



Stepping into Kilkenny's History

WRITTEN BY
ANN MURTAGH
& TONY PATTERSON

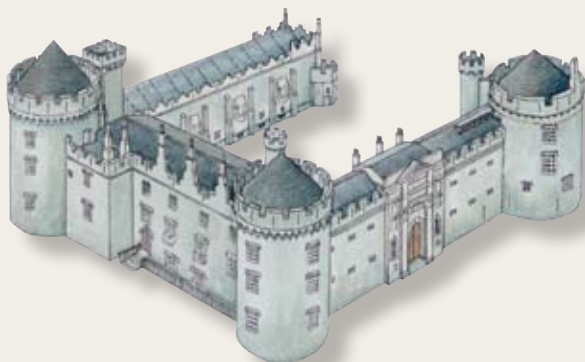
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FOREWORD

Kilkenny Education Centre is very pleased to present the Document Pack, *'Stepping into Kilkenny's History'*. The resource has primarily been designed for teachers who wish to pass on to their students a sense of the rich history that Kilkenny city holds. The document pack contains a DVD ROM, an illustrated map of Kilkenny city, and a booklet containing the main pieces of Kilkenny's historical past. I wish to emphasise the practical approach that the DVD ROM takes in encouraging teachers to bring history outside of the classroom, and to walk among the physical and built heritage of Kilkenny.

The primary school curriculum emphasises that historical education is concerned with developing students' knowledge and interpretation of the lives of people in the past. The post primary school curriculum for history also highlights the importance of presenting historical evidence and using primary and secondary sources to assist students in the interpretation of the past.

In a practical way, *'Stepping Into Kilkenny's History'* from Kilkenny Education Centre will assist teachers in the promotion of evidence-based learning opportunities for students. It helps teachers and students to examine their environment by exploring the built heritage of Kilkenny. Trails and walks, which form part of the Document Pack will encourage teachers and students to examine streetscapes, churches, local maps, photographs and personal accounts of people who have lived through some of the social changes that have occurred in more recent times.

I hope that teachers will find the resource helpful and informative so that they can open the eyes of their students to the city of Kilkenny's rich historical past.

Paul Fields,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul Fields". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Director,
Kilkenny Education Centre.



FOREWORD

The Heritage Council's education and outreach work supports, where possible, efforts to bring our heritage alive through active learning. For this reason, and because it is one of Ireland's built heritage gems, it is with great delight that we have supported the work of Kilkenny Education Centre in bringing together this publication and supporting documentation on the 400 anniversary of its City charter. It is intended that this publication will support and encourage teachers, students and others to explore the rich historic legacy that surrounds us. This beautifully illustrated publication and CD provides a depth of knowledge about this medieval city with its narrow streets, its distinctive townscape and rich historic fabric.

While this publication has been produced to meet the needs of teachers and their students it will, I believe, have a use far beyond any specific audience providing as it does a wonderful guide to the city that will be of interest to resident and visitor alike.

We hope you will take the time explore the city and see it through the eyes of those who have contributed to this publication and have shared their knowledge and enthusiasm with us.

Michael Starrett,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Starrett". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "M" and a long, sweeping "S".

CEO, The Heritage Council.

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CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Kilkenny's Rulers	3
Mac Giolla Phádraig	3
Richard de Clare, known as Strongbow	3
Isabella	4
William Marshall	4
The Town of Kilkenny 1207 to 1609	5
William Marshall's Charter 1207	6
William Marshall's Sons and Daughters	7
The Story of the Butler Family	9
1. The Early Butlers	9
2. A Successor for Black Tom	10
3. The First Duke	11
4. Two Royal Visitors	12
5. The Butlers in the 18 th and 19 th Centuries	12
6. The Butlers in the 20 th Century	13
St Canice's Cathedral	15
Medieval Churches in Kilkenny City	21
St. Canice's Cathedral, Irishtown	23
St. Francis Abbey	24
St. John's Priory	24
St. Mary's Church	25
The Black Abbey	25
The Merchant Families of Kilkenny	27
Rothe House	28
The Tholsel	32
Stone Walls	35
Lime Mortar	35
Stone	35
Old Walls	36
Wall Plants	36
Building a Stone Wall	36
History is Based on Evidence	38
Time Line of Kilkenny City	41
Sources	50



Introduction



INTRODUCTION

In 1207 William Marshall, Lord of Leinster, gave the town of Kilkenny a charter, setting out the rights he was granting to its citizens. In 1609, King James I of England (and VI of Scotland) made Kilkenny a city, and gave it a new charter, under which it was governed until the mid 19th century.

It is no small achievement to be able to commemorate eight hundred years as a chartered town, and four hundred as a city. The year 1207 was not the beginning of Kilkenny's story. There was a monastery and a cathedral there long before the Normans arrived in Ireland, and a town in which Robert de Prendergast stayed, according to *The Song of Dermot and The Earl*, an old French poem written shortly after the Norman invasion. William Marshall's father-in-law, Richard de Clare, commonly known as Strongbow built a castle at Kilkenny, probably a motte-and-bailey. Marshall became Lord of Leinster when he married Strongbow's daughter Isabella, and even before he came to Ireland, he sent his household knight Geoffrey FitzRobert there as his seneschal to administer Leinster in his absence. The fact that Geoffrey granted lands to the burgesses of Kilkenny at a rent of twelve pence a year is mentioned in William Marshall's charter.

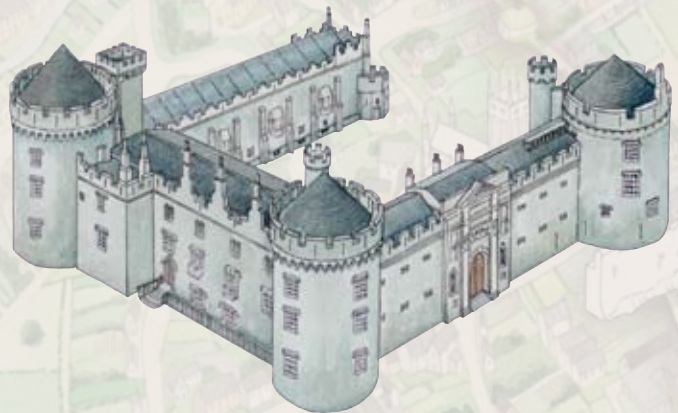
The purpose of this booklet and of the DVD ROM which accompanies it, is to put in the hands of teachers, materials which can be used in the teaching of Local History, an important part of the History Curriculum at both Primary and Post Primary levels. In gathering materials we have tried to provide photographs which may be freely used for teaching purposes. Photographs of Kilkenny as it is today are our own work, or the work of friends, and you may freely use them in class, or print them in worksheets and the like. Older photographs come mainly from the Rothe House collection, and we are grateful to Kilkenny Archaeological Society for permission to use them.

A DVD ROM accompanies this booklet and it contains photographs, history trails, worksheets, PowerPoint presentations, movies, and expanded versions of the chapters, as well as a number of extra topics which we are not able to cover adequately in this booklet.

This collection of material does not set out to be a continuous history of Kilkenny. Neither is it a work of scholarship, with detailed notes and references. There is comparatively little work from original sources, and there is a great dependence on the work of historians who have written about various aspects of Kilkenny's life and history. Our object has been to provide a selection of themes which can be used in class, or adapted for such use. We have set out a list of our sources at the end, and we think that it shows how fortunate Kilkenny is to have so much material of high quality available.

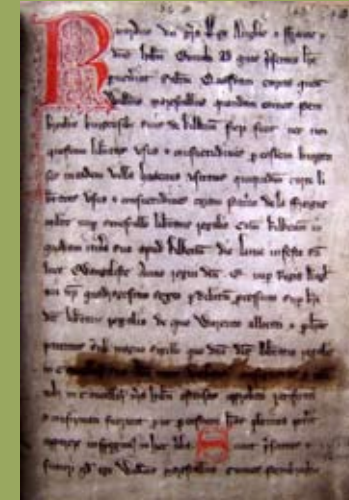


St. Canice's Tower - the oldest building in Kilkenny



In 1207 William Marshall granted a charter to his town of Kilkenny





Kilkenny's Rulers

MAC GIOLLA PHÁDRAIG

Before the Norman invasion of Ireland in the late 12th century, Kilkenny was an important town. It was the chief town of the kingdom of Osraighe, a name which survives to the present day as the name of the diocese of Ossory. St. Canice's Round Tower was built around the year 1100 AD. Beside it stood a church which was taken down in the 13th century to make way for the present St. Canice's Cathedral. This round tower is the oldest building in Kilkenny, and for nine hundred years has been overlooking Irishtown, which was probably the original town of Kilkenny (Cill Chainnigh – the Church of Canice)

At the time of the Norman invasion in the late 12th century, the ruler of Osraighe was Domhnall Mac Giolla Phádraig. In 1166 he was part of the army which drove Diarmaid Mac Murchadha, King of Leinster out

of his kingdom. Diarmaid sought refuge in England and asked for help from the King of England, Henry II. Henry gave him permission to recruit soldiers to help him recover Leinster.

In 1167 Diarmaid returned to Ireland with some soldiers from South Wales, and two years later, in 1169 Robert FitzStephen landed at Bannow Bay in Wexford with 300 Welsh archers, thirty knights, and 60 squires. He was joined the next day by Maurice de Prendergast with ten more knights and many archers. They were joined by Diarmaid Mac Murchadha, and the combined force marched on the town of Wexford and captured it. They next invaded the kingdom of Ossory, and defeated its king, Domhnall Mac Giolla Phádraig in a number of battles, the greatest of which was near Freshford (Achadh Úr).

RICHARD DE CLARE, KNOWN AS STRONGBOW

One of the Normans, who had promised help to Diarmaid Mac Murchadha, was Richard FitzGilbert de Clare, Earl of Strigoil. He was better known as Strongbow. In August 1170 he landed near Waterford with an army. He captured the city of Waterford and shortly afterwards he married Diarmaid's daughter Aoife. He later captured the city of Dublin. This left the Normans as masters of three Norse towns, Wexford, Waterford and Dublin. In May 1171 Diarmaid died, and Strongbow became Lord of Leinster. He brought a large army into Ossory, and Domhnall Mac Giolla Phádraig agreed to recognise Strongbow as his overlord, and was recognised as King of Ossory under Strongbow.

KING HENRY II

In October 1171 the King of England, Henry II landed near Waterford with a large army. He spent six months in Ireland. Strongbow handed over the city of Waterford to Henry and recognised him as his overlord for Leinster. A number of Irish kings submitted to Henry. Among them was Domhnall Mac Giolla Phádraig, King of Ossory.

ISABELLA

When Strongbow died in 1176, the Lordship of Leinster included what is now Counties Kilkenny, Wexford, Carlow, Kildare, Wicklow, Dublin and Laois. It did not include the Viking cities of Dublin, Wexford or Waterford. This huge lordship was inherited by Isabella, the daughter of Strongbow and Aoife. As she was only a child, she was made a ward of Prince John, who had been made Lord of Ireland by his father, King Henry II. This meant that John had the profit from her lands in Leinster until she was old enough to be married. In 1189, John's brother, King Richard I, gave Isabella's hand in marriage to William Marshall. Shortly afterwards the Mac Giolla Phádraig lands were taken from them and they moved north to Upper Ossory, to what is now called County Laois.

WILLIAM MARSHALL

At the time of his marriage to Isabella de Clare, William Marshall was in his early forties, and she was probably still under twenty. He had had an adventurous life. As a younger son, he inherited no lands from his father, but was taken on as a squire by a relation who lived in Normandy, in France. As a squire, he served a knight, and learned the trade of arms – in other words he prepared to live the life of a soldier. By the time he was knighted in 1166, he knew how to control the strong

tall horses that knights rode, and had learned how to use a sword and a lance. He also had some experience of battle.

