



Holycross &  
Ballycahil Parish

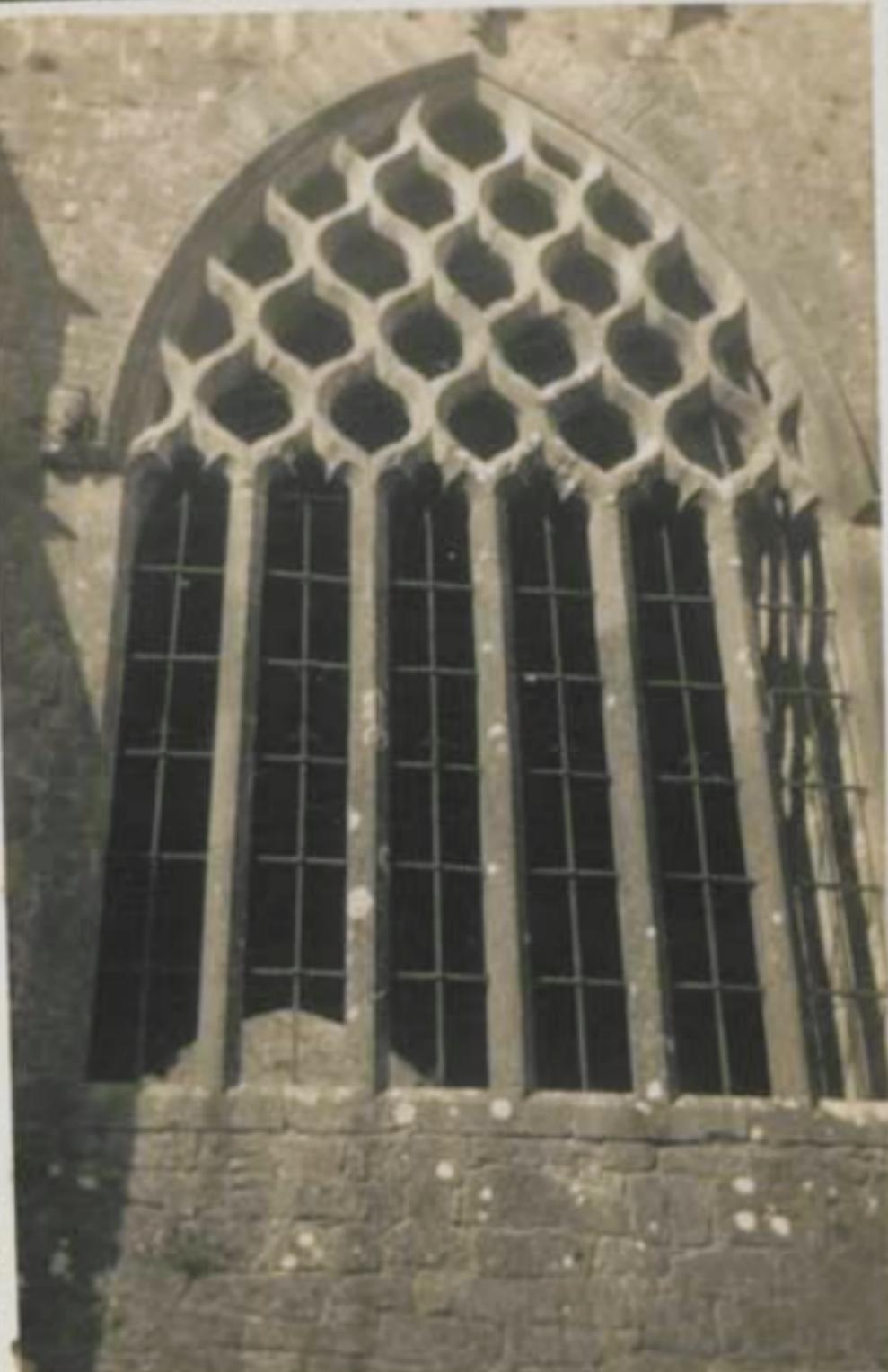
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Moorish Doorway  
of Cloister,  
Holycross Abbey



Holycross to  
Ballycable Parish

Holycross abbey -  
West window over  
entrance Nave  
from inside



Holyroos to

Ballycable

Panish

Chancel Window

Holyroos Abbey  
from inside



Holycross &  
Ballycahill Parish

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Cloister Arcade  
Holycross Abbey



Holycross &  
Ballycahill  
Parish

Pointed doorway  
& Bartizan.  
Ballycahill Church  
Ruins

## I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,  
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

[BARONY OF Eliogarty &amp; Kilnamagle]

TOWN OR VILLAGE Holy Cross PARISH Ballynahill COUNTY Tipperary

## TOPOGRAPHY

Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

The united baronies of Holy Cross and Ballynahill represent the pre-reformation parishes of Bealketown, Mayaloff, Kilnasee & Rathkenan, and embrace the countryside south west of Thurles to the Slievefelim foothills bounded, approximately, by the points Innamore in the west, Ballynahill in the north and Holy Cross in the east. The scenery, for the most part is uninteresting, although here and there, especially around Holy Cross, water & woodland combine to create some pictureque landscapes.

