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Types of the Ring-Forts Remaining in Eastern Co. Clare. Part IV. (Conclusion). (Clonlara, Broadford, Cullaun, and Clooney)

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## IV.

## TYPES OF THE RING-FORTS REMAINING IN EASTERN CO. CLARE.

PART IV. (*Conclusion*).

## (CLONLARA, BROADFORD, CULLAUN, AND CLOONEY.)

BY THOMAS JOHNSON WESTROPP, M.A.

## PLATES IV-VI.

Read JUNE 23; published AUGUST 7, 1913.

It now remains to close, rather than to complete, this survey of the more interesting forts in eastern Clare by giving the descriptions of a few remaining on the skirts of the districts we have examined. I do not propose passing the line from Quin to Spancel Hill, as the rest of the barony of Bunratty Upper is rather a portion of Central Clare; and, indeed, there is little from Doora to Crusheen in any way dissimilar from what I have described.<sup>1</sup> That the forts of so large a portion of Tulla Lower are passed over in silence, however, demands some explanation.

The great mass of hills and mountains, some rising to nearly 1750 feet above the sea, and but little less above the plains at their feet, extends from Lough Derg and Bodyke southward to Cratloe and Clonlara, leaving comparatively narrow reaches of level country between it and the Shannon, from Killaloe southward. It was doubtless in primitive times, as till after 1655, a tangle of primeval forests and dense thickets along the flanks and bare undesirable moors on the summits and plateaux. It is therefore not wonderful that, save in a few of the valleys, forts rarely occur. The population, even still, has hardly spread into the uplands. This great mass of hills, with large gaps running into them, was appropriately called Slieve Bernagh ("Sl. Behernagh," about 1590, in the Hardiman map, T.C.D.), "the mountain of the gaps." The great mass of sandstone, overlying the limestone plain, is nearly cut through by the deep valley from Broadford eastward past the old church of Killokennedy. Unfortunately, instead of opening like

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<sup>1</sup> The raised oblong platform on which O'Brien's Castle stands is really a natural knoll, cut and banked up into shape. It has a ramp leading up to the west, and was walled round. The lower apparent platform seems wholly natural.

a gate towards Killaloe, it bends almost at right angles up to Glenomera House; and it is only up long slopes that the two long shallow valleys past Trough are to be reached. They run parallel from the high grounds above Hurdlestone and at Formoyle, nearly to Trough<sup>1</sup>; and then the eastern, joining a cross-depression, turns and meets the western, the streams joining to swell the Blackwater,<sup>2</sup> between Trough and Clonlara.

The ancient tribal divisions in these hills were:—(1) *Ui gConghaile*, still Ogonnello parish, with a strip to the south along the north-east; (2) *O gCineidi*, now Killokenedy and its valleys; (3) *Ui Thoirdealbhaigh*, the eastern flank, from Killaloe southward; and (4) *Ui Aimrid*, from about the line of Kilkishen southward. The hills were held by a confederacy of tribes called, from a supposed ancestor *Blod* (*circa* A.D. 400), the *Ui mbloid*, and were roughly represented (and the name, as so often, preserved) by the rural deanery of Omulldod. The chief of this group, the O'Kennedys, claimed descent from Cenedigh, father of King Brian. They took a leading part against the Clan Thoirdealbhaigh in the civil wars with Clan Briain ruadh, from 1275 to 1318, and, on the collapse of their cause, fled beyond the Shannon, where the last prince of Clan Brian contrived to hold his own as O'Brien Ara. The *Ui Thoirdealbhaigh* derived their name from a prince of the then obscure Craglea line, chiefly remembered as father of St. Flannan of Killaloe; from his eldest son Mathgamhan the later rulers derive their descent. The MacNamaras of Clann Cuileann, main prop of the Clan Thoirdealbhaigh princes, came to be overlords of *Ui m bloid* from 1318 till the great changes of the sixteenth century. It is interesting to observe that the last of these who ruled under the ancient conditions, John, son of Teigie, the "MacNamara Fynn," in 1586, held as his "proper and special inheritance" lands at some of the chief forts described in this survey. These are, for example, Mowhane mac Gillymoyle (Moghane), Ramollane (Rathfollan),<sup>3</sup> and Cahershagenis (Cahershaughnessy<sup>4</sup>). He got a special rent off Tawnaghe (the site of the place of inauguration at Magh Adhair) and off a fort, described later, Cahairgreddane (probably the cathair north from Clooney), Lyssenrynke (unidentified) and Ballysallagh.

The general history has been as fully treated as my present knowledge of

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<sup>1</sup> Hurdlestone is probably the "*Baile na glias*" (*Baile na gcliath*) of the 1390 rental, and is *Baile na cliath* in the MacNamara rental of 1584, and Ballynaglie in the Book of Distribution, 1655. Trough is "*Triuchacaed ombloit*, the 'hundred' of Omulldod.

<sup>2</sup> The Blackwater is the *Dubh Abhann*, given as the bound of the sees of Killaloe and Limerick in the acts of the Synod of Rathbreasail, 1110. (Keating's "History of Ireland." Irish Texts Society, vol. ix, p. 305.)

<sup>3</sup> *Supra*, vol. xxvii (C), Moghane, p. 218, and Rathfollan, p. 228.

<sup>4</sup> *Infra*, p. 74.

the subject allows; but two points, raised in the previous sections, may find place here. Mr. R. Twigge found in "the Book of Ui Maine" that Macan, son of Bran "of the boat,"<sup>1</sup> was the first person slain in the "siege" of Magh Adhair by Flann. Macan was apparently unarmed, "having a rod in his hand." The "siege" is probably the historic raid of King Flann Sunagh, about 877, when he insulted the Dal gCais by coming to "the very place of inauguration," and playing chess on its green. Essida of Ui Cassin (the later MacNamaras) and eventually King Lorcan soon drove off the invaders, and forced them to obtain terms for a safe retreat.<sup>2</sup>

Macan was of Lismacain, near Sodhmacain, or "Macan's weir." Now, the narrative implies that Macan lived close to the mound of Magh Adhair, on some stream. The name "Lismacain" is lost, but, in 1287, there was a "Ballymaking" on the northern edge of the English lands, apparently at or near Ballymacloon, and to the east of Quin. It is quite possible (indeed probable) that the important *Liss*, with the flooded souterrain, in Ballymacloon, the earthen fort best meeting the above conditions, may be the spot intended; unless (which we have nothing to show) the actual (as apart from the supposed) Norman territory, lay across the river,<sup>3</sup> when the *liss* may have been in Creevagh. The only Liss name within the river-loop is Ballylassa, in quite the other direction.

Since the publication of my last notes on the de Clare estates I find that the Pipe Rolls of 1295<sup>4</sup> show that Thomas de Clare, at his death in 1287, claimed (the 1287 Inquisition on his death, however, does not name any of these) Letton (Lattoon), Tybyrnefonch, and Magadar. Tybyrnefonch (well of the ash-tree) being next Lattoon, and to north-east of it, is most probably the notable holy well of St. Kieran, in Kilkieran, near Castle-Fergus, at the corner of Dromoland Demesne. Such wells are still often overhung by venerable ash-trees. If so, the notable *Tobar na fhuinseon*, on the edge of De Clare's demesnes, where some important conferences were held,<sup>5</sup> is now identified. "Magadar" is not probably the vague, extensive term *Magh Adhair*

<sup>1</sup>A phrase very suggestive of Bran, son of Febal, famed for his "voyage," and "Bran the Pilgrim" on an inscribed stone found at Temple Breacan in Aranmore, but far later.

<sup>2</sup>After three days' skirmishing, as his bard Flann mac Lonain reports. See also "Wars of the Gaedhil with the Gaill" (ed. Todd), p. 67. Rev. E. Hogan, *Onomasticon Goedelicum*, p. 493, places Lismacain either near Magh Adhair or Lismacuan near Annaghdown; his first location is certainly right.

<sup>3</sup>The inclusion of "Magadar" in the Pipe Rolls proves nothing, as it is clearly Madara, which, with the church and village of Quin, passed the limits of the Ardsollas river. The latter was to be the bound of the Norman settlers, as laid down in the compact of 1275, made between Brian Ruadh and Sir Thomas de Clare.

