

The Carrigan Manuscripts: the Fitzpatricks of Raheen and Kilcready, Co. Kilkenny

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Introduction

Among Carrigan's Manuscripts¹ are his notes on several Fitzpatrick families of Co. Laois and Co. Kilkenny, who are not clearly connected with the Barons of Upper Ossory, that provide sixteenth to nineteenth century narratives and genealogies mostly unavailable elsewhere.

Carrigan's records of Fitzpatricks of southern Co. Kilkenny are noteworthy, since at the time of the 'Census of Ireland'², ca. 1659, there is no evidence of the surname being present further south than Kilkenny City. Rather, Carrigan's records indicate the first Fitzpatricks probably "came down" to southern Co. Kilkenny in the late seventeenth century.

In Volume 47 of the Carrigan Manuscripts, entitled, 'Mainly West Kilkenny County', are records of Fitzpatricks of Monachunna³ (Móin an Chonnaidh) and Kilcready⁴, as well as those of other connected families, such as Aylward, Barron, Daton, and Forestall. A full transcription of the records is presented here. A map showing the location of key places referenced is provided in Figure 1.

The Fitzpatricks

The first of the Fitzpatricks of Monachunna was a carpenter who came from the Queen's Co. and settled down in Milltown⁵ about the creamery⁶ where his descendant, Dick [Fitz]Patrick (died ca. 1815 or 1820s, 80, [who is] buried inside [the] old chapel of Templeorum⁷), a

¹ For an introduction to and overview of Carrigan Manuscripts, see Fitzpatrick, M (2023). The Carrigan Manuscripts: the will of Thady Fitzpatrick, MD, 1674. The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society S1, 1-10. [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety01423](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety01423).

² Pender S (1939). A Census of Ireland circa 1659. Dublin: The Stationary Office.

³ Monachunna in Dunnamaggan (Dún Iomagáin) parish, in the Barony of Kells. Unless stated, Irish placenames are according those at the Placenames Database of Ireland, <https://www.logainm.ie>.

⁴ Kilcready, a sub-townland of Castlegannon (Caisléan Geanainn) in Derrynahinch (Doire na hinse) parish, in the Barony of Knocktopher. There are church ruins at Kilcready, which are considered the oldest in Knocktopher (Carrigan, W, 1905. The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory. Dublin, Sealy, Bryers and Walker).

⁵ Milltown (Baile an Mhuilinn) in Muckalee (Maigh Coillí) parish, in the Barony of Knocktopher.

⁶ Carrigan (1905) noted, the "creamery now occupies the site of the old mill".

⁷ "The first chapel erected in this district since the Reformation stood on Raheen hill, at the point of meeting of the townlands of Raheen, Templeorum and Corbally. It consisted of two parallel walls 60 feet long and 17 feet apart, built of very large rough stones without any mortar whatever, and covered overhead with furze and fraech; there were no end walls. Mass may have been said in this chapel as far back as the days of Queen Elizabeth; it was certainly the 'Mass house' of the district down to about 1720. Michael Fitzpatrick of Raheen, born in 1811, informed the writer that his great-great-grand-mother, a Mrs Daton of Tobernabrone, was present, when a young girl, at the last masses celebrated here. Being open at both ends, this chapel became a favourite haunt of the goats, then numerous along the hills, and from this circumstance it came to be known by its present name of Shaypealnangouer, or the Goats' Chapel" (Carrigan W, 1905, Volume IV, p.250-251).

farmer and living in the same spot married Mary Walsh of Toor, Co. Tipperary: this man's name was Richard Fitzpatrick and his son James Fitzpatrick (aged 77) of Corbally⁸ (where Carroll lives) married Mary Barron and their son Michael Fitzpatrick, born in 1811 still lives in Monachunna⁹.

