

Rathkeale

Castle Matrix · Rathnaseer

RATHKEALE, the second largest town in the county, derives its name from *Rath Caola* or *Rath Gaela*, Caola's or Gaela's Fort. The town was a place of importance from an early date because of its location on the Deel river.

ST. MARY'S PRIORY may have been founded by Gilbert Harvey, for the Augustinian Canons, during the thirteenth century. Rev. John Begley wrote that it was colonised by Augustinians from Rattoo some time about 1210. Elinor Purcell made a perpetual grant of provisions to the canons in 1280. Her son, Hugh, refused to carry out her wishes after her death and was sued by the prior. They eventually came to an amicable settlement. In 1436 St. Mary the Virgin reputedly worked several miracles here and the Augustinians were allowed to grant indulgences to penitents in order to raise funds for the repair of the church. The monastery was officially suppressed in 1542 but a small community of canons may have remained here until 1581. In 1595 this, and several other monasteries, were granted to Sir Henry Wallop. By 1837 the tower and western gable were "complete, and the side walls nearly so; but the building was small and its architectural details are by no means interesting". The priory ruin is now one of the town's more notable features.

THE EARLS OF DESMOND had three strong castles in the town, one of them guarding the river passage or ford, at the time of the Desmond Rebellion. In 1579 Sir John of Desmond retreated here after his disastrous defeat at Monasteranenagh. Malbie's forces plundered the town, and Sir John fled to Astonish, where he was again defeated, this time by Sir George Carew. On 11 March 1580 Sir William Pelham and the Earl of Ormond met in Rathkeale, where they thought it advisable to destroy one of the Desmond castles, Castle Murison, before marching out. This was the castle that guarded the bridge and had been occupied by the Geraldines after the Battle of Monasteranenagh.

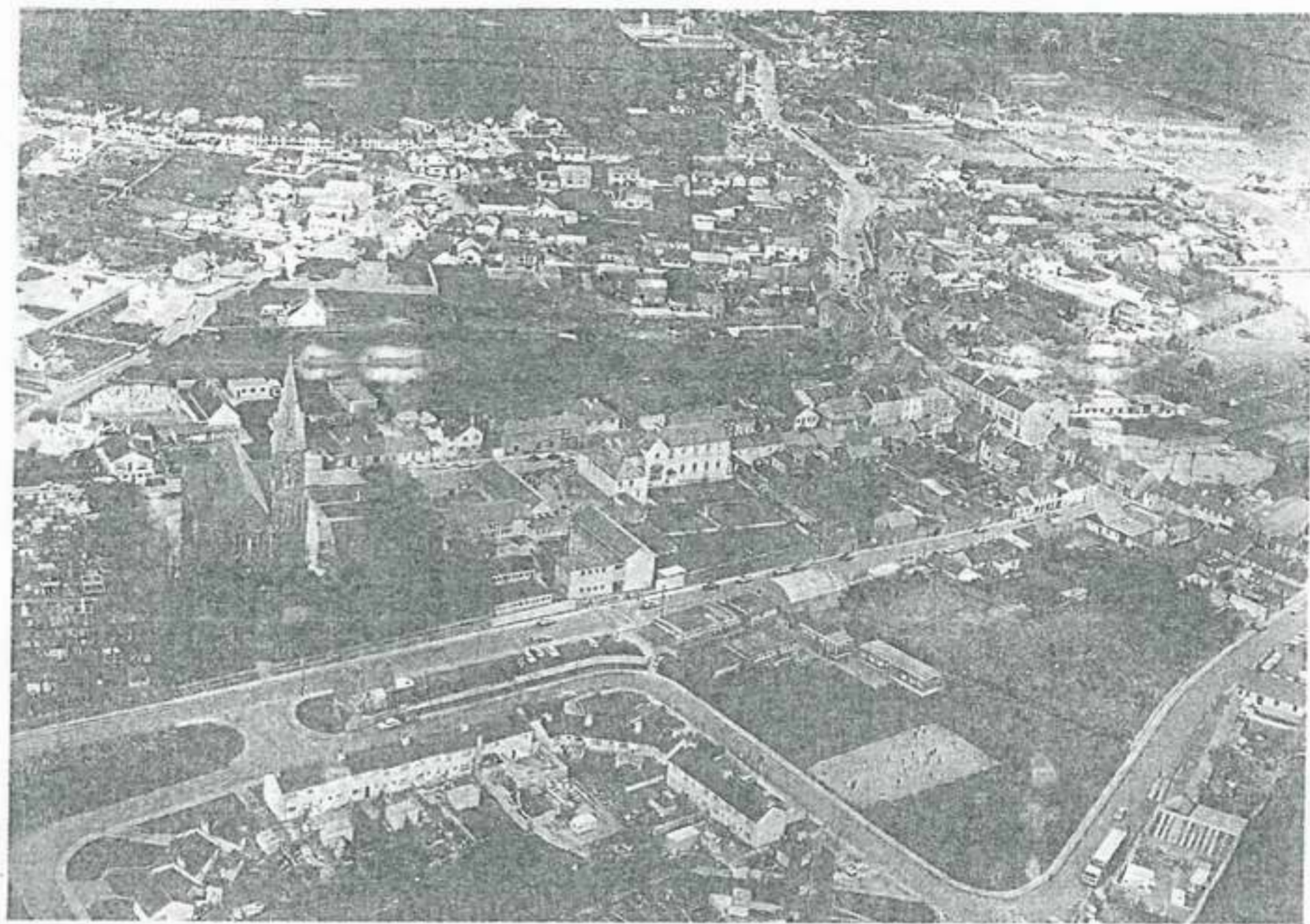
SIR WALTER RALEIGH was a mere captain in 1580 when the Queen's forces left Rathkeale to deal with the Irish and the Spanish forces who had landed at Smerwick. Raleigh distinguished himself by ambushing a number of the Irish who had collected to plunder the deserted camp. Folklore relates that the people slaughtered by Raleigh were merely sightseers who had gone to look at the camp. The Elizabethans conferred the freedom of the town on Raleigh for his action. Walter Raleigh spent a lot of time in the vicinity of Rathkeale. According to tradition, he imported potato tubers from Virginia some of which were cultivated by Edmond Southwell, who became one of Ireland's first landowners to grow potatoes. Sir Walter Raleigh's last words were addressed to his executioner, just before he was beheaded in 1618: "Tis a sharp remedy, but a sure one for all ills". By then the potato tubers had been distributed throughout Munster, by Edmond Southwell, and the potato had been established as a regular crop.