## GEOLOGY

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.

Limestone rock formation.

Land excellent for tillage farming.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES  
OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections ?  
Gardens ? Open to visitors ? Admission charge ?

none of interest

## ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Raids, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

### Ballycahill Church Ruin.

Situation: Beside village of Ballycahill 5 miles N.W. of Ballycros.

Description: This ruin consists of nave & chancel, the latter which has nearly disappeared. The nave measures 52ft x 25ft the wall being at their original height. On the south wall there are 2 square-headed windows a doorway with a bartizan arrangement over (see photo). The nave seems to have been lofted ~~and~~ at the western end. The gothic type chancel arch and also the windows have brickings. The roof is almost completely covered with ivy, and is in a poor state of preservation. Surrounding it is a large and evidently much used cemetery. Right of way, but in care of O.P.W.

### Ballynahow Castle Ruins.

Situation: Just off the Ballycahill - Thundes road about  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Ballycahill.

Description: A circular 5 storey keep about 40 ft in height and 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  ft in internal diameter, with wall 10 ft thick at base, and having a noticeable batter on the outside. In the interior the building is rectangular. There is a spiral staircase <sup>in</sup> the N.E. angle. There are narrow rectangular steps and some small windows - pointed and square headed. The 3rd floor rests on a vaulted arch. There is a bartizan on a level with the summit (see photo). The entrance doorway is built into the batter of the wall and has shothole on either side, inside there is the murder's hole - well preserved. This keep is said to belong to the Fogastys, who were lords of Ballynahow and this area. No right of way, but visitors may inspect. but in care of O.P.W.

(Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information).

Antiquities Holy Cross Abbey  
of Holy Cross, in 1640. This mass is now in St Patrick's Valley  
Kilkenny.

Description:

The remains comprise a cruciform-shaped church with rectangular tower, the cloister, the abbots quarters, kitchens, guest houses, stores etc. (Copy of the ground plan can be obtained from O.P.W.).

The type of architecture varies considerably, from rude workmanship of the early buildings to the far superior work of the 14th & 15th centuries.

The buildings have undergone much reconstruction and repair and accordingly it is difficult to determine precise date of erection.

It can be assumed that the western part of the church, including the nave, aisle, ribbed Romanesque doorway opening into the cloister, the semi-circular arched recesses in the latter, & part of buildings bordering it, date from the foundation of the church.

Consists of nave with aisles, north & south transepts with side chapels, a rectangular tower supported on pointed arches and coving part of choir, the choir unchanged.

Nave. 61 ft by 22½ ft. Is entered in west end by a large pointed and moulded doorway. Overhead there is a pointed 6-light window with tracery head. Both of these are insertions of the 15th century. Above the window can be seen the outlines of the 2 original rounded arches of rough masonry. At each side of the nave 3 arches of rough stone work open on to the aisle. The arches on the South side have been reinforced by cut stone arches and buttresses at the base to prevent the wall from falling.

North aisle. Is lighted by 5 windows, four being 8-light the fifth a 3-light with decorated head. Internally, the window has a peculiar decorative carving which may be described as billeting.

## Antiquities. Holy Cross Abbey.

On the western bank of the Suir, 4 miles S.W. of Thurles stands the ruin of the once celebrated Histerian Monastery of Holy Cross.

For nearly five centuries this monastery was famed throughout Ireland and Great Britain as the repository of a particle of the True Cross.

Considerable divergence of opinion exists as to the date of foundation, and the following dates are advanced authoritatively:- 1162, 1182, 1213, 1254 A.D. Whatever the date the popular belief is that it was founded by King Donald O'Brien in the following circumstances: During the 12th century two hermits lived adjacent to the place where the present ruin stands. One day while engaged in prayer one of the hermits was set upon by robbers who, believing that the hermit was possessed of wealth, demanded it. On learning from the hermit that he had no wealth but was dependent on charity, the robbers, disappointed in their hope of plunder, demanded to be shown proof of the virtues and heavenly favour possessed by the hermits so that they also could bear testimony to the outside world. "For instance" they said "make that large tree waver, bend so that its top waves touch the earth".

The hermit in vain remonstrated with them, whereupon they called on God & the saints to witness that he should die if he failed to perform the miracle.

Scarcely had the words been uttered when over bent the tree threatening to crush the robbers, who immediately clutched at its branches to save themselves.

The tree instantly resumed the erect position, bearing the robbers with it, their hands gripping the branches so tightly that they were unable to let go. So they perished.

Shortly afterwards Donald O'Brien, accompanied by a great crowd, arrived and ordered the bodies of the robbers to be cut down leaving the 8 hands attached to the tree.

This miracle so impressed the king that he founded the monastery of Agterlamban or eight hands.

This legend is recorded in an A.S. - "Triumphalia Chronologica Locorum Locis" by Brother Malachy Bastry, a monk (one).

