



COROFIN,
CO. CLARE,
IRELAND.

CLARE HERITAGE CENTRE

Tel: 065 6837955

Int. Tel: +353 65 6837955

Fax: +353 65 6837540

Email: clareheritage@eircom.net

Web: www.clareroots.com

THE
DEVINE FAMILY
OF
CO. CLARE

DEVINE

Here at the Clare Heritage Centre, we offer a professional service to persons wishing to trace their Clare roots. Towards this, we as a voluntary organized, non profit making group, have over the past number of years indexed all the available **Parish Registers** for the 47 Clare parishes. We now hold data on just over 500,000 people who were born in this county during the last century. The age and condition of these records vary from parish to parish, with some of our records dating back to as early as 1802. However, as Civil Recording of Births, Marriages and Deaths does not begin until 1864, these Parish Records remain the main source of Genealogical Data for the 19th Century in Ireland. In addition to the Parish Register we hold the various **Land Records (1824 & 1855), Civil Register of Marriages and Deaths, Census Returns, Maps, Histories** of the different Parishes etc.

The **Devine** surname was relatively rare in Co. Clare during the 19th century with our Master Index of Baptisms recording just 47 families of the name, appearing in the following Parishes:-

KILKEE	(1836)	8 FAMILIES
CLARECASTLE	(1834)	7 FAMILIES
KILMIHIL	(1849)	6 FAMILIES
KILRUSH	(1827)	5 FAMILIES
ENNISTYMON	(1823)	4 FAMILIES
TULLA	(1819)	3 FAMILIES
CARRIGAHOLT	(1853)	3 FAMILIES
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	(1828)	2 FAMILIES
INAGH	(1850)	2 FAMILIES
KILMURRY IBRICKANE	(1839)	1 FAMILY
KILMALEY	(1829)	1 FAMILY
DOONBEG	(1855)	1 FAMILY
COROFIN	(1819)	1 FAMILY
CLONLARA	(1851)	1 FAMILY
CLONDEGAD	(1846)	1 FAMILY
DRUMCLIFF COI	(1745)	1 FAMILY

The dates given above in brackets after the Parishes indicate the commencement date of their Registers.

Dr. Edward McLysaght in his Book *“Irish Families Their Names And Origins”* which was published in the late 1950’s gives the following account on the name:-

“DEVINE, Davin, (Devane):- The name Devine is chiefly found to-day in the counties of Tyrone and Fermanagh. Up to the fifteenth century the chief of this sept was Lord of Tirkennedy in Co. Fermanagh. Though the etymology of the name has been questioned we may accept the view of so eminent a scholar as O Donovan that it is in Irish O Daimhin. This is also anglicized as Davin, which is not a common name but it is to be

found in an and around Co. Tipperary. The Davins of the midlands are probably a branch of the O'Devines of Fermanagh and so ultimately an offshoot of the Maguires. The Four Masters mention one O'Devine as co-arb of Derry in 1066 as well as several who were chiefs of Tirkennedy at various dates up to 1427. In modern times the best known man of the name was Professor Edward Thomas Devine (1867-1948), of Columbia University, famous as an organizer of American charities. Another Irish surname which is anglicized Devine in some places is ODubhain, normally anglicized Dwane or Devane in Munster and Duane in Connacht."

Now to your own direct line:-

The first task in doing the search was to try and locate a record of marriage between your great-grandfather's parents **Thomas Devine** and **Bridget Neilon** i.e. your great-great-grandparents. This search involved a full and detailed study of all available **Marriage Registers** at our disposal. However, after an extensive search through same I have to report that we failed to uncover evidence of the event. Therefore, we would have to conclude that your great-great-grandparents **Thomas Devine** and **Bridget Neilon** were married in a Parish in the county in which the Registers were simply not old enough to record details on the event.

The next step involved a study of all available **Baptismal Registers** for the county in the hope of locating data on the births/baptisms of the children to your great-great-grandparents **Thomas Devine** and **Bridget Neilon**. This time I am pleased to report that our search proved successful.

Your great-great-grandparents **Thomas Devine** and **Bridget Neilon** were recorded having the following children:-

MARGARET	BAPTISED SPONSORS	31 st March, 1835 John O'Neill & Bridget Devine
DOMINICK	BAPTISED SPONSORS	20 th May, 1838 Terry & Sally Moran
CATHERINE	BAPTISED SPONSORS	17 th December, 1842 Daniel Moroney & Mary Devine

The dates given above are baptismal dates. However, in those days because of the very high level of infant mortality children were baptised within a few days of birth. So while **Margaret Devine** was baptised on the 31st of March, 1835 it would be reasonable to assume that she was born sometime between the 25th and the 31st of that month.

The above children were born/baptised in what is today known as the ecclesiastical **Parish of Clarecastle/Ballyea** which at one time comprised the old **Civil Parishes of Clareabbey and Killone**.

At **Margaret's** birth/baptism in **1835** and **Dominick's** birth/baptism in **1838** the priest recorded the family's address as **Lissan**. **Lissan** is a townland (a townland being the smallest rural division of a Parish) of approximately 600 acres situated in the old **Civil Parish of Clareabbey**. From the enclosed copy of the old Ordnance Survey map you will note that **Lissan** was sited about 1 mile south of the village of **Clarecastle**.

When translated from Gaelic **Lissan** reads "the little lios".

While at **Catherine's** birth/baptism in **1842** the family's address was given as **Clareabbey**. **Clareabbey** is a townland of approximately 284 acres. From the enclosed copy of the old Ordnance Survey map you will note that part of the actual village of **Clarecastle** was situated within the townland of **Clareabbey**.

You will of course immediately note that the birth/baptism of your great-grandfather **Michael Devine** was not listed above. This is due to the fact that the Church Registers (Baptismal) for the **Parish of Clarecastle** do not commence until **May 1834** so obviously would be much too late to record information on his actual birth/baptism. Indeed any children that may have been born to your great-great-grandparents **Thomas Devine** and **Bridget Neilon** prior to **1834** could not have been recorded. So while the couple were recorded having 3 children this obviously was not the total size of their family.

Bridget Devine and **Mary Devine** listed above as sponsors (godparents) were likely to have been sisters of your great-great-grandfather **Thomas Devine**.

Sponsors (godparents) were often close relatives of the family. Based on this theory we examined all families listed above as sponsors (godparents) in the hope of uncovering some connection between these families and the families of **Devine** and **Neilon**. However, I have to report that we failed to uncover any obvious connections.

With regard to going back one earlier generation as the Church Registers (Baptismal) for the Parish in which the family lived in do not commence until **1834** they would obviously not be old enough to record information on the births/baptisms of either **Thomas Devine** or **Bridget Neilon** in that both would have been born several years prior to this time.

The earliest available **Land/Property Records** which we have for the area in which the family lived were the **Tithe Applotment Books** of the mid **1820's**. Tithe was a tax on all agricultural land (originally a tenth of the produce) and it was paid by people of all religious denominations towards the upkeep of the Established Church of that day (Church of Ireland). The tax aroused much resentment on religious grounds as the country was four-fifths Roman Catholic and the distress that followed the Napoleonic Wars forced the replaced payment in kind by payment in cash by local landlords. The information differs from parish to parish, but in most part gives the name of the tithe payer, the acreage of his farm subject to tithe, and the amount of tithe paid. Taken together the Tithe Applotment Books virtually form a census of landholders around the year 1830, a few years before the massive emigration resulting from the "Great Famine." These records do not include a list of the householders in rural or urban areas, they contain only the names of those who occupied titheable land.

