

Extract from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

**RATTOO**, a parish, in the barony of CLANMAURICE, county of KERRY, and province of MUNSTER, 7 miles (W. by S.) from Listowel, on the road from Tralee to Ballybunnian, by Cashen ferry; containing 3117 inhabitants. In ancient writings this place is called "Rathtoy," and from the term "Burgess lands" being applied to designate some grounds in the vicinity, it is supposed that Rattoo was formerly a corporate town: it is also said to have had seven churches, and to have been once the seat of a bishoprick, a statement which its ancient round tower seems to countenance. An abbey of Canons Regular of St. Augustine (originally a preceptory belonging to the Knights Hospitallers) was founded here by one Friar William and confirmed by Miler Fitz Miler, in the reign of King John. It was subsequently occupied by Arosian Canons, and dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul; the abbot was a lord of parliament. In 1600 the buildings were fortified by the Irish, but burned on the approach of Sir Chas. Wilmot's forces, by whom the castle of Rattoo was taken and garrisoned. The parish is situated at the confluence of the rivers Feale and Brick, and comprises 7624 statute acres, as apploited under the tithe act, and valued at £4082 per annum. About two-thirds of the land is arable, and the remainder, with the exception of about 730 acres of bog, consists of coarse pasture. The surface is in some parts hilly, but the lower grounds are marshy, being generally inundated in winter, but made available by extensive drainage for tillage and pasture. About 100 acres have been embanked by T. A. Stoughton, Esq., and are now in a high state of cultivation; sea weed is generally used for manure, and the state of agriculture is progressively improving. There are several quarries of good brown stone, used for building, and a flag-stone quarry, which has not yet been much worked. Several boats and lighters are employed in fishing and in the conveyance of sea manure. Fairs and petty sessions are held at Benmare, *which see*. The seats are Ballyhorgan, the residence of T. A. Stoughton, Esq.; **Rattoo Lodge, of W. T. Gun** (*he must be a successor to William Gun who married Katherine Townsend [109]*), Esq.; Bushmount, of Dominick Rice, Esq.; Millview, of Kerry Supple, Esq.; and Dromartin, of J. Creagh, Esq. The living is an impropriate cure, in the diocese of Ardfert and Aghadoe; the rectory is impropriate in T. A. Stoughton, Esq., who is patron of the curacy: the tithes amount to £285, the whole of which is payable to the impropriator, who allows £10 per ann. to the incumbent of Killury for discharging the clerical duties. In the R. C. divisions the parish forms part of the union or district of Killury or Causeway, and has a chapel at Ballyduff. About 150 children are educated in three private schools. There are no remains of the castle, but those of the abbey still exist, and, together with the adjoining lofty round tower which is" still entire and clothed with ivy, form an interesting and picturesque group.

**LIXNAW**, or LISANAW, a village, partly in the parish of KILTORNEY or KILTOOMY, but chiefly in that of KILCARRAGH, barony of CLANMAURICE, county of KERRY, and province of LEINSTER, 5 1/2 miles (S. W.) from Listowel, near the high road from Tralee to Tarbert; containing 397 inhabitants. This place was once the seat of the Earls of Kerry, by whom the castle of Lixnaw was erected; and the old bridge was built and the town much improved by Nicholas, the third baron of Lixnaw, so early as 1320. The castle was garrisoned in 1600 by Sir Chas. Wilmot's forces, who took it by surprise just when it had been undermined for demolition: they made it the centre of operations in this district until it was taken by Lord Kerry, who here kept Sir Chas. Wilmot's forces at bay, but at length entrusted its defence to his brother Gerald, who was compelled to surrender from want of water. The village is situated near the river Brick, over which, at a short distance from each other, are two stone bridges: it consists of two streets of tolerably good houses, and contains a spacious R. C. chapel, and a school supported by subscription, to which Mrs.

Raymond contributes £6 per annum. A court for the manor of Lixnaw is held every three weeks, on Monday, for the recovery of debts not exceeding 40s. late currency. A patent exists for four fairs, but they are not at present held. Limestone of superior quality, in some places approaching to marble, is found in the vicinity, and worked both for useful and ornamental purposes; and sea-weed and sand for manure are brought in boats up the River Cashen and thence by the Brick to the town. It is stated that these rivers might be made navigable for larger vessels at a very moderate expense; and Mr. Nimmo, the government engineer, many years since, suggested a plan for that purpose, and for draining and bringing into cultivation the extensive tracts of marsh and bog in the neighbourhood. Adjoining the village are the ruins of the old church, and the extensive remains of the ancient castellated mansion of the earls of Kerry; and on a mount at a short distance to the north-east is a monument, or mausoleum, of John, the third Earl, of a circular form, resting on a square base and terminating in a dome; whence an extensive view of the surrounding country is obtained. Lixnaw gives the inferior title of Baron to the Marquess of Lansdowne.