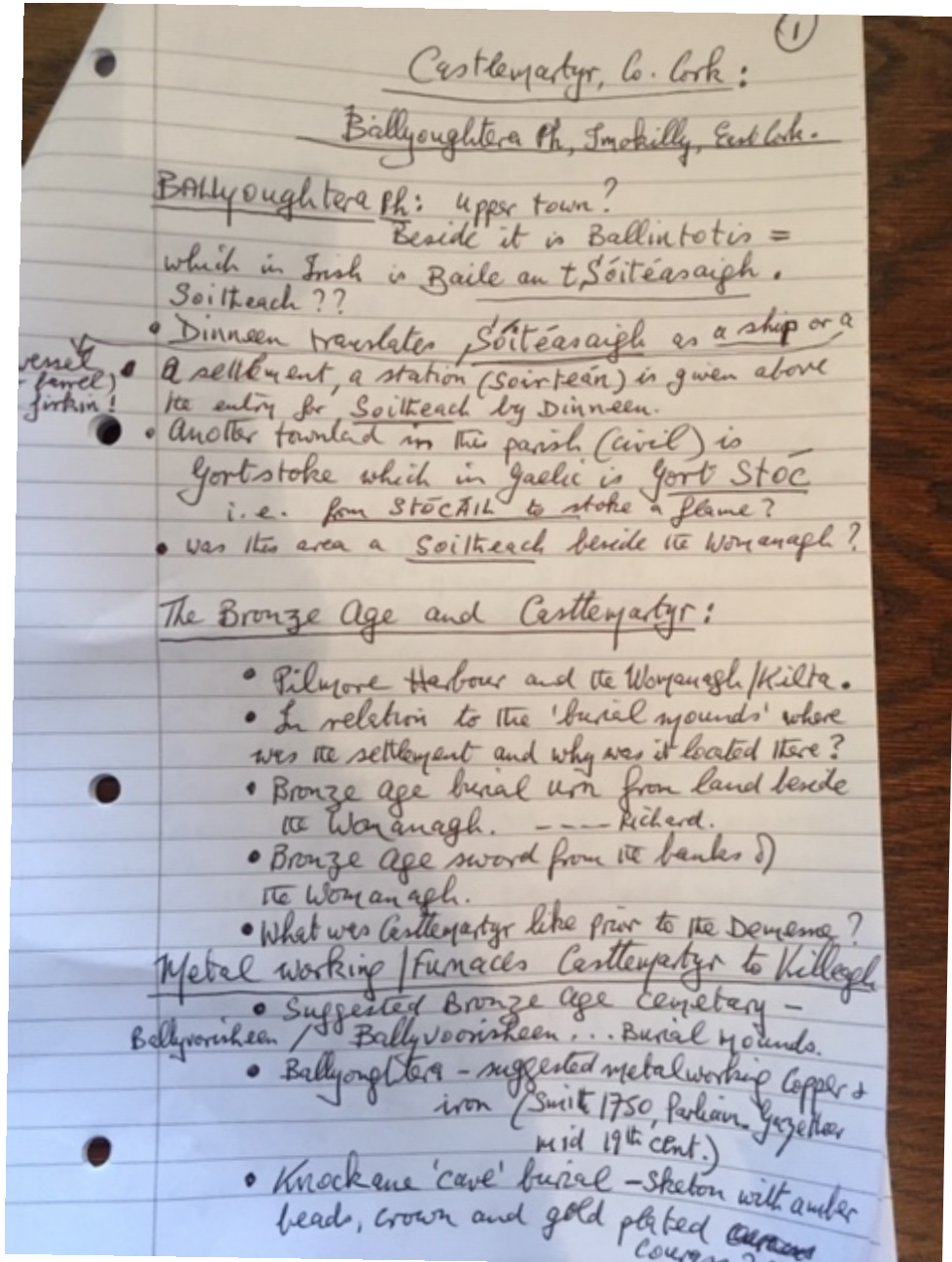


Ballyoughtera Parish (Castlemartyr, Cork)



(2)

Sketch using extracts from the mid-17th Century Downe Survey of Ireland for Ballyoughtera (Castlemartyr) civil parish, Inishilly, East Cork.

