

Various Castle Ruins

Ballinglen Castle Ballycastle information by the author may be assessed at this site:

<https://www.ouririshheritage.org/content/archive/place/miscellaneous-place/ballinglen-castle>

Ballylahan Castle information by the author may be viewed at this link:

<https://www.ouririshheritage.org/content/archive/place/miscellaneous-place/ballylahan-castle>

Brize Castle information by the author may be viewed at this link:

<https://www.ouririshheritage.org/content/archive/place/miscellaneous-place/brize-castle-2>

Castle Burke information by the author may be viewed at this link:

<https://www.ouririshheritage.org/content/archive/place/miscellaneous-place/castle-bourke>

Ballykeen Castle

Ballykeen Castle or Ballikine Castle was constructed during the late thirteenth century. The powerful Burke family acquired the castle during the fourteenth or fifteenth century. They hired members of Clan McDonnell as protectors & both clans resided in the castle. It was approximately twenty - four by twenty - seven feet. Two rooms were included on castle's ground level with a larger room on upper level. Access to the building was by an outside staircase up to the second floor. A four - story tower was constructed to one side. Slits rather than windows allowed for air filtration also as a site to fire arrows on intruders. The interior was destroyed possibly during the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries. Evidence is visible with the exposed stones at window tops & carbon from burnt wood on the ground. Castle ruin may be located at the end of a narrow path in a wooded area. Photos of the exterior of the ruin by Linda Mc Donnell & photos of the interior by David Mc Donnell feature at this site. [\[iii\]](#)

Caherduff Castle

Caherduff Castle or Caisleán na Cathrach Duibhe was a state - owned tower house. Now a national monument purchased during 1918. It is located north of Lough Corrib 1.3 metres northeast of Cross. The coordinates are: [53.552185°N, 9.244741°W](#). [\[iv\]](#)

Map of area may be viewed at this link: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/34839>

A video from 14th July 2015 by Brian Madden with Edna & Orla may be viewed at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvjUDSJF1z0>

Caharduff Castle was referenced as '*was vested during the year*':

https://archive.org/stream/op1256657-1001/op1256657-1001_djvu.txt [\[v\]](#)

Castlemagarret Castle

Castlemagarret *old* was constructed in the thirteenth century as a Burke ancestral stronghold. It was situated on the banks of the Robe River three & a half miles from Claremorris. A bridge adjacent has an inscription '*This bridge was built in memory of Christina Lady Oranmore and Brown who died May 1st, 1887.*' Due to fire & structural damage during 1694 Geoffrey Brown constructed a new residence at Castlemagarret *new*. This castle was unique in that it had a moat surround. Traces of an old watermill that would have supplied water to the house survives in an old courtyard. An old tower house called Castlekeel was close by. A window on the first floor was made of sandstone as distinct from the rest

of the castle. It may have been a chapel window dated possibly to the twelfth century. Constructed in a three - tier fashion with a corner stairway the led to each floor with connecting stairs. Geoffrey Brown's wife Mary was a descendant of Maurice de Prendergast whose father came to Ireland with Strongbow during the Norman invasion of 1170. It was stated that Maurice was a most valiant knight also a man of his word. He had three hundred beech trees planted that still stand today! His demise occurred during 1251. According to the *Annals of Loch Ce* McGarrait, McGarret or Fitzgeralds are alternative surnames. At one time the great Garret Mor was recognized by both the English & Irish as the uncrowned King of Ireland. At the close of the sixteenth century the Mac Morris (*Maurice*) held estates & various castles as well as Castlekeel & Castlemagarrett. O'Connor Don with the McDermott's invaded Clan Maurice (*Claremorris*) that resulted in the demise of Richard Mac Maurice also the loss of two hundred of his men. Both castles were taken with ten horses & one thousand of his cattle stolen. Castlemagarrett Castle is protected at this time (2002) with a preservation order: there is a possibility that restoration may proceed. [\[vi\]](#)

Castlemagarret Castle was constructed by Geoffrey Henry Brown JP DL (1861 - 1927) to a design by Richard Francis Orpen Dublin. An early cut stable block included initials of Geoffrey Brown (1664 - 1755) Additions to the house over several years included streamlined battlements embellished with a multi - faceted roofline, the scale of openings on each floor, also figurative panels that traced the Brown peerage back to Norman times. Neo - Classical plasterwork was incorporated within the residence. The chimney pieces were supplied by Hicks of Dublin. Estate included a courtyard, a walled garden, gate lodges also nearby bridge. [\[vii\]](#)

