

Ancient Monuments in the Neighbourhood of Broadford, Co. Clare, compiled by Lieutenant-Colonel William Audrey Bentley

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Lieutenant-Colonel William Audrey Bentley of Hurdlestown House, Broadford, Co. Clare, between 1917 and 1919, compiled some notes on stone antiquities in the district surrounding his home.¹ The thirty-seven extant foolscap pages, in his handwriting, can be divided into three sections.² The first is a ten-page introduction in which he describes the neighbourhood of Broadford, propounds a theory on the orientation of the megalithic tombs of the area, mentions various aspects of sun worship and other pagan customs in such farflung places as Peru, Scotland and Devon, and comments on the Christianising of pagan feasts in Ireland. In the main body of the notes, twenty-four pages in all, Bentley describes twenty stone antiquities. These are sixteen megalithic tombs, mostly of the Wedge-Grave class,³ two Bullaun stones, a standing-stone and a possible stone circle.⁴ Finally, Bentley devotes three pages to the memorials of Fr. William O'Doogan, the one-time parish priest of Killokennedy and Kilsiealy, who lived during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. These latter are included in an Appendix to the present paper.

Bentley's Introduction

In the introduction, Bentley describes the East-West Glenomra Valley which has Broadford as its focal point. This flat-bottomed valley, the major East-West valley in the Slieve Barnagh mountains is drained by *Abhan na Gearnaigh* into Doon Lough

¹ The manuscript is not signed although it bears five dates from 31st May, 1917 to 28th July, 1918; there seems to be a hint in the introduction that it was written after December, 1918.

² I wish to thank the present owner of the Bentley Manuscript for permission to publish it. I am indebted to an t-uasal Pádraig Ó Bheacháin, M.A., H.Dip. in Ed., Gortnaglough, Broadford, Co. Clare, for informing me of the existence of the manuscript; to the latter and Miss Frances Crowe, B.Sc., H.Dip. in Ed., Porte, Ruan, Co. Clare, for introducing me to its owner; to Mr. Etienne Rynne, M.A., M.R.I.A., Department of Archaeology, University College, Galway, and Mr. Seán Ó Nualláin, Archaeological Officer, Ordnance Survey, for encouragement and advice in publishing the manuscript; to Mr. Michael Kelly of Oatfield, Co. Clare, for various items of local tradition incorporated herein; to my father for checking the typescript; and to Miss Anne Conlon, Farnacardy, Sligo, for painstakingly typing my well-nigh illegible manuscript!

³ The term 'Wedge-Grave' as used by Estyn Evans, *Prehistoric and Early Christian Ireland, a Guide*, London 1966, pp. 11-12, is preferred here in place of the more cumbersome 'Wedge-shaped Gallery Grave'.

⁴ Certain passages of the manuscript include matter which today is considered irrelevant to the study of megalithic tombs. For this reason some passages are given here only in summary form, whilst others have been omitted entirely. Some additional matter, discussion of certain points and conclusions in the light of recent study of megalithic tombs, has been included.

at the western opening of the valley. This valley connects Tradraighe and the lake-land districts of Clare with the crossing of the Shannon at the south of Lough Derg. There are two East-West roads close to the foothills on either side of, and avoiding, the ill-drained valley floor. The one on the north side is reputed to be the more ancient, and, it is believed locally that it was along this road that cattle, etc., were sent as tribute to the Kings of Thomond at Kincora near Killaloe. Earlier use of this valley is attested by many ringforts, but the earliest settlement of the valley is indicated by the many "dolmens", *i.e.*, Wedge-Graves.

The Plans

Bentley provides plans for thirteen of the sixteen megalithic tombs, those for No. 8, Clooneyconry More (Cl. 113), No. 14, Gurtachullin, and No. 16, Moanogeenagh, being lacking; also supplied is a sketch-plan of No. 20, Drummin Stone Circle, and of No. 17, Clooneyconry Bullaun Stone which he includes in his list of antiquities. These are quite accurate but are too regularly drawn in some cases, possibly due to Bentley's military training, as for example when an irregular orthostat is indicated as being sub-rectangular, as is the case with No. 4, Cloongaheen West (South Dolmen). Regrettably a scale is not given in any instance.

Alignment: 'Western Dolmens' and 'Eastern Dolmens'

Alignment of the tombs is given by three methods. The *compass point* is intended only to give a general impression of the alignment of the tombs; in one case the cardinal points are given as North, Southwest, East and West. The *magnetic declination*, taken along "the longer side" of the tomb, is given in fourteen instances but in general it is 20° too high as compared with those recorded in *The Megalithic Survey*. All the readings as taken by Bentley lie between 240° and 315°, whereas those recorded in *The Megalithic Survey* lie between 232° and 281°, a dispersion of 75° as compared with 49° (the exclusion of Cloongaheen West (North Dolmen), which is not included in *The Megalithic Survey*, would give a dispersion of 56° as compared with 49° since its magnetic declination is 315°). In the introduction on the basis of *orientation*, Bentley divides the tombs into two major categories, 'Western Dolmens' and 'Eastern Dolmens.' From the individual listing of the tombs one can list twelve, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, and possibly a thirteenth, No. 7, which Bentley ascribes to the 'Western Dolmen' group. The 'Eastern Dolmen' group consists of three tombs, Nos. 2, 9 and 12, and No. 11 might possibly be included in this category. Bentley, in the introduction, assigns only three tombs to this category but he does not name them. However, Bentley does not draw attention in his introduction to the fact that in the subsequent listing of the tombs, he suggests that one tomb, No. 2, Violet Hill, belongs to both the 'Western Dolmen' and 'Eastern Dolmen' groups, whilst there is another tomb, No. 4, Cloongaheen West (South Dolmen), which he does not assign to either group.

