

valley of the Mayne which
has not been touched one
time or another.

Yours truly
J. W. Deane.

Lieut. General Pitt Rivers
D.C.L. 2^e

PR Box 1 / D4

2^d May 94

Subhor Mission S.
Dublin.

Dear General Pitt Rivers

I delayed replying to your
letter until I had made some
inquiries about square feet

I find no body here knows
much about them and I did
not work with you on
the subject. There is very little
to be done in Ireland in the
way of Ratha Excavation the

injudice is to assign working
any of this class of monuments.
I hear that square rates

are nearly confined to the
Co. Kerry forest. I only know of
two. That have come under
my observation. One big near
single of which you will
find an illustration in the
pamphlet I send of a paper
I read before the Royal Irish
Academy. (I thank you for
yours). The other is the great
earth work of Dunkeltari
near Downpatrick.

At Tara there is an oblong
mound and several

Round ones but none square.
It was suggested making of
cautions at Tara but
here the prejudice is too
strong & the extent so great
& the difficulty of reasoning
where to begin. I wrote to you
some time ago about Tara.
but we have done nothing.
There is one Rath now
near the Bogue which I am
very anxious to investigate
but the owner Mr. M. has
refused his permission it is
the only Rath in the

PR Box 1/D4

A REPORT

OF

ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN CO. KERRY.

BY

SIR THOMAS NEWENHAM DEANE.

(PLATES I. and II.)

A PAPER

Read before the ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY, February 13, 1893,

and

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IV.

A REPORT ON ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN CO. KERRY.
By SIR THOMAS NEWENHAM DEANE.

(PLATES I. AND II.)

[Read FEBRUARY 13, 1893.]

DINGLE, CORKAGUINY, AND SURROUNDING DISTRICT.

In the "Transactions of the Kilkenny Archæological Society," for the years 1852-3 (vol. ii.) will be found a most interesting article headed Dingle in the Sixteenth Century. I commend it to those who care for antiquity. An extract will here suffice to show that the district is rich in early remains, and is a fruitful field for investigation. "Here, indeed, would the antiquary be tempted to designate this Western 'tongue of land' as a Baal-bec of Ireland, if not of Western Europe. I sometime since amused myself by making out from the Ordnance Survey Maps and other sources of my own a tabular list of the principal remains of antiquity in the barony of Corkaguiny, and I found them to be as follows:—Eleven stone cahers, three cairns, forty calluraghs, or obsolete burying-grounds, where unbaptized children only are interred, ten castles, eighteen artificial caves, twenty-one churches in ruins, and nine church sites, two hundred and eighteen cloghauns or beehive-shaped stone houses, sixteen cromleacs, twelve large stone crosses, three hundred and seventy-six earthen forts or raths, one hundred and thirteen gallauns, or immense rude standing-stones, fifty-four monumental pillars, most of them bearing Ogham inscriptions, fifteen oratories, nine penitential stations, sixty-six wells, many of them bearing the name of some saint, and twenty-nine miscellaneous remains." (*Loc. cit.*, p. 136.)

Thus wrote Richard Hitchcock in 1852. The list is a large one. I have not verified the accuracy of it; but from my investigation of the district, I have no hesitation in stating that few parts of Ireland, or elsewhere, are so interesting as the barony of Corkaguiny.

I have also to refer to the interesting pamphlet written by Du Noyer on the ancient city of Fahan, which forms a leading feature in the district.

At the close of last year the ruins on the property of Mr. Drummond, of London, were scheduled under the provisions of Sir John

Lubbock's Act of 1882. Since then they have been vested in the Board of Works by an Order in Council, and a portion of the last grant from the Treasury has been devoted to their investigation.

I was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. D'Arcy, of whose zeal and efficiency I cannot speak too highly; and the result, so far as it has gone, has been most satisfactory. The ruins, such as Gallerus, certain cells, the Church of Kilmakedar, and others at the north side, Garfinny and Ballintaggert on the southern, have for some time been cared for under the vesting order of 1875; the funds being found by a grant under the Church Act of 1885, and subsequently increased.

