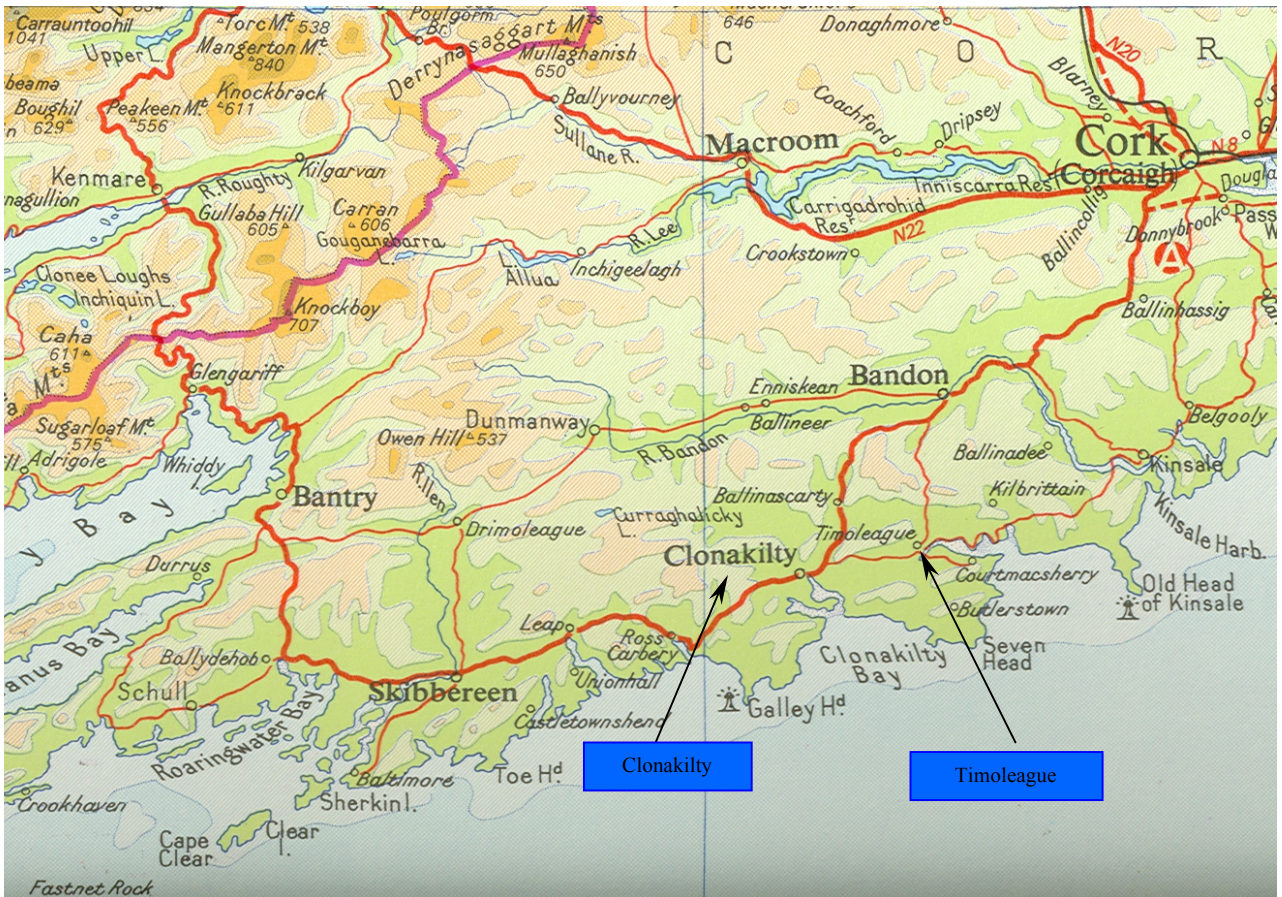


# John Townsend [101]



Timoleague – the ruined abbey



**Timoleague - view from the churchyard**



**Timoleague - the main street**



## The Election of John as Sovereign of Clonakilty 1675

The two oldest documents to be found at present among the records of the Clonakilty corporation have reference to the election of John Townsend as sovereign of the town:-

*“At a court of record held in the borough of the 25th of July, 1675, Thomas Gookin, the present sovereign, John Townsend, and William Warner, Esquires, being free-burgesses of the said borough, were chosen and elected to be presented to the Rt. Hon. Richard, Earl of Cork, to the end that one of them may be nominated and appointed by his lordship to be the sovereign the next ensuing year, according to his Majesty's most gracious grant in that behalf. Signed:*

*John Sweet, junr, Thomas Gookin, sovereign, David Jerman, Richard Cox, recorder, Abel Guilliams, John Townsend, Edward Jenkins, Walter Harris, John Birde, William Warner, Richard Travers, Cornelius Townsend, Samuel Jervois, John Freke”*

The return of the sovereign was duly certified as follows:-

*“At a court held for the borough, the 18th day of October, John Townsend, Esq., one of the free-burgesses of the borough, pursuant to the nomination and appointment of the Rt. Hon. Richard, Earl of Cork and Burlington, Lord High-Treasurer of Ireland and lord of the said borough, was sworn sovereign of the said borough for the next ensuing year, and had the ensigns of authority delivered to him before the late sovereign and the under-named burgesses:*

*John Sweet, Thomas Gookin, Richard Cox, recorder, Cornelius Townsend, Emanuel Moore, Jonas Stawell”*