Extract from letter of Mr. C. Rea 9/9/44.

Fr. Fogarty, C.C., Thurles, accuses writers on Holycross Abbey of copying from one another and giving as facts, legends, which they do not trouble to investigate. He describes as rubbish e.g. the "Monastery of the eight hands", and the giving of a relic by an English queen. He says that the Ormond Deeds suggest that before the Cistercian foundation there was an Irish monastery at Holycross. Probably the King of Munster, Murtagh O'Brien, was given the relic by Rome for the restoration of discipline at the Synod of Rathbrassil, at which he presided, about 1110 A.D., and he, in turn, gave the relic to the monks.

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3  
Antiquities Holy Cross Abbey cont

South Aisle is lighted by one window, a 2-light one in the west end. During repair work by the O.P.W. in 1914 a number of carved stones scattered throughout the ruins were collected, and with them the tomb now seen here was practically reconstructed. It consists of a series of arches with floral designs and figures of birds internally, the inside being finely carved.

This aisle also has four arches erected during the middle of the last century to prevent the collapse of the wall between the aisle and nave. In the re-erection the sculptured heads of a mitred Abbot, a cowl'd monk, and two Knights were inserted in the centres of the arches.

In an arched niche in this aisle there is a usual memorial tablet inscribed as follows:-

"Monumentum hoc infra Scripti fieri fecerunt  
13 Augusti 1646. Hic jacet Barnabas Kearney,  
filius Edmundi de Sancta Cruce et Jo Anna  
my blcory, alias Kearney ipsi 440 obit - die  
mensis Juno Domini ... illa vero ... die mensis  
... Juno Domini in quietum animabus  
prophetiter Deus."

A stairs from the South aisle leads, through a plain doorway, to a small chamber, having a fireplace with a heavy mantle of interlocked stones, two arched recesses, and a small window opening into the chancell. This is believed to have been an infirmary room where the sick brethren could be moss. From here a stone staircase ascends to a chamber over the vaulting of the chancell, which is lighted in the east by a window with stone seats and one of small size in each of the side walls, and one at the north-east referred to Brother Hastings, in the manuscript referred to says that it was here the Holy Road was kept.

Chancell. The chancell is vaulted and ribbed, and is lighted by a pointed east window of 6 lights, decorated with lead tracery of magnificent design and workmanship.

The Sedilia stands, as reconstructed on the epistle side of the high altar. This structure

Intrigues: Holy Cross abbey

Chancery Sarcophagus.

which is composed entirely of black marble, is believed to be the most perfect architectural work in Eire. It is also reputed to be the tomb of the "Faithful Woman's son" which story I will give later.

The base, formed of a single slab and carved in a most elaborate design supports the sides and two pillars, forming three divisions with pointed and decorated arches. The roof of the recess is delicately groined and ribbed. The floor is a tombstone showing incised the upper part of a cross.

On the Architrave are four panels in which are arranged four shields, one blank & incised, and four in relief. From the left, the shields portray the following features:-

1<sup>st</sup> shield. The Cross of St George or the Cross of the Abbey

2<sup>nd</sup> The English and French Arms quartered

3<sup>rd</sup>. A chief indented, the Desmond Arms

4<sup>th</sup> The O'Morony Arms - a saltire between twelve gutts above the shields are slabs highly decorated, and surmounting the whole, a canopy of beautiful design.

There have been many diverse opinions amongst archeologists as to the origin and ~~structure~~ purpose of this elaborate structure. It is now generally accepted that it is a ~~simple~~ double purpose - sedilia and tomb.

O'Gorman Tomb. In arched recess opposite the Sedilia is the tomb of the O'Gorman macrishes, in relief, as follows:-

Hic iacet discreti homines S. Donatus O'Gorman et Anna Russell uxoris eius qui obiit AD MCCCC Salute ac de Mario Bennett P.... de Donat et C... m. quor aia.

At the base is a panel with the figure of the Crucifixion in the centre; on the left a figure clothed in a long mantle, with hands joined in an attitude of prayer; on the stone is broken away, leaving only portion of the head of a similar figure.

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Antiquities Holy Cross Abbey cont'd.

Chancel. The Russell Tomb.  
This is a horizontal slab between the Fogarty tomb and the N.E. angle. It is inscribed in relief around the margin.

"Hic jacet nobilis et generosus vir, Jacobus Russell,  
baro de Corkhertay, Libbally et Ballormucie ac  
dus de Chippesellye, q' obiit 11 die metis May, anno  
salutis MCCCCXXX D. E. Butter levor ej.

These are two inscribed slabs on the floor of  
the Chancel:-

1 Hic jacet vir bonus et honestus m... uxor quodam  
hoc ut fieri fecit

2 Hic jacet Cornelius Stormecke et Margareta my  
lavery qui me fieri facerunt, quorum anima  
in pace requiescat Aman. 11 Octobris An Dni.

A slab in the choir is inscribed:-

Hanc teneat Edmund Moyle et Anastasia my connor,  
epis uxor me fieri - conatus reverendiss abr  
fecerunt, idibus Maii An Dni 1626.