- Rather than using the word Ballyoughtera, the ~~modern~~ trail map for the woodland in which Ballyoughtera parish church (in ruins) is spelt BALLYVOUCHTERA. Ballyoughtera is the name of a medieval parish absorbed to an extent by the Castlemartyr demesne once the residence of the Earls of Shannon and of the Fitzgeralds, seneschals of Inishilly, a family of Norman origin. If the actual name of Ballyoughtera was Ballyvouchera then perhaps an association with medieval or earlier metalworking might be reflected in the place name. On the Ordnance Survey 1st ed. 6" maps of 1841-2 Ballyoughtera is the name of a parish but there is no townland of this name within it. This scenario is not unusual as townlands or sub-units from which civil parish names are derived are often lost. There was no formal recording of such names i.e. subdenominations and fieldnames during the mapping project except for what gets mentioned in the Letters and Name Books. Sometimes the Tithe Apportionment books may contain such names by chance (1811-1850?).
- So perhaps the Downe Survey has useful information.

If Ballyvoughlara is the original name of the ruined medieval parish church on the periphery woodland of the Derrone landscape, does this name mean Baile (homeplace, settlement) Múchta i.e. homeplace of the Múch. In

Irish (Gaelic) Múch means fumes, as in 'Múch a déanamh' meaning to emit fumes.

It also means to suffocate. 'Míotal a mhúchadh' means to quench metal.

Therefore does Ballyvoughlara mean the homeplace of the fumes, of metal quenching? If so, does Baile Stóc refer to a homeplace where fires are stoked i.e. Ballystoked townland. If these place names are indicating a historical period when metal furnaces were active in the locality what other names of fields or sub-units of townlands reflecting this survive?

The Parliamentary gazetteer of the mid-19th century mentions a tradition of metalworking in the locality (which is beside Killymountain Cill na Coille) meaning the Cell of

(wood)

an Mhontánaigh. Charles Smith's history of Cork City and County (1749/50 AD) also mentions metalworking traditions in the locality of Castleparrys. Why was it an ore source for iron and/or copper? If not, how was it brought to the furnaces via river or land carriage? Where did it come from? Waterford's copper coast? Via Pilymore Harbour?

• Mhontánaigh means - - - peat land for turf? (see Diinnein!) Turf for fires + Celtic building?

- Was Ballyvaughlin a Roman township, a 'vill' with Caher Ultain beside i.e. the dún/cáhar of Ultain --- St. Ultán / Eilín --- as of Kilbride and Kinsale --- an early monastic community and associated settlement? Castleparty, prior to the Castle was it the vill of Maige Tire i.e.

the plainsland of the locality, once the land connected to the Dún/Cáhar given over to Ultain? Was it part of the early monastic demesne lands of Colmán's monastery (7th cent) at Cloyne and of the Uí Mochuille tribeland?

- It is recorded that Ballyvaughlin Church was built in 1549. But architecturally, one end of the structure appear much earlier in its masonry work. Surrounding the church site and its graveyard a bank and ditch, elongated oval, survives at the entrance gate and is traceable around the site. Its termion (inner)? So, how old was the original structure and was it an early medieval monastic site a field or two away from the banks of the Wexhamph river? By 1640s site in ruins? A townland in this parish is Caher Lane i.e. Caher

See the Appendix 11 books.

There are also some cell named townlands in the parish i.e. Kilbree, 'Kilburiga (Cill Lorga?) Kilmountain' as well as a Carragh (marsh) and a gort, a gorteen, a farran.

Do these pieces of information amount to a semi-ambitious monastic settlement around a clavin or Laura/lyre? If so, [Cill Bhrú] where are these places and or was Caher Ultain the focus?

- On the Downe Survey map ~~Ballymore~~ Ballyoughtra (Balleoutra) has Killmurree & Bally in Ballyoughtra.
- Cill Murree (Cill Moire?). Was this the name of the early medieval church there? Was it founded as a cell of someone called Mery (Moire or Maire)? Milshane (Mill Sean - old?) is on its west side. Kilree its North side. Drowland ridge around it.
- The Downe Survey map also shows:
 - a sketch/symbol for a church building.
 - On the east side of Balleoutra is the 'Common to the adjacent townland'. Was this the meadow (the cluain) of a hermitage here? This is another portion of ~~Bally~~ Balleoutra on its opposite side of the Common. (Common or town community land area). Killurgane & Ballintotas have a tower house. Ballyoughtra appear as a townland with church and is spelt Ballioghtra. On its south side is Tober Dowerane (?) i.e. a well (holy well associated with the church site?). Do all of this add up to the trace elements of an early medieval monastic settlement?
 - The Terrier (notes!) for Ballyoughtra states "Ballyoghtra In-ments are on Killurgan and Ballytota a Caste in Ballyog is an old Decayed church with the Caste of Ballyma and some James houses and cabins in other places of the parish".