The **Tithe Applotment Books** for the old **Civil Parish of Clareabbey** are dated **1826**. We duly examined these but have to report that we failed to uncover a listing for any **Devines** holding/leasing property in the Parish at this time. This of course would not necessarily mean that they were not living in the Parish in that it is possible that they held no titheable property.

The next available **Land/Property Records** were the **Griffith Valuation Books** of **1855**. The **Griffith Valuation of 1855** was undertaken to determine the amount of tax each tenant should pay towards the support of the poor within his Poor Law Union. In addition to giving the name of the occupier or tenant it provides the name of the immediate lessor, the name of the townland or city location, the area and value of holding and the value of the house. These records contain the names of every householder and every occupier of land during this period.

These **1855 Land Records** list your great-great-grandfather **Thomas Devine** leasing a house and yard at **Main Street** in the town of **Clarecastle**. The total valuation of the property came to 15 shillings. From the enclosed copy of said **Land Records** you will note that he was leasing the property from **Lord Inchiquin**.

From a study of the later **Land Transfer Records** we have established that this property transferred to **Bridget Devine** whom we would have assumed to have been your great-great-grandmother sometime in the period **1858 to 1859**. Then sometime between **1864 and 1870** the property became vacant. After **1870** it transferred to a **Thomas Bennis**. It then transferred to a **James Kellett** and finally to a **Thomas Fitzpatrick**.

From a study of the later Records it would appear that your great-grandfather's sister **Margaret Devine** who was born in **1835** married one **Henry Webster**. This couple resided in the village of **Clarecastle** where they were recorded having the following children:-

MICHAEL	BAPTISED SPONSORS	5 th January, 1862 Thomas Clohessy & Anne Devine
MARY	BAPTISED SPONSORS	12 th April, 1863 Patrick Devine & Mary Slattery
HENRY	BAPTISED SPONSORS	3 rd January, 1865 William Webster & Kate Reidy
MARGARET BRIDGET	BAPTISED SPONSORS	15 th March, 1867 Martin Roughan & Mary McNamara
JANE	BAPTISED SPONSORS	18 th August, 1869 Rev. J. Cartigan

AGNES	BAPTISED SPONSORS	12 th January, 1872 Dominic Devine & Ellen Reidy
JOSEPH	BAPTISED SPONSORS	27 th March, 1875 Joseph McMahon & Catherine Casey
BRIDGET	BAPTISED SPONSORS	11 th January, 1877 Michael Webster & Bridget Gannon

The above **Webster** children would of course have been nephews and nieces of your great-grandfather **Michael Devine** in that they were his sister **Margaret's** children.

Back in the year **2000** we received an inquiry from Louis Charles Grimmnitz, 165 Artemis Blvd., Merritt Is. Fl. 32953, USA. Mr. Grimmnitz was seeking information on his grandmother **Anne Webster** the daughter of **Henry Webster** and **Margaret Devine**. According to Mr. Grimmnitz his grandmother **Anne** whose birth/baptism in fact went unrecorded along with all of her siblings emigrated to the United States. Perhaps it would be worthwhile contacting Mr. Grimmnitz in the hope of uncovering further information on the family. His grandmother **Anne** would of course have been a niece of your great-grandfather **Michael Devine**. While in **1991** we received an inquiry from a Mr. Brian Flanigan of 8 Imray Street, Sunnybank Hills 4109, Australia. He was seeking information on his grandmother **Margaret Webster** the daughter of **Henry Webster** and **Margaret Devine** – again it might be advisable to make contact with Mr. Flanigan.

Church Registers during the 19th century did not record **Deaths**. In fact **Deaths** were not recorded until the commencement of **Civil Registration** in **1864**. Here at the Centre over the past number of months we have been indexing the **Civil Death Registers** from their commencement in **1864** up until the late **1930** period. Consequently I am now in a position to provide you with information on all recorded **Deaths** in the family during the above mentioned time-frame

1. On the 12th of December, 1866 your great-great-grandmother **Bridget (Neilon) Devine** died at **Clarecastle**. Her age was given as 70 i.e. born c. 1796. She was described as a farmer's widow. Bronchitis which she had for 4 days was recorded as the cause of death. While **Margaret Webster** i.e. her daughter was shown to have registered the death.

2. On the 11th of February, 1890 **Henry Webster** who was married to your great-grandfather's sister **Margaret** died at **Clarecastle**. His age was given as 75. He was described as an Army Pensioner. Paralysis which he had for 5 years was recorded as the cause of death. While his wife **Margaret Webster** was shown to have registered the death.

I am enclosing with this report copies of the above mentioned death entries giving details re same.

I am also enclosing with this report copies of old Ordnance Survey maps highlighting the Parish and townlands mentioned as well as copies of articles on the **Clarecastle** area taken from **1837** and **1987** publications.

This completes our research. We hope that you are happy with same and should you have any questions arising from the results of our work please do not hesitate to contact us.

REPORT COMPILED BY:-

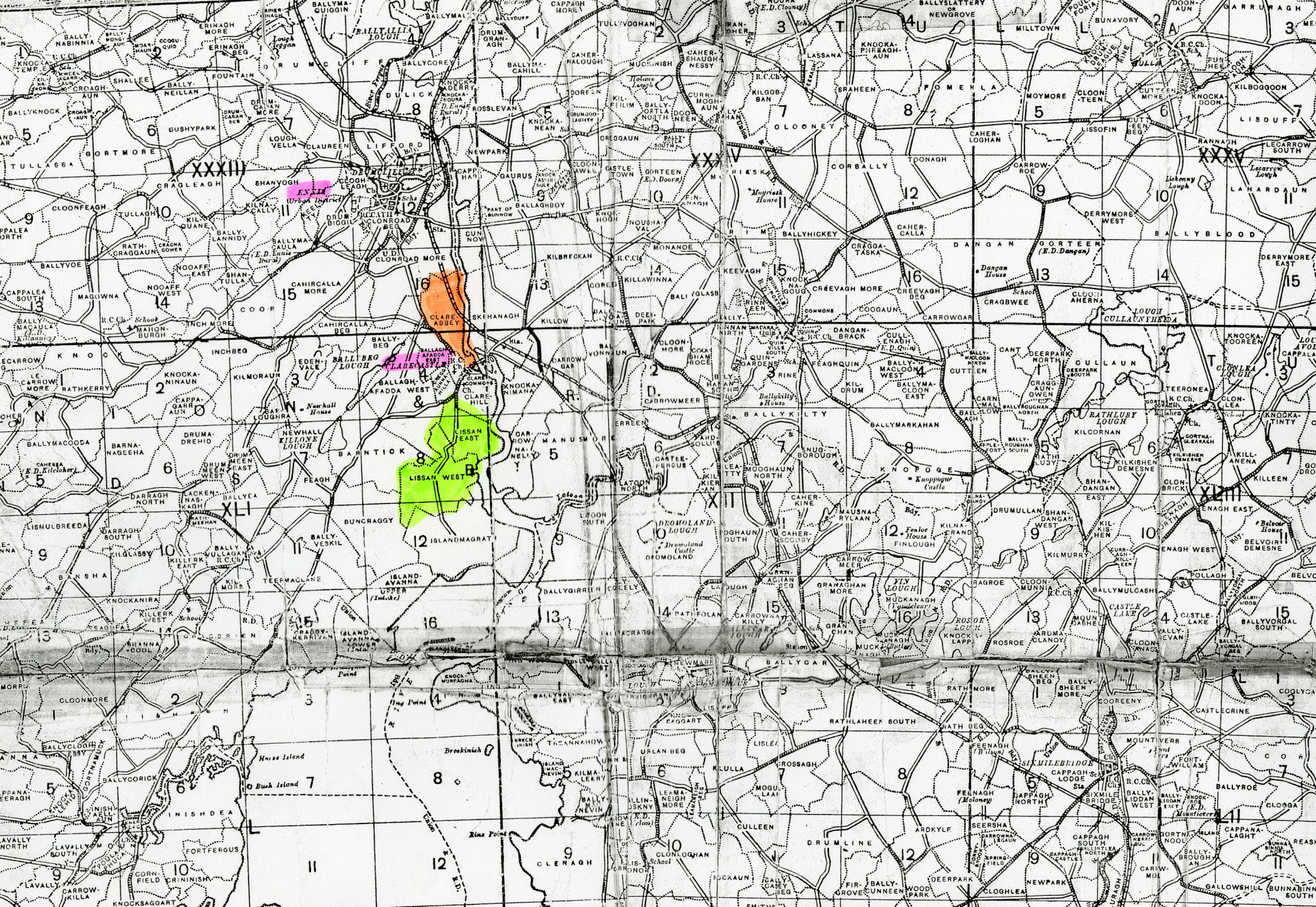
ANTOINETTE O'BRIEN,
JUNE, 2009.

