



Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, and Its Neighbourhood. Notes on Place-Names, Topography and Traditions

Author(s): Liam Ua Broin

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RATHCOOLE, CO. DUBLIN, AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

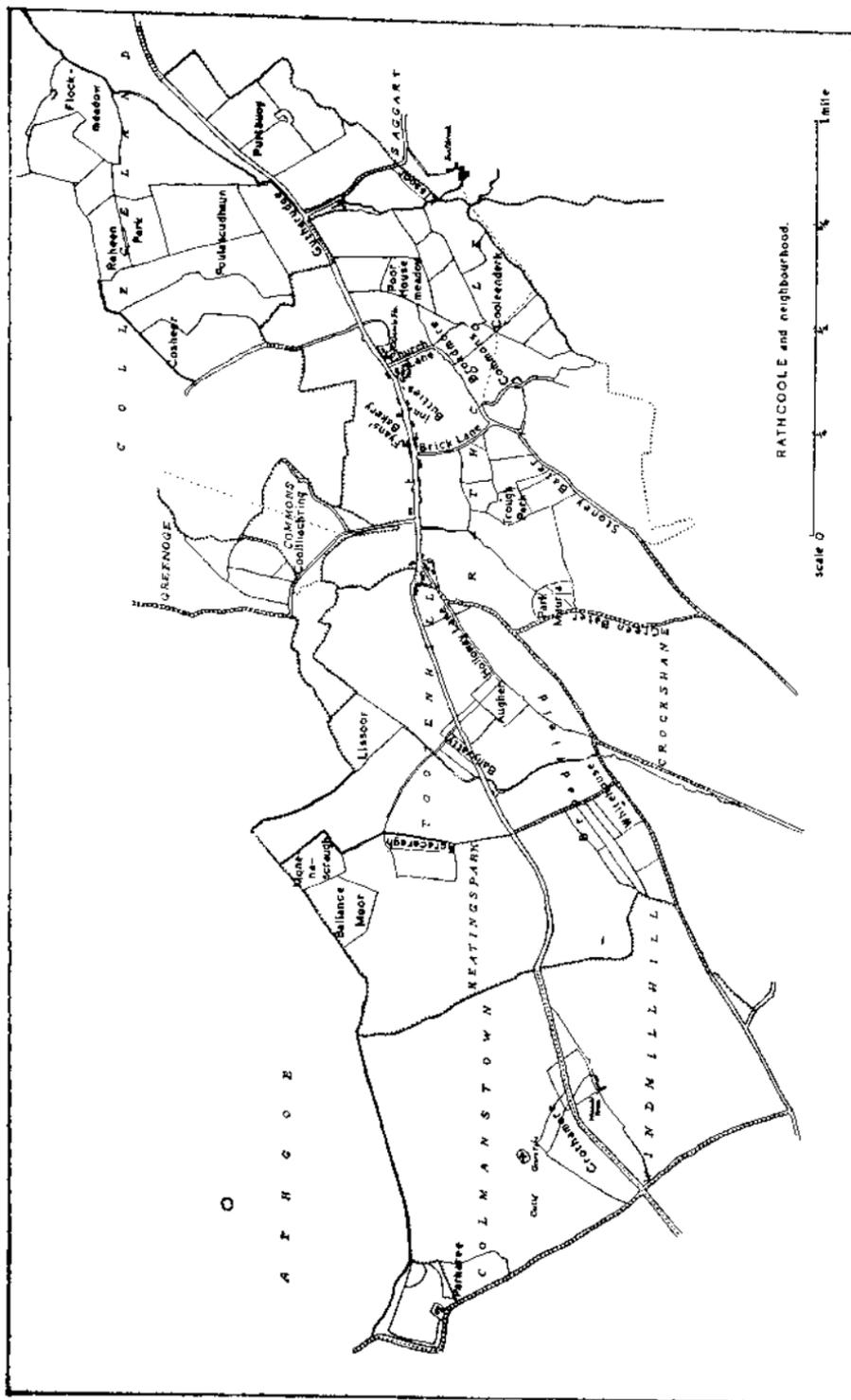
Notes on Place-names, Topography and Traditions.

By LIAM UA BROIN, *Member.*

OLD maps of the Rathcoole neighbourhood, a list of which is given on pages 96-97, have preserved a number of local place-names: some of these are still remembered, others have been altogether lost. In the following paper I have noted the more interesting of these names, and an attempt has been made to offer an explanation of some of them; I have inserted some local traditions, and details about such matters as the building of roads and bridges. The reader may be referred to the Ordnance Survey Letters for County Dublin for information collected in the year 1838 by Eugene O Curry about some of the antiquarian remains in the district.

Unless otherwise stated, co-ordinate references are to the 6" O.S. sheet No. 21 Co. Dublin.

Broadmore Commons was formerly the name of an area of about 23 statute acres in the townland of Rathcoole which Robert Latouche, one of the then well-known family of Dublin bankers, purchased for £500 from the Commissioners for enclosing and allotting commons and waste lands, appointed under an act of Parliament of 23rd May, 1818, by authority of which it, and other



BASED ON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, BY PERMISSION OF THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE OF IRELAND.

lands in the neighbourhood of Rathcoole and elsewhere in County Dublin, were enclosed. A memorial of the deed of conveyance, dated 31st January, 1821, is preserved in the Registry of Deeds, Dublin.