After he was knighted, William Marshall became a household knight, but was let go from this position. For some years he supported himself by taking part in tournaments. These were mock battles in which parties of knights fought against one another. The fighting was real enough, but usually resulted in the capture of a knight rather than his death. If a knight was captured, his captor had the right to claim his horse and armour. William came to the attention of Queen Eleanor, Henry II's wife, and was part of her household for some years until he became a household knight in the service of the King's son, Henry. When young Henry died, William went to the Holy Land as a Crusader. He spent two years there and then returned in 1186 to join King Henry in Normandy. At that time Henry ruled not only England, Wales and Ireland, but also Normandy, Anjou, and Aquitaine in France.

When Henry's son Richard became king, William Marshall became one of his most trusted followers. William was by this time a wealthy man, holding lands of his own as well as those of his wife. On Richard's death, his brother John became King and again William Marshall joined the new King's household, although it wasn't until 1199 that he became Earl of Pembroke, a title which had been taken from Strongbow many years before. He made a visit to Ireland in 1201, but it was in 1207 that he moved to Leinster and began to organise his Lordship there.



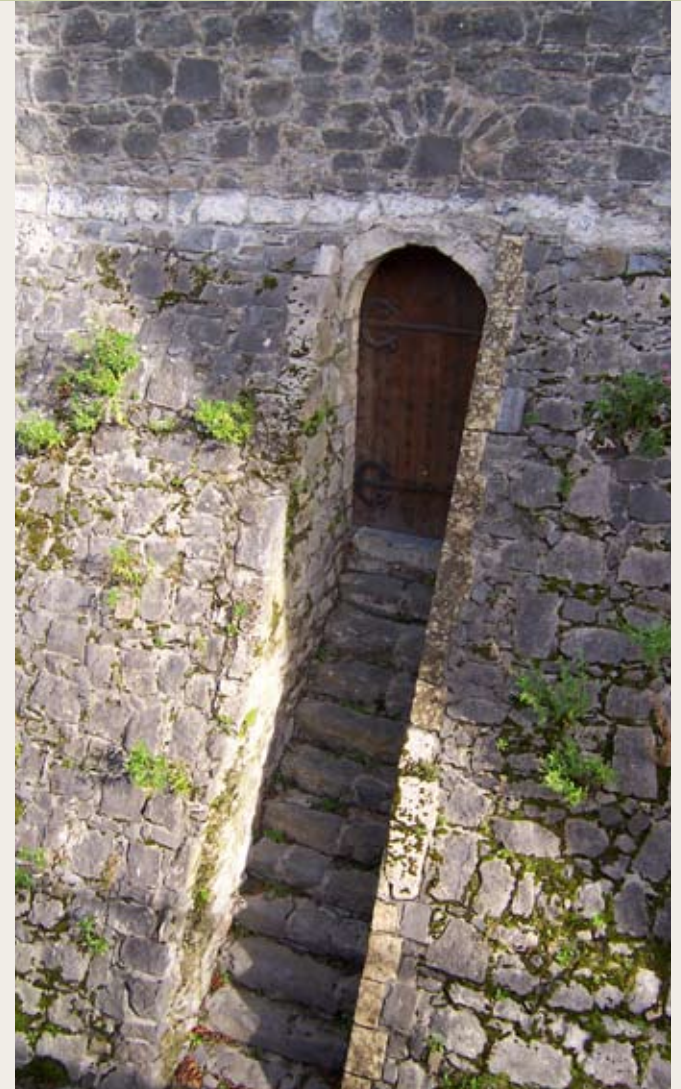
THE TOWN OF KILKENNY 1207 TO 1609

William Marshall chose Kilkenny as the principal town of the southern part of his lordship. He issued a charter to the citizens, giving them certain rights and privileges. This charter was copied into the *Liber Primus Kilkenniensis*, or First Book of Kilkenny in the late 14th century. Today this book is preserved in the Tholsel, Kilkenny City Hall.

All over Europe during the 12th and 13th Centuries, towns were being built. Some grew up at places that were good for trade, such as a river crossing point. Many were founded by local lords. The towns attracted merchants who could make a living buying and selling goods. They also attracted craftsmen, such as weavers, shoemakers, masons, carpenters and so on. The merchants and craftsmen were allowed to set up guilds to regulate their trades, and control the quality and price of the goods they made. In the countryside many people were “*unfree*” – they could not leave the lord’s manor. People in towns were less restricted. If you could remain in a town for a year and a day, you were free to remain there or move on, own property, or practice a trade.

Lords set up towns in their territories as this could be profitable for the owner of the land it was built on. He could charge rents on plots of land, and collect taxes from the citizens. The more merchants in a town, the more taxes the lord collected. Towns were also allowed to collect their own taxes. The citizens of a town were allowed to have their own court so that crime could be punished and legal disputes settled quickly. A town would hold a market, perhaps weekly and would hold a great fair to which merchants would come from far and near to sell their goods.

There was a town at Kilkenny before the Normans came to Ireland. It was probably in the part of present-day Kilkenny which is known as Irishtown. When Strongbow invaded Ossory, he built a motte-and-bailey fortress at Kilkenny which was burned down by the Domhnall Ó Briain. A motte was an earthen mound, which usually had a wooden castle on top, and the bailey was the space beside the motte, which was enclosed by a tall wooden fence. In case of an attack, the lord’s tenants and followers could find shelter in the bailey, with their goods and livestock. The bailey could withstand attack for a while, and in case it was taken by the attackers, the defenders could take refuge in the building on top of the motte.



Since Strongbow's time, Kilkenny Castle has undergone many changes. William Marshall replaced the wooden structure by a great stone castle, surrounded by a deep moat. Above you can see a door with some steps leading down into what remains of the moat today. This door was a sallyport through which the defenders could make a sudden and unexpected attack on the force which was besieging the castle





WILLIAM MARSHALL'S CHARTER 1207

When William Marshall became Lord of Leinster after his marriage to Aoife, Strongbow's daughter, he was unable for some years to visit Ireland. Instead he nominated a seneschal to rule Leinster in his place. The seneschal presided at courts, and made decisions in his Lord's name. Geoffrey FitzRobert, as William Marshall's seneschal had already made arrangements to develop the town of Kilkenny before William came to Ireland in 1207 and granted Kilkenny a **charter**. Every town wished for a charter, which was a document granting certain rights to the people who lived there.

William's charter begins:

"Know those present and to come that I, William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, by the counsel and consent of Isabella my wife, have granted to my burgesses of Kilkenny all manner of liberties which it becomes burgess to have, and which I can give, to have and hold for ever ..."

The burgesses were those people who rented burgage plots from the lord. These were long plots of ground with one end on the main street. The charter granted them certain rights:

1. To have a law court in the town
2. To be free of tolls, lastage, passage and pontage in all the other towns in William Marshall's lands. A toll was a tax charged for entering a town with goods for sale. Lastage was a charge made at fairs or markets for the right to carry goods where one wished. Passage was a charge for passing through the town with goods. Pontage was a charge for using a bridge, and went towards the upkeep of the bridge
3. The burgesses could have a merchant guild and other guilds "with those paying scot" (a tax payable to the lord)
4. The burgesses were free to sell or rent their burgages, and were free to rent land to others who would become free tenants having equal rights with the burgesses
5. Burgesses were to be allowed grind their corn in the lord's mill for a reasonable toll
6. Marshall confirmed the rent that Geoffrey FitzRobert had fixed for a burgage plot – twelve pence every year



Kilkenny Castle: The earliest surviving parts of Kilkenny Castle date from William Marshall's time



The Black Abbey: William Marshall II founded the Black Abbey in 1225

WILLIAM MARSHALL'S SONS AND DAUGHTERS

William Marshall had five sons, each died childless, and each in turn inherited the Earldom of Pembroke and the Lordship of Leinster.

William Marshall II became Earl when his father died in 1219. He founded the Black Abbey in Kilkenny in 1225, and built castles in Carlow and in Ferns, Co. Wexford. He was justiciar of Ireland from 1224 to 1226. As justiciar he ruled Ireland in the King's name.

Richard Marshall became Earl in 1231 on the death of his brother William. He quarrelled with King Henry III and was killed on the Curragh of Kildare in a battle with Maurice Fitzgerald, the King's justiciar. He founded St. Francis Abbey in Kilkenny.

Gilbert Marshall succeeded his brother Richard in 1234 and was killed in a tournament in 1241.

Anselm Marshall was Earl from 1241 to 1245, and on his death all his lands in England, Wales, and Ireland were divided between his five sisters or their heirs. County Kilkenny was given to Isabell, the widow of the de Clare Earl of Gloucester. The de Clares held Kilkenny until 1314, when Earl Gilbert was killed at the Battle of Bannockburn in Scotland. There were no male heirs and County Kilkenny was divided among his three sisters. The town of Kilkenny was part of Eleanor's portion. Her husband was Hugh le Despenser, and her descendants held Kilkenny until they sold Kilkenny Castle to James Butler, 3rd Earl of Ormond in 1391.

THE WALLS OF KILKENNY

Kilkenny had three walled areas: The Hightown, Irishtown, and the suburb of St. John's on the east bank of the Nore.

THE HIGHTOWN had a wall running from the castle in the south to Talbot's Tower, and from there to the River Breaghagh on the north.

IRISHTOWN, on the far side of the Breaghagh, had a wall enclosing the area around St. Canice's Cathedral.

ST. JOHN'S had a much smaller walled area around St. John's Priory.



The Butlers of Ormond owned Kilkenny Castle from 1391 to 1967



The Story of the Butler Family

1. THE EARLY BUTLERS

Theobald Fitzwalter, an English nobleman, came with young Prince John to Ireland in 1185. The Prince granted him a large area of land and appointed him Chief Butler of Ireland. This meant that if the king was visiting Ireland, the Chief Butler had to ensure that there was plenty of food and drink ready for him and for the group travelling with him. The Butlers were also given a special privilege known as the *Prisage of Wine*. They were entitled to about 15% of all the wine that was imported to Ireland. Another special honour for the Chief Butler was that he had to serve the first glass of wine to the king after he had been crowned. This is what the three cups on the Butler crest represent. You can see the three cups on the top right of the shield in this coat of arms.



From the early 13th century the FitzWalters were known as 'Butlers'. Most of their land was in County Tipperary. At that time the area was known as Oir Mhumhan, which meant east Munster. This is how we get the word 'Ormond', a name that we connect with the Butlers. Who was the first Earl of Ormond? To answer that, we must move forward in time to the eighth generation of Butlers living in Ireland, to a man called James Butler. In 1327, he married Eleanor, a niece of King Edward III of England, and the following year the King made him Earl of Ormond.

The Butlers were living in Gowran Castle. James's grandson, another James Butler, bought Kilkenny Castle and its lands in 1391.

James is buried in Gowran. He was the first of a long line of Butlers who were connected with Kilkenny Castle until it was sold in 1967.

In the 16th century, Piers Rua, or Red Piers became the Earl of Ormond. His wife belonged to another powerful family in Ireland at the time, the Fitzgeralds of Kildare. They are buried in St Canice's Cathedral. By looking at their tombs, we can get a good idea of what type of clothes were worn by wealthy people in Ireland in the mid-16th century. Their son, James, was Earl of Ormond for only a short time, as he and a group of friends were poisoned at a feast in London, in 1546. Before he died, James bought vast amounts of land which had come on the market after Henry the VIII closed the monasteries in 1540. His son, 'Black Tom', became the next Earl of Ormond.

2. A SUCCESSOR FOR BLACK TOM

We found out earlier on that the Butlers were linked to the royal family in England. In the 16th century there was to be another connection. Thomas Butler, the seventh earl of Ormond, had a daughter called Margaret, who married Sir Thomas Boleyn in England. Their granddaughter, Anne, was the second wife of King Henry VIII and their great-granddaughter was Queen Elizabeth I of England.

When Elizabeth I ruled England, she was very friendly with her Butler cousin, 'Black Tom'. As well as being the Chief Butler in Ireland, he was also made the Treasurer of Ireland. Black Tom's son died while he was only six years old. His other child was called Elizabeth. Kilkenny Castle and all its estates were entailed, in order to ensure that his daughter would inherit his castle and property. Tom arranged for her to marry a Butler cousin called Theobald Butler, Viscount Tulleophelim. She agreed to this, but within ten years, Theobald became very

ill and died. The couple had no children, so Kilkenny Castle and all its land now went to Black Tom's cousin, Walter.