COUNTY CLARE

E Church of Ireland
R Roman Catholic
P Presbyterian
M Methodists

- 1 part of Bughtmana
- 2 Killaspuglonane
- 3 part of Kilmacreehy
- 4 Kiltoraght
- 5 part of Kilmanaheen
- 6 part of Kilnamona
- 7 part of Duora
- 8 part of O'Briensbridge
- 9 St. Patricks
- 10 Kilmaleery
- 11 part of Kilmacduane

_____ = Parish of Clarecastle.



General Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland.

ACTS 15 & 16 VIC., CAP. 63. AND 17 VIC., CAP. 8.

UNION OF ENNIS.

VALUATION OF THE SEVERAL TENEMENTS

COMPRISED IN THE ABOVE-NAMED UNION

SITUATE IN THE

COUNTY OF CLARE.

RICHARD GRIFFITH,

Commissioner of Valuation.

DATED AT THE GENERAL VALUATION OFFICE, No. 2, FITZWILLIAM-PLACE, DUBLIN,
this 15th day of September, 1855.

*To the Treasurer of the County of Clare, and
To the Clerk of the Board of Guardians of the
Ennis Union.*

Notices of intention to Appeal are to be addressed to the Clerk of the Board of Guardians of the Ennis Union.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED BY ALEX. THOM AND SONS, 87, ABBEY-STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1855.

VALUATION OF TENEMENTS.

PARISH OF CLARE ABBEY.

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.		Names.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Annual Valuation.		Total Annual Valuation of Rateable Property.
		Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.	
CLARE COMMONS. (Ord. S. 41.)								
1	James Ross, . . .	Lord Inchiquin, . . .	Land,	1 0 39	1 15 0	—	1 15 0	
2	James Smith, . . .	Same,	Land,	1 3 30	2 0 0	—	2 0 0	
3	William Diamond, . . .	Mary J. Stamer, . . .	Land,	1 3 18	2 0 0	—	2 0 0	
4	Patrick Devine, . . .	Same,	Land,	6 1 0	8 10 0	—	8 10 0	
TOWN OF CLARE. MAIN-STREET.								
5	1 William Fitzsimons, . . .	Duchess de Rovigo, . . .	House and garden, . . .	0 0 35	0 5 0	1 10 0	1 15 0	
—	2 Michael Cooney, . . .	Same,	House, office, & garden, . . .	0 1 15	0 8 0	4 17 0	5 5 0	
—	3 Duchess de Rovigo, . . .	Sir David Roche, Bart., . . .	Garden,	0 0 35	0 5 0	—	0 5 0	
—	4 Constabulary Forte, . . .	Duchess de Rovigo, . . .	Police barrack, yd., & gar. . .	0 0 25	0 5 0	7 0 0	7 5 0	
—	5 Fanny Dwyer, . . .	Same,	Half annual rent, £9. . .	—	—	—	—	
—	6 John Maloney, . . .	Same,	House and yard, . . .	—	—	1 10 0	1 10 0	
—	7 Daniel Ahearn, . . .	Same,	House and garden, . . .	0 0 15	0 3 0	1 12 0	1 15 0	
—	8 James O'Dea, . . .	Same,	House, office, & garden, . . .	0 0 15	0 3 0	3 17 0	4 0 0	
—	9 William Diamond, . . .	Same,	House, office, & garden, . . .	0 0 15	0 3 0	1 12 0	1 15 0	
—	10 Duchess de Rovigo, . . .	Same,	House and garden, . . .	0 0 15	0 3 0	1 7 0	1 10 0	
—	11 Michael Ahearn, . . .	Sir David Roche, Bart., . . .	Ruins and garden, . . .	0 0 20	0 3 0	—	0 3 0	
—	12 Michael Fitzgerald, . . .	Duchess de Rovigo, . . .	House and garden, . . .	0 0 20	0 3 0	1 7 0	1 10 0	
—	13 John Donnelly, . . .	Same,	House and garden, . . .	0 0 20	0 3 0	1 2 0	1 5 0	
—	14 Daniel O'Brien, . . .	Same,	Cartaker's ho. & garden, . . .	0 0 20	0 3 0	1 12 0	1 15 0	
—	15 Denis Culligan, . . .	Same,	House, office, & garden, . . .	0 0 25	0 5 0	2 10 0	2 15 0	
—	16 Timothy Kelly, . . .	Same,	House, off., & sm. garden, . . .	—	—	4 0 0	4 0 0	
—	17 Michael Higgins, . . .	Same,	House, off., & sm. garden, . . .	—	—	2 5 0	2 5 0	
—	18 Patrick Gibson, . . .	Same,	House, off., & sm. garden, . . .	—	—	4 5 0	4 5 0	
—	19 Patrick Devine, . . .	Same,	House and garden, . . .	0 2 5	0 15 0	6 10 0	7 5 0	
—	20 Honoria Burns, . . .	Same,	House, office, and yard, . . .	—	—	5 5 0	5 5 0	
—	21 Margaret M'Grath, . . .	Lord Inchiquin, . . .	House, office, and yard, . . .	—	—	4 15 0	4 15 0	
—	22 Anthony St. Lawrence, . . .	Same,	House and yard, . . .	—	—	2 0 0	2 0 0	
—	23 Eliza Walsh, . . .	Same,	House, office, and yard, . . .	—	—	2 5 0	2 5 0	
—	24 John M'Grath, . . .	William Spaight, . . .	House and yard, . . .	—	—	2 5 0	2 5 0	
—	25 Michael Gannon, . . .	Same,	House, office, & garden, . . .	0 1 0	0 7 0	4 18 0	5 5 0	
—	26 Thomas M'Carthy, . . .	Honoria Burns, . . .	House and garden, . . .	0 0 12	0 2 0	2 3 0	2 5 0	
—	27 Mary Wade, . . .	Same,	House and garden, . . .	0 0 12	0 2 0	1 18 0	2 0 0	
—	28 William Spaight, . . .	William Spaight, . . .	House and yard, . . .	—	—	2 0 0	2 0 0	
—	29 Same,	Same,	Ruins,	—	—	—	—	
—	30 Denis Hickey, . . .	Same,	Ruins,	—	—	—	—	
—	31 Lord Inchiquin, . . .	Lord Inchiquin, . . .	House and small garden, . . .	—	—	1 0 0	1 0 0	
—	32 William Slattery, . . .	Same,	House and small garden, . . .	—	—	0 8 0	0 8 0	
—	33 Same,	Same,	Ruins and small garden, . . .	—	—	—	—	
—	34 Honoria Wade, . . .	Same,	House and small garden, . . .	—	—	0 15 0	0 15 0	
—	35 Jane Doyle, . . .	Same,	House and small garden, . . .	—	—	0 15 0	0 15 0	
—	36 Thomas Devine, . . .	Same,	House and small garden, . . .	—	—	0 15 0	0 15 0	
—	37 Jeremiah Toughy, . . .	Same,	House and small garden, . . .	—	—	0 15 0	0 15 0	
—	38 Mary Cosgrave, . . .	Same,	House and garden, . . .	0 0 20	0 3 0	0 7 0	0 10 0	
—	Charles Bailey, . . .	Same,	House and garden, . . .	0 0 20	0 3 0	0 7 0	0 10 0	
KILLADYSERT-ROAD.								
—	1 Michael Moran, . . .	William Spaight, . . .	House and garden, . . .	0 0 20	0 3 0	0 7 0	0 10 0	
—	2 Anne Kean, . . .	Lord Inchiquin, . . .	House & small garden, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0	
—	3 Michael Cuddihy, . . .	Same,	House & small garden, . . .	—	—	0 15 0	0 15 0	
—	4 John Dwyer, . . .	Same,	House and garden, . . .	0 0 20	0 3 0	1 2 0	1 5 0	
—	5 Malachi Cullinan, . . .	Same,	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0	
—	6 Mary Hassett, . . .	Same,	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0	
ENNIS-ROAD.								
—	1 Patrick Toughy, . . .	Patrick O'Brien, . . .	House and yard, . . .	—	—	0 15 0	0 15 0	
—	2 Patrick O'Brien, . . .	Lord Inchiquin, . . .	House and garden, . . .	0 0 25	0 4 0	1 1 0	1 5 0	
—	3 Commrs. of Nat. Educ., . . .	Same,	Nat. School-ho., off., & yd. . .	—	—	7 0 0	7 0 0	
—	4 Michael Bourke, . . .	Same,	House & yard (in rere), . . .	—	—	0 8 0	0 8 0	
—	5 Same,	Same,	Ruins (in rere), . . .	—	—	—	—	
—	6 Daniel Jones, . . .	Same,	House & yard (in rere), . . .	—	—	0 8 0	0 8 0	
—	7 John Gannon, . . .	Same,	House & yard (in rere), . . .	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0	
—	8 Daniel Garvey, . . .	Same,	House & yard (in rere), . . .	—	—	0 8 0	0 8 0	
—	9 John M'Namara, . . .	Same,	House & garden (in rere), . . .	0 1 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 10 0	
—	10 Michael Rowlan, . . .	Same,	House & garden (in rere), . . .	0 1 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 10 0	