<sup>4</sup>First noted by Mr. M. J. M'Enery, who kindly pointed it out to me.

<sup>5</sup>Cathreim Thoiridhealbhaigh.

(even then covering much of Clooney parish), but Madara, at Quin village, adjoining the Norman's northern castle and church, the only point where, as the history shows, de Clare's territory crossed the river Gissagh.

#### SLIEVE BERNAGH.

The forts round the hills are of no exceptional interest; all, save Lisnagree, are low; they are circular with a shallow fosse. Souterrains occur in two of the Ogonnello forts, but are choked up. The only "square" fort shown on the 1839 map seems to have been really oval. Only some sixty forts, none, save Lisnagree, of any special interest, remain in the hills. Of course none are found on the southern face till past the former limits of the great Cratloe forest. Nearly all near Limerick are levelled; there are traces of two stone forts and the name Caherdavin. One group at Elmhill is described in the next paragraph. Knockadrehid is the only fort in the tract beside the Shannon for eight miles, but there are ten to the south-west of Killaloe. The only fort-names are Doonass and Lislattin, the first the Eas-danainne of the Annals, in 1124, Dun easa danainne, in a deed of about 1590.

AHAREINAGH (Ordnance Survey Map, 6 inches to a mile, No. 53).—A small but conspicuous angle of one of the MacNamara peel-towers stands in a ring-fort on the summit of a high ridge (about 400 feet above the sea) overlooking the Shannon valley from O'Brien's Bridge to Carrigogunnell Castle and on to the distant Galtees and the Silvermine Mountains. The fort-makers cut a semicircular trench, 11 feet wide and 7 feet deep, leaving any large block they met *in situ*.<sup>1</sup> They shaped and levelled up the end into an oval platform, 75 feet north and south by 71 feet across, and 6 feet to 10 feet, and in one place even 12 feet high, revetting the face with a dry-stone wall of large, shapeless blocks from 6 feet to 9 feet thick. The tower was very small, 24 feet north and south by 22 feet wide outside, the wall to the west 5 feet, and to the south, 6 feet 4 inches thick. When I sketched it in 1889, the whole west face remained, showing the under story with a pointed vault, and its end window a plain unglazed slit with a flat splay arch. Hardly half now stands. The fort gateway faced a little to the north of east, and is 6 feet wide. To the south was a small cell or porter's lodge. The fosse is only traceable to the west and south.

EARLHILL (53).—Following the old bohereen (which after passing a farmhouse becomes a swampy and often overgrown cutting along the top of the

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<sup>1</sup> This is also the case at Duneeva, near Lehinch, and the Dind Seanchas tells of the removal of such a block from the fosse of Dun Ailinn by the divine fort-builder, the Dagda (*Revue Celtique*, xv, pp. 309-310). For plan see Plate IV.

hill, a "hollow way," probably of remote antiquity) we reach a group of forts, about 430 feet above the sea in Earlhill townland. (1) The first is on a knoll; the fosse is 8 feet wide and 4 feet to 5 feet deep; the circular inner ring, enclosing a space 41 feet across, was faced with small sandstone slabs, and is 6 feet to 8 feet high and 9 feet thick. There is a deep hollow of uncertain age and use in the garth. The gateway faced the east; a large block, perhaps its lintel, lies beside it. (2) A natural mound, artificially shaped, lies to the north of the lane. Eastward, but to the south, are the earth-forts. (3) The western is 93 feet across, with small stone-facing, the ring being 9 feet thick and rarely even 4 feet 6 inches high. The fosse is 6 feet wide and much filled, rarely 2 feet deep. The outer ring had large blocks set in it and is 6 feet thick and 2 feet or 3 feet high. (4) A house-ring lies to the east of the last. It has a steep bank, evidently stone-faced till very recent years, with no fosse. The ring is 10 feet thick and over 6 feet high, the garth, 84 feet across. It has a view of Knockfierna peak in Co. Limerick through a gap in the near hill, and a fine view through the valleys to the great northern range behind Killokenedy. It is 416 feet above the sea. (5) A cattle-bawn, low and irregular, with an unusually broken garth, crossing a low hummock, though the field was level not far away. The ring is 6 feet to 9 feet thick, rarely 5 feet high, and the enclosure 100 feet across. (6 and 7) There are two more featureless ring-forts farther eastward in Cappakea, near the long dolmen of Ardnataggle.

The old laneway was called "Crummil's Road" in 1889. The maps in 1839 call the modern road, low down the ridge, "Cromwell's Road." Tradition says that Oliver Cromwell brought his guns along the old way to take Limerick. Unfortunately for the historic interest, he did not besiege Limerick or come nearer than thirty miles from it at Kilbeheney, on the opposite edge of the county. There is no record to connect either road with the march of any of his forces.

LISNAGREE (44).—In a high lateral valley, under the dolmen-crowned ridge of Formoyle, near the head of the pass from Broadford to Limerick, stands one of the few forts of the "low-mote"<sup>1</sup> type in Co. Clare (like

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<sup>1</sup> I have often found the peasantry in counties Limerick, Clare, and Kerry using the term 'mote' for any low forts, and those sometimes of stone. This is the case in Clare at Ballynahown, and in Limerick at the so-called Carrigalla fort near Loughgur. The latter is a remarkable hill-fortress, with strongly built ring-walls at either end. The northern is oval, 75 feet across north and south, 108 feet east and west, with a wall 12 feet thick, faced with large blocks, 3 feet and 4 feet long, with a batter of 1 foot in five. The southern, 116 feet from the last, is nearly levelled, 84 feet north and south, 112 feet east and west, with similar large facing; several enclosures (probably cattle-pens) and a hut-site lie between. It has hitherto remained undescribed.

Lisnaleagaun, Lugalassa, and Magh Adhair), called Lisnagree (Lios na ngroidh, "of the cattle"). The valley, before the present road was made, was a most secluded spot; the bottom was once a lake, which, as the stream-bed deepened, left marshy fields behind; into these a long drift-ridge ran out. As at Aharinagh, the fort-makers cut a deep crescent fosse through the end of the spur, and shaped up a mound—doubtless very necessary when the valley got flooded at rainy seasons. The occupants on later occasions continued to raise it; the last addition was never finished. Doubtless the fort was at first an islet (as Magh Adhair may well have been, and as The Earl's House certainly was down to the time when the river was deepened); but Lisnaleagaun and Lugalassa always stood on dry fields—the latter on the top of a ridge. The fosse is from 2 feet to 6 feet above the level of the adjacent field, with an outer ring, 3 feet to 5 feet high, running into the ridge at the cutting, and is 10 feet wide. The inner mound is of three periods. The first platform was level with the summit of the ridge; then 4 feet to 6 feet of earth was added, and lastly, a third layer, over 3 feet high, left incomplete for about 9 feet from the southern edge in a straight line. The higher part is 96 feet across in the middle, north and south, or 105 feet in all, and about the same east and west; it is 8 feet to 10 feet above the fosse, and 14 feet to 16 feet above the marsh to the north; large hawthorns to the west and south add deceptively to its height and size.<sup>1</sup> I heard at Formoyle, but from a very doubtful source, that the fort was called from the cattle which King Brian Boru took from the Danes and kept at it. Brian certainly hid in the hills of Ui mBlóid; and had my informant been certainly reliable, the legend would be of much interest. Being suspicious, I put other questions, which were certainly answered with intention to please me, but the answers to which were incorrect. The fort is in the territory of the O'Kennedys.

KILLADERRY-O'BRIEN (O. S. 44).—The fort is one of a group of five between the old hill road and Doon Lake on the road between Kilseily church and holy well and Bealkelly Castle, below "old Grania's" dolmen, and exactly 1000 yards west from the church. It measures 160 feet over all; the outer ring has been levelled into the fosse to the north-east; the trench is 15 feet wide and usually about 4 feet deep, being still wet. The inner ring is 6 feet to 8 feet high outside and 3 feet inside; it is 12 feet thick. The garth is from 99 feet to 102 feet across. In the fort is a sandstone block with two late-looking irregular rings scribed on it.

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<sup>1</sup> For plan see Plate IV. The section is sketched.