As a place-name Broadmore Commons is quite forgotten. The area it denominated lies to the south of the Naas Road, behind Rathcoole House, the Church and the ruins of the Munster King inn. It consisted in the main of the three fields at :—(a) S 17cms., W 26cms., (b) S 18cms., W 26·5 cms., (c) S 19 cms., W 27·5cms. It also included a narrow winding passage which on the west bounds the largest of these fields ; now known as Shiel's Commons, which name, with a short cut across the field, preserves memory of the former commons. The short cut leads to Swiftbrook Paper Mills in Saggart.

Streams almost surround this old commons area, and one passes between its two small fields. Their presence points to a possible derivation of the old name. The Irish for a watercourse, gully or stream bed is *brághaid*, which in combination with *mór* (big) and the article *an* would form the name An Bhrághaid Mhór, from which change to Broadmore is not great. None of the watercourses in the vicinity, however, seems big enough to justify use of the word *mór* but it is possible that since naming diminution has resulted from one cause or another, or it may be that *mór* was used in a comparative sense ; one of the watercourses being larger than others adjacent.

A somewhat interesting example of place-name transformation would seem to be furnished by map 1. On it "Great Moor" is written in the position occupied by Broadmore on other maps and this leads to the assumption that the surveyor, hearing the first syllable of the name, mistook it for the English word broad, and further, that the second syllable was mistaken by him for moor (muar apparently was the colloquial form of *mór* about Rathcoole as it is in some Gaedhealtacht areas). The form "Great Moor" only appears on map 1.

The narrow winding passage referred to as part of the commons is regarded by many as portion of an ancient road which led to Saggart or to the Coolmine Road. The formation of a road or passage in this position, however, was provided for in the enclosing scheme, as is apparent from the deed of conveyance referred to above, and it does not appear on the older maps, so that the passage probably did not exist prior to 1821. When made it extended to somewhat more than twice its present length, bordering the whole of the western and south eastern fences of the large field as shown on map 9 and on the 1837 O.S. No doubt its purpose was to afford

access to property previously approached from the open commons, including a house which stood at S 15·5cms., W 26·5cms.

A low mound and curving depressions on the commons land a little more than half way from the northern end of the still present portion of the winding passage strongly suggest the site of a rath which suffered defacement by being cut through, first by formation of the western fence of the commons and again by construction of the passage, the surface of which at the point is lower than the land on either side. These remains answer the brief description of "Cumhall's Rath" given by Eugene OCurry in the O.S. Letters, except to the extent that they are not in a small field.

Raheen Park is shown on map 14 as a holding which included the two fields to the west of the narrow passage. Its name—now quite forgotten—and position adjoining the remains just spoken of support the suggestion of a rath.

Cooleenderk Meadow appears on map 9 as the name of each of two fields now comprised in a large one (S 17cms., W 28cms.), adjoining the commons land. The short cut previously mentioned passes through this field. Cooleendecks, Cooleendykes and Cooleenderks are surviving pronunciations of its name.

Derivation is not obvious, Cooleen very probably represents *Cúilín* (a little nook or corner) but *derk* presents difficulty. There is nothing in the vicinity to indicate the former presence of a cave or pit (*dearc*). *Déirc* (charity, an alms) suggests itself and invites one to ponder the possibility of association between the name and establishment of the institution endowed in 1734 by Mrs. Mercer concerning which the following note was written by Austin Cooper on visiting Rathcoole in 1780. "Here is an handsome hse, on the Gates whereof is thus written "Mrs. Mercer's Alms House for poor Girls, 1744."¹ The house is now the Rectory.

Maps of property in and near Rathcoole belonging to the Trustees of Mrs. Mary Mercer's Charities are preserved in the National Library. On one of them (No. 3) an area of 2A. 1R. 5P. (Irish) is shown as part of the property, and scrutiny of its boundaries leaves no doubt that the area is included in the field now called Cooleendecks &c. *Cúilín na déirce* may therefore be a possible derivation for the name.

Poor House Meadow is shown on map 9 as the name of the field at S 20cms., W 29cms. It adjoins the old commons land. Map 7 shows a field quite similar in position, shape and size, and a note at the bottom of it shows that a narrow strip within its

¹ *An Eighteenth Century Antiquary*, p. 54.

eastern fence was the property of the Trustees of Mercer's Charities. Origin of Poor House Meadow—name still in use—is therefore clear.

Church Lane, according to some of the old maps, was the name of a short piece of road which at the eastern end of Rathcoole communicated with Broadmore Commons. The site of its junction with the Naas Road is now occupied by the yard entrance of Rathcoole House from which point it ran southwards along the eastern fence of the cemetery. It was closed to the public by authority of a Grand Jury presentment Easter term, 1821, which reads:—
 “John Kennedy and Laurence Clinch, Esqrs., to stop up that part of the old road from Rathcoole to Rathmore by the commons of Broadmore lying between the street of Rathcoole and the commons of Broadmore on the townland of Rathcoole . . . there being another road that answers the purpose of the part we present to stop up.”

Map 1 shows an arch spanning the Naas Road immediately to the west of where it was joined by this old highway.

Laurence Clinch mentioned in above presentment resided in Rathcoole House and held considerable property in the vicinity. He was Mr. Latouche's first tenant for the enclosed commons land.

