remains of a window, there is no sign of a masonry division indicating storeys within the structure, nor does the interior wall face preserve traces of first floor supports. The exterior face of the N. wall, now within a modern shed, has been partly refaced and a masonry sequence cannot be detected.

The 19th-century accounts (above) suggest that the tower-house was square in ground plan, though this was not apparent at the time of excavation. Enough remained of the NE. corner to extrapolate the line of the E. wall, whilst the inner face of the W. wall appeared to survive within the small lean-to shed adjacent to the forge. From this a probable E.-W. exterior wall dimension of c. 9 m. (30 ft) is indicated. However, neither the lengths of the E. and W. walls, nor the line of the S. wall, could be demonstrated through manual or machine excavation, and the N.-S. dimension of the building remains unknown.

Removal of the (modern) hard-core and concrete floor of the forge gave directly onto subsoil clay. Excavation at the base of the E. wall of the forge located a line of unmortared stone footings which, in terms of comparative wall thickness, may have been original to the tower-house. The same could not be shown for the N. wall interior face, however, and with the absence of a foundation trench the dating of the footings must remain conjectural. Artifacts from the excavations were meagre, consisting of a single body sherd of probable 16th- or 17th-century Scottish green-glazed reduced earthenware and two sherds of 18th-century British stoneware. No chronology of the structure can therefore be offered from the excavation.

A wide late-medieval date bracket for the tower-house can possibly be narrowed down by documentary evidence. The site is also called Cloughlougherty (O'Lavery 1884, 78), which place-name, in approximately the right location, occurs on a c. 1570 map of Belfast Lough

250.

59:6
Lanlin 76, 804-806
ERRIGAL KEEROGUE parish, Gort townland (A). O.S. 59;
H/585570. Airegal-da-chiarog. Patron Dachiarog or Ciaran,
but uncertain which saint of this name (patron day unrecorded).

A.U. gives obit of abbot and scribe 810 and abbot 838.

Medieval parish church with erenaghs; high valuation 1306.

Destroyed with other churches 1380 (M.I.A.). Extensive ivy-
covered ruin of church in crowded graveyard. Graveyard

markedly higher at W. end. SITE (Pl. 1): over 350 ft,
prominent ridge, overlooked by ridge to N., but overlooking
Blackwater valley to S.

MATERIAL: (ROUND TOWER. Shaw Mason (1819, 155) makes it
clear tower was at Franciscan friary site, not old church:
'The foundations of a round tower were to be seen there within
ten years, but now, even the ruins have disappeared.' This
was site in Ballynasaggart townland, near modern C. of I.
church (Shaw Mason says partly built from friary ruins) at
H/599570. Unfortunately other writers have transferred tower
to old church site, eg. P.S. 1940, 254 and, recently, Gwynn
and Hadcock 1970, 384. I see no reason to suppose this was
an early round tower.)

i) CROSS (Pl. 125). West of W. end of ruined church. Sand-
stone. Odd general impression; called 'primitive' (A.M.S.C.
1962, 78) and 'archaic' (Crawford 1907, 199) but clearly
unfinished, so present appearance misleading. At least 6 ft
10 ins high. Shaft 10 ins to 1 ft 1 in. wide and 1 ft 3 ins
thick, decreasing to only 7½ ins at top. Large solid ringed
head, arms project only about 1 in. 2 ft 10 ins across arms.

Top of shaft projects 1 ft 1 in. above ring. E. side: ring and hollowed intersection of arms marked out lightly but stone not cut back. Good light needed to see at all clearly. W. side: at centre flat boss, diameter $7\frac{1}{2}$ ins, within square of setting-out lines (two below boss). No sign of circle on this side. N. and S. sides undecorated; main feature is marked thinning of shaft above ring when seen in profile (Pl. 1). Clear flaw in stone above arm on S. side. O.S. Lists report cross said to have been over principal door of church: sounds highly unlikely! Perhaps another stone, now lost. Roe 1956, 88 and pl. XI.

ii) BULLAUN. O.S. marks 'St Kieran's Stone' 3 chains W. of church. In O.S. Lists said to have indentations and to have been part of St Kieran's altar. I did not find this, but Davies, O., in U.J.A. 4 (1941), 41, describes rough irregular boulder, about 2 ft cubed, with two probably artificial hollows, to N. about 9 ins deep, to S. shallower but wider.

iii) WELL. O.S. marks 'St Kieran's Well' on N. side of church, NE. of church, formerly resorted to for wart cures (Marshall, J.J., Clochar na Righ (1930), 74).

(Other material, none of it certainly within my chronological limits.

