

CLONASLEE FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Appendix 16-5: Extracts from the Irish Folklore Commission Schools' Collection

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CHAPTER 16 CULTURAL HERITAGE

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Reference	Location	Collector/ Informant	Extract Detail	Dúchas Archive Permalink
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0823, Page 086	Clonaslee	Peter Redmond	Clothes Made Locally There is no tailor in this district nor in the parish. The nearest tailor lives in Clonaslee. His name is Mr. Owen Dunne. He works in his home every day. He does not go from house to house making clothes like tailors of long ago. He stocks his own cloth and supplies his customers. But they may purchase the cloth elsewhere, and he will make the clothes [...]	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769984/4764109
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 122	Clonaslee	Joseph Deffew	Fairy Forts [...] N.B; Land on edge of Clonaslee has a fort and the owner leveled it down. It is said that his luck went with it and that he lost both land and prosperity.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769990/4764510
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 128a	Clonaslee	Joseph Deffeu	Cures from Herbs There is an old family in Clonaslee who is noted for "curing where others fail". Members of this family make their cures from various herbs - dandelion, garlic, "praiseac". The ointments and liquid preparations which are made by those people, from those simple herbs, cure such dangerous diseases and complaints as - consumption, jaundice. Needless to say, there is no payment taken or given when the cure is made. A payment is made of course, in the form of a nice present. A garlic medicine is given in early spring to patients suffering from Anaemia.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769990/4764518/4933598
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 165a	Clonaslee	Not given	Local Patron Saint St Mannan is the Local Patron. From him [sic] parish gets its name. He was a hermit and was supposed to have lived at "Corrigeen" (The hermitage of the Rocks) about 3mls along the road to Birr, from school House. There was an old church of his outside Clonaslee, and a tunnel connected it with Killoughy Priory (two miles distant).	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769990/4764567/4933884
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 167	Clonaslee/ Brittas	Not given	Hidden Treasure There is a treasure hidden up in a cave by the side of the river Clodagh, which flows past Brittas demesne and through the village of Clonaslee. This treasure is said to consist of gold and silver vessels of immense value, hidden at the time of the Norman invasion. There is also a boot of golden coins hidden between an Ash tree above Kennedy's house Shraduff, and the graveyard Kilmanman Clonaslee. Another treasure is supposed to be hidden in the Ballinahemmy mountain and is said to have been brought and hidden there by soldiers from Castlecuff castle, once inhabited by a branch of the Coote family [...]	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764569/4933887

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The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 189–90	Clonaslee/ Brittas	Theresa Kelly	Fairy Fort Forts are not very common in this district, but in nearly every townland there are the remains of some to be seen still. [...] There is another fort down near Brittas wood. A man said he saw the fairies getting up out of it one morning and going off in a golden carriage.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764591/4933901
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 191	Clonaslee	Not given	The Famine The potato crop failed in the year 1847. It was the food the people were depending on for sustenance. Many people in this parish emigrated to America, among the rest three families named Duffy of Cloonagh, Clonaslee, Leix. The ruins of their houses are still to be seen, and are often pointed out by the old people. A family named Hipwell also emigrated and their land is now in possession of Corbets. Great numbers of people in this parish died at that time, and some of them went mad and ate the bark of trees. The population of Clonaslee decreased; several families died out and went to America [...].	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764593
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 194–95	Clonaslee	Not given	Place Names of Clonaslee, Leix Afoley means ford under river. Clonaslee means the meadow by the way. Ballinakill means the town of the wood. Ballinaneen means the town of the rabbits. Ballinahown means the town of the river. Ballymcroory means the town of the son of Rory. Ballinahemmy means the town of the butter. Ballyfarrell means the town of Farrell. Bellair means the leval river land. Brocca means the town of the badgers. Clarahill means woody table land. Clonline means broad meadow. Cloonagh means horse meadow [...].	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764597
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 206	Clonaslee	Theresa Kelly	Roads The road which goes through Clonaslee was one of the five roads that lead to Tara in olden times. That is why "Clonaslee" means the meadow by the way. The General's road was cut out by General Dunne. The sod was cut off and left by the side. The road goes up by Peavoy's and all along, up and over the Cross mountains. The "Cut" was made over one hundred years ago by the landlord named Verschoyle, who owned land both sides of the mountain. The men were paid four pence a day in wages. The road runs through big rocks about twenty feet deep.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764608/4933913

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The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 207	Clonaslee	Maureen Lalor	Roads The "Cut" road was made by Board of Public Works to relieve distress after the famine. The people worked for fourpence per day. The General's road was made by General Dunne. It joins the Kinnity road. It is only a beaten track. as the road through the "Cut", and it was marked out, but never finished. The Baradoo road was made by Public board of works also, and the men worked also for fourpence per day.	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764609/4933914
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 209–10	Clonaslee	Maureen Lalor	Clonaslee Clonaslee village is situated at the foot of the Slieve-Bloom mountains. It is a very nice village, with ten grocery shops and two drapery shops, five public houses, a post office, a recreation hall with a billiard room attached to it, and a courthouse. Outside the village is a Creamery with a Co-operative store beside it, on these premises. There are a few old ruins of churches and castles around the village. In Ballinakill, there are ruins of an old castle, which was built in the year 1680 by Colonel Dunne. This man fought at the battle of Aughrim in 1691. He was wounded and fell from his horse, which galloped home to Ballinakill. The O'Gormans carried him to Killoughy, where he expired, and was buried in Killeagh. Kilmanman was the original name for Clonaslee. It is a mile and a half from the village. Here St. Manman had a church and also had a monastery at Lahool. In the graveyard at Kilmanman, there is a head stone, said to mark the last resting place of a Bishop. The ruins of Borodeen stands in Castlecuffe, where the first Sir Charles Coote lived [...].	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764611/4933920
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 224	Clonaslee	Maureen Lalor	Games [...] Handball is another favourite game of mine. It is played against a wall. There is a ball-alley being built in Clonaslee. [...]	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764626
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 239–40	Clonaslee	Not given	(no title) On the mountain not far from Clonaslee there is a rock called Brennan's rock where a priest named Fr. Brennan or perhaps St. Brennan, used to say Mass in the Penal time. The mountain is covered with heather all around the rock, but a small patch of grass remains at the rock, where the priest stood. About half a mile from Brennan's rock there is a place called the Money hill, where money was buried by the Danes. Some men went to dig for the money one time, but something in the nature of fire and smoke came down the mountain and the men had to run away to the nearest house, the door of which was burst in after them. The cows in their house went almost mad and broke their tether and got out, so the Money hill remains the way the men left it to this day [...].	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764641