To visit these ruins described by Hitchcock requires some climbing, rough walking, and knowledge as to where they lie to enable a visitor to see them. The roofs of the beehive cells as a rule have fallen in; the walls are standing, and the interior filled up with fallen *débris*; the very fact of the destruction of the roofs has protected what remains. The work I have done consists of removing this *débris*, and laying bare the original floors, and further investigating what exists beneath the flooring.

In 1844 Dr. Petrie wrote an interesting letter to the late Sir F. Larcom, pointing out the great interest of the district; and the present Sir F. Burton, who was then an official in Ireland, replied to Petrie in a long and exhaustive letter,¹ in which he rather doubts Petrie's fixing the date of these structures so remote as he was disposed to. Burton bases his objection to remote antiquity on not finding the beehive structures surrounded by a cashel or wall, but I think he must have overlooked many instances where such buildings are so surrounded, especially at Glenfaun.

There is considerable evidence that a great Milesian expedition from Spain, some time before our era, landed in this part of Ireland. Differences of opinion exist as to the exact spot, but all point to a locality in proximity to Dingle. I do not venture to give any direct opinion as to the origin of the structures which cover the peninsula, but rather give the results of my investigations, and allow the reader to form his own conclusions, and press further for a solution of the difficulty.

On the other hand, there is evidence that in St. Brandon's time, the 6th century, the district of Dingle was inhabited by a large colony of monks, three thousand in number; so the remains studding this district may claim the more ancient date of the Milesian invasion, or the

¹ See Stokes' *Life of George Petrie*, p. 163.

more modern of St. Brandon's time. Suffice to say, the whole district from Dunleer Mountain, on the eastern side of Dingle, to Sleah Head, the western promontory, is full of structures of most ancient date, some above, and others underground, which have only been partially investigated.

The funds available for the current year have been carefully used, and I trust the results are not over-estimated from an archaeological point of view.

I have not extended my investigation to the country east of Dingle, but a reference to an Ordnance sheet, upon which I have noted in red many of the numberless structures which abound in this country, is sufficient to show what a field of exploration is available. Taking the promontory of Bull Head alone, I have visited many forts and circles, some of the former surrounded by recessed apartments, and evidently with substructures. Across Bull Head is a massive wall, which I have not explored, and whose uses are as enigmatical as the great fort of Dunenges, at Arran, or the forts at Dunbeg.

One most remarkable fact is that the inhabitants have a definite name for each dwelling or fort, no matter how much ruined or unob-servable to the visitor. Amongst such designations I find:—

The city of the course field.	The new city.
The big structure.	The city of the Western Coast.
The cell of the old inhabitant.	The fortifications of the rock.
The cell of the big family.	The lair of the little hare.
The little fort.	The black structure.
The city of the glen of the slope.	The white structure.
Martin's big city.	The structure of the high place.
Martin's little city.	The structure overlooking the other forts.
The city on the big point.	

These are a few of the names I have hitherto got; but I have no doubt that further investigation will add to the nomenclature, and that the cells and other ruins mentioned by Hitchcock can be scheduled and named.

These names may again raise the doubt as to the antiquity of these remains; but it must be borne in mind that the majority of them have been overgrown with weeds and covered with stones, and hardly recognizable to the eye until investigated carefully and excavated, so that it is more than unlikely that modern names should be attached to spots which gave such little evidence of their existence, unless

ancient tradition handed down the names and uses to those who now occupy the country.

The general character of the buildings are as follows:—
Earthen forts, with and without subterranean chambers.

Tombs. Circular dwellings in groups of trees, with outlying chamber, which was possibly for the dog or other domestic animal; cells underground connected with circular cells; chambers beneath the ground containing bones which, when brought to the air, vanish into powder.

Forts constructed of dry masonry, with chambers in the thickness of the wall. Ditches and vallums, underground passages giving access to the open land, outside the fortification.

The ancient road of Fahan, separated from the surrounding land by stones fixed in the ground.

With these remains I deal *seriatim* as far as the investigation hitherto has extended.