1866. DEATHS Registered in the District of Ennis in the Union of Ennis in the County of Clare

No.	Date and Place of Death.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Condition.	Age last Birth day.	Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Certified Cause of Death, and Duration of Illness.	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
111	Twelfth December 1866. X Clarecastle	Bridget Darine	Female	Widow	70 years	Farmer Widow	Bronchitis 4 days Certified	James M. Ester Present at Death Clarecastle	Twentyfirst December 1866	Joseph Ewing Registrar
112	Twentyfourth December 1866 Ballyvullaghan	Catherine Lillis	Female	Widow	79 years	Farmer Widow	Old age no medical attendant	James Lillis Present at death Ballyvullaghan	Twentyfourth December 1866	Joseph Ewing Registrar
113	Sixth October 1866 Clarecastle	Elizabeth Cooney	Female	Widow	77 years	Farmer Widow	Old age no medical attendant	Peter Cooney Present at death Clarecastle	Fourth January 1867	Joseph Ewing Registrar
114	Twentyfourth December 1866 X Knockhogue	Michael McNerny	Male	Married	49 years	Farmer	Pneumonia 2 weeks +	Michael McNerny Present at Death Knockhogue	Eighth January 1867	Joseph Ewing Registrar
115	Eighth January 1867 X Breggan	Michael M'hannan	Male	Single	2 months 14 days	Farmer's son	Bronchitis 4 days no medical attendant	Peter M'hannan Father occupier Breggan	Twentyfirst January 1867	Joseph Ewing Registrar

Special attention is requested to the Examples printed at the beginning of this Book.

The "Informant" and the "Registrar" should sign in the proper Columns, and in the presence of each other, care being taken to state the "Qualification" and "Residence" of the "Informant" in each case.

DEATHS Registered in the District of *Borris No 2* in the Union of *Borris* in the County of *Clare*

No. (1.)	Date and Place of Death. (2.)	Name and Surname. (3.)	Sex. (4.)	Condition. (5.)	Age last Birthday (6.)	Rank, Profession, or Occupation. (7.)	Certified Cause of Death, and Duration of Illness. (8.)	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant. (9.)	When Registered. (10.)	Signature of Registrar. (11.)
21	18 90 Eleventh February Clare Castle	Henry Webster	M.	Married	75	Army pensioner	Paralysis 5 years Certified	Her Margaret Webster Wife present at death Clare Castle	Fourteenth February 18 90	W. Jennings Registrar.
22	18 90 Twenty Second February Clare Castle	Elizabeth Barker	F.	Spinster	7 months	Daughter of a Soldier	Convulsions 6 days Certified	Charles Barker Father Present at death Clare Castle	First March 18 90	W. Jennings Registrar.
23	18 90 Eighteenth February Ballybeg	Elizabeth Daly	F.	Married	44	Wife of a Labourer	Bronchitis complication of Erysipelas no medical attendance	Lizzie + Daly Mother Daughter present at death Ballybeg	Eleventh March 18 90	W. Jennings Registrar.
24	18 90 Fourteenth February Clare Castle	Dennis Mcnamara	M.	Bachelor	9 months	Son of a Labourer	Whooping Cough 4 days Certified	John Mcnamara Father present at death Clare Castle	Eighteenth March 18 90	W. Jennings Registrar.
25	18 90 Eighteenth February Clare Castle	Bridget Hassett	F.	Married	60 years	Wife of a Labourer	Chronic Bronchitis 2 years Certified	Thos. Hassett Husband present at death Clare Castle	Eighteenth March 18 90	W. Jennings Registrar.

* These should be signed before any made on this page.