When the fire of 1811 destroyed the original castle during 1694 the current residence was established. The unexpected designs of 1811 were believed to have been by Richard Morrisson but signed by Owen Fahy. Richard Orpen extended the building in 1907. It was in the Brown family possession until sold to the Irish Land Commission during the 1960's. [\[viii\]](#)

The eighteenth Woodstock estate in the parish of Crossboyne in the barony of Clanmorris was near to Castlemagarret Castle which was the seat of Lord Oranmore & Brown. [\[ix\]](#)

Castle Carra information by the author may be viewed at this link:

<https://www.ouririshheritage.org/content/archive/place/miscellaneous-place/castle-carra>

Castle Gore

In 1666 the Gores were granted extensive estates, over 14,700 acres, in the barony of Tirawley, Co. Mayo also in Co. Sligo under the Acts of Settlement. In 1686 the Manor of Castle - Gore was created from these estates & other lands bought by the Gores. They also acquired the Manor of Belleek from the O'Haras, Barons Tyrawley. They owned estates in county Donegal. Their county Mayo estates were centred on the parishes of Ardagh, Ballysakeery, Addergoole and Crossmolina. During the nineteenth century much of their estate was let to middlemen or administered by agents. Gores were largely absentee as they had also inherited Saunders' estate in county Wexford. John Perkins of Ballybroony near Ballina, was their main agent in the 1830's. In 1876 the Earl of Arran owned 29,644 acres in Co. Mayo & 6,883 in county Donegal: <https://landedestates.ie/family/404>

Castle Gore is referenced at this link with images: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/31303006/castle-gore-originally-deel-castle-deelcastle-county-mayo-3>

Further information is available at these sources:

Trinity College, Dublin - Gore Earls of Arran, family & estate papers (MSS7576 – 7635)

National Library, Dublin - Gore Papers include surveys, lists of leases & title deeds from eighteenth & nineteenth centuries.

Mayo County Council copy marriage settlement Earl of Arran & Elizabeth Napier: including schedules of estates in Co. Mayo 26th February 1838 (*Ref. 346. 016*)

National Library, Dublin – Gore Papers, rentals of Gore family, Earls of Arran, May 1850 - 1900 (*unsorted Collection*) PC, 600 - 12,665

National Archives of Ireland - solicitor's collection Collins & Ward includes mortgaging of lands at Ballassee in Co. Mayo, Gore to Lehunte 1757 Acc 1165

National Archives of Ireland - Earl of Arran in account with William Johnson for half yearly rental estates ending May 1817 also map & survey of Rathmoreney in the barony of Tyrrawley by descendants of Sir A. Gore Bt, 1754 small Accession Index 1/671 (75) & (92)

National Archives of Ireland - diary of agent of Earl of Arran 1858 - 1898. BR. Dons 11

National Archives of Ireland - solicitor's papers re associated families including Gore 1611 - 1957 Acc. 1165 [\[x\]](#)

Castle Gore was a three story over basement country house for James Cuff MP. It was burnt down during 1922. Further damage to the ruins occurred when the Local Authority unsuccessfully tried to demolish it with dynamite during 1950's. An image features on this site. (*Mike Searle*) [\[xi\]](#)

Castle Gore in Crossmolina, Co. Mayo was in the possession of Arthur Gore 6th Earl of Arran. It was attacked during 1922 but never rebuilt. [\[xii\]](#)

Crossmolina Castle

The Combro Norman Sect the Barrett's established a castle at Crossmolina along with an Augustinian Priory during 1300. O' Donnell of Tirconnell captured Crossmolina & Castlehill during 1526. Richard Burke of Castlehill opposed the Burkes of Tirrawley in their revolt against the English with a resultant battle of 1586 which the Irish lost. (*extract from Crossmolina Historical & Archaeological Society*) [\[xiii\]](#)

Lewis stated that there were the ruins of an old castle at Kildavarrogue. [\[xiv\]](#)

Crossmolina or Crois Úi Mhaoiliona means Cross of Mullany. This castle passed into the Bourke family during the fifteenth century. Crossmolina Castle was situated opposite St. Mary's Church in Church Street. It was destroyed by O'Donnell of Tir Conail during 1526. In the '*The Annals of Lough Ce*' (?) the event was reported on during 1526. It was not rebuilt but some structural ruins remain. The Bourke's constructed a replacement at Deel Castle. However during 1690 it was granted to the Anglo - Protestant Gore Family as Bourke had fought for the Catholic Jacobite's. [\[xv\]](#)

Deel Castle information by the author may be viewed at this link:

<https://www.ouririshheritage.org/content/archive/place/miscellaneous-place/deel-castle-2>

Doon Castle

Doon Castle was a 'fort castle' that sat on a hill in the townland of that name in the parish of Aughagower approximately four miles from Westport. The space on the hill was in the shape an ellipse forty to sixty yards by twenty yards & was rectangular. It measured forty feet by twenty - seven feet. Castle was one hundred & fifty feet in height. It provided excellent views of the Islandeady & Aille areas where the McPhilpin castles were located. During 1133 Cormac MacCarthy with Conor O 'Brien invaded Connaught. They destroyed Dun Mughdhord. The Norman castle appeared to have

been constructed on the site of the old Irish Dun Mughdhord in the parish of Dooncastle. According to local folklore the castle stones were removed by Lord Sligo for Westport House. Knox in his *'History of Mayo'* referenced that McPhilpin held castles in Aille, Doon, Aingle in the barony of Burrinshoole & Bellabourke with the new castle near Castlebar in the Barony of Carra. Further information available in *The history of the County of Mayo to the close of the Sixteenth Century* 1908 Hubert Thomas (pages 45 & 301) *Aughagower* Keville John *Cathair na Mart Journal* vol 3. [\[xvi\]](#)

Castle coordinates were 53.7968 N 9.4550 W. [\[xvii\]](#)

Inver Castle

Inver Castle or '*An Tibhear*' was situated close to the shore on the eastern side of Dún Chiortán peninsula that overlooks Trá Kurtaen ie Chiortán's beach. Michael Cormuck inhabited Inver castle during 1636. It was claimed he owned all the Erris lands but the Stafford Inquisition that investigated Mayo land ownership during the early seventeenth century stated that the bishop had '*a right of the sea around Erris.*' Inver Castle was destroyed by 1802 & never rebuilt. The only ruins that remain are its gate posts. It is believed that the stones were removed from the site as several cottages nearby were constructed with well - masonried stone blocks. [\[xviii\]](#)

Kinlough Castle

Kinlough Castle was constructed near a church in the Neale in south Mayo. It was described by John Brown on a 1584 map as a '*Mac William House.*' Mac William Eigher who was then Sir John Fitz - Oliver Burke resided there during 1574. Next occupant was Sir Richard in 1618. His son Walter mortgaged it to Sir Valentine Blake of Menlough during 1628. During 1668 Sir Thomas Blake leased it to John Darcy. Lands were purchased by Pierce Joyce in 1852. [\[xix\]](#)

It was stated that perhaps Kinlough Castle was a thirteenth century castle. Two additional stories with corner fireplaces were re - modelled during 1574 by Sir John MacOliver Burke. Gunloops were included in the massive battered base & the entrance had a drawbar slot. Blake family mortgaged the castle during 1629 then leased it to John Darcy during 1668. [\[xx\]](#)

Kinlough Castle or '*Caislean Chionn*' was a sixteenth tower house constructed in the sixteenth century. It was located on the Black River 3.2 southwest of Cong. Tower was believed to have been constructed during thirteenth AD. The castle was four stories in height, with gables at the east & west walls but no crenulations. The west wall included traces of bartizan. The building had three chimney stacks. During 1574 Sir John Mac Oliver Burke re - modelled it. An additional two - story building with corner fireplaces was constructed. The entrance had a drawbar slot with loops in the ballered base. Castle was mortgaged to Blakes in 1629 then leased to John Darcy during 1668. In a map of 1584 the Castle was described as a '*MacWilliam.*' Sir John FitzOliver Burke '*The MacWilliam Eigher*' resided there in 1574. Sir Richard FitzOliver Burke was the next occupant followed by his son Walter who mortgaged it during 1628 to Sir Valentine Blake of Menlough. Sir Thomas Blake leased it to John Darcy in 1668. Pierce Joyce purchased the lands during 1852. Coordinates are 53. 498559 N, 9. 116540 W. [\[xxi\]](#)

Moyne Castle

Moyne Castle stands on the Black River surrounded by six quarters of castle lands. It was a large square tower house with a spiral staircase. During 1574 David Mac Jonyn (*Jennings*) Blake resided there. It was confiscated in 1585 by Ulick Earl of Clanricarde. His successor Richard got a re - grant with four quarters of lands during 1610. The occupant in 1678 was George French. Castle was referenced in the division of Connaught 1574 as a De Burgo castle with William Burke as the occupant. Thomas Blake leased it in 1683 from William Earl of Clanricarde. The Blakes were in residence until their moved during 1750 to Merlin Park in Galway. Martin K. Blake was in residence until 1838 when Patrick

