

So what did happen at the  
Peake Souterrain?

If one takes the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century  
account of Rev. Myradake Cox to be  
reasonably accurate in its detail, then  
what can be understood from the site  
concerning the event(s) which led to skeletal  
remains being discovered in this souterrain?

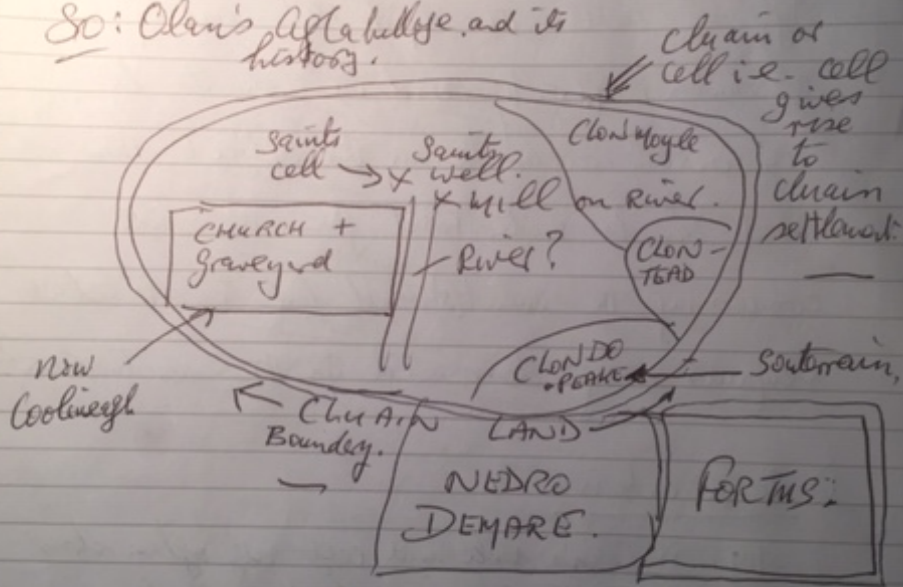
#### The Location:

Was St. Olin's well and cell with ogham stones  
the origin of the Cluin which became  
Cahabullogh parish. This site is today in  
Cooliney. On the north side lies Knockroar  
(round hill) then a Comyns area existed in  
the 17<sup>th</sup> century also in this area. The rest of  
the 'parish' area was a Cluin sub-divided  
into Clonmoyle, Clontead, Clondo but these  
divisions only came to exist after a 10<sup>th</sup> century  
assault on the site by Brian Boru. Beside  
Clondo which later had Peake towered in it (1)  
was a rectangular enclosure called Fortus, at its  
west side was another area called Nedro Demare (?)

(5) (8)

also in the vicinity just north was a place called 'old castle' meaning either a tower-house, or wooden Norman frontier castle or something earlier? Was this name just hear-say by the mid 17th century?

So: Alan's life and its history.



2) Accuracy of Cox's report.

Cox was a TCD (Trinity College Dublin) graduate and it was a time in Dublin and this University when antiquarian and early scientific interest in the ethnography of the Irish was stirring.  
⇒ See the history of Charles Smith's Westford, Cork + Kerry.

3) Does the site still exist?

Probably as it's very difficult to destroy a sort of ruin especially a clay-cut one. Usually the collapse is just inflated.

4) Why would a scientific investigation today be beneficial to ongoing archaeological and historical studies in Ireland?

- I doubt if the site was cleared of skeletal material. So, if some remains remain what, if any, DNA might be available?

Also if teeth ~~survive~~ survive then what information re. the origins of individuals might be extracted via strontium analysis?

5) What inferences can be drawn?

- Was the Fortus shown on Pettys Down Survey map a rectangular enclosure originally? If so, was it occupied as a village? If so who built it and erected ramparts around it? When? Did it →

(7) (10)  
here a market place? How accessible was it  
by stream to river to sea coast?  
& How close to Calan's Cluan and the  
Donaghmore (Big chad, Sundry chad) monestary  
was it?

If the are yes answers to the above then  
was this the location of the Viking settlement  
the O'Yahonies allowed to be established beside  
the monestary? If so, was it here that Brian  
Boru and his army attacked as revenge for  
the murder of his brother King Mahon, of the Dal  
Cais?

If so, then who were the family(?) buried in  
one of the chambers as described by Cox?  
Were the other human remains situated close  
to the entrance of the souterrain? Why  
jumbled up, if that was how they were found?  
Does the evidence in Cox's report suggest  
that the entrance area had a fire set in  
it and as a consequence the clay surfaces of  
the path of the souterrain were burnt red  
as well as the skeletal remains in that area?  
Were these persons alive when the fire was  
started and did they die from it or were they  
already deceased their bodies collected from a  
mandate in the surrounding landscape and  
then placed in the souterrain the entrance area  
) which was then fired? Who might have done  
this? The monks of the locality or Brian's men?

(8)  
Was the event was the souterrain then  
perched off and its entrance slab buried  
beneath the patch of ground which would  
centuries later become part of a potatoe  
field in the mid-18th century?

What type of souterrain was it? Was it  
a Tig Faoi Talamh type and a  
clay-tunnelled souterrain quite common  
in this part of Ireland but largely absent  
from elsewhere in the island?

If the souterrain and its burnt  
contents date from sometime before  
the mid-17th century when the Down Survey  
maps were made, was there still a memory  
in local folklore and place-lore that  
a tragedy involving burning had occurred  
at the part of the Cluin located in the  
vicinity of Beake; other parts of the original  
Cluin settlement being Clontoad,  
Coolcally (corner part of the corral/women?)  
Clonwoyle - also possessing a memory of the event  
in its name i.e. yaol?

Was the souterrain created around the  
time period of the burning event or was  
it something still in use from an earlier  
phase of monastic activity in the locality?

(9) (10)  
If so was it connected to Olen's claim in  
Lactean's Donaghmore? Did the monks  
try to hide persons in the souterrain  
when the threat of attack from Brian was  
imminent? Or were there other events  
now forgotten which led to the material  
remains found in the Peake Souterrain being  
there?

Finally, and what about that comb and  
its box discovered in the Peake  
Souterrain, items so reminiscent of  
a display case content at the  
Viking Ship Museum in Oslo, Norway?

... and what about the Black Pool  
beside Droissey ... and what about iron  
rooves (washes used with ship spils) and suitable  
ship building timber advertised at one time  
from Rooversmore?