Memory of the Clinch family lives in tradition because of participation in the 1798 struggle by a member of it. The *Freeman's Journal* of 2nd June in that year announced that a young man named Clinch, the son of a respectable farmer at Rathcoole and a member of the local yeomanry, was arrested and lodged in Dublin Castle charged with being an officer in the Rebel army. Three days later his execution was announced in the same journal according to which close interrogation of a boy less than 13 years of age secured information leading to discovery of a conspiracy in which Clinch was implicated. These happenings have passed down in a ballad of which the following lines are still remembered by a few:—

My curse attend you, east and west,²
 My curse attend you night and day,
 You hung John Clinch and sent the priest away.

According to tradition John Clinch was offered pardon in return for betrayal of others, but refused in the following words:—

“Information I deny. A gentleman I lived, a gentleman I'll die.”

The priest referred to in the ballad was Father James Harold, parish priest of Saggart, who in 1799 was transported after several months detention following arrest in 1798 on a military order. A

² The words ‘east and west’ are here substituted for a name which has been preserved by local tradition.

short memoir of Father Harold by Cardinal Moran appears in his "History of the Catholic Church in Australasia," also in the "Irish Rosary" Vol. 2, 1898.

Stoney Bater is written on map 1 as the name of a road which, succeeding from the southern end of Church Lane, ran along the northern boundary of Broadmore Commons and continued south-westward as it does at present under the name Stoney Lane. A very short piece of that part of Stoney Bater which was on the commons remains to give access to the narrow winding passage, but the bulk of it became useless as a public highway, because of the stopping up of Church Lane, and is included in the land acquired by Robert Latouche where traces of it are still distinctly visible.

Roads and passages the making of which was provided for in conveyance of 31st January, 1821 included one inside the northern boundary of the commons and this involved fencing along about 60 perches of Stoney Bater. The presence of about 20 perches of hedge the utility of which is not obvious suggests that the fencing was commenced and abandoned following the decision to close Church Lane.

Brick Lane, according to some of the maps listed, was the name of a short piece of road which gave a second entrance from the village to Broadmore Commons and linked with Stoney Bater. On map 14 it is named Castle Lane. In the presentment quoted it is that referred to as "another road" &c. Now it is regarded as part of Stoney Lane and in general is named accordingly. Occasionally one hears its old name—Brick Lane—and it is also known as Fyans' Lane because of a family of that name holding licensed premises at the village end of it. This family is of old standing in the place and in 1798 kept a bakery in the village, the proprietor of which—John Fyans—was the victim of a tragic incident of the troubles of that year. Local tradition briefly records the incident in terms which have hardly changed during the last 60 years. Recently the story of it was narrated, more or less in the following words, by Michael Fyans, a great grandson of the victim :—

"The redcoats were out all night looking for rebels and early this morning they came into Rathcoole and they very hungry. They raided the bakery and found a hot batch of bread just baked. Some of them took too much of the hot bread and buttermilk which was in the bakery and died. Mr. Fyans was accused of poisoning the food and he and an apprentice baker were taken out and shot in the Butheyes where the new Gárda barrack is built."

Ruins of the bakery are still standing on the north side of the street at S 20cms., W 22·5cms.

Butties is shown on map 9 as the name of a field, above referred to as the Butheyes; the latter form of the name being now in use.

The Munster King Inn was more or less in the middle of the village on the south side of the road, where its ruins, now often called the hotel, stand at S 20cms., W 24cms. Quite recently this inn site became parochial property and the ruins are being demolished to clear the ground for a curates' residence now (June 1943) in course of construction. The earliest reference to it so far found in leases occurs in one dated 28th July, 1736 by which seven acres were leased to Jonathan Ponder, innkeeper, Rathcoole, by the Church wardens of the parish. The following advertisement in the *Dublin Evening Post*, 5th January, 1788 is of interest:—

GREAT INN IN RATHCOOLE.

Thomas Ransford—Returns his sincere thanks to the Nobility and Public for their great encouragement since his commencement in business, begs leave to inform them that he has at great expense fitted up his house in the neatest manner with good wines, &c. and from his great care and attention to his business hopes for the protection of his Friends and the Public as long as he shall be found deserving of it. *N.B.*—He has excellent Post Carriages and Horses ready at Rathcoole and in Dublin, by applying at John Nevil's, No. 19 Duke Street or at Patt. McCan's, No. 1 Princes Street."

The following inscription on a tombstone in the cemetery quaintly records a road accident which occurred near the inn:—

"To the memory of/Richard Adkins Esq./of Athy/who was killed near this spot/by a blow from a Jaunting Car/on the 11th Feb., 1827/Aged 56 years."

Trough Park is a field, cropping out of which, at S 16·7cms., W 20·9cms., there is a granite boulder having formed in it a basin with 23 inch diameter opening and 18 inches in depth. The width changes but slightly until half the depth is reached when, narrowing gradually, the basin terminates in an approximately central bottom about two inches in diameter.

The object may no doubt be classed as a *bollán* (or *pollán*). Locally it is known as the wart well, and quite within living memory the belief obtained that removal of warts could be effected by prodding them with a pin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and then placing the pin in the basin where many remember seeing an accumulation of pins. A tradition that it was used as a holy water font belonging to a church which stood near it has been heard but this is not general.