Mary Barron wife of said James Fitzpatrick was daughter of Martin Barron and Aylse Poor of Condonstown¹⁰ his wife: Martin Barron was first cousin of Rev. James Lalor P.P. Templeorum, said Martin Barron's mother's name being Kennedy. The Barrons lived originally at Oldcourt¹¹, Inistioge, but I suppose on his marriage, Martin leaving the old place, settled down in Potstown¹², Inistioge, and owned all that townland. He was leader of a faction and worsted [the] Bishop's faction of Kells, and in revenge for it [the] Bishop's wife got his landlord to evict him one year and a half after his marriage with Aylse Poor, about 1780. After his eviction Martin Barron came to Templeorum where he got a farm of 34 acres and set up a shop, and afterwards died; here too Ayles Poor died aged about 80 about 1826.

Ayles Poor was born in Condonstown, the daughter of Mickel Poor and [Miss] Daton, of Tobernabrone¹³, his wife. The said Mrs Poor alias Daton's parents lived where the Walshes now live in Tobernabrone and owned all their land, but when her father died the Walshes got a lease over her mother and the landlord or agent taking her case into kind consideration gave her the Jamestown¹⁴ farm, that next became vacant, instead, and the Datons of Jamestown now are her descendants. It was this old Mrs Daton of Tobernabrone and Jamestown who heard mass in Chapel na gower⁷.

Father Mike Daton's father was born in the house now occupied by Ned Daton in Ballygown¹⁵ and went thence to Tinlough (Co. Tipperary). [The] present Ned Daton's people next lived in that house, having removed thither from the north side of Ballygown, but these

⁸ Corbally (Corrbhaile) in Fiddown (Fíodh Dúin) parish, in the Barony of Knocktopher.

⁹ Michael's baptism record is from 22 October 1811. The baptisms of Michael's siblings are also recorded: Richard (2 September 1810), Anne (27 December 1816), Ellen (10 April 1822), and John (29 September 1825). The baptisms record the family were living in Raheen (Ráithín, formerly Templeorum parish, now Fiddown parish), which is approximately one mile southwest of Milltown. Carrigan (1905) referred to the same Michael as "of Raheen". Michael died 11 February 1906, aged 95 years. He married Bridget Dalton and they had at least five children. The 1901 Ireland census for Raheen, Templeorum, has Michael as a widow and head of house, aged 90 years (<https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Kilkenny/Templeorum/Raheen>, accessed 7 May 2024) – with him is his son, James, daughter-in-law, Ellen, and five grandchildren. Michael's father, James, is found in the Griffith's Valuation for Raheen as lessee of 38 acres from Peter Walsh (<https://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation>, accessed 5 May 2024). It is considered that, in his manuscripts, Carrigan confused Raheen of Templeorum with Raheen of Dunnamagann; the latter is but one half a mile from Monachunna.

¹⁰ Condonstown (Baile na gCondúnach) in Aghaviller (Áth an Bhiolair) parish, in the Barony of Knocktopher.

¹¹ Oldcourt (An tSeanchúirt) formerly in Inistioge (Inis Tíog) parish, now in Clonamery (Cluain Iomaire) parish, in the Barony of Ida.

¹² Potstown (Baile an Chorcáin), is a sub-division of Owing (Ónainn) parish, in the Barony of Iverk (O'Kelly, S, 1985. The placenames of County Kilkenny. Kilkenny: The Kilkenny Archaeological Society).

¹³ Tobernabrone (Tober na Brón) in Fiddown parish.

¹⁴ Jamestown (Baile Shéamais) in Fiddown parish.

¹⁵ Ballygown (Baile an Ghabhann) in Fiddown parish.

two families of Datons [were] not related, nor was there any relation between them and the Datons of Jamestown, and none of them were related to Kathleen Daton.

The real Datons, heirs to Bessborough¹⁶, were gentle folks living in Co. Wexford; they used to come have a look at their ancestral estate, sometimes even in Michael Fitzpatrick's time.