EDMOND SOUTHWELL was one of three brothers from Suffolk who settled in the newly-planted province of Munster in the aftermath of the Desmond Rebellion. Edmond received a grant of Castle Matrix during the reign of James I (1603-1625). His brother, John, acquired Rathkeale Castle and promptly renamed it Castle Southwell. In 1616 the third Southwell, Richard, was granted a licence to keep forty taverns and to sell wine and *acqua vitae* in Limerick City. Edmond's son, Thomas, was knighted as Sir Thomas Southwell of Castle Matrix and created a baronet in 1662. He served as Sheriff of Limerick, Clare and Kerry. His son, also Thomas, was raised to the peerage as Baron Southwell in 1717. Many details of this baron's life have been forgotten but he is best remembered as the man who introduced the Palatines into the county.

THE CORPORATION OF RATHKEALE is frequently mentioned in history but little is known of its origin, charter, or constitution. It was disenfranchised by Oliver Cromwell because the town "refused his army a sufficient supply of provisions, and its privileges

were never after restored". In 1654 the town became a polling centre for the counties of Clare, Kerry and Limerick, as Cromwell proposed to introduce one hundred members for Ireland into his parliament.

IN 1837 Rathkeale was described by Samuel Lewis as "situated on the mail road from Limerick to Tralee, on both sides of the River Deel; in population it is second only to Limerick in the county; it consists principally of a single street, a mile in length, with smaller streets and lanes branching from it. The river passes through the middle of the main street, and is crossed by a bridge now in a dilapidated and dangerous state. There are several large and handsome houses, most of which are uninhabited, and a few good shops; but the town in general presents a poor and mean appearance; a number of Palatines settled in the town and neighbourhood, whose neat cottages and farm-steads form a striking contrast to most of the adjacent buildings. The market, which is large and well supplied, is held on Thursday; the fairs are on 7 February, 4 April, 1 and 19 June, 5 August, 18 September, and 18 November; those on 19 June and 18 September, which are chiefly for horses, are very much frequented; those of April and September, are for horned cattle, great numbers being sold; the remaining fairs are chiefly for sheep and pigs; all the transactions in the market and fairs are carried on in the open street. The town is a chief constabulary station ... the court-house is a large and convenient old building, but much out of repair. The bridewell is one of the largest in the county, containing three day-rooms, three night cells and eight cells; it is under good regulation. The Fever Hospital, built in 1830 near the town at an expense of £400, has accommodation for 25 intern patients; and there is a dispensary ... the parish comprises 10,705 statute acres ... five out of eight parts of the land are under tillage; two in meadow, demesnes and plantations; and one is rough pasture and marsh ... the system of agriculture is improving; the principal crops are wheat, potatoes, oats and barley, with some flax and clover. The population is almost wholly agricultural, the only manufacture being that of



Aerial view of Rathkeale.

linen on a small scale for domestic use ... a lead mine at Curraghna Daly, a mile from Rathkeale is about to be worked ... the surrounding country is embellished with numerous seats ... Beechmount ... Ballywilliam ... Mount Brown ... the glebe house ... Knocknakilla ... Rathkeale Abbey ... Wilton House ... Deansfort ... Mount Southwell ... Enniscaugh ... Stoneville ... Glebe Castle ... and Castle Matrix ... In the R.C. divisions the parish is the head of a union or district, comprising also part of Kilsannell parish, and the whole of the ancient parishes of Rathnasaire and Kilcoleman. The chapel, an ancient and plain building, with a new front, is in the town; in which there are also places of worship for Wesleyans, Methodists and Independents. There are two free schools under the London Hibernian Society and a school supported by Colonel White ... also nine private schools, in which are about 200 boys and 70 girls ... not far distant from the town are Altavilla ... Riddlestown ... Clonard ... Elm Hill ... Glenville ... Cahermoyle ... and Nantinan House".