Comparison of boundaries as drawn on map 3 and on the O.S. shows the field containing the *bollán* to have been formerly about two-thirds its present size and on the old map it is marked "A piece given to Repair the Church." The field-name was recorded in a lease of 27th July, 1749 and is still in use. The *bollán* boulder of course accounts for the name.

The Green is the name of the western end of the village where the road forks. Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* (1837) states that "Rathcoole has a patent for holding fairs on April 23rd, June 18th and October 9th, but these fairs have not been held for some years."

As at present existing the Green would afford very meagre accommodation for fairs but the maps show that formerly there were unenclosed spaces of adequate size for the purpose. As well as a triangular piece where the road forks there was unfenced ground along the road leading over Windmill Hill. The southern limit of this ground would seem to have been the stream passing behind the national school, the forge, the site of the old pound and some cottages. The area now covered by the small triangular field where a narrow cul de sac branches from the road at S 18·2cms., W 16·9cms., was open ground too, as shown on map 8. Enclosure of the bulk of these spaces was effected prior to survey for the 1837 O.S. maps, but between the cul de sac mentioned and the short narrow lane running out to the Naas Road a narrow strip remained on the northern side of the road until by building a wall there it became portion of field S 19·3cms., W 17·0cms. The wall was built under authority of a Grand Jury "shilling" presentment Easter term 1861. Another "shilling" presentment Easter term 1863 authorised enclosure of the very small piece of the fair green which is still unfenced.

Woolpack Road appears on some of the maps and in Grand Jury presentments as the name of the highway previously referred to as that leading over Windmill Hill. The name is not now applied to the part of it passing over the hill but it survives beyond the Dublin-Kildare boundary.

Holloway Lane was the name of a second road or passage which from the Green ran between the Naas Road and Woolpack Road (to use its old name) joining the latter where a bridge over a stream now stands. The name and outline of this old road or passage are shown on map 1 and on others but they are not in agreement as to where it departed from the Green or from the Naas Road. It seems likely that part of the cul de sac is a survival of it. Vanishing tradition holds memory of an old road here but not of its name.

The bridge just mentioned was built under a presentment Easter term 1835.

Augher is the name (still in use) of the field S 16·5cms., W 13·5cms. Holloway Lane ran along and within its southern fence. The name has not been found on any map or in any lease. It is probably derived from *eacharadh*, meaning a cattle field (*see* Joyce's Irish Place-Names, Vol. 3).

Green Bater is shown on map 1 as the name of an irregularly shaped passage leading from Stoney Bater to Woolpack Road. Its place as a link between the two roads is now held by The Green Lane which, passing over or near the site of the old passage, now forms the boundary between Crockshane and Rathcoole townlands. The name, spelled Green Batter, is also found in two deeds of 27th & 28th June, 1721 and 28th & 29th May, 1738.

The presence of the word green in this name may be due to the fact that the passage led to the fair green, but on the other hand "green" is sometimes applied to little used and unkept lanes. On map 2 also the passage is shown but is there named Scutch Grass Lane.

The former use of bater or batter in two road names in Rathcoole neighbourhood is, of course, less interesting than its continued use in Stoneybatter, a Dublin street name.

Park Mauria, (S 15cms., W 17cms.), is the name of a field adjoining the Green Lane on the east. The name is locally understood to be the Irish for Mary's field (*Páirc Mháire*) but there is no tradition of the Mary commemorated by it.

In view of the loss of the letter r in Cooleendecks, (p. 82), in the first syllable of Gutharudge, (p. 89), and perhaps in Poula-scuddhaun, (p. 89), it is interesting to note that Poek Mauria is often heard instead of Park Mauria.

The New Road is that which commencing near the bridge on "Woolpack Road" runs to the Newtown-Kennedy entrance. Construction between 1816 and 1821 may be assumed as it is shown on map 11 but not on 10. Near the entrance mentioned a short piece of the continuation of Stoney Lane became of little use when the new road was made and under a presentment Easter term 1850 it was stopped up. Traces of it are quite visible.

The Riligeen (*Reiligín*, a little church-yard) is the name of a field which to the east of the stopped up piece of road contains, at N 2·2cms., W 8·8cms., (6" O.S. No. 24), the site of the old Newtown church and cemetery, some details of which were given by Eugene OCurry in the O.S. Letters. The name and the existence of the old church are now known only to a few. Of the church, only three or four stones survive, cropping out within traces of

the cemetery fence. Insertion of the name of the 1940 issue of the O.S. will help to preserve it.

Flockmeadow is the name of the most easterly field in Collegeland townland. It is found on some of the old maps, also in leases, and is still in use. An earlier form of it, Flockmead, is found also. The land around is low-lying and somewhat subject to flooding, notwithstanding apparent drainage improvements effected by sinking ditches, which give the impression that before they were made much of the land was bottoms or water-meadow.

Cluain Fhliuch as a name descriptive of this condition occurs to one as being at least possible as the derivation of Flockmeadow, *cluain* by translation becoming meadow, and Flock representing *fluich* (wet) slightly changed in pronunciation. Thus the name of the field may preserve, partly in translation, an old name for the surrounding district. "Cluain" at any rate is part of a name appearing on map 15, on which the field in question is shown with part of the Camac river flowing by it; the name is either Cloonefrah or Cloonetrah, the writing being indistinct; it is written along the river. Cloonefrah might represent Cluain Fraoich (Heather meadow or plain): Cloonetrah would suggest Cluain a' tsratha (Holm or Riverside meadow) or Cluain Eitreach, meaning meadow abounding in trenches or furrows.