Walter Butler lived in Kilcash Castle in County Tipperary on the slopes of Slievenamon. He was a Catholic, and one of the leaders of the Old English in the Irish Parliament.

Elizabeth Butler had been looking forward to living in Kilkenny Castle, and being the lady of a great estate. She was unhappy with the prospect of living in a smaller house which had far less land going with it. To make matters worse, she would not be able to move into this house until her father died and in the meantime she had to live on an allowance. Her husband, Viscount Tulleophelim, had owed a lot of money and she had to pay this back. Elizabeth was determined to change her father's will so that she would inherit Kilkenny Castle and lands. The only way that this could be done was by persuading the King of England to change it. Elizabeth met and married a Scottish nobleman, Richard Preston and hoped that through him, she would be able to meet the people at court who would have enough influence over the king, to help her gain back her lands.

Black Tom died and Elizabeth started the court case. Thanks to the contacts she had made in court, she was able to persuade the king, James I, to change her father's will. Walter was left with the manor in Gowran, along with a small amount of land.

Walter knew that the only way that he could become owner of Kilkenny Castle and lands again, was to persuade the king to change his mind. He asked James I to admit that he had made a mistake about the will. The king was outraged that his decision should be questioned like this and put Walter in prison, where he spent the next eight years. This was a very difficult time



Kilcash Castle, Co. Tipperary

for Walter. The land that he had been left with was not earning enough money to pay off his debts. To make matters worse, his eldest son, Thomas was drowned at sea while Walter was in prison. Apart from the heartbreak of losing his son, he depended on Thomas to round up support for his cause in Ireland.

When Walter was finally released from prison in 1627, the new king, Charles I sat on the English throne. Walter made arrangements to go back to Ireland to fight the Prestons in court. However, Walter never met Elizabeth or Richard again. In October 1628, Elizabeth travelled through Wales, on her way to board a ship for Ireland. She suddenly became very ill and died. Two weeks later, Richard Preston sailed the Irish Sea to attend her funeral and drowned during a storm on the journey over.

The Prestons left behind a daughter, called Elizabeth. Walter's son, Thomas, also left behind children. His oldest son was called James Butler. A marriage was arranged in 1629 between Elizabeth and James, who were second cousins, once removed. Elizabeth was 14 and James was 19. Walter, whose nickname was 'Walter of the Prayers', died in February 1633.

3. THE FIRST DUKE

After his father had drowned, James was cared for by the family of the Archbishop of Canterbury. During that time he converted to the Protestant faith. In 1642, he was given the title, 'Marquis of Ormonde'. It was from this point onwards that the 'e' was added to the title. King Charles I had appointed James head of the army in 1641 and in 1643 he appointed him Lord Lieutenant – the highest government position in Ireland. However, James was not a popular man in his home town of Kilkenny. When it came to important government jobs in Kilkenny, the Butlers had always appointed some of the local Catholic merchants. Now James ignored this group.

In 1641 a group of Ulster Catholics started a rebellion. They wanted to get back land that had been taken from them by English Protestant settlers during the Ulster Plantation, thirty years earlier. The rebellion quickly spread to other parts of Ireland. Many Catholic landowners believed that it was in their interest to join the rebels to make sure that they held onto their lands. Some of these men were members of Parliament until the time of the rebellion. Parliament could only be called by the King, so this group of men decided to form their own type of parliament, which they called an 'assembly.' Kilkenny became the home of this assembly during the 1640s and its supporters called themselves, 'The Confederate Catholics'. Nowadays we refer to it

as the 'Confederation of Kilkenny'. Although James Butler was firmly on the side of the English, many of the men supporting the 'assembly' were actually related to him.

What was happening in England shaped events in Ireland. England was being torn apart by a civil war. King Charles I and his Parliament had very different views about how to rule the country and ended up at war with each other. The supporters of the Parliament were known as 'Parliamentarians' and the supporters of the king were known as 'Royalists'. The Confederates in Kilkenny always claimed that they were loyal to the king and that they were fighting for the freedom to practise the Catholic religion. In January 1649, they were trying to work out a peace deal with the English through James Butler. However, less than two weeks later, the Parliamentarians executed Charles I and James Butler fled to France with Charles's son. England, Scotland and Wales were then ruled by the Parliament or Commonwealth. Kilkenny Castle and all the Butler property was confiscated by Parliament.

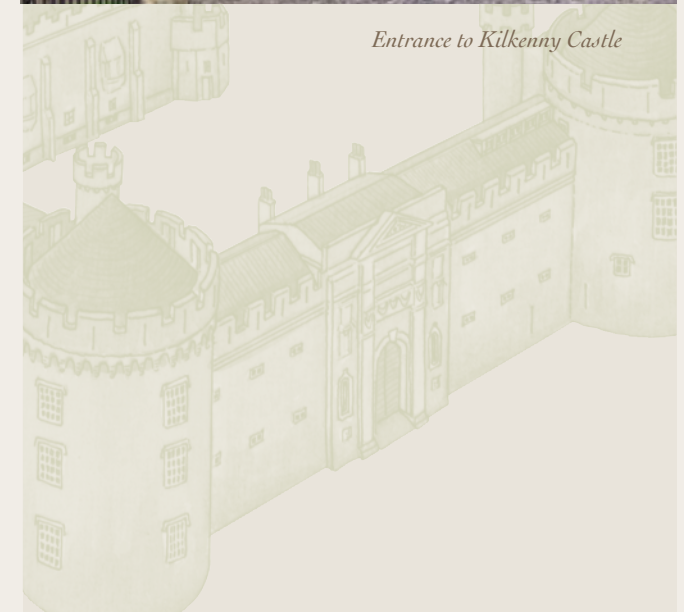
James Butler's wife, Elizabeth, appealed to Parliament that *she* was the owner of some of the Butler land and property in Ireland that had been taken and that she should get it back.

Parliament agreed to restore her land and houses and by 1657, she had moved to her house in Dunmore, near Kilkenny City with her children. In 1660, Charles II was restored to the throne in England. James Butler was rewarded for his great friendship to the King. He was created Duke of Ormonde and once more appointed as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Kilkenny Castle and most of the land that had been confiscated was restored to James. He set about changing the castle from a medieval fortress to a



Entrance to Kilkenny Castle



French-style chateau. He knocked down the houses between Rose Inn Street and the castle, in order to create the Parade.

Elizabeth died in 1684. James lived until 1688 and the present grand entrance to Kilkenny Castle was completed by his grandson, James, the second Duke of Ormonde, after 1698.

4. TWO ROYAL VISITORS

The next drama to unfold in Ireland was the war between James II and William of Orange, for the throne of England. In 1688, James II, King of England, was Catholic, and was forced to step down in favour of his Protestant nephew from Holland, King William of Orange. King William also happened to be his son-in-law.

James II spent most of the winter of 1689 in Kilkenny Castle. He and his supporters were determined to regain the throne. James Butler was not present as he had said openly that he was in favour of William of Orange, and James had outlawed all supporters of his rival. Lord Galmoy, a Catholic cousin of James Butler, was now living in Kilkenny Castle.

The armies of James and William met at the River Boyne, near Drogheda, County Louth, in July, 1690. William won this battle. James Butler had fought with William at the Boyne and made sure that he was at Kilkenny Castle to receive William, on his way down to Limerick. The Butlers preserved the fork used on this occasion as a family heirloom. William's army made Kilkenny their winter headquarters in 1690-91, when it moved down to besiege Limerick. After the Battle of the Boyne, King James fled to France and spent the rest of his life there.



5. THE BUTLERS IN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES

We have seen how life for the Butlers often depended on what was happening in England and once again in 1715, the second Duke was disgraced because he was in favour of the return of the Stuart family to the throne: King James of the Battle of the Boyne was a Stuart. The Duke was forced to flee to France where he lived until his death in 1745. A caretaker looked after Kilkenny Castle for many years and it became very run down.

In the late 18th century Walter Butler of Garryricken inherited the Butler titles and lands, and moved into Kilkenny Castle which was in very poor condition at the time. His son, John, married Anne Wandesforde of Castlecomer. She was a very rich lady and brought a fortune to the Butlers. The Wandesforde family had become wealthy as a result of the coalmines they owned in Castlecomer. Walter and Anne spent a huge amount of money remodelling the castle, planting the Castle Park, re-routing the road away from the castle and building the stables and courtyards – now the location of Kilkenny Design.

Walter reclaimed the title 'Earl of Ormonde', that had died out. His son, also called Walter, inherited the castle and properties in 1795. During his time as Earl, the English Crown decided to buy back the right to the Prisage of Wine. In 1811, the Crown paid £216,000 for it. This money helped to refurbish the castle and to pay for the lavish lifestyle of the Butlers.

During the 19th century, the family carried out major work on Kilkenny Castle. They rebuilt the east wing to house their large collection of pictures, and they expanded the west curtain wall to provide more bedrooms.

During the Famine, the Marchioness of Ormonde gave food, clothes and blankets to the poor. She set up a soup kitchen in Dunmore, Co. Kilkenny. The Marquis of Ormonde was on the Board of Guardians responsible for the running of the Workhouse in Kilkenny City, and for a time was chairman of the board.

6. THE BUTLERS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

In 1904, royalty again visited Kilkenny Castle when King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra travelled to Kilkenny at the end of April. The streets were decorated with flags and garlands. The King and Queen attended the annual Kilkenny Agricultural Show. The Butlers entertained their royal guests at a dinner party followed by a reception for 400 people in the Long Gallery of the castle. The following day they all attended Divine Service in St Canice's Cathedral. A trip in an open car to Woodstock had been planned, but because it rained heavily, the royal party remained in Kilkenny Castle. The next day they left on a special train, while a local band played 'God Save Ireland' and 'Come Back to Erin'.

By the 1930s, the Butlers no longer were able to afford the upkeep of Kilkenny Castle. In 1935 they decided to sell most of their belongings in the castle and leave. An auction took place in November. It lasted for ten days. One of the days was set aside for selling over 6,000 books from the library in the castle. Some of the paintings, tapestries and a large marble table remained. In 1967, Arthur Butler sold the castle to a Castle Restoration Committee for £50. Shortly afterwards it was handed over to the State. Charles Butler, the last Marquis of Ormonde, died in 1997 aged 98.

Kilkenny Design, once the stables for Kilkenny Castle





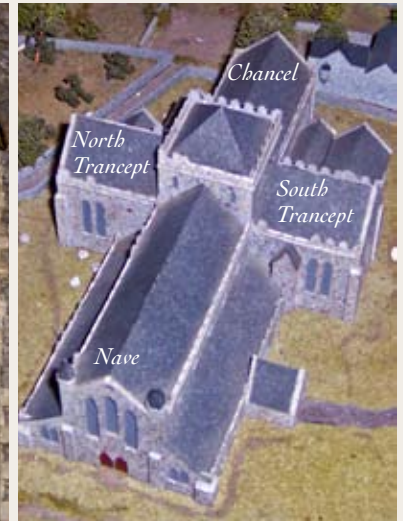
*St Canice's Cathedral,
by kind permission of Kilkenny Archaeology*



St Canice's Cathedral, today



An example of Gothic and Romanesque styles in the Cathedral



St Canice's Cathedral

St. Canice's Cathedral is situated on a hill overlooking Kilkenny City. We know from a survey carried out by archaeologists, that there was an earlier cathedral and palace on this site. The palace probably belonged to the MacGiolla Phadraig family. Opposite is an artist's impression of what it looked like. Some of the stone of the old cathedral was used to build the 'new cathedral.'

The Round Tower beside the cathedral is the oldest building in Kilkenny City and was built in the early 12th century. It was used as a bell tower.

The present cathedral took many years to build and was started soon after Hugh de Rous became bishop in 1202.

Much of St. Canice's Cathedral built in *Gothic* style, where windows and doors have pointed arches. Some



An example of recycled stone can be seen at the base of an outside wall, facing the Round Tower.

rounded arches from the earlier style of building, known as *Romanesque* were also used.

