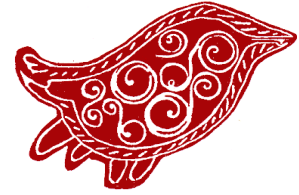


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There was another trough found in the grounds next to this, but the labourers were not able to take it up whole. The timber is a black bog oak. There are a great many now coming from all parts in the vicinity to see this relic of antiquity, and also to see the beautiful lake of Coumshingan."

There is a local tradition that the district was a favourite brewing place for the Danes, and a legend concerning two Danes, a father and son having given up their lives rather than impart the secret of brewing to the Irish natives.

M. HOLLAND.

### Notes of Itineraries.

Although our Society was established as an independent organisation thirty-five years ago, it may be desirable to mention that in the middle of the last century a sectional Committee of the Cork Cuverian Society existed for the purpose of "Antiquarian Research and the Fine Arts." For the session 1850-1 the names of John Windele, Richard Sainthill and Abraham Abel appear; they were joined subsequently by Denny Lane and Richard Rokt Brash, and ultimately became known as "The Historical Society." Much practical enthusiasm prevailed and frequent excursions made into districts likely to afford objects for investigation. To the discoveries and admirable records of the members we owe much of the material we now possess in our local Archæology.

The Council of our Society recently decided to adopt a similar course, and appointed a voluntary committee for the purpose of recording by descriptions and photographs important remains and monuments in the immediate neighbourhood of the City, their present condition, and any information not hitherto published.

M. H.

**McCarthy Monument, Blackrock Road**—On Sunday, 11th April, the following Members of the Cork Historical and Archæological Society:—Dr. Lee, Messrs. Barry, Conlan, Lavallin, Cody, Cremen and Holland, visited the Memorial known as the McCarthy Monument on the Blackrock Road.

This structure, which was designed by the late Mr. W. B. Atkins, F.R.I.B. (Architect of Lunatic Asylum, &c.), is a graceful campanile shaft or column of limestone some 25 feet in height, inset with encaustic tiling. It presents a striking and picturesque appearance from the roadway, situated as it is on an eminence overlooking the Diamond Quarry. Through the courtesy of Miss Cadigan the Members were afforded the opportunity of closely examining the details.

The Monument appears to have been erected by Mr. Alexander McCarthy, who represented Cork County in the Imperial Parliament in 1860. He claimed direct descent from the Milesians through Eber Fionn,

and that he was consequently the head of the Cashel Eoghanacts, *i.e.*, the Clan McCaura to which he belonged. It is assumed from the decorations that the column was erected to glorify these, whence its popular local name the McCarthy Monument. It is said that the erector left a sum of money for its maintenance, but since the death of a local resident who cared and looked after the place it has fallen into a state of neglect and decay.

The Monument rises in tiers, as may be seen from the illustrations. The panels at the base were originally inset with bronze plaques, showing events in Irish history immediately connected with the family. The modern spirit of vandalism has, however, invaded the place—some maliciously disposed persons have interfered with it, and three of the four plaques, as well as the large brass plate recording the date and object of erection, have been torn away and irretrievably lost. The remaining plaque, an artistic piece of Metal work, but badly damaged, shows two female figures; one bearing the Civic Arms of Cork, the other with the three crowns typical of the province of Munster, supporting a shield on which appears the crest of McCarthy Mor: a red deer *passant*, indicative of the extensive territory (from Muckross to Emly) over which he ruled as prince of Desmond. The whole is surmounted by a spiked or so called Irish crown, with a Gaelic motto of which the concluding words, "An Clanna Míle" (the Milesians) are only now legible.

In an upper tier, which could not readily be reached by spoilers, are four bronze Medallions, with heads in profile, said to represent Eber Fionn, Olliol Olum, Eoghan Mor and Connac MacCuillacauan: four of the great Kings of Munster to whom the McCarthy proudly trace their ancestry.

It appears the Monument as well as the ground on which it stands is now the property of Mr. D. MacCarthy Morrogh, Innisbeg Island, Skibbereen, doubtless a descendant of the chiefs of the ancient clan.