'Western Dolmens' are Wedge-Graves from which the setting sun can be seen and which have their major axis aligned on a prominent hill-top to the west. Four tombs of this category, No. 8, Clooneyconry More (Cl. 113),⁵ No. 10, Formoyle More, No. 13,

⁵ The numbers preceded by the prefix Cl. are those allocated by Ruaidhri de Valera and Seán Ó Nualláin, *Survey of Megalithic Tombs of Ireland, Vol. 1. County Clare*, Dublin 1961, (hereinafter referred to as *The Megalithic Survey*).

Barbane, and No. 14, Gurtachullin, are aligned on Croughaun Hill and two, No. 3, Drummin, and No. 5, Ardskeagh (West Dolmen), are aligned on Lissane Hill. These two places are part of the same area of high ground and hence six of the eleven tombs in this 'Western Dolmen' group are aligned on it. From this observation Bentley derived the belief that the tombs were primarily intended for sun worship, the worshippers meeting at the tomb from which the sun could be seen to disappear behind a particular area of high ground; Croughaun-Lissane is the area in the case of the six tombs mentioned above. No. 6, Killokennedy,⁶ is aligned on Loughnagat though the tip of Croughaun can be seen from it but this is not so in the case of No. 11, Knockshanvo, which is aligned on Glencaloo Gap. The two remaining tombs of the 'Western Dolmen' group are west of the meridian through Croughaun-Lissane. Rising ground to the east in each case prevents a view of any mountain gap, hence the 'Western Dolmen' classification. No. 1, Elm Hill, is aligned on Turret Hill and No. 16, Moanogeenagh, is aligned on Crookanooker.

'Eastern Dolmens' are Wedge-Graves from which the view to the West is blocked out but from which the rising sun can be seen and which have their major axis aligned on a mountain gap. In two cases, No. 4, Cloongaheen West (South Dolmen), and No. 9, Clooneyconry More, the tombs are aligned on Glenaghallagh Gap whilst No. 11, Knockshanvo, is aligned on Glencaloo Gap in Co. Tipperary. Elsewhere, however, Bentley accepts the possibility of a burial function for these 'Dolmens':

It is quite possible that some noted leader was interred under them, and that they were erected over his grave to perpetuate his memory, and that this could best be done by 'Sun Worship', in pagan times.

At a later stage he points out that the chambers are too small to place a corpse in and suggests that the body was cremated and placed in an urn which was then placed in the tomb.

In his introduction Bentley suggests that every tomb is either of the 'Western Dolmen' or the 'Eastern Dolmen' group. However, while dealing with the individual tombs, he suggests that one, No. 2, Violet Hill, possibly belongs to both groups, while another No. 4, Cloongaheen West (South Dolmen), does not fit into either group. It is difficult to understand how the latter difficulty arises since the Glenomra Valley provides a multiplicity of hill-tops and mountain gaps. A further fact against his orientation theory is the discrepancy in his thinking concerning magnetic declination on the one hand and orientation on the other. The magnetic declination for the tombs as recorded by Bentley ranges between 240° at No. 3, Drummin, and 315° at No. 12, Cloongaheen West (North Dolmen).⁷ This implies that all the tombs face in the same direction, *i.e.*, westwards, yet, when dealing with the tombs under their orientation he contradicts this by stating that some tombs face eastwards whilst others face westwards. Further to this, Bentley states that in all of the two-chamber tombs the smaller chamber, *i.e.* the portico, is at the west end, irrespective of his 'Western

⁶ The name of this townland as given on O.S. 6-inch sheets 36 and 44 is Killokennedy. In medieval times this general area was the home of an important Gaelic sept, O Kennedy, according to Edward MacLysaght, *More Irish Families*, Galway 1960, p.307, map of Connacht. Bentley, however, records that the old spelling of the townland name was Killogannedy, which he translates as "The Church of the Immaculate Conception". The change in spelling, he suggests, occurred in the mid-nineteenth century.

⁷ The upper limit of 315° is probably 22° to 24° too high, as suggested above.

Dolmen' or 'Eastern Dolmen' classification. This should have indicated to him that all the tombs face in the same direction. As indicated in *The Megalithic Survey*,⁸ all the Wedge-Graves point in directions between South (180°) and West-North-West (282½°). As already mentioned, a comparison of the magnetic declination readings as given by Bentley and in *The Megalithic Survey* indicates that Bentley's readings are, in general, 22° to 24° too high. A reduction of all the Bentley readings by that amount would bring them all within the South to West-North-West sector of the hemisphere. Despite the present writer's rejection of Bentley's 'Western Dolmen'/'Eastern Dolmen' theory, it is given here lest in the light of further studies along astronomical lines the information might be considered relevant.⁹