Churches and cathedrals were built in the shape of a cross, which can be seen from the above model of the cathedral. The nave is where lay people attended mass and the chancel was for priests and other men who had dedicated their lives to God. When the cathedral was built first, there were no seats or kneelers and a screen called a 'rood screen' divided the chancel from the nave. If you look up at the arch in the cathedral, which leads into the chancel, you can see the holes in the ceiling left from the time a screen had been there.

Visitors to St Canice's Cathedral often remark on the number of tombs that are in the cathedral. Who is buried in the cathedral? Only rich people could afford

to be buried there, because it cost a lot of money to have a tomb designed and made. Titled peoples such as the Butlers of Kilkenny Castle, other rich landowners such as the Shortalls and Graces, wealthy merchants such as the Savages, and churchmen such as Bishop de Ledrede are among the people buried there. Often a tomb was ordered and made for the person long before he or she died. By doing this the person in question could make sure that his/her wishes were carried out.

The Kyteler belonged to a well-known banking family in Kilkenny. They were made famous by Alice Kyteler, who was accused of being a sorceress in the 14th century. This Kyteler slab which asks us to say a prayer for Joseph Kyteler, dates from the late 13th century and was found in High Street when a building was being renovated in 1894. The *Kilkenny People* Newspaper Office is located there today.



The Kyteler Tomb



Tombstone with effigy and medieval carvings



The Cock on the Pot



St Simon



St Andrew



St James Minor



St Philip

TOMBSTONES IN THE CATHEDRAL

Using the Instruments of the Passion of Christ became very popular in churches across Europe during the late middle ages. People believed that by praying to God and looking at the symbols, they would be sure of going to Heaven when they died. There are examples of this in St. Canice's Cathedral.

'**THE COCK ON THE POT**' was a popular legend in Ireland up until the 18th century. In some accounts the story is about Judas, in others it is Pontius Pilate. Pilate or Judas went home after the Crucifixion and told his wife that they had crucified a man who had said he would rise again after three days. She said that was as unlikely as the cock she was boiling rising from the pot. With that the cock jumped out of the pot and said 'Praise be Jesus Christ!' We have a picture of the Cock on the Pot on a tomb in St Canice's.

Pictures of the saints were often used on tombs. If a saint is shown with a weapon, this shows the way he died. People put pictures of the saints, especially the apostles, on their tomb, hoping that with the saints' help, they would go to heaven when they died.

Here **ST SIMON** is holding an axe and **ST ANDREW** is holding an x-shaped cross. He was martyred on a saltire cross in Greece.

ST JAMES MINOR, so called because he was the second 'James' to become an apostle, is pictured with a club because he was clubbed to death because of his faith. He is sometimes shown with a saw, because his corpse was said to have been sawn to pieces.

ST PHILIP is holding an armful of loaves. This shows his connection to the miracle of the loaves and fishes. When he saw the huge crowd gathered to listen to Jesus, Philip said 'It would take more than a year's wage to give each person a mouthful'.

Our next saint is **ST JAMES MAJOR**. This man is ready to go on a pilgrimage. He has a shell hanging from his belt and a broad hat to keep the hot sun off his head. There was a very strong tradition of the body of St James being buried in Santiago de Compostela in Spain. For hundreds of years, Christians have gone on pilgrimage to this town and the wearing of a scallop shell became a symbol for a pilgrim. There may have been practical reasons for the shell – for gathering water on the way and for using as a plate for food.

ST JOHN is shown holding a chalice. At the Last Supper, Jesus said to him 'Of my cup you shall indeed drink.' He was the youngest apostle and is always depicted without a beard. On another tomb, he is holding sheaves of corn.

In St Matthew's Gospel, Jesus promises **PETER** that he will receive the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Here he is shown holding a key.

On some tombs, a person is shown lying down. This is called 'an effigy'. The most famous effigies in the cathedral belong to Piers Butler and his wife Margaret Fitzgerald (1539). Close by is another effigy. This may be James Butler, son of Piers and Margaret. He and some friends were at a party in London and died from poisoning afterwards. His nickname was 'Séamas Bacach' or 'James the Lame'.

Up in the sanctuary lies the effigy of Bishop de Ledrede, the bishop who accused Alice Kyteler of sorcery.

The word 'cathedral' comes from the Latin word for chair: 'cathedra'. The cathedral is the special church of the bishop, the 'seat' of the bishop. In St Canice's Cathedral, there is a bishop's chair that is still used when a new bishop is being enthroned. St Ciaran's chair is attached to the wall in the north transept, St



St James Major



St John



St Peter



Séamas Bacach



The Bishop's Chair



The most famous effigies in the cathedral belong to Piers Butler and his wife Margaret Fitzgerald (1539)

Ciaran being the patron saint of the diocese of Ossory. The stone underneath the chair is said to have come from Seirkieran, County Offaly where St Ciaran had a monastery. It was moved to Aghaboe, County Laois, home of the cathedral for the diocese of Ossory until the end of the 12th century and from there to St Canice's. The sides of the chair are 13th century.

The symbols of the Four Evangelists are found in the choir stalls, made of Danubian oak. St Matthew is represented by the Man-Angel, as his gospel starts with the family history of Jesus. St Mark is the Lion: he starts his gospel with St John the Baptist roaring in the desert like a lion.

St Luke is the Calf because his gospel concentrates on the sacrifice Jesus made by dying on the Cross. St John is the Eagle because his gospel deals with how Jesus was God as well as man and the eagle soaring high in the sky, close to heaven, was a symbol of being heavenly.



St Matthew is represented by the Man-Angel, St Mark is the Lion, St Luke is the Calf and St John is the Eagle

On the floor tiles of the sanctuary are four different marbles representing the provinces of Ireland: grey marble from Tyrone for Ulster, red from Kerry for Munster, green from Connemara for Connaught, and black from Kilkenny for Leinster.

There are many fine stained glass windows in St Canice's.

When Archbishop Rinuccini visited Kilkenny in 1645, he was impressed with the east window of St Canice's Cathedral. He wanted to buy it and bring it back with him to Italy and offered £700 for it. The offer wasn't accepted, so he had some drawings made of it. Five years later the window was smashed by Oliver Cromwell's soldiers. It was eventually replaced with plain glass. In 1875, the Marquess of Ormonde paid for a copy of the original to be erected. It shows scenes from the life of Christ.

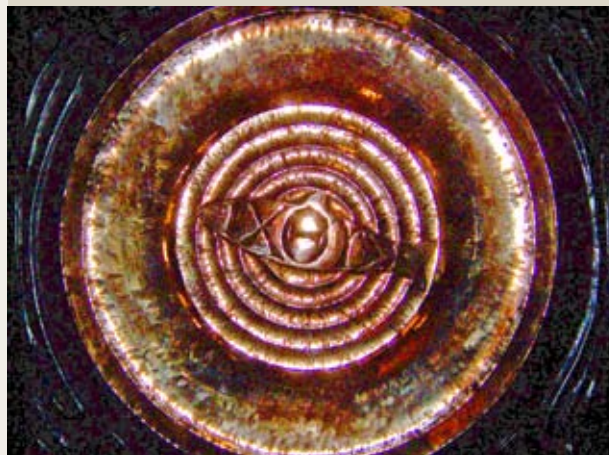
The baptismal font is as old as the cathedral itself. The original cover is long gone but a modern cover by artist Oisín Kelly is now in place. In ancient Greek, the first letters of the words *Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour* spell out the word for fish, and the fish became used as a symbol of Christ, especially in the early years when Christians were being persecuted for practising their faith.



The Marble Floor



The Baptismal Font



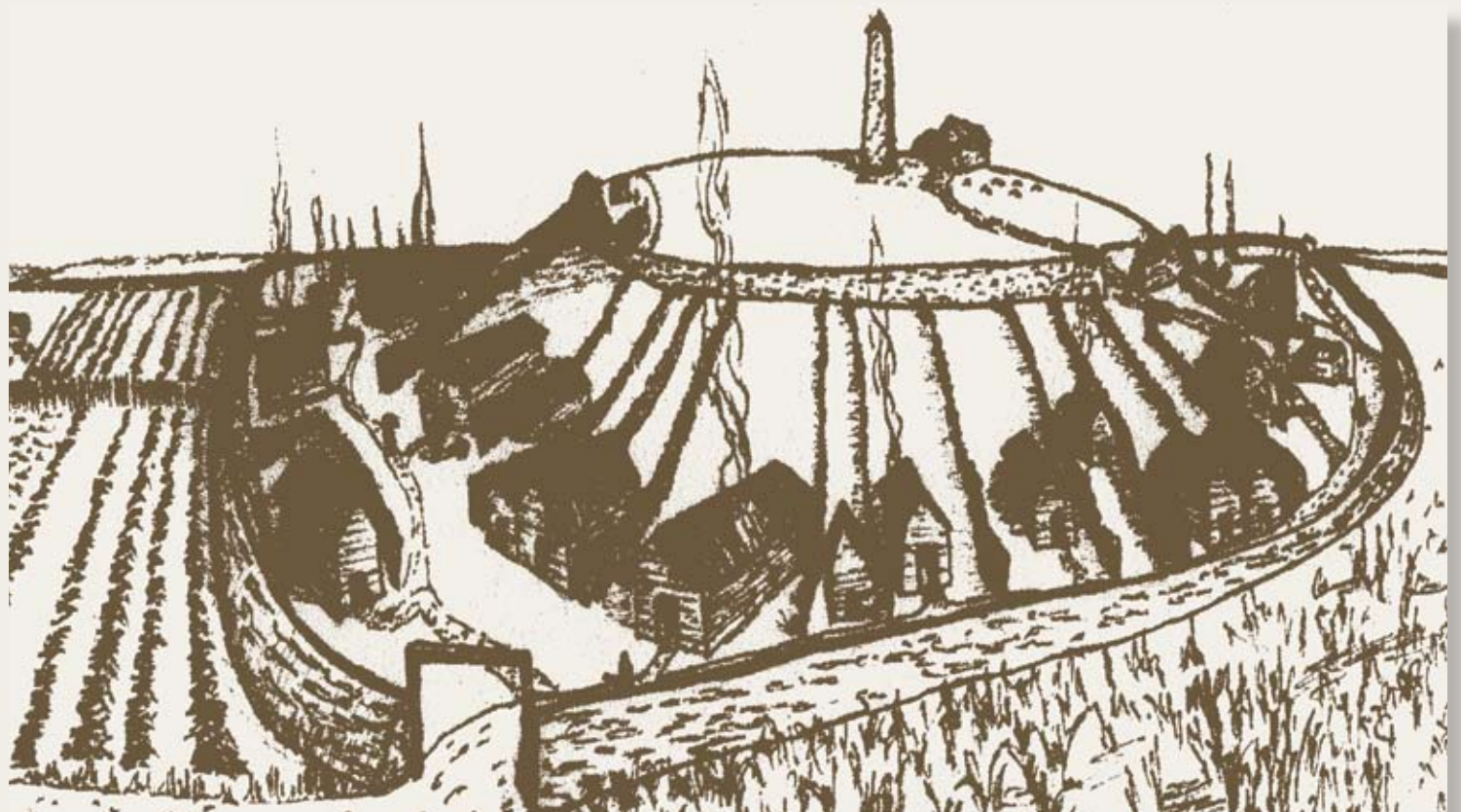
Modern Cover by Artist, Oisín Kelly

St Canice's Cathedral has been a place of worship for over 800 years. It is still a place of worship today for the Church of Ireland Community





Medieval Churches in Kilkenny City



*St Canice's Cathedral,
by kind permission of Kilkenny Archaeology*

There are several medieval churches still to be seen in Kilkenny City:

ST. CANICE'S is called a cathedral because it was built as the principal church of the diocese. It was the special church of the Bishop of Ossory and he had his "*cathedra*" there. The cathedra was a stone chair which can still be seen in the church.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH was the parish church of Kilkenny in the middle ages.