## SIXMILEBRIDGE GROUP.

GORTADROMA (O. S. 43).—It is on the western bank of the Owenogarna (amhann o gcearnaigh) river, in a rich, green “callow,” and is now much levelled. It measures about 250 feet over all, and 150 feet across the garth, with a shallow fosse and a defaced inner ring, each 10 feet to 12 feet wide, the latter 3 feet to 5 feet high. It is close to, and, to appearance, even overhung by the dark heathery ridge near Snaty Peak.

ENAGH (O. S. 43).—A large fort on the rising ground north from the old house of Stacpole’s Court, once the property of that Bartholomew Stacpole, the Recorder of Limerick, who, in 1651, signed, on behalf of the citizens, the surrender of that city to General Ireton. The earthwork has recently been nearly levelled by an improving farmer, so I preserve a description. The place derived its name, Eanach Ui Floinn, from a “fair” or rather great tribal gathering) held, doubtless, near the chief fort,<sup>1</sup> in the territory of the O’Flynnns. The fort consisted of a ring, about 200 feet across over all, with steep, stone-faced earthen banks, 8 feet to 10 feet thick, and, I believe, no fosse; but the only section still in any sort of preservation was next the annexe, and needed no extra defence, and the rest is obliterated. The annexe is to the south-east of the ring, and measures 350 feet over all east and west, and 250 feet south-west and north-east across the garth. Its rampart varies from 9 feet to 12 feet thick to the west, and is stone-faced. All the southern and most of the northern part are levelled to improve the field. In Enagh West, lying beside the castle, and the slight depression of Glennagauragh, are three defaced forts, each about 100 feet across. There are seven in Ballymulcashel and Curraghkilleen.

GORTALASSA (O. S. 52).—A large circular entrenchment 250 feet across lies at Gortalassa or Fortfield. There are some eight low rings, usually with shallow fosses, between the Owenogarna and Castlecrine. A large but much repaired fort, 210 feet across, with high banks, is in Castlecrine, on a knoll above the beautiful old orchard, with grey-mossed apple trees and sheets of daffodils in the spring.

ROSSROE (O. S. 43).—There are some very curious and irregular groups of earthworks on the gentle slope east of Rossroe Peel Tower, and the dolmen of Knockalappa, beside Rossroe Lake, but too tangled and levelled to explain, probably representing a series of alterations made in far different periods

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<sup>1</sup> The Eanach names in Co. Clare are the Eanachs of O’Flinn and Magh Adhair, Ballykinvarga, Eanty, near Caherconnell fort, and Creganagh Hill near Termoncronan, also Enagh near Milltown Malbay.



with one of the ring-wall homesteads, with its surrounding bawns and hut-enclosures, such as we find near Castlefergus, and not unfrequently in the uplands in the north-west of Clare. A gold fibula, exactly like those found near Moghane fort, was found at the dolmen. Rossroe rath is a good example, with an outer ring, deep wet fosse, and high inner ring about 100 feet across the garth. Two stone forts, mere rings of overgrown filling, lie between it and Ballysheen (Baile ui oisin, 1390). Cloonmunnia has a large fort 250 feet across east and west, and about 170 feet north and south. In Castle Lake, adjoining Ballymulcassell, is MacCarthy's Island, an interesting little *crannog* carefully constructed with roughly hewn beams, some with mortices, interlaced with piles driven into a shoal and packed with small stones. On the overgrown platform Mrs. Butler (to whose kindness I owed my opportunity of examining this lake dwelling in the very dry spring of 1903) found a flat stone axe and a layer of bones, including a tusk of a large wild boar. It is hardly possible to do more than enumerate the crowded but featureless forts of this district. I have already discussed the probable site of the lost mote (probably the castle of Huamerith, 1199) at Baile an mhuta, probably near Cappagh and Sixmilebridge.

## CLEENAGH.

KNOCKADOON (O. S. 51).—A low, steep hill rises between Cleenagh Castle and the estuary of the Fergus. On the top, or rather round it, is a large and conspicuous earthwork. It has an outer ring from 3 feet to 5 feet high, with stone-facing inside; the fosse is hardly sunk below the outer field at the south-east, but is usually about 4 feet deep. The inner mound is steep and well preserved, rising 12 feet above the bottom of the fosse to the south-west, and usually from 10 feet to 11 feet high; it was 9 feet thick and stone-faced inside (and I think most probably outside) with large blocks. The platform is terraced up and fairly level 265 feet east and west, and 189 feet north and south, 317 feet  $\times$  263 feet over all. A gravelike mound lies north and south inside, but may be part of a demolished fence.

To the south lies a defaced house-ring, with no fosse, about 54 feet over all. There is a fine view from the great fort over the estuary and its numerous islands.

## CULLAUN TO ARDSOLLAS.

GORTEEN (O. S. 35). In a craggy region, overgrown with hazels, between Cullaunyheeda Lough and Dangan, is a very curious group of small forts. Though the majority are dilapidated, and many have not been marked even on the new maps, I regard them as worthy of note, being probably very late and decadent. Very briefly I enumerate them, and give a map on which

their reference-numbers identify them.<sup>1</sup> (A) A house-ring, barely 50 feet across, with a thin wall, 6 feet or 7 feet thick, of coarse crag-stones. (B) A larger ring-wall, with a similar house-ring in its garth. (D) A bawn, D-shaped in plan, with nothing in the site to necessitate this shape. (C) A ring of small blocks to the south-west, 10 feet to 12 feet thick, and now only 3 feet 6 inches high, the garth of very rough crag. Its inner diameter is 90 feet, its outer 114 feet. All these are nearly levelled; the wall of C alone has filling; the rest are of two badly bonded faces.

A long, shallow valley runs eastward to Creevosheedy Bog; north of it the ground is free from thickets, and the remains often better preserved. (E) On the edge of the hollow is a faint ring of small field-stones, evidently a house-ring. It is 55 feet inside; the wall is about 9 feet thick. (F) On the northern edge of the same field (at the first "E" of the townland name on the new maps) is a late ring, 60 feet inside; the wall of large blocks without filling is 3 feet 8 inches to 4 feet 3 inches thick, and 3 feet to 4 feet high. In its garth to the north-west is a circular house-site, 30 feet across, touching the outer wall. Its gateway faced the east, and had two lintels, 4 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 6 inches by 1 foot, and 4 feet 3 inches by 2 feet by 10 inches. (G) Beyond the east wall of this field, 100 yards from the last, is a levelled ring; the wall is only 6 feet thick and the garth 65 feet across. (H) Beyond the second "Cloghlea Rock," to the north-east, is a barely traceable ring, somewhat smaller than the last. (I) Beyond the last, near the stream and the Earl's House, is another levelled ring.

(10) THE EARL'S HOUSE. The curious ruin called "the Earl's House" lies near the bend of the stream at the north-east corner of Gorteen. There is not even a tradition to suggest its origin; the "Earl" may be (if not some Earl of Thomond) a legendary "Red Earl"—perhaps a De Burgo.

The 1390 rental names the "half townland of the Red Earl, in Glen,<sup>2</sup> near Glenomera. In the "History and Genealogy of the family of De Burgo," in Trinity College Library (F. 4. 13), we are told that "the Red Earl's lands extended from Forbach in hIar Connacht to Ballymacscanlon, near Dundalk, and from Luchud, in Thomond, to Ballyshannon, on Lough Erne." Even this statement (accepted by MacFirbis) does not include any land in Thomond. Richard, the Red Earl, died in 1326. Elsewhere in Clare we have a division of Coolreagh called Coolreagh Earl, and also Earhill, near Ahareinagh.

The structure is more like one of the lesser Norman motes than an ordinary Clare fort.<sup>3</sup> A small knoll has been cut off from an angle of the low

<sup>1</sup> Plate V.

<sup>2</sup> Trans. R. I. A. Acad. (1826), vol. xv, p. 47.