There are others in choir and transept having  
carves on them crosses but no inscriptions.

On the right-hand side of the high altar, as  
reconstructed is a stone with a hole about 1 inch  
in depth, said to have been worn by the  
corroding drop which fell on the Fogarty tomb  
when this stone formed part of it. (Stone of  
Good Woman Son).

In the walls on either side of the high altar  
are holes which evidently supported a floor  
According to Brother Malachys Triumphalia Philip II  
of Spain, in 1604 sent ships with munitions and  
slaves to Hugh O'Donnell of Tyrconnell. One of  
the ships which had on board a cedar wood  
statue of the Bl. Virgin was washed off the  
coast of Clare. Late recovered by fishermen  
the statue came into the possession of Lady Margaret  
O'Brien wife of the baron of Dunmore, who presented  
it to the abbot of Holy Cross Bernard Youlou. The

Antiquities Holy Cross abbey contd  
 chancell: Abbot had constructed, over the arch of the high Alter  
 a beautiful Alter in which the statue was placed  
 choir. Extends from the chancel end to the choir arch which  
 supports the gable dividing dividing the choir from  
 the nave. It is partly covered by the ribbed and  
 groined vaulting of the tower.

Two pointed arches open on to the aisle  
 North transept is ribbed & groined similar to the tower  
 lighted by a pointed & decorated 3 light window in the  
 north gable, as well as by two similar windows on  
 a smaller scale in the chapels off it.

During repairs by O.P.W. in 1914 a fresco in colour  
 was discovered on the north & west wall of the  
 transept. It represented three men hunting  
 deer, jackets & caps, engaged in stag hunting.  
 Two of the figures have bows and arrows, one  
 with the bow strung and the arrow in position.  
 The third figure, in the act of blowing a horn  
 and wearing a hood extending over the shoulders,  
 showing a red line near the margin, holds  
 a dog in lead by a thick twisted rope, while  
 moving toward a thicket around the angle where  
 a stag was lying. The drawing is now  
 considerably faded and it will take close  
~~scrutiny~~ <sup>scrutiny</sup> to observe the details. This  
 feature is evidently contemporary with this part of  
 the church i.e. late 14<sup>th</sup> or early 15<sup>th</sup> century. There  
 seem no explanation advanced for the appearance  
 of such an unusual subject in a church.

The doorway in the north end of the transept is modern  
 but the inner pointed arch is original. It leads to a  
 mural stairway which ascends to an apartment  
 over the chapels, which was used as an infirmary.

A King's head, crowned and bordered on either side  
 by pillars, is incised in the transept wall above the  
 arch of the chapel nearest to the chancel. whom does  
 this represent King Donald Bruce or King John or King  
 Henry each of whom gave a charter to Holy Cross?

The two side chapels have ribbed and groined vaulting  
 and ~~membranes~~ and piscinas in the usual positions.

Antiquities contd. Holy Cross Abbey.

Wth Transept.

In the chapel next to the chancery there are two memorial floor flags marked thus:-

Hic quiet manuimus O'Kearney et Elisia Lurcell exor epus  
qui me fecerunt illa obiit 17mo Iunio 4bris AD m 1643  
illa vo 22 Decemb 1643

Hic quiet Ellen, Julia et hinc generosa vixi Joannis  
OMeagles de Blomahenry qui obiit 30 Juny AD 1681

South Transept. This had an ordinary roof instead of the ribbed and groined type. There are 2 side chapels similar to those of the north transept. They are lighted by 9 light pointed and decorated of larger proportions and better style than those in the north transept. The chapels are divided by a wall resting <sup>a double row</sup> on 1 of arches supported by a double row of spiral pillars standing on base which is finely carved on the outside. The roof is delicately ribbed and groined, and the pillars retain the end of iron braces or struts which formerly extended between them in length and across the intervening space. At the upper angles partly defaced figures represent two lions held in leash by a central figure and two angles holding a scroll. With regard to this structure and its purpose there has been much diversity of opinion. Modern opinion concludes that it was a shrine for the occasional exposition of the Holy Rood.

Sacristy.

The sacristy a vaulted and dark chamber is entered through a pointed doorway through the south wall of the transept.

From the transept a stone stairway led up to the 1st floor of the building forming the eastern boundary of the cloister. The walls have been demolished at this level.

Towers.

The 1st floor is entered by a doorway, square headed outside and pointed inside. This floor is paved by ~~stone~~ <sup>bricks</sup> for steps used in the ringing of bell formerly ~~hung~~ <sup>hangin</sup> near the summit. On the same floor there is a smaller chamber over the same stairs.

In the N.E. angle there is a spiral stairway leading to the battlements of the tower which are parapetted. The entrance leads to a passage round the chancery on the outside

(over)

## Antiquities Holyross abbey Contd.

In the eastern angles of the chancel are two buttresses with moulded stone courses, ornamented at one angle only by floral bosses. The N.W. angle of the north transept is supported by similar buttresses, the mouldings of which show carved in relief two lions, two horses with necks crossed, and the head of an angel.