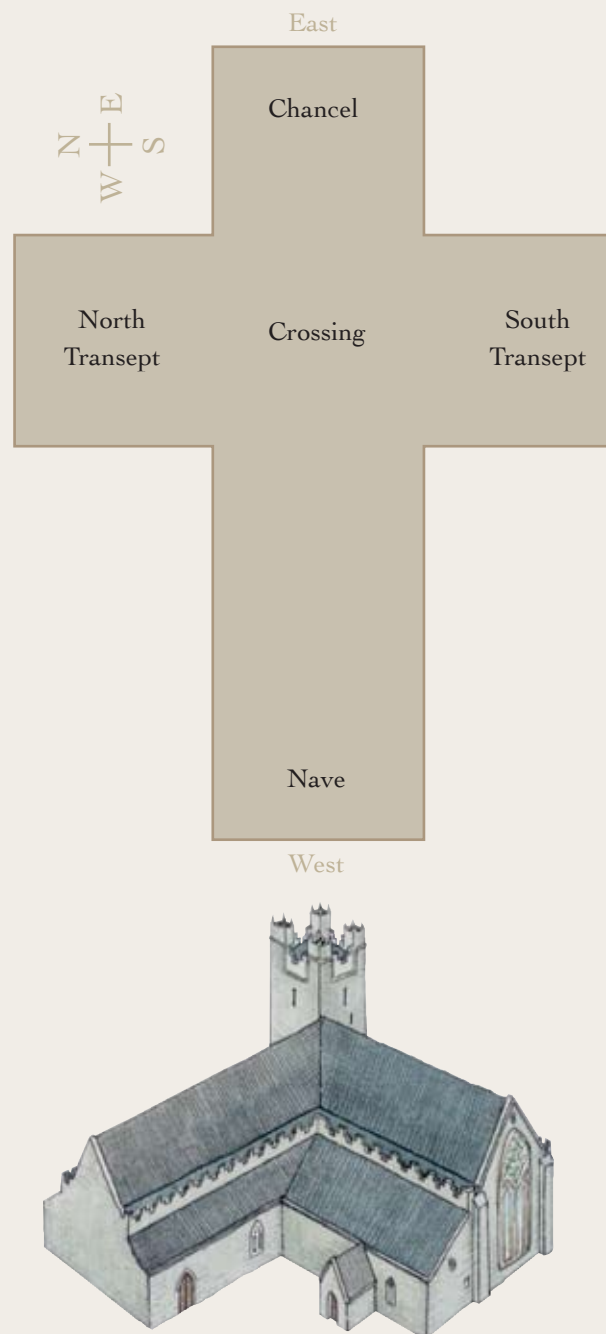
There were three churches which belonged to religious orders:

THE BLACK ABBEY was part of the Dominican Priory. In addition to the church, there were lots of other buildings where the priests and lay brothers lived and worked. They also owned some land and had a mill on the River Breaghagh. It lay outside the walls of the city, and was connected to the rest of Kilkenny by a gate.

ST. FRANCIS ABBEY was a Franciscan Friary. Part of its church can still be seen from the main gate of Smithwick's Brewery.

ST. JOHN'S PRIORY was an Augustinian Priory. It was also the parish church of St. John's Parish on the east bank of the river Nore.

FRANCISCANS AND DOMINICANS were known as **MENDICANT ORDERS**. A mendicant is someone who begs. The mendicant orders were founded to preach the gospel and to serve the poor. Instead of living off the produce of land which they owned, the mendicant orders received much of their income begging from the ordinary people.



DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES

King Henry VIII was declared Supreme Head of the Church in Ireland by an Act of the Irish Parliament in 1536. Between 1536 and 1553, in the part of Ireland controlled by the King, all monasteries were dissolved. This meant that they lost their land and churches. The monks were given pensions and had to leave their abbeys and priories. The lands and buildings were sold. In Kilkenny the lands of the Black Abbey, St. Francis Abbey, and St. John's Priory were all eventually granted to the **SOVEREIGN, BURGESSES AND COMMONS** of Kilkenny. "Sovereign" was the name given to the chief citizen of Kilkenny. Nowadays we refer to this 'office' as Mayor. The Sovereign, Burgesses and Commons governed the town. Later on this job was carried out by Kilkenny Corporation, more recently renamed, Kilkenny Borough Council.

When we talk about the churches in Kilkenny, we use terms like nave, chancel, transept, crossing, abbey, priory, prior, abbot, monastery.

The **NAVE** was the largest part of a church to the west. This was where the people came to hear mass. The **CHANCEL** was at the east end. It contained the altar, and in a monastery the choir monks sat in this part of the church during mass. Larger churches had two **TRANSEPTS** and the part of the church where the nave, chancel and transepts met was called the **CROSSING**. Very often a large church had a tower built over the crossing. The altar was generally in the east end of the church, with a large window behind it. The main door was at the west end of the church.

ABBAY – a monastery ruled by an abbot.

FRIARY – a monastery where friars lived.

PRIORY – a monastery whose superior was a prior. The Dominican and Augustinian houses are generally called

priories, while the Franciscan houses are generally called friaries. The Franciscans were known as the grey friars and the Dominicans as the black friars. In Kilkenny the Dominican Priory was known as the Black Abbey, and the Franciscan Friary was called St. Francis Abbey.

FRIARS – members of the Franciscan, Dominican, Carmelite or Augustinian orders. They weren't like monks of enclosed orders, but worked as priests among the people.

MONKS – priests and lay brothers who lived and worked in a monastery. They belonged to enclosed orders. Though they couldn't own property themselves, the monastery could own land, and many monasteries were very wealthy.

CANONS – priests who lived as monks.

REGULAR – clergy belonged to a religious order and followed rules laid down by their founder. The Canons Regular of St. Augustine, the Franciscans and the Order of Preachers or Dominicans were unenclosed orders. Their rule allowed them to work among the people.

LADY CHAPEL – a chapel in the monastery dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. A monastery would have one or more small chapels where mass could be said.

ST. CANICE'S CATHEDRAL IRISHTOWN

This building is dedicated to Cainneach, also known as St. Canice, or Kenny. The city of Kilkenny takes its name "Cill Chainnigh" from this saint. After the Norman invasion of Ireland in the 12th century, Hugh le Rous became bishop of Ossory and began the building of a cathedral. There had been an older cathedral on the site, but this was taken down to make way for the new building. Work began early in the 13th century. The first parts to be built were the **choir** and **transepts**. The **nave** was built much later. It was common practice at the time for the building of a great cathedral to take a very long time, and it was about fifty years before the building was finished. In the meantime the completed part of the building could be used for worship.

Beside the cathedral is a round tower. This was already erected when the second cathedral was built. The tower is about thirty metres high and the door is about two and a half metres above the ground. When the tower was new, it probably had a conical cap, but, as with most Irish round towers, this cap is missing.

Near the cathedral is the Bishop's Palace. The earliest part of this building dates from the 14th century, but it was added to and reconstructed many times over the centuries. Until recently the Church of Ireland Bishop of Ossory lived there, but it is now owned by The Heritage Council. Before work could begin on restoring the Palace, there had to be an archaeological investigation and the plaster was stripped from the stone walls.

The lower picture shows the result of the restoration of the Palace. The building looks like a Georgian house of the 18th century, but the ground floor is probably the remains of the 14th century Palace started by Bishop de Ledrede.



St. Canices Cathedral



Bishop's Palace during renovations



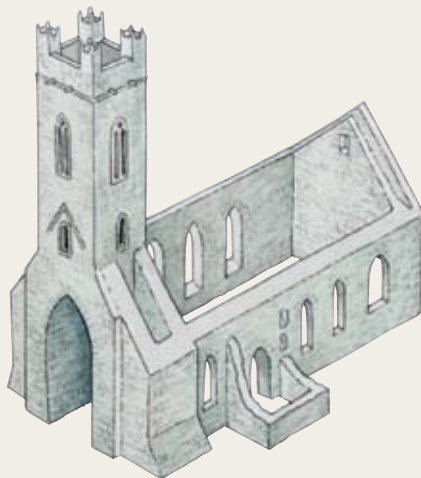
Bishop's Palace, 2009. Head Quarters of the Heritage Council

ST. FRANCIS ABBEY

Although this was known as St. Francis Abbey, it was actually a Friary. The friars who lived here were Franciscans. It was founded in the 13th century by Richard Marshall, Lord of Leinster. His brother, William had founded the Black Abbey some years before. The lands of St. Francis Abbey lay within the Hightown, the main part of the town of Kilkenny. The River Breaghagh separates it from Irishtown, and the River Nore is on its eastern side. Today it lies within the grounds of St. Francis Abbey Brewery, founded by the Smithwick family. For many years it produced Smithwicks Ale. It was taken over by Guinness, and is now part of the Diageo Group.

In 1540 King Henry VIII suppressed the Abbey along with many other monasteries in the parts of Ireland controlled by the English Crown. The buildings have been in ruins for a very long time. Only the **chancel** and the bell tower are still visible.

Evans Turret is at the corner of St. Francis Abbey Brewery grounds. It was part of the city walls. The River Breaghagh joins the River Nore at the corner of the abbey grounds.



St. Francis Abbey,

St. John's Priory



ST. JOHN'S PRIORY

St. John's **Priory** is at the corner of John Street and Michael Street in Kilkenny. It was founded in the early 13th century. The monks who lived there were **Canons Regular of St. Augustine**. In 1540, the monastery was closed when King Henry VIII ordered the **dissolution of the monasteries** in Ireland. The lands of the Priory were granted to Kilkenny Corporation. Over the years the Priory of St. John fell into ruins, but in 1817 the **Lady Chapel** was re-roofed and converted into a parish church to serve the Church of Ireland parish of St. John. The original Lady Chapel of the monastery was built about seven hundred years ago, so the nearest part of the building in this photograph contains a considerable amount of the remains of that chapel. Farther in from John Street, you can see the ruins of the **chancel** of the church, with its window towards Michael Street. The **nave** of the monastery church was taken down in the 18th century, and its stones were used to build Evans Asylum behind the church. This housed a number of poor people, and was paid for by money left in his will by Joseph Evans.

Most of the priory buildings have long disappeared, but some remains can be seen at Michael Street. The suburb of St. John's on the east bank of the Nore had its own walls.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH

St. Mary's Church, behind the Tholsel on High Street, was the Parish Church of Kilkenny from the early 13th century onwards. In the middle ages the Corporation of Kilkenny was responsible for the upkeep of the church. On occasions, the bell tower of the St. Mary's was used for Corporation meetings. In the 17th century, the Corporation laid down some rules for funerals at St. Mary's:

"Orders for burials—That the sword and four maces shall be carried before the Mayor at the burial of Aldermen and their wives; and that those that buried at St. Mary's church shall be carried in at the west gate; and if any howling or crying be at any such burial, the Mayor and company to withdraw till they leave off howling."

The church hasn't been used for worship in the last forty years. The medieval church was very much larger than what we see today. Part of the old church is used as a parish hall. The rest is used to store some old monuments.

In the past, important merchants and wealthy families built their tombs in the church or in the churchyard beside it.



St. Mary's Church



This gate called 'Black Freren Gate' connected the Black Abbey to the Hightown



The photograph shows part of the old buildings, restored for use by the Dominican Order in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.



The Black Abbey

THE BLACK ABBEY

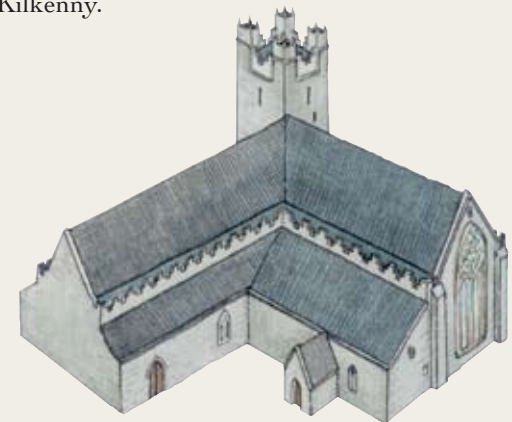
In the 13th century William Marshall, the younger, was Lord of Leinster. He founded a monastery for the Dominicans, known as the Black Friars, or the Order of Preachers. The Order was founded by St. Dominic and its first house in Ireland was built in 1224, in Dublin. In the following year The Black Abbey was built in Kilkenny.

Kilkenny was a walled town in the middle ages, and the Black Abbey was built outside the town wall in what is now known as Abbey Street.