Purpose of the Manuscript

The present possessor of the Bentley manuscript believes that it was compiled as a personal record.¹⁰ On the other hand, statements such as "I do not know if he [the late Rev. Fr. O'Gorman, P.P.] was right and mention it only so that others may decide the question", "I am free to confess my knowledge on this subject is very limited", and "they [*i.e.*, certain ideas] may be of some little interest to others who are more versed in the subject than I am", would indicate that these notes were compiled either for publication or for a lecture. The former is possible because they are edited, and he terminates his comment on No. 12, Cloongaheen West (North Dolmen), with the statement, "See the notes on the Clountra 'Dolmen' also" (Italics mine, M.A.T.). Herein also lies an indication that the surviving manuscript is incomplete, for there are no notes on the Clountra 'Dolmen'. It may be that Bentley removed the Clountra 'Dolmen' from his list since the townland of Clountra is well outside of the Broadford-Glenomra district, or, possibly he changed his opinion as to the nature of the Clountra 'Dolmen'. On the other hand, the argument in favour of a purely personal use for the manuscript is strengthened by the facts that Bentley does not refer to any archaeologist who had worked on megalithic tombs in southeast Clare, *e.g.*, Westropp¹¹ and Borlase,¹² for comparative descriptions of any of the tombs and that it was not until 1971 that it came to the notice of archaeologists. Furthermore, Bentley did not die until seventeen years later, on the 14th of December, 1936, and so would have had ample time to publish it had he so intended.

Classification of Hitherto Unrecorded Tombs

The plans given by Bentley for three of the hitherto unrecorded tombs, Nos. 12, 13, 15, are so similar to those he gives for proven Wedge-Graves that these three sites undoubtedly belong to the same category of megalithic tombs. The evidence he presents for two other sites, Nos. 14 and 16, is insufficient to firmly categorise them. No. 14, Gurtachullin, was partly destroyed "to repair a fence" before Bentley first visited the site: "Only I chanced to meet the farmer on whose land it is, near the spot,

⁸ *Op. cit.*, p.106.

⁹ Alexander Thom, *Megalithic Sites in Britain*, Oxford 1967.

¹⁰ This may be so as Bentley was an ardent recorder of local social events, climatic conditions and agricultural activities.

¹¹ T. J. Westropp, "Cists, Dolmens, and Pillars of East Clare", *Proc. Roy. Irish Acad.*, 24, C (1902), 85-132, especially pp. 122-132, plans on p. 121, and Plates VII, 2 and VIII, 1 and 2.

¹² William Copeland Borlase, *The Dolmens of Ireland*, vol. I, London 1897, pp. 96-101.

I would never have found it" because all that remained were "very small stones". No. 16, Moanogeenagh, is more likely to have been a Wedge-Grave since it was an above-ground structure consisting of "two chambers", a term used by Bentley when describing other proven Wedge-Graves, *e.g.*, Nos. 4, 9, 10, etc. In neither case, No. 14 nor No. 16, does Bentley draw attention to any major difference between these two sites and any of the other Wedge-Graves listed by him. Thus it is possible, if not indeed probable, that these two sites can also be classified as Wedge-Graves. Details of No. 7, Ballykelly, and No. 5, Ardskeagh, not recorded elsewhere are given in the Catalogue.

Bentley's Listing as Compared with other Listings

Bentley records the existence of a total of sixteen megalithic tombs; of these only nine are listed by Westropp and eleven in *The Megalithic Survey*. Not all the megalithic tombs in the Broadford district listed in the latter work are included by Bentley, the exceptions being Cl. 117, Cloghoolia,¹³ and Cl. 118, Ardataggle.¹⁴ Thus Bentley adds a further five megalithic tombs, Nos. 12 to 16 inclusive, to the total of one hundred and nineteen Clare tombs recorded in *The Megalithic Survey*. All of the tombs listed by Bentley and in the latter work have been recently inspected by the present writer. An effort has been made, both in the field and through personal contact at local level, to locate the additional tombs listed by Bentley but as yet this has not been successful. However, in the course of this search an unrecorded Wedge-Grave was discovered at Cooleycasey (Nat. Grid Ref. R.516.677),¹⁵ and a possible megalithic structure at Oatfield (Nat. Grid Ref. R.540.672) was noted, but it is in a very ruinous state and it may be no more than a fortuitous arrangement of rocks; furthermore, the author was informed of a structure known as 'The Giant's Grave' at Clontra (Nat. Grid Ref. R.54.69), but as this has not been located at time of going to press its nature cannot be confirmed. . . . As mentioned above, Bentley includes a 'Dolmen' at Cloontra but does not give any details of it. The additional six tombs (three Wedge-Graves and two possible Wedge-Graves from Bentley's records and a single Wedge-Grave located by the present writer) to the thirteen listed in *The Megalithic Survey* for the Broadford-Glenomra district gives a total of nineteen. This concentration may in some way be related to the presence of copper in this area.¹⁶ The new tombs confirm the distributional pattern of Wedge-Graves in the Broadford-Glenomra district as noted in *The Megalithic Survey*, a distribution which is essentially a hillside one and thus mainly above the 500 ft. contour. Despite the increase in the known density of megalithic tombs in the district, there is no suggestion of their ever having formed a cemetery.

¹³ *The Megalithic Survey*, pp. 88-89, fig. 57.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 89-90, fig. 56.

¹⁵ "The Cooleycasey tomb is a nice specimen and fits beautifully into the distribution pattern" —letter from Seán Ó Nualláin, 9/10/1972.

¹⁶ In Shannocknock, about one mile east of No. 6, Killokennedy, a source of copper is marked on O.S. 6-inch sheet 44 (2 cm. from N.; 19 cm. from E.) as "Copper Mine (Disused)". However, Peter Harbison, "Mining and Metallurgy in Early Bronze Age Ireland", *NMAJ*, 10 (1966-67), 3-11, does not indicate a mine in this area on his map of the natural copper deposits in Ireland.