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The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 227–28	Brittas	Maureen Lalor	Ruins of Churches <p>There was a church in Brittas, near where the O'Dunnes lived, when one of the O'Dunnes turned Protestant, he would not allow the people to pray in it. Then the people built a straw church, down near where the present church is now. [...] In Kilmanman there was a church, which was burnt by Cromwell, and was supposed to be the second largest in Ireland. It was erected, where the graveyard is now.</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764629/4933942
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 242–45	Brittas	Not given	The Dunne Family <p>The Dunne Family can be traced back to the second century and are descended from Cathal Mor, who flourished at that time. They had only a thatched mansion at first, but Captain Dunne built the stone castle now standing. When he was having it built, he put a sovereign under the foundation stone himself, and he said that Brittas, would never be without money.</p> <p>The Dunnes were a very noble family, and at the time of the Reformation in 1771, the chief of the family turned Protestant to keep the estate and save the family from persecution. They had an old chapel just inside the big gate, which all the people used to go to pray in, but when Squire Frances Dunne turned Protestant, the people were not allowed to go there anymore, so they built a chapel for themselves in 1771 not far away from where the present chapel is now, which was built in 1813.</p> <p>When the report was circulated that Squire Dunne was about to change his religion, the priest approached him about the matter. The reply was that if he heard a shot, he was to go on with Mass.</p> <p>The priest, not seeing the Dunne family, who usually occupied the front seat turned round and began Mass and just then the shot rang out. The priest was captured and hanged on a tree before the hall door. This tree is still growing. Before the priest died, he said that Brittas would be without the name of a Dunne and so it is now.</p> <p>A younger branch of the family lived in a castle at Ballinakill, near the river Clodagh. One of that branch, Terence Dunne went to fight at the battle of Aughrim in 1691 and was killed. The horse galloped back to the castle and there is a rhyme about this event, and this is some of it:-</p> <p><i>His horse came at midnight, No rider was there, And his bridle was red, With the sign of despair.</i></p> <p>Brittas has many old place names such as :- Glenmore, Annar's lawn, The Bluebell wood, The Racecourse, The priest's field, Killyann, The Old Lodge, the Furze hill, Parknamuck, The Barley field, The Foundation, The Major's walk, the White field, The Lake field, The Ram park and many others.</p> <p>The crest of the Dunnes is a lizard and on oak tree. When one of the Dunnes was lying asleep under an oak tree, a lizard came and put his tail into his ear, and so awakened him. The enemy at the time and he just had time to escape and so the</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764644

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			lizard saved his life. Ever since the "Lizard, acorn and oak leaf" have been the crest of O'Dunnes.	
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 246–47	Clonaslee	Theresa Kelly	<p>Old Houses</p> <p>All the old houses were made of mud and stones. The Landlord would not allow the tenants to build big houses. Thatched houses could only have a kitchen and one room. Only one window was allowed to each house and that should not be any more than a foot in length and less than a foot wide.</p> <p>The kitchen was very small only big enough for a settle-bed and a dresser and table. Blocks of wood were used for chairs. They had beds in the room, one over the other hanging out of the rafters.</p> <p>There was a mantle-tree at the fire place. It came out over the fire across the kitchen and people used to sit in under it at night and tell stories.</p> <p>They built their houses in hollows after the big wind, because they were afraid the houses would be blown away.</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764648
The Schools' Collection, Vol. 0824, Page 248–49	Clonaslee / Brittas	Not given	<p>(no title)</p> <p>Many hundreds of years ago this district we now call Clonaslee was part of a huge forest, which covered the land from Galway to Dublin. Dense under-growth made it hard to travel and as there were only harrow-tracks through the forests, robbers were very plentiful, and it was dangerous for the inhabitants to move about or travel much. Clonaslee was then called Hy-Regan and was owned and ruled over by the great family of the O'Moore, after which the family of the O'Doynes took up residence in 1150, shortly, after William the Conqueror came over, but the name was afterwards changed to O'Dunne. Sir Charles Coote was one of the agents of Queen Elizabeth and he built the Castle, now in ruins, known as Castle Cuffe, the name having been probably coined from Castle Coote.</p> <p>Little turf was cut in those days as the country was full of forests and wood was plentiful. Small bears, the wild cat, large stoats, great Irish deer, or elks, animals whose horns were six or seven feet across.</p> <p>The O'Doyme family built roads, bridges and houses, fences, planted trees and brought people to dwell near them as their vassals and servants, and founded the village we now call Clonaslee. They changed the name of the Hy-Regan to Brittas, but the old name still remains in Glendine O'Regan, because another Glendine is in upper Ossory at Arderin, which used to be the great highway between the Kings and Queens County.</p>	https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4769991/4764650/4933962?