1) Grotesque female figure - sheela-na-gig, in Ulster Museum. Reported from Ballygawley; thought to be from Errigal Keerogue. A very unattractive example of its (unpleasant) kind.

2) Various stones. Marshall (op. cit., 75): 'When sinking graves in the old churchyard numerous dressed stones have from time to time been brought to light - portions of corbels, pillars and even sculptured heads.' Some stones in large

collection at Favour Royal, Co. Tyrone, said to come from here. I saw nothing there clearly before c. 1200, though there are several later pieces.

3) Lower of two fonts in Ballynasaggart C. of I. church (Pl. 137). Inverted and used as base to upper (sixteenth or seventeenth century?) font. Sandstone. 1 ft 1 in. high, upper circumference 3 ft 2 ins, lower 4 ft 10½ ins. Mouth (at bottom now and obscured by cement) rectangle with rounded corners, S. side 1 ft 7 ins long, N. 1 ft 5 ins, E. and W. 1 ft 1 in. Rounded outline at base. Sides decorated with pecked circles with central sunken dot, some linked by pecked line. A puzzling piece: I can find no good Early Christian parallels for decoration which seems to have more in common with megalithic art (cf. Sesskilgreen nearby), yet a font is not a prehistoric type, and this is hardly a 'basin' of New Grange type. Unknown provenance: Ballynasaggart friary or Errigal Keerogue suggested. P.S. 1940, 254, brief account. (Nowhere illustrated or fully discussed.)

Shaw Mason 1819, 137 f.; Marshall, op. cit. above, 74-5; Roe 1956 gives sketch by Wakeman of site, also in O'Hanlon Lives of Irish Saints, vol. 5, 116; Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 384, unfortunately perpetuate two errors: for round tower see above, and '... said founded by St Macartin (d. 506): Lewis'. Lewis (1837, I, 609) gives very muddled account, partly based on Shaw Mason. Shaw Mason confuses Errigal with Oriel and so Errigal Keerogue with Clogher (where Rathmore sometimes called Rath Oriel). Father MacDermott in S.A., 2 no. 2 (1957) suggests Cill Mór Magh Enir in this parish. Father Gallagher in C.R. 7 no. 2 (1970), 284-5, locates it in townland of Grange (medieval 'Grange of Moyenner'). This church sometimes confused with Kilmore (Ar., q.v.). Obit of abbot 750, obit 770, obit of bishop and abbot 812, arenagh and vice-abbot injured 818, obit of bishop 842, plundered by Vikings 874 (all A.U.). I have not yet been able to pursue this in the field. Gwynn and Hadcock 1970, 39, obscure rather than clarify.

TYR 59:6

Gwynn + Hadcock (1970) p. 384

See Hamlin (1976) p 806 for problems
with this reference!

§ Errigal Keerogue, Co. Tyrone. *Airegal-da-chiarog*; patron St. Ciaran; said fd. by St. Macartin (d. 506): *Lewis*. Abbots (called *princeps*) d. in 810 and 838: *AU*. Remains and traces of round tower: *AMNI* 254.

The round tower is NOT AT THIS SITE but at

TYR 59:13

Roe 1956

TYR 59:6

88

Seanchas Ardmhacha

ERRIGAL KEEROGUE, CO. TYRONE

In the old graveyard of Errigal Keerogue is a massive sandstone cross. Between six and seven feet in height it consists of a shaft about one foot in width, surmounted by a circular solid head, 2 feet 4 inches in diameter. Above this head the shaft projects about seven inches and at each side the arms, which are extremely short, protrude for an inch or so.

It is clear that the cutting of this monument was never completed, perhaps on account of the serious flaw in the stone. This extends right through the thickness of the block and may be clearly seen on the W. side where it curves in from above one arm onto the main field of the head (Pl. XI). On this side the stone is marked out by the worker's guide lines and a boss in the centre of the head has been begun.

On the E. side (Pl. XI) may be seen the lightly incised lines for a ring-head cross with curved angles at the intersection of the arms.

The surfaces of the N. and S. sides and the ends of the arms are plain.



ERRIGAL KEEROGUE, CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD

*Drawn on wood by W. F. Wakeman, from a sketch made on the spot by
Rev. John O'Hanlon*

PLATE XI.



