



BONAMARGY FRIARY

Ulster-Scots Translation

BONAMARGY FRIARIE The Coontie Antrim

Tha Stellin

The mair tha kintra nixt it's med trig wi tha gowff coarse, tha oweraa stellin is gye an braw. Quhit the caa it – *Bun na Mairge* – mints tha fit o tha Margy (tha mellin o tha Glenshesk an Carey wattèrs) an tha friarie is stellit quhaur thae wattèrs cumns nixt tha say. It reckt tae tha friars tae hae tha wattèrs an tha say tha baith fur mate an convoyin. Inbye tha kintra thar's wuds an girsin, wi tha roon tap o Knocklayd tae tha sooth-wast an tae tha noarth tha sauny knowes an tha say, wi Racherie an tha Scotch islann ayont. Tha airt is thrang wi auldrife moniments – muckle gret stanes, raths an kirks: Dunrainey rath is tha knowe in tha gowff coarse sooth-wast o tha friarie; Dun a Mallagh in tha stannin timmer tae tha wast might be a kessel knowe, an oan tha heuchs mair tae tha wast is tha orra kessel o Duninenny.

Historie

Bonamargy kythes at tha hinnèr-enn o monastic historie an at tha hinnèr-enn o tha kirk-airtit historie o this airt. Tha kirks in Culfeightrin, tha pairish quhaur tha friarie stauns, an Ramoan, its neebor athort tha wattèr, baith awnt wi Saunt Petèrick fur thair foondèr. Yins recks at Bonamargy wus stellit wi Rory McQuillan aboot 1500. It wus yin o tha 44 friaries ur mair o tha Thurd Oardèr o Franciscans Reglar stellit in Airlann aqueesht tha 14 an 20s an tha reddin o tha monasteries in 15 an 37. This oardèr daednae hae onie feck in Brätain bot wus richt an guid gaun in Airlann, namelie in tha airts o Ulstèr an Connacht quhaur thar wusnae tha much o an Inglis inpit. Thurd Oardèr friaries haed a swee tae bein wee'er an mair hamelt nor tha yins o tha Furst Oardèr (tha Greh Friars). Tha friars' gate o leevin wus hamelt an clautht an the gien tha pairish clargie a cast wi tentin darg an lear.

We haenae eneuch buiks anent Bonamargy an we cannae pit thegither a thrang-wittins descreevin o its bouk an daeins frae scrievit wittins. The mair tha day o its awnin as a friarie wus shoart, it haudit tae caain eftèr tha reddin. Its daeins in tha hinnèr-enn o tha 16t centurie wus sair: in 15 an 84 tha kirk wus brunt (its theekit riggin is mintit) quhaniver Airisch an Scotch yins set tae Inglis sodgers at wus sorned thonner. It wus replenisht, bot, an e'en eftèr tha friars o tha Thurd Oarder reculed in tha fore-enn o tha 17t centurie tha biggins wus yaised wi ither Franciscans, halflins as a steid fur missionar darg in Scotlann. Tha friarie wus redelins tynit bae tha enn o tha 17t centurie bot haudit tae be yaised fur biryin. Tha hainin darg wi tha Bifawst Naykural an Philysopical Societie in 19 an 31 is wordet wi tha fettle o its gear thenoo. It wus gien ower tae tha Lede Tent wi Bellykessel Kintra Airt Cooncil in 19 an 33.

Tha Biggins

Tha biggins sakeless o riggins maks a bonnie clachan an a by-ordnar meith. Ye ingae thaim

throch a wee **yett-hoose aist** o tha foremaist biggins. This wud hae maunit tha trèvellin throch a mairch bawk, at ye'll jist see a stime o. Quhaur tha pad rins thenoo wus a yett entry an abune a chaummer wi a wee wundae in tha sooth gavle an a hamelt ingle wi a weel-forrit chimley in tha noarth. Tha waas, o roondit stane wi wee stane pànnins, leuks a richt bät sindèrie frae tha squarred freestane o tha foremaist biggins. Frae tha yett-hoose tha boadies veesitin leuks a lang raa o biggins – frae tha noarth (richt), tha aist reenge, tha aist enn o tha kirk wi its lang wundae an tha MacDonnell chaipel.