THE RATHKEALE COIN HOARD was discovered in 1846. This consisted of over a thousand coins of Edward III (1327-1377) which may have been part of the spoils taken

by the O'Briens after their victory at Monasteranenagh in 1370. A thin gold-band was also found near the town. This was one of a small group of such ornaments which could be dated to the eleventh or twelfth centuries and were generally found in Ireland or in western Scotland. In 1857 Captain Edward Hoare, a Cork antiquarian, owned this band. He published a drawing and description of it in that year.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH was designed in a Gothic-revival style by J.J. McCarthy during Fr. James O'Shea's term as parish priest. Fr. O'Shea died in 1877. One of his predecessors, Archdeacon Michael Fitzgerald, gave his house, garden and a donation of £50 to three Christian Brothers who arrived here on 28 December 1859. They opened a school with 200 pupils on 2 January, 1860. The Brothers remained in Rathkeale until 1889. Dr. James Stritch (1644-1719) registered himself as parish priest in 1704. Despite the Penal Laws, which were still in operation, there was a harmonious relationship between the Catholic clergy and the local Protestant landowners. This relationship was disrupted, for a while, in 1748. After the death of Fr. Stritch's successor, Fr. James Moore, Henry Southwell chased away two or three priests

who had been appointed as parish priests. Henry tried to have a *protégé* of his own, Fr. Charles Ryan, installed as parish priest but he was eventually persuaded to accept Fr. David Bourke.

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CHURCH was erected in 1831 near the site of an older church and contains a monument dating from 1676. The church was built in the English style with a square tower, "embattled and crowned with crocketed pinnacles", on a gentle eminence west of the river, close to the site of Castle Southwell.

THE GLEBE HOUSE was occupied by a Protestant clergyman, Rev. C.T. Coghlan, in 1837. In 1840 O'Donovan wrote that it was still inhabited and in a good state of preservation. In 1904 it appeared to be still in good condition, was long since unoccupied, and had acquired a galvanised iron roof.

RIDDLETOWN PARK may have been designed for the Blennerhassetts by one of the Rothery family in 1730. John and Isaac Rothery were noted architects of the period, whose work is still found elsewhere, in Mount Ievers, Sixmilebridge, County Clare (c. 1730) and in Bowens Court, Kildorrery, Co. Cork (c. 1765-1775). In 1837 this three-storey house, built over a basement, was the residence of

and Blennerhassett. Riddlestown Park passed, by inheritance to the Knights of Glin, who later sold it.

THE PRESENT-DAY AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE may be descended from five Hobbie horses, a stallion and four mares. Sir Thomas Southwell sent to Sir William Berkeley, Royal Governor of Virginia, at Jamestown, in 1666. Sean O'Driscoll brought this to my attention in *The Colonial Quarter Race Horse* which was written by Alexander Mackay-Smith, and published in Richmond, Virginia in 1983.

SEAN O'DRISCOLL has had a long and varied career. He became an artist, qualified as an architect, developed an interest in metallurgy and served in the United States Air Force during World War II. In 1945 he became the first man to engineer an escape from behind the newly-imposed Iron Curtain when he (Sean) arranged the defection of Theodore Wilhelm Schmidt. After the war he transferred to aero-space research. For a short period he served as aide to Charles Lindbergh, shortly after President Eisenhower appointed Lindbergh a brigadier-general in 1954. Sean also worked with John Wheeler, the man who first found black holes in space. John Wheeler was co-discoverer of Uranium 235 with Niels Bohr. In 1962 Eoin "Pope" O'Mahony persuaded Sean to settle in Castle Matrix. Sean's interest in Irish castles has led him into doing some research on Anglo-Norman castles of which he says there were 405 in County Limerick and a total of 2,700 throughout Ireland.

CASTLE MATRIX may derive its name from *Caisleán Bhun Traisce* but Seán O'Driscoll, the present owner of Castle Matrix, attributes its name to an association with the *Mistres* or *Matronae*. Seán believes the castle was erected on the site of a Pagan Celtic sanctuary.

THE MATRES were triple mother-goddesses of the Pagan Celts, a type of pre-Christian Trinity. They represented the basic image of the tribal mother and their maternal aspects were of supreme importance. They were primarily concerned with maternal and sexual matters but like the *Mórríghna*, the triple raven-war-goddess, they could also be influential in battle, prognostication, and shape-shifting.