Col. 3.—If the deceased was a child who had not been Baptized or named, a stroke should be inserted above the "Surname."—[Example 6 on Specimen Page.] THE SURNAME SHOULD IN NO CASE BE OMITTED.

Col. 5.—The "Condition" should be described by the word "Bachelor," or "Spinster," (even in the case of Infants), "Married," "Widower," or "Widow."

Col. 6.—The "Age" of children who die in their first year should be stated in months, days, hours, or minutes.

Col. 7.—The "Rank, &c.," of Children and Women who followed no "occupation" should be described thus,— "Son," "Daughter," "Wife" or "Widow," of a "Farmer," &c. [Examples 4, 5, 6, and 7 on Specimen Page.]

Col. 8.—See MEMORANDUM on back of Title Page; also paragraphs 104 and 132 of the Regulations.

Col. 11.—The Assistant or Interim Registrar, when acting, should write the word "Assistant" or "Interim" (as the case may be) before the printed word, "Registrar."

A

TOPOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

OF

I R E L A N D,

COMPRISING THE

SEVERAL COUNTIES, CITIES, BOROUGHES, CORPORATE, MARKET, AND POST TOWNS,
PARISHES, AND VILLAGES,

WITH

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL DESCRIPTIONS:

EMBELLISHED WITH

ENGRAVINGS OF THE ARMS OF THE CITIES, BISHOPRICS, CORPORATE TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES:

AND OF THE SEALS OF THE SEVERAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS:

WITH AN

APPENDIX,

DESCRIBING THE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SEVERAL BOROUGHES, AS DEFINED

BY THE ACT OF THE 2d & 3d OF WILLIAM IV.

BY SAMUEL LEWIS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY S. LEWIS & Co. 87, ALDERSGATE STREET.

MDCCCXXXVII.

1837

of Earl of Clare is borne by the family of Fitzgibbon.

CLARE, a town, in the parish of **CLARE-ABBEY**, barony of **ISLANDS**, county of **CLARE**, and province of **MUNSTER**, 2 miles (S.) from Ennis; containing 1021 inhabitants. It is situated on the river Fergus, about 12 miles from its confluence with the Shannon, is of great antiquity, and was formerly the capital of the county. In 1278 a great battle was fought here between Donell O'Brien and Mahon O'Brien, in which the latter was defeated. According to the annals of the Mac Brodies, the castle was built by Donogh O'Brien, surnamed Cairbreach, King of Thomond, and in 1641 was surprised and burnt by Murrough O'Brien, who took possession of the lands. Although the town contains some good slated houses, the greater number are thatched, and on the commons to the west, poor cottiers from various parts have located themselves and erected wretched cabins, which gives to this suburb an air of extreme poverty. On the site of the castle are cavalry barracks, affording accommodation for 17 officers and 234 men; and, from its central situation, the town is well adapted for a military depôt. Fairs are held on May 21st, Aug. 17th, and Nov. 11th. A great quantity of salmon is taken in the Fergus, and occasionally sold at the low price of 3*d.* per lb. The parochial church, a Roman Catholic chapel, the parochial school, and a dispensary, are in the town. This is one of the principal ports of the county for the export of grain, by means of the Fergus. The entrance to the river lies between Rinana Point, on the east, and Innismurry on the west, and is about 5 miles wide, but the ship channel does not exceed three-fourths of a mile in width, and is not adapted for vessels drawing more than 16 feet of water. The quay, although only 80 feet long, and therefore accommodating but one vessel at a time, is yet of considerable service, as before its erection in 1815 there were no means of shipping or discharging a cargo, and vessels of any kind very rarely visited the town. At present, one or two come every month, bringing coal and taking back grain to Liverpool, where, in 1831, it was sold at a higher rate than any other grain in the market. About 600 feet above the quay there is a bridge, the abutments of which rest on a

solid bed of rock, forming an obstruction that separates the Upper from the Lower Fergus; this bridge leads to an island, on which stand the remains of the castle. A second and smaller bridge, leading to the mail coach road to Limerick, crosses the arm of the river that runs round Castle Island. The main branch of the river, from the bridge to the quay, is about 250 feet wide. From Clare to Ennis by the Upper Fergus is three miles: this is a fine piece of water, about 150 feet wide, wearing much the appearance of a large canal. It sometimes overflows its banks, and greatly fertilises the adjacent country. To form a communication between the Upper and Lower Fergus, it is proposed to place a dam and lock at the falls, about a furlong above the bridge, and to deepen the bed of the river between those places from three to six feet, and between the quay and the bridge about four feet.

CLARE ABBEY, a parish, in the barony of ISLANDS, county of CLARE, and province of MUNSTER, 2 miles (S.) from Ennis; containing, with the town and commons of Clare, 3881 inhabitants. This parish is situated on the river Fergus, and on the road from Ennis to Limerick, and was the seat of a richly endowed abbey, founded in 1195, for Augustinian friars, by Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick. At the suppression, in 1543, it was granted to the Barons of Ibrackan by Hen. VIII., and in 1620 was given in fee to Donough, Earl of Thomond, which grant was confirmed, in 1661, to Henry, Earl of Thomond. The parish contains 6694 statute acres; there are about 200 acres of bog, and the rest is principally in pasture; sea-weed is procured for manure on the shores of the Fergus, and limestone exists in abundance. Two fairs are held annually at Clare; and a seneschal's court for the recovery of small debts is held there monthly for the manor of Clonroad. The principal seats are Buncraggy, finely situated on the banks of the Fergus, and surrounded by a richly wooded demesne, the property of the Marquess of Conyngham, but now occupied by J. James, Esq.; Carnelly, the seat of the representatives of the late Col. Stamer; and Barntick, of D. Roche, Esq. The living is an impropriate cure, in the diocese of Killaloe, and in the patronage of the Bishop; the rectory is impropriate in

the Earl of Egremont, the representatives of Giles Daxon, Esq., and the Rev. F. Blood. Of the 6694 acres, the tithes of 1153, amounting to £35. 1. 6., are paid to the incumbent alone; of 1005, amounting to £27. 13. 10., to the improPRIATORS alone; and of 1904, amounting to £54. 2. 9., in equal shares to the incumbent and improPRIATORS: the remaining 2632 acres being unprofitable land, pay no tithes. The church is a neat structure with a square tower, erected in 1813, by aid of a gift of £800 from the late Board of First Fruits, and repaired recently by a grant of £162. 4. 7. from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The glebe-house was built in 1822, by aid of a gift of £450 and a loan of £50 from the former Board. The glebe comprises 15 acres, subject to a rent of 10s. per acre, as £450 was paid by the late Board of First Fruits to reduce the rent. In the R. C. divisions this parish is the head of a union or district, called Clare, comprising the parishes of Clare-Abbey and Killone, in each of which is a chapel; that at Clare is a thatched building, which it is intended shortly to re-erect on a larger scale. There is a school under the care of the incumbent, in which are about 50 children; and there are two hedge schools, containing about 50; also a school under the superintendence of the parish priest. The remains of the abbey consist of a tower in tolerable preservation, surmounted by graduated battlements, and the ivy clad walls of the abbey church, which together form a very picturesque object when viewed from a distance.

Clare

COUNTY · OF · CONTRAST

PUBLISHED
IN 1987

Clarecastle

Clarecastle takes its name from *clar adar da choradh* or *Clar-atha-da-choradh* meaning the bridge between two weirs, which almost describes the castle's function, situated as it is on an island of the Fergus River at its narrowest navigable point.