Tha kirk is a lang narra richtang'l (inbye 99 bae 24 fit 6), tha ordnar layout fur a friarie, bot wi nae wurd o tha tooer at mairks oot tha feck o friaries. Tha lang aist wundae is by-ordnar, e'en in its skaithit fettle. Tha fäll't-in airt o oor pictèr is a mintit refeckin o tha whurls wi tha cast o a lowe (flamboyant). Tha cheeks haes a rät fur tae tak gless an ahin thar wus airn palls. Tha guards ootbye o heids, flauchtin, braird an bastes is forfairn wi tha wather bot pleesurin fowk yit. Tha wundae in tha feckin thenoo is shairly a rebiggin: ye'll can leuk tha fennin erch o tha aulder wundae an tha whuttlet stanes on tha meerin is tha lave o tha aulder label staps. Hereawa an ither airts it's siccar tha much tha grunn ootbye tha kirk is hovit wi tha buryin. Tha foremaist ingang tae the kirk fur lay fowk was bae wye o a wast dorr, noo awa (tha wast waa thenoo is fur tha maist feck modrèn). It's a spaik hereawa at tha wee thirlt roon-heidit cross jist inbye is a kenspeckle o tha lair o Julia McQuillan, 'tha bleck nun', at wus in dern hereawa in tha mids o tha 17t centurie. Thar's nae wundae in tha noarth waa (tha cloistèr wisin), bot thar's a dorr in tha sooth waa an thar might hae bin fower wundae. Tha twa apenins mair tae tha wast is stappit, bot tha thurd is apen an haes guards ootbye.

Tha nave wus fur lay fowk an **tha chauncel** tae tha aist fur tha friars. Thar's nae sindèrin in tha steidin haudin theday, bot thar wus redelins a wud hap. Tha chauncel maun hae bin leamin wi licht frae tha muckle bág aist wundae an a saiconn bouksum wundae in tha sooth waa at apens noo intae tha MacDonnell chaipel. Tha staws fur tha friars is tint, bot tha steid o tha altàr is tae tha fore yit.

Medieval monasteries aisit biryin fur thair patròns, an monie o thaim haudit thairsel mairkit biryin grunns lang eftèr tha reddin. Sooth o tha altàr in tha gree at Bonamargy is tha MacDonnell pend an tha chaipel abune wi nae riggin at wus shairly eikit tae tha kirk. A fladge forfairn wi tha wather in tha sooth waa gies wittins o its biggin wi Randall MacDonnell in 16 an 21, bot tha chaipel tha wye it stanns thenoo might be a weethin mair shortlins biggit. A by-ordnar lair o 16 an 30 oan tha sooth waa o tha kirk is tha kenspeckle o tha muild o anither weel-forrit faimlie hereawa, tha McNaghtens.

Tha **cloister** stuid noarth o tha kirk. Thawye tha pads an pends is tint aathegither mints at a wud steidin, bot ye'll can leuk tha tap o tha tae-faa riggin an tha overcappin stanes (corbels) at fendit ruif timmers.

Tha Aist Reenge A dorr in tha neuk o tha kirk an tha aist reenge wises tae a trance at gien ingang tae tha kirk an tha baith flairs o tha reenge. Oan tha grunn flair thar's a dorr cheek at wises noarth intae a wee bowie-pendit chaummer wi twa aumries an twa apen boles intae tha bág chaummer tae tha noarth (aiblins aince presses). The wun tae tha bágger vautit chaummer wi a dorr frae tha cloistèr pad an anither in the noarth gavle, tha baith noo skaithit. Thar's a press in tha aist waa nixt tha yin-yaе wee wundae, stappit ootbye wi a thrugh. Gin ye retour tae tha trance ye'll fynn staps, biggit wi ingine o gret muckle corbels an cheeks in tha braid o tha waa, wisin tae twa chaummers oan tha furst flair. Tha bágger chaummer tae tha noarth wus gien licht wi sàx wundae, twa at's hale, an tha pruif o tha tithers tha wundae-stuils ur jist gaws. Tha wee overcappin at tha noarth-wast neuk maun be effein til waashin an aisement at tha heicht o tha furst flair, wisin tae tha jaa-hole ablow. Tha wee'er chaummer at tha heid o tha forestair haed wundae in its sooth an aist waas. Aqueesht tha sooth gavle an tha kirk is a tentilie biggit rone,

furtae wise awa tha weet frae tha kirk riggin, skailin ower tha wundae o tha trance ablow.

