

4.1.2 Carrigaline

The following was summarised from various publications and from information at <http://www.carrigaline.ie/pages/history.html>.

Carrigaline is situated in a limestone region in the Owenabue Valley 7 miles south of Cork City and is at the head of the Owenabue River and Estuary which forms part of Corks Lower Harbour.

Carrigaline is geographically located 12 Kms south of Cork City, at the mouth of the Owenabue River and at the Head of the Owenabue Estuary which forms part of Cork Harbour. The Locality lies within the Barony of Kerrycurrihy a name derived from the Ciarraige Cuircha, a clan who occupied the area prior to 1000AD. It was a very important Barony in early Norman Times. The landscape is dominated by the River and Estuary and gently rolling hills to the North and South of the Town.

For those who live in the locality Carrigaline is still referred to as the village. In so doing a lot is revealed about the nature of the people and the locality. It is still viewed as a small manageable friendly community where people are in first name terms with each other and have a strong sense of identity with the locality. This despite the fact that the population has grown rapidly to approx. 15,000 in recent years. This rapid growth is not unique within the country however it is rare to find such development while still retaining the sense of identity and belonging to an area. At first glance there appears to be little reason for this unique position, certainly a vibrant community existed in the locality within what was a relatively small population up to the 1970s.

Few remnants remain of the pre Christian era. However, there is an important lios in Kilmoney, next to Liosbourne and Lios Rua estates and this is now subject to a preservation order and is being developed as a leisure area. There are Souterrains near the Rock and evidence of pre-historic settlements along the shore edge. Also a lios near Owenabue Heights and Carrigaline Middle.

The early Christian era influenced the development of the town and remains from that period include the settlements of Kilnagleary and Kilmoney Abbey. The name Kilnagleary is derived from the Irish Church of the Clerics and dates back to the time of St. Finbarr The monastery was located near the present Industrial Estate close to the Owenabue and was very important. It would have been subject to Viking raids and also raids from the powerful Irish clans such as the O'Briens. One of the raids is mentioned in the Annals of Innisfallen. With the arrivals of the Normans and the building of Castle the abbey lost its importance and a church was built on the rock near the castle. The site of the abbey of Kilmoney was located near the residence of the Riordan family which is known as Kilmoney Abbey. The name may have derived from Cille Moine or the church of the bog or the church of Moine perhaps the name of its founder or local saint. The abbey was an offshoot of Gill Abbey in Cork.

The village of Carrigaline took its present position in the 17th century, around the bridge at the head of the Owenabue Estuary. Over time the new village took over from the old town at The Rock.

Agriculture was the main industry in ancient times until corn and flax growing encouraged the development of Flax Mills and Flour Mills in the 19th century. Both Carrigaline Pottery and the Co-op Creamery were formed in 1928 and the Carrigaline Co-op Store was rebuilt in 2000 to become the largest of its kind nationally. In more recent years, industrial development at Carrigaline with the establishments of large plants such as Pfizers, Penn Chemicals- ADM,

GSK and Novartis (formerly Sandoz) built at Ringaskiddy have provided employment for locals with many others working in Cork City. In the 1970's, Biocon (now Quest) established a local Biochemical Industry at Crosshaven Road. Hele opened a factory on the Crosshaven Road. The premises are now occupied by P.R.P. Ireland Ltd. Kilnaglery Industrial Park and Carrigaline Industrial Park both situated on the Crosshaven road incorporate many large companies such as Pepsi and locally owned West Building Products (formerly Leo West Swish). Barry Collins Supervalu, owned by the local Collins family has extended over the eighties and nineties and is now the largest independent retailer in Ireland. Two local pharmacies Walshes and Phelans grew and developed over outlets around the county. In Carrigaline East Pat O' Farrell and the O'Farrell family operate a successful cottage industry producing Carrigaline Farmhouse Cheese.

The development of housing estates started in the 1970s, with Glenwood, Elmside and Mount Rivers Estate. Then in the eighties Ashbourne Court and Ard carrig estates were constructed as well as large developments like Waterpark, Clevedon, Dun Eoin, Bridgemount and Herons Wood being constructed in more recent years

Carrigaline itself means Rock of the O' Lyons (family). Kilmoney Abbey is a historic building on the Captain's Boreen The Garrydhu is the big field south of the river. Ballea Castle overlooks the Ballea Bridge Lower with the famous White Horse painted on the rock under the Castle. Ravenswood is a period house on the Ballea Road

Education on a primary level is evident in the area since the 18th century. National schools were built in the 1960s. The eighties and nineties saw the building of the new St. Marys COI School and a Gaelscoil –both situated next to the Community School. Carrigaline Community School, caters for second level population of nearly one thousand students and a thriving adult educational programme for the locality. It was opened in 1981 and now has a staff of over sixty under the direction of principal Donal Murray. Irish President Mary McAleese visited the school for its 20th anniversary celebrations in 2001

The population of Carrigaline in 1971 was 971 when the County Council identified the village as an area for development as a satellite town to Cork City with a green belt between the two centres of population.