CASTLE MATRIX Castle Matrixes, or Castle Matruess, is a fifteenth century tower house founded by the Fitzgeralds of Desmond about 1410. On 7 December 1487 James, the Ninth Earl of Desmond was murdered here by his servants. His death was instigated by one brother, and avenged by another, Maurice, who executed all of James's servants. After the Desmond Rebellion, the castle was forfeit

to the Crown. Walter Raleigh carried out some repairs on the building and, according to local tradition, met the poet Edmund Spenser here. Spenser had come to Ireland as secretary to Lord Deputy Grey of Wilton in 1580. Later he became Clerk to the English Council of Munster. Spenser's barbaric views on how the Irish should be treated provoked Maurice Viscount Roche of Fermoy into proclaiming that "none of his people should have trade or commerce with Mr. Spenser". Early in the seventeenth century Edmond Southwell took up residence in the castle. In 1641 he defended it against the Confederate Irish who built forts around it and eventually captured it. This Edmond appears to have been killed in Askeaton but he was succeeded by a man of the same name, possibly his son. Edmond Southwell was mentioned in the Civil Survey of 1654 as being in possession of a castle, orchard, grist-mill and tucking-mill and in 1659 he was listed as *titulado* of Castle Matrix. Meliora Southwell married John Brown of Mount Brown in 1751. Their grandson, John Southwell Brown, renovated the castle in the 1830s and added a two-storey castellated wing, which extended as far as the bank of the River Deel but "due attention was paid to preserve its original character by its proprietor". The corner bartizans and original battlements are still intact. In 1837 the Southwell estate was a model of agricultural industry. The flour mill was "fitted up ... in the most complete manner and with the most improved machinery, which is propelled by the current of the River Deel; the mill can grind 20,000 barrels of wheat annually and gives employment to 100 persons". Castle Matrix, was unoccupied from 1931 until the early 1960s. It was repaired, renovated, and fitted with antique furniture before it was opened as the Irish International Art Centre in 1970. Castle Matrix contains a fine reference library today, in two languages, French and English, which Seán O'Driscoll uses to research the history of costume, weaponry, and art throughout the ages. The building also houses his unique collection of medieval, and older, weaponry. Sean possesses a selection of axe-heads from the crudest of Stone Age work through to the iron Age.

THE SOUTHWELL ESTATE entered the history of Munster as the central base from which the Palatines spread throughout Limerick and the neighbouring counties. Like the Celts, Vikings, Anglo-Normans and English before them, the Palatines made an important contribution to the culture, lifestyle, and history of the county. Their arrival in Rathkeale could be classed as the last Munster plantation although it was on a more limited scale than the plantations of the six-

teenth and seventeenth centuries. The parcels of land they received were small. These new German-speaking Protestant refugees were a different breed from the English or Scottish adventurers who had profited from the previous plantations. They never interfered in the religion or politics of the native Irish. The Palatines supported the government of the day. Eventually the age-old process of assimilation turned *Gall* into *Gael*. The Palatines learned to speak the language of the countryside Irish, as well as the language of the towns, English. Many of them became as nationalist as their Catholic neighbours and played active roles in the War of Independence. Like their ancestors, many of the Palatines today are still engaged in farming. As colonists they were a total failure. Those who remained in Ireland, like the Anglo-Normans before them, were almost totally absorbed into the native population. Only the Palatine surnames survive to mark their bearers as members of an ethnic group that is now completely Irish in outlook, thought and behaviour.

THE PALATINE SETTLEMENT IN IRELAND, including the history of each family in Ireland, was researched and documented by Hank Jones of San Leandro, California, U.S.A., in 1965. He used data from the original records and ignored many of the family traditions because they would have changed so much in the telling over the years that their accuracy would have been suspect. For an overall picture of the Palatine history in Ireland read Walter A. Knittle's book, *18th Century Palatine Emigration* and Dr. Richard Hayes's article "The German Colony in County Limerick" which appeared in the *North Munster Antiquarian Journal*, Volume 1, No. 2, October 1937. Hank Jones's thesis on "The Palatine Families of Ireland" surpasses all other works on the subject and is an essential guide to the Palatine surnames of Limerick. In the following charts the most commonly-used version of each surname is listed first under "Surname". The Christian name, or names, of each founder and any additional information on him/her is dealt with under "Founder(s)". Variants of each surname appear under the appropriate heading. When possible the variant in Irish appears first and in italics. The original form of the surname is given after the variant in Irish. The Southwell estate caption lists the date of each family's arrival on that estate while "Other Locations" deals with the areas to which various families moved as they spread outside the Rathkeale area. "Religion" lists the religion professed by each family on arrival in Ireland.



The restored Castle Matrix.