Photo)

(J. Ryan

Below :

ERRIGAL KEEROGUE :

East Side



Photo)

(J Ryan

Above :

ERRIGAL KEEROGUE :

West Side

PSAMNI (1940) p. 254

Gort td, St. Kieran's Church, Errigal Keerogue

About 1 m. W. of Ballynasaggart Bridge. Tyr. Sh. 59, Plan 2, Tr. 3. Rectangular building of internal dimensions about 60 ft. by 20 ft. with walls $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. thick. The N.E. corner stands to the height of the gable, but there are no carved mullions of the E. window. The W. wall and adjoining portions of the N. and S. walls are about 9 ft. high, but some stones seem to have been replaced on them in recent times, and there are no traces of windows. There was, perhaps, a door on the N., where there is a gap in the foundations. On the S. there is one carved jamb of a door with bolt socket, and several ashlar blocks which formed the other jamb, giving a door 3 ft. 4 ins. wide.

59:6

Gort td, Errigal Keerogue Cross

To W. of church just described. Tyr. Sh. 59, Plan 2, Tr. 3. Cross with solid ring, whence the arms project slightly and the top rather more. On the E. is apparently a circular border, on the W. a slightly raised boss in a square frame, but no further ornamentation is now visible, and the faces are very rough. It stands about 6 ft. from the ground, and the shaft has apparently disappeared. The top measures 1 ft. by 7 ins. The cross is in charge of the Ministry of Finance. At Favor Royal is a carved head with broken base about 14 ins. by 9 ins. and 2 ft. high. The sculpture is very flat, the nose and eyes merely outlined, the ears project slightly; round the forehead is apparently a crown. This figure is believed to have been brought by Dr. Groves from Errigal Keerogue, where it stood over St. Kieran's Well; but it may have originally formed a canopy for the cross, though its dimensions are slightly larger. In charge of Ministry of Finance. Plate 52. O.D.

59:6

J.R.S.A.I., XXXVII, 1907, p. 195.

legs. The right arm is wanting, but the left is in the usual position. The vague definition in the lower abdominal region suggests that alterations may have been made. Fig. 27.

J.C.H.A.S., ix, 1903, p. 206, with illustration.

(59). KILTINANE CHURCH: seven miles north of Clonmel. The figure is horizontal, on a quoin of the south angle of the west wall of the ruined church: the upper side is much weathered.

Type II. Fig. 24.

O'Donovan, Ordnance Survey Letters, Tipperary II, 1840, p. 152 (Typed Copy).

P.R.I.A., ii, 1840-44, p. 571.

J.R.S.A.I., xxxix, 1909, p. 278; xli, 1911, p. 387.

(60). KILTINANE CASTLE. A figure described fancifully in P.R.I.A. ii, 1840-44, p. 570, as "holding the lucky horse-shoe in one hand, and a cross or dagger in the other." As Col. R. Cooke, the then owner of the castle, mentions no figure there, but speaks of "very perfect specimens" (*i.e.* in the plural) in the church, it is possible that the writer in P.R.I.A. is mistaken in attributing a sheela-na-gig to the castle. In the present state of the church it is impossible to ascertain whether a second figure is there or not. See Col. Cooke's Note in J.R.S.A.I., xxxix (1909), p. 278.

(61). LIATHMOR OLD CHURCH: five and a half miles from Urlingford on the south-east side of the road to Cashel. The figure lies horizontally on the sandstone impost of the north doorway of the larger of the two churches. It is a good deal stylised and suggests a decorative motif, and being on sandstone is probably not later than the twelfth century.

Type I (c). Fig. 28.

North Munster Archæological Journal, iii, 1914, p. 83-85.

GORT Td.

Co. TYRONE.

(62). ERRIGAL KEEROGUE. A figure found in the old church of Airiagol Dachiarog, near Ballygawley: now in the Municipal Museum, Belfast. Type I (a).

Ancient Monuments of Northern Ireland in State Charge, p. 31.

Co. WESTMEATH.

(63). COOLATORE. The figure is carved on a slab said to have come from Carne Castle, and now in the possession of Henry Upton, Esq. Type I (a). Fig. 29.

Marshall J.F. (1930)

74

CLOCHAR NA RIGH.

stones covered with spiral markings, and the other with diamond markings. On another of the stones is a very small cup inside several circles. A stone, evidently a covering stone, is lying amongst the undergrowth of bushes that surround the grave.

About two hundred perches from the grave, in a different field, is another standing stone about fifty-two inches high, with a smaller one standing about thirty-six inches high, parallel to it, with about six to eight inches of space between. There are no marks on either. On the north-east shoulder of the larger stone there is a streak or band that turns red on the approach of wet weather. The country folk say that when the stone is bleeding it is a sign of rain. This belief is paralleled and perhaps explained by one held in Inismurray. In the south-west corner of Tech Molaisse is a dark red appearance caused by the growth of a small fungus. The natives say that it is caused by the blood of a martyred saint, and that however often it is scraped away it will come again."