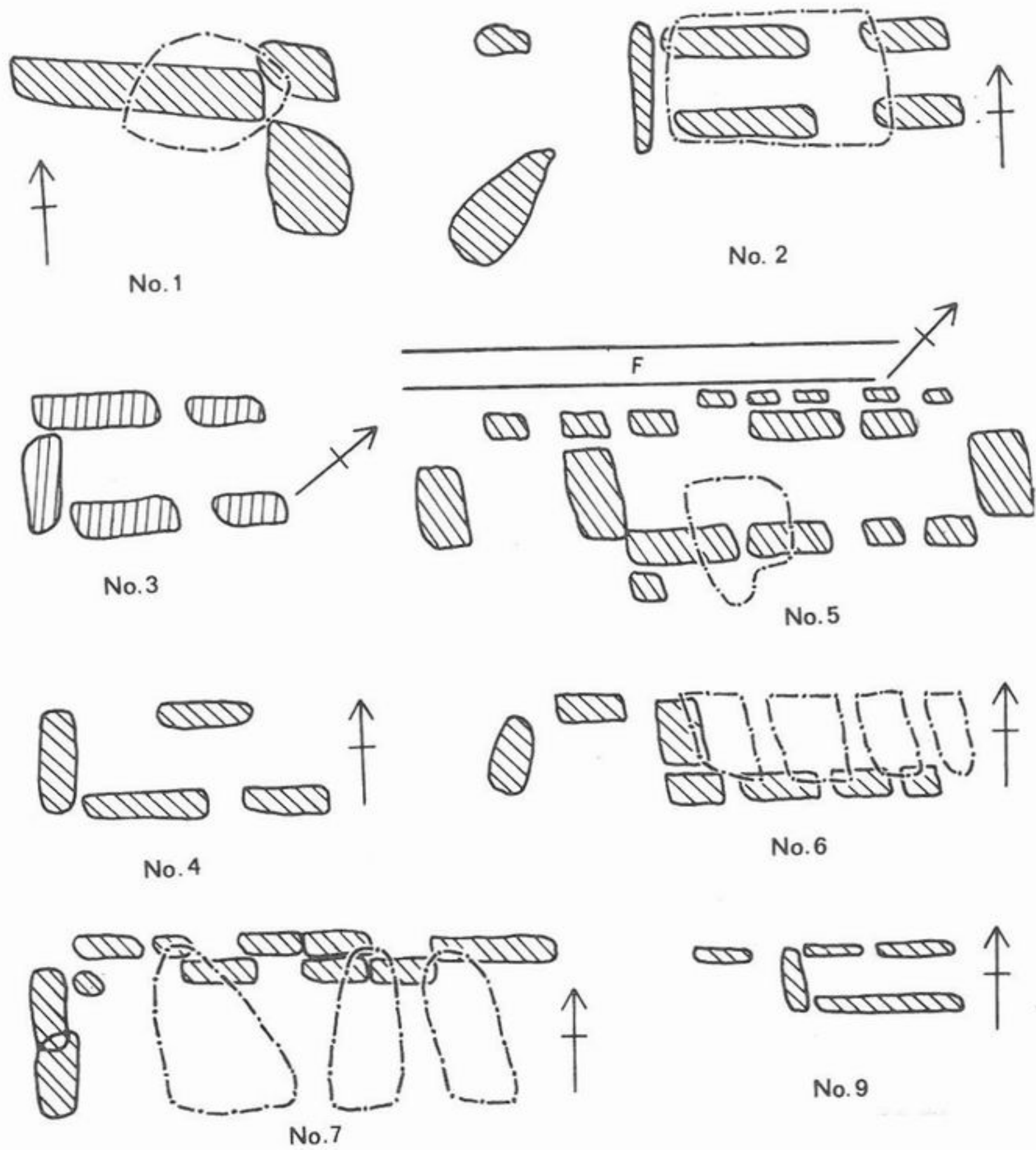


Fig. 1. Megalithic tombs near Broadford, Co. Clare — nos. 1-7 and 9.

CATALOGUE¹⁷

1. ELM HILL, Cl. 105 *Unclassified*

The four stones of this tomb shown by Bentley correspond to those recorded in *The Megalithic Survey* though they are somewhat differently positioned. The roof-stone is placed farther west along the side-stone of the chamber than it is at present. Bentley considers this to be a 'Western Dolmen' aligned on the setting sun and Turret Hill, at Cullam, about four miles distant.

2. VIOLET HILL, Cl. 107 *Wedge-Grave*

Other than recording the fact that this tomb was used as a dump for field-stones, Bentley does not provide any new information concerning this site. He considers this tomb as having a dual orientation. It has a clear view of the setting sun to the west but also of Lugnagat Hill to the east. Thus it does not easily fit into either his 'Western Dolmen' or 'Eastern Dolmen' group. However, this tomb cannot easily belong to the 'Eastern Dolmen' group since these are aligned on vallies, and Lugnagat Hill is not a valley.

3. DRUMMIN, Cl. 108 *Wedge-Grave*

Bentley does not add to our knowledge concerning this site. He considers this to be a 'Western Dolmen' aligned on Lissane Hill, two miles to the southwest, which is visible through a gap in the intermediary high ground.