Within Flockmeadow at S 33cms., W 36cms., a curved surface depression seems to mark the site of a rath.

Purtbuoy on map 9 is applied to an area comprising five fields (now four) bounded on the north by the Naas Road, on the south and east by the Saggart townland boundary and on the west by a stream. The first part of the name probably results from proximity of the Camac as "river bank" is amongst the meanings of the Irish word port. Buoy no doubt, was written instead of boy usually employed in anglicised place-names as approximately representing the sound of *buidhe* (yellow).

The name is not now in use.

Lissoor Meadow appears on map 9 as the name of the long narrow field which along the boundary between Saggart and Rathcoole townlands runs westward to the Camac from the road leading to Saggart. County Dublin Board of Health Cottages now stand on it. The first syllable of the name resembles the Irish word *lios* but caution in suggesting derivation is necessary in view of the following taken from Stokes' *Calendar of the 'Liber Alani'*: "Among the Rathcoole place-names are Flaggs, Grenolmede, Fivacres, Lesmourmede, The Curragh. It is curious that many of them have the French article *Le* before them."³

³ JRSAL. Vol. XXVII. (1897) p. 175.

Gutharudge or Gutharidge is a name in constant use for that part of the Naas Road where, at the Camac bridge, it is joined by the Road leading to Saggart. The name extends for a short length of the Naas Road westward and to fields immediately to the north. On map 9 Bridge Field is written as the name of the field which on that side of the road contacts with the bridge, and from this it can be inferred that Gort an Droichid (of which Bridge Field is a translation) is the origin of the now much corrupted name, and that at the time the map was drawn this old name was quite understood by bi-lingual locals if not by the person who surveyed for the map. There are two bridges at Gort an Droichid, one being now useful only to the extent of taking surface water in rainy weather.

About 28 perches upstream from the bridges an old corn mill, or portion of it, survives as a shed for an adjoining residence. Much of the mill pond dam remains, also traces of an overflow from it, which joined by the mill tailrace formerly ran under the now little used bridge. This mill and position of its pond and overflow, &c., are shown on map 9 and on the 25" O.S. Rathcoole Parish maps of 1871. It ceased production about 60 years ago.

Map 2 shows the mill which with its attached plot is marked "Vicar's Choral" thus identifying the place with "Site of Mill and Millhouse with the watercourse near Rathcoole" forming part of considerable property in the neighbourhood leased by the Abp. of Dublin to Matthew Barry, 6th October, 1670.⁴ The bridge beside this mill on the road to Saggart was built by authority of an 1819 Grand Jury presentment.

Between the old mill and the Naas Road there was, according to map 2, a triangular space the shading of which on the map, being the same as that for the roads, indicates that it was unenclosed ground. This space seems to have been identical with a small low lying area in the north eastern corner of field S 22cms., W 31cms.

Poulascudhaun is found on map 9 as the name of two fields adjoining Gutharudge (S 28cms., W 31cms., and S 28cms., W 29·5cms.). They were distinguished from each other by the adjectives big and little. The name is not now known. Change of *gort* to *guth* in the case of Gort an Droichid hints at the possibility that similar loss of the letter *r* changed *scardán* to *scadan* and hence Poll an Scardáin (the hole or basin of the little cascade) is suggested as the derivation of the name. There is, however, no existing *scardán*, nor a definite sign of one, within or on the boundaries of the fields, but along the western fence of the narrower field a

⁴ See Calendar of St. Patrick's Leases, J.R.S.A.I. vol. LXV, (1935), p.43.

winding watercourse runs. A similar watercourse runs along an adjoining field, and the Camac passes quite near the larger field, so that the possibility of the area being named from a former scardán in the vicinity cannot be ruled out of the question. The watercourses referred to do not carry a large constant supply of water but seem capable of taking no inconsiderable volume when streams are in spate. We may also recall the herring shower theory advanced by Joyce as a possible derivation of Coolsuddan in the parish of Kilmactalway not very far away (*Irish Place-names*, ii 312).

Cosheer Meadow is shown on map 9 as the name of a small field which at S 29·5cms., W 26·5cms., now forms part of a larger one. The name is not now in use, its derivation is obscure.⁵

Raheen Park and Raheen Park South, were, according to map 9, the names of two fields divided from each other by the fence at S 30·5cms., W 30·5cms. No traces of a rath are discernible in their vicinity. The names are not now in use.

The Commons is the name of a townland lying immediately to the north of Rathcoole village. It covers an area of a little over 27 statute acres, of which about 3 are to the west of the road from the Green to Newcastle, the balance lying to the east. For £250 Baden Swinny purchased the bulk of this balance from the Commissioners for enclosing and allotting commons and waste lands. In a deed of conveyance dated 6th June, 1821, a memorial of which is preserved in the Registry of Deeds, the property purchased is described as "All that part of the Commons of Rathcoole containing 19A. 2R. 12P., or thereabouts, statute including 1A. 0R. 28P., of intended roads or passages."

