

The Dorsey Entrenchment

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The Dorsey Entrenchment.

SOME CORRIGENDA AND FURTHER NOTES.

A few slips in the article in the last Journal have been pointed out to me, and should be corrected. They are as follows:—

CORRIGENDA.

Table on p. 213. Top line, column 4. The period of the bronze bridle-bit should, of course, have been "Iron Age" not Bronze Age.

Page 191, par. 6 and footnote. I have to confess that I did not at once recognise, as I should have done, that "Ballynenursagh" stood for Baile na nDoirse.

Page 190, footnote 1. This statement is much too sweeping as Mr. H. C. Lawlor points out. Nevertheless, as he himself had already noticed, the question of the use of the bow and arrow in this country contains much that is puzzling. There is not, so far as I know, any allusion to these weapons in the Táin or any of the other early Irish Story Cycles. Giraldus Cambrensis says that the Irish in his time did not use them in warfare.

I could find no references to finds of bronze arrow-heads: stranger still, Mr. Lawlor tells me that neither in the Tower, the Wallace collection of armour, nor in the British Museum is there a Norman arrow-head of iron.

As far as the Bronze Age is concerned, the arrow-heads then in use were flint, probably because their loss would not be of great importance. They have been found quite frequently in sepulchral urns, while one, discovered by Knowles, was actually in a human incinerated bone in an urn. They have also been discovered in quantities in association with bronze implements of the Early Iron Age in the sandhill settlements of Dundrum and elsewhere in Ireland. However, in excavations of the Norman castle sites of Dunluce and Carrickfergus nothing like an arrow-head of any material came to light among the few relics turned up.

While bronze weapons have been found in the recent dredging of the Bann Fords, the site of many battles, no arrow-heads appeared; on the other hand many flint arrow-heads have been dredged up in Loch Neagh.

Were arrows used for the chase or for fish, and not in battle? Did the early Normans also use flint arrow-heads and not iron? Mr. Lawlor, to whom I am indebted for this information, notes an Irish King of the fourth or fifth century having been killed by an arrow in Gaul.

My footnote should therefore be altered to read "I am not aware of the existence of bronze or iron arrow-heads of Bronze or Early Iron Age in collections in this country or in England."

Page 240. The derivation of Forkill from *Fuair Coill* is not sustainable nor, therefore, is the name any evidence of early forests. There are references in the old MSS. to "Oircel," "Oircéal" near Slieve Gullion, which are probably early forms of the name.

REFERENCES.

The following further references may be noted :

1. "Creach la Gallaibh Átha Cliath go Sliab Fuaid agus go Dóirsib Ardmachogurugsat Oirgiallo orro : Fid Conailli gur chuirsiód ár forro otta sin go Tulaigh Aird," (*MS. H.1.18 T.C.D. [Hb. 120]*).
2. "Dóirsib Emna" (*Annals of Innisfallen, 446*).
3. "At e and errid degnedis in clessai sen .i. Conold Cernech mac Airmirgen (*sic*), Fergos ma Rossai Rodanai, Loeccoirie Buadach mac Condoig, Celtchar mac Uthir, Dubtoch mac Lucdach, Cuculaind mac Soaldaim Scel, mac Bairdine nomenatur, *doirseid Emno Machie*. As dee ata Sceul Sceoil, ar ba prasscelach side."—(*Tochmarc Emire [ZCP. III, p. 230]*).
(Here are the chariot-champions who performed these feats, Conall Cearnach mac Amhairghein, Feargus mac Rossa Rodhana, Dubthach mac Luchdach, Cuculainn mac Sualtaim, Scéal mac Bairdine nomenatur the *Doorkeeper of Emhain Macha*. It is from him originates the phrase Scéal Scéil (Scéal's story) for he was a great raconteur.)
"Scéal Scéil" equals a second hand story, i.e., the story of a story. As personal name Scél recalls Eterscéil, King of Tara. Mac Bairdine may be original *maccu*, sept or gens. In fact Maccu Barrdini occurs s.v. Dál mBairdeni (*Onom.*) and describes a sept of the Éarna of Leath Cuinn. Scél and, perhaps, the ancient road may be relics of the ancient Ernian occupation of Ulster. (L. S. Gógan).
4. Professor MacNeill believes there is a reference in the *Annals of Tigernach* to "Doirse Emna."

NOTES.