The word *clar*, meaning board, is generally used to signify a wooden bridge and the earliest settlement here may simply have been referred to (in Irish) as "the wooden bridges". A second explanation of the name stems, coincidentally, from the de Clare family having been given grants of land in Kilkenny and Thomond, including Bunratty and Clarecastle.

The Town of Clare, so called after the castle, was of such importance that it gave its name to the county in 1579. Until recent times it was simply known as Clare or Clare Castle.

County Clare, which takes its name from this village name, is a maritime county in the province of Munster, bounded on the east and south by Lough Derg and the River Shannon, which successively separate it from the counties of Tipperary, Limerick and Kerry; on the west by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the north-west by Galway Bay; while on the north and north-east an imaginary boundary separates it from the county of Galway. It comprises over 802,000 acres of contrasting landscapes, varying from rich pasture land in the south to bare limestone in the north. The population in 1831 was 258,262; it rose to 286,000 by 1841; after the Great Hunger the population fell drastically to 166,000 in 1861 and the decline in population continued. Emigration drained the county of several generations and only in recent years has the trend reversed. Even so, the population on April

13, 1986, was only 91,343.

The Castle of Clare was a typical Norman castle with a strong stone tower. Robert de Musegros built it in 1250 to protect the Limerick, Bunratty, Clonroad areas, the navigable part of the Fergus, and the Norman-English settlers. It was also an excellent spot from which to monitor the movements of the King of Thomond in his nearby castle of Clonroad. In 1276 de Muscegros was recalled to England and the castle was given to Thomas de Clare but fell into the hands of the King of Thomond after the battle of Dysert O'Dea. It remained Thomond property. The Earl of Sussex captured it from another branch of the O'Briens when they rebelled against the Earl of Thomond in 1558. O'Donnell attacked Clare Castle in 1600. During the Confederate Wars Captain Hugh Norton lost the castle to the Confederate forces but they surrendered it to the Cromwellians in 1651. Clare Castle proved to be an unhealthy spot for Cromwell's men. General Ludlow contracted a heavy cold and fever which he apparently passed on to his commander, Ireton, Oliver Cromwell's son-in-law. Ireton succumbed to the fever and died in Limerick a few days later. Before James II was defeated, Clare Castle was taken over by Teigue MacNamara of Ayle who garrisoned it at his own expense. He was attacked by the Williamites and surrendered the castle. Thomas Moland left the following description of Clarecastle in 1703:

Clare was formerly ye county town, now very poor and little, consists of one old stone house, out of repair, a stone walled thatcht house, where in Mr. Stammers now lives, an Ale House or Inn, and about 17 other small tenements and gardens worth about 30 shillings a piece, one with another

per annum and 2 fairs are held here yearly, the best in ye county in peacable times, worth £10 or £12 each fair per annum.

In 1712 the Earl of Thomond sold Robert Hickman the lease of Clare Castle, the town of Clare, Lissane and Barntick at an annual rent of eight pounds. He also got the tolls from fairs, markets and the use of the Clare commons.

The Government paid him ground rent for use of the castle as a barracks. By 1837 there were three cavalry barracks on the site, affording accommodation for 17 officers and 234 men. This was then the main barracks for the county. At the height of the Terry Alt activities of 1831 there were 317 men and 137 women and children stationed here. The castle continued in use as a barracks until 1921.

Clarecastle was developed by Sir Lucius O'Brien after the last Earl of Thomond died in 1738. In 1760 he leased "all that piece of ground near the Town of Clare whereon a barrack and barrack yard hath lately been rebuilt and enclosed by a wall, with all buildings within, to the Hon. Henry Loftus, Commissioner and Overseer of Barracks in the Kingdom of Ireland on behalf of his Majesty George III." The Inchiquin Manuscripts mention that Sir Lucius O'Brien began construction work with 154 men and 24 horses. Wine imported at the quay of Clare could be bought, "cash down", by gentry willing to take 30 hogsheads at 18 pounds per hogshead. For this period there are details of a spinning factory in the town, a proposed butter market, and a Mrs Gregg who spun silk. In 1813 a Protestant church was built for the mainly English inhabitants of Clarecastle. Names

such as Simple, Bleach and Pinion appear on a 1779 list of tenants. By 1770 Sir Lucius had added six two-storied slated houses, six one-storied thatched houses for weavers, a large malt-house and kiln, a linen factory, a market house, a lime kiln and salt works, an extensive quay and a large deal yard adjoining. In 1815 an eighty-foot-long quay was erected. Clarecastle became the port for Ennis and by 1837 was used for the export of grain and the importation of coal. It then had a thatched chapel for Catholics, and two hedge schools. Lewis's description might give an impression of prosperity; yet he goes on to report that the 1021 inhabitants were living in sublime poverty. Another account of 1830 described Clarecastle as "luxuriant in dung and pigs." Agrarian outrages, committed by the Terry Alts, kept the entire area in a state of unrest for most of 1830 and 1831. The cholera epidemic of 1832 affected both town and garrison and in its aftermath destroyed the landless labourers from whom the Terry Alts drew the most support.

The Great Hunger took its toll of the starving population, but not without some resistance. On Saturday, December 5, 1846, the principal overseer on the relief works at Clare Abbey, a man called Hennessy, was shot by an unknown assailant. He survived this blunderbuss attack because he was wearing a heavy coat at the time and a clerk who was accompanying him, McMahon, declared that Hennessy was dead. The attacker simply walked away. The area paid heavily for this "outrage". Over 900 persons were "turned adrift" on Monday, December 7, as the authorities closed down the works in an effort to force the people to divulge the identity of Hennessy's assailant. Captain Wynne reopened the works on December 28 because he was "unmanned by the intensity and extent of the suffering." No one identified the gunman and no arrest appears to have been recorded.

Turn-of-the-century Clarecastle was a busy port. Boats came regularly, importing coal, Indian meal and timber and exporting native wood. Busy warehouses lay along the Quay Road and there was continuous employment for both dockers and carters. In recent times the quays have been virtually deserted except for the coal barges now operating between here and Money Point.

The Syntex Plant on top of Clare Hill is now the largest employer in the vicinity. Opposite and beyond the

entrance to Syntex is the old Clare Hill graveyard where many of the 1832 cholera victims are buried in the lower area in unmarked graves. Only three headstones mark the graves of these victims, William Pinion, Mary Miller and James Read. A fourth headstone is a memorial to the Rev. David O'Brien, C.C., who was buried in an unmarked grave. In 1843 The O'Gorman Mahon referred to "the grand lands" that could be reclaimed from the river.

The River Fergus Navigation and Embankment Act, 1860, was passed to improve navigation and reclaim land, particularly from the estuary. Little was done until 1879.

Islandavanna is today an integral part of the mainland. It was not always so. A Manchester man, Drinkwater, was the principal character behind land reclamation on the Fergus and during the 1880's he undertook a project which was enough "to make a Dutchman's mouth water." Under his direction Islandavanna became a peninsula connected to the mainland by a massive stone causeway. This was traversed every half-hour by a locomotive, hauling a train of trucks laden with stone, which, passing over the end of the island, ran out into the water to the "tip end" as it was called. Every day hundreds of tons of stone were carried along the causeway; while scores of raft loads of stone were flung into the water on lines staked and flagged out by government officials. Islandavanna was one of three such stations and during the winter of 1880-1881 was occupied by a third of the four hundred and fifty men then at work. In the summer seven hundred were employed on the scheme.