A female carved and decorated head wearing a crown is inserted at the apex of arch of the chancel window on the outside. The bases of the arch at either side show a carved <sup>on</sup> lion, one a crouched manly, the other a helmetted knight.

**The Cloister.** The cloister is situated south of the church. It has two entrances from the N.E. aisle, one near the east and the other near the west angle. The former is <sup>south of the church.</sup> I believe Romanesque; it has a rounded moulded arch resting on imposts connected with representations of floral designs. It is flanked by carved capitals and moulded jambs which slope outwards towards the bays. The second doorway is Gothic and moulded.

In 1928-29 O.P.W. reconstructed a large portion of the cloister arches rounded & pointed from original stones. Among these are two shields of the Butler.

**Doorway Moorish Influence** The first doorway from the cloister to the chapter room shows Moorish influence in its construction. The arch is double; the upper is rounded, and is joined in the centre by the lower which spans from the sides, and forming a double bend turns abruptly upward and forms the keystone. The arches and jambs are decorated with a band of billetting.

There are two central doorways, pointed, moulded and unequal in size.

There is a fourth of rough masonry.

The four apartments are stone vaulted and show built up doorways on the west side of the transept next the church, while the fourth has a mural stairs leading to the first floor.

On the eastern side three moulded Gothic doorways lead from the cloister to vaulted chambers. At the left of the entrance to the chamber adjoining the south aisle, a mural stairs, lighted by a ~~ladder~~ loop leads to the apartments on the 1st floor. A similar stairs on the right of the

(see contr 9)

Antiquities,  
Cloister.

Holyrood abbey Con'd.

entrance at the southern end of the Cloister serves the same purpose.

The chamber at the Southern end has a fireplace with the remains of an oven (brick). There are doorways in the dividing wall.

The 1st floor has three apartments: that next to the church has a fireplace a window with stone seats & a pointed doorway leading to a garderobe, a doorway from the stairs and another window. The middle chamber has three windows, two with seats; three doorways - one to a garderobe. The Southern one has one window with a seat, two fireplaces and an entrance to a closet.

The south end of the cloister was formerly occupied by the refectory and kitchen. Only the foundations now remain. A long moulded <sup>at the entrance</sup> doorway has recently been re-erected to the refectory. The gate-way opening to the road and the surrounding wall, one 15<sup>th</sup> century work.

These are included in the group of ruins lying between the eastern boundary of the cloister & the Suis. The abbots house had two apartments on each floor divided by a wall and gable. The south gable carries a window with stone seats. On the left at ground level a plain doorway leads to a vaulted cellar in the adjoining building lighted by two widely splayed oves in the north wall. The east wall off the cellar has a doorway built up. On the right a door leads to another ~~the~~ chamber (vaulted) lighted by oves. The apartment over these vaults is entered from the upper floor of the abbots house through an arched doorway on the eastern wall. This apartment has stone-seat windows in both gables, two large arched recesses, fireplace, another stone-seat window on the north. A pointed doorway in the NE angle opens to a garderobe. A square ove in the floor communicates with the vaulted chamber beneath.

This building appears to be more modern than the abbots' house.

There is a massive building on the river-side which looks older than the others. Its ground floor

Antiquities Holy Cross abbey cont.

consists of four large, crudely built, vaulted chambers. A high pointed-arch doorway of rough masonry and two square headed doorways give entrance to the three southernmost chambers. The faecula is entered through a square headed doorway at the northern end.

of the walls above the first floor only part of the south gable and west wall ~~stand~~, showing window sills, and a small portion of the east wall bulking a stone-start window, stand.

Between this building and the abbot's quarters there is another structure. The east wall & north end are missing. To the west is another building containing a vaulted kitchen with an arched doorway of cut stone in the west wall. The east wall has an arched fireplace. In the north gable there are: a window at ground floor level, and a small one higher up.

Holy Well. Near the east end of the church and close to the river, <sup>is a well</sup> reputed to be holy. The O.P.W. discovered an underground waterway from this well, which runs parallel with the river, beneath the building adjoining the abbot's house, passes under public road, and enters the river south of the bridge.

Mural Tablet on the west end of the bridge this tablet is erected.  
Bridge It has in relief a shield bearing the arms of <sup>O'Brien</sup> and <sup>Dempsey</sup> and inscribed:-

J.B. and M.B. ad viatores. Nicholas Crowley me fabricauit.  
Jacques Butler baro de Dunboyne etc D Margareta Brien  
ipsa ex eo hunc pontem collapsum, exorsuunt, sus  
suscipit adorans autem anno Domini 1626

Die haec orate abitum resbo, non amplius und  
evadat Stygios auctor sterque laetus.

In the Parsonage grounds opposite the cloister  
Toll Stove. entrance is a circular shaped stone about 4 ft in diameter & 2 ft deep. It is holes in the centre for the fixing of the toll post, which was used in connection with fairs formerly held in the adjoining green.