The photograph below shows part of the old buildings, restored for use by the Dominican Order in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The gate on the left, called 'Black Freren Gate' connected the monastery to the Hightown, the main part of Kilkenny. The photograph shows the Black Abbey from inside the town wall, through what remains of the gate. In the middle ages the friars of the Black Abbey had a key to this gate.

The Abbey was dissolved in 1543 and the buildings and lands belonging to the Dominicans were granted by the King to the Sovereign, Burgesses and Commons of Kilkenny.





The merchant families dominated business and political life in Kilkenny



ARCHDEAKIN, ARCHER, COWLEY, LANGTON, LEE, KNARESBOROUGH, LAWLESS, RAGGET, ROTHE, SHEE, WALSH,
SHERLOCK, SAVAGE, CLEERE, CANTWELL, COMERFORD, SHORTHALL, MURPHY, RYAN.

The Merchant Families of Kilkenny

These are some of the names of merchant families who controlled Kilkenny from the late 14th century up to the mid 17th century. The families ran successful businesses such as importing fine cloth and wine and exporting wool, linen and animal hides. There were lawyers among some of the families such as the Rothes and the Shees. In addition to owning businesses in Kilkenny, many of the merchants owned land in the surrounding areas. In Sir Richard Shee's last will and testament, there are a number of places mentioned where he owned land that he was passing on to his sons. Among these are Uppercourt in Freshford, Tascoffin, Gowran and Tullaroan.

One important way in which the merchants controlled life in Kilkenny City was by being elected onto the town council, and after 1609 when Kilkenny became a city, onto the corporation. The person in charge of the town council was known as a 'sovereign' and between 1434

and 1544 one particular member of the Archer family was sovereign on sixteen occasions.

The merchant families intermarried, keeping their wealth and power within the group. The builder of the Shee Alms House was Sir Richard Shee. His mother was Margaret Rothe, an aunt of John Rothe who built Rothe House. John Rothe was married to Rose Archer. Their son, Peter, married Lettice Lawless. One of John Rothe's daughters married William Shee.

The power of the merchants was enhanced by working for a powerful family such as the Butlers of Kilkenny Castle. Sir Henry Shee, and later Robert Rothe, worked as agents for the Butlers. Thomas Archer worked as a steward and Richard Shee as a lawyer, for Thomas Butler. In some cases they were connected by family links: Robert Rothe's mother was a Butler, a cousin of Piers Butler's of Kilkenny Castle.

Religion played a central role in life in Kilkenny. Several churches were built in the city for attending Mass and the Sacraments. Fairs were organised around special holy days of the church. The town council was elected on the Feast of St John the Baptist. Every Sunday the Sovereign and the council members would march to St Canice's Cathedral in their scarlet robes. The merchant families controlled the local churches by donating money to them and in some instances by family members becoming priests. In the list of the Deans of St Canice's Cathedral in the 15th and 16th centuries, the names Archer, Cantwell and Comerford are repeated again and again.

St Mary's Church, off High Street, was the local church of the merchants. Many of the merchant families have tombs either inside the church in what is now known as 'The Monuments Room,' or in the graveyard.



Rothe House

Rothe House in Parliament Street was built between 1594 and 1610. John Rothe FitzPiers, the builder of the house, was a Kilkenny merchant. The coat of arms of the Rothe family, displayed on the front of the house, shows a deer in front of an oak tree.

Rothe House is built on a very old unit of land called a burgage plot. This was one of the plots rented to the burgesses of Kilkenny. In the early 13th century, the land around the present Parliament Street was Church land. Kilkenny was growing and needed new homes, so William Marshall, the owner of Kilkenny Castle, asked permission of Bishop de Rous to build houses in this area. The land was divided into burgage plots each side of the street. A 'burgess' rented a burgage plot for a shilling a year and built a house on the street. Behind the house stretched a long narrow garden for growing fruit and vegetables. The burgesses built sheds in these gardens and in some instances, a dovecote, which ensured a supply of fresh meat for the family all year around. The Rothe House burgage plot was owned by the Cistercian monks of Graiguenamanagh. They had their townhouse there and the water well they used can still be seen in the garden at Rothe House today.

There were two narrow lanes: Evans Lane and New Buildings Lane, one on each side of the plot. The lanes allowed easy access to the burgage plot. This was very typical of medieval towns throughout Europe. In the 1530s, King Henry VIII closed all the monasteries and took over the land and property that belonged to the monks. In some cases, he gave grants of land to people who were loyal to him. The burgage plot came to John Rothe's father this way.

In order to find out more about the garden, an archaeological dig was carried out in 2007. This was very useful for the garden designers. They were able to

find out what kind of plants were used and where the flower beds, walls and paths were located.

In the photographs you can see the restored garden which has been newly planted with raised beds in timber surrounds. The results of the excavations enabled the gardeners to plant the variety of vegetables, flowers and trees that the original garden might have had four hundred years ago.

John Rothe's business was originally located in St. Kieran Street. He moved when the 'first house' was completed in 1594. As John Rothe's family grew, he built onto his house. The 'second house' was built behind the first, with a little courtyard in between. He, and his wife, Rose Archer, had twelve children. We know that John Rothe was a merchant, an importer of fine fabrics. He may have sold other goods, but we don't have evidence of this. He also owned mills and land in county Kilkenny.

There is a plaque to show that the 'third house' was built in 1610. It housed the great kitchen, the bakery, the brew house, storage rooms and servants' bedrooms. Peter Rothe married Lettice Lawless in 1610. They moved into the first house, and John and Rose probably moved into the second house at this point.

In 1609 Kilkenny became a city. Nicholas Langton was sent over to England to ask King James I to grant Kilkenny the status of 'city'. John Rothe had been sovereign of Kilkenny in 1605. He was named a member of the first Corporation of the City of Kilkenny, and he was Mayor of Kilkenny in 1613.

He died in 1620 and was buried beneath a monument inside a small chapel in the graveyard of St Mary's Church. He had commissioned this monument in 1612; another example of the custom referred to in the document about St. Canice's Cathedral, where a person had his tomb built, while he was still alive.



In these photographs you can see the restored garden in 2008. The garden has been newly planted, with raised beds in timber surrounds. The results of the excavations enabled the gardeners to plant the variety of vegetables, flowers and trees that the original garden might have had four hundred years ago.



John Rothe's son, Peter inherited the house and business, and was a Member of Parliament for Kilkenny in 1639. During the 1640s, a group of the leading Catholic noblemen and clergymen met to discuss the political situation of Ireland. Their meetings took place in Kilkenny and this became known as the *Confederation of Kilkenny*. It was very like a meeting of Parliament and that is how Parliament Street got its name.



This is a copy of a banner that was found inside woodpanelling in Rothe House, in the 19th century. It shows the Virgin Mary being crowned by the Holy Trinity – God the Son on the left, God the Father on the right, and the Holy Spirit as a dove, above. The city coat of arms is in front (castle). This was carried in processions in churches and more than likely in the city on special occasions, during the time of the Confederation of Kilkenny.

Bishop David Rothe, a distant cousin of Peter's, was the Catholic bishop of Ossory at the time and there was a tradition that he and some of the other bishops often met and discussed the important issues of the day while walking in the orchard in the Rothe House garden.

The Confederation collapsed and the houses and property of its supporters were taken over by the English Commonwealth, headed by Oliver Cromwell in 1650. In 1653, the Rothes lost their house and lands and were forced to move to Connacht. Peter died the following year, but the records are very unclear as to where he died and was buried. When King Charles II came to the throne in 1660, it is thought that James Butler, the Duke of Ormonde, spoke on behalf of the Rothes and had the house returned to the family. None of Peter's sons were alive, so it went to his eldest daughter, Rose, who was married to Richard Shee. Their son, Marcus, owned the house in 1690. After that, it is difficult to find out what became of the family. Marcus Shee supported King James who was on the losing side at the Battle of the Boyne. As a result, he had to give up the land and houses that he owned. There is evidence that Marcus held onto some properties, but we cannot say for sure that Rothe House was one of them.

In John Rothe's time, the front of the first house looked much different, as it was probably painted with a lime wash. This helped to make the walls weather proof. In those days, people also believed that lime washing a house would keep out the 'vapours' carrying disease.



The Third Rothe House



Bishop David Rothe



Cellar Door, Rothe House



Artist: Roger O'Reilly (Courtesy of Rothe House Trust)



Oriel Window, Rothe House



Hood Moulding, Rothe House

There may have been multicoloured patterns or pictures advertising John Rothe's business painted on the walls of Rothe House. Inside, some of the walls were panelled and some of the ceilings plastered. More than likely there were tapestries hanging in the large room now known as the 'Phelan Room'. They were used both to decorate and insulate rooms. John Rothe mentions his tapestries in his will. There are still some tapestries located in Kilkenny Castle dating from this time.

The style of John Rothe's house was popular in Kilkenny at the time. In 1613 there were forty such houses in Kilkenny. Like Rothe house, most of them were supported by arches. Thanks to Rothe House Trust, we have been given this artist's impression, (on left) of what Rothe House might have looked like in John Rothe's

time. Note that it was free-standing and larger than the other houses in the neighbourhood.

This style of window, shown on the left, is known as an 'oriel window', and beside it is a window with a hood mould or dripstone over it to keep raindrops off the window panes. Another feature of this style of house was a cellar door on the street which meant that bulky goods could be brought to the cellar from the street without having to bring them through the house. Kyteler's Inn and the Sexton's House near St Canice's Cathedral are two other buildings that have this feature.

Rothe House went through many changes since the Rothes' time. It was the location of a school for a while in the early 19th century. Two local novelists, Michael and John Banim went to school here. It became known as 'Wolfe's Arch' when Andrew Wolfe leased the house after that.

In the 1940s there was a bar and grocery run by Delaney's to the left of the main entrance. and it housed a number of flats. The present Rothe House shop was once the location of a butcher's shop. The Gaelic League has been located in a room in Rothe House since 1899. In 1962, Kilkenny Archaeological Society and the Brennan family jointly bought Rothe House.

In 1980, Kilkenny Archaeological Society became the sole owners and the house is now their headquarters. It also houses their museum and a very fine library. Rothe House and its restored garden are open to the public for a small entrance fee.

The style of Rothe House is known as 'Renaissance'. It is the only example of a building and garden of its type in Ireland today and is home to the Family History Centre for Kilkenny City and County.



This is part of a minute book which recorded the decisions of Kilkenny Corporation. It is dated 12th of August 1638 and records "An Act against the suffering of swine in the streets of Kilkenny." It says that if pigs are found wandering in the streets, the owner will be fined twelve pence for the first offence and two shillings and sixpence for the second. Half the fine is to go to the person reporting the pigs, and the other half to the Corporation.



The Tholsel

This building was planned in 1759 and completed around 1761. It was built for the Mayor and citizens of Kilkenny, better known as Kilkenny Corporation. The meetings of the Kilkenny Corporation were held there and, at the present day Kilkenny Borough Council meets there at least once a month. There are twelve councillors on the Borough Council. They are elected by the voters of Kilkenny City once every five years. In addition to the elected members of the council, a number of officials work there. They are employed by the Borough Council to run the affairs of Kilkenny City. They look after water supplies, street cleaning, sewage, housing, roads, parking, refuse collection and a number of other services. The money for these services comes from Government grants, and from charges for some services such as parking and refuse collection. Every year the elected members choose a mayor from among

their number. The mayor presides over meetings: he or she decides who is to speak, makes sure that they obey the rules laid down by the Borough Council for speakers, arranges for votes to be taken when a decision has to be made by the Council, and is the person who represents the city on important occasions.

The council chamber is where the Borough Council meets. The general public is entitled to be present at meetings, but there aren't many chairs for spectators. Mostly this is no problem, as very few people want to sit through a two-and-a-half hour meeting, unless they are very interested in some matter that is going to be decided. The best attended meeting is usually the annual mayoral election, when there is generally standing-room only.