In Glencull—the next townland—there is a boulder stone lying flat, with cup markings as well as holes made by the weather. It is about the same size as the Seskilgreen inscribed standing stone. In the same townland there is one of those curious little earthen forts within which the herdsmen sought shelter at night with their charge, from beasts of prey, and often by day had to defend themselves when the spoilers came to rob. It has a high platform ring about thirty feet wide, surrounding a centre sunk some six or eight feet. There are two broad flat stones lying inside the fort, but no traces of markings. Glencull has also a standing stone used as a gate post. It is marked on the O.S.

In the month of September, 1900, there was unearthed another stone lined grave in the townland of Shantavney. About a dozen large stones surrounded the burial place which contained two chambers. In these a quantity of bones in a perfect state of preservation, a very rare urn beautifully carved and line marked, with some thirty fragments of urns were discovered. The grave is about fifteen feet long and four feet wide.

Following this phase of culture, as indicated by the remains found in the district, came the introduction of Christianity by Dachiarog, who probably founded a primitive church on the spot now occupied by the old graveyard, with its ruin of a church and very early form of stone cross. It is of a curious stumpy type without perforation or arms. There is a boss in the centre of the west face and traces of carving. A short account with illustration is given in "Ancient Monuments of Northern Ireland in State Charge" (1928), pp. 31-33. Nearby is an ancient holy well still occasionally resorted to as the rags hanging on the adjoining bushes testify.

The Dachiarog from whom the parish takes its name was evi-

dently a minor patron. There is this entry in the macy of Armagh: "Dachiarog, Abbot of Cosgrach, Abbot of Downpatrick (A.D. 1180) to a passage in the Annals of the Bishop of Down and the English got possession of Dachiarog, besides a bell, Phatruic and the bell, but other noble relics." These Dachiarog, are stated to be

In A.D. 1380, the buildings were destroyed (I., 307.)

When sinking graves stones have from time to time been found in the demesne of the stones, what is believed to be removed to the parish church, reconsecrated or dedicated. A stone was found in a farmhouse walled furze (in the vernacular) which consists of two parts. The base stands ten inches high on the ground, tapering to two lines. The bowl is seven inches in diameter, and ten inches high. It seems a trefoil ornament.

The ruins of the church of Gort, but at a later date a mile from Errigal, the end of the parish church of Ballinasaggart. An old man, "Friary," informed the late Ware, Con O'Neill, in 1840,

and the other was diamond
is a very small cup inside
covering stone, is lying amongst
and the grave.

the grave, in a different field,
two inches high, with a smaller
one, parallel to it, with about
There are no marks on either.
er stone there is a streak or
of wet weather. The country
ing it is a sign of rain. This
ned by one held in Inismur-
h Molaisse is a dark red ap-
-small fungus. The natives say
yred saint, and that however
again."

There is a boulder stone lying
made by the weather. It
en inscribed standing stone.
those curious little earthen
at shelter at night with their
by day had to defend them-
It has a high platform ring
entre sunk some six or eight
lying inside the art, but no
a standing stone used as a

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phantavney. About a dozen
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-perfect state of preservation,
and line marked with some
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curious stumpy type without
in the centre of the west face
nt with illustration is given
Ireland in State Charge"
at holy well still occasionally
adjoining bushes testify.
ish takes its name was evi-

dently a minor prophet as in the Four Masters, under A.D. 825,
there is this entry:—"It was to foretell this [a battle over the pri-
macy of Armagh] that Dachiarog, i.e., the saint of Airicul, prophe-
sied." Then again in A.D. 837, it is recorded that "Ceallach, son
of Cosgrach, Abbot of Airicul Ciarog (died)."

The Northern Irish in their effort to drive de Courcey from
Downpatrick (A.D. 1177) were disastrously defeated and according
to a passage in the 'Annals of Inisfallen,' quoted in a note by O'Dono-
van to the Four Masters, III., 31, "The Archbishop of Armagh,
the Bishop of Down, and all the clergy were taken prisoners; and
the English got possession of the croziers of St. Comgall and St.
Dachiarog, besides a bell called Ceolan an Tighearna. They after-
wards, however, set the bishops at liberty and restored the Canon
Phatruic and the bell, but killed all the inferior clergy and kept the
other noble relics." These relics, which included the crozier of St.
Dachiarog, are stated to have remained in the hands of the English.

In A.D. 1380, "Mortimer led an army into Ulster and many
buildings were destroyed, viz., Errigal, etc." (Ann. Clonmacnoise,
I., 307.)