Fishing Weaves North of the abbey there are a number of fishing weaves, which were probably erected by the monks of the abbey.

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Antiquities: Holy Cross Abbey Contd.

History. Important events connected with abbey

1249. Holy Cross was made subject to Kilkenny.

1538 Philip Russell, abbot surrendered Holy Cross and accepted a pension. Conformed to Protestantism, but later returned to the old faith & was buried in the abbey.

For some unknown reason the abbey was not suppressed by Henry VIII and escaped until 1563 (Elizabeth) when of course it was given to "Black Tom" the Earl of Ormond.

After Russell's defection the abbey fell into decay and never recovered its former splendour.

1549 James Fitzmaurice made a pilgrimage to the abbey in fulfilment of a vow made in Spain, while there seeking aid against the British.

1600 In January Hugh O'Neill during his visit to Munster visited Holy Cross, presented gifts and ~~requested~~ sought guidance & blessings.

1601 Red Hugh O'Donnell and his army camped here on St Andrew's day and sought blessings.

After the Boyne Holy Cross was pillaged by Williamite General Douglas and his soldiers.

1724 Edmund Lacy, the last abbot, and registered <sup>laniarius</sup> ~~laniarius~~ of Holy Cross died.

Thus after 5½ centuries the celebrated Monastery came to an end.

### The Relic of the Holy Cross.

The international fame of Holy Cross as a repository of the relic of the True Cross has already been mentioned. Hereunder is an account of the history of this relic:-

Not long after its foundation, and King Edward, said to be the son of Henry II & Queen Elizabeth Eleanor, was sent to Ireland to collect Peter Pence. On his departure from England his mother gave him a ring, which should be full into very danger during his travels, was to be returned as a warning that his life was in danger.

(over)

How the  
Relic  
came to  
Holy Cross

Antiquities Holy Cross abbey. contd.

As the Prince was proceeding towards Holy Cross, he was waylaid and murdered by members of the O'Gogarty clan in a wood called Keglchluendowney, two miles west of the abbey.

Two years afterwards an old and blind monk of Holy Cross had a vision which directed him to go to where the Prince was slain, where he would see a herd of swine rooting up the ground, & among them a huge white sow. Where the white sow was rooting he would find something by which the monastery would be made famous for ever.

On hearing this remarkable tale recounted to him, the abbot decides to let the aged monk, accompanied by another, go to the spot.

When they arrived they immediately observed the white sow and also a man's arm protruding from the ground where she was rooting. On one of the fingers was a gold ring with the Prince's name engraved on it. As the ring was put into the old monk's hand his sight was immediately restored. In view of what happened all the brethren of the abbey formed a solemn funeral procession and the Prince's body was disinterred. Immediately a spring of fresh water gushed forth from where the body had lain. The water formed a well, which henceforth was known as "Tobar na Maithé" or "The Good Woman's Well". This well is in the townland of Boul a two miles south of the abbey.

The Prince's body was, with due ceremony, borne to the abbey and interred at the Epistle side of the high altar.

The aged monk, whose sight was miraculously restored was desirous to go to England to inform the Queen of his son's sad fate.

Needless to say the Queen was deeply moved, and as a token of her gratitude to the monk, for all they had done, besought <sup>the King</sup> to present to Holy Cross abbey a piece of the Holy Cross he had received from the King of France.

The King reluctantly consented and the relic was consigned to the care of the old monk who for greater safety concealed it in a deep cut which he made in his leg. The wound closed instantly and the monk

(See contn 13)

## Antiquities

## Holy Cross Abbey Cork

set his face for home. After many set-backs he at length arrived safely. As he came near to the monastery, the bells, of their own accord, rang out a joyous peal, and the wound opened and the relic dropped to earth thereby indicating that it had reached its destination.

As a punishment for the cruel murder the O'Hogarty clan is said to have suffered mass famine and pestilence long afterwards and as a mark of divine anger a "Bacon Ulus" or corroding drop fell continuously on the O'Hogarty tomb in Holy Cross for several centuries.

Thus goes the legend of the "Good Woman's Son" as told in Brother Malachy Martin's "Grimmata". The Holy Relic continues in the possession of the monastery up to the end and later, after having passed through many hands was presented to Dr. Brog, Archbishop of Cashel in 1810 by Thomas Laneigan of Castlefogarty. In 1820 Archbishop Brog presented the relic to his niece Elizabeth Lawlor née Brog of Riverstown Co. Kildare. It is still in the possession of ~~this family~~ the descendants of this lady, and the late Dr. Ballaran of Thurlas, who had an opportunity of examining it, describes it, in his book "The Abbey of Holy Cross" page 45, as as a piece of dark wood, apparently very old in the cavity ~~is~~ of an ingrossed silver cross, which bears evidence of having previously been ~~gold~~ gilt.

In this book Dr. Laneigan Ballaran repeats in detail the assertion that, the relic given to Rosarie Convent Cork by Dr. Morgan Bishop of Cork in July 1801, and the Holy Cross Relic are one and the same.