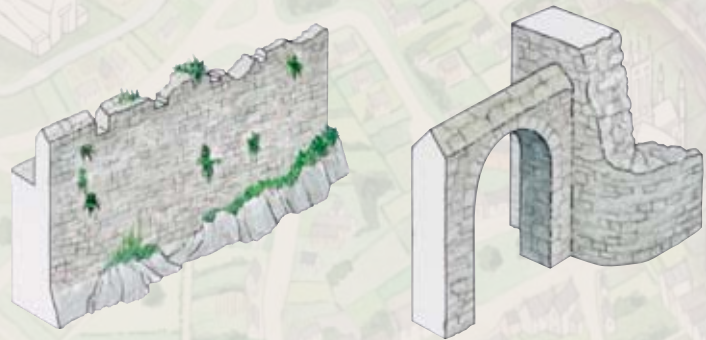
Kilkenny Corporation has a collection of documents which includes some from the 13th century. Liber Primus Kilkenniensis is the earliest book of records of the Corporation. It contains records of decisions taken from 1231 onwards, and includes a copy of the charter which William Marshall, Lord of Leinster gave to the town of Kilkenny in 1207. Its last entry is from the 15th century. Many other records of the Corporation and Borough Council are kept in the building, which is officially known as City Hall.

This plaque at the rear of the Tholsel reads “POSUIT ANNO DOM. MDCCCXXIX NAT. ALCOCK M. D. PRAEFECTUS”. It is written in Latin and means that Nathaniel Alcock, a medical doctor who was mayor in 1829 laid the stone when the Tholsel was being extended.



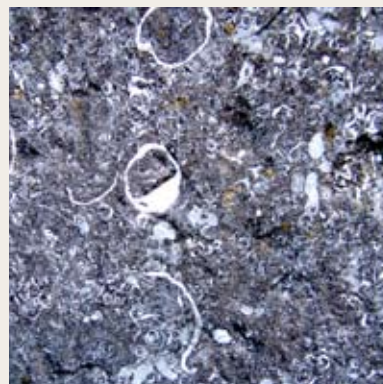
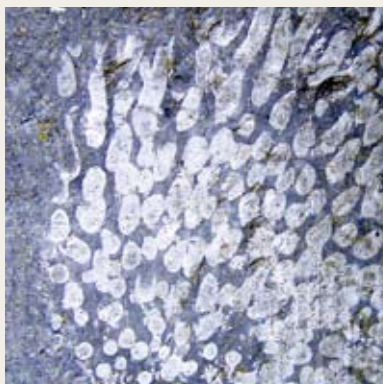
Beneath the Tholsel are cellars which are used for storage of the Christmas Crib which is displayed in the forecourt every Christmas and also for storing a few other bulky items. As can be seen from the photograph, there were formerly cells here which were used in the 19th century to hold prisoners on the day of a trial, when the Mayor’s court was held in the Tholsel.

There are fine views of the city from the roof of the building, just below the clock tower. Below is the view North along High Street and Parliament Street, with St. Canice’s Cathedral visible in the distance.



In the 20th century, concrete walls gradually replaced traditional stone walls





In the past the building material for walls was stone, usually taken from local quarries

Stone Walls

LIME MORTAR

The mortar used to bind the stones together was made of lime mixed with sand and water. The lime was produced in a lime kiln. There were hundreds of these all over the country. The one shown here is at Lavistown, quite near to Kilkenny City. In this photograph you can see the eye of the kiln.

At the top of the kiln there was an open pot where layers of fuel, usually coal, and layers of limestone were placed on top of one another. The kiln was then set on fire and burned for several days. The very high temperatures in the kiln converted the limestone into quicklime and this was raked out from the bottom of the kiln. It had to be handled very carefully as it was caustic. It had to be “slaked” by putting water on it before it was used for making mortar. The lime was also used for white-washing houses, and for spreading on land. Nowadays farmers use ground limestone for this purpose.



STONE

For centuries, the chief source of building stone in Kilkenny City was the Black Quarry on the Bennetsbridge Road. Today, most of the quarry has been filled, but it is still possible to see part of the rock face on the right-hand side of the road as you go from town towards the roundabout. The rock in the Black Quarry is limestone. It is black when polished and was usually known as **black marble**, even though it is not actually marble. When closely examined, you can often see fossils of creatures who lived 350 million years ago when the limestone was laid down on the floor of a shallow tropical sea.

OLD WALLS

As walls aged over time and became exposed to the weather, the mortar between the stones became loose and fell out or was washed out, leaving cracks between the stones. Dust and the remains of the mortar, together with the remains of plants, left small pockets of soil in these cracks. Seeds of flowering plants and spores of ferns fell into these pockets of soil and over time plants grew in the soil. There is enough moisture from rainfall and dew for certain plants to survive. Not all plants are able to survive in these conditions, so the number of species of plants found on old stone walls is quite small. Around Kilkenny City there are many stone walls to be seen which are covered with plants like ivy-leaved toadflax, pennywort, pellitory, spleenwort, rustyback and garden flowers like snapdragon and valerian, which have escaped into the wild and seeded themselves in old stone walls.

WALL PLANTS

Hartstongue fern

Thyme

Pennywort

Spleenwort fern

Ivy-leaved toadflax

Herb Robert

Wall-rue fern

Pellitory-of-the-wall

Common Polypody fern

Rustyback fern

Red Valerian and Snapdragon

Wallflower

Fairy Foxglove



Wall Plants from top,
left to right:
Thyme, Spleenwort, Pennywort,
Ivy-leaved Toadflax, Herb
Robert, Common Polypody,
Wallflower, Fairy Foxglove,
Wall Pepper

BUILDING A STONE WALL

You can get some idea of how stone walls were built long ago, by looking at the way these three men are constructing a stone garden wall at the back of Rothe House in Kilkenny.

The wheelbarrow is full of lime mortar, made by mixing sand, lime and water. It will stay workable for some time, and as it is needed, some will be put on a board, worked with a trowel and used to bed the stones.



The stones are of odd sizes, some small, some large. You can see the mason splitting a large stone with a cold chisel and a club hammer.

You can see a line which the men have stretched to mark a horizontal level on the wall, so that the stones can be laid in courses. This gives a coursed rubble wall. In the top courses, the mortar can still be seen on the surface of the stone, but lower down the joints have been pointed, so that the stones seem to stand out a bit.



Scaffolding nowadays is made from steel. Long ago, scaffolding was made from timber. The opening in the wall below is covered by a lintel. In the past this was a single long stone, or sometimes a baulk of timber. The stones on either side of the opening have been squared.



This piece of finished wall on the right, shows the pleasing appearance of a newly built stone wall, but give it a few hundred years and it will be covered with plants just like the old walls you see around the city.



The final picture on the left, shows a cross section of a stone wall under construction. The space between the two faces of the wall is filled with mortar. When the wall is finished, this mortar will not be seen.





The study of history is based on evidence. Some of the evidence is in the form of hand-written documents, or manuscripts, which have survived from earlier times. Some is contained in printed documents which have survived the centuries, or were produced in recent times. Newspapers, diaries, letters, photographs and drawings can all tell us about the past. Even before there were written sources, physical remains such as houses, graves, tools, clothes and weapons can tell the archaeologist how people lived.

Kilkenny is very fortunate in having documentary sources to illuminate the past for us. The page on the left is from Liber Primus Kilkenniensis. It was written on vellum (calf skin) over six hundred years ago. It is the first page of a charter of King Richard II, confirming a charter of his grandfather Edward III. This document quotes the charter which William Marshall gave to Kilkenny in 1207. It is written in Latin and apart from the language, is difficult for us to read because of the style of handwriting and the many abbreviations which are used. For instance, the first word in the second line is “dominus”, meaning lord, but is written as three letters with some signs over them. Nevertheless, scholars are able to read an old script, unscramble the abbreviations, and translate the Latin.

In 1931 Professor Charles McNeill produced a printed version of Liber Primus Kilkenniensis, and in his book, the first part of the above charter appears, still in Latin:

‘Ricardus dei gratia Rex Anglie et Francie et dominus Hibernie omnibus ad quos presentes lettere peruenerint salutem.

Quasdam cartas quas Willelmus Mareſcallus quondam comes Pembrochie burgensibus ſuis de Kilkennia fieri fecit necnon quosdam libertates uſuw...’

History is Based on Evidence



In 1961, Professor Jocelyn Otway-Ruthven published a translation of *Liber Primus Kilkenniensis* and the page in our photograph is presented in English:

Richard by the grace of God king of England and France and lord of Ireland to all to whom these letters come greeting. We have inspected certain charters which William Marescall sometime earl of Pembroke had made to his burgeses of Kilkenny and also certain liberties, usages and customs hiterto used by those burgeses in that town, which charters, liberties, usages and customs were allowed before Patrick de la Freigne, knight, lately seneschal of the royal liberty of the county of Kilkenny in his eyre at Kilkenny on Monday the feast of St Luke the evangelist in the 46th year of Edward lately king of England, our grandfather (Oct. 18, 1372), by due process upon the writ of quo warranto of t h e said liberty, and were approved, ratified and confirmed by letters patent sealed under the great seal which the lords of the said royal liberty then used in their chancery there and shown before us in our chancery of Ireland, as may more fully appear by those letters.

Know those present and to come that I, William Marshal, earl of Pembroke...

Without knowledge of Latin, or the ability to read the old script, or decipher the abbreviations, we can now make use of the English translation to find out a lot about the history of Kilkenny in the middle ages. This is what most historians will do, but it should be remembered that the **primary source** is the old book preserved in the Tholsel in High Street in Kilkenny City.



When a historian has used any of these documents to tell us of the history of Kilkenny, we have what is called a secondary source. This is what most people who are interested in history read. We do not have the skills to use primary sources in Latin, Norman French, or Old Irish. We can however use primary sources from more modern times if they are written in modern English or Irish.

Another source of knowledge about the past is the work of the archaeologist. People have lived in Ireland for more than 10,000 years. The earliest people lived by hunting, fishing, and gathering nuts, berries, roots, and shellfish. The first farmers came about 6,000 years ago, and the first metalworking in the Bronze Age started somewhere around 4,000 years ago. All these people left evidence of their existence, but most of the material they left is buried under the soil, and only comes to light by chance or as a result of an archaeological excavation. Sometimes the archaeologists investigate areas that promise to be interesting, such as an old burial mound, or a castle.

In recent years, the laying of gas pipelines, the building of roads and major building projects, especially in towns and cities, has provided a great opportunity for archaeologists to dig up the past. Legislation has made it compulsory in certain circumstances to have an archaeological investigation before building or development takes place.

Emma Devine, an archaeologist, explains how her work can tell us about the past. In excavating this medieval ditch at Cellarstown to the east of Kilkenny City, the work has to be done carefully. Everything has to be recorded, and the tools used are small shovels, trowels, trays, buckets and wheelbarrows.

‘Every layer of soil found on the site is given a unique number and all the pieces of pottery or metal that come from it have that same number. We dig soils by hand, layer by layer until we get to the first thing that happened on the site. Each layer is photographed and planned.’

During the restoration of The Talbot Tower on Ormonde Road archaeologists found out how and when it was built.

‘A trowel is used to dig up small finds and to clean soils. A tray is for putting finds such as pottery and metal objects into as we are digging. On a medieval site such as this, there is usually a lot of pottery and so the tray is the easiest way of collecting it. The pottery is then put in plastic bags with the number of the soil layer it came from on it. The pottery will be washed and identified.’



The archaeologists found out lots of things about the town wall and ditch:

- The walls and tower are 800 years old.
- They were built by Norman conquerors to keep the Irish out.
- The first town walls were an earth bank with a timber fence on top.
- Kilkenny was much smaller than it is now.
- After about fifty years, a stone wall replaced the timber fence, because it wasn't strong enough and a tower was built then too, to give extra strength.

‘All the soil from the hole dug at the town wall had to be removed by hand and there was a lot of soil, so wheelbarrows are the easiest way to transport it,’ continued Emma.

The weather in Ireland isn't always perfect for working outdoors, so what happens when it rains?

‘It depends on how heavy the rain is. If it is just drizzling, we work on, but if there is heavy rain and flooding, we can't work as it is too dangerous to push wheelbarrows or carry buckets on slippery soils. It is also damaging to the archaeology as it's not possible to see what you are doing. We have cabins on site within running distance. If it is not very early on in an excavation there is usually plenty of paperwork to catch up on so we would still have plenty to do.’