4. CLOONGAHEEN WEST (South Dolmen),¹⁸ Cl. 109 *Wedge-Grave*

Bentley does not add to our knowledge concerning this tomb. His plan shows the side-stones as being comparatively larger than they really are. Despite the fact that there is a splendid view of many physical features to the southwest, both hill-tops and mountain-gaps, Bentley does not suggest one on which this tomb is aligned, and hence he does not classify it.

¹⁷ Each antiquity listed by Bentley is given a separate entry in the Catalogue. The antiquities were not listed by Bentley in any particular order, so his sequence has been re-arranged as follows: the tombs listed in *The Megalithic Survey* are given in the same order at the beginning of the present list; these are followed by the megalithic tombs not recorded in *The Megalithic Survey*; finally, the non-megalithic antiquities are listed. For tombs listed by Bentley but not in *The Megalithic Survey* a full summary of Bentley's comments is given and, where possible, an attempt is made to assess the nature and position of the tomb; for the other tombs only the additional information is given. For reference see correlation table (page 15).

All the sketch-plans made by Bentley have been re-drawn using the following conventions: set structural stones are hatched and delimited by a solid line; roofstones are shown by a dot-dash line and are not hatched; fences are indicated by heavy, straight lines and are marked by the letter F. Lettering, by Bentley, of certain stones has been omitted, as has also the shed adjacent to No. 6 Killokennedy. Bentley does not provide a scale with any of the sketch-plans.

¹⁸ Bentley distinguishes between the two tombs in Cloongaheen West (Nos. 4 and 12) by reference to their relative geographical positions, calling them "South Dolmen" and "North Dolmen" respectively.

5. ARDSKEAGH (West Dolmen),¹⁹ Cl. 110

Wedge-Grave

There is an earthen fence along the north side of this tomb. Since 1918 the partial collapse of this fence has covered the stones of the north side of the chamber rendering them unplanable. However, Bentley was able to plan this tomb, including the full extent of its north side. He indicates parallel double-walling here, consisting of five stones on the inner line and four smaller stones in the outer line. He also indicates a transverse stone at the end of the tomb, which stone appears to have been displaced before the tomb was recorded for *The Megalithic Survey*. Bentley classifies this as being a 'Western Dolmen' aligned on Lissane Hill to the southwest, though he also notes that, as in the case of No. 3, Drummin, and No. 6, Killokennedy, Croughaun Hill cannot be seen prominently since it merges into the higher mountainous backdrop. Bentley records the fact that this tomb was severely disturbed by a man in search of money in the early decades of this century.

"'Ardskeagh' means the Hill of the White-thorn bushes according to Frost", but Bentley's own opinion is that it means the 'Height of the Shield', skeagh being a shield of basketwork carried on the left arm. To him Knocksize means the 'Hill of Spears'.

6. KILLOKENNEDY, Cl. 111

Probable Wedge-Grave

Bentley does not add to our knowledge of this tomb. He refers to this tomb as being a 'Western Dolmen' aligned on Loughnagat Hill. Croughaun Hill cannot be seen conspicuously from the site since it merges into higher ground to the westward. Bentley records the name of this tomb as being 'Labayearmoth', *i.e.* 'Leaba Dhiarm-aid', and that the site was at one time used as a Mass Rock.

7. BALLYKELLY, Cl. 112

Wedge-Grave

The condition of this tomb has deteriorated since planned by Westropp, who records that "scarcely any of the southern blocks are undisturbed".²⁰ Bentley notes that the tomb consisted of "seven stones on the north side, *one stone on the south side*, and three top stones". On the Bentley plan, which differs considerably from that in *The Megalithic Survey*, the "seven stones on the north side" are shown as being in two closely-set parallel lines, with four stones on the outside and three on the inside. The "stones on the south side" is not indicated on his plan nor is it visible today. The three capstones are shown as resting on the stones of the north side of the tomb, while of these the easternmost two are shown as being smaller than the western one. The transverse slab at the west end of the chamber has since been displaced and may be the prostrate slab which now lies on the ground west of the chamber. Bentley indicates that there is a clear view of the setting sun from this tomb but he does not suggest any hill-top on which it is aligned.

8. CLOONEYCONRY MORE, Cl. 113

Wedge-Grave

Bentley does not provide any new information concerning this site nor does he give a plan of it. He classifies it as being a 'Western Dolmen' aligned on Croughaun Hill.

¹⁹ Bentley distinguishes between the two tombs in Ardskeagh (Nos. 5 and 15) by reference to their relative geographical positions, calling them "West Dolmen" and "East Dolmen" respectively.

²⁰ *Op. cit.*, p.125.

9. CLOONEYCONRY MORE, Cl. 114

Wedge-Grave

Bentley's plan of this tomb is quite accurate although he shows the orthostats as being more regular and slab-like than they really are. The single stone on the western side of the transverse slab is shown by Bentley as continuing the direct line of the tomb (he suggests that it was *in situ*), but de Valéra and Ó Nualláin do not accept it as being a set structural stone. Bentley classifies this tomb as being an 'Eastern Dolmen' aligned on Glenaghallagh Gap. He points out also that Croughaun Hill cannot be seen because of high ground west of the tomb.

10. FERMOYLE MORE, Cl. 115

Wedge-Grave

Bentley indicates that the transverse slab between the chamber and the portico was still erect when he visited the site, whereas at the time of *The Megalithic Survey* it had collapsed outwards. Bentley classifies this tomb as being a 'Western Dolmen' aligned on Croughaun Hill.