I may also add that the class of structures referred to are not confined to the mainland, but that the Islands of the Blasket contain many similar subterranean cells.

DUNBEG—THE LITTLE FORT.

(Plate I.)

On a cliff or promontory, surrounded on three sides by water, the fourth the mainland, about 200 yards from the old Fahan road, is Dunbeg. Close to the cliff is a well-built wall of large stones, "A" in plan; removed from the cliff is the circular structure marked "B" round on the exterior, square internally, certainly stone roofed, with entrance and observation chambers. About 20 feet from this building is a massive wall, about 15 feet thick, with chambers and passages. This wall extends from cliff to cliff for a distance of about 240 feet. A reference to the plan shows the chambers, observation holes, and other appliances to protect the entrance door shown on plan.

On raising a flat stone near the entrance a subterranean passage was discovered, 59 feet long, the roof of flat stones supported on others of massive size, each pair of stones forming the roof, which had circular perforations at intervals for ventilation. My belief is that this passage communicated with the last of the ditches shown on plan, and formed an exit to the open ground outside the lines of fortifications, which are four in number. I have failed to discover this exit, but I

am convinced that it originally existed. The similarity of the fort to those in Arran is remarkable, with the exception that whereas the great enclosure at Dun Engis, in Arran, is protected by a "Cheveux de Frise" of upright stones, the fort at Dunbeg is protected by earthworks. Whether the fort described was for protection from the sea, or a retreat from the land, I leave it to the consideration of those interested in archæology.

Inland, in the direction of Dingle, is another structure, also of the fort type, the entrance being marked with great stones, and part of the surrounding wall is intact.

I have not investigated this great structure, but there it exists, and I trust next year, when funds are available, to make a more exhaustive examination of it.

High up to the right is the ancient Fahan-road, well marked, and faced at intervals with upright stones.

GLENFAUN.

(Plate II., fig. 1.)

Passing to the westward we next come to Glenfaun. Here it will be observed that the cells indicated in the plan are surrounded by a massive wall.

The following is an extract from Mr. William D'Arcy's report:—

As I reached Glenfaun this evening the men at work had just removed the floor of one of the cells, which revealed a deep opening into the floor. A candle was procured, and an exploring party entered the opening. The entrance was at first very small; the passage, however, widened and continued to enlarge in space for about 20 feet. At the end of this passage a small opening way was met. Getting through this there was a slope of 3 feet, leading to a chamber 5 feet wide, 5 feet high, and 13 feet long, with two air passages, 9 inches square, 3 feet from the floor. The length of these passages could not be calculated.

(A) Shows passage and chamber.

(B) Outline of cells communicating with boundary wall.

(C) Stone uprights¹ leaning south.

(D) An arrangement of upright stones on cell floor. Dotted lines indicate a possible connexion between C and D.

¹ "Upright stones. What these stones mean it is difficult to say; but their presence in this collection of cells, as well as in others, tend to refer to some rite, religious or otherwise, and the upright stone C, bearing north and south, is also a curious feature, found generally in the greater number of these circular structures."

It is curious to note that these cells are surrounded by a thick and closely built wall of dry stones, obviously not noted by Burton, and tending to Petrie's theory of great antiquity.

The curious stone now placed in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy formed what may be called a jamb-stone of one of the circular cells in this fort of Glenfaun. It is inscribed with two ancient crosses, one on either side; beneath are hollows and connecting spirals; on the other side ornamentation below the cross, and on the edge a round ornament, an Ogham inscription.

UNDERGROUND CAVE AT CLOGHANE, VENTRY.

(Plate II., fig. 2.)

The entrance, which is small, about two feet in the ground, is 7 feet from A to A', and gradually widens from the outside end at A, towards the inner A' notice it turns and forms a chamber with No. 1.

First Chamber.—This cell is 12 feet long from B to B', 4 feet wide, and 5 feet high; the roof is composed of 4 lintels laid across from east to west. On the western side is a passage 3 feet long, 1 foot 6 inches wide, and 1 foot 10 inches high. In this passage is a flag set upright, 2 feet from the outside, and 1 foot from the inside, through which an opening is scooped.

