

### Unusual Signposts at Knappogue castle

Knappogue castle is a large tower house built by the McNamaras in the mid-fifteenth-century. In the nineteenth century the noted architects James and George R. Pain extensively remodelled and extended the castle for its then owner, Lord Dunboyne. The back gate, which one presumes was built to the Pains' design in 1856, incorporates into its pillars two signposts, indicating distances to six locations. A hand with index finger extended points to the west on one pillar: the destinations under this hand are Quin, Spancil Hill, and Ennis. A most interesting aspect of these signposts is the fact that distances are given in both English and Irish miles. Quin is two and a quarter English miles and one and three-quarter Irish miles from the gate. Spancil Hill is six and a quarter English miles, and three Irish miles distant while Ennis is eight and a half English miles and six and a half Irish miles away.



On the eastern pillar, logically, the hand with the extended index finger points eastwards. Again there are three towns listed. Kilkishen is four English miles and three and a half Irish miles away. Sixmilebridge lies five and three-quarter English miles and four and a half Irish miles distant, while finally, Limerick is fifteen and a half English miles and twelve and a quarter Irish miles distant from the back gate of Knappogue.

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### A 'Singular' Carved Stone from Adare Manor

Under your foot you may trample on significant archaeological finds. One such example is a flat stone among the Ogham stones collection of Edwin Wyndham-Quin, 3rd Earl of Dunraven in the grounds of Adare Manor Hotel, formerly the seat of the Dunraven family. Having an antiquarian bent, the Earl collected many historical items that may otherwise have been lost or destroyed. All the stones in his collection are stated to have been in danger of damage or loss and had been removed from their original locations. Many of these are described in the privately published *Memorials of Adare Manor*<sup>1</sup> and happily some of them are now returned to their original location. The *Archaeological Survey of the Dingle Peninsula*<sup>2</sup> shows one such example formerly in the Adare collection,

<sup>1</sup> Caroline Wyndham-Quin & Edwin R. W. Windham-Quin, *Memorials of Adare Manor* (Adare, 1865).

<sup>2</sup> Judith Cuppage, *Archaeological Survey of the Dingle Peninsula* (1986) Plate 43, p. 342.