



MONEA CASTLE and DERRYGONNELLY CHURCH

Ulster-Scots Translation

MONEA CAISSLE

an **DERRYGONLIE KIRK**

Tha Coontie o Fermanagh

Tha Plantin o Ulstèr in Fermanagh

Durin tha bak enn o tha 15 hunnèrs tha heidyins o tha Gaelick lairds an chiefs stuid up agin Quaen Elspeth's etlin at rulein owre Airlann. Naequhaur wus her genèrals mair stranglie focht agin than in Wast Ulstèr wi tha O'Neills, O'Donnells an Maguires. Kaing Jamie's wice-men uised tha Flit-tin o tha Yarls in 1607 fur an excuse tae tak houl o tha lann, an gie grants o it tae thaim as wud tak in haun tha plantin o settlers an stay leal tae tha croon. Tha unnèr-takkers, maistlie Inglish an Lallan Scotch, fun thairsels amang native fowk sair pit oot, an sae bigged caissle-like dwal-lin-hooses. Thae hooses tuk eftèr tha sinnèrie pairts thaim that bigged thaim cum frae, frae tha troublesome bordèrs o Scotlann quhaur sich caissles wur bein uised yit, tae tha mair paicefu-like pairts o Sudren Inglangn quhaur new classical biggins wus aa tha style ownin til tha renaissance notions aareadie skail't thonner frae Euraip. Tha caissles an hooses o tha Plantin o Ulstèr is a yin-ff cumin thegither o sich differin heirskips. Noo the' wud be near aa in ruins, but thair waa-steids is amang tha main attractions fur tha trippers cumin tae wast Ulstèr. Tha Coontie o Fermanagh has a wheen o tha best, an twathie o thaim is Historic Monuments in State Care.

Monea Caissle

O aa tha caissles o tha Plantin, tha maist big an tha yin wi maist still staunin wud be tha caissle o Monea. Tha caissle wus bigged afore 16&18 fur Malcolm Hamilton. It's stuid on a neb o roak leukin owre glarry grunn that rins richt roon it apairt frae tha noarth quhaur the'r a nerra heich road in. Haein a man-made isle, or crannog, in tha wee lough tae tha sooth, goes tae show that tha spot haed aye bin taen fur a place o safetie. Biggins fur tha plantin maistlie haed baith a strang caissle an a heich waa roon a coort-yaird, cried a bawn, tha mair quhiles ye wud get jist tha caissle wi nae bawn, or jist a bawn roon a wee'r dwal-lin hoose inside. Captain Nicholas Pynnar, sent by tha Governenn tae mak an accoont o quhit-wye tha plantin wus progressin, gien a report in 16&19 that at Monea Malcolm Hamilton had bigged 'a strang caissle o lime an stane'; he addit that the' wur nae bawn bigged yit, but that there shud a bin. Syne tha biddin wus daen, fur tha bawn wus getting bigged in 16&22.

Tha bawn waa is tha furst obstacle onie atteker wud hae cum on. Richt at tha stairt it likelie wus about 14 fit heich aa roon, an tha mair a guid bit o it is awa, tha wast side, staunin yit tae about 12 fit in pairts, gies tha day-tripper a notion o quhit a hinnèrance it maun hae bin. An mine, sichana atteck wudnae a bin kerried oot athoot opposition; tha parapet waa wud hae bin slottit wi musket

slots fur tha uise o thaim defendin tha waa-tap waak-wye ahint. Forbye ye micht a had side-shuitin along tha waas frae tha roon tooers at tha corners. Monea has twa flankers, an tha caissle itsel daes fur a thurd an hannles tha fourth corner. Tha flankers wud affen hae roofs an daen fur mair paicefu uise forbye. Tha yin at tha N.W. corner at Monea, forenent tha remains o tha gatewye, has a hinneycame o holes in its inside waas, as if it haed bin uised fur some soart o a store, or mair like as a 'doocot' as its Scotch biggers wud hae cried quhaur tha doos wus kep. Tha shape o tha N.E. flanker theday is oot o tha ordinrie fur its ootside face is flet that wudnae be daen fur defendin it. Flankers isnae aye roon: square, rectang'ls, polygons, an aiven egg-shape't yins hae bin fun; tha quare shape at Monea micht, hooaniver, be acause o some unkent new biggin wark. Tha draa'in o it lang syne haes baith flankers roon.

At tha S.W. ang'l a fu flanker wusnae thocht needit acause o tha strang settin o tha caissle. In plaice o it the'r a big square o lime an stane that micht hae bin tha foonds o a wee tooer, or less it micht hae bin uised as a corner stay fur tha parapet waak-wye.