When sinking graves in the old churchyard numerous dressed
stones have from time to time been brought to light—portions of
corbals, pillars, and even sculptured heads. For many years there
stood in the demesne at Favour Royal, amongst a number of old
stones, what is believed to have been the ancient font of this church.
At the suggestion of the late Rev. J. Wallace Taylor, LL.D., it was
removed to the parish church of St. Matthew (Ballinasaggart), and
reconsecrated or dedicated anew to its proper use. Originally it
was found in a farmhouse where it was used for mashing or crushing
furze (in the vernacular 'pounding whins') for feeding horses. It
consists of two parts—the base and the bowl—both circular. The
base stands ten inches high, and is in diameter eighteen inches at
the ground, tapering to twelve and a half inches at the top. It is
ornamented with hole and circle ornament and a few indistinct
lines. The bowl is seventeen inches high, twenty-two inches in
diameter, and ten inches in depth. It is ornamented with what
seems a trefoil ornament.

The ruins of the old church are situated in the townland of
Gort, but at a later date a friary was built on a site about
a mile from Errigal Diachiarog, in a meadow just behind the east
end of the parish church of Errigal Keeroge, or as it is locally named,
Ballinasaggart. An old man known as "Patrick M'Kenna of the
Friary," informed the late Rev. Dr. Taylor, that many years before
he had levelled down the foundations and that the meadow behind
his house was still known as "the Friary Meadow." According to
Ware, Con O'Neill, in 1489, erected a Friary at Errigal Keeroge.

59:6

This was the same year as he erected that of Dungannon, both of which were known as "Ballinasaggart," which has given rise to some confusion.

Graves in his article on Errigal Keeroge (Shaw Mason: Par. Survey) states that "the foundations of a round tower were to be seen in Ballinasaggart within the last ten years, but now even the ruins have disappeared." "Out of the remains of the friary were built the present parish church." The church referred to when the article was written (1818-19) was replaced by the present St. Matthew's Church, Ballinasaggart, in the year 1832.

CHAPTER XVI.

ERRIGAL KEEROGE (Continued).

The manor of Moyenner, or Ballygawley; acquired by Sir Gerard Lowther; Pynnar's report; Archibald Hamilton in possession; Ballygawley castle; the manor of Thomas Court; Ridgeway's bawn; Portclare granted to Sir Thomas Ridgeway; exchange of Portclare, Thomas Court and Augher for an Earldom; the manor of Favour Royal; how acquired by the Moutray family.

The small proportion of 1,000 acres in which the town of Ballygawley is situated was granted to William Turvin, and created the manor of Moyenner, with 300 acres in demesne, 29th April, 1611. (Cal. P.R., James I., 211.) Regarding this grantee there is very little information to be gleaned. "We find this name on no list of English applicants for lands in Ulster; nor do we know whence he came. He did come, however, in person to take possession and left his brother in charge of his proportion. The lands were let out to Irish tenants, of whom the following are the principal:—Turlough M'Rowrie, Teige O'Lappan, Phillomy M'Bryan, Naboesse M'Gerr, Eugene Modder M'Gerr, Murtoogh O'Quyn, and Cormac O'Lappan. Turvin about, or prior to 1616, disposed of his holding, and Pynnar (1618-19) reports:—"William Turvin first patentee. Sir Gerard Lowther, Knight, hath 1,000 acres called Moyenner and Ballygawley (Ballygawley). Upon this there is a Bawn of Clay and Stone; with two flankers, being 8 feet high. This is let to one Mr. Pringle who is dwelling on the Land in a poor Cabbin; but what tenants he hath I know not for he refused to show them unto me; but he brought me a list of just twenty Tenants; but I know not whether they have any estates, for the List does not make any mention of what they hold. As I passed over the land I saw divers

ploughing; and this is all that

The Mr. Pringle referred from Torwoodlee and settled in 1616, and was there in 1619, and influence in his own country wrote 'one missive to the Lord 1617. There was possibly some Pringle and James Spottiswood blood in him. His grandfather

The Inquisition now quoted at Tatecosker, a bawn whose circuit. At this date the process. On 24th March, 1628, there was a portion of Moyenner, which Gerard Lowther, but when the information. This Archibald Malcolm Hamilton, who succeeded of Cashel and Bishop of Emly, daughter of Lord Balfour, Balfour Wemyss, High Sheriff of County, brawl between him and Bishop, going to an Inquisition held at Cashel. Archibald Hamilton died in 1667, his son Hugh, who in the next generation was the proprietor of Glenawley. This was the wife was a kinswoman of his daughter of Sir William Balfour of Fifeshire, who had purchased Fermanagh, in the year that