<sup>3</sup> Plate V.

plateau by two trenches at right angles, and levelled and shaped into a flat-topped, oblong platform, 90 feet long, east and west, and 54 feet wide, with a slight fence, 3 feet thick to the west and south, probably once palisaded. On it was a house, 60 feet east and west by 30 feet, the wall only a couple of feet high. The fosse to the south and west is 9 feet to 12 feet wide below, and 18 feet to 20 feet above. It is 6 feet deep. About the middle of the southern fosse was a stone causeway leading to a ring-wall, now greatly levelled. The *cathair* is 98 feet across the garth. The wall is perfect round the craggy platform to the north-east. It is of rather poor, coursed dry-stone masonry, and 4 feet to 5 feet high. I could not find its thickness accurately; but it seems from 6 feet to 10 feet thick. There were late cabins in the garth, which led to its demolition. They are now nearly effaced.

Mr. Hough, of Gorteen, tells me that when he was a boy, before the river was deepened, the Earl's House stood on a shallow lake, and water filled its fosse. The remains of eel-weirs in the marshy field support his statement. Farther west is a hollow called Poulaphuca, from the demon-goat or pony; but no one on the townland who spoke to me seemed to know what the name implies. (J, K, L) There are three more defaced *cathairs*, 110 feet, 150 feet, and 120 feet across, to the west of the Earl's House and parallel to the other row of rings (B, C, D).

North of the stream, in rich grassland, are four earthen forts, each about 100 feet across, with shallow fosses and rings 5 feet to 7 feet high, ringed by old hawthorns, perhaps descendants of the quickset hedges which fenced many forts in the early times, and even the ramparts of the town of Athlone on the Connacht side. The rings are gardens of hyacinths, primroses, and stitchwort. There are eight forts in the townland of Dangan, typical circular earthworks. In the Deerpark is a strange-looking low oval earthwork about 120 feet by 100 feet, set with hawthorns, and called Carrowbane (ceathramadh bán), "white quarter," the adjoining townland being Carrowroe or "Red quarter."

Cragbwee and Cant.—The townlands south of Dangan have several, nearly levelled ring-walls. The best-preserved, near the lakelet of Dooley's Hole, is well-built, with two faces and filling, 12 feet thick and usually 4 feet high; the garth is 116 feet north and south, and 125 feet east and west. The others are rings of filling.

#### ARDSOLLAS TO CLOONEY.

CASTLEFERGUS (O. S. 42).—A group of five *cathairs*, one with a souterrain, was cut through in making the railway. No "finds" are noted. It is unfortunate that the group was so much injured, as it was a most curious

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and instructive one which encourages me the more to try and reconstruct it, so far as possible, from the existing remains and the maps of 1839.<sup>1</sup> The site lies in the townland of Castlefergus, the ancient Ballyhannan or "Agnan" or "Agnay." So far as I can judge, the large townland was split into the Castle-quarter, Derreen, and Carrowmeer of Ballyhannan and two other portions called Ballyhannan North and South, which preserve its ancient name. Close to the peel-tower and later house of Castlefergus, an early settlement lay on a craggy ridge. It consisted of two large oval forts with three smaller ring-walls to the south and one to the north. The railway to Ennis was run through these in a deep cutting almost obliterating the two chief forts. Small portions of their foundations, with the facing blocks, lie just within the wall to the south of the railway for which most of their material was removed. Three (if not four) were linked together by massive walls; the two others were probably detached. The northern one, impenetrably overgrown in the wood to the north of the cutting, lay about 300 feet away from the southern forts, while these were crowded into a space hardly 500 feet each way. The south-eastern ring-wall is not shown on the maps, so was probably levelled before 1839. Its wall is rarely 2 feet high, but is 9 feet thick, the garth about 45 feet across, a mere house-ring. The southern ring-wall is 13 feet to 15 feet thick of large, facing blocks and filling, entirely overthrown in great heaps, many of its facing blocks *in situ*, 51 feet across the garth with three inner walls forming a Y in plan; to the south-west the wall forms a confused heap. The chief fort is 33 feet to the north-west, and is joined to the last by a wall 15 feet thick. Close to the west end of this joining wall another wall, still 5 feet high, runs towards the N.N.E. for almost exactly 70 feet to the larger oval fort. These joining lines had faces of large blocks, rows of which remain for reaches of 10 feet to 20 feet. To return to the last-named cathair, the heaped ruin is 4 feet to 6 feet high, the wall about 16 feet thick, and the craggy garth 60 feet across, without foundations; an enclosure 27 feet each way adjoins both it and the long wall. Another joining wall runs up to the railway wall and once evidently joined the oval fort. It is 21 feet thick at present, and widens to 27 feet a little south from the modern wall. At 18 feet from it, and from the south cathair, is the faint foundation of a circular hut, 12 feet over all. The thickness of the wall cannot be fixed. 15 feet farther is the only remnant of the large oval fort, 24 feet deep and 50 feet long, of large, carefully laid blocks. Save this small segment, all the rest and the enclosed souterrain have been removed by the railway-cutting. I saw no traces beyond this; but the shrubs and brambles are thick, and the maps imply that it was wider than the cutting. Of the eastern oval fort,

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<sup>1</sup> Plate V.

a small segment to the south of the railway wall alone has escaped. It, too, had a good though rough facing of blocks. All through the surrounding fields rude foundations exist. One field to the south-west of the group has fences of considerable thickness. Another site with three loops adjoins the railway wall in the next field. A small ring-wall lay beyond this, eastward and to the north of the railway, but is, I think, entirely swept away. Lastly, over the bound of Castlefergus and in Ardsollas is a cathair, the walls 4 feet high and 17 feet thick, of irregular stonework; it is oval, 81 feet east and west by 99 feet north and east, with no foundations in the garth. The whole group affords another remarkable example of the curious remains being so rapidly obliterated from the face of the land.

There are several forts of considerable size beside the railway to the south of Ardsollas Station. Ballykilty has the Race Park Fort and Ballylassa; while a large double fort is in Ayleacotty. The first is 219 feet across, but is levelled, and barely rises 3 feet over the park. It probably had no fosse. Ballylassa Fort is a stone-faced platform, 102 feet wide, and was probably a ring-wall.

AYLEACOTTY is of a more interesting type, being double;<sup>1</sup> the north fort is a ring-mound stone-faced 12 feet thick, and 3 feet above the garth, and 8 to 10 feet over the field outside; the fosse is barely 2 feet deep. There are two enclosures to the north-east of the garth; and the fort runs into an angle to the south-east. Divided from it by a shallow fosse, 9 feet wide, is the southern enclosure of the usual shield shape of such an "annexe." It is 84 feet north and south, of stone-faced earth, with a shallow fosse 10 feet to 12 feet wide, and 3 feet deep, with an outer ring of large stonework. The whole of the mounds are planted with large hawthorns, and an old laneway runs along its eastern face. It has a wide view from Slieve Bernagh to the hills beyond the Fergus, but that river is not visible. The railway runs through a deep cutting close beside its western face.

MOYREISK (O.S. 34).—A large group of forts, which I shall barely note, lies between Quin and Moyreisk. There are three low earthen rings in Keevagh, and a curious little cathair in Drim; the latter rests on a low limestone knoll, and has been much rebuilt. The wall had faces of poor masonry and is 10 feet thick, and 6 feet high. The gateway faced N.N.W. A path leads down from it to a cleared space, 70 feet by 36 feet.

In Moyreisk, across the road, westward from the lodge, a large double-ringed cathair, nearly levelled, lies in a plantation on a thicket-covered crag. It is about 253 feet north and south, by 220 east and west, and consists of heaps of mossy stones of fair size. It has an outer ring 50 feet to 72 feet

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<sup>1</sup> Plate IV.

outside the inner wall; the walls can rarely be measured, but are from 12 feet to 15 feet thick, and 3 to 4 feet high in parts. It is about 390 feet north and south, by 320 feet east and west over all.

There is a small fort on a knoll, near a little lake beside the avenue, a mere high ring of mossy stones overgrown with hawthorns, 69 feet across, 15 feet thick, and 5 to 8 feet high, with a late oblong enclosure in the south part of the garth.

Some fifty-six forts lie westward from the Quin river and Moyreisk, to the Fergus, principally in Doora parish. So far as I have seen any of these, or can learn, all are defaced ring-forts, some with fosses and low outer rings—one near Kilbreacan with stone facing. None are of unusual size or different from those described here. Doora was an old centre of civilization. Here St. Breacan established the first Christian churches in Co. Clare, Kilbreacan (Carntemple), Doora (Durynierekin, 1189), and Clooney, being remembered as St. Rikin, at the last-named; he lived about 460–480.