Quhit tha Chaummers wus Yaised fur

Affen monastic layout wus aa yin, at lat a crouse-like threap anent tha yuise o tha chaummers, bot at Bonamargy thon's no tha wye o't. Insteid o tha quathie reenges o biggins at's roon a cloistèr fur ordnar, thar's jist tha yin. It's crankie tae wecht quhit ither wud biggins stuid thonner aince, bot it's dootsum at ither stieve biggins haes tint, syne we'll can aiblins stap tha mair ordnar monastic rede intae tha aist reenge. Tha wee'er chaummer oan tha grunn flair micht hae bin a chaitpèr chaummer an sacristie thegither, fur gaitherins an fur pittin by cloots, buiks an ither gear. Tha bág chaummer redelins haed quathie yuises, tha like o a refectòrie, day chaummer (fur inbye darg), an aiblins fur lear, the mair tha licht's puir. The micht hae daen thair readyin in a biggin o aisie-tynit gear at's gane noo (oor refeckin kythes a mintit clye-biggit scullerie wisin awa tae tha jaa-hole at tha noarth-wast neuk o tha reenge). Tha bágger furst flair chaummer wus shairly a dormitòrie, wi its aisement at tha noarth enn. Gin ilka friar haed a shaidin wi a wundae thar wud hae bin säx. It's no sae siccar quhit tha wee'er ower chaummer wus fur: aiblins it gien a bät hiddlins fur tha maistèr o tha hoose. Tha aisements in tha yett-hoose wus gye an scrimpit, bot this siccar ower chaummer in a stieve stane steidin cud hae bin hantie in a day o tulyie. Oottaken tha stane biggins we can jalouse forbye quathrie wud oaffis-hooses, gairdens, an oarchard an bastes. The mair monie o tha rinnins in oor refeckin is dootsum, we'r howpfu at it gies a bät wittin o quhitwyte this wee friarie micht hae leuked oan tha owerday o tha reddin.

Tha Kirkyaird

Sin Thurd Oardèr Franciscan friaries fur ordnar haed noarth cloistèrs, tha walit stellin fur tha kirkyaird wus sooth o tha kirk, an this is redelins quhaur tha auldest muilids is. Tha dorr in tha nave sooth waa micht cud hae wisit tae tha kirkyaird, bot muilids haes spreid noo tae boorach roon tha biggins. In yin neuk is tha muilids o sailors o tha twa warl waars, a feck o thaim wi nae naem, kuissen oan tae tha shore hereawa, a sair mindin at yin o tha dargs o tha friars mair nor fower hunnèr yeir syne micht hae bin tha biryin o bygane trèvellers droont in tha unchancie wattèrs o this airt.

Mair Raidin

Bigger, F. J. an Fennell, W. J., *The Ancient Franciscan Friary of Nun-na-Margie*, by-ordnar lith o tha *Ulster J. Archaeol.* (18 an 98); Leask, H. G., *Irish Churches and Monastic Buildings*, vol. 3 (1960); Gwynn, A. and Hadcock, R. N., *Medieval Religious Houses: Ireland* (1970).

Ither friaries in tha Lede Tent is at *Airmagh* (Franciscan Furst Oardèr) and *Newton* (Dominican), wi Cistercian Abbeys in Lede Tent at *Ench an Greeba* (Doon).

Ingang Tha friarie (gräd nummer D 126408) is kenspeckle oan tha sooth cheek o tha A1 tae Cushendaa, hauf a mile aist o Bellykessel. Ye'll can ingae it wi tha pad frae tha gate, at's aye apen (grun flair chaummers o tha aist reenge is affen lockfast bot ye'll can hae a leuk throch yetts).