There may not be much in the mere title of The McCarthy Mor or Reagh nowadays, yet there are several who aspire to the perhaps barren honour of being head of one or other branch of the Clan McCaura.

1. Judge Samuel Trant McCarthy, of Srugreen, who has assumed the title of McCarthy Mor and claims descent from Cormac, son of Tadhg (Na Mainister), the last chief who bore the title of Prince of Desmond.
2. Daniel McCarthy (Lincoln's Inn, London), author of the *Life of Florence McCarthy Mor*, and styled the McCarthy, of Glounacrine, a history of which sept or branch of the family he has written.
3. A gentleman of the name resident in Australia, who is prosecuting enquiries to establish his right to the headship of the Clan; and
4. A German Noble who signs himself G. Von Chaulin Eigersberg, of Eisenish, Thüringia, Chamberlain to His Royal Highness The Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimer, and claims direct descent from Donogh McCarthy (of Altona), the last Earl of Clancarthy bearing the family name, and elder brother of the more celebrated Justin McCarthy (Lord Mountcashel), commander of the Mountcashel Brigade of Cremona fame.

The present Earldom of Clancarthy is a Union Peerage revived in 1803 in favour of the family of De La Poer Trench, of Galway.



**MCCARTHY MONUMENT,**  
Diamond Hill, Cork.



**GALLAUN AT BALLINLOUGH.**

*(Photos by Dr. P. G. Lee)*

The Ballinlough Stone mentioned by Crofton Croker was next visited.

This Dallan is a block of limestone, 3 feet 10 inches high, 3 feet in width and 1 foot 6 inches thick, situated a short distance from the road in a field belonging to Mrs. O'Mahony (Ardmahon), adjoining the school-house at Ballinlough cross.

The Stone appears to have been broken at some remote time, for it has been repaired by the somewhat primitive but effective method of pouring over it in a liquid state some compound of lime, &c., which has assumed the firmness of cement.

In itself the Dallan evidences the effects of time and exposure to weather; on the surface it shows holes as if fossils had dropped out. Of course no one can say, with any degree of certainty, for what purpose such Dallans, which are quite common in the country, were erected; even the traditions of the peasantry go no further than to state in reference to Dallans in general, "That they were used as Casting Stones in their sports by Fionn McCiunhall and the giants of long ago.

Professor Wilson in his *Prehistoric History of Scotland*, however, points out that such stones mark where the Scottish Standard was placed at the battles of Larges and Bannockburn, and argues therefrom that they are historic land marks of events on which history itself is silent.

A Dallan, commonly known as "Mahon's tombstone," near the town of Macroom, stands exactly in the position where according to the Irish Annalists, as well as the Four Masters, the King of South Munster, Maoluadly, was killed at the battle of Beallach Leachtan in 972, *i.e.*, where the river bank rises at the junction of the two rivers, Sullane and Laune. Are we not safe in assuming with John Windele that the stone marks the site, and was raised to commemorate the event.

Now, the Ballinlough Stone is said by the residents of the locality to mark the site of a graveyard, and there is some tradition that a great battle was fought in the vicinity at some remote period; and it was stated there is a hollow space beneath the stone which was thought to mark the graves of some great chief, probably Cian the son of Maoluadly who was surprised and killed by O'Donoghue, and the Clan Laoghire, at Magh-Guillidhe, somewhere near Cork in 1014.

Excavations, so far as they went, have revealed no traces of such grave,<sup>1</sup> and doubtless all this is merely surmise, as some writers think the battle was fought at Maglin, near Ballincollig. Be this as it may, the Ballinlough Stone remains as an ancient if silent record of some local historic event, the memory of which time has disowned; but which the men of its period thought worthy to commemorate.

C. CREMEN.

<sup>1</sup> In the laying out of Fordson Football Grounds, Ballinlough Road, a small quantity of bones (thought to be human), as well as some weapons, probably bombs, were found and were reinterred.