Ballyhickey, or Hazelwood, adjoins Moyreisk on the east. It has a small perfect dolmen and a large ring 250 feet across, and levelled to 2 feet high. Across the road from Quin to Ennis near Wellpark is a network of low foundations of enclosures clinging to a ring-wall with radiating walls and loops. Like the other webs of enclosures at Castlefergus and Rossroe, it is all levelled. They probably represent the growth of an early home-stead generation after generation.

CORBALLY (O.S. 34).—On a low hill within a mile of Magh Adhair mound and of the large double earthwork of Creevagh, already described, is another important fort on Drumbaun ridge. Though thickly planted with elms and oaks, it has a fine view out to Slieve Bernagh, the great hill of Kimalta (the Keeper) in Co. Tipperary, and westward to Mount Callan. The principal fort is on the summit of Drumbaun; it has an outer ring 3 feet high, 15 feet thick at the base, and 3 feet on top, rising 8 feet over the bottom of the fosse. The latter is 9 feet wide below, and 25 feet at the field. The inner ring rises 10 feet over the ditch, and barely 3 feet over the garth; it is slightly oval, 93 feet north and south, by 99 feet east and west; the whole earthwork measures 182 feet to 190 feet over all.

At 27 feet to the south, connected by a straight mound, is a less regular annexe. The outer ring and fosse are each 9 feet wide; the inner ring 9 to 12 feet thick, 4 feet 6 inches high to the south and west, and 8 feet to the north and east down the slope. Its garth is 60 feet north and south, by 87 feet, the whole 117 feet over all.<sup>1</sup> There is a deep dry pond beside it.

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<sup>1</sup> See Plate IV.



These earthworks have no traces of stone revetments. Such probably once existed, but, if so, very long ago. In the field to the south-west, near Wellpark, is a deep natural pit such as is locally called a "thunder-hole" and is supposed to be made by a bolt; it is fenced by large stones.

TOONAGH.—Toonagh, the Tuanamoyree of 1655, containing the mound of Magh Adhair, adjoins Corbally on the east. On the highest ground behind Toonagh House, with its lines of huge horse-chestnuts and lilac bushes, a fine fort lies. No stonework remains; but its removal must be recent; and the hard clay banks remain virtually perpendicular. A faint hollow, 15 feet wide, but hardly a fosse, girds the liss; the ring is 9 feet thick, and high to the south, and 6 feet elsewhere; the garth is 115 feet north and south by 102 feet, or 133 feet and 120 feet over all. The bank is planted with great old beeches. A large block lies in the garth. No fort name is remembered.

#### SPANCEL HILL GROUP (O.S. 26, 34).

I will finish my survey with the group near Spancel Hill (the ancient Cnoc fuarchoilli or Cnoc Uarchoill, "Cold-wood hill"), for the parishes of Kilraghtis and Inchicronan belong to central Co. Clare. The group contains two interesting works, the "square fort" of Knocksallaghmore and the strong double-ringed cathair of Cahershaughnessy, one of the chief forts of the district.

RYLANE (O.S. 26).—A group of little forts, called from recent tenants of the adjoining farms, lies in this townland; we have already noted its dolmens and a curious primitive burial-place there.

The most northern fort, called MANGAN'S FORT, is a low ring-wall on a steep grassy hill 300 feet above the sea, with the widest outlook of any of these forts, save Moghane. The wall is of coarse, large blocks of conglomerate, with large filling of field-stones; it is 10 feet thick, and rarely over 3 feet high. The garth, a nearly impenetrable thicket of furze, hawthorn, and rowan, is 115 feet across with no visible enclosures.

The foundations of Rylane castle remain, with a large cut jamb-block, on a craggy platform from 12 to 15 feet high, and about 50 feet each way, over a spring called Toberlaghan. It is not marked on the maps.

HEHIR'S FORT to the east of the Fiaghmore road was entirely levelled by Mr. Henry Spaight some forty years ago; the men refused to touch it till he dug the first sods, and all attributed his early death to the act. It is covered by tall furze bushes; hardly a trace remains inside.

NAUGHTON'S FORT lies across the road westward on a bolder ridge. It is a remarkably fine and perfect example, though the stone facing has been



nearly all removed. The outer ring is 5 feet high, 6 feet thick on top, and 12 feet at the field. The fosse is wet, 8 feet deep, 9 feet wide below, and 19 feet at the field-level. The inner ring is 10 feet thick and high over the fosse, 3 feet over the garth, which is 72 feet across. The whole is 155 feet over all.

CAUHER.—At the foot of the hill, near the dolmens, and to the north-east of them, is a levelled ring known as “the Cauher”; it is 72 feet across inside (like Naughton’s Fort), with a wall, 10 feet to 15 feet thick; foundation-blocks and some heaps of small filling remaining. Inside is a house-enclosure and a row of large set blocks.

KNOCKSALLAGHBEG.—West from Naughton’s Fort, towards Ballyvergin, is “MACINERNEY’S FORT.” It stands on another low hill (fourteen of such can be seen from Mangan’s Fort), and has an outer ring, 8 feet thick and 4 feet high, its southern half levelled. The fosse is 10 feet wide, and is nearly filled in parts. The inner fort is 5 feet to 6 feet high to the north, and 9 feet to the west. The ring is 9 feet thick, and the stone facing usually remains. The garth is 4 feet higher than the field, and is 81 feet to 84 feet across, or 138 feet over all. Inside are two mounds and some large blocks.

KNOCKSALLAGHMORE.—“CLOON’S FORT” lies on a low ridge near the old road to Clooney. It is one of the best examples of the so-called “square” fort in eastern Clare. The outer mound is 12 feet thick, and usually levelled; the fosse is 7 feet to 11 feet wide below, and 4 feet to 7 feet deep. The sides are slightly bowed, and measure inside, the north, 75 feet; south, 60 feet; east, 72 feet; and west, 84 feet; or 102 feet and 111 feet diagonally. The inner face is lined with large stones; some slabs, 3 feet wide and 4 feet high occur chiefly at the corners. The rampart is 5 feet high inside, and 10 to 12 feet outside; it is 12 feet thick.<sup>1</sup> The fort has been often used from oldest memory to the present time for public meetings.

MAGHERA.—“Connor’s Fort” lies near Aughnadina Bridge, on a pleasant, low knoll above a stream, shaded by a mountain ash and hawthorn. It is a ring-wall, 5 or 6 feet thick, of large blocks, 75 feet across the garth, and is evidently not very ancient. Near it is a curious limestone platform, 12 feet high, full of little natural arches, caves, and fox-earths, but the walls on it are rebuilt or modern.

CARRAHAN CAHER.—I was told by a very old man, in 1895, that when he was a child the old people said the Caher was “a very famous place, and told all sorts of things about it,” which he had forgotten. Much of the stonework was removed in about 1867. The maps of 1655 and 1683 mark “Caher-giridan” about this place. The name occurs from Elizabethan times; but I

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<sup>1</sup> See Plate IV.

cannot certainly identify it with the caher, though this is probable. When I saw it in 1895, much of the west segment stood about 5 feet high and thick, and 4 feet high to the north-west and north. The base was of earth, and stone-faced like Cloon's Fort, with large blocks set on edge, usually 3 feet long and high, and 12 inches to 18 inches thick; some to the east are 4 feet 6 inches, 5 feet 2 inches, and 6 feet long, and 3 feet 6 inches high; the longest to the west is 5 feet 8 inches long. The wall is usually 6 feet 6 inches thick eastward, the garth 75 feet north and south by 69 feet east and west. On my first visit I noted a gate as facing the south-east. I found no trace in 1912. In 1895 a curious feature existed in a course of blocks, set like books on a shelf above the large bottom plinth. I have only seen this arrangement in two forts in Burren, one being Caheraclarig, near Lemaneagh. All is now gone; but I have a sketch taken in 1895.