Housing developments, consisting mainly of housing estates have occurred on the wings with the result that the main street has retained its village atmosphere although now very congested with traffic. A bye pas bridge was opened in the eighties as well as a community complex and a large community school. New Boys and Girls schools were also opened as well as a new Church of Ireland school and a Gaelscoil. The Hurling and football club expanded with new pitches and clubhouse. New Soccer pitches were opened on the Ballea Road and a new Clubhouse was opened last year. The opening of Carrigaline Court Hotel opened up new opportunities for the business life of the town. The Heron on the Roundabout is a millennium sculpture present to the people of the town by the local Lions Club. On the down side a fine Pitch & Putt Course also opened in the eighties closed and a planned sporting complex including indoor facilities on the Crosshaven road appear to suffer from lack of funding. The town had a cinema in the seventies, the Oakwood, it is now the Library. Commercial development of the old Pottery site is at the planning stage, this includes a new Town Centre. A Children's playground has just been opened on the old Pitch & Putt Course and plans for a people's park with two five a side facilities are advanced.

Population of Carrigaline is 11,282 with over 15,000 in the vicinity. Carrigaline does not yet have a town council. Community Association performs many of the acts of the town council in its absence such as running Community Complex, Tidy Towns and Youth Club.

Pipe Band: The Town is famous for its pipe band founded in the forties after the emergency. It has participated in numerous competitions all over Europe and represented us several times at

the famous Celtic festival in Lorient located a few miles from its twin town of Guidel. There is a fine Band Hall next to Church.

This place was in early times called 'Beavor', or 'Bebhor', and derived its name from the abrupt rocky cliff on which are the remains of the ancient castle, built by Milo de Cogan in the reign of King John, and for nearly two centuries occupied by the Earls of Desmond, by whom it was forfeited, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The castle, together with the lands of Carrigaline and Balinrea, was then granted by the queen to Anthony St. Leger, who demised them to Stephen Golding, Esq., from whom they were purchased by Sir Richard Boyle, afterwards Earl of Cork, and from him descended to the present proprietor, the Earl of Shannon. In 1568, the Lord-Deputy Sidney, after relieving the Lady St. Leger in Cork, advanced against this fortress, which he took from James Fitzmaurice after an obstinate resistance, and from this time during the entire reign of Elizabeth it had the reputation of being impregnable.

In 1589, Sir Francis Drake, with a squadron of five ships, being chased by a Spanish fleet of superior force, ran into Cork harbour; and sailing up Crosshaven, moored his squadron in a safe basin, sheltered by Corribiny Hill, close under Coolmore. The Spaniards pursued, but, being unacquainted with the harbour, sailed round the shores without discovering the English fleet, and giving up the search, left it here in perfect security. The basin in which Sir Francis lay has since been called Drake's pool.

There are three graveyards surrounding St. Mary's Church. The first and most historic dates back to the time of the castle and contains graves of both creeds. The second graveyard was opened in 1944 and the third extension was opened in the 1970s. Situated in the most historic area of Carrigaline. Dating back to 1824 it was extensively renovated and rededicated last year (2003).

The first graveyard dates back to the time of the castle and so family members kept their burial plots once the church was built regardless of religion. This tradition remained when the second and third phases were introduced with both churches using the sacred ground side by side.

After the fall of Carrigaline Castle the area around the rock lost its importance although a vibrant society continued to live in the area, and a church also remained there, the Church of Ireland church built in 1723 replacing an earlier church. The religious wars of the seventeenth century followed by the Cromwellian campaign had its toll on all churches.

It is generally accepted that the site of Carrigaline Village was moved up the river in the early/middle seventeenth century and a bridge was built at the highest navigable point where a network of roads opened to the south. The land around Carrigaline was rich, with the subsequent need for industry such as milling, agricultural implement, shopkeepers etc. The houses in the village were constructed mostly south of the river. Another settlement known as the Cross developed north of the river near the present Catholic Church. Roads ran from here to Cork, Ringaskiddy and Ballinassig and a connecting roadway between the two parts of the village. The Milling Industry developed between the two, the old structure at Robert's still remaining, the old mill stream near Cogan's still there and the weir and sluice gates at Ballea bridge.

