

This Parish was traversed and written about by Mr. T. O'Conor.

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KILBREEDY MAJOR PARISH.

SITUATION. This Parish is bounded on the north by the Parish of Uregar and that of Athanasy; on the west by the Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul; on the east by the Parish of Athanasy in the Barony of Coshlea and on the south by the Parishes of Kilquan, Particles and Kilfinnan.

NAME. Kilbreedy is pronounced Cill Bhrighde in Irish, which signifies the Church of St. Bridget. The term Major is used to contra-distinguish this Parish from Kilbreedy Minor, the former term signifying greater and the latter one less, or lesser.

The old Church of Kilbreedy Major stands in ruins in a graveyard to the left of the road leading from Kilmallock to Athanasy and Knocklong. The ruins consist of part of the west gable with a portion of the south side wall attached to it; on this portion was a window. Another portion of the south side wall stands detached which had a window also. A small portion of the north side wall remains on which there is a breach where there probably was a window. Breadth of the building is twenty one feet; height of the side walls is about eleven feet. The original height is not ascertainable, unless the building be considered as having two apartments, west and east, the former being twenty one yards = sixty three feet long; the latter nine yards = twenty seven feet, both which make ninety feet the whole length. The appearance of the ground suggests the above supposition.

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The "Liber Regalis Visitationis" places Kilbreedy Major in the Deanery of Killochia alias Kilmallock and says:-

Kilbridie Major residentes - Rector Nicholas Leyles minister legens Vicarius ejusdem, Richardus, Manneringe, Minister legens.

In Fantstown Townland to the right of the road as one approaches Fantstown Castle from Kilmallock, stand on low ground the remains of an old Church, which consist of the east and west gables and the north side wall, the south one having been entirely destroyed. The north side wall does not at present exceed five feet in height. The length of the building is thirty nine feet and breadth eighteen feet. On the east gable is a quadrangular window, wide on the inside and narrow outside where it is built with chiselled lime stone. It appears the door was on the west gable near the south side wall, where there is now a breach. It was pointed. A narrow quadrangular window constructed of rude stones is seen close to the north side of it. At east gable there was a window on the north side wall built with hammered lime stone. It is now broken down at top. Materials of the building are lime stones and cement of lime and sand mortar. 258

Wells.

St. Bridget's Well, in Irish Tobar Bríghde, is situated in Kilbreedy Townland. This was formerly frequented and I am informed it is not visited in these times. I learned also from the man who gave me the names of the Townlands of this Parish, in Irish, that St. Brigid's day is kept as a holy day in it. 259

At the north east corner of the Church latterly described, lies a well called Tobar na Doili Muiri (sound only represented) which signifies - - ? It sends a stream southwards by the east gable. It is enclosed with a stone building covered over with green sod on a level with the surface of the ground. A chiselled stone spanning the entrance to it, which looks (or faces) to the south, forms a semicircular arch over the water. A large ash tree stands at west by north side of it and close to the north side wall of the Church near north east corner. The stock of this tree exhibits some signs of decay and it appears a large branch was lately sawed off the stock that grew on it above the part where the marks of decay are observable. My informant in this Parish tells me that a Patron is held at this well on the 3rd of August (Qu? 15th). 260

Castles.

In Fantstown Townland stands an old Castle in ruins, a short distance to the right of the road leading from Kilmallock to Knocklong. It measures on the inside from west wall to the wall running from doorway on east side inwards twenty two feet 261

nine inches and from that to the doorway eleven feet five inches making the whole extent from west wall to doorway on east wall thirty four feet two inches. It measures from north to south wall sixteen feet nine inches inside. Thickness of the wall at west entrance is five feet nine inches. Breadth of doorway at east side is three feet four inches in the centre where it is built with chiselled lime stone, and pointed above; height to the point is five feet six inches. Outside this is a semicircular arch of limestone, dressed in a similar manner. Its breadth at the ground is four feet, height six feet six inches. This arch and the pointed structure attached to it on inside form the doorway. Thickness of wall here is four feet one inch. There is a Bevel on this side about ten feet in height. To the right as one enters the east door, a door of iron bars gives admittance to the foot of the stairs running to the top of the Castle. The stair case is spiral. The perpendicular height from the ground to the top is forty nine feet. This Castle consists of three stories; the floor next above the ground one is arched beneath. It may be supposed to have had four as it has lost some of its original height. 262

Some fireplaces remain tolerably perfect in some of the apartments in this building and comparatively fresh plastering is visible on the walls of some of these apartments. Three of its chimneys still remain. It may be supposed to have had four; the original height may be supposed to have been sixty feet. Near the top on outside are two sentry boxes, one attached to it on north by west side and the other on east by south side. Materials are hammered lime stones and cement of lime and sand mortar. (That the stones are lime for most part, is certain). 263

The ruins of Bulgaden Castle are situated in Bulgaden Townland in this Parish. It measures twenty two and a half feet by seventeen feet ten inches on the inside. The thickness of the wall is seven feet seven inches. There are two doorways on the south wall. Winding stone stairs run up the Castle to the left as one enters by the doorway next to the west side. Only one floor, which is arched beneath remains over the ground one in this ruin. It is covered on the upper surface with green sod; the remainder of the building over this arched floor has been destroyed. The materials of the walls are lime stones and cement of lime and sand mortar. The stones in the arched floor are not lime. 264

It is not improbable that this is the place called Belgadan in the Annals at the year of the world 3751, under which they write:-

"This was the 24th year of the reign of Fiacha Labhrainne and he fell by Eochy Mumo of Munster in the battle of Belgadan."

Traversed by Mr. Thomas O'Connor, who arranged his own notes in the present form.