NAME	FOUNDER(S)	VARIANTS	SOUTHWELL ESTATE	OTHER LOCATIONS	RELIGION	SURNAME	FOUNDER(S)	VARIANTS	SOUTHWELL ESTATE	OTHER LOCATIONS	RELIGION
ston	John George Born 1669	<i>Altán</i> Altheimer Altimes	1720	Ballingirrane 1747 Ballyriggin 1761 Glenosheen 1761	Lutheran	Bredhour	Israel	Bredauer Brethover Bruther	1720	Nantinan 1825 Particles 1834 Ballingirrane 1747 Canada 1766 Croagh 1825 Kiltannon 1825	Lutheran
Barkman	Abraham Born c. 1663	Berghmann Bartman	1712	New York 1765 Ballyriggin 1776 Adare 1807 Ballyorgan 1816 Glenosheen 1848	Lutheran	Brough	Hans Felton	<i>Broc</i> Brough	1720	Bullywilliam 1756	—
Barraban	Hans Wolf Born c. 1675	Barban Barrow Barrobier	—	Adare 1865	Reformed Faith	Cave	Casimira	<i>Mac Dháibhidh</i> Cave	1720	—	—
Barrer	Peter	Bear Bart Barraban	—	Ballingirrane 1747 Ballingarry - late 1700s	—	Closterbecker	John	Closterbecker	1720	—	Lutheran
Becker	Mighel Born 1671	<i>Báicéir</i> Bekker Baker Beakir Beecher	1720	Ballingirrane 1755 New York 1764 Kilflyn 1852 Ballyorgan 1852	Reformed Faith	Cooper	John	<i>Cúipéir</i> Baucher Bottcher	—	Ireland 1715	—
Benner	Paul (c. 1682-1760) Son of Henry	Bender	1715	Ballingirrane 1747	—	Corneille	Adam	Cornelius Corneal	1720	Killiheen 1755 Castle Matrix 1758 Kilscannell 1786 Adare 1811	French Hugenot
Bethel	Philip Bettel	Bekell	—	Limerick City - 18th century Killaloe - 18th century	Reformed Faith	Cough	Johan Mattys	<i>Mac Eochadha</i> Kog Kough Cooke	1715	Killiheen 1720 Ballyorgan 1761 New York 1763 Kilflyn — Kilfinnane 1811	—
Bible	John	Bible	—	Ballyorgan 1761	—	Crips	Hans Peter	Crips Kreps	1720	Courtmatrix	—
Bonus	Julius	Bonus Ponus	1720	—	Reformed Faith	Cronobery	Henry	Kroniberger Cronerbery Cronsbeget	1720	Killiheen 1747 Ballyriggin 1804 Adare 1820s	—
Bovinizer	John Adam Born c. 1652	Bubeheiser Bovenizer Bubenhauser Bobinhefar Bobinhefer Bowenheizer	1715	Castlematrix 1748 Ballycahane 1753 Killiheen 1755 Adare 1814	Reformed Faith	Crow	Philip Born 1679	<i>Mac Conchradha</i> Gro	—	Everlary, Co. Cork 1720 Rathkeale 1749	Lutheran
Bowen	Vandel	Boin Bohea	1720	Castle Matrix 1767 Killiheen 1776 Adare 1789	—	Daube	Michael	Daube Dope Dobe <i>Unstje</i>	1720	Courtmatrix 1753 Nantinan 1757 Ballingirrane 1825 Court Village 1849 Adare 1890	—
Bower	Kasper	Baur Bauer	1720	—	—	Dolmage	Johann	Dometsch Delmege Dulmage Dolmet Dollmage Dolmetcht Dolmadge	1720	Castle Matrix 1751 Ballyorgan 1761 Albany, New York 1761 West Indies 1761 Kilscannell 1760s Courtmatrix 1769 Killiheen 1830	—
Bowman	Jacob	Bouman Bowerman	1715	Cooline 1764 New York 1764 Limerick City 1770 Killaloe 1790	—						

NAME	FOUNDER(S)	VARIANTS	SOUTHWELL ESTATE	OTHER LOCATIONS	RELIGION
Embury	Andrew	Imberger	1720	Ballingirrane 1747 New York 1764	
Everett	Hartman	<i>Eabhróid</i> Ebert Everatt	1720	—	—
Felher	Charles	Felher Folker Fehler	1720	—	—
Filme	Margaret	Filme	1720	—	—
Fitzelle	Adam	Fisel Fishell Ffissel Fissel	1720	Killiheen 1753 Courtmatrix 1755 Ballyorgan 1761 Ballyriggin 1800 Oliver Estate 1814 Ballingarry —	—
Fought	Jacob	Fock Ffought	—	Mallow 1720 Castle Matrix 1752 New York 1770 Rathkeale 1787 Adare 1817	—
Glazier	Hans Jurig	<i>Gléasúr</i> Glaser Gleazer		Dublin 1720 Co. Limerick 1720s Killiheen 1753 Ballyorgan 1761 Kilscannell 1766 Bawnleigh (Tipperary) 1826	—
Grouse	George	Crouse Grouce Crause	1720	Adare 1806	—
Guyer	Johann David	Geyer Guier	1720	Ballingirrane	Huguenot
Hartwick	Caspar	Hartwick Hartrick	1720	—	—
Heavenor	Henrig and Apolonia	Herbener Hebenhome	1720	Pallas 1747	—
Heck	Sebastian	Heck	1720	Ballingirrane 1746 Ballycahane 1753 Ballyriggin 1761 New York — Ballyorgan 1825 Kilfinnane 1828	Lutheran
Hessing	—	—	—	Limerick City 1826	—
Hibler	Anthony	—	1720	—	—