Lewis records (1837) CARRIGALINE, a parish, partly in the county of the city of CORK, and partly in the barony of KINNALEA, but chiefly in that of KERRICURRIHY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 7 miles (S. E.) from Cork city; containing 7375 inhabitants The parish is situated on the road from Cork city to Tracton, and contains 14,254 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act, and valued at £16,606 per annum; the surface is pleasingly undulated, and the soil is fertile; a considerable part is under an improved system of tillage,

and the remainder is in demesne, meadow, or pasture land. There is neither waste land nor bog; coal, which is landed at several small quays here, is the chief fuel. A light brown and purplish clay-slate is found; and limestone of very superior quality is raised at Shanbally, in large blocks, and after being hewn into columns, tombstones, &c., is shipped to Cork and other places. The appearance of the country is beautifully varied: the views from the high grounds are extensive and picturesque, commanding the course of the river Awenbwuy, with the capacious estuary, called Crosshaven, and embellished with numerous gentlemen's seats.

The principal are Coolmore, the residence of W. H. Worth Newenham, Esq., situated in a beautiful demesne of 545 acres, with a lofty square tower a little to the east of the house, which commands a magnificent prospect of the town and harbour of Cove, and the rich scenery of the river; Mount Rivers, of M. Roberts, Esq.; Waterpark, of Robert Atkins, Esq.; and, on the border of the parish, Ballybricken, of D. Conner, Esq.

The village has a very pleasing appearance; it consists of several good houses and a number of decent cottages, extending into the parish of Kilmoney, on the south side of the river, over which is a bridge of three arches.

There are three large boulting-mills, the property of Messrs. Michael Roberts and Co., capable of grinding 20,000 sacks of flour annually, of which the greater part is shipped for England from Cork. The trade consists chiefly in the export of corn, flour, and potatoes, and the import of coal and culm. The channel of the river has been lately deepened six feet, principally at the expense of Mr. Roberts, and vessels can now deliver their cargoes at the bridge. A creek runs up to Shanbally, and another forms the channel of Douglas, both of which are navigable for vessels of 40 tons' burden, which being up lime, sand, and manure, and take away limestone and bricks, the latter of which are made near Douglas. The opening of several new lines of road has been of great advantage to the district. The river Awenbwuy, winding through a rich corn country, is well situated for commerce, and salmon and trout are caught in abundance. Fairs are held in Carrigaline on Easter-Monday, Whit-Monday, Aug. 12th, and Nov. 8th, for cattle, sheep, and pigs. There is a penny post to Cork; and a chief constabulary police force has been stationed here. Petty sessions are held in the court-house every Tuesday, and a manorial court once in three weeks.

The living is a rectory, in the diocese of Cork, and in the patronage of the Earl of Shannon: the tithes amount to £1080. The church is a very handsome edifice of hewn limestone, in the later English style of architecture, with a massive square tower crowned with pinnacles and surmounted by an elegant and lofty octagonal spire pierced with lights: it was erected in 1823, near the site of the former church, and enlarged in 1835, by the addition of a north transept; the windows are very light, chaste, and beautiful, particularly the eastern one, the upper part of which is ornamented with stained glass. near the west front is a lofty arch, beneath which is an altar-tomb of grey marble, with a recumbent leaden figure, now much mutilated, of Lady Suanna Newenham, who died in 1754. A chapel of ease has been built at the village of Douglas, in the northern division of the parish, within the liberties of the city of Cork. There is no glebe-house, but a glebe of 6a. 3r. 9p.

In the Roman Catholic divisions the parish partly forms the head of a union or district, comprising the four ploughlands called Carrigaline and the parishes of Templebready and Kilmoney, and is partly in the union of Douglas or Ballygervin, and partly in that of Passage: the chapel is in that part of the village of Carrigaline which is on the south side of the river.

The male and female parochial schools The male and female parochial schools are supported by subscription; the school-rooms were built in 1834. At Raheens are schools for boys and girls, the former supported by a donation of £50 per ann. from W. H. W. Newenham, Esq., and the latter by Mrs. Newenham; a school is aided by annual subscriptions, amounting to £4, and

there are other hedge schools in the parish, altogether affording instruction to about 450 children, and a Sunday school. Here is also a dispensary.

At Ballinrea there is a mineral spring, which is considered to be of the same kind as that of Tunbridge Wells, and has been found efficacious in cases of debility; and near it is a holy well, dedicated to St. Renogue, which is resorted to by the country people on the 24th of June.

