

## THE PARISH OF UREGAR.

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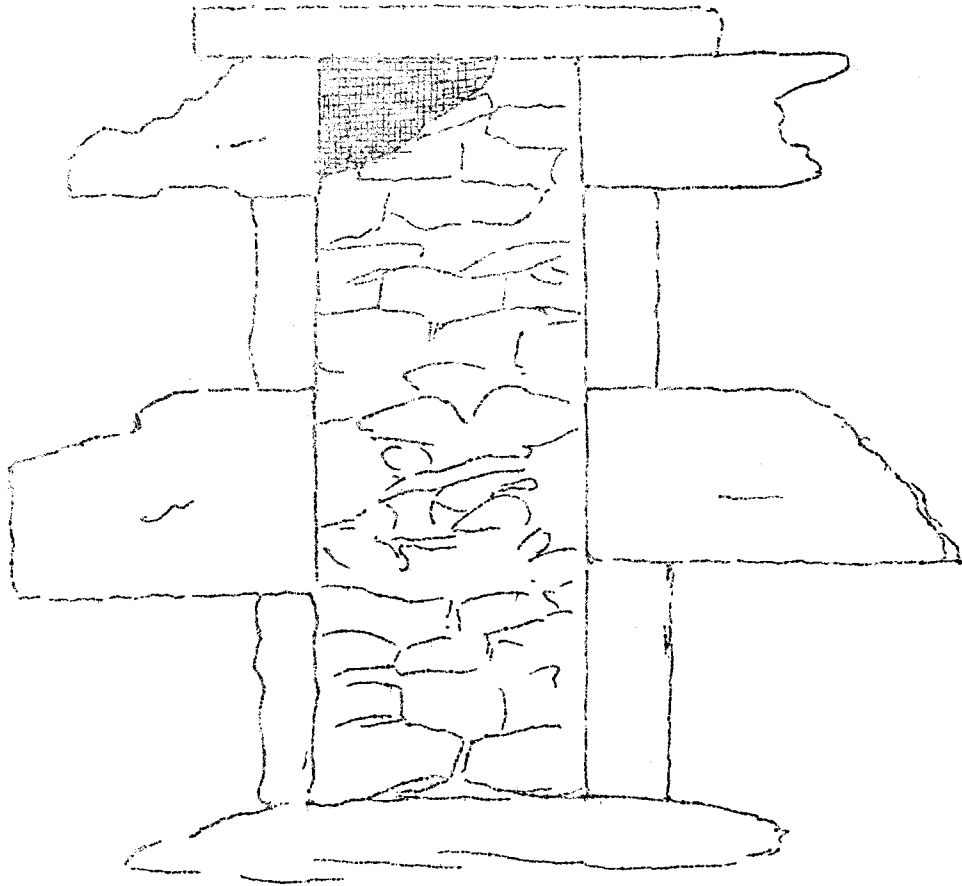
**SITUATION.** This Parish lies partly in the Barony of Coshma and partly in that of Small County. The latter portion is bounded on the north by the Parish of Knockainy and the portion of Uregar Parish in the Barony of Coshma; on the west by the latter; on the south by Kilbreedy Major and on the east by the Parish of Athneasy.

**NAME.** This Parish is called in Irish An Iubhar Ghearra in the nominative form and Na h-Iúhrach Girre in the genitive form. It seems to signify the Short Yew, but there is no yew tree now visible in the locality.

The old grave yard, in which formerly stood the old Church of this Parish, is situated in the Townland of Uregar but no portion of the walls of the Church are now standing. It is said that the stones of this building have been used by Mr. R. Ievers Wilson, called by the people Richd. Ievers (Qu. Is Wilson a property name?) the proprietor, in building the wall which now surrounds the grave yard.

Fitzgerald in History Lim. describes the walls of this Church as standing in his time; his words are: "About a mile from Bruff on the left, are the walls of an old Church called Uregare." Vol.I, p.323.

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*Doorway on the North wall of an  
old Church in Ballygrennan*

In the immediate vicinity of the grave yard, to the eastward, and in the same Townland is a holy well called Tobar San Mairghéd, i.e., St. Margaret's Well; the people say that no Stations are now performed at it.

The ruins of Ballygrennan Castle are situated in the Townland of the same name adjoining the residence of Mr. Edwd. Ryan and about half (three quarters) a mile from the Townland of Bruff. The main building measures sixteen feet two inches in breadth (inside) and twenty five and a half feet in length exclusive of a circular staircase situated in the south west corner and a set of small apartments to the north of this staircase and in the north west corner of the Castle. The second floor is destroyed; the third is arched. There was another floor over this, but it is now destroyed. The stair case at present goes no higher than the level of the second floor. The windows are for the most part quadrangular and divided into quadrangular compartments. The walls are about fifty feet high, two feet ten and a half inches in thickness, embattled and built of small stones. This main building is surrounded by a very extensive range of strong and old looking buildings in ruins. This Castle belonged to the Evans family (p.322). "At Bruff (p.321) all the lands on the left extending a good way to the east and south belong to the Evans or Carbery family. About a mile (not so much, P.O'K.) from this is the Castle of Bally Grenan, a very fine and noble building surrounded with ramparts and battlements." Fitzgerald's History of Limerick, Vol.I.

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In the same Townland of Ballygrennan and in the vicinity of the Town of Bruff, are the ruins of an old Church said traditionally to have been built by George Evans who came to Ireland with Prince William and who occupied the Castle of Ballygrennan. The present length of this Church from east to west is nineteen feet three inches and its breadth twenty one feet, but the west gable as well as the upper portion of the north wall seems a more modern erection. The entire building indeed, has a comparatively modern appearance. On the east gable there is a large pointed window, now nearly filled up with stone work. On the west gable, the upper part of which is broken, there is a round-arched doorway seven feet high by three feet seven inches. On the north wall near the east end there is a quadrangular doorway, now filled up with masonry except a small portion of the upper part on the east side, where this stone work is broken.

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See sketch opposite.

The walls of this Church are about seventeen feet high, two feet seven and a half inches in thickness and built externally of regular sized stones cemented with lime and sand

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mortar. The internal part of the building is composed principally of brick work. The eastern end is enclosed to a certain height as a burial place belonging to the Evans family; there are no persons interred here now except members of this family.

In the Townland of Bulgadeen Hall are the ruins of Bulgadeen Hall House, of which Fitzgerald speaks as follows:-

"Here (i.e., at Bulgadeen in the Parish of Kilbreedy Major) is a small village of thatched houses and the ruins of a castle, a little to the north of which is Bulgadeen Hall once the superb seat of John Evans, Esq., who was brother to the first Lord Carbery; its present fine remains prove it to have ranked amongst the most magnificent mansions in Munster, but it is now almost in ruins, none of the family having resided here for many years." Hist. Limk. Vol.I, p.390.

The antiquities of the foregoing Parish were examined by and described by Mr. O'Keefe.