SURNAME	FOUNDER(S)	VARIANTS	SOUTHWELL ESTATE	OTHER LOCATIONS	RELIGION
Hifle	—	Hyfell Hyfle Hyphell	—	Ballycahane 1753 Pallas 1783 Ballingirrane 1825 Chapel Russell 1825 Adare 1827	—
Hoffman	Philip	Hoffman	—	Rathkeale 1720 Courtmatrix 1740s Killiheen 1740s New York 1763 Kilfinnane 1816	—
Hoopf	Hans George Born 1671	Hoppf	1720	—	—
Hoost	Jacob	Hooset	1720	—	—
Kile	—	Kite Keal	—	Ballingirrane 1802	—
Koning	Johan Joost	Konig	—	Springfield 1720	—
Latchford	—	Latchford	—	Pallas 1784 Rathkeale 1796 Adare 1836	—
Laurence	John and Margaret (born 1670)	<i>Labhrás</i> Lorentz Lawrence	1720	Ballingirrane 1747 Courtmatrix 1754 Killiheen 1758 New York 1763 Canada 1763 Nantinan 1792	Reformed Faith
Legear	Johan Adam	Lieger Le Geer Le Gear	1720	Courtmatrix 1755 Ballyorgan 1761 Kilfling (Kilflyn?) 1788 Inver Ivrossa 1812 Adare 1820	—
Lodewick	Johan Henrig	<i>de Léadús</i> Lodowick Ludwig	1720	Killiheen 1742 Rathkeale 1762 Courtmatrix 1825 Court Village 1834	Lutheran
Long	Peter John	<i>de Long</i> Long	—	County Cork 1720 Ballingirrane 1747 Ballycahane 1753 Pallas 1783 Adare 1817	—
Low	Mathew	<i>Mac Lughadha</i> Lous Lows Lokes Lowe	1720	Ballingirrane 1747 Kilfinnane Glenosheen 1825	—
Lower	Valentine	Lower Lour	1720	Courtmatrix 1743 New York 1763	—

NAME	FOUNDER(S)	VARIANTS	SOUTHWELL ESTATE	OTHER LOCATIONS	RELIGION
Mace	Philip	<i>O Miadhaigh</i> Mac Con Midhe Mace Maes Mee	—	Ireland 1715 Kilfinnane 1875	—
Meyer	—	<i>O Midhir</i> <i>O Mir</i> Myers Myer Mier Miers	—	Ireland 1715 <i>Droichead-Treasna</i> 1780 (?)	—
Mick	Henry Born 1674	Mick Mich	1720	Ballingirrane 1747 Nantinan 1766	Reformed Faith Catholic 1766
Miller	John "Hans" Martin Born 1677	<i>Mulleóir</i> Miller Muller	1720	Courtmatrix 1753 Adare 1805 Killiheen 1805 New York Canada	Lutheran
Modler	Michael Born 1671	Madelaer Madler	1720	Courtmatrix 1762 Adare 1801 Limerick City 1853	Lutheran
Neizer	Hans Migel Born 1661	Nasar Neyser Neazor Mezar	1720	Kilcornan 1770 Ballycahane 1776 Pallas 1784	Lutheran
Passe	Katherine	Passe Puff	1720	—	—
Piper	Hans Peter Born 1652	<i>Piobar</i> <i>Piobart</i> <i>Piobaire</i> Pfeifer Pifer Pipper Pepper Peppard	1715	Killiheen 1753 Ballingirrane 1776	Lutheran
Puff	Andreas	Poffe Poff Passe ?	1720 ?	Ireland 1715 Courtmatrix 1744 New York 1763 Kerry 1834	—
Richardt	Christopher	<i>Mac Risteáird</i> Richard Richards	1720	—	—
Rodenbecker	Johann	Rodenberger Roderberger Rhodenbecker	1720	Killiheen 1755 Nantinan 1766	—

SURNAME	FOUNDER(S)	VARIANTS	SOUTHWELL ESTATE	OTHER LOCATIONS	RELIGION
Rose	Peter Rosine or Johan Christopher Rose	<i>De Riis</i> <i>Rós</i> Rosine Rose Ross	—	Nantinan 1731 Kilscannell 1746 Ballingirrane 1747 Ballycahane 1753 America 1765 Rathkeale 1766 Adare —	—
Ruckle	"John" Caspar	<i>De Riodal</i> <i>Riodal</i> Roogall Ruttle Ruddle	1720	Ballingirrane 1747 Nantinan 1754 New York 1764 Newpark 1776 Ballycahane 1776 Pallas 1783 Adare —	—
Rynard	Conrad	<i>Raghnard</i> Reynhard Rhinehardt Rinhart	1720	Limerick City 1728 Killiheen 1755 Graigue 1795 Adare 1795	—
Ryner	Johan Pieter	Reiner	1720	Limerick City 1738	—
St. John	Elias Sohn Philip Sohn	<i>De Suingean</i> <i>Suingean</i> Sohn Singeon Son John Shon	1720	Ballingirrane 1747 Canada — Adare 1832	—
Schmidt	Andrew and Sophia	<i>Mac an Ghobhann</i> <i>O Gabhann</i> Schmidt Smythe	1720	Effin 1776 Adare 1793	—
Shallas	Peter Born 1671	Schalosch	1720	—	Reformed Faith
Sheaffer	Andrew	Sheafer	1720	—	—
Shearman	Ann	<i>Searman</i> Shearman	1720	—	—
Shimmell	Johann Nicholas	Schimell Shimme!	1720	New York 1763 Killiheen 1769	—
Shire	Hans Adam	Schyer	1720	Killiheen 1742 Courtmatrix 1755 New York 1764 Barrigone — Adare 1827	—
Shoemaker	Batholomew Born 1668	Schumacher	1720	Ballingirrane 1747 Bohercullane 1761 Particles 1771 Glenosheen — Kilfinnane —	Lutheran