The land around Carrigaline being prosperous meant that Carrigaline appeared to have not suffered badly at the time of the famine although the population began to decrease.

The penal laws enacted in 1795 forced the Catholic Church more or less underground, meeting in private houses and mass rocks. A Mass house was in place in the Main Street and in 1796 a site was obtained on Shinbone Hill and the building of the church of St John The Baptist was commenced and completed in 1800AD. The Chapel was extensively renovated in 1893 serving the people of Carrigaline until the existing church of our Lady & St. John was opened in 1957. Only the pillar of the old church remains. The original church of St. Mary built in 1723 near the Rock was replaced by the existing church in 1824, a fine gothic structure. It was re-furbished in 1992, but was damaged in an accidental fire in 2003, now fully restored.

During the eighteenth century Carrigaline featured in all the national movements of the time, such as the anti tithe campaign, the land league and the repeal movement. A massive anti tithe meeting was held near St Ranog's well attended by over 100,000 in the 1830's. In the latter part of the century Land League agitation was to the fore - Canon Carey of Carrigaline being very much involved before the matter was more or less settled in 1902. Carrigaline like almost rural areas in the rest of the country saw its share of evictions and memories were still vivid.

The population of Carrigaline is always difficult to assess, as even to-day the town is divided into three electoral areas, Cork South, Kinsale rural and Liscleary. Sean O'Mahony did a brilliant job on the population in the eighteen hundreds, listing population by dwellings. The population was over 600 in 1851 and gradually declined to a low in 1936 but rose to over 600 in 1966 due to the influence of the employment at the pottery. It rose to 6482 in 1991 and at the last census taking an area of a 1 mile radius from the Bridge the population was 11,282.

Carrigaline once boasted a Flax mill which was unusual to the south as the linen industry tended to be predominantly in the north of the country. It lasted only short time and closed in the early 20's due to lack of demand after the war. The building was then turned into the Crystal Ballroom and in more recent years the funeral home replaced it.

As mentioned earlier, the land around Carrigaline was rich with the resulting development of the Milling industry and associated agricultural enterprises. The milling industry had its ups and downs over the centuries- the Roberts family being much involved. - the remains of the lower mill still remains next to the main street , The upper Mill was located near Beaver Lodge next to the pottery site. The remains of the weir and sluice gates are at Ballea Bridge. The Cantillon family ran a successful Bakery in the main street until the eighties. Remains of the Flour Mill behind Robert's Shop still there, privately owned, and a reminder of Carrigaline's once thriving Milling Industry. Much of this building has now been made into apartments and retail units.

Carrigaline was a thriving market town since the last century and the venue for one of the biggest Animal fairs in the country attracting buyers from far and wide. With the creamery being placed in the centre of the village until 20 years ago. A local co- operative has taken its place. Within the village the thriving Pottery was to become the major employer employing over 200 people at its peak. Also, the bakery and creamery created great employment. This agricultural and industrial wealth enabled a community of approx. 800 to remain in the locality.

The flax industry continued for a few years in the early twenties again which was slightly unique as the Flax and Linen industry was concentrated mostly in Northern Ireland. It closed after a few years and the premises situated near Forde's Funeral Home became a Dance Hall run by one of the colourful characters of Cork, the late Jown W. Reidy. He was an independent member of Cork Corporation with the witty slogan of "The needy need Reidy and Reidy needs your votes". At the time of elections when Dev and other parties would have massed pipe bands, John W decided to have dance bands which drew massive crowds but not a great number of votes. Advertisements would appear on the evening echo against a background of Palm trees indicating Carrigaline as one of the most romantic places on earth. What the locals thought was another thing but the great character died young and the ballroom was bought as a Parish hall and it served as such for many years. However it fell into need of repair and also new fire regulations and in 1980 it was decided to build a new Community hall on a vacant site on the Church Road. It was funded by local effort and grants under the youth employment scheme and opened by President Hillery in 1986. The old Church of Ireland school situated the site of the permanent TSB bank also served as a Community hall for many years and the Community Association held many of their original meetings there.

Carrigaline for many decades was known for a Pottery. The pottery was a unique Industry started by Hoddie (Hodder) Roberts in 1928. He was convinced that local clay that was being used to make fire bricks could also be used to make pottery. He went over to Stoke on Trent to get expert advice, met Louis Keeling and so it began small at first but gradually employing over 200 people until its closure some years ago. It also revived Carrigaline's position as a port, with vessels such as the Kathleen and May bring clay for the pottery. It also scored entertainment wise with victory in what was then the television show "tops of the town" in 1978.

For inspection purposes only
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.