The Kilcready Fitzpatricks are related to Michael Fitzpatrick but their ancestor came down from the Queen's Co. sometime before his, perhaps one generation before. The Gortrush¹⁷ Fitzpatricks [are] nothing at all to these. Michael Fitzpatrick's mother died in 1831 aged ca. 48. The first of the Kilcready Fitzpatricks also came down poor.

Fitzpatricks of Kilcready

There were two brothers of them in Kilcready where they held between them 90 acres: their father was probably Ned Fitzpatrick: these two brothers who were first cousins of Father Geoffrey Fitzpatrick P.P.¹⁸, Dunnamaggan, were Peery Fitzpatrick and Jemmy Fitzpatrick both of whom lived and died in Kilcready, their father's 90 acres having been divided among them¹⁹. These two brothers had also two sisters viz. Anne and Mary.

Peery Fitzpatrick above of Kilcready died aged 87 about 1833, his wife was Mary Aylward of Ballytarsna²⁰, aunt of Rev. John Aylward P.P. Mooncoin²¹: they married when both very young about twenty years each; their son Ned Fitzpatrick who predeceased them, lived in Kilcready also, married a Miss Malloy of Kells, and their daughter is Bridget Fitzpatrick now Mrs Carroll of Brenar²², born about 1821; their descendants now completely cleared out of Kilcready, and even their house in Kilcready is completely disappeared and the land in possession of their relative John Fitzpatrick²³, grandson of Jemmy Fitzpatrick.

¹⁶ Bessborough House, in Kildalton (Cill an Dátúnaigh), Fiddown Parish, was built in the mid-eighteenth century for Brabazon Ponsonby, first Earl of Bessborough, on the site of Kildalton Castle. Kildalton, formerly Kilmodalla, i.e., Cill Modalla, the Church of St Modailbh (Carrigan, W, 1905) took its name from the family of Dalton (otherwise, Daton, and previously de Antōn) who were domiciled in the Barony of Knocktopher from the late thirteenth century and Kilmodalla from the early fifteenth century (Fitzpatrick, M. 2024. The Daltons of Kildalton: a Norman-Irish gentry family, Part I. The Journal of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society 5, 1-10 [doi:10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety01624](https://doi.org/10.48151/fitzpatrickclansociety01624); Curtis, E. 1934. Calendar of Ormond Deeds Volume II. Dublin: The Stationary Office). In 1641, Kildalton was held by Edmund Dalton, afterwards forfeited to Sir John Ponsonby, the grandfather of Brabazon (The Down Survey of Ireland. Trinity College, Dublin: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie> accessed 7 April 2024).

¹⁷ Gortrush (Gort an Rois), in Fiddown parish. The 1901 census has one family of Fitzpatricks living in Gortrush (<https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Kilkenny/Fiddown/Gortrush>, accessed 8 April 2024), James Fitzpatrick, a farmer, his wife Margaret (née Power), and six children. James (baptised 21 November 1831) was the son of James Fitzpatrick and Margaret Foley, of Gortrush. James senior is found in the Griffith's Valuation for Gortrush as a lessee of 36 acres from the Earl of Bessborough (accessed 12 May 2024).

¹⁸ "Rev. Geoffrey Fitzpatrick, born in Mooncoin, in his native parish from 1806 to 1818, and was subsequently C.C. in Callan and Slieverue, until July 10th 1829, when he was promoted to Dunnamaggan. He died April 7th 1835, and is buried in Dunnamaggan chapel" (Carrigan W, 1905, Volume IV, p.86).

¹⁹ The Griffith's Valuation has Edward Fitzpatrick, son of Jemmy, leasing 72 acres in Castlegannon from Anthony Cliffe (accessed 3 May 2024).

²⁰ Ballytarsna (Baile Tarsna) townland is immediately east of Castlegannon.

²¹ Mooncoin (Móin Choinn) in Ballytarsney (Baile Tarsna) parish, in the Barony of Iverk.

²² Brenar (Bréanair) in Fiddown parish.