NAME	FOUNDER(S)	VARIANTS	SOUTHWELL ESTATE	OTHER LOCATIONS	RELIGION	SURNAME	FOUNDER(S)	VARIANTS	SOUTHWELL ESTATE	OTHER LOCATIONS	RELIGION
Shoneweiss	John Born 1661	Shonweiss Shonewise Shoenweiss	1720	—	Reformed Faith	Switzer	Johan Jacob of Assenheim	<i>Suitséir</i> Schweitzer	1720	Courtmatrix 1746 Tipperary — Dublin — Killiheen 1761 Ballingirrane 1775 Adare 1776 Castle Matrix 1776 Canada — Kilpeacon 1834	Lutheran
Shouldice	Elizabeth	Schides Shoreldis Shouldize Sholdis Shouldis Shouldish Shouldes	1720	Ballyorgan 1761 New York 1771 Killiheen 1776 Adare 1800.	—	Teskey	Jacob Born 1659	Teske	1720	Killiheen 1755 Courtmatrix 1755 Ballingirrane 1776 Tarbert 1826 Kilscannell 1830 America 1846 Adare 1849 Curraheen 1935	Lutheran
Siebard	Felton or Valentine	Siebard Seibert	1720	—	—						
Singer	John	Singer	1720	—	—						
Smeltzer	Christopher	Smelser	1720	Ballingirrane 1747	—	Tettler	Johan Jacob	Dedler Detlor	1720	Ballingirrane 1747 Ballycahane 1753 America 1756 New York 1763 Kilflynn 1797	—
Sparling	George	Sperling	1720	Killiheen 1747 America 1763 Adare 1776 Ballynahill 1776 Ballingirrane 1785 Askeaton 1815 Newcastle 1821 Kilcooly 1826	—	Tyse	Mattys	Tys Twiss	—	Ireland 1715 Wexford 1720	—
Sperling	Stuffle	von Sperling Sperling	—	Ireland 1701	—	Ushelbaugh	John	Usselbach Urshelbach	1720	Balligirrane	—
Steepe	Hans Peter	Steepe	1720	Nantinan 1759 Ballyriggin 1761 Castle Oliver — Kilfinnane 1888	—	Vogler	—	Vogeler	—	Limerick City 1726	—
Steevell	John	Steevell	1720	—	—	Williams	—	MacUilliam	—	America 1765 Kilflynn — Ballingarry 1787	—
Stork	Hans Henrig Born 1664	Stork Stark	1720	Killiheen 1755 Ballingirrane 1755 Ballyriggin 1761 Kilscannell 1766 Adare 1776 Ballyorgan 1817 Thomastown 1831	Lutheran	Wolf	George	Wolf (Not to be confused with an older Limerick family, (Ballinalagha) <i>De Bhul</i> or <i>Woulfe</i>)	—	Ireland 1715 Wexford 1720 Duckstown 1825	—
Strough	Johan Born 1679	Strauch Stroud Strouch Strowch	1720	Ireland 1715 Courtmatrix 1751 Killiheen 1753 Reeus 1758 Ballyorgan 1761 Glenosheen —	—	Young	Nicholas Born 1688	Jung	1720	Ballingirrane 1747 Glenosheen 1761	Lutheran
						Youngman	Henry	Young Jung	1720	Killiheen 1755	—
						Zigler	Heinrich Born 1668	Ziegler	1720	—	Reformed Faith

ALATINES were mainly German-
ing Protestant refugees who later adopt-
the Methodism of John Wesley and
opagated their new beliefs throughout
Limerick, Ireland, America and Canada. They
were a tolerant people and, although their
convictions were sincere, they never became
proselytisers. In 1709 they concealed Catholic
refugees within their ranks when Queen Anne
announced her intention to return Catholic
families to the Palatinate. After the Palatines
settled in Ireland many of them merged with
the general population while others rose to
prominence. The Switzer and Dolmage fami-
lies became the most influential of the Irish-
based settlers but several others became more
famous abroad.

JACOB BARKMAN (1755-1838) fought in
the American Revolution. Captain Charles
Oliver detailed a Palatine yeoman named
Bartmann to flog Patrick "Staker" Wallis
through the streets of Kilfinnane prior to his
execution for his part in "procuring the assas-
sination of Chas. S. Oliver".

AGNES BENNER (1731-1832) was married
twice, first to Peter Lawrence of Killiheen and
secondly to Peter Miller (1740-1819). She
settled in St. Armand, Quebec and was very
involved in American Methodism and the
United Empire Loyalists.

**THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH** was influenced by the Heck,
Embury and Ruckel families. Paul Heck
(1730-1792) and Barbara Ruckel (1734-1804)
established the first Methodist society in colo-
nial America with Philip Embury.