Stone outcrop Hillocks B. and C. These two knolls in the northern part of the central marsh were suggested by Canon Lett as "citadels." He considered there were remains of parapets of boulders on their top. I could see no evidence whatever of this and am confirmed by Edward Duffy, Channonrock, who lived near house 26 for a number of years from 1886. He states that there never were breast-works or walls of stones on the hillocks, but natural rock-points projecting here

and there. He pulled down a lot of the northern face of hillock B. The rock was loose and disintegrated.

Brian Mor Carragher (1808-1880), from whom "Carragher's Bog" and "Brian Carragher's Ramparts" derive their name, lived at Tullynewall in the house now occupied by John Duffy. Brian Mor who came from the Readypenny district, was "always studying and reading." He passed on much of his local knowledge and tradition to his daughter Rose (afterwards Murphy). She in turn told what she remembered to her son, Patrick Murphy of Cregganduff, to whose kindness and intelligence I am indebted for the following:

Piling in Carragher's Bog. His statements confirmed my suggested reconstruction. The local idea was that they were "placed along the edge of the encampment where it bordered the bog to prevent horses straying in." The bog was 20 feet higher in level and covered a much greater area before being cut away. The reason for the charred tops to the stakes was that, being either near the surface or projecting over it, they were caught by the burning of the heather which grew on the top of the "fum" turf or original bog surface. Nothing was remembered as to the exact place where they were found or the direction in which they ran.

Extension of Rampart to the Creggan River.

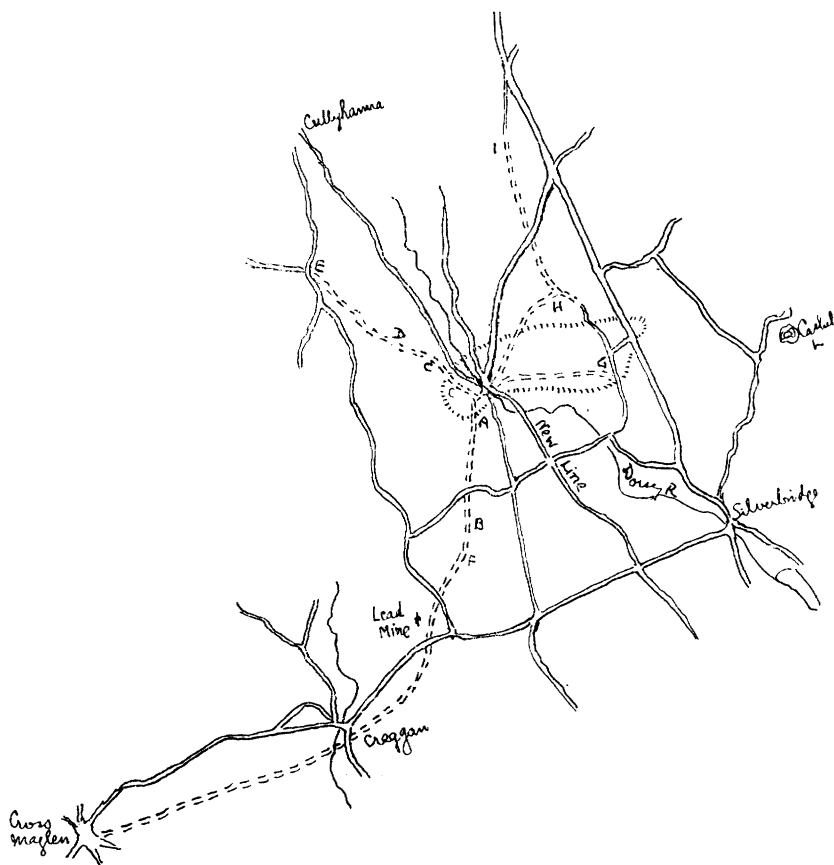
The rampart, now vanished, which Golloghly (72) described to me (last Journal, page 223), is confirmed. A single bank rampart ran up from the bog at or near M (fig. 9) to (or near) Cregganduff fort, and thence down to "Stitt's Bog." This brings it right to the marsh bordering the Creggan river. Mrs. Murphy had never mentioned any rampart in Cloghog T.L. (Old name, Talastagh).

Her tradition was that the southern side of the Dorsey was very old but that O'Neill, or some other chief, was responsible for making an enclosed camp by adding a single fairly large rampart on the north and east. She remembered part of the rampart in the neighbourhood of 10-11 being levelled about 1850, and a few things being found among which was a "cannon ball." The Molyneux (1707) letter mentions another.