²³ John, of Castlegannon, is found in the 1901 census, head of house, widower and farmer, living with his five children <https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Kilkenny/Castlegannon/Castlegannon>, accessed

Jemmy Fitzpatrick, Peery's brother, married Owner alias Nora Forestall of Castlebanny²⁴, and their son Ned Fitzpatrick²⁵ of Kilcready was father of John Fitzpatrick who lives in Kilcready and owns all the Fitzpatrick land, 90 acres, there and of Mrs Aylward of Knockmoylan²⁶ (Father Pat Aylward's mother) and of the two nuns in [Castle]comer convent: Jemmy Fitzpatrick's daughter, sister to Ned, was the late Biddy [Fitz]patrick, mother of the late Rev. William Brenan P.P. Mooncoin; she died.

Another son of Jemmy Fitzpatrick was Pierce Fitzpatrick. Mary Fitzpatrick sister of old Peery and Jemmy married John Barden of Lismateige²⁷.

Anne Fitzpatrick, sister of old Peery, Jemmy and Mary, married John Forestall of Castlebanny, brother of Jemmy's wife. The said John Forestall of Castlebanny had a brother, born in Castlebanny, who in his youth went to travel, and becoming a clerk or book-keeper to a rich Spanish merchant in the Peak of Tenerife, got married after his master's death, and by the latter's special wish to his only child, an heiress, the dying man recognising that no one but Forestall understood at the time the state and conduct of his business affairs. By his Spanish marriage Forestall had but one child, a son and he was an idiot. Forestall on a visit with his wife and son, to Castlebanny took cold and died, having bequeathed his means after death to his wife and son, to his nephews and nieces in Castlebanny and Kilcready. The wife and son died in Tenerife and it was some time after that Kenny Purcell recovered his money for his legatees, among them his nephews Ned Fitzpatrick of Kilcready and John Forestall, Castlebanny, who died in 1882 aged 80 leaving three daughters mistresses Green, Walsh, and Martin.

In 1767 John, son of Mr Peter Forestall, merchant in the Canaries, aged 10 years, entered Kilkenny College. This Mr Peter Forestall was probably the first of the family who went abroad, and was perhaps the brother of John Forestall, Castlebanny, who died in 1792 aged 74. The said John Forestall who died in 1792 being apparently father of Pierce who died in 1792 aged 21; of Patrick Forestall esquire and merchant of Island of Tenerife who died in Kilkenny in 1819 in his 74th year; and of John of Castlebanny who died in 1824 aged 64 leaving a son the late John Forestall above of Castlebanny who died in 1882 aged 80 years, and another son Peter of Castlebanny who died in 1847 aged 49.

Kilcready

The church is dedicated to St Bridget, and it is on the account of Mrs Carroll was called Bridget. The altar flag [is] still there in the church. Some generations of the Fitzpatricks of Kilcready [are] buried inside the church. One Protestant headstone [is] in the graveyard. Bridget, daughter of Edmond Fitzpatrick and Bridget Miller, Cashel, born 1820. In Irish Kilcready is called Kyle-chreddhya [Cill Créada] i.e., Church of Faith.

5 May 2024). John was the son of Edward (also recorded as Edmond) Fitzpatrick and Margaret Walsh, baptised 10 December 1839. His wife was Ellen Doyle, and they married 24 November 1868.