11. KNOCKSHANVO, Cl. 116

Wedge-Grave

Bentley's plan indicates that the sides of the tomb are parallel whereas in *The Megalithic Survey* the tomb is indicated as being wider at the western end. Bentley classifies this as being an 'Eastern Dolmen' aligned on the Glencaloo Valley between Keeper Hill and Shalee Hill in Co. Tipperary, about ten miles to the east, but he notes that it may also be aligned on a small hill (not named but possibly Knockaphunta) about half a mile to the west.

12. CLOONGAHEEN WEST (North Dolmen)

Wedge-Grave

When visited by Bentley, c.1917, the tops of the stones that form this tomb were almost flush with the ground surface. The tomb consisted of a single short stone on the north side, two much longer stones on the south side and a transverse stone blocking the western end of the tomb. Bentley noted that "on the top side of the cross stone, there is a somewhat curious hollow which is pointed out by the local people as being the impression of a man's foot".²¹ The orientation of this tomb as indicated by Bentley is East-West but the magnetic declination, 315°, suggests that it is aligned Northwest-Southeast. Bentley classifies this as being an 'Eastern Dolmen' aligned on "Glounagalough" (*i.e.*, Glenaghallagh Gap). The actual site of this tomb is not now known, nor is it included in *The Megalithic Survey*, and it may be that it is now overgrown by bog.²² From Bentley's text some indication of its position can be obtained. He refers to it as "The North Dolmen" as opposed to "The South Dolmen", and so it should be above the 800 ft. contour, and to be located where a view of the setting sun is possible it should be above the 1,000 ft. contour. The fact that it was on the *farm* of Mr. Michael Moroney (c.1917) would suggest that it should be below

²¹ For a comment on natural depressions in rocks which can be interpreted as artificial, see John S. Jackson, "The Clonfinlough Stone: A Geological Assessment", in *North Munster Studies, Essays in Commemoration of Monsignor Michael Moloney*, ed. Etienne Rynne, Limerick 1967, pp.11-19 and Pl. I.

²² "Tombs could be buried beneath the bogs of west Clare and those on the eastern hills"—*The Megalithic Survey*, p.111.