Lord and Lady Hamilton, whom William, the second son, unmarried, and Arthur, the eldest, dying young, the principal daughters. Arabella Susan, daughter of Gill Hall, County Down, Dungannon. Nicola Sophia Tristram Beresford, of Colebrook, April, 1704, Lieut.-Colonel Killbrew. This lady was "Lord Tyrone's Ghost," was the foundation for his dramatic Mrs. Gorges died on her father's ghost of Lord Tyrone, whose name was De la Poer, married in 1704

B 127|30

TYR 59:6 + 13

.12 Inside Ballinasaggert Parish Church there is preserved a very early Christian Font, having the spectacle sign found on early Scottish monuments. The late Dr. Taylor, Rector of Errigal Truagh, informed me that he had found this, together with a Sheela-ne-Gig, now in Belfast Museum, and another stone carved with a ram's head on a rockery

-2-

12 cont. in Favor Royal, the present home of Major Mootry, where presumably the ram's head stone still remains. Dr. Taylor considered that all came from Errigal Keeroge old church.

TYR 59:6

Pringle. Co. Tyrone Antiq (1935) p.1

59:6 Townland Errigal. Parish of Errigal-Keerogue. Ancient Church,
formerly Alreagal Bachiareg (the Church of St. Lachisreag) once a
very important settlement often mentioned by the annalists.
A very early and primitive stone torseon Cross remains in the graveyard.
Other relics of this early Celtic foundation are an interesting stone
font now preserved in Ballynasaggart Parish Church about one mile
distant. The base on which this font is placed is remarkable in having
the only example in Ireland of the Pagan spectacle symbol (or double
circle connected by a line) carved upon it. This appears to connect
it with the early Pictish Churches of Scotland where this symbol is
frequently met with in association with the earliest Christian
monuments. This font was found in a rockery in FAVOR ROYAL DEMESNE
by the late Rev. J. Wallace Taylor L.D.D., together with a very
primitive female image or "Sheela-na-Grig" (now in Belfast Museum)
and another sculptured stone with a ram's head decoration. There
is *little* doubt that they came originally from Errigal Keerogue. It
is recorded that ~~there~~ was a round tower here, but no trace is now
to be seen. An adjacent Holy Well is still pointed out.

TYR Sq: 6 + 13

300 PARISHES OF ERRIGLEKEEROGUE AND FAUGHART.

NOTES ON CHURCH, PARISH, &c.

Leslie (1911).

Erriglekeerogue=Airlagal Dachlarog—"the church of S. Dachlarog." The peasantry called it in 1816 Errigal Kieran (see article by Rev. John Groves in Mason's *Parochial Survey*). The parish was also called in the Visitation Books, etc., **Ballinasaggart**—i.e., "the town of the priests." The ruins of the **ancient church** in the T.L. of Gort on the top of the hill 3 miles W. of Ballygawley contain several carved stones of an old **friary** established for the 2nd order of the Franciscans, circa 1489, by Con O'Neill. There are also the ruins of a **Round Tower** which mark the church as an ancient Celtic foundation as also does a massive **Celtic Cross**, 6 feet high, of archaic form with solid disk; there is a boss in the centre of the west side and traces of incised lines. An outline of the cross is given in *Jour. R.S.A.I.*, 1907, p. 195. The ruins of the church, the Round Tower and the Cross are vested in the Board of Works as National Monuments, and the graveyard in the Clogher District Council.

In 1622, as we are told, "the church was a building" (*R.V.*). In 1633 the value of the R. was £80 (*R.V.*). In 1731—"R. not resident, hath a glebe, but no parsonage house" (*Parl. Ret.*). In 1766 the names of the 222 Protestant and 371 R.C. families are given by townlands in the *Parl. Ret.* Oneas Doyle was then "Popish Priest." Richmond **glebe house** was built in 1780 at the cost of £785 14s. 1d. The **present church** was built near the site of the old one, in 1832, at a cost of £1,000 British, and consecrated Sep. 7, 1832, dedicated to St. Matthew.

The Perpetual Curacy of **Ballygawley** was established chiefly out of this parish in 1830.