Second Chamber.—This is 9 feet long from east to west; width at east end 5 feet, at west 6 feet; height 5 feet. The roof consists of three flags, laid from north to south.

The walls of the 1st and 2nd cells, which incline from the floor to the roof, are built of small rubble stones without mortar, and are so accurately fitted to each other that it would be hard to remove one of them.

The passage at the south-west corner of cell 2 dips about 4 feet, and at a distance of 3 feet runs for about 9 feet, where it enters chamber 3. This passage is 3 feet wide and 4 feet high.

Third Chamber.—This chamber is in the shape of an inverted canoe, is 14 feet long from acute northern angle to south, and in which some loose stones are piled up as high as the roof, and which being deep seems as if a drain led from it to take off the water. Height of this, 5 feet; width, 6 feet.

The passage from chamber 3 runs west for 6 feet, 2 feet wide, and 2 feet high, and then through a hole 1 foot 6 inches wide, and 1 foot

8 inches high under a lintel, it turns by 6 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 2 feet 6 inches high into cell 4.

Fourth Chamber.—This is over 13 feet long, 6 feet where widest between north entrance and south passage, and 5 feet where highest. On south side of heap of stones and eastern end are remains of bones and a skull; shell of skull crumbled when touched. The passage from 4th to 5th cell is scarcely 14 inches in diameter at the entrance, but widens to 2 feet 6 inches by 2 feet high, and is 6 feet long.

Fifth Chamber.—Length, 12 feet; breadth, 4 feet; height, 5 feet. There are stones piled in east end; saw no bones. The roof of west end, which is not acute, is formed of rough gravel and stones.

Sixth Chamber.—A passage 5 feet by 3 feet, and 3 feet high, runs from west end of 4th cell to the 6th cell, which running north and south is 13 feet by 6 feet, and 6 feet high. At south end are remains of a skull and bones among some stones, and at north end are dry stones piled up. The passage at west side runs north-west 14 feet by 1 foot 6 inches and 1 foot 8 inches high to an entry 9 feet long by 5 feet wide, and 3 feet 6 inches high to 7th cell.

Seventh Chamber.—This cell runs east and west; is 13 feet by 5 feet, and 6 feet high. Remains of a skull and bones among stones at west end; stones piled up at east end passage at north side, 9 feet long by 3 feet wide, and 3 feet high to 8th cell.

Eighth Chamber.—This is the last cell; is 14 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 6 feet high; it seems the driest of them all. The roof at eastern end appears to be partly fallen in. The air through these chambers is more close than cold.

OBSERVATIONS.

All these chambers, with the exception of 1 and 2, are excavations, and are more or less in the shape of inverted canoes or boats. How the material was scooped out through the narrow passage is a mystery.

The supposition for a concealed cell rests on the fact that at east end of chamber 7 are upright flags or heavy stones. They do not appear to have been placed from the inside of the chamber, but from the opposite side; hence a notion exists that there is a chamber behind them. The same theory applies to chamber 3, where stones are piled up at south end, but not with the same degree of plausibility as at chamber 7.

