

DRUMKEEN PARISH.

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SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Clanwilliam and is bounded on the east, north and south by the Parish of Grean and on the west by that of Caherconlish.

NAME. The name of this Parish is pronounced Drom Caoin in Irish, which signifies the Pleasant or Delightful Ridge; is not of ecclesiastical origin.

Of the old Church of this Parish, which was situated on high ground in the Townland of Drumkeen, only the east gable and twenty one feet in length of the side walls now remain, which latter are ten feet high and two and a half feet thick. The building was raised with regular sized stones cemented with lime and sand mortar. Its breadth is seventeen feet three inches. On the east gable is a quadrangular window having the same form both inside and outside, on both which it is six feet seven inches high and three feet eight inches broad on the former and three feet four and a half inches on the latter side. It is built with the same kind of rude stones as seen in the rest of the structure and has at top a segmental arch made of the same materials with the sides; by this is meant an arch forming a small segment of a circle.

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There is here a small grave yard and about twenty yards to the south stands the Protestant Church of the Parish. About half a mile to the north west is a holy well called in Irish Tobar an Domhnaigh, that is, Sunday's Well, situated in the Townland of Curraghnaboul. It is frequented on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings.

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Fitzgerald in his History Vol.I, p.284, gives the following account respecting Drumkeen, saying:-

"In this Parish was situated Drumkeen House, the ruins of which are still to be seen and gives strong indications of its former consequence, when it was the residence of the ancient family of the Bourkes of Drumkeen. Opposite to Drumkeen House are the walls of an old Church and on a tablet inserted in one of the walls is the following inscription:-
"This Church was repaired in 1717 by the Revd. Rickard Burg, Lord Bishop of Ardagh, being the burial place of the family from time immemorial. His first son was buried here in 1693."

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"William Burke of Dromkeen was married in the reign of Charles I to the daughter of Mac Keogh of Clonkeen, now called Rivers within three miles of Limerick, who lived in a fortified

Castle called Castle Troy on the River Shanon (Shannon?). David Bourke of Ballynagaré, Bourke of Kishichuirk, Grady of Knockaney and Grady of Rocksborough, were all married to the daughters of the above Mac Keogh, whose property, which sat in 1748 for six thousand pounds per annum, was forfeited in Cromwell's time for the loyalty of the family to Charles II. At that time there was not a gentleman living from Ballinagard to O'Brien's Bridge but a Burke, except Hynes of Caherelly Castle and Glancey of Ballyvorreen."

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The antiquities of this Parish examined by Mr. A. Garry; notes arranged by Mr. T. O'Connor.

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