"LONG ANNE" TESKEY (1765-1880) was
the last of the German-speaking Palatines.
She outlived all her contemporaries and died
at the age of 115 years. Another Teskey, Sarah
Teskey of Curraheen, died at the age of 102
years in 1935.

JOHN RIDER (1648-1769) was recorded in
The Freeman's Journal on 14 January 1769 as
having lived to the age of 121 years.
Originally known as Hans Rieter, he had set-
tled in Wexford rather than Limerick.

PEADAR STEEPE of Ballyhargan was an
active member of the East Limerick Brigade
of the I.R.A. during the Troubles.

THE WEST LIMERICK BRIGADE of the
I.R.A. was composed of five battalions that
functioned within, and outside, the West
Limerick region. This brigade operated in
parts of Kerry and its members took part in
attacks on the Brosna R.I.C. barracks. On 10
March 1920, during the Rathkeale Fair,
Sergeant George Neazor of the R.I.C. was
killed and Constable Doyle was wounded, in
Ward's Hotel, when they refused to hand over
their arms to an I.R.A. raiding party.

SEAN FINN commanded the West Limerick

Brigade of the I.R.A. in 1919. His officers
were Garrett McAuliffe, Newcastle West;
James Colbert, Monelena, Athea; Paddy
Roche; Jim Liston, Castlemahon; Mossie
Hartnett, Tournafulla; Con Foley, Broadford;
Jimmy Halpin, Pallaskerry; and J.T.
O'Connor, Ballynahill. Sean Finn organised
escape routes for the men who took part in the
Soloheadbeg Ambush and the Knocklong
Rescue. Sean was later killed in action at
Ballynahill on 30 March, 1921.

WILLIAM JOYCE, Lord Haw-Haw, in one
of his war-time propaganda broadcasts deni-
grated the Irish army of the day by stating that
"they couldn't even drive the Sheridans out of
Rathkeale".

KILCOLMAN CHURCH had virtually dis-
appeared by 1840, when only a side wall built
of large field-stones, cemented with lime and
sand mortar, remained. The graveyard was
still in use at that time.

BALLYALLINAN CASTLE was built by
the O'Hallinan family but it was later occu-
pied by gallowglasses, the MacSheehys, on
behalf of their overlords, the Earls of
Desmond. Dermot O'Connor captured
Ballyallinan Castle from Rory MacSheehy in
1600 but was forced to surrender it after a
siege.

BALLYALLINAN CHURCH, Teampall
Beinid, the Church of Beinid is east of the
castle. By 1840 only the side walls and part of
the east gable was intact. O'Donovan believed
that St. Beinid could have been another name
for St. Benedict.

ST. BEINID'S WELL, Tobar Beinid, St.
Benedict's Well, and St. Bernard's Well may
be one and the same. O'Donovan noted that
St. Beinid's Well was thirty yards south-west
of Teampall Beinid and made only a vague
reference to St. Bernard's Well in Ballyallinan
North. Patrick Hogan in Holy Wells of Ireland
(1980) wrote that pilgrims visited St.
Bernard's Well on 20 August and Good
Friday's seeking cures for rheumatism, lame-
ness, and sore eyes. These pilgrims used to
leave pins and nails as votive offerings.
Sometimes nails were driven into an ash tree
above the well, possibly in memory of the
crucifixion. Ballyallinan is four miles south-
west of Rathkeale.

RATHNASEER CHURCH derives its name
from Rath na Saer, the Fort of the Artificers
or Workmen. This is an ancient nave and
chancel church two miles south of Rathkeale.
The western gable had been completely
destroyed by 1840 but the eastern gable has
survived and contains a round-topped win-
dow.

RATHNASEER CASTLE was a Geraldine
castle. This building was only 35 feet high a
century and a half ago when an arched floor

could be seen over the ground floor.

LISNACOLLA CASTLE was built by the
MacSheehys, who were introduced into this
part of the country by the Seventh Earl of
Desmond in 1420. This castle was also known
as Liosnacolle or Woodfort Castle and was
the seat of the MacSheehys after they had
been appointed the Earl's constables. It is four
miles west of Rathkeale.

MAC SHEEHY, is derived from Mac
Sitheach, the Son of Sitheach or the Peaceful.
Sitheach was a great-grandson of Domhnall,
from whom the Scottish MacDonnells took
their name. The MacSheehy surname is also
rendered as Sheehy, M'Shihy, M'Shiehy and
M'Shee. The name was first recorded in
Ireland when the MacSheehys took part in a
fratricidal battle between two O'Connor fac-
tions near Ballysodare, County Sligo, in 1367.
During the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth
centuries they served as mercenaries, or gal-
lowglasses throughout the length and breadth
of Ireland.

CLONARLA CASTLE in the parish of
Dundonnell was demolished in the 1830s so
that T. Fitzgerald Massey could build a new
mansion, Clonarla, on the site. By 1837 only
a few fragments of the castle survived. The
only other house of note in the parish in the
same year was the seat of Gerald
Blennerhassett, Riddlestown, on the banks of
the River Deel. Dundonnell parish contained
476 inhabitants on 1239 statute acres in 1831.

SOURCE REFERENCE NUMBERS

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