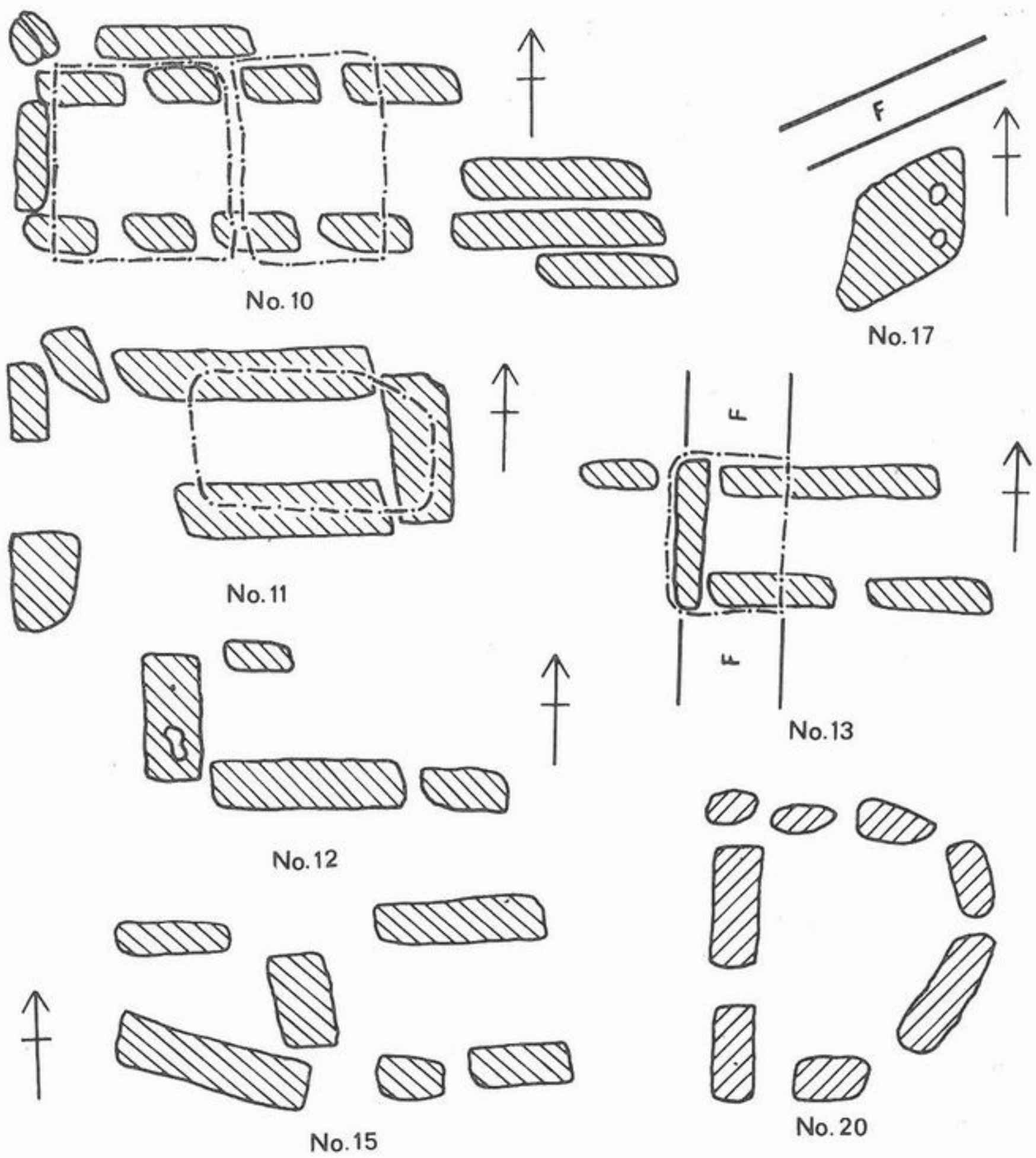


Fig. 2. Megalithic tombs, bullaun stone and stone circle near Broadford, Co. Clare — nos. 10-13, 15, 17 and 20 (the unshaded areas in nos. 12 and 17 are depressions ; Bentley did not include a compass orientation for no. 20).

the lower limit of blanket bog on the mountain which begins in places at about 1,000 ft. in this area. That Glenaghallagh Gap is visible from it does not assist out knowledge of its position. It should, therefore, be locatable somewhere on O.S. 6-inch sheet 44, within 4 cm. of a point 48 cm. from W. and 1 cm. from N.

Despite the fact that the tops of the stones which formed this tomb were flush with the ground surface, which might suggest that it was a large cist-grave, Bentley's sketch-plan is so similar to Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 9, that it must belong to the same class of tomb, *i.e.* Wedge-Grave. If the site in question differed significantly from those others, either in size or layout, Bentley would almost certainly have drawn attention to these facts.

13. BARBANE

Wedge-Grave

Bentley provides a plan and description of this site. The exact position of this tomb is not given by Bentley but he does note that in 1917 it was on the lands of Mrs. Hickey and that a sod fence crossed and partly covered the tomb. The position of this tomb lies somewhere in the north-western part of the townland, *i.e.*, north of the Broadford-Kilbane road and west of a stream that flows southwards through the centre of the townland. The east chamber of the tomb is indicated by a single orthostat on the north side and two shorter orthostats on the south side. The west end of the chamber is blocked by a transverse slab. The western part of the chamber is covered by a rectangular roofing-stone which overhangs the side-stones of the tomb. The single stone of the north side of the portico remains.

Bentley classifies this tomb as being a 'Western Dolmen' aligned on Croughaun Hill, and other than recording the fact that this tomb was used as a clearance cairn, Bentley does not provide any further information concerning this site.

14. GURTAWCHULLIAN

Possible Wedge-Grave

This doubtful tomb, which has not heretofore been recorded, was about one mile east of Croughaun Hill. It was partly destroyed before Bentley visited the site and heavy overgrowth prevented his planning it. He noted, however, that it was built of small stones and that it was a 'Western Dolmen' aligned on Croughaun Hill.

15. ARDSKEAGH (East Dolmen)

Wedge-Grave

Bentley records a two-chambered tomb here, formed from six stones. Of the east chamber a single stone on the north side and two on the south side remain. The west end of the chamber is blocked by a transverse stone. The smaller western portico which narrows from east to west is formed by a single orthostat on either side. Bentley does not surmise as to whether this convergence of the sides of the portico is due to the displacement of the side-stones or not. He notes ten large boulders which formed a rude circle thirty yards in diameter centered on the tomb, but considers this to be a natural feature and does not include it in his plan.

Bentley states that this tomb lies "about one hundred yards to the east of the Dolmen previously mentioned", *i.e.* No. 5 (Cl. 110), and on the same level as it. This would place it at about 700 ft. above O.D. and at a position corresponding to about 31 cm. from W. and 9 cm. from N. on O.S. 6-inch sheet 44. It does not correspond to

the dubious site recorded by Westropp and rejected in *The Megalithic Survey* at a place called Knockaunnafinnoge near Poulamuckagh which is at about 200 ft. above O.D.

16. MOANAGEENAGH

Possible Wedge-Grave

This tomb, known as 'The Giant's Grave' was in a ruinous state when first visited by Bentley. It stood a mile and a half from Broadford on the north side of the road to O'Callaghan's Mills. It was a two-chambered structure built of large stones, but Bentley does not give any further details of its layout. Although he does not classify it as a 'Western Dolmen', he does mention that it is aligned on Crookanooker, about three miles to the South-West. Soon after Bentley's visit it was removed by the land-owner.

17. CLOONEYCONRY

Bullaun Stone

"A large boulder rock, quite flat on the top is seven feet long, five feet wide and two feet high". There are two adjacent depressions in the upper surface. One is twelve inches in diameter and eight inches deep, whilst the other one is ten inches in diameter and five inches deep. Bentley calls it "a double 'Bullaun'" and attributes its use to sun worship. Its position is not now known.

18. KILLURAN

Bullaun Stone

About twenty yards south of the wall of the "old church" at Killuran is a bullaun stone, the top of which is flush with the ground. The nearly hemispherical depression is fifteen inches deep. Killuran Church is marked on O.S. 6-inch 36 at a point 18 cm. from W. and 26 cm. from S.

19. CLOONGAHEEN WEST

Standing-Stone

A standing-stone in this townland was seven feet, ten inches high and had girth dimensions of two feet, ten inches, by one foot. It stood on top of a small hillock until it collapsed in 1918. This revealed that only one foot of its tapered end was inserted into the ground. Its local name is 'Farbrigah', the spelling given on the O.S. 6-inch sheet 44, at a point 55 cm. from W. and 5 cm. from N.