Drinkwater had established his own settlement at the works for he believed it better to "pay a man liberal wages, than have him walk several miles to work and home again, and be allowed to live on a scant supply of potatoes and bread, washed down with too much of the whiskey ..." He preferred to pay high wages, on the condition that a certain proportion should be spent on food and lodging, "in a range of labourer houses admirably built of iron, lined with wood, perfectly warmed and lighted, and kept wonderfully clean. There was a store-house and refectory, a cooking department and dormitories, perfectly ventilated and swept and garnished every day." Tea, beer and other beverages, except whiskey, could be obtained, and there was an

abundant supply of books and newspapers. Mr. H. C. Drinkwater also insisted that every man should have his half-pound of meat, either beef, mutton, or bacon, every day but Friday. He fed and lodged his workmen, established a club for them, gave them a reading-room and got them porter at wholesale prices - in short, he afforded them every inducement to prefer his new settlement to "the wretched huts and grogeries of Clare Castle." The colony on the Fergus reclamation works was one of the most extraordinary sights in the west of Ireland.

Clare Abbey was founded in 1189 by Donal Mor O'Brien. It was an abbey of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine and was dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul. Harbison mentions that the abbey was the scene of a great slaughter in 1278 between various factions of the O'Briens. Parts of the single-aisled church date from the late twelfth century but most of the buildings are fifteenth-century work. These include a well-preserved east window, the tower and the domestic buildings with their unusual floral window at the south-eastern corner. The church and charter were reconfirmed by Thady, Bishop of Killaloe, in 1461. Henry VIII granted the abbey to the Baron of Ibrickan in 1543 and the Earls of Thomond were confirmed as owners in 1620 and 1661. The Augustinians remained in the abbey until 1650. By 1703 the abbey was a ruin, but there was a good "thatcht house, an orchard and 2 or 3 cabins nearby," according to Moland's survey.

Killoo contains an old church ruin and graveyard on the opposite side of the river from Clare Abbey or Clarecastle. The name is derived from Cill-Lugha, the church of Lugh, one of the Irish saints of that name who are venerated on June 16 or July 1.

Killone Convent, the convent of Cill Eoin or the convent of St. John's Church, was the first convent of Augustinian nuns in County Clare. It is situated on the Kellonia mentioned in the Charter of 1189. *The Annals of Inisfallen*, 1259-1260, mention the death of "Slaney, O Bryan's daughter, Abbess of Kill Eoin, chief in devotion, alms-deedes and hospitality of all women in Munster." Another abbess, Dubcollaithig Breyn, died in 1350. In 1584 the convent was vested in the crown. One legend relates how Honora O'Brien became a nun in Killone but ran off with Sir Roger O'Shaughnessy of Gort and presented him with a son and daughter before

getting the Pope's dispensation for their marriage. It is mentioned in the *Visitation of Killaloe* in 1617 as the property of Baron Inchiquin. It was last occupied at the end of the sixteenth century. The east window is its most interesting feature, being double with two semicircular-headed lights lined with smooth stonework. The inner heads have plain hoods and a bold band of raised lozenges. This carved arch rests on capitals of twelfth-century foliage. A passage with two flights of steps leads through trefoil headed openings in the piers, along the sills and up a broken but accessible stair at the south-east angle, to the gutter of great flagstones.

Killone Lake was the abode of a mermaid who used to swim up a small brook and steal wine from either the crypt beneath the church or the cellar of Newhall. The location depended on whoever related this curious legend. She was stabbed by a butler of the O'Briens, or shot by one of the "Black" MacDonnells, but managed to drag herself back into the lake and every forty years or so the lake is supposed to turn red. Ballybeg Lake lies to the north of Killone Lake.

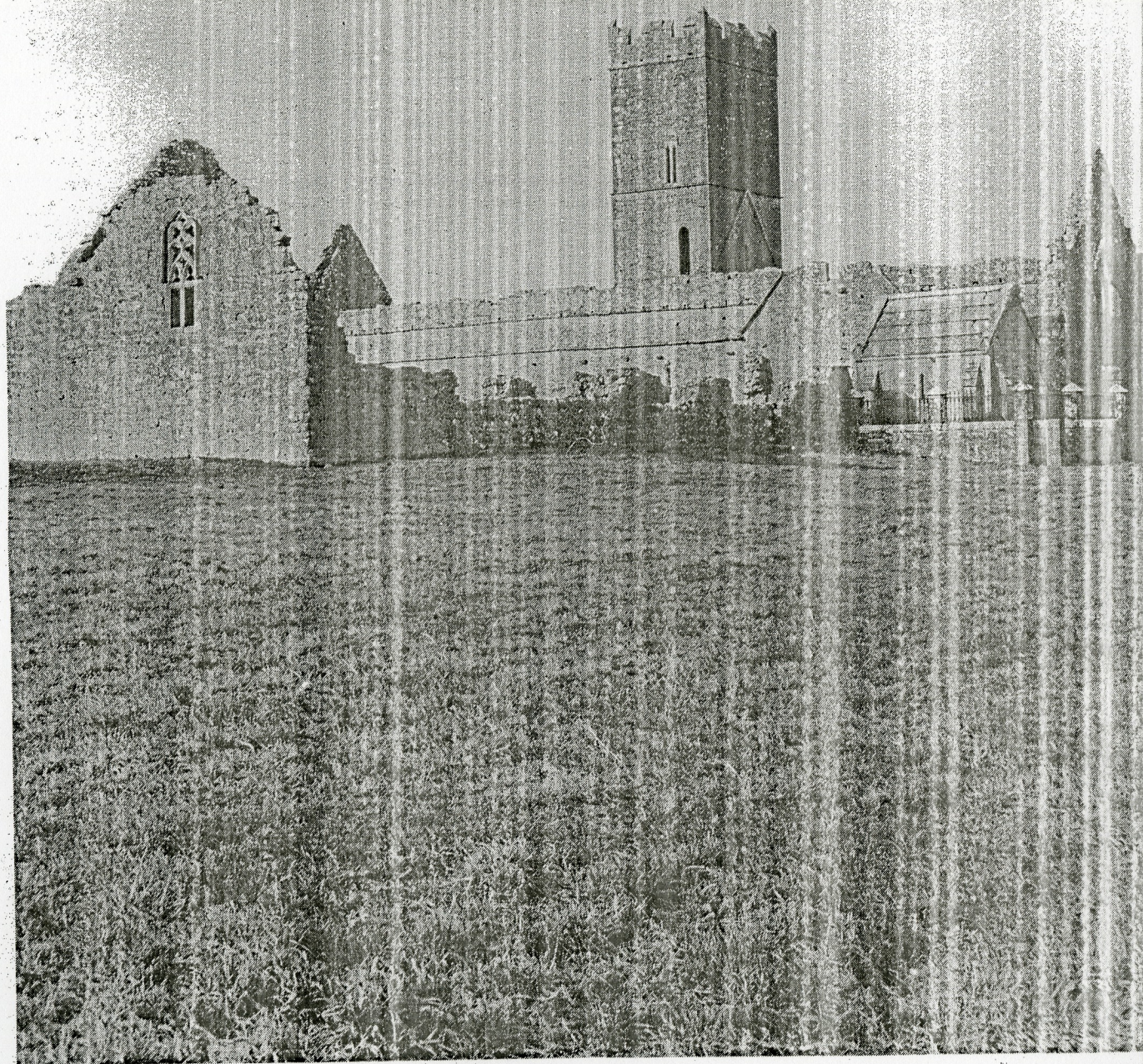
St. John the Baptist's Well was once the venue of a yearly pattern on the 29th of June. Situated at the northern end of the Killone Lake, it was a particularly popular place of pilgrimage for the people of Ennis and Clarecastle.

