

HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.

TIR AN ÉIR (TIRENAR Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.)
 This is a large district, situated midway between Hallaranny and Berrishole Bridge and still called by its Irish name as above. The name means "the country of the slaughter." Local tradition is the only source of explanation for the name. Tradition says that the name was given as a result of the fierce battles fought here by the Fianna Éireann in the 1st or 2nd Cent. A.D. Tradition also says that St. Patrick met Ossian in this district, and the two great men held a conversation—the saint speaking of heaven and the next life, and the warrior of the great deeds of the Fianna. The actual conversation does not survive but Ossian is credited with the following verse which also explains the name TIR AN ÉIR:

Tír an Éir, an tír seo tír,
 'Zus zo lá, an tír seo bairdear a 'Zusem. R
 'Zus a pádraic na mbairdeall mbán,
 Ní zay fáz zuzad an z-uzay.

The name Tír an Éir occurs in the Book of Leinster and therefore must have been in use previous to 1150 A.D.

Ref:—Rev. H. McDonnell: Berrishole Abbey (Catholic Truth Soc. pamphlet).

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.

Eúcorzmeisei Ó Cláiriz (Peregrine O'Clary), one of the Four Masters is said to have been buried within the ruins of Berrishole Abbey. In his will which is dated "COR na h-Éirice, Feabha 8th 1664" Ó Cláiriz expresses a wish that he be buried within this abbey. The original will is still in existence. It says: "I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and I charge my body to be buried in the monastery of Burghéir Umhail (Berrishole)." It is not known whether he was actually buried here or not as no monument to him survives, but local tradition points out a spot under the tower as his grave.

Fr. Manus MacSweeney. In Berrishole Abbey just west of the tower is a standing cross marking the grave of this cleric. He was a Catholic priest captured on Achill Island and hanged in Newpoint on the 8th of June 1799 for his alleged sympathy with the forces of Humbert in the rebellion of 1798. ~~(see separate entry)~~

Austin O'Malley. Beside Fr. Mac Sweeney's grave is that of Austin O'Malley, one of the leaders of the Irishry who met Humbert when he landed at Killala in 1798. O'Malley fought with Humbert till the defeat of the latter.

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.

Iron Spring—Half a mile east of the disused railway station at Hallaranny and on the side of the disused railway is a spring well the water of which contains valuable tonic iron properties. Water from this well was in great demand up to about 30 yrs ago. It is but infrequently sought for now. The well is still in existence and maintains a constant supply of water.