Adjoining this property Swinny held a very considerable area in Collegeland, and also areas elsewhere in the neighbourhood, all of which together with the 19A. 2R. 12P., were put up for sale by the Landed Estates Court on 5th November, 1867. The following, extracted from the Rent Roll, &c., published for this sale, relates to the intended roads or passages mentioned in the conveyance above referred to:—

"And the said Commissioners by their award dated 25th April, 1822, did order that the accommodation passage marked on the map annexed to said award, leading from the high road from Rathcoole to Newcastle and from thence completely round said part of said Commons sold to Baden Swinny should remain open and passable as a high road and that the said Baden Swinny, his heirs

⁵ It occurs as a field name in Co. Wicklow in the form Cahsheerach, and Mr. Seán O Súilleabháin has kindly offered the suggestion that it may represent *cas siar*, given by Dinneen as meaning 'corn land allowed to lapse into grass.' ED.

[etc.] shall not erect gates across any of the said roads or plant any trees in or near the hedges on the sides thereof at a less distance from the centre of said roads than 25 yards."

An isolated piece of road about 30 perches in length along the eastern fence of field S 25cms., W 18·5cms., would seem to have had its origin in an attempt to comply with the encircling road condition of the Commissioners' award, and it is likely too that portion of the cul de sac communicating with a few cottages in the south-eastern corner of the Commons had the same origin, but examination of the ground reveals no further trace of attempt at compliance.

Before the enclosing of the Commons, that part of it to which the cul de sac leads was occupied by cottages and small holdings as at present. A map forming part of the rent roll and conditions of sale issued for the 1867 disposal of the Swinny property shows a Public Right of Way as running in a straight line from the south-western angle of the garden attached to the cottage nearest to the cul de sac, to the point on College Lane where boundaries of College-land and Greenogue townlands meet at S 30·3cms., W 22cms. This right-of-way was included in the rights and easements preserved under the terms of sale.

Coilliachring is an old place-name recorded in leases of various dates between 1812 and 1875, but now quite forgotten. In a lease of 9th Dec., 1812, it is referred to as part of land in and near the townland of Greenogue leased by Margt. Mary Hart, widow, and Wm. Fras. Hart of Greenogue. Its location is not defined in the lease, but Griffith's Valuation, 1848 contains the record that Charles Hart, Esq., was immediate lessor of a house and garden on the Commons townland. This, no doubt, was one of the small holdings within the Commons area to which reference was made above and is likely to be the Coilliachring part of the property leased in 1812.

The name occurs again in a deed of 31st Oct., 1817 relating to land leased by Margt. Mary Hart, part of which is described as "Those parts of the lands of Greenogue commonly called and known by the name of the Seven Acres next the commons of Rathcoole and Coilliachring." In eight out of nine other deeds the name, with spelling variations, is used to indicate location of the "Seven Acres" the extent of which according to some of the deeds was "9A. 3R. 35P. Irish plantation measure as ascertained by survey making in statute measure 16A. 0R. 32P." From two of the deeds it is found that the "Seven Acres" consisted of two fields.

An area of a shade over 16 acres in Greenogue townland contain-

ing three fields and the plots of two Co. Dublin Board of Health cottages is bounded on the east by the Commons townland and on the south and west by the road to Newcastle. The facts that this area is next the latter townland and that in size it agrees closely with the recorded extent of the "Seven Acres" leave no doubt that the two are identical. Substantial evidence is therefore obtained that the Commons of Rathcoole and Coilliachring, and the present O.S. Commons, are the same.

The various spellings of the name as written in the deeds may be of interest. They are :—Coilliachring (1812 & 1817), Coolochring (1829), Covelliackring (1830), Coilliackring (1836), Coulliackring (1861 & 1866), Corilliackring (1867 & 1875), Corialiackring (1869). It would seem as if scribal errors account for most if not all the variations.

Cúil Uí Eachthigheirn is suggested as the derivation, but no reference to a person or family named OAhearn or Hearn in the district has been found.

Lisoor occurs a second time as a name in the neighbourhood. It is applied to field S 21cms., W 13cms. No mention of it is found on maps and documents examined, but it is well known locally. Its first syllable is distinctly pronounced "less" not "liss" Quite often it is called the Lessoor and the Lessoors.

Bawnogues (Bánóga, little green fields) is a field adjoining Lessoor to the west. The name has not been found on the maps &c., examined, but it is in use.

Ballyvatty is found on map 4 where a holding, (1A. OR. 30P.) is referred to by the name. The map shows :—(a) the outline of the holding, (b) a line passing through it marked "New turnpike rode," (c) "Old turnpike rode" along its southern fence, (d) "Moore lane" at its north-eastern fence. These data aided by map 14 show the holding to have been near where the group of cottages on Tootenhill townland was built a few years ago by the Co. Dublin Board of Health. On the last mentioned map, Moore Lane is shown to correspond to the now stopped-up lane on the north side of the Naas Road, nearly opposite the cottages mentioned. On it, too, there is shown a triangular area which corresponds to that now adjoining the lane and on which a house stands, whilst immediately to the west of this there is a field, the fence lines of which leave no doubt that it is part of the Ballyvatty shown on map 4.