20. DRUMMIN

Stone Circle

On the farm of Mr. James Curtin in Drummin is a D-shaped monument, 16 ft. in average diameter, formed by eight small stones about two and a half feet high. The interior has been partly filled by stones collected from the surrounding field. A resident of Broadford has informed me that Mass was said here in Penal Days and that the interior of the circle was paved. Its position is not now known.

Townland and Classification	Bentley ^a (rearranged by Timoney) No.	Westropp ^b				<i>Megalithic Survey</i> ^c				Magnetic Declination ^d		Bentley ^e	
		No.	page	Plan number	Pl.	No.	page	fig.	Pl.	Bentley	<i>Megalithic Survey</i>	'Orientation'	Aligned on
ELM HILL — Unclassified megalith	1	37	122	5		105	80	53	18	267°		W	Turret Hill
VIOLET HILL — Wedge-Grave	2	40	124	4		107	81	53	18	280°	281°	E & W	Loughnagat Hill
DRUMMIN — Wedge-Grave	3	39	123	11		108	82	54	18	240°	232°	W	Lissane Hill
CLOONGAHEEN WEST (SOUTH) — Wedge-Grave	4					109	82	54	19	283°	261°	—	
ARDSKEAGH (WEST) — Wedge-Grave	5					110	83	54	19	263°	241°	W	Lissane Hill
KILLOKENNEDY — Wedge-Grave ?	6	44	126	8		111	84	55	19	275°	272°	W	Loughnagat Hill
BALLYKELLY — Wedge-Grave	7	42	124	1	VIII,1	112	84	55	19	270°	237°	W	
CLOONEYCONRY MORE — Wedge-Grave	8	46	127	3	VII,2	113	85	57	19	280°	269°	W	Croughaun Hill
CLOONEYCONRY MORE — Wedge-Grave	9	46	127-8	6		114	86	56	19	274°	254°	E	Glenaghalliagh Gap
FORMOYLE MORE — Wedge-Grave	10	45	127	2		115	86	58	20	296°	272°	W	Croughaun Hill
KNOCKSHANVO — Wedge-Grave	11	43	125	10	VIII,2	116	88	58	20-21	280°	257°	E	Glencaloo Gap
CLOONGAHEEN WEST (NORTH) — Wedge-Grave	12									315°		E	Glenghalliagh Gap
BARBANE — Wedge-Grave	13									284°		W	Croughaun Hill
GURTACHULLIN — Wedge-Grave ?	14											W	Croughaun Hill
ARDSKEAGH (EAST) — Wedge-Grave	15									290°		W	
MOANOGEENAGH — Wedge-Grave ?	16											W	Crookanooker Hill
CLOONEYCONRY — Bullaun Stone	17												
KILLURAN — Bullaun Stone	18												
CLOONGAHEEN WEST — Standing-Stone	19												
DRUMMIN — Stone Circle	20												

^a See footnote 17.

^b T. J. Westropp, *op. cit.*; see fn. 11.

^c *The Megalithic Survey*; see fn. 5

^d Bentley indicates the magnetic declination of the tombs which he took along "the longer side". The readings from *The Megalithic Survey* are obtained from the Orientation Diagram at the end of the volume.

^e The 'orientation' given here is that ascribed to each tomb by Bentley with reference to his 'Western Dolmen' and 'Eastern Dolmen' groups, indicated by W and E respectively. "Aligned on" refers to the physical feature on which the tomb was allegedly aligned.

APPENDIX

REV. WILLIAM O'DOOGAN, P.P.

Close to the old church at Killokennedy is a holy well dedicated to St. Cronan of Tuamgraney. A large ash tree grows beside this well, and a stone plaque (of Argillaceous slate) close to the tree bears the following inscription :

"This tree was planted here by me in the year 1730.

All you that see
This stone and tree
Pray you all for me.

The Rev. W. Doogan, priest."

The tree was blown down in 1909 but continued to grow in this displaced position. However, the falling tree smashed the inscribed stone and parts of it had been removed before Bentley's visit to the site in 1919. Bentley records that weakly babies were cured when washed in the waters of the well and he was of the opinion that there were mineral salts in its waters.

A second memorial to himself was built by Fr. O'Doogan. This time it was a burial vault for himself and the inscription on it reads as follows :

"This tomb was erected by William O'Doogan, Rector of the parish of Killaloe, Kilseily and Killogenedy, 1723."

This is not to be interpreted as implying that all three parishes were united under a single parish priest but rather that Fr. O'Doogan was parish priest at Killaloe before coming to Killokennedy and Kilseily. We know that he was parish priest at Killaloe in 1704 for at the Quarter Sessions held at Ennis on the 11th of July, 1704 he entered into recognisances to be of good behaviour. His two surties on that occasion were Florence Mac Namara of Ardcloney and Maurice Cogan, of Killaloe. Fr. O'Doogan's contemporary as parish priest at Killokennedy and Kilseily was the Reverend Daniel Vaughan, who on the above-mentioned occasion also entered into recognisances. His surities were Henry Bourcher of Annagh and Nicholas Lynch, of Ballycorney.

Bentley records the existence of another memorial to Fr. O'Doogan, but states that he was unable to locate it. It was a pot-crane in a house at Killokennedy in which Fr. O'Doogan stayed when parish priest there. Inscribed on the pot-crane is Fr. O'Doogan's name and a date.