Killone Castle is just a ruined stump on an eminence to the north of Newhall House about half-way to Edenvale House.

Newhall, or rather the older part of it, is supposed to have been built with stones from Killone Castle. The rest of the house dates from the mid-eighteenth century. The front of the house was probably designed by Francis Bindon and it was built by Charles MacDonnell who bought Newhall in 1764 after moving from his family seat at Kilkee.

Barntick is one of the oldest occupied houses in the county. It was built in 1661 and is basically a seventeenth-century house containing some eighteenth-century features. The Moland Survey of 1703 refers to "Barntick and Ballyfadda, distant from Ennis 2 miles, ye land is good for corn or stock, with several stone wall inclosures, has on it a good house, stable, barn, and other outhouses and is a fine well improved farm."

Buncraggy is mainly an eighteenth-century house that



Clare Abbey.

has changed considerably over the years. In 1703 the Moland Survey reported "Buncraggie is distant from Ennis 3 miles, has on it a good stone house, with stables, barn, malt house, pidgeon house, orchard and garden and at a distance from the house near (?) road are 2 Ale Houses or Inns with convenient outhouses, it is a well improved farm and good land."

Islandmagrath House was once owned by the Burton family. In 1703 Islandmagrath was described as "an arable hill surrounded with corcas, ye banks of which are much exposed and often damaged by ye river which here is very broad."

Claremount in the townland of Ballachafadda West is an eighteenth-century, two-and-a-half-storey, three-bay house.

Carnelly House is an eighteenth-century building designed by Francis Bindon (1690-1765). Maire Ruadh of Leamaneh is supposed to have been buried in a hollow tree here and her ghost haunts the drive. Peter the Packer was born in Carnelly House in 1842. His father depleted the family funds during the Great Hunger by contributing heavily to the relief schemes around Clarecastle. Carnelly's chief claim to fame is the fact that it was the home of Dermot F. Gleeson, author of *A History of the Diocese of Killaloe*. His son lives there today.

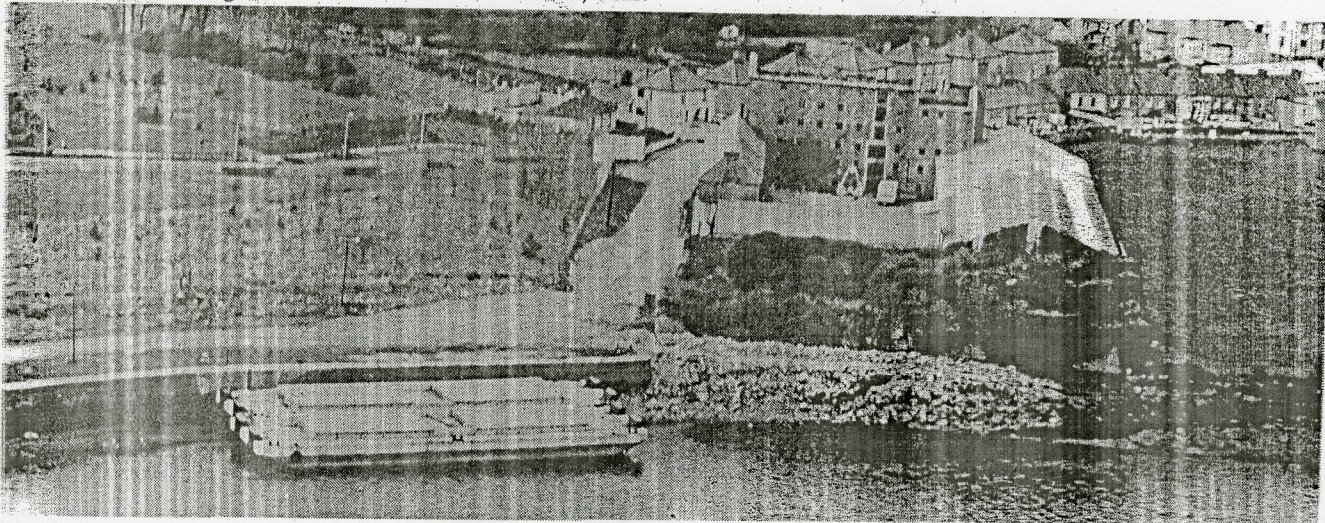
Manus South House is a two-storey, three-bay, gable-ended house facing south-east over Latoon Creek, built

by the Healy family.

Manus House, or Manusmore, is an eighteenth-century house facing south-east. In 1756 it was the property of John Hartigan, the Clare County Surveyor.

The C.W. Shipping Company recently acquired the large warehouses on the quays. A major development is currently under way for the importation of coal and other commodities through Clarecastle, for further distribution. Part of this development also entails the export of flyash and bottomash products which will be used in the production of concrete. It is envisaged that stone will also be exported to England. These projects will provide employment in the area.

A hydrographic survey of the Fergus River was carried out by the C.W. Shipping Company in September, 1986. At present ships of 1500 tons d.w. can navigate the river to Clarecastle. To assist vessels in the navigation of the river the C.W. Shipping Company have now buoyed the channel as far as Clarecastle. It is intended to dredge the river to allow larger vessels access to what was once, and may yet be again, the busy port of Clare. Deeper draught vessels of up to 3,000 tons, d.w. which are specially designed for European waterways could then navigate to here.



C.W. Shipping Co. barges at Clarecastle quays.

NEWS AND FOOD

Prop.: Michael and Delia Roughan.
Tel.: 065-29919/60656.

Kildysart Road, Clarecastle.

Jet petrol, diesel and oil, groceries, hardware and stationery at competitive prices. Coal, briquettes and Kosangas delivered free from 1.00 — 3.00 p.m. Buy your groceries and Jet products here and avail of the fabulous range of free gifts. Open 8.30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.

ANACH CUAN GUEST-HOUSE

This comfortable modern guest-house is located midway between Clarecastle and Ennis, close to Kildysart Cross and almost opposite the entrance to Clare Abbey.

Anna and Martin Concannon are ideal hosts, well able to advise their guests on the delights of Clare.

Telephone: 065-29417.

(ITB approved)

CLARECASTLE FILLING STATION

Fast fit exhaust, repairs and servicing. 24-hour breakdown service. Telephone: 065-28915. After 6.00 p.m. telephone: 065-24696.

C.W. SHIPPING CO. LTD., QUAY ROAD

Port agents in the Shannon Estuary. Tugs, barges, pontoons, towage and salvage. Marine and piling construction equipment. Capt. F.W. Kirk. Operations Manager. Paddy Whelan, Managing Director. Telephone: 065-24666 (office). 065-50058 and 065-28678 (after hours).