An explanation of "Old turnpike rode" and "New turnpike rode" is found by scrutiny of map 14. On it the Naas Road is shown as turning abruptly to the north a short distance west of Ballyvatty and again at a very short distance resuming its westward

course. Thus, quite near each other, there were two abrupt turns, to remove which the road for a short distance was diverted slightly to the north. The diversion would seem to have been made about 1800 when road lowering immediately to the east of it was effected as part of improvements legislated for by a 1798 act of the Irish Parliament. The lowering is evident in a cutting, excavated material from which was probably used in banking for the diversion. The Ballyvatty holding was divided in two by the diversion. The part of it to the north of the road retains the old name variously pronounced Ballywatta, Ballywatty, Ballywatha and Ballawatthew (Baile Mhaitiú). A few hold the tradition that the name was formerly applied to land on both sides of the present road and to them knowledge of the old road has passed down. The closing of it accounts for a small recess passing behind a cottage a little to the west of a stream to be mentioned again.

Broadfield was a place-name in use up to the early nineteenth century, but is now forgotten. Judging by old maps and Grand Jury presentments it embraced contiguous parts of Tootenhill, Crockshane, Carrigeen, Windmill Hill and Keating's Park townlands. A stream runs through two of these townlands, passing under the Naas Road near Ballyvatty and it seems reasonable to suggest that the first syllable of the name furnishes a second case of survival of the word *brághaid* in local place-names up to the time Broadfield and Broadmore ceased to be used.

"The Young Man from Rathcoole," contributed to the *Irish Press* of 17th Sept., 1941, by Helen Landreth shows that the home of Felix Rourke, executed in 1803 was in Broadfield. He was identified with the 1798 insurrection as well as with Emmet's attempt. His family was of the farming class judging by holdings in the Broadfield and neighbouring districts marked on map 14 and others as being occupied by Felix Rourke, who no doubt was father of the "Young Man from Rathcoole," as the letter written by the latter to his parents and published by Miss Landreth shows that his father's name was Felix.

Whitehouse Lane connects the Naas Road and the old Woolpack Road and marks portion of the boundary between Tootenhill and Keating's Park townlands. According to tradition its name perpetuates memory of a large house which stood near the southern end of the lane. The tradition is supported by map 3 which shows, in elevation, a two-storey house in a position which seems to correspond to the south eastern angle of Keating's Park townland. The road or lane is not shown on map 11 but is on 13 so that its construction between 1821 and 1827 may be assumed.

Monenascaugh is shown on map 14 as the field at S 23·5cms.,

W 7.5cms. With spelling slightly different the name is on map 4 also but is not now in use. Its derivation is, no doubt, *Móin na scratha* which shows that *móin* (boggy land) there provided *scratha* or scraws (tough strong-fibred sods) useful for fuel and for securing thatch in windy weather, &c. Reclamation from the boggy condition was effected by sinking deep ditches draining into the Rathcreedan river;⁶ the distinctly ridged surface of the field shows that it was rendered suitable for corn growing.

Ballance Moor is shown on map 14 where it is applied to one of three fields which have been combined to form that at S 22cms., W 6cms. The name is found on map 2 also and in leases of 1715 and 1737. Spellings on the latter sources are Ballance Moore, Ballansmore and Balinsmore, respectively. Derivation is obscure.

Acra-caragh is mentioned in a lease of 27th July, 1767 and is shown on map 13 as a long irregularly shaped field which from position on that map aided by comparison of its outline and other features on map 14 can be identified as having occupied, in the main, the area now covered by the field at S 19cms., W 8cms., which resulted from straightening fences. *Acra carach*, (crooked acre) as a name was fully justified by its former shape.

Parkaree is in general use as the name of a field at S 17cms., E 7.5 cms., (6" O.S. sheet 20). On the 1871 25" O.S. maps of the parish of Newcastle, this field and one adjoining it to the north are marked as having that name. On map 14 a field called King's Meadow is shown, which as regards position and shape corresponds with that still known as Parkaree. Its acreage is written on the old map as 4A. 2R. 20P. (Irish) which is in practical agreement with the size of the field still retaining the Irish name.

In a paper written to show that the scene of the battle of Glenn Mama (A.D. 1000) was in the neighbourhood of the Hill of Lyons, Athgoe Hill, &c., the late J. H. Lloyd mentioned Parkaree, and suggested *Páirc a' riogh* (The King's field) as a possible derivation.⁷ He adds "Could this have been so named from Aralt mac Amhlaibh (Harold son of Olaf), who was slain in the battle? or could it have once contained that memorable yew-tree in which Maelmordha, King of Leinster, was hiding when captured by Murchadh? Either circumstance should be sufficient to explain the name, which, however, could just as easily have quite another origin,

⁶ Enlarged by streams further down this little river becomes the Griffeen river entering the Liffey at Lucan. On the Down Survey map of the Baronies of Newcastle and Upper Cross it is wrongly shown as turning southwards near Milltown and joining the Camac near Balldonan (Balldonnell).

⁷ *Journal Kildare Arch. Soc.*, Vol. VII, (1914), p. 371.

especially when one bears in mind that the place is beside a royal residence, to wit, Liabhain, and that Páirc a' fhraoich ("the heather field") is also possible."

Colmanstown cemetery is near Parkaree. In 1908 some particulars of a tradition as to buried treasure in a secret passage under a boulder situated near the cemetery were recorded by James Fowler in the *Journal of the Society for the Preservation of Memorials of the Dead*. The boulder is still there and tradition of the secret passage survives, but the story of the attempt to obtain the treasure told by Fowler seems to be quite forgotten in the neighbourhood.