[In compiling the foregoing information on Holy Cross I used D.P. Woulf's Spurious Plan & description, Dr. Ballaran's "The abbey of Holy Cross. Notes & Information given me by Rev. Mr. Hogan C.C. Thurlas & Rev. Mr. Devane President St. Patrick's Thurlas. Their Archdeacon Seymour Morantly]

Photos

OVER

14

Antiquities contd. Moryaliff Church ruins.

Situation South of the Holy Cross - Tany - Drumbane road about 4½ miles from Holy Cross

Description This ruin measures about 46ft by 24ft and is not divided. The only features are two square headed windows, very much disfigured in the last gable. Very poor state of preservation. This was the church of the pre-reformation parish of Moryaliff. Right of Way, but no care of P.W.

## I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF *Eloogarty & Ulinamanaugh*  
 TOWN OR VILLAGE *Holy Cross* PARISH *Holy Cross & Ballaghahill* COUNTY *Limerick*

## ANGLING (Fresh water)

If there is only one river or lake in the parish this form (B) will suffice. For additional waters Form Ba to be used.

RIVER OR LAKE *Suir* Nearest point to town (distance) *at village*

## KINDS OF FISH HELD:

*Trout,*

## AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon ..... Sea trout ..... Brown trout *1 1/2 lbs to 2 lbs.*

## BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon ..... Sea trout ..... Brown trout *April - June.*

## SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon .....  
Sea trout .....  
Brown trout *Shies, Partridge, orange Black*

State if angling is—"entirely free"; "free except on preserved stretches"; etc.  
*Free except on preserved stretches.*

Preserved stretches with names and addresses of Proprietors:

*About 2 1/2 miles of both banks of the Suir controlled  
by Holycross Fishing Club.*

*Coarse fishing  
Rods are rather plentiful and the fishing is  
entirely free.*

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

*None*

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

*Thurles - hotel.*

Local Angling Club *The Holy Cross Fishing Club.* Membership Fee *Terms on application*  
Secretary (and Address) *Hon Sec. Major W. Gibson Ordmayle  
Ballabell.*

## SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

.....  
.....  
*none*  
.....

Kinds of fish to be caught :

Owners of boats, type of boats, and charges per day :

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
*none*  
.....  
.....  
.....

Bait available locally ? ..... *none* Fishing tackle ? .....

Representative of B.S.A.S. or other sea angling Assn. ....

## GOLFING

Name of Club ..... *none* No. of holes .....

Situation and brief description of course :

Name of Professional ..... *none* .....

Is there a clubhouse on course ? ..... Licensed ? .....

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day ..... Per week .....

I.T.A. SURVEY.**ACCOMMODATION**FORM E.BARONY *Elagnet & Kilmanagh*COUNTY *Wicklow*TOWN OR VILLAGE *Killycros*PARISH *Killycros & Ballymahill***ACCOMMODATION**

## RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS

HOTELS	NUMBER OF			Licensed	REMARKS
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lav. (state kind)		
<i>none</i>					<i>There is a publichouse called Reano which gives by the name of hotel; but which wants sufficient neither food nor accommodation.</i>
<b>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</b>					
<i>none</i>					

DATE *23/9/03*

(Additional Forms to be used if necessary)

Surveyor.

(Signed) *M. Horne*

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Clonacatty & Kilnamanagh  
TOWN OR VILLAGE Holy Cross PARISH Holy Cross & Balligatull COUNTY Tipperary

### ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE CLODIAUGH Nearest point to town (distance) 2½ miles.

#### KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Trout.

#### AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout ½ lb.

#### BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout April-June.

#### SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon .....

Sea trout .....

Brown trout Spider, Olive, Greenwells, Glory, Green Apple Duns, Partridge

State if angling is—"entirely free"; "free except on preserved stretches"; etc.

Entirely free.

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Coarse Fishing.

Some pike fishing (free) in the lower reaches Clodagh is a tributary of the Suir.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

None

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Hurds.

Local Angling Club..... Membership Fee.....

Secretary.....

DATE

95/9/49

(Signed)

McBreen

Surveyor.

## RACING

(Including "Point-to-Point" and "Flapper" meetings)

No. of meetings normally held during the year ..... *none*.

Under which rules ?.....

Situation of course.....

## HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds .....

Harriers..... *Thunders & Kilshane.*

Beagles .....

## COURSING

Name of Club..... *none*. Meeting held annually ?.....

## GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company..... *none*.

Races on (nights).....

## SHOOTING

Brief notes on shooting areas, stating kinds of wild fowl or game, and if free shooting is available :

*Pheasant, partridge & wild fowl in small supply. Shooting is poor.*

If preserved, give names of landowners or lessees and addresses :

*Entirely free except where preserved by the Thunders housing Club.*

Shooting Club..... *none* Secy.....

## CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club..... *none* Competitions held ?.....

## ROWING AND SAILING

Rowing or yacht clubs, with address of club-house.