Yinst tha fae had control o tha bawn he cud turn his atteck on tha caissle itsel. Thrie flairs heich wi big lafts an waas battèrin waas, it is bigged wi haired carboniferous limestane wi sannstane wrocht free-stane wark. Tha mair its noo in ruins ye'll can see its strenth yit; an its Scotch historie connections. Tha Scotch caissles o tha bak enn o tha middle ages haes a shape agin tha lift that gies thaim thair ain leukr. It cums frae tha uise o craa-step gavels, an wee turrets hingin oot owre tha tap corners o tha waas, corbelled oot on wrocht free-stane. Tha yin at tha S.E. corner at Monea is maistlie aa there yit, an tha mair its twun on the N.E. corner is fell doon, pairs o it can be seen yit brocht intae tha bawn alow; it is showed in fu in tha draa'in o quhit it maun hae leuk't lake at tha stairt. The'r corbellin, forbye, on Monea Caissle's weel-kent ingaun front quhaur ye hae twa tooers that is roon at tha fit an square at tha tap, wi corbelling uised tae chage frae tha yin tae tha tither. Tooers bigged jist lake these, tha mair the'r fun on opposin corners o tha main caissle, kythe agane at Claypotts Caissle, near Dundee.

Tha ingaun tae tha caissle, that still haes bits o classical mouldin, is in tha S. side o tha N. Tooer; defendin cover o it wus gien frae musket slots in tha S. Tooer, an frae mair slots in an airch owre tha gap aqween tha tooers at tha heicht o tha seyconn flair. A twustin staircase in tha N. tooer gien a road in tae tha tap flairs, an frae its steps musket slots gien defendin cover tae tha N. waa. Tha airch-vaultit grunn flair, wi naethin but splay't musket slots fur wundae licht, had thrie chammer got at wi a corridor along tha N. waa. Tha furst chammer gien tha road in tae thrie heichts in tha S. tooer; tha maist laich yin, wi a stane-airch't ceilin an wi yin slat wundae, micht hae daen fur a lock-up; frae tha tap flairs muskets cud shuit doon on tha S. waa, tha S. bawn waa, and tha front dorr. Ayont tha middle store chammer wus tha kitchen, wi a big apen hairth on tha E., an a drain wi ootside spooti in tha S.E. corner. A twustin stair in tha N. waa led tae tha Baa abane, quhaur the' wur big wundaes wi saits in tha apenins, an hairths on tha E. an N. waa. On tha seyconn flair wus bedchambers, an lavaties wi shutes that kythe ootside laich on tha E. waa. Afore the N. waa wus bigged new, it uised tae hae hauf-dormer wundaes giein licht intae ruims in tha laft, lake ye'll can see in tha draa'ins.

Capture't by tha Maguires in 16&41, tha caissle wus tuk bak intae tha hauns o tha plantèrs straight aff. In 16&88 it wus leeved in by Gustavus Hamilton, Governor o Inniskilling. Stane foonds in tha S.W. pairt o tha bawn micht gan bak tae thon days. Layin empie frae effèr a fire in it about 17&50, tha caissle wus taen owre by tha Männystrie in 19&54.

Derrygonlie Auld Kirk

About thrie mile wast o Monea, jist noarth o Derrygonlie is tha bare stane waas o a wee fower-square kirk bigged in 16&27 by tha plantèr Sur Jhone Dunbar. Lake maist o tha biggins o its day it wus plain eneuch, but here ye hae bits in tha style o tha classical renaissance an o tha middle ages brocht thegither.

Tha wee Aist wundae is late gothick wi thrie apenins divid wi dooble-bowit or 'ogee' heids. Tha W. gavel o thae kirk haes a belfry straicht oot o Scotlann an, unnèr a wrocht stane wi a date an tha crest o tha Dunbars on it, is a dorr apenin wi a hauf roon airch an a plain classical rowl moulding; ilka stane o tha door jambs haes a stud wi five sides cut, sae the'r sut oot prood. Sich like bits cum frae renaissance Italie an thair kythe'in in norlin Euraip (laxe at Cricton Caissle, Midlothian in tha 15&80s) mairks tha skailin o a style fur classical biggins, that in Airlann then flooers oot intae tha Georgian heirskip. Aiblins ye'll no can fin oniequhaur a bettèr exemple o tha changein styles that tha plantèrs brocht wi thaim tae Ulstèr nor here at Derrygonlie Kirk.

Mair Buiks

Joep, E. M., 'Scottish Style Castles in the North of Ireland' in *Ulster J. Archaeol.* 14 (1951) 32-47.
Waterman, D. M., 'Derrygonnelly Church, Co. Fermanagh' in *Ulster J. Archaeol.* 34 (1971) 110-112.

Quhit-wye tae get til thaim

Monea Caissle (grid ref. H165494) is 1 mile Aist o Monea Parish Kirk that is stuid tae tha Aist o tha road frae Inniskilling tae Derrygonlie, 6 mile N.W. o Inniskilling. Derrygonlie Auld Kirk (grid ref. H120524) is sut 1/4 mile N. o tha toun tae tha W. o tha road tae Lower Lough Erne.

Ither Caissles o tha Ulstèr Plantin rin wi tha Männystrie in Fermanagh: Tully Caissle near tha shores o Lower Lough Erne, 4 mile N. o Derrygonlie; Caissle Airchdale 4 mile W. o Irvinestoun; Caissle Balfour at Lisnaskea; an pairts o Inniskilling Caissle.