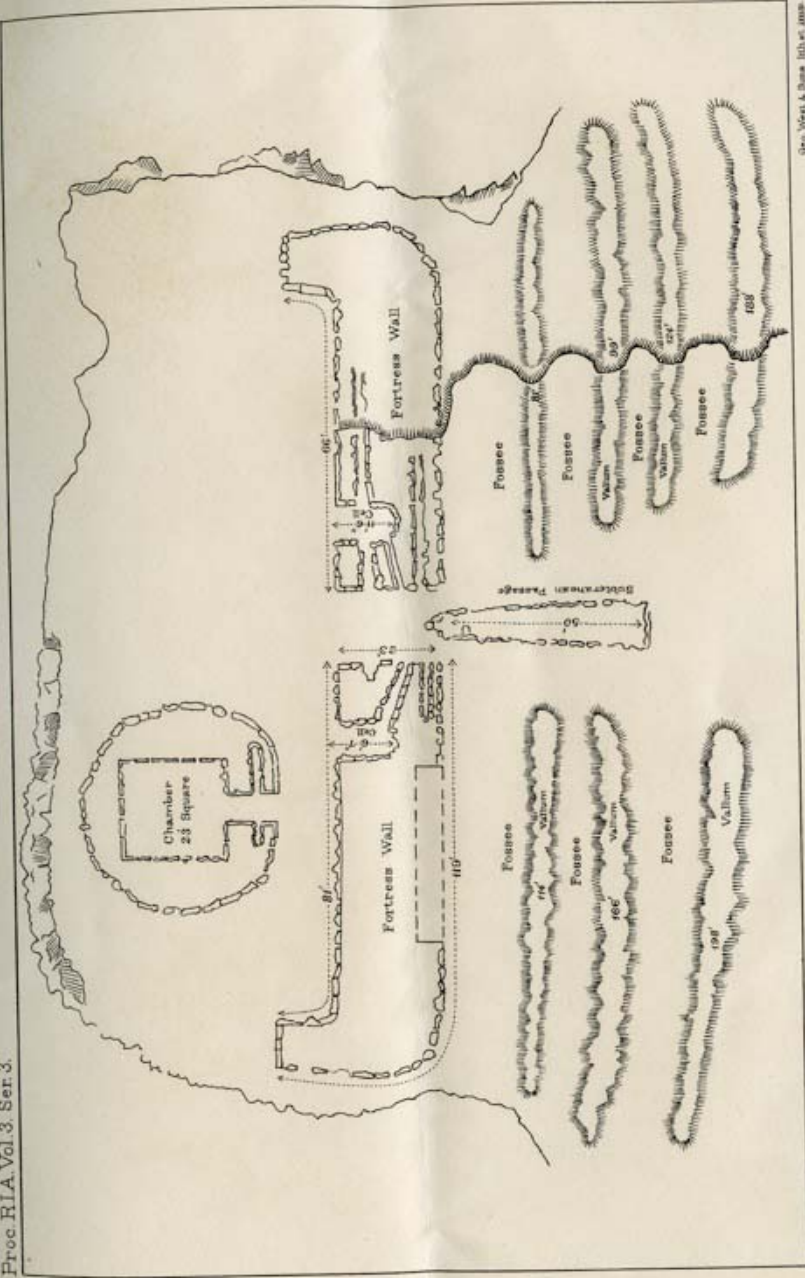
It is difficult to make an exhaustive Paper on the buildings I have brought under your notice for many reasons: firstly, that next to

nothing except what might be ashes were found in the beehive cells; that I am assured a sword was found in similar structures near Tralee; that what were evidently wells have been discovered, and the curious projecting stones in nearly all the cells, there is nothing up to the present to identify the buildings with any particular race, or to indicate with a degree of certainty their age. But this paucity of evidence should not delay further investigation or leave a country so full of mystery unexplored.

I may here add, *apropos* to the subject of Ancient Monuments, that an excellent extension of Sir John Lubbock's Bill passed both Houses of Parliament, which enables not only prehistoric monuments to be scheduled for preservation, but embraces extra Ecclesiastical ruins. The consent of the owner is necessary for the exclusion of a ruin, and no time has been lost in making fresh selections.

The Royal Irish Academy have been consulted; and I have the pleasure of stating that not only is public interest alive to the importance of the protection of the relics of the past, but that the suggestions of public bodies and individuals are in excess of the number of ruins that it would be prudent (considering the limited funds) to place under the control of the State.

I trust with careful management of the funds available, and possibly with an additional annual grant, that no such thing should occur as the desecration of a ruin which ought to be protected from further removal, and that Irish Buildings, numerous as they are, but simple and grand in their character, owing to the hardness of the material, and the limited sum disposable at the hands of those who erected them, may remain as marks in history, more faithful and more enduring than written lore.



Thos. N. Deane del.

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DUNBEG FORT. GROUND PLAN.