*none*

## GAMES AND RECREATIONS

Name of Club or Committee concerned with the following :  
(In each case give location of sports ground or recreation hall)

Gaelic Football	Holy Cross G.A.A. Club	Holy Cross
Hurling	do	
Handball	none	Handball alley ? Rathkearnan.
Soccer	none	
Rugby	none	
Cricket	none	
Hockey	none	
Bowls	none	
Bowling (on public roads)	none	
Lawn Tennis	none	Kinds of courts
Croquet	none	
Billiards	none	
Badminton	none	
Table Tennis	none	
Bridge Club	none	
Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing)	none	

## ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club	none	Events held under rules of
do.		

## ANNUAL EVENTS

Give list of annual events held in the town or parish, naming promoters (Clubs, etc.) in each case. Include pilgrimages and patterns.

Promoters
Michaelmas Day - 29th Sept is observed as a parochial holiday when there is a pattern at Holy Cross

DATE 25/9/42

(Signed) *Bob Morris*  
Surveyor.

**I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY****AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.****TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)**BARONY OF *Eliogarty Kilnamanagh*TOWN OR VILLAGE *Holy Cross* PARISH *Holy Cross & Ballycahill* COUNTY *Tipperary*Location and brief description. Population *110*

The village of Holy Cross is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Thurles and 9 from Cashel on the road between these towns. It is a small straggling village of one side, which looks across the river and a green on the river which flows sluggishly south. Holy Cross originated as a township round the famous monastery,

Is there a Town Hall? *none* Location

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

*none*

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

*none***PUBLIC SERVICES**

Nearest station *Thurles* Distance  *$3\frac{1}{2}$  miles* Bus? *Princess Alice* Gas? *none* G.S.R. *Kilkenny - Limerick*  
 Mon - Tues - Sat  
 Public lighting by—Electricity? *none* Gas? *none* *Thurles - Mon - Tues - Fri - Sat*

**DANCING**Dance hall *none* Proprietor**CINEMAS AND THEATRES**Cinemas *none* Pictures shown  
(nights)Theatre *none* Kind of shows  
(Drama, Comedy &c.)

## LIBRARIES

Public Libraries ..... Branch of Carnegie Library at Holy Cross U.S.

Private Lending Libraries ..... none.

## CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church ..... Holy Cross Catholic Services (Sundays) ..... 11 am  
Ballycahill ..... do ..... 10 am  
Holy Cross Church of Ireland ..... 11 am

## POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office ..... Holy Cross. Full Service. {  
Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone)

## BANKING

Banks ..... none

## SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers ..... none

Photographic Stores ..... none.

## SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool ? ..... none. Location ..... This is quite suitable at many points

Public Baths ? ..... none. Location ..... —

**SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.**

Social Clubs

*none.*

Cultural Societies

*none.*

**INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS**

Industries

*none.*

Handcrafts or Cottage Industries (Give names of craftsmen, employer, &c.) :

*none.*

**PUBLIC MONUMENTS**

(Brief description ; inscription to be quoted)

*none.*

**IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

*none.*

**SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

Holy Cross Boys & Girls N.S.  
Baby Cashill do

**HOSPITALS**

*none*

## FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets ..... *none* .....

Weekly market day ..... *none* ..... Half-holiday ..... *Wednesday*

## GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

*none* .....

## CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis .....  
*none* .....

Motors (Touring) .....

Boats (State type) ..... *none* .....

Bicycles ..... *none* .....

Caravans ..... *none* .....

Horses ..... *none* .....

## CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location ..... Landowner .....

Local Improvements Committee ..... *none* .....

Secretary .....

DATE ..... *23/9/43* .....

(Signed) ..... *W. O'Brien,*  
Surveyor.

Juverna Press, Ltd., Dublin.

## HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.  
Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

See history Holy Cross abbey attached.

## HISTORIC HOUSES ; BURIAL PLACES

(a) Birth places or one-time residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities.  
Location and description. Present owner or occupant. (b) Burial places of distinguished  
personalities.

See attached historical notes on Holy Cross abbey

## SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

Spas formerly in use. Location and present condition. Access. Right of way to public ?  
Mineral content and curative properties so far as known locally.

none

## CURIOSITIES

Curious objects, structures, monuments, landmarks, sights, etc. For example, Wishing stones or "chairs," freaks of nature (i.e. grotesque rock formations)—in fact, any scene or object which may be regarded as queer, quaint or mirth-provoking. Location and description. Any story or legend to be related.

none

## CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

Brief account of old customs, traditional cures, etc., still practised in the district. Pilgrimages to Holy Wells, Shrines, etc. Patterns.

Michaelmas Day 29th Sept is kept as a special holiday known locally as Holy Cross day when crowds gather at Holy Cross

Holy Well. The Good woman's well.

See my account of Holy Cross abbey attached ~~for~~ for further information about this well. It is situated in the townland of Boulia about 3 miles N.W. of Holy Cross.

(Signed)

W'Brien,

Surveyor.

DATE 23/9/43.