

*The Village of Kilrickle
and its History*

*As read by
Michael Doyle*

in

*Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Kilrickle*



on

at the

31st December 1999

The Name 'Kilrickle'

Kilrickle is a village situated by the side of the main Galway to Dublin road. The name Kilrickle is composed of two words - Kill being the Irish for a church and Reacle is supposed to be a nun who founded a church in this place sometime at the end of the fifth century. Thus - Kilrickle - the 'Church of Reacle'.

The Church

The present church was built at the end of the nineteenth century. It was mostly funded by a catholic landlord by the name of 'D'Arcy'. It was he who owned the land on which it is built. It is built in the shape of a cross and has a pitch pine roof. It is supposed to be the first church in Ireland dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes.

The Belfry over the door was hit by lightning in 1917. A large portion of the masonry was knocked down but was rebuilt again by a man named Paddy Clarke from Kilmeen, who was a Stone Mason.

The Old Graveyard Ruin

In the graveyard beside the church was an old ruin up to the year 1956. This could possibly be the original church built by Keahite. It was a barn type of church. It had stone walls and a thatched roof, a door at one end and a raised up flat stone for an altar at the other end. These ruins were taken away in 1956 by the County Council and reused to build a wall by the roadside when the road was widened.

The Parochial House

The present parochial house was built in 1950.

The old house was demolished then and the grounds became an extension to the old graveyard.

The Old Graveyard

In the old graveyard, is buried a man called 'Anthony Daly'. He was hanged at See Finn hill near Craughwell because he was a Ribbon man. There was a large headstone over his grave, but this now stands in the new graveyard. Also, in the old graveyard is a tomb to a man by the name of Trumple. He invested a sum of money in the bank, the interest from which was to be distributed among the poor of the parish every Christmas. Also, in this graveyard

landlord family who owned a vast amount of land in the area. They were related to the Blakes of Galway - one of the twelve tribes of Galway. There was nobody buried in this tomb for more than 100 years. These Blakes had a large house in Dartfield.

The Village

The village of Kilrichla itself is composed of 8 private houses, 2 public houses, a grocery store, a church, a school, a hall, a garda station, a post office, a parochial house and a telephone exchange. One of the public houses 'Broderick's', is owned and run by the same family for more than 100 years and the fourth generation of Broderick's are now growing up there. The proprietor of this pub for more than 75 years was

John Joe Broderick. He was a great Historian and owned a hackney car. He travelled to very many places all over Ireland on account of this hackney car. - He died in 1996 at the age of 90 years.

The other public house 'Curley's', is in the same family for more than 75 years. Alfie Kirwan was the proprietor for more than 60 years and is now run by his nephew John Kirwan. During the lifetime of this pub, it sold groceries, clothes, shoes, animal feeds, building material as well as wines, beers and spirits.

The School

The present school in Kilrickle was built in 1922. It was then a two-room school but had three teachers. A third room was added in

1939. The principal teacher of this school for almost 60 years was 'Jim Wynne'. He died in 1993 at the age of 89 years. The original school in Kiltrickle was a type of hedge school. It was built in a corner of the graveyard and had up to eighty pupils attending at the time the new school was built. It then became a parochial hall. It was a venue for ceili dancing, drama, plays and concerts for 40 years until the present hall was built in 1958.

The Post Office

The Post Office for 60 years was situated in the present grocery shop. Aggie Guinan was the Post Mistress and she died in 1993 at the age of 92 years.

The Post Office in Kiltrickle had a telephone

and telegraph service in 1928. This was mostly on account of a 'Harry Usher' who was a famous horse trainer and owner. He was a founder member of the Galway Races. The first venue for these races was at Knockbarron - 4 miles from Kilrickle.

The Ring Fort

To the east of Kilrickle Village, is a large Ring Fort. Inside the fort are three large chambers built with stone. Entrance to these chambers can be gained through a hole in the very top of the hill. In the town land of Doon is another Ring Fort. Quite near this fort is a 'Mass Rock'. This was for a priest to say mass in Penal times. The top of the fort was used as a look out post to warn the congregation if any

The Norman Castle

To the west of - Kilrickle Village are the ruins of an old Norman castle, built about the thirteenth century. Two months ago, a large portion of the ruin collapsed.

The White Stone

In Doon there is a large granite stone projecting out onto the roadside. This is known locally as the 'White Stone'. In years gone by it was a great camping site for travellers. Sometimes four or five different families would set up camp there together.

The Spring Wells

About 1 1/2 miles from - Kilrickle on the road to Loughrea is a famous spring well known as

Tobar a bothair. There is also another famous well near Wallscourt Castle known as Castle Well.

The blacksmiths, Carpenters and Building Contractors

Up to thirty years ago, there were two Blacksmith forges in the parish. One was at Newgrove - 1 1/2 miles from Kilrickle and the Blacksmith was Mike Quinn. The other was at Glanmeen Cross and the blacksmith was Dick Farrell. The forge in Newgrove is still standing. Also, up to about thirty years ago, the parish had claim to two very well known carpenters. One was Paddy Doyle of Wallscourt. He made doors, windows and coffins in his time. He was also a building

contractor. He built his own house in 1923 and Curley's shop in 1924. The other carpenter was James Burns of Glanmeen. He made horses/asses cart wheels and creels. He also roofed houses and it was he who made twelve seats for the church when it was restructured in 1960 when more room for seating was made available. Another well-known building contractor was Jack Raftery. He was a native of the parish but lived in the parish of Mullagh for many years. He built very many houses in his time and died in 1993 at the age of 82 years. He is buried in Kilrichle graveyard right behind the church.