Photography is important for keeping a record. A bronze age ring ditch at Lyrath near to Kilkenny city is being cleaned so that a photograph can be taken.

A medieval pottery kiln was uncovered at McDonagh station during archaeological excavations carried out before the new shopping centre was built. Samples were taken and sent away to be dated.

Kilkenny City Time Line



11TH AND 12TH
CENTURIES

1111

1169

1172

1189

1205

1205

1207

1211

1225

1205
ST. MARY'S CHURCH

1207 - 1219
PARADE TOWER
(KILKENNY CASTLE)

1211
ST. JOHN'S PRIORY

St. Canice's Round
Tower. Cill Chainnigh
was the centre of power in
Kingdom of Osraighe



Strongbow built a wooden
motte and bailey castle
at Kilkenny

William Marshall married
Strongbow's daughter
Isabel and became Lord
of Leinster

William Marshall, Earl of
Pembroke, gave Kilkenny
its first charter as a town

1211 St. John's Priory
built by William Marshall

Robert FitzStephen and
Meiler FitzHenry land
at Bannow Bay to help
Diarmuid Mac Murchadha
recover the kingdom of
Leinster. After capturing
Wexford, they made their
first raid into Osraighe

Start of work on Cathedral
of St. Canice



(approximately) St. Mary's
Church

1225 Black Abbey
founded by William
Marshall the younger



Old church of St. Canice
was adopted as Cathedral
of Diocese of Ossory



1231
ST. FRANCIS ABBEY

1231

1231

1244

1250

1260

1314

1315

1324

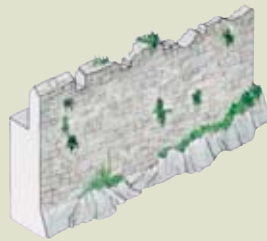
1324

1329

St. Francis Abbey founded
by Richard Marshall

Kilkenny elected its first
Sovereign (the equivalent
of Mayor)

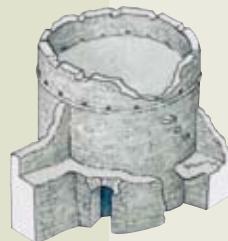
First Murage Grant
(the right to collect taxes
to build a wall around
Kilkenny)



The Bishop of Ossory gave
the Dominicans of the Black
Abbey the right to draw
water from St. Canice's Well
(Kenny's Well)



(approximately) Building
of the Talbot Tower at
south-west corner of wall



At the Battle of
Bannockburn near Stirling
in Scotland, Robert Bruce
defeated the English
army. Among the dead
was Gilbert de Clare, Earl
of Gloucester. He had
no male heir, so County
Kilkenny was divided
among his three sisters.
Eleanor got the town of
Kilkenny. Her husband
was Hugh Le Despenser,
and the Despensers held
Kilkenny for most of the
14th century

Edward Bruce invaded
Ireland with a Scots army.
He was killed in 1318

Trial of Alice Kyteler for
witchcraft. Petronilla de
Media was found guilty
and burned

Trial of Alice Kyteler for
witchcraft. Petronilla de
Media was found guilty
and burned

James Butler was given
the title Earl of Ormond



1348-49

1366

1383

1391

1394

1461

1466

1515

1536

1540

Friar John Clyn wrote an account of the Black Death in Kilkenny

James Butler, third Earl of Ormond bought Kilkenny Castle

King Richard II of England confirmed the Charters of William Marshall and his son and confirmed other rights to the citizens of Kilkenny

King Richard II arrived in Kilkenny. The Earl of Ormond, an Irish speaker, was his chief adviser



Act of Parliament restored the rights of the Burgesses of Kilkenny

Thomas, the 7th Earl of Ormonde died. After his death Sir Piers Rua Butler became the chief power in Ormond, but did not get the title of 8th Earl until 1538

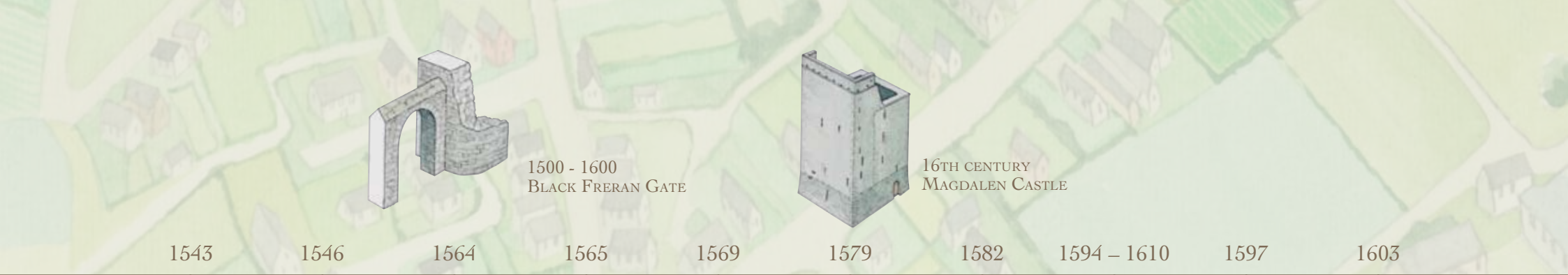
St. Francis Abbey and St. John's Priory suppressed



Lionel, Duke of Clarence held a parliament at Kilkenny. A series of laws called the 'Statutes of Kilkenny' were passed

James Butler, fifth Earl of Ormond was executed after the battle of Towton in England, where Edward IV defeated Henry VI and took his place as King of England

Henry VIII was declared as the Supreme Head of the Church in Ireland



1500 - 1600
BLACK FRERAN GATE



16TH CENTURY
MAGDALEN CASTLE

1543

1546

1564

1565

1569

1579

1582

1594 – 1610

1597

1603

Black Abbey suppressed

James, the 9th Earl of Ormond (Séamus Bacach) was poisoned at a feast at Holborn in London

Thomas, the 10th Earl of Ormond (Tomás Dubh) defeated the Earl of Desmond at Affane – the last “private” battle between noblemen in Ireland. Both earls were brought to London and reprimanded, but Desmond was imprisoned in the Tower of London

The Earl’s brothers revolted against the crown. Kilkenny was besieged, but survived

A great flood took place in which St. John’s Bridge and Castle fell down

Earl Thomas was made the Lord General of the army in Munster to deal with the rebellion of the Earl of Desmond

The Shee Almshouse in Rose Inn Street was founded by Sir Richard Shee



Rothe House built



Churches in Kilkenny were seized by citizens for Catholic Worship. Lord Mountjoy had Walter Archer, Sovereign of Kilkenny imprisoned

The defences of Kilkenny were strengthened during the Nine Years War



1609	1616	1635	1641	1642	1649	1650	1654	1662	1676
A Charter by James I granted city status to Kilkenny, and its chief magistrate was to be known as Mayor instead of Sovereign			Lord Mountgarret took charge of Rebel forces in Kilkenny	Confederation of Kilkenny. Confederate Catholics set up a legislative assembly in Kilkenny	End of the Confederate Assembly		Kilkenny ruled by Daniel Axtel as Military Governor. No mayor for two years		The Duke of Ormonde presented a silver mace to the City of Kilkenny
		A legal inquiry was held in Kilkenny into the lands of Idough around Castlecomer. O'Brennans, Lord Mountgarret and Richard Butler lost possession of their lands as a result of it				After a short siege and assault, Kilkenny surrendered to Cromwell			
Three mayors of Kilkenny were removed from office for not taking the Oath of Supremacy									



1687

1690

1715

1698
CASTLE ENTRANCE (KILKENNY CASTLE)

1717

1718

1759 – 1761

1763

1771

1782

1786
BUTLER HOUSE

1782

King James II gave Kilkenny a new Charter. Catholics returned to the Corporation

William III, having defeated King James at the Battle of The Boyne, cancelled the Charter of James II

An act, “for the better regulating of the Corporation of Kilkenny and the strengthening of the protestant position therein” was passed by the Irish Parliament

The Tholsel (city Hall) in High Street was built



The Market Cross, built in 1335 was removed

County Hall, formerly Kilkenny College built



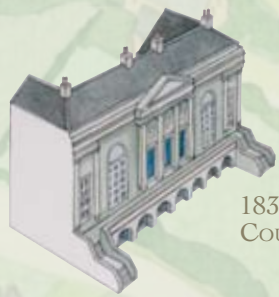
The Second Duke of Ormonde fled to France. He joined the Jacobites (supporters of the Stuart Kings)

The Duke of Ormonde’s plans to invade Ireland with a Jacobite army failed

A great flood swept away the bridges in the city



Burrel’s Hall in James’s Street was opened as a Catholic school by the Diocese of Ossory



1830
COURTHOUSE

1829



1842
FORMER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

1830

1831



1842
OLD WORKHOUSE
BUILDING

1832

1836

1843 – 1857

1842



1843 - 1857
ST. MARY'S
CATHEDRAL

1842

1843

1843

Richard Sullivan and Redmond Reid became councilmen of Kilkenny Corporation, having taken *"the oath required for the relief of his majesty's Roman Catholic Subjects."*

Richard Sullivan was elected a Member of Parliament

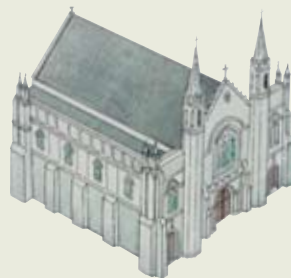
St. Mary's Cathedral was built

Kilkenny Workhouse was built to house 1,200 paupers

Daniel O'Connell held a Monster Meeting at the Race Course few miles south of Kilkenny

St. Canice's Catholic Church was consecrated

Redmond Reid was elected mayor, the first Catholic in almost a century and a half



Daniel O'Connell held one of his Monster Meetings at Robert's Hill, near Kenny's Well to demand the Repeal of the Act of Union

First election for the reformed Kilkenny Corporation. Twenty-four repealers elected to fill the twenty-four places. Edmund Smithwick mayor

Twenty-eight Catholic freemen were admitted to the Corporation, haven taken the same oath



1845

1846

1847

1848

1848

1848

1848

1849

1858

1865

Failure of the potato crop
led to famine

Famine fever killed at least
1,300 people in Kilkenny
in the year beginning
September 1846

First railway engine
arrived in Kilkenny in
April. In July the first
excursion by rail to
Thomastown took place

James Stephens of
Kilkenny, later founder
of the Fenians, travelled
to Ballingarry to join
Smith O'Briens Rising
at Ballingarry

On his release, Dr. Cane
was elected Mayor for the
second time

James Stephens had been
arrested but escaped from jail

William Smith O'Brien
arrived in Kilkenny but
failed to get support for the
Young Ireland Rising

In March the Kilkenny
Workhouse held 2,228
people at the height of
the famine

Dr. Robert Cane, former
mayor of Kilkenny was
imprisoned after the Rising

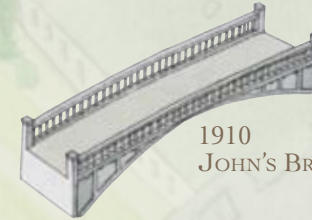
James Stephens founded
the *Fenians* or *Irish
Republican Brotherhood*
in Dublin



1896 - 1899
ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH



1908
O'LOUGHLIN
MEMORIAL CHURCH



1910
JOHN'S BRIDGE

1890

1904

1904

1917

1922

1935

1965

1967

After the Parnell split, the Parnellite candidate was defeated in the Kilkenny by-election

W.T. Cosgrave won a by-election in Kilkenny for the Sinn Féin Party

Republican forces in Kilkenny Castle were attacked by Free State forces during Civil War

The Marquess of Ormonde presented Kilkenny Castle to the people of Kilkenny

Kilkenny won their first All-Ireland Hurling Title

Kilkenny Castle closed and the Ormonde family left Ireland

King Edward VII visited Kilkenny

Kilkenny Design Workshops opened

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Kilkenney Education Centre
Ionad Oideachais Chill Chainnigh



An Chomhairle Oidhreacht
The Heritage Council

