

HOSPITAL PARISH.

SITUATION. This Parish is situated in the Barony of Small County and is bounded on the north by the Parish of Ballinlough; on the west by Ballinacana and Knockany; on the south by Athanasy, Knockany and Knocklong and Kilfrush; on the east by the Co. of Tipperary.

NAME. The meaning of this name is obvious; it is pronounced Oispidéal in Irish.

The ruins of an old Church (commonly called Abbey) remain still in the Village of Hospital. The walls of the building are still standing, all with the exception of fifteen feet in length of the north wall at the east gable. It measures **eighty six feet** by twenty one feet nine inches. There were two **pointed windows** on the east gable, of which one remains, which is perfect on the outside, where it is eight feet from the ground, **five and a half feet** high and ten inches broad, being built of chiselled brown stones. The distance between this and the other is eight feet. Within seven feet of the top is a round **one**, which is built with chiselled brown stones on both sides

(i.e., inner and outer). There were five windows on the south wall, which are all destroyed, and two on the north wall which are destroyed also. A doorway was placed on each of the side walls at the distance of twenty feet from the west end, both which are destroyed. The walls are about twenty two feet high and five feet thick, built with large and small lime stones intermixed and cemented with lime and sand mortar.

At the west end of this edifice stands a part of a square tower, the east wall of which formed the west gable of the same. The breadth of this tower is equal with that of the old building just described and the length of it is nine feet ten inches. Its south and west walls are about thirty feet high; the north wall is razed to the ground; the east one is but ten feet high now. A part of the two arches over the two first floors still remains. These walls consist of the same materials and are of equal thickness with the walls of the old structure above described. A very large grave yard much in use lies here.

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Archdall in his Monasticon (see extract inserted below) speaking of Hospital, says:-

"The walls of the ancient Church yet remain and in a niche on the south side of the high Altar is the tomb of a Knight in alto relieve, which is said to be the tomb of the Founder."

Fitzgerald in his History of Limerick Vol.I, p.317, gives nearly the very same words. He says:-

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"The walls of the ancient Church yet remain and in a niche on the south side of the high Altar is a rudely shaped statue of a Knight in alto relieve, with sword and buckler, which is supposed to be that of the Founder."

The monumental stone with the figure of the Knight on it is still seen inside the building above described in the north east corner, and now rests on its edge in the earth, sloping or inclining (or) with a slope or inclination to the south. The length of the figure is seven feet two inches. It has received injuries in many places; the legs and arms have been much disfigured. Old information tells us that Geoffrey Fitz-morris was the name of him whose figure, the one here spoken of, is. The name, however, is not Fitzmorris, but De Maresco.

Archdall's Mon. Hib. V.II, p.420, R.I.A.
Hospital.

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Situated in the Barony of Small County; in the Records this is always called the Hospital of Any, although it is a full mile north of that village.

A Commandery for Knights Hospitallers was founded here under the invocation of St. John the Baptist in the reign of King John, by Geoffry De Mariscis (War. Mon.) who was Chief Governor of Ireland in the year 1215.

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A.D. 1326. John le Mareschal was Preceptor (King p.84). Same year the Prior of Kilmainham by a grant dated at Killeel, granted to David, the Chaplin, the Parish of Brugh, he paying the several proxies to the Archbishop, the Bishop and Arch-deacons and at the time of his decease, the sum of half a marc, the same to be paid at the House of Any (Id. p.30).

A.D. 1327. John le Mareschal was Preceptor (Id. p.84). The Prior of Kilmainham granted to Adam de Courteys during life, the office of Sergeant of this Commandery and to hold the same in all respects as David Pope lately did; dated at Tully (Id. p.32).

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A.D. 1330. John le Mareschal was Preceptor (Id. p.61). The Prior granted to Richard Guiaur the Church of Burgh during his life, he paying the usual proxies and at the time of his death half a marc of silver; this grant was dated at Kiheel (Id. p.32).