Eastward, towards the road, is an earthen fort stone-faced for 5 feet up, the top of dry masonry, 4 feet high and 9 feet thick. It is 99 feet across inside; the south edge of the wall is cut off by a modern ditch and fence. In the centre is a house-foundation, with two circular cells, the western partly gone; the intervening wall 12 feet thick; the outer 6 feet; the eastern cell is 12 feet inside; it lies 48 feet from the west, and is 24 feet over all.

Three earthen forts lie between it and Clooney—one on Crow Hill or Knockaphreagaun to the east. It and Lissana fort have rings, 4 to 6 feet high. Knocknafeany fort is barely 70 feet across; the mounds 3 feet to 5 feet high; neither of the last has a fosse. Reaskreagh Fort was defaced when I examined it twenty years ago; and it is now nearly quite levelled; it lies in Sraheen.

The five pillars on "Knocknafearbrioga" Hill are supposed to be the seven robbers of St. Mochulla's Bull, petrified by the curse of the saint; they have been described in these pages; they lie about 500 yards from Carrahan Caher. Fomerla has remains of a castle, two small cists, a "killeen" graveyard, with a basin-stone, and an earthen ring-fort, 6 feet high, without a fosse. All these forts are ringed with fine hawthorns, and pink thorns abound in Fomerla.

CURRAGHMOOGHAUN.—Close to Castletown Lake, and not far from Caher-shaughnessy, rises a low hill, with dense thickets on its western flank, and commanding a wide outlook to the Shannon and the Fergus, and far up to the Burren mountains, of terraced limestone. On the summit is a most problematical earthwork, a circular fort 90 feet across, which once had a dry-stone rampart; the fosse is 5 feet to 6 feet deep, the inner fort 9 feet above its bottom. Outside at 10 feet to 15 feet away is an outer ring 5 feet high, lost in a thicket of bramble, ash, and hazel. South from the first fort runs a strange loop, C-shaped in plan, with mounds 5 feet high, and 10 feet to 12

feet thick ; a deep modern ditch, 6 feet deep and wide, has been dug outside them. At the upper end is an annexe, curved, 96 feet long and 12 feet wide. The main annexe runs southward for 171 feet, and is 75 feet wide ; it then bends eastward, and is 624 feet long in all. Large old trees grow on the mounds ; the enclosed plantation was recently felled. The object and age of the curved work are to me enigmatical.<sup>1</sup>

CAHERSHAUGHNESSY.—In 1892 I made a careful plan and notes on this fort for a paper by the late Mr. Arthur Gethin Creagh and Mr. Henry Harris in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* ;<sup>2</sup> but a few more notes seem desirable, as it is too important to pass over in any purporting survey of the forts of East Clare.

When Mr. Creagh discovered it in 1860 (for the 1839 map is most inadequate, and does not even show the double ring or give its name), it was one of the finest cathairs in Clare, if not in Ireland. The great walls, with their facing of large blocks, were nearly entire, though the gateway was defaced, and some house-sites remained that are now entirely removed. Of its previous history I know no earlier record than that of 1585, when MacNamara Fynn held Caharshagenis.<sup>3</sup>

The fort lies in low, wet, but craggy ground, almost overhung by one of the green fort-capped drift hills so common in the parish. The inner ring is evidently very ancient, of the best type of construction, splendid regular masonry of large blocks, and large packed filling, still 6 feet to 8 feet high and over 12 feet thick, with a regular batter of 1 in 3 to 1 in 4, and at least three upright joints to the south and south-east ; the gateway faced the west. The garth is 148 feet to 166 feet across, and has several hut-rings and oblong enclosures ; some of these walls are continued as traverses between the inner and outer ring, but are built up to, not crossed by, the ring-fort, as at Ballykinvarga and elsewhere. The outer ring is thin, and of poor masonry, evidently an afterthought, for herding and keeping separate the cattle of the various persons connected with the fort ; it is irregularly circular, and about 570 feet across. Its line is greatly overgrown with bushes.<sup>4</sup>

Much of the outer facing of the inner ring had been removed by a road contractor just before 1892 ; but at the persuasion of Mr. Creagh, the farmer (I greatly regret to be unable to record his name) most creditably prevented any further demolition since then. Can nothing be done, however, to vest in the Board of Works or County Council such important remains as it, Cahercalla, and Magh Adhair, not to speak of Cahercommaun, Ballykinvarga,

<sup>1</sup> See Plate VI.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. xxiii (1893), p. 287. See also *Proc. R.I.A.*, vol. vi, ser. iii, p. 438.

<sup>3</sup> *Chancery Inquisitions (Ch. Remem. Office)*, P. R. O. I.

<sup>4</sup> See Plate VI.

and the great western forts, that in any civilized land should be carefully preserved as national monuments of high value.

To close this series of papers, I will first give a table of the types occurring in East Clare, and the best examples herein described, the sections lettered Part I (a), II (b), III (c), and the present section (d).<sup>1</sup>

1. The simple ring of dry stone or earth—(stone), (a) Newmarket, Caherforia; (b) Ballymarkahan, Creevaghbeg, Cragataska, Caherloghan, Lissuffin, Bodyke; Ballymacloon, Abbeyhill, Lisduff, Ballygastell; (d) Carrahan, Moyreisk, Gorteen (several); (earth, with or without fosses), Ahareinagh Rylane group, Toonagh.

2. Same, with more elaborate works; (a) Rathfoland, Monafolia, Kilnasoola, Ballymacloon; (b) Creevaghbeg, Lackenreagh, Caherhurley; (c) Bealboruma; (d) Curraghmooghaun.

Stone with two or more rings;<sup>2</sup> (a) Moghane, Langough; (b) Cahercalla, Tulla church; (c) Grianan Lachtna; (d) Moyreisk, Cahershaughnessy.

3. With side enclosures or double forts; (a) Langough, (b) Coolreagh, Creevaghmore, Killulla; (d) Drumbaun, Castlefergus, Ayleacotty, Earl's House, Enagh.<sup>3</sup>

4. Flat-topped "mote," with fosse and ring; (b) Magh Adhair, Lugalassa; Lisnagree;<sup>4</sup> respectively 20 to 24, 8 to 13, and 8 to 10 feet high.

5. Irregular enclosures, conforming to contour of site; (b) Ballydonohan.

6. "Square" forts, i.e., more or less straight-sided and angular; (b) Ballymarkahan; (d) Knocksallaghmore.

7. Same, with raised platform; (b) Bunratty, Culleen.

8. Crescent fort abutting on lake-shore; (a) Cahernacalla

9. Terraced-up type on hills—notably (b) Knockadoon, Fortanne, Liscockaboe.

No case of a spur-fort is known to me in East Clare.<sup>5</sup>

Magh Adhair was most probably sepulchral and ceremonial in origin; but the deep fosse, outer ring, and trace of walling on top suggest that it was also residential and defensive; and the record of the siege of Magh Adhair seems to

<sup>1</sup> These appear in the Proceedings, (a) vol. xxvii, p. 217, (b) *ibid.*, p. 371, (c) vol. xxix, p. 186, (d) present section.

<sup>2</sup> Many have asserted that such were royal residences. This is not borne out at Tara, Ailinn, Cruachan, Boruma, or Grianan Lachtna.

<sup>3</sup> Also Lisnagry and Roolagh, near Killaloe, but in Co. Tipperary, *supra*, vol. xxix, p. 211.

<sup>4</sup> Also Lisnaeagaun, near Kilkee; it does not exceed 16 feet in height.

<sup>5</sup> Unless there was one, as I suspect, on the Turret Rock of Doonass, Dun easa danainne, in the eleventh century, the Rock of Astanen in the reign of Elizabeth (Fiants), where in later days a peel-tower stood till 1655. All early remains have disappeared into eighteenth-century terraces and walls.

bear this out. Tradition regarded it both as a "fort" and a king's grave in 1891. Professor Macalister's excavations in the Long Stone Fort at Fore-naughts<sup>1</sup> seem to show an apparently residential fort as a place of burial, and subsequent observance; the great motes in eastern central Europe fall into a similar category. Ballydonohan, so far as Ireland is concerned, seems to be unique; a somewhat similar example has been recorded in France; but the French antiquaries could only affirm my comparison of it with Ballydonohan. I strongly suspect that the latter was connected with some observance, but the subject of "temple forts" in Ireland is completely *in nubibus*. Moghane is one of the rare examples of a great tribal fort or hill-town; they are very rare in Ireland, though some English antiquaries imply that they, and not the small fort, are the ancient type, and that the "private castle" (i.e., the small ring-fort, residence rather than castle) represents the feudal stage of society. In Clare, at least, tribal conditions, so far as hereditary residences are involved, subsisted till late in the fourteenth century, the period of the great rentals; the peel towers from 1430 onward mark the change. Moghane, from the great gold find being so closely connected with it, may be dated back to perhaps the fifth century or the seventh century before Christ, if not earlier. Forts like the rude rings at Gorteen and elsewhere may well have been built down to the close of the fourteenth century of our era. Sepulchral ring-forts (like those of Creevagh, Cahernabihoonach, and the "mote" near Ballinalacken, in North-West Clare) have not yet been proved to exist in Eastern Clare.