The **advowson** of Erriglekeerogue seems to have gone in 1610 with the estates of Portclare, which were granted by James I to Sir Thomas Ridgeway, who sold them with the advowson to Sir James Erskine, Aug. 19, 1622. A question seems to have arisen as to whether the advowson went with them, for the Crown recovered it about this time from him (*Lambeth MSS.* 943, Letters of Wentworth). The Crown, however, regranted it to him on July 12, 1630. Rev. A. Erskine's co-heiresses—two Miss Erskines m., one, Anne, a Moutray, the other, Mary, a Richardson, and these families seem to have pres. in turn until by deed, dated April 18, 1803, John Corry Moutray bought out Sir Wm. Richardson's moiety for £2,000. At Disestablishment the **Moutray family** received £4,687 5s. 9d. compensation for its loss, but handsomely endowed this parish and Ballygawley, and were allowed to retain its patronage.

RECORDS EXTANT:—In P.R.O. Baptisms and Burials from 1812-75, Marriages 1812-48. Registers since these dates with Incumbent.

Sq:6

Sq:6

Sq:13

Note the confusion in the literature between the two sites Sq: 6 + 13 and the finds associated with them. This article is particularly confused and mixes up site names and artefacts associated with them

JRSAI 1907, p. 199.

A Descriptive List of Irish Crosses!

	No. on Map.	Locality, Ord. Survey Townland, and nearest Railway Station.	No. of Ord. Map, and if marked.	Situation.	Description.
6 feet with ious red. lster	3 192 59:6	Errigal-Keroge. Gort. Ballygawley.	N.W. 59 (m.)	In old graveyard on top of hill, 3 miles west of Ballygawley.	A massive cross, 6 feet high, of archaic form with solid disk; there is a boss in the centre of the west side, and traces of incised lines.

TYK 59:6

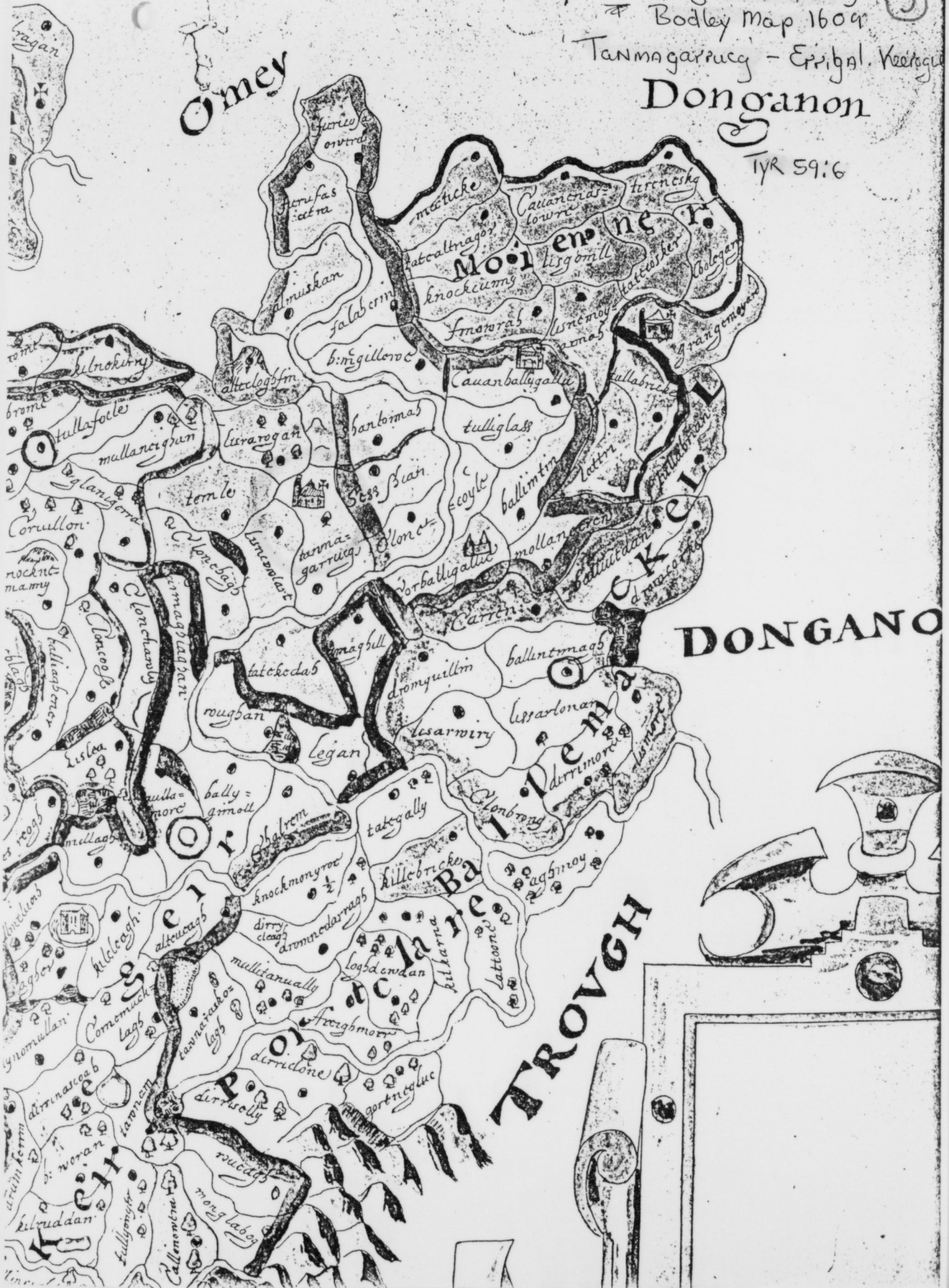
os. Fieldman's Reports No. 297-298 (1900)