Old Road.

She described the course of an old road or track now completely vanished. As will be seen from the accompanying diagram, it led from Crossmaglen, on the south of the present road to Creggan, crossed by the old lead mine, traversed the high ground to about point 16a on the Dorsey, thence down to and across the Dorsey river and to the Bealach Mor at H. This was part of one of the very ancient tracks alluded to on page 225 of last Journal.

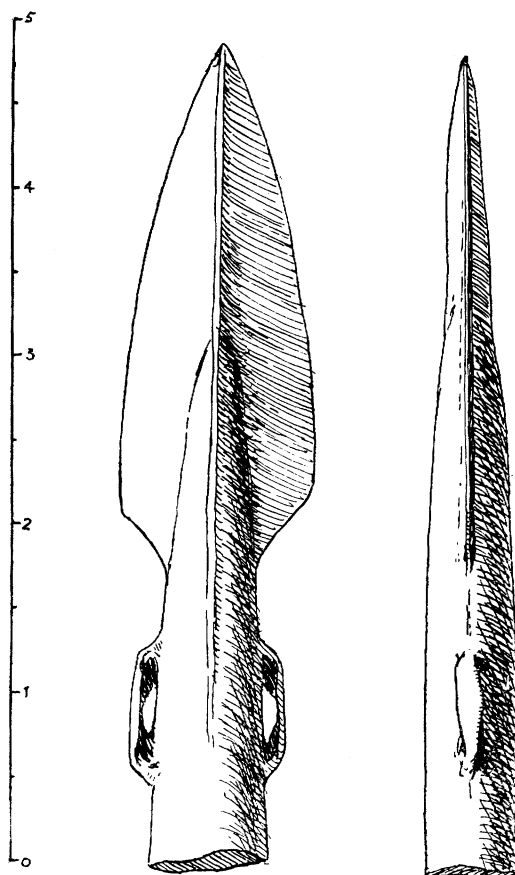
Rampart in field at 16-17. The last vestige of this was levelled in 1916 by Brian Carragher's son. One of the men who did the work, Pat Loy, who now lives near point 26, describes the rampart then as consisting of a hollow on the field side and then a slight mound or rise about 1 foot high, varying from about 26 feet wide at point 16 to 8 or 9 feet at 17. Because the surface water could not drain off the field, Mr. Carragher had the mound removed and levelled into the rushy part of the old bog below it. Pat Loy states that the mound consisted of hard "till"



or sub-soil clay about 2 feet in thickness, *resting on bog* beneath which covered the whole corner of the field to a depth of a foot or more. The till had to be picked and came away in big lumps and masses. It probably was taken from the bottom of the fosse 16-16a. He does not remember meeting with any of the oak piles or beams which are now to be found in that corner.

It would seem likely therefore that the rampart material was originally carried from the fosses and supported over the bog by a platform or raft of beams (some of which remain to this day).

Pat Loy's family have lived at 26 for several generations. In his grandfather's time, about 80 or 90 years ago, an outer rampart, separated from the present one by a wide fosse, ran from 24 to 26. It was at that time levelled into the fosse, the site of which is still not only plainly visible, but noticeable by its great depth of earth, while the line on which this rampart ran retains very little covering over the sub-soil. From 25 to 26 the foundation of the destroyed inner rampart is still hard barren ground. He understood that the present drain from 26 to 27 was the line of the old fosse. The field immediately south of it is rock.



BRONZE JAVELIN-HEAD FROM UMMERICAM.

Mr. Redmond Magrath has shown us a fine bronze javelin-head which he had been given some years back by Mr. James Murphy of Cargans near Silverbridge.

Mr. Murphy, who told us that it was 14 or 18 years since he had dug it out of the turf nine feet below the surface, showed us the site. It is at the northern end of what used to be, until it was cut down about the year 1907, the Ummericam Ball plantation, lying north of Cashel Lough Upper (locally known as Ummericam Lough).

The javelin-head was therefore found a little more than three-quarters of a mile due north-east from The Dorsey, in the hollow on the east of Hill 641, only a quarter of a mile from point 55 on the upper map on page 222 (Fig. 8).

It is a well developed type late in the evolution of the javelin-head, belonging to the Fourth Bronze Period, about 700-800 B.C. This gives us one object from this neighbourhood from both the Bronze pre-Celtic and the Iron Celtic Ages.

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