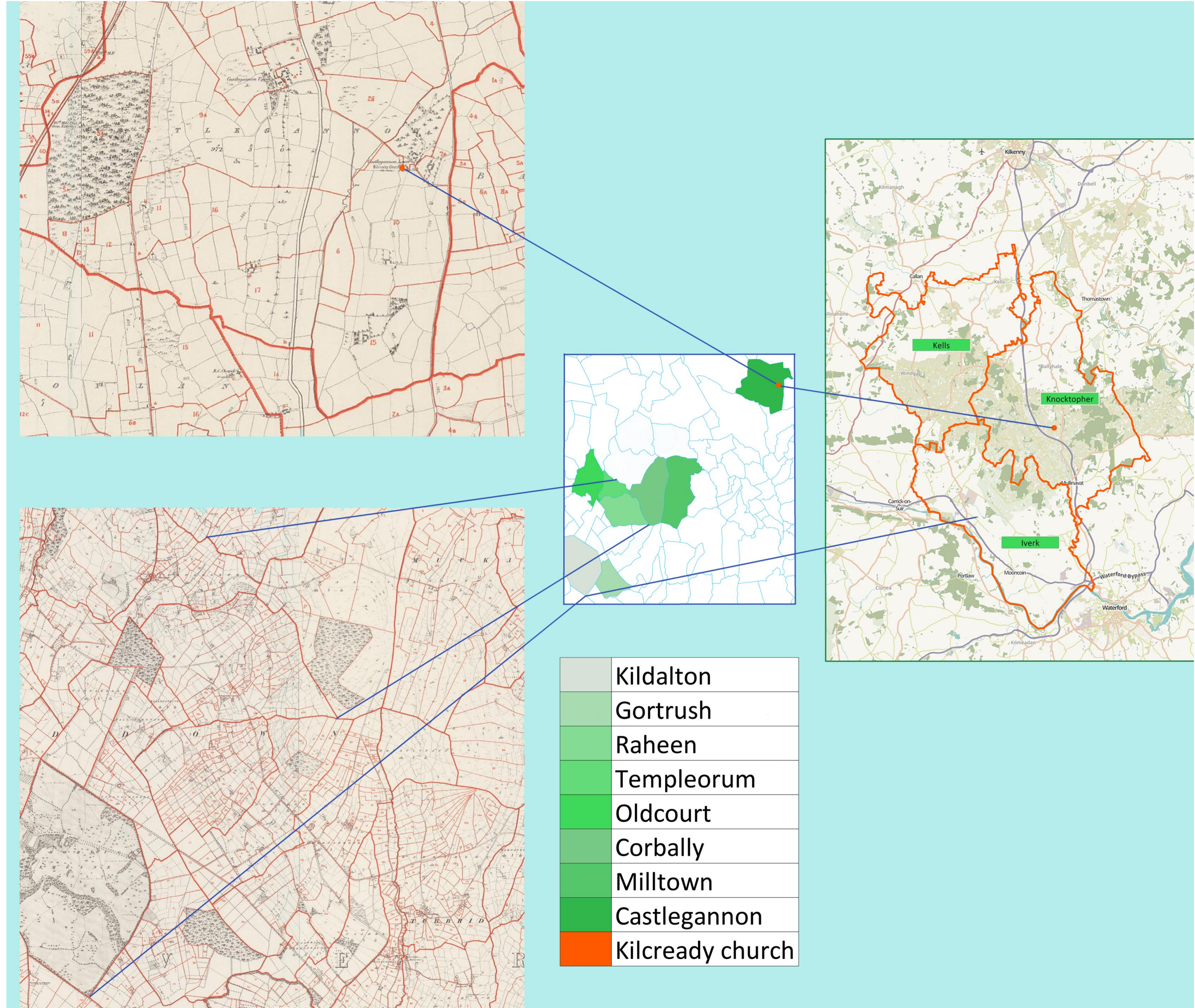
²⁴ Castlebanny (Caisléan an Bhainne) in Derrynahinch parish.

²⁵ Edward, or Edmond, Fitzpatrick, farmer of Kilcready died 20 June 1878 aged 86 years.

²⁶ Knockmoylan (Cnoc Maoláin) in Kilkeasy (Cill Chéise) parish, in the Barony of Knocktopher.

²⁷ Lismateige (Lios Mhic Thaidhg) parish, in the Barony of Knocktopher.

Figure 1: Locations of places, showing key baronies, townlands, and detail.



Barony Map edited from OpenStreetMap: © [OpenStreetMap contributors](#). Tiles courtesy of [Tracestrack](#). [Website and API terms](#).