A.D. 1334. John le Mareschal was Preceptor (Id. p.39).

A.D. 1335. He was this year continued in Office. (Id. p.28). The Prior granted to Richard Cook during his life, his entertainment in this house at the table of the free servants, with clothes the same as theirs and half a marc of silver for shoes, he performing in the kitchen the office of Cook and if he should be confined to his chamber by illness, he was then to have a daily allowance of a white loaf and one of the second kind, a flaggon of the best ale and one of an inferior kind and a dish of meat from the kitchen. Dated at Tully (Id. p.32).

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We also find a grant dated at Tully to Master Maurice Kermerdyn, clerk, during life, to all the tithes of the Demesne of Any, paying yearly at the House of Any five marcs of silver and at his death one marc. And another grant dated at Tully, to Thomas Fitz William, of the office of hayward in the House of Any, with entertainment during life at the servants' table and half a marc yearly for clothes, shoes, etc. (Id.). Also a grant dated at same place to Roger de Hall during life, of entertainment in this house for himself, a chamberlain, a servant and a horse in the same manner as the Preceptor, his chamberlain his servants and his horses were then served (Id. p.30). And another grant dated at Tully to Friar James Bluet of a particular space in the, therein to erect, at his own expense, a chamber for himself, and that he should have

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entertainment for himself and a servant, with clothes, diet and other necessaries (King p.30).

A.D. 1337. John le Mareschal was Preceptor (Id. p.79).

A.D. 1339. John de la Battail was Preceptor (Id. p.83). We find about this time the following grants dated at Tully; to Richard Marris: the office of Provost of this house and entertainment during life, eating and drinking at the esquire's table and to have clothing the same as theirs, with half a marc of silver yearly for shoes and to be allowed a servant (Id. p.30). 332

To John Staunton, the office of smith to the House of Any during life and diet at the table of the free servants, with ten shillings in silver yearly for shoes.

To Friar James Bluet, all the tithes of hay and corn of the Church of Norton, for the space and term of twenty years, at the yearly rent of ten marcs, payable at the House of Any.

To William Kethe, during life, the office of porter in the House of Any. 333

A.D. 1341. In this year we find a grant dated at Kilmainham to Richard Chamberlayn, during life, of his entertainment at the House of Any, to dine at the table of the brethren and to have clothing the same as theirs, with a servant to attend him who was to diet with the other servants. And another grant to William de Ashbourne, of the office of butler in this house, with his diet and half a marc of silver for shoes, etc.

A.D. 1348. The Prior made a grant in this year dated at Killergy, to Roger Cook, during life, of the office of cook in this house, with diet at the table of the free servants and to have clothes the same as theirs, or ten shillings in lieu thereof and half a marc sterling annually for shoes. 334

A.D. 1349. In this year we find another grant dated at Killergy to Meyler, son of Hubert de Burgh, of entertainment for himself during life and for a chamberlain, a servant and two horses in this house and if he should be confined to his chamber, then to have the daily allowance of three white loaves and one of the coarser kind, three flaggons of the best ale and one of the second kind, with a sufficiency from the kitchen (King p.30). 335

A.D. 1543. AENEAS O'HIFERNAN, the last master of the Hospital of Any, was made Bishop of Emly (War Bp. p.499).

Inquisition 8th March XX Q. Elizabeth, finds that the

Rectory of Buroughe alias Bruff in this County, appropriated to the Commander of this hospital, was of the annual value of 20s.

Inquisition 45th Q. Elizabeth, finds that the following Rectories or Vicarages were appropriated to this Preceptory viz., Ardlynin, Rathronan, Mertelston and Kilmalege in the Co. of Tipperary; the same were devised by letters patent for a term of years to Maurice Fitz-Thomas Fitzgerald of Leasing in the Co. of Kildare (Chief. Remem.). Queen Elizabeth granted this hospital and its possessions to Sir Valentine Browne, who erected a magnificent castle on the site of the same; such castle is now in ruins. **336**

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