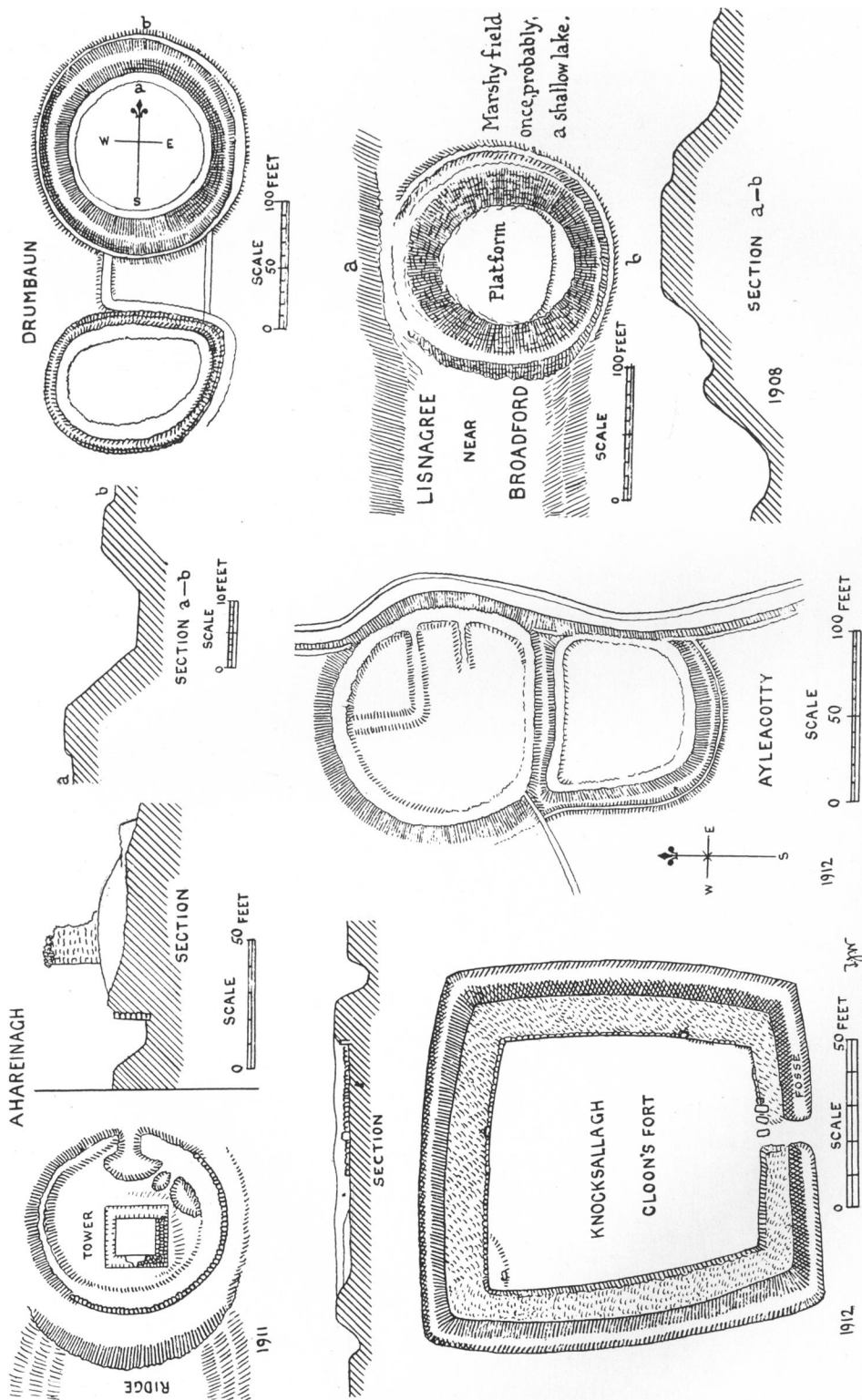
It may be but little use to call attention once more to the wholesale destruction of the forts and dolmens. It is most unfortunate that so little can be done. The powers given to the county councils have been largely lost by local apathy and jealousies. Lawyers and agents cannot be blamed in recent sales for returning "no early remains" for townlands abounding in such, or peasants be condemned for sweeping away every relic of their country's past that stands in the way of a little gain. The county councils of Galway and Westmeath set a good example. There may be slight signs of awakening interest elsewhere. But what of the councils in those treasuries of early remains—Kerry, Clare, Sligo, and Mayo? Even where attempts were made to save some structure, they were usually frustrated by some selfish occupant. Thus, wholesale destruction has commenced, and it must brand our generation to all enlightened countries and periods as given over to greed, ignorance, vandalism, and lack of patriotism in a true sense.

It is nothing new in Irish history to find forts in ruins, for eleven centuries ago Oengus, son of Oengoba, wrote:—"Temar's mighty *brugh* has

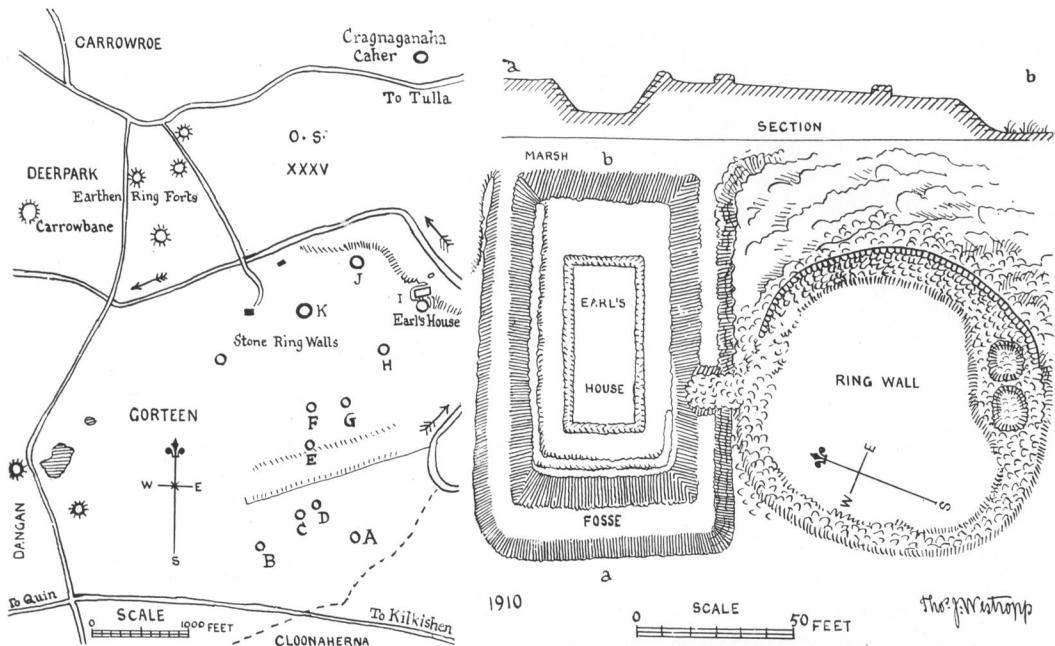
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<sup>1</sup> *Supra*, vol. xxx, p. 351; also Borlase's "Dolmens of Ireland," vol. ii, p. 422.