Crothamore is shown on map 12 as a place-name where, to the south of Colmanstown cemetery, Windmill Hill commences to rise. Athgoe Hill and Busty Hill are near and it is not improbable that proximity of these *crota móra* (big humps, or hills) is responsible for the name, which very faintly lingers under the two forms, Crutchymore and the Crutchymores, still remembered by a few as having been heard some years ago from old men who used it in referring to a field which is not now definitely known, but was quite near the cemetery.

A diversion of the Naas Road was made along here but nothing as to its date has been ascertained. It was about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in length, commencing about where the townland boundaries of Keating's Park, Colmanstown and Windmill Hill meet, and ending near Blackchurch inn.

Map 5 shows the road replaced by the diversion to have passed along by where Windmill Hill House stands and it is likely that in the upper portion of the avenue to that house some of the old highway remains. The surface of another portion of it certainly exists in the rather wide headland along about half of the southern fence of field S 12.5cms., E 2cms., (O.S. 20). This piece of headland has never been brought under cultivation. A recent attempt to till it was abandoned because of difficulty in breaking it. Map 5 shows the line of the old road out to the much overgrown road now known as Tierney's Lane. Further westward its course is shown by dotted lines on map 10.

Tierney's Lane is that running from Colmanstown Cross to near the summit of Windmill Hill. It connected the Naas Road with the old Woolpack Road and would seem to have become derelict following the making of the new connecting roads mentioned under Whitehouse Lane and Blackchurch. Disused quarries along it were, according to tradition, the resort of highway men during the stage-coaching period.

Blackchurch, a short distance further west contains memorials of the stage-coaching period more substantial than the tradition

just referred to. There the old turnpike house survives, and on the opposite side of the road an inn which with its associated coaching business seems to have enjoyed a prosperous trade during the first quarter of the nineteenth century judging by account books which to the present proprietor of the inn—Mr. Patrick Vickers—have been passed down from his great-grandfather—Patrick Berry—from whom also a silver tea-pot inscribed as under has been handed down :—

“ TO PATRICK BERRY, Innkeeper, Blackchurch.

In testimony of his spirited conduct in apprehending a Notorious Highway Robber and thereby contributing essentially to the security of persons travelling this Road to whose countenance and protection he is deservedly recommended.

This Piece of Plate is inscribed by the Rathcoole, Kill and Newcastle Association.” It is undated.

The Woolpack Road and the Naas Road are connected at Blackchurch by a road constructed under a presentment of 1835.

MAPS REFERRED TO.

1. His Royal Highness the Duke of York his Lands in Rathcoole in ye County of Dublin in Ireland. Surveyed in 1670 by Thomas Emerson and copied by William Longfield, 1827.

2. A map of the Lands of Rathcoole in the parish of Rathcoole, County Dublin describing the several properties therein according as same was surveyed in the year 1780 by order of Rt. Reverend and Reverend the Trustees of Mrs. Mary Mercer's Charities—by John Kerin (a copy) and copied by William Longfield, 1827.

3. A Map of part of the Lands of Rathcoole in the Parish of Rathcoole, Barony of Uppercross and Newcastle and County of Dublin as taken from the Rt. Revd., and Revd. the Trustees of Mrs. Mary Mercer's Charities by James Ormsby, Esq., the particulars of which is [*sic*] fully described in the underneath reference. Laid down by a scale of 20 perches in one inch in March, 1792.

4. A survey of the Estate of Taylor, Esq., in and about Rathcoole situate in the parish of Rathcoole and County of Dublin laid down by a scale of 20 perches to the inch in 1803 by John Byrne and copied by William Longfield, 1827.

5. Irish Road Maps, 1805-1816, No. 50.

6. An untitled and undated map of Rathcoole and district embracing the Naas Road from a point near where it is crossed by the Camac to near Blackchurch.

7. A map named “ Rathcoole surveyed, 1826.”

8. Another untitled and undated map of an area somewhat like that covered by No. 6. Whitehouse Lane is shown on it indicating that the date may be taken as later than 1821.

9. A map of part of the lands of Rathcoole belonging to Laurence Clinch, Esq. Surveyed and traced by John Longfield, 1827.

10. Taylor's map of the Environs of Dublin, 1816.

11. Duncan's Map of the County Dublin, 1821.

12. A Map of part of Coun' Lock's Estate, 1830.

13. A Map of the Finlay estate in and near Rathcoole, 1827.

14. A somewhat mutilated map embracing the Rathcoole district from the Camac to a short distance beyond Colmanstown corner. It is without title or date, but exhibits features from which it is clear that it is not earlier than 1788 or later than 1803.

15. A Map of several plots of ground being part of the Lands of Saggart, County of Dublin, which are marked and described by the name Eaton in a Map made by Thomas Reading in 1754. Copied by Jno. Longfield, 1816.

Maps 1 to 12 are preserved in the National Library. Nos. 13, 14 and 15 belong respectively to Mrs. Colley, Corkagh House, Clondalkin, Mr. Reginald Shiel, Rathcoole House and Col. Verschoyle Campbell, Tassagart, Saggart, who very courteously facilitated examination.