- 2 Applies to a very ancient structure (in ruins) said to have been built in the sixth century by St. Kieran, and destroyed by Oliver Cromwell about the middle of the sixteenth century. The porch is being repaired. Situated in the townland of Gort and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile N. of Ballynasaggart P.O.
font see also No 126 on B 127/30
- 3 Applies to an ancient Celtic Cross which stands immediately west of the ruins of the Church said to have been originally over the principal doorway. It stands about 5 ft. high and on which are several markings which cannot be deciphered.

T1652/18 Clogher Barony 3
Bodley map 1609

Tanmagarrucy - Errigal. Keelgu
Donganon

TYR 59:6



Reference Check list

TYR 59:6.

- ✓ 1). PSAMNI 1940 p. 254
- ✓ 2). JRSAI (1936) p. 119
- ✓ 3). VJA 44-5 (1981-82) p. 200 - 202 - N.F. Brannon.
- ✓ 4). JRSAI (1907) p. 199 - Crawford.
- ✓ 5). Hamlin (1976) p. 804-6.
- ✓ 6). Gwynn and Hadcock (1970) p. 384. - see Hamlin (pollens)
- ✓ 7). Marshall J.J. Clochar na Righ (1930) p. 74-5
- ✓ 8). Roe H. S. Ard (1956) 88 + pl. XI
- ✓ 9). Shaw Mason (1819) 137 f [nothing more than already in Hamlin].
- ✓ 10) Pringle (1935) p. 1
- ✓ 11). Leslie (1911) p. 300
- ✓ 12) Bodley Map 1609

ERRIGAL KEROGUE,

Remains of Ancient Church on top of hill 3 m. West of B'gawley contains several carved stones of an old friary (Franciscan 2nd Order) c1489. Remains of Round Tower and Celtic Cross 6' high for which see J.R.S.A. 1907 p.195.

1622 'Church building'

1832 7 Sept. Present Church dedicated to St Matthew Cost £1,000
'near site of old one'

Richmount Glebe House cost. £784-14-1 built 1780

219 Irish Houses 1810 Catalogue

Leslie, Armagh Clergy, p.300

Flame found in Old Church now in Belfast Municipal Museum
(Water Museum) AM.N.I. in State Charge, p.31.

also see WARREN, William

ERRIGAL-KEEROQUE, near Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone.

- 1810 Church in ^{bad order} ~~good condition~~ Carlisle, T.D.I.
1819 " built on site of friary - foundations of round tower
to be seen in last ten years now disappeared
Present building long without steeple. Doorcase seems
to have belonged to the friary or to the old church
in Errigal-Keeroque td. Tombstone of 1667 in churchyard
- another serving for hearthstone is that of Richard
Waltham d. 1684. Monday family burial place is
enclosed at one end of churchyard. W. Shaw Mason, Parochial

Smiles, III (1819) p 155
(Ibid. 167)
There is a large hall or vestibule in which is
a fireplace where all may warm themselves before
service, but the heat of it is not much use to the
body of the church.

ERRIGAL KEROGUE

Mr. Leeman Drainage Officer Armagh [0861] 522774
phoned him in reply 3 July 1975

also

Aghaloo — church remains

} clearing up scheme to
be carried out
what may they do?

ERRIGAL KEEROGUE.

8 AUG 75

Phone call the Rev. Brett Ingram regarding work progressing at E.K.

Tel. B'gawley
066253-670

O'Well ~~man~~
Mr. Leaman.

Tarmac Path.

Concrete Slab.
Steps on paths.

level top of
grave yard.

querns. (14)
dec.
5-6 complete.

Large stones
from Abbes
walls.

6th C thinks
Brett Ingram. 1390.

Dr. Wallace Taylor.
date. Eastern
mound exr.
beyond present