Henry Lynch inherited the castle. During 1853 the Blake's interest was sold to Joseph Burke & Paul Ward. [\[xxii\]](#)

Rappa Castle information by author may be viewed at this link:

<https://www.ouririshheritage.org/content/archive/place/miscellaneous-place/rappa-castle-ruin>

Shrule Castle information by author may be viewed at this link:

<https://www.ouririshheritage.org/content/archive/place/miscellaneous-place/shrule-castle>

Additional Information

Information re. castles Ardnaree, Ballyheane, Barach, Burrishoole. Ballisnahyny, Castle Sanderson, Cloghan, Doo, Doona, Drum, Erbull Hilaser, Kinturk, Knooknalina also Rossleun feature at this link: <http://www.from-ireland.net/lewis-topographical-dictionary/>

A list of castles or ruins may be viewed at this link: <https://www.geni.com/projects/Historic-Buildings-of-County-Mayo/29699>

Lee Johnson lists castles at this site: <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~irlkik/ihm/castles/irecastl-Mayo.htm>

Mayo castles listed in alphabetical order may be viewed at this link: <https://www.geni.com/projects/Historic-Buildings-of-County-Mayo/29699>

Castles in County Mayo are listed on this site: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_castles_in_Ireland#County_Mayo

Images by Mike Searles may be viewed at his site: <https://www.geograph.org.uk/>

This may be of interest: J. G. Simms 1965 *Mayo Landowners in the seventeenth century* in *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* vol 95 no 1 / 2 Papers in Honour of Liam Price (pages 237 – 247) This may be viewed or downloaded on this link: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25509593>

Footnotes

[\[iii\]](#) Ballykine Castle (<http://www.clandonnell.net/pages.php?pageid=2169>) [Assessed 2nd June 2020]

[\[iv\]](#) Caharduff Castle (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caharduff_Castle) [Assessed 7th June 2020]

[\[v\]](#) Caharduff Castle (https://archive.org/stream/op1256657-1001/op1256657-1001_djvu.txt) [Assessed 7th June 2020]

[\[vi\]](#) Castlemagarret, Claremorris (<https://www.mayo-ireland.ie/en/towns-villages/claremorris/history/castlemacgarrett-house.html>) [Assessed 19th March 2020]

[\[vii\]](#) Castlemagarret (<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/31311121/castlemacgarrett-originally-castlemagarret-house-castlemagarretpark-new-county-mayo-7>) [Assessed 19th March 2020]

[viii] 1811 (<https://archiseek.com/2012/castlemacgarrett-house-mayo/>) [Assessed 19th March 2020]

[ix] Estate Brown Woodstock (<http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie/LandedEstates/jsp/estate-show.jsp?id=537>) [Assessed 21st March 2020]

[x] Gore Castle (<http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie/LandedEstates/jsp/estate-show.jsp?id=283>) [Assessed 2nd July 2020]

[xi] Castle Gore (<https://www.geograph.ie/photo/5828790>) [Assessed 2nd July 2020]

[xii] Castle Gore
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Destruction_of_Irish_country_houses_\(1919%E2%80%931923\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Destruction_of_Irish_country_houses_(1919%E2%80%931923))) [Assessed 2nd July 2020]

[xiii] Crossmolina History (<https://www.mayo-ireland.ie/en/towns-villages/crossmolina/crossmolina-history.html>) [Assessed 17th May 2020]

[xiv] Crossmolina (<https://www.libraryireland.com/topog/C/Crossmolina-Tyrawley-Mayo.php>) [Assessed 17th May 2020]

[xv] Crossmolina Castle (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crossmolina>) [Assessed 17th May 2020]

[xvi] Doon Castle (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doon_Castle) [Assessed 12th February 2020]

[xvii] Doon Castle (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_castles_in_Ireland#County_Mayo) [Assessed 12th February 2020]

[xviii] Townlands of Kilcommon (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Townlands_of_Kilcommon) [Assessed 7th May 2020]

[xix] Shrle History (<http://homepage.eircom.net/~shrle/data/quinn/q3shrle1.htm>) [Assessed 12th February 2020]

[xx] Kinlough Castle (<https://www.geni.com/projects/Historic-Buildings-of-County-Mayo/29699>) [Assessed 2nd July 2020]

[xxi] Kinlough Castle (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinlough_Castle) [Assessed 7th May 2020]

[xxii] Shrle History (<http://homepage.eircom.net/~shrle/data/quinn/q3shrle1.htm>) [Assessed 12th February 2020]