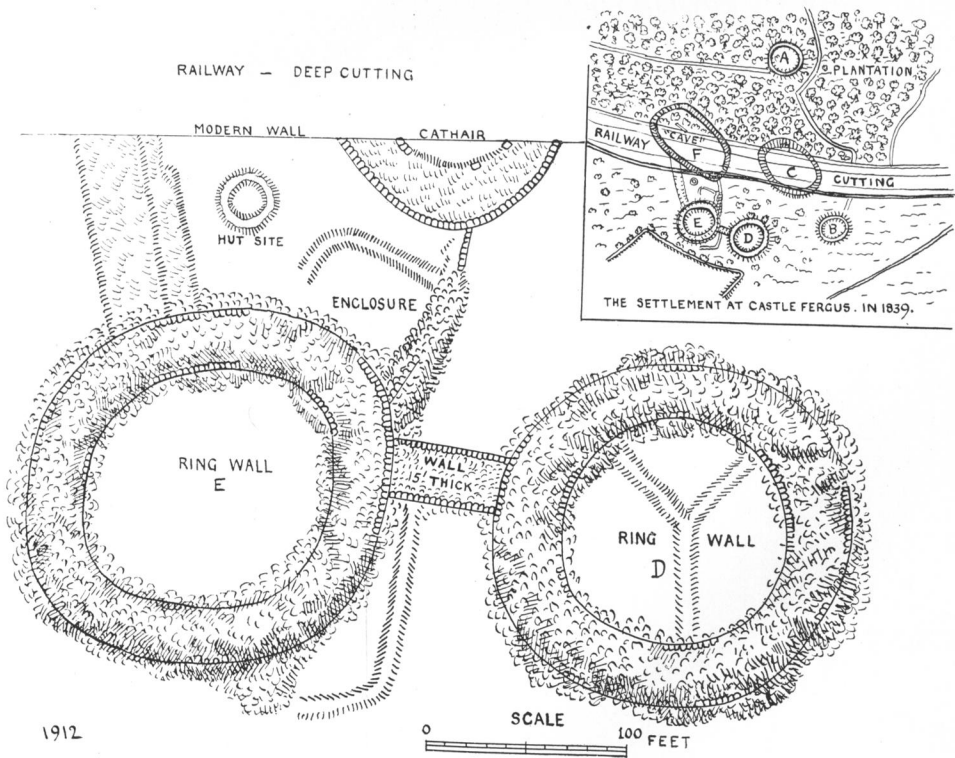




WESTROPP.—RING-FORTS IN EASTERN CLARE.



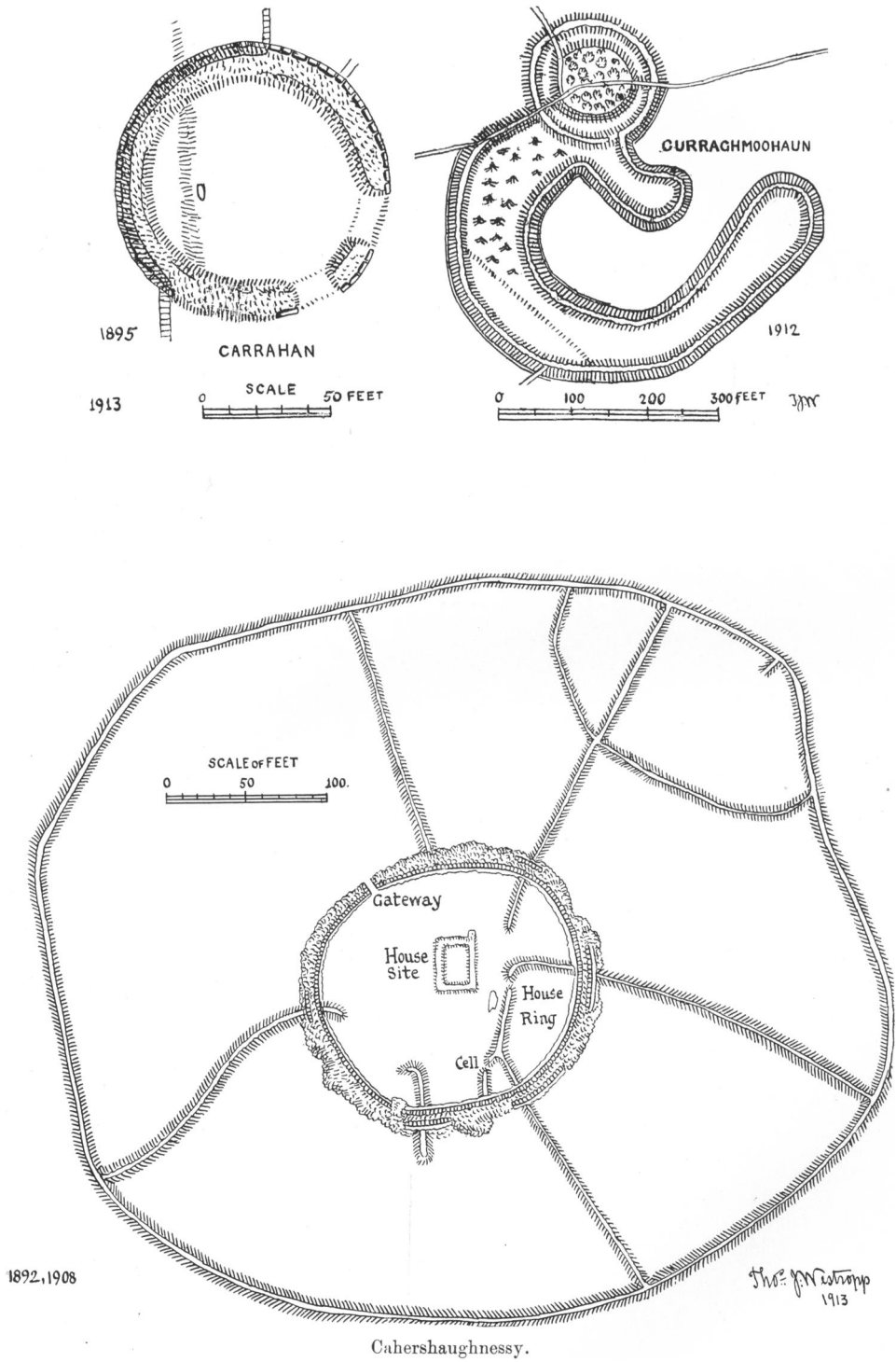
Gorteen group of Forts.



Castle Fergus group of Forts.

WESTROPP.—RING-FORTS OF EASTERN CLARE.





WESTROPP.—RING-FORTS OF EASTERN CLARE.

perished, Ratheruachan has vanished, Ailinn's proud *brugh* has perished, Eman's *brugh* has vanished, save that its stones remain. The gentile's proud *cathairs*, whereon great duration was wrought, *they* have perished."<sup>1</sup> In "The Fate of the Children of Lir" we read:—"Nothing remained (of Sid Fionnachad) but unroofed green raths and forests of nettles." Finn found the fort of Fornoicht destroyed and grass-grown. No need to cite many other such statements. It is, however, I fear, a new thing that those sprung from the old races should be systematically carrying out a vast destruction rarely attempted, save on a small scale, by men of alien blood. The old beliefs that for ages guarded the forts and dolmens have nearly died; but no enlightened feeling has as yet taken their place. It is the duty of every Irish antiquary to cry for help while there is yet time to save the unvalued, but invaluable, heritage which the ages have handed over to us from the remote past of Ireland.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Calendar of Oengus" (R. I. Acad. Trans., p. xxix), Introduction. See editions by Whitley Stokes in our Transactions and the Henry Bradshaw Society. He fully confirms the traditional date in the latter edition.

<sup>2</sup> Proceedings, *supra*, vol. i, ser. ii, (1870-79), p. 217.

<sup>3</sup> "Dind Senchas" (ed. Whitley Stokes) in "Revue Celtique," vol. xv, p. 327.

<sup>4</sup> I must again record my thanks to Rev. John Bolton Greer for constant help in collecting these notes.

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#### NOTE ADDED IN PRESS.

Mr. Hubert T. Knox tells me that the western fort of Mucklagh has a curved work similar to Curraghmoohaun, though less bent, and there are no attached earthworks. It is near Cashelmanannan and Ratheroghan.